



# Allan Dorans

MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

March 2024 Newsletter



## Foreword



Many constituents continue to contact me to share their concern at the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 12,600 children.

I spoke recently in Parliament in a debate about Gaza and concluded:

"Any continuation of the military operation in Gaza will merely result in innocent men, women and children paying the price for a crime that they did not commit. The only way in which to prevent further loss of civilian lives, and to secure the release of hostages and the entry of lifesaving humanitarian aid, is to secure an immediate and permanent ceasefire including calling off the Rafah offensive—not tomorrow, not next week, not next month, but today. I fully support the international demands for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza..."

The controversy surrounding the debate and vote has been well documented, but I wish to reassure my constituents I will continue to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

## New Youth Parliament Members



Lovely to meet South Ayrshire's newly elected **Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament** (MSYPs) Evie, Joshua and Matthew with Siobhian Brown MSP and hear of all the ongoing work and passion to ensure our young people's voice is heard when decisions are made. It is great to see the commitment and enthusiasm of these young people.

## Supporting Local Business

Great to be able to visit **Gemmell's Garden Centre**, near Stair and meet with **Director, Colin Gemmell**.



The **independent, family owned**, Garden Centre stocks a fantastic range of traditional Garden Centre essentials, a Coffee Shop, a quality Home and Gifts Section, a popular Soft Play area and also offers **online shopping**.

We discussed a number of areas affecting the business including business rates, energy costs, sales tax, employee costs and other issues. The business, which employs about **forty five full and part time employees**, mainly local people, contributes significantly to the local and national economy.

**Please help our local economy to thrive by supporting our local, independent businesses whenever possible.**



# Support for Victims of Contaminated Blood

In Parliament, together with a **cross party group of MPs** I was proud to meet with some of those affected by the **Contaminated Blood scandal**.



Around **30,000** NHS patients are thought to have been infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products in the **1970s and 1980s**.

The scandal of delayed compensation for these victims is ongoing.

The wait for compensation must end. Eighty two victims died within the last year since the Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry, Sir Brian Langstaff, recommended swift compensation should be delivered.

I am proud to add my voice to calls for the UK Government to do the right and just thing and end these delays.

For further information please visit [www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](http://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk)

## ASDA Foundation - Girvan

I am delighted to see that the good work of **Oshay's** has been recognised and supported by **Asda SM Girvan**, who have awarded **£1600** to Oshay's Brain Domain CIC.

Oshay's is an Ayr based charity which provides a sense of community, along with resources, knowledge and support to families and professionals who **work or stay with individuals with Brain Based Disabilities**.

Further information available from:  
[info@oshaysfasd.org](mailto:info@oshaysfasd.org)



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# South Ayrshire Ukrainian Community Group

It was a pleasure to attend the official opening of the **Ukrainian Community Group (UCG) in South Ayrshire Centre** in Newmarket Street, Ayr with **Siobhian Brown MSP**.

**Mr Andrii Kuslii, Ukraine's Consulate in Edinburgh**, performed the opening ceremony. Then we were treated to a fabulous evening of entertainment, including a classical keyboard performance, a poem from a Ukrainian poet, a presentation on the history, objectives, values and development of the Group, great songs by the Ukrainian community choir and a beautifully written and produced emotional short film depicting a daughter being separated from her mother following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

With **over 350** displaced Ukrainians now resident in South Ayrshire, **we extend a warm and continuing welcome to them as part of our South Ayrshire community.**





# Lost Villages Exhibition

I had the opportunity to visit the **Lost Villages of East Ayrshire** Exhibition at the Baird Institute in Cumnock recently.

The Exhibition recounts the stories of the miners' rows and mining villages in East Ayrshire including Glenbuck, Benquhat, Leathanhill and others which no longer exist.

**These proud communities have played a hugely important role in our heritage and culture.**



I was delighted to meet with **Dr Yvonne McFadden** and **Prof Arthur McIvor**, joint authors of the authoritative book **'Memory, Mining and Heritage, Voices from Ayrshire Communities'**, which is highly recommended.

It was also great to meet up with the Leader of East Ayrshire Council, **Dougie Reid** and Councillors **Jim McMahon**, **William Lennox** and **Drew Filson** for the Doon Valley.



The Exhibition runs at the **Baird Institute** until the **4th May** and is well worth a visit.

My thanks to **East Ayrshire Leisure** for their work in organising this exhibition.

# Supporting Good Causes

Part of my role as your MP is to **support and promote** good causes within or relevant to the constituency.

I am happy to lend my support to local initiatives where possible.

Please **get in touch** if you are aware of any worthwhile initiatives within Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock where I may be of assistance.



**5500** More than 5,500 people in the UK are waiting for a kidney transplant.

Take your first step, learn more about becoming a living donor. Visit: <https://bit.ly/4bKTyWP>

@NHSOrganDonor #WorldKidneyDay #LivingDonation

**CARERS TRUST**

**I support the Young Carers Covenant**

[Carers.org/YoungCarersCovenant](https://carers.org/YoungCarersCovenant)

# The National – Article on Nuclear Safety

**Can Labour prove the safety of the nuclear energy they support?**

The Scottish Government has committed to a nuclear free Scotland by 2030. But what does that mean for the future of the country's energy supply?

Labour's nuclear strategy is a key part of its energy policy. It aims to ensure that the UK has a secure and sustainable energy supply for the next 50 years. This means investing in new nuclear power stations and supporting the existing fleet.

However, there are many questions over the safety of nuclear energy. How can we ensure that the new stations are built to the highest standards? How can we ensure that the existing stations are safe and secure?

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My recent article, published in **The National**, spotlights the Scottish Government's commitment to a **nuclear free Scotland**, in contrast to Labour's continued support for new nuclear power stations.

It also highlights unanswered questions over the **safety of nuclear energy** for surrounding populations and suggests that the onus should be on the nuclear industry to prove that it is completely safe.