

DENMAN COLLEGE

The college has been busy over the past couple of months, with a very full programme of residential courses, day visits and other activities.

Our building project – a new 16 bedroom accommodation block, and a 120-seat meeting & teaching room – is well underway, and we will have the new rooms in use by late Summer. We are delighted that the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Hugo Brunner and two of his brothers – the sons of Lady Brunner, a driving force behind the establishment of Denman College, and national Chairman of the WI in the 1950s – will lay a memorial foundation stone for the accommodation block in July.

Plans are also well in hand for our week of celebrations – Denman’s Diamond – in September (23-28th), when we mark the college’s 60th birthday.

We are always delighted to host Marcham WI at the college, and in June we welcomed a group of young people from the church who came to have a look round the college’s gardens.

STEPHEN HACKETT, Principal

RED CROSS APPEAL

I would like to pass on my thanks to all collectors and donators for this year’s Red Cross appeal. I’ve had a very nice letter from the Red Cross and they have informed me that the total amount collected for Marcham was £443.32 Well done everyone and thanks again.

JO BLACKLER

**MARCHAM & DISTRICT
EX-SERVICEMEN’S
CLUB (“THE CLUB”)
NOTICE TO LIFE MEMBERS**

To enable the Club to keep a current Register of all Life Members, would those entitled and wishing to register as such, including widows and widowers of Life Members, please contact Hodsons, the Club’s Solicitors in writing by 30 September 2008 and the Club Secretary by 01 April in each subsequent year. Those indicating a wish to register will be sent a Registration Form for completion and return. Those failing to respond by the dates mentioned will no longer be considered Members of the Club.

Dated this 18 day of June 2008

**Hodsons, The Greenhouse,
Stratton Way, Abingdon, OX14 3QP**

July/August 2008

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Locally, we seem to have scored a victory by preventing the Highways Agency from routing heavy traffic through Marcham during the road works. The sheer hell this would have caused once again highlights the need for a solution to the problem of having a major road running through the centre of Marcham.

On national issues, as so many people wrote to me with their concerns about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, I thought I should let you know how I voted on some of the main issues, and why.

Hybrid Embryos In my view, much of the debate around this issue was misleading. Most hybrids involve the animal part acting as a “vessel” for human cells, and the need has come about because of the shortage of human eggs available for research. There is no mixing of animal and human genetic material. However, I did have concerns about “true hybrids”, where there does appear to be some mixing of material, because an animal egg or fertilised by a human sperm, and vice versa. Accordingly I voted for a Conservative amendment that would have prohibited “true hybrids”, but this was defeated. **Saviour Siblings** I do not oppose saviour siblings. Saviour siblings are not children created to order so that their body parts can be harvested. It is simply the case that where a mother is receiving IVF, she will be able to choose the embryo who most closely matches her existing child in terms of tissue. This already happens in other countries in any event, so it is right that the practice is properly regulated here. I therefore supported the Government on this issue.

Need for a Father At present, a doctor assessing any one seeking IVF is required to consider the “need for a father”. The Bill proposed changing this to the “need for supportive parenting”. I supported the change for many reasons. First, I do not think single mothers or lesbian couples should be denied such treatment. Knowing both examples very well, they can make very good parents, and do not take the decision to have a child lightly. Second, the “need for a father” arguments did not stand up to scrutiny. It was argued that the provision would not discriminate as lesbians already receive treatment, and it was there simply to send a signal. In my view, legislation should not be used to send signals, but to achieve specific aims. To use it for the former purpose is to encourage bad law-making.

Abortion I am not anti-abortion, and would not vote to make it illegal. It is clear however, that our abortion limit is too high. Babies do survive at 23 weeks (including a constituent of mine) and some at 22 weeks. I am confident many will survive at 20 weeks in a few years. I therefore voted to lower the

abortion rate to 20 weeks, and to 22 weeks, but both amendments were defeated.

Thank you for allowing me to set out my views. The debates can be seen in Hansard, on the website www.parliament.uk (just click on House of Commons, then Hansard, and look for the relevant dates, 19 and 20 May) or I may be able to send you hard copies of the debates if you so desire.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MP’S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

11 July	Wallingford , Town Hall
25 July	Faringdon , Corn Exchange
5 Sept	Grove Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
26 Sept	Shrivenham , Memorial 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

Dear Editor

Just a few days after the litter around the recycling bins in Howard Cornish Road was cleared (by volunteers?), I noticed two large cardboard boxes had been left there. May I suggest that the people responsible, who were public-spirited enough to recycle their bottles and paper, go one step further and hire a brown bin or take their cardboard to Tesco’s recycling facilities?

JEAN PAGE See cover photo

**MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN’S CLUB
OAP MYSTERY TOUR
Saturday 16th August 2008.**

Leaving the Club at 2pm

Forms will be available from the Post Office and Club from the 1st August 2008, closing date 13th August.

**CEDAR Zimbabwe
children’s clothes sale**

Thank you to everyone who donated, bought and helped to make the afternoon such a success.

We raised £104.00 which will be used to buy medical supplies for the mobile clinic. The clinic provides basic health care to those who wouldn’t normally be able to afford medication.

RACHEL GAISFORD

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

A tradition drop-side cot with newish rarely-used mattress and some bedding. Could deliver if necessary. No longer required by grand-parents!
Contact Sheila Dunford on 391439