

MESSAGE FROM DAVID

I am honoured to have been asked by Gordon Brown to be Foreign Secretary in the new government. Many of the problems that we face - from climate change to drugs - have an international component. My job as Foreign Secretary is to help give our best to the world, and get the best in return.

But I know that my first job is to be MP for South Shields. Without that base there are no other jobs. So although time is rationed, you will continue to see me around town, and I continue to be keen to visit your school, business or community centre. My contact details are below.

South Shields is a great place - but I know we all have a responsibility to help try and make it better. That is what I am determined to do.



David Miliband MP

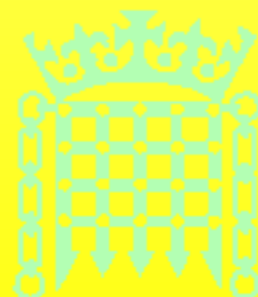
Parliamentary Newsletter - Winter 2007



Education in South Shields is TOPS
David with pupils from Mortimer Primary School

Get in Touch - 6 ways to contact David Miliband MP

- Write to me - David Miliband MP, Ede House, 143 Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 3PD.
- Come to see me at one of my surgeries. Please call 0191 456 8910 for more details.
- Telephone my office - 0191 456 8910
- Send a fax to 0191 456 5842
- Email - milibandd@parliament.uk
- www.davidmiliband.info



Seasonal Greetings. It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of 2007. I hope you and your family have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break.

Throughout the year I have visited many schools in the town and I have always been impressed by the dedication of the teachers and the commitment of the pupils to achieve their very best. Our young people need to learn in a modern environment, with first class facilities. I was therefore delighted to read the council's Transforming Our Primary Schools (TOPS) recommendations that further new schools should be built in South Shields – this is in addition to the new schools already built at Sea View and Westoe Crown.

The Council and Government are working together to ensure that every child reaches their potential here in South Shields. Exam results are at their best ever, the Building Schools for the Future Programme is underway in our secondary schools – but there is more to be done.

As your MP, I promise you that I will work hard to improve education provision in the town – for young and old.

2007 has been a good year for South Shields; I hope 2008 will bring more success.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature of David Miliband in black ink.

David Miliband MP



David - Working for South Shields in Parliament

David Miliband - On Your Side

FIRE!

I am pleased to visit the Fire Station on the John Reid Road earlier this year. The fire and rescue service does an excellent job in protecting people.

During my visit I heard how the fire service are working with the police and South Tyneside Council to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town. We have seen the positive effects that working in partnership can have, and I will continue to support this initiative to ensure South Shields continues to be a pleasant place to live and work.

The local station also has specialist vehicles which have been supplied by the government to assist in handling major incidents. It is thanks to the dedication of the fire officers that we have an excellent fire and rescue service in the borough.

On behalf of the residents of South Shields, I would like to say a big thank you to them all.



Meeting the team at the Fire Station, South Shields

RECYCLE THAT BICYCLE



When we think of recycling, we tend to think of plastic, glass and cans – but here in South Shields we are recycling something a little different - bikes and sports equipment.

The Sports Recycler based at TEDCO, recently received a Big Lottery Fund grant of nearly £75,000. The project has developed a range of services and activities using recycled and refurbished sports equipment which it then sells at a reduced price.

The idea behind the scheme is to encourage communities to participate in sporting activities such as cycling and using fitness equipment. If you are reading this and would like to get fit, why not call by the Sports Recycler – they have the equipment and the experience, and the staff will make sure it doesn't take you long to build up your confidence.

Learning how to ride a bicycle made for two

HEALTHY CHANGES AT FLAGG COURT

In my summer 2007 Newsletter, the front page story was about the fantastic work undertaken by the team at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Investment in our health service continues here in South Shields. I was delighted to officially open the new £8.5 million state of the art healthcare complex at Flagg Court which is run by the South Tyneside Primary Care Trust.

The new centre gives patients access to GP's and nurses as well as dentistry, physiotherapy, audiology to name but a few. I felt hugely proud and privileged to be at the opening.

The GPs and the staff are keen to take the centre forward and ensure that centre becomes part of the community. The centre is the first purpose built primary care centre in South Tyneside.



David officially opens the new Flagg Court Health Centre

The new centre is also environmentally friendly – which is great news. It boasts a solar powered hot water system, a rain water recovery system and green materials have been used wherever possible.

TONY'S BACK

The 2007 South Shields Lecture was delivered to a packed Customs House on the 14 November by former PM Tony Blair.



He used his address to take on the big international challenges that we now face, and also reflected on the future of the North East. He showed he is still a master at question and answer.

South Shields got better under Tony Blair, and so did Britain. He promised me that he would come to Shields to meet the public and I am glad he did so. Who would you like to see deliver next year's lecture? Please let me know your ideas (I can't afford Bill Clinton...).

If you would like me to visit your school, organisation or business please telephone my South Shields office on 0191 456 8910