



The Bridge

The newsletter for Tinkers Bridge Residents

November 2017

22

Dear Fellow Residents of Tinkers Bridge

Autumn is here and Ron and his team of volunteers are doing wonders with their leaf sweep ups. The Council no longer have the resources to clear up as frequently as they used to so it's up to the volunteer spirit. You could help – just call Ron.

The Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan was held last month. You might remember we asked you to use your vote to support it and vote Yes. 84 of you voted at the Meeting Place. A few others used a postal vote. Most of Tinkers Bridge Residents did not vote.

Christmas coming up. There will be no Bridge newsletter in December so you might want to take note of the dates of the holiday celebrations the TBRA arranges every year.

- **The Christmas visit of Santa and the Elves to the estate: December 2nd. Parade 2.00 – 4.00pm. Then a Children's Christmas Party in the Meeting Place: 4 – 6 pm. If you want to volunteer to dress up the sledge and the hall please go to the Meeting Place any time after 10.00 and offer to help.**
- **A coach trip to the panto at The Deco Theatre in Northampton Tuesday 19th December leaving Meeting Place 5pm. Tickets £5.00 from Deanna. Some seats left – please knock at 11 Hatton, 5-7pm weekdays and anytime at weekends, thank you.**
- **Christmas Day lunch in the Meeting Place open to all Residents of TB – just drop in.**
- **All details on the Tinkers Bridge Facebook page and website.**

We are very grateful to have had financial support from the Woughton Parish Council for the Panto trip – which is why it only costs £5.00!! A bargain I am sure you'll agree.

We are also very grateful to Tinkers Bridge Councillor Pauline Prop who has donated £100 from her Council allocated fund to the Christmas Party and Ron Ellis has also kindly raised £100 from the Unite Union as their contribution.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!



Halloween

The woods became the setting for Spooky Stories this Halloween for the first time. It was lit up with spooky ghosts, decorations and candles. Children who also dressed up for the event enjoyed scary stories, toasted marshmallows and sweets. Many thanks to everyone for all their help on the night, I couldn't have done it without you!

Many thanks to the residents who helped make 'Trick or Treat' night great for the children by decorating their houses! I heard there were a few scary houses around the estate. It was fabulous to see all the costumes!

I am pleased to announce Ellouise David as the winner of the Halloween Poetry Competition. She was thrilled to receive her prize. Check out our new poetry competition!!

Don't Say Boo To Pumpkins

On top of the pumpkins
All full of seeds
I lost my poor pumpkin
When somebody said Boo!
It rolled off the fence
And onto rusty leaves
And then my poor pumpkin
Rolled right out of the gate

It rolled in the garden
And under a bush
Now my poor pumpkin
Was covered in mush
The mush was nasty
As nasty as could be
Early that next Autumn
It crushed into the ground
The ground was all covered
With pumpkin seeds

Now I can't make my soup

I need my seeds

So if you like pumpkin soup

Look after your pumpkins

Hold them tight

And don't ever say BOO!!!

By Ellouise David, Age 13



*WE WOULD LIKE TO
WISH ALL TINKERS
BRIDGE RESIDENTS
A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!*

The Swan Diaries

Tales from the lakeside

On Saturday the lakeside came closer to home than normal when I received a message from a very concerned resident to say there was a cygnet on the estate next to the road, actually at the top of my street; I left the house immediately!

When I got there, sure enough, my cygnet friend was in the middle of the road with two caring people trying to encourage him towards the canal as they didn't know how else to help him. As soon as cygnet saw me, his head lifted and I'm sure I felt a sense of relief from him too. The kind people trying to help actually asked if I knew him as he seemed so much calmer once I arrived, "oh yes" I said, "I've known him since he was an egg" – which is true, as you know.

Suddenly there were headlights approaching but thankfully the cygnet was on the grass at this point, but it was clear that we needed to get him to safety. I carefully reached up and was able to gently pick up the rather large young swan who melted into my arms as he was exhausted and stressed. The adult swans no longer want the cygnets around, normal part of nature, and can be extremely aggressive so returning him to Ashland would not have been sensible, and there I was, in the middle of the road holding a swan, but with no idea what to do with him! "I don't suppose you fancy giving us a lift to Willen Lake?" I asked the helpful couple, and off we went.

By Allie Short

We arrived safely and I carried cygnet a short distance to the water before letting him go with a small group of mixed geese. With a quick tail-shake, he happily took to the water and we hoped for the best...

Early the next morning I went to check on my cygnet friend who was still in the area where he was released. He chirruped excitedly and came straight over to me, and so did his friends – ten young adult swans, who all seemed to know me, that had accepted him without hesitation and were happy to include him in their flock. The best outcome possible!

The cygnet swims over to greet me the day after his adventure.



Poetry Competition

As it is that time of year, we are inviting all residents to enter this month's Poetry Competition. The theme is Christmas/Winter In Tinkers Bridge.

All submissions to sarsar140@gmail.com by 15th December please.

Judges decision is final. The winner will receive a great little Christmas prize!!

Look out for the winning poem in the January edition of The Bridge.

A LOAD OF RUBBISH

There's been a huge increase in people putting out black bags for rubbish collection. Your TBRA Environment team has measured this as a 40%-50% increase in the number of bags put out on Tinkers Bridge. **THIS IS A MASSIVE INCREASE.**

Worse news about these bags. 80% have food in them. On Hatton and Brent it's a fourfold increase; Buckby and Bascote are putting out twice as many as in summer. There is food in these bags. What's going on people??

It's not a brilliant thing to have to write again and again about rubbish. It's pretty boring to ask grown up people to be a bit more careful about the rubbish that spoils the estate. **DO NOT PUT FOOD INTO BLACK BAGS!** Repeat: **DO NOT PUT FOOD INTO BLACK BAGS!** Use the green bins. The Council collection will take it away for you. What to put into the green bins: garden waste, fresh food waste and cooked food waste. If you do this RATS, cats and dogs will not be able to get at it. Simple – as the meerkat says. Nobody wants children or vulnerable adults to face rats and decaying food waste on our streets. It's not cool. It's not on.

Just don't put food into black bags.

AND

Wash recyclable food containers before you put them into the pink sacks. That way they won't smell and attract even more RATS.

Ron and his team of volunteers are always around to give advice if you are not sure how to manage the different ways of getting rid of your rubbish. Just ask – they are very helpful.

DO NOT PUT FOOD INTO BLACK BAGS!!

PLEASE USE YOUR GREEN BINS!!

THANK YOU

CLEARING THE BACK ALLEYS PROJECT

You might have noticed that the TBRA team of trusty volunteers have been clearing up the alleys at the back of your houses. They have used their own labour, time and transport to improve the place we live in. Less rubbish cluttering up the alleys – fewer rats and fewer places for all kinds of vermin to skulk about. It seems crazy that some residents have thrown their unwanted furniture and other rubbish into the cleared alleys within a few days of them being sorted out. It is an offence to do this – called fly-tipping. The fines are pretty steep. Please don't do it.



Before and after photos of the alleys. A huge difference which was extremely hard work for those involved. Please help to keep our estate clean and tidy!!

