CCA Acton Newsletter

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 56, Spring 2023

The Churchfield Community Association welcomes people living and working around Churchfield Road who are interested in making a difference to our area

Parking problems for people with disabilities

Janet Mearns

When lockdown restrictions were relaxed, I resumed taking a very disabled friend on a weekly visit to West London Trades Union Club in Acton High Street, for a drink and a quiz. These were his only outings.

On arrival, we were astonished to find that what appeared to be empty parking spaces, in the bay outside 25-53 Acton High Street, were obstructed by benches and planters (glorified packing cases).

I had to park in Melville Villas Road, which was too far from the club for my friend, who used a walking-frame. He fell down in the road. Many thanks are due to the stranger who helped my friend up at a time when we were all still wary of getting too close to people. I drove a very shaken friend home.

While we had all been obediently staying at home, benches and planters had been installed on various sites needed particularly for mobility impaired people to park near enough to the shops, restaurants and facilities they want to use and whose custom the businesses would welcome.

Why would anybody want to sit on a bench in the road and is the road a place you would want to encourage young children to sit? Many pavements are wide enough to accommodate benches. The planters are being used as rubbish bins.

After many enquiries I established that these obstructions had been placed without any equality impact assessment (EIA), which is normally mandatory.

It would only take a cursory assessment to see who would be most disadvantaged by obstructing parking spaces. In the bay outside 25-53 Acton High Street, the spaces which had not been obstructed had been designated as loading bays up to 6pm, Monday to Saturday, resulting in nowhere for customers to park.

Eventually, after drawing the problem to the attention of concerned people, campaigning at every opportunity and raising the issue with councillors, I was told there would be two parking spaces for disabled people outside 25-53 Acton High Street.

Only one of these materialised. It is usually occupied by a van without a Blue Badge (disabled person's parking permit). Sometimes, a Blue Badge holder manages to use the space legitimately, but then there is nowhere for any other disabled person to park. None of the benches or planters have been removed.

The council needs to understand the importance of parking spaces to disabled people, and remove the planters and benches.

Acton councillors should be concerned about their constituents' access to High Street premises. CCA members can do their bit by raising the issue with them at https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201044/councillors.

I hope that soon Acton will be a place where disabled people feel welcome as they enjoy participating in, and contributing to, the life of the community.

Sadly, it will be too late for my disabled friend whose impairment first raised awareness of this issue. He died last May.

CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Summer Garden Party

Sunday 2 July 2023 *4.00pm to 7.00pm*

Get to know more people from the area in a stunning local garden.
Food and drink provided. Small charge plus donations to our host's charity.
Booking essential by emailing bayscolledge@talktalk.net

City Harvest

Maureen Colledge

Based in Acton (their HQ) and New Spitalfields, City Harvest provides an efficient solution to food poverty and food waste.

Every week the charity rescues over 80 tonnes of surplus food from producers and retailers in the capital, enough for 1.1 million meals. They then provide it free to over 350 charity organisations.

On the visit, L to R: Chris Hurley, manager Po-Yee Lai, Natasha from Acton BID and representatives from Trailfinders Rugby

Chris Hurley and Maureen Colledge visited the Acton depot in The Vale. This large modern warehouse is where food comes after being collected, to be stored, sorted and packaged for delivery.

Volunteers sign up for shifts of two to four hours. Their 18 refrigerated vans are on the road seven days a week, delivering to grassroots organisations in over 26 London boroughs.

The vans cost over £60,000 each, with many donated by corporates such as Vandy Murray, funded by the Wimbledon Foundation.

We saw crates of good quality fruit and vegetables, as well as food staples such as flour, cous cous and pulses, plus meat and dairy in cold stores.

Given their high standards and today's costs, it's not surprising that they have a waiting list of organisations wanting deliveries.

Last year the CCA gave a donation of £250 and we hope to be able to help again. They need more volunteers. You can volunteer or donate at https://cityharvest.org.uk

ActOne Cinema – second screen

Amanda Mason and James Lewis

At ActOne Cinema it's been a busy start to 2023. The second screen became operational at the end of January. Particular thanks to Acton BID, the CCA and everyone who supported the project.

The 'Name a Seat' campaign con -tributed to the funds, and seat plaques are now on display in screen two. Thanks to all who purchased a plaque.

It's not too late to sponsor a seat. Go to info@actonecinema.co.uk

The second screen has opened up the programme as well as offering an increased choice of films. We are particularly pleased to launch the first season of National Theatre Live performances, which began with Othello on 16th March.

Other upcoming highlights in-clude a screening of The Last Witness plus Q&A with the director, and a ticketed screening of Eurovision 2023. Information on the programme and special events that are coming up can be found at www.actonecinema.co.uk

The ActOne café is open from 12am-9pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sun-day; and from 11am-9pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

With free Wi-fi, great coffee from Climpson & Sons, and a new selection of snacks and pastries, the team hopes the lounge and café will become a destination for you, even if you're not seeing a movie.

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org

Find us on Facebook

If you have any ideas for social activities, please contact our chair, Chris Hurley: actonhurleys@aol.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **CCA Bookstall at Acton's Reduce & Recycle Market by Morrisons:** Drop off or take away books. Stall volunteers wanted—text 07963 909814
  Saturdays 3 June & 1 July
- **CCA Summer garden party:**
  Sunday 2 July; 4pm to 7pm
  A great way to get to know people in a stunning local garden. Food and drink provided. Small charge + donations to our host's charity.
  BOOKING ESSENTIAL
  Email Maureen Colledge: bayscolledge@talktalk.net

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/

Details: David Bays
020 8992 0287; 07952 839653

Free to members; non-members: £2
(Membership £10 a year)

All meetings: 7.30pm, 2nd Wednesdays, St Mary's Church Hall, opp. Morrisons

- **AGM, & talk on the history of London's water:**
  Talk by Nick Higham about his book The Mercenary River.
  Wednesday 14 June
- **Celebration of the 200th anniversary of Passmore Edwards' birthday (see p.4):**
  Thursday 22 June; 2pm to 4pm.
  Acton Care Centre (formerly Acton Cottage Hospital), Gunnersbury Lane W3. Afternoon tea and cake and an exhibition of the hospital and Passmore Edwards' part in it.
  Visitors welcomed free of charge but a limit on numbers. Register your interest with David Bays at bayscolledge@talktalk.net
- **Ealing Common Walk:**
  A plaque to a famous computer scientist, another to a tennis champion, the story of an assassination of a British prime minister and a plaque to a world famous ballet dancer.
  Wednesday 5 July; 2.30pm at Ealing Common Station entrance. Walk ends about 4.15pm at The Grange pub. Register interest at bayscolledge@talktalk.net

CCA book swap

Chris Hurley

The CCA has been running the book swap at Acton Central Station for quite a few years now and it is well used. Thanks to everyone who donates books.

We have now expanded into running a stall at Acton Market on the first Saturday of the month, from 11am-2pm. This is part of the 'Reduce and Recycle' Lottery funded initiative run by the Saturday market.

Residents are encouraged to think about what we consume and to start using and wearing items for longer.

Photo by CCA member Judy Roiser

Our MP Rupa Huq visiting the CCA book swap stall on 4th March 2023

The aim is to reduce how much we waste by reusing items more and, when we no longer need them, recycling them. Our book swap fits very neatly into this initiative.

Please come along to say hello, donate a book or books and browse the selection we already have. It's all free!

And if you have any spare time and could help out at a future event, please let us know.

Actonians help asylum-seekers ease into life in the UK

Catharine Browne

"This is the first time I've felt welcome since arriving in this country."

"I don't have any family here. You guys on a Thursday have become my family."

Once a week, a local community hall welcomes asylum-seekers in Ealing who are awaiting a Home Office decision to grant them refugee status.

The host organisation is called EASE (Ealing & Acton Support Enterprise), a drop-in founded last year by Actonians determined to do something to help locally housed people fleeing war and persecution.

EASE guests, who come predominantly from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, are treated to a hot midday meal, as well as English classes, art activities and games such as table tennis.

Food for lunch is purchased from small local independent shops such as Al-Yasmeen's and Sanabel Bakery, and from generous donations from local groups and businesses such as West London Islamic Centre, Park Royal Patties and Chicken Spot.

Guests also have access to the 'grocery store', where they can pick up food contributed by volunteers, supporters, Acton Market and locally based food-redistribution groups Felix Project and City Harvest. Any leftover food is donated to local charities such as Acton Homeless Concern at Emmaus House.

Toiletries, nappies and sanitary towels are also available, donated by Bloody Good Period, Goods for Good and our supporters, and stored at The Big Yellow Self-Storage Company up the road.

Guests are encouraged to contribute to the drop-in, helping out with cooking and communal clean-up duties, among other activities.

Local businesses and community organisations are key to the operation of EASE, donating food and offering other types of support.

ActOne Cinema, for example, provides free and reduced-cost cinema screenings to local refugees and asylum-seekers. And EASE works with Acton's children's centres and maternity services to help mothers and children access the services they need.

Most EASE volunteers are Actonians, though a few come from elsewhere in West London. But many contribute so much behind the scenes: from sourcing goods to building relationships with local partners, fundraising and proposal -writing, helping with IT and information management, supporting EASE policies and documentation, and arranging trips and activities.

EASE volunteers receive in-house and online training. A recent session was held on mental well-being and support for people affected by trauma. Volunteers also meet at informal social evenings, often at ActOne cinema.

At least five CCA members are EASE volunteers, and EASE is looking to recruit more. If you are interested in joining the team, you can find further information and register your interest at https://forms.gle/Ft1F11jb56aafj6w7, or email EASE.ealing@gmail.com.

All volunteers are welcome, and EASE is particularly looking for an accountant to be treasurer on its Board of Trustees.

So why not take the chance to make a difference to a part of our community that is often isolated and invisible, and to meet a fascinating group of people, guests and volunteers alike?

Newsletter edited by: Linda Taylor (linda102taylor@gmail.com) **Printed by:** Blissetts Print

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To contact the CCA secretary:
Email: hello@churchfield.org
Website: www.churchfield.org

JOIN THE CCA

- Vote at meetings
- Receive invitations to members' events
- Join the CCA email group

Annual Membership fee *(Standing orders only)*
Single/Business – £5 (£2 concessions)
Household – £7.50

Passmore Edwards: bicentenary celebrations

David Bays

This year events round the country are celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of John Passmore Edwards.

He was one of the country's great philanthropists who helped fund Acton Cottage Hospital, now Acton Care Centre, and Acton Library, now ActOne Cinema, as well as libraries, sanatoriums and other social buildings.

Coming from humble beginnings himself and having made his money in publishing, he wanted to give back to the people.

Acton Care Centre in Gunnersbury Lane, where the original Cottage Hospital building is located, will be celebrating his birthday with afternoon tea and cake on Thursday 22 June, 2-4pm.

There will be an exhibition of Passmore Edwards' life and buildings in the centre's dining room, and a short talk about the early days of the hospital and Passmore Edwards' part in it.

The Mayor is being invited, and a representative from Gold Care Homes, the owners of the Centre, will speak about the recent history of the building and its current services.

Local people are also invited but there is a limit of about fifty on numbers. So, if you'd like to come, please register your interest with David: bayscolledge@talktalk.net, or ring 020 8992 0287.

Plans are being made for an event later in the year at ActOne cinema. More details to follow.

Churchfield Road rail crossing campaign for safer pedestrians

David Wootton

New yellow box at the Churchfield Road rail crossing

The CCA has campaigned for several years to have a yellow box at the rail crossing in Churchfield Road.

Ealing Council then announced that several new yellow box junctions would be created across the borough. As a result, in March there was a yellow box installation on the eastbound section of Churchfield Road at the end of Goldsmith Road.

This has replaced the previous 'KEEP CLEAR' writing on the road. And it complements the successful CCA campaign to instal the illuminated sign: 'Switch Engine Off When Barriers Are Down'.

We will continue to campaign for improved safer pedestrian management at the barriers.

➢ **View recent and past newsletters on the CCA website – www.churchfield.org**

Other local news

David Wootton

- **ActonBID** has been awarded a further 5-year contract until 2028 to continue work as one of three business improvement projects in Ealing.
- **Churchfield Road shopkeepers** are concerned about facing increased costs as the business rate system has been revised by central government and many will now fall into a higher tax bracket.
- **Joanna Dudzinska's 'Walking and Talking' group** has received subsidy from Mutual Gain funding. She is offering six free walking tours, 'Acton Together', between April and September, 11am to 1pm. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/talking-amp-exploring-25424912225; or text 07964765799 to book.
- **West London Orbital:** TfL is planning an overground service cutting journey time, from Hounslow through Acton Central and Brent Cross to Hendon and West Hampstead, to start in the early 2030s.