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# The Sunday Telegraph

SUNDAY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1961-2011

PRINCE PHILIP DISMISSES 'FAIRY-TALE' GREEN ENERGY

## Wind farms are useless, says Duke

EXCLUSIVE

JONATHAN WYNN-JONES

THE DUKE of Edinburgh has made a fierce attack on wind farms, describing them as "absolutely useless".

In a scathing assault on the renewable wind turbine industry, the Duke said the farms were "a disgrace".

He also criticised the industry's reliance on subsidies from electricity customers, claimed wind farms would "never work" and accused people who support them of believing in a "fairy tale".

The Duke's comments will be seized upon by the burgeoning lobby who say wind farms are raising the country's energy profile and saving up energy bills.

Criticism of their effect on the environment has mounted, with the Sunday Telegraph disclosing today that turbines are being switched off during strong winds following complaints about their noise.

The Duke's views are politically charged, as they put him at odds with the Government's policy to significantly increase the amount of electricity generated by wind turbines.

The country has 3,421 turbines - 2,261 of them onshore - with another 4,000 expected



The Duke of Edinburgh views oppose those of the Coalition.

to be built under plans for wind power to play a major role in providing Britain's energy.

Chris Hudson, the Energy Secretary, last month called opponents of the plans "out-madness and lack-faith" and described turbines as "elegant" and "beautiful".

The Duke's attack on the turbines, believed to be the first public insight into his views on the matter, came in a conversation with the managing director of a leading wind farm company.

When Labour's William Hague, who holds and operates turbines, introduced himself to the Duke at a reception in London, he found himself on the end of an outburst.

"He said they were absolutely useless, completely reliant on subsidies and an absolute disgrace," said Mr Wynn-Jones. "I was surprised by his very frank views."

Mr Wynn-Jones said his attempt to argue that onshore wind farms were one of the most cost-effective forms of renewable energy received a fierce response from the Duke.

"He said, 'You don't believe in fairy tales do you?'" said Mr Wynn-Jones. "He said that they would never work as they need back-up capacity."

One of the main arguments of the anti-wind farm lobby is that because turbines do not produce electricity without wind, there is still a need for other ways to generate power.

Their opponents argue that it is possible to build "pump storage" schemes, which would use excess energy from wind power to pump water into reservoirs to generate further electricity in times of high demand and low supply.

It emerged last year that electricity customers are paying an average of £90 a year to subsidise wind farms and other forms of renewable energy as part of a government scheme to meet carbon-reduction targets.

Mr Wynn-Jones said one of the main reasons the Duke thought onshore wind farms

to be "a very bad idea" was their reliance on such subsidies. The generous financial incentives being offered to green energy developers have led lawmakers to look to build wind farms on their estates, including the Duke of Gloucester, the Queen's cousin.

Prince Philip, however, said he would never consider allowing his land to be used for turbines, which can be up to 100ft tall, and he criticised their impact on the countryside.

Mr Wynn-Jones said: "I suggested to him to put them on his estate, and he said, 'You stay away from my estate young man.'"

"He said he thought that they're not nice at all for the landscape."

The Duke's comments echo complaints made by his son, the Prince of Wales, who has refused to have any built on Darcy of Cornwall land, yet a turbine will be erected opposite the Castle of St Michael's Mount, where he stays for a week every August, if a farmer succeeds in gaining planning permission from Highland Council.

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TRAPPED: Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, Libya's most wanted man after the death of his father, Col Muammar Gaddafi, was caught in the Sahara yesterday after a month on the run. Having a handkerchief in his mouth to muffle his voice, he was fleeing to Niger when he was stopped. PAGES 6-7

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## Boris clashes with Cameron on euro

PATRICK HENNESSY Political Editor

BORIS JOHNSON squats a fresh clash with David Cameron today by declaring that the Prime Minister's preferred solution to the economic crisis would weaken democracy and create a German-dominated Europe.

In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, the London Mayor criticised Mr Cameron's call for the European Central Bank to deploy a "big banker" - effectively printing money - to help bail out the southern European economies.

Mr Johnson also attacked plans, backed by the

Government, for the 17 eurozone countries to share closer fiscal links, making them more unified on tax and spending.

"What I don't think you can do is pretend that you can create an economic government of Europe, effectively run by Germany," the mayor said.

He described the replacement of elected leaders in Greece and Italy with governments led by technocrats as "completely mad". He warned that if most of the European Union went ahead to impose a "Troika" tax on financial transactions, even without British participation, it would

be seen as a "hostile act" because it would hit many jobs in the City of London. Mr Johnson also refused his own solution to the crisis - which is to shut out the eurozone from anything suggested by any member of the Government.

One solution put forward by the mayor was for the eurozone to be split into two - one containing stronger economies such as France and Germany, and the other including the weaker, mainly southern member states.

He said: "There is a risk they will migrate on to Church territory and then I'm afraid it becomes very difficult."

He declared that London would be "open for business" during the Olympics next summer - despite "loose talk" from ministers who have recommended that employers let staff work from home during the Games to limit congestion.

Mr Johnson said he had a "healthy dose of optimism" and described himself as a "public school rugby player type of person, who believes in teamwork".

However, it is Mr Johnson's intervention on the eurozone that will provide most controversy in No 10, after Mr Cameron's inconclusive talks with Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor.

Britain wants the European Central Bank to intervene

more directly to prop up crisis-hit economies - something Mrs Merkel is reluctant to sanction.

The mayor, no stranger to clashes with Mr Cameron and the Coalition, did not mention the Prime Minister by name but took deliberate aim at his pet policy.

"This idea that if we can find a big enough banker, we could blow away the problem by creating a euro government in which there will be shared fiscal responsibility. I'm afraid that really will, in the long term, and probably even in the short and medium terms, simply exacerbate the

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## THE WHEATSHEAF INN NORTHLEACH

Oh Lord, here we go again. That's what I thought as once more my tyres crunched over pristine gravel and once more I squeezed my humble micro car between a Chelsea tractor and a BMW. Here we go again, I thought, as I watched two clean-cut ex-public school types in green bartenders' aprons carrying refuse sacks to the bins while I humped my bags unaided through newly landscaped gardens filled with outdoor tables and furled parasols towards the newly painted (Farrow & Ball, of course) old inn. Here we go again, I thought, when I saw that the one person propping up the bar was not a hoary-headed son of the soil as of old, but a leggy blonde in designer country-wear, martini twirling idly in her hand.

Welcome to the Cotswolds. Like purple and silver nightglubs are to the girls and boys in *The Only Way is Essex* and slick wine bars are to the folk from *Made in Chelsea*, so posh, newly converted inns – springing up faster than you can say hedge-fund baby – are to the good folk of Gloucestershire. I'd meant to give this breed a rest – the last one, The Feathered Nest, had bedrooms with names like Cockere's Roost, riding saddles for bar stools, breakfast hampers on sale to local weekenders. But then I met Peter, the 23-year-old manager, who showed me around the hotel he is so proud to run: the attractive dining areas, gleaming with polished wood, the sitting room, the informal Game Bar for coffees and light dishes, the glamorous private dining room, the charmingly rustic treatment room, the pretty enclosed garden, perfect for children, and some of the 14 bedrooms.

And I was won over, especially when I then met the owners, Sam and Georgie Pearman, who are down to earth, unpretentious, incredibly hard-working, not snobs at all, but with the talent to know what people want and how to deliver it. The Beckford Arms in Wiltshire is a posh pub that gets everything absolutely right, though The Wheatsheaf lacks its beautiful location, and its sitting room is not as alluring, it's as good in every other respect, and its fabulous bedrooms are better.

I would say that, wouldn't I, since I



dined that night with the man who happens to be responsible for most of The Wheatsheaf's wonderfully imaginative wallpapers and fabrics (Stephen Lewis of Lewis & Wood), though my deep zinc bath and Hypnos bed were worth the room price alone.

Mind you, I could have done without Jack Nicholson: his portrait by Sebastian Kruger made an uneasy companion. I preferred the row of early 20th-century portraits of the Wills tobacco family in the dining room, originally painted for their boardroom and bought at auction.

The food, from the experienced chef Anthony Ely, doesn't miss a beat. Marks

### HOW IT RATES

<b>ROOMS</b>	★★★★☆
All great; at mid-price try for the cottage room with bath and shower	
<b>SERVICE</b>	★★★★☆
Excellent, except in the bag-carrying department	
<b>CHARACTER</b>	★★★★☆
Another posh pub, but a really good one	
<b>VALUE FOR MONEY</b>	★★★★☆
More a hotel than a pub with rooms, but not at hotel prices	

out of five? Four point seven, says Stephen Lewis's wife, a professional cook. And I'll add another point three for a superb breakfast next morning, including the best devilled kidneys ever.

West End, Northleach GL54 3EZ (01451 850244; [cotswoldswheatsheaf.com](http://cotswoldswheatsheaf.com)). Doubles from £120 per night, singles from £80, including breakfast. Access possible for guests with disabilities.

Join Fiona Duncan for a live Q&A session at [telegraph.co.uk/travel](http://telegraph.co.uk/travel) on Tuesday, November 22 at 1pm. Please send your questions in advance to [yourtravels@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:yourtravels@telegraph.co.uk)

## YOUR SAY

Do you have anything to add to Fiona Duncan's review of The Wheatsheaf Inn? If so, email your comments to [hotelguru@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:hotelguru@telegraph.co.uk) or post them at [telegraph.co.uk/ukhotels](http://telegraph.co.uk/ukhotels). Here is what you said about last week's review of The Radisson Edwardian Guildford.

### FIONA'S CHOICE

#### IN THE AREA

Northleach stands at a crossroads on the Roman Fosse Way, in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The streets in and around the ancient market place are rich in architectural interest, from half-timbered Tudor houses and merchants' stores to the great House of Correction, built in the 18th century.

The town also boasts the finest example of the Cotswold perpendicular style in the impressive Church of St Peter and Paul, known as the Wool Church. The hotel holds directions for several excellent local walks.

#### WHERE TO EAT

In Cheltenham, try The Royal Well Tavern (5 Royal Well Place; 01242 221212; [theroyalwelltavern.com](http://theroyalwelltavern.com)), also owned by the Pearmans, in Cirencester. Made by Bob (The Corn Hall; 01285 641818; [foodmadisjob.com](http://foodmadisjob.com)), for breakfast, lunch and tea; and in Stow-on-the-Wold, The Old Butcher's Restaurant (Park Street; 01451 831700; [theoldbutchers.com](http://theoldbutchers.com)), serving modern British food in contemporary surroundings.

#### WHAT TO DO

Children are welcome at The Wheatsheaf and there's an enclosed garden for them to play in and child-sized walled. Family-oriented things to do locally include the Cotswold Wildlife Park ([cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)) in Burford and Cotswold Farm Park ([cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk](http://cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk)) in Guiting Power, Cheltenham; or how about a boat trip down the Thames from Lechlade ([lechladeboat.co.uk](http://lechladeboat.co.uk))?

More culturally minded activities might include visits to Sudley Castle, Hildocote Gardens, Snowhill Manor, Berkeley Castle and Berkeley Palace. Or there's the annual cheese-rolling contest, due to take place next on May 28, 2012 on Cooper's Hill near Gloucester.

"I was interested to read the review of the Radisson Edwardian in Guildford. We went to Relish, the restaurant in the photo, and though we enjoyed our meal, we thought the tables were too close together. We found out much more than necessary about fellow diners on either side of us (we'll never know if the couple on our left went ahead with their expensive loft conversion...). More room for diners please!"

Penny Pitt

"I read Fiona Duncan's reviews every Sunday morning. They are very interesting, but she only appears to review rather expensive accommodation. For example: Chewton Glen - doubles from £351 per night and singles from £325. Doesn't she do cheaper accommodation for some of us mere ordinary mortals or is this below her brief?"

Allan J Eyre

Fiona Duncan replies: "As an observer of the hotel industry, I'm interested in the movers and shakers in the field but I do realise that their appeal is limited for 'ordinary mortals' (among whom I count myself). My brief is to review the best places to stay in the UK so I can't ignore the expensive hotels but I promise to seek out more of the cheaper ones. Please keep reading the column, and write again if you think I am continuing to let you down."