

CAR IS LEFT ON TRACKS

A WOMAN "panicked" and left her new company car on a level crossing where it was hit by an early morning passenger train, a court heard yesterday.

Kathryn Regan, 23, had been for a night out when she got stuck on the crossing at Welland Bank, Lincs, and abandoned her Ford Fiesta where it was struck by a sprinter train the next morning.

Timothy Palmer, prosecuting, told Lincoln Crown Court that the crew and four passengers escaped unhurt because "alert" driver Howard Badder braked from 60mph to 5mph before the impact.

He added: "Leaving a car on a level crossing is obviously a very dangerous thing to do."

Mr Badder, a driver for East Midlands Trains, told the jury: "At first I thought it was a bin liner or a piece of cloth. As I got closer I could see it was a car."

"I had just about stopped when my train hit the rear of the car. If it had been dark I wouldn't have seen it so quickly."

Signalman Jeffrey Nicholls told the court that motorists often wrongly left the crossing gates open.

The jury heard Regan, of Peterborough, Cambs, had only had a couple of alcoholic drinks and "panicked" when she left the car, which had just 300 miles on the clock, on what she thought was a disused track.

She denies endangering passenger safety on June 6 last year. The trial continues.

STREETLAMPS £8k to fix a broken bulb

RESIDENTS have finally won a three-year battle - to replace two lightbulbs at a cost of £8,000.

The village green was left in darkness after two streetlamps broke in 2007 in Glemsford, Suffolk.

The county council said they'd have to be moved as power lines made it too dangerous for ladders. Work started yesterday. A resident said: "It's really affected quality of life."

HAPPINESS 55% want to get new job

ONLY one in eight people are "perfectly happy" with their lives. And 55% of us wish we could do a totally different job.

A report yesterday by Home Learning College found that 16% of the 3,000 adults surveyed want to move to another country.

The college's Dave Snow said: "Some things in life are beyond our control, while other ambitions are very much within reach."

INFERTILITY

LOTS OF TOTS Yvonne with miracle babies



EXCLUSIVE

BY MELISSA THOMPSON melissa.thompson@mirror.co.uk

EVERY one of these mums had given up hope of ever having children - until they discovered the woman dubbed The Baby Whisperer.

Acupuncturist Yvonne Darnell has helped an amazing 80 women realise their dreams of starting a family against medical odds.

Since first helping a woman who'd endured eight failed rounds of IVF treatment, Yvonne explains: "My driving force is wanting to make a difference in these women's lives. I hadn't dealt with fertility before but this woman went on to have two little girls. It was amazing seeing her finally have the family she'd so longed for."

Acupuncture has been proven to help reduce stress levels, increase blood-flow to the reproductive organs and improve sperm produc-

tion and ovarian function. But as the women who Yvonne's helped all testify, it's her warmth which matters most of all. After all, no one understands more.

"Fifteen years ago I had a son, Matthew, who died shortly after he was born and three years ago I suffered a miscarriage," says Yvonne, 46. "I understand how painful the never ending pursuit of parenthood can be."

Even doctors acknowledge its value in dealing with fertility problems. Consultant gynaecologist Michael Dooley of the Poundbury Clinic, agrees: "I'm a great believer in using acupuncture in fertility treatment."

Yvonne, mum to stepchildren, Sophie, 17, and Max, 19, adds: "It's hard to explain the joy when we have success and they tell me they are pregnant. It makes everything worthwhile." Here, a few of the women she's helped to start families reveal their emotional stories.

I know how painful the never ending pursuit of parenthood can be YVONNE DARNELL

CLAIR BERESFORD, 35

CLAIR and husband Nick, 42, started trying for a baby in July 2003 but had no joy.

"I was getting so stressed - my sister had fallen pregnant, my best friend had fallen pregnant - everybody was having babies apart from me," she remembers.

"I'd never been pregnant, I'd never had a miscarriage. It was unexplained and at my lowest points I'd think miscarriages were awful, but that if I had one at least I'd know I could get pregnant. It was horrendous."

"We'd tried everything. In total

we probably spent more than £10,000 trying to conceive, money on books, supplements, nutritionists - anything and everything."

Clair, who lives in Crawley, West Sussex, started seeing Yvonne in 2006 just as she began a programme similar to IVF that was being trialled.

On her 32nd birthday she got a joyful call telling her she was pregnant. She beams: "Holding Isabel in my arms was amazing."

Since that day two years ago, her family's grown with the arrival of eight-month-old William.

JOANNE WILKINSON, 33

WHEN Joanne Wilkinson was told by doctors that internal scarring could thwart her hopes of being a mum she went home and cried.

After four years of trying for a baby with husband Stewart, also 33, she'd been

referred to see a specialist who broke the bad news to her.

She recalls: "Having a baby meant everything. I'd cry about it and when people asked if I had children I'd put on a brave face."

By chance Joanne - now mum to eight-month-old Sophie - was told about Yvonne by a friend.

"During my treatment with Yvonne I had another laparoscopy and the surgeon couldn't believe how much my scarring had healed. I explained about the acupuncture and the surgeon said it must be to do with that," explains Joanne, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

"I was put forward for insemination treatment. After two weeks I could do a pregnancy test and it came back positive. We did five more before it sunk in."

"I started calling Yvonne the Baby Whisperer during pregnancy. Sophie would calm right down during treatments."



THRILLED Joanne with bundle of joy little Sophie



HAPPY FAMILY Susan, Jamie and tot William

SUSAN ASHWORTH, 41

WATCHING her three siblings' nine happy children playing together at a family do, tearful Susan Ashworth definitely felt the odd one out.

Four fruitless years of trying for a tot had left her in the grip of deep depression.

"I'd always wanted a child and assumed it would happen and took it for granted that it would. It was really hard when it didn't."

"I'm from a big family, I've got three siblings who've all got three children so I just felt like I wasn't really part of the family," she admits.

"I had an operation to remove fibroids from my uterus but there was no reason

I shouldn't get pregnant. I became really depressed and because I was approaching 40 I was having to come to terms with the fact that I probably wouldn't have a baby. I tried for four years and went through a course of IVF which didn't work."

But after sessions with Yvonne, Susan and husband Jamie Crawford, 47, of Newhaven, East Sussex, are the parents of 11-month-old William. "When I did a pregnancy test and it came back positive, I just couldn't believe it," she grins. "Sometimes, after William's gone to sleep, my husband Jamie and I sneak upstairs and think 'We've got a baby!'"

We sneak upstairs when he's sleeping and think 'We've got a baby!' NEW MUM SUSAN

CAROLINE TAUB, 31

WORKING as an infant teacher meant Caroline was surrounded by children all day long.

But at home it was different. Despite four years of trying, and a course of artificial insemination, there was no patter of tiny feet for her and husband Louis, 34.

Caroline says: "The idea of having a baby had completely taken over my world. I'm an infant teacher so I'm surrounded by children all the time and I felt that I'd be good at being a mum."

"Not being able to have a baby made me feel like a complete failure. It was a huge issue. I was convinced that I wouldn't have a baby."

Caroline, from Burgess Hill, West Sussex, recalls: "All the drugs mess around with your head a lot so, emotionally, I wasn't in a good place."

"I'd stopped all treatments when my sister mentioned an acupuncturist who she'd come across. I called Yvonne and gave her my background. It hadn't even crossed my mind that a childhood accident where I got trodden on by a horse could've been the reason behind my problems."

"But Yvonne found it out straight away."

She laughs: "After two treatments with Yvonne, I was pregnant, and two years ago we had Isla. I just can't thank Yvonne enough!"



MOTHER'S LOVE With Isla

VIKKI HOLLAND, 30

VIKKI and husband David, 26, are parents to 14-month-old bouncing baby Oren.

The now proud mum explains: "I found out I had poly-cystic ovary syndrome and that I was 'sub-fertile' which meant I'd have trouble conceiving."

"David had a test too and we found out he had a low sperm count. It was devastating finding out what we had going against us."

Vikki, from Peacehaven, East Sussex, had previously had two miscarriages when she was younger and the couple feared they were destined to remain childless.

They were referred to a specialist who recommended fertility treatment similar to IVF, called ICSI. And at the same time Vikki began reading up on the benefits of acupuncture and went to see Yvonne. "I had the treatment and it

worked straight away - we weren't expecting it. We'll definitely go back to Yvonne for our next one!"



MUMS' MIRACLES

CRECHE COURSE Yvonne Darnell with some of the mums she's helped, including Clair Beresford, Joanne Wilkinson, Susan Ashworth, Vikki Holland and Caroline Taub



The Baby Whisperer

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