

Letters



Lost horizons

Sir,
Re Post Office – Computer Says No (In the Back, Eye 1298)

Thank you for publishing the above article in your latest issue. I am one of the unfortunate people that has been caught up in this and like others Post Office have ruined mine and my wife's lives.

This has been going on for 3 years in my case. As you rightly suggest in your piece Post Office are not accountable to anyone other than the only shareholder which is the Government. My current MP and previous MP both have tried to investigate this matter but have come up against a brick wall which is Post Office.

You are treated like rubbish by them. They answer to no one. So far this has cost me a small fortune but with Shoosmiths help hopefully they will be bought to book and this will stop the same thing happening to future subpostmasters and mistresses.

I know there are others in the same situation but are too scared to say anything as they are worried that they will be shut down by Post Office.

Once again many, many thanks for this article.

I will not give my name as I am one of the cases that you mention and don't want to jeopardise my case without reference to Shoosmiths first.

ANON,

Via email.

Sir,
The Post Office takes meticulous care to ensure the Horizon computer system in branches nationwide is fully accurate at all times (Private Eye, In the Back, 1298). We do this because public money is entrusted to the Post Office and our customers and subpostmasters rightly expect the Post Office to fully account for every penny. We have full confidence in the Horizon system.

There has been a number of cases involving a small fraction of the Post Office network where court action has been taken over missing sums of public money. The courts have consistently upheld the Post Office position that the Horizon system is accurate and reliable. When former subpostmasters have been convicted of false accounting and/or theft, it is, of course, the courts that have convicted, not the Post Office. In some cases, the subpostmaster pleaded guilty; in others, the Post Office had to provide robust evidence otherwise the cases would have failed.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE YOUNG,
Chief Operating Officer, Post Office.

Via email.

Court out

Sir,
"In The Back" (Eye 1298) featured a story headed "Computer Says No" and says the Post Office is the only body to run its own prosecutions in the UK. Errant nonsense!

Walk into any magistrates court around the country and you will see prosecutions by The Environment Agency, Department of Work and Pensions, Dept. of Business Innovation & Skills to name but many of the bodies that regularly prosecute their own cases. Oh ... and HMRC still do prosecute their own cases.

Yours,
JOHN STORER,
Benington, Boston.

O'Boulez bowled over

Sir,
As one of the "thuggish perpetrators" of the pro-Palestinian protest at the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) Prom on September 1 (Music and Musicians, Eye 1298), may I counsel your sensitive readers against listening to the rendering of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" to be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vqEEh-9JP4>, as thuggishly performed during the aforementioned concert.

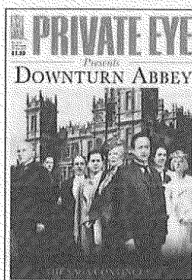
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Naturally no sane person could suggest that interfering with the high-minded enjoyment of concert goers could ever be justified, least of all for the sake of insinuating that an institution such as the IPO had any links whatsoever with the cuddly Israeli state or its lovable army. Those "special concerts for IDF soldiers at their outposts" mentioned on the IPO website must be a typo.

Yours sincerely,
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Thuggish Jewish primary school teacher, aged 58 and three quarters,

Woodford Green, Essex.

Lookalike



Daily Mirror



Private Eye

Sir,
Today's front page of the Daily Mirror (6 October 2011) bears a remarkable resemblance to the front cover of Private Eye, issue 1275, of 12 November 2010. I think we should be told.

Yours etc,
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Via email.

Flak attack

Sir,
Re: Salisbury Review (Letters, Eye 1298). Poor old Piloti seems to catch flak even when he gets his facts right. The development of Salisbury Market Square is definitely NOT supported by the market traders as stated by Richard Walters. A poll found a large majority against it. There is absolutely no grounds to suggest small traders are in favour of it and the Library was only mentioned as being built elsewhere after some locals mysteriously seemed to want it kept in its present central position. And the trees will not be replaced, as 34 trees are to be taken away and replaced by 25. This number was increased from 17 after more locals protested. The Save Our Trees petition has just passed the 10,000 mark. You can read the full story on www.saveoursalisburytrees.co.uk.

Yours,
MALCOLM WILKINSON,

Via email.

By Tim Gardam
Radio 4's God in China

BBC News online

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Hancock



Strauss-Kahn

Sir,
Are they related?

PAUL BRIDGE,

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Getting the wind up

Sir,
When you refer to fossil fuel energy being "cheap" ("Keeping the Lights On", In The Back, Eye 1298) you seem to be following the same fallacious thinking as the ultra-short-termist markets, ignoring the science which tells us that current prices for carbon-based fuels utterly fail to price in their genuine costs to the future of our society. While there may indeed be those – in your words, "vested 'green' interests" – who stand to make money from a move towards renewable energy, they pale into insignificance in comparison to the ranked corporate forces whose vested interests are such that they have invested millions in spreading mis-founded doubt about the risks of climate change. I hope that in future you include a proper assessment of such risks when commenting on energy issues.

Apart from that (and your casual racism towards women of Asian origin) keep up the good work!

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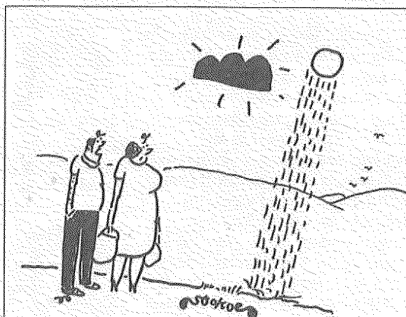
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Sir,
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All in all an authoritative and well balanced addition to the debate on supplying the country's future energy needs in a sustainable manner.

Yours faithfully,
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"This is very strange weather"

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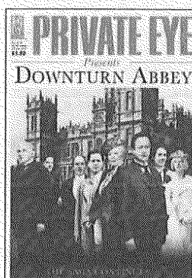
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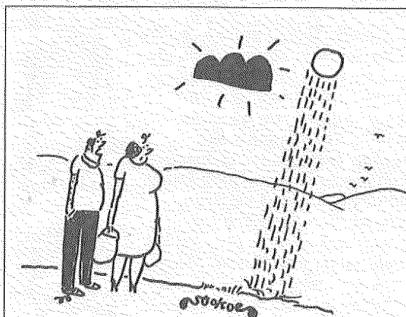
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