

FOX HOLLIES COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION IS TURNING

30
1989-2019

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY WORK IN
ACOCKS GREEN

Fox Hollies Community Association is a registered charity based at Fox Hollies Forum on Greenwood Avenue. On 31st January it celebrated 30 years of Community Work. Established in 1989 by a small group of Residents in the Fox Hollies area of Acocks Green it has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for the less fortunate members of our community. Their annual income has now grown to £250,000 and they take on the full costs of running the centre employing 10 workers. Their work ranges from Pre-school Playgroup, social activities for older people, to lunch clubs for housebound and disabled groups. They also undertake a number of community development projects, working in conjunction with other groups to develop more provision especially for young people 11 to 18 years of age.

Their latest venture **Carpet Bowling** takes place on Monday afternoons, 1pm-3pm. Refreshments are provided and it is just £2. Why not go along and meet new people and have some fun! Recently they have also been going through the archives and posting photos and articles on the Facebook page highlighting the Association's work since 1989. Search for Fox Hollies Forum to take a look.

For info call 0121 706 0652 or email: foxholliescommassoc@gmail.com or just call in!
Fox Hollies Community Association, Fox Hollies Forum, Greenwood Ave B27 7RA

Acocks Green Library

As we go to press (at beginning of Feb) Acocks Green Library is temporarily closed for urgent building repairs and refurbishment. Hopefully it will only be closed 2-3 weeks.

The **Talk of the Green** and **Local History** talks are on Tuesdays at 2.15pm:

12th March: Mary Bodfish: *Richard The Third*

26th March: John Gough: *Misadventures Of A Music Librarian*

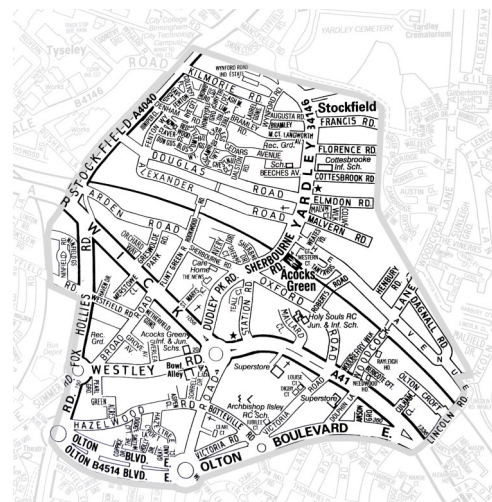
9th April: Mike Hodder: *Beyond Boulton—The Archaeology of Birmingham Industry*

Don't forget the Over 50s Coffee Morning Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also lots of books to borrow and free internet access!



Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

February 2019



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. (Don't confuse us with *Fox Hollies* Forum which is the name of the building where the Fox Hollies Community Association is based—see the back page to read all about them).

We aim to inform local people about what is happening in the area and encourage involvement in activities that benefit 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** is on **Tuesday 26th February 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 will attend.

*Peter Travis from the **Acocks Green Men Shed Project** (based at Fox Hollies Forum, Greenwood Avenue) will be guest speaker and will give a presentation on some of the worthwhile projects that they hope to be involved with. See inside for more details about the Men Shed organisation.*



Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum
For the Community by the Community



Supported by



Village in Bloom 2019

The Acocks Green Village in Bloom team are busy working all year round in the Green and whilst out gardening they also make plans for the year ahead. This year the village is being judged by the RHS in the Urban Category on **Monday 1st July**. There are plenty of great gardening projects and community work to show the judges, thanks to the support of local people and businesses. Here are a taste of some of their work and plans.

Keep the Green Clean!

This year we are really going all-out to tackle the litter in The Green. We are entering the well-publicised *Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean* campaign and have produced exclusive badges with our slogan **Keep the Green Clean** and will be giving them to all our Litter Heroes. Local school children are designing a poster and the winning design will be used to promote the campaign around the village. And, of course, we are trying to convince people not to drop it in the first place!



The Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean takes place between 22nd March and 23rd April. Perhaps you would like to organise your own litter pick as part of the scheme. The Keep Britain Tidy website has all the information as well as details of other local Litter Pick Events. If we work together we can make a real difference.

The Bloom team are holding their litter pick event at 10am on **Sunday 7th April**. Meet on the corner of Woodcock Lane/Warwick Road and be one of the **Litter Heroes**, pick up as much litter as possible between 10 am and 12 noon! All equipment will be provided. You can also be a regular litter champion in our area. Village in Bloom can supply you with equipment, just get in touch.

Springfest - Saturday 11th May 2019

Last year the Bloom launch event was held in the beautiful Mallard Community Orchard. It was so popular that there wasn't enough room for all the people who wanted to participate. So this year the event is expanding to include the pavement areas in the village. The Bloom team are inviting local crafts people to participate by showing and selling their wares. They want to hear from any local carpenters, metalworkers, basket weavers or jewellery makers interested in taking part. They are also encouraging the village businesses and shops to take part and represent themselves.

There will be a Grand Raffle with wonderful prizes, lots of plants on sale (annuals, perennials and vegetables) and live music including popular local covers band **Canoe** performing music from every era! The event will be a celebration of Acocks Green and we hope you will support us - make a note of the date. For more info about any aspect of the Bloom projects contact Bloom Co-Ordinator Fran Lee: 0121 706 0076, email: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk



Acocks Green Carnival 2019

Acocks Green Carnival takes place annually, on the first Saturday of July at Acocks Green Recreation Ground. Every carnival has a theme and stall holders and entrants in the procession are encouraged to decorate their stalls & floats. This year's theme for 2019 is: **Films/Musicals**

This is the biggest community event for the area, bringing families from our diverse and multicultural area out into a fun-themed event. Most stalls are run by local community groups where you can support them in their worthy causes. There are also community interest groups, a wide range of food stalls, a large raffle with excellent prizes, many arena events including local dance groups, singers and cheer leaders showcasing their skills. The procession travels through the village up to Acocks Green Recreation Ground.

This long-standing Carnival is built on the previous years success attracting people from other areas who come back regularly. The success has evolved through a lot of hard work by members of the community who are passionate about the carnival and their area. The organisers need you to come and share the rewards of working in our great community.

Planning for each year's carnival starts in January, meeting at Acocks Green Methodist Church Botteville Road 7pm **on the third Thursday each month**, the next Carnival Planning meeting is on **21st February**. New members are most welcome whatever your skills, they will always be needed to make this great carnival even better.

Contact Sue Weake, Chair - Acocks Green Carnival via Facebook

Men's Shed in Acocks Green?

Some of you with an eye on social media may have heard about the possibility of a new Shed in Acocks Green. You'd be forgiven for wondering what all the fuss is about. Someone putting up a new shed - is that really worth getting excited about?



This isn't any old Shed. Several people in Acocks Green have been itching to set up a community Shed at Fox Hollies Forum for some time to join the other 400+ community sheds dotted around the country. Also known as 'Men's Sheds', these initiatives have been popping up everywhere and we think it's about time Acocks Green had one too.

The original idea of the Shed movement was to reach out to older men who might be feeling lonely or isolated for a whole host of reasons such as being at a loose end after retirement or suffering the emotional consequences of separation or bereavement. Sheds are about social connections and friendship building, making and mending, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. It is widely acknowledged that men are often not as keen as women to reach out and tend not to talk with others in times of need. You will often hear it said in the Shed movement that women communicate *face to face*, whereas men will talk *shoulder to shoulder*. The community Shed was therefore seen as a way of dealing with this challenge. This certainly doesn't mean that women are not welcome! In many of the sheds up and down the country, women are encouraged to join. The emphasis nevertheless is on maintaining a focus on those who the Shed is meant to be helping.

If you'd like to find out more, come along to the Neighbourhood Forum meeting (see front page). Peter Travis be giving a presentation about the Shed movement.

If you can't wait take a look at the UK Men's Shed Association website: menssheds.org.uk

"You either have to be part of the solution or you're going to be part of the problem" -Aldridge Cleaver