

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 8 - June 2007



We're cleaning up!

You may have noticed that the graffiti in our area has been gradually disappearing over the last few weeks. The Bell Tower Community Association's big graffiti clean-up is nearing completion! We have set up our own graffiti cleaning team, with support from Reading Borough Council, who have provided us with a cleaning kit and training, and Drews ironmongers, who have given us paint and graffiti cleaning spray. We have also received a contribution towards paint from Koltrane Lighting and a generous donation from Southern Vehicle Conversions in Randolph Road.

Graffiti is a perennial problem in Reading, but it has been getting noticeably worse in the last year. Our area is not known as one of the town's graffiti hot spots but it has

"Open all hours" off licence and convenience store is now at

FIVE STAR WINES

133 Caversham Road

We are now here!

SWANSEA ROAD

CAVERSHAM ROAD

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

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

had its share, with Randolph Road, Ross Road, Northfield Road and the northern end of York Road being the worst affected parts. At the time of writing we have:

- ◆ cleaned all the graffiti from Ross Road and York Road and most of Northfield Road
- ◆ cleaned various items on walls, cable TV cabinets and street signs throughout the area
- ◆ cleaned the smaller graffiti in Randolph Road, and are still working on getting the largest items in this area cleaned by the council

since these probably cannot be cleaned using DIY methods.

- ◆ repainted some of the worst affected cable TV cabinets, along with doorways, walls and the Enterplan building in Northfield Road, which have all had graffiti attacks over the past few months.

Thanks go to all members of the clean-up team - Teresa, Phil, Mary and Sue - for their hard work, and the property owners and residents who have co-operated with us. We hope to be a graffiti-free area soon, and to be able to keep it that way!

Graffiti busters get to grips with community clean-up



FED up residents are sending out a clear message to the taggers: "We don't want your swarls round here."

A team of volunteers, trained to remove graffiti from their community, cleaned up a whole road alongside EP Collier School on Good Friday.

The Bell Tower Community Association tackled graffiti in Ross Road, one of the three problem streets in their patch.

David Neale, campaign organiser, said: "The graffiti clean-up went really well - we cleaned up about a third of all the graffiti in our area and are now planning more sessions to complete the job."

The team of five cleaned around 20 pieces of graffiti - eight from walls of houses, five on street signs and one on a garage door, and they also repainted three green Virgin Media boxes and a doorway.

The blitz used up all the council-supplied chemicals and the group have now asked for more. They have also received some cleaning sprays and paints from Caversham Road ironmongers Drews.

The group plan to tackle Northfield Road next and then Randolph Road - which are both eyesores.

Mr Neale added: "Local people, businesses and the council need to work together to solve this kind of problem, and collaboration is what our initiative is all about."

Reading Borough Council provides free training and graffiti removal kits to community groups.

To get involved or report graffiti in your area, call the hotline on 0800 834 035.

Tell us about your graffiti hotspots and what your community is doing to clean-up graffiti in your area. Call Lucy Thorne on 0118 963 3077 or e-mail lucythorne@readingchronicle.co.uk



All hands to the wall: Bell Tower Community Association David Neale, Mary O'Donoghue, Teresa Colliass, Phil Gill, Sue Colliass and chairwoman Barbara Kendall. Picture 0724785a by Ed Godden

Here's how the local press has been covering our graffiti clean-up - courtesy of the Reading Chronicle

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

This year we're blooming!



ANYONE FOR FLOWERS? Association members at our stall with a few of our satisfied customers

Our first foray into the Reading Blooms annual competition began on Saturday 12 May at E P Collier School. With council sponsorship we provided free hanging baskets, troughs and a choice of plants to fill them.

Despite the morning being cool and overcast, 45 local residents came along to claim their free containers, fill them with bedding plants and take them home to brighten up their

front gardens. The only 'catch' was that participants had to enter this year's Reading Blooms competition, which will be judged in late June and early July.

After the event there is already a more cheerful look to many of our front gardens, which will be enhanced further as the plants bloom. Many thanks to all who took part for helping to make our community a brighter place.

Forthcoming events

Friday June 29 - Treasure Hunt with "60 questions in 60 minutes" - have fun exploring our area! Meet at New Hope at 7.00pm.



Saturday August 11 - the second Bell Tower tidy up day. Yes, the big skip's going to be back again for your unwanted household goods! 10.00-2.00 at E P Collier School.



News in brief

- In the Bell Tower Community Association there have recently been some changes at the top. After founding the association and guiding it for two years, Barbara Kendall has stepped aside as Chair. Teresa Colliass is now chairing the association, and David Neale has been elected as Vice-Chair. Barbara will continue to serve on the committee and with her valuable liaison work with other organisations.
- Farewell to Abbey Ward councillor June Orton, who stood down at the last local election. June has been a strong supporter of the association from the start - we wish her well.
- New Hope's community barbecue will be on July 22 - with children's activities such as table tennis and a chess competition. New Hope will also be organising Landlubbers, a summer holiday club for 5 to 11 year olds, from August 28-31.

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 Lymouth Road off the Vastern Road Caversham

0118 950 8261

HOUSE CLEARANCES UNDERTAKEN

OPEN EVERYDAY
10.30 - 4.00
SUNDAY
12.00 - 4.00

Are you at risk of flooding?

According to the Environment Agency...yes, we all are! But is the risk now having a significant effect on our buildings insurance? We have heard of local residents being declined buildings insurance in recent months, and hope to publish a feature on flooding in *Neighbourhood News*.

Have you experienced any problems with insurance companies? Or do you remember the floods of 1947 - in particular, the flood height? If so, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact David at 24 Addison Road or by email at david@bell-tower.org.uk.



Neighbourhood News is kindly sponsored by grants from the Berkshire Community Foundation and Reading Borough Council.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL ISSUES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT?

We would like to hear from you about the issues in the area that are of concern to you. Please fill in the form below (use a separate sheet if necessary) and return to David at 24 Addison Road. Don't forget to include your contact details if you would like a reply. Alternatively, you can send an email to info@bell-tower.org.uk.

Whereabouts	Please describe the nature of the problem below