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A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to You All

We just thought that we would side-step the ongoing development stuff for this edition and just try and hold onto the message of Christmas. Inside this month's issue are: Yes, you guessed it loadsa letters, but we didn't want you to just line your Christmas bin with *Cranfield Express* without first reading what we have to say.

We hope that, sticking to our ultimate aim, we have kept you informed, frustrated and reasonably entertained throughout 2004. In this we also apologise for missing things, misspelling things, misunderstanding things and putting the wrong deadline date in like we did last month.

We would like to thank our advertisers for their continued support and Roger Bannister (no, not that one) who runs Russell Press of Ampthill and who has, on many occasions, worked late into the night to iron out

the creases I always seem to leave on the 'Printer's Final Copy' files.

We have collected a few new deliverers during the year and I'd like to thank those who have left us over the past year for their invaluable help and

many thanks to the new ones - stepping into their shoes and out into the cold night air to make sure everyone gets a copy.

On that note we are looking for a volunteer to deliver in Graces Close after this issue.

Over the last ten years, Graces Close has been covered by the 'Metcalf Siblings' - first there was Sarah around 1994, followed by Stuart a few years later and finally Rebecca... A special thanks to the three of you for your devotion to duty.

Finally - the team... From Peter, Annie, Audrey, Jane and Pebbles... Have a really great time.

Peter Hinson



And, in this months edition...

Pages 2,3 and, you guessed it, half of page 4 are devoted to Letters.

Including replies from Alan Bastable and Ken Matthews.

Page 5 Is a special feature of Christmas Past.

Page 8 Doctor Marjorie Cotton's valuable words.

Page 9 A housing update

Page 10 The Voice of the Webmaster

Page 12 Classified

Page 13 Cranfield United Football Results

Page 14 CUFC Centenary photos of teams from the 1980's

Page 15 Cranfield Tae Kwon-do Club

Page 16 Sport - Colts Reports

Check out the new website poll question. It really is a tad sexist - Sorry Girls!

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Leave material in 'the boxes' at The Uni Costcutter, Enochs Paper Shop and Cranfield Newsagents

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Don't forget you can look at all the main stories that have appeared in the Cranfield Express over the last four years, plus much more, on our Web Site.
www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk

Hot Exclusive From the Social Club

An anonymous report, supplied by he of The Cranfield Full Monty Team, has come in surrounding the mysterious disappearance of Perry K one Saturday evening in December.

First indications revealed that Perry - who was in his own words 'Bladdered' after a healthy session- boarded a minibus booked to go to Oakley and, well, just vanished!

Colin Stape...(oops, I nearly gave his name away then!) went on to say that friends and associates paced the floor at the Oakley venue, chewing their finger nails and wailing 'Perry-gone', were later to hear that two miles south of Northampton, Perry, had looked round the bus and realised he didn't recognise anyone on board!

All was not lost. The minibus driver, faced with having to put Perry up in his garage for the night- snoring and bottom burping - hurtled back to Oakley and to the delight of the late night party folk, Perry announced his arrival by plunging fully dressed into the swimming pool - Perry Water? He was later beached and was last seen heading off to his home in Pavenham still soaking wet..

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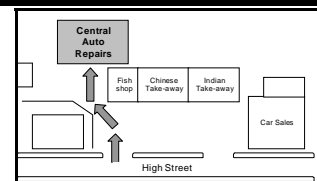
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Letters to the Editor

Time to move on

As a Parish Councillor it saddens me to disagree with my chairman and longstanding colleague, Phil Bates, but at the Parish Council meeting held on the 17th November, I and another councillor did not agree with his letter, which subsequently appeared in the November issue of the Cranfield Express, and I asked for my name and decision to be recorded in the minutes.

The purpose of the Village Meeting held on the 11th November was:

a) to present the reasons for Mid Beds District Council selecting the Home Farm site

b) to discuss the problems the Lower School in particular faces with the future increase in pupil numbers, whichever of the two sites is ulti-

mately developed.

From the outset however "the sites" became the dominant topic - at times one almost felt a sense of orchestration creating the emotional atmosphere which developed - and to say "there was absolute clarity of thought"... does not in my opinion accurately describe this part of the meeting. It was emotive and highly charged, as it was bound to be, given the impact an additional 400 plus houses will have on this village - wherever they are built.

District Councillor Ken Matthews, as Deputy Leader of the Council, did not seek to defend the decisions of Mid Beds District Council"... but to explain the reasons for that decision; one of the two main reasons for calling the meeting. The statement

"it is important that you are made aware of our serious reservations over Councillor Matthews interpretation of PPG3" ignores the fact that all members of Mid Beds District Council, with the exception only of anyone declaring an interest, voted in favour of the Home Farm site. Prior to that vote both sites had been visited by the Executive members of the Council.

Finally, with reference to the High Street recreation ground and the Lower School's need for additional playing field space, the letter is worded in such a way as to make it appear that Mid Beds District Council had initiated the proposal "to take over the recreation ground as a way of meeting this obligation"... This is simply not true. The possibility, and it was only ever a possibility, was mentioned at an informal discussion between members of Cranfield Parish Council and Trevor Saunders, the Planning Policy Manager of the Mid Beds Local Plans team - you may remember that Trevor attended the Village meeting on 11th November. In order to progress the development brief, and with no other suggestions available, an indicative drawing was prepared showing the impact of what would in effect be, a 'land-swap' between part of the recreation ground and another piece of land in the village. It was nothing more than a possibility - one option - and it was not initiated by Mid Beds District Council. To me, the above statements smack of "politicking" which I find surprising and disturbing in a letter signed by our Chairman.

The final outcome of the sites will no doubt be settled outside the present arena, as it is understood that the University fully intends to mount a further legal challenge at some point. It is also important to note that in all likelihood the developers of the Home Farm site, had they not been successful in having their site allocated would have also embarked on legal action. Bear in mind, the proponents of both sites are commercially driven organisations - this is not about concerns for Cranfield - it is about money.

IT IS NOW TIME TO MOVE ON - to consider how best we can resolve the schools' issues and obtain as much 'real' planning gain as possible for our village. The Parish Council has made a 'wish list' and there is an urgent need for a new Medical Centre in Cranfield. Having actively resisted large-scale development in 1995, I do not want 400 plus houses in this village and I know my fellow District Councillor Ken Matthews shares this view. Unfortunately the relentless, mind-

less course taken by the Deputy Prime Minister's office to build more and ever more houses in Bedfordshire and the South East of England will result in a great deal of pain - I just hope that between us, the Parish Council and Mid Beds District Council will also achieve some real gain for Cranfield.

Alan Bastable

Parish Councillor & Mid Beds District Councillor

And, from Ken Matthews

Dear Sir

Your last issue included coverage of the recent Village Meeting, together with a number of letters, to which I feel I must respond.

Firstly, the report of the meeting itself contains, in my view, a number of inaccuracies.

1. Reference was made to the lack of a feasibility study coupled with an assertion that detailed plans are already in place. Coupling these two separate aspects together gives a distorted picture - the lack of a feasibility study was in reference to education provision whereas the claim that detailed plans are already in place is not true. All that exists at the moment are indicative plans based on the limited dialogue that has so far taken place between the Parish Council and Mid Beds planners and these plans reflect some suggestions that have been put forward as possible options.

2. In regard to the statement that MBDC had not taken account of the Wootton development, again this was in respect of education provision which, of course, is an LEA responsibility. It has to be remembered, however, that it was the Planning Inspector who re-introduced major development in Cranfield after MBDC had removed it from the original deposit draft owing to education concerns.

3. Mid Beds did not initiate plans to use part of the playing field - this only appeared on an indicative plan following an initial meeting between Mid Beds planners and the Parish Council who suggested this was an option worth investigating. At the time the suggestion was made no indication was given as to its ownership - Mid Beds planners merely undertook to look at the idea in the belief that it had some credence and that it might offer a better solution than a detached Lower School playing field.

4. The idea that 531 houses will be built is nonsense. Not all of the 17.7 hectares will be used for houses - provision of play areas, recreational space and other community facilities will reduce the area set aside for housing. The precise number of

What's on

Tuesday 11th January 2005

Wharley End W. I. Stafford Cripps Building Cranfield University "Peruvian Panorama" Speaker: Barry Mason Visitors Welcome

Tuesday 11th January, Portnall

Place Cranfield Community Safety Group 7.30 pm tel 757689 or e-mail pollock@cranfield68.fsbusiness.co.uk

Saturday 15th January 12:30 -

1:30pm Cranfield Methodist Church Lunch Menu: Soup and a roll Roast Beef & Yorkshire. Seasonal Vegetables Christmas Pudding with tea or coffee - £4.50 per person

Saturday 26th February Murder

Mystery at the Music Hall - 7.30pm Cranfield Lower School PTFa More details in next edition, but put this date in your diary now to come and enjoy a winter evening of mystery and intrigue - can you find the clues and guess whodunit??

Every Tuesday in Term Time -

Parent & Toddler Group, North Crawley Village Hall from 10.00 to 12.00. People from Cranfield are very welcome to attend.

What's on at The Cross Keys

Improvers Bridge 8.0pm on Mondays. New members wel-

come. Conversational French, Food Hygiene Certificate, Emergency First Aid Tel: 750213 after 5pm to express your interest. 1st Tuesday in each month at The Cross Keys Book Club 7.30-9.30pm. Lively discussion in a relaxed setting. All welcome. Plus the usual darts and dominoes. All welcome.

Every Tuesday 'Sounds Familiar'

meets @ 7:30. Where? Cranfield Baptist Church, Bedford Road. Four part harmony choir, SATB, singing wide range of mostly sacred music, but some secular too. Fun, relaxing and rewarding. Come along and give it a try.

Gardening Club

We meet the 1st Wednesday (8pm) in each month. For further information please contact Joan Last (750738)

Every Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm.

Citizens Advice Bureau at Doctor's Surgery, Marston. By Appointment Only. Open to all Cranfield residents. Phone: 01234 766551.

Cranfield Parish Council meet-

ings. Village Hall 8 pm Wed 5th January (committees) and Wednesday 19 January (full council). Tel 01525 280493 for agendas or see Parish Council notice boards

A. Downes

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Jonathan Sayeed MP

Your MP, Jonathan Sayeed, can be contacted at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA - Telephone 020 7219 2355, facsimile 020 7219 1670, or at his constituency office: St Michael's Close, High Street, Shefford, Beds SG17 5DD - Tel: 01462 811992 - Fax: 01462 811010.

Letters to the Editor

houses will depend on the type and mix of houses. Also included will be up to 28% of "affordable" units consisting of a mix of social rented, shared ownership and below market cost purchase and I gave an undertaking that I would do everything I could to ensure as many of these as possible would be for local people. Turning now to the "letters" column, firstly that from Ian Holloway. I believe there is certainly some merit in his argument that during the intervening period of ten years or so since Home Farm was first promulgated the opportunity should have been taken to develop a Community Plan. I suspect, however, that the opportunity was not seized owing to the implacable opposition to even contemplate significant development in Cranfield. As Mr Holloway says, this left the door open for the government Inspector to allocate such a development. We know, of course that there has been piecemeal development during this period with nothing in the way of community benefit apart from some "traffic calming". Regarding the letter from Renee Lay, I entirely refute the allegation that the District Council is engaging in bully boy tactics. I acknowledge that the majority view of the Parish Council and the majority, but not overwhelming, view of individual residents favours the Airfield site. At the village meeting I gave reasons why MBDC favours Home Farm and offered to go into more detail. Regrettably the mood of the meeting was not ready to listen. Members of MBDC believe they have sound and credible reasons for favouring Home Farm - indeed, the Inspector himself spoke of the relative advantages of Home Farm but relied on the PDL status of the Airfield site. However, PDL is not the only factor to take into account; it is one of several which all need to be weighed

together. It so happens that I agree with Renee Lay about the undesirability of large scale development, and have said so on many occasions both verbally and in print, due to the lack of adequate infrastructure. I also deplore the fact that developers (irrespective of site selection) will have to pay to put such infrastructure in place - meaning less money available for other desirable community benefits. I wish the system worked differently, but it does not. As for serving our political masters let me say that our present political masters are not of my persuasion. Regrettably, there are plenty of examples where communities have attempted to defy government policy only to have "solutions" imposed on them thereby not gaining any community benefit whatsoever. I sincerely want to avoid this happening in Cranfield which is why I have consistently advocated constructive dialogue between the Parish Council and Mid Beds planners, an action which the Parish Council has been reluctant to enter into hitherto. Pat Healy refers to my letter in the Cranfield Express of May 2003 that "in the event of a developer submitting an application in line with the Inspector's recommendation it would ultimately be successful, particularly if it went to appeal". This was not meant to be site specific but was merely a comment to indicate that, in my view, significant development in Cranfield cannot be avoided. I entirely agree with his comments about planning gain, as I have indicated earlier, together with his remarks concerning long term planning. Unfortunately the County Council is about to lose its responsibility for producing a Structure Plan - this is to become the responsibility of the unelected Eastern Regional Assembly! David Newens asserts that my expla-

nation for MBDC's preference for Home Farm was "unconvincing and unable to stand scrutiny". To quote a famous line, and bearing in mind he is an employee of the University, "he would say that, wouldn't he?" In connection with Phil Bates' open letter to Mid Beds Council Leader, Cllr Tricia Turner, I am sure she will respond appropriately. Lyn Davis comments that "The decision to build up to 450 houses in Cranfield, whether on Home Farm or the Airfield, has serious implications for the village in many ways, but none more so than with regard to the educational facilities" and I agree entirely. This is why, at a meeting of MBDC's Executive in May 2003, I successfully persuaded my fellow councillors not to endorse the Inspector's recommendations (on significant development) as they related to Cranfield unless and until the LEA confirmed, in writing, that the information given in evidence to the Enquiry (concerning Cranfield's educational establishments' ability to cope) was still valid. As readers may be aware, the LEA replied that "... as long as appropriate developer contributions and, if necessary, additional land were received a solution to the resulting additional accommodation needs at all levels could be resolved" (sic). In effect this meant that it would not be possible for MBDC to object to large scale development in Cranfield on educational grounds. Ms Davis then goes on to summarise the two options presented to the meeting and then proposes a

possible third option, to which I believe there is some merit and should be explored further. Finally, it is clear to me that there now needs to be a period of constructive dialogue between the Parish Council and Mid Beds planners. Contrary to comments made in certain quarters in recent months, no firm proposals relating to the Home Farm site have been made. All that exists at the moment are a number of possible options. The next stage in the process is that, following further dialogue and discussion, a Draft Development Brief will be prepared and will be subjected to widespread consultation. So far as realistically possible such consultation will guide the content of the final Design Brief and to which any detailed planning application will need to conform. Whereas some people might see some merit in further obfuscation and delay I do not see that as being in the best interests of Cranfield village as a whole. It's time to move on.

Ken Matthews
District Councillor

Letter to Cranfield Express

I felt the need to write in response to the open letter from Phil Bates on behalf of the Cranfield Parish Council. Being among the hundreds of Cranfield residents to attend the Village meeting chaired by Phil Bates on the 11 November, I understood the remit of the meeting was to discuss the educational facilities in view of the fact that a decision had been reached for the proposed development at Home Farm not to discuss

Parish Church Services

Sunday 19 December 10.30	Family Nativity
Sunday 19 December 6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Friday 24 December 11.00pm	United Churches Midnight Communion
Christmas Day 8.00am	Holy Communion
Christmas Day 10.30am	Family Service
Boxing Day Sunday 26 December 10.30am	Holy Communion



Methodist

10am Morning Service and Sunday School

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10.30am Morning Service
2nd & 4th - Holy Communion
3rd Sunday - Family Service

Weekdays

Wednesday 7.30 CYFA meet in church
Thursday 7.30pm Bellingring Practice

Contacts

Rev Hugh Symes-Thompson 01234 750214
Carol Rubini 752204
Andrew Pearson 751358

www.cranfieldchurches.org



Baptist

10.45am Fellowship and Sunday School

Wednesday 7.45pm Home Group
Thursday 7.45pm Cyber Café, Ages 10-16.

Steve Lloyd 01234 751495
www.baptist.org

Letters to the Editor

the merits of Home Farm versus the Airfield site.

Whilst I am against large scale development within the village, it has been decided that there has to be development within Cranfield, and I believe an opportunity to discuss plans for the future was wasted.

I cannot agree with the suggestion that the views of the Villagers being "consistent and strong against the Home Farm site" as, by definition, it would appear that those most moved to attend were doing so in light of the fact that a decision had been made to develop Home Farm. I am quite certain that had the decision been made in favour of the airfield site then the attendees would have been from a different camp and equally strong views would have been aired.

The fact that not one person spoke in support of Home Farm was hardly surprising considering the remit of the meeting, the composition of the attendees and the fact that despite waving arms in the air as requested it was almost impossible to have an opportunity to speak. Many villagers are not in favour of the Airfield site and their views are not being considered by the Parish Council.

Kevin Sutton

Open Letter to Cllr Mrs Turner

Unfortunately, because of illness you were not at the meeting in Cranfield on Thursday last. I hope you are on the road to recovery. As a villager who was at the meeting I would like to present my reactions - which I believe reflect those of many others who were present. It may be that you will find it helpful to read the attached copy letter as a background to this one.

My letter addresses the question of the site of development but the meeting also covered the educational implications. This was a disaster area where it seemed the Beds LEA had no satisfactory solutions to the many problems posed by a large influx of school children. From where I was sitting I feel it could be described as a chaotic fiasco. There was also discussion about the taking over of the recreational area for enlargement of the school and this is a matter of huge concern to many villagers.

The Parish Council and many people in Cranfield needed an understanding of how MBDC came to make the decision of choosing Home Farm over the Airfield site and I have to report that the points presented by Councillor Ken Matthews failed to make a case for this decision. He spoke about an earlier plan to develop Home Farm some ten years ago as though this could form part of the reason for it being the present choice. The people of Cranfield rejected this then as they do the present one.

We attended the meeting to hear why MBDS made its decision in the face of the following points:

1. It is government policy to choose a

brownfield site over a greenfield site as a first option.

2. The Government Inspector's choice was the airfield site.

3. The MBDS's own Planning Officers' Report (after lengthy and full consideration/consultations) supported the airfield site.

4. The Cranfield Parish Council voted by 6 to 1 for the airfield site.

5. The majority of people in Cranfield support the airfield site in order to preserve the most historic, rural and attractive corner of the village.

The reasons given by Councillor Matthews are given below and each one has been challenged as follows:

1. Airfield noise. The university has conducted tests which I understand prove this is not a problem. Anyway quite a number of houses in Cranfield border the airfield without suffering any problem with regard to noise. Additionally, the university has a duty to its students who need a quiet environment to study, attend lectures and sit examinations so it is obvious that there will be ongoing monitoring of airfield noise to avoid any possible future problem all of which nullifies the above point. Has MBDS conducted any project to ascertain the level of noise caused by the airfield?

2. Home Farm development would enable better integration into the village. The airfield site is not isolated and would, in fact, be closer to the church, schools and supermarket than houses situated at the other ends of the village and indeed the difference in the two sites with regard to distance to and from the above amenities is minimal. If people desire to be integrated they will do it just as well from the airfield development as anywhere else. This point really has no credibility.

3. The children from Home Farm development would not have to cross the High Street. But they will have to deal with all the extra traffic using Court Road and all the dangerous congestion which could be a major problem. Anyway, the children from the airfield development along with many of the other children in the village will have to be considered with regard to safe crossings and this is an issue which will have to be addressed in regard to both sites. So this is another point which holds no sway.

It is quite clear that the above issues should not be put forward as overriding considerations for the Home Farm Development. In fact, these are simply not good enough reasons for MBDS to cite as support for what I believe can best be described as an act of environmental vandalism since they hold neither truth nor honesty and bear no scrutiny.

I believed that our councillors were supposed to represent the views and true interests of the village and I find it incomprehensible that two Cranfield councillors have failed the village in this matter especially as the Parish Council has clearly demonstrated the wishes and needs

of the village regarding development. The outcome of this meeting was to have a village poll regarding the villagers' choice of site and on the use or not of the recreation area for extension of the school facilities. I trust the voice of the village will be heard and all due democratic processes will be put in place to act upon it.

Joy Fisher

cc: The Chief Executive, MBDC

The Head of Planning Services, MBDC

And finally...

The mind-numbing acreage of tightly-packed letter space given over to the proposed housing development issue justifies renaming the 'Cranfield Express' to 'Home Farm Forum'. The plodding explanations and historic accounts of attack/defence, claim/counter-claim and argument make tedious reading, with correspondents dripping like a bank of rusty taps. Waving paper in the face

of John Prescott's heavy artillery supported by advancing Council stormtroopers is futile. Whichever site is selected - and it's odds-on that the decision has already been made - we, like many other communities across the nation faced with similar encroachment, must make the best of it. Officialdom should instead apply effort to lay foundations for the infrastructure necessary to support the growth of the village.

Two large-ish dwellings are being erected on ground formerly occupied by a single small house on Broad Green, and murmurings from the rumour mill say that Bloor Homes fancy the 'Leathern Bottel' site for a 27-home development.

Is anyone going to object to that? (Thought: at least that will rid the village of one of its eyesores. And talking about eyesores, wouldn't it be nice if somebody decided that the remains of the High Street filling station and fast-food shacks are to be replaced with a tasteful, non-cloned small retail development complete with tea room).

Footnote: I'm told that meetings are still being held in the parishes around Heathrow airport in attempts to stop the building of Terminals 4 (operational since the 1980s) and 5 (soon to be completed).

Dennis Johnson
Mill Road
Cranfield

Arthur Garner

Arthur Garner ...
Treasured memories of a dear Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad, who passed away December 13th, 2001. Always loved, always remembered. His loving wife Phyllis, Malvin and Margaret, Peggy and Robin, Grand and Great Grandchildren.



Cranfield Critters Club

The Critters meet every week in the Village Hall. On the first and third Tuesdays we meet at 10am, one hour before clinic, then on all other Tuesdays it is 1.30pm.

There is no charge to attend just a small donation of twenty-five pence for tea and coffee. The group is for children aged up to two and a half.

Contact Lucy on 01234 751105

Murder Mystery Evening

Cranfield Lower School.

Saturday 26th February 2005

Murder at the Musical Hall. For all budding Cranfield sleuths - come and enjoy a three course meal and see if you can solve the mystery.

For further details call Paula
Tel 756161 (eves 6-9pm).

Freedom Dance School

Freedom Dance School offers a mixture of modern, pop, freestyle dancing for children aged 4 and above. Classes start back after Christmas on Tuesday the 11th of January. For more information please contact Karen Bailey - Principal of Freedom Dance School on 07974 376458.

EAR to the Ground! Need some information? Got information to give?

That's why I'm EAR!

The EAR to the Ground project is a new idea which involves a person holding a bag of information which will be available to all who need it. You can ask for details regarding and subject or a local group and the "EAR" can provide you the relevant information. This can be any information such as who to contact for details on benefits right down to bus timetables. The idea comes from the healthy living initiative and was designed to help all who need information. Please feel free to contact me if you need any information on any subject and I will try my best to help you. In time I will also be available to attend groups and give talks on what I do and how you can use the service. your local representative is Lucy Tompkins and her contact number is ...

07709 959 068.

For Village Hall Bookings

Please Phone
01234 750023

Memories of Christmas at Cranfield

In the Twenties

We started preparing for Christmas in late November when we made mince-meat and then the Christmas puddings in a great big bowl, stirring the mixture and making a wish and boiling the puddings in the copper. Christmas was a wonderful time, not spread out as it is now but contained in a matter of days. Perhaps because it was shorter it meant much more, presents were few and basic but the magic was there. To hear the carols on a cold winter's night under the light of a velvet sky lit by the bright stars, needed only a little imagination to be transported alongside the shepherds on the hills and following the star with the wise men. At Christmas, too, each class in the school acted a play in the Memorial Hall. I can remember St George and the Dragon, the Japhet Plays and one based on the picture 'And when did you last see your father'.

From an octogenarian

In the Fifties

To me Christmas in the 50's when I was little was very special. I have very happy memories of Christmas and the magic of that time is seen through the eyes of a child.

My friends Diane Enoch (nee Clark) and her sister Brenda Ayre, who lived next door, and I used to save our pocket money and buy all our Christmas presents from Mr Studman's shop - which is now Unwin's Wine Shop. We were too young to go to Bedford on our own so Studman's was the place to go. To me that shop was magical. I can still remember how the windows were decorated with fairy lights, tinsel and baubles and stuffed full with all kinds of gifts that children liked to buy. Downstairs was the mens department but the ladies department upstairs was to me like Aladdin's cave. Mr and Mrs Studman had endless patience whilst we chose our gifts.

At school to get ready for Christmas one of the tasks was to make paper chains to hang in the classroom. I was in Mr. Chessworths' class at the time and I can still remember the disgusting taste of the gummed paper we had to lick and of feeling sick when I got home and not wanting to eat my tea after swallowing about a gallon of glue.

My Nan used to make Christmas cakes and puddings for my Mum and Aunt. She and my Granddad lived in Mill Road. Nan had a stone copper in an out-house, which she filled with water. A fire was lit in the grate underneath and then the puddings were put in the copper and left to steam. They always turned out perfectly.

My Dad used to get our Christmas drink from The Fox and Hounds which stood where Washingleys is now. When he came home from The Fox, one Christmas Eve, I asked him if he had heard Santa's sleigh bells. He said, "Yes, I think he's coming up Marston Hill". My sister and I couldn't wait to go to bed that night.

I can't remember if we ever had a white Christmas in the 50s. The only time I can remember there being snow near Christmas was on Boxing Day 1962. That was the coldest winter I can remember and the snow stayed until February. To my Mum Christmas wasn't Christmas without holly and mistletoe. One year in the 60s when I was in my teens there wasn't much holly about in the village shops so I volunteered to go in search of some. Off I went on my bike. Starting off at the Co-op going up to the top shop which was opposite Budgens calling in others on the way (there were more shops in Cranfield in those days) back down the High Street and Bedford Road then I went to Jabez Salisbury's Store as a last resort. I should have gone there first as Mrs Salisbury had piles of the stuff. It was rather difficult trying to ride a bike with half a holly tree balanced on my handlebars but Mum was happy I had found her some.

I hope some of my memories of Christmas's past will bring back happy memories to my friends who still live in Cranfield and other Cranfield Express readers.

A Happy Christmas to you all.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Woolhead (nee Wooding)
Chelveston, Northants (Formerly of Bliss Avenue, Cranfield)

In the Snow

Winters were always worse, weren't they? None more so than when you had to run an airport and try to keep things moving. One memorable year we gave up the fight, as did the entire campus as all roads leading out were blocked by snowdrifts. Not me, I thought, as I climbed into my Landrover and set off for Biggleswade. That worked until I met a bus stranded at the foot of the hill, unfortunately half a dozen intrepid locals had decided to follow me and they all got completely stuck in the snow. So I abandoned trusty motor and walked back up to the airport. Halfway across, by the runway in a blizzard, I found John the Fish who had attempted to cross with his van, by now well stranded. We ended up in the Tower with the firemen and all, tucked into a fine fish supper and then adjourned to Mitchell Hall which looked like the

Underground during a bombing raid.

We made it back, the worse for wear, to sleep on the Tower floor. John the Fish, we discovered, can snore for England. The roads were cleared the following day but the runways were a different matter - they are best left alone in such conditions or you end up with big and dangerous snow-banks either side which take a long time to go away. But we all carried on our normal work routines even though there was no work to be had. No aircraft, no work! It's against CAA regulations to close an airport completely for weather related reasons, you just have to sit it out. On the plus side, you still were paid for Christmas and the village got Peace on Earth.

Stu Carrie



Crazy Cranfield Christmases from a Newcomer.

It is amazing to think that this is only our third Christmas in Cranfield. It truly feels like "home". There are memories of the wonderful ecumenical Communion Services on Christmas Eve and enjoying taking part in the singing and the fellowship. However the pervading memories of Christmas have to be the "Practice" nights out! I hope I shall not be giving away any secrets or lowering your opinion and trust of the local doctors' surgery, if I hint that these are occasions when hair is let down and a good, and very silly time is had by all! I have been fortunate to be part of this team of doctors, nurses, the cleaners, reception and administrative staff since arriving in the village. Our first soiree got off to a bad start. The mini bus was late and the practice manager and I had to wait for a considerable time, on a very cold night, on the street corner. We only realised later that this was where a certain "lady of the night" may have plied her trade. We were quite disappointed that we hadn't had a single car pull up to make us an offer! Of course once the bus did arrive it was hilarity from then on in. I'm not going to give away the venue, but we haven't been banned - yet! The wonderful thing about Cranfield is that the Christmas spirit is not just for the festive season. We have been so blessed to have found this place where its people are warm and full of kindness, and friendship is genuine and lasting.

Dr Marjorie Cotton



The University Chapel

Contrary to popular mythology, I did not celebrate my first Cranfield Christmas with Ailwyn the Black in the late tenth century, (although I believe he cut a fine yuletide log).

My first Christmas was actually 1983 and my abiding memory of that was turning up at the then University chapel, with my then small son David, for the Christmas Eve Mass. It was locked and in darkness and we were pointed in the direction of the Stafford Cripps Building, where the service was to take place. Despite the inauspicious start to the seasonal celebrations, the spiritual atmosphere during and immediately after the Mass that night was captivating.

This marked the final closure of the old chapel, (now part of the gatehouse), and the start of a prolonged period when Christians at the University had no fixed and permanent place of worship. For the next seventeen years, Catholic Mass was celebrated in the old lecture block, the School of Management, the new library and finally the CSA Building. The situation was finally remedied with the opening of a wonderful new Ecumenical Chapel, next door to the Social Club, in 2001.

The tradition of the University Christmas Eve Mass has endured over the years and remains a highlight in the calendar of the Cranfield Roman Catholic Community.

Margaret Rooney



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A Gull is for Christmas - not for Life

"Can I help you with your writing Peter?"
 "No, Gilbert, I'm trying to create some beautiful poetry to put in my Christmas cards this year and I don't think an ugly gull will inspire me..."
 "That's not very nice! What happened to the Christmas message of 'Good will to all men etc'..."
 "You're not a man you are scrounging, smelly old gannet!"
 "Hey, Peter, I take serious offence at this - I'm not - I repeat not - old!"
 "Oh, okay Gilbert, I'm looking for words to speak my feelings as in the poetry of the masters - such as 'I wandered lonley as a clo...'"
 "Clown?"
 "No, you were a bit in front thare Gilbert... 'I wandered lonley as a cloud' which is followed by..."
 "I played my drums effin loud?"

"No, you don't write rubbish like that into pure poetry, Gilbert."
 "Try me again Peter... Please - pretty please?"
 "Okay one last chance gull... 'I am'."
 "What - you are what?"
 "I haven't finished yet, Gilbert, I am pausing to use the effect... You dipstick!"
 "Sorreee... carry on Peter."
 "Okay... I am, so I am."
 "Brilliant, Peter!"
 "Ahem, thank you Gilbert... I am, so I am and that is..."
 "What - you are what, Peter?"
 "I am, so I am and that is all that I am..."
 "I'm Popeye the sailor man - boom boom!"
 "Peter?"
 "Peter, put that down - you'll need that to nail the decorations up!"

Parish Paths Partnership

Cranfield P3 was established some years ago between Cranfield CP and BCC (the Highway Authority). Its aim is to encourage the involvement of local volunteers in maintaining and improving the rights of way network in the parish.

Our group is small in numbers, but not so in years, thus limiting the work we carry out mainly to surveying and reporting problems arising on the network.

One of our achievements, however, is the successful application for a modification order to amend the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way for the County. Recently approved, this will re-establish a continuous footpath link from the High Street up to and around the airfield, to the University complex.

When the necessary path furniture is reinstated, one kissing gate or stile is still required, we look forward to walking the intended route, which many of us older residents enjoyed using in the past.

Our group has recently taken delivery of a new strimmer/ brush cutter, and so far two members have been trained in its use. Next year we aim to supplement the maintenance that contractors employed by the county carry out, to improve the state of our paths.

More members are required, there being lots of tasks that can be undertaken to promote and improve our network of paths. We meet most months on the second Wednesday of the month, in the Village Hall at 7.00PM. Anybody is welcome to come along, or if interested in further information please contact me on 01234750679.

Stan Creer, Cranfield P3 Group Co-ordinator

Community Safety Group

Alcohol

Around Christmas, officers from Bedfordshire police will be carrying out 'illegal' sales operations in off and on-licences premises, in the Cranfield area. They will be targeting the sale of alcohol to under age youths from various shops and public houses.

If members of the public have any information about locations that are selling alcohol to youths who are under the age of 18 years, please contact the licensing officer Pc Paul Allen on 01234 842615, or Pc Khrys Gisonni 01234 842627.

The Community Safety Group is currently working with the parish council to establish alcohol free zones in specific public places in the village - particularly the recreation ground. There will be further discussions with Mid Beds District Council about the proposal this month and we will keep you informed of the progress.

Animal Cruelty

A cat has been found in Springfield Way apparently suffocated with a small plastic bag (a Tesco pastie wrapper) pulled tight over its head. It was discovered by two members of the public who were horrified at this wanton cruelty to an innocent animal. This has been reported to the police and to the RSPCA and cat owners are advised to keep their eyes on their pets. If anyone has any information please contact beat manager Pc Khrys Gisonni on the number above.

Next meeting

The next meeting of Cranfield Community Safety Group is at 7.30 on Tuesday 11 Jan at Portnall Place. Tel 01234 757689 or e mail pollock@cranfield68.fsbusiness.co.uk

A time to think of others...

Cranfield Lower School PTFA supported Operation Christmas Child, by asking children and parents to make up shoe boxes, which were decorated and filled with small gifts, to be sent to less fortunate children in other countries. We were delighted to receive a total of 63 filled boxes, and particular thanks to Cranfield After School Club, whose children made up several boxes to support this initiative.

Photos show children from the Lower School and After School Club making up the boxes and then carrying them out for collection. Carol Dodd



Cranfield Lower School PTFA



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Coping with Christmas!

I had planned to share some of the words of Isaiah. It is incredible that these words which have echoed down the ages were written over 700 years before the birth of Christ.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: for his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

(Isaiah 9.6) God had spoken through His prophets to warn the people of the error of their ways and to foretell the future. Of course they had paid little attention. He made the ultimate gift and sacrifice and came down to earth Himself as the Messiah. Why did he bother? The people He had chosen had become complacent. They thought they had got it right by paying lip service to their creator. Their hearts were hardened. Of course Jesus put the cat among the pigeons and told them exactly what He thought of them and that was just too much for them to take. You know how the story ended. Jesus preached a message of love and forgiveness. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13.34)

Christmas should be a time of great joy and celebration as we reflect on how this simple message of love can transform our lives.

However, I know that for many this is not the case. Christmas reinforces loneliness and depression. To those who have lost loved ones, the pain of Christmas without them reinforces their sadness. It can become a nightmare for children of broken homes and their parents. The homeless are left in the cold and many feel that no-one really cares. It is for those who have difficulty coping with the season and the day itself that I felt that I needed to dig deeper. In fact I had only to go back to Isaiah to find help. These wonderful words may strike a chord and make us realise that He knows us at our lowest ebb. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53.3-5) A little book of spiritual help "God Calling": "In your dark hours, when human help fails, keep very close to the Man of Sorrows. Feel My Hand of Love press yours in silent but complete understanding. I, too, was acquainted with grief. No heart can ache without My heart aching too."

For those who find it difficult to believe, it is best to take one day at a time and treat Christmas as just another day. Its message is special but the day is the same as any other. Somehow we find we get through. Often it is by reaching out to help someone less fortunate than ourselves that actually lifts us.

To those blessed with faith, cling onto the loving hand of Jesus and know that He is with you always. Wishing you all a Christmas filled with His Blessings.

Dr Marjorie Cotton

Cranfield Roman Catholic Community

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**Worship is part of the Parish of Our Lady of
the Assumption, Woburn Sands. Priest in
charge, Father David Barrett, 01604 715635**

Lewis Tansley

It was with great sadness that the Cranfield Branch of the Royal British Legion learned of the death of a good friend Lewis Tansley. The funeral, conducted by the Rev. Hugh Symes-Thompson, was held on Tuesday 30 November at Bedford Crematorium, and afterwards, family and friends returned to Portnall Place.

Lewis George Tansley was born in Lidlington. His Father worked on a farm and he was an only child. He loved animals and once was fetched from school to coax a bull back into its field. He was the



only one who could handle it!

Aged 17 just before WW2, he joined the Royal Marines - and he was to serve with them for the next seventeen and a half years. Most of his time was served on HMS Aurora, and he was Mentioned in Dispatches during his service on this ship. He was blown clear of the ship by an explosion that killed his companions. Also when he was seconded to HMS Barham on prisoner escort duty he had a lucky escape. On a voyage after the war he was temporarily batman to King George VI on passage to Malta.

When docked in Glasgow, Lewis first met Williamina and he and Ina were married in Cranfield in 1941. In 1945 their son David was born and later Lynn their daughter.

After the war Lew continued on in the Royal Navy as a marine commando. Then he took on a job as a mechanic with Marston Brick in Stewartby until he retired aged 63.

Photography was his main hobby. He was so keen that his grandchildren all took cover when he got the camera out. His dark room was up in the loft. He was a very private person but he loved his four grandchildren and then his three great-grandchildren dearly.

He regularly joined in the monthly meetings of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and became one of the eldest. For the last couple of years, his health deteriorated and this year a photo of him in uniform and his medals was brought to his hospital bedside on Remembrance Day. They were displayed on a table at his funeral where his coffin was draped with the Union flag. The Royal British Legion bore standards in his honour and a trumpeter played a most moving Last Post before the final blessing.

Lewis was well respected by all who knew him and will be greatly missed by family and friends alike.

Conservative Association AGM

The AGM of the Cranfield Branch of Mid Beds Conservative Association will be held on Tuesday 18 January 2005 at the Village Hall commencing at 8pm. The prospective County Council candidate, Roger Baker, will be in attendance.

All supporters welcome

Congratulations Weight Watchers!

Congratulations to all the members of the Cranfield and Marston Weight Watchers meetings. What an amazing year you've had. Altogether you have lost nearly 500 stone.

You are all Fantastic!

Many of you have reached your goal weight and are still attending the meetings and maintaining your weight loss

You are all Brilliant!

If you would like to join in the success, come and see what's new from 5th January 2005. We're at Cranfield Methodist Church on Wednesdays 7pm-8pm & Marston Village Hall on Thursdays 6.15pm-7.15pm

Have a fantastic Christmas & a Happy New Year to you all

Keep up the good work. See you all in January. Love Clare (W.W. Leader)

Housing Update

Cranfield Parish Council is seeking a further meeting with Mid Beds District Council with regard to the proposed housing development in the village. It wishes to convey to planners the strong local opposition to a detached site for a lower school playing field and to proposals for a land swap on the recreation ground to facilitate an adjacent site. The Parish Council is currently looking at possible solutions. The Council is pledged to give the people of Cranfield their say on any solution by holding a village poll. This will be held early in 2005 when the possible options become clearer.

Mid Beds District Council has deferred plans to finally adopt the local plan which includes allocating the proposed housing development to Home Farm rather than the airfield. It was due to do so on December 9 but this will now be discussed at its full council meeting in January.

Cranfield Parish Council has already written to the leader of the council, Cllr Mrs Patricia Turner further questioning the council's decision to allocate housing to Home Farm (see letter in Cranfield Express last month). This decision was contrary to the views of the parish council, the majority of residents who responded to a consultation last year, the area's MP, the council's head of planning services, the inquiry inspector's recommendation and government guidance on use of brownfield sites. It also drew Cllr Turner's attentions to the problems for educational facilities caused by development. A reply to these points has not been received as Cranfield Express was going to press.

Laurence Pollock

Church News

On Saturday 4th December, 'Sounds Familiar' under the musical direction of Jean Lloyd, gave the first of their Christmas concerts by kind invitation of The Friends of the Church. The choir was accompanied by Cara Butterworth - keyboard, Helen Ranger - double bass, and Jonathan Foster on the drums. Gerald Butcher welcomed all to our beautiful church and the programme started with 'Rumours of Angels' - a short Christmas musical by Graham Kendrick. This was followed by Carols from Around the World. Christmas stalls including a cake stall and a raffle were in the church, and refreshments were provided by 'the Friends' during the interval.

The evening was very well supported (approximately £420 was raised by the Friends of the Church), and the choir and the organisers would like to thank all those who came along, and wish everyone a happy, peaceful Christmas.

Jan Faulkner

"Okay you lot - I suppose you think this is funny - whose been at the sherry?"



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Cranfield Express Website ... the Webmaster speaks!

I found a previous months "Disability Discrimination Act" article very interesting and it reminded me of the obligations of website designers in relation to making websites accessible to all. The Disability Discrimination Act of 1995 states that it is unlawful for "a provider of services" to discriminate against a disabled person in failing to comply with its provisions. At first, there was some ambiguity because the wording of the Act did not specifically mention on-line services. Any ambiguity was removed by the DRC's (Disability Rights Commission) publication in 2002 of a Code of Practice which clarified that businesses should make their web sites accessible to those with disabilities such as hearing or visual impairments.

Many, in fact the vast majority, of websites still do not take this act and code of practice into account due to either cost, ignorance, laziness, lack of ability or because it makes producing a professional looking website that much harder. I would also argue that not taking this act into account when building a website not only discriminates against the disabled person but also stops or makes it very difficult for many other people to view the website properly and thereby lessens the impact that a website has either on sales or just readership. For example, people viewing websites have different computers, some are Windows based, some are Macintosh others are Linux, and the list goes on. On top of these different computers many other differences come into play such as screen size and resolution, different web browsers. Some people have text only browsers while others have mobile phone and PDA systems which have very small screens on which to display the web pages. Some people have broadband others have much slower internet access. All of these factors need to be taken into account when designing a website. Failing to take any or all of these and other differences into account reduces the number of people able to view the

website properly irrespective of the disabled.

By considering the act mentioned above and understanding what is needed to "conform" the website designer would not only be meeting his or her obligations but also producing a website that covers all the other differences mentioned above and would be greatly enhancing the end result of the website. It is therefore very much in the interest of the website designer/owner to consider the act and code of practices that exist. Complying with the act should not, and need not, be seen as just "meeting obligations to the disabled by the 1995 act" but more a case of "meeting the obligations to all to ensure a much more effective website is produced".

The World Wide Web Consortium (www.w3c.org) is the body that sets standards and gives advice on how websites should be constructed. They publish all the "rules" for website designers and programmers. By writing website code that meets their standards a designer can make a website that will conform and be compatible with most peoples web browser whether they are disabled or not. Failure to meet these standards means that in all likelihood the website being created will not be viewable to all and will probably be displayed differently for people using different web browsers to that which the web designer used when viewing his or her own creation.

As with anything in life it is easier said than done but Cranfield Express would like it's own website to comply with the act. The site almost does comply apart from the odd little issue. Most pages now conform to the W3C standards mentioned above and each page that does comply carries with it a small W3C logo at the bottom of each page to say so. The front page is of most concern with regard to the standards and will be changed soon but meeting the W3C standards is one of the easier tasks, the hardest task is actually making sure the site is accessible to all in reality and this can only

be done with feedback.

Many people can get some idea if a physical shop entrance is accessible to people in a wheel chair etc because we have all seen a wheel chair and can appreciate that a ramp in some places would make life easier as would a wider door, lower shelves etc (I see that the Nat West cash machine has been lowered) but in the virtual world of the web its a little more difficult to know for sure that you are making the site accessible. What do blind people use to view websites? A text reader, or do they use much brighter colours with greater contrast and enlarge the font size for example? Designing a website to the W3C standards should take care of all these questions but I have no way of knowing if all the effort is actually benefiting the people that need it - are there any people viewing the CE website with special needs, are you able to view the website? Please let me know.

Making a cash machine accessible seems to mean just making it lower so that someone in a wheel chair can reach the keys and see the screen but surely this isn't making it accessible, only partly - what about a blind person using the machine?

It seems to a cynic like me that meeting the accessibility act's rules and guidelines (and I haven't read it properly for some time and I'm presuming that the cash machine does meet the requirements) allow companies to get away with just "doing something" perhaps just doing what is easiest and is not making companies do what is needed. Surely to make a cash machine accessible it not only needs to be lower but needs brail on the buttons, and an option for making the words on the screen larger and perhaps a button so that the machine actually reads out aloud the options and text for the user but then again where does it all end? Is this act just paper words and full of good intentions but fairly useless in the real world?

I'm a computer programmer, physical restrictions such as bricks, cement

and carpentry skills to make a door wider don't concern me when making the CE website accessible to all, my time is free so cost isn't an issue either - it only takes time. Time I can make if it's worth while. What does concern me is the fact that I don't know if there are any viewers of the site with special needs and I have no real way of knowing if the time taken to meet accessibility standards is time well spent or not so I'll ask the following questions: Do you want to view the website but can't, can you read most of the website but some parts are in accessible, what do you want me to change to make the website work for you?

Not everything can be made to work instantly, it can take weeks or more but the web does offer the opportunity to be accessible to everyone when the technology is affordable to those that need different equipment. The website can be made to display words in huge lettering for those with poor eyesight, it can be made to read out allowed for you if your blind, it can at the press of a button change colour so that all colours are high contrast for those that have problems in this area. If I know a little more about the equipment that disabled people use to access the web I can even make the site automatically sense that you are using a text reader and therefore not display the pictures but display descriptions of the pictures instead. What I can't do is tell what to do for the disabled, or how well the website is behaving for your particular needs without your feedback, comments and criticisms so please feedback and comment.

I've also taken a look at various websites produced by villagers and local businesses and unless someone can point me in the right direction I haven't seen a single website that does meet the accessibility standards completely - most don't even come remotely close - does it matter, or do you even care?

andy@cranfield-village.co.uk

Website Messages From Around the World

Chris Rickards, New Plymouth, New Zealand **White Family**

My mothers family comes from George William White who married twice. His first wife Mary Hands, second Clara Chilman. My ancestors were heavily involved with the Mt. Zion Tabernacle, Congregational Church. An organist for many years, also secretary on the parish council. Gave heavily to the poor and needy, even when in need him self. A son of his, William George White, married his step Aunt. My grandfather named Arthur Ernest White married Eveline Hannah Davey in Uruguay, where my mother was born.

Ian & Margaret Buckingham
Adelaide South Australia
We both lived in Bliss Ave and moved to Australia in 1970. We also went to Stewartby School. Also we

are friends of Dave Atkinson who lives about 60km south of Adelaide. Best wishes to all in Bliss Ave, CUFC, The pubs that are still left!!

Matthew Taylor **H o u s t o n , Texas ... Grew up in Cranfield,** for as long as I can remember Cranfield was home. I attended both schools Primary and Holywell then on to Wootton Upper. I now live in Texas, it is fantastic to be able to tell my friends and new family here that they can see where I grew up through this website. Maybe you would consider a contact spot for people who are looking for old friends etc.

Al Lopez Kent, Washington USA
A very pleasant visit to Cranfield
My wife and I visited Cranfield in September 2004 and stayed with our

son-in-law and daughter who live on High Street. Visiting the site brings back the good memories of our visit, strolling the quiet street and Woodland. I hope the residents of Cranfield appreciate in what pleasant place you live. Hope to visit again soon

Mavis Roper **B r i s b a n e Australia - Growing up in Cranfield**
Hi I lived in Cranfield as a young girl and went to Stewartby school, have lived in Australia since '69 but often visit your website. love to hear from anyone who went to the village dances as that was the big weekend treat in the 50's

Nik Shazwan Hariz, **M i c h i g a n , USA memories**
Hey everyone I'm Nik from Malaysia currently studying in US of A.

I attended Cranfield Lower School (89-92) & Holywell (92). Looking at the pictures on the site gave me nuthin but sweet memories of playing footy for the school... I was in when Mr. Black was coach and when Mr Bell was headmaster. It was a great childhood for me back in Cranfield. Hope to visit one day. Anyways...I'm hoping to get back in touch with my Cranfield school mates who I have lost touch with. Some of those who played football with me probably still live in Cranfield - Thomas Brightman, Andre Lane and Matthew Terral...

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Pete



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Cranfield United Football Club Results....

AFC Guildford 3 - Cranfield United 2

(Cherry Red Books Trophy - 1st round) Saturday 20th November
This was Cranfield's debut in this competition which is an invitation trophy open to those Clubs in the Isthmean (Ryman) feeder leagues which are not competing in the FA Vase during the current season. AFC Guildford currently play in the Premier Division of the Combined Counties League. Played on a very greasy pitch the result of this game was always going to be a lottery and the final score could quite easily have favoured either side.

The home side opened brightly and their midfield took early control of the game. It was not, however, until the 28th minute that they created their first scoring opportunity when a header flew narrowly wide of the post. Then twice in quick succession Templeman was called upon to block what looked to be certain goals, before Dudoic in the 37th minute headed over the bar. The first goal of the game came in the 39th minute when Templeman was beaten by a well-struck drive from the edge of the penalty area. Sorby came close to levelling the scores just before half time but the keeper saved well at the foot of the post.

The home side went 2-0 up early in the second half when Goddard and Allison both hesitated waiting for an offside whistle that never came and it looked all over for Cranfield. Five minutes later against the run of play Drew prodded the ball home after Goddard had managed to get his head to an Ingerson corner. Unexpectedly the home side suddenly ran out of steam and Cranfield were in the driving set. With 4 minutes to go a clever interchange between Griffiths and Hall set up Goddard to level the scores from close range and extra time victory looked mere formality.

In the event it did not happen like that as in the 88th minute the homeside snatched a winning goal out of nothing when hesitancy reigned once again in the Cranfield defence.

Team: S.Templeman, A.Allison, S.Drew, D.Goddard, A.Watt, L.Ingerson, M.Hall, M.Griffiths, M.Woolgar (H.Sorby 32nd min), J.Dudoic, H.Sorby, D.Pilgrim,

Cranfield United 2 - Arlesey Athletic 1

Saturday November 27th
After a series of drawn games in which maximum points had been needlessly squandered due to careless errors in last few minutes of the game this win brought a smile to Jeremy Hall's face. It took his team three places up the league table and also put to an end a series

of defeats against Cranfield's bogey sides for the last two seasons. In all three previous encounters Arlesey has come from behind to take maximum points by virtue of dubious goals.

As early as the 10th minute John Dudoic should have opened the scoring but miscued an easy chance with his left foot. The visitors also came close in the 15th min when with Steve Templeman beaten the ball rattled against the post. Dan Pilgrim also shot wildly over the bar before Lyndon Ingerson opened the scoring in the 31st minute with a solo run from the half way line and a lob over the keeper from the edge of the penalty area.

Both sides again came close to scoring before half time. Hugh Sorby was on the goal line to get hit body behind what looked like a certain Arlesey goal, and then Steve Templeman somehow managed to get his feet behind another goal bound shot. At the other end John Dudoic blasted the ball across the face of the goal and almost hit the corner flag.

Cranfield's second goal came in the 55th minute when from a Lyndon Ingerson corner Dan Goddard out-jumped the defence to head the ball goalwards unfortunately for him Dan Pilgrim was on hand to help it into the net from all of 6 inches out and claim the glory.

Both Dan Pilgrim and Shane New had chances to increase the lead before a push in the back by Hugh Sorby allowed the visitors back into the with a penalty in the 85th minute.

Instead of closing the game down and playing out time however we allowed the opposition to think they could still snatch a point by unnecessarily pushing forward in an attempt to score further goals. As a result we all had to suffer our usual last five minutes of agony before the final whistle came.

Team: S.Templeman, D.Goddard, A.Allison, S.Drew, A.Watt, M.Hall, M.Griffiths, H.Sorby, L.Ingerson, J.Dudoic(S.New 72nd min), D.Pilgrim(N.Scott 75th min),

Cranfield United 2 - Shillington 3

(Bedfordshire Senior Trophy - Quarter Final) Saturday 5th December

Despite being clear favourites and outplaying an opposition which was not capable of putting together two passes when outside their own half Cranfield somehow contrived to concede three silly goals and lose the game in the 88th minute.

Cranfield started well and within the first 10 minutes both Watt and Dudoic should have opened the scoring. This honour however went to the visitors in the 18th minute when Blackett whose pace was causing consternation for the home defence was upended in the penalty area and Dee rattled home the penalty. In the 29th minute Dudoic levelled the scores when at the far post he headed home a Pilgrim cross from the left.

The visitors however regained the lead in the 35th minute from inswinging corner when the Buckmaster was allowed a free header at the nearpost with his marker nowhere to be seen, and just before half time they had two shots blocked on the line with Templeman beaten.

After half time Cranfield began to dominate the game but it took until the 68th minute for Pilgrim to level the scores again. From then on they pushed forward looking for the winning goal but were unable to produce the required final telling pass. As extra time loomed Cranfield became complacent and ended up conceding a corner in the 89th minute and then conceded yet another last gasp goal as an unmarked Blackett was allowed to head home and snatch the game for the visitors.

Team: S.Templeman, A.Allison, S.Drew, D.Goddard, A.Watt, L.Ingerson, M.Hall (D.Billington 68th min), M.Griffiths, H.Sorby (N.Scott 55th min), J.Dudoic, H.Sorby, D.Pilgrim,

Larry Corkrey

Spotted on the internet! A Sign

In a fine example of letting the buyer beware, the Scottsdale (Arizona) city council is considering putting up signs near its airport warning prospective buyers of neighbouring homes what they might be buying into. "I think it is a brilliant plan, and I will suggest the council pursue it," Councilman Bob Littlefield, chairman of the city's subcommittee on aviation issues, told the East Valley Tribune. "If we did this it would be 100 % clear, and we wouldn't have to worry if real estate agents are disclosing the noise issue."

The signs are one option in a noise study being done by the FAA at the increasingly busy resort city's airport. As more and more houses sprout from the desert around the airport, the number of noise complaints has skyrocketed but, in contrast to some other communities we can think of, Scottsdale officials appear refreshingly unmoved by the complaints... "If you don't want to get sea spray on your house in San Diego, don't buy a house next to the ocean," Airport Commissioner John Mack said. "Just as if you don't want aircraft noise, don't buy a house next to an airport."

Cranfield United Football Club Centenary Pictures ... The 80's



1986 1st XI at Luton Town



1986 2nd Team



1988 Stantonbury Cup Winners



1st XI 1989



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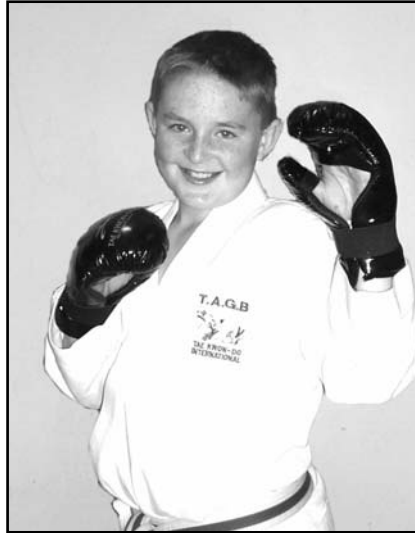
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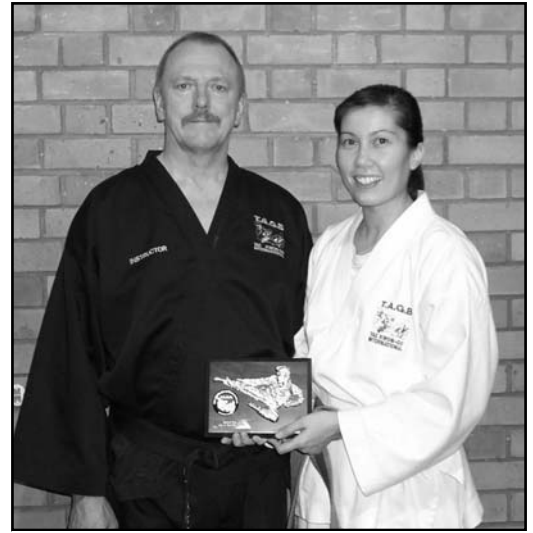
Cranfield Tae Kwon do Club



Adam Cowley



Lewis Perrin



Marressa Keeler receives award for best in grading



Russell Sanders with the silver cup

We recently attended the British Championships held at the Coventry skydome. Our squad of Russell Sanders, Lewis Perrin, Adam Cowley, Andrew Harvey and Charlotte Naylor (not pictured) all enjoyed the experience and performed well. Russell in only his second competition fought extremely well and came runner up in the cadet heavyweight division beaten only marginally in the final. Lewis Perrin and Adam Cowley were both in their first competition and although didn't progress to the later stages will have gained invaluable experience from it

and will be looking forward to the next competition in February. Thanks to our band of officials and supporters who had a long day, and to Kim for the much appreciated sarnie and crisps. The next competition is the south midlands championships to be held in Hereford. We hope to enter another good squad and are always looking for support. We are also still looking for a sponsor to provide our squad with some team kit. Anyone who could help please give me a call. We will be running a series of demo's in the new year and starting a beginners class so if you might be interested or would like to know more give me a call. Tae Kwon-do is suitable for anyone irrespective of age sex size or physical condition and will greatly enhance your life through fitness flexibility confidence co ordination and a basic knowledge of self defence. We also have a bit of fun. I will also be running a self defence class for women subject to numbers so ring me if you are interested in that. For any info please give me a call. Happy Christmas to all our members and readers.

David Rawle
01234 750716 mobile 07860 831729 e-mail
david.rawle@bt.com

wing as he continually 'skinned' the left back and threatened the goal. However both he and Jakk Pursey on the other wing never quite got any telling crosses into the box. Midway through the half we began to loose our shape and control, this coincided with some changes I had made to strengthen our hold on the game. It had the opposite effect. Corinthians were now making better use of their limited possession, winning the 50:50 balls, picking up the loose balls and passing the ball quickly upfield. As a result our midfield were too often stranded out of position. The pressure was now being put on our defence and we survived several scary moments before eventually going behind. As the Colts defence backed off they allowed an unchallenged shot from the edge of the box which was gratefully drilled into the net. The remainder of the half continued to see us display some kamikaze defending, which thankfully the opposition couldn't exploit. However, our forward play continued to cause them problems and ensured that we were capable of getting back into the game.

The second half saw Colts at last starting to pass the ball around and as a result much of the play was in the opponent's half. Jakk, Will and Chris Marshall (who had now moved to midfield) were causing lots of

problems, but Corinthians defence continued to show greater commitment in the tackle and held out for some time. Our breakthrough came when Chris evaded several tackles before unleashing a crisp shot from outside the box and into the net. Corinthian regained the lead when, with our midfield once again caught upfield, they moved the ball quickly to their forwards. Powder puff defending allowed one of them to walk through the middle of our defence and score. I was livid, but not for long, as Colts response was immediate and from the kick-off they carried the ball upfield and patiently worked an opening. With the opponents defence all at sea the ball was passed to Chris who scored his second with a trademark strike from outside the box and brought the game level at 2-2. Corinthians were clearly rocked and several more chances came our way before a low cross from Will was tucked into the net by Jakk. All credit to Corinthians as they came back at Colts and - in a rerun of their second goal - from yet another swift break went through the middle of our defence to score. It was déjà vu all over again! In a game Colts should have won, but could have lost, a 3-3 draw was probably the right result.

Gerry McNulty

Colts U10's

Hard Earned Draw Points to Defensive Frailties

Leighton Corinthians - Cranfield Colts U10's 4th December 04

On a large and heavy pitch a passing game was essential, and while Corinthians applied this simple rule, our more individual style meant that we really had to work hard to earn a precious point. Going forward Colts

played with skill, endeavour and passion, and had most of the possession and chances, but in defence we gifted our opponents' three cheap goals. As a result this was an equally exciting and frustrating game to watch.

The game started well enough as for the first quarter Colts played the more controlled and fluent football with Nicki Meglinski commanding the centre midfield. Will Jones was having a great time down the right

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Christmas message from Cranfield Colts

On behalf of Cranfield Colts Football Club I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for supporting The Colts in the past year; Roy Chamberlain, Sarah DaCosta & the students union association at Cranfield University, for not only providing us with somewhere to play our matches, but also use of facilities at the university, sponsorship of kits and helping our new managers gain F.A. level 1 coaching badges.

The North Crawley Institute Management Committee for letting both our senior sides & the girls team use their facilities and pitches
Peter Litchfield, Cranfield's resident tooth doctor for sponsoring 2 of our younger coaches to go on and train to be level 2 coaches this year, but also for his support in previous years.

All the local businesses who have placed adverts in our tournament programme or have provided prizes for our raffles.

Mid Beds council & the Parish Council for all their support throughout the past few years.

The Royal Mail Community Carers for sponsoring our new goals for this season.

In particular I would like to thank the Colt's committee & managers for all their hard work, because without these people the Colts would not run at all. I apologise if I have missed anyone but I am sure that there have been many other people in Cranfield who have made the Colts football Club the success that it is today.

We now have over 170 boys & girls registered to play football for the Colts which is remarkable considering the size of our village, however with the continued expansion of our village I am sure that the club will only get bigger, so we will continue to seek your kind support in everything that we do.

Thank you all and merry Christmas.

Paul Stannage (Chairman)



Colts U14's ... Six in the City

New City 1 Colts 6

With New City being above us in the league by point this was our opportunity to move up 2-3 places, with teams in the middle of the league all very close together.

Perhaps the result was a little unfair on New City, as they probably had as many chances as we did, but we finished ours and City missed theirs. So at half time we were 4-0 up which made for an easy team talk, and also it's not bad with a change midfield with Matt and Harry filling in for Tom and Sam.

For the first 5-10 minutes of the second half we were totally in control, missing 4-5 good chances. Our 5th goal came halfway through the second half and the boys thought that they were on for their Mars Bars for keeping a clean sheet, but all credit to City, they battled well and started to take control, so I had to up the stakes to a King-size Mars Bar. However, City managed to get through us and score their only goal of the game.

We then went on to score our 6th goal, but again credit to New City who made us work hard throughout the game and they did not drop their heads and never gave up. If their heads had dropped this could easily have been double figures for us.

Scorers: Charlie Glover 5, Keaton Gallagher 1

Man of the Match: John Davies

Christmas Comes Early for the U14's

Woodside A 2 Colts 3

What a nail biter in a very even game. With a very narrow pitch, most of the play was down the middle, therefore there were not many clear chances in the first half.

With Colts conceding the first goal only to bounce back with a goal from Tom after the keeper could not hold the first shot, so at half time it was 1-1.

In the start of the second half and with a long clearance by John for Ryan to run onto and score, this made it 2-1 to the Colts. With 20 minutes left we found it hard to slow the pace down as Woodside were pushing and with only 10 minutes to go they managed to equalise.

Matt scored the winner with 5 minutes to go and this time we sat behind the ball, throw-ins were down the line and we worked the ball into the corner to kill the game off. Harry and Matt found it hard pushing forward and then covering in front of defence, but again they did a great job with Tom shutting the midfield down and not allowing them to get behind our back four. But it is not without Woodside hitting the crossbar and also Will doing his normal party piece clearing the ball of the line again, this was a well earned win and if the results go our way, we could find ourselves 4th in the league (out of 14) this Christmas.

Scorers: Tom Tresidder 1, Ryan Bate 1, Matt Taylor 1

Man of the Match: Jordon Gowlett



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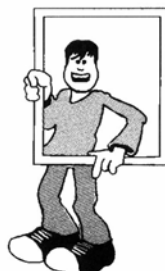
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