

Simon Hart MP

Member of Parliament

Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire

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LATEST NEWS:

The scale of this week's storm was ferocious and there has been significant damage to land and buildings. Thank you to all the response teams from local emergency services - including power and phone line providers and the Council amongst many others - who have worked tirelessly to restore services to local communities.



I recently joined more than 1,000 angry local residents at the SWAT demonstration (*picture above*) against the proposed threat to the **Special Care Baby Unit at Withybush Hospital**. The Welsh Assembly is now making further cuts and the fight continues.

Over a year ago **S4C** announced it was considering moving its HQ and it has now announced the final two applications on the short list will be the **University of Wales: Trinity Saint David** and Gwynedd County Council. I am looking forward to hearing the **exciting presentation from the University this Wednesday (19th February)** as bringing the headquarters to Carmarthen would be a huge boost to the area; bringing not only jobs, but linguistic and cultural opportunities.

If you would like to attend the event, which will be held from 5.30pm in the Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen Campus, please contact Mrs Eirwen Nicholls on 01267 676701 or e.nicholls@tsd.uwtsd.ac.uk

In the past few weeks here in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire I have:

Inspected the **storm damage at Carmarthen town, Laugharne, Pendine and Amroth** - the collapse of the sea wall at Amroth left local businesses feeling cut off and financially compromised. The Council acted swiftly to get the road reopen, but Kathy Williams from the Amroth Inn (*pic right*) showed me the damage.



Visited **Narberth's new foodbank** being run by the local church and the Trussell Trust. This is a complex topic, however I am pleased that the facility is there for those who really need it. You

can find out **how to donate** by clicking on [this link](#).



Toured **Pembrokeshire College** with Principal, Sharron Lusher, and her team, to learn about their work and plans for the future.

Enjoyed the start of **Pembroke Dock's bi-centenary celebrations** and saw the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and Pembroke & District Male Voice Choir play to a sell-out audience at the Royal Dockyard Chapel.

Launched a **superfast broadband initiative in the Lampeter Velfrey area** (*pic left*). I have contacted more than 300 residents to see whether they would like to join a wireless scheme that could radically improve broadband speeds.

In Westminster recent events have included:

Raising the TV programme 'Benefits Street' at **Prime Minister's Questions**. The PM agreed that benefits are there for those that really need them, not as a lifestyle choice and we must do more to help people who get 'trapped' in the system.

Graduating from the **Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme** which aims to improve links between the military and MPs. I have visited military bases across the UK in the last four years, as well as being fortunate to visit troops in Afghanistan and the Falklands, (*pic right*), while learning more about the demands facing our Forces.



Meeting with Regional Rugby Wales, the body that represents the four professional regional rugby teams in Wales, to discuss the growing crisis in Welsh club organisation.



Taking part in a **debate in the Chamber on rural communities**. I raised the problems we often face in rural areas such as broadband speeds, planning issues and the cost of fuel. I also spoke in a **debate on gypsy planning**, highlighting the fact that the special rules for gypsies often increases hostilities between settled and traveller communities. This has been highlighted locally by the ongoing situation at **Clayford Road near Saundersfoot**, where local households have been seriously

distressed.

Visiting Cardiff Bay with the Welsh Affairs Select Committee to discuss proposals to give the Assembly tax varying powers.

Hosting a reception in Parliament for the **Field Studies Council to mark their 70th Anniversary** (*pic left*). The Secretary of State, Michael Gove MP, spoke at the event, which is an area that I feel very passionately about and have made several visits to the FSC's excellent **Orielton Field Centre**, based near Pembroke.

And finally....

I'm no wildlife photographer, but I was delighted to capture this image of an otter on a tree trunk near our home. At least someone is enjoying the flood water!



What's coming up:

I've recently held surgeries in Whitland and Pembroke and my next one is in **Carmarthen on 28 February** and **Whitland on 14 March**. Please call the office to make an appointment.

A chance to meet: many of you will be receiving invitations to meetings I am holding around the constituency over the next few months. These are open to anyone regardless of voting intention and are a chance to ask me questions and discuss issues and concerns that really matter, so please come along. The next event will be held in **Whitland on 28 February**.

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

And I've finally joined the world of Twitter - you can follow me @Simonhartmp

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