

July 2020

Hello and welcome to the July newsletter

48

We have entered a new phase of summer holidays and mask wearing! It will be a strange summer holiday this year with some people getting abroad or not, depending on the country they are going, some people will still be feeling apprehensive about going anywhere, while some have managed to bag themselves a U.K holiday. Staying safe at home is the new ultra safe holiday, set up your own private beach in the garden!

Whatever you are doing, stay safe and don't forget your mask!

We are through the worst of this ongoing situation, but there is still a lot of anxiety and concerns for some people regarding their health and their families health. Now that masks are mandatory in shops, buses and many other places, please remember to respect people, don't be a mask bully. You have no right to question anyone not wearing a mask in these places, take care of you and wear your mask! If you are someone who can't wear a mask, then maybe invest in the sunflower lanyard available in various shops and information desks. These let people know you aren't able to wear a mask and saves any awkwardness and again, you do not have to answer any health questions. Some people are still battling on with family in hospital or grieving for relatives lost. Please be kind and support one another. Stay safe!

## T.B.R.A Meeting

Exciting news as we get all technical with John Orr hosting our very first ZOOM meeting!! Ooooh!!

It will be Thursday 30th July at 7.30pm. Please send John your email if you wish to join in, you don't have to speak or look your best, just please get involved and from the safety of your own home! Even if it's raining! Yay! Free tea/coffee and whatever biscuits you have in your cupboard!! So, come online and join in!

Send emails to- [john.orr@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:john.orr@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

## Dishonorable Mention

It is with huge embarrassment that we have to inform you that our estate, our home, has been shamed in the Parish Gazette!

An article tells the story of a pile of earth, with rubble, building materials, branches and other unknown items, dumped at the end of a street, that grew and grew... and developed a life of its own. It called himself Fly Tipping Fred and continued to eat at the landscape, getting bigger and bigger, unknown residents sneaked down to feed him their unwanted rubbish, under cover of darkness. Fred grew until the grass couldn't be cut around him, anymore and the grass underneath him turned to mud. It wasn't pretty! With residents over feeding Fred, he was soon out of control!

At great cost, Fred Exterminators were drafted in to get rid of Fred, once and for all by MKC and Serco!!

We cannot let Fred infiltrate this estate again, everyone needs to keep an eye for potential Freds popping up in their street, in grassed areas, back alleyways, and parks! If you see someone fly tipping or the beginnings of a Fly Tipping Fred, PLEASE REPORT THEM, so we can stop Fred from messing up our estate, thank you!

## Play Rangers

Something nice for the children thanks to Woughton Community Council, who have arranged a programme of socially distanced fun with the amazing PLAY RANGERS from 3rd August. These will include sports, arts and crafts. Games and other fun activities. Our closest one is Netherfield. Hopefully the planned schedule will be available soon. For more information contact the Youth Team on 01908 392945, Also check out Woughton Community Council page on Facebook.

## WCC Out And About

Woughton Community Council are out and about in their On The Road trailer popping up all over the Parish giving out water bottles, doggy bags, advice and a happy face! Come and say hello!

Pop down for a chat with Councillors;

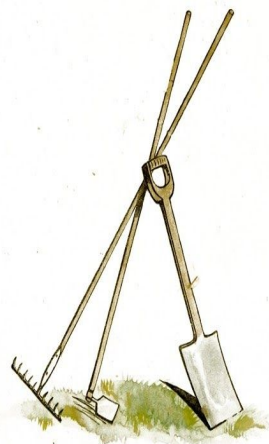
Fridays- next to our shop, Tinkers Bridge- 11am till 1pm

## Tool Library Services

For those of you that didn't know, we have our very own tool library, thanks to Woughton Community Council. It has been shut during the pandemic but it is now up and running, again. Bookings need to be made over the phone on 01908 395681 where an officer will take your details, sanitise your chosen items and deliver them to your address, this will be contactless and socially distanced. The officer will leave you with a copy of the hire form and collect it when they return for the item. You can hire available items for one week, but can arrange for collection earlier than that, if you have finished with it.

The best part is that this is a free service, so don't fret, borrow what you need and get them jobs done!

## Gardening Tips For August



- Prune all summer flowering shrubs once the flowers have gone.
- Keep on top of weeds that will be vying for space in your beds.
- Pick or collect any ripe fruits and keep an eye on your nearly ripe fruits too.
- Pinch out the tops of your tomato plants to concentrate the growth into the fruit.
- Cut back your herbs to encourage a quick new growth to harvest before the frost comes.
- Tidy up your strawberry plants and remove old straw to improve ventilation
- Give hedges a final trim before they stop growing towards the end of August.
- Collect any seed pods and dry out for next year

## Summer Good News

YES REALLY!! The TBRA applied for funds in the hope of putting on a summer activity. Luckily, we have been awarded the amazing sum of (up to) £500!! Huge thanks to the wonderful Woughton Community Council, based in Coffee Hall.

Usually, we would book a coach, and take a trip to the seaside, which is always popular. The lovely Deanna would organise everyone and it would be a brilliant day. Unfortunately, due to you know what, we cannot do that this year, with following guidelines, we would need twenty coaches or something!

We want you to decide by filling in the survey at the end of the newsletter, pick from the options or please suggest your own? We will consider any activity suitable for social distancing. It does not have to be a summer activity, it could be an Autumn or Winter event. Have a think and write it down.

Once we have a few ideas, we will put it up on our Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL page on Facebook to hear everyone's thoughts.

Please complete the Activity Survey at the end of the newsletter and pop it into 23 Hatton's letterbox, thank you. You do not need to put your name or address.



## Covid Reminder

Like you all need one! But we wouldn't be doing our community duty if we didn't bug you! So, although Milton Keynes has had a low incidence of infections-so far- it is no time to be complacent. Washing hands thoroughly must continue, wearing masks when you should must continue, socially distancing must continue! The virus is still out there, lurking around street corners. Towns around us haven't been as good and could be looking at lockdowns happening. Let's keep MK with the lowest infection rates! You are all doing a fabulous job, keep going!

## The Swan Diaries

What a strange year this is proving to be for all of us. Not much of what's going on around us can be called normal at the moment, but one thing at least that has happened normally, is fluffy season!

Sadly Fred and Wilma didn't manage to breed this year. Fred partially built four nests at different places on the lakeside, but none were actually finished and used. I don't know if this was because the pair just aren't ready to breed yet, or if Wilma just didn't approve of Fred's nest building efforts, but for this year again, no cygnets at the lake. The canal, now that's a different matter! Our new pair, Apollo and Diana, have successfully hatched four adorable fluffies and are extremely proud of themselves. Despite being first time parents, they're doing a fantastic job protecting and raising their babies, which includes an "attack" by a canoeist who decided to aim right for the swan family instead of moving to the side like his companion had done. There is simply so need for such cruel behaviour and I hope this man learnt a strong lesson from the way Apollo told him off!

For the geese this year, fluffy season has been very good and both the greylag geese and Canada geese have raised a good amount of goslings, with no signs of any angel wing this year which is fantastic. I haven't been able to spend as much time with the fluffies as I would normally due to current events and my very hectic life in general, but have still been able to gain enough trust for hand-feeding and excited greetings when I arrive to see them.

Wonky goose isn't doing very well at the moment though, and he's worrying me. I've been feeding Wonky for about five years now and he earned his name because of his wonky walk. Wonky has always been weaker than the other geese and when we first met, he was getting bullied a lot and was very timid. After a few weeks of daily feeding and as much protection from bullying as I could give him, Wonky's strength and confidence grew and he was accepted by the flock as one of them. But then, after a long time feeding, that flock moved on and Wonky went with them.

This year the flock returned to breed and I was delighted to see Wonky with them still, but he's not as strong as he was and has clearly been struggling. It's one of those times when I wish I could take him home to give him the care he needs, but that wouldn't be right for him as geese are flock birds and need to be with their own kind. My feeling is that Wonky is an old bird now and maybe doesn't have long left, but I will continue checking on him and helping him, and will take him into rescue if needed.

By Allie



## The Community Orchard ( Woughton-on-the Green)

Get down to the orchard towards the end of August, and pick yourself a bounty of apples. The children love running around spotting the best apples, not so much the lugging home of the hoard, haha. Bribe them with this delicious apple tart, perfect with custard, lovely with cream and even better with ice cream!

### Flat Apple and Vanilla Tart

- 1 pack of puff pastry, defrosted
- 5 large apples
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 25g butter, cubed
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 3 heaped tbsp of apricot conserve or just use jam.



Heat the oven to 220c/ 200c fan or gas mark 7. Roll out the pastry and trim to a circle about 35cm across. Transfer to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Next, peel, core and thinly slice the apples and toss in lemon juice. Spread over the pastry to within 2cm of the edges. Curl up the edges of the pastry, slightly, to stop the juices running off. Dot the top with the butter and sprinkle with vanilla and sugar. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes until the apples are tender and the pastry is crisp. Warm the conserve (or jam) and brush over the apples and pastry edges. Serve hot with ice cream and scoff!!

