

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

April
2018

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



MSP Welcomes Scottish Apprenticeship Week

Loraine
Henderson
Leaving Office



A team of apprentices had a chance to showcase their skills when Gordon dropped by the Apex Hotel for Scottish Apprenticeship Week. The week was organised by Skills Development Scotland to promote the benefits apprenticeships bring to young people, business, and the economy. The apprentices worked across a range of areas in hospitality, from waiting, kitchen, reception, housekeeping staff, to management.

Chef apprentice, Joe Posnett, 21, met with Gordon and explained why he signed up to the programme, “Personally I knew what career I wanted to pursue and didn’t want to spend years at university when there was an alternative option that was better suited to me, giving me hands-on experience and help me climb the career ladder.”

By visiting the apprentices, Gordon got a unique insight into the programme — “I was able to hear first-hand the many benefits to young people of joining the modern apprenticeship programme. These range from earning while learning, and developing skills and experience to improve your qualifications. The benefits to the economy, young people, and businesses are clear and, as a result, the number of modern apprentices has been increased by the Scottish Government from 10,500 in 2008 to 28,000 in 2018-19. We are on track to achieve 30,000 new apprenticeship starts by 2020.”

Loraine Henderson, office manager to Gordon Macdonald MSP and, previously, Dr Ian McKee MSP, is retiring. Loraine diligently served the Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency for over 10 years.

Gordon thanked Loraine, saying, “Loraine has been dedicated to delivering the best for my constituents and fighting their corner. She was key to establishing and running an effective office. I wish Loraine and her husband, Bill, a long and happy retirement.

“No MSP works alone. It is only by working as a team that we can deliver for constituents. Loraine will be a hard act to follow and will be missed by all.”

Out and About...

Respect Me



Last month, Gordon attended an event hosted by RespectMe, Scotland's anti-bullying service.

Whilst there, Gordon found out more about RespectMe's free anti-bullying training, policy support, resources, and campaigning.

He stressed that "I am happy to support them at their event and, as with the other participants, I pinned my 'Respect Me' thoughts to the wall."

Each guest was invited to write their definition of respect to the event stand wall. Gordon wrote: "Treat others as you expect to be treated!"

Parliamentary Motion Congratulates Canal View

Gordon submitted a motion to Parliament congratulating Canal View P7a pupils on winning a Jet2holiday *Ultimate School Trip* to Sol Katmandu Park & Resort in Majorca.

The pupils produced a promotional piece for Sol Katmandu Park & Resort in the form of a stop-motion video which won more votes than any other in the UK.

Oxgangs and Currie Primaries Bake Off



Gordon showed his culinary skills by judging fairy cake baking contests at Currie Primary School and the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre. The proud winner at Oxgangs, Freya, can be seen in the photo above.

Commenting, Gordon said "These school cooking competitions are a good way to involve pupils in a fun activity whilst also teaching them about the basics of food preparation, baking, and food hygiene.

"Of course, we all got to eat the delicious fairy cakes at the end of it, too!"

Ratho Medical Practice to Open



The newly completed Ratho Medical Centre is due to open at 11 Wilkieston Road on 16 April.

In congratulating the local community for their long campaign for this new practice, Gordon said, "This is a fabulous new facility that has been designed to provide improved accommodation to meet the demand for healthcare services for the growing local population.

"The practice will see an increase in capacity with five consultation rooms, one treatment room, a waiting area and a staff room.

Contact Details

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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library

2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre

3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library

4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxgangs Library

5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands