

WELCOME TO MY

April 2024 Newsletter



Hello! Well, what a month it has been. As we now know, Humza Yousaf will be stepping down as First Minister. Humza is a genuinely kind, dedicated and principled man and I am sad to see him go.

His compassion and leadership shown on Gaza, when most leaders stayed silent, will be a lasting legacy. He can hold his head high, knowing he was on the right side of history. My best wishes to him, Nadia and family.

↓ **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

Friends of Milngavie Reservoir

It was great to chat with Eddy Yacoubian, Chair of Friends of Milngavie Reservoir (FOMR) during Parliamentary Recess. FOMR do amazing work protecting and enhancing our reservoir, so it was good to discuss how I can support them in their efforts. I know fencing is a concern for members so I am engaging with stakeholders on this matter to see what can be done.



Unity-Empower Presentation

I was honoured and proud to present graduation certificates to the Unity - Empower West Dunbartonshire Group, in collaboration with Inclusive Images, celebrating the completion of their project 'Picturing Our Past'. Pictured with the impressive group. Well done to everyone involved, you have created some outstanding work!



Clydebank Walking Group

During Recess it was lovely to get the steps up with the Clydebank Health and Social Walk team. This is a great way to stay active, meet new people and have a good chat as you get out and about. You can find out more by emailing walking@wdcvs.com or phoning 0141 941 0886. I would really encourage you to join if you are looking for some walking buddies.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Stepping Stones Opening

It was a pleasure to attend the official opening of the new Stepping Stones office on Kilbowie Road, with my colleagues Martin Docherty-Hughes MP and Cllr Karen Murray-Conaghan. Stepping Stones are a fantastic organisation that offer a range of mental health support services. Please do reach out to them if you need help. You can phone them on 0141 941 2929.



Milngavie in Bloom

It was great to get back out with the Milngavie in Bloom team for their Spring Clean Scotland litter pick session. This is a great way to not only help keep our local community clean, but get some exercise and meet new friends. Their next session is on 18th May at 10am outside the Fraser Centre in Milngavie. A huge thanks to the volunteers for all the work they do!

Bearsden Martial Arts Club

After a busy day in Parliament it was nice to visit the Bearsden Martial Arts Club to learn more about the classes they offer children and adults. They offer various classes including Wednesday and Thursday classes in Douglas Academy. This is a great way for all ages to get some exercise and learn a new skill. They made sure to show me their many skills! Thanks to Scott for welcoming me.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

IWMD 2024

On International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD) I attended a service at Truth and Justice Square. This was a poignant day, given our area's unwanted legacy of asbestos and other industrial related illnesses and deaths. We also paid tribute to the late Bob Dickie and Hope Robertson of Clydebank Asbestos Group, remembering their fight for truth and justice for asbestos victims and their families.



Synchronised Swimmers

I was delighted to present a Parliamentary Motion to Linda Atkinson of the Clydebank Synchronised Swimming Club congratulating her on being awarded the sportscotland Official of the Year 2023 award at the Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering (COV) Awards. Linda is the highest qualified artistic swimming judge in Scotland, and a G-level Judge for World Aquatics!

Constituency Surgeries

Another successful surgery day completed. I held Surgeries in the Fraser Centre, Milngavie, Skoolz Out, Bearsden North, Old Kilpatrick Food Parcels, Old Kilpatrick and Dalmuir Barclay Church in Dalmuir. It was great to hold a joint surgery with my colleague Cllr Lauren Oxley in Dalmuir and get a wee catch up. This is always one of my favourite days in the month as I get to help my constituents.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Holyrood Dog Competition

I entered the Holyrood Dog Competition this year with Heidi, our office dog, and we won! This was such a shock as it's the first time we've entered. Heidi is my staffers dog, and she just brightens our day when she comes in for meetings! Heidi helps her Nanna who had a TIA last year. She has given her purpose and her confidence back. Thank you so much to everyone who voted for her.



Debate: WASPI: Women Against State Pension Inequality
Marie McNair
Clydebank and Milngavie

WASPI Women

I joined the WASPI women in Parliament a couple weeks ago for their demonstration calling for compensation. It was nice to meet with some constituents and listen to how this has affected them. I also spoke in a parliamentary debate and called for generous and fast compensation in light of the Ombudsman report. The UK Government cannot ignore these women any longer!

Health and Safety Act

I spoke in this debate noting the 50th anniversary of The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. For decades, workers in Clydebank made a huge contribution to the economy, while working in extremely dangerous conditions. There's no doubt this Act saved lives, but despite the massive improvements, many workers in Clydebank continued to work with asbestos, which was only fully banned 25 years later.



Members: Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
Marie McNair
Clydebank and Milngavie



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Two-Child Benefit Cap

The Tories two-child benefit cap is one of the cruellest policies to emerge from Westminster, but neither the Tories or Labour Party will scrap it. This is a conscious and deliberate attempt to keep children in poverty. I was pleased to speak in this debate calling, again, for this policy to be scrapped immediately. Clearly only the SNP will protect children from poverty.



Motions submitted

- Reids of Milngavie Wins Fashion and Accessories Retailer of The Year
- St Peter the Apostle S3 Netball Team Wins Scottish School Cup
- Groups across Clydebank and Milngavie Receive Over £335,000 in National Lottery Community Funding
- Bearsden Academy and Douglas Academy Rank Highly in Top Schools List
- Clydebank Care Home Resident Achieves First National Qualification
- Bearsden North Resident Wins Gold Medal at Scottish National Masters Curling Championships
- Allander Rotary Club's Fire Walk
- Clydebank Musical Society's Performance of Legally Blonde
- Clydebank's Happy Leaf Makes Impressive Strides in Plant Care

MS Awareness Week

Over 15,000 people in Scotland live with MS. It was good to pop in to a Parliamentary event to show my support and speak with the MS Society Scotland team. It's so important that we raise awareness of this condition. The MS Society do amazing work helping people living with the condition to get them practical and emotional support.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Driving digital connectivity - More than one million faster broadband connections have been delivered to homes and businesses across Scotland, backed by £1 billion of publicly-driven investment.

Ban on wet wipes containing plastic - The supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic will be banned across the UK following overwhelming support during public consultation, with 95% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposals.

National Integrated Ticket System - The Scottish Government is exploring a national integrated ticketing system for public transport.

Minimum Unit Pricing Rise - The minimum price per unit of alcohol will increase by 15 pence after the Scottish Parliament approved plans to continue with the public health measure.

New disability benefit for pensioners - Pensioners in five Scottish local authorities will be the first in the country eligible for a new disability benefit, subject to parliamentary approval of regulations.

Wind Farm - Scotland's newest wind farm off the coast of Peterhead will be Europe's largest, triggering up to £3 billion in investment and hundreds of jobs.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points - The Scottish Government will quadruple charging points for electric vehicles.

