

Mayoral Elections

As this newsletter goes to press the first ever directly elected Mayor is being voted in. They will represent the seven West Midland local authorities of Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Solihull, Sandwell, Dudley and Coventry. He or she will chair the West Midlands Combined Authority, work with the local authority leaders and control a £1.1 billion fund given by Westminster over a 30 year period to the region. This funding will contribute towards adult skills, housing, planning and the regional transport network. Hopefully the West Midlands working together will result in more joined-up thinking and benefit the whole area.

What's On ... What's On ... What's On ... What's On

Saturday 13th May – Launch of Acocks Green Village in Bloom 2017.

11 am – 3pm, Mallard Community Orchard, Mallard Close. Plants, stalls, hot food, seed-sowing, gardening advice, music and more.

Saturday 20th May – Arden Rd. Residents Local Produce & Plant Sale.

11 am – 1pm Arden Road. Plants, preserves, local honey, delicious cakes.

Sunday 21st May – 'Our Oaklands' Community Celebration

12–4pm Oaklands Recreation Ground.

Tuesday 23rd May – *Arts & Media in The Green presents: Glyn Pitchford: The Big Birmingham Art Project* 2.15pm Acocks Green Library

Wednesday 14th June – *Swansong presents: The Mondelli Wind Quintet*

7.30pm St Mary's Church The Mondelli Wind Quintet playing Mozart, Hindemith and Janacek. Donations at end. Everyone welcome. Come and support live classical music in Acocks Green.

Saturday 1st July – Acocks Green Carnival Recreation Ground, Westley Road.

Saturday 8th July – Stockfield Funday Stockfield Park, Acocks Green.

Free family event for locals.

If your organisation is holding an event that you would like us to list, please get in touch via the Forum website.

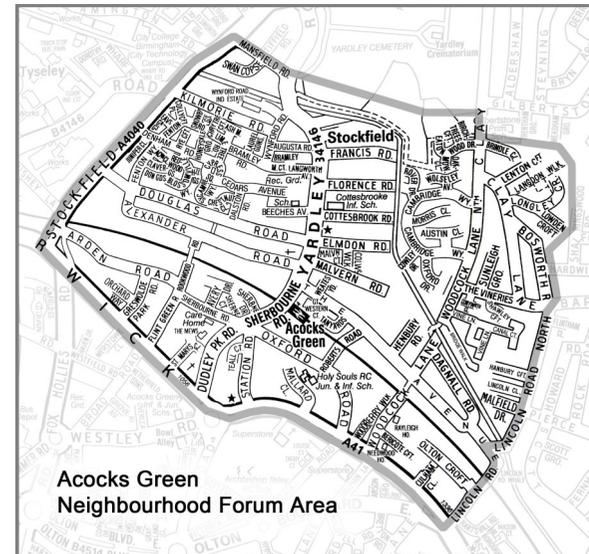
You either have to be part of the solution or you're going to be part of the problem' - Eldridge Cleaver (American political activist, 1935-1998)



Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum
For the Community by the Community

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

May 2017



We are a long-established community group covering around 4,000 households within Acocks Green. We work with the council and other groups to improve the area and support other organisations for the good of Acocks Green.

We also aim to inform local people about what is happening in the area and encourage involvement in activities within our community. We hold

regular public meetings and warmly welcome local people to come along and find out more about local issues and what is going on in our neighbourhood.

The next **Public Meeting** is on **Tuesday 16th May at 7.30pm** at the Glynn Edwards Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Road). Refreshments will be provided, together with an opportunity to raise concerns. Representatives from the police and other local organisations will be present. There will also be a presentation from Scrapstore. More info about this resourceful organisation (with a branch in South Yardley) inside. They encourage creative use of donated items from businesses. **West Midlands Fire Service** will also attend to give us an update on their work in our area.



Supported by



Scrapstore

The Scrapstore Birmingham collects & sorts materials or 'scrap' donated by individuals & businesses for redistribution to individuals and organisations supporting play and creativity. The main store is in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter but they have a satellite branch in South Yardley at the Swan Courtyard.



Birmingham Scrapstore's 5 reasons to join them :

1. **It's good for the environment** - We enable groups to have access to recycled clean waste and materials which would otherwise end up in landfill sites. We've just won an award for being Birmingham's best waste reduction scheme so come and see what goodies we have.
2. **It makes good business sense** - Resources are expensive when bought. We can provide a wide range of resources and materials for a one off annual fee.
3. **Our stock changes regularly** - We get regular deliveries so there's always something new to look at. In addition, we work hard to expand our list of donors so that you get more choice.
4. **Ideas and inspiration** - We try hard to give you ideas and inspiration to help you make the best use of your finds but we can also provide goody bags and packs which allow you and the children you work with to be creative and come up with your own ideas.
5. **Something for everyone** - The scrapstore is great for people working with children but its also great for individuals and families. Come and take a look at what we've got.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Updates from West Midlands Fire Service

West Midlands Fire Service came along to a recent meeting and gave an informative presentation about the developments in their community work. Their priority is still to put out fires and promote fire prevention, but they also come out and visit people in their own home to give other advice and signposting to helpful organisations, their aim is to keep people safe. They also have traffic-calming initiatives and can help deal with serious flytipping, as this can be a fire hazard. Come along to our meeting to hear more from them.

*For more local news and information subscribe to
www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org*



New Tree Sculpture in Acocks Green

Have you spotted the new sculpture on the main island yet? Designed by local artist and Bloom volunteer Veronica Treadwell, the tree makes reference to the ViB's success and the history of our village and its development with the arrival of the canals and train stations. It has been years in the planning and the team are very excited to finally see it installed.

Village in Bloom Launch Event - Saturday 13th May, 11am to 3pm Mallard Close (opposite Sainsburys). To get Acocks Green Village in Bloom 2017 into full swing the ViB team are holding a launch event with lots of bargain plants, stalls, food, refreshments, a beekeeper with local honey and free gardening advice. Come down and support this valuable work that is making The Green better for everyone.



There will be seed-sowing for children as well as the launch of the **Children's Village in Bloom Art Competition**. Last year we had over 300 entries and the artwork has been displayed on the Neighbourhood Forum website and to the National ViB judges. The team also gave out some lovely prizes to our budding young artists.

If you have any queries, advice or want to offer your help then you can contact the Bloom co-ordinator **Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076** or email fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk . New volunteers always welcome!

Westley Vale Millennium Green

With funding from Tesco 'Bags of Help' grants the WVMG Trust have reinstated the 15 wooden posts around the Green that were designed as a trail to follow. The trail map has just been completed and gives visitors a tour around the site and highlights the points of interest. The trail leaflet can be downloaded on the Neighbourhood Forum website and will be available in local libraries and schools. It will also be on display in the new noticeboard that will be appearing in the park soon.



Thank you



for adopting your local waterway

Canals & Rivers Trust say Thanks It has been over a year since AG Neighbourhood Forum adopted a stretch of the Grand Union. At the last working morning on 23rd April we had some volunteers from Shirley Sea Cadets who bought their kayaks to help collect litter floating in the canal. Great team work!

Look out for our next volunteer morning in the summer. If you would like to be on the mailing list let us know via the Forum website.