

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 20 - June 2010



Flood action is here!

So far we have had a dry spring this year, and one of the last things that comes to mind in such times is flooding. But our last flood warning was less than three years ago, and those with long memories will remember that we narrowly escaped serious flooding in March 1947.

At the Bell Tower Community Association's AGM in March we had two speakers with first-hand experience of flooding - Terry Wright from the Environment Agency and Heather Shepherd of

the National Flood Forum, whose home has been flooded twice in recent years. We were given an insight into the realities of flooding, and guidance on how the two organisations operate and what they can do for us.

The Environment Agency's main responsibilities are flood risk mapping and management of rivers, locks, flood gates and flood defences. It estimates the likelihood of flooding, and its flood map shows our entire area in shades of blue, meaning that it is always possible that flooding will affect us. Most importantly for us, the Environment Agency provides early warnings of flooding and undertakes to keep us updated on

from these and has taken up cases with insurance companies where householders have been unable to get insurance at reasonable rates.

On the advice of both organisations we are starting a Flood Group, with the aim of representing the community's views and obtaining advice from the relevant organisations and agencies on flooding. Look out for future public meetings on the subject - and further information will be appearing in future editions of *Neighbourhood News*.

To view the Environment Agency's flood map and see more detail, go to www.environment-agency.gov.uk. The National Flood Forum's web site is at www.floodforum.org.uk.



SURROUNDED: an aerial view of our area in March 1947, looking west. Caversham Bridge is to the right of the photo, with the railway on the left.

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
- ★ London congestion charge

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

the predicted extent of flooding. This gives us time to prepare - for example, by moving valuables upstairs and making up sandbags. Information is provided by the agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188. If you have not yet registered for flood alerts you are strongly advised to call this number right away and make arrangements to receive them.

The National Flood Forum is a charity set up to advise and support individuals and community groups in areas prone to flooding and to help victims of flooding. It helps those living in floodplains, such as ourselves, by encouraging community groups to plan for flooding and by engaging with official bodies such as the Environment Agency. For example, it has campaigned for better flood defences in areas that would benefit

Forthcoming events

QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 25 June, 7.30pm, The Gorge Café. Come and have a fun evening and test your general knowledge. Tickets £5 per person in advance from Barbara at 77 Addison Road or Denise at 88 Addison Road. Sandwiches, tea and coffee are included. Cash prizes for the winners!

THE BIG LUNCH - Sunday 18 July, 1.00-3.00pm, E P Collier school. Join us for one big picnic in the playground. Bring something to eat (and share around if you like)! Part of the Eden Project's national Big Lunch event - details at www.thebiglunch.com.

TIDY-UP DAY - Saturday 8 August, 10.00am-2.00pm, E P Collier school playground. The big skip's back again for all your unwanted stuff!

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

It's good to be green!

What really happens to the waste thrown into our recycling bins? *Mary Neale lifts the lid...*

Recycling is something that we can all do to save raw materials and energy. By recycling we can reduce the need to extract raw materials that causes pollution and destruction of habitats. Recycling also reduces the waste sent to landfill sites that contaminate the land and release methane, a greenhouse gas. Approximately 75% of the rubbish that we throw away can be recycled.

Garden waste is composted. The material is then shredded and formed into 'windrows', which are available for sale.

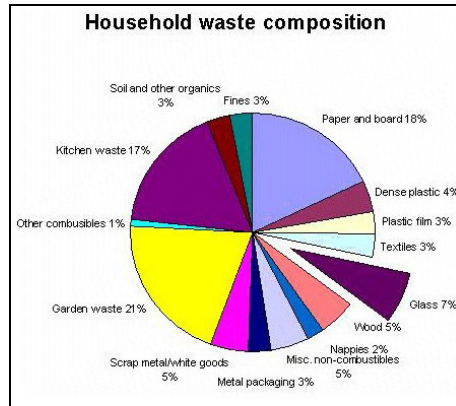
The UK glass industry has the capacity to recycle over one million tonnes of glass each year. Glass has the unique ability to be infinitely recycled without compromising its quality.

Paper, cans and plastic bottles are collected from our doorsteps and sorted at the Smallmead Waste Management Park.

The first stage of the sorting process is loading the material on to the conveyor belt system. Once large items of contamination have been removed in the pre-sort cabin, the waste is sorted by size and then by type. These items are further sorted by hand in picking cabins. Finally

the items are prepared for transport to reprocessors, where the materials will actually be recycled.

Cardboard and paper are sorted into different grades before being sent to reprocessors to be washed and made into pulp. Different paper products are made by the careful selection of specific materials.



Food and drinks cans are made out of steel or aluminium. The two materials are separated. The aluminium cans are sorted, shredded and de-coated, and both metals are melted down.

Plastic bottles are sorted according to the type of plastic and colour ready to be sent to reprocessors. The plastic is then melted down and formed into a new shape. A wide range of products can be made from recycled plastic, including new plastic bottles, garden furniture, water butts, compost bins and fleece jackets.

Containers can be made from many different types of plastic. Plastic packaging is often made of mixed plastics or with chemical contaminants, which makes it very difficult to sort. Try using 'bags for life' for your shopping - if you need to dispose of carrier bags some supermarkets have a dedicated recycling bin for them.

Please ensure that you only put the correct items in your recycling bin. At the moment high levels of contamination are found, and this reduces the efficiency of the recycling facility. It can cause damage to the sorting machines. Commonly, plastic carrier bags and other types of plastic packaging need to be removed and sent to a landfill site for disposal. Other items found include duvets, electrical items, car parts, dirty nappies and dead animals. And many loads are

JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year! Don't forget members can claim some great discounts from local businesses. You can join by contacting Denise at 88 Addison Road.

found to have higher levels of contaminants than the recycling facility can cope with - these have to be sent in their entirety to landfill.

For more detailed information and fascinating facts take a look at www.re3.org.uk or www.recycling-guide.org.uk.

Finally, if you have unwanted items in a usable condition why not try to find a good home for them? Both Freegle and Freecycle have groups in Reading, and can be found easily on the web.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you enjoy gardening and can you spare an occasional hour or two helping the community?

We need volunteers to look after the garden area by the electricity substation in Randolph Road and the planter in Addison Road. Please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road 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

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