



March 2018



*This newsletter is supported by funding from MK Community Foundation*

*Hello and welcome to the March newsletter.*

*We are all left wondering where spring is after yet more of the nasty white stuff. It does make the estate look beautiful for a while before turning it into a slushy mess. Unfortunately, all of this wet weather has turned our grass verges into soggy swamps, so please remember to NOT park on them and create mini waterways cutting deep into the land! It IS an offence under the Highways Act for which you can be fined! We hate having to keep repeating the same moan, but we want to live in a pleasant estate, please!*

*We are still looking for ideas and volunteers for our Multicultural Funday in summer, an event to celebrate the fabulous cultures on Tinkers Bridge. Why not put on a display of traditional dance, games or crafts, or cook up some amazing dishes from your culture to share with residents on the day! Get chatting and make friends at the same time as trying tasty new foods!!*

*This could be a really exciting and fun day, so please join in and share the fun!!*

*And finally... We would like to wish the residents of Tinkers Bridge a very happy and relaxing Easter!*

**The Editor**

**Contact me on: [editorthebridge@yahoo.com](mailto:editorthebridge@yahoo.com)**

**Submissions welcome!!**

**\*\*EGGGGCITING NEWS!\*\* The Tinkers Bridge Easter Egg Hunt!**

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place Monday 2nd April at Colne Park and fields at 1pm until all the eggs are found!!

For younger children, 0- 5 years, there will be eggs for them to find in the play park. It will be held there for their safety as an area away from the larger children running around like crazy!

For older children, 6-onwards, their hunt will be in the rest of the fields in Colne Park but not in the courts. You will be required to find 4 different plastic eggs to gain a chocolate egg!! This means you will have to work harder to earn an egg but you can always team up with a friend!

There will be no arguments and the judges decision is final. You must show a judge your 4 eggs before getting a chocolate egg. Hope to see you all there and let's hope for good weather! HAPPY HUNTING!

**Milton Keynes Council have decided to change their free recycling sacks from PINK to CLEAR. This will enable waste management crews to check for contaminated bags containing incorrect items.**

**Here is a reminder of the recyclable items to put into your clear bags. You are still able to use the pink sacks until stocks have been depleted.**

**Recyclable Items:**

- \*Newspapers, magazines and leaflets**
- \*Catalogues and directories**
- \*Writing/typing paper**
- \*Cards and envelopes, with or without windows but not padded envelopes**
- \*Cardboard- if it fits in the sack otherwise please take it to a Community Recycling Centre.**
- \*All food tins including pet food**
- \*Metal lids from bottles or jars**
- \*Toiletry and beauty product bottles**
- \*Milk bottles, yoghurt and butter tubs**
- \*All types of foil**
- \*All types of food and drink cartons (Tetra Pak)**

**\*\*\*Every other type of rubbish should be put into a black sack!\*\*\***

**TINKERS BRIDGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**2017-2018 REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM**

This last year has been busy for the environmental team on Tinkers Bridge. We have been upgrading the raised flower beds with new wood with the aid of a grant from Tesco. A big thank you to Sheila for her help securing the grant. We have also been able to acquire tools to help with projects around the estate, including cutting back of scrubs and tidying up overhanging branches on trees.

The project at the present is clearing the alleyways at the back of the properties, to enable people to use their back gates. These have been neglected for many years and have become overgrown and a fly tipping paradise, with the invaluable help from the environment team and residents, we have cleared most of them, but it is still a working progress.

Woughton Community Council members, Lorraine, Julie, and Ian have been a great help, arranging with Martin from The Payback Team, to come along and assist. Ian and his fabulous team have been chipping all the trees and shrubs. This has been used on paths, alleyways and some gardens.

Tony Brown, Environmental Officer from Milton Keynes Council has helped remove the fly tipping that two team members were unable to get in their car to get to the dump! Huge thanks to Terry and Derek for all their amazing hard work! You are a massive asset to our estate. We would also like to thank Bill for all of his help sourcing the equipment needed to carry out our projects

Just to finish, our aim is to keep our estate looking the best it can be by finishing our ongoing flower bed project, in which we hope to plant more flowers and herbs. We will continue to renew the wood on the flowerbeds, and complete the alleyways and the maintain them.

The litter picking is also another project in the pipeline.

Everyone is invited to volunteer to help the team, it would be very much appreciated!

Just hours after finishing the February article and emailing it to our Editor, I received the devastating news that one of the Ashland swans had been very seriously injured and taken to Tiggywinkles wildlife hospital; I immediately rushed to the lake to see which of the swans had been injured and check on the remaining bird.

When I got there, Missy was on her own by the fountain and clearly extremely distressed. She was swimming around frantically and calling for Sage. It was heartbreaking to see her so upset and there was nothing I could do to help her feel better, so I just sat for a while in the hope of reassuring her somehow while trying desperately not to fall apart myself. It wasn't long before news arrived, but it wasn't the news I, and many others, were hoping for. Sadly Sage's injuries were just too severe and he couldn't be helped.

For two days Missy looked for and called Sage, then she flew off and was gone for over a week. Maybe she went looking for him, or maybe she just needed some time to herself. I know she saw what had happened because Sage managed to make his way home to the lake, so at least she knows, as this will make it easier for her to accept the sad situation and move on, hopefully to one day find a new mate and raise more cygnets. For now though, Missy is on her own at a time when she should be getting ready to nest and she seems so lonely. She is coming and going which makes me think she could be looking for a new mate, and the fact that she keeps coming back seems to show that the lake is still home to her. There will never be another swan like Sage, the bond I had formed with him was powerful and I still struggle to accept he's gone, but I'm hopeful Missy will find herself a new mate so that one day, we will have more cygnets to follow from egg to flight ♥

By Allie Short



## Photos of the gorgeous Sage. R.I.P

### **Sage the Swan**

Allie's heart broke one sad day.  
When her Sage Swan passed away.  
Left us all and Missy behind.  
People waited, so very kind.  
They tried hard to save the gentle beast.  
Gave it their all, at the very least.  
But he grew golden wings and flew away.  
Allie cries, tries to visit everyday.  
Sage looks down from up above.  
He knows he had so much love.

He leaves her to care for his wife.  
Glad to have had them in his life.  
A very lucky swan was he,  
To have known the amazing Allie.

By Sarah Mitchell

### **Easter Fridge Cake**

**300g plain chocolate, broken into chunks**  
**100g butter**  
**140g golden syrup**  
**1 tsp vanilla extract**  
**200g digestives or Marie biscuits or gingersnaps**  
**60g sultanas or other dried fruit**  
**100g rice krispies**  
**100g Mini eggs or smarties**  
**50g white chocolate, melted**  
**50g mini marshmallows**



### **Method**

**Grease or line a tin. Melt the chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a bowl set over a pan of boiling water. Stir occasionally until smooth and glossy. Remove from pan and add the vanilla, biscuits, sultanas and Rice Krispies. Mix well until everything is coated. Tip mixture into the tin and flatten out using the back of a spoon. Press in some mini eggs and creme eggs, halved. Pop into the fridge or freezer until set. When hard, drizzle over the white chocolate and return to fridge to set again. Cut into squares and scoff!!**

### **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 persons unwanteds are another persons 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](mailto:pricecheryl120@hotmail.com)**

