



The Reiver

Election Special

Tweeddale Ettrick & Lauderdale
and Penicuik



CHRISTINE GRAHAME'S DRIVE FOR BETTER TRANSPORT



Christine leads a group of older people to Borders Council campaigning for the retention of their bus service.

IT would be hard to find another region of Scotland with transport services as poor and inadequate as the Borders.

We have no railway, although Christine has been a key player in the campaign to bring trains back to the Borders so that local people can access the Edinburgh jobs market and enjoy a form of travel that exists in every other area of the country.

"I have worked tirelessly over the last four years to get the Lib/Lab coalition to promise when the £126 million to rebuild the railway will be available", said Christine. "But so far there is no definite commitment, and only an SNP administration in the next parliament will deliver this vital lifeline."

BORDERS

Bus re-regulation is the only way to guarantee better services for the Borders and Penicuik.

Christine helped organise a Parliamentary petition with local bus drivers and passengers in support of change. Around 4,000 people signed the petition which will receive further consideration in the new session.



Christine with Peebles bus drivers

"The average age of buses on regional services is 12 years, and the oldest coach is 22 years of age. People often cannot get to work on time. "Cuts in services have left the elderly and those on low incomes with poor, and in some cases non-existent, transport."

PENICUIK

Christine is highlighting the lack of buses in the Ladywood area. Local residents face a lengthy walk down a busy road to catch a bus after 7.30pm.

Said Christine: "It is virtually impossible for the elderly, infirm or those with

young families. Life doesn't stop in the evenings. We have the quite ludicrous situation of old people with bus passes being unable to access buses in the evening."

GALASHIELS

Christine urged the council to subsidise town services to promote and encourage social inclusion. "The majority of Meigle Street residents are pensioners who rely on a bus service to get into town for shopping, to collect their pensions, to visit the health



centre, etc.", said Christine. "But the steep incline up to Meigle Street would be testing enough for a young, relatively fit person, let alone an elderly man or woman carrying bags of messages." She does not believe the council's decision to appoint consultants to examine the issue is an adequate response. "The announcement that Munro's of Jedburgh were prepared to run a service is very welcome.

The Penicuik Profile

by Christine Grahame

Penicuik has been on its own, feeling in the most to be quite rightly, a Midlothian town tacked on by Westminster to a Border's constituency. I think it should be part of the Midlothian constituency, as its council is Midlothian, not Borders. That would make sense but it should be decided by Penicuik folk themselves. In the meantime however, issues such as the poor bus services, especially locally, and the decline of the Town Centre must be tackled. 4 years of New Labour/Liberal coalition have not helped Penicuik. If you voted New Labour, you didn't bargain for getting Liberal Democrats, if you voted Liberal Democrat, you didn't bargain for getting New Labour. Neither of them told you that was the deal. Here is my deal.

I will campaign to make sure that local bus services run past toddlers' bedtime It is Penicuik people who will be stung by the proposed Edinburgh Toll charges, so reliable bus services are essential for commuters. But why commute? I will campaign to bring investment back to Penicuik so that the town centre thrives. It's time Penicuik raised its voice and its profile and I am the woman to do it for you

This newspaper is available in audio format for those with visual impairment
Tel: 01721723755



Christine Grahame

Scottish Parliament REPORT CARD Christine Grahame

- ✓ 1006 Written Questions
- ✓ 113 Oral Questions
- ✓ 82 Questions to First Minister
- ✓ 79 Parliamentary motions lodged
- ✓ 12 Local petitions
- ✓ Convenor of Justice Committee
- ✓ Local school visits
- ✓ Local charities supported
- ✓ Local surgeries held



Scottish Politician of the Year Awards 2001
"POLITICIAN TO WATCH"
CHRISTINE GRAHAME

The Scotsman 28th March 2003
GRAHAME, Christine
SNP, South of Scotland list
 ****+
 Excellent performer. Knowledgeable, intelligent, passionate campaigner for her constituency.



Throughout her time in Parliament Christine has tried to engage youngsters in the workings of the Scottish Parliament. She is pictured here in the debating chamber with a primary 7 class.

Some comments from School Visit thank you letters.

"I thought the debate on Iraq was very interesting and so was question time. I thought your question about the trains was very good" - **Rebecca**.

"The pasta was great - If you give me the recipe for it that would be superb. I hope the Waverly line will come back - that will cut down global warming" - **Cameron**

"I thought your stapler was cool!" - **David**



Arianna Hardwick, winner of Christine's Xmas card competition for local primary schools, with her father and TESCO (sponsors) and Speirs & Keddie, Galashiels who provided free printing. Hundreds of entries were received on the subject "World Peace". Arianna drew a "Feast for Peace" and won £200 for her school.



A visit to Softplay which helps children with disabilities



Christine at Heriot-Watt University, supporting Further Education through difficult financial

Gala Day Services provides day care for adults with learning disabilities - a combination of care, education, training and companionship.
 Contact: 01896756300

JAM The Borders music charity that works to support the playing of all kinds of music from Borders traditional music, modern acoustic music, to the rawest amplified pop.
 Contact: linda.Farrell@tiscali.co.uk

Parkinson's Local self support group for those with Parkinson's Disease
 Contact: thelaird@parkyyap.freemove.co.uk

Five Star Taxis Galashiels
 01896 756789
 24 hr service.
 Distance no object



Christine has worked hard at supporting local industry and businesses. Whether it's fighting for the former employees of Viasystems or promoting local products such as the famous Selkirk Bannock Christine will continue to promote Borders products.

- Working for YOU



Scottish Borders Elder Voice
 This independent organisation exists to promote a positive view of ageing. It recognises the considerable potential of older people to contribute to their communities. It encourages contribution of ideas innovation, concerns and skills from older people. Contact:
diana.findlay@btopenworld.com
 01896 756626



Christine is a patron of Scottish HART and secured a meeting for Wilma and Kenny Gunn, founders, with Malcolm Chisholm, Minister for Health.



Christine on the picket line with Borders Fire Fighters. Christine believes it is vital our emergency services are paid a decent wage.



A nightshift with the local police opened Christine's eyes to the problems officers face on the streets at the weekend. She shared a nightshift from Friday evening through to early Saturday morning.



Broomfield Day Centre, Penicuik. Christine has campaigned long and hard for day centres, respite and lunch clubs for the elderly as well as access to Scotland-wide free travel.



Presenting the Stow petition for a station there with campaigners.



Christine was at the forefront of the campaign against the education cuts following on the £3.9 million overspend, including keeping local swimming pools.



Delivering Meals on Wheels with the WRVS on Volunteer Week.



Christine is a keen supporter of this charity and did a sponsored walk across the Forth Road Bridge to raise funds for them despite the fact that she suffers from vertigo.



Christine at the opening of the Macmillan Cancer Care Centre at the Borders General Hospital recently.



Local Post Offices have been facing many changes recently and Christine has tried to help with the problems they face. She is seen here visiting the Galashiels sorting office in December to see how they deal with Christmas mail.

Hearing dogs for the deaf
 This is a national charity that trains dogs to alert deaf people to sounds which hearing people often take for granted, such as the alarm clock, doorbell, telephone and smoke alarm. Most dogs are selected from rescue centres, giving unwanted dogs useful and happy lives to the benefit of deaf people
www.hearing-dogs.co.uk



The Waverley Line

Some 40 years ago Liberal Democrats seized power in the Borders to keep the Waverley Line. The line closed. Since then Liberal Democrats have passed the political baton from man to man and not one piece of track has been re-laid. Since 1999 and the Lib/lab coalition, Borderers have slumped to the bottom of the earnings table, £50 per week worse off than the rest of Scotland. With the Scottish Parliament came proportional representation, and Christine Grahame. First, on 11th October 1999, she put down a motion to restore Borders Rail. Next she set up the parliamentary cross party group for Borders Rail. Then she persuaded the Public Petitions Committee to come to Galashiels where 250 people attended. She followed the petition from committee to committee emphasising each time she spoke, and she speaks a lot, as you know, that the railway was essential to the economic and social well being of the Borders. In June 2000 the Parliament unanimously endorsed the Borders railway from Edinburgh to Carlisle. Christine knew that was just the beginning of the fight for that line and on the last day of parliament, was standing up, beating the railway drum at parliamentary questions.

Profile

Christine Grahame has worked tirelessly over nearly 4 years as a list MSP for the South of Scotland. Her hard work has been recognised by her nomination for **"Politician to Watch"** (Herald/Zurich Awards) in 2000 and 2001 when she won the award. She has been described by Robert McNeill (**Scotsman 28/3/2003**) as **"Excellent performer. Knowledgeable, intelligent, passionate campaigner for her constituency"**. **The Sunday Herald (Sunday 6/4/2003)** placed her as one of only 4 women **"best performers" in the parliament**. More importantly she has delivered when she has been asked to take something on. For all the public work she has done there are many many individual constituents who have been helped by Christine and her parliamentary team. This she has done while working on behalf of at least 3 constituencies. She has fought causes and represented constituents from Eyemouth, to Prestonpans, from Peebles to Penicuik, from Ayton to Ayr. **Imagine how much more she could achieve on your behalf if she were free to concentrate on Tweeddale Ettrick Lauderdale and Penicuik alone.**



Christine at the Parliament working on constituents letters and emails



The Borders and Penicuik are proud of their independence, of their identity and they deserve a representative to match. With a background as secondary teacher, lawyer, parent and latterly politician, she is no career politician, but a woman of experience, substance and individuality. She is a woman with a proven parliamentary record working successfully on behalf of a wide range of constituents. She is the woman for you.

The In Tray

Minchmoor / Walkerburn.
Stow Station.
Swimming pools.
Pedestrian Crossings for Peebles.
Bus service in Ladywood, Penicuik.
Traffic calming in Broughton and Eddleston.
Provision for children with special needs.



ON THE 1ST OF MAY YOU WILL HAVE 3 VOTES

SNP
⌘

SNP
⌘

SNP
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