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July 2000 No 4 

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Bid to head off Milton Keynes



Lincroft today or The Spinney 10 years from now? There is debate about whether official estimates for the number of future houses needed are accurate.

Milton Keynes has been told to 'go north' to stop Cranfield and surrounding villages from being absorbed into the expanding new town.

The message is contained in Cranfield Parish Council's formal response to the SERPLAN (South East Region Planning Authority) proposals for housing development.

But Alan Bastable, Parish Council Planning Committee Chairman told Cranfield Express that the issue was now more about the total growth of housing in the region and less to do with Milton Keynes. He also said SERPLAN's recent proposals to reduce the number of new houses built annually from 43,000 to 33,000 was 'still not enough.'

"There are still too many houses in this part of the world."

Mr Bastable, along with representatives from Salford and Marston, last month handed in a petition at 10 Downing Street, calling for a reduction in housing. The petition was raised by the Mid Beds Parish Council Planning Consortium which represents villages in the area.

The SERPLAN figure would allocate 2,100 new homes annually to Bedfordshire as opposed to the government figure of nearly 2,800.

Mr Bastable and Parish Councillors Margaret Rooney and Peter Henson drafted the Parish Council response. The Parish Council approved it last month.

It opposes the plan contained in the proposals for Milton Keynes to be an 'area of plan-led expansion'. The response says:

"This is in direct contravention of other recommended policies in this report. Prior to Milton Keynes expanding, consideration should be given to making better use of the available land in Milton Keynes in line with accepted housing directives. Milton Keynes currently has 25 houses to the hectare, whereas normal development is 30/50 houses to the hectare.

"Any expansion of Milton Keynes should be NORTH, along the M1 corridor because there is no decent East-west route road link and the existing road, the A421 is subject to extreme congestion which is increasing as further commercial activities develop, particularly at Junction 13 (M1) and the A421 area."

The Parish Council response stresses that any greenfield development should be confined to the fringes of Milton Keynes and not extend to surrounding villages. It also warns that MK expansion will damage 'bio-diversity' (wildlife) and the 'quality of the rural environment'.

The council also strongly disagrees with the proposal for 43,000 new homes in total, questioning whether it can be accommodated while seeking 'sustainable development'.

The response concludes that the suggestion of Milton Keynes expansion is making the local population 'nervous, apprehensive and, if the issue is not handled sensitively, antagonistic'.

"Such reactions are understandable, given that historically, Milton Keynes was not expected to encroach signifi-

cantly on Bedfordshire communities.

"This is a sensitive issue and we strongly support the recommendation of 12.64 that a detailed study involving interested parties (including, we urge, the likely affected parish councils and district councils) be carried out.

"Development should be directed north to match transport/road facilities, which are superior in north-south direction."

For full text of the Parish Council's response, visit the Cranfield Express web site - www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk

Editorial note: What is your view? How do you think the case for less development should be made to the government? Write, fax or e mail your views (contact details on the front)

Keeping the village in
in touch

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Wednesday 19th July**

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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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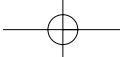
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Letters to the Editor

Four wheels bad, two wheels good

Robert's article I felt was brilliant, it raised an issue when perhaps we still have an opportunity to do something about it.

I have done many hairy things in my youth but now that I have a wife and child there is no way I would consider cycling to Cranfield so I am one of those nasty people who drive, sometimes I feel guilty and then at other times, particularly in the dark I don't.

The building of Traffic Masters head office and expansion of the technology park means that the bell has tolled for cyclists on the roads.

We whinge about the sedentary lives of our children yet would we allow our children out on the roads?

If Robert's suggestion of widening and hard surface the existing footpath could be adopted I would willingly help with the shoveling.

I suggest that Robert's suggestion is a starting point and should be extended so that the path would almost ring the airfield - obviously not past the control tower and aprons.

This would allow people who move to Cranfield who'll work at traffic master to cycle - especially if Traffic Master were to incorporate a shower room into the new building.

The new track could also be used by runners who face the same problems as cyclists, in finding a safe place to run.

The new extended track should have more entrance points so that runners and riders can enter at different points around the airfield for their own convenience, increasing the likelihood of use.

The plant and equipment necessary for this are currently in use building traffic master's new office any chance of their use at the weekends? somebody must be able to drive a digger? Ok the funding for the hard surface might be more difficult, but a thought occurs that the next time the university wants to bring up planning permission there might be a quid pro quo.

Mark Whitmore

Sir,

Well done to Robert Nicholls on a very amusing and outspoken article and especially his suggestion that single occupancy cars be banned from parking at the University. This could be of great service to the likes of many villagers who are bikeless and broke.

We look forward to a regular table of the times he actually drives to the Uni being published in the next Cranfield Express - so that we can wait on the corner of Coronation Road for a regular free lift in.

Yours Sincerely
Black Saab man

PS ... Could he also state the time that he will be coming home and whether a lunchtime ride will be available as well?

Sir,

I read with some disdain the ramblings of Mr Nicholls in last months Cranfield Express and I feel obliged to make comment.

Mr Nicholls' reference to high visibility wear and obligatory flashing lights does little to highlight the irritation that ferments in a top class driver's mind. Especially when such a blemish on an otherwise green landscape, wobbles across that driver's ninety mph racing line on the bend coming up to the University.

I know we have to accept the fraternity of "look at me I got a horse" muppets who even ride about in the dark wearing christmas tree lights.

These at least blend into the countryside a little bit (and with a carefully timed hooting could end up part of the hedgerow) but the high viz, show stopping hybrid of Sonic the hedgehog and Coco the clown on two wheels is all too much.

When I travel to work in the mornings I expect to be as close to the speed of sound as my powerful car allows and will hoot and make signs at all the lower breed of drivers that I meet and offend me on the route. My top of the range Nissan allows me to do this - otherwise, why would I have bought it? So, I offer the best possible solution to this poor man's dripping: Keep your bikey tripe off the roads and get into the fields where you will not offend us Kings of the road.

Name and address withheld

More motoring madness?

Since the traffic calming was put in place I have noticed a decrease in the amount of traffic speeding in the High Street during the night. At times in the past it was not unusual to hear cars and motorbikes racing up and down the road, often more than one as if they were racing against each other.

Perhaps we would find one or two more restricted road widths would be beneficial for the whole village! I often drive in towns where drastic measures have been taken to try to reduce speed in built-up areas. I do not have any idea if there has been any reduction in accident figures, but we are told that injuries incurred are usually less serious if speed is lower.

Yvonne Ward

Keep the grass green

I visit the church at least twice a week to tend the graves. Recently I have noticed a lot of dog excrement. My niece of six trod in some of it, I did not know until we had this revolting smell in my car.

I went to tend one of the five family graves last week, only to find dog excrement on it. Who ever you are, have some consideration for all who go there. Is it you who is allowing your dog to run freely? If so, please keep it on a lead.

Jean Bent.

What's on

- **Sun July 2nd** Ramble round the village, 2:30pm Meet outside Cranfield Lower School
- **Sun July 2nd** Jammin' session at the Swan, 12 - 4 pm
- **Sat July 8th** DJW - Karaoke "Tears in your eyes" The Swan 7:30 pm

Cranfield Baptist Church Jesus is Alive!

You are warmly invited to join with us:

Sundays - 10.45am Fellowship & Sunday School

We also meet on:

Wednesday - 7.45pm Home Group

Thursday - 7.30pm Youth Club

(1st Thursday each month)

Ages 11-16

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For further information contact:

Steve Lloyd on 751495

(Transport can be arranged)

- **Sat July 8th** Cabaret, Football Club, members & family only
- **Wed July 12th** Business club meeting, Social Club, 8 pm
- **Wed July 12th** Cranfield Parish Paths Partnership, Village Hall, 7pm
- **Sat July 15th** Games day on the sports field, Football Club 2 pm

Cranfield

Methodist Church

Sundays, 10 am: Morning Worship and Sunday School
6 pm: Evening Worship
Tuesdays (alternate), 2.30 pm: Women's Fellowship
Thursdays, 6 pm: Sunshine Corner (for children up to eight)
7.15 pm: Thursday Club (for children 8 to 12 years)

All welcome.

For further information contact
Rev. Paul Chesworth 751886
or Peter Meadows 750587

- **Sat July 15th** Church Open Day, St Peter & St Pauls
- **Fri July 21st** Tony's Disco, top sounds at The Swan, 7:30 pm
- **Sat July 23rd** Summer fun day, Football Club 2 pm
- **Wed July 26th** Milton Keynes Scale Model Club, Cranfield Social Club, 7:30 pm (www.ipmsmk.org.uk)
- **Sat July 29th** Stars in your eyes, Football Club 8 pm
- **Sat Aug 13th** Games night, Football Club
- **Sat Aug 19th** Games day in the sports field (followed by fancy dress party) Football Club



Cranes Supervisor Ros Peck pictured with some of the playgroup children.

As can be seen from the above, Ros enjoyed her last day at Cranes Pre-school!!

Wishing her good luck and success in the future, with our grateful thanks for her past commitment to Cranes.

Blockheads and blocked paths

Dear Editor,

The CAA, Civil Aviation Authority, is the governing body of all aviation activities in UK airspace :- They make the rules and laws governing all aircraft and airfields.

Any infringement of these rules can cost the offender dearly.

A few years ago, a passenger carrying aircraft was coming in to land at Cranfield, he had to abort the landing and thus avoiding a serious accident when in front of him a cyclist came out of Merchant Lane and across the runway.

The pilot logged a report with the Control Tower and they forwarded the report to the CAA. This resulted in Merchant Lane being closed and signs being put up, stating that unauthorised persons on the airfield are liable to a fine of £1000.

And yet we still get blockheads complaining about not being able to take a short cut across the airfield!

D.Evison-Jowett

Any correspondence on this, or other matters, can either be dropped in the usual boxes, or e-mailed to letters@cranfieldexpress.co.uk

Parish Council May 24th

Phil Bates was re-elected unopposed as chair of the parish council - his fourth year of office. The council's committees are composed as follows:

Burial grounds: Armstrong, Ball, Bates, Bridges, Dosser, Henson, Jolly and Savill

Environment: Armstrong, Ball, Baker, Bastable, Bates, Bridges, Dosser, Henson, Hockenhull, Parker and Rooney

Finance: Baker, Ball Bastable, Bates, Bridges, Dosser, Greenough, Henson, Hockenhull, Howe, Jolly, Parker and Savill.

General Purposes: Armstrong, Baker, Ball, Bastable, Bates, Bridges, Dosser, Greenough, Henson, Hockenhull, Howe, Rooney and Savill

Planning: Armstrong, Ball, Bastable, Bates, Bridges, Dosser, Greenough, Henson, Hockenhull, Jolly, Rooney and Savill.

Representatives on other bodies: Marston Vale landfill liaison: Baker and Dosser; airfield liaison: Bastable and Rooney; youth groups liaison: Ball and Greenough; village hall management committee: Bastable; community safety: Baker, Bridges, Savill.

Current parish councillors are: May Armstrong, Delise Ball, Roger Baker, Alan Bastable, Phil Bates, Ken Bridges, Brian Dosser, Rick Greenough, Phil Henson, Sheila Hockenhull, John Howe, Richard Jolly, Lisa Parker, Margaret Rooney, John Savill.

Save our verges

It seems that the parish council's planning chairman talked a great deal of bollards at the planning committee's last meeting. But it was all in a good cause and Alan Bastable was in deadly earnest.

Grass verges at the western end of the High Street were turning into 'rutted tracks' because of parking, he said. Large solid objects were the only way of stopping this.

The PC planning committee recommended an approach to Mid Beds to ask if it will devise and cost a scheme that makes the verges inaccessible to cars. The cost would be mostly met from the highways budget but Cranfield residents would have to find 25 per cent of the bill from a special levy.

Peter Henson was worried that if this scheme went ahead between Townsend Close and the Methodist Church, 'everyone will want bollards' (the mind boggles). And new PC member Lisa Parker sought to inject a green note into matters by asking why a set of trees could not be planted.

Well nothing in local government is ever so straightforward. The meeting heard that tree roots interfered with underground utility mains. And in case you were wondering, bushes had been tried elsewhere but people simply drove over them and they died (the bushes).

Meanwhile there is continuing anger at the effect of traffic calming but PCllr Margaret Rooney reported that the system installed at Wharley End was working well. The planning committee recommended that Mid Beds be invited to send a planning officer out for an 8.45 am weekday site visit during term time.

Committees: June 7th Man (or person) Of The Meeting award goes to PCllr John Savill for his natty Alcatraz School Rock-Breaking tee shirt.

Parish surgeons

The next parish council surgery will be held on Wednesday 12th July at 8 pm in the village hall. This is an opportunity to raise issues of concern, informally, with parish councillors and find out 'just what is going on'.

The parish council may be at the bottom of the local government food chain but its work is important for the quality of our life locally and the appearance of our village. It makes our official response to proposals for more housing in the area. The council is the only body which can take on Mid Beds and claim to represent the people of Cranfield as a whole.

The surgery however is aimed at anyone who has a local problem and could do with some 'in the know' assistance. It could be problems over a common pathway, poor street lighting, hedge and tree trimming or the state of the burial ground. It could be to do with traffic - for instance parking outside the lower school or cars parked on kerbs obstructing buggies.

If you would like more information about how the parish council can help you, contact the clerk to the council on 01525 404258

Cranfield Parish Council

Affiliated to Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils

Problems? Concerns? Worries?

Ask your Parish Councillors

at the

Quarterly Surgery

at the

Village Hall

on

Wednesday 12th July 2000

at

8:00 pm

Do drop in for a cup of tea and an informal chat — let us have your views.

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Lady Snagge - legend or lie?



Is this simply another wooded roadway in Cranfield, or the home of a spirit, doomed to wander the earth? Wood End Road is where Cranfield's headless ghost is said to haunt. Have you seen her?

Picture the scene ... A moonless and yet clear night along a lonely country lane over the Christmas holiday and not a soul stirring except for one high spirited family returning home from an evening with relatives. Picture again that lane as it sweeps down past the wooded enclosure of Cranfield Court ... Hear the hushed whispers of the sleepy revellers ... And, what was that? The unexplained rattling of a five bar gate which increased their pace? Was it just a startled Muntjac or, and heaven forbid, something more sinister?

Whatever it was that disturbed their patter on that Christmas night the response was unanimously voiced in two words, "Lady Snagge!"

When I first heard of Lady Snagge she was the subject of a story which was told to a group of us much quivering boy's back in the misty 50's by their scoutmaster. At the time the tale, which reeked of violence, decapitation and haunting around the lanes and bridle-ways of Cranfield was regarded as a special story time treat and told in a hushed tone around the evening campfire.

The tale tells of one Lady Snagge who was galloping along the Wood End Road to meet her lover (I added 'lover' to the script after my voice deepened) when she fell victim to a group of thieves. The motley lot had stretched a cord across the lane at a place called Wood End Road at Cranfield. The resulting decapitation was caused by the speed of her steed and her failure to spot the cord.

Unperturbed by their grisly result the thieves quickly robbed the body of her fine clothes, gold rings and brooches and, over the centuries, Lady Snagge's ghost rode her powerful horse along the lane in search of her murderers.

Believe it?

Well I did, but, there were questions to be answered and like all good ghost stories their is a fine line drawn between fact and fiction ...

First of all - did the Lady Snagge exist at all?

The answer to this can be found in the church of St Mary the Virgin in the village of Marston Moretaine. There, the intrepid ghost buster can see the red veined alabaster tomb monument to the memory of Thomas Snagge and his wife Elizabeth.

Nothing too outstanding about this Lady Snagge except perhaps that her husband was a barrister, an elected Member of Parliament for Bedfordshire, Attorney General for Ireland and finally the elected Speaker to the House of Commons in the late 16th century.

There wasn't much to read about Elizabeth except she was the mother of five sons and two daughters and outlived her husband by some 43 years and possibly spent the last years of her life in Cranfield. These facts come to light in Thomas Snagge's last will and testimony of 1591 where it states ...

"I bequeath also to my said wyfe during the saide term if she liveth so long, my conduitt and hoppe yarde (conduit and hop yard) in Cranfield in the County of Bedfordshire and my lane called Venison Lane in Cranfield."

Venison Lane eh? Oh deer I wonder where that is?

So, Lady Elizabeth Snagge was a Cranfield girl when she died and would have been in her eighties so hardly party to some wild galloping along the Wood End Road to meet a lover.

So, which of the Snagge wives could the spectre be?

After the death of Elizabeth there followed Anne (or Anna) whose husband Thomas (they were nearly all Thomases) died in 1675. Then there was Dorothy whose husband died in 1687 and Mary who married an Edward Snagge in the late 17th century. Any one of these could have had lovers at Brogborough Park and set out on that ill-fated ride.

Mary Street wrote in her book of Cranfield that the ghost materialised along the Wood End Road where there used to be an avenue of trees running from the road that was known as Lady Snagge's Walk. Lady Snagge was said to ride along it on a headless horse and in the mid nineteenth century the Rector exorcised the ghost with "bell, book, and candle" ... Doris Malsher suggested that Lady Snagge rode a powerful horse at dark, and was invisible but those affected by her presence could feel the swish of the animal as it galloped past and on to the Round House at Brogborough Park.

I don't suppose that the modern thinker has time for the ways and wherefore of hauntings. Nowadays folk are analysers and not easily spooked ... unlike Terry Bush and his unidentified mate who were cycling back to Flitwick after some of Newton Blossomville's finest ale ...

"It was very late and we'd had a few and it was one of those clear moonless nights. We were at the bottom of Marston Hill when we suddenly ceased our chatter and accelerated our bikes to the junction of Horsepool Lane. There we stopped to catch our breath and both said simultaneously ... "Did you see it too?"

At the bottom of the hill they had suddenly become aware of a figure moving towards them and up the hill. The figure was dressed in black with a white front and appeared to be without a head. On reflection and some thirty years later, Terry, had several explanations for what they had seen.

"It could have been a man with his coat over his head 'cos it was so cold that night, or a giant penguin and for a more realistic guess, a Friesian cow ... we just spooked and accelerated away."

Whatever it was that they saw, the legend will linger. Lady Snagge, for all her scariness, is part of the community of Cranfield.

Peter Hinson

Thanks to Mr Faulkner, churchwarden to St Mary's the Virgin at Marston Moretaine, for his warm reception and hospitality to the 'scruff' with a digital camera and to Bernice Maynard, local historian, for her much detailed research and her astonishing ability to get to the roots and truths of it all.



The tomb of Thomas and Elizabeth Snagge, St Mary the Virgin, Marston Moretaine

A. Downes

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On your bike!

Things go in cycles they say and the fifties and sixties reappeared at the Swan over the Bank Holiday Weekend. The fancy dress charity cycle went ahead despite the inclement conditions and looks like raising more than £1,700. The cash will go to local Cranfield children's groups. Glenda and Harry want to say a big 'thank you' to every one who helped: Sue and Roger Thompson (photography/bar); Karen Haigh, Alan and Sheila (back up van and drivers); Geoff Parker (sponsor forms and paperwork); Don Allen (back up vehicle and transport); Shelagh Boddington (fancy dress assistance); Ross, Cathy, Mistral and Laura (bucket collection). Some money is still to come - Glenda and Harry know where you live.



The runners and riders at the start



Eat your heart out, Starsky and Hutch!



Off they all go

Kumon Maths

Bedford South Centre is having an Open Evening in the Methodist Church Hall in Cranfield
10th July Between 6pm and 8pm
All Children and Parents welcome
Alternatively, call Nina Kecman 752165

How far does Cranfield Express Go?

We have had reports of our local newspaper reaching as far afield as Devon. On our website, this month, we are placing an article from Donald Mariner, who has written from Devon on a visit to Jerusalem.

We would love to hear any stories if you forward a copy. And please tell your foreign friends of our web site, www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk, where anyone can read the main stories from each month's issue and local history.

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Cranfield Social Club - July

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Thur 6th July **Quiz Night (£75 1st prize)**

Fri 14th July **Race Night (A day at the races)**

Thur 20th July **Live Band (to be announced)**

Thur 27th July **Quiz Night (£75 first prize)**

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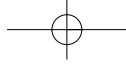
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Nina tots up top marks

Mathematics is a hot topic these days and not just for the kids.

Concern about falling standards led to the 'numeracy hour' in our schools in a bid to get test scores up.

Some parents resort to extra coaching but just what is the best way to help your child without putting too much pressure on them?

Nina Kecman of Rowan Way believes the Japanese Kumon method is one way forward. She is planning an 'open evening' in Cranfield to demonstrate the technique which she currently teaches in Kempston.

Kumon, she says, fits in with mainstream school maths education. But it can cope with both the very bright and slower learners. It does not involve a lot of extra schooling.

The Kumon sessions last two hours twice a week but students check in for about half an hour any time during the session. They will take homework away lasting little more than 10 minutes.

"The programme is very well structured and the student progresses through different levels according to their accuracy," she says.

"It is not just mental arithmetic and Kumon can be used right up to A levels.

"One of our pupils at Kempston is now on the Kumon national listing - a very high achievement."

Nina also accepts pupils with special educational needs and points to a girl she took on at the age of 18



Paul Britton hard at work in the Sponsored Maths Marathon

with almost no mathematical ability. "She is now doing multiplication, division, subtraction and she is the best in her class. She is very proud of what she has done."

Kumon relies very much on traditional methods of repetition and practice but it seeks to build up good study habits and concentration. There are 25,000 students enrolled at 350 centres around the UK.

It is also taught in the US and Canada, Australia, South Africa and Brazil, apart from Japan itself.

Recently youngsters in Nina's class,

which includes Paul Britton from Townsend Close, raised £450 for the NSPCC Full Stop campaign against child abuse. They achieved this through the number of mental arithmetic sums the class could do in the space of 10 minutes.

By all accounts the money is still coming - sponsors should beware of this group's phenomenal calculating power!

The Cranfield Open Evening is on Monday 3rd July at 8 pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Mickey Mouse Musings

I understand there is a Disney theme park under consideration in Hong Kong. It will be interesting to see how it is adapted for the Chinese culture.

The implant in Paris, 10 years ago, first as 'Euro-Disney' and then as 'Paris-Disney' was ill-fated to say the least. It bombed early on and needed a big re-launch. It might seem unfair to judge the whole outfit on a one day visit but some things do come up and smack you in the chops.

Our mission to meet Donald and Pluto was Day 2 of a four day, three night stop in Paris over the Bank Holiday weekend. The RER suburban line took us out to Marne la Vallee and 'Parc Disneyland' in about 40 minutes - a bit like a stopping train to Luton from King's Cross.

You can of course get Eurostar straight through from the channel, avoiding Paris. This stops you being needlessly distracted by several centuries of architectural, gastronomic and artistic heritage in the nearby city of light.

As soon as you emerge from the gleaming stainless steel station, Uncle Walt is quickly by your side. He quickly checks you out for any unsuitable habits like taking your top off or

a desire to picnic which is completely at odds with you patronising the park's food outlets. He then fishes around in your purse or wallet. If there are two adults and a child he'll relieve you of around £62.

So far, so goofy. That's not far off the going rate for say Legoland or Alton Towers. What do you get for this outlay? The early impact is unforgettable - you are in a totally different environment as you stroll down, yes 'Main Street USA'. This leads directly to 'Fantasyland' and Le chateau de la Belle au Bois Dormant (sleeping beauty's castle though where the bois bit comes in I don't know). From there you ramble on through the various themes - frontierland, fantasyland, discoveryland etc.

Each theme had one good ride surrounded by cluster of shops (or retail outlets as they are now known). It was Margaret who first put her finger on what this place was all about.

"This is a shopping mall," she said. It all started to fall into place after that. Parc Disneyland is heaving with merchandise and if you take the shops out there is, in fact not a great deal left. It is also full to the brim with rather expensive restaurants and other eater-

ies - thus the ban on picnicking. There are some nice rides, especially Big Thunder Mountain, through an abandoned gold mine (the gold mine is outside actually). As predicted there are horrendous queues and Peter Pan was just not worth the hour wait. But most of the stuff is for the pre-seven or eights.

The whole place is held together by the characters who go around in Mickey and Donald suits being photographed with the kids.

If you want good rides and lots of them though, you might as well stay in the UK. Alton Towers, and Thorpe Park will give you more thrills and spills more easily. And dear old Wicksteed, a great favourite of ours offers huge scope for a genuinely inexpensive day out, with - knock me sideways - a children's play area.

The ultimate irony about Paris Disney is of course Paris itself, just down the road. On day three we went to the Eiffel tower. Again big queues but a snip at 62 Francs per adult (just over £6). The 'ride' is superb and the view from level three just mesmerising. I could gaze down for hours.

It is, frankly, the only show in town.

Laurence Pollock

Chris's I.T. Clinic

Dear Chris

I have noticed your IT clinic in recent issues of Cranfield Express and wondered if you could help me. When I get an attachment with my e-mail I download it but sometimes it will then not open. It says the 'application' could not be found. If however, I launch say Microsoft Word, and then open the new file within that it works fine. It took me several years to work this out. Can you explain? (Name and address supplied)

I'll try. This is dependent upon the file extension. Virtually every file that Windows uses has three letters after its name, e.g. if the full file name is letter.doc, the .doc bit is the file extension.

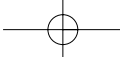
Windows has associations within it - each file extension is associated with a particular application. If you double click on a file with, say, a .doc extension, Word will automatically start and open the file. The problems occur when the file extension is unrecognisable by the system (no association has been formed).

This, I suspect, is what has happened in your case. You then get asked which application you would like to use to open the file with. Scroll through the list of applications until you find the one you need. Space precludes a description of setting up new associations or editing existing ones, so I'll leave that until next month. If you email me with the extension of the file you're trying to open, I can use that as an example.

If you open your file from within Word, Word will do its best to read the file, even if it isn't the associated application. Its best is often good enough!

Hope this helps. If not, feel free to get back to me at c.walker@tesco.net or use the usual drop-off points. Anybody else, please use the same routes if you have a query you'd like me to try and solve.

Cranfield Express's other IT Guru has also found that using the 'Recover text from any file' as the File Type in the Open File dialog will allow you to open text files from any application. Some applications, however, store a lot of formatting as text, so you can get a lot of gobble-de-gook before or after the text itself.



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Announcements

JANET Happy 40th Birthday,
2nd July, Love Mum, Dad, Stacey,
Hayley, Alison, Steven, Lucy and
Andrew.



TOM SALISBURY, Happy 50th
Birthday, July 9th. Have a lovely
day, All my love, Sandra

MISSING 'Mac' from Lincroft. A
large, black, neutered male cat. Last
seen Monday 5th June. He has a
silver collar and a name disk. Please
check your sheds and garages.
01234 750424

Nicky, Jonathan and Thomas are
delighted to announce the arrival of
ROSIE ELENA. Rosie was born
on 20 May and weighed in at 4lbs
13oz.



STEVEN EELES, 27.6.00 Happy
40th Birthday Dad! All our love
Jackie, Jamie, Liam and Jasmine
XXXX

ALBERT & JACQUELINE,
Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary,
July 30th 2000.

Wanted: Willing workers at the
Light Factory Holiday Bible Club -
Part time

Who: Young people aged five to
teens. No previous experience nec-
essary, though former workers wel-
come.

When: Monday 14th to Friday 18th
August, 10 a.m. to 11.55 a.m. Daily.

Where: Cranfield Methodist Church
Why: To enjoy together, with
Brian and friends from the village
churches, learning, drama, chatting,
music, craft, quizzes, fun, chal-
lenges, games, eating and drinking.

Acorns and Cranes Pre-schools
would like to say a very big THANK
YOU to all the staff at Budgens Store,
who kindly organised fund-raising
events to raise money for sports
equipment for both groups. The chil-
dren will certainly benefit from the

additional equipment during physi-
cal play activities.

Our thanks to Budgens for their
support.

**Cranfield Methodist Church
Monthly Lunches**

The ladies (and gentlemen) who
prepare and serve lunches at our
church, will be having a summer
break in the months of July and
August.

We would like to thank all our
friends from Cranfield and the sur-
rounding villages who regularly sup-
port our lunches. Our lunches were
started as a way of providing a meet-
ing place for fellowship with one
another, and it is always a pleasure
to see folk socialising over a meal and
a cup of tea. We look forward to see-
ing you all later in the year.

Jan Faulkner.

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Shatsu and Bowen Technique Practitioner
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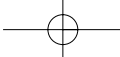
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Church Open Day

The 'Friends of the Church' aim to preserve our building as a community heritage. They are committed to fund-raising to maintain the fabric of St Peter & St Paul's as a place of beauty, local interest and history for Cranfield residents and visitors as well as tourists. On Saturday July 15th they are planning a Church Open Day to which all will be welcome. There will be a display including some historical material but focusing in particular on the recent works: the removal of the old organ, the installation of the new heating system and photos/ video of the bells being removed for tuning. Guided tours of the church and churchyard are also

on the menu. In the morning there will be refreshments and organ pipes will be available for appropriate donations. In the afternoon games will be held and stalls open. In the evening it is hoped to hold a musical event with strawberries and cream during the interval. Look out for notices and more info on what should prove an excellent day.

It was agreed to hold a "Songs of Praise" half hour on Sunday evening 23rd July at 6.00pm. Favourite hymns would be chosen by popular request. A real chance to let some air into your lungs and (hopefully) music out! Afterwards a brief open AGM will be held for all interested in the continuing activities of the 'Friends'.

Historical ramble around Cranfield

Would you like the opportunity to learn more about the history of Cranfield, and enjoy a gentle ramble at the same time? If so, come and join the CLOGS wildlife group in a walk led by Stephen Coleman, an expert on Cranfield's past, starting outside Cranfield Lower School at 2.30 p.m. On Sunday 2nd July. The walk will take about 1 1/2 hours, following a route along the High Street to Bowling Green Lane, back to

Tartlett End (near the church) via the green lane, then along Court Road to Lodge Road, and finally back to the Lower School along the High Street. The only potentially muddy section is the green lane, which runs behind the Middle School and the park to the new cemetery.

For more details ring Angela Bucknall 01234 750421. All welcome, and it's free.

Neighbourhood watch

Reporting a crime

If a crime is in progress or you are concerned that a crime is about to take place dial 999.

If you are worried about a car being left for a long time or a vehicle keeps returning to your street and you think it is suspicious, call your local Police number - this will most likely go to the 'Call Handling Centre'. Then:

1 Report the problem to the operator giving your name and then requesting the Operator to 'email the beat manager for your area (this means the beat manager should receive the information as well)

2 If it's to report information that is not urgent, talk to a street or area co-ordinator first, who should be able to help you

Don't get ripped off!

• Do not deal with people on the door step. If you need a job doing ask neighbours or a friend to recommend someone.

• Get quotations (written) for the work from more than one firm. Make sure the quotation has an address on it do not pay for the work in advance

• Take down any vehicle numbers of firm's vans you do not recognise and identify the workmen.

• Shut the doors and ring the police if you feel you are being harassed or intimidated for payment

Congratulations



The wedding of Elizabeth Hardwick of High Street, Cranfield and Gavin Soden of Vale Court took place on Saturday 10th June, at St Mary's Church, Woburn Sands. Elizabeth is the daughter of Richard and Ellen Hardwick and Gavin is the son of John and Ann Soden of Partridge Piece. The reception was held at Mitchell Hall and the couple honeymooned in Tunisia.

Diary of Scary Flo (continued)

WEEK 4. What a night! The group had lost 45 stone so far. How we cheered and clapped ... Anthea was close to tears, where is she going wrong?

Tonight's talk was how we could earn extra points if we swam, ran, jogged, walked or took part in any other exercise. Susie asked if SEX earned any points and then claimed two per day. Willy, her loved one, just smiled and walked away.

WEEK 5. Another first! Jeffrey was awarded the Gold Key Ring - that's for losing ten percent of your body weight - but how the members made him suffer. They said that ...

1. Men always lose weight faster.
2. Men didn't have babies (that one puzzled me a bit).

3. Men didn't have hot and cold flushes.

4. Men didn't have hormone problems.

5. Men didn't have that week (if you know what I mean).

Jeffrey was only going by what the book said.

At the Team Talk we were given a 'Low Fat' cook book. Our boss had cooked an apple pie (we all licked our lips) and it was shown to members then binned ...

She's a hard boss.

WEEK 6. A scream from the weigh in. Anthea lost her first 1/2lb and how she celebrated. Out came a cream cake and a Mars Bar from her pocket - she insisted they were low fat.

It was treat time. Clarice had cooked a PRUNE cake and each member given a portion (worth 1 point). I've had a bigger smartie but I was lucky 'cos there was a stone in my portion. What will Clarice cook next from her food bible?

WEEK 7. It's getting harder. Our boss gives us the rallying cry, four new male members join. Jeffrey hears good news ... A second Gold

Key Ring awarded yet again to a man. "It's the first time in years he's seen his manhood without a mirror" remarked one of the girls ... How cruel.

WEEK 8. The first lady is awarded 'Gold Key Ring' along with at least 20 more 'Silver Star' awards. Yes, Weight Watchers is working, or is it?

Looking around I notice the members clothes are hanging loosely, a visit to Milton Keynes looks on for many, but now I have another problem ... I'm still unable to squeeze into my uniform the boss lady says I must try harder

WEEK 9. It's been a bad week. A close friend visited me and remarked how tired and ill I looked and what a mess I looked with that loose hanging skin, it's making me look so old.

She advised me to visit a cosmetic surgeon - telling me, for a grand, he could do a 'nip and tuck' job on my chins, belly and ankles. Off I went for more bad news ...

I had too much loose skin he said but for five grand he would give me a 'slit roll' and 'double stitch' explaining that he could cut the skin and roll it around my face, waist and legs then double stitch it. This would allow for future expansion - effin cheek!

I can't stand anymore. I've packed my uniform kitbag and hammock. Portsmouth here I come. I've done everything the boss lady said .. exercised and saved points. Now I'm going back for a lump of Navy cake, a tot or eight of rum and a barrel of beer.

See you Monday at Weight Watchers...

Flo, the racing snake

Cranfield Express is very interested in whether the weight stays off Flo!

Acknowledgements

CAIN. Mavis Cain wishes to thank her family Val and George, Bob and Gill and her Grandchildren for helping me over the past five months.

Many thanks for all the cards and flowers from everyone. A special thank you to Val who looked after me when I came out of hospital. I am now much better.

POINTON. I would like to thank family and friends for the gifts and vouchers I received for my 60th birthday. I would also like to thank my wife Vivien and daughters, their husbands and my son and his wife, Caroline and Gerry, Sharon and Dominic, Kevin and Lorna for the surprise party. Thank you very much. Ralph Pointon.

Business club

Cranfield is quite a busy area in terms of self-employment and local business. As a way of developing this, Mark Tatum and Susan McQuillan of Washingleys are proposing a small business club for the area to help networking and develop Cranfield's business profile.

The aim would be to move away from the formality of the Milton Keynes and Bedford chambers of commerce and allow local companies, firms and individuals to share information and discuss topic points. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th July at 8 pm in the Cranfield University Social Club.

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Dodging the health jargon

Everyone has an opinion about the Health Service. We are either being born, dying or scraping by, creakily, in the middle. There is no escape.

The trend towards greater public involvement is welcome, therefore, especially with the recent scares about dodgy hospital doctors.

Last month our local providers - the primary care group (PCG if you like jargon) took the stage in Cranfield village hall to give us a sense of what's in store.

There was a good public turnout, vastly in excess of current parish council meetings where attendance has been zilch (apart from the Cranfield Express reporter nodding off at the back).

The PCG is a consortium of general practitioners and nurses who now 'purchase' services from the hospitals and aim to introduce some consistency into local 'primary' health services. For instance the overuse of antibiotics, reducing their effectiveness against so-called 'superbugs' is now well known. West Mid Beds PCG has an 'antibiotic prescribing' plan which has seen a reduction of 'inappropriate prescribing'.

This includes a clamp-down on antibiotics for simple coughs and colds and viral sore throats. The PCG is also developing the scope of nurses to prescribe - in line with government policy.

There was plenty to be gleaned about the details of current NHS services at the meeting but the big discussion was unfortunately about structures. It's not totally the PCG's fault. Other PCGs are planning to become full blown trusts like the hospital or the community care trust. It's hard not to resist the peer pressure.

If current proposals go ahead, West and East Mid Beds (known romantically as Ivel Valley) are considering a merger with Chiltern Vale (Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable in old money) to form the 'Heartlands' primary care trust. It's not a done deal,

however, and there are rumblings within the current board.

One GP rep John Lockley is sceptical. Our own Dr Noel describes it simply as 'tyranny'. But the board is pressing ahead with its plan and going to public consultation. Promised land or vale of tears - you too can have your say.

The consultation paper says a primary care trust will provide the best opportunity to improve local health services in a way that does not involve people having to contact many organisations and people to have their health needs met.

The paper adds: "We want to achieve real change in local health and involve local people much more in planning the services they receive. Part of our vision is to break down the barriers that exist between different elements of the health service and between health and social care."

"We believe that services should be planned around people and not organisations."

In early September there will be a public meeting for the west mid beds area. In October the PCGs will consider their response followed by a meeting with health authority in November. The final submission to the department of health will go in, in mid November. If approval is granted 'Heartlands' will start up next April.

The good news is that access to physiotherapy should improve in the future. Waiting for physio is always a problem as you usually need to get it the day after you pulled your shoulder or turned an ankle. There will now be more 'practice based' physio at the two Amptill GP practices with access for Cranfield. Hopefully this means you do not have to wait months to see a consultant at Bedford hospital who says, surprise, surprise: "I think you need some physio."

Dr Marcus J Thomas has recently been appointed to the Cranfield surgery.

West Mid Bedfordshire Primary Care Group

West Mid Bedfordshire Primary Care Group (WMB PCG) includes the Doctors practices in Amptill, Flitwick, Barton, Woburn and Cranfield; and the clinics within these areas.

The main aim of a PCG is to improve the health of the community it serves. All health professionals work together to plan and deliver health care, and the delivery mechanism is the Health Improvement Programme (HIMP).

Discussions are taking place on turning the PCG into a Primary Care Trust (PCT). Do you have any questions or queries? Are you happy or unhappy about the health service provisions in this part of Bedfordshire? Do you have any criticisms? Do you feel it can work better for you? Do you want to know more about the work of the PCG? Do you have any suggestions to improve

the work of the PCG, or how information can be given to the public? Do you wish to join a small group to comment upon the public view of health provision in this area?

Your Community Representative on the Board of the WMB PCG is County Councillor Robin Younger. You can contact him through the WMB PCG offices at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick tel 01525 631153, or speak with Mrs Debbie Wilkins.

Councillor Robin Younger also chairs the EMB PCG Public Involvement Group and he holds Advice Centres throughout the region; times and locations available from libraries.

The main board of the WMB PCG hold public meetings. The dates and locations of these meetings may be obtained from the WMB PCG Office.

Gilbert... roundabout the Uni

"What do you think of the new roundabouts at the Uni, Peter?"

"Well I can't work the one near Mitchell out, Gilby, 'cos traffic coming from Cranfield village speed along as they have always done and don't seem to give even a polite swerve to acknowledge it's there."

"What, you mean they don't approach, check right, creep and peep if necessary and then move on to the roundabout - giving way to any traffic entering from the right - and then signalling left to leave the roundabout?"

"Nope, they don't even lift foot off the throttle. In fact, if there is someone crossing the Zebra a few metres further along traffic has even been seen to accelerate hard to send the occasional trusting pedestrian scuttling for safety."

"Well it should work okay bearing in mind the rules of the highway etc!"

"Hmhf, traffic turning right to the Conference Centre don't even bother to go round it, they just cut across in the wrong direction completely, and, the Stagecoach bus is coming off the roundabout as the back end is going on..."

"Oh you're just being picky now, Peter. Everybody moans when new ideas are put into practice."

"Gilbert, the Uni has a massive problem when it comes to traffic and control of traffic."

"What, you mean like safety and stuff?"

"Not just safety, Gilby, the main problem is education..."

"Come on Peter, education? How can a top seat of learning like Cranfield have a problem with education?"

"Education of the road users around the Uni, Gilby. Let's face it, there was once talk of painting double yellow lines and constructing false pavements on the School of Management car parks just so they would be used!"

"Really?"

"And the sleeping securiplods in the road, which eventually contributed to the engine falling out of my Rover, don't even wake the driver of a UPS wagon travelling at about forty mph."

"Hey, the speed limit is twenty mph - they can't possibly be doing forty mph, Peter."

"Gilbert, you have much to learn."

"Are you trying to say that I'm thick... that I don't understand a simple thing like the speed limit on the Uni, Peter?"

"Uh, oh sorry my friend. That was a bit presumptuous of me."

"A bit what?"

"Presumptuous, Gilby. It means..."

"I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS."

"Oops, sorry didn't mean to offend you."

"Good!"

"What does it mean then?"

"What?"

"Presumptuous."

"Er, it means... um... that the present you will be getting me for Christmas will be, er, um... scrumptious, Peter."

"Yeah, right."

"Um, what about the other road safety issues then, Peter?"

"Oh the list is endless, Gull. It doesn't just stop at delivery drivers or the thoughtless parking freaks... there's more."

"You mean it gets worse?"

"Yup, there are the pedestrians. They are just as deadly and include everyone from academics - normally residing on the planet Zog - stepping out blindly into the road, roller skaters, pram pushers, bike maniacs riding on the paths and the regular morning display by the Cabair synchronised formation jaywalking teams. Every road and round every corner there is an accident waiting to happen."

"Well aren't these things reported, Peter?"

"No, I don't suppose people bother 'cos if they want to call in the securiplod reception they have to park at Mitchell Hall."

"What? Why?"

"Well all the visitors car parking places are taken up..."

"Ooh they must be ever so busy in the reception, Peter."

"Well, no, Gilby. Apparently the car parking places are taken up by Uni workers so it is common place to have to park at Mitchell to go to the reception."

Wherever do these people who park in the visitors slots work, Peter?"

"Hmm, Mitchell Hall?"

"You haven't said anything about Colin Stapleton for a long while, Peter. Does this mean he is off the hook?"

"For the time being, Gilbert, but I have my spies watching his every move."

"So, you are not going to say how he damaged his finger?"

"No, if I told that story then people would begin to wonder if it was time he considered hanging up his balls, bat, bails and wickets and retiring from competitive sport."

"He can't do that, Peter, 'cos NC Cricket Club won't have any gear."

"Oh, so that's how he gets picked every week."

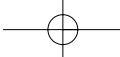
"Peter."

"What?"

"I was only kidding about presumptuous."

"Really?"

"Yes, I know it is a breathing disorder."



Tae Kwon Do

Cranfield TKD Club has sweated its way through June with some hot and steamy sessions, ideal conditions for stretching and flexibility. Well done to all those who have resisted the temptations of football matches and barbecues to train throughout.

We have another grading coming up on 10th July at Newport Pagnell and a local competition at Kettering on the 16th July. We hope to be entering a good squad with our own British and Welsh champion, Vanya Gladkow, entering in his first competition as Black Belt ; also Rupert Cook in his first competition as Black Belt. Other local entrants are Matt Holden, Patrick O'Reagan and with some representation from the Rawle family. If anyone would like to come and support our team please ring for more information. We are still looking for some local sponsorship for our club for competitions.

As from July the Sunday training times will change to 6.30pm for the Kids Club and beginners and 7.30pm for the main lesson, all at the scout hut. Wednesday night session is

7.00pm at the Old Gym, as is Newport Pagnell.

We are constantly looking for new members in order to maintain a thriving club. The aim of our club is to promote fitness, flexibility and discipline and acquire a level of self defence and confidence. There are no barriers to becoming a member and we encourage comradeship and community spirit along with engagement in social events such as a Christmas party and summer barbecue. We also meet regularly at local hostleries. This years barbecue will take place sometime in July or August and, weather permitting, in my garden.

Anyone, irrespective of age,race,sex or physical condition who would like to join our club or find out more, please ring me or just turn up on training nights.

Good luck to everyone taking their grading also entering the Kettering competition. And finally many thanks to Paul and anyone else for running the club in my absence and for all the members for their continued support.

David Rawle (t)750716

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Sponsors required

Would you be willing to sponsor Anna Hartley on a 10 mile cycle ride round Priory Park on July 9th in aid of the Elizabeth Curtis Centre? The Centre specialises in riding for the disabled, and the funds will go to the up-keep of the stables, horses and equipment. The Centre depends solely on public donations, so any amount you feel able to give is welcome. Call Mary on 750153 for details. Or get your bike out and join in!

Village Gossip

A reliable souce notes that two students got locked in the toilets on graduation day. They were released at 05.30 the next morning by a key holder who was called out. True. Both received good grades with their course work or was it extra-curricular?
Any other titbits always welcome!

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A good start to the season for the Seconds

CUCC's newly promoted 2nd team has got off to a flying start in the 3rd Division. 3 wins and 1 rained off match must make them the form side of the Division.

After the disappointment of the first match being rained off, the season commenced away at Thurleigh. Opting to field, CUCC bowled Thurleigh out for 106. A good all-round performance in the field saw Cooke take 3 for 3, Perrin 3 for 28, F Khan 3 for 25 and Ball 1 for 28. Catches were taken by S Dixon (2), Johnson, and Kingston.

Cranfield's innings got off to a good start thanks to openers Cooke and Ellis. Cooke eventually made 26, whilst Perrin (16) and Steve Dixon (28) saw Cranfield home to a comfortable 6 wicket victory.

The next match was again away,

this time vs Allen Park. Put into bat, Cranfield made 107 on a difficult wicket. Steve Dixon topped the batting with 36, whilst Ellis made 17 as did Ball before he retired hurt.

Despite the loss of opening bowler Ball, Cranfield's bowling gave Allen Park little chance of victory. Only the darkening clouds held out any hope. But Blackwell 4 for 9, S Dixon 3 for 19, Perrin 2 for 12 and Wright 1 for 9 saw Cranfield through to a 48 run victory with 10 overs to spare.

Cranfield made it 3 wins in succession at home against Mowsbury Park. Home at the moment is Silsoe College, and on this particular day it was something of a batting pitch. Mowsbury were put in to bat, and the innings twisted and turned as first Mowsbury, then Cranfield, and then Mowsbury held the advantage. The

innings closed with Mowsbury having reached 194 for 5 from 40 overs. Cooke was the pick of the Cranfield bowlers with 3 for 36.

Chasing a daunting target, Cranfield responded admirably. Despite the early loss of Ellis, Rob Cooke and Bruce Dixon put on 59 runs for the 2nd wicket before Dixon fell for 34. Cooke, unaware that he was on 46 was caught close to the boundary, an unfortunate end to a superb innings. The partnership of Mick Johnson and Yahya Khan was to yield 103 runs and steered Cranfield to a 7 wicket victory with 6 overs to spare. Johnson finished on 54 not out, and Khan on 45 not out.

Confidence is high in the seconds. Unbeaten with nearly a third of the season gone, it promises to be a memorable season.

Cranfield University versus Cranfield Village

Played in good weather at Silsoe, Mick Johnson's handpicked team took on Cranfield University in a 40 overs, winner takes all match.

The University won the toss and elected to bat. University skipper Kingston opened the batting with Bruce Dixon. A firm foundation to the innings was laid by the pair, Kingston falling for 27 and Dixon for 23. Other University batsmen chipped in with innings in the low teens but only Liam Hall got much further. Hall

scored 34, including 24 off the first 5 balls of one over and being stumped on the 6th. The University innings closed on 168 for 9 from 40 overs. Thomas was the pick of the bowling taking 2 for 4.

The Village team opened the batting with Ball and Perrin, both of whom normally represent the University. After 20 overs they were both still at the wicket having put on 42 runs. In the 21st over, Kingston brought himself on to bowl and took

the wicket of Ball (21). The next over saw Kevin Morris take a wicket with his first ever ball in cricket. Perrin (19) smacked the ball straight back over the bowler and into the waiting hands of Bruce Dixon.

Kingston and Morris took a further wicket apiece, Kingston bowling 2 for 21 and Morris 2 for 13. At this point Mick Johnson played a captain's innings but it was too little too late. His 37 runs couldn't save the Village side and they lost the match by 26 runs.

As a friendly match this was one of the best. It was played in a good spirit and both sides used it as an opportunity to test players. In total, 19 players bowled and 12 of them took wickets. A return match is tentatively being scheduled for the end of the Summer. Watch this space!

Cranfield Cubs Quad Biking

It was calm and sunny, the evening sun slanting through the trees, the traffic humming gently in the distance, the occasional sound of dogs - and then Cranfield Cubs arrived. Fifteen boys, one cub leader and assorted parents arrived at Springfields Farm, Pottersbury to meet Mr & Mrs Gorst and 4 junior quad bikes!

It was noisy, it was bouncy, but even more than that it was good fun.

Each group of boys, after being suitably attired in helmets, was given basic instruction and let loose to roar around the track. And having done it once, they did it again, and again, and then we ran out of time and had to leave. And the best bit of the evening ... well it had to be the smiles on the boys faces!

Cub Scouts meet at the Scout Hut, Merchant Lane, Cranfield on Wednesdays between 6pm and 7.30pm during term time.

dyb, dyb, dyb!

Cricket Shock

Following the desecration to the wicket, contractors made large holes

in the wicket then turfed the patches. No college cricket can be played until July. After various match rigging shams has it moved to our Village?

Questions being asked in local cricket circles are: Who doctored the University Cricket square and why?

A local bookmaker made all bets void this week after an unknown punter placed a large bet that the university 2XI would remain unbeaten and win their league this summer.

Has the wicket been roughed and toughed up to help the Dixon boys (both New Zealander fast bowlers) or to help Perrin, Ball and Ewans with their spin and googley bowling. Will Ellis and Ball be able to reach double figures? Questions that need answers.

When questioned, the University captain just gave me a wink, smiled and gave me a left-handed handshake muttering 'no comment' as he wandered away, shaking his head. Having signed the Official Secrets Act in 1972, I knew what he meant.

P.S. How surprising the team have not lost this season, it seems very odd to a true sportsman.

RGR TROPHY

For nine years it was alleged the draw for this trophy was rigged to favour the 'Golden Oldies' team. A new cup committee oversaw the competition.

Eight teams entered, Bill Haynes, Crunchers and the Golden Oldies winning their mini leagues. The final was won by the Oldies 3-1. This was the first time they had won. Two questions all football members and players asked were:-

1. How could a team of old men win the trophy?
2. Would they be able to defend it next year?

Answer to question one: Old players Cross, Constable, Garner, Mansell, Gladkow were dropped. Professor Murray Steel signed up. This was just what was needed, a born leader.

Answer to question two: Providing the Lord doesn't call on too many of the Oldies, all club members and young footballers will be able to marvel at the skills of Elles, Dunn, Parker, Perrin and co. But sorry to say, not Professor Steel. Having done his job he was sacked on finals night from next year's squad (it's a hard world in football).

CUFC would like to thank all teams who entered, see you next year.

Campaign for real women

Olney ladies rugby club are on the lookout for new recruits for the autumn and Kath Hardwick from the High Street is the local recruiting sergeant. Training starts in July every Wednesday at the clubs grounds (7 pm). With regular socials, a good atmosphere and generally getting fit promised, it sounds like fun. We don't know what the rugby songs are like though. Beginners are welcome - all shapes and sizes. Tel Kath 751302.

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