

# Letters to the Editor

Send your views about local issues

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The Editor welcomes letters on any topical subject but reserves the right to edit them. Please restrict letters to about 200 words. All letters must include the writer's name and address even when submitted by email.

## Most read stories this week

This week's most read stories on [www.rossgazette.com](http://www.rossgazette.com)

1. Motorcyclist and pedestrian die in collision on A40
2. Serious collision on A40
3. Fatal collision in Fownhope
4. An end to an era near Ross
5. Putting Ross-on-Wye on the map with national and international acclaim

## Anger at plans for Greytrees

Dear Editor,  
AFTER attending the public meeting regarding the potential planning at Greytrees, we came away with a real sense of anger.

We are firmly against development of the site for many reasons. This land is an unimproved pasture within the Wye Valley AONB, and hasn't seen a plough in living memory.

There are serious issues with traffic access in an already busy part of town. Development of all required housing in Ross within the current Structure Plan is already planned for the east of the town and at Hildersley, where these issues are not a factor. In addition to this, Brampton Abbots School is already full.

However, it was the arrogance and scaremongering that we found hard to bear. We were told that the development was coming whether we liked it or not, and this scheme was of a lower housing density than any other that might be proposed, therefore we should accept this and be grateful.

What is the Neighbourhood Plan for if it is not about local democracy and a real chance for our citizens to take back control in order to influence the future of our beautiful town and adjoining landscape?

It is not inevitable that this site will be developed. We, the public, have a say. Just because the charities who own the land wish to maximise their assets, and have paid a large consultancy business, does not give them automatic rights to build a housing estate on it.

We will not be bullied or frightened into accepting this proposal. Many residents of Greytrees may feel fearful of the future and therefore persuaded to go along with it.

If, like us, you do not want residential development on this site, please sign the petition that we will be setting up or make your views known to Melvyn Reynolds, Chair of Ross Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee.

Mr and Mrs Leney  
Ross-on-Wye

Do you have a story for the  
*Ross Gazette*?  
Call the news desk on 01989 562007

## Hedgehog hibernation weight - help and adv

THERE is a lot of debate surrounding survival weights for hibernating hedgehogs and it is confusing for the public and rehabilitators alike. There have also been reports that people are actively going out and looking for healthy hedgehogs to collect that are under 600g to take into care.

To try to address this, The British

offer a little clarity and prevent hedgehogs from being taken from their natural habitat when not necessary.

Wild (free-living) hedgehogs, advice to bear in mind:

1. No specific weight will guarantee survival.
2. Those hibernating at less than 450g will probably not survive

## Fond memories

Dear Editor,

It was with great sadness I read the letter from Philip Dennis in this week's *Ross Gazette*.

Although I have never been a member of the Ross Gardening/Horticultural society, myself and my family entered the Horticultural show for many years.

We have very fond memories of our children and indeed, whole family working for weeks coming up to the show day on cards, miniature gardens, painted eggs, jams, cordials, handicrafts, vegetables and much, much more. The excitement in the morning of the show was palpable but was nothing compared to

our return in the afternoon to what had been placed in any of the categories! The organisation of the event was fantastic, and the support and kindness shown to the children who entered, amazing.

I was very sorry when the show could no longer be run due to a lack of support and am even more sorry to hear that the society will be dissolved.

As a family, we would like to say on our thanks to all those who have organised the Horticultural Show in turn have given us so many wonderful family memories.

Chris Ch...  
Ross-



## Dolmus for Ross

Dear Editor

THE members of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy, who came to Herefordshire to learn about rural living, will have collected many good ideas to take back to London.

One in particular stands out – the rural bus service. Ms Asghar-Sandys suggested smaller minibuses, a system used in many countries, particularly Turkey.

Their Dolmus (meaning 'unsubsidised, 15 seaters, run with fixed prices, no timetables. They are high frequency with cheap fares and driver incentivised to run full. To provide a low cost connection to remote villages.

Michael  
Ros

## Thanks to shoppe

Dear Editor,

THE Friends of Orchard Trust convey their thanks to Morrisons staff members who donated to the bucket collection on Friday, September 1st.

A sum of £343 was raised, which will be distributed among all Trust residents to enhance their interests and skills.

Friends of Orch

## that needs assistance the

hedgehog appears ill or injured).  
7. "Rescue" at weights above 600g based on weight alone is counterproductive and strongly discouraged. Bringing a healthy hedgehog into rescue is stressful for the hedgehog, and parasite burdens are amplified, causing serious problems for the animal. Also, there are risks involved with being in close proximity to

that needs assistance the advice has been provided hedgehog carer;

1. If unhurt and very small see if mother is about (as it is safe to leave it.)
2. Pick it up and check for etc. Use a thick towel or gloves to handle the hedgehog.
3. If possible weigh the hedgehog.