Telegraph Comment

Folic acid move should be good for our health

HERE will be well justified euphoria at the Peterborough headquarters of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) today.

If, as expected, the Food Standards Agency gives the go-ahead to the introduction of folic acid in flour and bread, then much of the credit will be down to a 10-year campaign by the city-based charity.

The move towards the introduction of folic acid in our staple food has been controversial. That is not surprising as critics are concerned about what they see as mass medication of the population.

However, the decision process has been long and careful. The benefits of saving hundreds of children from suffering lifetime disability, and the belief that folic acid could also fight the risk of strokes, thrombosis and heart disease is compelling justification when balanced against some unproven concerns.

Proof of ASBAH's case can be found in America and Canada where they have been adding folic acid to flour since 1998. Birth defects of the brain and spine have dropped by a third in the US and by 48 per cent in Canada.

Welcome action against arson

ARSON is a heinous crime, as long suffering residents in the Westwood area of Peterborough know all too well. Today, they will undoubtedly feel a little safer thanks to a welcome operation by members of the Peterborough Arson Group who carried out a sweep of the area to remove potential fire hazards. A good start.

Society is centre stage once more

A PPLAUSE please for the members of Peterborough Operatic and Dramatic Society (Pods), who can take a bow after winning a second national award for a stage production. Pods, who got a gong for Fiddler on the Roof, scored another winner with Jesus Christ Superstar. Good reason for an encore, surely.

Letters



"INCREASED FARES": Cllr

The 'free bus' scheme's flaws

IT was gratifying to see that Gordon Brown recognised the flaws in his "free" bus scheme for pensioners and agreed to change it in two years.

I am sure that Whittlesey pensioners would now like to know what he is going to do to compensate them in the meantime for the increased fares they are going to suffer every time they take the bus into Peterborough.

COUNCILLOR MARTIN CURTIS
county councillor for Whittlesey
North District/town councillor,
Kingsmoor ward,
Eastrea Road,
Whittlesey

You can't travel before 9.30am

I FEEL that I must make a comment about this wonderful idea of "free" buses for the elderly!

It has already been commented on in *The ET* about that the passes can't be used until after 9.30am. And now, we can't get to places such as King's Lynn without paying the full fare.

These are the sort of journeys we looked forward to, and include trips to Wisbech and even Market Deeping.

Now to get to an early appointment at the Edith Cavell Hospital, instead of a half-day rider for £1.35 it is going to cost £2.15 to go from Sheepwalk and back!

RALPH INCE Sheepwalk, Bretton, Peterborough

The National

Dec

PETERBOROUGH City (PCC) has recently obje establishment of a Glot (GO) sustainable resour cling facility (SRRF) that ice the Peterborough re objection was on the git runs counter to various and development policies.

This decision is a sta PCC that there is no ro development plans for that will allow Peterbon the first city in the worl 100 per cent recycling ery of its waste.

It means that the am residents have to spen management will incre reduce, as would be th the SRRF up and runni that, each year, the fac delayed, waste capabi ating enough electricit 235,000 homes with 70 this power being rene continue to be sent to consequently, Peterbo not have access to mo 300,000 tonnes of high building materials, inc enough roofing tile for homes the facility pro

It also means that lowill not have access to market for their crop recycling opportunities acids and waste oils of the statement of the statem

The decision by PC officer recommendate object to our propose ment will cause a delect. The basis of object from compelling. This cost the residents of hundreds of thousand

The Grand National t Saturday. It's another de at which there is a risk will die. The racing indu the number of horses wh each year, and perpetua of the "harmless flutter