

December 2015 Newsletter



Dear Constituent,

It has been a wet and windy end to November and I was busy visiting schools, businesses and constituents.

I ended the month hosting a Community Clear Up Day picking up litter in Willowcroft Park in Spondon. With the help of the local councillors, scouts, school children and youth workers we picked up a lot of bags of litter leaving a cleaner park for all its users, including the wildlife.

In Westminster the terrorist attack in Paris on the 13th of November dominated the end of this month’s agenda. This week a vote will take place on whether to bomb the headquarters of the Islamic State who were behind the atrocious attack. The UK is currently using air strikes in Iraq, at the request of the Iraqi government, but the border between Iraq and Syria is not one IS recognises. They are moving with impunity between the two. There is no government the UK can work with in Syria and no one on the ground who we can rely on to detain people plotting attacks on Britain. We therefore have to be prepared to use military action alongside other measures to protect us at home.

The other effect of the Syrian crisis is the mass movement of refugees. 9 million have been displaced from Syria and the Prime Minister rightly announced earlier this year that the UK would be accepting 20,000 refugees during this Parliament.

These are the most vulnerable refugees will brought directly from refugee camps in Lebanon. The government has appointed a Minister for refugees whose job is to work with councils to find the best places to locate them where their needs can best be met. Having visited the Xatari refugee camp last year it was obvious to me that many families and especially children have been traumatised by their experiences and will need specialist help to be able to begin to lead any sort of normal life.

This will be my last newsletter before the New Year so I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a health and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Latham

Promoting the Arts in Mid-Derbyshire.

I held a meeting of member’s of Mid-Derbyshire’s art community to discuss how everyone could share ideas and promote the arts in our area. Alongside the established artists we have is much more unrecognised creative talent deserving more recognition.

Promoting Derbyshire as a place for the Arts was a goal shared by all present and it was good to bring so many mind together to work on addressing the problem.

There was consensus we needed to look further afield for sponsors of art, not just government funding.

The other issue is promoting Derbyshire as a place for the Arts. I think Marketing Derby’s public/private partnership model to encourage inward investment would be a good one to promote arts in Derbyshire.

Remembrance Day Service

I attended the Ockbrook and Borrowash Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 8th November. A large number of uniformed organisations, like Beavers and Scouts were accompanied by members of the local community and assembled in Borrowash before proceeding up to the War Memorial on Victoria Avenue in Ockbrook. It was a solemn service and I, along with others, laid a wreath in memory of those who have fought and died in wars.

It is so important that we remember all of the courageous men and women who have died to defend our country and keep us safe and I was so pleased to see how the service in Bockbrook and Borrowash has grown from a small number of members of the public to well over five hundred.

We owe it to our troops and their families who have paid a considerable debt defending our country and I was honoured to be able to pay tribute to them on this Remembrance Sunday.



I have previously emailed some constituents about the NHS Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group’s plans to review all of its health care services in Belper and the surrounding area. The SDCCG is asking for views to determine what is important to local people when using its health services. There is an opportunity to complete a questionnaire on the SDCCG website to give your views: www.southernderbyshireccg.nhs.uk/have-your-say/belper-health-services/. An information leaflet is also available by contacting Claire Haynes, Engagement Manager, Claire.haynes@southernderbyshireccg.nhs.uk or call 01332 868677

Successful Dementia Awareness Day

A highlight of the month was the Dementia Awareness Day held at the Strutts Centre in Belper. There was a large turn out to hear presentations from the University of Derby, Alzheimer’s Society and Accessible Belper.

The Alzheimer’s Society also had a bus outside offering one-on-one advise sessions for those effected by Dementia including people who are caring for someone with the disease. I will work on the feedback from the event to run another in the New Year.

Keeping Rail on the Agenda

It was a pleasure to kick off the Parliamentary reception of the East Midlands Rail Forum on the terrace of Parliament.

The event brought together members of the rail community from all over the country with the Secretary of State for Transport and Minister for Rail both speaking.

I also spoke at the Rail Executive Gala at the Roundhouse where innovative and successful businesses in industry celebrate their successes with many different awards.



Numbers of the month

7,837: This is the total number of steps I took during a day whilst taking part in the Silver Star Diabetes UK challenge. Keeping active is one of the most effective ways to prevent the unseen disease and I will find out later if I did enough to top the list of MP’s who took part.

297: The total number of unemployed people in Mid-Derbyshire. This is just 0.7% of the population. Figures in Derby are the lowest since records began.

There is still more to be done but the latest employment numbers are encouraging



Final School Visit of the Year: Milford Primary School

My final school visit of the year came from Milford Primary School who were the first group I have met in the new Parliament Education Centre which was opened recently.

Throughout the year many School’s from Mid-Derbyshire have visited. It always good to welcome young students from the constituency and talk to them about Parliament and my role as an MP.

They asked insightful question and experienced life in the House of Commons thanks to the immersive 360 video room in the Education Centre in addition to a tour of both Houses of Parliament.

In the New Year I look forward to continuing to welcome school’s to Parliament and encourage teachers to look at the Parliament Education Unit to see how they can arrange one.

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