

Re-Opening of Acocks Green Library

Acocks Green Library and Customer Service Centre is scheduled to re-open at the end of January [Hooray!]. We are sure that many people have missed this important community hub and great resource in our neighbourhood.

As 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of the first World War, this year there will be a special effort by the **Village in Bloom** Team to enhance the important War Memorial outside the Library. It is planned that there will be a profusion of poppies growing around the flowerbeds of Acocks Green to remember those who laid down their lives to protect our country.



If you would like to join the Village in Bloom effort contact Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076 or you can email: fran.lee@yahoo.co.uk

The Smart Route

A new Smart Route is planned to start in the Green later this year, along the Warwick Road from Station Road up to Woodcock Lane at the Olton end of the village. The plan is to make the area more open and pedestrian-friendly as well as increase car parking space. The dual carriageway along the top of the village is to be made into a single carriageway, taking out the central reservation, and a lot of the street clutter and railings will be removed so that traffic will not be able to speed through the village, making it a more pleasant area for shoppers, cyclists and pedestrians. There will also be a turning into Station Road to access the shopper's car park from Warwick Road.

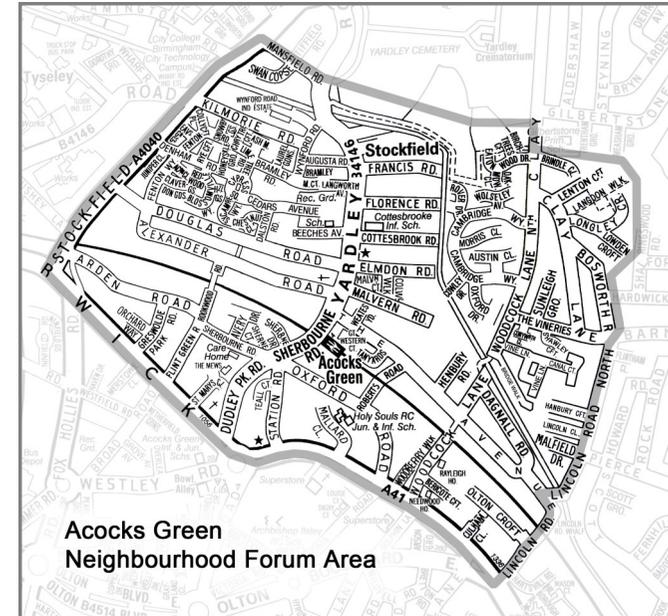
The plans will mean the loss of 5 mature trees, which is a shame, but to counterbalance this the pavements will be wider and there are plans to plant around 10 new trees, and to put in some stylish benches and many attractive new planters.

The overall aim is to help keep Acocks Green a thriving, pleasant and easy shopping centre to visit. We can all help play our part by taking pride our neighbourhood and supporting the many independent and major shops in the Village, so that they do well and continue to make up our busy and diverse high street, offering variety and value for money for everyone.

Don't forget to come to the Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum's
Next Public Meeting Tues 28th January, 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall.

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

January 2014



Happy New Year from Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum.

We are a long-established community group covering around 5,000 households within the Acocks Green area. We work with the council and other groups to improve our area and support other organisations for the good of Acocks Green. We also inform local people of what is happening in the area and encourage more involvement in community life. We hold regular Public Meetings to which local people are warmly welcomed so they can find out more about what is going on in our area.

The next meeting is **Tuesday 28th January at 7.30pm** at the Glynn Edwards Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Road).

There will be refreshments, as well as an opportunity to raise concerns and listen to informative guest speakers - more information inside.

A Conservation Area for Acocks Green

Architect and Urban Designer **Joe Holyoak**, will be at our next meeting to give a short presentation on the proposed Conservation area in Acocks Green. Our suburb has evolved over time from what was once a rural village in Worcestershire to a large, diverse suburban neighbourhood. The opening of the train station in 1852 had a large part to play on the area's development and although some buildings have been lost there are many good examples of architecture that show the historical story of our suburb, specifically around Acocks Green Station and Police station. Why not come along and find out more.

Also present will be **Jenny Millward** who is the Acocks Green Ward Champion. There will be a chance to meet local representatives and those who can have a positive influence on our area.

Get Outdoors!

Spring is just round the corner and The government recently highlighted the value of the great outdoors, linking nature with improved wellbeing and health in its 'Natural Environment' white paper. There is a lot of evidence that being outdoors and close to nature improves your mood and health. We are lucky to have plenty of open spaces, as well as the canal, in Acocks Green. There are still vacant plots at the allotments, which for a small annual fee give you fresh air, exercise, fruit and vegetables and an opportunity to meet other gardeners. To find out more contact Stephen Cox on the Allotments Committee: claylaneallotments@gmail.com



Don't forget you can always join the **Cottesbrooke Walking Group** at 9am on Wednesday mornings. They meet at the gate of Stockfield Park for a gentle walk of about one hour in local green spaces.

Community Cafe The Glynn Edwards Hall, which was recently saved from demolition, has re-opened their Community Cafe on Wednesday and Thursdays from 9.30 to 12.30. Fresh coffee and toast is only 80p. They offer a range of other breakfasts and snacks and you are assured a friendly welcome. You will often find the Walking Group enjoying a much-deserved breakfast after their walk there on a Wednesday morning.

Find out more about the Neighbourhood Forum and things going on in Acocks Green at our website:

www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org.uk

War Against Rubbish in Acocks Green

You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem.' Eldridge Cleaver

Everyone hates it, everyone complains about it, but what can we do about it? Here is some useful information to share on how we can combat the tide of rubbish in Acocks Green.

- The City Council still offer **Free Bulky Collection** of up to 6 items once a year, details on their website or phone: 0121 303 1111
- Another free collection of **household scrap metal** items such as cookers, microwaves and washing machines is available from www.pickupmyscrapmetal.com, call 0800 122 3911. They will also collect furniture, mattresses, etc. at charges from £10 to £35.
- You can always take your household waste items and recycling (including oil & car batteries), to the **Household Recycling Centre** on James Road, Tyseley, which is open 7 days a week (open until 8pm weekdays from March).
- Litter bins are not being emptied as regularly so crush cans, bottles and paper and push well down into the bin. If the litter bins are full take your litter home and request bin to be emptied by council.
- **Refuse** unnecessary packaging, especially carrier bags, **Re-use** items wherever possible, **Recycle**: so much can now be recycled at clothes banks, fortnightly collections, or via charity shops.
- Remember to put your bin bags out on the correct day, if you put it out too early then you are fly-tipping yourself and may be fined.
- Free Green Collections have now stopped. If you require a wheelie bin for garden waste & fortnightly collections from Spring 2014 go to www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenrecycling or call 0121 303 1112
- Encourage your friends and family to keep the streets clean. Even cigarette ends are litter, they mount up and are difficult to tidy up. Chewing gum is another real problem, because it is semi-permanent litter and very difficult and expensive to remove.
- Keep your front garden tidy and litter-free. Set an example to your neighbours. Look outside your front garden, is there rubbish on the street or verge? Why not put it in your bin or recycling box and take pride in your neighbourhood. Don't just walk by. If we all play a part we can make a real difference.
- Fortunately we have a new street cleaner employed by the Acocks Green Business Improvement District. (BID) called Ben. Say hello to him and thank him and the council cleaners for their hard work!