

# Christina Rees MP

Monthly Report - November 2017



## Carl Sargeant 1968 - 2017

A Tribute to "The Sarge"

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to my friend Carl Sargeant. Carl was a unique, larger-than-life character, universally loved and admired across the National Assembly and the Labour Party. His contribution to Welsh public life is unquestionable. He was hugely popular in his community, a place he fought for all his life. He was not only a tireless campaigner, and a sublime communicator, but also one of the most effective Government Ministers in history. He took through more legislation than any other Minister, and was a can-do guy - he would always listen to ideas and do everything in his power to make things happen. He will be a great loss to the Senedd, the Labour Party and Wales. I will miss his friendship, warmth and big heart.

## THE ROYAL WELSH IN PARLIAMENT

On my first week back in Parliament I was privileged to meet Major Mark Lewis of the Royal Welsh Regiment. Major Lewis was in Parliament as part of the Welsh Regiments Parliamentary reception. It was a pleasure to hear about all the good work undertaken by the regiments and what a busy year they have had. Major Lewis was my partner for the event and looked after me throughout, providing lots of useful insights.



Christmas begins in Neath on Friday 24th November when Santa comes to town for Neath Town Council's Christmas Lights switch on.



This month Neath marked Remembrance Sunday with great pride once again, with events on Saturday and Sunday organised by the Royal British Legion Neath Branch, NPTCBC and Neath Town Council. Both events were very well attended as always, honouring those who have fallen while serving their country.

## JEREMY MILES AM – COUNSEL GENERAL

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to my Assembly colleague Jeremy Miles, who has been appointed the Welsh Government's Counsel General. The role takes advantage of Jeremy's considerable experience as a lawyer, and his responsibilities include the provision of legal advice to the Government, overseeing the work of the Legal Services Department and any prosecutions, and representation of the Welsh Government in the courts.

Jeremy is a great advocate of Neath and will be a fantastic Counsel General. The role is also a member of the Cabinet, putting Jeremy right at the heart of Government during his first term as an Assembly Member, an achievement in itself.



## Welsh Team Maintain Pressure

### Shadow Welsh Team tackle Government at Welsh Questions

On the 1st November the most recent Welsh Questions took place in Parliament ahead of fiery Prime Minister's Questions. Deputising for Shadow Secretary of State Chris Rees was Welsh Whip Jessica Morden MP, who joined Shadow Minister Chris Ruane on the front bench to tackle Alun Cairns and Guto Bebb on issues such as rail electrification, Heathrow expansion, leaving the EU and infrastructure investment.

Commenting on recent comments made by the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Jessica

Morden asked Alun Cairns whether he agreed with Andrew RT Davies who went on record to state that electrification of the line to Swansea would be beneficial and should still take place, in contradiction to that of his UK Government. Cairns failed to acknowledge the difference of opinion, trotting out his usual line about upgraded technology. A poor effort indeed.



## NEATH LABOUR PARTY ANNUAL DINNER

On Friday 10th November Neath CLP held its annual dinner at The Castle Hotel. Hosted by our President Mrs. Gwenda Thomas, the guest speaker was Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, who gave a personal tribute to his colleague Carl Sergeant and reminded members of the history of the Labour Party and how its values underpin the Welsh Government's policies and programmes. The catering at the Castle was first-class, and thanks must go to them for their hospitality. Entertainment was provided by Well Seasoned, who raise money for Air Ambulance Wales. Once again our Social Secretary Cllr. Shelia Penry delivered an impeccable event enjoyed by all, and I'd like to express my personal thanks for all that she does.