

Welfare Reform Update

Lee Collier – Birmingham Settlement

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Some JSA claimants are receiving “91-day” letters advising that their JSA may be stopped after that time if there are no prospects of work.

Those receiving such letters should discuss the matter with their Jobcentre Adviser to establish action needed to ensure continuation of JSA.

Universal Credit. Universal Credit is being introduced in Birmingham for new applicants from April 2015. It will replace Housing Benefit, Tax Credits, Income Support and income-based ESA/JSA.

It is a “working-age” benefit for those aged 18 or over but under the qualifying age for Pension Credit.

It will provide both in-work and out of work financial support. Universal Credit aims to simplify the benefits system and increase work incentives for those unemployed or working part-time.

Claimants receiving those old benefits will be migrated over to Universal Credit in the next two years.

The new benefit will be paid in arrears monthly, aiming to match the experience of many people in work.

The Housing Benefit and other elements of Universal Credit will be paid into the claimant’s account, so arrangements are needed to ensure that rent is paid to Stockfield by setting up a standing order or direct debit, for example. Those classed as vulnerable may still have payments made to their landlord.

For those on Pension Credit, Housing Benefit will eventually be included in that benefit, but should still be paid to the landlord directly.

Any queries relating to benefits and your rent account; please contact Jasmina Ahmed (Stockfield Housing Officer) for a referral to Birmingham Settlement or Natalie Matthews for Bromford Housing.

Stockfield Community Association tenants have a new repairs contractor Family Housing who will attend to their urgent, routine and out of hours repairs. Their contact number is 0121 766 1115. This is a direct line to their contact centre and should also be used for out of hours calls.

Emergencies are attended to within 24 hours
Urgent Jobs are attended to within 7 days
Routine jobs are attended to within 31 days

When you call please give all relevant information so that the contact centre can pass the repair request to Family Housing with the minimum of delay.

The Stockfield dedicated Officers are
PC V Manley and PCSO Large.

To make direct contact with us call
0845 113 5000
and dial extension number 7824 6928.

Alternatively email us at:

e3 nhp acocksgreen@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
the neighbourhood team website is:

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/belgraveroad/n17.asp>

Contact any of your local resident Directors:
Amanda Millward - 0796 978 1999
Pam Smith - 0121 694 7128
Office Number: 0121 707 9899
(24 hours answerphone)



Dog Warden Tel:

0121 303 9900 - to report any
problems with dogs and fouling.

Useful Telephone Numbers

- **STOCKFIELD CA TENANTS**
your Housing Officer is **Jasmina Ahmed** of Birmingham City Council Housing Team.
NEW NUMBER FOR THIS TEAM: 675 1870.
- **BROMFORD TENANTS** - your Housing Manager is **Geraldine Cunningham: 0330 1234 034**
- **DEBT & BENEFITS ADVICE** - For **Debt Advice**, please call the helpline on **303 2087**.
For **Benefits Advice**, contact the Neighbourhood Office on **303 0596**.
- **STOCKFIELD CA TENANTS - REPAIRS** - Family Housing is the repair contractor - **766 1115**.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS: 0121 303 9800**
- **BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION: 0121 303 1112**
- **ACOCKS GREEN POLICE STATION: 0845 113 5000 x 7824 6587 (999 in emergency).**

STOCKFIELD VILLAGE NEWS



The quarterly Newsletter from Stockfield Community Association

Issue 41
Spring 2015

Community Event Group News



On the evening of Friday 12th December 2014 in Stockfield Park; The Event Group hosted its first Christmas Cracker Event.

The weather was exceptionally chilly; however the atmosphere in the Park was decidedly warm; Helped by a constant flow of hot chocolate and mulled wine



All agreed that Cottesbrooke Junior School Choir were exceptional as they entertained the audience with a collection of Christmas favourites.

Thanks also to Santa who made a surprise visit to hand out presents to the younger attendees and some of the not so young.



We're on facebook you can find us at:
www.facebook.com/stockfieldcommunityassociation please visit the page and like us!



House of Play and Education (HOPE)

Two new groups for three and four year olds in Stockfield

Local charity; House of Play + Education have recently opened two new groups for three and four year olds at their play centre on the Warwick Road opposite Colliers Nissan.

The centre which is based in what used to be a house is located next door to South Birmingham Motors (what was the old Britannia pub) and is open four days per week with loads of free activities including Playgroups, Baby Sensory Play activities and after school clubs (£1 charge applies for after school clubs).

But this February they have announced that they are opening up on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with groups specifically for preschool age children and their parents.



The first group is "Lunch Club" on Tuesdays from 12.15pm – 1.45pm aimed at providing a healthy lunch and activities for children straight after the morning nursery session in local schools. A selection of fruit and vegetarian snacks will be on offer as well as a craft activity and lots of age appropriate toys. Parents can spend time socialising over a cup of tea or coffee as well as enjoying a share of the food. A donation of £1 per child for food is requested.

The second group is "Pre-School Play" on Thursday s from 1.15pm – 2.45pm' this group is for children aged 2 ½ - 4 ½ and is run by a highly experienced Early Years Practitioner to give parents an insight into how a well- run nursery operates. As well as leading craft, story and refreshment times the group leaders are on hand to give advice and guidance on behaviour and developmental milestones as well as things to look out for when placing your child in nursery. This group is free of charge however you may make a donation if you wish.

Both groups are small and intimate with a maximum of 12 children per group and you are guaranteed a warm welcome. As the weather gets better we will also be making use of our large rear garden.

For more details about
House of Play + Education
including Easter holiday activities
please phone 07951 674 624
or visit us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/houseofplayeducation



Do you need help with any of the following?

- Benefit problems including sanctions
- Challenging DWP & HMRC decisions
- Benefit appeals
- Form filling inc. Disability forms
- Telephone calls
- Letter writing

FREE ADVICE @ FOX HOLLIES FORUM
GREENWOOD AVENUE, ACOCKS GREEN, B27 7RA

EVERY THURSDAY FROM
2.00pm - 4.00pm

in partnership with

Funded by ACOCKS GREEN WARD COMMUNITY CHEST

ADVICE PROVIDED BY BIRMINGHAM THE CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED
www.birminghamcentre.org.uk

Drop-in service

Birmingham City Council

agc

Birmingham FIC

CU

Be Fit... Be Fun... Be Active...



Cottesbrooke Walking Group

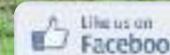
Every Wednesday 9am
1 hour

Meet at Stockfield Park Gates, Cedars Ave,
Acocks Green

All walks are free to attend with a trained walk leader,
just turn up and join our friendly group!

There is so much more to walking

0800 168 3535 • our health, our community • www.healthexchange.org.uk



Community Social 19th February 2015

On the evening of Thursday 19th February the Event Group hosted an informal social get together with nibbles, drink and conversation.

Thank you to those who battled the weather, to meet with us. On the evening we asked the question "What sort of social events might resident want to see or be involved with?"

Some of those things discussed included –

A coach trip, A Family Christmas party, A plant swap, A Litter pick and a Quiz night.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Would you be interested in helping to organise community events, such as the Annual Fun day or Christmas Cracker?
- Would you like to see something different, new or do you have great ideas to share?

If you answer yes to any of the above or you just want to check it out and see, please get in touch to find out how you can help and be involved.

You can Contact us on

<https://www.facebook.com/Stockfield>

Or EMAIL—into@daphnefrancis.co.uk Or - Telephone—07918 909 336



Acocks Green Village in Bloom had a promising meeting at the end of January with London Midland at Acocks Green train station. The plans are to have colourful hanging baskets on the front of the station and on the platform, as well as an exclusively designed Village in Bloom poster on display.

They are also encouraging the development of Friends of AG Railway Station to help look after the plants.

Would you like to help the hanging baskets flourish through the summer months with regular watering? All equipment and instructions provided.

You can help enhance Acocks Green and brighten up the station for locals, passengers and visitors.

Contact the **Village in Bloom**

Fran Lee on 0121 706 0076

or email: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk for more information.



Photo: Acocks Green & South Yardley Station circa 1963. Courtesy of WarwickshireRailways.com