

# BID TIMES

September 2013



**Acocks Green Village BID**

**WELCOME** to the September issue of BID Times. Lots going on this month including photos and a report from the Village Fun Day that was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>.

**'GREEN AND CLEAN IN ACOCKS GREEN'** - Once again this month the Village was plagued with an array of mindless graffiti. This is both individuals' 'tags' and the unhelpful racist graffiti.

As you are aware, the council will remove racist graffiti anywhere in the Village within 24 hours of reporting, but the normal 'tags' do not get the same attention, and are not removed at all from areas off the public highway.



The BID is fortunate that we now have our trusty cleaner John Dunphy, who as pictured above, gets to work straight away by removing these eyesores from all areas including privately owned land. Graffiti is being addressed immediately it appears and we hope in time that the people responsible give up altogether, we can but hope!

John has also been carrying out his usual litter picking duties and keeping the Village looking good at all times. To report any areas that need immediate attention, please call me at the office on **706 7581**. Or email [sandy@acocksgreenbid.com](mailto:sandy@acocksgreenbid.com)



**ACOCKS GREEN IN BLOOM!** – It is with grateful thanks to Fran Lee the Bloom Co-ordinator, and her team of volunteers that Acocks Green Village received a fantastic **Silver Award** following this year's judging. Fran herself was also given a well-deserved Merit award for all her hard work in co-ordinating the project. The



Judges initial comments were "What a difference a year makes", following on from the bronze we received in our first year of entry last time. The judges also praised the wonderful public realm improvements such as the new benches, bollards etc, the Millennium Green, St Mary's Church and of course the Edible Orchard on Mallard Close including the fantastic mural by local girl Hannah Brown (pictured above).

Lots more planting will be being done in the next few months, especially some bulb planting that should look wonderful next spring. Definitely going for **GOLD** next year!

**CRIME & SECURITY** – BID meetings are taking place at the moment regarding securing the services of a part-time **Security Officer** for the Village in the run-up to Christmas. This is to try to combat shop-lifting, petty pilfering and purse-dipping that often increases at this busy time. More about that in the October issue.

Storonet radio users will shortly be informed of the next quarterly Crime Forum meeting as this has been delayed due to the changeover in Police personnel.

Remember that 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 from the BID. Email [daniel@acocksgreenbid.com](mailto:daniel@acocksgreenbid.com) and we will let you know when one becomes available.

**FREE BUSINESS TRAINING** – The round of free one-day courses has started and is proving a hit with all of you. Our partnership with Solihull College and South & City College has resulted in a number of courses being available. The ones coming up are;

- **November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Sales Driven Through Marketing (a great one in the lead up to Christmas!) Solihull College 4.00 – 8.00pm
- **November 19<sup>th</sup>** – Present and Communicate with Confidence. Solihull College 9.00am – 4.30pm

The First Aid Course at the end of this month went down a storm, with the BID lads Dan and John (pictured having had his head bandaged!) taking an active part in the proceedings.



As you know, these courses are FREE to BID businesses, so make sure you book onto them once you receive the flyers through the post. Alternatively, just email me or Daniel or call the BID office **706 7581** and we will register your interest.

**TOWN EVENTS** – The September event went down a treat with hundreds of people turning out to enjoy the entertainment and FREE kids Partybus. Green Ape pedal powered smoothies proved a massive hit, and therefore it was unfortunate that Andrew’s bike decided to have a

mechanical failure a short spell into the smoothie making! Andrew will be back on 16th November however for our next Fun Day with Christmas Lights Switch-on so all is not lost. Mark from Montana



events (pictured below), kept the kids busy with his shows, juggling and unicycle performances, even getting them picking up after him!



Other entertainment featured our resident DJ Ant from 107.5 Switch Radio’s breakfast show, playing music all day, along with Mecca Bingo giving away freebies and the ever present facepainter being as busy as ever. The events are well publicised, and additional crowds on the day serve to increase footfall in the town for you the businesses.

If you want to get involved with the events, then give us a call on **706 7581**, and let us know what you’d like to do!

**SNIPPETS....**

- Website improvements underway, to incorporate two new sections, Vacant Commercial Property, and a Job Vacancies page – so send us any jobs you have going or anything you want including.
- Defibrillator purchased, now looking for an accessible, suitable site in the Village to house it.
- Looking into the possibility of engaging the services of a business rates assessor to assist businesses in a possible rates assessment appeal. More about that in the October issue.
- **And finally...**remember we have a 2,000-strong facebook following, so send us your promotions or anything you want us to say to the Village. Email me on [sandy@acocksgreenbid.com](mailto:sandy@acocksgreenbid.com)

**Sandy Gianni, BID Manager**

Check out the website on [www.acocksgreenbid.com](http://www.acocksgreenbid.com)