



WELCOME TO MY

November 2024 Newsletter



Hello! I hope you are all well and wrapping up warm now!

Time is moving so fast as we quickly approach Christmas. There is lots to get done in the Scottish Parliament before Recess, so it will be a busy few weeks for me.

Please find below a short recap of some of my work as your MSP.



In this Newsletter you will find:

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

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IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Clydesider Exhibition

It was lovely to pop along to the Clydesider Exhibition in Dalmuir Barclay Church recently which was showcasing all the amazing work they have done with various organisations. This includes working with Moments of Freedom and Growing Beardmore. A really impressive amount of work done by a small team of hardworking individuals!



Remembrance Ceremonies

I was honoured and privileged to represent my constituents at Remembrance events across the Constituency on Remembrance Sunday in Clydebank, Milngavie and Bearsden North. Pictured here laying a wreath at Bearsden Cross. We will remember those who lost their lives, and must speak up against violence and war that is happening now.



Clydebank Asbestos Group

It was an honour to join the Clydebank Asbestos Group for their AGM with my colleague Provost Murray Conaghan. So pleased to see Maureen McGlinchey appointed as Chair and my best wishes to outgoing Chair, Theresa Jones, who has done great work. I look forward to continuing to work with the Group in the year ahead, in the fight for truth and justice.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

OHR Remembrance Ceremony

I was pleased to be invited to Our Holy Redeemer's Remembrance Service outside Clydebank Town Hall with my colleague Provost Karen Murray Conaghan. It was nice to hear from the young pupils about what they have been learning about in the lead up to Remembrance Day. They are our future!



Booksellers Association

Off the back of my Motion to Daydreams Bookshop, Milngavie, recognising the stores opening, I had an informative meeting with the Booksellers Association. We discussed what more the Scottish Government can do to support local bookstores and how I can assist in pushing for this. Please do pop into Daydreams if you haven't already.

Cost of Living Event

I was delighted to hold another Cost of Living Event this year, in collaboration with Clydebank Housing Association. I was delighted to welcome just under 30 local and national organisations and we achieved a really good turnout from the local community. My sincere thanks to everyone who came along, and to the members who helped with lettering earlier in the month.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Pancreatic Cancer

I recently spoke in this debate to raise awareness of this terrible disease. There is so much ongoing research into the disease, but unfortunately it is still a silent killer. I spoke in memory of my four constituents who sadly passed away because of pancreatic cancer, Helen, Donald, Billy and Christine.



Motions Submitted

- Beyond the Virus Report on Integrating and Prioritising Mental Health and Wellbeing in Scotland's HIV Response
- Allander Dental Care Team Charity Event
- Dalmuir Tyre Services Celebrates 30th Anniversary
- Clyde Shopmobility Meeting the Needs of Disabled Bankies
- Liz Stewart Shortlisted for Volunteer Manager of the Year

Winter Fuel Payment

Last week saw Scotland's coldest early winter night since 1998, with temperatures reaching as low as -11.2°C . I recently asked the Cabinet Secretary for Health whether he shares my concern and the concern of stakeholders like Age Scotland, that the health of older people across the country will be jeopardised as a result of the UK Labour Government's cruel decision to cut the Winter Fuel Payment.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Winter Fuel Payment (Cont.)

It was then incredibly welcome that the Scottish Government announced universal Winter Fuel Payments will be re-introduced. This will see every Scottish pensioner receive some form of payment from next year, with those most in need receiving the highest payment. This is further proof that while the Labour Party push pensioners into poverty, the SNP will protect them.



World COPD Day

I was pleased to lead a World COPD Day debate recently. I sadly lost my mother to this terrible disease in 2012 so I was grateful to have the opportunity to raise awareness and highlight the importance of early detection. Clydebank has an unfortunate asbestos legacy - a substance that can increase your risk of COPD - so it is my duty to raise awareness of the condition.

Keeping Our Roads Safe

The Scottish Government is seeking views on whether to reduce the national speed limit for cars on single carriageways from 60 to 50mph. I have been undertaking a Road Safety survey in East Dunbartonshire, so it is great to see our Scottish Government committed to ensuring safer roads. This would be a vital step to reducing road casualties.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Football helping to tackle poverty - An initiative to provide free after school and holiday clubs for families on low incomes has helped more than 3,500 children to attend football and other sport sessions.

More young people helped to spot signs of abuse - More than 27,000 young people have benefited from education and awareness-raising sessions on tackling gender-based violence over six months, thanks to 45 grassroots organisations across Scotland.

Joint working to support communities - A report has shown how partnership working between the Scottish Government and councils is helping to deliver on community priorities.

Scotland's Green Jobs - Scotland's green job market has tripled since 2021. According to PwC, Scotland is leading the UK in the creation of green jobs.

Strengthening tenants' rights - New legislation will introduce a range of measures to improve renting in Scotland, including strengthening tenants' rights to keep a pet.

Improving eating disorder services - People affected by an eating disorder can expect higher and more consistent standards of care following the roll-out of new national guidance for services.

Scotland's Migration Service expanded - Scotland's Migration Service, which provides information and advice for people, employers and investors, has been expanded.

