

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I had a useful up-date with the chief constable from Thames Valley Police, Sara Thornton, on the issues our local Police face. Let me begin by saying that we live in one of the safest areas of the country, with a very low crime rate. While there are always problems, such as occasional hot-spots of anti-social behaviour, and the occasional wrongful arrest (an 85 year old nicked for chopping down a tree in his garden springs to mind!), I have few complaints and a lot of praise for the hard work our officers do.

The biggest problem we face is our proximity to London. Because of London weighting, Police officers in London get paid £4500 more than Police Officers in Oxfordshire. And if you live in Oxfordshire but work in London, you get free travel. So it is not surprising that many officers who train and get experience here end up working in London. Across the Thames Valley, we lost 79 officers to the Met in 2008, and we have the second highest proportion of young officers in the country. Thames Valley MPs are now going to lobby the Government to reduce the differential in pay between London and the Thames Valley, as well as asking for a protocol to be put in place to limit the number of officers that can be poached.

Overall, Thames Valley Police is still understaffed. On a like-for-like basis, comparing us to similar counties, we are down some 436 police officers, 100 community support officers and 350 specials. I am delighted that the force is planning to recruit more specials, and we should be up to 400 by the end of the year.

Population growth is also a factor. While all new development is on hold because of the credit crunch, housing expansion puts a huge strain on resources. Because of the way the funding formula works, we are unlikely to get the necessary increase in police numbers to match housing growth. Bizarrely, because of the huge geographic spread of Thames Valley, our policing resources are affected by the growth of towns like Milton Keynes. I am trying to get the Government to change the formula.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

27 Feb	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre
13 Feb	Grove Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
13 Mar	Wantage , Civic Hall
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350



MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Considerable damage has been done to a substantial portion of the cricket out-field by a person or persons unknown. As a result, much work now needs to be done in an effort to provide satisfactory ground conditions for the 2009 Season which begins in May. *see cover for photos*

Information relating to Marcham CC (including playing for, or umpiring on behalf of the Club) may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317).

CSB

February 2009



Some save whales. We save energy

Find out how >



ENERGY SAVING LIGHT BULB MYTH BUSTER

Why use them?

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 80% less electricity, save you about £3 a year each, and last up to 12 times longer than old fashioned tungsten bulbs.



What are they?

Think of them as compact versions of the strip lights in work places since the 1950s.

Have they improved?

You can now get all shapes and sizes, fittings and levels of brightness, including 150W equivalent and dimmable options. A recent blind test of 761 shoppers, found that 64% preferred the light from them.

Is it better to leave them running?

No, switching them on uses the equivalent electricity as leaving them on for a few minutes. Most now light instantaneously.

How should I dispose of them?

Use the service your municipal tip provides for the safe disposal of fluorescent tubes.

Is mercury an issue?

Ironically, installing CFLs ought to help reduce the need for coal-fired electricity production - a major cause of global mercury emissions. CFLs contain mercury - about 5mg. Locked into its tube, this is harmless.

What should I do if I smash one?

Ventilate the room for 15 minutes. Put on your rubber gloves, brush the bits into a bag, seal it and drop it at the tip next time you go.

Are tungsten bulbs banned?

No. Manufacturers have agreed to withdraw them for sale, starting with 100W this year, 60W in 2010 and 40W in 2011.

Where can I find out more?

Contact the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**.

MARCHAM SOCIETY HISTORY BOOK

The photograph on the cover of Garford School was taken in 1969. We know some of the names (Irene Perry and Wyn Harman; Victoria, Helen and Martin Hingley, and Lizzie Lockhart), but if you have any idea who the others might be, please contact Marge Hall on 01865 391626 or bob@marcham391.freeseve.co.uk.

MARCHAM PLAYERS

The next two dates for your diary are the AGM on THURSDAY 19 February, in Church, starting at 7:30. (Individual membership £5, families £10.)



Then 'With Great Peasure' (theme humour) please note change of date Friday 27 February in the Board Room at Manor Farm, starting at 7:30. This is being presented by the Committee.. Any enquiries about us will be willingly answered either by our Secretary, Joey, on 01865 391242 or, Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.

www.marchamplayers.co.uk