

HAPPY NEW DECADE TO ALL RESIDENTS!

Hello and welcome to the January newsletter.

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We hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and New Year.

On the 20th December, Tinkers Bridge residents went to the panto (Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did!!) and had a wonderful time enjoying Jack and the Beanstalk at The Deco in Northampton. It was a fun show with lots of audience interaction, which our children especially enjoyed! Thank you to Deanna for organising it and to Milton Keynes Council for the funding.

We also had our own visit from Santa who popped down each road to say hello while his fantastic elves gave out sweets. This was followed by the Christmas Party at the meeting place. Everyone had a great time as Santa gave out over 60 presents to all the children. Lovely hot food including Chilli and rice was also served, lovingly cooked by Darren and Eileen. Thank you so much to Santa, the elves, the helpers and the cooks. A huge thank you to Milton Keynes Council for funding our Christmas events. They granted us £800 for Halloween, Christmas Party and the Christmas Panto, so we are very lucky!

Phonebox is leaving

We are going to be losing the phonebox at the end of Marshworth very soon. It has been there for many years, but due to almost everyone having mobile phones these days, BT have noticed how little it is being used. There is a notice inside of the phonebox asking people to contact them if you do use it and want it to remain.

Treasurer

We really need a Treasurer for the Tinkers Bridge Residents Association. It is not a major task as we don't have much money. So it's quite easy to keep tabs on what we have and where we spend it. We are a great, friendly team and not stuffy or boring! Our current Treasurer has set up an easy system so there is no backlog to deal with. You just need to be good with figures and interested in the estate. Please contact the editor if you would like to put yourself forward. Thank you.

Keepfit

A new and fun Keep Fit class will be starting up at the meeting place after Easter. It will help get rid of those chocolate Easter Eggs you've all been eating. A new year and a new you can still start three months into the year! So give it a go! Watch this space, while eating choccy, for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt

SSSHHH!! Just a head's up... There will be yet another super amazing Easter Egg Hunt to be held in the Easter holidays. Date to be confirmed. More information in the March newsletter.

Tinkers Bridge Residents Association

Our next meeting is on Thursday 30th January at 7.30pm at the meeting place next to Tesco Express.

Please come along and get involved!

NEW YEAR!! NEW YOU!! NEW CLEAN ESTATE!!

The estate is looking a state! Please, please can we stop doing this and this and this....



Do we want to look at this everyday, everywhere? Why are people treating where you live like this? Even animals don't foul in their nests so why, as civilised humans, is this happening? If you need help to remove your rubbish, please ask! If it has all just got on top of you, please ask for help! We can help you to keep our nest clean. Similarly, if you see someone dumping their rubbish, report them to Julia Barnes on 01908 609146. Let's stamp out these selfish fly-tippers and take pride in our home, our nest!! Thank you!

The Swan Diaries

Tales from the Lakeside.

So much has happened and not all of it good.

In December there was an oil spill on the surface of the lake, it seemed to have flowed in along the brook that feeds into it, and both Fred and Wilma had to be taken to Tiggywinkles to be cleaned and looked after until the lake was clear again. I waited an extra week after the Environment Agency cleaned the lake just to be on the safe side, then gave Tiggy's the all clear to bring Fred and Wilma back, all clean and healthy.

However, somehow Fred was then aware of Micah and Milly living up by the fountain and made it his mission to drive them away. This is normal mute swan behaviour as they're extremely territorial and worse around the now approaching breeding season. Normally the defeated swans will fly off and find a new home themselves, but Milly's leg had been hurt in the fighting so they weren't able to fly away like they needed to, and Fred was getting more and more aggressive with them.

One Saturday when I went to the lake to see them all, I found Micah had just been chased into the road and Milly was on the path unable to walk. Something had to be done so I called for help and transported both birds to Willen Lake where there's a big flock and they're more accepting of each other. It was best for the birds but heartbreaking for me as Micah is so special to me.

I went to Willen Lake again the next day to check on them and they were settling in well. While I was there I found an injured cygnet that needed urgent help so picked him up and took him into Tiggys. He's going to be fine, they treated his injury and are keeping him to feed him up as he was extremely underweight so very good that I found him. It's been a few weeks since the swans were moved and today I went to Willen Lake again and was greeted by Micah swimming straight over to me. All seems to be well with them thankfully.



Fred and Wilma spent a couple of weeks living by the fountain, I think to make sure Micah and Milly couldn't come back, but are now back on the nesting part of the lake and hopefully getting ready for fluffy season.

By Allie Short.

Cookery Corner

Bev's Fish Pie

600g potatoes for mash, using butter and 2tsp Dijon Mustard

15g butter

15g plain flour

300ml vegetable stock-use half a cube

3 tbsp low fat creme fraiche

1tbsp chopped basil or dill or parsley

450g fillet fish, chopped

Handful of frozen peas or sweetcorn

½ leek, thinly sliced (optional)

30g grated cheese for the topping



Method

Peel, chop and cook potatoes until soft, drain and then mash with butter, adding the Dijon mustard. Make sauce by melting butter in a pan and then adding the flour, it will form a lump, which you then whisk in the stock and stir until thick and smooth. Stir in the creme fraiche, and add the fish. At this point, add the leek, and the peas or sweetcorn.

Transfer it all to an oven proof dish. Cover with mash and top with grated cheese. Put it in the oven 200c or 180c fan oven for 20-25 minutes until golden. Serve on its own or with green vegetables or just with some crusty bread. Enjoy!

By Beverly Ward

More Rubbish Matters

We are all trying to be more environmentally friendly these days, so here is a reminder about rubbish and recycling and where to put it.



DAY DREAMS
CHILDCARE

New Nursery Coming Soon!!!

We are a new nursery opening soon.

Taking children aged 2 years – 4 years old and also offering spaces for the 3 year old funding.

Please make any enquiries via the contact details below for more information and to reserve your space.

Day Dreams Childcare
07845041876
daydreamschildcare@outlook.com
Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place, 43 Marshworth,
Tinkers Bridge
MK6 3DD

We are on [Facebook](#)

[Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP](#) for local news, lost and found, and anything else you think would be interesting to residents.

[Tinkers Bridge - Free To A Good Home](#) is for all giveaways, freebies and unwanted items and in date food.

[Tinkers Bridge For Sale](#) is for items you are wanting to sell locally to friends and neighbours.

You can also access our Facebook page by using this link~

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TBRA.MK>

If you wish to submit an article, a recipe, a poem, a request or local news, or whatever (subject to editing).

Please contact the editor at editorthebridge@yahoo.com. Thank you.