

Hello and welcome to the January newsletter 2021!

We are a slightly slimmer version this month, the lockdown diet went a bit too far and I lost half my bodyweight!

I have been eating too much ink, the expensive sort, and so due to costs, I have been cut in half. I am still the same old me that you know and love, just slimmer! ;D

Anyway, a belated Happy New Year to all residents, we wish you health, riches and luck in this new year. Although it is a new year, it does feel a bit similar to last year, I can't think why... Oh, yes, here we are on another lockdown, it's beginning to feel a lot like Groundhog Day!

In all seriousness, we are in a lockdown, non-essential shops, restaurants and entertainment and schools are shut once again, in order to keep people safe and help the NHS. Masks must now be worn in all shops and on public transport at all times. Many businesses now have staff wearing masks or face shields, constantly and it has become a way of life, unfortunately. Please show respect to the staff in the businesses you visit by always remembering to put your mask on BEFORE entering the establishment and be understanding. If you don't wear a mask, expect to be asked to put one on or you will be refused service. We are all in this together, remember!

Thank you for helping to keep you and the staff safe!

## Our Wonderful Community

We are very lucky to have a lovely community of caring residents who do look out for each other. So, in these times of imposed lockdown, please remember to keep check on your local friends and neighbours. Especially those who are vulnerable and isolating. We all know how hard isolation is, it can take a huge toll on mental health and loneliness. Even the strongest among us can suffer a mental health issue, when it all gets too much. You may remember the November newsletter was not written by your usual quick witted and funny editor. This was because the editor was having a bit of a mental wobble, and was not in a good place, unable to even manage to type this beloved tome. It wasn't even due to lockdown. It was just lots of bad news piled upon bad news, and the mind got a little crack and it was unexpected. Luckily, with some care, crying, talking, more crying and some help, the mind healed up, grouted over the crack and here we are, improving still but happier.

So, please, please, be a good friend or neighbour and show you care, be kind and be there.

## Coronavirus Help and Support in MK

**If** you have no local support at all and you are at high risk (pregnant/over 70) call 01908 252398 for help in getting prescriptions and access to food shopping. This helpline is ONLY for people with no friends or family to help out,

**If** somebody is at risk of self-neglect or domestic violence or other harm there are two numbers to call:

Adults - 01908 253772    Children - 01908 253170

**If** you are worried about a scam of some sort call 0808 2231133 or email: [tsd@miltonkeynes.gov.uk](mailto:tsd@miltonkeynes.gov.uk)

**If** you are in a food crisis call 01908 565852 between 10.00 and 4.00pm Monday to Friday. There are collection points around MK.

**If** you are worried about how COVID 19 has affected your finances help may be available. There are benefits you may be entitled to. Follow the links for help from: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/coronavirus) to find out more.



## **The Santa Tour**

The Santa Tour was a huge success that was pulled together by the determination of the T.B.R.A for Santa to deliver presents to the children, pandemic or not, there was no way our children were going without. Santa and his elves socially distanced and safely delivered Christmas presents to lots of happy children on the estate. Many thanks to Woughton Community Council for funding this event. A huge thank you goes to all the elves who worked so hard delivering presents.

## **The Book Swap Table**

The table, located at the meeting place next to Tesco, has been a huge success so far. People are visiting and taking books to read which is great news. It is cleaned and sanitised a couple of times a week, but it is outside in all weathers so should be quite safe. There have been many donations lately, the table is looking very full up, which is fabulous. What it is not is a dumping ground for other items that are not books, there has been recently been some clothes and other junk left there, which is not welcome on the table, please put any suitable items in the clothing bins recently installed in the carpark. Thank you if you have donated books. All books are very welcome. All genres of adult and children's books would be fantastic to keep up variety and interest.

Pop along and take a look.

## **Rubbish Issues**

Unfortunately, Serco has had to cancel food and garden waste collections due to staffing issues. Please put your unwanted food into the black rubbish sacks. Covering and wrapping it well can prevent the sacks from being ripped open by the wildlife. A sprinkle of pepper on top of the rubbish bags once they are out for collection can also deter the wildlife. It is advisable to put your rubbish out early on the day of collection, which also prevents sacks from being outside for too long and getting ripped apart. Please clean up any spillages of rubbish after collection to deter the dreaded rats visiting!

## **Good News! Yay!**

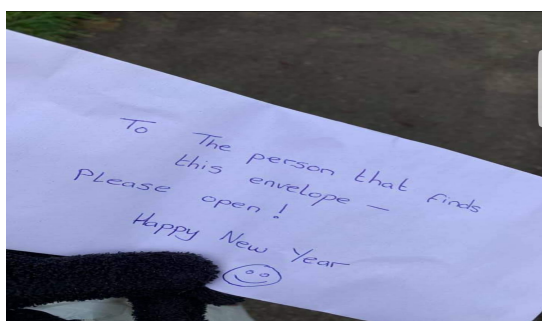
The Public Realm Improvement Fund have generously awarded T.B.R.A some funds to spruce up the mural at the Meeting Place and to redo the entrance to The Community Garden, to help make the estate tidier and colourful. We look forward to that.

To help improve the look of the estate can drivers please, please stop parking on the grassy verges and making huge muddy troughs. It is an offence to park on the verges and as such, you will be reported for it.

Please take pride in the estate you live in, thank you.

## **Facebook Pages**

We have our own Facebook group, please look and join in with ***Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP*** for the latest news, notices, local questions, everyone is very friendly. Please invite your local friends and neighbours to join our official page to keep in touch with local news. Please ask them to answer the group questions so that they are approved straight away. Unfortunately, we are unable to advertise businesses or services. Please use our sale page for those posts, thank you. We have ***Tinkers Bridge- Free To A Good Home*** where you can get rid of your unwanted items and date food items. We also have ***Tinkers Bridge For Sale*** page on Facebook which is perfect for selling items locally and not worrying about delivery so much!



## **New Year Kindness Spotted in Tinkers Bridge**

This lovely envelope was found left on a bench in the estate around 2nd January. It was found by the wonderful Allie who writes The Swan Diaries and cares for our local swans at Ashland Lake. Allie has donated the five pounds within it, to help feed the swans and geese at Ashland Lake. A huge thank you to the warm-hearted resident who left the envelope.