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Cranfield Express

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'Get your act together' – PC

Cranfield parish councillors say the university 'failed to get its act together' over an application to build a high tech plasma 'reactor' unit which sparked emission worries.

Last week mid Beds councillors unanimously turned down proposals for the £5 million unit to go ahead on the campus. Elected members feared pollution and leaks. The parish council had earlier said it needed more information, less technically presented, before it could back the project.

The university has reacted angrily to the decision saying researchers are 'devastated'.

The reactor would operate at temperatures of 20,000 degrees centigrade as part of a process of researching how hazardous waste could be converted into inert material. The planning application also sought a two storey building to house the reactor and a chimney to remove gases.

But Pcllr Delise Ball, at the parish council meeting last week, said the university should have approached the parish council and made a presentation about the development.

"They could have explained there was a million to one risk and these are the contingencies and this is how it would work. It seems to me they just put gobbledeygook in front of us. I can only understand half of it.

"If we have 'lost' the university a £5 million project it is because the university had not got their act together beforehand."

Planning committee chair Pcllr Alan Bastable said the parish council in its original consideration of the



Cranfield's School of industrial and manufacturing science, which wants to develop the advanced plasma reactor

application was not saying 'no', it was simply asking about the poisonous emissions.

"The application (to Mid Beds) was deferred and the university had a fortnight in which to prepare itself. I have to say I do not think it has been terribly well handled. The council learned nothing during the university's three minute presentation at the planning committee meeting.

"If I was going for a £5 million contract in my business life, I would put a hell of a lot more work into it than this."

In a statement the university said: "The proposed plasma research centre was a £5 million collaboration

between Cranfield and other leading universities creating a £20 million investment in Bedfordshire.

"The academic researchers are devastated that the proposal has been rejected for a series of objections out of proportion with the benefits.

"It may be that another university will establish the centre, taking the investment away from the region. It is of equal likelihood that once again a significant British research institute will be lost.

"The facilities safety procedures, which were given as a reason for objection, would have been far in excess of those required."

• **More parish council news page 3**

Keeping the village in touch

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Extra copies

We regret we must charge 20p for an extra copy of *Cranfield Express* to cover the production cost.

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Writing magic at Holywell

Harry Potter and his magic seem to get everywhere and Cranfield is no exception. At present, however, we cannot confirm that Holywell is to be renamed Hogwells with Mrs Whitwam teaching defence against the dark arts. J K Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books better watch out, though. There are some budding writers at Holywell who might just out-do Ms

Rowling eventually. Graham Newton aged 13 and Claire Jenkins aged 12 have been shortlisted for the Disney Channel's 'Incredible story' competition. Other Holywell pupils did well in Kempston Rotary Club's annual writing competition. They are: Jenny Carson, Zoe Briggs, Nathan Brewer, Megan Davies, and Sarah Chamberlain

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What's on

- **Wed August 2nd:** Cranes Quiz Night, 8pm at The Swan
- **Wed August 9th** Cranfield Business Club at the Uni Social Club and every second Wednesday in the month
- **Thur August 17th** Cranfield Royal British Legion. Guest speaker on astronomy. Tel 750469 for info
- **Sat 19th August:** 10:30am Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy Sale
- **Thur 27th August:** Give it a Go! - with dance. 10am to 12pm. Village hall
- **Tues 12th September:** Wharley End W.I. 7.30pm. Lydia Jones is talking about the "Life Cycle of a Wardrobe" at the Stafford Cripps building, Cranfield University. All are welcome. *[Does that include Tony Blair? Ed.]*
- **Fri September 15th** Cranfield Royal British Legion autumn social at the University Social Club. 750469 or call at 71 Bedford Road

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Steve Lloyd on 751495
(Transport can be arranged)

• **Thur 17th July:** 8.00 pm. Acorn Playgroup quiz night, the football club

**Cranfield After School Club
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For a September start, the Cranfield After School club needs to recruit:

- a **Manager** to organise, plan and run the After School Club. Five days a week, term time only, £7.00 per hour.
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Phone: Sandy Wood 751541

Cranfield Methodist Church

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ALL WELCOME
For further information contact:

Rev. Paul Chesworth on 751886
or **Peter Meadows on 750587**

Cranfield Royal British Legion is looking for new recruits, any age, any service, regular or ex-National Service. If you are interested or would like further details please contact Ray Kingston on 750469.

Allez via Calais

By popular request I have booked a day trip to Calais for Saturday October 7th. We will visit Calais where you can purchase cigarettes and/or do some shopping, then to Cite Europe to the hypermarket for your Christmas 'booze' etc. Leave Cranfield approx. 6.30 am, price approx. £24.50 - more details in the September issue. If you fancy this outing please inform me as soon as possible. £10 deposit required with all bookings. Joan Last 750738

[Editorial note: We are reminded of the words of the song "Cigarettes and whisky and wild, wild, women, they'll drive you crazy they'll drive you insane."]

Website a great hit

Just a quick note to comment on the website - it really is first class, and contains much more than I thought it would. As and when I get my own website built, I'll include a link!

Colin Powell

Bye-bye babysitting horror stories



After a few last minute adjustments to your apparel or hair, you're ready for the grand evening out.

The baby sitter has arrived and the kids are already in their pyjamas. You can close the front door and forget about all that...or can you?

Childcare is a serious business and a sitter has a big responsibility during the few hours you are out on the town. How can you be sure that they will cope with an emergency, an injury or just a child who is acting up?

One route to re-assurance is to ask if they have the British Red Cross baby sitting certificate. 'The basics of babysitting' is a course designed by the charity to train young people in the arts of good childcare and crisis management.

Often it is available at school as a lunch time or after-school option. It is well worth checking out if a potential sitter has done the course.

Amy Brown, now aged 17, from Mill Road did one hour a week in lunch breaks while at school in Bedford. The nurses, who led the course were supported by guests who came in to talk about particular topics.

Those topics range from the rights of families and babysitters to accident prevention, first aid, fire in the home, infant care and 'toys and activities'. There is regular assessment to ensure that the young person has absorbed the training and knowledge included in the pack.

The information is thoughtfully set out with graphic illustrations. One sketch depicts a kitchen and invites the student to identify the potential risks to the two toddlers exploring the environment.

But there is also material on how to deal with children, treat them well and win their confidence if they are distressed.

"Every week we discussed a different topic," says Amy. "It could be what to do if there was a fire, how to get in touch with parents or how to talk to a child. It is also important for parents to realise that 14 is the minimum age for baby sitting."

"It is worthwhile doing it not just for baby-sitting but for the skills it gives you - au pairing abroad for instance. The Louise Woodward case, for instance, is an example of the need for good training."

Amy stresses that the course is not just about firefighting and making up bottles. There is material on dealing with the more controversial aspects of modern day child care.

This includes what to do if you suspect a child is being abused without jumping to conclusions.

There are lessons, too, for baby sitters, about being gentle themselves.

"We were trained to get down to the children's own level, when they were unhappy," said Amy. "You have to talk to them about things that interest them."

She really enjoyed the course and would recommend it to anyone if they get the chance to do it.

The Babysitter's Handbook The essential guide for everyone entrusted with babies and young children. £ 9.99, ISBN-0-7513-0217-1, British Red Cross Raquel Dixon, Customer Services Co-ordinator Purchasing and Supply 020 7201 5033

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Cranes Pre-School would like to say goodbye and best wishes to: Emma Flynn, En-Jia Liu, Ciaran Monohan, Daniel Palmer, Rosie Hyndman, Jack Shayler, Emily Turner, Victoria Moore, Maisey Rees, Hollie Blunt, Shannan McLaughlin and Stephen Terrell, who are all leaving Pre-School this month to start at the Lower School in September.

Sarah and Margaret would like to wish all the children a happy summer holiday and they both look forward to seeing the rest of the children, along with some new faces, in September.

Parish Council July 19th

Houses up, people down

Cranfield's population might decline even if more houses are built in the future. This is because of demographic trends such as more single-occupancy, said District Cllr Ken Matthews. If the population does fall or stay static it could mean Cranfield losing one of its three district councillors in a forthcoming local government boundary review. See page 7 for more details.

Traffic calming

Pcllr John Saville reported on the site meeting with PC Jackie Johnston about traffic calming. The only bit she considered unsafe was the bus stop at the Cross Keys. She offered to attend a public meeting 'if the village really thought everything should be ripped up'.

Lower school play area

Pcllr Peter Henson reported on the decision to turn down a request from the lower school for help in resurfacing the play area. It was, he said, 'not a good use of parish council funds'.

Multi-use games area

Pcllrs Phil Bates and Delise Ball attended an 'encouraging' meeting at the middle school to discuss the practicalities of siting the Muga there. Pcllr Bates said the school wanted to deal with issues such as security, access and administration. Mid Beds council had agreed to send a planner draw up a plan for siting the facility.

But Pcllr Ball warned of the need for urgency: "We have two and half months to get this down on paper and agreed otherwise we will lose the money

"The governors will call an emergency meeting to look at the plans as soon as they are available."

The bells, the bells...

Yes they are coming back to the village church, in the autumn, according to correspondence

received by the parish council. It is understood the village bell ringers want to make people aware of the extent and timing of the bell ringing so as not to annoy residents. Pcllr Delise Ball said she was 'delighted' the bells were returning - the silence without the bells was often louder.

"For the first month we will be woken up but you get used to it. If you move into a house near a church you should expect bells."

Sculpture trail

Artists have been appointed for the sculpture trail sites at Wootton, Shelton and Holywell schools.

Rave on

Parish councillors heard reports of the recent 'illegal rave' at Marston Gate. Mid Beds and the police are working through the 'community safety partnership' on 'controlled raves' including a possible one on the Woburn estate. To complain about noise see the 24 hour hotline number under 'environmental health' in Yellow Pages.

Brogborough

The council was asked to consider the 'proposed odour scheme' from Brogborough landfill site.

Cross Keys parking

Pcllr Ball pointed that the new landlord at the Cross keys would consider withdrawing parking facilities at the pub during school hours if children were not properly supervised.

Dress sense

A dead heat for the person of the meeting award this month between John Saville (last month's sole winner) for his 'Everglades National Park' tee shirt with handsome 'gator and Phil Bates's eye catching tie with its mesmeric matrix effect.

Next meeting

September :Committees, 6th, full council, 20th.

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How we made it in 24 hours ... (nearly)

Last month, three intrepid members of the church family of St Peter and St Paul, Cranfield attempted to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, the highest mountains in Scotland, England, and Wales, within 24 hours. This is an account of their adventures. The second part follows next month

Friday morning ready and waiting for the transport to arrive, I got ready for 11 am, 11.30 no one came, was I correct or did we say 12 noon? Sure enough at noon Andrew and Trevor arrived.

So off we set to Northampton to pick up our 'volunteer' driver for the weekend, Paul, a colleague of Andrew's. After getting lost in the one way back streets of Northampton we eventually found the correct house. We set off up the M1. All went well until we got to spaghetti junction when we hit the usual hold up. No further problems, but busy all the way up M6 and into Scotland.

Trevor had arranged that we would probably arrive at our Fort William hotel at about 8 pm, it was obvious by now we would not make this. At Hamilton services we made a brief stop and phoned to say we would be late.

Onto the motorway system around Glasgow, road works, delays, so we decided to go through the city centre instead, a good job we had Paul a Scot, and Andrew an ex resident of

down as by this time there was very little traffic. Down into the forbidding gloom of Glen Coe, it was getting dark, and surprise, surprise, it had started raining. Into Fort William and looking for our hotel, "just before this round about" said Trevor, too late, we had gone by. Into the hotel, four rooms all in different parts of the hotel and ten minutes later into the bar for a drink, then to bed.

We all arrived for breakfast on time and had all we were offered, as we would not eat again properly for some time.

Nine a.m., we made our way up Glen Nevis to our starting point at the foot of the mountain. A lot of other walkers about, some already coming off the mountain. Apparently they were on the same trip as ourselves and we were to see some of them later on the other mountains. We got kitted up and debated whether to don waterproofs, decided against it as it was only drizzle at the time. One couple who were setting off just in front of us wore shorts! Said goodbye to Paul who was to remain with the car



The rugged crags beckon towards Scafell

had stopped for drinks, when we stopped later they passed us, this pattern was to be repeated several times on the way up. On past the Red Burn, but by now it was raining properly so we had put on our wet gear.

We overtook several groups with their leaders, and some coming down. The cloud had now descended and visibility was poor. Eventually we reached the summit plateau, crossed the snow field to the summit. Visibility nil, with wind, rain, and very cold.

We asked the couple with the shorts to take a photo of us all (they had by now put on their waterproofs including trousers). Time for a quick mars bar, put on gloves and hats and then set off down.

John was leading and started a quick pace, with jogging where possible, and fast walking otherwise. Lots of people coming up the mountain, literally seemed like hundreds, half way down weather improved slightly, better visibility and back to drizzle. Gave Paul a quick ring to tell him to meet us in half an hour, but not sure his phone was receiving due to the terrain.

Just before the bottom we met Paul coming up to meet us. Back to the car, we had done remarkably well with a time of 4.5 hours. We were very pleased with this. Off with the wet top gear, also off with wet trousers and shirts for some dry ones. Put the wet stuff into the boot, a quick drink, and phone call to let our wives know we were back down off mountain no 1, and off we set towards the Lake District. Time about 1.45 Saturday.

Traffic was busy all the way from Fort William, very slow, and onto the

road along side Loch Lomond. We were stuck behind a German tour bus all the way. As anyone who has driven this road will know, it is very narrow and twisty. Every time the bus met something coming the other way it stopped or went exceedingly slow. We did not make good progress.

Back through Glasgow which was very busy with slow moving traffic. Eventually into Carlisle, and along the coast towards Sellafield. The rain had not ceased all the way and was by now getting heavier.

The roads in this part of the country are narrow with lots of bends, again we were behind several cars all proceeding cautiously due to the conditions. A lot of time lost on this journey, we were now well behind schedule instead of being in front.

Found the small road leading to Wasdale Head, to the car park at the foot of Scafell Pike. Several other cars and Mini buses parked, some of the groups we had seen on Ben Nevis. Put back on the wet clothes, gloves, hats. By now it was very heavy rain and the gloom was descending. Time about 7pm. The original target was to walk up this mountain and get half way back before it got dark.

Started up Scafell Pike. This mountain is a different proposition to Ben Nevis. The path is ill defined and it is very rough walking with lots of rocks and boulders about, streams to ford and some boggy places. It is also steeper in comparison. We anticipated a time of four hours.

• **And how did they get on? The conclusion of this mad escapade will be in the September issue**



Looking down from Snowdon in north Wales

the area, to guide us or we would be lost again.

Along the windy narrow roads past Loch Lomond, we began to feel hungry and decided that we had better find somewhere to eat as by the time we arrived at Fort William every where would be closed. (They go to bed early in those parts.) Stopped at Little Chef at Tyndrum.

On again over Rannock Moor, and at last Paul was able to put his foot

and left him with a mobile phone so we could contact him prior to getting back off the mountain. Our target time we thought would be 5 to 6 hours up and back.

Up the first very steep section to join the main path, all getting hot and finding it very tough going.

I thought I will not be able to make this, but just kept going and it did get easier. On up the well worn path, we passed the couple with shorts who



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Cyclists of the world unite

Robert Nicholls exercises his right of reply on the great cycling debate

I was sufficiently encouraged by the 'fan' letters printed in the July issue after my article about cycling to the University to produce a further piece of purple prose. Fear not, this will be the last, at least on the subject of cycling, as I see no real future in trying to inflict my prejudices on all of you whose minds are already made up. Why attempt to confuse you further with the facts?

Anyway, it's extremely gratifying to think that an article which I wrote more or less off the cuff has caused at least one good soul heavily disguised as Mark Whitmore to think about the problem and come up with what on the face of it is a very good idea.

A cycling/jogging/walking path that completely rings the airfield would be a boon to villagers, university workers and students alike. There would be no need for it to pass 'inside' the control tower, as there already exists a perfectly acceptable set of footpaths outside the airfield fence in this area which allow access to the Technology Park (or whatever its latest incarnation is called) and link into the Uni campus.

They're not much used because it's a closed system and they don't actually go anywhere. With regard to Mark's suggestion that we should grab a digger and get started, unfortunately I am to digger driving as Mike Tyson is to Ikebana, or I would be out there under cover of darkness giving it a go. Can't we get any feedback on this idea from the Uni or Traffic Master? Hello, hello - is there anybody there?

I must confess the implications of the arrival of the Traffic Master HQ on the campus and the attendant increase in traffic had passed me by, and as I do let my children out on the roads on their bikes it is something I am rather concerned about. Indeed, one of them follows the same route to work at the Uni as me a bit later in the morning when the traffic is probably at its peak.

However, I think I should encourage Mark back into the saddle. After all, it only seems kinky the first couple of times, and one more bike is one less car. As far as your point about the planning permission business is concerned, Mark, I think it should be more of a sine qua non!

As you must all know by now, I am committed to cycling at every possible opportunity, so there's not much

chance of me giving anybody a lift in my slightly unreliable car. However, Mr Black Saab Man is welcome to a ride on my crossbar at any time. (Incidentally, he's been a pretty poor shot with those windscreen washers lately - any chance of someone giving his squirty bits a poke?)

Indeed, if demand for rides is sufficient, I might even consider investing in a tandem. If things really take off I could go for one of those dinky little trailer jobs which the more environmentally conscious biker hauls around (loaded with brown rice and beans). The rice and beans provide an interesting additional power source, I gather.

Mrs, Miss, Ms or Mr Evison-Jowett correctly relays the background behind the closing of the Merchant Lane crossing. I suspect it may not have been quite as dramatic as related in the letter, more a case of an air traffic controller with the hump, a belligerent student pilot and a choked-off cyclist who decided to take the law into his own hands.

It was all such a long time ago now that the true circumstances are probably lost in the great air traffic archive in the sky. It is worth noting, however, that every scrap of traffic, including cars, buses, cyclists (and for all I know bullock carts as well) that visits Gibraltar is routed across the runway there. The aircraft using the Gibraltar runway are not restricted to Cranfield style puddle-jumpers either. We're talking grown up boys' toys and scheduled service type airliners here. It must be possible for us to solve our little local dilemma if they can do it there.

And finally, as they used to say on News at Ten (Aah, those were the days...Bong!) we come to the magnificent tirade from the lunatic who chose to withhold his name and address. Come off it, Gilbert, we all know it's you. Let me enlighten your life with a little Zen philosophy - 'Never lose an opportunity to shut up'. It was the mention of the horse muppets that gave you away. Next time I see you I'll do my damndest to catch your beak in my spokes, in spite of your high powered tuppenny-ha'penny microvan.

• Editorial note: Cyclists of the world unite - you have nothing to lose but your chains. This topic is now exhausted and we will be stir frying other issues for the foreseeable future.

Pre-School Assistant

Cranes pre-school are looking for an assistant to start in September. If you hold the relevant qualification or interested in studying whilst working at the Pre-School we would love to hear from you. Please contact Karen on: 01234 751725 for an application form. Closing date for applications is **Friday 11th August**.

Cranfield Lower School PTFA annual summer fete, raffle and penny mile report



Racing to get to the Lower School Fete

Cranfield Lower School's annual summer fete was a tremendous success, raising a record amount, over £1900 for the PTFA. This money will be donated to the school to help fund the new numeracy strategy.

The PTFA wants to congratulate everyone who helped organise the event including staff, parents and other volunteers who put in such hard work on the day.

Particular thanks go to many sponsors and donors to the raffle, which raised over £500. Thanks are also due to all the local shops and businesses which helped us collect pennies for our penny mile.

We managed to lay down a quarter mile in the afternoon, and at 4 PM still had a barrow-full left!! The total number of pennies collected was 59,259, which is about 6/7 mile worth.



Lower school kids are all ears

New styles and new facilities at Holywell go down well with all concerned

The Friday before half term, school held a mufti day in aid of Whizz-Kidz. The charity provides motorised wheelchairs, walking frames, specialist scooters to help disabled children become more independent.

The pupils paid an extra 25 p to vote for the most popular colour for Mrs Whitwam to dye her hair. The choices ranged from orange fizz, blue violet, raunchy red and magic magenta.

Magic magenta was the winner by a large majority, and this raised an extra £70. The hairdresser duly visited the school. When she left Mrs Whitwam was a new woman!

A big 'thank you' must go to the pupils and parents who have continuously supported fundraising and local companies who have sent donations. (Vision Blinds, Doug Yeeles,

Universal Motors, Soul Brothers, Building Partnership).

Official Opening

On Thursday 29th June Professor Hartley, vice chancellor of Cranfield University officially opened the art, science, design & technology areas at Holywell. The evening was a great success, with drinks, a buffet and musical entertainment.

The pupils demonstrated their skills in art, science, design and technology and the ceremony included speeches and a ribbon cutting, witnessed by special guests including staff, governors, local businesses and council members.

A plaque mounted outside commemorates the occasion, and states that the new areas are built "for our children's future"



Historic ramblings into Cranfield's past

A casual observer might have wondered what interest a brand new housing development could have held for the CLOGS historic ramble around Cranfield on 2 July, writes Margaret Rooney. The development on Wood End Road stands, as most people know, on the former Dagnell Electronics site, but before that it was the site of the gasworks, bothy and kitchen garden of Cranfield Court. Indeed, the original wall of the kitchen garden has been preserved and now partially encloses the new houses: this wall is clearly visible from Lodge Road. Part of the development is now named after a pre-Doomsday landlord of Cranfield, Ailwyn the Black.

This was one of several nuggets we turned up when we were panning for historical gold dust with Stephen Coleman, an expert on Cranfield history. The Court Road/Wood End/Lodge Road area is particularly rich in history.

The hardy band of ramblers set out from the original village green of Town End, near the village church and now much built over. Sites noted along the route included Berry Yard, where once stood Ramsey Abbey grange, the dovecote of Cranfield Court, the Lodge and more recent historical structures, concrete air raid



Memory banks: Stephen Coleman takes CLOGS ramblers on a trip into history

shelters, one of which is visible from Lodge Road.

It was a very warm afternoon: wise ramblers had come equipped with liquid refreshment. Others benefited from Ellen Hardwick's brief foray into her fridge for iced water as we wound our way down the High Street.

Another of our many stops was outside another modern complex, RGR: this stands on the site of a public house, The Crow, which burnt down

in 1916. Ever noticed or wondered why houses on that side of the High Street are set so far back off the road? We were startled to learn that the street at this point used to be about three times wider. 19th century enclosure narrowed the road and the land was allocated as front gardens. I dread to think of the traffic calming challenges today, had enclosure not happened.

The walk continued down the High Street, then turned towards the

Holywell and finished off back at Town End.

It was a most enjoyable afternoon and a wonderful form of exercise for anyone with an interest in history and exercise.

• **Stephen Coleman will be giving a talk on the history of Cranfield in October. Watch out in Cranfield Express for further details. For information about CLOGS, contact Angela Bucknall, 750421.**

Over parished or over here?

Local democracy doesn't excite many people, but new plans will affect how closely Mid Beds District Council listens to what you have to say

Cranfield is the second most over-represented ward on Mid Beds District Council - its official. It could mean the village going down to two councillors from three after the forthcoming 'periodic electoral review'.

Mid Beds has produced figures that predict that, on average, there will be one councillor for every 1,894 electors in the district by 2005. Cranfield will have one for every 1,284 - 32% below the norm. In comparison, Marston should have one councillor for every 2,307 voters - 22 per cent above the norm - while Flitwick West, one for every 2,691, a whopping 42% over.

Last month, the local government commission for England formally launched its review of these mathematical delights. They will go all over the country but will soon be coming to a parish near you.

Mid Beds currently has 53 councillors. It will eventually adjust that to anywhere between 50 and 55 which means between 2000 electors per councillor to 1,825.

The review could also alter which district council ward a parish should

be in. For instance re-allocating Salford to Aspley or Brogborough to Cranfield.

It can also propose changes to the number of members of a parish council and the parish wards that elect them. For instance Cranfield PC at present has two wards - the village electing 13 members and Wharley End electing two.

Now this all might sound like real 'anorak' stuff for local government obsessives. But there has been great difficulty in attracting candidates for parish in recent years. A smaller body, some would argue, would be more active and more easily filled.



If this meant parish councils were better supported and had a higher profile, local decision making would get a great boost.

The Commission is seeking local views and will then draw up draft proposals for change. These will then be further consulted on before any final decision is taken.

For more information contact the Commission by writing to the review manager (Bedfordshire), Local Government Commission for England, Dolphyn Court, Greta Turnstile, London EC1V 7JU.

Tel 020 7430 8400 or access the web site on www.lgce.gov.uk



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Announcements



HELEN AND COLIN RICHARDSON who were married on Saturday 10th June at the Swiss Garden, Old Warden. The reception was held at the Black Horse, Ireland. The happy couple honeymooned cruising the Greek Islands.

I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to Stacey, Hayley, David, Mum, Dad, Alison & Steven for the lovely birthday surprise. (I will get you all back for the photograph)

Janet Blair

THANK YOU: Gwen Edwards would like to thank friends and relatives who supported the coffee morning in aid of the Markman appeal (bowel cancer) which was a great success and raised £430.

CONGRATULATIONS to Katy and Mathew on their engagement. Lots of love from Mum & Dad, Jody & Jon.

NEW ARRIVAL of Holly Isabella, born July 18, 12:49pm to Gerald and Tracy Clark. **TOM & SANDRA SALISBURY.** Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary on August 14th. Have a lovely day. From Carol & Barry.



JOYCE AND RON COOPER. Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary. 29th June 2000

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Anyone for tennis?

"Peter, why are you looking so sad?"

"Don't be a silly gull. What makes you think I am sad?"

"Well, you've got a face like a poor man's ar..."

"GILBERT!"

"Oops sorry, Peter. I forgot we have to be politically correct these days. Let me re-phrase my answer to your question ... You have a facial expression Likened unto that of a financially disadvantaged person's bottom outlet ... Better?"

"Hmm, yes, we have to remember that this a family publication."

"Are you still fed up about the Wimbledon fortnight, Peter?"

"Look, gull, I'm not fed up about anything - except you dripping on about how sad I look. As it happens I'm concentrating on our offerings for this months Cranfield Express and wondering what to write about."

"You mean you got writers block, Peter?"

"No, it's just that the news and views this month are a bit thin and I really don't want to embarrass anybody ... Can you think of any-

thing, Gilby?"

"Robert Nicholls setting fire to his head, Peter."

"Goodness me was he thinking up more Bicycle Liberation Front stuff for the CE?"

"No, apparently he got a bit too close to the bonfire - probably distracted by malicious thoughts about us motorists - and it just happened."

"Did he need any first aid?"

"Only a very short haircut but it was a dangerous situation 'cos Linda, in her role as concerned bystander, could have hurt her sides when she saw what had happened."

"So, is the next Wimbledon fortnight going to be the same petulant sulking as this year was, Peter?"

"Hmf, same every year since we've been married, Gilby. When the tennis starts the service stops, if you know what I mean."

"I thought tennis started with a service, Peter."

"Service starts with dinner on the table when I come in and ..."

"Peter, Peter, you can't say things like that nowadays - even a simple gull knows that females have equal rights and ..."

"You are depressing me gull. Surely I shouldn't have to wait until the tennis is finished before I am fed?"

"No, there is always salad."

"But that still has to be prepared and, quite frankly Gilbert, that isn't what us men have got ourselves a woman for."

"Well I don't mind having a go at cooking, Peter. I did do it once before and I'd love to cook a meal."

"Oh yeah, Delia Gilbert, like what?"

"I could probably do a fish - poached in white wine and served up with a large knob ..."

"GILBERT!"

"... of garlic butter. What's the matter now?"

"Sorry, I just panicked there for a moment. Look, Gilbert, I know you mean well and everything but I don't think I could hack another session of you wrecking the kitchen when I've got a woman to do jobs like cooking and cleaning. Anyway, she's been told now ..."

"Been told what, Peter?"

"I just said 'look here woman, I don't expect to sit here hungry after

a day slogging away in the coal mines while you lounge in front of the TV and expect to be waited upon"

"Bravo Peter, what else will you tell her?"

"I said, It's no good bursting into silly girlie tears just because you have recognised the marital pecking order of things"

"Pecking order?"

"Er yes, I er, really laid the law down then, 'I'm warning you now' I said, 'that this tennis and enjoyment stuff is no longer to be tolerated while I wear the trousers in this house.'"

"Wow, that is really telling her, Peter. Whatever did she do about such a manly display of masculinity?"

"Er, she went straight out and bought me a present."

"Hey, this really is about a man asserting his rightful place in a relationship ... What did she buy you?"

"A kilt, Gilbert."

"Gilbert?"

"Gilbert?"



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Writing it up - get your event in The Express

Our beginner's guide to producing words and pictures for Cranfield Express could help you see your name and your pictures in print

A successful village magazine must reach the local events other publications fail to cover.

At Cranfield Express we want to hear about your events and activities. We try to be positive about seeking out the news and writing up local stories. We all have day jobs, however, and inevitably we cannot get round everything.

That is where you, the reader, come in. Some people take to the keyboard like a duck to orange sauce or a gull to a landfill site (?). Others go into deep denial and insist they cannot write anything. Result - no publicity.

We have, therefore, drawn up some basic guidelines to help you write better, quicker and more freely about your local activity. There are also tips about photography if someone is waving a 35 mm camera around.

It is all easier than you think.

Here are the basic rules of writing for Cranfield Express:

1. Enjoy it! Don't worry about the order, the spelling or whether you have split an infinitive. Just let it all spill out and if some dazzling

metaphor comes to mind, bung it down. The rules of spelling and grammar exist to restrict the number of people writing creatively. Shakespeare usually had several ways of spelling most of the words he used (although at Cranfield Express we usually have just one).

2. Don't look down, keep climbing! If you think you have written something dreadful the only person who will know is the editor. I will come back to you and suggest ways in which the material can be sharpened up. If you want us to rewrite your stuff we will. In the end, we exist to give people a sense of being a valued part of the community - whether they are being written about or doing the writing.

3. The only grammatical suggestion in this whole feature: Keep your sentences short. It is a good way of checking if they make sense.

4. You try to change your wardrobe every few years. You do don't you? Or do you just keep wearing the same clothes from 15 years ago? It is the same with your expressions.

Corruption, for instance might be widespread, a cancer at the heart of

government or an attractive option which you have not had the chance to sample yet. But it is never, never 'rife'. This obsolete cliché usually occurs in print because someone has mentioned corruption so they feel they must stick in 'rife'. Chuck it out with last year's fashions.

5. Set yourself a word length before you start. Prune and revise if you cannot get it in.

6. Basics: This should be at the start. Have you put in the time, date, place, names of people who took part (within limits), who you want to thank and how much was raised? Have you put a contact telephone number in and flagged up your next event?

7. Controversy: We will want a bit of that and we know the boys and girls who will give it to us. But please, no personalised attacks or abuse. It is a big turn off for the average reader

Pictures

This is not as complicated as you might think and a straightforward automatic camera with 35 mm or APS film will do you just fine. Don't be afraid to use the whole roll - processing is getting cheaper and you will probably get a free film back if you pay in advance. For a decent shot try this:

1. Take lots of photographs. The

professionals will use an entire roll of film to get one shot - the more pictures you take, the more chance of getting that one shot that makes a story.

2. Aim for shots of an individual or groups of two or three. This is your best chance of bringing out a bit of character.

3. Don't forget to take both landscape (horizontal) and portrait (vertical) shots. It can make page design easier if there is a choice of photographs.

4. Caption, caption, caption. Get the names of the people you have photographed. Despite contrary belief, an uncaptioned picture only tells half the story (like, who is that strange woman at the back of the picture draining a yard of ale?)

5. If you are using a digital camera, great. Just save your image as a jpeg or tiff and either drop a disk into the boxes' or email to us (see addresses on front).

Last but not least

The greatest sin of omission is missing your deadline. There is no redemption. Check those dates on the front of Cranfield Express and make sure you keep to them. Otherwise woe betide!

Laurence Pollock
Editor



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Cranfield Cougars Netball Team

For the first time, Cranfield entered a netball team into the Bedford and District Junior Netball League.

The team started training on a Friday evening after school. The first week we only had seven girls, but as news got around the numbers increased and we ended up with a squad of thirteen girls of a mixed age group, ranging from 9 - 11 years. As we had only entered one team all the girls were brilliant at taking turns to play, some weeks it was very hard and there were disappointed faces, but next year we will enter two teams.

After a shaky start, the girls soon began to flourish and grow in determination, spirit and netball skills.

The culmination of this being a Versatility Tournament on the last day of the season. The day was very wet and the girls showed great spirit as they played on through the storms and deservedly WON the competition and were presented with individual medals and a team shield. They are pictured here after their win, very wet and pleased with themselves. Well done girls we were proud of you. Many thanks to Paula Beddoe and Cathy Carter who helped organise the team. I hope you are all ready for next season. Watch this space for training times etc.

Alison Brightman



Back row L-R: Stephanie Rawle, Tania Beddoe, Cerys Peck, Megan Rudd, Emma Briggs
 Middle row: Stacey Beddoe, Natalie carter, Helen Pecorini, Samantha Brightman
 Front row: Ashleigh Usher, Amber Deardon, Toni Cheung, Rebecca Metcalfe

Gongs Galore for TKD

Cranfield Tae Kwon-do Club again proved it is a major force in national and area competitions. We continued our run of success recently with four medals in the B.T.C. competition at Kettering Leisure Centre. There were many different TKD organisations from all over the country competing together at all levels. Georgina Rawle, age 8, started the medal tally with a find performance in the pattern division.

After close scoring in which gold and bronze positions were separated by only 0.3 points, four competitors were trying for bronze positions. A play off followed and Georgina put in an excellent performance to win the bronze outright. Next came the sparring and Abigail Hazel, in her first competition, fought bravely to win the silver medal in her division. Georgina Rawle, in her second event of the day, showed some really good fighting techniques to reach the final. With the help of some excellent coaching from our own champion, Vanya Gladkow, and support from Robert Cook, myself and her sister Stephanie, Georgina - with some well-timed kicks and punches - overcame her final opponent to win our first junior gold medal. Not to be outdone by her daughter, Jane Rawle, in what she claimed to be her last fight before retiring, once again used her power and determination to overcome her opponents to reach the final, where she was eventually beaten by a younger and quicker opponent but, deservedly won Cranfield's first senior silver medal.

Also competing was Patrick O'Regan who always seems to draw the top fighters in the first round. This was to be no exception and Patrick lost narrowly on points. Vanya

Gladkow, our own British and Welsh champion, in his first competition as black belt also lost narrowly on points but will gain invaluable experience from this and I am sure he will soon be back in the medals. Other black belts Paul Freire-Gomez and Rupert Cook also competed and fought bravely against strong opposition.



Georgina and Jane Rawle

Well done to everybody, you were a credit to the TAGB and Cranfield club. We also had a grading this month for Cranfield and Newport Pagnell clubs and success was again the key word as everyone passed. Cranfield's Steve Pinder, Dirk Ducosta, John Hamilton and Matthew Catt all gained A grades as did Andrew Berry from Newport. Once again - well done everyone.

Our summer barbecue will hopefully take place in August or early September, weather permitting.

We are looking for some new recruits to enhance our already successful club. We train at the later time of 7pm on Sundays at the scout hut, same time on Wednesday at the Old Gym and Monday at Lovatt School, Newport Pagnell. If anyone, irrespective of age, size, sex or physical condition would like to join us or find out more please ring me, or just turn up on the training nights. We are still looking for sponsorship.

David Rawle
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