

BID TIMES

February 2014



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the February issue of BID Times! Some interesting info in this month's edition, look out for the events listing, in particular the Easter Eggstravaganza coming up in April. Plus a snippet about the new Business Rates Relief scheme announced by the government in December last year, whereby businesses can apply for up to £1,000 relief, which is fantastic news!

'CLEAN & GREEN IN ACOCKS GREEN' – The BID cleaner Ben is still working hard to keep abreast of littering in the Village, and is seen below getting to work on the numerous cigarette butts that make a mess of our highways. A thankless task in itself as we seem to be



constantly battling overflowing bins and rubbish on the streets. Ben also tries to enhance the look and feel of the Village by cleaning down the bins and the phone boxes to ensure that Acocks Green looks the best it can.



In keeping with Birmingham City council's World War 1 programme of commemorative events, the Village metre boxes and hanging baskets, paid for by the BID, will be in patriotic colours, enhanced by the presence of gold flowers to acknowledge the RHS's 50th anniversary of Britain in Bloom.

In this special year B&Q are giving away free poppy seeds and the Bloom team will be working with the local schools to sow poppy seeds at the War Memorial on the day of the Bloom launch on Saturday 26th April.

The team have also done a fantastic job in sprucing up the War Memorial and the Library Front by painting the railings and the gates in our Village green colour.

We are currently working with the Council on getting a special wicker feature for the Green which will also be WW1 related. This will be similar to the statue below, one of many that that appeared in the centre of Birmingham last year to celebrate the Olympics.



CRIME & SECURITY – After a year out of action on maternity leave, it's great to have PCSO Amanda Conlon back on the Village streets!

Amanda said 'I am delighted to be back in Acocks Green and was happy to see the BID now has a security officer, Shahir. The relationship between the BID radio scheme, the security officer, CCTV centre and the Police means that for the most part, we have things covered in the Village, and we are able to keep up the fight against shoplifting, begging and anti-social behaviour'.



Amanda is pictured above discussing the shoplifter document with BID security officer Shahir.

The next Crime Forum meeting is on Tuesday 18th March at Boots, and if any business would like to attend, then email me and let me know on sandy@acocksgreenbid.com

Working alongside West Midlands Police, the BID also put a bid into the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, and managed to secure £5,000 funding towards the security operation in the Green for 2014!

EVENTS – Now we are in 2014, thoughts have turned to the Village events that bring music and fun to our streets, as well as increasing footfall massively on the days when we have music and entertainment aplenty!

The first event kicks off on Saturday 12th April with the 'Easter Eggstravaganza!' On the day there will be;

- Live radio show from the Village on Switch 107.5 fm with regular Drivetime DJ Ant!
- Balloon and Easter Egg giveaway

- Kids colouring competition with prizes
- Free bouncy castle and outdoor games for the kids such as 'Beat the Keeper'
- PLUS all the usuals such as the Sara the face painter, local legend Mad Dominic and stalls galore!

The fun starts at 10am and goes on until 4pm. If you want to get involved, then give us a call or email daniel@acocksgreenbid.com. Remember hit the streets with your freebies, leaflets, special offers etc, and make the most of lots more people being here for the day!

Look out for more info on the other Village events for 2014 in future issues, which will be in June, the World War 1 themed event in September and the big Switch-on once again in November this year.

BUSINESS RATES - RETAIL RELIEF

As mentioned in the intro, the exciting news for 2014 is the new Retail Business Rates Relief where all occupied retail properties can claim up to £1,000 provided your rateable value is £50,000 or less in each of the years 2014-15 & 2015-16.

This is part of the government scheme to support town centres as they experience new challenges in the way people shop, with more and more people using the internet and out of town retail parks.

More information about this will be coming out to you with your business rates bills in April this year, and you will need to put a claim in for this. If any business requires help to do this, then you will be able to email me and I can assist you with the claim.

SNIPPETS ...

- Acocks Green library opened its doors again on 4th March after extensive repairs to the roof
- The new 'Smart Route' plans for the major road works changes are to begin this summer, and a special bulletin outlining the procedures and crucial dates will be brought to all businesses
- Facebook now has 2,180 followers, so email me special offers & anything else you want to share!

Sandy Gianni – BID Manager