

# Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 57 - September 2019



[www.bell-tower.org.uk](http://www.bell-tower.org.uk)



[info@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:info@bell-tower.org.uk)



[belltowercommunity](https://www.facebook.com/belltowercommunity)



[@belltowerrdg](https://twitter.com/belltowerrdg)

## Partying in the sunshine



**A FUN DAY** (clockwise from top left): The New Hope Community Gospel Choir, Wiggle Waggle dancing, table football, and the the Moderation barbecue team working hard.

The weather once again smiled on the Newport Road Street Party on Saturday 6 July. For those of the younger generation who wanted to express the party spirit through dance Jo Wright of the Wright School of Dance conducted a Wiggle-Waggle dance session. For others who wanted to become works of art themselves there was face-painting provided by a group of indefatigable volunteers who kept going until the end.

Other volunteers helped organise colouring competitions and jewellery making for the children. Party-goers who wanted to hone their motor skills or just thump something could try their hands at "Whack a Rat".

The New Hope Community Gospel Choir provided musical entertainment to show that grown-ups can be creative too.

Those who wanted to exercise their minds rather than their limbs or vocal chords had the opportunity to take part in a quiz with a prize kindly provided by the Standard Tandoori.

All of this was sustained by the team from The Moderation, who generously provided a free barbecue and Thai curry. We should also not forget all the home cooks who brought food to share and added to the party atmosphere.

We are especially grateful to New Hope, the Moderation and all those who set up tables, hung bunting, supervised children's activities, painted faces, set quizzes and provided music, food and prizes. I hope they'll join me in saying: "Let's do it all again next year!"

*Jonathan Dart*

211 Caversham Road  
Reading  
0118 939 1144

The home of:

- Awesome Breakfast Creations
- Tasty Street Food Boxes & Burritos
- Healthy Salads
- Thick Shakes, Fresh Smoothies, Strong Coffee & Craft Beers

We can also cater for your event!

## News in brief

- We understand that the former Cox & Wyman site is being sold to Bellway Homes. At this stage we believe that the company is intending to build to the plans approved last year and to start as soon as possible. If the sale goes through as expected we would expect demolition to start in the autumn.

- The remaining Victorian cast iron lamp posts in Addison Road and York Road have now been fully upgraded, and we are pleased with the result now that they have been painted. About 50 of Reading's Victorian lamp posts are still standing, and most of these will be refurbished in due course - about half of these have been completed already. We have asked the council about refurbishment of the four cast iron lamp posts in Newport Road - at this stage we have been unable to get a date for this but believe these will be scheduled soon. We hope the lamp post at

*Continued overleaf*

## We've been tidying up again



**CLEANING UP:** Members of the Bell Tower tidy-up team, with a skip full of junk

The Big Skip was back again this year, on Saturday 17 August. As usual the event was kindly sponsored by Reading Festival organisers Festival Republic.

As in previous years the skip was in Milford Road, on the industrial estate, and we organised a popular trailer collection, which helped to clear quite a few front gardens. Many thanks to everyone that helped, to Mel at Sandbag Ltd for letting us use the company's car park again and to Festival Republic for their support.



**STANDARD TANDOORI**

*Nepalese Restaurant*

141-145 Caversham Road  
Reading

Tel: 0118 959 0093

Show us this advert and claim  
25% discount on your food order!

Eat in or take away. Offer closes 31 October 2019.

[www.standardtandoori.co.uk](http://www.standardtandoori.co.uk)

## Drews site proposals revealed

S2 Estates, the new owners of the former Drews ironmongers site, have exhibited proposed plans for redevelopment of the site.

The proposals are to demolish the Drews building and replace it with a 7-storey block including 44 flats and retail space on the ground floor. The offices behind the Drews building would be retained.



**NEW TOWER:** 'The Brewery' concept for the Drews site

Although some features such as the roofline could be quite attractive, the Bell Tower Community Association has concerns over the height of the new block, which would set a poor precedent for the area, and believes it may be possible to keep the old building.

We are looking at applying for local listing for the site, which was originally built in the 1870s as a malthouse owned by Henry Pendlebury Dowson, whose company supplied the Simonds brewery in Reading town centre.

### JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year and claim great discounts from local businesses!

You can join by contacting Len & Andy at 89 Addison Road.

Join us for



heritage open days

14 & 21 September 2019

A guided walk around the Caversham Road area, highlighting its hidden history and architectural features.

Details and booking at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

*Heritage Open Days events are popular and tend to get booked up. If you are unable to get a place and want to join us please email [info@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:info@bell-tower.org.uk) - we may offer a repeat of the event if there is enough demand.*

#### News in brief - continued

the end of Barry Place will be fixed at the same time.

- Many Cardiff Road residents have been contacted by Network Rail about land at the end of their gardens. Those interested in buying the land need to be aware that Network Rail is demanding fees of £7,000+ for this, much of which needs to be paid up front for a valuation. It may be possible to lease the land instead.

- Proposals for a budget hotel next to the Crowne Plaza, withdrawn last year, have resurfaced. A new planning application has been made for a 132-room hotel in the hotel's car park, and this appears to be a redesign of the planning application from last year. We still have the same concerns about this - overdevelopment next to the Rivermead open space, the reduction in number of parking spaces for effectively a larger hotel and possible flood risk increase. The application can be viewed and comments left at [planning.reading.gov.uk](http://planning.reading.gov.uk) - the application number is 191088.