

# eNEWS

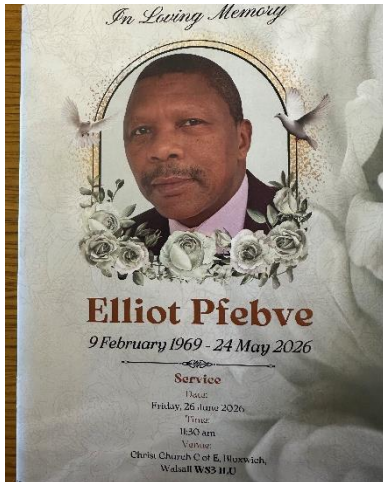
from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

June 2026



**Beechdale, Leamore & Reedswood - Bloxwich East & Blakenall Heath - Bloxwich West - Harden, Goscote & Rycroft - Paddock (Part of Ward) - Palfrey & The Delves - Pleck - Rushall-Shelfield (Part of Ward) - St. Matthew's**

## **Elliot Pfebve 9 February 1969-24 May 2026 RIP.**



It is with the deepest sadness that my good friend Elliot passed away. Elliot lived with his family in Beechdale and stood as a candidate in local elections. He was committed to public service and dealt with everything life threw at him. Elliot fought for democracy and freedom in Zimbabwe and in the UK. He set up the Elliot Pfebve Foundation to give back to the community after his treatment for cancer using the new mRNA vaccine. My deepest condolences to his wife Dorothy, his children Gerald, Elliot Jnr, Griffiths and Gillian, and Elliot's grandson Cairo. See my website for my full tribute. May he rest in peace and rise in glory 🙏

## **North Walsall Primary**



I was delighted to meet with North Walsall Primary who visited Parliament on 17 June. After their tour they returned to the Education Centre where I spoke and answered questions about my work in Parliament and the constituency. With the backdrop of a virtual Chamber, I explained how MPs have to catch the eye of the Speaker to be called in debates and questions. So, the children "bobbed" and asked questions and made speeches when I called them Hon members. 🙏

## **Visit to Babcock International in Walsall**



In the heart of the constituency is a company Babcock who play an important role in keeping our country safe. I saw the factory and the vehicles they prepare in the heart of Birchalls. They were keen to hear about the Defence Investment Plan which was published by the Government on 29 June 2026 with a commitment to spend £15 billion on upgrading vehicles such as those made by Babcock. 🙏

## **Armed Forces Bill (Committee of the Whole House)**



On 2 June 2026, the House of Commons considered the Bill, which renews the nation's commitment to those who serve. It proposes expanding the Armed Forces Covenant to a wider range of public services. The Bill strengthens the Service Justice System, improving protections for victims, enhancing the powers of service police and courts, and improving the handling of offences. It now proceeds for its remaining stages through Parliament. 🌀

## **Report : Givers and Takers: Transparency in public money**



I was pleased to speak to and hear from the authors of the Report, "Givers and Takers" about transparency in the use of public money. The Autonomy Institute published the report and identified 373 companies that made donations declared to the Electoral Commission and received a contract from a public sector contracting authority. The institute recommends that public contracts should not be awarded to companies that have made political donations. 🌀

## **Food Standards Agency - World Food Day**



The FSA marked World Food Day with a reception in Parliament on 2 June 2026. The FSA Chair Susan Jebb spoke about work to protect public health from risks arising from the consumption of food and protect the interests of consumers relating to food. The Minister Sharon Hodgson MP spoke about the Government's 10-year plan. Chair of the Health Select Committee Layla Moran MP spoke about the inquiries of her committee. 🌀

## **Letter to Foreign Secretary regarding Sanctions on Illegal Israeli Settlements**



I signed a [letter](#) coordinated by Melanie Ward MP who worked for Medical Aid for Palestinians to the Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper MP on 7 June 2026. The Foreign Secretary responded with a written statement on 9 June announcing a new wave of sanctions targeting the networks supporting violent extremist Israeli settlers. The Prime Minister on 22 May 2026 led a group of world leaders, warning businesses not to bid for construction tenders on E1 or other settlement developments. 🌀

## **RAC and Drop-in to highlight Excessive Speeding**



I met with the RAC, based in Walsall, to discuss the use of the Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA). This is a small device fitted to a vehicle which uses speed limit maps and location-based data to prevent a driver from exceeding the legal speed limit. The RAC were asking for a trial of Intervening ISA for repeat and serious offenders as an alternative to a driving ban. I heard that excessive speeding remains one of the most persistent and dangers on UK roads, contributing to 59% of the 1,671 deaths on UK roads in 2024. 🌀

## **Chairing the Seventh Delegated Legislation Committee**



I chaired the Seventh Delegated Legislation Committee on 10 June 2026, the draft Scotland Act 1998 (Increase of Borrowing Limits) Order 2026. The Secretary of State for Scotland, Douglas Alexander MP, moved the debate. This Order amends the Scotland Act 1998 to increase the resource borrowing limit and the capital borrowing limit from £3.14m to £3.27m. The order was agreed and the regulations came into effect immediately. 🌀

## **National Day of Portugal**



As Chair of the APPG on Portugal, I was pleased to attend a celebration of the National Day of Portugal at the Ambassador's Residence with other guests including the Papal Nuncio, the Vatican Ambassador His Excellency Fr Miguel Maury Buendia. It recognizes the day of the death of Luis Vaz de Camoes, the author of the Lusiads, Portugal's national epic poem. The Ambassador Nuno Brito spoke about the long standing relationship between the UK and Portugal. 🌀

## **Railways Bill: Remaining Stages and Third Reading**



The House met to debate the remaining stages of the Bill on 10 June. The Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act 2024 brought privately operated services back into public hands as contracts expired; this Bill will establish Great British Railways (GBR) – a railway owned by the public that offers a better deal for taxpayers. Three amendments were rejected. The Bill passed its Third Reading: Ayes 278, Noes 149. It now goes to the Lords. 🌀

### **Independent Bookshop Week 13-20 June**



The Booksellers Association held a drop in celebrating independent bookshops and highlighting Independent Bookshop Week from 13 to 20 June. 92% of independent bookshops run community events, 85% engage with primary schools, and 99% contribute to town centre attractiveness. However, fewer than 10% of bookshops feel more comfortable about their trading sustainability. Bookshops are asking for the reform of small business rates relief. Do visit your local bookshop. 🌀

### **UK Science Funding Drop-in with Physicists**



On 15 June 2026 Prof Brian Cox, Catherine Heymans Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Jim Wild, President of the Royal Astronomical Society visited the House of Commons to talk to MPs about the funding cuts planned for UK astronomy, nuclear and particle physics. There is a shortfall of £162m over the spending review period potentially leading to cuts of up to 30%. The UK is a world leader in these areas, and there are 48 UK funded projects at risk. These cuts must be reversed. 🌀

### **Summer Reading Challenge 2026**



The Reading Agency held a drop-in event on 10 June 2026 to speak to Parliamentarians about the Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme is 'Read to the Beat.' Universal Music Group UK and the illustrator Harry Woodgate are partners in the challenge, in which children will be able to discover books inspired by a range of musical genres and cultures. This is the National Year of Reading, and I am encouraging everyone to visit their Library and discover all sorts of books. 🌀

### **Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill: Committee and Third Reading**



The Bill was considered in a Committee of the Whole House on 8 and 9 June 2026. The Bill will grant the UK Government powers to bring steel companies, including British Steel, into public ownership when a public interest test is met. Over the two days of debate, a total of six opposition amendments were rejected, and the Bill was read a third time and passed without division. It will now proceed to the House of Lords for further consideration. 🌀

## **Supporting A Skilled Plumbing Workforce**



I met with representatives of JTL, a specialist, not-for-profit Independent Training Provider to discuss the benefits of a skilled plumbing workforce to UK Growth. JTL was set up by Unite the Union and the Electrical Contractors Association 35 years ago to train electrical and plumbing apprentices. In Walsall, apprenticeship starts in plumbing, domestic heating, refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump engineering are below the national constituency average.🌀

## **Royal Albert Hall Bill: Revival**



The Bill was first presented in the House of Lords on 23 January 2023 under the last Government. It passed through all its stages in the House of Lords and through Second Reading and Committee in the House of Commons. Its purpose was to update how annual member contributions are set, modernising the governance of the Royal Albert Hall. It was brought back for a debate on whether it should be reconsidered on 15 June, and the revival motion was rejected. This was a private Bill.🌀

## **Parliamentary Delegation from Sri Lanka**



On 16 June 2026, a parliamentary delegation from Sri Lanka visited the UK supported by the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I was a panel speaker on the session on scrutiny of legislation. I explained our Public Bill Committees and how Select Committees can also look at pre-legislation scrutiny and the group explained about their unicameral parliament. Their President appoints the Prime Minister. We discussed ways to strengthen our democracy.🌀

## **Cyber Security Bill and National Security Bill**



The House debated these Bills. The Cyber Security Bill updates the UK's only cross-sector cyber regulations and delivers new powers to ensure government can respond to new and emerging cyber threats and passed at its third reading. The National Security Bill creates a new power for the Home Secretary to designate bodies engaged in state threat activity. Designation will disrupt and deter the activities of designated bodies and those working with and supporting them. It passed its third reading.🌀