

## LOCAL TRADESMEN

Carpenter	A Lloyd	E.3169
Electrical Contractor	Tony Pearce	E.2117
Plumbing and Heating	Mr A Warr	E.2603
Roofing Service	Mr J Stubbs	E.2158

If you would like your name included in a similar listing in the next issue of the magazine, due for publication in mid-March, please contact Stan Proudfoot on E.2907.

## ORGANISATIONS IN CHESWICK GREEN

Allotment Association	Terry Light	E.2109
Ballet Classes	Joanne Upton	0564 824587
	Simone Wallis	021 451 3085
Boys Brigade	Dianne Roberts	E.2926
Brownies 1st C/Green	Beverley Prater	E.2030
Brownies 2nd C/Green	Anne Cresswell	E.3244
Brownies 1st E'wood	Doreen Birch	021 744 7048
CGRA Chairman	John Wood	E.2085
CGRA Tote Organiser	Linda Shergold	E.3554
C/Green Toddlers	Ruth Hubble	E.2910
Childminders co-ordinator	Helen Gardner	E.3791
Cubs	Sue Watts	E.2918
Family Church	Beverley Prater	E.2030
	Rev Geoff Dunbar	E.3267
Girl Guides	Mrs K Youdan	E.2732
Karate Club	Clifton Elcock	0860 558160
	Sue Battle	E.2388
Nat Womens Register	Ursula Ison	E.2787
Playgroup	Sue Lockett	E.3133
Save The Children	Jenny Cockcroft	E.3091
St Johns Amb Cadets	Div Supt Cleveley	021 708 0514
School Association	Keith O'Brien	745 9775
Saxon over 35's FC	John Stubbs	E.2158
Scouts, Salter Street	Roger Smith	021 745 1135
Thursday Club	Gwen Fincham	E.2127
Vicar, St Patricks	Rev Chris Race	E.2579
Village Hall Booking Clerk	Christine Humphries	E.2971
Wine Club	Chris Kenyon	E.3138
Womens Institute	Cath Harris	021 744 1336

Please inform us of any organisations not included or of changes or mistakes in this list. Telephone Ruth Stanton on E.3293 or Stan Proudfoot on E.2907.

# Cheswick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

January 1993

## THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

**Many of you will already be aware that the Residents Association has, for some time, been working towards the establishment of a formal play area for the children of the village. It can now be reported that the planning phase is almost completed and that it is hoped that the equipment will be installed in the spring.**

A fact that may not be so well known is that a play area, similar to that being envisaged here, was created at Hockley Heath a few months ago. That venture was monitored closely so that any mistakes made there would not be repeated here. However, the Hockley Heath project seems to have been quite successful and so it is intended to adopt similar ideas at Cheswick Green.

The significant decision made by Hockley Heath was to spend all of the money allocated by the Parish Council, together with a further sum raised by the local Residents Association, in the purchase of play equipment. The preparation of the site and the installation of the equipment was undertaken by the residents themselves. In that way, by minimising the labour costs, the number of play-items was maximised. Bark chippings were used to provide a safety surface where required.

At Cheswick Green, the present situation is that the Parish Council has now allocated £5250 to be spent (here) on play equipment.

The Residents Association Committee has decided in principle to follow the lead set at Hockley Heath and has agreed that all of this sum, together with about a further £2500 raised by the Association, should be spent on acquiring the equipment.

The site of the proposed play area is on the field close to the Village Hall and, providing that the balance of the further £2500 can be raised, it should be possible to furnish the area with (say) two sets of swings (one for toddlers), a see-saw, a climbing frame and a slide.

Safety is of prime importance and it will be necessary to provide suitable surfaces beneath (at least) the climbing frame and slide. Consideration was given to the use of a propriety rubber matting but the cost of this was deemed to be prohibitive. Thus, bark chippings (as used at Hockley Heath, and which are thought to be satisfactory provided that they are regularly maintained and kept free from animal excrement) will be provided.

Quotations have already been requested from equipment suppliers and so, with a following wind, the children could have something to play on as early as May.

But help is required. Funds must be increased. If there is any way you can assist in this (for example by holding a jumble sale or coffee morning) it will be appreciated. Donations should be made to Denise Swain (E.2500). Profits from the tote are being allocated to this cause - do you contribute? If not, but would like to, please contact

Linda Shergold on E.3554.

When the time comes there will be a definite need for labour to prepare the site, and assemble and erect the equipment. Without this help the project will be jeopardised. If you think that you can assist in this way please let Stan Proudfoot know on E.2907. Or perhaps you could donate some bark chippings, or a bag of gravel or cement.

Our children need a playground. With just a little of your time and/or money they can have one.

#### HOCKLEY HEATH PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The Allotment Association held what was probably their best Produce and Flower Show in conjunction with the village fete in September last.

The entries were of a very high quality and the show had many visitors. As a result we were able to donate a further £45 to the Residents Association fund for the children's play area.

We would like to thank our sponsors who were:

Barbara and Don at "The Saxon"  
Yvonne - Hairdresser  
"H" at the newsagents  
Lesley at the Vineyard  
Bernard at "The Plough"  
Brian Turner, Creynolds Lane  
W.H.Painter, Undertaker, Yardley

If anyone is interested in an allotment please contact the secretary, Terry Light (E.2109), but it is regretted that there are no vacant plots at the time of writing.

#### EDITORIAL

Christmas has come and gone and it is with relief to most parents that the children have gone back to school. At this time of year, when daylight hours are few and the weather often leaves much to be desired, it can be excusable to use the car for the journeys to and fro - no matter how short the distance. It is certainly more comfortable and may even be quicker.

However, there are difficulties outside the school when, for short periods, there are too many vehicles for the space available - just at the time when those less fortunate children are arriving on foot. In this respect Cheswick Green School is no different from many others in the borough. But that does not mean that the problem should be ignored. To repeat an appropriate phrase, "There is an accident just waiting to happen."

There is no easy solution. The Headmaster has sent leaflets to all parents about the dangers of parking outside the school; and the matter has been raised with a Solihull Council road traffic engineer. There are changes which could be made, but each would have an adverse effect on other members of our community. Thus, it may be some time before the right way forward becomes clear and can be implemented.

Until then we all have an added responsibility. If we are using our cars to go to school we must park responsibly - and preferably load/unload onto the pavement. If we are just "passing through" we must drive with extra care and be patient. If we are walking we must be aware of the difficulties and frustrations being faced by the motorists and make additional allowances.

Every life is precious, let us take no undue risks.

#### CHESWICK GREEN W.I.

I would like to thank the members of the village W.I. for all the support and affection given to me as President during 1992.

We have had a very interesting year, with talks ranging from the Royal Commonwealth for the Blind in January (when we were able to donate £120 towards their good work) to quick patchwork quilting, sugar craft, nursing in the 1930's, and Christmas decorations. Our suppers were good, and only surpassed by the enjoyable evening at "The Saxon" when all stops were pulled out to provide 26 meals in record time.

"The Saxon" also allows us to use the darts facilities for our darts competition which, I am sorry to say, we never win. However, next year, who knows?... Thank you Mr & Mrs Cook.

At the village fete we raised £97 and some of this will, in the new year, be donated to a local charity. In all, a very good year. My thanks especially to a caring committee, who are always there when needed. Thanks also to the member who tramps the streets putting up our monthly notices.

Happy New Year to you all, and a big welcome to new members.

Catherine Harris, President

#### A NEW TREE ON THE GREEN

We are all indebted to Godfrey Nail who donated a "Tulip" tree to the village. It was planted near the top of the Green on 29 November. Furthermore, in the spring, he and his brother Desmond are to provide a bench in memory of their father. This will be sited close to the tree.

#### LATE RUNNING OF BUSES TO BIRMINGHAM

In response to complaints that the buses to Birmingham are frequently late, West Midlands Travel have explained that this is being caused by the recent pedestrianisation of the city centre. It seems that the new roadways used by the buses are not sufficiently wide to enable one bus to pass another which is stopped awaiting its scheduled departure time. Apparently, this can have a knock-on effect and buses can be up to an hour late leaving Birmingham: they are therefore late for the return journey. West Midlands Travel are in negotiation with Birmingham City Council in an endeavour to find a solution to the problem but they are not optimistic that they will be successful in the short term.

#### LIMELIGHT PLAYERS

The Limelight Players meet at 8pm on Tuesdays at Shirley Institute, Church Road, Shirley. New members are always welcome whether they are interested in acting or backstage work.

#### BABYSITTING CIRCLE

Is anyone interested in restarting the Babysitting Circle? Do you know of an existing circle? If the answer to either of the above questions is "yes", please phone Hilda Burnett on E.3397.

#### LITTER BINS

Solihull Council have provided three new litter bins on Cheswick Way. Let us use them to improve the appearance of the main road through our village.