

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
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	Beverley Prater	E.702030
	Rev Geoff Dunbar	E.703267
Girl Guides	Val Sperry	E.703268
National Women's Register	Ursula Ison	E.702787
Playgroup	Sue Lockett	E.703133
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	Marion Burrows	E.702066
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

Cheswick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

DOCTOR MOVES INTO NEW SURGERY

As most people will be aware already, Dr Janet Leese moved into her new, purpose-built surgery in the centre of the Village in November. This was the culmination of more than eighteen months work to find and purchase a suitable site, to derive and obtain acceptance of the building-plans, and to have the building constructed. There is little doubt that the provision of this facility is of benefit to the local community. The Association is grateful to Dr Leese for the opportunities which were given for consultation at each stage of the development.

Dr Leese writes: Our recent move to the new premises was successfully completed on 4th November. Many people have commented on how much they like the new building - we are certainly enjoying the luxury of working with brand new facilities. The Open Day on 13 November, attended by the Mayor of Solihull, was a great success with many people taking the opportunity to have a look round.

Tuesdays - this has been particularly well received. An asthma/diabetes clinic is starting after Christmas.

We are planning to start a patient lending library on health-related topics shortly. A volunteer librarian is needed to monitor activity and chase up non-returned books. Only a short time would be required each month. Any volunteers?

Many of our new services are now in operation, including the drop-in well babies clinic on alternate

May we take this opportunity to hope that you all had a Very Happy Christmas and to wish you a Healthy New Year! []

Planning matters give cause for concern -

See Page 4

HOCKLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Noel Mason, Chairman of Hockley Heath Parish Council, gives an insight into this important facet of local government.

By way of introduction, this article briefly covers the role of the Parish Council, its composition, geographical boundaries and objectives. Reference is also made to some of the major issues which are currently being dealt with.

In any parish in England, the District or Borough Council must establish a Parish Council if the population includes 200 or more local government electors. The Parish Council is empowered to incur expenditure for the benefit of the area for all, or some, of its inhabitants. The expenditure must also bring direct benefit to the area, or inhabitants, proportional with such expenditure.

The expenses of a Parish Council are leviable as an "additional item" of the general rate on the parish only, and the council obtain funds by means of the precept. A Parish Council can only issue one precept for each financial year, and therefore it is an important part of the business of the Parish Council to assess accurately the budget required for each year. This year saw a large increase in the precept to enable the Parish to cover the costs of using a planning consultant to represent the Parish Council at the Public Enquiry into Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP). This will

continue into 1995 when the Parish Council will again be professionally represented at the Public Enquiry which will deal with modifications to the UDP.

Hockley Heath Parish Council covers a sizable geographical area which loosely borders Shirley, Wythall, Earlswood, Lapworth, Dorridge and Monkspath. There are approximately 4500 people living in the Parish; the majority of whom live in the three villages of Cheswick Green, Hockley Heath and Tidbury Green, in addition there are the small communities at Dickens Heath and Illshaw Heath.

The Parish Council consists of 7 councillors who are elected for a period of 4 years, and the next elections are due to be held in May 1995. When someone becomes a Parish Councillor he or she has a responsibility to the Parish as a whole. The only paid employee of the Parish Council is the Clerk who is responsible for ensuring compliance with statutory functions and administering the Council's affairs. The names and telephone numbers of the Councillors are listed at the top of Page 3.

The Parish Council applied to increase the number of Councillors, in order to deal effectively with all the issues that

Noel Mason (Chairman)01564 783531
Piers Cockcroft (Vice Chairman)01564 703091
Chris Noble01564 702075
Len Cresswell01564 703244
Margaret Pettinger01564 702108
Richard Dalrymple01564 783736
Alan Jennings01564 822717

arise, but this was unsuccessful. In the meantime, to assist in the management of the Parish Council, two committees have been set up to deal with recreation and planning respectively.

The Recreation Committee has been responsible for the installation of the play-areas at the recreation grounds at both Cheswick Green and Hockley Heath. These projects were both implemented in close liaison with the respective Residents' Associations which have members co-opted onto this Committee. The Committee is also responsible for conservation and other environmental issues.

The Planning Committee was set up recently and the Parish Council has appointed Alan Pickford as Planning Officer. As such, he is responsible for the administration of the Committee's various activities. Major planning issues affecting the Parish include the UDP Modifications for the period up to the year 2011. These are likely to include proposals to develop 31 acres within Cheswick Green, effectively "rounding off" the village.

We are still fighting proposals to

develop Kineton Lane which will allow traffic to flow into the Blythe Valley Business Park. Current planning documents indicate a traffic flow of one car every three seconds (1200 cars/hr) at peak periods. This is unacceptable, and we maintain our stance that any access to the Business Park should be directly off roads adjacent to the motorway.

This leads onto the other battle ground, which is the proposals to widen the M42....

*

In conclusion, your Parish Council is only as good as its parishioners. If you would like advice on any matter, please contact any of your councillors listed above - or come along to any meeting of the Parish Council. Parish Council meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month, the venue rotating between Tidbury Green School, Hockley Heath Pavilion, and Cheswick Green Village Hall. The Planning Committee tends to meet every fortnight. All meetings are advertised on your local notice boards.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous New Year. []

The Blythe Valley Business Park Affair

Contrary to recent reports in the Evening Mail, the Blythe Valley Business Park has not yet received planning permission. The Secretary of State for the Environment is "minded to approve the Business Park" unless objectors can provide him with any reason why he should not grant approval. The Parish Council and the Council for the Protection of Rural England (C.P.R.E.) have written to the Department of the Environment with reasons why the Business Park should not be granted planning permission.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the background to the Blythe Valley Business Park here is a potted history of events.

In 1988 the Secretary of State asked local authorities in the West Midlands to identify sites for high technology business parks. At about the same time, Solihull Council purchased Sidehales and Valentine Farms for several million pounds to protect it from developers! (This is the land between Cheswick Green, Shirley Golf Club and Illshaw Heath). Cheswick Green Residents Association suggested to Solihull Council that this land should become a Country Park.

In 1989 this site was designated as highly suitable for a business park in a report published by the West Midlands local authorities. In September 1989 Solihull Council proposed that the land

should become the Blythe Valley Business Park and be developed in partnership with Speyhawk, a property developer. Access to the park was to be from a redesigned junction with the M42 motorway.

In 1991 and 1992 there were a series of public enquiries which considered several sites, including Blythe Valley, to enable the Secretary of State to "pick" the "best one". The Parish Council appointed consultants to oppose the Blythe Valley Park.

In 1993 the Minister announced that he was "minded" to pick the Blythe Valley site but there were several problems, one of which was that the Department of Transport was intending to widen the M42 and would not allow the construction of any new motorway bridges.

Plans for widening the motorway continue to be delayed - it is possible that it may never happen. This has frustrated Solihull Council who stand to make a great deal of money from developing the park. **In March this year Solihull Council wrote secretly to the Department of Environment suggesting access to the Blythe Valley Park via Kineton Lane from a new roundabout on the A34 by Box Trees Lane. In July, Solihull Council proposed a new roundabout for A34/Box Trees Lane junction, justifying this on road-safety grounds**

but not publicising the real reason which is for access to the Business Park. The Parish Council opposed this application for a roundabout but planning permission was granted by Solihull Council. (When CGRA asked for a roundabout at the junction of Stratford Road/Creynolds Lane they were told it would be too expensive!).

In November the Secretary of State announced that he was minded to approve part of the Blythe Valley Park (40% of the original) which would use Kineton Lane for temporary access until the motorway situation is resolved. The Parish Council has objected on the grounds that there has been inadequate public consultation on the method of access. **Up to 1200 vehicles per hour will use Kineton Lane.** As Kineton Lane is the only access, it is inevitable that due to congestion, accidents, etc, some traffic will use the lanes leading to Illshaw Heath. If the motorway is not widened, then this situation could become permanent.

There is cause for concern in planning matters where a local authority such as Solihull Council is both the land owner and the planning authority. If a private developer had owned this site, he would not have been able to get planning permission for road improvements without giving full reasons for public consideration.

CHRIS NOBLE
Chairman, Hockley Heath Parish
Council Planning Committee

SPRING BULBS

Most of us look forward, from the depths of Winter, to the time when the first flowers indicate that Spring is not so far away. Well, from this year on, the Village should be even more colourful - thanks to Solihull Council and also the private initiative of a small group of residents.

Solihull Council has planted a number of crocus bulbs in various verges and, provided they are treated with respect, these should give many years of pleasure.

Also, Ruth's Friday Night Club bought and planted approximately 600 daffodils to brighten up the Village Green. They are hoping that other organisations will join them to help to enhance the Village even further next year.

On behalf of all the residents, the Chairman and Committee of the Association would like to thank these ladies for their good idea and hard work. []

SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

1995 is Cheswick Green's Silver Jubilee year. It has been suggested that this should not be allowed to pass unobserved and, consequently, various ideas for the 25th Anniversary Celebrations - to be held at the time of the Fete - are being considered by the Committee. Watch this space! []

Godfrey Nail meets a local personality

VAL TONKS - MUSICIAN AND HISTORIAN

When a question is asked about the local history of Cheswick Green and the surrounding area, the person most likely to know the answer is Val Tonks. Val lives on Cheswick Way with her husband Peter, a physics teacher, and her two sons, Robin and James.

She was born in Castle Bromwich where she lived for most of the time before she moved to Cheswick Green in 1970. By profession Val is a peripatetic music teacher, and she travels around Junior and Secondary schools in Solihull and its surrounding areas of Knowle, Dorridge, Berkswell and Meriden. She teaches the saxophone, clarinet and flute - which she has been playing for over 30 years.

She trained as a professional musician at the Birmingham Conservatoire, where she attained the Associate Royal College of Music Diploma. In addition to teaching, she often plays at school end-of-term concerts with a small music group, and also at other concerts locally - with Peter who plays the drums.

Val has been interested in local history since arriving at Cheswick Green nearly 25 years ago and she took a prominent part in the "Save the Mount" campaign in the early 70's. During the period 1975-1980 she took an Open University Degree in Humanities. This included history and music and she gained experience in local history through her membership of several local history

groups including that at Stratford. In 1991, Val was invited to take over the curatorship of the Earlswood local history museum from Don Cross, who wished to retire from the post, and for the last three years she has been extremely busy re-organising and cataloguing the museum's contents. The museum, which is housed in Earlswood Village Hall, used to open just once a year on August Bank Holiday Monday but now it is open at each meeting of the Earlswood Local History Group and on one Sunday afternoon each month in the summer. In addition, it may be opened at other times by appointment.

Val was also involved with Peter and other residents in the formation of the Cheswick Green Family Church at Cheswick Green School. This originated in 1975 following a carol concert held at the Saxon Public House the previous year.

Her other interests include researching her family tree and tap dancing at Simone's tap dancing class in the Village Hall.

What does the future hold? Val says she may take an MA in history, and she has hopes of writing a book on the history of Cheswick Green and Earlswood. Such a book is needed and I sincerely hope that one day I shall have the pleasure of reading it.

GODFREY NALL

CHESWICK GREEN WI

Yet another year has ended - thank you committee members. We look forward to a New Year full of enjoyable evenings, talks, and meals.

Our December meeting was only attended by 10 ladies because the WI ran a trip to Lincoln's Dickensian Market on that day and the other members went by coach for a day out.

We celebrated Christmas early by going to The Saxon, all 29 of us, and enjoyed a lovely evening - first class food and attention, 29 meals in 29 minutes, thank you Mrs Cook and Company for yet another excellent evening.

1995 approaches with an exciting new programme - again we will try our hand at darts, and the Fire Quiz. This year we are hoping to arrange a coach trip. Mr Johnson (of Johnson Coaches) will be one of our early speakers and we are looking forward to receiving their new programme and check what trips we can join. Buckingham Palace was our '94 outing. It was fantastic - how the other half live!

New Members are always welcome. We meet at the Village Hall on the second Friday of each month at 7.45pm. The WI annual subscription is now £12: visitors are charged £1. Only £5 of each Member's fee is kept by CGWI and the balance goes to Head Office for the upkeep of the Birmingham and London Offices so you can see that when we have paid for our speakers and the rent we are only just "afloat".

Happy New Year, Cheswick Green - and a big welcome to my new committee.

CATH HARRIS
President

THE TOTE

Collectors are still needed for part of Willow Drive and part of Saxonwood Road. If you can help by making monthly collections in either of these areas please contact Denise Swain (E.702500) and offer your services.

Recent Winners:

Sept 94

24-04	Holden	£28-20
24-13	Tutin	£11.75
01-39	Faure	£7.05

Oct 94

19/13	Hughes	£32.40
22/39	Massey	£13.50
18/21	Pearsell	£ 8.10

Nov 94

15/30	Mallon	£34.00
02/21	Spiers	£14.10
24/32	Mallon	£ 8.40

COPY DATE

The next issue of the "Cheswick Green News" is expected to be published in April. Please let Stan Proudfoot (61 Willow Drive) have any items for inclusion by Friday, 17 March.

This is your magazine - why not liven it up with a contribution? []