



CCA Acton Newsletter

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA)
Issue 61, Autumn 2025



The Churchfield Community Association welcomes people living and working around Churchfield Road W3 who are interested in making a difference to our area.

Acton Park Pond

Jon Blend and Maureen Colledge

A few years ago, Acton Park had a new pond with a bridge, water plants and wildlife. It has sadly deteriorated through lack of maintenance. The pond became clogged with debris and weeds; the surrounding wooden fence was collapsing, with the risk that a child or dog could fall in.

Sixteen months ago, CCA member, Jon Blend, raised the state of the pond with Ealing Council park rangers. As a result temporary metal mesh fencing was put up round the pond, and Jon understood that it was going to be relined in autumn 2024.

This didn't happen, but a chemical was added to the water that turned the water blue. Practically all the local wildlife, such as the ducks and moorhens, abandoned the pond.

Frustrated with the lack of action, Jon contacted the rangers again in September 2025. He also wrote to our local MP, Rupa Huq, whose office contacted Ealing asking them to give advice.



Acton Park Pond October 2025 with CCA notice about temporary fencing and blue dye

On 21st September 2025, Jon received a reply from the Parks Service saying that the pond was partially cleared each September and had been completely clear in October 2024, though several logs remained visible.

They explained that the water changed colour due to a dye added to inhibit the ability of duckweed and blanketweed to photosynthesise.

Apparently, the dye is harmless to aquatic life and has been used successfully in ponds across the borough. A promise of metal fencing was given, to replace the existing damaged fencing.

We suspect that the ranger service lacks the funds and resources for this work, and that continued pressure is needed to get the pond properly restored.

We have started by putting a laminated notice on the metal fencing round the pond, which explains the situation and urges concerned residents to contact the East Acton Councillors as the park is in their ward.

We are looking into applying to the new fund of £80,000, which Ealing has allocated to Acton for projects that support the priority of a 'Clean and Pleasant Area'. Contact is also being made with others who might work with us or support a grant application.

If you can help with this, please get in touch by emailing Maureen at bayscolledge@talktalk.net.

CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Seasonal AGM, Buffet and Quiz

Wednesday 26 November 2025 from 6.30pm

The Rocket pub, Churchfield Road

Like last year we are combining our AGM and Xmas Social.

We will start with a short formal AGM, then a delicious buffet and a sociable quiz.

The AGM is open to all. Buffet and Quiz £20. Payment in advance by cheque or bank transfer.

Please book places by emailing bayscolledge@talktalk.net



News from Your Acton BID

Natasha Patel (BID manager)

Your Acton cleaning buggy



Your Acton BID brings a brand-new cleaning service to the streets of Acton: our Acton Ranger in the BID-branded buggy.

Buggies will be on duty five days a week for BID businesses, including collecting open waste and jet washing.

The Goupil buggy is a fully electric utility vehicle, designed for city centres and industrial sites, and ideally suited for watering and waste collection.

This cleaning system has been created by Acton BID to supplement, not replace, services provided by Ealing Council.

Your Acton BID Makers' Market

Saturday 13th December: Save the date, for the final Makers' Market of 2025 on Churchfield Road!

Acton Xmas lights switch-on

Join us on Sunday 23rd November from 10:00am, when Your Acton Christmas Market returns: bigger, brighter and more magical!

Browse the Makers' Market, packed with unique, sustainable Christmas gifts, perfect for treating your loved ones. Enjoy live carol singing, dance performances, and sip mulled wine or cider.



Let the kids get creative at the craft stall, where they can write their wish lists to Santa and create their own Christmas cards.



Acton is not a tip

David Wootton

'Acton is our home, not a tip' states the A5 flyer leaflet. This summer 2025 has seen a change of tack by LBE on fly-tipping and fly-tippers.

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for fly-tipping have now had their maximum charge raised to £1000.

Hopefully many of you will have become aware of the bright yellow 'FLY TIP UNDER INVESTIGATION' tape wrapped around fly-tips with a date recorded on the warning notice.

You may also have seen the GEL (Greener Ealing Ltd) gloved-up enforcement officer preceding the refuse collection lorry checking for evidence of address etc before the fly tip is removed.

Ealing council has also launched a 'Name and Shame' website where videos are shown under the heading: 'Can you identify these fly-tippers?' We are asked to email name_and_shame@ealing.gov.uk with any information we have.

https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201221/fly-tipping/197/name_and_shame

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org

Find us on Facebook

Any ideas for social activities, contact chair, David Wootton:
hello@churchfield.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

◆ CCA AGM, Buffet and Quiz:

The AGM is open to all; buffet and quiz cost £20. Payment in advance by cheque or bank transfer bayscolledge@talktalk.net
Wednesday 26 November, from 6.30pm, at The Rocket pub in Churchfield Road.

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

www.actonhistory.co.uk/acton/

Details: David Bays

020 8992 0287; 07952 839653

Free to members; visitors £2

◆ Talk by Jonathan Oates:

'Agatha Christie and Ealing'
Wednesday 12 November, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church Hall

◆ Seasonal Quiz:

Wednesday 10 December, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church Hall

ActOne CINEMA

www.actonecinema.co.uk

ActOne is open over the festive period, except 25th December.

On 10th December the cinema will be screening a live performance from The Royal Ballet of *The Nutcracker*.

'Muppet Christmas Carol Drink-and-Sing-along' screening on the evenings of the 13th and 18th December.

Festive workshops and other events in the lounge to be confirmed on the website: www.actonecinema.co.uk

Acton is our home, not a tip
Stop fly-tipping

The council spends over £3 million every year on fly tip removal and disposal across the borough.

Fly-tipping is...

- household or business waste left next to bins or street furniture when it is not collection day
- white goods, furniture and mattresses
- leaving items around recycling or charity banks

Fly-tipping is illegal and you will be caught.
There were 374 FPNs issued for fly-tipping in Acton in 2024.

Report a fly-tip or fly-tipper...

- on the Love Clean Streets app www.lovecleanstreets.com
- on our website www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit
- www.ealing.gov.uk/flytip

Max fine £1,000

Update on rental e-Bikes parking

'It's like the Wild West out there'

David Wootton

I've heard the comment, "It's like the Wild West out there", in conversation with local residents and businesses recently. Rental e-Bikes are being left on pavements, private property and in our parks.

Commercial hire e-Bikes, such as Lime, Forest and Voi, can be policed by their companies' software. They know exactly where every bike is, whether in use or parked. Lime bike users can be fined up to £20 for not parking in a designated parking place.

Ealing highways department has tightened up on e-Bike hire companies, enforcing them to issue fines for illegal parking.

Since the council has redesignated some car parking bays, making them into e-Bike and e-Scooter parking bays only, the issue of Lime bike parking on the pavement in Churchfield Road should become a thing of the past.



Churchfield Road e-Scooter and e-Bike parking bay

We need to campaign to get LBE to make Acton Parks geofenced, whereby technology creates a virtual geographic boundary. This enables software to trigger a response when a mobile device, such as Lime or Forest bikes, enters or leaves a particular area. The 'No Parking' zone around Acton mainline station now prevents Lime bike riders from finishing a ride in a specified area.

Hounslow Council has withdrawn the licence for Lime bikes within the whole of the borough due to poor cyclist habits. But, Forest bikes are still permitted.

This has created further issues: Lime bikes are now abandoned when their electric motor cuts out as they attempt to cross into Hounslow. Riders then look for Forest bikes to continue their journey.

The Ealing side of the Hounslow boundary has a hundred metre 'slow zone' that automatically reduces the maximum speed from 15.4mph to 7mph, warning riders that the e-bike is about to lose its power completely.

For my next piece about e-Bikes, I will attempt to update the issue of private owner e-Bikes used by the likes of Deliveroo and Just Eat and the fact that approximately 80% are used illegally.

And, finally, a post office in the High Street

Maureen Colledge and Janet Mearns

After years of local campaigning, including pressure from our MP, the Post Office has found a place willing to host a branch office in Central Acton.

The unlikely venue is a bubble tearoom called Chatime at 96 High Street, Acton W3 6QX, almost opposite ActOne Cinema. The notice on the door offers long hours and many services, but the reality is slightly different.

According to the postmaster, the hours are 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday. On Sunday it's closed. The services are: banking, letters and parcel services; collect and return and bill payment, but not foreign currency.

It is also not easy for those who need to park close by, even Blue Badge holders. This is due to the cycle lane outside and other restrictions. Blue Badge holders may be able to park on the double yellow lines nearby or use the Blue Badge space at the side of ActOne Cinema. The post offices in The Vale or Horn Lane might be more suitable if you are reliant on parking.

The business has been very quiet so far. Perhaps few people know it is there, but at least the queue shouldn't be long. Let's hope it doesn't go the way of the post office that opened for a few months in Gunnersbury Lane and then abruptly shut.



The front of Chatime, with the NatWest cashpoint outside, which also has a payphone

➤ **View recent and past newsletters on the CCA website: www.churchfield.org**



CCA QR Code links to CCA Website

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To contact the CCA secretary:
Email: hello@churchfield.org
Website: www.churchfield.org

JOIN THE CCA

- ◆ Vote at meetings
 - ◆ Receive invitations to members' events
 - ◆ Join the CCA email group
- Annual Membership fee** (*Standing orders only*)
Single/Business – £5
Household – £7.50

L'Oriental bids farewell

Maureen Colledge

Twenty-two years of serving fine Lebanese food ended in September 2025 when Tony Constantin and his wife, Paula Gomez, closed the doors on their restaurant L'Oriental in Churchfield Road.



Tony Constantin and Paula Gomez sitting in front of the restaurant

Set up by Tony's friends, Joseph and Jocelyn in 2003, six months later Tony gave up his job in hospital catering to take over the enterprise with his brother. Tony's brother left shortly after; so, by January 2004, Tony and Paula were running the business.

The restaurant was a favourite for locals who valued a homely atmosphere and good, reasonably priced food. Over the years they hosted many CCA quizzes, serving mezzes and Lebanese wine.

It was also visited by some famous names. Marco Pierre White dined there, as did Emilia Fox and Anna Chancellor. An episode of BBC's New Tricks was filmed using the restaurant.

Celebrations, such as wedding receptions, took place downstairs, and Tony provided catering, including for our AGMs.



Amanda Redman and Alun Armstrong from BBC's 'New Tricks', with local man Tom Doran. An episode was filmed using the restaurant.

In 2019, many CCA members supported Tony in opposing a planning application to turn L'Oriental into housing. The owner gave in and agreed a short lease, which ended in September when Tony decided to retire.

Asked what Tony took away from his 22 years in Acton, he said, "Normally I have changed jobs every ten years, but when I came to Acton, I found it was a community like no other."

'Met Engage': new crime liaison arrangements

Paul Webster

There is a new way for the local community to engage with the local police force called 'Met Engage': <https://metengage.co.uk>.

Some of you might remember, or even have joined, OWL (Online Watch Link) in the past. It looks like this is the replacement for it.

If you sign up on the website, which only takes a couple of minutes, then it will send you occasional notifications by email based on preferences that you can configure for your profile.

You can also view relevant alerts via the website. This is a two-way system: you receive information from the Met and you can let them know what you see as priorities.

For example, it shows that more people have said 'burglary', 'theft of/from vehicles' and 'drug dealing/use', which are in their top concerns.

This helps the police when they are determining activities for their local officers.

Note, however, it is not a crime reporting system. You should use the regular routes for that such as telephoning 999 emergencies, 101 for other things, or a new on-line system:

<https://www.met.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/>

Mosaic roundel unveiled at Acton Central Station



The new mosaics at Overground stations celebrate the renamed line names.