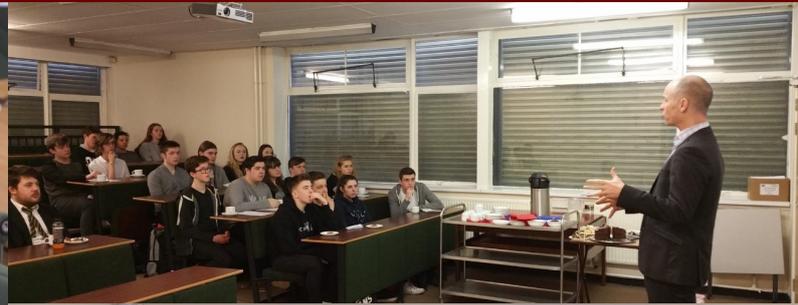




Stephen Kinnock MP

April 2017 Newsletter



A Strong Voice For Aberavon

News from the Commons



EU SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Sir Tim Barrow, the UK ambassador to the EU, and The Rt Hon David Jones MP, Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, appeared before the EU Scrutiny Committee and I was able to question them on how prepared the other 27 EU institutions are for the Brexit negotiations and about the timetable for leaving the EU.

You can read the exchange at <http://bit.ly/2ojl99k>



EMERGENCY PIP DEBATE

I intervened in the emergency PIP debate today to raise the number of cases I am receiving at my office:

In recent months, I have had 44 PIP cases in my constituency, with dozens going to appeal.

Eight have already gone to appeal, and in every single one of those cases, the decision has been overturned. Does my hon. Friend agree that that is a massive and inexcusable waste of time, money and resources? <http://bit.ly/2oR7Os9>



TRIGGERING ARTICLE 50

On the day that the Prime Minister sent her letter to Brussels, triggering Article 50, I questioned her on the contents of the letter and in particular about the security of our country. Is she really saying that the security of our country will be traded like a bargaining chip in these negotiations?

Read the Prime Minister's response at <http://bit.ly/2nYmC8X>

After the exchange I also wrote to the Prime Minister: <http://bit.ly/2pRoNHZ>



BETTER BREXIT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

I chaired the first hearing of the APPG on a better Brexit for young people. There was a fantastic turnout and we had a really engaging session on the priorities for young people in the negotiations.

ARTICLE 50 STATEMENT

With the triggering of Article 50 we have begun the two-year process of negotiating our departure from the European Union. I voted in favour of triggering Article 50, and I think it is right that we get on with the process of Brexit, however that does not mean the Prime Minister has blank cheque.

Wales stands to lose more than any other part of the United Kingdom if Brexit is not handled properly, and so I will tirelessly fight for a Brexit that works for Wales and for Aberavon. <http://bit.ly/2pg4K9E>

"It is right that we trigger Article 50, however that does not mean the Prime Minister has a blank cheque. Wales stands to lose more than any other part of the United Kingdom if Brexit is not handled properly, and so I will tirelessly fight for a Brexit that works for Wales and for Aberavon."



Stephen Kinnock - Member of Parliament for Aberavon

News from Aberavon

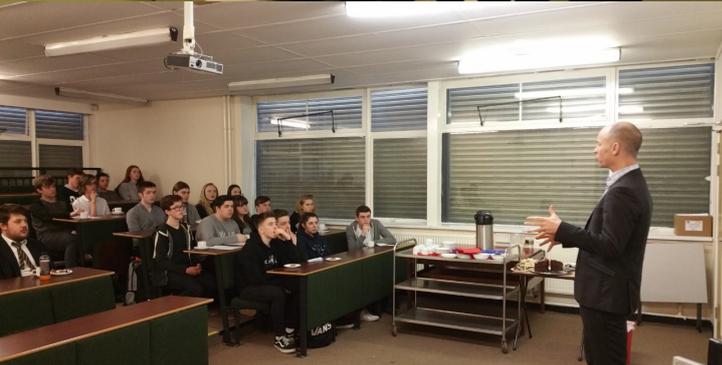


FIREFIGHTERS UNDER OCCUPATION

I spent an enjoyable evening in Gwynfi Miners Hall watching the brave and moving film, made by Ciaran Gibbons, about firefighters in Palestine.

In his moving, insightful and fearless film Ciaran Gibbons not only captures the spirit and passion of the brave men and women of the Palestinian fire brigade, he also paints a crystal clear picture of what life under the illegal occupation is like, for the people of the West Bank.

<http://bit.ly/2oaRPRp>



ST JOSEPH'S POLITICS GROUP

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to St Joseph's where I was grilled by the politics group on my work as the MP for Aberavon.



GWYNFI TINY TOTS

I dropped in on the Gwynfi Tiny Tots in Pen Afan Primary School during their Wednesday morning session.

Gwynfi Tiny Tots was a really lively group with lots of different activities happening. It was great to see the little ones socialising and getting used to going to school. Gwynfi Childcare Club provide a fantastic service for mothers and their children in the Afan valley. <http://bit.ly/2pcDPfg>



LES MISERABLES

Ysgol Bae Baglan put on a fantastic production of Les Miserables. There were some rousing performances from the pupils and showed the depth of talent we have in Port Talbot.



WALK FOR LIFE

On a glorious day I was thrilled to join the Walk for Life for Kidney Wales Foundation on Aberavon beach. There was a great turnout and such a worthy cause.

News from Aberavon



GWYNFI COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE

On a morning spent in the upper Afan valley I visited Gwynfi Community Co-operative. Set up during the miner's strike in 1984, the Co-op has been serving the Gwynfi community ever since.

The story of Gwynfi Community Co-operative is truly inspirational and demonstrates what can be achieved when a community comes together. The commitment and dedication of the staff and the board is second to none. <http://bit.ly/2nYa6q7>



AFAN VALE CHOCOLATES

I paid a visit to budding local entrepreneurs, Rory Dennis and Anita Angove, who run Afan Vale Chocolates in Glynccorrwg.

Rory and Anita are passionate in their work and have exciting expansion plans for the future to grow their business. Their range of delicious handmade chocolates are constantly being extended and a number of the chocolates have names with local connections like Glynccorrwg Crunch and Afan Mountain Mist. <http://bit.ly/2oHKKLM>



PORT TALBOT PRISON

The Ministry of Justice have announced plans to create a new prison in Port Talbot. As part of this process the Ministry of Justice will be submitting a planning application to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for consideration.

I have written to the Ministry of Justice, seeking further clarification on the details of the plan including the exact location of the planned prison and encouraging the Ministry of Justice to come to Port Talbot and engage with the local community. The Ministry of Justice must provide further information so that we can have a clear idea about what they are proposing. The onus is on the government to reach out and engage with us on these plans. You can read my letter to the Ministry of Justice at: <http://bit.ly/2pg0J59>

I raised the proposals in Welsh question asking the Secretary of State why the Baglan Industrial Park had been selected as the site for the prison. <http://bit.ly/2qjzc3n>

The following day I received a totally unsatisfactory response from the Minister which failed to answer any of the questions that I raised. Therefore I have written again to the Ministry of Justice demanding an answer to the questions I have raised and impressed upon the Minister that it is unacceptable to ignore or dismiss local concerns <http://bit.ly/2svQbR5>



COFFEE MORNING

Together with David Rees AM and Cllr Ralph Thomas, I held one of my regular coffee mornings in the upper Afan valley. Residents from Cymmer, Gwynfi and Glynccorrwg were invited to the coffee morning and we had a lively discussion about some of the issues that are affecting the upper Afan valley.

News from Aberavon



ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTER

Since the appalling attack on Ty Nant Cat Sanctuary I have been campaigning for an animal abuse register to record these horrific crimes. I was interviewed by BBC Wales about this and spoke about why an animal abuse register would be good to have to prevent further abuse of animals and as a tool to prevent those people from going on to commit crimes against humans.

<http://bbc.in/2oVsdss>

Political Digest



PESTON ON SUNDAY

I appeared on Peston on Sunday show in March and spoke about what the Labour party needs to focus on what really matters to people and that is work, family, community and country.

<http://bit.ly/2oHEALS>

We also discussed George Osborne becoming editor of the Evening Standard: <http://bit.ly/2oHEALS>



WELSH LABOUR CONFERENCE

I spoke at two fringe events in Welsh Labour conference in Llandudno. At a Cardiff University event we debated how Labour responds to Brexit, and at an event hosted by the Electoral Reform Society Wales we discussed changing the political landscape and the case for electoral reform.



LABOUR BUSINESS

It was great to welcome Keir Starmer to a meeting of Labour Business. Keir spoke to the group about how Labour will stand up for business and growth through the Brexit process.



IGNORING BREXIT DURING THIS ELECTION WOULD BE A MISTAKE

For Progress online I wrote an article about the dangers of Britain crashing out of the European Union, defaulting onto World Trade Organisation rules and why Labour should offer an alternative based on our six Brexit tests. <http://bit.ly/2oMB5oK>

Political Digest

SUSSEX PROGRESSIVES

At an event organised by Sussex Progressives I spoke about how we can achieve electoral reform. The first past the post system has left people feeling marginalised and ignored. If we are to rebuild trust between the people and politics then electoral reform is vital



GENERAL ELECTION CALLED

After Theresa May called a General Election on 8 June I did a number of interviews with [Sky](#), the [Victoria Derbyshire Show](#), [Radio 5 Live](#), BBC Radio Wales [Sunday Supplement](#) and [Politics Home](#)

Theresa May has called this election out of narrow party interests, looking to crush all opposition and trying to turn the UK into an elective dictatorship. Labour must make clear that we are the party of work, family, community and country.

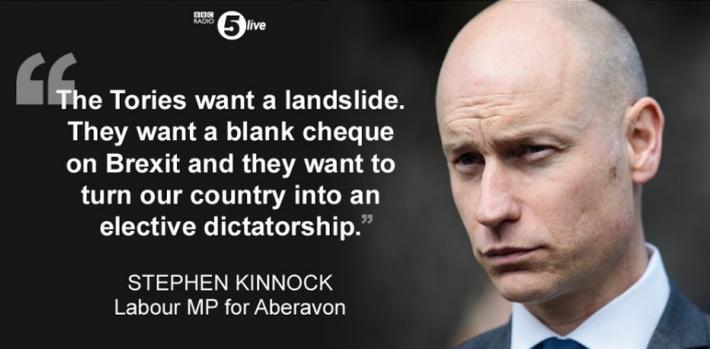
VOTE LEAVE INVESTIGATION

I am please that the Electoral Commission has taken my concerns over the funding of the Vote Leave campaign seriously and launched an investigation. The investigation is vital for the rule of law and to ensure our democracy is not for sale.

<http://bit.ly/2oeOgyK>

WHITNEY

It was great to speak to activists in Whitney about the political landscape in the UK, Europe and America.



“The Tories want a landslide. They want a blank cheque on Brexit and they want to turn our country into an elective dictatorship.”

STEPHEN KINNOCK
Labour MP for Aberavon



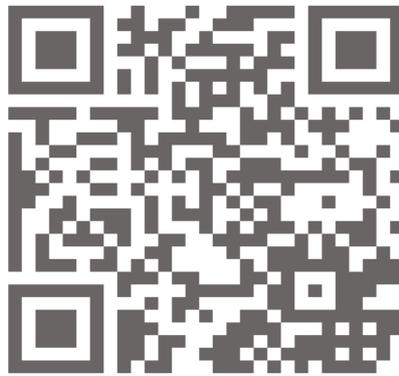
Keep In Touch

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.

www.stephenkinnock.co.uk

I send out a **monthly newsletter** and may also contact
you to **ask for your opinion** on issues that may be
important to you.



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.

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