

Your local MP is here to help



Geoffrey says: "One of the most satisfying things about being an MP is being able to help my constituents. People become very frustrated trying to deal with bureaucracy – it can appear there is no way forward. While I cannot promise always to solve a problem, I do promise to do my best to help."

Geoffrey Cox has surgery sessions by appointment in towns across Torridge and West Devon, and maintains his constituency office in Bideford.

For matters relating local government it may be appropriate to refer to your local Councillor in the first instance.

To contact Geoffrey:

Write: 2 Bridge Chambers, Lower Bridge Street, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2BU.

Telephone: 01237 459001 or Fax: 459003

Email: tellgeoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk

Website: www.geoffreycox.co.uk

## Advice surgery dates and venues

Please note that all surgeries are by appointment only. To arrange an appointment please contact the Constituency office

### Bideford - held at the Constituency Office

Saturday	01 April 2006	10am-11.30am
Saturday	13 May 2006	10am-11.30am
Saturday	03 June 2006	10am-11.30am
Saturday	01 July 2006	10am-11.30am
Saturday	02 September 2006	10am-11.30am
Saturday	07 October 2006	10am-11.30am

### Holsworthy - held at the Market Hall

Saturday	08 April 2006	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	27 May 2006	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	10 June 2006	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	29 July 2006	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	09 September 2006	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	28 October 2006	10.30am-12noon

### Okehampton - held at the Ockment Centre

Saturday	25 March 2006	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	29 April 2006	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	20 May 2006	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	17 June 2006	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	15 July 2006	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	16 September 2006	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	21 October 2006	9.30am-11.00am

### Tavistock - held at Kingdon Hall

Saturday	25 March 2006	11.45am-1.15pm
Saturday	29 April 2006	11.45am-1.15pm
Saturday	20 May 2006	11.45am-1.15pm
Saturday	17 June 2006	11.45am-1.15pm
Saturday	15 July 2006	11.45am-1.15pm
Saturday	16 September 2006	11.45am-1.15pm
Saturday	21 October 2006	11.45am-1.15pm

### Great Torrington - held at the Conservative Club

Saturday	01 April 2006	12.15pm-1.45pm
Saturday	13 May 2006	12.15pm-1.45pm
Saturday	03 June 2006	12.15pm-1.45pm
Saturday	01 July 2006	12.15pm-1.45pm
Saturday	02 September 2006	12.15pm-1.45pm
Saturday	07 October 2006	12.15pm-1.45pm

## Useful Contact Numbers

Cut out & keep

### For Emergencies dial 999

Devon & Cornwall Police 08452 777444

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Fire Safety Helpline 01392 872288

HM Coastguard  
North Devon coast 01792 366534  
South Devon coast 01803 882704

RNLI Appledore 01237 473969  
Clovelly 01237 431224  
Plymouth 01752 662623

Water Leaks 0800 1691144

Gas Leaks 0800 111999

Power Cuts 0800 365900

Floodline 0845 9881188

Geoffrey Cox MP 01237 459001

Torridge District Council 01237 428700

West Devon Borough Council 01822 813600

Devon County Council 01392 382000

Dartmoor National Park 01626 832093

Citizens Advice Bureaux  
Bideford 01237 473161  
Okehampton 01837 52574  
Tavistock 01822 612359

Jobcentre Plus  
Bideford 01237 496900  
Exeter 01392 474700  
Okehampton 01837 673100  
Tavistock 01822 636400



Torridge & West Devon's MP

Issue 1

# Geoffrey Cox Reports

Keep up with Geoffrey online at [www.geoffreycox.co.uk](http://www.geoffreycox.co.uk)

## Campaigning for our communities

Geoffrey Cox's campaign against inherent unfairness in government support for education, health and social care in Torridge and West Devon took a new turn last month when he spoke in the debate on health inequalities in the House of Commons.

Since last year's election, Geoffrey has been holding regular talks with local health trusts and voicing constituents' concerns about the danger of declining local health services, including closure of minor injuries units and beds in community hospitals, cuts in ambulance and out-of-hours services, the need to travel long distances for medical attention and the serious problem of the scarcity of NHS Dentists. In a major speech in the House of Commons, Geoffrey Cox highlighted rural health inequalities and the absurdities of applying a single funding formula for education and health to both urban and rural areas.

Geoffrey said that the system failed to assess fairly the real needs of rural communities in part because it used indications of wealth such as car ownership and the proportion of ethnic communities. These might be useful guides in the cities but not in the rural South West where everyone tried to buy a car and people from ethnic minorities were few. Access to healthcare for rural people was critical, yet was getting increasingly difficult as the rural transport network continued to decline and the government withdrew backing for community transport such as fare cars. He told the House of Commons: "If the real needs of rural people are not identified



Geoffrey supporting Highampton School's campaign for extended facilities.

by a concerted and coherent effort, which I have discussed, health inequalities in rural areas can only get worse. In Scotland and Wales, the devolved assemblies and their Executives recognise the importance of financial adjustments in the distribution of resources to their countryside communities. It is time that the Government did the same for England."

You can read the full text of Geoffrey's speech and more about what he is doing at [www.geoffreycox.co.uk](http://www.geoffreycox.co.uk)



Geoffrey holding one of his village consultations in Beaford during his summer tour of the constituency



# Geoffrey Cox at work for you in Torrridge & West Devon

These are a few of the things Geoffrey has been doing at Westminster and around the constituency....



Presenting a petition to 10 Downing Street with farming campaigners. Geoffrey Cox has vigorously pressed the Government in Parliament to take action on the Bovine TB crisis.



Geoffrey and Jeanie Cox with pupils and staff at Broomhayes School. Geoffrey takes a particular interest in special needs schooling and has raised numerous individual cases with the authorities on behalf of constituents as well as pressing for better provision in Torrridge and West Devon. He is a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism.



Looking after our environment. Beach cleaning at Westward Ho!



Supporting Tarka Radio's anniversary 24 hour marathon at North Devon District Hospital. Geoffrey meets the NDDH Trust to monitor its services to patients and to discuss the problems facing the hospital at regular intervals. He also maintains close touch with the Strategic Health Authority about health matters in Torrridge and West Devon.



Pupils at Winkleigh School showing Geoffrey their work. Geoffrey frequently visits schools in the constituency to discuss their progress and has consistently raised with the government the unfairness of education funding for Devon.



Serving lunches at St Mary's Church Bideford with the Torrridge Poverty Action Group.



With Winkleigh residents supporting their campaign to stop WINBEG. Geoffrey has taken local residents' fight to parliament and raised questions about the government's support for the proposal.



Meeting local Trade Justice Campaigners at Westminster. Geoffrey has strongly supported the cause of achieving improved Trade Justice for poorer nations.



Visiting Okehampton Postal Sorting Office. Geoffrey has urged the government not to allow the opening up of the letter post to competition to lead to a degradation of rural postal services and to do more to support rural Post Offices.



Looking after our environment. With helpers and the Lord of the Manor of Hatherleigh at the "Great Hatherleigh Spring Clean".



Campaigning with villagers at Chilsworthy Methodist Church to Make Poverty History



Sharpening his pike skills for Parliament with instructors from Torrington 1646! Geoffrey supports local tourist attractions and businesses as much as possible and has drawn attention to the continuing need for more help with marketing and promotion from the government.



Visiting Bideford police station to discuss policing in Bideford, Northam and Westward Ho! Geoffrey has consistently called for more police in Bideford and has voiced his concerns in meetings with the Chief Constable. He has strongly argued for the retention of Devon and Cornwall Police and against a regional police force.



Supporting the Ring and Ride and Wheels to Work schemes run by Holsworthy Community Transport Association. Geoffrey has advocated stable financial support for vital community transport organisations and condemned the government's withdrawal of funding for the fare car scheme.



Opening Tavistock Skate Park. Geoffrey supports a wide range of local initiatives for young people.



With senior nurses at Tavistock Hospital.



Observing correct hygiene procedures at Holsworthy Hospital. Geoffrey keeps up a close contact with local PCTs to monitor their provision of services to local people and strongly believes in the essential value of our local community hospitals. He is a patron of CHANT, which campaigns nationwide to safeguard community hospitals.

Visit Geoffrey's website [www.geoffreycox.co.uk](http://www.geoffreycox.co.uk) for regular updates