

# Stuart McMillan MSP

## Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

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

### Hello and welcome to the 14th edition of my regular newsletter

At this time of year, I think of those sitting **exams** or preparing for the next step in their life — whether that be secondary school, college, university, or about to enter the world of work.

I wish them every success.



I spoke during the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) debate on the UK Government EU Withdrawal Bill.

The Scottish Parliament saw every party except the Conservatives oppose the EU Withdrawal Bill. When it came to a vote, the Conservatives placed their loyalty with Westminster while all the other opposition parties joined with the Scottish Government to reject the Bill.

This sent a clear message to the UK Government that the Scottish Parliament rejects the power grab and will stand up for the Scottish Parliament.

Speaking of **Brexit**, I hosted two events about Brexit recently.

The first was with the Scottish Government Brexit Minister, **Mike Russell MSP** at The Beacon, and the second was with **Professor Alex de Ruyter** from the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University.

This event was hosted in The Custom House Hotel and outlined the likely scenarios facing Inverclyde once the UK leaves the EU.



Stuart attended the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Event at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate local SMEs



Stuart met Eilish Barry from Inverclyde who spoke at the Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's Holyrood Event



In my previous newsletter I speculated that the campaign to reduce **FOBT** stakes to £2 was winning, and those hopes were confirmed earlier this month.

I'm glad the UK Government has finally listened to the calls from the many people and organisations to tackle this harmful form of gambling by reducing the potential for harm.

It was a beautiful day for the **Gourock Highland Games** this year. I enjoyed watching the Pipe Bands and visiting the Taste Tent that was launched this year; it is a truly great advert for Inverclyde and I'm delighted the Games attracted around 10,000 visitors.



Well done to all involved in organising an excellent Games.



With all this nice weather we've been having, it was great to attend **Cycling UK's** launch of their multi-agency project called **The Bothy** at Gourock Train Station.

This project will promote and encourage walking and cycling in Inverclyde; something I hope we all aim to do more this summer.

There are lots of groups involved so I urge my constituents to check out The Bothy and get more active!

I had a visit from nostalgia this month too when I visited **Port Glasgow High School** which I attended as a boy.

This was a follow up to the **CashBack for Communities** event I hosted in Parliament, which focused on the **Scottish FA's** and **CashBack for Communities School of Football** programme.

This event enabled me to meet and hear from the young people who are involved in this project, many of which are from Inverclyde, so I was grateful for the invite.

In recent months, Inverclyde's rail network has been at the forefront of discussion.

I have been working hard to get **ScotRail** to remove the old Class 314 trains from our railway network. As soon as it became apparent that we were going to have them for a longer period of time, I pursued a discount for Inverclyde passengers subjected to travelling on those trains. While ScotRail did not go down this route, they have offered season ticket holders a free trip anywhere in Scotland.

I appreciate this wasn't the solution we wanted, but I'm glad my pressure has forced ScotRail to deliver some form of compensation for my constituents.

I have had a large number of meetings locally, including: meeting Neil Francis from **Scottish Enterprise** to discuss Inverclyde's local economy, Scott Allan from **Inverclyde Council** to discuss the **City Deal** projects, Gordon MacLellan the Chief Executive of SPT and met representatives from **River Clyde Homes** to discuss both constituents issues and also local Biomass proposals, to name just some.

## Stuart McMillan MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

### 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 details.