

# BID TIMES

August 2017



**Acocks Green Village BID**

**WELCOME** to the August 2017 issue of BID Times. We've had a great start to the year, with two successful street based events already under our belt to raise footfall and showcase our Village. The next event, the ever popular Christmas Lights switch-on Fun Day, is set this year for 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Under our 'Clean & Green in Acocks Green' project, we are very proud as a Village that the judges seemed to be suitably impressed with the overall look and feel of the place when they visited on 4<sup>th</sup> July to judge us for Village In Bloom 2017. We are hoping to maintain our Gold Award that we have gained for the past two years, but results will not be known until they are announced at a presentation ceremony at Warwick Castle in September.

Working with Solihull College we have offered you free business training and 3 courses have been held so far proving popular. More on that in the Training section.

Promoting you the businesses was important this year which saw us hold our inaugural Acocks Green Village BID Business Awards! (see centre pages for details of winners and runners-up)

I am still being contacted by other shopping centres locally with questions on how they can make their areas look as good and feel as safe as Acocks Green. Great for our Village to be thought of this way, and it is all down to you our businesses investing in your own trading environment through the BID, and your BID team dedicated to delivering the best service for you. I am here if you have any issues or problems, so please feel free to email me any time on [agvbid@gmail.com](mailto:agvbid@gmail.com), or give me a call on **07415 638878**.

**SAFE & SECURE** - The next Crime Forum meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 22nd August, invites will be coming out to you shortly.

Those who attended the last crime forum meeting will also be aware that I have requested that our local Police re-introduce the shoplifter document that we used to have in the Village which shows our regular and prolific shoplifters. We are pleased to announce that our Town Wardens in partnership with PC Andy Collis have now updated this and it is being distributed to businesses to make you aware of these offenders should they happen



upon the Village or your store!. This will now be updated every quarter in line with the Crime Forum meetings.

Town Wardens John & CJ recently passed their Security Industry Association (SIA) course, and now proudly display their badges! They

have also both recently attended and passed the First Aider course too, so if you have any problems at all, contact John (radio 37), CJ (radio 14) or Andy (radio 99), and for our non-radio users in the Village, the BID security team can be reached on **07539 296148**. Above John is pictured comparing himself with the likes of Ironman and Captain America at our recently Superheroes Fun Day!





# Acocks Green Village BID - Business Awards 2017

As you are all aware from the leaflets and posters we gave you to distribute to your customers, 2017 saw us hold the first ever Business Awards competition in the Village. To avoid endless pieces of paper going astray and to make the voting as fair as possible, voting was by social media only, which proved really successful.

Due to the success, we will be holding the awards again in future years, and we hope you will all join in next year by promoting it to your customers, getting them to vote for you and really hot things up with the competition!

Congratulations to all those who were nominated, and please ensure you thank your customers for their votes!

Below are photos of the winners and runners-up in all categories, with their framed certificates and beautiful glass trophies, which were presented by Chair of the BID Ian Jeffries, and board Director Hazel Wilson of S & H Jewelers.

**Jeffries Hardware** - Winner of the 'Best Customer Service' and 'Best Retail Outlet' and Runner-up in the 'Best Shop Window' Awards 2017, making Jeffries the Overall 'Business of the Year 2017'!



**Icing World** - Winner of the 'Best Shop Window Award 2017'



**Pinky Nails** - Winner of the 'Best Beauty & Wellbeing Award 2017'



**Glover Priest** - Winner of the 'Best Professional Services Award 2017'

**Pasta Di Piazza** - Winner of the 'Best Eating Experience' and Runner-up of the 'Best Night Time Experience Awards 2017'!!





**Costa -**  
Runner-up in the 'Best Customer Service Award 2017'



**Aruba Beauty -**  
Runner-up in the 'Best Beauty & Wellbeing Award 2017'



**Moghul Restaurant -**  
Runner-up in the 'Best Eating Experience Award 2017'



**Inn on the Green (incorporating the Bottle Shed and Route 44) -**  
Winner of the 'Best Night Time Experience Award 2017'



**Wilko & Dorothy Perkins -**  
Joint Runners-up in the 'Best Retail Outlet Award 2017'



**EVENTS 2017** – The ‘Superheroes Summer Spectacular’ Fun Day was held on 22nd July and proved very popular with the crowds of visitors that attended. This event included all the usual stalls, entertainment, activities and music plus a large range of Superheroes in costume on the streets, three American style Police cars (from the Batman movies) and free bouncy castle, caricaturist and softplay activities for the little ones.



Pictured above our Village mascot ‘Biddy Bear’ teams up with Superheroes Batman, Superman, the Red Power Ranger and Deadpool in defending the Village against our enemies!

The next event, the Christmas Switch-on Fun Day has now been confirmed for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017. This was a massive event last year with acts, singers, stalls, entertainment and fireworks, and we aim to make it even better this year.

Please try your best to get involved and raise the profile of your own business in the process. Bring along your own tables, set up a stall and bring a piece of your business to the streets for the day! For a chat about how to get involved email Dan on [agvbidinfo@gmail.com](mailto:agvbidinfo@gmail.com) or call **07494 307630**.

**FREE BUSINESS TRAINING** – As mentioned in my welcome statement on page one, 3 courses have taken place this year in partnership with Solihull College with many of you getting involved. These have included First Aid Training, Health & Safety Awareness and one of the best ones so far was the Team Building and Assertiveness Training, which was a terrific full day course which delegates enjoyed and were impressed by what they learned.

If there is any training you are interested in learning more about, or courses you would like us to consider, then email me on [agvbid@gmail.com](mailto:agvbid@gmail.com) and I’ll see what we can do for you. Courses that we are currently promoting are;

- Basic Website Creation, E-Commerce and Social Media
- Word, Excel, Outlook and Publisher (beginner, intermediate & advanced)

Our courses are free of charge to our levy payers, so please make the most of them. Two businesses are also talking to the college about taking on a young apprentice, if you are interested in doing the same, then email me or give me a call.

**CLEANING & GRAFFITI REMOVAL** – A couple of bits of graffiti popped up recently, just before the Village in Bloom judging actually! But Ben and Dan took care of it and the Village looked fantastic on judging day. Fran Lee and the team of volunteers once again did a brilliant job and continue to do so year round. 20 of you the businesses took advantage of having a free BID hanging basket outside of your store, and this added to the overall display. We will be doing the same next year and will be asking all of you if you want one of these baskets.

On the downside, the ongoing industrial action by the Council Refuse Collectors is causing some problems in the Village with collections being severely disrupted. If you experience any serious issues, then either contact Ben on radio 77, or ring the BID office on **0121 708 2047**.

#### SNIPPETS....

- Our Facebook numbers are now over 3,300! So please remember to send me any special offers, stories or items you want me to share with the Village followers!
- Great to see a number of our empty units being filled with new businesses to the Village such as Pepe’s Chicken due to open soon, Celltech, 7<sup>th</sup> Star Hair & Beauty and the great new sandwich shop Gobblebox! Welcome everyone!

acocks-green-village-bid



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