



Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 48, Summer 2019

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

CCA Email Group — Have you switched?

Our email group has changed format.

To continue to be part of our very useful email network, sign up to the new system. Please go to <https://mailmanlists.uk/mailman/listsinfo/cca> and sign in to connect.

The CCA — Caring for our community

Almost 20 years ago, a group of concerned local people got together to improve their environment, specifically by tackling graffiti around Churchfield Road. From this group the CCA was formed.

Today we are still caring for our local area. This newsletter reports on recent concerns and campaigns.

Acton Central Station ticket office is no longer under threat due to our campaign and supporters' objections to a proposed closure.

We have met representatives from the Post Office, following the closure of the main King Street branch. We are supporting a new initiative for Acton Park, a campaign to save Goldsmiths Arms,

and improvements to the High Street, as well as representing views on parking issues. We continue to support A.P.P.L.E.

The CCA will keep working to improve our environment and to promote community values. If you have a specific issue you would like us to campaign about, please let us know and we will help if we can.

A post office for central Acton?

The Post Office is keen to open more 'hosted' counters throughout the country

Jill Sinclair

Members of the CCA and CAN Forum, with Rev Nick Jones and Rupa Huq, have finally had a meeting with the Post Office, to discuss how to reinstate a Post Office facility in central Acton.

After a spate of closures to reverse 17 years of operating at a loss, the Post Office wants to open more hosted counters throughout the country, including in Acton. But, despite high streets littered with empty properties, they are not looking for vacant premises.

They want existing businesses to become franchisees by adding a post office counter. Now that applying for a driving licence or renewing a passport can be done online, the role of a local stand-alone post office is mainly to provide access to Royal Mail's letter and parcels services, everyday banking and insurance.

Ideally, there would be three or four small counters in shops or businesses throughout Acton, so that no single outlet is overwhelmed by demand to the detriment of their primary business.

The Post Office has approached strategic partners in Acton without success. They can't talk to businesses which offer financial products while the Financial Conduct Authority investigates conflicts of interest, which rules out Co-op, Sainsbury's and M&S. The four anchor tenants at the Oaks have all declined to become hosts.

The team says they have talked to various independent shops in the High Street, Horn Lane and Churchfield Road, but have so far drawn a blank. Since they don't know the area as well as the CCA and local people, they are keen to tap into some local knowledge.

Businesses, entrepreneurs and residents might think about whether they have a business which could accommodate a counter, or might consider moving to one of the Oaks' two retail units, available at a reduced 'community rent' if including postal services.

Do you want to start a new business? How about a bookshop, with post office counter and a small café? A PO counter will attract sizeable footfall, to your business and others nearby.

Rupa Huq has offered to help, and there seems to be an appetite for bringing back this important facility to the community.

If you are interested, please contact: JillSinclair@btinternet.com, or phone 0208 992 9736.

We will then go back to the Post Office and ask for a follow-up meeting to get to the next stage.

A.P.P.L.E's successful crowdfunder

Jessica Mason



A.P.P.L.E's kitchen and garden project — first full growing season

It has been almost one year since A.P.P.L.E's successful crowdfunder, which raised an amazing £22,177 for our kitchen and garden project. We are now enjoying our first full growing season.

The garden is looking stunning and we've been enjoying cooking with some of the lovely fruit and veg we have grown.

Thank you to everyone who donated to help make our new garden possible, including the CCA for their generous gift.

We are still working to expand our garden project and have been building more planters as well as receiving funding from Kew Gardens to create a wild flower garden and an insect habitat.

We are excited to see how our garden continues to develop, and love seeing how proud our young

people are when they cook with vegetables they helped to grow.

Currently A.P.P.L.E has been working with volunteers to help us get our Tree Trail artwork back in Acton Park by the start of summer. We will also be launching our new tree — *Out of Place Out of Time* — which will be all about orangutans

Funding is an ongoing issue for A.P.P.L.E. We are always in need of support, whether it's a donation, volunteering or something as simple as liking and sharing on Facebook or telling your friends about the work we do.

For more information on our activities at A.P.P.L.E, visit our website at www.apple-play.com or follow us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/appleartblock/

Ticket office restored to life

Susanne Hickmott

Acton Central Station ticket office is no longer under threat of closure. It will remain integral to our community with a fully staffed and open office.

In response to our campaign and representation to Transport for London (TFL), we have been informed of the decision of 18th April that the ticket office will remain an active and valued part of our neighbourhood.

Acton Central ticket office was on a list of 51 station ticket offices earmarked for closure. 47 of these stations have been reprieved after intervention from the Mayor of London. Five station ticket offices will be closed.

Thank you to everyone who made representation to TFL. Full details of the decision can be found on the London Travel Watch website: www.londontravelwatch.org.uk.

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

- ◆ **Pass On A Poem:**
Friday 14 June, 7 for 7.30pm
Read a poem or come and listen.
Contact: linda@poetshouse.net
- ◆ **CCA Quiz and Buffet:**
Saturday 22 June
7 pm at L'Oriental.
Book and pay in full before event.
Contact: Paul Talbot
paultalbot1961@gmail.com
- ◆ **CCA Summer Party:**
Saturday 13 July, 6.30 to 9pm
Enjoy meeting friends and neighbours in a lovely local garden. Please bring a bottle & food to share. A collection will be made for the Sepsis Trust, our host's charity.
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Contact Chris Hurley:
actonhurleys@aol.com; 07854147272

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/

Details: David Bays

020 8992 0287; 07952839653

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

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

- ◆ **AGM & talk on Gunnersbury Park Museum:**
Angharad Howell & Julia Tubman.
Wednesday 12 June
 - ◆ *** Guided visit to Gunnersbury Park Museum:**
Wednesday 5 July
 - ◆ *** Walk in North Acton:**
Wednesday 10 August
 - ◆ **The writing of 'All My Mother's Secrets', about life in Acton:**
Beezy Marsh
Wednesday 11 September
 - ◆ **History of Chiswick House & Marble Hill:**
Dr Esme Whittaker, English Heritage curator for interiors at Marble Hill & Chiswick House
Wednesday 9 October
- * Phone 020 8992 0287 for details

Save the Goldsmiths Arms!

Jacqueline Davis



A pub has stood on this site in East Acton since 1819

The campaign to get Goldsmiths Arms reopened as a pub and community hub is gathering strength. The pub stands on the corner of Friars Place Lane and East Acton Lane, opposite East Acton primary school. A pub has stood on this site for 200 years.

This was a very popular family pub and restaurant serving all sections of the population. The weekly takings ranged from £11,000 in winter to £30,000 in the summer with an average of over £20,000 per week.

In June 2015, Greene King purchased the Flaming Grill chain for £774 million. This included 1,200 Spirit Pubs, with an average of £645k per pub. In October 2017, Goldsmiths Arms was sold in a sealed bid process for over £3 million.

The new owner has supported Metropolitan and Thames Valley Housing to submit a planning application to demolish Goldsmiths Arms and build another block of flats. If this application is successful, the owner will sell the land to the housing association and the community will lose a much needed facility.



Goldsmiths Arms—a popular and thriving family pub taking up to £30,000 per week

The population of the East Acton ward is currently around 21,000 people including children. This is set to rise with all the new homes being built in the area. More than ever the community needs Goldsmiths Arms to reopen as a pub, restaurant, function room and large beer garden.

The planning application is now live on Ealing council's website. The community is objecting to losing a valuable resource:

- ◆ Goldsmiths Arms is situated in Acton Park Conservation Area
- ◆ Part of the building is Grade 2 locally listed
- ◆ The Council have registered it as an asset of community value
- ◆ It has protection given to pubs by the Mayor of London's plan that has been publicly supported by Ealing Council

We anticipate that this will be considered by the planning committee in June or July. Please support us by signing the petition and writing an objection on the council website. Links to both are on our website: www.goldsmithsresidents.org.uk. For more information on this campaign, or to receive updates, do email us on: goldsmithsresidents@gmail.com.

Parking in Churchfield Road

Parking in and around Churchfield Road is proving a challenge for the casual shopper and a frustration for traders.

A recent change to the CPZ, restricting parking to permit holders on adjacent streets, and a loss, temporarily at least, of the Oaks and council car park at the top of Churchfield Road, has restricted options for the street.

This has placed greater emphasis on the stop-and-shop spaces

on Churchfield Road itself. All well and good if these spaces are readily available for the genuine customer — somebody who needs a slot for the odd half hour to pick up the Sunday roast or some DIY essentials. Provision should be sufficient to meet this need.

But are these spaces being used as intended? Not so we understand. The view of some traders is that a lack of enforcement has resulted in car users taking advantage and occupying spaces

for extended periods without penalty. Broken ticket machines have compounded matters and there is concern that businesses are suffering as a consequence.

This is all very disappointing given the recent street improvement programme concluded in 2018. The CCA will press LB Ealing for comment and their view as to the current situation and future intentions.

➤➤ **Keep an eye on the CCA website – www.churchfield.org**

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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

Love your parks

... through small, everyday actions or by greater involvement in interesting projects ...

Vanessa Hampton (Park Ranger Team Leader)

Litter Picking

Recently, we have held a number of successful litter-picking events in Ealing parks, as part of the national Great British Spring Clean campaign. We are supporting local people and groups to litter-pick in the parks they love.

The Parks Service has installed two-minute litter-pick boards in 30 of our most popular parks, including Acton Park, by the café. You can borrow the litter-pickers but bring your own litter bags.

You can earn rewards by downloading the free 'Better Points' app. Points earned can be exchanged for High Street vouchers or donated to charity. Groups and individuals can get support and free equipment: email Vanessa: hamptonv@ealing.gov.uk; or call 020 8825 6999

Caring for your park

Do you want to be more involved in your local park in Ealing? We are



Part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign

encouraging friends' groups to evolve, particularly where there is a desire to make improvements or generate ideas for a project.

We also invite people to join our ranger conservation task days, Tuesdays and some weekends on different sites around the borough. Email Vanessa, hamptonv@ealing.gov.uk or Friend on Facebook: www.facebook.com/vanessa.hampton.315 to find out more.

If you have an idea or skills you would like to share for local parks and green spaces, please let

Vanessa know. Gardening skills could help local people grow food or maintain shrub beds. Marketing and fundraising skills could help recruit and train volunteers.

Your level of involvement could be taken further by applying to be a Trustee on the Ealing Parks Foundation, a new initiative to work collaboratively with the Council to support future management and maintenance of Ealing's parks and open spaces.

It will be a charitable organisation with fundraising objectives, complete with input from residents, friends' groups and a board of trustees. You would need to have some suitable skills and experience, such as: fundraising, marketing, communications, recreation and conservation. Find out more and how to apply at: www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/projects/ealing-parks-foundation-seeking-trustees

Future High Street Fund Acton

Susanne Hickmott

LB Ealing are submitting an Expression of Interest Bid to the Future High Street Fund, which provides government funding to improve local high streets.

Members from the CCA Exec, with representatives from other community groups, attended a walkabout with council representatives who are making the bid.

The tour looked at vacant properties on the High Street, walked along Churchfield Road and spent some time touring The Mount area outside Morrisons.

After much discussion, the focus of the bid includes:

- ◆ Transforming vacant properties
- ◆ Significant improvement of The Mount and King Street
- ◆ Transforming the fabric of the town centre

Initiatives which comprise the bid include:

- ◆ Creating hubs for cultural, leisure and art activities so that office space attracts people from out of the area to use the town centre

- ◆ Improving The Mount as a focal centre of Acton and encouraging more live performances there
- ◆ Improving lighting
- ◆ Providing a link between Churchfield Road and the High Street by creating walkways

The team expect to hear if their bid is successful in the summer. If so, they will enter stage two of the bid. We will keep you updated of progress later in the year.