

Cheswick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

July 1991

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Your help needed

The Residents Association requires help to complete various projects that are either underway or are currently being planned. Working parties are needed to finish off work in the new village hall, to help in the construction of the playwall for the use of older children and to help in the creation of a new play area for younger children.

Village Hall

The village hall has been extended and completely refurbished. This work was paid for by Hockley Heath Parish Council. Due to problems with the foundations and damp problems the funds allocated for the work are virtually exhausted and there is still some work to be carried out by residents before the hall can be used by community groups.

Internal work involves fitting shelves and laying floorcovering in the storerooms; mounting various fixtures and fittings, some minor electrical work and the building needs a thorough clean. Help from regular users of the hall would be particularly welcome. Externally, the paths need to be re-aligned and some tidying up is needed.

Play Area

The old play area had to be demolished to make room for the extension to the village hall. The equipment was old and probably needed to be replaced. The safety requirements for new play areas are much more stringent today than they were when the previous equipment was installed. It seems likely that any equipment would have to be professionally installed to meet safety standards. Substantial fund raising will necessary for

Cheswick Green to obtain equipment of the right standard. Some site preparation work and landscaping could be carried out by volunteers.

Playwall

Manual help will be needed to construct the playwall; digging foundations and laying slabs etc. The paving slabs, which are to be used for the playwall are being stored behind the village hall. It would be appreciated if the lads who are using their spare energy to smash up these slabs would use their muscles instead to help in the construction of the wall.

Everyone can help

Everyone can make a contribution either in time, physical effort or financial. Funds will be needed and there are several ways in which contributions can be made. Support the sponsored events which are to be organised by community groups. Join in the village tote if you are not already a member or increase your contribution if you are a member. The Tote Organiser is Diane Mumford E.2805. Financial donations are always welcome. Please send any donations to the Secretary Ruth Stanton, 66 Saxonwood Road. Offers of physical help and special skills or equipment to the Chairman John Wood on E.2085.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Residents

My name is John Wood and I am your new Chairman. I appreciate that Chris Noble will be a hard act to follow, but know that Chris will continue to serve the Residents Association and its aims.

I am 43 years of age and have lived in Cheswick Green for 16 years. I have 2 daughters, both of whom have attended Cheswick Green Primary School. I lecture at a Birmingham college in Construction Studies and my wife teaches Geography in a Solihull school.

I consider my election to Chairman a great honour and recognise the need to maintain and improve the quality of the Association.

I am very keen to keep Cheswick Green as a village updated to the 1990's. The new extension to the Village Hall is well under way and it will be of great benefit to all who use it. I remember the construction of the original Hall, and the pride it has brought to many groups. However with all things we need to change and upgrade to suit our changing roles. The new refurbished hall will cater for a larger section of the community and I sincerely hope that it retains its newfound prestige.

I would ask all residents to take a pride in their 'new' Village Hall and encourage their children to participate in its survival.

I would welcome suggestions from interested parties for the use of the hall and would like to have a Junior Residents section. This must be run in an orderly fashion, with reports and elections from

the section.

I would like to think of groups of children 10-14 years and 14-17 years organising their own entertainment on set nights being guided by the main Residents Association Committee, but run by a 'Youth Leader' who would be responsible for the behaviour and well being of our important younger members of the village.

You may have noticed a cleaner environment next to the shops in Cheswick Way. This is due to a policy decision by Solihull MBC and I would hope by our last clean up the Green campaign by local residents. Please consider your area and keep the village a pleasant place to live. I would be more than interested to hear from members on their views.

My daughter recently **presented** me with several letters, addressed to the Residents Association Committee **from** Cheswick Green School. The **Upper Juniors** are working on a topic **concerning** conservation, and they **have** done practical work, such as **recording** the state of the River Blythe, collecting rubbish and suggesting play areas in and around the Green.

Many of the children have written to ask if they could have a young residents committee and are willing to help with any improvements. They have lots of ideas and I would like to thank all those who wrote offering help. We will read each letter and act accordingly.

Yours sincerely

John Wood Earlswood 2085

CL Lwick Green School
Cheswick Way
7 June 1991

Dear Sir/Madam

We have been doing a topic in the last week that you might want hear about. Our topic is about Conservation. Last Wednesday we went round Cheswick Green to look at places and to pick up litter. When we started our walk I was astonished at how much litter there was. It was like Cheswick Green was a giant dustbin. When we got to the BMX track at the end of Boscobel we walked round the BMX track and it was fine but then when we were walking back something caught my eye. It was a badly polluted stream. It had an old lawn mower, a tyre and worst of all an oil can with oil in. It wasn't just a little one, it was a big bulky one and it was awful and disgusting. There was graffiti everywhere and all the fences broken and because of this a baby calf escaped on Sunday night. I hope you can do something about it.

Yours faithfully
Benjamin Shergold

Cheswick Green Primary School
7/6/91

Dear R A Committee

This week we were doing a project on conservation. Part of the topic was to separate into groups and look at different areas of Cheswick Green. Our area was the Green and the Shops. We think it is only right to inform you of the things we found. On the Green we found things like DOG MESS, a large patch where there was no grass because people play

football and other games there, some plants had been kicked and trodden on. They really need fencing. By the shops we found LITTER (sweet wrappers, lolly sticks, cigarette ends.) There was a pin board that needs replacing because it had been vandalised. We also think that the telephone box and the post box needs repainting. Round by the car park, there was some grafitti. We would also like some more seats by the bus stop. We would also like to have a R A Committee for younger persons to attend.

Thankyou

Yours sincerely

C Casamassa and K D Stubbs

Cheswick Green School
Cheswick Green
Solihull
West Midlands

Dear Residents Association

A group of third and fourth years did a topic on conservation. We looked at most obvious places in Cheswick Green. We were disgusted in most areas. Our area we looked at was on the River Blyfhe. On the first part of the river at Coppice Walk it was not polluted. On the second part of the river starting at Coppice Walk one of the fences had graffiti. It was on the passage that led to the footbridge. In the river there were bits of litter and garden rubbish in the river too. In the third part of the river at Creynolds Lane there was graffiti on the bridge, there were cans in the river. We think children in Cheswick Green should clear it up.

Yours faithfully
Gary Martin

YOUNG RESIDENTS OF CHESWICK GREEN

I was delighted to learn that some of our younger residents have been taking an active interest in their local environment. A group of pupils from Cheswick Green School went on a 'walkabout' in the Village at the beginning of June. I would like to thank them for the letters which they wrote to the Residents Association. Several important issues were raised by them and, in the main, they are issues with which the Association is already taking an active interest, eg we have regular purges on litter in the area around the Green, we have contacts with companies providing bus services and we are trying to find a Youth Leader to run a Youth Club in the Village Hall.

Unfortunately it is very difficult to prevent vandals and litterbugs spoiling our environment. On the plus side, it is encouraging to know that there is a growing band of adults and children who have taken on the responsibility of clearing up other people's rubbish on their regular walks to and from school. What a pity they need to do this though!

The letters which the pupils wrote are being circulated amongst the committee members and I shall reply to them. If anybody, of any age group, wishes to write an article or letter to be included in the next magazine they are very welcome to do so. Articles should be handed in by September 6th at the latest. They may be handed to any Committee Member or given directly to our Secretary, Ruth Stanton.

Di Mumford E.2805

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS AT MAY 1991

Chairman	John WOOD	7 Willow Dr Earls wood 2085
V. Chairman	Diane MUMFORD	65 Foxland CI Earls wood 2805
Secretary	Ruth STANTON	66 Saxonwood Rd Earlswood 3293
Treasurer	Mike BENTON	46 Saxonwood Rd Earlswood 3159
	Len CRESSWELL	11 Foxland CI Earlswood 3244
	Linda SHERGOLD	15 Foxland CI Earlswood 3554
	Chris NOBLE	16 Willow Dr Earlswood 2075
	Roger PARKER	30 Willow Dr Earlswood 2080
	Roger CODD	78 Saxonwood Rd Earlswood 3021
	Terry FAURE	6 The Orchards Earlswood 3131
	Geoff BAKER	8 Chartwell Dr Earlswood 2804
	Mike BURNETT	7 Spinney Drive Earlswood 3397
	Hilda BURNETT	7 Spinney Drive Earlswood 3397
	Godfrey NAIL	3 Briar Coppice Eviwood 3543

EDITOR WANTED

I have edited the maga/im- for 3 years but pressure of work and other commitments are taking their toll and I could do with a rest. Anyone who would like to have a go please contact me, Chris Noble E.2075

CHESWICK GREEN FETE

7th September 1991

This year the Fete is being held in September again. It will be opened by the Mayor and will feature a Falconry Display and a display by the Karate Club. The Boys Brigade Band will provide a musical interlude.

We will also be having a Car Boot Sale (the one we held last year was a great success), a Flower and Produce Show organised by the Allotment Association, Fairground Rides and all the usual stalls and refreshments.

CAR BOOT SALE: £4 if booked in advance, (contact Ruth Stanton on E.3293), or £5 on the day.

BOOKS: We will be having a book stall - anyone with books which they could

donate for this should contact Jackie and Roger Nolan on E2753.

HELP WANTED: If anyone has a large van or trailer and is available on Friday 6th and Monday 9th September, we need help with collecting and returning tressle tables from St Patricks School and Earlswood Village Hall.

Also, help will be required on the day putting up tents, supervising the Car Boot Sale, roping off an area for the Falconry display, selling raffle tickets, clearing the field afterwards. If anyone can help us, please contact Ruth Stanton on E3293.

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1ST CHESWICK GREEN BROWNIES

We meet at Cheswick Green School between 6.15 and 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings. Girls between 7 and 10 are eligible to join Brownies and we are at present a full Pack of 24 with a waiting list. It is advisable to put your daughter's name down as early as possible to be sure of a place at age 7.

Some of our recent activities have included a visit to Windsor Safari Park and work on the Road Safety and Athlete's badges. On Saturday, 29th June we shall be performing a dance at the Family Church Garden Party and on Monday, 1st July we shall be participating in a District Sports Night with other local Packs. The last Wednesday of term (17th July) is traditionally our own Pack Silly Sports and Badge presentation.

We are already planning our next coach trip which will take place on Saturday 14th September and will be to the Chessington World of Adventures. Places on the coach will obviously be offered first to our own Brownies and their families but, if spaces are available, we will gladly take any other local Brownies. Please contact me or Tawny Owl, Mary Best (E.3295). The cost of the trip will be £13 for children and £14 for adults. This includes the cost of travel and admission. Once inside you have unlimited use of the 100 thrilling rides and attractions.

For any information about 1st Cheswick Green Brownies and our activities, please contact me.

Beverly Prater, Brown Owl. E.2030.

CHESWICK GREEN FAMILY CHURCH (METHODIST)

We meet at Cheswick Green School at 10am every Sunday morning and we would be delighted if you would join us. We welcome members of any and all denominations. In particular, we would like to invite you to the following events: Sunday, 23rd June our annual OPEN AIR SERVICE. This year in view of the extension work on the Village Hall, we shall be walking up from the shops to the School at 9.45am. The Service will be held outside, weather permitting.

Saturday, 29th June GARDEN PARTY at Flax Cottage, Tinkers Lane, Illshaw Heath, 2.30pm. The admission charge of 75p for adults and 50p for children includes a CREAM TEA. There will be a number of games and stalls and it is a lovely setting in which to pass a very pleasant afternoon.

Looking ahead a little, we have our annual COMMUNITY SERVICE on Sunday, 29th September, to which all organisations on Cheswick Green are invited.

We have a thriving Junior Church which caters for children of all ages. They have 'Sunday School' classes during the adult service as well as other activities. This year the older children are going to a weekend camp at Eastnor Castle between July 12th and 14th.

If you would like any more information about Family Church and its activities, including the possibility of Baptism, please contact Rev Geoff Dunbar (E.3267) or myself.

Beverly Prater, Secretary E.2030

((

PAR MAR'S NEWS (VILLAGE NEWSAGENT)
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QPENJJ^HDURS	MON	SAT	6.30 am	7.00 pm
	SUN		6.30 am	2.00 pm

SAMURAI KARATE CLUB

The club's open tournament held at the Tudor Grange Leisure Centre back in March attracted a good crowd and pulled in clubs from all around the Midlands and South Wales. The various styles these clubs perform such as Kung Fu, Lau Gar and Ishin Ryu were combined on the day to provide an entertaining display of both katas and fighting. Our own Samurai club did not come home empty-handed. Young 'Pip' Battle added 2 more trophies to his collection with wins in both Kata and Kumite (fighting) and other club members from around the Borough picking up another 3 awards between them.

In another contest, the United Styles

Association Open Contest held recently in Dudley, Samurai also performed well with 4 more awards, including another one for 'Pip', proving again the high standards maintained by our organisation. Club night is Friday at the School between 6 and 7.30 for beginners and 7.30 to 9pm for higher grades. Anybody interested is welcome to come along and see what this fast growing sport has to offer both children and adults.

M Greer

VANDALISM IN VILLAGE HALL

Two teenage boys from Cheswick Green have been interviewed by the Police in connection with damage at the Village Hall following information provided by residents in the village.

PLAYAREA

VILLAGE (XL AREA

C

The Residents Association hopes to set up a new playarea following the completion of the extension to the Village Hall. The preferred site is immediately adjacent to the extension to the Village Hall. One of our local Ward Councillors, Judy Morris, has obtained a preliminary costing of £5000 for a small playarea. In the current economic climate it seems unlikely that funding will be provided by either Solihull Council, or Hockley Heath Parish Council who have just spent £77,000 on the Village Hall extension.

The Residents Association have set up a sub-committee to do a detailed plan and costing for the Playarea, and also to look into what funding may be available, including approaching local companies for sponsorship. If anyone could help us to organise fund-raising events or in any other way, please contact Ruth Stanton, CGRA Secretary on E.3293.

Yvonne Jordan

The plan on page 8 shows possible locations for the playwall and play area. The brick playwall will be 1.8m (6ft) tall and 3m (10ft long). Slabs will be laid in front of and behind the wall to form a dry playing surface. Goal posts, tennis net line and cricket wickets can be painted on the wall. It is hoped that an extra street lamp will be placed along side the path at this point.

The play area will be enclosed to keep dogs out. Suggestions at present are for a fence to support a low hawthorn hedge which will take several years to mature.

The footpath needs to be realigned to provide direct access to the new front door of the hall. It is hoped that the bar across the path can be removed to allow easier access for prams, wheelchairs and for people who find the steps difficult. The narrow flower beds adjacent to hall could be planted with a tough shrub such as Pyracanthus.

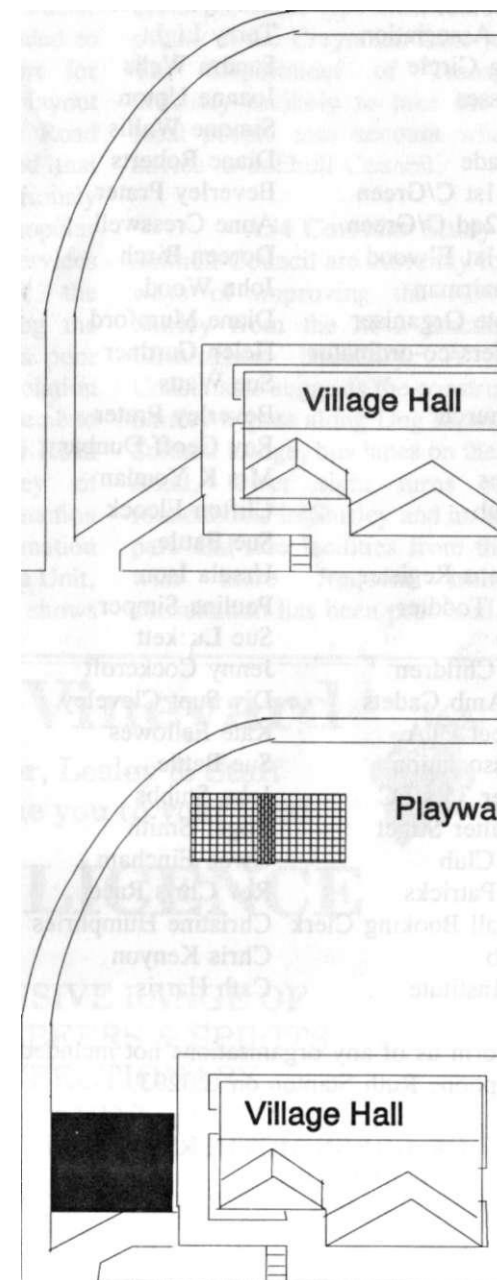
Chris Noble

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Playarea

Proposals for the playarea and playwall

ORGANISATIONS IN CHESWICK GREEN		
Alderbrook PTA	Carolyn Gayton	021 705 3031
Allotment Association	Terry Light	E.2109
Babysitting Circle	Sandra Wells	E.2809
Ballet Classes	Joanne Upton	0564 824587
	Simone Wallis	021 430 8919
Boys Brigade	Diane 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	Diane Mumford	E.2805
Childminders coordinator	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
Mother & Toddler	Pauline Simper	021 704 2134
Playgroup	Sue Lockett	E.3133
Save The Children	Jenny Cockcroft	E.3091
St Johns Amb Cadets	Div Supt Cleveley	021 708 0514
Salter Street PTA	Kate Fellowes	E.2786
School Association	Sue Battle	E.2388
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.

CHESWICK GREEN MOTHERS & TODDLERS

obtain an application form, as we have a small waiting list.

Any moms or expectant moms wishing to attend the Mother and Toddler group held on Friday mornings when the building works at the Village Hall have been completed, please let me know in order to

Due to house moving I can be contacted on 021-704 2134 until we move back onto Cheswick Green.

Pauline Simper

CREYNOLDS II -iE JUNCTION
At its meeting on July 4th the Public Works Amenities Committee decided to ask the Department of Transport for advice on possible changes to the layout of the Creynolds Lane/Stratford Road junction. The Committee accepted that closure of the junction would seriously affect bus services and be very unpopular with local people. The Technical Services Department does not support the introduction of traffic lights using the argument that traffic lights have a poor safety record. The Residents Association suggested a similar traffic light scheme to that at the Lyndon Road/Coventry Road junction in Sheldon. A survey of accidents at the Lyndon Road junction over the last 5 years using information supplied by the West Midlands Data Unit, which is based in Solihull, clearly shows

that traffic lights have prevented serious accidents of the type most feared by local people at the Creynolds Lane junction. The Department of Transport are probably unlikely to take the needs of local people into account when giving advice to Solihull Council.

A34 Corridor Study

Solihull Council are currently looking for ways of improving the A34 through Shirley from the M42 junction to the Birmingham boundary. A study by Consultants suggests the construction of a Shirley bypass along Dog Kennel Lane to Solihull Lodge, bus lanes on the Stratford Road, fewer right turns and more roundabouts in Shirley and an increase in park and ride facilities from the stations with more frequent trains. Full consultation has been promised.



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1ST SALTER STREET SCOUTS

Based at St Patricks Church, the Salter Street Scout Group is the local group for Cheswick Green. This successful operation is supported by an equally successful fund raising committee that last year raised over £1000. This money is spent on Scouting equipment, the minibus and towards the new Scout hut that will be built shortly.

The funds are raised from stalls at the Donkey Derby, Cheswick Green Fete and Solihull Carnival (usually Crockery Smashing!) and also by direct events.

The following events are already planned, please support them if you are able:

Cheswick Green Fete	7 September
Jumble Sale	2 November
Skittles Evening	9 November
Disco	30 November

For further information please contact Terry Bridgewater on E.3365.

NATIONAL WOMENS REGISTER

Alternate Mondays from 8pm. Come and spend an enjoyable evening. Forthcoming events:

July 1st - 'America' - Slides and a chat
July 15th - Foreign language evening

For more details phone Ursula Ison on E.2787.

CHESWICK GREEN WINE CLUB

Our small but friendly club is still on the look-out for several more new members. Informal monthly meetings take place throughout the year, with a barbeque in the summer and the odd 'Real Ale' sampling trip just to ring the changes.

Several people have contacted us recently with surplus wine making equipment on their hands. Thanks for thinking of us! All our members seem to be 'fully kitted up' at the moment but it could be that someone would like to start up, so a quick call to us may be beneficial.

Chris Kenyon E.3138

THANK YOU CHESWICK GREEN !!

The house-to-house collection for CHRISTIAN AID (May 13th - 18th) this year raised a total of £440 - a generous 61% increase above last year's figure, showing your concern and care for the poor and needy of the world.

Thank you, too, to members of Cheswick Green Family Church who made the collection possible.

Trevor Coldridge
Christian Aid Organiser
(Cheswick Green)

C . T O T E RESULTS

March

1	45.06	Baker	70 Saxonwood Road
2	18.78	McKenna	61 Foxland Close
3	11.26	Wakeman	15 Spinney Drive

April

1	44.10	Cockroft	2 Coppice Close
2	18.40	Hasdell	7 The Dingle
3	11.00	Woodward	19 Knoll Croft

May

1	44.00	Rulewski	37 Saxonwood Road
2	18.40	Dutton	8 Appian Way
3	11.10	Sherwood	65 Willow Drive

At the moment we have a full quota of Tote Collectors, but if you are interested in collecting in the future, please contact me. The Collector for Snowhill Drive, for instance, has agreed to collect until December and I will then need to find a reliable and willing body!
Di Mumford E.2805

CHESWICK GREEN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The 1990/91 year will shortly be coming to a close, our last 'event' will be the 'Summer Fun Day' on the 22nd June.

We have had a very successful year in terms of 'items purchased' for the school, it is though a sad reflection on the times that the equipment and resources purchased are classed as basic necessities rather than extras or luxuries. This situation is unlikely to improve as the school is now self-governing and the budget at times sails perilously close to the wind!

I would like, on behalf of the children and the School Association, to thank all those parents and friends of Cheswick Green School who have so generously and loyally supported us throughout this

year and hopefully for their continued support for the forthcoming year! I would also add at this point that the funds raised by the School Association benefits **all** the children in the school from Nursery to 4th year Juniors and not just the committees' children - the more people attending functions the more funds raised!

We shall be holding our AGM in September and hope that, firstly we shall see many more parents this year - it is an open meeting for **all** parents of **all** children. Secondly we shall be looking for some 'new Blood' to share ideas with so if you are interested but unsure have a chat with any committee member or contact me on 2388.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Fun Day on the 22nd June.

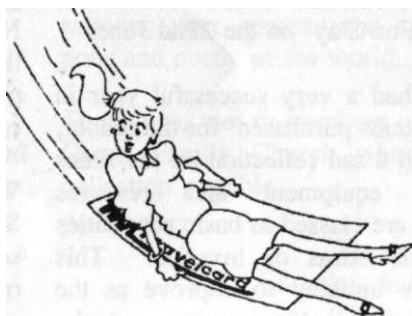
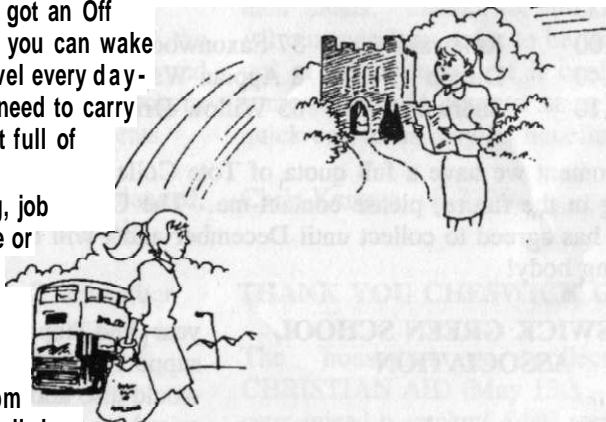
Sue Battle Chairman

ft:

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*off ft**



WAKE UP TO THE BENEFITS WHERE YOU SEE THIS SIGN

MOVING FENCES

The Development Control Sub-Committee of Solihull Council is shortly to consider what action to take about an unauthorised fence at a house in Cheswick Green. At the rear of this property an open area of grass and shrubs was enclosed by a 6ft fence adjacent to a public footpath. This unauthorised development did not have planning permission. Letters have been sent to the householder by the Council requesting that either the fence be removed or an application be made for its retention. No application has made for permission to keep the fence and at the time of writing the fence remains.

When planning permission was granted for the building of Cheswick Green a planning condition was imposed which prohibits fence alterations in order to retain an open-plan appearance. From time to time, the Council has approved applications to move fencing provided that no highway safety issues are involved and that at least 3m (10ft) space is retained open to the footway.

The Residents Association has received many complaints recently about a few householders who have moved or who are attempting to move their fence boundaries onto land that has been regarded as public open space since the houses were first constructed. These selfish acts have a marked impact on the visual appearance of the village for everyone else. It is in everyones interest to maintain the appearance of the village not only for asthetic reasons but for the value of the property with in it.

The Residents Association supports the views of those residents who have made the complaints.

Please note that this condition only applies to fences that border roads,

footpaths and open spaces.

PARISH COUNCIL

In the process of standing for election to Hockley Heath Parish Council I became aware that there is some confusion among parishioners as to what the Parish Council is and what does it do?

The parish is the most ancient type of local government unit in Europe, and in England it has been used for some civil purposes since the eighth century. Over the years the civil functions were separated from the Church functions. Ecclesiastical matters are now handled by the parochial church councils.

There are over 10,200 parishes in England, all of them outside London and mostly in smaller towns and rural areas. There are about 8,200 parish and town councils, each covering a single parish or a group of parishes. Some parish populations are as small as 10 or as large as 40,000 people.

Parish and town councils have minor environmental powers including allotments, local public buildings, local open spaces, sports facilities, burial grounds, off-street car parks, and footpath lighting and maintenance. Parishes have the right to be consulted by local planning authorities about planning applications in their area. They may levy a precept on the collection fund run by the district council. There are 11 parish councils and 1 town council in Solihull. Operating at a very local level, parish and town councils play a useful role within communities in providing local facilities and representing local opinion.

Chris Noble