

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

My last column set out how some of my national responsibilities might affect the constituency. These included things such as broadband roll out and libraries. I forgot to put in the most controversial of all – digital radio switchover. My speech on this generated a huge amount of correspondence, such that my Department missed all its response targets for the month.



As usual, the papers have misreported it, so let me set out what I actually have said. Europe is moving towards digital radio, so I have put in place plan to make it easier for people to get radio stations on digital radios – this means increasing coverage and lowering the prices of digital radios. But given that most people still listen to FM, we have not set a date to switchover to digital, and will only do so when most people are listening to digital, and when coverage is as good as FM. Some people think this could be as soon as 2015 but I have made it clear we won't go ahead unless the listening public are with us. There you have it – please feel free to get in touch on any specific concerns you have.

In terms of a surreal experience, I got to announce the winner of the UK City of Culture (the first such award) on a roof top in Liverpool, live on the One Show (a lot of people seem to have seen it). I then flew to visit the winning city, which is Derry/Londonderry, a beautiful but of course troubled place on the western shore of Northern Ireland. I have never been involved in a media scrum before, but there were lots of cameras and reporters. Nor have I ever enjoyed, if that is the right word, armed protection. I hope the city is able to make the most of this new and unique opportunity. Locally, I remain as busy as ever. I have visited the new Thames Valley Housing Development at St Mary's Wantage; had a briefing on the amazing anglo-saxon burial find at West Hanney (including a brooch of which there are only nine examples in the country); been to various fetes including Buckland and Milton; been to Oxford Instruments to celebrate their Queen's Award for Industry; visited Didcot Power Station, which incidentally may close as early as 2013; visited the television transmitter at Beckley which burnt down and affected all our television coverage; visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the Diamond Synchrotron; had a meeting with Didcot First; been to a school concert in Wantage; and opened the excellent Faringdon Arts Festival and the Wallingford Rugfest.

I continue to seek a meeting with the Department for Transport to progress the Wantage Road station proposal. Housing development is continuing to cause concern, with many people disappointed by the quality of the proposals put forward for both Wallingford and Grove. Sadly developers do not in my view put in enough work to make their proposals special or exciting and I will be seeking meetings with them to hear more about what their plans are.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

1 Oct	Wallingford , Town Hall
8 Oct	Faringdon , Corn Exchange
22 Oct	Wantage , Civic Hall
5 Nov	Didcot , King Alfred Drive, Community Centre
19 Nov	Wallingford , Town Hall
10 Dec	Wantage , Civic Hall
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
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Tel	0207 219 6350

JULY CROSSWORD ANSWERS BY ALISA

ACROSS: 1 Pencil 4 Annual 8 Hysterics 10 Kid 11 Archer 12 Sew 14 Tea 16 Trendles field 18 Ran 19 Sly 20 Police 21 Nay 22 Surgeries 24 Hockey 25 Crease
DOWN: 2 Ephemera 3 Cos 5 Nicer 6 Landlady 7 Archaeology 9 Tired 10 Kites 12 Strength 13 Wendy 15 Ellipses 17 Facer 20 Pause 23 Ice

Play Bridge ??

Did you once enjoy a game of Bridge, but have not played for a number of years? Do you still play the occasional game, but would like to play more often? Are you just learning to play this exciting and absorbing game? If so, why not come along to Marcham Bridge Club on Monday evenings?

We are a friendly, cheerful bunch who meet to play in a cautiously competitive spirit. There are not too many of us, usually we have 3 or 4 tables. Nobody takes the competition too seriously, but we do try to improve our game as we go along - and many of us need to! The standard is variable, from raw beginners to quite experienced players. If you are a beginner some of us are prepared to help you learn the game 'out of school'. We don't have set partnerships, but draw for partners at the beginning of the evening. We play duplicate bridge, but don't worry if you have not played duplicate before - none of us had when we started! It's all quite straightforward.



If you feel you would like a game, why not come along on Monday evening? Our venue is the comfortable, warm Board Room at Manor Farm in Marcham, starting at 7:30pm, finishing around 10:30. You don't need to bring a partner and parking is not a problem. There is an annual subscription of £5 plus £1 per evening, which includes coffee. If you would like more information ring Inge Morgan on 01865-391339.

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