

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

I was delighted to be re-elected as your MP at the general election, with an increased majority and an increased share of the vote. Since then, of course, we have had one of the most extraordinary weeks in British politics, culminating in a coalition government, something we have not had in peacetime for eighty years.

I was delighted with that outcome, as it resulted in my becoming Minister for Culture, a job I have been keen to do for many years. Apart from the Cornerstone at Didcot, as well as the cultural delights of Oxford, there is a lot of cultural activity taking place in every town and village in the constituency, which is a useful reminder of how important culture is to our day-to-day lives, even if it does not make a great impact on politics.

I am based in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. You will be delighted to know I will not be swanning around in a ministerial car, as the Secretary of State immediately banned them, instantly saving the taxpayer £250,000 a year. All Ministers have also taken a 5 per cent pay cut.

The new job will be demanding, but I will not lose sight of the constituency. The general election was an important time, because it gives you the opportunity to listen to people's concerns. I think the voice of pensioners was hardly heard, but there were other issues, such as mental health, raised at the hustings, that did not get a voice. I am also aware of the privilege of representing a constituency with extensive science, energy and defence interests, which gives me a local perspective on national issues.

I also intend to hold regular public meetings to allow people to come and question and raise concerns with people who run our public services - not just me, but also councillors, the Police and the health service.

The public enquiry into the reservoir begins in June and I am in close touch with GARD to try and ensure that they are able to raise vital points during the hearing.

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

11 June	<b>Faringdon</b> , Pump House
9 July	<b>Grove</b> : Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
23 July	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Drive, Community Centre
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey, MP for Wantage and Didcot by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
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**MAY CROSSWORD BY ALISA: ANSWERS**

ACROSS: 3 Clerical 7 Cumnor 8 Rodent 12 Rat 13 Frilford 14 Courtenay 16 Rent free 17 The 19 Voting 23 Culham 24 Resolute

DOWN: 1 Guitar 2 Ant 3 Cry 4 Ear 5 Clearly 6 Lute 9 Offender 10 Of Sutton 11 History 14 Creates 15 The Gap 18 Over 20 Gnu 21 Ace 22 Elk

**Marcham Community Group**

Hopefully, most residents of Marcham and the surrounding villages are aware of the formation of the Marcham Community Group (MCG). However, just to remind all of the purpose and aim of the Group:

MCG has being set up to promote and coordinate the provision and management of community hall and facilities to meet the needs of residents of Marcham and district. MCG will be absolutely accountable to the community and will reflect the desires of the community. It has no other agenda.

MCG seeks to serve the community and welcomes wide community involvement. We are looking for a range of skills, at the moment specifically: fund-raising, legal, architectural, planning and June 2010

administrative (book-keeping) skills. PLEASE DO GET INVOLVED! We are examining options for the most suitable legal structure for MCG and legal advice is being sought. MCG has already held several working meetings over the past two months. Activities are overseen by a steering group consisting so far of about 20 members of the community. Three sub-groups have been formed and are working on specific activities:

- Planning • Finance • Communication & consultation

The MCG groups meet on a regular basis (approximately monthly). If you feel that you have skills, knowledge, passion or enthusiasm to contribute, please contact Jim Asher on 391727. In summary, the MCG is not a "talking shop"; it will be a properly-constituted body that:

- welcomes a wide membership and active participation
- has no agenda other than to represent the village
- will get things done, including operation of facilities the community chooses
- will be truly open and transparent in all its dealings. Meeting notes will be published on the website

[www.madnews.co.uk/mcg](http://www.madnews.co.uk/mcg)  
**Watch this space!**

**Marcham/Frilford Dig News 2010**

This July will be the tenth season for the dig in Trendles field on Manor Farm, Marcham. You can reach it on foot from Marcham village via public and Jubilee footpaths - the site is just off the A338 before it crosses the Ock on the road to Wantage, off the footpath that leads to and from the former Noah's Ark pub. Lots of you will have already visited the site where the University of Oxford is digging a Romano-British site, but we find out more each year about this religious centre so it's worth a return visit. *It's a remarkable site of national importance - don't miss the chance of seeing the history that's on your doorstep.*



This year as before the public are welcome to visit (archaeologists are at work every day except Saturdays for the 4 weeks from Sunday 4 July) - but the best day to visit will be THE OPEN DAY (part of National Archaeology fortnight) SUNDAY 25 JULY - 10-4 - when there will be guided tours and other attractions. Parking is available and we do ask for a small donation towards our expenses.

Many schools, societies and groups arrange to make separate day time or evening visits - please let me know if you are interested. You can read about the excavation in back issues of the Coral Rag - on sale at Cumbers Farm Shop. You can find out more on [http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research\\_projects/marcham](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research_projects/marcham)

The 'People's Trench' will be operative in 2010 - to give hands-on archaeological training and experience to local people - six days a week (Saturday is a rest day) - for the duration of the dig. We will welcome new volunteers - you don't need any special skills or strength: you will receive some basic training and be fully supervised at no cost to yourself! *You can do as little as a day - but more is preferable!* Please note that anyone under 16 must be accompanied.

'Pot washing' is on offer as well on some days - they will be advertised in the next MADNews. Those who do not want to dig all day can sit down and 'pot wash'. If you or someone you know might enjoy getting their hands on finds which have not seen the light of day for a couple of thousand years please let me know.

For further information please contact Janey Cumber on 01865-391327/391840 or by email [janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk). If you have already put your name down I will be in touch with you during June.