

The new

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*Beneath the rule of men entirely great*

*The pen is mightier than the sword*



## SOME HAE MEAT

But some dinna want it

Firstly came the BSE scare, or as we know it Mad Cow Disease, then there was of course the recurring and dreaded Foot and Mouth Disease, both proving deadly for the bovines but only the first was deemed a health risk for we Homo Sapiens.

Then of course came the 'alarming' news that cloned bovines had found their way into the human food chain and alarmists started shouting about the possible harm such meat could prove to be to 'us' in the long run. That opinion seems to have been somewhat deserted and we can look forward to high quality cloned carcasses reaching the market place in the future.

There again on the African Continent the Maasai tribes drink warm blood from live cattle, for protein and caloric needs. This practice allows them to keep the cattle alive and so they can be used over and over again for blood production.

Whilst we in the more civilised parts of the world tend to process dead animal's blood, especially when making delicious Black Puddings.

When I was but a lad and went to the local cinema there was always at least one trailer advertising the next 'thriller' using the words 'Coming Shortly'. Well, apparently what we meat eaters have to look forward to according to a report in one national daily, and is apparently 'coming shortly,' is meat from cows that have not been slaughtered.

The pounds of flesh have nothing to do with Shakespeare's Shylock from the *Merchant of Venice*, but rather to Dutch scientists who are developing a type of minced beef from cow stem cells. According to these learned and dedicated folk by 2050 there will not be enough food available to feed all the people in the world. These same scientists are currently developing a burger which will be grown from some 10,000 stem cells

extracted from cattle and then left in the lab to multiply more than 1bn times to produce muscle tissue similar to beef. The end product is called 'in vitro' meat. Anyone for a second helping?

Scientists in other parts of the world have developed 'pork' and 'fish fillets' from stem cells grown in laboratories. The 'pork' apparently was deemed not too appetising but the developers believe that people could get used to the taste and texture, especially if there was nothing else to eat!

Mind you if 'in vitro' meat becomes the norm then there may be less need for farmers to try to increase their grass production and so reduce the need to use the Dow Chemicals herbicide *Forefront* and thus let we beleaguered amateur gardeners the opportunity to grow our own produce without the threat of contaminated dung ruining our potatoes, tomatoes and a host of other food and decorative plants.

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### MYXOMATOSIS

Lets not forget that in the early 1950s myxomatosis decimated the rabbit population in the UK and put many people off eating their meat. I was not one of them and I really do enjoy rabbit cooked in almost any fashion.

In fact only last week Morag and I prepared and enjoyed two dishes made with young rabbits. To view them click on to my other publication @ [www.dilettantgardener.co.uk](http://www.dilettantgardener.co.uk) therein there are several photos and recipes detailing the dishes.

Myxomatosis is still rampant among the rabbit population but many recover. In days of yore rabbit trappers from the village fed the raw rabbit intestines to their pigs. In turn the pigs were slaughtered before turning into various cuts and manufacture, to provide meat over the winter. How about that for recycling?

Which brings me nicely to the 'Letters Page' and the ongoing saga over the Invergordon Incinerator. Ed

# Letters to your editor

Sir,

For reader's info the anti Incinerator campaign group involved in the Invergordon is ICARE, (set up by Invicta a PR company) they have their own website run by a small militant group headed by Tina McCaffery and run by people who care about their own self interest and worth, rather than the real views of the community who now fear telling the truth of any support, for threatened recrimination by ICARE. This is an unelected body claiming to represent the community.

It would be interesting to see what the communities' views would be if it was known that the ICARE string pullers (Invicta on behalf of Al-fayed Balnagown Estates) had specifically worked for a company wishing to develop an incinerator (Shore Energy, Lanarkshire) and who now are looking to do a similar scheme in Inverness harbour area. Invicta also worked for Burcote (Biomass Incinerator in Barrow-in-Furness and Barry in Wales) Invicta's contact details are all over the ICARE website so that link could be easily made.

Also note that the Lanarkshire group who led a vociferous campaign (MRRAP supported all the way by Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser) to stop the shore energy project (which Shore won on appeal a few weeks ago) is now looking at one last chance to challenge the Appeal decision, and have publicly cited that the pressure put upon the Government by ICARE as a process to follow.

Be interesting if they met ICARE and found out who their advisors are?

Yours faithfully,

Robert Gilson. Tyneside. (ID confirmed.)

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Dear Editor,

I write with trepidation as I await the imminent decision of the reporter in relation to the proposed Waste to Energy plant in Invergordon.

Whilst I believe that common sense and good judgement will prevail, I am deeply concerned that the decision may be influenced by the hysterical outpourings of the minority, unfortunately supported by the vast wealth of Balnagown. It is sad that Mr Al Fayed has been hoodwinked into believing he is helping the community, when in fact the majority of people in this dying town of Invergordon is crying out for an infusion of jobs and not for the silly suggestion that the town can be metamorphosed into a tourist town.

With Local Council elections due next year let us get together as a community and demand jobs and new industry for the town, and get councillors elected who will listen to the views of the majority and are prepared to put their heads on the block to help us fight for what we need.

Yours etc.,

Alda Connell, Invergordon.

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## DECLARATION

Whilst the Independent Highlander editor does not always endorse the contents of reader's letters nevertheless provided they are not offensive they normally will be aired, both on paper and on the Net.

The two letters published today are endorsed by me and the 'Highlander' is fully supportive of the proposed Waste to Energy project.

Invergordon needs work other than that on the 'Base'. Also the new plant will have considerable spin off. The Highlands needs a sustainable way to dispose of its waste, economically.

All the *green will* in the world will not prove to be viable in the north, due to the vast distance between points. For those who believe that recycling a few empty milk containers or similar will save the planet are sadly, disillusioned. Just for the hell of it I wonder just how many of the ICARE supporters smoke cigarettes? Ed.