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### Matters that Matter

The recent election campaign caused several residents to express views about local issues. Apart from the more personal problems, issues raised included a request for more **public benches** along Petty's Brook, improvements to **verges**, extra **pavement provision**, school **catchment areas**, incinerator traffic management and injustices in **prescription drug** provision.

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#### Recycling Spot

Available (free of charge on 352434):  
Large envelopes and wrapping paper



**Chineham Parish Council**  
Has convened the  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
for Monday 22 May 2000, at 20.00hrs  
**Christ Church, Reading Road.**  
It is hoped to have speakers on  
**Taylor's Farm & Community Policing**

#### STOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESS

An article headed "Incinerator cancer" was published in *The Guardian* newspaper of Thursday 18 May. It outlines a report by the US Environmental Protection Agency which suggests that "Dioxins from waste burning and industry far more dangerous than was thought". Isn't this something like what our own Basingstoke Burner Action Campaign group has been saying for a long time now?

## SPOTLIGHT

News and comments supplied mainly by Councillor Martin Biermann. Tel: 352434  
Other contributions always welcome. Write to: Hartswood House, Reading Road, Chineham, RG24 8LN

## snippets

Have you noticed the recent beautiful spread of **bluebells** in our woods? Have you noticed the tyre tracks going through these woods? Not just bicycle tracks, but also motorbikes. If you can get a registration of the vandals of one of Chineham's greatest assets, do please do so and pass on to the police.



Chineham's **hollow oak tree** has now been thoroughly inspected by an expert in vintage trees. He suspects it could even be over four hundred years old. Chineham Parish Council is now looking at ways in which it might be helped to clock up at least another century.

After nearly 15 years as tenants of Chineham Library, **L'école Française** will be obliged to leave at the end of summer term. (The library service requires the space for new computer facilities.) Negotiations are currently in hand for this revolutionary playgroup to move to new premises, still in Chineham. Keep an eye on both Spotlight and Chineham Chat for latest news.

It is good to note more **dog walkers** now in possession of plastic bags to collect any deposits from their pets. Sadly, such responsible owners are still in a minority. Dog fouling the verges and woodlands is almost as bad as on pavements. As temperatures increase, so do the obnoxious smells from such excrement. Please note that it is acceptable to place dog mess within plastic bags in normal rubbish bins. If you feel extra bins are required in any particular location please notify Spotlight or the parish council.



Are you young and feeling that the council is too remote from you? How about helping to set up a **youth parish council**. Bramley, Oakley and Tadley have youth councils which are proving to be very effective. If you are interested, please contact either the Chineham Parish Clerk on 474500 or Mike Nicholls at the Civic Offices on 845338.

Another welcome goes out to Bala who has taken over at the **Q8** in Reading Road. In fact, Bala is only part of his first name and both his first and second names are fairly challenging but "Bala" should not pose a problem to even the most tongue-tied residents. He has indicated that he wishes to be considered a true part of the soul of our community and we hope that his enthusiasm for Chineham will last for a long time.

If you receive this Spotlight on time, you might like to know that the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Assembly will be Tony Curtis, **Director of Planning and Transportation** at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. He has been asked particularly to address the issue of plans for Taylor's Farm. The APA takes place in Christ Church, Reading Road at 20.00h on Monday 22 May 2000.

There are soon to be modifications to the north-bound approach to the **Sherfield on Loddon roundabout**. It will become a single lane.

All Basingstoke **borough councillors** are soon to become wired-up. A trial period helped to iron out some of the shortcomings in earlier proposals. When on-line, Martin Biermann's e-mail address will be [cll.m.biermann@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cll.m.biermann@basingstoke.gov.uk). Other councillors will be accessible via similar addresses but with changes of individual names.

# SPOTLIGHT

## on CHINEHAM

Issue n° 15.5

SPRING 2000



Edited by: Martin Biermann  
Typeset by: Chansopha Biermann

## Promises Up In Smoke

**T**HEORETICALLY demolition of our not terribly beloved old incinerator was due to start on Monday 8th May. At the time of writing, the chimney stack does not look any shorter. What does look shorter is the county council's previous promises of full and wide consultation on incinerator matters subsequent to approval of planning permission for a replacement. Apart from including the disingenuous and misleading words "energy from waste" in the title of the "liaison" panel, the county council has made it a group which meets in secret without the presence of press and public. They have also appointed rather too many councillors from outside our area and Hampshire Waste Services seem to enjoy undue influence. The panel does not anything like meet the spirit of earlier promises, or even Hampshire's own "Best Value" statement, described as: ... "a contract between the council and the community". The fairytale goes on: "Best Value is our opportunity to consult you and to review all our services to ensure that each one is providing you with the quality you deserve as a council taxpayer". When will the county council understand that "consultation" is not the same thing as "telling" – it should be two-way.

### Lousy Value

For users of the A33, north of the Thornhill Roundabout, the roadworks have been proving a serious inconvenience. The traffic lights to be erected (if not already there), are a consequence of the need to accommodate large transporters entering and departing the new incinerator site. It would seem that Hampshire County Council yet again failed to consult local councillors, Chineham Parish Council and local residents on the final proposals. So much for Best Value!

## A Centre to be Proud of??

**A**T LAST, a dialogue is developing between the centre owners and Chineham Parish Council. At a recent meeting with Legal & General representatives, many topics were covered. Some were of a fairly general and longer term aspirational nature, but others will be known to many residents as current issues. It was felt that there might be some prospects of progress on such topics as:

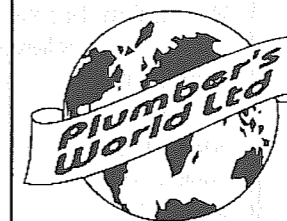
- \* The stupid car park layout in front of Allders and Boots.
- \* Litter throughout and on the periphery of the site.
- \* The badly signed and limited waste recycling facilities.
- \* Trolley scattering well beyond the shopping centre
- \* Unsafe pedestrians crossings to the site.
- \* Toilet provision on site.
- \* General signs and directional information on site including the grotesque and unauthorised sign over the entrance to Boots.
- \* Abuse of the disabled parking bays.

### Boots and Bobbies

The Legal & General representatives undertook to investigate the trolley migration restriction operating at the Safeway site in Basingstoke. They also promised further consideration of all the above issues and pointed out that there are now toilet facilities available in the Boots store and members of the public are welcome to use same. A new and more tasteful signage scheme is under consideration. Additionally the centre management has made available a part of the caretaker's flat for use by our local policeman, PC Oliver as an office/meeting point. This will need to be signposted and "surgery" times made public in order that it is of practical benefit.

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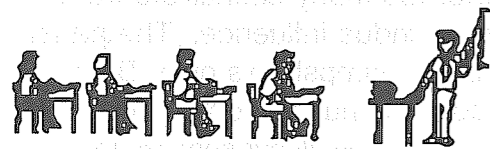
"Highly recommended by Spotlight"

## Lousy Value 2

As a consequence of proposals to build 340 houses in the Binfields area (behind the Chineham Shopping Centre), our beloved Thornhill Roundabout (together with the Kebab man) are set to be removed. Traffic lights will be erected instead. It is said that this will ease the present congestion and possibly even reduce the morning rat run along Reading Road. Incredibly the pedestrian interests in these days of encouraging walking boil down to an extra phase in the traffic light sequence. A proper pedestrian/cycle bridge on what is planned as part of the National Cycle Network was deemed by county councillors to be too expensive. Yet again, they seem to know what is best for us without first asking.

**FOR SALE:** 1930's bedroom suite, only £200. Bedside cupboard, single bed, wardrobe, dressing table. Further details from 352434

**FOR SALE:** Drawingboard on full tilting stand. AO size. Only £25. Tel 352434 for further details.



### Catching Schools

Plans for the new school beside Centre Court are now in an advanced stage. It is scheduled to open as a single form entry primary school in September 2001. So far, county officers have not been persuaded to amend the catchment area to accommodate residents of Chineham who are excluded from the Four Lanes Schools. Caroline Wadsworth and Martin Biermann have been appointed temporary governors of the new school (ie for a initial period of approximately 12 months). One of the initial main responsibilities will be engagement of a headteacher but Caroline and Martin will also be vigorously addressing the issue of admissions. Meanwhile, yet again Four Lanes Infant School has struggled to even accept all applications from households within the catchment area as currently defined.



**l'école**

**FRANÇAISE**

Basingstoke's original French language play and primary groups - based in Chineham

Prepare your children for their European future.  
Sessions for 4 to 11 year olds.

For further information please 'phone  
**Chansopha Biermann on 352434**

## Letters..... No Comment!

*Come on you Chineham residents with strong views. Put pen to paper, (or finger to keyboard) and tell us what you think. Few subjects too difficult to handle!!*

**NEWS-ROUND.....** Yet a further appeal for deliverers to help ensure that **SPOTLIGHT** will enjoy 100% coverage of our parish. Please don't be shy about offering, especially if you live in Monger's Piece, Gibbons Road, Larchwood, Maybrook, Stockbridge Close, Summerfields, Clere Gardens, Belvedere Gardens, Longstock Close, just call 352434. Many thanks - as ever - to existing deliverers.

### Bogus or Benefit

#### *A Personal View*

Thank heavens that this country is not faced with a real refugee crisis. I mean, if we lived in some parts of the world like Montenegro or the borders of Chechnya, we would really understand what it is to be "swamped".

The government has got itself into a real mess trying to be populist on this topic. The end result is that it is managing to please almost nobody. It will probably finish up having to eat humble pie. How will immigrants from Zimbabwe be handled? I believe, with our relative wealth, we should err seriously on the side of generosity. Well you may argue, as the son of an immigrant and being married to an immigrant, my view is likely to be somewhat biased. True, but I happen to believe it is to the longer term benefit and even self interest of the UK that such policies be adopted. It is difficult to point to a developed nation where immigration has done real harm. The USA - the only remaining superpower - is a nation of immigrants. Some of the greatest moments in British history were when the empire benefitted from international cross-fertilisation - in all its forms.

"What about overcrowding" I hear some readers say. "What about Hong Kong" say I. We have a long way to go before we reach the overcrowding seen there, and yet it can hold its own on the international stage.

Looking around the world today, nationalism and religious intolerance have a lot to answer for. And yet we're all basically the same under the skin. Why need there be such death and misery over mere concepts of DIFFERENCE. Yes, I remain proud of being a Mancunian, but see no point in fighting about it.

I do believe that being an immigrant brings with it certain responsibilities - mostly revolving around the proverb of "When in Rome do as the Romans". This means that immigrants should not seek to impose their values on those of the host nation. (Gentle influence should do no harm). Again, living by uncommon religious values and rules is fine, but it might sometimes be necessary to make some "adjustments" towards the norms of the society in which one lives.

Lastly - but in some ways most importantly - comes the question of language. In England the national language is English. Those coming here must be prepared to learn and use it. I do not see the sense in the public services having to publish masses of documents in an endless series of foreign languages, especially non-European. Where does it stop!? What it does lead to is one-way discrimination and thus to resentment from the host nation, providing fertile grounds for racial bigotry and worse.

*Martin Biermann*

## The Chineham Verdict

The local election in Chineham passed rather more smoothly than in recent years. Ours was the only ward in our borough with a four corned contest. Despite the national trend towards the Conservative Party, Chineham moved in the opposite direction with the result that your Independent candidate obtained an even greater majority than four years ago. Martin Biermann says a big "Thank You" to all who were willing to move from a conventional party. He argues that Independence is a better way of administering local affairs, and clearly many Chineham residents agree. Apparently Australia has banished political parties from local government and there are no evident ill effects. Might this be a way forward for England?

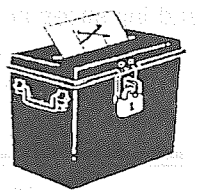
For those who have not seen the election results, they were as shown on the right:  
The result as far as Basingstoke overall is concerned means that there are now 24 Conservative councillors, 15 Lib Dem councillors, 15 Labour councillors, 2 Independent Councillors and an Independent Conservative councillor. The leadership of the council will remain as a joint Lib Dem/Labour administration. Martin Biermann and Councillor David Leeks (the other Independent councillor) have confirmed that they will not align themselves with any party political group but will vote on issues according to individual merit and the best interests of their respective electorates.

Apart from the thank you to the electorate who supported him, Martin Biermann would like to say a special thank you to all who gave practical help during the election period, (especially those who delivered leaflets at short notice).

CANDIDATE	2000	1996
Biermann (Ind)	791	836
Conservative	437	555
Labour	103	176
Liberal Democrat	38	102

### Do we Care?

One of the most disappointing aspects of the local election was the poor turnout. Though by no means the worst, barely a quarter (26%) of the Chineham electorate bothered to register a vote. Whilst voters and non voters alike have the right to seek support from a councillor, it is surely more reasonable to receive such support if one has at least taken the trouble to vote (for whosoever your choice). Some people obviously have difficulty for either health or business reasons. It is now much easier to obtain a postal vote than was the case in the past. If you would like help in this respect, please feel free to contact either Spotlight or the Basingstoke Electoral Services section on 845264.



#### Some useful freephone numbers:

- To report flytipping (EA) - 0800 80 70 60
- Water leaks - 0800 521 417
- Help the Aged - 0800 65 00 65
- Benefit fraud hotline - 0800 525 927
- Parentline - 0800 783 6783
- Chairs from recycled plastic - 0500 444 334

### Policing in Chineham

Greetings to PC Andy Oliver. It is fair to say that you are an extremely welcome appointment as beat officer dedicated to Chineham (and Daneshill). PC Oliver has already attended his first Chineham Parish Council meeting and been given advance notice of some the topics he will face when attending the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 22 May. Vandalism and bad driving habits currently appear to be the leading topics for police attention in Chineham. It is hoped that many residents will soon get to know and recognise PC Oliver who is himself the son of a serving policeman and therefore obviously has the role deep in his blood.



Spotlight sends deepest condolences to the Hopkins family of Putterham Road, at the tragic death of 21 year old Neil, following a fall and consequent blood clot on his brain. Like the rest of his family, Neil was very community and public spirited. If you wish to contribute to Neil's memory, the family is collecting funds for Raleigh International. Spotlight can assist with contact numbers. R. I. P. Neil.

### Chineham Rail Station

Progress on a rail station for Chineham is taking on a fairly committed appearance. For instance, in Railtrack's recently published "2000 Network Management Statement" (NMS) plans for the management of railways throughout the country are presented. As in last year's statement, there is a reference to the provision of a new rail station at Chineham on the Basingstoke-Reading line. The NMS contains the following statement: "We have recently completed a feasibility study for Chineham station and we will continue to work with local authorities and their customers to develop the proposal further."

So far so good. Sadly, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council has still not seriously addressed local concerns about location of the station buildings and car park. It is difficult to understand how our local council can be so blasé about decimating ancient copses when an infinitely preferable location on the other side of the track remains unexplored. Thankfully, the new owners of the Chineham Business park, MEPC (funders of the red army roundabout) are proving to be a cut above the crude property speculators who previously ran the site, but are demonstrating a good deal of community spirit and vision. Their recognition of the business benefits of a very local rail stop will add serious additional influence to a more critical look at the current proposals. As previously mentioned in Spotlight, if you are seriously concerned about the preservation of this woodland as both a local amenity and a landscape buffer between station and nearby housing, you should urgently write to the officer concerned, Mr Dominic McGrath at the Civic Offices, or e-mail d.mcgrath.gov.uk.

