



TV Peer backing for Bletchley Park

REALITY TV star Lord Brocket, pictured above right, has pledged his support for the campaign to save Bletchley Park.

The once-disgraced peer told Citizen First the government's attitude towards calls for funding were: "just not good enough."

Lord Brocket, who appeared on the I'm A Celebrity...TV show and was jailed for his part in a car insurance scam hopes to rally fellow peers to secure vital cash.

"I care about this country's history and I am sure the next government will do something," he said at the exceptionally well-attended Enigma Reunion at the weekend.

>> See pictures and read about the event in this week's Thursday Citizen.

MP vows to fight bid for regional assembly

MP for North East Milton Keynes Mark Lancaster will fight any move to bring in a new tier of local government through setting up of a South east regional assembly.

"It would appear that regional assemblies are now back from the dead which is bad news for Milton Keynes.

"Local people already have limited control over the city's future because of unelected quangos such as Milton Keynes Partnership and regional government would be another step in the wrong direction," he said.

He is worried by a recent speech by new minister for regional economic co-ordination Rosie Winterton that she would not let elected regional government "slip off the agenda."

Hospital trust puts safety at top of list

ACTION by Milton Keynes Hospital to ensure safety of patients will be highlighted in a talk to people attending the hospital trust's annual meeting on September 23.

The speaker will be the hospital's own consultant and associate medical director for patient safety Dr Ijaz Mehdi.

He says patient safety and delivery of high quality care are top priorities for the trust.

"Our aim is to ensure that the public feel safe in our hands."

Kids' ward aiming to bridge need for cash

STAFF working in the children's ward at Milton Keynes Hospital are to make an 11-mile walk over 12 major London bridges at the end of this month to raise cash for youngsters' treatment and care.

The hospital is inviting anyone whose life has been touched by the ward to support the appeal.

Paediatric matron Kate Bulbeck said: "Improvements to the ward environment which allow the nursing medical teams at Milton Keynes Hospital to provide vital and life-saving care to many children, is important as some patients and their families will have to stay on the ward for a number of weeks."

Gordon's fond wartime memories of life on a Cornish farm Evacuee in the spotlight at national commemoration

by Georgina Butler
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A BRADWELL man who spoke of the first evacuation of the Second World War at St Paul's Cathedral described the experience as a privilege.

Gordon Abbott was evacuated from Battersea to Cornwall aged seven and an only child.

While leaving their families and moving from the city to the countryside to escape German bombers was distressing for many children, Gordon was welcomed by his new 'uncle' and 'auntie' – childless farmers Ambrose and Dora Newton.

He said: "I was part of the family. I wasn't distressed – a lot of the girls and younger boys were. I was excited. My first impression of Cornwall was quietness."

"I was extremely happy," he said, despite seeing his parents only once in five years.

At St Paul's Cathedral last Tuesday – the 70th anniversary of the first evacuation days before war started – Gordon said he was a "fish out of water" on returning to London and he soon went back to Cornwall.

He added: "I stayed in Corn-



BEST PALS: Wartime evacuees, left to right, Josephine Cooper, Kathlene Barnes and Florence Mynard have met up in Olney every year since the war. All three ladies were evacuated to the town in 1939.

wall until I was 18. After five years with people who cared for me I associated with them."

Gordon farmed before National Service in the RAF. In 1959 he joined the police in Bletchley.

Now, Gordon gives talks for the Evacuees Reunion Association and the Imperial

War Museum. Gordon was thrilled to speak at St Paul's and said: "It was an honour and privilege."

Visit www.evacuees.org.uk for more information.

>> Florence Mynard, 78, was evacuated to Olney from the East End and stayed!

Every year she meets up with three other evacuees,

also relocated from the East End to Olney.

She said: "It is wonderful, they have moved on and lived elsewhere but I have stayed.

"We get together and catch up and remember."

This year – the 70th anniversary of the first wartime evacuation – they met up in the Bull in Olney.

Want to hear a tall story?

SUNSHINE may have been hit and miss this summer but keen gardener John Shaun was beaming when he won a sunflower growing competition.

John, a life-long resident of Newport Pagnell and more often than not found at the Lakes Lanes Allotment, entered the National Sunflower Growing Competition organised by www.happy-sunflowers.in in March.

His winning entry grew to an impressive 14.6 feet.

John has previously exhibited at the Highgrove Horticultural Show where he met Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

John fed his winning sunflower a combination of sheep manure and soot and ensured that water was constantly available to his rapidly growing plant.



LET IT GROW: John Shaun's giant sunflower, grown on his Newport Pagnell allotment, proved a winner. Picture: Pete Castle.

Prepare for a city centre emergency!

ROAD safety officers are teaming up with emergency services and the British Red Cross to stage a dramatic 999 day.

Red Cross volunteers, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services, Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes Council are taking part in the event at Midsummer Place scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday.

The Red Cross will demonstrate life-saving first aid skills.

There will also be a chance for shoppers to complete a Red Cross save-a-life first aid course and go home with a certificate.

A demonstration by Buckinghamshire firefighters of how they cut people out of a crashed car is also planned.

Thames Valley Police will be there with their latest car and motorbike models and Milton Keynes Council road safety team will be giving advice on how to stay safe on the road whether as a pedestrian, cyclist or passenger.