

## May 2012

This coming Sunday I will celebrate my two year anniversary as the MP for Chatham & Aylesford. It has flown by with some personal, political and professional highs and lows along the way.

It is genuinely a real privilege and honour to be able to represent and serve local residents. Not only do I get to help people with their problems, and occasionally secure a victory for the small man against the machine, but I get to meet the most amazing volunteers, professionals and organisations. Whether it is the teacher who can control a class of 30 crazy, energetic, inquisitive 9 year olds, or the driver who gives up his time to take the elderly to and from an appointment, they always inspire me to be a better person.

However the challenges of the first two years as a MP in Government have been great at times. It is easy to forget that when the Coalition Government formed it did so in order to find solutions to the profound issues that faced the Country at the time, and continue to do so today. The Government's first priority has to be dealing with the record budget deficit left by Labour and starting on day one took the tough decision to deal with the nation's finances. People will disagree, usually on an ideological basis, as to the when and how of our deficit reduction programme but unless we get a grip and recognise a simple truth, that as a country we spent more money than we earned, we will never get ourselves out of this mess.

This priority has dominated government policy but among on the news on budget constraints we can lose sight of the good things the government has done, helping to freeze Council Tax, giving local people a greater say on planning and providing pensioners with the biggest ever cash increase in their basic state pension. I could say more but I've run out of space!

Time is flying by but with each week that passes or challenge that arises, my energy and enthusiasm increases. Roll on the next two years.