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September 2000 No 6 

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# 'Rec' ground damage mounts

Thousands of pounds' worth of play equipment in Cranfield is under threat from continuous vandalism. The pictures on this page show the extent of the damage.

The wire mesh around the tennis courts has been pulled to the ground. Massive bolts have been removed from the climbing frame in the recreation ground. They can only be taken out by youths wielding a substantial allen key. An axe has been taken to some of the posts.

Mothers who bring their young children to play during the day are confronted with debris strewn around including beer cans and other rubbish.

Four years ago, the Parish Council had a 'relaunch' of its play equipment including extensive facilities in Broad Green and new equipment in the recreation ground. Now damage is occurring again.

Roger Baker is a Parish Councillor and chair of the Council's general purposes committee which is responsible for play equipment. He is also 'hands on' and willing to take his tool box to the 'rec' ground in a bid to halt some of the damage.

But he is dumbfounded at the wanton damage that is being done.

"We have new nets and some lovely tennis courts here but we cannot put the nets up in these circumstances. We provide all this equipment and this is what happens."

The hidden-from-view location makes the recreation ground a magnet for adolescents who handle boredom by dismantling equipment designed



Roger Baker repairs climbing equipment

to give little kids fun. One suggestion, close circuit TV, would only work if additional lighting was installed in the area.

There has been less damage at Broad Green which is more open to view and well lit.

Pellr Baker regrets the decline of sport in school curriculum leaving

many youngsters kicking their heels: "Surveys show that a vast number of children do not have basic physical skills like catching a ball."

Relocating the facilities to somewhere more conspicuous is next to impossible. With many landowners hoping for a windfall from planning permission to build houses there is little chance to acquire a new open location to safely site play equipment.



Scene of destruction at tennis courts

Keeping the village in touch

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**September deadline**

**Friday 15th September**

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Extra copies

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

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## Village News

On July 22, **ORCHARD WAY/CLOSE**, had a little get together. 46 people attended. We had a Barbecue and disco, but the weather could have been a little kinder to us, it was rather chilly.

We made a collection for Cancer Research which raised £35-50. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Mrs. M Smith, Orchard Way **DAY TRIP TO CALAIS** and cite Europe. Saturday October 7th. Leave Cranfield 8 a.m, as opposed to 6.30 as stated last month. Return approx. 10.30 p.m. £24.50

Contact Joan Last 01234 750738

Please note, due to lack of support, I am having to cancel the pantomime trip.

### OLD FRIENDS

I was stationed at Chicksands from 1952 through 1955 with the US Airforce. I was seeing a young lady named Denise Anita Read. The Read family lived in Cranfield and her father was in the construction business. After I left England I heard she married a US Airman named Andy Anderson from Harlan, Kentucky. If anyone knows of the family, could you please contact me. Thank you. Carl M Smith of Oceanside, New York (e-mail ZJJB4@cs.com)

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### PAPWORTH RAFFLE

The sum of £258 was raised for the Arrhythmia Research Fund this year. Thanks to all who supported the fund by buying tickets and those who helped by selling them. The stool was won by Mrs Dorothy Paul of Newport Pagnell. Once again for all your generous support.

Joan Wooding

## Thank you

**COOPER** Joyce and Ron would like to thank everyone for their good wishes on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Thanks

**ROY PHILLIPS** wishes 'to thank all my friends and customers for all the get well cards and a special thanks to my wife Sue, Diane, Ian and Anita.

### Wanted

**WANTED** I buy anything old, interesting, pretty or collectable. Single items or complete house clearance. 01234 768304

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## Child Migrant Returns to Cranfield

On September 11th Frank Holmans returns to Cranfield after fifty years in Australia. Frank was twelve when he was sent from a National Children's home to Australia under the child migrant scheme.

He now lives with his wife Jenny in Waragul, Victoria. They have a son, daughter and four grandchildren.

As a boy, Frank visited Cranfield, staying with his Grandfather Frederick Holmans in Bedford Road. He also stayed in Wootton where his mother Kate Holmans lived at that

time. Frank has no memory of his mother or any of his family. His mother died in 1994.

Nine of twenty four first cousins live in Cranfield as does his only aunt, Mrs Amy Williamson. All are looking forward to meeting Frank and Jenny. Some of their visit will be in Holland where Jenny's family emigrated from.

Jenny and Frank will return to Australia on October 17th.

James T Williamson.

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## Whats on

• **Thur Aug 31st** Rural policing: an open debate. 7.30 pm, The Limes, Dunstable St, Ampthill.

• **Sun Sept 3rd** Jammin' session 12 noon to 4 p.m. At the Swan

### Cranfield Baptist Church Jesus is Alive!

You are warmly invited to join with us:

Sundays - 10.45am Fellowship & Sunday School

We also meet on:

Wednesday - 7.45pm Home Group

Thursday - 7.30pm Youth Club (1st Thursday each month)

Ages 11-16

**ALL WELCOME**

For further information contact:

**Steve Lloyd on 751495**

(Transport can be arranged)

• **Mon Sept 4th** Acorn Pre-School

Photo Session. 10am - 12pm, Cranfield United Football Club. All welcome.

• **Sat Sept 9th** 8 p.m. Tony's Disco...60's thru 2000, The Swan

### Cranfield Methodist Church

Sundays

10 am Morning Service and Sunday School

6 pm Evening Worship

Tuesday afternoons (alternate)

2.30 pm Women's Fellowship

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**

• **Sun Sept 17th** Cranfield

Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Association Early Show. Scout Hut Cranfield. Opens 2 p.m. Free admission.

• **Fri Sept 22nd** 8 p.m. ELVIS is back in the building! Do not miss this one! The Swan

• **Sat Sept 30th** Lower School Quiz Night 8 pm. Tickets £5 including Fish & Chips. Tickets available via Lower School Office.

### WEEK-END CLEANER REQUIRED, MUST BE RELIABLE

2-3 hours approx. Per day (Saturday and Sunday mornings)  
Tel. Harry and Glenda 750332



Acorn pre-school would like to say a big thank you to Mr G S Chana at Crane Way Stores and his friends the priests for making us so welcome on our visit to the Sikh Temple in Bedford. The children were enthralled to see so many wonderful pictures and items inside the temple and learn about the various aspects of the Sikh religion and culture. Our visit concluded with lovely home made sweets being presented to us. Sharing food is an important part of Sikh culture and is seen as a sign of friendship. We hope to visit again next year.

Sheila Howe

## PTFA tops 10K mark

After a very successful fundraising year, the Lower School PTFA were extremely pleased to have handed over donations to the school worth nearly £10,000.

The money was spent in several areas including re-surfacing the hard play area for the reception unit and years 3 and 4. Over the summer holidays, we were also able to replace some of the playground markings, and provide a few new ones, and we are sure the children will really enjoy them when they return to school in September.

As a direct result of everyone's generosity towards the summer fete, the school will benefit from improved resources for the newly introduced numeracy strategy.

As well as these major items, the PTFA have purchased musical and PE equipment, English Literacy resources, entertained the whole school with a Christmas pantomime and covered the cost of the Life Bus which helps the children in learning about healthy living and self confidence.

To get everyone in the right mood for an even better fundraising year the PTFA are holding a Quiz Night.

So, for all you who seem to know the answers on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire', why not come and try your luck on Saturday 30th September at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets are £5 each, including a fish & chips supper, with beer, wine & cider available to purchase on the night (license permitting). Teams should be no more than eight people and tickets will be available via the Lower School Office.

Remember, you are all part of the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association and all money raised goes towards improving the facilities and resources used by all the children at the Lower School.

Thanks for all your support now and in the future.

Rina Persaud



Matthew Johnson gets down to business at the Easter Workshops - one of the PTFA's most successful events

## The Swan Inn

Are now serving breakfasts  
8 am to 2 pm and teas and coffees etc.

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# Back from the mountainside

In last month's issue we reported on determined efforts by three Cranfieldians to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowden in 24 hours. At the end of the previous excerpt we left our intrepid heroes at the foot of Sca Fell, having already conquered the dizzying heights of Ben Nevis. The story continues...

The rain was getting heavier the further up the mountain we went and visibility was getting worse. Poor Trevor was beginning to feel the going and it was only by sheer will power that he was still walking. John was attempting to find the path with Andrew encouraging Trevor at the rear.

We met two or three parties coming off the mountain, they were all doing the three peaks as we were. They said the conditions at the top were appalling and were incredulous we were even trying to go that far in the conditions. We met one group who had been totally lost and only found their way back as they had a GPS system with them.

However, we continued to plod on manfully. Visibility was by now becoming worse, about ten yards and the wind and rain were getting stronger. We were all soaked to the skin and our boots were like washing up bowls.

When we were about 200 feet from the summit, we stopped and had a quick discussion, and decided in view of the appalling conditions the wise decision would be to go back as it was too dangerous and foolhardy to proceed further. One of us could have easily tripped in these conditions and broken an ankle or worse. We therefore made our way back down the mountain. It was by now becoming dark and very difficult to find a way through the boulders and rocks. We eventually made the car park, but it was pitch black well before we did so, and woke Paul from his sleep. We were very thankful to have got back to the car safely. We had been out on the mountain for some 4.5 hours. All agreed we had made the only sensible decision. Time 11.30 Saturday.

Again a change of clothes into any dry ones we could find, and we set off for Snowden, along the narrow road which was by now flooded in places. We also had to avoid the sheep including black ones..

All three of us were trying to get some sleep in the car. We were all by now very tired. Paul drove. We occasionally woke to see where we were and to make sure Paul knew where to go.

Paul drove onto the M6 and we all went to sleep.

The next thing we were aware of was stopping in a service area. We said "where are we?". A look at the map and we realised we had come

down the M6 too far and missed the North Wales turn off.

As we had stopped we decided to go into the services and we all had an "Olympian breakfast". After this we all felt much better. Time was now about 3am Sunday.

Rather than retrace our steps we took a cross country route, picked up the Chester by-pass and back onto the correct road to Conway, eventually arriving at Llanberis pass at about 5 am. It was still raining and just getting light. We had probably lost about half an hour with our diversion.

We had intended originally to start Snowden before 4 am and thought that by then it would be light enough to do so, but with the weather conditions prevailing that would have not been possible.

the first half a mile. Weather not very good, poor visibility.

Followed the Pyg track up to the railway on Snowden summit. We were by now all getting very tired and it seemed like a very long way indeed. Only the thought of not completing the summit this time, drove us on. When we were nearly at the top Andrew, jokingly said "I wonder if Hugh (the Rector) will be up here to give us communion". As we decided the chances were very remote indeed the last few yards to the summit were spent singing a hymn to keep our spirits up.

At the top the wind was very strong, and the rain was horizontal. Trevor thought it was hailing. After the obligatory we were pleased to set off back down and get into the lee of the mountain where there was some shelter from the wind.

We made our weary way back down the mountain, just before the last part of the descent the weather did improve for a short time. We actually had a view of the lakes below us. Again lots of people coming up the mountain for a days outing.

done exceedingly well indeed, especially as we were all "old fellas" and suitable members of a Cranfield over-the-hill club.

Trevor said: "If I ever have any more silly ideas just thump me". But Andrew and I agreed that if he suggested we did it again next year, we probably would.

A stop at Betws y Coed for a very welcome cup (large mug) of tea. We could by then hardly walk up the steps to the café as we had all stiffened up so much. A reasonable journey home via Northampton to drop off Paul. We all slept most of the way. We were all pleased to get home to a welcome hot bath, clean dry clothes, food, and a good sleep. We had no serious injuries apart from all of us having bruised toes.

Thanks to Andrew for allowing the use of his car, and for finding Paul to do the driving, without whom the expedition would not have been possible. Also to Trevor for organising the whole thing and arranging the accommodation.

The use of poles as recommended by myself to the others, proved a great asset to us all, especially on the



Back on with any dry clothes we could find, on with cagoules and leggings again. Wrung out our sodden gloves and put them back on. I had dyed blue hands from my gloves where I had been holding my poles.

Started walking up Snowden at 5.30 am. Trevor was by now feeling much better and started off before Andrew and John were ready. They had difficulty in catching him up for

Arrived back at the car at 10am. Take off the wet clothes again and attempt to find something dry to wear. Tried to phone our wives and tell them we had finished but no mobiles could get a signal.

We had taken an hour longer than our target, and not fully climbed Scafell Pike.

We all agreed however, that in view of the appalling conditions we had

wet slippery rocks when descending. Any one else doing similar walks would be well advised to follow suit.

The weekend was a good example of fellowship-in-action.

Participants: Andrew Pearson, Trevor Dimmock, John Peat. Distance walked 24 miles. Height climbed 9500 feet. Travel between mountains approximately 500 miles. Overall travel 1200 miles.



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## Congratulations and Goodbye

Congratulations to the staff at Acorn Pre-school for their recent glowing OFSTED report, confirming what an outstanding Pre-school Acorn is. They could not praise the staff and Pre-school enough, and said that it was 'a treat and a pleasure to spend the day at Acorn with such happy and confident children'. The staff put an enormous amount of time

and effort into the paperwork and planning for the inspection. Acorn Pre-school would not be what it is without the staff. If you are interested in knowing more about Acorn, please call Helen Field 752495 or Nicky Billington 750288 for more information.

Also goodbye and good luck to all the children who are leaving Acorn and starting school in September. The staff will miss a lovely group of kids and hope that they are fully prepared for their next step in life.

### Back to School

Cranfield Express wish to offer all those children and young people going back to school the very best of luck this year. Perhaps you would like to write to us, to let us know what you want to see in your Cranfield Express!



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### Swan Charity bike ride-news update

We have now received all the sponsored monies and we have reached a record target of £1,700, which is excellent considering the weather conditions on the day.

This will be distributed equally amongst the following childrens'

community groups: Colts, Cranfield youth Club, Friends of Guiding, Cubs/Scouts, Cranes Pre-school and Acorn Pre school. Many thanks once again to ALL those who took part, sponsored and helped on the day. Glenda and Harry.

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## Lucian and Jo do the deed



Lucian Morris, son of Alan and Lilian Morris of 3 Plough Close was joined in holy matrimony to Jo Davey at Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire on Saturday 29 July. The couple honeymooned in Kenya. Marion Rees of Willow Springs helped them celebrate by joining a mass blowing of bubbles after the service.



### Leukaemia Research Awareness Week 9th-17th September 2000

Our bodies make more than 3,000,000 blood cells every second. In one day alone, that's 260,000,000,000! A defect in just one of these cells can therefore proliferate until there is widespread, uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells around the body, which can develop into leukaemia or other cancers of the blood, such as lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, myeloma, aplastic anaemia and myelodysplasia.

The Leukaemia Research Fund was founded in 1960 and is the only national research charity devoted exclusively to Leukaemia and all related diseases of the blood, which are diagnosed in around 18,000 children and adults throughout Britain each year.

The aim of the research fund is to identify the causes, improve and develop new treatments and find

cures and ways of preventing the disease. Currently, more than 200 research projects around the Country are being funded, requiring an expenditure commitment of £ 36 million over the next five years, which depends entirely on voluntary contributions.

During Leukaemia Awareness Week, the LRF floral emblem will be on sale at various locations around the village including the Surgery, Post Office, Cranfield Newsagents, Costcutter Stores, and Budgens. For further information or offers to help with fund-raising, please contact Mrs Irene McMenamim 01234 750446

A comprehensive range of information booklets, newsletters are available free of charge from LRF Head Office, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1 N 0207405 010. Info@irf.org.uk www.irf.org.uk

### CATS (Crawlers and Toddlers)

CATS will be starting their new term on Wednesday 6th September. We meet each Wednesday morning during term time between 9.30 and 11 a.m. In the village hall. If you haven't yet given us a try, why not come

along? A warm welcome awaits. If you are already a regular, we look forward to seeing you back again.

For more information contact Caroline 766037, Kate 757610 or Jan 750420

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Sunday 17th September

10am - 5pm



# Ringin' in the new in Cranfield

At the heart of a millennial English village, you will probably find a centuries old church, complete with tower and perhaps centuries-old bells.

For many, this peal of bells and the church clock chiming are reminders of a more enduring world beyond motorway queues, satellite TV and internet connections.

But these chords of memory have been absent in Cranfield for the last three years, while preparations went ahead for recasting one of the bells at St Peter and St Paul's church and the casting of a new sixth bell. The tower has been silent during this time and something distinctive gone.

With casting imminent, the way is clear for reinstallation of the bells this autumn. There will be a service of dedication, provisionally planned for the 18th November (check October Cranfield Express for details). The bell tower will then be open for business once again.

In May, the bells were taken down from the tower. They have not been down in living memory and probably not before that either. The bell which is being re-cast is dated 1833. Working 50 ft above the ground, in the bell chamber, the bells were lifted one at a time from their pits and manoeuvred over the hatch, prior to lowering to the ground with an electronic hoist.

"Once on the ground, the fourth (13 cwt) and the tenor had to be turned on their sides so that they could go through the west door," says Sheila Ewen, a church warden at St Peter and St Paul's.

"Manoeuvring these great weights in a confined place is potentially hazardous and proved to be a quite a challenge. But with a lot of effort and the law of levers, it was accomplished and work completed by 8 pm. It was a long day but everyone felt a sense of achievement when it was finished."

For the village bell ringers it will mean an end to exile. Led by Sheila's



Removal of the tenor bell required partial dismantling of the west door

husband, 'tower captain' Jim Ewen of Church Walk, they have travelled over to Stevington, once a week, to keep their hand in. Now they are looking forward to pealing in Cranfield once more and building up the number of well practised ringers.

Numbers have fallen off in recent years because a whole generation of younger people who got involved moved off, inevitably, to college and elsewhere. Meanwhile, with the old set of bells proving hard to handle, teaching new recruits was more difficult.

In the current phase of restarting Cranfield's bells, Jim cannot take on new trainees. But he would like to hear from any experienced practi-

tioners who are currently inactive and keen to restart. Fresh talent will come a little later.

For those who have moved into Cranfield in the last three years, Jim and his team chiming Surprise Minor or Stedman Cinques may come as, well, a surprise. In some of the country there have been well publicised disputes as Sunday morning stay-in-beds have been awakened by the ancient call to worship.

Jim points out that the issue had 'settled down' in Cranfield before the current cessation of bell ringing. He is not complacent, however.

"We do not want to upset anyone but legislation has changed and it is possible for a small but vociferous minority to make things difficult about noise.

"Ringin' World, the weekly newspaper of bell ringing prints guidance on how to deal with complaints. It recommends, for instance, that you take the local environmental health officer seriously.

They do have considerable power."

Sheila, points out that the bells ring just twice a week for practice and on Sunday morning. They may also ring to mark a wedding.

Church bells, you might say, are a visible boundary fence between our busy changing world and something older and settled. As a result the fence gets knocked down in some places and we have a big debate about ancient and modern.

One solution might be to draw more people into the world of bell ringing and clear away the mystique. The English 'round' of five bells is a unique formula rung in 5000 towers around the country. There are another 50 throughout the world mostly Commonwealth countries.

The basic idea is to vary first the peal of 1,2,3,4,5 by crossing over sets of bells, 2,1,3,4,5 or 1,2,4,3, 5 etc. The more complex patterns are known as 'methods' and there are thousands of them.

As tower captain, Jim Ewen is responsible for the bells but he is not short of experience. He began ringin' 50 years ago in Fobbing, south Essex and recommends the activity.

"It is very good for people with back trouble. It is gentle and regular and should not be strenuous."

In the last three years Cranfield bell ringers have benefited in another way - they have had to learn patience, a virtue missing in the modern world. Come November, they will be able ring once again, thus restoring our link with the Cranfield of old.

Laurence Pollock



The bells are currently being tuned and recast in Loughborough



Trevor Dimmock and Jim Ewen ring the changes at Stevington



**Announcements**

**SOPHIE GOODMAN**, Happy 5th birthday September 5th 2000 Good luck when you start School, lots of love and Kisses, Mummy, Daddy and Hannah xxx



**HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY DANIELLE** (25th August). Love, Hayley xx

**ENJOY YOUR 21ST BIRTHDAY Danyelly**, Love Janet x

Congratulations to **DANIELLE** on your 21st birthday. Lots of love, Mum, Dad and Dominic

**MAY BILLINGTON**, Happy 80th Birthday Mum for 28th August. All our love and best wishes, from Vivien and Ralph xxx

**NANNY BILLINGTON**, Congratulations on your 80th Birthday, we hope you have a lovely day. Lots of love from Caroline, Gerry, Thomas and Daniel xxxx

**NANNY MAY**, Have a really lovely 80th Birthday on 28th August Nanny. Lots of love, from Sharon and Dom and hugs and kisses from Emma and Megan xxxx

**MAY BILLINGTON**, Happy 80th Birthday Nan for 28th August. Have a nice day. Lots of Love from Kevin, Lorna and Chloe. xxx

**MAY BILLINGTON**, Mum, wishing you a very happy 80th birthday on August 28th. Lots of love, Dave and Brenda xxx.

**MAY BILLINGTON**, Nanny, Happy 80th birthday, Love from Teresa, Kevin, Diane and Richard. xxx

**MAY BILINGTON**, Nanny May. Have a very happy 80th birthday. Lots of kisses. From Zara, Liana, Matthew and Nicole. xxx

**RON PARRIS**, Happy 31st Wedding Anniversary



September 20th, Lots of love, Margaret

**RON PARRIS** Happy 60th birthday, September 17th, All our love, Margaret, Simon and Darren xxx

**EMMA FLYNN**, Have a lovely 5th birthday on 14th September and good luck on your first day of school on 13th September. Lots of love always from Mummy, Daddy and Megan xxxxx

**LYNDA AND DOUGLAS NASH**, Happy 27th Wedding Anniversary. August 4th. Love from Danielle and Dominic

**WENDY AND VIC**

Happy 40th wedding anniversary September 3rd. Also, Happy Birthday Vic

**MATHEW**, Happy 2nd birthday 16th September With lots of love and kisses from Daddy and Mummy



**HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY, JAMES**, with lots of love from Mummy & Daddy. xxx

**JAMES AND HEATHER RUST** (nee Dolton) are proud to announce the arrival of Joshua James on July 14th 2000, weighing 7 lb 13.5 oz.

**RUST Joshua** - welcome to our very first grandchild. With love unlimited. Nan and Grandad Rust.



**PATRICIA & TONY GAMBLE** congratulations on your 30th (Pearl) anniversary - 23rd September. Love from Mum Vi, Dad Cyril, sons Darren & Ian, Joyce and Sister Teresa & Family.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO NELLIE** on 7th September. From Pirate. Congratulations to **SHELIA AND JIM EWEN** on their wedding anniversary.

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## Plans to link Great and Grand

Canals are important economically, for leisure and for the tourism industry. Spending a lazy day messing about on the river is a common pursuit. And remember, Britain has more canals than Venice. One more could be coming near Cranfield.

Nearly two hundred years ago economic growth meant just one thing - a new canal in your backyard.

With the arrival of the railways and roads, however, canals fell into disuse and decay. Only leisure and tourism saved them in the 20th century.

In 1810 Bedfordshire was earmarked for a new development linking the Great Ouse to the Grand Union in Buckinghamshire - but the cash was not available so it never happened.

Now British Waterways Board has unveiled plans to revive the scheme and dig the first new canal in England since the 19th century. With the proposed east-west freight rail line due to follow the Bedford-Bletchley route, Marston Vale could become a major transport arterial route in the next 20 years.

The original proposal was mooted by Bedford's pillar of society Samuel Whitbread, the town's MP. He was concerned, as canal mania developed, that the town did not miss out and that it had more navigable links to

sea ports. The failure of the proposals could be one of the big 'what ifs' in Bedford's history.

BWB is currently commissioning a feasibility study. This will look at how to get past the M1 motorway, up Brogborough Hill and link into the existing Marston Vale lakes. Brogborough Hill presents a particular challenge with a solution worthy of a Cranfield Express April Fool. This could involve a system of 'gondolas' taking boats up the 100 metre hill from one level to the next. (We can't imagine what Gilbert will think).

BWB is not aiming simply to build a replica of the original plans. The gondola system would be a modern approach to the problem of a steep ascent, rather than the locks, tunnels and inclined planes favoured by Georgian engineers.

The starting point, nevertheless will be the actual route surveyed 200 years ago to link the canal and the river system.

BWB hopes the feasibility study for

the £70 million scheme will be complete next year and it will then move to secure funding. There is great economic potential and BWB will be working through the Bedford-Milton Keynes Waterways trust along with local and Parish Councils, the regional development agencies, MPs and MEPs. Support will be sought from both the public and private sec-

spokesman for the BWB acknowledged that the proposals would bring development including leisure. But he pointed out that BWB would be opposed to houses being built in the proposed route. It would also be embarking on a major programme of informing residents of the plans and seeking their views.

Once the feasibility and planning



tors and voluntary organisations.

There is particular potential for the Great Ouse which is currently seen as a dead end for narrowboat fans cruising the East Anglian waterways.

The plans will eventually be submitted for planning permission and there will be a public inquiry, give their scale. Eugene Baston,

issue have been dealt with, construction could start within three to four years and last up to six years. That would mean the new canal could be opening exactly 200 years after Samuel Whitbread first had his dream. It makes the delay in getting Bedford's by-pass built seem like a mere passing moment!

# PALMERS

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## A diploma in aroma?

"Peter, how come the belisha beacons on the crossing at the Uni aren't beelishing?"

"Hmm, good question, Gilby. Maybe the District Council intends to have the connection to the Uni electric supply as a planning condition when they agree to the re-submitted application for the plasma reactor."

"What's a plasma reactor, Peter?"

"Oh, that thing. Well I'm not too sure but I think it's a machine that converts all the rubbish spoken by councillors, academics and general politicians into energy."

"Wow, how much energy is that, Peter?"

"Hmm, well, if talk was ever to be converted to energy for rocket fuel, for example, the University and the local Councils could be circling the star Alpha Centura by now and that is a few light years away."

"Doesn't help the case of the un-beelishing belisha beacons, Peter, does it?"

"S'pose not but at least it will be one better than the one outside Bludgeons in the village, Gilby."

"But there isn't one outside Bludgeons yet, Peter."

"What? You mean the District Council is still sitting on Bludgeon's money?"

"S'pose."

"But, why hasn't it been constructed? The County Council's top man said there was no money for a road crossing in the village and then Bludgeons came up with loadsa wonga as part of their planning sweetie. What is happening to the money, Gilbert?"

"Oh, I expect it is gaining lots of interest to support other village ventures."

"Hmm, like a landing strip for the local flying pigs."

"I have heard, Peter, that there are going to be lots of job vacancies created since the S&M Tip extension."

"That's some good news to come out of the 1998 'dig to tip' planning application. What are these jobs?"

"According to rumours, Peter, there are going to be a number of jobs created which will make the area smell a lot sweeter."

"Really?"

"Yes, people with a high grade of hooter will be required to sniff the air every day and write down what they think is abnormal to your average countryside aroma."

"You mean decide which stink you like least?"

"Er, 'stink' isn't a word that can be used by those selected for these to be much sought after jobs. The

successful applicants will have to be keen ... keen of nostril, keen to apply their total commitment to the job and be willing to have their nasal hair removed ..."

"Oooh, that last one could be tricky unless they've got some sharp decent shaped scissors."

"Hmm, I think pliers were mentioned on that one, Peter."

"And, what about education requirements for the job ... Will they have to have a diploma in aroma, Gilbert?"

"I suppose that will depend on the wages, Peter. I did hear that the applicants could be interviewed by market research people ... You know, those folk who knock at the door just as you are going to eat your dinner and say 'Do you mind if I ask you a few questions Sir?' and you say 'If you must' and they say 'If you were to replace any window or door in your house for free which one would you' ..."

"Enough, Gull! I know what you mean - even if you don't - and I expect all will be revealed eventually and, no doubt, another act will enter the circus ring."

"Gilbert, have you seen my sunglasses?"

"Er yes, Peter, I borrowed them yesterday 'cos the sun was so bright and the light reflected straight back at me off the landfill ..."

"It's okay, Gilbert, I don't mind you borrowing my very expensive sunglasses but they are prescription lenses so I don't know how you managed to see where you were going."

"Oh, well, if you hadn't noticed, my eyes are either side of my head so I just sneak a look forward now and then."

"How did you get my glasses to fit you then, Gilbert?"

"Ah, you may be a bit cross about this, Peter, but I think you will be able to straighten them up ..."

"Peter?"

"Peter?"

### Lady Snagge...

Following the story of the ghost of Lady Snagge, in July's issue of the *Cranfield Express*, the following feedback has been received:-

Lizzy Humphrie's mum, Emma (nee Fountain) a Cranfield girl, often talked about hearing the sound of a galloping horse and feeling the whoosh of air as it passed her along the Wood End road and insisted it was Lady Snagge.

Also, a friend who will remain anonymous tells me that where the road dips into the countryside you get a baaad feeling at night.

Anymore?

## Chris's IT Clinic

A topic that people often ask me about is scanning. What is a scanner and what does it do?

Most PC bundles these days come with a scanner. This is used to convert printed material - either text or pictures or both - into a file that is usable by a computer. You could, for example, store your wedding photos on your hard drive and email them to deserving relatives around the world. Be careful, though - a relatively small picture scanned in glorious living Technicolor can take up a huge amount of file space, so the recipient of your email won't thank you if it takes 25 minutes to download and costs a fortune in online time.

Once you've got the picture stored on your hard drive, you can do a number of things with it. You could incorporate it into a document, you could put it up on your website, or you could edit the picture. For example, if you really didn't like the pink bridesmaid's dresses, you could always turn them yellow. For this, you need image editing software, and you usually

get a fairly basic package with your scanner. You can always buy something more sophisticated - Adobe Photoshop will set you back about £450!

OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software can turn scanned text into word-processable text. Again, you usually get the "lite" version of OCR software with your scanner and the success rate can be variable. However, heavy-weight OCR packages cost a bomb, and if you bear in mind that the scanner plus associated software sell for as little as £75, this is tremendous value.

Most scanners that you buy these days use the USB (Universal Serial Bus) connection on your PC, which makes them particularly convenient to install. You may find older ones use the parallel port, the one you usually use for the printer. SCSI (pronounced "Scuzzy") scanners are industrial - strength and not normally used in home computing.

Any questions? Email me at [c.walker@tesco.net](mailto:c.walker@tesco.net).

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## Who nose a monitor?

One of the many joys of having a landfill site in such a close proximity to a community is the stink. Sorry, did I say stink? Got to be pc, I mean the odour.

Often, and for those who remember the days when Marston Vale was the principle supplier of the nations bricks, an odour was as much part of the scenery as the chimneys and the columns of smoke that eventually flanged delicate nostrils of the horn blowers of Switzerland.

Those of us born in the sulphurous clouds were baptized in it long before people considered the effect it would have on human beings. We couldn't smell it 'cos our olfactory senses were either partly destroyed or we got so used to the stink (hush my mouth - I've said it again) so we didn't notice it. Visitors to the area would notice the pungent air immediately and the answer to "What's that stink?" would often be a frustrating "What stink?"

Okay, time to get serious now because stink/odour is the subject of the latest consultation document received by the Parish Council and other interested parties from Shanks Waste Service Ltd and offers a scheme for the control and monitoring of odours at the Cranfield Tip/Brogborough landfill site.

The documentation, containing an operational and gas management plan is supported by a copy of an odour monitoring study from Cranfield University which outlines a proposed method for monitoring odour off-site of the landfill.

In the Cranfield University recommendation document, monitors would be chosen from within the community to provide a daily policing of the atmosphere. These monitors would be selected under a

procedure that will be based on their enthusiasm to participate, their location within the community, their health and whether they can discriminate between odours.

Procedures for monitoring will be put into place along with tests to quantify and qualify those selected who will be expected to keep accurate records and be suitably trained to meet all the requirements of the original planning application condition 2.

Monitoring meetings are suggested to make data recorded available to S&M along with six or twelve monthly reports to the planning authority.

Feedback to the proposal was initially required to be made to the planning authority by the 17th of August. Cranfield Express pointed out that a few days is normally required to begin to understand the proposals and this has since been extended to a date to be set in the middle of September.



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## Tae Kwon-do

After our successes in competitions and gradings recently, this month by comparison has been relatively quiet. The only significant event to report on is the very important annual bar-b-que which took place last weekend. The weather was extremely kind to us once again, probably influenced by the sun dance performed by the club a few days prior (or was that the members doing their patterns').

Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and some even managed to turn up for training the next day. Paul once again failed to make the upstairs nightcap bar and was found fast asleep shivering under the willow tree. Thanks to everybody who came and for Chris and Mary for providing the disco. Apologies to neighbours and the pigeon nesting in the willow tree for any disturbances.

On a more serious note, we are still looking for some new members to enhance our club. Now that the holidays are nearly over it is a good time to start. I will be resuming the kids club in September subject to, so anyone who may be thinking of sending their children along should register their interest with me. Tae kwon-do can improve discipline and confidence in children and other benefits for all ages are fitness, flexibility, co-ordination, self control and self defence capabilities. As you can see from my articles we also participate in competitions and organise social functions. To become part of this club or to find out more please ring me or just turn up on training nights.

Dave Rawle 750716  
Training- Sun 7.00 scout hut  
Wed.7.00 old gym

## A Goodyear for the Golf ...



G-TIRE, the airship Spirit of Europe, at its Cranfield Airport mooring during a brief rest as eye in the sky to the Woburn Golf Tournament earlier in the month.

## Thumbs up for the Bible Club

Holiday Bible Club this year was 'Entertaining' says intrepid report Anna Hartley (10). The theme was the light factory, where we learnt all about Jesus and some people from the bible. My favourite person was the Samaritan woman from the well because she was mysterious. Brian, one of the leaders, was very very funny.

They did a play through-out the week, in installments. We had groups

making different things, where I made a bookmark, a plaque with salt-dough, and we sang. We did puzzles on the people we learnt about.

"I will definitely be there next year" Holiday Bible club took place at the Methodist church from Monday 14th to Friday 18th August. Congratulations to all those involved for providing another year of summer entertainment and learning. Keep up the good work!

**Football season just started ...  
but where's the news?**

Cranfield Express is looking for a sports correspondent to write regular articles on any sports news. We would appreciate any offers. Drop us a note in one of the usual boxes.

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