

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Residents of Tinkers Bridge

At last spring seems to be here - the bulbs popping up everywhere. You will have noticed how the Tinkers Bridge Residents Association Environment Team have been keeping the estate tidy and clean on your behalf. They need more people to help. If you like to live in an estate that looks pretty good why don't you volunteer for a couple of hours per month to help Ron and Paul? There are so few helpers and just a couple of people do such a lot for so many of us!

The Residents' Association held the AGM last month. The appointed officers were: Chair: John Orr; Vice Chair: Paul Hurcombe; Secretary: Lesley Berry; Treasurer: Mavis Bootwright. All kinds of issues relating to the estate were discussed, including the threat of Regeneration and the uncertainties attached to this. Very few people attended the meeting. Despite this the TBRA is now thinking about what good things can be arranged for the rest of the year. Suggestions are: to have another Quiz night; a tea dance; a summer Fun Day and even planning another panto outing. All these activities need volunteers from the estate to make them happen. Let us know which activities you want to have and how you will support them. Your Association makes sure members go to the Council meetings to monitor what is happening there.

The Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Back in January 2014 we held a wildlife and gardening day. We planted bulbs, had a bug hunt, built bird houses and we built 10

raised bed planters.

The idea of these raised beds was to encourage community gardening. On our estate, we are blessed with good size gardens and lots of open public green space. We could, if we wanted, grow loads of fresh organic vegetables, fruit and herbs or flowers. We are taking part in Tesco stores blue tokens **Bags of help** scheme to raise funds for this project. Please share this with your friends in Milton Keynes and ask them to support our cause.

Healthy living starts with healthy food. Help us to help ourselves please. Here are some pics of our project which was inspired by the Todmorton Incredible Edible scheme.

John Orr, Chair



Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association Meeting

Thursday 30th March 2017,
7:30 to 9.00 pm
Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place,
Marshworth



THE REGENERATION PROCESS – MARCH 2017 UPDATE FROM YOURMK

STOCK CONDITION SURVEYS:

Pennington Choices are surveying 8,500 properties and this will finish at the end of April. No decisions will be made about any programmes of work until this work has been completed.

If your property is included in future programmes of work you will be contacted directly from YourMK to inform you of the next steps.

Surveys have been completed in the following areas, Beanhill, Netherfield, Fullers Slade, Tinkers Bridge and Coffee Hall. They are still ongoing in the Lakes Estate, Bradville, and other areas of Milton Keynes.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TBRA WORKING GROUP MEETING for committee members only: 12th April 2017 7:30–9 pm at The Link, Charles Warren Academy.

TBRA MONTHLY MEETING at the Meeting Place: The Monthly meeting is on Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7:30pm.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WCC DROP IN ADVICE SESSIONS first Tues of every month until further notice 11 am–1 pm 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 pm; **Brownies** 6–7:30 pm; **Guides** 7:30–9 pm

HEDGEROWS FAMILY CENTRE 01908 239000

Mondays, 9–10 am & 11:30 am–3 pm Cafe and children's activities

CAFE Tues, 10–11:30 am Baby Clinic; 10:30–3 pm

MUCKY PUPS FOR BABIES & CHILDREN Weds 10–11 am

AEROBICS Thursdays, 12:15–1:30 pm £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 am & 11–1 pm



FIRE SAFETY:

Check your Fire Alarm

Bucks Fire & Rescue service are urging all residents to check their smoke alarm on the first day of every month.

Bucks Fire service also offer free smoke alarms for vulnerable and low income families. Get in touch via the details on the right for more information or book a free home safety check.

THE ENVIRONMENT TEAM

Ron would like to thank his team of supporters for the work they have done this year on trying to make Tinkers Bridge a pleasant place to live. With their help along with Woughton Landscape Team and Serco they have managed to clear a load of clutter from the estate. Ian and the team from Woughton have done a great job removing low branches off trees and cutting back shrubs the chippings from this has been used on gardens and paths around the estate.

Big thank you to Lorraine Essam, Woughton's Environment Officer for her support throughout the year. Her advice and support on recycling has been especially useful along with the pamphlets that she has created, so that new residents on the estate know days and what can and cannot be recycled and which bags and boxes are available.

The raised beds around the estate have been adopted by residents that are looking after them refurbishment of some is ongoing.

Again thank you and well done to all those that have helped out over the year.

Ron Ellis Environment Tinkers Bridge Residents Association.

INTRO TO COMPUTERS FOR OVER 65'S (FREE):

A 5 week course starts 26th April 2017 1pm – 3pm (Ref: F6C606XA). To book or find out more information including concession pricing call Community Learning MK on : 01908 556 760 or visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/clmk.



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PCSO LAUREN WAINWRIGHT
LOOKING AFTER TINKERS
BRIDGE



*Hello,
I am the local Police Community
Support Officer for your area- PCSO Lauren Wainwright. You may have seen me
around the estate at various times, at Tesco or the local residents meeting. As a
PCSO our main objectives are community engagement and working with local
residents in the community. As discussed at the residents meeting it was
suggested that I create an article for the newsletter so I can reach out to all
the residents of Tinkers Bridge.*

Crime Reporting

One of the main questions that that people always ask me at the residents meeting is "how are the crime figures for Tinkers Bridge?" The crime figures are average -neither good or bad – nothing to suggest there are any major crime problems in Tinkers Bridge. But the crime figures are only what people report to the police, to be investigated. They are not really a true reflection of crime levels. I urge people that have an issue, whether major or something which you think is minor, to report this to the police. You do not have to give your details and could report anonymously. But this will help the police get a greater understanding of the issues in the local community. The pattern tends to be residents tell certain members of the community, then they report on behalf of a lot of people. It is always better to come from the person that found this information out initially as they have more knowledge about it and if needed can be contacted about this again for clarification. I understand if this is not possible for whatever reason it's better to get someone to tell the police than never report it at all.



Crime Prevention Advice

It was mentioned at the meeting at providing crime prevention advice, however there are many times of crime prevention advice thought would concentrate on that for the home. The burglary rates for Tinkers Bridge are relatively low. However, people have used simple security measure are five times less likely to be burgled than those who do not.

Some of these include:

- Lock your doors and windows; every time you leave the house make sure you double check that they are locked.
- Keep all keys safe and hide out of sight I.E- not by the letter box and the window.
- If possible, invest in outside lighting
- A timer switch is great initiative, this means if you are out it will appear that the property is occupied
- Remove valuables from view
- Store high value items like jewellery etc. in a safe place.



Bike Thefts

As you are aware Milton Keynes has a large number of Redways and promotes cycling around the area this way. This means there is a large number of people with bikes in this area. Due to this, unfortunately bike thefts are high even though this is being tackled in various ways by the police. There are many simple ways however you can deter your bike from being stolen.

- If you leave it for even a short amount of time, make sure you use a good lock to secure the bike.
- If you are securing the bike make sure that you do this around the main frame as thief's can detach the wheel from the bike if the lock is placed around the wheel (they can take the rest of bike, leaving the wheel behind).



- Do not leave your bike unsecured overnight, make sure it is locked away in a secure shed or your house. Leaving it outside or in the garden is giving criminals an easy opportunity to take it when they know you are not watching.

• <https://www.immobilise.com/>.
IMMOBILISE: This is a great website to use and you can register your bike for free. You can also purchase items for additional home protection. The website helps Police identify the owners of recovered property as it is registered on this website and can be returned to the owners when found by police.

PICTURE © ALLIE SHORT



GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

NATURE NOTES

These days we hear a good deal about the threats to wild life in our country so it's good to hear a success story for a change. While wild birds of many kinds are either threatened or vulnerable, some are doing very well indeed.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker, one of our native woodland birds, is thriving!

Recently numbers have increased a lot and that is mainly due to the decline in the number of starlings around. The Great Spotted Woodpecker used to compete with the starlings for holes in tree trunks where they could build their nests; as starlings have reduced in number woodpeckers are finding nesting much easier. What is more, your chances of seeing woodpeckers around and about Tinkers Bridge are high as we have so much local woodland. He is about 23 cm in length (9"), with a sharp bill (beak) and a stiff tail. You may spot his distinctive markings, which include a bright red patch under his black and white tail. Adult males have a red patch on the nape of the neck and young birds have a smart red cap. I expect you've sometimes in spring heard their rapid hammering and their loud cries. One place I often see them is in little woods in the Ouzel Nature Reserve. There are several kinds of woodpecker – in this part of the country the tiny, sparrow-sized Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, with his red crown and rapid 'pee pee pee pee' call. My favourite woodpecker is the larger Green



LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER



GREEN WOODPECKER OR YAFFLE

Woodpecker or Yaffle (32 cm or 12 ½" in length). He is so brightly coloured and jaunty- with a red cap, an apple green back and brownish wings with a pale greenish yellow underside. You may spot him around and about Tinkers Bridge very early in the morning darting between the trees, feeding on ants on the ground. His call is a sudden laughing, strident 'ha, ha-ha-ha'.

Please remember that, while it is good to feed the birds and you will get a lot of pleasure spotting different kinds in your garden, the idea is to simply supply birds with food to get them through the winter months. You can

attract these birds to your bird table with suet, nuts and fruit. What you should not do is attract predators into your garden once nesting starts. Magpies, crows, woodpeckers and many other birds attack and kill smaller garden birds and raid their nests.



COOKS CORNER

KEDGEREE FOR FOUR ADULTS

We all know fish is good for us and delicious but expensive!

This recipe makes a little go a long way and you can successfully use cheaper fresh or frozen coley instead of the smoked haddock.

EQUIPMENT

Baking dish
Saucepan with a lid for the rice
Colander to drain the rice
Table spoon, knife etc.

INGREDIENTS

1/2 lb of smoked haddock or coley.
3/4 lb of rice
3 or 4 hard-boiled eggs
3 brown onions
Water or milk and water
1 tblsp medium curry powder
4 oz butter
Salt, pepper,

METHOD

Heat the oven to 180 degrees or in a fan oven 160 degrees or Gas Mark 4.

Hard boil the eggs (12 minutes in boiling water); plunge into cold water briefly; peel the eggs.

Slice and chop the onions.

Place the haddock or coley in a baking tin with a little water or milk and water.

Cover with a sheet of buttered paper (the wrapping paper off the butter will do).

Bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes.

Drain the dish, remove the skin and bone from the fish.

Flake the fish with a fork.

While the fish is cooking boil the rice for 12 minutes in plenty of salted water.

Drain and rinse the rice with boiling water in the colander.

Return rice to the pan, cover with the lid and leave it to dry off over a very low heat.

Fry the onions in butter over a gentle heat until soft and golden brown (do not burn).

Add 2-3 oz of butter, salt, pepper and a tablespoonful of curry powder to the dry rice

Stir well keeping the pan over the gentle heat

Add the onions, sliced eggs and fish. Stir lightly with a fork.

Add more butter if liked over the gentle heat

If you like you can add cooked peas

This makes an excellent and filling family dinner.

