

## Updates on our Local Libraries

**Acocks Green Library** had to close suddenly at the end of last year. It was already due to have a new roof but, following heavy rain, the vulnerable roof was further damaged so, for health and safety reasons, the library had to be closed until the roof work can be completed. Unfortunately it might be summer before it can reopen. We look forward to some positive news on the repairs being completed.

Fortunately **South Yardley Library** is only 1.5 miles up the road, and it is opening more frequently to compensate. It is presently open 5 days a week. (Closed Friday and Sunday, closed lunch 1-2pm). Check hours before you set off. They have many activities for everyone from toddlers to seniors.

Many of the groups that usually meet at AG Library have temporarily relocated, here is where to find them:

- \* **Nifty Needles** Crafting Group meet every Saturday at Methodist Church Hall (Corner of Shirley Rd/Botteville Road) 10-12 noon
- \* **Coffee Morning** 10-12 every Thursday also at Methodist Church Hall.
- \* **Dementia Carer's Group** 11-1pm Thursdays South Yardley Library

These are all free to attend and everyone is welcome. So come along and connect with other local people.

## Remembering Mike Byrne

The Neighbourhood Forum was sad to learn of the recent death of Mike Byrne who was a former Head Librarian at Acocks Green Library for many years and a local historian. He set up the **Acocks Green Local History Society** and his knowledge on local history was immense. The monthly talks that he organised have been put on hold until its future is decided. There are still local history talks at South Yardley Library. Every second Monday of the month at 2pm, the next one is on **Monday 9th March**.

## St Mary's Church 160 Years Festival 24th - 26th April



To celebrate its long history and help raise funds for the roof St Mary's church is planning a **Springtime Festival**. As a part of this they are asking for photos of people who were married, baptised or confirmed at the church. If possible drop photos in to the church on the morning of Sunday 22nd Feb or send by email to:

stmarysmagazine@yahoo.co.uk. Please supply

the name of person supplying the photos, date, event and names of those included in pictures. Find them on Facebook for more information. The church is open every Saturday morning for refreshments and has regular community events where everyone is welcome.



# Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

## February 2026

Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum is a long-established community group run by volunteers. We aim to support the community by discussing local issues and raising them with the authorities. We also aim to share useful information and make connections with other local organisations for the good of the area. Come along to the Public Meeting to find out more and perhaps you might like to become more involved.

**Our Public Meeting & AGM is on Tuesday 24th Feb at 7.30pm**  
Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Rd).

There will be local representatives and the councillor at the meeting to discuss goings on in our area and share updates. So come and find out more. They will be able to answer some of your questions.

## Keep the Green Clean!



Spring will soon be in the air and a great time to make a concerted effort to tidy our patch. Everyone can play their part by keeping their front gardens/drives tidy, bringing wheelie bins in off the street and litter-picking on along their road. There are also lots of organised **monthly litter-picking** meet ups:

- \* Greenwood Avenue \* Hazelwood Road \* Arden Road \*
- \* Acocks Green Recreation Ground \* Botteville Road \*

Equipment is usually provided. The **Village in Bloom** team also meet every Sunday at 10am in the village - they always welcome people who just want to litter pick or tidy. Contact Fran for more info. (see article inside). Or you could start your own community litter pick! Find out more on the facebook page : **Acocks Green Litter Champions**.



For lots more useful information about Acocks Green scan the QR code or visit [www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org](http://www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org)



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## Village in Bloom Updates

The year ended with a bang with over 2000 tulip bulbs planted by volunteers - so look out for the bright colours at the end of April/Beginning of May.

Our **Winter Fayre** proved very popular with a variety of stalls doing very well. This was a successful collaboration between The Acocks Green Lions and Village in Bloom - Santa and his sleigh were a great attraction to lots of families. There was live music to enjoy and the finale was the lights switch on. The crowd counted down and amazingly the Christmas lights came on as our plunger was pushed down! It was a shame that canopy lights promised were held up in transit and so were not installed until later in December. However, the contractor has promised to leave them switched on until the end of March - how wonderful to have all this brightness in the village in these cold, winter months.

The Bloom team attended the **Stockfield Christmas Cracker** in December too. We provided containers for planting-up bulbs and seasonal annuals. With special red pots and colourful pens many people also decorated plant pots too. It was fabulous fun. Some of our team were invited to meet Father Christmas who gave us a Cadbury's selection box. We felt as excited as the kids!

The next event to look forward to on the calendar is our renowned **'Bloomin' Good Night'** with the usual fun of a quiz, live music from Acoustica, a buffet and a huge raffle. It will be held at the **Pickle Club** on Saturday 28 March. We look forward to seeing you there. Tickets will be on sale at Jeffries as well as being available from our team and sell out!

### Fran Lee - Co-ordinator Acocks Green Village in Bloom

Telephone: 0121 706 0076 e mail: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

More info at : [www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org/villageinbloom](http://www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org/villageinbloom)

### Activated Speed Sign - Dagnall Road

Speeding cars is a problem across Birmingham. Since the one way system was put in place on the adjacent stretch of The Avenue, local residents were aware of more cars coming along the road well over the speed limit! This concern was taken up with the Neighbourhood Forum and, with the support of Councillor Roger Harmer, West Midlands Fire Service installed a light up speed awareness sign that they use in speeding hotspots. They can monitor car speeds with an aim to make drivers more speed aware and hopefully slow down. The sign was installed at the end of January, we hope that it will have a positive effect.



### Trolleys on The Loose

We are sure you will have noticed the number of shopping trolleys that are being abandoned around the neighbourhood. These are valuable items to the supermarkets and they want them back. They should never be taken off the supermarket premises, but if they are you can report them to **Trolleywise** a company paid by the supermarkets to help collect escaped trolleys. You can download their app, take a photo there and then, select the retailer and the location is sent automatically so they can be collected.



### Westley Vale Millenium Green

A lovely place to walk through at this time of year, the snowdrops are flowering, daffodils in bud and the birds are singing. Ducklings will soon be on the canal too! Local wildlife photographer and nature-lover Steve is a regular visitor, feeding the 4 pairs of robins that nest on the site. See if you can spot the friendly birds when you walk through!

The free Tai Chi sessions continue twice a week with Perry Bennett, **Mondays 3.15 - 4.15pm**, and **Thursdays 10am - 11am**. Its success continues and this year it will celebrate 10 years at the Green. People new to Tai Chi are always very welcome to a gentle exercise session with good company throughout the year, improving balance, posture and making you feel better. What's not to like ?



### Stone Hall's Possible Future

The Disability Resource Centre Charity who support disabled people are currently based in Kitts Green but are looking for a new premises from 2027. Since Stone Hall Adult Education Centre on Warwick Road became vacant last summer they approached the council to explore a Community Asset Transfer, whereby they take over the lease for the building. It could potentially offer community space for a variety of other activities, right in the centre of Acocks Green. This would be a very welcome outcome for this historic building. So many people have benefitted from the centre over the years. It would be great to see it stay a space for the community. For more news on this keep in touch by subscribing to our website. [www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org](http://www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org)



### Kimichi Music School - 111 Yardley Road

We are lucky to have such a centre of musical achievement in Acocks Green and the connections this provides to some wonderful musicians. Kimichi's contribution to the area is really positive, including their free monthly **Phoenix Music Nights** musical performances - **First Monday of the month 7pm-8pm**. A chance to hear classically trained musicians and a wide range of musical styles at close range in a friendly atmosphere. Next event Mon 2nd March - Local singer/songwriter Rosie!

