

### View from the House

I am sure all of you have been enthralled by the outstanding performances and results of our Olympian sportspeople during the London Olympics 2012. Not only the sportspeople, but the efforts of the volunteers who have embodied the spirit of Britain. They have not needed to be part of a Big Society but have done this public service as citizens responding to the call when their country needed them. A spirit and creativity that was highlighted in the Opening Ceremony. And let us not forget, the top and bottom of the Olympic flames were made by our very own Alucast in Wednesbury.

Also Going For Gold were local schools who contacted me about medals they had made to pass onto our Prime Minister to remind him to raise the issue with other world leaders that all children should have a right to go to School.

As the pupils of Delves Infants School and Whitehall Juniors contacted me before the Parliamentary Recess, I was able to invite them to present the Petition at No 10 Downing Street. The Pupils were therefore able to say they have given in their handmade messages and the petition at the door of No 10 where the Prime Minister lives and works. Blue Coat Infants pupils also are thinking about children other than themselves and the pupils' commitment to the wider community is laudable.

Over the Summer there have other awards, those for the Queen's Awards for Enterprise. I was disappointed that there were no companies from Walsall South and only 8 from the West Midlands. This compares with 23 from the South East.

I have visited a number of local companies who are successful despite the current double dip recession. Walsall companies have been involved in the production of innovative oil and gas pipelines, the Queen's Handbags, the Olympic Flame, high performance sports cars and CT scanners. Companies are being encouraged to apply for the awards. They can do so by visiting the website [www.queensawards.org.uk](http://www.queensawards.org.uk). The Closing date is 28 September 2012.

And finally everyone should remember that barbeques emit carbon monoxide. It is given off when a barbeque is put out. When breathed in it is difficult for blood to carry oxygen to the brain and other vital organs hence the fatalities. The message is that to be safe don't place a barbeque near to or inside the entrance of the tent. Happy Holidays.

Valerie Vaz MP

6 August 2012