

Central Reading community comes together to party

What do a community association, a pub, a church, a Nepalese restaurant, an ironmongers, a convenience store, a school and a bicycle shop all have in common? They all contributed to the success of the Bell Tower Community Association's street party in Newport Road on Saturday 31 May.

Around 150 people turned out to meet their fellow residents and have fun. A free barbecue was provided by "The Moderation" pub for the second year in a row. For those in search of dessert, new local resident Sarah Castle had baked cupcakes with all proceeds going to the community association. All of this acted as brain food for a fun quiz with prizes provided by the Standard Tandoori Nepalese restaurant.

For those who felt they might need to burn off a few calories there was an opportunity to get long-neglected bikes back on the road with a bicycle workshop provided by the association, with spare parts offered at a discount by another newcomer to the area, Caversham Bridge Cycles. While their parents relaxed and mingled under bunting kindly lent by E.P. Collier School, the children could take part in activities organised by New Hope Community Church, including having their faces painted by vicar Joy Atkins. Prizes for the "Hook a Duck" competition were provided by local convenience store "Five Star Wines".

Bell Tower Vice-Chairman Jonathan Dart said: "So many local residents and businesses coming together to make such a successful event certainly fulfils our mission statement of 'bringing local people together'. With the help of high visibility jackets provided by Drews the Ironmongers, we even solved the problem of locating a Bell Tower volunteer when one was needed. It is very gratifying to see other businesses joining street party stalwart Andy Becalik and his team at "The Moderation" in supporting the event. Partygoers not only enjoyed the fruits of others' generosity: they also donated £113 to a participant in the Pretty Muddy race for cancer research who came to the party. Many thanks to them and all our helpers as well as Newport Road residents for hosting the event. Here's to the next one!"

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About the Bell Tower Community Association

- The Association was founded in October 2005.
- It represents 600 homes and businesses in the area bounded by Caversham Road, Northfield Road, Barry Place, the residential end of Cardiff Road, Addison Road, Denbeigh Place and Randolph Road.
- It represents the local community, organises events, publishes a quarterly newsletter and operates a members' discount scheme with local businesses.
- It won a Pride of Reading Award in 2007 in the Environmental Projects category for its graffiti clean-up campaign and won third place in the 2010 Reading area of the South East Community Empowerment Awards.
- The neighbourhood has no historic name so the association took on the name of a local landmark, the bell tower on E P Collier Primary School in Swansea Road. The tower can be seen from all over the area.

Further information on the Bell Tower Community Association can be found at www.bell-tower.org.uk

For information on the event and the Bell Tower Community Association please contact Jonathan Dart: info@bell-tower.org.uk or 07982 130 360