



Annual Report 2012-2013

Mark Hendrick MP

Your Labour and Co-operative
Member of Parliament,
working hard for the people of Preston

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Winter 2013



Dear Member

Welcome to my Annual Report for the year 2012-2013. This report will highlight my work, both in Preston and in Parliament and it covers the last eighteen months

This is my third Annual report under the Coalition Government. As ever, times are tough and I continue to hold the government to account and act to protect and serve the most vulnerable and hard working groups in our society.

The recent death of Nelson Mandela is a reminder to us all that the fight against justice is never without hope. He is an enduring and unique symbol of courage. He continues to inspire generations and shows us that the power of people and politics can change the world we live in.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes

Unemployment Statistics

The latest Unemployment Figures show that the number of unemployed claimants in Preston constituency in November 2013 was 2,444. This represents a rate of 5.3% of the economically active population aged 16 to 64, the 148th highest of the 650 UK constituencies.

Rising fuel and energy prices coupled with the rising cost of living has meant that more people than ever before are suffering at the hands of the Coalition Government. On average, around 400 food parcels are collected from the Salvation Army in Preston, which is up from 250, at this time last year and from only 50 in 2012. The parcels are in the most claimed by ordinary working families, people on low income or those with zero hour contracts.

Frenchwood School Energy Club

Mark with Year 6 pupils from Frenchwood Primary School at their Energy Club



Mark was invited to participate in a sport-based Energy Club with pupils, staff and volunteers at Frenchwood Primary School on Friday 21st June 2013.

The clubs are run by Teaching Assistants and trained volunteers from local Cardinal Newman College.

Energy Club North West Volunteer Coordinator, Nick Birchall said: 'It was good to see that Mark not only watched the work of Energy Club in action, but also joined in with the children himself.'

At the end of the session, Mark presented each pupil with a certificate. Mark said: "After school clubs and particularly this one run by Energy Club enhance the physical learning by children whilst important messages about choosing healthy food options and keeping fit are conveyed in an enjoyable way. I was delighted to see the enthusiasm and competitive nature of all the participants."

Mini Election at English Martyr's Primary School

Mark with speaking to Year 6 pupils at English Martyrs Primary School

Mark visited Year 6 pupils at English Martyr's Primary School on Friday 25th March to oversee their own election.

The debate was entitled 'Should mobile phones be banned in schools?' with each group arguing their case for or against and one pupil acting as the speaker.

Mark took to the floor to answer questions from the children. Questions ranged from whether Mark was successful at school,



who inspired him to become an MP and what jobs he had before becoming an MP.

Mark said: "The arguments put forward were persuasive from both sides of the classroom".

Mark with students from Cardinal Newman College at the House of Commons

Cardinal Newman College Visit to Parliament



Students from Cardinal Newman College visited Parliament on 13th June 2013. The visit included a Q & A session with Mark. Students learnt about the House of Commons, Lords and Monarchy and discussed the differences between government and Parliament. They also learn about the passage of a Bill.

Mark visits Royal Cross School again

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Mark visited the Royal Cross Primary School in Ashton-on-Ribble on Friday 6th December 2013 to meet with pupils, staff and governors. Royal Cross is a Community School catering specifically for deaf children.

Mark had previously visited the school over eighteen years ago when he was the Member of the European Parliament in 1995. He was invited to officially open the schools Summer Fair which had a European theme. Current Head teacher Ruth Bonney reminded Mark of the visit by presenting him with a newspaper clipping of the event. The school continues to provide specialist education for children with hearing impairments, with specialist expertise and resources to create a positive learning environment. Communication is a key priority developed at the school to enable the personal and social development of each child along with academic success. Signing and speech are used in combinations that work best for each child.

Mark said: "The staff and leadership at the school should be very proud of the work that they do. All the children I communicated with were happy and confident in their learning environment and I am glad to have revisited the school after so many years."



Mark with Ruth Bonney, Headteacher and Head Boy

Mark opens new sports pitches at Grange School



Mark with Cheryl Nelson, Headteacher at Grange Primary School

Mark was invited to formally open the new all weather Sports Pitches at Grange Primary School in Ribbleton on Friday 8th November 2013.

The opening was held at the schools Autumn Fair and attended by parents and school pupils. Other guests on the day included PNE players, Preston's Street Monkeys and world champion free-styler John Farnworth, with speeches from the head girl and boy.

Mark said: "It was good to see the staff, children and especially parents at the event, all of whom are very excited about the new facilities at the Grange school. I'm sure they will all make good use of this superb facility".

Jobcentre Plus

Mark visited Preston JobCentre Plus Office on Friday 21st June 2013 and met with senior DWP staff to talk about current unemployment issues and the up-skilling of jobseekers through digitalisation.

Mark was updated about latest unemployment figures, job clubs and training opportunities for jobseekers. He was also given a demonstration about the new online Universal Jobmatch site which was introduced earlier this year.



Mark being shown the Universal Jobcentre site by Digital Champion John Jenkinson

Welfare Benefits Conference

Mark organised and chaired a conference on Welfare Reform on 1 February 2013 to highlight the swingeing Coalition cuts to the welfare and benefits system, which started in April this year. Mark was joined by Cllr Martyn Rawlinson and Cllr Jennifer Mein. The conference was well attended with around 100 guests and was hosted by the Salvation Army.

"People out of work will find it harder to find jobs and will see their benefits cut; people in work will see their benefits and tax credits cut and pensioners and disabled people will all see diminishing incomes and face a life of further hardship. I have seen many more cases of this at my surgeries recently and I am sure that councillors here today, are experiencing a similar increase in such cases." (1 February 2013)



Mark with Leader of the County Councillor Jennifer Mein and other speakers at the Welfare Benefits Conference Photo courtesy of the Lancashire Evening Post

Help Direct



Mark with Preston FM Radio Presenter Gary Cunliffe and Help Direct Manager Christine Hartley

Mark met with Christine Hartley at Help Direct Preston to discuss the work that they do in assisting Preston citizens.

Help Direct is a support and information service for all adults aged 18 and over across Preston and Lancashire. The service provides practical support, information and advice that they need before a small problem becomes a crisis. Help Direct also provides a Safe Trader Scheme in partnership with Lancashire County Council Trading Standards which aims to help people find reliable, local traders and support local businesses.

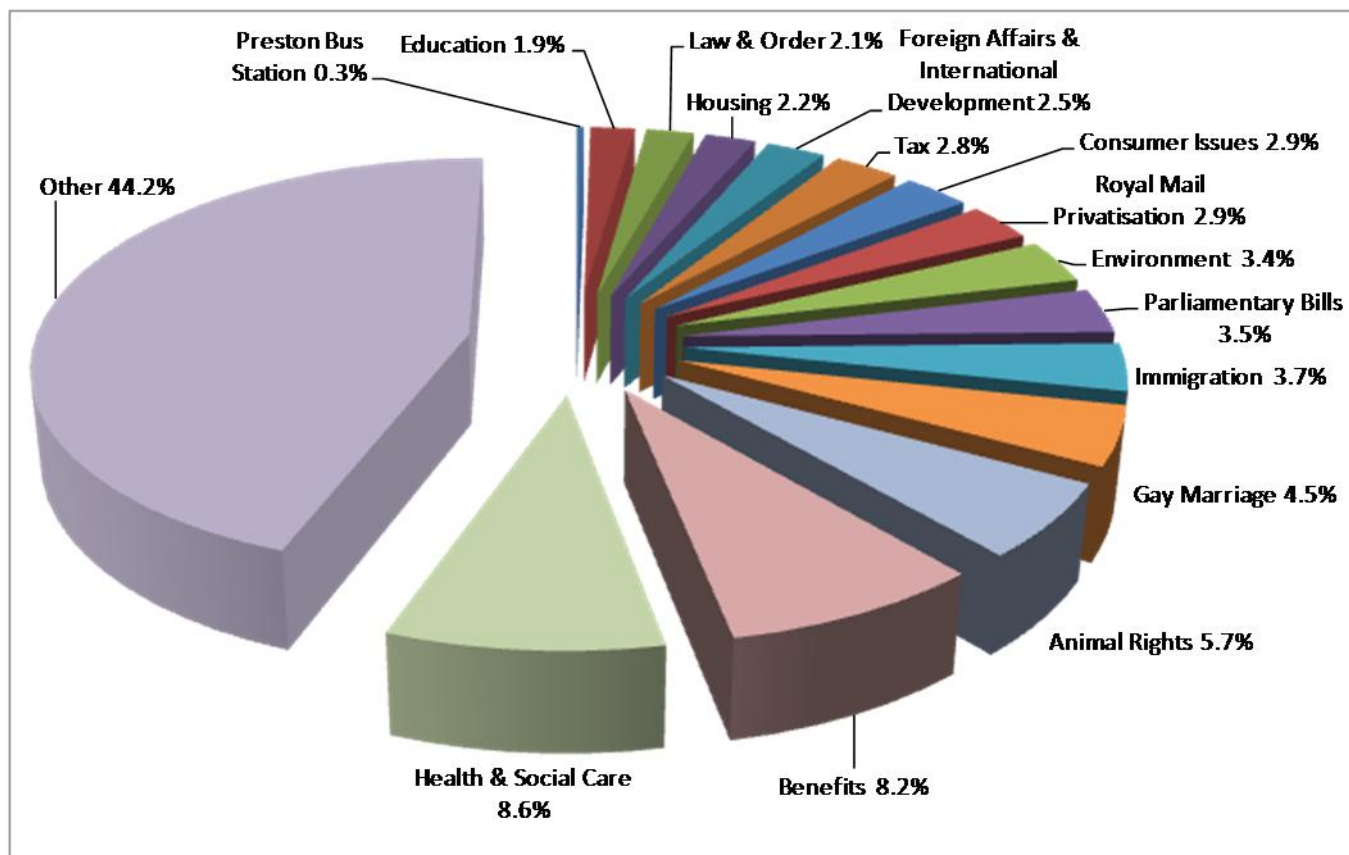
Chat City Preston FM

Mark has a regular interview slot with Radio Presenter Gary Cunliffe at Preston FM. This was as part of a new series of Chat City, on 103.2 Preston FM which was broadcast on Monday 14th October 2013. The interview was the first in the recent series of interviews for Preston FM's Chat City programme. The topics of discussion for this interview were rising energy and fuel prices, the referendum, Preston Bus Station, City Deal, Guild Hall and social media.

A second interview was broadcast on Monday 11th November 2013. The topics of discussion for this interview were the renationalisation of the railways, the voting age, the Scottish Referendum, press regulation, the Living Wage, Preston Bus Station and the City Deal.

The third interview was recorded 13th December. Topics discussed at this interview were the world's response to Nelson Mandela's death, his time in South Africa, job losses at Goss, the economy, IPSA's recommendation for MP's pay rises, cuts to care services and transport at Lancashire County Council and Universal Credits.

Casework Statistics



Casework data analysis for the period August 2012—July 2013

The Constituency Office dealt with a total of 2243 cases from August 2012 until July 2013. This number of cases has increased by at least double from the previous year. The main areas of concern and requests for assistance remain health and social care and cuts to benefits.

Mark said: “The statistical analysis of the casework undertaken in my office is a useful tool for me to keep abreast of the key concerns of my constituents. This in turn helps me to shape my arguments to parliamentary colleagues in the House. It has always been important for me to feel the pulse of the Preston people and I continue to hold regular surgeries to meet constituents face-to-face along with the other channels of communication open to constituents.”



From left: Cllr Phil Crowe, Mark Hendrick and Cllr Mark Yates

Save Our NHS

On Saturday 6th July Mark joined local Councillors Phil Crowe and Mark Yates on the flag market during the Save Our NHS campaign.

Mark talked to Prestonians on the Flag Market about the privatisation through the back door of the NHS by the coalition government. Mark said: “Our NHS is precious to us and I will fight tooth and nail to save it. Nobody wants it to go to private healthcare companies. They should be listening to the hard-working doctors and nurses and to the patients when they give warnings about their plans. Any changes should be properly tested first and most importantly beds and services should not be cut and patient care should be protected.

Anti Slavery Exhibition

Mark at the Anti Slavery Exhibition



Mark attended one of the most dramatic and distressing exhibitions ever promoted in the House of Commons highlighting the hidden nature of Modern Day Slavery.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency knows that at least 2,000 victims are found each year. However, they believe that is the tip of the iceberg and that for every victim found, another ten remain hidden.

The Human Trafficking Foundation concludes there must be up to 20,000 slaves in the cities, towns and villages of the UK. Of these victims that have come to light, 5% are known to have come from the North West.

BAE Event

On Wednesday 4th December Mark hosted a morning briefing with representatives from Unite, BAE Systems, the North West Aerospace Alliance, Lords, and Members of Parliament to discuss the future of the aerospace industry in the North West.

Some of the topics that were discussed included the importance of bringing more skills and jobs to the region, as well as discussing what Government should do to ensure that Britain remains a global leader. Mark will be holding a further event in the New Year, to which he will invite Vernon Coaker the Shadow Minister for Defence and Phillip Dunne the Minister for Defence Equipment, Technology and Support to respond to a discussion document that has come out of the recent event.

Guide Dogs

Mark has supported Guide Dogs UK's call for the installation of a vital safety feature on quiet hybrid and electric vehicles to keep pedestrians safe, by recently attending a reception at the Houses of Parliament.

Mark said: "Quiet vehicles pose a considerable threat to the safety of partially sighted or blind people and should be fitted with artificial sound generators so that they can hear vehicles approaching."

James White, Guide Dogs Campaigns Manager, said: "We welcome Mr Hendrick's support for our campaign. Quiet vehicles must be safe for all pedestrians and we urge the Department for Transport to take steps to ensure this happens."



Mark with Guide Dog User Tim Gebbels

Mark brings real ale to Parliament

Following a visit to Hart Brewery in Preston, Mark is in talks to make their cask ales and beers available in the House of Commons, Strangers' Bar.

The Strangers' Bar is open to MP's and officers of Parliament and their guests. The selection on offer will include PNE 1880, the 3.7% light coloured bottled session beer which the micro-brewery created in partnership with the Preston North End Football Club.

Harts has been brewing in Preston for the past three years and available in local pubs including the Old Black Bull and the Adelphi.

John Smith, Managing Director said: Mark was full of support for us, he has invited us down to Parliament next year to meet every one and have a tour."



Mark with John Smith, Managing Director and Peter Dean, Sales Manager at Hart Brewery

Foreign Affairs Committee

Visit to US

In November 2013, Mark joined members of the Foreign Affairs Committee to visit Washington and Boston, US.

A packed schedule included MIT's Globalisation and showcase of current UK/US partnerships within the institution, visits to Harvard University, a Winston Churchill Bust Dedication ceremony, a Plaque Presentation at Bryant University and meetings with Senators and Congressman.



Mark with Therese Murray, President, Massachusetts State Senate

Fracking

Mark has met with Senior Officials at Lancashire Council and Cuadrilla Resources to discuss the impact of Fracking in the region.

Hydraulic Fracturing or 'Fracking' is being developed on sites across Lancashire which may have environmental, social and financial impact on residents who live close to the proposed well sites.

Currently, an industry standard of 1% of revenue as well as payments of £100,000 per exploration site are earmarked for the local community. Mark raised his concerns about the need for new regulation during the exploration phase and the enshrinement in law of the 1% revenue.

Early day Motions

ILLICIT TOBACCO TRADE

4th December 2012

That this House calls for stronger penalties for the sale of counterfeit tobacco, including shisha tobacco, and an increased drive to secure more criminal prosecutions to reduce the trade in illicit tobacco, which is often linked to drugs, human trafficking and prostitution.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

9th January 2013

That this House condemns the recent bombing of a mosque and school inside Yarmouk camp in south-west Damascus by forces loyal to the Assad regime, and notes the loss of more than 700 Palestinian lives since the uprising began in March 2011

NATIONAL DEBATE ON CHILD PROTECTION

19 November 2013

That this House notes with regret the high-profile cases of child deaths as a result of child abuse and neglect in recent years, such as the cases of Victoria Climbié, Baby P, Keanu Williams, Hamzah Khan and others; further notes the recent case of Daniel Pelka in Coventry and the subsequent Serious Case Review; further notes the personal attention to the case of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families and his efforts to investigate potential failures to protect Daniel Pelka; further notes the extremely difficult nature of social work and stress that social workers can be under, particularly when understaffed; further notes that protecting children relies on the effective exchange of information between agencies including the police, schools, health visitors, hospitals, GPs, social workers, local authority social care and the local Safeguarding Children boards; further notes that in the majority of serious case reviews into failures to protect children, a key problem has been information-sharing between agencies.

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN F KENNEDY

11th November 2013

That this House notes the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on 22 November 1963 and the lasting impact it has had across the world; remembers and pays tribute to his presidency and the huge contribution he made to the civil rights movement, the reduction of nuclear weapons, the introduction of Medicaid, the establishment of the Peace Corps, space exploration, and ending the Cold War; recognises the unique characteristics Kennedy brought to the presidency, and that his youth, energy, charisma, compassion and continuous belief that politics can bring out the best in people embodies not just the generation of the 1960s but those to come

PRESTON GUILD

12th September 2012

That this House congratulates Preston City Council on the hosting of an extremely successful Preston Guild in its 10th anniversary year since receiving City status from Her Majesty The Queen; praises the tireless work of Guild Mayor Councillor Carl Crompton and the Guild Mayoress Councillor Mrs Linda Crompton; looks forward to the next Preston Guild in 20 years' time; and thanks all of the councillors and council staff who have worked so hard to make this year's Preston Guild the best ever.



Mark with Guild Mayor Carl Crompton and Mayoress Linda Crompton

Parliamentary Question

Written Questions

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will be affected by the planned increase in the number of qualifying years needed to gain a full state pension due to take place in April 2016.

15th May 2013



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- 18th November 2013 Egypt, Office for Unconventional Gas and Oil, Revenue and Customs: Preston, Smoking Taxation: Smoking, USA
- 12th November 2013 Egypt, Police: Lancashire
- 11th November 2013 Arms Trade: Egypt, Universal Credit
- 2nd July 2013 Police: Intelligence Services
- 16th May 2013 Local Government: Newspaper Press
- 15th May 2013 Local Government: Allowances and Pay, State Retirement Pensions

Spoken Questions

- 22 November 2013 European Union (Referendum) Bill
- 11 November 2013 Iran and Syria
- 21 October 2013 UK Nuclear Energy Programme
- 8 October 2013 Middle East Peace Process/Syria and Iran
- 9 September 2013 G20
- 29 August 2013 Syria and the Use of Chemical Weapons
- 4 July 2013 NATO
- 19 June 2013 Engagements
- 17 June 2013 Iran
- 12 June 2013 In Amenas Hostages [Westminster Hall]
- 20 May 2013 Syria
- 16 May 2013 Mental Health
- 10 May 2013 Jobs and Business
- 15 April 2013 G8 Foreign Ministers
- 5 March 2013 Mali
- Romanians and Bulgarians (Benefits)
- 1 March 2013 Human Rights Act 1998 (Repeal and Substitution) Bill
- International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Bill
- 30 January 2013 Europe
- 23 January 2013 Engagements
- 7 January 2013 Commission Work Programme 2013
- 19 December 2012 Shale Gas Profits [Westminster Hall]
- 11 December 2012 Israel and Palestine
- 20 November 2012 Middle East
- 31 October 2012 Multiannual Financial Framework
- 17 September 2012 West Coast Main Line [Westminster Hall]

Does the Prime Minister believe that it is fair that Preston city council, which represents one of the areas of highest deprivation and poverty in the country, is receiving a 12% cut in its local government funding, while his own West Oxfordshire district council receives a cut of only 1%? Will he look at that again and give Preston a fairer deal?'

23rd January 2013

The last Labour Government took 1 million children out of poverty. Figures released recently show that one in six children in this country now lives in poverty. In my constituency, one in three is living in poverty, compared with one in 10 in the Prime Minister's constituency. What is he going to do about it?

19th June 2013



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