



OF LONDON

TUESDAY MARCH 17 2015 | THETIMES.CO.UK | NO 71458

PAGES
48, 49



Giles Coren How I intend to live to 100



Stop fiddling with the economy, George

Ed Conway, page 19

Too many babies born to migrants — minister

Numbers at highest level since records began

Richard Ford Home Correspondent

Immigration to Britain must be reduced because foreign-born mothers are having too many babies, a government minister warned yesterday.

Lord Bates, a Home Office minister, cited official figures showing that one in four children were born to mothers from outside the UK in 2013 — the latest year for which figures are available — compared with about one in nine in 1990. The proportion of births to mothers born outside the country is at its highest level since records began 46 years ago.

Foreign-born mothers also have more children on average, according to the Office for National Statistics. The fertility rate for those born outside the UK was 2.19 children per woman two years ago, compared with 1.79 for those born in Britain. Poland tops the list of countries of birth for immigrants, followed by Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Romania.

Lord Bates made his comments in the House of Lords after he was asked about the impact of immigration on Britain's population.

The parliamentary undersecretary told peers: "In the year ending December 2013, an estimated 7.8 million people were born outside the UK [and living in Britain], while 4.9 million were non-UK citizens. For the calendar year of 2013, births in the UK to non UK-born mothers accounted for 25 per cent of all live births. That is why we need to reduce immigration."

He had been asked by Lord Green of Deddington, the chairman of Migration Watch UK, which campaigns for

lower immigration, about the government's latest assessment of the impact of immigration on the population, taking into account the children of immigrants already resident in Britain.

Lord Green said that almost 80 per cent of the increase in the UK's population over the past decade was the result of immigration, including children born to immigrants already resident in this country.

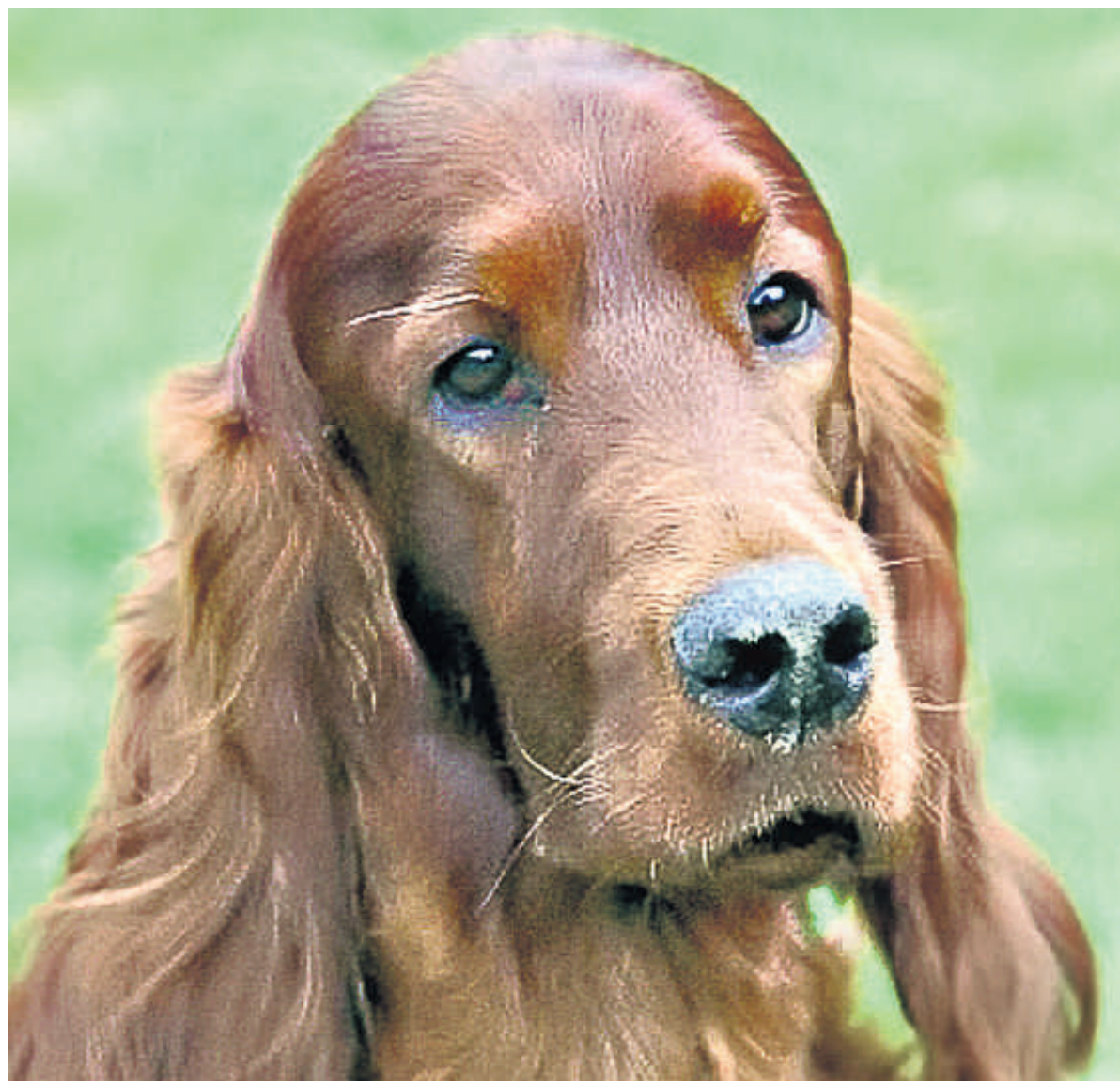
Lord Bates disputed the figure, suggesting it was 53 per cent. "However, we are absolutely at one on needing a firm but fair immigration policy to protect the public services of this country and provide opportunities for those who want to come here to work," he said.

"We want people who want to come here to study, to work, to invest and to visit. We want all those people to come. What we are doing is drawing a line to say that we must get much tougher with those who want to come here and abuse our openness."

His comments come as the government grapples with its target of reducing numbers to below 100,000 a year. Last month net migration soared to nearly 300,000, a 41 per cent increase on the previous year. Half of Britons believe that immigration is the issue that will swing voters between now and the election, according to a poll by YouGov in December.

ONS figures show that in 2013 more than 185,000 live births were to non-UK-born mothers and 513,000 to women born in the UK. More than 65,000 of the births to non-UK-born mothers were to women from the Middle East and Asia, a further 60,000 to

Continued on page 2, col 5



The plot thickens Jagger, the Irish setter who died after appearing at Crufts, was poisoned in Belgium, a post-mortem examination revealed yesterday. His owners had caused uproar by saying the dog was killed in "an act of jealousy". Page 9

Extreme sect secures £13m tax breaks

Alexi Mostrous Special Correspondent
Billy Kenber Investigations Reporter

The charity regulator secured tax breaks worth millions of pounds a year for a hardline Christian sect despite finding that its practices caused harm and broke up families.

The Charity Commission struck a deal with the Exclusive Brethren, which has 17,000 followers in Britain and enjoys charitable tax relief worth up to £13 million a year, after the group's Australian leader called for "extreme pressure" to be put on William Shawcross, the head of the regulator.

British members of the sect, also

known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church, work for Brethren businesses, shun outsiders socially and make yearly cash payments totalling an estimated £350,000 to Bruce Hales, a secretive accountant who travels by private jet and runs the group from a wealthy Sydney suburb.

Under its strict disciplinary practices, followers of the sect, which has been described by some as a cult, have been ostracised or thrown out for minor transgressions. Many claim they have been torn away from their families, in some cases for decades.

Leaked documents obtained by *The Times* lay bare the extraordinary lobby-

ing campaign waged by the Brethren to win political support and overturn a decision in June 2012 to refuse charitable status to one of its gospel halls.

Mr Hales ordered elders to "go for the jugular, go for the underbelly" — referring to the Charity Commission — to halt an appeal case which would have allowed former members to testify. "That's in hand," a senior elder replied.

Charity Commission officials were followed to unrelated events by Brethren members, pressured by supportive ministers and MPs and had their offices deluged with more than 3,000 letters from adherents. One Brethren member

Continued on page 10, col 3

IN THE NEWS

New role for Blair

The United States is understood to be in talks with Tony Blair about giving him a new role — getting Arab states to back a fresh Middle East peace initiative. **Page 8**

No Labour-SNP pact

Ed Miliband finally ruled out a coalition with the SNP after being confronted twice last week by Labour frontbenchers imploring him to make the announcement. **Page 15**

Putin: I'm still here

President Putin sought to end speculation that he had been toppled in a coup by appearing in public for the first time in 11 days and ordering snap military exercises. **Page 26**

Express sale talks

The owner of the *Daily Mirror* is in discussions with Richard Desmond about buying the *Daily Express* and has been given access to his group's confidential accounts. **Page 32**

Sunderland turmoil

Sunderland sacked Gustavo Poyet, their manager, and are in advanced talks to sign Dick Advocaat, the former Rangers and Holland boss, as a short-term successor. **Page 64**

Buying *The Times* overseas: Austria €4.80; Belgium €4.00; Bulgaria BGN 7.50; Cyprus €4.00; northern Cyprus YTL 8.00; Denmark DKK 30; France €4.00; Germany €4.00; Gibraltar £2.50; Greece €4.00; Italy € 4.00; Luxembourg €4.00; Malta €4.00; Morocco MAD 36; Netherlands €4.00; Norway NOK 42; Oman OMR 1.50; Portugal €4.00 (cont.); Spain €4.00; Sweden SEK 35; Switzerland CHF 6.80; Turkey YTL 6.50; UAE AED 11

INSIDE TODAY

Opinion

Pantomime villain view of Tony Blair is not a full or fair assessment
Rachel Sylvester, page 17



Times2

Hot, young and global: meet the new arts philanthropists
Suna Erdem, pages 50, 51



Sport

Powerhouses ready to wield their clout in more demolition derbies
Richard Hobson, page 54



Business

Oil prices tumble again as glut fills global tanks to capacity
Marcus Leroux, page 37



Opinion 17 Weather 17 Cartoon 19 Letters 20 Leading articles 21 World 26 Business 32 Markets 40, 41 Register 42 Times2 46 Sport 52 Crosswords 45, 64

Please note, some sections of The Times are available only in the United Kingdom and Ireland
© TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 2015. Published and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020-7782 5000. Printed by Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Limited, Great Cambridge Road, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY and also at Newsprinters (Knowsley) Limited, Killing Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters (Eurocentral) Limited, Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Johnston Press, Carn Web, Morton 3 Esly Drive, Cam Industrial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YF; Smurfit Kappa NewsPress Ltd, Kells Industrial Estate, Kells, County Meath, Ireland; Irish Times Print Facility, 4080 Kingswood Road, Clonmel Business Campus, Dublin 24, Ireland; Arab Media Group, Misar Printing and Publishing PO Box 485110, Dubai, UAE; Europrinter, Av. J. Mieroz, Zone Aeropole, 6041 Gosselies, Belgium; Belmont S.A., Av./Portugal, 4 (Centro de Transportes de Coslada), 28820 Coslada, Madrid; MOP, Zone Industrielle, Avenue De L'Europe, 13127 Vitrolles, Marseille; Estetiler Ltd, Kuscuburnu mevki bati beton yolu no: 4 yazibasi torbali, Izmir, Turkey; and Miller Newsprint Ltd, Miller House, Tarxien Road, Malta Airport, LQA 05 Luqa, Malta; Hellenic Miller Newsprint Ltd, Ioanni Krandidoti Avenue 206, 2235 Latsia, PO Box 24508, 1300 Lefkosia, Cyprus; Millro Hellas Publisher Services Ltd, 2nd Kilometer Peanias - Markopollou Ave, Position Nisiza 19400 Koropi, Greece; Omniprint S.A., Poligono Industrial, Nave Omniprint, Santa Maria Dell Cami, 7320 Mallorca. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1WX, tel 01892 525274, e-mail copy@nla.co.uk. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Syndication Department, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020-7782 5400, e-mail syndication@thetimes.co.uk

Leaving the army was really tough decision, says Harry

Valentine Low

Prince Harry said yesterday he was starting “a new chapter in his life” after taking the “really tough” decision to leave the army after ten years.

The prince, 30, is to spend four weeks seconded to the Australian army before leaving the Armed Forces in June, Kensington Palace said.

Although Harry is committed to working with injured servicemen and women — last year’s Invictus Games were seen as a big success — he does not have a clear idea of what he will do next. He will work with wounded troops in a voluntary capacity while he considers his longer-term plans.

The prince will also spend part of the summer in Africa working as a volunteer on conservation projects in Africa.

“After a decade of service, moving on from the army has been a really tough decision. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have had the chance to do some very challenging jobs and have met many fantastic people in the process,” the prince, who undertook two tours of duty in Afghanistan — one as an Apache helicopter co-pilot — said.

“From learning the hard way to stay

inside with my Colour Sergeant at Sandhurst, to the incredible people I served with during two tours in Afghanistan — the experiences I have had over the last ten years will stay with me for the rest of my life. For that I will always be hugely grateful.

“Inevitably most good things come to an end and I am at a crossroads in my military career. Luckily for me, I will continue to wear the uniform and mix with fellow servicemen and women for the rest of my life, helping where I can, and making sure the next few Invictus Games are as amazing as the last.”

He said he was also looking forward to working with injured personnel at the Ministry of Defence’s personal recovery unit, doing on a voluntary basis what until now has been his regular job.

“So while I am finishing one part of my life, I am getting straight into a new chapter. I am really looking forward to it,” the prince added.

In a statement confirming a report from last month, Kensington Palace said he will spend four weeks in April and May with the Australian Defence Force. “He is expected to spend time at army barracks in Darwin, Perth and Sydney where he will take part in a

range of unit-based activities, training exercises and domestic deployments.”

During his attachment he will travel from Australia to accompany the Prince of Wales at the Gallipoli commemorations on April 24 and 25. Later he will undertake a tour of New Zealand, his first trip to the country.

After leaving the army he will spend time in the summer working with conservation experts in Africa. “He will focus his time learning how local communities in sub-Saharan Africa are working to protect and conserve their natural resources and wildlife,” said Kensington Palace.

Around September he will return to London to work with case officers at the recovery unit, helping servicemen and women receiving physical and mental care. He will also continue to undertake engagements as a member of the royal family.

General Sir Nicholas Carter, chief of the general staff, said: “I am very pleased that his first taste of civilian life later this year will involve a new role in support of our injured servicemen and women. He has raised their profile through the care he has shown them and they admire him hugely.”

Text messages will urge students to vote in election

Tom Knowles

As soon as they walk on to their university campus, students across the UK will receive texts on their smartphones encouraging them to register to vote, in an attempt to encourage young people into polling stations.

The Electoral Commission is working with the country’s biggest mobile networks to target 18 to 24-year-olds with a “geo-fencing system”, which sets a virtual barrier around a certain area, such as a campus.

Students will receive a text on their smartphone once they step inside the geo-tagged location, which uses GPS to define the virtual area. The message will ask them to register to vote. A link to the Electoral Commission’s voter registration page will be included in the text, taking advantage of people now being able to use their handsets to register to vote.

The geo-tagging system is being launched today in some of the biggest universities in the country, including Sheffield, Nottingham and Lancaster. The system can “geo-fence” an area for a maximum of three days and can target as many as 30,000 locations a day.

The project was launched after

changes made last year to the voter registration system by the government meant that nearly one million people, mostly students and young people, disappeared from the electoral roll.

Individuals must now register themselves and cannot rely on a head of household, which included university authorities, to do it for them.

The Office for National Statistics said the changes had caused the biggest drop in registered voters since 1999, with the sharpest fall being in constituencies with a large university presence, such as Newcastle upon Tyne East, where there was a 13.8 per cent drop, or Cardiff Central, which recorded an 18.3 per cent drop.

Michael Abbott, the head of campaigns at the Electoral Commission, said: “This opportunity with smartphones feels like a great way to talk to young people directly and put the message right into their hands.”

The campaign is being managed by Weve, a venture established by EE, Vodafone and O₂ to use customer data to enable more targeted marketing campaigns. The messages can be sent only to those who have chosen to receive texts from their mobile operators.
Labour and the SNP, page 15

3% wage rise for those on minimum pay

Francis Elliott Political Editor

The wages of Britain’s 1.4 million lowest paid workers will rise by an above-inflation 3 per cent David Cameron will announce today.

News of the largest increase to the national minimum wage in seven years comes on the eve of a budget the Tories are hoping will convince voters the benefits of the recovery are being spread fairly.

The increase in the national minimum wage to £6.70 falls short of the £7-an-hour ambition set by George Osborne but is in line with advice from the Low Pay Commission.

Mr Cameron will also trumpet a 20 per cent increase in the statutory minimum hourly rate for apprentices, whose pay will increase by 57p to £3.30.

The Conservatives held narrow leads over Labour in two of three polls published yesterday and were tied in the third. A poll for ICM put the Tories one point ahead of Labour on 36 per cent, while Lord Ashcroft’s latest poll put the Tories on 31 per cent and Labour on 29 per cent. Populus, meanwhile, had both parties on 34 per cent.

London homes worth £1.2trn

Jill Sherman Whitehall Editor

Homeowners in London and the south-east have garnered 97 per cent of the rise in property values nationwide since 2010 — equivalent to £282 billion.

The analysis, released today to coincide with a massive housing rally near parliament, shows that London now holds more than a quarter of the nation’s property wealth, or £1.2 trillion.

It also reveals that 30 per cent of all the property growth across England from 2010 to 2013 occurred in just two London boroughs: Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. Figures from the Department for Communities and

Local Government show that between 2010 and 2013, the value of private property nationwide grew by 7 per cent from £4.2 trillion to £4.5 trillion, with London and the southeast taking £282 billion of a total pot of £289 billion.

The study by the National Housing Federation, one of 300 organisations behind today’s rally to boost house building, reveals that while London booms, values in the northeast and northwest dipped 3 per cent and 2 per cent respectively over the same period.

David Orr, NHF chief executive, said: “Housing in this country is increasingly a case of the have lots and the have nots.”

Migrant births

Continued from page 1
women born in the EU and 36,000 to those born in Africa.

Statisticians said the fertility rate of foreign-born women had declined in line with falling fertility rates for UK-born women, meaning that the increased number of births to non UK-born mothers was due to their rising numbers in the country.

In some areas more than half of all births are to non UK-born women, with the highest proportion being 76.1 per cent in Newham, east London. Overall, 57 per cent of births in the capital were to foreign-born mothers.

THE TIMES
of LONDON
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Feel closer to home.
Every day.

Wherever you live in the world, stay in touch every day with The Digital Pack, just £1 for 30 days.

Our tablet edition automatically downloads every section, every article and all the weekend supplements. So you’ll never miss the news from home.

Try it today at timespacks.com/london



THE DIGITAL PACK £1 FOR 30 DAYS



Offer subject to availability, £1 for 30 days trial to new customers (18+) of the Digital Pack only. TNL reserves right to exclude this offer in certain territories. See timespacks.com/london for full terms and conditions.