

ON TRACK TO BOOST BUSINESS IN THE EAST MIDS



Emma continues to support businesses across the region and as part of this addressed the Oakham Biz Club earlier this year.

"It is so important to build a dialogue with our industries, to listen to their concerns and to understand their ambitions," said Emma.

Emma, the Conservative lead on International Trade matters in Europe, then visited Derby-based train-maker Bombardier following the recent news they have been selected to build 665 carriages for the new East Anglia franchise Abellio.

She was given a tour of the factory and shown the new Crossrail carriages which Bombardier are building. She met with Matthew Colclough, Head of Site Operations, and Gary Mowbray Finance Director to talk about the opportunities and challenges for Bombardier post-Brexit.

Bombardier has been making trains since 1876 in Derby and employs 1,600 people. The £1 billion Abellio contract – funded by the private sector – is expected to secure the factory's future for the next five years, protecting at least 1,000 jobs.



SAVING ERASMUS+

The EU's reach goes way beyond the headline issues of the Single Market, free trade and 'passporting'," says Andrew.

"So we need to be clear about which EU rules and programmes are worth keeping and those which need to be dropped."

One he believes is worth keeping is the EU student exchange programme Erasmus+. He has first-hand experience of its cultural and educational benefits in his role as a university governor.

When it comes to Erasmus+, the UK and EU stand as equals, after all, the UK receives many more Erasmus+ students than we send abroad.

Latest figures show that we sent 14,600 students across the EU but received 27,100.

"German car makers and French champagne sellers are often cited as reasons why the EU will eventually come up with



a good trade deal with the UK," said Andrew.

"The same enlightened self-interest arguments should, and I stress 'should', apply to

Erasmus+. We have the best university sector in Europe but one which benefits from collaboration networks across Europe that could largely continue."

Andrew added: Unfortunately the same EU stubbornness over compulsory freedom of movement could apply to Erasmus+ as it does over the Single Market. The UK should be as constructive as possible in its efforts to remain in Erasmus+.

"But if the EU pushes ahead - punishing its own young people - in its attempt to frighten other countries from seeking their freedom, it underlines why the EU is unworthy of our continued membership".

A BIGGER ROLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

One of Andrew's most recent missions at home and abroad has been to highlight the potential post-Brexit opportunity for local authorities.

"There is no question that councils are in the best position to identify and prioritise what is needed.

"This is our chance to put decision-making power back in the hands of those who are close to and know what is needed in our communities."

He added: "The vote to leave has provided those working in local government with the best opportunity to change the relationship between Whitehall, councils and the LRAs.

To help identify those issues and powers that should be handed over to councils, Andrew is helping to develop the New Direction think tank's Subsidiarity scoreboard plans.

"It will help us measure the impact of EU regulation and rules so we can better argue for changes to them when we leave" he added.



He said decisions about local development and investment projects - currently funded and decided on by the EU - would be much better taken locally.

"Subsidiarity - decision making as close to the people as possible - should be a key aspect of future legislation," commented Andrew.

SCHOOL ACADEMY

Emma visited Sir Christopher Hatton Academy in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire to speak to a group of sixth formers in a Question and Answer session about their future career prospects and share her own career experiences.

Emma was appointed as the Academy's Ambassador in the Autumn period to help promote and support the school and its pupils whilst also offering career advice.

Emma said: "Sir Christopher Hatton Academy is a fantastic school that aims high and delivers top quality opportunities for its school and its pupils whilst also offering career advice.

"I am honoured to help in any way that could better the life experiences of its pupils. The sixth formers were intelligent inquisitive and confident; a testament to what this top quality state school produces."



Sir Christopher Hatton Academy is the highest performing academy in Northamptonshire and is a National Teaching School, with 81% of its pupils going to University - of which 25% attend Russell Group universities like Oxford and Cambridge. It is one of only two schools in the country that has been awarded Gold status for its work and achievements in delivering effective anti-bullying strategies.

Emma has been involved with the Academy for a number of years and helped them to obtain the go-ahead to purchase their sixth form block in 2012.



Andrew Lewer MBE MEP and Emma McClarkin MEP

Winter 2016

*Working for you,
Working for the East Midlands*

EAST MIDLANDS EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This year, we were delighted to host the East Midlands European Reception at the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham and the European Regional Conference in Leicester along with Kelly Smith, East Midlands Regional Chairman.



discuss regional opportunities. We very much hope to make this an annual event."

Andrew added: "We were lucky to secure a strong and interesting line-up of speakers. And it provided a great opportunity to meet many colleagues to

The conference brought together over 150 delegates from across the East Midlands, including Party Supporters, Councillors, MP's as well as Conservative Party Chairman Rt. Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, 1922 Committee Chairman Graham Brady and Lord Gary Porter of Spalding CBE and Chairman of the LGA.

Emma said: "It was great to welcome colleagues from across the East Midlands to such a fantastic Conference where we took time to examine political changes and

discuss the important issues currently facing the country and the Party."

The conference included a variety of speaking panels which included discussions on the opportunities for the East Midlands that Brexit has presented.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Andrew and Emma

EMMA FIGHTS FOR WILDLIFE

Emma attended the CITES meeting in Johannesburg this September. Whilst she was there she took the time to visit Pilanesburg Park Rhino protection Unit, where she saw first-hand the devastating effects of poaching and the huge job the rangers have in protecting their animals.



She said: "The scale of recent trade in illegal wildlife and wildlife products is unprecedented. In 2007, 13 rhinos were killed in South Africa. Last year, the number was 1175.

"This problem can no longer be ignored. We should make this a priority on our trade agendas and ensure that we politicians, and the international community, do more in stopping this illegal commercial enterprise."

Emma also arranged a hearing in the European Parliament which marked the first time the International Trade Committee has gathered to discuss this issue.

Emma added: "As part of my work on the Committee on International Trade in the European Parliament, I have been actively campaigning to crack down on illegal wildlife trade and to bring this problem into the attention of policy-makers. I am currently writing an own-initiative report on this committee, which aims to explore the use of trade policy to include anti-corruption commitments and aid the sustainability of wildlife.

Time is not on our side, we must act now.

RURAL BUSINESS GUIDE BY ANDREW

A new booklet aimed at helping rural businesses and communities make the most of EU funding opportunities has been published by Andrew.

Entitled: "A Changing Landscape: Farming and Rural Business Funding Opportunities", the guide brings together all you need to know to apply for EU grants.

"It will be a while before we Brexit the EU," said Andrew. "Until then it is important farmers, businesses and local communities continue to benefit from the EU funding on offer and consider the future."

Andrew said he wanted to make it easy for rural communities to make the most of the EU and to consider what a future outside the EU might look like. The booklet:

- provides facts about EU funding opportunities
- examines options for the future and seeks answers to how we use Brexit freedoms and flexibilities.

To receive a copy of the booklet please email Andrew at office@andrewlewermep.co.uk



Brailsford

Andrew attended the formal opening of Brailsford Church of England Primary School where pupils got to hear what an MEP, a High Sheriff and a Bishop do all on the same day.

"It is good to see a small, rural school not only thrive but to have new, state-of-the-art facilities" said Andrew.



Derby

Emma took a special tour in the UK's oldest and last remaining producers of fine bone china, Royal Crown Derby. She was given an insight into the production lines of this historic and unique institution of British manufacturing and production and was eager to show her firm support for Royal Crown Derby and its future success.



Nottingham

Despite being interrupted by the fire alarm, politics students at The University of Nottingham returned to the lecture room to hear Andrew speak about Brexit and the European Union, his reasons for supporting the Leave campaign and his hopes for the post-Brexit UK.



Hinckley

Speaking at Hinckley Business Club earlier this year, Emma spoke about how trade and exporting was vital to the growth of businesses in Leicestershire.

"Hinckley Business Club provides excellent opportunities for local businesses to discuss best practices and to also offer and receive advice" said Emma.



Boston

Andrew was guest speaker at the recent, well-attended Boston Supper Club hosted by former Regional Chairman Dudley Bryant MBE.

Andrew (pictured with Chris Green) spoke about getting the best possible Brexit deal. He told the gathering: "My role as an MEP is not over. There is a big job for each of us to deliver. I believe we now have a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a new-look UK it is worth taking the time to get it right."



Rutland

Emma paid a special visit to Oakham Castle in Rutland to see how the historic site has been transformed following major restoration work.

Rutland County Council has been working with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to restore Oakham Castle following a £2million grant in 2015 which has helped fund extensive repairs and pay for a new events programme at the castle.



Working hard for the East Midlands, with

Andrew Lewer MEP and Emma McClarkin MEP



Cromford

Cromford Mills chief executive Sarah McLeod took Andrew on a tour of the continuing restoration project at the World Heritage site.

"It was great to see just how far work has progressed and hear about plans for future development of the buildings," said Andrew, who was Chairman of the UNESCO World Heritage Site from 2009 to 2013.



London

As Vice President of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group's think tank New Direction, Andrew co-hosted a special seminar on the Future of international Free Trade.

Delegates included Sir Tim Rice and an impressive panel made up of former Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Cabinet Members Liam Fox and David Davis and fellow MEPs Emma McClarkin and Daniel Hannan.



Alford

Following her talk in Sandilands earlier this year, Emma was invited to return to visit Alford Primary School in Lincolnshire, where she talked to pupils and staff about her role as an MEP, democracy, tolerance and the rule of law.



Northampton

Emma visited the University of Northampton's Innovation Centre this year, where she met representatives from Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire University to discuss future applications for EU funding, with the aim of adding social impact to the community in Northamptonshire.



Lowdham

"A hive of activity for the Lowdham community and beyond" is how Andrew described The Bookcase following his recent meeting with owner Jane Streeter.

"The Bookcase is a hub for creative people and for education. It is a great example of how a modern bookshop can thrive in our electronic age" said Andrew.



Leicester

Plans for an East Midlands design centre were unveiled when Andrew visited Royal Enfield in Bruntingthorpe. Up to 80 specialist design and engineering jobs will be created to develop new motorcycle models for UK & US markets.

"This is a great example of Britain being open for business post Brexit" commented Andrew.



Daventry

Emma toured the factory of the Long March-based supplier to the automotive sector, exchanging views with the workforce as she went. Red Arch had been awarded a Queens award for International Trade.

Emma said: "It was a pleasure to visit such a successful British business, which increased turnover by 87% in the last year alone."



Sneinton

Earlier this year, Emma visited Nottingham City College to talk to them about the discuss the potential that exists for football in Sneinton and also visited the facilities at the City College.

This Visit also included a trip to Sneinton Town FC, where she heard about the club and what opportunities it provides for opportunities for people of all ages in the region.

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