

Newport Road rocks and rolls for the Queen's 90th

The Bell Tower Community Association held its annual street party on Saturday 11th June 2016 in Newport Road, central Reading. This year's party was to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and, appropriately for the monarch of the rock-and-roll era, the launch of a community music project in collaboration with Readipop.

The novelties at this year's party were a drumming workshop by Paul Glover organised by Readipop and a band, "The Bell Tower Shower", put together in three weeks with help from Readipop. A support act was provided by a duo of local vicar Joy Atkins and Chrissie Fountain.

The music and drumming sessions were tasters of a community music project for which Readipop is hoping to obtain funding from October. Bell Tower is also seeking a grant to pay for more sessions until then.

"Culture helps build communities, and everyone should have the opportunity to realise their creative potential, which is why I am so excited about this project," Bell Tower Chairman Jonathan Dart said.

For those interested in food more substantial than that of love there was a barbecue provided by Andy and Yodphathai Becalic of "The Moderation" pub. Food for thought was offered by a royal-themed quiz with a prize of a meal for two at the Standard Tandoori donated by the restaurant.

Continuing the royal theme, there was a competition to bake a birthday cake for the Queen won by Erin Madden.

"Every year since our first party for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, I'm impressed at how the community comes together to put on this event. Local businesses are involved as well as Bell Tower and residents. I'm also very grateful to New Hope Community Church for lending us the furniture as well as helping with the children's activities. I'd also like to thank both 'The Mod' and 'The Standard' for their continued support as well as the Five Star convenience store for donating some of the prizes. See you all next year!" Mr. Dart said.

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.

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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