

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

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www.bell-tower.org.uk



info@bell-tower.org.uk



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IT'S BACK!



THE

NEWPORT ROAD

STREET PARTY SATURDAY 16 JUNE 1PM ONWARDS

Barbecue courtesy of the Moderation

Bring your own food to share if you like

*Live music, including the New Hope
Gospel Choir*

Loads of children's activities

Quiz, games and lots of fun!

ALL WELCOME - JUST TURN UP!

News in brief

- We had a lively and fun quiz at Richfields on Thursday 17 May - Bell Tower secretary David Neale was quizmaster, and we were treated to an excellent buffet. Many thanks to Richfields for their hospitality and to Richard for organising the event.

- The planning application for a housing development on the former Cox & Wyman site is due to be discussed at the council's planning committee on 30 May.

- The survey of the structural condition of all Reading's remaining cast iron lamp posts has shown that most of them are in a good enough condition to preserve. However, we understand only a few of the original fluted columns can be kept, since these are much more expensive to upgrade. The campaign is continuing to push for more money for the restoration of lamp posts and looking at other sources of funds.

- Network Rail and Great Western are appealing against the statutory nuisance notice issued by the council over noise at the train depot affecting Cardiff Road residents. Because this process is expected to take a long time the council has agreed to extend the compliance period for the notice by three months to give time to explore alternatives such as mediation that might avert an extended court case. Residents are still encouraged to send in witness statements.

- After the AGM our committee is: Jonathan Dart (Chair), Richard Chandler (Vice-Chair), David Neale (Secretary), Sandie Gill (Treasurer) and Barbara Kendall, and we welcome new committee members Julia Wink and Tony Newell.

Six month delay for Cow Lane works



Improvements to the road under the railway line at Cow Lane have been delayed by six months.

Cow Lane bridge was demolished last year as part of the £850m Reading station development scheme to make way for a two-lane traffic system. However, Network Rail said that due to "unforeseen issues" completion will be delayed until early 2019.

The scheme was due to be completed before the Reading Festival in August.

The delay means that the road will remain the same for a further six months. The council has announced that the current northbound-only one-way system will end in July and that the previous two-way traffic light system will be put back in place, presumably until the works are completed.

In the meantime, the junction of Cow Lane and Cardiff Road is closed for six weeks until the end of June - the bollards in Cardiff Road have been temporarily removed and the alternative route is via Milford Road, meaning a lot more traffic for some Cardiff Road residents.

David Neale

Be like Bob - let's see your flowers!

We are still taking entries for our gardening competition - it is completely free to enter and prizes of £50, £30 and £20 can be won! All you have to do is tell us about a planter or hanging basket in your front garden.

Local prizewinning gardener Bob Murrant will be one of the judges - to give you a bit of inspiration here is a picture of just a small part of his front garden.



To enter the competition please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road, or on 0118 950 7685. The deadline for entries is 30 June and the competition will be judged in July.

JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year and claim great discounts from local businesses!

You can join by contacting Len & Andy at 89 Addison Road.

Local surgery to close

NHS Berkshire West has just announced the closure of Priory Avenue Surgery in Caversham, which is the nearest surgery to much of our area, on 30 June 2018.



Patients living in the RG4 postcode area will be able to transfer directly to surgeries at Balmore Park or Emmer Green, but those of us that live south of the river are 'out on our own' and are going to have to find another surgery for ourselves. Patients are advised to register with a new GP practice by 13 June, after which one will automatically be allocated if no registration has been made.

If you are currently registered at Priory Avenue Surgery you will receive a letter explaining the options, with a list of surgeries that are accepting registrations. The list can also be downloaded directly from the Healthwatch Reading website www.healthwatchreading.org.uk

There will be sessions in the main waiting area of the surgery where members of the public can ask questions and get help with form filling if needed. These sessions will be held on Tuesday 5 June at 10am, Wednesday 6 June at 3pm and Thursday 7 June at 10am.



We can now mix any

colour for you

**0118
957 2053**

