



Churchfield Community Association



The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 39, Spring 2015

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

Feisty atmosphere at local hustings

Sara Nathan



Standing room only at the local Hustings on April 29th.

From left to right: Jon Ball (Lib Dem), Angie Bray (Conservative), Peter Florence (UKIP), Sara Nathan (Chair), Rupa Huq (Labour), Tom Sharman (Green)

The General Elections Hustings, hosted by the CCA on April 29th was the biggest event the association has ever run.

It was heartening to see nearly 200 people engage in serious political debate with the candidates for over two hours.

We had warned the audience to be early, but by twenty minutes before kick-off, all 110 seats were taken in the largest room in the Town Hall. And still the crowds came. Nothing like being a key marginal for sparking interest!

The meeting began with five-minute speeches from eight of the nine candidates standing in Ealing Central and Acton.

Some spiky moments and some heckling too

Then the questions started, covering: housing, excessive development, the NHS, education, the indefinite detention of asylum-seekers, campaign funding and what should happen to non-doms.

There was a feisty atmosphere, some spiky moments, and some heckling too. But a young woman asking about gay rights successfully appealed for an end to yah-booery. The last round of Q&A, including party policies on climate change and the SNP, was a tour de force by the speakers, who amazingly responded on all three topics in two minutes each.

The evening finished with the candidates from the five parties standing in more than half the nation's constituencies giving a one minute summary of why the audience should vote for them.

Did anyone change their minds or make up their minds as a result of the evening's debate? Whether they did or not, by the end they will have known what they were voting for—or against.

We apologise to those who were turned away by the centre management and our CCA trustees. With the mayoral elections looming, we'll need a bigger venue for a similar event in the future.

Afterwards, the prospect, then, of another election in October and a Hustings re-run, meant the organisers deserved, and went for, a large restorative drink.

➤➤➤ **Acton Carnival—Saturday 11 July, 12 noon to 7pm**
We need things to sell and people to help on the day!
Please contact Nancy Duin: nduin@nancyduin.net

'Bubble' money for Bookswap

Sara Nathan

Ealing Council has awarded the CCA Bookswap at Acton Central Station £200 out of its 'Bubble' community projects fund.

We can now afford to print labels to put on the books. We hope this will encourage more people to return the books when they've finished reading them.

We stressed that the bookswap encourages community building and cohesiveness. We said that we've had books in Arabic, Dutch, French, Italian, Polish, Russian and Urdu.

We emphasised that we cater for everyone (from small children to pensioners), and that all seem to appreciate it.

The bookswap has been running for nearly three years now. It has become an integral part of life in Acton Central, bringing a community feel to station and staff.

The CCA has provided three thousand stickers so far, to encourage borrowers to read and return books. Many other volumes have been donated without stickers.

Acquiring the sticky labels is a pricy business, so we're very grateful for the financial support from Bubble.

We hope the bookswap will continue to go from strength to strength.

Michael Torpey—1950 to 2015

Picot Cassidy

A smiling face familiar to people passing through Acton Central Station no longer appears at the ticket office window.

Michael Torpey, who worked at the station for over twenty years, died in February from pneumonia while being treated for leukaemia.

Originally from Borrisokane in County Tipperary, in the Republic of Ireland, Michael brought a special blend of friendliness, courtesy and humour when helping local people using the station.

He is much missed by his colleagues at the station, as well as passengers and people in the area.

A memorial service was held on 28 March at The Presbytery

in Ogle Street, W1—a church that Michael attended. Family members from Ireland, colleagues and people from Acton came to pay their respects.



Michael Torpey—a special blend of friendliness, courage and humour

Would you like to edit the CCA Newsletter?

If so, contact Linda Taylor—lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk

- ◆ We have an experienced group of contributors and welcome new ideas and input
- ◆ It's easy to learn how to use a newsletter programme—you just need a computer

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org

Social Secretary: Maysa Marques

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

3 June: The Station House

1 July: The Station House

5 August: The Rocket

[provided no football match is being shown]

2 Sept: L'Oriental

If you've never been to a CCA social and would like to go with someone, Jill Williams could meet you beforehand (jme@aijk.org)

SPECIAL EVENTS

◆ Diabetes Champions:

Two-day course: 11 & 12 June,

9.30am at Oaktree Community Centre, Osborne Road, W3 8SJ

Information sessions, and the chance to become a risk assessor. Certificate and £25 gift voucher awarded. To register: 02089936158; rachel@actonforum.org

◆ Pass On A Poem:

Saturday 20 June, 7.00–9.30pm,

at Sarah Hamilton-Fairley's home

Read a poem or just come and listen

linda@poetshouse.net

◆ CCA Summer Party:

Saturday 18 July, 4-7pm

Enjoy a drink and food in a lovely garden.

Let Maysa know if you'd like to come:

marquesmaysa@yahoo.co.uk

Please bring a bottle / dish of food

◆ CCA Supper Quiz: Saturday 19 Sept,

7 for 7.30pm at L'Oriental, Churchfield Rd

Quiz and buffet. Cost: £10—must book.

Contact: paultalbot1961@gmail.com

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/

Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287

Free to members; non-members: £2

Most meetings 7.30pm, 2nd Wednesdays at St Mary's Church Hall, The Mount

◆ AGM + South Acton Heritage Project film and refreshments: Weds. 10 June

◆ Visit to Imperial War Museum:

WW1 items, including Acton artist Topham Vinall's painting of marching munitionettes 11am at IWM entrance—Weds. 15 July

◆ Two Hour Canal Boat Trip:

From Packet Boat Marina, Uxbridge.

11am, Sunday 9 Aug. £5—must book

Tel. David Bays on 020 8992 0287

◆ Groundwork's London's Foundations

Brick Project: 7.30pm, 9 September

Talk by Dhush Selvarajah

Friary Park 'regeneration' controversy

Angela Jullings

In October 2014 residents of Acton Central became aware that the Friary Park estate would soon be the centre of controversy.

With the advent of Crossrail, one might expect some 'cashing in' by the housing market. But, when Catalyst Housing Association, announced their plan to 'regenerate' Friary Park, no-one imagined they would propose demolition of 224 homes built 30 years ago, replaced by about 650 flats within towers of six to twenty-nine storeys.

We formed FGRA (Friary Green Residents' Association) to give us a united voice. Since then, we've studied planning policies, the London Plan, the Localism Act and the Local Plan. We've also campaigned and lobbied for a more appropriate proposal to be considered.

Catalyst claims their proposal was triggered by the sub-standard accommodation in Friary Park—residents having been given a tick-box questionnaire to assess their dissatisfaction. FGRA discovered that the questionnaire contained leading questions, favouring complete dissatisfaction with the accommodation. Catalyst then proposed to demolish rather than refurbish the site.

Cashing in by the housing market puts homes at risk

Residents deserve better. They do suffer from drafts, thin walls, noise and heating problems, and the spare bedrooms are too small. While we believe refurbishment is a possibility, maintenance hasn't been a priority over the past few years. We also question the magnitude of the build, its density, heights and appropriateness.

Acton Central is categorised as a suburban area. But density levels and heights of these towers are urban PTAL (public transport accessibility level) density ratings. The 20 to 29 storey 'landmark' building is inappropriate in a suburban area, and would set a

precedent for more of this type of building in Acton Central.

Catalyst's proposal also includes a move to acquire Friars Green as part of the estate. The road round the green would be blocked to join it with the estate. Local traffic would then be forced down a narrow road. There would be a struggle to find any green space.



Proposed : a 20-29 storey 'landmark' building

There are single residents living on the estate in bedsits, which will not be replaced, while only 50% of one-bedroomed flats will be rebuilt. As a result, only 50% of couples can return and none of the single residents.

Antilles House (a sheltered home for the elderly) will remain in situ. Why should the elderly remain to endure inferior housing and seven years of disturbance, noise and air pollution?

Ealing's Planning Department has not given us any reports or pre-planning information about the proposals, though we found that an EIA (environmental impact assessment) had been 'waived'.

There will be a huge environmental impact on the area, from pollution, increased density levels, re-designation from suburban to urban, increase in traffic, and rat-running through the estate. And, with the arrival of over 2,500 people, where will school places

and GP services come from? The infrastructure isn't there to support this development.

No extra social housing is included in the proposal, though there will be about 420 private flats for sale. It's feared that many may lay empty or be rented out by absent landlords. Private flats will be sold through the subsidiary company, Catalyst By Design Co Ltd. We ask who is benefiting from this overdevelopment?

High density development would mean a struggle for green space

To find out more, we've attended workshops arranged by Catalyst, and held a special meeting with Catalyst, council officers and residents for a Q&A evening. Catalyst blames the Council for 'driving the figures on density and height upwards'. The Council blames Mayor Boris Johnson for the London Plan policies.

We've asked who is driving this project and why this regeneration is designer led rather than area needs led. Our online petition asks Ealing Council's chief executive to stop this proposal in its current format. After the discovery of a £30m loan agreed by Ealing Council with Catalyst, we've written again, questioning the integrity of the loan and requesting a full EIA report be carried out before going any further.

The FGRA Committee has now met with our new MP, Rupa Huq, who has pledged to preserve and protect Ealing and Acton's quintessential suburban character. We're hopeful that she can broker a democratic platform between residents, Catalyst and the Council, in order to find a more viable solution than that proposed at the moment.

See website for online petition:

www.friarygreenresidents.org.uk

Tweet: twitter.com/friarygreenres1

twitter.com/SkyscraperActon

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



**Free CCA bag
See website**



Wines off the beaten track

Maureen Colledge

Ortrugo, Marsanne, Monastrell, Zeni and Susumaniello were just some of the unusual wines we were introduced to at the CCA's wine tasting at *Vindinista!* on 12 May. Fourteen of us gathered to sample wines, bread, cheeses, olives, dips and pâté from Park + Bridge's range.

Unusual wines at CCA wine tasting

Paola Tich gave an introduction on the origins of each wine. Then we sipped the wines as conversation hummed. Even debates

about the recent election result ended convivially, as a warm glow enveloped us.

The creamy blue Beauvale cheese was also memorable. We appreciated the special 10% discount on bottles tasted, and several of us stocked up.

My personal favourites:

- ♦ Bonelli Ortugo 2013, a lovely alternative to Prosecco (£12.95)
- ♦ Bernabe Navarro Tragolargo Monastrell 2013, a light red—can be chilled for summer drinking (£9.95)
- ♦ Masseria Li Veli Askos Susumaniello 2012, an aromatic red for special occasions (£18.50).

It's well worth popping into *Vindinista!* for a quality glass of wine.



Convivial debates enveloped by a warm glow

Hidden Talents defeat Key Marginals

Susi Kirkwood

Our spring CCA Supper Quiz, downstairs at L'Oriental was a very enjoyable evening. By 7.15, about thirty people were sitting at five team tables enjoying a drink and some delectable Lebanese food, cooked by Paula and Tony.

Our inspired quiz masters, Paul and Philippe, had prepared a number of rounds, including

questions with answers ending in Q, P or R, 'connections' and 'kings'. We pored over mysterious photos with a 'wings' theme, puzzled over film acronyms and named obscure stations on a tube map.

Hidden Talents won with 118.5 points, followed by Key Marginals, Acton Suspiciously, The Magnificent Seven and Maldon Salts.

CCA quizzes provide a pleasant way to meet CCA members and their friends over a delicious supper. Paul and Philippe ensure a mix of general knowledge questions and puzzles so that everyone feels included.

Book for our next CCA Quiz: Saturday 19 September, 7 for 7.30, paultalbot1961@gmail.com

Sign up for the Acton Central Email List Nancy Dean

The CCA email list comprises over 110 households. Once you join, you can ask questions (such as 'Who knows a good plumber?'), send messages to the whole list and get good local information back. It's called 'actoncentralemailgroup', but it's run by the CCA.

Yahoo Groups seem to have fixed the problem we had with adding new members. I recently invited 121 people to join; Yahoo then sends an invitation. But only a few people have responded.

The rest may not want to join, or may not realise that the invitation

was from the CCA because of the list's name.

If you do want to join, but didn't get an invitation or discarded the one you did get, please email me at: nduin@nancy_duin.net. It's a major benefit of membership, which I'm trying to get to work!