



Kate Osborne MP

Monthly Newsletter May 2023

Dear Constituent,

I hope this email finds you well. I am emailing today with an update on my work in Parliament and the constituency.

Local elections

I want to start this update by thanking everyone who helped campaign on behalf of our Labour candidates at the recent local elections. We had some good results across the majority of our South Tyneside and Gateshead wards and made some headway in other wards too.

Congratulations to all who were elected and huge commiserations to the all the candidates who were unfortunately not successful but did an amazing job too.



International Workers Day

We kicked off May with a rally for International Workers Day – I spoke at the May Day rally in the Alberta, organised by South Tyneside Trades Council. It was a great event and I was joined by some great comrades, including Roger Nettleship from Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign Group and Terry McPartlan from Tyne & Wear Centre Against Unemployment. You can watch part of my speech to the rally [here](#).

International Workers Day is a celebration of our struggles, where we remind ourselves of the importance of our unions. The Tories are attacking workers'

rights, [#RightToStrike](#) & protest but we can take inspiration from workers that are fighting back.



Puppy Smuggling

As the cost of living crisis worsens, increasing numbers of dogs are being abandoned – yet the illegal importation of puppies continues. This month I joined Dogs Trust in Parliament to reaffirm my support for their campaign to tackle puppy smuggling and back their calls for a return of the Kept Animals Bill to Parliament.



Women's Football APPG

I was really pleased to have been elected vice chair of the Women's Football APPG this month – women's football is going from strength to strength with so many involved locally – inspired by our Lionesses!

Women's FA Cup Final

It was great to be at the Women's FA Cup Final in Wembley this month and to see women's football gaining the support it deserves – with a record-breaking attendance of 77,390 spectators. We must end inequality in funding and support women and girls football at grassroots as well as on the international stage.



In one of my regular columns for the Shields Gazette, I also discussed the inequality in funding and support for women and girls' football. You can read this in full [here](#).

Hope Not Hate

The Government consistently use inflammatory language which stirs up the far right and places asylum seekers and our communities at risk. Since 2022, anti-migrant activity around accommodation sites rose 102%. This month I met with Hope Not Hate in Parliament to discuss how we can challenge hate and support communities.



I also attended a fantastic event held by Hope Not Hate called 'They Shall Not Pass: 100 Years of Fascism and Anti-Fascism.' There was great music, great activism, and a great message that we will continue our fight against fascism and fight for equality with trans allyship.



ASLEF

I joined ASLEF members on the picket line in Newcastle this month. I will always stand in solidarity with workers in struggle – with the cost of living crisis and soaring inflation. Whilst I was on the picket line, I spoke to BBC North East and Cumbria about the ongoing dispute. Workers have been put in a position where they have no choice but to go on strike. The Government need to ensure the Rail Delivery Group put forward an offer that will end this dispute. You can watch my interview [here](#).



I also joined ASLEF in Parliament this month as part of their campaign for better quality train driving cabs and investment in our railways. It is vital that the Government and unions work together to get the best for rail workers, passengers, and our economy.



Climate and Ecology Bill

It is vital that Government set legally binding annual net-zero and nature restoration targets, including exploration, extraction or export of fossil fuels. I joined #CEBill Now campaigners to show my support for Olivia Blake MP (Sheffield Hallam) Climate and Ecology Bill.



#MindfulOfHuntingtons

I joined Cath Stanley from Huntington's Disease Association in Parliament as part of their Mindful Of Huntington's Campaign raising awareness of Huntington's Disease and the biggest challenge those living with the condition face.

We must improve public services to ensure those affected can live the best lives possible.



South Tyneside Council Children's Services.

We want and deserve the best for children in South Tyneside – I am extremely concerned with the inadequate rating set by Ofsted for South Tyneside Children's Services and my office has since met with the Leader and Chief Executive of South Tyneside Council to discuss this.

Below is my statement on this rating – which was written ahead of meeting the Leader and Chief Exec.

South Tyneside Council - Children's Services

I'm extremely concerned with the inadequate rating set by Ofsted and I have requested an urgent meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive of South Tyneside Council to discuss this important issue further.

Of course, findings such as this are beyond disappointing. It is incredibly worrying to see there has been a further decline in services since the last inspection in 2017. I note that South Tyneside Council have already accepted that there are areas that need improvement and taken some immediate actions. The council have said they are committed to driving up standards for children and young people in their care. I will be having regular discussions with them to monitor that commitment and their progress.

We want and deserve the best for children in South Tyneside, I have already had constituents contact me with their concerns and I will speak to the local authority at the earliest opportunity to see if I can provide any additional help and support at this time.



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Women and Equalities

I chaired a one-off session of the Women and Equalities Select Committee which was a discussion on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). I asked both panels if there was a risk that in reviewing RSE teaching and gender issues in particular, that we'd repeat the failings of Section 28. You can watch the response Dr Sophie King-Hill gave when I asked this question [here](#).

I discussed sex education further with BBC Radio Newcastle, you can listen to a clip if my interview [here](#).

We have to ensure our kids are getting the education they need without tying teachers' hands behind their backs. I share concerns raised by unions & campaign groups that this review may have harmful consequences if we aren't careful.

Another important enquiry the Women and Equalities committee is undertaking is looking into Misogyny in Music. One session this month focussed on women's safety at live music events and the gender balance of festival line-ups. You can see a clip of my first question [here](#) – where I asked about the impact the gender balance of line-ups has on ticket sales.

International Nurses Day & RCN Strike

This month we celebrated International Nurses Day – I took the opportunity to express my gratitude to all of our nursing staff and all the brilliant frontline workers in our NHS for their sacrifice and selfless service.

RCN Strike

I kicked off May standing in solidarity with RCN nurses on the picket line outside of the QE hospital in Gateshead. Nurses are taking industrial action for fair pay, safe care and for the future of our NHS.



RMT Picket Line

It was great to join RMT members, Ian Lavery MP (Wansbeck) and North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll on the picket line at Central Station this month where rail workers continued their fight for good pay and secure jobs. The Minister needs to urgently meet with the RMT and end rail chaos and the 'toxic' dispute.



Thank you South Shields FC!

I popped along to South Shields Football Club to collect an extremely generous raffle prize ahead of my Pie, Peas and Politics fundraiser – a signed, framed South Shields FC shirt! A big thank you to chairman Geoff Thompson, Director of Football Carl Mowatt and everyone at the club for their ongoing support.



Meal with team at Turkish Kebab House in Hebburn

Before my fundraiser, I had a lovely meal out with my brilliant team at Turkish Kebab House in Hebburn town centre. The food is absolutely delicious. If you haven't already, pop down there and give it a try!



Pie, Peas, Pints and Politics Fundraiser

I want to thank everyone who was able to come along to my pie & peas fundraiser at the Elmfield this month. It was a fantastic evening with lots of money raised towards my general election fighting fund. With special thanks to North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll – our guest speaker, Shamrock Street for some incredible live music, The Elmfield Social Club staff for use of a brilliant venue and looking after us for the night, Charlie – the resident DJ for providing music and to the Kelly Deli for providing the delicious pie and peas. I would also like to thank everyone who generously donated prizes for our raffle!

If you would like to donate still towards my fighting fund, you can do so [here](#).



Thank you Amanda & Sami!

Over the past few months I've had two brilliant Politics students from Newcastle University on placement as part of their studies. As their work and final poster shows - the cost of living crisis continues to hit our area hard. A big thank you to Amanda and Sami for their hard work and contribution to Team Jarra!



Campaign Committee

It was great to join Labour Party members at my first Campaign Committee meeting this month where we shared ideas on getting General Election ready. If anyone would like more info on joining future Campaign Committee meetings, please e-mail kateosborneforjarrow@gmail.com



Romani Resistance Day

Solidarity with Roma people worldwide experiencing discrimination and prejudice. We must commit ourselves to challenge hate and prejudice to create a safe society for all.



Kate Osborne MP
@KateOsborneMP

Today is [#RomaniResistanceDay](#)

I stand in solidarity with Roma people worldwide experiencing discrimination and prejudice.

We must commit ourselves to challenge hate and prejudice to create a safe society for all.



Rainbow Honours Awards

It was a pleasure to attend the Rainbow Honours Awards on International Day Against Homophobia and Biphobia Day to celebrate individuals and organisations who work all year to influence change and proudly promote LGBTQIA equality and shine a light on those unsung in the LGBTQIA community.



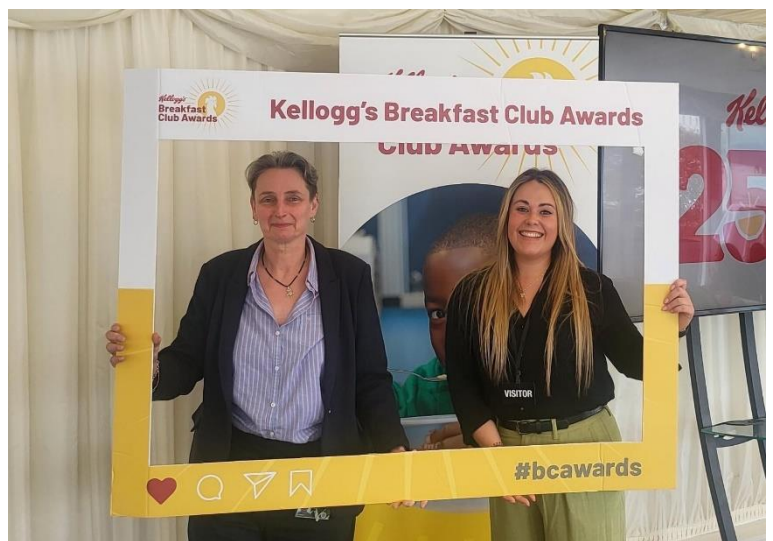
Mental Health Awareness Week

I joined the Mental Health Foundation in Parliament for Mental Health Awareness Week. This year's theme is anxiety - 34% of adults report feeling anxious, and 29% feeling stressed in the past month. Preventing mental health problems is vital and the Government must do more to ensure support is accessible.



Kellogg's Breakfast Club Awards

I joined Kellogg's Breakfast Club Awards in Parliament this month with schools from across the UK - it was great to be a judge for these brilliant awards too! No child should go to school hungry & breakfast clubs have such an important impact on children's health and education.



Best of South Tyneside Awards

It was an honour to attend the Best of South Tyneside Awards which was held at South Shields Football Club. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for an award and a special mention to Bede's Helping Hands, Hebburn Helps, Jack Lewis, Nicola Robertson, Monkton Gymnastics Club, HLA Services, Hebburn Renewable Energy Scheme, South Tyneside Ability FC, Martyn Devlin from Bilton Hall Boxing ABC and Ian Davies who were all nominated from the wonderful Jarrow Constituency.



Siemens visit

I met with Colin Henry at Siemens in Hebburn. We had some good discussions around how as an employer Siemens plan to expand their community engagement. It is great to have large employers such as Siemens in the constituency who continue to develop important community relationships!



PACE Equalities Council of Europe

I attended the PACE Equality as Council of Europe UK delegate for the LGBTQI+ people in Europe Conference. It is appalling that the UK has fallen to 17th place in ILGA Europe's annual ranking of LGBTQI+ rights across Europe. The UK is going backwards when it comes to LGBTQI+ rights in the UK & across the globe.



Right to Strike Statement

The Right to Strike is a fundamental human right. Workers do not want to strike – in many cases they are on strike to defend your vital services, instead of threatening workers. This Government should be supporting them and settling the disputes.

Instead of inflaming the situation with their anti-worker rhetoric the Government should start dealing with the reality of why more workers are taking action: low wages, fuel and food poverty and cuts to essential public services.

My full statement on the Anti Strikes Bill below:

RIGHT TO STRIKE



Tonight Parliament will vote on the Government's new Anti-Strike law. This law will mean workers like nurses, teachers, railway workers could face the sack for taking strike action to defend their employment rights, pay, and conditions.

The right to strike is a fundamental human right.

Workers do not want to strike - in many cases they are on strike to defend your vital services, instead of threatening workers - this Government should be supporting them and settling the disputes.

This affects us all.

Our hospitals and our NHS are crumbling, Social Care and Schools are understaffed and under resourced our public services are collapsing because of the deliberate underfunding and running down of services from successive Tory governments. This legislation is yet another attack on our communities and on the most vulnerable.

We see through the Tories lies and spin.

We do not need minimum service level legislation. Minimum service levels would exist if this government hadn't asset stripped, underfunded and privatised our core services. In fact our NHS would love to have a decent service level everyday - but can't because this government refuses to deal with the crisis in staffing in the NHS.

Instead of inflaming the situation with their anti-worker rhetoric the Government should start dealing with the reality of why more workers are taking action: low wages, fuel and food poverty and cuts to essential public services.

I am out of the country on official parliamentary business at a European Equality Committee so my vote has been paired with a Conservative MP who is absent - meaning it will not make a difference to the vote.

Rest assured I am absolutely opposed to this vile Bill, and I will continue to speak out and to do all I can to ensure this awful legislation is never implemented.



KATEOSBORNEMP

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Same Sex IVF

LGBTQ+ people face a postcode lottery when it comes to NHS fertility treatment.

This Government must clearly outline plans to improve access to IVF and set out a clear timeline for the Women's Health Strategy to end unequal access to IVF treatment for LGBTQ+ people.

IVF postcode lottery: Same-sex couples still being forced to spend up to £25k despite pledge to fix system

Just four local health bodies offer NHS-funded fertility treatment to help women in same-sex relationships conceive biologically

Kate Osborne, the Labour MP for Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, said she was "saddened" to see there has been "little progress in terms of equal access to IVF" since she went through the same-sex IVF process with her partner 14 years ago.

She said: "The process remains a hugely costly process, both financially and emotionally, with unfair financial barriers in place for same-sex couples wanting to start their own families – essentially creating an LGBT+ fertility tax.

"The Government must clearly outline their plans to improve access to IVF, to put an end to the postcode lottery for NHS fertility treatment and do more to ensure the LGBT+ community has equal access in all walks of life and set out a clear timeline for when the Women's Health Strategy commitments will be implemented to end unequal access to IVF treatment for LGBT+ people."

Shields Gazette column

In my latest fortnightly column for the Shields Gazette, I explained that the burden of the cost of living crisis shouldn't fall on working people, local businesses & our communities. Our local businesses must have the support they need to thrive and prosper.

You can read my column [here](#).



THE SHIELDS
Gazette

BREAKING

Car crashes into Downing Street gates -...



Opinion

KATE OSBORNE: This government is putting profit over people

With inflation remaining perilously high and food prices worryingly up by almost 20 per cent, the cost of living crisis continues to hit hard.

Small businesses, the very backbone of our communities, are also suffering as a result of huge hikes in energy bills with many already going under and others worrying about how they are going to make ends meet.

Visit to Fellgate Primary School

It is always great to visit the many brilliant schools across the Jarrow constituency.

I joined Mrs Tones from Fellgate Primary School to see the new Autism Hub sensory room and spoke with Years 3 and 4 about what it is like to be an MP as well as having a great chat with Arnie about London!



Early Day Motions (EDMs)

This month I supported more Early Day Motions, including Grahame Morris MP's motion for Foster Care Fortnight. I was a foster carer before I became an MP and it is so important that the Government supports programmes that address the unique needs and challenges faced by foster carers.

Foster Care Fortnight, 15-28 May 2023

EDM 1167: tabled on 15 May 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 21 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

This House recognises the importance of foster care in providing loving and stable homes for children unable to live with their families; acknowledges the significant impact foster care has on the well-being and life opportunities of these children; supports Foster Care Fortnight between 15 and 28 May 2023, an initiative organised by The Fostering Network, a leading fostering charity; believes the campaign presents an invaluable opportunity to raise awareness about the urgent need for more foster families and to highlight the positive outcomes that can be achieved through foster care; welcomes the efforts of Foster Care Fortnight in encouraging individuals and families to consider becoming foster carers and highlights the crucial role that well-matched placements play in ensuring positive experiences and successful outcomes for children in foster care; furthermore, calls on Ministers to recognise and properly reward the exceptional contribution made by foster carers to our society, ensuring ongoing support, training and resources are accessible to allow foster carers to deliver the best possible care to children; urges the Government to invest in comprehensive support programs that address the unique needs and challenges faced by foster carers; and finally encourages all Members to actively promote Foster Care Fortnight within their constituencies and engage with local fostering services to raise awareness, recruit foster carers, and support the vital work they do.

I signed Ian Lavery MP's motion calling on the Government to act and end the use of zero hours contracts. Since 2004 the number of UK workers on zero hour contracts has increased tenfold. There are 1.1 million workers currently employed on a zero hour contract - including 33,000 in the North East.

Zero hours contracts

EDM 1184: tabled on 18 May 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 15 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House notes the data released by The Office for National Statistics that shows that 1.1 million UK workers are employed on zero hours contracts, a ten fold increase since 2004; understands that in England 3.5 percent of those in work, have no set hours, meaning they are often unaware of how many shifts they will work each week or what they will be paid, this includes 33,000 workers in the North East; notes that the comparative figures for the rest of the UK are Northern Ireland 1.3 per cent, Wales 2.8 per cent and Scotland 3.9 per cent; believes that sectors such as food and accommodation, health and social care and elementary occupations use zero hours contracts the most and that young people, especially those working and in full time education and workers born outside of the UK are disproportionately affected by this form of precarious employment; and calls on the UK and devolved Governments, public bodies and businesses to take action to end the use of zero hours contracts across the economy.

Food prices are rocketing and food workers are struggling to afford the products of their own labour. I've signed my name to Ian Mearns MP motion calling on Govt to raise pay throughout food supply chains, outlaw exploitative 0hrs contracts & calling for a statutory Right to Food.

Food workers, prices and poverty

EDM 1152: tabled on 10 May 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 13 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House is shocked by the findings of the Foodworkers on the Breadline report published by the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union based on a recent survey of members working in food manufacturing and retail; notes that, alarmingly, four in ten respondents reported having to skip meals for financial reasons, whilst one in five report using food banks themselves; believes that it is utterly unacceptable that, at a time when food prices have hit levels not seen in the UK for decades, workers are left unable to afford the products of their own labour; calls for trade unions to be invited to participate in the forthcoming UK Food Summit; urges immediate Government action to raise pay throughout food supply chains, outlaw exploitative zero hours contracts, whilst also tackling the culture of rampant corporate profiteering, particularly by the big supermarkets; and supports the incorporation of a statutory Right to Food in UK legislation.

You can see all EDMs that I have signed [here](#).

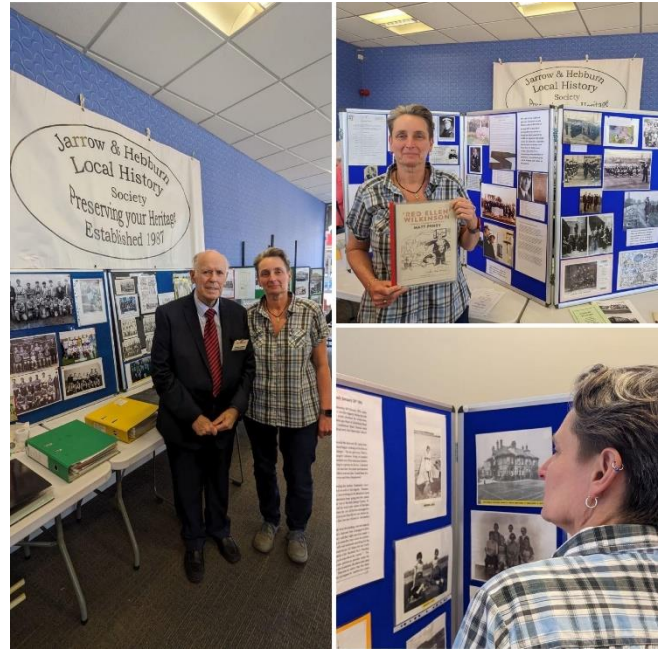
Jarrow Folk Festival

I had a lovely day at Jarrow Hall for the Jarrow Folk Festival. It was great to look around the exhibitions in Jarrow Hall and see our local community come together on Bank Holiday weekend to enjoy the sun, music and food and drinks from the Hive Coffee Company.



Jarrow and Hebburn Local History Society

As part of Jarrow Festival, I had a great time looking at the pictures from the Jarrow and Hebburn Local History Society and their Memories of Jarrow and Hebburn displays. A big thank you to everyone who organised such a fantastic day. I'll be back to meet with the Society soon!



Advice Surgeries

I have held two advice surgeries this month in Hebburn and at Hedworthfield Community Association. Lots of issues have been discussed including housing, disconnected Government departments, social services and student finance.

Details of June's advice surgery schedule are on the graphic. If you need any help or advice about any issues or problems you face, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

KATE OSBORNE MP'S JUNE ADVICE SURGERY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 2ND	4:00PM JARROW
THURSDAY 15TH	12.30PM HEBBURN
SATURDAY 24TH	10.30AM BOLDON

Attendance by appointment only
Please email kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk or phone 0191 4661509 to book.

Appointments will last no longer than 15 mins, are only open to residents of the Jarrow constituency & may be with a caseworker

KATE OSBORNE MP KATE-OSBORNE.CO.UK

KATE OSBORNE MP PROUDLY REPRESENTING...
Bede / Boldon Colliery / Cleadon & East Boldon / Fellgate & Hedworth / Hebburn North
Hebburn South / Monkton / Primrose / Pelaw & Heworth / Wardley & Leam Lane

Upcoming events

1. Jarrow Rebel Town Festival

I am really look forward to speaking at the 7th annual Jarrow Rebel Town Festival, which is taking place on Saturday 17th June.



**REBEL TOWN
FESTIVAL**

Including the Seventh Annual Commemoration
of events in Jarrow in the 1830s

Saturday 17th June 2023

SPEAKERS

Kate Osborne MP
Member for Jarrow

Alan Mardghum
General Secretary, Durham Miners' Association

Alex Gordon
National President, RMT

David John Douglass
Follonsby Miners Lodge Association and former NUM official

Vin Wynne
National Education Union
Other speakers TBC

Felling Silver Band & Follonsby
Wardley Miners Lodge Banner

Followed by refreshments, stalls and
music at the Albion Gin & Ale House.



We need to raise money to help organisers plan a fantastic vibrant day and to ensure the Rebels get the recognition they deserve 🍷

For more info and to donate (if you're able) click here 🖱️

<https://kate-osborne.co.uk/jarrow-rebel-festival-fundraiser/>

2. Coffee morning

On Friday 9th June I am holding a coffee morning at Rosie's Café in Jarrow from 9am to 10.30am.

Come along, have a cuppa & a chat about what matters to you both locally and nationally.

Hope to see you there!



The poster features a red background with white coffee-related icons like cups and beans. The main text 'Coffee morning' is in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, 'WITH KATE OSBORNE MP' is written in white on a red banner. A white box contains the date 'FRIDAY 9TH JUNE' and the time '9AM TO 10.30AM'. The location 'ROSIE'S CAFE, 6 VIKING PRECINCT VIKING CENTRE, JARROW NE32 3LQ' is listed below. A portrait of Kate Osborne is on the right. At the bottom left is a circular logo for 'KATE OSBORNE THE JARROW CONSTITUENCY'. The bottom right contains social media icons and contact information: 'KATE OSBORNE MP', 'KATE-OSBORNE.CO.UK', 'KATE.OSBORNE.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK', and '0191 466 1509'.

General Election Fighting Fund

You can help with our General election plans by making a donation online [here](#).

Donations will go towards the next general election campaign – 10% of all donations will go to our local foodbanks. (Donation policy can be read in full via my website)

Stay up to date with my work via my social media channels:

Website: www.kate-osborne.co.uk

Twitter: @KateOsborneMP

Facebook: @KateOsborneMP

Instagram: @KateOsborneMP

Tiktok: @kate.osborne.mp

If you need assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me via kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk or by calling my office on 0191 466 1509.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Osborne MP