Your letters

You give us your comments on what you've read in Which?

Plants for children

Which?, March 07, p76 I was interested in your piece on house plants, and in particular the question on which are suitable for children. I think one of the best choices is a *Hippeastrum*, often sold as amaryllis. Children can plant the bulb themselves, see it grow daily, and are thrilled with the huge, colourful flowers. My grandchildren have become interested in all sorts of plants because we started them off with an amaryllis each. PAT PERCIVAL. CHESHIRE

WHICH? SAYS Our colleagues on *Gardening Which?* agree. Amaryllis can flower in just eight weeks – another reason why they're a good choice.

Wake up to the truth

Which?, February 07, p37 I must disagree with your verdict on the Nap Alarm as a 'gimmick we can do without'. I'm prone to nodding off during lectures and there's nothing worse than suddenly coming to and realising the lecturer has got his beady eye directly on me. I'm sure some of my friends, whom I note have the same problem, would agree with me. BILL HALL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Bill: Nap Alarm would be useful

Organic food

Which?, February 07, p17 I enjoyed your article on organic box schemes, and including a report on how to grow your own veg on p22 of the same issue was a great touch.

I'd like to suggest another way to source organic food. At the Soil Association we're working with consumers to develop buying groups. These make direct contact with farmers and growers. The obvious benefit is that you really know where your food comes from – but you also get better value from organic producers. It requires consumers to work together but it's interesting to meet like-minded people. The project is just starting and we're looking for people to work with. If any of your members are interested, they can get in touch through www.whyorganic.org. MICHAEL MARSTON, LOCAL LINKS OFFICER, SOIL ASSOCIATION

Cholesterol testing

Which?, February 07, p5 I think there's another drawback to high-street cholesterol testing that you didn't mention in your piece. Our local surgery insists that people shouldn't eat or drink for a period before the test in order to obtain a true reading. The surgery carries out the test first thing in the morning on the understanding that patients haven't had anything to eat or drink since 9pm the previous evening. DOUG VANGEN, KENT



Storing a will

Which?, February 07, p26 In the question-and-answer section in your article on making a will, you say that wills can be stored for as little as £12 a year. However, if you visit www. hmcourts-service.gov.uk/ cms/1218.htm, you'll see that you can pay a one-off fee of £15 to have a will stored in the government's own strongroom.

When my husband died last year it took just 48 hours to retrieve his will from there. Few people seem to have heard of this service, but those I've told agree that it's a real bargain. ANGELA BIBB, SURREY

GET IN TOUCH

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How to improve your chance of getting an appointment

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