

STOCKFIELD VILLAGE NEWS



Stockfield
Community
Association

The quarterly Newsletter from Stockfield Community Association

Issue 52
Spring 2018

BUMPER EASTER ISSUE COMPETITION TIME

It's coming up to Easter and as the design competition was so well received last year we thought we would do it again.

The same rules apply and the competition is open to all 4 – 15 years old with a prize to share with friends in the following categories:

-  Up to 7
-  7-11 and
-  11-15



So what do you need to do?

In the centrefold is an Easter inspired design. All you have to do is be creative directly onto the template. The picture can be decorated however you like, be as inventive as you want; we loved it last year and are really looking forward to seeing the exciting designs this year.

Once your design has been completed make sure you add your details, name, age and contact then drop your completed design into

Costcutter and Post Office, 61-63 Yardley Road, Acocks Green B27 6LL

When you drop off your design it will be exchanged for a packet of Cadbury Mini Eggs.

The Closing Date for the Ester design competition is **Friday 6th April**; all winners will be contacted after that date - so get creating. Winning designs will be posted on our local noticeboards and the Stockfield Community Association Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/Stockfield/



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Stockfield Making Memories Sharing Memories Intergenerational Project

It is incredible to take a moment to reflect back and see that we are now 8 months into our 12 month project.

The time has flown by and this is partly due to the fact that the sessions delivered so far have been a pleasure and so much fun.

We have already

- delivered a week of summer Play in the Park in July of last summer 2017,
- held 2 tea dances,
- had a fantastic Christmas meal sharing lovely presents whilst enjoying great entertainment and
- held 3 'Heritage of Play' sessions at Carrs Lane Gardens

We are pleased to say the sessions have been well attended. We have spent many lovely hours having tea, a chat and a dance. We've also been reminiscing about how we used to play, our family homes, the sweets we used to eat and most recently smells that take us back to those days of our childhood – coal tar and carbolic soap bringing back strong memories of home and school days.

It's not too late to get involved and be part of the fun we still have

- 5 'extend' classes to run – light chair based exercise
Wednesday 14th March, 4th April, 18th April, 9th May and 30th May. Classes start at **10.30am** and will be held in the **Arthur Moore Hall** of the Baptist Church entrance on Alexander Road B27 6HE
- 3 Heritage sessions - Reminisce about childhood experiences. Share stories of play and growing up where you lived as a child.
Wednesday 28th March, 25th April and 23rd May. Sessions are from **11an – 1pm** venue **Carrs Lane Gardens, Teall Close, Station Road, B27 6DH**
- 2 tea dances - Join us for tea, coffee and cake, music enjoying a fun and relaxed afternoon. **Tuesday 10th April and 12th June.** Beginning at **1pm** held in the **Arthur Moore Hall** of the Baptist Church entrance on Alexander Road B27 6HE
- A trip to Blakesley Hall in June (*date to be arranged*) will be a fantastic way to end an action packed first year of extra activities.

Please get in touch if you are interested in coming along to any of the sessions, we would love to see you.
Call Emma at BPCN on 0121 236 2917 or Daphne (Stockfield) on 07847788647



BLOW THE WHISTLE ON HOUSING CHEATS

IF YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE OF
HOUSING FRAUD
CONTACT YOUR LANDLORD

Most people applying for housing wait their turn to be allocated a home. Housing cheats don't wait, they jump the queue. **It's not fair.**

They use up valuable housing spaces which deprive those in greater need. They are guilty of housing fraud.

What is housing fraud?

There are different types of housing fraud; here are some of the most common:

> Unlawful subletting

When a tenant lets out their council or housing association home without the knowledge or permission of their landlord they are unlawfully subletting.

They often continue to pay the rent for the property directly to their landlord, but charge the person they are subletting to a much higher rate. It is not fair to sublet and to profit from a property which could be given to someone in greater need.

> Obtaining housing by deception

When a person gets a council or housing association home by giving false information in their application, for example not telling the landlord they are renting another council or housing association property, they are committing housing fraud.

> Wrongly claimed succession

When a tenant dies, there are rules that say what should be done with the tenancy. Wrongly claimed succession is when someone, who is not entitled, tries to take over the tenancy. For example, they might say they lived with the tenant before they died, when in fact they were living elsewhere.

Bromford.



Stockfield
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What can you do to help?

We are working hard to track down housing cheats and ensure that homes are given to those who are the next in line.

Your help in reporting housing fraud is important because you can see what's going on in your neighbourhood.

- > You might know that somebody has a home the landlord doesn't know about or has given false information in their housing application
- > You might suspect someone of housing fraud having seen them collect rent from your neighbours
- > You might be suspicious because the tenants of a property keep changing

If you suspect someone is a housing cheat, let us know. It could make a real difference.

Contact Anil Gill on
07540 677 807
or email at

anil.gill@bromford.co.uk

Anything you tell us will be held in the strictest confidence. All reports can be made anonymously.

What's next?

We will investigate your concerns and the necessary action will be taken. If someone is found to have committed housing fraud that person could lose their tenancy.





GETTING INVOLVED

Stockfield Community Association wants to involve as many residents as possible in their neighbourhood and community events so if you

- ✓ enjoyed the Fun day;
- ✓ enjoyed the Christmas Cracker;
- ✓ live locally;
- ✓ have ideas for future events and would like more say

The the only qualification required is a passion for your neighbourhood together we can do the rest.

We are currently planning the Community Fun Day; please contact **Daphne** on **07847 788 647** to find out how you can be involved



WHO ARE WE?

SPORT 4 LIFE UK is a charity that exists to support young people to make a positive change in their lives by improving their employability and key life skills.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We support young people aged 6 to 29 through a variety of sports-themed programmes and sports sessions. These include employability and personal development programmes, as well as weekly sports and dance sessions.

HOW CAN YOU BENEFIT?

SPORT 4 LIFE UK is running a number of programmes and sport sessions in Stockfield and across Birmingham.

For more information, please contact Mark Aaron on 0121 456 1818 or email mark@sport4life.org.uk

STOCKFIELD PROGRAMME



JUNIOR SPORTS

Multi-sports sessions taking place in Stockfield Park and delivered by a qualified sports coach. Suitable for all abilities

- **DATE:** Mondays
- **TIME:** 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- **LOCATION:** Stockfield Park MUGA
- **WHO FOR?:** Boys & Girls aged 7 to 11

SENIOR SPORTS

Multi-sports sessions taking place in Stockfield Park and delivered by a qualified sports coach. Suitable for all abilities.

- **DATES:** Wednesdays
- **TIME:** 5pm – 7pm
- **LOCATION:** Stockfield Park MUGA
- **WHO FOR?:** Boys & Girls aged 12 to 16

DANCE 4 LIFE

Weekly dance sessions for boys and girls of all abilities. Contemporary and street dance sessions, with the opportunity to take part in performances

- **DATE:** Wednesdays
- **TIME:** 4.30pm – 5.30pm
- **LOCATION:** Cedars Academy
- **WHO FOR?:** Boys and Girls aged 6 to 14

Youth Promise Plus Engagement Sessions & Support



S4L Football Super League

Free opportunity for young people to participate in the new S4L Super League. This is an excellent opportunity to play free football, meet new people and have access to a wide range of services to help aid education, employment and training opportunities.

- **DATE:** Thursdays
- **TIME:** 3pm – 4pm
- **LOCATION:** Aston University, The Doug Ellis Woodcock sports centre, B7 4BG
- **WHO FOR?:** 16 – 29 year olds

Free Football Sessions

This is an excellent opportunity to play free football, meet new people and have access to a wide range of services to help aid education, employment and training opportunities.

- **DATES:** Fridays
- **TIME:** 3pm – 4pm
- **LOCATION:** The Muath Trust, Stratford Road, B11 1AR
- **WHO FOR?:** 16 – 29 year olds

Support you can get includes:

- Help to find and secure the right job for you
- Help you gain work experience or placements
- Put you on training to receive new qualifications
- Help to create or improve your CV
- Help you to build confidence and motivation skills
- Support you to find the right traineeship / apprenticeship
- Help pay for DBS and proof of ID
- Help support you with work or training related costs
- Cover Travel Costs
- Help cover the cost of work wear



STOCKFIELD GIRLS LEADING THE WAY

It has been a great few months for the girls as participation in physical activities has increased by a whopping 250%.

A variety of activities and opportunities are available through the fun dance sessions that are run every Wednesday at Cedars Academy from 4.30-5.30pm and even better All activities are absolutely FREE due to the fantastic support of The Stockfield Community Association and are run by Sport 4 Life UK (see flyer for details of opportunities).

This past quarter, some of the girls completed a nationally recognised Leadership Award in which they learned and demonstrated key leadership skills.

They also got involved in the Sport 4 Life / Stockfield Community initiative in collecting donations for the Acocks Green FoodBank and were rewarded with a trip to see Cinderella at the Birmingham Hippodrome and will be performing their routines at the MAC Theatre @ Cannon Hill Park in July.

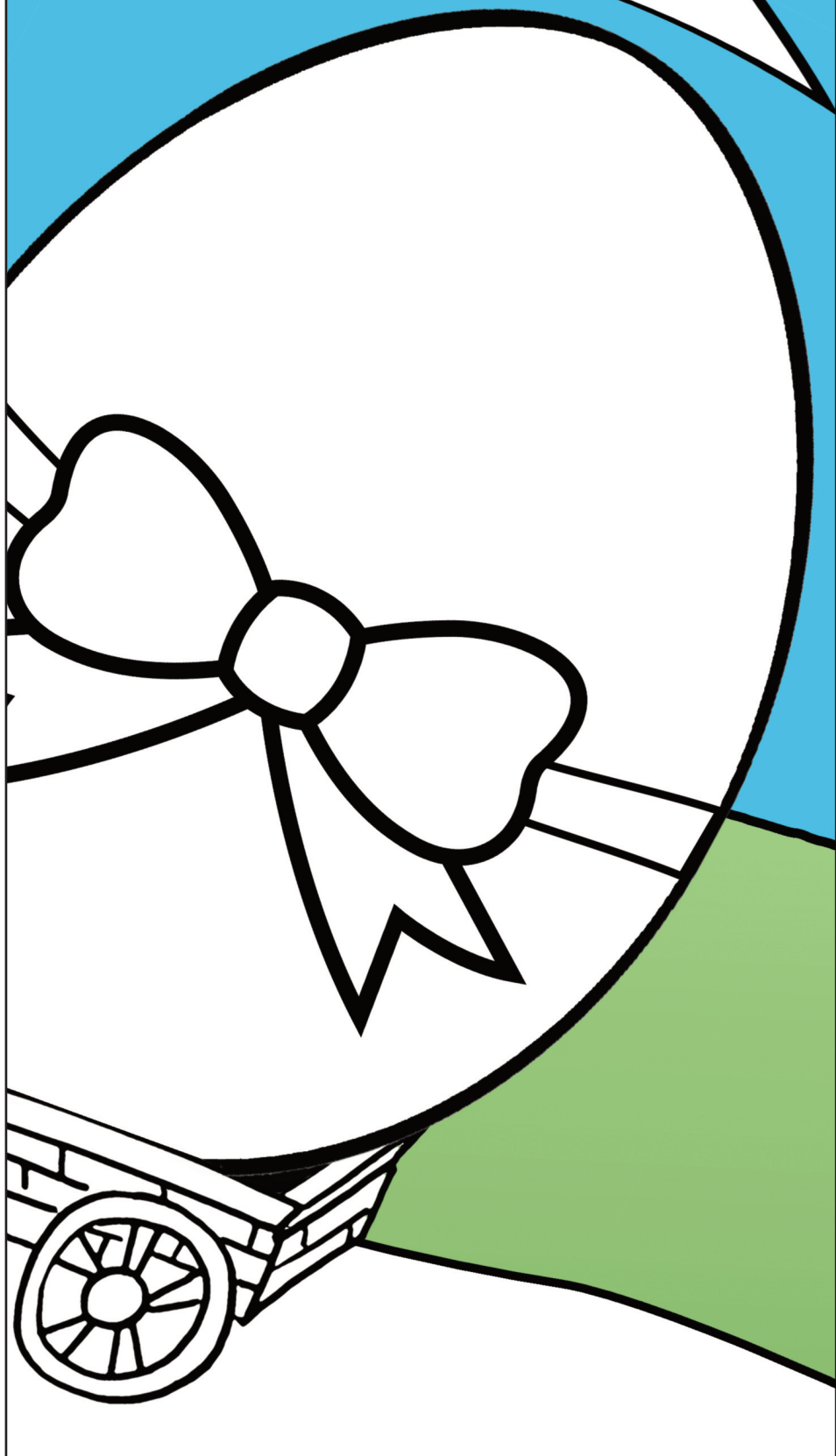




Stockfield Com Easter Colouring



Community Challenge



Stockfield Community Association

Entry Form

Name.....**Age**.....

Contact Details / Address.....
.....
.....

Builders in Bloom!

In the previous edition, I wrote about our project to enhance the entrance into Birmingham from Solihull, where Olton Boulevard and the Warwick Road meet. We have now decided to take up the Britain in Bloom judges' suggestion of making an impact on the main triangular traffic island, which we now refer to as 'The Triabout.'

Well, what a challenge! One of our team designed and sketched out a bed echoing the shape of the island. It is not only large – approximately 8.5 metres wide at the widest point and 15 metres long – but also features a circular brick built raised bed. We aim to surround this with shrubs featuring blue, purple and yellow leaves and flowers that provide interest all year round.

This winter we started with the task of digging out the shape of the bed, using the cut turf to fill in the other bare patches. Then came the more mammoth task of digging out the trench for the footings of the brickwork. We now know what the soldiers of WWI went through!.

We still had a lot of questions that needed answering in order to get the project underway: who would provide the bricks when we need over 1000 of them? Where would we store them? How would we get the concrete poured into the tube area (builders' jargon) in which to sink the footings? Who would build the wall? Which shrubs would make up the colour combination and thrive in possible drought and winds prevalent across an exposed site?

Our Village in Bloom team, not to be put off, contacted a local builders' merchant who said they would kindly donate the bricks for our community project. As I write another local contractor is looking at pouring the concrete for us. We put out a call for a bricklayer on the Neighbourhood Forum Facebook page and local resident Jerome came forward to volunteer his skills. He has provided a detailed design and is leading the construction. The local car wash is kindly allowing us to store the bricks and we have used our horticultural experience and knowledge to arrive at the right shrubs.

Once again our knack of pulling all the people and resources of Acocks Green together will provide another unique aspect to this wonderful part of Birmingham. So keep an eye out for the transformation of the 'Triabout!'

Fox Hollies – a beautiful park

Westley Vale Millennium Green has been a key green space on our judging route for the past six years, however the trustees have decided to take a break from being part of our entry for 2018. All is not lost as we are now including Fox Hollies Park to fulfil the Britain in Bloom criteria for biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

The park is beautifully landscaped and has Westley Brook running through it; a circular pool which is popular with fishermen; and a deep copse which provides a quiet woodland area for wildflowers and birds. Dog walkers have spotted egrets and kestrels in the park and it is alive with the flora associated with the English countryside. We are supported by the strong Friends of Fox Hollies Park group who have plans to sow wild flowers and put up bird boxes.

Who needs to go to the countryside when we have this on our doorstep?

Gardening Tips for Spring

- You can start some seeds growing on a sunny windowsill in trays or pots until it warms up outside, after the risk of frosts, by the end of May. Fruit punnets with drainage holes make great little seed trays.
- Sow hardy annual flower seeds, herbs and wildflowers outdoors, follow instructions on the packet.
- Sow grass seeds in bare patches of lawn
- Sow vegetable seeds directly into the ground once you've dug it over. Radishes and beetroot are good ones to try if you are new to gardening but there are so many other vegetables that will flourish given the right situation; choose something you like to eat!
- If you need inspiration, watch Gardeners' World, read gardening books, surf the net and talk to other gardeners.
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses to keep them growing in the right direction.
- Plant the English Lavendula (lavender) Augustifolia 'Hidcote' which makes a lovely low hedge.
- Divide late flowering perennials to increase your stock or swap with your neighbours!
- Water camellias well after flowering and continue to do so throughout the Summer.
- Stake perennial plants before they grow too tall, hazel twigs are good for this, putting them into the ground, bending over and tying together which can look great
- Most importantly, if you haven't already done so, then give gardening a go! There will be failures along the way but try different plants and you will be rewarded with some lovely results.

Fran Lee – Co-ordinator – Acocks Green Village in Bloom



Acocks Green



Village in Bloom



in partnership with



heart of england
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Village in Bloom 2017 Launch Event

Saturday 12th May 11am - 3pm

at Mallard Community Orchard, Mallard Close

**** Lots of Bargain Plants ****

Children's Seed-Sowing

Hot Food by 260th Scout Troop

**** Live Music ****

Free Gardening Advice

Craft and Jewellery Stall

Local Bee Keeper and Local Honey

Prize Raffle & Refreshments

**Support Village in Bloom and
play a part in making Acocks Green Greener!**

For all enquiries contact the Village in Bloom co-ordinator:
Fran Lee 0121 706 0076 fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

Ninety Years of Acocks Green Bus Depot

This year is the 90 year anniversary of the opening of Acocks Green Bus depot, the home of the famous no.11 bus. To mark this occasion National Express are organising an Open Day at the depot on Westley Road on Saturday 23rd June from 10.30am to 3.30pm. As well as stalls and family-friendly activities they will be running some vintage buses along part of the number 11 route. All proceeds will go to a local charity. Keep an eye out for more information.



'Vintage no. 11 bus
photo: Keith Thursfield'

WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE

some of the fabulous things that are going on at CEDARS ACADEMY

Help for the local community

Cedars Academy along with our partner school, Robin Hood Academy, recently held a joint fundraising event to assist one of our parents. The parent, who is from the local community, is undergoing lifesaving Leukaemia treatment.

Cedars Academy held a "Chip Supper" event and sold fresh chips after school, where parents could either take them home for supper or sit with their children and other parents for something to eat and a chat. We had a queue that was out the door!

Our partner school, Robin Hood Academy held a non-school uniform day in order to support the event. In total we raised £561 which was then donated via the Just Giving page to support the local family.



Wellbeing Award for School

We are pleased to announce that Cedars Academy have been working towards a Wellbeing Award by showing commitment to promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental



health. Awareness-raising assemblies and staff training sessions, along with interventions focused on self-esteem and mindfulness, have formed part of our journey so far. During Children's Mental Health week, pupils discussed the importance of looking after our mental health by taking part in some fun activities.



Super Science Lessons

Over the last few weeks the children in Year 3 have been learning about Chemical Reactions. They are experts at spotting when a chemical reaction has taken place. They were amazed to see how some reactions created heat whilst others caused the temperature to drop. Even more excitingly they discovered that some reactions can make gas. Just look at the awe and wonder on their faces!

Visitors from the Stone Age

The Year 3 children at Cedars Academy were also extremely lucky enough to share their classroom with a real life caveman last half term! They were taught how to be archaeologists and how to explore clues from the past. They really enjoyed sketching real life Stone Age tools and writing their own non-chronological reports about this magnificent period of history.



Cottesbrooke Infant & Nursery School

Nursery Places Available



If you or someone you know has a child around 3 years old, why not come and have a look at our Nursery.

For further details please contact us on 0121 706 2742 or call in at the school office.

Cottesbrooke Infant & Nursery School
Yardley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6LG

What's On in Acocks Green



MARCH

Tues 27th March

2.15pm Acocks Green Library, *Arts and Media in the Green* presents **Robert Wenley** -Deputy Director and Head of Collection at the The Barber Institute . Collection at end of talk.

Wednesday 28th March

11am-1pm *Stockfield Community Association* presents **Heritage of Play** at Carrs Lane Gardens - reminisce about childhood experiences, share stories of play and growing up. **Free event** funded by Big Lottery.

APRIL

Tues 3rd April

10.30am *Stockfield Community Association* presents **Extend Exercise Class**. Light Chair Exercises at Acocks Green Baptist Arthur Moore Hall, Alexander Road B27 6HE. **Free event** and everyone welcome funded by Big Lottery.

Tuesday 10th April

12.30 *Stockfield Community Association* presents **Tea Dance** at Arthur Moore Hall, Alexander Road. **Free event** funded by Big Lottery.

Tuesday 10th April

2.15pm Acocks Green Library, *AG History Society* presents: **Mary Bodfish: The Early Years of Soho**. Everyone welcome. Donation at end.

Saturday 14th April

10.30am-12.30pm **Charity Coffee Morning '4 Louise'** at St Marys Church, table sales, activities and toys for children. Everyone welcome.

Tues 17th April

10.30am *Stockfield Community Association* presents **Extend Exercise Class**. Light Chair Exercises at Acocks Green Baptist Church, Arthur Moore Hall, Alexander Road B27 6HE. **Free event** funded by Big Lottery

Sunday 22nd April

10am Vineries Bridge, Woodcock Lane. **Canal Tidy Up**. Volunteers working with Canals and Rivers Trust. All equipment provided. Come along and meet new people in your neighbourhood and enjoy some canalside tidying. Very rewarding work.

MAY

Tuesday 15th May

2pm. Acocks Green Library *Acocks Green Local History Society* presents Dr David Cox: **The Policing of the Home Front in WWI**. Donation at end.

Tuesday 15th May

7.30pm **Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Public Meeting** Baptist Church Hall. Local representatives and guest speaker. Come along and find out more and your chance to share your views. Refreshments

JUNE

Saturday 23rd June

1030am to 3.30pm **Celebration of 90 years of Acocks Green Bus Garage**. Vintage buses and more at the Bus Garage.

JULY

Saturday 7th July

Acocks Green Carnival, Acocks Green Recreation Ground. Parade, stalls, entertainment. Community Get Together of the Year.

Saturday 14th July

11.30am – 4pm *Stockfield Community Association* invites you to the **Stockfield Community Fun day** held in Stockfield Park - A Family Fun Day.



Open Tuesday and Friday
10am to 12pm

WHO CAN WE HELP?

Anyone in crisis who lives in Acocks Green or the surrounding area can be helped. Sometimes it's just an unexpected bill. Sometimes it's illness or benefit sanctions – whatever the issue we want to help people by providing a warm welcome and a listening ear as well as helping people to feed themselves for a few days. We want to try to help to move people on from crisis into a more positive future.

WHERE?

Acocks Green Christian Centre, Rear of 100 Westley Road, Acocks Green, B27 7UL.

Tel: 0121 707 2853

Stockfield Community Association tenants, repair contractor Family Housing will attend to urgent, routine and out of hours repairs.

Their contact number is 0121 766 1115.

This is a direct line to their contact centre and should also be used for out of hours calls.

Emergencies are attended to within 24 hours

Urgent Jobs are attended to within 7 days

Routine jobs are attended to within 31 days

When you call please give all relevant information so that the contact centre can pass the repair request to Family Housing with the minimum of delay.

The Stockfield dedicated Officers are
Sgt Trevor Orton, Sgt Anna Wilson and PCSO Large

To make direct contact with us call

0845 113 5000

and dial extension number 7824 6928.

Alternatively email us at:

e3 nhp acocksgreen@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
the neighbourhood team website is:

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/belgraveroad/n17.asp>

Contact your local resident Director:

Amanda Millward - 0796 978 1999

Office Number: 0121 707 9899

(24 hours answerphone)



Dog Warden Tel: 0121 303 6007
to report any problems
with dogs and fouling.

☎ Useful Telephone Numbers ☎

- **STOCKFIELD CA TENANTS** - your Housing Officer is **Anil Gill** of Bromford Housing.
NEW NUMBER FOR THIS TEAM: 07793 902971 or email: anil.gill@bromford.co.uk
- **BROMFORD TENANTS** - your Housing Manager is **Anil Gill**: **0330 1234 034 E: anil.gill@bromford.co.uk**
- **DEBT & BENEFITS ADVICE** - For **Debt Advice**, please call the helpline on **303 2087**.
For **Benefits Advice**, contact the Neighbourhood Office on **303 0596**.
- **STOCKFIELD CA TENANTS - REPAIRS** - Family Housing is the repair contractor - **0121 766 1115**.
- **BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION: 0121 303 1112**
- **ACOCKS GREEN POLICE STATION: 0845 113 5000 x 7824 6587 (999 in emergency).**