

BID TIMES

March 2015



WELCOME to the March edition of BID Times. As we head into our 2015 Fun Day programme, we kick-off with the 'Eggciting Easter Festival, there's more about that below. We are also now working with Bourneville College on a host of new courses and training which you can get involved with free of charge, and more news about the recruitment of your new Town Warden. So as always, lots going on!

'EASTER FESTIVAL FUN DAY' - Saturday 11th April will be our first event this year. A fantastic opportunity for you as a business to get involved and play a part in this event.



You can do this in a number of ways; Get your sale items and special offers sorted for on the day and we will promote them for you on Facebook and Twitter. If you are a café or food outlet, let the visitors sample what you have to offer by bringing out tasters onto the streets, or offering meal deals just for that day, or why not

sponsor a prize for our first ever Easter Bonnet competition? There really are a lot of opportunities to get involved, and we love to see the place buzzing as the locals and visitors come out in their hundreds.

Some fantastic stuff going on for the Easter Festival that we know will entice people to visit, such as;

- Live performance by Elvis Impersonator Paul Shakespeare (pictured above)



- FREE games, bouncy castle, crafts and activity table, smoothie making and Partybus for the kids
- Entertainer Mark from Montana Events teaching circus skills, balloon modelling and magic
- Music, stalls and a dance demonstration by the fantastic 'Smooth Moves' dance Academy (pictured below)



All this as well as the usual facepainting, music all day, and our very own Village mascot BIDDY BEAR leading the party dances!

So if you want to get involved in the event in any way please email sandy@acocksgreenbid.com or call me on 07415 638 878 and we can chat it through.

CRIME & SECURITY – The next Crime Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th March at Boots and all businesses are welcome to attend, but we strongly urge those on the Storennet radio scheme to come along, as this is where you will hear first-hand all about the



crime statistics in Acocks Green, current offences and offenders and to air any concerns you have with the Police and our Security team.

Recruitment for our own Acocks Green Town Warden is progressing well, and we should be in a position to have this crucial post on the streets before the end of April.

As always, any business wishing to go on the waiting list for a trial with one of the Storenet radios from the BID should register your interest by emailing daniel@acocksgreenbid.com

Don't have a radio but need the Security Officer? Don't forget you can also call him directly (when on shift) on the **Security Mobile 07539 296 148**.

'CLEAN & GREEN IN ACOCKS GREEN' Your BID cleaner Ben continues to work hard on a daily basis, keeping the litter at a minimum, especially in the areas not covered by the Council beat sweeper, such as up the alleyways and behind the shops. Ben is also pictured below doing his monthly round of telephone box cleaning.



All this helps to maintain the pleasant look and feel of the Village which is essential to businesses, the community and our visitors to Acocks Green.

The dedicated 'Village In Bloom' team continue to work towards the judging in July this year where they are hoping to gain GOLD status after being very close last year with Silver Gilt. If any business would like to get involved in the Bloom campaign or to become a volunteer, then please email and let us know and we'll pass on your details to Fran Lee the Bloom Coordinator.



FREE BUSINESS TRAINING – We have began a new working Partnership with Bourneville College and many of you will have met with Rebecca Wilks when she did a recent visit to the Village to talk to the businesses about the range of courses that together we have come up with to offer you free of charge. The usual courses are still up for grabs such as First Aid, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety, Customer Service etc, but we also have FREE places on a new range of courses including;

- Principals of Risk Assessment
- Effective Teamworking
- Effective Communication
- Rights & Responsibilities at Work
- Word & Excel (intermediate and advanced)
- Fire Awareness
- Team Leading
- Self Management Skills
- E-commerce and Social Media
- Conflict Management and many more...

Remember that the BID offers these to you free of charge, so please email sandy@acocksgreenbid.com if you would like a space on any of these great courses.

SNIPPETS....

- Local Centre Improvements continue to be a challenge for businesses which we completely appreciate, and we are assured that the contractors are still on target to finish in June, so only a few months disruption to go!
- Business rates bills for 2015/16 will be out shortly. Remember that the business rates rebate (for retail) of £1,000 has been extended to this year, so it is worth applying for! Contact me for a copy of the criteria, and an application form.
- The Village Facebook followers are now up to 2,800 and our Twitter following increases daily. This is the fastest and most effective way to reach the people who matter, so continue to send me your business offers, or anything you want to say to your customers.
- Work on the new Post Office (within the new WH Smith Local) is progressing well, opposite its old location on the Warwick Road, and due to open on 16th March.

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