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Copy Date: The Summer 2001 issue of the *Cheswick Green News* is expected to be published in July. If you have any item that you think might be suitable for publication, please offer it for inclusion to Emma Venables Wood at 7 Willow Drive by Friday 22 June.

Advertisers are advised that prepayment is required for any insertions and that reminders may not be given. The charges for "boxed" advertisements are:

Full Page:	£25/issue	£90/four issues*
Half Page	£12/issue	£45/four issues*
Quarter Page	£ 6/issue	£22/four issues*

*the same advertisement in four consecutive issues, paid for at time of booking. The charge for an entry in the Local Services section is £2/issue for members of The Association, and £3/issae for non-members.

DATA PROTECTION ACT:

Residents are advised that The Association holds all residents' names and addresses on a computer database. This is for the sole purpose to permit the Officers to ascertain, at any point in time - but particularly at the AGM - the current paid up membership. If any resident has an objection to his/her name being held on this database, then it will be deleted upon application to the Chairman on (01564) 703161.

Cheswick Green News

The Magazine of Cheswick Green Residents Association

Spring 2001

Wednesday 2 *TM

See P » S^{e s} d 9 for de.aU*

Without your support The Association could fold

Dissatisfaction with Local Policing Aired at Public Meeting

On 17 January, more than sixty local residents crowded into the Village Hall and told representatives of the West Midlands Police Service that the policing of the Village was considered to be inadequate. Specified problem areas included vandalism, drug abuse and threatening behaviour. In addition, there was criticism of the effectiveness of the lines of communication between the public and the police.

The meeting, which was chaired by Len Cresswell (Chairman of Hockley Heath Parish Council), was arranged in response to a complaint made to both this Association and the Parish Council by a local shopkeeper. She stated that unacceptable anti-social behaviour by groups of young people was having an adverse effect on her business, and, although she had reported incidents to the police on numerous occasions she had not

received any help at the time, nor had there been any subsequent follow-up.

Sgt Breeze, the senior police officer present at the meeting, said that he had responsibility for controlling the officers in this area. He commented that he was not aware of any problems. He said that the crime figures for the area had fallen. (!)

He explained that telephone calls from the public were received by civilian support staff. This staff had

been trained to prioritise any necessary action. Thus, serious crime would always take preference and minor crimes would be dealt with only when resources were available.

When several other people with commercial or professional interests at the centre of the Village informed Sgt Breeze from the floor that they too had made complaints which had apparently been ignored, he suggested that, in future, people should contact him directly. The likely success of this idea was challenged by a retired police officer in the audience who advised victims to use the formal communication route so that the complaints would be logged on the computer. The complaints would then be included in the crime figures for the area. From his experience, the greater the number of *logged* complaints, the more likely it is that action will be taken.

The debate then centred on the lack

of police presence in the Village and the various problems that this permitted. It was alleged that drug abuse had been observed repeatedly. (A respected professional in the audience assured the meeting that this statement was not scaremongering: there is a problem with drug abuse in the Village.) A large amount of graffiti had recently appeared. Shoppers, and patients visiting the Surgery, were being intimidated by groups of youths that congregated in front of the shops and at the entrance to the Surgery. Sgt Breeze said that the days of policing with a beat officer had gone, but he had 14 officers who could be dispatched to incidents in the area.

By the end of the meeting it was hoped that improved policing would result from the police having a better understanding of the problems being faced in the Village, and the residents having a better knowledge of policing procedures.

The Proposed Motorway Service Area: it is good news, and bad news

The result of the Inquiry into Solihull Council's refusal to give planning permission for the siting of a motorway service area at Junction 4 of the M42 has been announced at last. The Secretary of State, John Prescott, has upheld the Council's stance and has refused the application. No motorway service area will be built at that location.

However, what seems to be good news for us is, in fact, bad news for everyone - and in particular for those people who live near Catherine de Barnes. During the Inquiry, the Inspector considered two other similar appeals also. It has been decided that, subject to certain conditions, a motorway service area can be constructed on a site adjacent

to the motorway between its junction with the A41 (Warwick Road) and its junction with the A45 (Coventry Road). This decision, which strikes at green belt policy, is very disappointing: it will result in an unacceptable loss of green belt land in a sensitive part of the countryside.

Solihull Councillors are reported to be "absolutely devastated" by the decision, because it "flies in the face of substantial local opposition", and is "rape of the countryside". This Association does not disagree with those views - but wishes that the Council had adopted the same attitude before it, itself, "flew in the face of local opposition" and "raped the countryside" with the building of the Blythe Valley Business Park.

Open Air Service

Cheswick Green Church is to hold its annual open-air service on the Village Green at 10.00am on Sunday 17 June. Everyone is welcome.

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Earlswood Village Museum

Housed in The Village Hall Shutt Lane, Earlswood

Photographs

The Museum is open from March to September one Saturday every month. Opening times are published in the Parish Magazines and on local notice boards. In addition, the Museum is open during most meetings of Earlswood Historical Society, and at other times by request in writing to the curator at the address below.

Family Histories

• Memorabilia

The Museum aims to preserve the local history of Earlswood and the surrounding area. It is hoped that we can continue to develop our collection. We depend on donations of items for the Museum. If you have any photographs that we can copy please let us know.

• Artefacts

Maps and Models

The Museum is run entirely by volunteers. There is no charge to visit the Museum but all donations are gratefully accepted. Please support us and help us to preserve your heritage

Archives

Curator: Mrs Valerie Tonks, 4 Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green, Solihull, B90 4EX

OPEN DAYS 2001: Saturdays 2.30 - 4.30

14 April; 5 May; 2 June; 14 July; 4 August. The September opening will coincide with the National Heritage Weekend when the Engine House will also be open to the public. Please watch the notice boards for details

Note: Nothing of any value is left in the Museum outside opening times.

New Light Shed on The Mount

Those of you who watched "Time Team" on 14 January will have seen an archaeological excavation of a mount (the same local name) in Northamptonshire. This dig and the findings fit very closely to that of "our" mount at Cheswick Green. (Did you know that this is a Saxon name?)

The shapes of the two mounts, called ring earthworks, are not circular at all. They are "D" shaped. This seems to be because the mount was once part of a larger, Saxon defended rampart and ditch called a "burgh" within which a small local community would have lived.

Our main archaeological dig was in 1953. This placed the latest period of construction as medieval. The Cheswick Green Mount has three different periods of strengthening and it would appear that a later construction was Norman. (Creynolds Lane is named after the Norman Knight Crewenhale, whose manor house was near Watery Lane.)

Our mount was a defensive earthwork with a fairly deep moat and a revetted rampart.

The finds of pottery, knight's horse harness, medieval horseshoes and a model of our mount can all be seen at Earlswood Village Museum*, as can the 1953 report.

The 1953 dig also found a Viking barrel lock but, as these were traded with the Anglo-Saxons at Cheswick Green, we cannot assume that the Vikings were here.

The Time Team programme on television confirmed what many of us have believed for years: The Mount at the top of our estate was a significant earthwork that took 1000 men a year to build. It is a very valuable site that should have been saved for future generations. It has been shown to be part of the network of "temporary" reconstructed castles or earthworks erected by the Normans, after 1066, as a demonstration of their conquest of the Anglo-Saxons.

P K TONKS

* Details of the opening times of Earlswood Village Museum can be found on the page opposite.

Senior Citizens: More Luncheon Dates for your Diaries

Senior Citizens from the village are invited to join the children for lunch at Cheswick Green School on:

Tuesday 8 May Tuesday 12 June Tuesday 10 July.

The cost is £1.94 for each meal. Reservations should be made by telephoning the school on (01564) 703336 by no later than the previous Friday.

Pedestrian Safety (?)

Last year, at what must have been great expense, the Council installed new kerbstones along Cheswick Way. It was said, at the time, that this was necessary because the original kerbing was not high enough to safeguard pedestrians in the event that a bus went out of control.

It is good that our safety is being considered.

Except that one of the most likely places for a pedestrian to be hurt in this way is surely on the outside of the bend on the hill between Saxonwood Road and Willow Drive. This section even includes a bus stop where people congregate. Yet for some reason, this was one of the few stretches of kerbing that were not replaced. The logic behind this decision is not understood.

This Spring, in its endeavour to prepare the town for the influx of hordes of shoppers from all over England and Wales when Touchwood is open for business, the Council is carrying out road-works in the centre of Solihull. It has been reported in the press that some of the road levels are to be raised to the same height as the pavements - as already is the case at both ends of the High Street. Thus, in some areas where there are many buses and many people, there will be no kerbs at all!

So what about the safety of pedestrians at those locations?

Perhaps the planners expect that the sheer weight of the number of shoppers will inhibit all vehicular movement - so that we will all be safe after all.

Summer Fete: Advance Notice

This year's annual fete will be held on Saturday 8 September (*provided that, at the AGM, the decision does not have to be taken to wind up The Association*).

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Wake up!

The train stopped at the station and a man boarded the train ready for London. I knew this man well, but, I knew he could be forgetful. Several minutes after sitting down on the train he fell asleep. The train went to Charing Cross and then returned to Chatham. The man woke up, looked at his watch and opened the door to argue with the porter. "I've waited here for three hours," he said. Politely the porter replied that the train had just returned from London. That's it ... he had been so busy sleeping that he missed the whole journey. It was good for a laugh, and he enjoyed the joke on himself. He went round the community telling this story for all it's worth.

Are you like this?

Well, I hear you say, "If you knew the pressure of my life, I can hardly sleep when I'm supposed to."

Today life is so busy, and everyone feels that their lives are almost carried along without their control over events.

It is possible for us to live a very busy life and be asleep. We can be like the man in the train. Life is to be cherished, and we must find times to stop and take stock of life and ourselves. An explorer was following his guide. The guide asked the explorer to hurry on, but he refused to do so. The explorer said "I must stay here for a day or so and find myself and my soul."

It is our prayer that as we journey through Lent and approach Easter, you too will make this a special time. I hope you will "wake up" in a very special sense. I hope you will make time to find yourself and your soul. I hope you will find the presence of God deep in the centre of your being. Easter is a good time to start this journey - do join us and share with us your pilgrimage. May you experience a peaceful Lent and a joyful Eastertide.

REV. ROY BOFFEY
MINISTER
CHESWICK GREEN CHURCH

C
U

THERE.....

**Cheswick Green
Church, Sundays
10.am in the
School.**

**You are welcome
to join our
worship.....**

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8pm, Wednesday 2 May 2001
in the Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 3 May 2000
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes
4. Presentation of Annual Reports
 - 4.1 Chairman's Report
 - 4.2 Treasurer's Report
 - 4.3 Village Hall Management Committee Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members
 - 5.1 Residents Association Committee
 - 5.2 Village Hall Management Committee
6. Talk by Val Tonks:
"The Mount at Cheswick Green "
7. Any Other Business
(The Chairman or Secretary must be advised, by no later than Friday 27 April, about any items that are to be raised for discussion at this point.)

Refreshments will be served

AGM: Agenda Item 5

The Committee of the Residents Association comprises four Officers and ten Members. The Constitution requires that the Officers serve a one-year term, but may be re-elected; and the Members serve two-year terms with half retiring from office at each Annual General Meeting. They, too, may be re-elected. A list of the Committee Members who have served during the past year is given on Page 10. It will be seen that, even before the annual retirements, there is

already one vacancy.

The elected Members of the Village Hall Management Committee serve a one-year term but may be re-elected. The retiring Members are: John Wood (Chairman), Denise Swain (Treasurer), Brian Brown and Roger Codd.

Nominations to fill the vacancies must be with the Chairman or Secretary before the start of the AGM. A nomination form is provided below

Nomination for Elected Committee Member/Officer on CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION*

or

CHESWICK GREEN VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*

•Delete as appropriate

Name of Nominee.....

Signature of Nominee.....

Address of Nominee.....

Position (Committee Member or specified Office).....

Name of Proposer.....

Signature of Proposer.....

Address of Proposer.....

Name of Seconder.....

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What is Cheswick Green?

Is Cheswick Green a village in its own right, or is it just part of the town of Shirley? Many of you will have noticed the increase in the use of the name "Shirley" in your addresses. Every retail outlet now seems to be using the Royal Mail address database and so, the moment that you give your postcode, your address is automatically shown as "Shirley" (see the address on your Council Tax bill). And, Solihull Police have recently moved Cheswick Green from the rural police sector into the urban police sector of Shirley.

I know that I am not alone in wanting to keep our identity separate, rather than be subsumed into Shirley. I don't find anything wrong with Shirley but I do feel that Cheswick Green has a different type of community. We have different needs and, for whatever reason, none of us has chosen to live in a town. So that brings me back to the question "Is Cheswick Green a *village!*" It certainly has the necessary attributes: it has a village hall, green, doctor's surgery, church, pub, shops and school. Also, there is an annual village fete. And I would remind those who argue that a settlement must be old and well established before it can be called a village, that this settlement dates back to the 11th century!

Well, we seem to have the necessary physical attributes to call ourselves a village but do we have a village spirit - that intangible "something" that sets a village apart from an urban community like Shirley? I believe that we used to have a good village spirit, but more and more of late it is becoming lost. Over

.....**Rumblings from a Villager**

the last couple of years the Residents Association has been pleading for volunteers to join its committee. But fewer and fewer people seem to want to become involved and the next AGM could see the end of the Association. As a parish councillor I am aware that more villagers are complaining about their neighbours. What is happening to our village? Does the problem result from the modern way of life? I think not: it is all about identity. If we accept being part of the town of Shirley then we begin to lose our village identity and start to behave like town dwellers.

So what can villagers do to restore the village spirit? One way would be to support the Residents Association by volunteering to serve on its committee. Cheswick Green Residents Association has been our collective voice for almost 30 years. It has fought major and minor battles on our behalf. It has always been respected and been listened to by political bodies from MP's down.

When the anticipated planning application for a development on the flood plain behind Willow Drive is received, will there be a corporate objection? If a planning application ever comes forward to join Cheswick Green to Shirley, will there be an association there to fight for us? If the lack of village spirit results in the closure of the Association, the answer must be "No".

I will end these ramblings by thanking you for reading this far and by quoting a saying that, because of its political overtones, I don't normally use:

"Together we stand, divided we fall".

LEN CRESSWELL

An Editor's Personal Review

This is the last edition of the *Cheswick Green News* that I shall be editing. It is almost nine years since I was first persuaded to accept the task, and I believe that it is now time for someone else, with some new ideas, to take over. The new Editors, who will have assumed responsibility by the time that you read this, are **Emma Venables Wood** and **Neil Bromley**. I wish them every success.

The greater the number of contributions provided by readers, the more interesting and useful is any newsletter such as the *Cheswick Green News*. Contributions can take the form of local news, reports from local organisations, complaints about perceived local anti-social behaviour, and worries about the actions being proposed by the Parish Council and/or the Borough Council, etc. I am grateful to those who have provided such items during the period of my editorship. I urge everyone who possesses a pen and paper to take advantage of the newsletter to share their thoughts and ideas with the rest of us.

I thought that it might be interesting to look back over the period of my editorship and to put on record some of the events and changes that have taken place. In many ways the *Cheswick Green News* has altered over the last eight years. The issues of 1992/3 carried many items from local organisations. There were regular reports from the Brownies, the Boys Brigade, the Salter Street Scout Group,

the School Association, the Play Group, the local Toddler Group, the WI, and the Wine Club, etc. All of these organisations have survived the ravages of time (and the millennium bug) but they no longer submit contributions. Thus, the content of recent issues has been concentrated on more political issues - for example, on various activities of our Councils such as: Solihull's Anti-Graffiti Strategy, Solihull and Britain in Bloom, and the Parish Council's intentions regarding the Village Green. This change in emphasis was not deliberate: it was the inevitable result of the dearth of other contributions.

The most regular contributor over the years has probably been Dr Leese. In May 1992 she and Dr Landy spoke at the AGM on their plans for a new surgery that they hoped to have built in Cheswick Green. She followed this up with an article in the July issue in which she gave her vision of the facilities and services that could be provided. In the October 1993 issue she advised that progress was being made towards the building of the surgery, and, the headlines of the January 1994 issue read, "Plans Submitted for Purpose Built Doctors' Surgery". Building works were expected to start in the April with completion by September. The January 1995 issue recorded that Dr Leese and her team had moved into the new surgery on 4 November 1994 and that "There is little doubt that the provision

of this facility is of benefit to the local community". Six years on, no many would disagree with the fact that Dr Leese has continued to use the *Cheswick Green News* to give **Information** about staffing changes, and the need for various jobs, etc.

Other stories that have occupied these pages over the years have had less successful outcomes. The July 1995 issue carried an item headed "A New Initiative for Policing Our Village." The article, which was based on information provided by the West Midlands Police, stated that Cheswick Green was to be provided with "an increase in the number of uniformed police patrols to give extra reassurance to residents and further deter the opportunist criminal". The police said that this was "an exciting initiative and a positive response to requests by residents in rural areas for a more visible police presence". The story on the front-page of this current issue (Spring 2001) suggests an apparent lack of success of that particular initiative.

In January 1996 it was reported that, after three months of consultation, the Health Minister had approved proposals on our health-care provision which were based on the merger of Solihull and Heartlands Hospitals. This Association, together with many other organisations in Solihull, had vigorously opposed this plan. With the hindsight of five years experience of "one hospital on two sites" it is not readily apparent that the minister made the right decision.

There have also been several items

about the building developments at Blyth Valley and Dickens Heath. Concerns remain about both of these projects.

On a less political note, there have been various articles over the years about The Mount - our own local piece of history. Hopefully, the grant from the Lottery Fund will soon have been used to enhance the area and make it more interesting for visitors. And, during the last nine years "The Village of the Seventies" and Cheswick Green School have both celebrated their 25th Anniversaries.

Some things do not change. The April 1993 issue included a letter from a parent complaining about the way that dogs were permitted to foul footpaths. Despite additional legislation, and a stronger line taken by magistrates, letters such as this have continued to be received over the years. Thanks to a selfish minority, the problem of dog fouling is still with us. The October 1993 issue noted that some motorists were behaving dangerously. Despite many subsequent reports and appeals, this problem is ongoing, too.

I cannot finish without mentioning the contributions from Godfrey Nail. Over the years he has provided many articles about local personalities and items of local interest. He submitted many poems for his "Poetry Corner" and he sent me several puzzles and quizzes. For all of this support, I thank him.

So, that is it, my job is done. Over to Emma and Neil.....

STAN PROUDFOOT

people who work on your behalf

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Id i.in Brown (Chairman)	42 Spinney Drive	(01564)703161
Ian Sill (Vice Chairman)	36 Snowhill Drive	(01564)702653
Barbara LinCcrn (Secretary)	254 Creynolds Lane	0121 745 6715
Dmise Swain (Treasurer)	53 Willow Drive	(01564)702500
GUI Bailey	16 Coppice Walk	(01564)702120
Keith Bailey	16 Coppice Walk	(01564)702120
Roger Codd	78 Saxonwood Rd	(01564)703021
Cath Duffill	2 Snowhill Drive	(01564)703264
Richard Duffill	2 Snowhill Drive	(01564)703264
Louis Radford	1 Greenside	(01564)702654
Don Thornton	65 Cheswick Way	(01564)703446
Val Tonks	4 Cheswick Way	
John Wood	7 Willow Drive	(01564)702085

(The CGRA Committee usually meets at 8.00pm in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month when observers are always welcome.)

HOCKLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCILLORS

Len Cresswell (Chair)	11 Foxland Close, Cheswick Green	(01564)703244
Len Fox (Vice-Chair)	2447 Stratford Rd, Hockley Heath	(01564)782455
Sandie Bates	74 Aylesbury Road, Hockley Heath	(01564)782922
Brian Brown	42 Spinney Drive, Cheswick Green	(01564)703161
N L Jones	16 Arden Meads, Hockley Heath	
Peter Kennard	145 Fulford Hall Road, Tidbury Green	(01564) 826143
Chris Noble	16 Willow Drive, Cheswick Green	(01564)702075
Margaret Pettinger	46 Coppice Walk, Cheswick Green	(01564)702108
Stan Proudfoot	61 Willow Drive, Cheswick Green	(01564)702907
John Wood	7 Willow Drive, Cheswick Green	(01564)702085

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs D Weir, 1 Hereford House, Old Warwick Rd, Lapworth (01564)782549
(The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month.)

PACKWOOD WARD COUNCILLORS, SMBC

Peter Lee	82 Balsall Street East, Balsall Common	01676 532599
Andy Mackiewicz	4 Manor Road, Dorridge	(01564)230294
Ken Meeson	9 Glendon Way, Dorridge	(01564)777772

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Caroline Spelman, MP House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA
Information about Mrs Spelman's surgeries can be obtained by ringing 0121 711 2955.

U) suit ills Association

(i K A Chairman	Brian Brown	(01564) 703161
(Heswick (rrecn News Editor	Emma Venables Wood	(01564) 702085
Village Hall Management Cttee.	John Wood	(01564) 702085
Village Hall Booking Clerk	Ruth Stanton	(01564) 703293

The Churches

Cheswick Green Church Minister	Rev. Roy Boffey	0121 745 1785
(heswick Green Church Secretary	Jenny Cockroft	(01564) 703091
Si Talrick's Church, Clergy	Rev. Michael Caddy	0121 744 3123
	Rev. Keith McMaster	0121 430 6952

For (In- v»i v Young

Chlldminders Co-ordinator	Loo Shergold	(01564) 703554
Pre School Playgroup	Lesley Stevens	(01564) 200057
I 'I V School Activity Club	Lesley Stevens	(01564) 200057
Toddlei (iroup	Lesley Stevens	(01564) 200057

Uniformed youth organisations

Beavers, Cubs	Malcolm Mellows	(01564) 784681
Boys Brigade	Dianne Roberts	(01564) 200043
Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides	Beverley Prater	(01564) 702714
Scouts and Venture Scouts	Malcolm Mellows	(01564) 784681
Sl Johns Ambulance cadets	Div. Supt Cleveley	0121 708 0514

For the grown ups

Allotment Association	Terry Light	(01564) 702109
Cross-Stitch Group	Julie Symes	(01564) 703486
National Women's Register	Linda Tillman	0121 744 2014
Over 60's Club	Gwen Fincham	(01564) 702127
Save the Children	Jenny Cockroft	(01564) 703091
Slimming Club	Ruth Hubble	(01564) 702910
Wine Club	Chris Kenyon	(01564) 703138
Women's Institute	Penny Heathcote	0121 744 1577

Cheswick Green School

I Icadteacher	Malcolm Birch	(01564) 703336
Chairman of Governors	Stan Proudfoot	(01564) 702907
School Association (Chair)	Martin Humphries	(01564) 703810