

Neighbourhood News



from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 23 - March 2011

More trees please!

Since 2007 Reading Borough Council has been working with the charity Trees for Cities to improve the town's streets. Trees for Cities is a national charity with the aim of enhancing the urban environment through tree planting. Areas of Reading already planted with new trees include the Thames Promenade and Prospect Park.

Members of the Bell Tower Community Association took part in the first of this year's series of tree planting events, in Richfield Avenue on Saturday 5 February. The event was very popular, with around 50 volunteers planting 20 London Plane trees, which will provide a welcome canopy for the side of this busy road.

The event was the first held after the introduction of the council's Tree Warden scheme, where volunteers plant, monitor and maintain street trees in Reading.



EASY DOES IT: Lifting a new tree into place

Further tree planting sessions and other events are planned in the coming months. More information on Reading's tree planting strategy and the Tree Warden scheme can be found on the council's web site at www.reading.gov.uk/leisureandculture/naturalenvironment/trees.

New plans for railway

Revised train depot plans offer some improvements for Cardiff Road residents

In January representatives from Network Rail met with Cardiff Road residents to discuss the latest plans for the train depot development. Network Rail outlined some amendments to the railway embankment design.

The main change will be that the northernmost siding behind Cardiff Road will no longer be needed, reducing the level of noise from train movements. The embankment profile behind the higher numbered houses in Cardiff Road will be gentler than originally planned, making the embankment and the construction work less intrusive.

The tall column lights will be replaced by low-level lighting, which will be entirely behind the acoustic fence and therefore should cause less light pollution for houses near the embankment.

Network Rail have confirmed that they will not be needing the land where gardens have been extended beyond their original boundaries, so they will no longer be claiming possession of the disputed land.

In the longer term, the electrification of the main line to Bristol and Cardiff has been given the go-ahead, so trains will progressively become quieter as new rolling stock is introduced. The new sidings are primarily intended for new trains, so it is likely that most trains using these will be electric.

The general view among Cardiff Road residents is that these changes are welcome, but they still feel that more can be done. Residents are campaigning for the replacement of felled trees in the area around the embankment, to reduce noise further and improve the environment behind their gardens.



STANDARD TANDOORI

Nepalese Restaurant

141-145 Caversham Road
Reading

Tel: 0118 959 0093

Open daily 12 noon-2.30pm
and 6.30pm-11.00pm

**Grand Nepalese Buffet
every Sunday - only £7.95**

20% off our lunch menu - just ask!
Takeaway menu available

www.standardtandoori.co.uk



STATION DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Public meeting and talk by representatives from Network Rail to give us the latest on the station and train depot developments.

**TUESDAY 29 MARCH
7.30pm**

**NEW HOPE CENTRE
ALL WELCOME**

*Refreshments will be provided.
To be followed by the Bell Tower
Community Association's AGM.*



Visit www.bell-tower.org.uk or email us at info@bell-tower.org.uk

What would you do in an emergency?

Your community needs you!

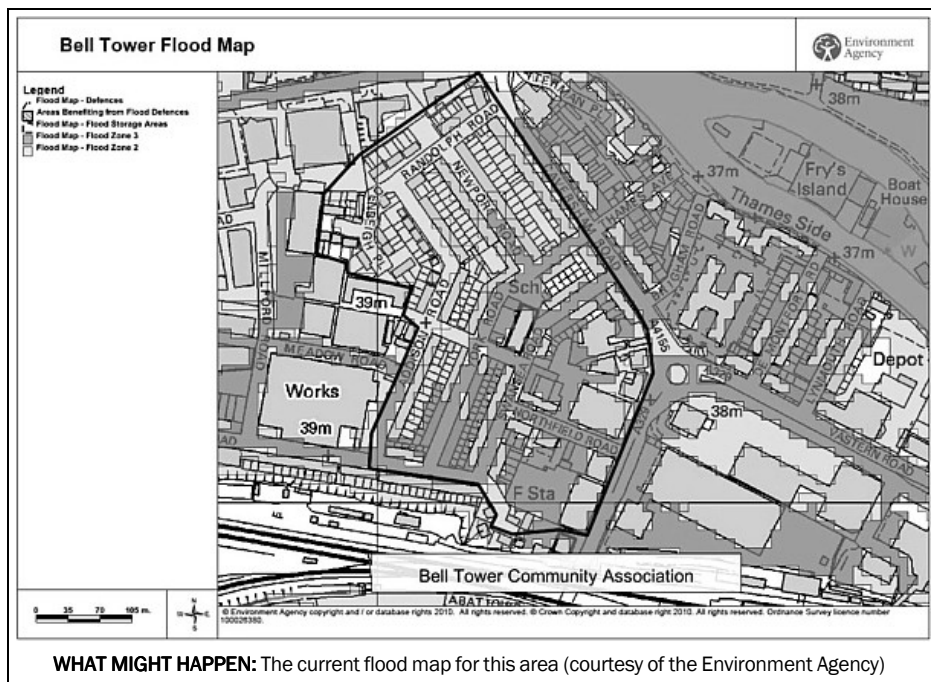
It is well known that this area is in the Thames floodplain, but have you ever thought about how we would deal with a severe flood?

The map shows the expected extent of flooding in a 1 in 100 year event (dark grey) and a 1 in 1000 year event (light grey). It is a larger scale version of the flood map on the

Environment Agency's web site, and shows that nearly all of the Bell Tower area would be affected in an extreme flood.

With advice from the Environment Agency and the National Flood Forum, the Bell Tower Community Association is in the process of producing an emergency plan for this area.

The plan will outline who in our area would work with the council and emergency services in the event of a crisis, how we would work with them and what resources we can offer - with a major flood being considered our greatest risk.



JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year!

We need more volunteers than ever to help us with all our activities - supporting local residents, planning for emergencies, organising events, and many more.

And don't forget members can claim some great discounts from local businesses!

You can join at any of our events or by contacting Denise at 88 Addison Road.

News in brief

● Farewell (for a while) to New Hope's vicar, Catharine Morris, who is taking a sabbatical for three months. Pads Dolphin from Greyfriars will be looking after New Hope in Catharine's absence. Catharine expects to be back in late May.

● The date for this year's national Big Lunch event has been set for Sunday 5 June. After a very enjoyable community lunch last year we hope to take part again, Look out for details!

FIVE STAR WINES

133 Caversham Road



- ★National Lottery (Lotto) ★Pay point ★Gas and electric meter cards & keys ★Bill payments ★Bus tickets ★Phone top-up ★TV licensing ★Thames Water bill payments
- ★ATM ★Wines, beers and spirits
- ★Sandwiches, snacks and groceries
- ★Newspapers and magazines ★Western Union money transfer

Ask in our shop about the Caversham Lodge Guest House upstairs.

Present this advert to claim 10% off any of our wines!

We hope to have a draft plan available in the next few weeks.

There will be important national event in March which will give us a good incentive to complete our plan on time. The Environment Agency has invited community groups in areas prone to flooding to take part in 'Exercise Watermark', which will provide a rare opportunity to test local plans against computer models and other predictions of emergency scenarios, and we intend to participate in this exercise.

In the meantime, there is plenty you can do to help us. We are looking for volunteers to support our emergency plan - to help us review it and try it out and to act as emergency volunteers in the event of a real crisis. Please contact David at 24 Addison Road, or on 07890 118167 if you can help!

Fanny's
ANTIQUES

A wide range of Antiques, curios and collectables at very reasonable prices.

Why not come and see for yourself!

You can find us behind Reading station at 1-5 Lynmouth Road off the Vastern Road Caversham

0118 950 8261

HOUSE CLEARANCES UNDERTAKEN

OPEN EVERYDAY
 10.30 - 4.00
 SUNDAY
 12.00 - 4.00