



LATEST NEWS FROM REHMAN CHISHTI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

December 2017—January 2018 Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome to my December 2017-January 2018 newsletter!

Thank you for your interest in the work I do on behalf of constituents. Please see below for a summary of my commitments in the constituency and in Parliament.

If you would like further details on my work or would like to contact me, please [visit my website](#).

Best wishes, Rehman.

In the constituency



Rehman was delighted to officially open the brilliant Howard School's new grass football pitch with the fantastic football stars of tomorrow: Louis Binks (England & Spurs), Harry Lang (Gills FC) and Will Sanders (Leyton Orient FC).



Rehman had a good visit to Medway Hospital and caught up with the brilliant Chief Executive Lesley Dwyer and her team and heard about their excellent work at the hospital.



Rehman popped into the wonderful Crafts Fair at the Millennium Centre Rainham with his colleague Cllr Jan Aldous and saw the wide range of stalls.



Rehman attended the annual service of remembrance organised by John Weir at St Margaret's Church Rainham.



Rehman was delighted to pop in to the wonderful Hempstead Valley Christmas Carol Concert.



Rehman was pleased to support the brilliant local charity Medway Guide Dogs on their call on Santa at Santa's Grotto in Hempstead Valley.



Rehman popped into Medway University Technical College to catch-up with the brilliant Principal Karen Buck and get an update on its progress, as well as thank her for all her work as she leaves to take up a new role.



Rehman had a great visit to MidKent College to speak with Year 1 Level 3 Public Service Students. They had a fantastic Q&A covering a wide range of issues including youth engagement.



Rehman had his regular catch-up meeting with Medway Police looking at policing matters in Gillingham and Rainham. He took the opportunity to pay tribute to the local police on their recent 'outstanding' rating, 3 years in a row.



Rehman was delighted to support the wonderful team from Rotary Gillingham in their Christmas Collection in Rainham with Cllr Jan Aldous.



Rehman was delighted to pop into the Medway Queen Preservation Society's craft, food and fun fayre with Cllr Aldous.



Rehman visited the Medway Queen Visitor Centre at Gillingham Pier and met volunteers, along with Cllr Jan Aldous.



Rehman attended the wonderful Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Church Hempstead, along with Cllr Royle led by the wonderful Father Muna.



Rehman popped by the fantastic Great Lines Park Run and met Anna, Petros and Desprina.



Rehman visited Captain Haris at the Salvation Army Gillingham with his colleague Cllr Jan Aldous who presented Haris with gifts that her Nit & Natter group at St Matthews made for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.



Rehman held his regular MP street surgery throughout December and January meeting residents, listening to their views and taking up matters on their behalf (pictured with his colleague Cllr Jan Aldous)



On Christmas Day Rehman visited Medway Hospital to thank the amazing staff for all they are doing and to catch-up with Director of Nursing Karen and get a briefing on how things are at the Hospital.



Rehman popped into Avenue Tennis to support the junior (Orange) tennis competition, and met Zach and Kaid.



Rehman was delighted to meet Graham and Chris (pictured) collecting for the Royal Marines charity in the constituency, and thank them for all they do.



Rehman was delighted to attend the wonderful Medway Ghanaian Association annual community event as the local MP and Chair of the APPG for Community Engagement.



Rehman held a meeting with Simon Bray, the Divisional MD of Santander, regarding their proposals for the Gillingham Branch and was assured that customers will get all the support they need with the change and no job losses following on from the changes.



Rehman was delighted to welcome local residents the Uppal family from Gillingham and Rainham and their friends from India to Parliament for a tour of the Commons and Lords.



Rehman visited the 'Outstanding' rated Barnsole Academy in Gillingham and caught-up with its brilliant Head Teacher Mr Mckeown.



Rehman was delighted to visit Kent University for the excellent Kent Business Summit 2018.



Rehman had a good catch-up with Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott and heard about his plans for an extra 200 police officers for Kent and how Medway, Gillingham and Rainham will benefit. Rehman also congratulated him again on Kent Police's 'outstanding' rating 3 years in a row.



Rehman hosted a roundtable event at Medway Council with faith organisations from across the local community, chaired by the former Bishop of Rochester Bishop Michael Nazir Ali.



Rehman hosted Ministry of Justice Minister Rory Stewart at the constituency dinner at Avenue Tennis.



Rehman highlighted that the call for nominations to the Kent Messenger 2018 Kent Teacher of Year Awards are open until 1st March, and offer a great opportunity to highlight the work of brilliant teachers & support staff in local schools across Gillingham and Rainham who inspire future generations to achieve their true potential

Rehman's Parliamentary Work



Rehman led a parliamentary delegation of MPs to the Kingdom of Bahrain looking at all aspects of UK-Bahrain relations, with a key focus on trade, security and religious freedom. Rehman was delighted to meet with the wonderful Rev Chris Butt at St Christopher's Cathedral, who is the former Vicar at St Matthew's Church Rainham. The delegation also visited HMS Jufair, the UK's Naval Facility in Bahrain, which is due to be commissioned in 2018, where they met members of our fantastic Armed Forces.



Rehman was delighted to attend the parliamentary reception to launch the 2018 Year of Engineering and meet students who won the IET Faraday award for product design for the Americas Cup.



Rehman was delighted to attend the parliamentary reception on Cerebral Palsy and meet Bert and support the campaign for integrated health and educational pathways to ensure early intervention and a holistic approach.



Rehman was pleased to meet the winners of the Kellogg's UK Breakfast Club Awards 2017 in Parliament.



Rehman was delighted to attend the Royal Mail parliamentary reception and meet members of their brilliant staff.



Rehman was delighted to welcome students from the Robert Napier School to Parliament for a tour and a Q&A session.



Rehman welcomed the Governor of Sindh HE Mohammad Zubair and his business delegation to Parliament to look at strengthening bilateral trade.



Rehman spoke at the SM Benazir Bhutto Memorial Lecture on her vision for Pakistan and his personal memories, at the SOAS University of London.



Rehman was Honoured and delighted to be appointed by the PM as the Vice Chair of the Conservative Party for Communities.



Rehman had a good meeting with Tunisian Ambassador Nabil Khedher looking at community engagement with the British Tunisian diaspora community.



Rehman had a good meeting with HE Ambassador Abdurrahman Bilgic of Turkey to UK looking at Community Engagement with the UK Turkish Diaspora community.



Rehman welcomed dancers from the UK Tamil Community to Parliament for the Thai Pongal celebrations (Bharatanatyam)



Rehman was honoured to sign the Holocaust Book of Commitment. The 2018 theme is 'The power of words'.



Rehman was delighted to attend and support the Poppy Legion Count Them In campaign to support our veterans.



Rehman was delighted to welcome to Parliament HE Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa Interior Minister of Bahrain looking at all aspects of UK Bahrain relations and cooperation on bilateral security.



Rehman was pleased to join Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesei MP and support his cross-party campaign for a National Sikh War Memorial. The Government will fully support and help support project with funds if needed.



Rehman Spoke in Parliament on the following issues:

- Unduly lenient sentences and the need for a review of sentencing, particularly in relation to drink driving and driving whilst disqualified (above)
- Road links to Medway, Kent and the South East and infrastructure support for the Lower Thames Crossing
- Recent Daesh and Taliban attacks in Afghanistan
- At the Home Affairs Select Committee on a variety of topics including Brexit, policing, security and social media.

Rehman also featured in the media:

- Sky News on Brexit (pictured below)
- BBC South East on Perinatal Mental Healthcare
- Kent Messenger TV: Paul on Politics
- Medway Messenger on various local issues

