

Rubbish and recycling collections

We all want to do the right thing when it comes to recycling.

See the information below on how to put your bins, boxes and bags out correctly for the collection crew and what happens when there is a Bank Holiday.



When and where to put out your bins, boxes and bags

- Please place rubbish and recycling on the boundary of your property closest to where the collection vehicle passes by 7am on your collection day. Don't put out your recycling earlier than 5pm the day before your collection day
- Don't pile up your bags with the neighbours in your street
- Tie up all rubbish and recycling bags
- Rinse out any food and drink containers before you put them into the clear sacks
- Breakdown cardboard and place it inside the clear recycling sack. If is too big please take to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre
- Don't put loose items, e.g. large cardboard boxes out with your recycling; it won't be collected
- If your recycling bags, box or wheeled bin contain the wrong items it may not be collected or emptied.

There are no longer changes to collection days due to Bank Holidays, except for Christmas and New Year. If your collection day falls on a Bank Holiday please put out your rubbish and recycling out as usual.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we continue to emerge from these globally challenging times, I hope this newsletter finds you all well and ready for the summer months ahead.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their trust and support in recently voting me in as chairman of the Fairfields Parish Council, thereby taking the reins from Simon Webb.

Our outgoing chairman, Simon, has tirelessly given his time and expertise since the conception of our parish council; he has been chairman since the very start; setting up and leading many initiatives to make Fairfields a wonderful place to live. The parish and community have benefited tremendously from Simon's leadership, good ideas, practical support and drive to make things happen and he leaves big shoes to fill. On behalf of us all, thank you very much Simon.

Having worked and lived in Milton Keynes now for ten years now, I moved to Fairfields nearly three years ago with my family. We moved here for the amazing school, which my two children attend, and the great

countryside within walking distance which we enjoy at the weekends.

I have had the pleasure in meeting quite a few of you whilst on litter picks around the estate and, more recently, with the handover of keys for both allotment sites. The allotments are really starting to take shape now and it is a joy to witness both the community and the gardens thriving.

In this month's newsletter I hope you'll find lots of interesting articles to read and updates on the local projects the Parish Council are involved in. As a reminder, we meet every month to discuss projects which can help Fairfields and would welcome anyone who wants to join the Parish Council, submit questions for the meetings or get involved.

We look forward to all meeting up with you all and getting some Fairfields' community events organised for the second half of the year.

Have a good summer and best wishes.

Jan Hunt

Chairman Fairfields Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT

Parish Clerk, Mrs Jean Nicholas
fairfields.pc.clerk@gmail.com

MEET NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR KARL FINDLAY

Karl was born in the North East of England and enjoyed growing up as an active member of the community; running local youth clubs and the town's local football fixtures. Karl moved to Fairfields a year ago with his partner Sarah, as somewhere to set down roots together.

Karl has been working in the public sector now for 10 years. In his free time he enjoys walks, BBQ's with friends and gardening.



Karl has joined the Parish Council in order to contribute to the community and support Fairfields' growth as a safe and welcoming place to live.

ALLOTMENTS ARE NOW OPEN

We are pleased to be able to report that Marius Grove allotments opened on 17th April and Fairfields Gardens opened on 8th May.

All plot holders are now working hard despite the weather to set themselves up with raised beds and sheds. Unfortunately, the high winds brought some casualties but with the arrival of summer the weather is settling down and planting is beginning.

All plots are occupied, and we have waiting lists for both sites. If you want to go onto the waiting list, please contact the clerk on:
fairfields.pc.clerk@gmail.com



JUNE GARDENING

This year the weather has given us a season of contrasts. Having had a very cold start in April we had some lovely days with very cold nights. The old net curtains came in very handy and saved a lot of my patio plants and the early apple blossom, as I wrapped them up when a cold night was forecast. I don't actually use much horticultural fleece as its expensive, I use old net curtains and this year they worked a dream. The wettest May for many years then did not help us get out on our gardens. Flowers and vegetables grown from seed or plugs should not be put out too soon as you could still get caught out by a late frost even in late May or early June. I once had blackened potato shoots caused by a frost on 15th June.

Tip - Late sowings will always catch up!

Herbs are extremely easy to grow in the smallest garden or even in pots on the patio. They are the original cut-and-come-again crop and having seen the price the plants are in the vegetable section of the supermarket this must be a winner for money saving. You can buy a packet of mixed herbs for less than the cost of one of those plants and then have fresh herbs all through the summer. I even bring some indoors in small pots on the windowsill and keep them going until well past Christmas. To harvest herbs I would recommend:

Chives - I cut these a few stems at a time with scissors right down to the base this encourages re-growth. You can also eat chive flowers in salads.

Parsley, Oregano, Marjoram and Dill - Always remove the leaves together with the leaf stalk to prevent die back.

Rosemary - Cutting regularly will stop it becoming woody just take a piece about 15cms long from each shoot as required.

Basil - Nip out the tips of the plant to just above a pair of leaves. Do not nip below a leaf, leaving a short stem, or the plant will not make new shoots but will gradually become all stem and no leaves.



Dried herbs are much nicer if you do them yourself, but this can be time consuming I prefer to freeze them. Pick them as above when they are at their best and either chop or tear them into ice cube trays with a small amount of water ready to use in your cooking at a later date or lay them

flat on foil, but please fold over the edges securely to stop them escaping into the freezer or you can get a bit of a mess.

The other fight in the garden after a wet winter is against weeds. I have over the years built up a way of dealing with them although not always conventionally.

Woody scrub - Such as brambles and ivy can be quite difficult but if you cut all of the stems back to just below ground level they will eventually die as by not allowing any re-growth the roots will eventually be "starved out". You do have to be patient with this method but the only alternative is chemical brushwood killers.

Bindweed often called field convolvulus is very rampant in our clay soils locally but it does not like cultivated soil so by regular digging and cultivation I have managed to defeat it. The books will tell you to go to great effort to sieve the soil to rid yourself of the minute bits of root left in the soil but they don't have our heavy clay to contend with.

Lawn weeds such as dandelion, clover, buttercup and daisy can be defeated by persistence. Rake the lawn well before cutting; this will lift the growth of these weeds away from the surface. Next mow the lawn twice in opposite directions, which will remove as much as possible of the weed. I also find it better to raise the mower blades, to give the grass a better chance of fighting off the weeds not only by being more able to cope with the dry weather but also the slightly longer grass can "shade out" weeds. I find the best way to get them out of lawns where you can't dig the soil deeply is by using a screwdriver. This will enable the weed to be dug out with as little disruption as possible to the lawn.

If you have any tips, especially money saving ideas, you would like to share with others please let us know by email at Fairfields.pc.clerk@gmail.com and we will put them into a future Parish Forum Newsletter.

Mrs Jean Nicholas
Parish Clerk

Herbs



thyme



rosemary



dill



tarragon



parsley



coriander
(Mint is also ciliantro)



bay



sage



basil



oregano



mint

FAIRFIELDS RESIDENTS SURVEY 2021

Many thanks to all the residents who completed the Fairfields residents' survey 2021. Your inputs and suggestions are extremely valuable to the Parish Council and help us identify the areas where we can improve things in Fairfields.

We are pleased to announce that the survey results have now been released and below is a quick summary:

- 219 residents completed the survey from 4.2 different streets in Fairfields.
- Countryside/walking has been voted as the most important service on Fairfields followed by schools, playgrounds and community spaces.
- Top provisions residents would like to see in Fairfields are shops, community garden and parks.
- Top rated facilities in Fairfields are lighting and safety whereas speeding and maintenance were lowest rated.
- Football and tennis are the top voted sports for the Fairfields' sports field followed by basketball and cricket.
- Parties and functions in community building are in high demand followed by yoga and fitness classes.
- Top voted community events residents would like to see in Fairfields are Christmas, summer fair/festival and carnivals.
- 75% residents wish a café with eat-in facilities instead of a hot food takeaway with no eat-in facilities.

- 45% residents are interested in joining Fairfields Neighbourhood Watch.
- There is a good interest in community litter picking events with 23% willing to help and 55% would if they could.
- Around 5% residents would like to join Fairfields Parish Council and another 36% would like to know more.

A detailed breakdown of all the categories above is available on Fairfields Parish website at:

<https://www.fairfields-pc.org.uk/resident-survey-results-2021/>

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the survey or anything else, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at:

fairfields.pc.clerk@gmail.com



FREE PLAY SESSIONS DURING SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAYS

We have once again arranged for play sessions with Milton Keynes Play Association to be held during the school summer holidays.

The dates are Fridays 30th July, 6th August, 20th August, & 27th August.

The sessions will run from 10am to 12.30pm and will be held on the grass area with access from Magnus Grove and All Hallows Play Park which is on the corner of Cicero Crescent and Fabius Drive. This is funded by the Parish Council in collaboration with Cross Keys Homes. There is no child care, adults are expected to stay with their children. No



need to book just turn up during the above mentioned times.

All are welcome to these free play sessions which have been a great success in the past including their special social distancing sessions which were held last year.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICKING

Fairfields Parish Council would like to invite you to the Monthly Community Litter picking event. The monthly dates for this are detailed below.

We are calling on residents to show their support and commitment to helping us keep the streets of Fairfields clean. The monthly litter pick events show that you care about our environment and keep it an attractive place to live and grow up.

Litter can project a negative image of your home and may be a deterrent to potential house buyers and visitors damage the image of our community and wildlife and could

impact on how the future generation views us. You can show you care about our area by attending the upcoming litter picking events. We will provide you with the waste bags and tools.

Our pledge is to maintain a litter-free environment around our homes and encourage our neighbours not to litter, to reduce the amount of waste generated and to dispose of it correctly and report fly tipping to Milton Keynes Borough Council.

26th June, 31st July, 28th August, 25th September, 30th October, 27th November and 8th January



No prizes for guessing who this Fairfields' Road is named for! Probably one of the most commonly known and infamous of the Roman Emperors, Nero gained a reputation as the archetypal sadistic tyrant. School children have been taught he fiddled whilst Rome burnt although, truthfully, he was playing a lute rather than a fiddle and he was over 30miles away from Rome at the time.

He was 17 years old when he became Emperor. As great grandson of Augustus, the first accepted Emperor, he was to be the last of the bloodline of that imperial dynasty. But notoriety of his personal debaucheries was to be his lasting legacy. It is written he killed two of his wives as well as murdering his mother. If he had any redeeming features, they weren't apparent other than putting down the rebellion led by Boudicca in Britain in 60-61AD and redesigning Rome following the Great Fire of 64AD. Nero died in 68AD, aged 31 years, having enlisted the assistance of his servant to help him commit suicide! (*An exhibition entitled 'Nero: The Man Behind the Myth' is at the British museum until 24th October*).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE LOST YOUR DOG

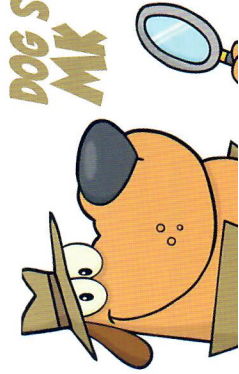
Hi, this is Dog Squad MK, we're sorry to hear that your doggie is missing and would be very pleased to help in any way we can. Firstly, here's a checklist of people to contact straightaway and actions to take;

1. Microchip Company - please report missing and confirm with them that the telephone numbers are correct and confirm them to us. Many people have changed their phone numbers and forgotten to update their chip. Is your dog wearing a collar? If so, what contact details are on the tag?
2. Contact all local vets, someone may have already found your dog and taken it in to scan for a chip.
3. Call the Dog Warden - SDK on 03444 828300 (24 hours) or www.lostdogsuk.co.uk.
4. Register on Dog Lost - www.doglost.co.uk.
5. Join Dog Squad MK on Facebook so that we can help you coordinate your search.

6. If your dog has been lost from your home or garden, be sure to leave their bed or an item of your clothing outside your house, the scent will carry and will guide them home if close by.

7. If lost on a walk, please take an item of clothing that smells like you and hang it on a bush or tree where they went missing. Also drag their bedding around in the same area to spread a familiar scent, even sprinkle some family urine around the area.

8. Create a Help Find... Page - we can do this for you. We will keep in close contact with you and set up a messenger group on Facebook with the key searches and yours if you are completely kept up to date with how the search is progressing. And let us know if you get any news!



**DOG SQUAD
MK**

ADVICE ON PREVENTING DOG THEFT

What to do if your dog is stolen

The pandemic has prompted more of us to become dog owners but sadly this has also resulted in an increase in dog thefts. The tips below give advice on how to keep your dog safe and information on what to do if your dog is stolen.

Tips to keep your dog safe

Keep an ID tag on your dog with your surname, mobile number, and address on it. Do not put the dog's name on the tag as this will help the thief build a rapport with the dog.

Make sure your dog is microchipped, and details updated.

Take photos of your dog from different angles and any distinguished markings.

Keep garden fences and gates secure to avoid your dog from escaping and prevent easy access to trespassers. It may be an idea to install a sensor light or a bell on gate which will alert you to an intruder.

Avoid leaving dogs in kennels outside if at all possible, if not then install an alarm or CCTV.

Always keep your dog in sight when walking or in the garden. Never leave them alone outside on their own and make sure you have trained him/her to come back on recall command.

Vary your walks, locations and times and be wary of any stranger approaching or asking questions about your dog. Be vigilant at all times and do not use social media sites to advertise your favourite walks.

Never leave a dog tied up outside a shop or left in a car alone. Always check if the owner of the shop/café allows dogs inside.

Be careful when choosing someone to walk or look after your dog whilst out at work.

Do not advertise you own a dog(s). Avoid placing notices on your property.

Be extra careful when advertising puppies for sale as the thieves are on the look out to steal the whole litter in order to sell.

Useful addresses

DogLost: www.doglost.co.uk

Red Kite Radio: redkite radio.com

National Pet Register: www.nationalpetregister.org

Animal Search UK: www.animalsearchuk.org.uk

Buckinghamshire Dog Warden Service: provided by SDK Environmental Ltd. Telephone: 03444 828 342

Some statistics

During the Covid19 pandemic dog thefts have increased by 170% according to Animal Search UK
50% of dogs are stolen from gardens
19% are taken by breaking into a house
16% are taken from the owner when they are out walking
7% are a result of leaving a dog tied up outside a shop
50% of stolen dogs are puppies



Reporting the theft to the police, stating it is stolen not missing. Make sure you receive a Crime Reference Number.

Give a description of the dog(s). Date and times of when you last saw your dog(s).

The circumstances around when your dog(s) disappeared.

Report your dog's disappearance to your microchip provider as they can notify when your dog has been found.

Report the theft of your dog(s) to the local authority dog warden. They will let you know if it turns up in their kennels.

Report the theft to missing/stolen animal websites such as DogLost, who can offer free advice and help and help reunite missing pets with their dog owners.

Make sure you have plenty pictures of your dog(s) as they can come in useful when proving ownership.

Social Media is an excellent way to raise awareness of your stolen pet. Make sure your settings for this goes on to public reaching as many people as possible.

Look at websites and places where thieves may try to sell your dog(s) including pet shops, notice boards and notify the police quickly.

Contact animal centres, rescue charities, your local vet, and any neighbouring practices so they are aware of the incident and will keep an eye out for your dog(s).

Check with neighbours, fellow dog walkers and businesses.

Put out posters and flyers. Do remember to remove the posters once your dog is found. They can look unsightly after a time.

Approach your local radio station/newspapers or other media contacts to advertise your missing dog and at the same time it will raise awareness about the issue and prevent further dogs being stolen.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE



Dear Residents

Welcome to Milton Keynes, your local Police force is Thames Valley Police and the Police Station is located at 302 North Row, Witan Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 2DS.

To contact Thames Valley Police please call.

101 for non-emergency enquiries,

999 only call if

- A serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- Someone is in immediate danger or harm
- Property is in danger of being damaged
- A serious disruption to the public is likely.

You can also report a crime online by going to www.thamesvalley.police.uk and click the link, to report a crime.

Thames Valley Alert – Free Messaging Service

Thames Valley Police are committed to involving the community in the policing of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. We believe that by improving the flow of information between the community and its police we can all make a greater impact in the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This site provides an invitation for you to participate in the exchange of information with Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups. As a registered recipient you will not only benefit from two way messaging but may also learn about those in your community subject of anti-social behaviour orders, help identify suspected or wanted criminals or learn about community groups, events or meetings in your area

It is free to register to become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone. Register online at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

You can also follow Thames Valley Police Milton Keynes on the following social media apps

Facebook - TVP Milton Keynes

Twitter - @tvp_mk

CAPTURING THE LOCAL HERITAGE

Milton Keynes Council working in collaboration with Fairfields and Whitehouse Park's Community Councils, has commissioned a new website by leading digital agency Unit 1, which is due to launch in August 2021. Capturing the heritage of the local area, as well as community activities and information about local cultural organisations the website will be a way to connect with the past, present and future of the area.

Some exciting public art projects will be happening over the next few years in Fairfields and Whitehouse, the new website will be a place to find out more about the artists involved, the projects being developed, activities, events and other ways to be involved.



EXPLORE

Fairfield & Whitehouse