

# Alan Brown MP for Kilmarnock and Loudoun



April 2017 - NEWSLETTER #3

Welcome to the Spring edition of my Parliamentary Newsletter.

I've been busy, as usual, between Westminster and the constituency so even though I haven't been able to fit everything in I hope the newsletter reflects my work promoting and representing Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

In the greater scheme of things I also thought it was important to say a few words about the Westminster attack.

## World Book Day



I was delighted to be asked along to St. Andrews Primary for World Book Day to read to the children. I took along one of my son's favourites, Horrible Histories WW1. The positive impact of reading to children in their pre-school years is well established. Sharing a book with your child, from as early an age as possible, is one of the most effective things you can do as a parent to make a real difference to their future. As always there was a fantastic mix of questions—that interaction is one of the great aspects of my job.

## Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

I was honoured to be asked to speak at the Tackling Loneliness & Isolation Conference. The conference was organised by East Ayrshire Advocacy Services (EAAS) and involved a day of workshops, performances, presentations and discussion. EAAS is a registered charity providing a free independent advocacy service enabling local people with a range of needs to be heard.

[Telephone: 01563 574442; website: [www.eaas.org.uk](http://www.eaas.org.uk)]

## Hillhead Community Meal



Developed by Neill Patton from Link-Up North-West, and Vicky Cunningham of In Control Scotland with the support of local community groups, the aim of the Community Meal was to bring neighbours together to make new friends and find out more about what was going on in their community.

The event included delicious free food cooked from scratch by local people, including members of the Community Café, Wednesday Waffle group, and Patchwork volunteers and was a great success.

This was a great way to make connections with people in a relaxed setting, everyone I spoke to was very welcoming and I was able to spend some time speaking to members of the different groups there. Well done! to both Neill, Vicky, and all the volunteers.

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**Ayrshire Growth Deal & Budget**

The Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) has been the result of almost two years of hard work and partnership between East, North and South Ayrshire Councils. The ambitious 'AGD Prospectus' is seeking £360 million to benefit the full of Ayrshire. With the Scottish Government already giving their support to the deal I was keen to help them gain the same commitment from the UK Government. With my SNP MP colleagues I met with the UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in January to discuss a possible deal.

Along with the three Ayrshire local authorities a showcase of our key industries was organised in Westminster to display the range of skills and expertise that Ayrshire has in abundance. The showcase concentrated on Tourism, Aerospace and Space, Life Sciences, Manufacturing and our Communities and highlighting the superb opportunities that Ayrshire's coast, harbours and ports provide.

As part of the deal East Ayrshire Council has proposed around £120 million investment in the Moorfield Engineering Park, the creation of an Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor at Bellfield in Kilmarnock and the fantastic Halo Project which aims to redevelop the former Johnnie Walker site with a mixed use development regenerating an area that was once an integral part of industry in Kilmarnock.

Since the delegation came to Westminster in February we have continued to raise the AGD in Westminster and tried to gain some commitment from the Government to agree to this investment which could provide a complete step change in Ayrshire's economic prospects. While I had taken some encouragement from some of the responses coming from the Government benches, I and my colleagues are increasingly aware that the commitment to an AGD has still to be made. Indeed with the AGD not even being mentioned in the Chancellor's Spring Budget, until we do get that commitment my colleagues and I will continue to push and make the case for this important investment for the people of Ayrshire.

## Ayrshire Larder



As part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal promotion we hosted the 'Taste of Ayrshire' Larder event. This was to complement the economic case and tempt people along to show how much Ayrshire has to offer. Produce from local dairy, beef and seafood suppliers, as well as farmhouse cheese makers, ice-cream makers, bakers, brewers, smokehouses, chocolatiers and market gardeners. East Ayrshire was well represented by our very own Brownings the Bakers, Dunlop Dairy and Woody's Luxury Ice-cream. Each producer has been recognised for the quality of their produce, Woody's Ice-cream has won a number of industry awards for their ice-cream, Dunlop Dairy has received a Gold and Silver award for their cheese and only recently in January John Gall's company Browning's the Bakers won the World Scotch Pie Championship.



I was pleased to have been invited to attend the Newmilns Burns Club's annual Burns Supper. It was wonderful to hear the recitations by all the local winning school children. I am confident our next generation will continue to keep Burns very much relevant and alive such was their brilliant delivery!



## Walking Festival and Fairtrade

I attended the Fenwick Fairtrade walk in February which was arranged as part of the Fairtrade Fortnight by the East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group. It was held in John Fulton Hall where the walk began and ended. There was also a great selection of Fairtrade goods available. The Fenwick Weavers' Co-operative heritage trail is an amazing journey back in time. It visits key locations in Fenwick connected with the Fenwick Weavers' Co-operative, the first co-operative anywhere in the world. It also has stops that highlight the radical heritage of the Covenanters in Fenwick; John Fulton and his 18<sup>th</sup> century Astronomical Orreries; and has links with one of the father figures in the black anti-slavery movement Frederick Douglass. Fascinating stuff and well worth a look!



## Kilmarnock Harriers Visit

Thanks to Matt Dodds, joint organiser of the "Roon the Toon" 10K road race, Harriers Chairman Eddie Tonner, and Club Together Officer, Billy Robertson for introducing me to some club members and giving me an update on the Roon the Toon preparations. I also managed to pick up some inspirational tips to help with my own training regime!

Event takes place on Sunday 11 June and there is still time to enter—full details on their website: <http://www.roonthetoon.com/>

## Qatar Trip

In February I was part of a cross party delegation of MPs that travelled to the middle east to look at Qatar's preparations for the 2022 World Cup.

The winning bid has been a controversial one with people questioning Qatar's suitability to host a World Cup and reports of worker exploitation. There have been several media reports regarding hundreds of deaths linked to the World Cup stadia build. Because of this, Workers rights was one of the main issues I wanted to explore and find out more about.

While visiting different sites I was able to question the personnel responsible for health and safety. We learned that they have adopted UK Health and Safety Law and the Construction Design and Management (CDM) regulations which I am familiar with given my background as a Civil Engineer. The fact that experts in the field have been employed, along with a number of conversations I had with people not connected to government or the construction gave me more confidence that the media reports have been over exaggerated. Once I had a better understanding of how the operation is being managed I was able to appreciate what is being achieved in Qatar. With Qatar having the highest GDP in the world money is no object and they are sparing no expense to make the 2022 World Cup a fantastic success.

It is incredible to see what is being achieved, literally a new city and country coming out of the ground. A country that is able to use their oil resources to create a future and a legacy for their people and their neighbours as well.



## Brexit and Article 50

With the rejection of the Scottish Government's proposals 'Scotland's Place in Europe' and the apparent lack of interest in listening to any suggestions on how Scotland could remain in the Single Market or in protecting Scotland's interests and those EU citizens living here it is increasingly clear that Scotland will not be taken into account. Theresa May's triggering of Article 50 has begun the process of negotiations to leave the EU.

It has taken the Government nine months to get to this point but it will be a number of years before we will see the true impact of the Brexit vote. Some indicate that the negotiations could take between two and ten years to be fully completed.

In that time Theresa May continues to ignore the people of Scotland, doesn't consider the impact leaving the EU will have on our economy, jobs and peoples' rights we will have our say one way or the other.



## Westminster Attack

I wanted to put on record again my sympathies for the four people who were killed, and the 50 others who were injured in the recent attack in Westminster.

I also want to acknowledge the bravery of the police and all the emergency responders involved, as well as the Tory minister, Tobias Ellwood who tried to save PC Keith Palmer.

This was another reminder of how those in the emergency services and armed forces put their lives on the line every day to protect us.

## Station Community Village & Active Travel

The Kilmarnock Station Community Village has given Kilmarnock Train Station a new lease of life with a redesigned entryway, rejuvenated platform and renewal of the shops and offices connected to the platform. Along with the new look there is a new emphasis on connecting with the community using the bookable rooms and facilities available for local people and groups to meet and work on community projects .

The Active Travel Hub is one of the facilities in the Kilmarnock Station Community Village that focuses on encouraging people to be active and get out walking, cycling or using public transport. I met with Alan Vass, one of the trustees of the Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust and volunteer with the Active Travel Hub to hear more about how they are promoting sustainable travel and an active lifestyle.



There are a selection of bicycles available for hire and information on local walks, bicycle routes and planned activities. If you are looking for a way to stay active stop by the Active Travel Hub in Kilmarnock and find out more.

## Meet your MP - Friday 21st May at 2pm at the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock

In partnership with the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches I will be speaking about my work on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief.

### Surgery Times

#### Friday 28th April

10.00-10.30am Mauchline Community Centre  
10.45-11.45pm Auchinleck Community Centre  
11.45-12.15pm Muirkirk - Garan House

#### Friday 5th May

10.00-12.00pm Kilmarnock Constituency Office

#### Friday 12th May

10.00-10.30pm Crosshouse Area Centre  
11.00-11.30pm Kilmaurs Community Centre  
12.00-12.30pm Stewarton Sports Centre

#### Friday 19th May

3.00-4.00pm Kilmarnock Railway Station

#### Friday 2nd June

2.00-4.00pm Kilmarnock Constituency Office

#### Friday 9th June

10.00-10.30pm Darvel Town Hall  
10.45-11.15pm Newmilns Morton Hall  
11.30-12.00pm Galston Community Centre

#### Friday 16th June

2.00-4.00pm Kilmarnock Constituency Office

Depending on your query another office may be best placed to help however I will help if I can or signpost you to the office that will get the best result for you.

**Local Issues:** [East Ayrshire Council](#)

**Devolved Issues:** [Holyrood, Willie Coffey MSP](#)

**Reserved Issues:** [Westminster, Alan Brown MP](#)

### Constituency Office

31A Titchfield Street  
Kilmarnock  
KA11QW  
01563 501412



### Opening hours

Monday: 9am-5pm  
Tuesday: 9am-5pm  
Wednesday: 9am-1pm  
Thursday: 9am-5pm  
Friday: 9am- 4pm  
Weekend: Closed

### Urgent Enquiries

If you have an issue you want to raise and cannot attend a surgery, or if you need immediate help please get in touch with me or my office by email at [alan.brown.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.brown.mp@parliament.uk)

