

LOCAL SERVICES

Aerials, Satellites, Burglar Alarms	Craig Jones	0121 744 9899
Building Services	Mr J Hewitt	E.703116
Caravan Servicing	Mr R C Ward	E.703163
Carpenter	A Lloyd	E.703169
Carpet and Upholstery Restoration	P J Bellanger	E.702070
Carpet Fitter	Mr W Clare	E.702703
Chart'd Accountant, Financial Services	Peter Wilcox	E.703250
Electrical Contractor	Tony Pearce	E.702117
Loft-ladder Installation	John Holland	E.703092
Plumbing and Heating	Mr A Warr	E.702603
Roofing, UPVC Fascias etc, Dbl Glazing	Mr J Stubbs	E.702158
Solicitor	G M Fairfax	E.702688

ORGANISATIONS IN CHESWICK GREEN

Allotment Association	Terry Light	E.702109
Boys Brigade	Dianne Roberts	E.702926
Brownies	Val Sperry	E.703268
CGRA Chairman	John Wood	E.702085
CGRA Tote Organiser	Denise Swain	E.702500
Cheswick Green News Editor	Stan Proudfoot	E.702907
Cheswick Green Toddlers	Kate O'Sullivan	E.703415
Childminders co-ordinator	Helen Gardner	E.703791
Cubs	Joyce Brewster	E.702134
Family Church	Beverly Prater	E.702030
	Rev Geoff Dunbar	E.703267
Girl Guides	Val Sperry	E.703268
National Women's Register	Ursula Ison	E.702787
Playgroup	Marian Burrows	E.702066
Rainbows	Val Sperry	E.703268
Save The Children	Jenny Cockcroft	E.703091
St Johns Ambulance Cadets	Div Supt Cleveley	0121 708 0514
School Association	Helen Gardner	E.703791
Scouts, Salter Street	Roger Smith	0121 745 1135
Slimming Club	Ruth Hubble	E.702910
Thursday Club	Gwen Fincham	E.702127
Two's Club	Pat Murray	E.703806
Vicar, St Patricks	Rev Chris Race	E.702579
Village Hall Booking Clerk	Ruth Stanton	E.703293
Wine Club	Chris Kenyon	E.703138
Womens Institute	Cath Harris	0121 744 1336

CheL wick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

April 1995

CHAIRMAN DECIDES TO STAND DOWN AFTER FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE

Association Chairman, John Wood, will not be seeking re-election to the post at the AGM on 26th April. Pressures from other activities, and work commitments which prevent him from attending meetings of various other associated committees, have prompted his decision. However, he will allow his name to be put forward as a nomination for election to serve as an ordinary committee member.

In an open valedictory letter he reviews his term in office and writes:

Dear Resident,

As Chairman of the CGRA I find it difficult to separate the different activities that seem to go with the job. I am on so many committees and much of the work cross references - for example, Hockley Heath Parish Council working parties, Planning Sub-committee, Cheswick Green Village Hall Management, and the Green Belt Defenders.

Since I was appointed four years ago there have been many changes to Cheswick Green. In no particular

order, and with many thanks for all the support which I have received, I will recap on some of the events which have occurred or not occurred in the area.

In 1991 we successfully defeated a proposal to demolish several homes at the junction of Stratford Road and Creynolds Lane and build a multi-storey office block.

Contrary to the belief that every political party had instigated the lights at this junction, the lights were in fact installed (Continued on Page 2)

*Don't forget the Association *s AGM*

See page 3 for details

because of a letter, written by Chris Noble and signed by myself, which was sent to every councillor to lobby against the proposal to close the gap in the dual carriageway - and to send all south-bound traffic, which wanted access into Creynolds Lane, down to the M42 island.

We have argued for, and won, the retention of a doctor's surgery and the pharmacy in Cheswick Green. (There were applications for a pharmacy at Tescos, the approval of which would have meant that we would have lost a very valuable local service.)

We have extended the Village Hall and increased its amenity value. Just look at the list of users at the end of this magazine. The whole area round the Village Hall has been improved with a new car park, pedestrian ramp, and play-area for our children and seats for our comfort. Moreover, the footpath can be used at all times of year now that we have had the land drained.

Even the village green has had new shrub beds and there are newly planted trees in many areas. Some conifers and some deciduous trees have been planted in the playing field together with the Beacon trees both there and at Cheswick Green School. It was decided to cancel the annual fireworks display and bonfire when the village was being extended and the footpath constructed. However, this year is the 25th anniversary of the start of the development of Cheswick Green Village as we now know it and to celebrate the occasion there will be

a grand fete, with fireworks on Friday 8th September and a village theme the following day.

There is to be an enquiry into the development of land on Tanworth Lane with the purpose of extending the capacity of the village. I do sincerely hope that if we are joined by any further residents they take pride in the area. There will always be change, and some will be for the better. But your committee has fought against the introduction of a large football stadium, the widening of the M42, and the UDP strategic plan for the immediate area.

There are many more issues that the committee has sat and deliberated upon - all to keep the running of the Residents Association as smooth as possible. I would like to thank all of the people, especially the present committee, who have given their time and expertise and made my job that much easier.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN M WOOD

It will be with regret that the present committee sees John relinquish his post as Chairman. He has served The Association well. A new Chairman will be elected at the AGM and, if he is to be successful in his role, he will need the support of an active committee. **There are vacancies: new committee members are needed to fill them.** If you have something to offer, should one of the vacancies have YOUR name on it? []

... AGM... AGM... AGM...

The Annual General Meeting of the
CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
will be held at
8pm on Wednesday 26 April 1995
in the Village Hall

The agenda will include
the election of Officers and Committee Members
and a talk to be given by
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT GRAY
of the
WEST MIDLANDS POLICE
on the subject of
"POLICING RURAL AREAS"

All residents are warmly invited

Membership of The Association is open to all residents of the electoral area covered by the polling station at Cheswick Green who are aged 18 and over.

The constitution requires that half of the members of the Committee shall retire from office at each Annual General Meeting but they may be re-elected. A list of the Committee Members who have served during 1994/5 is given on Page 4 and it will be seen that, even if those members seeking re-election are duly returned, there will still be vacancies. The duties of an Ordinary Committee Member (as opposed to those of an Officer) are not particularly onerous. If you are eligible for membership of The Association, and can spare a few hours each month to promote the benefits of your local community, why not think about serving as a Committee Member? Any of the present Committee Members will give you further information.

Nominations for positions on the Committee for 1995/6 are now invited, but please note that these must be given to The Secretary before the commencement of the AGM. A tear-off form is provided on Page 4. []

**CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1994/5)**

- John Wood (Chairman)	7 Willow Drive	E.702085
- Terry Faure (Vice-Chairman)	6 The Orchards	E.703131
* Ruth Stanton (Secretary)	66 Saxonwood Road	E.703293
f_Peni§s. Swain (Treasurer)	3 Longleat Drive	E.702500
VMary BesT*^	2 Waterdale	E.703295
* Brian Brown	52 Saxonwood Road	E.702131
* Hilda Burnett	7 Spinney Drive	E.703397
* Mike Burnett	7 Spinney Drive	E.703397
* Roger Codd	78 Saxonwood Road	E.7Q3Q21
# Ian Collins	57 Saxonwood Road	E.703087
#Mike Cooper	41 Willow Drive	E.7Q2997
Len Cresswell	11 Foxland Close	E.703244
* Godfrey Nail	3 Briar Coppice	E.703543
StanAoudfiJot	61 Willow Drive	E.7Q2907

- retiring as Officer - seeking election as Ordinary Committee Member
- * retiring member - seeking re-election
- # resigned member - not seeking re-election

**CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Nomination for Elected Committee Member/Officer**

Name and signature of Nominee.....

Address of Nominee.....

Position (Committee Member or specified office)

Name and signature of Proposer.....

Address of Proposer.....

Name and signature of Seconder

Address of Seconder.....

reports from the organisations.

CHESWICK GREEN WI

The WI welcomed two new visitors in February and hope to see them again and again.

In February we also welcomed Dr Janet Leese to our meeting, when we presented her with a cheque to "buy something useful" for her new surgery. Our speaker was Mr Johnson, from Johnson Coaches, and a very pleasant and informative evening was enjoyed by every one.

On Tuesday evenings, The Saxon rings to the calls of "well done" when we actually hit the dart board during our practice hour. The team are very much improved this year, and our first match is in April. (How do you -ore double ones?)

Our project for this summer, suggested by a member, is to knit jumpers for the children of Rumania; so if anyone has any spare wool, any ply, please get in touch with the WI and we will collect it from you.

Have you noticed how often CREYNOLDS LANE is spelt incorrectly? - usually with a "G". Most misleading for a social worker who called last week. The maps in her office spell it with a "G". I recently had a letter which was addressed to CRENALS LANE - God bless the Post Office!

Tragedy hit our daffodils in Creynolds Lane last weekend when the MEB dug a trench and laid a new cable. They worked until 9pm one

night in appalling weather to get the supply on. On request they then replanted what daffodils they could find. The rest are about three feet under, and may reappear in about three year's time.

CATH HARRIS
President

CHESWICK GREEN PLAYGROUP

After a slow start to our year, spaces are now filling up quickly. We will be opening for four mornings each week after the Easter break.

Most people are aware that two members of staff have left. We would like to thank Susan James and Sue Lockett for all their hard work and dedication to Vlaygroup. Good luck with their new careers. We would like to welcome two new members to our group: Linda Matson and Pat Murray. Pat is also running the 2's Group. Applications are now being accepted for September '95. For general enquiries please contact Marian on E.702066, and for admissions contact Janice on E.703380. []

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

At the time of writing, the Allotment Association has a number of vacant plots. Anyone who is interested should contact the Secretary, Terry Light on E.702109. []

Godfrey Nail meets a local personality.....

DIANNE ROBERTS - CAPTAIN OF CHESWICK GREEN BOYS BRIGADE

I would guess that there are not many people in Cheswick Green who are more dedicated, and give more time in their own particular field of service to our community, than Dianne Roberts who runs the local Boys' Brigade movement.

Cheswick Green Boys' Brigade is the 49th Birmingham Company in the Birmingham Battalion and it forms a major part in the life of Dianne Roberts. Its present success is due in no small measure to her devotion in the running and operation of the movement.

Born in West Bromwich in 1945, Dianne lived there until 1966 and, after two years in Halesowen, came to Earlswood where she lived for about three years. It was at the start of the Greaves' development at Cheswick Green in 1971 that she became attracted to the new "Village of the Seventies". She liked what she saw and moved into a house in Willow Drive, and later moved to her present home in Boscobel Road where she has lived for 17 years. Dianne says she has never regretted living here for one minute and, from the day that she moved in, the friendliness of the people has made her feel that this is where she really belongs.

Dianne first became involved with the Boys' Brigade in 1981. Peter Tonks was the Captain at that time and

it was following a Family Church meeting at the Village Hall that he asked her if she would go along to the Boys' Brigade meeting to tell them a bible story. Dianne agreed and quoting her, "I have been hooked ever since", she soon became a Lieutenant. Peter Tonks retired as Captain in 1990 and Dianne needed no persuasion to accept promotion.

The Boys' Brigade has a wide range of activities in which Dianne and her team are involved. These include the Monday evening parades, and the Thursday evening meetings at which there may be football practice, band practice, and youth club activities such as table tennis, snooker and indoor hockey. These all take place at the school which is very supportive of the Boys' Brigade. There is a parade to the Family Church on the fourth Sunday of each month and, in addition, there are organised camps, football matches and competitions with other Boys' Brigade companies.

Dianne is a committed Christian and a regular attender at the Family Church and it is not surprising that she is also on the Cheswick Green Church Council.

Notwithstanding her commitment to the Boy's Brigade, she does also hold down a full time job as a carer in a day-centre, run by Solihull Social Services in Solihull Lodge, where she

looks after people having learning difficulties. Dianne cannot have much time to spare for her other interests of knitting, sewing and needlework but mention must be made of her contribution to the making of both the applique alter back cloth in 1981 and the embroidered alter cloth, which portrays a map of Cheswick Green, in 1982 which are used in the family Church.

Dianne has two children: her son, Adrian, is the local window cleaner, and her daughter, Louise, who lives in Redditch with her husband, Ian. Both Louise and Ian are Lieutenants in the Boys' Brigade.

Dianne's involvement with the Boys' Brigade is an undoubted success and she enjoys much support from the parents. The measure of this success is well illustrated in the growth of the Company from four boys in 1981 to about forty-five today.

The object of the Boys' Brigade, as in its declaration, is "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys; and the promotion of the habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness". Nobody can deny that such qualities are very relevant to the needs of the youth of today. I hope that Dianne may long continue to generate these qualities in her Boys' Brigade Company and, in her endeavours to do so, I feel certain that she truly echoes the Boys' Brigade motto taken from Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 19: "Sure and Steadfast".

GODFREY NALL

FAMILY CHURCH 20TH ANNIVERSARY

It was a real joy to share with the Cheswick Green Family Church in their 20th Anniversary Celebrations on the 8th January at the School. It is amazing to realise that 20 years have passed since the Church was begun from the Christmas Carol Services held at the Saxon.

The Family of Christians on Cheswick Green who came together began a venture that, from the beginning, welcomed all people no matter what their belief or denomination. Although, today, the Family Church is within the Methodist Circuit, its ecumenical appeal remains. So, as we drank our coffee in the School Hall, and cut and enjoyed the 20th Anniversary cake made by Jenny Hooton, we realised what a great adventure we began those 20 years ago. The Brownie Pack and Boys Brigade, both flourishing and part of the Family Church, are just two outcomes from that adventure.

Next year is the big one - the 21st birthday - so make a note in your diaries for 7 January 1996. But, in the mean time, remember, everyone is always welcome at 10am every Sunday at Cheswick Green School.

Family Church was started by Christians living here for anyone wishing to come along. Let's all share in our Church that is 20 years old in 1995.

PETER TONKS

Your Committee at work....

Extracts on selected topics from the minutes of recent meetings

The Play Area

[December] The Parish Council is to arrange weekly clearances of litter.

Weeds growing between the safety tiles are to be treated with weedkiller.

[February] The Parish Council has received a report from an independent safety inspection which recommends the trimming of the fixing bolts - this to be put in hand. The Parish Council has requested the suppliers of the equipment to comment on the report. In response to a request for our views, the Parish Council Recreation Committee to be advised that we will consider both a poop-scoop scheme and fencing off the play-area.

Playing Field

[January] Goal nets have been obtained and will be fitted in the Spring.

A non-return valve associated with the drainage channel has been damaged - this to be referred to HHPC.

[February] A quotation has been obtained for the supply and erection of a basket ball hoop. This is to be compared with quotations from other sources.

[March] A basket ball hoop, of the type used by schools, is to be obtained.

Village Hall

[January] The toilets and the Parish Office are to be repainted.

The fault on the hand driers is to be repaired.

[February] The lighting has been overhauled in both halls and over the front door.

The vacancy for a cleaner has been advertised.

The store room has been divided; part for Association use, and part for use by Two's Group and Toddlers Group. Work on slabbing, the erection of a fence at the top of the retaining wall, the tarmacking at the entrance to the field, and the fixing of a handrail has all been completed.

[March] The cost of dividing and painting the storeroom was £75.

A new cleaner has been appointed.

Village Fete 1995

[November] It was agreed that the activities should recognise the 25th anniversary of the "birth of the Village". The fete sub-committee recommended that a firework display be held on the evening before the fete. Costs, etc to be determined.

[January] Costs of fireworks vary from £100-£35000. Brochures are still awaited.

An exhibition on the history of Cheswick Green was proposed for the day of the fete. The School is to be invited to contribute.

It was suggested that it might be appropriate to hold a fancy dress competition with a Silver/25 theme.

[February] There will be Friday evening and Saturday events (on 8/9 September) with the theme being "a

Village Day". \

It was agreed that it would be best to have aerial fireworks only. Because of cost, the display is to be only part of the evening's activities rather than the main event.

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Snowhill Drive

[December] Cllr Judy Morris is to circulate a questionnaire regarding the siting of bollards in Snowhill Drive. If the residents of Snowhill Drive refer the matter to The Association then the support will be given as appropriate.

Tulip Tree

[January] The tulip tree (donated to the Village by a resident and which was subsequently damaged in 1995) has now had its trunk snapped off despite the protection of two posts. A replacement tree will be obtained in the Spring.

[March] The replacement tree has been planted at a new site at the corner of Appian Way and Spinney Drive.

Litter - Shop Frontages

[December] Although some of the shop-keepers do clear their own frontages, there is a continuing problem. A letter is to be sent to the owner to request some action.

[January] No reply from the owner.

[February] Still no reply: a reminder to be sent.

[March] The owner has reported that a meeting has been arranged between himself, the brewery and the Parish Council at which the maintenance of the area in front of the shops will be considered. CGRA to copy our

correspondence to the Parish Council and request that we be kept informed.

Crossing Cheswick Way

[January] The Parish Council sent a copy of a letter from SMBC outlining improvements to make it safer to cross Cheswick Way from The Green to The Saxon. The proposals are to be considered by a working party.

[February] A revised plan has been drawn up and passed to the Parish Council.

Repair to bench by bus stop

[February] The bench has been replaced with a second hand one. Letter to be sent to SMBC to express disappointment at its general state.

[March] Solihull Council are to refurbish the bench.

Donation of Bench

(A resident has asked if he can donate a bench to the Village)

[December] Quotations are to be obtained from SMBC for a concrete-and-wood bench. It is proposed that it be sited by the bus stop in Cheswick Way near to the footpath to Saxonwood Road.

[March] The donor has agreed to pay the cost of the bench which will now be ordered.

UDP

[March] The Inquiry starts on 28 March. The Chairman received notification that he may speak re Dickens Heath but not re Cheswick Green. The reasons for this are to be investigated. []

POETRY CORNER

By Godfrey Nail

In an attempt to create a lighter note in the "Cheswick Green News", I shall be submitting a series of favourite poems for inclusion in the forthcoming issues. If other readers would like to make similar contributions, together with a few lines on why the poems have been chosen, I know that the editor will be pleased to reprint them - providing that there are no difficulties with copyright.

The following is a delightful poem that I came across a few years ago at the National Trust Greyfriars House, Worcester where it was displayed in a frame on a beautiful illuminated manuscript. The poem is untitled, and all efforts to find out anything about the author have been in vain.

The author expresses her delight, after wanderings through the English landscape, to return once more to the familiar and loved homeland area of the Severn Vale that lies between the South Cots wolds and the Severn Estuary.

*Shout, oh ye winds across the Severn Plain,
Shout, for my heart comes home to you again.
Long wandered I; I sought the Sussex Weald
And marked what crops the Devon red-lands yield.
In Surrey lanes I found the primrose shy:
From Cornish coast I watched the ships go by:
And Kentish cherry trees I saw o'er-snowed:
And trod the broad outstretched East Anglian road.
From Lincoln fens and Yorkshire moors I sped
To see the English lakes encircled
By brooding hills. And in the Midlands drear
I sought for truant beauty half the year.
And now, and now, my own familiar hill
Show, '- ^reen above my morning window sill,
And Malvern lies in shadows blue and deep
And Cotswold lies in sunshine *>alf asleep.
Shout, oh ye winds across the Severn Plain
Shout, for my heart comes home to you again.*

Dorothy Thody

THE GRIPE COLUMN

GARAGE BLOCKS

There have been adverse comments on the poor appearance of the frontages of some (not all) of the garage blocks around Cheswick Green. Certainly, on looking around there is a need on some of them for repainting of doors, renovation of guttering and a general sprucing up of the surrounding area.

There seems to be a tendency of being "let go", perhaps because they are tucked away out of sight - not like the garages attached to individual homes which usually do have a well-maintained appearance along with the house frontage. This owner pride unfortunately sometimes seems to be lacking with the block garage.

Can the owners of garages in these blocks be requested to take a serious look at their own individual garage to see if any improvement can be made with a lick of paint, general tidying up, etc? If only one person were to improve the appearance of his garage in the block, it may encourage others to do the same. Surely it should be a matter of local pride and not "out of sight out of mind".

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

If you have a pet complaint which you would like to get off your chest, why not write to The Gripe Column?

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Association. []

MISSING: CAN YOU HELP?

"The Story of Tanworth-in-Arden" by John Burman. This book was loaned to a resident of Cheswick Green some two or three years ago and has not been returned. It has a green hard cover.

If it is sitting in your bookcase, please ring Mrs P Anderson on E.702775. []

THE TOTE

Recent Winners;

1 Dec 94 (inc. 5 Christmas bonuses)

13-15	Downes	£36.60
27-11	Harris	£15.25
25-39	Colclough	£9.15
28-30	Hodgson	£5.00
01-29	Stockton	£5.00
28-22	Moss	£ 5.00
24-15	Wheeldon	£5.00
26-25	Allport	£5.00

29 Dec 94

01-29	Stockton	£36.90
26-08	Gent	£15.38
16-22	Ruth	£9.22

26 Jan 95

22-31	Harrison	£38.40
10-37	Boraston	£16.00
24-14	Copland	£9.60 []

COPY DATE

The next issue of the "Cheswick Green News" is expected to be published in October. Please let Stan Proudfoot (61 Willow Drive) have any items for inclusion by Friday, 15 September. []