

## David against Orange: in memoriam

David's battle with Goliath was a victory but the battle of this David against Orange was tragic. The same is true for hundreds of thousands of other people, most of whom will never see the outcome, precisely because the conflict is about the high death rate among people who live close to phone masts - a conflict that the phone company Orange is dodging by calling a halt to its latest case before the Court of Appeal.

### David's death

On the morning of 10 November 2010, just opposite the Orange phone mast, David, 48 years old, had severe heart problems and in spite of help from the emergency services he died.

### David's life

David Newell was English and ran a company in Cambridge, but from the early 2000s he became unable to tolerate physically the artificial HF microwave radiation generated by the phone masts that are multiplying everywhere in his country.

What's more, his children also started to suffer from chronic migraines. He began to have very serious heart problems that required several stays in hospital and various operations. He understood from the doctors that if he wanted to stay alive he had to escape immediately to live in a cleaner environment.

He found a secluded house for sale in the country in Saint-Papoul in the Aude in southern France, a country village of 800 souls where, according to the village web site [Fr], ["life is good"](#). A friendly meeting took place at the Mairie in which David explained that he was coming to live in Saint-Papoul for medical reasons and that his children also needed to live in a healthy environment.

The Newell family joined in and became very involved in village life. David started to enjoy life again with his wife and three children, until the day in 2004 when the nightmare began: the private phone company Orange decided to bring mobile telephone coverage to Saint-Papoul.

### David's battle

Perfectly reasonable, the villagers wanted to have their mobile phones, the only problem being that nobody wanted the phone mast near their own home!

There were various places it could be sited far from any houses, but it was the water tower that was chosen, since it was more than a kilometre from the village, the mayor approved the plan and the rest of the populace were assumed to do the same, since it didn't cause them any inconvenience - apart from a few people living close to the site, including the Newell family.

From that moment on David had no more choice, he knew that if he was irradiated his days would be numbered.

He started on a campaign to save his life, a hand to hand combat against Orange, and suggested another site where there was already an army radar station, but to no avail.

[An Internet site](#) was started to explain his case but in spite of all his efforts the decision was taken. Worst of all, he was going to receive the maximum dose of radiation at close quarters since his house was not only just tens of meters away from the mast but was in a direct line to the village, meaning that the radiation beam passed directly above it. This guaranteed [the maximum level of radiation](#), which given his state of health meant he might soon die.

This left David no choice, and he began a battle for his life, one against the rest. The tale is worthy of a horror story, work on the site was disrupted and sabotaged several times.

Bruno Cazali, regional director of Orange couldn't get over it: "It's a unique case. We've never encountered anything like it elsewhere, even in the northern suburbs of Marseille there hasn't been any vandalism like it."

Even the mayor got involved, and twisted the knife by getting the village residents to sign a petition to have the phone mast repaired.

Then it was the turn of the police (10 of them), who being short of numbers called on the riot police (10 more), resulting in a violent clash with the closest residents ([photo report](#)) in which Charlotte, David's 14-year-old daughter, was taken to hospital.

Faced with these events and David's unprecedented determination, Orange, evidently aware of the health issue decided to strike a deal with David via the Mairie and the Gendarmerie, in these revealing terms: "The company Orange France offers to alter the azimuth [of the beam] that passes above the house of Mr David Newell, on condition that he does not commit any more acts of vandalism on our mast. This is simply a gesture of goodwill on the part of Orange France and does not support in any way the hypothesis of the dangers of wireless radiation."

However the harassment continued in another form and David was taken to court, because according to our unconfirmed sources he had apparently been recognised from a photo of him taken from the back. Of course he argued his case but was heavily fined by the court in Carcassonne.

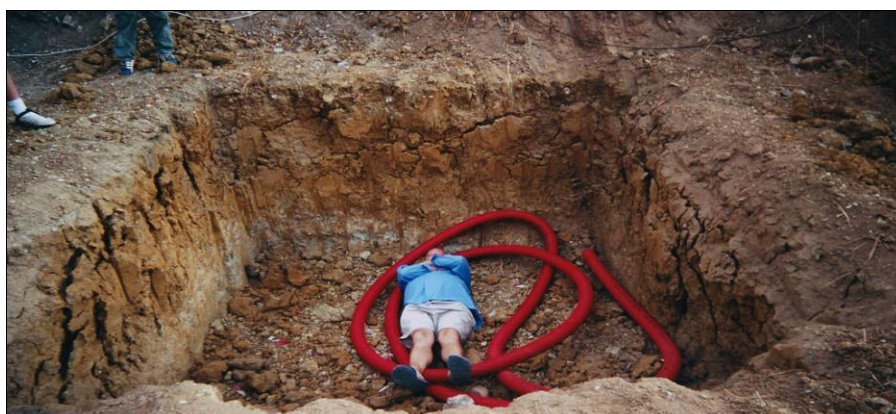
Exhausted by his single-handed struggle David's spirit was broken, and it did not take a genius to guess the tragic outcome of this terrible and lamentable affair that pitted David against Orange.

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To his wife Rachel, his older son David, his two daughters Charlotte and little Nicole, all the members of the Conseil d'Administration of Next-up Organisation present their most sincere condolences and wish them much courage.

They should know that David will always be an example to everyone in his fight for life, that it will not be in vain, and that they should be proud of him and hold their heads high in the village, looking straight in the eye certain people who will inevitably one day meet David once again.

Send a message to Rachel, David, Charlotte and little Nicole (please copy to Next-up)  
[thefuturesbright@saintpapoul.com](mailto:thefuturesbright@saintpapoul.com) ; [contact@next-up.org](mailto:contact@next-up.org)



David knew that "Orange had dug a grave for him" and he made it clear to everyone