



WELCOME TO MY

 **October 2024** 
Newsletter



Hello! I hope you are all well and adjusting to the darker nights.

Members will be aware that the Kilpatrick Ward (Clydebank) By-Election is on 28th November. This is winnable, so we need all hands on deck.

We really need everyone's assistance with this. Whatever spare time you can give to the campaign, is much appreciated.



In this Newsletter you will find:

My work in the Constituency, Parliament and Scottish Government updates.

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IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Milngavie FC

It was great to catch up with Craig Lister from Milngavie Football Club to discuss how I can assist the Club. During the meeting I presented Craig with two Motions, one recognising Caroline Diaz for being nominated as Diversity Hero and for the Club winning the Diversity in Sport Award. A great achievement for the Club!



Bearsden Martial Arts Club

I was delighted to catch up with Bearsden Martial Arts Club again during Parliamentary Recess to present a framed copy of their Motion to them. The Motion was submitted in recognition of their outstanding fundraising for Kidney Research UK during their Summer Bash. They are such an excellent group and it's always a pleasure to join them.



Clydebank FC

I was pleased to visit Holm Park recently to see my banner up at Clydebank Football Club. Always a pleasure to support the local team and it was nice to catch up with Bill again. They were a great help with getting the banner sorted, and I am always proud to support the Bankies!



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Will Hamilton Motion

I was delighted to meet Will Hamilton, Bankie and UWS graduate who has been shortlisted for Best Student Game at the TIGA Awards. For Will's dissertation he created a virtual reality game which takes the player through a complex virtual art gallery, and he has prioritised accessibility throughout the game. Wishing him all the best for the future.



Milngavie Primary School

I know many are concerned about the current condition of Milngavie Primary School. I have been engaging on this matter for many weeks with EDC and the Scottish Government. I was appalled to hear of the recent incident in which a piece of plywood fell from a classroom ceiling, and in light of this, visited the school with other representatives. I am continuing to engage on this.

Work Experience Student

During October Recess, I had a work experience student from Douglas Academy in my constituency office. Aine was such a delight and helped with various tasks, as well as joining me on visits and meetings. She is a really compassionate, enthusiastic and hard working young woman and I look forward to working with her again in the coming weeks!



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Gingerbread Dreams

It was lovely to visit Gingerbread Dreams in Duntocher during Recess to present a Motion celebrating their 20th anniversary and Macmillan fundraiser. Suzie and her daughter Holly have created a really welcoming and amazing wee shop. Well worth a visit to pick up some Christmas gifts! Opening hours are 10-5pm.



October Surgery

My Team and I had a busy day out across the constituency for my October surgeries in Milngavie, Dalmuir, Old Kilpatrick and a joint surgery in Baljaffray with Councillor Calum Smith. I have a lot of casework to get on with now! Many thanks again to the wonderful organisations that hosted my team and I.



Daydreams Bookshop

I was delighted to pop in to Daydreams Bookshop in Milngavie to present owner Elaine with a Motion to celebrate the opening of the store. The shop is so impressive with a lot of variety to suit everyone, including a lovely children's book section. She also hosts author nights and book clubs in the store, which have been a great hit so far. If you haven't already, please do pop in to support a local business.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Challenge Poverty Week

Before October Recess, I was glad to speak in this debate and highlight all the amazing local groups and charities in the constituency that do so much to tackle poverty each day. I also took the chance to highlight that only with independence will we truly be able to tackle child poverty, and rid ourselves of abhorrent policies like the two-child cap and rape clause.



Liver Disease Awareness

I was pleased to support my colleague Clare Haughey's debate and speak in memory of my friend Linda, who sadly passed away from non-alcoholic liver disease. Worryingly, many don't experience symptoms until it has reached an advanced stage, so if you have concerns, please visit the NHS Liver Disease page and contact your doctor.

Forced Adoption

I recently asked the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise whether the Scottish Government have considered working with the mothers who were victims of forced adoption to ensure their oral histories are archived. I am pleased the Minister was open to discussing this further, and I hope to meet with the First Minister at a later date on this.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Supporting food and drink businesses - Projects from across Scotland are being awarded grants of up to £5,000 to help to promote regional food and drink products and open up new markets.

First Minister issues call for peace in the Middle East - One year on since Israel's invasion of Gaza, First Minister John Swinney has issued another call for a ceasefire.

The future of foster care - People are being encouraged to share their views on plans for the future of foster care in Scotland.

Supporting inclusive education in Africa - Scotland intends to support inclusive education in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia with funding of up to £12.5 million over the next five years, First Minister John Swinney has announced.

NHS Pay - An incremental pay increase offered to Resident Doctors, formerly known as Junior Doctors, and Dentists in Training will ensure NHS Scotland remains an attractive place to work and train in, Health Secretary Neil Gray has said.

New Scottish benefit for pensioners - A new disability benefit for people of State Pension age opens today for new applications from people living in five local authority areas.

Humanitarian aid for Middle East - Humanitarian aid efforts in the Middle East will receive funding of £250,000 in response to a Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Appeal.

