



Parliamentary News

Martin Salter's Twelfth Annual Report to Constituents

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

So long, and thanks for all your support

This will be Martin Salter's final report to constituents as he is standing down next Spring as the MP for Reading West after more than 25 years as a public representative in Reading. He leaves Parliament with a strong reputation for honesty, hard work and integrity, with no personal expense claims or scandals and a track record of achievement.

HOUSE OF COMMONS



Martin says:

"Although I'm looking forward to a new and less stressful life beyond politics, I shall miss many of the wonderful people it has been my privilege to represent both in Parliament and on the Council. Getting results for my constituents and for the causes I care about is what motivates me.

"This year it was great to have helped achieve justice for the Gurkhas, to share a platform with the legendary Reverend Jesse Jackson and to have raised funds for a number of local and national charities, including via a sponsored skydive. Here in Reading I have been busy supporting the campaigns to protect the Bath Road Reservoir and Pincents Hill sites and working on some exciting new projects for our local schools.

"I want to say thank you to everyone who has written to me following my announcement. You were very kind (mostly!) and a number of you wanted to know if I was planning any farewell events. Well, I've put some time aside in March to say goodbye and good luck. If you would like tickets to a local meeting in your area please use the reply slip on the back page – I'd love to see you in person.

"For those of you that I don't see again, I just want to say thank you for all your support over the years – I really couldn't have represented a better constituency or a nicer bunch of people."

Best wishes,



JUSTICE FOR THE GURKHAS AT LAST – Martin Salter MP, Joanna Lumley, Tim Heaver, and the Reading Gurkhas celebrate the Government's decision



Photo courtesy of the Reading Chronicle

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS – Martin's first Parliamentary campaign with the late Doris Lawrence and John Cook in Whitley in 1987



SALTER PRAISED OVER EXPENSES – one of the few!



NO FEAR – Martin leaps 10,000 feet to achieve a lifetime ambition and raise over £1,200 for The Alzheimer's Society

SEE INSIDE:

Local Action and Westminster Report

TV chat show queen Trisha Goddard interviews Martin Salter

Apply for tickets for Martin's farewell meetings in your area

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Local action all year round



RELAY FOR LIFE – Martin launches 24-hour sponsored walk for Cancer Research UK

Over the last year Martin has:

January – Addressed sixth form students at Maiden Erleigh School on being an MP as part of their general studies course.

Opened Reading Community Welfare Rights Unit's new building on Oxford Road, an organisation which Martin helped create almost 20 years ago.

February – Met with the Berkshire Federation of Small Businesses to discuss ways in which Reading businesses could survive the global economic recession.

Launched the Relay for Life in Reading to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

March – Hosted a packed meeting with the legendary Reverend Jesse Jackson at the Globe Church, who presented him with a Diversity Award for his community work.

Visited Battle Primary School to see the huge improvements made since the Interim Executive Board took over in January.



DOLLY PARTON COMES TO READING! – Martin persuaded the Dollywood Foundation to roll out its famous literacy project in south Reading

April – Addressed the Alzheimer's Society AGM for the last time as the MP for Reading West.

Criticised the inclusion of the Pincents Hill site in West Berkshire's new list of preferred development areas.

May – Visited The Avenue School on 'Make A Difference Day' to see the fantastic work being done by the staff and enormous improvements of the children.



LIVING LEGEND – American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson presents Martin Salter with a National Diversity Award at a packed Globe Church in Reading

Presented Prospect School with a letter of congratulations from the Prime Minister for taking part in the 'Big Read', a scheme aimed at improving literacy in the developing world.

June – Spoke at the re-opening of Battle Library which was refurbished with £1.5 million of lottery funding.

Submitted a formal objection to the Public Inquiry into proposals to double the toll charges on Whitchurch Bridge.

Attended the Yell School Athletic League at Palmer Park Stadium to present the winning medals to the teams.

July – Opened Battle Primary School Summer Fayre, an event labelled 'International Day' in celebration of the school attracting pupils from 42 different countries.

Launched the new premises for the Dingley Children's Centre which supports local children with additional and special needs.

August – Joined many young people at 'FaceBar' in Reading for the 'Love Music Hate Racism' event, which raised funds to help challenge racism.

Supported plans to turn Kennet Meadows into a Trust to protect the area from future development. Sign the petition at www.gopetition.co.uk/petitions/make-kennet-meadows-a-trust.html

September – Attended the 'Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at the Elephant Hotel in Pangbourne.

Guest speaker at the local charity RITA fundraising event to raise money for those affected by the 2004 Tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka.

Called a meeting of the police and Reading Festival organisers to examine serious health and safety problems at the campsite.

October – Lobbied Reading Borough Council's Planning Committee to reject Thames Water's plans to build 96 homes on the Bath Road Reservoir site.

Presented adult learners with certificates at the 'New Directions Celebration of Achievement' evening at the Avenue School.

November – Addressed the Greater Reading Environmental Network on global warming and presented the Prime Minister with a copy of Reading's Message on Climate Change, signed by over 50 local groups.

Planted an apple tree as part of the Greenpeace initiative to protest against the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

December – Turned on the High Street Christmas Lights in Theale, where he used to live.

Presented graduates of the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine with their certificates of achievement.



Photo courtesy of Jackie Cliles

AIN'T NO BUILDING HIGH ENOUGH! – Martin abseils down Reading's Blade building to raise funds for "Children with Leukaemia"



TV CHAT QUEEN TRISHA GODDARD
– a friend from Martin's teenage years

TV's Trisha Interviews Martin Salter



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Photography

Popular TV chat show host, Trisha Goddard, was a friend of Martin Salter as a teenager. Here she talks about Martin about his time in public life.

Trisha: Well Martin, this is a trip down Memory Lane as it's been nearly 40 years since we were both teenagers growing up in the Staines area. How come you ended up in politics?

Martin: We may not have seen each other for a long time, but our paths took similar courses. You went into the media and became a national mental health campaigner and I appeared in the media as a campaigner for my local community. I've always believed in getting involved and trying to do my bit and I suppose running for Parliament was, for me, a natural progression after 12 years as Reading councillor.

Trisha: You've been MP for Reading West for nearly 13 years now. What do you think you've achieved?

Martin: There have been many successful campaigns on important local



HELPING CHILDREN TO READ – Martin is a patron of the charity ABC To Read, which he helped save from closure

issues including: taking on the might of Lloyds TSB and persuading them to re-instate cashiers in their banks in Tilehurst, Theale and the town centre, preventing the disposal of lock keepers' cottages along the Thames, helping save the children's charity "ABC to Read", saving community homes for people suffering from mental illness, protecting the Kennet Meadows floodplain from the developers, to name but a few. Then there's the political 'bread and butter' such as winning more funding for schools, hospitals, and transport schemes in Reading including the new Royal Berkshire Hospital, Prospect Park Hospital, the John Madejski Academy, and the new Reading Station.

Trisha: What about your work in Parliament?

Martin: In my first term I served on the Northern Ireland Select Committee and it was a huge privilege to be able to play a small part in the Northern Ireland peace process and to campaign for the Good Friday Agreement. One of the most satisfying moments was achieving the change in the law on violent internet pornography following a four year campaign with Reading mum Liz Longhurst, whose daughter Jane was brutally murdered by a man obsessed with extreme porn sites featuring torture, rape and necrophilia. More recently it was great to have helped achieve justice for the brave Gurkha soldiers who now have a right to stay and settle in Britain.

Trisha: Ah, yes. I remember interviewing Liz on my show and I was so proud when she mentioned your tireless work against extreme porn sites. So what are your plans for the future – I can't exactly see you fading into obscurity?

Martin: I shall be taking a break and doing a little travelling along with some writing and possibly a little filming. When I get back I plan to work with a range of organisations and causes that I care about, mainly to do with the environment and young people. Most importantly, I am looking forward to getting more of my life back and catching up with old friends who I have seen too little of in recent years.

Trisha: Well, I hope that includes me! As long as you realise there's little hope of me donning waders and joining you on some fishing trip...

Thanks Martin.



VIOLENT INTERNET PORN BAN – Martin and Reading mum Liz Longhurst celebrate their successful campaign to change the law on extreme websites



SAVING KENNET MEADOWS – Martin has been campaigning for many years against plans to build on the Kennet water meadows in south west Reading

Martin Salter MP – on your side in Reading West

Westminster report 2009

Martin Salter has been described by commentators as a "sharp, clever, backbencher...loyal but no robot". He is respected for not being afraid to speak his mind and for being an effective campaigner. He is a member of the powerful Home Affairs Committee. Martin has no outside business interests, believing that representing 70,000 constituents is a full time job. He has a clean record on expenses and has never claimed for a taxpayer-funded flat in London.



MARTIN SALTER
– a full time MP

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

January

- Tabled a Parliamentary Motion calling on the Government not to proceed with a third runway at Heathrow, and then defied a three line whip to vote against the plans.
- Launched re-vamped website at www.martinsalter.com.
- Called on Treasury Minister Yvette Cooper to establish a hardship fund for those hit most severely by the collapse of Equitable Life.

February

- Announces intention to stand down at the next General Election after thirteen years as an MP and 25 years in public service.
- Joined postal workers from Reading at Westminster to put pressure on the Government to keep the Royal Mail in public ownership.

March

- Tabled a Commons Motion calling for the removal of the knighthood of Sir Fred Goodwin, the disgraced boss of Royal Bank of Scotland, which he received for "services to banking".
- Succeeded in persuading MPs to allow the UK Youth Parliament to hold its 2009 annual meeting in the Commons Chamber.
- Took part in a visit to the notorious WW2 concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, with students from Prospect School, Thames Valley University and Little Heath School as guests of the Holocaust Educational Trust.



NEVER AGAIN – Martin joins Reading students on a harrowing visit to the former Nazi death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau

April

- Attended a celebration in the House of Commons to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the national minimum wage.
- As Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Gurkha Rights, persuaded the Government to review the Home Office judgement on UK settlement rules for ex Gurkha soldiers.

May

- Published seven point plan to clean up politics in the wake of the MPs' expenses scandal, and was labelled a "saint" by the Daily Telegraph.
- Helped secure a change of heart by the Government who announced that Gurkha soldiers retiring prior to 1997 would be allowed to apply to settle in the UK.
- Presented a pilot summer camp project, developed by the eleven schools in the Whitley Excellence Cluster together with the Ufton Court Educational Trust, to Education Secretary Ed Balls.

June

- Called on the Prime Minister to introduce rules to bar MPs taking up paid second jobs.
- Successfully managed Buckinghamshire MP John Bercow's campaign to become Speaker of the House of Commons.
- Elected by fellow MPs to serve on the new Select Committee on Parliamentary Reform.

July

- Secured victories for angling and conservation as a member of the Marine Bill Committee.
- Held a Commons debate calling for women in Northern Ireland to be granted the same rights to access safe and legal abortion services on the NHS as those in mainland Britain.



A SUMMER CAMP FOR WHITLEY KIDS – Martin and Geoffrey Field Junior Head Charlie Clare lead delegation to Westminster to bid for funds

September

- Launched the new All Party Group on the River Thames to promote the recreational, economic and cultural value of the river.
- Lobbied for Treasury support for Naomi House Children's Hospice to help with funding crisis following Icelandic banking collapse.

October

- Attended the EU conference in Stockholm on human trafficking for the Home Affairs Select Committee to represent the British Parliament.
- Lobbied against plans by OFWAT to restrict future investment in water and sewage treatment plants in the Thames Valley.

November

- Came out strongly in support of the recommendations in the report by Parliamentary sleaze watchdog Sir Christopher Kelly.
- Successfully lobbied to include the Floods and Water Bill in the Queen's Speech which will bring private drains and sewers into public control.
- Contributed to a Home Affairs Select Committee Report on knife crime.

December

- Hosted a Parliamentary lobby for carers in Berkshire.
- Set up a Memorial Committee to commemorate the bravery of Trooper Fred Potts – Reading's only holder of the Victoria Cross.



FUTURE VOTERS – Martin hosts regular trips to the House of Commons for local schools including Church End Primary in Tilehurst

Say Goodbye to Martin

I/we would like to be invited to one of Martin Salter's farewell meetings in my area next spring

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel

Email

If you would like tickets, please return this coupon to **Martin Salter MP, 413 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1HA** or send an email to salterm@parliament.uk

6 Ways to Contact Martin Salter

- Book into one of his Saturday morning advice surgeries. Phone: **954 6782**
- Call in to one of his Friday evening drop in surgeries in Whitley or Calcot.
- Write to his constituency office at **413 Oxford Rd, Reading, RG30 1HA**
- Write to Martin at the **House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**
- Email Martin at salterm@parliament.uk
- Go to his website at www.martinsalter.com