

BID TIMES

May 2017



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the BID's Spring newsletter 2017. We've had a busy start to the year, and this is set to continue with some great events, free training and our very first Business Awards competition! We did voice the idea to you of a Village loyalty card, but the responses we had said that most of you were happy with the way things are, with just a handful saying they would like to take part. This was therefore put on hold for now, however the option of taking up a free hanging basket was well received, and these will be going up this month, which will enhance the planting and efforts by the wonderful Bloom volunteers who do such a great job!

Village feature/Sculpture – Many of you will have seen the fantastic new tree-shaped creation that has recently been installed on the Green. After we had to return the former



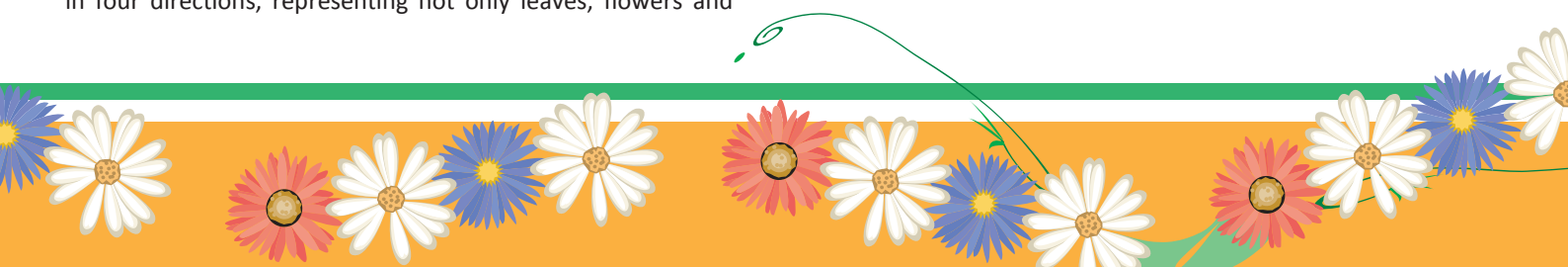
whistle feature back to Acme Whistles in Birmingham, we felt we wanted to replace what had become a bit of an icon in the Village and have our very own designed and locally made, piece of art. Supported by our local Councillors, I managed to secure some Section 106 money to fund the sculpture, and we set about thinking of a design.

Due to Acocks Green's reputation of having more trees than any other constituency in Birmingham, it was decided to base the design on that of a large tree, with branches radiating out in four directions, representing not only leaves, flowers and

fruit but also illustrating the local railway and canal connections. This was coupled with the Village in Bloom band around the whole thing and our treasured 'GOLD' award proudly featured at the very top of the tree.

We are fortunate in the Village to have a former jewelry designer, Veronica Treadwell in our midst, who skillfully combined all these ideas into a beautiful design, and keeping the whole thing local, metal manufacturer Collins in York Road created and installed this amazing piece. Coupled with the fabulous planting on the Green this year, our Village is truly a place to be proud of!

The Village has entered the Britain in Bloom Urban Category again, and judging takes place on 4th July. So please help us to retain our Gold status, and do what you can to help, sweep down your frontages on the day and even put out your own baskets and planters to enhance the display ... Going for Gold again!





FREE BUSINESS TRAINING – Working with Solihull College, we have started the round of free training that we offered you in February this year. There are two courses coming up;

- **Basic First Aid – half day – Wed 14th June**
- **Basic Food Hygiene – full day - Wed 21st June**

Anyone wishing to attend either of these, please email agvbid@gmail.com or call me on 07415 638878. Also if you have any training requirements that we are not currently aware of, then please give me a call.

VILLAGE EVENTS – The next Village Fun Day is fast approaching with the ‘Superhero Summer Special’ event on Saturday 22nd July! Batman and Robin will be gracing the streets once again, with other characters throughout the day



for the kids to have photos with. Tons of other stuff going on including the return of DJ Ant, Biddy Bear, stalls, games and music!

If you want to get involved, then bring

a table over and set up your stall to promote your business, wherever you are in the Village, come and hand out your leaflets or do a special offer for the day to encourage people to visit your store! Give me a call if you want a chat about how to get involved and I'll pop along and see you.

ACOCKS GREEN BUSINESS AWARDS 2017! – The first ever Business Awards competition is underway, and we felt the best people to vote for you, are your customers! During June, we will be holding our first ever competition and people will be voting via our Facebook and Twitter pages. They can vote for their favourite business in each of our 8 categories;

- Best Customer Service
- Best Shop Window
- Best Eating Experience
- Best Night Time Experience
- Best Beauty/Wellbeing (hair, nails etc)
- Best Retail Outlet
- Best Professional Services

The businesses that receives the most votes from all combined categories will be crowned ‘**Business of the Year 2017**’. We think this will be a great way to raise your profile and get more people through your doors, so we will be bringing around leaflets for you to hand out to encourage your customers to vote for you! The winners will be

announced in July, with a small presentation lunch at the library, and certificates and trophies will be handed out on the day. So please get involved, and do what you can to gain those all-important votes to win one of these great accolades!

CRIME & RADIOS – The last Crime Forum meeting held on Tuesday May 9th was well attended, as was the free radio training day that took place at the library on 27th March. Over 20 people came on the day, however this represented only around 8 actual businesses out of 45 radios within the stores. We do realise you are busy people, so if you do require additional training, then the Town Wardens are happy to come to you to run through the scheme with you in your own store.



The Town Wardens are currently looking to see whether some radios should be re-allocated as we do have a waiting list and some current users are not signing in or engaging. So please, if you are a radio user then get involved and help us to keep the Village safe. Our motto is ‘Use it or lose it!’, so make sure you play an active part.

To enhance their service to you, our Town Wardens are attending formal SIA (Security Industry Association) training this month which will strengthen their knowledge and expertise on the streets. The Police are very much of the opinion that the Village is a far better and safer place than it was 2 – 3 years ago, which is in some part down to the BIDs Town Wardens providing 6-day cover. However, we are not complacent and each new day brings a fresh challenge so we must remain vigilant, and with your help we can continue to ensure that Acocks Green is a place that people want to shop!

SNIPPETS ...

- We are now in partnership with ‘First Mile’ refuse/recycling collection company who offer very competitive rates, so if you are interested in getting a quote from them, give us a call!
- Village Facebook now stands at 3,231 likes, with Twitter now on over 600! Remember to send me your special offers to add to our pages to promote your business!
- And finally ... welcome to the Village to; Shahi Grill, I Love Pizza, Snuggfit Home Improvements, SMG Motorcycles and Affordable Appliances!

