



Allan Dorans

MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

Review of 2023



Welcome to my Review of the Year 2023!

The life of an MP is undoubtedly a busy one, both in Westminster and in the constituency itself. It is my honour and privilege to represent the people of Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock and to share with you some of the highlights of the past 12 months while wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.



Throughout the year I spoke in a number of debates in the House of Commons including legislation on making the spiking of drinks a specific criminal offence, posthumous bravery awards for emergency services personnel, preventing sex offenders changing their name by deed poll to avoid criminal convictions being disclosed, and in support of the families affected by the drug Primodos which caused miscarriages, stillbirths and horrendous birth defects.

In addition I asked Government Ministers numerous questions in the Chamber about issues which affected my constituents, provided help and information in almost 700 individual constituents cases, dealt with in excess of 1,100 campaigning and lobbying emails and wrote over 500 letters to Ministers on behalf of constituents.



Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock is a vast and diverse constituency and it is quite a challenge logistically to cover the many events which take place across its length and breadth.

However it is always inspiring to see for myself the imaginative and positive work that goes on in the various communities, how they work together and of course to meet constituents, speak to them first hand and listen to what concerns them in their day to day lives.

January



Visited **Wellington School** to give a (non political) presentation to Modern Studies Classes, focussed on **the role and work of a Member of Parliament** in the Constituency and in Parliament. Great to meet the Students and learn of their interest in political representation and modern democracy.



Delighted to present a copy of my Early Day Motion to **Blackthorn Salt**, Ayr, recognising and celebrating their **outstanding achievements** and high level industry awards for their amazing **artizan salt**, made using water from the sea nearby, then allowing the water to be evaporated naturally using only the wind and sun as it filters through a tall wooden graduation tower, comprising mainly of blackthorn twigs.

Submitted an Early Day Motion celebrating the **264th** anniversary of the birth of **Robert Burns**...our local lad turned National Bard.



Submitted an Early Day Motion recognising the **inspirational** work of **Jodie McFarlane**, her family and team of over 100 volunteers on the wonderful **Night Before Christmas** initiative. They were able to deliver an incredible **6840** 'red bags of joy' to children who would not otherwise have had a present to open on Christmas Day.



February



Visited **Nu Line Medical**, in Patna, who specialise in the production of high quality surgical personal protective equipment including drapes, gowns and other medical equipment for the European and International markets. Operating since 2017, the company make a significant contribution to the local economy by employing about 28 skilled local people and local trades people for maintenance. We discussed the difficulties facing small and medium enterprises, particularly in relation to winning Government contracts.

Attended a fascinating event organised by **Friends of Seafield House** to celebrate the legacy of Sir William Arrol and the opening of an exhibition celebrating his work at Rozelle House and Galleries.

UPDATE: With the conservation and conversion of Seafield House complete, FoSH was dissolved on 9 October. Congratulations to all involved: your aim was fulfilled – Seafield House was saved!



The **Privileges and the Standards Committees** in the House of Commons are vital to ensuring the proper running of Parliament. 2023 was an extremely busy year and I attended many hours of meetings in connection with my membership of these important committees.



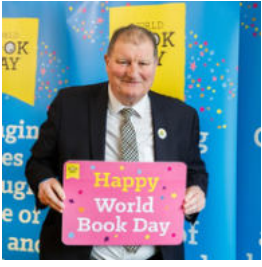
Supported the **RSPCA** campaign to end the barbaric practices of breeding and killing animals for scientific experiments – totally unacceptable in a civilised country.



Ongoing support of the All Party Parliamentary Group for ACDHPT. **Primodos** was a drug prescribed to women in the 1960s and 1970s as a pregnancy test. It caused devastating congenital abnormalities, stillbirths and miscarriages. The fight for justice for the Primodos families continues. Further information on the Association for Children Damaged by Hormone Pregnancy Tests – www.primodos.org

Every month my small team and I help constituents with issues ranging from problems with Visas/BRPs, social security payments, energy fuel payments and many other areas.

March



This month began on a happy note, supporting **World Book Day**. My congratulations to all the parents and carers who produced imaginative costumes at the last moment for children participating in this wonderful day.

In Westminster, as **SNP Spokesperson on Policing and Crime**, I spoke in a debate to prevent convicted sex offenders from concealing their convictions by name changes. On behalf of my constituents I also **wrote to Ministers in the UK Government** about growing Israeli military violence in the occupied West Bank.

In the constituency, I joined with **Nationwide Building Society** to celebrate their 50th anniversary of providing mortgages, banking and financial services in Ayr High Street. I enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with the Branch Manager, Brian and Financial Advisor, Julia. It is essential that we maintain High Street access to financial services. Sampling some of the delicious cakes and biscuits made by the staff for their customers to mark their anniversary was an added bonus!



Employment Fair @Carrick Centre Maybole Jobs Training Apprenticeships

Together with my colleague, **Elena Whitham MSP**, hosted a successful **Employment Fair** to create an opportunity for engagement of employers and potential employees for the benefit of both.

I lent support to **Metastatic Breast Cancer UK (METUPUK)** in Parliament to raise awareness of this dreadful cancer. 1 in 7 women will develop breast cancer in the UK. Around 30% of all breast cancer diagnoses will metastasize and become incurable at some point. Delighted to meet with Helen Gilchrist, originally from Girvan, (granddaughter of well known Girvan character, the late Gibby Wilson). Helen is a serving RAF Nurse who is an ambassador for this extremely important campaign. Further information at www.metup.org.uk #DarkerPink



April



During this **cost of living crisis**, a major concern of my constituents continues to be the cost of energy. I signed the **'Warm for Winter' MP Pledge** which states:

"I will work alongside Parliamentary colleagues to ensure the Government goes further to tackle the energy crisis at every available opportunity, including upcoming fiscal statements and the Energy Bill."

28th April was **International Workers Memorial Day**, held in memory of all the people who have been killed, injured or suffered illness as a result of attending work, throughout the world. I was also privileged to be able to lay a wreath at a newly planted cherry tree in their memory in Rozelle Park. It is important to remember that many of the changes brought about to make workplaces safer were as a result of the influence and persistence of Trades Unions.

Particularly pleased to meet my friend of many years, Peter Sturgeon, who has been a Union Representative for the Unite, the Union at South Ayrshire Council for many, many years.



I took part in the **Ayr Rotary and Ayrshire Coastal Path annual beach clean**, part of a much larger initiative along approximately 20 miles of the Ayrshire coast involving a number of Rotary Clubs, communities, farmers and landowners. Well done to all involved.

Alongside my MP and MSP colleagues, I met with senior figures from **NHS Ayrshire & Arran** to discuss their work and pressures they face, and address concerns expressed by my constituents.



May

Another busy month with the **Standards Committee, & Privileges Committee**. I also had a private meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss how to take forward the campaign for justice for WPC Yvonne Fletcher, who was shot in the back and murdered whilst policing a political demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in 1984. Although those responsible for her death have been identified, no one has ever been prosecuted for her murder.



Delighted to support '**Girvan's Story**' a project run by South Ayrshire Council which received £170,000 in funding from HES and the Heritage Fund.

The project aims to revive Girvan as a community-led tourism destination and will address underinvestment in the town's historic environment, promote community engagement and provide opportunities for traditional skills training, particularly for young people in the area.



Attended **Girvan FC's** final game of the season, and the Player Awards Ceremony. Special thanks must be given to the volunteers who give up their time every week and who contribute so much to the Club and to McCulloch Rail for their continued sponsorship.

In addition to work in the House of Commons and visits across the constituency, every month my team and I work to help constituents with their issues.

This month, **over 60 new cases were opened, with enquiries relating to MoD records, State Pensions, HMRC overpayments, Adult Disability Payment, Scottish Power, DWP...**among other topics.

ALLAN DORANS MP
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

ADVICE SURGERIES

Every Friday
10am-12noon

Telephone or virtual appointments.

Contact my office on 01292 848102 to book.

June

Visited the **Cutty Sark Centre**, Ayr to hear of the development of the **Culzean Way**, an exciting, ambitious community aspiration to make the beautiful coast south of Ayr more welcoming and accessible for walkers and cyclists. It is envisaged the route will link Ayr and Girvan and everywhere in between. A pleasure to support such an initiative.



Supported **Recycling Saturday Ayr**. The volunteers accept donations of specific items avoiding sending them to landfill. The items vary from month to month but all are recycled and passed to local and national groups and charities.



At the **Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink** I met members of the fantastic volunteer committee who work so hard to stage this wonderful event, which showcases the very best of Ayrshire food and drink produce. It was a great day and I was able to chat to the wide range of businesses and groups present.

Met **Fiona McQueen CBE, Chair of Ayrshire College Board of Management** and **Angela Cox, Principal & Chief Executive of Ayrshire College** to discuss the success of the College and students over the last year, the innovative, exciting work being undertaken at campuses in Ayr, Kilmarnock and Kilwinning, the many challenges facing Colleges, their vision for the future and the ongoing partnership with the Scottish Government, local Councils, industry, employers and importantly, the community.



The work of the Privileges Committee enquiry was also completed this month and I was delighted to see our recommendations approved by the House by 354 votes to 7.

July



Pleased to be able to show my support for families, and especially the children affected by **intractable epilepsy** which can cause hundreds of epileptic seizures a day. The best known proven medication for this is medicinal cannabis which the Government are refusing to provide on the NHS. The parents of the children are having to find up to £2,000 a month privately to give their children some semblance of a normal childhood. **We are calling on the Government to fund this essential treatment.** Photo shows Fallon who suffers from intractable epilepsy.

I also continued my ongoing support for the families affected by the drug **Primodos**. The drug was prescribed as a pregnancy test between the late 1950s and 1970s. It caused horrendous birth defects in hundreds of children, many of whom were still born, others were born without limbs, internal organ damage, cleft palates and other life affecting conditions and disabilities. Many have died prematurely young.



Robert the Bruce Heritage Day 2023 at Maybole was organised by the **Carrick History Society** supported by the **North Carrick Community Benefit Company**. The well attended event featured a range of activities including interactive history and battle re-enactments, music, dancing, stalls representing a number of community organisations, entertainment and food.

To commemorate the 227th Anniversary of the death of Robbie Burns I was invited to make a speech marking the event, and to lay a wreath at the Bard's statue, not in sorrow at his death, but in celebration of his life and work and his extraordinary legacy.



Pleased to be able to show my continued support for the Hunting Trophies (Imports Prohibition) Bill in Parliament.

August

During Recess I can spend most of my time out and about in the constituency. It is always a pleasure to meet constituents and see all the wonderful work that goes on in Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock.



I was delighted to meet **Bruce Ruthven, Operations Manager for Honeypot House in Dalleagles**, near New Cumnock which will provide residential respite short breaks for young Carers from 5 to 12 years of age, initially at weekends. The young Carers will be able to take part in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Honeypot House Dalleagles, is the third such Honeypot House in the UK.



Tracy Flynn, Chief Executive Officer of the Ayrshire Hospice met me to discuss Hospice services currently being provided at the East Ayrshire Community Hospital and in the community, whilst the new Hospice is being built at Racecourse Road, Ayr.

We discussed the challenges facing the Hospice in relation to the cost of the new building, rising staffing, running and energy costs in an extremely tough funding and fundraising environment. The obvious enthusiasm, commitment and vision of the Chief Executive, senior management team, Board of Directors and everyone involved in the Hospice is outstanding.

The new Hospice is due to be operational in late 2024.

Attended the **RNLI Girvan Lifeboat, Open Day 23** at Girvan Harbour. The RNLI volunteers provided tours of the local, all weather lifeboat, the RNLB Elizabeth and Gertrude Allan.

The lifeboat relies on the dedication, skill and bravery of six crew members drawn from a pool of sixteen volunteers, on call twenty four hours a day, every day of the year, to save life at sea and depends on donations to maintain this essential life saving service.



August continued



I was delighted to visit the outstanding **Hedgerow Habitats Project, Netherthird**, and attend the Netherthird Community Garden Activity Fun Day in Cumnock. This project provides opportunities for trainees and volunteers in the Community Gardens. A busy afternoon and very interesting to meet with a large number of community and voluntary groups from the local area. My thanks to the volunteers who organised and took part in the events.

I learned about the work of **Harbour Ayrshire**, (Your shelter from the storm of addiction), a relatively new but exceptional Charity, dedicated to helping and supporting anyone facing issues of alcohol or drug addiction. In addition to a range of individual and group support, Harbour Ayrshire provide an alcohol and drug out of hours telephone HELPLINE , For further information on this caring and compassionate Charity, please visit www.harbourayrshire.co.uk



Pleased to be able to visit **Claremont Care Home** in Ayr today, and to be shown around by Janice Daziel, Activities Manager. I met a number of the eighty residents and had some very interesting conversations, on all sorts of topics! The Claremont Care Home is part of a larger group, employs over a hundred, mainly local staff, and contributes significantly to the local economy.

On 19th August I joined with over 300 other fundraisers to participate in the **Ayrshire Hospice Star Memory Walk** from the Citadel Ayr. After my recent meeting with Tracy Flynn, CEO of the Hospice I was particularly pleased to be able to do my bit to raise funds for this incredibly worthwhile cause.



September



I was privileged to make a speech and lay a wreath at the dedication of a very special memorial in Girvan commemorating the **service and sacrifice of members of the Merchant Navy in both World Wars, and other conflicts.** It is made from beautiful granite from nearby Alisa Craig. My thanks to **Girvan Great War Project** who provided me with information on local men who made the ultimate sacrifice during service in the Merchant Navy.



Without a doubt one of the biggest events locally this month was the **International Ayr Show**. Over 100,000 people enjoyed the spectacular displays and activities on the Low Green and it is hoped to build on its success in 2024. I was proud to attend both days and to be accompanied by my grandson, Fraser.



New Cumnock **'Fit Fest'** was a hugely enjoyable day organised by the **New Cumnock Development Trust**. The weather stayed kind and the event was well supported by the local community.



The Lost (Mining) Villages of East Ayrshire project was fascinating, capturing oral and pictorial history of 6 mining villages lost through the de-industrialisation of East Ayrshire and preserving this for future generations.

September was a big month for me personally when I was reselected as the **SNP candidate for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock** at the next General Election, which is likely to take place some time in 2024.



October



I supported residents' concerns in **Straiton, Pinwherry and surrounding areas** regarding the proliferation and negative impacts of excessive windfarm development.

Delighted to be invited by the **Cumnock Tryst** to BIG Saturday! A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir James MacMillan, Founder and Artistic Director of the Cumnock Tryst, accompanied five community groups inspired by their environment, coal mining heritage and local community in the performance of a fabulous afternoon of first class musical entertainment.




HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
EARLY DAY MOTION 1653

TABLED AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 8TH OCTOBER 2023

That this House notes and recognises the outstanding achievement of the Cumnock Tryst, their Founder and Artistic Director, Sir James MacMillan CBE, the Directors and many volunteers of this local Charity who have worked tirelessly with the community to produce a spectacular musical event, A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields, at the Barony Hall, Cumnock and other local music events over three days, celebrating and inspired by their environment, coal mining heritage, people and local community; also notes the involvement, dedication and commitment of the significant number of local individuals, groups and organisations throughout the former coal mining communities of Cumnock and Doon Valley; further notes the contribution of the team of volunteer composers, songwriters and workshop leaders; and thanks the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for their support and accompaniment of the musical performances and thank all who contributed to this unique event.

ALLAN DORANS MP
AYR, CARRICK AND CUMNOCK

I also tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons to recognise the **outstanding achievement of the Cumnock Tryst, and presented this to Sir James in November.**



Joined **Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group**, to visit the Doon Valley Railway at Dunaskin, Patna and hear their exciting development plans for the future. The Charity, run entirely by volunteers, is an amazing organisation committed to preserving the legacy of local railways, trains, carriages and memorabilia from past generations in order that they be enjoyed today.

I attended the reopening of the newly refurbished **Maybole Town Hall**, which has been transformed inside and out and is the culmination of the hard work of many different organisations. I was particularly pleased to see that the original **Tolbooth bell, cast in Maybole in 1696**, is in pride of place in the refurbished council chamber.



November



I attended the official launch of **The Place** in Newmarket Street, Ayr. Under the auspices of Threesixty, an Ayrshire charity supporting mental health and wellbeing dedicated to improving wellbeing in the community. In conjunction with the international **Camerados** organisation they are operating a 'public living room' and various creative wellbeing workshops and activities.

During **Parliament week** I had very enjoyable visits with **1st Coylton Boys' Brigade and Girvan Brownies**. I was able to tell them about my work as an MP: their enthusiasm for many different aspects of an MP's life was super and I managed to answer nearly all their questions.

I am always impressed by my visits to youth groups like the BBs or Brownies and by how much the children get from the experience. None of this would be possible without the volunteers who run these groups and give so generously of their time to benefit the youngsters. Thank you to the **leaders of the Coylton and Girvan groups**, and **thanks also to the many volunteer leaders** across the constituency who run similar groups in their area.



The official opening of **Dalmellington Early Childhood Centre** was a pleasure to attend. The Centre currently has 18 children aged three and four. Together with Councillor Dougie Reid, Leader of East Ayrshire Council, Councillor Elaine Cowan, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education and Children and Young People, and other invited guests, I was most impressed by the new facilities which will get the wee ones' education off to a flying start.

On **Family Business Friday** I was delighted to visit **The Sweetie Shop**, Dalrymple Street, **Girvan** run by John and Ann McCreath. The Sweetie Shop sells a huge range of traditional sweets as well as Scottish gifts, souvenirs, calendars, greeting cards and many other great items. An additional bonus is that the shop supports the **South Ayrshire Loves Local Gift Card** initiative which may be used in the shop.



December



In Parliament, I attended an **All Party Parliamentary Group** meeting with Marie Lyon, leader of the Campaign for Justice for the Primodos families and Maria Caulfield MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women's Health Strategy and Women, to urge the Government to finally accept their failings in allowing this drug to be used and accept liability for the dreadful consequences this has had on the **Primodos** families for the last fifty or so years. Today, there is significant evidence that this drug caused life changing, devastating congenital abnormalities, stillbirths and miscarriages.

The fight for justice for the families continues.

An important part of my role as MP is as Member of the **House of Commons Privileges Committee** (which investigated Boris Johnston) and the Committee on Standards which adjudicates on matters referred to it by the independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards (Daniel Greenberg), where MPs are alleged to have been in breach of the MPs Code of Conduct. December was a busy month in this committee.



Presented an Early Day Motion to congratulate **Girvan** on winning the prestigious **Dog Friendly UK awards and recognition as the Most Dog Friendly Town in the United Kingdom**. The Trustees and other volunteers work with local businesses promoting Girvan as a positive, thriving and welcoming tourist destination. Other Go Girvan projects include the **Ailsa Craig Centre, sustainable bunting, the tattie festival** and potentially developing a **community owned wind farm**. Well done Go Girvan Project and all the other local community groups who are making such a positive contribution to the regeneration and promotion of the town.

The **Management Committee of Ayr Hospital Radio** received an Early Day Motion which recognises, celebrates and congratulates AHR on their 70th anniversary as one of the oldest hospital radio stations in Scotland. The charity, based at the **University Hospital, Ayr** is supported by around twenty five fantastic, committed volunteer presenters, who provide a hospital radio service to local hospitals and the local community via the world wide web.



I was especially privileged to be able to assist the real Santa by volunteering for the 22nd consecutive year to help out with **VASA** on Christmas Day. Together with many other volunteers, we **provided lunch and presents for around 125 isolated or elderly people** in the constituency who might otherwise have had no contact with anyone on Christmas Day.