

Parliamentary News

Martin Salter's Ninth Annual Report to Constituents

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

Justice for Jane

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, which is why he produces an Annual Report setting out what he has been doing on your behalf during the last year.

In August Martin helped achieve a significant change in the law at the end of a two and a half year campaign with Reading mum Liz Longhurst when the Home Office announced proposals to create a new criminal offence for the possession of violent and extreme pornographic material featuring rape, torture and necrophilia. This followed the death of Liz's daughter Jane at the hands of a man who was a self-confessed addict of extreme internet sites.

Martin Salter says: "This campaign has taken a huge amount of time and effort but it has struck a chord right across the country as our 50,000 signature petition demonstrates. These proposals will change the law to treat violent internet pornography in the same way as child pornography. It is great news that the government responded to calls to outlaw these sickening internet images which can so easily send vulnerable people over the edge."



CHANGING THE LAW – Martin and Liz Longhurst celebrate the announcement by the government that violent internet pornography is to be outlawed. This followed a two and a half year campaign in Parliament and across the country.



PROTECTING THE FLOODPLAIN – Martin joins Southcote councillor Pete Ruhemann and local campaigners in opposing attempts to build on the functional floodplain between the Kennet and the M4.

Making a Difference

Martin has been busy in the constituency on a whole range of campaigns and issues including:

- ✓ **Successfully fighting off** plans by Prudential to build 7,500 homes on the floodplain of the River Kennet
- ✓ **Resisting** attempts by Wokingham Council to close Ryeish Green School
- ✓ **Taking forward plans** to establish a Summer Camp at affordable prices for local school children
- ✓ **Lobbying** for money for transport improvements including the M4 Junction 11 and Reading Station upgrades
- ✓ **Pressing** for work to begin on the new medical centres for the Oxford Road and Tilehurst

Martin has also been busy supporting the work of many charities, residents' associations and community groups.

Local action all year round



SAVE RYEISH GREEN SCHOOL – Local parents and school governors in South Reading enlisted Martin’s support in their fight to stop Wokingham Council closing their school.

Over the last year Martin Salter has been busy in:

January – Campaigning for tough action against travellers after an encampment at Rivermead Leisure Centre resulted in passers-by being bitten by dogs and an NHS eye clinic on the site had to be cancelled.

February – Speaking at the West Berkshire Youth Parliament Election to encourage young people to get involved in politics and democracy.

March – Writing to Home Secretary, Charles Clarke to press for an inquiry into the conduct of the Probation Service following the Mary-Ann Leneghan murder – 4 out of 6 men found guilty of the murder were under the supervision of the Probation Service.

April – Securing, after 5 years of lobbying, the support of the Department of Transport to fund the M4 Junction 11 upgrade.

Hitting out at the failure of First Great Western to amend their draft timetable and instead go ahead with cuts to fast train services to London.

Surveying residents’ views in Tilehurst on NHS services they would like to see in the new Medical Centre.

May – Visiting Hawthorns Primary School to give an assembly on his visit to Sri Lanka.

Celebrating the 10th Birthday of Reading International Solidarity Centre and helped unveil the William Penn plaque.

June – Leading a delegation from local Advice Agencies to Work and Pensions Minister, Jim Murphy MP, to protest at the chaos around benefit processing which had blighted the Reading area for months.

Attending the launch of the Dee Park exhibition about the regeneration to hear the views of local residents.

July – Launching Active Learning Week for pupils at Little Heath School and talked to students about his career development from bin man to politician.

August – Wading into the fight to save Ryeish Green school which Wokingham Council want to close and which serves many children in the South Reading area.

September – Supporting residents in Tilehurst and pressing WBDC Eastern Area Planning Committee to reject proposals to build on a play area for local children near Linnet Close and Bitterne Avenue.



RAISING A STINK – Purley-on-Thames residents campaigned with Martin to stop the building of a sewage pump out station at the beautiful Mapledurham Lock.



SUPPORTING PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Martin helped win the new 28 bus service linking Tilehurst with Asda and the Royal Berkshire Hospital.



SUPPORTING THE TRADERS – Martin has been working with Kentwood councillors and local traders in Tilehurst in opposing any further extension of parking restrictions which could damage businesses.

October – Working to help find a new festival for Reading as WOMAD leaves for a bigger site.

Arranging for Transport Secretary Douglas Alexander MP to hear for himself the case for the Reading Station upgrade to improve platform capacity, to provide better facilities for commuters and increase the number of services.

November – Leading delegation from Reading University to meet with Higher Education Minister in bid to prevent the closure of the Physics Department.

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

A helping hand

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 at home or abroad. He is patron of the Berkshire MS Therapy Centre, ABC To Read, Reading Cygnets, Southcote Toy Library and Thames Valley Positive Support.



VISIT TO SRI LANKA WITH MAYOR BET TICKNER – Martin saw for himself the effects of the devastating Tsunami and the work that is being funded by RITA (Reading Initiative for Tsunami Action) to help rebuild homes and schools.

Over the past year Martin has:

- **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 St John's Ambulance Theale HQ Appeal, Children with Leukaemia and the MS Therapy Centre.
- **Supported Reading's Campaign** to Make Poverty History and launched the local Jubilee Debt Campaign event at WOMAD.
- **Organised a fishing trip** for disabled children from the PALS play scheme along with local anglers at Tapperns Lake, Theale and secured funding for the Reading Angling Action Project which helps keep youngsters out of trouble.
- **Set up the Reading Initiative for Pakistan Earthquake Relief (RIPER)** to raise funds to help with the reconstruction of communities devastated by the South Asia Earthquake in October 2005.



GOOD SAMARITANS – Martin helps out at the Reading Samaritans' Stall in Broad Street.

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.

Over the last 12 months Martin has:

- Become a governor at the new Madejski Academy and launched the Active Learning Week at Little Heath School as well as regularly visiting other local schools including:- Pangbourne Primary School, Brookfields, Geoffrey Field Juniors, Hugh Faringdon, Ryeish Green, Saint Mary and All Saints, Upcroft Primary, Tilehurst Play Group, Reading Girls, The Avenue, Whitley After School Club and Norcot Early Years Centre.
- Supported many local churches and voluntary organisations including:- South Reading Churches, St Mark's Church, Reading Interfaith Group, Resource, Southcote SITE, Dee Park Residents, YMCA, Reading Association for the Blind, Age Concern, Reading Scouts, RISC, Whitley Arts Festival, Thames Valley Positive

Support, Elizabeth Fry Hostel, the Royal Berkshire Cancer Centre and the new Hydrotherapy Pool.

- 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.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY – Radio Berkshire's Maggie Philbin joins Martin to launch a project telling the stories of people who came to Reading in search of a better life.

Westminster report 2006

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 a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee 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.

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



MARTIN SALTER joined forces with the Breast Cancer Campaign for their 'wear it pink' day as part of breast cancer awareness month.

January

- Helped to win a Parliamentary free vote for a ban on smoking in public places.
- Supported the campaign against the withdrawal of Alzheimer's drugs.

February

- Called for tougher action against travellers "in defence of the law-abiding community".
- Led a delegation to Kashmir and Sri Lanka following the South Asian Tsunami and Earthquake.

March

- Won significant improvements to the Education Bill following the publication of the widely acclaimed "Alternative Education White Paper".
- Tabled a Commons' motion acknowledging Reading Football Club's historic achievement in securing promotion to the Premiership.

April

- Supported Yell's case against the Competition Commission in order to protect jobs in Reading.
- Backed the campaign to 'Save our Sundays' and a Parliamentary motion to prevent shops opening for longer.



COME ON URZI! – Martin is a season ticket holder at the Mad Stad and is supporting plans to increase the stadium capacity.

May

- Elected Chair of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group on Angling.
- Criticised Wokingham councillors for trying to exclude Reading children from Wokingham schools.

June

- Called for an end to human rights abuses and military occupation in Kashmir.
- Joined a campaign calling for a change in the law on convicted criminals serving in the House of Lords.

July

- Called for an immediate ceasefire in the Lebanon.
- Presented Reading's Crossrail case to the special Select Committee.
- Raised the issue of Reading Station upgrade at Transport Questions.

August

- Invited Barry Gardiner, Rural Affairs Minister, to Beale Park to support National Fishing Week to get more people fishing.
- Welcomed announcement to outlaw violent internet pornography.



CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – Martin helps launch an Environment Agency strategy to help protect Britain's rivers.

September

- Spoke in favour of the National Grid Young Offenders programme that began life at Reading Prison and has seen a dramatic fall in re-offending rates.

October

- Welcomed the Bill to create a new law of Corporate Manslaughter.
- Condemned the decision by Royal Mail to close its mail centre in Caversham Road, and transfer operations to Swindon.

November

- Sponsored the launch of the national "Blueprint for Water" to protect and improve our water resources.
- Lobbied for new Marine and Fisheries Bills.

December

- Took a delegation to the Schools Minister to try and stop the closure of Ryeish Green School.
- Pressed Transport Ministers for more investment in the Thames Valley infrastructure, in partnership with major employers in the area.



KASHMIR CRISIS – thousands of people made homeless by the South Asian earthquake face another winter under canvas.

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**