

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

**Tuesday 12th September Acocks Green History Society: A Virtual Tour of the Outer Circle.** Acocks Green Library 2.15pm. David and Pam Humphries take us on their highly praised Powerpoint tour of all the interesting things on the Outer Circle route.

**Sunday 17th September 10am Canal Tidy Up with the Canals & Rivers Trust.** Meet at Vineries Bridge, all equipment provided. Everyone welcome, come and improve our historic waterway

**Tuesday 19th September 7.30pm Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Public Meeting and AGM** Baptist Church Hall (see front page!)

**Tuesday 26th September Arts and Media at the Green presents:** Rick Simpson talking about Birmingham's own Pre-Raphaelite artist **Edward Burne-Jones**. Acocks Green Library 2.15pm

**Tuesday 10th October Acocks Green History Society: Bill Dargue - The History of Castle Bromwich Village** Acocks Green Library 2.15pm

### Hedgehog Conservation on Westley Vale Millennium Green

The Trustees joined with a local hedgehog rescue group and have recently released two young rescued hedgehogs into the Millennium Green. The little female hog had been found severely dehydrated in a pipe near a Birmingham swimming pool and the young male has travelled all the way from the Cairngorms in Scotland where he'd been found - presumed dead - at the foot of a ravine. The rescue group have nurtured them both back to health and an acceptable release weight before the Trustees received them. We hope they will survive and mature on our local site. We had a healthy local population of this protected species a few years ago but they have not been seen much recently. The Trustees hope our two new young residents - and hopefully a couple more in the future - will start off new generations of hogs on the site.

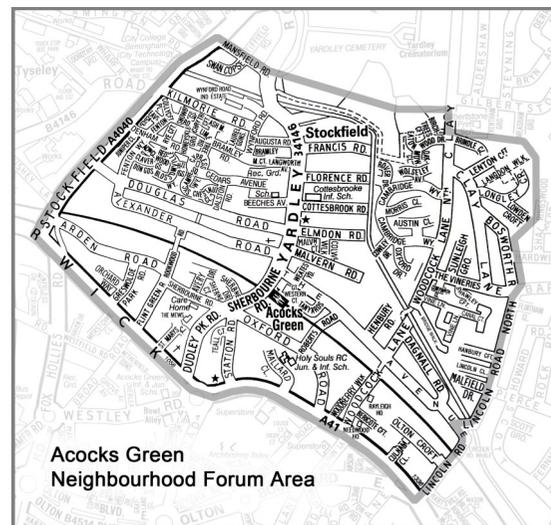


**Local MBE Recipients** - Finally Congratulations to two locals recipients of an MBE : Our Chair **David Treadwell** for his voluntary community work and another Acocks Green resident - **Razia Ismail** who is an Asian Women's Rights campaigner. Both are very well deserved.

*'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 NEWS

September 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 relevant issues and what is going on in our neighbourhood.

The next **Public Meeting & AGM** is on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 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.

We will have a guest speaker - **Vikash Mistry** from the **Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner** who will give us an overview of their approach and aims, working in partnership with citizens to improve and maintain a state of public safety and a decent quality of life.



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## All Change on Local Trains

After ten years of operating local trains London Midland has lost its bid to retain the West Midlands rail franchise. The Department of Transport has recently awarded the new contract to West Midlands Trains, who are a Dutch / Japanese consortium. They have agreed to invest nearly £1 Billion into the local network over the next nine years, commencing in December 2017.



For Acocks Green and the Snow Hill line, this investment will include the following benefits:

- Fully refurbished and longer trains, as well as 80 brand new diesel carriages
- Additional rush hour services to Stratford upon Avon, via Dorridge as well as increased evening frequencies
- From May 2021, Sunday services will be increased to 3 per hour with an earlier start
- New digital information screens providing real time journey information and free wi-fi on trains

## Acocks Green Calendar 2018

Some of you lucky people out there may be owners of the 2017 calendar featuring contemporary photos of the area. Acocks Green Village in Bloom produced a sell-out calendar for 2017 to raise funds and showcase some of the picturesque views of the area through the seasons. This year they have decided to ask local people to look through their digital cameras and phones and submit photos to possibly feature in the 2018 calendar. Each photo used will be credited to the photographer and they will also receive a free calendar.

Email your photos to: [AGNForum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:AGNForum@hotmail.co.uk)

*By sending your photographs you are giving the right to print them in a calendar sold to raise funds for Acocks Green Village in Bloom. Only send photos that are your own work and that you are happy to be shared in this way. They may also be used on the neighbourhood forum website and social media, where possible they will be credited.*

**New Acocks Green Colour Postcard!** A new postcard of the village is now available in Jeffries, S & H Jewellers and Bodylines, featuring our new ViB Tree Sculpture on the main island. Just 20p, proceeds to ViB.



Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum  
For the Community by the Community

## Oak Meadow beside the Grand Union

Severn Trent have finally finished their work on the Oak Meadow site and the council have rotavated the land. Now ViB have kindly offered to give some tender loving care to the area to enhance the site.

Oak Meadow is a very pleasant area between the canal and the housing development on the old Rover Factory site. It is surrounded by greenery from the trees and shrubs.

Young oak trees have been planted over several years and some of them have survived. Unfortunately some have been vandalised or died due to lack of water. More trees will be planted over the coming winter and the Village in Bloom team will also be introducing wildflower areas in various parts of the meadow.

ViB will be preparing these beds over the Winter/Spring and the actual seed sowing will be carried out in March/April of 2018. The Bloom team are hoping to re-create the wildflower success they have had in the Mallard Community Orchard in Mallard Close, the whistle-bed on the main island and more recently on the corner of Gospel Lane and Olton Boulevard East. They are seeking volunteers for this new project and to hopefully establish a 'Friends of Oak Meadow' group. Do you live in the area? Would you like to be kept informed of developments?

You can contact the ViB co-ordinator **Fran Lee** on **0121 706 0076** or email [fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk)

*As the Forum News go to press we are waiting to hear the results of this year's National Village in Bloom judging. The announcements are on 14th September. Will we get GOLD again? Our fingers are crossed.*



## Tai Chi at Westley Vale

If you haven't already heard - Acocks Green now has free outdoor Tai Chi classes every Thursday at 10am in Westley Vale Millennium Green. You can just turn up in comfortable clothes for an hour's gentle

exercise, led by an inspiring teacher - Perry. There is a friendly mixture of people who have been enjoying the benefits from this ancient form of exercise. Whatever your level of fitness (or unfitness), come along and find out more. Why wouldn't you?



For more local news and information subscribe to  
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