

Old Vineries Bridge – Woodcock Lane

Many of you will know and use our historic canal footbridge that joins Woodcock Lane and Woodcock Lane North. Dating back to 1794 the Neighbourhood Forum was very pleased that its application for historical listing to **English Heritage** was successful earlier this year. British Waterways has confirmed that restoration and improvement work to the now Grade II listed bridge and nearby towpath will be starting by the end of November. To celebrate this piece of our heritage (and a very useful walkway) the Forum has produced a postcard of the bridge which is available in local shops and cafes. The Grand Union Canal is a great asset to our area offering tranquility, a haven for wildlife and a connection with our industrial history.



Could you be a Good Neighbour?

The Good Neighbour scheme is a free service which provides volunteers who, acting as good neighbours for older people, will link them to services they need and will do small neighbourly tasks, if needed. Local hubs for this service are also being set up. For more information, please contact Jessica Philips on 0121 415 6670. The service is also looking for volunteers to be a Good Neighbour. So if you wish to be one, please contact Jessica. Free training, support and travel expenses are given to volunteers. Volunteering can give some of the essential experience necessary for a career in health and social care and a sense that you are doing something really worthwhile. Be brave and do something new and rewarding today!



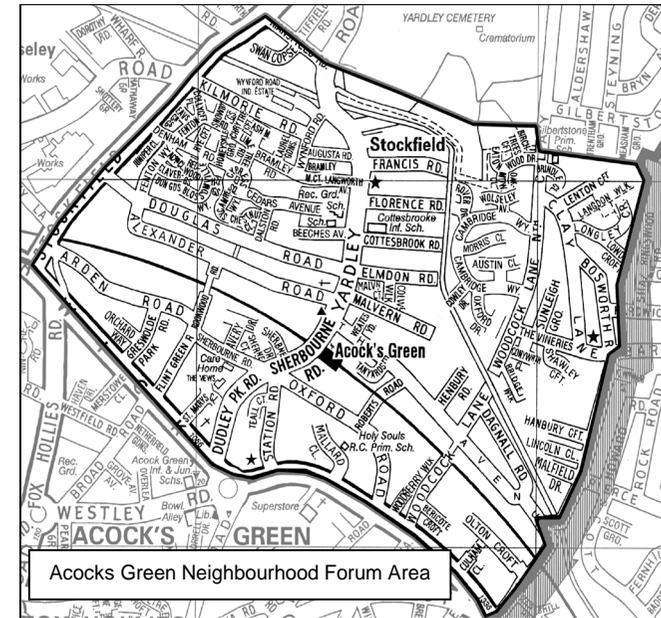
Finally, remember to come along to our next meeting:

Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Public Meeting
Thurs 4th December, 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road.

Refreshments and mince pies will be served and everyone is welcome. You can also contact the Forum with your views through our publicity officer Ged Hughes. email: ged_hughes@hotmail.com

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

December 08



Hello local residents of Acocks Green. December is the month of Festivals; Eid al-Adha (8th December) and the Winter Solstice (21st December) and of course Christmas. Best wishes to all our readers.

Our next public meeting is on:

Thurs 4th December, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Rd.
Everyone is welcome and refreshments and mince pies will be served.

The guest speaker will be **Jasbir Behal** who is the Neighbourhood Health Development Officer for Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust. Her job is to find out how people feel about their experiences of the health service and to represent their views. She also promotes the services on offer and links people to them. Come along to find out more.
The new local **Police Inspector – Richard Agar** will also introduce himself and offer some seasonal advice.



Have Your Say On Your Local Shopping Centre

How do you rate the range and quality of shops?

How do you normally travel into the Village?

What do you think about the cleanliness of the streets?

Do you feel safe in the Village?

What do you think about car parking?

Please let us know what you think about these topics and others, by completing our survey. It only takes a few moments and the results will help shape our priorities for the rejuvenation of the Village. Visit: <http://www.researchbydesign.co.uk/Surveys/AcocksGreen/visitorsurvey.htm> or pick up a paper copy of the survey from Acocks Green Library (until 10th December).

The 'shopper survey' is being funded by Birmingham City Council's Planning and Regeneration department and is part of Acocks Green Village Partnership's aim to *'make Acocks Green Village a place where more people choose to shop more often and where businesses flourish'*.

Need Help Getting into the Internet?

Building on the success of the pilot programme at South Yardley Library the scheme **Wired Up for Wellbeing** gives a helping hand to older people who want to understand the workings of the World Wide Web. If you've got a basic idea of how to use a computer but have not got to grips with the Web then this might be for you. They will help you set up an email address and give you advice on surfing the web. There will be a new 6 module course starting after Christmas. Contact South Yardley Library for more information. 0121 464 1944

Also there is free internet at all Birmingham Public Libraries. Call in to find out more about what libraries can offer.



Lighting up Time: 1st December at 6pm

Everyone is welcome to join in the December celebrations at the Acocks Green Christmas Lights switch on. Gather around outside the Inn on the Green at 6pm on 1st December for a programme of live music (steel band and local musicians), carols, prayer, and refreshments.

The event is organised by Acocks Green Community Council and Churches Together.



Putting the Green Back into Acocks Green

We are sure you have noticed Acocks Green village has been a lot more colourful than previous years with new flowerbeds and summer planters crammed with annual flowers. This is all thanks to our Town Centre Manager- Melinda Brown, city council and local businesses' financial support and a band of enthusiastic volunteers. The *Putting the Green Back into Acocks Green* scheme was launched by our Town Centre Manager in the spring. Melinda's enthusiasm tapped into local interest from residents and businesses who wanted to improve the Green with colourful planting. Some of the residents of Hazelwood Road have been key in helping the project. Their experience of 'street gardening' as winners of a **'Britain in Bloom'** Award last year has been invaluable. At the forefront of the band of volunteers is Fran Lee who has worked tirelessly on the project. As she says herself "the extra colour around the Green gives the residents of Acocks Green some civic pride. I think it makes us feel happier about the place where we have chosen to live'. During a recent holiday in France Fran saw a sign in a picturesque french town: **'ma ville est mon jardin'** – 'My town is my garden' and feels inspired by such words. Perhaps this could be a motto for Acocks Green?!

The project always needs more volunteers, especially in the spring and summertime. If you fancy helping out at a future gardening session then please phone : Fran Lee on 706 0076. Or talk to the volunteers when you see them down the Green.

