

## Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Newsletter - July 2013

### Fun Day in the Park at St. Peter's Church Walworth

It was great to see so many people enjoying the sunshine and stalls at St. Peter's Church annual 'Party in the Park' in Faraday Garden's, Walworth on Saturday 13th July including local stalwarts Henry and Margaret Quenelle & Mel Taylor, & Father Andrew Moughtin-Mumby.



### Summer opening of 'Bold Tendencies' in Peckham

Spent a fantastic evening on the 26<sup>th</sup> June attending the opening of 'Bold Tendencies' - the annual summer sculpture project on the top four floors of Peckham's multi story car park. Back for its seventh year, 'Bold Tendencies' is showcasing new work by international artists. It's free to visit and is open until 30th Sept.



### Visiting St Johns' & St Clements Primary School in Peckham

I was delighted to be asked to visit St Johns' & St Clements Primary School in Peckham to open an exhibition on their new creative curriculum. I was shown around by the Deputy Head, Anna Harding and Head Teacher, Sarah Alexander. The school choir sang a wonderful version of 'Let it Be'. I especially enjoyed talking with children in the school council about working hard and having fun! I also talked to their parents and teachers about what they like most about the new curriculum including the new creative homework projects.



### Congrats to our new candidate for Bermondsey & Old Southwark!

On 11<sup>th</sup> July I welcomed Cllr Neil Coyle, Labour's newly selected candidate for the Parliamentary seat of Bermondsey & Old Southwark in the 2015 general election, to the House of Commons to congratulate him on his selection. Neil is a passionate campaigner and has a strong track record as a councillor in standing up for the people of Southwark.

### Campaigning on remittances with Mayor of Southwark

On 17<sup>th</sup> July Parliament debated the decision by Barclays Bank to close the money transfer businesses that enable families to send money from the UK to relatives back home and I met with the new Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Abdul Mohamed, to discuss the impact this will have on communities in my constituency. We planned our campaign activities to oppose Barclay's decision, which will have severe consequences for the flow of remittances to some of the poorest areas in the developing world.



**Campaigning in Peckham with new C&P candidates** — Spent a sunny morning on Sat 13th July door knocking with our newly selected council candidates Johnson Situ and Jamille Mohamed along with Cllrs Barrie Hargrove and Cleo Soanes, and local member Melvitine Madu. Next session: Sat 20th July in South Camberwell with Val Shawcross!

**Other activities & visits include:** DCMS Questions, DPM Questions, NPF in Birmingham, Turner Contemporary in Margate, East Midlands Regional Conference, first leg of 'One Nation Arts Tour' in Bristol, Gender and Equality Roundtable with Ed Miliband, Fabians Gala Dinner speech and Older Women in Public Life roundtable.

Yours

Harriet

## Too few parents and children in C&P are getting their first choice of secondary school

Once again this year I have published my report "Are parents in Camberwell & Peckham getting the choice of secondary school they want for their child?" which examines first preference applications. It shows that more than one third of parents in the area are not getting their children into their first choice secondary school.

This year only 58.7% of parents in Southwark got their first preference secondary school compared to 96% in York. This is one of the biggest concerns that my constituents raise with me as their MP.

Three out of the eight secondary schools that serve children in my constituency—The Charter School, Kingsdale and Sacred Heart— were oversubscribed for first preferences i.e. had more first preference applications than places available but five out of the eight schools—Harris Girls East Dulwich, Harris Peckham, ARK All Saints Academy, Walworth Academy and St Thomas the Apostle—were undersubscribed for first preferences i.e. had more places available than parents who made the school their first choice.

The important thing is for the schools, the council and the Government to understand the reasons why parents are choosing not to send their children to these schools - and take action to address those concerns. I am demanding a meeting with the Minister for Education to insist that action be taken. Until all secondary schools in Southwark have the confidence of all parents the school report card will still read "must do better".

### Camberwell & Peckham casework stories

A pensioner from Camberwell contacted me about a tax issue. She was told by the tax authorities (HMRC) that because she had 'underpaid' income tax for 4 years, she owed them almost £3,000. I contacted HMRC and they admitted that they had handled the situation incorrectly and had failed to act on information they had received regarding her employment status. In this instance they agreed to waive the debt and instructed her pension provider to refund any deductions which had already been taken since the beginning of the tax year.

**CONTACT BY POST:**  
**HARRIET** House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA

**ONLINE:**  
harrietharman.org  
@HarrietHarman

**BY PHONE:** 0207 219 4218  
**BY EMAIL:** harmanh@parliament.uk

### MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE NOW AT Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland' 54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EN



|     |    |     |     |
|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Fri | 19 | Jul | 9am |
| Fri | 26 | Jul | 9am |
|     |    |     |     |
| Fri | 9  | Aug | 9am |
| Fri | 23 | Aug | 9am |
|     |    |     |     |
| Fri | 6  | Sep | 9am |
| Tue | 17 | Sep | 5pm |
| Fri | 27 | Sep | 9am |
|     |    |     |     |
| Tue | 15 | Oct | 5pm |
| Fri | 25 | Oct | 9am |

Getting to Clubland: *Bus Routes: 468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12*

### Casework Update July 2013

Since my last monthly report:

- I took action on 334 cases
- Including 126 new cases
- 2 Advice Surgeries
- 104 people attended surgery
- Average reply time: 9 days

