

# Charlie Gordon MSP Glasgow Cathcart Surgeries Calendar

# 2008



**Couper Institute**  
84-86 Clarkston Road  
G44 3DA at 4pm

**Tinto Primary School**  
57 Hillpark Drive  
G43 2BA at 4pm

**Local Holiday**  
No Surgery

**Castlemilk Library**  
100 Castlemilk Drive  
G45 9TN at 4pm

**Kennishead Community Hall**  
10 Kennishead Avenue  
G46 8PR at 4pm

Serving the communities of :-  
Auldhouse, Battlefield, Carmunnock, Carnwadric, Castlemilk,  
Croftfoot, Crosshill, Earlsparc, Eastwood, Hillpark, Kennishead,  
King's Park, Langside, Manswood, Merrylee, Mount Florida,  
Myrtle Park, Newlands, Old Darnley, Regent's Park  
Simshill, Thornliebank, and Wellmeadow.

Please note, all surgeries are for constituents only.

January 2008

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February 2008

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September 2008

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December 2008

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For further information on any of this month's issues please email [Stuart.Donaldson@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Stuart.Donaldson@scottish.parliament.uk)

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# Charlie Gordon MSP

# SUMMER 2008

## VERY SPECIAL DAY; VERY SPECIAL PLACE; "VERY SPECIAL MAN"

*By Charlie Gordon MSP*

Friday the 13th is supposed to be unlucky but on Friday 13th June 2008, I spent one of the most uplifting afternoons I can ever remember.

The place? Miller Primary School, a merger of Windlaw and Tormusk Primary Schools which shares a joint campus with Castlemilk Family Centre.

I arrived to be greeted by Miller's Head Teacher, Mrs Dalzell, and rubbed shoulders with, among others, Education Convener Gordon Matheson, Education Director Margaret Doran and City Building Director Willie Docherty, whose workers built the excellent new facilities.

Then, in a packed assembly hall, guests were given a wonderful feast of entertainment by the School and the Family Centre's multi-talented pupils. There were songs aplenty, ranging from Miller Primary's very own funky anthem, through Castlemilk's Jeely Piece song to the Family Centre children's renditions of those much loved nursery classics, Ally Bally Bee and Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny Aff A Bus.

There was also some excellent Scottish Country dancing and a gallus and witty short play; all linked together with seamless announcements by pupils speaking without notes ..... a politician's nightmare!

Education Convener Gordon Matheson's job was to unveil the plaque naming the new school, but before he did, he asked the audience why local people had decided to name it after John Miller, who had been a local Minister and School Chaplain in Castlemilk for over 30 years.

One adult answered: "Because he gave so much to Castlemilk and we wanted to give him something back" and a child said: "Because he is a very special man". How true!

John's commitment and service to the people of Castlemilk over the decades wasn't just a long pastoral tenure – he became part of its very fabric and a key agent in its regeneration.

Even when he became Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, John remained based in his Castlemilk council house; not to score a point but because that is just the way John is; he is someone who crosses barriers between people; all barriers; between all people.

When he arrived before the opening ceremony, I was pleased to shake his hand to welcome him home. I remarked on how thin he was; "Where I live now, people don't have much to eat". He said, matter of factly "Where I live now" is Zimbabwe; John and his wife Mary, herself a force of nature who headed Castlemilk's superb Jeely Piece Centre for many years, now work at the Murambinda Mission Hospital



*Cllr Matheson, Charlie Gordon MSP & Rev John Miller*

Later on, after Gordon Matheson had unveiled the plaque, the Head Teacher graciously gave the stage to John. He pooh-poohed the standing ovation and gestured us all to sit.

He said he couldn't adequately express his thanks for naming the school after him and then took us on a trip down memory lane of his Castlemilk days; of cycling round the scheme with stray dogs snapping at his heels and of visits to schools where he would tell the children a wee story and a big story. Happy laughs of recollection could be heard around the room from pupils and parents alike.

The marvellous children of Miller Primary presented him onstage with a cheque for £150 for the Hospital. John then stunned us all by saying that he, in turn, had brought a gift of money to the school from Zimbabwe. He took a note for the stupendous sum of 25 Billion Zimbabwean Dollars and donated it to the school. He explained that in Zimbabwe, you couldn't buy a load of bread with this sum at present so the note would remind pupils that we live in an ill-divided world.

So simply, yet so brilliantly, did John Miller make his point. Not a political point per se, but a very challenging one, for John's enemy is poverty, both of the body and of the spirit.

As I walked from Miller Primary to my surgery at Castlemilk Library, I pondered; I'm not a religious person but all of my adult life I've sought a society in which every person is given the means to develop to their full potential. I felt refreshed and heartened by the shining talent and outstanding potential of those wonderful Miller children. I don't want anything to stand in their way. As they develop and grow, I hope they always remember John Miller; maybe for what he says but certainly for what he is; a man with the courage to practice what he preaches.

Me? I would settle for reaching as high as John Miller's bootlaces.

[www.charliegordonmsp.com](http://www.charliegordonmsp.com)

## TOP MARKS ALL ROUND!



Charlie Gordon MSP with Carmunnock Pupils

Charlie welcomed **Carmunnock Primary School** to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The Pupils had a working lunch with Charlie in one of the Parliament's Committee Rooms where they asked him a variety of questions on subjects as diverse as the credit crunch to fuel costs to planning issues in the village of Carmunnock. Speaking after the visit Charlie said "I always enjoy meeting with young constituents and I was impressed by their knowledge of both the Scottish Parliament and the big issues of the day".

Back in the constituency there was great news for staff and pupils at **Castlemilk High School** after they received six "excellent" ratings in a recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). The rating is the highest achieved in Glasgow and the second highest ever achieved, Charlie said "The conclusions of the HMIE report are the culmination of the joint efforts of Head Teacher Brian McAlinden, the Teaching Staff and hard working pupils who make Castlemilk proud. I am confident Castlemilk High will go from success to success."

To highlight this achievement Charlie lodged a Parliamentary Motion which was signed by many MSPs of all parties.



Battlefield Badminton Champions

The good news did not stop there with another local school **Battlefield Primary School** who won the Bank of Scotland Sportshall Challenge in Badminton for the second year running. The national final was the climax of a number of regional heats all over Scotland in which over 1,400 children have taken part.

A total of 10 schools qualified for the finals through these heats. The team was made up of 3 Primary 3's, 4 Primary 4's and 3 Primary 5's, with ages ranging from 7 to 10 years old. The pupils were awarded their medals by 2006 under-23 Singles Champion, Gordon Thomson. Charlie congratulated Head Teacher Claire Curry, full-time PE Teacher Frank McCann and Pupil Support Assistant Janet McCuaig who trained the Team and supported them throughout the championship.

He also lodged a Parliamentary Motion in recognition of both staff and pupils' efforts.

There was good news too for young pupils in Castlemilk were two new build schools were officially opened this month; Miller Primary School and **John Paul II Primary School** are excellent additions to the area and with the new St Fillan's Primary School and new Merrylee Primary School opening their doors soon there is much to be welcomed on the Education front.

Other education initiatives happening over the past few weeks have included an aid trip by pupils of **Holyrood Secondary School** who spent time in the small African country of Malawi helping to build classrooms. The pupils raised an amazing £71,000 for the venture by various methods including a fashion show and a gala ball.

**King's Park Primary School** also deserves praise after the launch of their "Parking Club". The initiative aims to discourage unsafe parking and driving on the roads surrounding the School and to encourage parents and children to walk to school.

## In Parliament

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, Charlie has spoken in 3 Parliamentary Debates, asked 6 Parliamentary Questions and signed 12 Parliamentary Motions. Charlie contributed to debates on Bus Transport, Infrastructure and Effective Public Services. He asked Questions on several issues including Environmental Policy and the ScotRail franchise as well as signing motions on topics including Learning Disability Week, Evening Times War on Litter Campaign and proposed changes to the National Concessionary Travel Scheme.

He also lodged a Motion celebrating Castlemilk Timebank being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is a fantastic achievement for those involved in this worthy organisation. The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Councillor Bob Winter is also hosting a Civic Reception at Glasgow City Chambers for the volunteers and staff in recognition of their efforts.

A copy of the Motion lodged by Charlie is below:

### S3M-02039 Charlie Gordon (Glasgow Cathcart): Congratulations to Castlemilk Timebank

*That the Parliament congratulates Castlemilk Timebank for winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2008, the equivalent of an MBE, and salutes the outstanding work of the many volunteers in Castlemilk whose efforts have been deservedly recognised.*

In other Parliamentary news Charlie is preparing a consultation on his proposed Bill to regulate the Bus Industry in Scotland.

He also supports other Members Bills on Dog Control, Disabled Persons' Parking Bays, Regulation of Property Factors and Sentencing of Offences Aggravated by Prejudice.

A previous Members Bill Charlie supported, on Sunbed Licensing, has now been incorporated into the new Public Health (Scotland) Act.

All of Charlie's speeches, questions and motions can be read in full on his website: [www.charliegordonmsp.com](http://www.charliegordonmsp.com)

## Around and About



Charlie attended the hugely popular South Side Festival in Queen's Park with over 8,000 people at this year's event.



Charlie Gordon MSP (centre) with Cllr Curran (left) and Baillie McNally (right)

**DATELINE 30th April 2008...**Charlie meets with EU Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot...**DATELINE 1st May 2008...**Charlie meets with Executives from ScottishPower...**DATELINE 16th May 2008...**Charlie meets with Royal Bank of Scotland Executives at their new Edinburgh HQ...**DATELINE 29th May...**Charlie attends meeting of Auldhouse Tenants' and Residents' Association...**DATELINE 3rd June 2008...**John Paul II Primary School is officially opened...**DATELINE 4th June 2008...**Charlie knocked on doors in Castlemilk...**DATELINE 11th June 2008...**Charlie meets with Glasgow Housing Association officials...**DATELINE 16th June 2008...**Charlie attends Public Meeting regarding Housing in Hillpark and Mansewood...**DATELINE 23rd June 2008...**Charlie attends Castlemilk High School Awards Ceremony...**DATELINE 26th June 2008...**Charlie participates with Glasgow Caledonian University Staff in their lobby against privatisation...**DATELINE 26th June 2008...**Charlie meets with First ScotRail Chief Executive, Mary Grant...**DATELINE 28th June 2008...**Charlie participates in the South Side Festival in Queen's Park...**DATELINE**