

# Cheltenham's Member of Parliament receives NHS petition



In September, Cheltenham's Member of Parliament, **Martin Horwood** received a petition of **10,000 names** from the **Cheltenham Maternity Matters** campaign calling for **St Paul's maternity wing** to be kept open.

The presentation was made outside the maternity wing at Cheltenham General Hospital in College Baths Road.

Martin said " This is by far the largest petition in connection with any of the NHS cuts in Gloucestershire. It just goes to show the strength of support for the St Paul's wing in Cheltenham.

We still want a full obstetrician led service, it is encouraging that the PCT has proposed a midwife led unit instead of outright closure, **but I am firmly of the opinion that a town the size of Cheltenham really deserves a full service."**

Martin has passed on the petition to Patricia Hewitt at the Department of Health.

## Would you like a tour of Parliament?

Martin is always delighted to welcome constituents to Westminster and arrange a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament for them.



Whether you want to come along with a few friends or family members, or would like to organise a group to come from your school, place of work or organisation, just let Martin know on **224889** or email **[martin@martinhorwood.net](mailto:martin@martinhorwood.net)**

Martin says: "It has been a pleasure to see so many constituents up in Westminster - do come along if you can." There is no charge for tours but places are limited so please let Martin have as much notice as possible.

# Martin tells MPs: charity should mean charity

Member of Parliament for Cheltenham and Liberal Democrat charities spokesman **Martin Horwood** has told the House of Commons 'charity should mean charity'. The Cheltenham MP, who has worked himself for charities like **Oxfam** and the **Alzheimer's Society**, was speaking on the final stages of the Charities Bill which includes measures to make life more straightforward for charity treasurers and administrators. He told MPs about local charities including the **National Star College** and **Cheltenham Community Projects** and said many measures in the bill would help them when it became law.

But he also called for more action to defend the public against charity scams and a tightening of the 'public benefit' test which will now apply to all charities. "Charitable status is very valuable to the organisations concerned and a real badge of confidence that the public can trust" said Martin after the debate. "We must make sure it stays that way. Charity should mean charity."

## Crimestoppers

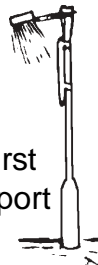
The Gloucestershire Crimestoppers scheme has been a huge success since the service was launched in 1995.

Residents wishing to report a crime or who have information that they wish to give anonymously can ring **0800 555111**.

## Faulty street lights

We have received many complaints about faulty street lights.

If there are any lights malfunctioning in your road in the first instance please call **FREEPHONE 0800 220735** to report it quoting the location & number of the offending light(s).



### Would you like to get involved in campaigning to improve our area?

I can help deliver leaflets

I can help with clerical work

I'll display a poster at election time

I would like to join the Liberal Democrats



Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST SWC0744, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ.

# Hundreds of dentists shun new contract and leave NHS



Dentists are quitting the NHS in their droves rather than signing the controversial new contract.

Figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre show that there has been an **eight per cent decline in NHS dentists** since the introduction of the new dental contract in April 2006.

"We are witnessing a major crisis in access to dental treatment" said Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Cheltenham, **Martin Horwood**. "More than 1500 dentists have opted out of the NHS in just three months."

Our research shows that rather than increasing access to dentistry, the new contracts provide for just one contract per year for each NHS patient.

This is indicative of Labour's failure to restore the NHS to what it should be: a universal comprehensive service that provides ongoing health care to everyone who needs it.

## Martin Horwood



### Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

Holds regular advice surgeries at his constituency office at

**16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham and at other locations around Cheltenham**

Call 01242 224889 to make an appointment