



# Churchfield Community Association



The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 33, Autumn 2013

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

## Music, Fun and Laughter on Churchfield Road

Susanne Hickmott



Saturday 13 July 2013: here we are, a happy crowd of people on Churchfield Road, bobbing to the music from exciting live bands.

Freshnest Entertainment and four host venues (The Rocket, Arthur Razor, Laveli and The Station House) enabled us to relax in the sun to the sound of vibrant music. There was interesting art to look at, children's activities and a sense of 'it's good to be here'.

Local artists displayed their work on the railings, children had their faces painted and there was a projection show on surrounding buildings.

Freshnest Entertainment was the driving force behind the day. Their objective was to entertain our patch of Acton, and to open up a platform for local bands, musicians and artists.

The music appealed to the whole community, with favourites from The Rocket's music sessions, traditional Irish music, and musicians from Italy, Africa and

India. Later in the day, there were live sessions and DJ's inside The Station House and The Rocket.

To stage the event, Freshnest worked closely with Ealing Council, receiving permissions and support for the event. Observers from the Council were impressed with the orderliness of the day. The sheer enjoyment of those present was clear for all to see.

The festivities drew new people to Churchfield Road, and the hosting venues have given Andor Primasz of Freshnest a really positive response to the day. They are keen to participate in the next celebration of local talent on 14 September, with a follow-up event on 2 November.

The Freshnest team (Andor Primasz, Filippo Dall'asta and Dimitri Stocchi) live and work locally. They are keen to offer entertainment for all. Drawing on a range of artists and musicians, they are providing a platform for their talent, and a focal point for the area.

The day followed on from previous events at The Rocket, showcasing local music and art. Painters, potters, photographers, jewellers and craft workers have been given the opportunity to exhibit their work, and we are able to enjoy it.

With local traders fully behind them, Andor is liaising with and taking advice from Council representatives to put on further events. There are plans to apply for partial closures to the roads adjoining Churchfield Road—to host open stages and dancing in the street.

Acton is returning to its musical heritage. Is there something in the water in Acton which makes it such a home for creative talent?

For news of entertainment, great music, good times and relaxation for all, watch the space by Acton Central Station!

Freshnest Entertainment:  
[Freshnestenter@gmail.com](mailto:Freshnestenter@gmail.com);  
[www.freshnest.info](http://www.freshnest.info)

➤➤➤ **Acton Christmas Fair: Saturday 7 December**

**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)**

# Coming for a Coffee and a Cake?

Susanne Hickmott

Who could refuse such an offer? Going out for tea or coffee and something to eat is a welcome way of relaxing and taking a rest from the daily routine. We now have a choice of places on our doorstep where we can receive a warm welcome and delicious food.

Anthropologists have long acknowledged that food is far more than mere sustenance. The role of food and eating in rituals, celebrations and other practices builds and reinforces communities and culture.

A good example of the celebration and pleasure of food can be found at 69 Churchfield Road. Reema Taank and Alpa Patel, friends and long-time Acton residents, decided earlier this year to turn their passion for baking into a business. They opened up Cupcake Avenue.

Alpa and Reema met at the newsagents (now Londis) when Reema's family ran it. Brother Nish manages Pearls Drycleaners, and their mum and dad ran the post office before it closed.

Alpa had started making birthday and special celebration cakes to order whilst at home with a young family. Her 'spare-time hobby' grew and grew, so she decided to team up with Reema to start a new venture.

Step into this colourful cupcake heaven and sprawl on the large sofas! Indulge yourself with delicious home-made cakes!



Delicious cakes straight from the kitchen

There are top-notch coffees, herbal teas and teapigs, bubble tea, milk and syrup based tea and mango flavour balls. And you can buy Fentimans' botanical Rose Lemonade, Victorian Lemonade, Curiosity Cola and Ginger Beer.

Cupcake Avenue is a haven for enjoying irresistible treats. As well as cupcakes, many kinds of cakes and cookies are made on the premises. For those who want a healthy treat, they also serve fat-free frozen yoghurt.

Alpa and Reema love creating cakes. They provide themed tailor-made cakes and cupcakes for parties, weddings and other special events. Recent themes have included: Red Velvet Vintage for a wedding, the 1980s, Alice in Wonderland and Tinkerbell. They also work with companies to provide branded and themed cakes for corporate events.

A full range of cake making and decorating equipment is on offer. And behind the seating area is a fully equipped kitchen where the cakes are made and decorated.

If you want to learn how to decorate cupcakes like a professional, you can sign up for a Cupcake Course. Or you could invite Alpa and Reema to your home for a children's party. After the party, each child takes home six decorated cakes in a pretty box.

Reema and Alpa have taken a bold step to do something exciting and satisfying. They look forward to developing their range of produce and the variety of their workshops.



Reema Taank—passionate about baking

Alpa Patel and Reema Taank, Cupcake Avenue, 69 Churchfield Road, W3 6AX  
t. 0208 896 1831; 0800 0337 477 <http://www.cupcakeavenue.co.uk/>  
Cake orders: [info@cupcakeavenue.co.uk](mailto:info@cupcakeavenue.co.uk); [Reema@cupcakeavenue.co.uk](mailto:Reema@cupcakeavenue.co.uk)

## 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:  
2 October: *George & Dragon*  
6 November: *The Rocket*  
(if no football match being shown)  
4 December: *L'Oriental*  
8 January: *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 9 November, 7 for 7.30pm  
*L'Oriental*, 94 Churchfield Road  
Quiz and delicious finger food.  
£10 inclusive. To book, email Paul: [paultalbot@toucansurf.com](mailto:paultalbot@toucansurf.com)
- ♦ **AGM & Open Meeting:**  
Weds 20 November, 7 to 9.30pm  
*St Mary's Church Hall*  
AGM followed by open meeting with speakers (details TBC)  
Free drinks and buffet. All welcome
- ♦ **CCA Christmas Party & Buffet:**  
Sunday 1 Dec. 7-10pm at *The Rocket*  
Join us and get into the swing of the season! Cost: £15; book by 23 Nov.  
Cash or cheque to The CCA, 41 Goldsmith Avenue, W3 6HR  
Susi: 020 8993 8595; 07949 592 085
- ♦ **Acton Christmas Fair:** Sat 7 Dec, 10am-4pm *The Mount*, by *Morrisons*  
To take part, contact Nancy Duin: [nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net)
- ♦ **Pass On A Poem**  
Sun 8 Dec, 7.00-9.30 at *The Rocket*  
Read a poem or just come and listen.  
Contact Linda if you'd like to read: [lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk)

### ACTON HISTORY GROUP

At *St. Mary's Hall*, from 7.30pm  
Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287  
Free to members; non-members—£2

- ♦ **Lost Cinemas of Ealing:**  
Wednesday 9 October Paul Lang
- ♦ **Everything Electrical:**  
Weds 13 Nov. A History of GEC, including Napiers, by John Tritton
- ♦ **Xmas Party:** Weds 11 December  
Contributions to refreshments, especially drinks, very welcome.

# Oaks Regeneration—Continuing Contentious Issue

Nancy Duin

On 16 July, the CCA exec met the architect and John Bourne, owner of the Acton Regeneration Company (ARC), to discuss their plans for The Oaks. The ARC is now submitting them for council approval.

The exec made plain the CCA's strong disapproval of the continued presence of the tower, now reduced from 11 to 9 storeys with the top ones recessed and glass-clad. At one stage it had been placed in the centre of the development, but is now back overlooking Derwentwater and Newburgh Roads.

Current plans show The Oaks would still be a very large gated community in the heart of Acton, blocked to non-residents, with a relatively narrow pathway from Churchfield Road down into the shopping centre.

Closed at night, this pathway would not be the public thoroughfare between Churchfield Road and the High Street that is a key component of the council's own regeneration plans for the area.

Welcome changes by the ARC include the disappearance of the metal screen over the whole building and the 22% of the units that would now be '100% shared ownership', although housing at social rents is absent.

The developers were unable to reassure the exec about traffic problems, and infrastructure deficiencies such as school places. The ARC was also adamant that there was no alternative to this 142-unit edifice: underground supermarket, topped by 2/3 floors of car park, plus 3/7 floors of flats.

A number of CCA members disagree with this view, including architect David Buckingham who has produced some interesting ideas for more flexibility on the site ([www.theoaksalternative.co.uk/](http://www.theoaksalternative.co.uk/)).

The CCA has officially opposed the ARC's plans. Our submission to the council planning committee can be downloaded from our website ([www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)).

The application report will be published online on 8 October with a site visit on the 12th. The council's planning committee will deliver its verdict on the ARC's plans at its meeting on 19 October. A speaker from the CCA will, we hope, be allowed to speak, and members can attend to watch.

## Keeping Connected

Nancy Duin

One of the benefits of belonging to the CCA is the email list.

It enables members to find the best plumbers, electricians, decorators and so on.

It alerts us to CCA discounts, new shops and restaurants in the area, as well as local events we might want to take part in. And we also find out about impending local planning decisions.

But, you won't be overwhelmed. In 2012, we sent a total of 403 emails—just over one a day.

The email list has recently been spring-cleaned; 92 households now belong to it—about half the membership.

If you are a CCA member, would like to join the list and take full advantage of all the benefits, please drop me an email: [nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net).

## Floral Excellence

Susanne Hickmott

Acton Central Station team has won First Prize for the Best Garden Tub Display in the Overground in Bloom Competition. It is well-deserved recognition for their hard work and imagination in creating the colourful tubs.

The display brightens the day for travellers. It was also a great morale booster for the team who really enjoyed taking part.



Representing the team, Colin and Mark will visit City Hall—to receive the award and enjoy a slap-up dinner.

The CCA plans to donate spring bulbs for next season's display.

## >> NOTICE OF AGM & OPEN MEETING >>

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Churchfield Community Association will take place on **Wednesday 20 November** at:

St Mary's Church Hall, The Mount, Acton W3  
7 for 7.30pm

An open meeting with free food and drink.

**Guest speaker: Dr Onkar Sahota,**  
**Chair of Save Our Hospitals**  
**Ealing Campaign**

### AGENDA

- ◆ Election of Chair for the meeting
- ◆ Election of officers for 2013/14
- ◆ Election of members of the Executive for 2013/14
- ◆ To note the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2013
- ◆ To note the Annual Report for 2013
- ◆ Any other business

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the posts of :

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and for members of the Executive, must be received 14 days prior to the AGM—by **6 November**—in writing to the Chair, Linda Taylor:

[lindataylor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindataylor@yahoo.co.uk)

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**To contact the CCA:**  
**Secretary:** Susanne Hickmott  
**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

## Winning Team Guess Quizmasters' Combined Ages

Susi Kirkwood

The 2013 CCA summer quiz, held on 8 June at our usual venue of L'Oriental Restaurant at 94 Churchfield Road, proved as enjoyable as ever.

We had a full house of about 30 people. The evening started with a delectable Lebanese supper—a selection of dishes, including a moreish salad and hot chicken wings, followed by baklava.

We were put into five teams, each with about six people, and the rounds of questions were interspersed with various puzzle

sheets. One round in particular—matching the sounds of wild birds to the appropriate bird photos—had everyone guessing.

Two teams were tied as the winners but, as there was only one large box of Quality Street, our expert quiz masters, Philippe Bruyer and Paul Talbot, posed a teasing tie-breaker.

Acton Impulse then moved into the lead by one point, by being the closest at guessing Paul and Philippe's combined ages. But they gave full commiserations to

Maldon Salts, who also achieved 107 points, generously sharing out the chocolates between us all. Acton Suspiciously, Prism, and Cash for Questions followed on closely.

There will be another quiz on Saturday 9 November, 7.00 for 7.30pm at L'Oriental. If you haven't been to a CCA quiz before, do give it a try!

There is a great team spirit, everyone is very friendly and you don't really need any specialist knowledge.



Sounds of jazz in the conservatory

Our annual CCA summer garden party on Sunday 23 June was a greatly enjoyable social occasion.

Held in the lovely garden of two CCA members, about 50 people attended including many new to the CCA. There were drinks and scrumptious food to share.

We were entertained by the wonderful sounds of jazz, played by David Brammer (vicar of St Mary's Church) on saxophone, with Chicco Brown on drums and Colin Carroll on base.

The new mayor, Councillor Kamaljit Dhindsa, and his wife were our guests and stayed chatting for over an hour.

There were also games for the children, including a giant Jenga. And, although we had a gazebo up in case of rain, the weather managed to stay dry for us the whole afternoon.

## Food, Jazz and a Giant Jenga

Susi Kirkwood



Members chat with Councillor Dhindsa and his wife

## Reminiscence Road Show

David Bays

Acton History Group goes indoors from September with the welcome return of Questors' Reminiscence Road Show.

Down Our High Street' will stir your past memories about our local shops and life in the High Street.

Join us at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 September at St Mary's Church Hall for an entertaining and informative evening.

Members free; others £2  
Details: David Bays, 020 8992 0287

➤➤➤ **KEEP AN EYE ON THE CCA WEBSITE—www.churchfield.org**