



Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 31, Winter 2013

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



'Rethink' at W3 Gallery, Acton High Street

The W3 Gallery on Acton High Street opened its doors in September 2012. Our aim is to promote local talent and we hope many Actonians will submit work and visit our exhibitions.



'Momentum'
Black History & Culture Exhibition

Putting On A Show

Cecile Poullain

After the 'Love Acton' and 'Rethink' exhibitions, the gallery displayed 'Momentum'—November 13th to December 1st. This was a joint venture hosted by Black History & Culture West London and Acton Community Forum. It was a great success with a range of events, and a variety of art forms on display, including paintings, photography and a film.

The next step for the gallery was a Christmas event during December. Local artists, interested in selling their work, were able to display it during our 'Affordable Art' Show. There was one condition: small size, small price.

In January 2013, we held an exhibition called 'Sentience', displaying paintings by local artist, Mark Wydler. His work explores the mysteries of animal consciousness and its relationship to our own. During this exhibition, the gallery put on a Public Art debate. Then, in February, we are hosting the 'Young Artists' exhibition.

We encourage local artists to submit their work for a group show or solo exhibition. There will also be themed exhibitions linked

to important dates in the year such as International Women's Day (March 8th) and World Refugee Day (June 20th).



Famous Ghanaian photographer, James Barnor (centre), with university students who are making a documentary about him.

If you would like to propose an event (such as a talk, panel discussion or workshop) linked to any of our exhibitions, please email us: cecile@w3gallery.org.uk. We hope to hear from you.

For more information, call Cecile or Rachel on 020 8993 6158; or send us an email.

Address: W3 Gallery, 185 High street, Acton, London W3 9DJ

➤➤➤ **Membership Secretary wanted for CCA—see page 4**



Get Out That Bike!

Susanne Hickmott

Photo: Tom Doran



Inside the bike shop: Martin, Yaz And Carmen

If you have a garden shed with a bike lurking inside it, now is the time to prepare for a life of freedom. And the place to take it for renovation is on our doorstep. Outside Acton Central Station, the yellow and black signs of the Bicycle Repair Station signal a welcome contribution to our community.

Here you will find Martin Potter, the owner, and his partner, Carmen Craven, who organises the business. Their fully trained and certified mechanics, James, Ricardo and Yaz, work in the well equipped workshop, offering a full range of services. There are bikes, buggies, wheelchairs, tyres and tubes.

Two years ago, Martin noticed the number of cyclists taking bikes into a car workshop for their repairs because of the lack of bike shops in Acton. He decided to set up a dedicated place for bike servicing and repairs, as well as selling new and second-hand bikes.

Family and friends helped him give the space next to the railway track a full conversion. He then opened what has become a lively hub.

Riding and maintaining a bike is a complex business. The Repair Station carries out all major work, such as gear and chain clean, puncture repairs and full service. It

also offers free W3 pick-up and delivery service if needed.

On sale is a spectacular range of new and second-hand, good quality bikes, for all ages and sizes. These include specialist and everyday use bikes, as well as Build-a-Bike packs.

If you buy a bike here you will be given an assessment of needs, including measurement for correct size and saddle height, plus the offer of specialist tyres.

Martin and the team are concerned to serve all members of the community and are proud of their unbeatable prices, as well as their On the Spot and Same Day services. A full service costs £25.00; puncture repairs are £10.00. A free bike wash comes with every service.

Future plans include some expansion, a call-out mobile mechanic and an extension of the children's range of bikes, which start at as little as £10.00. Adult second-hand bikes cost from £50.00, all fully serviced.

Whether you are a Saturday biker, a racing cyclist, a beginner or a child, you will find plenty to enthuse you at the Bicycle Repair Station. There are specialist clothes, bike equipment, bicycle bells and many other accessories.

It is a joy to visit this friendly local workshop,

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org
eml: susi@robharrisproductions.com
Find us on Facebook

REGULAR CCA EVENTS

◆ 'First Wednesday' Socials

from 8pm:

Informal meetings for those who live

or work in the area—ALL welcome:

6 March: *The Rocket* (if no football)

3 April: *L'Oriental*

1 May: *George & Dragon*

5 June: *The Station House*

(see website for details)

◆ Graffiti paint-out:

The council is now getting rid of

graffiti quickly; if you spot any,

contact Sara: 0777 564 4134

◆ New Ideas?

If you have an idea about a social

event, or how to improve on our

First Wednesday Socials, please

contact Susi Kirkwood

SPECIAL EVENTS

◆ Pass On A Poem

Friday 22 March, 7pm for 7.30–9.30

The Rocket, 11 Churchfield Rd

Read a favourite published poem or

just come and listen. £1.50 entry

Contact Linda if you'd like to read:

bindataylo@yahoo.co.uk

◆ CCA Supper Quiz:

Saturday 23 March, 7 for 7.30pm

L'Oriental, 94 Churchfield Road

The first of 2013—another of Paul

and Philippe's fabulous quizzes.

£8, including great Lebanese food

Contact: paultalbot@toucansurf.com

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287

Events at St. Mary's Church Hall,

The Mount, from 7.30pm,

unless otherwise stated

Members free; non-members £2

◆ David Budworth reappraises Bedford Park in his new book: Wednesday 13 March

◆ History of St Martin's Church: Reverend Nicholas Henderson (with St Martin's parishioners) Wednesday 10 April, 8pm Lady Chapel, St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens W3

◆ Acton Treasure Hunt Walk: Wednesday 8 May, 7.30pm outside St Mary's Church

◆ AGM + Jonathan Oates & Paul Lang with their new book on 'Ealing Then And Now' Wednesday 12 June

Bicycle Repair Station:

Open: Monday to Saturday,

9-6pm in winter; 9-7pm in summer

Churchfield Road, London W3 6PX

0203 556 5384; 07950 732341

thebicyclerepairstation@gmail.com

Marquees and Merriment

Nancy Duin



Acton Hill Gospel Choir at the Acton Christmas Fair

The gods smiled on us for a second year at Acton Christmas Fair, under a clear blue sky on Saturday 10th December. Inside two massive marquees, heaving with 21 market stalls, and five gazebos,

everything was sold, from ponchos and cupcakes to football books and Christmas wreaths.

Groups included Acton History, St Mungo's, the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice,

We Love Acton and the CCA, which made £372.

There was almost continuous entertainment, with performances from dancers, singers and musical groups, as well as an instant nativity play. This year Pro Hands of Churchfield Road were the triumphant winners of the shop window competition.

Santa's Grotto was visited by more than 200 children, while dozens were treated to free face painting by CCA member Ela Kemp. There were also children's activities in the church hall, run by APPLE, the Oak Tree Fellowship and the council's adoption and fostering service.

'It was fun,' said stallholder Linda Gregory, 'with well organised entertainment making the atmosphere great.'

Appealing to Investors and Entrepreneurs

Sara Nathan

At least six new businesses are opening in Churchfield Road in early 2013. It suggests that the area is appealing to investors and entrepreneurs who see others flourishing in our patch.

This may be due to Crossrail stopping in Acton, competitive housing prices compared with surrounding areas or the very good London Overground service.

Crêperie Poet's Corner, which opened in early January, is now well established. Tiny but fun, it is a favourite with children. (Open Tuesday-Saturday 9-6pm)

At the end of February, a charity shop with a boutique feel will open, run by Community Activities Project Ealing (CAPE). It will support local people with mental illness. CAPE would appreciate both donations and volunteers.

(<http://www.c-a-p-e.co.uk/>)

Park & Bridge (opening around March) promises an eclectic range of wines unobtainable at supermarkets. (Sign up for alerts on <http://parkandbridge.com/>)

We could get fat as a result of another new venture. The Taank family (who run Pearls) is opening

a wedding and festive cake shop next to Heart & Soul, serving coffee and cupcakes.

Other likely new businesses:

- ♦ A Middle Eastern bakery/cafe opposite The Oaks
- ♦ Taj: an Indian restaurant on the site of the late lamented 3 Spice
- ♦ Something cafe-like, opposite Taj
- ♦ Another hairdresser in place of the Sari shop.

If we want our businesses, old and new, to flourish, we will need to shop, titivate ourselves, and eat and drink at them. Luckily, that looks like being a real pleasure.

Cosmetic Changes in Oaks Development

CCA members met once again with The Oaks development architects on December 5th.

There have been some cosmetic changes, such as removing quite a lot of the cladding, and the tower is now in the middle. But there is still no route

between Churchfield Road and the High Street, in spite of this being in the spec. The previous rationale, that they could not get Fitness First to release their lease, is no longer the case.

There is still no sense of using the whole site as one constructive unit, with

public spaces. There are just flats with private gardens, and a supermarket. It is hard to see why the council would sell the rest of the car park on this basis.

The architects appear quite sympathetic to a different vision, but they are answerable to the developers.

»»» The Oaks Alternative—APOLOGY

David Buckingham would like to clarify that Reverend David Brammer has not voiced an opinion about his alternative proposal for The Oaks (see Autumn 2012 newsletter). Reverend Brammer had merely been notified of the website (www.theoaksalternative.co.uk) by email. We apologise if 'The Oaks Alternative' newsletter article was misleading in any way.



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To contact the CCA:
Secretary: Chris Hurley
Email: churchfieldassoc@yahoo.co.uk
CCA email group:
Actoncentralemailgroup@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.churchfield.org

JOIN THE CCA

- ♦ Vote at meetings
 - ♦ Receive invitations to members' events
 - ♦ Join the Acton Central email group
 - ♦ Get a free CCA bag—see website
- Annual Membership fee**
Single—£8 (£3.50 concessions);
£5 direct debit (£2 concessions)
Household—£12; £7.50 direct debit



Festive Fun

Susi Kirkwood

The festive season got off to a great start for CCA members and friends at the end of November, with the annual Christmas Party. Held upstairs at The Rocket, it was a relaxed way for new CCA members to meet more people in the area.

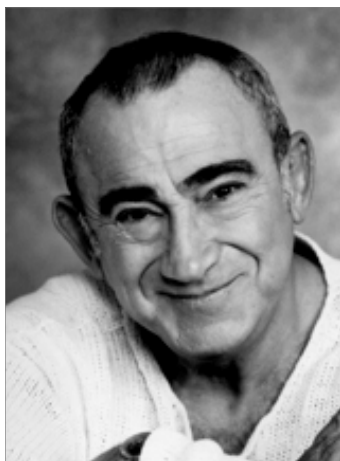
Conversation flowed and several new friendships were forged. A beautiful Christmas tree and soft candle lighting added to the festive atmosphere.

The chef provided a delicious buffet supper with dishes such as crispy pork and artichokes, and grilled halloumi, followed by a superb chocolate pecan crunch tart. It was a very enjoyable evening.

The CCA Christmas Quiz, in mid-December at L'Oriental Restaurant, provided another opportunity for members and friends to get together for an evening of light-hearted competitiveness.

The quiz was devised by talented quiz masters, Paul and Philippe. Challenges included putting names to photos, and remembering the titles of all the Harry Potter books.

As we tackled each round of questions, we were plied with Lebanese delicacies followed by baklava and other pastries. The team with the widest spread of ages won the prize box of chocolates, and shared them with everyone else.



Recognising Lionel Bart

Maureen Colledge

Born Lionel Begleighter in 1930, into an East End Jewish family who had fled persecution in Poland, Bart developed his talent through the International Youth Theatre. Talent spotted by Alfie Bass, he changed his surname to Bart after St Bartholomew's hospital.

Working with Joan Littlewood at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, Bart staged his first successful musical about Cockney lowlife, *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be*, in 1959, followed by the huge success of *Oliver!*. Other musicals were not so popular, though songs (such as Cliff Richard's *Living Doll*) were hits.

Drink, drugs and excessive spending saw Bart decline. A disastrous decision to sell the rights to his work lost him millions in royalties. By 1972 he was bankrupt. In the 1980s, alcohol abuse took a toll, but Bart's luck changed. His musicals were revived, he stopped drinking and moved to a small flat in Acton.

Tony Antoniou, of Classix barbers, reminisced on the W3 website, about Bart in Acton, going regularly for a coffee, chat and scalp massage.

When he died in 1999, he left over £1,000,000 to friends and family. And more than that—a rich musical legacy, deserving local recognition.

A music hall association hopes to put up a plaque to Lionel Bart on his last home at 35A Churchfield Road. His life was a classic tale of rags-to-riches ups and downs. Forgotten for a time, he is now seen as the father of the British musical.

➤➤➤ CCA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY URGENTLY NEEDED

We are currently looking for a new membership secretary to take over from Mike Morris. If you think you would like to take on this role and have the necessary skills (or could learn them), please contact Chris Hurley, our secretary: churchfieldassoc@yahoo.co.uk

Duties include:

- ♦ Processing new members' payments—cash, cheques & standing orders
- ♦ Maintaining the database of new members & updating subscriptions
- ♦ Ensuring new members names are passed to the manager of the email group
- ♦ Generating renewal reminders

And—if you have ideas about how to increase our membership, that would be a bonus.

Acton Central Email List

The CCA, founded in 2000, acts as a focus for community concerns and issues. One way it does this is through the Acton Central email list—a forum for news and invaluable advice. If you are a member and not currently signed up for this service, contact Nancy Duin: nduin@nancyduin.net