

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

December 2005



Our first meeting as a community association

Many thanks to all those people who attended our inaugural meeting at the New Hope Community Centre in October. Barbara Kendall opened the meeting, made apologies for those who could not attend and set out the aims of the meeting.

It was decided after several suggestions to call our new association the Bell Tower Community Association and the constitution was discussed. This included appointing officers for the association; Simon Bolton volunteered to act as secretary, and Sandie Gill as treasurer. Reading Borough Council project manager Chris Bloomfield made the valid suggestion that we should involve younger people in the BTCA and we agreed to make provision for junior membership.



We have a name!

After much discussion we agreed on a name at our inaugural meeting. We are the **BELL TOWER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**, named after the E P Collier school tower that's such a prominent local landmark.

Councillor June Orton recently wrote to us: "Season's Greetings to the Bell Tower Community Association members. As your local councillors we are really pleased that the Association is up and running; we will continue to attend meetings of the Association and will also ensure that you hear of any developments in the area or other items of information which we think will affect you all."

The group discussed future events, including a summer fayre/street party, carol singing, Reading in bloom, involvement with the school's activities, transport, parking and the new IDR plans, all of which were excellent ideas and would need additional meetings to follow these ideas up. It was decided that further community meetings would be held to discuss topics like transport, parking and the IDR plans.

Additionally, Councillor Bet Tickner said that a new bus shelter has now been erected by the council on Caversham Road opposite Caversham Bridge Motorcycles, as a direct result of previous community lobbying. Chris Bloomfield congratulated the group and wished us all success. More volunteers were needed to act as road representatives and anyone interested is asked to contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road.

Season's greetings from

**VIRK'S NEWS
& FOOD**


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We're now on the web!

Visit www.bell-tower.org.uk for more information.

Starting out at Highdown

Lauren Bolton on her first few days...

Tuesday

Today was really great! Our tutor teacher is called Mr Grewal, and he is really nice to us. First we were all introduced to him then put into alphabetical seats; I am next to two boys called Russell and Liam. Next, he said a huge welcome to us all and began to talk to us about himself and the school. After this, we had break time for a while before we went back to more chat with Mr Grewal. After about an hour we had an early lunch of either a packed lunch or a school dinner (which was delicious apparently). Then after a good run about we all lined up to leave for home. I hope tomorrow will be just as good!

Wednesday

Another excellent day! We had registration in our tutor room with Mr Grewal before ICT (Information Communication Technology). For ICT we had Ms Doherty, an Irish teacher with a really great accent. For the whole of the lesson we were sorting out our passwords and user names - quite boring at first, but then we got on to more interesting things like making up our own passwords. After that we had break

time, and after that we had English, which was just talking about class expectations - boring! Then we had lunch then went home at around 1.00pm.

Thursday

Brilliant! We had History first, then games (PE) - playing this was actually rather fun, not your usual sprinting in the freezing rain! Next was break time and after this was Art and Design - one of my favourites. After this we had to go home early after a very fun day.

My first few days at Highdown are so much different from Emmer Green Primary where I used to go, but I'm enjoying it all the same (apart from the homework!)

Forthcoming events

Look out for the following events! Dates to be confirmed, will be circulated separately and posted on the web at www.bell-tower.org.uk:

- Consultation on the redevelopment of Trafalgar House, next to the BP station in Richfield Avenue
- Next Bell Tower Community Association meeting - the proposed theme for this is the IDR redevelopment and the effect it will have on our area
- Family quiz evening in February 2006. Details and venue to be announced soon!



Can you help?

We always need volunteers! Please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road. Or join us for only £1 per person per year. We're busy negotiating members' discounts for local goods and services! Sign up at our next public meeting or contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road. Details on our web site soon.

Be charitable and environmentally friendly!

ABS Printing in Randolph Road are collecting stamps for charity. Just drop your used stamps in at your convenience!

E P Collier school collects used toner cartridges from printers for recycling.

Events at New Hope

Wednesday December 21 6pm - Carol singing in the area. Join us at the centre and have a mince pie with us afterwards.

Saturday 14th January 2006 - The Alpha Course - an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Alpha Course Taster Evening

Wednesday 18th January - Alpha Course starts

Interested in arts and crafts?
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Arts and Crafts for ladies
Every Thursday
10am - 12pm at the
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Tel: 0118 901 2432

Season's greetings to all our readers! 🛎

Wesolych Swiat i Szczesliwego Nowego Roku

🛎 *Naya Barsa Ko harkik Shuvakamana* 🛎 *Naya Saal Mubarak Ho* 🛎 *Seng Dan Fai Lok* 🛎

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda 🛎

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année! 🛎 *Feliz Navidad y Prospero Ano Nuevo* 🛎 *Isa' nin dogum yortusu*

🛎 *Shub Naya Baras* 🛎 *Froliche Weihnachten und ein gluckliches Neues Jahr!*