

THE CLACTON CONVERSATION

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM GILES WATLING MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CLACTON

CLACTON NEWS

I warmly welcome the introduction, by Essex Police, of a new Town Centre Team in Clacton. In the policing district that includes the Clacton constituency, this means that there are now an extra 27 front line officers on duty than there were before my election – this includes the 4 new officers beginning work as part of the new Town Centre Team. [Read more here.](#)

Such an honour, and a great inspiration, to be at the opening of the new Community Hub in Jaywick Sands recently. Pleased to see Kevin and Roy at the forefront of things as usual, and what a great sense of community!



Cutting the ribbon at Jaywick Community Hub. Well done Ros and all the gang!

The Government is launching a new railcard for 16 and 17 year olds, which will guarantee 50 per cent off rail travel. It will be brought in before the new school year – make sure you apply when more information becomes available! [Read more here.](#)

It is great news that our libraries have been saved! It just goes to show how what a little inspired campaigning can do. Well done all! [Read more here.](#)

I am delighted that the Government has published the Tourism Sector Deal, and I know that this will deliver real benefits for the Clacton constituency. We have already had investment through the Coastal Communities Fund (£663,000) and the Coastal Revival Fund (£50,000) and this is another way in which the Government is trying to restore our coastal communities as vibrant tourist destinations. [Read more here.](#)

Great news that 49 loans have been awarded to small businesses across Clacton by [The Start Up Loans Company](#), with firms receiving over £262,730 in support! [Read more here.](#)

It is great to hear about the grant from UK Power Networks, which has helped Weeley Village Hall become more energy efficient. This will help reduce energy bills for a key community asset in our area. I would encourage any other organisation in our area, that qualifies for funding, to apply before 18th August. [Read more here.](#)

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS

Recently, I questioned the Home Secretary on violent crime following the unfortunate incidents we have seen locally. As mentioned earlier, there are new officers on the streets in our area, but we need to do more, and this will remain a priority for the Government, with 20,000 new officers now being hired. [Read more here.](#)

I also questioned Ministers on measures being taken to strengthen the Union. [Read more here.](#)

It was a pleasure to speak in favour of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill this month. I am very much in favour of this Bill and the changes that it will introduce, as are a substantial number of local residents, many of whom have contacted me to ask that I support the Bill. [Read more here.](#)

The curse of cancer strikes everywhere – certainly it has in my family – and I applaud those fighting this evil disease. Moreover, I know that early detection saves lives, so it was great to meet the roadshow team at [Cancer Research UK](#) and learn more about spotting cancer early, as well as the vital work being done to beat cancer. [Read more here.](#)

Every child has the right to grow up healthily and I hope that the new Prime Minister will make it a top priority. [Read more here.](#)

Childhood should also be a time for happiness, not for despair. That's why I'm pleased to be supporting [Action for Children](#) and their Choose Childhood campaign. [Read more here.](#)

We need to ensure that all those with arthritis, who want to work, have the support they need to do so. A new report from [Versus Arthritis](#) tells us more about how we can do that! [Read more here.](#)

I recently attended an event hosted by the Campaign for Better Transport to show my support for local bus services, and to back calls for a National Bus Strategy. Buses are vital to so many people in the Clacton constituency and to fully realise their potential we need a National Bus Strategy, backed by central Government support, giving operators and local authorities the reassurance to grow and develop services. [Read more here.](#)

At the start of the month, I raised the issue of differential rates of beer duty in Parliament, in order to protect local pubs once we leave the European Union. The Government has already acted to reduce the burden on our pubs, but the UK still has one of the highest beer duty rates in Europe: paying 40% of all beer duty in the EU, whilst only consuming 12% of the beer. Consequently, 56% of drinkers now believe that the price of a pint of beer in a pub is unaffordable, according to the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). Evidence also suggests that this had led to many people choosing to buy cheaper beer in supermarkets rather than in a pub, which leads to closures. I believe that this underlying disparity in cost needs to be addressed to skew the odds back in favour of the local pub, and a differential rate of beer duty will do just that! [Read more here.](#)

Toward the end of last month, we hosted, inside and outside Parliament, the Time is Now environmental protesters, who called for action of climate change. In Britain, we started the industrial revolution and it behoves us to lead the way out – good to meet these constituents!



Meeting protestors calling for action on climate change – the most important issue facing humanity.