

THE COCKPIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHISLEHURST SOCIETY
(formerly 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. 49

Published by The Chislehurst Society, 10 Thistlemead, Chislehurst

August 1987

Now we are THE CHISLEHURST SOCIETY

The AGM — Chairman's Report

An interesting and lively meeting, attended by over a hundred members, witnessed a significant development in the history of our organisation when a new Constitution, already approved by the Civic Trust and the Charity Commission, was adopted. The Chislehurst Residents' Association will henceforth be known as The Chislehurst Society. This does not mean a change of direction in the nature of our activities; it merely means a change of status, which will carry more weight in our dealings with statutory bodies and attract financial benefits. Those members who were fearful that we were moving to become an elite body, need not worry; the nature of the change, in fact, enables us to attract a wider membership and will demand that we undertake a programme of activities leading to a better education of the public in environmental matters.

STRONG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lest it be thought that we are not equal to this task, may I reassure any doubters by stating that the present Executive Committee is one of the most competent and active Committees we have had in recent years. Newcomers to the Executive Committee have brought with them both a wealth of administrative experience and a most commendable enthusiasm which auger well for the future of The Society. Each member of the Committee, in fact, plays a key role in his or her allotted duties, as the composition of the Sub-Committees will show, and there is hardly any aspect of the environment that is not covered. Some of the contributions in the present issue of 'The Cockpit' will reflect the enthusiasm and the work already undertaken by the Committee members.

So, we look forward to the future with renewed optimism and vigour, confident in the knowledge that we have the will and the energy of the Executive Committee and the ready response and support of a loyal membership.

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

Vice-Chairman:
A. J. OSMOND

Editor:
P. A. TURNER

OFFICERS FOR 1987-88

Chairman	A. T. C. Jones
Vice-Chairman	A. J. Osmond
Hon. Secretary	T. Turner
Hon. Treasurer	N. Bell

SUB-COMMITTEES (including Officers and Committee Members)

Planning	T. Turner, H. T. G. Brown, V. Dunleavy, L. G. Holt
High Street	H. T. G. Brown, V. Dunleavy, K. Chapman, G. Connolly, M. Hammond, J. B. Hurn, Mrs. D. Vine
Trees	Miss P. Howley, Miss N. Comport, T. Turner, K. Chapman,
Bus	Miss N. Comport, M. Hammond
Flood Publicity	A. R. Turner P. A. Turner, M. Hammond, Mrs. D. Vine
Anti-Litter Social	A. Lovell Miss P. Howley, Mrs. S. Moncho
Editor of 'The Cockpit' Membership Secretary	P. A. Turner Mrs. P. D. Mitchell

DELEGATES

Advisory Panel on Conservation Areas	C. M. Dunn, T. Turner
London Green Belt Council	L. G. Holt
Bromley Federation of Residents' Associations	A. T. C. Jones, T. Turner
Road Safety Panel	M. Hammond

TRAFFIC IN LEESONS HILL AND MARLINGS PARK

At the Annual General Meeting it was announced that the Council had informed The Chislehurst Society that, subject to detailed approvals and land acquisition, a scheme had been programmed with the London Residuary Body for a permanent system of traffic signals at the junction of Leasons Hill with St. Paul's Cray Road. This decision had been taken in response to a petition submitted by a number of members in Leasons Hill, following the use of police traffic signals during the engineering works in St. Paul's Cray Road. The easing of passage to and from Leasons Hill during the temporary traffic control had persuaded a number of members in Leasons Hill to reverse their previously stated opposition to the installation of permanent traffic signals.

WIDENING RESISTED

At the time of the announcement the Chairman of The Society said that we did not wish to see road widening at the junction that would encourage an even busier traffic flow, including heavier vehicles. Mr. Herbert Kingsbury, Road Steward for the Leasons area, stated his fear that there could well be a demand for the widening of both the A208 and Leasons Hill, with the inevitable use by heavier vehicles. He added that both these roads had been planned for widening, and reminded the meeting that at the Annual General Meeting of 1986 he had asked that no action be taken until the A20 engineering works had been completed. Councillor Mrs. Joan Wykes, entering the discussion, said that planned development for widening Leasons Hill and the A208 would be resisted and agreed with Mr. Kingsbury that it would be better to wait to see the pattern of traffic flow following the completion of the A20 works before taking any firm decisions.

A new factor has now presented itself in the announcement that it is the Council's intention to improve the junction of Leasons Hill/Sevenoaks Way/Cray Avenue/Station Road, St. Paul's Cray. If the scheme gives encouragement to a greater use of Leasons Hill by heavier vehicles then this is a fresh cause for concern, and this concern has been conveyed to Councillor Mrs. Wykes by Mr. Kingsbury and by The Chislehurst Society.

HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Our new sub-committee making an impact

In the last issue of The Cockpit we gave details of the survey and report we had presented to the LBB putting forward our suggestions for bringing the High Street up to the standard required for a Conservation Area. Copies of the report were sent to our Ward Councillors, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The original survey was the work of one committee member: it showed quite clearly the decline in standards over many years especially with the proliferation of illuminated signs and advertisements that have sprung up in spite of their exclusion by Conservation Area regulations, and by those official signs which were so badly designed and situated that they do not conserve or enhance the appearance of the High Street.

It was clear that the task of working to correct the situation would require considerable effort, and the Executive was quick to form a High Street sub-committee to undertake this work.

OUR REPORT WELCOMED

Our report was welcomed by the Chief Architect/Planner as an important contribution to the LBB's High Street Improvement Scheme. We agreed on a collaborative programme whereby we would photograph all offending features and indicate those we considered to be unsuitable or unsatisfactory, and recommend corrective action.

At a subsequent meeting our package of photographs and reports was discussed and the LBB promised an immediate investigation into the examples we had submitted. We were invited to carry on with the project which we shall do with the utmost energy and speed.

Our efforts have been applauded by The Civic Trust, who published an article in their journal explaining what we were doing in Chislehurst. In addition, we had received the enthusiastic support of the Chislehurst and Nottingham Chamber of Commerce.

We very much appreciate the help and support that has been promised, and we shall continue to liaise closely with the LBB and the Chamber of Commerce.

We know that it will require long-term efforts by all concerned to achieve the proper standards for the High Street, but at least a good start has been made.

WHITE HORSE HOTEL ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND residents object

In recent issues much attention has been given to the various threats to amenity and environment which have appeared from different quarters. Now we are faced with yet another invasion of amenity in the form of 'adventure playgrounds' which are beginning to appear in the gardens of public houses. Members will have read of the concern displayed by the residents of Victoria Road on suddenly finding a construction of considerable height overlooking their properties. It was learned that this was part of an adventure playground constructed in the garden of the White Horse Hotel which had been undergoing refurbishing.

The residents of Victoria Road are naturally concerned about the visual and noise intrusions caused by this construction. These problems could be exacerbated should new legislation lead to longer opening hours. No planning application had been submitted to carry out this

project but now, we learn, a belated one has been sent to the Council.

STRONG OPPOSITION

At the time of going to press vigorous representations have been made by the residents of Victoria Road and by The Chislehurst Society to various quarters. The residents have sent a petition and individual letters to the Council and have contacted their Ward Councillors, one of whom, Councillor Mrs. Joan Wykes, has met with and listened to the complaints of a meeting of the residents. The Society is writing to the brewers and has brought the matter to the attention of the Bromley Federation of Residents' Associations. Our MP, Roger Sims, has been quick off the mark and has been in touch with the Operations Manager of Whitbread's. It is hoped that all the pressure being brought to bear will result in a happy outcome for the residents of Victoria Road.

This is not an isolated case. It has been brought to our notice that there are two other examples in Kent where similar projects have been introduced in the gardens of public houses — to the dismay of the residents who are affected.

LET'S KEEP CHISLEHURST CLEAN AND TIDY

Arnold Lovell asks for your support

We all welcome the LBB's campaign to keep Bromley 'clean and green' as a pleasant place to live in.

We are especially well endowed in Chislehurst with our Commons, trees, open spaces, and National Trust lands, enjoyed by residents and visitors.

And yet we have probably more than our fair share of rubbish deposited thoughtlessly throughout the area. Plastic bottles, wrappers, newspapers, dustbin liners filled with garden cuttings, beer glasses, broken glass, are all to be seen around many of the main footpaths, at bus stops, around the War Memorial and ponds, and in the Recreation Ground.

THE LBB WILL HELP US

The LBB do not have the resources to deal with all the rubbish in Chislehurst: the Litter Control Officer is employed for only two days a week and has no operating staff. But the LBB will quickly help any voluntary efforts by residents by providing them with suitable gloves and heavy duty bags, and they will collect bags without delay.

LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER

This is a good offer and we should take advantage of it. The Executive Committee has asked me to organise a scheme for the periodic clean up of our black spots.

I have in mind three lines of action. Firstly, with the Society showing the way, I will compile a panel of volunteers who would be prepared to assist in a 'sweep' of

particular areas from time to time.

Secondly, I will ask local organisations if they will help.

Thirdly, I will make a list of black-spots to be cleaned, as unfortunately this is an on-going problem.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

I should like to have your ideas for making this campaign a success. Do you know of any areas needing urgent clean up? And, most important, will you help — occasionally or regularly? Please contact me at:- Holly Trees, 12 Bromley Lane, Chislehurst.
Telephone: 467 1116

Arnold Lovell

MEMBERS' SOCIAL

September 12th

Our annual Social Evening will be held at Graham Chieseman House from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12th.

There will be a finger buffet and your first glass of wine is free. Tickets are £4.50 each and are available from Alun Jones, 10 Thistlemead (Tel: 467 2796).

Our social is always popular and well attended. Please order your tickets early to avoid disappointment. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

ROAD STEWARD CHANGES

The Executive Committee of The Chislehurst Society expresses its warm thanks to the following members who, for various reasons, have had to give up Road Steward duties:-

Mrs. J. Barker, Mrs. H. Bartholomew,
Mrs. R. Moseley, Mrs. D. Oblath, Mr. B. Stebbing,
Mr. A. H. Strutt, Mr. R. Hudson,
Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Higgitt,
Lt. Col. C. B. Weniger, OBE.

To those who have moved, or are in the process of moving from the district, we extend our best wishes for happiness in their new places of abode; to those who have had to relinquish their tasks because of illness we send our earnest wishes for a speedy recovery to good health.

In addition to those new Road Stewards mentioned in the March issue we welcome:

Mrs. Stenning, 4 St. Meddens, Bull Lane
covering Bull Lane
Mr. C. Waters, 3 Ross Court, Lubbock Road
covering Ross Court
Mr. D. D. Dillon, 102 Belmont Lane
covering Belmont Lane (higher numbers)
Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Buckley, 116 Woodside Avenue
covering Woodside Avenue
Mr. A. F. Roxbrough, 39 Clarendon Way
covering Clarendon Way
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Parish, 67 Edgebury
covering Edgebury

We thank them for their readiness to help The Society and wish them every success in their efforts.

BEAVERWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

coach transport

Parents of the pupils who attend Beaverwood School for Girls and use the private coach facilities will learn with relief of the resolution passed by the LBB's Education Building Sub-Committee, namely, that appropriate provision be included in the draft Revenue Estimates for Minor Works 1988/89 to provide coach turning facilities at the school by means of a through-road within the area of the sports field.

Members will remember that a serious accident involving one of the girls occurred recently, following which a campaign was mounted by the pupil's parents to provide safe facilities for delivery and collection of the pupils. The LBB's Chief Road Safety Officer then recommended that consideration be given to a turning area for coaches within the school curtilage. The Chislehurst Society readily gave full support to this proposal and wrote to Councillor Mrs. Joan Bryant and the Director of Education, Mr. Gerald Grainge. Councillor Mrs. Bryant was happy to back our approach, expressing her own concern as Chairman of the Education Committee.

It is anticipated that in September there will be up to five coaches serving the school, and it is unlikely that this number will decrease in the foreseeable future.

GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

Our Ward Councillors

It has become apparent recently that some of our members are unaware of the way in which our three Ward Councillors divide their duties. Following local elections Borough Councillors opt to serve on the principal committees of the Council in which they have their prime interest. Our Ward Councillors serve on the following main committees:-

Councillor Mrs. Joan Bryant

Education, Finance and Staff, Policy and Resources.

Councillor C. S. S. Reeves

Development Control, General Purposes.

Councillor Mrs. Joan Wykes

Recreation, Technical Services.

Members having problems in one or more of the above areas should write to the respective Councillor c/o Members' Room, Bromley Civic Centre, Rochester Avenue, Bromley BR1 3UH.

Normally, members should not address their concern about local matters to our MP, Roger Sims, but to Ward Councillors. However, Mr. Sims is at all times keenly interested in what goes on in his constituency, and should a member feel that interest at a higher level needs to be engaged, he or she can write to the House of Commons or visit our MP at his 'Surgery' at 5 White Horse Hill on the first and third Saturday morning when Parliament is in session.

227 BUS SERVICE Your Views Wanted

Members will recall that at the AGM a report was made of the Society's efforts to get a better service.

However we should like to have feedback from members to find out how successful were our efforts with London Buses. So please let us know if you are satisfied with the 227s. Has the service improved? Is it reliable? Or is it just as bad as ever?

Please write or phone Ken Chapman at 'Lulworth', Heathfield Lane, Chislehurst, (467 1365).

OBITUARY

H. T. A. Sharpe

We regret having to announce the death of Hubert T. A. Sharpe who was Chairman of The Society between 1973 and 1975. A familiar figure in local affairs — he was a founder member in the thirties of the Chislehurst Ratepayers' Association — he had served on the Executive Committee of The Chislehurst Residents' Association, as it was then known, for a considerable number of years. He succeeded the late Thomas Bushell in the Chair of the Association in 1973, at the same time taking over the Chairmanship of the May Queen Society. In these two capacities he was extremely active, and his concern to preserve our environment and local traditions was apparent to all. Members will remember the interesting article he wrote for The Cockpit two or three years ago, recalling the early days of the formation of the Chislehurst Residents' Association.

In recent years his health had deteriorated and prevented his being as active as he would wish. However, his interest in local matters never diminished and your Chairman would be summoned to the telephone had Hubert's newsletter not been delivered promptly. We owe him a debt for the watchfulness he maintained during his active years. To Mrs. Sharpe, who suffered ill-health for a long period, and to daughter and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. Irene Grove Brown

Shortly before our Annual General Meeting a gloom was cast over members of the Executive Committee when the Chairman had the very sad duty of announcing the loss of Irene Brown, wife of Tom Brown of the Committee. Irene had not enjoyed the best of health for some time, nevertheless the news of her passing came as a shock to us all.

A long standing member of The Society and a long-serving Road Steward for the immediate area, she was one of the most keen and loyal of our members and one of the best informed in local matters. Alert at all times to the least threat to our environment, Irene was often instrumental in bringing to the Committee's attention matters of concern which the rest of us had missed.

The Society has lost a most valuable servant and the memory of her devotion to Chislehurst's well-being will remain with us for a long time.
