

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

There are a number of campaigns running at the moment. At the beginning of June, a number of MPs held a debate in Parliament on the behaviour of HBOS, the high street bank. A number of our constituents have been badly hit financially, and they have blamed the behaviour of the Reading office of HBOS. I was representing Justin Riggs, a farmer in the Vale, and Justin and his family came to London to hear the debate in person. We have already had one offer of compensation, and I hope we will get further after the debate.

MPs use debates like this to put pressure on organisations to do the right thing. I have also found myself heading a group of MPs campaigning for compensation for thousands of investors who lost money by buying a financial savings product backed by Lehman's. Although it was guaranteed, when Lehman's went bust, they lost all their savings including my constituent. I am hoping to get a debate on this as well.

I also continue to represent pensioners who lost money in Equitable Life, as well as from the Icelandic banks. A lot of people have been very badly treated.

On another front, I am working with other Oxfordshire MPs to get the local Health Trust to change its rules on IVF assisted pregnancy. At the moment, only women aged 35-38 can get the treatment, although national guidelines recommend from the age of 23. As a father of two young children, I know how important children are. In fact my first (successful) case as a candidate was helping a young couple in Grove adopt a baby. I very much hope we can persuade the Trust to change its guidelines to help more childless couples in Oxfordshire.

I recently visited the St John Ambulance in Kidlington to undertake a first aid course. I am campaigning with Beth Chesney Evans, who lost her son in a motor bike accident, to get first aid made compulsory in schools. I learned a lot, it is very straightforward stuff but it does need to be taught, and it could save lots of lives in future.

Finally in Parliament I sat on the committee of a small but important Bill, which will allow our national museums to give back art that was looted by the Nazis. At the moment, the museums' rules prevent them disposing of any object even if they know it was taken unlawfully. This is a small but very helpful change in the law which will right some wrongs.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

10 July	Faringdon , Corn Exchange
24 July	Wallingford , Town Hall
25 Sept	Wantage , Civic Hall
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
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COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

I have the honour in representing the Hanneys and Hendreds Division at County Hall for the next four years. I was elected with an increased majority from the election in May 2005.

The election itself was overshadowed by the scandal surrounding MPs expenses. My expenses as a County Councillor are a great big round number - zero! I can claim for mileage - 40 pence per mile - when using my car on official council business, apart from that, I have claimed the odd Park and Ride bus ticket, but nothing else, no food, no hotels, no moat cleaning and no duck houses! Some of the electorate were very angry with anyone - regardless of political party - who put election material through their doors. Some was thrown back at me, one "gentleman" threatened violence and spat at me, but I understand the anger felt and the frustration caused by a few greedy people. I was glad when election day got to 10pm! Many helpers give up their time to put leaflets through our doors and hopefully give us a real choice of who to vote for.

July / August 2009

Our political system is not perfect - the last few weeks have shown that to be the case - however, the electorate have the ultimate say at the ballot box. All around the world countries struggle to embrace a democratic system of government. We must have faith in the electorate to deliver us from bad politicians of any party via the ballot box. The next four years will bring some of the biggest financial challenges coupled to one of the biggest demographic changes in our history.

In 2011, two years from now, the first of the "Baby Boomer" generation will reach retirement age at 65. This mass exodus from work into retirement will continue for the next 20 years, until the situation levels back out again. There are many other challenges facing the County Council, housing numbers, infrastructure and the economy to name just 3. The next 4 years are likely to be anything but dull!

The Hanneys and Hendreds division covers the villages of Ardington, Lockinge, East and West Hendred, Milton Heights, Steventon, Marcham, Garford, Fyfield, Frilford, Lyford, Tubney, East and West Hanney, Cothill and Gozzards Ford, not forgetting Betterton, Ginge, Oaksmere and some very out of the way places! My feet are not yet fully recovered, but if you need any assistance with County Council matters, please contact me.

CLLR IAIN BROWN

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THE HARDING BEQUEST

Could your village group make use of a small grant?

The Harding Bequest is a small charitable trust which for some years has made grants to a variety of community causes in the parish. Any village group may apply to the Bequest for a grant if there is an evident need.

If you are involved in a village organisation that may benefit from a small grant you are invited to write to

Louise Butt, Secretary to The Harding Bequest, 8 Hyde Copse, Marcham OX13 6PT outlining how you think the Trustees might be able to help.

MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club

The pavilion & field off Morland Road

We had a fantastic night in the club at our Grand Charity Quiz. Thanks to all those who attended or contributed we raised over £700 for good causes.

July General Knowledge Quiz We are holding our next quiz on July 17th. By popular demand there won't be a 'sport' round! We look forward to another good night.

Bar Open Every Friday Night Don't forget the bar is now open every Friday night and every week there will be at least one guest real ale available.

Date for your diary We are holding a Summer Dance this year on Saturday 5th September. It will be fully under cover with a live band, disco, BBQ, raffle, etc. Put the date in your diary and invite your friends.

Don't forget the club is also open every Saturday after football or cricket. Support your local teams.

We look forward to seeing you at the club

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577 or geoff.dix@hotmail.com

QUEEENS JUBILEE 1977

1977 - Do you remember the The Queen's Silver Jubilee? Were you crowned Jubilee Queen? Marcham Society are looking for any photos or items from the celebrations in Marcham - barn dance, parade etc. If so, please contact Sheila Dunford on 01865 391439.