CCA Acton Newsletter

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA)
Issue 59, Autumn 2024

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

Hustings June 2024: 'an exceptionally well-attended event'

Sara Nathan

Photo: Nicola Tree

The General Election in July now seems an aeon ago, so much has happened since. At the time it was exciting and absorbing and never less so than at the CCA hustings at the end of June.

This was an exceptionally well-attended event at St Mary's Church on The Mount, with over one hundred people in the audience. The CCA was very grateful to the rector for hosting us and attending. All the candidates, except the young chap from Reform UK who nobody ever saw, attended and contributed fully.

We heard from, in the order they came in the election: Rupa Huq (the previous and then re-elected Labour MP), James Windsor-Clive (Conservative), Alastair Mitton (Lib-Dem), Kate Crossland (Green), Nada Jarche (Workers Party), Stephen Balogh (SDP) and Julie Carter (Independent).

Some of their supporters, particularly those from the Workers' Party, were very noisy but never managed to wholly disrupt proceedings. This was down to excellent preparation and superb chairing (but I may be biased on the latter).

The candidates made opening and closing statements and answered questions on subjects as diverse as social care, housing, and policy towards Gaza. Topics were chosen by the number of written questions put in by the audience on the night.

Mostly the policy debates were about the whole country, but several candidates managed to bring a local perspective to the discussions.

At the election, the turn-out in Ealing Central and Acton was only marginally over 60%, with Rupa Huq being re-elected with 46.8% of the vote. We had hoped that hustings would stimulate both debate and turn-out, but did better on the former than the latter.

Photo: Nicola Tree

Julie Carter, Stephen Balogh, Narda Jarche, James Windsor-Clive, Sara Nathan, Alastair Mitton, Kate Crossland, Rupa Huq.

CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Seasonal AGM, Buffet and Quiz

Wednesday 27 November 2024 from 6.30pm

The Rocket pub, Churchfield Road

This year we are combining our AGM and Xmas Social.

We will start with a short formal AGM, then a delicious buffet and a sociable quiz by our renowned quizmaster Paul Talbot

AGM open to all. Buffet and Quiz £20. Payment in advance by cheque or bank transfer; book places by emailing bayscolledge@talktalk.net

Further development at Friary Park

Paul Webster

A planning application for Phase 3 of the redevelopment of Friary Park was submitted to Ealing Council in September 2024 by Mount Anvil and Peabody.

The application is for five blocks, two of which will be over 100m high with 24 floors, two more than previously consented. There would be a total of 693 homes, 117 more than in the previously consented scheme. None of these will be social housing.

At the time of writing, there were 123 public comments, all of which were objections. Complaints refer to the lack of 'low cost' housing, the paucity of open space in comparison to the number of residents, the increase in height compared to the previous assurances given during the initial phases, and the already over-stretched local services.

You can find a link to the planning application at: https://www.churchfield.org/friary-park-verdean-up-and-up.

There you can browse the 254 submitted documents, and add your own views. A good one to start reading from is the 'Design and Access Statement', beginning with 'DAS Part 1'.

The two images below are from the planning application. They show one view, on the left, as it is currently and the other as it would be if the proposals go ahead.

E-bike usage in Ealing remains an issue

David Wootton

Councillor Gary Malcolm, Lib Dem opposition leader, recently commented, 'Often dumped bikes are left in the same location for a long time ... residents who might have their pavements blocked need a better guarantee from the Council and the e-bike operators that they will be removed quicker.'

Hammersmith & Fulham council, which confiscated thousands of e-bikes due to illegal parking, had their storage compound under Hammersmith Flyover broken into and all Lime bikes were returned to the company by a subcontractor.

Neil Reynolds, chair of Ealing Green Party, is calling on Ealing Council to implement on-street parking bays for e-bikes. Churchfield Road has three designated parking bays for Lime bikes; there are nine e-bike bays between Churchfield Road and Acton Mainline Station.

There needs to be a co-ordinated policy across all 32 London boroughs rather than each borough having its own policy. Brent is asking its MPs to raise the issue at a national level. Derby city council has withdrawn e-bike hires licence.

Private owner e-bike and e-scooter usage presents a far greater issue. It is estimated that 75% are illegal as they are not limited to a maximum speed of 15.4 mph; they are not solely 'Pedal Assist'; they have an illegal handlebar throttle and their batteries do not meet UK safety standards.

City of London police are confiscating illegal e-bikes and they are being crushed. eBay, which currently sells 3000 e-bike models, is withdrawing the sale of all illegal e-bikes from November 2024.

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org
Find us on Facebook
Any ideas for social activities, contact chair, David Wootton: Hello@Churchfield.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Reduce & Recycle Hub with CCA book swap:**
  First Saturday of every month, 10am-2pm at Acton Market
  As well as other recycling and repair opportunities.
- **AGM and quiz:**
  Wednesday 27 November,
  at The Rocket.

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/

Details: David Bays
020 8992 0287; 07952 839653

Free to members; non-members £2

Meetings: 7.30pm, 2nd Wednesdays
St Mary's Church Hall

- **Talk by Christine Diwell:**
  Wednesday 13 November, 7.30pm
  'West Middlesex Hospital—Celebrating 100 Years'.
- **Talk by Bob Surtees:**
  Wednesday 11 December, 7.30pm
  'Acton Pubs'.

ActOne CINEMA

ActOne Cinema is expecting a very busy winter season with a varied choice of new films.

The venue continues to host the Royal Ballet and Opera Live Cinema Season, inviting you to enjoy the excitement of live broadcast from the Royal Opera House at the same time they are being performed.

Productions for December include **Cinderella** and **The Nutcracker,** and there will be plenty more to look forward to in the coming year.

The website has details of season passes and other money-saving options.

In the lounge, the team have added a regular Jazz Night and a new Comedy evening to the popular Open Mic and Board Games evenings.

All lounge evenings are free but seats can be reserved in advance on the website.

Further information on all events is on the website. ActOneCinema.co.uk

Classical concerts in Acton

Jane Schopf

The Iris Axon Concert Series, in its twentieth year, was started to promote young professional musicians by giving them an extraordinary venue in which to perform. Acton Hill Church, opposite Acton Police Station, has possibly the best acoustic in London.

There is something extremely exciting about listening to these young performers. They are armed not only with astounding technical abilities and musical understanding, but also the fearlessness of youth. This is a heady mix for thrilling performances.

These include the acclaimed Rautio Piano Trio, James Akers (theorbo and guitar), pianists Jill Crossland, Joanna Kacperek and Daniel Ciobanu, and guest artist Richard Boothby (viola gamba).

A past concert at Acton Hill Church

Many of our recitalists have gone on to stellar international careers and are frequently heard at Wigmore Hall and on Radio 3.

Most of our performers are masters' graduates from the London music colleges. However, for our 2026-7 season, a significant number will be coming from Europe.

Our beautiful boudoir grand piano was made for us by Clive Pinkham, thanks to the generosity of Mrs Iris Axon and others. It is maintained by Malcolm Gerrella.

The annual series runs from September to July on the first Sunday of every month starting at 4pm and lasting an hour.

Programmes are sold at the door and can be paid for by card or cash: £6, £5 concessions and £2 children. The price is deliberately low so that it creates no barrier for people wishing to attend. We share the door takings with the artists. We are currently seeking sponsors to be able to offer proper fees.

For more information about our series, please visit our website https://www.classicalconcerts-acton.com/

Changes afoot at The Oaks

Maureen Colledge

Some good news about The Oaks Shopping Centre. The toilets are now open again, so there's no need to be caught short any more!

A new centre manager has also taken over and comes with experience of managing several shopping centres, including most recently the St George's Centre in Harrow.

A Stakeholders Group has been started which includes the CCA and business and other interests. It had a positive first meeting this September, with agreement that The Oaks needs improvement.

They are hoping to fill the shop gaps soon, and you may have noticed Starbucks has opened at the front. A stumbling block to using the long tunnel towards the front for stalls or seating is the fire regulations. It seems the ceilings are not high enough. Another example of how building design in recent years hasn't taken enough account of fire risk.

The new manager has good ideas and is positive about involving the community, but he says change will take time. We wish him well – Acton deserves better.

What's happening in and around Churchfield Road?

David Wootton

Acton Central Station: now has a water supply and tap to the Richmond bound platform to make watering the award-winning flower planters possible. Thanks go to Arriva, who manage all the Overground stations, and to local resident, Jill Sinclair, who has been pressing for a water supply for many years for the poor parched plants. Thanks too to EJ Joinery Services who provided the blue wooden planters free of charge.

Welcome to:

'Paint' DIY: relocated from 19 to 25 CFR, Aug 2024
Balkan Luxury Baker: ex-half *Basil & Toms*, Aug 2024
Roots Acton Kitchen: ex *O'Gosht,* closed Aug 2024
Pet Lifestyle & Grooming: 51, Sep 2024 (Mngr Emma)
Hillcrest Surgery: to Old Post Office site, The Mount
Dr Noor Aesthetics: ex *Aston Rowe* 2023, 101 CFR
George & Dragon: new landlord, Andries Cirulis Sept

Goodbye to:

Woolsey Cycles: Acton Lane Sep '24 (oldest in Acton)
Arch Climbing: (ex Birkbeck Rd old cinema) Sep 2024
Aeronaut Pub: closed since spring 2024
O'Gosht June 2024 (now Rooks Acton Kitchen)
Mel Productions: 25 CFR
Bright Young Things Academic Tuition: (Oaks) closed
Solo Restaurant & Lounge: 138 Churchfield

Acton Town Hall clock: hasn't worked for the last ten years. CCA & GRA (Goldsmiths Residents Association) will write to Shital Manro, LBE cabinet member for 'good growth & new homes' to remind him that the Town Hall developers made a commitment to reinstate the clock tower's four faces to full working order as part of their agreement during the conversion to apartments.

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

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA)
Issue 59, Autumn 2024

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
Household – £7.50

Radio London Make a Difference award

Zahra Shah (Social Media Officer – Market W3)

The Acton Market Reduce and Recycle Hub, returning on November 2nd, has received the prestigious BBC Radio London Make a Difference Green Award.

Operating since October 2022 and led by Action West London and local volunteers, the Hub promotes waste reduction in Acton and its surrounding areas.

It has been pivotal in fostering a waste-free lifestyle by offering residents opportunities to reuse, repair, and recycle items, thereby diverting waste from landfills.

Mary Horesh, the Hub manager, expressed pride in the award, acknowledging the dedication of volunteers. She hopes to inspire wider engagement in sustainability efforts in the community.

The next event on November 2nd will feature recycling and repair workshops, a book swap run by CCA and opportunities to buy upcycled goods, showcasing efforts to build a more sustainable future for Acton and Ealing. For details, visit: www.marketw3.co.uk/.

Receiving the award, left to right:
Donald Power, Ealing Friends of the Earth;
Juliet Macdonald, Act for Ealing;
Mary Horesh, Reduce and Recycle Hub manager / Ealing Repair Café founder;
Zahra Shah, Reduce and Recycle Hub social media officer;
Yvonne Burr, Ealing Repair Café volunteer

Churchfield Road Makers' Markets

Natasha Patel (BID manager 'Your Acton Bid')

With the success of the two previous Makers' Markets in July and September, Your Acton BID will be holding another one on the 14th of December.

The market has provided much needed activation of space in the area. It also has allowed different vendors, not usually seen in the Acton area, to display their wares and open them up to a new market, providing their products and services with further exposure and reach.

Cloggles Design stall

It's always great to see the community engage with each other and enjoy themselves in one another's company.

Your Acton BID will continue to arrange, organise and, with the help of the community, host it.

We will also arrange and host the Christmas lights in the area and a light switch-on event with the Makers' Market on Sunday November 24th. Instead of the usual location of Churchfield Road, the switch-on event and the market will be held on The Mount outside Morrisons.

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

CCA QR Code links to CCA Website