



Holly Lynch MP

Report Summer 2017

We took a break from the weekly E-news bulletin over the summer recess but to catch you up with my work over the last few weeks here is a round up of my activities, working on both national campaigns and the local issues which have been keeping me and my team busy in Halifax.

The Piece Hall reopens



Whatever the weather, night or day, the stunning, newly reopened Piece Hall has surpassed all expectations with nearly 23,000 visitors on the first

day alone. I've had the pleasure of seeing both the Saxophone Massive and Enchanted Chandelier events which have been world class. A massive well done to our Labour Councillors who worked so hard to make this happen. With the new library, Square Chapel refurbishment and the reopening of the Industrial Museum all in the same space, Halifax has got a bright future ahead!

Visit to our Twin Town Aachen

I joined the Halifax Minster choir for a visit to our German twin town Aachen in August. The choir is made up of all ages and had been invited to perform at a number of churches and civic venues. It was agreed that the long standing friendship between Aachen and Halifax is important as we go through the Brexit negotiations and we discussed jointly commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War in November next year.



Campaigning back in full swing



Following the General Election, local members have been out & about speaking to residents in Ovenden. 3 teams gathered signatures for a petition to secure more investment in the roads in the area.

Floods demo with WYFRS

I spent some time with local firefighters to test their new water rescue kit for responding to flooding. I was joined by Labour Cllr Judith Hughes, Chair of the Fire Authority. As the Shadow Floods Minister it was good to see what equipment we have locally, yet I am keen to seek clarity in legislation around responding to floods, something which is currently lacking. A fight I will be taking to Westminster.



Protections for Rohingya

Many constituents have been in touch with me about the terrible human rights violations in Myanmar with accusations of ethnic cleansing over the summer. I have joined 157 other Labour MPs calling on the Government to do all it can to end the violence. I have also written to the UN directly asking them to do all that can be done to stop the violence directed towards Rohingya Muslims. You can read both those letters on my website at: www.hollylynch.org.uk

Shadow DEFRA Minister visits - Fishing

In my capacity as the Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, I have responsibilities for water. That includes floods, water quality, rivers, canals, coastal communities and the sea. As we go

through the Brexit negotiations, the new Fisheries Bill will be one of the first pieces of legislation we expect to see in Westminster. It will also be one of the most contentious and it will be my job to lead for the Labour party on that issue. With that in mind I have been meeting with representatives from the fishing industry to make sure I understand what we need from a sustainable and successful fishing policy post Brexit. From meeting with ship builders in Whitby, to fish market managers in North Shields. From Marine Laboratories in Plymouth, to Royal Navy Fisheries

Protection vessels in Falmouth. We've got one chance to get this new legislation right, and only by working with the those people who really know fishing can I make sure that I can hold the Government to account every step of the way.



With new Plymouth MP
Luke Pollard



Ship building
in Whitby



APPG on Integration report

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Integration which I vice-chair, published its final report in the series 'Integration Not Demonisation' over the summer. A delegation from the APPG, including chair Chuka Ummuna, visited Halifax in the research stages of the report. They met with council staff at the Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre, young people at Mixenden Activity Centre, and staff and clients at St Augustines. We made a series of recommendations in the report around devolving certain responsibilities for managing immigration to a regional level and I was glad to see these welcomed by Migration Yorkshire. You can read the report in full online at: www.socialintegrationappg.org.uk

Protect the Protectors bill progresses

The Protect The Protectors bill will have its second reading in the chamber on Friday 20th October so we are now trying to build as much support for it as possible. Chris Bryant MP who has adopted my campaign, having drawn the top slot in the Private Members Bill Ballot, joined me to meet with representatives from the Police Federation, the Royal College of Nursing and Unison who are all backing the bill. It is hoped that the Government will work with us on these protections but we need all MPs and the public to lend it their support.



Lister Lane Cemetery - Chartist commemorations

In August I attended an event at Lister Lane cemetery to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Chartist uprising of 1842. Local historians told the story from a Halifax perspective, before showing us the graves of some of those who were involved in the movement, which formed the very foundations of the workers' and civil rights movements we know today. Well done to the Friends of Lister Lane cemetery for keeping our local history alive.



Delegation to America



Outside the Capitol Building

In July I took part in a British American Parliamentary Group exchange to Washington. The visits have been happening over the last 40 years and I was reassured that both Democratic and Republican Congressmen and women alike, expressed their dismay at having Donald Trump in the White House. MPs are paired with Congressmen and women who have similar districts or interests and so I was delighted to spend some time in Boston learning more about their approach to community policing since the Boston Marathon bombing. Then in Chicago I saw how efforts are being made to promote integration within divided communities with Democratic Congressman Danny Davies. In my capacity as a Shadow DEFRA Minister I



With Boston PD Captain and Labour MP Gerald Jones on a ride-along in Boston

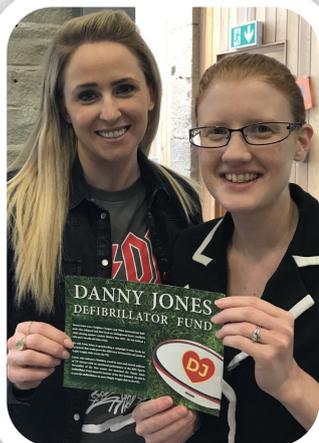
also had the chance to discuss flooding and fishing with those representatives who have local experiences. Fishing news ran my online blog piece about what lessons we might be able to learn from America which you can read; <http://fishingnews.co.uk/news/what-lessons-can-we-learn-from-the-americans-on-fishing/>

Campaign for DeFibs in the Town centre

At the moment there are very few Defibrillators in Halifax Town Centre, and none which are accessible to the public outside of usual opening hours. I recently met with Lizzie Jones who is campaigning on behalf of her late husband Danny. Whilst playing rugby for Keighley Cougars, Danny suffered a cardiac arrest caused by an undetected, hereditary, heart condition. She is campaigning for more screening for the condition as well as fundraising for more defibrillators. With that in mind I have been able to circulate details of match funding



opportunities to a number of local groups currently fundraising. The Basement Project at Recovery Calderdale are one of those groups and I am supporting their fund raising efforts. They are hoping to pay for a defibrillator which would be in a locked cabinet on the outside of their building and accessible to paramedics and the public with a code from 999.



More local visits

Other visits in and around our area over the summer include speaking to young people taking part in the National Citizen Service at Huddersfield university,



meeting with E.ON Energy to hear more about their commitments to renewables at their windfarm at Ovenden Moor, and joining local food and drink producers at the Halifax Food Assembly. Yorkshire Dama Cheese is based in Sowerby Bridge and was set up by



Razan Alsous who fled Syria with her young children in 2012. Their award winning cheese is just one of the many edibles on offer for collection online at the Halifax Food Assembly.

