

Canal Clean Up - Sunday 30th September, 10am at Vineries Bridge

Since 2016 Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum has 'adopted' a stretch of canal from the start of Oak Meadow to Bridge 85 - Lincoln Road. We hold regular clean ups and tidying sessions where we litter-pick, plant bulbs, paint signs and cut back shrubs and other general enhancement of our stretch of canal.

At the last meet up in July, working with the Canals and Rivers Trust co-ordinator, we used grappling hooks to pull out dumped items from the canal by Vineries Bridge. Within an hour the stronger volunteers amongst us had pulled out 8 pushbikes, 3 shopping trolleys and a motor scooter! Shocking that these items had been dumped but they were taken away by the Trust for reuse or recycling. They donate push bikes to a charity who refurbishes bikes for reuse and sells them on at affordable price. The local police took away the scooter to attempt to locate the original owner.



Come along and Join us. New volunteers always welcome, all equipment provided.

Regular Informative and interesting talks at AG Library - All Welcome 2.15pm start

by Local History Society & Arts and Media in the Green. Donations requested.

- **Tues 25th September Poetry**
Former Birmingham Poet Laureate, **Spoz** - a performance poet extraordinaire
- **Tues 9th October : Local History**
Gordon MacMillan: The Spitfire factory at Castle Bromwich
- **Tues 13th November: Local History**
Val Hart: The lost children, the Middlemore Children's Emigration Homes
- **Tues 11th December Local History**
David Hess: Out of the frying pan, my parents' escape from Nazi Germany in 1938
- **Tues 8th January: Local History**
Canon Dr. Terry Slater: Medieval towns of the West Midlands

Tuesday 16th October 7.30pm

at St Mary's Church



Swansong presents : The swing quartet Fret and Fiddle

Back by popular demand the band play popular tunes that audiences love. Donation at end.

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

September 2018

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 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 in 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.

Our next **Public Meeting (and AGM)** is on **Tuesday 18th 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 your concerns.

Our local councillors usually join us and the local Neighbourhood Police Team have confirmed they will attend. We are privileged to have a very special guest speaker this time - The Mayor of the West Midlands **Andy Street**.



Guest Speaker - Mayor Andy Street

The former Managing Director of John Lewis, Andy is the directly elected head of the West Midlands Combined Authority in which councils across the region have combined forces to work on major policy around housing, transport, jobs and economic growth.

So come along and find out more about his influential role and perhaps get a chance to ask him a question. Everyone is welcome.



Supported by

Report an Empty Home

As part of a nationwide plan to get empty properties back into use, The City Council are asking people to report empty homes. Homes that stand empty in Birmingham are a target for squatters, vandals and burglars. Instead, they could be providing homes for the many people who need one. Report a privately-owned empty property by emailing the council: emptyproperty@birmingham.gov.uk with the following information:

Full address of the property, type of property (for example: bungalow, flat, semi-detached house) A description of the external condition of the property, length of time it has been empty and any additional information about the property (for example: about the owner or any known occurrences of nuisance).



Gold Again?!

On the 20th September representatives from Village in Bloom are invited to the award ceremony to find out the results of this year's campaign. Will Acocks Green receive a Gold Award for the 4th time in a row?! With all the effort that the team put in this year we think it is deserved and we hope that everyone has noticed the colourful planting that has brightened up our village, even during the hottest summer on record. Also because of the ongoing success of the village as part of RHS's Britain in Bloom campaign we are honoured to have been asked to host **It's Your Neighbourhood Award Ceremony** this year to be held on 27th September at St. Mary's Church.

The Heart of England area covers the counties from Gloucestershire to North Staffordshire and extends to the Welsh borders. The 'It's Your Neighbourhood' project is judged by the same criteria as the main campaign but the entries are made up of small groups of people who wish to improve and green up their immediate areas. This year the Acocks Green entries are the **260th Scouts Group** the residents of **St Mary's Close** and **Fox Hollies Forum**.

Acocks Green could have as many as 300 visitors and have to find catering and extra free car parking which has been a bit of a challenge to ViB Co-ordinator Fran Lee. It is a great honour that we have been chosen to host these awards and hopefully is a reflection of the esteem in which we are held by the judges and committee of Heart of England in Bloom.



For more info about Village in Bloom contact co-ordinator Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076 or fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk
www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org/villageinbloom

The Anti-Litter Project 2018



No one likes litter, probably even the people who drop it don't like it but just don't seem to think about the consequences of their actions. It is a problem in our area and the Village in Bloom and Neighbourhood Forum continue their campaigning and efforts to reduce it. With more demands on Birmingham City

Council and less money to spend on street cleaning there are things we can all do. The Council can supply us with special Council street-cleaning bags that will be collected by the crews if left in the correct places. We also have some litter-pickers on long-term loan from the Council. We can be lend these to any residents who would like to use them to keep their patch litter free.

If you are interested in these supplies email us AGNForum@hotmail.co.uk or call Bloom Co-ordinator Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076 or fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

For more local info: www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Westley Vale Sculptures

Earlier in the year a mature tree by the brook in **Westley Vale Millennium Green** split and broke off leaving a large stump with multiple trunks. With his creative eye local film maker and now sculptor **Steve Rainbow** has been inspired to turn the stump into the millennium Green's very first sculpture. The large hand is nearing completion and with the backing of the trustees Steve has also been carving a very scary looking dragon from a fallen tree in the wooded area of the millennium green. If you are feeling brave have a look - it might take a few unwitting people by surprise! Thanks Steve for these two great additions to our wonderful green space.

South Yardley Neighbourhood Forum

Earlier in the year South Yardley residents established a thriving online residents group and have forged strong links with the South Yardley Neighbourhood Policing Team. Building on the success of this community engagement, South Yardley have formed a new Neighbourhood Forum recognised and supported by Birmingham City Council. The forum, a community group run for and by local residents, works to improve the South Yardley Ward area for the benefit of the community. The development of the new forum has slightly changed the boundary of our Neighbourhood Forum. The canal makes a natural boundary between the two forums and Acocks Green's area has expanded south to the new borders of Fox Hollies Rd and Olton Boulevard East. For a detailed map of the 2018 area check out our 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)