



Beth

A Voice for our Valleys
Llais dros ein Cymoedd

November Newsletter

November saw the State Opening of Parliament and the beginning of a new session of Parliament, with much focus on the Government's failing economic agenda in the debate on the King's Speech and on the Autumn Statement, whilst much parliamentary time has also been given over to discussing the conflict in Gaza.

I have continued to challenge the **Conservative Government** on their economic agenda, **which continues to oversee a historic fall in living standards**—as remarked upon by the Government's own Office for Budget Responsibility, who also predict it will take until 2028 for average wages to reach 2008 levels in real terms. Recent announcements have seen confirmation the Conservative Government **will further penalise those reliant on social security for health reasons** as they threaten to take thousands of pounds from hundreds of thousands who are unable to work, across the UK.

I was proud when **the Senedd voted to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza**, which was then closely followed by the Scottish Parliament voting to do the same.

I voted to support an immediate ceasefire when it came to a vote in the House of Commons. I have spoken at a vigil in Aberdare, at demonstrations and meetings in Cardiff and led the Armistice Day protest of an estimated **800,000 people in London**.

I continued to support **Remembrance Services in Cynon**, attending or sending a wreath to all memorials and took part in a Poppy Appeal collection and Veterans Tea Party at St John's School.

I have been supportive of a planned **Hunger March and Right to Food Rally led by Rhondda Cynon Taf Trades Union Council** which was due to take place on 25th November – the latest is it has been **postponed to 27th January** but it remains an important event to challenge the hardship many are facing due to inflation. The march will recall the original Hunger March from Rhondda and Pontypridd to London in November 1927.

www.bethwinter.wales



@BethWinterMP



@BethWinterMP



Wreath laying at Aberdare Cenotaph



Speaking up for a ceasefire in Gaza



November Newsletter

Business Awards closes with 257 entries and over 3300 votes

My second Cynon Valley Business Awards closed at the end of the month with a fantastic 257 entries across 5 categories.

It was fantastic to see so much interest and the breadth of organisations and businesses being set up or going from strength-to-strength in the community.

Pictured here are Dare Valley Forest School who were nominated in the Education section.

The winners will be announced on Small Business Saturday, 2nd December.

Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all the schools and individuals who supported my Christmas Card competition this year. This has been a well-supported activity again this year, and I so enjoy seeing the hard work and thought that so many children and young people put into this event. It is always so hard to choose a winner. In fact – all are winners!

The winning design will, as always, feature on my official Christmas card.

Goodbye to Richard Jones

This month saw a sad moment for many campaigners and community members throughout the valley who knew **Richard Jones**, long-standing Cynon Valley Constituency Labour Party member and campaigner, who sadly passed away this month.

Richard was a champion for those with physical disabilities, who campaigned for greater accessibility, as the Founder and Principal Consultant for **Accessible Wales** over many years, helping Welsh companies understand the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and other legislation.

He was an active community player, a **Community Councillor**, and **Chair of Cynon Valley Museum Trust**, as well as of his local GPs Patients' Committee and the Citizens Advice Bureau in Cynon Valley.

Richard was well-remembered at a service at Aberdare Crematorium and at his wake at Abercwmboi Rugby Club. Richard and his family were friends of mine and my family. My thoughts are with his wonderful family and friends at this sad time.

Beth



Dare Valley Forest School nominated



2023 Christmas Card Competition



Beth with Richard Jones

A Voice for our Valleys
Llais dros ein Cymoedd

Cynon Valley

As part of a number of **Remembrance events** I attended, I was pleased to join a **Veterans Tea Party at St John the Baptist School** in Aberdare.

On the same day I joined a **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal collection** with Councillor Tina Williams in Tesco's Aberdare store.

I attended a number of services on Remembrance Sunday, including at the Cenotaph in **Aberdare** and memorials in **Penderyn, Ynysybwl** and **Abercynon**.

Earlier in the year I had tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament to celebrate the **Cenotaph's 100th anniversary**.

On 2nd November I was pleased to join **Rhondda Cynon Taff Palestine Solidarity Campaign** at a vigil for Gaza held at the Cynon Valley Peace Pole.

On Saturday 18th November, **families who use Rhigos School leafleted in Aberdare** to build awareness of their campaign to prevent the school's closure and I joined them there to show my ongoing support for their campaign. I have also submitted a consultation response to the Local Authority.

Later that day, I joined the **Transgender Day of Remembrance** event in St Elvan's Church and signed their Book of Remembrance.

On 23rd November, I was pleased to host a **Sharing Stories** event to mark **Islamophobia Awareness Month** in my office. The session was well-attended and I wish to thank all those who came along and for sharing their stories and experiences.

This month I also met at my office with **Haemophilia Wales** and local constituents, as well as a team from **BBC Wales**, to discuss the campaign for justice for families affected by the contaminated blood scandal. It was a very moving and informative meeting and I will do everything I can to support the campaign to secure justice for all those affected.

We were also able to hold one of our regular **Dystonia** events in my office this month, and I wish to thank John Meredith, a local constituent who continues to campaign tirelessly on this issue, for once again facilitating the session.



RBL Poppy Appeal stall in Tesco



Save Rhigos School campaign

SHARING STORIES
A Community Social Gathering

ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARENESS MONTH
#MUSLIMSTORIES

Thursday November 23rd
3pm - 4pm
8 Victoria Sq,
Aberdare,
CF44 7LA

Beth

Ad for my Sharing Stories event

In Parliament

A new Parliamentary session has begun, with the King's Speech delivered at the State Opening of Parliament on 8th November.

The Speech listed the bills the Government intends to make law during the next Parliamentary session but there was little of major political significance.

A Sentencing Bill will introduce new whole-life sentences for the worst crimes, a Criminal Justice Bill will make criminals appear in the dock. **A Leasehold and Freehold Bill** will ban leaseholds for new houses in England and Wales. **The Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill** will see North Sea oil and gas projects awarded annually. I have urged Labour to commit to opposing new oil and gas not only after the next General Election but also for it.

In my spoken contribution on the King's Speech, **I condemned the lack of action on incomes, including public sector pay** and social security and the failure of the government to take action to hold down energy bills.

I have continued to be active seeking a **ceasefire in Gaza**.

I re-signed an earlier motion - now **EDM 1 - which seeks a ceasefire** and has been **supported by over 100 MPs**.

A number of **amendments to the King's Speech** addressed the issue of Gaza. I signed two that backed a ceasefire.

Ultimately one of those came up for a vote, whilst the Labour frontbench amendment sought 'longer humanitarian pauses' rather than a ceasefire.

I was one of **123 MPs - 56 Labour - who backed the ceasefire amendment**.

I also spoke on the issue of Gaza in a ministerial statement, where I highlighted reports by the Palestine Red Crescent and Medecins Sans Frontieres who said multiple hospitals had been subject to military action and damage.

I will continue to speak up on Gaza.

I have also spoken on **the Media Bill** where I raised the need for the Government's new License Fee Review to be clear about safeguarding **Welsh Language Broadcasting** and to secure **Six Nations Rugby** to be accessible to all.

The **Autumn Statement** took place on 22 November and I will be continuing to **speak up for improved incomes for those on low pay and social security** and for other action against the cost of living crisis, made worse by big corporation profiteering.



The King's Speech

A contribution on the King's Speech



seeing babies dying.

At a debate on Gaza in Parliament



Six Nations Rugby,

Raising Six Nations in the Media Bill