

yourletters

> We welcome your views, particularly write to Letters, Media House, 39 L likely to be cut so that we can feature address although these may be with edit letters for any reason. Lett

Do they care that village bus service is under threat?

from Philip Roe, Sharpenhoe Road, Streatley

HOW awful to see those people, especially the elderly and those who suffer from disabilities, having to stand in the open waiting for the village bus in the pouring rain, sleet and snow.

That's instead of being able to shelter from the elements because Streatley Parish Council is finding every excuse under the sun not to rebuild the village bus shelter.

When the subject is raised Councillor Farr shows, in my opinion, just how out of touch he is with the ordinary people of this village.

He sarcastically remarks about the "five people" who use it and seems to mock certain individuals who raise the matter.

I get the impression that using the bus service would be below Mr Farr and certain members of the parish council.

But that gives them no right to look down on the people who do.

Although there seems to be a lack of funds for the rebuilding of a shelter that most people would deem necessary, there seems to be no problem for the council to find £2,000 to fund a village sign or the funding to repair the tennis court whenever it suits.

We learn that the parish council has been paying insurance premiums for the shelter all these years and now finds when it needs to make a claim the shelter is only insured for £1,400 and it needs £5,000 to rebuild it.

What incompetence and a waste of insurance premiums that was.

It is not the cost of rebuilding the shelter that is the problem, but its location.

We all know the views of Mr

Nolan, landlord of the Chequers pub, on the rebuilding of the shelter in its present location.

To be honest I sympathise with him. I wouldn't like to look out on it from my house either.

We now learn from Councillor Farr that Cenral Beds Council is considering stopping the bus service around the village anyway.

What a Godsend to Mr Farr and certain members of the parish council this would be.

For if there is no bus service then there is no need for a bus shelter. Problem solved!

I think that people of Streatley can be sure of one thing and that is the parish council won't be trying very hard to save our village bus service or shelter.

The next time they see an elderly or disabled person standing in the pouring rain waiting for the village bus, I hope they feel guilty and ashamed enough to offer them some shelter from the elements, at least while we still have a bus service anyway.

Help celebrate Guides' centenary

from Debbie Docherty, county commissioner, Girlguiding Bedfordshire

YOUR readers will undoubtedly recognise Girlguiding UK as a girl-led, dynamic organisation, relevant to today - or will they?

Guiding's been around for a long time now - in fact 100 years - and many people will naturally remember it as it was in their youth, not realising how it has moved with the times to remain appealing to the modern girl.

As we celebrate our centenary, Guiding is giving girls the skills, experiences and opportunities they need to reach for new goals and succeed in the modern world, plus fun and friendship as well.

But that is nothing new. Throughout our existence we've touched the lives of countless

girls and young women.

We are the largest voluntary youth organisation in the country and half the UK female population has at some point in time been a member.

The weekend of February 20-21 marks the half way point of our year-long centenary celebrations and in Bedfordshire we are celebrating with One World One Beat - a UK-wide music, dance and drama festival for all our young members, from five to 25.

It's an ideal opportunity for your readers to get in touch with the organisation and find out about how they can contribute to help tomorrow's young women.

Whether they are former members or not, we're keen to hear from any reader who would like to join or help. Please use our 'Join us' number 07803 845588 or via our website www.bedsguiding.org.uk.

Fur farming can never be acceptable

from Mrs B. Ram, Western Way, Dunstable

IT'S a bit hypocritical of both Whipsnade Zoo and the Chinese to celebrate the 'Year Of The Tiger' when these beautiful animals have become near extinct.

With only 50 left in China and South Asia, as a whole just a few thousand remain.

Their jungles and habitat destroyed and poachers supplying the trade in medicines have brought this about.

The ones in barren zoos are made to perform tricks. How sad.

Where on earth do Bekki May and Nicola Gussin get the idea that fur farming is acceptable?

Animals are skinned alive for their fur, which is never acceptable to civilized people.

There are plenty of good faux fur now. I suggest these two educate themselves on compassion.

To receive it you have to give