



## #BRINGBACKOURGIRLS RASIED BY VALERIE IN PARLIAMENT

Valerie first raised this issue on 1 May 2014 at questions to the Leader of the House of Commons asking for an urgent debate on the abduction of over 200 school girls that took place in Nigeria.

Valerie asked: "We all rightly condemn the abduction of over 200 girls from their school in Nigeria. Could we have an urgent debate on how Britain can help to return those girls to their families, and more particularly, in education?"

The Leader replied: "The hon. lady is absolutely right in what she says. All of us will have been horrified by what we have seen. Anything we can do we will do and I will talk to my honourable friends in the FCO and see whether they are able to advise the house more on what they can do to help."



### Darlaston Town FC Auction

Valerie arranged for Kenny Dalglish to sign a Liverpool FC shirt to be auctioned in aid of Darlaston Town FC. Kenny and former Liverpool FC defenders Jamie Carragher and Alan Hansen sang a program which Valerie donated as well as a Tea for Two at the House of Commons.

Valerie said: "The auction was a wonderful success raising over £2000. This will put the Club in an excellent position to secure its long term future. I am delighted the items I donated raised £300 for the Club. It is great that Kenny Dalglish has taken a personal interest in the campaign to save Darlaston Town FC."

"Following a meeting I held with the FA regarding the future of the Club, the FA donated an England shirt that raised a further £80."

"Don Goodman (pictured), the former Wolves, West Bromwich Albion and Walsall FC striker, was the main speaker for the night and spoke engagingly about his career."



### Health Select Committee

In April, the Health Select Committee, of which Valerie is a member, heard from the new Chief Executive of NHS England, Mr Simon Stevens.

Valerie said: "Given his previous employment within the private health sector in the United States I was keen to hear his views on the role of competition within the NHS and the Health and Social Care Act. I was disappointed that Mr Stevens was reluctant to give a definite view on this."

"It was reported in the Guardian that while working in the United States, Mr Stevens said that a model of Free GPs similar to the 'Free Schools' model could be introduced in the NHS. When asked about this, Mr Stevens claimed that the quote had been 'lost in translation', despite being a direct quote."

"I was alarmed that Mr Stevens did not take the opportunity to rule out any such plans for the provision of GP services. Also during his time in the United States it was reported that Mr Stevens had introduced a system which ranked 250,000 doctors by quality of care, price and value for money. I asked him whether he had any plans to introduce such a system in the UK. I had to push Mr Stevens to firmly rule out ranking doctors in the NHS by cost."

### Royal Society of Chemistry

Valerie hosted an event at the House of Commons with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC).

Valerie said: "There is an urgent need for a long-term strategy for UK science funding to drive economic growth and create jobs. The event was held to draw attention to the importance of scientific research to the UK economy. A series of experiments were performed by Dr Hal Sosabowski who explained the science behind glow-sticks, a liquid nitrogen shower and a flaming methane mamba of soap bubbles."

"The event was well attended by MPs from across the House, and I hope this will help them to encourage children in their constituencies to take up science generally and chemistry in particular. The RSC said that it is crucial that UK chemistry is properly funded, having fallen behind in recent years."



### Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635 835

### To Contact Valerie:

Constituency Office: 16A Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TJ  
Telephone: 01922 635835

Westminster Office: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA  
Telephone: 020 7219 7176

Email: [valerie.vaz.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:valerie.vaz.mp@parliament.uk)

**Valerie calls for £4m additional funding for Manor**

Valerie has written to the Health Minister, Dr Dan Poulter MP to request an additional £4 million funding for the Manor Hospital. This will ensure The Manor is able to cope with the additional demand created by the overnight closure of A&E at Stafford Hospital and the closure of the Maternity unit.

Valerie said: "While the Manor has been awarded £10 million to help it cope with the additional demand created by the situation at Mid Staffs, it is still unable to undertake all the works necessary to meet the additional demand."

"The additional £4 million which has been requested will be used to construct an additional ward."

**Local & Euro Elections 22 May 2014**

On Thursday 22 May 2014, a third of Walsall Council's seats were contested, as well as elections for the European Parliament.

The elections for Walsall Council were as followed: Labour: 30 seats (+2), Conservative: 21 seats (-3), Liberal Democrat: 3 seats (-2), UKIP: 3 seats (+3), Independents: 3 seats (no change). Turnout for these elections was 33.7%.

In the European Parliament Elections for the West Midlands, Labour and the Conservatives received two MEPs each, while Ukip received three MEPs. The turnout was 33.1% of the electorate.

*The General Election will take place on Thursday 7 May 2015.*

**Other Parliamentary News in Brief**

**Speaker's School Council Awards 2014**

Valerie said: "The Speaker's School Council Awards encourages children of all ages to enter a project or contribution they have made to the school leading to a positive change. I was delighted to be asked to be a judge by Mr Speaker. The Education Service undertook the difficult task of filtering the large number entries. The panel judged the entries with the final decision made by Mr Speaker."

**Valerie Meets Prime Minister of Cameroon**

In early May, Valerie met with Philémon Yang, the Prime Minister of Cameroon. Valerie said: "There was a wide ranging discussion and among the issues discussed was the abduction of the schoolgirls in Nigeria which shares a border with Cameroon."

**Valerie submits evidence to Green Belt Inquiry**

Valerie has responded to a call for evidence from the APPG on the Green Belt. Valerie said: "In recent years Planning Permission has been granted for development on the Green Belt at the former Three Crowns pub and Three Crowns School sites. The Walsall Housing Land Supply states that Walsall has an adequate supply for at least until 2026, which means its not necessary to build on the Green Belt. It is crucial that our limited Green Belt land is properly protected."

**Standardised Packaging of Tobacco**

At the Urgent statement Valerie asked the Minister: "Given the evidence from Sir Cyril, from Australia, Canada and the HSC could the Minister update the house on a timeframe? Before 2015 is too vague."

The Minister replied: "We will move to give the house a final decision before the summer recess."

**Grace Academy Visit Parliament**

Valerie met students from Grace Academy in Parliament in early April.

Valerie said: "It was a pleasure to welcome Grace Academy to Parliament. It is good for the student to see and experience how their Government works. As part of their visit they were taken on a tour of the Houses of Parliament and their visit ended with a Q&A session with me."

Parliament's Education Service works with schools to support young people's understanding of Parliament and democracy. More information of their work can be found here: [www.parliament.uk/education](http://www.parliament.uk/education)

**Valerie attends Walsall FC's final game of season**



Valerie said: "Adam Chambers was rightly given the Man of the Match award, supporting his team admirably. Colchester managing to score a goal against the run of play to give them the win. Walsall have much to be proud of and I am looking forward to the games next season."

**Women in Science and Engineering**

WISE are holding an event at Walsall College on Saturday 28 June to promote women in science and engineering careers. To confirm your places please email [p.patel@wisecampaign.org.uk](mailto:p.patel@wisecampaign.org.uk) no later than Friday 20 June 2014.

**Valerie Visits Beacon Heights Park Homes Site**

Valerie said: "I have been in contact with my constituents who are residents of Beacon Heights on Pinfold Lane on a number of matters which affect residents of park homes sites. These include the rules relating to pitch fees, access to fire hydrants and access to public transport."



"Residents raised their concern about who is responsible for the access road to the park and whether Licencing Fees charged by the Local Authority to the site owner can be passed on to residents. I have made representations."

**Khalsa Football Federation Tournament**



Valerie presented prizes at the Khalsa FFT. Chelsea, Derby County, Leicester City and Walsall FC are all partners in search of Asian footballing talent.

Valerie said: "This was a very exciting tournament ending in a final which went into extra time and a penalty shootout."

"The event was well organised and supported by sponsors including Walsall MBC, Sunny Electricals Supplies, 5 Rivers restaurant and Murria Solicitors. The Gurdwaras in Pleck and Caldmore also gave their support."

**Valerie's Walsall South Casework**

