

**FROM JANE HANNA...**

I am writing to update residents on my work for the Village over the last four months. Of course, the floods were the most dramatic event for the Village over the summer and immediately following the floods I called on Marcham residents who had suffered any damage to their property. I had hoped to speak personally with all affected, but due to serious illness in my family over the summer months and subsequent bereavement did not manage to speak to all who were affected. I did however liaise with the clerk to the parish to ensure that those affected were aware of the small grant available from the Vale and I am pleased to support the recently established Parish Council flood working group.

Central to the pages of MADNews over the last few months have been the numerous letters concerning the Anson Trust. I promised residents in May that I would involve the village in a consultation once an application was made. I met with officers at the Vale in June who assured me that they had yet to engage in pre-consultation talks about development. I have also requested Vale Officers and the Anson Trust that I be included in any such discussions so as to be in a good position to consult with the Village. I subsequently established a small working group to help plan a process to engage with the village should any application be made relating to the Anson Field. The group considered a recent letter in MADNews suggesting that Mr Duffield was interested in the Institute and on the advice of this group I subsequently sought a meeting with him, kindly facilitated by Les Mitchell. I met with both Mr Duffield and the Anson Trust during the summer with a view to facilitating an exchange of information that might lead to some resolution of the ongoing financial problems for the Trust. Colin Trinder quite rightly speculated in the October MadNews that an offer to purchase and restore the Institute would surely be the answer to all the Anson Trust problems. All I can say is this would of course depend on the terms of any offer, should one be made. The working group will meet again on the 30th November and I promise to keep residents informed of any news on this key issue for the Village.

On other developments in the village, I spoke at the July Planning Committee meeting to support the Parish Council's specific objections to the new development at CotSDale, situated as it is as the gateway to Marcham Village and was subsequently involved in discussions with the Vale to agree with the developer some reduction in height. I understand that the developer has now offered at least to make some reduction to the slab level of the build. Finally, I was unable to attend the remembrance day service at Marcham because I was representing the Vale at St

Mary's in Shippon. Some of the families from Dalton Barracks live in Marcham and it was very moving experience to meet with many of the young soldiers returning from Afghanistan and hear their experiences at first hand.

**JANE HANNA** District Councillor for Marcham & Shippon  
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**COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

There are over 8000 serving members of Her Majesty's armed forces and their families within the County of Oxfordshire. These brave men and women are all volunteers, serving their Queen and country wherever the government of the day decides to deploy them. They receive little thanks for their contribution to the defence of the freedoms and liberties we all enjoy in this country.

General Sir Richard Dannat has asked for the public and politicians from all parties and at all levels to do more to support military personnel and their families.

The County Council agreed at the last full council of 2007, to contribute £100K to "welcome home/support the military and their families in Oxfordshire". The money will be distributed to various projects around the military bases in the county, and will be put to use in a number of ways. Some will help welfare and community facilities with new equipment and some will be spent on new internet terminals to assist families to stay in contact with soldiers and aircrews in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We may not always support the political decisions behind the deployment of our armed forces, but we should do all we can to support our Soldiers, Sailors and Aircrews. My eldest nephew is serving in the army (REME) overseas, we may not see him at Christmas again this year.

To all of the residents of Marcham, Cothill, Frilford, Tubney, Gozzards Ford and Garford, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**CLLR IAIN BROWN**

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**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

Although I get involved in a lot of local issues, my day job is to try and represent you and your views in Parliament. The beginning of November saw the State Opening of Parliament, and the Queen's Speech, when the Government set out its programme of legislation for the next 12 months. This seems a useful opportunity to tell you what is coming up, to hear your

views, and to let you know how I intend to vote on each issue.

There are a lot of Bills being put forward that are likely to affect us all in the years to come. To begin with, there is the Government's flagship Bill which will raise the school leaving age from 16 to 18. This means that children will stay on either at school, or if they are working, their employers will have to ensure that they are receiving some kind of formal training. The change, described as the biggest in education for sixty years, will cost about £1 billion.

I am opposed to this legislation, which I think tackles the problem from the wrong end. In my view, it would be much better if the money went into early years education, and getting the basics right, rather than being spent on keeping unwilling young adults in education. Let me know what you think, especially if you have young children who will be affected by this change.

Another major Bill is the Climate Change Bill, which was supported by the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, so I imagine I will be voting for it! The Bill will set binding targets to reduce carbon emissions, and will force the Government to set out a plan to achieve this.

The most controversial Bill is likely to be the Counter Terrorism Bill. Last year the Government tried to extend the period without detention for terrorist suspects from 14 days to 90 days. I voted against the move and eventually the Government compromised on 28 days. Now they want to try again and extend the period to 56 days. When I voted against 90 days, I got a huge amount of criticism from you – my constituents. But I am afraid that I will probably vote against 56 days as well. I don't think we should sacrifice our hard-earned liberties in this way.

Other controversial Bills will be the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which will up-date regulations concerning the use of human embryos; the Planning Bill, which will make it easier to impose large-scale developments on communities; and, of course, the Bill which introduces the EU Treaty/Constitution without a referendum! I look forward to hearing your views on these or any other issues of concern.

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage (Con)  
**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**  
5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

14 Dec	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Drive Community Centre
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