

# AORTA...

The deadline for letters is the 10th day of the month. E-mail to [editor@highworthlink.co.uk](mailto:editor@highworthlink.co.uk) or c/o Lighthouse Bookshop, 40 High Street, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7AQ.

## Poppy Appeal tops £7,000

*The Highworth Branch of the British Legion has received all the donations raised during the Poppy Appeal and it is with great pleasure we confirm the total collected was £7,487.33.*

*It is a staggering amount, surpassing all expectations and our sincere thanks to everyone, the ATC, the Churches, the shops, the Organisations and especially those who dedicated their time to street and house collections, raising nearly £3,000.*

*Lady Robertson, Poppy Appeal Organiser*

## Windfarm reply

*I should like to respond to Joanna Lambert's questions concerning the Westmill wind farm.*

*"How much electricity will the wind refineries (sic) really produce - not capacity but real output?" Approximately 12 million kilowatt hours each year. (Source: Westmill Wind Farm share prospectus). This is a conservative figure, based on an average wind speed measured at 6.2 metres per second, which is likely to be exceeded most years. It will meet the needs of more than 2,500 average homes.*

*"How much back-up will these unreliable plants require from coal and gas fired plant?" None. Wind turbines are not unreliable. Their output is intermittent, but wind strength is easy to forecast accurately. The grid requires sufficient 'spinning reserve' at all times to cover the sudden loss of one large conventional power station. Only when over 20% of the UK's electricity comes from intermittent sources will some extra reserve capacity be required, and this can be carbon-free e.g. pumped storage.*

*"What is the real financial cost of the huge subsidy paid by all of us via our electricity bills to keep this political ideology going?" Wind power is happening despite political ideology, not because of it. Thanks to political ideology, we taxpayers are having to find at least £70 billion simply to decommission the UK's existing under-performing nuclear power stations.*

*Ms Lambert's description of Westmill as a brownfield site is misleading. Indeed, one of the many benefits of wind farms is that their real impact on the environment is minimal. They can still be used for growing crops or grazing animals, and they provide hard-pressed farmers with additional income.*

*Andrew Day, Bydemill Gardens, Highworth*

## Grumpy under fire

*Might I make the suggestion that in future editions, our Aorta editor refrain from printing any letter where the writer uses a pen name to conceal his or her identity? This should apply particularly where named or known individuals or groups are attacked, whether the criticism seems fair or not.*

*A recent letter over the corny title of Grumpy Old Man complained that our Highworth Festival had not yet started up in January and the usual Festival Brochure had not been published. The four-yearly Highworth Festival normally starts after Easter, following several months' hard work by the voluntary committee.*

*The brochure takes at least three months' work before publication, as I know from experience, having written the last two editions. This involves collecting material from hundreds of sources and selling advertising that pays for the printing and distribution.*

*I do not have e-mail facilities that have replaced my past manual efforts so I had to hand this task over to someone more computer literate. I can put Grumpy in touch if he is willing to help, but to date I have never found an anonymous critic willing to be involved in unpaid work for the community. My own letters are always signed.*

*Keith Ratcliffe, Priory Green, Highworth*