

November Newsletter



Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

I hope you and your family are well as we head into the final month of 2022. November has been an extremely busy month in Parliament and back in the constituency. I have had the opportunity to spoke several times in the Commons on issues such as veteran affairs, local dental services, small businesses, HS2 safeguarding, and the economy.

At the start of the month, I attended an event in Parliament, hosted by Peter Gibson MP, and joined him in calling for a review of the law on fireworks. We know that fireworks unregulated and unchecked can be detrimental to animals and those with mental health conditions and disabilities.

I sponsored an event in Parliament to celebrate 10 years since the formation of the Electrical Safety Roundtable (ESR), where I met with representatives of the UK's leading electrical safety inspectors, including the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT) which is based in Pleasley Vale Business Park.

I met with the Minister for Levelling-Up, Dehenna Davison MP, to discuss funding for the regeneration of Bolsover Town Centre and managed to squeeze in my winter flu jab - if you're eligible please get yours!

I also had the honour of meeting Admiral Sir Ben Key KCB CBE, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Navy, to hear about some of the strategic and operational priorities of the navy, as well as feedback on my experience of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (which I discuss in more detail later in the newsletter).

We all know the difficult economic circumstances this country faces due to the pandemic, broken supply chains, inflation, and an energy crisis caused by Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. But this month the Government announced some positive news, which often gets over looked by the media, that I would like to share with you.

First of all, the number of payrolled employees was up by 2.9% since February 2020, a rise of 834,000. Median monthly pay increased by 14.6% when compared to pre-pandemic levels in Feb 2020. In the Bolsover constituency the number of people claiming out of work benefits is 2.8%, below the national average of 3.6%.

Secondly, the Government have announced the next phase of a £4.2 billion investment to build five frigate warships - bolstering Britain's defences while supporting thousands of jobs. We must ensure our military is prepared to respond to whatever threats may arise. BAE Systems are to build five new warships - which will provide the Royal Navy with five additional Type 26 antisubmarine frigates, support 4,000 jobs across the UK, and improve the safety and security of Britain, while ensuring that we remain at the forefront of

military capabilities.

Third, I am pleased to see the NHS figures show that we are on track to deliver our manifesto commitment of 26,000 more primary care staff by March 2024 – having already recruited over 21,000 more staff compared to March 2019.

Locally, I met with Steve and Ken who are concerned about the state of some long abandoned allotment land in Holmewood. I held a meeting with representatives from NEDCAB, North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice, at their admin offices in Coney Green Business Centre. Having regularly assisted with various casework and policy matters it was a pleasure to meet Paul, and with Ben, Chloe and Ben, to talk about the current difficulties faced by residents throughout the constituency with the cost of living and what is being done to help.

Finally, I visited Arkwright Primary School, met with the Police Inspector for Bolsover and North East Derbyshire, and attended events for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday - all of which are featured in this months newsletter, so keep reading!

I hope you will find this edition informative, and I look forward to updating you for the final time of 2022 next month.

Best wishes,

Mark



Electrical Safety Roundtable



Getting my flu jab



Meeting the First Sea Lord



Holmewood Allotments



Meeting the Levelling-Up Minister



One of the five wreaths laid for Remembrance Sunday

OUR PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY



Boosting the National Living Wage

Largest ever National Living Wage increase, a pay rise of £1,600 on average for millions of workers



Keeping your energy bills down

Extending our Energy Price Guarantee to 2024 plus direct support for 8 million low-income households



Triple lock protected

Helping pensioners with the cost of living and providing the security they deserve.



More funding for the NHS and schools

Increased funding over 2 years to support the NHS and students. A boost to tackle backlogs and give children access to the best teaching.

Autumn Statement

Earlier this month, the Chancellor announced the Government's Autumn Statement that will tackle inflation, provide stability and growth, and protect our public services.

We will continue to support those who need it most by:

Providing £4 billion in extra funding for schools

Giving £12 billion of extra targeted support for 8 million low-income, vulnerable and pensioner households.

Protecting the pension Triple Lock

Extending the Energy Price Guarantee to save the average household £500

Creating windfall taxes on oil and gas, and electricity producers

Uprating benefits by inflation

Raising the National Living Wage to £10.42

Continuing our commitment to levelling up with a second round of the Levelling Up Fund

Those who have the most will pay the most, while the poorest and most vulnerable will continue to receive the vital support that they require. This is a sound and balanced fiscal statement that will put the UK on a sensible and sustainable path to economic stability.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak in the second day of debate on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. You can watch my speech by clicking the link below.

Watch my Speech



Lest We Forget

It was an honour to take part in the Remembrance Day parade in Bolsover this morning to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in remembrance of all those who gave so much. Thank you to everyone for attending, it was lovely to see so many from our community come to pay their respects. I later visited Clowne Memorial to pay my respects and wreaths were laid in South Normanton, Pinxton and Shirebrook on my behalf - my sincerest of thanks to Zoe Presland, Keeley Howson & BLAST and Sharon Coleman.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."



Clowne War Memorial



Westminster Memorial Garden

NHS Dentists

I asked the Under-Secretary of State for Health what the Government are doing to sort out the real difficulties people are facing, and raising with me,

getting access to Dental treatment, or even just registering for a local NHS Dental practice, across our constituency. You can watch/listen to my question by following the link below.

Watch my question to the Minister



Visit to Arkwright Primary School

I had a great day at Arkwright Primary school this Armistice Day. The children invited people into their school who work in their local communities to find out what they do, who they are and draw portraits as part of an art project. I was joined by representatives from our local police, fire service, librarian, scout leader, councillor, charities and a school governor. We all shared two minutes silence at 11am in remembrance of all those who gave their lives in service of our country. The children were fantastically well behaved - funny, smart and full of questions - a real credit to the school, teachers and their parents. Thank you to Mrs Rowland and Mr Roberts for inviting me to join them.







Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

I was pleased to hear from Inspector John Troup, North East Derbyshire Police, that we have six new officers starting in post in coming weeks. We discussed the work the police have been doing locally to successfully reduce ASB and their pro-active approach to preventing burglaries and detecting those who carry out these awful crimes. I also raised a number of casework enquiries with him. I look forward to meeting with him and other officers again in the New Year.

HS2 Safeguarding

Earlier this month, I asked the Leader of the House to set aside time to debate the cancellation of HS2b and the delays in lifting safeguarding across the constituency. For too long, residents of villages such as Newton and Blackwell have had to live under the cloud of HS2 safeguarding, blocking investment and blighting communities. It is about time we moved on. With the planned upgrade to the Midland Main Line, there is no good reason to allow HS2 Ltd to continue to block progress along what was the Chesterfield spur.

I will continue to raise the matter in the House and with Ministers to let our communities and businesses move forward.

Watch my question to the Leader of the House of Commons



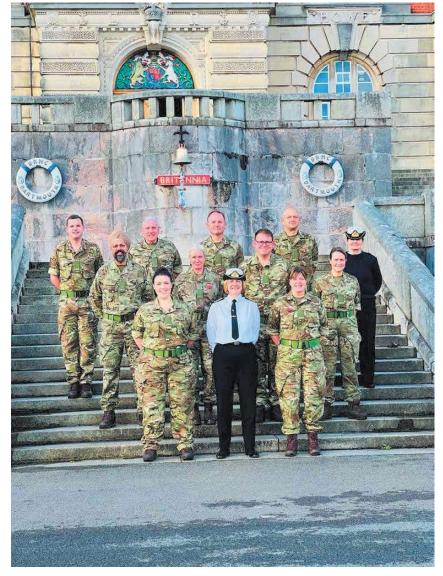
Bolsover School Students Visit Parliament and Downing Street

I was delighted to welcome the Student Leadership Team from The Bolsover School to Westminster. They had a tour of the estate including the House of Commons, where they watched some questions from the gallery, and visited the House of Lords, Westminster Hall and our committee rooms. The students met Lord McLoughlin and Deputy Speaker, Nigel Evans MP, and visited Number 10 Downing Street.

It was an absolute pleasure to spend some of the day with them, and I enjoyed answering some of their questions. I hope that they found their visit inspiring! I'm looking forward to welcoming the school for another visit next year.







Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme

Alongside colleagues, I have had the great pleasure of taking part in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme this year. I'm shadowing the Navy. It's a great opportunity to learn more about our Armed Forces and to visit them around the country and indeed the globe.

So far this year I've had the great pleasure of visiting the Royal Marines training base in Lympstone, going down to the Royal Navy Britannia College in Dartmouth and, on Thursday, I was visiting one of our ships in Portsmouth and also seeing the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier go out to sea.

Over the coming weeks, I've got various other visits across the country and I'm really looking forward to learning more about the Navy's work. Recently, we had a big focus on the work they are doing to support the border force and also the RNLI on migrant boats in the channel, but I'll be hearing more about the Navy's operational work around the globe in support of this country and our allies.





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