Editorial

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Welcome to the final issue of Volume 6 of *British Politics*. Our first contribution for this issue comes from John Greenaway. In this, the author examines the theme of ideas and policy-making through an analysis of the English and Welsh Licensing Act 2003. Focusing on the issue of alcohol as a policy area contested in multiple and complex ways, the article explores the shift in the framing of this policy area under New Labour, charting the way in which policy outcomes varied in unintended ways as a consequence of the government's effort to shape the debate in terms of its ongoing modernisation agenda. Our second article comes from Ron Johnston and Charles Pattie, and considers the political dynamics of the House of Lords with an examination of crossbench behaviour during the passage of the 2010 Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill. Showing how crossbenchers failed to vote in sufficient numbers, and with sufficient consistency, to defeat the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition government, the article considers the implications of this episode for the future role of the House of Lords during the remainder of the 2010–2015 Parliament.

Our third article for this issue comes from Emily Robinson. Here, the author explores the interrelated themes of collective memory, historical interpretation and political identity by analysing the dissolution of the Communist Party of Great Britain. Examining the ways in which party members sought to deal with what often amounted to a sense of personal crisis, the article sets out the various divisions that existed between them, and the impact that this had on the party's struggle to recreate a meaningful political narrative. The final article for this issue, from Andrew Johnson and Chris Miles, forms part of our ongoing 'Beyond the Mainstream' section. In this, the authors consider the order effects of ballot position on voting behaviour. On the basis of a large-scale field experiment, the article shows that in cases where voters have limited information about candidates, the order in which candidate names are listed on the ballot paper can itself prove to be influential. As ever, we wish to conclude this issue by thanking all those whose time, energy and expertise has gone into making *British Politics* possible during the past year.

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