

As part of a series of visits to businesses in the constituency I went along to Kaneb Terminals in Bankfields Drive, Eastham, where I met Terminal Manager John Gilbert for a tour of the 45 Acre Site on the banks of the Mersey. Kaneb Terminals is owned by NuStar Energy LP a master limited partnership based in Texas with 9,113 miles of pipeline, 87 terminal facilities and four crude oil storage facilities. The Eastham Terminal has a capacity of over 320,000m<sup>3</sup> in over 150 tanks and is a top tier COMAH site capable of storing a wide variety of liquids including high and low flash chemicals, petroleum, lubricating oils, additives, acids, vegetable oils and animal fats.

A Wirral charity offering outdoor activities for deprived youngsters has a new countryside bridge thanks to a £3,100 donation from the Oxton Society. For many years The Barnstondale Centre, which offers recreational activities to less fortunate children and young people across Merseyside, was linked to a wooded dale by a bridge. But the bridge became unsafe to use and made it difficult for youngsters to enjoy the beautiful and ancient 15-acre green belt site. The Oxton Society, which promotes the Oxton conservation area in Wirral - stepped in with the £3,100 needed. As a thank you, the society's chairman Patrick Toosey and I, as a fellow supporter, were invited to take a look at the support the centre provides to young people.

I went along to the new state of the art JJB health and fitness club on the Croft Retail Park in Bromborough. As well as creating around 30 new jobs for the area the opening also symbolises for many local residents an end to the years of misery they experienced from the site which was formerly the Ritzy Nightclub. Complaints about violence and disorder from club goers leaving the Ritzy, which closed in 2003, featured regularly in my mailbag and it was pleasing to see the troubled spot being put to good use.

Trevor Patterson and Steve Hern, Secretary and Chairman of the Mini's & Juniors at the Old Anselmian's Rugby Club respectively, invited me to their home ground, Malone Field in Eastham Village Road, recently to watch a game and to tell me about the club and their hopes to expand facilities to accommodate women players. Affiliated to one of the oldest clubs in English rugby history, Sale Sharks, it is a wonderful set up with a great atmosphere and I wish them all the best for the season and with their future plans. My visit was one of many to various clubs, societies, voluntary organisations, schools, businesses and so on that I undertake throughout the year to keep up to speed on what is happening in the constituency and what issues are affecting people.

As you will know the Post Office has announced that Lancelyn Court and Lower Heswall Post Offices are to close. This news comes despite residents' and my own best efforts to convince the Post Office of the importance of their continued existence. I am disappointed and angry that such a decision has been taken. The communities of Spital and Lower Heswall have done all they can to prevent these ill-advised closures. I presented petitions on behalf of customers of Lancelyn Court and Lower Heswall Post Offices in the House of Commons. Signatories numbered over 6000 – a number the Post Office evidently chose to ignore. After having spoken to the Prime Minister about the importance of both Post Offices' continued existence, and met personally with the Minister for Postal Affairs over this matter, I am astonished that the Post Office has failed to take on board the strong case we have made for retention. It is no satisfaction to say it but the two communities did all they could to prevent these closures. I have written to all those who signed my petition to thank them for their support, despite the devastating result. An especial vote of thanks also goes to those who made the long journey to London to meet the Minister for Postal Affairs.

After visiting Carlett Park for an update on the College's plans for refurbishment I gave a speech about my role in the Intelligence and Security Committee to 'Amnesty International' and 'Churches Together