



Nobody told us there'd be years like this!

Last Christmas I had just been re-elected as Hull North's MP following a tough Autumn and after the Labour Party had suffered its worst General Election result since 1935. Not unreasonably, we all hoped for a better year ahead. Little did we know that the worst global public health emergency in a century would dominate the vast majority of 2020, costing so much in lives and livelihoods. Though the pandemic is far from over, the vaccine roll-out gives us hope that something like normal life can return gradually during 2021 – even if the economic consequences of COVID, alongside the forthcoming Brexit, will be with us for years to come. I hope that many lessons will be learnt about valuing our NHS and caring roles, all our key workers, community groups and local small businesses who have helped us through this crisis. This year has also proven that rough sleeping need not happen and is a question of political will. I wish you and your family all the best for Christmas and for a New Year that, I hope, really will be a better one this time!



A People's Republic is Declared!

Small Business Saturday was on 5th December 2020. My annual competition to find the best small businesses in Hull North had almost 2,000 online voters. There was a 28-strong shortlist of Hull North independent businesses to choose from. The winner was The People's Republic in Newland Avenue. Welwyn Park Post Office, Beverley Road, came second; and Newland Avenue's Ponti Café was third. Seven other local businesses were Highly Commended. These businesses are the lifeblood of our local community and during the COVID crisis many of them have gone the extra mile in very testing circumstances to serve local people.



Food poverty at Christmas

Christmas is always a challenging time for those struggling to get by, including many working families. This Winter COVID has made life even tougher and record numbers rely on Food Banks. In what is still one of the richest countries in the World, it should not be this way. However, while it is I hope that everyone who can will support Hull's local Food Banks by donating the items they need for local families in the greatest need. Information on various local organisations involved with Food Banks in Hull North is below:

<https://fareshare.org.uk/fareshare-centres/hullandhumber/>,

<https://unityincommunity.org.uk/>,

<https://eternalbenefits.co.uk/>,

<https://hull.foodbank.org.uk/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/BransholmeStJohns/>.

dianajohnson.co.uk
[unsubscribe](#)

