



Annual Report
2002/2003

Mark Todd

Member of Parliament for
South Derbyshire

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A report covering my sixth year as MP for South Derbyshire

I was elected Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire on 1 May 1997 and re-elected on 7 June 2001. This report covers my sixth year as your MP. The first 5 reports are still available.

Since my last report I've been appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Baroness Symons, Foreign Office Minister responsible for the Middle East.

I am contacted on a host of matters and in a number of ways. People pop into the Church Gresley office, telephone, fax and (increasingly) e-mail me in order to raise matters. It has been a challenging year with Iraq and the threat of terrorism high on the national agenda but the day to day realities of life - employment, health, education, mortgages and rent, pensions and savings - are also frequent topics. You'll see from the graph of issues on page 3 which were the most frequent subjects raised.

The UK economy has been able to cope better than most with the global economic downturn. This has meant that we have continued to build on record high levels of employment, maintain low interest rates and keep inflation at a reasonable level.

The extra investment in our **public services** is showing results with improving standards and more adequately staffed schools and hospitals, and new public buildings.

I am piloting my own piece of legislation, The **Co-operatives & Community Benefit Societies Bill**, through Parliament. The aim of the Bill is to reduce regulation faced by community benefit societies and co-operatives, allowing them to increase the scope of their activities and protect them from asset stripping. It has attracted all-party support and should be an Act of Parliament in July.

I continue to chair the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Motor Neurone Disease and remain Secretary of the APPG on Pharmacy.

I am pleased so much has been achieved in South Derbyshire over the last year and look forward to many more successes (and any challenges!) in the coming year.

"He is one of the busiest MPs in the Commons, with a constant stream of written and oral questions". BBCi Politics



Parliamentary statistics

1 July 2002-20 June 2003

- 36 Speeches or contributions to debates
- 16 Oral questions
- 71 Written questions to ministers

all of these can be viewed on the parliamentary web site: www.parliament.uk

- 1,628 cases taken up on behalf of constituents
- in addition I have received and presented several petitions



Above: Opening new classroom block at St George's Primary, Church Gresley

St George's Primary School Investment in our local schools was neglected for many years. We have started to make real progress. The star event this year was the opening of a new classroom block and refurbishment at St George's, Church Gresley. This allowed the removal of a "temporary classroom" from the small playground and the return of the front-room of a neighbour's house.

Swadlincote Clinic Work is planned to start next year on the new Swadlincote Clinic offering extra GPs and dentists and extended outpatient services to meet growing population needs.

Employment & Regeneration

South Derbyshire continues to attract new investment and employment. **Toyota** launched the new Avenis and have added an extra shift at Burnaston creating 1000 new jobs. The **Morrisons** superstore and **Bisons** cement plant planned for Swadlincote will bring hundreds more. Unemployment in the constituency has not been as low since the early 1970s.

Road schemes large and small have benefited parts of the constituency. The new **Alvaston by-pass** will relieve traffic from Shardlow Road and its junctions. Traffic calming at **Bretby Lane**, which I argued for on behalf of residents has reduced speed on this rural road on the edge of Burton upon Trent. I have also consistently argued for modifications to the **traffic calming scheme in Boulton**.

New Hospital

Work has started on the new Derby Hospital serving the north of our area. This huge project will cost over £300 million, bringing modern services together on one site, with 42 beds beyond those in the existing hospitals and bringing nearly 1000 extra jobs - 435 more nurses and 152 extra doctors. There'll be 45 fewer managers.

Miners Compensation

I lead the group that brings together MPs, officials and Union representatives to monitor the handling of local coal health claims. While there is a lot still to do, to date over **£8.2 million has been paid out to former mineworkers and their families in South Derbyshire**. If you're having problems with a claim please get in touch.

Below: Jobcentre Plus launch in Swadlincote



Responding to people's needs - casework and advice

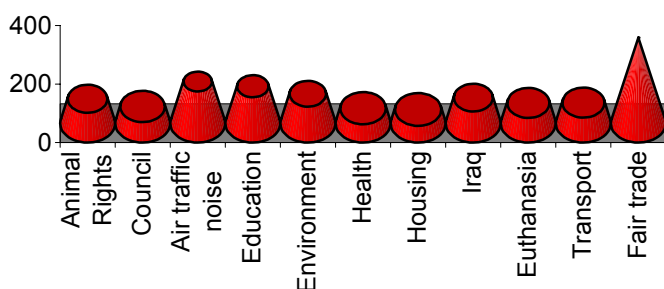
Over 1000 people in South Derbyshire ask for and receive my help each year.

My advice sessions are usually held on the second Friday of each month, 6.30-8 pm at **Boulton Lane Park Community Centre in Alvaston**; the fourth Friday each month, 6.30-8 pm at the **Hatton Centre, Station Road, Hatton**; & on Saturdays following the second & fourth Friday of each month 10.30-12.30 at the **Collingwood Centre, Civic Way, Swadlincote**. I also hold occasional advice sessions elsewhere. These are publicised in the local press. There are no sessions in August. Dates and times may have to be altered. It helps if you say you are coming as we can suggest when you should arrive to save waiting. To check times and venues call my Gresley office on **01283 551573**.

These sessions continue to be busy with almost **600** people attending over the last year.

The overall casework of my office continues to rise with over **1600** cases dealt with since last July. This consists of individual cases, large lobbies, campaigns & group casework (for example, whole streets with a shared problem). It does not include every person who has contacted me. Some can be dealt with without the need for correspondence. The figures do not include petitions.

Most frequently raised issues 2002/03



Here are some examples of individual cases to give a flavour of some of the issues I deal with.

CASE 1: Mrs A contacted me regarding the lack of local provision of physiotherapy for her young daughter who suffers from cerebral palsy. I wrote to Social Services and the Primary Care Trust requesting assistance. As a result Social Services revisited the case and met the family to ensure the need for an occupational therapist would be met quickly. In addition the Primary Care Trust announced that they are to commence home visits from physiotherapy staff in South Derbyshire.

CASE 2: Mr B was awarded just £1 a week from his mineworkers pension fund. I asked the Pension Administration to check if a mistake had been made. Mr B received an increase and I advised him to apply for the special one-off payment. He was initially told he did not qualify but it emerged that he did and that he had been entitled to payments from the scheme for some time. The shortfall was made up with an additional cheque.

CASE 3: Mr C sent in his insurance documents to a leading insurance company who claimed to have lost Mr C's documents. Having contacted the company explaining that Mr C had sent his Surrender form and Policy Schedule by Post Office Special Delivery the company managed to trace them and accepted the date of receipt. This was crucial as the investment was stock-market based and the encashment sum was therefore dependant on when the documents were received.

Tours of the Houses of Parliament & Gallery Tickets

If you would like gallery tickets to see the House of Commons sitting please contact my Parliamentary Office using the contact details on the front page of this report.

Availability can be very restricted—particularly for popular events such as Prime Minister's Questions—but if you contact my Parliamentary office I will try to help. The organisation of tours of Parliament has changed recently. There is now a central office which organises tours. There is no longer a charge for the guide and visitors facilities have been greatly improved. Again, do contact my Parliamentary Office for details.



Visit my new Website!
www.marktodd.org.uk

Community developments

This has been an excellent year for new projects in our area that have used Lottery funding.

Sharpe's Pottery opened in 2003 in Swadlincote, celebrating a part of the town's industrial heritage and offering meeting and office space for local groups.

The Old Post at Newhall opened in autumn 2002 offering meeting rooms, training facilities and a café.

The new Church Hall at Hatton opened in 2003 offering space for a play group, other local services and a modern hall. I have been involved at various stages of these projects and am delighted to see local effort rewarded.



Right : Opening the new Jubilee Community Hall in Hatton.

YOUR LOCAL LABOUR TEAM

Members of the European Parliament

Phillip Whitehead & Mel Read

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Tel: 0115 9431777 Fax: 0115 9431888

E-mail: centre@labmeps-emids.fsnet.co.uk

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South Derbyshire District Council

Gresley	Ken Harrington	01283 218221
	Trevor Southerd	01283 221628
Hartshorne & Ticknall	Roy Bell	01283 218179
	Ray Jones	01283 762502
Hatton	Barrie Whyman	01283 813010
Linton	Mike Lauro	01283 760356
	Bob Southern	01283 550692
Melbourne	Jane Carroll	01332 863269
Midway	Bill Dunn	01283 213457
	Michael Mulgrew	01283 222025
	John Wilkins	01283 213111
Newhall & Stanton	Sean Bambrick	01283 218808
	Jean Mead	01283 215584
	Kevin Richards	01283 212533
Swadlincote	Ron Lane	01283 212442
	Stuart Murphy	01283 219206
	John Stone	01283 222943
Stenson	Lakhvinder Pabla	01332 271961
	Dave Shepherd	01332 864788
Woodville	Gloria Isham	01283 213677
	Steve Taylor	01283 223567

Derby City Council

Boulton	Ron Blanksby	01332 573169
	Barbara Jackson	01332 763190

Derbyshire County Council

Linton	Kath Lauro	01283 760356
Newhall	Bill Routledge	01283 212572
Repton	Alan Jones	01283 217140
Swadlincote	Trevor Southerd	01283 221628

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