

### The Jubilee Weekend



The Queen has been ruler of the UK for 70 years, as such at the start of June we have a double bank holiday weekend to celebrate. Plans for the celebration in the Parish are well under way.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June we have Family Bingo in the Village Hall from 5 – 7pm. Our resident bingo caller Dave ‘the butcher’ Brown will be eyes down from 5.30pm with the first game. There are prizes to be won which have been donated by local businesses as well as Tesco and Notcutts. There is still time to donate further prizes, please let us know if you’d like the opportunity to promote your business.

There will be live music in the Recreation Ground from 7pm; where you will also find the team from the Saxon serving at an outdoor bar, as well as freshly made pizzas from a food truck.

<https://fb.me/e/2QngM9XnZ>

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June will be our family fun day, with a range of inflatables in the park suitable for all ages. The Mayor of Solihull will open our event, which will begin with a special football match. After that we anticipate a visit from an even more special guest before the BBQ, bar, live music, Afternoon Teas and more.

<https://fb.me/e/1g6llkVJy>

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June will be our final community-based event, a ‘Big Clean’ up of the park and surrounding areas following the celebrations. If you can join us for the fun bit please try come back and help clear up!!

<https://fb.me/e/1AP4QImE6>

Details of all events can be found on the Facebook page of the Cheswick Green Residents Association as well as on various notice boards and the school entrance.

Please join us to celebrate the Jubilee weekend.

### The Commonwealth Games

As many of you now know the Queens Baton relay will pass through Cheswick Green on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at around 4pm. The route will come down from Illshaw Heath, pass through Cheswick Way via the Village Green before cornering at the Saxon back to Tanworth Lane to visit Dickens Heath. We will be asking you to join us along the route on the day, to show support and raise a flag. More details to come.

### The Easter Extravaganza!

Cheswick Green Residents Association ran its first Easter event in the village on Easter Sunday. There were craft stalls offering a range of items from wooden goods to exotic fruits. There was also an Easter egg hunt around the village and a duck race. The hunt proved a challenge for some, but helped update their local knowledge, seems very few of you know about the Mount or its history! The Duck race was a massive success with 179 ducks racing down Mount Brook which was streamed live to Facebook and saw the community standing on the banks egging their ducks on to win. The event raised over £600 for the RA, which will be used to finance other events later this year.

### The nature reserve and the flower bed on the green

Our nature reserve is coming to life, last year Warwickshire Wildlife Trust helped to create the area and plant it with our 900 native plants. As the weather is warming up, these are now coming to life. We moved the bug hotel into the nature reserve earlier this year and although we'd have liked it to be on view in the middle, this proved to be tempting for the youths to take it apart and film themselves throwing it into the ponds (*well done lads, just so you know you are on CCTV!!*) As such it is now located closer to the fence near to the largest of the ponds. If you are accessing this area, please do so via the pedestrian gate and not over the fence or vehicle gate.

You may also have noticed, thanks for the emails and TOWIC posts, that we have commissioned some work to be undertaken on the Village Green. The flower bed at the bottom of the green had not been touched for years, it had lots of overgrown shrubs and weeds growing in it and limited diversity of wildlife. The bed has now been dug over, the older shrubs and weeds removed and it is now ready for new planting. In the coming weeks we will plant it with Buddleia, Lavender as well as other flowering shrubs, bulbs and plants. This will hopefully give us an array of colour throughout the year and encourage a wider diversity of wildlife into the area.



### Cheswick Place

Although we previously agreed with Bloor Homes for work to be undertaken on the paths around Cheswick Place, very little activity has since taken place. SMBC was due to adopt the land in April, however this has not taken place yet. An inspector from SMBC was on site recently, but the Parish Council has not received any update.

### The Precept

Every Parish Council in the Borough is responsible for setting its own precept charge. This charge is added to the Council Tax levied by Solihull MBC. The precept charge reflects the budget set by the Parish Council and is converted into an annual amount payable per property.

The amount payable by each household will vary according to which property band your house is placed in. Your tax band is shown on your Council Tax bill. There are 8 property bands which are determined by the Valuation Office Agency. For comparison purposes throughout the country a Band D property is always used.

This financial year(2022/23), the precept you pay has reduced from £40.15to £35.11 a reduction of £5.04. If you have looked at your Council Tax bill you will note that this is a reduction of 12.6%.

### Expansion of the school

Although we have objected to the expansion for many reasons over the last year, this looks to now be progressing following the Planning Committee decision. Solihull Council need to put several Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) in place, before any building work can commence. These are in progress and details should be shared with us in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that the building or at least the foundation work will begin over the summer holidays.

We would like to remind everyone, that the entrance markings of the school are there to allow a safe crossing point for all to get to and from school safely. They are not personal parking spaces for dropping off!

Please consider all residents when parking and if you are able to walk and appreciate the greenery of the area we live in, please consider doing so, especially now the weather is better.

### Blythe Valley

The building work on Blythe Valley continues, about 60% of the housing is now complete and occupied. We welcome our new neighbours into the Parish and hope that they will join the events we have planned over the coming months, so we can become more acquainted.

Several of you may have also noticed the recent Facebook posts about a BMX track being built on Blythe Valley, we can confirm this is correct and it is based next to the sports fields. It is not yet completed, it requires surfacing, but once this is done it will feature, jumps, tabletops and berms suitable for both novice riders and those of us who should know better!



## Bereavement Helpline

Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - if you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to them. At the Anne Robson Trust they aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. They know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone.

Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control.

Calls are free and confidential. Call on 0808 801 0688 - they have time to talk

Please visit [www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service) to find out more.



## Vacancies on the Parish Council

Are you unsure what the Parish Council does? Perhaps curious enough to attend a meeting once per month? Could you be more involved in the local area? Perhaps consider joining us as a member?

Cheswick Green Parish Council currently has two positions vacant which can be filled by any adult living in any part of the Parish. That is Cheswick Green, Cheswick Place, Illshaw Heath and Blythe Valley.

For a confidential chat and to learn more please contact the clerk or any of the current Parish Councillors. Otherwise, to apply please complete the questions on the co-option form which can be found on our website and return this to [clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk)