

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Gavin Williamson MP

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October was extremely busy and I wanted to let you all know what I have been up to, both in the constituency and in my role as a cabinet minister.

I spent the first few days of this month at Conservative Party Conference. This is always something I really look forward to and it was a privilege this year to be able to speak about our fantastic Armed Forces. I want to take this time to thank everyone who was involved with Conservative Party Conference this year and I am already looking forward to next year!



I then spent some time in Germany where I signed a Joint Vision Statement alongside my German counterpart Ursula Von Der Leyen. The statement strengthens UK-German ties and bolsters the defence of the two nations.



I visited Devnoport, the largest Naval Base in western Europe, where I announced that the eight new type 26 frigates will be based there when they enter service. This is a fantastic expansion for the military and I am so pleased that we were able to announce this.



I also visited Midlands Air Ambulance Charity at the RAF base in Cosford. They have recently upgraded their fleet of helicopters which has enabled them to undertake 300 air ambulance missions in the midlands since February, seventeen of which were in South Staffordshire. I spent time with the crew of the aircraft and also enjoyed a tour of the aircraft. I was delighted to hear that they have done so much in the community recently - they do such important work and I want to thank them for all that they do.



I attended South Staffordshire Business Breakfast. This was held at South Staffordshire Council to discuss 'Driving Local Growth Together'. I met with a number of local business leaders to discuss how we can support the local economy by ensuring that businesses are working together. I held a Q&A session with local business owners to discuss some of the challenges that they are currently facing. I was so pleased to be able to attend and it was fantastic to hear about the positive news about local businesses.



I was lucky enough to travel to New York City, where the UK's new aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, had arrived as part of her sea trials. I spent time on board HMS Queen Elizabeth and also had the opportunity to visit the 9/11 memorial. I was truly humbled by the memorial and it was a very moving visit and one that I shall never forget.



I visited Codsall and Bilbrook Cancer Support Group, which was held at Bilbrook and Codsall Fire Station. This was established in August and Heather Dean, the Chair of the group, has worked so hard to meet and talk to people affected by cancer. Heather wants to encourage individuals to visit their GP if they are concerned about any symptoms they are having. It was humbling to have the opportunity to visit the group and the work that they do is so important. You can attend the meetings on the third Thursdays of the month at the Fire Station from 10.00 to 11.45. There is no need to book the meetings - you can just turn up and will be warmly welcomed.



I finally just want to take a moment to mention that I am currently supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. It is so important to remember those who have served in the past and support and help those who serve today. I really do encourage everyone to wear a poppy and this year is particularly important as we mark the end of the Second World War.

As always, if you have any issues that you would like to discuss or an event that you would like me to support in the local community, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach my office at 01902 846616 or you can email me at gavin@gavinwilliamson.org. I look forward to hearing from you.