

Getting it Wrong!

The current scheme for 340 houses in the Binfields area beside the Chineham Shopping Centre includes proposals for revised traffic management at the Thornhill (kebab) roundabout. The scheme provides for removal of the existing roundabout and replacement with traffic lights. A "pedestrian phase" would be included, but no foot/cycle bridge. Crazy. Local borough and parish councillors are pressing for a bridge.

To advertise in SPOTLIGHT
phone 352434 or fax 811100

Paddling Towards a Pond

Yes, there is now a real prospect of Chineham at last getting a water feature, as promised over 10 years ago. A recent borough council report to the Traffic and Construction Sub-Committee stated: "Notification has recently been received from Onyx Environmental Trust (a waste management trust administering landfill tax funding) that a grant of £50,000 is available for the creation of a pond and associated works. This grant would be available in either the 1999/2000 or 2000/2001 financial years." The grant should now enable the borough council to assemble the estimated £124,000 required to construct the first phase of a truly magnificent enhancement to the Chineham landscape.

Sprichst Du Deutsch?

Here's your chance to give your child a flying start in the our European future. Fiona Biermann offers German lessons to primary age children. Telephone 352434 for further information

Civic Vandalism

Do you value the woodland at the top end of Hanmore Road, just beyond the bridge into the Industrial Estate? If so, have you written to the borough council expressing your horror that proposals exist to fell most of the trees, just to provide a car park for a new rail station? The person to write to is Mr Tony Curtis, Director of Planning & Transportation, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.



SPOTLIGHT

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



Walk to School Week was a brilliant success this year. It was probably assisted by the favourable weather at the time. Many thanks to those who took part. Even more thanks to those who undertake Walk to School Year. Might we look forward to Walk to Church Week one day?

Apologies to the several residents who have complained about branches, bushes and weeds overhanging and restricting footpaths around the parish. It shouldn't take so long for remedial action and hopefully we will have more prompt responses in future.

At a recent Traffic & Construction Sub-Committee meeting, Councillors Biermann and Lewington again argued for a pedestrian refuge in Bowman Road near the Guinea Court shops. Officers responded that the cost would be too high. The debate will certainly continue, but meanwhile improvements to signage and road marking should help a little.

Plans – opposed by the parish council – for yet more illuminated signs at the entrance to the Chineham Shopping Centre and on the clock tower have thankfully been withdrawn.

The occupiers of 3 Reading Road recently submitted an application for a goods vehicle operators certificate for the premises. A fair number of letters of objection were sent in by local residents as well as by the parish council. Thankfully, the application has now been withdrawn and would anyway have been opposed by the borough council.

The Department for the Environment, Transport & the Regions (DETR) has agreed that the parish logo can appear on the Chineham boundary signs. This should mean that the "Chine" sign near the Red Army roundabout should be replaced just as this Spotlight goes to press.

At last the building work has been completed at the "New" Chineham Surgery. Perhaps we will now see an end to the stupid parking on the access road which frequently meant that visitors to the centre had to leave the pavement and walk in the road. Perhaps the logic was that pedestrians being knocked down near a surgery would benefit from prompt treatment!

Out of the Picture

Who was the lady who found a camera lying in/near the road in Agehmond/Meadowland, earlier this year? She thought it came from a black Fiat Uno, and she was right. Unfortunately, the driver at the time denied knowledge of the camera as she was unaware that she had driven the length of Chineham before it fell off the bonnet where her husband had stupidly placed it. From photographs in this Spotlight you will see that, amazingly, it still works. A big thank you to the lady for her efforts to find the owner and if you make yourself known to Spotlight we, could say a more direct thank you.

SPOTLIGHT

on CHINEHAM

Issue n° 13.8
SUMMER 1999

Edited by: Martin Biermann
Typeset by: Chansopha Biermann

Catching Buses

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF SPOTLIGHT we enclosed a questionnaire seeking views on local bus services. 139 responses were received from Chineham, which represents nearly a 5% response. More replies would have been useful, but in terms of expectations for such surveys, this would be deemed a higher than average response.

Following publication of the bus article in Spotlight, Mr John Bottomley, Operations Manager for Stagecoach in Basingstoke, invited Councillor Martin Biermann to have a chat about some of the local issues and concerns. It is good to be able to report that both Mr Bottomley, and Divisional Manager, Mr Matt Callow, recognised that all was not in order with local services. They sought to reassure that many proposals were in hand to help improve matters. No "overnight" perfection was promised, but items to be addressed and under review are listed on page 2.

Turning Up the Heat



GEOFF WEBB OF THE BASINGSTOKE BURNER ACTION CAMPAIGN (BBAC) made an excellent presentation to a recent borough council Health and Housing Committee meeting. His authoritative presentation of scientific information is clearly offering the decision-makers much food for thought and not a little concern. The turnout of a good number of residents at the meeting also helped to underline the level of local concern. The waste company's Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) document has now

been lodged with the Environment Agency and a copy is available for inspection at Chineham Library. As a pioneering cancer researcher, Geoff Webb has expressed concern over the quality of some of the information in the report as well as some of the assumptions. The lack of information in some of the subject areas is, in his view, particularly horrifying.

At the June borough council meeting, Martin Biermann raised his concerns over an article in the Sunday Observer of 30 May 1999 which, under the heading "Britain's filthiest factories" put the South East London Combined Heat and Power complex, fifth in the category: "Releasing solid toxic and other special waste"! This sounds rather like the municipal waste incinerator run by a company in the same group as Hampshire Waste Services, (and held up as an example of the type of good technology to be applied to our replacement incinerator)! At the July borough council meeting, the BBAC team asked a question in relation to the potential addition of further pollution to the bodies of Chineham residents who have already been exposed to excessive levels of pollution emanating from the malfunctioning old incinerator. Again several Chineham residents lent their support.

BBAC is performing a truly essential public service in expressing an alternative view to those of the would-be incinerator developers, whilst monitoring the accuracy of the pronouncements made in favour of a replacement. To carry out this important role, further financial support is essential, (28 Petrel Croft, Kempshott, RG22 5JY, tel. 472154). Any legal expert willing to lend a hand in preparing data, would be especially welcome, (tel. 880558).

Personalised
Chineham's Local Printer, (est. 1988)
Print
Fax: 811100 Tel: 352434

Leaflets, letterheads,
business cards, forms, newsletters
Photocopies B&W and colour
Paper and envelopes
Comb binding, hole drilling, folding.

A New Stage for Stagecoach?

- **Buses leaving bus station early** – Not acceptable and monitoring would take place.
- **Drivers leaving engines running** whilst parked in bus station – Further efforts to combat this practice.
- **Drivers using mobile phones whilst driving** – Totally unacceptable and a serious disciplinary offence. (Please report to Stagecoach if witnessed).
- **Buses breaking down** – Basingstoke fleet said to be relatively new and thus problem believed to be more a case of drivers being cautious when they think there might be a safety issue, or imprecise information from the bus travel office.
- **Negative driver attitudes** – Improvements expected due to NVQ training, including a large element of customer care.
- **Punctuality** – A problem which will probably be best addressed through timetable and internal allocation improvements. It is requested that serious/regular delays be reported to Stagecoach with details of date, time, route and destination. Although Stagecoach has a fairly sophisticated computerised ticketing system, the weak link would appear to be monitoring of where vehicles actually are and at what time (local proposals to provide live bus information at key locations sometime in the future might assist in this respect).
- **Ticketing** – Methods of issuing are currently under review and in longer term may remove the need for driver involvement. Return tickets are now available. "Basingstoke Day Rider" tickets are also available and at £2.50 for an adult and £2 for a child/OAP potentially represent a worthwhile cost benefit.
- **Public Information/publicity** – Accepted as still requiring improvement, especially with regard to ticketing options, but improvements anticipated due to appointment of new member of staff with specific responsibilities in this direction.
- **Fares** – Not much prospect of reduction without subsidy.
- **Service Frequency** – Some routes might in due course benefit from greater frequency.
- **Enquiry phone always engaged** – A new telephone system is envisaged.
- **Town Centre Redevelopment** – The bus station will shortly be moving to a temporary location. It will be there for about two years. The new bus station should have better weather protection for passengers, but toilet provision remains unclear.

Doubtless, bus users will find this information interesting. Clearly improvements are necessary if current abstainers are to be won over to bus travel.

Meanwhile, as you may have read elsewhere, the results of the bus questionnaire have been collated and summarised into a report. The full report is available for inspection at Chineham Library. Please write to Spotlight if you have further views on the topic.

RETIREMENT

One of the most practical contributors to the work of the parish council has retired. A massive "thank you" goes to Mrs Brenda Champion for all her committed work as litter warden. She will be missed. Any would-be successors are vigorously encouraged to contact Mrs Alison Howard, Parish Clerk on 474500.

OnDigital – Off Chineham

Are you one of the would-be OnDigital viewers who have drawn a blank because reception is not possible in Chineham? Well, rumour has it that a senior marketing man from OnDigital lives in Chineham with a close relative living in Lychpit. It might just be worth holding on a little longer for your digital system if you are one of those who prefer not to assist Rupert Murdoch on his way to world domination! How about a word from OnDigital?

Neighbourhood Safety

A recent – rather poorly attended – Community Safety Forum organised by Anita Taylor, Development Worker at Four Lanes Centre, discussed a wide range of issues. These included:

- Encouragement for households around the site to join Neighbourhood Watch.
- Attempts to resurrect the Chineham Youth Forum and with thoughts of also having a youth worker formally attached to Four Lanes Centre.
- Regular visits to the local schools by the Beat Officers.
- Efforts to be made by the school staff to discourage litter dropping by pupils.

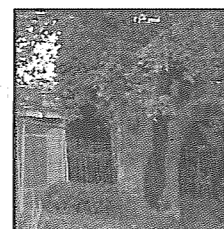
If you have ideas on how our community could be made safer and less subjected to vandalism, just get in touch with the Parish Clerk (tel/fax. 474500), who will ensure that your thoughts are made known to the appropriate body.

FOR SALE
 Canon NP2015 Photocopier
 Blue + black toner Reduction + enlargement
 Max originals: A3 Max copies: A4
 Only £19 Requires servicing Spare toner

Completing the Jigsaw

You may have noticed the building work going on at the bottom end of Hanmore Road (near the junction with Reading Road). Construction of the Jigsaw Nursery School is well under way and is likely to be opening for business at the start of the Autumn term. Its arrival will doubtless be welcomed by some Chineham households, although some of our existing community playgroups are sadly likely to feel yet more pressure.

Chineham Parish Council had misgivings about the nursery project because the land was originally designated for local community use whereas this business will inevitably bring in more traffic from other areas. Also, due to rather negligent performance by the borough council's development control team, several oak trees, including one estimated to be approximately 300 years old, have almost certainly suffered root damage, thus endangering continued longevity. Time will tell.



At least – in addition to some benefit from the nursery – there is to be installation of grinding bars (for roller bladders) on the land next to the nursery. A long overdue facility.

Schooling Around

The tremendously good news earlier this year about the DfEE having at last given permission for building of a new primary school behind the Chineham Shopping Centre has suddenly become somewhat dulled!

The school will form part of what will be the last major development in Chineham – always assuming that the party politicians on the borough council continue in their bizarre view that the Taylor's Farm should not become part of our parish, but should remain part of Sherfield on Loddon. Hampshire County Council Education Department – perhaps because they do not yet appear to know or understand the physical barriers between Chineham and Popley, have decided that the new school in our parish, should serve principally Old Basing. This is particularly stupid when one takes into account the fact that the Four Lanes Schools cannot accommodate about a third of the children from Chineham households (including those from immediately adjacent streets), whilst Old Basing Infant School is only just about at its full capacity. Pressure on Four Lanes Infants is indeed likely to increase even more when in future years central government regulations restrict class sizes to a maximum of 30. Thirty is the size governors had tried to set the limit at anyway, but appeals decisions have regularly forced class sizes up to 31 in physically cramped classrooms.

If you have a view on this topic, especially if you are in the Four Lanes catchment area and have been refused a place, you might care to write to Mr I Lawson, Principal Sites Officer, Education Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UG. NB. County officers are currently calling the proposed school "Binfields Primary".

 **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

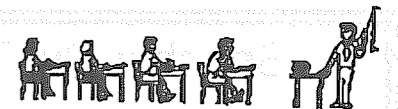


CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIE COOK and her several – but too few – helpers. The "Walking Bus" scheme is a great idea and would work even better if more parents took part for a couple of days per week. For the uninitiated, the scheme involves organised groups of children walking to school at pre-determined times via predetermined routes. Do volunteer to help, if your household schedule permits. It's good exercise!



Four Lanes Ahead

It's all happening down at Four Lanes Junior School. Two temporary classrooms should be on site by the time you read this. Construction of the final phase of the building should be under way during 2000. A new headteacher, Mr Martin Gamble, formerly of Chalk Ridge Primary School, should take up his new role in January 2000. And – who knows – the access gate into the Sorrell's Copse corner of the site might even soon be unlocked.



There's Something in the Air

Now that the warmer weather is with us, the ground is heating up. Flowers give off more scent, but so do the heaps of dog mess. Many dog owners do encourage their pets to leave their deposits off the actual paths, but this isn't the total answer. Just imagine if we humans did the same as the dogs!! Perhaps there should be a law requiring the carrying of a scoop when out with a dog.



ROUND AND ABOUT

Do you like the Chineham Wave (Red Army) roundabout? The next target is the Binfields (Tesco) roundabout. Country Gardens are considering sponsorship. This will perhaps give rise to a more exclusively floral design under the circumstances.

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 Larchwood, Maybrook, Mulberry Way, Clere Gardens, Belvedere Gardens, Summerfields, Reading Road (part), Stockbridge Close, Catkin Close, area, just call 352434. Many thanks – as ever – to existing deliverers.