

Canal and Rivers Trust - Clean Up Sunday 12th May 10am

Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum have adopted a stretch of the Grand Union Canal and every couple of months we organise meet-ups to clean and tidy our stretch of canal. One of the Canals and Rivers Trust staff will come along in their van with all the equipment needed. Volunteers join in to litter pick, cut back overhanging branches, sweep, remove graffiti, paint and plant in order to improve our part of this historic waterway. If you would like to join us in this worthwhile activity then please contact us via our website or turn up on Sunday May 12th at 10am at the Woodcock Lane Bridge. A free postcard & badge for every volunteer!

www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org



**** What's On? **** What's On? **** What's On? **** What's On? ****



Acocks Green Library Recently refurbished with its new open and airy-feel. Events this month:

Tue 14th May 2.15pm *Acocks Green History Society presents:*
Betty Hagglund: The Friends Ambulance Unit in WWI

Tues 28th May 2.15pm Ruth Lowe - Mary Quant.
Hear Ruth's nostalgic talk and see her collection of clothes, make up, shoes and more.

Friendly Over 50s Coffee Mornings
Tuesday and Thursday.



Saturday 11th May - Village in Bloom *Springfest* Street Event (see inside)

Saturday 18th May - *Arden Road Residents Association Produce Sale* (11am to 1pm)
High quality hyper-local produce/plants and tasty treats - ideal original gifts supporting the local community (outside 90 Arden Road).

Monday 1st July *Village in Bloom Judging Day.* Can we gain GOLD again?

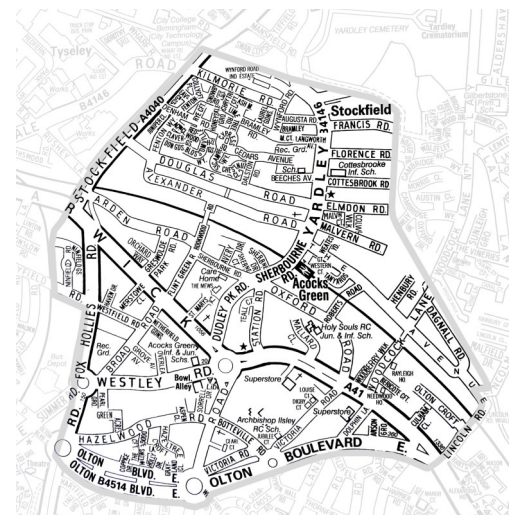
Saturday 6th July *Acocks Green Carnival* many stalls, arena shows, parade through village and lots more! Recreation Ground, Westley Road. Would you like to get involved or have a stall? Get in touch with Chair - Sue Weake via Acocks Green Carnival on Facebook.

Saturday 13th July *Stockfield Funday*, free family fun at Stockfield Park.

Don't forget there is always a lot going on every week at Fox Hollies Forum, Greenwood Avenue and regular events at South Yardley Library.

ACOCKS GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM NEWS

May 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.

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** will be held on **Tuesday 14th May** 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 will join us and the local Neighbourhood Police Team as well as other community representatives. **SO PLEASE COME ALONG!**

Keep the Green Clean Art Competition Winner - Meenu (AG Primary School)

Thanks to Meenu and 115 local children who entered the recent Village in Bloom Art Competition. Helping to spread the word about putting litter in the bin! We can all do our bit to keep the local area clean by disposing of rubbish responsibly. Do it for the kids!



Supported by





We are proud to say that Acocks Green Village in Bloom have received a **Gold Award** from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Heart of England in Bloom judges in each of the past four years. Each spring the RHS encourages participating groups to hold a launch for the Bloom year. This year our launch will be taking place in and around our Mallard Community Orchard and also extending along Warwick Road. There will a variety of stalls, seed-sowing to take home and a chance to fill a planter with 'pick and mix' bedding plants. Some great prizes have been donated by local businesses for the raffle and local four-piece band CANOE will be rocking some tunes everyone can enjoy; so come along get into the community spirit! All funds raised go to support the hard work of Village in Bloom, making The Green a better place for all.

Come along and celebrate Springtime with us!

Fran Lee Co-ordinator - Village in Bloom 0121 706 0076 fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

May is National Walking Month - Take the AG Walking Challenge!

Walk through all of the following Green Spaces and enjoy the great outdoors, get some exercise and discover your neighbourhood! Send us a photo of yourself this month from each green space and you will be in with a chance to win a prize! Email : AGNForum@hotmail.co.uk

Westley Vale Millennium Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yardley Cemetery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fox Hollies Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acocks Green Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oak Meadow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grand Union Canal	<input type="checkbox"/>

More Frequent Trains at Acocks Green Station

At long last a more frequent evening train service to and from Acocks Green is coming this month. **From 19th May trains will continue to run every half hour from 7pm until the end of service on weekdays & Saturdays.** This replaces the previous hourly service.



According to Andy Street, the West Midlands Mayor, this new timetable represents the largest improvement to the region's train services since the mid-1990s. The new timetable was agreed by the transport minister Chris Grayling as part of the franchise for West Midlands Trains.

"If you want to go into the city – to go to the theatre, cinema, to see your favourite band or to eat – or if you are staying late in Solihull these services will allow residents to commute back home along the line. This will enhance night-time economy all along the line and provide a cultural connection conurbation" said the Mayor.

Men's Shed in Acocks Green - Update

Regular readers of Forum News will remember that in the last issue we announced the launch of an exciting new initiative at Fox Hollies Forum - The Acocks Green Men's Shed. If you missed it, the idea of the Shed, as with the 400 or so other Sheds around the country, is to build social connections and friendships by making and mending, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course, a lot of laughter. They 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.

Things have moved on at a pace since I last wrote. We were successful in a bid for money from the Ageing Better Fund, which meant that we were able to buy tools and timber. The latter has been used to build benches and we now have 5 workstations that will very soon be complete with vices and handtools. There is plenty more to do - beautifying our restroom for starters! This has now been insulated and re-plastered, painted and is currently in possession of one comfy armchair. We're looking for donations of armchairs or a sofa, if you have anything you're thinking of throwing out. The wet weather a few weeks ago highlighted a damp problem from the surrounding soil so one member spent a valuable few hours clearing the area and it looks like this issue has been put to bed.

We're actively looking for new members, to help us complete the work on the Shed or simply to turn up and work on their own projects. Just a reminder that although we work under the international banner of a 'Men's Shed', we welcome women too!

Pete Travis Acocks Green Men's Shed

"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)