



**Anna Soubry MP**  
Working hard for Broxtowe

June 18 2016

Hello again,

We should all strive to leave the world a better place than the one we came into. We can achieve that either in the lives of our children, family or friends, in our work, by what we do in our community, through any part we play in our country or even in the wider world. Jo Cox MP achieved a remarkable amount in her 41 years of life and made a difference in all these spheres. She undoubtedly had a great future ahead of her and politics will be very much the poorer without her. And it seems Jo's husband Brendan, is also a rather special person. In a statement shortly after she was murdered last Thursday, he urged everyone to "fight against the hate that killed her" - how right he was.

Tolerance is a cornerstone of British values and I greatly fear that in recent years we have seen it diminishing, increasingly being replaced with a strong under current bordering on hate. Rigorous and robust debate is essential in a vibrant democracy and I have no difficulty engaging in political discourse with people who don't agree with my views. But the tone has undoubtedly changed in recent times and we must now reset the dial. Politicians, political commentators and reporters have an absolute duty to ensure free speech flourishes but we also must strip out the rhetoric that fuels fear and preys on prejudice, and establish a more tolerant tone in a more civilised manner.

I can honestly say I don't hate anyone and I can equally be sure that there are people who hate me for no other reason than I am a Conservative. Like many MP's I regularly receive abusive emails and tweets and I am sad to say I have grown used to it. "Tory scum" and "traitor" are regular insults tossed around on social media. Many of my colleagues in Parliament are subjected to racist and anti-semitic abuse and I don't think there is a woman MP who escapes sexist, mysogonyst abuse. This horrid and unacceptable way of doing politics became evident in the Scottish Referendum campaign and was best illustrated to me when the highly affable Labour MP Jim Murphy, was hounded off his soap box. Foul abuse flourished on Twitter and spilt over into last year's Labourship contest. It simply has to stop.

But to be clear - I am not making out that MP's are some special category, this creeping intolerance extends across our society. By way of example it's as if its suddenly become acceptable again to use "immigrant" as a derogatory term. I am not alone in witnessing a change in the way some people talk about migrants - 'they're all on benefit' (that's not true; twice as many British born people claim benefits than migrants. Migrants put in more than they take out with HMRC estimating migrant workers contribute over £2 billion to our economy). "They're wrecking our NHS" (that's not true either, though you will find migrants in our NHS - treating people or cleaning our hospitals). As you might imagine I could go on but I will save that for another day!

So, in the wake of Jo Cox's dreadful and untimely death let's take a step back and look at how we conduct our politics. Let's accept that the overwhelming majority of MP's want the same thing - a better, more prosperous, kinder society and world - what divides us is the policies by which we achieve those common goals. Every day I work with fellow MP's from other political parties - it's nothing new and it's the norm not the exception. I accept we often don't help ourselves but the vast majority of us work hard for all our constituents; now we have a duty to make sure some good comes from Jo Cox's death, so let us all start by putting hope not hate at the heart of everything we do.

As ever,  
Anna.

[Please donate to Jo Cox's favourite charities here >>](#)

## Flood action



There was widespread flooding last Thursday - after a huge amount of rain in a short period of time. However, we have experienced similar weather before and remained flood free.

Beeston, parts of Chilwell and Toton were all badly affected and in Stapleford blocked culverts and drains were responsible for localised flooding.

Yesterday I contacted both Broxtowe and Notts County Council who quickly swung into action. I know residents on Lower and Fletcher Road in Beeston were particularly grateful to the leader of Broxtowe, Cllr Richard Jackson who got council workers on the scene to clear up raw sewage. My thanks to all concerned. There is clearly a problem in parts of Beeston and Chilwell which didn't exist before the tram works so I have already asked for a thorough investigation. I am pleased to report that the leader of Notts County Council, Alan Rhodes got straight back to me having asked his senior Highways officials for a full report.

## Chetwynd Barracks update



Earlier this week the leader of Broxtowe Borough Council Richard Jackson, the legal officer Phil Horsefield and I met with the Defence Minister and his officials to discuss the future of Chetwynd Barracks.

We were told the Army does intend to vacate the barracks as soon as is operationally possible and almost all the land will be sold - the MoD has a target of 800 houses. It appears the Reserve Centres, notably HMS Sherwood will remain and that would seem a very good place for the various memorials on the site to be placed in perpetuity.



Broxtowe Borough Council has a plan for how the land should be sold and its overall development, which in my view, must include a substantial amount of land freely open to all residents to enjoy. Broxtowe is keen to play a significant and important role in making sure the right infrastructure is in place and that the emerging neighbourhood forum develop a plan for the area. I am delighted that last week's meeting attracted well over 30 people who want to play a part in the neighbourhood forum.

*The Chilwell Military Wives Choir entertained us at last weekend's Royal Engineers Association get together. My thanks to everyone at the Barracks for a lovely evening.*

We will now formally write to the Ministry of Defence detailing how we want the land to be disposed of and the local controls we want to establish. I will publish that letter once it has been finalised.



*The Hemlock Happening is a great annual event I am honoured to help open. It was good to catch up with a number of community groups and in particular Stapleford Town Football Club which goes from strength to strength. It was also good to catch up with our Mayor, Graham Harvey.*



*I was pleased to pop into one of a number of street parties on Sunday to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Residents of Fletcher and Lower Street defied the rain and had a great time.*

## EU campaigning suspended

Following the murder of Jo Cox both sides in the EU Referendum have stopped campaigning.

I held a public debate a week last Thursday where it was standing room only.

My thanks to BBC former editor John Hess who chaired the event and speakers Robert Buckland MP and Kate Godfrey for Stronger In and from Leave - Douglas Carswell MP and Nigel Baxter.



*Over 300 people took part in my debate on whether we should remain in or leave the EU. There were some excellent contributions and questions from the floor and my thanks to everyone who came along.*



I am proudly working with all parties on the Stronger In campaign. Gedling MP Vernon Coker (Labour), Kat Boettge from the Green Party, Lib Dems and I were out campaigning in Nottingham recently and last weekend Stronger In was in Beeston. We will not be campaigning this weekend following the murder of Jo Cox.



## Safe cycling campaign continues to get results

Highways and NET continue to make cyclists safer on the tram route through Chilwell and Beeston. More warning signs have recently gone up and there will now be a 'de-cluttering' along High/Chilwell Road.

## Women and the vote



I think we sometimes need reminding that we have yet to celebrate 100 years of universal suffrage - the right of all to adults to vote. On June 8 I was one of the women MP's who gathered in the House of Commons, to mark the 150th anniversary of a petition to Parliament that began the campaign for women to gain the vote.



## What's on in Broxtowe

### Saturday 18 June

#### The Kimberley Jam - Music Festival

From 12 noon

What's on: An annual music event held across the great pubs and bars of Kimberley supporting The Ryan Lee Trust.

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#### Beeston Monthly Farmers Market

9am till 2pm

Where: The Square Beeston.

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#### Haven Community Cinema

2pm

Where: The Haven Centre, Stapleford

What's on: Showing Capture the Flag, free entry for fathers day.

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#### John Clifford Primary School Summer Fayre

11am till 2pm

Where: The School Playground.

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#### Midsummer Pub Ramble - Bramcote Hills Community Association

What's on: Please contact John Spencer for the full details on 01159258618. The plan is to meet in a pub for coffee and place the food order then take a 2 hour walk and then return to the pub for lunch.

### Tuesday 21 June

#### Trowell WI - Fashion Show

7:30pm

Where: Trowell Parish Hall, Stapleford Road, Trowell, NG9 3QA.

What's on: Fashion Show presented by SOS Fashions. Cost £2 which includes light refreshments.

### **Wednesday 22 June**

#### **Wednesday mornings with Dig In - Stapleford**

10am till 12 noon

Where: Albany Allotments, Pasture Road, Stapleford, NG9 8HZ.

What's on: Full details [here](#).

### **Thursday 23 June**

#### **Retired Residents' Tea Party**

2pm till 4pm

Where: Bramcote Memorial Hall.

What's on: Bramcote Hills Community Association are hosting a tea party for the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations. Cost is £2 per person.

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#### **Chilwell West CAT meeting**

7:30pm

Where: Chilwell Community Centre, Inham Road.

### **Friday 24 June**

#### **Coffee Morning - Stapleford Town Council**

10am till 12 noon

Where: Carnegie Centre, Warren Avenue, Stapleford.

What's on: Stapleford Town Council are holding a coffee morning in support of Armed Forces Day. All monies raised will be donated to Service Charities.

### **Saturday 25 June**

#### **Help for Heroes Charity Event**

All day

Where: Pure Gym, Beeston Square.

What's on: Please go along to show your support.

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#### **Summer Carnival - Chilwell**

12 noon till 3:30pm

Where: College House Junior School.

What's on: Summer Carnival with car boot sale, arena performances, children's rides and inflatables, games, refreshments and much more.

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#### **Saturday mornings with Dig In - Stapleford**

10am till 12 noon

Where: Albany Allotments, Pasture Road, Stapleford, NG9 8HZ.

What's on: Full details [here](#).

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#### **Blooming Great Tea Party**

12 noon till 4pm

Where: 40 Chetwynd Road, Toton, NG9 6FT.

What's on: In aid of Marie Curie, come along and join in raising money for a 'blooming' great cause.

### **Tuesday 28 June**

#### **'Young at Heart' Club**

1:30pm

Where: Equalised Working Men's Club.

What's on: The club is for senior citizens aged 60 plus and consists of live entertainment, dancing, a few games of bingo plus a free buffet.

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### **Bramcote and District Ladies' Probus Club**

10am

Where: New Stapleford Community Centre, Washington Drive.

What's on: Bess of Hardwick by Marion Wallwork.

### **Wednesday 29 June**

#### **Attenborough and Chilwell East CAT meeting**

7pm till 8:30pm

Where: Attenborough Village Hall.

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### **Wednesday mornings with Dig In - Stapleford**

10am till 12 noon

Where: Albany Allotments, Pasture Road, Stapleford, NG9 8HZ.

What's on: Full details [here](#).

### **Thursday 30 June**

#### **Beeston and District Civic Society - Tram Depot Vist**

12:45pm

Where: Meeting at Wilkinson Street tram platform at 12:45 for a 1pm tour.

What's on: If you are interested in joining please call 0115 917 8488 as places are limited.

### **Saturday 2 July**

#### **Summer Fest - Alderman White School**

11am till 3pm

Where: The Courtyard, Alderman White School.

What's on: Live entertainment, bouncy castle, sumo, coconut shy, BBQ, home made cakes and scones, giant hamper raffle, games, paper craft, face painting and lots more.

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### **Farmers Market - Stapleford**

9am till 2pm

Where: Walter Parker Memorial Square.

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### **Saturday mornings with Dig In - Stapleford**

10am till 12 noon

Where: Albany Allotments, Pasture Road, Stapleford, NG9 8HZ.

What's on: Full details [here](#).

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### **Attenborough Village Fete**

2pm

Where: Attenborough Village Green.

### **Saturday 9 July**

#### **Beeston Carnival**

12 noon onwards

Where: Broadgate Park, Beeston.

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### **Bramcote Old Church Tower - Local History and Archaeology Day**

11am till 4pm

Where: Lakeside Museum, Nottingham University.

What's on: Organisations will be present to share information about a range of projects.

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**Saturday mornings with Dig In - Stapleford**

10am till 12 noon

Where: Albany Allotments, Pasture Road, Stapleford, NG9 8HZ.

What's on: Full details [here](#).

**Tuesday 12 July**

**Beeston North CAT meeting**

7pm

Where: Children's Centre, Beeston Fields School.

Anna Soubry MP Barton House, 61 High Road, Chilwell, NG9 4AJ

0115 943 6507

[anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)

[annasoubry.org.uk](http://annasoubry.org.uk)