

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 13 - September 2008



Our area's blooming!



COMING UP ROSES: Winner June Ferguson's garden in Randolph Road

We had a tremendous response to our first Bell Tower in Bloom competition. The entries were of an excellent standard - it's very easy to forget how many beautiful front gardens there are in our area.

After much discussion, the judges awarded prizes as follows:

First prize (£50 in vouchers): June Ferguson, Randolph Road. June is looking forward to buying some new

roses, perhaps for an even more formidable entry next year!

Second prize (£30 in vouchers): Ann Boulton, York Road, who is delighted to win a prize after only 8 months living in the area.

Third prize (£20 in vouchers): Harold Baverstock, Cardiff Road.

So get your spade and fork ready - we hope to hold another gardening competition next year.

JOIN US NOW for only £1 per person per year - your local community association is a great way to get your views heard! And some local businesses will give a discount on production of a valid membership card:

- ★ Lace Ups, Caversham
- ★ Drew's Ironmongers
- ★ Papa Gee's Restaurant
- ★ Standard Tandoori

You can join at any of our public meetings and events or by contacting Simon at 4 New Hope Terrace. Membership forms can also be downloaded from our web site at www.bell-tower.org.uk.

Fiendish!

The Wicks family's view of this year's Bell Tower treasure hunt...

60 questions in 60 minutes - easy, you may think. 'I know the area - it'll be a breeze!'... well think again and have a go next time!

With a team of five and no plan we spread ourselves far and wide keeping in touch by mobile phone - we rushed around covering every road arriving back at New Hope on the deadline with only 39 answers, and we left out some of the easiest ones!

The saying 'time flies when you're having fun' couldn't be more true!

News in brief

● The Bell Tower 'G-Team' have been active again. We had some new graffiti tags appear around Caversham Road a few days before the Reading Festival, but have now cleaned them all or painted over them. We also managed to get permission to clean the shutters on the sandwich bar in Caversham Road and completed this in August.

● Association members were back in Vastern Ditch again in August. We spent a day working with Dave Booth of Reading Borough Council removing rubbish and debris. We removed several willow branches that were drooping into the ditch and stopping its flow, and we finally managed to clear the area around the grating at the Crowne Plaza Hotel end of the ditch and get the lower part of the ditch flowing again. Visit our web site www.bell-tower.org.uk and take a look at the events page to get the story with pictures.

Local councillor Bet Tickner, who helped us with our first clean-up of the ditch last March, said: 'Well done, the photos look really good - and you're all smiling. I shall go along and have a look at the ditch soon as possible...Congratulations to all Bell Tower members - you've really worked in the community!'

● Unfortunately we have had to postpone our tidy-up day because of difficulty getting a suitable site for the skip in August. We hope to be able to hold it soon in its usual venue - please keep an eye on our noticeboard outside the Swansea Road entrance of E P Collier school.

● The New Hope Centre was open for business again during the Reading Festival, as its youth cell were offering their renowned breakfasts for festival goers. The venture was pleased to announce profits of over £1000, and sold 64kg of bacon, 1375 sausages,

Continued overleaf

Visit www.bell-tower.org.uk or email us at info@bell-tower.org.uk

A day in the life of our local PCSO



My name is Steve Morgan-Russell and as your local P o l i c e C o m m u n i t y Support Officer I thought I'd give you an insight into what I do on a day-to-day basis.

As the Oxford Road Neighbourhood Team, we all sign on at our office on the Oxford Road. The Community Office is located opposite Connaught Road and every day we are on duty we arrive 10 minutes before our duty starts. Between booking onto our control system and going out on patrol, we have a chance to catch up on a few things. These include looking at the previous day or night's jobs in our areas, answering emails, making phone calls and finishing off any paperwork that needs doing. Following this, we get a briefing from our sergeant and head out on our bikes or on foot to patrol our areas.

One of the best things about being a PCSO is that you never really know what your day will consist of. In general this would be 80% high visibility patrolling in our areas but we can be used for a variety of

different things. For instance, we are constantly deployable by our control room operators so we will go to many different jobs throughout the day ranging from anti-social behavioural problems, and traffic problems to reports of suspicious behaviour, drug activity and many more. Other things that I could do throughout a normal day would be attending meetings and community days through to being sent to major crime scenes. One of the best things about being a PCSO is that we don't have a power of arrest which in turn means we aren't tucked up in custody and doing paperwork for hours on end! Consequently we can spend more time out on the streets looking after our residents.

At the end of the day I arrive back at the Community Office and hopefully tie up any loose ends and write up any paperwork that needs doing. I also provide any intelligence that I have gathered and the team then have a debrief from the sergeant.

All in all I think being a PCSO is a very rewarding job, from being able to reassure and make a difference to the community to tackling high priority crime in the area. I would recommend it to anyone.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to myself or your Neighbourhood Specialist Officer PC Aaron Gibbs, we have police surgeries on the first Monday of every month at the New Hope Centre in York Road.

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228 Danish pastries and muffins and a large box of cornflakes.

● There have been a number of reports of sightings of rats in our area. So far Caversham Road and the Cardiff Road end of Addison Road are known to be affected. We would like to trace the source of these infestations. If you have any more information on where the rats are coming from or any other sightings to report please contact David at 24 Addison Road, or phone 07890 118167.

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Spicy wings meal £2.99

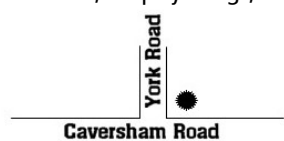
6 spicy wings, reg fries, reg drink

Chicken burger £3.50

with reg drink and reg fries

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155 Caversham Road Reading
(corner of York Road)

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You can find us behind Reading station at 1-5 Lymouth Road off the Vastern Road Caversham

0118 950 8261

HOUSE CLEARANCES UNDERTAKEN

OPEN EVERYDAY
10.30 - 4.00
SUNDAY
12.00 - 4.00

Our shopping evening's back!



Tuesday 11 November
7-8.30pm New Hope Centre
Come and do your Christmas shopping with us!

Jewellery * Toys * Books
*** Chocolates ***
Candles...and lots more!

Would you like to set up a table at the sale? Contact Teresa at 92 Addison Road, phone 0118 959 6475.

FIVE STAR WINES

133 Caversham Road



Cash machine ★ National Lottery (Lotto)
★ Pay point ★ Meter keys & tokens ★ Bill payments
★ Gas cards ★ Bus tickets
★ Phone top-up ★ TV licensing ★ Wines, beers and spirits
★ Sandwiches, snacks & groceries
★ Newspapers & magazines
★ Western Union money transfer

Ask in our shop about the Caversham Lodge Guest House upstairs!