

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

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 THE Bell Tower Community Association 

NEWPORT ROAD
RG1

STREET PARTY

Food courtesy of the Moderation
Bring your own food to share
Live music - covers & more Quiz
Face painting Children's activities

SATURDAY 5 JULY
1.00PM ONWARDS

ALL WELCOME - JUST COME
ALONG AND HAVE FUN!



News in brief



• We've been asked by our local secondary school, River Academy, to publicise their Amazon wish list.



They will use any books bought to build up a library as part of the school's resources centre. If you would like to donate please go to <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2HHI77O18A4VT> and let them know you heard about it through us.

• The council has proposed to introduce more double yellow lines in Addison Road around the junction with Printers Way. Many residents have sent in objections, supported by Bell Tower, as parking has already become problematic after removal of spaces as a result of the Printworks development.

• Our next 'Meet the Neighbours' coffee morning will be held on 13 September, and we also hope to hold a Macmillan coffee morning on 11 October. Details to follow.

• The Bell Tower Community Association's committee for 2025-26 is: Bob Murrant (Chair), Liz Hobbs (Vice-Chair), David Neale (Secretary), Jake Marin-Hanson (Treasurer), Jonathan Dart, Richard Chandler, Sandie Gill, Barbara Kendall, Mark Ralph, Daff Chelani and Cristina Marin-Hanson.

All aboard for a celebration



READY TO GO: volunteers on the Cholsey & Wallingford Railway (Photo: Jonathan Dart)

The guest speaker at this year's Bell Tower AGM was Tony Stead of the Cholsey and Wallingford Railway, our nearest heritage railway.

We chose a railway theme because 2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the inauguration of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the world's first steam-powered, public railway.

Tony explained how the railway's impecunious beginnings as a Johnny-come-lately to the iron road in 1862-64 came about due to the historic town of Wallingford feeling left out after it was bypassed by the Great Western Railway. The line was at first doubly isolated from the GWR in that it was standard gauge as opposed to the GWR's broad gauge and started at Moulsoford with no direct connection to the mainline.

The GWR took over its struggling neighbour in 1872. To make way for the quadrupling of the main line the single track from Moulsoford was closed and a new station built and Cholsey, with the Wallingford branch

running into a bay platform there as it does now.

Tony illustrated his talk with images and anecdotes from the line's history, including a stationmaster pranking a junior clerk by pretending to be a circus owner wanting to move the whole circus, including the giraffe from Wallingford. The branch was also used to stable Churchill's train during World War II as well as the Royal Train right up until closure in 1981 by British Rail. Another of its claims to fame is that it was used for the publicity shoot for the introduction of the HSTs (Intercity 125s). The final closure followed the end of passenger services in 1959, the closure of the original Wallingford station in 1965 and the termination of the line at the ABM Maltings, the site of the present-day station.

The railway is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping you can contact the railway by emailing volunteer@bunkline.uk.

Jonathan Dart

Time to get growing!



The time is rapidly approaching. The tension is mounting. The seeds, bulbs and plants are growing and our judging team are limbering up as they prepare to stroll around the area and pick out 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Prizes of John Lewis vouchers courtesy of an anonymous donor.

Yes, the famous Bell Tower front garden competition is back.

This year we are looking for well-planned structure, lots of colour and a good variety of plants. So please email us with your name and address to info@bell-tower.org.uk if you are interested in taking part. The judging will take place towards the end of July or early August.

Bob Murrant



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