

UPDATE FROM PETE, YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL WARDEN

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter the Council is actively tackling **bag advancement** across the whole of Acocks Green. We can report that we have recently issued one resident with a £100 fixed penalty



Acocks Green should take a leaf from the Stockfield manual!

As part of the **School Litter Charter** we recently did a litter pick with members of the School Council from Cottesbrooke Junior School

in and around the park and on Cypress Square. they dispose of waste.

This should hopefully show Birmingham City Council is keen to clean up our streets and tackle domestic and business rubbish. **Please remember not to put bags out too early before the collection day.**

On a positive note, Stockfield Estate continues to be the cleanest area we patrol and the rest of

in and around the park and on Cypress Square.

An assembly was also held for the whole school in early November. All this will help towards the school being awarded its Litter Charter.

Graffiti in and around the park continues to be a big issue and the Environmental Crime Unit of the Council in conjunction with West Midlands Police are carrying out a number of enforcement and surveillance exercises across the ward.

Birmingham City Council's recycling advice team offered the following tips for Christmas:



Christmas Trees—you can put these out for the usual garden green waste collections, or if you are heading up to Sheldon Country Park, there is a collection point for waste Christmas trees (real ones only, please—not plastic!).

Packaging, Paper and Cardboard—Christmas sees a lot of discarded paper, cards, envelopes, brochures and cardboard packaging, all of which can be recycled here in Birmingham. Please put these in the 2-weekly paper recycling collections (but remember to keep plastic and polystyrene separate).

Shopping—Try and reduce the amount of food and packaging thrown away. However tempting the special offers are, please try and buy only what you need.

Cut out and keep Useful Telephone Numbers

STOCKFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE : [0121 707 9899](tel:01217079899)

BMS REPAIRS: [01902 393 627](tel:01902393627) (FOR STOCKFIELD RESIDENTS)

BMS EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS: [0845 605 0608](tel:08456050608)

ACOCKS GREEN POLICE STATION: [0845 113 5000](tel:08451135000) X7824 6587 (999 IN EMERGENCY)

BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION: [0121 303 1112](tel:01213031112)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS: [0121 303 9800](tel:01213039800)

This newsletter will be published regularly, with the next issue planned for Spring 2007. If there are any events you want included, or other suggestions for the newsletter, please contact us on [07866 702 363](tel:07866702363)

Stockfield Village News



Issue 9
December 2006

Your Local Community Newsletter for Stockfield

Bulbs to Brighten Stockfield

Pupils from Cottesbrooke Junior School have been digging deep to help brighten up Stockfield Park. Almost 40 children, from several classes, joined staff from Birmingham City Council's parks team at the end of November as part of a scheme to plant thousands of flower bulbs in the park.

The children learnt how to plant bulbs, and got stuck in planting the flowers supplied by the Council. Mike Wheale, the Parks Manager, showed them how to arrange the bulbs so we should have a colourful and vibrant display to look forward to in the spring.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, and all the children were given bulbs to take home and plant for themselves too. Mike was really impressed by how well they did.

As part of the In Bloom scheme to encourage more planting and pride in the Stockfield neighbourhood, this event was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils at the school to work together with the Council and others for the benefit of this community. We would like to say a big **thank you** to the children, the school, and Mike and his team.



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FROM
STOCKFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION!

Festive events diary



Carol singing event at Cypress Square, on **Sunday 17th December, starting at 6.00pm.**

Come along for carols, mince pies, and hot chocolate provided by Acocks Green Baptist Church.

Christmas services at Acocks Green Baptist Church:

On Christmas Eve, there will be a children's nativity service at 11.00am, and a 'Carols by Candlelight' service at 6.00pm.

On Christmas Day there is a service at 10.30. All welcome.



Cottesbrooke Junior School would like to invite local residents to join them for coffee and mince pies on **Wednesday 20th December, from 10.45 to 11.20.** Please pop in if you are able.

Remember to check out the Christmas lights in the centre of Acocks Green — lit up from **5th December** at 4.00pm.

Are you over 60, a Stockfield Community Association or Bromford tenant or a homeowner living in the Stockfield estate? We'd like to invite you for a 3-course Christmas dinner on Thursday 14th December at 1.00pm.

We've arranged for dinner to be laid on at The Journey's End pub, with transport provided for you if needed.

If you would like to come, or want to know more, please call Ann Ross on 244 0152.

We'd love to see you there!

Debt, benefits, and housing advice

Over the past year many local residents have received useful support and advice from the sessions run by Lee Collier at the Community Resource Centre at 2a Alexander Road, sorting out queries or concerns about debt and benefits.

We know that Christmas and New Year can sometimes be a difficult period financially, so please remember that Lee is available to help. Don't struggle in silence— if you would like some help or advice, contact Lee and his team on **464 3120**.

Andy Lane (Housing Officer) – **0121 303 3518**. Sessions on Tuesdays (2-4pm) and Thursdays (10am to 12pm).

Lee Collier (Debt and Benefits advice) – **0121 464 3120**. Session on Tuesday mornings (10am to 12pm)

Bromford Housing Association – Hayley Burden on **0845 6050604**.



Community Resource Centre at
2a Alexander Rd

POLICE UPDATE—SGT 5738 COOKE Tel: 0845 113 5000 x 7824 6587

A relatively quiet two months since Oct 1st, with no robbery, woundings, or harassment cases, which is excellent. The area has had 1 home burglary, 1 theft from motor vehicle, and 1 assault.

However, I am particularly asking for your help in relation to one matter, of which there have been several occurrences: **CRIMINAL DAMAGE**, in the form of stones/bricks being thrown through windows of homes and vehicles, not restricted to our Stockfield neighbourhood, but also the surrounding roads. Most occurrences are between 1530 and 2000hrs, and involve local youths seen in the area. If you have **ANY** information about who is doing this, please let us know. The cost to your local school, homes and cars, whether personally or via insurance claims is becoming a significant figure! Please stress to your children that this will not be tolerated, either as a malicious act or throwing stones without due regard to the consequences.

THANK YOU to all who assisted with the issue of gangs in the area, mentioned in the last newsletter. It is an ongoing issue with many people working

together to identify youth provision in the area, and explore appropriate ways to resolve disputes. Please feel free to contact us if you can assist in any way.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT – LOCAL TASKING

As part of Neighbourhood Policing, we have a local TASKING meeting on **Friday 8th December at 1500hrs**, held at 2A Alexander Road. This is your chance to air the issues you see as important. If you are unable to attend, please drop me a note to the resource centre, addressed POLICE BOX, for inclusion in our discussions. Any matters you wish to keep confidential will remain so. Alternatively, please ring in the strictest of confidence, if you have any concerns we can assist with.

And finally, **Season's greetings** to you all: remember to keep your homes secure, and whilst enjoying the festivities, leave the car behind when having a drink.

Regards,
Sgt Cooke, Pc's Burrige, Ball, Woolman, Holder, Manley, PSCO Large

We wish you a merry Christmas and a healthy New Year....

If you feel like you've enjoyed the festive season a bit *too* much, or set yourself a new year's resolution to get fit and healthy, there are some local facilities that can help.

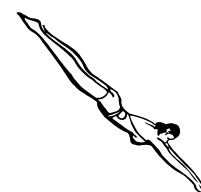
Weight Watchers meets at Acocks Green Baptist Church on Yardley Rd every Thursday morning—pop in for more info.



Fox Hollies Leisure Centre has a range of facilities to encourage everyone in the community to lead a healthy and active life.

If you want to join the **gym**, or use the fitness **suite**, there are induction sessions being run in the new year. You can also get individual advice on the best activities for you.

The leisure centre also offers **swimming** lessons and public swimming, and there are also **free swimming** sessions for children.



If you are on low income or benefits, you may qualify for a **Passport to Leisure**, giving concessions on access to many facilities at the centre.

For more information, contact Fox Hollies Leisure Centre on **0121 464 4112**.