

# Neighbourhood News



from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 84 - June 2026

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## Join the War on Weeds!



**WAGING WAR:** Daff Chelani and Jonathan Dart attack the vegetation  
(Photo: David Neale)

We're planning to tackle some of the weeds which have flourished on the pavements and in the gutters around the area on Saturday 27th June at 10:30 am. The meeting point will be the junction of Ross and Addison Roads.

Although the area has had weed killer sprayed recently by council

contractors there is still an over-abundance of unwanted vegetation.

If you are coming along please wear suitable clothing, gloves, and if you have suitable tools (hoes or spades) bring them along. We will also be picking up litter for which the council will provide suitable equipment.

## Diary Dates

- **27 June:** Weeding day, meet 10:30 am junction of Ross, Addison Roads.
- **15 July:** Summer Gardening Competition deadline.
- **18 July:** Street party in Newport Road from 1:00 pm.

## Charge your EV at Home

Did you know there is an offer available to households without off-street parking to allow them to charge their electric vehicles on the street outside their home?

Reading Borough Council has been awarded government funding to subsidise the installation of around 400 pavement gullies which will allow charging cables from properties to safely cross footpaths.

Residents are now able to apply for the free cable channel equipment and for work to be carried out. Find out more at [www.kerbocharge.com/locations/reading](http://www.kerbocharge.com/locations/reading).



## Are You Blooming Marvellous?



We are running a competition for the best front garden in the area to enhance the appearance of our streets.

The prize is John Lewis vouchers, and the closing date for entries by emailing [info@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:info@bell-tower.org.uk) is 15th July. Judging will take place before the end of July.

The judges will be looking for variety, colour and a tidy, weed-free area. The whole front garden, a single hanging basket or planter are eligible.

The sponsor would like at least 15 entries. If there are insufficient entries the prize vouchers will be used to for a food bank donation.

# It's Party Time Again!

## News in brief



**FULL SWING:** revelling in the sunshine (Photo: Jonathan Dart)

The now traditional Newport Road Street Party will be back for another year on Saturday 18th July from 1:00pm.

All residents in the Bell Tower area are invited. As in previous years there will be music from a covers band, a West African drumming workshop and performance from Readipop's Tankata Drumming as well as a variety of other activities for both adults and children.

Community stalwarts The Moderation will once again be providing food. Alternatively participants are welcome to bring their own food to eat or share. Bell Tower will provide cold drinks.

If you are interested in helping out or have any suggestions for activities please contact us on [info@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:info@bell-tower.org.uk).

*Bob Murrant/Jonathan Dart*

- The Bell Tower committee for 2026-27 elected by the AGM is: Bob Murrant (chairman), Liz Hobbs (vice-chair), Daff Chelani (secretary), Jake Marin-Hanson (treasurer), Richard Chandler, Dan Crosland, Jonathan Dart, Sandie Gill, Barbara Kendall and Mark Ralph.

- We are looking to review our website which is due for an update after 20 years. If you have any ideas or would like to help out then contact us on [info@bell-tower.org.uk](mailto:info@bell-tower.org.uk).

- We are planning to see if there is interest from residents in talks by guest speakers. We shall be looking to survey participants in our events about what topics might interest them. This will probably start at the street party.

- The New Hope Community Garden has obtained a grant from the New Hope Trust for work on the patches at the front of the building as well as on the community garden area itself. The garden now has a planting programme, seeds have been donated and vegetable plants are on order. If you want to become involved email [hello@newhopechurchreading.org.uk](mailto:hello@newhopechurchreading.org.uk).

- Dave Clarke of the Green Party was elected as our new Thames Ward councillor on 7th May. Our other councillors are Ama Asare and Richard Davies of Labour.



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