

Kwasi Kwarteng MP In contact

My journal

Summer edition 2012



The last six months have been very busy. Elections in France and Greece have made the future of the euro-zone even more uncertain. This has unsettled an already fragile economic climate. Atrocious events in Syria have shocked us all. I have tried to engage with these issues, with Spelthorne in mind at every opportunity. That is part of my role as an MP. This newsletter is a chance to keep you updated on this work and my activities in the Borough.



Jubilee Party, Church Street, Staines, June 2012

IN WESTMINSTER

Being MP for Spelthorne has convinced me that Britain must do more to support private enterprise. At the moment, and having spoken to local businessmen, it is clear that overregulation and taxation is stifling commercial dynamism. That is a big problem because it is businesses that create wealth and economic growth, not government. With this in mind, I and a small number of other new MPs have set up the Free Enterprise Group. We believe passionately that free market reform can make Britain economically competitive again. We hold regular seminars and produce reports to argue this case.

For example, and since I have a special interest in aviation policy because Heathrow Airport is so important to the Borough, in January I wrote a report entitled *The Case for Aviation*. In it, I argued that Britain needs more aviation infrastructure to help the economy grow. I also co-authored a paper entitled *Plan E: Preparing for Euro Exit*. This sets out a plan of action for Britain, should the Euro collapse.

In the House of Commons, I have questioned the Secre-

tary of State for Foreign Affairs about the ongoing tragedy in Syria and pressed for diplomatic action. The situation is very different from how it was in Libya. There, opposition forces were united, so military intervention made sense. In Syria, opposition groups are much more divided, so military action would probably make the situation even worse.

SPELTHORNE

Spelthorne has so much going for it, but as I have said before, we must make more of the Borough's assets. While it has been controversial, the recent adding of the suffix "upon Thames" to Staines' name, does represent an attempt to better harness the town's riverside location. I attended Staines-upon-Thames Day, and it was a great celebration. The Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Dame Sarah Goad JP, officially announced the name change, and I helped unveil a replica London Stone.

Keeping in touch with what is happening day-to-day in the Borough is very important to me. One of the issues I keep a close eye on is policing. Surrey Police has a new Chief Constable, Lynne Owens, and Spelthorne, a new Neighbourhood Inspector, Derrick Laing. I met them both in April. They were very open and professional, and we had a good chat about the different challenges our communities are facing.

To kick off the summer season, I attended the May Fayre on Littleton Green. Over the Jubilee weekend, I joined street parties in Church Street and Richmond Road, Staines, where neighbours came together and there was a wonderful atmosphere. With the Olympics just around the corner, we are set for a very exciting summer.



Staines-upon-Thames Day, May 2012

Out & about

Being in Spelthorne is a part of my role that I enjoy immensely; here are some of the things I have been doing...

Staines Swimming Club

In February, Staines Swimming Club secured £50,000 of Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities fund. I presented the cheque and chatted to members and instructors. The money is being invested in modernising the Club's pool at Saxon Primary School, which is terrific news locally.



At Saxon Primary School, Shepperton, March 2012

Bishop Wand

In March, I went to Bishop Wand Secondary School to talk to a group of Sixth Form history students about their studies on the British Empire. I talked about my book on the subject, *Ghosts of Empire*, and this historical period more generally. There were plenty of thoughtful questions and we had some good debate. The students knew their subject well and were very engaging.



At Bishop Wand, Sunbury, March 2012

Kwasi's Quiz

When were the Olympic Games first held in London?

When was the original London Stone first erected in Staines?

In what year was Spelthorne formed?

Which is the largest reservoir in the Borough?

Answers from the last edition: Nelson, 1946, Laleham, 346 km

Pankhania & Co

In May, I visited Pankhania & Co, a branch of Best One in Sunbury, to present a Federation of Wholesale Distributors community retailing award. I very much enjoyed meeting the shop's owner Alkesh Pankhania, his staff and customers. Everyone was very friendly. The shop is a great example of how business is intertwined with the community.



At Best One, Sunbury, May 2012

Clarendon Primary

In March, I visited Clarendon Primary School in Ashford. I met the Headmistress, Mrs Dakin, and we had a good chat. I then attended a whole school assembly, where pupils from each year group gave presentations on all sorts of interesting topics, using a PC made visible on a large projector. Children in year 4, for example, gave a presentation about local water supplies. It was remarkable how confident the children were in operating the computer.

I hold regular advice surgeries from my office in Staines. As your MP, I can only assist with those matters for which Parliament or central government is responsible. I may be able to help you with problems relating to:

- * Central government policies
- * National Health Service
- * H M Revenue and Customs (tax issues, child benefit)
- * Department of Work and Pensions (benefits and pensions)

To arrange an appointment please call 020 7219 4017