

Neighbourhood News



from the Bell Tower Community Association

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www.bell-tower.org.uk



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All fired up in Newport Road!

News in brief

• The wasteland on the corner of Addison Road and Meadow Road has just been sold to Natta Homes, and there has been a lot of planning activity associated with it recently, from which we would expect that the proposed development of five terraced houses will start soon. We have heard that the nearby brick buildings formerly occupied by Manrose will probably be demolished and redeveloped, while the steel buildings further along Meadow Road are likely to be refurbished and let or sold as industrial units.

• At this stage we have no definite information on when the former Cox & Wyman printing works site will be redeveloped. A local landowner told us recently that he thought development would be most likely to start in early 2019.

• The Bell Tower Community Association has been working on a report assessing the architectural character of the area with a view to asking the council to consider designation of the area as a Local Area of Special Character (LASC). LASCs and similar designations are used by councils in parts of London and elsewhere in the country to guide planning decisions to help stop inappropriate development. This application will need support from local residents - if you are interested in helping us spread the word please contact us at info@bell-tower.org.uk or phone David on 07890 118167.

• We are hoping to hold another Big Skip tidy-up day this year. At the time of going to press we have yet to fix the date, but at the moment we expect that it will be on a Saturday in September.



FEELING THE HEAT (clockwise from top left): face painting, the Moderation barbecue team at work, fun on the fire engine, and the return of the Bell Tower Shower.

Street party goers were treated to a mixture of the new and familiar in Newport Road on Saturday 16 June.

The weather was none too promising, but the rain held off and everyone partied on. The event used the traditional fuel of the Moderation barbecue generously laid on by Andy and his team. For those wanting to work off the calories Refresh Health brought a Reformer Pilates machine.

Younger residents queued for the face painting provided by volunteers from New Hope. Suitably adorned they could then try the new paper aeroplane competition. For the more traditionally-minded there was a colouring competition.

There was a quiz to challenge everyone, with the prize kindly provided by the Standard Tandoori.

After the quiz, the fire brigade turned up, not to cool down overheated brains but to give everyone an opportunity to wear the helmets and clamber on the fire engine from Caversham Road Fire Station. We'd like to thank the firefighters involved and New Hope vicar Joy Atkins for organising it.

On the musical front, there was a drum workshop from Readipop, the New Hope Gospel Choir and a new line-up of the Bell Tower Shower rounding off the afternoon with some rock covers.

We'd like to thank all those who helped set up, clean up and keep everyone entertained. It was a great party, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Jonathan Dart

Continued overleaf

Fantastic blooms!

Many thanks to all who entered our gardening competition. The judges were pleased with the standard, which made the final decision difficult.



WORTHY WINNER: the colourful display in Mrs Jones's front garden.
(Photo: Bob Murrant)

The winner is Mrs Jones of Cardiff Road (£50 first prize), second prize (£30) goes to Rose Brannigan, Swansea Road, and third prize (£20) to Zoltan Sirman, Cardiff Road.

Barbara Kendall

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.

Crowne Plaza plans budget hotel next door



LARGE BLOCK: an artist's impression of the new hotel near the Thames Promenade

Reading Borough Council has received an application which could see a 132-room budget hotel built near the River Thames, in the car park of the Crowne Plaza.

This would be a five-storey building with a reception area, a café / restaurant, meeting rooms and a small gym on the ground floor.

If permitted, the development would see a reduction in the hotel's existing 200 space car park to 119 spaces. The developer also states it will provide 33 new trees in the plan – a net gain of 17, and claims that there is a relatively low risk of flooding on the site.

Reading Borough Council is holding a consultation into the plans, which can be viewed and commented on at planning.reading.gov.uk, planning application number 181056.

The Bell Tower Community Association has already expressed its concerns over the effect of reducing the number of parking spaces, flooding and the scale of the building.

News in brief - continued

- Now really is the time to show our old cast iron lamp posts some love! The council is proposing that £25,000 of money raised from local property developments could be put towards saving more of the towns old cast iron lamp posts, some of which would be in our area. However, this is a competitive process and needs communities to vote for this option. To register your preference please go to bell-tower.org.uk/lampposts - this will take you to the council's consultation page, where you need to select the Central area option and vote for item H. The more votes this item gets the better the chance of saving more lamp posts! The deadline for responses is 14 September.

- We are pleased to announce that a new local business has joined our discount scheme for Bell Tower members. Refresh Health in Caversham Road are offering a course of four Reformer Pilates sessions for £50 (normal price £65). To benefit from the discount, just show your membership card when making a booking. To join us costs just £1 and you get great local discounts!

- Finally, we remind all neighbours that when your bins have been emptied they should be put back in place, not left on the pavement, which looks untidy and can be dangerous for disabled and visually-impaired people. Please do your bit to help keep our community tidy and safe.



We can now mix any colour for you

Dulux

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