



Dr Phillip Lee MP
Serving Bracknell, Crowthorne, Finchampstead and Sandhurst

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Theresa May's new Government

I was delighted that my friend and colleague Theresa May was appointed as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on July 11th. Theresa offers the experience, stability and credibility to lead our country through the challenging times ahead and I have every confidence that she will be an excellent Prime Minister.

I was honoured and humbled to be asked to join the new Government as a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice. I am grateful for the opportunity to further

serve my country as a member of the Government and am looking forward to the challenges that my new role presents as Minister for Victims, Youth and Family Justice.

Dr Phillip Lee MP calls for urgent action on liver disease in Bracknell



Dr Lee speaks to an audience of clinicians, parliamentarians and policy makers on the need to improve research and medical services for those at risk or currently suffering from liver disease

On 5 July 2016, I hosted a joint reception with both the Lancet Commission on Liver Disease and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Liver Health to help raise awareness of the increasing burden of liver disease in the UK and to call for improvements in its prevention and management.

Liver disease constitutes the third most common cause of premature death in the UK and this burden continues to rise, as do the costs associated with its management. Liver disease mortality rates have increased 400 per cent since 1970 and more than 1 million hospital admissions per year are a result of alcohol-related disorders.

Having received a full briefing on the burden of liver disease in Bracknell, I pledged my support for urgent action to improve services for people with or at risk of developing liver disease, in line with the recommendations made by the Lancet Commission.

Bracknell's Koh-I-Noor cooks up a storm in Parliament



Dr Lee with the Koh-I-Noor team

On 12th July, Bracknell restaurant The Koh-I-Noor took part in the grand final of the prestigious Tiffin Cup in Parliament.

One of ten national finalists, the Koh-I-Noor's cooking received high praise from the panel of judges, including celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott and Eastenders actress Nina Wadia. The annual event serves not only to recognise some of the best South Asian cuisine in the UK, but also raises funds for Water Aid and World Vision.

It was a particularly poignant achievement, given the tragic news just days before the final that the Koh-I-Nor's owner, Jan Leahy, had been involved in a road traffic incident and was in a serious condition in hospital. It was with great sadness that I learnt of Jan's death eleven days after the accident and a few days after the final. By all accounts Jan was an extremely likeable, kind and generous person, who was renowned for her sense of fun and selfless nature. My thoughts are with her family and friends at this very difficult time.

**UPDATE: Broadband campaign at the
Parks**



The public meeting at The Parks, Bracknell

Following the public meeting I held at The Parks back in May, where it was announced that Taylor Wimpey and BT will fund the upgrade of the two remaining broadband cabinets, I have since met with BT to discuss the timeline for the delivery of the service.

BT have stated that they are on track for completion by the end of May 2017. Parks residents can follow the progress of the upgrade here: www.superfast-openreach.co.uk. Residents will need to enter their telephone number or postcode and it will bring up the current status of the respective cabinet and where it is on the delivery journey. Please note that this will not change on a weekly basis as each stage takes a bit of time, but it will give you an indication of the different stages involved and a rough timeline.

Meeting with NCS Participants at Syngenta International Research Centre

On 15th July I met with local participants of the National Citizen Service (NCS) at the Syngenta International Research Centre in Bracknell. NCS is the UK's flagship youth programme for 15 to 17 year olds that exposes young people to social action at an early stage, embeds voluntary and community work and reinforces the importance of citizenship. More than 2000 young people will take part in NCS across Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire this summer.

The day at Syngenta formed part of the skills section of the programme, enabling students to experience first-hand the work that businesses such as Syngenta undertake, as well as affording the opportunity to learn about the skills needed in the workplace and gain an understanding about local industry.

It was great to spend time with the local students, who all seemed to thoroughly enjoy learning in a new environment and getting to grips with tasks in the laboratory. We were given a tour of Syngenta's greenhouse and experienced the different climates needed to optimise the growth of rice, sugar cane, soybean and cereals. Students were able to try their hand at crop pollination and learning about the use of robotics in formulation.

This is the first opportunity I have had to meet an NCS group and I was very impressed. It was clear from talking to the young people that their involvement helped to broaden their horizons, not just in the areas of work, but also in team building and helping people who are less fortunate than themselves. I would like to thank Syngenta for their involvement; we are fortunate to have so many locally-based companies who are willing to commit their time, resources and staff to community projects such as the NCS.

To find out more about the NCS programme, visit ncsthechallenge.org.

Speaking at the IEA's Question Time event



The IEA Question Time panel

I was pleased to take part as one of four panellists on the Institute of Economic Affairs' (IEA) 'Question Time' event.

Along with The Times' columnist Philip Collins, Professor Philip Booth and Mark Littlewood, Director General of the IEA, I debated topics such as Britain and the EU - what next?; public service broadcasting in the digital age; healthcare and the NHS; and poverty and inequality - have we really lost sight of what matters?

The session took a similar format to that of the BBC show, whilst taking a broader look at free-market economics, public policy and political economy, as well as the usual take on current affairs. It certainly made for a lively discussion and threw up some interesting questions from the floor.



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