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**Published:** Thursday 18 April 2024

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## Early Day Motions tabled on Wednesday 17 April 2024

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions for which no days have been fixed.

The number of signatories includes all members who have added their names in support of the Early Day Motion (EDM), including the Member in charge of the Motion.

EDMs and added names are also published on the EDM database at [www.parliament.uk/edm](http://www.parliament.uk/edm)

[R] Indicates that a relevant interest has been declared.

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### New EDMs

#### 623 50th anniversary of the Junior Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

Carla Lockhart

That this House proudly commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Junior Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland; commends its steadfast commitment to cherishing history, tradition and the preservation of culture over the last half century; recognises the profound impact of the Junior Lodge on the lives of countless young people, notes its invaluable role in shaping character and instilling values; expresses gratitude for their service to the Orange tradition; and extends best wishes for continued success and prosperity in the years ahead as they persist in promoting the fundamental Orange Ideals of Religious Freedom and Liberty for all.

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#### 624 Portadown Defenders Flute Band 50-year association with LOL 339 and RBP 141

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

Carla Lockhart

That this House extends sincere congratulations to the Portadown Defenders Flute Band on its 50-year connection with LOL 339 and RBP 141; recognises the vital role of marching bands in cultural expression within Northern Ireland; applauds the unwavering dedication of the band's members throughout its existence and their commitment to making a positive impact on the local community; and extends its best wishes as the band embarks on its celebrations and prepares for the upcoming marching season.

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**625 90th anniversary of Corcrain Royal Black Preceptory 141**

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

**Carla Lockhart**

That this House extends heartfelt congratulations to the Corcrain Royal Black Preceptory 141 as it commemorates its 90th anniversary year; acknowledges its enduring 50-year collaboration with the Portadown Defenders Flute Band; recognises the constructive influence the institution has had within the local community over the years; and commends its steadfast dedication to preserving culture and heritage in Portadown and the surrounding area.

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**626 130th anniversary of Corcrain Purple Rocket LOL 339**

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

**Carla Lockhart**

That this House commemorates the 130th anniversary of the Corcrain Purple Rocket LOL 339 and its 50 year association with the Portadown Defenders Flute Band; commends LOL 339 for its steadfast commitment to preserving history, tradition, and cultural heritage in Portadown and the surrounding area; acknowledges the esteemed past and present members, spanning generations; expresses gratitude for LOL 339's exemplary dedication to upholding the Orange tradition and in doing so promoting the ideals of Religious Freedom and Liberty for all; and extends very best wishes for continued success and prosperity in the years ahead.

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**627 War in Sudan**

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

**Alison Thewliss**

That this House mourns the first anniversary of the outbreak of the civil war in Sudan, which began on 15 April 2023; regrets the tragic conflict, which has resulted in a humanitarian and refugee crisis across the country and its neighbours, with more than 8.5 million residents of Sudan displaced due to the fighting as of March 2024; notes that in November, the UN found that the conflict had created the largest child displacement crisis in the world, affecting around three million Sudanese children; acknowledges the disturbing and widespread use of war crimes by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, the two main factions of the conflict; recognises that these war crimes have included indiscriminate attacks on residential neighbourhoods, disruption of humanitarian aid, targeting of hospitals and medical services, sexual violence, and massacres against ethnic minorities, in particular the Masalit of West Darfur; condemns all those complicit in war crimes during the conflict; demands an end to the fighting and a resumption of Sudan's democratic transition; calls on the UK Government to meet its obligations to Sudanese nationals displaced by the civil war at home and abroad; and urges the UK Government to do everything in its power to help end the conflict.

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**628 Derek Underwood MBE**

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

**Dame Tracey Crouch**

That this House acknowledges the sad passing of Kent and England cricketer Derek Underwood MBE, who represented England from 1966 until 1982; notes that he claimed 297 wickets over 86 Test match appearances at an average of 25.83, making him the sixth leading wicket taker to represent England and the most of any England spin bowler; recognises that he played for Kent County Cricket Club between 1963 and 1987, making over 900 appearances and taking 2,523 wickets;

acknowledges that he was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1969, served as President of Kent County Cricket Club in 2006 and the President of Marylebone Cricket Club in 2008, was inducted into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame in 2009; and remembers him as an advocate for growing cricket worldwide while protecting the sport's rich heritage.

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## 629 The Malletsheugh and the Scottish Curry Awards 2024

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 1

**Kirsten Oswald**

That this House congratulates the Malletsheugh restaurant, based in Newton Mearns East Renfrewshire, on being crowned New Restaurant of the Year at the 16th annual Scottish Curry Awards; notes that the restaurant was first opened in August 2023 by the Birk family after an extensive and stylish redesign and renovation of the original structure which includes a new glass-walled private dining room; recognises that the Malletsheugh is run by Tina Birk and staffed by her sons Pavan, Aman, Bobby, and Rohan; highlights that the family business is a loving tribute to their grandfather who started their tradition of Indian cooking in Glasgow; understands the Scottish Curry Awards are a prestigious event recognising and celebrating the talents and hard work of individuals within the Scottish curry industry; further understands that the Scottish Curry Awards 2024 took place on 15 April at the Glasgow Double Tree by Hilton Hotel; and wishes everyone at the Malletsheugh all the very best for the future.

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## 630 Extended and virtual reality in education

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 3

**Carol Monaghan**  
**Patrick Grady**  
**Alison Thewliss**

That this House welcomes the University of Glasgow's white paper entitled XRed: Preparing for Immersive Education; notes the value that extended reality and virtual reality technology can and will bring to the future of education; realises that such technology can transform learner experiences, drive imagination and push boundaries; congratulates the Scoping Extended Education Realities (SEER) research group for its work on this field and its ambitions to ensure the virtualisation of education is safe, quick and equitable; further congratulates the SEER group for winning significant funding from the Meta Immersive Learning Fund to facilitate this independent research; acknowledges that the University of Glasgow's Mazumdar-Shaw Advanced Research Centre is a leading state-of-the-art facility for driving innovation across Scotland; and calls on the Government to consider the importance that such technology will play in the future of classrooms, museums and across the wider education sector.

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## 631 The cost of private rent in England and rent controls

Tabled: 17/04/24 Signatories: 6

**Caroline Lucas**  
**Nadia Whittome**  
**Rachael Maskell**  
**Grahame Morris**  
**Mohammad Yasin**  
**Bell Ribeiro-Addy**

That this House notes the huge cost of private rents in England and increase in private rents since private tenancies were deregulated and section 21 no-fault evictions were introduced under the

Housing Act 1988; recognises the challenges with accurately estimating average private rents but further notes historical data points to an average £410 per month rent across all private sector tenancies in 1990, in 2023 prices, and ONS data indicating the average private rent in England in February 2024 was £1,276 per month, suggesting roughly a threefold increase; is deeply concerned by the homelessness crisis and the 50% rise of homelessness in one year due to no-fault evictions and that English councils spent £1.7bn on temporary accommodation last year; further notes that the cost of private rented accommodation in England is higher and renters' rights weaker than in European countries with rent controls and more secure tenancies; calls on the Government to establish an independent Living Rent Commission tasked with consulting on and designing a national system of rent controls with local flexibility and to provide powers to local councils to control rents in high rent areas; believes rent controls must be implemented gradually and fairly alongside a suite of policies to give renters security of tenure and to address the housing supply crisis, including a mass programme of zero-carbon social homes; and further calls on the Government to follow the example of Scotland and other European countries by legislating for rent controls in the private rented sector.

## Added Names

Below are EDMs tabled in the last two weeks to which names have been added. Only the first 6 names and any new names are included.

### 547 Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)

Tabled: 25/03/24 Signatories: 13

George Galloway  
 Claudia Webbe  
 Angus Brendan MacNeil  
 Kenny MacAskill  
 Chris Stephens  
 Jim Shannon

Chris Law

Paul Girvan

That this House commends the WASPI campaigners who have fought for many years against unilateral and discriminatory changes to the state pension age; welcomes the report of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman which found the Department for Work and Pensions was clearly guilty of maladministration over its treatment of WASPI women; condemns the protracted failure of the Government to commit to paying compensation; calls on the Government to apologise forthwith; believes £2,950 is not adequate compensation; and further calls on the Government to fully compensate the WASPI women for the losses and delay they have suffered.

**548 British Youth Council**Tabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **6**

George Galloway  
Claudia Webbe  
Chris Stephens  
Jim Shannon  
Rachael Maskell  
Chris Law

That this House expresses its sadness following the announcement of the British Youth Council that it is to permanently close after more than 75 years championing the voices of young people and engaging them in our democratic process; and calls on the Government to step in to attempt to prevent this closure, and to redouble its efforts to engage young people in politics.

**567 Let Girls Play campaign**Tabled: **26/03/24** Signatories: **9**

Tracey Crouch  
Alison Thewliss  
Mohammad Yasin  
Kim Johnson  
Jim Shannon  
Christine Jardine

Chris Law

That this House congratulates the Football Association (FA) and Barclays for hosting its third Biggest Ever Football Session on International Women's Day, as part of its Let Girls Play Campaign; notes a record breaking 475,000 girls from 5,000 schools across England took part; further notes that this year, the Biggest Ever Football Session saw more registrations than ever before, with 71% of the schools who signed up having never done so before; welcomes that 76% of schools who took part in the previous sessions stated the activity had influenced equal access in their school; acknowledges that The Let Girls Play campaign, which was launched in October 2021 to support The FA's strategic ambition to provide girls with equal access to football, encourages an active generation of children, highlighting the physical and mental benefits of sport in schools; and commends the work the FA and others do to continue their support for the ever-increasing demand for girls to play football.

**569 Access to State Pension for people with a terminal illness**Tabled: **26/03/24** Signatories: **34**

Dave Doogan  
Jonathan Edwards  
Alison Thewliss  
Allan Dorans  
Ian Mearns  
Stuart C McDonald

Chris Law

Paul Girvan

That this House notes that people with terminal illnesses cannot currently access their State Pension until their retirement age; recognises that this is the case even for individuals who have made full National Insurance contributions; acknowledges that poverty rates are disproportionately high amongst the terminally ill; commends research by Loughborough University showing that granting State Pensions to this group would almost halve the rate of poverty within this cohort while costing

only £144 million per year, just 0.1% of the annual State Pension bill; and calls on the Government to allow early access to State Pensions for people diagnosed with a terminal illness.

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## 570 Female genital mutilation legislation in The Gambia

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 14

Patricia Gibson  
Jonathan Edwards  
Alison Thewliss  
Allan Dorans  
Jeremy Corbyn  
Stephen Farry

Chris Law

That this House expresses its deep concern regarding the Gambian National Assembly's consideration of a Bill which would repeal that country's ban on female genital mutilation (FGM); offers its unqualified condemnation of the practice of FGM; considers FGM to be a violation of the human rights of girls and women, including the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to physical integrity, and the rights of the child; notes the World Health Organization evaluation of the practice as one which has no health benefits and can lead to excessive bleeding, urinary problems, shock, psychological problems and even death; recognises that the United Nations Population Fund estimates that over four million girls are at risk of FGM each year; believes that no justification for the practice can be found from the religion of either Islam or Christianity; understands that FGM has been outlawed in The Gambia since 2015 with the imposition of fines and prison sentences of up to three years for individuals who engage in the practice, and life imprisonment in instances where the practice led to death; further understands that the bill has been referred to a parliamentary committee for further consideration before moving to a final vote of all members of the Gambian National Assembly; and urges lawmakers in The Gambia to retain the ban on FGM and uphold the human rights of Gambian women.

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## 571 Food price inflation and the Easter festive period

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 9

Sarah Olney  
Helen Morgan  
Jonathan Edwards  
John McDonnell  
Jim Shannon  
Christine Jardine

Chris Law

That this House deeply regrets the continuing effects of food price inflation; is concerned about the negative impact this will have on households over the coming Easter festive period; notes that this impact will disproportionately fall on vulnerable families; further notes that one-in-four households are still struggling financially and that food prices are on average 30 per cent higher than at the start of this Parliament; and calls on the Government to tackle food price inflation by investing in British farming, by supporting farmers with their energy bills, by fixing the broken visa system so that food producers can recruit the staff they need, and by extending free school meals to all children in poverty.

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**572 Referral of matters of 21 February 2024 to the Committee of Privileges**

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 68

Mr William Wragg  
Stephen Flynn  
Liz Saville Roberts  
Sir Graham Brady  
Owen Thompson  
Gary Sambrook

Danny Kruger

That this House notes the Speaker's decision on selection and calling of amendments on 21 February 2024 was not in accordance with the established precedent for Opposition days; and accordingly considers that, notwithstanding the Resolution of this House of 6 February 1978, the matter of whether undue pressure was placed on Mr Speaker in relation to the decision on selection and calling of amendments on 21 February, should be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

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**573 Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 590)**

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 6

Alison Thewliss  
Stewart Malcolm McDonald  
Allan Dorans  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Richard Thomson  
Chris Law

That the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 590, a copy of which was laid before this House on 14 March 2024, be disapproved.

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**574 Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 556)**

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 7

Alison Thewliss  
Stewart Malcolm McDonald  
Allan Dorans  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Stuart C McDonald  
Richard Thomson

Chris Law

That the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 556, a copy of which was laid before this House on 19 February 2024, be disapproved.

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**575 Immigration changes for carers and Ukrainians**

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 13

Dan Carden  
Jonathan Edwards  
Stewart Malcolm McDonald  
Alison Thewliss  
Kim Johnson  
John McDonnell

Chris Law

That this House is concerned that the latest Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 556, which will prevent overseas care workers from bringing their dependants to the UK and makes substantial changes to the Ukraine schemes, will have a negative impact on migrant families; notes in particular that the changes will likely force carers into acquiescing to exploitative conditions at work or plunge them into destitution; recognises the importance of family members to carers often carrying out low-paid but crucial work in the UK's social care sector; further notes with concern the lack of opportunity for the abrupt changes to the Ukraine schemes to have been scrutinised properly within the usual 21-day period before implementation; further recognises the stress and harm that the changes will cause by separating Ukrainian families, particularly where one or more family members are left behind in Ukraine; also notes the harm that will be caused by no longer permitting Ukrainian nationals to sponsor family members under the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and calls on the Home Office to properly tackle migrant worker exploitation and urgently reconsider its changes to the Ukraine schemes.

**576 Drumahoe Primary School, British School Trampoline Elite Champions 2024**

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 7

Colum Eastwood  
Jim Shannon  
Mr Gregory Campbell  
Mary Kelly Foy  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

Paul Girvan

That this House congratulates Benjamin, Oliver and Thomas Briggs for their outstanding achievement in becoming 2024 British School Trampoline Elite Champions at the BSGA Trampoline Finals, held on March 16 in Telford; praises their dedication to the sport, their skill, and high-quality training; applauds their success that brought pride to their school and community that showcases the potential of young athletes; and commends their exceptional talent and encourages continued support for our youth in sports to cultivate the next generation of champions.

**579 National Lottery funding for North Edinburgh Arts**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Christine Jardine  
Jim Shannon  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House congratulates North Edinburgh Arts on receiving a grant of £148,821 from the National Lottery; understands this will be used to further its Green Projects work; notes this will include a community garden, volunteering opportunities and development of a new community



shed as part of the refurbishment of their premises; commends North Edinburgh Arts for its commitment to providing community green spaces and ways for residents to help improve their neighbourhood; and wishes North Edinburgh Arts success with the Green Projects initiative.

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**583      50th anniversary of Irish League title win by Coleraine FC**

Tabled: **15/04/24**      Signatories: **3**

**Mr Gregory Campbell**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Paul Girvan**

That this House notes that 16 April 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the occasion when Coleraine FC won the Irish League title; congratulates the club on its preparations for significant further development both on and off the field; and further notes that the greatest achievement thus far in the history of the Club will be celebrated by today's supporters, players, directors and all volunteers associated with the Club as they prepare for further success in years to come.

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**587      The Ridge SCIO and National Lottery funding**

Tabled: **15/04/24**      Signatories: **4**

**Kenny MacAskill**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House congratulates The Ridge SCIO on receiving a grant of £34,245 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to continue providing their cost of living support services for people facing difficulties in Dunbar and surrounding areas; notes that the project will benefit a minimum of 75 people and will involve 10 volunteers over 12 months; and wishes everyone involved the very best of luck with this project and their futures.

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**588      Fisherrow Harbour and Seafront Association and National Lottery funding**

Tabled: **15/04/24**      Signatories: **4**

**Kenny MacAskill**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House congratulates Fisherrow Harbour and Seafront Association on receiving a grant of £4,030 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that this grant will fund the fourth Fisherrow Harbour Festival to bring people together and learn about the seafront; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

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**589 Queen Margaret University and National Lottery funding**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Kenny MacAskill  
 Jim Shannon  
 Chris Stephens  
 Chris Law

That this House congratulates Queen Margaret University in East Lothian on receiving a grant of £5,760 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the university will set up a Young Persons Advisory Group for twelve young people aged between eight and 18 years old to provide views, opinions and advocacy as a Patient Public Involvement group working with the NHS; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

**590 House of Hope**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Christine Jardine  
 Jim Shannon  
 Dr Philippa Whitford  
 Chris Stephens  
 Chris Law

That this House congratulates founder and CEO of cancer charity House of Hope, Lisa Fleming, on the launch of her fundraising campaign Brick of Hope; notes that this aims to raise £500,000 for the charity to purchase a property in the Corstorphine area of Edinburgh; further notes that this is designed to become Scotland's first bespoke wellbeing and support centre for breast cancer; commends the plan to offer a wide range of activities, holistic therapies and peer support for women suffering breast cancer; understands that Lisa was diagnosed with secondary breast cancer in 2017; commends her inspiring work since then to raise more than £2 million since then to support secondary breast cancer education, research and awareness; and wishes Lisa, her family and friends success with their effort to establish this valuable space to improve breast cancer care and support.

**591 Centenary of 1st Mearns Brownies**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 7

Kirsten Oswald  
 Jim Shannon  
 Dr Philippa Whitford  
 Richard Thomson  
 Ms Anum Qaisar  
 Chris Stephens

Chris Law

That this House celebrates the centenary of the founding of 1st Mearns Brownies, based in Newton Mearns, and recognises that the important occasion will be marked with a coffee morning and a commemorative tree planting on Saturday 27 April 10.00am to 12.30pm at Mearnskirk Church Hall; understands that the coffee morning will also involve a special performance from the Brownies and that there will be stalls including home baking, raffles, tombola, a jumble sale and much more besides; notes that the money raised from the coffee morning will go towards new tents, craft supplies, and general unit funds, to support the work of young girls in Girlguiding; recognises that 1st Mearns Brownies has improved lives and communities over the past century, encouraging girls to achieve personal goals through a progressive programme which provides opportunities to work for a wide variety of badges while making new friends, growing in maturity and developing at one's

own pace; and wishes everyone involved with 1st Mearns Brownies continued success for the next 100 years and beyond.

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## 592 **Maxwell's in Clarkston and the National Pub and Bar Awards**

Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **6**

**Kirsten Oswald**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Richard Thomson**  
**Ms Anum Qaisar**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House congratulates Maxwell's, located in Clarkston, East Renfrewshire, on being named one of 94 County Winners of the National Pub and Bar Awards 2024; recognises that Maxwell's has been based in the Sheddens area of Clarkston for 10 years; notes that the National Pub and Bar Awards celebrates the pub and bar trade and assesses the excellence of this sector across a number of elements including design, service, style of offering, marketing and investment; understands that the grand final of the National Pub and Bar Awards will take place in London on 26 June 2024, with Maxwell's represented in the South of Scotland regional section; recognises the important social and economic role which pubs such as Maxwell's play in local communities across East Renfrewshire; and wishes everyone at Maxwell's the very best of luck ahead of the grand final of the National Pub and Bar Awards and for their continued success.

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## 593 **Tenant farming commissioner**

Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **6**

**Tim Farron**  
**Jonathan Edwards**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Richard Foord**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House praises the work of Baroness Kate Rock in producing the Rock Review of the Tenanted Farming Sector; acknowledges the value of the more than 70 detailed recommendations the review makes; urges the Government to especially consider the recommendation for a tenant farming commissioner; notes the need for this position to tenant-proof all new agricultural payments schemes, to judge their appropriateness for tenant farmers and to ensure that tenants are not disadvantaged; further notes the success of the Scottish Government's existing tenant farming commissioner; and recognises tenant farmers' need for this commissioner to be their advocate and champion within Government.

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**594 Cockenzie House and Gardens grant from The National Lottery Community Fund**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

**Kenny MacAskill**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House congratulates Cockenzie House and Garden in East Lothian on receiving a grant of £227,400 from The National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to acquire Cockenzie and Port Seton Old Parish Church and Hall to use as a community hub, offering community space for groups to meet, social activities, pop-up hospitality and childcare provision; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

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**595 Bushido 100 Club**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 8

**Kirsten Oswald**  
**Stuart C McDonald**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Dr Philippa Whitford**  
**Richard Thomson**  
**Ms Anum Qaisar**

Chris Law

That this House congratulates everyone at Bushido 100 Club, a group of students from Bushido Karate Association (BKA), on their significant fundraising efforts for cancer research; notes that Bushido 100 Club members are doing 100 push-ups per day during the month of April and have raised an impressive £5,268 as of 11 April 2024; understands BKA was founded on 28 April 1974 by Donald MacInnes in the Muirend and that the association has since expanded into numerous locations in East Renfrewshire, Glasgow and the surrounding areas; recognises that BKA has produced many individual and team champions throughout its history; further notes that BKA hosts many different clubs and classes across East Renfrewshire including at Fairweather Hall Newton Mearns, Netherlee Scout Hall, Williamwood High School, Greenbank Parish Church and Mearns Parish Church; recognises that the Association has done significant work to ensure classes are open to all, including running classes with coaches trained to support autistic members; highlights that nearly one-in-two people will face a diagnosis of cancer during their lifetime and commends Bushido 100 Club for their fantastic fundraising efforts; wishes BKA Chairman Sensei John Elliot and everyone taking part in the 100 push up challenge all the very best as they continue their efforts throughout April; and applauds the dedication and hard work of all coaches and participants at BKA.

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**596 3 Dads Walking**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 8

Owen Thompson  
Stuart C McDonald  
Jim Shannon  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Richard Thomson  
Ms Anum Qaisar

Chris Law

That this House commends the extraordinary efforts of Tim Owen, Mike Palmer and Andy Airey, collectively known as 3 Dads Walking, for their tireless dedication to raising awareness of suicide prevention among young people; welcomes them to Scotland and Midlothian as they continue their latest trek; acknowledges the profound impact of their new book Three Dads Walking: 300 Miles of Hope, which shares their deeply personal stories of loss and resilience; applauds their commitment to honouring the memory of their daughters - Sophie, Beth, and Emily - by advocating for suicide prevention measures; recognises their superb fundraising efforts for PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide; further recognises their call for age-related suicide awareness to be included in the national curriculum as evidenced by their petition which garnered more than 100,000 signatures; and highly commends their outstanding dedication, exemplary courage and invaluable contribution to the cause of suicide prevention.

**597 80th anniversary of the Great Escape**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 2

Jim Shannon  
Sir Mike Penning

That this House notes the 80th anniversary of the Great Escape, an act of defiance during the Second World War in which 76 prisoners of war tunnelled out of a German prisoner of war camp, Stalag Luft III, into a snowy forest; highlights that this camp was considered one of the hardest to escape from; underlines that, in fact, over 600 prisoners were involved in the construction of the tunnels; further notes that the three tunnels were named Tom, Dick and Harry and that only 76 of the planned 200 escaped; further highlights the 73 were recaptured and, of those, 50 were executed and that three men successfully fled to safety; and remembers the legacy this story leaves behind and that the lives of all those within Nazi prison camps will never be forgotten.

**599 50th anniversary of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster Mission Board**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Mr Gregory Campbell  
Jim Shannon  
Sir Mike Penning  
Rachael Maskell  
Chris Law  
Paul Girvan

That this House notes that March 2024 marked 50 years since the founding of the Mission Board of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster; further notes that since its inception funds have been raised to help alleviate hunger, assist in regions struck by earthquakes and war, missionaries have been trained and have worked in spreading the message of the transforming power of the gospel message of Jesus Christ in numerous countries across the globe; and commends those workers, volunteers and donors who have helped make the work as successful as it has become, from very

small beginnings expanding to undertake the biblical instruction to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

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## 600 Trapped podcast on IPP sentences

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 24

John McDonnell  
Liz Saville Roberts  
Wendy Chamberlain  
Jim Shannon  
Kenny MacAskill  
Richard Burgon

Chris Law

That this House praises the tireless work by campaigners fighting against the injustice of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences, which were abolished in 2012 but not retrospectively, and commends the Trapped podcast for shining a powerful spotlight on the ongoing scandal of these indefinite and potentially never-ending sentences; agrees with the Lord Chancellor that IPP sentences are a stain on our justice system, and with the United Nations special rapporteur on torture that they have become cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment that could amount to psychological torture; welcomes Government proposals to reduce the licence period post-release for people serving IPP sentences but believes these reforms do not go nearly far enough; urges the Government and Opposition to commit to a bipartisan approach to resolving this miscarriage of justice conclusively by supporting the establishment of an expert panel to oversee a resentencing exercise for everyone serving an IPP sentence, as recommended by the Justice Select Committee; calls on the leaderships of all political parties to listen to the first season of Trapped so as to understand better the importance and urgency of such a resentencing exercise; and looks forward to the launch of the second season of this gripping, inspiring and heart-breaking podcast.

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## 601 Newport History Group and the Alan Ball Award

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Wendy Chamberlain  
Jim Shannon  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House congratulates the Newport History Group on winning a prestigious Alan Ball Local History Award which recognises outstanding contributions in local history publishing; commends the Group for winning Best Community History Project Publication 2023 for the publication of Lest We Forget, a follow up book to the 2022 Poppy Project book which commemorated 100 years since the unveiling of the Newport War Memorial; recognises that Lest We Forget provides a creative way for people to learn about the sacrifices made by members of the Newport community during the World Wars and the impact this had on Newport on Tay and its heritage; celebrates the hard work of the Newport History Group and the contributions from the local community to make the book possible; and looks forward to future publications.

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**602 The Book Nook, Stewarton**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 9

Alan Brown  
Stuart C McDonald  
Dave Doogan  
Jim Shannon  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Richard Thomson

Chris Law

That this House congratulates The Book Nook, a local independent bookstore located in Stewarton, on its outstanding achievement of winning the Bookshop of the Year at the esteemed Scottish Independent Retail Awards 2024; expresses best wishes for forthcoming success at the UK-wide awards set to take place in London on 13th May; commends The Book Nook and its proprietor, Ms. Sarah Frame, for their exceptional role in epitomising the spirit of Kilmarnock and Loudoun and in representing the best of Scotland's rich literary culture on a national stage while propelling The Book Nook from strength to strength; further applauds the impact Ms Frame's work has made in the community, not least as recognised by the prestigious MP HERoes Award granted in November 2023; further pays tribute to The Book Nook's vital contribution to fostering a love of reading and literature among the young through engaging initiatives such as kids' book clubs, and applauds their ability to attract top authors for book signings and appearances, whilst keeping entry free of charge and therefore open to all; notes that this encouraging and benevolent model serves as an exemplary benchmark for local independent bookstores; and wholeheartedly encourages constituents and the nation alike to support local bookshops, which are the linchpins of our communities, ensuring that they continue to thrive as has been exemplarily demonstrated by The Book Nook of Stewarton.

**603 Darvel Area Regeneration Team and The Corner Project, Darvel**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 9

Alan Brown  
Anne McLaughlin  
Stuart C McDonald  
Jim Shannon  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Richard Thomson

Chris Law

That this House congratulates The Corner in Darvel on their outstanding achievement in winning the My Place Awards 2024 in the Community-led Project category; recognises the hard work and dedication of the local volunteers from Darvel Area Regeneration Team who have transformed the once abandoned site of the Darvel Industrial Cooperative Society into a vibrant and essential community space; applauds the success of The Corner in becoming a central hub for the community within its first six months, organising 12 formal events including a Halloween Special and a festive Christmas Fayre, drawing together over 200 local vendors and the participation of more than 4,000 visitors; the Darvelo cycling weekend as well as providing a venue for the valued meetings of young people's groups such as Brownies and Scouts, and serving as a focal point for walkers and cyclists alike; further celebrates the ongoing triumphs of DART who, were honoured recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service from the Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, an accolade equivalent to an MBE that recognises the team's tireless voluntary service and contribution to community life; and commends the exemplary model of community revitalisation demonstrated by The Corner and the Darvel Area Regeneration Team as an inspiration for similar projects across the United Kingdom, reflecting on the importance of volunteer-led grassroots movements in

strengthening community bonds, fostering local economies, and building a more connected and resilient society.

#### 604 Baha'i, Iran

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Sir Stephen Timms  
Jonathan Edwards  
Jim Shannon  
Rachael Maskell  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House notes reports in February 2024 of an attack on a Bahai educational gathering in a private home in the Iranian town of Ghaemshar; understands that those in attendance were students at the informal, but remarkable, Bahai Institute for Higher Education, which facilitates degree level study for Bahais denied access to Iranian universities; expresses concern at reports that agents of the Ministry of Intelligence beat one member of the group in front of his mother and of his classmates; and calls on the UK Government to raise the right to education of the Bahai community in bilateral and multi-lateral messaging to the Iranian authorities.

#### 605 Matthew Knapman, Assynt Mountain Rescue

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 13

Drew Hendry  
Brendan O'Hara  
Anne McLaughlin  
Douglas Chapman  
Stuart C McDonald  
Dave Doogan

Chris Law

That this House commends 17-year-old Matthew Knapman from Inverness for his commitment to volunteering with Assynt Mountain Rescue Team; recognises that he was inspired to help others through mountain rescue following a mountain bike accident in 2022 where he received vital support; notes that he has assisted on two call-outs to date; celebrates his commitment to volunteering and fundraising; and pays thanks to Matthew and all others who serve our communities through mountain rescue for their dedication to the safety and wellbeing of others.

#### 606 STV journalists' strike action

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Owen Thompson  
Jim Shannon  
Ms Anum Qaisar  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House supports the decision by members of the Scottish Television (STV) workforce to initiate strike action on Thursday 28 March 2024 following an overwhelming mandate from a ballot in favour of industrial action due to the breakdown in pay negotiations at the broadcaster; acknowledges that this marks the start of a series of disruptions to STV's flagship



news programming throughout the spring and summer seasons; recognises that the strike will result in the depletion of newsroom resources in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Inverness; further recognises that the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) is advocating for a six per cent pay rise for its members to counter the effects of inflation amidst a record cost-of-living crisis experienced last year; observes that STV has only offered this increase to the bottom three per cent of earners, citing financial constraints despite recording profits exceeding £20 million on record revenues in the previous fiscal year; further supports the sentiment expressed by Nick McGowan-Lowe, NUJ Scotland National Organiser, who highlighted that STV journalists are not merely reporting on the cost-of-living crisis but are actively experiencing its ramifications and emphasises that these journalists, who contribute to STV's acclaimed journalism, are simply seeking a wage increase commensurate with inflation; urges Simon Pitts, Chief Executive of STV, and the STV Board to engage constructively with union representatives and reconsider their position recognising the reasonable demands of the workforce; and calls for a fair, equitable resolution to the dispute that respects the contributions of STV journalists.

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#### 607 Hillpark Bowling Club's centenary

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 7

**Stewart Malcolm McDonald**

**Jim Shannon**

**Dr Philippa Whitford**

**Richard Thomson**

**Ms Anum Qaisar**

**Chris Stephens**

Chris Law

That this House celebrates the remarkable achievement of Hillpark Bowling Club as it commemorates its centenary; notes that for 100 years the club has been a beacon of community spirit, promoting sportsmanship and camaraderie; extends sincere thanks to all who run and support Hillpark Bowling Club for their dedication and contributions to the community; and congratulates Hillpark Bowling Club on this significant milestone.

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#### 608 Culloden Academy and the Scottish Cup 2024

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 13

**Drew Hendry**

**Brendan O'Hara**

**Anne McLaughlin**

**Stuart C McDonald**

**Dave Doogan**

**John Nicolson**

Chris Law

That this House congratulates Inverness school Culloden Academy on its success in the Scottish Cup, with both the first-year girls' and senior girls' teams winning national basketball championship titles; notes the performance of the first-year girls' team, winning with a score of 59-25, and the senior girls' team, achieving a 88-38 win; commends the dedication and skill demonstrated by players, coaches, and staff involved in the Culloden Academy basketball programme; recognises the positive impact of physical education fostered by events like the Scottish Cup; and wishes Culloden Academy continued success in future sporting endeavours.

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**609 Alasdair Rhind**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Jamie Stone  
Jim Shannon  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House recognises the great contribution made by councillor Alasdair Rhind to local government in the Highlands, in Tain and Easter Ross in particular; acknowledges that his recent untimely death has caused great widespread sadness; and notes that his contribution to public life will not be forgotten.

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**610 Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Owen Thompson  
Jim Shannon  
Richard Thomson  
Ms Anum Qaisar  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House celebrates the invaluable contribution of the Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project for its dedication to fostering a supportive environment for children and young people aged eight to 14 years old in Midlothian; notes with appreciation that the project has been awarded a grant of £18,114 to facilitate its one-year endeavour; recognises the significance of this funding in enabling the project to provide essential support and opportunities to up to twenty young participants through two drop-in sessions on Saturday afternoons; further acknowledges the positive impact of such initiatives in promoting social inclusion, personal development and community cohesion; and calls on the Government to support grassroots organisations like the Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project which play a crucial role in empowering young people and building stronger, more resilient communities.

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**611 Horizons Recovery Cafe SCIO**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 7

Owen Thompson  
Jim Shannon  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Richard Thomson  
Ms Anum Qaisar  
Chris Stephens

Chris Law

That this House recognises the critical role played by organisations in providing essential support to individuals recovering from problematic substance use; commends the Horizons Recovery Cafe SCIO for its commitment to aiding the recovery journey of up to 200 people from Dalkeith through its project spanning 20 months; acknowledges the significance of a recent £20,000 grant awarded to the project in facilitating its vital work; appreciates the dedication and efforts of the staff and volunteers in creating a safe and supportive environment for individuals navigating the challenges of substance misuse recovery; notes the positive impact of initiatives like the Horizons Recovery Cafe SCIO in promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion within the community; and calls on the

Government to recognise their importance in addressing substance misuse and supporting people on their path to recovery.

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**612 LASC Childcare Services Ltd**

Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **6**

**Owen Thompson**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Richard Thomson**  
**Ms Anum Qaisar**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House acknowledges the significant contribution of LASC Childcare Services Ltd in supporting the Midlothian community through its initiatives; congratulates the organisation on receiving a grant of £77,582 which will facilitate the continuation of the vital role of the Link Community Hub Manager; recognises the importance of this funding in sustaining the valuable services provided by LASC; commends LASC's partnership with Edinburgh College in delivering an 18-week employability course for young adults thereby enhancing opportunities for skill development and employment prospects; and wishes everyone at the project continued success in their future endeavours.

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**613 One Dalkeith**

Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **6**

**Owen Thompson**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Richard Thomson**  
**Ms Anum Qaisar**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House celebrates the significant contribution of community-based organisations in enriching the lives of individuals and fostering community cohesion; commends One Dalkeith for its dedication to serving the Dalkeith community; notes with appreciation the receipt of a £132,839 grant to support its three-year project aimed at delivering learning and leisure activities to residents; recognises the importance of such initiatives in promoting social inclusion, personal development and overall well-being; applauds One Dalkeith's commitment to supporting approximately 172 people each week with the assistance of 50 dedicated volunteers; acknowledges the positive impact of this project in enhancing the quality of life for individuals within the community; and also applauds organisations like One Dalkeith for playing a crucial role in building stronger, more resilient communities.

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**614 Roslin Village Group**Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **6**

Owen Thompson  
Jim Shannon  
Richard Thomson  
Ms Anum Qaisar  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House recognises the invaluable contributions made by community groups in enhancing the quality of life for residents and fostering a sense of belonging; commends the Roslin Village Group for its commitment to serving the Roslin community; notes the receipt of a £1,935 grant to support its one-year project aimed at empowering up to 20 volunteers; further notes the project's focus on encouraging children aged six to eight years old to engage in improving small garden spaces around a primary school in Roslin; acknowledges the positive impact of such initiatives in promoting community engagement, environmental stewardship and the development of valuable skills among volunteers and children alike; and commends the Roslin Village Group's dedication to enhancing the local environment and fostering a sense of pride in the community.

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**615 Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club**Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **7**

Owen Thompson  
Jim Shannon  
Dr Philippa Whitford  
Richard Thomson  
Ms Anum Qaisar  
Chris Stephens

Chris Law

That this House acknowledges and celebrates the recent grant of £9,680 awarded to Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club; recognises the vital role played by Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club in providing inclusive sports opportunities for people with disabilities; applauds the project's initiative to allocate funds towards part-time hours and facilities costs, ensuring the sustainability and growth of the multi-sports group; commends Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club for its dedication to serving 45 children and young adults with disabilities in Beeslack, Penicuik, fostering their physical and mental well-being through sports; further recognises the positive impact of sports participation on the lives of individuals with disabilities, promoting social inclusion, physical health and personal development; and further acknowledges the importance of community-based initiatives like Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club in creating accessible and supportive environments to allow people to thrive.

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**616 70th anniversary of Grangemouth Choral Society**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 7

**Martyn Day**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Dr Philippa Whitford**  
**Richard Thomson**  
**Ms Anum Qaisar**  
**Chris Stephens**

Chris Law

That this House celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Grangemouth Choral Society; notes the choir's work performing a wide-ranging repertoire of songs to audiences since 1954; recognises the wider role the choir has played in its local community, enhancing wellbeing in both its members and audiences; wishes the choir's members all the very best with its upcoming anniversary concert on 20 April at Bowhouse Community Centre; and further wishes the choir many more years of success.

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**617 National Lottery funding for Blackhall Children's Sports Committee**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

**Christine Jardine**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House congratulates Blackhall Children's Sports Committee on receiving a grant of £4,557 from the National Lottery; understands that this will be used to fund the Committee's annual sports day; notes that the 2024 Sports Day marks 125 years since the event was first held; commends the Committee for its commitment to bringing a wide range of diverse sport activities for children across Blackhall; and wishes the Committee and the children involved success for their 2024 Sports Day.

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**618 National Lottery funding for Caledonia Funeral Aid CIC**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

**Christine Jardine**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Chris Law**

That this House congratulates Caledonia Funeral Aid CIC on receiving a grant of £30,916 from the National Lottery; understands the group plans to use the funding for a one-year project to provide funeral cost and arrangement advice either for the bereaved families or for anyone looking for end-of-life planning support; commends the group for its range of support for people who have suffered a bereavement or planning end-of-life care, including help with funeral planning and expenses; and wishes the group continued success in future.

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**619 National Lottery funding for Muirhouse Millennium Centre (No. 2)**

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Christine Jardine  
Jim Shannon  
Chris Stephens  
Chris Law

That this House congratulates Muirhouse Millennium Centre on receiving a grant of £8,720 from the National Lottery; understands this will be used to employ sessional staff, and to expand the range of items offered in their community food sharing shelf and baby bank; commends their range of initiatives to improve the wellbeing of families across northwest Edinburgh; and wishes the whole team at Muirhouse Millennium Centre continued success in the future.

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**620 Re-opening of the Conwy Valley Line**

Tabled: 16/04/24 Signatories: 2

Liz Saville Roberts  
Chris Law

That this House congratulates Network Rail for the swift re-opening of the Conwy Valley Line on 13 April 2024; notes that the line was closed in the afternoon of 9 April 2024 when river flooding washed away ballast that supports the track near Dolgarrog station; further notes the hard work of the Network Rail team to install over 200 tonnes of new ballast which resulted in the resumption of services between Llandudno Junction and Blaenau Ffestiniog; also notes that the latest incident was 0.5 miles from previous resilience work carried out in 2020 and that these works held firm and had they not taken place this latest flooding incident would likely have closed the line for a period of up to four months; and congratulates the team at Network Rail for the vital work they do in operating and maintaining railways for public use in north Wales.

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**621 Clwb Rygbi Llanymddyfri, Welsh Premiership Cup Winners**

Tabled: 16/04/24 Signatories: 2

Jonathan Edwards  
Chris Law

That this House congratulates Llandovery Rugby Club on winning the Welsh Premiership Cup at the National Stadium in Cardiff; pays tribute to both Llandovery and Merthyr Rugby Clubs for a well contested final and a fantastic game of rugby resulting in a 20-18 victory for the Drovers; applauds the dedication of the playing and coaching staff in delivering yet another successful season for the rugby club; thanks the Committee of the Club for their direction and recognises the faithfulness of the Club's supporters to Llandovery and the wonderful game of rugby union; and wishes the Club well for the remainder of the season.