



## Election Thanks

As this is my first newsletter since the snap General Election I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who put their faith in me and gave me their vote.

It truly is a privilege to serve the constituency that I have spent my entire life in.

I promise to continue to work as hard as I can to represent everyone living in Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

## New home for Samaritans



My first engagement as MP was a visit to the brand new Samaritans office in the Foregate, Kilmarnock.

What an amazing refit by WorkSmart Interiors, who have helped bring a new lease of life to the facility and the incredible volunteers who work there. I am also pleased that East Ayrshire Council helped to make this move a possibility.

I look forward to supporting the dedicated team at the Samaritans over the next five years.

## Westminster Work

### SNP Spokesperson for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy

I am delighted to have been given the new responsibility of SNP Spokesperson for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy. It is a big portfolio and I relish the chance to help influence government policy on such important topics. Over the last 2 years my contribution record far out ranked that of my opponents, and although Hansard did struggle to comprehend my Ayrshire accent, this is a record I fully intend to maintain.

### Where Power Resides

The UK Government have finally published their proposed bill on the withdrawal from the EU. This sparked an immediate row between the Scottish, Welsh and UK Governments about the possibility of a “power grab”. The devolved Governments have expressed their concerns which have been dismissed as fanciful. However, the reality is that clause 11 of the withdrawal bill gives the Westminster Government powers to act on what would otherwise be devolved matters coming from the EU. The clause is explicit for each of the three devolved governments, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So it is a fact that regulations can be directly imposed on the Scottish Government: the opposite of the “power bonanza” promised by David Mundell MP.

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### Show Me the Money

The Conservatives have confirmed their commitment to reduce corporation tax to 19%. They have been stating that these reductions actually lead to a higher income to the Treasury. They also produced figures to demonstrate the increased tax take in recent years. The reality is that these are natural year on year increases due to the recovery following the financial crash. I clashed with the Leader of the House, pointing out the last budget that was approved shows the Corporation Tax reductions will cost the treasury £23bn up to the year 2022.

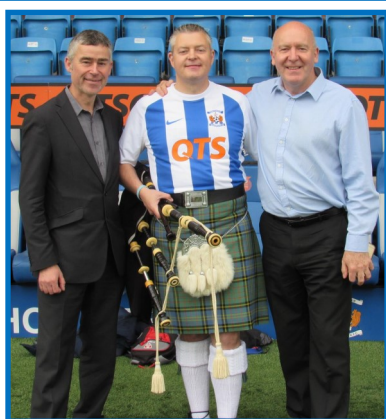
So when the Tories tell us they need to make further cuts, cannot afford to pay for women's pensions etc just remember this one measure costing £23bn which will be closer to £30bn when projected for the lifetime of this parliament. I have also submitted some written questions for the Government to provide evidence of their claim that reductions to date has actually resulted in a higher tax take. I know they don't have any, but clearly good governance would be to truly understand the impact of the tax measures you introduce.

### Cabinet Infighting

More and more leaks continue with briefings against various UK government ministers. It is quite clear they are more focussed on this than "getting on with the day job". I am sure that history will show that calling the snap election was one of the worst decisions ever for the Tories. All they had to do was sit tight and the bitter infighting with Labour MPs and their desire to sack Corbyn would have been enough for them to easily win a future election. Conversely, Gordon Brown is haunted by bottling calling an early election. However, maybe he would have got punished like Theresa May anyway. The phrase 20/20 hindsight vision is certainly true in politics.

### Recess

Parliamentary recess started on July 19<sup>th</sup> and I am looking forward to being based in the constituency on a full time basis for that period. This allows me to work in my Kilmarnock office but also get out and about more. If you are part of a group, organisation or business that wish myself to attend an event or just pop in then let my office know and I will do my best to accommodate the request.



### STUART McMILLAN MSP PIPEATHON 2017 ARRIVES AT RUGBY PARK

Delighted to meet with Stuart McMillan MSP who is doing a fantastic fundraising effort for great charities with his Pipeathon 2017. He didn't fulfil my request for Paper Roses, but apart from that his choice of tunes was fantastic.

On a personal note, I hope the efforts for Andy Adams Fund is successful. Andy is a fireman paralysed in an accident at work and needs funding to assist with an accessible home. Apart from being a well deserved recipient, I met Andy way back in 1990 at the World Cup in Italy. Shared many a drink and football song with Andy and I wish him all the best for the future.



The Postcode Dream Trust is encouraging applications from projects that fit with charitable purposes which include: supporting families; improving people's lives through animals; green communities and increasing life chances for young people.

Funding will be offered over 2 years with a total award fund of £3 million. Applications are open until Tuesday, 22 August 2017.

The Dream Fund encourages collaboration between charities and good causes, bringing them together to apply for funding to finance their dream project – an idea they have always wanted to deliver but never had the opportunity to develop. All applications therefore must come from **at least two organisations**—one of which must be a registered charity. The minimum amount charities may apply for is £500,000 and the lead partner's annual income must be at least £1,000,000 in the last audited accounts. I know from the groups I meet how much great work goes on locally. I would urge any groups that fit the criteria to consider this funding stream in order to build on the fantastic work they already do.

Visit [www.postcodedreamtrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodedreamtrust.org.uk) for full details about the funding available.



## Bonnyton Flyers



**My attempts to be sporty continue.**

### Bonnyton Flyers

After recently being invited to play in my first ever walking football match with the Kilmarnock North West FC, I was only too eager to join the Bonnyton Flyers in their first ever tournament game. I had a great time and am now the proud owner of a Bonnyton Flyers top.

Walking football has become increasingly popular and is suitable for people of all ages and all abilities, and the health benefits are well documented. If you are interested in giving it a go, I would definitely recommend getting in touch with a local club.

### 'Roon the Toon' 10K Road Race

Despite an all-nighter at the General Election, and a day at the Scotland versus England match at Hampden the day before, I still managed to take part in the second 'Roon the Toon' 10K, and I am pleased to say I managed to finish it in 52 minutes.

Another marvellous event - Well Done! To the organisers, volunteers, runners and all their supporters who made it such a successful day.



## UK GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO FAIL WASPI WOMEN (Women Against State Pension Inequality)

One of my very first surgery appointments was a constituent contacting me to tell me how she had been so adversely affected by changes to the state pension age and the abject failure of the UK government to properly communicate these changes to women born in the 1950s.

Yet, here we are almost two years on, and we are still having to argue the case for WASPI women with a Conservative government that consistently fails to listen. For the Pensions Minister to suggest that they will not offer concessions and instead suggest that these women could take up an apprenticeship is incredible and shows

just how out of touch with reality the Conservatives are.

The SNP commissioned an independently-researched report for transitional measures to mitigate the issue showing that the cost would be £8 billion – significantly more affordable than the Tories' claim that it would cost £30 billion. Government is about priorities and choices - it is disgraceful that the Conservatives can so easily find a billion pounds for a deal with the DUP so they can cling onto power but they can't find the money to give the WASPI women the pensions that they are due. As I have highlighted elsewhere, the cuts to corporation tax will cost £23bn. Enough said!

### Ayrshire WASPI

There is a very active local Ayrshire

WASPI campaign group and I would recommend anyone who is affected by these pension changes to get in touch either by joining their facebook campaign page or go along to one of their regular meetings.

**Ayrshire WASPI meeting**

**Saturday 05 August 2017**

**10:00 –12:00**

**Kilmarnock Railway Station Meeting Room**





It was my great honour to be invited by East Ayrshire Council (EAC) to officially open the new Auchinleck Early Years Centre - what a fantastic new purpose built facility for our young children.

Children are the most valuable resource that we have and it is important that we create the best opportunities for them to achieve their potential. I am delighted to see this transformational investment by EAC in our schools all across the constituency.

One of my favourite highlights of the visit however was being presented with a lovely picture made by the children – which is now hanging in ‘pride of place’ in my office.



## Action on Dementia

Thanks to Gerard McCoy (Policy and Engagement Manager) and Helen Hollywood, (Dementia Adviser) who gave me a tour of the Dementia Resource Centre in Kilmarnock.

Helen is available for any advice, information and support in East Ayrshire. Helen can make appointments to see people in the resource centre, at home and various drop-ins in the community.

Contact details: Dementia Resource Centre, 8-12 College Wynd, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HN

Phone: 01563 542621

Email: [AyrshireServices@alzscot.org](mailto:AyrshireServices@alzscot.org)

### Around The Town Board Game Raising Funds for Alzheimer Scotland



A board game created in collaboration with local schools, history groups, and conversations with people with dementia and their carers. Designed to capture the essence of the town and to stimulate memories— and its also great fun. Available for a £20 donation with all funds going to Alzheimer Scotland.



### Some key figures about dementia

- An estimated 90,000 people have dementia in Scotland.
- Around 3,200 of these people are under the age of 65.
- Dementia is more common in women than men.

### Figures for East Ayrshire:

Males	Females	Total
758	1,415	2,173

# Kilmarnock Festival 2017

28<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup> JULY



Food



Music

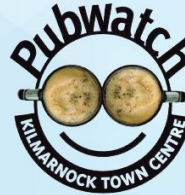


Drink



LET'S CHANGE  
THE RECORD

In  
Association  
with



Celebrate  
**Kilmarnock**  
*celebrate your community, your way!*

## Let's Change the Record

Thanks to James Wilson, Chairman of Kilmarnock's Pubwatch and one of the lead organisers of K-Fest who took the time to give me an overview of the activities planned for 28th-30th July. As James says: *"Our town is what we make it, its time to change the record, get involved, and show our support"*.

**Friday 28 July 2017 7:30pm**

Loudoun Musical Society will launch the weekend with a great musical evening: "Soundtracks and Showstoppers". This free performance will start sharp at 7:30pm on Friday 28th July in the New Laigh Kirk, there's no need to book, although coming early is recommended. It promises to be a memorable start to a weekend of good food, great company and fantastic entertainment.

**Celebrate Kilmarnock  
Saturday 29 July 2017 12pm—3pm**

Saturday will see Celebrate Kilmarnock return to The Cross and King Street with a range of activities and sports provided by local groups and clubs for the family to take part in.

**Thursday 27—Saturday 29 July**

If it's a laugh you are after, look no further than the legendary Edinburgh Fringe comedy preview at the Palace Theatre. This is an opportunity to sit back and enjoy some blisteringly-funny banter, laughter, stories, nonsense, topical gags and some hilarious observations, but strictly 16+ and not for those easily offended.

If it's good food and refreshments you're after, then get yourself along to one of Kilmarnock's Pubwatch establishments. All offer their own unique experience and collectively they offer a heady mixture of good ale, fine wine, good food and live entertainment. Add to these a warm welcome, good conversation and hospitality and you have the ingredients of an incredible experience.

Further details at <http://www.celebratekilmarnock.com/ck/whats-on/>

Photo, left-to-right: James Wilson, Alan Brown MP, PC Craig Marshall



**Ayrshire (East)**  
**foodbank**

**Celebrate Kilmarnock Day—Saturday 29 July 2017**

East Ayrshire Foodbank is proud to be part of the Celebrate Kilmarnock Day. Thanks to the generosity of the public, businesses, schools and charities East Ayrshire Foodbank is able to feed individuals, families and children at the point of crisis. Over the years we have been immensely humbled by the generosity of East Ayrshire inhabitants but we need to call on you again. At present the Foodbank is low on certain items that are necessary for us to put together a package that provides three meals a day. These items are:

- Tinned meat • Tinned fish • Tinned fruit
- Sugar • UHT long life milk

Donations can be dropped off at our street stall on the day (July 29th 12-3pm), at the CVO 16 Brewery Road; Monday – Friday 9.00am-4.30pm, or at Alan Brown MP's office 31A Titchfield Street; Monday 31 July—Friday 11 August 9.00am—4.00pm, except for Wednesdays when the office closes at 1.00pm.



I was able to join police officers during one of their recent town centre patrols to see first-hand the community engagement approach being taken by the police within the town centre.

This was prompted as several constituents had contacted me with various concerns about Kilmarnock Town Centre, ranging from worries over the potential closure of the toilet facilities in the Burns Mall to anti-social behaviour in certain hot spots such as the Bus Station.

So I was keen to get out and about with the police on one of their patrols – many thanks to Sergeant Kirkland and PC Marshall who allowed me to accompany them. This gave me the opportunity to explain the personal issues that constituents had raised with me, and for me to see for myself some of the techniques being employed to focus efforts on tackling anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

This includes direct engagement with those who may be perceived to be responsible for anti-social behaviour as well as engaging with other partners such as the Burns Mall and Stagecoach. They outlined simple measures by the partners that have reduced the amount of youths congregating. I also saw first-hand the police react and respond to the sighting of a person reported missing and vulnerable – thereby ensuring his safety. I got to see the emergency services deal professionally with someone who was suffering the effects of substance abuse. So a real day on the job, but it felt to me that all matters were in control. I also got to chat to some retailers too, giving me a rounded view. I would finish by saying I thought I knew a few people, but PC Marshall seemed to know everyone! Probably the epitome of a local policeman. So thanks to the guys for an insightful walkabout.

With regards to the toilet facilities, East Ayrshire Council have recently decided to transfer the management of the toilet facilities to the Burns Mall. The toilets will be improved with a comprehensive refurbishment with a £100,000 investment by the council. The opening hours will also be extended to fit with the Burns Mall operating hours including being open on Sundays. I know this will be news welcomed by the constituents who contacted me initially worried about the possibility of the toilets being closed.



#### **CALLS ON THE UK GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO BRING FAIRER ENERGY PRICES FOR ALL**

I am supporting calls for energy market action, as shocking figures calculated by Octopus Energy show people in Kilmarnock and Loudoun are over paying £5.4 million a year on their energy bills.

It's outrageous that the Big Six are getting away with ripping off the hard working people of Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

Ofgem's proposals are a Big Six stitch up which leave energy customers to the mercy of the Big Six.

Much more needs to be done to protect those in Kilmarnock and Loudoun who are struggling to pay their energy bills that are more expensive that they would be in a competitive market.

We need to see the government take strong, swift action to bring real competition to the energy market and end the Big Six's predatory pricing.

## PLEDGE TO HELP BEAT CANCER SOONER

I have committed my support to help Cancer Research UK save more lives after attending a parliamentary event organised by the charity.

Over the course of this Parliament, two million people will be diagnosed with cancer across the UK, so Cancer Research UK needs political support in order to continue to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

At the event, I met some of Cancer Research UK's dedicated volunteer Campaign Ambassadors and found out that around 2,400 people in Kilmarnock and Loudoun are diagnosed with cancer each year, and there are 1,200 related deaths each year which underlines the need for MPs to join the fight against the disease.

We must not underestimate the devastating impact cancer will have on people now and in the future, so it gives me hope to hear that Cancer Research UK's pioneering research is turning the tables on the disease. The outlook for new and better cancer treatments in the UK is bright.

However, it is clear that there is a critical role for politicians to play in helping to prevent and detect cancer earlier and bring innovative new treatments to patients faster.

Creating the right environment for cancer research alongside cancer prevention, early diagnosis and ensuring patients have access to the best possible treatments must be key priorities for the Government.

One life lost to this terrible disease is one too many and that's why I'm supporting Cancer Research UK in their mission to beat cancer sooner. **For more information please visit [cruk.org](http://cruk.org).**



## ACTION ON HEARING LOSS CALL TO REMOVE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FACING DEAF PEOPLE

I am supporting the Action On Hearing Loss campaign to break down the barriers facing people who are deaf or

have a hearing loss trying to secure or stay in employment.

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's specialist employability service, Moving On, is available to support young people who are deaf or have hearing loss into

employment, and advises employers how to meet their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to be accessible and make 'reasonable adjustments' for jobseekers and employees with hearing loss.

An increasing number of people of working age have hearing loss so it is vitally important that employers are aware of the support that is available and the small changes they can make to break down barriers facing talented jobseekers or staff who are deaf or hard of hearing. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/supporting-you/policy-research-and-influencing/research/working-for-change.aspx>



## Guide Dog Campaign to Stop Pavement Parking

I am glad to support the Guide Dog campaign on pavement parking. Pavement parked cars are a hazard that can be problematic for pedestrians who are blind or partially sighted who may not see oncoming traffic as well as wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs and the elderly to name but a few. As this guide dog owner campaigner explains: *"When I leave the house for work I have to walk beside a busy road to get to the bus stop and every day there is at least one vehicle parked on the pavement stopping me and my guide dog getting past and therefore we have to risk our lives going into the busy main road just to get round."* **Lena, Guide dog owner**

### Talking Buses Campaign Audio Visual (AV) Information

Last year, in association with Guide Dogs for the Blind I was given a walk through the town centre wearing sight limiting goggles, a cane, and a guide dog to help me navigate the short distance from my office to the bus station. This daunting task of taking a bus while blindfolded confirmed for me that installation of AV equipment on buses was a must to help improve the accessibility and lives of people who are deaf or blind who make these journeys on a daily basis. Based on this experience, I was able to raise the issue at Prime Ministers' Questions and to influence the Bus Services Bill to make it compulsory for bus operators to install AV equipment.

I am hoping that the Guide Dog campaign to stop pavement parking will also be a similar success and I am more than happy to lend my support to raise awareness and help tackle this important issue of unsafe pavement parking.



## Get in Touch

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](#)

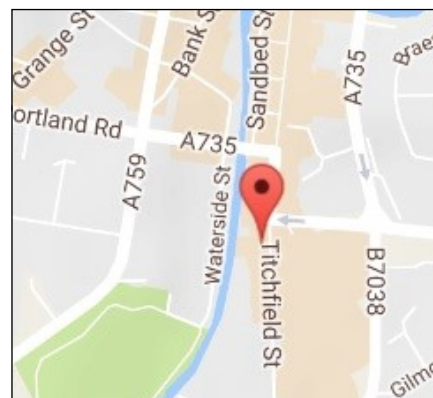
**Devolved Issues:** [Holyrood, Willie Coffey MSP](#)

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

To book a surgery appointment call the constituency office on 01563 501412

**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)

