

MAIN SECTION



HEIGHT OF AMBITION

An entrepreneur is developing a drone to take commuters from central London to Heathrow

NEWS PAGE 20

TIMES2



NEW VIEW OF CHURCHILL

Darkest Hour is a convincing picture of the times, even if not always accurate, says a historian

PAGES 4-5

COMMENT 25

LETTERS 28

LEADING ARTICLES 29

WORLD 30

BUSINESS 37

REGISTER 53

SPORT 57

CROSSWORD 68

TV & RADIO TIMES2

FOLLOW US

thetimes timesandsundaytimes thetimes

COMMENT

The Golden Globes black dress protest was an egregious display of vanity signalling

MELANIE PHILLIPS, PAGE 26

DINNER TONIGHT

Fennel soup with bacon

Simple is often best when it comes to soup and this is a case in point. Slivers of fennel and leek are cooked with onion and there's an optional crisp bacon garnish. Try it over a garlicky slice of toasted sourdough with a generous parmesan garnish or stay light, perhaps adding a poached egg or two before serving. Serves 2-4 Prep 20 min Cook 25 min
Ingredients: 2 rashers smoked bacon, optional; 1 tbsp olive oil; 1 large onion;



2 trimmed leeks; 2 fennel bulbs; ½ tsp flour; 900ml chicken or vegetable stock; squeeze lemon; few sprigs flat leaf parsley. Cut the bacon into lardons. Heat the oil in a soup pan, add the bacon and cook over a medium-low heat, stirring as the pieces crisp. Scoop on to kitchen paper. Meanwhile, finely chop the onion. Slice the leeks thinly, agitate in water and drain.

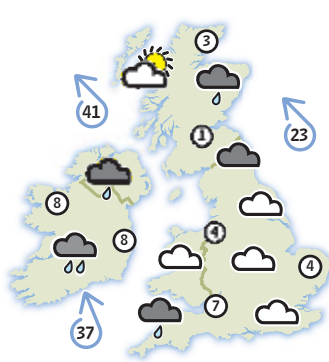
Quarter the fennel lengthways then slice across the pieces. Cook the onion in the oil with a pinch of salt, stirring regularly. Add the leeks and fennel. Cover and cook, stirring every so often, until the leeks are sloppy and the fennel softens. Add the flour, stirring until it has disappeared. Add the stock, stirring as it boils, the soup thickened by the flour. Simmer, semi-covered, for about 15 minutes until the fennel is tender. Adjust the seasoning with salt, pepper and lemon. Chop the parsley and add before serving with the bacon. Lindsey Bareham

OFFER

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THE WEATHER



Cloud and mist will cover most of the country. Outbreaks of rain in the west. Full forecast, page 56

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Juncker warns EU countries they'll pay for Brexit shortfall

Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Jean-Claude Juncker has dashed remainer's hopes of a second Brexit referendum and warned EU countries they will have to pay extra billions to plug the hole left by the UK leaving.

The European Commission president told a conference of EU officials and national ministers "not to believe" politicians like Tony Blair or Sir Nick Clegg who are campaigning to reverse the 2016 vote.

"I don't think Brexit can be put to the voters again. I don't believe it," he said. Mr Juncker, 63, warned that when Britain leaves, national contributions for the EU's 27 remaining countries would have to rise to fill a shortfall of more than €18 billion annually, based on this year's spending figures.

"I'm not in favour of any cuts," he said. "Britain will be leaving us so we need to find a means [of] reacting to the loss of a significant number of billions in euros. It will be difficult for the budget coffers of Europe when a net contributor leaves."

EU contributions are pegged at about 1 per cent of a country's GDP—a figure, Mr Juncker said, that would have to increase "to pursue European policies adequately". "Europe costs the European taxpayer one cup of coffee a day, that's all. I think that Europe is worth more than one cup of coffee a day."

European governments are gearing up for a fight over the funding gap as the EU begins talks on a seven-year budget to run from 2021 to 2027 and a transition phase when Britain will have to pay

'At least Ukip is in the news'

Nigel Farage has praised Henry Bolton, Ukip's latest leader, for finally hitting the headlines — thanks to an affair with a 25-year-old model (Bruno Waterfield writes).

The MEP was speaking after meeting Michel Barnier, Europe's lead Brexit negotiator, to tell him why voters chose to leave the EU.

Mr Farage, 53, who separated from his wife amid reports of affairs, could not resist commenting on the Ukip leader's rise into the headlines. "At least he is being talked about now," Mr Farage said. Mr Bolton, 54, who was elected Ukip leader in September, left his wife, with whom he has two young children, and spent Christmas with Jo Marney, 25, a "model, presenter and Brexiteer".

After 40 minutes with Mr Barnier, Mr Farage said the EU still did not understand why Britons had voted for Brexit. "It's pretty clear that in the talks so far, immigration really hasn't been discussed."

into Brussels until the end of 2020. Mr Juncker has warned that the budget would have to be larger than the 2014-2020 amount of €1 trillion to pay for eurozone integration, defence co-operation and securing borders.

"We don't have any more cash to finance any extras," he said. The budget talks will be vicious, according to senior officials. Countries that pay in more

than they get out of the EU budget are expected to refuse to pay more to plug the Brexit hole, leading to cuts.

"This is going to be a bloodbath," said a senior EU official. Net contributors Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland have refused to pay more. France and Germany are also reluctant to make extra payments.

According to a study by the German finance ministry, Brexit could cost the country, which is already paying more than any other, an extra €4.5 billion a year at a time when support for nationalists and Eurosceptics is growing.

Southern, central and east European countries are desperate to avoid cuts as they are dependent on EU regional funding. This is targeted at Europe's poorest areas and gives significant financial support to the countries' economies, worth 3 per cent of GDP to countries like Hungary.

Deprived regions, such as Andalusia in Spain, have called on the EU to "create a fund for areas especially affected by Brexit" if funding is lost.

The budget row could strengthen Britain's hand in trade talks. Many central and east European countries are ready to concede on access to the single market in return for continued British budget contributions.

In an interview on the German broadcaster ARD, Mr Juncker warns that Brexit will also have a devastating effect on Britain. "Anyone who thinks that Britain's exit would have no impact on its economy is fundamentally wrong. There will be consequences of the most negative kind," he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Church resources

were owned by "lords of the manor" until land was enclosed in the 19th century and converted to freehold in the 1920s. After this, former landowners often retained ownership of the minerals in the ground. More than 106,000 acres were claimed by the church under these "manorial" rights. Gavin Le Chat, a property lawyer at Shoosmiths, said: "It's a very ancient and archaic thing. I don't think it's reasonable or fair to landowners... as it can affect the saleability or mortgageability of the land."

Church claims accounted for more than half of all mineral rights registrations since 2010. The Duchy of Lancaster and the Crown are the next most common registrants. Registrations last year included "all mines, quarries, beds of stone, clay, sand, and metalliferous substances, and minerals of any description in and under the land" in an area of Billingham in Co Durham. They also included the rights to "all mines and minerals" in five sites around Retford in Nottinghamshire, all of which fall within "shale prospective areas" identified by the British Geological Survey. Shale gas can be extracted via the process of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. More than 2,000 of the

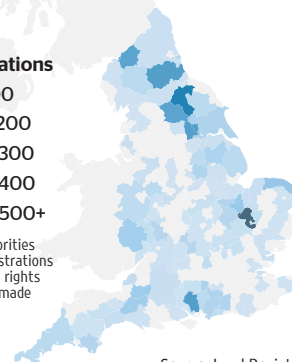
Mineral rights

Registered by the Church of England

Registrations

- 0-100
- 101-200
- 201-300
- 301-400
- 401-500+

Local authorities where registrations for mineral rights have been made



Source: Land Registry

church's sites fall within local authorities where licences have been granted for companies to explore for oil and gas.

The Church Commissioners said that they were not claiming new rights and were required to register existing rights "so that the Land Register will show who owns the surface and, where severed, who owns the minerals interest". They added: "Our mineral rights registrations have no relation to fracking as all oil and gas deposits in the UK are owned by the Crown. There are absolutely no plans for us to exploit our land or mineral rights for that purpose."

Church still has a grip on the underworld

Behind the story

The Church of England has lost much of its land above ground, but has held on to resources underneath (Kaya Burgess writes).

The church owned 2.13 million acres in 1873. It could lease this land under "copyhold", where tenants paid rent but could buy, sell or inherit their right to the land. In 1922, copyhold was abolished and tenants

were entitled to the freehold, but the former "lord of the manor" often retained mineral rights. A law change in 2013 meant these rights could be lost if not registered. Church commissioners told parliament they have

"a duty to protect charitable assets". The church is no longer among the top ten landowners, with an estimated 105,000 acres, but it still owns at least 585,000 acres of minerals under the ground.