

Thanks for helping help

PLEASE allow me to use your newspaper to thank all those who came to my assistance when I fainted on Truelocks Way, Charlton Heights, on February 10.

I am told that a young Amazon Prime driver stopped immediately and quickly called 999. Several neighbours also helped, bringing coats and blankets to help me keep warm in the bitter cold. Everyone who passed offered assistance.

Thanks also to the emergency services who came within 30 minutes, checked me over, including an instant Covid-19 test, which Oxfordshire is trialling, and took me to hospital.

I am now recovering at home with a fractured wrist and several bruises.

**Anne Whear
Truelocks Way, Wantage**

Old homes to fall empty

STARTLING statements need to be proved with evidence. In last week's Herald (February 17, 2021) I claim that for every four houses to be built in South Oxfordshire, three newly-empty homes will appear.

Your editorial is sceptical: surely our beautiful district will attract people in from elsewhere? But from where? Every part of the country has inflated housing numbers.



Mike Towndrow's pictures of the Andersay sleeve board, see letter below

Government says we must build 300,000 homes a year in England. It is egged on by the massive housing lobby whispering into its ears. It is twice the number that can be filled. In the next 14 years, on average, 157,000 new households will form each year (Office for National Statistics, 2018).

Surely half of the new housing in England will not lie empty? Perhaps not. Bizarrely, these pricey new dwellings are the only ones that young people can afford, subbed by Government's Help to Buy scheme for new houses only. Non-new homes will fall empty and become spare homes for the wealthy; or simply fall into disrepair.

Alternatively, the homes will not be built at all. It will be hard to sell 32,000 homes in South Oxfordshire when only 8,000 can be filled. If they are not built, the appalling and unbelievable 'five-year land supply' rule comes into effect. If developers do not build to

the council target then they can claim yet more land (National Planning Policy Framework, Para 73). A win-win for the developer. A lose-lose for our future survival. Yet more land concreted over. Land that we genuinely need, to feed ourselves, and to restore the natural world.

Join us at bioabundance.org.uk where we are working for good sustainable use of our most precious resource, the land under our feet.

**Dr Sue Roberts
Green Party district councillor
& chair of Bioabundance
Wallingford**

Ironing out firm's issues

I WAS pleased to see Jackie Smith's article on Penlon last week.

I too was intrigued to know more about their history when at the start of the pandemic they announced they would start making ventilators.

Last year I managed to buy a copy of the book by Sir Anthony Jephcott

LETTERS must not exceed 300 words. We reserve the right to shorter, clarify or reject them. They must carry a name and full address which will be published