

# Cheswick Green News

Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

March 1991

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## No decision yet on future of junction

At its meeting on Thursday 9th March Solihull Council's Public Works and Amenities Committee could not agree on the future of the junction between Creynolds Lane and the Stratford Road and have requested that the Director of Technical Services produce another report to be discussed at a future meeting.

The Committee spent nearly an hour discussing the various options for the future of the junction which were contained in a report prepared by staff in the Technical Services Department of the Council.

The recommendation of the Director of Technical Services was to close the gap in centre of the dual carriageway to prevent both right turns and 'U' turns. This view was supported by 'hawks' on the committee who, thankfully, appeared to be in a minority. Their view was that residents of Cheswick Green would have to 'find another route round the back way' or 'go all the way down to the motorway roundabout and back'.

The option of banning 'U' turns was only supported by a minority of councillors. The police objected to such a ban on the grounds that it would be difficult to enforce.

A roundabout was considered to be too expensive (the council is short of money due to the threat of poll tax capping). There was much discussion about traffic lights and a pelican crossing. This is the solution preferred by the Residents Association.

In the discussions that followed there was much argument and some confusion

between councillors who appeared to be making similar suggestions but were arguing against each other. The discussions ended with an agreement to ask the Director of Technical Services to produce another report including the costs and feasibility of the various options.

### Threat to Bus Services

The Residents Association has received letters from both West Midlands Travel and CENTRO stating that closure of the carriageway will affect bus services.

West Midlands Travel have said that if the right turn into Creynolds Lane is removed then service 4 will cease and that minibus 'M' will be threatened because of the increase in operating costs. The majority of councillors appeared to be concerned about the threat to bus services and there were suggestions of a right turn only for buses.

### Cost to local Residents

If the right turn into Creynolds Lane is closed the the cost of making the detour could be £80 per year for a resident of Cheswick Green making one journey per day. Further details on page 6.

## Editorial

I hope that the appearance of two magazines in quick succession after a long gap will not be too much of a shock for you. The new arrangements for producing the magazine appear to be working well.

The magazine has a new format for this edition. The last magazine with 24 pages cost £270 to produce. The smaller print in two columns will allow us to reduce the number of pages and hence the costs. I will be interested to know what you think about the change, particularly those of you with poor eyesight.

The Village Hall extension and renovation is about to start (see pages 3 and 5). I would like to thank members of the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Councillors for all of their efforts in

making ilns much needed improvement happen

The Parish **Council** will miss the contributions of **Petei** Davidson who has decided not to Stand **for** re-election when his term ends in May. On behalf of the village **I** would like to thank **Peter** for his contributions to the community over many years.

It is sad to report that some of the trees on the village green will have to be felled because they are dangerous (see page 10). New trees are to be planted in their place but they will take many years to mature.

The battle to keep the **rihgl** turn into Creynolds Lane and the **campaign** for a pedestrian crossing will continue (see page 6).

Chris Noble

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Village Hall to be extended

As you are probably already aware the village hall is about to be extended and extensively modernized. When all the building work is complete we will have an additional new smaller hall (just a little less than half the size of the present hall), a new kitchen, new toilets and redesigned foyer. We will also have a separate toilet for use of wheel chaired visitors. The whole building will be re-wired and will include an alarm system.

Office and storage space will be built in for the Parish Council Clerk and storage space for regular hall users. In the main hall there will be new decorations, new doors and windows, and, if there is any money left at the end of the project, we hope to have new lighting.

Externally there will be some work done to "vandal proof" the building, as far as this can be done with the' money available. The flat roof part of the present construction will be changed to a pitched roof (this should mean the end of the mop and bucket duty every time it rains).

The building work should start on Monday 25th. March and finish 12 weeks later. The builders require total unrestricted access to the building, which means the hall will not be available to users during that period. This, I'm sure, will cause a great deal of inconvenience, especially to regular users. Hopefully it should be worthwhile when it's all finished. As I'm sure you will agree this work is long overdue.

Such extensive improvements will cost a great deal of money which is being provided by Hockley Heath Parish Council. Our Parish Council representatives have done us proud, especially Piers Cockcroft and Peter

Davidson. Piers and Peter have spent many hours working alongside the Residents Association Village Hall Sub-committee in negotiations with the architect trying to get the best for the money. The architect, like us, wants a building to be proud of and has helped and advised us right from the onset of the project.

So the future of the hall looks good; but we need to remember the past also. Without the foresight and efforts of the original Residents Association, who laboured hard to raise all the cash for the present hall, we would not be able to be so optimistic. When all the building work is done, we then need to think about furnishing and equipment to complete the hall to the standard this community deserves. We will need to ask the residents of the 90's to have the same foresight that the residents of the 70's had (more about that when we have more details).

Len Cresswell

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### 1ST CHESWICK GREEN BROWNIES

Having just completed our Thinking Day celebrations, we are now throwing ourselves into the Spring programme.

We are taking part in a sponsored Kim's Game (a memory test) to raise funds for Guiding and the Children's Society. This is a way of helping children less fortunate than us as well as helping Guiding in Warwickshire. Our Pack round will be on Wednesday, 20th March and the first three girls will go on to a District competition in April.

On May 11th we are planning a visit to Windsor Safari Park for a special Brownie & Guide Fun Day.

We have just taken on three new recruits who will be making their

Promises IK-Ion- **Easter.** We are limited to 24 girls in a I.u k **ind** have a healthy waiting list, so it is **worth** putting your daughter's name down as early as possible in order to ensure a place for her at the age of 7.

Beverley Prater, Brown Owl.  
Tel: E.2030.

Earlswood Telephone Numbers British Telecom are planning to update Earlswood telephone exchange to a digital system. This will mean that our 4 digit numbers will become 6 figure numbers. This change will not happen for at least 2 years but be warned before ordering stationery. One change that is happening now is the withdrawal of the '728' short code from Birmingham. The full STD code of '05646' should be used instead.

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At long last the Village Hall refurbishment and extension is going ahead. The Parish Council have agreed to spend £77,000 on completely refurbishing the Village Hall including a new kitchen, replacing the flat roof and replacing all external doors and windows. In addition there will be an extra hall built and a small parish office. The Village Hall has been very heavily used since it was built in 1973, using money raised by the people of the village and the demand for space has continued to grow. Unfortunately it will be necessary to close the hall for some weeks but I am sure that the end result will be worth this inconvenience.

It is now ten years since I became a Parish Councillor and I have decided that I will not stand for a further term. When I joined the Parish Council it had a very small income which was mainly spent on street lighting, something which it did not need to do and which was passed over to Solihull. Since then the Parish Council has built a village hall at Hockley Heath, made major improvements to the recreation ground at Hockley Heath, developed the Mount and other open space in Cheswick Green and cooperated with Solihull to improve the playing field and the Green. In Tidbury Green the Council has taken back into its own control a piece of public open space on which a village hall will be built soon.

The Parish Council has always had as its main priority the protection of the Green Belt in the Parish and particularly round Cheswick Green where there has been constant pressure to build and the

threat of joining us up with Monkspath. During the past two years the Parish Council has worked very hard to avoid 5000 houses being planned for this area and the negotiations with Solihull have reduced this to 750 houses. These will be built at Dickens Heath with a few extra houses only in Cheswick Green. This, understandably, has not proved popular with the very small group of people who live in Dickens Heath but careful planning, in which the Council will be involved, will, I hope, produce a successful community.

The new Parish Council which you will all have the opportunity to elect in May will need your continuing support if the identity of Cheswick Green is to be preserved and the constant pressure to build on our green fields is to be resisted. Make no mistake there is great pressure to turn this area into one large built up area for the profit of a few at the expense of the many. It is only your Parish Council and your support which can protect your environment. To those who are elected I offer my best wishes knowing that there is still much to be done. To you who have supported me and voted for me in the past I give my thanks.

Peter Davidson.

### ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE CADETS

We meet every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9pm at Cheswick Green School. New recruits (age 10+) are welcome. Come along to any meeting and ask for Mr Cleveley or Helen.

### GARAGE WANTED TO RENT BY CGRA FOR STORAGE. PREF. NEAR VILLAGE HALL TELE.2075

## PARMARS NEWS

(VILLAGE NEWSAGENT)  
16 CHESWICK WAY  
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### JUNCTION PROPOSALS

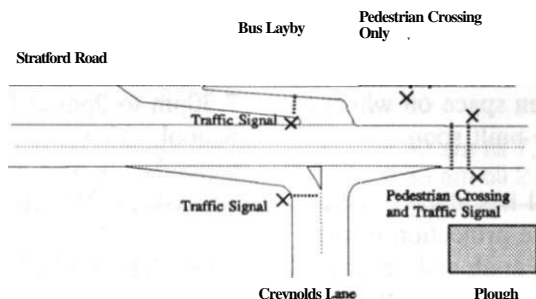
The Residents Association have put forward suggestions to Solihull Council for improving the the Creynolds Lane/Stratford Road junction. The best solution would be a roundabout but this would be expensive and Solihull Council is short of money. Property developers would build a roundabout at their own expense but the price to the community would be planning permission for development, such as an office block, at the junction. The Association has opposed such developments in the past. Closure of the right turn will not only affect the bus service. It is interesting to note that:

If an average of 1000 vehicles per day currently make a right turn into Creynolds Lane, assuming running costs for the average vehicle of 20p per mile, then the total cost to these road users of having to travel an extra 1.1 miles is £220 per day, £80,000 per year. Over 10 years the cost to local drivers would be over £1 million (allowing for some inflation!)

If an average vehicle does 30 mpg then over a 10 year period 140,000 extra gallons of fuel will have been consumed adding to the greenhouse effect!

For a Cheswick Green driver making one journey per day the average additional running costs of travelling the extra 400 miles would be £80 per year (£27 in fuel costs alone!) Traffic lights incorporating a pedestrian crossing appears to be the best compromise. The main danger at present is a vehicle attempting a 'U' turn colliding with a vehicle leaving Creynolds Lane as both drivers concentrate on finding gaps in the traffic travelling along the Stratford Road towards Shirley. This would be very serious if a vehicle travelling along the Stratford Road collided with the stationary vehicles. Traffic lights would halt the Shirley bound traffic along the Stratford Road allowing other drivers to concentrate on their respective turns. This solution would be much cheaper to implement than a roundabout as the existing carriageways would not need modification.

There are several other similar junctions in Solihull controlled by traffic lights such as the junction between Lyndon Road and the Coventry Road. The traffic lights at this junction do not appear to cause much delay to traffic on the Coventry Road where the traffic flows are at least twice those on the Stratford Road.



Traffic Lights at Creynolds Lane Junct

### 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          | Peter Tonks       | E.2009       |
| 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         | Chris Noble       | E.2075       |
| CGRA Tote Organiser   | Diane Mumford     | E.2805       |
| 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    | 0527 21678   |
|                       | Sue Battle        | E.2388       |
| Nat Womens Register   | Ursula Ison       | E.2787       |
| Mother & Toddler      | Pauline Simper    | E.3088       |
| 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       |
| 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

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i

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**SUNDAY** 10 am - 1 pm 5 pm - 8 pm

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FLOWER AND( IODUCE SHOW  
SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 1991

The above Show will be held in the Village Hall and in conjunction with the Cheswick Green Fete.

Last year's show was very successful, again being held in the Village Hall in September 1990. We would like to publicly thank sponsors of prizes, who were as follows:

Barbara and Don from The Saxon  
Yvonne Barshef from the  
Hairdressers  
Lesley and Trevor from the Post  
Office and Outdoor  
The Plume of Feathers and The  
Plough, Stratford Road

This year's show will have classes for vegetables, cut and dried flowers, flower arrangements, pot plants, home wine and beer making, handicrafts and children's classes.

A schedule of classes will be put through your letterbox in early August, but now is the time to start thinking about your own entries. Classes are open to anyone living in Cheswick Green. Please support us by entering something and coming to see us on the day. Entrance is free and there will also be on sale produce, flowers and pot plants grown on the allotments at give away prices. The "Over 50's Club" provide tea and cakes.

At the time of going to press we have 2 vacant plots which are situated opposite Manor Farm in Wood Lane, Ear Is wood. A plot measures 15 yds. x 10 yds. and the rent is £8 per year; £4 for persons over 60 years. There is a £1 membership and you have to put down a £10 deposit,

returnable when you leave. Any enquiries to Hon. Sec. Terry Light, E.2109.

## SCOUTS FAMILY DISCO

1st Salter Street Scout/Cub Group Fund Raising Committee will be holding a Family Disco on Saturday, 20th April 1991 at Cheswick Green Primary School - 7.00pm to 10.00pm  
Disco fun with H-Bri.  
Family ticket £6.00 (2 adults and up to 3 children), additional child tickets £1.50 - All under 10's to be accompanied by an adult.  
Tickets available from Janet Brayley - tel E.3183.

## SHIRLEY INSTITURE LIMELIGHT PLAYERS

We are a small amateur drama group who meet each Thursday at 8pm in the Shirley Institute, School Road, Shirley. New members (acting and backstage) always welcome.  
Enquiries: Hilda Burnett E.3397.

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER**  
Meets on alternate Mondays, for a varied programme of fun and more serious events. If you'd like to find out more, phone Ursula Ison on E.2787.

Programme until July 1991 includes:  
Visit to the Body Shop  
Talk by a Town Planner "What is happening to Solihull"  
Trivial Pursuit evening  
Theatre Trip  
"Things I wish I'd known at 18"  
Talk on America  
Foreign Language evening

## CHESWICK GREEN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The School Association has had a very busy year on behalf of the children and parents of the school. So far this year we have raised over £1500 through events held at the school, £1000 of this being raised at the Christmas Fayre. We still have several events yet to be held:

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Pop Quiz          | March 23rd |
| Disco             | May 18th   |
| Family Sports Day | June 22nd  |

Watch for further details through school and village notice boards!

The monies raised this year have been used to help equip the school with many 'essential extras'. So far this year we have purchased, on your behalf, £500 worth of books, Infant Play Equipment, assisted with the purchase of 9 keyboards and we intend to rebuild the Infant Home Corner which is sadly in need!

Other projects are in hand and a good many more are waiting in the wings ... Most of the equipment being bought at present is for the benefit of those children at present attending Cheswick Green school, but of course many of those items are long term and will benefit those children who will attend in the years to come.

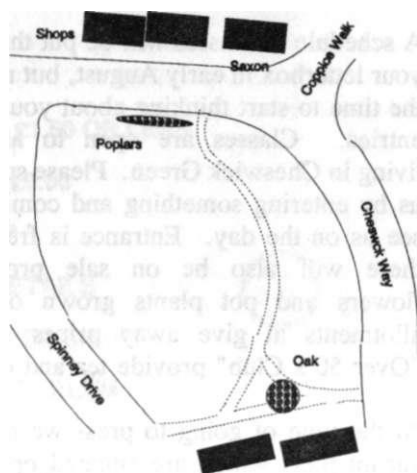
It is of course due to you that all this can be achieved, by your past and continuing support of both time and money - both so generously given. On behalf of the children we would like to say thankyou to all the parents and

friends of Cheswick Green School.

Sue Battle Chairman

### POPULAR POPLARS POLE AXED

The Parish Council has received reports from tree experts that some of the poplar trees on the Village Green opposite the Saxon are dying and are dangerous. It is therefore necessary for two of them to be removed and the others reduced in height. One of the oak trees on the Green must also be felled as it is in a dangerous condition. This will be greeted with great sadness as they have become a landmark in the village. Unfortunately there is nothing that can be done for them but it is anticipated that they will be replaced so that future generations of residents will be able to enjoy the new trees.



The trees affected are shown on the plan above.

### CHESWICK GREEN PLAYGROUP

As you all know Mrs Mary Hanson left Playgroup last Easter. On behalf of all past parents I wish to thank her, although belatedly, for all the hard work Mary put into the group over the past 15 years. Mary has now moved on and her Day Care Nursery is well established; she can be contacted on 021 466 4143. But Playgroup carries on, although now, due to the renovation of the Village Hall, we can be found at the Methodist Church Hall, Wood Lane, Earlswood. In September we will be back at the Village Hall and anyone who has a child of 2yrs 9mths or over and wishes him/her to attend please contact either

Sue Jones E.3210  
SueLockett E.3133

One last item, if anyone has any Duplo for sale, please contact either of the above numbers.  
Sue Lockett

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Cheswick Green Women's Institute meet in the Village Hall on the second Friday of each month.

At every meeting we have a guest speaker who covers each and every subject from Cooking, Plants, Crafts, Spinning, Gardens - private and public, - to Slides of Chelsea Flower Shows - and many more.

Tea and coffee is served and a pleasant evening is enjoyed by all. So why not come and see us - no Jam or Jerusalem - even though some of us would like the latter.  
C Harris President



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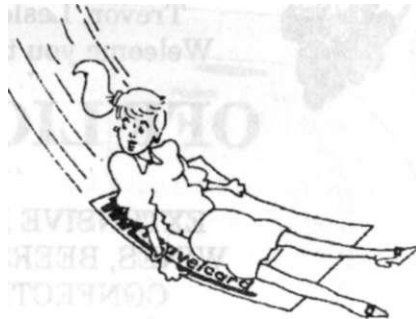
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## SAMURAI KARA' / CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to Cheswick Green members Christopher Hadabora on achieving his 1st Kyu brown belt and to 'Pip' Battle and Stephen Greer for achieving their much prized Black Belt (1st Dan Status). At 9 and 10 years respectively these youngsters have each put in over VA years of hard work and constant training to become two of the youngest black belts around.

The Samurai Organisation is busy preparing for its National Open Championships to be held at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre on Sunday 24th March. Clubs from all around the country have been invited and anyone is welcome. No, you don't have to fight, just come along (assuming you read this in time) and give some support to our own local team of youngsters.

For details see local posters or contact Sue Battle on E.2388.  
Mike Greer

**CHESWICK GREEN  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Life at Cheswick Green Primary School continues to be busy and exciting. The Infants have been studying a topic on transport and apart from a trip to the Science Museum in Birmingham have received visits from a fire engine, police car, police dog and horse and a penny farthing.

The Lower Juniors journeyed to Cirencester to help complete their Roman topic work.

March 1st weekend saw a party of sixty children visit a residential computer and activity centre at Kingswood.

As many of you may already know Mrs Chant our deputy head recently gave birth to a baby boy whom she is calling Jonathan.

We are already beginning to plan for next year and I would remind parents of children who reach four years of age between September 1991 and August 1992 that their children are eligible for a Nursery place. Application forms, which may be obtained from school should be returned by March 31st. Those children reaching five years of age within the same period I hope to welcome into our Infant department in September. Again an application form should be obtained and filled in and returned as soon as possible as it aids organisation.

May I take this opportunity of thanking local residents for their support of their local school.

M B Birch  
Headmaster

### **BORED OR BROKE**

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COMPLAINTS

The article about vandalism in the last magazine led to several residents phoning me with their complaints. The youth of the village, only a small section of them, came in for most of your criticism.

Most people who contacted me are concerned about the group, many of them girls, who hang around the shops in the evening blocking the entrances to the shops and 'making the place look untidy'. A number of this group smoke openly despite the fact that most of them are too young to purchase cigarettes legally.

There have been several unsubstantiated rumours about drugs in the village. Drug taking is on the increase in Solihull and there is no reason to suppose that Cheswick Green is immune. The age group most at risk are the 14-16 year olds. If anyone has any information about drug taking, supplying or pushing then this can be passed to the police in confidence. Another group who have attracted the wrath of many of you are the group that hang around the 'Boscobel Road' area. It may be the same group who have annoyed several residents in the past by playing football against garden fences. There is very little that the Residents Association can do about these problems other than ask parents to try to influence their children not to annoy other residents in the village through their behaviour and to be vigilant about their activities.

Looking at the problem from another direction I have had two delegations from youngsters in the village complaining that they have nowhere to play football etc. in the village without

being told off, tr(" ting in dog 'pooh' or risking injury by playing on the village hall field which is rutted and littered with broken glass etc.

The Committee has taken note of this complaint and has requested that the Parish Council improve and drain the playing field when funds become available. The Association intends to build a 'play wall', similar to that at Monkspath Junior School, on the field, away from the houses, for the youngsters to play games against.

One side of the wall will remain grassed but the other side will be slabbed using the paving slabs which will not be required as a result of the village hall extension. If the idea is approved by the Parish Council and Solihull Council it is intended to complete the scheme before the summer holidays.

I would like to ask all of the young people in the village to cooperate during the building work at the village hall. Damage or vandalism to the building or to materials and equipment stored there will reduce the chances of improving the facilities for young people in the village.

Chris Noble

CHESWICK GREEN WINE CLUB

Our group meets monthly in a private house to sample the products of our members, which are accompanied by a bread and cheese supper and, of course, convivial conversation.

The interests of the group have recently take one or two forays into the world of Real Ale to give some variety.

Perhaps you would like to join our group - please contact Chris Kenyon on E.3138 for further details.

|           |   | Tote Results |                                |
|-----------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|
| October   | 1 | £42.90       | Shepherd 56 Willow Drive       |
|           | 2 | £17.87       | Shuttleworth 20 Snowhill Drive |
|           | 3 | £10.73       | Wragg 35 Cheswick Way          |
| November  | 1 | £40.50       | Hewitt 48 Spinney Drive        |
|           | 2 | £16.87       | Burrows 66 Cheswick Way        |
|           | 3 | £10.13       | Gardner 59 Foxland Close       |
| December  | 1 | £48.30       | Lines 17 Foxland Close         |
|           | 2 | £20.12       | Cheshire 16 Boscobel Road      |
|           | 3 | £12.08       | Gent 30 Spinney Drive          |
| Christmas | 1 | £5           | Chidler 2 Chatsworth Drive     |
|           | 2 | £5           | Holden 6 The Pines             |
|           | 3 | £5           | Harrison 10 The Pines          |
|           | 4 | £5           | Farmer 14 Briarwood Close      |
|           | 5 | £5           | Franklin 30 Saxonwood Road     |
| January   | 1 | £40.80       | Fewings 36 Spinney Drive       |
|           | 2 | £17.80       | Poulton 69 Willow Drive        |
|           | 3 | £10.20       | Woodcock 14 Willow Drive       |

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