

LOCAL SERVICES

Building Services	Mr J Hewitt	E.3116
Caravan Servicing	Mr R C Ward	E.3163
Carpenter	A Lloyd	E.3169
Chart'd Accountant, Financial Services	Peter Wilcox	E.3250
Electrical Contractor	Tony Pearce	E.2117
Plumbing and Heating	Mr A Warr	E.2603
Roofing, UPVC Fascias etc, Dbl Glazing	Mr J Stubbs	E.2158
Solicitor	G M Fairfax	E.2688

ORGANISATIONS IN CHESWICK GREEN

Allotment Association	Terry Light	E.2109
Ballet Classes	Joanne Boniface	0527 514262
	Simone Wallis	021 451 3085
Boys Brigade	Dianne Roberts	E.2926
Brownies	Val Sperry	E.3268
CGRA Chairman	John Wood	E.2085
CGRA Tote Organiser	Linda Shergold	E.3554
Cheswick Green Toddlers		•E.2910 ZH*
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	Val Sperry	E.3268
National Women's Register	Ursula Ison	E.2787
Playgroup	Sue Luckett	E.3133
Rainbows	Val Sperry	E.3268
Samurai Karate Association	Clifton Elcock	021 778 3596
	Sue Battle	E.2388
Save The Children	Jenny Cockcroft	E.3091
St Johns Amb Cadets	Div Supt Cleveley	021 708 0514
School Association	Kevin Reynolds	E.3790
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 Stan Proudfoot on E.2907. of any changes required to these lists.)

Cheswick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

July 1993

ASSOCIATION JOINS GREEN BELT DEFENDERS

Cheswick Green Residents Association has joined the new alliance of Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups which has been formed to protect the Green Belt against unwarranted and unwanted development. Known as the Green Belt Defenders, the alliance intends to monitor and safeguard the remaining green belt in an area which stretches from Redditch to Knowle and which includes Cheswick Green.

The Defenders' objective is to project a strong, clear and united force. Small local groups are often without sufficient resources, experience or knowledge of the complicated planning process to be effective, and it is hoped that the alliance will overcome this problem by the pooling of expertise in a positive and structured way.

The Green Belt Defenders will attempt to protect the interests of the 50,000 people who live in their area by challenging any attempt to erode tracts of countryside threatened by development.

In her opening statement at the well-attended inaugural public meeting, held at Light Hall School, Shirley, on 23 June, Chairwoman Mrs Vivien Wilkinson said that the alliance would not be constrained by county boundaries and that its resources would

be made available to each and every member as required.

Another speaker reminded the meeting that it remains central government policy to abide by the original concept of conserving tracts of land as Green Belt. Nevertheless, a substantial amount of land in this locality, presently designated as Green Belt, is under threat because of central government directives to various councils - Solihull in particular - to identify land for housing development.

Three of the five local authorities whose boundaries fall within the area covered by the Defenders declined the invitation to speak, but Solihull Council made a detailed presentation which explained why they felt it necessary to identify Green Belt land for future use for building purposes: it was stated that more houses are needed

and there is nowhere else to put them.

But, Green Belt land is also to be lost, or is under threat, from projects other than housing: there is the proposed football stadium in Shirley, the Blythe Valley Business Park, and the possible widening of the M42.

The meeting was told that now is the time to call a halt. Enough is enough. Central and Local Government can be influenced by public opinion: some MP's and some Local Councillors have already professed support to the aims of the Defenders. Mrs Wilkinson said, "We cannot trust our Councils to protect the Green Belt, because they are in the hands of higher authorities. If we cannot trust our Councils, we must protect the Green Belt ourselves - for the sake of our children. It is up to us. We have the power to fight. We must not be apathetic."

The threat to this part of the country has been identified. Cheswick Green Residents Association, the Parish Council, and the other members of the Green Belt Defenders are all determined that everything possible will be done to prevent any unnecessary loss of green field sites.

Membership of the Green Belt Defenders is open to individuals as well as to groups. The annual subscription costs £1, and this should be sent, by anyone interested, to Mrs M J Jackson, 197 Tanworth Lane, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4BZ < >

(
**BE WARNED,
 THERE ARE THIEVES
 ABOUT!**

**Timely advice from Kendal Spray,
 Crime Prevention Officer,
 Solihull Police.**

The Solihull area has a problem with door-to-door salesmen selling windows, alarms, locks, dusters, soap, or anything else you can think of. In order to gain access to your home they state that they are working with the police, or doing a national survey, and they give you a fleeting glance at a card which is their identification.

Here are some guidelines to consider when dealing with callers at your door:

Remember,
**you don't HAVE to open the door!
 you should not buy anything from
 strangers!**

1. THINK before you open the door: engage the safety chain.
2. CHECK to see who it is: use the door viewer or suitable window.
3. ASK, if you don't know them, "Who are you? What do you want?" (Keep the chain engaged.)
4. NOTE the name of the company which the caller is representing and, if you are unsure about it, request the

caller to come back later. (You can always cancel the arrangement when you have taken advice.)

5. CHECK the authority of the caller by telephoning his company.

6. ARRANGE to have a friend or relative present if the caller is to return.

Finally, if you are in need of a security firm, please contact the Crime Prevention Officer at Solihull Police Station on 021 712 6010 (Ext.6577) for advice.

KENDAL SPRAY

**POLICE CONSULTATIVE
 COMMITTEE**

Earlier this year it was agreed that the membership of the Solihull Police Consultative Committee should be increased to include specific representation from Cheswick Green Residents Association.

"Oh, good!" I hear you say, "But what does the Police Consultative Committee do? And who else sits on it? "

The terms of reference of a Police Local Authority Consultative Committee are quite wide-ranging: it may discuss any aspect of policing policy, with the exception of operational dispositions, cases which

are sub-judice and formal complaints against police officers.

The committee comprises Police Authority Members, District and Parish Councillors, members of organisations active in the community, and holders of any posts in the community whom it is felt could make a valuable contribution. M.P's and M.E.P's are invited as guests.

"Yes," you say. "That's all very well, but what does this body of people actually do?"

Basically, it provides an opportunity for the Police and the Community Representatives to discuss local policing problems and other matters of mutual concern. It enables the community to give feedback on Policing strategies. Conversely, it enables the Police to discuss any problems being faced in law enforcement. It is also the means of promoting joint efforts in crime prevention through practical community action. In other words, it is part of the communicative process which is so necessary if the police and the community are to work together to maintain law and order.

The Committee meets at least four times each year and any significant issues will be reported in these columns.

Your representative at present is Stan Proudfoot (E.2907). < >

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA UPDATE

The January 1993 issue of the "Cheswick Green News" gave full details of the proposals for the play area. Since then, many more meetings and discussions have taken place between suppliers of play-equipment, the Parish Council Recreation Committee and the Residents Association. These culminated in a slight change of plan.

From the beginning about 12 months ago, when the Residents Association knew that some funds for a play area would be available from the Parish Council, the Association felt that rubber safety tiles were the best option to put under the play equipment. However, when Hockley Heath Residents Association undertook a similar scheme last year, they provided a bark safety area for their climbing frame, slide and two rocking animals. In this way, more money was available for equipment. It seemed sensible to adopt the same policy here.

But, the Hockley Heath play area is more self-contained than that at Cheswick Green: it is bounded on three sides by a pavilion, a bowling club, and trees. It is not in the middle of a thoroughfare and a fence was considered unnecessary. The site at Cheswick Green is such that many people believed that, if bark were used as the safety surface, it would be necessary to provide a fence to keep

dogs away. Furthermore, the equipment suppliers advised that a bark pit would require regular maintenance, continual checking for glass fragments and animal excrement, and an ongoing annual financial commitment of £200-£300 to top up the chippings. Based on these considerations the Residents Association decided that it was preferable to spend money on rubber safety tiles rather than a fence.

Therefore, on 19 May, the Parish Council accepted a tender for the provision of a climbing frame with slide, and two spring rockers, to be installed by the supplier onto rubber safety tiles. Two sets of swings (4 flat and 2 cradle) have also been purchased.

The total cost is £9375 of which £5250 will be financed by the Parish Council. The remainder will come from the Play Area Fund. This project has only been made possible by the many kind donations received. We are indebted to CG Playgroup, CG School Association, CG Toddlers, CG Village Hall Management Committee, CGWI, Chris Kenyon, Glenwood Drive residents, HH Allotment Association, Mr & Mrs Marshall, Mayor of Solihull, Stubbs Roofing, TSB, and 1st Salter St Scouts.

Our next step is to provide goal-posts and to mark out a football pitch on the playing field. Eventually, we would like to provide a play-wall: so, please keep the donations rolling in! < >

The way it was....

Val Tonks recounts the saga of
THE MOUNT PLEASURE GARDENS 1906-1914

In the early part of this century Cheswick Green, which included an ancient earthwork known as The Mount, was bought by a Mr Philip Baker a well known Birmingham lawyer. The site occupied 130 acres and stretched from Mount Cottage Farm in Creynolds Lane to Mount Dairy Farm on Tanworth Lane. Baker set out to convert the two farms into a venue for light entertainment for the people of the surrounding area and, in particular, for the people of Birmingham.

Baker himself, lived in Earlswood on Shutt Lane opposite the Earlswood Village Hall. The house was "Earlsmere", long since gone, which stood on the site now occupied by some new houses alongside "Singleton Cottage". At this time, Earlswood was already a trippers paradise, particularly at holiday times when hoards of people came out of Birmingham to enjoy the lakes and the fishing, etc. The problem of drunkenness was apparently so bad that local people locked themselves in at night because of the drunken brawls, extra police had to be recruited at holiday times to keep law and order and to protect local residents and property from damage. As one local resident put it, "By morning, the drunks lay about on the banks of the lakes like dead sheep."

Baker had the idea of creating a

pleasure garden in the hope that it would provide a "preventative cure for the rampant excesses of the times." It seemed a promising venture as the railways were developing and there was already an existing coach service. The Birmingham Omnibus Company ran regular services from the City to Earlswood via the Mount. At the same time, Baker was able to indulge his own interest in ancient history by making a feature of the earthwork. A Roman style temple was erected using materials from Christ Church, Birmingham and the old Birmingham Law Courts, both of which had recently been demolished. Pieces of the stone pillars can still be seen in some back gardens on Creynolds Lane today. The stocks from Moor Street Police Station were erected in the maze.

The Pleasure Gardens were opened in the Spring of 1906 and remained open from Easter until September. There were two ballroom pavilions each 60ft by 20ft and capable of seating up to 560 people at a concert. Entertainments were provided every Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings in the form of a concert or Pierrot show but, on Sunday afternoons, Sacred Concerts were performed. Dancing lessons were provided on another night of the week. In addition, there were other forms of entertainment such as a shooting range, a bowling green and tennis courts.

There were picnic areas, tea-rooms and a camp site. There were also donkey rides and swings for the younger generation. The site also included a poultry farm, beautiful gardens and walks.

Sadly, the venture did not pay and the site was attacked by vandals. A letter to the Warwickshire County News in 1933 from the Rev. W G Podmore, Vicar of St Patrick's, tells how, as a boy, he came on a Sunday School outing to Cheswick Green, which he describes as an old-world hamlet nestling in the hollow, with the blacksmith's shop, the farms and cottages of the unspoilt English country scene. This is the area around Crossroads Garage. He remembers the advertising board for the Pleasure Gardens in a garden at the top of Creynolds Lane which kept blowing down, (a bad omen, he says). The site closed in 1914. After a time the land was divided into individual plots and sold. <>

DOG FOULING: THE HIDDEN DANGERS

After watching a recent BBC2 programme called "Dog Wars" and learning a lot of new facts, it is evident that dog fouling is certainly "dear" (if that's the right word) to a lot of people's hearts. I have used information from the programme for this article. I hope that both dog owners and non dog owners will take note of the obvious and the hidden dangers of dog fouling.

In the UK, one in eight people own a dog and these dogs produce 1000 tons of excrement every day. So where does it all go? I'm sure we all know where most of it seems to go - grass verges, footpaths, parks, and other areas of open space -and where it all too often ends up - on our children's shoes, pram and pushchair wheels, etc.

The obvious hazards of dog fouling can easily be seen and smelt. But it is the not so obvious hazard that we all should be more aware of - that of a potentially serious disease called toxicara canis. In Britain, one child per week is diagnosed with this infection. Children become infected by accidentally swallowing soil which has been contaminated by the excrement of an unwormed dog. Toxicara can survive in the soil for up to four years.

The toxicara infection is caused by a parasite found in dogs which is passed on to puppies in the embryo stage in the mother. Therefore, all owners must presume that their dogs have this parasite. Medication, by worming dogs on a regular basis, would eradicate this disease. This would seem to be a simple procedure for all caring dog owners but information indicates that 50% of dogs are not wormed.

The toxicara egg enters through the child's mouth, hatches in its stomach, and then travels to the back of the eye. Early detection usually means that the sight can be saved. But there are few side-effects and children often adapt to poor vision so that the problem is not

diagnosed until it is too late. Many victims who had lost their sight were shown on the programme.

After hatching, the worms can also be transported to other parts of the body via the blood supply, and symptoms are often temporary and are very varied. If worms are trapped in the stomach they can cause abdominal pain; if they travel to lungs they can cause chestiness or coughing. Little is known about what happens if the worms travel to the brain. A case was shown of a young girl where the toxicara infection caused the loss of the use of her legs for four years.

Since 1987, legislation has given local councils the power to introduce anti-fouling bye-laws, but these can only be adopted with the support of the majority of all residents. Areas can be designated dog-free, but these areas must be fenced off. poop-scoop bins can be installed, but experience has shown that the majority of owners do not use them, and the bins themselves can be a health hazard and are unpleasant to empty.

So, what is the answer? I think that no amount of legislation can prevent this problem: local authorities will never have enough resources to enforce such bye-laws. The first step should be for all dog owners to worm their dogs regularly, for in this way the infection would eventually be eradicated. However, this would not solve the problem of dogs being allowed to foul

footpaths, verges and grassed areas. Dogs and people live in, and use, the same space and I can see no reason why a small number of dog owners think that this space is for the exclusive use of their dogs. Surely, the answer is to use common sense and to have some thought for other people.

Be prepared to clear up after your dog!

DENISE SWAIN
Concerned Resident Against Poo

and, in the same context.....

As a dog lover, but not a dog owner, could I appeal to the dog owners of Cheswick Green to have more consideration for the "garden lovers" of this village.

Living in Creynolds Lane and having a large (too large) lawn in front of the house, I must protest about the numerous dogs (with owners on leads) who foul my lawn. I know that at times it resembles an unloved field - but it is mine, and I see no reason why owners should allow their dogs to do this foul deed while they stand and wait.

The opposite side of the lane is open land, so why not cross over - or, let the dogs use your own lawn.

In anticipation of not having to clean my lawn mower, I thank you.

Name and address supplied

**Annual Report of the First Earlswood Guide Company:
Year ended 28 Feb 1993**

The first Earlswood Guides continue to meet on a Monday evening during term time. It has been another good year for the guides with well attended meetings. We have 34 girls in the Company and 6 joining us in July. There are 3 Uniformed Leaders, 1 Unit Helper and 1 Young Leader.

We have had a varied programme and this has enabled the girls to obtain a variety of badges. Included in this programme at present is "Know Your Community". In this connection we have had a Local Councillor and the police to talk to us on their roles and we have made visits to Solihull Police Station and the Civic Suite including the Mayor's Parlour. The girls have also had the opportunity to take part in the following activities: ice-skating, swimming, ten pin bowling and fencing (and 14 girls were successful in obtaining their Grade 1 Foil Award). County and Division activities have been International and Craft Day and Music Making Day.

Six girls are working for their Baden Powell Trefoil and as part of the requirements girls have to learn a new hobby. Joyce Brewster has been instructing them in the art of lace making. They are all making bookmarks and enjoying it immensely. I would like to thank Joyce for all the time that she has given to the girls

during the past months.

Hand bells are proving to be as popular as ever and the Guides played at services during the Christmas Season. I should also like to thank my husband for all the time he gives to the Guides which enables this part of the programme to be so successful.

We have also been able to serve the community by helping at the Church/School Fete which included country dancing, making lemon curd for Harvest and delivering Harvest parcels, brass cleaning and assembling the Parish Magazine.

Last November the Company led the Remembrance Day Service in Church.

Two enjoyable camps have taken place: the first a training camp held last May for the younger girls, and the Summer Camp at Cheddar Gorge last August.

I would like to thank Dawn Rook, Sheila Ormerod, Gill Allport and our Young Leader Nicola Rooke for all their help and support during a very busy year.

For further information about the First Earlswood Guides please contact Susan Knight, Guide Guider on 021 744 6298.

SUSAN L KNIGHT, Guide Guider

Following the elections at the Annual General Meeting on 5 May 1993, the
CGRA ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 1993/4
are

John Wood (Chairman)	7 Willow Drive	E.2085
Terry Faure (Vice-Chairman)	6 The Orchards	E.3131
Ruth Stanton (Secretary)	66 Saxonwood Road	E.3293
Denise Swain (Treasurer)	3 Longleat Drive	E.2500
Mary Best	2 Waterdale	E.3295
Brian Brown	52 Saxonwood Road	E.2131
Hilda Burnett	7 Spinney Drive	E.3397
Mike Burnett	7 Spinney Drive	E.3397
Roger Codd	78 Saxonwood Road	E.3021
Len Cresswell	11 Foxland Close	E.3244
Godfrey Nail	3 Briar Coppice	E.3543
Chris Noble	16 Willow Drive	E.2075
Stan Proudfoot	61 Willow Drive	E.2907
Linda Shergold	15 Foxland Close	E.3554

CHESWICK GREEN VILLAGE FETE

Please make a note in your diaries that the annual Village Fete will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 18 September on the playing field behind the Village Hall. This year there will be a medieval theme with re-enactments of medieval life and foot-combat displays; and music of the period from "Diabolus in Misica", a traditional music group. There will also be fairground rides and all the usual stalls and attractions.

The fete will be preceded by the official opening of the children's playground - so be sure to be there.

If you wish to have a stall or attraction at the fete and have not already provided a member of the committee with the details, please contact me on E.3021

ROGER CODD

COPY DATE

The next issue of the "Cheswick Green News" is expected to be published in mid-October. Please let Stan Proudfoot (61 Willow Drive) have any items for inclusion by Friday 17 September. < >