

## Strange Times

We are living through strange times indeed. Schools and shops closed, people out of work and, of course, this dreadful virus to contend with. So not easy. Our hearts go out to you if you have lost family members or friends at this hard time.

This lockdown is hard too. You may be feeling unwell or have unexpected money or domestic problems to deal with. So, please, if you are reading this and do need any sort of help – then get on the phone to one of the helplines listed in the back of this newsletter.

The library is closed of course. But we are working out how and when we might reopen it. **In the meantime, if you want us to drop you off a book, or just fancy a chat, then call 01633 309443 and leave your name and number and any message you want on our voicemail.** We are checking this number for messages all the time, so you can expect a call back from us the same day.



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The Maindee Festival crew had to cancel the 2020 event planned for July 4<sup>th</sup>. So they put their thinking caps on and have come up with a great new plan. The BIG IDEA is for everyone to start growing SUNFLOWERS now, so that by the end of August we can hold **PETAL POWER MAINDEE FESTIVAL**, with the streets of Maindee filled with sunflowers plus:

- decorated shop windows (shopkeepers please note). &
- giant flower structures (feel free to make one for your street).

You can get free packs of Maindee sunflower seeds from Maindee Fish Bar, Chepstow Road Post Office, Corpa Road Post Office, Premier on Church Road, Tesco's Caerleon Road, The Farmhouse Bakery and Maindee Handyman. If you can't get to the shops, text or ring 07925 436903 and we can drop seeds off to you. Plant seeds in a big pot, or in a front garden, watch out for slug attacks, water your sunflowers very well and let's help create a blooming lovely Maindee.

During early August there will be on-line flower making workshops to show you how to make flower decorations for your front garden from recycled and other materials. **Over the weekend of August 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> there will be an online children's festival and music event.**

Keep an eye out on our Facebook site for updates. Full info will be in the next newsletter, meantime get those seeds planted! [Facebook.com/maindeefestival](https://www.facebook.com/maindeefestival)

Contact us at: [festival@maindee.org](mailto:festival@maindee.org) or 07925 436903.

## Greening Maindee

### Consultation Success

Before lockdown, our "Greening Maindee" planning was in full flow. Our consultation day in February was a great success. Over 150 people completed surveys and the results confirmed that people want more trees, better play facilities, parks, less litter and healthier green spaces to enjoy. Thanks to everyone who took part and to the young people from Maindee Primary Eco Committee for all their help on the day. So as things return to normal, we will be responding to your priorities and redoubling efforts to create attractive green spaces that are good for both people and wildlife. If you want to join in, John Stone would love to hear from you on:

[greening@maindee.org](mailto:greening@maindee.org) or call on 07947 359703.



Don't forget your free Sunflower seeds!

### Maindee Big Tree Giveaway – 20<sup>th</sup> June

Trees benefit our overall health and wellbeing and can improve air quality. Sadly, Maindee has the least amount of tree cover in Newport. To help do something about this we are giving away FREE native tree saplings for anyone who lives locally. If you have a garden and would like to plant a tree or shrub then come along to St Mary's Community Garden on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 11-2 pm and pick up a tree. Social distancing will be expected – but tree hugging will be allowed.

### Theft of community trees

Last Winter volunteers planted a community orchard in the lane that cuts through by the Bus Depot on Corporation Road. The crazy news is that 15 of the total 18 trees planted were stolen last month. Can you believe it! Anyway, undaunted (if a bit bruised) we will be planting another load of fruit trees this Autumn to reinstate 'Orchard Walk' – as always, get in touch if you want to lend a hand.

### Newport City Council supports Maindee Triangle plan

You may have read in the Argus that NCC have given Maindee Unlimited the go ahead to take a "Community Asset Transfer" lease on Maindee Triangle. This little corner park, that sits at the junction of Livingstone Place and Chepstow Road, has been run down since the public toilets on the site closed in November 2017. As part of the new Greening Maindee strategy, one of the priorities for us will be to get the outdoor space working for the community. We are also planning to re-provide public toilets (flushed with rainwater!) and develop a smart new community meeting room. It is all very exciting stuff!



# Newsletter June 2020

photo © Ian Agland



## Bundles of help for pregnant women



Are you pregnant? Do you need a bit of a hand? Have you got some volunteering time to donate? Do you need some baby clothes? If any of these apply to you then give Bundles a ring on 07432648925 or email them at: [bundlescymru@gmail.com](mailto:bundlescymru@gmail.com). Bundles is a local voluntary group that supports women and families during pregnancy and birth. They collect pre-loved baby clothes (up to 24 months), maternity clothes and equipment like breast pumps. These are then passed onto low income/ refugee/asylum seeking/ women in need. Bundles are happy to provide you with support or to hear from you if you have 30 minutes or more a week to join their growing network of volunteers. Tea is always available (and sometimes lovely cake).

## School stuff

*Jo Cueto, Headteacher, Maindee Primary School writes:* Lockdown has been such a strange experience for us all and we have been missing our Maindee Primary family. Staff are trying to ensure that pupils can learn online and through home packs that staff have prepared and delivered. We are also encouraging children to look after their physical and mental health during this long period away from school. Staff have recorded songs, videos, stories, keep fit videos, recipe demonstrations and much much more to help to stay in touch with pupils. We are grateful to Newport County for their help in setting challenges for pupils to take part in. We are looking forward to being able to get back to school when it is safe for everyone to do so. Until then, take care everyone and stay safe!

*How is home schooling going for you? Text your thoughts to 07948 624781*

## In the next issue...

Send us your news items or photographs, drawings and paintings. We will print as many as possible in our August newsletter. Post your best work to the Library at 79 Chepstow Rd, or email [admin@maindee.org](mailto:admin@maindee.org) or text 07948 624781.

Maindee Festival workshops are running in early August. There will be full information on how to join in and make amazing flowers from all sort of materials – including plastic and sugar icing – WOW!



Andy O'Rourke has created this beautiful sunflower poster for Maindee. The next issue will include a full size fold-out copy to display on your kitchen wall or front window.



Full details of the Petal Power Maindee Flower Festival to be held on the last two weeks on August. Keep watering those sunflowers – let's put on a good show in the streets of Maindee!

## Useful Helplines:



**Newport Citizens Advice: 01633 222622**  
Leave a message and you will be called back within a day. Interpreters can be provided. We are available on weekdays, between 9-5. Home visits can be arranged.  
**Benefits – Appeals – Debt – Housing – Employment – Furlough – Discrimination.**



**Maindee Youth Project: 07746 440761 / 07746 439992** Sarah and Zenia help young people and their families keep safe, and can help when there's not much food at home or if struggling with mental health.  
[sarah.miller@etonrdch.org](mailto:sarah.miller@etonrdch.org) [zenia.hamid@etonrdch.org](mailto:zenia.hamid@etonrdch.org)



**Maindee Primary School: 01633 263309**  
If your family needs help don't be shy about asking for it. Free school meals vouchers - Food parcels - toiletries – bereavement support – home learning.  
[Maindee.primary@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Maindee.primary@newport.gov.uk)



**Central Hub Team: Freephone 08081 963482**  
Food parcels - prescription & medicine delivery – housing – employment - wellbeing - financial matters.  
[centralhub@newport.gov.uk](mailto:centralhub@newport.gov.uk)



**Community House, Eton Road: 07976 267367**  
ESOL classes, social and faith groups are meeting by phone or online. Contact us if you are lonely or curious or if you could volunteer in admin, maintenance, caretaking or as a trustees' advisor. [CHER@ideasuk.co.uk](mailto:CHER@ideasuk.co.uk)