

## **View From the House.**

As the House heads for dissolution on 30 March John's Campaign, with which I was involved has progressed beyond expectation.

John's Campaign would like people with dementia to be allowed to have a family member or carer stay with them in hospital just as the parents of sick children do when visiting hours ends. The carers could feed them, keep them mobile, be their voice and memory bank, and anchor them to the world.

The ward staff at University Hospital Bristol have already taken a lead. They have an initial and daily conversations with the carer who cares for the patient outside visiting hours. Imperial College have displayed posters showing that carers are welcome and can visit patients outside visiting hours.

The meetings I arranged were productive. Minister Norman Lamb MP agreed to write to all the trusts as part of his dementia-friendly policy. The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP, Shadow Health, said he would implement the aims of John's Campaign as an added right to a commitment to carers' rights and included as an indicative right. I hope to see hospitals across the country allowing carers to support patients with dementia.

And I am pleased to announce another success for the residents of Pheasey. With Michael Dugher MP, Shadow Transport and residents on board, we took the 25 bus down Pinfold Lane to publicise the new extended hours service thanks to Centro and iGo. Residents on Beacon Heights were cut off in the evenings and on Sunday having to pay for taxis or walk. It took a petition, meetings and persistence from all of us. The trial period runs from April to September. Public transport lowers emissions and links communities.

Epilepsy is a condition that can affect anyone at any time in their lives. The World Health Organisation adopted a resolution this year and world epilepsy day is on 26 March. During a backbench debate, I highlighted that only three out of 140 health and wellbeing boards are making plans for people with epilepsy; 78% of CCGs have not developed a written needs assessment, we need more specialist nurses—that must change.

I was present at the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square. His method of bringing about change by peaceful non-violent means is a lesson to us all.

I have my 'Walsall to Wembley 22 March 2015' scarf ready to wave. Good luck to Walsall.

**Valerie Vaz MP**

**16 March 2015**