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Diana said: "By the nature of the job, MEPs tend to do a lot of travelling. The only upside of this is that it gives me a lot of time to read. I wanted people in the European Parliament to take advantage of the possibilities of the wonderful cultural exchange we have and so the book club was born."



## EU Parliament book club

Diana has founded a book club in the European Parliament and meeting for the fourth time recently it invited the Booker Man literary prize listed writer Patrick McGuinness to talk about his book *'The Last Hundred Days'*.



© European Union EPP/Pietro Naji-Obeidi

## Diana on live Facebook chat

MEP Doris Pack, at a book club meeting. Diana with author Patrick McGuinness.

"This was my first live Facebook chat and a great way to reach out to people who had questions they wanted to put to me. I hope to be doing something similar again in the near future."

Diana participated in a live Facebook chat on the European Parliament site for 45 minutes. She answered about 40 questions on codes of conduct for MEPs and transparency issues which fall under her responsibility as a Vice President of the Parliament.



Edward and Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the EP Liberals, in Tahrir Square, Cairo, April 2011.



## Region's Lib Dem MEPs support Palestine's 'legitimate' bid for statehood

Diana at an Israeli checkpoint when visiting Palestine recently.

The European Parliament is calling on the Israeli Government to stop all construction and extension of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. MEPs also insist that rocket attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip should cease and a permanent truce should be agreed.

Diana, who has visited Palestine twice recently said: "The right of Palestinians to self-determination and to have their own state is unquestionable, as is the right of Israel to exist within safe borders."

The resolution, adopted on a show of hands, states that a solution should be found within a year. MEPs believe, however, that Palestinian statehood should result from negotiations, during the current UN General Assembly session.

Diana and her colleague Edward McMillan Scott supported Palestine's 'legitimate' bid for statehood when a resolution was debated in the European Parliament recently.

## Diana Wallis MEP – Reporting back

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### Office opening



Although the new office has been up and running since July Diana recently took the opportunity to officially open the new office space on the University of Hull campus. Representatives of business, academia and media were joined by party members at a reception to mark the opening.

Diana said: "We want to develop the office as a resource for people wanting to know more about the EU."

Diana with Tim Iredale, the BBC's Political Editor for Yorkshire & Lincolnshire.



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## Diana Wallis MEP Liberal Democrat Yorkshire and the Humber



### Listening to you!

Diana, and her colleague Edward McMillan Scott, have mailed out over 50,000 surveys to people across the region to get feedback on the big issues.

Constituents opinions have been surveyed on a range of issues covering the economy and jobs, freedom of movement, the environment (including views on calls to ban plastic bag), transport and crime.

Diana said: "We want to know the views and opinions of people on the big issues and challenges the EU faces over the coming months and years."

Edward adds: "The survey is designed to get feedback from people about what they are most concerned about. This is the largest survey Lib Dem MEPs have carried out in Yorkshire & the Humber."

*Diana Wallis*

Diana with some of the thousands of completed survey forms.

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Newsletter 2 | 2011





## Diana Wallis MEP – Reporting back



### In the region...

#### Women in business

QUOTAS could be imposed on businesses if they fail to take on women in senior positions Diana has warned.

Diana said the option was available if firms made no headway in putting women on their boards and in top roles voluntarily. She was speaking at the Women's Business Forum held at the Ridding Park Hotel in Harrogate recently.

Diana has carried out her own survey amongst leading businesses, business organisations and women's groups in the region on the thorny issue of under representation of female executives and whether there should be quotas in place to improve the ratio of women to men on company boards.

According to the European Commission, only 10% of board members at Europe's largest companies are women and in 97% of cases the board is chaired by a man. This in spite of the fact that women make up over 60% of university graduates in the EU.



Diana speaking at the Women's Business Forum in Harrogate.

Diana said: "I had a very interesting response to the survey with, perhaps not surprisingly, views right across the spectrum from those vehemently against to those very much in favour and who are already pledged to improve their own company's situation. Some male respondents went so far as to say they actively preferred women above male colleagues! Meanwhile the women's organisations who responded seem to be the most sceptical and against any action that might compromise them being judged on merit alone."

"There appears to be a general atmosphere that is favourable to women's advancement at the moment, but the question remains, will women take the chance? All the evidence still suggests women succeed well in education, and now, much better than men. But they are still failing to make the highest positions in business in any numbers."

"If you look around Europe we do not by and large try and impose things unless it is absolutely necessary. I do not like quotas and I do not think many women do. I think many see them as a form of discrimination."

But she added: "If things are not getting better then Europe may look at introducing a law."



Diana spoke at the University of York's conference on theatre and human rights in October.

The photo (above) shows her with members of the cast of the theatre group 'Ice and Fire' after their performance of Asylum Monologues along with the Conference Directors.

Photo by Paul H. Robinson

### DIANA JOINS LUSH STORE'S CAMPAIGN TO KEEP SO-CALLED 'DIRTY FUEL' OUT OF EUROPE



Diana was at Meadowhall's Lush store to give her support to the retailers' campaign against what had been dubbed 'the most destructive project on earth'.

Lush customers have been asked to complete petition cards calling on MEPs to agree to legislation which would ban oil sourced from the controversial practice of excavating tar sands in Canada.

Diana took delivery of the petition cards from Meadowhall's Lush store's Trainee Manager Gina Smith and from Doncaster store's Fiona Sheriff.

Diana said: "The excavation of tar sands is a disastrous practice. I don't want to see oil from this source coming into Europe."

"However, there is a danger that the under pressure from the Canadian Government and big oil companies that the EU might have to water down the key piece of climate legislation which would ban oil from tar sands from coming into Europe. That's why I am supporting the campaign inside the European Parliament and beyond to make sure tar sands are banned from Europe and so I was delighted to receive the petition cards from Lush staff on behalf of their customers."

Tar Sands Campaign: <http://www.tarnishedearth.co.uk/sayno>

Diana takes part in Bradford local radio's version of Desert Island Discs (bcf 106.6 FM)



Listen to the recording via Diana's website.



Diana, with former council leader Andrew Waller, supporting traders in Gillygate York who were opposing the local council's plans to sell Union Terrace car park.



Edward with Kerry Grist, mother of missing constituent Ben Needham who went missing on the Greek island of Kos in 1991. [www.helpfindben.co.uk](http://www.helpfindben.co.uk)



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