

THE BRIDGE

Christmas Issue 2016

The newsletter of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association December 2016



Letter from the Editor

Dear fellow residents of Tinkers Bridge,

This is my last edition as editor of The Bridge. I'm sad to be leaving but confident that The Bridge will go on to be bigger and better in the future. This month make sure you look at our Nature Table item and also get busy in the kitchen with our tips for using up Christmas left overs in Fast Cooks' Corner. We know that many of you are looking forward to the Pantomime Trip on 19th December. We hope you have a great trip; do be on time for the coach at 5 p.m. That same afternoon Charles Warren Academy invites all of you to a Community Christmas Carol Concert in St Thomas's Church, Simpson at 2 p.m. Please note that the WCC Offices are moving from Netherfield to Coffee Hall. The Farthing Grove office closes on Thursday 15 Dec and the new office opens at 44 Garraways, Coffee Hall on 3 January. See item below.

We will need help to organise future events; this help could be on a 'one off' basis or otherwise. Please contact thebridge@tinkersbridge.org.uk as soon as possible to find out more. It is an excellent way to make friends. We are very grateful to Cassandra and Deanna for their help with the Pantomime trip. We also thank our Environmental team and all those folk who have been delivering The Bridge. Helping out in this way brings its own rewards.

Best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Goodbye.

The Editor

PS We apologise to David Humphries for accrediting his pictures to Derek Weller last month. The front pictures were in fact by David Humphries and Kathy Higgins.



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ELVES HAVING FUN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON THE 3RD DECEMBER PHOTO JENNY HATHAWAY

CELEBRATING TINKERS BRIDGE COMMUNITY

Please put Saturday 28th January in your diaries. That's the day of our big Celebration event for all residents, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Meeting Place. Come along, have lunch and join in the fun. Look out for more details in January.

WANTED! YOUR OLD PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES

Milton Keynes turns 50 in 2017. We're planning to create a collection of your old photographs, newspaper cuttings, and small belongings to form a picture of life on Tinkers Bridge over the years. We'll call it the Tinkers Bridge Archive. Please spend some time over Christmas and the New Year sorting out your old photographs of Tinkers Bridge and small belongings (e.g. small toys from the 80s, 90s or 2000s) so you can contribute in the New Year. Again watch out for details in early January.

Did you know that TBRA now produces an online calendar of events in Tinkers Bridge? David Lee displays this on the website and provides a link on the Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP FaceBook page. Please consult it for any late changes to meeting details. Thanks, David for organizing this.

Nature Table

Tinkers Bridge with its nearby waterways, lakes, fields and nature reserve attracts more wildlife than many areas. Here are some of those that you might see.

Jays are difficult to see as they are shy woodland birds that rarely move far from cover. However you might tempt them to your garden table with fat balls or peanuts. Watch out for a handsome bird, with its distinctive flash of white on the rump, flying between the trees; it will signal its presence with a screaming call. He is about 35 cms in length. I love his blue wing patches and his black moustache. Like squirrels these clever members of the crow family bury acorns in autumn and then retrieve them to eat later in the winter. Some Jays remain year-round in England but there are also winter visitors from colder countries.



AN EURASIAN JAY



THE SONG THRUSH

Another bird I hope you will see is the Song Thrush. Unfortunately, this handsome bird, about 23 cms in length, is on the red list of endangered species. He likes to nest in shrubs and bushes and particularly ivy. Numbers are reducing as people cut down hedges. If you're lucky you may see one smashing a snail shell against a rock or stone so that he can reach the tasty contents. If you want to tempt the song thrush into your garden offer some dried worms and peanuts on the ground close to the cover of bushes.

A DUNNOCK



We occasionally see a real House Sparrow here in Tinkers Bridge, with its white collar and black throat. These birds are now red-listed as a species of high conservation concern. The small, secretive and shuffling Dunnock is often mistaken for a sparrow and we have many of these. Both birds are about 14 cms in length. Look at the differences.



A HOUSE SPARROW

THE GREY HERON



You will often see a grey heron on the estate. They are beautiful and also one of largest birds at 90–98 cms in length. You may spot their heronry high in the tree tops near Walton Park. Our native herons are joined in the winter by overseas visitors from colder climes. Be sure to cover your ponds with netting in spring or the herons will take any fish or frogs that they spy!

You can attract birds to the garden with a homemade feeder or make birdcake for them. Have a look on the RSPB website for instructions:

www.rspb.org.uk

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association Initiatives

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TBRA WORKING GROUP MEETING for committee members only: 10th Jan 2017 7:30–9 p.m. at The Link, Charles Warren Academy.

TBRA MONTHLY MEETING at the Meeting Place:

There will be no meeting this month. The January meeting is on Thursday 26th January 2017.

PANTOMIME 19th December (for those with tickets) 5 p.m. at the meeting place.

COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT at St Thomas's Church, Simpson, 2 p.m. on 19th December

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WCC DROP IN ADVICE SESSIONS Tues 3rd January (and first Tues of every month until further notice) 11 a.m.–1 p.m. No appointment necessary. **NB:** Woughton



Community Council Offices will be closed from noon on Thursday 15th December until Tuesday 3rd January 2017. They 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 p.m.

Brownies 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Guides 7:30–9 p.m.

GENTLE YOGA FOR BEGINNERS on Monday evenings, 7–8 p.m. at the Meeting Place

(Ring 07523427073 to check if the session is taking place on Monday evenings at the meeting place 7:00 to 8:00 pm as usual). Free to residents of Tinkers Bridge.

HEDGEROWS FAMILY CENTRE

(Christmas Opening times: open up to the 23rd then closed and open for one day on the 28th and then back open fully from the 3rd of January) 01908 239000

Mondays, 9–10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Cafe and children's activities

CAFE Tues, 10–11:30 a.m. Baby Clinic; 10:30–3 p.m.

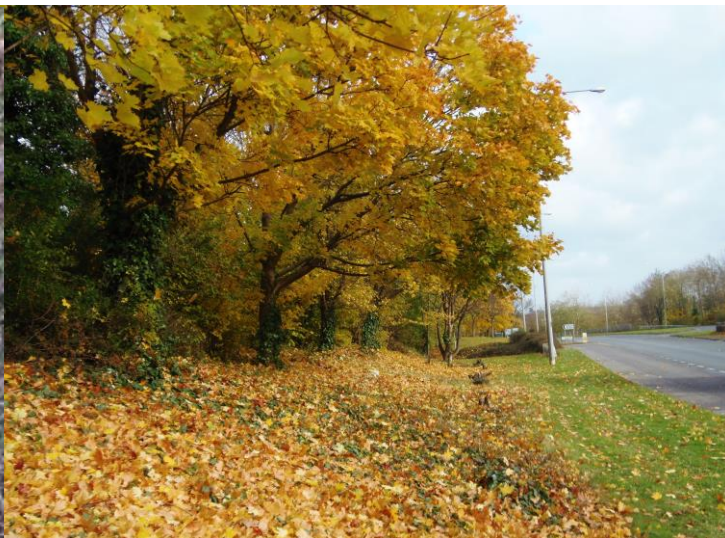
MUCKY PUPS FOR BABIES & CHILDREN Weds 10–11 a.m.

AEROBICS Thursdays, 12:15–1:30 p.m. £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 a.m. & 11–1 p.m.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



COMPETITION AND WCC NP DRAW

Congratulations to Mohamed Omar (top) and Alexandra Wells (above left) and runner up David Humphries (above right). You'll be receiving your vouchers shortly. An honourable mention also goes to Liz O'Shea. We are pleased to announce that Lily T Nsimba won the Tesco Voucher that was awarded for submitting the answers to our TBRA questionnaire. Congratulations!



Fast Cooks' Corner

Using up Christmas leftovers:

1 CHRISTMAS BUBBLE & SQUEAK FOR 4 PEOPLE

INGREDIENTS

Equal quantities by volume of cooked potatoes and shredded cabbage or other cooked greens such as sprouts.

Unsalted Butter.

Additions to taste e.g. bacon, sausage, egg, gravy, stuffing.

METHOD

Mash the cooked potato

Shred leftover or freshly cooked greens

Mix up the ingredients and season to taste.

Melt a large piece of unsalted butter in a non-stick frying pan. When the butter sizzles, add the potato mixture. Press down and smooth over. Allow to cook over a moderate heat until a thin crust forms on the underside.

Turn over and cook the underside.

Variations: Serve a fried egg on top and/or mix up pieces of left over sausages or bacon with the potato mix.

Serve it with rich gravy for a special twist.

2 BAKED TURKEY, STUFFING & CRANBERRY SANDWICH.

Bake slices of cooked turkey until piping hot, with a crisp golden top. Fry slices of stuffing until crisp. Fill a bread roll or rolls with slices of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce.

3 TURKEY CURRY

INGREDIENTS

500 g of cooked, cubed turkey breast

2 chopped onions

2 cloves of chopped garlic (optional)

1 piece of ginger root (about 2 cm) chopped

6 fresh tomatoes, chopped

2 tablespoonsful of curry powder (or to taste)

150ml of passata (or substitute tomato paste and stock)

METHOD

Melt butter in a saucepan with a lid; add the onions, garlic, ginger and curry powder; fry gently for 5 minutes - don't let the onion or garlic brown.

Add tomatoes and either passata or the stock substitute and mix well.

Stir in the turkey.

Cover and allow to simmer for 30 minutes.

Delicious with basmati or pilau rice, and curry accompaniments such as chutney, naan bread and dahl.



'AUTUMN IN MILTON KEYNES, CITY OF TREES'

Willows weep for me
My heart is broken
Oaks whisper your wisdom
I know you've spoken
Silver birch bring me dreams
It's all I have so it seems
Horse chestnuts give me conkers
Then maybe I'll go bonkers
Playing just like a little kid
Hoarding until I'm outbid
By squirrel, beast and bird
It seems absurd
But they and trees all rule the roost
Although we have shops that boost
The income that keeps our city booming
The real beauty is in the blooming
Of the plants, with which our city teams
Beautiful, verdant Milton Keynes.

Poem by Liz O'Shea



PHOTOS JENNY HATHAWAY OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON 3RD DECEMBER