



# Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) - Issue 29 Summer 2012

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

## Environmental Enterprise

Clara Lowy

Springfield Gardens is a tiny green space on the west side of Acton Central Ward. Since 2008 I have been taking a daily jog in these gardens. I watched the erection of the new wooden fence in Creswick Road—alas no more.

The garden used to have a play area in the north east corner. This was commandeered by Thames Water, which built an underground storage tank to prevent flooding of the basements of Horn Lane houses. They then financed the new play area situated on the west side of the Gardens.

Unfortunately, Thames Water demand access to their installation and have put down plastic netting buried in the ground surrounding the installation, which is now nicknamed by dog walkers 'The Thames Eyesore'. This makes planting a real challenge.

Numerous erections of residential buildings around the Gardens have resulted in an accumulation of substantial 106 money—given to the local council by builders so that they can provide extra facilities required for the increased

population. Most of this has not been spent.

I have met with Richard Strange (one of our park rangers) on several occasions to see how the Gardens could be given uplift. The daffodils in the north east corner are a start, and other flowers should appear later on in the year.



The mini football pitch: overused, denuded of grass, uneven, with partially ripped-up plastic matting at each goal mouth.

The Gardens have a mini football pitch—overused, denuded of grass, uneven, and with partially ripped-up plastic matting at each goal mouth. There is a real dilemma about how this could be improved. The older children need an exercise space, but when there was a complaint about footballs landing in the garden of one of the residents of Creswick Road, Landbilt erected

the Leylandii tree hedge in Springfield Gardens. This got rid of the open aspect of the area, which was so critical in the rejection of numerous previous planning applications.

Enterprise (a large group concerned with gardening and cleaning waste) was awarded the cleaning and care of the Gardens in 2012. They should be clearing the Gardens of litter, daily between 8am and 12 noon, including Saturday and Sunday. But the Enterprise van is hardly ever seen.

The council clearly has a problem monitoring Enterprise but we, the community, can perhaps do it for them. Littering in the Gardens is a real problem. Recently whilst I was picking up beer cans, wine bottles and a variety of discarded food containers often sprinkled with canine urine, a passer-by remarked, 'You have your work cut out.' But no offer of help was to hand.

A green space like Springfield Gardens is a great asset in an urban environment. The question remains: how can we make our Gardens more functional and pleasing to the eye?

➤➤➤ **Acton Carnival : 7 July—can you give a hand on the CCA stall?**  
(contact Nancy—[nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net); 020 8993 4294)

# Creating a Sense of Identity

Susanne Hickmott

St. Mary's Church, standing tall on The Mount, is full of activity. The Rev. David Brammer is committed to the regeneration of our community. Since 2009, he has been engaging with groups to celebrate the diversity of the area and to help create a sense of identity and belonging.

The emphasis is on creativity, with art classes and music groups. Standing Tall has a band, which will play at Acton Carnival, and it has hosted recording sessions.

The project has recently received funding from the Church Urban Fund for a dedicated part-time worker. This has facilitated better links with other services and enabled computer and lifestyle programmes.

Born in West London, David Brammer has a background in social work. He is committed to the idea of duty to others and creating a place where we can engage together to create a strong vibrant community.

'My vision for the church,' says David, 'is informed by my faith in Jesus, who was radical in message and action, promoting love, peace and social justice.' He wants it to be a support centre, to host exhibitions, to help children and young people, and to be a centre for arts and music. David is grateful for an excellent team of committed volunteers. Offers of help are always welcome, especially fund-raising expertise. We all have something to offer, and further details about getting involved are on the website.

Near the church, St Mary's burial ground sparkles with colour from the bulbs and flowers. You can sit and stare, contemplate life and watch the world go by.



David Brammer with members of St Mary's church family at a barbecue in the Rectory garden

Many people use St. Mary's two halls, including Acton History Group, pre-school and flower arranging groups, Townswomen's Guild, and groups for young people and the over-55s. It houses the Autistic Society's café on Thursdays with the cheapest cup of coffee in town. It is also a popular venue for children's parties.

The team at St. Mary's is proud of its major outreach project, Standing Tall, run for the homeless in our area, by volunteers. Working with other agencies, it provides night shelter, meals, advice and support.

Contact: St. Mary's Church, 1 The Mount, Acton High Street, London W3.9NW  
email: [stmary\\_acton@btconnect.com](mailto:stmary_acton@btconnect.com); <http://www.stmaryacton.org.uk>

## Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Nancy Duin

Following the departure of Sgt Mark Pullen, Sgt Chris Cook has arrived to take his place. The team is now complete, with two PCs (Amar Mushtaq and Shinya Nichitani) and three PCSOs (Andrew Gray, Jamie Forrester and Sarah Kearney).

Sarah has been with the SNT for several years and Chris seems keen to continue the good work begun by Mark.

Already there has been an operation on The Mount to reduce anti-social behaviour, and other beneficial activities are promised.

One warning: during the Olympics, it is unlikely that our Safer Neighbourhood Team members will have much time to spend in Acton. Please be understanding if things deteriorate slightly during that period.

## EVENTS

See: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)  
E: [churchfield@toucansurf.com](mailto:churchfield@toucansurf.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:  
*27 June: The Rocket*  
(NB: change of date and venue)  
*1 August: The Station House*  
*5 September: George & Dragon*  
*3 October: The Rocket*  
(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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ♦ **Theatre Studio West**  
**Romeo and Juliet**  
*5-7 July, 7.30, (Sat. mat. 3.30)*  
*Questors Playhouse Theatre*  
Re-set in the Caribbean—the story with an added twist.  
Tickets: 020 8994 8751;  
[www.theatrestudiowest.co.uk](http://www.theatrestudiowest.co.uk)
- ♦ **Acton Carnival:**  
*Saturday 7 July, 12-7pm*  
*Acton Park*  
The CCA will run its usual stall: second-hand jewellery, good bric-a-brac and children's toys, plus tombola prizes. To contribute or help on the day, contact Nancy Duin (020 8993 4294; [nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net))
- ♦ **Pass On A Poem**  
*Friday 20 July, 7 for 7.30-9.30*  
*The Rocket, 11 Churchfield Rd*  
Read a favourite published poem or just come and listen.
- ♦ **CCA Wine Tasting**  
*Friday 21 September*  
*The Rocket, 11 Churchfield Rd*  
Further details TBC
- ♦ **ACTON HISTORY GROUP**  
*Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287*
- ♦ **Visit to Hogarth's House**  
*Saturday 14 July,*  
*Meet at 1.45 for picnic, or 2.30*
- ♦ **Three Plaques Walk**  
*Saturday 11 August, 2.30*  
*Meet: St Mary's Church, The Mount*
- ♦ **'Hogarth's House'—talk by Val**  
*Bott Wednesday 12 September, 7.30*  
*St Mary's Church Hall*



# Up Periscope?

Sara Nathan

More than eighty concerned local residents massed upstairs at The Rocket on May 22 to hear about the latest plans for the redevelopment of The Oaks.

Plans had moved on since our last meeting, as the Council had also made their car park available to the developers. It was hoped that the increased floor plan could be used to ensure the proposals fitted better in relation to the existing buildings in Churchfield Road, and that the site could be less concentrated.

Most agreed that some development of this unattractive area would be a good idea, but that the ambitious scale and density of this proposal was unsuitable. The design still includes the much criticised 'periscope', an eleven-storey tower facing directly towards houses in Derwentwater, Nemoure and Churchfield Roads.



The much criticised 'periscope'

The proposed metal cladding also came in for much criticism, both aesthetically and because residents, already at war with the local pigeons, saw this is a likely desirable roosting place. The developers had obviously not considered this, and seemed thoughtful after that part of the discussion.

Current and former local councillors weighed in, making excellent points about Ealing's plan for

development and about previous proposals for the site. There were discussions about the impact of the buildings on residents' light, on the burial ground and on local infrastructure.

We left feeling the developers and Ealing Council Officers had listened, but that, although the periscope might be doomed, there was still a commitment to squeeze as much as possible onto the odd-shaped site.

Following the meeting our MP, Angie Bray, sent the CCA a letter which she had sent to Ealing's planners. It emphasises many of the points we have made, and criticises the retention of much of the existing Oaks site due to lease problems. She said this inhibited a proper design and use of this critical site.

We wait to see what the developers and architect will propose next.

## Concern About Street Drinking

Maureen Colledge

The CCA Executive continues to monitor local alcohol licensing applications, not because we are against a tipple (most of us are very partial to one) but street drinking problems locally make it vital that shops, clubs and pubs take a responsible approach.

We are particularly concerned about late night licences and have had two successes lately. Foodlink in the Vale sought to extend their alcohol licence from midnight to 4am every day, while Morrisons wanted to be able to open and sell alcohol from 6am until midnight.

We made representations on both, as did the Mill Hill Residents' Association and the police. The Foodlink extension was turned down by the Council's Licensing Panel in May, and Morrisons have indicated that they are willing to withdraw their application. They now seek only a temporary extension for the period of the Olympics (22 July to 9 September), when they want to sell alcohol from 8am to 10.30pm on Sundays.

Monitoring new applications can be difficult—we did not see the Morrisons' one until late as I am not

always able to check the Council website. If you see a licence application notice and it looks unreasonable, please email me to let me know ([bayscolledge@talktalk.net](mailto:bayscolledge@talktalk.net)).

Also if you see any licence holders behaving irresponsibly (selling alcohol to minors, selling to already drunk people or selling after their licence hours), please let me know.

We can then monitor the situation and ask for a review of their licence if necessary. Fortunately, most of the pubs, clubs and shops around here are responsible, and that is something we can all toast!

## Goodbye to Paul & Philippe

After too many years on the CCA executive committee to count, Paul Talbot and Philippe Bruyer have decided to step down as secretary and social secretary. The current exec is very grateful to them for all their excellent committed work, and delighted that they have agreed to keep running our very successful quiz suppers.

### Join the CCA Executive

- ◆ We are recruiting new exec members.
- ◆ It is not that onerous and a fun way to get to know local people
- ◆ Volunteers please to [sara@natsing.co.uk](mailto:sara@natsing.co.uk)

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**Website:** www.churchfield.org

## Fun, Food and Music

Nancy Duin

Acton Carnival, when all parts of our community converge on Acton Park for fun, food and music, takes place on Saturday 7 July from noon to 7pm.

It begins with a procession down the High Street from Woodlands Park. Participants will include A.P.P.L.E., Ealing Chinese School, Acton High School and Stardust Carnival Band.

In the park, you'll find about a dozen food stalls, craft, charity and community stalls, a family area with activities for young children, and a funfair.

On the main stage, among a varied line-up, will be, the Acton Music Collective (led by Reverend

David Brammer of St Mary's Church on sax), South African, reggae and soca bands and singers, and Confusion—an over-35s street dance troupe.

As usual, the CCA will be having a stall, selling second-hand jewellery, good bric-a-brac and children's toys, plus a grand tombola. We will be sharing the proceeds with A.P.P.L.E.—the children/young people's charity in Acton Park.

If you have anything you can donate or, if you can volunteer some time to help on the stall on the day, please contact Nancy Duin. It will give another volunteer the chance for a rest and a look around.

020 8993 4294; [nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net)

## The CCA—what have we achieved recently?

- ◆ Changes to Zone K parking restrictions
- ◆ Our views strongly represented at alcohol licensing hearings
- ◆ Scrutiny of the Oaks Development plan and organisation of the meeting with the developers

### JOIN THE CCA

- ◆ Vote at meetings
- ◆ Receive invitations to members' events
- ◆ Join the Acton Central email group
- ◆ Free CCA bag—see website

**Annual Membership fee**

**Single**—£8 (£3.50 concessions);  
£5 direct debit (£2 concessions)

**Household**—£12; £7.50 direct debit

## Jubilee with a Swing

Sara Nathan



The Jubilee went with a swing in Acton in spite of the deluge. CCA stalwarts were out in force at the Goldsmith Residents' Street Party on the Sunday. Others were seen clustered round Ellie's fabulous afternoon tea stall at the Acton Traders' party.

Goldsmith Avenue's party on the Monday only had a few minutes of rain. It featured our very own 'Queen'—Caroline Bernstein, plus patriotic singing, face-painting and 22 Victoria sponge cakes.

Community spirit was enhanced and a great time was had by all.

## Family Discord

From 5-7 July, Questors Theatre hosts a dynamic adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, performed by Theatre Studio West (TSW).

Based in Acton, TSW was set up in 2006 by local director/actress Julie Saunders. The company is committed to offering professional theatre experience to disadvantaged young people, exploring issues and giving them a positive voice in their community.

The young cast brings a fearless approach to this well-known story.

**Tickets: 0208 994 8751, or**  
[www.theatrestudiowest.co.uk](http://www.theatrestudiowest.co.uk)

### Lena's Minime Events

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### ➤➤➤ STOP PRESS

**CCA Supper Quiz at L'Oriental on Saturday 16 June:**  
**Acton Suspiciously beat The Re-Actons by one point . . .**  
**A close-run contest!**