

WELCOME TO MY

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Hello! I hope you are all well.



Parliament has now returned after the Summer Recess, so it's back to business. Constituency work has carried on throughout, as my team and I help constituents with various enquiries and concerns.

We definitely didn't get lucky with the summer weather this year, but I was glad to still get out into the constituency a lot during Recess. You can find some of these visit below.

↓ In this Newsletter you will find:

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

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IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Neighbourhood Networks

I was delighted to present certificates to the participants of the Inclusive Images and Neighbourhood Networks collaborative photography project. The group put on an amazing exhibition, with the help of Awestruck Academy after 8 weeks of work. Well done everyone and a huge thank you to Charlie Sherry for his work and for the invite!



Bearsden Martial Arts Club

I was delighted to join the Bearsden Martial Arts Club to this time support their Summer Bash to raise funds for Kidney Research UK. I was touched to learn the group chose to raise money for this cause in support of one of their members who has been diagnosed with a kidney condition. The group have raised an outstanding £10,000, which I will be recognising with a Parliamentary Motion.



Tesco Pop Up Surgery

It was great to have a wee pop up surgery in Tesco Milngavie to speak with any constituents that need assistance. I understand that some constituents will not want to discuss private issues in this space, but it makes sure that constituents know I am available to them and we are able to give them a flyer with my details to get in touch at a later date.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Auchentoshan Distillery

I recently visited Auchentoshan Distillery for an informative visit to learn more about the history of the site, the production, and about their HyClyde proposal. The distillery recently held a consultation event to allow folk to learn more about the proposal. This proposal would see the distillery powered by green hydrogen.



Dalmuir Allotments

I was pleased to be invited to judge the Dalmuir Allotments Competition. It was great to chat with lots of the members and see all the amazing produce and flowers that are growing. It was a hard choice but the winners are all very well deserving. I look forward to the official prize giving ceremony in coming weeks.

Men's Shed

It was nice to visit the Milngavie and Bearsden Men's Shed to catch up on the work they have been doing. They do so much to improve the health and wellbeing of men in the area and tackle social isolation. I ended up picking names out of a hat for their phone box, which will have glass panels with Bearsden Cross businesses on them. Great wee idea!



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Caleb Stirrat Motion

I was delighted to present a Parliamentary Motion to Caleb Stirrat, in recognition of him being awarded the Child of Courage Trophy at the Pride of Scotland Awards. Alongside his sisters and parents, they set up the Calebs Trio of Hope charity after he was diagnosed with a form of brain and spine cancer in 2019. Caleb is such an inspirational and brave wee boy - a well deserved achievement!



Milngavie Cricket Club

I had a brilliant time supporting Milngavie Cricket Club's Family Fun Day. There were lots of activities available for all ages, including a BBQ, bouncy castle, raffle and various stalls. This was the first time they have run the event but it was a great success so I look forward to the next one! Always pleased to support local events.

Alex Kane Motion

I was delighted to meet Duntocher-born Emma Clapperton to present a Parliamentary Motion to her recognising her achievements as an author. Emma writes under the pseudonym Alex Kane and has now published 10 books. What an achievement! I am sure all Bankies are extremely proud of Emma, I know I am, and I wish her all the best for her future ahead.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Dalmuir Out of School Care

It was lovely to pop along one morning to Dalmuir Out of School Care Group in Dalmuir Community Centre to chat with Yvonne and Sinead and some of the kids. I was really impressed at everything they have on offer for the kids and how well run the group is. This is a great out of school childcare group who have worked hard to provide the best service for kids and parents.



Mugdock Park

I had a lovely visit to Mugdock Park with Evelyn Tweed MSP and Councillor Jim Gibbons who kindly gave us a historical tour. Mugdock sits on the boundary between Stirling and East Dunbartonshire Councils. There really is something for everyone at the park, with play parks, castle, walking trails and little shops. Well worth a visit if you haven't already!

Milngavie Tennis Club

I popped across to Milngavie Tennis Club recently to chat with Hunter Reid, former Chair and Member since 1958! It was great to hear about everything the club offers for the community to keep active, including summer camps during school holidays and after school coaching. We discussed how I may be able to support them in the future which I remain happy to help with.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Moments of Freedom

It was great to join the Moments of Freedom ladies again for a pop up surgery in Centre 81. We had a cuppa and good chat about the amazing work they have been doing lately, which is all such positive stuff. I then spoke to them about any issues I can help with and have taken away some casework to get on with!



Road Safety Survey

It was good to get the steps back with the team delivering more road safety surveys and my annual report in Bearsden North. I am grateful to all the residents in East Dunbartonshire who have already filled it out. If you receive any of the latest batch, I would be grateful if you could complete and return it to my office. The more views I can get on this the better.

Scotland Loves Local

I had a lovely catch up with Fiona McInnes CEO of Clydebank Co-op during Scotland Loves Local Week. The Clydebank Co-op is the only independent Co-op left, locally owned by its members in the community. Local businesses are the heart and soul of our communities and the Co-op has brought so much to Clydebank since 1881.



MINISTERS IN THE CONSTITUENCY

John Swinney in Clydebank

I was delighted to have First Minister John Swinney in Clydebank for the launch of the RSV vaccine rollout. RSV is a common respiratory (lungs and airways) illness which can cause severe respiratory infections like pneumonia. The vaccine helps reduce the chances of getting an RSV infection. Scotland is leading the way being the first of the four nations to administer the vaccines.



Motions submitted

- Milngavie FC Nominated for Diversity in Sport Award
- West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare Receives National Lottery Funding
- Milngavie FC's Diversity Hero of the Year
- Faifley Art Group Competition Winner Announced
- Bankie Dad Dared to Create Non-alcoholic Beverage That Becomes Global Hit
- Cahonas Celebrates 15th Anniversary
- Harlyy Software Ltd Receives Scottish EDGE Award
- Brave Fundraising for St Vincent's Hospice

Shona Robison in Clydebank

I was really pleased to have the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP and Minister for Public Finance Ivan McKee MSP at the District Heating Energy Centre in Clydebank. I was delighted to have them in my constituency to learn about this innovative example of carbon free energy.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Improving online connectivity - A Scottish Government programme to install 55 4G mobile phone masts in rural and island communities has improved home life, work life and business performance, according to new analysis.

Helping Uist parents back into work - A project providing training opportunities and childcare provision for parents, led by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has received £60,000 from the Scottish Government.

Improving cancer care - A total of £1.5 million funding in 2024-25 is supporting 12 projects to continue providing direct and personalised support to patients with cancer.

Afghan medical students arrive safely in Scotland - Nineteen female Afghan medical students have arrived in Scotland after they were banned from completing their studies by the authorities in Afghanistan.

Extending Carer Support Payment - Carer Support Payment, the replacement for Carer's Allowance, is now available in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Fife, Moray and North, East and South Ayrshire.

Pay offer to NHS Agenda for Change staff - Nurses and healthcare staff across Scotland have been offered a pay increase of 5.5% that will ensure they have the best pay package in the UK.

Makar's tenure ends - First Minister John Swinney has thanked Scotland's national poet, Makar Kathleen Jamie, for her contribution to public life as her three year tenure comes to an end.

