

THE COCKPIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Cockpit, on Chislehurst Common, has been the traditional meeting place for Chislehurst people on all great occasions from time immemorial.

Chairman: T. A. Bushell, M.C.I.T.

Vice-Chairman: H. T. A. Sharpe, C.Eng., F.I.E.E.

Hon. Treasurer: R. W. Oblath

Hon. Secretary:—Mrs. M. S. Holt,

13 Oakleigh Park Avenue,
Chislehurst, Kent.

No. 12

November, 1971

The question is sometimes heard "What is the Residents' Association doing for us?" We will endeavour in this Newsletter to supply a few answers, but we would first like to pay tribute to the memory of the late Frank W. Grundy, one of the liveliest members of our committee, chairman of our Social Committee and our representative on the Road Safety Committee, who died suddenly in March and who is sadly missed.

Our **Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting** was held on 6th April, when the Committee's Report and the Accounts were adopted, Officers and Committee elected and current affairs discussed.

The **Social Evening** at Graham Chiesman House on Wednesday, 21st April, organised by Mr. H. T. Sharpe and the Social Committee, was a great success. Over a hundred people attended, among them the leading figures in Chislehurst life who came as our guests, among them the Mayor of Bromley, Alderman Miss Bertha James, J.P.; Mr. Etere, President of the Chamber of Trade, and Mrs. Etere; Mrs. R. Hall, Chairman of the Commons Conservators, and others, the intention being that our members should have an opportunity of meeting these good people and, of course, vice versa.

Jointly with the local branch of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, we continued the annual **May Queen ceremonies** on the Commons at Prickend on 1st May when Miss Judith Archer was duly crowned in the presence of the Mayor, the Member of Parliament for Chislehurst and several hundred other people. Our fame, it seems, has spread and we were invited to take our Queen and her retinue to the Biddenden Spectacular on Saturday, 7th August, when some thousands of spectators were able to see some excellent Chislehurst Maypole dancing. The weather at the crucial moment was not what it should

have been, but this did not deter our girls who carried on nobly and earned the applause of the large crowd. The organisers paid for transport and made a donation of £5 to our May Queen Fund which now has £25.18 in hand against a rainy day.

The suggested transformation of the interior of our old **Parish Church of St. Nicholas** was discussed at our annual meeting when it was decided to ask the Parochial Church Council to preserve the principal historical features of the building. Members of our Committee attended a special meeting in the church on 12th July when possible changes were explained. They include taking down the XVth and XVIth century screens and panelling which would be placed round the walls. The monument to Earl Sydney would be re-erected in a different position to permit the choir and organ console being moved to the Scadbury Chapel. The War Memorial, erected by public subscription in 1920 would virtually disappear. Its reredos could be given to any church that could make use of it. The panels with the names of the dead could be placed somewhere else in the church. Following this, your committee wrote again to the Parochial Council asking that consideration be given to the architectural and historical aspects of the matter.

A great part of our English heritage is preserved in our ancient churches and we should do our best to hand down this heritage, unspoiled, to posterity. At our annual meeting our Chairman stated that, in the event of a faculty being applied for to effect these changes, a St. Nicholas Church Defence Fund would be set up by some of those immediately concerned in order to secure legal representation. Our Association is non-sectarian and cannot, therefore, involve itself beyond the architectural and historical aspects.

A number of our members are disturbed at the making up, by the brewers, of the access road to "**The Ramblers Rest**" at Mill Place and the improvement of the lay-by for cars. They feel that this will set up an undesirable precedent. In April, the Commons Conservators submitted a sketch plan of the proposed changes and invited our comments. As it appeared that the implementing of this plan would result in a slightly increased grassed area than exists at present, your committee, reluctantly, decided to offer no objection. The area to be changed is shortly to be pegged out and will be inspected by members of our committee.

Our representative on the **Borough Conservation Area Consultative Committee**, Mr. Chas. Dunn, tells us that no definitive map has yet been agreed by the Greater London Council, but the scheme itself is a good one for Chislehurst, especially as the appropriate Minister has promised that demolition of properties within a conservation area will require his Ministry's consent. This is welcomed by those who wish to preserve the essential character of Chislehurst in these times of rapid change.

We are renewing our affiliation to the **Bromley & District Consumers Group**. They provide a comparison of prices and facilities between various shops, keep an eye on the various services provided (or in some cases not provided) by the Borough Council and have a very active Footpaths Section which, by voluntary labour, repairs rural footpaths with materials supplied by the Council. The footpath towards Sidcup from Kemnal Road near the end of Belmont Lane has recently benefited from their efforts.

Rumours of a possible amalgamation between the West Kent and Bromley Cricket Clubs might affect the use of **Chislehurst Cricket Ground** by our local club—one of the oldest in the county and this has led us to put in a word for them with our Commons Conservators who, presumably, must be consulted in any change of user of the Cricket Ground.

The **Water Tower Seat** at the top of Summer Hill now looks as if it will become a reality with the gift of £100 by the Chislehurst Garden of Remembrance Association. This is specially earmarked for the seat which, in consequence, must bear a small plaque stating the donor fund. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting a reply to a letter written to the Borough Council rather more than a year ago asking for the legal aspect to be clarified. The site is owned by the Borough, but controlled by the Commons Conservators who, incidentally, have offered their help.

Residents on the south side of Albany Road complained of the damage to the **Burlington Parade Car Park** fence along the rear access to their houses due to heavy lorries backing against it. We are pleased to report that the Borough Council has agreed to repair the fence and to

display notices requiring lorries to use the centre of the car park.

The Association has long championed the cause of residents in Adelaide and adjoining roads seeking relief from the continued passage of buses to and from the termini there. A new bus lay-by was proposed to take up much of the forecourt in front of the **Belmont Parade** shops, but this brought other problems and, thanks to the efforts of Councillor A. F. Parkinson, the whole scheme has been referred back for further consideration.

We have made representations re litter and flood water at **Telegraph Path** (White Horse Hill to Green Lane) and the Borough Council is attending to these. Clearance of litter is promised once in every two weeks.

The Committee has kept a close watch on **planning applications** likely to affect the character of the area, or damaging to other residents, amongst them Kemnal Road, Lubbock Road, the "Manor House", Marlowe Close, Mill Place, Perry Street and Red Hill House. We have also supported our friends across the line in their efforts to reduce the nuisance from extended commercial use of the former railway goods yard. We do not favour what would be, in effect, a street of houses between Whytes Woodlands and the **Walden Open Space** and which will be the subject of a Public Enquiry early in January. Your committee has made arrangements to be represented.

We trust that this report on some of the Residents Association activities will be found of interest.

We extend the
Compliments of the Season
to all our Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The expenses necessarily incurred by the Association in respect of postage, printing, hire of halls, etc., continue to rise, and we should be grateful if members who have not already done so would pay their subscriptions for 1971. Payment can be made to a Road Steward, the Hon. Treasurer or any member of the Committee, or to Barclay's Bank (Martins Bank), High Street, Chislehurst. The subscription is 15 pence per annum, or 30 pence per household: old age pensioners 5 pence. A list of Road Stewards is given on pages 3 and 4.

R. W. O.

Collection of Rates by "Direct Debiting"

By H. T. Sharpe

The "Direct Debiting" Scheme is now being introduced for the 1972/3 Rate Year by the Bromley Borough Council who are inviting participation by those who hitherto have paid by standing order, which new method, they suggest, "could lead to a reduction in bank charges".

The fundamental difference between the two schemes is that, whereas under the existing standing order scheme a Bank only paid the Council amounts and at dates as directly instructed by the customer, under the Direct Debiting Scheme the customer is asked to authorize the Bank to pay amounts and at dates as instructed by the Council.

There is no doubt that the scheme will be advantageous to the Council and to the Banks by the increased utilization of computers, but would require more vigilance by the ratepayer in checking his bank account, particularly by

those who normally only maintain marginal current accounts. Far from reducing bank charges, such accounts could easily be forced into deficit for short periods if Council debits are not adequately provided for and thereby attract increased bank charges. It has been shown that such accounts attract bank charges averaging 7p per transaction, whereas the Post Office GIRO system makes no charges at all for standing orders or credit transfers for rate payments etc. but provide no overdraft facilities.

Your Committee, therefore, adheres to the recommendation made in the April issue of "Cockpit" namely that it could not recommend the Direct Debiting System for the payment of rates, and suggests that many might find the GIRO system a more convenient and cheaper way of making such payments.

LIST OF ROAD STEWARDS. Committee members marked *

Mr. A. J. Ramsay, 19 Homewood Crescent	Homewood Crescent.
Mr. A. J. Newton, 7 Hollybrake Close	Bull Lane, Shepherds Green, Sturges Field, Bromley Lane.
*Mr. C. M. Dunn, Hoblands Cottage, Kemnal Road ..	Kemnal Road, Marlowe Close.
*Mr. B. G. Coffin, Riders Way, Ashfield Lane	Ashfield Lane, Heathfield Lane.
Mrs. H. T. Brown, 30 Grove Vale	Grove Vale.
Mr. F. Snocken, 18 Westhurst Drive	Westhurst Drive.
*Mrs. A. J. Maxwell, 2 Ivybridge Court, Old Hill ..	Old Hill, Chislehurst Road.
*Mrs. M. S. Holt, 13 Oakleigh Park Avenue	Summer Hill and roads off and Prince Imperial Road and roads off.
*Mr. T. A. Bushell, 48 Green Way	Green Way, High Street, Camden Grove, Hollington Court.
*Mr. A. T. C. Jones, 10 Farmland Walk	Farmland Walk, Hill Close.

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CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

To..... (Member of the Committee/Road Steward)

OR

To the Manager, Barclays Bank Ltd., (Martins Branch), 63, High Street, Chislehurst.

Please receive subscriptions to the above Association

Name..... If new member please tick.....

Address.....

Subscriptions may also be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer at 36, Lower Camden.

LIST OF ROAD STEWARDS. Committee members marked *

*Mrs. Jarrett, 30 Chislehurst Road, Orpington	Belmont Lane.
*Mr. R. W. Oblath, 36 Lower Camden	Lower Camden.
*Mr. S. W. Mack, Little Maxby's Raggleswood	Raggleswood.
Mr. T. L. Twigg, 23 Poyntell Crescent	Poyntell Crescent, Holbrook Lane.
Mrs. G. Kemp, 29 Ingleby Way	Ingleby Way, Red Hill.
*Mrs. T. Facer, Uppinford, Manor Park Road	St. Pauls' Cray Road.
Lady Baker, 10 The Glebe, and Mrs. Payne, 13 The Glebe	The Glebe, Bishops Walk, Manor Park Road.
*Mr. G. Rollason, 46 Elmstead Avenue	Elmstead Lane and roads off and Whitehorse Hill.
Mrs. Cheverton, 20 Green Lane	Green Lane and roads off except Belmont Lane, Green Way and Westhurst Drive.
Mrs. J. Scott-Barrett, 19 Lubbock Road	Lubbock Road, lower half.
Mr. V. Leonard, 5 Kincaig, Lubbock Road	Lubbock Road, No. 34 to end even nos., 59 to end odd nos.
*Mr. J. H. Easden, Easdens, Royal Parade	Royal Parade, Church Row, Church Lane, Walnut Tree Close, Hawkwood Lane, Camden Close, School Road.
*Mr. H. T. A. Sharpe, 37 Westhurst Drive	Willow Grove, Empress Drive, Beechcroft, Oakwood Close, Yester Road, Yester Park.
Mr. S. F. Smith, 46 Lower Camden	Camden Park Road.
Mr. R. J. Dowdell, Runton, Orpington Road	Orpington Road.
*Mr. D. Vivian, 30 Highfield Road	Leasons Hill, Southfield Road, Sunnyfield Road, Highfield Road.
Mrs. P. Cohen, 16 Marlings Park Avenue	Marlings Park Avenue, nos. 1 to 30.

Road Stewards are required for: Leas Green, Perry Street, Manor Park, Marlings Park Avenue Nos 31 onwards, Claredon Way, Berens Way, Wimborne Avenue, Kevington Drive.

The following are also members of the Committee:

Rev. R. C. Pilgrim, 2 St. Paul's Cray Road, Chislehurst.

Mr. P. Young, Unicorn Lodge, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst.

Mr. J. Kinsella, Crayside, Rectory Meadow, Manor Park Road, Chislehurst.

Mr. H. T. G. Brown, 30 Grove Vale, Chislehurst.