

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

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Show us your blooms and win up to £50!



Our gardening competition is back! This is an opportunity to beautify your home and possibly win a cash prize - all you need to do is cultivate your front garden and let us know.

Tell us about your window box or hanging basket - there is a chance to win prizes of £50 (first prize), £30 (second) and £20 (third).

To give us all a chance, local gardener Bob Murrant, whose legendary front garden in Cardiff Road has won several awards, has kindly agreed to be one of the judges.

If you wish to enter please let Barbara at 77 Addison Road know. The closing date for entries is 30 June, and judging will take place during July.

News in brief

- We had another very enjoyable quiz evening at Richfields café in January, with seven teams vying for the £50 first prize. The quiz was set by local resident Mark Goldup and presented by Bell Tower secretary David Neale. We expect to hold our next quiz at Richfields in April.

- A formal planning application for redevelopment of the former Cox & Wyman site into 96 houses and flats has now been submitted and can be viewed on the council's website. The plans are substantially unchanged from those exhibited last year. The relevant planning application number is 171814.

- The red ribbon campaign to save Reading's cast iron lamp posts is continuing, with results of the council's structural surveys due to be published imminently.

- The council is proposing to convert the short stay parking areas in Northfield Road to pay & display bays. The official deadline for objections will be before this newsletter is published, but the council may be able to consider representations made before 8 March 2018.



**We can now
mix any**



colour for you

**0118
957 2053**



Train companies appeal against council noise action



NEW TO THE TRACKS: a GWR class 387 Electrostar train at Paddington, one of the new trains maintained at the Reading depot. *Photo: Luke Deaves*

Network Rail and Great Western have appealed to the magistrates court against a statutory notice issued by Reading Borough Council in November over the nuisance being caused by the Reading Train Care Depot to Cardiff Road residents.

The council says the appeal should not affect the six months' notice given to the companies from November to deal with the problems at the depot.

The appeal came after the introduction of new electric trains to work local services between London Paddington and Didcot Parkway, which a Great Western spokesman said the company expected to alter the noise characteristics of the depot significantly. However, local residents say the noise has not abated since the introduction of the new 'Electrostars'.

Bell Tower has written to Reading East MP and Labour front-bench spokesman on local transport Matt Rodda urging him to press the government to persuade the rail companies to take up the council's offer of talks and mediation to seek a solution to the problem that is acceptable to local residents.

Since the problems with the re-siting of the depot became apparent when it opened back in July 2013, the rail

companies have put a great deal of effort into avoiding tackling the problem.

Bell Tower has therefore sought Matt Rodda's help in putting pressure on them to work with the council on a solution which will mean Cardiff Road residents can finally get a good night's sleep.

Jonathan Dart

*Interested in local history?
Come along and find out more!*

ARCHITECTURE IN CAVERSHAM

a personal view

Talk by Megan Aldrich

Dr Megan Aldrich is an expert on the history of art, and her talk will be looking at the idea that the original Tudor architecture of Caversham inspired a Tudor revival in today's Arts & Crafts and Edwardian houses, including buildings in Reading.

The talk will be followed by the Bell Tower Community Association's Annual General Meeting.

WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH

7.30 PM

NEW HOPE CENTRE

ALL WELCOME

Light refreshments will be provided.

Reading Adopt Your Street

The Reading Adopt Your Street (RAYS) initiative supports residents in caring for their communities and local environment.



You can help keep the Borough clean and tidy by looking after your street or local area. You choose the area you want to keep clean and tidy and when you want to do it. Get your friends, family and neighbours involved and make your street or local area one to be proud of.

RAYS volunteers are provided with litter pickers, plastic bags, gloves and high-vis jackets. Please remember volunteering for this scheme will not mean a reduction in the Council's street cleaning schedules.



Interested in helping to keep your street tidy?
Please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road for details,
or ask at the Bell Tower AGM on 28 March

