



# Stephen Kinnock MP

## Newsletter

### June 2016

## My Friend Jo Cox



On Thursday 16th June, Jo Cox was murdered doing what she has dedicated her life to: serving the people.

Before entering Parliament, Jo fought tirelessly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged around the world. And in her year in Parliament Jo showed tremendous leadership, standing up for the Syrian people, working across party lines, bringing people together, and making the world a better place.

Jo never stopped fighting for what is right, and for those who needed a voice. She exemplified not only the best values of our Party, but also of our country: internationalism, compassion and solidarity.

In the year that Jo and I have been in Parliament together we have shared an office and many good times together. For me, our little corner of Portcullis House will, quite simply, never be the same again.

I'll miss Jo's raucous laugh, her infectious good humour, her relentless optimism and her relentless tenacity.

Today, not only have the people of Britain lost one of the best MPs we have, not only have I lost a dear friend, but most tragically, Jo's family have lost a loving mother, wife and daughter.



# EU Referendum

## Those saying we must 'take our country back' need to realise the consequences

I wrote an article in the Guardian following the assassination of my friend Jo Cox, an extract is below - the full article is available here <http://bit.ly/21uDTj2>

There are those who say we must “take our country back”, who castigate those on one side of an argument as an “elite”, in the pay of an establishment, in it for themselves and detached from the real world. Those people have to realise that their aggressive words and dangerous rhetoric have consequences. If you try to light a fuse, you can't be surprised when it catches.

I have never known anyone less in it for themselves than Jo. She cared about our place in the world because she cared about the lives of the real people that she had committed herself to serving. She believed in unity over division, a sentiment she conveyed so beautifully in her maiden speech just a year ago.

And she had been actively campaigning in recent weeks for our place in the world as an open, tolerant and generous nation. Just as she fought for our values as a nation when advocating for refugee children and those caught up in the Syrian conflict, so she fought for our values and place in Europe.

## EU Opposition Day Debate

I delivered a speech in the commons for the opposition day debate on the EU. An extract is below, you can see my full speech on my website at <http://bit.ly/28QbCSY>

The decision facing the electorate on 23 June is a choice between economic security and global influence inside the EU or a leap in the dark outside it, and nowhere will the consequences of that choice be more deeply felt than in my constituency, where the Port Talbot steelworks is the beating heart of our economy and community. I was therefore pleased to see that this week Tata Steel UK sent an all-staff communication stating:

“The European Union influences very important aspects of Tata Steel's business in the UK. The EU is by far our largest export market, with over a third of our UK steel heading there. And that's not including the steel that goes via our customers—the EU is a critical export market for the UK's car makers for example. So access to that market is fundamental to our business and one of the preconditions for this trade is that EU laws and regulations are followed. If the UK were to exit the EU and set these rules ourselves, it is likely we would still need to adhere to EU rules to enter that market. The difference: we would no longer have a say in how those rules are set up or applied.”

We know that the British steel industry is in a precarious state. The last thing it needs now is the turmoil that would be unleashed by a Brexit. That is why I am looking forward to once again joining steelworkers in Aberavon town on Saturday to send the message loud and clear that the steel industry is stronger, safer and better off inside the EU.





## Save Our Steel Protest

Thousands of steel workers marched on Parliament to deliver a clear message to both government and Tata: that they must Save Our Steel. I was proud to stand with them.

The Tata board meeting in Mumbai, on the same day, should have brought greater certainty to the sale process, but we are left pretty much where we were, with no short-list announced. Ending this ongoing uncertainty is essential.

It is crucial that Tata Steel make good on their promise to be a responsible operator and seller, and that whoever is the owner at the end of this process manages the transition in a manner that will command the loyalty, trust and respect of the workforce.

That means a clear indication of the long term commitment to investment in Strip Products, the continued operation of the blast furnaces in Port Talbot and a clear and fair settlement on the pensions. The government must also now make every effort to support the UK steel industry by acting on energy costs, procurement and Chinese dumping.



## Tata Pensions

I questioned the Secretary of State for Business Skills and Innovation on the Tata pensions:

'There has been some speculation in the media that Tata steel may in fact decide to retain the business, could the Secretary of State explain if that were to come, what role Tata Steel would play in this issue of the pension scheme?' <http://bit.ly/25xXvFV>



I also raised the issue with the Secretary of State for Wales:



'As we know, a critical meeting is taking place in Mumbai later today, and the future of the industry is hanging in the balance. What measures have the Secretary of State and his colleagues in the Cabinet taken to ensure that a viable and sustainable pension scheme is developed as a result of the sale of the business? Can he assure the House that it will be sustainable for the 130,000 members of the scheme?' <http://bit.ly/1XOGMeU>





## Steel APPG Evidence Session



The sub committee of the Steel APPG has started hearing evidence. I chaired the meeting which heard from Gareth Stace and Roy Rickhuss. This evidence will be used to help formulate a long term industrial strategy for steel: Steel 2020.

## Steel Pensions Consultation

The Secretary of State has launch a consultation into steel pensions. The deadline is on 23 June and details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1sqvOR6>

I would urge all members to submit a response.

## Wales Report

I was on the Wales report, talking about the pensions. You can watch it at <http://bbc.in/20ULiYJ>



## Vote To Leave Would Be A Hammer Blow For British Steel Industry



I questioned the Prime Minister on the hammer blow a vote to leave would be to the British steel industry and asked him to meet with me:

Does the Prime Minister agree that a vote to leave on 23 June would be a hammer blow for the British steel industry? Will he agree to meet me to discuss a number of the decisions being made in the context of the Tata sale process—imminent decisions that will have a huge impact on thousands of jobs in my constituency and right across the country?

Read the Prime Minister's response at <http://bit.ly/1TVBAkB>

## The Future Of Steel

I was interviewed by Vaughan Roderick on BBC Wales Sunday Supplement. You can hear the interview at <http://bbc.in/1WCWZVE>



# News from the Commons

## Our economy is too unbalanced and too unstable to be resilient and to serve the British people

In the days that followed the Queen's speech I managed to make the following contribution to the debate:

'It is a pleasure to follow my neighbour, my hon. Friend the Member for Neath (Christina Rees). The Prime Minister declared this to be a one nation Queen's Speech for a one nation Government. He said that his Government were a Government for whom "economic security always comes first" He said they were a Government with a "long-term economic plan". But, once again, we have seen nothing to substantiate those grand plans. All we have seen is stasis.



substantiate those grand plans. All we have seen is stasis.

The British economy in its current state is best described by the saying, "All that glitters is not gold." At first glance there is the semblance of a positive picture, but scratch away at the surface and a very different story emerges: a story of low productivity, ballooning personal debt, a yawning trade deficit, creaking infrastructure, a dangerous over-reliance on financial services and a growing chasm between London and the rest. To put it simply, our economy is too unbalanced and too unstable to be resilient and to serve the British people. It is too short-sighted, too inward looking and far too unequal.

In my constituency, we have seen the costs of the Government's failure. For more than a year my Labour colleagues and I have called on the Government—we have raised the issue more than 230 times since the general election—to snap out of their stupor and take action to stand up for British steel. We were met with a mixture of indifference and incompetence. Only when the crisis became a PR problem did the Government wake up and seek a last-minute fix to a problem that we have pointed to for a year. The steel crisis really sums up the Government's approach: it is a problem only when it hits the front pages. If the Government had a real long-term economic plan and a real strategic approach to governing Britain, the crisis could have been averted. Instead, we have a Government with a long-term economic plan that is not a plan at all but a bookkeeper's to-do list. They are focused only on reducing costs without giving any thought to the generation of revenue through sustainable growth. They think that the solution to everything is to reduce the size of Government and retreat from the challenges of the future rather than addressing the faulty foundations of our economy.

That is why the Queen's Speech was yet another missed opportunity, and that is why I shall vote against it this evening. <http://bit.ly/25xXOQZ>





# News from the Commons

## Welsh Affairs

I attended the Welsh Affairs Committee session on nuclear power in Wales.



## Contaminated Blood

I attended the All Party Parliamentary Group on Contaminated Blood. We grilled the Minister, Jane Ellison, on the consultation that the Department of Health has been carrying out.



# News from Aberavon

## Cwmavon Coffee Morning

Together with David Rees AM, Cllr Marion Lewis and Cllr Dave Whitelock I held a coffee morning for constituents to come along and speak to their local representatives. My next one is in Baglan and Sandfields on 16 July.

## Taking The Plunge

I braved the cold waters on Aberavon beach as I took on the Aberavon Green Stars Round The Pier Swim. I finished a respectable 66th place out of 75 competitors, lets just say I'm more of a runner than a swimmer!







# News from Aberavon

## UCAS Roundtable



I chaired a productive meeting with UCAS, Careers Wales, local schools, NPTC Group and Neath Port Talbot CBC, discussing the troubling statistics that show Aberavon has a history of low university application rates.

## St Michael's Church Fete

I was delighted to open St Michael's Church fete in Cwmavon.



## Invest In Harbour Way

Following on from the Invest In Harbour Way roundtable that I chaired in October last year, I attended a follow up meeting. Since the first meeting there have been major developments with the land on harbour way which is now included in the Welsh Governments Enterprise Zone.

## Aberavon EU Debate



I joined a platform with Derek Vaughan, Peter Hain and Rhianon Passmore, to debate why we need to stay in the European Union.

## Brunel Docks

It was great to welcome Laura Norris of the Prince's Regeneration Trust to Briton Ferry and show her the historical Brunel Dock. We then met with Councillors, Council officers and the Trustees group to discuss taking forward the regeneration plans.





# Political Digest

## Preseli Pembrokeshire Labour Party



I addressed the annual general meeting of the Preseli Pembrokeshire Labour Party on *The European Referendum: What*

*is at stake.*

## High Cost Credit In Wales

I launched research by the Young Foundation into the high cost of credit in Wales.



This is a vitally important report, drawing attention to a serious and growing challenge. In recent years there has been a welcome focus on pay-day lenders, but, as this report shows, the proliferation of "home credit" and "rent-to-own" should be just as troubling.

<http://bit.ly/282sQCN>

## Centre For Turkey Studies

I chaired the Centre For Turkey Studies Westminster debate on Turkish Democracy



Today: Yet Another Test Of 'Democracy without Democrats'.

## London4Europe



I spoke at a debate for London4Europe on the reasons why we should remain in Europe.

## Show Racism The Red Card



Great to play in charity match for Show Racism The Red Card. MPs took on ex pros at Millwall FC's Den

## Head To Head With Nigel Lawson

I took part in a head to head debate with former Tory Chancellor, Nigel



Lawson, on Bloomberg over EU membership. You can watch it at <http://bloom.bg/1UnoTP3>





# Political Digest

## Labour must not let the Brexiters turn the EU referendum into a right-wing coup

Together with Cat Smith and Wes Streeting I wrote an article in the New Statesman about why we need to remain in Europe. Membership makes us a better, fairer, greener, more just, prosperous and influential country. It also speaks to our Labour values of solidarity, and to our commitment to common endeavour.

If we look at what is on the ballot paper on 23 June – jobs, opportunity, workplace rights and our status as an open, tolerant and trading nation – the Labour case for Remain could not be clearer.

The outcome of this referendum is too important for us to allow it to be dominated by the internal melodrama of the Conservative Party. We know that the Brexiters are driven by a hard right, libertarian ideology that seeks to make a bonfire of the social, environmental and legal rights that are guaranteed through our membership of the EU. Their not-so-secret plan is to turn this referendum into a populist, nationalist, right-wing coup.

It is the very people who we were elected to represent who would suffer most from the economic chaos and recession that would be caused by Brexit, which is why we cannot allow it to happen. Labour's voice will prove decisive in the next few weeks. Let's make sure the voters hear it. Read the full article at <http://bit.ly/1suNISP>

## Most Important Campaign In A Generation

I did an interview with Conflict Zone about the importance of the EU referendum. Voters are going to the polling stations without any clarity at all on what leave looks like.

<http://bit.ly/24zpORY>







# Political Digest

## Toe-to-toe with Iain Duncan Smith

I took part in a You Gov conference on Brexit in Berlin, and used the opportunity to lambast the Leave campaign for likening the EU to Hitler.

Up against Iain Duncan Smith on a panel that also included three German politicians, I read out a quote from an interview that Boris Johnson



gave to the Daily Telegraph on 15 May,

in which the former Mayor of London and prominent Leave campaigner said that the EU is trying to achieve the same things that Hitler was trying to achieve, 'by different methods'.

Mr Johnson's remarks were greeted with gasps of outrage by many in the mainly German audience. I then turned to Iain Duncan Smith and demanded that he apologise on behalf of the Leave campaign for these 'crass and disgraceful' comments.

Mr Duncan Smith refused to do so, and re-affirmed his support for Boris Johnson's words.



## Brexiters are pushing a post-truth politics

In response to Prospect Magazine's opinion piece, *Has Britain fallen prey to populism?*, I wrote the following:

Populism is fuelled by our need for simplicity and our desire to blame others. The fact that simple answers to complex questions will never work in practice has never bothered the populist.

Be it over the curvature of bananas or the costs of EU membership, throughout this referendum campaign the Brexiters have rubbished reality and dismissed the facts. Their arguments are a toxic combination of isolationism and post-truth politics.

On 23rd June the choice will be clear: economic security and global influence, or the false promises of the populists.

## Sky Murnaghan



Brexit campaign has lost the argument on the economy so has now turned its focus on to immigration. This was the message I got across on the Murnaghan show.

<http://bit.ly/1te1l9A>





# Advice Surgeries & Coffee Mornings

## Friday Advice Surgeries

16 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Glyncorwg, Gwynfi &amp; Cymmer</b>	<b>Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre</b> Bryn Siriol Road, Croeserw, SA13 3PL	17.30-18.30
11 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Skewen</b>	<b>Cresci's Cafe</b> New Road, Skewen, SA10 6HE	17.30-18.30

## Saturday Coffee Mornings

16 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Baglan &amp; Sandfields</b>	<b>NSA Development Centre</b> Dalton Road, Sandfields, SA12 6SF	10.00-12.00
15 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Margam &amp; Taibach</b>	<b>Margam Community Centre</b> Bertha Road, Margam, SA13 2AW	10.00-12.00
19 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Briton Ferry</b>	<b>Briton Ferry Community Centre</b> Shelone Road, Briton Ferry, SA11 2NS	10.00-12.00



Briton Ferry  
Advice Coffee Morning



Glyncorwg, Cymmer & Gwynfi  
Advice Coffee Morning



Skewen  
Advice Coffee Morning



Port Talbot  
Tesco Advice Surgery





# Keep In Touch

As your MP, I'd like to stay in touch and hear your views.

You can visit my website to sign up to my mailing list.



## Contact Stephen

My office is open Monday-Thursday between 10am and 1pm for a drop-in advice surgery with a caseworker.

Outside of these times you can call to make an appointment.

**A:** Unit 7, Water Street Business Centre,  
Water Street, Port Talbot, SA12 6LF

**T:** 01639 897660

**E:** [stephen.kinnock.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:stephen.kinnock.mp@parliament.uk)

**W:** [www.stephenkinnock.co.uk](http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk)

 StephenKinnock

 @SKinnock

 stephen\_kinnock