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Member of Parliament
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Dec
2017

Welcome to my final newsletter for 2017:

It has been quite a year with the General Election in June and the ongoing Brexit discussions in Westminster. I shall be glad to return to Wales for the Christmas period and enjoy some time with my family in our beautiful counties.

However Christmas isn't such a great time for everyone so it is important to keep an eye out for elderly neighbours, the disabled, vulnerable or simply those who are on their own, and maybe pop round to see them with a bit of festive cheer!



Here in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire I have:



Attended the opening of two new play parks (*pic left*). Parents from **St Teilo's Catholic Primary School in Tenby** and **Manorbier Play Park Association** have worked tirelessly for years to raise funds and both have now installed fantastic new facilities. I also spoke to 6th formers at **Queen Elizabeth High School in Carmarthen** about the importance of democracy.

Helped launch the newly **refurbished Specsavers** in Carmarthen. I had no idea that the founder of the company is a local man!

Organised another successful **50+ event** (*pic right*), this time in Pembroke Dock's Pater Hall. We had around 20 stalls offering advice and information on a wide range of subjects such as health, finance and housing, and plenty of visitors took advantage of the day.



Visited the GP and practice managers of **Tenby Surgery** and **Argyle Street Surgery** in Pembroke Dock, where we discussed ways to improve their appointments systems and the challenges they face in meeting their communities' needs. This is a hot topic at the moment so



I was pleased to hear that every effort is being made to address the issues. However it will take time and patients should get in touch with me if they have ongoing issues.

Remembered those who served for our country at the always moving **Remembrance Day service** that took place in Carmarthen. The town's war memorial has an appropriate setting now that the Old Infirmary has been restored to its former glory.

Taken part in a **stay-safe online event organised by Google** (*pic left*) and held at Tavernspite CP School, as well as the Pembrokeshire launch of the **Campaign to End Loneliness**.

In Westminster:

It is always lovely to welcome constituents to Westminster and I was delighted to meet **Neil and Zoe Kedward** from **Narberth's Grove Hotel**, as well as **Andrew Evans** from **St Brides**, at a recent **British Hospitality Association** reception.



Brides, at a recent **British Hospitality Association** reception.

I have taken part in debates on topics as diverse as the **rural economy in Wales, the budget, animal welfare** and even the plight of lowland curlews!

I was asked by the Prime Minister to sit on the **Committee for Standards in Public Life** and last week we published our long awaited report into the abuse and intimidation suffered by parliamentary candidates and the public at election time. Amongst other things, the report calls for tighter controls on social media as well as more focus on 'manners' when using these platforms.



As a member of the **Select Committee for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport** we have been taking evidence on 'fake news', the problems within the FA, and also Paralympic classification rules. The Committee's report on doping in sport is shortly to be published.

It was also a pleasure to meet **Army Cadet Rachel Jones** (*pic left*) from Pembroke, who is studying Engineering at Pembrokeshire College, at a Welsh Regiment's Parliamentary event. I also had the opportunity to hear **Valero ambassadors**, Abi and Scott (*pic above*), make an impressive presentation to the **All Party Parliamentary Group on Oil & Gas** where they made the point that university is not the only route to a successful career.

And finally...

Forget appearing on Question Time, I was much prouder to feature in the official newsletter of **Parkrun UK** after becoming the first MP in the country to complete 100 parkruns. It has taken me nearly 3 years of puffing round the course at Colby near Amroth at 9am every Saturday to complete this milestone! I am not getting any faster, but I strongly recommend joining to burn off a few Christmas calories.

As 2017 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:

I will be holding surgeries in a number of locations in the coming months. To find your closest one and make an appointment please ring the office.

Contact me by emailing simon.hart.mp@parliament.uk or call 01994 242002. 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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