

Putting Shields first



Emma's Summer News from South Shields

South Shields

On May 7th 2015 I was proudly re-elected as the Member of Parliament for South Shields.

I hope you enjoy reading my Summer newsletter and that you find it beneficial.

Best wishes,

Emma

General Election 2015:

Firstly I would like to thank voters in the constituency for their continued support. I am so honoured that the thousands of people who voted for me have chosen me to be their voice in Parliament, and I will continue to help my constituents in every way that I can to give them the best possible outcome in whatever issue they may raise with me.

Although the local elections were a great success for Labour's council candidates, I am extremely disappointed that Labour didn't receive the votes which were needed to form a government. Now is the time we need to re-group and try our utmost to have our voices heard against the further planned Tory cuts.

Constituency Visits & Issues:

I continue with my busy schedule around the constituency meeting local groups, businesses and individuals. Recently I have had the pleasure of opening ICE Print and Design's new store in Fowler Street, and was invited to Women's Health in South Tyneside (WHiST) to present them with their recent award in recognition of the fantastic learning opportunities they provide for women in our area. It is fantastic to be out in the community seeing first-hand the great projects and businesses that we have in the town. I also continue to raise local issues for residents: two of the biggest issues at the moment are with Nexus who run the Metro service and Stagecoach regarding some of their bus services. I have called meeting with both organisations in a bid to bring these matters to their attention and broker some headway for residents.

Campaigning:

Following a short break after the election my regular door knocking sessions will begin again on Saturday 18 July in the Harton Ward. The session will run from 10am to 12noon. I will be in touch with all members in the coming weeks with my full list of sessions that I have planned for the coming months. In the time I have had the pleasure of being your MP these sessions have been a great success connecting our party with voters and aiding an increase in our local membership. We have great door knocking team and I hope as many members as possible will join us.

I am also planning a "Your Voice Matters" event for local Labour Party members at the end of July, with a guest speaker where members can come and discuss policies and party related matters. Should this event be successful I will be aiming to hold one every other month. Again I will be in touch with details in the coming weeks, but if any members have any issues or questions they would like to raise, whether this be about policy, the leadership election or anything else then please get in touch and we can add this to the agenda for the evening.

Surgery Dates

3rd July
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

10th July
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

24th July
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields,
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

31st August
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields,
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm



Westminster

The election result was a terrible disappointment for Labour voters all over the country. But our fight is not over, and for Labour MPs in Parliament our focus is now on being an effective opposition that can stand up to the Tories and stop them from forcing through unpopular or unfair changes. The Tory majority is slim, so there will be plenty of opportunities to inflict defeats on the Government during this Parliament.

This Queen's Speech was the first under a Tory majority Government for 18 years, and it was just as worrying as many will have expected. There were 27 bills in the speech, but not one will deal with low pay and insecure work, or deal with the growing crisis in our NHS. Instead we got a list of pet Tory policies that felt like a throwback to the days of Thatcher. Their plans to sell off Housing Association properties by extending Right to Buy will mean there are even fewer social housing properties available; their plans to scrap the Human Rights Act will undermine the rights of workers, women and pensioners for the sake of getting good headlines in the right-wing press; and their plans to put thresholds on trade union strike ballots will effectively outlaw the right to strike in Britain.

Just a few weeks into the new Parliament we have also already seen what will be the first of many fights within the Tory party over Europe. The election result made it clear that the public want a referendum on Europe, and Labour has listened to that demand. But it is important that the referendum doesn't become a distraction from the important work of raising living standards and bringing down the deficit. Labour wants to see a fair referendum that will give the public confidence in the outcome, whichever way the vote goes. But the Government has created confusion over the election rules, and this could mean we see a repeat of the Scottish Independence referendum where the result does not settle the question and creates even more instability.

During the short time this Parliament has been sitting I have already taken a number of opportunities to hold the Government to account over local issues like ambulance services and flood defences. I am also sitting on the Bill Committee for the Education and Adoption Bill, and will make sure the Tories' proposals do not undermine parents' entitlement to a good quality education for their children or ignore the needs of vulnerable young people in the care system.

Of course, another priority for Labour is to choose our next leader, and I am looking forward to the debate about what our party needs to do to win in 2020. We have a strong field of candidates for Leader and Deputy Leader, and I know members will have their own preferences. My own view is that Andy Burnham is the best choice for the job, and he received my own nomination. Andy has the experience needed to be a great opposition leader and to help Labour win in 2020, and importantly he understands that Labour can't abandon the voters who have been the backbone of our party throughout our history - he understands that we can broaden our appeal while staying true to our roots. For Deputy Leader I have nominated Tom Watson. Tom is an incredible campaigner and organiser who will work tirelessly for a Labour win in 2020.

Now that the nominations have been finalised, it is up to party members to decide who they want to be Labour's next leadership team. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts over the coming months, and to the debate our party needs if we are going to succeed in 2020.

We also want to make sure that our Leader is someone who can appeal to people who didn't vote for Labour last time, and that is why up until 12 August non-members can pay £3 to become registered supporters and get a vote in the leadership election. If you have friends or family who you think would like to have a say in Labour's future, let them know that they can sign up at <http://www.labour.org.uk/w/labour-party-supporters>.



0191 427 1240



www.emma-lewell-buck.net

Contact Emma



Emma Lewell-Buck MP
Ede House
143 Westoe Road
South Shields
NE33 3PD



emma.lewell-buck.mp@parliament.uk



[@EmmaLewellBuck](https://twitter.com/EmmaLewellBuck)

