

# BID TIMES

October 2016



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the autumn 2016 issue of BID Times. Lots of things happening as we approach 'Silly Season', more apparent this week as I have just ordered the Christmas lights display and confirmed all the entertainment for the big switch-on event on 26<sup>th</sup> November! See more about the big switch-on in the events section...

CLEAN & GREEN IN ACOCKS GREEN! – Fantastic news following the Village in Bloom judging back in July when Fran Lee the Bloom Coordinator reported back that we have once again been granted a GOLD award for 2016! The Bloom team attended the award ceremony at Aldridge recently and this year's accolade is quite something with the marks for the Village display being higher than last year! The BID team adds to that tremendously by working hard in the Village on a daily basis to make the place cleaner, tidier and graffiti-free.

Congrats to Fran, all the Bloom volunteers, your BID team and everyone else who played a part in making it happen!



EVENTS – The big Christmas switch-on and fireworks event is all set for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, with lots of great acts and entertainment on the day.

Back in the Village to perform for the first time since the BID started in 2012 are 'King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys' (pictured below). This fantastic local band offer dazzling stage performances, and with more than 50 TV appearances and 75 radio broadcasts have established them as the 'Kings of Swing'. Boasting a fan base of over 2,500 people around the world we are delighted to be able to welcome these guys back to perform for us in Acocks Green!



Tons more going on during the day with Santa's Grotto, children's entertainers Charley Farley & Rags, the characters from Paw Patrol will be joining us again given that they were unable to attend the Fun in the Sun event in August, festive Minnie and Mickey Mouse characters will be here too alongside our very own Biddy Bear. We have a life-size 'snow globe' that people can

have a family photograph in, which we think will attract lots of attention!

The Acocks Green Samba band will be giving live performances, along with Acocks Green Primary School Choir singing festive tunes. The usual DJ's music, face painting and stalls will add to the excitement of the day with the lights being flicked on at 4.40pm followed by a short firework show. We hope this large-scale event will attract many visitors to our Village and will lead to them spending their money in your stores!

As always, there is lots of opportunity for you our businesses to get involved on the day, email me with your ideas and I'll pop along and see you [agvbid@gmail.com](mailto:agvbid@gmail.com) or call me on 07415 638 878. Please help us celebrate Christmas in the Village and let's make it the best switch-on ever!

**VILLAGE RADIO & SECURITY** – As we approach a new term for the BID, we are talking to various radio supply companies about replacing our existing analogue radios with the more up to date digital versions. We are seeing 3 different companies and are hoping to get a really good deal as due to the success of gaining a second 5-year term for the BID, we can enter into a cost effective long-term contract. The new digital radios are not dissimilar to look at but are far more efficient, have a longer reach and have a far superior audio quality with no crackling!

As soon as we have agreed a new contract, the radios will be distributed. We now have 45 radios on the ground in the Village which we intend to keep, plus our 2 Town Wardens providing you with 6-day cover.

Since stepping up the Wardens, and introducing the Facewatch platform for reporting crime, our security operation across the Village has become slicker than ever. If you need John or Maxine for any security issues, radio S-37, or contact either of them on the dedicated security mobile 07539 296148.

**ACOCKS GREEN HERITAGE TRAIL** – We have noticed that lots of visitors have been in the Village enjoying learning more about the area with our terrific Heritage trail boards. Many of the businesses are promoting the

trail with the leaflet on their counters, so please let me know if you would like any of these.

We feel that the beautiful heritage style trail boards and enhanced Village planting has been a fantastic addition to Acocks Green this year. Below is one of the boards located near to the green opposite Pigeon Island.



For more info on the boards visit the History Society website <http://aghs.jimdo.com/heritage-trail/>

SNIPPETS....

- The BID office is moving!! – from 1st November we will be taking up residence in our new home on the first floor at Acocks Green library!
- Section 106 monies from the Morrisons planning application that we managed to secure £55,000 from in 2016 has released more funds to us now that we have secured a second BID term, so we will be receiving a further £45,000 over the next 2 years to enhance the BID's Town Warden service, the Cleaning team, additional planting and Christmas lights!
- Our Village Facebook is now on 3,068 likes, Twitter followers on over 560 so remember to send me your offers or anything else you want to promote to the people who follow us on social media. This is **FREE** advertising everyone!
- And finally ... welcome to the Village to Certax, our new accountants, S & H Jewellers a long-standing Village store but now in their own new dedicated premises, and due to open on 15<sup>th</sup> October - The Dog House Barbers with their unique style of male grooming! We look forward to working with you all.

Sandy Gianni, BID Manager

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