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SURGERIES:

Couper Institute, 84-86 Clarkston Road,
1st Friday of each month @ 4pm

Castlemilk Library, 100 Castlemilk Drive,
2nd Friday of each month @ 4pm

Tinto Primary School, 57 Hillpark Drive,
3rd Friday of each month @ 4pm
(No Surgeries on School Holidays)

Kennishead Community Hall, 10 Kennishead Avenue,
Last Friday of each month @ 4pm

NO SURGERIES ON BANK OR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

NB Surgeries are for Constituents only

Charlie Gordon's Newsletter is distributed to libraries, community centres and schools. Community Councils, plus many other local organisations, also receive a copy. If you or your group would like to be included on the mailing list, please call the number above. An electronic version of this newsletter is available at www.charliegordonmsp.com

For further information on any of this month's issues please email Stuart.Donaldson@scottish.parliament.uk

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Glasgow Cathcart

Well Done Glasgow!



Glasgow Cathcart MSP, Charlie Gordon, has hailed the announcement that the 2014 Commonwealth Games will be in Glasgow, with the main venue being Hampden Park, in the heart of his constituency.

In 2004, as Leader of Glasgow City Council, Charlie threw the City's weight behind the formal bid by Scotland's Commonwealth Games Association. In February 2006, Charlie Gordon, by now Cathcart's MSP, presented a petition with hundreds of his constituents signatures to the then Minister for Sport, Patricia Ferguson MSP (pictured).



Charlie and Patricia Ferguson MSP

The signatures formed part of a staggering 1 million signature petition which Ms Ferguson took to the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne to drum up support for Glasgow's 2014 bid.

On hearing of Glasgow's success, Charlie said: "This is one of the greatest days in the illustrious history of our beloved City. Glasgow, once written off as finished, is going from strength to strength and in 2014 the World will see again that Glasgow flourishes as one of the world's greatest cities."

The announcement of Glasgow's successful bid was heard across the City; members of the public and school children shared in the excitement at local sport centres including venues that will host events in 2014, including Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena and Tollcross and Scotstoun Leisure centres. You can track developments as a result of the bid at www.glasgow2014.com



Hampden Park



New National Indoor Arena

Hillpark comes to Holyrood...

In October Charlie welcomed members of Mansewood and Hillpark Seniors Forum to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The newly formed group aims to improve the lives of the over 60s in their area as well as provide a social outlet.

The group arrived in Holyrood and were given a tour of the building including the Parliament's Debating Chamber. The group then met with Charlie in one of the committee rooms for lunch and a question and answer session. It was then a quick tour of the gift shop before attending the afternoon session of the Parliament which covered two Ministerial Statements on the publication of the Gould Report into problems at the last Scottish Elections and one on NHS Waiting Times. The group had a great day and returned to Glasgow late afternoon.



Mansewood and Hillpark Seniors Forum

...Holyrood comes to Holyrood



Charlie with Clare and her Parents



Clare addresses the Parliament

Cathcart's Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, Clare Martin, was in Parliament this week to address the Parliament during "Time for Reflection". This is when a speaker addresses the Parliament to share their perspectives on issues of faith. You can read Clare's address on Charlie's website.

Clare Martin, a pupil from Holyrood Secondary lives in the Cathcart Constituency and is involved with the Scottish Youth Parliament. Clare concentrated her address on her School's fair trade group and a recent charity drive which asked for pupils to donate school bags with basic equipment such as pens, pencils and rulers.

The scheme was a resounding success with over 2,000 bags being donated which were then sent to Malawi. Clare will be among 22 pupils who will travel to Malawi in June next year and hope to raise £50,000 to fund education for children in Malawi with special educational needs.

For more information on this inovative charity drive go to Holyrood's website:

<http://www.holyrood-sec.glasgow.sch.uk/>

In Parliament



Since the last edition of Charlie's newsletter in the Summer, he has lodged a variety of Parliamentary Questions and Motions as well as contributing to Debates in the Chamber.

He recently lodged the following motion calling on improvements to the National Concessionary Travel Scheme, which currently provides free bus travel for pensioners in Scotland and hopes to secure a Members Debate on the issue in the Scottish Parliament shortly:

That the Parliament believes that the National Concessionary Travel Scheme should be urgently reviewed to extend eligibility to disabled people in receipt of the lower rate of Disability Living Allowance, including those in Glasgow, and to older and disabled people using community transport in rural areas such as those in Clydesdale and that there should be consultation on other desirable changes to the scheme.

Charlie also raised the issue of Modern Apprenticeships in a question on 4th October:

Charlie Gordon (Glasgow Cathcart) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it is satisfied with the proportion of women and minority ethnic people entering apprenticeships in construction and engineering.

Ms Fiona Hyslop (Minister for Education): No. I recognise that there is a very low take up from women and minority ethnic groups in construction and engineering apprenticeships and we need to do more to challenge and change attitudes to stereotypical career choices.

That is why our Skills Strategy for Scotland has the promotion of equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination at its core. As well as promoting equal access we need to recognise people's different needs and situations and remove the barriers that limit what people can do. We will be challenging our delivery agencies to do just that to ensure that each individual has the opportunity to reach their potential.

Around and About



John and Mary Miller



Charlie and Environment Minister, Mike Russell on the banks of the Cart

DATELINE 19th July 2007...Charlie meets with new Sub Divisional Commander, Superintendent Kevin Duffy at Cathcart Police Station...**DATELINE 25th July 2007...**Charlie attends inaugural meeting of Mansewood and Hillpark Seniors Forum...**DATELINE 7th August 2007...**Charlie attends "Scotland Together" event following terror attack at Glasgow Airport...**DATELINE 9th August 2007...**Charlie and Cllr Archie Graham are joined by Glasgow City Council Deputy Leader Jim Coleman to investigate anti-social behaviour prevention measure in Florida Avenue...**DATELINE 21st August 2007...**Charlie meets with newly appointed Glasgow Housing Association Chief Executive Taroub Zharan...**DATELINE 12th September 2007...**Charlie pays tribute to recently retired Rev John Miller and his wife Mary (pictured) at a lunch in the Scottish Parliament...**DATELINE 8th October 2007...**Charlie attends Glasgow Tourism Strategy event...**DATELINE 8th October 2007...**Charlie attends Newlands and Auldhouse Community Council...**DATELINE 10th October...**Charlie meets with Environment Minister, Mike Russell, on the banks of the Cart following latest funding announcement (pictured)...**DATELINE 29th October 2007...**Charlie attends installation of Lord MacDonal of Tradeston as Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University.