

follow if Tesco does submit plans has not even started.

As the article went on to say, many people at the meeting on Monday, February 5 at the Nailers expressed deep reservations about the scheme.

This debate has a long way to run, and the outcome is by no means a certainty.

Also; in response to the "Have you got a view on the Tesco development or the new bypass for the town?" prompt in the February 7 edition.

Please be clear; a Belper bypass is not being proposed.

The Belper bypass is (supposed to be) the A38.

What is being proposed is a 'relief road'.

Whether or not 'Tesco access road' would be a better description is something your readers may wish to ponder on.

David Jones  
Bridge Street  
Belper

## Passionate about care

Madam,

As an organisation, Milford Care group is passionate about providing the best care for residents, and meal times are certainly no exception.

As a local care home manager who takes pride in serving nutritious and freshly made home cooked food, I continue to be horrified by the reports which keep appearing in the press about care homes (and the NHS) 'starving their residents'.

How do homes continue to operate when such an important part of their service is so poor?

Do residents recognise the food is poor?...or the staff?...or the visitors?...

If so, how do the homes deal with it, or don't they?

Our feedback from recently conducted

surveys with residents confirms that in our homes within Milford Care we excel in this area and clients have actually booked rooms on the reputation of 'the grub being good here!'.

We take pride in purchasing local and fresh quality products from reputable suppliers and our residents are involved in menu choices and decision making.

For a carer to spend one to one time with a resident to ensure that they consume a good, solid meal, and that they are also afforded the time during that meal to reminisce or converse all adds

to the residents' wellbeing, to quote a 96 year old lady today: "They are so kind, the food is a miracle."

A survey of residents weights from admission to three months later also confirms to us that our ethos on food is benefiting residents' health and wellbeing.

Food and mealtimes for many residents is the highlight of the day and it is vital that we get it right.

Sharon Price  
Manager  
Milford House Care Home  
Milford  
Belper

## midweekmessage

IT was St Valentine's Day on Wednesday – a day that seems to retain an evergreen freshness.

Traditionally this was believed to be the day that birds began their mating for the springtime to come.

There may be an even more ancient pagan background to this day too.

Quite how St Valentine – an early martyr of unknown date prior to the mid-4th Century – came to be associated with all the lover's trysts and teasing cards sent this day, God only knows.

Pope Benedict, in his first encyclical letter God is Love (Deus caritas est), speaks to a world which is often confused about love.

Refreshingly, he doesn't denigrate erotic love.

He shows how it is an authentic love, a gift from God, and can open us to the experience of God himself.

Human sexuality and mysticism are not to be divorced from each other.

He also maintains that our erotic desires need to be restrained if we are to fulfil the purpose God has for us and to love with a love worthy of human beings.

The whole discussion is excellent and timely – you can read for yourself on the Vatican website.

This week is also National Marriage Week (February 11 to 18).

The institution of marriage is widely regarded as in a state of crisis.

Yet it is foundational to our society and most people recognise the blessings and strength which it can bring.

As a lifetime venture marriage needs not only erotic love to get the relationship going, but other types of supporting loves too – friendship and that loyal, disinterested, forgiving, nurturing love known by the Greek word agape.

St Paul describes it best in First Corinthians chapter 13.

As we mature in our loving, it is these qualities we come to prize the most – without devaluing the gift from God of sexual attraction.

Father Michael Kirkham  
Catholic Parish of Our Lady of  
Perpetual Succour  
Belper