

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 36 - June 2014



Bell Tower just keeps on partying!

It was street party time again in Newport Road on Saturday 31 May, and around 150 people turned out to join the fun. A free barbecue was provided by our local pub The Moderation for the second year in a row. Those people wanting dessert were catered for by new local resident Sarah Castle who had baked cupcakes with all proceeds going to Bell Tower.

All of this acted as brain food for association secretary Rod Plinston's quiz in which teams vied for prizes provided by the Standard Tandoori.

For those who felt they might need to burn off a few calories there was an opportunity to get long-neglected bikes back on the road with a bicycle workshop. Any necessary spare parts were offered at a discount by another newcomer to the area, Caversham Bridge Cycles.

While their parents relaxed and mingled, the children had their faces painted by New Hope vicar Joy Atkins, used the crafts table, played in the sand tray or tried to hook a duck for the sweets provided by Five Star Wines.



CELEBRATING IN STYLE: (clockwise from top left) the party in full swing; Sarah Castle and Ruben van de Weg with their delicious cakes; Mizuki Brown enjoys the children's activities; and the famous Bell Tower egg-and-spoon race runs again

Partygoers not only enjoyed the fruits of others' generosity: they also donated £113 to a participant in the Pretty Muddy race in aid of cancer research who came to the party complete with mud.

Bell Tower chairman David Neale said: 'So many local residents and businesses coming together to make such a successful event certainly fulfils our mission statement of "bringing local people together". With the help of high visibility

jackets provided by Drews, we even solved the problem of locating a Bell Tower volunteer when one was needed. Many thanks to them and all our helpers as well as Newport Road residents for hosting the event. Here's to the next one!

If you have any feedback on the party or suggestions for activities at any future ones, please email us at info@bell-tower.org.uk.

Jonathan Dart

NO ROOM HIRE CHARGE!

Book your birthday party, Christening or family gathering at Crowne Plaza Reading throughout July and August 2014 and save money!

T: 0118 925 9933, E: conferences@cp-reading.co.uk

This offer is valid only for new bookings and is subject to availability. Free room hire when you purchase meal packages.



www.bell-tower.org.uk



info@bell-tower.org.uk



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Lively brains!

What an evening! Grey cells working hard, lively discussions, plenty of laughter! A very successful quiz evening with over 40

Rod for a challenging and enjoyable quiz, to all who came along and to the staff of the Crowne Plaza for their hospitality and help.

We are all looking forward to our next quiz in the autumn.

Barbara Kendall



AN EVENING OF FUN: A full house for our latest quiz and (right) Sandie Gill collects the prize money on behalf of the winning team

contestants – plus a pigeon that walked in for a while to join the fun.

The lovely sunny evening meant that we could also enjoy the view of the river scenery and bird life. Refreshments and drinks kept everyone going too.

A big thank you to our quizmaster

HAPPY FEET

The ideal weather – sun and blue skies – made for a comfortable start to our first Health Walk. Twelve people, from Bell Tower and Priory Avenue Surgery, took a friendly and gentle walk along the Thames, over the weir and lock and back to Caversham Bridge. En route we paused to watch the river bird life, count the chicks and enjoy the peace.



STROLLING ALONG: the happy band of walkers at Caversham Lock

Our next walk will be on **SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2014**, meeting again at 11.00am outside the Crown public house, Promenade Road – do join us, and bring a friend.

JOIN US NOW

for only **£1 per person per year**. Don't forget members can claim some great discounts from local businesses including the Standard Tandoori, Crowne Plaza and Drews!

We're busy talking to local businesses and hope to be able to offer even more discounts soon. Keep up to date at www.bell-tower.org.uk/membership.htm

You can join at any of our events or by contacting Steve Bale at 79 York Road.

FIVE STAR WINES

★ 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

**133 Caversham Road
Reading**

Tel: 0118 961 2110

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

News in brief

● A planning and design advice morning with winners of last year's gardening competition was well received and gave people plenty of ideas for their gardens. Attendees also took away free plants to help them get started.

We will be organising another gardening competition in 2015 concentrating on hanging baskets and window boxes, so now is the time to start thinking about what you want to plant. Further details to follow, so watch this space.

● Calling all dog walkers! When you take your dog for a walk around the streets please remember to pick up their poo and deposit it in the dog bin, to leave our streets clean. Reading Borough Council's dog wardens patrol our area and can issue fines of up to £80 to offenders.

● E P Collier School is planning a rapid expansion over the next few years, with its capacity eventually increasing from 210 to 420 pupils. There will be an exhibition at the school in July detailing its plans. Look out for details.

● A warm welcome to two new committee members this year - Steve Bale, who will be taking over as Membership Secretary to give Jonathan time to focus on publicity, and Richard Chandler, who will be liaising with local businesses and managing the members' discount scheme. The Bell Tower Community Association's committee for 2014/15 are:

David Neale (Chairman)

Jonathan Dart (Vice-Chairman)

Rod Plinston (Secretary)

Sandie Gill (Treasurer)

Steve Bale (Membership)

Barbara Kendall

Richard Chandler

Rose Brannigan (Minutes)

with standing invitations to Justine McMinn (E P Collier School) and Jackie Fountain (New Hope).

We're always looking for more help, so if you're interested please contact David at 24 Addison Road or on 07890 118167.