



## HOSPITAL BUS STOP

When the 38 bus was introduced it was expected to stop at the Manor Hospital. A Red Route was placed on Pleck Road, so buses stopped some distance away.

Valerie wrote to the Chief Executives of Walsall Healthcare and National Express West Midlands and they have said that from

the 1st January 2012 the bus will stop at the Hospital.



Photo by Alan Williams

## VALERIE REACTS TO AUTUMN STATEMENT

On Tuesday 29th November 2011, the Chancellor, the Rt Hon George Osborne MP delivered his Autumn Statement to the House of Commons. The Chancellor announced that public sector pay rises would be capped at 1% at the end of the current pay freeze, that the total number of public sector job losses will reach 710,000 and that the Government will borrow £158 billion more than expected.

Valerie said: "I am astonished that the Chancellor has decided to cap public sector pay rises at 1% at the end of the current pay freeze. This is well below the current rate of inflation and in effect represents a pay cut for thousands of teachers, nurses and police officers."

"The Government is set to borrow £158 billion more than it planned a year ago. Its economic policy is simply not working. The Government lacks the competence to bring growth back to the economy and bring down the deficit."

### To Contact Valerie:

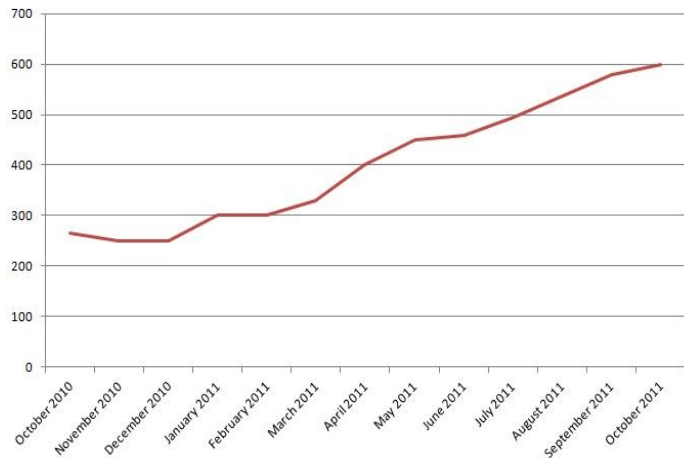
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## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RISES

Aged 18-24, Claiming JSA for Over 6 Months



Valerie has criticised the Government's record on long-term youth unemployment after the number of people aged 18-24 in Walsall South who have been claiming Job Seekers' Allowance for more than six months doubled between January and October this year. 600 young people in Walsall South have now been claiming JSA for more than 6 months.

Nationally, there are now over 1 million young people claiming JSA and in Walsall South the figure stands at 1,456.

Valerie said: "Before Labour's Future Jobs Fund was abolished I visited a project in Walsall South. I saw its work at first hand. Young people who would have been on the dole were given training. There was no Government interference, but money was given directly to local organisations which taught skills to match the available jobs. At the end, the young people received a CV and a reference."

## VALERIE HOSTS EVENTS IN HONOUR OF NOOR INYAT KHAN & AUNG SAN SUU KYI



Valerie with British relatives of Daw Suu Kyi

During November, Valerie hosted events at the House of Commons in honour of Noor Inyat Khan and Aung San Suu Kyi.

Valerie said: "Noor died in Dachau concentration camp in 1944, at the young age of 30 having risked her life as a member of the Special Operations Executive, based in Paris during the Second World War. She was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the George Cross but there is no memorial to her in this country. I look forward to one being unveiled in 2012."

"It was a privilege to host the event in honour of Aung San Suu Kyi. I hope many people will learn about her inspiring life through the book "The Lady and the Peacock", which was launched at the event. Noor Inyat Khan and Aung San Suu Kyi are both very inspiring women."

## WALSALL SOUTH AND THE 2012 OLYMPICS

Valerie has welcomed news of the benefits the 2012 Olympics will bring to Walsall South. It was announced this month that Walsall South-based manufacturer, Alucast has won a contract to produce components for the torches to be used in the Olympic Flame Relay. The relay will pass through Walsall on 30th June 2012.

Valerie wrote to every school in Walsall South asking them to take part in a scheme to make Pennant Flags for all the athletes taking part in the 2012 Olympics. Valerie said: "I hope all schools in Walsall South will take up this opportunity."

### Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635835