



Glenda Jackson MP
10th September 2007
Parliamentary Recess Update

Parliament during recess is a bizarre experience, certainly for me, of working on the Marie Celeste, which has been temporarily moored on a building site.

The annual repair and refurb is in full swing – lifts and escalators out of commission, bangings and crashes and expletives not deleted, and conference season coming ever closer.

Nothing new in any of that, nor in the speculation regarding the possibility of a snap General Election. The fact that Prime Minister Brown has met with almost universal approval - so many people have said to me, “at last, a serious politician” - has caused the opposition, both Tory and Lib Dem, sleepless nights and less than productive days.

I think is pretty unlikely that we will be campaigning for votes this Autumn, but I’m all for causing Mr Cameron anxiety, not, given the criticism he’s receiving from his own party, that he needs any help from us. Despite all the work going on here in Westminster, the Palace will look and to all intents and purposes, be pretty much the same when we re-convene on October 8th.

I have taken the opportunity that the recess break brings, to create a new website which I hope will prove a useful resource for all my constituents. We will be posting information about local and national issues, as well as details of my surgeries, coffee mornings and latest news. We are constantly improving our site according to feedback request, so please do have a look at www.glenda-jackson.co.uk and let me know what you think... like the Parliamentary estate, there are more improvements to come! Advice surgeries began again on the 1st September, and our first coffee morning of this parliamentary session will be at 10.00am on Friday 28th September at Swiss Cottage Community Centre. See the website for more details.

With regards to constituency news, the former library in Cotleigh Road (after much hard graft) has been transformed into the new home for the West Hampstead Women’s Centre, whose grand opening I had the privilege to attend.

Well do I remember the original premises in which this major community resource began its operations. How they managed in such cramped conditions was beyond my comprehension then and now, given the difficulties. The fact they overcame them all to expand and deepen their services is testament to the dedication of all involved over many years.

It is always a pleasure to visit the WHWC, to see, at first hand, the benefits of multi-culturalism, not only to the individuals concerned, but also to their families and the wider community. As I’ve always said, if you want something doing well, give it to a busy woman. And if it’s a really big something, several busy women!