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The Parish Council Strikes back!

To The Editor
Cranfield Express

I was disappointed to read the front-page article in the last edition of the Cranfield Express regarding the dilemma the lower school faces in relation to Large Scale Housing development. Due to the very sensitive nature of the article, I would have thought that the Cranfield Express would have contacted the Parish Council for their comments (and included these in the same issue) before going to press.

The Parish Council, however, was not contacted for their comments. I therefore thought it only right that you hear from the PC what the real situation is regarding the schools.

Unfortunately the article published in the Cranfield Express was not only misleading in its content, but was not based on facts.

The council has, and continues to, oppose all large-scale housing development in the village. However, it recognises that it is almost inevitable we will be forced to take 350+ new houses.

When Large Scale Housing first became an issue over 10 years ago, Cranfield PC highlighted the lack of educational facilities as a major factor against development. MBDC and Beds County Council, as the LEA, have continued to ignore this major factor over the last 10 years.

Even when we highlighted time and again that the figures produced by the County Council and the LEA regarding educational requirements were based on out of date statistics, we were ignored.

We have made representation to MBDC, the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the

Secretary of State, and our local MP. Jonathan Sayeed supports this council's objections, and has attended meetings in the village to try and do something to help.

As MBDC and the LEA have ignored our representations, the PC have discussed various emergency measures to try to solve a problem that I must stress was not of our making.

Doing a land swap with the village hall was one option, (although I understand the lower school head teacher has raised some concerns about this). This building is adjacent to the school, and although it would need some attention, it could hold at least another three classrooms. This would facilitate the building of a new Community Centre, which was another point raised in the article.

Surely, the person who wrote the article with such knowledge would have known this. But for some unknown reason, perhaps scaremongering, or sensationalism, it was not mentioned in the letter which headlined the Cranfield Express.

At the recent stakeholder meetings held with MBDC, the Parish Council representatives stated that they would be prepared to consider a land swap involving the recreation ground if it was beneficial to the village as a whole. We recognise that if at all possible we need to keep the school as one unit and not divide it up. The plans submitted by MBDC as illustrated in the Cranfield Express were completely unsatisfactory. They involved putting in a bus turning circle, and cutting off half of the park from the High Street. Given the parking and traffic congestion caused by school drop-offs already, funnelling

it all down Red Lion Close hardly seems a satisfactory solution.

No funds were being put forward for a new community centre, just providing land (which the council already own) on which to build one

The land offered by MBDC in replacement of half of the recreation area, was a piece of land 1 mile away from the existing park, and only replaced what had been swapped. It made no mention of the extra recreation area that must be supplied as part of the development plans, which is a further one and a half football pitches in size.

It is obvious that MBDC and the LEA have buried their heads in the sand for ten years on this matter, and now that the development plans are turning into reality they have begun to panic. They did not put any thought at all into where the extra school land was coming from, all they thought about was extra housing.

No land has been put aside to build a new school, and the developers would not be able to provide funding for a new school as a planning obligation.

The Parish Council is a way out for them, and whilst we will do everything in our power to resolve the situation to the parishioners satisfaction. I repeat that this is not a problem of our making.

The article portrays the Parish Council as the bad guys. In reality, we have been trying to resolve the matter for many years. It is a pity that the LEA and MBDC did not listen to us in the first place, (see the article 'A Long and Grinding Road' in the October Cranfield Express for a summary of what has taken place over the last 10 years).

Continued on pages 2 and 4

Keeping the village in touch

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Deadline for next issue

Tuesday 16th November

www.cranfieldexpress.co.uk

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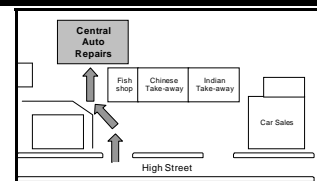
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Letters to the Editor

At the end of the day, we will do what is right for the village and the schools, but we are not a push over. We are being forced to take a further 350+ houses into our village, when we have neither the resources nor the infrastructure to cope with them.

The article also mentions a new community centre. Anyone who has shown any interest at all in the development process will be fully aware that as part of the council's proactive approach, special meetings of The Planning Committee have been held in order to draw up a 'wish list' of potential planning gain. A new Village Hall/Community Centre is high on this list. Attracting funds via developers, and matched funding from elsewhere etc has been discussed on numerous occasions, including Parish meetings, which I called. So to say that the Council have not done anything about this matter is ridiculous.

Let me state once again that all the decisions regarding housing development have been made elsewhere. The decision to overturn the planning inspector's recommendation to use the University site was made by the MBDC, who are the Planning Authority. The Parish Council voted that the least disadvantageous site for new development was the airfield, but our view was ignored by MBDC.

We as a PC have been left to pick up the pieces. We are still in discussion with MBDC and I am sure that we will eventually find a satisfactory solution to the problem.

We want the best for our community, our schools and our children, and are determined to resolve the matter as best we can. It would be far better to discuss these issues and work together, instead of resorting to writing misleading articles which at the very least stir up discontent and cause concern and worry to the community.

As part of the process of ensuring public involvement in this debate the parish council has called a village meeting for November 11th. Cranfield District Councillor Ken Matthews, MBDC Council Leader, Councillor Tricia Turner, LEA Officer Robin Fiander and Mid Beds

Planner Trevor Saunders will be present to answer questions about the siting of the development and the problems with education facilities. I urge you to attend and make your points and pose your questions directly to these decision makers.

Hopefully this letter puts the records straight, and I would encourage anyone who has any questions generally, or concerns about anything that happens in the village, to attend either Parish Council meetings or the quarterly surgery.

Philip Bates

Chairman Cranfield Parish Council

And There's More

Dear Sir:

The debate between Mid-Beds District Council and the Parish Council over where the houses are to be sited is finished. The District Council has ratified the decision of its Executive and Planning West to adopt the Home Farm site. Cranfield University will, doubtless, endeavour to have this decision overturned and will go through the process of challenging the Mid Beds' decision on Home Farm. Although the outcome of this challenge is uncertain, in view of the determination of the Mid-Beds Councillors and the developer to push through the Home Farm site, the village would be wise to focus its attention on this site and reconsider the University proposal when or if it comes back into the frame.

The village has now to consider what can be gained from this development in order to enhance the quality of life once the 350 house are in place. When discussing this matter it is normal to talk about "planning gains" and use this as a catch-all phrase for all the "new things" that flow from the developer. The first thing to bear in mind is that planning gain technically relates to any additional development required to meet the needs placed on the local infrastructure by the increase in population. Thus, any additional classrooms and playing field that might be required by the three schools serving the educational needs of the village come under this heading. There is a statutory obligation on the developer to provide adequate

resources, money, land etc. to meet these needs. This is imposed on the developer so that additional "required" infrastructure comes out of the developers profits and not out of local Council Tax. At this stage there is no real "local" debate - the decisions are made by those responsible for the provision of schools, roads, flood control etc. following the details in the Planning Inspector's Report. If these statutory obligations use up all the planning gain money set-aside by the developer leaving nothing for additional gains - a new village hall for example - then there will be no additional gains.

As far as the Home Farm development is concerned the first, and most important, slice of the "planning gain" cake involves the provision of new places at the existing schools. This is an issue to be resolved by the developer working with the Local Education Authority (Bedfordshire County Council). On the basis of the proposed development, the LEA will apply a formula that defines the required provision and, in principle, informs the developer of the required financial contribution to cover the costs of the new school buildings etc. At the moment there is no detailed plan fully defining the number and type of houses on the Home Farm site so it is difficult to see how the formula can be applied. Nevertheless, the debate between the developer and the LEA is underway with Mid-Beds involved in trying resolve the land issue associated with developing the schools to cope with the new residents.

Although the LEA defines the school provision requirements, it doesn't enact the decisions made; the real body operating on all our behalves with the Home Farm developer is Mid-Beds District Council. It is the body legally responsible for housing development, for selecting sites, for giving permission for the development to take place and for deciding the main objectives and principles upon which development is permitted to take place. So, in all matters relating to the Home Farm development, the District Council runs the show. Planning gain for the village will be decided through discussion between the developer and

the District Council. Of course the District Council will listen to village opinion expressed either by the Parish Council or individuals, but is under no obligation to take any notice. If past history is any guide, the District Council has not shown any sensitivity to village concerns. It should also be borne in mind that the District Council's primary concern is to get this development moving as it has been an outstanding issue since 1992 (See 'Long and Grinding Road', Cranfield Express, October 2004).

Although this seems to be a rather pessimistic view, we need to decide on what is required from the developer to improve village life. There are pressure points: the village has two District Councillors, both elected to represent Cranfield - one a member of the Planning West Committee - living in the village who can be asked to support specific planning gain issues. In addition the village, through the Parish Council, owns the Recreation Ground which the District Council wishes to use to assist the developer in coping with the demands being placed upon it relating to the statutory school provision. This does give some strength to the village's negotiating power. So there is still plenty to play for; the planning gain issue is far from resolved and will not be concluded for some time into the future

Alan Morris

Flower Power

Sir

Some people might think that when a person decides to move away from their much loved village, where they were born and bred, and hold some

Letters continued on page 4

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Jonathan Sayeed MP

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

What's on Sun

Saturday 30th October Jumble Sale at Cranfield Methodist Church. 11.00am to 1.0pm. All proceeds to be donated to the Primrose Appeal and Cranfield Methodist Sunday School. Nearly new and refreshments.
Parish Council meetings

Wednesday November 3rd and Wednesday November 17th Both 8 pm at the Village Hall. For agendas see PC noticeboards or ring 01525 280493

Monday 15th November Cranfield Community Safety Group 7.30pm Portnall Place Tel 757689

Saturday 6th November Photo Session at The Carpenters Arms from 10am to 11.30am by Tempest Photography. Raising funds for Acorn PreSchool. Please book with PreSchool or Kerry on 750088 or turn up on the day. All Welcome not just Pre-school children. Make Granny's Christmas with a photo of the whole family.

Saturday 6th November. Cranfield United Football Club's annual fireworks display. New for this year - Kid's rides and amusements. Gates open at 6:30pm. Display at 7:45pm. Limited parking available at £5 per car, so please walk to the event if you can. Admission £3 adults, £1 under 16s. Food available. Come early to avoid disappointment.

Tuesday 9th November 7.30pm Wharley End W.I. Stafford Cripps Building Cranfield University "Stained Glass" Bill Deacon Visitors Welcome

Saturday 13 November Cranfield Methodist Church Lunch. 12.30 - 1.30pm. Menu: Egg Mayonnaise, Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, seasonal vegetables. Stewed fruit, shortbread and custard. Tea or coffee. £4.50. All very welcome.

Monday 15th November. Cranfield WI 8.0pm at Village Hall. 'Gardening with Wildlife in Winter'.

Saturday 20th November Acorn PreSchool Christmas Bazaar 11am to 2pm, Come and meet Santa in his Grotto, take a chance on the Grand Prize Draw. Lots of activities and things to do and buy. Visit the Cake Stall, have a go on the lucky dip. Refreshments available. Come and have a fun time.

Saturday 20th November at 7.30pm, Cranfield Parish Church. **Land of Hope and Glory** - Tickets £4.50, Children £2, (including light refreshments) available by phone: 751598, 750420, 750524.

Friday 26th November Cranfield Lower School PTFA Christmas Fayre 3.30- 5.30 Father Christmas, Mulled Wine, Stalls, Games, Raffle, All welcome

Monday 29th November The Cranfield Village Hall Committee are holding their A.G.M. at The Village Hall from 7.30pm, followed by a meeting at 8pm. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to meeting some new members. If you have an interest in the Village Hall please come along and meet some friendly faces.

Saturday 4th December - Childrens Disco in the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Tickets £2.50 per child. All children to be accompanied by an adult, who get in free! Refreshments available. Tickets available from pre school sites or Hayley on 752113. Raising funds for Acorn Pre School.

Saturday 4th December - Adult Disco in the Village Hall 8pm till late. Come and have a bop. Bring your own food and booze. Tickets are just £5 each, available from pre school sites or Hayley on 752113. Raising funds for Acorn Pre School.

Saturday 4th December Sounds Familiar concert in the Parish church organised by Friends of the Church. A selection of stalls selling home made produce, cakes and Christmas goods will be available from 6.30pm Concert starts at 7.30pm admission £4 including light refreshments.

Tuesday 7th December Progressive Christmas Whist Drive organised by Friends of the Church, to be held in the Village Hall. 7.45pm start. Admission £1.50 including light refreshments

Every Tuesday in Term Time - Parent & Toddler Group, North

Crawley Village Hall from 10.00 to 12.00. People from Cranfield are very welcome to attend.

What's on at The Cross Keys Improvers Bridge 8.0pm on Mondays. New members welcome. Conversational French, Food Hygiene Certificate, Emergency First Aid Tel: 750213 after 5pm to express your interest. 1st Tuesday in each month at The Cross Keys Book Club 7.30-9.30pm. Lively discussion in a relaxed setting. All welcome. Plus the usual darts and dominoes. All welcome.

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

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

Every Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm. Citizens Advice Bureau at Doctor's Surgery, Marston. By Appointment Only. Open to all Cranfield residents. Phone: 01234 766551.

Lois Stone, North Carolina, US

It is great to see parts of Cranfield in your website. My Grandfather was the butcher between 1940 to 1956 and his name was Harry Whittington. At one time my other grandfather John Fairclough was the landlord of The Leathern Bottle in the 40's-50's. Some of my family still live there. Thank you it's a great site and I would love to hear from some of the people I went to school with at Cranfield and Stewartby.



Methodist

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10.30am Morning Service
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3rd Sunday - Family Service

10.45am Fellowship and Sunday School

Weekdays

Thursday 6pm Sunshine Corner (Children up to 8) 7.15pm Thursday Club(Children 8-12 years)

Wednesday 7.30 CYFA meet in church
Thursday 7.30pm Bellingring Practice

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

Contacts

Rev Gordon Sollis 01234 751886
Nora Salisbury 750279

Rev Hugh Symes-Thompson 01234 750214
Carol Rubini 752204
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Steve Lloyd 01234 751495
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Letters, continued from page 2

precious memories, they won't be too bothered about any future developments that may occur in the village.

I have to say that from my point of view this is not so. I am appalled and very upset to think I travel from Cornwall every year to visit my three family graves to place very beautiful silk flowers on them only to have them thrown away.

I am sure I am not the only person to object to this ludicrous idea. Who has the right to interfere with something that's very precious to the relatives attending them?

I do not want to picture my parents resting place as an empty plot, so I will continue to place lovely silk flowers on their graves, and expect them to be left alone.

Also why does this only apply to Cranfield Churchyard when just across the road the new cemetery is not affected, or any other graveyard in the village?

It just seems to me to be something that will upset a lot of village people, who surely have the right to keep their loved ones graves in good order. I was always under the impression the church has always been there for the people, and after taking care of our family plots for more than thirty years who has the right to take this away?

Mrs Ann Lee Pyrah
The Gannel View Lodge
Cornwall

Editor's Birthday?

If you see the Editor, Pete Hinson, on Friday 19th November, wish him HAPPY BIRTHDAY - IT'S A BIG ONE - HE'S GOING TO BE 60. He needs all the help he can get now, Black Belt or not. But be nice to him, because we want a Cranfield Express for December! HAPPY BIRTHDAY PETE! From all your mates in Cranfield

Still on the Editor's Birthday?

Sir - Did Pete Hinson tell his friend a porkie? Only 60! If that's correct, he hasn't weathered very well. We are convinced it was his 65th. A party was to be held in the Co-op on Pension Day. It's a fact, Mr Hinson like many others who moved into the village in the 70's, would love to be called a local as a present, but he knows that will never happen. The man said he hoped to wear a Black Belt for his bash. Was that a threat?? Could we book the Bus Shelter (Mill

Road) and the Telephone Box (High Street) for his party. Both would be big enough if all his friends turn up as promised.

Happy Birthday
Mrs Ellis

An Interest in Cranfield

Dear Editor

I first became interested in Cranfield many years ago when stationed in the RAF at the camp. Eventually I met and married a local girl, Pamela Ward, who unfortunately died eighteen months ago but, not before we had had fifty three years together. As her sister still lives in the village, I am kept in touch with local events as I am sent a copy of the very excellent Express each month.

Of course much of the content recently has been concern over proposals for extending the housing in the village which has increased a great deal over the years. Now it seems as if every large garden or orchard has been built on, and of course there are already existing small estates. But the extra housing planned for either Home Farm or on the Airfield will have bigger impact. And what if the Government, who have recently announced plans for thousands of new houses, allow even more to be built at Cranfield? Imagine if the villages of Salford, Moulsoe and North Crawley were swallowed up. Could it happen? At one time Milton Keynes was a village with a church, a pub and a few cottages. Where is it now?

Looking at the map it seems as if the sprawl of the new town has been restricted to one side of the M1 motorway. Is there a boundary around Cranfield which would contain further development?

Ray Helliwell
Driffield
East Yorkshire.

It's a Doggone Sad Tale

Dear Editor

I am a six year old black Labrador bitch cross (about 18 inches high) who would like a new home as my family can no longer look after me, in the ways I'm used to. They have deserted me to far flung universities and work. I would like a home where I can eat, sleep, be taken for walks and be loved. Please contact my mum! Karen on 01908-582069 daytime Monday to Thursday. 01908-222872 evenings.

Karen

Cranfield Critters Club

The Critters meet every week in the Village Hall. On the first and third Tuesdays we meet at 10am, one hour before clinic, then on all other Tuesdays it is 1.30pm. There is no charge to attend just a small donation of twenty-five pence for tea and coffee. The group is for children aged up to two and a half.
Contact Lucy on 01234 751105

"A month is time to reply to a letter, but a front page article is different"

"Development at Home Farm was not our decision - it was Mid Beds District Council's. We are not the planning authority - we are consulted." These were the sentiments of a very frustrated Councillor John Savill, during the Parish Council Planning Committee last month. He was reacting to a front page article and a letter in the October issue of Cranfield Express. "The Parish Council was accused of sticking its head in the sand and asked to shed its naivety," he complained. He was concerned that there is still considerable confusion surrounding the proposed housing development in Cranfield and suggested that the Parish Council needed (yet again), to put its points forward.

The anonymous front page article was critical of the Parish Council's lack of positive response to a Mid Beds draft option for using the recreation ground for Lower School playing fields and a new Village Hall. "A new village hall was just a suggestion of what could go there if the funding could be found," commented Councillor Delise Ball.

Councillor Alan Morris proposed that the Chairman should write to the Editor, (see Phil Bate's letter). He expressed surprise that given it was a front page article attacking a local body, the parish council had not been offered the opportunity of an immediate

reply. "A month is time to reply to a letter, but a front page article is different," he said.

Councillor Morris then outlined a letter that he intended to submit to Cranfield Express (see Alan Morris' letter). He emphasised that the District Council has made a final decision for Home Farm and "we need to talk about planning gain." The developer must make provision for statutory requirements such as schools and roads. Mid Beds District Council needs to ensure that the LEA requirements are met. This Parish Council only got involved because we have land: normally a parish council would not get involved. If the LEA say they want our land, it is up to us to negotiate terms."

He reminded members that Mid Beds was now 12 years behind schedule and it is under pressure to build the houses (see the Long and Grinding Road, Cranfield Express, October 2004). "We have a pressure point," he noted. "We have two District Councillors, one on Planning West and one on the Executive: they are both members of the majority party, and can be urged to support specific planning gain."

Margaret Rooney

The Dental Goes Mental Again

The Cranfield Dental Surgery is pleased to announce that there will be the opportunity to register as an NHS patient on Saturday 27 November. Doors open at 10.0am. The practice will be able to accept a maximum of 200 patients on this date. Come early. When 200 have been accepted the Surgery doors will be closed for the day.

WEDDING CHOIRS



Have you thought of having a choir to sing at your wedding? Danesborough Chorus Wedding Service can arrange small mixed choirs to sing at weddings. These

choirs will usually consist of 12-15 experienced singers. The choirs -

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If you would like to know more about this service or make a booking, please contact the wedding service organiser, Stuart Brown, on 01525.754181 or by e-mail at s.brown93@ntlworld.com.



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'Tap the Healer within'

Following the success of her two previous workshops at Milton Keynes and Cranfield, Diane Purser, who trades as "Crysalis Healing" is once again holding her unique workshop which will be held on Saturday 13th November at Cranfield Campus. The day is called "Self-Discovery" and that is exactly what the participants will have done by the end of the day - discover a lot about themselves. The cost of the day, including lunch is £50. Because of the nature of the day numbers are restricted to eight people. The workshop which starts at 10.30am and finishes at 4.00pm consists of working with crystals, and then being shown the powerful non-invasive Thought Field Therapy (TFT) and how it can help with all negative emotions. TFT is also known as emotional acupuncture. TFT, can claim a success rate of 80% and deals, among things, low self esteem, fears, phobias, trauma, anxiety and stress, panic attacks etc.

Diane is a trained TFT practitioner. TFT is a natural drug free unique non-invasive therapy which eliminates the root cause of negative emotions and fears. You think of the problem and tap certain parts of the energy centres of the body (the meridians). The emotion to your fear is then de-activated. This was illustrated recently when Diane's Doctor who was very sceptical about how tapping certain parts of your body could eliminate fears such as heights sent her a so called "guinea pig". Diane successfully treated her and informed Diane that when she showed him her "party piece" of how she could walk over the gantry at the Surgery his jaw dropped!!

An article appeared in June's MK Review illustrating Diane's work. She cured a journalist of her fear of vomiting. Diane has had a lot of success treating all sorts of fears, phobias, emotional problems, from panic attacks to traumas which have happened in their childhood.

During the day Diane, who is also a Tera-Mai™ Reiki and Seichem Master gives a short treatment. Reiki and Seichem work extremely well with TFT. At the end of the day there is a meditation.

So who is this person Diane Purser? Well, for nearly thirty years she lived in Cranfield. Diane worked at Cranfield University for nearly twenty years. Four years ago she retired on grounds of ill health. Three years ago with her husband Roger they moved to Norfolk. Diane who has suffered from debilitating depression for many years and various traumas from her childhood, was successfully treated by TFT. Diane is now on a different path, is completely healed from all her trauma from her childhood and beyond and wants to share her experiences with other people to help them get full enjoyment out of life.

If you are interested in attending the workshop, or would like more information, then give Diane a ring on 01328 853564. For more information on TFT see the website www.thoughtfieldtherapy.co.uk

Citizens Advice Comes to Marston

Every Friday, Mid Beds Citizens Advice Bureau is holding weekly advice sessions at the new Doctor's Surgery in Marston. The sessions run from 9.30am to 1.00pm every Friday and will be by Appointment Only. This service is open to all residents of Cranfield and the local area.

If you would like an appointment, please call the Surgery on 01234 766551. The Citizens Advice Bureau is a Local Charity based in Amphill and Biggleswade with satellite advice sessions in Flitwick, Shefford and now Marston. For Housebound clients, we can offer a home visiting service. In the last year we helped over 11000 residents with problems covering the following topics: Benefit Advice, Employment issues, Divorce and separation, Debt and Money Advice, Consumer Issues, Housing, and Nationality. This is an exciting new project being run in partnership between the CAB and your local Surgery. If you need advice please get in touch.

Keep Fit for the Actively Retired

Organised by The Keep Fit Association

K There are a few vacancies in this group which meets at the
F Methodist Chapel hall on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30-
3.30pm for five weeks commencing 3rd November.

A A KFA Class is fun, friendly and good for the brain too!
Attending regularly will...

- A Mobilise joints and improve suppleness
- B Improve circulation and efficiency of heart and lungs
- C Promote good posture, balance and co-ordination
- D Improve muscular strength and endurance
- E Increase bone density
- F Banish stress and give you that 'feel good' factor

It's a great way to keep active and enjoy good company. If you are interested, come along. First come, first served to fill the vacancies. Cost: about £10 for five weeks depending on the numbers joining the class. Contact Carol Pitkin 01234 857855

No Connection?

I had written a piece for what is becoming the "God Spot". I tried to send it on-line to the editor and found that I had no connection. My heart sank. I don't get on very well with technology. It brings out feelings of being totally inept. However, I am not one to miss the opportunity to find a spiritual message in a situation and felt that this may be a more important one than the one I had previously intended to share with you!

I can remember seeing an old black and white movie on the sinking of the Titanic. A small, open lifeboat was filled with survivors, and, as the rough sea tossed them about, they spontaneously started to say the Lord's Prayer. How many of us in our "titanic" moments reach out in prayer. So many wait until they are desperate and then try praying, "just in case" it may do some good.

The simple message I would like to convey is that the line to God is never engaged, the connection is never "down", but how often do we make time to use it? Prayer is the way that we link our souls, minds and hearts to the Power we call God, the Spirit who made us and loves us. He wants to help us, but has given us free will. We need to turn to Him and ask Him for help. When we shape our worries into prayers, our concerns and problems will be dealt with. We can share our grief and our pain. We can ask for strength, patience and forgiveness. The help may be by empowering us to take some action, such as contacting a friend or family member to ask for forgiveness or to forgive a wrong done. It may be accepting help offered by others. When we involve God in our lives, we may find help in all sorts of ways. Our burdens will be lifted.

Prayer is not just about asking or pleading, it is also about giving thanks, even when things seem to be going wrong.

We may be inclined to do a lot of talking and may not be so wonderful at listening. Prayer is a two way connection. In order to listen, we need to still our minds from the noise of the world and reach for what feels right in our hearts. Prayer may be simply a silence, allowing God's Love to fill us and surround us.

We may pray for help and healing for ourselves and for others, knowing that these prayers will be answered, although not necessarily in the way we may request or expect. It is salutary to realise that God knows what we want before we ask Him. Try it! Pray more and feel the difference.

Like those on the Titanic, the Lord's Prayer is a good place to start! Jesus said (John 14.13) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." So, believe and trust, love, laugh and pray. With men things may seem impossible, but with God, all things are possible.

The next Service of Healing with Prayer and the Laying on of Hands at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Cranfield is on Sunday 21st November at 4pm. All are most welcome.

Dr Marjorie Cotton

Cranfield Community Safety Group

The mobile police station turned up at Budgens last month giving villagers the chance to talk to police community support officer Roy Danaher. Roy has now been patrolling Cranfield for a year. He works closely with the Community Safety Group, the Parish Council and local retailers to tackle the quality of life issues which affect Cranfield like nearly every community across the UK. Community safety group secretary Laurence Pollock said the PCSO role in the village was very helpful. "Roy is on patrol several days a week, he knows what the issues are and he is very knowledgeable about the locality. Community safety is very much a joint project between public, police, the parish council, education agencies and Mid Beds. The PCSO is an important link between all those groups."

The next meeting of the Cranfield Community Safety group will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 15 November at Portnall Place. Tel 757689 for more information.



To all the Electors of Cranfield

You are invited to attend a
VILLAGE MEETING

Proposed housing development and education facilities
To be held at

**Village Hall, Court Road on
Thursday 11 November, 2004 AT 7 PM**

Under the Chairmanship of PCllr Phil Bates
Chairman of the Parish Council

District Council Leader Tricia Turner and Cranfield District Councillor Ken Matthews will answer questions on Mid Beds District Council's choice of site (Home Farm) for housing development Mr Robin Fiander (Beds LEA) and Mr Trevor Saunders (Mid Beds Planning Department) will answer questions on education facilities within the village in light of proposed large scale housing development For further information please contact: Rosie Davey-Hunt, Clerk of Cranfield Parish Council Tel 01525 280493

Email cranfield@villages.bedfordshire.gov.uk

Cranfield Toddler Group is on every Friday in the village hall. We start at 9:30 til 11:15 only £1.50/£2 We now run in the holidays (excluding Xmas) So come along! Nearly New Sale in the village hall. Saturday 27th November 2pm til 4pm. **Donations wanted** for sale or if you have a lot of stuff then do your own table for £5. Baby toys, clothes and equipment. No electrical due to regulations. **£1 at the door to come in and browse.** Refreshments are available. To Run a stall contact Lucy on 751105

Festival of Wine - Red Lion, Salford



November may not be the cheeriest of months but the Red Lion Hotel in Salford is hoping to brighten things up with a month long festival of wine.

Bob Sapsford, the long standing landlord of the Red Lion which is well known for its food and a regular in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide said "We want to

give our customers a chance to taste some of the wines that helped us become the Charles Wells 'Wine Pub of the Year' and at the same time raise the profile of wine in pubs".

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Village Hall AGM

On Monday 29th November at 7.30pm the Cranfield Village Hall Committee will be holding their A.G.M. We are desperately looking for new members to come along and join us as we try to make our village hall what people want. We have heard lots of complaints about how old our village hall is, and "Why couldn't we have a new hall like Moulsoe?" Well, I'll tell you the answer, it's because people would rather sit at home and moan about what they haven't got, than get up and do something about it.

The village hall committee is run by volunteers just like you. We meet once every two months to discuss how we can improve the hall for the sake of the village and although progress is slow, we are determined to get there. We have asked for help from villagers to help us decorate the hall, design a garden area at the side of the hall, help with building work, etc but we have no response... Now is the time to join the committee as we start a new year. What have you got to lose? Every group that uses the village hall has the right to have a representative on the committee and we also have spaces for village reps (if you have no group to support, but are interested).

Please come along and help us give the village of Cranfield a hall to be proud of.

Sounds Familiar

Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment for Saturday 4th December: 'Sounds Familiar', present an evening of 'Christmas Carols from around the World' and 'Rumours of Angels' by Graham Kendrick by kind invitation of The Friends of the Church. Concert begins 7:30pm, doors open @ 6:30pm for stalls. £4 gets you a ticket and light refreshments, contact 750420, or 750117, or 751451 for more information. Any tickets remaining will be available on the door. See you there.

'Sounds of the Seas'

Sunday 31 October 7.30pm Milton Keynes Theatre 'Sounds of the Seas' Vaughan Williams - A Sea Symphony, Khachaturian - Onedin Line Theme, and Hovhannes - And God Created Whales. Performed by Milton Keynes Chorale and Danesborough Chorus with Milton Keynes City Orchestra conducted by John Gibbons. Soloists: Patrizia Kwella - Soprano, Olafur Kjartan Sigurdson - Baritone. Tickets from MK Theatre Box Office, £8, £10, £14, £17 and £20 (£2 concs off top 3 prices).

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A History of Cranfield

More about the Church - And the Bells

The tower of the Parish Church is built of wide-jointed coursed rubble with an embattled parapet. The west door is modern in 15th-century style, and the window above it of two cinquefoiled lights under a four-centred head is also modern. On each side of the top stage are two 15th century windows. There is a stair in the south-west angle entered from the ground floor by internal and external doorways.

In 1845 the church was restored by the Rev. G G Harter (Rector of Cranfield 1845-1866). The architect in charge was Sir Gilbert Scott. The Chancel windows were renewed and filled with painted glass, and the south porch was renovated. A lychgate was placed at the entrance to the church, the walls of the churchyard were built, and the churchyard was enlarged.

In pre-Reformation times there were

chapels at the ends of both north and south aisles, at which services were held, the piscina and sterno stand for an image in the north aisle, and the piscina and aumbry in the south aisle are of about the 13th century.

The small window above the Chancel and close to the roof is unusual. The Sanctus bell, which was rung during Mass, may have been there.

The church has few monuments of interest. In the south wall of the Chancel is a marble quarry, inscribed to the memory of Thomas Frank, a former Rector, who died in 1690. There is also in the south wall a monument to Thomas Grubbe, "a pious and painfull preacher and pastor of ye Worde of God thirty three years in this Parish". He was aged 58 years, and died on 31st August 1632. Most of the other monuments are to various rectors or their relatives.

The present clock was given to the parish in March 1895 by Mr James

Goodman, and replaced an older one. It cost £200, was made by J W Benson, of Ludgate Hill, and strikes the hours on the tenor bell and the quarters on two others.

In an inventory of the church, made in 1552, four bells and a Sanctus bell are mentioned. At present there are five bells and a small one known as the 'ting-tang', which may be the Sanctus bell referred to in the 1552 inventory and has no inscription.

The five bells are: Tenor, 1905, 18cwt, pitch E, founder Taylor, St

Neots; Fourth, 1833, 13 cwt, pitch F, cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry; Third, 1611, 11cwt, pitch G, founder Newcombe, Leicester; Second, 1611, 9 cwt, pitch A, founder Newcombe, Leicester; and Treble, 1663, 7½ cwt, pitch B, founder John Hudson.

The 'dinner bell' has been rung for many years, at 1pm and 2pm each weekday.

On Shrove Tuesday the Pan bowl - one bell and a muffled bell - are rung at 12 noon.

Dear Cranfield Express, HELP!

CUFC Village Firework Display

I am yet again writing to you in grovelling fashion to see if you can still squeeze in an article regarding the above, as our malfunctional secretary has yet again forgotten to send you the appropriate information. Please forgive us yet again

More Fun at the Fireworks

The annual Cranfield United Village Firework display will take place at the Crawley Road Ground on Saturday 6th November.

This year in addition to their usual commitment to making the firework display bigger and better every year, the Club have added extra family entertainment for the children. Whilst the firework display is scheduled for 7.45pm on the night the gates will open at 6.30pm and there will be a mini funfair for the younger children which is scheduled to include a couple of fairground rides, and a couple of side shows. The earlier opening time is designed to accommodate families with younger children who might wish to enjoy the rides provided.

In addition to the fireworks and the funfair, the usual array of hot drinks, hot dogs, candy floss, sweets etc will be on sale. The Clubhouse facilities and bar will also be open. As in previous years "glow-sticks" will be on sale on the night, together with a number of other objects which glow in the dark! The amount of parking will be slightly reduced this year by the presence of the children's rides, and those who wish to avail themselves of vehicle parking are advised to come early. The price of admission is being held at the same level as the last couple of years i.e £3.00 per adult and £1.00 per child. Because of the reduced availability of parking the parking cost will be £5.00 per vehicle.

Last years event was extremely successful with a very spectacular firework display and music, and with the addition of the extra entertainment for the children it is hoped that a record attendance can be achieved this year. Please support this important village event. For any further information please telephone the Football Club in the evenings, on 751444.

Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal Collection

Please give generously to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Volunteers who have kindly offered to collect in Cranfield will be bringing poppies and a collection box to your street in the week prior to Sunday 14 November [Remembrance Sunday]. Collection boxes will also be placed in most of the local shops and service providers.

All are welcome to THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The Cranfield Branch of the Royal British Legion

This meeting will be held at Portnall Place Community Room (opposite the chemist) off Mill Road at 8pm on Thursday 18th November 2004.

This is an open meeting to which anyone is welcome but only members are entitled to vote. We are a friendly lot and refreshments will be served after the formal proceedings which gives us all a chance to chat and meet new people.

Have you ever served in HM Forces? Or are you interested? We would be delighted to hear from anyone with any view or ideas. We have speakers on a wide selection of topics, quizzes, socials, theatre trips, battlefield excursions, pub evenings and outings. Just let us know.

We also organise the annual Remembrance Day Parade in Cranfield. Please feel welcome to come along to join us.

We look forward to meeting you

Contact the Chairman: Major Jim Boddington Tel 750496, the Secretary: Jane Backhouse Tel 750695, the Treasurer: Patrick Healy Tel 750524.

Cranfield Tae Kwon do Club

We are back to normal training now after the summer hols and for two of our students the pace is getting hot. By the time this publication is out Peter and Nathan will have taken their black belt gradings so we hope they will have done well. Our next normal grading is the end of November so all those taking it then will also now be training hard. We also have a competition coming up at the end of November and hope to have a good squad for this. The venue is the Coventry Sky Dome so if anyone would like to come and support us then give me a call and I will give you details.

We are still looking for a sponsor for our team so if anyone out there can help please give me a call. With the winter months ahead it is a good time to come and get fit, flexible and learn a martial art. It is open to anyone irrespective of age, sex, size or physical ability. If you are interested or would like to know more give me a call.

Dave Rawle 01234 750716



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Sport Extra Extra... Cranfield Colts Girls - Press Release 14th October 2004

Cranfield Colts Girls U12's and U10's

Cranfield Colts now have two girls football teams - the Under 12's play in the Chiltern League and the newly formed Under 10's play in Buckinghamshire development league.

Leighton United Girls U12 Cranfield Colts Girls U12

The Colts Girls Under 12's started the 2004/5 season with a match against the very in form Leighton United.

Leighton struck early on and dominated the first half, which saw very few chances for the Cranfield girls, and despite some sterling defensive efforts from Jess and Amy (in goal), Emily and Natalie in defence, Cranfield were 12 - 0 down at half time.

The second half proved much better with Cranfield applying pressure on the Leighton goal from the kick off. However despite Beth, Alice and Sophie running their socks off in midfield, Cranfield could not break through the very tight and controlled Leighton defence. Leighton on the break scored a further 4 goals in the second half. Player of the Week - Beth Lloyd-Jones

Cranfield Colts Girls U12 Potton Colts Girls U12

The U12's girls first home match proved to be a very exciting affair. After soaking up some initial pressure from Potton the Cranfield team settled down to some fluent passing midfield play, creating openings for Jess up front. However it was Lizzie who opened the scoring with a run down the left from the halfway line slotting the ball neatly past the keeper from the edge of the penalty area. Potton quickly regrouped and created



Cranfield Colts Girls U12's at the Potton Match in the new kit sponsored by Cranfield University.

more attacking chances which Amy in goal, supported by Emily and Natalie in defence, managed to hold off. However just before half time Potton managed a breakthrough making the score 1-1.

The second half was more free-flowing with some exciting end-to-end football with both sides having frequent scoring chances. Potton scored two quick goals but after a period of sustained pressure, resulting in a number of corners, Cranfield brought the score back to 2-3 courtesy of a scrambled Potton own-goal. Cranfield continued to attack well with Alice, Beth and Lizzie in midfield all pushing forwards to support Sophie. In the dying seconds of the game a very neat flick from Sophie to Beth resulted in a surging run through the defence and a shot which needed a very good save from the Potton keeper to keep the final score 2 - 3 to Potton.

Player of the Week - Natalie Moore Crawley Green Girls U12 v Cranfield Colts Girls U12

The team for this game was expanded to include Tara (having done a "Rooney" and broken her foot over the summer) and Georgina for her first ever game. Cranfield started well soaking up the early Crawley Green attacks well with very good defensive play and some fine saves from Amy. Cranfield nearly got an early breakthrough but Emily's long range shot was saved by the Crawley Green goalkeeper. However after 15 minutes of pressure Crawley Green broke the deadlock with some fine attacking down the right hand side. By half time Crawley Green scored two more... In the second half Crawley Green came

on stronger and the midfield were having to drop back to support the defence. With only limited attacking opportunities Cranfield were unable to find the back of the net and the continued pressure from Crawley Green resulted in a further three goals.

Player of the week - Emily Dove

Cranfield Colts Under 10's - Development Tournament

The first showing for the newly formed Cranfield Girls U10's team was at first Bucks Development League tournament at Aylesbury. The team put up very credible performances achieving the following results:

Leighton United 2 Cranfield Colts 1
Marlow 1 Cranfield Colts 0
Mortonville 0 Cranfield Colts 0
Wycombe 1 Cranfield Colts 0
Chesham 1 Cranfield Colts 0

There was a first goal for Lucie in the Leighton Game and all the games were very close with excellent individual and team performances.

Sorry no photo's of the day but well done to Lucie Nash, Cloe Pugh, Rose Olding, Hannah Field, Georgia Course, Daniella Lay, Jemma Jobbling, Imogen Atkinson and Hannah Lloyd - Jones

We currently have girls ranging from 7 to 13 years of age training on a Friday night and have a full programme of U12's team fixtures and regular tournaments and friendlies for the U10's team. If you are in school years 3 to 8 and are interested in playing for us this season then contact either Trevor Dove (01234) 750363 or Kevin Howard (01234) 750890 for more details. Report by - Trevor Dove

Shotokan Karate Association



Four students of the Shotokan Karate school who train at Cranfield Lower School on Monday nights recently passed their first grading examination achieving the 10th KYU grading and receiving their Blue Belts.

Pictured are Emily Dove, Hannah Field, Liam Dove and Alex Brome, together with Sensei, Phil Culley. For more information on Karate courses in Cranfield contact Phil Culley on 07866 504149

Calling All Drivers

The Bedfordshire Community Transport Brokerage is a minibus sharing scheme that enables groups and organisations within the community to use accessible and affordable transport. The scheme is new to Bedfordshire and has already started to make a big difference to a variety of groups across the county: Older peoples groups are helped to get out to visit a range of interesting activities, Scouts, Guides, churches and young peoples groups can go on trips and to get to conferences and other outings. Frequently buses are available but drivers are in short supply and to help the brokerage expand we need to recruit more volunteer drivers. Payment can be offered to drivers in some circumstances. To meet with the safe driving standards of the brokerage, drivers will need to have Mini Bus Driver Awareness Training (MiDAS) training. This is a nationally recognised standard for mini bus drivers. Funds are available, subject to approval, to pay for the training for drivers involved in Beds CTB. Drivers can choose whether they want to be a dedicated driver for a particular organisation like Scouts or Guides, or are available for more general work. Even a few hours a month could help a group provide a special treat!

If you are interested, and to find out if you would qualify for free training, please contact Beni Wright at Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity on 01234 838 771 ext 106.

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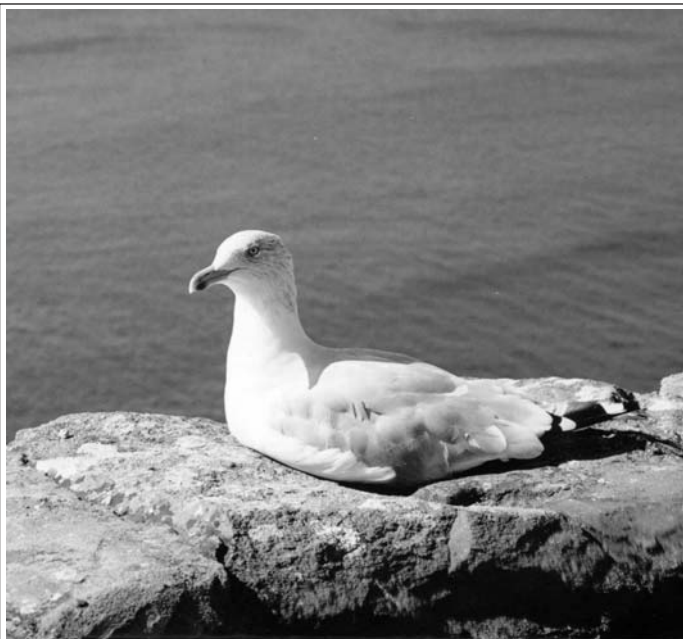
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Where is that Bird?



Mrs Ellis on holiday in Southern Ireland is convinced that the photo taken is that of Gilbert after her experience. Mrs Mary O'Leary, a local, told her that the bird was left on the wall way back in February by a man in his 60's wearing white overalls, driving a University van. It hadn't moved or made any noise until

Mrs Ellis's car stopped. The bird rolled off the wall and attacked her car number plate (Bedfordshire registration). This bird then bit both Mrs Ellis's legs once it heard the Cranfield lingo. Mrs O'Leary was given a few Euro's to push the creature over the cliff wall which was 500 ft. above sea level!

The Cranfield Lower School PTFFA - Fashion Show



The PTFA at Cranfield Lower School recently held a fashion show and pupils were invited to be models for the evening. Over 60 children made their debuts on the catwalk with a range of clothes from high street stores such as Next, Gap, Tammy Girl to name but a few (supplied by Little Bees Childrenswear). The evening proved very popular, both for children and their parents and was very well supported, raising over £230. Our next event is the Christmas Bazaar which will be after school, from 3.30pm on Friday 26th November. Father Christmas will be there, plus lots of stalls and games so do come along and start to get in the festive spirit - mulled wine and mince pies available to help you do this!!

Cranfield Express Website Update

A rather low turn out for the latest opinion poll on the website unfortunately. May be traffic calming isn't quite the burning issue that we thought. The comments left and the actual result were still interesting all the same. It appears that very few people indeed think that the traffic calming is working. The results were as follows:

4% agree that traffic calming is working, 87% disagree and 8% don't know. There were 24 voters. For anyone adding up the percentages, yes, I know they total 99% but I did some rounding down :) A new question will have been posted by the time you read this so get voting right away.

The clubs and groups listing on the website is fairly extensive now as all groups known about are listed. The particular details about each group (time they meet and what they do etc) is still being updated as I hadn't quite realised how much work I'd let myself in for but things are being added regularly so keep looking if you're after contact details of a club that you're thinking of joining. The website guest book has some entries in from ex-villagers and a few questions that have been posed by that a few of you may find interesting - well worth a read if a friend of yours emigrated years ago.

Andy Perrett

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207 (Cranfield) Squadron Air Cadets

Two cadets from Cranfield Squadron have successfully passed their Staff Cadet Examinations. It takes weeks of study and a weekend of training, tests and interviews at RAF Brampton to achieve this standard. So very well done and congratulations to Corporal James Sutton and Flight Sergeant Chris Jones.

On one Sunday in October, the weather was supremely good for gliding, so seven cadets got the opportunity to have two or more flights each at RAF Henlow. This gliding will go towards achieving their Glider Pilot wings.

In the next few weeks, the Squadron will be preparing the village War Memorial and war graves for Remembrance Sunday, which this year falls on 14 November. The Cranfield Branch of the Royal British Legion will be leading the traditional parade from The Cross Keys to the War Memorial where wreaths and crosses will be laid before the silence at 11.00am. This will be followed by a service at the Parish Church, after which 207 Squadron cadets will lay a cross on each war grave in the churchyard.

What do the changes to the Disability Discrimination Act mean for service providers and wheelchair users in Cranfield?

If you provide a service to the public, whether you charge for it or not, you already have duties under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

At the moment you cannot refuse to serve a disabled person or provide a lower standard of service to a disabled person because of their disability. You also need to make reasonable changes to the way in which you provide your services to make sure that you don't discriminate against disabled customers.

From 1 October 2004 you have been asked to make reasonable adjustments to any physical barriers that may prevent disabled people using your service. Or you may have to provide your service by a reasonable alternative means, like bringing goods to the disabled person or helping them find items. There are some examples of the type of adjustments you could make below.

What is a reasonable adjustment?

Under the Disability Discrimination Act you only need to make changes that are 'reasonable'.

Take a common sense approach. There's no rulebook, different people have different needs, and some organisations can afford to do more than others. For example, it would not be reasonable for a small firm with a tight budget to undertake the same level of structural alteration that a big national company could easily finance. It's about what is practical in your individual situation and what resources you have. You will not be required to make changes which are impractical or beyond your means. Examples of reasonable physical changes for service providers. These may include: ensuring your premises are well lit and providing clearer signs, providing an induction loop for a person with a hearing impairment, providing seating, installing a permanent ramp and a handrail at the entrance to a building where there are steps, replacing a door handle with one that is easier to reach and to grip, lowering a reception desk so that it is more accessible for people who use wheelchairs, using colour contrast to ensure entrances and exits are easier to use and meeting a mobility-impaired person in a more accessible venue or at their home if your premises can only be reached by a flight of stairs.

These are all just examples and what you may need to do will depend on your individual situation and the needs of your disabled clients.

Is the DDA mandatory? Maybe not, but it will make the lives of wheelchair users a great deal more acceptable. During October, I have been out and about in Cranfield talking to wheelchair and mobility scooter users, and businesses alike, to find out if it is now easier getting around in Cranfield, and what problems the businesses are having in aiming to comply with the Law.

Support from local businesses

The Co-op and Budgen's have provided wheelchair access for a considerable time, but they are the big companies with the resources available to provide all the facilities to make shopping as easy for disabled as for able customers. For the small businesses in Cranfield, the new Act has created many financial and logistical problems, but some services have been able to provide the required entrance ramps and width of aisles within their shops and services. For others, the cost and reorganisation is so prohibitive, that were they to carry out the changes, it would virtually force them to close up altogether. But there is a great deal of goodwill within all the local businesses, and positive efforts are always made to welcome disabled customers.

Aid from Health Service Providers

At the Cranfield Surgery, the Practice Manager has been in contact with the Mid Beds Disability Directorate, and having had an inspection of the Surgery premises recommendations have been made. The Surgery has implemented and is endeavouring to implement as much as possible in the near future. Chairs with arms have been placed in each waiting room to aid mobility. Posters and signs are designed with large print to aid the partially sighted. At the main entrance a door bell has been installed at a lower level to enable patients in wheelchairs to call for the assistance of the surgery staff to help them into the building. Patients with hearing difficulties are known to the staff and there is always assistance available. In the near future the interior of the building will be decorated. Contrasting colours will be used to enable those with partial sight to use the facilities more easily. As has been the policy of the surgery since its opening in 1990, any patient can have a consultation with a doctor or nurse on the ground floor, if climbing the stairs is a problem. Currently it is not possible to achieve a permanent ramp at the entrance but should major construction work be undertaken in the grounds of the surgery, access for the clients with disabilities would be a priority.

The Practice Manager, Mrs Sue Meadows, would welcome correspondence regarding any difficulties that the disabled patients in Cranfield might have.

At the Dental Practice, facilities have been installed to enable disabled



patients to use a stairlift up to the first floor practice, and funding has been provided by the Health Authority to make available by Christmas, a ramp at the front entrance. The dentist also provides toilet facilities for the disabled and a well-designed space in the waiting room. There will also be car parking for the disabled. If it is not possible for registered patients to visit the Dental Surgery, then the dentist will make arrangements for a home visit. Peter Litchfield wants to co-operate as fully as possible to provide a dental practice, which is user-friendly to all patients.

D R Allen, the local Pharmacist has had a ramp installed to enable wheelchair users to easily deliver and collect prescriptions, and there is space to move around with the opportunity to purchase toiletries and cosmetics.

The Baptist, Methodist and Parish churches have good access for the disabled. The Village Hall currently has a temporary ramp for the main entrance and one toilet for the disabled, and the Parish Council is supporting the Committee with a 50 per cent grant, and fundraising is in hand to achieve the money needed to improve the facilities.

One other comment that was made by a majority of the mobile scooter and wheelchair users was the fact that the pavements, whilst aiming to offer access at regular intervals from the road, are more of a roller coaster ride. It appears that the Highways Department did make the pavement kerbs higher than necessary and the low kerbs are still difficult for wheelchairs users to manoeuvre.

Whilst Cranfield businesses and services have endeavoured to achieve a helpful image in the community, there is no room for complacency. If you have a view - ideas for improvements, constructive criticism - as a wheelchair or mobile scooter user, or as a business or service provider, why not write or email to the Cranfield Express.

Tickle Those Tastebuds at the Christmas Bazaar

Christmas is coming and the Acorn Pre School Bazaar is nearly here. Make a date in the diary and pop on down on Saturday 20th November to the Village Hall, from 11am to 2pm

Some of our attractions include a

Lucky Dip, Barrel of Booze, Necklace making, Laminated Handprints, Art Boards, Name Badges and Masks, and of course we

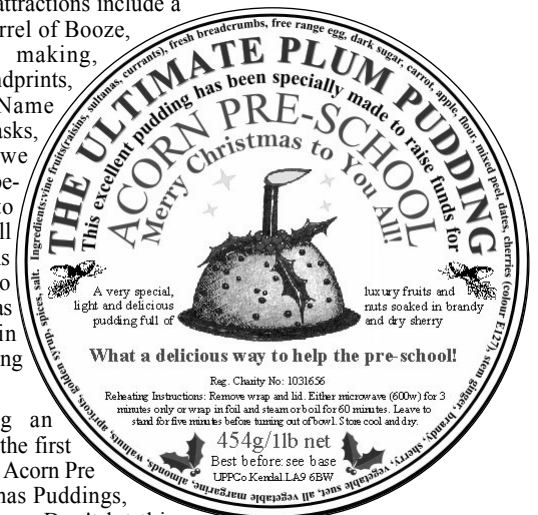
have asked a special guest to come and see all the boys and girls of Cranfield. So come on down as Santa will be in his Grotto waiting just for you.

Also making an appearance for the first time will be the Acorn Pre School Christmas Puddings,

so come and buy. Don't let this chance of something special to tickle those tastebuds slip by! Our Chocolate and Cake Stalls will be there too and catering for those lunchtime nibbles will be our Refreshment Corner Crew.

A Grand Prize Raffle will be drawn with many marvellous prizes, £50 in cash could be yours (kindly donated by Palmers Solicitors); perhaps £50 in Argos vouchers too! or maybe the fabulous Family Day Pass to Woburn Safari Park for 2 adults and 2 children.

So now you know there's lots of things to do and buy, so come on down and see if we can make your lunch time fly by.



Announcements

Ruby Wedding - Patsy and Alan Nunn ... Thank you all for the many cards, presents and donations to Oncology, Addenbrooks, on Saturday 25th September. Thanks also for helping us celebrate at our party.

Beverley Byrne - Congratulations on gaining your BSc First Class Honours Degree in Nursing. With love from Mum, Mandy, Darren and Tom.

Beverley Byrne - To Mummy - Love and very well done from Abigail and Daddy X X X

Thank you - to all my family and friends for taking part in my 80th Birthday Party. £400 was raised for Richard Wells Ward, Bedford Hospital. Thank you to Marge for

all her hard work towards the party. Les Seamark XX

Annie Healy ... Happy Birthday on November 10th ... How many is it now me-dears? Lotsa love from you know who XXX

Glenn Enoch Happy 60th birthday on November 2nd... Love from all the family.

Carol Happy Birthday on the 28th October - hope you have a great day. Love from Nikki, Mason, Roy, Steph (Pebbles), H & Mary XXX

Les Seamarks Thank you to all my family and friends for taking part in my eightieth birthday party. £400 was raised fro Richard Wells Ward, Beford Hospital. Thank you to Marge for all her hard work towards the party.

Sheila Worrall would like to say a special 'Thank You' to her family and friends for their help and kindness, also for all of the beautiful flowers and presents given to her during her illness. Thank you again XXX

Viv, Happy 60th Birthday - All my love... Ralph XXX

Mum ... Congratulations on your 60th Birthday on 10th November. Lots of love from Caroline, Gerry, Sharon, Dom, Kevin and Lorna XXX

Nanny Viv ... Have a lovely day on your 60th Birthday. Lots of love and kisses from Thomas, Daniel, Emma, Chloe, Megan and Jessica XXX

Look who's 60 too - and, guess what, Viv? The editor actually thought you were younger than him!



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Vacancy

A Mid-day Supervisor is required as soon as possible for the rest of this term to assist from 12.00 to 1.15 pm daily in the supervision and care of the children during lunchtimes. £5.4533 per hour term time only (this is to cover maternity leave). An application form and further details are available from Mrs B J Stubbings, Headteacher, Cranfield V.C. Lower School, Court Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, MK43 0DR Tel: 01234 750261. A further post will be available in January, Wednesdays and Fridays only from 12.00 to 1.30 pm

Busy Bees - Part 2

If you are an aspiring beekeeper there is no need to buy any specialist equipment from the outset as items such as veils, etc. can be borrowed. In fact, the initial outlay can be quite modest as the Association loans new hives with bees to beginners. Also, a little ingenuity can go a long way. What is more, when you do decide to go ahead, many items can be obtained second hand, or, if you have basic carpentry skills, hive parts can be readily made.

But what you are strongly advised to do is: **A** Contact and join the **Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association**. It is very good value and allows you to meet and discuss with beekeepers at talks and apiary meetings. It also enables you to handle the Association's bees and acquire skills at little cost. **B** Contact your local beekeeping advisor (Ian Beaty, Tel: 01234 750635) and ask as many questions as possible. Eventually some of the basic rules will become apparent and you will discover why beekeeping is such a challenge. **C** Go along to apiary meetings where you will get the chance to see a hive opened up in the presence of experienced beekeepers. Better to find out if you are happy in this situation with other beekeepers around rather than confront it on your own. **D** Enrol on theoretical and practical courses run by the Association.

Before you obtain a colony you would be wise to seek advice about siting your hive(s). If your garden is unsuitable, many farmers are happy to have bees on their land. With the co-operation of the farmer, look for a quiet corner where they will have no impact on passers by or animals. This is important to the beekeeper as nowadays vandalism can be a problem if the hives are visible to the public.

Swarms

For many people their first experience of honeybee management comes with the arrival of a swarm in their or a neighbour's garden. Don't be alarmed - it is just the honeybees' style of moving house when the family expands in May, June or July. They congregate temporarily, often on a convenient post or bush, while they decide where to set up their new permanent home. This is the moment for an experienced beekeeper to collect them and provide the des. res. they are looking for in one of his own spare hives.

Although a flying swarm may look and sound a little daunting, the bees are in no way aggressive and will take no notice of you. All you need to do is cover your hair as a precaution, don't actively interfere with them and, seek the help of a local beekeeper, either directly, through the Local Council, Police.

Hives and Basic Equipment

There are several types of hives used in this country. The most common is the Modified National, which takes the form of a square box, it can easily be made and is convenient to use. There is a ready second hand market in this

popular hive that is used by most amateur beekeepers.

All patterns of hive have the following features in common:

a. Floor **b.** Brood box where the queen is confined and the young bees are raised **c.** Queen excluder, which is a wire mesh device that confines the queen to the brood box **d.** Honey boxes which are known as 'supers' and are placed above the brood box and queen excluder. The number required is dependent upon the honey flow but, in a good year, can be 4 or 5, which can yield about 100 pounds of honey. **e.** Crown board **f.** Roof

You will need a bee suit with veil and gloves (which can be plastic or leather), and possibly wellingtons. Tools required are a smoker and hive tool. The smoker is used to subdue bees during manipulations and burns dry rotten wood or other suitable fuels. A hive tool is a lever that is used to prise apart boxes and frames that the bees have stuck together with propolis.

Cost

This can vary tremendously depending on whether new or second hand items are bought. Many parts can be made cheaply if you have some DIY skills. To buy new equipment is expensive. However, it is often possible to buy hives and equipment more cheaply from members of the Association. These items are frequently advertised in the Newsletter.

Stings

Stings do hurt - some people find them more painful than others. By taking reasonable precautions and sensible operating procedures, stinging incidents can be mostly avoided. Over time, most beekeepers develop an immunity to stings. It is claimed that stings alleviate rheumatism and arthritis!

The Association

The Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association has existed for 80 years and has more than 150 members. It runs theoretical and practical courses for beginners and for those who wish to increase their beekeeping knowledge. It has regular meetings where guest speakers talk on a wide range of bee related subjects. It runs training apiaries where members are welcome to learn all aspects of handling bees. It operates a very successful bulk purchase scheme. This allows members to buy many essential items at a lower cost, for example jars, frames, etc. The association also issues an annual yearbook and regular newsletters, lends extracting equipment for a small charge, lends from a comprehensive collection of books and videos and can point you to the ones that are most useful.

Contacts :- The Secretary of the Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association is: Wally Thrall, 60 West Road, Sandy, Bedford SG19 1HB Tel: 01767 225 846 Email: w.thrall@ntlworld.com

(Courtesy of The Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association)



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Sport Extra ... CUFC Results

Brache Sparta 4 Cranfield United 5

Saturday October 2nd

After two below par performances against Winslow Utd and Stony Stratford I was expecting this to be another dull match. In the event it turned out to be a nine goal spectacular prompted by a feast of foolish defensive play.

After a fairly incident free first ten minutes Cranfield took an unexpected early lead when a low hard cross from a narrow angle by Pilgrim was fumbled into his own net by the home keeper. Five minutes later the Brache defence stood back whilst Pilgrim set up Sorby for an easy tap in from the six yard line to make it 2-0.

Not to be outdone the entire Cranfield defence similarly stood back to allow the home side pull a first goal back in the 23rd minute. With both defences intent on living dangerously play moved rapidly from end to end. In the 29th minute Sorby thought he had restored the two-goal margin but he was adjudged to have been offside.

Following a bout of heading tennis in the centre circle once again a lack of decisiveness let the home side claw themselves back to 2-2 in the 32nd minute. They then took a 3-2 lead after yet another casual clearance was punished two minutes later.

Ingerson missed a golden opportunity to level the scores in the 40th min before Evans in the dying seconds of the first half decided to abandon his defensive duties to make a loping run down the right and set Pilgrim up to level the scores.

Within seconds of the restart Cranfield had regained the lead when a Drew free kick was flicked on by Sorby for Pilgrim to complete his hat trick. The home side however battled on keeping the Cranfield defence under long periods of pressure till in the 70th min a long range shot somehow found a clear route through a packed penalty area to make 4-4. Again the initiative swung back to Cranfield and Sorby had the ball in the net only to be ruled offside again before being set up by Pilgrim to score the winner in the 85th minute.

Team: S.Templeman, D.Goddard,

S.Drew, C.Evans, T.Steele(S.New 83rd min), M.Hall, M.Griffiths, L.Ingerson, M.Woolgar D.Pilgrim(S.Russell 86th min), H.Sorby

Shillington 3 Cranfield United 3

Friday October 8th

Another goal bonanza but this time Cranfield did not come away with maximum points. They should have wrapped this game up early in the first half with a comfortable 3 or 4 goal lead but poor finishing let them down.

The game started badly with Drew being judged to have handled the ball inside penalty area in the 2nd minute to give the home side an immediate one goal advantage.

Cranfield came back quickly when a fine move down right set Sorby up to equalise from close range in the 10th minute. Two minutes later Pilgrim added a second with a tap home from close range to put them in front. At this stage a sound victory looked inevitable as several golden opportunities were created in quick succession and then frittered away.

In the 22nd minute Pilgrim hit the post only to see play immediately switch to far end where the home side also hit the post and the rebound driven against the crossbar. Even though Cranfield continued to dominate Shillington came close to equalising on the stroke of half time but were foiled by Templeman who pulled off a great save from a near-post header.

Cranfield again dominated the early part of the second half but a failure to clear their lines allowed Shillington to pull level in the 66th Minute.

Following several clear cut chances that were wasted by Sorby and Ingerson it was left to Pilgrim in the 73rd minute to finish off a fine solo run down the left wing, by cutting in and driving the ball past the advancing keeper to make it 3-2

Again Cranfield looked comfortable but in the dying seconds casual marking left last man Hall having to make a desperate lunge at an oncoming forward. Shillington then finished the game as they started it with a penalty that Templeman came close

New Look for the Colts U14's



The under 14's are seen here proudly showing off their new kit.

The boys and parents would once again like to thank Shiner Plant Hire Limited for their generous sponsorship.

When the boys get to this age, image and style counts for everything, and everyone is welcome to come along and watch them play on a Sunday morning at our home ground in North Crawley, 10.30 kick-offs.

Lionel Cooper... Manager

to saving and it was two points thrown away.

Team:- S.Templeman, M.Hall, S.Drew, D.Goddard, A.Watt, T.Steele, M.Griffiths, A.Watt, L.Ingerson, M.Woolgar D.Pilgrim.

Stony Stratford Town 3 Cranfield United 2

Tuesday October 12th

(Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup 1st Rnd.)

Once again Cranfield were punished for their casual defensive play. This time it was two most experienced players in the team who were the prime culprits.

Cranfield took the lead in the 7th min when a good run down the right by Ingerson gave Pilgrim the opportunity to lay off a beautifully weighted ball for Cameron to drive home. They came close to adding a second in the 29th when the home keeper made a great diving save to deny Pilgrim. Then Cranfield lost their way and the home side ramped up the pressure without looking too dangerous in front of goal.

It was a moments madness by Watt who lost the ball whilst "playing around" on the edge of his own penalty area that led to the home side equalising in the 40th minute.

As the second half kicked off the rain began to make its mark on the game. The ball became greasy and

sliding tackles were in abundance as both teams stepped up the tempo. In the 56th min confusion in the home defence allowed Billington to steal in and head home an Evans cross to restore Cranfield's lead but within two minutes the scores were once again level. The equaliser was a freak goal in the form of a miscued lob that flew looped over the top of the entire Cranfield defence into the top corner at the far post giving Templeman no chance.

As the game progressed the home side began to take more and more control of the midfield and looked the more likely to score which they should have done in the 69th minute but to Templeman's relief the simplest of chances was blasted over the bar.

With extra time looking more and more likely the Referee inexplicably found 5 minutes of additional time to play and it was in the 95th min that Evans casually underhit a backpass putting keeper Templeman in trouble as he was challenged by an opposing forward. The result was an injured goalkeeper and a casual "tap in" to give the homeside a sickening 3-2 win. Team: S.Templeman, S.Russell, C.Evans, D.Billington, T.Steele, M.Hall, M.Griffiths, A.Watt(H.Sorby 79th min), L.Ingerson, M.Woolgar D.Pilgrim.

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Colts Crash out of Cup

Newport Pagnell Town 5 Cranfield Colts U10 1
2nd October 2004

Our first ever cup game was a curious affair as, away to Town, we had a lot of possession, beat them for energy and passing, yet still ended up on the wrong side of a hammering. The score was not a fair reflection on the play - at least viewed through this manager's rose tinted glasses.

Colts started well and although nothing of note was created in the first quarter, the signs were that our passing and moving was causing their midfield problems. Town showed lots of enterprise, especially in their commitment to tackling and attacking loose balls. Their mid-field and striker had skill and pace and their quick breaks up-field put Ben Barker and Nicki Meglinski under lots of pressure. And so it was that the Town striker was first to get his name on the score sheet as he ran through our defence and slid the ball past Jack Butterwick in goal. However, our response was immediate and from the restart we worked the ball up the pitch, and Jakk Pursey belted the ball into the net. Game on? Not really. Town raced into a 3-1 lead by the break through a combination of good forward play and poor defending from Colts. We had given ourselves a mountain to climb, yet I felt that we were still in the match.

We forced the game for most of the second half and with both Chris Marshall and Will Jones displaying some great wing play we had several chances to reduce the deficit. But our attackers never quite seemed to be in the right place for several inviting crosses and when they were the Town defence always seemed to be able to put in telling challenges. Town scored a fourth when once again their striker punished our weak defending and a fifth was added when a mis-hit cross looped over our goalkeeper. All credit to Colts, as we continued to look for a second goal, but on the day nothing was coming off and the score remained at 5-1 to Town.

Southside Blown Away

Southside United 0 Cranfield Colts U10 7
11th September 2004

In spite of a wicked wind that made ball control difficult, and passing play a premium, our first grading game saw us breeze past Southside. The game began scrappily with both teams struggling to assert themselves in the conditions. Facing the wind in the first half Colts came under some early pressure but Southside never seriously threatened our goal, thanks to some strong defending especially by Bradley Simms and Tom Edinburgh.

Our midfield, and in particular Chris Marshall (a new member of the team) and Nicki Meglinski began to impose themselves on the game and as a result we penetrated the opposition's defence several times. It was appropriate that Chris in midfield opened the scoring, and what a goal it was. He picked the ball up from the edge of our penalty box, ran up field, evading the tackles from four players on the way, before coolly stroking the ball under their keeper. A great goal to start the season and his career with the Colts. A further goal from Chris and two typically predatory strikes from Will Jones (brought on midway through the half), saw us take a comfortable lead at the break.

With the wind behind us in the second period we were always in command and practically besieged the Southside goal. Their keeper and some stout defending helped keep the score down, but even they couldn't stop Rob Timmins grabbing three well taken goals for his first hat-trick for the Colts. Well done Rob, and all of the team who worked hard throughout for a well deserved win.

Cranfield Colts U14's Beds County Cup match

Colts 4 Caddington 4 (aet 5-5) (Penalties 4-3)

We were drawn at home to Caddington near Luton who are in Division two of the Chiltern League and were unbeaten up to this game, so on paper our chances were pretty slim. It had to be played on a full sized pitch in Bedfordshire and as our home pitch is at present at North Crawley in Buckinghamshire, CUFC came to our rescue and allowed us to play on their pitch. We had great support from parents and friends who made a lot of noise.

We found ourselves 2-0 down after 25 minutes in a very even game and then just before half time we pulled a goal back. At the start of the 2nd half we pulled it back to 2-2 only for Caddington to make 3-2. For the last 20 minutes our fitness started to show on a large pitch with us equalising again only for Caddington to go and score very near the end and with time running out we scored with only a couple of minutes remaining making it 4-4. 30 minutes extra time was called for with Caddington scoring in the first half only for us to cancel it out again midway through the 2nd half. So then we were down to the dreaded penalty stage which would be 5 each and then sudden death, which we one 4-3 with John diving to pull off a great save for the last one.

Scorers: Charlie Glover 6, Ryan Bate 1, H (Ryan Harris) 1, Peter Kerr 1. With Charlie scoring 5 goals in open play, it may look as if we are a one man team which could not be further from the truth. Everyone played their part in every area of the pitch and this was one day that not only the boys and myself, but also the parents are very proud of.

Report by:

Lionel Cooper



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