

● **Mark Allen** London

Great Britain PLC marks its 300th birthday this Tuesday, but the only thing HM Government have done to celebrate is mint a new £2 coin. This awkward anniversary could hardly have come at a worse time for New Labour, with a Scotsman looking like becoming prime minister, and English voters wondering why the Scots deserve

two parliaments for the price of one. This is what makes Mark Allen's *Quite Good Britain* so timely. As he observes, Britannia is in the throes of a national identity crisis: we've changed our name more often than Puff Daddy; our monarchy is German; our national anthem is boring (and used to include a verse that was very rude about



the Scots) and it says a lot about us that the NSPCC was founded 60 years after the RSPCA. He's written a new national anthem, and instead of three lions on our football shirts, he reckons we should have three hedgehogs. Well, it could hardly make things any worse. **WC**  
*Hen And Chickens, N1,*  
*Tue 1 to Fri 4*