

# Alan Brown MP for Kilmarnock and Loudoun



## JANUARY 2017 - NEWSLETTER #2

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the second edition of my newsletter.

Looking back on 2016 the year has flown past. In addition to all the well reported events of 2016, I have kept myself busy easily at Westminster by raising constituent queries and trying to hold the Government to account on a number of issues. There is lots still to do in 2017 and I'll try to keep you all up to date!

We are now more than six months on from the EU referendum result and it is clear that, apart from repeating 'Brexit means Brexit' the UK Government does not have any idea of how to deliver this or how to proceed.

Whatever your views of the EU vote, you want the comfort of knowing that the Government has a clear strategy in place, and truthfully this is not the case. It has become embarrassing to listen to the Government say that they will not give a running commentary. Theresa May says this is because that would give away the Government's plans and weaken their hand in negotiations with Europe but it is now common knowledge, due to leaks, that her cabinet is split and are unable to agree on a plan. Photos of scribbled cabinet notes saying that they "want their cake and eat it" does not inspire confidence and now a UK ambassador has told the Government it could take up to ten years to negotiate a trade deal. He has since resigned and confirmed the Government is confused and does not have a plan.

No matter the Government's position we will continue to push for productive plans to be put in place, and that Scotland's needs and vote should be respected and accounted for in negotiations with Europe.

In this newsletter, I highlight my Westminster contributions. However, the most important work for myself and my fantastic staff is constituent casework.

My office has dealt with 2135 cases in 2016, sometimes achieving life changing results.

There was some controversy following a Labour press release recently that wrongly stated the majority of SNP MPs were claiming more expenses than their predecessors. This was due to incorrect information being published by IPSA, but it did help to shine a light on the work being undertaken at Westminster by myself and my SNP colleagues.

Once analysis was undertaken using real data to compare, it was obvious on the whole that our new SNP MPs were costing less to the taxpayer and that they are undertaking more work. Therefore, in terms of value per contribution, then the SNP MPs scored much better.

As a group my colleagues on average contribute more to debates than members of other parties, my actual figure has been included in the table below for comparison, in addition to that my statistics recorded by [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com) still read as "well above average".

My predecessor had a shadow spokesperson role and was known as a hard worker, so I was pleased that my statistics were higher than hers. Quality as well as quantity is also important however and hopefully I have managed to achieve that.

Avg. number  
of debates  
taken part in  
per MP in  
2016

Scottish National Party	64
Labour Party	43
Conservative and Unionist Party	38
Alan Brown (actual)	137

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## Park School Eco School Green Flag Award

I visited Park School in November to present them with their recently awarded Green flag from 'Keep Scotland Beautiful'. The Green Flag is an internationally recognised symbol of excellence in sustainable development education.

I am delighted to say that not only have Park School been awarded the Eco Schools Green flag but they are also the first Additional Support Needs (ASN) school in Scotland to have been awarded the Sports Scotland Gold Award.

This is all down to the fantastic hard work of parents, teachers and above all the pupils in Park School. Congratulations to all those involved and keep up the good work!



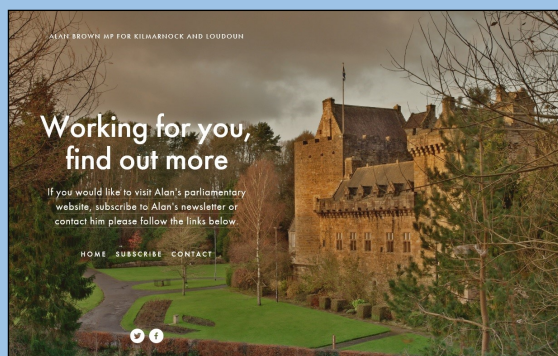
## WASPI update

A local Ayrshire WASPI group has been set up and as part of a national petition in September I helped gather signatures in the constituency. I and over 100 MPs presented petitions to Westminster asking for the Government to make fair transitional arrangements for all women born in the 1950s (on or after 6 April 1951).

My colleagues and I are continuing to support the WASPI ladies in Westminster and I have spoken several times pointing out the vast sums of money paying for tax give aways or the estimated £205 billion cost of Trident renewal. The money is clearly there if the Government has the political will to act but they continue to refuse to recognise their responsibility to the many women affected.

I took the opportunity recently at Prime Ministers Questions to highlight the complete insult to the WASPI women of awarding a knighthood to Steve Webb, the man responsible for the Pensions Act 2011 that brought about this unfair situation.

If you are interested in finding out more information about me, the local constituency or how I represent you in Parliament and locally please visit my website for up to date details [www.alanbrownmp.scot](http://www.alanbrownmp.scot)



You can contact me through my constituency office, website or email me directly.

## Family Fund

I was delighted to meet with Salena Begley, Partnership Manager of the charity Family Fund recently to find out more about how they can help families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.



Family Fund has been around for over 40 years, originally part of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, they have provided grants to over a million families over the years. They provide practical and material support along with advice on what is available for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.

If you would like to find out more about the support available please visit <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

## Talking Bus Update

In my previous newsletter I highlighted that I had raised the issue of the lack of audio visual information on buses at Prime Ministers questions. I had spoken about the positive impact on the lives of people who are deaf or blind and making journeys by bus more accessible for all.

I am happy to update that the proposal to make it compulsory for bus operators to install audio visual equipment has been accepted by the House of Lords to be included as an amendment to the Bus Services Bill.

I am delighted that the hard work of Guide Dogs UK and many others has paid off and I was able to play a part in highlighting this issue and look forward to it being introduced.





## Small Business Saturday - Titchfield Street

Kilmarnock has lots of fantastic independent small businesses so as part of the recent Small Business Saturday initiative and to help promote our local businesses I've been out and about round Titchfield Street where my office is based talking to business owners and finding out what there is on offer.

The Indoor Market is a well established part of Titchfield Street and some of the traders who started off renting a stall in the market have now moved on to bigger premises nearby. Jim Craig owner of Craig's of Ayrshire sells bespoke Scottish gifts and a variety of lighting choices. Keeping spend local is important to Jim who tries to source as many items from Ayrshire as he can.



Whether you are looking to find a hidden treasure in 'Oliver's Vintage and Modern' or a treasured picture of your new born from 'Flutterby Photography'. Baby clothes from 'The Purple Turtle' or make your own with wool from 'Just Sew Fabrics'. If you're feeling practical you can find anything car related at A L Paints or you may just want to be pampered at 'RED Hair Salon'. No matter where you are shopping on Titchfield Street there's great places to eat or drink nearby with the award winning 'Titchfields' restaurant with locally sourced food or new kid on the block 'The 43 Latin Steak and Grill House'.

While my visits focussed on one area of Kilmarnock, there's a fantastic offering right across the constituency. Get out there, support your local communities and see what you can find!



**Top left:** A L Paints, **Top middle:** Flutterby Photography, **Top right:** RED Hairdressers

**Middle left:** The 43 Latin Steak and Grill House, **Middle right:** Titchfield's Restaurant

**Bottom left:** Oliver's Vintage and Modern, **Bottom middle:** Purple Turtle, **Bottom right:** Just Sew Fabrics

## Christmas Card Competition

At this time of year I like to put out an invitation to schools in the constituency to design a Christmas card for my festive e-message and it was great to see the response from schools this year.

We received many fantastic entries for our Christmas card competition from Park School, Kirkstyle Primary, St Patrick's Primary, St Sophia's Primary, Newmilns Primary which made it extremely difficult to pick an overall winner.

I decided that there were just too many to pick just one so instead of one winner I narrowed it down my favourites from each school.

I would like to thank all the pupils and teachers for taking part this year and congratulations to everyone on their brilliant designs.



Some of the many excellent pictures sent in from students of Park School, Kirkstyle Primary, St. Patricks Primary, St. Sophia's Primary and Newmilns Primary



Winning entries from the 2016 Christmas Card competition judged by Alan. Designed by:  
Ava Robinson of Kirkstyle Primary, Alysia Lawrie from St Patrick's Primary School.  
Claire Weir of St Sophia's Primary School.  
Emma Sands from Newmilns Primary, Quintin Graham of Park School

### Christmas Card Competition Winners

Top left: Ava Robinson of Kirkstyle Primary  
Top right: Alysia Lawrie of St Patrick's Primary  
Middle: Claire Weir of St Sophia's Primary School  
Bottom left: Emma Sands of Newmilns Primary  
Bottom right: Quintin Graham of Park School

## Surgery Schedule

Surgeries will be held in the Constituency Office in January. If you are looking for an appointment please contact the Constituency Office to arrange a suitable time.

Appointments are currently available in January on the **20th, and 27th January**.

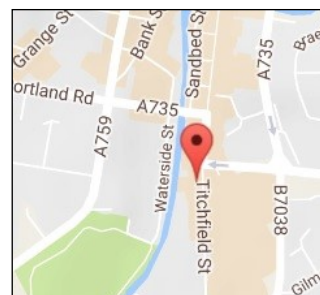
Depending on your query another office may be best placed to help however I will help if I can or signpost you to the office that will get the best result for you.

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

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

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

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### 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)

