

Charlie Gordon MSP Glasgow Cathcart Surgeries Calendar 2010

Cooper Institute
96-98
Clarkston Rd
G44 3DA at 4pm

Tista Primary School
27 Hibernia Drive
G43 9BA at 4pm

Local Hubby
No Surgery

Caulderbank Library
100 Caulderbank Dr.
G45 9TN at 4pm

Hamishwell Community Hall
10 Kinnishead Ave
G46 8TB at 4pm

Serving the communities of -
Auldhouse, Battlefield, Carmunnock, Camwadric, Castlemilk, Cathcart, Croftfoot, Crosshill, Earls Park, Eastwood, Hillpark, Kennishead, King's Park, Langside, Mansewood, Merrylee, Mount Florida, Myrtle Park, Netherlee, Newlands, Old Darnley, Regent's Park, Simshill, Thornliebank, and Wellmeadow.

Please note, all surgeries are for constituents only.

January	February	March
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April	May	June
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July	August	September
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October	November	December
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Charlie Gordon MSP Newsletter Winter2009/Spring 2010



The wait goes on

THOUSANDS of Scots bus passengers are quite literally paying the price after Charlie Gordon's proposed Regulation of Bus Services Bill fell in the Scottish Parliament.

Charlie's Bill would have brought in free bus travel for people on the lower rate of Disability Living Allowance and allowed free bus travel on Community Transport Buses.

But it fell because of a lack of cross-party support from other MSPs in addition to the 32 who signed in support of Charlie. Despite the disappointing news at the start of the year, an angry Charlie vowed that the campaign for a better deal on the buses would go on.

Time to close door on rogue landlords

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour is a scourge on many communities, and the misery which affects so many people can often be caused by so few.

Following high levels of such behaviour in Croftfoot, particularly in houses rented out by absentee or rogue landlords, the local Community Council set up the Croftfoot Housing Action Group to co-ordinate community action against the problem.

The Action Group contacted Charlie Gordon, MP Tom Harris - and the area's

local councillors and staged several public meetings over the past few months.

Since attending one such meeting in Croftfoot Primary School, Charlie Gordon has been deluged with letters, e-mails and telephone calls to his Constituency Office with constituents reporting their individual experiences with anti-social behaviour and requesting Charlie's help.

Following these approaches, Charlie and Tom Harris wrote to constituents in parts of Croftfoot where the problem appeared most acute, highlighting proposals in the new Housing (Scotland) Bill now going through the Scottish Parliament

which will tighten existing laws on the responsibilities of landlords and tenants.

Specifically, the legislation proposes to tighten the system of landlord registration. Registration is designed to ensure that only people who are fit and proper to let out residential property can operate legally as private landlords.

A key issue for local authorities is proving a tenancy is in place, and the Bill contains provisions to make it easier for local authorities to gather evidence. It covers persons who own, occupy or have an interest in the house concerned or who act for the owner.

On request, they must confirm to the local authority the nature of their interest in the house, provide details of others with an interest and provide any other information about the land or premises that the local authority may reasonably request. Failure to comply would be a criminal offence.

Information will also be included in the register where a landlord has been refused registration or been de-registered because of failure to meet the legal requirements. This will alert tenants and members of the public that someone has been found to be not fit and proper to be a landlord, if he or she is attempting to let a property, increasing the protection.

The Bill was laid before Parliament on 13th January 2010 and soon after this, a second consultation paper was launched.

Charlie was encouraged to find tougher measures including police disclosure checks on landlords applying to the scheme and mandating that any property being advertised for rent must include a registration number in the advert, making it easier for authorities to verify that the landlord is indeed registered.

However, the Cathcart MSP is concerned the second Bill will be unable to proceed within this Parliament.

He said: "I am pleased both Bills have been brought to Parliament and I support their key principals, but I will be looking at whether the proposals go far enough and if gaps exist I will be working to fill them and strengthen the first Bill further by lodging amendments if the second Bill falls due to shortage of Parliamentary time."

Good news in battle on the buses

DESPITE the disappointing fall of his Regulation of Bus Services Bill, Charlie Gordon's campaign for better buses has enjoyed three major boosts.

Charlie won two major concessions from the Scottish Government - and gained support from more than 100 MSPs - all on the same day.

The campaign aims to reduce carbon emissions, boost jobs, obtain better value for taxpayers and improve transport accessibility for people whose mobility is impaired by helping to fund the purchase of a new generation of buses, such as the hybrids built at the Falkirk plant of Alexander Dennis Ltd.

Opening a debate on Better Buses in the Scottish Parliament on March 18, Charlie told MSPs how such buses, when purchased by Local Authorities

saved taxpayers' money on operating costs. The next day, 300 hybrid buses were ordered from ADL for use in Oxford and Manchester, partly financed by the United Kingdom Government's £30million "Greener Buses Fund".

Charlie is seeking an equivalent fund of some £3million from the Scottish Government, and during the Holyrood debate, Finance Minister John Swinney announced that the Bus Services Operators' Grant, a Government revenue grant based on mileage, would be doubled for each new lower emissions bus in service. He also announced a capital grant of £1million for Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to purchase five such buses.

While welcoming any investment, Charlie said: "It's a case of only two cheers for the Scottish Government."

"Another £2million is needed to match the UK Government's commitment to better buses"

"The fact that more than 100 MSPs voted for my motion shows that this campaign is going from strength to strength."



IT'S been another busy spell for Charlie Gordon, both in Holyrood and in his Cathcart constituency.

Since the last Newsletter, the MSP has spoken in seven debates, asked 20 Parliamentary Questions and signed 27 Parliamentary Motions.

Here's a flavour of what the MSP's diary has been like in the last five months or so.

November 30, 2009:

Charlie meets with GHA senior officials.

December 2:

Charlie attends University and College Union lobby of Parliament.

December 17:

Charlie meets with Managing Director of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau.

January 13, 2010:

Charlie meets senior executives at Virgin Rail.

Out and about with Charlie Gordon

January 22:

Charlie and Tom Harris MP meet constituents to discuss changes with the East Coast Main Line rail service.

January 27:

Charlie attends Auldhouse Tenants and Residents Association.

January 28:

Charlie attends Croftfoot Housing Action Group public meeting.

January 29:

Charlie attends the Lord Provost of Glasgow's Burns Supper.

February 10:

Charlie meets with the Managing Director of First ScotRail.

February 12:

Charlie meets with Pat Lally and some staff

from Castlemilk Pensioners Action Centre.

February 18:

Charlie meets with Chief Executive of Network Rail.

March 3:

Charlie meets with the Civil Engineers Contractors Association.

March 8:

Charlie attends official opening of Merrylee Primary School

March 19:

Charlie meets and bids farewell to local Chief Inspector Eddie Reid who has retired.

April 12:

Charlie meets with Director of CBI Scotland.

April 22:

Charlie attends Croftfoot Housing Action Group public meeting.

April 26:

Charlie attends official opening of St Vincent's Primary School

April 28:

Charlie attends Auldhouse Tenants and Residents Association AGM

Call for action after a winter of discontent

AFTER what felt like the longest winter ever, we now have the welcome signs of spring and the process of repairing the damage caused by the lengthy freeze begins.

At the height of the cold weather, Charlie raised concerns over the public's safety on side roads, minor roads and pavements - and stressed to Finance Minister, John Swinney, the need to clear them of snow and ice.

Charlie was particularly concerned about pensioners and vulnerable people who were essentially housebound, unable to go about their daily business because of the treacherous condition of the pavements.

Charlie called for emergency funding to enable local councils to deploy more staff and resources to deal with the problem.

In a related matter, people in Glasgow will be all too aware of the many potholes in the area, particularly in the city centre, that have appeared as a result of the inclement weather.

Charlie has welcomed Glasgow City Council's decision to treble its road maintenance budget to try to tackle the problem.

However, a long-term solution must be found in order to prepare ourselves for future freezes and to reduce damage to cars caused throughout the year as a result of potholes in minor roads remaining unfilled.

Charlie Gordon has long campaigned for the way in which the Scottish Government distributes road cash to be changed.

At the present moment, the roads budget is determined by the length of roads rather than traffic volume.

This results in streets such as Hope Street receiving very little money in comparison to lengthy roads with much lower volumes of traffic in rural areas.

The MSP added: "This has to be looked at urgently. Potholes reduce traffic flow and can cause significant damage to cars resulting in expensive repairs."

"I want the Scottish Government to review the budget process so volume rather than length is the criterion involved when allocating resources."

Easter fun is taken as read as local libraries make it party time for kids

CHARLIE was happy to help brighten up Easter for some local youngsters.

The MSP was approached by the manager of the Couper Library and Castlemilk Library seeking to raise funds to hold a small Easter Party for youngsters in both communities.

Charlie immediately contacted the local GHA office in Castlemilk, and Castlemilk

Tenants Housing Association kindly made a donation to allow the event to go ahead.

As he was in Edinburgh on Parliamentary Business, Charlie was unable to attend the Castlemilk event on Thursday, April 15 - but he did go along to the Couper Party the next afternoon.

The youngsters had a great time and were

each presented with an Easter egg as they headed home.

Charlie said: "This is an innovative way of encouraging younger children into our libraries. I hope they keep coming back and take advantage of the libraries' stock of fiction and non-fiction books as well as the computer suite offering free internet access."

New schools are really first class

THE first four months of 2010 saw two big boosts for primary education on the South Side of Glasgow with the official opening ceremonies of two new schools.

Both were in Charlie Gordon's Cathcart Constituency and the local MSP was delighted to be able to attend the two events.

First up, on March 8, was the official opening of Merrylee Primary School and Lime Tree Nursery School.

Charlie had previously attended the official opening of the school's innovative "urban jungle" playground in October last year.

And he was delighted to return to the site for the school's big day.

Speaking after the official opening, performed by Glasgow City Council's Deputy Executive Member for Education, Councillor Irfan Rabbani, Charlie said: "It is great to see pupils and staff learning and teaching in this state of art facility.

"It is a great asset to the community and will provide a modern learning environment for pupils and staff for many years to come."

The following month, it was the turn of St Vincent's Primary School.

Once again, Charlie was happy to accept an invitation to the ceremony on April 26.

Apart from the primary school itself, the event also marked the opening of the St Vincent's Autism Unit and Thornlaw Nursery School.

The ceremony was attended by His Grace, Archbishop Mario Conti and was conducted by Glasgow City Council's Executive Member for Education Services, Councillor Paul Rooney.

St Vincent's Primary has a current school roll of 284, with a capacity of 330.

The site provides 10 classrooms, a general-purpose room, a library, media suite, gymnasium and an all-weather sports pitch.

The autism unit has a current roll of 24 and has four classrooms and a general purpose room, while Thornlaw Nursery School has a capacity of 75.

The ceremony included a gallery of art work showcasing the pupils' talents and Charlie Gordon was mightily impressed.

He said: "This is the latest school in my constituency to celebrate its opening.

"I am delighted to be here in a facility that will provide a 21st century learning environment to pupils in Carnwadric."



Class Acts ... Merrylee Primary (top) and St Vincent's



Charity cash is the goal as Politicians do battle with Army at Lesser Hampden

Lesser Hampden is no stranger to the Tartan Army, but there was a "march" with a difference in December when the British Army arrived in Mount Florida for a friendly game of football against MPs, MSPs and Councillors. Charlie Gordon popped out of his Constituency Office at Lesser Hampden to welcome the men from the Army and fellow politicians including East Renfrewshire MP Jim Murphy and Eastwood MSP Ken Macintosh to the constituency. The match raised £5000 to help injured soldiers.

Museum staff net a winner

Hampden team are right on the ball

HAMPDEN PARK has been the scene of many famous Scottish victories - and just last month Charlie Gordon helped celebrate another success.

This time it was members of the staff from the Scottish Football Museum based in the famous stadium in the heart of his constituency who were on the winning side as the visitor attraction was added to Museum Galleries Scotland's Recognised Collections of National Significance.

And on April 21, Charlie had the pleasure of hosting a Members Debate in the Scottish Parliament to celebrate the success.

The aim of the scheme is to celebrate, promote and invest in the nationally significant museum and gallery collections around Scotland which are housed outside the nationally run institutions.

Organisations that become holders of Recognised Collections of National Significance must commit to meeting the objectives of the scheme. These include raising awareness of their collections locally, nationally and internationally - and to increase public access to them as sources of creativity, learning and enjoyment.

In the debate, Charlie spoke of his fond memories of growing up in Partick and his love of football as a child and young adult and by implication the importance football plays in the cultural aspects of Scottish life. Other MSPs spoke of similar football influences in their lives and acknowledged the importance of Football to Scotland.



The full text of the Motion put forward by Charlie read: "That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Football Museum, Hampden Park, Glasgow, on achieving recognised status for its collection, awarded by Museum Galleries Scotland.

"The Parliament further notes that Scotland was the first country in the world to establish a national football museum; considers that the Scottish Football Museum reflects many of the pioneering influences that Scotland has brought to the modern game of association football; wishes the Scottish museum a successful future, and would welcome admission to the Scottish Football Museum being free to maximise the number of visitors to the best football museum in the world."

Following the Members' Debate, Charlie hosted Robert Craig, Chairman of the SFM, its Curator Richard McBrearty and Hampden Park Limited General Manager, Peter Dallas at a reception in one of the Parliament's Committee Rooms.

MSPs were invited to lift a replica of the Champion's League Trophy, donated to the Museum by Manchester United Captain Sir Alex Ferguson following his team's victory in Barcelona in 1999.

One of the key objectives facing the Museum is to source additional resources in order that admission can become free allowing more Glaswegians and Scots to experience the oldest and best Football Museum in the World.

Good health!



THERE was a major boost for health care in Glasgow with the official opening of the new £100million Victoria Hospital on February 10.

Charlie Gordon was delighted to be a guest at the ceremony for the hospital - one of the most modern and well equipped in Scotland - which will provide 21st century healthcare in a 21st century building.

It provides an attractive, welcoming environment for patients and visitors with light, airy public spaces,

comfortable waiting areas and modern consulting rooms.

Services have been redesigned around the needs of the patient to enhance the quality of care on offer and speed up diagnosis and treatment.

And for the first time, patients in the south of Glasgow requiring an MRI scan, renal dialysis or chemotherapy are able to get this locally at the new hospital.

About 400,000 patients will attend the hospital every year. In addition to outpatient clinics, day surgery

and diagnostic services, it provides a number of specialist services such as cardiology and gynaecology.

There is also a new Minor Injuries Unit with its own dedicated entrance for rapid access to a highly skilled clinical team, which is open seven days a week 9am – 9pm.

"It's great to see the new facility up and running" said Charlie.

"I'm delighted my constituents will now have access to services like kidney dialysis, MRI scans and chemotherapy at their local hospital for the first time."

