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**Cranfield Express**

June 2000 No 3 

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# The unkindest cut of all

Aragorn housing association told elderly people in Millard's Close that it would no longer cut their communal grass area if they 'had relatives living closer than 10 miles away'.

At last month's annual parish meeting, parish councillor May Armstrong made an impassioned plea for the residents involved, pointing out that some were in their 70s and 80s, while one was about 90. She also complained that many residents would find the appeals procedure too difficult to take on.

"The parish council spend our money each year keeping our village green and the churchyard and cemetery looking neat and tidy. Yet some of our senior citizens have to look out of their windows at the most untidy and neglected area of our village."

But following Pcllr Armstrong's intervention, district councillor Ken Matthews also drew Aragorn's attention to the problem and housing association management looked set to back down.

Aileen Evans, director of housing at Aragorn (formerly Mid Beds Housing Association) said they had

reviewed their gardening assistance scheme in the last few months.

"We will be visiting the gardens next week. If we can get the residents to agree that these are communal front gardens then we will take back responsibility. We will do a one-off cut so they are not waiting.

"We reviewed our criteria with a view to improving our service to

those who really need it. We were not doing a brilliant service to a large number of people. We introduced an income criteria and said that we would not cut it if they had relatives living within 10 miles or they were able to cut the grass themselves.

"Most housing associations have got rid of their grass cutting scheme or do not operate them."



Keeping the village in touch

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

**July deadline  
 Tuesday 20th June**

[www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk](http://www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk)

## ICRF Race For Life

What were you doing on Sunday 14 May at 11.00 am? It was a glorious day, so perhaps a bit of gardening, playing with the kids, catching up on housework, washing the car ... Well, quite a number of Cranfield ladies, and almost 3000 ladies in total were running, jogging and walking around Willen Lake in Milton Keynes for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's annual Race for Life.

Cranfield University turned out a team of 17 staff members to run and walk the 5 km (3.1 mile) course.

We gathered at the meeting place, exchanged encouraging words and joined the throng for an energetic warm up which tired some of us out before we started the course! Runners and joggers went first and our team's runners made very good time, around the half hour mark for them all. A mass of walkers was the second group to go off. We were pleased with our walkers' times, around the hour mark.

Every one was there for a reason, some for the day out, some for the

exercise, some for personal reasons but all to help raise money for a very worthy cause. We estimate that the Cranfield University team will raise over £800.

Well done Cranfield University team and well done all the ladies of Cranfield who took part. See you next year. Now it's time to collect the sponsor money.  
 Shirley Collings

**Something for nothing!**  
 Calling all local groups and clubs, keep the village in touch with what you are doing! If you would like a bit of free advertising, please send us details and contact numbers and we will feature you in the groups, clubs and associations section of our web site.



Back row, left, Joan Austen, Carole Lewis, Tracy Griggin, Eileen Pryke, Maureen Mahoney, Katy Payne, Catarina Johansson, Diane Purser, Shirley Collings, Ruth Fuller, Lindsay Stanley, Lynn Tully Front row, left, Marily Osbourne, Adie Watford, Bev Lovell, Gabi Becker, Maureen Francis

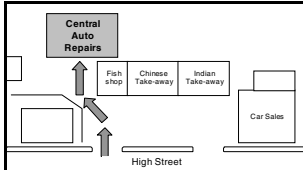


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# Whats on

- **Fri May 26th** Karaoke, The Swan
- **Sat May 27th** Cranes cake stall, Cross Keys Car Park, 10 am
- **Sat May 27th** Cranfield Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Association plant sale, Cross keys Car Park 10 am.
- **Sunday May 28th** Annual charity bike ride with fancy dress theme (50s, 60s, 70s) The Swan, 12 noon pedal off (photo shoot and check in 11.30 am).
- **Friday June 2nd** Football Club AGM 8pm prompt
- **Sun June 4th** Football club Quiz night
- **Wed June 7th** Cranes Quiz Night 8 pm The Swan
- **Thurs June 8th** West Mid Beds PCG meeting. Village Hall
- **Sat June 10th** Football club Games show night
- **Sat June 10th** Swan Karaoke 7.30
- **Sat June 10th** Cranfield Methodist Lunch, 12:30 - 2pm, *Spring vegetable soup with a roll*  
*Roast Pork*  
*Seasonal Vegetables*  
*Fruit Meringue Nest*  
*Coffee or Tea*  
£4.00, all welcome.
- **Wed June 14th** Cranfield Parish Paths Partnership meeting, Village Hall, 7pm
- **Sat June 17th** Football club Games day on the sports field

## 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

**ALL WELCOME**

For further information contact:

**Steve Lloyd on 751495**

(Transport can be arranged)

## Lower school penny mile

Have you noticed collecting tins for Cranfield Lower School's Penny Mile? On 24th June, 2000 the school will be trying to lay a mile of pennies up and down the School drive. As you can imagine, a mile of pennies is a lot of pennies (about 70,000!!!) so it will be a huge achievement if we can reach our target. Please start saving your pennies now, and then come along and lay them down yourselves at 1pm on the day!

Cranfield Lower School's annual Summer Fete is nearly upon us and promises to be the biggest yet! There will be lots of new attractions and many of the old favourites. The Bedford Morris Dancers will be performing for us, and a comedy magic show will entertain the children.

There will also be a country dancing display by some of the pupils. A

- **Sat June 17th** Swan Motown 8 pm
- **Sat 24th June** Lower school PTFA, mile of pennies, summer fete 1 pm
- **Sat 24th, Sun 25th June** Art for sight's sake exhibition, Millennium Hall Moulsoe 10 am - 5 pm.
- **Sat July 8th** Football club Cabaret 'Alvin'
- **Sat July 15th** Football club Games day on the sports field
- **Sun July 23rd** Football club Summer fun day
- **Sat July 29th** Football club Stars in their eyes

## Thank You Notices

### Mossford

Mrs Elsie Mossford wishes to thank her children Chris and Ken, son and daughter-in-law Joe and Jenny and her grandsons, Andrew and Robert for everything they did for me over the past difficult months.

Your strength, courage and devotion has been most invaluable. I love you all dearly - Mum.

### Owens

Margaret, Becca and Hannah would like to thank all their friends for their help and support since the sudden death of Christopher. Very special thanks to Carole, Angela, Chris, Janet and Hayley and also Andrew. Thanks for always being there for us - Margaret

### Buckle

Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and flowers and phoned and dropped in, after my dear Mum passed away on 1st March. You have all been such a help and support over the past two years when Mum was ill. God Bless you all - Eva.

### London Marathon

Roy Toms would like to thank everyone who helping him raise £1000 in sponsorship for the Marie Curie Race completed in 5 hrs 45 mins.

new feature is electric go-karts and rockin rollers, as well as a bouncy castle, BBQ, pony rides, crazy sand and many many more! The Fete will be opened at 1pm by the Lord and Lady of the School, so come along and enjoy yourselves.

### Cranes jumbles

If anyone has any clothing, bric-a-brac, toys etc that they would like to donate towards Cranes Pre-School Jumble Sale can they please call Karen (751725) or Alison (752481)

### 207 (Cranfield) Squadron

ATC AGM will be held at Squadron HQ, Merchant Lane, Wednesday 14 June, 7:45 pm. Parents of Air Cadets and members of the public are invited to attend.

## CATS and hats for Easter



The chaos pictured here is the CATS (Crawlers and toddlers) Easter bonnet parade. The children (and parents) made a great effort and all the hats were excellent. The children had great fun decorating eggs and singing songs leaving at the end with a 'happy chuck' and lots of easter sweets. The turn-out for cats has been excellent over the last year but the present committee needs new members. The session runs at the village hall on Wednesdays 9.30 - 11 am for songs, story time and physical activities. For more details about CATS call Heather 750125

### Thanks to Roz

Cranes Pre-School say farewell to their Supervisor Ros Peck on Friday 26th May. Ros has worked at Cranes for many years turning a struggling playgroup into what is now a thriving pre-school.

All the Parents both past and present would like to thank Ros for all her hard work over the years and for providing their children with an excellent start to school life.

We would like to wish you every success and good luck in your future ventures.

The Children would like to say :

"Don't forget us, please come and visit."

### East coast greeting

Have just found your website after reading your e-mail on Hello to Bedford... Enjoyed the lovely pictures and Kevin Papworth's profound story. Our congratulations to him. Have really enjoyed the story of Glibert and have forwarded it on to the natural history dept at local college. Congratulations on your site and will be watching from now on. I'm a Bedford native but long resident of California. Cathie & Vern Kiefer

## CRANFIELD SURGERY

### Two vacancies - reception/filing duties

1. Mon-Fri: 8.30 - 1.30 plus one Sat in five 8.30 - 12.00
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Previous experience is not essential.

Letter of application and CV to Cranfield Surgery 137 High St,  
Cranfield MK43 0HZ by June 9th.

For more information tel Sue Meadows on 01234 750234

### Library times - the latest

Cranfield Express wishes to pass on apologies to those people who waited in Budgen's car park for the mobile library.

Janet Newman, Clerk, Cranfield Parish Council, and Barry George, Head of Libraries, Bedfordshire County Council, both wish to apologise for the incorrect information supplied to us and your good selves.

We understand that at present the library times have not been altered,

however changes will come into effect in July. We will keep you in touch with any developments. For further information contact Barry George on 01234 363222 or e-mail georgeb@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk.

### Charity bike ride

Set off at 12 noon on Sunday 28th May but please be at the Swan by 11.30 for check-in and photo-call. Tel 750332

## Annual Parish meeting May 17th

### Development learning curve

Housing development at Orchard Nursery would still not have started if the original proposals had been left in the Mid Beds local plan, Cllr Sylvia Dosser told Cranfield's annual parish meeting last month.

"The proposal would still be waiting for the inspector to report and we would have had more input into the development," she commented.

(Cranfield parish council campaigned successfully for the Orchard scheme to be removed from the local plan. But it still went ahead after a developer appealed against the scheme's rejection by Mid Beds Council).

"This is a lesson for all of us in the future," said Mrs Dosser, "It is all a learning curve. Local plans are long drawn out procedures. The inspector has been working since last April and he is not due to report until this time next year."

Parish council vice chair Brian Dosser, presented chair Phil Bates's report as PCllr Bates was unable to attend. He acknowledged that planning was probably the most emotive issue the council had to deal with.

Two items were still being pursued by the council:

"Money has been retained from Budgen's development to provide a pedestrian crossing. Strictly this has to be in the vicinity of the store, but although they are not obliged to do so, Budgen's have been asked if the earmarked money could be used for a crossing near the Cross Keys."

A second 'ongoing saga' was the installation of bollards in front of Lincroft.

"This has arisen because of objections made to the development on traffic issues. I have not met anyone who thinks this is a solution to the problem.

"On a broader front, the council has protested to the Secretary of State against the recommendation in the Crow Report that 64,000 new homes be built in Bedfordshire by the year 2016.

"Milton Keynes seems keen to develop across the motorway towards this village. We feel their plans should be resisted."

### Other points in the report

- Environment: Tennis courts in the recreation ground were renovated and then instantly vandalised. As a result, the council was exploring the possibility of CCTV to protect village amenities and it intended to erect lighting in the High Street recreation area

- There was less cause for complaint about the Shanks landfill operations but the council continues to monitor the Brogborough tip and press for its closure at the earliest possible date.

- Finance: The council was to help all local associations who applied for grants last year. The council spent £10,000 in support of the village hall and in contributing to a police presence.

- General: A parish police book has been established in the Co-Op in Mill Road. This is inspected regularly by the police for traffic and other matters they should deal with.

Bus shelters are still being vandalised but priority has been given to buying a new one for Mill Road.

The council has a rolling programme for maintenance and improvement of street lighting. Once brought up to an acceptable standard the lighting can be adopted by Beds County Council. Schemes at Townsend Close and Bliss Avenue are awaiting adoption. New schemes for Merchant's Lane and Maltings Close are planned and it is intended to light the bridleway by Crane Way.

The chair's report noted, with regret, the death of parish councillor Betty Howe and cemetery superintendent George Shrubbs. He also expressed appreciation for the work of Steve Broughton who had resigned from the council.

- Any villagers who receive leaflets protesting at Milton Keynes expansion and wish to sign them should return these to Alan Bastable at 39 Townsend Close.



## Girls on top and in control

Eight years ago fifteen-year old Kerry Dell presented herself to the Senior Air Traffic Controller at Cranfield Airport for a few weeks of work experience little knowing that this was going to be the foundation of a career in aviation.

On the 29th of January 1996 Kerry started work as a full time Air Traffic Control Assistant and quickly gaining a Met Observer's Certificate and spending the next three years eagerly impatient to become an Air Traffic Controller.

By June of 1999 Kerry had passed her first Aerodrome Control course at Bath and completed her Approach Control course along with some

remarkable achievement notes on her final report ...

"Some really first class work." and "On one assessed exercise the standard Kerry achieved was the best the verifier had seen since 1995."

On the 7th of April Kerry validated her second rating on Aerodrome control and is now the second female in the ATCO team.

Kerry lives in Newport Pagnell with her boyfriend Paul to whom she got engaged at Christmas 1998. They have no current plans to get married but, according to Senior Air Traffic Controller Helen Darling, now she's fully qualified ... you never know!

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# A message from cyberspace

... "Peter, the way you go on about Charlie Dimmock's tips I thought you liked gardening..."

"I don't like gardening."

"Well, what is it that you don't like? Only it does seem that you are making really hard work out of a simple job."

"Gilbert, you either like gardening or you don't and if you don't then everything is going to be a tiresome chore ... I don't"

"But you're only strimming the long grass and the ...MIND THAT SNAIL ... too late, Peter."

"I guess that one went to its maker a bit rapidly, Gilby."

"Hmm, well I don't know about meeting its maker Peter, but a lot of it is up the inside of your leg, Peter, and - MIND THAT CATS' STOOL! - Oh dear, you had better go wash your hands and face, Peter."

"Look gull, why don't you just mind your own business for a while so that I can just get this job over and done with."

"Oooh! Moody Peter."

"Sorry, Gilby, but I just hate all this cut it down all summer and grow it the rest of the year stuff. Why can't we just leave nature to take care of everything and ..."

"And loaf about doing nowt I suppose."

"Gilbert, there is more to life than just working you know. I mean, when you have done a days work then digging and scraping the ground is the last thing that I want to do."

"But people enjoy the recreational joys of gardening, Peter."

"Hmm, yes, okay but are we going to go into the deep reasons of existence - to tunnel into our minds for 'whys' and 'what fors' of our comprehension of mankind, or, are we gonna just finish the strimming?"

"Hmm, I think, so I am ... MIND THAT FROG, PETER!"

"Oh my goodness. Gilbert, will you fetch me a glass of water?"

"Hmm, I don't think a glass of water will help. That frog isn't going to be thirsty any more, Peter."

"Okay (yeuk), I've strimmed

enough. What do you think we should write for the Cranfield Express?"

"Well, you could mention that the oldies of Millards Close have been stuffed by Aragorn Housing Association."

"That's already been covered if you checkout the front page, Gilbert."

"Check out! Do you have to remind me of that awful play?"

"No gull, I said check out - not Chekhov."

"Oh, okay, whatever, and in that case I think the Aragorn Housing Association are being 'bully boys' and targeting the weaker members of society to make even MORE money."

"So, what's the answer, Gilb?"

"Hmm, Supergully is thinking that maybe the advertisement of such bully boy attitude is going to turn the decision."

"Great, but I still feel piddled off with grass cutting."

"Okay, I've thought that one out too, 'cos you've been a bit moody lately, and I've booked a surprise for you."

"Surprise?"

"Yes, I've looked through the pages on the internet and I've managed to find something to cheer you up."

"What?"

"Well, you know, something to address physical awareness to one's needs!"

"And?"

"It said in the advert 'A message to suit your taste ... discretion observed and, at your place'."

"What have you done, gull?"

"Well, I have managed to find a friend for you, Peter, his name is Amanda."

"Oh dear gull what have you done?"

"Hmm, there seems to be an echo in here ... The advert also says that the girls are willing to please and that you only have to pay for ..."

"Gilbert, where did you find this advert?"

"Huh? Oh it was on the internet. I found it when I typed in 'lap dancing' and ...Peter, there's someone at the door."

"Peter?"

"Peter?"

## CRANFIELD SOCIAL CLUB - JUNE

Please contact Perry Kenningham on 01234 751586

Friday 2nd June **DESIRE (POP DUO)**

Thursday 8th June **QUIZ NIGHT**

£75 1st prize

Thursday 15th June **STEVE DAKING, European Pool Champion takes on the club**

Thursday 22nd June **QUIZ NIGHT**

£75 1st prize

Sunday 25th June **CHILDRENS PARTY**  
1 to 3 pm **Magic & balloons, free to all village children aged 3 to 9**

### Diary of Scary Flo

Whatever would Scary Flo have in common with the Duchess of York you may ask?

Hmm, those of you who could immediately visualise some financial advisor dreamily closing his lips around Flo's much gnarled big toe, think again and read on -

### Scary Flo ... The Journal

At Christmas my daughter told me I looked like a Big Blubbery Whale. That was it. Weight Watchers was coming to Cranfield and they assured me it would be a mixed membership. I could join knowing that I would be with friends.

After queuing - just like my service days - I was given a number and had to divulge my life history ... not a pretty sight. There were short, tall, old, young and a variety of shapes amongst the ladies, but only one male ... Jeffrey. It looked like Jeff was going to have be my friend.

The boss lady welcomed me and asked two questions:

1. Why had I joined Weight Watchers?

2. What was my aim?  
I looked her straight in the eye and told her ...

1. I wanted to become an eight stone weakling

2. I must be able to get into my 1964 sailors uniform since I'd been invited to a Royal Navy cake, rum and beer party.

So here we go ...

**WEEK 1.** As I stepped onto the weighing machine a light flashed, a bell rang and when my weight lit up some members sniggered. I also noticed the ladies weighed in with all their heavy winter coats and boots on - we were told that removing a gar-

ment a week helped with their weight loss.

**WEEK 2.** Most members had lost one to six pounds. Jeffrey was awarded the first Silver Star for losing half a stone (it just had to be a man). Poor Anthea ... she puts weight on saying she had five business lunches this week.

Some members tried to cheer her up but I'm sure some gloated.

At the membership talk our leader explained the 'Points and Portion' system we were to use along with a 'Tracking Sheet'. All food input must be weighed.

The boss told us to use a teaspoon to measure rather than a ladle. I did question the size of a portion. As a heavy I was allowed 30 points.

**WEEK 3.** Tesco shopping was a nightmare. All food checked and rechecked, in and out of basket and then transferred to points ... And what do points make?

At the members talk in another ten silver stars were awarded but Anthea still hadn't lost any weight. We were told how to save points for special nights out or when we were going to 'rat out'. Chrissy asked how many points to save 'cos she was going to an "Eat as much as you can for a fiver" party ... Huh, the look she got from the boss could have terminated a calorie there and then. Boss said "Pickers would need bigger knickers!" Gwen said "Thank goodness for stretch elastic." The final helpful hint our boss lady gave us was ... Use every Monday as 'Treat Night'. I didn't ask her if THAT was limited as well or if you could save points if THAT was what she meant.

*More Scary Flo next month.*

A. Downes

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# The bell tolls not for cyclists

Just how brave do you have to be to cycle from the village to Wharley End? Robert Nicholls calculated life expectancy on two wheels for those who do the 'university run'

I have been cycling from Cranfield village to the University and back, morning and evening most days of the week for about thirty years.

In the early years it was a pleasantly reviving way to start the day, the gentle exercise in the cool of the morning serving to blow away the last of the cobwebs of the night and get brain and body into synchronisation ready for the challenges to come. On the afternoon return trip to the village one had time to file away the experiences of the day and make some preliminary plans for progress on the morrow.

Exposure to vehicular traffic was minimal, partly due to the fact that many more people were making the same journey on bicycles. In those days (that now seem so far away), there was also a public footpath which crossed the airfield, joining the two halves of Merchant Lane across the divide formed by the 04/22 runway.

A set of traffic lights on each side of the runway with an electric bell controlled traffic crossing the airfield. Many happy minutes could be spent contemplating nature and watching passing aircraft while waiting for the air traffic controller of the day to remember that the lights were still on red.

He had no bell to remind him, of course. It's a faint but plausible possibility that the constant ringing in my ears is a distant echo of that bell. Inevitably those days couldn't last, and eventually one cyclist too many jumped the red lights due to frustration at the long and apparently pointless wait, causing a 'near miss' incident with a landing aircraft.

The privileged crossing was closed, finally and irrevocably, and the airfield became a no man's land. Anybody found out there without



proper authorisation these days is hunted down mercilessly by the airfield security police and may be liable to a crippling fine. No more the pleasure of listening to skylarks, watching March hares, and occasionally catching a glimpse of a lost deer during the short crossing of the runway.

Now my cycling compatriots and I were condemned to a longer journey around the airfield on the road, and exposed to the whims of the driving fraternity.

Again, in the early days it wasn't too bad. After all, many of the motorists were erstwhile cyclists, and recognised the need to give the pedal pusher a bit of room as they swished past leaving all sorts of trailing edge vortices in their wake. They had only taken to the car because they felt the increased distance was too much, and the roads too dangerous. Unfortunately, that very decision did

make the roads more dangerous, as each car on the road increased my chances of being involved in an incident.

The number of cyclists has continued to dwindle away to the point that

All these problems are much greater during the winter months, with strong winds, rainfall and darkness making me much more vulnerable.

I always wear a reflective waistcoat when cycling, and have two rear

lights, one steady and one flashing, but I still believe that many motorists just don't see me until the last moment, particularly if traffic is approaching from the opposite direction.

Given that I intend to continue to make the journey to work by bicycle until the day I retire, I would like to offer the following suggestions to make my trip safer:

- Re-open the Merchant Lane crossing, this time with an indicator in Air Traffic Control to remind the controller that the lights are on red. Whilst air traffic has increased over the years, the growth has been much less than that of road traffic.
- Make the local roads subject to a speed limit, and enforce it rigorously. This is less desirable, and probably fairly unlikely.
- Widen and hard surface the existing footpath that leads from Cranfield High Street to the University around the north end of the airfield. I believe this would encourage many people who drive from the village to become cyclists, especially if lighting were included in the upgrading of the footpath.
- Controversially, institute a ban on parking on the University campus for single occupancy cars. This should halve the traffic at least, but make my life less easy on the odd days when I do use the car to get to work.

The junction of Crane Way, Crawley Road, Broad Green and Mill Road is another popular spot - I have learnt that motorists leaving Crane Way just don't seem to be able to see a cyclist approaching along Crawley Road.

The number of uncomfortable moments has increased exponentially since the Nissan organisation opened for operations. I'm not sure what pressure the employees there are put under to get to the office, but all the newish Nissan vehicles that seem to be in a hurry.

*What do you think of Robert's views. Write to Cranfield Express and let us hear your opinion. Does the Parish Council have any views?*



1996



## MEC MATHEW McHUGH ELECTRICAL

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# Spring fayre a great success

The sun played a winner when Holywell school held its spring fayre last month. After a dismal April, a great day demanded great weather and no one was disappointed. Given the heat, perhaps taking a turn on the 'soaking stool' was not such a bad idea. The 'campus' buzzed with activities, inside and out, while

Kempston fire station provided an eye catching appliance to add a splash of colour. Despite the tinder dry conditions it was not needed however! The atmosphere was further enhanced with music played by the school band under the steady baton of music teacher Jonathon Hunt.



All the fun of the fair through the eyes of Brent Fowler



Right to left, Katie Bowser, Sarah Chamberlain, Milan Kecman, Amy Briggs and Laura Spicer



Alexander Tothill certainly knows how to blow his own saxophone



Jake Symes-Thompson helps the local fire-fighters out of a tight spot



Of course you can have chips with that



Jonathon Hunt , Harriet Rich and Kirsty Oswald creating a festival atmosphere



Trumpets and 'tadpoles', music to make the day go well

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**WANTED** I buy anything old interesting or collectable – single items or complete house clearances 01234 768304

**Announcements**

**STEPHEN EELES** - happy 40th birthday Stephen on 27th June. All our love and best wishes. From Mum and Dad, Theresa, Ian, Sharon and Stuart, Emily, Alice and Katie.

**RALPH POINTON** Have a wonderful 60th birthday on 30th May. All my love, Viv xxx

**RALPH POINTON** Dad have a really happy 60th birthday on the 30th. Lots of Love from Caroline, Gerry, Sharon, Don, Kevin & Lorna xxx

**GRANDAD RALPH** Happy Birthday Grandad for 30th May. Lots of Love & Kisses from Thomas, Daniel, Emma, Chloe & Megan XXXXX

**DIANA, MARTIN & EMILY BOYLES** are pleased to announce the safe arrival of 'Daniel Luke', 7lb 14oz, on Thursday, 13th April, 2000. Many thanks for all cards, presents and best wishes.

**Holiday Bible Club**

It was Megaquest Holiday Bible Club last year - what will it be this? The new Millennium? The Olympics? Watch this space next month to find out!!!

What we will tell you now is the Holiday Bible Club, led by Brian Addington and members of local churches, is planned for Monday to Friday mornings, 14th to 18th August at the Methodist Church, for 5 year olds up. We look forward to seeing those who came last year again! If you've never been, why not join our Club?

**Leukaemia Research**

Our Spring Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy Sale, held at Cranfield Village Hall on Thursday 11th May, raised a total of **£1,026.00** for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Irene and Hugh McMenamin wish to thank the various local shops, businesses & individuals who donated the 31 main raffle prizes (all of which were claimed), the bottle of Brandy (won by Mrs J Baldwin) and the numerous tombola gifts and other items for sale.

**FREDERICK MOSSFORD** Birthday remembrance on June 18th of a dearly loved husband, dad, father-in-law and grandad, who passed away on April 21st 2000. You are in our hearts forever.

**JASMINE EELES** - Happy 6th birthday on 2nd June. Love from Irene, Barry, Timothy and Stephanie.

Finally, a big thank you to all who attended the event, either to help on the stalls or to "bring and buy", whose continued loyal support and encouragement is much appreciated.

**Royal British Legion** Cranfield Branch. May I thank those of you attended our St. George's Day Parade and Service despite the change of date, short notice, another Bank Holiday and to finish it off - Rain! I would also like to thank again the members who participated in the service and in particular the Organist and the Rector for enhancing the service. We were pleased to receive visiting Standard Bearers from Woburn, Houghton Conquest and Cotton End and thank them for their support. The June meeting is scheduled for the 15th, of the Month, the venue to be confirmed. Contact Ray Kingston, Secretary, for further details, phone 01234 750469.

**Happy 70th**  
Happy birthday **Albert Reeve**, for 26 May. From Jacqui, Sarah, Heather, David, Andrew, Amy, Greg, Sue, James, Jessica, Eleanor, and all your friends at St Peter & St Pauls.

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## Footballing fun with little acorns

With a bit of decent weather and a big sense of fun, Acorns playgroup and Cranfield football club provided the village's May Day entertainment. It was a splendid opportunity to show there is still plenty of community spirit despite the May fete's 'No show'.

Rachel Foster of Acorns said the partnership between the club and the playgroup had worked well and she was pleased with the turnout. Acorn ladies put on their best performance in a showdown game of footie against various club stalwarts.

We are pleased to report that the tough tackling from the ladies' back 11 permanently injured none of the club regulars. For once they just picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and got on with it. Off the field there was loads to do when

you weren't guzzling the output of the barbecue or taking refreshment. The younger and more energetic you were, of course, the more fun it was from the bouncy castle to the 'greasy pole' pillow fights.

For those who just wanted to chance their luck in a good cause, the human fruit machine 'staffed' by Jean and Bill Newson and Janet Martindale added a certain flavour to the afternoon.

Horizon Radio put the whole business on the air and the station's Louisa Bennett joined in the antics taking on Alexander Saunders on the 'greasy pole'. Along with some expert face painting by Rachel Foster and Deb Smith and 'aquatic' opportunities for the younger punters it was a day to remember.



Fishing for ducks, Adam Gregory and Grace Marsh



Devoted Sisters - Stephanie and Georgina Rawle



Hannah Badham is looking good, so too is Charlotte Smith



Louisa Bennet, Horizon Radio, trades blows with Alexander Saunders



Rachel Foster of Acorn Pre-School puts the finishing touches to Rebecca Badham



Good stuff! Thomas Billington and Lewis Foster



Cranfield Express' first, and probably last, spot the ball



Human Fruit Machine Janet Martindale, Tommy Lee Jones (men in black), Bill Newson, Jean Newson

## Chris's IT Clinic

### Memory is made of this

One of the key features of your computer system is its memory. We're all familiar with this in human terms - I wish mine functioned better - but what does it mean in computer terms?

We're talking about 'Random Access Memory', or RAM. Picture someone in an office anywhere in the world, sitting at a desk. The bigger the desktop, the more work you can process at any one time. It's the same with the computer's RAM. The more it's got, the more tasks it can deal with simultaneously. If you think your PC's a bit slow, try increasing its RAM.

RAM is measured in megabytes (MB). The minimum required for a reasonably modern PC is 32 MB, but you will see a dramatic improvement if you double this to 64 MB. Many PCs are now have 128 MB. It's a bit different from the old days, when the maximum memory you could have was 1 MB!

It's quite easy to install memory yourself, but you need to know what you're doing. If you have any qualms about opening up your PC, don't do it. There are plenty of people around who can install it for you.

Older PCs use memory modules known as SIMMs (Single Inline Memory Modules). These must be installed in pairs. More modern machines use DIMMs (Dual Inline Memory Modules) which can be installed singly. SIMMs are quite cheap and still readily available. You can get a 128 MB DIMM for about £80 - £100.

If you have any questions, tell me all about it by emailing me at [c.walker@tesco.net](mailto:c.walker@tesco.net) or leave a note at the drop-off points at the two newsagents in the village. I may air your problem on these pages, but anonymously of course!

Chris Walker.

Cranfield Express need more volunteers to deliver along the High Street, Mill Road, Longborns and Wharley End. If you can spare 30 mins each month, please phone Laurence on 01234 751079.

# THE TALE WAGS THE DOG

Piper weaves back and forward through Sharon's legs, mesmerised and delighted. The jack russell is revelling in his exposure to grass at the back of the house in Handley Page Close.

His urban life back in the United States meant little greenery. He's also more than a little interested in the cat presence next door, trotting off to the fence to spy out the competition.

A quick look from Sharon and he's soon back on track, though, weaving, waiting, coming and jumping hoops through her arms. Her other animal, Dagger (well, what's in a name?) an 'Australian cattle' breed is a hospital therapy dog and a real sweetie.

Piper and Dagger are not just obedient dogs. They are the product of their owner's 'dog behaviourist' techniques which have only developed in the last 10 years and are relatively unknown in the UK. Sharon Savage has been training dogs since she was 12 and she has a degree in animal psychology from the university of Wisconsin.

The key difference is between motivating an animal to behave and simply requiring obedience.

"Most of the dogs I see have one of two problems - either aggression or separation anxiety. Neither can be fixed by a sit, stay or beautiful recall."

Sharon is not knocking obedience training though. She can do that too and Piper came sixth in obedience in the US, subsequently featuring in a high profile range of adverts for Purina dog food. But she believes it will not necessarily deal with the problems of an aggressive dog.

Modern dog behaviourist techniques involve positive, gentle reinforcement. Sharon insists that trainers who use choke collars or shout at aggressive dogs will subdue them only while they are on the leash.

"As soon as they are off the leash they will start to bite again. Their psychology is still based on fear."

Using her metallic clickers Sharon 'clicks' when a dog performs a positive act, anything from staying, to not eyeballing that aggressive dog on the other leash. A click is followed by a 'treat'. Eventually the click and the treat are dispensed with and Piper simply keeps coming back to his mistress for her approval.

If you like the jargon this is 'operant' conditioning as opposed to Pavlov's 'classical conditioning'.

"Unlike Pavlov's bell which stimulates, the dog actually does something to achieve the click," says Sharon. "I do not use any kind of punishment. I will never jerk the dog or yell."

Its the sort of training which helped Dagger qualify as a hospital therapy dog. This involves going into a room with a tester which the dog has never



Sharon Savage and Piper

seen before. The tester screams, stomps on the floor and throws a chair then humps a bag of tin cans around.

This has to be cool with the dog if it is to pass the test. It must not back up or show fear. It must simply stand there Piper is in for his hospital therapy test soon and Sharon is confident he will get through.

So is dog behaviourism just the latest crazy fad from the US? Is it pooch on the couch gone mad or a true understanding of how dogs' minds work? Whatever the answer Dagger and Piper are happy dogs who enjoy life. So perhaps we should pay attention to any technique that helps achieve that.



Partners



### Launch of Stagecoach watch

Ever get stuck at a bus stop or wonder if local public transport will ever show up? We are all being urged to go green and leave the car behind. That depends, however, on good, high quality bus services to get from Cranfield to Bedford or Milton Keynes.

So what do you do when the bus fails to appear? Well, when you have stopped gnashing your teeth, contact Stagecoach Watch. With information that you provide, we will then suggest to Stagecoach that they supply some explanation and/or apology for the latest hiccups (See Cranfield Express No 1).

Here is the latest intelligence from the public transport front and Bedford assistant operation manager Janie Symons's response at our editorial deadline:

• 6.56 from Cranfield to Bedford failed to appear on 28th March, 5th

and 17th April. "That is a Milton Keynes based operation and I will refer your query to operations manager at Northampton."

• It has also been reported that the 12.24 '142' from Flitwick to Bedford on Saturday 8th April failed to stop at Interchange Retail Park leaving a Cranfield resident stranded. "That is one of our leading drivers. I will have to speak to him - I would be absolutely stunned if a leading driver has gone past. There must be a reason."

• There have also been complaints that the 8.52 am to Bedford on Saturday is a single decker resulting in elderly people having to stand. "We have been advised of that by our drivers and we are monitoring it. We can't stick a different size vehicle on at the drop of a hat. I will arrange for a double decker for Saturday mornings and we will monitor passenger loadings."



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### Outings

Our last planned outing took place on May 10th when 55 of us left Cranfield en route for the London Dome. Although tiring we all enjoyed the experience, and would recommend that others make the visit.

Two weeks previous 33 of us had a lovely day trip to the Spalding Carnival. This proved to be a great success, but as the coach was not full it ran at a slight loss. I make these

outings as cheap as possible, and any small profit goes to Cranfield W I. Most of you who have been on the trips have enjoyed them, and I do not mind organising them - but more support please. I am always open to suggestions of places to visit, etc. so please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have booked seats for this year's MK pantomime for Thursday 18th Jan, 7:30 pm. Priced £11 adults and children - coach fare extra.

Joan Last 01234 750738



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## CRANFIELD COLTS 5-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT - RAIN ALMOST STOPS PLAY.

Cranfield Colts held their annual football tournament on Sunday 30th April 2000. Once again it was a great success. But it was almost a very different story.

Months of planning had gone into the arrangements for the tournament, with many a late evening being spent on the phone, or PC, or both. So much so that one of the wettest Aprils for years almost went unnoticed.

On the Friday prior to the big day, the tournament committee met to double check that all was in order. After agreeing that we had done all we could, we went home and hoped that there would be no further rain. There was.

Saturday morning saw a phone call from Vice Chairman, Paul Neate, at Cranfield United's ground to say "If the tournament was today, it would not be able to go ahead!" A visit to the ground revealed pools of lying water on the pitch and in the areas used for parking. A dilemma then followed, do we call it off, or wait to see if the weather will be good enough to improve the ground? We decided to wait. The weather was good and the working party who were there to set up the pitches for the following day, together with additional volunteers, worked wonders to get the pitch to a standard where football could be played. People worked away with forks and brooms to clear the water. Christine Lake was sweeping away puddles while her brother, James, who plays for the under 9's and Rob, her dad, were baling puddles with buckets to try and clear the parking area. Even though they did a sterling job, the amount of room for parking was

seriously curtailed. This unfortunately resulted in some serious congestion in Crawley road and inconvenience to the local residents. To all of these we send sincere apologies.

Mick Brightman piloted the line marker whilst many others, such as George Butler, Garry Holloway, Ron Wright, Tony Hooper, Kevin Howard, and Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all, put up goals, measured the pitches and worked many minor miracles. The size of the pitches had to be reduced to miss the worst of the few quagmires there were as a result.

The next day saw a bright start to the day, and we all waited for the warm sunny day that the BBC weather service had promised.

Teams from all over North Beds and Bucks arrived and registered. And before we knew it, over forty teams ranging from under 8's through to under 15's had arrived. Many of them old friends of the Colts from way back.

Still we waited for the sun, and still it failed to shine. The football started, and the enjoyment levels started to rise.

The level of ability shown by the youngsters showed that football at grass roots level is in a pretty healthy state.

After several hours of wonderful displays by the under 8's, their section ended with each player being awarded a medal as a reminder of the day. There were no finals at this age group, as the F.A. state that at this age there should be no winners and no losers. Palmers solicitors, who once again showed their great, and wonderfully appreciated, support for the youth of the village, sponsored the medals.

## SIZE DON`T MEAN A FING IF YOU TKD IT!



Richard Ford and Anna Hartley demonstrate the flexibility of of age, gender and size in the martial art of Tae Kwon Do - and all without moving a muscle.

Congratulations to Vanya Gladkow who graded to the coveted Black Belt status on April 30th at Bristol.

The club meets on Sunday at 6.00pm (5.15pm for the Kids Club) at the Scout Hut in Merchants Lane, 7.00pm at the Old Gym on the University Campus and 7.00pm at the Lovat School Newport Pagnell.

New members are always welcome. Call Dave Rawle on 01234 750716 or just turn up for your first free training session at any of the locations.



Under 8s captains with the fair play award

There was an award for fair play, which was shared between the two Cranfield sides.

Once the under 8's had completed their event, interest turned to the semi-finals and finals of the older ages.

Cranfield Colts generally performed well at all ages. The under 9's, under 10's and under 12's all had teams reach the semi-finals, The under 15's reached the final where they were beaten by Meppershall, this age group was kindly sponsored by Ashleys estate agents. The under 13's B side were victorious against a strong Wootton Rangers side, 1-0 after extra time. The under 11's managed to get both their A and B sides to the final, emulation their achievement of last year. The A team finally won 1-0 after extra time in a game so fiercely contested, that it is hard to think that for the rest of the season they had all been teammates.

Cranfield Colts also picked up two further fair play awards, by the under 13 A team while the under 15's shared their award. Which only goes to show

that you can play fair and be successful!

Steve Ashton of Horizon Radio's Morning Crew awarded the prizes to the winners and runners up. The club, having discovered that Steve had recently celebrated a birthday, presented him with a cake and led the assembled masses in chorus of happy birthday.

At the end of the day, when every one had left, and we sat back to reflect on the day, we concluded that it was probably the best tournament we've had yet. But for all the success the Colts experienced on the day, the day was summed up by a comment made by the manager of the Sandy under 13's just after he had seen both of his teams eliminated in the semi-finals, "Thanks for a wonderful day, We've had a great time!" You and me both, mate!

Paul Rawlins

For further coverage, see our website [www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk](http://www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk)

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