

## **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May - morning

Early in the morning I attended Sheriff of Chester's Charity Breakfast in the Assembly Room, Chester Town Hall – over £1000 was raised for charity.

In the evening it was the Flintshire County Music School 'Celebration of Youth Music' Intermediate & Senior Ensembles' – A wonderful evening, so many talented young people in Flintshire, a delight to have been invited.

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May - evening

This evening I was delighted to attend another Flintshire County Music School 'Celebration of Youth Music' event for Junior & Senior Ensembles.

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May – afternoon

I very much enjoyed attending the Film Fest Mini Oscars at the Clwyd Theatre – what a delight to see all these very young film makers and stars of the future and to share in their enthusiasm.

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May – morning

On this morning, I attended the Launch Event of Flintshire Business Week Magazine 2011 at Chester Football Club, Sealand.

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – afternoon

I was delighted to attend The Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Eleanor Johnson's Annual Civic Service which was held at Chester Cathedral.

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May – morning

On this morning I was invited to the Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme Celebration of Achievements at Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint – a great delight to be asked to this event and to see the confidence of these young people especially over our MC'S.

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – morning

This day was the Opening of the Fourth Assembly at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay – amazing experience to be invited to this event and to meet her Majesty and Prince Philip and to be part of history.

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

In the morning I visited the Mental Health Centre, Growing Places and Double Click in Shotton.

In the afternoon I visited Ambrose Lloyd Centre, Social Links and Next Steps, Mold and the Intensive Support Team in Flint – to see and talk to our service users and our front line staff is a privilege. I never fail to be impressed by the hard work and commitment our staff give to make other people's lives better.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June

This morning I visited Croes Atti Residential Care Home & Day Centre in Flint – very welcoming. In the afternoon I visited Marleyfield Day Centre &

Residential Home in Buckley – lots going on for service users and Llys Gwenffrwd Residential Home in Holywell – nice atmosphere, residents all help in caring for the pets.

#### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June - morning

I visited the Melrose Day Centre in Shotton on this morning – well used facility with lots of activities going on.

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June

The Denbighshire County Council Freedom of the County to the Royal Welsh was held on this day – despite the rain which held off for the parade a very proud day.

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June

This was the day of my Civic Service at Emmanuel Bistre Church, Buckley. Thanks to all who made it happen, those who did the behind the scenes work and those who participated - Great day!!!

#### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June

First thing in the morning I visited the Early Years Centre, Rural North Flintshire Family Centre at Gronant – a great facility for the village, well used by all ages.

During the day I visited several Schools in Flintshire, Gronant CP, Trelogan, Bryn Garth (Penyffordd), Bryn Pennants (Mostyn), Mornant (Gwespyr).

#### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – morning

I attended the morning service at Trelawnyd C of E County Primary School accompanied by Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer.

In the afternoon it was the Children from Chernobyl's visit to County Hall – a fantastic day, we went to Theatr Clwyd for a back stage visit with Pat Nelder. The children sang on stage!

#### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June – afternoon

Citizenship Ceremony – I met so many really nice people including two who had lived in this Country for over 50 years.

In the evening I attended a Performance of “The Spirit of the Mimosa” at Theatr Clwyd – a play about the colonization of Patagonia by the Welsh – an excellent production!

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June

In the morning I visited Llanfynydd School and then onto Abermorddu CP School – so impressed by their co-operative, the children even supply lettuce to Caffi Florence at Loggerheads.

In the afternoon I met with David Jones, Principal and Robert Walford, Head of Operations at Deeside College followed by a tour of the College – how big this has grown in just a few years. What a fantastic place for Flintshire and overseas students to learn. Great link with industry!

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Shotton Community Association's 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration - I was delighted to meet so many of the centre's users, Lord Barry Jones and the Mayor of Shotton, Ann Minshull.

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June

I was delighted to attend The Town Mayor of Buckley, Cllr Mike Peers' Civic Service in the morning held at Pentrobin Methodist Church, Drury – a very memorable day. I hope Mike really enjoys his time as Mayor!

The Wrexham Church Civic Service was held in the afternoon – so lovely to see such a good turn out of young people.

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June

On this day I visited Halkyn, Buckley, Flint and the new Alltami depot to thank staff for all the hard work they do to keep our roads open and our streets clean. I was very impressed by our recycling facility in Flint, first class and so clean.

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Today I was delighted to be invited to Abbey Metals and Castle Connections, such dedication by all the staff at these work opportunities.

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

In the afternoon I attend the AGM of Flintshire Disabilities Forum in Shotton.

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

This morning I visited Westbridge furniture factory in Greenfield with Cllr Sharps, then sadly attended the funeral of John Hughes Parry, the husband of former county councillor Valmai Parry in Nannerch. In the evening I was privileged to attend the students awards ceremony at Deeside College.

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June

In the morning I visited Tri Ffordd and Glanrafon Centre. Both centres are such a credit to Flintshire, warm and friendly. In the afternoon I was asked to open Enterprise House in Flint, The old Courtaulds headquarters, which is now a fantastic facility of reasonable priced office space for start up businesses with great potential to expand.

# CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

## Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June – evening

I attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service for the North East Wales Deaf Children's Society held at Mold Parish Church – very inspiring event.

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June - afternoon

On this afternoon I was delighted to attend the High Sheriff of Clwyd's Hog Roast – lovely day!

## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – morning

Mr. John Saunders, who was recently awarded an MBE, and his wife visited me at County Hall. Mr. & Mrs. Saunders are two very dedicated people who have worked so hard for Holywell Hospital. It has to be a first for Flintshire – 2 MBE's in one home!

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Queensferry Library Re-launch Week – This afternoon I attended the "Learning how to research your Family Tree" event – good IT program for researching your family tree.

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July

In the morning I visited Early Years Flying Start in Greenfield and Flint – good parenting is a skill and that is what these centres are trying to impress.

I then went on to Gwynedd Primary and Ysgol Pen Coch schools in Flint – very welcoming and excited children.

In the afternoon I visited the Brookhill Landfill Site. This now redundant landfill was an extremely interesting visit. I was shown how methane is extracted and how it produces electricity which feeds back into the grid and when sold makes £1million for Flintshire.

## Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Several school visits today: Penarlag Primary School – Children so welcoming. Hawarden High School – impressed by the knowledge of the head boys and girls who showed me around the school. Rector Drew Juniors followed by Hawarden Infants – lovely lesson in the woods!

In the afternoon I was delighted to be invited to a special school assembly held at Drury Primary School to Celebrate 50 years of Public Service for Mr. Kenneth Iball.

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July - evening

I was delighted to have been invited to the Chairman of Denbighshire's Sponsored Concert at the International Musical Eisteddfod, Llangollen. Fulfilled one of my dreams today when I met Terry Waite and what a really nice genuine person he is.

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Several school visits today.

First one being Croft Nursery & Early Years Centre in Aston – one of the best stocked nursery centres I have seen! Then on to St. Etherwold's Church School, Shotton Infants, Taliesin Junior & Venerable Edward Morgan School – very friendly and welcoming. I had a lesson in poultry rearing at Venerable Edward Morgan School.

In the evening I was invited to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bengal Dynasty Restaurant, Shotton – excellent evening.

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July

On this morning I visited Westwood Early Years Centre in Buckley – good parenting starts here, and then on to Westwood Primary School – friendly children who made me welcome.

I was invited to attend the official opening of the Materials Recycling Centre at UPM – excellent energy from waste facility – this company is keeping ahead of the game!

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Llangollen Eisteddfod - I was delighted to have been asked to present the prize to the winners of a Ladies Barbershop group who were magnificent.

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

In the morning was Cllr David Cox, Mayor of Flint's, Civic Service Ceremony – nice service, rain did not stop the procession. Wish David Cox a really enjoyable year as Mayor.

In the afternoon was Cllr Gwilym Jones, Chairman of Anglesey County Council's Civic Service – glorious afternoon, really important to forge links with Anglesey now we are going into partnership with them!

In the evening I attended the Royal British Legion Grand 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration VIP Reception hosted by Venue Cymru – fantastic day when lots of money was raised for the British Legion.

#### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July

During the day I visited several schools in Flint:

Richard Gwyn High School – very impressed by Art work the students have displayed throughout the school.

St. Mary's Primary School Visit – Very welcoming.

Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain – our smallest school but full of characters!

Flint High School and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – made very welcome at Flint High School and I just loved the new laser cutter. Staff and pupils in Maes Hyfryd so friendly.

In the evening was the Llwynegrin Singers AGM held at the Plas Hafod Hotel. They made me very welcome here and have offered to participate in a fundraising concert for me later in the year.

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Bev Jones visited me at County Hall on this morning. Bev is a champion at disability Shot Putt and also broke the European Discus record. This young lady is a real example to **ALL** people, she thinks what she can do and how to get there, very uplifting person to be with.

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July

This evening I was invited to attend the Wrexham Science Festival 2011 Launch Reception at Glyndŵr University. Very good facility and really interesting programme.

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Cllr Matt Wright invited me to open the Brynford Summer Fete on this day. Despite the rain, the warm welcome made it a really enjoyable day.

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

On this morning I attended The Mayor & Mayoress of Holywell, Cllr Peter York and Mrs. Sheena Wallbanks' Civic Service at St. Winefrid's Catholic Church, Holywell – nice service and very welcoming.

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Royal Welsh show, Builth Wells – really lovely day. Met lots of local farmers showing some really spectacular animals and produce. It makes you so proud to be part of it and very proud to be Welsh.

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – morning

Flintshire Excellence Award – this morning I was invited to present a School Achievement Award with Ray Dickson to Matthew Wilson. Matthew attends Ysgol Bron Dyfryn and came to the Chairman's Room in County Hall with his parents to receive his award – very nice young man who thoroughly deserved his award.

Also today I had Tom Blackwell, a young man who is in our care system, work shadow me. We had a very informative meeting with Mr. Neil Ayling, Director of Community Services, as seen from a users point of view.

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

In the morning was the Family Fun Day, Bonc Park, Mynydd Isa – lovely day, lovely facility and a credit to those who work so hard for the community.

Later in the afternoon I was delighted to attend a garden party hosted by Bill & Hilda Humphreys for Llwynegrin Singers – very enjoyable and hope they raised lots of money for the group.

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

In the afternoon, I attended Cllr Barry Thomas, Chairman of Powys County Council's Civic Service – very nice service and a lovely day. Building stronger links with Powys will be an advantage to the County.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Today I was invited to officially open the launch of Danger Point to Public Visitors at Talacre. This facility is now open to the public at a small fee. Well worth a visit for parents and children alike.

This evening I attended the launch of the Dug-Out Canoe at Connah's Quay Docks with artist Clinton Challoner. After much teasing about myself being IN the canoe, I left that task to four very able rangers, whilst I got to name and launch it using good Welsh whiskey. Perfect evening, they paddled up the Dee into the sunset. It is many years since a new vessel has been built and launched from Connah's Quay Docks. A great privilege for me to be asked to do this!

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

This morning I was invited as a member of Social & Health O&S Committee to the Parenting Strategy Group meeting at Westwood Centre, Buckley. Positive parenting is the most important job we can have. If we do it well then the next generation and all others that follow will benefit. This is about starting that process for those who are less fortunate at the start of theirs!

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July

I was delighted to be invited to a Reception at The Maes, National Eisteddfod, Wrexham, by Lloyd Fitzhugh, High Sheriff of Clwyd. Really enjoyable evening, the 3 Tenors were magnificent!

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July

Today, I attended a Buffet Lunch at the Eisteddfod, Maes Wrexham – again met lots of prominent Welsh speakers and non Welsh speakers from all over Wales but especially Flintshire.

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Today I visited play schemes operated by Flintshire throughout the County with Janet Roberts, 13 in total. A really worthwhile scheme enjoyed by hundreds and hundreds of children. Water slides, tepees, tents, face painting, outdoor den building, tight rope walking, swing building, cooking, bracelet making, in fact anything the children wanted to do, they are encouraged to try to do. Not sure who enjoys it the most, the children or the workers, see some of the pictures!

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

National Play Day – again visited 12 play schemes today with Janet Roberts. I launched my 'Recycle your cycle' campaign at Gronant. Had burgers and sausages cooked outside at the children's playing field. Lots of very happy very muddy children!

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August

This evening I was delighted to attend the Deeside Junior Ice Hockey Club Presentation Evening held at Corus Club, Shotton. Great turn out of young people aged 4-16. Very proud of their achievements beating Sheffield to gain the N.W.I.H. Cup.

### Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August

A wonderful day was spent at the Anglesey Show – a really traditional Show second only to the Royal Welsh. The Leader of Anglesey Council, Councillor Brian Jones, made me so welcome.

### Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August

This morning I visited Pen Coch Special School Playscheme and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Special School Playscheme, both in Flint – a most enjoyable visit to these very successful Playschemes, well run and well used.

### Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> August

A Citizenship Ceremony was held in Llwynegryn Hall, Mold and again I had the opportunity to meet with many people, both adults and children, who have chosen Flintshire as their new homeland.

### Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> August

Today I had the opportunity to meet some of our looked after children and celebrate their successes and have one of them “work shadow” me.

### Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August

Flintshire County Council’s Learner of the Year Award Winner, John Thomas, visited today to give his presentation, of which we are so proud.

### Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> August

Once again I had the honour of judging the Trade Stands at the Denbighshire & Flintshire Show. I was delighted to work so closely with Denbighshire.

### Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August

Today I attended the funeral of John Hartley of Kinnerton, who sadly passed away at the remarkable age of 102 years and was ex postman of the village.

### Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August

Despite the weather the Gwyl Gobaith Music Festival was a great success, well supported by businesses and the public at large. A very enjoyable evening.

### Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August

UsUnltd held a sponsored Bike Ride across Wales and I was delighted to greet the youngsters on their arrival back. Hopefully they raised lots of money to purchase the shop and accommodation in Flint so they can set up a “getaway”.



## CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

### Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September

I was delighted to attend the 'Grand Day Out' 2011 Vision Support Carnival – a very deserving charity who work with local people to make their quality of life better.

### Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September

Today was the official opening of Ty Banc Cerrig in New Brighton, a housing scheme for young people with learning disabilities. The 3 young people were so thrilled to be moving into **THEIR** new home, the atmosphere was infectious.

### Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September

Early this morning was the Flintshire Business Week Launch – my thanks to all the Team who work so hard to bring businesses in Flintshire together.

### Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September

This afternoon I attended the Conwy Chairman's Civic Service at St. Mary & All Saints Church, Conwy.

### Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September - morning

I was invited to attend a tour of UPM Shotton Papermill. Many thanks to Mr. David Ingham, General Manager who along with others were sponsors of Flintshire Business Week.

### Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September

This evening was the Pride of Flintshire Awards held at the Springfield Hotel, nr. Holywell. This has to be the highlight of any Flintshire Chairman's year! I shall never forget the rap the young man sang. It really brought home what some of our young people have been through.

### Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September

Very early this morning I joined Mike Taylor and his team for the 'D Day' River Dee clean up – the dedication of Mike Taylor and his team of volunteers in their efforts to keep our river banks clean is fantastic. Year after year they turn up to litter pick and it is so rewarding to see the place looking so fantastic and litter free!

In the evening, with the Judges, I jointly presented the Best Kept Communities Awards. A very joyous occasion and a chance to meet people from all walks of life who take **PRIDE** in where they live.

### Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September – Evening

I was delighted to have been invited to the Royal Marines Association Concert in Prestatyn. A humbling experience meeting Mark Ormond, triple amputee, who has embarked on a new career, inspiring others to do the same and to look forward to what you can do, not what you can't.

### Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

This morning I attended the Chairman of Shotton Town Council, Councillor Ann Minshull's Civic Service – nice service and warm welcome by Councillor Minshull.

### Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September

This morning I visited two schools:

Elfed High School – first time for many years I have visited Elfed, really pleased to have a chance to speak to the new head boy and girl.

Buckley Mount Lane Primary School – What a buzzing, vibrant school. Thanks have to go to all who made it such an enjoyable visit.

### Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September

Several school visits this morning:

Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn – this school and Parc y Llan seem to work well on the same site, Welsh and English Primary schools together.

Ysgol Derwenfa, Leeswood – again a school full of happy faces.

Nercwys VCP School – one of our smaller schools who may have a chance to expand.

In the evening again attended the Pride of Flintshire Awards held at the Springfield Hotel. Once again the Children's Minister was asked to attend these awards. He was duly impressed by the talents of our youngsters and how well Flintshire work towards making a positive difference to their lives.

### Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September

I visited more schools today,

Ysgol Estyn CP, Hope – lovely school with positive staff.

Ysgol Derwen, Higher Kinnerton – a happy school where children love to go.

Abbots Lane Infant School, Penyffordd and Penyffordd Junior School – lovely staff and children alike.

Ewloe Green CP School – very active school changed beyond all recognition for this 'old pupil'.

### Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September

This morning I visited Pentre-robin St John the Baptist VA School – vibrant, Mr. Byrne the head teacher actively encourages learning through the medium of sport, Rugby World Cup to be precise!

This evening was my Charity Casino Night at the Beaufort Park Hotel. Fantastic night, thanks go to the hotel but mostly to Karen and Lesley for making it such a great fundraiser, almost £1000 raised.

### Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September

Mold Food Festival – great event for Mold and so very well attended!

### Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September

Today a group of children from Abbots Lane School, Penyffordd visited County Hall – lovely children who I enjoyed entertaining.

### Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September

In the afternoon I was delighted to attend the Recognition of Awards Photo Shoot – great pleasure in being able to personally thank these teams who have won national awards on behalf of Flintshire County Council.

#### Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September

In the afternoon, I visited Cornist CP School, Flint – what nice staff and again happy children. What more can you ask for.

After the school visit, I attended the launch of ‘Cauldrons and Furnaces’ – Flint Castle. Great chance to be at this event. Next June it will be an amazing spectacular performance by Flintshire people to celebrate the 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

#### Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October

In the evening, I attended the Annual Charity Show of Superkids at Theatr Clwyd. This was a fantastic evening, one of the best evenings ever. Hopefully they raised lots of money for the children.

#### Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October

In the morning, I visited Southdown Primary School at Buckley to meet the children. I was very impressed by the children and the great atmosphere at the school.

At lunchtime I attended the official opening of the Redrow show homes at Northop. It was lovely to see local people building new homes again.

#### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

In the evening I was invited to the Country Spice Dinner to welcome an MP from Bangladesh. This was a great opportunity to meet with local and national government officials from another Country.

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

In the evening I attended the Town Hall at Chester for the Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Eleanor Johnson at Home event. This was a lovely evening and I met lots of interesting people.

#### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning I visited RAF Valley on Anglesey for the re-enactment of the Freedom of Anglesey to the Royal Air Force, Valley. Despite the inclement weather this was an excellent day.

In the afternoon I attended the opening of Gladstone’s Library’s Islamic Reading Room at Gladstone Library in Hawarden. It was very interesting listening to the Islamic speaker.

#### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning I attended Mold Sports Centre for the Flintshire 10K run. This was a great event, very well supported.

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning I visited the new amalgamated Broughton Infant and Junior School for the opening and cutting of the ribbon. It was very nice to see the schools become one.

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning I visited United Paper Mill for the Renewables Day as part of Flintshire Business week. I was very impressed by this forward thinking company.

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning I attend an Exhibition Theme "The Chain" at Convatec, part of Flintshire Business Week. This was a great venue with great hosts and a great change for businesses to network.

At 11.30 I met Officers from Flintshire to say a few words of welcome and open the Flintshire Open for Business Exhibition.

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning I attended Convatec for the Exhibition of 'The Supply Chain' as part of Flintshire Business Week. A very positive company where employees' views are valued.

In the afternoon I visited Airbus for the opening of the North Factory which was attended by the Prime Minister. This is such an impressive facility that will hopefully secure jobs for Flintshire people far in the future.

In the evening I attended Glyndwr University for the Glyndwr University Inaugural & Professional Lecture Series 2011/11 which included Shakespeare, Owain Glyndwr and the future of the University Lecture. A university on our doorstep that is really going places.

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Early in the morning I attended Deeside College for a MP breakfast question time. Thanks to all who took part in this.

In the evening I attended Soughton Hall for the Flintshire Business Awards Evening. It makes you so proud to see the successful businesses in Flintshire.

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

In the evening I attended the Beaufort Park Hotel for the Hawarden Rotary Club Charity Celebrity Auction. A very successful event raising well over £1,000.

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October

At midday as part of Flintshire Business Week, I visited the Days Inn for Lunch. This was a very interesting day, the guest speaker was a top economist!

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning it was a pleasure to welcome the School Council from Penarlag School to County Hall, the pupils were lovely.

At midday I visited the Springfield Hotel on the A55 as part of the Flintshire Business Week for the Bank of England Seminar. Again impressive event with a very interesting speaker.

In the evening I attended the Grosvenor Museum, Chester for the Samaritans of Chester & District Annual General Meeting. It was very nice to support this local Group.

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

As part of Business Week, in the evening I attended a reception at the Houses of Parliament, Westminster – my thanks to David Hanson and our business week staff for all the hard work they put in to making this such a successful event.

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

This evening I was delighted to be invited to the Mayor of Wrexham's Charity Dinner Dance - such a wonderful evening.

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

This morning I attended the Chairman of Denbighshire County Council, Cllr Bill Cowie's Civic Service at St. Asaph Cathedral. A really moving service in very pleasant surroundings.

In the afternoon I attended the Mayor of Caerwys Civic Service. So nice that the local boys choir were asked to sing.

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

This evening I was invited to the Chair of Connah's Quay Town Council Charity Night – a fun charity night where hopefully lots of money was raised.

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October

In the evening I was invited to open the Countryside Rangers and Friends of Pen y Maes Woods Halloween Event at Holywell – What a great idea! Long may it continue.

I then went on to the High Sheriff's Charity Concert at St. Asaph Cathedral – beautiful music and surroundings, what more could you ask for and all for a good cause.

### Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

This morning I visited Kingspan along with the Chief Executive and Councillor Tony Sharp. Here is a local company who is moving forward at such a pace. Good luck to them!

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

First thing this morning a group of children from Trelogan School Council visited County Hall, lovely children who asked lots of questions.

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November cont'd

Later on in the morning I was delighted to attend the Apprentices Competition 2011 held at the Beaufort Park Hotel & Conference Centre. Great to see so many girls up for the awards. Very deservedly won by a young man from Newport.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

This afternoon, I opened the Schools Exhibitions at Clwyd Theatr Cymru – beautiful workmanship by the school children.

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Today, I visited the following schools in Mold.

Ysgol Bryn Gwalia CP - school with a nice ethos.

Bryn Coch CP - our longest primary school in Flintshire, well behaved children.

St. David's Catholic School - a cheerful school where children want to learn.

Ysgol Maes Garmon – excellent facilities and a great flagship for Welsh Medium education.

Mold Alun High School – our longest 6<sup>th</sup> form with great facilities and a can do attitude.

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

This morning I was delighted to welcome a group of children from Sealand C.P. School Council to County Hall. Beautiful children, a credit to their school.

## **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

This evening I was delighted to have been invited to the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party of Sarah Tweedly at the Talacre Community Centre – what a lovely lady with a real zest for life, only stopped driving her car 6 months ago!

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Today I attended the official opening of the new offices for Revolymer Ltd on the Deeside Industrial Estate – a revolutionary company who have produced a non stick chewing gum. They are a credit to Flintshire.

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

In the morning I visited the following schools:

Ysgol Y Llan Church in Wales Voluntary Aided in Whitford - lovely school, lovely setting, lovely pupils.

Ysgol Bro Carmel - friendly happy school.

Ysgol Maesglas, Greenfield – Modern outlook, lovely ethos.

In the afternoon I attended the official opening of the Airbus new Visitors Reception – any visit to Airbus is an honour, so proud to say they are based here in Flintshire.

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November

This morning I was invited to the Flintshire Record Office Open Day in Hawarden – so very welcoming, a fantastic facility for family history research. I then went on to visit Bertha Evans at Croes Atti Residential Home, Flint who was celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday – a lovely lady and her family.

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Service at Hawarden Memorial – a great honour to have been asked to lay the wreath on behalf of Flintshire.

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Today, I visited several schools in Connah's Quay and Queensferry:

Golftyn CP School – lovely school.

Wepre CP School – nice atmosphere.

Dee Road School – happy school.

Custom House School – happy children.

Bryn Deva School – happy children.

Queensferry CP School – same campus as JS High – nice school.

John Summers High School – good school with a head who loves his job.

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

School visits this morning – Ysgol Myndd Isa, newly amalgamated with the Junior school. Lovely atmosphere and happy children.

Argoed High School – very forward looking school, good results, striving all the time for excellence, happy inclusive school.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

In the morning I visited schools in Saltney.

St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School where two lovely children showed me around the school, they were a real credit to it!  
Saltney Ferry CP School – happy children in a friendly school.  
Wood Memorial CP School – lots of good things going on here to enrich the pupil's experience.

In the afternoon I hosted afternoon tea in the Chair's room at County Hall for my guests who were all lovely ladies of 100 years and more. What fun we all had and what a brilliant attitude these ladies had to life. Total age was 306, as they were leaving all said 'see you next year'!

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November

This morning I was invited to the opening of the Wales Coastal Path, Greenfield Dock, this will be a great asset to Wales when complete.

I then attended the official opening of Mynydd Awel at Mold Business Park – great supporters of Flintshire Business Week, a pleasure to see them expanding.

In the afternoon I was invited to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and Launch of our Plas Power Environmental Education facilities in Wrexham – great facility.

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November

In the morning I visited Connah's Quay High School – a good school with a good headteacher and good ideas. I then went on to Holywell High School – again the pupils shone here. Despite the buildings shortcoming, the pupils achieved and were a delight to be with.

In the evening I presented the 'Flintshire Business Woman of the Year' award at the Network She Awards, Venue Cymru, Llandudno. So very honoured to be able to present the award to a Flintshire Company, Wagtail and to see Clare Budden receive her award.

#### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

This morning a group of children from Ysgol y Llan, Whitford visited County Hall – lovely children who really knew how to question me.

In the evening I attended the Film Blast Screening at Theatre Clwyd. This was a film made across the ages and abilities from pre-school to care home – very enjoyable.

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – several School visits this morning

Sandycroft C. P. – lovely school, pleasant happy children.

Sealand C.P. – caring school with lots going on.

Northop Ysgol Owen Jones – nice school with a family atmosphere.

Northop Hall C.P. School – lovely school with happy pupils.

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November - morning

Early this morning I attended the Bloodhound Experience Wrexham Business Breakfast at Glyndwr University. A great opportunity to meet the Roadster



who has built this land speed record vehicle for the attempt upon the land speed record next year.

I then went on to visit two schools.

Ysgol Rhos Helyg in Rhosesmor – rosy cheeks on all the children, a very happy environment.

Rhesycae VCP School in Holywell – Flintshire's smallest school, only 5 pupils when I was there but all were happy.

In the afternoon I was delighted to be invited to the Opening of Schools Exhibit at Clwyd Theatre Cymru - lovely chance for children to work with artists to create this.

#### Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November

Today I visited the following schools in Holywell, Brynford & Lixm.

St. Winefride's Catholic Primary School – lovely friendly school.

Ysgol Gwenffrwd – good Welsh medium school with a nice atmosphere.

Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants – happy experience for the children but the building is old.

Ysgol y Fron Junior – an old school with a good atmosphere. Fantastic Christmas grotto thanks to the staff.

Brynford Primary School – happy active school.

Lixm C.P. School – lovely children, happy school.

#### Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November

This evening I was invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Civic Hall, Connah's Quay, which was a very pleasant evening.

#### Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December

In the morning, Jessica Ireland and Patrick Carney from Ysgol Myndydd Isa Infants School came into County Hall where I presented them with a certificate for winner and runner up designers of my Christmas Card. Many thanks to these children for their lovely art work.

This afternoon it was an honour to welcome three new citizens of Flintshire at the Citizenship Ceremony, Llwynegrin Hall.

Saltney Town Council Christmas Parade – a ride on the top of an open bus, lots of people and above all great entertainment from the children.

In the evening I was invited to Clwyd Theatr Cymru Theatre for the Young People 'Humbug' performance by Tim Baker – a really enjoyable play.

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

This morning was the official opening of Age Concern new Handy Van Service at the Daniel Owen Precinct. What an excellent service for the elderly. Now they can be confident when they need to let a workman into their home.

In the evening I attended the CFFWI Carol Festival at Bethesda Chapel, Mold. The rafters rang with the beautiful singing, a truly great Christmas concert.

### Wednesday 7th December

This evening I was delighted to have been invited to the Lord Mayor of Chester's Christmas Concert & Soiree at Eaton Park, Chester – a beautiful setting and an excellent concert.

### Thursday 8th December

This morning I visited Freshfields in Greenfield, our work experience placement for learning difficulty clients, so very welcoming.

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

This evening I attended the Flintshire Music Service Annual Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Parish Church. Excellent! How proud our young musicians made me feel.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

This morning was the Mayor of Saltney's Civic Service held at St. Marks Church, Saltney. Beautiful service!

This evening I was pleased to attend the 'Light up a Life' Service in support of Nightingale House Hospice – excellent to hear our children's band.

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Visited Halkyn, Alltami & Queensferry Depots which I found all very informative.

I also visited, Marleyfield Day Centre in Buckley, a great facility, Wepre Visitors Centre, an excellent park, very well used and Connah's Quay Housing Office, good to see how the system works.

### Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December – morning visits

Catherine Gladstone House in Mancot - good example of joint working albeit in small rooms.

Llwyn Onn Pupil Referral Unit - was made to feel very welcome by staff and pupils alike.

Members Christmas Lunch at County Hall – once again thanks to our pupils who turned up to help make the lunch a very festive affair, thanks to all staff who both cooked and served lunch.

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

County Library HQ - met with Lawrence Rawsthorne for a tour of County Library HQ – a great facility!

Greenfield Heritage Park – met with volunteers and trustees, well run and I look forward to the Easter schools programme.

Melrose Day Centre – such a well organised run facility.

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Several visits today:

The Learning Centre-Pupil Referral Unit, Shotton – made to feel welcome here by both staff and pupils.

Bryn Tirion Unit, Shotton – surprisingly spacious facility.

Hawarden House-Links – very interesting meeting the staff and the two pupils.

Croes Atti Care Home, Flint – lovely to see so many happy friendly faces.

Holywell Housing Office – made very welcome by the staff, got a good understanding of some of their problems.

Llys Gwenfrwdd – again so nice to visit the residents and staff as they prepared for Christmas.

In the evening I was invited to ‘Save the Nativity Family Nativity’, heart warming to see so many turn out to support the charity.

#### Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December – evening

Japanese Youth Exchange Raffle Draw held at County Hall – so nice to meet the students and thank them all personally for raising the amount they did to help the Tsunami victims.

#### Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 - evening

Delighted to attend the Hawarden High School Governor’s Presentation Evening at St. David’s Hotel, Ewloe. Very well attended, nice to see pupils getting awards for all different things other than academic achievements.

#### Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – evening

The Chairman of Powys Civic Head’s Dinner was held at Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells – fantastic venue, so delighted that the engagement of the Chairman and his Consort was announced.

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – evening

This evening I was invited to the Country Spice Restaurant in Hope to attend a dinner in honour of Mr. Ali, Chairman of the local council in Bangladesh. Yet again a chance to cement relations with the Bangladesh Community.

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January – afternoon

Visit to Gwernymynydd CP School, a small school with a big heart. Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield, nice ethos in the school.

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Citizenship Ceremony, Llewnegrin Hall – a great pleasure to bestow citizenship on people who have chosen Flintshire as their home.

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January

School visits during this period.

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

This evening I attended ‘Allo Allo’ Llwynegrin Singers Social Evening at the Masonic Hall in Hawarden. A fantastic evening, everyone embraced the French theme and they raised £1500 for Plas Blennin.

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January

This afternoon I was so pleased to be asked to receive the Big Dee Canoe into the Wepre Park Visitors Centre having been there at the launch in July.

#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

This afternoon I was delighted to visit Mrs. Winifred Cropper at the Willow Dale Residential Home in Buckley. A fantastic lady and such an honour to have been invited to help her celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

## **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

This morning I visited Ysgol Glan Aber in Bagillt, an excellent school with a lovely atmosphere.

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January

In the evening I was invited to attend Holocaust Memorial Day 2012 'Speak Up, Speak Out' young people's plan and poetry slam. I was so moved, as was everyone present, by the way the young people portrayed their understanding of Holocaust and their commitment to eradicating it from ever happening again.

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - morning

I attended the Artfest 12 Press Launch at Llwenegryn Hall – what an exciting program again this year, something for everyone.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

This morning I visited Castell Alun High School – another excellent high school, what a delight to see.

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

In the morning I received a visit from several children from Ysgol Croes Atti at County Hall. This school council is a credit to their school, bright and full of questions.

In the evening I attended the County Forum Launch in the Alyn & Deeside Meeting Room. An historic event and a great honour to sign this on behalf of Flintshire County Council.

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

I was delighted to attend the Mayor of Buckley's Charity Ball and Dinner. An excellent night which raised a considerable amount of money for Cllr Mike Peers' charity. Both John and myself really enjoyed the evening.

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February - morning

It gave me great pleasure to invite Mrs. Lynne Hughes to the Chamber to celebrate her MBE award with her. A very deserving person.

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Early this morning I was invited to the Glyndwr Open Breakfast Meeting. Very interesting morning; hopefully Glyndwr will go from strength to strength.

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

This afternoon was the official opening of the Skate Park at Maes Bodlonfa Recreational Ground in Mold. A great facility for young people, long overdue!

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

This morning I welcomed the Argoed School Council to County Hall. What delightful students - a credit to their school. So enthusiastic!

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - afternoon

I met with Mr. Ken Houghton and several guests from 'Miffy' in the Chair's Room at County Hall. It was a delight to honour these people who have done so much for their community.

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

In the morning the Flintshire Regeneration Conference 2012 was held at Clwyd Theatr Cymru. Excellent conference, the second we have run which was very well attended.

This evening I was invited to the Denbighshire Chairman's Charity Dinner at the Oriel House in St. Asaph. A delightful evening, excellent food, excellent speaker and excellent company!

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February

I was delighted to attend the Chairman of Leeswood's Civic Service at the Wesley Methodist Church, Leeswood. A really lovely day, excellent service.

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

This morning it was my pleasure to welcome the Children from Chernobyl visiting County Hall. Once again a delight to see these children and the organisers who work so hard to bring them here.