



Alex Brewer MP

Monthly Newsletter

September in Review

Hello everyone!

As the weather turns colder, I've been reflecting on a busy summer.
From our summer roadshow to Autumn conference, it's been very busy with meetings, casework and speeches.

Continue reading to find out more!

September Highlight: Lib Dem Conference



Clockwise from left: Alex with Sir Ed Davey, Alex giving her speech on the hospitality sector, Alex speaking to LBC about the Lib Dems' values, Alex speaking at a panel on wellbeing poverty, Alex hearing from a sustainability charity.

September in UK politics means conference season. It's the time of the year when the major political parties host their main autumn conferences, and Parliament enters a brief recess to allow MPs to attend their respective conventions.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Lib Dem Conference this year, and I appreciated opportunities to:

Speak about things that are important to North East Hampshire

- I gave two speeches to Conference, one was about the challenges facing our hospitality sector, and the other was about the importance of protecting women and girls across the world.
- I have a lot of experience dealing with the latter topic, from my work on the Women and Equalities Select Committee, while hospitality is a subject of particular relevance, locally.
- Our hospitality sector has been struggling in recent years, but many of its most pressing issues have been behind the scenes – high energy prices, soaring business rates, and difficulty recruiting new staff following Labour's Jobs Tax – and so I was glad to raise awareness of these businesses' daily experiences.

Meet and talk with charities doing important work

- Lots of charities, community groups, and organisations attend Conference, and so it's always an excellent opportunity to learn about the things they need to change in Parliament to make their work easier.
- I met with dozens of different groups representing a variety of different issues and causes, from mental and physical health to energy efficiency and farming.
- It's always valuable to hear from those on the frontlines of these different topics, as their everyday first-hand experience allows them to provide MPs like me with insightful advice into how systems need to change.

Set out our policy positions, and values, as a party

- Ultimately, Conference is a place where political parties decide their vision, their policies, and their direction – it's where they decide and review who they are.
- This year, our focus was very much on emphasising our values, defining who we are and, consequently, who we oppose – and I spoke to ITV and LBC about how we intend to stand up for our values, and stand up against Reform, going forward.
- We also had a great rally, taking back patriotism from the nationalists, where Tim Farron gave an excellent speech on our version of patriotism – how we love our country and all of its diversity, and how we won't let the far right take our flags.

Overall, I had a great time at Conference, and now feel more prepared than ever to deliver for local people.

Now, having learned lots of incredibly useful information for my work as your MP, I'm eager to get back to work pushing for the change our community needs.

Casework Highlight: £28,000 Tax Bill Error

The problem

- A married couple in the constituency reached out asking for my help, after they were overcharged £27,000 on their tax bill by HMRC.
- When they reached out to HMRC to try and resolve this issue, they were told that they would have to wait over half a year for a response due to case backlog. This wait would see their bill become even larger as interest fees started to accumulate.
- Despite spending days calling HMRC, they were unable to make any progress.

How we helped

- A member of my team took this up directly with HMRC.
- In response, HMRC agreed to expedite the case, instantly conducting a review, including a complete recalculation of the tax bill charged to the couple. This new determination confirmed that the couple had been severely overcharged.
- The couple received a new tax bill that was £28,000 less than the original figure, along with a formal apology from HMRC for their error.

Reflections

- One of the reasons I entered into politics was to help people with experiences like this one, and so I was very glad that I was able to help with this issue.
- If you've encountered a similar problem, please do get in touch by emailing alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk
- Due to the volume of cases I receive, I have to prioritise responding to those who require my most urgent assistance. If you are currently waiting for a reply to your question, please know that I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Baton of Hope



I was incredibly proud to carry the Baton of Hope as part of its campaign to end the stigma around suicide.

Too many people lose their lives to suicide and too many of us have lost friends and loved ones this way.

Hartland Men's Shed



I visited Hartland Men's Shed Charity in Fleet to open their amazing new garden.

The Men's Shed provides a fantastic service, offering men a place to socialise and make friends, share and learn skills, and support each other's well-being and mental health.

One Town, Two MPs



I spoke to The Yateley Society about my path to becoming, and priorities as, an MP.

I was joined by neighbouring Aldershot MP Alex Baker to discuss how we're working together to address issues affecting the whole of Yateley,

It's vital that we demystify suicide by becoming more comfortable speaking about it openly, and campaigns like this are a tremendous help towards making this possible.

After opening the new garden, I was absolutely floored when the Shed's fantastic team unveiled a lovely plaque with my name on it. Thank you!

as the town is split across both our constituencies.

Key areas of collaboration include planning, changes to local transport, and to healthcare in our area.

Want to Get in Touch? Contact Me!

It's an honour and a privilege to serve as your MP for North East Hampshire, and I'm committed to working hard to repay this trust by being the best MP I can be.

My number one priority will always be helping and supporting my constituents. If you live in the North East Hampshire constituency, you can contact me via the channels listed below, and my team and I will get back to you as soon as we can.

- You can email me at: **alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk**
- You can leave me a voicemail at: **020-7219-7560**
- You can write to me at: **Alex Brewer MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

I'm here to represent you, and this monthly update is just one way I hope to keep you informed and engaged.



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