



# Churchfield Community Association

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

### **OVERVIEW**

Bouncing back after COVID, we have achieved much during the year, holding monthly book swap stalls at the Market, campaigning on idling at the level crossing and on disabled parking, holding quizzes and a summer party, and producing and delivering two newsletters.

We have also been able to make some significant donations during the year: to APPLE, based in Acton Park, towards their new kitchen and at the summer garden party to the Sepsis Trust which raises awareness of Sepsis, especially among health professionals, as this is the charity of our host.

None of this would be possible without a small number of members putting in a great deal of work: so thanks go to the Executive for keeping everything going; to members who have come forward to help on stalls and campaigns; to our quiz master, Paul Talbot, who has continued to do quizzes for us despite moving to Kent; to our newsletter editor, Linda Taylor, who designs the newsletter; and to the several members who deliver around 200 copies of the newsletter locally.

Some of you will know that our Chair for many years, Chris Hurley, had to stand down suddenly in September due to the reoccurrence of a cancer she had fought off a few years ago. She is now undergoing treatment and hopes to return to us some time in the future. We wish her well and hope for a successful outcome and a speedy recovery. We are very grateful for all the sterling work she did chairing meetings including AGMs, Election Hustings and our regular Executive meetings, as well as organising activities. She is sorely missed and we now need to elect a new Chair.

We are down to five members on our Executive while only a few years ago we had twelve. We need some new ideas and people willing to put them into effect. It's not a big commitment in terms of meetings - we meet about five times a year on a Monday evening for about an hour and a half and from next year will meet in members' houses again which makes it a bit of a social occasion. So please think about whether you can do something for your community and join our Exec.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We currently have 210 households and businesses as members, which is up from what we reported last year but the figures last year were slightly under counted. Our email list has 153 members - so there are quite a few members who we do not reach by email. If you are one, then you can request to join via <https://mailmanlists.uk/mailman/listinfo/ccca> or send an email to [membership@churchfield.org](mailto:membership@churchfield.org) and ask to join.

Our Facebook page now has more than 400 users (up from around 300 last year!). So, if you are on our Facebook group but not yet a CCA member please join! You can do so online here: [www.churchfield.org/how-to-join](http://www.churchfield.org/how-to-join).

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Planning applications**

We continue to monitor major planning issues and applications, liaising with Canforum and Ealing Matters. The Ealing Local Plan is still being worked on - and the council consultation on some aspects remains open until the end of January 2024.

[www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201164/local\\_plan/3125/new\\_local\\_plan](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201164/local_plan/3125/new_local_plan)

The application (223203FUL) to build an extra tower (20 storeys) and some smaller buildings at Steyne Road (the site of the existing towers opposite Morrisons, near the police station) was approved in February 2023. Over 150 objections from local residents. Presumably work will start in 2024.

Another large application (225069FUL) was granted, in July 2023, on Horn Lane - the site occupied by Builder Depot today (next to Acton House, near Acton Main Line station). It is a mixed height development of up to 15 storeys and will have 185 flats.

### **Parking spaces for disabled people**

The CCA has been following up the extension of loading only parking bays and the obstruction of some bays, particularly those in Acton High Street, with benches and planters. The parking bays are needed by disabled people who want to shop, attend events and play a part in the community. The benches and planters appeared during lockdown. Despite having approached several councillors, the CCA has yet to establish if there was an Equality Impact Assessment done before the benches and planters were installed, and, if so, what it said. The CCA plan to pursue this issue in the coming year.

### **Clean air campaign**

Collaborating with Ealing Friends of the Earth and Friends of Friars Gardens, we took part in two actions this year on the issue of engine idling at the Level Crossing in Churchfield Road. In the past we had successfully campaigned for signs at the crossing telling drivers to switch off when the gates are down, but some ignored or were unaware it meant them! Air quality monitors have shown poor readings at the Crossing, which is heavily used by pedestrians and has narrow pavements. The actions took place on 10 June and 31 October, with banners and placards raised when the gates were down and an educational leaflet about switching off given to drivers who left their engines running. Several members took part and were often rewarded by thanks from passers by, especially parents collecting their children from school at the time of the October action.

The CCA had also campaigned for several years to have the yellow box at the Level Crossing repainted which it finally was, and in March a yellow box was installed at the end of Goldsmith Road where it meets Churchfield Road to help reduce congestion.

### **Banking Hub**

A new Banking Hub started up on 5<sup>th</sup> June with the official opening taking place a few days later in the presence of money expert Martin Lewis and local grandees, including our own chair Chris Hurley. This is part of a national pilot scheme and we have publicised it in our

newsletter and on the station poster board, urging members to use it. However it's not a substitute for a proper post office with banking facilities which we would like to see return to Acton.

### **Book Swaps/Stalls**

Some years ago the CCA initiated a book swap inside Acton Central station using old bookcases. This proved popular and we were pleased to see it expand, with this year new larger bookcases being provided. We don't know who did this, but would like to thank them.

Inspired by this, we decided to have book swap stalls at the monthly Reuse and Recycle Markets on the first Saturday of the month at the Mount. It's one of the more popular stalls in this part of market, with people donating books and taking them away. We also use the opportunity to talk to people about the CCA and give them a newsletter and joining form if they are interested. Several members have helped on these stalls which we had in February, March, April, June, July, Sept and Nov this year.

### **Bi-centennial celebrations for John Passmore Edwards**

We publicised and supported the bi-centennial celebrations of John Passmore Edwards birth, 200 years ago. Passmore Edwards was the philanthropist who donated the money to create the Library building which is now the ActOne cinema. An exhibition, screening and tea organised by Acton History Group was held at the cinema on 21<sup>st</sup> September, attended by many CCA members. An afternoon tea was also held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Acton Care Centre, organised by Acton History Group and the Care Centre, as Passmore Edwards gave the money to build the original Cottage Hospital in Gunnersbury Lane which is now part of the Care Centre.

### **Acton Central Station Noticeboard**

We continued to maintain the public noticeboard outside Acton Central Station advertising local classes, concerts, films, social events and other activities. A phone number is given on the board for community groups or members wanting posters to be put up.

### **SOCIALS**

CCA social events are open to CCA members and their friends, and also to anyone thinking of joining the CCA. The aim is to offer opportunities to meet up socially with others who live and/or work in our neighbourhood. We held two quizzes at the L'Oriental restaurant in Churchfield Road, on 12 April and 5 July, enjoyed by 30 and 24 people respectively. We returned to the lovely garden in Cumberland Park on 2 July for our summer party, attended by 25 people, including the Mayor of Ealing, Acton Councillor Hitesh Tailor. Our Xmas Social and Quiz will be taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> December at the Rocket pub in Churchfield Road and members and their friends are encouraged to attend.

### **NEWSLETTER**

We produced and distributed 2 printed Newsletters during the year: Spring 2023 (in May) and Autumn 2023 (in November). These were in colour, with masthead colours suiting the season. A regular feature now in the Newsletter is to publicise the business comings and goings on Churchfield Road. Our thanks go to our continuing editor, Linda Taylor, who maintains a high standard of design and content. Thanks also to all item contributors.

## **WEBSITE**

The CCA website at <https://churchfield.org> is now updated for events by Paul Webster and has had a few updates over the year.

The Directory section of the site has been updated with links and other information refreshed. If you have other local organisations that you think should be there or corrections to be made, then send an email using the link on that page <https://churchfield.org/directory>

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

We met 5 times on Zoom during the year, in Feb, April, June, Sept & Nov. Current members are: Maureen Colledge, secretary; Matthew Stower, treasurer; Paul Webster, membership, planning & website; David Wootton, campaigns, and Janet Mearns. Until Sept, our Chair was Chris Hurley.