

## **Cheswick Green Residents Association.**

### **Reminiscences.**

**We were able to visit the site many times before the house was finished. It was interesting to see the site transformed from a collection of allotments & weekend chalets.**

**My family moved to Cheswick Green in 1970 & were the first to occupy a house in Spinney Drive. The process was not without its little problems. Everything seemed to be going well until I visited the bathroom. Upon switching on the light, all the lights in the house went out. We were reduced to using table lamps plugged into the power points. Whilst we were stumbling around in the semi darkness. A police car pulled up outside & a couple of Bobbies called to investigate the suspicious goings on there. The developers were very good & sorted it out the following day.**

**I had a front seat view of all the development around the green, including the pub. Towards the end of that year, I had the idea to form a Residents Association. I canvassed all the residents, who were in place at that time & had a really good response. It was decided to call a meeting at the school. I cannot remember the date of that meeting. However, a committee was formed to hammer out a constitution for the association. This committee prepared all the necessary details & an AGM was called for April 1971.**

**At that meeting the following were elected:-**

**Chairman Don Smith.**

**Secretary Mrs E Harvey.**

**Treasurer D Griffiths.**

**Committee:-**

**C. Walker, Rev. A St John Lemon, M. Jones, Mrs. Cooper, T. Birtwhistle, G. Allen.**

**Auditor. Mrs. M Baker.**

**Bank Barclays Bank Ltd., Stratford Road, Shirley.**

**I started a started a magazine, with the first covers donated by the**

developers, who were very supportive of the Association in the early days. I typed them on a long carriage typewriter on to a stencil & duplicated them on a Gestetner m/c at the company where I worked on a Saturday morning, when there was nobody around. From the very start, the main object of the Association, was to find a way of funding the Village Hall. It was quickly established that there was an organization which advised on the availability of funding for this type of venture. The organization was headed by a gentleman by the name of Bill Shakespeare. It was quickly apparent that what funds that were available, were insufficient to meet the calls placed upon them. We were going to have to find the funds elsewhere. I was able to obtain quotes through one of my contacts. I believe they were in the order of £12,000. The houses at that time, were selling for between £3,500 & £5,000. Several fund raising schemes were started, such as a weekly draw & of course the Village Fete. At the time of the first AGM, the Association had the princely sum of £88.90 in the bank.

In the meantime, The Saxon & shops had been completed. Proposals for the new school had been put forward & the Association held a survey to support the need for this addition to the development. The Doctor's surgery was also in operation. I did get into some trouble over this. In an issue of the magazine, I advertised this facility & drew the wrath of other doctors in the area for not mentioning them also. The first Fete was a great success. I built a mock-up set of Goals, with holes to kick the ball through. The top prize was 2 shillings & six pence in old money.

At the AGM of the following year I opted to take on the role of Secretary, as I felt that I could contribute more from this position. Unfortunately family illness intervened & as well as resigning from the Association my family moved from Cheswick Green.