

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



September 2023

Government gives green light to new rehabilitation centre in Rushcliffe

This month, the Government gave the green light to the UK's first National Rehabilitation Centre which will be based in Rushcliffe at Stanford Hall in Stanford-on-Soar.

The £105 million, 70-bed centre is part of the Government's New Hospital Programme. It will be purpose-built and highly energy efficient.

The centre will be based on the same site as the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Stanford Hall, which I've had the pleasure of visiting and seeing the fantastic work they do there to support injured servicemen and women. The new centre will share some specialist facilities with the DMRC such as the hydrotherapy pool, gait lab and Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment - a high-tech treadmill device to help people to learn to walk again.

The new centre will be finished by the end of 2024, I look forward to seeing its continued progress.



Local Rushcliffe campaigner, Sam Perkins, honoured by Prime Minister

Along with the Prime Minister, I welcomed East Leake resident Sam Perkins to Parliament to receive his Point of Light Award.

These awards celebrate outstanding individuals who have made a real difference. I nominated Sam after meeting him and his wife Emma and hearing about the fantastic charity that they founded, StandAgainstMND.

After being diagnosed with MND, Sam started the charity to raise money to fund research into a cure for MND and support services that offer palliative care to those affected by the disease. So far, they have raised over £190,000 through various challenges. These include Sam himself competing in several sporting events, including the Outlaw Triathlon, as well as both the Leeds and London Marathons.

The majority of Points of Light awards are presented by the MP, but in recognition of the selfless hard work Sam and his team have done to raise money for MND research, I invited him to Parliament so he could meet the Prime Minister and receive his award directly from him.

I am so pleased the Prime Minister met Sam and got to hear firsthand about all of the fundraising and awareness-raising activities he has led since his MND diagnosis.



Bringing people with us on the road to net zero

This month, the Prime Minister set out our new approach to fighting climate change and getting to net zero by 2050. I was pleased to hear the Prime Minister commit unequivocally to the UK reaching net zero by 2050 and to us retaining our leadership amongst major economies when it comes to cutting emissions.

Many constituents have contacted me over the past four years to share their support for achieving our net zero targets. But many have also been concerned about the costs and the speed at which they would have to make big expensive changes.

We have cut emissions by nearly 50% since 1990 and remain committed to cutting them by 68% by 2030. That is more than the EU, Germany, France, the US or Canada. This is a more ambitious commitment than any other major economy. You can see how we in the UK are measuring up to other countries [here](#).

If we are going to maintain our track record as a global leader in the fight against climate change, we need to bring people with us and keep the consent of the British people, because we recognise the huge pressures the last few years have put on household budgets.

Our continued commitment to fighting climate change was reinforced by recent Government investment in electric vehicles and continued diplomatic leadership in helping developing countries adapt to climate change:

The new £343 million Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capital Fund which will fund tens of thousands of local charge points across the UK. Nottinghamshire has been awarded £5.5 million of this.

A new electric vehicle charging hub in Birmingham capable of charging 180 cars at the same time. This Midlands-based hub will be the biggest charging site in the UK.

A new £129 million fund for zero emissions buses. This builds on the 1,300 zero emission buses already in use.

A £2 billion contribution to the Green Climate Fund, the biggest single funding commitment the UK has made to date to help the world tackle climate change.

Opportunity for the East Midlands to be a leader in the Hydrogen revolution

This month, I joined local business leaders at the Toyota Manufacturing Plant in Derby for the launch of East Midlands Hydrogen.

The launch marks the beginning of the development of a large-scale low carbon hydrogen cluster in the heart of our region. It will be a partnership between potential producers of hydrogen, 20 of the region's biggest energy users, and other stakeholders such as local councils, and the East Midlands Freepoint.

The cluster will bring together hydrogen demand forecasts for 70 industrial sites in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and northern Leicestershire who are requesting over 10TWh of hydrogen by 2040 to reduce their carbon footprint.

If they get clean hydrogen, it could save 1.9 million tonnes of carbon emissions each year, equal to the emissions from 860,000 homes using gas.

As part of this, you may have seen recently that Uniper announced its plans to produce low carbon hydrogen, using electrolysis technology, at its Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site when it is decommissioned in 2024.

In total this new venture could create and protect over 100,000 jobs in our region so I was very pleased to support the launch and look forward to supporting the initiative in the future.



Applications open for natural flood management projects

The Government opened applications for funding from the Natural Flood Management Programme. Natural flood management (NFM) uses natural

processes to reduce the risk of flooding. This can include soil and land management, river and floodplain management, woodland management, run-off management or coast and estuary management.

Their natural properties enhancing habitats and biodiversity, improving water quality and availability of drinking water, carbon capture

We have made some fantastic progress on our fight against flooding recently, such as the massive £16 million investment from Severn Trent we have secured for a programme of improvements between East Leake and Willoughby-on-the-Wolds to build 3 new pumping stations and improvements to increase the capacity of the sewer network. We have also worked to clear out the drainage systems across Rushcliffe, in places such as Bunny and Cropwell Butler, but there is still more work to be done.

The Government has invested £25 million into a new NFM programme and is now asking risk management authorities, farmers, land managers and landowners, third sector organisations including environmental Non-Governmental Organisations - for example river trusts and wildlife trusts, businesses, and community groups to apply for funding for projects that will reduce flooding using NFM.

If you would like to apply or learn more, see [here](#).

£200 million for NHS winter preparation

This month, the Government announced a further £200 million will be invested into the NHS to prepare for the winter peak months.

This money is designed to keep cutting waiting lists and boost NHS resilience. It comes alongside £40 Million of funding to bolster social care and improve discharge rates from hospitals.

This builds on previous investment Nottinghamshire has received from the Government this year, including £15 million for a new elective surgery hub at City Hospital, a new Community Diagnostic Centre in Nottingham, £9.8 million for a specialised 24-bed assessment ward for elderly patients at the QMC, and the new National Rehabilitation Centre mentioned at the start of this newsletter.

This is on top of increased NHS funding that Nottingham received earlier this year which included:

£4.1 million of new funding to help free up hospital beds so people can be admitted more quickly from A&E to wards and reduce pressure on emergency departments while also speeding up ambulance handovers. This is part of a £2.5 billion fund.

£2.7 million for new mental health-based 'places of safety' suites in Nottinghamshire which will provide a safe space for people detained by the police before they get the help they need. This is part of a £150 million fund to build 150 new facilities to support mental health urgent and emergency care services.

£1.6 million for Nottingham University Hospitals Trust to buy two new mobile breast screening units and fund upgrades to two of its existing units.

More than £4.6 million to fund new imaging equipment, such as a CT scanner, a mobile echocardiogram to perform scans of the heart and nearby blood vessels. and an imaging machine for skeletal health assessments.

A further £300,000 to fund equipment that will support collaborative research, in partnership with Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, into muscle and movement disorders in children.

You can read more about this new tranche of funding [here](#).

Discussing how we can make defibrillators more visible in the community

It was great to meet with Dr Patrick Davies and Marijke van Eerd to discuss their campaign to learn about their work to help people find defibrillators

more quickly and have the confidence to use them.

Many of you will remember I campaigned with the West Bridgford Colts to make defibrillators easier and cheaper to buy for community groups. You will remember we met with various members of the Treasury and Department for Health before the Government announced its £1 million defibrillator fund to help community groups purchase defibrillators.

Launching my Rushcliffe Rural Crime Survey

This month it was National Rural Crime Action Week. Rural crime, such as wildlife poaching, fly-tipping, road offences, farm machinery theft, etc. can be a blight on our rural communities and I know the police are just as determined as me to tackle it head-on.

We've made some big steps forward to combat rural crime, such as passing new laws to disrupt hare coursing and increase our ability to prosecute those that take part in it, doubling our funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit, and increasing fines for fly tipping. Here in Nottinghamshire, we are already benefiting from new ANPR cameras thanks to funding from the Government's Safer Streets campaign. Our local Neighbourhood Policing Team have also been to every farm in Rushcliffe to discuss their security concerns.

I regularly meet with the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Rushcliffe, Insp. Tim Cuthbert to get an update on crime and policing in our communities, as well as to raise any specific concerns that have been raised with me by residents. Please do share your views on rural crime and policing with me by completing my Rushcliffe Rural Crime Survey [here](#).

Supporting families with the cost of living

This month, millions of families across the country, including Rushcliffe, will receive the second of three Cost of living payments between 31st October and 19th November. 6200 people on the lowest incomes in Rushcliffe will receive £300.

Though inflation is falling, we will continue to help the most vulnerable people with day to day costs as we deliver on our pledges. Payments will be made automatically, and eligible pensioner households will also receive a further £300 payment later this year as an addition to the Winter Fuel Payment. To check if you're eligible for the Cost of Living payments follow this [link](#).

This joins the other support packages that have already been delivered to help ease the cost of living pressures many are feeling, such as the £400 Energy Bill Discount, the £150 council tax rebate, £300 pensioner cost of living payment, and the £150 disability cost of living payment.

You may have seen that inflation has fallen again to 6.7%.

High inflation is one of the main things making it more of a struggle for families in the UK which is why it is so important we continue to bring it down. You will remember halving inflation is one of the Prime Minister's promises with the British people, so I am pleased we are continuing to move in the right direction.

People eligible across Rushcliffe to receive

£300

Cost of living Payment
between **31st October**
and **19th November**

RUTH EDWARDS MP
GETTING THINGS DONE FOR RUSHCLIFFE



Backing British Farming

On Back British Farming Day' this month, I met up with the NFU and fellow Nottinghamshire MP, Mark Spencer, the Minister for Food, Farming, and Fisheries, to discuss how we can continue to champion farmers in Rushcliffe and the rest of the UK to produce the food we all rely on.

On the same day, the Government backed calls to encourage customers to buy British when shopping online, which may include new 'buy British' sections on supermarket websites. Buying local and buying British is a choice and we want to encourage more people to support homegrown products whilst knowing they are getting a top quality product. Other announcements include:

- hiring five additional agri-food attaches to unlock new trading markets and boost UK food and drink exports contributing £24 billion to our economy
- a £4 million Small Abattoir Fund to ease operational burdens, enhance animal welfare, and encourage investment in new technologies, supporting farmers in reaching local and international markets.

Being a constituency with so many fantastic farmers, I am pleased the Government continues to be on the side of local producers and is taking steps to ensure they can thrive.



£40,000 Shared Prosperity Grant for Grand Central Railway Nottingham in Ruddington

This month, Rushcliffe Borough Council gave £40,000 of Shared Prosperity Funding to the Grand Central Railway Nottingham (GCRN) to assist it in revamping its shed at its HQ in Ruddington. The finished shed will house four passenger carriages and protect them from the elements and vandals.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is worth £2.6 billion to invest in skills, improved high streets, support for local business and more green spaces. You may remember it replaced EU structural funding, with decisions about where the money goes being made locally by council instead of in Brussels.

I've enjoyed some great visits to the heritage railway in Ruddington and have met the wonderful volunteers who dedicate so much of their time and energy to the railway, I'm delighted to hear that they've received this very well deserved funding.



Nominate a Rushcliffe champion!

Do you know someone in Rushcliffe who has made a really positive difference to their community?

You could help recognise their achievements by nominating them for a Celebrating Rushcliffe Award. The Awards celebrate the Borough's wonderful volunteers, businesses, clubs, organisations, environmentalists, sports clubs and athletes.

Nominations for the 10 awards are now open until 11pm on Sunday October 15 so make sure you get your votes in now! You can nominate [here](#).



The Pride of Rushcliffe Award

Volunteer of the Year

Sportsperson of the Year

Young Person/Group of the Year

Community Group of the Year

Business of the Year

Health and Wellbeing Award

Environmental Group or Project of the Year

Sports Club of the Year

Help support survivors of domestic abuse in Rushcliffe

Along with local campaigner Nicky Brindley, I have organised the next J9 safer spaces training session for all those who want to help support survivors of domestic abuse in Rushcliffe.

The J9 campaign seeks to build a network of safe spaces where survivors of domestic abuse can access life-saving resources such as helpline phone numbers or the use of a telephone. J9 trains volunteers and staff from public-facing organisations to communicate effectively with survivors if they come to them for help and to signpost them to professional help. Once trained, an organisation can display the J9 heart which signals it is somewhere survivors can get help.

The next session will be held in West Bridgford on Friday 6th October 17:00-18:30. You can sign up [here](#). It would be particularly fantastic if you could attend if you are part of an organisation in one of the villages in Rushcliffe without a big number of J9 safe spaces such as in Tollerton, Sutton Bonington, Cropwell Butler, Colston Bassett, or Kinoulton.

If you can't make this session but would like to be informed as soon as the next one is organised, please contact me at ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk

I want to know your priorities!

It's been another busy month getting out and delivering my 'Our Plan' surveys to residents around Rushcliffe.

The leaflet tells you about progress we have made on the various campaigns developed with local communities when I was first elected as Rushcliffe's MP, such as tackling flooding, supporting local jobs and businesses, and protecting our countryside. The survey is all about your priorities for

Rushcliffe and gives you the chance to tell me what I should be focusing on as your MP.

You can fill it in [here](#).

Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

It's hard to believe that a whole year has gone by since the passing of Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

As Britain's longest reigning monarch, she was a fixed point in most of our lives. She committed her life to duty and service to the country and the commonwealth. His majesty King Charles III also released a [statement](#) to mark the anniversary.

Out and About!

Some are immortalised in marble on Whitehall, others in straw at the Hickling Scarecrow Festival! It was great to see the fantastic scarecrows on display at this year's festival and to 'take part' in the WI's display on the changing role of women!



It was wonderful to visit Lisa and the team at Small People Nursery this month. It was great to see all of the outdoor learning that the children take part in here, and get treated to a delicious afternoon tea from their excellent

chef.

Lisa and I discussed the new childcare reforms announced in the spring, as well as the experiences of the staff in the sector. Thank you to Lisa, her team and the kids for having me!



This month in Kinoulton, I visited the newly opened Stackyard Farm Shop to chat to Emily and James about their new business venture. It's a fantastic shop with great local produce and everyday essentials for residents and those who live further afield. Do check them out if you're in the area!



I held a pop-up surgery at Morrisons in Gamston this month where I was able to talk to shoppers and help with any issues they may have. I'll be holding these throughout Rushcliffe, so please do stop and say hello if you see me!

It was great to be in Cotgrave for the National Lottery Community Funding Fair this month where I got to hear more about so many brilliant funding opportunities for community groups and organisations in Rushcliffe. I've compiled a list of some of the funding streams I heard about on my website, so if you know of a community group that needs a project funded, please see [here](#)

What I've been up to in Parliament

In Parliament this month....

I met with Alzheimer Research UK to discuss how we can address the health and lifestyle factors that affect our brain health. Fighting Dementia is something that's quite personal to me, as my grandfather died of it. That's why it's so important to me to champion dementia research so we can find a cure for this cruel disease.



I also joined Santander and Twinkl Resources who are campaigning to improve financial literacy in young people. With their 'The Numbers Game' being used by around 7,000 schools last year, over 1.3 million 5-16 year olds have benefitted in an effort to build up their money confidence.



And attended the National Nuclear Laboratory's Nuclear Week event to discuss decarbonisation and regional growth. With the UK's first ever nuclear fusion energy plant being based here in Nottinghamshire and our target to reach Net Zero by 2050, I know what it means for us to use Nuclear power to

our advantage and build a greener, more secure energy network to supply the country.



For International Heart Valve Disease Awareness week, I joined other MPs in getting my heart checked. It's a quick and easy stethoscope check, which can detect issues with the heart and catch them early when treatment is most effective.



Finally, I met up with Rethink Mental Illness to discuss major issues that can affect the public's mental health and what the Government can do to support the public.

Rethink supports tens of thousands of people every year through their range of mental health services and life-changing support groups.

It was great to talk to people with lived experiences of mental health to get their opinions and views on how we can support them best.



Come and tour Parliament

Have you ever wanted to visit Parliament? I regularly welcome constituents to Parliament where you can have a free tour.

It would be great to welcome you into Parliament and to arrange a tour for you too. If you live in Rushcliffe and would like to book a tour then please email me with your details at: ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk

More information about visiting parliament [here](#).

P.S. Clemmie says thank you!

Clemmie says thank you to everyone in Rushcliffe who voted for her in the Westminster Dog of the Year competition.. Although she didn't win she had a lovely time raising awareness about dog welfare issues and will continue to push her manifesto of more belly rubs, longer walks and treats for all!



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