

Gordon Macdonald MSP

Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency Monthly Report — December 2014



Don't Drink & Drive!

A lower drink drive limit for Scotland will come into force on December 5 after MSP's from all parties unanimously voted in favour of the new law.

This reduces the blood alcohol limit from 80mg in every 100ml of blood to 50mg in every 100ml of blood. Evidence shows that alcohol at the previous level can significantly impair driving and vastly increase the chances of being involved in an accident.

An average of 20 people die on Scotland's roads every year in accidents involving drivers over the legal limit.

A high profile public information campaign started on the 17th November and runs to the 8th December aimed at informing all adults of driving age of the change.

For more information:
www.dontriskit.info

BSL Bill Consultation

The British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill aims to promote the use of British Sign Language including the publication of a British Sign Language National Plan.

Closing date for responses is 2/2/15.



The Government's Programme for Scotland 2014-15

The Scottish Government unveiled its programme for government highlighting a range of plans to be introduced over the next year that will help to create a new, fairer and more prosperous society.

The twelve Bills outline the policy and legislative priorities which include the removal of tax breaks for shooting estates through the **Land Reform Bill**; £30M boost to Help to Buy aimed specifically at small to medium sized house builders; An independent commission to report on fairer alternatives to the council tax by Autumn 2015; an additional £10M for a new Empowering Communities Fund; improved good governance through the **Higher Education Governance Bill**; ensure more people are paid a fair wage; increase the Modern Apprenticeships to 30,000 a year by 2020; 50/50 gender split on Boards by 2020; protect potential victims of trafficking through **Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill**; a **Carers Bill**; **Public Health Bill** and a new £5M investment to tackle delayed discharge in hospitals. Find out more by visiting:- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Programme-for-Government-2014-15>

Keeping you informed @ www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info

Tree planting at Dreghorn Centenary Wood



It was an honour to take part in the recent tree planting at Dreghorn Woods to mark the commemoration of the start of the First World War.

Around 250 people helped on the Saturday to plant 3,000 native trees and sow approximately 5 acres of wild flowers. Thanks to the 450 local primary school children, community groups, scouts and supermarket staff who in the previous two weeks planted thousands of trees bringing the total to 6,000. This will eventually grow to be a forest of 50,000 resulting in a living, growing tribute to those who fell.

Supporting ABF “The Soldiers’ Charity”



ABF “The Soldiers Charity” has been the army’s national charity since 1944. It helps serving soldiers and veterans of all ages and their families. Last year it provided total financial support of £800,000 to over 4,000 people in Scotland in the form of small grants.

It also provides substantial grants to Erskine, Combat Stress, Poppyscotland and SSAFA.

Find out more at www.soldierscharity.org

Parliament Congratulates SCOREscotland

I have recently raised the following motion in Parliament:

That the Parliament congratulates SCOREscotland on winning the Ethnic Minority Impact Awards 2014 for the work that it has done in helping the environment as part of its Green Futures Project; recognises that this project aims to help people save money and energy, help the environment and improve their health; notes that it works toward maintaining SCOREscotland's commitment to Scotland's Climate Change Pledge for Communities by offering home energy advice visits, fuel efficient driving training and women's cycling and walking groups, and considers them to be worthy winners of this award.

Donkey Lane Repaired



Thanks to everyone from the local community who helped to repair Donkey Lane.

This right of way between Currie and Baberton had deteriorated over a period of time until it was badly rutted.

Many of the potholes have now been filled although more major work is required to replace the broken drain.



How to contact Gordon Macdonald MSP:

- 1 By email: Gordon.Macdonald.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
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- 3 By letter: Gordon Macdonald MSP, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
- 4 By appointment: 69 Inglis Green Road, Edinburgh EH14 2EZ
- 5 Surgery: Held every Monday at 6.30pm at various locations throughout the constituency
- 6 Home visits are available for those people who cannot travel.

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS