

WELCOME TO MY

WELCOME TO MY  
**June 2024  
Newsletter**



The General Election was an extremely difficult night for our Party. Can I firstly thank Martin and Amy for their hard work over the years, they will be a great loss to our communities. I am also thinking of the many staff who have now lost their jobs.

Thank you to the members who worked tirelessly campaigning. We must, and will, learn from this setback and come back stronger. Parliament is now in Recess, so below you can find a recap of my work in June.

↓ **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

## Milngavie Week

It was great to show my support for Milngavie Week and the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games. I am always particularly interested to visit the Classic Car Show, which this year included more than 130 cars. While there, I also popped across to speak with the Milngavie Community First Responders about their work and to chat with Milngavie in Bloom again at their plant sale stall.



## Unity Empower West

I had such a fantastic visit to the Unity Empower Group a few weeks ago to learn more about the work they do and to explain my role as their MSP. I was so impressed by the group's questions and their amazing carrot cake and banana loaf! They made sure to quiz me on all things politics, and I look forward to welcoming them to the Scottish Parliament after Recess.

## Happy Leaf

I was delighted to present a Motion to Amy Roberts and Iain Quinn of Happy Leaf recognising their innovative plant care business. I have met Amy and Iain a couple times now and I am always impressed by their knowledge. Both of them will go far! I look forward to seeing the finished Happy Leaf product and buying one myself!



# IN THE CONSTITUENCY

## Milngavie Art Club

I had a fantastic visit to Milngavie Art Club to show my support for the group. They had such a wide scale of amazing artwork on display. It was good to also get a catch up with Gerry and Iain from the club to discuss how things have been going for them as a group. Their exhibition is finished now, but keep an eye out for their next one.



## Faifley Art Group

After visiting the Milngavie Art Club I popped across to the Clydebank Town Hall to visit the Faifley Art Group - another of our amazing local art groups. I had a catch up with Christine to discuss the work this year. I was so impressed by the variety of artwork this year. Both groups never fail to impress!

## Safe Streets Bearsden

I was really glad to meet with some of the Safe Streets Bearsden team recently to discuss road safety, my survey, and particular problem areas. It was good to chat with them about how we can continue to work together on this matter. To end the meeting, they took me a walk around Bearsden Cross to see the particular problem areas and discuss possible solutions.



# IN THE CONSTITUENCY

## Clydebank Town Board

I'm pleased to be a part of the Clydebank Town Board which is overseeing the spending of £20 million awarded to the area. We have had some productive meetings so far discussing how the fund can be best spent to shape our town. I look forward to working further with the other stakeholders involved.



## Constituency Advice Surgery

At the end of June I held another super busy Advice Surgery across Milngavie, Bearsden North, Dalmuir and Linnvale. We picked up a lot of new casework which my team and I are working on to achieve positive outcomes. After this, I went straight to a meeting with Clydebank East and Central Community Council.

## Improving Lives Fundraiser

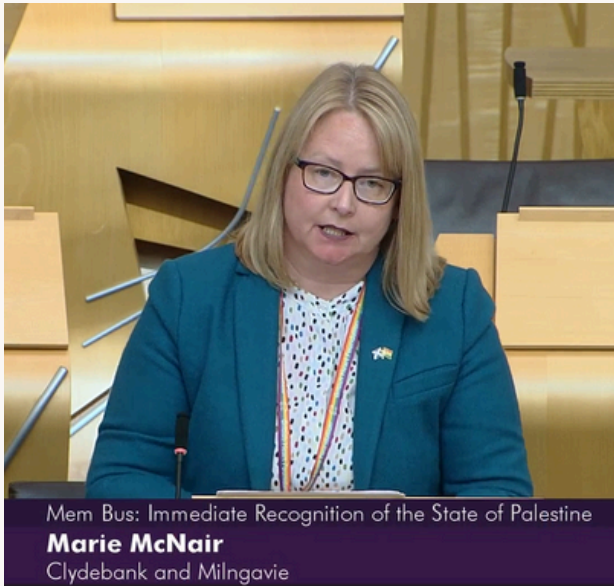
I was also delighted to attend the Improving Lives annual fundraiser. It was lovely to be joined by my colleagues Cllr Scanlan, Cllr Traynor and Cllr Oxley and other community activists. I had a great night and even joined in to play the pound coin game (sadly I didn't win!). Well done again to Kevin and his amazing team for raising over £1,700.



# IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

## Volunteers Week

Volunteers are the backbone of our communities, so for Volunteers Week I spoke in a Parliamentary debate highlighting all the amazing ones we have in our community. My thanks again to our volunteers for all their hard work every day of the year. You do so much to help our communities. To watch the full speech, have a look on my Facebook page.



## Palestine Recognition

I was glad to speak in this debate, brought to the Chamber by Humza Yousaf to call for the UK Government to recognise the State of Palestine. The Palestinian and Israeli people both deserve to live long, happy and peaceful lives, free of continuous fear and violence. To ensure lasting peace, we need a two-state solution, but to do this, we need to recognise Palestine as a state.

## Action Mesothelioma Day

Every year I hold an Action Mesothelioma Day debate in Parliament to raise awareness of this tragic disease. This year I held my debate on 27th June, and Action Meso Day will be on 5th July. It was great to have some of my colleagues speak in the debate to help raise greater recognition of the condition and to call for more research into the disease.



# IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

## WASPI Women

I spoke again in another WASPI debate in Parliament recently. I was pleased to call again for fast and fair compensation for the WASPI women. They have waited far too long for compensation and have been vindicated by the Ombudsman report. I am calling on the UK Government to compensate these women urgently.



## Motions submitted

- Recognising Margaret Rice for 62 Years Working in Education
- Clydemuir Primary School Takes Part in Asda's Big Help Out Initiative
- Clydebank Lollipop Lady Retires After 40 Years' Service
- Milngavie's Annual Duck Race
- Clydebank Footballer Goes to the Euros with the Scotland National Team
- Scottish Young Musician's Solo Performer of the Year 2024
- Action Mesothelioma Day 2024

## Child Poverty

Child poverty is a stark reality for many children and families. The compassion that we have for the welfare of our children is something that should define our country. It is clear that the Scottish Government's actions are already making a difference, so I was glad to speak in a debate highlighting the Scottish Government's commitment to eradicating child poverty.



# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Exonerations for wrongly convicted sub-postmasters - Sub-postmasters in Scotland who were wrongly convicted as a result of the Post Office Horizon scandal were automatically exonerated on 14 June 2024.

Increasing pay for children's social care staff - Staff in children's social care services will see their pay increase to at least £12 an hour thanks to new Scottish Government funding.

New approaches to help eradicate child poverty - The Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund (CPAF) will provide up to £80,000 per grant towards local projects that test and evaluate new approaches which target at least one of the three drivers of child poverty reduction.

Football activity club funding doubles to £4 million - Football clubs and trusts across Scotland will receive additional funding to boost efforts to eradicate child poverty.

Highest ever number of grants paid to young carers - Over 3,700 teens have received Young Carer Grant payments worth £1.4m in the last financial year, almost 60% more than the year before.

£250,000 Humanitarian Emergency Funding for Kenya - External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson has pledged funding of £250,000 to aid charities responding to those affected by the severe flooding in Kenya through the Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF).

