

STOCKFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

The quarterly Newsletter from Stockfield Community Association



**Stockfield
Community
Association**

**Issue 60
Spring 2021**

Spring into Action!

Inside our Spring issue

Village In Bloom

Building Community Together

Two Fabulous Easter Competitions

Poetry

Local News



Stockfield Community Association is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 02588109. Registered Charity No. 1003108
Registered Office: C/O Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, 134 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES.

Back numbers of our newsletter and other useful information is available on our website www.stockfield.org

Youth Activities in Stockfield

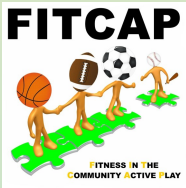
MAD X FITCAP

The Make A Difference (M.A.D) Birmingham project is a Sport Birmingham open access youth development programme. M.A.D Birmingham works with community partners, residents, parents and schools to provide a sustainable offer that has evolved from open access youth clubs and outreach services to a tailored sports-driven mentoring programme for young people aged 11-16.



The aim of the mentoring programme is to work with young people who face personal and social disadvantage or circumstances that make it difficult for them to cope within formal structures. The referred pupils engage in a 6-week personal development programme that encourages them to reflect on their current and previous behaviours, equip them with life skills to assist their development both within and outside of the school setting and help them to transfer their learning into real life situations.

The programme comprises of classroom, scenario-based delivery which is then incorporated within a practical setting using sport and physical activities. Importantly, M.A.D is young person-lead, meaning that activities are informed by the young people and based on their needs and interests.



What we do in Stockfield

MAD Birmingham and FITCAP have been keeping in contact with young peoples and finding ways to continue working with young people in the Stockfield community.

During the time of Lockdown, we have been offering training, mentoring and general support to young people.

MAD are also delivering a youth lead social action project. Social action is about people coming together to tackle an issue, support other people, or improve their local area. It involves people giving their time and other resources for the common good, in a range of forms – from volunteering to community-owned services, and peer networks to community organising. The Stockfield Youth Group have already delivered social action projects on:

- ◆ Free sports sessions in the park for young people
- ◆ FIFA 21 tournament
- ◆ Positive wellbeing competition

Get Involved

If you are the ages between 11 to 21 you can use your skills and talents to support your community by joining our youth group. At the youth group you will:

- ◆ Help create social action.
- ◆ Work with other young people in the community.
- ◆ Receive support and training.
- ◆ Help plan and attend community events.

29 March:

- ◆ From the 29 March the National Youth Agency (NYA) have stated young people can return to sessions in the community.
- ◆ 15 young people can engage in a session as a bubble not including staff. Session can continue inside if the young person is classed as vulnerable:
- ◆ Parents will ultimately decide if their young person can go to the sessions:
- ◆ FITCAP and MAD are working hard to ensure there are sessions available to the young people of Stockfield. Once a venue has been confirmed. Promotion will take place.

If you are interested in training and support from the MAD project or FITCAP, contact Callam Dunne (MAD) 07538 360 922 ~ callam.dunne@sportbirmingham.org
or

Kate Roberts (FITCAP) 0785 6576 537 ~ info@fitcap.co.uk

Sharon Trevis - Group Scout Leader ~ 24th Birmingham Scout Group



Waiting for our Next Adventure

24th Birmingham (Manor Farm) Scout Group, are getting really excited about restarting their next face-to-face adventure. Currently the group of scouts, based in Greet are meeting on-line, making the most of being a scout during the third lockdown.

Whilst on line, the young members have managed to achieve some elements of badge work, as well as having some fun on the way. Family bingo night was very competitive and drawing a map of your local area was challenging for some. Not to mention all those teddies, who needed first aid administered so their young people could make them better and achieve their Emergency Aid Badge Stage 1.

When the scout group get back to normal:

- ◆ the Beaves (aged 6 to 8 yrs.) and Cubs (8 to 10 ½ yrs.) will be doing lots of outdoor activities; such as cooking on open fires, nature hunts, pioneering projects, sleepovers, games and teamwork work activities.
- ◆ The Scouts (10 ½ to 14 yrs.) love camping outdoors and will be planning their own expedition using their newly acquired map skills – fingers crossed it won't be a virtual event this year.
- ◆ The Explorers (aged 14 to 18 yrs.) will be working hard towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Improving their #skillsforlife, whilst achieving more badges, meeting new friends and having lots of fun.

So if you know of a young person, who may be interested in a scouting adventure, check out our Facebook page for further details:

www.facebook.com/24thbhamscouts

A Spotlight on Local Talent

Introducing a poem from **Charlie Chitty** a writer and poet living in Acocks Green. He has previously performed at various cafès, two museums and several other locations for poetry and literature festivals across the country and finally... “He cannot play the clarinet, please stop asking.”

I like Bath Bombs

I like to take baths, and I like to use the bath bombs.
I like the glittery ones and I use them with aplomb.
I like the flowery ones, and the ones with colours inside. A simple bar of soap is something I can't quite abide.
Give me an effervescent with a million sequins in case,
I want to lay back in the hot water and pretend that I'm in space.
There's sequins and there's stars and I'm an evil space creature.
The kind with nine arms, twenty mouths, that they call the Planet Eater.
Or maybe I'll have one that turns the whole bath murky green, leaving the bottom of the bath a mystery unseen.
I just lie at the bottom, and you may think that it's odd. But I pretend to be an alien. In a futuristic stasis pod.
Or a bath bomb that's red that I will use later, I will do an impression of the Terminator.
You'd have to be quite boring, or at least a little bit glum.
If you didn't re-enact that scene where Arnie sticks out his thumb.
A bath bomb that's black, now that's quite appealing. It's a fantasy bog once the bathroom is steaming. And I'm a Marine Corp, the shampoo's my gun.
I have hours and hours of toiletry fun.
Of the pink bath bombs, I had no idea I'm afraid.
But then I decided to pretend, it was Pink Lemonade.



Birmingham Careers Service is a free and friendly support service providing careers information, advice and guidance to young people aged 16-19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). If a young person has a learning difficulty and/or disability then we can help them until they are 25. We are part of Birmingham City Council and we work alongside other local services.

For the foreseeable we won't be able to see young people face to face for Careers Guidance at our outreach venues. However, our Personal Advisers will still be able to speak to young people via phone conversation, email, WhatsApp, text, webchat and video link where permitted. www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk

Our exclusive(!) Careers Marketplace is now open for anyone to visit.
<https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/marketplace/>

Room 1 College & 6th Forms
Room 2 Training Providers
Room 3 Opportunities
Room 4 Careers Library

Room 5 SEND information
Room 6 Personal Development
Room 7 Activities



COTTESBROOKE INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

An Academy

Yardley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6LG

Telephone: 0121 706 2742

Email: enquiry@cottesbrooke-inf.bham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr William Loughlin

NURSERY/RECEPTION CLASS 2021



Is your child, or do you know anyone with children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 for Nursery or 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 for Reception? We have places available for our nursery and reception classes. Simply complete an application form - available on the school website.

We offer 30-hour nursery provision for eligible parents. Please enquire at the school office (0121 706 2742) for further details.

(Please note we will need to see your child's birth certificate, passport or medical card and proof of address (utility/bank statement) dated within the last 6 months.)



aged **16 to 19***
and need

Careers Information
Advice
Guidance
Jobs
Apprenticeships

*up to 25 with a learning difficulty or disability

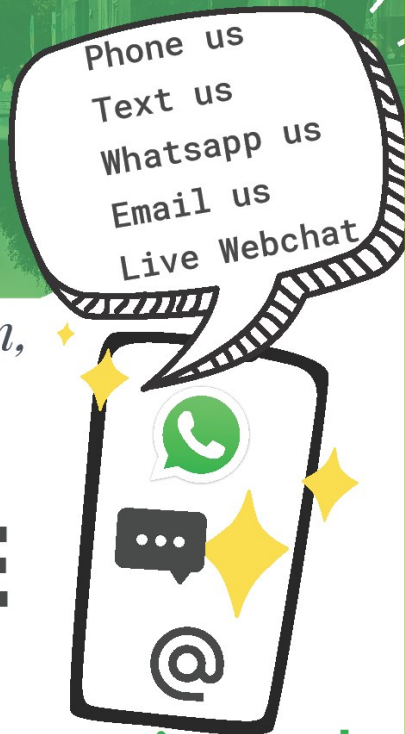
*If you are not in education,
employment or training*

**BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
CAN HELP YOU**

www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk



**BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE**
guiding young people



 **Birmingham**
City Council

Introducing Acocks Green Litter Champions

With cafés, pubs and restaurants being closed during lockdown a lot more people are eating and drinking on the go. Unfortunately, some people don't dispose of their rubbish properly and it ends up as litter blighting our neighbourhoods. Because of restrictions people have been staying local to home, walking around their neighbourhoods for their daily exercise and noticing all the litter and deciding to take action themselves.



Village in Bloom have been supporting a band of litter pickers in Acocks Green, but more help is needed to keep on top of the rise in rubbish. Inspired by 'Hall Green's Keepin' It Clean' Facebook page and their growing band of regular street litter-pickers, local councillor Roger Harmer has set up a Facebook Page called '**Acocks Green Litter Champions**'. Using the power of social media, people share information on areas they are looking after, post photos of before and after litter-picks, and inspire others to make a difference and tidy up their area. It is rewarding work, good exercise and gets you out in the fresh air. Passers by chat and say thank you. In a perfect world people wouldn't drop litter in the first place, but seeing volunteers take more pride in their area is the beginning of a wave of positivity, giving people a sense of control over the situation, something we have all been missing a little recently!

If you want to be part of this movement join the Facebook page and share photos of cleaning up your street. Or perhaps somebody in the Stockfield area would like to set up their own Litter-Picking Neighbourhood Group? Birmingham City Council can support groups by supplying official grey bags (that when placed appropriately, will be collected by the council) and other equipment.

Acocks Green & South Birmingham Carers Group

What a difference a year makes, if we had realised what would follow only a couple of weeks later after our March meeting, I think we would have hugged and hugged and hugged!

The Carers group is not meeting at present but we do hope to have walks in April and May and if people contact me they can have a free copy of our next newsletter with a view to joining the group. Current support to the group is in the form of a newsletter and fortnightly phone call to keep in touch.

Hopefully if all goes to plan we will resume our normal of the group at the Baptist Church first Tuesday of the month 12.30 – 3pm

For more information or to join please contact Pat Marsan 07976 807 981 or email or post 4 Old Mill Close, Shirley, Solihull B90 1EU

I look forward to hearing from you

Stockfield Community Easter Colouring Challenge



Help our Bunny deliver Easter Eggs by colouring this picture, taking a photograph of it and sending your artwork to Daphne at

daphne@daphnefrancis.com

or posting your entry through the Stockfield Community Association letterbox at 2A Alexander Road.



It's competition time!

How would you like to write eleven lines, telling us how getting back to school has been for you? What has been fun, sad, surprising about meeting up with friends and returning to lessons? Tell us your story in eleven lines.

Start the first word of each line with the letters **HAPPY EASTER**

We really look forward to hearing your stories. Happy writing!

H
A
P
P
Y

E
A
S
T
E
R

After you have finished your writing, take a photograph of it and send it to Daphne at daphne@daphnefrancis.com or post your entry through the Stockfield Community Association letterbox at 2A Alexander Road.



How wonderful it has been during the lockdowns if gardening is your hobby. It was perfectly good for myself and our team to go out on our own and tend to our beds in the village.

I realised that a year had passed in and out of lockdown when one of my fellow allotmentees asked if I could provide tomato plants this year as I did during the first lockdown.

So much for the RHS Theme of 'Grow Social' as any Bloom duties had to be carried out individually. The second lockdown came along before we had planted the tulip bulbs so this had to be left until it was lifted in early December. Some of you know that it is best to plant tulips when it is cold as planting in warm soil can encourage disease. It was good to be helped by members of the 260th Scout movement and The Acocks Green Lions.

We squeezed in the 'Keep Britain Tidy' event usually the 'Great British Spring Clean' but pushed back until September. We continue working on removing litter, some of our team along with our many 'Litter Champions.' which is surprisingly popular. Some people have been using it as part of their exercise regime!

With lockdown and the terrible cold and wet weather, some of you may have noticed that we only recently started gardening on our Acocks Green beds this year in late February and although we can only work in twos at present, we have gained more volunteers. That is a good thing and although we will only be judged digitally, we have some challenging plans for 2021.



After tidying and digging our beds, we shall be sowing wild flower seeds in early April and on Yardley Road where new billboards have been erected by Mansfield Road, we intend to sow there too.

We intend to paint the litter bins in the village. You may have noticed that the large tree planters in the village are looking a little sad. We have lightly pruned the trees and intend to plant some large red and pink geraniums (pelargoniums) to add colour to the shrubs. We think that this will enhance the high street and hopefully lift people's spirits after the lockdown finishes. Daffodils are flowering in them at present.



I hope that some of you may consider joining us in our allotment when lockdown has been lifted, to either learn about gardening or use a little patch to grow your own vegetables or cut flowers. It is intended for those people who want to get out and socialise with the common interest of gardening. Here's a photo of our allotment with our newly painted shed.

Some jobs to do in Spring:



Early Spring - Tidy flower borders and mulch with compost or well-rotted manure. Lift and divide perennials. Sow tomato seeds by Mid-March also winter leeks. During March, prune shrub roses hard leaving an outward pointing bud near the top of the stem.

Mid Spring - Mow the lawn when the weather permits. Plant new roses, trees, shrubs and perennials. Sow cucumber and courgettes by late March to mid-April.

Late Spring - Prune Spring flowering shrubs after flowering. After the last frost, plant annuals outside. Sow warm climate crops under cover, plant potatoes and onion sets.

If you would like to volunteer for gardening or other duties, or join us in the allotment when the weather permits then contact me:

Fran Lee - Co-ordinator - Acocks Green Village in Bloom
Telephone: 0121 706 0076; email: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk

Stockweave

Arts In The Yard invite residents to join us to create a unique piece of public art. During Spring and Summer 2021 local residents will be able to collect a free 'Stockweave' pack containing all the materials needed to design and make a one-of-a-kind CD-weave. Suitable for both adults and children we are encouraging the production of 500 individual pieces which lead artist Kelly Towle will then bring together in a vibrant and collaborative art piece, which will live at Stockfield Park. Shortly residents will be able to see a small test piece created by our Women Of Yardley Unite participants.

For more information on when and how to pick up a 'Stockweave' craft pack please email kelly@artsintheyard.org or call 0121 339 5029.

#FeedYardley

Arts In The Yard's #FeedYardley campaign to collect and re-allocate food items to local foodbanks continues. To date local residents have donated over 1 tonne of food! A huge **THANK YOU** if you have donated food or money to our campaign. Your generosity is making a difference to the lives of others. A huge thank you to Marshall's Coffee Shop, next door to Acocks Green Rail Station, for becoming a donation point. For more information on suitable items to donate please visit www.artsintheyard.org/feedyardley/



Green Growers

Following on from last year's successful growing initiative we are excited to be offering local residents another opportunity to get involved. We will again be supplying free gardening packs during Spring – a chance to join your local community to get growing and make new connections with your neighbours. Depending on what type of pack you receive you might be able to grow some of your own food or perhaps green up your garden, yard or windowsill.

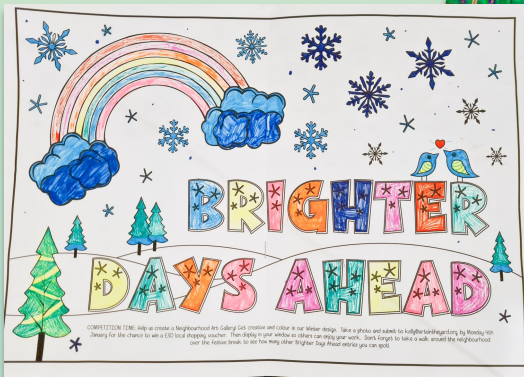
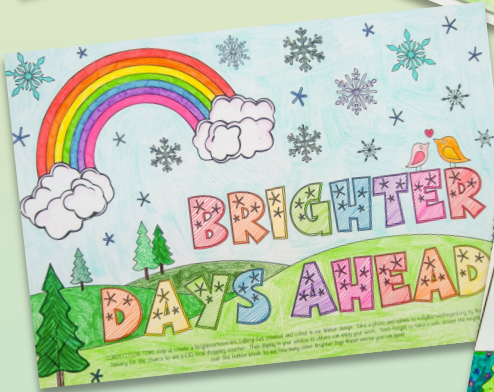
To begin with we will be offering packs to new residents not involved with the project last year. Packs contain compost, seeds, plants and pots – enough to get you started! You will also receive gardening advice and be invited to join our online growing community.

To register your interest please email AGgreengowers@gmail.com or call 0121 339 5029



Brighter Days Ahead

Thanks to everyone who entered our winter art competition. Congratulations to our winners: Amelia, Brogan, Lauren, Nathalie and Sarah!



Building Community Together FREE organisational training

As part of Building Community Together's commitment to the sustainability and up skilling of local organisations we are delivering a package of **FREE** training support.

We kicked off the training at the beginning of March with a Safeguarding, Recording and Reporting workshop.

It was fantastic to see so many community providers joining us at our virtual workshop, sharing practice, gaining knowledge and networking!



Building Community Together is also working in partnership with Birmingham Community Matters a charity that supports small voluntary and community groups across Birmingham to deliver a series of FREE Bite size training sessions focusing on:

Monday 19th April at 12.30 - 2pm - Funding your group in 2021

Tuesday 27th April at 11am - Making your project Covid 19 safe

Monday 10th May at 11am - Keeping your volunteers happy

Wednesday 26th March at 10.30am - Simple marketing for your voluntary group

The sessions will be held over Zoom on the above dates and times.

If you are interested in booking a place or would like further information please contact Becky Coley at beckycbct@gmail.com

Building Community Together Facebook Page and Website

We now have a Facebook page and website where residents are able to find out news relating to the Building Community Together (BCT) project!

All activities, events and workshops are published and updated regularly as well as advice and guidance and local what's on information.

You will also find information about other local community organisation on our BCT website.

Please visit our Facebook page and give us a like!

If you would like to contribute any news or updates to either our FB page or the BCT website please email Becky Coley at: beckycbct@gmail.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BuildingCT

BCT website: www.bctproject.org

Building Community Together Virtual Tea Dance update

We held our first virtual Tea Dance of the year at the beginning of March.

We danced a wet and miserable afternoon away from the comfort of our homes to a selection of Disco and Rock & Roll tunes.

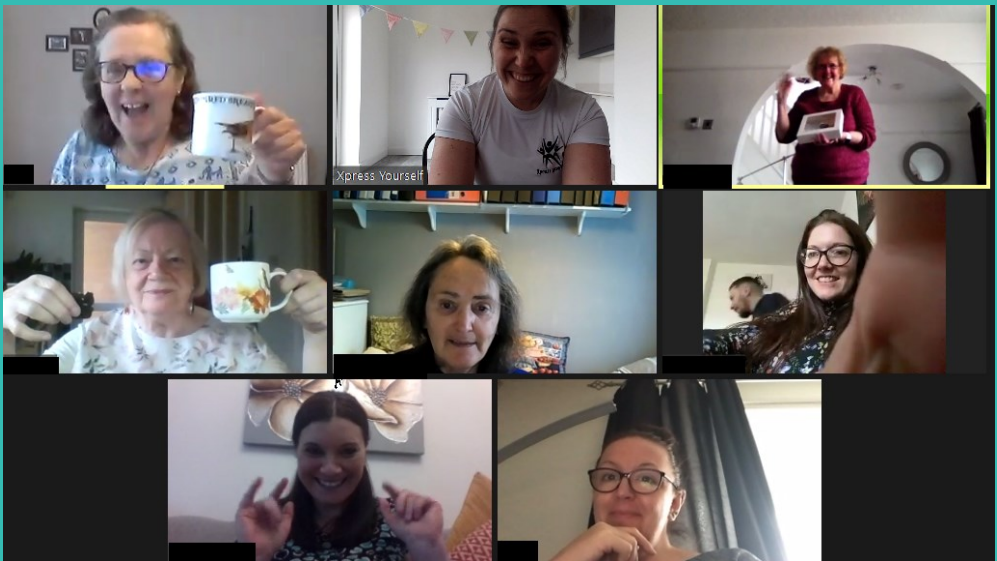
The afternoon was finished off with a fantastic quiz and yummy afternoon tea!

The sessions are led by Faye from Xpress Yourself dance with food delivered to your door by Smithy's Cafe.

No experience or partner is necessary it's so much fun with lots of giggles and dancing.

We are holding our next Virtual Tea Dance on the 14th of April, which will be a special themed dance, based on dances from around the world! Not to give anything away but maracas as the ready!

If you would like to join us please contact Becky Coley at beckycbct@gmail.com everyone is welcome.





Resident Director Elections

Your Chance To Get Involved



The Stockfield Community Association (SCA) elections for Resident Directors will be taking place this year.

SCA is passionate about involving residents to help improve services and support our community. Eligible residents should be at least 18 years of age and live on the Stockfield Estate.

Look out for that envelope in May with all the details you need about the election process. So why not try something different for 2021 join us as we continue to make the Stockfield Neighbourhood a good and safe place to live.

If you are interested in the resident director elections or getting involved in other ways; for information or a chat please contact Daphne Francis via email daphne@daphnefrancis.com or telephone on 07847 788 647

A MESSAGE FROM HOUSING MANAGEMENT - ANIL GILL

Dear Stockfield Community Association Tenant

If you have any concerns, questions or want to discuss anything with me regarding your tenancy in the current COVID situation please do contact me on my mobile or email.

Thank you,

Anil Gill

Neighbourhood Coach, Bromford

07540 677807

Anil.Gill@bromford.co.uk