

Dear Editor

Proposed Incinerator at Sutton Courtenay

Oxfordshire County Council are currently considering a proposal to build a very large incinerator close to Didcot Power Station, to burn 300,000 tons of waste a year!

A campaign has been launched to oppose planning permission for such an incinerator. The Vale of White Horse District Council has agreed and raised 12 objections with the County Council.

Particular concerns are that:

- No independent study is being undertaken into the health issues involved and no study is planned on the cumulative health and environmental impact of adding a large incinerator to the Power Station and landfill site.

- Waste incineration can cause air pollution over at least a 12 miles radius

- There are less damaging alternatives to incineration and County Councillors have been denied the opportunity to debate the options.

It is crucially important that all local residents understand the risks involved with incinerators.

We urge you therefore to look at the web site www.scai.co.uk and read the mass of other information on the internet. We all owe it to our children to be much better informed about the potential impact on the local community over the next 25 years!

If you agree then please sign the on-line petition, (just follow the links on the front page of www.scai.co.uk).

Please do also consider writing a letter of objection to your County Councillor and MP before January, as these can be very influential!

Remember Asbestos was also once considered to be safe!

We look forward to your support.

CALLUM MACKENZIE

The Old Pump House, Drayton Road
Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AJ
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DENMAN COLLEGE

The college is very busy, and we're looking forward both to Christmas and to the annual New Year House Party – a popular event in our programme. In times of economic uncertainty, members and other visitors value the college more than ever: something which was equally true back in the 'austerity' years when the college was opened.

We're already busy putting together our course programme for 2009-10, and we recently welcomed Pieter Germishuys as manager of the WI Cookery School which will be launched in the spring.

Visitors to our birthday event in September
December 2008

may have seen a wonderful diamond-mounted cooker created by Stoves. The oven is worth over £4,000 and is being raffled in aid of the Let's Cook! project, a national WI-led scheme which runs cookery classes for parents in disadvantaged communities. To purchase a raffle ticket, which cost £2.50 each (there are no additional card charges or admin fees), please visit www.rogavi.com/WIdiamond.

STEPHEN HACKETT Principal

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of MADNews.

Enough politics and battling with roads and reservoirs until next time. With the trouble in the world at the moment, are we not fortunate to live in this land of plenty? **Seasons Greetings.**

IAIN BROWN Tel: 01235 751210

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I held a debate on the reservoir in Parliament a couple of weeks ago. MPs can apply for short debates to raise issues that are important to their constituency. I have only held one before, on the threat of the closure of mental health services in Oxfordshire. Getting an adjournment debate is always pot luck, you have to apply to the Speaker and a ballot is held. I had applied for six weeks before my ship came in, and it coincided with the evening I was meant to appear on the BBC's Question Time - so Question Time was sunk by the reservoir.

The threat of a large reservoir south of Abingdon has been hovering over us for almost two decades, but now it seems more likely than ever. Thames Water says it is needed to supply water to the growing population in the south east, as well as to cope with climate change. It seems hard to believe but we live in one of the most water-stressed area of the planet.

There used to be two well-worn arguments against the reservoir - that Thames Water should fix its leaking pipes, and people should use water meters. These issues are now being dealt with. So we are concentrating on two other arguments - first, whether Thames Water's predictions for water use are right - they predict 165 litres per person per day, whereas the Government suggest 130 litres per person, a significant difference. Also, are there alternative sources of water, such as effluent reuse, used by other water companies?

The crux of my argument, though, is that we need a public enquiry. All the arguments need to be tested in an open tribunal, so people know whether or not the right decision has been made. The Government wants to make the decision behind closed doors, using its new Planning Infrastructure Committee, and whatever one's views on the reservoir, that is not acceptable.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

For Ed's Surgeries: See page XX

MARCHAM ARCHIVES

The Marcham Society would like to thank the many people in the village who have lent us photographs during the past few months for us to scan for our village archives. Some people have also told us of their memories of life in the village in their childhood, and what their parents had told them about earlier times.

We would also like to thank everyone who has contacted us with information about the photos that have been published in MADNews over the last few months.

We would very glad to see and scan for the archives more photos that MADNews readers may have in their family albums showing aspects of life in the village in the past. Please do contact us if you have anything - contact details are below. The archive can be looked at by anyone interested, and photos are always popular.

Do you remember the Marcham Feast?

The annual village fair used to be held in the field next to the War Memorial up until the late 1960s, possibly early 1970s. There used to be swing-boats, childrens roundabouts, chair-a-planes, etc. If you have any information please contact Marion Pointer on 01865-391679.

As many of you already know, the Society is planning to publish a picture history of the village at the end of next year and a number of the photos people have given us recently will be included in that.

For more information or to discuss your photos and memories contact either Sheila (01865 391439) or Judith (01865 3912750).

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

12 Dec	Grove Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.

Christmas Holiday	
Normal Day	Will be...
Thur 25 Dec	Mon 29 Dec
Fri 26 Dec	Tue 30 Dec
Mon 29 Dec	Wed 31 Dec
Tue 30 Dec	Fri 2 Jan
Wed 31 Dec	Sat 3 Jan
Thur 1 Jan	Mon 5 Jan
Fri 2 Jan	Tue 6 Jan