



Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) - Issue 24, Autumn 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

New Council Commits to Town Hall Regeneration

Sara Nathan

It had been a long time since the Acton Town Hall team had met together—and, with the new government and new council, we were asking ourselves if the priorities would remain the same. Councillor Yvonne Johnson, holder of the “finance and performance” portfolio, reassured us that the £12 million committed by the previous administration was still available for the scheme.

The team heard from Richard Pickering of Cushman and Wakefield, who have been retained to develop the proposals, and then from architect, Peter Simpson. We saw plans too, though not in much detail.

We were largely enthusiastic about the proposal to turn the assembly room into the library with a sort of floating mezzanine, which would use the huge space available while still allowing the dimensions of the room to be appreciated. We also largely approved of the leisure centre proposals, for two new pools (one 25 metres by 8 lanes and a trainer pool with a raisable floor), plus a large gym. However, the Acton pools’ representative said that regular swimmers would still like a 50 metre pool—pretty impossible to accommodate on the site.

The team saw the time-line, which lays out the order for the development work, and was pleased that the concerns of the Priory Centre users had been factored in. These plans show that

Proposals

- ◆ Assembly Hall turned into much bigger library
- ◆ Leisure Centre with 2 new pools & large gym
- ◆ Space for Priory Centre user groups
- ◆ Residential accommodation
- ◆ Current library to become shop or restaurant
- ◆ Some Council offices retained

they would not be decanted to a hotchpotch of places for two or more years while the works are carried out, instead moving just once, before the Priory Centre is developed.

The amount of space devoted to public purposes does not look very large. However, the meeting was assured that the facilities will be more comprehensive than those at Northolt, featuring the same scale of leisure provision, a much bigger library, space for the Priory user groups, and some council offices which, given government priorities, will need to be retained on the site.

The development will apparently be financed by the conversion of some of the Town Hall site into residential accommodation, a new residential development on the Priory site and the deployment of the current library as a shop or restaurant. Plans for a hotel or a major food retailer on the site have been rejected as not feasible.

It is pleasing that the architect and the project manager would both be the same as those for the successful Northolt scheme. We hope Jonathan Kirby, Assistant Director of Major Projects and Development, will come and give us more details at the CCA AGM and open meeting on November 24th at St Mary’s Church Hall.



Indicative design for a possible new pool for the leisure centre—25 metres by 8 lanes

KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEBSITE (www.churchfield.org)

Think Local, Shop Local: it pays ... at 'PAINT' and there is always time for a chat

Susanne Hickmott

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

Before you spend your hard earned money, think Churchfield Road, and compare prices at 'Paint'.

Enter Sonny Masson's shop at number 19 and you won't be leaving empty handed. As a 'Specialist Decorators' Merchant', he will give you the best deal going. You will come out feeling good, having spent time having a good old chat, something you don't get too often these days.

The choice is endless: Sonny will match any decorating product and colour, even exclusive designer colours. He continuously researches products and prices and sells Dulux mixed to the colour of your choice at probably the best price in West London.

Locals get trade prices here on a range of specialist decorating materials with prices that will equal or beat any other trader. And, if Sonny sometimes doesn't give you a discount, it is because many products have remained at the same price for years.

This Aladdin's cave of a shop has been on Churchfield Road for

twenty-five years. Sonny Masson has run the shop for the past six years. He was formerly the sales manager for the London branch of the largest DIY wholesaler in England, before taking over the shop from his friend and customer James Coburn.



Sonny Masson inside PAINT: an 'Aladdin's Cave'

Sonny grew up in the area, went to local schools and is a regular along the road. His pride and enthusiasm for his work makes the shop a joy to visit. He is a mine of information and good advice about his products. He wants you to leave satisfied—with a purchase that will save you time and money.

The list of products is endless. There is a full specialist decorating service, custom mixed, colour match paints for all well-known brands, together with a hardware range to fix up any household.

The added bonus of going to 'Paint': there is always advice on hand and Sonny can always recommend a high quality specialist tradesman to do the job for you.

'Paint' also has a carpet-fitting service and extensive supplies for jobs around the house.

For Sonny, Churchfield Road is a lively buzzing community, full of locals who are working together to make it a good place to be. Parking problems are on the way to being resolved, which shows what can be achieved when we all work together.

So, here we have a specialist shop with technical advice on hand on our doorstep and—back to that friendly welcome and chat: this surely must be what 'Community' is all about!

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org

E: churchfield@toucansurf.com

Find us on Facebook

REGULAR EVENTS

♦ 'First Wednesday' Socials from 8pm:

Informal meetings for those who live and/or work in the area—members & potential members—held at:

*The Rocket, L'Oriental
George & Dragon,
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 Nathan: 0777 564 4134

SPECIAL EVENTS

♦ CCA Executive meeting Mon 15 Nov, 7.30pm

If you have something that you want to bring to our attention, please email us

♦ Open Meeting & AGM Weds 24 Nov, 7.30pm

*St Mary's Church Hall,
The Mount, W3*

Hear about local issues, ask questions and sample food from two local restaurants

♦ CCA Christmas Party Fri 10 December, 7.30pm

The Rocket, Churchfield Rd
All welcome—see website for details of payment

♦ Acton Winter Festival December (TBC)

Acton Market, The Mount

♦ CCA Quiz

*Fri 14 Jan, 7 for 7.30pm,
Venue TBC - see website*
Pit your knowledge and wits against the current champions. £2 per person

Sonny Masson,

'Paint'—Specialist Decorators' Merchant

19 Churchfield Road, Acton, London W3 0208 932 0111

Sonnym25@googlemail.com

Ward forum becomes a focus group

Nancy Duin & Sara Nathan

Before the last local elections, the Acton Central ward forum would hear reports from various officials and then get down to the meat of the evening. This consisted of: reports on the progress of various items that the forum had agreed would be paid for from its £40,000 budget. These items included such things as recycling bins, new parking schemes and traffic-calming measures.

This system was certainly not perfect. The method of choosing what to pay for from the budget was confusing, and it could take ages for some things to happen. But, we felt that the council and our councillors were accountable for the decisions jointly made.

At the meeting with our new councillors on October 6th, this accountability disappeared. Items suggested or agreed at the previous meeting had not been costed or even listed in their entirety. There was no information for residents on those items that might be going through, although the councillors had figures that they were initially reluctant to share.

Has accountability disappeared?

One item (a £2000 donation to Acton Carnival to match one from the East Acton ward forum) had been increased to £5000 with no reference to the forum.

The rationale for this was unclear and, when we queried this way of working, we were told that, while we residents could 'suggest' things on which the ward forum budget might be spent, it was up to the councillors to decide which things would actually get the money. This appears to include things not even discussed at the forum meeting. We had, in effect, been turned into a focus group, rather than a decision-making body.

However, the upside of the forum this time was that we got to meet Mark Pullen, the new police sergeant of our Safer Neighbourhoods team. He now has a full complement of police constables (two!)

and community support officers who focus on the most important issues in the ward, such as burglary, drug dealing and public drinking.

According to Mark, their work is beginning to make a perceptible difference to our patch. People at the forum agreed that street drinking seemed a little reduced and welcomed the closing of a crack house on Alfred Road and a number of drug-related arrests.

We look forward to hearing more from Mark at the CCA AGM and Open Meeting in November.

Next ward forum:
2nd February at 7.30pm
- St Mary's Church Hall.

September Picnic in the park

Ros Fisher, Ian Green, Tom Doran,
Jill Williams, John Gallagher

Photos: Ros Fisher



The day was overcast and chilly, threatening rain, but, despite the very grey sky, the picnic went ahead. At one point we moved everything under a tree, huddling together to avoid the drizzle. Then after a bracing start, the sun came out: suddenly it brightened and warmed up.

People trickled in—a total of 13 adults and 3 children. We sat around and chatted in a leisurely way. Alongside, on the path, was the ten pin bowling, which was enjoyed by the children and one or two adults, the rest of us being too lazy, unfit or distracted by chatting to join in.

Tea and coffee flowed, keeping us warm while we shared selections of food, including a windfall of apples brought by Picot. Some not too compromising pictures were taken!

It was an easy leisurely picnic enjoyed by all, and a chance to make new friends.

We still don't feel we have got the date quite right, so watch out for it at a different time next year!



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Acton's Scissor Sisters

Gillian Fisher

Work and family are often at odds with each other. But there are few places where the two are as inseparable as at *Pro-Hands* by Sonia in Churchfield Road.

Ellie Prohan opened her salon in 2006, naming it after her mother who has been a hairdresser for her entire working life, both in London and her native Iran. Business is booming, which isn't surprising as the treatments are high quality with low prices.

Ellie manages the beauty salon, while Sonia and Ellie's younger sister, Nush, work magic in the hairdressing salon upstairs. While she tinted my eyelashes, Ellie told me that her favourite part of the business is the people she meets.

Absolutely everybody is welcome—from teenage girls to long-retired ladies. The family go out of their way to suit their customers (opening at 6am or

chatting in Farsi), thus building an extensive list of loyal locals.

The incredible friendliness within the salon is generated by the family dynamic—not only the intimacy of the three women but the strong support they show to each other. It is obvious that Sonia is incredibly proud of all three of her girls (the other daughter, Elle, works for the government).



Sonia, Ellie & Nush—working magic

The bond between all four of them is very strong; she describes them as, "one body, one soul". The feeling is mutual: Sonia's daughters constantly stress how much they appreciate their mum.

This is definitely the place to go when you need a bit of pampering. Stepping out after a visit to *Pro-Hands*, you will feel uplifted, a part of something communal—and, of course, immaculately coiffured.

What's going on in your local?

- ♦ **The Rocket** www.therocketw3.co.uk
Free hire of upstairs function room
Currently hosts: musicians, stand-up comedy, monthly book club, two film clubs, Pass on a Poem
- ♦ **Station House**
www.thestationhousew3.com
Massive room with bar upstairs for free private hire. Weekly 'Chill Out Sundays'—free live jazz, 4-7pm
- ♦ **George & Dragon**
www.georgeanddragonacton.com
Free live jazz evenings; Quiz Night every Monday, 8.30pm—1st prize £50
- ♦ **King's Head**
info@kingsheadacton.com
Tues: pub quiz, 7.30pm, £1 entry
Thurs: Showcase 55—4 bands, 8pm
Fri: Band Night—best of the bands
Sat: function room/bar for hire

Acting Victoriously

Photo: Ros Fisher



The quiz teams were at it again on Friday October 15, hosted by Kalinka who offered a bottle of wine as an extra prize to the winners. Paul and Philippe's famous knotty questions attracted the most ever participants: 37—making seven feisty teams. Acton Suspiciously won with a magnificent score of 125 out of 136. Joint second were Maldon Salts and Phoenix Rising.

Don't miss the next Quiz Night in January! Watch the website for further details...

JOINING THE CCA

Being a CCA member:

- ♦ You can vote at meetings
- ♦ You'll receive invitations to members' events
- ♦ You can join the Acton Central email group.

Membership fee:

£8 (£3.50 unwaged and pensioners)

£5—direct debit (£2 unwaged and pensioners)

CCA on the Net

Acton Central Email Group

Actoncentralemailgroup-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

The email group is open to all CCA members. You can post a message or contribute to a discussion. To join, please send an email.

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

www.churchfield.org; www.ActonW3.com



CCA bag:

Free to members.
Email or see website