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February 2000 No 11



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# Farewell Mrs Rees, and thanks

Cranfield V.C. Lower School has been very fortunate for the past 30 years in having Mrs Joan Rees as a member of staff. She has now reached that time of life when she is able to take a well-deserved rest from being Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Rees retired at the end of last term having given so much of herself to the hundreds of children she has taught throughout her long and happy career. The school has always appreciated Mrs Rees, her energy, commitment, skills and professionalism. She will be greatly missed as a member of staff, but she has already agreed to come back as a supply teacher.

A surprise farewell party was held on Monday 18th December which was attended by many of Mrs Rees' colleagues (past and present) friends and family. The school hall was transformed for the occasion and also had a display of photos of Mrs Rees covering many years.

Mrs Rees had been unaware of the preparations and was almost overwhelmed by the number of guests who came to wish her well on her retirement. After a wonderful time, greeting and chatting with friends, Mrs Rees was invited to take the stage. The gathering then heard tributes to her from Mrs Stubbings, Headteacher, and Alan Metcalf, Chairman of Governors, outlining her many attributes and characteristics and thanking her for her dedication to the teaching profession and to Cranfield Lower School in particular.

Mrs Rees was then presented with a painting of a Welsh poppy, a



Mrs Rees receiving one of the many gifts thanking her for her long years of hard work

cheque designated to be spent on garden furniture, a painting of Kidwelly Castle (Mrs Rees' favourite place in Wales) and a bouquet. A beautiful cake, decorated with Mrs Rees' favourite creature, a cockerel, was cut and distributed to the guests. The formalities concluded with an amusing song performed by the teaching staff. This outlined special moments, habits and reminiscences of Mrs Rees' time here and was sung to the tune of "Men of Harlech".

Mrs Rees then had time to talk with her visitors, some of whom she had not seen for some time. She was delighted with the opportunity to talk with her friends and colleagues and was overwhelmed to realise the high regard in which she has been held. The visitors were pleased to be able to record a message to Mrs Rees in a book so that she may keep that as a memento of the occasion.

On Wednesday, 20th December, the parents of the children in Mrs Rees' class were invited to join the school in a special assembly. During this the children from each class presented Mrs Rees with a farewell card (made by all the children). She was also presented with a beautiful dried flower arrangement and presented again with the cheque and painting so that the children were able to be part of the presentations as they had been so generous with donations in recognition of Mrs Rees' special qualities as a teacher.

A few tears were shed as Mrs Rees' class were photographed with her to commemorate the occasion but the children were pleased to have had the opportunity to say farewell to this special lady.

So, Mrs Rees, farewell (not 'good-bye') and very many thanks for being you.

Keeping the village in touch

## Cranfield Express

Tel: 0961 521073  
Fax: 01234 756197

### E mail:

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

**March deadline  
Tuesday 13th  
February**

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

### Extra copies

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

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## Residents report Lodge Road traffic trouble

BY MARY HARTLEY

Worried residents in Lodge Road fear that someone might be seriously injured or even killed if something isn't done about the amount of traffic and the unsuitable speed of the motorists now using this road.

Lodge Road, a single-track road, is without a footpath for most of its length. There has been an increase in the amount of traffic along this road, not helped by the housing development in Ailwyns Acre near Harter Avenue. Cars attempting to pass each other mount the verges, causing a lot of damage to both the edges of the tarmac and the grass along side it. In the last twelve months there have been two head on collisions on the blind bends. The road

surface has also deteriorated and many HGVs also take this route.

Many walkers using the Clay Way and other circular routes around the village also use the road. Many more will be encouraged to do so when the picnic site at the High Street end of the road is established. However, it is less pleasurable to walk around Lodge Road now due to the traffic, and it is becoming less safe to do so.

The Lodge Road residents have appealed to the Parish Council for something to be done, like a restricted access to the road, but they feel that their worries have just "been noted" with no plan of action being drawn up.

[Continued on page 5]



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## What's on

- **Sat Feb 3rd** Constitutory court reconvenes to discuss the Parish Bells
- **Sat Feb 10th** A concert by Woburn Sands Band, organised by the Friends of the Parish Church. In Cranfield Parish Church 7.45pm Tickets £4.00 oap £2.00 children under 14 free, price includes a drink and light snack. Please contact Nicky on 750288 or Gerald 750420.

### Cranfield Baptist Church Jesus is Alive!

You are warmly invited to join with us:

Sundays - 10.45am Fellowship & Sunday School  
 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)

### Cranfield Methodist Church

Sundays

10 am Morning Service and Sunday School  
 6 pm Evening Worship

Thursdays

6 pm Sunshine Corner (for children up to 8)  
 7.15 pm Thursday Club (for children 8 to 12 years)

**ALL WELCOME**

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

- **Mon Feb 12th** Mid Beds Conservative Association-Cranfield Branch Whist drive. 7.45 p. m. Village hall.
- **Mon Mar 12th** Mid Beds Conservative Association-Cranfield Branch Whist drive. 7.45 p. m. Village hall.
- **Mon Apr 9th** Mid Beds Conservative Association-Cranfield Branch Whist drive. 7.45 p. m. Village hall.

## Classic/Performance Car Show

Do you own a classic or performance car or motorbike? Would you like the opportunity to show it off? Then the Cranfield Lower School Summer Fete on 23rd June 2001 is the day for you!

We are hoping to get together a small group of car and bike owners who would be willing to exhibit their classic vehicles in the playground. If you are interested in helping this fund-raising event and meeting other people with like interests, please contact Carol on 750149 to be added to our list of participants. Many thanks for your support.

## Clogs New Year's programme for 2001

The morning of New Year's day dawned bright and sunny, and at 11 a.m. 17 eager walkers assembled at the Swan in Cranfield for a walk led by Geoff Palmer. The group set off down Rectory Lane and over the next two hours happily followed the lovely muddy footpaths that are a feature of Marston Thrift at this time of year, duly admiring the work that Clogs has been doing to clear footpaths of overhanging vegetation and maintaining the hazel coppice. Our thanks to Geoff for leading the walk!

Sunday 7th January also provided wonderful weather for the first working party of the year. It was crisp and sunny, if muddy underfoot. We soon had a roaring fire to keep us warm and to dispose of unwanted cuttings. We are making clearings in the black-thorn thickets to let in more light for the ground level nectar plants that attract the rare hairstreak butterfly,

and also to encourage Forster's Wood Rush, one of the special plants in Marston Thrift. It is such valuable work, which will benefit many kinds of native wild plants and animals.

Our next working party will be at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 4th February, when we shall be continuing our work on both sides of the path running just inside the wood, from the car park to the main ride. New volunteers are always welcome. We have plenty of tools and stout gloves, and will give instruction as necessary. Most of our group bring a hot drink and sausages to cook on the fire.

On Thursday 22nd February at the community centre, Portland Place, Mr. Parry will give an illustrated talk on the fascinating subject of Inn signs. All are welcome. Entrance is £2 including tea/coffee and biscuits. For further details, please call Angela and Clive Bucknall on 750421

## Enthusiastic School Leaver Required

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## Letters to the Editor

What a lovely surprise to see the snow after Christmas, not very good for people who had to travel, but great fun for the children, making snow men and sledging.

My family spent a lot of time building snow men in the garden which gave a lot of pleasure to my grandson and many small children walking by, but that evening the hooligans struck, they jumped over the wall and knocked down the snow men.

What is this village coming to? Gone are the days when anything is safe (even a snow man). It makes you wonder if these are the same boys who smashed up our playing fields, and where are their parents, letting them roam around the village late at night?

Hopefully they will read this and just let me say 'we know who you are'!!!

Upset Granny.

Will the person who drove his estate car into the side of my MG that was parked in Budgens car park on the afternoon of Sunday 13th January at approximately 3.35 p.m. and then drove off without stopping, do the honourable thing and come forward.

Will any additional witnesses come forward? Please contact Cranfield Express.

Name and address supplied.

On New Years Eve, a BMW parked on the High Street, was vandalised and parts stolen including BMW decals and a wheel trim. Fortunately, the act was witnessed and the culprits are known. Due to a previous similar event in London, these parts and others were security microdot coded by the Metropolitan Police with a spe-

cial invisible dye which leaves a trace for up to six months. In the interest of saving embarrassment and a criminal record, those responsible are asked to return all stolen parts; disposing of these parts will not prevent detection as it is likely the offenders are still contaminated with the dye. If the parts have been sold or passed on, replacements should be provided.

Please return parts to where they removed.

Name and address supplied

To the person who stole my Christmas tree from my front door. Thank you for leaving the lights, and I hope you didn't have too much of a guilty conscience at the time (Friday 15th December after 10 p.m.). But I did have a very sad little 5 year old boy the next morning, asking why someone had taken it.

Ruth Ambridge, High Street

Having just visited your website, (which was very good) I saw your E-mail address and I thought that you may help me with some research I am doing. Having just discovered that my great uncle had been killed during 1942 after crashing his Beaufighter plane just after taking off from Cranfield airfield, I was wondering if you knew anyone I could contact regarding the matter e.g a local historian, or anyone that remembers the crash. I have got minor details of the crash but I am always looking for more. His name was William Henry Sellars, I will send more information if any links are found. Thank you very much for your time and effort

Tom Milner

### Wanted - your stories

Do you have any news that you think should feature in the Cranfield Express? Please let us know. Pop it in one of the boxes, or call us on 0961 521073

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## Bedfordshire County Council Millennium Funding for 207 Squadron

Cranfield has its own Squadron, which has recently received a grant of £750 from the Bedfordshire County Council Millennium Fund. The presentations to a number of groups were held at the new Marston Vale Community Centre on Thursday evening 2nd November. This grant will help to replace an ageing minibus early next year. The existing minibus has seen better days and has been used for carrying Air Cadets to many adventure-training and sporting events, as well as supporting youth and senior citizen groups in Cranfield.

### This Month 207 Squadron is recruiting

The Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) now provides basic training for young people interested in a career in aviation, particularly the Royal Air Force, which now finds about 80% of its intake from Cadet ranks. In fact the Royal Air Force funds many aspects of ACO activities but local squadrons have to raise their own funds for things such as



County Councillor John Hawksby presents a Millenium Fund cheque to 207 Squadron, Cranfield

transport. The ACO aims at giving young people opportunities to experience activities and sport that would not be available to them in their local community. Air Cadets also have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Cranfield Squadron is open to young people from the age of 13 years as well as parents and other adults who may have an interest in helping. Adult staff are all local people who give up a lot of their spare time to help the Cadets work for a better future. Anyone

from the surrounding area wanting more information is welcome to contact the Cranfield Squadron, which is based in Merchant Lane, Cranfield. Parade nights are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 19:30 to 21:30 hrs. Telephone: 01234 752030.

# *Cranfield Churches present*

# *Alpha*

An opportunity to **explore** the meaning of **life**.

What is the point of **life**? What happens when we **die**?

Is **forgiveness** possible?

What **relevance** does Jesus have for our lives today?

If you would like to explore any of these questions, then *Alpha* is for you.

Starts Wednesday, 7th February 2001 at 7.30 pm  
**Cranfield Baptist Church, Bedford Road, Cranfield.**

For further information contact  
 Steve Lloyd - Tel. 751495



## IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN - 'Oh yes it is !!'

Rehearsals are well under way for Cranfield Players' 2001 pantomime

### 'BEEPING SLOOTY'

Nearly 600 people attended last years' superbly successful 'Treasure Island', so the Players have a lot to live up to.

Working from a brilliant script by Stephen Colgan, the contemporary 'Beeping Slooty' incorporates all the ingredients of a traditional family pantomime with goodies, badies, cracking songs and plenty of audience participation. Come along and meet Dirty Girtie from Number Thirty, the

hero Lucky-pin, Dame Nelly and all the other wonderful characters (not forgetting Spud, the talking potato) who make 'Beeping Slooty' a really spectacular night out for kids and adults alike.

Produced by Tony Gray, with music by Cynthia Salisbury, and performed by local members of the cast, 'Beeping Slooty' can be seen at Cranfield Village Hall on Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th February at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinee at 2.00pm.

**For further information and tickets telephone : 01234 751292**

## Girl Guides win Baden Powell Awards

The 1st Cranfield Guides would like to congratulate Samantha, Charlotte and Cheryl on achieving their 'Baden Powell Awards'. They have all worked very hard for over a year to obtain these awards, covering community service with Brownies or Rainbows, organising wide games for the unit to play and interest badges on things that they were interested in to name but a few of their achievements.

1st Cranfield Guides meet on Monday evenings 7.15 - 9.00 at the Scout Hut. Subs are only

£8.50 for half a term. We do outdoor and indoor cooking, go to camps, play games, work on badges such as archery, table tennis, collectors, computers, reading etc. etc. We work in small patrols of six guides. We are a friendly bunch of girls aged from 10 to 15 years.

If you are interested and would like to come to a meeting, please telephone Bluebird (Amanda Maidment) on 01234 751754. We look forward to meeting you. Bluebird and Leftie.

The true third millennium, some argue, starts on January 1st 2001, since the first millennium started on 1 AD (there is no year 0 AD). To mark this millennium, therefore, we publish our own Cranfield Express Millennium Quiz. Test your local, national and international historical knowledge with the following questions drawn from across the centuries.

- In 998 Saxon thane, Ailwyn the Black, who is commemorated in Cranfield's latest housing development, gave the manor of Cranfield to which Abbey?
  - Woburn Abbey
  - Westminster Abbey
  - Northanger Abbey
  - Abbey National
  - Ramsay Abbey
- William the Conqueror defeated Harold in 1066. What was Harold's second name?
  - Wilson
  - Nicolson
  - Godwinson
  - Erickson
- "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" To which priest does this question refer to?
  - Thomas a Becke
  - Thomas Mor
  - Bishop Hugh Latimer
  - Reverend Hugh Symes-Thompson
- Who asked the question?
  - Henry II
  - Henry III
  - Henry VIII
  - The Chairman of English heritage
- The peasants revolt was about:
  - The poll tax
  - Housing development,
  - Conscription for the 14th crusade
  - Fox hunting
- The Wars of the Roses were fought between
  - Cadbury's and Nestle's
  - Cavaliers and Roundheads,
  - the Houses of York and Lancaster
  - Cranes and Acorns
- Which English Queen spent several years in Ampthill?
  - Eleanor of Aquitaine
  - Catherine of Aragon
  - Elizabeth I
  - The Queen Mother
  - Freddie Mercury
- Charles I suffered a heavy defeat in the English civil war. What was the name of the battle?
  - Bosworth Field
  - Marston Moreteyne
  - Marston Moor
  - Naseby
- Who was the Lord Protector from 1649 -1658?
  - Thomas Cromwell
  - Oliver Cromwell
  - The Duke of Bedford
  - Frank Lord
- James Boswell wrote a biography of which famous writer?
  - Dr Johnson
  - Mick Johnston
  - Dr Noel
  - Dr Cameron
  - Gilbert the Gull
- Who won a competition to build a railway between Liverpool and Manchester in 1830?
  - George Stephenson
  - Robert Stephenson
  - Prof. Tom Stephenson,
  - Richard Branson
- Queen Victoria was unkindly nicknamed 'Mrs Brown' because of her association with which Mr Brown?
  - Jason Brown
  - Lord George Brown
  - Gordon Brown
  - John Brown
- Who is the Stafford Cripps building on the university campus named after?
  - The first vice chancellor of Cranfield University
  - A former Lord Protector of Bedfordshire
  - A past minister in a Labour government
  - An ex landlord of the Cock Inn in North Crawley
- Alexander Fleming was responsible for which great scientific advance?
  - Vaccination
  - Innoculation
  - Penicillin
  - The plasma reactor
- Which astronaut first went into orbit?
  - Alan Shepherd
  - Yuri Gagarin
  - Neil Armstrong
  - May Armstrong

Answers: 1 e, 2 c, 3 a, 4 a, 5 a, 6 c, 7 b, 8 c, 9 b, 10 a, 11 a, 12 d, 13 c, 14 c, 15 b

## Parish Council 17th Jan

### Middle School MUGA meeting

It was announced that personal invitations to representatives of local sports organisations and clubs have been issued for a meeting in the Village Hall on the 24th January to discuss this vital and important issue.

### Welsh invasion planned for Mill Lane

A company has been approached with regard to the bus shelter in Mill Lane. It seems that it will save the council up to £1,000 should they decide to have this shelter refurbished rather than torn down and replaced. The approached company stated it would be able and willing to do the work, and the fact that they are based in Wales was not a problem as they refurbish bus shelters all over the country.

The proposed solution would include fitting the shelter with non-breakable plastic instead of glass.

### Third millenium hits PC

It seems the PC is being dragged into the third millenium, with the proposed launch of a web-site. This site would include pictures of the brave and beautiful councillors, along with contact details. This web site is anticipated to be launched by next month, and we at Cranfield Express will let you know where to direct your browsers to access this paragon of web brilliance.

### Cross Keys crossing go ahead

Mid Bedfordshire County Council has agreed that the proposed pedestrian crossing financed from a planning agreement with Budgen Stores should not be positioned at the Lodge Road end of the village. Objections from residents, as well as a petition, had been received and the application was therefore to go before a committee. County Councillor John Hawksby proposed the crossing move to be adjacent to the Cross Keys, "to benefit the majority of Lower and Middle school children." Members of the relevant committees met, assessed the original proposed site as "not in the interest of the community" and agreed the new site. Funding for

the crossing, however, could now become an issue, as the money from Budgen Stores was dependent on the positioning of the crossing. With the movement of the crossing, it is possible that further monies may be required, and the County Council portfolio holder for the environment was to be approached.

### University seeks grant to spread illumination

It seems that Cranfield University may be requesting a further £5,000 contribution towards extending the new street lighting in certain roads in Wharley End.

[www.cranfieldexpress.com](http://www.cranfieldexpress.com)

### The Annas Kid's Column

Hi Kids' column readers,

We're pleased to know you've made it through almost two months without us to cheer you up. But we've got a bit of a problem. We set a competition and none of you entered! Last issue there was a small notice saying we ate the chocolates, but that's wrong, we SCOFFED the lot! And to think you should have eaten them. Well, we thought we would give you lot a second chance to have your name in the Kid's Column. If you have a hobby, write a little about it, and send it to the address below and we will feature it in the next month's issue.

#### WACKY JOKES TIME

- Q. What do you call a man who comes through your letterbox?  
A. Bill
- Q. How do you send a baby astronaut to sleep?  
A. Rocket
- Q. What is a waiter's favourite sport?  
A. Tennis, it improves his service.
- Q. What do you call the noise made by the crowd at Wimbledon?  
A. Tennis racket
- Q. What is brown and sticky?  
A. A stick
- Q. What hangs on a wall and ticks?  
A. Ticky paper.

## Traffic Survey this Spring

The following is extracted from a letter by County Councillor John Hawksby to a resident of Crawley Road:

It appears that the two roads leading from Cranfield to the University were not included in the previous traffic survey. Mid Beds County Council entered into an agreement with the University to provide funding for traffic calming schemes within the Village, and periphery junctions. These monies are to be provided on a phased basis, dependent on various levels of space developed. The Bowstring Road & Roundabout and Charity Farm Bends comprised the first completed phase, and the next phase will be triggered by any further development after the completion of the Traffic Master complex. However, as the A421 and M1 J13 are now consistently congested, Crawley Road and the High Street

have become victim to 'rat running' for Milton Keynes traffic.

John Hawksby was astounded to discover that Crawley Road has not been included in this design scheme agreement with the University, and moved for a further application to the Development Control Committee to amend the agreement and action a new traffic audit to take into account the recent concerns of Cranfield citizens with regard to Crawley Road Racers. This audit will occur early this spring. However, in respect of accidents and speeding, "experience throughout the County has shown that no matter what level of signage or control methods are installed, it appears not to effect the growing number of inconsiderate and determined lunatic drivers. However that does not mean we should not make it difficult for them."

### Pets Corner

Here is a new part of the Anna's Kid's Column. The pet featured this month is a Syrian Hamster called Dusty who is 11½ months old and owned by Anna Hartley.

Good points: fun to play with, easy to look after.

Bad points: having to clean out the cage!



If you want your pet mentioned, put your contribution, with photo, in one of the boxes in either of the Newsagents.

CYFA would like to thank everyone who gave most generously towards their Carol Singing and Christmas Card Delivery, £241.05 was raised for BECHAR.

We have been collecting for this worthwhile cause every Christmas for the last 10 years. The money collected is spent on food for those less fortunate people over the Christmas period.

### [Continued from page 1]

Phil Bates, chairman of Cranfield parish council has replied to these concerns by saying "the council are very aware of the traffic difficulties in Lodge Road and traffic safety is one of our number one priorities".

The council have informed both the Highways Department and the County Council about the Lodge Road traffic problems and they have visited the village to inspect the road themselves. Their advice was that traffic could not be stopped from using the road and so the council are now asking for the road to be widened or at least re-surfaced to make it safer.

Phil went on to say that in April there will be a major traffic survey in the whole village and some money will be available for road improvements. The council will keep the village informed of these developments through the Cranfield Express and would welcome villagers' attendance at any public meetings that will be held.



One of the two blind bends in Lodge Road

### MEC MATTHEW McHUGH ELECTRICAL

MEMBER OF THE ELECTROTECHNICAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME

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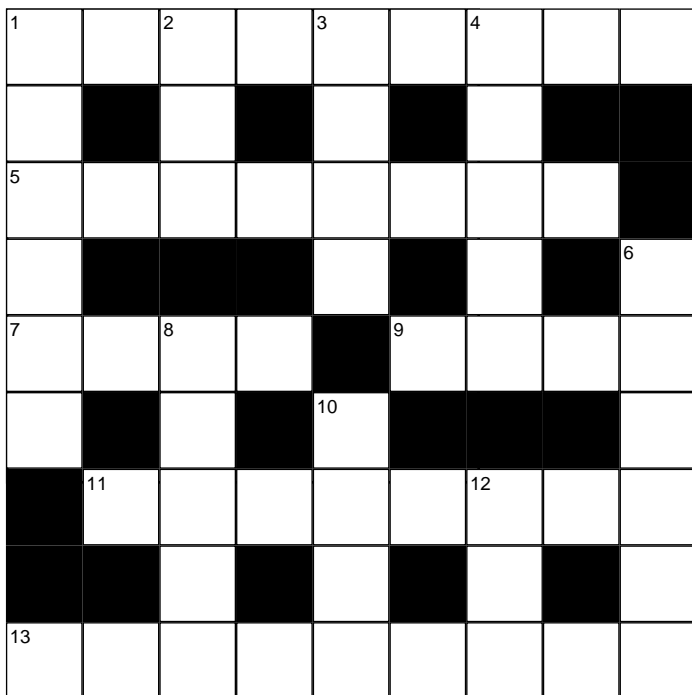
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## Crossword No. 1



**Across**

- 1. Ill fated bird.
- 5. Truthfulness.
- 7. Western Alliance.
- 9. Not known.
- 11. By the skin of your teeth.
- 13. English landscape artist.

2. Obstacle to law.

- 3. That act encompassing the right thing.
- 4. Frequently.
- 6. Body building protein.
- 8. Author, Mark \_\_\_\_.
- 10. Legal document.
- 12. World Wide \_\_\_\_.

**Down**

- 1. And vet confusingly arrives before Christmas.

A prize of £10 will be given to the first correct entry out of the hat on February 15th. Send your answers to Cranfield Crossword Competition, 42 Crawley Road, Cranfield, or pop them into one of the boxes.

## Poetry Corner

### Paradise

by AP Harper

I'd like to say how I feel though if I do it might not sound real. But to see the brightest star in the sky, makes me feel I want to fly to see what lies behind that star that shines so bright from afar. And as I stood looking up at that star that shone so bright in the darkest hours of the night, with this wanton feeling that made me glow, made me wonder why I felt like this so. But as the power started to pull me towards that place, with the warm and wonderful feeling on my face, made me realise, not once but twice, that what I was seeing and feeling was just sheer 'Paradise'.

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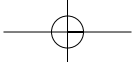


The following information has been received from an anonymous source along with a question "Who can remember this?"

**January 7th 1950**

Spandit Sports 4 V Cranfield United 7  
J Wilson  
RWhittington E Healey  
RCampion KWooding CClarke  
RRock DWooding RLovey WRock PCharman

Played at Dunstable and seven Horseshoe coaches were used to carry the supporters ... If you want to know more, ask the Bag Man.



# ford. demands a closer look



## fordka

\*1.3 sefi engine

\*power steering

\*driver's airbag

\*engine immobiliser

# £6,995

## fordka collection

\*1.3 sefi engine \*power steering

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**Announcements**

**ELAINE**, Happy 30th Birthday on 27th January. Have a great day. Love Kenny and Christopher XX



**ELLIS**. Happy 30th Birthday Elaine. Love and best wishes. Myra and Brian, Tracy, Shelley and Lauren, Mandy, Steve, Sarah and Matthew.

**HELP**. Can anyone spare some time to help the meals-on-wheels team deliver meals in Cranfield?

If you are available to join the rota - we deliver Tuesdays and Thursdays at midday - please phone Trish Haynes 750712

**HILLSON Andrew and Debbie** (Nee Cockings) are pleased to announce the arrival of James Andrew at 5lb 5oz on Sunday 14 01 01.

**THANK YOU** for the many compliments on our Christmas display and thank you to everyone who donated to the Primrose appeal when they visited our Christmas lights display. The final total was a generous £106

Becky and Alan, 6 Crawley Road Cranfield

**MADELINE FIXTER** would like to thank Friends and Neighbours for messages of sympathy during the sad loss of Frank. Please accept this as the only acknowledgment.

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**CATS** (Crawlers and Toddlers). Due to an insufficient number of volunteers to run CATS this group has sadly ceased to meet on Wednesday mornings. If anyone in the village would like to take up the reins and re-start the group, please contact either Kate Fisher on 757610 or Jan Butcher on 750420 for further details.

John, Ann, Gavin, Elizabeth and Jason **SODEN** would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, love and support they have received following the death of Ann's sister Peggy on Christmas Day. Thank you also for the many cards and flowers which have been a great comfort to us at this time.

Congratulations to **EMMA AND RICHARD** on the birth of your daughter, Penny Emma, 31/12/00. Lots of love from Mum, Dad and Wayne.

**For Sale**

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## An interview with... Hugh Symes-Thompson, your Church of England Rector



### Rev Hugh Symes-Thompson answers our questions

The Reverend Hugh Kynard Symes-Thompson, a bit of a mouthful, was gracious enough to feature in this, our first interview. When I first met Hugh, adorned in his vestments, he came across as rather hesitant, however as we began to get to know each other, I found him to be a man of deep thoughts, with a rather surprising sense of humor. I put a range of questions to him, including what is the difference between a Rector and a Vicar, a Rector historically employed Vicars at various adjoining parishes. Below, Hugh speaks for himself.

*Could you please introduce yourself and your family to our readers.*

I came to Cranfield five years ago, having been a Team Vicar in Dagenham for nearly 6 years before that. My wife Liz is a teacher and we have three boys. The two older ones, Mike (15) and Nick (13) were both born in Australia, where I was the Rector of a country parish. Jack (4) is our 'Cranfield surprise' and now goes to the nursery at Rushmoor School in Bedford where Liz teaches. We also have a cat called Sam.

*Where was your last holiday and what did you enjoy most about it?*

Last August, for our family holiday, we had a lovely time in France, camping in the Dordogne with some good friends and their children. We crossed the channel by hovercraft and travelled down together, both cars towing trailers and stopping overnight at a couple of inexpensive hotels. Our campsite was ideal and a lot of time was spent on the waterslides and playing crazy golf - Jack being particularly enthusiastic. We had a day canoeing down the river and visited cliff top castles, subterranean caverns and fortified caves. (In short we learnt about troglodytes, grottos and

Neanderthals and drank some cheap wine.) The best thing about it was the sunshine and that we were all completely out of our normal everyday routines.

*What is your favourite sport and which team do you support?*

Squash was the sport I most enjoyed playing - but I have only played a few games since coming to Cranfield. During school terms I aim to go swimming at Newport Pagnell about once a week at lunchtimes. I love watching many sports on TV - especially international Rugby when I support England, then Australia. As far as football goes I have been loyal to 'chuck it away' Chelsea for many roller coaster years.

*What do you like most about Cranfield?*

It is a good mix of countryside and convenience and there is a wide variety of people to meet. We knew we were in the right place because within a year of arriving here Monty's Tandoori opened in walking distance from the Rectory - so we often enjoy a takeaway!

*How does Cranfield compare to other places you have lived?*

This is a difficult one as I have moved around so much. As a child I had many happy years in Kenya, then after my education and training I was based first in Birmingham, then Harlow where I met Liz. Cranfield stands out as a desirable place to be with low crime and good schooling. (I am a Governor for both the Lower School and Holywell). It is only a pity it is so far from the sea!

*What can you personally do for the people of Cranfield?*

There are probably many whom I rarely meet or who have little connection with Christian faith. Nevertheless I am available to help

in time of need or crisis. Sometimes just to listen in confidence, sometimes to advise where specialist help can be found, always to pray and be supportive. But of course for many it is the important family occasions such as Funerals, Marriages and Baptisms where I become involved. It is vital for the confidence of any community that these are performed carefully, correctly and as far as possible enjoyably. The same goes for our Church services, including things such as Remembrance Sunday. Then there are visits to the Schools where it is sometimes a bit overwhelming to be recognised by so many of our children. But perhaps, more than all this where I am the man up front, I see my key role as trying to support the members of the church in their own Christian faith and witness.

*What made you decide to become a Rector?*

The big thing for me was becoming a Christian. Although I went to chapel at school, and had even been confirmed, by my late teens I had discarded it all as irrelevant. Then in my first year at Cambridge University, where I was studying biology, I was challenged by the historical facts of the Resurrection. I asked God to redirect my life and amazingly He did. God was no longer just theory and words but someone real who watched over my life. From then on I was keen to serve God in any way he led me. Through the advice of a respected Christian man and through prayer it became clear that I should become a Church minister. And so this is how for the last 20 years I have tried to serve God and help my neighbour.

*Has science not proved religion wrong?*

As a Christian who has had a scientific background I find that the two are not opposites but rather illuminate each other. Science answers the technical question 'How?' while faith explains 'Why?'. Usually those who seek to undermine particular branches of science or ridicule sections of the

Bible in the 'Science versus Religion' style have a limited understanding of the Bible or little knowledge of science. Proportionately more science students become Christians than those studying other subjects.

*Christianity is all about sin and hell: are we really that bad?*

The Bible certainly teaches that we must all face the judgement of God - and that beyond this life we will enjoy heaven or endure hell. Sin is anything that breaks our relationship with God. This might be some horrendous murder or could simply be pride, selfishness or ingratitude. The bad news is that none of us would qualify for heaven, which is perfect, on our own merits. The Good News (Gospel) is that on the cross Jesus died so all our sins could be forgiven - so that anyone (however bad ie including me and you) if they truly turn to God can receive eternal life.

That offer still stands and it is my task to invite every individual in this parish to take it up!

*Are the Bells really that important?*

Certainly not as important as becoming a follower of Jesus and telling others about him. But equally it would be sad to see the ancient tradition of Bellingring vanish from our village. What is really so annoying about our Bells situation is that we had a good scheme to rehang our bells and got together the money but have been thwarted at the last moment by English Heritage with the work half done. Now we are in limbo awaiting the result of a Consistory Court Hearing. This takes time and energy away from far more worthwhile causes. But no way do we want to saddle our historic parish Church and village with second rate Bells for the centuries to come.

• Don't forget, next week we will be interviewing Jonathan Sayeed, your local MP, and I hope to catch our local policeman for the April edition. If you have any suggestions for future interviewees, or would like to place a question to the local bobby on the beat, please drop them in one of the boxes.

### The year is 1900...

Come and join our Evening Celebration and solve the **Murder in the Moat** at Cranfield Lower School on Saturday 10th February, 2001 at 7.30PM. **Three course meal included and Licensed Bar with wine list available.** Make up a team of six or come and join a table on the night! Prizes for Best Detectives, Raffle tickets on sale. Tickets: £8 each available **NOW** from the School Office, or from Anita on 01234 752396. We will also sell tickets at the School Gates after School from Monday 29th January onwards.

## Only a common little Gull ... 'erring on his good side

"Peter, did you write on the Cranfield Express web page that I am a common gull?"

"Er, well, yes I did as it happens. Is there a problem with that, Gilbert?"

"But, I'm not a common gull I'm a herring gull. That is an awful mistake to make, Peter."

"You pick your beak, spit, swear and smell like a pooper scooper ... Need I say more?"

"Well, yes, as it happens, you can say lots more - like how can I pick my beak when I've only got one foot to pick it with?"

"You are being picky now, Gilbert. I was only pointing out why I had you down as a common gull ..."

"But, just look at the curve of my beak, Peter. Doesn't that tell you I am a lot like a herring gull and that you have made a mistake for billions of internet viewers to see?"

"Your beak curves in all directions when you see a girlie gull or when you sneeze and ..."

"Look, you are claspng at straws now and I don't suppose anyone is going to take my side but YOU made a mistake."

"Okay, enough of this bickering or is it pickering - tee hee."

"Are you sending any Valentine cards this year, Peter - bearing in mind that you didn't get any yourself?"

"Hmm, I think the Post Office held

them back in case you got jealous."

"But I had loads and loads, Peter, and you didn't get any."

"It was one of the coldest day of the year at the Uni and guess what Gilbert?"

"Why don't you just admit it... No girlie is going to send you a valentine card are they?"

"Yes, that's right, the heating was off."

"We are still talking valentine cards, Peter, aren't we? Well?"

**"SHUT YOUR SILLY BEAK YOU ANNOYING LITTLE GIT!"**

"Guess, we've exhausted that subject then, Petey."

"As I was saying ... The heating seemed to be coming out of the ground in lots of places instead of through the radiators. Lots of girlies had to sit with blankets wrapped round them instead of typing in the nude."

"What about the Uni road safety stuff, Peter? I have noticed that people are still treating the Uni roads like motorway slip roads ... Glad I can fly around the place."



"Well, there is always going to be people who breaks rules, Gilbert ... I did hear of one chap boasting that he could accelerate to 60 mph, between the sleeping policemen, on the road that runs parallel to Central Avenue."

"Which road? Oh, yes, you mean the road that is still waiting to be named - though I had heard that some of the staff in Cranfield Aerospace have named it, unofficially, after some academic ..."

"Yes, Dr Blako's Ring Road I think they call it, Gilby."

"Hmm, yes, well anyway which scary motorist does 60 mph between the sleeping officers?"

"I can't divulge his name, Gilbert,

'cos' his workmates are keeping his identity a secret."

"Why does he drive like that?"

"Well, apparently, it isn't every day and he says he does it 'cos he likes to see the Cabair formation jay-walking team scatter."

"Can't he be stopped, Peter?"

"Well his mates also say that if there is a female walking in the opposite direction he has also been seen to reverse slowly backwards (and probably sideways) as well, so, I'm sure someone could arrange for the necessary placement of girlies every morning, lunch time and finish time to ensure we are protected from this nutter."

"It's Richard Head - isn't it, Peter?"

"I told you I don't know, but, he could be of that family."

"I hear the County Council is planning to sell off its interests in the Inovation Park at the Uni, Peter. Do you think it's so they have some money to finish the road off?"

"What road?"

"See how easily people forget things. The lovely new road from the roundabout to Salford degenerates to a cattle walk near the entrance to Holcote Moors Farm and it was all to be upgraded to J13 of the motorway."

"Oh, yes, Gilbert I remember now and I'm sure we can look forward to that ..."



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## 2000 ... another successful year for Cranfield Tae Kwon-do club



Paul Friere-Gomez, Ed Ward, David Rawle, Rupert Cook and Adam Gooch



Medal winners Jane Rawle, Vanya Gladkow, Jeremy Gearing and Georgina Rawle



Action at the Old Gym as Jess takes on his man

The year 2000 was one of great success for the Cranfield Tae Kwon Do Club. In March we won a gold and three bronze medals in the Welsh open championships and we followed this success with a gold, two silver and a bronze in the BTC championships at Kettering in July. We also had our first medal win for Newport Pagnell club at the British championships at Kettering in December.

Well done to everyone who competed last year and lets hope we can continue our success in 2001.

Show us some of the medal winners and the black belt team and members. We are still looking for a club sponsor and some new members. If anyone is interested and would like to find out more please ring me on 01234 750716.

We also still run a kids club on Sunday as well as a beginners section and all ages are catered for.

David Rawle

### Cranfield Golf Society Away Day

report by Sparty Flo

At last! An invitation to be part of the Cranfield Golf Society's Christmas tournament. No expense spared here - I bought a set of the best clubs and necessary equipment that I could afford and then spent two sleepless nights worrying how I was going to perform.

I should have relaxed 'cos it was all to no avail as neither captain selected me for his team. Boss Childs said I should walk the course and observe.

Hmm, was this the way to treat a true village sportsman? I did stay and observe.

On the first green I met up with the society's professional players. These men hit long, hard and straight as well as chipping and putting with ease (I know this would have been how I would have performed had I been given the chance), but at the 4th hole I hurriedly left when one gentleman asked if the bet was still on. Not, not another village sports scandal! Was this match going to be rigged?

Coming through next were the tryers working hard at their game - each winking, smirking and smiling when their opposite team member had a bad shot. The skill these players had

amazed me. Hiding their balls in either the water hole, sand dunes (bunkups I think they are called) or tucking their balls neat and tidily behind a tree. Tom the builder was able to bounce his balls off the water (just like the Dambuster bombs) then into the bunkups and then rolling them into the woods like the bearded gentleman who told me to "\*\*\*\* off"

I wished both a happy new year and went off to join the senior citizens group. It was easy to follow these players - you could walk as fast as their balls travelled, resting often with special treats from their hip flasks. I could tell what was in the flasks by their rosy cheeks and grinning faces. It was getting dark and boss man, Childs, was getting cross with this group but he knew this would be their last pilgrimage. If you ask who won I would say it was the little white balls. All groups complained that the fairways were too muddy and too wet with the greens frozen solid. On and on they went. Not one member blamed his tools. Is it me? Or am I a perfectionist? Thanks for the free meal and drinks lads. Don't forget the invite next year.

### Chris' IT Clinic

With ever-increasing space requirements on the modern PC, there will come a time when you have to install a new, bigger hard disk. The following assumes you have Windows 98 or Millennium Edition.

1. Make sure that you have a bootable startup floppy disk.

2. Set the jumper on the back of the hard drive to configure it as a master disk - the instructions with the disk should make this clear. Mount the new drive in the case, and connect the existing IDE cable to it, leaving your present hard disk disconnected.

3. Put your startup disk into the floppy drive and restart the machine, which should recognise the new disk as a primary master. You will have three start options. Start without CD-ROM support and wait until you get to the A: prompt (A/>>)

4. Partition your disk by typing "fdisk" at the A: prompt. Follow the instructions on screen, enabling large disk support and creating one primary DOS partition.

5. The disk must now be formatted. Type "format c: /s" as long as C: is the new drive. The /s switch is to copy system files to make the disk bootable. Hit Enter and wait several minutes.

6. Once it is finished, restart the machine. Leave the startup floppy in the drive, so that you boot from the floppy again. This time, enable CD-ROM support.

7. Because the floppy loads some files into a virtual drive called D:, your CD-ROM drive will be the E: drive. Open the CD-ROM drive and insert your Windows CD. Type "e:" followed by Enter to give you the E: prompt. Type "setup" followed by Enter and follow all instructions to install Windows on your new hard disk.

8. To copy existing files from the old hard disk, reconnect it to the same IDE cable as the new drive, but configure it as a slave by setting the jumper. Drag and drop any files or folders you need from the old drive (D:) to the new drive (C:).


Chris Walker.

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**Cranfield Under 13's**

**Cranfield U13 8 Kempston West End Rangers 2**

Despite very poor weather conditions and fielding only 10 players, Cranfield played a league cup game. After a tight first half during which they led 3-2, Cranfield pressed home their advantage with a further 5 goals from Thompson (3), Hanna (3), Usher (1), Eeles (1).  
 Man of the match: Adam Usher. S.Holmans

**U13 13 Wilstead Youth FC 0**

Wilstead started the game briskly with two goal attempts, but Cranfield countered with several near misses before scoring and going on to finish the first half 6-0 up. Cranfield dominated the second half with a further seven goals.

Goals: Hanna (6), Bullen (2), Thompson (2), Eeles(1), Usher (1), Delvinda (1). Man of the match: Jamie Norman

**Under 10s trip to Northampton Town**

Seventeen boys and eight adults from the Cranfield Colts Under 10's team had a very successful day at Northampton Town.

It was an early start leaving the village just after 9.00am and after we arrived at Sixfields Stadium we had a two hour training session with their Youth Development Coaching Staff. We learnt lots of new ball skills and played in a mini-tournament.

After training we were given a tour of the ground where we met Kevin Wilson and the team. The boys were also invited into the police cells which they thought were fun. After lunch at McDonalds we watched the 2nd division game Northampton Town v Bury, Northampton Town won 2-1.

We all had a great time especially as the boys were on their best behaviour representing Cranfield Colts in a very mature manner. Thank you to all the parents who came along and hence made my day more enjoyable.

We would welcome new team members. If interested ring Lionel on 01234 751439.

**Cranfield United**

This has been a bad month for United. Only one senior and two reserve matches being played.

**Biggleswade Town 0 Cranfield United 0**

This cup match was always going to be an even game. With both defences and goalkeepers in excellent form, chances were few, Steele going closest for the visitors. Full time came followed by extra time

and still no result. It was left to penalty takers Drew, Weir, Brightman and Lowe along with two penalty stops by Waller putting Cranfield into the Quarter Final.

**Cranfield Reserves 0 DERA 2**

This result must have manager, Cross, not a happy chappy. Having a very strong squad including some first team players they created enough chances to have won this game by the interval. But poor finishing and a bad defensive mistake gave the visitors a half time lead. The second half was just like the first with many missed chances before DERA increased their lead in the eightieth minute and went home with two points they never should have had.  
 Cranfield must be asking ... How did the visitors win?

Mick Johnson

**Tales of Cranfield United**  
 (and the brylcreem boys)

As you can imagine, during WW2, most sports and organised games were forced to stop due to the strict emergency regulations that forbade the assembly of large crowds in public places. But within weeks, the Football Association had given permission for certain football matches to resume, subject to local police and strict crowd limits.

Due the unavailability of men folk, most local teams decided to close down for the duration of the war. Not surprisingly football clubs that did continue were always struggling to raise a team, and not having time to train, plus with so much disruption to travel, and with teams arriving late, it was almost impossible for clubs to maintain or complete their seasons fixtures.

But as the war progressed and the Allies took the decisive step into Germany, normal pre-war life started to flourish. It is reported that a Cranfield RAF team took part in the Bedford and district League division 2 during the 1944/45 season.

**RAF Cranfield**

On the 5th of January 1945 RAF Cranfield played Queens Park Rangers (Bedford Queens Park team). Kick off was at 3pm and RAF Cranfield lost 3 - 9 to the visitors.

RAF Cranfield played home to Maulden but there are no records of the score.

On the 23rd of January 1945 RAF Cranfield played away to Great Barford and once again lost 7 - 3 to the home team.

One other game recorded with an unknown result was the St Valentines Day (14/2/45) match against visitors Turvey.

Roger the Doger

*Cranfield Express would like to hear more memories. If you or any member of your family has a story to tell about Cranfield, or Cranfield Folk, please contact us via the recognised drop off points (Cranfield Uni Security or the two village newsagents) or call direct 0961 521073*



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