

Neighbourhood News



from the Bell Tower Community Association

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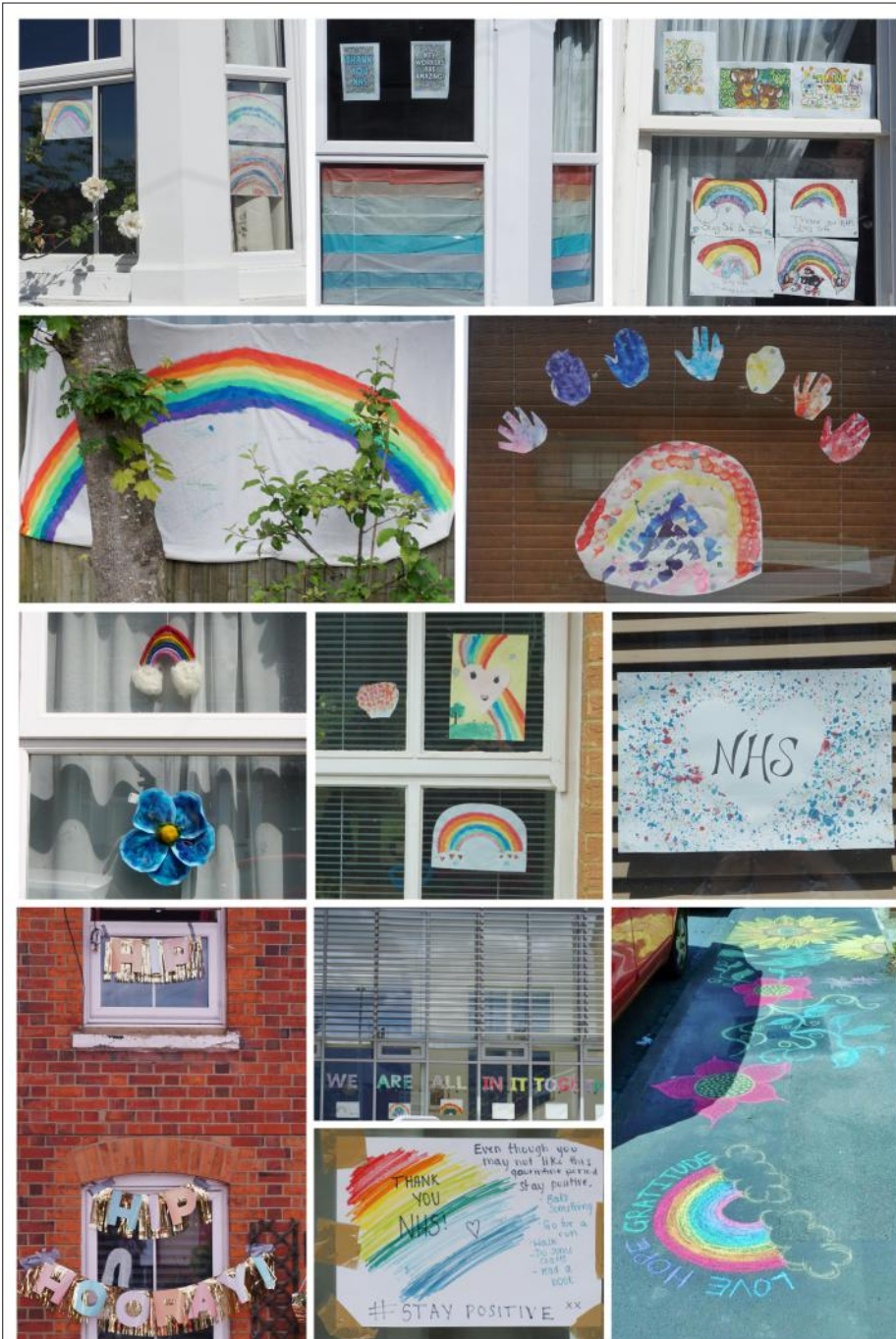


[belltowercommunity](https://www.facebook.com/belltowercommunity)



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

Bell Tower in lockdown



When we were putting together the last edition of *Neighbourhood News* for publication in March, none of us had heard of social distancing, and the coronavirus had only just reached Europe. We were discussing matters such as who would speak at our AGM and which weekend would be best for our street party, both of which suddenly became a lot less pressing overnight. To say that a lot has changed in a few weeks would be an understatement.

Overnight we were faced with working in a completely new way. We have recruited a team of volunteers, who have been paired with people in the area that need extra help such as with shopping. Many thanks to everyone that has overwhelmed us with offers of help. In the meantime, if you or someone you know needs help please do not hesitate to call us on **07459 013443**.

From these unusual times has come a message of hope, though. Whether it is the regular Thursday evening round of applause for the wonderful work of the NHS, the colourful art in windows and on streets or neighbours taking the opportunity to check on each other, events have in many ways reminded us that we are a community.

It will take a while, but things will slowly return to normal; street parties and other events will eventually come back. The author was recently on a video conference organised by the Big Lunch where the organiser described the 'permission of snow' – where bad weather brings out the best in communities. The weather may be better right now, but the principle of the community working together in adversity is similar. As we slowly open up again, we hope that the resulting community spirit will continue to flourish beyond the crisis.

MESSAGES OF HOPE: rainbows, flowers and many of the other works of art that have been a welcome and colourful addition to our area in the last few weeks.

David Neale

Brain teasers

To give our brains a little exercise during lockdown, here are a couple of puzzles to try - a sudoku and a word search. Solutions in the next edition. Good luck!

5				7	
	1	7	5		9
	7				2
1		2	7		4
8		9	5		1
7		8	6		3
	2			4	
1			7	3	8
	8				6

U	C	V	E	J	F	G	M	C	A	R	E
C	O	L	O	U	R	F	U	L	F	L	G
F	B	E	L	L	O	C	K	D	O	W	N
L	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	L	I
O	D	I	S	T	A	N	C	I	N	G	P
U	R	S	P	I	R	I	T	R	P	T	P
R	A	P	P	L	A	U	S	E	D	E	O
I	I	P	A	R	T	Y	H	W	E	E	H
S	N	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	S
H	B	W	S	O	C	I	A	L	N	T	S
H	O	P	E	Z	M	E	J	F	C	S	Q
T	W	I	N	D	O	W	S	N	E	F	O

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| APPLAUSE | ART | BELL |
| CARE | COLOURFUL | COMMUNITY |
| DISTANCING | FLOURISH | FLOWER |
| HOPE | LOCKDOWN | NEIGHBOURS |
| PARTY | RAINBOW | SHOPPING |
| SOCIAL | SPIRIT | STREET |
| TOWER | VOLUNTEERS | WINDOWS |

Extending a helping hand

We organised a collection for the Readifood foodbank on Monday 27 April because our mission statement of "bringing people together" has to be fulfilled in a different way in the time of coronavirus to conform with the lockdown guidelines.



HELPING HAND: Bell Tower resident Sarah Mawby at work at Readifood

The Bell Tower committee decided to lead the way by donating £50 from our funds accumulated over the years. The community as a whole showed the same spirit of generosity for which we thank you. We managed to collect a car boot and back-seat load of food and toiletries as well as some extra money, for which Readifood has thanked us.

ReadiFood Reading's Food Bank

Unfortunately there was a problem with theft from the crates - if we organise another collection it will be necessary to find ways to improve security.

Jonathan Dart

News in brief

- An outline planning application has been submitted for the retail park site, turning the area around Aldi and The Range into a huge new development.



The developer claims that apparently relatively few comments were received at their public consultations from residents on our side of the river. If you have concerns about the proposals now is your chance to comment - the planning application is available to view online and leave comments. Visit planning.reading.gov.uk and look for application number 200328. The Design and Access Statement is the best overview document.

- With the demolition of the Cox & Wyman building a valuable nesting site for swifts has been lost. Some Bell Tower members have been making and installing nesting boxes and we hope to get visitors inspecting them soon. Swift nesting boxes can also be purchased from the RSPB and other sources, so if you live nearby why not put one up?

NEED HELP?
 **07459 013443**
 The Bell Tower helpline can provide information. Our volunteers can help with shopping, prescription collection or just a friendly chat.

Other local businesses that we believe are currently trading include Cozze, Marmaris Kebab, Mr Cod, River Spice, Paprika and of course the two convenience stores and the post office in Caversham Road. If you know of any others please let us know.

These local businesses support Bell Tower and are currently open - please give them your support if you can:



Pub and Kitchen

0118 375 0767
Takeaway service Tuesday - Sunday



0118 959 0093

Takeaway or delivery Wednesday - Sunday



READING DRIVE - IN

0118 957 3649