



Out & About across the East Midlands

With EMMA McCLARKIN MEP



Emma McClarkin
MEP for the East Midlands

Above: With Headteacher Martin Thacker, visiting Calow School.
Below: Discussing the Science Park plans and Enterprise centre.

Below: At Ratcliffe College for their French Language Champions day.

Below: Presenting The Biz Club Business award in Uppingham.

Above: Keeping the MP-MEP link strong with Mark Spencer MP.
Below: At Northampton High School's Careers Night.



FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

I was proud to recently host a lunch meeting about Advanced Breast Cancer in the European Parliament.

Breast Cancer is a terrible disease and we need to be doing everything we can to increase screening, diagnosis and treatment of it. The meeting, with MEPs from different political parties, representatives from EU and national patient groups, medical

societies and public interest groups, was held to discuss ways of ensuring that cancer remains at the top of the political agenda.



During the meeting, I welcomed the recent launch of the European Cancer Patients' Bill of Rights, and there was a definite consensus that

more needs to be done to share best practice across the EU to ensure equal access to care.

I'd urge Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament to do everything they can to beat cancer.

PHOTO CONTEST

Last summer I organised a photo competition to find the best photo of a building or landscape in the East Midlands.

I was very pleased to be able to announce at the end of last year that the competition was won by Martin Hollingworth, from Etwell in Derbyshire, who took this amazing photo of the sun setting over the Trig Point at the top of Mam Tor, near Castleton, Derbyshire.

In mid-February I was delighted to welcome Martin and his wife to Brussels and show them around the Parliament.

I have been using the images from the competition to promote the region.



FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

I recently highlighted the scandal of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Strasbourg, and I joined other MEPs in voting for a zero-tolerance approach across Europe and the world.

Approximately half a million girls, from the age of only three, are at risk in Europe of being subjected to the practice

to fulfil cultural tradition. In the United Kingdom it is estimated that 65,000 girls are at risk.

This practice is barbaric and must be condemned worldwide. I have supported a resolution urging the EU Commission to take a firm stance against non-EU countries which fail to condemn FGM. It also

demands that member states must pursue, prosecute and punish any EU resident involved in the ritual cutting of the genitals of young girls.

We must lift the taboo; we must face up to the scale of the problem and reach out to find a way to bring an end to this barbaric practice.

Your European Parliamentary report from Emma McClarkin MEP

Spring 2014

Dear Colleague,
Welcome to my first newsletter of 2014. It's nearly five years since I was first elected as an MEP, so I wanted to take this opportunity to have a brief look back over that time. You'll find this on the centre pages of this newsletter.
As we go into this year, we need to emphasise that as a party we have possibly the strongest offer on Europe that we've ever had — we Conservatives are the only party offering a straight in/out referendum on the EU, and campaigning to Let Britain Decide.
I hope to see lots of you while out and about in the coming weeks and months, and together I hope we have a successful year.
Emma McClarkin

REFERENDUM PLAN CLEAR

David Cameron has recently laid out his red line negotiating points for change in Britain's relationship with the EU.

The Prime Minister stated that he wants to concentrate particularly on immigration, opening up trade and bringing powers back from Brussels. This includes:

- The ability to be able to stop large immigration flows when new countries join the EU
- Ensuring that migrants travel for work and not benefits
- A reduction in red tape for businesses

- A renewed effort by the EU to establish free trade deals with Asian and North American markets
- Bringing back powers to the UK including criminal justice
- Abolishing the principle of "ever closer union".



The result of the negotiations will be put to the country by 2017. Only the Conservative Party can give the British people what they want; a referendum based on a choice between continued membership with a reformed status, or to leave altogether. The other parties either can't or simply won't deliver. We want to **Let Britain Decide.**

PACKAGE HOLIDAY PROTECTION

With package holidays being increasingly booked online, I've recently worked hard on helping to change an EU law providing protection for travellers, to bring it up to date.

These new rules, which EU Governments will hopefully agree to later this year, make it clear to both travellers and companies who is responsible for resolving complaints and providing

assistance. The internet has revolutionised how we book our holidays, but European law has been 20 years out of date. We have finally addressed the grey areas to ensure that people can book their holidays with peace of mind, while maintaining the amount of offers available to consumers.



PROMOTING A SAFER INTERNET

I recently made a speech at the European Commission about child safety online to mark Safer Internet Day.

I'm absolutely passionate about the fight to protect children online, and the day built on the work that has been started, and helps to put out the message about the dangers posed by the internet.

This is one of the issues I've campaigned hard on in my time as an MEP. It is so

important to ensure that children are safe online, and I have done everything I can to keep the issue at the top of the EU agenda.

I have been leading this campaign in the European Parliament as rapporteur on

Cybercrime. I have also been working with a regional expert from Derby University on how best to tackle cybercrime and how businesses and families can best protect themselves. Find out more at www.saferinternet.org





NFU
The voice of British farming

Supporting farmers is an important part of my job as MEP. Here I'm meeting with the NFU at the Lincolnshire Show in 2011.

Fighting for Animal Welfare

Throughout my five years as an MEP, I have consistently campaigned on Animal Welfare issues.

Some of the campaigns I've been involved with include World Horse Welfare, Shark Finning, Retired Greyhounds, Battery hen cages, and Pig welfare.

Whilst I can say there have been successes on some issues, on others there is still much to do. However, I'm pleased to have been able to play a part in improving animal welfare over the last five years and hope to continue doing so.



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CAN HELP
END
THE CRUEL AND WASTEFUL PRACTICE OF SHARK FINNING

Supporting the fight to end Shark Finning back in 2012.



The free guide to European funding which I produced back in 2011.

Helping to get drug approved

In 2012, Nova Laboratories in Leicester launched a liquid version of a drug used to treat childhood leukaemia, pleased about this, as I was able to help the company get through the EU approval stages and get this drug to patients faster

This is easier for young children to swallow, and therefore easier to administer the correct dose. I was particularly

When I look back over my five years as an MEP, this is a great example of where I feel I've been able to make a real difference.



With the Managing Director of Nova Labs, Dr Peter White, in 2012.



At Rutland and Melton's AGM in 2013, with Frances, Duchess of Rutland, and Alan Duncan MP.

Writing a guide to EU funding

Back in 2011 I launched a free guide to European funding opportunities, in an effort to help groups and organisations across the East Midlands gain access to EU funds.

that can be brought back to the East Midlands I would urge people to apply for it, as I am committed to making sure we get our fair share.

Whilst I don't agree with how the EU works and spends taxpayers' money, if there is funding

The guide is free, and can still be downloaded from my website, www.emmamclarkin.com.

Five years of working hard for the East Midlands
With EMMA McCLARKIN MEP

Five years of Conservative Achievements in Brussels

Here are some examples of how Conservative MEPs have delivered for Britain in the European Parliament:

- Secured exemptions from regulations for small businesses.
- Reformed the EU's fisheries policy and ended immoral 'discarding' of healthy fish.
- Led the campaign to cut the costs of the Parliament's 'travelling circus' to Strasbourg.
- Strengthened language requirements for medical professionals coming to the UK.
- Stopped EU plans for mandatory 20 weeks maternity leave at a cost of £2.5 billion to British business.
- Strengthened bank capital rules to reduce the possibility of taxpayers having to bail out banks again.
- Killed off an EU-wide Financial Transactions Tax and other plans for EU taxes.
- Stepped-up international cooperation against terrorism and organised crime.



In 2013 I visited Nottingham's QMC Hospital to discuss the impact of EU legislation on clinical trials and the fantastic research being done.

Charity Hikes in Derbyshire

In my five years as an MEP I have supported various charities across the East Midlands.

This support includes continuing my 'High Peak Hikes' across the northern part of Derbyshire since I've been an MEP, walking with Andrew Bingham,

who was elected as the Conservative MP for High Peak in 2010.

On the 2009 hike we raised a fantastic amount for various local charities across the High Peak, and on the hike in 2011 we raised money for the popular national charity, Help for Heroes.



Holding a cheque for charities in 2009, with Andrew Bingham (now MP for High Peak).



I am proud to be Honorary President of the East Midlands CWO. Here I'm at their conference in Derbyshire in 2014.

Graduating from the AFPS

During 2011 I was lucky enough to be part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (AFPS).

This involved spending 22 days with our Armed Forces to gain a better and deeper understanding of how they operate,

interact and protect the UK.

When I graduated from the scheme I left with even more pride and respect for the job our Armed Forces do and the contribution they make to our safety and to our communities.



On a training exercise with the army at BATUS, Canada, in 2011.

Professional Qualifications

The mutual recognition of professional qualifications across the EU has been one of the major issues I have dealt with over the last 5 years.

I am proud to say I introduced an alert mechanism for disqualified professionals for all member states as

well as argued for the ability for the UK to language test healthcare professionals.

Having our qualifications recognised is important to the mobility of workers, but we need to ensure quality and standards are maintained.



Speaking in the European Parliament about professional qualifications.



Promoting innovation in the region, including here at the iCon Centre in Daventry, Northamptonshire, in 2012.