

eNEWS

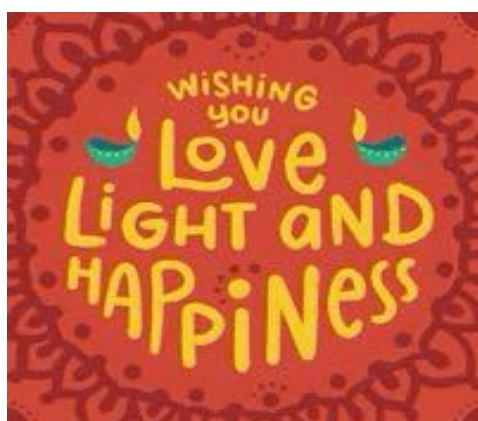
from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

October 2025

**Birchills Leamore - Blakenall - Bloxwich East - Bloxwich West
Paddock (Part of Ward) - Palfrey - Pleck - St. Matthew's**



Happy Diwali 2025



Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating the Festival of Lights in Britain, and to Hindu, Sikh, Jain and some Buddhist communities all over the world. Diwali is a multi-faith festival, celebrated differently by different faiths. Diwali is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, hope over despair. Let us remember the timeless message of Diwali: that light will triumph over darkness. 🌀

Walsall Leather Museum – Museum Relocation Plans



Walsall Council Cabinet's decision on 24 September 2025 to close Walsall Leather Museum has outraged the community. The decision was called in on 14 October 2025. The Council have pitted one group against another, heritage campaigners against adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Questions also need to be asked of Walsall College and its sizeable estate as to why this heritage asset is the only solution to provide a new SEND provision. In solidarity I visited the Museum with campaigner Lauren Buxton. 🌀

Leather Museum raised at Business Questions



To follow up on the meeting with Campaigners to save Walsall Leather Museum, I raised the issue at Business Questions on 29 October 2025: I asked the Leader of the House: "May we have an urgent debate on the accountability of institutions for the use of public money? Walsall College and Walsall council are closing the iconic Leather Museum against the wishes of local people, but no financial information is available. Please could we have such a debate on financial information and accountability?" 🌀

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Bill: Report Stage



Sustainable aviation fuel emits 70% less greenhouse gases on average than fossil fuels and can be used in existing infrastructure and aircraft engines. The Bill will provide a revenue guarantee for SAF producers, giving them the certainty to invest in the development of SAFs, such as those made from waste feedstocks and synthetic fuels. On 15 October 2025, the Bill was read a Third time and passed.🌀

Launch of the Pfebve Cancer Support Charity



I was delighted to speak at the launch of Pfebve Cancer Support Charity on Saturday 25 October 2025. Elliot Pfebve made medical history when he became the first person in England to receive a personalised mRNA cancer vaccine. Elliot's remarkable journey from Zimbabwe, surviving assassination attempts, he said, gave him the resilience to agree to be a pioneer. I spoke about the inequalities in education, health, and employment. To find out more about the charity here is the website: <https://www.pfebvecancersupport.org/> 🌀

Breast Cancer Event

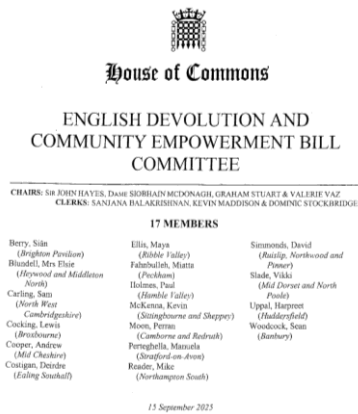


The Pink Ribbon Tea on 14 October 2025 marked over 30 years of Estée Lauder Companies' Breast Cancer Campaign. Whilst considerable progress has been made, breast cancer remains the most diagnosed cancer in women globally according to the World Health Organisation. In the UK, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every 9 minutes, a man every day. 26% of South Asian women have never checked their breasts for signs of breast cancer and 2 in 3 women are not regularly checking themselves for signs and symptoms.🌀

Victims and Courts Bill

The Bill, as part of the government's Plan for Change, will help victims get the justice they deserve. For the first time ever, judges will be able to hand down prison punishments for criminals who refuse to attend their sentencing hearing. The powers of the Victims' Commissioner will also be strengthened, empowering them to play a greater role in individual cases and requiring them to produce an independent report on compliance with the Victims' Code.🌀

Committee Session: English Devolution & Community Empowerment



I chaired the Public Bill Committee on 16 and 23 October which scrutinises the Bill line by line. The Bill which has 78 clauses reforms local government in England and gives communities the right to shape their local areas. It will restore the supplementary vote system for England mayoral elections, police and crime commissioner elections in England and Wales. The Committee concluded its deliberations on 28 October 2025, and it will report to the House.🌀

Mental Health Bill: Report Stage



The Bill is a response to the 2018 independent review and provides a legal framework to strengthen and clarify the criteria for detention, support clinicians and ensuring that patient choice needs are prioritised. The Bill was read a Third time and passed and goes to the Lords for further debate.🌀

Charing Debates in Westminster Hall and Delegated Legislation



As a member of the Panel of Chairs I chaired 3 Westminster Hall debates. They were:
World Stroke Day motion by Munira Wilson MP.
Lasting Power of Attorney by Fabian Hamilton MP and
Connected and Automated Vehicles by Sarah Coombes MP;
I also chaired the Second Delegated Legislation Committee on Draft Companies (Directors' Report) (Payment Reporting) Regulations 2025 🌀

Sentencing Bill – Committee of the Whole House



The Bill passed its 2nd reading and came before a Committee of the Whole House for further debate and votes on 21 October 2025. It introduces a new "Progression model" for determinate sentences, allowing misconduct in custody to extend time served. On release, offenders may face stricter supervision. Six amendments selected for debate and votes. The Bill was considered again on 29 October 2025, read the third time, and passed.🌀

Keep Pets Safe on Firework Night

The RSPCA has launched its Fireworks Campaign **#KindSpark** which aims to promote kindness in communities to better protect pets and people during the firework season. This year the public are encouraged to **Help Quieten The Noise** and consider attending organised events this firework season. Here are 5 top tips to help support our pets.🌀



Speaker to Parliament of Sri Lanka



On 29 October 2025 the Sri Lankan Speaker Hon Dr Jagath Wickramaratne MP led the Sri Lankan Parliamentary delegation on a visit to our Parliament. This marks a significant step in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy under the “Partners through Parliament” Governance Exchange which aims to explore good governance, transparency, and post-legislative scrutiny with UK MPs and officials. The Speaker extended an invitation to our Speaker Sir Lindsey Hoyle MP to visit Sri Lanka.🌀

Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill

There was a further debate on the Bill in a Committee of the Whole House on 20 October 2025. The Bill implements the Treaty between Mauritius and the UK about the Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia, terminating UK sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory domestic law and amending legislation on nationality. The Bill passed the 3rd reading: Ayes 320, Noes 171.🌀

NHS Blood Transplant Drop-In



I visited the NHS Blood and Transplant Drop-In on the 29 October 2025. The event was set up to awareness to the national blood shortage in July 2025 and the necessity for a regular and reliable supply of blood, platelets, stem cells and plasma all year round. The gift of giving blood can help up to three lives. The Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Care Dr Zubair Ahmed gave the keynote speech. You can check your eligibility and join the NHS Blood Register here: <https://www.blood.co.uk/>🌀

Meeting with Garikapati Narasimha Rao and Telugu community



I hosted an event in Parliament on 16 October 2025 with Garikapati Narasimha Rao, the spiritual scholar and speaker, renowned in the Telugu-speaking communities for his discourses on Hindu epics, scriptures, and philosophy. Garikapati Narasimha Rao; With me is Narasimha Rao's wife, Sarada and Virendra Sharma, former MP for Ealing Southall 🌀

Global Sumud Flotilla

The Flotilla was on a humanitarian mission to Gaza to provide Aid and was intercepted on 2 October 2025 with my constituent Sijaad Hussain on board. The family contacted me on 2 October 2025 when the boat "All In" was intercepted. I contacted the Foreign Office immediately to raise Mr Hussain's case. I was able to report to the family and supporters that Mr Hussain was no longer detained and, on his way, home on Saturday 4 October 2025.

