

Westminster column

by MP Sheryll Murray

I WOULD like to thank the 29,493 people (more than 55 per cent of those who voted in the South East Cornwall constituency in the General Election) who have put their trust in me.

It is a great honour to represent the people who I grew up with, work with and live amongst.

I do know that receiving the highest majority ever in Cornwall is not just down to me. My staff in Liskeard work incredibly hard trying to sort out constituents' issues and I would like to thank them for their hard work. I would also like to thank all the Conservative Party volunteers who went out banging on doors, delivering leaflets and putting up posters. It was a real team effort.

I would also like to congratulate my Conservative colleagues across Cornwall on their successful election – Scott Mann, Steve

Double, Sarah Newton, George Eustice and Derek Thomas. I know we can work together at Westminster for the good of Cornwall.

It has not been the cleanest election campaign I have ever been involved in.

The damage to the Conservative posters was immense and I am hoping that the police will be able to take action on this.

I was also disappointed to see the far left try to take over the Callington hustings for their own political ends by shouting down when they had the soundbite they wanted.

This meant a very uneven debate and I even saw some genuine local residents walk out.

It just means I will not be attending this type of hustings event again as on occasion I felt quite threatened and, unfortun-



nately, in these times security is a constant concern.

Theresa May did not get the increased mandate she had asked for but she did win the election. She won 318 seats to the Labour Party's 262. I listened very carefully to all the comments given to me and my canvassing team and it was clear that the reason

Theresa May did not get an increased majority was the need for a more compassionate Conservative Party which does more to look after those in need and after our children. I will be looking for this to be reflected in policy as we move forward in government.

During the election there are no MPs. This has meant I have not been able to offer the service to local constituents that I would like to. Having been now re-elected, I ask constituents to contact me in my Liskeard office on 01579 344428, email sheryll@sheryllmurray.com or write to me at The Office of Sheryll Murray MP, The Parade, Liskeard, PL14 6AF. Unfortunately, I cannot deal with casework over social media due to confidentiality, so please use the above contact methods and do not get offended if I remove your comment.

Don't ignore bloating says cancer survivor



CANCER survivor Stephanie Downing, from Saltash, with her husband Simon

A WOMAN from South East Cornwall is speaking out during a national week of action designed to raise awareness of symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Stephanie Downing, from Saltash, is warning other women and their GPs not to ignore bloating as a significant symptom of ovarian cancer – after being wrongly diagnosed for around five months with irritable bowel syndrome.

She is speaking out in the week that ovarian cancer charity Ovacome unveiled what it called 'startling' figures showing that women and their GPs are dismissing bloating – the main symptom of the disease – as something less serious.

Stephanie, 49, is a former lawyer and teach-

ing assistant at Bishop Cornish Primary School.

She says she is relieved that after several visits to her GP, she insisted on further investigation for the bloating she suffered – looking heavily pregnant from one moment to having a flat stomach the next.

A scan led to the revelation that in fact she had early stage 1 ovarian cancer. That was three-and-a-half years ago, and after surgery and chemotherapy she has been clear of disease.

'I fought my corner, but a lot of women won't feel comfortable doing this over something which can so easily be dismissed as irritable bowel syndrome or the menopause,' said Stephanie.

'Women need to be made aware that bloating – even if you are aged under 50 – is a strong indicator of ovarian cancer, which can be checked by asking your GP for a simple blood test.'

In a study of 324 women, Ovacome found that although nine in 10 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer had bloating, in only 20 per cent of cases was it the symptom which took them to their GP. The research also showed that women who did go to their GP with bloating had to wait an average of 22 weeks for a referral to a gynaecological specialist.

The charity is working to spread awareness of BEAT: B is for bloating that is persistent; E is for eating less and feeling fuller quicker; A is for abdominal pain; and T is for telling your GP.

News round-up

Stories from the Fowey and Lostwithiel area



MIKRON Theatre members Craig Anderson, James McLean, Rose McPhilemy and Claire-Marie Seddon tell the story of youth hostelling in a new comedy Best Foot Forward

Play on youth hostels theme

THE Eden Project's youth hostel will be the venue for a new comedy play – about youth hostelling.

Best Foot Forward tells the tale of one of Britain's most beloved national institutions, the Youth Hostelling Association (YHA).

The play takes audiences from the inception of hostelling in 1911 in the mind of a German soldier, through its founding in Britain in the 1930s, and then right up to date, with modern youth hostels still holding true to the founding ideals.

Best Foot Forward is set at Pearling Manor, a hostel 'rich in history but falling apart'. A developer is out to seize the building and turn it into a golf club, and big-hearted warden Connie sets out to save it, taking everyone through the YHA's past in order to secure its future.

Maeve Larkin's fast-paced and funny script is full of mem-

orable characters, all brought to life by four singing, instrument-playing, character-swapping actors.

Caroline White, chief executive of YHA in England and Wales, said: 'The YHA network has changed beyond recognition in recent years. However, many people still remember the days of wardens, chores and curfews. Thankfully, these are long gone but they are absolutely part of YHA's rich history, and what better way to celebrate it than with comedy in this brilliant production.'

'I am delighted that through our partnership with Mikron Theatre Company we can bring Best Foot Forward to the thousands of visitors we welcome to Youth Hostels each year.'

The Mikron Theatre Company's Best Foot Forward will be at the YHA Eden Project on Friday, June 30.

Planning news

PLANNING application for Fowey – 8 Du Maurier Drive, Fowey: First-floor extension to include balcony and interior alterations to existing property.

Planning decisions for Fowey – Accommodation 6 Webb Street, Fowey: Change of use from shop to hot food takeaway including installation of cooking and ventilation equipment, also Listed Building Consent. Approved with conditions; Lawn Bank, Polvillion Road, Fowey: Works to trees subject to a tree preservation order. Withdrawn.

Planning application for Lostwithiel – 4 North Street, Lostwithiel: Replace existing rotten timber sash windows and single skin timber frame upper front section of property.

Planning decision for Lostwithiel – Land north of Rose Hill, Rose Hill, Lostwithiel: Modify agreement to change the tenure of the flats and increase the affordable housing prices to ensure the scheme is financial viable for lending purposes. Withdrawn.