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Call for probe after death in road blackout

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinSELL@mk-news.co.uk

TURNING off grid-road lights has contributed to the death of a pedestrian, MK NEWS can exclusively reveal.

And it has emerged that no formal risk assessment was carried out by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) before the decision was made to turn off 2,700 grid road lights.

At the inquest into the death of 25-year-old caterer Gary Tomkins, from Melton in Stantonbury, on Friday it was also revealed that a second, similar, fatality at a site where lights were switched off is currently being investigated.

Mr Tomkins’ life support was switched off at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford on November 30 last year after he was hit by a van on the V7 Saxon Street, between the South Saxon and Eaglestone roundabouts, in the early hours of November 28.

He was returning from a night out with friends in Fenny Stratford, and was walking in the middle of the road when he was hit.

Coroner Tom Osborne heard from collision investigator Stephen Moffat that because the grid road lights were turned off, Mr Tomkins was wearing a coat of ‘low contrast’, and driver Graham Smith was using dipped headlights, visibility would have been down to 20 or 30 metres.

In those conditions, at 55 miles per hour, 90 out of 100 drivers would hit a pedestrian.

When asked by Mr Osborne if street lighting would have increased these chances significantly, Mr Moffat said it would.

MKC made the controversial decision to switch off 6,000 grid road lights last February in an effort to help save around £27milion in the financial year.

Of these, 2,700 were switched off at the beginning of last summer and remain off. After a safety assessment in August last year the remaining 3,300 are being ‘trimmed and dimmed’ – timed to dim at certain hours of the night.

MKC assistant director of highways and transport, Alex Constantinides, told the inquest that lights were only switched off where there is ‘full separation of pedestrians and vehicles’, and that data consulted before the decision was made showed only 1.5 per cent of accidents involving pedestrians occurred on the grid road network. But he also revealed that at the time there was no consultation with stakeholders such as the police because ‘it was felt there were no safety implications’.

Mr Osborne will now write to MKC and ask it to reconsider the switch off, under a ‘rule 43’ report where a coroner is concerned a similar death might occur.

Summing up, he said: “I appreciate the grid system is designed to keep pedestrians and cars apart, in an ideal world.

“But there’s nothing to prevent them from walking on the grid roads because there’s no provision to stop them from doing so.

“I’ve heard the decision was made to turn off some of the lights, but it does surprise me that decision was made without a formal risk assessment, and it concerns me that it was made without consultation with stakeholders such as Thames Valley Police.

“A contributing factor here was the lights were switched off, and I will ask the council to review that decision and give consideration to the grid roads, and do a formal consultation with Thames Valley Police.”

The council has 56 days to respond to the coroner’s report.
A FATHER is bursting with pride after delivering his baby in the hallway of his family home.

Mark Scott, 36, of Redbridge, Stantonbury, stepped up to the challenge after he was told by Milton Keynes Hospital not to bring his partner, Zuzana Kralikova, 27, into the maternity ward despite the fact that she was experiencing contractions every three to six minutes.

Baby Preston was born at 9.24am last Tuesday after a successful delivery without any pain relief.

Mr Scott rang the maternity ward around 8am but was told that the contractions could last a few days so the best place was for Miss Kralikova to be at home.

He said: “I explained that I thought the contractions were quite strong so they told me to bring her in but not to rush and let Zuzana have her breakfast and a bath first.”

“As I was packing up the car she told me her water had broken so I rang the ambulance service.”

Mr Scott is very proud of his partner who bravely gave birth without any pain relief.

A spokesman for the hospital said: “We would like to extend our congratulations to the couple and say well done to Mr Scott for delivering baby Preston.”

The couple’s first child, Sophia, two, was born at Luton and Dunstable Hospital and after hearing unfavourable stories about Milton Keynes Hospital they were apprehensive about Preston’s birth.

However, after a tour of the maternity ward they had a change of heart.

He said: “We’d heard bad press about the hospital and were concerned but when we saw the ward we really impressed by the facilities and one-to-one care but as it turned out there was no need for concern anyway.”

By Anna Maureenotto
anna.maureenotto@mknews.co.uk

ROB RIEKIE, head of operations at the trust, said: “We are in the process of installing signs to let people know when they are entering a grazing area. While our cattle and sheep are well used to the fields we are asking all dog owners, walkers and cyclists to continue to enjoy the parks but also to take special care when travelling through grazing areas. “Our cattle and sheep are a great, and green, way of managing our parkland. They are good for biodiversity, they are good for the landscape, they also reach the parts that more conventional mowing machinery would find difficult.”

Pick the mascot day charity

ORGANISERS of the popular annual Mascot Olympics are appealing for people to nominate their favourite charity to be recipients of the funds raised.

In the year of the London 2012 Olympics, the Theatre District has promised this year’s Mascot Olympics and Family Day will be the biggest and best yet, and the date has now been set for Saturday, June 16.

Last year, MK Play Association was nominated and selected as the charity of the event, which raised almost £1,000 as well as reaching out to hundreds of local people by raising their profile.

Theatre District marketing and communications manager Sara Mills said: “Each year we like to give a new Milton Keynes-based charity the chance to be our charity of the Mascot Olympics.

“Last year was the biggest so far and hundreds of people turned up to take part in many of the free events and activities on the day.

“It’s a great family day for everyone and a wonderful opportunity for our charity to engage with the public.”

The 2012 Mascot Olympics will see the return of 28 to 36 mascots from all around the country taking part in six Olympic-themed events.

Also confirmed for the day is the fundfair and MK Parkour (free running).

To nominate your charity, e-mail sara.mills@theatre-district.co.uk for the latest information, join the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/theatredistrict
By Dan Palmer
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

The number of personal robberies in the city has alarmingly jumped by a massive 56 per cent in just a fortnight - and teenagers with Blackberrys have been the main targets.

Police say the rise happened over the past two weeks when compared to the previous two and are now warning offenders that they could spend years behind bars if caught.

Detective Inspector Mark Glover said that the majority of the cases had involved Blackberry phones, which are being stolen because of the free BBM messaging service.

He said: “Some may consider this as a case of severe hubris as it’s not massive levels of violence being used against the victims, but the point we want to get across is that they will be dealt with as robberies.

“You’re looking at three to five years imprisonment and that could be after a first conviction.”

A crime analyst has looked into the situation but Mr Glover said that there is ‘no indication’ as to why the rise has happened.

There were 13 more offences than normal during the two weeks out of more than 40 in total.

Most of the victims are aged between 16 and 19 so police want parents to hear their message, especially as schools and colleges are now on holiday for Easter.

The offenders are of varying ages and ethnic backgrounds and most robberies have taken place between 4pm and 6pm, with Saturday a peak day.

Police officers in Milton Keynes are under the leadership of a new Local Policing Commander, Detective Superintendent Barry Halliday, pictured, took over as top city cop from Supt Nicki Ross on Monday, almost exactly 25 years after his first day as an officer.

Det Supt Halliday joined Thames Valley Police on April 13, 1987, as a beat buddy on the Lakes Estate in Bletchley. He spent five years in that role before specialising in detecting crime in the city.

He said: “More than anything, my first five years as a buddy in Milton Keynes shaped me and made me realise very early on what really counts.

“It was the most important part of my career because I had the opportunity to talk to the people that matter, our communities, and for me getting that right and looking after their needs and worries was my passion, and nothing has changed since.”

“Policing in Milton Keynes has been left to me in a great position. Part of that is about how well it has been lead over the past years and the strong relationship that exists with partners.

“I was pleased to discover some old friends both within the station and within our partner agencies at an Award Ceremony last week, so I know well the commitment and drive to ensure our city remains safe as strong as ever.

“I am thrilled to be working alongside such a caring professionals.

“The other part is down to the fantastic officers and police staff we have working in the city.

“Were really pleased that Arts Council England has recognised the significant achievements of The Stables and its unique place in the UK’s music scene.

“Wherever I go I find teams of hard-working, dedicated people working hard to keep the city safe and catch those who commit crime, and I am proud to be overseeing their work.”

Det Supt Halliday has also worked as a Detective Sergeant, DI and a DCI in the city, successfully formulating and leading operations such as Operation Determination, leading to cut burglary and those involved in it in 1999, and the anti-drugs Operation Dawning in 1998.

Motorcyclist killed after collision

A 60-YEAR-OLD man died after his motorbike was involved in a collision with a black BMW M3. The crash happened at around 8.55pm on Friday on the V3 Fulmer Street, at the junction with Hawshead Drive.

Anyone with information should call 101, quoting URN 1523 of March 30. An inquest is expected to open tomorrow.

Casino decision postponed

The venue for the city’s large casino was set to be decided at a licensing sub committee last Thursday but has been adjourned until further notice.

OAP burgled while she sleeps

An 86-YEAR-OLD’s home was burgled while she was in bed upstairs.

The incident happened in Pinewood Drive, Bletchley on Friday. The woman heard a banging sound at 9.45am. Anyone with any information should call 101.

Stables’ £140k is just ACE

POPULAR music venue The Stables is celebrating after being awarded a grant award of £140,000 from Arts Council England.

The award is to carry out detailed work on plans to further develop and improve its facilities in Wavendon.

The money will enable the venue, which presents more than 350 gigs and 250 education projects each year, as well as producing the Milton Keynes International Festival, to undertake detailed architectural plans and studies in a bid to complete the long-awaited courtyard development.

It also hopes to improve its operational effectiveness with enhanced back stage facilities.

It is one of just four awards made across the south east of England, and the venue will have 18 months to complete the planning process.

Chief executive of The Stables, Monica Ferguson, said: “We are really pleased that Arts Council England has recognised the significant achievements of The Stables and its unique place in the UK’s music scene.

“This award will help us to move swiftly with plans to make the venue even more sustainable and appropriate for the venue and the MK Council.”

Founded by Sir John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine, the venue opened in 1970 and was one of the first to be awarded funds from the National Lottery to develop the new theatre, which opened in 2000.

This image has been resized. Click on it to view the full image.
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In addition to the household delive...
Hop to it and enjoy Easter events

THESE children were just some of the dozens who took part in The Parks Trust’s annual giant Easter Bunny Hunt yesterday.

Taking place in different parks each year, the yearly event is always a huge success, and sells out every Easter.

This year the kids got the chance to practise their bunny hops and join The Parks Trust’s park rangers at Hazley Wood, next to Grange Farm.

They followed trails to find clues left by the Easter Bunny, and the lucky ones even got to meet the sneaky giant-sized white rabbit delivering eggs on his yearly rounds.

They also had the opportunity to get crafty by making bunny ears and crowns for an Easter parade.

Parks Trust offers a wide variety of activities all year round that make Milton Keynes a vibrant and colourful place to live, work and visit.

But yesterday’s hunt isn’t the only thing for kids, big or small, to enjoy this Easter holiday.

There are a whole range of events taking place right across Milton Keynes all week, as well as on Good Friday and on Easter Monday.

For a full and comprehensive guide of how you can help to entertain the little ones during the holidays, see the MK LIFE Easter guide on page 49.

Mum makes plea for action after daughter’s death

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

A GRIEVING family want to see action taken after their ‘wonderful’ daughter was discharged from hospital just seven hours before she died.

Tina Bilen, 52, of Downs Barn, died on November 30, 2011 after suffering a tear in the main artery to her heart.

She was admitted to A&E the night before at A&E and sent home despite three abnormal ECG tests.

Her mother, Dot Liddard, said: “Other times the hospital have been brilliant but not that night.

“A junior doctor, Dr Tenant, took the decision.

“A senior consultant was not consulted and should have been.

“I’ve lost a daughter, two daughters have lost their mother and two beautiful grandchildren have lost their nan.”

At an inquest last Wednesday Dr Richard Ajuwon, consultant and clinical director of A&E, explained that although a senior member of staff should have been consulted, it is unlikely that if Mrs Bilen had been kept in A&E the outcome would have been different.

However, Mrs Liddard explained that the family feel like they have been left without answers to the questions they wanted answered as the struggle to carry on with life without their daughter.

She said: “Why wasn’t the consultant called? I’m not saying she wouldn’t have died but she would have had a chance.”

A number of changes are being implemented at the hospital following Mrs Bilen’s death including an increase of the number of consultants from six to ten.

Mrs Liddard said: “I’m glad things will change but that’s no comfort to us. We still can’t come to terms with it.”

The hospital has explained that because the Mrs Bilen died of natural causes no action will be taken against Dr Tenant.

RESIDENTS now have the opportunity to shape the future of the city centre thanks to the launch of the CMK Alliance Plan.

Under the Localism Act, eight ‘frontrunner’ areas across the country have been chosen to pilot new Business Neighbourhood schemes, where people and businesses join to produce a plan for how they want their area to develop.

The CMK Alliance Plan is one of these eight national frontrunners, and the only one to cover a city centre location.

To get involved, residents who want to help write the plan can visit the alliance’s unique ‘wiki’ website and input their ideas.

The wiki plan is a ‘living’ document available online 24 hours a day, ready for residents’ input between now and the end of May.

It is hoped the plan will therefore be written by the people, for the people, in their place - a concept which has not been implemented anywhere else in the country.

On top of this there are a number of workshops for people to attend and small informal get-togethers.

The aim of the plan is to create a new ‘blueprint for prosperity’ based on how residents and businesses want the city centre to evolve in the coming years, which will feed into planning policy.

It will be led by a steering group consisting of representatives from CMK Town Council, local business leaders and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) who hope to develop a vibrant and prosperous CMK.

In turn this is intended to promote further economic growth throughout the wider Milton Keynes area.

For details and to have your say on the plan, see www.cmkalliance.co.uk.
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Driver hospitalised after attack by passenger

A CAB driver was assaulted by a male passenger in Bletchley during the early hours of Sunday morning.

At about 3.45am, a cabbie collected two women from the outside of the Xscape building.

He took the two women to separate addresses then asked the man where he wanted to go.

The man kept changing his mind, before deciding he wanted to be dropped at Portrush Close, Bletchley.

As the driver stopped in the road, at about 4.20am, the man started verbally abusing the driver, before grabbing his clothes and punching him. The offender then got out of the taxi, pulled the driver out, and continued to punch him, before running off.

The 34-year-old victim sustained an injury to his eye and pains in his head, and was taken to Milton Keynes Hospital by ambulance for treatment.

He was released the following day. The offender is white, slim, in his 20s, around 5ft 5ins, with greyish coloured hair.

Identity of man in mystery grave is now revealed

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

THE identity of a man whose body was exhumed from a Fenny Stratford cemetery was revealed at an inquest on Friday.

Mr Walsh was last seen on Christmas Day in 1986, and was then reported missing on January 21 by his sister.

His family said in a statement: ‘Michael was a true gentleman, who has been much missed by his family, partner, son and friends.

‘We are pleased that after 26 years of not knowing what happened to Michael we have finally found his body and would now like to take him to Ireland and bury him with his parents.’

His family thanked Thames Valley Police for keeping them informed throughout the inquiry and the coroner for helping get Mr Walsh’s body returned to them.

The full circumstances of his death will form part of the formal coroner’s inquest on July 10, although it is unlikely a cause of death will be established.

Pushy Salesmen? Not With Cloudy2Clear!

Cloudy2Clear Windows, the Milton Keynes based home repair company, are revisiting how homes can have double glazing in our area. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the pane – not the frame – grows rapidly as customers take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Billy Harley, is convinced that much of his success is down to the fact that he employs tradesmen, not salesmen. ‘If you think about it, who wants to deal with the dreaded double glazing salesman? The thought of going through the whole tedious process of barging with someone who arrives at 7am, and then leaving at 4pm, and then being told you have to pay before you get your money back is not something people find attractive. A lot of our customers are elderly and can feel very pressured by sales tactics. We set out from day one to be very different.

Billy makes very sure his customers are looked after right from the first time Cloudy2Clear arrive at the house. All of his staff arrive in uniforms, with the customer known by name before the first visit, and are presented in a professional manner so they wear plastic overalls to protect the customers’ carpets.

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So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Billy a call on 01908 253611 for a free no obligation assessment. He’ll be more than happy to help!

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Building gets an urban makeover

YOUTHS with an artistic flair are being asked to whip out their paintbrushes and get involved with an urban art project.

From the May 3-5, a local urban artist and volunteers will be transforming the Jonathans Youth project building in Coffee Hall.

The group will design images based around the theme of the Queen’s Jubilee and work to open a brightly coloured mural on the outside walls of the building.

Youth worker Clare Slattery said: ‘The project will freshen up the outside of the building, giving it a new lease of life and making it a colourful and inviting place.

‘The project will also give the young people involved a chance to improve their art skills with instruction from an accomplished artist.’

This will be the first phase of a two-project to refurbish the outside of the centre.

Phase two will involve a complete overhaul of the shutters at the back of the building. This time volunteers will come up with Olympics themed designs to be painted onto the shutters.

Together with the artist, the group will also be creating some new art work for the inside of the building.

Teens living on Coffee Hall or the surrounding area can get involved with the project by calling 01908 253611 or e-mailing clare.slattery@milton-keynes.gov.uk
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A CONMAN and bigamist who stole the identity of another man in an attempt to live and work in the UK has been jailed for three years following an investigation by the UK Border Agency.

Abdul Allan, 51, of Spearmint Close, Walnut Tree, is thought to have entered the country as a national of Niger in 1995. He went on to use multiple identities to try to stay in the UK and married three different women using three different aliases.

Allan obtained a British birth certificate and, claiming to have been adopted, used it to apply for a string of identity and immigration documents. He also made a variety of applications to the Home Office using different names and fraudulently obtained a UK driving licence.

Using his illegally obtained documents he went on to gain work with Milton Keynes Council. But his cover was blown on September 16, 2010, when he was arrested at this home address by investigators from the UK Border Agency’s south east criminal and financial investigation team, said “Allan built his entire life in the UK on a complicated web of lies and deceit. He has lied so much I doubt he knows what the truth is any more.

“Unpicking this was difficult, but his conviction shows we are committed to tracking down and stopping those who try to undermine the immigration system.”

The public can help us by reporting any information about suspected immigration abuse to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 where anonymity can be assured or by visiting http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/report-crime.
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Four months jail for safety failure

THE landlord of a house in which a mother and her three-year-old daughter were killed in a blaze has been jailed.

In sentencing Lookman Adeyemi, 38, of Buckfast Avenue, Bletchley, for four months, The Recorder, Justice Lord Parmoor, said his failure to comply with fire regulations ‘wasn’t for days, wasn’t for weeks, it was for months’, and that his tenants were facing risks 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Adeyemi was sentenced on Friday at Amersham Law Courts after pleading guilty to three counts of breaching fire safety regulations. He previously pleaded guilty to three counts of breaching fire safety regulations.

The counts were that he placed people at risk of death or serious injury in case of fire because he failed to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk, failed to ensure that, in the event of danger, it was possible for people to evacuate the premises as quickly and as safely as possible, and that there were insufficient fire detectors and alarms.

In his defence Trevor Siddle said Adeyemi didn’t know how there came to be no batteries in the alarms, and that the fire is something that ‘rocked him to the core’.

But summing up Judge Lord Parmoor said that there had been persistent failures which warranted an immediate custodial sentence. Adeyemi was also ordered to pay £10,000 in costs. Bola Ejfummayo, 29, and her daughter Fiyin were killed in a fire in September 5, 2010, in the property on Fishermead Boulevard.

Last year Barbara Zhanje was sentenced to 12 years in prison for their manslaughter after she started the fire.
LAND used by residents as an informal play area for decades needs protecting, according to a parish council.

Loughton Parish Council is applying to Milton Keynes Council to register the common land adjacent to Stratfield Leisure Complex on Gaetcombe as a village green.

Project co-ordinator, Peter Ballantyne, of Great Holm, said: “It’s important that we protect our open spaces, this is one of the greatly valued characteristics of Milton Keynes. The adjacent Leisure Complex has been sold for housing development and we want it to stop there.”

In order for the land to qualify as a village green evidence needs to be provided that the area has been in constant use for at least 20 years as a free and unfettered recreational and leisure facility.

Mr Ballantyne explained: “Children go sledging on the land during the snow and there are often impromptu cricket matches and unofficial games of football.”

As well as asking residents to confirm in writing that they have observed the land being used as a play area Mr Ballantyne wants residents to get involved with coming forward with ideas. There have been a number of suggestions so far and the frontrunner seen to be Holm Green but the decision hasn’t been made yet.”

Name proposals for the land and evidence of its use as a play area can be put forward to the parish clerk by e-mailing parish.clerk@loughtonpc.org.uk.

**Village green plan for much-used land**

**BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO**

Anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

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HUNDREDS of residents on one estate are benefiting from funding to make their homes cleaner, greener, warmer, dryer and cheaper to heat.

The Lakes Community Energy Saving Project (CESP) is a scheme which will help fund vital ‘eco-upgrades’ to people’s homes – both council houses and privately owned or rented.

Work began last month on major upgrades to 469 council properties, which could lead to them becoming up to 20 per cent more efficient in energy terms.

The scheme is mainly funded by Milton Keynes Council, with power giants npower providing grant funding earned based on the amount of carbon savings realised by installing upgrades.

Some of the work being carried out before November includes installation of new ‘warm roofs’ to replace the currently uninsulated roof spaces, new double glazing, and insulation of lofts and cavity walls.

Apollo Property Services Group is acting as the main contractor, undertaking the works on behalf of the council.

The company is also supporting the community by providing employment and work experience opportunities, and running community projects for residents involved with the CESP scheme.

The council has also set aside £500,000 from the Government’s New Homes Bonus fund to pay for low-cost loans for owner-occupiers under 60 years old within the CESP area, and also to start a similar scheme for landlords who own privately rented properties on the Lakes Estate.

There is already a loan scheme for owners over 60 with competitive interest rates and flexible terms. So far, 72 homes have expressed an interest in taking part in this scheme.

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

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CAMPAIGNERS vow to fight changes to the health services in Milton Keynes which will be bought in following the passage of the government’s Health and Social Care Act.

MK Against the Cuts organised an emergency meeting which was attended by health service staff, campaign groups and trade unions.

Speakers raised concerns about the impact, cost and complexity of the changes.

The group believes that enforced competition and an increased input from private firms will lead to vulnerable and poor people losing out, undermining the founding values of the NHS.

David Isaacson, chairman of MK Against the Cuts, explained that he organised the meeting because he was approached by people asking what actions the group were going to take after the act was passed.

He said: “Thirty-five people attended the emergency meeting which was encouraging as it took place just two days after the Health and Social Care Act was passed.

“We thought that this might put people who were going to speak out about changes off but it didn’t.

The group now plans to take the bull by the horns and is stepping up its campaign and mustering up support against the NHS reforms.

Steven Bell, health worker and union representative, said: “We all need the NHS and it’s great that folk in Milton Keynes are prepared to fight for it.

Members of the public do not rely on the NHS most of the time but know it’s there when they need it. The passing of the Health and Social Care Bill now puts a question mark over this assumption.”

Last Wednesday the group set up street stalls in Civic Square where members of the public could talk with campaigners.

MK Against the Cuts is a branch of the national Coalition of Resistance and meet at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month at Bletchley Railway Club.

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

YOUNG musician Hannah Slavin, 18, from Newport Pagnell, has had her natural talent as an accomplished classical pianist recognised after finishing runner-up in the regional finals of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition.

Hannah, pictured receiving her certificate from Rotary district governor Trevor Johnson, narrowly missed out winning the regional final hosted recently in Essex.
HRH The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, spent the day in Milton Keynes last Wednesday. He first visited cherry-picker and access platform company NiftyLift in Stonebridge, before heading to the UK headquarters of Mercedes in Tongwell. He then went to see cooking and hospitality apprentices at work at the De Vere Academy in Newport Pagnell.

Dan McKay is a level three cookery apprentice who got to meet and speak to the prince. He said: “He was really talkative and not what I expected. He was talking to us and having a laugh and a joke, asking us about how we got into it and watching our demonstrations. He asked about our knives and knife safety too, because when he was there one of the lads cut himself.” The Duke then headed to Bletchley Park for a private lunch, in which MK NEWS understands he talked about the value of apprenticeships and education linking up with businesses, and also about the work being done to revamp the venue. He then unveiled a new plaque honouring Second World War pigeon Royal Blue.

See pages 20-21 for a feature on the role pigeons played in World War II and more on Prince Andrew’s visit to Bletchley Park.

HRH Prince Andrew, The Duke of York, during his visit.
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‘All your eggs in one basket!’
Call to sort parking in the streets issue

RESIDENTS are calling for the council to tackle the problem of parking along their street.

A lack of car parking spaces is the biggest issue for West Bletchley residents.

An extensive survey along the road and nearby Sutherland Grove revealed that improving provisions is hugely important for car users in the area.

Feedback from the project suggests that Milton Keynes Council (MKC) along with West Bletchley Parish Council should review the number of bays needed to meet local demand.

Resident, Albert Goodluck, said: “A lot of the time people who live on the street struggle to find spaces.

“You never know when children are going to be running about and something needs to be done before congestion causes a serious accident.’’

One proposed solution is for the parish council to fund new parking bays on a match funded basis with MKC.

Eleanor Shardlow, of Westminster Drive, said: “The grass verges should go and the green where the phone box is should be used for car parking spaces for the people living in the flats.’’

As well as an online petition, MKC transport boss, John Bint, has been written to asking for action to be taken on this matter.

Follow-up surveys have been sent out to gain more insight into the problem.

Call to sort parking in the streets issue

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

MKNEWS | www.mkweb.co.uk | April 4, 2012 | 17
“I LIKE TO KNOW THAT MY SHOPPING CENTRE IS AS GREEN AS THE ENVIOUS LOOKS I GET”

I’VE FOUND MY PLACE

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- See motoring progression - compare a classic Citroen C5 to today’s electric car courtesy of Perrys Bletchley
- Spot the new ‘Gumdrop’ chewing-gum pods around the Centre; made from recycled chewing gum
- Bring unwanted clothes to the clothing bin collection which will all be donated to Willen Hospice
- From Thurs until Sat, join ‘Growing Green’ and plant your own seedlings to take home
- Learn more about recycling and how your shopping centre protects the environment at the Education Station
THE city's YMCA is looking for volunteer mentors to its young long-term residents to try to help them get into work.

It has launched the recruitment campaign as part of a new initiative, and also after a cut in funding last April meant a reduction in staff.

Claire Benjafield, the resident support and involvement officer, is spearheading the search for the mentors.

She said: “The role will involve one-to-one support and guidance to some young residents who are struggling to get access to employment and training.

“It will mean building a positive relationship with a young person, to develop confidence, self esteem, their social network, skills and interests.”

The YMCA provides 123 city centre apartments for young people – many of those are long-term residents aged between 18 and 30 who will be the focus of the scheme.

Claire said there are high levels of unemployment at the apartments, and they are hoping to improve this by recruiting a wide variety of mentors, and matching them individually with the people they will be helping.

The role would only take around two to three hours per week of the mentor’s time, and would include ongoing training.

Claire added: “Many of the young people here haven’t had a relationship with a non-judgmental person, and are often lacking skills and goals in their life. The job of a mentor is to provide that.”

Open evenings for adults interested in getting involved are being held on Tuesday, April 24 at 7.30pm, and Saturday, May 5 at 10.30am at 1 North Sixth Street, CMK.

For more information call Claire on 01908 295607, or e-mail claire@mkymca.com.

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How pigeons aided the

TRAINED by HRH The Duke of York’s grandfather King George VI, Royal Blue was the first pigeon to return home with a life-saving message during the Second World War. The bomber on which he was being carried had been forced to land in Holland, and its five crew were stuck behind enemy lines. One of the soldiers attached their co-ordinates to Royal Blue’s leg and sent him on his way, praying he would survive the long journey to alert those at home in Sandringham and launch a rescue.

The plan worked, all five crewmen were saved, and Royal Blue was awarded the Dicken Medal – the animal version of the Victoria Cross. Only 55 Dickens have been handed out, and 32 of those have been awarded to the brave birds.

During his visit to Bletchley Park last Wednesday Prince Andrew surprised Colin Hill, who looks after the Royal Pigeon Racing Association’s (RPRA) exhibit at the park, by pulling a second replica of Royal Blue’s Dicken (the original and the first replica were lost by Buckingham Palace) out of his pocket and handed it to him for the display.

Mr Hill said: “I couldn’t believe it – we’ve been trying to get a third one to give to The Queen, but Prince Andrew surprised us all.

“He said ‘if there was a third one would you lose it?’ And I said ‘we wouldn’t have it, sir, you would’. But then he said ‘no no’, then pulled it out.”

The Duke of York was visiting to unveil a stone plaque dedicated to Royal Blue, made by Neville Walbridge who also carved the largest coat of arms in Britain at Kensington Chelsea Town Hall, and which will eventually be played at Bletchley Park as part of a new RPRA display. Mr Hill is eager for all of the birds used in wartime to be honoured, and hopes the plaque, medal, and a royal visit will aid in their exposure.

He said: “So many people that come to Bletchley Park are all of the idea that the pigeon is the one you see walking about on the streets. But having this exhibition here, so many people want to know the stories.

“For example during the D-Day landings the radios very rarely worked, so it was the pigeons that brought all the messages back. Thousands of birds were entered into the National Pigeon Service – two were carried on every bomber – and the Americans also used them.”

ROYAL BLUE WITH HIS DICKEN MEDAL, THE ANIMAL VERSION OF A VICTORIA CROSS

THEY are the unsung heroes of two world wars, saved countless thousands of lives, and were used to misinform the enemy on both sides. Reporter ADAM GRINSELL takes a look at the role of pigeons during wartime.
One bird, GI Joe, even managed to save 1,000 British troops on his own.

“We were going to a place in Italy, thinking the Germans were still there,” explained Mr Hill. “They found out there weren't any Germans left, but the American planes were already taking off to bomb the place with 1,000 troops still there.

“No radios were working, so they let a pigeon go to tell them to stop the bombers going up – the bird did 20 miles in about 19 minutes to save all those lives.”

During his visit, Prince Andrew also met 88-year-old Frederick Dyke, who trained pigeons out of Coleshill in the midlands. He estimated that around 17,000 pigeons were dropped by parachute over occupied territory so that as much information about the Germans could be sent back home as possible.

He said: “We wanted to know about airfields, troop concentrations, as much as we could find out. The majority of people didn’t realise what a big part pigeons played, and I wish more people could know what they did during the war.

“Although we dropped 17,000 birds, only 1,270 returned with messages. The planes dropped them by parachute in cages under the cover of darkness so the pilots didn’t know where the birds would land. Many died for the want of food or drink, some were dropped over water, and others were caught and eaten.

“But when you consider what kinds of things they brought back, the returns were pretty good.”

Royal visit: Prince Andrew pictured at Bletchley Park, above, and shaking hands with Frederick Dyke, left.
The city is one step closer to going green after residents found out how to become more energy efficient and save money at the same time.

More than 350 people joined the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Alan Richards on Saturday at the Future Wolverton, Future Energy Show which is an energy efficient open house, demonstrations, exhibitions and suppliers from a variety of industries.

Visitors also got the chance to see an electric car as part of the Wolverton Electric Car Pool scheme for Wolverton.

Marie Osborne from the Wolverton Steering Group said: The Future Energy Show provided a great opportunity for a boundary living in Wolverton and Milton Keynes to come and find out more about energy efficiency and renewables in their homes.

There was part of a project being run by Wolverton Steering Group which has received funding from the Department for Energy and Climate Change to support people living in Victorian or solid-walled buildings to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Throughout the project the progress of a 1860’s prototype end-of-terrace house in the town is being followed as it is refurbished with internal solid-wall insulation.

This type of insulation helps to reduce heat loss through external walls which can count for up to 85 per cent of heat leakage in a building.

Mrs Osborne added: Everyone who attended learnt a lot about energy efficient home solutions and improvements and feedback was really positive. We are looking forward to continuing to work with local residents to make Wolverton a more sustainable town.

During the event visitors kept their own energy levels up with locally-sourced, home-cooked food while youngsters were entertained with a bouncy castle and recycled craft activities.

To find out more about the project and follow its progress visit www.futurewolverton.co.uk/energy where you will find help advice about how you can make energy efficiency improvements to your own home.

Energy-saving tips help efficiency drive

BY ANNA MAUREMOUTO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

22 | April 4, 2012 | www.mkweb.co.uk | MKNEWS

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GREEN is the colour at one shopping centre this week as it tries to encourage more people to be eco-friendly.

Midsummer Place's Eco Week was launched on Monday by mayor Alan Richards.

The event is a combination of education, interaction and awareness-raising – all focused on the importance of recycling and sustainability.

And there’s lots of things on offer for shoppers – guess the weight of the bale of crushed cans to win a prize, donate your old clothing to Willen Hospice, check out an electric car, and see the bright new Gumdrop chewing gum pods, made out of recycled gum.

From Thursday until Saturday Growing Green activities will be on offer for the kids, to plant their own seedlings and take them home, and all staff at the centre are being encouraged to walk, cycle, use public transport or car share to work.

The activities are in place thanks to the shopping centre’s cleaning services partner Churchill, and Midsummer Place’s ‘behind the scenes’ recycling will also be on show.

Centre manager, Martin Hindson, said: “We feel it is incredibly important for us to demonstrate our various recycling initiatives to the public.

“We are continuously working to reduce our carbon footprint and give our retailers all the resources they need to ensure waste material is kept to an absolute minimum.

“Eco Week will become an annual event where we will share our latest developments and answer any questions the public has, while demonstrating that recycling can be fun and it is something that everyone can benefit from.”

Green bid: Pictured at the Midsummer Place Eco Week launch are Andrew Race from Crawleys, Anna Bullus from Gumdrop, Jasmine Dell from Churchill, Mayor Alan Richards and Martin Hindson from Midsummer Place

Shoppers urged to think eco-friendly

By Adam Grinsell

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NOW that the big day is just a month away it’s time to think about married life after the wedding.

And with a gift list service from John Lewis any couple will be well set for domestic bliss. Not only has the department store kindly provided this service, it has also given Mark Besson and Sophie Smyth £200 worth of vouchers.

Miss Smyth said: “All the ladies in the gift list department at John Lewis have been lovely, they have taken the time to advise us on what to do and have been a pleasure to deal with each time we have attended the store.”

John Lewis’ gift list service offers an incredible choice of high-quality products with free nationwide delivery and helpful advice from expert advisors to make everything as easy as possible.

Whether you’re getting married, celebrating a new arrival, a big birthday or any important milestone in your life, you can set up a gift list and take the guesswork out of the whole thing. The store stocks some of the highest quality brands including Georg Jensen, Villeroy & Boch, Sebastian Conran, Bose, Dualit, Le Creuset, Vera Wang and Bugaboo and you can shop in-store or from the comfort of your own home, by phone or online.

And as if this fantastic service wasn’t enough, they are also making sure the mother of the bride looks her best on her daughter’s special day by providing a fashion advisor to help her pick her £500 outfit.

To ensure that the couple have everything they could wish for, this fantastic prize also includes clothing for both the bridal and groom’s party, a honeymoon in Mauritius, the wedding breakfast, a hog roast in the evening, the cake, flowers, a reception in Horwood House, a photographer and beauty treatments.

And to top it off, Whittlebury Hall will provide a meal for two in its Murrays fine dining restaurant on the winning couple’s first wedding anniversary.

Keep up to date with all the preparations in MK NEWS.

Making a list: Wedding winners Mark Baffon and Sophie Smyth receive a bottle of bubbly from Jill Mannas and Sheryl Cooper of John Lewis during their visit to the Wedding List Department.

Winners get to pick their wedding list

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

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Anniversary celebrations at city salon

A CITY salon has celebrated 25 years of booming business with a visit from the mayor of Milton Keynes.

While other small businesses have crumbled under the pressure of the recession, Elaine’s Hair Studio in Giffard Park, has continued to thrive and on March 24 clients, staff and mayor Alan Richards came together to mark the business’s success.

Owner Elaine Stebbings explained that along with careful budgeting the key to the salon’s longevity is the hard working staff.

She said: “We retain good, highly skilled staff who communicate well with clients who create a relaxing atmosphere and ensuring a warm welcome to everyone who enters and of course a spotlessly clean environment.”

The salon, which includes a beauty room, Angel Eyes, has recently undergone a refurbishment to mark its anniversary.

Wine was flowing at the celebratory reception where the hardworking hairstylists and a group of loyal clients mingled with the mayor.

Ms Stebbings said: “Everyone remarked on the pleasant atmosphere of the occasion and a good time was had by all, not least the Mayor who remarked that it was a good opportunity to visit and chat with a successful local business in his ward.”

A collection box was available for those who wished to donate to the Mayor’s chosen charities.

Thinking outside the box to boost economy

BY ADAM GRINSELL

THE latest budget from George Osborne has been welcomed by one of the city’s business leaders.

Colin Fox, chief executive of the MK and North Bucks Chamber of Commerce, has hailed the inclusion in the budget of the Patent Box tax incentive as being ‘good news’ for the Milton Keynes economy.

The Patent Box means profits from worldwide sales of products, that are protected by a granted UK or European patent, will be taxed at only 10 per cent from April next year compared to the standard 24 per cent rate.

And with Milton Keynes ranked as the city having the 13th highest number of patents granted per 100,000 population in the latest Centre for Cities ‘Cities Outlook’ report, with 10.8 in 2010, Mr Fox feels this is a good chance for stimulation of the local economy.

He said: “For the business community there seems to be very good news, particularly the Patent Box.

“We have three university centres in the area, and Bedfordshire and Northampton.

“There’s a lot of potential there in terms of stimulating economic growth and enterprise growth. The future of the city is based around the knowledge economy, and if we attract those kinds of companies the economy grows as well.

“We do already have a high level of patents coming out of Milton Keynes, and we want to improve that. We need to make sure we are doing all we can to stay in the top three or four for this measure.”

He also pointed to infrastructure as being key to building on this ‘knowledge economy’, in particular the development of the east-west rail line.

He said: “Milton Keynes is right in the middle of the Oxford to Cambridge arc, and has some things that these two places don’t have.

“We have more land, we have great infrastructure and transport links, and we’ve got reasonable access to the major airports, as well as Cranfield where a lot of business people fly in to.”

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PR? You’re doing it right now . . .

Carolyn Jardine of Jardine Michelson Public Relations talks about the importance of PR

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

A FAMILY bathroom business bounced back from an arson attack to be named as one of the best in the country.

In April last year a vandals caused a considerable amount of damage to both the building and stock at the PHS Bathroom Showroom in Bletchley. But the business recovered and made the shortlist for ‘Bathroom Retailer of the Year’ at the industry’s KBB awards – a highly sought after prize as it is judged by industry peers.

The arsonist tried to break in to the showroom, part of the Saxon Park Industrial Estate on Holdom Avenue, but he was unable to gain entry. He instead set the wheelie bins outside on fire before simply walking away from the building.

A fire crew were on site within 15 minutes but it took six fire engines and about 25 firefighters nearly six hours to control the blaze and put it out.

The whole incident has now been forgotten, though, as staff are instead celebrating being one of only four showrooms to make the prestigious shortlist – out of 3,500 in the UK.

A Scottish showroom was announced as the overall winner but PHS are still rightly proud of their achievement.

Staff member Jono Leighton said: “We will be trying to impress the judges again next year, but in the meantime we were the highest placed English company as the other finalists were located in Scotland and Ireland.

“It’s great for a Milton Keynes business to have achieved such success especially during the current economic climate.

“We will continue to excel at what we do and offer great bathroom products to people of MK.”

Flames fail to dampen firm’s fighting spirit

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All’s fair as shop opens its doors

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mknews.co.uk

A NEW shop which is up and running in Broughton has a simple message – let’s play fair.
The eye2eye shop, on Swanwick Lane, promotes fairtrade products and has moved in alongside the Squeaks Organic Eatery cafe.
So far it has been a match made in heaven as both eye2eye and Squeaks exist specifically with the enrichment of the local community in mind.
The aim is to encourage local people to get out of their homes to meet up with neighbours in a child-friendly and warm environment.
In 2009 Sust! – a dedicated fairtrade shop in CMK – closed down causing disappointment for the city’s fairtrade campaigners.
Helen Casey-Green missed the shop so much that she sold products independently, before launching eye2eye in Broughton after meeting Squeaks owners John and Katrina Creaser.
“We haven’t looked back since then,” Helen said. “We’ve had a positive response from the local community.”

Mum knows best for these networkers

EACH month our business section will feature a networking group and in this edition it’s the turn of Mum’s the Boss, a child friendly group for businesswomen.
Mum’s the Boss is the perfect way for busy mothers who are trying to set up a new business or grow an existing one to network with like minded people.
The group was established by MK Women and Work as part of their ongoing programme to support and empower women.
It prides itself on its child friendly nature where mums can get support and advice to help further their business.
Project co-ordinator, Janice Jones, said: “There’s no commitment to turn up to every meeting and no membership fee just a small donation to help cover the cost of the venue and the tea and cake.
“Everybody helps each other; the women who come to these meetings aren’t loyal to their business at the expense of helping others.”
Mums can learn the tricks of the trade from informative and inspirational speakers who can help with issues from finance to Facebook.
New members are always welcome and will fit into the relaxed and friendly atmosphere easily.
Mrs Jones said: “There are some members that come to each meeting but not everyone can commit to that and we have new members every time.”
The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Acorne House between 10am-noon.
Each meeting costs £4 and creche places can be booked at £6 per session.
For more information see www.mums-theboss.co.uk/miltonkeynes

Hundreds expected to attend at Cranfield’s fifth VentureDay

SOME of the UK’s leading names in business will take to the stage to share their ideas on entrepreneurship at the Cranfield VentureDay conference on May 10.
Among them will be Craig Sams, founder of premium organic chocolate company Green & Blacks, and Warren East, CEO of British microchip designer ARM Holdings which designs chips for televisions, mobile computers and smartphones.
Now in its fifth year, the conference is hosted by the Bettany Centre for Entrepreneurship at Cranfield School of Management.
Around 200 entrepreneurs, investors, UK start-ups and advisors are expected to attend.
As well as being a networking opportunity, conference delegates will also benefit from exposure to Cranfield’s latest pioneering research and insights into entrepreneurial issues.
Dr Stephanie Hussels, from the Bettany Centre for Entrepreneurship at Cranfield, which organises the day, said: “The growing importance of innovation and networking make events like VentureDay an easier way for start-ups, venture capitalists and advisors to collaborate and share best practice.”
“We are delighted to have the support of so many high profile speakers as we know how many people appreciate hearing from experienced entrepreneurs and investors.”
For information and to book see www.ventureday.co.uk, or e-mail wendy.lewis@cranfield.ac.uk.

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You know what it’s like - the days are getting longer, the sky is getting brighter - and all you can see is that your home looks dull! Spring cleaning can go a long way to breathing new life into a ‘worn-down by winter’ house but sometimes a little more inspiration is required.

Well, don’t fret. There’s no need to take out a second mortgage to freshen up and make a few significant alterations. Try re-positioning the furniture; it will cost you nothing and change the look of a room in a flash. If, previously, your sofa and chairs were against the walls, pull it all out and place it at angles.

What about changing rooms? No need to install lockers just swap over the location of the dining room with the lounge and the lounge with the dining room? Even in the smallest houses, there is usually sufficient room to make this change. If you’ve got a through lounge with a table and chairs at one end, see what it feels like to eat at the other end of the room.

...if you are on a budget even painting one wall as a focal point will look cleaner and brighter. There are plenty of inexpensive wall hangings on the market - whether it’s a classic reproduction or a funky sculpture - but when you position it, hang it lower than you might normally think of doing. On the other hand, hang your curtains as high as possible to give the appearance of height to your room.

Plants always liven up any home decorating ideas and come in a multitude of styles and sizes. But if your track record in keeping them alive is not good there are some remarkably attractive silk flowers on the market these days. With a little creativity - but not a lot of money - you can really look forward to summer at home.
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It’s not hard and it needn’t be expensive but it may require a little time and inspiration to create the desired effect.

But what exactly is the look and where do you get it? Start with the prettiest of pastel shades, some deep, comely chairs covered in washed out floral fabrics (they needn’t match), wooden furniture painted in the palest hues, wrought-iron curtain rods, picture rails, flowery curtains that billow gently in a soft summer breeze and vases full of fresh, cottage garden flowers.

OK, I know it sounds like a TV advert for old-fashioned cake mixes like your Granny used to make – or probably didn’t because she was busy trying to bring up 11 kids on sixpence a week in a council flat – but, done with some restraint, the idea behind Shabby Chic can be gorgeous. Imagine the faded glory of a crumbling French chateau and transplant it into the traditional setting of an Edwardian English country house; bathe it in natural light and warm it up with discreetly camouflaged 21st century heating and you’ll start to get the idea how Shabby Chic can be created, without freezing to death in a draughty old ruin. Shabby Chic is all about vintage accessories so if you are lucky enough to have any family heirlooms or antiques now’s your chance to show them off. If your only legacy is a broken video recorder or a receding hairline then start searching through those charity shops, jumble or car boot sales.

It doesn’t matter if you’ve got an odd assortment of stuff – it’s what you do with it and the overall feel that counts.

The Shabby Chic palette is made up of warm, soft, delicate colours: white, grey, pink, light green, light purple and sky blue shades all glow with a delicate luminosity.

“Vintage floral wallpaper is right on trend as are natural wooden floorboards painted cream or white – unpainted, they will look just too Farmhouse rustic.”

Unfitted carpets or rugs are fashionably retro and will cover a multitude of modern style sins. Authentic Shabby Chic interior design will incorporate vintage furniture embellished with carved details and artistically distressed marks. Search out old furniture in flea markets, auction rooms, car boot sales etc, take it home, get out the sugar soap or Nitrinol and get stuck into refurbishing mode. Shabby Chic furniture is chosen for its age or its wear and tear so choose anything that looks antique to you. Anything from a chest of drawers, a dressing table, a table, a telephone table - once it's stripped down, paint it white or any other pretty pastel colour. If you have the space a big, comfortable settee covered with a throw and piled up with colourful tapestry cushions will make a wonderful easy retreat. Combining stripes, check and floral patterns may seem like a right royal mish mash but in the world of Shabby Chic, you can mix and match using soft, fuzzy plush, cotton or silk fabrics and it will work.
Add the final touches with Shabby Chic accessories that match your individual décor. Retro chandeliers, old paintings, flower vases, coffee and tea sets, candles, mirrors... in the end it’s all down to what you have to hand and, more importantly, what you like.

The most common decorative elements are various size and pattern cushions. As long as they fit the color palettes, the possibilities are endless. Shabby Chic addresses all senses and the olfactory one is of great importance. Either coming from fresh flowers, an odorant or from the rose and lavender oils, your home should be bathed in distinctive scents.

Having sensual motifs like fresh flowers, candles and soft fabrics, Shabby Chic embraces elegant old elements, silver accessories, painted wood pieces, fuzzy carpets and transparent drapery. Therefore, an interior setting defined by Shabby Chic elements is as refreshing and comfortable as familiar scenery.

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Improving rather than moving is still top of the trends but research proves that the bathroom is one of the most daunting rooms in the house to renovate. If you’re planning a bathroom makeover but are not sure where to start.

Get measured - The most important thing is how much space you have so measure up the room and make note of where the plumbing is before you hit the showroom. This way you’ll be able to see what can fit where and how big you can go in terms of a bath, WC and basin. Where ever possible, it’s best to use existing plumbing as making changes can be quite a costly exercise.

Decide your budget - Plan how much you want to spend. Don’t forget to account for the taps, accessories, storage and even decorating equipment. Outlining this at the start will help you keep the entire job to budget.

Functionality feeds - Decide what key functions you need from your new bathroom. Is bathing the kids easily and safely the biggest priority? Or is it a luxury sanctuary that you’re looking for? Agreeing what you need your new bathroom to deliver ahead of starting your buying journey will save you a lot of time and heartache.

“Whenever possible, it’s best to use existing plumbing as making changes can be quite a costly exercise.”

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Space saving options - We’d all love to have a palatial bathroom but in reality, it’s often the smallest room in the home. If you don’t have much space to play with then look for wall-hung bathtubs and WCs. These will help make the floor area look bigger and create the illusion of space.

Shower power - Thermostatic, mixers, electric, rigid risers, fixed heads, flexible handsets; there’s so much to think about when it comes to choosing a new shower and a lot of terminology to understand. Make a decision about what type of shower you want and whether you want the shower to be over the bath or in its own enclosure, although obviously this will depend upon space. You’ll also need to understand what hot water system you have as that will have an impact on which shower will be compatible. Ask your local plumber for advice.

Accessorise - Your choice of taps and accessories is just as important as your suite - especially as they’re likely to be used several times every day. One of the most common mistakes people make is to splash out on their suite, but scrimp on their taps so make sure you reserve enough in your budget for these important final touches.

Don’t get stung by Building Regulations - If you are planning a major renovation requiring structural works, you will need to check with the Building Regulations which cover changes affecting floor structure, drainage, ventilation and electrics. More information can be found at www.planningportal.gov.uk

Wetrooms flood the market - These state-of-the-art mini spas are particularly ideal for the sporting family in a hurry or where space is at a premium. They are a dodgy to keep clean - no more slimy shower curtains or screens that get stained with limescale because the water simply drains away through a hole in the floor. But wet rooms do tend to be the more expensive option as the floor needs to be lined to make it waterproof. Be prepared for everything, including the loo paper, to get utterly soaked.
Considering conservatories

People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones - but then neither should they expect to get an extra room on the cheap by adding a conservatory to their home.

It sounds like such a great idea. A conservatory gives you extra living space, a window on the world when it is too darn cold to sit out and a snug winter home for your geraniums. Not bad for the price of a family car. More than a quarter of a million are built each year, and this figure is on the increase. You can buy one at DIY stores as easily as a bag of compost and, unless you're in a conservation, heritage or other environmentally sensitive area, you rarely need planning permission to have one built.

But research at Cranfield University has found that, in the British climate, a conservatory is unlikely to provide more than two hours of comfortable temperature per day – the rest of the time it will be either too hot or too cold. If you want to use it as a permanent habitable space, then you will have to pay for a lot of energy to artificially cool it or heat it.

The only realistic way to keep a conservatory cool in summer is by serious through ventilation - meaning permanent vents at low and high level.

And in winter there is no real prospect of keeping a conservatory warm enough for habitation without costly artificial heating: the problem with that is that all that lovely warmth will escape through all that lovely glass! The alternative is a sunroom or garden room with glazed walls and a solid insulated roof. The downside is that this sort of extension does require Building Control approval, but maybe that's a small price to pay for a comfortable, habitable room, rather than one that you can only use for two hours per day.
Are you seeing red? Feeling blue? In a black mood? Maybe green with envy or preferably, tickled pink?

Finding words to describe the way we feel evokes a vibrant rainbow. So perhaps it won’t come as a surprise to learn that the colours we choose to decorate our homes with may affect our mood. Red is a colour that intensifies feelings. It makes a bold statement, can be very passionate and, incidentally, is the colour most chosen by extroverts! It can also can make people feel more hungry, so consider using it in the dining room - or the master bedroom!

Tranquil blue has a calming effect because it reminds us of water and sky; just the thing to settle a lively toddler in his room at bedtime.

Are you a morning person? If not, then maybe you should consider a cheerful buttery yellow for your bedroom or the kitchen.

Royal purple is rarely found in nature but it can be calming and enhance creativity. Consider employing the regal hue in an elegant sitting room or a creative room, such as an art studio.

Green - nature’s colour of choice. Fresh, calming and relaxing particularly in living rooms and bathrooms, and worth a thought for someone who is inclined to feel a little depressed. Orange is a bold and exciting color. It demands attention but it can be warm and welcoming when mixed with a little brown. Consider using copper brown accessories in a living room.

Whatever colour you select, don’t be afraid to take chances. Most people don’t really want to spend their time living in a plain white, grey, or beige home but the key to being more daring is to concentrate on the accents. Employ the vibrancy of dramatic touches in moderation; the more intense the colour, the less of it is needed for it to be effective. It’s easy enough to change a feature wall or a set of cushions if you tire of the colour, just make sure your basics are classic.

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No stately home worth its salt would have functioned without a kitchen garden. Neat rows of carrots and potatoes, beetroot and beans were planted up and tended, year in and year out - those old nurserymen retainers knew their onions when it came to... well, onions.

If you aspire to grow your own garden produce you don’t need a three acre walled garden and an army of cup-doffing, hony-handed men of the soil. A small, sunny patio and an assortment of pots will do. Pots which are about 25cm diameter will suit smaller vegetables. Big plants such as courgettes need at least 30cm diameter. Plastic pots take less watering than terracotta. Just fill them with a multi-purpose compost and remember to water regularly to keep them moist.

If you have space, a vegetable plot, even a small one, should produce regular pickings during the summer. The ideal position is sheltered from wind but in sun for most of the day, especially if you plan to grow tender plants like cucumbers and tomatoes.

If the soil already grows flowers or a lawn, it should be fine for vegetables. Dig the area over as deeply as you can and work in garden compost or soil conditioner to improve the texture. There’s no better way to ensure children eat healthily than to let them grow their own vegetables. Tomatoes are an obvious choice, especially cherry types, as little fingers can pick and eat them straight off the plant.

The traditional type of cucumber is a bit unwieldy but look for newer varieties which are ready when they’re just 20cm long. Vegetables that produce something to eat quickly, such as radish, spring onion, baby carrot and baby salad leaf, are ideal. They should be ready in as little as six weeks in summer.

These are some of the easiest and most rewarding vegetables to start off with. They’ll take up hardly any room in the garden and will give you a rich supply of fresh produce. Why fork out on salad leaves in plastic bags when you can buy packets of ready-mixed salad seed - or even buy separate packets of seed and make your own mix. Try Little Gem lettuce, red chard, salad rocket and mizuna.

You can add other flavours such as coriander or mustard. Startling in April, scatter seed thinly. Cover with a dusting of compost and water regularly. After about six weeks you will be able to cut enough for a meal. The stumps should re-grow for second or third cuts. Sow plants a fortnight apart to get regular pickings all summer.

Carrots can be tricky to grow in the ground but in pots, it’s easy-peasy - or rather easy-carrying. Choose an early variety such as Early Nantes, which will produce baby roots in six to eight weeks. Baby carrots can be pulled out as soon as they reach about 1cm across. Pull up as many as you need for a meal and then leave the rest to grow on. When you get the hang of this, baby beetroot and radishes can be grown in the same way.

Potatoes end up in the cooking pot. But did you know that they can also start out in a pot too? Forget the geraniums, this summer, why not adorn your patio with potato plants. Pick an early variety, you’ll need one seed potato per 10-litre pot. Half fill the pot with compost and push the potato just beneath the surface. As shoots start to grow, fill up the pot with compost. Bam! Potato leaves are sensitive to frost so cover the young plant at night if it’s chilly. Plant in April and by July, you’ll have lots of egg-sized new potatoes; delicious.

The ideal position is sheltered from wind but in sun for most of the day.

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Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which according to Christian belief happened on the third day after his crucifixion. In the Roman Catholic Church, Easter is an eight-day festival called the Octave of Easter. Many Christian denominations celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day or Easter Sunday.

The first Easter eggs, dating back thousands of years were painted red and the tradition of painting eggs (goose, duck or hen) continued and become more elaborate through the centuries. The first chocolate eggs appeared in the early 1800s, although the nature of chocolate (at that time) made creating a hollow egg something of an achievement. A hundred years later the improved chocolate-making process plus mass production created the commercially available, relatively low-cost, chocolate Easter Egg and within the following hundred years it became the dominant gift for Easter.

As well as the giving and receiving of traditional gifts, Easter is also a symbol of spring approaching with, hopefully, better weather and longer days. The extended Easter weekend is also an ideal chance to get together with family and friends to enjoy the activities on offer in Milton Keynes.

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MKNEWS | www.mkweb.co.uk | April 4, 2012 | 41
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Stage Experience 2012 at Milton Keynes Theatre

Following on from the success of Stage Experience last year where 150 talented young people took part in a full scale production of West Side Story at Milton Keynes Theatre, the theatre will once again be auditioning to find the most talented performers across the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire area to take part in Stage Experience 2012. This year the theatre will be producing Guys and Dolls with 150 places available for individuals aged between 10 and 21.

Stage Experience runs from Friday 17 Aug – Sat 1 Sep.

Technical Placements
Milton Keynes Theatre are offering technical work experience placements to anyone aged 18+ during Stage Experience, to give people the opportunity to gain back-stage experience shadowing the theatre technical team whilst they prepare for and operate the live performances.

Stage Experience auditions will be taking place on Sun 15 Apr (call back auditions on Sun 29 Apr). For further information or an application form please contact 01908 547651 or email rachaelfinlay@theambassadors.com
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Make sure you save the last dance – see inside

INSIDE

Epic film Titanic sails back onto the big screen in stunning 3D Page 48

PLUS

Simon Darnell takes a look at the latest music releases page 46
Check out MK Theatre’s summer line-up of shows page 47
Win £200 of Asda shopping vouchers page 48
What you can get up to this Easter page 49

Leisure or events news? e-mail editor@mk-news.co.uk | phone 01908 689595

6 - 27 April - art throughout Woburn Village
6 April - 31 August - sculpture exhibition in Woburn Abbey Gardens

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The annual Woburn ARTBEAT project, where high-quality original art is showcased by turning the village into an art gallery, is now in its third year. The event kicks off on Saturday, August 31.

Tickets costs £12 on the door.

Simon Darnell

BATTLE IN ME

Garage

I DON’T know about you (no, trust me, I really don’t), but for me Garbage’s best album was easily their first one. Nothing they’ve done since has managed to capture the energy and intensity that set of songs offered up.

Fair enough, they’ve released good stuff since (push it, in particular, is still a staggeringly great song), but it’s all been a bit here and there.

Well, it has up until now. This, their first single since the 17th, is a subtle exaggeration, storms out of the blocks like an athlete on questionable medication and never lets up. What’s more, the band are giving it everything, there’s no sense of going through the motions, because this is as clear a statement of intent from a band on the comeback trail.

Even Shirley Manson somehow manages to sound even more forceful than she did before, such an achievement should be impossible, but you can’t argue with the evidence.

For a band that’s been in business for the business end of twenty years, this is excellent, in fact, I’d say it’s their best single since the aforementioned Push It.

GREYHOUND

Session Vorticists

YOU know the bit in Michael Jackson’s Thriller where Vincent Price does his voiceover. Well, the baseline for that part of the song was the first thing that sprang to mind when I heard this. The problem is, though, this has a running time so short that the Eurovision Song Contest would reject it on the grounds of brevity.

Guess what takes up the lion’s share of the time? Yep, the bassline. It’s a tune, so to speak, but by the time it finally bothers to turn up there’s less than a minute left to strum its stuff.

If there’s any wonder that could be said about Greyhound as a whole, I refuse to believe that the version I heard is the full-length version, because if it is then Swedish House Mafia are having a laugh.

To give all its constituent parts ample time to shine this song should be at least a minute longer, possibly two.

However, if there’s a longer mix doing the rounds I might be able to give that the thumbs up instead.
MK THEATRE

MK THEATRE’S summer season has been announced today - and there are some really exciting highlights.

Here are some of MK LIFE’s picks: 186 Dirty Dancing returns with the classic story on stage as the West End Smash hits with the infamous story of Baby and Johnny, during what becomes the most challenging and triumphant sum- mer of their lives.

June offers the one that you want! Geese up those quiffs and don your pink jacket - fancy dress is strongly encouraged and full audi- ence participation is essential. With Summerlong Grease. Also in June are the fabulously family-friendly feel- good show, Sister Act, packed with songs inspired by Motown funk, soul and disco.

Agatha Christie lovers are in for treat in July as the Agatha Christie Theatre Company present a stylish new production of the queen of crime’s classic thriller, Murder on the Nile.

The perfect whodunnit with an all-star cast.

You can also join Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues orches- tra in July for the second most popular pianist and bandleader perform- s with his 20-piece rhythm and blues orchestra, led by former squeeze drummer Gilson Lavis.

You will not want to miss out, in August, on the international award-winning, all-singing, all-dancing romantic comedy, Leg- ally Blonde.

Follow Elle Woods as she fol- lows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School to win him back.

As the summer season comes to a close the sexy, sassy West End hit Chicago returns to razzle dazzle you with night club singer Roxie Hart and smooth talking lawyer Billy Flynn in September.

For more details and for the full listings take a look online at www.atgtickets.com.

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME

Tuesday to Saturday

“SAVE the Last Dance for Me” was says Laurence Marks, “the second best title for a musical never written.”

Not any more, though. With his long-time buddy and professional collaborator, Maurice Gran, Marks has come up with a feel-good, rom-com jukebox musical with exactly that title.

Having had a huge success three years ago with Dreamboats and Petticoats, Marks and Gran were approached by theatrical entre- preneur Bill Kenwright to write the book of a musical based around the songs of the talented fifties songwriting duo of Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman who are credited with hits such as Teenager in Love, Viva Las Vegas and Save the Last Dance for Me.

“Many of their songs” says Laurence “were million-sellers. There were a lot we didn’t know and some we didn’t like and we couldn’t see a way to use them so... we asked if we could use other numbers from the period that worked better. The songs have to push the story forward. It’s like breaking a code.”

“Does the lyric fit the narrative line?” says Maurice Gran. “I don’t think we altered the story to fit any song but maybe we changed one song to another to fit the story.”

The story centres around two sisters from Luton, holidaying in a caravan in Lowestoft. It’s raining, the chip shop is shut at 8.30pm and it’s like — well, a wet weekend in Lowestoft.

“There must be a very good underground scene in Lowestoft” says Maurice “because it’s certainly not overground.” Suddenly they meet a handsome young American airman who invites them to a dance at the nearby US Air Force base. Cue a whole hit parade of pop songs from that exciting few years just before the Liverpool Sound changed the course of musical history.

It is a time that Marks and Gran remember well. “The early sixties was an interesting time” says Maurice Gran.

“It wasn’t too long after the end of the Second World War and we were teenagers. Everything was new, it was unknown territory.” It is now 52 years since Marks and Gran started writing together.

In that time, as well as writing for the theatre, they have enjoyed huge success writing TV sitcoms that include Goodnight Sweetheart, Shine on Harvey Moon, The New Statesman and That Premier Favourite Birds of Feather. But how does the process of collaboration actually work?

“Maurice comes to my home where we have an office” says Laurence “and we sit down and argue. Then we spend a lot of time thinking; less time writing.”

The next writing project for the team is a brand new stage play of Birds of a Feather starring the original, hugely popular cast of Linda Robson, Pauline Quirke and Lesley Joseph. “It’s the first time that there has been a spin-off of a TV series in the stage” says Laurence.

So what does he think that programme so popular? “I wish I knew” he says “but it’s got funny characters that are recognised and loved by the audience and a good storyline. But it’s the girls who are the real reason for the success, people believe in them as real people.”

And if ‘Save the Last Dance for Me’ was the second best title for a musical never written, what is the best? “There’s No Business Like Show-Business, of course” says Laurence.

Sounds to me like it could be a prime contender for the next Marks and Gran musical.

Judy Riley

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Tickets are priced at £12.50 or £10.50 for con- cessions. Call the box office on 01908 324422.
**FILM REVIEW**

**TITANIC (12A)**

_Synopsis: Box office smash gets the 3D treatment_  
Who's in it: Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane  

UNLESS you have spent several decades living in a hole, then the chances are that the film Titanic at some point caught your attention. James Cameron’s smash-hit movie was the must-see picture of the time when it first hit the cinemas and now you can watch it again on the big screen while wearing a pair of 3D glasses. It is strange to think that the first film was released as long ago a 1998, the year when France won the World Cup and a 23-year old Bear Grylls climbed Mount Everest.

But they say the mark of a good film is if it stands the test of time and like it or not, Titanic certainly does that. Thousands of films are made and then swiftly forgotten but Titanic will live on the memory for years, probably watched by generation after generation. This is down to a couple of key factors, firstly the quality of the acting on show.

Millions were hooked by the heart-breaking love story involving Jack and Rose which was beautifully portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. The incredible spectacle of the film is if it stands the test of time does that.

Titanic will live on the memory for years, probably watched by generation after generation. It is strange to think that the 100th anniversary of the sinking will be celebrated in 2012, as a shameless way of cashing in. But if you look at Titanic simply as a movie then you have to hold your hands up and say that this is as an incredibly well made epic which deserves full credit.

There is a reason why some people watched the film countless times on its original release and why they will probably go again a fair few times now. Cameron of course went on to create Avatar, a record breaking masterpiece which has demonstrated just how good 3D technology can be at the movies. He has returned to Titanic to oversee its painstaking conversion to 3D and fans of the original film will be in their element watching spruced up versions of their favourite scenes.

A box office record-breaker and nominated for 11 Oscars, Titanic was the film everyone had to see back in 1998. Now it has sailed back it is still worthy of your time, although, of course, most of you will already know what happens and how the film ends.

**8/10**
**TOMORROW**
BRAWDLEY Abbey ‘Rabbits Tale’, story time & family friendly site tour starts 1pm. Near a lovely story about the bunnies of Bradwell Abbey. Then explore historic abbey ideal for families with children ages 8 and under. Free, donations are welcomed. Limited places, booking recommended contact education@mkcfc.org.uk or on 01908 227729.

**WOMEN’S Walking Network,** Linford Manor Park. Meet at Artworks car park, Great Linford, 10am £1 per person.

**FRIDAY**
NEED some chill out time after a busy week? Yoga relaxation and walk. Meet at 10:00 am by St. Michael’s Church, North Crawley. Information call 01908 218915 or email hypnomk@googlemail.com.

**SATURDAY**
The RULE of Law Book Launch by Author HRH Tita Beloewth Powerful, extracts from President Barrack Obama. This event is in 2 parts. 12 noon - 5pm Book Launch - £10.00, 7pm - 9pm. More information call 01908 227229.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
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<td>£775pcm</td>
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- **WOBURN SANDS £775pcm**
  - A two bedroom mid terrace property with rear garden with decked area, located close to local High Street and facilities. Unfurnished. Available Now.

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Kempston (Bedford) based • Salary circa. £20,000 per annum
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The role is varied and will include checking compliance and working with members to gain compliance with CDP requirements. It also involves receiving and investigating allegations of misconduct with a focus upon examination misconduct and failure to comply with CDP regulations. This will involve investigation work and obtaining witness statements prior to giving evidence to a tribunal panel. The role will involve assisting in the preparation of cases for panel and Tribunal hearings.
The successful candidate will have experience of complaints handling, excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to factually analyse relevant issues. Experience of working in a membership/examination environment or legal practice would be an advantage.

To apply please download a full job description and application form from the “About IPS” section of our website www.lexstandards.org.uk or telephone Janet Pearson, Human Resources Manager on Tel. (01234) 844350.
Closing date for applications is 16th April 2012 and interviews will be held on 3rd and 4th May 2012.
Conditions of employment are excellent with generous pension contributions, holiday entitlement and training opportunities.
IPS welcomes applications from all sections of the community.
No agencies please.

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The role will require you to primarily market the company, deal with high end of the market properties, conduct viewings, provide quality customer service and sell the Countryside Group housing services.
You will need to have the following attributes:
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If you are looking for a career that will offer ongoing development with exciting long term opportunities then please email your CV to Vanessa Hill on manager@wilsonpeacock.co.uk or drop it into our office at 433 Milton Keynes Boulevard, MK1.
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Practice & Business Manager
Dr Khokhar & Partners
23c Carlisle Road, Queens Park, Bedford MK46 4HR

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This is a great opportunity for a production team at Wells and Young’s Brewing Company, part of Charles Wells group, and to develop a variety of diverse skills within a production environment.

Reporting to the Process Leader and working a 4 shift pattern, you will be responsible for the operation of the packaging lines of our ales and lagers. This role involves working as part of a team to ensure that production targets are met by preparing and running packaging machinery in line with standard operating procedures.

Successful candidate will have previous experience of working in a production environment, of operating machinery, and must hold a current forklift truck licence. Previous experience of working in a food manufacturing environment is desirable. Candidate must be IT literate with GCSE in equivalent in English and Maths (Grade C or above).

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Please send a copy of your CV including covering letter and salary details by email to: wyjobs@wellsandyoungs.co.uk or alternatively send by post to: Debbie Moore, HR Assistant, Wells and Young’s Brewing Company Ltd, Havelock Street, Bedford MK46 4LU.

Website: [www.wellsandyoungs.co.uk](http://www.wellsandyoungs.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 11 April 2012.

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**INWARD INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER**

£37,206 - £42,786

Ref: 50018506

You will play an instrumental role in attracting new business and helping the city’s economy to grow as you identify and secure opportunities for new inward investment and develop economic growth and infrastructure initiatives. Your strong knowledge of business and property will be matched by excellent communication and networking skills.

For informal enquiries please contact Helen Marchman on 01908 253295.

Closing date: 29 April 2012.

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**TEAM MANAGER – COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK TEAM – OLDER PEOPLE AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY SERVICES**

£37,206 - £42,786

Ref: 50010834

This is an opportunity to lead a large community based social work team working with older and physically disabled people in Milton Keynes. We are looking for an innovative manager who will drive the development of the team to improve outcomes for older and physically disabled people in Milton Keynes. You will ensure the work of the team is effectively allocated and monitored and conform to performance and quality standards.

A qualified social worker, nurse, or occupational therapist, you will have experience of leading teams and managing adult safeguarding investigations.

This role is subject to safer recruitment practices.

For informal enquiries please contact Victoria Collins on 01908 355500.

Closing date: 22 April 2012.

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**CONTROL CENTRE OPERATOR**

£17,802 - £21,519

Ref: 50011150

+ Weekend enhancement & shift allowances, 12 hour shifts (rotating days and nights)

The Community Alarm & Telecare Service promotes independent living through the use of social alarms and emerging technology, in partnership with key stakeholders. This role involves taking calls from residents linked to the alarm service, as well as handling other out-of-hours council services. You will possess the skills necessary to deal with emergencies in a calm and professional manner.

This role is subject to safer recruitment practices.

Closing date: 22 April 2012.

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**CARE ASSISTANT – Kilkenny House**

£13,589 - £16,054 pro rata

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You will provide a full care service to older people, including personal, health, and social care, at our very sheltered housing scheme. Skilled in dealing with individuals with complex needs, you will be willing to undertake full training to CQC standards. Strong communication and observation skills will also be vital.

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For informal enquiries please contact Linda Bowditch on 01908 504408.

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The Stables

The Stables is one of the country’s most successful music venues, promoting around 350 concerts each year. We also run education events, host a series of prestigious conferences and produce The Milton Keynes International Festival.

Assistant Chef

Application Deadline – Tuesday 10th April

The Stables has an open position for an Assistant Chef to join our small team providing pre-show dining and a full catering service in Call me at The Stables on 01908 632151. The post provides a varied role, from working nights as well as working Saturdays and Bank Holidays.

We are looking for someone who has previous relevant experience and is competitive to those working in the area.

Hours of work will typically be from 5pm to 9.30pm, 5 days out of 7, including weekends, on a rota basis. Salary will be dependent on age and experience. The post comes with a 6 month annual leave entitlement and bank holidays (some of which you will be required to work).

Marketing Co-ordinator – Milton Keynes International Festival 2012

Application Deadline – Monday 9th April

Fixed term contract from end of April – mid August 2012

Salary £6,000 – £8,000 depending on availability & experience

If Milton Keynes International Festival 2012 takes place from 20-23 July and is expected to attract over 100,000 people. A well trained and experienced Marketing Co-ordinator with excellent communication skills is required to assist with the development and delivery of Festival promotions and marketing campaign.

Job descriptions and application forms can be downloaded from www.stables.kmi.info or from hüllen@stables (01908 285011).

Please note that we will be considering without a completed application form NO APPLICATIONS PLEASE

The Stables is committed to equality of opportunity in recruitment. We value a diverse and inclusive workforce and welcome applications from all sections of the community. Clarity No 241169.

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- Maths AST/Aspiring AST
- Subject Leader for Maths - Tracking and Intervention TLR 2
- Assistant Director of Science TLR 2
- Subject Leader for RE
t- PE (Female Teacher)

Closing date: Left hand side, 23 April 2012. Right hand side, 15 April 2012.

We have the following support staff vacancies:

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MK £15,725 – £18,453 pro rata - 37 hours per week, term time only
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MK £15,725 – £18,453 pro rata - 37 hours per week, term time only (Suitable for graduates considering teaching as a career)
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MK £12,145 – £15,874 pro rata - 37 hours term time only
Trainee Science Technician (July start)

MK £12,145 – £15,874 pro rata - 37 hours term time only
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If you would like to join our team, please download an application pack at www.wiltonhigh.org.uk Online applications are encouraged. Alternatively contact us on 01908 247600 (24 hrs) for an application pack.

Closing date: 15 April 2012.

This is an unequal occupational qualification, in accordance with Section 8, Part A of the Equality Act 2010. All posts require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

www.wiltonhigh.org.uk

Biggleswade Academy Trust

Brigham, Southlands and Holmeead schools moving forward together.

To start September 2012 or sooner if possible...

Manager – The Den – Before & After School and Holiday club provision

NVo level 3 (or equivalent) in childcare or play work as a minimum qualification

From September 2013 Brigham pre. Southlands Lower and Holmeead Middle schools will become the Biggleswade Academy for 2-13 year olds. The members of the Governing Bodies who will comprise this overall organisation are looking to appoint outstanding members of staff to work within our Academy from 1st September 2012 or sooner if at all possible.

We are looking for someone with leadership qualities who...

- Can develop, lead and work as part of a dynamic and committed team.
- Can provide a safe and developmentally appropriate Den programme in accordance with all legislation, policies and procedures across the specified age range, planning with to meet individual needs and interests.
- Has a working knowledge of the EYFS and Ofsted requirements for the specified age range.
- Has a commitment to the importance of play.
- Is committed to personal development and is prepared to gain additional play and other work qualifications.
- Has the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with colleagues, staff, parents, and other stakeholders across the entire age range.
- Is prepared to work inside and outside in all weather conditions.
- Has a commitment to Equality and Diversity.
- The ability to remain energetic, enthusiastic and humorous whilst driving change during this exciting period of development is therefore a fundamental requirement.

This will include:

- 30 hours per week (initially, subject to revision if required)
- NVLG Level 4 - £19,126 – £23,708 (pro-rata, starting point dependent on qualifications)
- Minimum 22 days holiday + Bank Holidays (dependent on length of service).

Our schools currently have 2 ‘wrap around’ care provisions operating in different ways from Brigham and Holmeead areas of the site. From September 2012 these provisions will combine and be known collectively as The Den. This Den will be an Academy run provision for all children and pupils aged 2-13 within our area, whether attending the Academy (Brigham, Southlands and Holmeead) or for their regular schooling or not.

The further development of this as an outstanding provision is an exciting project for someone with the vision, drive and ambition to bring our collective plans to fruition for the benefit of the children and their families.

Informal conversations and visits to meet the team you could be joining are now being arranged.

For more details contact Damey Wyatt at Brigham Pre-School on 01767 600309 or by e-mail manager@brighampreschool-ldhen.co.uk.

The Den meeting on 12 May on Thursday 19th April 2012. Interviews to be held on Wednesday 25th April 2012.

www.join-the-quest.co.uk/news
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Dennis SIME, Chief Executive Officer

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (AS AMENDED)

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Secrets Escort and Massage Services - 07516 508947
Escorts also wanted.

Further notice is hereby given that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has on 6 April 2012 made an Order under Sections 4 and 5 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of implementing proposals contained in the Draft Local Plan. Public Consultation ended on 23 March 2012.

The Order will come into operation on 6 April 2012 at 23:00 hours and will continue in operation until 30 June 2012 or until the completion of the relevant public consultation, whichever is the earlier. It is anticipated that this decision will be in effect until 14 June 2012.

There will be no exemptions from the provisions of the Order other than for vehicles being removed in the event, emergency services vehicles and military vehicles on operational duties.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of reasons for making the Order and a map showing the area affected by the Order will be on view at the offices of Vale of Glamorgan Council and at our offices at 26-36 The Parade, MK1 1FS.
### AUTOMATIC SELECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LIFE</td>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>6,000 MILES</td>
<td>£6,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB</td>
<td>5 DR</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>5,500 MILES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>CITROEN C3 1.6</td>
<td>5 DR, WICKED RED</td>
<td>4,000 MILES</td>
<td>£6,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>CHEVROLET LACETTI 1.8 SX ESTATE</td>
<td>GREY</td>
<td>11,000 MILES</td>
<td>£4,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>CITROEN C4 1.6 SX</td>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>7,000 MILES</td>
<td>£6,595</td>
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### MANUALS

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<th>Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/59</td>
<td>CHEVROLET LACETTI 1.6 SX ESTATE</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>8,000 MILES</td>
<td>£5,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/08</td>
<td>VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 1.2</td>
<td>5 DR</td>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>9,000 MILES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/58</td>
<td>NISSAN NOTE 1.4 TEKINA</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>8,000 MILES</td>
<td>£6,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/58</td>
<td>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LIFE</td>
<td>5 DR</td>
<td>GOLD</td>
<td>6,500 MILES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>RENAULT 1.2 TWINGO DYNAMIQUE</td>
<td>3 DR, BLACK</td>
<td>13,000 MILES</td>
<td>£5,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>HYUNDAI i-10 COMFORT</td>
<td>5 DR, BLUE</td>
<td>4,000 MILES</td>
<td>£6,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05</td>
<td>VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 DESIGN</td>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>72,000 MILES, FSH</td>
<td>£2,495</td>
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### OTHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/02</td>
<td>ROVER 75 2.0 V6 CONNOISSEUR ESTATE</td>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>70,000 MILES, FSH</td>
<td>£2,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/58</td>
<td>VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE</td>
<td>SILVER LIGHTING, A/C</td>
<td>17,000 MILES ONLY</td>
<td>£6,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/52</td>
<td>SEAT LEON 1.4 S</td>
<td>5 DR, BLUE</td>
<td>56,000 MILES</td>
<td>£1,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BIKES & SCOOTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95/M</td>
<td>SUZUKI INTRUDER 400CC</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>16,000 KM</td>
<td>£2,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/57</td>
<td>YAMAHA FZ1 FAZER</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>8,000 MILES</td>
<td>£4,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/52</td>
<td>SUZUKI SV650 5K2</td>
<td>YELLOW</td>
<td>9,000 MILES</td>
<td>£2,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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£££ CASH PAID £££

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caravans &amp; Trailers</th>
<th>BMW</th>
<th>Chrysler</th>
<th>Citroen</th>
<th>Fiat</th>
<th>Ford</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 Abbey Freestyle 2 Berth</td>
<td>BMW 330d SE</td>
<td>Chrysler Voyager</td>
<td>1998 Citroen Saxo PX To Clear</td>
<td>Fiat Panda</td>
<td>Ford Ka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End kit fitted, fully equipped, fitted with power month and tracking system, all accessories included, half leather and rear lether, ready to tow away and drive</td>
<td>Auto, blue, 4 door Saloon, 127,000 miles, MOT, 12/12, Tax/Road, sport, Condition</td>
<td>MPV 2.6cc, Diesel, red, 4 door Saloon, 127,000 miles, MOT, 12/12, Tax/Road, sport, Condition</td>
<td>PX To Clear, Saloon, Tax and Tested, Good Condition</td>
<td>Black, 1.1 Ec, Hatchback,12 months tax, 2000, Timing warranty, service package, 18,000 miles, MOT, 12/12</td>
<td>Collection, black, 12 month MOT, Tax &amp; June 2008, Air Con, 5/8 CD, Alloys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2000 ONO</td>
<td>£3495 ono</td>
<td>£3750</td>
<td>£695</td>
<td>£1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>01234 838041</td>
<td>01234 297271</td>
<td>07598 027666</td>
<td>07598 027666</td>
<td>07597 912106</td>
<td>01234 768938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Citroen

- **Citroen Saxo 2002 1.1cc**
  - 12 months MOT, 5 door, 90,000 miles, £1495

- **Daihatsu Fourtrak 4x4 Turbo**
  - 1,3-litre Mot, 6 months tax, P/S, E/F/W, 5 door, blue, 112,000 miles, £850

### Daihatsu

- **Fiat Punto ELX 0.2**
  - 1.2-litre, 6 months Mot, 5/30/08, E/F/W, 5 door, blue, 112,000 miles, £1495

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**7 Days a week**

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07966 589006

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1.3 VVT-I, Early 2000, Only 33,000 miles, Tax & MOT until 02/03, 12 Months Tax and MOT, Excellent Condition. AA/ RAC Warranties Available. Car has Facelift, Sale for Spares or Repair

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07972 463313

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Y reg, Black, 79,000 miles, MOT, Tax, 1 yr

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Top two failure has knocked us all back

DON'S skipper Dean Lewington believes that his side’s back-to-back defeats could be down to a hang-over caused by slipping out of the automatic promotion race.

Brentford took advantage of one of the poorest home displays of the season on Saturday with a 2-1 victory at stadium mk, just four days after Carlisle had also seen off Dons by two goals in the same scoreline.

A top two finish has always been the target but a run of two wins out of eight in March has resulted in the play-offs now looking like the only realistic route to the Championship.

Lewington, pictured, said that conceding a stoppage time equaliser to Matty Taylor at stadium mk was the moment the players knew that the automatic promotion dream were over. And he said that the realisation had impacted the players.

“With the possibility of disappointment in missing out on second place,” he told MK SPORT.

“After the Wycombe game everyone knew in the changing room that we’d blown it really so it’s been a bit down for the last week or two. There were a couple of bad results before when we could still make it up but it got to the stage where we needed teams to lose to secure a or four games.”

Apart from a strong opening ten minutes and a late flourish, Dons failed to get started against Brentford who scored two excellent goals in the first half.

Boss Karl Robinson had openid the threat but a run of two wins out of eight in March has resulted in the play-offs now looking like the only realistic route to the Championship.

The visitors worked exceptionally hard to prevent their hosts from knowing how to get around with their unusual flair, and they adopted a physical game that is far ruggier than the strong challenges which disrupted the way Dons wanted to play.

It was an effective approach for Uwe Rosler’s side and Dons could not find a plan B to combat it despite a whole host of efforts.

Lewington now knows the importance of shrugging off the two game blip and focusing all efforts on a possible play-off final at Wembley.

He said: “We’ve had a few draws from winning positions and just seemed to stutter a little bit. A big gap opened up to second place and we lost ground.

“Now you are doing the disappointment in missing out on second place,” he told MK SPORT.

“I think it’s important for us to get out of the league.”

Dons are currently feeling.

“We’ve got to go and make sure we respect Tom Finney, respect the occasion and win the game.”

Preston claimed a 1-0 win over Dons at stadium mk in December, in a game which was beamed live on Sky TV.

After relegation from the Championship last season they would have been hoping for an instant return but results have seen them fall way off the promotion pace.

Dons have only outscored their opponents in the league so far this season.

Robinson said: “It’s a lovely occasion and we are looking forward to being a part of it.”

“Once that whistle goes it’s war.”

“If Beckham is there he can watch a great team play. Hopefully we’ll put on a performance.”

Preston visit gives Dons the chance to play party poopers

PRESTON will be celebrating one of the all time greats when they host Dons on Saturday but Karl Robinson is keen to spoil the party.

The clash at Deepdale is a special one for the Lancashire club who will be marking the 100th anniversary of the legendary player Sir Tom Finney.

A bumper crowd is expected and David Beckham – a former Preston loanee – has even been tipped to appear with the festivities.

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Perhaps we were worrying about securing our place too much but now we want to beat Preston on Saturday and Tranmere on Easter Monday.

We want to secure our play-off spot as soon as possible.

On Tuesday our U15 team are playing Liverpool, kick-off at 7.45pm.

If we can win the title, we can be nice to a good crowd like the one which supported them when they played us last year.

Watching our younger players perform is always an excellent thing to do and as there is the possibility of Sei Ojo returning with Liverpool, it should be an interesting game.

Finally, I would like to take my tribute to a former team mate of mine Barry Kilcher, who sadly died this week.

We played together in America, he was a giant of a defender who was tremendous in the air, and a lovely man.

THE LAST SIX GAMES

APR 7 PRESTON (A) 0-1

APR 14 SCUNTHORPE (H) 0-4

APR 21 SHEFF UTD (H) 0-1

APR 28 ROCHDALE (A) 3-2

MAY 5 WALSSLALL (H) 2-0

HOCKEY

MK MEN’S ‘1sts have avoided relegation in the South League Premier Division One.

Rivals Eastbourne were beaten on Saturday to ensure safety, and on Sunday MK picked up a 4-5 win over Slaines.

A resounding 11-0 victory over bottom of the table Abingdon Pilgrims kept the Ladies 1sts to a dream league and cup double.

Sophie Reynolds bagged five of the goals and Gemma Meredith (2), Kate Cash, Karmel Brown, Lauren Ovington and Sarah Fudalej also found the target to complete the win over the a club who have not scored a point.

The club appeared to be in turmoil using it as an excuse, but although it is not the groundsman’s fault it is in a poor condition.

The noise they made as they kept pulling the game back.

But the lads never gave up and apart from their two goals and a one-on-one pull the game back.

From their two goals and a one-on-one From their two goals and a one-on-one.

The important thing now is to get out of the league at Wembley.

“We need to get the points required to go to the play-offs, before trying to get through them and trying to win them. Everything we do now is towards that.”

The skipper added that the state of the stadium pitch and injuries at the club has also taken its toll.

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**TOURING CARS**

Andrew Baggaley is hoping to seal his spot at Lisbon when the World Touring Cars Championship in Portugal on April 14/15, for two races on the Marrakech Street Circuit.

**RUGBY UNION**

The city side slid out of the play-off positions. Lightning and, for the vast majority of the game, out-placed the defending champions in Karlskrona, Sweden, in a fortnight.

Lightning put Slough under pressure on Saturday, Pic: Jez Tisbett

**BASKETBALL**

Newcastle Eagles could not stop Lions as the maul crossed the line. Attentions can now turn to the massive semi-final against Chester. Lightning put Slough under pressure on Saturday.

**ICE HOCKEY**

Lions coach Mike New said that his side were in a play-off ‘dog fight’ with just five games left to go.

**SPORTS SHORTS**

**ICE HOCKEY**

Lions slip out of play-off positions

Eagles were led once more by 29-year-old Charlie Smith, with Demarius Boldt and Daniel Northern leading the visitors with 20 apiece.

Northern added a game high 13 rebounds but Lions suffered a blow when Justin Dobinson was taken to hospital after picking up a serious looking injury.

He was stretchered off but the knee knock is not thought to be as bad as originally feared.

Next up for Lions is a home game with high flying Plymouth Raiders on Good Friday, who were beaten in Winterhill in the BBL Trophy semi-final earlier this season.

The following weekend sees the huge game with Cheshire.

Tip-off for the Plymouth clash is 7.30pm.
Six weeks to make history

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

DONs players have been challenged to bounce back from consecutive home defeats by making club history over the next six weeks.

The setbacks against Carlisle and Brentford have left the squad looking over their shoulder at the chasing play-off pack when a fortnight ago the focus had been on going up automatically by breaking into League One's top two.

Some are now fearing that the club could slide out of the play-off positions entirely but boss Karl Robinson believes that there is plenty to be positive about with just six games remaining this season.

The manager feels that his side have been unlucky with both injuries and refereeing decisions in recent games.

And he is relishing the last weeks of the campaign when promotion to the Championship via a Wembley play-off final is very much the goal.

Dons still have a healthy seven point gap to Notts County – the team directly below the play-offs – although eight adrift Stevenage have a game in hand.

Robinson's side know that their two game losing streak cannot be extended if they want to avoid a nervewracking end to the season.

And they will also be hoping to hit form during the crucial last matches so, should they make it, they can enter the play-off campaign full of confidence.

Robinson said: “We’re in a strong position at the moment. I love it, this is the best time of the year.

‘Bring it on, whoever you are, as we’re ready for you.

‘We’re ready to rumble and we’re not going to leave anything in the tank. There’s an awful lot of effort and heart and soul left in us.

‘These are six weeks to define a life and earn a place in this club’s very short history.

‘We’ve got some of our history up on the walls now, and we can add to that if we can get over this line.’

“It’s a difficult line to cross but we’re ready for the challenges.”

The manager added that his players did not think that a play-off spot had already been secured.

He said: “We are taking nothing for granted and we will approach these games in the right frame of mind.

“In the games we lost we don’t think that we were a million miles away, we should have won them.

“We’ll dust ourselves off and go again, we don’t get too despondent when we lose or get carried away when we win, we stay very level in our thought process.

“If we’re not in the play-offs it will be because we were not good enough.”

But Robinson said it could be difficult to find the cash needed to bring in new faces.

He said: “Clinton’s a great lad and he knows I think the world of him but people can demand massive wages and it’s difficult to attract them.

“With Charlie and Jabo here we only need to add one up top, and maybe a winger and a right back in the summer.”

Robinson added that one of his current crop of players is close to signing an extension to his contract at stadiummk.

But MKSPORT understands that on-loan West Ham striker Rob Hall is due to leave the club as Robinson has decided to terminate the agreement.

The 18-year-old was signed up until the end of the season only last month, and has made just two substitute appearances against Chesterfield and Brentford.

Robbo’s desperate to sign Neil Mellor

KARL Robinson is publically courting striker Neil Mellor – who is on the books of Saturday’s opponents Preston.

The Dons boss watched the 29-year-old cause numerous problems for his players when the two sides met earlier in the season and is determined to have him as part of his own squad.

As a result Mellor, who worked with Robinson at Liverolpool, will be a top summer target for the club.

He only managed half-an-hour during the previous match at stadiummk before having to hobble off with an injury.

But Robinson had already been suitably impressed by the forward, who is still struggling with his fitness.

“I remember Neil Mellor absolutely terrorising us for 25 minutes,” the boss said.

“He was the best player on the pitch and I want him desperately next season.

“I’ve spoken to him at great length and I think that Charlie MacDonald, Jabo Ibehre and maybe Neil next year would provide tremendous strength in depth.

“Him with Charlie or Jabo would be an awesome partnership.

“That’s the sort of thing I want to look at to get us where we want to get to, and the chairman has backed me all the way.”

Sheffield Wednesday striker Clinton Morrison, who enjoyed a productive month on loan at Dons earlier this season, could be another target as he is unhappy to have a future at the Owls.

But Robinson said it could be difficult to find the cash needed to bring him in.

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