

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Recently, I have received a great many letters and emails from my constituents regarding a campaign to change the time zone of the UK – basically to get rid of daylight saving. This is an issue that has often come before Parliament but it has not been properly considered for many years. Daylight Saving Time (DST) was introduced in Britain during World War 1 and has been used ever since. Between 1968 and 1971, year-round DST was adopted in Britain for a trial period but was later abandoned. Current campaigns are proposing trying this again or simply moving both summer and winter forward by one hour. It is said that at present the UK wastes many hours of daylight when the vast majority of the population are still asleep and research has estimated that the UK could save up to 447,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year – equivalent to taking 172,000 cars off of the road. It would also reduce accidents on the road preventing up to 80 deaths and 200 serious injuries every single year.



However, I am not convinced that the change would benefit everyone. Apart from the massive costs caused by making the change, early-risers & schoolchildren would have to walk through darker mornings, we would no longer wake to find the sun streaming in through our windows and also Greenwich itself would no longer ever observe Greenwich Mean Time. I know that my fellow Ministers continue to hear from both sides of this argument and are currently considering what effects a change would have.

An upcoming issue with which Parliament and the public will have to contend with is the referendum on the Alternative Vote system (AV). On the one hand we have a tried and tested method called 'First Past the Post' or 'FPTP', which I favour, where simply the candidate with the most votes is elected. Despite its simplicity and the comfort to voters who know exactly how their vote will be used, critics say this system is unfair as smaller parties who receive a sizable percentage of the vote win few or no seats in the Commons.

AV asks voters to rank the candidates in order of preference, and then eliminates the weakest candidates in rounds, reassigning their votes, until one candidate receives over 50%. I would be interested to know your views.

I am also throwing my weight behind a new campaign this winter to help those who have trouble affording their heating bills. Every year the Government gives out Winter Fuel Payments to the elderly so that they can afford to keep warm, however for some this is just not enough. So I am supporting the Oxfordshire Surviving Winter Appeal which offers a way for people who can already afford their heating bills to donate their Winter Fuel Payments to those who can't. Winter can be a bitter time of year and I think it right that we should make every effort to prevent the cold from causing illness and, in the worst cases, death. In the modern world we should be able to overcome winter hardships together and I'm pleased to announce that, at the time of writing this, the Oxfordshire community has already raised over £21k for this cause. If you are able then please make a donation by sending a cheque to Oxfordshire Community Foundation, 3 Woodin's Way, Oxford OX1 1HD or visiting their website at www.oxfordshire.org.

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

4 Feb	Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
4 Mar	Didcot , King Alfred Community Centre, OX11 7NU
18 Mar	Faringdon , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

ANNOUNCEMENTS COLUMN

We are planning a new Announcements section in the MADNews starting in the April issue. If you want to announce an engagement, wedding, birth, baptism, anniversary, graduation, special achievement or event, move, retirement or death or in memoriam please write to Janey Cumber, Manor Farm, Mill Rd., Marcham, OX13 6NZ or email janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk. Photographs are welcome but we can't always guarantee that there will be space for them! Please give your contact details as all details will be checked before being published.

The Editor's decision is final

MARCHAM RECREATION GROUND CHARITY (ARBORETUM) REGISTERED NUMBER 265942

Some villagers may not know that the area often referred to as the Arboretum, off the Frilford Road, is in fact a registered charity. The land was given to Marcham Parish Council in 1953, and the Council acts as Trustees. The objects of the charity are to provide a recreation ground for the inhabitants of Marcham. It was used for many years for football and general sporting purposes. In 1997 the Charity Commission gave permission to the Trustees to dispose of a piece of the land to be used for an extension to the Cemetery, since which time it has been used more for leisure time recreation than sports matches. The Trustees have planted some trees around the edge and have accepted donations of trees from residents whenever possible where there are spaces. A plan has been prepared showing all trees planted.



It has been noticed however, that other trees and memorial wreaths have suddenly appeared and also cemetery type memorial plaques have been erected in the recreation ground. Would parishioners please note that should you be thinking of planting a tree or doing anything else in the recreation ground then you first have to write to the charity so that any request can be considered by the Trustees. The Trustees do try to be accommodating, but as they are required to carry out the purposes of the original charity, it may not be possible to agree to every request. The charity can be contacted via its clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Tel: 01865 391833

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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The first OCA fixture set to be placed at Marcham this year is a 2nd XI match against Chadlington 2nd XI on 30th April.

Pre-season Nets are big arranged. Players of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to join the Club.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information.

Also, Trevor may be contacted by anyone interested in umpiring on behalf of Marcham CC.



CSB

LAST CHANCE TO BUY THE 2011 CALENDAR – NOW HALF PRICE £1.75

The Marcham Society has produced a calendar for 2011 and a range of notelets featuring photographs given to the Society when their successful book "Marcham Remembered" was produced. You can buy copies of the calendar for £3.50 each at the Post Office and Cumber's Farm Shop or contact Sheila Dunford 391439.

