

Enjoyment and Health and Wealth

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

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We had a jolly good time during the glorious weekend in Kingston, Ferring, Rustington, East Preston and around Worthing. The thought in the Worthing shield EX TERRA COPIAM E MARE SALUTEM - From The Land Plenty, From The Sea Health – could be expanded to cover the land between the coast and the South Downs.

Enjoyment is the important extra. In my parliament activities, especially in the constituency. On Friday, my team and I joined Tim Loughton MP to recognise the welcome further progress and the remarkable achievements of students and staff at Worthing College. Walking in, it was clear that the sports and other leisure activities make a significant contribution to the lives of the College community.

People of all ages play games or row or sail. Not all are winners. I had fun in four university minor sports second teams. Many of us also enjoy singing though we may not be soloists in the Royal Albert Hall. We can admire the recording of the Barmy Army being conducted by the soprano Lesley Garrett as they sang Jerusalem at the Oval Test cricket. She has loved the game since her parents introduced her to scoring.

At Connaught Leisure, Esther O'Neill had briefed me on the role of amusement arcades in providing holiday fun for residents and visitors. Decades ago, one of my holiday jobs was assisting on stalls in Battersea Fun Fair where her much-loved father Pat O'Neill then had his business. The Fair ran for over twenty years from the 1951 Festival of Britain. Our stalls were good value and we treated the players with friendly respect. It is good that the long campaign to cut the stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals was successful. I remain unhappy about the scale and growth of internet betting.

The Ferring Flower show was fun. The impressive displays of blooms in September illustrate the skills and the dedication of the amateur gardener. At the Rustington table fair in the Samuel Wickens centre, I bought a suitable mug to present to a paramedic whom I have known since primary school.

It can be time for sadness when a pillar of the community retires after years of work and service. It is right to be joyful when a younger person comes through training to take on major responsibilities. Virginia talks of old oaks decaying and of the growth of saplings.

The Mayor's Variety Show at the Assembly Hall was a great success. Congratulations to Mayor Councillor Hazel Thorpe and to everyone who contributed. The song Sussex By The Sea was sung again on Sunday when the Shoreham Lifeboat came to join the Worthing Society's rededication of the Memorial to the men of the lifeboats who died before and after the Worthing Station was established.

My brief contribution was to state that community compassion with individual contributions can come together to make a difference.

Westminster is almost empty. The Liberal Democrats are along the coast, the Labour gathering comes next week and the Conservatives are then booking into Manchester. Meanwhile, the eyes that followed every ball towards the end of the Oval Test are now following the Supreme Court hearing. With respect to the highest judges, I think the minority in the first Gina Miller case had the better arguments. It may seem odd that judges can disagree agreeably before sitting together in later cases. If the same applied to MPs, the 21 expelled from my parliamentary party should have stayed?