

Simon Hart MP

Member of Parliament

Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire

simon-hart.com



LATEST NEWS:

STOP PRESS:

The recent "Autumn Statement" (the Government's mini-budget) brought welcome news including a **£600 increase in the Personal Allowance** which will lift 20,000 Welsh people out of paying income tax altogether. There will also be a cut in Stamp Duty for 99% of the people paying it in Wales.

Additionally, from 1 May there will be **no Air Passenger Duty to pay for children under the age of 12**, saving a family with two children £26 on a short haul flight and £146 on a long haul trip.



Locally I remain gravely concerned about the on-going uncertainty over the future of our hospital and that the **24 hour A&E at Withybush is under threat**.

Hywel Dda Health Board is using 'staff shortages' as an excuse to close any department where there are problems recruiting staff, so the problem is becoming self-fulfilling as no one wants to move to a hospital that is closing departments. Bernardine Rees of the Health Board has given me an unequivocal assurance that A&E will remain open "24/7 and indefinitely" but Mark Drakeford AM and the Welsh Government need to address the uncertain future as a matter of urgency.

Recent events here in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire have included:



Organising a third successful **Jobs Fair in Carmarthen** (*pic left*) which had 77 jobs on offer. Nearly 100 jobseekers came to meet the 25 companies and training organisations who took part. Many thanks to all the companies and jobseekers who came along.

Meeting the **Duke and Duchess of Cambridge** on their visit to **Valero Refinery's 50th Anniversary** and enjoying a night in the company of cricketing royalty at **Cresselly Cricket Club's annual awards** evening.

Meeting the **Carmarthen Chamber of Trade** at one of their regular meetings and also speaking at the autumn meeting of the **Carmarthenshire branch of the Federation of Small Businesses**.

Meeting a number of new businesses including **Hideaway Farm Meats** in Ludchurch (*pic right*), and **Videomajic TV** and Hyundai imports firm **GenPower**, both in Pembroke Dock. GenPower has created 35 new jobs in the old Cambrian Windows factory.



Visiting **Llanboidy and Laugharne at school rush hour time** to witness the problems caused by the lack of pavements and parking in the villages. Carmarthenshire County Council has promised to look into both areas.

Witnessing the work being done by **BT in Saundersfoot, Tenby, Amroth and Penally** to bring superfast broadband to our area. Find out when you are going to get it by going to www.superfast-cymru.com and typing in your postcode.



Officially opening the extension to the **Salvation Army's Community Centre** on Lammas Street, Carmarthen and supporting the **Trussell Trust Food Bank** (*pic left*) who launched a joint campaign with Tesco for donations at Carmarthen's Tesco Extra Store.

Organising a **Dairy Crisis Summit** that is taking place at 8pm on **Thursday 11 December at the Hotel Plas Hyffryd, Narberth**. Stephen Crabb MP, the Secretary of State for Wales, Andy Richardson, chairman of the Welsh Assembly's review into the Welsh Dairy Industry and the chairman of the Dairy All Party Parliamentary Group, Neil Parish MP, will be among those taking part.

In Westminster I have:

Been one of only two MP's from Wales to attend a **summit with the Prime Minister at Chequers** to discuss the implications of the Scottish Referendum vote and further powers being granted to the Welsh Assembly.

Met **Pembroke Dock newsagent Peter Robinson** (*pic right*) at a Westminster reception



held by the National Federation of Retail Newsagents.

Sat on the **Welsh Affairs Select Committee's** inquiries into cross border health issues and tourism, as well as attending the **All Party Parliamentary Group for Tourism in Wales** meetings where we discussed promoting Wales as a first choice destination for international visitors to the UK



Joined the special **service of Remembrance** (*pic left*) held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks for **MPs and Peers who have served in the Armed Forces**. As always it was an honour to attend this service alongside my colleagues, many of whom have had distinguished military careers.

Joined a **debate on the crisis facing sea bass off the UK coast** and how that impacts on fishermen operating out of our county.

Took a delegation of local volunteers to meet the Department for Transport regarding proposals for **the future of our Coastguards**.

Enjoyed showing the **Mammatt family from Princes Gate** around Westminster. 12 year old Lloyd, (*pic right*) who is a pupil at **Ysgol Dyffryn Taf**, won my short story competition.



Organised a Parliamentary debate on the **delivery of Superfast Broadband in rural areas** and the service provided by BT Openreach. It remains a serious issue in our area and I will continue to push for everyone to have access to good quality broadband as it is vital for businesses, education and communities.

And finally....



Congratulations to eight-year-old **Annabel Morby of Tavernspite School** (*pic left*) who beat off stiff competition to take first prize in my annual Christmas card competition. Her winning design of a cheerful snowman adorns my official card and will be sent to 10 Downing Street!

As 2014 draws to a close I would like to send a very **Happy Christmas** to all readers of this newsletter and to thank you for the support and help you have given me during this past year.

What's coming up:

My 'pub politics' sessions are coming to an end now - we held over thirty of these events and at least 25,000 people were invited! They will be replaced by a series of public meetings and you will receive an invite to the new series in the post in the New Year.

I've recently held surgeries in Whitland and Tenby - my next one is on **12th December in Whitland**. Call 01994 342002 to make an appointment or to find out the future dates of surgeries and meetings.

Contact me by emailing simon.hart.mp@parliament.uk or call 01994 342002. Up to date information and news can be found on my website simon-hart.com

You can also follow me on Facebook or Twitter @Simonhartmp

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