

Cottesbrooke Walking Group - Wednesdays 9am, Cedars Ave
 Here's a chance to get a little fitter for 2012. The established weekly walking group has a new, welcoming walk leader - Jeff Kessler. Every Wednesday at 9am a local group of friendly people meet for an hour's walk and chat, sometimes enjoying the homemade delights of the Coffee Shop at the Baptist Church Hall afterwards. New walkers are always welcome, just turn up on the day.



The walking group is supported by Birmingham's Health Exchange. For more info please contact Catherine Fletcher on 07792275127 or email Catherine.fletcher@healthexchange.org.uk

Acocks Green Railway Station - Access Improvement

Plans to upgrade Acocks Green train station with lifts and improvements to the footbridge have been welcomed by local councillor Roger Harmer.

Acocks Green Station is one of the busiest in the country that currently does not have disabled and pushchair access. Now, at last, improvements will be carried out during the next two years due for completion by 2014.

Councillor Harmer (Lib Dem, Acocks Green) said: "These are long overdue improvements which will improve the access for people with disabilities and parents with young children." He added that he hopes the improvements will encourage more local people to take the train.

Changes to Rubbish & Recycling Collection Days

As you are probably aware, there have been changes to the way the waste collections are carried out in the Acocks Green area, which started this month including new days for rubbish and recycling collections. Residents should have received a postcard in the last couple of weeks with details of new collection days. Also note that there is no Green Waste collection during January. If you require further information telephone 0121 675 7454 or go to www.birmingham.gov.uk/collections.

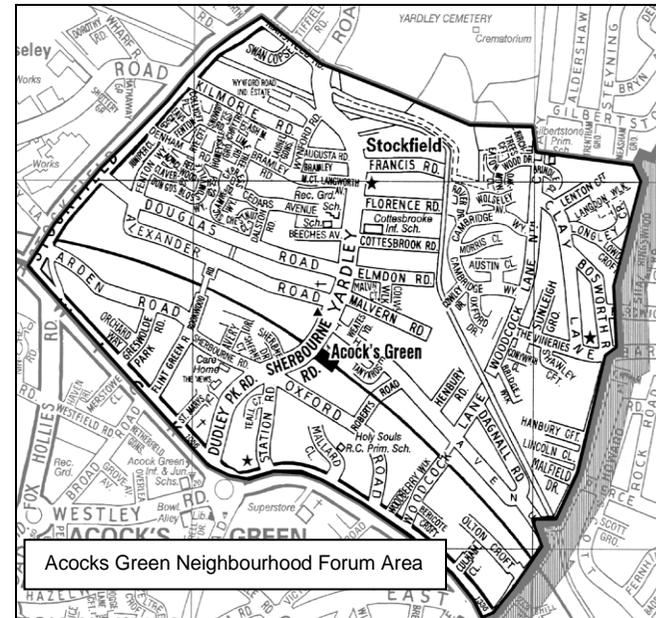
There will be a representative from the City Council Waste Management dept at our Public Meeting to explain the changes and answer questions.



Check out our website: www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

January 2012



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 **Pubic Meeting : Tuesday 24th January, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Community Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Rd).**

Building on the success of our last meeting this time we will again have 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 refreshments.

Why not come along for a cup of tea or coffee and find out what's going on in our area.

Amongst those present at our next Public Meeting on Tuesday 24th January will be:

Leslie Williams, City Council Environmental & Waste Department. He will be able to update everyone on the changes to waste management and rubbish collections across Acocks Green Ward. He will also be available to answer any of your concerns or questions on rubbish & recycling collections as well as street cleaning.

Acocks Green Police. A representative will be present to discuss updates and note any issues or concerns you may have. We also bid farewell to Sgt Mirams and welcome the new Sgt Mark Fellows to Acocks Green Police.

There will be an opportunity to talk directly to these people as well as other local representatives and to chat to local residents over a cuppa.

Great News for Acocks Green Village!



In October last year it was announced that the majority of businesses in the village had voted to become a **Business Improvement District (BID)**. This means that local businesses pay into a central fund to help improve the shopping and business centre and promote Acocks Green to encourage more shoppers and help the village to thrive.

The Neighbourhood Forum welcomes **Sandy Gianni** who takes up the role of BID manager on the 16th January and will help manage the planned improvements. Come along to the Public Meeting on 24th January to find out more about developments in Acocks Green.

New Year - New Health - Free Help

We all want to be healthier but if you smoke the best thing you can do to improve your health is to give up. From the moment you smoke your last cigarette you are on a path to better health.

Restarting this month at Acocks Green library is the **Stop Smoking Service** - a free drop-in session **every Saturday** 10am to 12 noon. Anyone interested in stopping smoking can just drop-in for free advice. For more information call 0800 052 5855 or text 'QUIT' to 80800.



Don't forget our next public meeting Tuesday 24th January at the Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road - see you there!

Bridget O'Neil 1945-2011 - A local campaigner who will be missed

Acocks Green Focus Group are sad to announce the death of Bridget O'Neil, after a short battle with cancer. Bridget was well known in Acocks Green as a committed local campaigner. She was a major part of the successful campaign to 'Save the Green' in 2004 when The Green was under threat from a Council road scheme.

Bridget became secretary of the Acocks Green Focus Group from 2006, keeping them organised and on track with regular monthly meetings. She was also passionately committed to reforming street design. The Focus Group's Shared Space campaign, for a more people-friendly centre for Acocks Green, with greater priority given to pedestrian safety, slower traffic, and a more attractive appearance, began with Bridget, who diligently researched how things could be done better. Bridget worked tirelessly to organise Shared Space meetings and workshops. Later she also helped to make sure that everyone represented at local meetings focused on better road layouts e.g. the Smart Route, for Acocks Green, which is under discussion again now.

Bridget's drive, enthusiasm and self-deprecating dry wit will be much missed around here for a long time. Our sympathies are particularly with her partner Tom, and her daughter Charlotte. Inspired by Bridget, however, The Focus Group will continue, like the Neighbourhood Forum, to work for a better Acocks Green.

Julia Larden - Acocks Green Focus Group

Aged 13- 17 and Looking for Adventure?

489 Squadron Air Cadets (Acocks Green & Olton) are opening its doors in January for new recruits who wish to join an active youth group.

In addition to flying, sports, target shooting, adventure training and great fun, you'll soon find that being an air cadet is its own reward - you constantly see the benefits of your own efforts, building on your achievements and earning **BTECs** and **DofE** Awards. You will be expected to take part in many of the activities they run, but with what's on offer you probably won't need much persuading...



If you are aged between 13 and 17 and wish to join the local Air Cadets email: 489@aircadets.org or call 0121 706 4720 for more information.