



LATEST NEWS FROM REHMAN CHISHTI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

October 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to my October 2018 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 was interviewed by the BBC One Show on his Private Members Bill on Cats supported by Cats Protection, Cats Matter, Blue Cross Animal Hospital, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, Animals Lost & Found and many local residents.



Rehman called on the Rt Rev Bishop Michael Nazir Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester, and talked about religious freedom following his visit to the USA and discussions and joint work on this with Congressman French Hill, ahead of the Bishop's visit to South America.



Rehman caught up with the Gills FC Chairman and Manager Steve and inspected the new pitch ahead of the game at home against Southend United.



Rehman ran the Maidstone Half Marathon in approx 1 hour 43 minutes in aid of Animals Lost & Found in Kent, raising over £500, who inspired his Parliamentary Private Members Cats Bill. Rehman thanked the organisers and volunteers for putting on the race.



Rehman attended the St Paul's Church Parkwood celebrations with Cllr Aldous marking 40 Years of Anglican worship. He met with Bishop James of Rochester & Mr Challen (his former History/Politics teacher).



Rehman met with his Association Chairman & Parliamentary Agent Brigita and Deputy Chairman John looking at local issues and Brexit.



Rehman held his regular MP Street Surgery in Rainham Shops with fellow councillors meeting residents and taking up their views. He was also given an interview by Channel 4 News.



Rehman visited the PDSA Gillingham Hospital based in Gillingham Business Park and met with the staff. He has offered to run the London Marathon 2019 to support their work.



Rehman had his regular catch up meeting with Rev Nathan Ward, Vicar of St Margaret's Church Rainham, and heard about his successful bid to get £30,000 from the Home Office fund to support communities on community engagement in tackling knife crime.



Rehman attended the 40th Birthday celebrations of Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre in Gillingham with the Mayor of Medway Cllr Steve Iles, and ward members Cllrs Rodney & Diane Chambers and Centre Manager Mark.



Rehman attended the Lion Club of Gillingham annual harvest tea.



Rehman had a meeting at Medway Hospital with Medical Stroke Consultant Dr Mamun who fully supports Medway Council, Cllr Alan Jarett, local MPs Kelly Tolhurst and Gordon Henderson, as well as residents and local councillors



Rehman visited Animals Lost and Found Kent based in Gillingham, who inspired his Parliamentary Private Members Bill on Cats. He was interviewed for ITV Meridian by Tom Savvides, alongside Natasha & Dee (the owners of Animals Lost & Found).



Rehman took part in the Great Lines Park Run 5k and gave his thanks to Race Director Darrell and all the volunteers.



Rehman celebrated his belated 40th Birthday with family, friends and colleagues.



Rehman welcomed the 2018 Budget on BBC South East in an interview with Helen Catt. The budget delivers for the NHS, schools, businesses, high streets, and transport/infrastructure.



Rehman visited Barnsole School and Hempstead Junior School and presented pupils with a Queen's Canopy tree as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Project highlighting the importance of forest conservation and the Queen's lifelong service to the Commonwealth.

Rehman's visit to Arkansas



During Parliament's recess Rehman visited Congressman French Hill as part of his 40th birthday celebrations and used the opportunity to follow-up on his previous visit, as well as French Hill's visit to Gillingham & Rainham, to continue their work connecting schools and businesses, as well as meeting with military personnel (given that both areas have strong military history and heritage), and discussed mutual military and security-related issues, along with wider UK-US bilateral trade. In addition, they discussed their mutual work in promoting religious freedom around the world

Parliamentary Work



Rehman joined the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and Lords from across the House to welcome recently returned soldiers from operations abroad at the Army Welcome Home Parade at the Houses of Parliament.



In Westminster Hall, Rehman met individuals linked to the Armed Forces, including Heidi (Last Post & Reveille) and veteran Jim who served in the Merchant Navy and whose late uncle was former MP Alfred Balfour.



Rehman met with students and his fellow runner at Rebel Runners Medway, Richard, a Politics teacher at Gravesend Grammar School who was bringing his pupils to the House of Commons for a visit.



Rehman met Vicki Betton from PDSA and discussed his Private Members Bill on cats and hearing about their work across all sectors on improving animal welfare.



Along with his colleague Royston Smith MP Rehman attended the World Dog Alliance Eradication of Dog Meat Consumption Parliamentary drop in.



In his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Conservatives (Communities) Rehman attended the Board of Deputies Parliamentary drop in event on interfaith social action for Mitzvah Day.



Rehman met Amy & her Support Dog Stanley (pictured with Henry Smith MP) at the Support Dogs UK drop-in highlighting their work, including the training of assistance dogs for people living with disabilities, autism, epilepsy & other medical conditions.



In his capacity as a member of the Executive Committee of the British American Parliamentary Group Rehman met with Justine from the US Embassy looking at all aspects of UK-US relations.



Rehman welcomed Mrs Stickings, his former Headteacher at Richmond Infant School Gillingham, which he attended in 1984 aged 6. (Pictured with Dame Esther Rantzen and the Minister for Universities).



Rehman welcomed Dr Rod King, a dentist based in Gillingham, to Parliament who has provided healthcare to local residents in the area for over 35 years.



Rehman attended the Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning in Parliament and learned more about their work providing support and healthcare to people affected by cancer as well as raising awareness of cancer (pictured with Nusha & Becca).



Rehman met with the Secretary of State for DEFRA Michael Gove on his Private Members Bill on Cats. The Secretary of State said the Bill was “very reasonable” and that he would ask civil servants to look at it.



Rehman, a former member of Justice select Committee and former PPS to the Attorney General, welcomed members of the English Judiciary to Parliament, including Nick his former pupil master when he first started out as a lawyer.



Rehman was briefed by Army Reserve Director Stephen Potter on the work of the British Army Reserves.



In his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Conservatives for Communities Rehman welcomed members of the Hindu Community attending Diwali celebrations to Parliament (also pictured with parliamentary security team member Mr Pandya).



Rehman raised the following issues in Parliament:

- Improving bereavement care following baby loss
- Supporting the self employment in Medway & Kent
- Security cooperation with the EU after Brexit
- Transport links in Medway & Kent
- Mental health provision for prisoners
- The cost of missed GP appointments
- Funding for neuroblastoma research
- Support for the renewable energy sector in Medway
- The death of Jamal Khashoggi

Home Affairs Select Committee

-Rehman questioned Professor Manning (Migration Advisory Committee) and Madeleine Sumption (Director of the Migration Observatory) on Post Brexit migration, the process for international students, and the reliability of data.

-Rehman took evidence on serious violent crime from victims families, and heard about their work in preventing individuals being sucked into knife/violent crime.

- Rehman questioned the Met Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu (Lead Counter Terrorism Policing) on tackling far right extremism, threats to Members of Parliament and those in public office, the strategy to tackle returning Daesh Fighters and those captured

Rehman also featured in the media:

- BBC South East on the 2018 Budget
- ITV Meridian on the Cats Bill
- BBC South East on County Lines
- KARK 4 News (Arkansas) on all aspects of UK-US relations
- KARN Radio (Arkansas) on UK-US relations

