ED VAIZEY WRITES... *CONTINUED*

own local council has decided to count the votes the next morning. The local paper rang me up and expected me to be outraged. In fact, I could not be more relaxed. With such a squeeze on public finances, why on earth should local taxpayers be expected to fork out the additional expense of counting votes overnight? The votes for county and district elections are counted the next day and no one seems to mind. At the 2005 election, the result in Wantage did not come through until 6am - so council officers were kept up all night, and then presumably took the day off the next day (or more accurately that day) anyway. Much better to have them count the votes on a Friday when they are wide awake, and the candidates have had a good night's sleep.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

In preparation for the 2010 O.C.A Season Nets are being held on Friday evenings. The location is Radley College Sports Hall and the start-time is 19.30 for each net practice. All level are welcome.

Information relation to Nets and playing for the Club may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317). Also, information relating to umpiring on behalf of Marcham C.C may be obtained from Graham or Terry.

CSB

SNOWY SNIPPETS

Wildlife spotted in Marcham during the cold spell

- Tawny Owl flying over Howard Cornish Road – you can hear these at night – followed by a Barn Owl
- Buzzard landed in a garden in Anson Close
- Fieldfares on feeders in Fettiplace Rd and eating cotoneaster berries and small red crab apples
- Great Spotted Woodpeckers eating peanuts

GUIDEPOSTS TRUST INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE

Do you struggle to get in and out of the bath? Do you know of someone who is a bit unsteady on their feet? If so, then you may be interested in the Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre in Witney.

The Independent Living Centre, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, provides information on products and organisations to assist people with disabilities and older people to increase and maintain their independence. The Centre, based in Witney, provides this free service to any adult residing in Oxfordshire.

The Centre has a showroom with equipment for the kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom and also has some mobility equipment. The centre is impartial and does not sell equipment but is an opportunity for you to "try before you buy" equipment. The Centre can also provide information on local and national retailers and "Wise Buy Guides" which provide questions to ask before parting with your money. Two Occupational Therapists are available for personal and confidential consultations, by appointment.

The Centre also has an Information Line available 01993 899985 which can give information on a variety of topics, such as where to hire a wheelchair, where to find accessible holiday accommodation, how to find a local or national support groups for a particular illness and much more.

The Centre is open 5 days a week for general viewing. An Occupational Therapist (OT) is available for consultation between Monday-Friday: 9 am to 4 pm. You would need to book an appointment to see an OT. The Information Line is open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

For more information, please see the Centre web-site: **www.guidepostsilc.org.uk** or telephone 01993 899985

JANUARY'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS BY ALISA

Across 1 Lamb 4 All Baba 8 Land and sea 10 Me 11 Go 12 Outward 15 Ape 17 Christingle 13 Toe 12 Forever 22 WI 23 St. 24 Denchworth 26 Economy 27 Rink

Down 2 Axle 3 Bingo 5 Long Wittenham 6 Ale 7 Above 9 Strange 10 Net 13 Unicorn 14 The 15 All 16 PE 17 Co 18 Tower 19 Out 21 Rarer 23 shin 25 Ego

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT

Over 30 people braved the snow on 12 January for the Marcham Society Annual Lecture. They were rewarded with an inspiring talk by Gig Thomas entitled Miracles & Disasters: the Story of Vila Maninga, Mozambique.

Vila Maninga was set up in1991 by a Zimbabwian couple to give support to some of the poorest of the poor in Mozambique. The premises were a derelict tobacco farm. The charity has grown into a community which provides schooling for 800 children, foster homes, care for the elderly and vocational training in skills such as farming, woodwork and healthcare. In a country where the average life expectancy is 38 years and one in four children die before their fifth birthday, the challenges are great.

Gig became involved with the charity after university, both working there and fund-raising in this country. She described the challenges the charity has faced, including the destruction of buildings by fire and cyclone and the deaths and serious illnesses faced by those who live and work there. The fact that the work continues despite all these setbacks is a great tribute to all concerned. ***JF***

A white horse walks into a pub and asks for a whisky. The landlord says: "Hey, we've got a whisky named after you."

The horse replies: "**What, Douglas**?"

Abingdon Quilting Groups
QUILTING EXHIBITION
Sewell Centre Gallery, Radley College, Abingdon
Sat 27th & Sun 28th March 10am - 4pm
Entry £2 or Entry & Talk £5 (children free)
Raffle in aid of The Abingdon Alzheimers Club
Linda Seward talk in Silk Hall 2pm Sat, £5
Mason's Fabrics & K&L Sewing Machines on Sat
Clare Kingslake demonstrating Appliqué 11-3 Sun
Mostly Books with Quilting & Craft Books Sat & Sun
Showcase Exhibition of Olga Norris's Work
Sales Table
Further information from Judy Harris 01235 543053
Excellent Refreshments in aid of Flexicare

WOODWATCH FROM THE WOODLAND TRUST

WOODLAND TRUST

WoodWatch is a campaign empowering people to take effective action to protect the woods and trees that are important in their community.

Think 'Neighbourhood Watch', only for woods and trees!
In fact, think Neighbourwood Watch!

Whether you are an individual or part of a community group, there are lots of things you can do to protect the woods and trees you care about, ancient or not.

www.woodwatch.org.uk 0800 026 9650

You don't have to kill woodland to destroy it... the impacts of insensitive and too-close development can be as devastating.