



# Churchfield Community Association



The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 32, Spring 2013

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

## Building the Arts in Acton

Glynne Steele



Colin Bays' watercolour of the Old Library, one of a set of cards displayed on the CCA website. To buy cards, contact David Bays: 020 8992 028; [bayscolledge@talktalk.net](mailto:bayscolledge@talktalk.net)

In the Spring of 2014, Acton Library will move into the newly regenerated Town Hall, leaving the old Passmore Edwards building vacant.

Rather than accept another retail development or flats' conversion, two local actor/directors, Julie Saunders and Glynne Steele, have started a campaign. Their vision is to turn the old library into an Arts Centre, featuring theatre, film, music, food and educational workshops.

This bold initiative aims to create a beacon for the continued redevelopment of the area. By providing compelling artistic experiences and excellent services in the heart of W3, an Arts Centre would not only attract local residents, but also people from further afield.

The plans, though still at an early stage, are taking shape. Julie and Glynne have drafted a full proposal to Ealing Council. In May, the council will be announcing that the Old Library building

is 'available for disposal', thereby inviting bids from all quarters.

The proposal will stand as a registered charity. An Arts Centre would offer scope for a wide range of programming for all ages, interests and abilities—from early morning yoga to late-night jazz.

A number of activities have already been suggested: pocket opera, arty-parties, jewellery and kite making, performances of new theatrical writing as well as Shakespeare, and the chance to see different kinds of mainstream and independent movies.

In the book-shop café, you will be able to buy the best creamy latte. Or you could have a drink at the bar or a meal in the restaurant.

Once the business plan is complete and proven, the hard work of fundraising will begin.

For now, your support for the project will be welcomed by way of 'liking' the Facebook page and leaving messages of support there, [www.facebook.com/ActonArtsCentre](http://www.facebook.com/ActonArtsCentre). You could also complete the 30-second survey and spread the word to as many people as possible.

All of this can be accessed via the official website:

[www.actonartscentre.com](http://www.actonartscentre.com).

➤➤➤ **Acton Carnival : Saturday 6 July**

**Do you have items for sale, or can you give a hand on the CCA stall?**

**(contact Nancy—[nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net); 020 8993 4294)**



# Connecting Communities

Susanne Hickmott

Photo: Tom Doran



Michael and Colin: two of the team at Acton Central

Acton Central Station is our gateway to the world. We can get information, book tickets, buy an Oyster Card or season ticket, use special offers and travel wherever we wish.

The team at our award-winning station is in attendance from 6am to 12 midnight. They advise on long distance travel, journey times, connections and interchanges.

Staff are vigilant about public safety, particularly with regard to the level crossing, which is one of only two level crossings on the whole network. Travellers have to be made aware of the live rails and must treat the crossing with respect.

The team also ensures that safety procedures are brought to the attention of passengers, such as keeping an eye out for luggage, standing well behind the yellow lines and being aware of slippery surfaces when it is raining. They appreciate the feedback they get, and are constantly looking at ways to improve the service for their many regular travellers.

The station, originally known as 'Acton', opened in August 1853 and was renamed Acton Central in 1925. In 1921 it became part of the London Midland Railway and was nationalised in 1948. Over the years the station has been managed by

different organisations. Most recently (in 2007) Transport for London (TfL) took it over as part of a revitalisation of London rail services for the 2012 Olympics.

There have been benefits both to the service and the environment. Improvements have included a total revamping of the station, as well as an increase in the reliability, speed and efficiency of journeys. With more regular trains, the use of Oyster Cards, better signage, and complete repainting, usage of the station has significantly increased

This was particularly so during the 2012 Olympics. The TfL team went out of their way to make the many overseas visitors welcome, while ensuring the reliability of this crucial service linking directly to Stratford.

At the station, the regular team (Anthony, Mark, Michael, Colin, David, Dil and Katarzyna) have many years experience between them. Michael is the longest serving member with fifteen years at the station, and the most recent arrival was Katarzyna, three years ago.

This prize-winning team is always there with a cheery 'good morning' and an update on the latest travel information. They enjoy each other's company and share interests—in football, bird-watching and fishing. They work hard to make the station a bright, friendly, welcoming place.

Recently, Acton Central won the 'Most Improved Station' award and, in 2012, they won the 'Top Team Award'. Members of the team have described their work as, 'the best job in the world'. They have also enthusiastically welcomed and supported the CCA Book Swap stall as a real addition to the station.

The next challenge for Kasia, Anthony and Dil is to enter the 'Station in Bloom' competition. At their own expense, they will be planting up the flower pots, which will make our everyday travel that much brighter.

## EVENTS

See: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)  
 eml: [susi@robharrisproductions.com](mailto:susi@robharrisproductions.com)  
 Find us on Facebook

### REGULAR CCA EVENTS

- ◆ **'First Wednesday' Socials**  
 from 8pm (see website for details)  
 Informal meetings for those who live or work in the area—ALL welcome:  
 5 June: *The Station House*  
 3 July: *The Station House*  
 7 August: *The Rocket*  
 4 September: *L'Oriental*  
 If you've not been to a CCA social and would like to go with someone, Jill Williams could meet you beforehand (Email: [jme@aijk.org](mailto:jme@aijk.org))
- ◆ **Graffiti paint-out:**  
 The council is now getting rid of graffiti quickly; if you spot any, contact Sara: 0777 564 4134

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ◆ **CCA Supper Quiz:**  
 Saturday 8 June, 7 for 7.30pm  
*L'Oriental* (downstairs),  
 94 Churchfield Road  
 Quiz and delicious finger food.  
 Tickets: £8, including the food  
 If you'd like to come, email Paul:  
[paultalbot@toucansurf.com](mailto:paultalbot@toucansurf.com)
- ◆ **Pass On A Poem**  
 Wednesday 12 June, 7 for 7.30–9.30  
*The Rocket*, 11 Churchfield Road  
 Read a poem or just come and listen.  
 Contact Linda if you'd like to read:  
[linedataylo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:linedataylo@yahoo.co.uk)
- ◆ **CCA Summer Garden Party**  
 Sunday 23 June, 4.30–6.30 pm  
 34 Goldsmith Road  
 Come and meet neighbours and friends in lovely surroundings.  
 Please bring a bottle &/or a dish.
- ◆ **Acton Carnival: Saturday 6 July**  
 The CCA will be having a stall.  
 If you have items for sale or can help, please contact Nancy:  
 89934294; [nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net)

### ACTON HISTORY GROUP

Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287  
 Events at St. Mary's Church Hall,  
 from 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated  
 FREE to members; non-members—£2

- ◆ **Treasure Hunt: Weds 8 May**  
 Meet David & Amanda Knights  
 outside St Mary's Church
- ◆ **'Ealing—Then & Now':**  
 Weds 12 Jun AGM + Jonathan Oates  
 & Paul Lang's talk about their book
- ◆ **East Acton Walk: Sat 20 July, 2.30**  
 Includes St Aidan's Church & tea at  
 Perryn School. Meet Phil Portwood  
 outside Goldsmith Arms.

Acton Central Station (TfL): Churchfield Rd, London W3 6BD; 0845 6014867  
 Mon to Sat: 6.00am to 12.00 midnight; Sunday: 8.45am to 12.00 midnight



## Carnival

Nancy Duin

The Acton Carnival takes place with reassuring regularity. Starting with a procession down the High Street, the carnival features:

- ◆ Food stalls and those selling crafts and other things
- ◆ Live music, mostly provided by local individuals and groups
- ◆ Family activities and a small funfair

This year's carnival will be on Saturday 6 July and, as usual, the CCA will be having a stall. We will be selling second-hand jewellery, good bric-a-brac, and children's toys and books. We will also be running our famous tombola.

So, if you have any items, please contact Nancy Duin ([nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net)). Arrangements can then

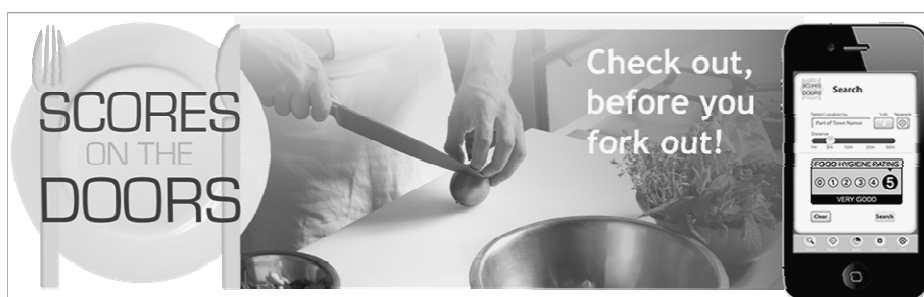
be made for you to deliver them, or for them to be picked up.

Volunteers are also needed to help on the day. Get free entry, and take part in an event that is one of the highlights of the Acton social calendar!

Again, contact Nancy if you can help, even if it is just for an hour or so.

## Safety and Hygiene Scores

Maureen Colledge



Have you ever wondered about the safety and hygiene of food you are eating or buying?

Well, now there is a website ([www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk](http://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk)) and a free app on iTunes, where you can check for the 'scores on the doors' of restaurants, cafes and food shops.

Premises are inspected by local food safety officers and given a rating from 1 to 5 (5 being best). The score depends on how hygienically the business handles food, how it manages food safety and record-keeping, and the condition of the building. Businesses are encouraged to display their score.

The website/app allows searches by name, street or postcode, so that you can check before you buy. Churchfield Road has seven 5-star, seven 4-star, seven 3-star and eight 1-star premises, plus seven new premises awaiting inspection.

Congratulations to the 5-star premises, which are (with their number in the road): Anokha (15); Kowalskiej (90); Londis (8-10); Laveli Bakery (5); Sainsbury's (61-63); Sichuan Restaurant (116); Station Café (4). And Acton Park Café also scored 5 stars.

Sometimes results may be surprising, so it is well worth having a look.

## Time to Call Time on Pub Closures

David Bays

Last year, across London, 217 pubs closed.

With the conversion of The Albion (now Nara Health & Beauty) and the demise of Foley's in Churchfield Road, is it time for us to think about the implications of the recent spate of pub closures in Acton?

The Redback, having become the Acton Arms, went into administration and is now in the hands of Gregarious Limited. The Leamington, recently put up for sale by Greene King, is due to close in April. The Mill Hill, having been sold to developers, is also due to close.

A Pubs Protection Summit for local councillors was held at City Hall earlier this year. It highlighted the fact that several London Boroughs have put pub protection policies in their local plans. These include Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, and Lewisham.

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is promoting the registration of 'assets of community value' (ACV). Getting a pub listed as an ACV can help with accessing business advice. As well as this, it gives local community groups extra time to take action before pubs are

sold off to developers. A number of pubs listed as ACVs have been successfully saved.

The Community Pubs Minister, Brandon Lewis, is also promoting the use of Article 4 Directions. This stops owners changing use (from pubs, to offices or retail outlets) without a planning application.

Is it time for the CCA and other groups in Acton to get together to campaign to save some of our cherished local pubs as 'assets of community value'?



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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



Free CCA bag

## Tantalizing Puzzles and Challenges

Susi Kirkwood

Our CCA spring 2013 quiz proved to be another enjoyable evening for CCA members and their friends.

Devised and run by experienced quiz masters, Philippe Bruyer and Paul Talbot, the quiz posed a very wide range of questions, with something of interest for everyone.

On a Saturday evening in March, the three teams (Acton Suspiciously, Chitting Potatoes and Maldon Salts) met in the cosy

downstairs room at L'Oriental. We were served with a delicious supper of Lebanese finger food specially prepared by the chef.

With various rounds of questions, plus several sheets of 'puzzlers' to answer in between, it was all go. An additional challenge for each round was working out how all but one of the answers were connected. In one case, all the answers were the names of past prime ministers.

Identifying the voices of ten or so different celebrities had us racking our brains. There was also a sheet showing a selection of symbols—tantalisingly familiar yet hard to identify.

As each round was marked, it was clear it would be a close-run thing. But in the end, Maldon Salts moved into the lead, and a box of Quality Street was presented to the winners—to be shared by all.

## Lunch at the Temple

Susanne Hickmott

Chatting at one of the monthly First Wednesday get-togethers, Shamime was telling us how great the food was at the Neasden Temple.

Always ready for something new and different, seven of us decided to make a visit. We descended on the café at the Temple for lunch and, indeed, Shamime was right.

Buzzing and busy, it was clearly very popular. We received a warm welcome, joining the regular diners and a group of students from a

school in Norwich for the buffet lunch. What a feast!

A full menu is offered but, seeing everyone dipping into the buffet, we tried it. There were wonderful sauces, dips and breads, samosas and a superb range of dishes. The all-you-can-eat buffet costs £7.95 and is available at lunchtime, Monday to Friday, from 12 to about 3.30 p.m. All the food is vegetarian. The café has a relaxed atmosphere, and a passion fruit drink to match no other.

After lunch, there was food to buy from the take-home counter: sweets, specialities and delicacies. There is also a huge shop selling speciality supplies, such as spices, nuts and fruit—and the prices are very reasonable.

I can't wait to go again, and hope that we can visit the Temple as well next time. At the next First Wednesday social, we intend to organise a return. It is well worth it and a real treat—a delightful place with helpful, friendly people.

## Delicious Wines and Specialist Ale

Susi Kirkwood

On 26th April, CCA members and friends were privileged to try out a preview of some of the wines being stocked at the new Park+Bridge neighbourhood wine merchant.

We tasted a selection of nine delicious wines, priced from £9.99 to £15.50, together with a specialist

real ale. Park+Bridge owner, Paola Tich, passed on some of her extensive knowledge of wines in a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Prosciutto, cheese and artisan bread provided a welcome accompaniment, while a 'mystery wine' kept us guessing its country of origin.

It was a very enjoyable evening: a chance to meet new people living and working in our neighbourhood, as well as trying wines that at first seemed out of our comfort zone, but rapidly proved to be very moreish.

Park+Bridge: 73 Churchfield Road  
<http://parkandbridge.com/>

### Sign up for the 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](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net)