



Martin Salter

# mp update

June 1999

## Staying in touch with Reading West

Martin takes a party of school children to meet Cherie Blair at 10 Downing Street. Martin regularly hosts visits to the Houses of Parliament for local organisations



**S**ince his election two years ago as MP for Reading West Martin Salter has established a reputation as a hard-working constituency MP, and a tough and energetic campaigner who gets results for local people. Martin believes in keeping in touch and remaining accountable to the people whose hard work and votes sent him to Westminster.

This is why he is inviting representatives from voluntary organisations, community groups and residents and tenants associations to join Labour councillors and party members from across the Reading West constituency, in what will be Reading's first 'MP's Community Forum'.

### Come along

Martin says: 'It is a huge privilege to serve as a Member of Parliament and I am truly grateful for the support I have received from local people in my first two years in the job.

However, I am determined not to become semi-detached from the people I represent so I welcome the opportunity to meet up with representatives of local organisations across the constituency to hear people's views on both local and national issues and to explain what I have been up to on their behalf.

You don't have to be a Labour Party member or supporter to attend - I want to hear from as wide a cross-section of my constituents as possible. Hopefully I'll see you at the meeting on 8 July.'

## news

IN BRIEF

### Reading West 'MP's Community Forum'

You are invited to the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Reading at 8pm on Thursday, 8 July. Come and have your say. Let Martin Salter have your views on local and national issues and hear about his work as your MP.

### Getting results

Martin's campaigns have included:

- Helping save the Tilehurst allotments from the developers
- Moves to sort out traffic and parking problems in Whitley
- Protecting the future of the Hydrotherapy Pool at Battle Hospital for arthritis sufferers
- Pressing for a proper system of concessionary TV licences and bus passes for pensioners.

### Contacting Martin

Martin holds 4 surgeries each month, on Friday evenings and every other Saturday. Call 954 6782 for details. Or you can write to Martin at 413 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HA; via the MP mailbox in the Civic Offices, Reading; at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA; or you can email him at [salterm@parliament.uk](mailto:salterm@parliament.uk)

### Working in Parliament

Martin's parliamentary duties include:

- Chair of the South East Group of Labour MPs
- Assistant Secretary of Labour's Northern Ireland Departmental Committee
- Member of the Northern Ireland Select Committee
- Chair of the 'Keep The Link' group of Labour MPs on electoral reform
- Member of committees on childcare registration, environment and transport, leasehold reform and parliamentary business.

# A modern, fairer society for us all

By Tony Blair MP, Leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister



**We've shown this year we are making real progress towards our goal of building a modern and fairer society.**

We are delivering real change. A programme to improve the lives of millions of people across the country.

The national minimum wage – a pay rise for two million of our country's poorest paid workers. Record child benefit increases for families. Free eye tests for pensioners. All introduced in April.

It was the same month which saw the £40 billion extra for health and education come on stream. Money to drive up standards in schools for all our children, improve the quality of health care and provide new services like NHS Direct.

It's money as well to ensure we meet our pledges on hospital waiting lists and school classes ahead of schedule.

Waiting lists are now well below the level we inherited after the biggest ever monthly fall in March.

And the number of infants in classes of over 30 will have been halved by the start of the new school year in September. We will meet our pledge a year before target.

We are making real progress on all

our pledges. The New Deal has helped halve long-term youth unemployment. The time between arrest and sentence for persistent young offenders has been slashed, through the most comprehensive reform of the youth justice system for a generation.

VAT on fuel has been reduced, and the basic and top rate of tax held down, as promised. But we have been able to go further.

The new 10p rate of tax was introduced in April and from next year, the basic rate of income tax will be cut by 1p. And pensioners have been helped through the introduction of the new winter fuel allowance, increased to £100 this winter.

It's a good record. But there is plenty more to do. We all know that. The task we were given at the election was to renew our country. It's a big task but one we can achieve together.

# A better quality of life



By John Prescott Deputy Prime Minister

**Labour is putting environmental concerns at the heart of our policy making, alongside economic growth and social justice. In two years we have delivered a package of reforms to cut pollution and congestion, protect wildlife and tackle global warming.**

We have a whole new approach to government. It's about making sure that our economy, society and our environment develop in harmony. Experts call it 'sustainable development'. It simply means delivering a better quality of life now and for generations to come.

Global warming is likely to be the greatest problem our planet has ever faced, with extreme weather conditions leading to epidemics of famine and disease. At international talks I led efforts to agree legally-binding reductions in the greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that cause global warming.

In March, Gordon Brown approved the 'greenest' budget ever, and we are cracking down on polluting companies. Like millions of my fellow drivers, I know that sitting in traffic jams at all times of the day robs driving of its convenience, but traffic congestion also pollutes our air and damages our health. I am injecting £1.8 billion into integrated transport so that people will use public transport more and their cars a little less.

Every Tory summer seemed to bring a water crisis. We have ordered water companies to save water by cutting their leaks by a quarter.

We will extend access to our countryside, but we insist our countryside is respected. So we have widened protection for our most precious sites and wildlife.

Helping the environment is about gain, not pain. Energy efficiency means less damage to our environment but also cheaper bills. We are also giving £175 million a year of new grants to pensioners to make their homes warmer, protecting them from the cold and helping them save money.

Everyone can help the environment. We have launched a major publicity campaign asking people 'Are you doing your bit?', encouraging people to recycle and switch off lights when not needed. This government is leading by example. All government policies are now assessed for their impact on the environment, and an audit committee of MPs monitors our progress.

The Labour government has a vision of a greener future. We are promoting environmentally friendly policies, protecting our natural heritage, and discouraging polluters. Together, we can ensure that our economy, our society and our environment grow and develop in harmony.

THE NEXT 100 YEARS START HERE



## Help us achieve more!

As a member you are vital to us – you help us stay in touch with peoples' real concerns, you help us shape the next manifesto and you help to ensure that the Tories don't come back to threaten our plans to deliver a decent society in a better Britain.

**Just by being a Labour Party member you are making a difference.**

For that reason it is vital that you do not forget to renew your membership when it is due. If you are unsure whether you need to renew or would like details of how to join, then please call our membership hotline today on 08705 900 200.

You can also recruit other people in your family or household. For a minimum of £25 per year (Direct Debit only) you can recruit up to three other people in your household – all as individual members. It really is that easy. Just call...

information line: 08705 900 200