

# Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 17 - September 2009



## A taste of North Africa - just around the corner!

As readers will be aware, we're very well served for restaurants and bars not a stone's throw away from our part of town. But there's a

restaurant right on the Bell Tower area's doorstep that has variety and quite a buzz in entertainment.

La Fontana has recently come under new management and offers a wide range of food from around the Mediterranean and Near East. At weekends the restaurant really comes to life, with a variety of live entertainment from near and far. As



LIVELY VENUE: La Fontana restaurant in Caversham Road



Mediterranean restaurant

For bookings call  
**0118 939 3111**

93-97 Caversham Road  
Reading RG1 8AN

[www.lafontanareading.com](http://www.lafontanareading.com)

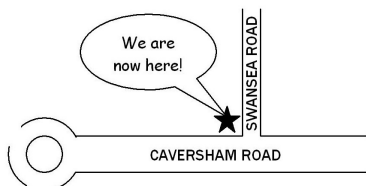
herbs and rice), Grilled Prawns (as above but larger) or Chicken Shawarma. There were also a range of six very reasonable pizza choices and nine pasta and risotto dishes in the £7-9 range. To accompany the meal there was a wide range of wines – in particular a good house Chardonnay, and several Mediterranean beers were also available. And to follow up a number of attractive desserts from Tiramisu to Lemoncello and the middle eastern Baklava for those with an especially sweet tooth.

La Fontana has adopted an interesting formula of live music and dance while you eat. On our three recent visits we have been entertained with a real variety – Egyptian, Flamenco, and swing with jumpin'-jive music from the 40's and 50's from the 'Ding Dong Daddios', a band of five lads that tour all over the south (trombone, jazz guitar, double-bass, drum and vocals). The Daddios did some skilful renditions of Mac the Knife, Hava Nagila and

*Continued overleaf*

## 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!

a traveller to a number of the countries I can say that this really is the real McCoy. The décor is modern and roomy, with subdued lighting and a range of musical instruments as wall ornaments.

The food is varied around a Mediterranean theme – Middle Eastern, Moroccan, Egyptian, Lebanese, Greek and Italian. On our visits we found 15 appetisers on the menu averaging in price around £3.50, favourite examples of which were the mixed mezze of houmous, tzatziki, babaganough and olives, Gambary Meshwe – grilled butterfly prawns in cumin and garlic or mussels in garlic.

Then we passed on to a range of 16 house specials – decent portions averaging around £9-10 with examples of Beef or Chicken Tagine, Lamb Shank (with Mediterranean

Visit [www.bell-tower.org.uk](http://www.bell-tower.org.uk) or email us at [info@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:info@bell-tower.org.uk)

## PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER  
7.30pm NEW HOPE CENTRE

Guest speakers - Councillor Tony Page, Abbey Ward councillor and planning committee member, and Anthony Bolton, Deputy Transport Strategy Manager

The main subject of the meeting will be to provide an update on the station development and its effect on our area.

**ALL WELCOME**

*Continued from front page*  
a foot-tapping 'Pipeline' accompanied by spontaneous dancing from the diners!

Then after an evening's entertainment you can take coffee and a Shisha pipe (with many flavours available) out on the front patio next to Caversham Road – even on a Saturday at 10:00pm it's surprisingly peaceful! Denise and I enjoyed the whole evening and can thoroughly recommend La Fontana.

La Fontana has recently started to offer 15% off all alcoholic drinks between 5 and 7pm, along with free snacks. By the time this newsletter is published the restaurant will have also undergone a refurbishment – there will be a new menu as well but we expect the dishes mentioned in this article will still be available.

Rod Plinston



**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



**woodworks**  
furniture

87-91 Caversham Road  
Reading RG1 8AN  
Tel: 0118 959 9721

Present your Bell Tower Community Association membership card and claim a 10% discount!\*

\*Excludes clearance items and manager's specials.  
Subject to availability.

## JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year! Don't forget members can claim some great discounts from local businesses - we have recently added the Woodworks furniture store and the City Garden fish and chip shop to the list!

You can join by contacting Denise at 88 Addison Road.

## Late licence refused for Cardiff Road club

Cardiff Road residents and the Bell Tower Community Association teamed up with one of our local councillors to object to the Reading Deaf Social Club's application for an alcohol and entertainment licence until 2.00am six days a week.

As this club is in a residential area it was felt that such extended licensing hours were unreasonable and the noise would cause neighbours sleepless nights. Reading Borough Council's licensing applications committee refused the application but allowed restricted hours until 10.00pm Sunday, 10.30pm Monday to Thursday and 11.00pm Friday and Saturday.

## News in brief

● A very useful public meeting was held at New Hope on legal matters. We had myths about common law husbands and wives dispelled, and there was an update on the latest law regarding civil partnerships, pre-nuptial agreements and divorce. There was also advice on wills, inheritance tax planning and power of attorney.

● If you are in financial difficulties, be very careful about accepting loans from sources you don't know well. Loan sharks will often make friends with you then offer to lend you money (at exorbitant rates). Properly licensed money lenders will give you precise details on the amount of the loan, repayment details and interest charges, and all of this information will be *in writing*. If doubt ring 0300 555 2222 - this helpline has been set up by Reading Borough Council in partnership with Stop Loan Sharks.

● If you have a mobility scooter you need to ensure that your household insurance covers where you keep the vehicle and that the scooter is not only kept safely but also positioned so that you can leave the house safely in an emergency. Further advice is available from Help the Aged.

● There has been a burglary reported in the area where entry was gained through a back window. Don't forget to close all ground floor windows when you are out - it is also advisable to fit locks to all accessible windows.

● As well as the Bell Tower public meeting in October there will be a planning committee meeting to discuss the station development and its impact on the area around the station. Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers. The development will have a significant effect on our area, so the meeting will be well worth attending. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 September at 6.30pm at the Civic Centre.



**RFTRA**

Neighbourhood News is kindly sponsored by RFTRA, the Reading Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Associations.