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## TV's Snow backs appeal for night shelter

CHANNEL 4 TV journalist Jon Snow has spoken out in support of a call by the head of an Islington night shelter for private developers to "look into their hearts" and help the growing army of rough sleepers, writes Peter Gruner.

Sheila Scott, chief executive and co-founder of Shelter from

the Storm in King's Cross, warned that with so many single people needing emergency accommodation, she is fast running out of space.

Ms Scott and Mr Snow met on Tuesday night at the opening of the new Homes for the Homeless exhibition at the Geffrye Museum, Old Street,

which looks back at life for the poor in Victorian times.

Mr Snow, chairman of the New Horizons young homeless centre at King's Cross, said that being without somewhere to live was a massive problem for many people in the capital.

"Anything that can be done to increase the amount of

accommodation in London has got to be welcomed," he said.

Mother-of-five Ms Scott said her centre is, on average, having to turn away up to 20 single homeless people each night.

"We have room for just 44 guests per night," she said. "And

■ Turn to page 2

## Transport chiefs are forced into Crossrail 2 U-turn after backlash

# IT'S VICTORY IN BATTLE TO SAVE ANGEL'S CO-OP



New N1 Centre is off to a flyer! [page 2](#)

EXCLUSIVE by PETER GRUNER and KOOS COUVÉE

A PEOPLE power campaign has forced the government into a U-turn over controversial plans to demolish Angel's Co-op building.

The Grade II-listed landmark – the site of the 16th-century Angel Inn – on the corner of Islington High Street and Pentonville Road, was threatened by proposals for a railway station as part of the Crossrail 2 project.

The scheme was revealed by the *Tribune* in December, but it is no longer part of Transport for London's (TfL) plans.

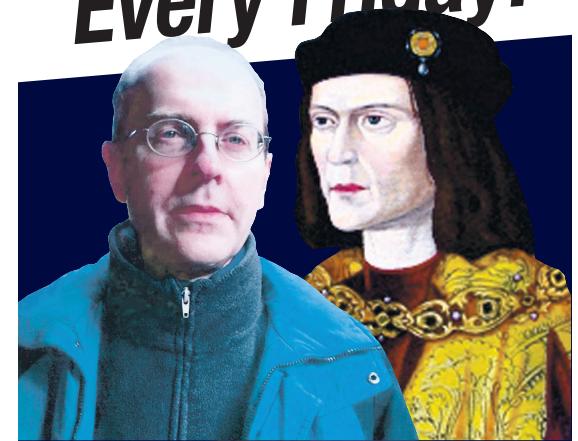
A row of important historic buildings located next door to the Co-op are still earmarked for demolition, including the white-turreted former Angel Picture Theatre, built in 1913, which is currently occupied by a Starbucks café. The listed building was one of the earliest purpose-built cinemas in Britain.

Outrage over the whole area being turned into a "massive building site" swelled after the *Tribune* revealed the scale of the Crossrail proposals. Save the Angel campaigners argued that the Co-op should be saved and the Royal Bank of Scotland building opposite be demolished to make way for the new station instead. Yesterday (Thursday), a TfL spokesman confirmed that planners had conceded to their demands.

He said: "Following feedback from residents we are looking at potential plans that could see

■ Turn to page 2

## Every Friday!



### Richard's Archway relative who made coffin fit for a king

– See page 3



### A special message for Henry Hicks campaign

– See page 5

### GP surgery under threat after docs decide to quit

– See page 7

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Bruce Air Head entertains the crowds

## Angel delight New identity for centre

### ■ Page 1 picture

Dressed in their Angel wings and raising their voices in song, children at Hungerford Primary School (pictured on page 1) helped launch a new "shopping district", writes Alina Polianskaya.

The transformation of Angel Central, formerly the N1 Centre, was unveiled this week with a day full of angelic activities.

Highlights included a show by Bruce Air Head, a bizarre show featuring a man and a 6ft balloon, who has previously appeared on the Graham Norton

Show. Displays from the Gliding Angel Performers and some cheesy tunes from the Club de Fromage DJs kept crowds entertained throughout the day.

The pupils from the school in Hungerford Road were praised for their work and treated to a free lunch by a restaurant in the centre. General manager of Wagamama Ania Gardjaura-Starczewska said: "Their little angel voices, singing angel songs and wearing their handmade angel wings were so heart warming."

Organisers decided it was time to give the centre "a proper identity," having found there was a lot of confusion about its name.

# Co-op saved from Crossrail 2

### ■ from page 1

the bank demolished and using the site as a work depot."

St Peter's ward councillor Martin Klute, who first raised concerns about the proposed developments, told the Tribune: "With the demolition of the RBS building we stand a much better chance of delivering some regeneration to the area. But the demolition of a whole row of listed buildings is just vandalism. These plans are drawn up by railways engineers who don't have any interest in the cultural heritage of the area at all."

Cllr Klute said TfL should do all works at the "huge" RBS site, including the building of a new station, and leave the listed buildings on the other side of the road alone. He added: "These plans mean that the heart of the town centre will be ripped out and the Angel will be turned into a building site for 10 years."

Islington South and Finsbury MP Emily Thornberry said she was pleased that the Co-op building had been saved but said there was still a long way to go.

"I'm in favour of improvements to Lon-

don's rail infrastructure but I won't allow Angel to be ruined," she said. "There are still a number of important buildings under threat. However, I'm glad that the RBS building could go. People feel it is an eyesore. It's a hangover from the 1980s and looks like something in which Darth Vader would reside. It's completely out of character with the rest of the area and no one will shed tears if it is pulled down."

Zena Sullivan, who launched a Save Our Angel petition with hundreds of signatories following a packed public

meeting earlier this year, said she would prefer that there was no development at all.

"They shouldn't touch any of our buildings," she said. "However, we are happy to lose the RBS building."

Plans for a new station will now be part of a new consultation which will be launched in late autumn. It is expected to be built on the western side of Upper Street, between the Co-op building and White Lion Street.

Under government plans published this week Crossrail 2's route will now include Islington, Westminster, Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Merton, Wandsworth, and Kensington and Chelsea.

It will run through a tunnelled section from Wimbledon in the south to New Southgate and Tottenham Hale in the north. It will serve stations including Tooting Broadway, Clapham Junction, King's Road Chelsea, Victoria, Tottenham Court Road, Euston, St Pancras, Angel, Dalston Junction, Seven Sisters, Turnpike Lane and Alexandra Palace.

London Mayor Boris Johnson welcomed the



Cllr Martin Klute



The Co op building

fact that the route has now been safeguarded.

He said: "This is a major step forward in our mission to deliver a brand-new railway line for the capital. This essential infrastructure project, proposed many years ago as the Chelsea-Hackney line, is now taking shape and becoming a reality.

"Not only will this vital rail link improve capacity on trains into and out of London, it will provide a major boost for jobs, new homes and economic growth beyond the capital, too."

But Cllr Klute added: "I don't see the benefits of a regional trainline for people in Islington. A light rail metro line would be better."

In Camden, where 70 homes are under threat from Crossrail 2, and in Westminster, where the Curzon Soho cinema has been earmarked to become a ticket hall, there were no changes to the plans.

# 'Build shelters' plea to developers

### ■ from page 1

that's often a bit of a squeeze."

The shelter has been converted out of a warehouse but in a few years' time it too will be needed for development and the charity will need alternative accommodation.

Ms Scott added: "Everywhere you look in Islington developers are putting up private luxury flats. Many of my guests work but never in a million years will they ever be able to afford to buy or rent a private dwelling, and they are rarely if ever eligible for social housing."

"Wouldn't it be nice if the borough's developers, who are going to make huge profits, contributed to a large purpose-built night shelter, perhaps based in King's Cross? It might take the strain off other agencies in the capital providing emergency accommodation."

Ms Scott described her homeless guests as the "new working poor". Her shelter is only available from the hours of 6pm to 8am.

"Many of our clients work shifts and will have to spend hours when they are not working, wandering the streets or sitting in a library to keep warm," she said.

"Why shouldn't the developers be asked to



Sheila Scott and Jon Snow

club together to build a homeless shelter with decent accommodation, showers, a day centre and a garden where people can relax away from the strain? It could become a good example to other cities."

Guests at her shelter, which has been operating for almost 10 years, are given free dinner, bed and breakfast each day. They are also offered counselling and helped to look for work.

The shelter has a strong job partnership arrangement with takeaway food giants Pret A Manger. Many people from the shelter have been employed by the firm.

The charity is always looking for more volunteers prepared to stay overnight once a week or once a fortnight from 9pm to 6.30am.

For more information go to [www.sfts.org.uk](http://www.sfts.org.uk) or call 020 7697 9569.

## First female police chief

ISLINGTON'S first female police chief was sworn in this week as the new Detective Superintendent.

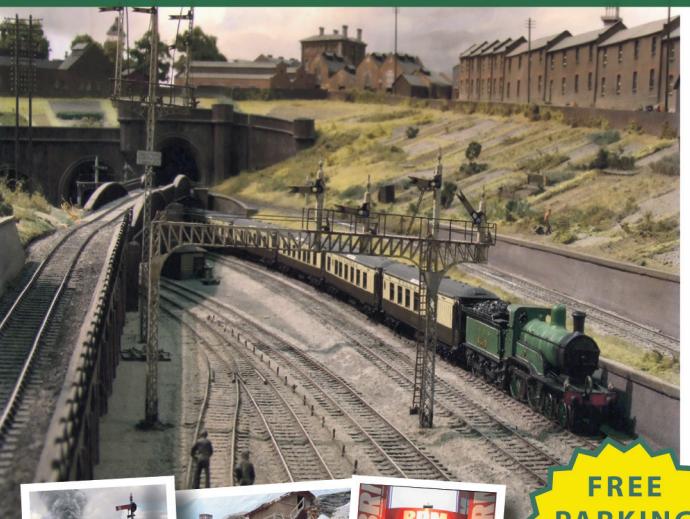
Catherine Roper replaces Gerry Campbell who has run the boroughs

police force for two and a half years.

Supt Roper previously worked in the SO1 Specialist Protection unit providing protection to high ranking politicians and public officials.

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