



LATEST NEWS FROM REHMAN CHISHTI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

March-April 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to my March-April 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 held his regular MP Street Surgery throughout March & April across the constituency, listening to residents views on all issues and taking up matters on their behalf.



Rehman caught up with members of the North Gillingham Church's Team at Salem Church of the Nazarene.



Rehman celebrated National Apprenticeship Week speaking to students at MidKent College along with the team from the job shop and MEMS Power Generation on apprenticeships. Over 5000 apprenticeships have been created locally since 2010.



Rehman visited Master Kebabs on Watling Street who were nominated for an award at the Just Eat British Kebab Awards. The following week they won the Best Take Away Regional Award in the UK.



Rehman visited Avenue Tennis to congratulate them on winning the Kent Tennis Club of the Year award at the 2017 British Tennis Awards, after having been open for only one year.



Rehman welcomed Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to the Gillingham & Rainham Annual Conservative Constituency dinner held at Avenue Tennis, with a brilliant speech and Q&A covering a wide range of issues including security, Russia & Brexit. Boris Johnson was also presented with a Gillingham FC shirt.



Rehman visited the All Saints Church Hempstead coffee & cake morning in support of The Milly Foundation charity, set up to provide support & assistance to those diagnosed with cancer by, among other things, providing a holiday home caravan.



Rehman met with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government Sajid Javid to welcome the fantastic news that Medway Council have been shortlisted to receive £170 Million from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to help build over 12,000 more homes in Medway, along with supporting infrastructure.



Rehman had a great visit to Planet Ice in Gillingham with Cllr Aldous to promote ice skating facilities for all ages and the home of the Invicta Dynamos, the brilliant local ice hockey team, as part of English Tourism Week.



Rehman attended a public meeting in Rainham on the future of urgent stroke services in Medway, as part of an NHS consultation. Local residents and Councillors showed their support for proposals to establish a new 24/7 hyper acute stroke unit (HASU) in Medway.



Rehman was delighted to meet with the amazing Medway Hospital staff who he has nominated for NHS Parliamentary Awards highlighting their skill, dedication, compassion & commitment to patients & the NHS.



Rehman visited Burnt Oak Primary School Gillingham and spoke to pupils about his work as an MP and invited them for a tour of Parliament, as well as a Q&A covering many issues.



Rehman had a great visit to United Reformed Church Gillingham for the Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts fair.



Rehman had a good regular catch-up meeting with Lesley Dwyer, the Chief Executive of Medway Hospital. He was briefed on Hospital preparation ahead of the CQC inspection and working together to retain urgent stroke services in Medway.



Rehman was delighted to visit & meet the amazing volunteers from the local Parkinson's UK Medway Branch at Hempstead Valley Gillingham on World Parkinson's Day.



Rehman visited Planet Ice Gillingham Ice Skating Rink along with the Deputy Mayor of Medway Gloria Opara and watched a brilliant performance of "dancing feet on ice" by the performers.



Rehman went to Rainham Mark Grammar School to see the start of the 1st virtual exchange with Central High School Little Rock Arkansas where they exchanged ideas, following Rehman's collaboration with Congressman Hill to make this happen.



Rehman attended the English Festival 2018 ahead of St George's Day at Riverside Country Park, brilliantly organised by Medway Council.



Rehman was delighted to attend the induction and installation of Rev Nathan Ward as the Vicar of St Margaret's Church Rainham.



Rehman was delighted to attend the Medway CCG Community Partnership Awards at Priestfield Stadium and hear about their work in the community in helping improve people's lives.



Rehman was delighted to welcome students from Rainham Mark Grammar School for a tour of Parliament followed by a Q&A session covering a wide range of issues.



Rehman visited The Family Trust who have been shortlisted for ITV Meridian's People's Projects funding. If successful, they could get major funding for their important voluntary work & 'Kids Money Courses'.

In Parliament



Rehman visited Cancer Research UK London with his fellow Vice Chair Helen Grant MP and was briefed on better awareness of HPV cancer screening and early diagnosis to help beat cancer across society, as well as the need for greater awareness of vaccinations.



Rehman had a good catch-up meeting with Lord Nick Bourne, the Minister for Faith, briefing him on his Community Engagement visits around the country as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Community Engagement and Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party for Communities.



Rehman was reappointed Chair of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council at their AGM and Chaired an event with Lord Ramsbotham, who gave an engaging talk and Q&A on 'What Price Imprisonment', looking at justice & the prisons system.



In his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party, Rehman spoke at the North London Conservative Women's Organisation along with Secretary of State for International Development Penny Mordaunt & HE Ambassador Abdul Rehman of Turkey on "supporting women into public life".



Rehman was delighted to speak at the Czech British Chamber of Commerce about UK-Czech bilateral relations and the contribution of the British Czech community to UK society and UK-EU trade opportunities post-Brexit.



As the Government's Trade Envoy to Pakistan, Rehman accompanied Trade Minister Greg Hands to a bilateral meeting with the Federal Minister for Commerce Pervaiz Malik, looking at enhancing bilateral trade between the UK and Pakistan.



Rehman spoke in the Laser Misuse Vehicles Bill debate welcoming government legislation, following his Private Members Bill on the matter, helping make transport & infrastructure safer for all.



In his capacity as the UK Government's Trade Envoy to Pakistan, Rehman visited CDC Group (UK development finance institution) with Trade Minister Greg Hands & fellow Trade Envoys looking at their work across South Asia & Africa.



Rehman raised the following points in Parliament:

- Laser Misuse (Vehicles) Bill following his campaign & Private Members Bill, aimed at making all forms of transport safer (pictured)
- Chemical weapons use in Syria & humanitarian/military action
- Breast cancer screening awareness in Medway & Kent
- The number of NHS child & adolescent psychiatrists in Kent
- Hate Crime Prosecutions

-On the Home Affairs Select Committee topics discussed included hate crime, online extremism, the removal of extremist videos, returning Daesh fighters, police resources and the Windrush generation.



Rehman also featured in the media:

- Sky News on chemical weapons use in Syria (pictured)
- BBC Radio 5 Live on issues including Russia, Antisemitism and Gender Pay Gap
- Sky News on Brexit
- BBC Victoria Derbyshire on chemical weapons use in Syria
- Sky News Australia on chemical weapons use in Syria
- BBC Asian Network on Syria
- Medway Messenger on various local issues



The Debate SHOULD MPs GET A VOTE ON MILITARY ACTION AND THE FIRST TIME WAGES HAVE OUTSTRIPPED INFLATION SINCE JANUARY 2017 BREAK