

# ReCOM



## Do you need a computer?

ReCOM is a registered charity based in Acocks Green which provides low cost computers to local charities, community groups and individuals in need. Our PC's are professionally refurbished, internet enabled, and have a Windows operating system and Office software. We charge £75 for a Pentium 4 PC.

To find out more phone us on **0121 765 5282**, email us at [info@recom.org.uk](mailto:info@recom.org.uk) or look at our web site:

[www.recom.org.uk](http://www.recom.org.uk)

*Bridging the IT Gap in the Community*

## GOOD NEWS FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK

Canal bridge no.86 at Woodcock Lane has been given a Grade II listing, and funds have been secured for repairs ensuring conservation of the bridge as a local example of original canal architecture.



The Old Viarres Bridge, Acocks Green, Birmingham

The general features of the bridge, built in 1794, have remained largely unaltered unlike other bridges spanning the Grand Union Canal in Birmingham. The bridge is a useful pedestrian shortcut and has steps down to the towpath (added in 1990) and an access point to the Millennium Green.

Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum has been campaigning to raise awareness of, and funding for, the bridge. Funds linked to nearby residential developments have been allocated for bridge and towpath enhancements which will start this winter.

A postcard of the bridge is available from local shops and cafes.

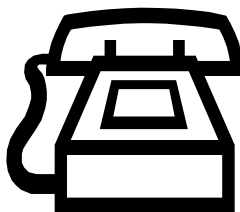


Please help keep Stockfield clean and tidy, and don't encourage rats. Make sure your rubbish is securely wrapped (particularly food waste), and avoid leaving any food outside. Keeping gardens tidy and lawns mown will also help.

If you see rats, please call **303 6007** for the free rat catcher service.

## Useful Telephone Numbers

- DEBT AND BENEFITS ADVICE – For **debt advice**, please call the helpline on **303 2087**. For **benefits advice**, contact the Neighbourhood Office on **303 0596**.
- ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS: **0121 303 9800**
- BROMFORD MAINTAIN (FOR REPAIRS): **01922 723213 (FOR STOCKFIELD TENANTS)**
- BMS EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS: **0845 609 9606**
- BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION: **0121 303 1112**
- ACOCKS GREEN POLICE STATION: **0845 113 5000 x7824 6587 (999 IN EMERGENCY)**
- STOCKFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE : **0121 707 9899**



# STOCKFIELD VILLAGE NEWS



**Issue 16  
Autumn 2008**

*The Quarterly Newsletter from Stockfield Community Association*

## FUN DAY '08



The fourth annual Stockfield fun day on 12th July saw the local community coming together to enjoy games, stalls, dancing, cakes, sports, wild animals, and more. Even the rain couldn't stop play or halt the enjoyment!

Stockfield Community Association would like to say a big thank you to Mike Nangle (former Mayor) for opening the event, and to everyone who once again supported the event, including the Police, Fire Service, Baptist Church, Bromford, BEN Primary Care Trust, Powergen, and Brumcan. Thanks also to the pupils of Cottesbrooke Infants and Juniors Schools for their poster art work.

Hope to see you at next year's event!

**Positive Parenting** course starts on **16th Sept** (Tues) for 4 weeks, **1.30 - 3.20pm** at Junior School in playground classroom.

All Cottesbrooke parents & guardians welcome, just turn up on the first day.

**Free Basic IT Course** for Parents, Guardians, & Grandparents of Cottesbrooke Infants and Junior School. Starts on **13th October** (Mon) until Christmas holidays. **9.30-11.30am** in Junior School.

**For more info please contact the schools.**

## Bromford News Bromford Living

Bromford Living are currently covering Stockfield with a temporary Housing Manager following Richard Bates being successful in gaining a secondment to another part of the business. We will strive to ensure a seamless service to our customers on the estate until Richard returns in January.

Our customers can contact us on our normal number **0845 6050604**.

The next issue is planned for December 2008. For info, or to suggest articles, please contact Jon on **07866 702 363**

## Have Your Say With New Village Partnership



Stockfield Community Association has been asked to feed back your views on Acocks Green Village. The Association sits on the recently formed 'Acocks Green Village Partnership' bringing together local people, businesses, the council and the police to help shape the village's future.

The Partnership will oversee the work of our Town Centre Manager in designing short term action plans as well as a long term strategy to help rejuvenate the village.

So whether you think the village is a great place to shop or if there's room for improvement, do look out for the opportunity to let Stockfield Community Association know what you think.

Make sure your views count and be a part of shaping the future of your village!

## THANK YOU PAT!

Stockfield Community Association would like to say a big thank you to Pat Sheridan, who has stood down as a Resident Director after nearly 15 years of involvement. Pat has played a huge part in working for improvements to the neighbourhood and helping the local community for many years.



The Board will greatly miss Pat, but we know the neighbourhood will continue to benefit from her enthusiasm and support.



The summer may not have seen great weather, but Stockfield's young people have still been involved in lots of different activities with Sport4Life:

Congratulations to the Stockfield football team who won the area championships tournament! Local young people went on a couple of sports camp trips to Bilberry Hill centre and Earlswood Barn, a great opportunity for them to take part in outdoor pursuits such as orienteering, treasure hunts, canoeing and mountain biking.



Back at Stockfield, we had our own "mini-Olympics", a number of teams competing in various athletic events to win medals— who knows, maybe we'll see Stockfield represented at the 2012 Olympics!



There is a regular programme of youth activities based in Stockfield Park—check the noticeboard on the Pod, or call **233 4793**.



This newsletter is produced by Stockfield Community Association, a resident-led organisation working to improve the whole neighbourhood, as well as having 119 properties for rent locally. For more info, see [www.stockfield.org](http://www.stockfield.org), our office at 2a Alexander Rd, or call Jon Miles on **0800 0234 807** (freephone).

## BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR ACOCKS GREEN POLICE



Inspector Richard Agar

"POLICE officers will tackle the issues that matter most to your community" is the message from both the new neighbourhood Inspector and Sergeant for Acocks Green.

**Inspector Richard Agar** and **Sergeant Neil**

**Renwick** will oversee the neighbourhood team that police Acocks Green village and Stockfield. After working for the police for a combined total of nearly 40 years, Insp Agar and Sgt Renwick have a clear vision of how the police, partner agencies and the local community can all work together to reduce crime and make our communities feel safer:

"Our current focus is placed on the offences local people have already identified as making their neighbourhood feel unsafe, such as graffiti, criminal damage and other anti-social behaviour. No one is better qualified than you, a member of the public, to comment on the issues that are affecting your local community. We have a team of officers who are dedicated to dealing with the issues that matter

most to your community. Officers are also working closely with the council and local businesses at a time that traditionally sees a rise in theft. In addition to patrolling the area, officers will be in regular



Sergeant Neil Renwick

communication with shops and the CCTV control room, who will update them of any suspicious behaviour using retail radio. We are confident that by working together with local people and businesses we can reduce crime and disorder and make the communities where we live and work safer."

Log onto [www.west-midlands.police.uk/belgraveroad](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/belgraveroad) to find out how you can contact your local neighbourhood team or for details of your next neighbourhood tasking meeting.

**Stockfield Street Tasking:** Local police officers will be conducting a street tasking in Cypress Square on 25/09/08 and 06/10/08 at 6pm on both days. Please go along to speak to your local police officers and raise any concerns you may have.

## COTTESBROOKE'S VEGETABLE BOUNTY



A pile of old lorry tyres and some bags of compost have been transformed into a productive vegetable garden over the last year at Cottesbrooke Junior School. The pupils have been learning where their food comes from as they have been delving into the soil to dig up potatoes and carrots. The small plot has also produced beans, tomatoes, spinach and lettuce. There are pumpkins and leeks still to mature and after the long wet summer holiday children and staff were amazed how huge the courgettes had grown! The school children have enjoyed getting their hands dirty and finding out how easy it is to produce healthy organic food (although the local slug population has been enjoying the new food too!). The vegetables are handed over to the kitchen for school dinners and the salad bar.