

## LOCAL SERVICES

Aerials, Satellites, Burglar Alarms	Craig Jones	021 744 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.703273
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
Ballet Classes	Joanne Boniface	0527 514262
	Simone Wallis	021 451 3085
Boys Brigade	Dianne Roberts	E.702926
Brownies	Val Sperry	E.703268
CGRA Chairman	John Wood	E.702085
CGRA Tote Organiser	Linda Shergold	E.703554
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 Luckett	E.703133
Rainbows	Val Sperry	E.703268
Samurai Karate Association	Clifton Elcock	021 778 3596
	Sue Battle	E.702388
Save The Children	Jenny Cockcroft	E.703091
St Johns Ambulance Cadets	Div Supt Cleveley	021 708 0514
School Association	Helen Gardner	E.703791
Saxon over 35's FC	John Stubbs	E.702158
Scouts, Salter Street	Roger Smith	021 745 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	021 744 1336

# Chesi/vick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

Julj 1'W4

## THERE HAVE BEEN ACHIEVEMENTS BUT THERE IS WORK STILL TO BE DONE

**In his annual reports presented to the Parish Council and to the AGM of The Residents Association, John Wood the Association Chairman, concentrated on three main aspects of the work of the Committee during 1993/4: the management of the Village Hall, the development of the Playing Field, and the culmination of the battle to improve safety at the Creynolds Lane/Stratford Road junction. However, there is more valuable work still to be done.**

The Village Hall is reasonably well patronised, being used regularly by 15 different groups for up to 48 hours each week - and these figures exclude its popularity as the venue for weekend parties organised by local residents. Furthermore, the Hall is still being used as a temporary doctor's surgery.

However, it has been necessary to carry out various maintenance and improvement projects. The problem of water ingress from the roof following the building of the extension has been rectified; the heating system, installed when the extension was built and found to be unsuitable, has been replaced

by a new system which will serve the whole building. This new system is giving problems but, once they have been resolved, it is anticipated that a more efficient and effective mode of operation will be achieved.

There have been some practical and some cosmetic changes to the inside of the building to improve the general ambience.

The younger-children's play area was completed in June 1993 and has been very successful although some of the equipment has not proved to be as "childproof" as was claimed by the manufacturer. These problems will be resolved.

The decision to provide safety matting, raised slightly above grass level, has permitted the use of most of the equipment for most of the year. However, the larger swings have been in water for much of the winter and negotiations are in progress to have the area drained. Also, the footpath needs to be raised and the gate realigned.

The football pitch has been well used but there has been some nuisance caused by balls entering nearby private property. Notices have been provided but it is hoped that a more effective solution will

be obtained by the provision of a screen of fast-growing conifers.

Traffic lights, which incorporate a pedestrian crossing, have recently been installed at the end of Creynolds Lane. This is the outcome of protracted lobbying which was justified on the grounds of safety. [See article on Page 6.]

In his concluding remarks, John Wood recorded that the new bench which has been provided near to the bus-stop opposite the shops had been donated by two residents of the Village: Godfrey and Desmond Nail. < >

## VILLAGE FETE AND CAR BOOT SALE

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

The Village Fete will be held this year at 2pm on

**SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER**

on the recreation ground behind the Village Hall.

The theme will be a FUN DAY with attractions for all ages including "Bar Fly Jumping" in Velcro suits, Cresta Run, Quad Bikes, the Unridable Bicycle, Gyrowheel, Fun Fair, Music, Food and all the usual stalls and attractions.

A car boot sale will be held in conjunction with the Fete so be sure to come along for those extra bargains.

If you or your organisation would like to participate in the fete, and you have not already contacted a committee member, please contact Roger Codd (E.703021).

## THE TOTE

For many years the Residents Association has organised a tote to help raise funds to support groups and activities within Cheswick Green.

Each tote-member is allocated a number, or numbers, at 20p each number per month and a draw is made every month except for August. Half of the money collected is given out in prizes and half goes to the Residents Association. Three prizes are given each month as follows:

1st: 60% of the prize money

2nd: 25% of the prize money

3rd: 15% of the prize money

These amount to approximately £40, £17 and £10 respectively.

Over the years, the money raised from the tote has totalled £720 in 1993/4, £914 in 1992/3, £880 in 1991/2 and £773 in 1990/1. This accumulation of funds has enabled the Association to contribute to the Children's Play Area, provide a football pitch and goal-posts, and also buy some new tables and chairs for the Village Hall. The funds have also helped to obtain a new computer to assist with the production of the Cheswick Green News. Further expenditure is planned for the purchase of a double bench for the Play Area and some trees for planting at the edge of the playing field.

Much of this would not have been possible without the money raised from the tote; the only other source of income for the Association being the

Annual Subscription of £2 per household.

Difficulties have arisen over the last year with the organisation of the tote as a result of the resignations of several collectors. Obviously, collecting 20p or 40p per house per month is very time consuming, particularly if a return call is necessary. In an average year approximately £800 is retained by the Association which means that £1600 has been collected - that is 8000 20p's! The job would be made easier if the collector called less frequently - say once every five months - and this would seem to be a more satisfactory method. Certainly, I feel that it is unacceptable to expect someone to call every month for 20p.

The Residents Association is anxious for the tote to continue and even to increase in popularity. However, this will only be achieved if there are more people willing to volunteer to be collectors. We need to replace those who have resigned and hopefully rearrange existing rounds so that collectors do not have so many houses to visit.

If you feel that you can help please call me, Denise Swain, on E.702500 as soon as possible. I shall shortly be taking over as Tote Organiser from Linda Shergold and I thank her, and all the collectors, for the work they have done over the years. < >

## Your Committee at work....

Extracts on selected topics from the minutes of recent meetings

### The Play Area

[April] Two sets of replacement handles for the "springers" have been ordered (by CGRA) from the manufacturer but only one set has been received. The cost was £47 but this is to be queried as the equipment is still under warranty.

Two benches have been ordered.

[May] The manufacturers have agreed to replace the frog "springer" free of charge.

The benches have not been delivered but a siting plan has been prepared

[June] The replacement "frog springer" is expected to be replaced early in July.

A notice requesting that dogs be kept clear of the play area has been obtained and will be attached to the gate.

It is hoped that the benches will be installed by the end of the month.

### The Playing Field

[April] It was agreed that the "Beacon trees" should be resited together with replacements for those which had died, and a number of Leylandi planted behind the goal mouth in an endeavour to form a screen.

The football pitch is to be re-marked every two months until October. There has been no response from the Parish Council regarding drainage - a report on progress is to be requested.

[May] The Parish Council has allocated the drainage work to the

Recreation Committee who have not yet got an approved budget. The PC consider that an inspection is required but this cannot be carried out whilst the ground is wet. The field remains a flood plain in the NRA River Blythe Catchment Plan. CGRA to request a land drainage permit.

[June] The Parish Council will discuss the drainage problem at their next meeting.

There has been no response from the NRA.

### Village Hall

[April] Problems with the central heating system and the boiler persist. The boiler manufacturer is to be contacted for assistance.

[May] The problems with the central heating system have not yet been rectified.

A plan has been drawn up (for the area near to the bottle bank which is due to become part of the car-parking space) which incorporates a retaining wall, space for a bin store, and a cycle rack. A copy is to be sent to the Parish Council.

[June] Plans for the retaining wall have been accepted by the Parish Council who are obtaining quotes. CGRA has obtained a price for a suitable bin-store.

The boiler has been checked by the manufacturer but problems continue.

An Environmental Health check has been made on the kitchen and toilets

and some minor points have been raised. These will be rectified.

### Litter

[April] Hockley Heath Parish Council is to give each Residents Association £30 to be used for litter collection. Arrangements have been made to borrow equipment and enlist volunteers for the planned "clean up".

[May] Twenty bags of litter were collected on the day of the "clean up". The owner of the shop frontages is to be requested to ensure that litter is cleared regularly.

[June] The Parish Council is to be requested to use the £30 offered to the Residents Associations towards regular litter collection on their land.

### Bottle Bank

[May] The recycling site has been removed in advance of work starting on the doctor's new surgery. The nearest sites are now at Monkspath,

Tesco and Sainsbury. SMBC will approach the brewery to determine whether or not a site can be found on the car park at The Saxon.

SMBC have approached a small private firm, which is operating a kerb-side recycling collection scheme, to request that they extend their operations to Cheswick Green - but the firm have insufficient resources at this time.

[June] CGRA to approach the recycling firm direct to express interest in the service provided.

### Dickens Heath

[June] It was agreed that our objections to the planning application for the extension to the village at Dickens Heath would be in line with those of the Parish Council: no more than 700 houses as in the UDP, only lower density housing on the edge of the village, no buildings higher than two storeys, and a single-form entry school.

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## BODY BLITZ - AEROBICS

WEDNESDAYS 8 TO 9PM

THURSDAYS 7 TO 8PM

At the Village Hall

Classes include an initial warm up, hi/low impact aerobics for stamina and increased energy, strengthening exercises for "problem" areas and developmental stretch for increased mobility.

SAFE - FUN - AND MOST OF ALL EFFECTIVE!  
SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES AND FITNESS LEVELS  
QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR

£2.00 PER CLASS - NO MEMBERSHIP FEES  
(Please bring a mat/towel and wear supportive exercise shoes)

## LIGHTS AT THE END OF THE RpAD

In his annual report, the Association Chairman John Wood, noted that traffic lights and a pelican crossing had now been installed at the Creynolds Lane/Stratford Road junction. It seems to those of us who use the junction, whether on foot or as motorists, that safety has been improved, and let us hope that time shows this to be the case. It was fitting that the annual report should refer to the traffic lights because, without the persistent lobbying by the Association over a number of years, it is unlikely that the junction would have been changed in this way.

The original initiative came from a resident who wrote to the Association in December 1989 and asked if there were any "plans by the authorities to provide a safe means of pedestrian crossing" over the A34 near to The Plough Inn. The Association took this on board and raised the issue with Solihull Council.

The initial reply was somewhat negative. Surveys of traffic and pedestrian movements had been carried out "near to the junction in question" and the results showed that the Department of Transport's criteria for use in deciding where pelican crossings could most safely be provided were not being met: vehicle speeds were too high and the number of pedestrians too low. Thus, there were no plans to provide a pedestrian crossing in the (then) foreseeable future.

The Association immediately responded by asking if there was any possibility that the situation could be reviewed in the light of the fact that the volume of traffic was likely to increase significantly when the M40 was completed and opened. Moreover, the number of pedestrians crossing the A34 might well be substantially higher if some safe means of doing so were available.

Solihull's Director of Technical Services

confirmed that traffic conditions would be monitored to assess the effect of the opening of the M40 and, in February 1990, he referred to the Association's correspondence in a report presented to the Council's Public Works and Amenities Committee on traffic conditions on that section of the A34. It was resolved that the Department of Transport should be requested to give further consideration to the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph. The situation would be kept under review.

There appeared to be little more that the Association could do until the M40 was opened. However, in December 1990, in order to keep the file open and to highlight another hazard at the junction, the Association asked the Council if anything could be done to reduce the danger from traffic making U-turns on the A34 at the junction. Again, the Council were unable to provide a positive response - except to report that approval had now been obtained from the Department of Transport to reduce the speed limit along that stretch of road from 50mph to 40mph. This would be effected by the end of January (1991).

Lobbying continued and, probably as a result, the matter was placed on the agenda of March (1991) meeting of the

Council's Public Works and Amenities Committee. Chris Noble (who was at that time chairman of the Association) wrote to each of the committee members but, unfortunately, the composition of the Public Works Committee changed as a consequence of local elections before any action could be taken. The Chairman of the Association also changed that year and the incoming Chairman, John Wood, repeated the exercise of writing to each member of the new Public Works Committee before the subject was again discussed at their July meeting. He pointed out that there had been a number of accidents, including at least one fatality, at the junction since the main road had been converted to dual carriageway; there had been a significant increase in the number of vehicles making U-turns; the opening of the M40 had increased the amount of traffic using the A34; and many children who wished to visit friends in Monkspath were unable to do so because of the dangers involved in crossing the A34. He commented on the various options which were being considered as potential ways of improving safety and stated that the solution preferred by the Association was for traffic lights which incorporated a pelican crossing.

The Council then decided to seek advice from the Department of Transport with the inevitable delay that that entailed. In November (after a further prompt from the Association) the Council reported that it was the "view of the Department of Transport that, given the prevailing traffic speeds on the Stratford Road, the introduction of signal controls would not be appropriate". However, it had been decided that the use of speed cameras as

a means of traffic calming would be investigated and a working party was to be set up.

It was not acceptable to the Association that traffic blatantly exceeding the speed limit was being used as a reason for expecting local residents to put up with a dangerous situation. The Association, therefore, asked if it could be represented on the working party and was informed that our three ward Councillors would be members.

It was thus desirable to persuade our Councillors to fight for what the Association believed was required - and that proved to be the turning point! All three were sympathetic to the cause and, in January 1993, the Council accepted that the use of speed cameras as a means of traffic calming, coupled with a suggested revision in the Department of Transport the criteria for assessing the provision of pedestrian crossings, would support our case. A positive response at last!

During 1993 the project was developed into a detailed plan. This involved the remodelling of the junction to remove the north-bound deceleration lane and physically to deter U-turns. Also, it was agreed that a high skid-resistance material would be applied on the Stratford Road approaches to the lights. The Association kept up the lobby throughout.

Now that the alterations have been completed, it is believed that users of the junction are much safer than before. The Association is grateful for the assistance which was provided by the various people involved in this achievement. < >

## NEWS FROM THE SURGERY

At last work on our new surgery has commenced! We apologise for the mess and temporary inconvenience, but hope that you will feel it's worth it in the long run. Completion is scheduled for around the middle/end of October, so we should be in well before Christmas. We shall be having an "Open Day" for you to inspect all the facilities at your leisure - date to be announced nearer the time - and all the staff look forward to welcoming you. We are hoping to have far more patient facilities, in terms of both clinics and equipment. I am also hoping to set up a practice book and video library with information on many health-related

topics, to encourage self-help and understanding.

Due to our increasing list size, we have welcomed a new young member of staff in Reception, Miss Becky Beech. This has allowed all staff more time to concentrate attention on improvements to patient care. Several people have worried whether Margaret or Donna were leaving, but this is definitely not the case. We aim to offer a high-quality service, and any suggestions for further improvements will be welcomed.

Dr JANET LEESE

CALLING ALL UNFIT!  
OVERWEIGHT!  
EXERCISE HATERS!

Come along and join our exercise session where

- \* designer gear is banned
- \* rhythm and coordination are a distinct disadvantage
- \* the muscle we use most is our "chuckle" muscle
- \* the session only lasts about 3/4hr because we can't manage more!!
- \* there is always someone who looks worse than you
- \* there is always someone who stops before you do
- \* it is not so much "keep fit" as "try to get fit"

Sounds like you might have fun?

MONDAYS, 8.30pm, VILLAGE HALL

Bring a mat            £1.50/session

(the routines have been devised specifically for us by a qualified fitness instructor)

## 1st CHEsWiv.K GREEN BROWNIES

We have had a busy term of activities, outings and fundraising. Following our Fun Juggle on the Village Green we did a sponsored colouring competition and the two events raised a total of £88 for the Children's Society.

More recently we have been collecting items for Peace Packs for refugee children in Rwanda. These include an assortment of items from pens, pencils and exercise books to soap, toothbrushes and toys. Each Guiding Unit in the world has been challenged to provide four of these packs and we are hoping to double that.

During half term a party visited Gulliver's Kingdom at Matlock and our next trip is to Chessington World of Adventures during the Summer holidays.

BEVERLEY PRATER  
Brown Owl

## 2's CLUB

We have had a very happy term which finished with our first ever sponsored event - an obstacle course.

The children all did very well, completing many more laps than expected - it has to be said that some "mums" looked exhausted!!! (Details of keep fit classes are on the notice board, I believe!) The children were

rewarded for their efforts with ice-lollies - next time we will get a bottle of brandy for the mums!

Some of the money raised (£86 to date) will be added to that so far raised by the Toddlers Quiz Nights to purchase a bench for the Play Area.

If you have a child who is 18mths-2yrs old, pop along and join the fun at the Village Hall on Mondays between 1.30 and 3pm. < >

## SLIMMING CLUB

We have had our most successful weight losses in the past couple of months. The threat of skimpy summer clothes and seeing beautiful bodies on the beach have brought out the vanity in us and we are trying very hard!

If you want to lose a few pounds or a few stones in order to look and feel better, then Monday nights at 7.30pm in the small room at the Village Hall is the place for you.

You are assured of a friendly welcome where others, too, are battling with a weight problem and winning the inch war.

We are a small, friendly group where LOSERS are WINNERS.

Come along and give us a try. Membership is £5 and the weekly fee is only £2.25. < >

**CHESWICK GREEN WI**

The WI actually got through to the semi-finals of the darts competition thanks to the "new blood" in our team. It is thought that we would have gone even further, but our "doubler" went on holiday. Better luck next time. Thank you ladies.

Incidentally, we will have our usual stalls at the September Fete.

CATH HARRIS, President

**ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

We will be holding a flower and produce show at the Village Fete on 10 September - so start growing now. Also, there will be a raffle with many prizes, a tombola, and guess the weight of the cake. A schedule will be dropped through every door during August.

TERRY LIGHT, President

**BUS SHELTERS**

Does anyone else support me in wanting rain-shelters at the bus-stops on the "into Birmingham" side of Cheswick Way? The bench by the shops is great but it doesn't stop you getting wet! And why do "they" think it only rains on one side of the road by Glenwood Drive and not at all up by the school when many parents will tell you it always rains at school at 3.30pm?

If you support this view, please write to the appropriate authorities.

J HUBBLE

**RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
SUBSCRIPTIONS 1994/5**

The annual subscriptions for the current financial year are now due and Committee Members will be calling to collect them over the next few months - weather and legs permitting.

The rate will again be £2 per household with a reduction of £1 for senior citizens. This charge has not been increased since 1989. the amounts raised from subscriptions over recent years has been:  
1993/4 - £781,  
1992/3 - £657,  
1991/2 - £1004,  
1990/1 - £911.

As stated elsewhere, the subscriptions and the tote form the two main sources of income for the Association and enable the Committee to support groups and activities within the community.

DENISE SWAIN, Treasurer

**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, 16 September.

This is your Magazine: why not air your grievances (who knows what benefits might be gained?), share your joys (give us all a lift), or just generally keep us informed of what is going on. Publication cannot be guaranteed, but every contribution will be conscientiously considered.

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**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
Denise Swain (Treasurer)	3 Longleat Drive	E.702500
Mary 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.703021
Ian Collins	57 Saxonwood Road	E.703087
Mike Cooper	41 Willow Drive	E.702997
Len Cresswell	11 Foxland Close	E.703244
Godfrey Nail	3 Briar Coppice	E.703543
Stan Proudfoot	61 Willow Drive	E.702907

**USEFUL SMBC TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Adult Education	021 711 3373
Building Control Enquiries	021 704 6876
Building Alterations and Extensions	021 704 6373
Careers Service Advice	021 704 6711
Consumer Issues (Trading Standards)	021 704 6844
Council Tax Hotline	021 704 8100
Environmental Nuisance	021 704 6833
Green Scheme	021 704 6874
Ice Rink	021 742 5561
Library Theatre Box Office	021 704 6962
Litter Blitz Hotline	021 704 6116
Maintenance (footpaths, highways, street lighting, etc)	021 704 6528
Norman Green Athletics Centre	021 705 4474
Planning Applications	021 704 6384
Refuse Collection (domestic)	021 704 6505
Shirley Library	021 744 1076
Solihull Library	021 704 6965
Tudor Grange Swimming Pool	021 705 6371
Tourist Information	021 704 6130