



Hearty thanks

Our charity event held at The Rec on February 9th, raised £2,000 for the British Heart Foundation. The event was sponsored by Impact Planning Services Ltd., Precision Eyewear and Bower Mapson Homes and was extremely well supported by most of the local traders in Highworth!

Live music was provided by the Brewery Street Buskers and Hang Fire. The 140-strong audience remained on their feet and dancing 'till the very end. Some are still undergoing recovery! Thanks to all who attended, took part, sponsored, contributed raffle prizes and assisted in providing a great evening for a great cause! Don't miss next year's event!

Fung Yee Gillespie

Musical fundraiser

Our charity event held at The Rec on April 26, raised over £800 for Breast Cancer Care.

Thanks to the Brewery Street Buskers and friends for the music and to all who attended, donated raffle prizes, gave sponsorship money and assisted on the night.

Lesley Muir and Alison Durrant

Technical arguments

May I correct some of Mr Andrew Day's assertions on the matter of the windfarm at Watchfield (April 'Link' p12)?

Power Output: The 12 million KWh from five turbines quoted in the Share Prospectus relates to the design capacity of the turbine (measured against a wind-speed of 6.2 metres per second(m/s) at 50 metres height). However, the manufacturer's brochure gives the speed required to generate economic power as 6.5 m/s. Furthermore, in the project's own Environmental Impact Assessment a consultant states: "...The first step...is to eliminate areas with an estimated annual mean wind speed of (below) 7m/s @ 45 metres above ground level".

Wind Speed: Meteorological Office data over the 10 years 1991 to 2000, for Westmill at 50 metres height, show that of the 120 months, only five attained or exceeded 6.2m/s. The 10-year average annual speed was 4.7m/s for Westmill. The European Wind Atlas (Troen & Paterson – 1989) shows the Westmill area to have an average wind speed of 4.5 to 5.5 m/s at 50 metres. Thus the Prospectus exaggerates. Moreover, in still conditions, turbines have to be rotated under electrical power to prevent their weight distorting their own bearings, so consuming power.

Subsidy and 'Brownfield': Mrs Lambert is correct over taxpayer subsidy and 'brownfield' usage. The Government pays 'renewables' producers a subsidy, raising electricity consumers' costs threefold. 'Brownfield' describes a site upon which there is, or has been, construction. It has nothing to do with the state of the greensward.

Marcus Witherow, Watchfield

No truck with scientists' CO₂ models

Even if Mr Willis is right that climate change is the greatest challenge facing the world – which I would dispute – there is no verified evidence that man is responsible. All the propaganda to this effect is based on computer models which have never been verified and in fact has never had a data gathering program on a sufficient scale to even attempt to do so to a first approximation. The models also treat natural CO₂ sources as net values while treating man made ones as gross ones mainly because no source measurements are available for net natural emissions while data is available on fossil fuel usage.

No peer group evaluation has been done on the models by any non environmental scientists or computer modellers from fields with sufficient proven track record to be worthy of an opinion on the subject and the IPCC claims to have peer group reviewed its data I would describe as biased close to the point of being fraudulent.

Please keep this government political propaganda out of your magazine as it has no place here.

David Cage, Biddell Springs, Highworth

Editor: This letter was edited because of space limitations.