



June 2018

This newsletter is supported by funding from MK Foundation

Hello and welcome to the June newsletter

Once again we have had some lovely weather, let's hope it lasts for summer!

There was a fabulous turn out at the meeting place for Michael Kelleher, the senior MKC Housing and Regeneration officer. Many issues were brought up by residents although once people got started it was clear there wouldn't be enough time for everyone to ask their questions.

Many topics were covered, including Rats, Flooding, Home Insurance for flood affected houses, and Repairs by YourMK. Regeneration was a topic on everybody's mind and Michael did try to reassure people that Regeneration is about what the community wants. "The future is in your hands" quote by Michael explaining the future of Tinkers Bridge. It was often a lively debate but John did a great job keeping order and ensuring people got their say. We are working with Michael to fix a date for a return meeting.

Michael has responded by email to say he enjoyed meeting the residents and will be working with residents on their individual issues and looks forward to returning.

Residents can contact Michael on this email~michael.kelleher@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The Editor contact: editorthethebridge@yahoo.com

Assistance following floods of 27th May

Milton Keynes Council have approved a number of measures following the floods of 27th May, when the normal rain for a month fell in one hour.

- For any household that suffered flooding and is in immediate financial need, a grant of £200 is available. Ring 01908 252570 to apply.
- There is some discretionary funds available above the £200 following an assessment of your specific needs
- If your landlord is MKC and you qualify for the above grant, you will get two months rent free. If you are in arrears, that amount should be removed from your arrears.
- If the flooding has made your property uninhabitable, there may be further help, such as a suspension of council tax. It is believed that none on Tinkers Bridge are in that state.
- There will be at least one independent inquiry looking at both the response of the council, and at flood prevention measures, including if money recently spent on flood prevention in Coffee Hall was a good investment. - flooding still occurred there.
- In Tinkers Bridge, about 20 houses were flooded, most from the back garden in areas where the garden slopes down to the house. TBRA believes drainage in that area can be fairly easily improved, and would like an owner occupier to trial this, invest some money in improving their property in this way. Please contact John Orr for further details.
- A good community spirit helped many recover after this flood, and other estates were more harshly affected than Tinkers Bridge, such as Netherfield with about 150 flooded houses. Many thanks to all who helped.

Your Rubbish Issues

Yet again we are having to nag **you** about **your** rubbish!!! The reason there is so much rubbish not being collected because **you** are CONTAMINATING THE BAGS WITH RUBBISH and not recyclable items. Serco employees can now see these items because they are visible through the new clear bags . **Recycling bags are not for your rubbish, if you need to use one for your rubbish because you have run out of black bags then just make sure you put the whole bag into a black bag before rubbish day!** If you still haven't got any, ask a neighbour to lend you one so that your rubbish is not left behind!! And **not** blowing down your street!! When you let these bags get left behind, they attract rats, birds, cats and other animals, which rip open the bags and then your rubbish spreads around the estate, making it look disgusting. Please stop!

WHAT YOU NEED TO PUT WHERE

Pink/Clear sacks:- Be guided by list on bags and leaflets available from Council. Generally - paper, plastic (but not polythene) cans and tins, foil.

Green bin:- Food waste and garden waste.

Blue box:- this is for glass bottles and jars.

General rubbish, nappies, cat litter and plastic wrappers (biscuit and sweet packs) all go in Black bag.

Cardboard boxes now need to be broken down and placed into recycling bags, Serco will not collect complete boxes now!

WHERE TO PUT YOUR RUBBISH

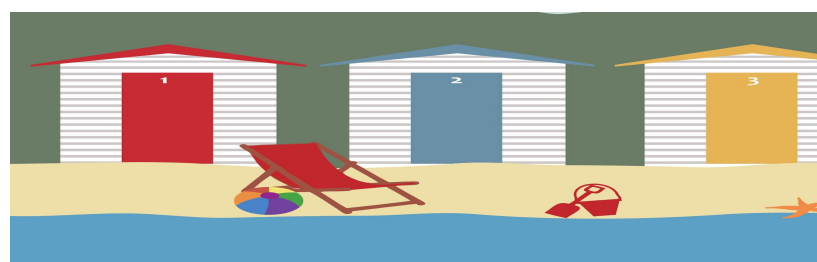
Your rubbish should be put at the edge of your boundary, not piled up outside someone else's house! If your rubbish is ripped open and spilling over it is your job to tidy up your rubbish.

WHEN TO PUT YOUR RUBBISH OUT

Your rubbish should be put out **AFTER 5PM** on the day before your collection (which is Wednesday, except after Bank Holidays which will generally be a day later) and **BEFORE 7AM** on the day of collection. If you have any queries/questions please call Woughton Community Council on 01908 395681. Any bulk items which you need to dispose of, please contact MK council to arrange a collection **Yes, it's a lot to remember but it's important!! Thank you for your help in keeping OUR estate clean!**

Southend Coach Trip

We are delighted to confirm that Woughton Community Council are funding a coach trip to Southend on Saturday 4th August for Tinkers Bridge residents. A bargain at £5 per person! Please contact Deanna at 11 Hatton after 5pm every evening and all weekend or on Facebook!. The coach will be leaving at 8am from the Tinkers Bridge meeting place and leaving Southend drop off point to return for 5.30pm. Huge thanks to W.C.C for supporting this event. Get your spot on the coach booked asap for a fabulous fun day at the beach!



The Swan Diaries

Tales from the Lakeside

All change again! Roughly a week after Missy left the lake, Major followed her and for weeks there were no swans at the lake. I kept visiting every day and hoped to see them back, but there was never any sign of them... then the floods came and caused total devastation.

In all the years I've been visiting these lakes, I have never seen such bad flooding. They're balancing lakes I know, build specifically to protect the houses as the estate was built on a former floodplain, but that doesn't mean the lives of the wildlife that have made it their home matter any less.

The coots not only lost their chicks again, but their regular nesting area was submerged under several feet of water so they were completely displaced, as were the rest of the birds. Some of the smaller trees were fully under-water and the bird nests in them were also destroyed along with the eggs and hatchlings that were living in them. In the days following the floods, there were several reports of dead baby birds, but thankfully the majority of the adult birds survived and once the flood water receded, more birds arrived at the lake with their hatchlings. The first new arrivals were a family group of Canada geese that were seen marching their family through the industrial area of Mount Farm to get to our little lake, very impressive! The journey of about a mile was a massive achievement for such young birds which shows how determined they were to reach us. If you look closely at this family you'll see that one of their goslings is actually a Greylag goose they have somehow adopted; geese are such amazing parents and will look after any orphans they come across.

Excitingly, we seem to have a new resident swan at the lake.

Micah arrived a few weeks ago feeling confused, and completely exhausted. He is roughly a year old so not long left the familiarity of his family group and is likely to have been travelling for some time trying to find a safe place to settle. Cygnets have a difficult time of it when they first try to find a home as the adult resident swans are extremely territorial, and looking at the damage to Micah's bill, he has encountered some unwelcoming adults on his travels.

When Micah first arrived he swore at me and tried to frighten me away by raising his wings in an attempt to make himself look big and brave, but he was really just scared because he didn't know me. Slowly and carefully I got closer and the other birds came to join us so Micah could see they trusted me and were enjoying lots of tasty food, then after about ten minutes he decided to join in with the feeding frenzy and that was the first step in our growing relationship.

Now Micah waits for me every morning and comes straight over when he sees me. He is very talkative and often grunts or chirrups, especially if he thinks I am taking too long with his breakfast! At first he was very unsure of the geese but as the days pass his confidence grows and he is gradually asserting himself so it seems he has decided to stay. By Allie Short ♥

The handsome Micah at the lake.



T.B.R.A

The residents association is still looking for a bookkeeper to help us balance our books. This is so we can account for our outgoings and incomings in order for us to plan events and improvements around Tinkers Bridge! If you have some experience of bookkeeping then please contact JOHN ORR on 07565 922368. We need you!! Thank you.

DRAMA CLUB

Calling all thespians!!

There has been a suggestion of a Drama Club to be held in the meeting place for adults and children. Is there any interest in this venture? It could be a great way of making new friends or just getting out of the house and joining in! If you are interested please email the editor or contact Kathy on 07523 427073

T.B.R.A MEETING

Last Thursday of every month at the meeting place 7pm until 9pm. All welcome!

CONTACT US

Email the editor for enquiries, submissions or suggestions editorthethebridge@yahoo.com

Ring or text JOHN ORR on 07565 922368

Ring or text KATHY on 07523 427073

FACEBOOK

Don't forget Tinkers Bridge Residents Association is active on Facebook. Please check out Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP for the latest news, events, lost and founds, and anything else you can think of!

For local freebies check out Tinkers Bridge Free To A Good Home on Facebook, it is a great page to get rid of your unwanted items to your local community for free!! Great reason to not dump your items and fly tip, after all one person's unwanted items are another person's treasures!

RAINBOWS, BROWNIES and GUIDES

Rainbows 4.45pm- 5.45pm

Brownies 6pm-7.15pm

Guides 7.30pm-9pm Every Tuesday.....Term time only! Held at Charles Warren Academy in Old Groveway. For

more info contact pricecheryl120@hotmail.com