



CCA Newsletter

Issue 52, Spring 2021

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

Impacting Acton in a positive way

An interview with Kal Di Paola

Chris Hurley

Kal Di Paola contacted the CCA with a view to us working together on possible future joint projects. We knew a bit about her work already, around Churchfield Road and the market, and so invited her to come along to a recent Executive meeting to find out more. We are hopeful of working together on projects that benefit Acton in the near future.

Her passion is entrepreneurship, and she wants to impact the world in a positive way. Beginning as a fashion designer, her creativity is evident in the projects she has been involved with.

Having lived in Acton since 2010, Kal is interested in being proactive in making our community a more vibrant place to live. She seems to have the resilience and optimism that could make changes.

What do you like about Acton?

I was drawn to Acton for the urban village feel around the Churchfield Road area and in anticipation of the arrival of Crossrail.

As I've got to know people in the neighbourhood, through having a son at a local school, I've come to realise what a fantastic community-oriented place it is. I love the variety of people and the rough-around-the-edges feel which adds character to the place.

I like the fact that I can walk to local shops and that there are plenty of parks within walking distance and a good selection of sports facilities and quick access to the A40.



Kal Di Paola; [Knnected.co.uk](https://www.knnected.co.uk)
Marketing with Community in Mind

What could be improved?

I hate that Acton has been labelled 'dirty Acton', but sadly there is some truth to the label.

There needs to be a greater effort made to look after our neighbourhood, not just the roads we live on but the more communal spaces such as The Mount, which is essentially Acton's billboard and needs some serious attention. It is currently overrun with pigeons and has a major problem with anti-social behaviour.

Acton has such a diverse population, but that rich mix hasn't translated into spaces that celebrate different cultures.

There could be more coming together of ideas, expressions, music, art and culture in the area.

What have you done to help improve Acton?

I've created projects to support local businesses and to encourage enthusiasm for our local area.

In 2018, I set up social media feeds for Churchfield Road to support local businesses. I ran the campaign for the street art project, 'Acton Unframed', in 2019.

I set up Acton Notebook as a local website in March 2020 and headed up the pilot for a new look market (marketw3.co.uk) from October to December 2020.

What's next?

I'd love to see a clean-up of The Mount in Acton. There is a steering group that has been set up recently to hear from the community about what they feel about The Mount, what they would like to see change.

There will be an opportunity for residents to come forward with ideas, and funding will be available to support the best one.

I have a really BIG idea for The Mount that I will be pitching. I'll be able to tell you a bit more about it soon!

A cinema for Acton despite overwhelming odds

Mike Taylor and Doug Carnegie

Just because the world has had to stay indoors and keep safe, it doesn't mean the Acton Arts Project has been sitting around at home watching Netflix instead of building a cinema for Acton.

In the face of the pandemic and overwhelming odds for anyone trying to open a cinema, we developed a 'meantime' strategy, a holding plan that sits between the new world order of masks, spaces and safety and the beautiful two-screen cinema in the heart of the High Street that we've always planned to build.

Despite lockdowns, restrictions and COVID-19, this summer we aim to open a single screen, 60ish-seat, pop-up cinema that is safe and a whole lot of fun – a couple of hours away from thinking about the headlines and the heartache.



Plans are underway for the pop-up cinema

A second crowdfunding campaign has made this pop-up possible. In just a few short weeks we raised £60k from well-wishers, including £30k from the Mayor's Fund, £5k from Acton Gardens and £5k from Catalyst Housing.

The crowd-funder is still running: www.spacehive.com/theactonpopup. It's not too late to make a pledge and give this launch more polish.

For both the initial pop-up screen and the full-blown cinema that the building will become in a couple of years, our chosen partner is Oliver Meek, who currently runs the Rio Cinema in Dalston.

They say it ain't over till the generously rounded lady sings. Well last week the victory aria could be heard from the balcony of Acton's Old Library.

We now officially occupy the building. The lease to turn it into a new cinema has at last been signed, and plans are underway to begin the construction of the pop-up cinema.

To receive all our updates and newsletters please sign up on our website:

www.actonartsproject.com

[#acinemaforacton](https://twitter.com/acinemaforacton)

Footbridge over the railway

David Wootton

John Rocque's map of 1746 shows a footpath linking East Acton to Church Acton. With the later arrival of the railway line, at some point a footbridge was required to safely cross the tracks.

This is what we know today as the footbridge between Perryn Road and Goldsmith Avenue.

In 2002 the CCA was instrumental in coordinating a clean-up of the footpath as it had become a target for fly tipping.

Groundwork's charity oversaw the improvements, which resulted in the construction of two raised beds, hard surfacing, and planting of six silver birch trees.

Recently, Goldsmiths Residents Association did a clean up. However, the maintenance of the bridge is a nightmare, as responsibility falls between the local authority and Network Rail.

Anti-social behaviour remains a concern. As a result of the Acton Central Safer Neighbourhood's

survey of January 2021, the footbridge has been made number one priority. Littering, graffiti, fly tipping are still a daily event. Poor street lighting of the bridge and its general condition don't help.

Footfall may increase on the bridge, with the planned increase of the frequency of trains on the West London Orbital rail route to an additional eight trains an hour.

If Acton Central level crossing is closed permanently, pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles will need to find alternative routes.



Goldsmiths Residents Association cleaning up the bridge in April

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 Online Zoom Quiz:**
Saturday 15 May; 8.15pm
Email Paul Talbot if you would like to be sent the link.
paultalbot1961@gmail.com
- ♦ **Putt in the Park:**
Wednesday 26 May;
Acton Park; 6pm onwards
Turn up to join in a round of putting, and/or to have a drink on the terrace with us.
- ♦ **Summer Garden Party and Local Walk:**
Planned for June/July
Covid restrictions permitting.
Dates and details to be emailed nearer the time.
- ♦ **Acton History Group AGM & talk 'After the Blossom':**
Janet Wilkes on her memoir.
Wednesday 9 June 7.30pm by Zoom
For details contact David Knights on ajk@globalnet.co.uk.

New on Churchfield Road

David Wootton

Welcome to Basil & Tom's:

It was started just over two years ago by local residents husband-and-wife team, Max Mahadeo and Gabby Bennett.

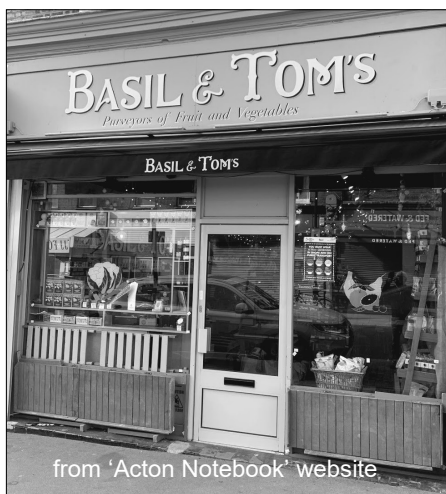
The name Basil & Tom's was Max's idea. He thought it would be fun to pick a name that could either be two people, or two complimentary food items, basil and tomatoes.

Initially the shop sold fresh fruit and veg, but has gradually expanded its range to sell eggs, sourdough bread by the Hedone Bakery, Neal's Yard cheeses, and other grocery products.

Recently taking over the shop next door, they now also offer fresh meat from Macken Brothers and HG Walter, fresh fish from Celtic Fish, and game from Cornwall which comes in several times a week.

Many will remember Tim the 'English Butcher' in this shop, and before that La Viande.

Basil & Tom's also offer a weekly delivery service of fruit and vegetables, via their website. Their ethos is to source high quality food from artisan producers in the UK, France, Italy and Spain.



from 'Acton Notebook' website

020 3583-4466; M: 07711 442 528
37-39 Churchfield Road, W3 6AY
@basilandtoms; basilandtoms.com

We also welcome...

Marsh and Parsons:

An estate agents located in the previous Berrico printing business premises that had become a graffiti artists' whiteboard.



Art of Chimney Cake:

Named after the Hungarian/Transylvanian cake that resembles the shape of a truncated cone of dough rolled in a sugar mix. It was previously a fishing tackle shop.



Social By Max:

A neighbourhood supper club launched in 2018, and soon to be running the kitchen and take-away at The Rocket.



JG Contemporary:

An art gallery specialising in urban contemporary art across multi-disciplinary mediums. It is also the base for Acton Unframed, which has three projects currently underway in and around Churchfield Road.

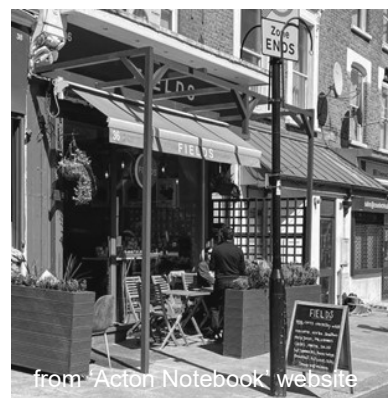


Roasted: A slow-cooked meat specialist with vegan option.



from 'Acton Notebook' website

Fields: At number 36, a cafe with outdoor seating.



from 'Acton Notebook' website

The newsletter of the
Churchfield Community
Association (CCA)
Issue 52, Spring 2021

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

Phase 1 of the Friary Park redevelopment

David Wootton



Map of Friary Park Estate demolition schedule Spring 2021



Verdean, the renamed Friary Park Estate. CGI view looking north over Emanuel Avenue in foreground. Acton Mainline Station and track to top left, A40 Western Avenue top right.

The Friary Park redevelopment 2021 is now in progress. This will see the regeneration of the 1980s Friary Park Estate.

Prior to the construction of the 1980s estate, the six acre site of Friars Place House was purchased by T. Walls in 1919. Mr Walls established a sausage and ice cream factory and, from 1956, concentrated solely on ice cream production.

The estate was originally built for private sale by Laing Construction, and was purchased by Catalyst Housing (previously Ealing Family Housing Association) in 1987.

According to Mount Anvil and Catalyst Housing, the present long-term project's expected completion date is in 2027. The redeveloped estate will provide up to 990 new homes with commercial and community spaces, and will replace the current 250 homes.



Phase 1 of the development showing demolition of Friary Park 1987 houses on The Drive, spring 2021

After three applications, the plan was given approval by the London Borough of Ealing planning committee for Mount Anvil and Catalyst Housing to develop the site.

The revised scheme, now to be rebranded as 'Verdean', has been designed by Levitt Bernstein.

When the scheme was first proposed, Friary Green Residents Association's original concerns, were that the proposed rebuild was being driven solely based on profit. The site was seen as extremely lucrative given its location near Acton Mainline Crossrail station.

The 'master plan' unveiled by Catalyst has caused even more concern, as the intensity of the build includes changing an area of 250 homes into one of 550 dwellings. This includes four new tower blocks, ranging from fourteen to twenty-four floors, and a series of six to fourteen storey blocks.

◆ Keep an eye on the CCA WEBSITE —
www.churchfield.org