



September 2023 Newsletter

Stuart McMillan MSP

HELLO AND WELCOME TO MY LATEST NEWSLETTER.

September saw MSPs return to the Scottish Parliament after summer recess, but there was no easing back in for me. During the first few weeks back, I welcomed various external organisations to Holyrood, spoke in five debates and asked three questions in the chamber.

This included hosting a **drop-in session with The Poverty Alliance** in advance of Challenge Poverty Week, as well as sponsoring **Optometry Scotland's week-long exhibition and evening event** in Parliament.

I also **organised a roundtable to give MSPs the opportunity to speak with the shop stewards from Ferguson's**. It was a pleasure to welcome the men to our Parliament and I believe they found it beneficial to answer direct questions from MSPs about the yard.

The other **drop-in session I sponsored involved Gavin Neate, CEO and founder of WelcoMe, which is a software tool that empowers disabled people to communicate directly with customer service teams** about their physical and communication needs. I hope to introduce this tool in my constituency office so my staff and I can be as accessible as possible.



Stuart with the Public Health Minister and Optometry Scotland staff after their parliamentary event

Stuart's office took on **86 new cases** during September — highlighting his office's commitment to supporting constituents and local businesses.



Local highlights

The Great British Beach Clean takes place in September, so I **organised a beach clean in Wemyss Bay with local primary school pupils and another in Lunderston Bay with Ronnie Cowan MP's office and Clydeview Academy pupils**. Both areas weren't littered with big, bulky items, but it was worrying to see so many microplastics lurking. Thank you and well done to all those who get involved with local litter picks and beach cleans – every bit helps remove litter from our beaches, green space and rivers.

This month I also **went to one of St Andrew's First Aid community engagement events in Gourock Library** to discuss their ongoing work to provide first aid skills local people, including their work in local schools.

I also **hosted my latest cost of living surgery in the Oak Mall, and Ronnie Cowan MP and I jointly hosted an event with the National Lottery Heritage Fund in the Beacon**. This was aimed at third sector organisations and community groups so they could learn more about the fund, how to apply, and how to pull together an application with greater chances of success. Ronnie and I hope this will lead to more heritage funding coming to Inverclyde.

For **National Eye Health Week, I visited Specsavers in the Oak Mall** to learn more about how they're helping my constituents look after their vision and overall eye health.

I also **visited Smiths of Greenock** to hear how they're thriving as an employee-owned firm.



Stuart at one of St Andrew's First Aid's community events in Gourock Library



Stuart & Ronnie at their National Lottery Heritage Funding event



Stuart at Specsavers' Greenock branch



Stuart with staff & service users at the Salvation Army's Greenock branch during a visit discussing how they're helping local people through challenging times

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Member of the Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde