

# Christina Rees MP

Monthly Report - March 2018



## Welsh Questions

### MPs question UK Government on Wales

The latest round of Questions to the Secretary of State for Wales took place on the 14th March, where MPs took to the Chamber to raise a wide range of issues including cross border economic links, rail infrastructure and steel. The Member for Newport East, Jess Morden, once again pressed the Government on overcrowding and unreliable rail services, only to be answered with the usual rhetoric and spin.

Shadow Secretary of State for Wales, Christina Rees MP, was at the dispatch box to question the Welsh Secretary on the UK Government's power grab in the form of Clause 11 of the EU (Withdrawal) Bill. The UK Government's amendments tabled in the Lords state that UK Ministers merely consult Welsh Government Ministers, not ask for their consent. The UK Government intend to implement this by permanently altering the Government of Wales Act (2006).

## WELSH LABOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On Saturday 10th March I was thrilled to introduce guest speaker Harriet Harman at the Welsh Labour Women's Conference in Cardiff. I was honoured to be part of a panel with Jane Hutt AM (longest serving Labour Minister in history) and Cllr. Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport Council and the WLGA.



I was delighted to mark International Women's Day in Neath by attending a screening of Made in Dagenham in Dove Workshop organised by Mair Francis and colleagues.



This past month I joined Mark Drakeford and Emily Thornberry on the campaign in Haverford West, where I was delighted to chair a discussion with members. A lively discussion was had on a wide range of subjects including devolution, foreign policy and economic development.

## NEATH BUSINESS LEADS INNOVATION

Reducing the use of single-use plastic is a hot topic at the moment, and the one of the biggest problems is the abundance of mineral water bottles discarded every year. Neath resident Nick Davis and his company HydraChill is tackling the issue head on, establishing a network of water refilling stations. The stations work by providing free chilled water and an offer of a reusable sports bottle for £2. Supporting the cause, Christina hosted a reception in Westminster for Nick and his colleague and HydraChill to promote the machines to MPs and Peers. The reception was well attended and made progress in gaining the exposure needed to increase the scale of the roll out across the UK, directly tackling the problem of plastic waste.



## Wales in Westminster

### Welsh MPs and Shadow Secretary of State provide voice for Wales

This past month has seen Welsh MPs working hard in Westminster, standing up for Wales and holding this shambolic UK Government to account. Issues raised have included steel procurement, welfare reform, Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon and rail electrification.

Brexit remains one of the biggest issues facing Wales, and the Shadow Welsh Team have been working with colleagues from both the Shadow Cabinet and Welsh Government in order to table amendments to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill and Trade Bill that will protect Wales, its people and

its businesses against the impact of a hard Brexit should the UK Government fail to deliver a deal before we leave the EU. As part of this process, Labour MPs from Wales and Scotland met this month to discuss such issues, and the effect on Welsh and Scottish ports of a hard border in Ireland. The meeting was very productive and the start of an important dialogue amongst Labour MPs from the devolved nations.



## ST. DAVID'S DAY IN WESTMINSTER

This year's St. David's was marked in Westminster with a special service in The Chapel of St. Mary's Undercroft. The location was the perfect setting for a service which included a performance from a superb Welsh Tenor and Welsh harpist, as well as a rendition of Calon Lan by children from the London Welsh Primary School.

Readings were given by Glyn Davies MP, on behalf of the Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns MP, Ben Lake MP, and Christina Rees MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales. The event was officiated by the Speaker's Chaplain, Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin who done a wonderful job.

