

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Some of you have encountered problems arranging the right care for elderly or disabled relatives.

We seem to be long on assessors and managers but short of people who can look after patients in their own homes or in care homes. A care home crisis is developing, as many owners and managers are finding it difficult to make ends meet on the fees paid by the state. Wages and other costs have risen sharply in our area and fees have

not kept pace. Additional regulation has made the situation worse. A number of residential care and nursing homes have been put on the market for conversion back to ordinary residences.

I have warned the government of this problem, and with others pointed out it is a false economy. Failure to pay the going rate for a residential care home place may mean another elderly person stays in a far dearer hospital bed, blocking that bed for others that need hospital treatment. The government has recognised the issue by making money available to handle bed blocking, but it is proving difficult to direct enough of it to mid Berkshire where it is sorely needed.

I have given support to our local Readibus service, praising the volunteers who make it all possible, and have visited Wade in Wokingham



which does wonderful work for the elderly.



EUROPE

I continue to write and speak about the issue of our relationship with the European Union.

I am disturbed by the rapid move towards EU control of parts of our criminal law system, the development of European defence forces, and the growing amount of European regulation in many different walks of life.

I want us to trade with the European continent, and be friends with them, but I do think we are experiencing too much government from Brussels. I will continue to set out the views of all those of you that want to keep a strong independent democracy in these islands, and highlight the dangers as I see them of some of the regulations and Treaty amendments coming from the Council of Ministers.

Support for local business

John regularly visits local companies that want to show him how they are getting on, or raise with him problems in dealing with government.

This visit is not to a stage set for *The Lion*, *the Witch* and *the Wardrobe*—it's one of our successful hi-tec companies.



KEEP DREAMING –

they didn't really let our MP loose on the road with one of these, but he did say a big thank you to our firemen on your behalf when he paid them a visit.

