

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 29 - September 2012



LET'S CELEBRATE!



CELEBRATING IN STYLE: (clockwise from top left) the party in full swing, the all-important tasting of the competition cakes, some of the entrants in the children's crown making competition, and the egg-and-spoon race

The Bell Tower Community Association, together with the residents of Newport Road, held central Reading's largest street party for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Saturday 2 June.

Around 200 locals from all over the Caversham Road area brought food and drink to share with their neighbours. The Moderation pub in Caversham Road offered a barbecue serving the pub's signature oriental dishes and traditional fare and did a brisk trade, serving over 150 dishes during the afternoon. Also adding spice to the party was the local Standard Tandoori restaurant which donated three platters of food.

There were revellers of all ages, from young children to 97-year-old Harold Baverstock, the area's oldest resident, who entered two cakes for the cake-making competition.

For the children there were craft tables, face-painting and a crown

making competition, with help from local artist Ellen Jewell.

Residents also had a chance to test their general knowledge in an entertaining Jubilee themed quiz. The afternoon ended with fun and games in the street, including the traditional egg-and-spoon race with heats for children and adults.

Bell Tower chairman David Neale said: 'The party far exceeded our best expectations. We were hoping for a turnout of at least 50, and were absolutely delighted. Neighbours had the chance to meet each other, often for the first time. Our thanks go to the Moderation and the residents of Newport Road for helping with the organisation of the party, and to everyone who came along for supporting us so enthusiastically on the day.'

The Association hopes to hold a similar event next year, perhaps as part of the Big Lunch in June.

Car wash plan thrown out

A proposal to turn the yard at 99 York Road into a hand car wash and valeting service has been refused by the council. The site is the former car repair workshop near the junction with Newport Road.

Speaking on behalf of neighbouring residents, Bell Tower Community Association vice-chairman Barbara Kendall drew attention to the disturbance that a business using pressure washers and vacuum cleaners would cause to neighbours in Newport Road. Barbara also mentioned the potential peak time traffic problems around York Road and that local authorities generally consider car washes to be inappropriate in residential areas.

The site is also partly overgrown with Japanese knotweed, which spray from a car wash might have helped spread. It is likely that the knotweed will have to be eradicated before the site can be used again.



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HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB SITE RECENTLY?

We've been busy upgrading our web site - it's livelier and more colourful than before, and it now has our Twitter feed (@BellTowerRdg) of local news and events.



www.bell-tower.org.uk

bringing local people together

There are still loads of picture stories of all our events and campaigns, including this year's tidy-up day and street party. You can also find details of our membership discount scheme, links to local services and downloads of all our newsletters since we started in 2005.



www.bell-tower.org.uk

JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year. Don't forget members can claim some great discounts from local businesses!

You can join by contacting Jonathan Dart at 68 Addison Road.

MEMBERS CAN NOW GET A DISCOUNT AT THE CROWNE PLAZA! 15% off food in their restaurant - show them your membership card and mention Ashish.

THE BIG SKIP'S BACK - WITH RECYCLING TOO



CLEANING UP: some of the unwanted items find a new home and (right) Bell Tower members help load the skip as it fills up rapidly

Thanks to regular sponsorship from Reading Festival promoters Festival Republic, our community tidy-up day has become a popular annual event. As usual we had a huge skip in the school playground to help residents dispose of their unwanted household goods.

There were heavy showers, but these did not deter around 100 locals from bringing their junk for disposal. Several useful items were recycled including a set of baskets and various children's bikes.

The Bell Tower Community Association set up a stall (fortunately under a gazebo this year), and we now have 18 more members. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

Local artist available for murals in the home, face painting including parties, portraits, general commissions all at reasonable rates. Contact me at ellenjools@yahoo.co.uk. Follow me at ellenjewell.blogspot.com

JOIN US AT THE MODERATION ON MONDAYS!

During September we'll have a regular table at the Moderation pub. Come along if you want to discuss anything, or just for a chat and a chance to meet the neighbours.

EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT THE MODERATION 213 CAVERSHAM ROAD 7.30 ONWARDS

STARTING 10 SEPTEMBER

Look out for the Bell Tower card on the table.

Bring a friend and take advantage of the Moderation's Monday night two-for-one food menu too!

This is our first colour edition of *Neighbourhood News*. We will continue to print in colour if funds permit.



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