

Parliamentary News

Martin Salter's Fifth Annual Report to Constituents

Reading West Constituency – which includes: Pangbourne, Purley, Tilehurst, Theale, Calcot, Coley, Norcot, Southcote, Whitley and the Oxford Road

Salter stands again

Reading West MP Martin Salter has announced his intention to seek the Labour Party nomination to run again for Parliament at the next general election. Since he was first elected in 1997 Martin has established a well deserved reputation as a hard working constituency MP and as a tough, energetic campaigner who gets results for local people. His hard work was clearly appreciated by his constituents, who returned him to Westminster with a massively increased majority in 2001. However, Martin believes in keeping in regular touch with the people he represents, which is why he produces an Annual Report setting out what he has been doing on your behalf during the last year.



MARTIN SALTER MP will be seeking a third term to serve the people of the Reading West constituency in Parliament.



AS PATRON OF THE BERKSHIRE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS THERAPY CENTRE
Martin Salter helps raise funds in Reading's Oracle Centre by handing over his winning bet on the result of the general election here in Reading West.

Martin Salter writes: *"It is a huge privilege to be a Member of Parliament and I take my job very seriously. After careful thought and discussions with family, friends and colleagues I have decided to put my name forward for a third term. I believe I've still got something to offer the 70,000 people of the Reading West constituency who I have served over the last five years. I also hope that you find my fifth Annual Report to be useful and informative and I would welcome any comments or feedback."*

7 Ways to Contact Martin Salter

- Book in for one of his advice surgeries on 2nd and 4th Saturday each month – Telephone: 954 6782 for an appointment.
- Call in at one of his Friday evening drop-in surgeries in Whitley or Calcot – Telephone: 954 6782 for details.
- Write to Martin at his constituency office at 413 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HA.
- Write to Martin at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.
- Drop him a note in the MP mailbox in the Civic Offices, Reading and save yourself the price of a stamp.
- Send him an email message to salterm@parliament.uk
- Go to his website at www.martinsalter.com

Martin Salter's email newsletters – sign up here

If you would like Martin to keep you up to date with the work he is doing in the constituency and Parliament throughout the year by receiving his Email Update either email [Martin salterm@parliament.uk](mailto:salterm@parliament.uk) or log on to his website www.martinsalter.com and get on the list.

Local action all year round

Over the last year Martin Salter has been busy in:

January – persuading the Council to take tough action against nuisance tenants in Coley Park and Southcote.

February – launching a petition to boost police numbers for Reading to reflect the growing needs of the town.

March – working with local police and community representatives to clamp down on drug dealers in Oxford Road.

School to oppose Liberal plans to prevent Reading children attending the popular Shinfield comprehensive.

– Weighing in behind Theale residents who are battling to save Whitehart Meadows from the developers.

June – Organising a seminar to discuss the decline of the river Kennet fisheries which focused on the priority areas identified in the recently published Fisheries Action Plan.



LOCAL PARENTS VISIT MARTIN SALTER in his constituency office to express their views on the plans for the primary schools re-organisation in central Reading.

– Working with local residents on Tilehurst's Haddocks Estate to negotiate a deal with Thames Water to adopt the foul water sewers which serve the estate.

April – with Cllr Chris Swaine persuading Southern Electric to drop their plans to remove the electric key charging facilities from Coronation Square which would have severely inconvenienced local people.

– Campaigned with local parents for their views to be heard in the Central Reading Primary Review.

May – Backing the campaign by governors, staff, parents, and pupils at Ryeish Green

– Taking Thames Trains to task over their refusal to grant free travel to Thames Valley Police Officers which would improve safety on trains and help tackle the serious police recruitment problems in the area.

July – Pressing for a new supermarket, doctors surgery and post office as part of the new redevelopment of the Underwood Road Shopping precinct in Ford's Farm

August – Campaigning with local residents to demand much needed traffic calming measures in Lower Elmstone Drive, Tilehurst's notorious accident black spot.



PASSENGERS CELEBRATE the return of bus services in Whitley and the saving of the No. 28 route in Tilehurst.

– Persuading the council to bring in special parking measures to prevent local people in Whitley being inconvenienced by inconsiderate football supporters

September – taking up the case of elderly residents living in Pages Garden, Pangbourne and York House, Calcot to campaign against the removal of on site wardens from their homes.

– Working with local councillors to win back bus services for Whitley and Southcote.

October – Supporting the trade union's 14-point plan to reduce the risk of compulsory redundancies at Prudential.

– Opposing the FBU premature strike action and calling for Berkshire Fire Brigade Union to consider a claim for regional pay supplements in high cost housing areas like Reading.

November – working with local residents in the Barton Road area of Tilehurst to combat the anti-social behaviour of local youths. Martin has launched a petition on behalf of local parents calling for speed humps particularly around Springfield Primary School to cut out speeding.

December – supporting plans to consolidate Park Lane School, Tilehurst on one site to improve facilities.



MARTIN SALTER WITH ELDERLY RESIDENTS in Sovereign Housing Association's York House where their warden service is under threat.

Making a difference

Martin is a strong supporter of the work of local charities and hardly a week goes by without him being asked to help promote or raise funds for a good cause. He feels particularly passionately about the plight of Multiple Sclerosis patients and is patron of the Berkshire MS Therapy Centre in the Oxford Road which provides advice, support and treatment to people suffering from this dreadful disease. Martin is also a fundraiser for breast cancer charities.

Over the past year Martin has:

- Taken part in a marathon 24-hour ski-athon to raise money for Breast Cancer Care at the Meadway Precinct.
- Launched the annual collection for the Berkshire MS Therapy Centre in the Oracle with a £50 cheque from a Conservative MP who was silly enough to bet that Martin would lose his seat at the last election!
- Once again, along with helpers from Reading Fishing Club and Tilehurst Royal British Legion Angling Society, introduced disabled children to the joys of angling as part of the PALS scheme.
- Donated prizes such as dinner in the House of Commons or bottles of House of Commons Whisky signed by the Prime Minister to a number of good causes including the Phil Parkinson testimonial fund and Calcot Schools Parents Association.
- Launched a Charity Pram Race in Theale to raise money for BBC Children in Need Appeal.



THE OVERWEIGHT MP tries to lose a few pounds while raising money for Breast Cancer Care at the new Fitness First gym in the Meadway precinct.

Meeting the people

Martin Salter lives in his constituency and travels up to Westminster every day when Parliament is sitting. He runs a full time constituency office at 413 Oxford Road and holds regular advice surgeries. On Fridays and during many weekends Martin gets out and about meeting local people, visiting schools, businesses, community projects, resident groups, churches and playgroups. He also has regular meetings with the Chief Executives of Reading Borough and West Berkshire Councils as well as the heads of the other major public services.



THE GOVERNMENT'S SURE START SCHEME has made a real difference for people in Whitley with new opportunities for training, employment and childcare.

Listed below are just some of the visits that Martin has made over the last 12 months. If you would like Martin to visit your group or organisation just drop a line to his constituency office:

Reading Youth Parliament; Katesgrove House; Tilehurst Women's Institute; Reading & District Angling Association; Upcroft School; Ryeish Green School; Blessed Hugh Faringdon School; Wilson School; Southcote & Field Road Jubilee festivals; Reading West Carnival; Tilehurst Village Fete; Sure Start Scheme – Whitley; Southcote SITE; Strathy Close Football Tournament; Geoffrey Field School; WEA Women's Learning Centre; Pensioners Working Group; Pakistan Day Celebrations – Rivermead; Speaking Up Group; British Blind Cricket Team; Theale Horticultural Show; Reading Adult College; Prospect Park Hospital; Reading Peace Group; Park Lane School; Alzheimer's Carers Support Group; Thamesbridge School; Down Syndrome Swimming Competition; Theale and Tilehurst Cricket Club; Territorial Army; Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre; Springfield Primary School; Whitley Park Primary School, Brookfields School; The Carers Centre; Oxford Road Community Centre; Coley Park Community Centre; Little Heath School; Prospect College, Reading Assoc. for the Blind; The Safety St Centre in Great Knollys St; Brock Barracks; English Martyrs Playgroup; Cotswold Sports Centre; Reading Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations; Reading Primary Care Trust and Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Westminster report 2002

Martin Salter has been described by commentators as a *“sharp, clever backbencher...loyal but no robot”*. He has earned the respect of Parliamentary colleagues for never being afraid to speak his mind and has, on occasions, voted against his own party when he felt the interests of his constituents demanded it. He currently chairs the South East Group of Labour MPs and is responsible for coordinating political campaigns across the region. He is a member of the Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons and is a strong advocate of Parliamentary Reform. Martin has no outside business interests believing that representing 70,000 constituents is a full time job.



MARTIN SALTER
a full-time MP

Listed below are a few highlights from his work in Westminster in the last year.

January

- Attacked plans for Lords reform and called for majority elected Second Chamber.
- Called for more police for Reading to *“reflect the growing needs of our town.”*

February

- Appointed Parliamentary Adviser to Sports Minister Richard Caborn on Angling and Shooting.
- Attacked proposals from the Post Office regulator to weaken the position of Royal Mail.

March

- Re-elected Chair of All Party Banking Group.
- Led delegation to Transport Minister over Air Traffic Control financial problems.
- Opposed US plans to attack Iraq without a UN mandate.

April

- Sponsored bill to ban moonlighting MPs from taking second jobs.
- Defended Meridian TV newsroom over closure plans by Granada

May

- Organised first ever National Angling Summit.
- Criticised banks over cash machine charges in convenience stores.

June

- Tabled Parliamentary questions on AWE plans to expand nuclear weapons capacity at Aldermaston.
- Won government backing for Reading based cycle helmet charity.

July

- Supported campaign by Football League Clubs over ITV Digital's failure to settle £178.5m TV deal.
- Supported introduction of ID cards. (see below for text voting details)
- Backed local government workers pay claim.

September

- Launched local consultation on ID cards
- Won reprieve for clay pigeon shoots and farmers markets

October

- Called for tough action to be taken against European football clubs whose fans racially abuse English football players.
- Called on the Press Complaints Commission to crack down on *“chequebook journalism”*
- Backed plans to reduce the number of late night sittings in the House of Commons and the length of the summer recess.

November

- Lobbied for measures in the Queen's Speech to tackle anti-social behaviour, street crime and graffiti.
- Called for tighter laws to clampdown on domestic violence.

December

- Pressed government ministers for funding for more affordable housing in Reading particularly for key public service workers.



TAKING AIM - Martin Salter receiving professional instruction at the Royal Berkshire Shooting School near Pangbourne to help him speak up for the Sport in Parliament.



TEACHING THE JOYS OF FISHING to the kids from a disabled playscheme at Tapperns Lake near Theale.



MARTIN SALTER has been leading the campaign for more police for Reading with help from councillors Tony Jones, Viki Lloyd and Dave Geary.

ID Cards Text Vote – let Martin know your opinion – it counts!

Please indicate which of the statements below you support:

- 1) Only people with something to hide have anything to fear from ID Cards.
- 2) In this age of computers and credit cards big business and other organisations already hold a huge amount of personal information and ID Cards would not reduce a citizens right to privacy.
- 3) ID Cards are an abuse of human rights, an invasion of privacy and their introduction should be opposed.

How to vote:

To vote, simply send a text message to 82231

To vote for 1, send the message **txtpoll ms1**

to vote for 2, send the message **txtpoll ms2**

to vote for 3, send the message **txtpoll ms3**

Feel free to add a brief comment after your vote. Messages cost 25p. If you don't want to send Martin a text message, you can still vote or let him know what you think – see 7 ways to contact Martin for details.