

Mike Hall MP Working for Weaver Vale



After sampling the award-winning ale 'First Light' produced at Frodsham Stationhouse Brewery, I was more than happy to arrange for it to be served in the MP's Strangers' Bar in the Palace of Westminster. Colleagues enjoyed it saying it was a great tasting and typical beer from the North. It was a pleasure to be able to support a local small business.

I have held a series of coffee mornings around the constituency throughout the year and will continue to do this in 2009. So far residents in Frodsham, Weaverham, Beechwood, Leftwich, Sandymoor, Castle, Helsby, Hartford, Murdishaw, Kingsley and Windmill Hill have had the chance to come along and meet me and my staff in an informal setting. These events have proved to be a valuable addition to my regular monthly surgeries, and the feedback from constituents has been most favourable.

Just before Christmas I called in at the Royal Mail Sorting Office in Frodsham and saw for myself the hard work involved in getting our cards, letters and packages delivered to our homes at the busiest time of the year. I enjoyed meeting with the staff and getting a feel for the unseen but important work that goes on before our postmen and women can get out on their rounds.

Lesley and I were pleased to take our dog, Max, along to Pet Education 4U, a service aimed at helping owners learn more about how to care for their pets. Just one session equips owners with the confidence to tackle the basic skills of first aid, dressing and medication, and is a unique facility which will benefit all Weaver Vale animal lovers.



Mike and Max at Dutton Locks

Parliamentary News

Mike Hall MP Annual Report to Constituents



WORKING FOR WEAVER VALE



Mike at Charles Darwin School

2008 proved to be the most challenging year since the creation of the Weaver Vale constituency in 1997. The credit crunch and global economic slow down hit home hard.

The Government responded by bringing forward a comprehensive set of measures to help hard working families during these trying economic times. I know 2009 will be difficult and the Government will continue to work day and night to get us through the economic crisis because doing nothing is not an option.



Mike Hall MP

2008 saw the long-awaited announcement from the Government that our troops will be brought home from Iraq in July. I offer my heartfelt thanks to all my constituents who have served our country. I believe the members of our armed forces have done a magnificent job in Iraq and have served with great distinction. I fully accept that Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and the Middle East continue to cause concern and progress in all three areas is needed in 2009.

The unusual prolonged freeze at the end of the year served to remind us that climate change is taking place and we need to do more to reduce our carbon footprint. The Climate Change Act 2008 puts Britain at the forefront of tackling climate change and we all need to strive harder to ensure we cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. The exceptionally cold weather also reminded us of the need to have an affordable and secure source of energy. Our local authorities and social landlords also need to look again at their gritting policy. Freezing weather and icy roads and footpaths saw many people confined to their own homes or falling and injuring themselves.

2008 had two huge highlights.

The Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games in Beijing saw great success for British athletes. We had our best tally of medals winning a remarkable 19 Golds in the main Olympics and 42 Golds in the Paralympics. We are privileged to have a Gold medal winner and a Silver medal winner living in Weaver Vale. This is a great incentive for our young athletes to start their preparations for the 2012 London Olympics.

I never thought I would see America elect a black President. Barack Obama is a young, thoughtful, charismatic leader who now has the huge responsibility to lead the world in building a safe, secure and economically stable new order. Britain and the USA must work together to meet those challenges.



Mike Hall with Jack Straw and Mike's office staff

In October 2008, to my complete surprise, Jack Straw the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice asked me to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary. I have known Jack for many years and was delighted to take up his offer.

November 11th 2008 marked the 90th Anniversary of the end of World War I. This made the Remembrance Day services at Northwich and Runcorn more poignant.

As the Member of Parliament for Weaver Vale the past 12 months have been the most challenging since my election as your Parliamentary representative in 1997. There is no doubt that 2009 will be equally as challenging. Please rest assured I will continue to work as hard as I can for all of my constituents over the coming year.

Mike Hall MP



Mike at Runcorn Cenotaph

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at the following monthly surgeries, dates may sometimes have to change so it is best to check with the office or see local press

1st Saturdays

Windmill Hill Playcentre	9.30-10.00am
Runcorn Library	10.15-11.45am
Beechwood Community Centre	12.00-12.30pm

2nd Fridays

Helsby Community Centre	4.45-5.15pm
Frodsham Community Centre	5.30-6.15pm
Owleywood Club, Weaverham	6.30-7.00pm

3rd Fridays

Northwich Memorial Hall	4.45-5.30pm
Emmanuel Church, Leftwich	5.45-6.15pm
Castle Private Club, Northwich	6.30-7.00pm

No appointment needed, everyone seen on a first come-first seen basis.

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Mike Hall MP - Working for Weaver Vale

Parents who work need to be sure that the care of their young children is in safe hands. I was pleased to visit a registered Child Minder with some of her young charges in National Child Minder week.



Another annual engagement for me is attending the George Musker Awards celebration at Northwich Rowing Club, where I have the opportunity to meet old and new friends and hear about another successful year for members, with excellent results at all levels.

I joined these happy Runcorn schoolchildren when they were presented with free equipment through the Tesco Computers for Schools scheme.



I had a wonderful time at Weaverham Forest Street Primary School when I went along to the launch of the new 'Trim Trail', in the school grounds. The imaginative and exciting play equipment was bought and installed thanks to fund-raising efforts by the Friends of the Forest Street Primary School and the PTA.

It was a delight to see the children enjoying the new facility.

A pleasant and now annual engagement for me is to visit Astmoor Primary School to present the Head Girl and Boy with awards to thank them for their year in office. This is always an enjoyable task and gives me the chance to meet with staff and pupils again.



The annual Speaker's Reception for Scouts is always a most enjoyable event. I was pleased to chat to local representatives of the organisation who made the trip to Westminster.



One of the most memorable events of the year for me was going along to the London launch of the Youth Unified Football Development Project. This scheme is designed

to break down social barriers by involving players both with learning disabilities and without in the same team. It was especially enjoyable for me as all the players representing Merseyside were members of the Halton Valiant Sports Club.

Kingsley St John's CE Primary School are very proud of the work done in the school grounds, a joint effort involving a grant from Vale Royal Borough Council and over 60 volunteers, led by British Conservation Trust. Trees and vegetables have been planted, a path giving access to the pond has been laid, and new seats installed for the use of pupils. I was pleased to call in at the school to see the finished project for myself.



The Mock Bar Trials are keenly fought competitions for High School students and this year I went along to Chester Crown Court to see teams from St Nicholas RC High School, Northwich and Helsby High School in action. I was very impressed with their confident performance.



My visits to schools right across the constituency take up a great part of my time on Fridays, which is the only weekday I am in Weaver Vale when Parliament is sitting. This group of children at Charles Darwin School, Northwich were lively and responsive with lots of questions and a real interest in everything.

In early December I was delighted to join the Warburton family in welcoming Jane Kennedy, Minister for Farming and the Environment to Hatley and Depmore Farms in Frodsham and Kingsley. The Warburtons' farms have been in the Environmental Stewardship Schemes since 2005, and they have instituted conservation projects on their farms as well as working very closely with local schoolchildren. This has been a truly successful project and I am so impressed with the enthusiasm the family have shown in embracing the scheme and taking it forward. I must also mention the lovely dog, Harry Potter, who was keen to join in the special visit!



I have regularly attended the Breathe Easy week organised by the very active Halton Group of the British Lung Foundation Support Network. They do a great job giving practical support and help to local residents and their families.



What a pleasure it was to meet my constituent, Albert Smith, when he came down to Portcullis House, Westminster to receive his HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge at a reception and presentation event. I also had the opportunity to present a Women's Land Army Badge to Mrs Doreen Smith. I felt proud to be able to personally thank these two constituents for the part they played during WWII.

I paid a couple of visits to Mid-Cheshire College during the year, including joining Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, when he officially opened the fine new Arts and Creative Media Building. I was also asked to help plant a tree at the college on Children in Need day and this was a pleasant task I was glad to perform.



It was very pleasing to call at the Weaverham home of one of my constituents, who was fortunate to be the 2,000th Weaver Vale Housing Trust tenant to have a new front door fitted, as part of a major project which will see 10,000 doors replaced. This is more great news for tenants and a good example of the Trust listening to the views of the residents.



What a thrill it was for me to meet with two successful Olympians, Rebecca Romero, Gold Medallist in Cycling, and our old friend from Northwich, Matthew Langridge, who secured a Silver medal as one of Great Britain's Men's Eight. These two outstanding competitors



and their success is a great incentive for other young sportsmen and women in Weaver Vale as we approach the 2012 Olympics in London.



I am a regular visitor to Halton Hospital and have recently had the pleasure of going into the newly opened Renal Unit, which is proving such a valuable facility for Weaver Vale residents needing dialysis. I was also happy to join with Ivan Lewis MP, Minister for Care Services, to look at the success and progress of the Age Concern Hospital Information Service Project. The scheme involves trained

volunteers working as a team with hospital staff. I thank all volunteers who give so much of their time in community projects right across Weaver Vale.

