



Rachel Reeves MP Monthly Report



News from Rachel Reeves, Labour MP for Leeds West

December 2013

SUPPORTING THE LEEDS WEST FOODBANK



CLlr Caroline Gruen, Kevin Ritchie and Rachel Reeves MP at Tesco in Bramley

On Friday 29th November Rachel visited Tesco at Bramley Shopping Centre to collect emergency food for people in

her Leeds West constituency, to ensure the most vulnerable are not left going hungry over the Christmas period.

She teamed up with Tesco, the Trussell Trust and FareShare to encourage shoppers to donate a little extra to help the food bank support people and families in need. She was joined by Bramley and Stanningley local council candidate Kevin Ritchie and Bramley and Stanningley Labour Councillor Caroline Gruen.

Rachel said "It was so heartening to see people coming

to donate for such a worthwhile cause.

"There is a massive need for this right now. Rising bills are putting huge pressure on family finances. Changes to tax credits and benefits have affected people so much that they struggle to make choices about rent, food and heating.

"I am contacted every week by people who are affected by the 'bedroom tax' and changes to benefits. It is so sad that people are coming to rely on food banks and can't afford basics."

LOCAL KIDS DESIGN RACHEL'S CHRISTMAS CARD



The winning entry by Year One at Summerfield Primary School

All the entries were fantastic but an entry by Year One at Summerfield Primary School was declared the overall winner, with their design now printed on the hundreds of Christmas Cards Rachel is sending out this year to friends, family, local groups and other MPs. The runner up was talented ten-year old Hanna Edley, of Beecroft Primary School.

Rachel is visiting schools throughout this month to hand out prizes and certificates to all those who took part.

The Christmas Card competition was kindly sponsored by Commercial Estates Group and the cards were printed by local Bramley firm Resource.



Rachel hands out certificates to those who took part at Christ Church Upper Armley School.



In Brief:



Rachel appeared on BBC Question Time in London this month, alongside Danny Alexander, David Davis, Dr Mary Beard and radio presenter Nick Ferrari. You can watch the episode online on BBC iPlayer at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03l1qb4>



Rachel, Councillors and Leeds West Party members have been out campaigning in force this month, making hundreds of new contacts on the doorstep. There will be many more sessions organised in the New Year in the run up to the 2014 Leeds City Council elections. If you'd like to receive campaigning updates email: rreesmp@gmail.com

DOZENS DROP-IN TO DISCUSS BUSES

On Friday 22nd November Rachel, First Bus, Metro and [Jamie Hanley](#), Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Pudsey, joined together to host a drop-in surgery at [Cafe Fraiche](#) in Rodley.

Many local people came down to share their concerns and suggestions regarding local bus services. First and Metro have taken the feedback given on-board and are looking into ways to implement changes to improve services, particularly the service level of the number 86 in Rodley and the turnaround point of the 49 in Bramley.

Rachel said, "The bus drop-in was a great success and I was delighted with how many people came along to



Rachel is pictured with Mrs Norma Moss of Rodley, David Keady of Metro & Colin Booth of First at Cafe Fraiche.

make their views heard. It is important that First and Metro hear feedback from people who use their services and I hope improvements can be made soon. A big thank you to Cafe Fraiche for hosting the event and making us all welcome."

KIRKSTALL BREW IN SAINSBURYS

Rachel was delighted to celebrate with friends from [Kirkstall Brewery](#) on their success in the 'Great British Beer Hunt 2013'. She stopped at Sainsbury's at the White Rose Shopping Centre to cheer for the historic brewery for making it to the

supermarket shelves.

The hunt aims to bring new and interesting beer from all around the UK to the Sainsbury's customers and Kirkstall's finest is now available to buy in store.

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Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year