

Chislehurst

Issue 1

REPORT

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a publication of the Chislehurst Society *

Challenges....

Attempts on our green and pleasant neighbourhood seem never to cease. At the moment a British Company is trying to have an ugly, oddly-shaped communications mast 76 feet high erected on the about the highest spot in Chislehurst, overlooking a wide sweep of National Trust land (Planning, page 2, col 1). Another British Company with the support of tourist bodies, is aiming to build a 120 bed tourist hotel in Chislehurst's Green Belt (Planning, page 2, col 3). An American cable-tv company has government permission to dig up our pavement and has started to do so (Street Scene, page 3, col 1). Council officials have well-advanced plans to replace many of the swan-neck lamp-posts that have long graced our roads with very tall posts of crude design (Street-scene, page 3, col 2). Other officials have suggested introducing yellow lines into village lanes, at the very heart of the Chislehurst Conservation Area (Street-scene, page 3, col 3). In Walden Road a small plantation of mature trees all protected by a tree preservation order is the subject of two planning applications for development.

and disappointments....

A fine joint effort by a three Ward Councillors, fully supported by the Society, to persuade Bromley Council to agree to further much-needed improvements to the High Street was given a largely negative response (High Street, page 4, col 1). One year after the matter was formally raised by the Society, Bromley Borough has still not set a date for its long-standing legal obligation to provide a Register of Advertisements (Planning, page 2, col 3). A carefully researched proposal for a pedestrian refuge near Royal Parade was turned down by Bromley officials.

but also good news....

The first European Heritage Days in Chislehurst were a huge success (Heritage, page 4, col 1) - and Civic Trust has given the Society £300 to help with the costs. Barclays Bank has renewed its financial support for the Alun & Joy Jones Awards for another year (Schools, page 4, col 1). That long, long, shabby brick wall along Station Approach, near Chislehurst Station - there is now hope it may be cleaned and restored (Conservation, page 4, col 3). The ugly bus shelter in the High Street was at last replaced with a more elegant model. The council changed the clashing colours of the Pay-and-Display notices on the High Street to a smart green and gold. A few more yards of the High Street verge are also going to be greened (High Street, page 4, col 1). Elmstead Lane has at last got a pedestrian refuge at Grange Drive - very welcome indeed for safety and convenience, but the Lane deserved a better design. We have found a hall large enough for the ever-increasing number of members coming to the Annual General Meeting (Society, page 4, col 1). London

Transport was prompted to second thoughts about its proposals for bus route changes and Chislehurst passengers seem likely to be no more worse off (Transport, page 2, col 3). In response to residents' worries about tidying up operations along Footpath 32 linking Green Lane to White Horse Hill, undertakings were given that there would be no loss of trees.

Introducing The Chislehurst REPORT

For over fifty years our familiar publication The Cockpit splendidly served Members as a news-sheet, a journal covering Chislehurst's history, architecture and environment, and an annual report. With the great expansion in the Society's numbers and scope over the years this became too heavy a load for a single publication, and two years ago the Annual Report became a separate and substantial publication, to general satisfaction. Now Chislehurst REPORT is taking over the responsibility for providing Members with an enhanced news service on current affairs, allowing The Cockpit to develop more fully its coverage of Chislehurst's people, attractions, history, environment and heritage. REPORT responds to Member's desire for more current information: the Executive Committee will greatly welcome and carefully consider all comments received, and any suggestions for future issues.

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