

Dear Editor

**PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE**

I feel the time for keeping quiet is over. Traffic Lights, Bumps, Flashing Lights and Warning Signs - these are not working. The only answer is the BY-PASS.

I've lived in Marcham for 17yrs on Packhorse Lane and seen the traffic increase in size and speed. Now outside my house the large lorries have to mount the 2ft path (if you can call it that) to pass.

Do we have to wait till someone is killed or seriously injured? My son stepped out of our front door to meet a massive lorry with its wheels on our front garden which is only 1ft wide, because he is young and quick he dodged it what if it was a pensioner or someone less agile? I shudder to think.

As the lady in last month's MADNews, he too has been clipped whilst delivering daily papers and his paper trolley hit. We have had scaffold poles, bags of cement and all sorts of objects from lorries deposited along the path from the bends by the chapel to our house. Cars have been through the chapel wall demolishing large sections so must have been moving as the wall is 20 inches thick. Has anyone seen the state of the kerb outside Priory Lodge and Mr. Pointer's yard? Please take the time to look. Lorries tipped over, destroying telegraph poles, gardens, cars smashing into each other: 6 vehicle accidents in almost as many weeks, two serious. The latest just makes probably the most valid point: the new lights put up to make our entry for pedestrians crossing the road SAFE, destroyed by a vehicle. Suppose it had been your child or mum coming from school or shops waiting to cross, they would almost certainly have been KILLED.

You could say why buy a house on Packhorse Lane. Answer: it was quiet. Present laws allowed bigger lorries, it's now recognized as a short cut from the A420 to the A34 and most importantly a BY-PASS was on the cards.

When the voting for the BY-PASS was polled, 84% of the village wanted it to happen, now is the time to push and campaign to make it a reality. As proved, short-time safety measures are not the answer. What is money compared with a life? It could be you or yours, it better not be one of mine.

**ANGRY resident  
MR. R DREDGE**

Dear Editor

It is exactly 2 months to the day since I last wrote to you regarding the junction with the A338 at Frilford Heath, and, again, as I write there are numerous police cars,

fire engines etc., attending the scene of an accident. Do we really have to wait for a fatality before something is done to reduce the speed limit along this dangerous stretch of road?

**ANTONIA KEANEY**

*See March issue for previous letter*

**EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM STAGECOACH RE NEW BUS TIMETABLE**

We have been struggling with the viability of the 31/X31 services in their current form and passenger numbers are on a strong downward trend. We have therefore had to make changes to the network, some of which are fairly drastic for certain areas.

I'm afraid that Marcham has perhaps had the most drastic change to its service, particularly in the 08.00 to 10.00 time bracket. This has come about as a result of needing to schedule buses to run on the busiest journeys. These are mostly journeys into Oxford, Didcot and Harwell IBC. Unfortunately, Marcham is not one of the busiest areas we serve.

There are, however, benefits for bus users in Marcham and these include the provision of a direct service to Harwell IBC and Didcot and an improved evening frequency between 19.25 and 23.25 from Oxford. There is also an additional Night Bus on Fridays and Saturdays from Oxford to Marcham.

I will, of course, keep the situation under review and all customer comments will be noted for future amendments.

**SIMON MATHIESON**

Oxford Local Bus

*Contact Stagecoach on 01865 772250*

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

It is now roughly a year since you elected me as your MP in May 2005. Now might be a good time to look back at the year and try and make some kind of assessment - objective, of course!

First, here are some numbers. I have spoken in 25 Parliamentary debates, asked 35 questions to Ministers, received around 2,500 e-mails and around 3,000 letters from constituents, sat through 97 hours of Select Committee meetings, made about 150 speeches to groups ranging from local charities to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and visited India, Sweden and America on Parliamentary business.

By itself none of this means anything, of course. For me, the most satisfying and effective part of the job is simply being able to help people with their problems, ranging from tax credits, housing, schooling or any of the other plethora of problems that an

MP can help with.

As well as helping constituents' individual problems, I have been campaigning on a number of issues. Let's begin with the successes. The Park Child Psychiatry Hospital in Oxford has won a stay of execution after the Minister saw sense during an Adjournment debate I held earlier this year. First Great Western has pulled back from some of the cuts it was trying to make to commuter services from Didcot, after meetings with Ministers and Parliamentary pressure. The scientific publishing industry that employs so many in our area is now more secure after a campaign to sustain investment in new technology.

However, there is still a lot to do. The NHS in Oxfordshire has a £25 million deficit; Grove and Didcot face the prospect of huge housing growth, which I oppose, and Thames Water are pushing ahead with plans for the reservoir.

Many thanks for all the kind letters I have received in the last year.

**ED VAIZEY**

MP Wantage (Con)

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

*5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise*

<b>May</b>	
5	<b>Milton Park</b> Parkside Café from 12:30 pm
12	<b>Wantage</b> Waylands Room, Civic Hall
26	<b>Faringdon</b> Corn Exchange
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

**Garden Sale at 24 Tower Close**  
Saturday 27 May, 10.30am - 12.30  
Second-hand toys, children's clothes and books, bric-a-brac - and ice-cream too!

All proceeds to the  
Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum.  
For more information,  
call Sian on 01865 390067.

**Art Exhibition at Bothy Vineyard  
Frilford Heath**  
Friday 2 June - Sunday 4 June  
12 noon - 6pm.

As part of the Oxfordshire Art Weeks, local artist Elaine Newson will be displaying her collection of stained glass lamps, mirrors, panels and jewellery. Also watercolours and cards for sale. For more information ring 01865 321000.

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events