

# Neighbourhood News



from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 45 - September 2016

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## Singing and playing in the street



**PARTY ATMOSPHERE:** (clockwise from top left): Splat the Rat, the drumming workshop, Erin Madden (centre) with her winning cake, and the Bell Tower Shower

This year's Bell Tower street party in Newport Road party marked the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and, appropriately for the monarch of the rock-and-roll era, the launch of our community music project in collaboration with Readipop.

The novelties at this year's party were a drumming workshop by Paul Glover organised by Readipop and

a local band, the Bell Tower Shower, put together in three weeks with help from Readipop. A support act was provided by the duo of local vicar Joy Atkins and Christy Fountain.

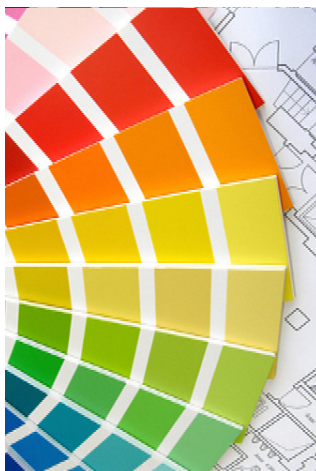
The music and drumming sessions were tasters for our Let's Play community music project, and Bell Tower is pleased to have received a

£500 grant from Reading Neighbourhood Network to help kick-start the project. "Culture helps build communities, and everyone should have the opportunity to realise their creative potential, which is why I am so excited about this project", Bell Tower Chairman Jonathan Dart said.

As in previous years, a barbecue was provided by the Moderation pub, and food for thought was offered by Rod Plinston's royal-themed quiz with a prize of a meal for two at the Standard Tandoori donated by the restaurant.

Continuing the royal theme, there was a competition to bake a birthday cake for the Queen, which was won by Erin Madden.

"I'm always impressed at how the community comes together to put on this event. Local businesses are involved as well as Bell Tower and residents. I'm also very grateful to New Hope Community Church for lending us the furniture as well as helping with the children's activities. I'd also like to thank both the 'Mod' and the 'Standard' for their continued support, as well as the Five Star convenience store for donating some of the prizes. See you all next year!" Mr. Dart said.



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Dulux  
colour for you**

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957 2053**



## News in brief

● Officers from Reading Borough Council outlined the council's plan for trying to deal with the nuisance caused by the Reading Train Care Depot at a meeting with local residents on Tuesday 23 August at New Hope, and appealed for witness statements to help the council build its case.

Regulatory Services Manager James Crosbie and Environmental Protection & Nuisance Manager Catherine Lewis gave an update on how the council is planning to proceed with Network Rail and Great Western to try to end the disruption being caused to Cardiff Road residents' sleep. There was a frank exchange of views, with many residents chiding the council over its approach and some expressing scepticism over whether the approach would bear fruit.

Bell Tower Chairman Jonathan Dart told the officers that the scepticism was down to the length of time it has taken the council to arrive at this stage. However, residents did express their willingness to provide practical help to the council on building its case against the companies despite their misgivings.

Mr Crosbie told participants that the companies' response to the council had been fairly dismissive, with Great Western saying the 1996 Railways Act exempted it from regulations governing statutory nuisance and Network Rail arguing that it had no responsibility for activities at the depot after it handed it over to Great Western to operate.

**If you have been affected by the operations at the train depot, please contact Catherine Lewis, [catherine.lewis@reading.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.lewis@reading.gov.uk) either to receive a form and guidelines for a witness statement or for one of her team to come to your house and take one.**

● Are you a pensioner? Do you like Indian food? Then why not join our lunch club at the Standard Tandoori in Caversham Road with like-minded people, for a good meal, pleasant company and great conversation! Our next lunch is on **Thursday 8 September** at 12.30pm. £10 including all food and coffee (other drinks extra). Contact Barbara on 0118 950 7685 if you are interested - please let us know in advance so we can book the table.

## Interested in making music? Why not join in!



The Let's Play project is now in full swing! We have received a grant of £500 from Reading Neighbourhood Network, which will pay for some rehearsal time at Readipop's studios and at least two music workshops for anyone interested in taking part.

We held two Let's Play drop-in sessions at Readipop in August, where a dozen or so local people got together for a chat and a fun jam session - and from these sessions we hope to form a couple of bands.

We asked participants what kind of activities they would be most interested in taking part in - and the preference was for a drum workshop and an acapella session. We hope to be arranging one of each of these sessions during the autumn - everyone will be welcome to participate and they'll be free! Keep looking at our website and social media for details.

*We're always looking for anyone interested in making music - for details and to get in touch please visit [bell-tower.org.uk/letsplay](http://bell-tower.org.uk/letsplay) or contact David on 07890 118167.*

## JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year and claim great discounts from local businesses! You can join at any of our events or by contacting Steve Bale at 79 York Road.

## FIVE STAR

- ★ 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
- ★ Sandwiches, snacks and groceries
- ★ Newspapers and magazines
- ★ Western Union money transfer

**133 Caversham Road  
Reading**

**Tel: 0118 961 2110**

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

[www.bell-tower.org.uk](http://www.bell-tower.org.uk)  
**Bell Tower**  
Community Association

bringing local people together

## BARBECUE

**Saturday 17 September**

**7.00 - 9.00pm**

**Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham RG4 7TH**



£5 including food and soft drinks, bring your own alcoholic drinks

*There is a covered terrace - a fantastic all-weather venue overlooking the Thames.*

**Tickets from Barbara at  
77 Addison Road  
0118 950 7685**

## THE QUIZ IS BACK!



**£50 first prize!**

**Saturday 29 October  
7.30pm @ New Hope**

**Tickets on sale soon - look out for details!**