

Allotments to Let - Drop by on Sundays 10am-12 noon

Spring is in the air and so this is the best time to think about gardening. Do you fancy growing your own food, getting fitter and saving money? There are plots available at the allotment site next to the cemetery, just off Yardley Road. You can call by on any Sunday morning to find out more and get yourself a piece of land. Rates start from as little as £30 a year for a small plot, or just £15 for the over 60s.

Saving Energy - Saving Money Scheme

Energy Wise Co-Op Organisation are working with the Government and the Council to reduce energy costs for households by making our homes more efficient to keep warm. They have been set up by the Council to implement the **Green Deal**, which is the Government's programme to make our homes warmer and more comfortable, as well as reducing our carbon emissions. Birmingham Energy Savers is the local scheme working to raise awareness and find households that would benefit from energy saving improvements. These improvements could include:

- * New Boiler
- * Improved Heating controls
- * Insulation for hard-to-treat cavity walls
- * Loft insulation, including top up of existing insulation
- * Solid wall insulation

Anyone who thinks their home might benefit from any of these improvements is invited to apply. Whether you rent or are an owner-occupier, and whatever your income, you are eligible to apply for these improvements. For those on means-tested benefits, there will be a 100% grant, and for others there will probably be 90% funding. If you would like to receive more information about this programme email: info@energywise.coop or phone: **07925 749 863**

Street Dance for Girls

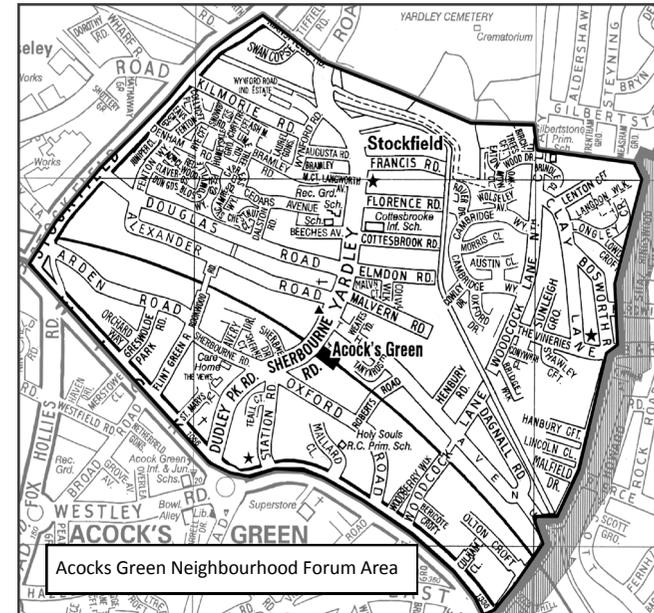
A great new opportunity for girls in Acocks Green. **Sport4Life** charity recently launched a Street Dance after school class at Cottesbrooke Junior School. It's free and fun and a way for girls to make new friends and get more active. It takes place on Wednesday evenings 4.30pm to 6pm for Girls 8 to 13 yrs. Just turn up, and the organisers will give you a parental consent form to fill in for next time. For more info phone: 0121 456 1818 or 07850350073 or you can email jon@sport4life.org.uk



Next Public Meeting - Tues 26th February 7.30pm Church Hall, Yardley Rd

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

February 2013



Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum is a community organisation run by local residents. Its aim is to enhance the area that we live in. The Forum holds regular meetings to share and inform the local community. Everyone in the area is welcome to come along to our next ...

Public Meeting : Tuesday 26th February, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Community Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Rd).

The meeting has an informal layout to give more opportunity for discussion. There will be several organisations on hand that are relevant to issues in our area (see next page). Residents will have the chance to talk to the organisations one to one and chat with other local people whilst having a cuppa. Come along to find out more about your neighbourhood and meet some of your neighbours.

Amongst those present at our next meeting on Tuesday 26th Feb will be:

- * Guest Speaker from the **Magistrates Service**
- * Police from the Acocks Green Dedicated Neighbourhood Team, Acocks Green Police Station.
- * From **Waste Management** - Manager Noel Delaney

Acocks Green Library & Neighbourhood Office - Temporary Closure

On 23rd February AG Library will close for 3 to 4 months for essential roof repairs. Our precious library will be much missed during this time but South Yardley Library will have extended opening hours to compensate. So here is an opportunity to become familiar with the lovely **South Yardley Library**, only a short bus journey from the village on the Number 11. The library is also a great community hub. They have a coffee shop on Mondays and Fridays and even a Keep Fit class on a Friday morning. For more information call in or phone 464 1944



Market Day & Spring Fun Day - Saturday 16th March

A Street Market will take place in Acocks Green Village on Saturday 16th March (the same day as The Big Dig (see next page) Live music, dancing, singing, face painting and children's rides and Mad Dominic will be on hand to entertain. Anyone interested in having a stall for £25 on the market, should email: agvbidinfo@gmail.com

Acocks Green Carnival - Saturday 6th July - Play a Part!

The annual community get together takes place on the Recreation Ground, Westley Road on the first Saturday of July. After the disastrously wet weather conditions last year, which for the first time resulted in cancellation of this popular event, organisers are looking to make up for last year's disappointment. Would you like to be part of the organisation of the carnival? Maybe your

group would like to enter a float or a walking procession? This year's theme is **Pantomime Characters!** If you or your group would like to get involved phone: Dave Swingle at Fox Hollies Forum on 0121 706 0652



Acocks Green Village in Bloom

We hope that residents noticed the improvements in the look of the village last summer. There were many floral enhancements and general tidying up. For the first time Acocks Green Village was entered into the RHS Britain in Bloom project, under the 'Urban Category' and we were awarded a **Bronze Medal!** Many locals helped to tidy and plant up flowerbeds, weed

overgrown reservations and encourage people to take a pride in their surroundings. Businesses and the council helped by repairing crumbling walls and dealing with dumped rubbish. The whole project was overseen with the vision, dedication and tireless hardwork and enthusiasm of local resident volunteer **Fran Lee**.

In 2013 activities are already taking shape for this year's Village in Bloom entry. It is an ongoing project and we are on the verge of the planting season already. If you would like to be part of this years project contact Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076 or email fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk. No experience is necessary! We may or may not win a gold medal but focusing on improving the look of our village will make our centre a more pleasant place for us all to live, work and shop.



The Big Dig is a national campaign to get people to garden together in their local area. Acocks Green is lucky to be part of this exciting project and is incorporating this with the **Village in Bloom** project. On The Big Dig Day - **16th March between 10am-12 noon** a group of regular friendly volunteers will be in Mallard Close encouraging local people to help with planting fruit trees and bushes for the Community Orchard which is being developed on what has been an abandoned piece of wasteland for nearly 50 years. It is an exciting transformation to enhance Acocks Green. Come along and be part of this positive project, or if you would like to join the regular bunch of friendly Bloom volunteers, contact the co-ordinator Fran Lee (see above), or find them on Sunday and Wednesday mornings in the village.

