

Subject: News Bulletin from Aidan Burley MP #12
Date: Friday, 8 April 2011 12:59:37 United Kingdom Time
From: Aidan Burley MP
To: news@aidanburleymp.org



In this edition:

[Aidan Burley MP's Diary](#)

[Website of the Week:
Rugeley Rugby Club](#)

[Aidan delivers on
promise to play rugby
for Rugeley](#)

[Photo news:
Michael Gove MP](#)

[Help for the poorest
children through the
Pupil Premium](#)

[Burley backs ivory
surrender to save
elephants](#)

[MP welcomes tough new
benefits test to weed out
workshy](#)

[Photo news:
Kingsmead School visit the
House of Commons](#)

[MP welcomes extra
government funding for
pothole repairs](#)

[Tackling crime through
community activism](#)

[Aidan in the papers:
Week in Westminster](#)

[Aidan in the papers:
Week in Westminster](#)

[How to contact
Aidan Burley MP](#)

Issue 12 – Friday 8th April 2011

This e-newsletter now goes to over 1,000 local people!
Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving it?
If so please ask them to sign up via: www.aidanburleymp.org.

Since the last edition, Aidan has:

- Fulfilled an election promise to play for **Rugeley Rugby Club 2nd Team**.
- Attended the **International Fund for Animal Welfare ivory surrender** campaign launch at the House of Commons calling on members of the public to send in any unwanted items of ivory and to highlight the illegal ivory trade.
- Welcomed £834,000 in **extra funding** for Cannock Chase children through the new **Pupil Premium**.
- Spoken at an event of the Cannock Chase Portcullis Club alongside **Secretary of State for Education** the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.
- Welcomed **£4 million in extra funding to fix potholes** around Staffordshire.
- Addressed a supper club attended by over 100 local people in **Penkridge**.
- Presented certificates to the winning volunteers at local charity **Home Comforts** at The Premier Suites, Cannock.
- Met and spoke with local residents in **Chadsmoor** and **Rawnsley**, whilst campaigning for local election candidates Jodie Jones and Claire Wixon.
- Attended the **Countryside Alliance** awards in the House of Lords.
- Hosted the inaugural **Black Tomato Ambassadors Dinner** at the House of Commons.
- Conducted a help and advice surgery at the MP Help Zone in Cannock. If you would like an appointment at one of Aidan's future surgeries please call 01543 502 447 or email aidan.burley.mp@parliament.uk.

Website of the Week:

www.rugeleyrugby.net

The website of Rugeley Rugby Club
– where Aidan played for the 2nd team recently.

Aidan delivers on promise to play rugby for Rugeley



Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley keeping to his post election promise to play a game for Rugeley Rugby Club 2nd team on Saturday 26th March 2011.

Aidan Burley kept to his post election promise by playing a game for Rugeley Rugby Club 2nd team on Saturday 26th March 2011.

Aidan who played scrum half, played the entire first half and despite ending up on the losing side put in a spirited and hard working performance. Indeed, he was unlucky not to score when he crossed the try line following a quick tap penalty. Unfortunately the referee decided he had not taken the penalty from the right spot and called him back.

The Merit League Fixture between Rugeley 2nd XV and The Birmingham Barbarians was held at the Hagley Playing Fields in Rugeley.

Aidan had promised to play a fixture for the club when he was a last minute invite to the club's annual dinner last May, just days after he was elected as the MP for the Cannock Chase constituency. He went on to wear a Rugeley Rugby Club tie when he was sworn in to Parliament the following month. Aidan, who is currently Vice Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Rugby Union Group has invited Rugeley to take on the Parliament team next season.

Commenting after the match Aidan said: *"I was a bit nervous about dusting off my boots having not played a competitive game of rugby for nearly 10 years. However, the boys were very supportive and made me feel really welcome as part of the team. The Birmingham Barbarians are a quality opposition but we certainly had our chances throughout the game. Whilst I don't think Rugeley's regular scrum half will be worried about his place in the team, I hope that I might*

be used as an 'impact substitution' for a future game!"

Rugeley Rugby Club Secretary Martin de Ridder added: *"We were delighted that Aidan honoured his promise to play a match for us. He seemed to enjoy himself and intends to play a few more next season. We were pleasantly surprised by how good he was. Our first team could do with a decent scrum half. Perhaps we can sign him up for next season."*

The Rugby Football Union website also covers Aidan's game [here](#).

Photo news: Michael Gove MP



Aidan Burley MP speaking at an event of the Cannock Chase Portcullis Club last week, which was addressed by Secretary of State for Education the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

Help for the poorest children through the Pupil Premium

Aidan Burley MP has welcomed new figures which show that disadvantaged children in Cannock Chase are set to receive £834,000 this year under the Coalition government's new 'pupil premium'.

The pupil premium is a new policy where an extra lump sum of cash follows every disadvantaged child and is received by schools, allowing them to provide additional support such as one-to-one tuition and extra pastoral care.

The Government has announced that in the year from April 2011, the pupil premium will be worth £430 for every pupil on Free School Meals, £430 for every looked-after child, and £200 for every child who has a parent in the armed services. This means that in Cannock Chase this year 1,950 children overall will benefit from an extra £834,000.

Commenting, Aidan said: *"This is fantastic news for children in Cannock Chase. The gap between the academic performance of children from deprived backgrounds and their peers is far too big*

and has been ignored for too long.

"The pupil premium will tackle this disparity head on, providing targeted funding for those who need it most. This could mean extra one-to-one tuition or more pastoral support.

"The Coalition government didn't create these problems but, even in these tough times, it is delivering a massive boost to the education of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children."

Burley backs ivory surrender to save elephants



Aidan at the International Fund for Animal Welfare campaign launch at the House of Commons, calling on members of the public to send in any unwanted items of ivory they may have to IFAW to ensure they do not end up back on the commercial market, and to highlight the illegal ivory trade.

Chase MP Aidan Burley has shown his support for elephants by backing the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)'s ivory surrender.

Aidan attended IFAW's campaign launch at the House of Commons and posed with huge elephant tusks. He is calling on members of the public to send in any unwanted items of ivory they may have to IFAW to ensure they do not end up back on the commercial market, and to highlight the illegal ivory trade.

Commenting Aidan said: *"I am pleased to be backing the ivory surrender, and urge my constituents to send in unwanted items of ivory to IFAW and back their campaign for greater protection for elephants."*

Shockingly, new Ipsos MORI polling shows that nearly half of adults in the West Midlands are unaware that elephants have to die before their ivory can be obtained, while almost four million British residents are owners of ivory.

Robbie Marsland, Director of IFAW UK, said: *"Every piece of ivory represents a dead elephant. We are therefore very grateful to Aidan Burley for showing his commitment to elephant protection. That is why we are holding a UK-wide ivory surrender to help raise awareness of the threats facing elephants and to encourage the UK Government to push its pledge to press for a ban of ivory sales*

internationally."

The global illegal trade in wildlife is estimated to be worth £12 billion annually, second only to the illicit trade in drugs and arms. Ivory forms a significant part of this. Seizures of illegal ivory are skyrocketing and recent stockpile sales to Japan and China sent a signal to poachers that it is open season on elephants.

MP welcomes tough new benefits test to weed out workshy

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley is backing a new test to stop those who can work from indefinitely claiming benefits.

A recent article in *The Daily Mail* highlighted that three-quarters of people who applied for new benefits for the long-term sick failed tests to prove they were too ill to work. Out of about 840,000 who tried to obtain the £95-a-week Employment and Support Allowance, 640,000 were told they were fit for work, or withdrew their applications before they took the tests – suggesting they were ‘trying it on’.

The disclosure by the Department for Work and Pensions raises fresh questions over how many of the 2.6million people on the existing incapacity benefit are really incapable of being employed. The newspaper's figures suggest that if they were tested to the same extent the number would fall as low as 650,000, slashing the £12.5billion bill for incapacity benefit to just over £4billion a year.

The Coalition Government is pushing ahead with trials in Burnley and Aberdeen to re-test existing incapacity benefit claimants. If successful, the tests will be implemented nationwide.

Employment minister Chris Grayling has said the reforms were about giving those who can work help to do so and those who cannot extra support: *"With over two million people trapped on incapacity benefits, these figures underline how important it is that we make sure everyone who has the potential to work gets the right help to move off benefits and into a job."* He added that ministers had asked independent experts including charities to assess whether the medical tests were working.

"This is not about pushing the sick and disabled into jobs but giving those that can work the help to do so and those that can't more, not less, support." he added.

Commenting, Aidan Burley said, *"Anyone who can work should work and not rely on handouts. These new tests are important to ensure those who genuinely cannot work get our help and those who can work are not living at everyone else's expense."*

Photo news: Kingsmead School visit the House of Commons



Aidan Burley MP addressing a delegation of pupils from Kingsmead School in Hednesford during their recent visit to the House of Commons.

MP welcomes extra government funding for pothole repairs

Aidan has welcomed the Government's announcement that it will give an extra £4 million to Staffordshire Highways to repair potholes.

This extra money is especially valuable after the terrible weather this winter caused terrible damage to a lot of the regions roads.

The money is in addition to the £831 million already provided to councils for road maintenance this year and the £30 billion of transport infrastructure spending the Government has committed to over the next four years.

It is hoped the additional funding will not only tackle the problems caused by the coldest December on record, but will also be used to speed up the road reconstruction programmes across Staffordshire which have already had a massive boost with a £30m injection over three years.

Commenting Aidan said: *"This extra funding is fantastic news. This money should make a real difference to the huge number of drivers and cyclists in Cannock Chase and across Staffordshire who are fed up with having to continually battle against dangerous potholes, giving them safer and smoother journeys.*

"I know that Staffordshire highways are working extremely hard to improve the roads and, after years of neglect under the last Labour council, have invested heavily over the last two years to ensure this is the case."

Tackling crime through community activism

Aidan Burley has welcomed the report of Baroness Newlove, the Government's Champion for Active Safer Communities, which sets out a radical new approach to community activism. As she suggests, there needs to be a change of culture so neighbourhoods no longer

view crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder as a problem for someone else to solve. Services and local agencies need to go beyond just asking communities what their problems are – they must see local communities as equal partners in tackling issues.

The Government has a clear plan to cut crime through reforming the police and the criminal justice system. They have already abolished all the complex targets that Labour imposed from Whitehall and set the police just one goal: to cut crime.

Communities also have an important role to play in the fight against crime. The www.police.uk website, launched in February, gives local people real information in map form about exactly what crime is happening in their areas and allows them to hold the police to account for their work.

Further reforms include:

- Introducing, from next May, directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners to restore the link between the police and their communities.
- Driving out bureaucracy that wastes police time so that officers can be crime-fighters not form-writers.
- Reforming and strengthening the powers to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Commenting Aidan said: *"I fully support this commitment from Government and Baroness Newlove to harness the great energy of communities across Staffordshire in the fight against crime.*

"Crime and anti-social behaviour are not someone else's problem but a real issue that we all must work together to address. I want to see streets right across Cannock Chase reclaimed by the people who live here."

Aidan in the papers: Week in Westminster

Aidan Burley MP, Chase Post
Thursday 31st March 2011

Last week saw one of the two great set piece events of the political year. Alongside the opening of Parliament, Budget Day is one of those events you simply cannot miss.



Rather like on holiday when you get up early to put down a towel on a sun bed, a similar ritual takes place in Parliament where MPs can reserve a place by putting a piece of paper in the slot in front of your seat. Even though I got to the Chamber an hour before the main event, I still found myself almost sitting on the knee of Sir Peter Tapsell. And by the time the Chancellor got up to begin his speech I found myself in my familiar position, sat on the steps, cross-legged on the floor.

It was a scrum from start to finish, which also happens to be where I found myself on Saturday afternoon, when I kept to my promise to play a match for Rugeley Rugby Club - an offer made at their Annual Dinner just days after I was elected last May.

I must confess I was a bit nervous about dusting off my boots having

not played a competitive game of rugby for nearly 10 years. However, the boys were very supportive and made me feel really welcome as part of the team. The Birmingham Barbarians were a quality opposition but we certainly had our chances throughout the game. I was deemed unlucky not to score when I crossed the try line following a quick tap penalty. Unfortunately the referee decided I had not taken the penalty from the right spot and called me back. Maybe he should have gone to Portland Optical.

Whilst I don't think Rugeley's regular scrum half will be worried about his place in the team, I hope that I might be used as an 'impact substitution' for a future game!

Aidan in the papers: Week in Westminster

Aidan Burley MP, Chase Post
Thursday 24th March 2011

One of the great privileges of being a MP is the opportunity to meet with so many enthusiastic and passionate young people. Last week I was fortunate to do just that when a delegation of pupils from Kingsmead School in Hednesford came to the House of Commons as part of their investigation into Climate Change and Global Poverty, organised by the charity Oxfam.



They met in one of the Grand Committee rooms, where I used to sit as part of the Home Affairs Select Committee. They explained their detailed research into global poverty and the amount of aid this country gives to the less developed world, before quizzing me relentlessly for twenty minutes. It was tougher than most Home Affairs Committees grillings I have witnessed!

They certainly agreed with helping the billion or so people who survive on less than a dollar a day, but the discussion around which countries to give aid to was lively and interesting. There appeared to be a general consensus that the government was right to cease aid to countries such as Russia and China, and that we should look again at parts of India.

I believe as MPs it is vital we do all we can to inspire the next generation to want to become the politicians of the future, whether this is as local councillors making a real difference to their communities or as MPs making decisions that affect our country. Surely there is no better way to inspire these youngsters than by showing them the home of our political democracy.

The week ended with a visit from Disabilities Minister Maria Miller MP to the fantastic Newlife Foundation based at Hemlock way, Cannock. I was delighted the Minister got the chance to see first-hand the great work undertaken by Shelia Brown and her team helping and supporting families with disabled and terminally ill children.

5 ways to contact Aidan Burley MP:

By Phone: 01543 502 447

By email: aidan.burley.mp@parliament.uk

By post: Aidan Burley MP
6 High Green Court,
Newhall Street
Cannock, WS11 1GR

In person: [Click here for details of how to book an appointment at Aidan Burley MP's regular help and advice surgeries.](#)

www.aidanburleymp.org

More news from Aidan Burley MP, coming soon...

Please forward this email on to anyone you think may be interested. If you have had this email forwarded to you and would like to be added to the mailing list, please send an email to: news@aidanburleymp.org with "JOIN" in the subject heading.

To unsubscribe from this list, please return an e-mail to news@aidanburleymp.org with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject heading.
