

PRESS RELEASE

Central Reading Community Cleans Up

The Bell Tower Community Association helped local residents clear out their bulky unwanted items at its annual Big Skip event, sponsored by Festival Republic, in the playground of E P Collier School on Saturday 16 August. There was no kitchen sink, but to make up for it one household had three toilets and two baths to dispose of. These joined the traditional collection of sofas, mattresses and other items of furniture no longer required, which were deftly stacked by skip marshals Rod Plinston and Jonathan Dart to maximise the amount of space available.

The event also included an element of recycling, with items such as a computer table and even a climbing frame for cats finding a new home. If the cats were being given an exercise opportunity, the content of the skip seemed to be indicating that some of the local humans had given up and were throwing out a large amount of exercise equipment, including a basketball hoop. To make up for this there was a bicycle repair workshop as well, with several reconditioned bikes finding new owners.

For those who felt in need of refreshment rather than exercise free tea, coffee and biscuits were provided by the Crowne Plaza hotel, allowing Bell Tower residents to throw away their rubbish in style. Bell Tower chairman David Neale said: "Yet again the Big Skip was one of our most popular and successful events, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our helpers as well as Festival Republic and the Crowne Plaza. Unfortunately we were unable to accept electrical goods this year because the skip provider has had to start charging for each item. However, we will try and find a partner to take this sort of material for next year's event".

About the Bell Tower Community Association

- The Association was founded in October 2005.
- It represents 600 homes and businesses in the area bounded by Caversham Road, Northfield Road, Barry Place, the residential end of Cardiff Road, Addison Road, Denbeigh Place and Randolph Road.
- It represents the local community, organises events, publishes a quarterly newsletter and operates a members' discount scheme with local businesses.
- It won a Pride of Reading Award in 2007 in the Environmental Projects category for its graffiti clean-up campaign and won third place in the 2010 Reading area of the South East Community Empowerment Awards.
- The neighbourhood has no historic name so the association took on the name of a local landmark, the bell tower on E P Collier Primary School in Swansea Road. The tower can be seen from all over the area.

Further information on the Bell Tower Community Association can be found at www.bell-tower.org.uk

For information on the event and the Bell Tower Community Association please contact: Jonathan Dart, info@bell-tower.org.uk 07982 130 360.