

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## East Midlands

### Young people go green!

MYPs in the East Midlands are currently beavering away planning their 'my cause is ...' event, sponsored by V, on 15th March at the Watershed youth facility in Leicester. The event will have an environmental theme and will involve planting trees across the region by young people. On the day there will be workshops on recycling as well as displays from useful organisations involved with green issues. Any young person wanting to learn more, to volunteer or just to have fun is welcome to attend! For more details please email [heather@ukyp.org.uk](mailto:heather@ukyp.org.uk)

told Catherine about plans to allow the UK Youth Parliament to use the chamber in the House of Commons in the near future. First the Lords and now maybe the Commons too!

come together to take part in workshops, debates, and develop the national campaigns for the year ahead.

## South West

### MYPs have Brussels in their sight

A delegation of MYPs from the South West are hoping to visit Brussels to find out about the work of the European Parliament and the work of MEPs. The visit is being organised by Rosie Bayley, ex-MYP for Torbay and currently one of the youth representatives to the South West Regional Assembly.



Cathrine Rawsthorne, MYP for Bury, poses with the PM

## North West

### PM positive on UKYP's use of the Commons

On 16th January, Catherine Rawsthorne, MYP for Bury, met Prime Minister Gordon Brown and other cabinet ministers such as Ed Balls and Harriet Harman as part of a Young Achievers' event hosted at Number 10. The event was attended by around 40 young people along with their MPs and parents and the Prime Minister spoke to everyone individually. Mr Brown

## National

### Annual Sitting to be held in Exeter

UKYP's 2008 Annual Sitting will be held at the University of Exeter. This is the first time the Annual Sitting has been held in the South West. The Annual Sitting will take place between 19th – 22nd July 2008. MYPs from all across the UK will

## London

### MYPs set to make a sound!

The London Region are going to be hosting their Youth In The City 'my cause is...' event, sponsored by V, on Thursday 21st February at the legendary Ministry of Sound. 500 young people are expected to attend to discuss issues such as gun and knife crime, Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and youth provisions. The second half of the day will see entertainment from young people across London

in order to promote an anti gun and knife crime message, alongside speakers who have had experience of gun and knife crime themselves. At the end of this event, young people will be encouraged to make a pledge about how they are going to be tackling the gun and knife crime issue in their own individual boroughs. For more information please email [umar.kankiya@ukyp.org.uk](mailto:umar.kankiya@ukyp.org.uk) or go to [www.ukyp.org.uk/my\\_cause\\_is/pages/London](http://www.ukyp.org.uk/my_cause_is/pages/London)

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### North East

#### **New text service for young people**

Hartlepool UKYP has been working alongside neighbourhood services and the police to set up a text service for young people. The programme, aimed to help break down barriers between young people and the police, will enable young people to access important information, such as youth club opening times and details of local events.

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### National

#### **Natascha scoops award**

On 28th November, UKYP Trustee Natascha Engel MP was presented with the ePolitix Charity Champion Award for her long-standing support and promotion of children's rights, fighting off strong competition from Lord Williamson of Horton and Phil Willis MP. The Charity Champion Awards honour the hard work, time and effort devoted by MPs and Peers to charitable causes during the parliamentary year. It

was a double celebration for Natascha who gave birth to a baby girl a month later. For more information go to: [www.charitychampionawards.com](http://www.charitychampionawards.com).

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### Yorkshire & Humberside

#### **New booklet for young gay and bisexual men**

Young people in East Riding of Yorkshire have produced a booklet which gives sexual health information for young gay and bisexual men. The booklet, titled 'Man 2 Man' contains information on sexuality, insecurity, relationships, sex, STIs, having children and much more. To view the booklet, please go to: [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/sre](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/sre)



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### South West

#### **MYPs sign up to carbon footprint campaign**

Following October's V event on climate change, the South West

have signed up to Sustainability South West's "Fair Shares Fair Choice" campaign which encourages everyone to calculate their carbon footprint and live and work within a 'fair carbon share'. MYPs have made personal pledges to reduce their CO2 footprint and help tackle climate change.

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### National

#### **MYPs invited to Downing Street**

MYPs Katrina Mather, Luke Springthorpe and Sam Stubbs were invited to Downing Street by the Terrence Higgins Trust to mark the organisation's 25th anniversary and World AIDS Day. At the event, Gordon Brown became the first Prime Minister in 15 years to talk publicly about the domestic HIV epidemic, praising the work of Terrence Higgins Trust and pledging to do more to fight HIV related discrimination. Katrina, Luke and Sam took the opportunity to raise awareness of the UK Youth Parliament's own Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) report, ensuring Gordon Brown took a copy away with him! For the latest on the UK Youth Parliament's SRE campaign please read the special report on pages 12-14.

For more news, views and information from the world of UKYP please visit [www.ukyp.org.uk](http://www.ukyp.org.uk)

