

# Chislehurst

## REPORT

A Publication of the Chislehurst Society

No. 38 Autumn 2010

### THE SECOND CHISLEHURST CHASE



Sunday, September 19, was a perfect day for running: dry and cool, but not cold. It is difficult to know whether the Chase was a counter-attraction to the same day's Great North Run; certainly the 250 runners were well pleased with the 10 kilometre course through St Pauls Cray Common and Scadbury Park. The race was started on Royal Parade by Bob Neill, our local MP and Minister for Communities and Local Government. With all traffic temporarily stopped the runners made a speedy passage to the woods alongside St Pauls Cray Road. The rest of the course was off-road on woodland paths and across meadows. Euphemistically one could describe it as 'undulating'. The winner of the men's race was Abdi Madar, from Penge, who beat last year's time, setting a course record of 35 minutes, 54 seconds. The women's race winner was Dawn Saunders of Bexley Athletic Club.

The Chislehurst Chase Fun-Run followed on at noon, with about 200 children and parents running a 2 kilometre circuit on St Pauls Cray Common. The overall winner was Niamh Bridson-Hubbard of Norlands Crescent, who ran like the wind, unhampered by wearing two tutus.

The event, now firmly part of Chislehurst's calendar, organised by the Trustees of Chislehurst Commons, would not have been possible without the help of around 50 volunteer marshalls, first-aiders and time-keepers recruited from the Commons keepers, the Chislehurst Society, the Friends of the Commons, the Rotary Club of Chislehurst, St Nicholas Church congregation and the staff of Bromley Council's Environmental Services. (photos by Robert Piwko: [www.robertpiwko.com](http://www.robertpiwko.com))

#### ALSO IN THIS EDITION OF CHISLEHURST REPORT:

- Rotary Fireworks Display
- New Playground at the Rec.
- High Street Christmas Lights
- Traffic News
- Recycling at Chislehurst Library
- Chislehurst Festival 2011
- Bore Hole at Rush Pond
- Stewards and Committee Changes

#### EVENING SOCIAL – NOVEMBER 11 2010 CHISLEHURST DURING THE GREAT WAR.

Our next evening social will be held on Armistice Day. We are pleased to have as our guest speaker, Society member Yvonne Auld, who will talk about Chislehurst during the Great War. Yvonne will recount some of her experiences in researching her new book *For King and Country – the men of Chislehurst who fell in the Great War*. Her book will be available for purchase.

The event will be held at Camden Place, the Chislehurst Golf Club, and will include a buffet supper, readings of war poems, and some popular music hall songs from that time.

Tickets for the evening are available at the price of £22 each. They can be obtained from Tony Allen, who can be contacted on 020 8467 2748 or via email at [enquiries@chislehurst-society.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chislehurst-society.org.uk)

Go online to the Society's website at [www.chislehurst-society.org.uk](http://www.chislehurst-society.org.uk)

## CHISLEHURST ROTARY FIREWORKS DISPLAY SET TO DAZZLE ON SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Those of you who are regulars at the firework display run annually by Chislehurst Rotary Club will need no reminder that the event is a great family outing. But you may not know that every penny of profit goes to charities, many of them local, thanks to the unstinting voluntary work of the Rotary Club members and their friends.

The doors open at 6 p.m. on Saturday 6 November at the Recreation Ground, giving everyone plenty of time to enjoy the funfair or savour a snack before the bonfire is lit at 7 p.m. and the spectacular firework show starts at 7.30 p.m. The main gates are in Empress Drive and Walden Road.

Tickets have been held at the same price as for the last two years. If you buy in advance the cost is £2.50 for accompanied children and £5 for adults. Gate prices are £3 and £6. A full list of local shops that sell tickets in advance is given below. Tickets will be on sale from mid October.

President of the Rotary Club, Dr Roger May MBE says: *'We love running this event! Despite the hard work, it's rewarding when people enjoy a fabulous firework display and have a good evening together. Our profits, which in a good year exceed £10,000, go to a range of charities here and abroad. We do encourage everyone to come and join in the fun.'*

Local charities which have benefited from funds from Chislehurst Rotary Club in the past include: Mottingham Children's Project, Marjorie McClure School, the local hospices, Bromley Alzheimers Society and many more.

More details on [www.chislehurstrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.chislehurstrotaryclub.org.uk)

*Shops for advance tickets:*

*Chislehurst: JDM Estate Agents, 41 High St; Dixons, 60 High Street; Paper Lane, High St; The Surgery, High St; Belle Interiors, 17 Royal Parade; Pauls Newsagent, 38 White Horse Hill; Sans Mini Mart, Walden Road; and Belmont News, Belmont Parade.*

*Other areas: Martins, Cotmandene Crescent, Orpington; Supershop, The Fairway, Southborough; Beacon Café, Beaconsfield Parade, Mottingham; JDM Estate Agents, Station Square, Petts Wood.*

## CHISLEHURST AND WALDEN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

*A note from Barbara Arora, Chair of the Friends of the Rec:*

In June the Scouts were granted planning permission to build their new headquarters in the playground corner of the Rec. Building will start soon. A new playground will soon be created, jointly funded by the London Borough of Bromley and Chislehurst Society.

It was decided to get children involved in the design and content for the new playground, and the children of Red Hill School produced a delightful collection of plans for their ideal playgrounds. Their attention to detail was fantastic and eventually we hope to display them somewhere in Chislehurst. The children's ideas were used to produce a league table of their top items of play equipment. Andy Biggs of the Parks Department now has the real plans well advanced. They include a zip wire, climbing frames and monkey bars for older children as well as a toddler corner. Where appropriate, some existing play equipment and fencing will be re-used.

In keeping with its closer proximity to the woodland the area will be landscaped to look more natural. Equipment will be located around the large trees and the ground cover will be bark chips rather than hard surfaces. To help keep costs down, the Friends of the Rec have volunteered to spread the chips. Once the Scout Hut and playground are underway, hopefully by November, we will turn our attention to developing a new wildlife habitat area. Watch this open space!

If you would like to know more about events in the Rec, or join in the Friend's Group activities, please look at our new notice boards at the Empress Drive and Walden Road entrances, or visit our website – [www.focrg.org.uk](http://www.focrg.org.uk)

## THE MIX 2010 – GREEN EDITION

Students from schools in and around Chislehurst have produced a comprehensive report on activities in their schools designed to maintain a sustainable environment for this and later generations.

You can see excerpts from this report on our website, and the fuller report will soon be available on a new website which will be devoted to the activities of the Chislehurst Schools Forum.

## **DARK DAYS AHEAD?** No, not the national economy!

*Derek Nash, a member of the Executive Committee, and a member of the Chislehurst Town Centre Management Group, has sent us this note.*

I know it's three or so months away, but planning for this year's Chislehurst Christmas lights for the High Street and Belmont Parade started in August, just as it has done for the past four years.

It was a delight when, in 2006, Christmas lights re-appeared on the High Street in Chislehurst after some years of absence. The return of the Christmas lights was due to the efforts of a very small team of volunteers on the Chislehurst Town Centre Management Group (CTMG) ably supported from the beginning by Lorraine McQuillan, Chislehurst Town Centre Manager for Bromley Council and, for the last three years, by Chislehurst Scouts.

There will be lights again this year, but enjoy them while you can – this could be their last appearance. Put simply, the money has run out.

Without buying anything new, the cost of the lights each year is £7,000 to £8,000 for servicing, erection, removal and storage.

While well supported by 'Friends of Chislehurst Society' initially, and Bromley Council for the three early years, together with donations from most of the High Street businesses for the past four years, the money will pretty much run out after this Christmas, just as most of the fittings are due for replacement.

With this copy of the Chislehurst report you will find a pre-addressed envelope. The Town Centre Management Group desperately needs funds to keep the lights going. Any donation, however large or small, is welcome.

Oh! If anyone, any business, any group or, perhaps, any street, would like to sponsor a new fitting for next year at £350, please use the envelope included to pass your contact details to me and I will get in touch with you to discuss. But please don't let that possibility stop you from contributing this year.

## **TRAFFIC NEWS**

**Loop Road Roundabout.** Residents will have noticed, as it disrupted traffic in Chislehurst village centre for some time, that revisions have been made to the mini-roundabout at the junction of Ashfield Lane and Loop Road on the Common. This is an accident black spot and previous measures did not seem to help. While the outcome is not quite what we expected, let us hope that these changes help.

**Station Parking.** On-street parking arrangements around Chislehurst Station have been revised to stop obstructive parking on Bickley Park Road and Summer Hill, and this seems to have eased the problem. The parking bays under the bridge are to be removed by the end of October.

**Summer Hill.** One resident has complained that the high kerbs recently installed on Summer Hill cause vehicles to bounce off them into oncoming traffic, and even into the fences on the other side of the road in one case. Photographic evidence of such incidents has been forwarded to the council. All road safety schemes are reviewed after a few months so if you have any comments on them (or on parking schemes such as the one mentioned above) please advise Bromley Council (Traffic Section in Environmental Services) and copy your letter to the Chislehurst Society.

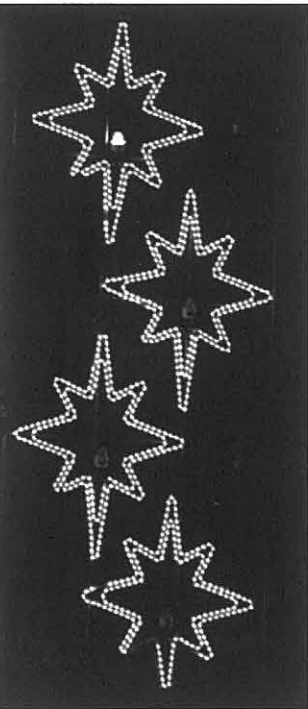
**Parking.** It was agreed at a recent council meeting that times for charging in off-street car parks in Chislehurst would be harmonised with on-street parking times so as to encourage off-street parking. So you will in future be able to park free of charge after 6.30 p.m. (currently 7.30 p.m.).

**Watts Lane.** The width-restriction chicane on Watts Lane/Manor Park Road was recently reconstructed. It had been 'widened' by vehicles that had collided with it. After being restored to the proper width, a predictable collection of broken wing mirrors is the result.

## **RECYCLING AT CHISLEHURST LIBRARY**

*Readers are reminded of the recycling facilities at Chislehurst Branch Library, where a collection point is now available for household batteries, mobile phones, printer cartridges and used postage stamps.*

*LBB pre-paid green cards are also available for reporting graffiti, faulty street lamps, defective pavements, blocked road drains, etc.*



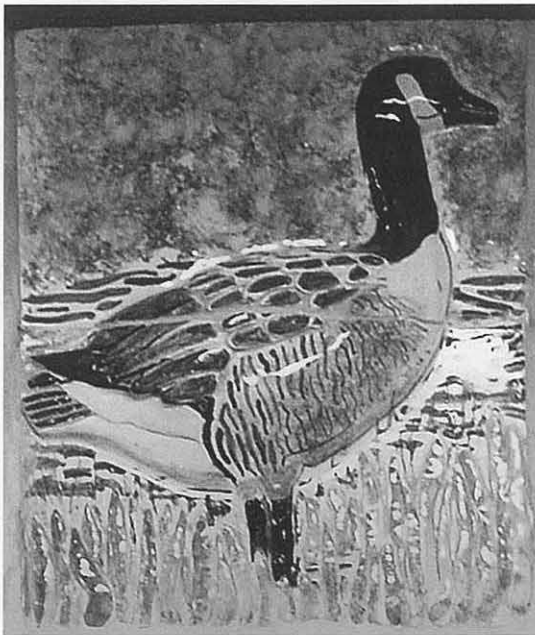
# SOCIETY NEWS

## CHISLEHURST FESTIVAL 2011

The Chislehurst Society will be running a second Chislehurst Festival in 2011, and over the next few months will be making plans and inviting clubs and organisations to take part. Our first Festival in 2009 was a huge success, and we plan to make our second even more successful. We will retain the same theme as in 2009 – Celebrating Chislehurst.

If you wish to participate in any way, please contact us (contact details are shown at the foot of this page).

## A BOREHOLE FOR RUSH POND



*The Trustees of Chislehurst Commons write:*

With the financial support of the Chislehurst Society a borehole at Rush Pond has been driven to a depth of 80 metres to draw water from a chalk aquifer. Like Prickend Pond at the top of the High Street, this is not a natural pond: it is a depression resulting from gravel extraction in the nineteenth century. It depends entirely on run-off from the adjacent road drains. In effect, it is a giant soak-away.

The borehole pump will top up Rush Pond (and, by overflow, Prickend Pond) with 20 cubic metres of good-quality water every 24 hours. This should be sufficient to compensate for evaporation loss during dry weather. Once active, the pump will be switched on only when the pond starts to lose water. The London Borough of Bromley is to be thanked for allowing us to take the power supply from the nearby street lighting cable. *(photo from Goldsmith mural, Red Hill School)*

## ROAD STEWARD NEWS

Thank you to two long-serving road stewards who have retired – Mrs Pauline Clift (8 years) covering Mainridge, Hill View, Lydstep and Walkden Roads, and Mrs Anne Jackson (7 years) covering Penn Gardens and Sheridan Crescent. Many thanks for your support to the Society and its members, and best wishes for the future.

At the same time we welcome three new road stewards – Ms Lynn Rushby, who has kindly agreed to become road steward for Invicta Close, Mrs Myrna Henson, who will cover Mainridge and Lydstep Roads, and Mrs Tris Barker, serving Sheridan Crescent and Penn Gardens. We also wish to thank existing steward Mr Peter Miller, Belmont Lane, who has kindly offered to add Laneside to his round.

There continue to be vacancies for road stewards in various areas in Chislehurst. If you would like to assist the Society in its links with our members, please contact Keith Heselden.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In the last edition of Chislehurst Report, we announced two new Committee members. In this edition, we are sorry to report two resignations.

Colin Saxby has been Treasurer of the Chislehurst Society for eight years, but is currently recovering from two operations in the last six months. He has gamely tried to continue, but now regretfully feels he should step down. We would like to thank Colin for all he has done for Chislehurst and for the Society, and wish him well in his continued recovery.

We are pleased to announce that Anthony McClarty, an existing member of the Executive Committee has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer with immediate effect.

Sue Thorogood has also resigned from the Executive Committee in order to devote her time to other activities in Chislehurst. We would like to thank Sue for the work she has done, particularly in organising events for members of the Society.

