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July 2018 newsletter

In my first year in office as Glasgow East's Member of Parliament, I held over 150 surgeries, dealt with nearly 20,000 emails, carried out 70 home visits for elderly and disabled constituents and taken on thousands of cases from Barrowfield over to Bargeddie and from Stepps down to Carmyle. Now into my second year, I'm working harder than ever for you and I'm also delighted to be expanding my surgery schedule - read on for further details.

If you want to keep up with my work, you can sign up online to receive this newsletter in your email inbox every month at davidlinden.scot/newsletter



Brexit snub to Scotland

The shambolic timetable put forward by the UK Government to debate its EU Withdrawal Bill resulted in most of the time being taken up on the first day with votes and, crucially, no time at all to debate the important devolution aspects of the legislation.

In the end, only fifteen minutes were allowed to talk about the impact to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland - and all of this was taken up by a Government Minister who refused to allow anyone else to deliver a speech. Not one single Scottish MP got a chance to speak before it went to a vote.

Despite this, I'll continue to fight tooth and nail against this ongoing power grab. Enough is enough. It's time the Tories showed Scotland, and our Parliament, some respect.

Commending Garrowhill Superstars

It's always nice to go back to your old primary school and I'm lucky that mine, Garrowhill Primary, gave me such a great reason to last month. I visited to congratulate them on their phenomenal performances in Super 7s athletics, and present them with a parliamentary motion of commendation.

It looks like I may have dropped by too soon though, as by the end of that week they had claimed the Glasgow City Schools Athletics Cup! Glasgow East can now proudly claim to have the top state school in the city for Athletics. This is a fantastic achievement and I'm extremely proud of each of these young athletes.





John Wheatley Internship

I was delighted to welcome Gillian Hughes to my team, as the first ever John Wheatley intern. I established this paid internship to offer an opportunity for someone, passionate about the East End, to gain experience of working in an MP's office. Over the three month internship Gillian will be learning how to deal with constituency casework, drafting news releases, organising constituency events, researching and much more.

You can follow her progress via the weekly blog she is keeping on my website or by following @JohnIntern on Twitter.

Fun run in the sun

After my recent London Marathon efforts which raised a whopping £2,661 for Glasgow East End Community Carers, I was looking for a new, much easier, running challenge and so I was delighted to be invited to take part in the SCIAF 6k family fun run around Strathclyde Country Park last month.

I laced up my running shoes once again, and managed to raise a slightly more modest sum of just over £200. It's all for a very worthwhile cause - funds raised for SCIAF help with life-changing work overseas, helping people in poverty across 27 countries.



EqualiTeas in Sandyhills

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act, which gave all men and women over 21 equal voting rights, I hosted an EqualiTeas tea party in Sandyhills Parish Church last month. Historically, tea parties were hotbeds of political activism. It was one of the few ways women could meet without men to discuss and plan. The leading suffrage organisations used tea parties and tea shops as central elements in their campaigning. So, I was delighted that over 50 local women came along to mingle and chat about what equality meant to them. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with all of the guests, and even took on a few new cases from issues which came up in conversation.



School's out for Summer!

As the school year came to an end, I was honoured to be invited to attend prize giving ceremonies at both Eastbank Academy and Bannerman High. As a Bannerman boy myself, delivering their keynote speech to pupils and parents was an absolute privilege.

The highlight of these evenings though, was getting to see some very deserving young people receive recognition for all their hard work over the year. Very well done to them all!

I hope all pupils (and teachers) across the East-end of Glasgow are now enjoying a well-earned and sunny Summer break.

Brexit update



It's fair to say that Brexit hasn't been going well. Regardless of how people voted in the EU referendum - Leave or Remain - people that I speak with in the East-end day-in day-in see the UK Government's handling of it so far to be shambolic.

Theresa May, desperate to placate her own backbench MPs to stop the Tory party from fracturing, continues to put party interest before ordinary people. And now we've seen the true face of the Conservatives when it comes to business and Brexit. Boris Johnson was recently reported to have said "F**k business" when asked about the fears of business leaders in relation to Brexit.

We've already seen the effects of Brexit taking hold on the East-end - jobs lost at Toys R Us and Dunnes at the Forge are just two examples. Now, it's clearer than ever that the Tory Government is determined to press ahead with a reckless hard Brexit at any cost. The Financial Times recently analysed a range of estimates from different economists and found that by the end of the first quarter of this year, the economy was 1.2% smaller than it would have been without the Brexit vote. So, far from a Brexit bonus, the course we're taking is already costing the UK £870 a household per year. That's £450million a week - but I'm pretty sure you won't be seeing that on the side of a bus anytime soon.

And much like their attitude to business, the Tories also seem to be adopting a "F**k Scotland" policy. This past month, we've witnessed an audacious power grab and our decades-old devolution settlement ripped up in just minutes at Westminster. Events the following day saw the SNP group walk out of the House of Commons during Prime Minister's Questions, with strong support across civic Scotland for our position. What we witnessed that week was a very compelling argument that the Westminster system does not work for Scotland.



Throughout this process, the Scottish Government has been calling for a sensible, compromise position on the customs union. This isn't about stopping Brexit, but ensuring damage caused is limited. It is vital that Scotland maintains its place in the Single Market and Customs Union – to protect our economy, jobs and living standards. This reasonable position has been rejected at every turn by the UK Government.



People have had enough of Scotland being pushed around. Murray Foote, former Editor of the Daily Record and architect of the infamous 'Vow' in 2014, last month revealed publicly that he now supports Scottish Independence, saying that events at Westminster had been a "democratic abomination". Mr Foote is one of many prominent figures who now believe that Scotland would be best served by forging its own path and if the Tories keep treating Scotland the way they have, I doubt he'll be the last.

Murray's old paper seems to have summed up the mood in Scotland pretty well just now. A storm is gathering and the Tories will pay for their power grab.

Weekly video updates

I hope you find this newsletter useful in keeping you updated with some of my work. This past month, I've started producing weekly video roundups detailing what I've been up to as an additional way of keeping folk informed. If you're on either Facebook or Twitter, please make sure you're following me for my weekly video update. My Twitter handle is @DavidLinden and you can find my Facebook page by searching @DavidLindenMP.



Announcing brand new help & advice events

I'm very pleased to announce two new initiatives to provide all of my constituents with additional ways to speak with their Member of Parliament in person. Complementing my existing schedule of help & advice surgeries (see below for more information about these), these additional drop-in pop-up surgeries aim to provide a relaxed environment in which to have a chat - no appointment needed.

First up is my new series of Supermarket Surgeries. I know that Friday morning surgeries can be difficult for some people to attend and so these Saturday morning stands in East-end supermarkets aim to be a bit more accessible. The first one takes place on 7th July from 9:30-11am in Tesco Shettleston. I'm also proud to launch Parliament in the Pub which will see me take my surgeries into bars and pubs across the East-end. I hope that this much more relaxed setting will allow my constituents to pop along for a chat about anything they'd like to discuss with their local Member of Parliament. The first Parliament in the Pub takes place in the Dug 'n' Duck in Millerston on Thursday 12th July from 6-8pm. Future events will be posted online, or feel free to call my office for details.



Working for you in every community across the East end of Glasgow

I run a number of regular surgeries throughout the East-end of Glasgow. All of these operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there is no need to make an appointment.

If you need help or advice, pop along to see me. If none of these times are suitable, please get in touch by email or phone.

Easterhouse surgery

The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Rd, Glasgow, G34 9JW
Third Friday of every month at 10am

Cranhill surgery

Cranhill Development Trust,
109 Bellrock Street, Glasgow, G33 3HE
First Friday of every month at 10am

Parkhead surgery

Parkhead Library, 64 Tollcross Road,
Glasgow, G31 4XA
Second Friday of every month at 10am

Constituency office

Academy House, 1346 Shettleston Road, G32 9AT
If you require an appointment to see me at my constituency office, please phone 0141 778 1177 or email david.linden.mp@parliament.uk in advance

Transport links

- Services 2, 46, 60, 60A, 61, 310, 364, N2, N60 all have stops within walking distance
- Shettleston Rail Station is a five minute walk

Baillieston surgery

Baillieston Library, 141 Main Street, Glasgow, G69 6AA
Fourth Friday of every month at 10am

