

Chislehurst

REPORT

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'ARTISTS IN COMMON': CHISLEHURST BIG DRAW 2010



I hope you didn't miss the Big Draw this year, writes *Donna Bompas*. Everyone who came had a wonderful, fun-filled afternoon of drawing adventure. The Common was festooned with gazebos, balloons and bunting. The theme for the day was 'Artists in Common'. As the National and Tate Galleries are only half an hour's journey from Chislehurst, we linked all our art activities with actual works of art from the galleries. You could take a watercolour Masterclass with the Chislehurst Artists to copy a Turner, splatter and splash a Jackson Pollock, create a Constable pastel with the Trustees of the Common or paste a painted-paper Matisse snail with the Chislehurst Society. There were thirty different activities, including soap sculpture, calligraphy, storytelling, Greek myths, paper mobiles, Chinese lanterns, face painting, delicious homemade cakes and even a hog roast. Choirs and recorder groups from Red Hill Primary school serenaded the artists. The Crown Inn provided an acoustic band later in the afternoon.



We had over 170 volunteers helping on the day to make the adventure happen. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with friends and neighbours, enjoy the Common and have a go at drawing, painting, pasting and sculpting. Many local businesses donated money and services in kind. We owe a huge thank you to our two major donors, the Chislehurst Society and JDM Estate Agents, who have generously supported us since we started in 2004. We hosted over 1,300 people and raised £2,500 for the Trustees of Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons. Visit our website www.thebigdraw.co.uk to see more photographs of the day (*website and photographs by Robert Piwko*).

CHISLEHURST CALENDAR 2011

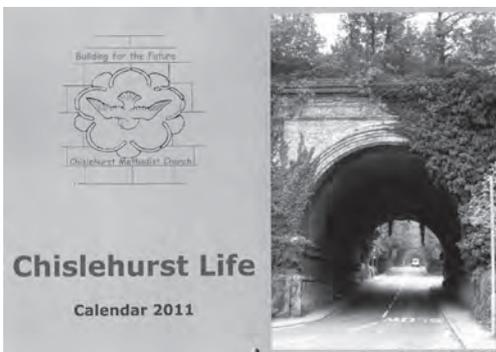
Chislehurst Methodist Church have published their calendar for next year, with photographs of Chislehurst throughout the year. Copies are available from the Church, or from Paper Lane, in the High Street, at £6 each or £10 for two.

For your calendar: Big Draw 2011 Saturday 17 September. See you there!

NEW SERGEANT FOR CHISLEHURST SNT

Welcome to Sergeant Richard White, new leader of the Chislehurst Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Sgt White leads a team of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) based in Chislehurst, and has started his tenure with the introduction of Drop in Surgeries at the Library or at the new Police Station, and Street Briefings outside Sainsbury's every third Friday. Details can be found on our website.



Go online to the Society's website at www.chislehurst-society.org.uk

TURN OFF THE LIGHTS?

Chislehurst High Street, both north and south of the Willow Grove junction has stationary traffic for much of the day. This is visually intrusive and generates significant air and noise pollution, reducing the quality of the High Street for residents and visitors. In addition, the lack of smooth and uninterrupted traffic flow wastes people's time and increases the level of driver impatience, which creates a more hostile environment for pedestrians.

The Chislehurst Society believes that we should look for a solution. We wish to start a dialogue with residents and with Bromley Council on a number of proposals, some or all of which might be introduced.

1. Removing the traffic lights at the junction of Willow Grove and Park Road, There is now growing evidence across the UK and Europe that traffic lights systems are as much part of the problem as they are part of the answer! There are two very interesting videos on www.fitforroads.com that are worth watching.

2. Generally improving the High Street between Albany Road and Prince Imperial Road by introducing a 'shared space' scheme. This should include significant environmental improvements and redesign of the street scene, and the imposition of a 20 mph zone.

3. Reducing the parking at right angles to the High Street on the western side. The current parking arrangements generate continual disruption to traffic flows.

4. The traffic-light-controlled zebra crossings outside the Queen's Head and Sainsbury's could be removed and replaced by pedestrian refuges.

The evidence cited in studies does show that when motorists and pedestrians are required to use their own initiative, their behaviour changes towards each other, as the comments by a student in Portishead, Somerset illustrates: 'we've just crossed the road and the driver stopped for us, which normally didn't happen – they normally only look at the lights'.

There are of course a number of difficulties with all these suggestions. The junction of Willow Grove and the High Street has limited sight-lines, and Sainsbury's car park creates additional problems, the High Street is the natural main route, and also a bus route, and so forth. We would hope that these could be overcome, with proper design.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS!

MEMBERSHIP AND ROAD STEWARD NEWS

We are sorry to have to report the retirements of three road stewards – Ken Johnson (Elmstead Avenue), Angela Folan, (The Meadow and Heathley End), and Andrew Viner (Nursery Gardens). The Executive Committee extends its sincere thanks for the help and support that all three have given to the Society and its members, and we wish them well for the future. At the same time, we are pleased to announce the appointment of three new road stewards, Catherine Fyfield (Elmstead Avenue), Robert Goldsmith (Walkden Road) and Ann Pretlove (The Meadow and Heathley End).



A road stewards meeting was held on 23 October. Some 50 road stewards attended, and heard presentations on the High Street and the war memorial. A report on the meeting is available on the website.

Keith Heselden (pictured left), our membership secretary, laid a poppy wreath on behalf of Society members at the Annual Service of Remembrance at Chislehurst War Memorial on 14 November. A donation was made by the Society to the Royal British Legion, Chislehurst Branch.

COOPERS COLLEGE OPENS ITS DOORS

On 2 November, Mrs Shirley Puxty (pictured below), Principal of Coopers Technology College, supported



by teachers, students and governors, hosted an open meeting for local residents.

There was praise for the behaviour of the vast majority of students at the College and the work the College is doing.

Several issues were raised. Literacy levels were discussed and offers of assistance from members of the public were gratefully received. The College is very keen to open its doors to the community.

The second item was the huge concern over increased volume of traffic in the village, and road safety for all members of the community. The College explained that they had already raised this matter with the Local Authority and our MP. All agreed we should work together on this as a community.

Residents raised a number of questions, including litter, allegations of shoplifting (which were agreed to be unfounded), the fact that students enter and leave College at all times of the day, and some planning questions.

Mrs Puxty agreed that these were all real issues. The litter problem is being addressed through a variety of strategies. The community will see a difference. Curriculum flexibilities do mean that students will enter and leave college at a variety of times. The College is trying to provide state of the art accommodation to meet the needs of the students whilst maintaining the character of the area. *A fuller note of the meeting is available for review on our website.*

JONES AWARDS 2011

The Chislehurst Society's theme for our 21st annual Alun and Joy Jones Environmental Studies Competition is '**Change in Chislehurst**'. The 2011 competition is open to students, aged between 4 and 18, living or going to school in Chislehurst. The projects can take any form: prose, poetry, graph comparisons, statistics, tapestry, photography, drawing or painting.

Think about how has Chislehurst changed over the years – how we use the Commons, our houses, politics and religion. What sort of shops do we have now, and what changes have taken place at our schools?

Get started with your projects now!

Last year we had over 1,100 students involved in taking a closer look at their local environment. We awarded over £1,600 in prize money to schools and individuals. Posters and leaflets for the competition will be sent out to all schools and the library in early December.

LOCALISM, TOWN PLANNING AND CHISLEHURST

The Local Growth White Paper, published at the end of October, represents many of the coalition government's statements on housing and town planning that we have heard this year. What is missing is detailed consideration of how they are to be translated into effective action. In planning decisions there is to be a presumption in favour of sustainable development. There is to be a new requirement for 'large-scale' developers to consult with the 'local community' before submitting planning applications. Will this encompass payments of compensation to those 'neighbours' most adversely affected by a proposed development? This is all somewhat vague, and needs much more definition.

From 2011 a new-homes bonus scheme is proposed whereby the additional council tax generated by each new home is to be matched (by government) for each of the six years after the home is built (consultation on details awaited). This 'reward' is intended to encourage local councils to support new housing schemes and to avoid NIMBY-ism. This raises so many questions about consultation, representation, and who will share the benefits.

The mantra of 'localism' finds further expression in the White Paper through the proposal for 'neighbourhood plans' – enabling communities to have more say in their areas. Who will prepare them? Where will the resources to do so come from? How many of these plans are expected for full coverage of LB of Bromley: 40 or 50 or more? How will these be coordinated and related to the statutory Local Development Framework of plans at Borough level?

The devil is in the detail: we will be keeping an eye on the Localism Bill that is due to be introduced before Christmas and ensure that the proposals are discussed widely. We also plan to keep in touch with Bob Neill, our MP, who is very involved in taking these matters through Parliament. *(Barry Redding, a member of our planning committee, will keep this under review.)*

HAVE WE GOT CHISLEHURST NEWS FOR YOU

Our featured publications are *The Cockpit*, all 93 editions since 1961, and the 39 editions of *Chislehurst Report* since 1994. We are about to publish all our old editions on our website, so this is a good time for a retrospective quiz.

Please fill in the missing words from our featured publications,

'ELLO 'ELLO 'ELLO – FANCY A [REDACTED]? 2001

MERCURY MAST THREATENS [REDACTED] 1997

WANT TO SEE MORE [REDACTED] IN THE GREEN BELT 2009

THE THORNTON [REDACTED] FOUND IN YPRES 2007

THE COFFEE [REDACTED] 2003

AYLESBURY DUCK ON [REDACTED]'S MENU 2006

[REDACTED]...SHOCKER SIGNS GO 1996

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE [REDACTED] BRETT-SMITH FAMILY 1999

HOUSES OF [REDACTED] IN CHISLEHURST 2008

OFF PEAK SERVICES TO BE [REDACTED] 1995

THE [REDACTED] AT ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH 2001

PERFECT YOUR [REDACTED] 2009

BID TO REFURBISH [REDACTED] 2004

A TEENAGER'S [REDACTED] 1995

**WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Answers (in alphabetical order): bell-ringing; Bromley Museum; Commons; driving skills; growing; night in the cells; refuge; restored; stone in the porch; Tavern; views; walking stick; war memories; Willow Wildlife Rescue.

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