

# Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

September 2023 Report



## Welcoming De Beauvoir to Islington South

Parliamentary constituencies all over the country are changing shape and size for the next general election. Thankfully, Islington South and Finsbury won't lose any wards, but we will gain one - De Beauvoir - from Hackney South and Shoreditch. That means residents of De Beauvoir will have me as their Labour parliamentary candidate at the next general election.



So we can get ready for the next general election, Labour members in De Beauvoir have already been transferred into our local Labour Party, so I met some of them this month to personally welcome them to the constituency. I know that Meg Hillier MP really doesn't want to lose them at the next general election, and I'm sure it will be very odd for members from De Beauvoir to be the only Hackney ward in Islington South and Finsbury, so I would really appreciate it if we made a special effort to welcome them.

In the run up to the general election, there will be plenty of opportunities to campaign in De Beauvoir. Please come and join me in getting to know this beautiful new part of the constituency.

**I hope you will join us for a canvassing session in De Beauvoir on Thursday 28 September.**





# Taking the fight to the SNP in Scotland

After three long years in limbo, it has finally been announced that there will be a byelection in Rutherglen and Hamilton West, after the SNP MP Margaret Ferrier was found to have broken the law by travelling to Westminster from Scotland knowing she had Covid, at the height of the pandemic.

But this byelection is about much more than just one irresponsible MP. With the SNP in chaos following the arrest of Nicola Sturgeon on suspicion of fraud, and the SNP offering nothing more than endless fights with Westminster, Rutherglen urgently needs a Labour MP who can focus on the issues that really matter - like the cost-of-living and the NHS. This byelection is a golden opportunity for voters to send a message to both the Tories and the SNP that Scotland and the UK deserve a Labour government.

Winning this one won't be easy after years of SNP dominance in Scotland, but I know that our fantastic candidate, Michael Shanks - a local teacher and the founder of a children's disability charity - is exactly the strong voice this community needs after years of neglect under the SNP. That's why I'm so pleased that voters on the doorstep were positive that now is the time for change, and that that change is Labour.





# Taking on the government over RAAC

---



Some of you may remember that in May, I told you that I had written to the government about the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in public buildings. It's a tragedy that children are now missing out on learning because the government failed to take timely action on RAAC, and it's outrageous the Tories are trying to absolve themselves of responsibility when they've been warned time and time again about this impending crisis.

This month, I have again used parliamentary questions to push the government to be transparent about which public buildings are at risk of closure or collapse due to RAAC, and I won't stop until the public get the answers - and the action - they deserve.

## Dare to Care event in Parliament

---

This month, I chaired an event in Parliament hosted by the Drive Forward Foundation, a charity that supports looked-after children and care leavers into sustainable employment. The event marked the launch of new guidance for lawyers who work with young people to prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care.

We heard from some brilliant young people about their own experience of care, as well as experts from across the criminal justice and care sectors, about how better opportunities can be offered to children in care, to prevent them ending up in the criminal justice system.



# Labour's new Charging Commission

---

As Shadow Attorney General, one of my main focuses has been developing Labour's approach to tackling the shocking collapse in criminals being charged that has taken place under the Tories.

That's why it was so exciting this month to join the Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, and the former Victims Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird, along with a number of leading experts in policing and criminal justice, for the first meeting of Labour's new Charging Commission.

The Commission will look at a range of issues, including enhancing cooperation between the police and Crown Prosecution Service, improving the speed and quality of police response and charging decisions, and ensuring that victims are being provided with sufficient support to avoid them dropping out. Our aim is to address the sharp drop in the proportion of crimes that are successfully prosecuted, and as a result create a roadmap for reversing this terrible trend should Labour come into power next year.



The former Victims Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird, is chairing Labour's Charging Commission

## Looking ahead to Labour Party Conference

---

Labour Party Conference will take place in Liverpool at the beginning of October. This year, I'll be speaking about justice with the Society of Labour Lawyers, joining a panel hosted by the Social Market Foundation on tackling fraud, and giving a speech to the conference floor on my vision for law and criminal justice as Shadow Attorney General - and so much more!

If you're heading to conference, keep an eye out for Islington drinks organised by Islington South and Finsbury Chair, Andrew. It's one of the highlights of conference and I'm always amazed at how many of us attend in so many different roles! And if you're not going to conference, I look forward to telling you all about what I got up to in Liverpool next month.





# What else I've been up to this month



Attending the Canal Festival



At the launch of the Society of Labour Lawyers' new paper on Access to Justice



Visiting the Bethany House supported housing project



Giving the keynote speech at a fundraiser for the Tooting Labour Party with Rosena Allin-Khan MP





# Diary

---

## Constituency and Labour

---

1 Sept - St Luke's surgery  
1 Sept - Visited Bethany House supported accommodation in Clerkenwell  
3 Sept - Islington Canal Festival  
7 Sept - De Beauvoir ward handover party  
9 Sept - Town Hall surgery  
14 Sept - Spoke at a fundraiser for Tooting MP Rosena Allin-Khan  
15-16 Sept - Travelled to Scotland to campaign in Rutherglen and Hamilton West  
19 Sept - Visited the site of the Anti-Apartheid Legacy Centre of Memory and Learning on Penton Street  
20 Sept - Spoke at Camden Labour fundraiser

## Media

---

31 Aug - Morning media round including Sky News, Times Radio, LBC, GB News, and ITV  
11 Sept - LBC Cross-Question  
13 Sept - BBC Post-PMQs Politics Live  
14 Sept - Media round including LBC, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Newscast Podcast and Channel 4 News

## Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

---

6 Sept - Met with the Social Market Foundation to discuss how to tackle fraud  
6 Sept - Attended the launch of the Society of Labour Lawyers' new paper on access to justice  
11 Sept - First meeting of Labour's new Charging Commission  
12 Sept - Meeting with Law for Life  
13 Sept - Spoke at the launch of the Women's Budget Group's new report on access to justice  
13 Sept - Spoke at the launch of a new paper on the over-criminalisation of children in care  
20 Sept - Met the incoming and outgoing Lord Chief Justices



↖ Talking about the Tories' broken manifesto commitment to protect pensions on BBC Politics Live

