



WELCOME TO MY  
**December 2024  
Newsletter**



Hello Everyone. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

This is my last newsletter for 2024. Thank you all for your support over this last year.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2025.



**In this Newsletter you will find:**

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

Promoted by Marie McNair, c/o Unit 11, Clyde Street Business Centre, Clydebank G81 1PF



# IN THE CONSTITUENCY

## Quarriers Dunn Street

I was delighted to present a Parliamentary Motion to Quarriers Dunn Street Short Breaks/Respite Service in Duntocher. The team raised an amazing £1,245 at their annual open day which will help pay for trips for residents over the festive season and to fund their community garden. Well done again and a special thanks to Maya!



## Allander Dental Care

I was pleased to present a Parliamentary Motion to Allander Dental Care in Milngavie recognising their outstanding fundraising for various charities. They raised a phenomenal £12,325.72 for Beatson Cancer Charity, Teenage Cancer Trust and Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. Such a massive achievement!

## Churches Together

I spent a lovely afternoon with Provost Murray Conaghan at Clydebank Churches Together Annual Christmas Carol Service. Special thanks to Rev. Ishaku Bitrus and Rev. Gerry Simonis. A huge well done to those who took part in the service - St Stephen's and Kilbowie Primary Schools, and Clydebank Salvation Army. They were all outstanding!





# IN THE CONSTITUENCY

## Ollie Durand

I was delighted to present a framed Parliamentary Motion to the amazing Ollie Durand. 8 year old Ollie and his Dad have raised over £5,000 for different charities such as Old Kilpatrick Food Parcels and Golden Friendships since he was 6 years old. At 6 he completed the West Highland Way and most recently, the Hebridean Way, walking over 180 miles in 9 days!



## Christmas Card Competition

Just before Christmas I presented prizes to the fantastic winners of my Christmas Card Competition. 1st place went to Jonathan from St Stephens, 2nd place to Daniel from Kilpatrick School and 3rd place to Shreya from Our Lady of Loretto. I received so many designs this year it was such a hard decision, but these 3 stood out and are very well deserving winners!

## Pop-Up Surgeries

While I did not have my usual surgery this month, I held two pop-up surgeries, one in Asda (Clydebank) and the other in Tesco (Milngavie). We had great engagement from the community. Glad I was able to offer my help to those who need it before Christmas time. As always please get in touch if I can be of any assistance.



# IN THE CONSTITUENCY

## Small Business Saturday

I am so lucky to have so many amazing local businesses across my Constituency. On Small Business Saturday, Frances and Nicole made sure my hair was in tip top condition with a trim at Frances Henry Hairdressing. I was also glad to be tucking into a nice steak tea supplied by Jim, Angela and the team at Rodgers Butchers. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy.



## Motions Submitted:

- Clydebank's Looking Good Skin, Health and Beauty Clinic Celebrates 30 Years
- Allander Leisure Centre Wins Top Accolade at Architectural Awards
- Clydebank Housing Association Celebrates 40th Anniversary
- Colpi Ice Cream Wins Best Gelateria/Dessert Café at the Annual Scottish Italian Awards
- Clydebank Musical Society's Performance of Matilda
- Clydebank Hospital Worker Honoured for 50 Years of Service to the NHS
- Bankie Gymnasts Win 19 Scottish Champion Titles

## Hospice Bus

It was lovely to get out on the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice Christmas Bus recently with some of my Team. This is a charity close to my heart as a former Hospice Nurse, and I know it is close to the hearts of those across Clydebank. It was great to see such a fantastic community spirit. If you are able to help please donate to their Christmas appeal.





# IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

## First Minister's Questions

During FMQ's recently, I asked the FM what assessment the Scottish Government has made of warnings from not-for-profit social care providers regarding the impact of increased employers National Insurance Contributions, and the impact this could have on the sector in Scotland. Anas Sarwar's Westminster colleagues must fully reimburse the Scottish Government for these plans.



## Social Security Bill

I was glad to speak in this debate recently, and witness the passing of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. This Bill will enhance the rights of Social Security Scotland claimants, through for example, protecting benefits from inflation. This will also protect the Winter Heating Payment, ensuring every pensioner from 2025 receives some form of payment.



## Rural Question

I recently asked the Scottish Government what it is doing to promote the Scottish food industry. In a joint statement, the Scottish Pelagic Processors Association and the Scottish Seafood Association have recently stated the Labour UK Government's increase to National Insurance contributions could threaten the seafood industry in Scotland. I asked the Minister what discussions they have had with the UK Government on this impact.



# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

## IN THE 2025/26 BUDGET

**Winter Heating Payment reinstated** - The Scottish Government will provide financial support to all pensioners next year, after Labour axed the Winter Fuel Payment.

**Record NHS funding** - Record £2 billion increase in frontline NHS spending taking overall health and social care investment to £21 billion to reduce NHS waiting lists, making it easier for people to see their GP.

**Scrapping the Two-Child Cap** - The Scottish Government will mitigate the UK Government's cruel two-child limit from 2026, lifting 15,000 children out of poverty.

**Investment in Town Centres** - £62 million will be invested in town centres and regeneration projects.

**Affordable Housing** - £768 million will be put into affordable housing to deliver at least 8,000 homes.

**Uplift for Culture Sector** - The Scottish Government will deliver £34 million increase for the culture budget next year and reiterates commitment to £100 million investment.

**Retail Crime** - £3 million will be delivered to Police Scotland to specifically tackle shoplifting and retail crime.

**Local Government** - A record £15 billion for local government to support the services communities rely on.

