
Published: Wednesday 1 December 2021

Early Day Motions tabled on Tuesday 30 November 2021

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

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

New EDMs

708 Republic of Barbados

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Douglas Chapman

That this House welcomes the decision by the people of Barbados to become a republic and wishes the new president Dame Sandra Mason every success in developing Barbados as a successful, democratic and ambitious nation while still remembering and being aware of the island's colonial history; and praises the citizens of Barbados for taking this step on the 55th anniversary of the nation's independence from the United Kingdom.

709 New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Tim Farron

That this House notes the recent free trade agreement with New Zealand; expresses strong concern that imports from New Zealand will undercut the environmental, animal welfare and food safety standards of British beef, lamb and dairy farmers; acknowledges the Department for International Trade's assessment that the estimated impact on GDP will be close to zero; notes that this will severely damage rural Britain, particularly in regions like Shropshire where one fifth of businesses are agricultural; further notes that Shropshire's total income from farming was £76 million in 2020, which was the lowest figure in ten years; asks that farmers across the country are properly consulted; further asks that MPs are given the time to adequately read, scrutinise and debate the agreement; and calls on the Government to bring forward a motion to Parliament on the negotiated trade deal.

710 50th anniversary of The Dukes

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Cat Smith

That this House celebrates the 50th anniversary of The Dukes theatre and independent cinema in Lancaster; considers that since opening its doors in 1971, The Dukes has been committed to putting arts and culture at the heart of the Lancaster City Region; notes that The Dukes has welcomed the likes of Harriet Walter, Gloria Greame, Andy Serkis and, most recently, Ian McKellen in talented performances; notes that, since 1987, The Dukes broke new ground with the annual Play in the Park hosted in Williamson Park; commends Chief Executive, Karen O'Neill, and her team on the magnificent service they provide and wishes The Dukes very well for many more successful years in promoting the arts in the North West.

711 Launch of I Am Me's Keep Safe Kids app

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Gavin Newlands

That this House welcomes the launch of the Keep Safe Kids app by the I Am Me charity; acknowledges that the app allows young people to report school bullying safely and anonymously and provides a range of information and support for young people; commends the work done by I Am Me since its launch in 2013 in challenging attitudes and behaviours so that disabled and vulnerable people can feel safe within their communities; congratulates the charity on its two wins at the recent ROCCO awards organised by Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, the Community Champion Award and Renfrewshire's Favourite Business; and congratulates all the staff, volunteers and board members at I Am Me on their work over recent years.

712 Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce ROCCO awards 2021

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Gavin Newlands

That this House congratulates Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce on the ROCCO awards in 2021 celebrating businesses and organisations across Renfrewshire; notes the unprecedented challenges faced by businesses in Renfrewshire and elsewhere over the last 20 months during the covid-19 pandemic; applauds the support given by Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce and other local agencies to businesses over that period and for the future; congratulates the 14 companies, organisations and individuals who were successful in their respective categories; welcomes the fundraising at ROCCO events which has resulted in over £100,000 raised for local charities and organisations over the years, and looks forward to future ROCCO awards celebrating the best of Renfrewshire business in the years ahead.

713 Closure of TSB branch in Angus

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Dave Doogan

That this House regrets the announcement by TSB that it intends to close its Forfar Branch and in so doing completely removes the TSB name from the county of Angus after previously closing Kirriemuir, Brechin, Montrose, Arbroath & Carnoustie TSB branches; notes that this once great banking institution has served communities across Scotland for generations, upholds the need to appropriately support approximately 20 per cent of customers who still require access to traditional physical banking services; highlights that the retention of the Forfar TSB branch was set out by TSB

as a rationale and justification for closing the previous surrounding branches in Angus; and calls on the Bank to urgently reconsider this proposal and instead maintain its branch in Forfar in the interests of fairness and financial equity to its customers in Angus.

714 Integrated Rail Plan and Northern Powerhouse Rail

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 5

Paula Barker
Charlotte Nichols
Kim Johnson
Navendu Mishra
Rebecca Long Bailey

That this House notes the Government's announcement on the Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands on 18 November 2021; recognises the dismay of many Council Leaders, Metro Mayors and hon. Members across the north of England at the scaling back of promises made under the original Northern Powerhouse Rail proposal; asserts that the Government, through the Integrated Rail Plan, is not delivering the extra capacity and better connectivity truly required to level-up public transport infrastructure in the north of England; further notes with concern much of the support for HS2 in the north of England was predicated on realising the full potential of the proposals under Northern Powerhouse Rail; and agrees with the calls of the respective Metro Mayors of Greater Manchester, the Liverpool City Region, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and the North of Tyne to revert back to the original plans set out under Northern Powerhouse Rail.

715 World Aids Day

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 4

Jim Shannon
Carla Lockhart
Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson
Sammy Wilson

That this House recognises World Aids Day on Wednesday 1 December; highlights the difficulty those with HIV/Aids face during the covid-19 pandemic at home and abroad; notes in particular the needs of countries like Eswatini who have the highest prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15 to 49 in the world at 27.2 per cent; and urges the Government to increase aid to provide assistance to those countries with high rates of HIV/Aids and low rates of covid-19 vaccination as a matter of urgency.

716 Universal Credit reduction

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 17

Grahame Morris
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Beth Winter
Ian Byrne
Navendu Mishra
Kate Osborne

Paula Barker
 Kim Johnson

Jeremy Corbyn
 Kate Hollern

Andy McDonald
 Richard Burgon

John McDonnell
Ian Lavery

Charlotte Nichols
Barry Gardiner

Ian Mearns

That this House deplores the Government's punitive decision to remove the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift, which the Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates leaves around 5.5 million families worse off by £1,040 per year and will push a further half a million people over the poverty line; deeply regrets that people have been plunged into greater financial jeopardy and, with energy prices surging, now face the Dickensian prospect of going either cold or hungry this Winter; shares the concern of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health that the cut to Universal Credit will increase the number of children who will be disadvantaged in terms of physical and mental health, safety, and wellbeing, and will deepen structural social and health inequalities; and therefore supports Unite Community's call for the Government to reverse its cruel and callous policy by reinstating the uplift and extending it to cover those on legacy benefits in order to relieve financial anxiety, food poverty and energy insecurity.

717 Centenary of Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Ben Lake

This House congratulates Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru, the University of Wales Dictionary of the Welsh Language, on reaching its centenary this year, and acknowledges the support of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and the Welsh Government; notes that it is the standard historical dictionary of the Welsh language in printed form, online, and as an app used by scholars across the world as well as the authoritative source upon which numerous other Welsh dictionaries and linguistic resources are based, serving a community of hundreds of thousands of Welsh speakers; acknowledges that it contains nearly 90,000 entries, 410,000 quotations, and 9 million words; celebrates that it is the longest-running continuous dictionary project in the UK; and commends the vision of the University of Wales, the dedication of the team of editors, volunteers, contributors and proof readers, and the contribution the Dictionary continues to make to the study and growth of the Welsh language.

718 Supporting Oban's bid for City Status

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Brendan O'Hara

That this House supports the town of Oban in its bid to achieve city status and become Scotland's eighth city; notes Oban's strategically important position on Scotland's beautiful west coast, connected to the rest of Scotland by a network of rail, air, road and ferry links; acknowledges the vitally important role the busy ferry port of Oban plays in being the Gateway to the Isles, providing a transit point for tens of thousands of islanders and tourists every year; recognises that as a university town, home to the world renowned Scottish Association for Marine Science and a campus for the University of the Highlands and Islands, Oban is at the forefront of pioneering aquaculture innovation and is a seat of learning for more than 1000 students; notes that with stunning scenery, some outstanding seafood outlets and a beautiful old whisky distillery in the very heart of the town, Oban is increasingly becoming a popular visitor destination; recognises that proportionally, Scotland has markedly fewer cities than the other three nations of the United Kingdom, and with a declining population in the western highlands, believes that being awarded city status will bring greater investment in to Oban and the Highlands and Islands and will help reverse the trend of declining population; and wishes the people of Oban the best of luck in their attempts to become Scotland's eighth city.

719 The Creel Seafood Bar, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull

Tabled: 30/11/21 Signatories: 1

Brendan O'Hara

That this House congratulates Siobhan Cameron, owner of The Creel Seafood Bar, Fionnphort Pier, Isle of Mull, on winning the Best Seafood Establishment in Scotland, at The Food Awards Scotland 2021; commends the hard work of manager, Niamh Cowan, and all the staff of the Creel Seafood Bar in contributing to this outstanding success; acknowledges that The Creel only has west coast seafood on its menu and it is this, along with the friendly welcome, which has been a contributing factor in its popularity among both locals, as well as visitors to Mull, Fionnphort and Iona; notes that The Creel was originally opened in 2014 by Siobhan's mother, Alex, and her father, Andrew, and, had it not been for their hard work and determination to build the business in those early years, none of this success would have been possible; therefore thanks everyone involved with The Creel Seafood Bar, past and present, for what they have done to put this small corner of the Isle of Mull on the culinary map of Scotland and wishes them all the very best for the future.

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.

668 Isle of Kerrera Development Trust's work on developing and improving community life and island infrastructure

Tabled: 18/11/21 Signatories: 6

**Brendan O'Hara
Allan Dorans
Marion Fellows
Jim Shannon
David Linden
Chris Stephens**

That this House congratulates the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust (IKDT), including islander project team Martin and Aideen Shields and the residents of Kerrera, on the opening of a link road connecting the communities in the North and South of the island; notes the tireless efforts and success of the IKDT in securing funding from Argyll & Bute Council and the Scottish Government Islands Team and the precedence this sets for other island communities wishing to develop and improve their communities infrastructure; further notes the dedicated hard work of Alistair McCrae and his team from Barrachander Quarry in getting the road built in a timely and affordable manner; recognises the huge economic and social benefits that this project will bring to the residents of and visitors to Kerrera who can now access vital services much more readily; commends the IKDT for all of their hard work on other projects and partnerships, including, the purchase and renovation of the Old School into a community hub, the acquisition of the breakwater and slipway as the IKDT's first income generating community asset and the island e-bikes project; and wishes all those on Kerrera every success with future plans.

669 Rosneath Primary School winner of Tree Council national competition

Tabled: 18/11/21 Signatories: 6

Brendan O'Hara
Allan Dorans
Marion Fellows
Jim Shannon
David Linden
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the primary six class of Rosneath Primary School and their teacher Mrs Hazlett on their outstanding success in the Tree Council national competition, taking first place among 800 entrants and being involved in the initiative, which included the planting of over 30,000 trees and fruiting hedgerow whips across the UK with the aim of creating a healthier future for young people and the planet by unlocking the power of trees; welcomes the school's involvement in the Tree Council's Force for Nature climate event; recognises the pledges made by pupils to reduce carbon emissions; marks the work undertaken by primary seven children at the school to carry out a village litter survey followed by a litter pick resulting in 11kg of litter being collected; and commends all of these efforts by the school to improve the local environment as well as engaging young people in the aims of the COP26 event while it was taking place in Glasgow.

670 Heartstart Projects Argyll and Clyde team win volunteer of the year at Scottish Health Awards

Tabled: 18/11/21 Signatories: 6

Brendan O'Hara
Allan Dorans
Marion Fellows
Jim Shannon
David Linden
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the Heartstart Projects in Argyll and Clyde team for winning the volunteer of the year award at the Scottish Health Awards ceremony held in Edinburgh; marks 25 years of that group saving the lives of people across Helensburgh and Lomond and the wider Argyll and Clyde area; recognises the value of training provided to members of the public including basic emergency life support in schools, workplaces and community settings as well as training in the use of more than 220 publicly accessible defibrillators; commends NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership for providing financial support for the project; and thanks Heartstart co-ordinator, Sheenah Nelson, trainer, Frances Parkinson, and staff, including Angela McNeil and Bernadette Walker, for their dedication to the project's success.

674 Animals in Scientific Research and transition to new approach methodologies

Tabled: 19/11/21 Signatories: 20

Martyn Day
Hywel Williams
Liz Saville Roberts
Ben Lake
Marion Fellows
Andrew Gwynne

Grahame Morris
Deidre Brock

Patricia Gibson

Stewart Hosie

That this House regrets 2.88 million animal experiments were carried out in Great Britain in 2020; notes there can be better options than using animals in scientific research; further notes the Animal Free Research UK report Modernising Medical Research recommendation to establish a role focussed on replacing animals with human relevant techniques, which could accelerate the transition to New Approach Methodologies (NAMs); and urges the Government to show global leadership and seize the scientific and economic opportunities that the NAMs sector provides.

679 Murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher

Tabled: 22/11/21 Signatories: 8

Allan Dorans
Jim Shannon
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens
Sir Mike Penning
Margaret Ferrier

Liz Saville Roberts

That this House recalls that on 17 April 1984, WPC Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, was shot in the back and murdered from inside the Libyan Embassy while policing a political demonstration; notes that no one has ever been charged in connection with her death, despite there being an individual identified as Saleh Mabrouk suspected of involvement in her murder; further notes that in 2017 the Government refused to allow the release of certain evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service, on the grounds of national security which would potentially have allowed Mr Mabrouk to be prosecuted in a criminal court; notes that former police officer John Murray, who was with Yvonne when she was murdered, and to whom he pledged that he would bring those responsible to justice, has campaigned relentlessly for justice for Yvonne for 37 years and on 16 November 2021, won an outstanding victory at the Royal Courts of Justice; notes the judgment delivered by the Hon. Mr Justice Martin Spencer determined that Mr Mabrouk, together with others, was jointly responsible for Yvonne's death; further notes that it is shameful that the Government has not in any way assisted or supported Mr Murray in his campaign for justice for Yvonne; and calls for an inquiry into why the evidence was withheld from the CPS in 2017 and a review of the previously withheld evidence as to whether it can now be safely released with a view to considering a prosecution of Mr Mabrouk in a criminal court.

683 Disability inclusive employment strategy

Tabled: 22/11/21 Signatories: 19

Wera Hobhouse
 Jim Shannon
 Andrew Gwynne
 Carla Lockhart
 Paula Barker
 Hywel Williams

Wendy Chamberlain
 Tim Farron
 Munira Wilson

Jamie Stone
 Angela Crawley

Allan Dorans
 Layla Moran

That this House expresses concern that the covid-19 pandemic is still disproportionately affecting the financial security and working status of disabled people across the UK; highlights the recent report by the charity Leonard Cheshire, which found that 69 per cent of disabled people have had their work impacted by the pandemic, rising to 89 per cent among disabled 18-24 year olds; expresses further concern at Leonard Cheshire's findings about employer attitudes, which show that 1 in 5 employers are less likely to hire a disabled person; believes that disabled people must not be left behind as the UK rebuilds from the pandemic; and calls on the Government to increase efforts to support disabled people by adopting Leonard Cheshire's recommendations, including dedicated employment support for disabled jobseekers, promotion of Access to Work to employers and employees and introducing mandatory reporting for large employers on their performance in employing disabled people.

691 Conduct of councillors towards town and parish council clerks

Tabled: 25/11/21 Signatories: 6

Dr Julian Lewis
 Sammy Wilson
 Graham Stringer
 Sarah Green
 Simon Hoare
 Jim Shannon

That this House notes with deep concern convincing evidence collected by the Association of Local Council Clerks showing that, far from being untypical, the toxic behaviour by Parish Councillors in Cheshire exposed online in December 2020, is endemic in a significant minority of Town and Parish Councils; deplores the departure from their roles of dozens of part-time and full-time Clerks, as a result of bullying by Councillors who face negligible sanctions for such misbehaviour; regrets the anguish thus generated and the substantial cost to the public purse arising from settlements following breakdown in employer and employee relations; and calls on the Government to establish an appropriate and effective sanctions mechanism, including financial penalties, to deal with local Councillors found guilty of such misconduct.

692 Glenburn Centre wins Frontline Leaders Award

Tabled: 25/11/21 Signatories: 3

David Linden
 Allan Dorans
 Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the Glenburn Centre in Easthall in the Easterhouse area of Glasgow East constituency on being awarded the Frontline Leaders Award at the Great British Care Awards

2021; commends the dedicated Glenburn Centre team for achieving this award in recognition of the incredible work that they have done and continue to do every day; understands that contenders for this award not only operate across Scotland but the North East of England also; thanks all those who volunteer and work at the Glenburn Centre as well as Easthall Residents Association for ensuring the continued success of the centre and for providing an invaluable community resource for the people of Easthall; acknowledges that the Great British Care Awards aims to be a celebration of excellence across the care sector and pays tribute to individuals and organisations demonstrating outstanding excellence within their field of work; and wishes the Glenburn Centre team every success as they move on to the final awards which cover all of Britain.

694 **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2021**

Tabled: 25/11/21 Signatories: 10

Owen Thompson [R]
Marion Fellows
Hywel Williams
Ben Lake
Liz Saville Roberts
Wera Hobhouse

Jim Shannon

Chris Stephens

That this House notes that 25 November 2021 marks the first day of 2021's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence; further notes that 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign beginning on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, that was started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership; acknowledges that this year's global campaign theme Orange the World: end violence against women now!, which will advocate for long-term strategies, amplify success stories, and promote the leadership of women and girls; supports those organisations and individuals around the world who use the campaign as an organising strategy to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls; recognises the stellar work done in Scotland towards this same goal by White Ribbon Scotland engaging with men and boys to end violence against women, particularly in seeking to prevent violence before it happens; calls on all men to take White Ribbon's promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women; praises groups such as Women's Aid East and Midlothian, as well as others across the country, who are doing a wealth of work to support women who are affected by violence against women; and notes that nearly 1 in 3 women aged 15 years and older around the world have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate

695 **60 years of St Columba's Scottish country dancing class**

Tabled: 25/11/21 Signatories: 6

Peter Grant
Marion Fellows
Allan Dorans
Douglas Chapman
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the participants, past and present, of St Columba's Scottish Country Dancing class in Glenrothes on their 60th year serving the local community through the hosting of Scottish Country Dancing classes; recognises the leadership of RSCDS qualified teachers Lesley Shand and Lorna Sim and previously Nancy Duncan and thanks them for their contributions; notes that

Lesley had a passion for teaching young people and combined this by leading one adult and two children's Scottish Country Dancing classes for over 30 years; further notes that Lesley inspired her daughter, Lorna Sim, to teach also; recognises that the class has been indebted throughout the years to the support of those attending and participating in the running of the class and that their thanks is highlighted to St Columba's Church, Glenrothes and the Kirk Session, Ministers and volunteers who have accommodated them over the years; and congratulates all involved for the goodwill and positive collective approach within the class, and by those leading, which has helped to realise the vision that Scottish Country Dancing ought to be accessible for all, in order for it to remain a popular and sociable past time.

696 Red Wednesday campaign

Tabled: 25/11/21 Signatories: 6

Dr Lisa Cameron
Marion Fellows
Allan Dorans
Jim Shannon
Dave Doogan
Chris Stephens

That this House marks Red Wednesday, an annual day when persecution against Christians and other religious minorities is highlighted; supports the launch of Hear Her Cries, a report by Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need that investigates the abduction, rape, forced conversion and forced marriage of Christian women and girls; implores the Government and the UN to take more effective steps to tackle this issue in line with the petition organised by ACN; highlights to the Home Office the case of Maira Shahbaz, a Pakistan Christian who was raped and forcibly converted aged 14; expresses sympathy for all those victims of religiously-motivated sexual violence; and supports a future whereby no-one is persecuted because of their religious beliefs.

697 Football Index collapse

Tabled: 25/11/21 Signatories: 16

Sir George Howarth
Sir Mike Penning
Wera Hobhouse
Dr Rupa Huq
Clive Lewis
Kim Johnson

Ronnie Cowan
 Christian Wakeford
 Ben Lake
 Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson

Jim Shannon
 Chris Stephens
 Hywel Williams

Deidre Brock
 Liz Saville Roberts
 Paula Barker

That this House remains deeply concerned about the collapse of the betting firm Football Index in March 2021, following the suspension of the company's licence by the Gambling Commission and its entry into administration; notes with concern that customers collectively have over £90 million in open stakes trapped in the platform, with average losses of around £3,000 per customer; further notes that shortly after the site's management announced a cut in dividends of approximately 80 per cent, it suspended trading a few days afterwards, leading to a virtual market crash which caused significant losses for customers; notes with further concern that warnings about the firm operating like a pyramid scheme went unheeded; recognises the recommendations made by Michael Sheehan QC as part of his independent review; calls on the Government to implement his recommendations, specifically those that identified areas for improvement for the Gambling Commission and Financial

Conduct Authority, including how they worked together, without delay, to ensure that a similar scandal does not happen again and; and further calls on the Government to do all that it can to ensure that those owed money receive full reimbursement.

698 The release of former Ambassador Craig Murray on St. Andrew's Day

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 2

Neale Hanvey
Kenny MacAskill

That this House welcomes the St. Andrews day release of former Ambassador and journalist, Craig Murray from his incarceration in a Scottish prison; recognises that legend suggests that Pictish King Óengus venerated Saint Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland after white clouds formed a saltire cross in the sky prior to his victorious battle at Athelstaneford in the face of a more powerful foe; notes this legend serves as a poignant reminder that might and power does not always prevail; recognises that Craig Murray is the first journalist in Scotland to be jailed for 70 years and the first in the world to be convicted of jigsaw identification; acknowledges the developing plans for Craig Murray's case to be pursued through the European Court of Human Rights; and gives thanks to Craig's lawyers and international campaigners for their determined and ongoing support, and recognises their view that these matters have tarnished Scotland's international egalitarian reputation.

699 Turnbull High School Learning For Sustainability Community Award

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 3

Amy Callaghan
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Turnbull High School on winning the Learning For Sustainability Community Award presented by Education Scotland; understands this award recognises the achievements of schools which enable learners, educators, and wider communities to build a socially-just, sustainable and equitable society in the face of the climate emergency; notes Turnbull High School's efforts in creating an effective approach to learning for sustainability which encourages sustainable development education and creates rewarding learning experiences; thanks Turnbull High School and its pupils for setting such a positive example for schools and the wider community across East Dunbartonshire; and looks forward to seeing what more they will achieve in the collective fight against climate change.

700 BetterBriggs outstanding It's Your Neighbourhood report rating

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 3

Amy Callaghan
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates local East Dunbartonshire charity, BetterBriggs, on achieving an outstanding rating in the It's Your Neighbourhood writeup from the Keep Scotland Beautiful charity; understands BetterBriggs is a local community group consisting of residents who carry out community activities and events to make Bishopbriggs a happier and healthier place to live; notes that the group carry out a number of community projects and are working in partnership with local stakeholders to ensure everyone is involved in the regeneration of the town centre; recognises that their efforts in the community and promoting environmental responsibility contributed to their

level 5 score in the It's Your Neighbourhood writeup; thanks BetterBriggs for all the work they have done over the past year; and looks forward to seeing what more they will achieve for the community.

701 Girvan and District Great War Project and Wildflower Memorial Garden

Tabled: **29/11/21** Signatories: **3**

**Allan Dorans
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens**

That this House recognises and congratulates Lorna and Ritchie Conaghan of the Girvan and District Great War Project established in 2013, which has researched, identified and recorded details of at least 600 servicemen from the local area who lost their lives during World War One and subsequent conflicts including a number who have previously not been commemorated on local war memorials, and those local men who lost their lives in the armed service of Commonwealth countries, including Australia and Canada; and further congratulates them on the creation and planting of the Wildflower Memorial Garden located at Hamilton Park in Girvan earlier this year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Poppy, which has been chosen by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Foundation as the winners of this year's prestigious national Best In Bloom Wildflower Competition from a great number of entries across the United Kingdom.

702 Retirement of Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)

Tabled: **29/11/21** Signatories: **4**

**Brendan O'Hara
Jim Shannon
David Linden
Chris Stephens**

That this House conveys its most sincere thanks to Alastair MacGregor on his retirement following thirty one years of working in public sector housing, particularly his last seventeen years in which he served as Chief Executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA); acknowledges the enormous contribution Alastair has made throughout his career to the community-based housing movement in Argyll and across Scotland as a whole, particularly in respect of community and tenancy empowerment; hugely appreciates the close working relationship that Alastair and his team at ACHA have nurtured over the years with all of Argyll & Bute's elected members to help improve the lives of thousands of families throughout Argyll & Bute; and wishes Alastair many peaceful, relaxing and happy year tending his croft, or whatever he chooses to do.

703 Portugal labour laws

Tabled: **29/11/21** Signatories: **3**

**Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens**

That this House welcomes new labour laws introduced in Portugal which prohibit employers (defined as companies of more than 10 workers) from contacting employees electronically outside working hours; notes that the new laws also ensure employees have a legal entitlement to remuneration for utility costs associated with home working; supports the protections and rights

Portugal have introduced for those working remotely and its promotion of home working; further notes similar measures in other EU countries such as France, Italy, Slovakia and Spain in relation to a 'right to disconnect'; and calls on the UK Government to introduce similar protections and rights in order to promote remote working and improve work-life balances.

704 Scottish Comic Book Day 27 November 2021

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 5

Richard Thomson
Jim Shannon
Douglas Chapman
Dave Doogan
Chris Stephens

This House notes that Scottish Comic Book Day was marked on 27 November 2021 celebrating comics, comic artwork and related media with a link to Scotland; understands that people from Scotland continue to be involved in the comic and graphic novel industry, including the film and televisual adaptations of those genres that are made by independent film producers and studios, such as Marvel Studios, DC Studios, Disney and Netflix; believes that the master of design course on Comics and Graphic novels that is offered by the University of Dundee is the only one of its type in the world; recognises this year is the 70th anniversary of the character, Dennis the Menace, in The Beano, which is the UK's longest running comic; acknowledges the importance of the creative sector to Scotland's economy and the contribution of comics and graphic novels towards that; and congratulates #scottishcomicbookday and its organisers on a successful inaugural event.

705 Safer ageing

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 3

Carla Lockhart
Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine

That this House recognises the importance of Safer Ageing Week for promoting discussion about safer ageing; notes that in the UK there are an estimated 2.7 million people that have been a victim of abuse as an older person; further notes that safer ageing charity Hourglass receives 8000 calls to its helpline every year about older people suffering abuse and neglect; is concerned about the scale of the abuse and neglect of older people; and believes that more attention should be given to addressing these challenges and calls for safer ageing to be better embedded in policy making.

706 Recognition of the life of Bertie Auld

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 4

Patrick Grady
Jim Shannon
Dave Doogan
Chris Stephens

That this House celebrates the life of Celtic Football Club legend, and member of the European Cup winning 'Lisbon Lions' side, Bertie Auld, who sadly passed away on 14 November 2021; recalls that he spoke fondly of growing up in Glasgow's Panmure Street where he played for local club Maryhill Harp, before signing for Celtic in 1955; notes that, after a loan spell at Dumbarton and four years at Birmingham City, where he won the English League Cup in 1963, he returned to Celtic in 1965 where he enjoyed incredible success, winning five League Championships, four League Cups, three

Scottish Cups and two Glasgow Cups; recognises that the pinnacle of his achievements was winning the European Cup with Celtic in 1967 at the Estadio Nacional, where he famously led the team in a rendition of The Celtic Song in the tunnel before kick-off; acknowledges that, after finishing his playing career at Hibernian, he entered management in 1974, leading his boyhood favourites Partick Thistle, and latterly Hibernian, to Scottish First Division titles and promotion, alongside spells in charge of Hamilton Academical and Dumbarton; appreciates that, in his later years, he embraced his role as an ambassador for Celtic Football Club and, with great humour, storytelling and friendliness, became a beloved figure not just at Celtic but across Scottish football, and was inducted into the Scottish Football Hall of Fame in 2009; and conveys sincere sympathy to Bertie's family, his former teammates and all of the clubs with which he was associated.

707 Appointment of the Scottish Government Permanent Secretary

Tabled: 29/11/21 Signatories: 3

Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Neale Hanvey

That this House notes with grave concern the appointment by the First Minister of Scotland of the Director General, Work and Health Services, Department for Work and Pensions as the next Permanent Secretary and principal accountable officer for the Scottish Government; notes that United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights highlighted analysis that described universal credit sanctions as inhuman and cruel; believes that this is a wholly inappropriate appointment at variance with the values of social justice as well as the Scottish Government's professed support for a social security system with dignity, fairness and respect at its heart; commends the Daily Record newspaper for reporting on the additional bonus payments of up to £30,000 in addition to a substantial six figure salary received by the Director General, Work and Health Services, Department for Work and Pensions and at the same time notes that families across the UK have been plunged into financial hardship through the removal of the £20 uplift to universal credit; and believes that all senior civil servant appointments including in the Scottish civil service must command the confidence and trust of the public and that this appointment fails that essential test.