

MARCH 2024

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MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR
MOTHERWELL AND WISHAW CONSTITUENCY



Interparliamentary Forum



Jack Marshall/House of Lords

In my role as Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee I attended the Interparliamentary Forum with UK-wide counterparts. Matters discussed included the operation of intergovernmental relations and our ongoing scrutiny of Common Frameworks post Brexit

Scottish Apprenticeship Week: Martin Plant Hire



It was fantastic to meet with young apprentice Damian, as well branch manager Stuart and director Joe at Martin Plant Hire in Motherwell as part of apprentice week. Scottish Apprenticeship Week is a nationwide celebration of apprenticeships. It's a time when everyone can promote the benefits of work-based learning to people, employers and Scotland.

Glencairn Primary School



I was pleased to join staff and pupils to celebrate the school receiving the Gold School Sports Award from Sport Scotland. I was happy to learn about the sporting activities available for pupils, and their achievements associated with sport.

International Women's Day



For International Women's Day I joined the Economic Forum For Family Empowerment Scotland for a wonderful celebration in Wishaw. The Heritage Journey: Connecting Communities Through Shared Stories project is not only to empower young people with the mastery of traditional drumming but also cultivate a profound understanding and appreciation of diverse cultural traditions. This initiative will promote cultural understanding, collaboration, and a lasting sense of pride in our own and others' heritage while strengthening community connections.

Unbound the Greyhound



I had a lovely time talking to campaigners, including greyhounds and their owners at the Scottish Parliament as they handed in the #UnboundTheGreyhound open letter. The Unbound the Greyhound Coalition is made up of key animal welfare organisations in Scotland – including OneKind, Dogs Trust, and Scottish SPCA. The open letter, which raised awareness about the animal welfare challenges linked with greyhound racing, received 22,655 signatures in support from the public.

Scottish Society of Artists Reception



I was pleased to host the SSA in the Scottish Parliament. The SSA is one of the oldest and biggest artist-led organisations in Scotland. They're committed to building on the strong foundation of Scotland's rich history, while seeking to experiment, innovate and challenge tradition.

Motherwell Library Letitia McKell MakerSpace



I was delighted to visit Motherwell Library this afternoon, and view the brand new Letitia McKell MakerSpace. The Letitia McKell MakerSpace is named in honour of a former resident who left money to the library in her will. The area is designed to help people develop skills, explore their creativity and learn how to use new digital and craft resources including 3D printers, sewing machines and a laser cutter. It was great to view the 3D printers, sewing machines, overlockers and embroidery machines available to use in the space. I also got a chance to view the unique pod area within the library, which is a fully immersive, 360-degree environment with sound, smell and interactive elements, as well as the digital hub with hi-tech resources which encourage innovation and effective learning experiences and support digital skills development. Both will be available to community groups, businesses, schools and individuals. Thank you very much to staff at Motherwell Library for welcoming me, and showcasing the fantastic facilities available.

Poverty Action Network

My team attended the Poverty Action Network on my behalf, which is a quarterly meeting of agencies and organisations in the community held by Marion Fellows MP. Thank you to all organisations in attendance for their work in the community.

The Consulate General of Ireland and The National Library of Scotland

I was pleased to have attended a performance of "Nora and Jim", a one-act play about the relationship between Nora Barnacle and James Joyce, at The National Library of Scotland which was organised in partnership with The Consulate General of Ireland.

Millie Froid: Strange Horizons at North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre



I took the chance to visit North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre to view the Millie Froid: Strange Horizons exhibition which showcases the work of Amelia Froid, a breathtakingly talented artist born in Motherwell in 1900. Froid's abstract expressionist style of painting was very different to that of her contemporaries. The subject of her paintings was Scottish landscapes with one or two figures, highlighting aspects of rural Scottish life. The exhibition is open until May 6th and is free for the public to attend at North Lanarkshire Heritage.

Muirhouse Primary and St Brendan's Primary Community Inclusion and Diversity Programme

It was fantastic to attend Muirhouse Primary School to speak with pupils from Muirhouse Primary School and St Brendan's Primary School to join them in conversations around diversity as part of their 6 week long Safety in the Community Project. It was wonderful speaking with the children about rights, respect, equality and inclusion. We spoke about the diverse communities in Motherwell and Wishaw, and the importance of inclusion and respect in school communities and wider society.

Braidhurst Industrial Estate Redevelopment



I was pleased to meet with Louise, Scott and Paul from Tilbury Douglas and Stephanie from CITB Scotland at the Tilbury Douglas development at Braidhurst Industrial Estate. It was great to hear about the plans for the site and the company's commitment to welcoming apprentices.

CPG on the Scottish Games Ecosystem

I have started a new Cross Party Group on the Scottish Games Ecosystem. The games sector has immense potential economically, socially, and culturally. Worldwide, the sector eclipses traditional entertainment media – generating more revenue than the film and music industries combined. Scotland has played a pioneering role in the evolution of gaming since the 1980s and has produced some of the world's most popular games, but we want to focus on the future with a new policy platform for Scotland's games sector.

Surgeries in the Community

My team continue to hold surgeries at local foodbanks, food co-operatives and local community groups, assisting with casework issues and issuing advice.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library inspires a lifelong love of books and reading. They gift children a new book through the post every month until their fifth birthday. The Dollywood Foundation is investing in Scotland. They are raising awareness of their work with the aim of developing partnerships to reach more children. It was great to find out how the Dollywood Foundation can bring the Imagination Library to Motherwell and Wishaw through their community partnership model, delivering lifelong benefits to children and families.

PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS

S6M-12523

Clyde Valley High School's Mighty Striders

S6M-12429

Award-winning Poet, Soukaina Habiballah, Denied Entry to UK

S6M-12555

Asda Foundation Funding for Projects in Motherwell and Wishaw

S6M-12464

Team Scotland at the Caledonia International 2024

S6M-12556

Newmains and District Gala Day Fundraising

S6M-12522

Wishing Craigneuk's Community Champion, Patricia Parvin, a Happy Retirement

S6M-12557

On Pointe Dance Academy Fundraising

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