

Oak Meadow (beside the Grand Union...)

Another forthcoming event is the sowing of seeds in Oak Meadow. Severn Trent have been carrying out some work there recently and the council will soon be sowing fresh grass seed. The Bloom team plan to continue our success of sowing wildflower seeds, in patches, to enhance this special area. A date for this will be given in future.



Tackling Litter is an on-going problem in the village but a number of Acocks Green residents have been very busy lately. The Bloom team organised an event for the Great British Spring Clean. We worked with pupils from Archbishop Ilsley School to remove many sacks of litter from around the perimeter streets of the

school. The pupils were really looking forward to this and refused to allow the rain that morning to put them off - instead, they were as keen as mustard!

Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground and Fox Hollies Park both hold monthly 'litter picks,' Hazelwood Road hold theirs usually on the third Saturday of every month. If you would like to join in, but are not sure how to go about this, look on the Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Website for more info:

www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Coming Soon! The sculpture dedicated to the Acocks Green Village in Bloom team and the heritage of our area.

We also have team gardening work-outs on Wednesday and Sunday mornings every week - in all weathers! Fresh air, exercise and community spirit.

If you would like to join us contact:

Fran Lee - Telephone: 0121 706 0076 or email: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk Keep up to date with our work at:

acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org/villageinbloom



Village in Bloom News

Spring 2017

Another Bloomin' Good Night Out!



A big "Thank you!!" to all of the businesses who donated raffle prizes. We had been working hard throughout winter, so it was a welcome break from the cold to hold

our annual fund-raising event 'Another Bloomin' Good Night Out', at the Westley Hotel on 4th March and repeat the success of last year. The fabulous local band, 'Canoe', got people up dancing straightaway. There was a fun quiz that everyone took part in and a tasty buffet. Finally there was the wonderfully successful raffle - thanks to the generous donations of so many of our local shopkeepers and businesses.



Improving the Entrance into Birmingham



Community spirit is abundant in Acocks Green, as is illustrated by our on-going project in an area named by one of our team as the 'Triabout.' People have been complaining for years about the neglected area which they termed 'no-man's land', but which is the

entrance to our great city, namely the boundary where Olton meets Acocks Green and Solihull meets Birmingham.

The Council Highways Department has agreed to undertake a number of improvements here. The Housing Department is currently busy enhancing the appearance of a house on the corner of Warwick Road and Gospel Lane and the Parks Department has also helped by improving a drive to the rear of the properties on Gospel Lane.

The Bloom team has created three triangular beds, echoing the triangular shape of the main 'Triabout', edged in box and planted with tulips in the centre of each bed. The daffodils have also put on a good display here.

“one Sunday whilst working on the site a local resident—Robin, stopped to introduce himself, he drives along here regularly and was very pleased to see us enhancing the area. He loves sunflowers so offered to grow some to plant along the fence to further brighten up the entrance into Birmingham. Thanks Robin!” - Fran Lee

Volunteers and the Council working together - wonderful team work, wonderful community spirit!

Bloom Works around the Village

We are continually working on our creations in the village itself, the front of the library and the war memorial, St. Mary's Church graveyard, where we work with church volunteers, and Woodcock Lane, where we hope to have a superb display of perennials and wildflowers in the summer. We also help to keep the Inn on the Green looking good and our tidying and improvement of its rear car park is currently an on-going task.

We hope that you loved the daffodils displayed all over the village recently, including in the large and small planters - you may have seen us planting them in October. These are followed by a wonderful display of tulips - our very own Acocks Green Tulip Festival!

Future Events

We constantly strive to maintain our community orchard in Mallard Close where we will be holding the:

Village in Bloom Launch on 13th May 2017 from 11am

There will be stalls selling jewellery and crafts, plus plant sales. To keep us refreshed, the 260th Scout Troop will be cooking and serving hot food and Wetherspoons will provide fresh coffee. There will also be live music, and we plan to sow seeds with the children and offer gardening advice.

We decided to hold the event in May this year as *hopefully* the weather will be warmer and will have the tulip display to enjoy. Also we will be at the summer community events:

Saturday 1st July—**Acocks Green Carnival** and Sat 8th **Stockfield Funday** so come and and say hello and:

*******Tuesday 4th July is the *most important* Judging Day*******

RHS Theme for Britain in Bloom 2017— Gardening for Wildlife

Our group are always striving to work with the natural world to support wildlife. Here are our top tips—no need to use pesticides, bring back nature's natural balance by making your garden friendly to wildlife. Plant single flowering annuals and perennials so that bees and butterflies can reach the pollen. Put up nest boxes for birds which will eat slugs and aphids and make a pond for frogs and toads which also just love slugs!

