



HOLYROOD UPDATE

From Wendy Alexander MSP

Your constituency MSP for Paisley North

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JANUARY 2006

EVENTS IN PAISLEY NORTH...

- Organised **Heritage Lottery Fund** meeting with local groups and MSP's Hugh Henry and Trish Godman
- Visited **Linwood High School** to congratulate pupils on Xmas campaign
- Visited Strathclyde Police '**Safety and Security**' stand at Braehead
- Visited **Salvation Army** to donate Xmas gifts
- Attended display by **St. Mirrin's Scouts** and presented lottery award
- Met with new **Community Health worker** in Linwood
- Opened **BAA Business Support Centre** at Hillington
- Met with **Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire**
- Presented **Renfrewshire Carers Association** with a prestigious **Investors In People Award**
- Met with **Hugh Henry MSP and Superintendent Kenny Murray** of Paisley K division re: Antisocial Behaviour.

This will be my last monthly newsletter until I return to work after my maternity leave.

GLASGOW AIRPORT JOBS BOOST

150 new jobs at Glasgow airport will be created within the next two years.

Airport operators BAA have increased the workforce at their Business Support Centre (BSC) in Hillington. The news will see the workforce rise to a total of 350 by 2008.

The BSC provides a wide range of services for the BAA group.

I was delighted when the BSC arrived in Hillington in 2000 and I welcome this latest expansion. It's a matter of real pride that we have a support centre for one of the world's largest airport operators here in Renfrewshire.



Wendy with BAA Business Support Centre managing director Jo Hart

The BSC has grown to become an important resource for BAA's airports and I think this latest expansion is a tremendous reflection of the success of the team at the BSC and the important work they do on behalf of BAA.

PRAISE FOR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

I paid a visit to Paisley Fire Station to pay tribute to our local fire-fighters. There has been only one fatality over the 2004/05 period in Paisley and no fatalities in Renfrew over the past 2 years.

This progress is in part thanks to the efforts of the guys at the Paisley station in educating local communities.

The Fire and Rescue services, in partnership with the Scottish Executive, are working on a

number of initiatives aimed at fire prevention, including plans to purchase and install 10-year-life smoke detectors in homes on request.



Wendy with Paisley Fire-fighters.

In this month's News from Holyrood...

FUTURE HEALTH SERVICES IN ARGYLL AND CLYDE

NHS Argyll and Clyde will be dissolved on 31 March 2006. Renfrewshire will join NHS Greater Glasgow.

Patients will continue to use local healthcare services and attend the nearest appropriate hospital, as they do at present. The changes relate to the administration of health care rather than where and how patients are treated.

Abolishing Argyll and Clyde should produce NHS Boards better structured to for the needs of their communities. Patients will continue to access the same services as they do now.

Writing off the boards £80m debt means that although the new boards still have tough decisions to make, they will not be burdened with a legacy of past problems.

Patients will continue to use hospital services where they always have done.

More teachers for Renfrewshire

The Scottish Executive has announced that Renfrewshire is to receive over £2million extra funding for new teachers over the next 2 years.

The cash will reduce class sizes even further; give teachers more time for marking, preparation and to employ extra visiting specialists.

Our education system should give every pupil the support, encouragement and opportunity to be the best they can be.

Linwood cash machine restored

Residents of Linwood recently contacted me about the withdrawal of their free to use cash machine at the Linwood shopping centre.

I took up the issue with the relevant banking authorities and the machine operators as part of a campaign with Linwood Community Council and Councillor Anne Hall.

The operators Cardpoint finally contacted my office to agree that



they will reinstate the machine.

This is good news for Linwood who will now continue to have a free to use cash point in their local community.

Pulling the plug on water charges

Scotland deserves a modern and efficient public water service to deliver better quality drinking water, cleaner rivers and beaches and higher customer standards. But bills also need to be reasonable.

The Scottish Executive has announced that a limit of less than inflation rises has been placed on domestic water charges from next year – and for the next four years. Other good news for low income households is that they will, for the first time, be eligible for a reduction in charges of up to 25%.

How to contact Wendy....

Write to Wendy at her constituency office:

Mile End, 12 Seedhill Road, PAISLEY, PA1 1JS

E-mail Wendy at:

Wendy.Alexander.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Attend one of Wendy's Surgeries at:

Linwood Advice Works: 1st Friday of month (4-5pm)

Renfrew Town Hall: 2nd Friday of month (4-5pm)

Paisley Office: 3rd Monday of month (4.30-5.30pm)

Ferguslie: 4th Monday of month (4.30-5.30pm)

* Subject to change during maternity leave – please call my office for details.

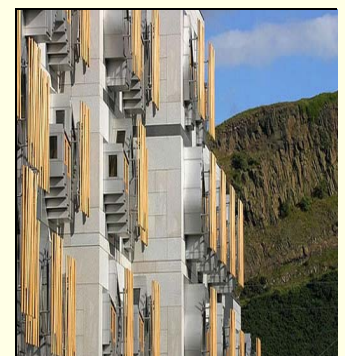
Would you like to visit Holyrood?

I want to encourage all local residents to take the opportunity to visit the Scottish Parliament.

For further information, or to make a booking, please call **0131 348 5000**.

Visits are free and you can explore an exhibition about the building and about the Parliament – including public galleries of the Chamber and Committee rooms.

The Parliament provides a full range of facilities for people with disabilities.



**Need help or advice? Write to Wendy at;
Mile End, 12 Seedhill Road, PAISLEY, PA1 1JS
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