

# Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



April 2022

## Supporting Ukraine

This month the Prime Minister made a journey to Kyiv to meet with President Zelensky in-person and to reaffirm the UK's unwavering support for Ukraine.

The President and Ukrainian people have shown tremendous courage in the face of Russia's horrendous actions. The UK will continue to support Ukraine to remain an independent, sovereign and free state.

On his visit, the Prime Minister set out new military assistance to Ukraine of 120 armoured vehicles and new anti-ship missile systems. This is in addition to the £100 million worth of high-grade military equipment announced earlier this month, including more Starstreak anti-aircraft missiles, another 800 anti-tank missiles, and high-tech loitering munitions for precision strikes.

The Prime Minister also guaranteed an additional \$500m (£385m) in World Bank lending to Ukraine, taking our total loan guarantee to up to \$1 billion.

Rushcliffe is also doing its part to support Ukraine. I have been contacted by families across Rushcliffe who have told me that they are opening their homes to Ukrainian refugees under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme - an uncapped sponsorship scheme for families, individuals, and communities to bring Ukrainians to safety, including those with no family ties in the UK. You can read more about this scheme here: <https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>

In Keyworth, residents led by Chris Mills raised over £1,800 by putting on a Concert for Ukraine. We had a fantastic group of singers from the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Nottingham who sang Ukrainian folk songs and the Ukrainian National Anthem. The Keyworth Choir, Keyworth Guitar Club and other local musicians also gave brilliant performances.

In West Bridgford, I joined with people from across Rushcliffe and Nottinghamshire for the Ukraine Solidarity March which was organised by Sofia Lesiuk and The Rock Church in Edwalton. I was proud to speak at the event, no matter what, the UK will always stand with our friends and neighbours in Ukraine in the face of Putin's tyrannical and violent regime.

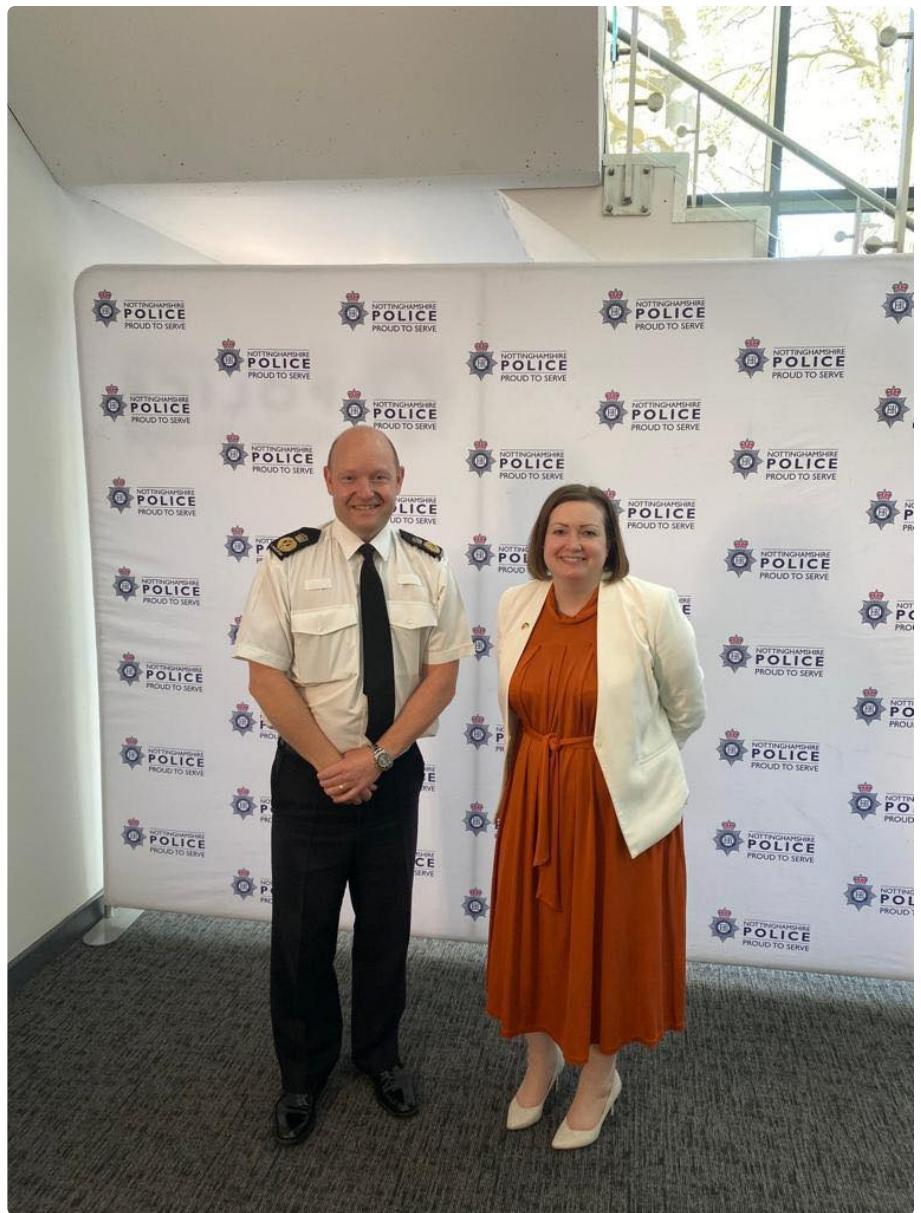




## Backing our Police

Back when I was elected in 2019, I made a pledge to ensure Nottinghamshire gets its fair share of the 20,000 new police officers, announced by the Government 3 years ago. I was delighted to hear this month that Nottinghamshire Police has now met their recruitment target a year ahead of schedule, with a force of over 2,380 police officers serving and protecting our county. This is the highest number of serving officers since 2011.

Operation Uplift, which was backed by £50 million of Government funding, has been a huge success in Nottinghamshire, with over 350 new police officers joining the force. This dynamic recruitment drive has seen a new generation of energetic and enthusiastic recruits join the police. I thanked and congratulated Chief Constable Craig Guildford and his team for all their hard work to make this possible on a recent visit to the new joint Nottinghamshire Police HQ in Arnold. I also asked the Home Secretary to join me in congratulating the team in Parliament, while also pushing for a Police Funding Formula that continues to deliver the funding and resources our force needs to keep our communities safe.



Watch here: <https://fb.watch/cO4KdxdfL3/>



**Will my Right Honourable Friend join  
me in congratulating  
Nottinghamshire police**

## Promoting Rushcliffe's producers in Parliament

Last year, I visited Ruddy Fine Gin, a local gin distillery in Ruddington. The owners, Rory and Cheryl, showed me how they craft their fantastic local product. Whilst there, they asked me if it might be possible to get their gin stocked in the bar in Parliament. I thought this would be a great opportunity to support one of Rushcliffe's excellent local producers, so I started my campaign for a Guest Gin Scheme in Parliament.

I raised the idea with the then-Leader of the House, Jacob Rees-Mogg, and The Speaker, Sir Lindsey Hoyle. I am pleased that they agreed Parliament should be doing all it can to promote British producers and introduced the first ever Guest Gin Scheme, of which Ruddy Fine Gin will be the first!

The scheme launched in Stranger's Bar in Parliament with Rory and Cheryl, whose gin is now being enjoyed and praised by visitors to Parliament from all over the UK.



I congratulated Rory and Cheryl and the success of the launch in Parliament and pushed for a debate on how Parliament and the government can continue to promote Britain's fantastic small food and drink producers to the world.

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/cO54GV6FeX/>



# RUTH EDWARDS

Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



**my constituents, Rory and Cheryl Thorpe who with your fantastic support, Mr Speaker**

## Tackling Flooding in Rushcliffe: Cropwell Butler

As part of our efforts to stop flooding in Rushcliffe, I met with National Highways, Cllr Neil Clarke and residents of Cropwell Butler to assess the likelihood of drainage from the A46 contributing to flooding problems in the village. Currently, we believe the problem may be a faster flow of water draining from land to the north-west, down two concentrated culverts, which were installed when the A46 was built. National Highways have committed to working with Nottinghamshire County Council to assess the likelihood of this being the cause of flooding and of other sources contributing to increased water flow. They will also be assessing the capacity of the drainage system around Hardigate Road at the point where the water from the land meets the village drainage system.

In the meantime, I am pleased to report that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) are continuing to work closely with both Severn Trent Water and Via to assess the condition of all drainage in the village to understand where other issues may be occurring.

With Severn Trent Water, NCC are looking at various different mitigation tools across the catchment, including the installation of Property Level Resilience in the village, undertaking ditch clearance on behalf of owners, working with Via to implement some highway drainage improvements and ensuring culverts and pipes are kept clear and inspected moving forward. I will keep residents of Cropwell Butler updated on their findings and progress.

I also supported the launch of Flood RE's Build Back Better Initiative. From this month, customers of insurers who offer Build Back Better provisions within their policies will be eligible for funds (up to the value of £10,000) to install flood resilience measures that are designed to reduce the cost and impact of future flooding, as well as allow families to return to their homes faster after a flood. Learn more here: <https://www.floodre.co.uk/buildbackbetter/>



## Supporting schools across Rushcliffe

It's so important that children in the UK understand the democracy we live in, how it works and how they can engage with it. This month, I welcomed students from Jesse Gray's school Council to Parliament to see for themselves. They presented their draft manifestos to me and we discussed their ideas and what it was like to be a member of parliament.

It is always a pleasure to welcome schools and other constituents to Parliament, if you would like to come down, please do email me at [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk).



I also went to see the students at The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form. While there, I got to see a fantastic performance from the school's dance team before taking a tour of the Academy. I then met with a panel of students from various year groups to answer their questions.

## Investing in our local NHS

After welcoming the Minister for Primary Care, Maria Caulfield, to East Leake Health Centre last month, I asked her in Parliament if she will join us and back our bid for a new Health and Community Hub - one capable of providing a range of services under one roof. I will keep working with the Centre, the Borough Council, and the Government to show Nottinghamshire's Clinical Commissioning Group why it is vital that funds are prioritised for the Health Centre in East Leake.

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/cO6vbICJIP/>



# RUTH EDWARDS

Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



## One of the best ways to maximize NHS capacity is to increase

I also met with the Minister of State for Health, Ed Argar and Ambulance Service leaders to discuss how our fantastic Community First Responders (CFR) team could be better integrated with the ambulance service.

After working with the Trent District Community First Responders, and seeing the outstanding work they do in supporting the East Midlands Ambulance Service, I want CFRs across the UK to have the tools and resources they need to support our NHS and Ambulance Service.

I'm delighted that they agreed, in principle, that greater integration is necessary, particularly around access to radios and online resources. I am looking forward to meeting with them and Trent District CFRs to discuss this issue in more detail.



## This month in Westminster

I had the pleasure of becoming the Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nottingham Forest this month. The Group held its first meeting earlier this month, setting out how we intend to best promote our fantastic football club.

Read more here: <https://www.nottinghampost.com/sport/football/football-news/political-group-set-up-promote-6983022>



I went to the Guide Dogs Parliamentary drop-in event this month to hear more about how we can better support children with visual impairment in schools and to meet buddy dog, Webb.

The Government is currently consulting on the changes we should be making to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support throughout the education system. You can give your views here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-review-right-support-right-place-right-time?](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-review-right-support-right-place-right-time?fbclid=IwAR2ojdxNEmMmOFCSoWmtZzfSAVP_urzjvcXklwzcNvUboT_SuRAqz4gWD_8)



In International Trade questions this month, I asked about investment in green energy technology and what the government is doing to accelerate trading partnerships that will support our efforts to transition to a green economy.

The Global surge in energy prices has highlighted how important this is, both from an environmental perspective and an international security one, so it is vital we act now.

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/cO6TRjccgQ/>



# RUTH EDWARDS

Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



**The global surge in energy prices  
has highlighted the importance**

## Improving our digital infrastructure

Last week, I spoke at the US Embassy at an event on cyber security and public procurement. The meeting included representatives from industry, the embassy, police, and security services to share ideas and discuss the issues surrounding both cyber crime and cyber espionage.

The Government is doing a lot in this space to help protect people from online fraud with the ongoing Online Safety Bill - I have personally campaigned for making social media companies legally responsible for removing fraudulent adverts. The upcoming Product Security and Telecommunications Bill will also mean that consumer devices purchased in the UK will meet minimum security standards.

I also discussed the importance of being vigilant online at Vodafone's online safety drop-in event to learn more about their Digital Parenting magazine. Children are particularly vulnerable on the internet so it is vital parents have the tools and resources to teach their children how to be safe online.

While there I also raised the issue of mobile phone signal in Rempstone. Many residents had contacted me to let me know that the phone signal available in Rempstone is very poor, which aligns with my own experience when in the village. I have contacted all of the major phone networks to inform them of this problem and am putting pressure on them to come to a solution that fixes the issue in Rempstone so residents can enjoy decent signal coverage throughout the village.



## Getting out in Rushcliffe during the Easter Recess

I started this month with a visit to West Bridgford Fire Station, where I took a CPR and defibrillator training course. These vital skills could save lives should the unthinkable ever happen and I would encourage all to get involved and learn the skills that could potentially save someone's life.

Many thanks to all the staff at the station and the Trent District First Responders for taking me through the course.



It was lovely to join the St Giles Church Seniors group for their coffee morning this month. I enjoyed talking with the group and seeing how well community groups like this combat loneliness and isolation.

Thank you all very much for inviting me and chatting with me!



I trust everyone had a brilliant St George's Day this month. To celebrate our wonderful part of the world and its Patron Saint, I attended the Rushcliffe District Scouts' St George's Day Parade. Scouts and guides from all over the Borough took part and put on a brilliant parade on Central Avenue in West Bridgford.



I also visited the 6th East Leake Rainbows group for their 'Parliament and me' session. The Rainbows, who meet at St Mary's Church in East Leake, had compiled their own manifestos and talked me through their ideas and policies.

Many thanks to all of the Rainbows and to their leader, Fran, for inviting me to take part!

I chaired the 4th Rushcliffe Cycling Forum this month. For this session, we had a busy agenda with representatives from Pedal, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Sustrans, and National Highways updating us on how their organisations are supporting and promoting cycling and active travel provision in Rushcliffe.

It was a pleasure to be invited to and visit Chester Zoo this month. In addition to seeing a variety of amazing wildlife, I was able to learn about some of the things that the zoo is doing to help tackle deforestation, ensuring the survival of all the animals living in these precious habitats. For instance, the 'Sustainable Palm Oil Communities' scheme which supports businesses wishing to instil a sustainable palm oil policy, by providing resources and guidance. The project, initiated in 2017, has already empowered multiple communities, with 7 communities across the UK now having launched their own programmes.



## **Help us support survivors of domestic abuse in West Bridgford**

As you may know, we held our first ever in-person J9 Safer Spaces training session recently in Ruddington and East Leake. Our next in-person session will be taking place at Rushcliffe House in West Bridgford on Thursday May 5th from 6-8pm.

The training aims to ensure that learners are equipped to respond appropriately and effectively to survivors of abuse and more survivors are able to access support. This training is open to anyone, whether you volunteer at a charity shop, work in a pub, or regularly interact with the public. Once you have been J9 trained, you will receive a J9 logo to display on your organisation's premises, letting survivors know that they have a safe place to access vital information and use a telephone to contact support services.

If you would like to sign up or learn more, please visit: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/j9-safer-spaces-training-in-person-west-bridgford-tickets-321275241897?aff=erelexpmilt&fbclid=IwAR3PmqhJvU7rMCAXBlwezWgfn2o3947miBPo0L821\\_TE72sdGN9V9Z-Wc8](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/j9-safer-spaces-training-in-person-west-bridgford-tickets-321275241897?aff=erelexpmilt&fbclid=IwAR3PmqhJvU7rMCAXBlwezWgfn2o3947miBPo0L821_TE72sdGN9V9Z-Wc8)

## **Look out for my Annual report**

If you haven't already, you will soon be receiving my Annual report through your letterbox. It is a brief summary of what I have been up to over the last year to address what matters to the people of Rushcliffe.



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