

News

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Red Tape

Despite Brown PM and Brown Chancellor claiming a reductions in Red Tape Tax Laws and Benefits, the Tolly's Yellow Tax Handbook has grown year on year.

In 2001 it had 5952 pages across two volumes. The 2007 version would require 10500 pages over 4 volumes had not Tolly reduced the print size and narrowed the margins.

Packing more onto pages - particularly those which give us vital information seems common practice. I now need a magnifying glass to read some items and instructions.

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PEPA

A strong rebuke has been given to the suggestion that PEPA should consider a 'country membership' for those pensioners who were 'sold off' by Philips, and their pension fund transferred from the Philips UK Fund to Whirlpool, Origin, etc.

Many such pensioners live within the PEPA area but cannot join in PEPA activities with their many Philips pensioners friends.

"The rules of PEPA are very clear that to be a member you have to be in receipt of a UK Philips pension and to have worked, or now live, in the correct geographic location." I have undertaken to inform you and "now make it clear to your members (pepnet) the situation regarding membership of PEPA."

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Referendum

At last all colours, creeds and immigrants are joining the indigenous English population to demand that we have a referendum on the EU constitution - as promised in the last New Labour election manifesto. Your voice is essential.

And how can the balance of parliamentary legislation between English and Scottish MPs be corrected?

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Money

The world is rife with credit problems following the US housing market crash, caused by over generous mortgages. The Spanish market also appears to be on a downward spiral. We are all suffering as a consequence, but is there more to come?

One family with five mortgaged properties, on a pension of £64,000 plus office expenses of £90,500 paid by UK taxpayers, must be feeling the pinch. No more free air travel. Better send the wife out to work!

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Southampton

Many of you will know of the Mullard Southampton semiconductor factory, but few will be aware of its varied history.

Now part of NXP, Southampton was once the centre of Mullard and then Philips IC manufacturer in the UK. Derek Jeffs saw most of the years 1956 - 1996, and he has contributed his copy of the book written by Maggs and White.

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