



**SAVE
RADLEY LAKES**

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NPower stumped by Quiz Night at The Old Anchor!

Plenty of Ashes and No Balls, so is it Really Cricket?

On Wednesday 30th April 2008, an enormous four metre high set of cricket stumps, emblazoned with an unmistakable message to RWE npower, was erected outside The Old Anchor Inn in Abingdon to draw attention to the plight of Thrupp Lake in Radley, threatened with destruction to make way for waste ash from Didcot Power Station. Npower famously sponsor the Ashes Cricket Series, and it is ironic that they produce lots of ash of their own, ash which is not so welcome when dumped in the Oxfordshire countryside! The protest was staged as part of a fund-raising event to raise money towards the cost of the High Court action, currently being mounted by Radley Parish Council, against the decision by Oxfordshire County Council not to register the area as Town Green.

Umpire, Len Lambe, erected the stumps to illustrate the height of the embankment, which npower propose to build around the boundary of Thrupp Lake at Radley to contain the ash slurry. A solid bank rising four metres in height alongside the Sustrans No 5 Cycle Way would remove a beautiful vista, which many enjoy as they walk or cycle to and from Abingdon. Chanting "No no no npower no, no no no ashes no no, Yes Save Radley Lakes!" in a take from a well known character in the Vicar of Dibley, Mr Lamb, clutching a megaphone in one hand and a large placard in the other, directed operations from an upstairs window, while outside the rain did little to dampen spirits.

The Vicar of Dibley theme was reflected in the presence, at the event, of Paul Mayhew-Archer, co-writer of the TV series, and the real-life Vicar of Radley, Pam McKellen. A Quiz Night, raffle and auction of photographs were held throughout the evening and over £300 was raised.

Marjorie White, spokesperson for Save Radley Lakes, said,

"Rain and bad light may have stopped npower's play down at the Lakes. However the community want them to call the match off altogether and put their ashes somewhere else, preferably where they can be made into something useful. Up to now, the game they have been playing is really not cricket, and we would like them to have the balls to come clean and admit that they have been both stumped and caught out by the strength of feeling in the community. To carry on batting in front of a fallen wicket does little to further their image. It is time to put an end to this and start a new innings, one in which the interests of the community are properly considered, and no harm is unnecessarily inflicted on the environment."

"The community wants npower to declare its intention not to destroy Thrupp Lake, and to take steps to restore and preserve the area for future generations. If they were to agree to that, everybody would be bowled over with joy."

People in Radley and Abingdon have been campaigning tirelessly for 3 years to prevent RWE npower from dumping waste ash from Didcot Power Station into the Radley Lakes. In January 2007, npower received planning permission to proceed with the infilling of Thrupp Lake, the oldest and largest of the remaining Radley Lakes. However, in February this year, they announced that they had put their plans on hold for the time being, owing, they said, to circumstances which meant that they were producing much less waste ash than expected. However, in the absence of any guarantees that the lake would not be destroyed in the future, Radley Parish Council has proceeded to undertake action in the High Court in a bid to get the area registered as a Town Green and thereby protect it from development. The event at The Old Anchor Inn on Wednesday evening was staged to publicise and raise funds to support this potentially expensive action.



Picture by Basil Crowley

Mr Len Lambe, umpiring events from an upstairs window at The Old Anchor Inn on Wednesday. The placard reads:
"no no no npower no NO ASHES in Radley Lakes 2009 or EVER (serious) - yes Save Radley Lakes"



Picture by Basil Crowley

Tony Lee holds up the giant stumps for the cameras.

The message on the stumps reads:
"No no no npower no - no no no ashes no no - yes Save Radley Lakes"

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For further information contact: Marjorie White on 01235 216428 or 01235 530174,
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