



LATEST NEWS FROM REHMAN CHISHTI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

December 2016 - January 2017

Welcome to my December/January newsletter.

Thank you for your interest in the work I do on behalf of constituents. Please see below for a summary of my commitments in the constituency and in Parliament.

If you would like further details on my work or would like to contact me, please [visit my website](#).

Best wishes, Rehman.

In the constituency



Rehman attended the wonderful Gillingham Methodist Church Christmas Fair



Rehman supported Rachel in her local Masquerade Ball in aid of Cancer Research and donated a House of Commons bottle of wine signed by PM for the raffle.



Rehman visited Napier School and looked at the Napier Awards, creating a University of Knowledge with MidKent College, and also their work with Avenue Tennis on sport.



Rehman met with Health Minister Philip Dunne where he informed him of excellent progress at Medway NHS Foundational Trust, praising the staff for their great work.



Rehman hosted the Gillingham & Rainham Constituency Christmas dinner, and was joined by James Duddridge MP who spoke to guests on his former role as the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of state in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Rehman collected money with the Gillingham Rotary Club accompanied by fellow councillors Jan Aldous and Martin Potter, outside Rainham Shopping Centre.



Rehman was interviewed by BBC Radio Kent on the improvements at Medway Hospital and the CQC inspection. During the interview he praised the excellent hospital staff for their efforts.



Rehman held a meeting with local councillors to discuss the Medway Local Plan. He strongly encourages residents to take part in this consultation



Rehman attended the Medway Sport Awards and met pentathlete Kate French.



Rehman watched an amazing performance of the Christmas Nativity play at St Matthews Church, where the cast performed to a packed audience.



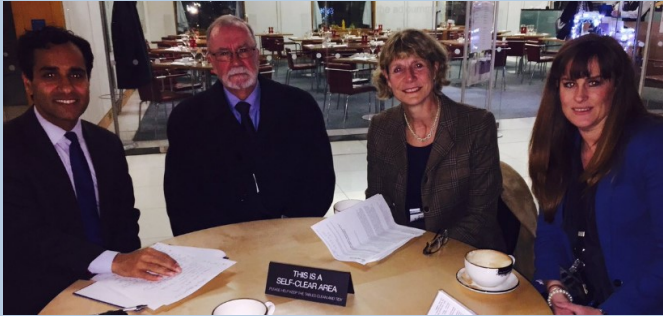
Rehman attended the Sunday service at St Marks Church Gillingham led by the wonderful Rev Peter Guinness.



Rehman watched a fantastic performance by Kayleigh Carina Performing Arts School. The show, a "Christmas Tale", was written by constituent Emma Fitchett.



Rehman popped in to the wonderful Christmas Carols by the Salvation Army Gillingham. An inspirational message was given by Major Harris as well as a great performance by the students.



Rehman held a meeting with Headteacher Karen Joy and Governor Keith Williams from AbbeyCourt school, as well as Kelly Tolhurst MP. They discussed the AbbeyCourt plans to secure phase 2 funding.



Rehman made a plea in support of the Salvation Army Gillingham asking local businesses and individuals to lend their support to their appeal to raise £1500 for a new cooker, which will be used to help the homeless. He thanked all those who supported the cause, including Bob Russell of Rivet Distillery



Rehman attended the Gillingham Football Club Christmas Party and sends his best to the team for 2017.



Rehman attended the Christmas Day Service at St. Marks Gillingham, led by Reverend Saju.



Rehman visited Avenue Tennis in Gillingham, a sports centre with facilities including indoor and outdoor tennis courts, a gym and a sauna and steam room.



Rehman met with the Headteacher of Rainham Mark Grammar School, Simon Decker and welcomed the school's new criteria on giving preference to local students in Medway.



Rehman held his regular MP street surgery throughout December and January across the constituency, listening to residents' views on a variety of local and national issues.



Rehman also held his regular office constituency surgery offering advice, assistance and help to a number of constituents. If you are a constituent and have a local or national issue that you would like to raise with Rehman, please contact his office.



In January, Rehman took part in the Canterbury 10 mile race with Rebel Runners Medway in preparation for his London Marathon run in April

In Parliament



Rehman spoke at the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council High Commissioners reception, in his position as Vice Chairman. He spoke on the Commonwealth partners, the organisation's values and paid tribute to the Queen for her lifelong commitment.



Rehman asked the Justice Minister what specific action is being taken to help tackle the specific issue of suicide in Prisons linked to Mental Health.



At PMQs, Rehman asked about diversity on FTSE company boards



Rehman held a meeting with Business Minister Margot James on his Laser Pens Bill.



Rehman had a good meeting with the Oman Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Abdulaziz Al Hinai. They discussed UK-Oman relations and wider issues in GCC region.



Rehman asked a question to the Prime Minister on EU Council meeting on Syria



Rehman had an excellent meeting with the Bahrain Ambassador to the UK, covering a wide range of issues including the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary's recent visit to Bahrain.



Rehman met with the High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK. They discussed a wide range of issues and the two countries' excellent relationship.



Rehman met with Chief Executive Ted Hill and Marketing & Events Manager Kriper Dhrona from the British Polio Fellowship and was pleased to become their Parliamentary Ambassador.



On Tuesday 17th January, Rehman had a good catch-up meeting with the brilliant team from Cancer Research UK on the preparations for his London Marathon run. If you would like to make a donation toward Rehman's run in aid of Cancer Research UK, please see: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rehman-ChishtiMP>



Rehman met with Claire Morris, the Manager of Regulatory Affairs & diversity head at Lloyds Bank, to share ideas on Community Engagement and how greater representation for minorities can be achieved on company boards.



Rehman raised a point in the Chamber on Burma Human Rights abuses, calling for the UK to lead the way at the United Nations on building a consensus.



Rehman signed the Holocaust Memorial Book in Parliament as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day.



Rehman showed his support for tackling bowel cancer at the Bowel Cancer reception in parliament.



Rehman was interviewed on BBC News & Sky News making clear that President Donald Trump's Ban is contrary to British Values. He also highlighted that the ban plays into the hands of Daesh and makes the world more dangerous.



At Business Questions on 31st January, Rehman called on the government to continue its investment in Kent and Medway infrastructure and roads, including commitment to the Lower Thames Crossing to support SMEs



Photo: Rehman at Health Questions calling for Medway Hospital to be taken out of special measures & paying tribute to the excellent work of the staff

Rehman Spoke in Parliament on the following issues:

- On [suicide in prisons linked to mental health](#)
- On [ethnic minority representation on FTSE company boards](#)
- On the [EU Council's meeting on Syria & stability in the region](#)
- On the [Laser Pens Private Members Bill](#)
- On [Medway Hospital coming out of special measures](#)
- On [human rights abuses in Burma](#)
- On the [UK's global position in legal services](#)
- On [US immigration authorities](#)
- On the Government's commitment to infrastructure investment in Kent

Rehman was featured in the media:

- [Sky News & BBC News 24](#) on President Trump's ban
- BBC Radio Kent & ITV Meridian on Medway Hospital
- Eastern Eye newspaper on FTSE company board diversity
- Medway Messenger on various local issues