

Parliamentary News

Martin Salter's Eighth Annual Report to Constituents

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

Working for Reading West

Since he was first elected as Member of Parliament in 1997 Martin Salter has established a reputation as a hard-working constituency MP who gets results for local people. Martin believes in keeping in touch with his constituents and produces an Annual Report setting out what he has been doing on your behalf during the last year.

“ Dear Resident

2005 has been a year of triumphs and disasters. It began with the awful scenes of devastation from the Asian Tsunami which prompted a generous worldwide response in which the people of Reading played their part. We scarcely had time to enjoy the triumph of Britain winning the Olympics bid before the dreadful London bombings of 7th July.

Obviously I was pleased to have been re-elected for the third time in a row and in the constituency I've been as busy as ever: successfully fighting off plans to merge Calcot Infant and Junior Schools; winning extra funding for Prospect College, Denefield, Brookfields and Long Lane Primary Schools; helping get rid of the illegal travellers encampment at Pangbourne Hill and securing a new Medical Centre on the Battle Hospital site.

Perhaps the most significant achievements were winning a change in the law through the Jane Longhurst Campaign Against Violent Internet Pornography and helping to secure free bus passes for all pensioners after several years of campaigning.

I hope you find my eighth Annual Report to be useful and informative. I would welcome any views or comments.”

Best Wishes



Martin Salter MP



WINNING PROMOTION – Shortly after the General Election Martin was made Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Schools Minister, Jacqui Smith MP.



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS – The Prime Minister asked Martin to invite two community workers to 10 Downing Street. Street warden Ahmed Abd-Eighany and Battle Library's Marjorie McClure were thanked personally by Tony Blair for their hard work.

Salter Wins a Third Term

Reading West MP, Martin Salter, was comfortably re-elected on May 5th to serve a third term in Parliament. He is one of only six Labour MPs who still has a majority greater than when he was first elected in the 1997 landslide. The final result was:

Martin Salter (Labour)	18,940
Conservative	14,258
Liberal Democrat	6,663
UKIP	1,180
Greens	921

Martin says:

“It's a great honour to be elected as a Member of Parliament and I take my job extremely seriously. I promise to remain a full-time MP and to work hard for my constituents both here in Reading West and to speak up for them in Westminster. I am grateful for the confidence that local people have shown in me and in the way I have tried to do my job over the last eight years.”

Local action all year round

Over the last year Martin Salter has been busy in:

January – Campaigning for an Oxford Road Medical Centre on the former Battle Hospital site.

– Supporting Cancer Plan re-think to retain as many cancer treatment services as possible at the Royal Berks.

– Opposing the Prudential’s plans for 7,000 new homes in South West Reading due to the Environment Agency’s ruling that the whole of the Kennet Meadows lies within the functional flood plain.

March – Campaigning with Southcote councillors John Ennis and Chris Swaine to evict anti-social tenants from Granville Road flats. Pressing for improvements and re-decoration of the larger blocks.

– Welcoming the closure of the controversial nuclear waste pipeline into the river Thames at Pangbourne.

April – Publishing a Crime Manifesto for Reading, listing the top ten priorities for the fight against crime in Reading.

– Presenting certificates and prizes to local people

– Opposing the controversial decision to close the two bus gates in Fords Farm and Beansheaf estates.

July – Joining war veterans at Tilehurst Triangle to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

– Launching a pioneering new angling project, Angling Action, to encourage youngsters to take up the hobby and steer them away from trouble.

August – Launching a parliamentary petition on the Crossrail Bill to enable the scheme to start in Reading and include a direct link to Heathrow with the support of local businesses.

– Celebrating the start of work on the new Hydrotherapy pool for arthritis sufferers at the Royal Berkshire Hospital after six years of campaigning.

September – Working with local councillors to sort out problems with Affinity on the Whitley PFI project which brings £50 million of new investment for new doors, windows, bathrooms, kitchens, damp treatment and heating systems.

– Attacking the Henley based Open Spaces Society for forcing a path which divides Norcot Nursery in half to remain open after jobs caused £6,000 of damage to children’s play equipment.

October – Visiting Battle Library to help launch the Bookstart Plus and Treasure Box schemes.



KEEPING DOCTORS LOCAL – Martin won an assurance that the current GP review will not result in the closure of the Underwood Road surgery in Fords Farm.

– Launching the Whitley Arts Festival, a week long programme of cultural activities.

– Supporting local residents in Fords Farm worried that the Primary Care Trust plans could close the only doctors surgery on the estate.

November – Pressing for improvements to Theale Green swimming pool so that it can remain open next summer.

– Supporting the ‘Give a Child a Chance’ appeal and an event to raise funds for the victims of the Kashmir earthquake.

December – Organising his annual MP’s Christmas Card design competition with children from Geoffrey Field Junior School.

– Attending Christmas events at local charities such as Arthritis Matters and Berkshire MS Therapy Centre.



CARING FOR CALCOT – Martin joins local parents in successfully campaigning against plans by West Berkshire Council to cram Calcot Infant and Junior schools onto a single site.

February – Fighting the Calcot Schools Merger on behalf of parents and staff at Calcot Infant and Junior Schools. With pupil numbers set to rise there would not be enough space to teach the children properly.

– Speaking at the Planning Inquiry into the unlawful travellers site on Pangbourne Hill in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

– Helping the campaign to bring Crossrail to Reading by taking a council delegation to meet transport ministers to persuade them to safeguard the Reading route.

who complete the excellent courses organised by Deborah Edwards of Southcote Information Technology Experience (SITE).

May – Backing local residents opposing the development of 350 flats and houses at the Lakeside site in Theale.

– Demanding that the newly refurbished Forbury Gardens be locked up at night to protect them from vandalism.

June – Visiting the childminders’ Friday Fun Club in West Reading to celebrate National Childminding week.



A NEW MEDICAL CENTRE FOR OXFORD ROAD – Battle ward councillors Tony Jones and Chris Maskell join Martin in collecting views on which services local residents would like to see in a new medical centre on the Battle Hospital site.

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 and supported Babyloss Awareness Week to promote understanding of the impact of baby deaths among health workers and the community at large.



HELPING GOOD CAUSES – Martin launches the Oracle's 2005 charity fund for the MS Therapy Centre Berkshire, The Berkshire Community Foundation, Berkshire Give a Child a Chance and Cancer Research UK

- **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; The Tsunami Appeal; Cystinosis Foundation and the Pakistan Earthquake Appeal.



CRISIS IN KASHMIR – As Secretary of the Parliamentary group on Kashmir Martin organised meetings with International Development ministers and the Pakistan High Commissioner to press for the maximum relief effort to help the victims of the Kashmir Earthquake.

- **Kicked off** the Tsunami Benefit match organised by Thames Valley Churches Football league and launched RITA (Reading Initiative for Tsunami Action) with former Mayor Cllr Richard Stainthorp to help rebuild Beruwala in Sri Lanka after the devastating Tsunami.
- **Organised** a fishing trip for disabled children from the PALS play scheme along with local anglers at Tappersn Lake, Theale, and launched Angling Action, a new scheme to encourage more local children to take up fishing to help combat anti-social behaviour.
- **Supported** Reading's week of action to highlight the Make Poverty History Campaign in the run up to the Africa and Climate Change G8 Summit.

Meeting the people – staying in touch

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.



A FRESH START FOR DEE PARK – Martin opening the new Lyon Square Regeneration Project Office to take forward plans to redevelop the Dee Park Estate in Tilehurst.

Over the last 12 months Martin has:

- Taken part in the Send a Friend to School Day at Springfield Primary School to highlight the campaign for global education as well as regularly visiting local schools, including: All Saints Infant School where he awarded them with the Artsmark Gold Certificate; Upcroft Primary School as part of National Story Telling Week; Blessed Hugh Faringdon; Calcot Junior and Primary Schools; Geoffrey Field; Whitley Park; Brookfields, Oxford Road Primary, Church End, Little Heath; Park Lane Primary, Prospect College, Moorlands; Thamesbridge College; Denefield and the Whitley Excellence Cluster Summer Camp. Martin is also a patron of ABC to Read and the Southcote Toy Library.
- Met with many local churches and voluntary organisations, including: Reading Interfaith Group, Churches together in Reading, Berkshire Helmet Initiative Trust, YMCA, Resource, Reading Christian Network, The Hibernian Society, Southcote SITE, 1st Theale and Calcot Scouts, the Indian Community Association, Rising Tide, Reading Childminders, Dee Park Residents, Reading Matins Rotary Club, Common Purpose and joined local war veterans in Tilehurst attending the National Commemoration Day to mark the 60th Anniversary of the ending of World War II.
- Martin is also a keen supporter of Reading FC where he is a season ticket holder in the East Stand. He is a vice president of the supporters club STAR.

If you would like Martin to visit your group or organisation just drop a line to his constituency office.

Westminster report 2005



MARTIN SALTER
a full-time MP

Martin Salter has been described by commentators as a "sharp, clever, backbencher...loyal but no robot". He has earned respect for not being afraid to speak his mind and for being an effective campaigner. He is an active member of several All Party Parliamentary Groups and is the government's spokesman for Angling. Martin has no outside business interests, believing that representing 70,000 constituents is a full time job. He claims considerably less in allowances than most MPs as he does not have a taxpayer funded flat in London, nor does he go on regular foreign trips at the public's expense. **Listed below are a few highlights from his work in Westminster in the last year.**

January

- Appointed to the committee scrutinising the Identity Cards Bill.
- Spoke against attempts to reduce Local Government pensions.

February

- Sponsored the Banking Practices (Protection of the Elderly) Bill.
- Campaigned for the retention of the Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment within the new army structure.

March

- Supported the new Stop Notices to prevent the establishment of unauthorised travellers' sites.
- Welcomed the announcement in the Budget of free pensioner bus passes in every area from 2006.

April

- Launched Labour's Angling and Shooting Charters to develop the sports.
- Highlighted the achievements of the Royal Berks in combating hospital acquired infections.

May

- Re-elected to Parliament for a third time.
- Helped form Reading International Tsunami Action (RITA).

June

- Called for residents to be given the same financial protection as businesses against excessive council tax rises.
- Asked the Prime Minister to introduce more schemes to divert young people away from drugs and crime.

July

- Spoke in favour of improvements to the Crossrail Bill.
- Sponsored private members bills to help tackle climate change.
- Supported 'Make Poverty History'.

August

- Welcomed the Home Office announcement to introduce measures to ban violent internet pornography.
- Attended the funeral in Edinburgh of his friend and colleague Robin Cook.

September

- Pressed for amendments to improve the Terrorism Bill.
- Spoke in support of the Madejski Academy at the Labour Conference.

October

- Organised MP briefings with ministers on the Kashmir earthquake disaster.
- Signed a Commons motion to retain Test Match Cricket on terrestrial TV.

November

- Presented a 40,000 signature petition to Parliament from the Jane Longhurst Campaign.
- Set up a new parliamentary group on the Proceeds of Crime Act.

December

- Lobbied for the introduction of a Corporate Manslaughter Bill to hold companies to account for safety failures.
- Highlighted continued problems with the processing of benefit claims by the Department of Work and Pensions.



CASTING A LINE – As the government's spokesman for angling, Martin brings Environment Agency boss Sir John Harman to Theale to brief him on the Cleaner Kennel Campaign and to show him how to cast a fly line.



PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY – Martin checks out the latest biometric technology before making a speech in Parliament in support of the introduction of ID cards to fight fraud, terrorism and smuggling.



CLEAN UP THE INTERNET – Battling Reading mum Liz Longhurst and Martin Salter on their way to meet the Home Secretary to press for new laws to outlaw violent internet pornography.

7 Ways to Contact Martin Salter

- Book in for one of his advice surgeries on the 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**