



Churchfield Community Association

Annual report 2016

The CCA has seen a number of changes this year, notably the inclusion of two members of the previous Friary Green Residents Association (FGRA) onto the CCA Executive. We have continued our involvement with ward forums and neighbourhood forums, and have also continued to increase our response to alcohol licence applications. In addition, we hosted a debate prior to the European Referendum.

The CCA's involvement with issues of public concern, as well as an appreciation of local successes, has shown the value of having an identifiable community group.

The great value of our association lies in bringing people together with a sense of belonging and commitment, and in providing a forum in situations where the community can act as one. Bringing this about has been hard work, but we have also held a range of social events which have been great fun and well attended. Many people have expressed their appreciation of having such a group.

We continue to see many positive developments along Churchfield Road which makes the area more attractive to potential residents and businesses, especially when they discover that we have such a strong engaged community represented by this association.

This is my first report as chair. I would like to thank members old and new, especially those who serve on the Executive, for putting so much effort into improving our part of Acton. Special thanks go to Linda Taylor who is stepping down from the Executive, although I am happy to report that she is willing to continue in her role as Newsletter Editor. We hope to welcome new exec members in the next few months. If you are interested in joining our exec committee, please contact me, Chris Hurley, on actonhurleys@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 1 November 2016, we have 210 members, 17 of them businesses, many of which are long-standing members. We have run a number of recruitment events at the Acton Fine Food market at Derwentwater School and also did a major mail-out to former members of the FGRA.

We value the support and commitment of our members, who we look forward to meeting at our future events. All are welcome – please join us.

CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Rubbish and street cleaning!

This has been one of the major issues affecting members this year.

The CCA has been working with Mill Hill Park Residents Association, local residents and officers of the Council to try to find solutions to the problems of waste management in Acton. In August, the then director of waste management Darren Hanaghen visited Acton and spoke to CCA Executive members, businesses and residents. A follow-up walkabout with officers took place on 31 October and a number

of businesses were cautioned. This is an ongoing project with different problems requiring different solutions. The CCA is pleased to have developed a good working relationship with council officers and feel reasonably confident that improvements are on the way, although they may take time to implement.

Licence applications

We continued this year to monitor alcohol and late night food licence applications in the town centre, making representations to the Council, when appropriate, to encourage responsible licensing practices and reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB). Maureen Colledge continues to lead for the CCA on this, with help from Picot Cassidy on one case, attending and speaking at licensing sub-committee meetings on our behalf, and liaising with the police and other local community associations.

Since last November we made ten representations: Acton Food Centre (off-licence – twice); Drinks Supermarket (online delivery service); H&M Food & Wine (off-licence – twice); Londis (off-Licence); Metro Supermarket (off-licence); Posh Dogs (late night food stall); P&M Food & Wine (off-licence); Putt in the Park (bar). In most cases, we ask for the core hours from Ealing's licensing policy to be applied, and for conditions, such as: no sales of cheap high-strength beers and ciders and no single cans or spirit miniatures; safe storage of alcohol; and adequate and trained staff, especially at night.

We have also recently engaged in pre-application consultation on the newly refurbished King's Head and given advice that the applicants welcomed and implemented.

Overall, we have been successful in getting most of our requested conditions accepted and hours limited to core hours or, where the evidence warranted it, in applications turned down. The whole process has been greatly helped in the last few years by the thorough and fair way that the chair and councillors on the licensing committees have conducted hearings and with the advice and co-operation that we have had from the local licensing officers in the Metropolitan Police and from Ann Brennan of the Mill Hill Park Residents Association.

Acton Central station book swap

The Acton Central station book swap has entered its fourth year, with a continuing rapid turnover of large numbers of books. We have had a few challenges with bulk removal of donated books, either to stock school libraries or sheltered housing bookshelves, but mostly the book swap has been successful and trouble-free. We do need a steady supply so please donate any books you have spare.

Acton Carnival and Acton Christmas Fair

The CCA had a stall at the carnival in July as usual, selling bric-à-brac and second-hand jewellery and books, plus running a tombola. This time, however, although the stall seemed busy most of the time, we made a net profit of only £140.45 – far less than in former years. In the event, the exec decided to give this and a further £59.55 – to make a total of £200 – to APPLE, the children & young people's charity in Acton Park, which has had a particularly bad year in terms of grants.

Last Christmas was the first time in a while that we didn't run a stall at the Acton Christmas Fair. We didn't not only because of the cold and short day, but also because we weren't even invited to have one by the organisers. It is unfortunate that local community groups aren't encouraged to take part in what should be a very community event.

COMMUNICATIONS

We maintain the large noticeboard outside Acton Central station. Members can request that notices be put up for community events such as concerts, walks, charity events, etc. There is a contact phone number on the board. Please allow a few days for us to put up a notice.

Newsletter

The *Churchfield Community Association Newsletter* continues to thrive and has been published three times this year, in February, July and November. The editor, Linda Taylor, is very grateful to those who help in its production by suggesting items and writing features, and to those who take photographs. Contributions to the newsletter and ideas for articles are always welcome. Thanks to Picot Cassidy for producing the address labels for recipients and to Susanne Hickmott for organising distribution, as well as to those who help with delivery.

Online newsletter and email list

Issued about every six weeks or so, the online newsletter generally contains time-sensitive information about events and other activities. Members are automatically subscribed to this, but can easily unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of each newsletter.

Currently the newsletter has 192 subscribers, following a 'cull' of members who have left the CCA. This is almost our entire membership of individuals, households and businesses; the only members it doesn't include are those who have not given us their email addresses or whose email addresses no longer work. If you're not receiving the newsletter but would like to, get in touch with the manager, Nancy Duin <nduin@nancyduin.net>, with your current email address.

Unlike the newsletter, which is one-way only, members can use our email list to communicate with other members. Officially known as 'actoncentralemailgroup', it remains active with about 115 members, about half of the membership. Unfortunately, it is now impossible for the manager to add or delete any members as Yahoo! Groups, through which it is run, refuses to recognise her. This is just one more problem that we have had with the email group over the years.

The plan now is to join Simple Lists, for which we'll pay about £50/year and which should be a lot easier to use and administer. This is possible to do now because, through the 'culling' of the online newsletter subscriber list, we have a more or less full list of all our members' email addresses. Initially, we will subscribe everyone to the new email list. If you do not want to receive posts from this, you will be able to unsubscribe easily. Oh, and we'll change its name to something that includes 'CCA'!

Social media

The CCA has a 'public' **Facebook** page, which now has 159 members and links to many other local groups.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The CCA has hosted various social events over the past year. Open to CCA members and friends as well as people considering joining the CCA, these offer great opportunities to meet other people who live and/or work in our neighbourhood.

In December 2015, our annual **CCA Christmas Party** was held in the restaurant area of The Rocket pub. Around 30 people attended, and our thanks goes to Filip Filipovic and all the Rocket staff for preparing a delicious buffet supper and helping to make the evening a success.

Our popular **supper quizzes**, created and run by Paul Talbot and Philippe Bruyer, were held 4 times during the year, at L'Oriental restaurant on Churchfield Road. Delicious Lebanese mezze food, prepared and served at table by Tony and Paola, is followed by quiz rounds and puzzle sheets with enough variety to ensure questions for everyone. These quiz evenings are a friendly and fun way to meet new and existing CCA members. Do consider giving them a go – you'll be warmly welcomed!

The CCA annual **summer garden party** was held in July, and our thanks goes to Sarah and Rich for generously hosting the party in their beautiful garden in Cumberland Park. Everyone brought food and drink to share, which helped ensure a relaxed and enjoyable time for all. We were pleased to welcome the Mayor and also our MP Rupa Huq.

In August, the CCA arranged a fun **Putt in the Park evening**. On a gloriously warm summer evening, six teams, of three or four people each, enjoyed putt-ing their way round the new 15-hole putt-ing green in Acton Park, followed by eats and drinks at tables by the bar. We plan to hold another such event in 2017.

Our enjoyable '**First Wednesday socials**' were put on hold during the year. These regular drop-in evenings for CCA members and prospective members were designed to provide an opportunity to get together for a chat and a drink, but numbers had been reducing. However, they can be resumed at any time if members would like it. Please let us know.

Chris Hurley, Chair November 2016