



# Mary & Deidre: "Children deserve better!!!"

Mary met with The Sun's Agony Aunt Deidre Sanders to discuss how children from single parent families can be better protected.

Deidre, who has been writing her "Dear Deidre" column in The Sun for over thirty years, joined Mary to debate how children can be helped after their parents' break up.

Mary commented: "Families come in all shapes and sizes, and single parent families are a fact of life. Both mothers and fathers can be left alone to raise children following relationship

breakdown or the death of a partner. Children should not be penalised because they come from a single parent family, through no fault of their own."

Mary is proposing legal protection for unmarried couples on the breakdown of their relationship. There are more than 2 million unmarried couples in the UK, and thousands of people are left destitute when their relationship ends. Mary is backed by lawyers, the Church of England, and MPs of all parties. In 2009 Mary hopes to take a 10 minute rule bill to Parliament with human rights lawyer and peer, Lord Lester, to get the law changed.



# Mary takes Redcats to Parliament

Mary took Redcats workers Gail Maskill and Lorraine Wilby, and USDAW union official Mike Brewer, to meet Business Secretary Rt Hon John Hutton MP

Mary swung into action to defend workers who lost their jobs when home shopping firm Redcats UK announced that they planned to close their Empire Stores business. They are shedding 500 jobs at two sites in Lupset and Kettlethorpe.

Mary took a delegation of Redcats workers and union bosses to meet Cabinet Minister Rt Hon John Hutton MP in March. They asked the minister to change the law to make it harder to sack workers, and to ensure people made redundant are given extra help to find other work.

Mary worked with JobCentre Plus to ensure advice and training was available to help affected workers find new jobs. Mary also persuaded local Wakefield health bosses to set up a counselling and advice line for Redcats workers who faced redundancy.

Mike Brewer, USDAW Regional Official, said: "USDAW members at Redcats UK wish to thank Mary for all her hard work and support."

Mary commented: "These redundancies were a devastating blow for Redcats workers. It was only fair that the company and the Labour Government did all it could to help workers into new jobs. I am pleased I was able to help."

# Mary Creagh MP Annual Report No 4 2009

Working For You All Year Round www.marycreagh.co.uk



INSIDE Minister opens Art House Page 3



RECOGNITION Badges for Wakefield's Bevin Boys Page 3



THE Sun Dear Deidre backs Mary Page 4

WIN!!!



A BOTTLE OF WHISKY SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER

# CASE STUDY

How Mary can help solve your local problem

JULY 2008	AUG 2008	SEPT 2008
Mary receives a letter from a resident in Pinders Heath complaining about parking problems on his road. Cars are blocking the pavement and the resident is concerned that pedestrians are being forced onto the road.	Mary writes to Wakefield Council and asks them to investigate, and consults with local councillors, who have also had problems reported to them. Mary sends a parking survey to 500 households in Pinders Heath asking them to report any problems and asking what they think should be done.	The council agrees to consult on putting double yellow lines down on the junction of Barnstone Vale and Aberford Rd, Coppice Close, Clarke Grove and Haldane Crescent by the summer of 2009 to ease the parking problems. Mary writes to everyone affected to let them know what is happening. The local community has influenced decision making, and problems with parking will be reduced.

# Mary up for award for campaign to protect children

Mary was nominated as a 'Charity Champion' in the prestigious ePolitix 2008 awards for her campaign to reduce bath scalding in children. Mary was nominated by doctors from Pinderfields and children's charities for her three year long Parliamentary campaign.

Mary joined the campaign after hearing of the terrible injuries suffered by 12-year-old Holly Devonport from Wakefield. Holly was five years old when she suffered third-degree burns to half her body after falling into a scalding hot bath.

It now looks as if Mary's hard work will pay off. The Government is set to agree that all new houses built after October 2009 should have thermostatic mixing valves fitted, reducing the number of children and elderly people that receive these terrible scalding injuries.

Keith Judkins, consultant anaesthetist at Pinderfields Burns Unit, said: "Mary has spearheaded the 'Hot Water Burns Like Fire' campaign. The futures of many hundreds of small children will be much brighter because of her efforts. We feel she deserves this award for the commitment, energy and enthusiasm she has brought to this campaign."

# 7 ways to contact Mary Creagh

- 1 WRITE Mary Creagh MP, 20-22 Cheapside, Wakefield WF1 2TF
- 2 PHONE 01924 204319
- 3 FAX 01924 299723
- 4 EMAIL mary@marycreagh.co.uk
- 5 IN PERSON Book an appointment at one of Mary's regular surgeries at the Town Hall by calling 01924 204319
- 6 WEB Sign up to get Mary's regular e-bulletins at www.marycreagh.co.uk
- 7 INVITE MARY to visit your school, tenants association, sports club or organisation



# WIN!

Tell Mary your views and win a bottle of House of Commons whisky signed by the Prime Minister!

Mary wants to hear what you think about local services. Please take a moment to fill in her survey and return it to: FREEPOST Mary Creagh MP. Returned surveys will be automatically entered into a prize draw to take place on May 1st to win a bottle of House of Commons whisky signed by Prime Minister Gordon Brown!

**Would you describe yourself as**

In work  
 A home carer  
 A student  
 Unemployed  
 Retired  
 Other (please state below)

**Do you have children under 18 living at home with you?**

Yes  No

**If you have a child at school how would you describe the school?**

Excellent  Average  Poor

**Thinking about living in your local area which statement comes closest to your views?**

Crime isn't a problem, I feel safe when I go about the city  
 Crime is sometimes a problem but on the whole I feel safe  
 Crime is a real problem, I don't feel safe when I go about the city

**Have you had a problem in your community with the following?**

Noisy neighbours  
 Abandoned cars  
 Graffiti  
 Other anti-social behaviour  
 No problems

**Have you had problems registering with an NHS dentist?**

Yes  No

Please tick if you would like Mary to send you details of how to register with an NHS dentist

**If you would like to receive my regular, FREE updates from the House of Commons on any of the following topics, please tick the boxes**

NHS  
 Education  
 Pensions  
 Environment & Energy  
 Culture & Sport  
 Animal Welfare  
 Law & Order  
 Transport  
 International Development

**Marks out of ten, how would you rate Mary's performance as your MP?**

10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

**Do you have any other issues you would like to bring to Mary's attention?**

**Thinking about the following local public services how do you think they have changed?**

Hospitals	Better	Same	Worse
Schools & Colleges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS Dentistry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide details so that Mary can stay in touch**

Name  Post Code

Address

Email

Home Phone  Mobile

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you are unable to get to the polling station. Please tick the box if you would like Mary to send you a postal vote application form

Mary Creagh may contact you using the details you have supplied. If you do not wish to receive information from Mary please tick this box. The information provided is for the use of Mary Creagh and her office only. The information provided will not be passed to a third party or any other organisation.

Return to: FREEPOST Mary Creagh MP to enter the free prize draw



# Massive investment for Wakefield

Wakefield is set to get massive public investment this year. There are several developments breathing new life into the city, providing new jobs and public facilities, and boosting the city economy.

Mary has been campaigning for a new hospital since 2004. Work on the new Pinderfields is making great progress and is on target for completion in 2011. A new walk-in GP health centre will also open in the city centre in 2009. NHS care is improving too - with no-one waiting longer than 18 weeks for an operation.

The historic waterfront of Wakefield will be brought back to life with the £10 million Hepworth Gallery as a world class cultural centre by 2010. As well as displaying a unique collection of Barbara Hepworth sculpture, it will also host Wakefield's most important art collections and offer activities and events for local people.

Merchant Gate is a £130 million regeneration project that will create a new business quarter around a rebuilt

Westgate station. Funded by the English Cities Fund and Network Rail, it will provide jobs for local people.

Local education is also set for a building boost, with Wakefield primary schools set for a £10.4 million refit. A £54 million new 'super campus' for Wakefield College will allow them to offer more higher education courses.

Mary commented: "Wakefield is on the up. Record levels of public investment in our city will mean more jobs, and help the city ride out the problems in the global economy. People are looking forward to using the new shops and gallery, and seeing new people drawn to our great city. Investment in schools will mean Wakefield is a city where no child is left behind."



**Mary Creagh MP**  
 20-22 Cheapside  
 Wakefield  
 WF1 2TF  
 Tel: 01924 204319

Dear resident, Welcome to my fourth Annual Report to residents in Wakefield constituency. I've had another busy year as your Member of Parliament, and I've continued to support many local campaigns. Thank you to all of you who have met me at one of my coffee mornings or advice surgeries across Wakefield, Denby Dale, and Kirkburton.

It's been an eventful year, with an unstable international banking system causing damage to the UK economy. The downturn began in America with a housing market crash and spread quickly, threatening businesses, jobs and homeowners worldwide. Only decisive Government action prevented a global crisis becoming a catastrophe.

This Annual Report tells you about some of the things I have been doing, but there isn't enough space to write about everything. You can keep up to date with all my work, and contact me with your opinions, at www.marycreagh.co.uk. You can also sign up to my regular newsletter.

If there's anything I can do to help you please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes  
  
 Labour Member of Parliament for Wakefield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton

# Tax cuts helping Wakefield families



Mary Creagh has welcomed the action taken by the Chancellor to help local families and restore confidence in the economy. It has been a turbulent year for the global economy, and many people in Wakefield have been worried about money.

In November 2008 the Chancellor presented his Pre-Budget Report to Parliament, with billions in tax cuts to help kickstart the economy, action to help Wakefield businesses and families including a one year cut in VAT of 2.5% to boost spending.

Mary Creagh commented: "I am confident investment through public finances is now vital if we are to stave off the sort of recession which devastated Wakefield in the past. These tax cuts will boost the economy and help hard pressed families and pensioners in Wakefield. It is only fair that they receive the help they need."

# The Chancellor...

- Gave every basic rate taxpayer £145 extra (up from £120 this year)
- Gave 19,000 Wakefield pensioners a £60 bonus in January
- Increased child benefit to £20 a week in January 2009 instead of April, helping 12,000 Wakefield families
- Increased child tax credit by £75 a year extra from April 2009
- Provided more loans for Wakefield's small businesses and allowed them to spread their tax bills on a timetable they can afford
- £1.3bn for job centres to get people back to work
- A three month delay from the major lenders on repossessions for homeowners who get into arrears

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