



David Lepper MP

A report to residents of Brighton Pavilion constituency from your MP

Dear Residents

I am pleased to be able to send you my Annual Report for 2005/2006. In it I have highlighted some of my work in Parliament and in Brighton as your MP since the last General Election.

You can find out more about what I am doing as your MP throughout the year on my website www.epolitix.com/david-lepper

Or you can always make contact by writing to me at John Saunders House, 179 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6AG - or by ringing my office on 551532.

Yours sincerely,

David Lepper

Important phone numbers

**Tax Credit Helpline
0845 300 3900**

**Pension Service
0800 991 234**

**National Minimum Wage Helpline
0845 600 0678**

**Winter Fuel Helpline
0845 915 15 15**

**Crimestoppers
0800 555 111**

**Sussex Police non emergency
0845 6070 999**

**Brighton and Hove City Council
290000**



Remembering Jane Longhurst

Thanks to everyone who has backed the campaign for new laws against violent internet pornography launched by Liz Longhurst after the murder of her daughter Jane, a respected Brighton teacher,

I led a Parliamentary debate on this and, following meetings Mrs Longhurst, her MP Martin Salter and I had with

Home Office Ministers new laws are now being planned.

Amnesty backed the campaign as part of its Year of Action on Violence Against Women. In November 2005 Liz Longhurst (left) and her daughter Sue came to Westminster when Martin Salter and I presented their 50,000 signature petition in Parliament.

Co-operating on housing



Award winning Stanmer Park Earthship project

Brighton and Hove City Council has made real progress in getting more affordable housing for local people and bringing long-empty privately owned property back into use. But there is still more to do.

- In April 2006 I brought together representatives of local housing co-ops and the city council to explore how co-operative housing can play a greater role in meeting local housing needs.
- New building regulations this year mean new homes must be more energy efficient. The award winning Stanmer Park Earthship project which I visited in December shows the scope for recycled materials and renewable energy in housing.



Backing the Albion

With Des Turner MP, my wife Councillor Jeane Lepper and I joined thousands of Seagulls fans on Brighton seafront in September to show our support for the Albion's proposed Stadium at Falmer. In Parliament Des, Celia Barlow MP and I called on Lewes District Council to drop its legal challenge to John Prescott's decision that the Stadium could go ahead.

Working in W for the People Brighton Pavilion



Here I highlight some of my Parliamentary work not dealt with elsewhere.

- I have asked the government not to scrap the popular Post Office Card Accounts which enable pensioners and others to receive cash over the post office counter – and provide business for our vital sub-post offices.
- I spoke on the animal health problems linked to commercial pet fairs and presented a 15,000 signature petition from the Brighton-based Animal Protection Agency calling for fairs to be banned as part of the Animal Welfare Bill.
- The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee, of which I am a member, is beginning a major inquiry into Climate Change policy. Meanwhile, I have called for new planning guidance to enable households in conservation areas like those in Brighton to install solar panels and other renewable energy devices.
- I played a leading role in producing the Parliamentary Small Shops group report "High Street Britain 2015" – calling for tougher government action to protect smaller retail businesses like many of those in the Lanes and North Laine and to investigate the major supermarkets. It was good to see the Office of Fair Trading call for an inquiry into the supermarkets within weeks of our report.
- As chair of the Parliamentary group on Foyers, in November I welcomed

Fairtrade at Pride



Fairtrade products from some of the world's poorest countries and equalities legislation at home were the themes of the Co-op Group stall at Brighton Pride 2005 at which I helped out with Co-op Group staff.

The Middle East

I met members of the Brighton and Hove Jewish Council to explain my opposition to the Israeli government's "separation wall" on Palestinian land. We also discussed the vital importance of combating anti-Semitism here in the UK. I have also raised with the Foreign Office the persecution of religious minorities in Egypt and Iran and of gay men in Iraq.

Stop AIDS

On World AIDS Day in December 2005 I joined members of the Stop AIDS campaign in London to add my voice to those calling for more intensive action to combat HIV/AIDS. The Brighton based International HIV/AIDS Alliance

plays a leading role worldwide. I welcome the July G8 Gleneagles Summit commitment to additional funding to fight HIV/AIDS and full access to life-saving treatments by 2010 as an important step forward.



Westminster Role of Civilian

residents and staff of our Pelham Street Foyer to Westminster at the start of the campaign to change the "16 Hour" Housing Benefit rule. It hits many 19 year olds studying in further education – including some local Foyer residents. Later I met benefits minister James Plaskitt to put the case for change.

- A supporter of our excellent Queen's Road Carers' Centre, last summer I was a founder member of the new Parliamentary Group on Carers. We want to build on the government's Carer's Strategy with more support for those caring for relatives and friends. In Carer's Week 2005 I was proud to receive recognition from Carer'sUK and other organisations for my support.



- I have backed shop-worker's union USDAW's campaign against extending Sunday Trading Hours on which the government is preparing to consult.
- Other issues I have raised in Westminster include: support for the smoking ban; welcoming new powers to tackle violent and drug crime; making stations like Preston Park more accessible for disabled people; Business Improvement Districts to revitalize shopping areas; the drop in drink-related disorder over Christmas and the New Year following the November's new licensing laws; improved funding for further education colleges and the need for new equalities laws for transgender people.

Focus on Education

As a former teacher I am always keen to visit our local schools. In January I helped with St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School's "Big Hush" sponsored silence, raising money for the Macmillan Cancer Fund as part of a week of activities.



St Bernadette's Big Hush

Councillor Pat Hawkes and I accompanied Education Secretary Ruth Kelly MP when she opened the new Sure Start Turner Family Centre in Ivory Place in September 2005.

In the last year I've also had the chance to visit: Europe's only Buddhist School – the Dharma School in Patcham – to help with a geography project; Downs Juniors (see below); Carlton Hill Primary during their



David Lepper MP, Ruth Kelly MP and Councillor Pat Hawkes in the new Sure Start Turner Family Centre in Ivory Place.

International Week in July 2005 – and again in September with Ruth Kelly when we also visited Turnerland Nursery. Ruth Kelly, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and I also went to St Bartholomews Primary School breakfast club, to open the school's new community room and to hear about local improvements to school meals. Members of Varndean College's Politics Society showed their wide range of interests when I met them in October. And in March the Varndean School Production of "Guys and Dolls" was outstanding.

Making Poverty History

Last summer, with many local people, I supported Make Poverty History events like the one outside St Peter's Church.

I also helped with Downs Junior School's work on world poverty with the "Send My Buddy to School" project

about the importance of education in the world's poorest countries.

Events like these preceded the Gleneagles G8 Summit in July at which agreement was reached to double aid for Africa by \$25 billion a year by 2010.

Toasting Civil Partnerships

As a sponsor of an earlier Bill on Civil Partnerships in Parliament, I especially welcomed the government's law that means same sex couples can have their relationships recognised legally. Brighton is now the most popular place for civil partnership ceremonies outside London.

Equalities Minister Meg Munn MP joined Des Turner MP, Celia Barlow MP and me at Brighton Town Hall on 21st December 2005 to meet some of the first couples having ceremonies that day and to toast their future happiness and the new law.





Safeguarding the South Downs

While calling for a decision soon on National Park status for the South Downs, in January I also successfully lobbied Environment minister Jim Knight MP in Westminster to ensure there will be no further legal doubts about the criteria for National Park status.

BHASVIC Green Lights campaign

In March 2006 I joined parents, children, college students and local councillors Juliet McCaffery and Vince Meegan outside BHASVIC to highlight the campaign to make this busy junction near the college, two schools, a nursery and a care home safer for non-driving pedestrians like me – and for motorists and cyclists.



Hot Water Burns Like Fire

Badly scalded when living here as a child, TV star Amanda Redman was treated at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital. In March I joined her in Westminster to support a new Private Members Bill calling for thermostatic mixing valves to be fitted when new or replacement baths are installed in homes to help reduce the risk of scalding.

It also gave me a chance to tell her about progress on the new children's unit at the Royal Sussex County Hospital scheduled to open in April 2007.

Amanda and I with 10 year old scald victim Holly Davenport.

Can I help you?

Each month I hold two advice sessions for Brighton Pavilion residents at:

- **Brighthelm Church and Community Centre, North Road**
- **Old Boat Community Centre, Carden Park, Carden Hill.**

If you want to come along, please ring my office on **551532** to check dates and times.

And throughout most of the year I also call on residents in a different street each week. Watch out for information through your letter box about when I will next be in your area.

Let me know if there are any local issues with which you think I can help as your MP. Return this form and I will contact you.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____

The issue which concerns me is: _____

Please return to:
David Lepper MP, FREEPOST BR 901, Brighton. BN1 4ZZ

