

# BID TIMES

October 2013



**Acocks Green Village BID**

**WELCOME** to the October issue of BID Times. We're full steam ahead now towards the Christmas Lights Switch-On event and market on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, which should be a great day, with lots going on. This has been heavily promoted with flyers, on Facebook and Twitter and by word of mouth, so there should be many more people in the Village that day. More about that under the events section, and lots more news this month!

**'GREEN AND CLEAN IN ACOCKS GREEN'** – Many of you will have noticed John the BID cleaner wearing his impressive 'back-vac', picking up the small pieces of litter and more importantly, the endless numbers of cigarette butts that people unhelpfully leave all over our pavements!



In a bid to try to alleviate, or at least help this issue, the BID has purchased a number of cigarette butt bins, which you may have seen placed around Acocks Green. If you

would like one of these bins outside of your property (pictured below) then email me on [sandy@acocksgreenbid.com](mailto:sandy@acocksgreenbid.com) and we will order you one, and arrange to install it for you once it arrives. We all need to try our best to encourage people not to drop these on the floor, to help us keep the Village tidy.

John continues to do a fantastic job, in keeping the Village looking attractive, along with our local Council beat sweeper.



**CRIME & SECURITY** – I'm sure you all will have noticed the presence on the Village streets of the BID's new part-time Security Warden, Shahir.

Shahir works for Elite Security Group on Stockfield Road, and is contracted by the BID to add value to our security in the Village in the busy run-up to Christmas. He is working in partnership with the Police and businesses to address and combat any increase in shoplifting during this period.

Shahir has been busy visiting all the businesses leaving his calling card for you to contact him if you have any security issues. You can reach him on Storenet radio call sign **S-37**, or on the mobile on **07539 296 148**. Remember though for any emergency, you should always

call 999, or for a non-emergency, 101 to contact our local Police Station.



Shahir (pictured opposite) is working very closely with the other professional security guys in our local shops, and with you the businesses, and we are confident that this joined-up approach will result in less petty crime over the coming months.

The quarterly Crime Forum was held several weeks ago, and we had a great response, with this being attended by a number of those on the Storenet radio scheme. Any business is welcome and invited to attend these meetings. The Police always go through the latest shoplifter document and discuss any other observations.

Any BID business is entitled to a trial period with the radios (subject to availability) so remember to let us know if you wish to go on the waiting list to receive a FREE radio, or if you want to attend the next Crime Forum just before Christmas (Date to be confirmed). Email us on [daniel@acocksgreenbid.com](mailto:daniel@acocksgreenbid.com)

**FREE BUSINESS TRAINING** – Most of you will have been visited recently by South & City College and Solihull College, as we promote the next round of FREE BID one day courses.

- **19<sup>th</sup> November** – Present and Communicate with Confidence. 9.00am – 4.30pm
- **20<sup>th</sup> November** - Customer Service, Going The Extra Mile! 9.30am – 4.30pm
- **27<sup>th</sup> November** - Social Media, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter...all you need to know to grow your business! 9.30am – 3.00pm

As you know, these courses are FREE to BID businesses, so just email me or Daniel or call the office on 706 7581 and we will get you booked in.

**TOWN EVENTS** – As mentioned in my welcome section, this year's Christmas Lights Switch-On and Fun Day is coming up fast, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November! There is loads going on, even a LIVE radio show broadcast from the Village by our very own DJ Ant on 107.50 FM Switch Radio. We have some of Stage 27's Cinderella Pantomime cast coming down to join us on the day, and they will put on a little show for us at around 1pm. You can see the full show on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Methodist Church, Shirley Road.

Green Ape, the pedal powered smoothie machine will be back by popular demand, with kids being able to make their own smoothies to enjoy, and brace yourselves! ... yes, our old friend, the much-loved 'Mad Dominic' (pictured) will be on hand all day entertaining the children and playing Santa on his stilts, giving away gifts for the kids.



The Facepainter, Mecca Bingo and the Partybus will also be back ensuring a fun-packed and busy day. Footfall should be doubled, so make sure you all have your deals and special offers in place for then, and get your staff out on the streets promoting your business!

If you want to get involved with the events, then give us a call on **706 7581**.

#### SNIPPETS....

- Work is progressing on our bid to attract some National Lottery Heritage Funding to create a history trail in the Village.
- Full-size cardboard cut-out cop, PC Dominic is also looking for a new home, email us if you would like him!
- Facebook following is still increasing, so keep sending me your offers and messages, [sandy@acocksgreenbid.com](mailto:sandy@acocksgreenbid.com)