

# NEWSLETTER – May 2019



## Introduction

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from Coal Aston & Dronfield Against Fracking (CADAF). The aim of this bulletin is to keep you posted of the most relevant updates in our campaign and provide information of how you can get involved or express your views in a manner that they can be heard and valued.

Check our website for the latest news: [www.dronfieldagainstfracking.org](http://www.dronfieldagainstfracking.org)

## NATASCHA ENGEL QUILTS

Natascha Engel, our previous MP for North East Derbyshire, has resigned from her post as Shale and Gas Commissioner. In a final “fall on her sword” swansong she has blamed the government for not relaxing the rules on fracking with regard to earth tremors, making the industry virtually impossible to pursue due to being “throttled by rules preventing mini earthquakes”. The fact the oil and gas companies themselves wrote, and agreed to abide by these rules seems to have been forgotten in this noble act of self sacrifice. She will no doubt rise again in the public domain, hopefully away from fracking, but we also wonder whether her new t-shirt will say Ineos or Caudrilla?



## Harry Barnes & The Dronfield Eye

Many of you will recall an excellent article published in the Dronfield Eye several months ago, written by our former MP Harry Barnes. Harry is a valued member of our anti fracking campaign, and writes an excellent personal blog called “three score and ten”. This article reignited a debate amongst our group, with regard to the amount of undiscovered mine workings lurking beneath our feet. Currently, if a property falls victim to mining subsidence, the Coal Authority will generally rectify this free of charge once this is the confirmed cause. However, if earth tremors caused by future fracking unsettle these already fragile mine workings, how do we go about determining the cause of this movement? The Coal Authority have got reasonable grounds to deny responsibility, and our normal household insurance may not cover damage such as this unless specifically stated and then the cause has to be proven. Several of our members have written to Dronfield Eye in reaction to Harrys article, and we would encourage all members of the public to continue to raise these concerns which could affect the very ground beneath your feet. You can view the locations of old mine workings in more detail on the coal authority website. Many properties in our area have old mine entrances in their gardens, or even under their homes.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

There are many ways in which you can help the fight against fracking. These include:

- Lobby your local, district, and county councillors stating your objections. Remember, they work for you, on your behalf.
- Write to your local MP who is Lee Rowley at 62 Market St, Eckington, Derbyshire, S21 4JH or email him at [lee.rowley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lee.rowley.mp@parliament.uk)
- Attend an anti fracking meeting with ideas, offers of help, or just support other anti fracking campaigners.

## Local Elections 2nd May 2019

Many of us will have voted last week, in both the town and district council elections. Politics is dominated by Brexit at the minute, and many of the election results reflected the publics opinion on the mess our country appears to be in, due to Brexit lumbering on unresolved. However, many of the candidates elected have already adopted, and fully support, our anti fracking campaign, along with our MP Lee Rowley, and his political rivals in this area. CADAF would encourage new councillors to lend their support to anti fracking community so that we can remain a united voice against Ineos and current Government policy. Regardless of your political “colours” we ask that you encourage all your councillors to fight on our behalf (which is why they were elected) to help try and save our area from the threat of fracking. CADAF has members from all sides of the political spectrum and would no doubt fully disagree on other areas of wider politics. However we are all united in our aim to fight fracking in this area, and ask everyone to lend their support no matter how small.

## Tour De Yorkshire 2019

Brenda and Kim, two regular attendees of our monthly meetings, attended the Tour De Yorkshire last week in Doncaster, to protest at Team Ineos’s sponsorship of the former Team Sky cycling team. They were joined by anti fracking campaigners throughout our region, all united in this hypocritical sponsorship of a team that once stood against single use plastic. The irony that a company which is a heavy polluter in our country, and regularly falls foul to environmental issues, can sponsor such an event which relies on clean air, and promotes a healthy lifestyle through sport is somewhat bizzare. Brenda and Kim enjoyed a productive day out meeting fellow anti frackers from neighbouring communities, while protesting over Ineos’s participation in such an event. CADAF thank them for their time and efforts. You can see photos and more details on our website [www.dronfieldagainstfracking.org](http://www.dronfieldagainstfracking.org)

## FUTURE MEETINGS

We have secured the use of Gosforth Lodge for further meetings in 2019. The dates are as follows: 22nd May (revised), 26th June, 31st July, 28th Aug. All meetings commence at 7.15 pm and refreshments are available. Gosforth Lodge, Cliffe Park, Callywhite Lane, Dronfield, S18 2XP. Excellent disabled access available.