

Letter from the Editor

Dear fellow residents of Tinkers Bridge

At last the evenings are getting a bit lighter - not fully dark even at 5 pm these days.

We have a pancake recipe this month - in time for Shrove Tuesday. The results of last month's winter photograph competition appear in this edition - some lovely seasonal shots sent in by residents.

Look out for the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association AGM on 23rd February.

The TBRA held the Celebration Day on January 28th. As listed in The Bridge 14 there were a lot of activities and information - about Regen and heating bills and the history of the estate.

There was homemade soup and sandwiches of all kinds. Thanks go to WCC for their financial support.

The Editor



Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

AGM

Thursday 23rd February 2017,

7:30 to 9.00 p.m.

Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place, Marshworth

Note from the Chair:

This month is Tinkers Bridge residents' association annual general meeting. This is when we select and elect the officers of our association. Do not make the mistake of coming to this meeting if you can avoid it otherwise you may end up helping out your community and ultimately yourself. I made this mistake back in 2013 and ended up as chair of our association. It has led to me making a huge number of friends, attending a lot of very enjoyable events, lots of cake, being face painted on a regular basis, I've been dressed up in elf costumes, done lots of arts and crafts, played lots of football and started bee keeping.

As a residents association we have been blessed through the years with a dedicated group of volunteers who have done Herculean work to improve the quality of life for all of us on our estate. These volunteers help to keep our streets clean, help to maintain our landscaping, help to organise events like our Christmas parties, Easter event, summer fun days, seaside trips, pantomime trip, kids' football. They have worked incredibly hard to draft our community survey, write and implement our community action plan. We desperately need your help to strengthen this group of volunteers. We need your support to keep on carrying out this work.

We also face an existential threat in the form of the regeneration project that is just getting started in MK. This is going to require huge amounts of effort to advocate on behalf of the interests of our residents to make sure that this project delivers the kind of regeneration that our residents want and deserve. Please, please, please let us know if there is any way you can contribute even if that just be passing on your thoughts and ideas



Most of all, at the minute, we need someone who can fill the role of treasurer, this is not as hard as it sounds, basically we need someone to be responsible for keeping our books. We will give all the support and help you need in this role. Working together there is nothing that we cannot achieve.

If no volunteers come forward then we will have to roam our streets and pressgang volunteers.



Kind Regards
John Orr

LOAN SHARKS

This is an extract from the latest report from the Stop Loan Sharks organisation.

You can read the full report on their website.

www.stoploansharks.uk



We asked clients how they found out about the loan shark: More than half are told about the shark by friends and family; some see ads in shop windows; some meet the shark at work.

47% had borrowed from

the loan shark more than once.

Worryingly, 34% went without food, fuel or missed rent or mortgage payments in order to repay the loan shark.

Reasons for borrowing:

As with every year past, the main reason for borrowing money was for everyday bills such as food, fuel or rent. Some borrowers mentioned borrowing for specific items such as clothing or food for their children.

To report a loan shark call the IMLT hotline – 0300 555 2222

Email: reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

For press enquiries about the work of the IMLT please call 0121 464 4699 or 07703373535

For updates on the campaign visit

www.facebook.com/stoploansharksproject

Twitter: @loansharknews

What was your experience of being involved with a loan shark?

- Fear: I have been threatened and I am unwell. I have been harassed and intimidated from my hospital bed.
- Keeps pestering me on Facebook and sending texts. He scares me now.
- I used to sleep on the couch, wouldn't move from the one room and slept, washed, cooked everything in darkness as I was too afraid to put a light on or let anyone know I was there.
- He has now added another person's loan to mine. I no longer talk to this person so don't know if she has paid or not. I don't know if he will add any other people's loan on to my debt.
- I nearly lost my home due to being in rent arrears. I had no money to pay anything else – earning £1,000 per month and paying him £600.
- I was suicidal, no money or food. I've been living in grave fear for over a year, and cannot take any more.
- I have been paying back for 7 years - £42,000 on £13,000 loan!
- He's a "bully" – I feel I can't get out of this I am stealing money from my partner to pay him. We went without food for about 2-3 weeks.
- I am shocked now I realize how much money I have paid him back. I thought he was a mate helping me out. However I now realize that every time he sees me he always drops into conversation where and when he has seen my kids and who they were with or if they were on their own. I thought he was just letting me know, but now I am worried.



1ST PRIZE: SARAH MITCHELL

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The entries were high quality in our Winter Photographic competition. Here they are.



OTHER ENTRIES: ALEXANDER WELLS, KATHY HIGGINS; STEPHANIE DAVIES; DAVID HUMPHRIES; ALEXANDER WELLS.

RUNNER UP: HEATHER CLINTON



THE REGENERATION PROCESS

February 2017 Update from YourMK

PRIVATE OWNERS:

We have heard that people are worrying about what regeneration will mean for private owners.

If the regeneration plan for your area only involves carrying out investment work to council owned properties, this will not affect private owners. If the plans are to fully re-develop your area, we will discuss this with all residents, and work towards reaching an agreement through a series of one-on-one conversations about the available options for private owners.

We hope CPOs (compulsory purchase orders) won't be necessary and we aim to reach an agreement with each homeowner using an impartial and fair process.

STOCK CONDITION



SURVEYS:

- Phase 2 & 3 of stock condition surveys will continue from now until 30th April
- An updated version of the areas to be surveyed, can be found here: <http://www.yourmk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SCS-Timetable-v3-website.pdf>
- Beanhill area is now complete. Other areas in phase 1 (Netherfield and Fuller Slade) are close to finishing in the next week or two.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRINCE'S TRUST:

Get into Construction is YourMK's new programme with The Prince's Trust:

- 6 week courses that are free and open to people aged 18–30.
- Trainees will learn new skills, gain a health and safety qualification and a Construction Skills Certificate Scheme card.

There is a taster day for the course in MK on 21st Feb. Text "call me" to 07904364206 or email Anna.crump@princes-trust.org.uk for more info.



Prince's Trust

BEAT THE STREET

IS A NATIONAL INITIATIVE. YOU CAN ENTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR AS A TEAM – BROWNIES FOR INSTANCE. YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED BOXES ON LAMPOSTS AROUND THE CITY – YOU HAVE TO REGISTER AND THEN TAP THE BOX AS YOU WALK OR CYCLE PAST. PRIZES FOR POINTS! HAVE A LOOK AND SEE IF YOU FEEL MOTIVATED TO GET UP AND ABOUT. ALL INFO ON THE POSTERS.

Its a fun, free real-life walking and cycling game. Earn points and win prizes by tapping special cards onto sensors know as Beat Boxes as you travel around.

The Beat boxes will be placed on lamp posts across MK and will be activated from 1 February 2017. Tapping two Beat Boxes within an hour records your journey, how far can you go?

Register online at beatthestreet.me/miltonkeynes to win prizes, see your points and distance travelled; watch your team move up the leader board and see how far we travel around the world! Prizes will be given for 'lucky taps' for adults and children and the top teams will win prizes over the six week race.

Beat the Street is for everyone. Individuals, schools, workplaces, community groups and families can all take part. All ages and levels of fitness welcome. Join up with any team by visiting beatthestreet.me/miltonkeynes



COMMUNICATION:

We have worked hard over the past year to build relationships with communities. We have:

- Created Facebook and Twitter accounts which now reach over 300 people.
- Recruited 92 communicators, who receive and share monthly updates about YourMK.
- Created the MK@Home magazine which went out to 11,500 council tenants.
- Completed door to door questionnaires with over 200 residents of Tinkers Bridge and Fullers Slade, to gather opinions to help shape our community programme.
- Given updates and answered questions at community group meetings.
- Created a new website www.yourmk.co.uk to keep you up to date.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow us on Twitter:

[@YourMKCommunity](https://twitter.com/YourMKCommunity)



Like us on Facebook: [@YourMK](https://www.facebook.com/YourMK)



Anne Bircham: Beanhill, Coffee Hall, North Bradville & Tinkers Bridge 07702 899 615 Anne.Bircham@yourmk.co.uk

Charlie Davies: Fullers Slade, Netherfield and Lakes Estate 07702 899 609 Charlie.Davies@yourmk.co.uk

Please use 0330 123 2522 to report a repair

Visit us online: <http://www.yourmk.co.uk>



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TBRA WORKING GROUP MEETING for committee members only: 8th March 2017 7:30–9 p.m. at The Link, Charles Warren Academy.

TBRA MONTHLY MEETING at the Meeting Place: The AGM is on Thursday 23rd February 2017. See the front page for the Chair's note.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WCC DROP IN ADVICE SESSIONS first Tues of every month until further notice 11 a.m.–1 p.m. No appointment necessary. **NB:** Woughton Community Council Offices are now open at their **brand new offices at 44 Garraways, Coffee Hall** in the local centre next door to the Vine Church.

RAINBOWS', BROWNIES' AND GUIDES' GROUPS meet in the TB Meeting Place every Tuesday during term time only.

Rainbows 5–6 p.m.

Brownies 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Guides 7:30–9 p.m.

HEDGEROWS FAMILY CENTRE

01908 239000

Mondays, 9–10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Cafe and children's activities

CAFE Tues, 10–11:30 a.m. Baby Clinic; 10:30–3 p.m.

MUCKY PUPS FOR BABIES & CHILDREN Weds 10–11 a.m.

AEROBICS Thursdays, 12:15–1:30 p.m. £1 a session. (No crèche) 12:30 to 2:30.

ART COURSE for those with mild to moderate depression: Thurs 12:30–2:30

CAFE Fridays, 9–10 a.m. & 11–1 p.m.



The picture is of the world famous Olney pancake race which has been running since 1445 on Shrove Tuesday. The race starts from 11:55. Its certainly worth a day trip!
© ONLNEYONLINE.COM

COOKS CORNER – PANCAKES!

It's Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on Tuesday 28 February. Here is my family's favourite recipe. Pancakes are a wonderful food all winter long, so adaptable and so easy to make. Make it an hour or longer before you need it if possible.

This recipe is for 8 pancakes. I frequently make much more by doubling or trebling the quantities. The mixture keeps well in a covered jug in the fridge for 2 or 3 days.

EQUIPMENT

Flat bottomed frying pan

Mixing bowl

Cup

Wooden spoon

Tablespoon

INGREDIENTS

4 oz plain flour

1/2 oz of melted butter

Pinch of salt

2 eggs

1/2 pint of milk

Vegetable or sunflower oil for oiling the pan

Caster sugar for sprinkling

Lemon juice

METHOD

In a mixing bowl sieve flour and salt. Push the flour to the sides of the bowl to make a hollow in the middle. Break the eggs into a cup and then add these into the hollow. Stir just a little of the milk gently into the eggs with a wooden spoon, avoiding bringing flour into the mix just yet. Slowly add more milk and a little more of the flour into the eggs until the mix is smooth and creamy. Add the melted butter.

Keep adding more of the milk and bringing in more and more of the flour until you have a smooth, creamy mixture with NO LUMPS and all the flour has been absorbed. Use the back of the wooden spoon to get rid of any lumps. You can use a whisk at this stage if you wish.

Let this mixture stand for about an hour in a cool place.

Heat a frying pan with a tablespoonful of the oil until it is very hot. Warm your plates. Have your sugar and lemon juice handy.

Pour the oil into a cup (you'll need it again).

Drop a good tablespoonful of the batter into the centre of the very hot pan and distribute it so it covers the whole bottom of the pan evenly in a big circle.

Ease the edges of the pancake from the pan as it cooks to make sure it doesn't stick. You'll see little bubbles appear in the mixture as it firms up in the pan. After about a minute and a half you should be able to turn it over in the pan. Have a careful look underneath before you do, as you want it to be golden in colour. Some folk toss the pancake but I don't bother.

Once you've turned the pancake let it cook on the other side for a minute or two until it colours up well.