



# Churchfield Community Association

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

### **Chair's overview**

What a strange year 2020 has turned out to be! This report is necessarily short as many of our events and activities have had to be cancelled or curtailed. We do hope that the virus is under control in 2021 so we can live our lives as normal again, with lots of opportunities for members to get together. In the meanwhile, this report looks back on the few things we have been able to do this year.

I would like to thank all those who serve on the Executive. We welcomed Paul Webster to the Executive this year as the representative from CAN Forum. Its great that we have more men on the Executive now than women! We have continued to meet but via Zoom rather than face to face. Let's hope we can get back to normality soon.

I particularly want to pay tribute to Susanne Hickmott who sadly died this year following a long illness. Susanne had been a stalwart member of the Executive for many years. She took on the role of Secretary and also wrote many articles over the years for the newsletter. I have fond memories of her and me going up and down Churchfield Road trying to sign up businesses to join the CCA. We were not always successful, but we always had a giggle. My condolences to Tony and the family.

Susi Kirkwood who organises most of our social activities, has, luckily for us, agreed to stay on the Executive for a further year. Sadly, Annie Evans had to step down due to work pressures, so we are happy that Susie is staying on.

I said last year that this would be my last year as Chair. However, I have been persuaded to stay on for a bit longer as well, so you haven't got rid of me yet!

We still have a couple of vacancies on the committee and would welcome anyone who wants to get more involved. If you are interested in joining our exec committee, please contact me, Chris Hurley, on [actonhurleys@aol.com](mailto:actonhurleys@aol.com).

## **CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **Lighting the main path in Acton Park**

With the opening of the Ark Byron Primary Academy in Acton Park, the main path through the park from Uxbridge Road by Bryant Court to Acton Central station has become much more heavily used, not just by parents, children and teachers but by commuters and others who notice it is open for longer. Last winter we became aware of just how dark and unsafe it was for those collecting children or walking through so we decided in February this year to approach the Ward Forums to ask if they would use some of their budget to light the path and this was agreed.

8 LED lamp posts were installed over winter 2019/20 and the final electrical connection was completed at the end of May 2020. The lighting has been activated since mid-October 2020 and in this Autumn season so far it is being well used by pedestrians and runners etc. We have not yet had any feedback from any parents of children at Ark Byron school, so if you are one please let us know if you approve – or otherwise!

### **Licensing Scrutiny**

#### **Alcohol and late-night food**

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, liaising with local licensing officers and the Metropolitan Police when appropriate and working with Ann Brennan of the Mill Hill Park Residents Association (MHPRA) who monitors applications and makes representations for the MHPRA.

Since last November, three representations have been made. The first, in relation to an off licence in Horn Lane, was refused after concerns raised by us and neighbours, primarily over the suitability of those running it. The second, an application for an off licence in the High Street was voided due to failures to comply with the rules for advertising a new licence, after we pointed these out. The third, a new grocer in the High Street, responded to our representations and agreed to a number of conditions on the new licence designed to support responsible selling of alcohol.

In 2020, Ealing Council published a new guide to its policies on licensing for alcohol, gambling and sex establishments which is useful reference document for community groups like us in considering and responding to licences. The guide can be found at [https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/795/licensing\\_policy](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/795/licensing_policy).

### **Other campaigns**

#### **Old Library cinema project**

The CCA has been supportive of this project since it was first mooted. This year we donated £500 in support to turn it into a cinema for Acton.

## **L'Oriental Restaurant**

Many members sent in objections when L'Oriental was threatened with closure due to a planning application - there were over 200 objections in total – and it was successful with the restaurant given a new lease for 5 years.

## **Closure of Acton Post Office**

The campaign to get a new Post Office in Acton town centre continues. Ever since COVID-19 in March 2020 there has been a massive increase in online shopping that has resulted in lengthy queues at The Vale and Horn Lane with 'Returns' . Both The Vale and Horn Lane Sub Post Offices have been refurbished over the last year and we were interested to see a new sub Post Office in a new Budgens Store on Gunnersbury Lane in the old Petrol Station adjacent to Fire Station. However, although the sign went up, it is now covered over, and we understand it is no longer opening. Our MP Rupa Huq is not letting the matter drop and has had a recent meeting with the CEO. She will be able to update us in due course. Many thanks to her for continuing to press them on this issue.

## **Dec 2019 General Election Hustings Thurs 28th Nov 2019 St Mary's Church Hall**

We continued our tradition of organising hustings for elections local and national. Notification of this CCA event went out on Twitter, Facebook and Acton W3 along with A4 Posters across Acton. Attendance was approximately 100.

Political parties represented were Labour, Conservatives, Liberal, Green Party and Brexit Party.

## **Traffic issues in Churchfield Road**

Idling engines: the illuminated signs at the railway crossing have been relocated for east bound traffic and the wording simplified. There has been no further progress with extending the Yellow Box at the railway crossing along Churchfield Road either side of the crossing. No further progress on parking restrictions re: 'Stop and Shop' and with the two 'Out of Use' parking ticket machines. These issues have been raised twice at Central Acton Ward Forum meetings and should be included as an agenda item at the next meeting whenever that might be.

Dave Wootton and David Buckingham investigated the possibilities of re-opening the pedestrian subway at Acton Central Station. This would require relocation of ticket barriers on Richmond bound train platform and addition of general public/fare paying passengers fencing/screens (like Kew Gardens station subway). However, the subway is currently not a public 'Right of Way' and would require considerable investment by Network Rail/TfL

## **Acton Central station book swap**

The Acton Central station book swap continues to thrive. It is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. Please continue to donate any books you have spare, and many thanks to those who already donate. It needs a constant steady supply.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

We continue to maintain the large notice board 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**

We produced one newsletter during the year, in July 2020. As ever, many thanks go to Linda Taylor for her continuing role as Newsletter Editor. We know she is 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 Ziggy for producing the address labels for recipients and to Maureen for organising distribution, as well as to all those who help with delivery.

### **CCA email list**

All members can use our email list to communicate with each other. Now known as the 'CCA email group', about three-quarters of our membership are on this list. To subscribe please use <https://mailmanlists.uk/mailman/listinfo/cca>. The address to email CCA members en masse if you are looking for a builder, to advertise an event or anything else (within reason of course!) is [cca@mailmanlists.uk](mailto:cca@mailmanlists.uk)

Please remember to notify us if your email address changes.

### **Social media**

The CCA has a 'public' **Facebook** page, which now has 236 members and links to many other local groups.

### **Social Activities:**

CCA social events are open to CCA members and their friends, and also to anyone thinking of joining the CCA. The aim is to offer opportunities to meet up socially with others who live and/or work in our neighbourhood. Over the past year, the CCA has run various enjoyable events, with many of them adapted to the restrictions set out by the government from March onwards due to the Covid19 pandemic.

The annual **CCA Christmas Party** was held on Monday 9th December 2019, in the restaurant area of The Rocket pub, which is now under new management. Some 30 people attended, and the food was delicious. Our thanks to Paul and Philippe for again creating and running a fun Christmas quiz after the meal.

In March 2020, prior to the pandemic restrictions, some 35 people enjoyed one of our popular **CCA Quizzes** at L'Oriental Restaurant on Churchfield Road. Our thanks to Tony and Paola for the mouth-watering selection of Lebanese mezze food. Then, with Covid restrictions in place, our quiz hosts, Paul and Philippe took on the challenge of keeping the quiz going. Using Zoom, they hosted Saturday night quizzes from April through to July, creating a weekly event to look forward to by many who were in a Lockdown situation. Thank you, Paul and Philippe for your massive efforts!

All who joined in the quiz were welcomed and contributed to the enjoyment of the evening. As with our other social events, these quiz evenings are a fun and friendly way for new CCA members to get to know others living and working in our area.

A **Putt in the Park and Picnic** event on the 15<sup>th</sup> July was able to take place and much enjoyed, albeit by a smaller group of people than usual.

Although we were again very kindly invited to hold our **Summer Garden Party** in Sarah & Rich's wonderful Cumberland Park Garden, in August, at that time the pandemic rules restricted gatherings to 6 people, so sadly it had to be cancelled this year.

A new initiative that was able to take place was the **CCA Guided Walk**, through W3 and W4, led by Maureen Colledge, who made the walk so interesting. Starting in Acton Park, the group explored a route down through South Acton and Bedford Park and back via Chiswick Business Park.

We are hoping things will start to get back to normal by next Spring, so that we can run a full programme of events next year!

If you have not already attended any of our CCA social events, it would be great if you would like to try them out! Moreover, if you have any ideas for future social events, please let us know.

Compiled by CCA Chair Chris Hurley – thanks to Exec members for your contributions

#### **The Executive 2019/20**

Chair Chris Hurley  
Secretary Maureen Colledge  
Treasurer Matthew Stower  
Membership Ziggy Uszkurat  
Social activities Susi Kirkwood/ Annie Evans (to August 2020)  
Campaigns David Wootton  
Planning Paul Webster (from July 2020)