

Twyford

Dancers have a ball in the shopping mall

Husband and wife take a daily spin on the floor of the Oracle

A BALLROOM dancing couple from Twyford are sharing their passion with shoppers in Reading with a daily dose of tango, waltz and the quick step.

John Harman, 74, and his wife Lily, 71, can be

seen most days at the Oracle shopping centre, on the second floor near the House of Fraser, entertaining people with a few hours of dancefloor dazzle.

The couple have been dancing regularly in

the shopping centre for about four months. They started off one day when doing some artwork in a cafe there, said John, 74, a retired carpenter.

"We looked at the smooth floor and just

thought we would get up and have a dance.

"The music and steps are in our heads. The floor there is really nice and smooth and there is plenty of space there as well. There is not really anywhere for us to

dance in Twyford so we like to go to the Oracle as often as possible," he added.

John, who has lived in Twyford for about seven years, was diagnosed with prostate cancer 10 months ago and has since found out he had bone cancer too.

"I get a jab every three months for the bone cancer and feel pretty good at the moment," he said.

"I just want to keep dancing and enjoy each day and try not to think about it. It is good exercise and keeps us both fit and happy.

"If we encourage just one person to take up dancing we will have done well.

"It is good fun, good exercise, social and entertaining."

Other than "a few ignorant people responding negatively" they get lots of compliments and support from shoppers and staff in the centre, he said.

Employees from the House of Fraser have even spoiled them with gifts of aftershave and perfume.

The couple, who have four children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren, have been dancing together for nearly 40 years and also enjoy drinking coffee and drawing in the Oracle's Ponti's Cafe.



IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO: Lily and John Harman love to share their passion for ballroom dancing.