

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 70 - December 2022



www.bell-tower.org.uk



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Season's greetings to all our readers

Strictly ceilidh dancing!



ARE WE GOING THE RIGHT WAY? Participants enjoying fun and dancing at the Bell Tower ceilidh

Local residents tossed their inhibitions to the wind as they took to the floor at Bell Tower's first-ever ceilidh at New Hope on Friday 14 October.

Strutting their stuff to live music from local band Left Foot Forward, the revellers made up for what they lacked in experience with enthusiasm. The nature of the dances with regular changing of dance partners meant that participants had plenty of opportunity to become acquainted with their neighbours.

While some would have liked to have had GPS to help them navigate the dance floor, the whole event was about the fun journey rather than the destination. The event attracted all ages, most of whom were unfamiliar with ceilidh dancing but had fun throwing themselves into it, picking up terms such as promenading, as well as taking the opportunity to

perform more familiar moves such as waltzing.

The evening was a follow-up to our 2021 street party at which Left Foot Forward played. Many at the party joined in and enjoyed the dancing so we wondered whether a ceilidh might be an event that would attract people. This proved correct as attendance was not far off the capacity of the room.

Thanks are due to all those who helped publicise and organise the event, Bell Tower treasurer Jake Marin-Hanson in particular, who was not only instrumental in setting up the event but also plays in the band.

A straw poll of intrepid hoofers showed most would come if we held another ceilidh, so the Bell Tower committee has pencilled in another one for around the same time next year. "Strictly", eat your heart out!

Jonathan Dart

News in brief

- Save the date! We are planning a winter quiz on Friday 3 February 2023, 7.30pm at New Hope. £50 first prize for the winning team. Look out for flyers with more details.

- Here are some church events over the festive season:

Sunday 11 December: Carol services at Greyfriars church (in person and online), 3pm (for all ages), 4.30pm & 6.30pm.

Saturday 24 December: All Age Nativity Service, 4pm, New Hope

Sunday 25 December: Christmas Day service, 10.30 am, New Hope

Further details nearer the time from www.nhccreading.org.uk.

- These are the contact details for our Thames Ward councillors:

Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward
adele.barnett-ward@reading.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Davies
richard.davies@reading.gov.uk

Cllr Nusrat Sultan
nusrat.sultan@reading.gov.uk

Councillors can also be contacted c/o Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU.

The councillors will be running a drop-in surgery at New Hope on Saturday 4 February 2023, 2.00-3.30pm.

JOIN US NOW

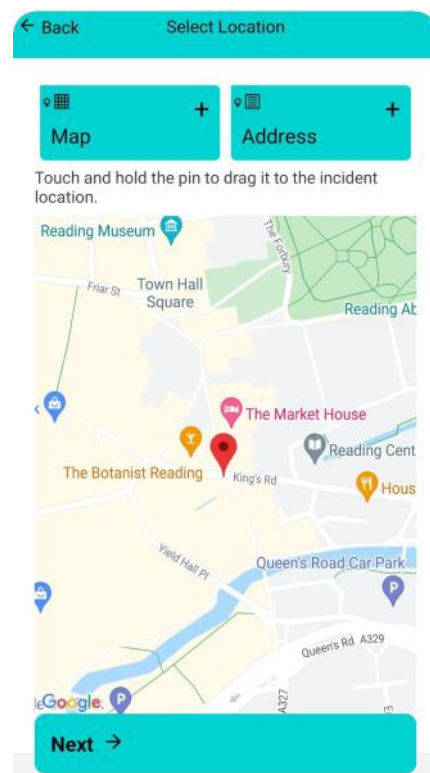
for only £1 per person per year and support your community!

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

New look for Carters site

Reporting crime or antisocial behaviour

Have you seen a crime in progress or any antisocial behaviour such as drug dealing? Please do report it, giving as much detail as possible, as more reports mean more policing in our area. You can call the police non-emergency line on 101, email AbbeyWithBattleNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report or download and use the Reportable app on your phone (example below).



NEW DEVELOPMENT (clockwise from top left): the facade of Carters as it is today, the expected layout, proposed new street frontage, and inside the development.

With the new houses on the corner of Northfield and Swansea Roads nearing completion, attention now turns to the rest of the former Carters site, where a planning application has recently been submitted for a new housing estate.

The new site owner has been revealed as Bellway Homes, who have been developing the Printworks site, which is now almost complete.

The application is for a mix of houses and flats totalling 60 in all, with 30% (18) of the dwellings being 'affordable' (20% below market rates or the option of shared purchase) – so in a way similar to a scaled down version of the Printworks.

First impressions are that the quality of the design looks decent with reservations about how the Caversham Road frontage will fit with the townscape, along with the major concern that access from Caversham Road looks dangerous, particularly for traffic pulling out into the main road. There are apparently plans to acquire land for an entrance off Northfield Road, but it is not known how realistic this will be.

The plans can be viewed online at http://planning.reading.gov.uk/fastweb_PL/detail.asp?AltRef=221324. Residents are encouraged to visit the planning website to make comments.

David Neale



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