

Reading Standard



A Berkshire Press Group Newspaper

SEE INSIDE FOR YOUR
Reading **Standard**

Parliamentary NEWS

END OF TERM REPORT

A report for the people of **Reading East** and **Reading West** from your members of Parliament.

Staying in Touch



Jane Griffiths MP - Reading East



Martin Salter MP - Reading West

Following their election victories last May our two Reading MP's pledged to keep you informed of the work they are doing both in Parliament and in their constituencies. This is the first in a series of regular Parliamentary reports to constituents that Jane Griffiths MP and Martin Salter MP will be publishing and sending to every home in Reading East and Reading West. Both Jane and Martin are determined to keep in touch with local people all year round.

JANE GRIFFITHS MP



A year ago in May I was proud to be elected as the new Labour MP for Reading East. The first ever woman to be elected as an MP in Reading. In that election I stood as a candidate promising change. Already I have made a start

Parliament since the election. I intend to produce this report regularly to keep you in touch with details of what I have been doing. Inside you will also find listed details of achievements by the new Government in the important fields of Health and Education.

As an MP who lives and shops locally I get to meet and chat with many of you regularly but I hope you find this annual report useful if you have any comments or matters you would like my help with please either send the coupon on the back to my office, or contact me in one of the six ways mentioned. If you have any views on the content of this annual report or the way it is set out, I would welcome hearing from you.

With best wishes

Jane Griffiths MP
Your Member of Parliament for Reading East



Jane Griffiths with the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading opening a new home for the elderly

writing articles for local newspapers on a regular basis and bringing my surgeries to you rather than waiting for you to see me. This is another example of that change - a report from me to you on what I have been doing in

SIX ways to contact Jane Griffiths MP: **1**.Phone 0171 219 5079 or 0118 957 3756 **2**.Write: 81 Kings Road, Reading, RG1 3DD or House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA **3**.e-mail: griffithsj@parliament.uk **4**.Drop a note in to the box at Caversham Library or **5**.drop a note in to the box at Reading Council Offices **6**.Come to a surgery at: A pub - second Friday of the month 6-8pm. Council Offices - second Saturday of the month 10am-1pm. Tesco Cafe - the fourth Friday of the month 6.30-8pm. Woodley Library - fourth Saturday of the month 9.30-11.30am.

JANE GRIFFITHS MP - Staying in Touch with you

MARTIN SALTER MP



It is a great honour to be elected to serve as a member of Parliament and I would like to thank the people of Reading West for putting their trust in me. I have tried to be an active and hard working constituency MP - as well as contributing to the work of

the new Labour Government in the House of Commons.

Life as an MP involves constant juggling between constituency work and Parliamentary duties. I enjoy it all and feel very privileged to be able to speak up for the people of Reading West at both local and national levels. This Parliamentary report is an important way of remaining accountable to my constituents. Hopefully it will demonstrate to you how I spend my time, the types of individual problems and cases that I deal with, the community organisations that I visit and support and the campaigns and issues that I take up on behalf of the local people.

With best wishes

Martin Salter MP
Your Member of Parliament for Reading West



Martin Salter joins police officers and local businesses to launch Pangbourne Business Watch to help cut crime.

SIX ways to contact Jane Griffiths MP: **1**.Book an appointment for one of his Advice Surgeries held on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month - Tel: 954 6782 **2**.Call in at on of Martin's Friday evening local Drop-In Surgeries, for details call - 954 6782 **3**.Write to Martin at the Reading West Labour Party Constituency Office - 413 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HA **4**.Drop him a note in the new MP mailbox in the Civic Offices, Reading and save yourself the price of a stamp. **5**.Write to House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. **6**.e-mail: salterm@parliament.uk.

MARTIN SALTER MP - Staying in Touch with you

INSIDE... Focus on Health & Education with news on Reading's School and Hospitals, plus Constituency Campaign Reports and questions to your MP's.

Questions to JANE

1. Is Parliament as old fashioned as it looks?

Yes - very! There are good traditions, but some get in the way of doing a good job. One example is the time it takes us to vote - going through an old fashioned turnstile. There is a committee looking at modernising procedures.

2. The Chamber looks empty - why aren't MP's there more often?

A lot goes on inside the Chamber - a huge amount of work is done in committee. I'm on the Public Accounts Select Committee and this meets for two whole afternoons nearly every week.

3. How many women MP's are there?

The General Election held in May 1997 resulted in the return of 120 women as Members of Parliament. Whilst this the highest number yet, it still only represents 18% of the total 659 MP's. I am the first woman MP ever in Reading but hopefully not the last!

4. Can I get more information about the House of Commons?

Yes. Our staff will be happy to help or to put you in touch with the appropriate person at the House. There is a lot of material available - particularly for schools. Or you can visit the parliamentary web site at www.parliamentary.uk

5. Were you nervous about making your maiden speech?

Everybody is nervous about making their first speech in the House of Commons. It doesn't help when the opposition try to put you off by acting like schoolchildren even though tradition says that a new M.P. should be heard without interruption. I'm glad I got it over with early and now feel much more relaxed about speaking in the chamber.

Working for READING

Focus on Education

The New Labour Government was elected with the priorities of education, education and education and it has been working since the election to make that priority real.

In the first year the Government has:
 *replaced nursery vouchers with a place at nursery or playground for every four year old.
 *£2.2 billion extra funding for education an extra £2 billion over five years to tackle the backlog of repairs and maintenance in schools

Jane Griffiths writes:-

"I made my maiden speech during the Education (Schools) Bill on 2 June 1997. I have continued this interest by asking a number of questions in the House of Commons and being present during a number of debates on education. I have also visited a number of schools in Reading East, the Reading College of Art and Technology and the University.

Both Reading Borough and Wokingham Councils received more money to spend on education this year. It was pleasing to see that Reading passed this money onto schools whilst disappointing that Wokingham

kept the large part of the extra money back. It was also disappointing that Wokingham were doing this at the same time as they were cutting hundreds of thousands of pounds from Libraries, Berkshire Young Musicians Trust, the Schools Museum Service, Adult Education and Youth and Community Centres amongst others. Both Councils have received extra



Martin Salter presents the prizes to school children from Coley

money for increasing reading, writing and number skills, cutting truancy and people excluded from school."

Martin Salter writes:-

"We said that we would make education our top pri-

pital to talk to staff and have met with other health care professionals, including school nurses and health visitors.

Focus on Health

The NHS was 50 years old this year and the government has made the renewal of the NHS, one of its top priorities Jane and Martin have been working in Parliament to ensure that



The National Health Service had two reasons to celebrate this year - extra money from the Government and a 50 year birthday. Martin and Jane mark the occasion by presenting special commemorative coins to the mums of the first three babies born on the NHS birthday.

Reading has benefited from resources to modernise our health services. Since the election, Reading has received:

- * £73 million for the new super hospital on the Royal Berks site.
- * £25 million for the repositioning of Fairmile Hospital
- * £4 million to reduce hospital waiting lists, which are now falling.
- * £144 000 to tackle breast cancer

It is important that there is awareness about health issues and Jane has been campaigning on a number of issues, including raising awareness of the dangers of ectopic pregnancy and prostate and testicular cancer.

Our MP's believe it is important to talk to people who work in the health service and they have visited Royal Berks hos-

pital by cutting class sizes, improving facilities and raising standards.

This summer the Chancellor, Gordon Brown announced the biggest ever investment programme in our nations' future - an extra £19 billion for education over the next 3 years. This means:

- * Smaller class sizes - by September 100,000 more children will be in classes of 30 or less - as promised. By September 2000 no child of 5, 6 or 7 years old will be taught in classes of over 30 children.

- * In Reading an extra £3 million to spend on improving school buildings and providing better facilities."

"Our children are Britain's future. We want to give them the best of all starts in life with a first class education".

In the Comprehensive Spending Review the new Government announced:

- * an extra £19 billion for schools over the next three years - an average increase of 5.1% over inflation
- * double the money to improve school buildings and facilities
- * an increase in the proportion of national income spent on education to 5% by 2001-02 compared to 4.7% in 1997/98, meeting our manifesto commitment.

This money will make sure that education remains the Government's number one commitment. It will also see our pledge to reduce class sizes, leaving no 5,6 or 7 year old being taught in a class of 30 or more, met by the end of this Parliament.

NO MORE HEALTH CUTS

Despite receiving extra money from the Government, Berkshire Health Authority is attempting to recover it's historical deficit by proposing a series of cuts to clinical health services including the specialist Health Visiting Service for the elderly, Community Dentistry, Chiropody, School Nursing and speech and language therapy. Your MP's have joined together with doctors and nurses to fight these cuts and persuade the Health Authority to think again.

Give us your views.....



Jane Griffiths supporting initiatives to raise awareness of prostate cancer. The good news is that the government has pledged another £100 million pounds to improve cancer screening.



Reading Evening Post - 14 September 1998 'The Supertanker has turned' said Health Secretary Frank Dobson as he announced the welcome news that waiting lists were starting to fall.

the next 3 years will help cut waiting times as well as funding nationwide improvements to the cancer screening service.

Last month we received the welcome news that hospital waiting lists in Reading had begun to follow the new national trend and had started to fall. But it is not just the length of the waiting lists that needs to be addressed but the amount of time people are kept waiting for important operations and treatments. The extra £20 billion promised by the Government over the

I SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN to keep Reading's Specialist Health Visitor Service for the elderly, Speech and language therapists and school nurses.

Name.....
 Address.....
 Comments.....

Please return to Martin Salter, Labour MP for Reading West, 413 Oxford Rd. Reading, RG30 2RS.

NO MORE HEALTH CUTS

Labour MP's Martin Salter and Jane Griffiths have joined doctors, nurses and Health Visitors in fighting these cuts. Please lend your support to keep Reading's Community health services by returning this coupon to Martin Salter MP.



Southern Region
Congratulations Jane and Martin
on a successful start in
Parliament.

For more information about UNISON, Britain's largest union, contact

Tony Jones
Phone: 0118 959 6466
email: t.jones@unison.co.uk
website: www.unison-southern.org.uk

Working in PARLIAMENT

Jane Griffiths writes: -

When Parliament is sitting I work an average of 70 hours both in Parliament and in the constituency but work a more reasonable 9 - 5 during the Parliamentary recess on top of evening and weekend commitments.

As well as spending time in the House of Commons, I am a member of the influential Public Accounts Committee. This meets twice a week to look at Government spending to prevent waste. I am also a member of a number of all party groups that are listed below.

In the year since 1 May 1997, amongst others thing I have:

- taken over 50 local groups round the House of Commons.
- tabled 28 written questions and asked a number more in public.
- signed 128 Early Day Motions
- moved a bill and spoken a number of the Public Accounts Committee
- been a member of two committees scrutinising legislation before it becomes law
- met numerous delegations of



On the national stage - Jane Griffiths chairs a meeting in the House of Commons with Government minister Paul Boateng MP



Making Links - Jane Griffiths shows the only woman cabinet member in the Korean Government around the House of Commons.

constituents lobbying on particular issues.

I have also been active in the House of Commons lobbying for Reading East. This has already resulted in a better deal for the constituency. I have also taken up a number of particular issues. I organised a debate in the House of Commons on Korean Prisoners of War. I have organised a meeting with Ministers that resulted in a pledge to tackle prostate and testicular cancer. I have also organised a meeting that resulted in a charity to promote awareness of ectopic pregnancy being set up.

ALL PARTY GROUPS

Estonia (Joint Secretary), Japan (Joint Secretary), Far East Prisoners of War (Secretary), China, Korea, Japan, Armenia, Human Rights, Football, Environment, Cycling

BACKBENCH COMMITTEES

Environment, Transport & Regions, Culture, Foreign Affairs.

Martin Salter writes: -



Both Martin and Jane organise regular trips for their constituents to the Houses of Parliament - usually on Tuesday mornings.

Looking back on my first year in Parliament makes me realise just how ill prepared most new MP's are for their new role. There is no job description but there are plenty of rules which you don't realise exist until you break them! I have tried to specialise on a few issues that are important to me or to my constituents rather than spread myself thinly around. There are only so many chances a backbench M.P. gets to

speak in the Chamber of the House of Commons and we are all competing with the other 650 MP's for air time.

In Parliament I have: -

- *Asked around 25 public questions of government ministers
- *Organised regular visits to the Houses of Parliament for pensioners groups, residents associations and school parties.
- *Supported over 150 Early Day Motions.
- *Made 6 major speeches
- *Served on the committees examining the bills to ban foxhunting and to regulate policing in Northern Ireland.
- *Led delegations to meet government ministers on constituency matters.
- *Organised the launch of a national campaign to reduce childhood head injuries

One of the most dramatic and rewarding issues I have been involved with has

been the tremendous developments to bring peace to Northern Ireland. I feel very privileged to have been able to



"Working for peace in Northern Ireland" Martin Salter with Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam.

made a small contribution to the peace process through my membership of the Northern Ireland Select Committee and the Northern Ireland Grand Committee, as well as some behind the scenes work promoting dialogue between the

two communities. I am also heavily involved in the moves to revive and renew our political process through the modernisation of the House of Commons and reform of our electoral system.

My other main areas of work include pressing for a better deal for pensioners particularly on free TV. Licences and concessionary fares and lobbying for stricter regulation for those working in child care.

BACKBENCH COMMITTEES

South & West Group of Labour MP's (Vice Chair), 'Keep the Link' Group of Labour MP's (Chair), Northern Ireland Parliamentary Affairs, Environment Transport and the Regions, Local Government.

ALL PARTY GROUPS

Leasehold Reform, Football, Human Rights, Media, Youth Affairs

Your Guide to Parliamentary Jargon

Like all longstanding institutions, Parliament has developed a language all of its own.

Speaker - The Chair of the proceedings of the House of Commons - keeps order and gives rulings on procedure. The current Speaker, Betty Boothroyd was first elected as a Labour MP, but stands as an independent for the whole time she serves as Speaker in order to preserve her impartiality.

Early Day Motion (EDM) - A motion which lies on the order paper of the House of Commons to attract support or to publicise a particular issue. Does not become law but an E.D.M. attracting several hundred signatures from MP's can influence government decisions.

10 Minute Rule Bill - A bill laid before the House usually by a backbench MP which stands little chance of becoming law but which highlights a specific matter and may well make the case for future legislation.

Adjournment Debate - A debate at the end of the day's business or on a Wednesday morning of either 30 minutes or 1.5 hours. These debates must be replied to by a government minister and are a useful tool for backbench MP's.

Intervention - A slightly crazy process by which an M.P. can be interrupted in mid-speech by another member in order to raise a specific point. Quite disconcerting until you get used to it!

GMB
working together

Congratulations Jane Giffiths and Martin Salter on their successful first year in Parliament.

Regional Secretary, Eddie Warwick

81 KINGS RD, READING, BERKS
RG1 3DD. TEL: 0118 959 4128

T&G

SOUTH AND WEST

Regional Secretary JOHN ASHMAN

Congratulations Jane Giffiths and Martin Salter on their excellent start in Parliament.

DISTRICT OFFICE: 89 Southampton Street, Reading RG1 2QL
Tel: 0118 975 0777. Fax: 0118 975 0790
Industrial Organiser: Andy Frampton

COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION

Congratulations Jane Giffiths and Martin Salter on a great start in Parliament.

South East No.5 Branch, CWU Central Office,
2 The Bars, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LP

Tel: 01483 455636. Fax: 01483 455778

Chair: Martin Collins
Secretary: Dave Warren

Questions to MARTIN

1. How many people work in Westminster?

The Commons' has 11 restaurants and 5 bars to take care of feeding the 651 members, the thousand or so permanent staff of the House and 8,000 other pass-holders to the Palace, plus members' guests and those attending functions arranged by them.

2. I note that everything in the House of Commons is green. Seats, carpets and curtains - why?

Green dominates in the House of Commons. The Lords uses red. The reason for this are lost in time. It does not help new MP's trying not to get lost though. If the carpets are red - then they are trespassing into the House of Lords, which happened to Jane and I on our first day!

3. Are you all as scared of the Speaker as you seem?

Certainly! Betty Boothroyd is respected by everyone. She keeps the House in very good order. If you transgress the rules of the House, being made to apologise on the floor of the House is dreaded by all Members of Parliament.

4. How many hours a week does an MP work?

I work over 80 hours when the commons is sitting, when I commute to London daily and work in Reading at weekends. Oh and by the way, it is a myth that MP's have three months off in the summer. There is a recess, when Parliament closes, but I use this time to catch up on work in Reading. In recess, MP's work just as hard but without the travelling to the Commons everyday!

5. How many staff do you employ?

We have a very limited budget to run our offices in Westminster and Reading. I share a full-time researcher in the Commons with Jane and have a caseworker and a part-time secretary in my constituency office.

Speaking Up For **READING**

Are you East or West?

It is little wonder that some people get confused as to which constituency they come under as every few years the boundaries keep changing. As a rule of thumb parliamentary constituencies need to contain around 70,000 electors and their borders should not cross a County boundary. Years ago Reading

returned just one MP to Parliament but as the town expanded the two constituencies were formed.

Reading East covers the whole of the area North of the Thames including Caversham and Emmer Green, the town centre area as far as West Reading railway bridge, the University area, the part of South Reading to the east of Northumberland Avenue, Cemetery Junction, Newtown and north Earley and of course Woodley.

Reading West constituency stretches from Whitley in the south through to Coley Park and Southcote, the Oxford Road area, Tilehurst, Purley, Pangbourne

and Theale. The majority of Martin's constituents come under Reading Borough Council but around 20,000 fall within the old Newbury District Council area (now West Berkshire District Council).

In Reading East Jane also covers two local authority areas - Reading and Wokingham.

If you are unsure which constituency you live in 'phone either of the MP's constituency offices.



Better homes for local people - Jane and Martin at the opening of a new housing scheme on the Huntley and Palmers site by the River Kennet.

In Touch With West Reading

Martin Salter writes: -

Since becoming your MP last May I have been pleased by the number of Reading West people coming to me for help and advice (some 1,500 in total). Some people come along, or write, to my office to give me their opinions on the issues of the moment, whether they are concerned about a local planning application or keen to see one of the new Labour Government's manifestos implemented as soon as possible. However, the majority of constituents who get in touch, have personal concerns which they need me to assist with.

There are a wide variety of issues which I had to deal with in my first year from a woman being harassed by squirrels in Purley to a constituent appealing against wrongful conviction. Whatever the issue I try to ensure that all my constituents are treated with respect and that my office provides a helpful and effective service. The largest volume of casework arises from housing problems (over a fifth of all my cases), including people who are having problems getting accommodation from a Housing Association or a Council, or financial problems that have led to difficulties with mortgage lenders. I also receive a great many requests for help with benefit assessments as well, particularly problems which arise because of inefficient or unsympathetic handling of people's claims.

As you can see from the chart there are many other areas where people turn to me for assistance. Sometimes it is local issues, such as complaints against the police or difficulties with council services. On other occasions, they have specific problems with the actions of Government Agencies or requests for changes in legislation because of a bad personal experience with the current system. In all of these cases it is my responsibility to help Reading West people wherever possible, and it is a job I enjoy doing.

Residents & Community Organisations

Sanctuary Tenants - Fords Farm, Dee Park Residents Association, Central Whitley Community Association, South Whitley Community Association, Coley Park Community Association, Armour Road Residents' Association, Southcote Residents' Association, Age Concern - Theale Carers Group, Neighbourhood Watch.



Winning for Reading - Martin Salter with local people successfully campaigned to save the privately owned Tilehurst allotments from the developers.

CAMPAIGNS

Martin Salter has a reputation as an effective and energetic campaigner. Over the past year he has campaigned....

* To protect Kennet Meadows in South West Reading and the Tilehurst allotments from the developers.

* In support of the Childhood Head Injury Protection Service at the Royal Berks Hospital and successfully persuaded the government to put £100,000 into their campaign to extend the wearing of cycle helmets by children.

* In favour of a full and open public inquiry into the activities of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston and against their plans to dump yet more radioactivity into the local rivers.

* Against the proposed cuts by Berkshire Health Authority to Health Visitors, School Nursing and Speech Therapists.

* For free pensioners bus passes in Newbury - now West Berkshire District Council.

* With the Mayfair area Neighbourhood Watch members for pedestrian crossing facilities in Tilehurst.

* Against plans to destroy Whitehart Meadows in Theale.

* Alongside the West Reading Traders Association to see the Oxford Road area upgraded and for better policing.



Protecting the environment - Martin Salter spearheads the campaign to save the Kennet Meadows from Calcot to Coley, from the developers. Martin says "We must save these valuable water meadows and one Reading's last remaining areas of wild open space for future generations."

In Touch With East Reading

Jane Griffiths writes: -

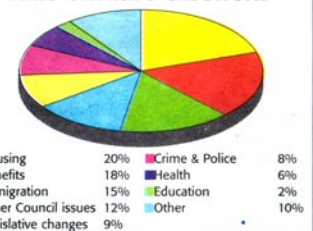
One of the most important things that I have done since being elected is to set up a Reading office so you can contact me. It employs two people, one full time and one part time. I also hold four or five surgeries each month. My office deals with about 200 letters and 100 phone calls a week and nearly 400 people have visited my surgeries since I was elected as your MP.

People contact me on a wide range of issues from the implementation of one of the Government's manifestos to local planning or transport issues. However the vast majority of people have personal issues which they require assistance.

The issues that people bring to me fall into a number of areas. Sometimes, I am able to resolve people's problems quite quickly. Other times, it may take longer, as I have to contact Government Departments or Agencies. However, if you write to me, I will always try and keep you informed of what I am doing to resolve your case.

People come to me with problems because they have tried every other approach and have either not been listened to, or dealt with unsympathetically. It is my job to make sure that they are listened and that their problems are given fair consideration.

Jane Griffiths's Casework



Out and about in East Reading

Jane Griffiths believes that it is important for an MP to be in touch with local people and to represent their views. She spends a lot of her time going talking to local people and visiting local community groups, organisations and companies to talk to them about the government's policies and to take their comments back to government ministers. Since being elected your MP, she has visited over 300 local organisations and companies, including:

Schools & Colleges Community & Voluntary Organisations

Micklads School, Henham Road Residents Association, William Gray Infants School, Caversham & Dist. Residents Association, South Lake Primary School, Orts Road Residents Association, Kendrick School, Pakistan Community Centre, Reading Girls School, Nepal Kingdom Foundation, Reading School, Reading Synagogue, Abbey School, Reading Korean War Veterans Assoc., Newtown Primary School, GLOBE Group, Bulmershe School, Newtown GLOBE Group, Reading College, Reading Carers Association, Reading University, Reading Children's Information Centre, Reading Refugee Support Group

Housing Schemes Hospitals & Health Care

Oxford Road Empty Homes Project Royal Berks Hospital, Harry Tee Court, West Berks Priority Health Care Trust, The Oaks Residential Home, Community Health Council, Catherine Court, Dyers Court

Campaigning for Local People

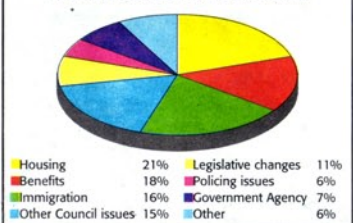
Over the past year Jane Griffiths has campaigned on a number of issues for better services for local people and to improve the quality of life for the people of Reading East. Her campaigns have included:

- * Opposing the cuts made by Wokingham District Council to Maiden Erleigh Library and services to young people in Woodley and Earley.
- * Leading the campaign for universal screening to help prevent ectopic pregnancies.
- * Supporting local residents in Woodley, calling for traffic speed reduction measures in Beechwood Avenue and How Drive.
- * Free pensioners bus passes in Wokingham District
- * Opposing the proposed cuts by Berkshire Health Authority to Health Visitors, School Nursing and Speech Therapists.
- * Leading the campaign for a Veterans Bill, ensuring that rights and recognition for ex-servicepeople and their families is enshrined in law.
- * Calling for national initiatives to reduce traffic speeds in residential areas.

Throwaway Society - Jane Griffiths supporting initiatives to cut waste and improve recycling.

Authority to Health Visitors, School Nursing and Speech Therapists.

Martin Salter's Casework



Getting out and about in West Reading.

Martin Salter writes: - "The most common criticism you hear made against politicians is - "we only see you at election time when you want our vote". Well there is no way Jane and I are going to have that said about us. An important part of any MP's job is to stay in touch with local people and to support the tremendous work of the voluntary groups, residents associations, churches, charities, parent teacher associations and the many other community based organisations in and around Reading.

Straight after my election I decided to give top priority to my constituency work and have tried to visit as many groups as possible. Listed below are just a few of the 300 plus visits I have made since becoming an M.P.

Schools & Colleges

Prospect, Denfield, Littleheath, Ashmead, Wilson, St. Pauls, Coley Primary, All Saints, Southcote, Hugh Farrington, Manor School, Avenue Court, Reading College, Kendrick

Housing Schemes

Harry Tee Court, David Smith Court, York House - Calcot, Elizabeth House - Theale, Englefield Estate



Better facilities for rail passengers - Jane Griffiths opens a new waiting room on Reading Station, fully accessible for the disabled. Both Jane and Martin have been active in pressing for tougher regulations to improve performance of Great Western and Thames Trains.