

Neighbourhood News



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September 2005

New association — new look!

Welcome to our first community newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy it and, of course, give us your feedback and contributions.

We're here to publicise local events, get people with common interests together, help with any local campaigns – and if you have any further suggestions for what we can include please let us know.

So who are we? There was a community meeting in June, covered by the local press, to help generate some community spirit and increase awareness of local issues. As a result we would like to form a community association.

We've got a great little community here – let's get involved!

After the meeting, Councillor June Orton wrote: "Meeting so many residents on that wet night last June, all of whom wanted to make the area a better place, was so

Neighbourhood group gets off to thunderous start



Good companions: Chris Bloomfield, community manager, the Rev Jon Westall, minister at the New Hope Centre, Cllr June Orton, organiser Teresa Colliass, Liz Herbert, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and organiser Barbara Kendall.

A THUNDERCLAP heralded the start of a new community chapter in one area of Reading when 40 residents met to discuss what they want from their neighbourhood. Organisers Barbara Kendall and Teresa Colliass sent out leaflets to more than 550 homes and businesses in Cardiff Road, Swansea Road, York Road and Caversham Road and beyond to invite them to a free forum meeting. More than 40 Abbey ward electors braved a thunderstorm to get to the New Hope Community Centre in York Road. Miss Kendall said: "The aim is to get a community spirit going and to see what could be done to make it a more lively place to live and work in."

From the Midweek, July 13, 2005. Courtesy of the Reading Chronicle.

encouraging. Together with Councillors Bet Tickner and Tony Page I will continue to try and help you achieve improvements to the area...I wish you well."

All the fun of the fayre

Although E P Collier is a small school, on Friday July 15 it was time for big business as they opened their summer fayre. Anyone who was there would have described it as "Totally Awesome!"

There was a great range of activities to participate in, such as circus equipment to test our skills on, and we were even lucky enough to have performers come in and give us a helping hand.

A wide variety of refreshments was provided by the school, and some of the parents were happy enough to bring in some home made delights. This was as well as all of the stalls inside that had been thought of and set up, one for each

individual class, by the E P Collier pupils. The fantastic ideas varied from the lucky dip to 'play your cards right'!

But that wasn't all; as many only noticed on their way out, there was a bouncy castle open to all of Key Stage One!

The atmosphere at E P Collier School on that Friday afternoon was incredible – because, not for the first time, a friendly community came together and had a fun time.

Although I can't say as much for three of the Key Stage Two teachers, who were gunged by their pupils!

Diva Gibson (Year 6)

Your community needs you!

We need volunteers for various activities, including

- ✓ community association representatives for each road
- ✓ more neighbourhood watch coordinators
- ✓ newsletter contributors and deliverers. Copy deadline for the next issue is November 19.

Finally, our new association needs a name....Collier? Rivermead? Caversham Borders? We need your suggestions! A small prize for the winner - closing date Friday October 7.

Please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road if you can help!

**What's on around here?
Turn over to find out!**

More from the meeting...

At the Community Meeting plenty of questions were asked. The invited guests were: Liz Herbert, Neighbourhood Watch Manager, Reading Police Station; Jon Westall, New Hope Centre; June Orton, Abbey Ward Councillor and Chris Bloomfield, Project Manager, Reading Borough Council.

Here is a selection of questions and replies from the panel:

What happened to the play area at Rivermead?

The play area was damaged after travellers set up camp at Rivermead. They were served an injunction to remove them from the site, but it would cost too much to replace the play area. The nearest play area is Beresford Road.

What events are planned for children?

An after school club takes place on a Thursday at New Hope. A kids club was organised for May half term and this will be repeated, but nothing was planned for the summer holidays. There is nothing set up for people of 16 years and over. A community worker has been talking to this age group to see what they are interested in. Jon is open to any ideas.

Does Neighbourhood Watch work?

Yes, Neighbourhood Watch does work. All crimes should be reported to the police, however minor they might seem, as the police's Community Action Team uses this information to target hot spots.

What can be done to make the area more green?

Try putting hanging baskets outside houses and general tidying up. Perhaps we could think about Reading in Bloom?

When can we have recycling for glass?

Glass will not be taken at the moment as it costs too much money to process for recycling. The next roll out of recycling will be green waste, as this takes up more of everyone's rubbish.

How often are our streets cleaned?

Channels are swept weekly on Fridays, footpaths on Tuesdays.



EVERY CUP OF COFFEE COUNTS

Help people living with cancer

Event details:

'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'

Friday 30th September 2005
10am – 12pm

New Hope Community Church
95 York Road

Come along for coffee and cake!

Macmillan
cancer relief

Regular activities at New Hope

Mondays

(1st and 3rd of each month)
5.30-8.30pm - Organic food sale - bring your own containers. 0845 330 8272, or www.truefood.coop

7-8pm & 8-9pm - Stretch and Relaxation Classes. Karen Poynter 0118 946 1373

Wednesdays

9.30-11am (term time) - New Hope Toddlers. Rachel Westall 0118 957 1585

Thursdays

10am-12pm - Giraffe Craft Workshop - ladies only. Caroline 0118 941 6348 / 0118 901 2432

3.15-4pm (term time) - Kidzone after school service, for primary aged children and their carers. Jon Westall 0118 959 6534

7.30-8.30pm - Aerobics and Body Conditioning, £2.50 per class. New Hope Centre 0118 959 6534

7.15-10.45pm - Reading Chess Club. John Roper 0118 912 4262

Saturdays

10am-4pm (monthly) - Scrappers Warhammer, for over 11s. Simon Bolton 07748 305564, or www.scrappersweb.info

7-9pm (fortnightly from September 17) - The Mix Youth Club for school years 7 to 9. Paul Kirk 0118 939 4826

Sundays

10.30am - New Hope Community Church (Church of England) - A Family Church with something for all ages.

12.30pm - Nepalese Church Service. Daniel 07747 762341.

Forthcoming events at the New Hope Centre

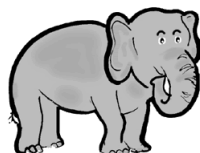
Wednesday September 28,
7.30pm - Marriage Course (6 sessions, £50 per couple).
Contact the New Hope Centre on 0118 959 6534.

Friday September 30, 10.00am - "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" - volunteers wanted. Contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road.

Tuesday October 11, 7.30pm - Inaugural Community Association meeting - have your say, all welcome! Contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road.

Monday October 31 - Light Party (alternative to Hallowe'en, with games) - details to follow.

Do you want to advertise a local event, or are you thinking of starting a club? Contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road.



Don't forget!

The inaugural meeting of the Community Association is on Tuesday October 11 at 7.30pm in the New Hope Centre.