

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter.

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This month's newsletter is coming to you from behind isolation lines in a secret location, somewhere in Tinkers Bridge, it has been sanitised, so don't worry!

Jokes aside, we are certainly going through strange and unusual times, battling an unseen enemy. The government is now asking for more of us to self isolate, closing schools to the majority and cancelling events. The impact of COVID-19/ Coronavirus is affecting us all, in one way or another but mostly the elderly and vulnerable, who will feel increased loneliness and isolation. A lot of people will be feeling the stress and strain, worrying about jobs and families, we can only hope for better times in the near future.

As a caring community, we ask you to reach out to your neighbour, if you are able to, maybe pop a note through their door with your number on and an offer of assistance. A quick chat or offer of help can really improve mental wellbeing and make your neighbour feel noticed and not so alone. Ensure you keep yourself safe and practice good hygiene, by washing your hands or using hand sanitiser if you're out and about. Change your clothes when you return home and again sanitise those hands!

Remember, stockpiling is greedy and unfair on those who are vulnerable, elderly or cannot afford to bulk buy as their budget is tight enough. The supermarkets and shops are doing their utmost to get stock on the shelves and ensure there is enough for everybody. The lovely people in our little shop are doing what they can and aren't to blame for the empty shelves. They are doing a great job under a lot of stress. Everyone is feeling the strain of these unrepresented times and we must pull together, not fight each other for toilet roll. We are all human, let's treat each other as such. Let's support one another and be kind. Thank you.

Please note the Community Fridge on Netherfield can no longer open, but they are doing some food parcels. Contact Councillor Maggie Ferguson on Facebook if you know of a need.

Scammers

Please be aware that there are many scams coming through trying to get at your personal details - and your bank account details. The NHS and the World Health Organisation (WHO) will never send you emails asking for this information or offering so-called cures. There are plenty of really bad people out there sending this kind of scam to you. DO NOT ever give your details online or in response to emails. Delete them. Do not open attachments. Look at the NHS and WHO websites for real advice. They both have COVID 19 pages full of advice based on what the science knows so far. Stay safe during these difficult times.

Support Group

Milton Keynes Coronavirus Support Group can be found on Facebook. They are coordinating efforts across many parts of the city and are looking for help and for those that need help.

Go to- <https://www.facebook.com/Milton-Keynes-Coronavirus-Community-Support-102707221365468>

Special Appeal Fund

Milton Keynes Council and MK Community Foundation are launching a special appeal fund, MK Emergency Response Appeal to which people can donate to support MK charities and community groups who support vulnerable people through this outbreak. MKC is providing £50,000 to kick start the appeal, with MK Community Foundation adding another £50,000, bringing the initial total to £100,000. The appeal aims to reach £400,000 by the end of July. All the money donated will be distributed to groups in Milton Keynes who play a vital part in supporting vulnerable people such as Age UK and The Food Bank.

To donate, visit; www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/mk-emergency-appeal

GOVERNMENT HOTLINES:

- ☑ **Business support & ventilators:**
0300 456 3565
- ☑ **HMRC:**
0800 015 9559
- ☑ **Universal Credit:**
0800 328 5644
- ☑ **School closures:**
0800 046 8687
- ☑ **NHS:**
Only call 111 if you cannot
get help online at 111.nhs.uk

VISIT [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) FOR MORE

Easter Egg Hunt for children

We are happy to tell you the **Easter Egg Hunt is not cancelled!** The children need something to look forward to in these strange times. It will be at **Colne park and fields on Wednesday 8th April at 2pm.** Social distancing measures will be in place. We may have to stagger entrance into the hunt, depending on numbers attending. **Please do not attend if you are in any of the vulnerable groups or have elderly relatives at home.** Hygiene measures will be in place. In the little playpark will be the under 4's chick hunt, they will need to find 5 little chicks to win an Easter egg prize and goodie bag. Over 4's will have the whole field area to look for 6 numbered plastic eggs from 1 to 6 to win an Easter egg. Once the children have found the correct number of chicks or correctly numbered plastic eggs, come over to the judges who will check and give out the prize. This is a free event and therefore it is one prize per child. This event is funded by John Orr's Councillor Fund and the T.B.R.A, we are very grateful, thank you. If anything changes, and we are forced to cancel, details will be on Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP.



Kids At Home

We were sent home from school
We thought it was so cool
But the adults were stressed
And we have to get dressed
For mum is going to teach us
We laugh, giggle and make a fuss
We can't go out to play
On this pretend school day
We want to eat everything
And dance, and play, and sing!
Dad says he'll have a try
And tries to teach us Pi
We tell him "Dad, we're five and ten!"
And ask for a bag of crisps, again.



