

YOUR **Mirror** COMMUNITY CORNER

# Let's do this together

Edited by **SIOBHAN McNALLY**



The annual hand-wringing about our children's apparent low levels of happiness are making headlines this week.

Every year, The Good Childhood report from the Children's Society likes to remind us that our 15-year-olds are the unhappiest in Europe - tutting at us that even the poorest children with only a stick for a friend are happier than our over-indulged kids.

Well, I don't know whether fear of failure is the problem, or lack of sleep, or too much time on Tik Tok, but I do know that we shouldn't ask 15-year-olds whether they are happy. They literally won't be happy for another three years at least. Better to ask 11-year-olds who can at least remember their fun childhood.

But if anyone needs a reminder of how great our young people are, they could do worse than read today's feature about a young woman who didn't let a little thing like failure stand in her way.

Do please keep your stories, memories and photos coming to [siobhan.mcnally@mirror.co.uk](mailto:siobhan.mcnally@mirror.co.uk) or Community Corner, PO Box 791, Winchester SO23 3RP.

*Yours, Siobhan*



## FRYING UP AN ICE CREAM...

Deep-fried ice cream could be the next big thing, if this aspiring young Willy Wonka of the frozen dessert world has anything to do with it.

We've been reminiscing about lots of old sweets and chocolates on this page, but 25-year-old Natasha Rajput had a dream of a new kind of sweet treat.

Until just two months ago, Natasha had no job or money, and her previous attempts at launching a business had failed. Undaunted, she set up a kitchen in the shed behind her family's council house in East Finchley to trial her new concept.

She explains: "I loved having hot desserts with ice cream, so I wanted to come up with something that combined the two.

"I knew about Indian fried ice cream and Japanese fritters, but I wanted the ice cream to be frozen and eventually melt, rather than turn into liquid.

"After more practice, I finally nailed it! I was ready just before lockdown, but the extra time allowed me to trial different toppings and perfect my product."

With the help of a loan from her dad, and the Truman Brewery Upmarket in London's East End willing to give her a stall, Natasha launched T's Fried Scoop.

She says: "At first the only customers I saw were pigeons, so it was not the best start, but then it started to pick up after I used social media to help create a buzz, and now I feel like I'm finally on my way."

This year has been tough on many young people, so it's inspiring to see Natasha follow her dreams. After all, Mr Whippy had to start somewhere...



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"It is better to risk starving to death than surrender. If you give up on your dreams, what's left?"*  
**Jim Carrey**

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I have this theory that there's very little that's really new these days - and, like coffee bags, many modern ideas are in fact just a rehash of something already invented in the past.

Reader Debbie Higginbottom, from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, writes to confirm Geoffrey Pearson's suspicions.

She says, "Coffee bags are definitely not a new invention. I remember trying them in the 70s with my mum. I think they were made by Lyons. We only had them the once so they can't have been that great!"

There's also another mystery that needs a bit of detective work, this time from two readers who swear blind that Ryvita has a secret past.

"Does anybody else remember cheese Ryvita? Even the Ryvita Twitter account denies it," Martin Gray in Edinburgh asks.

And Paul Kempster says he's asking for a friend. Of course, Paul, your secret is safe with us.

"It's a long shot but do any of your readers remember Ryvita being covered in milk chocolate?"

Both Anne Knebel in Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire, and Terry Rennard in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, miss one of my fave chocolate bars with a very striking wrapper - in more ways than one.

I can still vividly remember daydreaming at school about the bar's galleon treasure ship bound for the West Indies - until Mr Price threw the chalkboard rubber at my head, missed and hit Debbie behind me.

While Terry says: "I'm licking my lips at the thought of the Old Jamaica dark chocolate, dark rum and raisin chocolate bar."

And Helen Garner in East Yorkshire also has some colourful thoughts.

"I used to love dipping an Ovaltine bar in a cup of tea, and sucking the chocolate off to leave the crunchy, malty grains!"

Crumbs, Helen, perhaps those racy dunking memories are best kept between you and the bedpost.

Join our Bring Them Back campaign and write to me at [siobhan.mcnally@mirror.co.uk](mailto:siobhan.mcnally@mirror.co.uk).



## MY BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD



We've all had best-laid plans ruined this year, but spare a thought for 77-year-old Grace Givnan from Huyton with Roby, Merseyside, who managed to get away for a sunshine break - only to be sent back home early.

She writes: "When the virus broke out, my partner John and I had to be repatriated from our holiday in Turkey, 10 days into our three-week stay!

"We then both had to shield for three

months, and if it hadn't been for my garden, I think I would have gone stir crazy.

"But it gave me the chance to catch up with all the jobs that needed doing, and gave me great pleasure in getting it looking so nice."

Does your garden change with the seasons? Send photos of glorious autumnal glow in your backyard to [siobhan.mcnally@mirror.co.uk](mailto:siobhan.mcnally@mirror.co.uk).



## SILLIEST PET SELFIE

Pooch parents Bill and Lesley Callow, in Godshill on the Isle of Wight, emailed to tell us: "Our dog Sophie is a rescue dog from Friends of the Animals, and although she is now nine years old, she still plays like a puppy.

"Her breed certificate says she's a mixture of terrier and chihuahua, but she thinks she is a rottweiler, and runs our household.

"She's been particularly enjoying having us around all the time - you can see a real sparkle in her eyes. We love her to bits."

Oh yes, she's definitely got that "someone has just opened a biscuit tin somewhere on the island" look in her eyes...

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