

# Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 26 - December 2011



🔔 🔔 🔔 Season's greetings to all our readers! 🔔 🔔 🔔

## Follow us on Facebook!

We are gradually developing a presence on social media sites, and now have a Facebook page. You can join us now at [www.facebook.com/belltowercommunity](http://www.facebook.com/belltowercommunity) or by clicking on the Facebook icon on our home page [www.bell-tower.org.uk](http://www.bell-tower.org.uk). Follow us to keep up to date with what's going on in our area. We hope to add our Facebook news feed to our home page in the next few weeks too.



In case you're worried about receiving vast numbers of messages from us, be assured that we're not prolific bloggers, so you won't have to endure numerous posts about what the cat had for breakfast or the colour of the editor's curtains! If you follow us this will give you a much faster way to get updates on events in our area and issues that concern us all.

In the meantime, don't forget to visit our web site [www.bell-tower.org.uk](http://www.bell-tower.org.uk) - here you can keep up with forthcoming events, see lively picture stories of what we have been doing over the years and download copies of all our newsletters since we started in 2005.

## 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 Jonathan Dart at 68 Addison Road.

## PARTY PARTY!

We hope to hold a street party for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next June. We want the event to be fun for all and a great way for neighbours to get together.

The venue has not yet been decided - but we will, of course, endeavour to cause minimal disruption to traffic and allow everyone continued access to their homes.

To enable us to hold the event we are going to need lots of help! Do you have any suggestions for food and entertainment? Would you like to set up a stall? Do you know any local bands who would like to play? Can you help in any other way (such as setting up tables and chairs)?

Any offers of help - please contact David on 07890 118167, email [david@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:david@bell-tower.org.uk).

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## Sunshine on the Bell Tower

Local school leads the way to a greener future.

E P Collier School is taking part in the Solar Schools project, and is on the way to being the first in the country to reach its target of £10,000 for the installation of solar panels on its roof.



With the help of local businesses, parents and fundraising events, the school has already raised over £8,000. Mary Shorland, bursar at E P Collier School, said: 'We think this is a fantastic opportunity. There are some great financial benefits for the school, which means we can save money and use more on educational resources than energy costs.'

Virtual 'roof tiles' are on sale at £5 each on the Solar Schools web site - go to [www.solarschools.org.uk](http://www.solarschools.org.uk) to find out how you can help our local school generate its own clean, green energy.

## News in brief

● Reading Borough Council reached the next stage of its 'We need to talk' consultation process, with an open meeting at the Town Hall on 24 November.

Findings of the recent residents' survey were presented, with issues such as improving green space, better roads and public transport

Continued overleaf

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)

# Hot off the press!

Did you know that over 60 million paperbacks are printed each year in our area (that's two books every second)? Take a look through your collection, and you'll be surprised how often the name Cox & Wyman features on the copyright page.



ROLLING OFF THE PRESS: Vast rolls of paper eventually turn into the latest Dan Brown thriller!

site in the 1950s, and now makes up all of the factory's output.

The Bell Tower visitors were given a complete tour of the production line and have trodden the same path as some famous authors like Jilly Cooper, who have visited the plant to see initial runs of their own best-sellers. The tour begins with a walk among the blank paper stored in enormous rolls from Finnish suppliers. This is followed by a look



On Friday 4 November a group of Bell Tower Community Association members had the opportunity to tour Cox & Wyman's works in Cardiff Road and see thousands of books in production. Our host for the evening was general manager Sandy Wieliczko, who also took us through the company's history. Now owned by the French-based CPI group, Cox & Wyman have been printing at the Cardiff Road site for more than 100 years. Paperback printing started on the

at the process to computer set type on large wafer-thin aluminium sheets about 5 feet long which contain every printed page of a book.

The sheets are used in a high-volume, high-speed printer that can rapidly run off several tens of thousands of double sided pages for a print-run. The layout of the book on the bulk printed page is also designed in such a way that it is printed then folded, compiled in the correct page order, then guillotined to form a complete book.

The completed text looks very nondescript until a colourful cover is added with an automated glue applicator on the production line, making the paperback recognisable as the complete product. Books fly past your eyes faster than one per second from there on to the automated stacking machine for delivery on pallets. At this point, it is possible to sample the finished product off the line and there are few things more satisfying than the look, feel and smell of a freshly-printed book - literally 'hot off the press' (yes, the books are still warm!)

So many thanks to Cox & Wyman for a look at a fascinating process to make one of our favourite products right in the midst of the Bell Tower area.

*Rod Plinston*

## News in brief - continued

and working more closely with community groups high on the agenda.

Attendees then split into ten groups to discuss topics chosen at the meeting. Topics of interest to the Bell Tower area included help with promotion of community groups and volunteering opportunities, making council services more sustainable in the long term, including communicating changes more effectively, and involving people of all ages - young and old - in activities.

- The railway development is moving on fast. Areas of the station have been boarded off to allow work to go ahead, and the excavation for the new platforms can be seen from the footbridge.

Work behind Cardiff Road is nearly complete (although residents are concerned that it will be several months before the acoustic fences are installed) and work has started on the new train depot and Cow Lane bridges.

The bridges will be closed from mid December until the end of January. The new southern Cow Lane bridge will be installed over Christmas, but the narrower northern bridge is not due for completion until 2015, so the traffic lights will be in operation for a few more years.

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