



# Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) - Issue 22, Spring 2010

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

Happy Birthday to the CCA —10 years old this year

## How it all began

Mike Morris

(See website for full story)



Susan Hauser, living in Acton in April 2000, found the place in a bad way: rubbish everywhere and graffiti on every surface.

Other neighbours were losing patience with the state of the area. When the graffiti artists scratched shop windows all down Churchfield Road they decided to call a meeting, leafleting streets and drumming up local officials including Roni White, Ealing's Graffiti Officer.

*'Rubbish everywhere and graffiti on every surface'*

"There was an amazing turn out," Susan recalls. "The upstairs room at Platform One (now *The Station House*) was packed out; people were standing in the doorway. Everyone, shopkeepers and residents, was up in arms about the state of the area."

Susan chaired the meeting. "People were enthusiastic and there were lots of questions." But the police were realistic, saying it was extremely hard to catch a graffitist, even harder to obtain evidence and magistrates were reluctant to hand out sentences. Their advice? "Keep painting it out and they'll give up—eventually." Roni White offered to organise a graffiti 'clean-up' day.

Susan asked for volunteers to start an association. There was a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September in Gill Adam's basement in Churchfield Road. Aims were agreed and officers elected. Susan began chasing Ealing Council about rubbish, getting collections in Churchfield Road increased from twice a week to daily. People began reporting dumped cars. Graffiti clean-up day was set for November 1.

On the day, Roni White arrived at the meeting place outside Platform One with her contractors. Mo Cory, Clean Charm supervisor, gave us a quick health and safety lecture and we were off. Using solvents supplied by Clean Charm we scrubbed the easier bits while the professionals attacked the more intractable sites with high pressure hoses. The atmosphere was fantastic. The clean-up really boosted morale; it was the best possible launch for our newly formed Association.

We were on a high as we arrived the next evening for the inaugural meeting. Under Susan's leadership

the Association began to take shape. Subscriptions were set, and with funding from Action Acton we instituted a monthly graffiti paint-out.

We helped to clean up Acton Central Station and the path leading to the bridge over the railway. We got involved in the European Car Free movement, with Churchfield Road closed to traffic on Car Free Day in 2001 and 2002.



Assembling for the first graffiti clean-up day

It is not easy to turn a single issue campaign into a sustainable community group. The fact that CCA has achieved it and reached its tenth birthday is due in no small part to the efforts of the pioneers.

## Town Hall regeneration moves slowly on *Nancy Duin*

The redevelopment of the town hall site (which includes the swimming baths, library and Priory Centre) is proceeding at a stately pace. An 'Acton Town Hall team' has been created, consisting of representatives from local groups (including the CCA, via Sara Nathan) and interested residents and businesses. This will advise the council throughout the planning and decision-making stages.

So far, the team has toured the Acton site and has toured three other regenerated sites: the leisure centre

in Swiss Cottage, Regent Quarter next to King's Cross, and St Paul's Church, Bow. Recently, a small group went to the new Northolt Leisure Centre, which was extremely impressive. The council is about to vote to ring-fence £12 million to help the Acton project, which has broad cross-party support and will eventually cost a total of £50-£60 million.

The final report of this first stage will be posted on the CCA's email list and website.

## Shopping locally gets better and better

*As part of our 'shop local' theme we will be regularly featuring local businesses that provide us with a friendly and convenient way to shop*

*Susanne Hickmott*

Did you know—that right on our doorstep we have a comprehensive, quality, home and clothes maintenance service, as well as a home collection and delivery service?

Pearls is our local dry cleaning and home support service. It is making our lives easier by providing a full range of quality care maintenance and protection products for clothes and shoes, as well as haberdashery, and fabric dye. Services are also available online.

At Pearls we can also: print photos, including passport photos; have our shoes repaired; use the clothes alteration service; and clean our carpets by hiring the Rug Doctor cleaner.



Photo: Tom Doran

Nish Taank, who runs Pearls, is heading towards his third year on our local patch. He and his team provide us with a welcoming and cheerful service in their bright and comfortable shop, with plans for future services.

Nish, born and bred locally, spent some time working in the City, before starting his service next door to his dad's post office in 2007. It has been a huge and enjoyable learning curve for him.

Nish, a business member of the CCA, is excited about the developments along Churchfield Road and sees a great future for shopping local in Acton.

Pearls Dry Cleaners, 22 Churchfield Road, London W3 6EG  
Opening Hours: Mon, Weds, Fri, 8 to 6; Tues, 8 to 7; Thurs, 7 to 6; Sat, 9 to 4  
Full details of collections and services at [www.pearlsdrycleaners.com](http://www.pearlsdrycleaners.com)  
e-mail [info@pearlsdrycleaners.com](mailto:info@pearlsdrycleaners.com); tel. 020 8993 3535

## Atlantic Chippy

"We have now twice tried out the new 'chippy' on Churchfield Road (next to Paint) and were delighted with the quality. A big portion of cod was freshly made while waiting and that is exactly how it tasted—very fresh! And delicious chips to boot. Definitely worth a visit."

*Jonathan Barham & Susan Hauser*

## EVENTS

See: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)

### REGULAR EVENTS

- ♦ **'First Wednesday' Social**—From 8pm, meet your neighbours at: **The Rocket, George & Dragon, The Station House, or L'Oriental**, (see website for details)
- ♦ **Graffiti paint-out:** The council is now getting rid of graffiti quickly but, if you spot any, contact Sara Nathan: 0777 564 4134

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ♦ **Friday 12 March 7.30pm CCA Quiz** - Kalinka Café (downstairs), 136-138 Churchfield Road. £12 Very popular: make sure you reserve a place! [churchfieldassoc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:churchfieldassoc@yahoo.co.uk)
- ♦ **Saturday 20 March: CCA at the Market** Acton Market, 10-1pm. Come along and say hello
- ♦ **Saturday 24 April, 10.30-11.30am CCA Coffee Morning** Stop in for a cuppa. Venue tbc on website
- ♦ **Saturday 15 May, 10-1pm: CCA at the Market**
- ♦ **Saturday 5 June, 12.30 on CCA Picnic** - Acton Park Bring your own picnic and meet friends & neighbours
- ♦ **Sunday 20 June CCA's 10th Anniversary Summer Party**—a very special celebration 34 Goldsmith Road
- ♦ **Saturday 10 July, 12-7pm: Acton Carnival** Acton Park

## Bemused by Rail Closures

Sara Nathan

The everlasting Sunday closures and imminent 14 weeks of no service beyond Gospel Oak lured more than 70 local rail passengers on London Overground to a public meeting at The Rocket in early February. This was a huge number for a wet winter night and demonstrated how strongly local people feel about the transport provision.

The CCA organised the meeting so that people using Acton Central Station could have the opportunity to find out from the managers of TfL (Transport for London), Network Rail and London Overground what all the closures and disruptions were about and whether they were wholly necessary.

We came away with a fair understanding of the aims of the project—four 4-car trains an hour in each direction every day from summer 2011—but still bemused as to why there had to be over two years of Sunday closures to achieve this.

Network Rail told us that the Sunday closures, which had been originally scheduled to end last December, were necessary for another 14 months because the scope of the works had changed. However, local residents found it hard to believe that there was going to be so much work each and every weekend to justify the length of closure.



Following the meeting, in an exchange of emails with CCA and myself, the meeting chair, TfL's Myriam Walburger said, "The

Sunday closures will enable the signalling to be upgraded at different sections of the Richmond to Stratford line; the entire line will not always be closed every Sunday. TfL and Network Rail have a comprehensive communications programme to ensure that passengers and the local community are kept up to date with our plans for the route." So, we hope to hear that the service will be resuming on at least some Sundays.

We have set up an email group for those interested in keeping up the pressure on the transport companies and over 35 people have already joined. To be added, email: [paultalbot@toucansurf.com](mailto:paultalbot@toucansurf.com)

The CCA has also formed a transport steering group, led by Susanne Hickmott, to keep us up to speed (!) on these issues. She would welcome interested CCA people to join the committee (0208992 8559).

## Cold & Wet in Acton

CCA member, Tom Doran, pictured with local Cllr John Ross and Ealing's Mayor Barbara Yerolemou, was commended for photographs he took in and near Acton Central Station entitled 'Cold and Wet: November Monday Morning' (see above). The winning photographs were displayed in the Studio at the Pitzhanger Manor Gallery.

The competition was run by Neighbours' Paper. Competitors were asked to show a 'view' of life in Ealing. The results were judged on both technical skills and commentary



Tom receives his award

## Dangerous Decay

According to Jamie Passmore, Parks Support Officer, "This winter, the East Area Ranger Service noticed some potential problems with trees in Acton Park during their regular park inspections." Ealing Tree Service then made detailed surveys, finding a number of trees with a dangerous extent of decay.

To ensure the safety of park users, these trees have now been felled but, where appropriate, the trunks are left standing as long as possible to provide wildlife habitats. Trees with a lesser extent of decay are retained and receive crown reduction work.

**Guyatt's Funfair** will be back in Acton Park this year.

- ◆ Thurs 20 to Sun 30 May
- ◆ Sat 10 July, Acton Carnival
- ◆ Thurs 2 to Mon 6 Sept

The newsletter of the  
Churchfield Community  
Association (CCA) - Issue 22,  
Spring 2010

Printed by:  
Primary Colours Ltd.  
Newsletter edited by:  
Linda Taylor  
(lindataylor@yahoo.co.uk)

To contact the CCA:  
Secretary: Paul Talbot  
Email: [churchfield@toucansurf.com](mailto:churchfield@toucansurf.com)  
CCA email group:  
[Actoncentralemailgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:Actoncentralemailgroup@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)

## Marking our 10th Anniversary

*What should we do to celebrate our 10th anniversary?*

The CCA exec is thinking of an even more wonderful summer party, plus possibly commissioning a piece of street art as a permanent artefact—on a wall that has been offered or freestanding in Churchfield Road.

They are considering possible artists and funds. We might qualify for some of the money developers have to pay towards bettering the community in order to get planning permission, or for a lottery or other grant.

The exec would like to set up a sub-committee to work out the best way forward. If you are interested and have relevant expertise or enthusiasm, please contact Sara Nathan (0777 5644134) or Nancy Duin (020 89934294; 07710954046)

**Planting a tree?** Maybe an oak (as in 'Acton', meaning 'Oaktown'). We could have one that is 10 years' old (like the CCA), that will grow with us over the years. There was suggestion of an oak tree with a bench around it (like on the old village greens) by the ugly signal-box near the crossing.



Photo: Nancy Duin

**Wall art?** The pictured mosaic is on a wall in the Regent Quarter at King's Cross, commemorating the Turkish bath that once stood there. It is a subtle blend of colour and design. Should we contact the artist?

**A community garden?** The burial ground garden in Churchfield Road has been much improved and could be a lovely space, but is hardly used. How about a little community garden in part of it, like the one in Chaucer Road? But it is owned by the Church of England and permission would have to be sought.

**An arch?** Could there be a wrought iron arch attached to the walls of the buildings at the beginning of Churchfield Road to proclaim its existence? This could be a way of really branding Churchfield Road, but it could also be expensive with surveys and safety assessments necessary.

*What ideas do you have?  
Please let us know...*

### Attaining perfection

Janet Hobbs' history of Waitrose, published by the Acton History Group, is a fascinating account of the entrepreneurial success of Mr Waite (buyer & grocer) and Mr Rose (financial wizard) whose first shop was in Acton High Road. Marvellous photos too.

[info@actonhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@actonhistory.co.uk)

*The first Waite, Rose & Taylor shop, Acton High Street, c. 1906*



### Winter Fair

Nancy Duin

We had been involved in some of the planning for the Winter Fair, which benefited from £5000 from the Acton Central Ward Forum fund, but were ultimately disappointed in what was produced. We will be taking part in the consultation for next year's fair to see if we can get more for our money.

However, thanks mainly to a spectacular tombola organised by Sara Nathan (many thanks to all who contributed), our stall made a profit of over £330 – the best we've ever done!

We split this with APPLE, the local children's charity.

### Kafka Meets Brecht

A world of box files, prison cells and board-room chairs, where citizens, chatterers and dissenters are harassed and preyed on by soldiers, the press and the Cabinet.

CCA member, Malcolm Singer's opera *The Jailer's Tale* sets haunting music to the disturbing rhyming language of his librettist Nick Toczek. It was performed on Feb 26/27 at Pentland Theatre, artsdepot, by Finchley Children's Music Group and the Yehudi Menuhin School orchestra.

More than 100 children, between the ages of 5 and 18, were impressively directed in a number of vocal groupings.

### JOINING THE CCA

Being a CCA member means you can vote at meetings, will receive invitations to members' events and join the Acton Central email group.

Membership fee: £8 (£3.50 for unwaged and pensioners) or £5 for direct debit (£2 unwaged and pensioners).



CCA bag: free to members. Email or see website

### CCA on the Net

For information on Churchfield Road and beyond in Acton, see CCA and ActonW3 websites:

[www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)

[www.ActonW3.com](http://www.ActonW3.com)

### Acton Central Email Group

The email group is open to all CCA members for free. Anyone in the group can post a message or contribute to any discussion. If you would like to join, please send an email to:

[Actoncentralemailgroup-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Actoncentralemailgroup-subscribe@yahoo.com); or have a look at the web page at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/actoncentralemailgroup>