

Stuart McMillan MSP

Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

Serving Port Glasgow, Greenock, Gourock, Wemyss Bay and Inverkip

Hello and welcome to the 12th edition of my regular newsletter



Stuart attended a Ministerial Visit with Maree Todd MSP at Hillend Children's Centre

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my constituents a Happy Easter.

In the lead up to the holidays I've been extremely busy, both at the Scottish Parliament and in Inverclyde.

The 'Beast from the East' emphasised how important our emergency services are even when we don't think we need them — like the Coastguard providing hospital staff with lifts to work during red alert. Our frontline staff work very hard and I was pleased to meet the new Station Manager at Inverclyde's Fire Station and the new Governor at HMP Greenock.

I also met with Fiona Macguire from Riverside Inverclyde to discuss the business' plans and ambitions for Inverclyde, and the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Leisure (IL), Kieran Vango, to learn more about IL's role in the community.



Stuart went on a walkabout around Cumberland Walk with David Falla from River Clyde Homes to discuss its demolition



I also met with Audrey Cumberford who is the Principal and Chief Executive of West College Scotland to discuss higher education in Inverclyde.

Pipeathon 2017 also came to an end as I handed over the cheques to representatives for the Andy Adams Fund, Clyde 1's Cash for Kids and Clydeside Action on Asbestos.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



On Thursday 22nd March, constituents Marion MacGillivray and Anne Cochrane (pictured) attended FMQs at the Scottish Parliament. I was fortunate enough to be selected to ask an FMQ about the future of Scottish limited partnerships considering their reported involvement in facilitating organised crime.

If any constituents would like to attend FMQs which take place every Thursday when the Parliament is sitting, please contact my office to arrange this.

In recent weeks I also put forward a portfolio question to the Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman MSP, about the support that Universal Credit claimants can receive in Inverclyde. This is an issue I'm frequently contacted about as the issues with its roll-out are causing anxiety, stress and crisis among recipients of the new benefit.

I was also selected to ask the Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Maree Todd MSP, about the support the Scottish Government gives to registered childminders.

Inverclyde Childminding Network are running a local art competition of which I've been invited to help judge. The group do a great deal for local children in Inverclyde and there are some brilliant prizes to be won which have been donated by a number of local businesses, so I encourage everyone to get the young ones in their family to submit an entry.

At the beginning of March I also took part in a Member's Debate on EU LEADER funding in the Scottish Parliament. In Inverclyde, both the Gourock Golf Club and Ardgowan Distillery have received grants through the programme which enabled the golf club to build their new Indoor Development Studio. I've had the pleasure of visiting this state-of-the-art facility and it's clear this funding will help boost tourism in the local area as well as encourage more people to enjoy golf. For Ardgowan Distillery, this funding helped support them in the initial stages of their business plan and played a key part in enabling them to kick start their distilling journey in Inverclyde.

**INVERCLYDE
CHILDMINDING
NETWORK**

ART COMPETITION

To celebrate the Year of the Young People 2018, Inverclyde Childminding Network is running a fabulous art competition. Listed below are the fantastic prizes available in each age category.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO ENTER PLEASE SCAN HERE OR VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE @inverclydechildmindingnetworkparentzone

PRIZES

0-4 YEARS - A selected of arts and crafts worth £100, sponsored by Smiths of Greenock.
5-8 YEARS - A tablet worth £130 sponsored by Amazon UK.
9-12 YEARS - A gold Laser Matrix party worth £130 sponsored by Funworld/Laser Matrix.
13-16 YEARS - A £100 Amazon voucher sponsored by Amazon UK.

All those who come second will receive a £10 voucher sponsored by Tesco.
 Everyone who enters will go into a prize draw for the chance to win a private screening for themselves and up to 30 of their friends at the Waterfront Cinema sponsored by The Waterfront Cinema.

WATERFRONT cinema
Smiths OF GREENOCK
FUN WORLD
MAT LASER I X
amazon
TESCO
Every little helps



I also attended Able2Sail's annual Scottish prize giving ceremony in the Chartoom at Kip Marina. I have been before and am always greatly impressed by the young people I meet, the dedication of the team and volunteers and the passion everyone has for sailing.

Following it's official opening in December, I went for a tour of Orchard View to see it in operation. I also attended McCaskie's in Wemyss Bay as they opened their new £800,000 Butchery and Production Facility.

In the Parliament I've spoke in a number of debates — including the Continuity Bill. This piece of legislation which protects Scotland's devolved powers after Brexit was passed the same week that the Welsh Assembly passed their Continuity Bill, with both devolved nations standing up to the UK Government's power grab.

Constituents in Inverkip will recall my recent survey of the Hill Farm area, and as a result I recently met with ScotRail's Head of Business Development to discuss the train service in Inverclyde—particularly the Wemyss Bay line. I will continue to push for Inverclyde's rail network to be prioritised by ScotRail for improvement works.

I also met with Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf MSP, to discuss the Gourock to Kilcreggan ferry service and pushed for a discount for passengers who travel on the old 314 carriages on the Inverclyde line. Regarding the ferries, I'm meeting with the CEO of SPT to emphasis the poor service ferry users are still being subjected to.

Further to this, I raised a variety of rail issues with ScotRail's CEO at the Scottish Parliament, including what resources they will contribute towards joint efforts dealing with the Inverkip beach problems which are due to start up again over the Easter holidays.

As always I will continue to push for Inverclyde's rail network to be prioritised by ScotRail for improvement works.



Stuart McMillan MSP

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Get in touch

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Drop-in Surgeries

Last Friday of every month
(except July and December)

10.00 Am Port Glasgow Library
13.00 Pm Gourock Library

Please contact the office for further details.