

Parliamentary recess



The long recess in the summer, usually from late July to mid-October, is a feature of the parliamentary year and owes much to the silver tongue of MP *Sir Charles Forster* in 1859

He 'would frankly admit that honourable members ought not to allow any consideration of ease or comfort to interfere with the discharge of duties which they had voluntarily undertaken, but yet they had a right to expect that those duties should not be rendered unnecessarily severe by their being exposed to the pestilential atmosphere of the overgrown sewer, in the midst of which they had built their House, precisely at the period of the year when its foul abominations had the greatest power.' The Thames became less smelly when proper sewers were built