

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency

DATE: 23rd September 2010

Fiona Bruce MP praises Sandbach Today as a shining example of the Big Society

Fiona Bruce MP opened the 13th 'Sandbach Today' held at Sandbach Town Hall and praised it as 'evidence that the Big Society is alive and flourishing here'.

Gill Merry, Mayor of Sandbach, said at the event 'it is important that we talk up the town of Sandbach which has so much to offer' and she commended all the voluntary groups attending, which totalled 33 and included Sandbach Fair Trade Group, Sandbach Clean Team, Rotary, Brereton Handbell Ringers, Sandbach History Society, Sandbach Voices, the Fire Cadets and the Allotment Society to name but a few.

Fiona Bruce MP said that she had well and truly praised Sandbach and its townspeople in her Maiden Speech a few days earlier in the House of Commons – describing the wonderful features of the Sandbach area - including the Saxon Crosses in the cobbled square - so much so that one MP in the House of Commons Chamber said after her speech that he had spent much of the subsequent debate 'dreaming of Sandbach!' (Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal).

Over 800 people attended the day and entertainment was provided by Sandbach Folk Dance Club, which has been going for over 30 years and meets at Bradwall Village Hall, fortnightly on a Tuesday evening – new members welcome. (No experience and no partner required!)

Fiona Bruce said 'All credit to Dot Flint, who founded Sandbach Today 13 years ago and who has remained committed to organising it throughout that period, encouraging other towns to follow suit. Dot is a wonderful example of the inspirational community leadership I spoke about in my Maiden Speech when I said that what makes the Big Society a reality are individuals like Dot, "motivated by nothing more and nothing less than the desire to make a positive difference, often whilst facing challenges themselves. They understand that creating a society worth living in of which we can all be proud involves not so much what we can get, as what we can give".

NOTE TO EDITOR

Photograph 1: Fiona Bruce MP with members of the Sandbach Folk Dance Club. Chairman, Jim Thompson, with wife, Eileen, and committee members, Les and Christine Ravenscoft, Joy Boscobel and Rob Kennedy.

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