

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 31 - March 2013



How does your garden grow?



Make the area more colourful and win great prizes!



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Show off your garden design talent in 2013! This area's already a great place to live and work in, and you can help make it look really beautiful too.

You are invited to enter our Bell Tower in Bloom competition. This is open to everyone living in our area. The categories are:

- ◆ Front garden
- ◆ Flower boxes
- ◆ Hanging baskets
- ◆ Children's garden (for entrants under 16)

Entry forms will be available from 1 April, and the closing date for the competition will be 24 June. Households may enter their front garden in one of the above categories. Judging will take place during July and the results will be announced in the September edition of *Neighbourhood News*.

We have generous sponsorship for the competition from the Abbey Ward Community First fund, so there will be valuable prizes for the winners! Details of these will be announced soon.

News in brief

● Planning permission has been granted to turn the former furniture shop at 69 Caversham Road into a gym. Dawsons Music next door will continue trading as before. To limit noise there will be parking restrictions at night and no classes will be allowed after 8.00pm.

● Unfortunately we are unlikely to get permission to use the land by the substation in Randolph Road for a noticeboard and bench, so we are considering alternatives. An option suggested to us is in front of the wall near the corner of Addison Road and Denbeigh Place, where there is a grass verge. We are investigating the ownership of this land and would welcome comments.

● As an experiment we are delivering this newsletter to some residents in Richfield Avenue and on the Thames side of Caversham Road for the first time. We are interested in extending our area in the future and would welcome feedback - if you have received our newsletter for the first time and would like to comment please contact David on 07890 118167 or send your views to info@bell-tower.org.uk.

● Can you help us for a couple of hours every three months? We are looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate newsletter deliveries. Please contact David on 07890 118167 or email david@bell-tower.org.uk if you can help.

ALL ABOUT THE



AIR AMBULANCE
BERKS | OXON | BUCKS

Come and find out more about this vital service - we have a speaker from the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance.

**Wednesday 27 March, 7.30pm,
New Hope Centre, York Road.**

ALL WELCOME

Refreshments provided

To be followed by the Bell Tower Community Association's AGM.



New charity for neighbourhood groups



Bell Tower committee members have been helping to set up a new charity to support neighbourhood groups in Reading.

Established in December 2012, Reading Neighbourhood Network provides resources and training for neighbourhood groups - residents', tenants' and community associations, environmental groups and other organisations with an interest in their local area. RNN also supports individuals who are interested in starting a new group.

RNN has already held a workshop session to help groups get their message across to their members and local people, and more training sessions are planned during 2013.

Nearly 30 groups have already signed up as members of RNN, including the new Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association which was founded in December with support from RNN. Several individuals have also expressed an interest in joining.

For more information visit the Reading Neighbourhood Network web site at www.rgneighbours.net.

FIVE STAR WINES

133 Caversham Road Reading
Tel: 0118 961 2110

- ★ 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!

Visit the Green Park wind turbine with us!



No doubt you've often seen the 'Whitley Windmill' - now we're offering the chance of a guided close-up tour and it's free!

Thursday 23 May, 7.00pm at the turbine site, car share can be arranged.

To book your place please contact Rod at 88 Addison Road, phone 0118 958 8433.

Want to party again this year? We do!



After last year's great Jubilee street party in Newport Road, we'd love to do it all again in 2013.

Our proposed date is the weekend of 1-2 June, to coincide with this year's national Big Lunch event.

The council has not yet decided whether it will charge for road closures for the Big Lunch weekend,

so we don't know if we can afford to hold a street party - but we hope to find a suitable venue and party anyway!

Look out for details on our noticeboard by the main entrance to E P Collier School and at www.bell-tower.org.uk, and follow us on Twitter and Facebook - we hope to see you there!

STRICTLY COME CHA CHA CHARITY BALL

Friday 3rd May 2013 from 19:00, Crowne Plaza Reading

Crowne Plaza Reading is thrilled to have organised a charity ball with a personal appearance by Ian Waite from BBC's Strictly Come Dancing.

All profit goes to Samantha Dickson's Brain Tumour Trust.

Ticket price is £55.00 pp and includes:

A glass of Champagne on arrival, 3 course sit down meal and entertainment until 1.00 am.

To book, please call 0118 925 9933 or email conferences@cp-reading.co.uk. Terms & Conditions apply, subject to availability.



CROWNE PLAZA
HOTELS & RESORTS