

---

# THE COCKPIT

---

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

---

FOUNDED 1934 REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

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

---

No. 43

February 1985

---

## MP'S TRIBUTE TO CRA

at Members' Social

Our Members' Social held last November in Graham Chieseman House was an outstanding success. One hundred members and their guests enjoyed an excellent buffet and a plentiful supply of wine.

Among our guests were Roger Sims, MP, Councillors Mrs. Bryant and Christopher Reeves, and Chairman of The Commons Conservators, Mr. R. Ellis.

Roger Sims, in thanking the CRA for arranging the relaxing and pleasant evening, said how much he valued the views of the CRA on local matters.

The CRA, he said, being non-political and with its large membership representing all parts of Chislehurst was able to give him a very clear idea about those local issues on which people felt strongly. He knew that when the CRA made out a case for a specific course of action it would always be well argued and well presented. While he could not always guarantee to agree with us, he has nevertheless the highest respect for the Association and its aspirations.

---

## RAIL USERS' ASSOCIATION

now formed

Our commuter survey last year showed overwhelming dissatisfaction with the rail services from Chislehurst and Elmstead Woods, and indicated that we needed an action group to look after travellers' interests.

The CRA arranged a Public Meeting in October; it was chaired by our MP, Roger Sims, and attended by British Rail officials. Well over one hundred people came to the meeting and they aired their problems and complaints.

British Rail acknowledged that the present rail service had been introduced without local consultation and that it had proved to be unsatisfactory. They agreed to take into consideration when planning the new service to be introduced in May this year the demands put to them by the CRA immediately following the survey, and reconfirmed at the meeting. They also recommended

that the commuters form an Association, which would act for them in the future, and, in turn, would be consulted by British Rail.

---

## RESULTS PROMISED

Two good results came out of the meeting — a promise from BR that the timetable to be introduced in May this year will revert to the previous frequency of three trains per hour to Charing Cross and three to Cannon Street, in the rush hour; and the willingness of enough people present to set up a Commuter Association.

A subsequent well-attended meeting held in November resulted in the formation of the CHISLEHURST & ELMSTEAD WOODS RAIL USERS' ASSOCIATION (CEWRUA) under the chairmanship of Philip Lingard and a strong committee.

If you have not already joined and could benefit from improved rail services, then you are urged to ask for membership by sending a cheque or money order for £2 made payable to 'CEWRUA' at 4 Mill Place, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5ND.

As BR told us they do take notice of rail user associations especially where they represent a strong membership. The CRA has helped to create the CEWRUA, which will work in your interests. Its management is in good hands and is there to take up your travel problems. We wish it good support and every success.

---

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

CRA halts the march of  
offices down the High Street

Bromley's Planners turned down an application for the renewal of an earlier permission granted (but not implemented) for a Building Society office at No. 72 High Street. This decision to refuse was taken in response to the CRA's submission that branches of other Building Societies had been opened since the permission was first granted in 1979 and that the ratio of Building Society Offices and Estate Agents to ordinary retail shops in our small High Street is already too high.

At the moment No. 72 is a shop which is serving a useful function as a retail outlet selling greeting cards and it is hoped that the freeholders will now allow this to continue.

---

Chairman:  
A. T. C. JONES  
(01-467 2796)

Vice-Chairman:  
A. J. OSMOND

Editor:  
P. A. TURNER

---

---

# THE CRA CONSTITUTION

changes proposed

---

The CRA Executive has recently studied the Constitution and Rules and will recommend some amendments to the AGM this Spring.

The full Constitution and Rules, as they now stand, will be on display on the CRA notice board in Chislehurst Library. Copies may be obtained from our Chairman, Mr. A. T. C. Jones. The proposed changes are shown below, and those agreed at the AGM will be incorporated into the new edition of the Constitution and Rules, which will be published subsequently.

**1 NAME.** The Association shall be called the 'Chislehurst Residents' Association'.

Proposed change: *delete* 'called'.

**2 OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE:**

(a) To uphold the name of Chislehurst as a township within the Local Government area and also the name of a Postal District.

Proposed change: *delete* all the words after 'Chislehurst' in order not to limit the reasons for protecting the name.

(b) To maintain and improve the amenities of Chislehurst, with particular regard to its present character and natural beauty.

Proposed change: *delete* 'maintain and improve', and *substitute* 'preserve and enhance', which is the wording used in the Civic Amenities Act.

(c) To take up (subject to the discretion of the Executive Committee) any problems encountered by members which arise owing to their residence in Chislehurst.

Proposed changes: *delete* '(subject to the discretion of the Executive Committee)' because this wording is unnecessary; *insert* 'with the appropriate bodies' after 'To take up . . .' to make clear that the CRA is rarely able to help in matters of personal confrontations.

(g) To provide such social activities as may be deemed expedient by the Executive Committee.

Proposed changes: *delete* 'provide'; *insert* 'organise'.

**4 SUBSCRIPTION** — The annual subscription shall be 30p per member, or 50p per household, but 20p per OAP member payable in advance on the 1st January in each year. Any member whose subscription for any year remains unpaid by the end of April of the following year, and has been reminded by newsletter or by other means, may be deemed to have ceased membership.

Proposed change: *delete* the first sentence; *insert* 'The annual subscription shall be passed by resolution at an Annual General or Special General Meeting'.

This will overcome the need to change or reprint the Constitution and Rules if subscriptions are changed.

**6 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** Shall consist of the Officers referred to in Rule 10, ex-officio members referred to in Rule 8, and not more than 12 other members who subject to the following provisions shall be elected at Annual General Meetings. No Local Government Councillor shall be eligible for membership of the Executive Committee except as provided in Clause 8, hereafter. At the Annual General Meeting one-half or the number nearest thereto, shall retire from office and shall be eligible for re-election. The members

to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election and those who have been co-opted as hereinafter provided. In cases of equality in length of office those to retire unless they agree amongst themselves, shall be determined by ballot supervised by the Executive Committee. The Executive shall have power to co-opt any member of the Association to fill a vacancy among the Officers or the Executive Committee, but any member so co-opted shall retire at the next succeeding Annual General Meeting. An Executive Committee shall not proceed to business unless a quorum of 4 members is present.

Proposed change: *delete* complete sentence, line 5, starting 'No local Government' . . . to 'hereafter'.

*Insert* new paragraph:

'No person other than an already elected member shall be proposed for election to the Executive Committee unless there shall have been delivered to the Secretary, not less than seven days before the date appointed for the Annual General Meeting, a notice in writing signed by not less than five members of the Association nominating such person for election together with his/her intimation in writing of willingness to serve if elected'.

**9 PRESIDENT** — If considered desirable in the interests of the Association, a member may be elected, or re-elected President at the Annual General Meeting. He may preside at general or special meetings of the Association, represent the Association when and where appropriate, and may attend Executive Committee meetings, or Sub-Committee meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

Proposed change: *delete* Item 9 completely, it is no longer felt necessary to make such a provision.

**18 PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS** — No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of 12 members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved, in any other case it shall stand adjourned to a time and place to be determined by the Chairman and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall be a quorum. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association at the time of proceeding to business, the meeting shall elect a member of the Executive Committee or failing him any member of the Association to be Chairman of the meeting and the Chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. At any General Meeting a resolution put to the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

Proposed change: *delete* all of last sentence, it is unnecessary as it relates to standard Committee procedure.

If you have any views on these proposed changes then you should make them known at the next AGM.

---

---

## THE VALUE OF ROAD STEWARDS

new helpers always welcome

---

Our Road Stewards play a very important part in the successful operation of our Association. They help to maintain the essential contact between our members and the Executive Committee, they alert us to issues affecting their area, they distribute 'The Cockpit' and collect subscriptions.

We are excellently served by our Road Stewards who give loyal service to the Association. But even they retire from active service from time to time, or find themselves unable to continue for other reasons. If you can offer the Association a small amount of time during the year, we should be pleased to hear from you. We especially need help in the following areas:

Barnham Road	Bull Lane
Broadheath Drive	Croft Close
Degema Road	
Elmstead Lane (Walden Road to Mottingham Road)	
Grange Drive/Melbury Close	
Holbrook Lane	Holmdale Road
Melanda Close/Fosters Close/Hallam Close	
Melbury Close	
Oakdene Avenue/Cranmore Road/Elmstead Avenue/Walden Avenue	
Roehampton Drive/Liskeard Close	
Victoria Road	
Walden Road (Elmlee Close — Elmstead Lane)	
Walnut Tree Close	Westhurst Drive
White Horse Hill	Woodside Avenue

If you can help please contact our Chairman.

---

## MEMBERSHIP FOR 1985

Subscriptions remain the same

---

Subscriptions are unchanged for 1985, and they are due now. They can be paid directly to your Road Steward who will give you your 1985 Membership Card. Alternatively you can send them direct to the CRA Chairman, Mr. A. T. C. Jones, 10 Thistlemead, Chislehurst. Subscriptions are:

60p per member or £1 per household  
OAP's 40p per member/household

---

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

an urgent need

---

We have a strong and lively membership which gives the Association its strength in speaking on matters concerning Chislehurst. We aim to serve our members efficiently — but as members continue to grow so does the task of keeping our records up to date, making sure that we maintain contact in all areas, and are able to attract new members. The Executive Committee would like to have the assistance of someone who could give a small amount of time on a regular basis for this work.

If you like meeting people, and are interested in helping the CRA in its activities for Chislehurst, please contact our Chairman without delay.

---

---

## DO YOU NEED PLANNING PERMISSION?

New Council Leaflets

---

To guide people through the planning approval requirements, the LBB has reprinted its successful range of leaflets. The leaflets set out when planning permission is required and how to apply for it.

There are 8 easy to understand leaflets in the series, and they can be obtained free of charge from LIBRARIES, CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX throughout the Borough, and from the Civic Centre.

To anyone thinking of a house extension, a new shed, porch or garage, making structural alterations, or erecting fences and walls, these leaflets may be most helpful in removing misunderstandings and advising on the right course of action to take.

---

## DATE OF AGM

23rd April 1985

---

The CRA's Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd April 1985, in the Methodist Church Hall, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst. We hope you will be able to attend.

---

## NATIONAL TRUST ACTIVITIES

---

The Opington and Chislehurst Centre of the National Trust has just completed another successful year. Its members have enjoyed a full and varied range of lectures and outings, and many good things are planned for 1985. The lecture meetings for the first quarter are:

February	21	Lakeland Paul Foley & Ted Walker	Methodist Church Orpington 8 p.m.
March	14	The History of Chislehurst R. J. T. Hopper	Methodist Church Chislehurst 2.30 p.m.
March	28	Isambard Brunell and the Great Western Railway David Candy and Martin Smith	Methodist Church Orpington 8 p.m.

There will be in addition many outings during the year including visits to Apsley House, Kentwell Hall, Stratfield Saye and Monks House.

The Centre is still able to accept new members who can be sure of a warm welcome and an interesting year's programme. Further details from the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Diane Saunders, 67 Broomhill Road, Orpington, Kent.

---