

Good Words and Good Causes

*Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Worthing Herald Article
26th May 2022*

Ian Ross and his enthusiastic team welcomed the DWP minister Mims Davies MP to the new Whitehead Ross RESTART service where the Beale's department store once traded in Worthing.

Gemma bewitched us all by her enthusiasm for help to get into her caring profession, transferring her volunteer skills to her new career. Many more are getting their own new start.

Ian volunteered to replace me as MP twelve years ago. He would be a fine MP; perhaps one day he will be at Westminster, preferably as a colleague.

Tiptoeing around examinations, I congratulated the Friends of Romero Catholic High School, applying successfully for a significant grant from the National Lottery for this year's summer fair, offering a wonderful family event open to the school and local community with lots of exciting entertainment. Come for the opening at 12 noon on Saturday 9 July.

Thinking ahead to summer holidays, the charity Melanoma Focus introduced me on Wednesday to people expert in skin cancers. There are nearly 50 new cases every day. The message: Be Smart About Skin Cancer. Consult your GP about an unusual looking mole or one that is changing. They recommend factor 30 (or higher) sunscreen. Most melanomas are preventable. Rates have tripled for men.

General practitioners through their British Medical association are letting patients why they became family doctors. They want to give great care, to listen and to look after us. They can remind us of the need for effective ways of working. They are right to want better systems, improved premises and greater funding. I regret the BMA PR people suggest political contempt for patients. That was wrong in my experience.

I have known every Secretary of State for Health since Harold Wilson was prime minister. Each, including Virginia, respected clinicians and did all they could to aid patients, avoiding illness, curing when possible and always caring. The same applies to dentistry. West Sussex MPs are doing all we can to restore NHS care.

Words matter. The American guru Dr Frank Lutz declared that it is not what you say that matters; it is what people hear. The best current example is Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He speaks clearly, reaching the minds and the hearts of every listener. His country has by choice and by good fortune the person for the crisis.

The words I use in parliamentary debate and in more private discussions are not weapons, they are allies in the purposes to which I am dedicated. Choosing the right facts, imagery and desirable outcomes have been consistent elements in the continuing representation of the interests of residential leaseholders. There are worrying signs that the next set of changes in law may be delayed. Count on me to work for you on this.

The Platinum Jubilee started for me at the Chelsea Flower Show, not at the glamorous Monday evening preview after The Queen smiled her way around in the Royal buggy. I attended at 7.30 am with the workers, including staff of the Royal Horticultural Society. The constituency has had famous nurseries for flowers and trees, together with the outstanding Highdown Garden, given to Worthing by the Stern family. Look forward to the return of the famous Ambrose Place back gardens in the National Gardens Scheme for medical charities.

On Friday I shall be at East Preston to see the junior school pupils' Jubilee creations and the beakers donated by the parish council. Helping the young to be involved in national celebrations is right and proper, especially in recognising the care and concern with which Her Majesty has behaved throughout her service as our Queen.