Urban Birding in Acocks Green

We know there are lots of people in our area who enjoy encouraging wild birds into the garden with bird feeders. We are lucky to have so much local green space to allow birds to establish themselves. Pigeons aren’t the only birds you will find in the Village. Pied Wagtails can regularly be seen around the Spread Eagle pub and Morrisons car park. Goldfinches feed in the trees on the main Warwick Road traffic island and a friendly Robin lives by the library.

Just down the road a Jay is a regular visitor to the railway bridge on Woodcock Lane and you will hear Chiffchaffs there in the summer months. Fox Hollies Park and Yardley Cemetery are good sites for Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers as well as Nuthatches, Treecreepers, Greenfinches, Bullfinches and Buzzards.

The best spot is probably on the towpath of Grand Union Canal where you will regularly see Mallards, Grey Herons, Moorhens, Long-tailed Tits and Goldcrests. If you are really lucky you may catch the flash of blue - a Kingfisher.

As the Urban Birder, David Lindo reminds us, make sure you “Look up!” Next time you’re out notice how many birds you see.

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:: What’s On :: What’s On :: What’s On :: What’s On :: What’s On ::

Check out the noticeboards at Acocks Green and South Yardley Library to see all of the interesting things that go on in our area; highlights include:

Local History monthly talks at AG Library (2.15pm, £3 donation)

Tues 11th February Jill Kashi: The wandering butler and the little maids - Life at Baddesley Clinton

The English Trombone Consort - From Baroque to Boogie!

Saturday 15th February at 2:15pm at Acocks Green Library

A wide-ranging programme of music by Haydn, Brahms and through to Boogie Woogie, meeting Mr Sandman and Barnacle Bill on the way. Sheer entertainment!

Suggested contribution £4.

Also check out Fox Hollies Forum - there are many activities each week - e.g Luncheon Club, Gardening Club, Yarn and Yarn and lots more.

“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)
Canal Tidy Up - Sunday 2nd February 10am - Vineries Bridge

Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum have signed up to a scheme to ‘Adopt’ the stretch of canal from Lincoln Road to the entrance of Oak Meadow. We work with the Canals and Rivers Trust to tidy and improve our stretch. A group of volunteers meet up with the Trust every couple of months to litter-pick, plant and generally tidy our stretch. If you would like to come along and help out, just turn up - all equipment is provided.

Sadly the cast iron signs from the listed Vineries Bridge have recently been stolen! This has been reported to the Police. If anyone has information about the signs please get in touch with the local Police.

Parkrun Oaklands Park - Every Saturday 9am

The FREE Parkrun phenomenon continues to grow. We now have a Parkrun at Oaklands Park (close to Swan Island). This is a measured 5K run, where everyone is welcome, regardless of ability. Adults and children run, jog or walk for 5K. Manned entirely by volunteers this is a friendly and very positive way to start the weekend. Sign up online and get your own personal barcode which you take along; this ties up with a token given out when you finish to clock your personal time. Within a couple of hours your results, along with all the other runners appear online. parkrun.org.uk

Settlement Scheme for EU Citizens

We have a lot of EU citizens in Acocks Green who have made this country their home and play a positive and important role in our communities. They and their family members are being encouraged to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK when we leave the EU. Applications are free and the scheme is open until 31st December 2020. Settled status for EU citizens will guarantee access to:

- Public services such as healthcare and education
- Public funds and pensions
- British citizenship
  (which can be applied for at a later date)

There is more information and ways to get help with the form on the Birmingham City Council website, search for “EU Citizens”.

The Social Side of Gardening - Get Involved in 2020

The Royal Horticultural Society's theme for Village in Bloom 2020 is ‘Social Gardening’ - This is not just about encouraging people to garden; it is about bringing people together and promoting community spirit. Our team already works with many parts of the community including schools, the Scouts, churches, the BID and the Council – not forgetting all the local businesses who contribute. This year we hope to encourage more people to join in with our work, activities and social events. It is a great way to get out, get active, meet people and make a positive impact on our local environment. Bringing people together beyond the garden gate.

Another Blooming Good Night - 7th March 7.30pm
Westley Hotel. Everyone is welcome to our fabulous Fund-Raising event with Live Music from CANOE playing well known hits from across the decades; a fun General Knowledge Quiz, Buffet, Dancing and our Grand Raffle. Tickets £12 from Jeffries Hardware and S & H Jewellers. Buy soon to avoid disappointment!

Allotment Help

Village in Bloom have taken on a sizeable allotment. The team would love some help to maintain it - in return volunteer gardeners can learn gardening skills and help grow vegetables to enjoy. We plan to have a polytunnel at the allotment where we can plant up hanging baskets and grow on frost-sensitive plants ready for placing around the village. If you have skills in preparing hanging baskets let us know.

Would you like to help the team nurture one of the corners of Acocks Green which we have cultivated? Get in touch if you would like to get involved and be part of our campaign to raise the standards for the people of Acocks Green whilst enhancing your environment.

Contact our Village in Bloom co-ordinator Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076, email: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

Acorns Green 2020 Calendar Raises over £450!

Thank you to all the photographers who sent in their pictures and to everyone who purchased calendars. Also a special ‘Thank you’ to S&H Jewellers and Jeffries Hardware who sold calendars on behalf of the AG Village Partnership. Sales raised over £450 for future community projects that will be used to enhance the village. And RIP Tommy aka Morrissey the Cat, who features in February's photograph - immortalised in our calendar!