

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 72 - June 2023



www.bell-tower.org.uk



info@bell-tower.org.uk



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



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

Mayor mingles with street party goers



HAVING FUN (clockwise from top left): Jamboozled; the Mayor with two of the organisers; fun and games; DJ Burt and Liz (Photos: Claire Thatcher, David Neale)

The recently-elected mayor of Reading, Councillor Tony Page, paid a visit to our annual community street party in Newport Road on Saturday 3 June, and took the opportunity to present the quiz prize to the victorious team, "Norfolk and Chance". The prize of a meal voucher was kindly donated by Richfields Deli & Grill.

The party was fuelled by free Thai food from The Moderation. This generous gesture earned loud applause for licensees Andy and Bee from party-goers as they also enjoyed sounds provided by Burt, aka DJ Buda Nova.

Live music was performed by covers band Jamboozled in addition to sets from Burt. The band members included Bell Tower secretary David

Neale on keyboard and former vice-chair Steve Bale on drums, while Bell Tower treasurer Jake Marin-Hanson did a sterling job as sound technician. The band had largely been rehearsing online, and this was their first performance in front of a live audience.

The weather smiled on the event – although as is traditional the Newport Road wind caused a few problems with the table coverings – as families mingled and residents made new friends and acquaintances. For the children there were colouring and cup-cake decorating competitions, deftly supervised by Mary Neale.

In addition, all ages could play on the table football and at table tennis, supplied along with all the tables,

Paprika
Indian Takeaway

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!



Paprika, 167 Caversham Road

Bringing class to cuisine here @ Paprika

Order on our website for 15% discount!

ORDER NOW

www.paprikareading.co.uk

chairs and gazebo for the band by New Hope.

The Bell Tower stand, staffed by Bell Tower vice-chair Liz Hobbs and committee member Mark Ralph, managed to recruit new members and enable old ones to renew their membership. The party also serves as an opportunity for engagement between the committee and local residents. Many thanks to everyone that took the opportunity to donate to the association – it is largely through your generosity that we can afford to continue our activities.

Also seeking to engage with both residents and Bell Tower were two of our ward councillors, Adele Barnett-Ward and the recently elected Ama Asare, as well as New Hope vicar David Nyirongo who also helped set things up.

That places him among the true VIPs of the occasion, who were those who helped with the set-up and take-down, stewarded as well as organising children's activities, a quiz, and music. Without their efforts there would be no event. They also appear willing to do it all again next year, so stay tuned for details.

Jonathan Dart

Looking for clues



WINNING TEAMS (clockwise from top left): The winners, Prozac Lemmings; Dynamic Duo; Newport Nothings; and organisers Richard and Liz.

Competitors were able to take advantage of nice weather conditions during the Bell Tower treasure hunt on Saturday 13 May. The route focused around the river and Caversham finishing with the chance to have tea and cakes at Caversham Court. Seven teams contested a tight-fought battle taking approximately 75 minutes to complete. It was good to welcome new people to the area (Team Avengers) and teenagers (Team Star) who did well, although you did need to be of a certain age to solve a couple of the clues. Taking first place with the maximum score of 35 points were Phil and Sandie, the Prozac Lemmings team.

First to finish were Newport Nothings in a quick time of 71 minutes; they did not quite get the answers the organisers needed, depriving them of three points, but they still secured third overall.

The second team overall were the Dynamic Duo in another quick time of 70 minutes but again two of their answers were not exactly what the organisers were looking for. Teams Lost, Avengers and Star also completed the hunt and all had fun.

Event organisers Richard and Liz would like to thank everyone who took part, and we are so glad that you all enjoyed the day.

News in brief

- The Bell Tower Community Association committee for 2023-24 is: Jonathan Dart (chair), Liz Hobbs (vice-chair), David Neale (secretary), Jake Marin-Hanson (treasurer), Sandie Gill, Richard Chandler, Barbara Kendall and Mark Ralph. Andy Ellis and Len Middleton will continue as joint membership secretaries.

- We are pleased to welcome a new councillor to Thames Ward, Ama Asare. Ama attended our street party on Saturday 3 June and we look forward to engaging with her and our other councillors in the future.

- Bell Tower is now on Linked In at www.linkedin.com/in/bell-tower-community-association-968102273. If you are on LinkedIn please do follow us and join in our conversations.

- The developer of the Drews site, S2 Caversham, has now secured planning permission to go ahead using the revised design which makes use of part of the original building on the corner of Caversham Road and Northfield Road. We have not yet heard about when construction will take place.

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.



Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors



Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors are here to support and guide you. We offer a friendly, professional service to families. **Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit. We are here to help 24 hours a day.**

Reading

0118 959 0022

Tamela House
157-161 Caversham Road
RG1 8BB

www.milesfunerals.com

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Private chapel of rest
- Floral tributes
- Memorial masonry
- Home visits
- Prepaid funeral plans