



Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 35, Spring 2014



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

Improving Literacy and Life Chances

Dan Andrews

Reading to babies is time well spent. Recent research by the Literacy Trust has shown that it helps improve literacy and life chances. It also plays a big role in creating strong emotional bonds between parent and child.

Now, thanks to a local activist and the legendary country and western singer Dolly Parton, a new book-gifting scheme has been launched on the South Acton Estate.

South Acton Imagination Library (SAIL) was created by Maldon Road resident, Maysa Marques. It delivers a book a month to local children all the way up to their fifth birthday, building a personal library of up to sixty books by the time the child has started school.

'We want to foster a love of reading among local kids, giving them the best start possible at school, while also making reading together that little bit easier for local families,' said Maysa.

SAIL is affiliated to Imagination Library UK, inspired by Dolly Parton whose original non-profit programme began in her home-town of Sevierville, Tennessee. Over 27,000 children are registered in schemes throughout the UK.



Councillor Yvonne Johnson, Natalie Turnbull (Imagination Library UK director) and SAIL founder Maysa Marques at the launch event

Children registered in the first scheme, launched in Rotherham in 2007, are already showing more advanced communication skills at school, compared with youngsters who had not participated in the scheme.

SAIL benefits from partnership with publishers including Penguin, and the books are all selected by a panel of child literacy experts. The latest of sixty such Imagination Libraries in the UK, it is 100% run by volunteers and funded by donations.

The programme was launched with a party at the South Acton Children's Centre in February. Local author, Anna McQuinn, and local children's entertainer, Michelle de Burgh, provided stories and songs. The crowd gurgled for more.

Having won an initial grant from Acton Gardens' regeneration scheme, Maysa is now looking to raise funds to keep SAIL going for the full five years.

South Acton Councillor, Yvonne Johnson, said: 'It was great to see so many parents and their young children reading together, discovering the joys of books. This scheme is excellent; the books are colourful and inviting. As adults we know the power of the written word to success in later life.'

'We'd love to hear from businesses and individual donors who might be able to help,' said Maysa. 'A gift of £125 will support a local child for the full five-year curriculum—but just £25 supports a child for a whole year. We'd also love to hear from individuals who have fundraising ideas. We've already enrolled fifty babies born this year, so we're just getting started!'

If you would like to know more about SAIL, make a donation or get involved in a great local cause, go to: www.sail-w3.org, email maysa@sail-w3.org or say 'hello' on Twitter @SAIL_W3.

Find information and a registration form on our website, or contact Maysa. Post the form to: 43, Maldon Road, W3 6SZ.

>>> Acton Carnival—Saturday 5 July, 12 noon to 7pm
We need things to sell and people to help on the day!
Please contact Nancy Duin: nduin@nancyduin.net

The Life of the Park

Susanne Hickmott

A corner of Acton Park shouts 'come and have a look' as you walk by. Near the gate to the Uxbridge Road and East Acton Lane is a creative paradise for young people—The Art Block, run by the charity APPLE. Dedicated staff develop the talents of eight to eighteen-year-olds.

Acton's young people can spend fulfilling hours here learning and improving skills under the leadership of Vicki Barker and Joy Goddard, with an in-house team of six. Activities are diverse and imaginative: construction, arts and crafts, film-making, mask-making, gardening, BMX, football, cricket, and a cookery club. And APPLE is at the centre of Acton Carnival—a major event of the year.

Trips are organised: to watch street performers on South Bank, for instance, or to visit Spitalfields' various markets—making the most of what London has to offer.



Arts and crafts skills developed at The Art Block

The Skills Development Programme also includes 'in-house' training, leading to paid work at The Art Block on a sessional basis. A significant part of these sessions is cooking and entertainment, where meals are cooked in a fully equipped kitchen and delivered to invited guests. This also provides nutritional meals for those attending the centre.

Ideas and planning for 'what to do' in the sessions and visits come from the young attendees themselves. The ethos of the centre is one of co-operation. Learning from each other, young people are guided to take responsibility for themselves and their behaviour to others. The aim is to be part of a productive and cohesive community.

APPLE is a registered charity with three to four thousand attendees at The Art Block in a year. It is supported and funded through grants and contributions from a range of funding bodies, such as The National Lottery, Children in Need, The Tudor Trust, John Lyons and Acton Community Forum. The amount of money raised ultimately shapes the activities available.

Ealing Borough contributes to the running of the centre, through funding, support from the Parks Department and building provision.

The centre was started many years ago by a group of parents, some of whom are still very much involved. If you have a skill, talent or interest to offer, you are welcome to visit and see what an amazing place we have in our community, nurturing future generations.



Gardening—one of the skills taught by APPLE

APPLE works closely with the Youth Service, providing complementary activities and events. There is 'Apple Core' youth group, which plans activities, and an after-school arts club at John Perryn.

APPLE's project 'Next Steps' plays a significant role in skills development, which expands horizons. Recognised qualifications, such as AQA, Trinity Arts Awards and Jack Petchy Young Achievers can be gained. There is a focus on Events Management and Youth Helper Training, Leadership Skills, First Aid and Football Coaching. Work experience placements are offered.

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org
eml: 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:
7 May: *The Aeronaut*, 264 High St
4 June: *The Station House*
2 July: *The Station House*
6 August: *The Rocket* (providing no football match is being shown)
If you've never been to a CCA social and would like to go with someone, Jill Williams could meet you beforehand (Email: 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

- ◆ **Pass On A Poem**
Sunday 1 June, 7.00–9.30pm,
at the home of Linda Taylor.
Read a poem or just come and listen.
Contact Linda for more information:
bindataylo@yahoo.co.uk
- ◆ **CCA Summer Supper Quiz:**
Saturday 7 June, 7pm for 7.30
L'Oriental, 94 Churchfield Road
Quiz and delicious finger food.
£10 inclusive. To book, email Paul:
paultalbot@toucansurf.com
- ◆ **CCA Summer Party:**
Sunday 29 June, 4.30–6.30pm
A glass of wine and a nibble of food in a beautiful garden. Contact Linda bindataylo@yahoo.co.uk, if you'd like to come. Bring a bottle &/or food

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287
Free to members; non-members: £2

- ◆ **Acton Treasure Hunt:**
Wednesday 14 May; 7.30pm
Meet outside St Mary's Church Hall
David & Amanda Knights
- ◆ **AGM and Talk:**
Wednesday 11 June; 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall
Chaired by Mary Spredbury
- ◆ **Heritage Walk—Mill Hill Park and South Acton:**
Wednesday 9 July; 6.30–8.45pm
Starts at Oak Tree Community Centre, corner of Osborne Road and Park Road, W3. Ends at Swan Pub
David Bays

For information: www.apple-play.com;
Vicki_Appleplay@btinternet.com; Goddardjoy@aol.com

Microbrewing Comes To Acton

Chloe Campbell

Drinking is an enormous part of our culture. Many of us may remember hours being lost in one of our iconic British pubs, while we sit and nurse pint after pint.

But, have you ever wondered where your pint is coming from? Well, now you can see the very beginning of the journey just by looking over the bar. Here in Acton we are blessed with two of our very own microbreweries. Both the George and Dragon (currently closed for installation) and the newly refurbished Aeronaut have micro-breweries on site.

Microbrewing (or craft brewing), where a pub or restaurant brews and sells its own beer, is a movement that began in the 1970s. With the emphasis on flavour and brewing technique (as opposed to mass production of the larger branded beers), micro-brewing focuses on producing a better quality traditional cask ale.

Traditionally, beer is made from water, malted barley, hops and yeast. The barley is malted by heating in large kilns and drying, which helps to allow germination. The natural sugars are then extracted from the barley and the mixture is boiled to sterilise it.



Brewer Henry Kirk mashing the malt

Malt is added and, depending on what sort of flavour and bitterness is required, it is then seasoned by the hop flowers and finally fermented with the yeast.

Water makes up most of the ingredients of beer, and in London we are used to harder water than somewhere like Dublin where a traditional stout would be the local drink of choice.

The correlation between the softer water areas brewing Stout and those brewing a lighter Pale Ale, are an example of what the different water and brewing techniques can achieve.

With its wonderful welcoming family atmosphere and an imaginative circus theme, 'The Aeronaut has come a long way

from its Redback days,' boasts brewer Henry Kirk, who has been manning the barrels since it opened in November last year.

The popular 'Acton Ale' is a favourite amongst locals. Customers enjoy all aspects of the micro-brewing process: the smells experienced while brewing, the quality of flavour and drinking down to the last drop in the glass.

The Aeronaut now hosts a whole range of quality beers, from light ales to stouts. Flirting with the taste buds, the brewery uses many different malts and hops, some imported from the USA. This introduces interesting tastes to suit different palates, from honey and other fruity flavours (associated with the sweet tooth of Americans) to a more ashy, roasted taste for the darker malts.

So, if you haven't already seen it, hop on down to The Aeronaut to experience microbrewing for yourself—right before your eyes.

And, from 2nd-5th July, CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) will be at the Ealing Beer Festival in Walpole Park. You can find out more about beers and brewing, and sample a range of ales. Enjoy!

www.ealingbeerfestival.org.uk/

Neighbours Are Doing It For Themselves

Nancy Duin

The disappointments of The Oaks planning fiasco are still keenly felt. It seems that the 'consultation' simply resulted in the developer ignoring what we said. But there's now a chance to be on a more equal footing with the council and developers.

Under the Localism Act 2011, residents, organisations and businesses can create a neighbourhood forum to produce a development plan for their area. It would have the same status as the Mayor's London Plan.

We can specify how we want: buildings and open spaces treated, transport improved, heritage

protected and much more. Developers and the council would have to take this plan into account in any planning decisions.

A forum would also have a big say in what is done with the money (the 'Community Infrastructure Levy') that developers have to pay to make up for the negative effects of their schemes. This can run to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A small group of Acton residents, organisations and businesses have founded the Central Acton Neighbours' Forum. We initially need to be 'designated' by the council, after which we would be independent.

One essential for designation is for membership to include a wide variety of people.

To become a member, you don't have to pay, or commit yourself to do, anything, apart from agreeing with the forum's aims. Email me at nduin@nancyduin.net, and I'll send you a form and answer any questions.

There are decisions to be made on: phase 2 of The Oaks, the Gala Bingo Hall, Jeffries House, Acton Main Line station, Morrison's car park, Twyford Playing Fields.

Now is the time to join together to make our voices heard.

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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
See website

Coming To A Wall Near You

Chloe Campbell

W3 Gallery on Acton High Street is no ordinary gallery. As well as being able to view works by our own fantastic local artists, a host of incredible art activities also happen regularly.

I was invited by project manager, Rachel Pepper, to attend one of the gallery's 'Art Walks', and met some local street artists. ATM's paintings of rare British birds cover once dingy walls in South Acton Estate. Their rich tones display his meticulous artistic skills.

Is it art or is it vandalism? 'This is not graffiti,' said ATM. 'It's a new ethos to spread positive vibes,



Endangered birds adorn the walls in South Acton Estate—one of W3 Gallery's projects

not vandalise or criminalise.' Many of the residents have been involved in curating these 'outside galleries' and are excited to see the results.

The council and local artists have worked together on projects such as the 'Love Acton' campaign.

Community art now adorns walls, bridges and parks, lifting the spirits of those who see it.

Wall murals, paintings, sculpture and mosaics fill the once uninspiring looking estates with joyful colour and expression—something everyone can be proud of.

W3 gallery was set up eighteen months ago with the help of a government grant. 'We've now lost count of the exhibitions we have had,' said Rachel.

The gallery is at the forefront of a world of experimentation and free expression in Acton. We are lucky to be able to experience it.

Big Lunch!

Sara Nathan

The Big Lunch, in its sixth year on Sunday June 1st, is a great excuse for a street party. People across the whole country get together annually—nearly four million of them last year.

Ealing Council is supportive and it's easy and free to get your road closed for the day. Or, you might decide to have a gathering in a park, if that's easier.

The aim is to get to know your neighbours and build community, through sharing food, drink and fun activities.

For ideas and examples, see:
<http://www.thebiglunch.com/>.

Lucky Dip

Susi Kirkwood

With the cherry trees and magnolias in blossom, thirty people met at L'Oriental Restaurant, on March 22nd to take part in our CCA Spring Quiz.

Some agreed to put their names in a hat as a 'lucky dip' to determine their team. We drew lots to see which round would be next and how many points we had scored for our Joker round.

Sustained by a delicious Lebanese supper, we racked our brains over obscure Commonwealth related facts and figures. There

was a Numbers round, a Who's Who? and a What Style of Hat? quiz sheet.

We pored over missing words in a selection of *Sun* headlines, tried to identify logos and found 'missing links'.

With 116.5 points, Common Carps won chocolates (shared by all), closely followed by Acton Suspiciously, Maldon Salts, The Famous Five and Acton Bunnies.

It was another lighthearted evening run by our quiz maestros, Paul and Philippe.

Support 'Hope for Justice' by Katy Willis

On Saturday 7th June, a group of local Actonians are taking part in a sponsored London Walk for Justice.

The walk will go from central London through the parks (with a picnic in the Italian Gardens in Hyde Park) to Paddington. It will then join the Grand Union Canal to get back to Acton, ending with a tea party.

The aim is to support Hope for Justice (reg. Charity no 1126097, <http://hopeforjustice.org.uk/>).

Hope for Justice investigates and rescues victims from the abuse of trafficking in the UK; helps rehabilitate and protect rescued victims; prosecutes perpetrators; and campaigns for effective anti-human trafficking laws.

We hope to have 100 walkers and raise £10,000. You can help us by donating, or by taking part in our walk.

If you would like to take part, email Katy at hope4justice.acton@gmail.com.