

Smart Route and a Little Local History

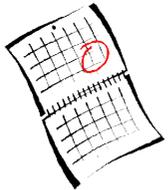
Work is well underway on the Smart Route. The traffic through the Village has been reduced to a single carriageway and the pavements are being widened and relaid, one side at a time. The workmen have come across old cellars and even a well whilst working on the road, giving a glimpse into the past of our village.

The Village in Bloom team have rescued some of the stones from the original sandstone wall that used to form one side of the old central reservation (opposite Holy Souls Church). This wall was the original boundary of the Convent, established in 1907, that used to stand where Sainsburys is now. The Bloom team are planning to use these stones as part of a new raised bed to retain a link to the village's past. The road and pavement works are due to be finished by the end of June, when we look forward to a smarter, more attractive shopping centre.



What's On

Kimichi Music School (at Eastbourne House, Yardley Rd) is establishing a community choir in our area. If you like the idea of singing in a group, whatever your ability, then you are very welcome. They meet on Mondays every fortnight, the next practice is **Monday 9th February, 7pm-9pm** £2.50 per session. Banish the winter blues with this uplifting activity!



Stockfield Social - Thurs 19th Feb 6.30pm-8pm . Stockfield Community Association, the organisers of the popular annual *Stockfield Fun Day* and December's *Carols in the Park*, are looking to get other local people involved in helping to organise even more community events, e.g outings, lunches etc. Are you interested in finding out more? Come along to 2a Alexander Rd for nibbles and refreshments and meet other local residents to discuss ideas and plans.

Acocks Green Carnival The Carnival team are looking for new volunteers to help plan, promote and deliver the annual Carnival. They meet once a month, usually on a Thursday evening for just an hour at Acocks Green Methodist Church at 7-8pm. **Next meeting 19th February** then 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June. The actual Carnival Day is on **Saturday 4th July** at Westley Road Recreation Ground. It's the Community get together of the year, so why not help play a part in it?!

Ward Committee Meetings provide a way for members of the public to become involved in the decisions that affect their neighbourhood. Meet your councillors and find out what's happening in our area. The next meeting will be in **March** at **Lakey Lane School**. They are often lively and informative meetings. Check the Forum website for more details.

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

February 2015



The next Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Public Meeting will be on **Tuesday 10th February, at 7.30pm** in the Glynn Edwards Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road (on the corner of Alexander Rd)

Everyone is welcome to come along, discuss local issues and share their views. Refreshments be available and you will get the chance to talk to like-minded locals.

There will be a presentation from Parliamentary Outreach Worker Clare Mullins, entitled **An Introduction to Parliament**. Clare will explain how Parliament works, how laws are made and how people can become more actively engaged with Parliament. She will also be answering questions from the public.

Murray Woodward from the **Canal and Rivers Trust** will also be giving an overview of the proposed 'Adopt a Stretch of Canal' Scheme that aims to improve a section of the Grand Union Canal in our area.

Other local representatives will be present and there will be the opportunity to raise your concerns. Please come along and help make Acocks Green better for everyone.



Supported by



Acocks Green Police Station Closes Front Desk

It was the end of an era when we heard that the counter of the historic Acocks Green Police station was to close at the beginning of January. The police have told us that West Midlands Police continues in its aim to deliver high levels of service to the community whilst recognising the need to provide value for money, seeking modern and effective ways to deliver services. In their statement they said:

"keeping people safe is the focus of our officers and staff and this is an opportunity to deliver a more consistent, professional service, which may enable more officers to be deployed where and when they are needed the most in our communities."

A range of methods for contacting the police remain; dialing 101; going to the West Midlands Police website - www.west-midlands.police.uk ; a dedicated email address; Twitter/Facebook for the force and neighbourhood teams; community meetings and drop in surgeries.

More detailed information about the changes to front offices can be found in 'Contacting the Police in the West Midlands' PDF leaflet found at www.west-midlands.police.uk under 'Contact Us'.

Also we bid farewell and offer best wishes to Sergeant Mark Fellows who leaves Acocks Green Neighbourhood Police to work in Sheldon. We welcome our new **Sergeant Trevor Orton**.



People Against Litter

PAL is a group founded in Edinburgh committed to trying to reduce litter. They have a simple aim: to get people to pledge to pick up at least one piece of litter per week and ask another person to do the same. By word of mouth the numbers will quickly increase and lead to an improved environment for us all. This can be done anywhere, at no personal cost.

The Neighbourhood Forum and Village in Bloom feel that this is a simple scheme that we can all be part of. If every person in our area picked up one piece of litter a day and reported dumped rubbish then we could have a swift and powerful impact on the litter problems in Acocks Green. With businesses and householders encouraged to keep the pavements in front of their properties clean and tidy, imagine how much better Acocks Green could look. Working together we can achieve improvements. Have a look on our website for more information. Why not make a pledge yourself : www.peopleagainstlitter.org

For lots more local information check out :
www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Village in Bloom 2015

The Bloom team want to build on their success and are always looking for more support from businesses and residents. You can be part of this worthwhile project. Find us in the village on Sunday mornings or contact Bloom Co-ordinator Fran Lee, contact details below.



If you live close to any of the Village in Bloom planting then the team would be most grateful if you could help out by watering in dry weather. If we work together we can make Acocks Green a more pleasant place to live.

A little watering in the dry weather can make the difference between flourishing flowers and dead flowers!

Friends of Acocks Green Railway Station



Following meetings with London Midland Railways, who are responsible for the upkeep of Acocks Green train station, the Village in Bloom team are planning to make our busy train station a little more attractive with some planting and locally-designed posters. If you live near by and would like to help with a little watering or planting/tidying at the station then please

contact Fran Lee project co-ordinator on **0121 706 0076** or fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

Acocks Green Post Office is Moving

Although there were strong objections from local councillors and other community groups to the closure of the existing Crown Post Office in Acocks Green and moving services to a new privately-run premises, the Post Office have made their decision and the move is going ahead. The new premises will be across the road, next to Hughes Greengrocers. The new Post Office will open **Thurs 12 March** replacing the current branch. There will be extended opening hours from 8.30am to 6pm.



'Adopt a Stretch of Canal'

Residents living close to the Grand Union Canal in Acocks Green plan to meet up once a month to enjoy the ancient waterways and help keep it tidy and accessible with the backing and support of the Canals and Rivers Trust. If you would like to be part of this scheme get in touch via our website, come along to the Public Meeting to find out more and add your name to the group.