

2 DOWN.....7 TO GO

Yet another stalwart parish councillor has resigned. This time it's TIM LLOYD. His employment has increasingly taken him abroad and made it difficult to keep up with parish council activities, not least as Chairman of the Planning Committee. He has been extremely diligent and has been especially attentive to trying to ensure adequate car parking space and pavements on new developments. He also made street lighting one of his targets. Probably more than any other parish councillor, he has made his mark on posterity. The current detailed map of Chineham was primarily his handiwork and - doubtlessly more lasting - he was the talent which created the Chineham logo. Thanks Tim.

SOON THEY'LL ALL BE GONE

In May there'll be local elections. What makes 1991 different from most years is the fact that not only will there be a vote on who is to represent us (plus Old Basing) on the borough council, but also the whole of the seats on the parish council come up for re-election. There will be 9 vacancies. Even if all existing councillors were to stand again, there would need to be at least another two candidates to fill current vacancies. So how about it? For further details contact the Parish Clerk or any member of the SPOTLIGHT Team. Nominations close at noon on 5 April 1991.

ballet classes

DAILY AT CHURCH COTTAGE
(BEHIND ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BASINGSTOKE)

REGISTERED TEACHER OF THE ROYAL
ACADEMY OF DANCING

UNDER SCHOOL AGE CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY
BOYS' PRIMARY CLASS
For further details, telephone 465479

LET OFF STEAM, (or even compliments)

The Annual Parish Meeting is planned for 2000hrs on Thursday 18 April 1991 at Christ Church. All parishioners are invited to attend and ask questions of councillors and other guests. To date you can expect to see - at least - Mr D Drew of the Hampshire County Council Estates Office and County/Borough Councillor Jack Jack. **Star Attractions** ☆☆☆☆☆ Two representative of British Rail will also attend to comment on rail station discussions and other transport matters.

THINKING AHEAD

1. Are you seriously ill or infirm? Are you going to be away on business or holiday on May 2nd. To make sure you do not miss your opportunity to vote, why not apply for a postal or proxy vote (by 5 April). Further details from any member of the SPOTLIGHT Team.
2. The parish council again hopes to sponsor a gardening competition in 1991. This time the judging is likely to take place in July when some of the flowers may still be alive. It's not too soon to start planning your display.

SPOTLIGHT
Team

Parish Councillor Martin Biermann, 68 Fennel Close, Chineham. Tel 52434
Parish Councillor Stephen Wood, 48 Fennel Close, Chineham. Tel 479658
Jenni Naylor, 31 King's Pightle, Chineham. Tel 469842
Chris Rogers, 31 King's Pightle, Chineham. Tel 469842
Helen Wood, 48 Fennel Close, Chineham. Tel 479658

snippets

PETTY'S BROOK was to be cleaned on a regular cycle. Sadly this has not been evidenced since the big clean-up in Summer 1990. Praise for a job well done was perhaps also a little premature as the scaffolding poles in the section near Petty's Brook Road still remain.

THE LATEST TESCO layout includes removal of their "Customer Service" desk. What's the betting that complaints have gone down recently? Would that be because they have improved so much or perhaps because customers just give up. DUMPED SHOPPING TROLLEYS can now be collected by local authorities and a charge levied on the owners for their return. Sadly Basingstoke is only "looking" at this - which is perhaps not enough to make the supermarkets a little more concerned about what customers do with the trolleys. WHEELIE BINS are being tried out in Popley and Tadley. Chineham Parish Council has welcomed these trials and asked whether Chineham might be included - partly to help reduce poisonous output from our much-loved incinerator. A NEW POSTING BOX has finally arrived in Thornhill Way (near Juniper Close), this time, just as the post office had predicted (before Christmas). What is more, it is a very fitting design for which we thank them. If they now manage to keep the "next collection" plaques up-to-date, we shall be truly grateful.

HELEN OVERTON has now replaced Helen Bray as Four Lanes Community Worker. Will the new Helen be as vigorous as the old? It's all a question of what marriage does to her! Good luck Helen.

CHINEHAM SHOPPING CENTRE landlord (Park Street Management) representatives recently met Parish Clerk Alison Howard and Councillor Martin Biermann, to discuss some long-standing grievances. The suicide car park was top of the list. Other matters included parking in service access roads and safety surfaces around the "sculptures". Alison raised the point that the disabled parking bays are too narrow whilst Martin thought that "illegal" parking in these bays should be made more "uncomfortable", eg wheel clamps. The Park Street team responded constructively on all but the last point.

PAT READ has been nominated as prospective Liberal Democrat candidate for our ward in the forthcoming borough elections. We await news on other candidates.

THE NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH is no longer proposed for the large site at the entrance to Centrecourt. At the time of writing, the reasons for the change of heart are not known to SPOTLIGHT.



BYE-BYE TO BASING

The other thing making 1991 a rather special electoral year for Chineham is that it will almost certainly be the last year based on the current absurd ward boundaries. The present Basing Ward is to be split up with the result that the final separation from Old Basing will allow Chineham to become a ward in its own right. As a result we shall have at least a 3-fold increase in representation (some would argue infinite increase). This 1992 poll is likely to see a very interesting local election scene with the whole of the borough council seats up for election (and a slightly reduced overall number at that).

SPOTLIGHT

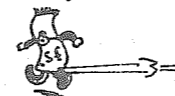
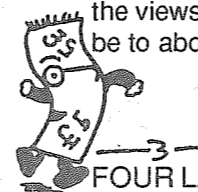
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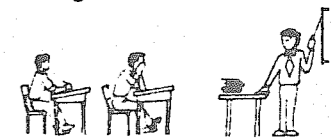
SPRING 1991

A NEW ROLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Recent upheavals at national government level have had the consequence that the much reviled Poll Tax is on the way out. Perhaps of even greater note is the debate on the reorganisation of local government. The question is, "what makes sense"? A preferred option appears to be abolition of county councils. The very diverse groups proposing abolition have an endless number of reasons for so proposing, with an endless variety of consequences. SPOTLIGHT would much like to learn the views of Chineham residents on this topic. An example of the many things which might be arranged for the future would be to abolish county councils and replace them with regional councils, and so on.



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



FOUR LANES SCHOOL has now been with us in one form or another for over 8 years. In the absence of sensible open space within our parish, the grounds have been much used by the public at large - in particular by young, and not-so-young footballers. Whilst such usage might be deemed trespass, the school governors - wishing the school to serve the community to the maximum possible extent - have never taken action to prevent such activities. The trouble is that this "open" policy has now led to a number of serious problems with both financial and safety consequences. One might break the problems down into 3 categories:

1. Over use of the facilities such as the playing field, leading to it becoming unusable for those for whom it is intended.
2. Irresponsible behaviour such as using golf balls and allowing dogs to foul the grounds.
3. Deliberate vandalism.

All categories have a cost consequence in that with the new method of financing schools, the direct result is that there is less money available for the education of Chineham's children. The governors have the prime responsibility of ensuring that maximum - already overstretched - resources are dedicated to school use. This may mean that in future it will perhaps be necessary to be more restrictive about the use of the school grounds. In relation to category 2, there is already a ban on dogs (apart from guide dogs) on the school premises. The governors have also banned the use of golf balls.

Vandalism remains the biggest problem. This ranges from graffiti to substantial structural damage to buildings and includes several arson attempts. It is principally the "work" of teenagers - incredibly in some cases ex-pupils. Those identified so far have been reported to the police, and this will continue to be the case so long as there is a problem. They seem mostly to be local residents.

What one must ask is why so many parents are failing in their responsibility to instill a proper sense of values in their children. Do they not know what their off-spring are up to? If not, why not? This is not a case of being "holier than thou"; it is just recognising that arson and mindless smashing up of virtually anything breakable goes beyond a teenage prank. And, as mentioned before, means less money available for the school to spend on books and equipment. The unbelievable amounts of litter strewn around hardly bears mentioning.

Our local (sometimes) policewoman has declared herself interested in inaugurating a "Schoolwatch". Governors and the parish council have expressed support in helping such a scheme on its way but it will also need help from parents and local residents in order to be successful. Any other good ideas?

HIGH VOLTAGE



As a minimum, that is likely to be the reaction of many residents in Thyme Close when they hear suggestions of a massive electricity sub-station being proposed for Taylor's Farm. What makes the whole idea totally outrageous is that the need for the sub-station arises mainly as a result of activities on our friendly neighbourhood industrial estate.

SPOTLIGHT argues strongly for popping it where it belongs an industrial facility in an industrial area.

STOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOP

GOOD NEWS: A rail station for Chineham is included in the new Basingstoke Town Plan

BAD NEWS: Unbelievably it is shown located on the public open space and play area behind Ajax Close!!
The parish council is protesting.....!

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BASINGSTOKE, RG25 3NP
TELEPHONE: (0256) 771829

SEMI-SECRET

One of the suggested benefits in favour of the Poll Tax is the way it allegedly shows clearly who is spending what. Why then have district councils now been required to include parish levies in with the borough sum? Well, for residents who like to know the uncluttered facts we are pleased to disclose that with a borough/county levy of £3249 (now fiddled to be £140 lower), the additional amount being asked of Chineham residents is £4.88 which compares with £4.92 last year and £9.75 in our sister parish, Old Basing.

ONE'S OWN DOORSTEP

The government has already initiated, and intends to continue with, legislation on litter and removal thereof. Greater responsibilities are being placed on local councils in this respect. SPOTLIGHT feels that the root and responsibility for the problem lies with the nation's parents; when they teach their children not to drop litter, there may be some hope (in 20 years' time) that there will be substantial improvement in the cleanliness of our streets, verges and other public places.

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WATER WAYS OFWAT

With the introduction of the Poll Tax (for the time being), rateable values on properties have all but lapsed. However, a problem has arisen for the new water companies as to how charges should be levied. OFWAT (the Office of Water Services) has issued a discussion document in which three main options are put forward, namely:

- 1) A flat rate licence fee per household.
- 2) A household charge which would depend on the size and characteristics of the property.
- 3) Metering.

Responses were sought from individuals or interested groups by 31st March 1991, but in view of poor publicity, SPOTLIGHT is calling for improved consultation.

NEWS-ROUND

This is an appeal for deliverers to help ensure that SPOTLIGHT will enjoy 100% coverage of our parish. If you can deliver in your own road or any of the following, please 'phone 64021 or 52434: Gilbard Court, Hartswood, Larchwood, Longacre Rise, Long Copse Chase, Little Copse Chase, Lovegroves, Minden Close, Reading Road (part), Southlands, St Gabriel's Lea, St Leonard's Avenue, Wallins Copse.

Many thanks - as ever - to existing deliverers.

To advertise in SPOTLIGHT 'phone 469658

SMALL ADS:

BEDFORD RASCAL - 1989, red, excellent condition, 31,000mils, £3995 - 60 Merton Road or via 52434.

2 HARDWORKING PEOPLE - looking for jobs, retail and horticultural experience - 60 Merton Road or via 52434.

GAS COOKER - spark ignition, self clean oven lining, £35 - 52434

Pride in "Victory" - A personal view

Does the nation now feel warm and satisfied over our great military and moral victory in the Middle East? Why are there large numbers of citizens who don't? Perhaps it is something to do with inconsistencies?

If we were there to help a small nation overpowered by a larger nation, why have we not done the same for Tibet? (Our government doesn't even have the decency to talk to the conciliatory leadership of this pacifist nation).

If it is our urge to comply with United Nations' resolutions, what has happened over all these years about the brutal behaviour of Israelis in the Occupied Territories and the welfare of Palestinians? (No wonder the Palestinians sided with Hussein. Yes they were grasping at straws, just as The West did in the Iran-Iraq war).

If it is our urge to combat a ruthless dictator, why do we continue to support Pol Pot in Cambodia - arguably a candidate for title of most despotic demagogue of all time? (Perhaps it is a wish to remain a poodle of the USA in their cruel shunning of the Vietnamese because they dared to "win" that particular war).

If it is our wish to protect the peace-loving democratic regime in Kuwait, why is the all-powerful ruling family now showing so little resolve in stamping out violence and deprivation against non-Kuwaities?

If it was a war fought in the name of the United Nations, why was it the US flag and not the UN flag raised on re-captured territory?

If it was a fight against the Iraqi military and not civilians, what truly relevant point was there in deliberately destroying Iraqi water supplies - and for that matter, power stations? (It must be reducing the effectiveness of the population to rise up against ruthless dictatorship when their main concern must currently be one of just staying alive).

If we were so very concerned about truth and openness, why were the majority of our news reports still so biased especially when reporting what was the mass slaughter of retreating Iraqi troops, but described as "taking out" tanks/vehicles/battalions - but presumably no people? (All this bearing in mind the substantial evidence of the reluctance of the vast majority of Iraqi troops to fight anyway - clearly they were doomed either way).

If this was a humanitarian, hi-tech war, why were American pilots boasting about "turkey shoots"?

If this was a thoughtful war, why did we not show more consideration to the special circumstances of Jordan - especially when its government has in recent times always shown itself to be kindly disposed towards The West? (After all King Hussein is a much respected graduate of a British military academy).

If there is so much concern about potential German and Japanese militarism, why do we suddenly expect them to ignore their restrictive constitutions - imposed by the World War Two allies - and join in military action? (Will we repay the anticipated financial profit to them, especially bearing in mind Germany's colossal financial burden in re-building what was East Germany).

OF COURSE, WE ALL KNOW that oil and self interest didn't come into it. And that market forces like the more we smash up, the more we can contract to re-build would surely never have been considered.

Nobody could ever accuse us of lacking self-righteousness. The question is to what extent - if at all - we will be able to resist the more notable hypocrisies and be more choosy about to whom we sell arms. Perhaps no such sales at all would be best for the world at large?!?

MB

KEEP IT ALIVE KORNER

Another selection of goodies in the continuing "WAR on WASTE" feature. Unless you feel you would like to make a contribution to SPOTLIGHT publishing costs, unpriced items are free!

AVAILABLE:

Brown packing paper.

Used envelopes (various sizes).

Dustbin bags - 2p each.

Back issues of "Which?" magazine (contribution to SPOTLIGHT funds)

WANTED:

Waste newspapers.

Information on who locally is collecting:

Tin foil, Used postage stamps, Rags, Used Christmas cards



PRIORITIES

President Mitterrand of France is believed to have recently said that the most important role of a nation's government is to provide good education for its children. SPOTLIGHT would wholeheartedly endorse such a sentiment. Several reports have highlighted under provision in British education, ranging from kindergarten to university. In all important aspects we are well below the European average. Why is government so surprised that our world trading performance is so inadequate.

SAFER WALKING



Following a request from Chineham Parish Council, the Environment Services Committee has approved a contribution of £10,500 towards provision of additional footways (pavements) in Chineham. Though limited, the improvements made in 1990 were most welcome and this is at least another modest step forward. Residents with a particular suggestion on this topic are invited to contact a parish councillor.

L'école MATERNELLE & Le Goûter

(French language play and primary groups)

would be pleased to welcome adult helpers wishing to practice French.

For further information please 'phone Chansopha Biermann on 52434.

MAKING CHINEHAM SPARKLE.

Residents frequently comment about the rubbish in and around Chineham. As part of National Spring Clean Week (19 to 28 April), the parish council has agreed to sponsor some activities to this end. As in the past, it is hoped that various local groups might organise events/days for their members. There will also be a grand clean-up day on **Saturday 20 April 1991**. Meeting points for volunteers are Christ Church, the Village Hall and Petty's Brook Play Area at 1400hrs. Co-ordination of the event is in the hands of parish Vice-Chairman Alison Nader (51616). She also happens to be our Tree Warden, (of which, more information in the next issue).

SUCCESS AT LAST!

After telling us that the footpath that runs beside Centrecourt is "generally level in character", the county council has repented and now intends to "culvert the ditch by way of two head walls and pipe to replace the existing wooden planks". A shingle surface will also be laid. Additionally, consideration is being given to the provision of a rural footpath across the open area between Centrecourt and the Chineham Shopping Centre car park.

LODDON VALLEY CLOSED SPACE

As we all know - not least from the article on the front page - Chineham is desperately short of public sports facilities. The Chineham Development Plan of 1978 envisaged substantial - if poorly located - facilities at Loddon Valley Open Space, beside Barton's Lane, Old Basing. Detailed plans were drawn up and amended many times. Hours have been spent by parish councillors in discussion with borough officers. A combination of several factors, mostly inexcusable, have led to a high expectation that the whole idea may now well sink into the bogland of the Open Space.

So what now? The Parish Council is not likely to let the matter rest at that, (especially after just agreeing the donation of a full team kitting out for Larkfield Football Club).

At the time of going to press there is a rumour of other county land possibly becoming available.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

An incredible press release just issued by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council describes what is called "the best of all possible worlds"! What bunkum! The new scheme basically means substantial parts of the proposed facilities being shifted to Down Grange and the War Memorial Park. Is there any district or county councillor on our side?

ROUND-ABOUT (MOTORING MUSINGS)



Seeing Red

As foggy/misty weather and heavy rain are likely to remain with us for several more weeks, can we put out a reminder that vehicle rear fog lamps should only be used when visibility is "seriously reduced". This is generally deemed to be a distance of 100 yards or less. Glare and dazzle from lamps improperly used can present a substantial hazard and such use can attract a fine of up to £200.

PROTECTING THE DEFENCELESS

Rightly, many politicians and others have expressed great concern over Saddam Hussein's seeming policy of slaughter in Kuwait. This is said, by some, to have been a prime reason for conducting the war in the first place.

In November 1990 a United Nations summit conference (attended by George Bush & Margaret Thatcher) heard how 40,000 children under five years of age die every day - many from readily preventable causes. A plan of action "STOP THE KIDS DYING" - set out these goals by the year 2000:

- * cut 1990 death rates of under-5s by one-third or to 70 per 1000 live births, whichever is the bigger cut;
- * cut maternal death rates by half their 1990 level;
- * cut hunger among under-5s by one half of 1990 levels;
- * access for all to safe drinking water and hygienic excreta disposal;
- * access for all to basic education and completion of primary school by at least 80% of children;
- * cut adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level with emphasis on girls learning to read;
- * protection of children in war.

Will this receive the same attention as the welfare of "poor" Kuwait?

• SPOT THE DIFFERENCE •

You may have noticed a new name at the top of this newsletter. SPOTLIGHT on Chineham has left the Focus stable from this issue onwards. It is hoped that as a separate, independent and (hopefully) quarterly publication it will make interesting reading, giving local news with just a smattering of comment and facts on a broader horizon. Observations and articles will also be welcome from local residents and interest groups!