

EMMA SUPPORTS BRITISH HORSERACING

This autumn, Emma paid a visit to Leicester racecourse in Oadby for an insight into the British Horseracing industry.

As the Conservative spokesperson for Sport in the European Parliament,



she was particularly interested to learn about the preparations for race day. Horseracing is a huge industry in Europe, with around £25 billion of betting activity on the

sport each year, while Britain is the largest Member State in Europe for jump races.

Emma said: "I am passionate about sport and also understand how important it is for our economy. Racecourses such as Leicester and others across the UK employ many thousands of people and we must secure these jobs for the future."

"I will continue to work hard in Europe to ensure that legislation does not affect the industry negatively - such as changes in the way that betting is regulated, to ensure the industry continues to thrive."

ANDREW HIGHLIGHTS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Christmas is almost upon us and families across the region are preparing to celebrate. But for many Christians life is not so simple. Practising their faith or celebrating important festivals can put them in daily fear for their lives.



The appalling brutality, executions and continuing persecution of people because of their religion prompted Andrew to organise a public hearing of the ECR Working Group on Freedom of Religion

focussing on Iran.

Andrew said: "It is important that our basic human right to follow our faith is protected. We need to expose those regimes which rule by fear and persecution. As a Christian and a Methodist, I am in awe of people who stay faithful to their faith in the face of such fear."

"We need to listen to the experiences of those living in a climate of fear, do what we can to expose the atrocities and use all possible means to protect freedom of religion across the world. Those who say it is better to stay quiet and not rock the boat for those experiencing persecution could not be more wrong."

NO TO EU INTERFERENCE IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Andrew believes the EU is getting too big for its boots and is forever trying to extend its control over Member States - even into our classrooms.



Despite the refugee emergency, the continuing Euro currency crisis and the endless delays to transatlantic and other trade agreements, the European Parliament is drawing up plans to force schools to cover the EU in their curriculums.

During a recent Culture and Education Committee debate on the issue, Andrew made his view clear:

"This is another classic example of the EU trying to interfere in areas where it has no mandate or

competence. It is a case of MEPs - particularly those from the left including the British ones - trying to fill their time now their ability to create new EU laws has been cut.

"It is time for the EU to go back to its roots and focus on its key areas of responsibility rather than numerous attempts to meddle in national government affairs."

EMMA TACKLES FRENCH SKIING PROTECTION

Year after year France fails to recognise British Ski Qualifications, and there have been several legal challenges to this effect. However, now it has gone further, with the French Alps now targeting Ski volunteers.

The Ski Club of Great Britain are particularly affected. Volunteer instructors who claim board and lodging are now being treated as professionals and as such are discriminated against. All leaders are volunteers, using annual holiday to lead in the resort, with no stipend, instead receiving contributions towards travel and accommodation.

Now, backed by Snowsports England, Scotland & Wales and Disability Snowsports

UK, Emma (pictured in Louth with Rob Crowder, Chairman of the Ski Club GB) wants the Commission



to address this issue; calling for action in her letter to the Commission and in her upcoming meeting in the New Year.

Emma, a keen skier herself, said: "The issue of protectionist French Ski associations is nothing new, but for too long the EU has turned a blind eye. This cannot be allowed to continue."



Andrew Lewer MBE MEP and Emma McClarkin MEP

Working for you,
Working for the East Midlands

Winter 2015

A BUSY, BUT EXHILARATING, YEAR FOR BOTH OF US

This year has been incredibly busy for both of us, and 2015 seems to have flown by in a whirlwind of work and campaigning.

As well as doing our best to represent the East Midlands in Brussels and Strasbourg, we have also spent a lot of time out and about in the region, including campaigning hard for our fantastic result in May's General Election.

The result of that election means that we will finally have a referendum on our membership of the European Union, and this will surely rise up the agenda during the course of the coming year.

Until then, we will have a lot of work to do in the Parliament. As you will read in this joint annual report, the EU still proposes—and occasionally votes through—things which simply aren't in the British interest.

It is our job to oppose these, and to try to ensure that any legislation the EU passes is the best it can be, and works to the benefit of the UK rather than against it.

Finally, we'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous new year.

Andrew and Emma

EU REFORMS QUESTIONED BY ANDREW

Andrew supports the Government's plans to secure reform of the EU, but questions whether they go far enough.



Currently the Government is aiming to secure agreement for:

- **Economic governance** - to safeguard the Single Market, the operation of the EU for all 28 Member States and no financial liability for the Euro
- **Competitiveness** - to reduce regulation and red tape while still benefiting from the EU single market
- **Immigration** - restrict benefits for EU migrants and crack down on the abuse of free movement
- **Sovereignty** - a UK opt-out from forging an ever closer union, and handing back powers to national parliaments.

Andrew said: "There is no doubt that the EU needs to change. If we are to remain in the EU we need to secure reform that makes it function better, cut out waste and red tape and be a more effective organisation."

EMMA DEFENDS STEEL INDUSTRY

As UK Trade Spokesman for Conservative MEPs, Emma has been very vocal about the problems the UK steel industry has been facing recently, including in north Lincolnshire.

Emma said: "I have been putting pressure on the European Commission to combat the issue of cheap Chinese steel flooding the world market, which is costing UK jobs. Evidence shows that what they are doing is breaking trade rules. I want the EU to



speed up the process of implementing anti-dumping measures, and to urgently speak to the Chinese government directly to put forward the message that

people's livelihoods in Europe are at risk.

"The EU has full responsibility over finding solutions to this problem. It needs to use its power effectively if UK citizens are to even consider supporting our future membership."

Lincolnshire

Spam fritters were on the menu when Andrew attended a Battle of Britain themed dinner in Lincolnshire, hosted by Stephen Phillips MP, to talk about his work in the EU. Robert Jenrick MP and Marc Jones are also pictured.



Swadlincote

Emma was the guest speaker at Heather Wheeler MP's bi-monthly Business Breakfast Meeting in South Derbyshire earlier this year, which was held at the headquarters of local company, Keystone Lintels.



Conference

The Chairman of the ECR group, Syed Kamall, joined Andrew at a fringe event at this year's Party Conference. Both called for greater scrutiny of EU spending and devolving power back to national governments.



Ketton

After hearing recently about advances to concrete road materials, a visit to Ketton Cement Works in Rutland gave Emma the chance to learn more about other developments in the industry.



Ashbourne

On the 11th November, Andrew was at a military cemetery in Antwerp as a guest of the city's mayor to lay a poppy wreath given to him by the British Legion branch of his home town of Ashbourne in Derbyshire.



Ruddington

Following Emma's support in securing funding for the Framework Knitters Museum in Nottinghamshire, she was able to have a go at knitting using a 19th Century machine during her visit.



Working hard for the East Midlands, with Andrew Lewer MEP and Emma McClarkin MEP



Derby

As part of recent visits to local education providers, Andrew spoke to apprentices at Rolls Royce in Derby. He also spoke to staff and the young people about his role as an MEP, as well as explaining the many layers of government.



Lutterworth

Emma visited Leicestershire-based Notts Sport in the autumn, to see the world-class artificial turf the company supplies to sports venues - including Hockey Clubs in Leicester, Market Harborough and Lutterworth, as well as part of the Olympic Hockey venue in London.



Lincoln

The annual Lincolnshire Show was enjoyed by Emma this summer when she joined Karl McCartney MP, supporting the NFU at the successful and popular country show.



Westminster

Andrew chaired a session at the ECR Autumn University in Westminster. He is pictured with Rani Mahal, Deputy Chairman of the East Midlands CWO, and Kelly Smith, Regional Chairman of the East Midlands.



Nottingham

Emma continues to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, joining businesses like Nottingham's 'In Phase International', who she visited in the autumn.



Oakham

Andrew's first Referendum Roadshow - hosted near Oakham - sparked lively debate and food for thought. Remain or Leave? Whatever views people hold, Andrew is keen to hear them at one of his Roadshows.



Northampton

October saw Emma visiting the site of the planned 2,220-place Northampton International Academy. She was accompanied by the Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, Cllr. Jim Harker OBE.



Erewash

Andrew celebrates with long-standing Derbyshire County and Erewash Borough Councillor Robert Parkinson at the East Midlands reception at the Party conference. Robert was attending his 52nd conference.