

Hello! Long time no see and a warm welcome to the June newsletter.

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We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well.

We have certainly been through the strangest of times but we are nearly there, hopefully, and coming out on the other side. We have found ourselves and lost ourselves, we have all cried and been down. We have learned new recipes to cook and what we should never cook again! We have lived without our favorite takeaways, coffee shops, clothing shops and entertainment, and we did it, we got through it. We made new friends, got to know our neighbours, helped each other out and have been socially distanced shoulders to cry on. We have checked on elderly and vulnerable, and helped our neighbours in need. We have been home teaching and home learning, we have been strict parents keeping children inside, even on hot, sunny days, which has been hard, but you did it! Yes, you did!

We have learned to appreciate our allowed daily walks and enjoy our gardens more. We have clapped and raised a racket every Thursday with Clap for Keyworkers. We have learned to colour rainbows and make kitchen windows beautiful! We have put on weight and maybe lost weight, we have learned new skills or discovered new talents. We have learned to socially distance, and to queue at shops, wear face masks, without being totally embarrassed, and learned how to wash hands very thoroughly, for those who didn't already know. We have been a caring community and a country pulling together. Each and every one of you have been amazing, and we thank you all.

We would like to finish with a huge thank you to all the staff who work at our local Tesco, they have worked tirelessly throughout lockdown and through some very stressful times against the unseen virus. When shelves were empty and customers desperate, they carried on doing the best they could.

And finally, a massive thank you to every single keyworker who got up every day or night to keep on doing their job to keep our country going throughout the lockdown, we thank you all.

**By Sarah, Editor.**

Just because things are slowly going back to some sort of normal, these are still difficult times for many people who are still shielding or looking after relatives who are vulnerable. Other people may be furloughed or have just lost their jobs due to Covid19 for many reasons, these are still hard times for all. If you need help in any way, please look at this list of who to contact for what you need. Please reach out, don't suffer!

**MK Food Bank Xtra**- can supply vouchers by contacting them on 01908 565852 10 am till 4pm Monday to Friday

**MK Local Support**- can signpost to other services, offer welfare calls, can help with collecting medicines- 01908 252398

**Safeguarding**- If you have a concern for an adult you know, a neighbour or relative, please contact the Access Team at Milton Keynes Council on 01908 253772

If you have a safeguarding concern for a child, please contact the safeguarding hub (MASH) on 01908 253169

**The Mix**- provide free and confidential advice and support to young people (25 and under) 808 808 4994 open between 4pm and 11pm. They also offer a crisis text message service. Text THEMIX to 85258

**Shout**- is a 24/7 text service, free on all major networks, for anyone in crisis, anytime, anywhere. Text Shout to 85258

**Age UK MK** have set up a crisis hub for the over 70's and can supply emergency packages of essentials and food. They can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and telephone befriending. Contact-01908 550700

**Milton Keynes Hindu Association** are also supporting people over 65 who are having to self-isolate. If anyone needs help with shopping, medicine collection, or anything else, please contact MKHA on 0300 365 1008

## [Tinkers Bridge Residents Association Meeting](#)

We are thinking of holding a meeting using **ZOOM** on Thursday July 30th at a time suitable for all. If you would like to 'Attend' please forward your email address to [chair@tinkersbridge.org.uk](mailto:chair@tinkersbridge.org.uk) or send it to [editorthebridge@yahoo.com](mailto:editorthebridge@yahoo.com)

## [Tinkers Bridge Residents Association-New Treasurer](#)

We are pleased to announce we have a new Treasurer, after being elected by the T.B.R.A at the February AGM, so please welcome Anthonia Lifu, from Colne. Thank you Anthonia for stepping up to the role. We cannot run the T.B.R.A without a Treasurer.

Unfortunately, our secretary Liz O'Shea, has had to resign recently, Thank you for your time Liz. We are now in need of a secretary to volunteer their time to help us. If you think you could help, contact the editor or Kathy on 07523427073.

## [Easter Egg Hunt](#)

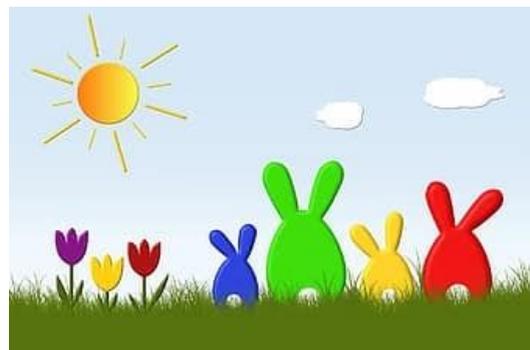
Well, thanks to Covid19 we had to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt this year, so we got all technical and went online with live Bingo on Facebook instead. It was tricky to get sorted. But once we did, lots of children won Easter Eggs. There were some tense moments in certain houses with children eagerly awaiting their number, thank you numbers for being kind to those children!

Thank you to everyone who played.

## [Art Competition](#)

In order to give away all the Easter Eggs, we also held an Art Competition, with entries being displayed in kitchen windows. The Judges walked around the estate, socially distancing, and viewed every artwork, they were all amazing! The judges just couldn't decide, so every entry won an Easter Egg, which was always our secret plan, hee hee. It was a joy to deliver all the

Easter Eggs to the unsuspecting children and their parents, many happy faces and beautiful manners as we socially distanced eggs to doorsteps. Thank you to everyone who joined in with the Easter Activities. Normal Easter Egg Hunt resumes next year!



It's that time of year again!

You're right - it's starting a little earlier this year but it is time for the Summer Reading Challenge for young readers everywhere to enjoy reading for fun over the summer months. This summer Milton Keynes Libraries and The Reading Agency are taking the Summer Reading Challenge online with an all-new digital aspect. Get ready for some silly fun as the Silly Squad, Summer Reading Challenge 2020, celebrates funny books, happiness and laughter - just what we need right now. Children are invited to join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all kinds of funny books! The Silly Squad characters are brought to life by award-winning children's author and illustrator, Laura Ellen Anderson.

## [Head to THE READING AGENCY SILLY SQUAD Website!](#)

Register for the challenge on the website and enjoy the heaps of super silly activities, quizzes, videos, games and digital (downloadable) activities! It's free and you can rate and review your books as you work towards your reading goal. While libraries across the UK are closed, it's difficult to borrow library books but you can start the challenge by [borrowing eBooks and eAudiobooks](#) using your library card. [Visit the library website for full details of the Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge.](#)

## **Bad News**

### **Fly Tipping.....JUST STOP!!**

We have all been trying to keep occupied during lockdown, people have often been partaking in some decorating or having a clear out. With the recycling centres and waste disposal being closed, certain people have taken to dumping their unwanted items around the estate. This is, of course, very unsightly, and gives our friendly rodents, luxury housing for them to make more rat babies. Please, please do not fly tip around the estate. If you see someone fly tipping, please report them. Please keep your pile in your garden until you can book your appointment at the waste disposal centre, these are getting easier to get, so keep trying.

Ron and the environmental team cannot keep cleaning up after residents, these guys are in their 70's and have had to self isolate for all of lockdown, while fly tipping has mounted up. Ron and his team also maintain the various raised flower beds dotted around the estate. They were very saddened to find one damaged recently, which will now need fixing. If you have some spare time on your hands, and would like to help around the estate, please volunteer by contacting Kathy 07523 427073. Thank you...**PLEASE STOP FLY TIPPING!!**

## **Good News**

With fingers crossed, we are hoping Government guidelines will allow us to arrange a seaside coach trip for the end of August! We will need to wait for further news, but hopefully we can do a survey of where to go soon, watch this space! There won't be any Arts and Crafts this summer due to social distancing and not owning enough tables to spread out. Sarah is hoping to give parents a break and take a selection of children over to Simpson Park during summer, parents will have to sign up with their phone number. First aid and drinks will be available, maybe an ice pop!

We have also had the great idea of a Community Picnic and Games Afternoon. Everyone could bring their own food and maybe a sealed packet or box of something to put on a share table. A few games of rounders or similar games maybe? Let us know your thoughts, contact the editor or check out our Facebook page.

## **Cookery Corner**

### **Nigerian Jollof Rice**

Serves 6 as a side dish

4 tomatoes

1 red bell pepper, deseeded and diced

½ white onion, diced

2 habanero peppers

1/4 cup water

4 cups parboiled rice

1 ½ cups of chicken or beef stock

8oz of tomato puree

Oil

2 tsp pepper

2 tsp curry powder

1 bayleaf (fish out before serving)

1 tsp dried thyme

Salt to taste

Add tomatoes, bell pepper, habanero peppers and onion to a blender with the water and blend until liquid.

Rinse the rice well, in warm water, then drain. Add rice to a pot with the oil, tomato puree, spices, stock, salt and pepper and cook over a medium heat for approx 40 mins or until the liquid is gone. It may be necessary to add more liquid to prevent the rice from burning at the bottom, (although some say it tastes better like that!) you can add more stock, or oil, or tomatoes with a little bit of water added. Leave in the pan and serve or decant to a serving dish. Don't forget to fish out the bayleaf before serving. Enjoy!

Sent in by Simone.



If you wish to submit an article, a recipe, a poem, a request or local news, to the newsletter (subject to editing) please contact the editor at [editorthebridge@yahoo.com](mailto:editorthebridge@yahoo.com). Thank you. We always welcome input.

## In Memoriam.

Tinkers Bridge was built in 1973, being one of the first estates built, to house the builders of the city centre, they say. It soon became a permanent fixture and a growing community when families moved in. Tinkers Bridge is a small, friendly estate, where a lot of residents know each other.

So, it seems noteworthy and fitting to announce the passing of one of the first ever residents to move into a brand new Tinkers Bridge- Mavis Skeats of Marshworth, who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Sadly, another long term resident has also passed during these last couple of months, Jean Gates, who also lived on Marshworth, will be missed by everyone who knew her. Our condolences to both families.

We wouldn't normally have an In Memoriam article in the newsletter, but as a community newsletter, if you wish to send in an announcement of the passing of a resident, please get in touch, thank you.

## Buddy's Story.

### **The rescue of an abandoned cockerel. Please don't abandon animals, they have feelings too.**

At first it was fun, like I was out on an adventure. Not much to eat, but enough to get by until a man sitting on a bench eating fish and chips shared some with me before I made my way up high to sleep, wondering what the next day was going to bring. Maybe my person would come back to find me and take me home?

The sun came up and hours passed and I saw lots of people, sometimes with dogs, sometimes with other smaller people, some looked my way, but most didn't even see me. Until one person with the biggest dog I had ever seen walked past and then came back after my throat tickle made me shout. They came right over into the bushes and looked straight at me before the person said, "Don't worry buddy, I will come back for you".

The person, who I now know is Hoomin, did come back like she said she would. She came in a car with a straw filled box and food, lots of food! She came walking over to me and said, "Hey Buddy, I came back like I said, why don't you come and see what I have here?" I walked towards her excitedly, but stopped a safe distance away as I didn't know her or what she was going to do with me.

I was hungry, but I was scared too, and Hoomin could see I was scared so she threw some food to where I could reach it and I dived, beak first, into that delicious mixed corn! Hoomin let me eat as much as I wanted to, which was all of it, then put more mixed corn on the ground a little closer to her, but I said no, it was too scary, so she moved back and I carefully moved forward to eat.

After I had eaten all of the corn, Hoomin went away, so once again I was all alone but at least I wasn't hungry anymore. She said she would come back, but I didn't think she would as I didn't know I could trust her.

Hoomin did come back, and when she came back she had more corn for me, sunflower seeds, and I started to feel strangely relaxed with Hoomin close to me so decided to give my feathers a quick preen in the warm sunshine and was quickly overcome with the need for a snooze, in fact, I couldn't keep my eyes open. The whole time I snoozed, Hoomin stayed with me and watched over me. I didn't worry about foxes this time as I had a strange feeling I was safe from them with this Hoomin around, even though I didn't yet feel safe being close to Hoomin myself.

Once again Hoomin went away and said she would come back later. This time I felt more confident that she would really return. As I peacefully drifted off to sleep high up in the tree with bats flying close to me, I thought I heard people talking, it sounded like Hoomin talking to the man who had shared his fish and chips with me the night before, but I was tired, oh so tired, and couldn't stay awake any longer.

The next morning I opened my eyes, a bit unsure about where I was but with vague memories of being moved in the night by Hoomin. I saw an open door so walked through it, then down a ladder which led to two bowls – one with water, the other with the most amazing crumble food in it. As I started to eat, I could feel someone was watching me so I looked up and saw hens, lots of hens, all lined up and looking at me! Then they walked off and started chickening as if I wasn't even there, so I went back to the bowl of delicious crumble.

That evening Hoomin came to see me and opened the door of the small area I was confined in so I could step outside and stretch my wings for a while. Some of the hens came over to see me, but none of them stayed long, we all just got on with chickening and didn't really talk to each other much, but I felt safe and happy in this new place, and had more food than I ever thought possible. Now some time has passed and the hens that live here have become my flock, the dog that lives here has become my clumsy protector, and Hoomin has become my Hoomin, because my name is Buddy and I have come home.

By Allie Short

