

Happy New Year

As I write this we are between Christmas and New Year. At this time our thoughts tend to be towards resolutions and hopes for the forthcoming year.

What do I want from the new year. Firstly, I want to see the end of the wars that are happening around the world, mainly in Ukraine and Gaza. I want to see a fair settlement acceptable to both sides. Then I want to see peace maintained and leaders like Putin, Netanyahu and leaders of Hamas prevented from carrying out atrocities again.

Secondly, I want to see fair policies implemented in our own country. I do not need the £300 fuel allowance and I have not been too adversely affected by the change in pension arrangements in the last 20 years. Many people of working age with young families are in more need of support than me. However, some pensioners have been adversely affected. Those pensioners who live in rented accommodation or women who took early retirement to care for family members seem the most penalised. I want to see support for people who have suffered from these policies.

Thirdly, I want to focus on young people. I want to see my grandchildren have the same opportunities as I did. I would like them to receive a university education, if that is what they want, without crippling them financially for many years. I want them to be able to find housing and raise families of their own.

I hope you have a happy and peaceful new year. May all our wishes come true.