



Allan Dorans

MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

December 2023 Newsletter



Foreword

As Christmas is almost upon us I would like to take this opportunity to send everyone in Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock my warmest wishes for the festive period.

For many of my constituents such as carers, those who work in the NHS, emergency services and the Armed Forces, Christmas isn't a holiday at all but simply another working day. On behalf of my constituents, a sincere thank you for all that you do to look after us and keep us safe.

I never fail to be impressed by the massive work done by voluntary groups and individual volunteers who freely give of their time and themselves to improve our communities. I am proud of the warmth and compassion demonstrated across the constituency in the wide range of befriending initiatives and mental health support groups which do such important work. To the volunteers who run Church Groups, who devote time to organising activities and sports for our young people, and the numerous other voluntary activities which are undertaken by so many, throughout our local communities, my sincere thanks.

Foodbanks have, sadly, become a feature of our society and I wish to record my thanks to the volunteers who staff them and those who donate to them when they are able. Your support is invaluable and very much appreciated.

On behalf of my team and myself, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year in 2024.



Support of Dog's Trust



I recently supported the Dogs Trust's call on the Government to bring forward a single-issue Puppy Smuggling Bill as soon as possible, to make good on their manifesto commitment and their promise to the country.

To stop the abuse of dogs being illegally imported into the UK, this legislation must bring in tougher penalties for those caught illegally importing dogs to act as an effective deterrent.

It must also increase the age puppies can be imported to 6 months, ban the non-commercial transport of heavily pregnant dogs and commercial movement of pregnant dogs into GB and ban the importation and sale of dogs with cropped ears and docked tails.

Parliament Week – Coylton BBs & Girvan Brownies



I was pleased to be able to visit two local groups of young people in support of their participation in Parliament Week activities. I was able to tell them about my work as an MP in Westminster and the constituency: the youngsters' enthusiasm for many different aspects of an MP's life was super and I managed to answer nearly all their questions. The BBs had their own debate on the merits or otherwise of homework. Speakers were Euan (against) and Fraser (for). The vote was split in a draw for each speaker. Well done, boys!



I am always impressed by my visits to youth groups like these 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 each group for the invite, and thanks also to the many volunteer leaders across the constituency who run similar groups in their area.

Fuel Poverty Advice Event



My thanks to [Girvan Community Fire Station](#) who hosted an energy advice event with my colleague, [Elena Whitham MSP](#), [Home Energy Scotland](#) and me.

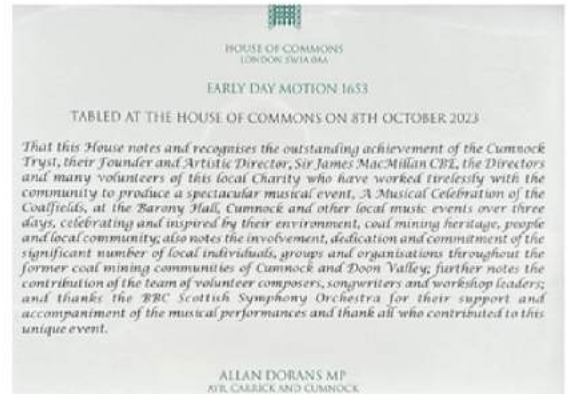
Cumnock Tryst Early Day Motion

I was delighted to meet with Sir James MacMillan CBE, Founder and Artistic Director of the Cumnock Tryst, and present him with a copy of the Early Day Motion which I Tabled recently at the House of Commons.

The EDM notes and celebrates the success and achievement of the Cumnock Tryst and all involved in the fabulous long weekend of musical celebrations inspired by the local environment , coal mining heritage, community and people.

The Cumnock Tryst Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Scotland

Cumnock Chronicle Ayrshire Post East Ayrshire
Council



Support for Road Safety Week



Support #RoadSafetyWeek 19-25 November - let's talk about speed!

I was pleased to support #RoadSafetyWeek with @brakecharity in November. The importance of getting to your destination safely is paramount, especially at this time of year with challenging road conditions.

To learn more about why speed matters and what we can do keep everyone safe please visit <https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week>

Dalmellington Early Childhood Centre Opening

I spent a lovely afternoon at the official opening of the Dalmellington Early Childhood Centre which was officially opened on 21 November by Councillor Elaine Cowan, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education and Children and Young People.

The Centre currently has 18 children aged three and four. Photos show me with Councillor Dougie Reid, Leader of East Ayrshire Council, Councillor Elaine Cowan, Provost Jim Todd and Depute Provost Claire Leitch, Drew Filson for the Doon Valley, invited guests, staff and most important of all, some of the children. It is fantastic to see the continued investment by East Ayrshire Council in learning opportunities, education and the future of our young people.



National Older Workers Week at the DWP



My Constituency Office has always had a positive relationship with the local Department of Work and Pensions. I was therefore pleased to be invited by the DWP to visit the Ayr Office during National Older Workers Week. Two Members of the team gave an informal presentation providing information, support and advice to a group of about 20 job seekers aged fifty +. The talk was delivered gently, was very informative, supportive and well received by those present.

The group also heard from a representative providing information on the Veteran's Covenant which provides additional support to Veterans seeking employment. Photo shows me with Shelia Lynn, DWP Service Leader South West Scotland, the Veterans Covenant representative and a few of the local DWP team. An afternoon well spent! @dwp

Dailly CC Advice Event

My thanks to Neil Bannister and Helena Menhinick of the Dailly CC (Dailly Community Council) for their invitation to attend an information and advice afternoon at the Community Centre.

The event was attended by an impressive range of advice giving organisations

Many of you may know I was born and raised in Dailly and it's always a pleasure to return and meet old and new friends from the village.

My thanks to all of the (volunteer) Dailly Community Councillors and the other organisations who attended for all that they do for the benefit of the local community.



Primodos Update

You may be aware that in the 1960s and 70s, thousands of women were given the oral hormone pregnancy test Primodos. Today, there is significantly more evidence to suggest this drug caused life changing and devastating congenital abnormalities, stillbirths and miscarriages.

I recently attended an All Party Political Group meeting with Marie Lyon, the 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. The fight for justice for the families continues. Association for Children Damaged by Hormone Pregnancy Tests



Family Business Week

On Family Business Friday it was a pleasure to be able to visit **The Sweetie Shop**, Dalrymple Street, Girvan owned and run by local couple, John and Ann McCreath. The Sweetie Shop sells a huge range of traditional sweets from jars, packaged sweets Belgian and other chocolates, as well as Scottish gifts, souvenirs, calendars, greeting cards and many other great items.

Photos show John McCreath and I and just a few of the great quality sweets and goods they sell at The Sweetie Shop. An additional bonus is that the shop supports the South Ayrshire Loves Local Gift Card initiative which may be used in the shop.

[Girvan Town Team](#) [Go Girvan](#) [Scotland Loves Local Gift Card](#) @FamilyBizWeek



VASA Christmas Party

As a lifelong volunteer, I was delighted to be invited to spend a fantastic evening in the company of the VASA Voluntary Action South Ayrshire staff and the wonderful volunteers, who do so much in our community, Xmas party. The photo of the programme shows the activities but unfortunately, due to my still recovering from a broken femur, I was not able to take part in the line dancing (phew!) which was expertly led by Angela McWhinney of VASA.

VASA VOLUNTEER & STAFF THANK YOU XMAS PARTY	
Programme	
7.00	Arrival
7.15	Welcome - Linda Muir (VASA Chair)
7.25	Dynamic Duo
8.10	Quiz
8.25	Music Bingo
8.45	Line Dancing
9.00	Buffet
9.20	Quiz Answers
9.30	Dynamic Duo
10.15	Raffle

Thank you to all staff and volunteers for what you do for VASA within your working day or volunteering role.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.



Entertainment for the evening was provided by the fabulous Carey and Michael of Dynamix Productions who are a very talented local vocal duo specialising in weddings and many other celebratory events. I was also pleased to meet Gillian Kay of VASA who is undertaking a challenging cycle from Vietnam to Cambodia to raise funds for Parkinson's UK early in the New Year. If you are able, please consider donating to Gillian's Just Giving Page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Gillian-Kay2...>



The evening was brought to a close with Carey and Michael leading the singing of 'Fairytale of New York' as a fitting tribute to Shane MacGowan of The Pogues who, sadly, passed away that day.

Support for SafeKabs



As part of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign, I met with representatives of the Police Federation of England and Wales in Parliament to discuss, among other issues, steps which are being taken to prevent gender based violence.



Later that day I met with a Scottish based company who have developed an App known as SafeKab which allows customers to interact with Taxi companies through the App to improve their safety. This is being rolled out to Taxi Companies across the country. The App also allows users to communicate with friends and family to further ensure their safety. For further information please visit www.safekab.org

Tesco / South Ayrshire Foodbank Initiative



I was pleased to be able to take part in the joint Tesco and South Ayrshire Foodbank initiative to collect donations for the Foodbank at the Ayr Tesco store. Customers may make purchases in store and donate to the Foodbank as they leave.

Delighted to have the opportunity to meet with just some of the wonderful South Ayrshire Foodbank volunteers.

[South Ayrshire Foodbank](http://www.southayrshirefoodbank.org)

For further information please visit www.southayrshirefoodbank.org

www.trusselltrust.org

www.tesco.com



Got a little spare you can share?

If you can, please donate:

- UHT milk
- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned meals (curries, chilli & casseroles)
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge/rice puddings
- Coffee
- Long-life juice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned veg
- Soup

Food banks in the Trussell Trust network are facing their toughest winter yet, and it is forecast that they will distribute one million emergency food parcels between December and January.

This weekend you can support your local community by picking up an item or two from this list of requested products and putting them in the collection point at the end of your shop. In addition, for the second year in a row Tesco Mobile has pledged a Byte for a Bit, matching every meal donated to the Winter Food Collection with a free GB of data, meaning your donation will go even further, helping to digitally connect people facing hardship too.

Thank you for your support. Your kindness and compassion are needed now more than ever.

Over 10 years in partnership with

Rededication of Trades Loft Window

I was very pleased to attend a lovely Service at the Auld Kirk of Ayr, conducted by the Revd David Gemmell, rededicating the beautifully restored stained-glass window in the Trades Loft, which had been originally donated to the Church by the Ayr Guildry in 1861.



I was present in my dual roles as the Vice Dean of the Ayr Guildry and as the Member of Parliament for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock and privileged to be invited to light the first Advent Candle during the Church Service.

