



# Churchfield Community Association



The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 38, Winter 2015

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

## Film Buffs Rejoice!

Sara Nathan



Coming to Acton Old Library soon?

Acton's film buffs were really quite excited to hear that Ealing Council had nominated Curzon Cinemas as its preferred purchaser of the Old Library site in the centre of Acton. Many residents were also sad that the Arts Centre had lost out, but consoled themselves by thinking that at least it wasn't to be merely a fast-food outlet with flats on top.

Curzon people are being distinctly cagey at the moment as the legal side isn't finalised. So, 'no comment' is the party line.

However, I gleaned that the plan is to have three screens – of differing though not yet finalised size. There will be a bar too. Maybe a café as well – though, unfortunately, not run by Konditor & Cook, the fabulous cake-makers who used to run the Curzon Soho café.

The site will also have a restaurant, not necessarily run by Curzon, plus three flats, certainly not developed by Curzon, because that's not what they do, apparently.

Final Heads of Agreement are due to be signed 'soon' according to my source, which will mean a firmer idea of what is planned. Until then, because of fear of letting their competitors know too much and because the Picturehouse project in the old Ballet Rambert site in Chiswick seems to have stalled for so long (possibly terminally), details are hard to ascertain. There are no dates for development, let alone opening.

However, we have been promised comments, statements and details as soon as the lawyers have done their worst or best.

In the meantime, Curzon will only say that they are particularly keen on this site because of its historic nature. They pointed me to a very similar development in Sheffield. A Curzon just opened in January 2015: a three-screen cinema with café and bar in a town-centre, grade II listed, former bank. It seems that they hope the Acton Curzon will be along the same lines.

Ealing Council commented only that they are 'currently finalising the legal arrangements with Curzon and expect them to submit a planning application in late Spring.' We will wait and see.

➤➤➤ **Viva Vindinista!—Park+Bridge wine bar opens—p.4**

# Raising Awareness About Mental Health

Susanne Hickmott

In its second successful year on Churchfield Road, CAPE Charity Shop is a hive of activity. Behind this enterprise is a large and active community endeavour.

CAPE (Community Activities Project Ealing), established in 1997, is an Acton-based charity for residents of the London Borough of Ealing who experience mental health problems. The charity offers social, therapeutic and flexible outreach support both at the centre and in the community.

Mental Health is an issue of our times. CAPE was established in the light of the growing numbers of individuals experiencing problems, the increasing awareness of their needs and a general concern about the attendant social isolation and need for daytime activities. The project aims to improve the quality of life of the people who use the service, enabling them to maximise opportunity and gain independence.

CAPE seeks to engage people in vocational and recreational activities of their own choice. These currently include: a pop-up choir, a walking group, a café, volunteering, art workshops, discussion group, baking, women's support and well-being, numeracy, literacy, news and current affairs, advocacy and therapeutic services.

At the heart of the project is the café where activities take place. It offers freshly cooked food and cakes to the three hundred members currently using the centre. The café is organised and run by both staff and CAPE charity members.

The CAPE Charity Shop was established to raise much needed funds for the charity. It also provides volunteering opportunities for CAPE members and local residents, and promotes the work of this valuable organisation.

The shop is a treat to visit. Welcoming and friendly, this is a boutique charity shop offering high quality goods which are displayed with taste and style. Everyone in the shop takes great pride in



Photo: Tom Doran

Volunteer, Margaret Pullman, and manager, Kathy Robson, at CAPE Charity Shop

making the shop an attractive, eye-catching and welcoming space.

There is a good range of jewellery for all tastes, scarves and accessories, as well as quality home wares, paintings, DVDs, CDs and vinyl records, all of which have been donated by local residents.

Clothing and bric-a-brac donations are always welcome and, if anyone is interested in volunteering, they are welcome to pop in and have a chat. Due to space restrictions and particular safety regulations, the shop is unfortunately unable to sell, and so cannot accept donations of, toys, games, sports equipment, baby equipment, furniture, bedding, towels or electrical goods. When donations are Gift Aided, the Charity receives an extra 25p per pound the item is sold for, so please sign up when donating.

CAPE Charity Shop is the public face of a charity dealing with issues that affect many people at some time in their lives. It is a local-based charity fulfilling a real need—a much needed haven for many members of our community.

CAPE Charity Shop  
41 Churchfield Rd, London W3 6AY  
TEL: 0208 993 8858

For further information on the work of the charity, visit the website at:

[www.c-a-p-e.co.uk](http://www.c-a-p-e.co.uk)

**Opening times:**

Tuesday—Friday: 10am to 5pm

Thursday: 10am to 7pm

Saturday: 9.30am to 4.30pm

## EVENTS

See: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)  
Social Secretary: Maysa Marques  
[marquesmaysa@yahoo.com](mailto:marquesmaysa@yahoo.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

4 March: *The Aeronaut*

1 April: *L'Oriental*

6 May: *George and Dragon*

3 June: *The Station House*

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](mailto:jme@aijk.org))

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### ◆ Pass On A Poem:

Friday 13 March, 7.00–9.30pm,  
Read a poem or just come and listen  
[lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk)

#### ◆ CCA Supper Quiz:

Saturday 18 April, 7 for 7.30pm  
*L'Oriental*, 94 Churchfield Road  
Friendly quiz, and Lebanese buffet.  
Cost: £10; booking essential.  
Contact: [paultalbot1961@gmail.com](mailto:paultalbot1961@gmail.com)

#### ◆ CCA Election Hustings:

Wednesday 29 April, *The Town Hall*  
Candidates from Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem, UKIP and Green parties—address and questions.

#### ◆ Wine Tasting at Vindinista!:

Tuesday 12 May, 7.00–9.00pm,  
*Vindinista!* 74 Churchfield Road  
'Wines Off The Beaten Track'  
Try wines + tasty food; £20 a head.  
10% discount on wine purchases.  
To book, contact Maysa Marques:  
[marquesmaysa@yahoo.com](mailto:marquesmaysa@yahoo.com). Cheque, payable to 'the CCA', to Maysa at:  
43 Maldon Rd., London W3 6SZ

### ACTON HISTORY GROUP

[www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/](http://www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/)  
Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287  
Free to members; non-members: £2  
All meetings 7.30pm, 2nd Wednesdays at St Mary's Church Hall, The Mount

◆ **Macdonald Gill, mapmaker, graphic designer and architect:**  
by Caroline Walker—11 March

◆ **Visit Dominion Centre Southall:**  
See 200+ Martinware pots. 10.30 at Ealing Broadway Station—15 April

◆ **Treasure Hunt walk in Acton:**  
Meet at St Mary's Church door, 7.30pm—13 May

# The Oaks: What's Going On?

Doug Carnegie

Nobody in Acton is fighting to keep The Oaks car park—it's a waste of space crying out for development. This development will happen. All but a handful of traders have already moved out. The new Oaks will be a combination of flats and supermarket, with parking serving both. The supermarket is set to be a big Waitrose, which makes some sense given the big supermarket just 100 yards away is a Morrisons.

It's how the Acton Regeneration Company (ARC) has gone about mixing those ingredients that has driven many to despair. But its half-baked plan only half explains why The Oaks Action Group has taken the case against it as far as The Court of Appeal. We hope they respond before February is out.

Opposition centred first on the flawed plan for a gated community in the heart of the town centre. The ARC utterly ignored two crucial guidelines that Ealing Council had sensibly insisted on. It demanded that any new Oaks plan should properly link the High Street with Churchfield Road to give local traders the footfall they craved. And it wanted the Burial Ground to have a recreation potential beyond lager consumption.

A decent thoroughfare at its south side and a way into public space among the flats would have met both conditions. Hey presto, locals and Council would have been more than satisfied. Happy days.

The ARC had other ideas, and turned the best one on its head. Instead of putting the parking underground and Waitrose at street level, it did things upside down. Their plan sinks the supermarket and skies a multi-storey car park, which could only be hidden by building a stadium-sized fortress of flats around it.

This drastic solution would severely cut light to homes opposite, and obliterate afternoon sunshine from the Burial Ground for most of the year, leaving it the domain of drinkers—as it is. The Council's conservation officer damned the plan as ugly, incoherent and short-sighted. Her report was binned; the Planning Committee wasn't given the chance to consider it.

Opposition to this dog's dinner development was then defeated by a single vote at Ealing Council's Planning Committee two Octobers ago. It is no longer disputed that a local councillor was removed from voting for fear he might not back the plan. That piece of political cynicism turned a local difficulty into one of national importance.

Our case for judicial review was considered strong enough to be taken on by specialist lawyers, Leigh Day, on a public interest basis. Our costs, should we lose, are limited to £10,000 – a sum pledged by more than eighty local residents (you can help bring down individual premiums with a pledge via the CCA's Nancy Duin: [nduin@nancyduin.net](mailto:nduin@nancyduin.net)).

After a lot of legal table tennis, the ARC and the Council firstly abandoned their absurd claim that Cllr Abdullah Gulaid was removed for being 'too local' to have an uncontaminated view. They then dropped the equally fanciful defence that he had publicly voiced misgivings about the plans.

He hadn't. His view that the plan 'fell short' of residents' hopes was only made clear from his non-voting speech, while his silent substitute confined his involvement to putting a hand up to carry the day. We claim the substitution was illegal.

This has left Council and developers betting the farm on an outrageous defence that will ring alarm bells for local democracy from Stornaway to St Ives. They now claim the Council can't be held responsible because the removal was a 'political decision' by the ruling party. It's a spectacularly affronting defence, worthy of a scene from *Alice in Wonderland*.

It doesn't take a genius to see this could open the door to widespread planning corruption. Unlike other council committees, decisions made by Planning are quasi-judicial. If majority parties are allowed to cherry-pick members after pre-determining their voting intentions, then we can all say goodbye to fair dealing.

And, if councils are allowed to wash their hands of guarding against such currently illegal process, then we can welcome back the dodgy days of T. Dan Smith, Poulson and a slew of other biddable politicians, as well as developers keen to bid for them. There's no suggestion this happened here, but such a precedent would make it more likely.

So, on those two grounds alone (bad design and bad news for local democracy), we will fight the current Oaks plan until the Council and the company come up with a better one. If we lose, both are on notice that we'll just as thoroughly examine their future plans for us with a very fine toothcomb.

Let's just hope the planning process and the law, both of which understandably favour developers, stick up for the local people who have to live with their decisions long after they have left the patch.

## Some developments being proposed for Acton

**Friary Park, opp. Acton Main Line station:** Plan to almost completely demolish the estate and rebuild, doubling 'units' to about 650, including 10, 14 and 20-storey towers.

**Crossrail/Acton Main Line station, Horn Lane:** CCA exec given a presentation about a possible new street plan.

**One Portal Way, Carphone Warehouse HQ North Acton:** Redevelopment: 700+ flats in 6 to 32-storey tower blocks, plus shops, leisure facilities and 'community space'.

**Old Acton Town Hall regeneration, Winchester Street:** The 1909–10 council building to be turned into about 70 residential units (20% 'affordable').

**Gala Bingo Hall, High Street:** There seems to be a hitch on lease being bought by charismatic church group.

**Acton Library, High Street:** Sold to Curzon Cinemas for redevelopment into three screens, restaurant, bar and three flats. No planning consent yet.

And ... **The Oaks** rumbles on – *see above*.

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Association (CCA) Issue 38,  
Winter 2015**

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 standing order (£2 concessions)  
Household—£12; £7.50 standing order



Free CCA bag  
See website

## Viva Vindinista!

Maureen Colledge talks to Paola Tich—joint manager of Park + Bridge with Mike Taylor

**MC: How did you and Mike become involved with wine selling?**

PT: We both used to be television news journalists. I moved into corporate communications and Mike into media technology. Wine started as an interest for me, then grew into an obsession. I gained qualifications and started a blog. I'm now combining previous skills with my love of wine. Mike has joined the business full-time.

**MC: How did the Park + Bridge Wine Shop come about?**

PT: We opened in Acton in April 2013. Our aim was to provide a neighbourhood wine shop, like you might find in New York, with a quirky selection. We'd looked at a former off-licence in Grove Park Chiswick, but that didn't happen, so we opened our shop here. We liked the fact that the road has independent shops and cafés, a busy station and you can park.

**MC: What wines are you interested in and sell?**

PT: We love wines that are made from unusual grapes, from less well-known regions, plus classics made by artisan producers. We also stock organic and biodynamic wine, and offer an alternative to supermarkets. Prices start at £7.99. Free Friday tastings give customers the chance to sample our wines. My rule is to make sure there is enough of a diversity in styles. If I were offered it, would I drink it?



Vindinista! at 74 Churchfield Road.

**MC: What else do you sell?**

PT: Craft beer (such as Two Cocks beers from Newbury), some craft spirits; plus fine chocolates, olives, cheese, crackers, AllPress coffee beans, nuts and Joe & Seph's Popcorn.

**MC: What are your hopes for the new wine bar?**

PT: Originally we wanted to open a shop and bar together but couldn't find a premises large enough. This place seemed right, and our customer base supports it. Our name chimes with Sandinista, so our theme is liberating lesser known wine regions and styles.

**MC: What do you offer in the bar?**

PT: We sell small and medium glasses, carafes and bottles at a range of prices. The choice of wines will change regularly, except for house white, red

and Prosecco. We also have different beers and, food-wise, mainly cheese, and charcuterie. Our duck rillettes and pâté are made in Acton by Mr Duck's Delicacies and our bread is from MARC Patisserie & Bakery. We hope to offer hot food from time to time.

**MC: Can you book?**

PT: Not at the moment but, when our small side room is finished, that will be available for private hire.

**MC: What are the synergies between the bar and the shop?**

PT: There are more opportunities to try before you buy, as all the wines are currently from the shop. We'll add some more exclusive to the bar, but our licence allows for off-sales, too, so you can take home any bottle with a 10% reduction. We've hired a bar manager, Stacy Pickard, previously at a top city restaurant, and we'll hire another member of staff too, so Mike and I can still spend time in the shop.

**MC: What changes have you seen in Churchfield Road?**

PT: At first we thought we should be up the station end. But we're very happy with where we are now. It's good to see Churchfield Road, beyond Spencer Road, starting to transform.

**MC: Anything else?**

PT: We only take debit or credit cards—not cash—for security reasons, and the toilet is outside. We're calling it the inconvenience!

## Acton Suspiciously Beats The Undecided

Susi Kirkwood

Another terrific CCA Supper Quiz took place at the end of January at L'Oriental. Five teams, led by quiz masters, Paul and Philippe, ate delicious Lebanese finger food while having a drink. Then it was all go.

Sheets of photos depicting people and places were handed round to identify connections. We pored over strange sets of images representing pairs such as 'Starsky & Hutch'. And puzzled over clues where 6-letter words could be extended to make 7-letter words.

Other rounds included 'Oh Dear!' and TV theme tunes, and there were anagrams to solve.

Acton Suspiciously won, followed by Syrizza Yippee!, Seven Droogs, The Undecided and Maldon Salts. There were only 12 points between us all.

CCA quizzes are a fun way to meet other members and friends. The mix of questions allows everyone to answer at least a few of them.

**Next quiz:** Saturday 18 April, 7 for 7.30pm at L'Oriental, 94 Churchfield Road.

### Nature notes for January

Four Fieldfares seen on the playing field in Acton Park in January. And a glorious carpet of snowdrops with yellow winter aconites under the trees. Even a few daffodils in flower near the café.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker was in the Sycamore trees in Goldsmith Avenue. Meanwhile, Goldsmith Road residents are welcoming gangs of goldfinches.

**Viva Vindinista!—exclusive wine tasting for CCA members  
Tuesday 12 May, 7-9pm—20 places available (see Events)**