

# John Wilson MSP

Representing Central Scotland

November 2015 Newsletter



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## John Supports Credit Unions

To mark International Credit union day on the 15th October, John attended events at the Association of British Credit Unions Limited (ABCUL) Conference and the Scottish League of Credit Unions, where he spoke about collaborative and community based approaches. In February John will be convening the Scottish Parliaments Credit Union Conference.



As convenor of the Scottish parliaments cross party group on credit unions, John is passionate about the role credit unions can play, particularly in providing a means for those on low incomes to save and borrow.

The UK government wish to see credit unions commercialised and turned into high street banks – forcing them to charge transaction fees, and high rates of interest. This would essentially undermine the concept of credit unions altogether.

“Trying to turn credit unions into high street banks is not being done in the interest of those who use the service, rather it is a cynical way to try and exploit people and make a quick buck.

We must fight to ensure the credit union movement continues to provide these vital, community based services and not allow them to be commercialised as the UK government would like to see.”

Credit Unions are lifeline to communities who have been deserted by commercial banks, such as the Chryston area where the Muirhead ASB closed this year.

“I believe that by bringing together credit unions, industry bodies and elected representatives we can work constructively to ensure our credit unions continue to grow and to work in the interest of our communities”

The costs of this publication have been met out of Scottish Parliamentary resources. Please note that the Scottish Parliament is not responsible for the content of other internet websites.

## Fracking – total ban needed now

Following the announcement of a separate moratorium on underground coal gasification (UCG) John warned that a permanent ban was necessary.

The specifics of the UGC announcement do not require the process to be subject to scrutiny in terms of a health impact assessment and public consultation, even though the technology is completely untested.



Government rhetoric may be that they are considering the pros and cons, however allowing fracking companies to continue with test work including drilling in the meantime, is not an even handed approach.



## No Home for Trident

John strongly opposes the renewal of Trident and spoke in a recent members debate about the proposed £500m upgrade of Faslane to accommodate the next generation of Trident Subs, the total estimated cost of which has now risen to £167bn.



“Refitting of Faslane is not just about making it the nuclear submarine base for the UK; it is also about making the base available to nuclear submarines from other nations, including the USA, Scotland should not be a launchpad for these terrible weapons ”

## Transparency is vital to democracy

John submitted a motion in support of a 'Campaign for Freedom of Information' response which calls for the extension of FOI requests to include contractors hired by the Scottish Government and other public bodies.

"This act has provided the public with very important information during its lifetime. Attempts to limit this bill will be detrimental to the public, politicians, and public bodies' ability to effectively scrutinise the government. "



## Local Focus:

John attended a meeting of the **Wishaw** Credit Union to offer his support to the group and hear about issues the union faces on a day to day basis.

The Alpha Project, a charity that supports Adults with physical disabilities in the **Cumbernauld and Kilsyth** area invited John along to hear about the excellent work they do.

John congratulated Monklands Hospital in **Airdrie** on their fantastic campaign to reduce illness and fatalities due to Sepsis infection.

John will chair an anti-fracking meeting in **Plains** community centre on the 24th November at 7.30. The meeting will help inform residents about the dangers of fracking to communities ahead of a visit by petrochemical giant INEOS.

John met Samantha McInnes from **Moodiesburn** who runs the Sam and ME support group to discuss the fantastic work the group are undertaking. Samantha was first diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) in 2010 and started her blog following a bad relapse which left her unable to walk without the use of sticks. The website **samandme.org** been a way for Sam to tell her story, dispel myths about this often misunderstood illness and support fellow sufferers.



## SURGERIES

### Monday 9th Nov

Chryston Cultural Centre - 10.00am  
Coatbridge, New Townhead Community Centre  
11.30am

Coatbridge ASDA - 1.00pm

### Friday 13th Nov

Falkirk ASDA - 1pm

### Monday 16th Nov

Bellshill Cultural Centre -10.00am  
Motherwell, South Dalziel Studios -11.00am

No Appointment Required

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