



Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire

March 2014

UKIP FACTOID

One of UKIP’s pledges in their 2010 manifesto was that they would ban Al Gore’s award-winning documentary film about climate change ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ from schools in the UK. Given recent weather events, is it not somewhat ludicrous not to educate children about climate change?

Dear Constituent,

This month has certainly been an incredibly busy one in both Westminster and the constituency, but it certainly has been enjoyable!

I had a number of students visiting from different schools in my constituency in Parliament; with Duffield Meadows Primary School visiting in late February, and six girls from schools across Mid Derbyshire in March for International Women’s Day .

This month, I have been particularly focussed on a campaign to persuade the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to approve the cancer drug Ipilimumab to be used as a first line treatment for late stage melanoma. I have written to Health Ministers and the Chief Executive of NICE , spoken in numerous debates and held an emergency parliamentary evidence session on the subject. I hope that the report I have submitted to NICE will be considered in their consultation progress, and will go some way to convincing them to reverse their decision on this life saving drug.

I also attended an event called We Day, run by the charity Free the Children. It was a great day, and the speakers were amazing, including the founders of the charity, Craig and Marc Kielburger, Malala, Prince Harry and Al Gore as well as many others. Over the coming year, I will be doing my best to speak to more Mid Derbyshire schools about this fantastic charity.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Latham

Campaign for greater access to cancer drugs

As some of you may be aware, I have been in the press recently talking about my campaign, in conjunction with the charity Melanoma UK, to put pressure on the National Centre for Health and Care Excellence to reverse their decision not to recommend the cancer drug ipilimumab as a first line treatment for late stage melanoma.

Melanoma is a disease that is of particular significance to me, as my brother died from it 12 years ago. In its early stages, it is very easily treated, and removing the cancerous mole or lesion normally results in the disappearance of the disease. In it’s late stages, however, it is almost impossible to treat. The incidence of cases of this disease is on the increase, and it is now the 6th most common cancer in men and women in the UK.

At present, when a patient is diagnosed with late-stage melanoma, they are put on an aggressive chemotherapy treatment called dacarbazine. Dacarbazine is largely viewed by clinicians as being ineffective in fighting tumour growth, a fact which NICE itself acknowledges to be true. Ipilimumab, however has been proven to shrink tumours, and significantly slow the progression of late stage melanoma.

I was fortunate to be able to secure a Westminster Hall debate on 11th March about the treatment and prevention of cancer. In this debate , I called for more time to be spent on dermatology teaching for medical students, to ensure that when they go on to practice, they are able to spot the signs and symptoms in their early stages. I also called for the Department of Health to do more to encourage medical students to take up careers in dermatology, to end the UK’s shortage of dermatology consultant s.

Later on that day, I hosted a parliamentary evidence session in the House of Commons that brought patients, their families, clinicians and Parliamentarians to discuss their views of the NICE decision, with a view to compiling them as evidence to submit to the consultation on ipilimumab that the healthcare body are holding. The stories of the patients and their families were incredibly powerful, and just served to show the positive effect that ipilimumab has had on both their quality of life and their life expectancy.

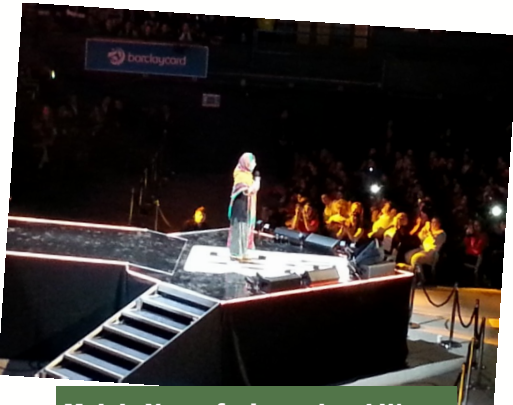


Me, Melanoma UK’s Gill Nuttall and Skcin’s Richard Clifford at the meeting



I chair a parliamentary evidence session on ipilimumab in the House of Commons

We Day 2014



Malala Yousufzai speaks at We Day



In my time as an MP, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of outstanding charities. One such example is the charity Free the Children, of which I am a UK board member. The charity seeks to encourage children to get involved with social action projects, and for schools to work with students to complete one local and one global action a year

Earlier this month, they put on an incredible free event at Wembley Arena, which students from schools enrolled and engaging in their social action projects could apply to attend. Speakers included the ex vice-president of the USA, Al Gore, education, campaigner, Malala Yousufzai, and Prince Harry, with music from artists like Ellie Goulding and Dizzee Rascal. The event was aimed at motivating the young people present to continue with their charity projects and rewarding them for what they had already done.

The day after the event, I offered to take some of the students I met in India last summer who had won a Virgin Atlantic Scholarship to work on a charity project over there on a tour of the House of Commons. Afterwards I held a Q&A session with the students about my role and responsibilities as an MP. It was great to see how committed these young people were to helping others.

If you are a student, and would like any guidance as to how your school can get involved with Free the Children, please contact my parliamentary office.

Derbyshire schoolgirls visit to Parliament

On 8th March, the global community celebrated International Women’s Day, on which the social, cultural and political achievements of women are celebrated. A number of events took place in Parliament to celebrate the day , and I invited six girls from schools across Mid Derbyshire to shadow me .

The day started with a tour of parliament, in which the girls were taught about its history and how democracy works in the UK. Later, they sat in on a debate about women in Afghanistan, and watched me speak in a Westminster Hall debate on women’s contribution to the economy .

Having spoken to the girls, however, it was clear that the highlight of the day, was undoubtedly the afternoon tea that was laid on for them in the magnificent Speaker’s apartments. In the grandeur of the room, the girls were given talks by a number of high profile women, and even had the opportunity to meet the Speaker, the Rt Hon John Bercow.

It was lovely to meet Allysha, Amy (both Belper School), Niamh, Parisa (both West Park School), Amelia (Allestree Woodlands school) and Sophie (Ecclesbourne School). I hope the girls had an informative and educational time, and that the experience was interesting for them.



Jobs Fair at Derby Enterprise Centre

I had been looking forward to hosting the upcoming Jobs Fair at Derby Enterprise Centre for some time, and the day certainly did not disappoint!

The event played host to over 60 firms, like Rolls Royce and Delta Rail, who were looking to recruit or had apprenticeships on offer. There was also a diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the fair ranging from hairdressers to the Army and Navy to heavy engineering firms.

Attendees could also take part in workshops on interviews and CV writing, as well as receiving advice on starting a business.

As predicted, people attended in their droves, coming not only from Mid Derbyshire, but from across the city. In total around 2,000 people attended, and I was pleased to see that so many people were taking advantage of the opportunities to find work, or change their career.

Visit from Duffield Meadows Primary School

At the end of February, I welcomed the children of Duffield Meadows Primary School to the House of Commons.

The students were treated to a full tour of both houses, and got to know about the history of democracy in the UK and the building itself.

After their tour, the students had the opportunity to ask me questions about my work as an MP. They had also taken the trouble to write lots of questions for me picking out recent news stories. I was very impressed by what they were asking, and definitely felt like I was being given a grilling!



Visit to Massive Youth Centre

In February, I was invited to meet the staff and attendees of the Massive Youth Centre in Duffield.

The centre provides a much needed place for young people to go to relax and socialise. I joined them in a cooking activity that was on offer that week, and iced a biscuit in the shape of a heart for Valentine’s Day. It was rather lucky really because I was able to present it to my husband later that evening along with the card I had for him!

If you or your children would like to know more about the centre and the activities and services it offers, take a look at their website <http://www.massiveduffield.co.uk/>.

Delivered at no extra cost to the taxpayer

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