



# Allan Dorans

MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

May 2024 Newsletter



## Foreword

On behalf of **former Digital employees**, I spoke in a recent debate in the House of Commons highlighting the failure of Hewlett Packard Enterprise (formerly Digital, Compaq and Hewlett Packard) based in Ayr, to increase the pensions of former employees, with pre 1997 service, in line with the cost of living.

This affects **about 1500 people** in Ayr and surrounding areas. I urged the Minister for Pensions to implement the recommendations of the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee some of which were suggested by the Hewlett Packard Pensioners Association (UK).

I have also spoken in a recent House of Commons debate about **former coal mining communities**. I was able to highlight the **incredible hardships** suffered by coal miners and pay tribute to the thirteen men who lost their lives in the the mining disasters at **Knockshinnoch in 1950** and the four men who died in the **Barony Colliery Disaster in 1962**.

Unfortunately, as a result of a minor chest infection, I had a fit of coughing and had to stop my speech but the Deputy Speaker allowed me to finish it later in the debate.

I urged the Government to provide 'Levelling Up' or other specific funding for former mining communities and to **implement** the twelve recommendations of a recent APPG report to **regenerate** the former coal mining towns and villages in South and East Ayrshire.



## Continuing Support for Victims of Contaminated Blood

My support for the **victims of the contaminated blood scandal** is long-standing and well documented.

I recently added my name to @thetimes campaign calling on the Government to pay compensation to all those infected & affected by the contaminated blood scandal, without delay.

**With 2 victims dying each week, there can be no justification for further delay.**

'Justice delayed is justice denied.'

**The Scottish Infected Blood  
Support Scheme  
can be contacted here:**

**Tel: 0131 295 6754**

**Email: [NSS.SIBSS@nhs.net](mailto:NSS.SIBSS@nhs.net)**



## International Workers' Memorial Day



The campaign for improvement in workplace safety is ongoing and I was **privileged to lay a floral tribute at the new commemorative bench** provided by South Ayrshire Council in Rozelle Park, Ayr to mark **Workers' Memorial Day**, an internationally observed, annual day of remembrance for workers killed, disabled, injured, or suffered physical or mental illness as a result of their work.

The bench is sited just in front of a cherry tree planted last year. I was joined by my long time friend, Peter Sturgeon, Union Representative for Unite the Union, at South Ayrshire Council for many, many years.

It was a quietly moving moment in a very busy month.

# Alloway Railway Tunnel Mural

I was delighted to attend the ceremony to celebrate the **Completion of Stage 1 of the fabulous Alloway Railway Tunnel (ART) Mural.**

The tunnel is accessed via Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, and is part of the former Ayr to Butlins railway line.

The Project is led by Muralist, **Chris Rutterford** and the Trustees of the Charity, Alloway Railway Tunnel Art, and has involved many community groups including Ayr College, Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools and hundreds of volunteers.



**My thanks to all involved in this wonderful piece of community art.**

For further information, please visit [www.allowaytunnel.org.uk](http://www.allowaytunnel.org.uk) Alloway Tunnel Project Chris Rutterford - Artist [Ayrshire Daily News](#) [Ayrshire Post](#)



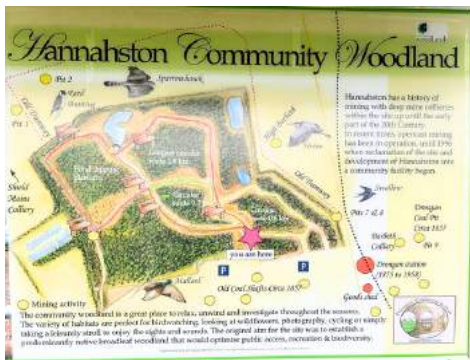
If you are able to consider making a donation to support the continuation of this fabulous initiative, information can be found here:

[www.justgiving.com/allowayrailwaytunnelart](http://www.justgiving.com/allowayrailwaytunnelart)

# Visit to Hannahston Community Woodland

I spent a lovely morning at the **Hannahston Community Woodland**, (Drongan) nature day, organised by Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

The Woodland was acquired by the community from Hargreaves' Mining and has been **transformed** into a beautiful, serene area extremely popular with local walkers, dog walkers, wildlife watchers and the local school.



A former mining site, the extensive planting over the years is now maturing nicely, with mixed, varied woodland and a range of habitats and species.

It was lovely to see so many families with young children enjoying the nature treasure hunt, the Hannahston Alpacas, insect count, Owl Magic, bug hunting and tree planting.

Information from a number of organisations was provided by Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Scotland Scottish Wildlife Trust.

**My special thanks to the volunteers of the Drongan, Rankinston & Stair Regeneration Group for all that they do to maintain and develop the Woodlands on behalf of the community.**

I was especially privileged to be invited to plant an Aspen tree as part of the ongoing development of the Woodlands.



# North Kyle Forest Initiative



I was pleased to be able to meet with representatives of **Forestry and Land Scotland** and the **Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership** at Straiton, to learn about the exciting and innovative proposals for the **development of the North Kyle Forest.**

Although still at a relatively early stage, the plans will involve extensive consultation with the local community to potentially create a family based watersports facility, forest diversification, hatted accommodation, wetland reclamation and habitat establishment, competitive off road sports and a number of other environmentally friendly and sustainable initiatives.

**The proposals have my full support and I look forward to future developments.**

# UK Arms Sales to Israel

**Britain continues to supply arms to Israel.**

I was able to use my question at Attorney General's Questions, to ask **what steps the Attorney General is taking to ensure the UK Government is not complicit in the destruction of a nation and its people.**

In reply I was assured that the Attorney General would keep this matter under close review and 'ensure all legal advice was properly obtained and acted upon'.



# WPC Yvonne Fletcher Memorial – 40 years

Together with my former Police colleague and friend, John Murray, and over **two hundred serving and former Police Officers, from all over the country**, I was privileged and humbled to participate in the memorial service for **WPC Yvonne Fletcher**, who was shot in the back and murdered by shots fired from inside the Libyan People's Bureau, whilst policing a political demonstration, forty years ago.

Although named suspects have been identified, **no one has ever been charged in connection with Yvonne's murder**. John was standing beside Yvonne when she was shot and promised her he would find out who was responsible for her injuries. He has carried out a relentless campaign to bring them to justice for forty years. **I have raised this matter with the Government on a number of occasions without success and will continue to do so.**

Seven white doves were released by retired women Police Officers in memory of Yvonne and I was able to visit the Cherry tree planted in her memory in the nearby gardens before taking part in a press round with Sky News, the Press Association and LBC to raise awareness of the ongoing campaign for Justice for Yvonne. **The Campaign continues.**



