

CONNECT



Melanie Onn MP – Working Hard for Great Grimsby
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A message from Melanie...

Welcome to my Parliamentary Newsletter. In this issue, you can find out more about the work I've been doing both in the constituency and in Parliament over the last few months.

I'm very pleased to have been able to visit a number of our local schools recently and I'd like to say a big thank you to all the teachers and pupils who have shared their time and thoughts with me for this particular edition of 'Connect.'

Thanks also go to those who have kindly given permission for me to talk about their stories and how they've been supported by my office.

If you are a Great Grimsby constituent and need advice or assistance, please do get in touch.

With best wishes,

Melanie

Melanie Onn
MP for Great Grimsby



The Pobble Literacy event at Lisle Marsden Academy.
Inset: Receiving books for Grimsby Central Library from The Big Friendly Read

Education matters

Every child in Grimsby deserves top quality education support from start to college.

That's why I was delighted to support the *Pobble Literacy* event at Lisle Marsden Academy school with other local school pupils joining in the fun and brought books from the *Big Friendly Read* launch in Parliament to Grimsby Central Library to encourage more kids to read for pleasure.

I've also been meeting with community groups providing all round family

support at an early stage to tackle the Government's failing of 1 in 3 Grimsby kids who find themselves behind their peers in terms of language skills, emotional and social skills, counting and reading.



Meeting community groups supporting new parents

FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Schools must get the funding they need to meet the needs of their pupils. I have argued with the Education Secretary that her proposals will see Grimsby schools losing nearly £2.1m, which works out at around £100 per pupil. Our schools cannot afford to lose out and I will continue to argue the case on behalf of all our children to keep what they deserve.

Visits to Oasis Wintringham, Havelock Academy and Healing Academy have shown me the great work that is taking place in classrooms across the area. The children who took the time to give me a tour as well as grill me with questions were bright, articulate and a credit to themselves and their schools.

To continue to provide necessary support and let our kids make the most of every opportunity (as well as improve exam and Ofsted results) school funding should be based on school and pupil need and not location.



Top: Macaulay Academy pupils visit me in Parliament. Bottom: With students from Oasis Wintringham Academy

IN AND AROUND GREAT GRIMSBY

Great Grimsby and North East Lincolnshire have been in the spotlight recently with a number of significant events and visits to our area.

Two particularly important events in our town's history were commemorated recently; the Centenary of the Battle of Jutland was marked with a service at the Minesweepers Memorial on the Royal Dock followed by a commemorative service at the Grimsby Minster.

Equally poignant was the Drumhead Service held in People's Park in June, exactly 100 years and 12 hours after the start of the Battle of the Somme. Of the 840 Grimsby Chums who participated in the battle, only 300 soldiers came back.

Mention must also go to the immensely successful Armed Forces Day event held in Cleethorpes.

I have been very privileged to be part of these events and to be able to show my respect for the men and women in our armed forces, both past and present, who make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



Hosting the Community Shop roundtable discussion

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

When I was elected last year I said that I would be an MP for the whole of Grimsby. For me, that meant supporting the providers of opportunities, as well making sure that support to access those opportunities is also in place.

We have some great successes across the town, but we all know that we also have some challenges; long-term unemployment, a high percentage of NEETs and below average household incomes.

That's why I'm delighted to have been involved in a significant development for our town, which will benefit families struggling with low budgets.

A new community supermarket ('Community Shop') will be opening soon at Centre4 in Nunsthorpe which will be backed by major local companies including Youngs, Morrisons, and Sealord Caistor.

Community Shop members will have direct access to reduced priced food which will help improve household budget management and hopefully reduce reliance on foodbanks. This social enterprise will also use the revenues it generates to support mentoring and personal development plans for every member.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

There are so many people doing great work across our town supporting charities, neighbours and the whole community. I try to meet as many voluntary organisations as possible to say thank you for all their work for people in Great Grimsby.



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- 1) Joining Rev John Ellis 50 years of Ministry celebrations at St Stephen and St John Church, East Marsh
- 2) With Care4All worker Jo hearing about the 'Safe Place' initiative at Centre4, Nunsthorpe
- 3) Meeting Alzheimers UK in Grimsby Town Centre
- 4) With Marie Curie fundraisers at their garden party
- 5) Celebrating my first year as Great Grimsby's MP

Grimsby People

Nearly 200 people in Grimsby have received direct help from my office from problems with the CSA and benefit payment errors to inadequate housing and antisocial behaviour.

I hold weekly surgeries across the constituency in the heart of local communities where you can discuss your problems with me and my team.

We will do all we can to help. If you can not attend a surgery, please phone the office for advice or help.

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A NEW HOME FOR ETHEL

Ethel has vascular dementia and was living in a second floor flat. She hadn't left her property for a year due to frailty and accessibility to her property.



I visited her in her new ground floor home which is safe and secure. She is delighted with the change and told me, "I am so happy. I like it very much. There is even space for my grandchildren to stay when they visit. The whole building is very nice and has beautiful views from the windows. Thank you so much from me and all my family."

Ethel Martin

The Faith Cause



Supporting local lass Kim Poulton at her fundraising event.

Kim is helping raise awareness through her charity The Faith Cause about Group B Strep infections that can be passed from Mum to Baby at birth.

The infection can be life changing for babies and could be stopped with a simple test to mum in late pregnancy. Unfortunately the NHS won't fund this.

If you would like to find out more or help Kim go to www.thefaithcause.com

I would like to say a big thank you for all the help you gave to me and the residents of Gertrude Street. There have been serious anti-social behaviour problems for years. It's nice now that the kids can play safely again.

Once again, a big thank you.

**Barry M,
Park ward**

We are both registered blind disabled people who came to live in the Freshney Green area in April. We found that we couldn't get into a GP practice nearby and would have to get two buses just to get a surgery in Scartho.

We contacted the MPs office who were very friendly. Melanie contacted the GP surgeries on our behalf. We were delighted to her that we had been added to a surgery within walking distance of our house which was fantastic for us. It has made a big difference to our lives.

Thanks for all your efforts.

**Mr and Mrs O,
Freshney**

Contacting Melanie's office for help with my Personal Independence Payment appeal with the DWP has been a great help. I appreciate all the help they gave me and am grateful for getting a successful outcome.

**Marian C,
East Marsh**

I contacted the MP's office for help with a patient's Universal Credit claim. Despite telephoning the DWP on many occasions and speaking to various managers nothing was being done and months had passed since our initial contact. The office were able to conclude the issue very quickly and our patient received their correct payment. This greatly enhanced their quality of life and enabled them to concentrate on their treatment rather than worry about financial issues.

Kevin Moore
(Macmillan worker, Grimsby)



Keeping Grimsby on the map

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT

JOBS FOR GRIMSBY

The Cabinet Minister with responsibility for Energy and the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse need to get a grip on the Able Marine Energy Park development to bring the jobs wanted and needed in Grimsby.

I spoke at the Grimsby Renewables Partnership event to say how important it is that this project succeeds but also to remind the big companies operating out of Grimsby of the need to support training and new jobs locally.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRIMSBY

Grimsby already has pharmaceutical, oil and gas, food production and ports/logistics industries operating successfully. But to see the relatively young renewables sector grow and help Grimsby become a centre of excellence for knowledge and training we need a National College. I have told the Education Secretary and Business Secretary to work together to make good the Government's previous commitments to make this happen.

OUR HERITAGE BACK TO LIFE

I have challenged the Government to meet the promises made on the fishing industry by the Leave Campaign during May's referendum. People in Grimsby will want to know, as much as I do, what the new DEFRA Minister and the Exiting the EU Minister will do to make sure fishing is at the top of their agenda during the negotiations to leave Europe.

WOMEN INTO WORK

The Ports and Maritime All Party Group also met recently and I asked the chairman of the Shipping Chamber what more could be done to attract people into this industry. A point was made about the lack of women getting into maritime or port roles, so I had to mention the great women I've met across our region working in renewables, ports and shipping. As a result, in the Autumn, I will be chairing a session of this group celebrating women working in these job roles and considering how it can be promoted more widely to get more young women excited and involved in this area of work.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

First it was Mike Ashley with his near sweatshop conditions at Sports Direct followed, closely by Sir Philip Green who plundered the good name of a high street institution. Both of these men hit the headlines for their immoral business practices. In truth they are just the latest names in a long line of so called captains of industry, who hold money and power with no consideration for anyone or anything.

They play by their rules with no responsibilities to the rest of society.

I'm delighted, therefore, to have secured a slot for a 10 Minute Rule Bill in September when I will be advising the Government to support new laws to protect the fragile rights of working people. Whether you work in a shop, care home or accountants' office you are entitled to certain protections. To guarantee workers get them, enshrining collective workers' rights in UK law after Brexit is essential.



BRINGING WESTMINSTER TO GRIMSBY

I like to show off all the great things about Grimsby to Senior Politicians from Parliament. Former Shadow Transport Minister, Lilian Greenwood and former Energy Minister Lisa Nandy joined me at ABP and on Eon's transfer vessel respectively. It gave me an opportunity to talk about the importance of good transport links to and from Grimsby whether by road or rail to support local business and help create jobs.

Two MEPs, Richard Corbett and Linda McAvan also visited. Richard joined me for an early morning visit to the Grimsby Fish Market along with meetings with Icelandic Seachill (Saucy Fish products) and Morrisons to see the brand new production lines and facilities on the Europarc.

CAMPAIGNS

Show Me the Money



I am pleased to have backed this campaign that changed the law to make sure big businesses pay their fair share of tax and don't hide it away off-shore.



Crohn's & Colitis UK

A campaign for better awareness of invisible disabilities has been launched and I will be helping to set up an All Party Parliamentary Group to raise the profile of difficulties faced by patients with Crohn's or Ulcerative Colitis.

WASPI

I received a local petition with over 400 signatures supporting women born in the 1950s who now must work longer as a result of rushed Government pension changes.



Grimsby's petition will be added to the thousands from around the country to keep pressure on the Government to compensate these women.