

# ROSIE DUFFIELD MP Newsletter

*Welcome to my newsletter.  
This is where I keep you  
updated with both  
Parliamentary and  
Constituency activity.*



## FEATURING

- NHS RALLY
- CENTENARY OF VOTE
- ACTIVITY IN PARLIAMENT
- ST ANSELM'S VISIT

## NHS: More Funds!

Snow is falling outside as I write this, and magical though it looks, I'm mindful of what a long winter we've had this year and what an extra strain it's put on our already struggling NHS. Services are stretched at the best of times, let alone during these long, cold winter months.

People are clearly extremely worried. Earlier this month I attended the big NHS rally in London with our Shadow Health Secretary Jonathan Ashworth and several other Labour MPs. Despite the non-stop torrential rain, the huge turnout was very encouraging. I was joined by quite a few constituents and many more of you got in touch with me to say you were there too. It makes me so proud that the people around Canterbury care deeply about our beloved health service and are prepared to take a stand!

Signs at the rally read:

"NHS: More Staff, More Beds, More FUNDS"

"Save our NHS: Kick out the Privatisers"

"NHS in Crisis. Save it Now!"

"Not a Winter Crisis. But a FUNDING crisis!"

...I couldn't have said it better myself. They're right of course and the crisis isn't about to go away as soon as the snow melts. The problem is much bigger - we have a government who are ideologically opposed to the NHS, and have systematically underfunded it for years.

At the march, people told me how the NHS had saved their lives and how worried they are that it will be dismantled before their children and grandchildren get to use it. They're worried that we'll end up with USA-style healthcare provision, and that they simply won't be able to afford treatment in their time of need.

A privatised NHS will be fine for the wealthy but for the people I speak to, the people who come to my surgeries, it will be disastrous. You only have to listen to the horrific accounts from those, like Harry Leslie Smith, old enough to remember what life was like before Labour created the NHS in 1948.

I know the people of this City (and of this country) love our NHS. I know people are worried about what the government are doing to it. I'm worried too. But action like this march gives me so much hope.

Jeremy was right when he recently said "The NHS will only survive if we fight for it." That's what I'm going to continue to do, and I urge you to join me.

*Rosie x*

## CENTENARY OF VOTE

The 6th February marked 100 years since some women gained the vote. So this month I've been reflecting on all the sacrifices suffragettes made for us and feeling grateful for all the inspiring women I get to work with every day. They are the proof that suffragettes still very much exist today.

100 years ago, there were zero women in Parliament. Today, there are over 200. I'm really proud to be one of them - representing women and standing up for their rights is an important part of what I do. Whether it's fighting for equal pay or for justice for WASPI women who have been robbed of their pensions after a lifetime of work and contribution to society.



I look forward to the day that simply being a woman in Parliament means nothing. Unfortunately it still does, and there's a lot more work to be done.

I was recently appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Dawn Butler, Shadow Secretary for Women and Equalities. I'm working closely with Dawn and the team to continue highlighting injustices that women continue to face and work towards a fairer society.

## IN PARLIAMENT...

### MY ACTIVITY IN PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH INCLUDED

#### BABY LEAVE DEBATE

I attended this important debate that was secured by my colleague Harriet Harman. The motion asks the House of Commons for its in-principle agreement to make arrangements for when a Member has a baby or adopts a child. Though Parliament sets the rules for maternity/paternity leave for the rest of the country, Members do not enjoy the same rights. It's about time this changed.

#### WORK & PENSIONS QUESTIONS

I asked the Dept. of Work and Pensions Minister, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that personal independence payment (PIP) assessments are undertaken fairly and efficiently.

You can read her answer here:

<http://bit.ly/2HX97wA>

It sounds like the Government are actually proud of doing things on the cheap, rather than ensuring a fair, efficient system. A new approach is desperately needed!

#### SAVE OUR OCEANS EVENT

I showed my support for Sky's Ocean Rescue campaign, and pledged to #PassOnPlastic.

Campaigns like this have really got MPs thinking more about the effect single-use plastics have on the environment. I think we really need to question the "throwaway" culture we currently have.

Each time you go to pick up a straw, or a plastic fork, or a takeaway coffee cup, think about the damage it must be doing if everyone's doing the same. And think about the good we could do if we all stopped!



## ST. ANSELM'S VISIT

I was thrilled to visit St. Anselm's school earlier this month. It's such a positive place with motivated students and enthusiastic, inspiring teachers.

I spoke to the students about my journey to Westminster and the importance of getting more 'ordinary' people into politics. It was so encouraging to hear how engaged they are. They expressed such a wide range of concerns, from our hospitals to travel costs, to the environment and online bullying.

I was concerned to hear just after my visit that the school is having to make savings by cutting staff and possibly the school week. This is extremely worrying and I'll be raising my concerns for schools in Parliament, and also with Kent County Council.