

## Money for Party Politics

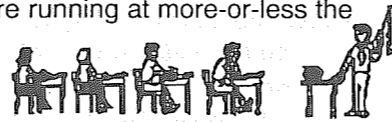
The Labour/Liberal Democrat administration of Basingstoke and Deane has come up with a wonderful way of wasting our precious council tax. They have decided that it is OK to spend nearly £100,000 on appointing Political Assistants for the three political parties. Martin Biermann spoke out at the council's Policy Committee, basically saying the scheme, as proposed, was stupid and that political "spin doctors" were more likely to be disruptive than to improve local government. He also pointed out that it was anti-democratic as Independent councillors would not have similar "privileges". Councillor Tilbury supported this view highlighting the fact that it was unfair to residents in areas like Chineham. Despite all, the council has decided to go ahead with the proposals.

## Las Vegas

The owners of the Chineham Shopping Centre think it isn't yet prominent enough. Apart from some useful directional signs within the centre, they have again applied for even larger signage at the site entrances together with a truly anti-social request for two illuminated signs on the clocktower. Your two local councillors on the Development Control Sub-Committee persuaded their colleagues to reject the more stupid proposals despite rather unfortunate support for the project from borough officers. Little Las Vegas will have to wait a while longer.

## Catch the Catchment

Plans for the new "Binfields" primary school have now been lodged with the borough council. Meanwhile, county education officers have stubbornly been resisting representations by Four Lanes School governors and Chineham Parish Council, seeking a review of the existing Four Lanes Catchment Area. Meanwhile, the school – soon to be built behind the Chineham Shopping Centre – is currently still designated to serve mainly Lychpit (despite being located in Chineham) and this is causing alarm in Old Basing as the schools there are running at more-or-less the right numbers now. Meanwhile, the staff at Four Lanes Infant School continue to face the time consuming and distressing pantomime of endless appeals for admission.



New Name in Chineham – Well yes, "Boots" have arrived at the Chineham Shopping Centre. For some reason they have seemingly also chosen to rename the centre "Chineham Retail Park". Confusing? – well yes! Do you like our new parish boundary signs? – "At last!" you are probably saying. The next target is to get some improved direction signs – but don't hold your breath!

The Chineham Chat is still looking for a new editor. Is it you?

Could the cyclist who has frequently complained to Martin Biermann about the poor condition of the pathway (No3) under the rail track, please get in touch. Is Kestrel Flying High? – Do you ever listen to Kestrel FM? What do you think of it? Do you think it is living up to expectations/promises? Do you think it has an adequate profile... for instance in the Basingstoke Gazette? Let us have your views....

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Chineham's Local Printer, (est. 1988)

**Print**

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Leaflets, letterheads,  
business cards, forms, newsletters

Photocopies ..... B&W and colour

Paper and envelopes  
Comb binding, hole drilling, folding.

## Overgrown Chineham

You would be well justified in saying that the footpaths around Chineham have at times become virtually impassable and that is hardly a way to encourage people to walk. We are promised better times for the future as the borough council is setting up a quick response unit to tackle areas of neglect. If, as spring comes round, you are faced with jungle conditions along your usual walking route, just contact the parish clerk or borough councillor and action should follow shortly afterwards.

## Comings and Goings – Chineham P C

The parish council is at last at full strength again. Sadly, for health reasons, David Rowlands felt obliged to resign from the parish council. He has been replaced by dowdy campaigner Chris Tomblin. Welcome Chris!

Current office holders are as follows:

Parish Council Chairman	Derek Avery	321794
Parish Council Vice-Chairman	Martin Biermann	352434
Finance Committee Chairman	John Long	356479
Planning Committee Chairman	David Thornton	356860
Bus representation	Caroline Wadsworth	466978
Also, important parish council contacts are:		
Clerk to the Parish Council	Mrs Alison Howard	474500
Secretary to the Planning Committee	Mr Mike Jarvis	819135



# SPOTLIGHT

on CHINEHAM



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WINTER 2000

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Typeset by: Chansopha Biermann

# Badly Let Down!

**W**HATEVER YOUR VIEWS of the rightness or otherwise of proposals to build a replacement waste incinerator on the site of the old, it has to be said that the process which brought about this conclusion leaves a lot to be desired. Why so?

- The public consultation by the county council on the planning issues was all but non-existent.
- The response by members of the county council to opportunities to raise issues on a face to face basis was abysmal.
- Aspects of the conduct of the county council's Planning and Transportation Committee meeting which eventually made the final decision was outrageous, (and may yet be referred to the Ombudsman).
- As predicted in an earlier issue of Spotlight, the capacity/will of the Environment Agency to handle all the issues, was seriously limited.
- The attitude of the Secretary of State – via GOSE (Government Office for the South East) – has been cavalier in the extreme. The January issue of Chineham Chat contained a letter entitled "Incinerator Update" and claiming "careful consideration of the issues raised". This "careful consideration" was seemingly given to the hundreds of letters of objection sent, including from our MP, Andrew Hunter. Amazing.

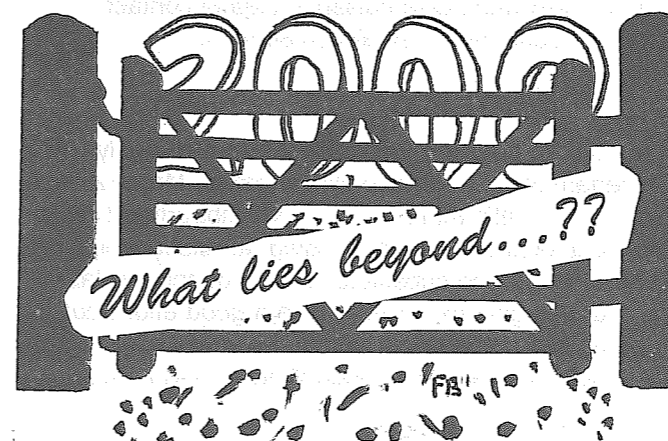
What the process has notably proved is what – despite the odds – can emerge...

- \* The small, but committed, group of residents from Chineham and beyond who gave varying degrees of their time and effort to fight the plans.
- \* The fact that some people are willing to put their money where their mouths are to a very generous extent
- \* That our County Councillor Hazel Vanbergen is willing to put her head up above to parapet and doubt less face the displeasure of many of her party political colleagues, although County Councillor Phil Heath should also be thanked for his contribution at both county and borough levels.
- \* A Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Development Control Sub-Committee which was willing to give the time and trouble to allow a more balanced debate than is currently required of it.
- \* And lastly, but very IMPORTANTLY, the dedication, professionalism and massively time-consuming efforts of the Basingstoke Burner Action Campaign. Without them, and in particular the lead members Chris Tomblin and Geoff Webb, the anti-burner campaign would have appeared little more than a whimper.

**A big thank you to all who contributed in any way to the future quality of our community.**

The issue is not dead, and could still be resolved in a favourable fashion, but at this stage it would be foolish to hold one's breath too long on expectations of possibilities like John Prescott taking a serious and detailed interest in the matter and arranging an inquiry.

If built, on information available to the Basingstoke Burner Action Campaign linked with an awareness of trends in environmental legislation, there is a fair chance that the incinerator's life expectancy might be seriously curtailed. That would be only partly good news, because by then millions of pounds will have been spent, and we shall all have to pay. But in many ways, for proponents, this has always largely been about money. Whatever happens, the shareholders of Hampshire Waste Services are likely to be celebrating.



**Greetings**  
and Good Luck  
for the

Year 2000

**SPOTLIGHT**

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

## Incinerator Let-Down

But..... What can we do?? Our MP, Andrew Hunter, is continuing lend assistance at parliamentary level. Meanwhile, what we stick in our dustbins is becoming increasingly important! It seems that Chineham is performing at about the borough average of 10% on kerbside collection of recyclable waste collected. Can anybody doubt the importance of waste limitation and environmental protection after all the recent "natural" disasters, not least over Europe in the last days of 1999.....Global Warming is now for real!!

NB If you don't have one of the borough's "Piggy Back" bins, just call the Careline on 845474 and they should solve the problem. A questionnaire on waste management issues is being considered under government "Best Value" requirements. Meanwhile, views are always welcome!

### 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, Stockbridge Close, Summerfields, Clere Gardens, Mulberry Way (or roads off), Belvedere Gardens, Catkin Close, Longstock Close, just call 352434. Many thanks – as ever – to existing deliverers.

If you can help deliver **Spotlight**, please call 352434

1930's bedroom suit **FOR SALE**, only £200. Single bed, wardrobe, dressing table, bedside cupboard. Call 352434 for further details.



### 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**

## Good Manners

### A Personal View

There was a time when adults on a first meeting with other people would address each other with their respective titles, ie Mrs, Mr, Miss etc. The awful American custom of using first names at the outset is now widespread.

What I am complaining about is know-all youths, hardly out of school or university, getting on the phone to sell me something and addressing me by my first name as if they had known me all their lives. When I used to be a sales representative, I addressed clients by their surname until I was invited to do otherwise. This – I believe – was not stuffy, but helped retain the relevant relationship between those involved.

I think this argument can be taken somewhat further. As a child, I was required to address adults by their surname. This helped to create an atmosphere of respect. School teachers were addressed as "Sir" or "Miss" or their title and surname. I don't believe that this did me any harm, nor made them less approachable.

In all this I do not include hangers-on to former military rank – the Colonel Blimps are best confined to their barrack rooms, although perhaps we should start recognising engineers and other qualified people, who are still in practice. (Military titles have their value but should be restricted to military circles.)

In the past, adult family friends were also often called "Auntie" or "Uncle" and I don't recall any confusion as to who was "real" and who "pretend".

Age does deserve some polite respect. Such respect should never be unquestioning, but without the presence of some hierarchy and self discipline it is very difficult to envisage an ordered society.

If communism is not the right answer for the world, then anarchy is certainly no better. Look what happens when there is lack of discipline in our much lauded, entrepreneurial, go-getting, free-wheeling, financial institutions and the business world!!

**Q8** By the time you read this, Nigel and Jenny Edwards of the Q8 in Reading Road, (by the way, there is no "Old" Reading Road in Chineham), will have moved on to greener pastures. Good luck to them. Despite the worst efforts of some customers, they managed to keep a very tidy site.

## Too Loud

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has successfully prosecuted Miss M Velvick of Bishops Green for contravening a noise abatement notice on four separate occasions.

Miss Velvick was fined £750 plus £200 costs. The noise reproduction equipment and a large amount of CDs/tapes had previously been confiscated.

The council is responsible for investigating reports of noise nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990. It is hoped that by prosecuting offenders others who break the law and cause distress to neighbours will be deterred.

If anyone has a problem with noise nuisance please contact Community Services Customer Services on 845474.

## Bring Back our Bobby

Members of the public continue to bemoan the absence of bobbies on the beat in Chineham. When previously Spotlight similarly reported local opinion, the Chairman of the Chineham Neighbourhood Watch group, Martin Allison, somewhat defensively responded as per the letter published elsewhere. Let's make it clear, Neighbourhood Watch performs a very worthwhile service, but can never be a substitute for a local policeman, building up relationships with residents, especially young people. Neighbourhood Watch meetings are also no substitute. The evidence available suggests that when called upon – subject to prevailing priorities – our designated officers make a good effort, but there is no doubting the strong local wish for at least one officer being dedicated to our parish. Meanwhile let us encourage any residents who can spare a little time, to get in touch with Neighbourhood Watch on 477442.

## Letters.....

### Police Watch

With reference to your article Policing Chineham in the above circulation. I would like to put some of your facts right.

Firstly though, Chineham has 22 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes covering a total of 750 Households. Every six weeks there is a meeting of all co-ordinators and as you call them our "virtually non existent" Beat Bobbies. (Plus regular telephone contact with the Beat Officers) On the agenda is an item for them to discuss Crime and Policing of Chineham. Normally there is a very good two-way conversation, which is always noted, in the meeting minutes. These are circulated to all scheme co-ordinators and used as a source of information for further dissemination to scheme members.

As you state on the front of your circulation there are approximately 3000 households in Chineham, that means Neighbourhood Watch has a coverage of approx. 25%. All of who should be getting the relevant information passed through which would include our Beat Bobbie's names and pager numbers. So I don't understand your statement "names of our local beat officers are known to very few residents".

You have stated that, news and comments are supplied mainly by yourself, do I assume that this article is your assumption. Could I suggest that you start up Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for your section of Reading Road and be party to information passed on by the police for Chineham Area.

Martin Allison

Chairman, Chineham Neighbourhood Watch group.

Sorry Mr Allison, am still not sure which fact was wrong in the original article. Ed.

## 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

## Re-cycling Removed

The trouble is – whose "back yard" do you use for recycling? Some residents might have been surprised – even disappointed when – some time ago – the mini recycling centre at the Village Hall suddenly disappeared.

Following vociferous complaints from a nearby household, and subsequent investigation by environmental health officers, it was deemed that a noise nuisance could exist. This poses the problem as to where one might provide such a facility within reasonable walking/carrying distance of households unable/unwilling to drive to larger recycling locations. It will be interesting to see what happens to the new facility at the Chineham Arms over the coming months



## Smashing

There are two notable types of youths in Chineham and both could be called smashing. The first consists of those who clearly get great pleasure from smashing up things; be it street furniture, school property or the particular favourite – bottles. The others include those either modestly make a useful contribution to our community or help put Chineham on the map. Let's kick off with three millennial smashers:

**LAURA WOOD** of Fennel Close who has represented Britain in several international swimming contests and won gold no less than 10 times at the Hampshire championships in 1999.

**JENNIFER DRURY** of Reading Road who this year is Deputy Head Girl at Cranbourne School.

**ZOE COOK**, twice winner of the Woolwich Building Society sponsored Young People's Trust for the Environment Young Environmentalist Award.

.....How about some reader contributions on this topic. There are bound to be other Millennial Smashers.

## Gospel on the Rates

Have you yet received your year 2000 "Jesus Christ" booklet. This "gift from the Christian Churches in the Basingstoke area" in the form of St Luke's Gospel was part funded by council tax payers. The borough council made a £6000 donation to the scheme. Whether promoting religion – and especially one in preference to others – is a proper use of public money deserves a very big question mark. Distribution within Chineham appears to have been somewhat incomplete.

## ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

Do you have garments in your wardrobe you can't get into?

Are there sewing jobs you hate?

Have you a heap of items waiting to be mended?

Are your trousers too long?

Talk to Veronica  
Tel: 01256 470 658

I also do curtains and that special occasion dress.