

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 33 - September 2013



A SPLASH OF COLOUR



WORTHY WINNERS: (L-R): Pat and Bob Murrant, Rose Brannigan, Chris Lester and June Ferguson. (Right): June Ferguson with her prizewinning roses

After a cold winter and early spring the sun finally shone, inspiring 19 local residents to enter our gardening competition. Entries were mainly in two categories - overall front garden and flower boxes and planters. Entrants received a £5 plant voucher to help them on their way.

In July the three judges - a specialist gardener and representatives from Reading Borough Council and Abbey Ward Community First - viewed all the entries and awarded the following prizes, which were presented by local councillor Bet Tickner:

Flower boxes and planters:

- ◆ 1st: Pat & Bob Murrant, Cardiff Road
- ◆ 2nd: Nabin Thapa, Addison Road
- ◆ 3rd: Chris & Graham Lester, Addison Road

Overall front garden:

- ◆ 1st: June Ferguson, Randolph Road
- ◆ 2nd: Ann Boulton, Newport Road
- ◆ 3rd: Rose Brannigan, Swansea Road.

The judges were impressed by the standard of the entries - the hard

work that had been put in, the variety of plants and the colourful displays.

A special award was also given to Nick Caper for his community spirit in planting and maintaining the large planter on the traffic island in Addison Road.

We hope that all residents have enjoyed the difference the competition entries have made to the area.

Barbara Kendall

How would you spend up to £2500 in our area?



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Supported by HM Government's Office for Civil Society

Community First is a 5-year government-funded project, which sponsored our gardening competition and proposed bench and noticeboard. What should we apply for next? Suggestions to Barbara at 77 Addison Road, phone 0118 950 7685.

Forthcoming events

● Because of the building work at the school we have unfortunately not been able to fix a date for our Big Skip day yet. We hope to hold this sometime in September or early October - look out for the flyer through your door in the next few weeks. This year's event will probably be on a Saturday afternoon.

● The date for New Hope's Community Fun Day has been set for Sunday 22 September. Look out for details through your letterbox soon.

● Now the nights are drawing in we thought it would be a good time to announce a fun quiz night! The quiz will be held on Friday 18 October from 7.30pm onwards at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, next to Caversham Bridge. Details to follow in the coming weeks - in the meantime please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road or on 0118 950 7685 if you're interested in taking part.



It's party time again! TRAIN STRAIN

Around 150 local residents turned out for the Bell Tower and Newport Road residents' street party on Saturday 1 June. This was the second time we have held such an event and we were delighted it proved so popular.

While the adults were content to enjoy an al fresco lunch in the sunshine – taking advantage of the

free food generously provided by Andy and his team at The Moderation – the children threw themselves into hooking ducks and decorating cup cakes as well as taking time out to have their faces painted.

The event also provided an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones.

Cardiff Road residents disturbed by noise from new depot.

The new train depot in Cow Lane has been fully operational since the beginning of July. This replaces the depot on the other side of the main line which will be demolished to make way for the new viaduct.

However, many nearby residents have been unhappy with the levels of noise, vibration and fumes from train movements on the new sidings on the embankment. Households worst affected are in Cardiff Road, west of the Addison Road junction, and the disturbance is mainly during the night.

A group of concerned residents contacted Reading East MP Rob Wilson, who visited the area and experienced the noise himself and has written to Network Rail and First Great Western asking for a resolution.

Disturbance is mainly caused by trains standing at the eastern end of the sidings with their engines idling. Initial responses from the rail companies indicate an intention to improve the acoustic fence on the embankment and instruct drivers to minimise idling. However, it is understood that the trains require several minutes of warm-up time, so this may not be a complete solution.

The sidings have overhead lines for electric trains and the situation is likely to improve when these are introduced, but the date for introduction is not known yet.

There is an email group for anyone concerned. To find out more you can contact the group at fgwnoise.nuisance@gmail.com.



PARTYING AGAIN: the street party in full swing; (right): 'Me and my pet' competition winner Yasmin Juon displays her picture with Marsh Mellow the guinea pig

FIVE STAR WINES

- ★ National Lottery (Lotto) ★ Pay point
- ★ Gas and electric meter cards & keys
- ★ Bill payments ★ Bus tickets
- ★ Phone top-up ★ TV licensing
- ★ Thames Water bill payments ★ ATM
- ★ Wines, beers and spirits
- ★ Sandwiches, snacks and groceries
- ★ Newspapers and magazines
- ★ Western Union money transfer

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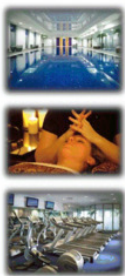
Ask in our shop about the Caversham Lodge Guest House upstairs.

For the more competitive there was a quiz to stimulate the brain cells, a 'Me and My Pet' photo competition, a cake decorating contest, as well as a 'Pimp My Bike' competition. A best decorated cup cake competition was planned for the children, but all the potential entries were eaten! We would like to thank all those who helped set up, run the party and clear away. Our special thanks go to The Moderation and to New Hope for the use of the tables and chairs.

The success of the party means we would like to make it an annual event somewhere in our area. This will depend on the council waiving its usual £2,000 street closure licence fee as it did this year.

Jonathan Dart

Welcome to revive Health Club & Spa



As our member, you can benefit from all these extras:

- 10 % off treatments at revive Spa
- 20 % off Food & Beverage at Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel
- 20 % off Best Flexible Rates for overnight accommodation (available on any Fri, Sat and Sun)
- Free 4 ball at Caversham Heath Golf Club (worth £112.00)
- Fitness Classes for free (kettlebells, boxercise, Pilates)
- Free full Health & Fitness assessment
- Free WIFI & Parking



To book extra treatments or find out more information, please call us on 0118 925 9901 or email darrenrossiter@cp-reading.co.uk

