

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

As Parliament is still in recess as I write this, I thought I would up-date you on some campaigns I have been running.

First I am looking forward to the meeting to discuss the Anson Trust's proposals on the evening of 16th October. The idea for the event came out of a meeting I had with the Trust. The meeting is open to everyone and is designed to clear the air, so that everyone knows what is being proposed and what the concerns are. It is not designed to cut across the parish council's work, or to come up with a solution. It was felt that as the MP, I could chair the meeting in a neutral fashion, as I do not live in the village and come with no agenda. I hope that is OK with everybody.



Nationally, I have been campaigning on behalf of thousands of investors who invested in savings products. Although the products were advertised as 100 per cent guaranteed, because they were backed by Lehman Brothers, when the bank went bust investors lost all their money. One of those investors lives in our constituency, which is how I got involved.

Having held a debate on the subject, and also written an article for the Financial Times, I finally got the Financial Services Authority to take the issue seriously, and investors should start to get their cases heard with a view to getting compensation. This is a real result, though it is early days. The whole campaign has thrown up some anomalies in our financial system, as far as investors are concerned, which I hope to raise in Parliament with a view to changing the law.

I have opposed the incinerator in Sutton Courtenay, and argued that the County should consider a different technology. I have secured a small victory, in that the County has chosen a different site, although it is still pursuing incineration. So as a Nimby I am pleased, but still concerned about the use of incineration.

Appleford recently lost a number of trains which were cut from its timetable, and I have succeeded in reinstating these.

Finally, as I may have mentioned before, the Government has agreed to hold a public enquiry into the reservoir planned for Steventon, something which I called for in November.

I was delighted to see the parish council has saved Charney's phone box!

Through the summer recess, I have continued to pursue individual cases as best I can, and hope the service has been as prompt and efficient as possible.

**ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)**

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

*5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise*

9 Oct	<b>Grove</b> , Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
23 Oct	<b>Wallingford</b> , Town Hall
6 Nov	<b>Faringdon</b> , Corn Exchange
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey by</b>	
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**CONTAINER GARDENING**

Take a stroll along any city/town or village street and you may easily think that only a few types of plants can be grown successfully in pots and containers.



The fact that many pots and containers are placed out with such pride by their owners, containing many of the same plants, often is more of a reflection of a lack of understanding, imagination and bravery, than an indication that very few plants actually can grow and thrive in a pot.

The most common types of plants used in pots have rightfully earned their status and inclusion, because more often than *October 2009*

not, they are reliable, colourful and resistant to disease and pests.

Other groups of plants that you could try growing in containers except for the usual bedding plants are frost hardy perennials grown as single specimens such as Agapanthus and Phlox. Rockery Perennials (alpinines) are effective as are bulbs. Bulbs are more frequently used in spring, but then there are more choices to be had at that time of year, but there are a few summer and autumn bulbs you could use too.

Bonsai, shrubs and even small trees are more than able to cope with container gardening, and so too are miniature patio roses, with their deliciously delicate flowers.

Dwarf varieties of vegetables can be grown in containers and grow bags and they can be really quite decorative if used imaginatively.

Fruit can be grown most effectively in pots, and strawberries often show this. Although fruit bushes and trees can be hard work when grown in pots, purchasing them on dwarf rootstock often makes life simpler and less distressing for the plant.

Let's not forget aquatic plants can be grown in pots too. They can be grown in ponds obviously, but also in water filled containers.

You have an infinite choice of plants from which to choose from, but choose well. Think of the situation in which you plan to place your pots and find plants that like that location. Whether or not plants are grown in pots or out there in the open grown, shade lovers love shade and sun worshipers love the sun.

A good tip when container gardening is as the pot or container will be a feature and highlight the plant therein, make sure you by a healthy plant initially, as weak and tired looking plants look even more weak and tired looking when highlighted by a wonderfully decorative pot.

When watering, if you only have a few pots then a watering can is all you need. If you have a large number of pots, a hosepipe saves time.

Grouping pots together saves time too, but groups of pots look nicer anyhow, than lonely looking pots spread about all over the garden.

In hot weather, watering can be rather onerous, so try using self watering containers that only need topping up every few days. A basic irrigation system with a timer is also time-efficient but harder on the pocket! But irrigation systems are only worth considering when you are the owner of a significant number of containers.

Have a think, you would be surprised how varied and effective container gardening can be.

*Happy Gardening,  
STUART MABBUTT*

**ALL SAINTS' CHOIR: SINGERS WANTED**

Do you enjoy singing and would like to join with others to make music together? In Marcham we have a long tradition of part-singing at the Parish Church and we would welcome any new singers, particularly men, to join our 15 to 20 members. Normally we meet for an hour's practice at 6pm on the two Wednesdays before the 10am Sunday service, so the time commitment is not large. We play a leading role in the Carol Service on the Sunday Evening before Christmas and if you would like to come along just to sing on that special occasion that would be great. If you think you might like to join us, please contact Christine Wild (Tel 391260) or Eric Dunford (Tel 391429) who would be only too willing to give extra help to any who enjoy singing, but who have missed out on musical training.

