On 17 September I once again had the privilege of attending and laying a wreath at the Royal Air Force Association’s (RAFA) annual memorial service in Penarth. The service was led by RAF Padre, Reverend Lance Clark MBE RAF to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. I was pleased to see that the service was well attended, with local Air Cadets paying tribute to former generations as part of the day.

The service was held as part of Wings Week, which is held annually from the 12 September until the 18th September. In the summer of 1940 British Fighter Command lost 103 pilots, 128 servicemen were wounded and 366 aircraft were out of action. Wings Week marks the turning point in the Battle of Britain in favour of the allies.

The service was a wonderful opportunity to remember ‘The Few’ and the men and women from other conflicts, who gave their lives defending our country during wartimes. Their sacrifice, loss and victory all helped to ensure that our country enjoys freedom and democracy to day. It is important that we always remember the sacrifices which were made on our behalf and that we keep in our minds the men and women currently serving in the armed forces.

During the summer the tour of the iconic poppy sculpture, Weeping Window arrived at the Senedd. The installation of the sculpture, which is made up of 11,300 ceramic poppies was timed to coincide with the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele, which took the lives of many Welsh servicemen. The sculpture is a beautiful and poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during the First World War. Since the exhibition was first unveiled in London in 2014, 2.7m people have seen the poppy sculptures on their tour of the UK.

On the 24 September the Distinguished Gentlemen’s Ride took place in Cardiff, Barry and ended in Penarth. It’s the world’s largest charitable motorcycle event and brings together over 70,000 well-dressed bikers across 95 countries for men’s health. In Cardiff and the Vale there were over 270 riders taking part, including one of our Councillors, Peter King. The ride raised just over £10,000 for men’s mental health and prostate cancer charities. Donations can still be made online at www.gentlemansride.com/rides/wales/cardiff.
Consultation - Discounted Bus Travel, 16-24 Year Olds

Last week the Welsh Labour Government launched a consultation to explore how best to promote bus travel amongst young people. The consultation will encourage and consider views from interested individuals, groups and organisations across Wales and will look at how best to facilitate bus use amongst 16-24 year olds.

It is important that local young people have their say on how a discounted bus travel scheme works. I know that discounted bus travel would make a huge difference to young people in this constituency, accessing employment, education and training, as well as provide independence. The consultation will last until the 4 January 2018. More information on this and other Welsh Government consultations can be found at: https://consultations.gov.wales/.

School Visits

I recently had the pleasure of once again visiting Albert Primary and Fairfield Primary schools in Penarth as part of my ongoing commitment to visit all the schools across my constituency.

At Albert Primary I spent time with year 6 pupils to debate whether the Government is doing enough to keep us safe. The wide ranging debate covered subjects including policing, NHS, road safety, flu jabs and our own personal responsibility for our own wellbeing and safety. I was very impressed by the questions, comments and quality of debate.

At Fairfield I attended their Health and Well-being event and took part in a really informative discussion on how we can help to promote healthy lifestyles.

Community Cook Off!

Last week South Wales Police launched its most recent Community Cohesion project - the Cook Off!

Building on the success of both the Football and Cricket competitions a new Cohesion competition has begun to engage more women from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities with their local police officers. Local police officers and women involved in a Women Connect First project cooked cultural dishes which meant something to them served to an audience of over 50 people at The Exchange Hotel Cardiff. These were then judged by award-winning Chef Stephen Gomes and Valerie of Moksh, Cardiff, Chief Superintendent Belinda Davies, Assistant South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Mark Brace and Cllr Ashley Lister. Both teams put in a fantastic amount
of effort and skill into their dishes. However it was a clear victory for the ladies! I am truly looking forward to seeing how the competition unfolds and to offering my full support in the future.

**Welsh Government Invests £8.2m in New Ambulance Vehicles**

In my role as the Cabinet Secretary for Health I was pleased to announce a £8.2m investment in the Welsh Ambulance Service. The investment will allow the service to purchase:

- 18 Emergency Ambulances
- 67 Non Emergency Patient Transport Service vehicles
- 5 Specialist Hazardous Area Response Team vehicles, to replace the existing fleet

Since 2011 the Welsh Labour Government has invested almost £45m in new ambulance vehicles for the Welsh Ambulance Service.

**World's Biggest Coffee Morning**

I recently attended a World's Biggest Coffee Morning at the John Reynold Centre in Llanrumney, in aid of Macmillan. Macmillan’s coffee morning is a fantastic annual fixture that I am always glad to have the opportunity to support. I was pleased to see so many local residents attend to support such an important cause.

**First Aid Training with St John Ambulance**

In September my team and I enjoyed taking part in a refresher First Aid training course with St John Ambulance. It was great to get involved in their ‘Save a Life September’ campaign and help them towards their target of 5000 First Aiders being trained this month.

**International Cricketing Success Comes To Grangetown!**

I was delighted to welcome promising Grangetown cricketer, Prem Sisodiya, his parents, Pab and Lux with his Cardiff Cricket Club (CCC) Coach, Kevin Lyons to the Senedd. Prem has recently won selection for the England U19 tour of South Africa next month.

Prem, a Cardiff player since the age of 9 has made his way through the Cardiff teams as a left arm spin bowler-right hand batsman. A former Whitchurch HS pupil, and of late Clifton College he has been a regular in the Cardiff CC first eleven and a member of both the teams that have twice won the South Wales Premier league and the Welsh cup in 2014, and again in 2017.

I wish him all the best for the Tour and I look forward to watching his cricketing career developing in the coming years.
**Snow Dogs and Learners Day**

During the Summer I hosted the launch of Ty Hafan’s Snowdog campaign at the Senedd. The campaign has seen more than 100 snow-dog and snowpup sculptures unleashed around the streets, iconic buildings and open spaces of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. Funded by sponsors from around the region, each large snowdog has been created by both well-known and, as yet, undiscovered artists as well as some famous faces. The snowpups sculptures have been decorated by local school children, the sculptures will then be returned to the schools once the trail finishes to keep as a memento of their participation. The snowdog trail will run until November before the snowdogs are auctioned off, with proceeds going to Ty Hafan. Trail maps can be collected from Ty Hafan or can be found online at: http://snowdogstailsin.wales/. There is also an app, which can be purchased for 99p.

Last week the Senedd hosted the Snowdogs Learners Day for local school children and young people. Over 1200 children and young people took part in a range of activities on the day. I had the opportunity to take a refresher life saving CPR course with children visiting from across the constituency.

**Butetown - Anti Social Behaviour**

I will be hosting a jmeeting with colleagues Stephen Doughty MP, Cllr Saeed Ebrahim and relevant agencies to discuss the growing concerns around drug taking and dealing in the Butetown area. Last Friday, Cllr Saeed and myself did a walk around of hotspots known for anti social behaviour and criminal activity. I will update constituents on the outcome of the meeting.

**Don’t Forget your Flu Jab!**

Last week I had my Flu Jab at Well Pharmacy in Cardiff Bay. I would urge all people in at risk groups to do the same. More information can be found at http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/livewell/vaccinations/Flujab/

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