

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

July 2023 Report



CLP Summer Party

On Sunday 9th July, I hosted the Islington South and Finsbury CLP's annual Summer Garden Party, which as always was an absolute delight. The beautiful Culpepper Community Gardens provided the perfect location with over 100 people in attendance - local members and community champions coming together in their shared desire for the change that only Labour can bring. And our fantastic Councillor Martin Klute and his band provided the ultimate soft smooth sound of jazz to ease us through the afternoon and get us into the spirit of summer.

I want to thank everyone who put in so much hard work to make it such a successful event, especially Al, Jacky, Andrew, Tito, Janice and all the volunteers at Culpepper Gardens. The party raised more than a thousand pounds for the CLP - vital money as we continue to champion action on the cost of living and gear up for a general election next year.



Byelection campaigning

With Rishi Sunak facing three byelections before summer, and potentially another three later in the year, voters are not short of opportunities to express their frustration with the chaos we have seen in government over the past two years.

Yet despite the polls looking good for Labour, we're taking absolutely nothing for granted, which is why I've been campaigning for every vote in Selby and Uxbridge this month to secure what we hope will be two impressive byelection victories in solid Tory territory. And I want to thank everyone from the CLP who I know have been campaigning hard too and have volunteered their spare time to help.

I hope we've done enough to convince voters that another Britain is possible under Labour, with our message about tackling the cost-of-living crisis, fixing our NHS and tackling the epidemic of crime on our streets. But we won't know until all the votes are counted - so fingers crossed!

And if you want to join Islington on Tour please do get in touch - no experience necessary!



Campaigning in Selby



Campaigning in Uxbridge

Fighting the Illegal Migration Bill

Labour has been battling the Illegal Migration Bill in parliament for the last few months, including a mammoth voting session this month where I voted eighteen times in one evening against the Tories and in support of amendments passed in this House of Lords that would have stripped out some of the cruellest aspects of this terrible bill.

The fact the Tories have now passed this awful Bill has only underscored my determination to fight to get the Labour government we need at the next General Election, so we can bring competence and humanity back to our asylum system.

Voting eighteen times to
amend the Illegal Migration Bill! ➡

LabourWhips	
Votes in Commons now (16:54)	16:56
Votes in Commons now (17:08)	17:09
Votes in Commons now (17:20)	17:21
Votes in Commons now (17:31)	17:32
Votes in Commons (17:45)	17:45
Votes in Commons now (17:57)	17:57
Votes in Commons (18:09)	18:09
Votes in the Commons now (18:21)	18:21
Votes in Commons now (18:33)	18:33



London Pride

It is always a joy to march in London Pride, and this year felt extra special because I got to march twice! - once with Stonewall and once with LGBT+ Labour.

I am always struck by how far we have come as a society in such a short space of time, from criminalisation to same-sex marriage in a generation! But this year it felt particularly important for people to make their voices heard, as the populist right step up their attacks on LGBTQ+ people and their hard-won rights. Pride - as both a celebration and a protest - should always stand as a reminder of how far we still need to go as a society, and that we mustn't be complacent about rights that have been won and could be taken away if we don't continue to stand up for them.



Hammerton guest ale in parliament

This month, I had the pleasure of welcoming Hammerton Brewery into Parliament as their beer “N1” became the latest guest ale at Strangers Bar in Parliament. It was a fantastic opportunity to make sure my fellow MPs know that nobody brews an ale like we can in Islington South, and it seems like they agreed - because it was one of their best-selling guest beers ever!

Earlier this year I visited the local brewery which is just off the Caledonian Road in conjunction with the Small Independent Brewers' Association, so I was delighted to be able to get my local beer on tap in Parliament. It was also an opportunity to revisit some of the challenges facing this important sector that were discussed earlier in the year, like the impact of the cost of living crisis on small independent brewers.



Celebrating our local community

It was fantastic to return to Cally Fest for another year, where you're always treated to the best food, music, and entertainment our vibrant community has to offer. It's also a great time to catch up with people, and a few of the organisations I was lucky enough to speak to were Crumbles Castle, who are back working full time over the summer and continuing their important work with young people; the local Brownies group, who are always on the lookout for new members; and Healthwatch Islington, who champion those using health and social care services in the borough. Finally, a trip to the Caledonian Road would not be complete without a visit to Sunflour Bakery for their delicious cakes!

Unfortunately, this year the first day of the Whitecross Street Party was cancelled due to bad weather, which was such a terrible shame. However, I'm so looking forward to next year when hopefully British summer weather will be on our side!



Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards

Cuts to legal aid from the Tories over the last 13 years have stretched legal aid lawyers to their absolute limit. But despite this, they continue to fight hard and have had some extraordinarily important victories over the last year.

So it was inspiring to attend the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards this month, which represents such an important opportunity to celebrate and reward the dedication and brilliant work of some of the very best.



Visit to the Royal Courts of Justice



This month, as part of my work as Shadow Attorney General I visited the charity Support Through Court at the Royal Courts of Justice to hear more about the vital work they do to support people through the judicial process. Last year, they helped 57,000 people who otherwise would have had to face our complex legal system alone.

Not only does this allow their clients to understand and be a little more confident in the legal processes they are facing, but it also goes some way to address the court backlogs by ensuring people's journey through court runs as smoothly as possible.



Diary

Constituency and Labour

June

19 June - Spoke at fundraiser for Northampton North PPC Lucy Rigby
28 June - Meeting with a constituent and the Child Poverty Action Group
29 June - Spoke at Anneliese Dodd's CLP fundraiser
30 June - Meeting about maternity services at the Whittington

July

1 July - Marched at London Pride
2 July - Cally Fest
3 July - Celebrating Hammerton Brewery being this month's Guest Ale in Parliament's Strangers Bar
7 July - Byelection campaigning in Selby & Ainsty
8 July - Town Hall constituency surgery
9 July - CLP Summer Garden Party
12 July - Byelection campaigning in Uxbridge and South Ruislip
14 July - St Luke's constituency surgery

Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

June

21 & 22 June - Attended the Government's Ukraine Recovery Conference
22 June - Meeting with Transparency International Ukraine
26 June - Morning media round including Times Radio, Sky News, Bauer Media, LBC, GB News and ITN
27 June - Meeting with the City of London Law Society
27 June - Pride Month Parliamentary Reception
28 June - Spoke about the Rule of Law at the UCL Constitution Unit Conference
28 June - Meeting with LegalUK
28 June - Attended the US Ambassador's Independence Day Party

July

3 July - Spoke at Labour Women's Parliamentary Staff Network summer drinks reception
4 July - Meeting with the Access to Justice Foundation
5 July - Meeting with Support Through Court and tour of the Royal Courts of Justice
6 July - Attorney General Oral Questions
11 July - Meeting with Rights of Women

