

Smart Route Disruption - Support your Village

The road and pavement works are due to be finished in the summer, when we can look forward to a smarter, more attractive shopping centre. City Engineer Phil Santos has requested the opportunity to attend our meeting to update people on the progress of the improvement scheme. Come along and find out more.

The roadworks are disruptive and the number of shoppers has fallen during the works. Please support the local shops while the improvement work is happening. It is vital for our village life for everyone to help the shops to survive so that the village can continue to thrive. It may mean walking a little more than usual but please come to the village and make the most of the variety of shops we have on offer.



Look out for the very old stones that the Village in Bloom team rescued from the original sandstone wall of the Convent. They have now been used to make a new raised bed on the corner of Woodcock Lane.

The Convent was established in 1907 in Crosby Hall, and used to stand where Sainsburys is now. We are pleased that, with the help of Fitzgeralds the engineers, the Bloom team have kept this link with the village's past. You can even see some initials carved into the stone that may well be over 100 years old!

Acocks Green Village Business Improvement District (BID) - New Face

The Village now has a Town Centre Warden - **John Coyle**. This friendly local man is around the village to act as security and support businesses, locals and visitors alike. He is a chatty and approachable representative so if you see him in his BID emblazoned top make sure you say hello.



LIVING STREETS
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Walking for just
20 minutes
can burn up to
100 calories.

Discover where walking can take you this May with Living Streets' National Walking Month.

www.livingsstreets.org.uk/nationalwalkingmonth

May is National Walking Month

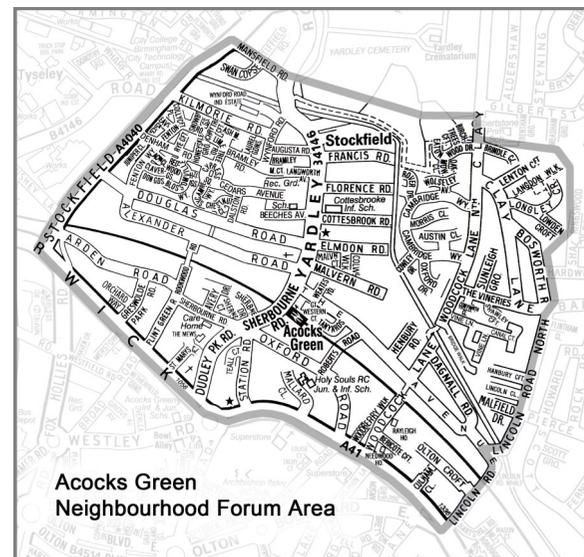
What a perfect time to do more walking, with the warmer weather, lighter evenings and more greenery to enjoy.

Police Update

Sergeant Trevor Orton is settling into his new role in charge of the Acocks Green team. We also have a new Inspector: David Green. Overall crime is down in our area by 4.1% for the year so far, although vehicle crime is up slightly. So make sure you lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

May 2015



The next Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Public Meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th May, 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 will be available and you will get the chance to talk to like-minded locals.

Local resident and Yardley Arts Forum Representative **Nicola Toms** will be guest speaker, talking about *Arts in The Yard* and the successful work in the area including the wonderful new mural by graffiti artist Hoakser, at Westley Vale Millennium Green.

Sue Blocksidge from the Canals & Rivers Trust will also be with us to talk about the *Adopt a Stretch of Canal Scheme* which recently got off to a successful start in our area. And there will be an update on the Smart Route in Acocks Green Village from city engineer **Phil Santos**. As usual we will have other local representatives on hand and there will be the opportunity to raise your concerns.

Please come along and help to make Acocks Green a better place for everyone.



Supported by



People Against Litter (PALS) - As we highlighted in the last issue, Acocks Green is constantly battling with litter problems. Litter picks and education are ways of improving the situation. Recently volunteers from Village in Bloom and the Neighbourhood Forum cleared an abandoned area on the corner of Yardley Road/Mansfield Road of years of rubbish. They also put up 'Please Use the Bin' signs. You can do your bit to help. It is an ongoing battle but if residents work together, improvements can be made. If everyone just picked up one piece of litter each a day, the problem would disappear!

What's On - a selection of local events. More on our website.

Saturday 9th May - Afternoon Tea with Grappelli Swing 3pm-5.30pm £10 - St Mary's Church, Acocks Green, sandwiches, homemade cakes accompanied by live music ranging from classical to jazz.

Saturday 6th June 2pm - Booksale at Acocks Green Library
Discarded books for sale. Lots of bargain books.

Saturday 4th July - Acocks Green Carnival at Westley Road Recreation Ground. The Community get together of the year. The theme this year is **The World in Our Village** - celebrating the diversity of Acocks Green with our mixture of nationalities and cultures. Phone 0121 706 0652 or email acocksgreencarnival@yahoo.com for more info.

*The Carnival team are looking for volunteers to help plan, promote and deliver the annual Carnival. They meet once a month on a Thursday evening for an hour at Methodist Church at . **Next meeting is 21st May & 18th June 7-8pm.***

Saturday 11th July - Stockfield Funday at Stockfield Park. Free family friendly event. Lots of stalls, entertainment and inflatable rides



Kimichi Music School at Eastbourne House, Yardley Road are a welcome addition to Acocks Green - Locals have already had the opportunity to go to musical workshops, recitals and full orchestral concerts in AG since the school was set up. They are now seeking local people to act as trustees and would like to become even more involved with the community. The position is of double importance as you would also automatically become a governor of the school as well. If you are interested in finding out more or have any queries email enquiries@kimichischool.co.uk



Lots more local info at www.acocks-green-neighbourhood.forum.org

Village in Bloom 2015 - Greener Streets : Better Lives is the theme of this years RHS Britain in Bloom. The team want to build on the success of last year's Silver Gilt Award. They 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, details below. There is a wonderful selection of photos online of their sterling work in and around the village, including transformation projects like the Mallard Community Orchard and work on Woodcock Lane, just search for : *'Acocks Green Village in Bloom'* 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. A little watering in the dry weather can make the difference between flourishing flowers and dead flowers!



Friends of Acocks Green Railway Station

With the improvements at the station, new lifts and access doors, the Village in Bloom team are planning to make our busy train station even more attractive with three hanging baskets on the front of the station and a new ViB poster displayed, designed by a local resident. If you live nearby and would like to help with a little watering then please contact Fran Lee project co-ordinator on **0121 706 0076** or fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk . Equipment will be provided.

Adopting a Stretch of Canal

On Saturday 11th April, around 15 locals met up with the Steve from Canals & Rivers Trust and collected 36 bags of rubbish and did some towpath maintenance too. The aim of the Adopt Group is to keep our local waterway tidy and accessible with the backing and support of the Canals and Rivers Trust.



The next date for a working session is **Saturday 13th June**. Meet at 10am on Vineries Bridge (Woodcock Lane). All equipment and gloves are supplied. There will be tidying, sanding, painting and repairs to be done. Let us know if you would like to be on the mailing list. Or just turn up on the day.

Towpath Upgrading - with the help of funding from the Cycle Revolution Scheme, which aims to encourage more cycling in Birmingham, it looks like Acocks Green will soon be having new resurfaced towpath to improve the route into the city centre. The path has already been greatly improved from the Centre as far as Tyseley, so we await positive developments in our area.