

Parliamentary News

Martin Salter's Sixth Annual Report to Constituents

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

Martin Salter – on your side

Fighting Drugs and Crime

Extra investment by the government has seen police numbers rise and crime figures fall. But much of the crime that remains has its roots in problems caused by hard drugs like crack cocaine and heroin. Reading West MP Martin Salter has been leading the way in the fight against drugs and crime. Winning more money and more police for Reading; pressing for improved drug treatment for addicts and demanding, in Parliament, better joined up working between the NHS, the Police and the Probation Service.

Over the last year Martin has:

- Called for community action against drug dealing and gun crime in the Oxford Road area.
- Pressed for anti-social behaviour orders against teenage jobs in Tilehurst and Whitley.
- Worked with residents and shopkeepers to install C.C.T.V and other security measures.
- Supported the introduction of Identity Cards to help stop the smuggling of drugs and people.
- Tackled magistrates who have released known drug dealers on bail against police advice.
- Helped draw up tough new anti-social behaviour laws and demanded that councils and police use these extra powers.



TACKLING CRIME IN THE OXFORD RD: Martin Salter joins Battle ward Councillor Chris Maskell and local police in a campaign to encourage local residents to report evidence of drug dealing in the area.

Martin Salter says: *“Everyone has a role to play in the fight against crime and it is a fight we must win.”*



MARTIN SALTER MP: Unanimously reselected to fight Reading West at the next General Election.

Re-selected for a third term

Martin Salter writes: *“I am delighted to have the chance to represent the people of Reading West for a third term. It is a huge privilege to be a Member of Parliament and I take my job very seriously. I have tried to be a strong, principled and independent voice for my constituents. I am a firm believer in keeping in touch with people all year round and I hope you find this sixth Annual Report on my activities in Parliament and in Reading to be useful and informative.”*

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**

Local action all year round

Over the last year Martin Salter has been busy in:

January – highlighting the failure of West Berkshire Council to provide proper emergency planning or support for residents of Purley who were affected by the floods.

– standing up to BNP racist thugs who vandalised his office and sent him death threats.

– persuading Reading Council to install speed cushions along Lower Elmstone Drive following a tragic road death.



THERE WHEN YOU NEED HIM. Martin Salter dons his waders to help local residents in Purley stranded by last winter's terrible floods.

February – securing a deal with Thames Water for 700 households on the Haddocks Estate to either have their private drains adopted or receive 12 months free Home Service Insurance.

– joining a campaign with Coley Mum Jane Wicks and Reading Leisure Chief Jon Hartley for a state of the art skate park for young people.

March – officially opening a new sensory garden at Whitley Park Infants School.

– launching a take up campaign at school gates for parents to sign up for the new Child Tax Credit designed to support families with children.

April – backing Tilehurst allotment campaigners to

secure long term planning protection in the Reading Local Plan for the much loved Kentwood Hill allotments.

– running special 'Meet Your MP' meetings in Theale, the Norcot Estate, Tilehurst, Coley Park and Calcot.

May – supporting parents, teachers and pupils in the campaign to save Southcote Presentation College after the trustees demanded its closure.

– helping win an extra £1000 regional pay supplement for

the Reading Police on top of the £2000 awarded two years ago to help recruit and retain new officers.

June – starting a campaign to keep Theale in the Reading West constituency.

– launching a new environmental and cultural project at Reading Alternative School.

July – battling with local residents and Minster Ward councillors to prevent over-development in Wingrove Road.

– joining members of Lions Clubs to set up a scheme to provide elderly and disabled people with a small container which can be used to keep medical and personal details for use by emergency services at times of crisis.



TILEHURST ALLOTMENTS – ROUND 3 – 2000 Tilehurst residents signed Martin Salter's petition to have the allotments protected in Reading's new Local Plan. Petitioners led by Jenny Cottee, Ray Richens and Viki Lloyd hand-over the signatures to Council Leader David Sutton and Planning chief John Howarth.

– fighting with local residents against the installation of a telecom mast in Ullswater Drive and calling West Berkshire Council to account for failing to act.

August – spending a day out fishing with disabled youngsters from West Berkshire charity – Partnership for Active Leisure Scheme (PALS).

– organising a petition from residents to push for changes to the controversial Residents Parking Scheme in the Oxford Road area.

September – backing Calcot Mum, Ingrid Nicholls, in calling for an NHS wide policy on colour matched artificial limbs.

– Supporting residents in Western Elms Avenue in their battle against plans for unsuitable backland development.

October – supporting pensioners and residents campaigning against Royal

Mail proposals to close the popular Calcot Post Office.

– endorsing a community submission to the Pangbourne Village Plan.

– winning a public inquiry into Boundary Commission proposals to move Theale from Reading West to Wokingham.

November – pressing police and West Berkshire Council officials to get tough and take action against anti-social youths and vandals in Knowsley Road.

– starting a volunteering programme of reading to primary school children in Whitley Schools.

December – pressing bosses at Reading Buses to sort out overcrowding on buses in Theale, Southcote and Whitley.

– meeting with senior police officers and Reading Borough Council chiefs to tackle drugs and prostitution issues in the Oxford Road.



STICKING UP FOR PENSIONERS. Local Residents in Calcot were outraged when the Royal Mail announced the closure of the popular Calcot Post Office in Royal Avenue. Martin has vowed to fight it all the way.

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.

Over the past year Martin has:

- Taken part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief.
- Helped to start the annual Berkshire MS Therapy Centre sponsored family ramble to raise funds for the charity.
- 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 Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People; Reading Abbey RFC – Chris Kayes Memorial Games; Berkshire Cancer Centre; Birch Copse Primary School PTA; Purley Church of England Infant School.
- Supported the dollar-a-day challenge for Save the Children to raise awareness of world poverty.
- Launched the Message in a Bottle Scheme with The Lions Club of Reading to encourage the elderly and disabled to put vital medical contact details in the fridge so that they are at hand in case of an emergency.



A GREAT IDEA FOR THE ELDERLY TO ENABLE THE EMERGENCY SERVICES TO GET EASY ACCESS TO VITAL MEDICAL DETAILS.

Martin is also promoting the new Pensions Credit which provides extra financial help for pensioners with modest savings. For information on these new payments call the Pensions Credit Hotline on 0800 99 1234.

Martin has agreed to run the Reading Half Marathon in March 2004 to raise funds for Local Charities including Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre – he has already start training and is keen to raise as much sponsorship as he can. Sponsorship forms available from the constituency office.

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.



SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS: Martin Salter opens a new garden project at Whitley Park Infant School where he also regularly visits to help the kids with their reading.

Listed here 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:

Theale Green Community School; Silver Roses Tea Party; Kennet Valley Fisheries Association; BBC Caversham; West Berkshire Youth Parliament; Katesgrove Centre; Reading Association for the Blind; Reading Christian Network – Greyfriars Church; Reading Inter faith Group Friendship Walk; Churches Together in Reading; Reading Peace Group; Southcote Neighbourhood Advice Centre; Reading Voluntary Action; Southcote Community Centre; Vaisakhi Celebrations at Reading Gurdwara; Purley Park Trust; Reading Toy Library; Reading Single Homeless Project; Denefield School; Upcroft School; Tilehurst Allotments; Southcote Primary School; Newbury Angling Association; Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre; Church End Primary School; Reading & District Angling Association; Presentation College; York House; Tilehurst Village Fete; Reading Alternative School; Wilson School Reminiscence Morning; Dee Park Youth Project; Berkshire Community Drug Agency; Blessed Hugh Faringdon School; Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre; Sure Start Scheme – Whitley; Southcote SITE; Pakistan Day Celebrations – Rivermead; Oxford Road Community Centre; Mother Tongue; Prospect Park Hospital; Resource Awards; Streetwise; Brookfields School; West Berkshire Ramblers; Whitley Park Infants School; Geoffrey Field Infants School; Geoffrey Field Junior School; Whitley Park Junior School; Reading University; Duchess of Kent House; Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service; The Mobile Skate Park in Whitley; Arthritis Care.

Westminster report 2003

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 is Deputy Leader of Labour’s Parliamentary Campaign Team and Parliamentary Spokesman for Fishing and Shooting. He is also 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

- Called in Parliament for more work to tackle school exclusions.
- Pressed the Prime Minister for extra investment in Emergency Planning to help flood victims after the Purley Floods.

February

- Called for better flood defences in the Thames Valley in a Commons debate.
- Opposed military action in Iraq without United Nations approval.
- Pressed for an upgrade to Reading Station.

March

- Helped win an extra £1m for a joint project for all schools in Whitley.
- Supported staff at BBC Caversham for payment of an out of London weighting allowance.

April

- As Parliamentary Spokesperson for Angling promoted the ‘Get Hooked’ initiative to involve youngsters in angling and divert them away from drugs and crime.



CASTING A LINE FOR THE DISABLED Martin Salter helped by anglers from Reading Fishing Club and Tilehurst Royal British Legion Angling Society on their annual day out at Tapperns Lake, Theale to introduce disabled children to the joys of fishing.

- Backed a campaign led by local pharmacies against plans to allow supermarkets to issue prescriptions which could lead to mass closures.

May

- Sponsored a Private Members Bill to curb the nuisance of high hedges.
- Supported a Commons amendment calling for a new law on corporate killing, influenced by the Paddington rail disaster.
- Condemned banks and building societies for the rise in the number of cash machines levying charges.

June

- Tackled Royal Mail over its decision to transfer mail from railways to roads.
- Lobbied the Health Minister over budget problems at Berkshire Healthcare Trust.
- Voted for a complete ban on hunting wild animals with dogs.

July

- Called for arthritis to be given more priority in the NHS.
- He pressed for Government backing for a Third Thames Bridge for Reading.



FIGHTING THE MENACE OF HARD DRUGS Martin Salter joins Kentwood Councillor Viki Lloyd in developing strategies to combat the growth of drug related crime and pressing for better drug treatment for addicts.

September

- Pressed the Prime Minister for improvements to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders to combat drug abuse in Reading.
- Attacked plans to scrap the Angling Rod licence.
- Successfully campaigned to bring in new laws to prevent the misuse of fireworks.

October

- Supported cannabis law reform.
- Backed a Commons motion calling for free TV licences for the over 70s.

November

- Spoke in a Commons debate in favour of ID cards.
- Organised a major conference on regional pay allowances for key public sector workers.

December

- Opposed the introduction of top-up fees for University students
- Presented Home Office Ministers with a detailed case for improving procedures to tackle drug dealing.



SAY NO TO TOP UP FEES Martin meets students at Reading University to discuss their concerns over Student Top Up Fees and how he can help support their campaign for Fair Trade.

Student Top Up Fees – Let Martin Know Your Views

Martin Salter has already voiced his concerns over student top-up fees as a way of funding the increase in the numbers of young people going to university. But he wants to know what you think.

Increasing student debt will deter young people from poorer backgrounds from going on to university.

YES NO

Students should make a contribution to the cost of higher education but only once they are earning a reasonable wage.

YES NO

The taxpayer should cover the whole cost of higher education.

YES NO

Other Comments

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Please return to Martin Salter MP,
413 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HA