

Sir Michael Spicer  
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House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

I was particularly pleased this year that my wife, Ann, my eldest daughter, Antonia, and I, were able to join representatives from Upton for the Royal British Legion parade and church service on Remembrance Sunday. The event took place this year at an especially appropriate time as British servicemen and women face danger in Iraq.

From the comfort of our homes it is hard to imagine sometimes the test of courage that has been experienced by those who have fought and died to protect the liberties of those of us who have followed them. Even modern communications fail somehow truly to represent the intensity and the agony of the battlefield. What we do know is that without the dedication, professionalism and bravery of our armed services, freedom of speech, of religion and belief, the right to debate and to disagree especially with those in power, would all in recent memory have been threatened with destruction. We will always remember those who died so selflessly and in such a noble cause.

On a completely different matter, and following the success once again for the town in securing a Gold Award in the recent Britain in Bloom competition, I was delighted to hear that ambitious plans are already in place to expand the scheme for next year with a view to securing a place for Upton in the national finals. I do hope local residents will support the variety of fundraising events needed to support this project. This sense of community spirit is very much in evidence in the town, despite a difficult year as a result of the viaduct problems; where I am pleased to see considerable progress being made with the rebuilding programme.

As your Member of Parliament I am always pleased to discuss local or national issues of concern. I can best be contacted by writing to me at the above address or by attending one of my monthly interview sessions at the Memorial Hall in Upton. Details can be found in the local press, by calling 01684 573469 or logging on to my website [www.sirmichaelspicer.net](http://www.sirmichaelspicer.net)

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers of the Upton News a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Sir Michael Spicer MP**  
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