
THE COCKPIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHISLEHURST SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 298413

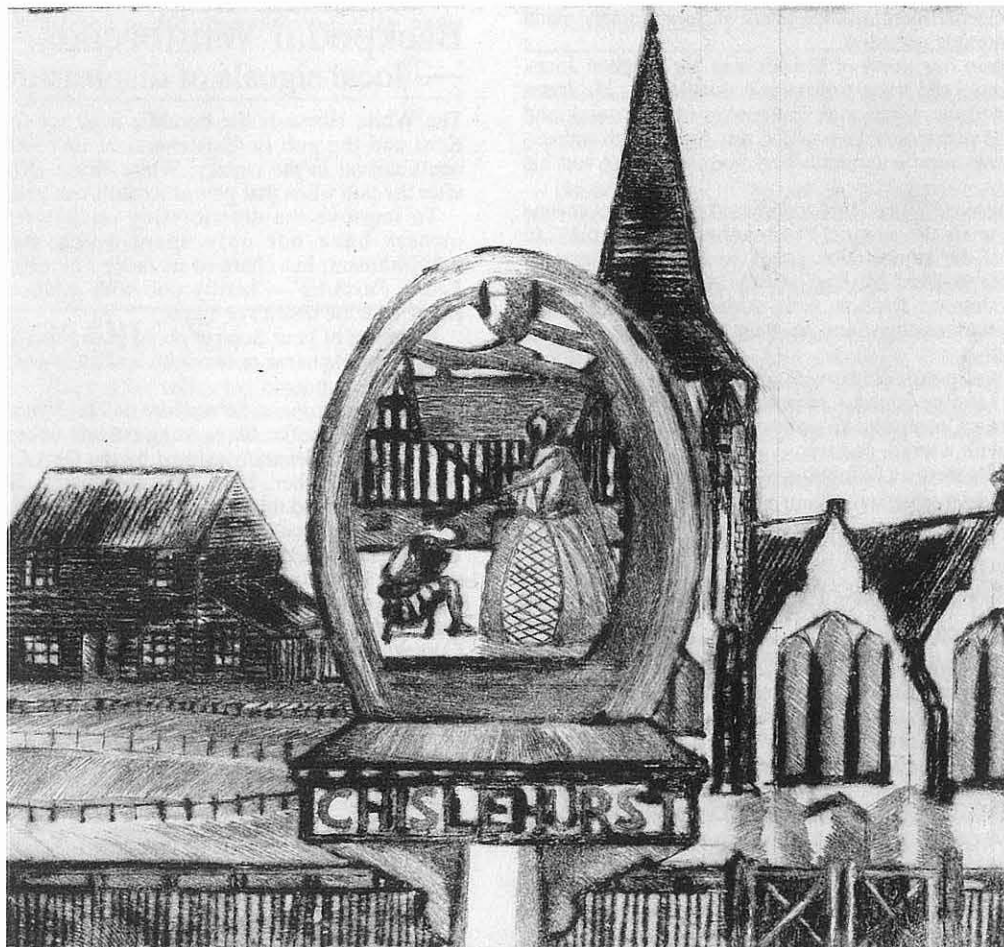
FOUNDED 1934 REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

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

No. 62

Published by The Chislehurst Society

August 1993



"Cover for *The Cockpit*". This design by Peter Calver UVI Coopers School 1992, was awarded an Alun Jones Environmental Studies prize last year.

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The Alun and Joy Jones Awards for Environmental Studies 1992/3

The presentation ceremony for the third year of these environmental awards took place in Chislehurst Library on the evening of the 9th June, by kind permission of the librarian, Mr Roy Hopper.

All schools in Chislehurst and foundation year students of Ravensbourne College had been invited to submit entries for these awards, which for each of the three years have been sponsored generously by Barclays Bank plc.

The presentations took place against a lively and visually exciting display of projects carried out by pupils whose ages ranged from 5+ to 17+. A large number of parents, staff, pupils and students, senior members of LB Bromley's Education Department and members of your Society made this a memorable occasion.

Once again our guest of honour was Mr Stephen Jones who presented the book tokens and certificates. Mr Jones congratulated the winners on the quality of their work and spoke of the occasion as one which was tinged with sadness as the awards now commemorated both his father and his mother.

The chairman, Bruce Hurn, expressed thanks to everyone involved with the project, to teachers and pupils, to members of the adjudication panel, to Mr Hopper and all his staff. He thanked Mr Eaglesfield, Manager of Barclays Bank Chislehurst Branch, who addressed the entrants, warmly congratulating them on their studies of aspects of Chislehurst.

The formal proceedings were graciously rounded off by Mr Hugh Lindley-Jones, Chairman of Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons Conservators who thanked the chairman with warmth and wit.

The results were as follows:

INFANTS SECTION

Mead Road Infants School, for a school project "Our Local Community", a £45 book token to Year 1, for work based on a visit to Scadbury Nature Reserve.

JUNIOR SECTION

Mead Road Infants School, a £25 book token to Year 2 for work done within the local community project. Highly Commended certificates were awarded to **Christie Phelps** and **Rebecca Welch** and a Certificate of Commendation was awarded to **Lucy Entecott**.

JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE SECTIONS

Marjorie McClure School, a £35 book token and Prize Winner's certificate for a group project entitled "All the Year Round on the Common". A £20 book token was awarded to **Natasha Boulton** and £10 book token went to **Alexander Clements**.

SENIOR SECTION

Coopers School, for drypoint engravings by individual students based on the theme "Town and Country", stemming from discussion of aspects of Chislehurst. A book token for £15 was awarded to **Sam Delaney**, a book token for £10 to **Matthew Sales**, and a book token for £15 to **Kevin Tyler**. Certificates of Commendation are awarded to **Alex Bentley** and to **Paul Vernon**.

The Judges decided unanimously that the ALUN JONES TROPHY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES should be awarded this year to **Mead Road Infants School**.

The exhibition of entries remained in Chislehurst Library until 19th June, when a selection of exhibits was arranged in Barclays Bank. All entries were displayed in the Main Reception Hall in Bromley Civic Centre between June 28th and July 9th.

Environmental Awards for 1993-94.

Members of Chislehurst Society who are parents of children at school or schools, in Chislehurst or elsewhere, should look out for details of the awards for this coming year. Opportunities for direct individual entries are envisaged in addition to school entry for the awards.

JBH

Backpedal Whitbreads — local signals of displeasure

The White Horse is the heraldic logo for the County of Kent and the pub in Chislehurst of that name signified one's arrival in the county. White Horse Hill was named after the pub when that part of Redhill was re-named.

To improve the deteriorating image of the pub, the owners have not only spent much money on its refurbishment, but changed its name. The new name is the *Penny Farthing* — hardly one with a close association either with the district or a pub.

Members of your Society could have provided them with an appropriate name or two with real local association, such as:

The Telegraph and Semaphore or The Signal Station.

Justification for these suggestions comes from *The History of Chislehurst*, inspired by the Rev. Canon Murray whose grandfather, Lord George Murray, Bishop of St. David's, invented the first system of signalling by means of moveable shutters. This was used in the great war against France. Subsequently the semaphore (arms used in different ways) was introduced. A station for each of these was erected on the left-hand at the top of Green Lane, whence communication was held with Forrest Hill and Birchwood Corner, and so on to Chatham and Dover. So important was this invention considered that Lord George was awarded a Government pension.

The following quotation comes from this book.

"Nearly opposite to the inn at Redhill we cross a stile and take a footpath skirting 'Old Telegraph Field', so called from its former proximity to the Telegraph Station, which existed in the days before electricity. This has a peculiar interest attaching to it, the aforementioned shutter telegraph having been the invention of the aforementioned Lord George Murray. During the early part of this century it was found to be so useful and important an invention that Lord George was rewarded by a pension from the Government.

The structure consisted of a one-storeyed building, having over the apex of its roof a frame, containing six divisions, in each of which was a swinging shutter, hung from above, and controlled by ropes passing through the roof. Canon Murray possesses his grandfather's model for it. The London station was over the Admiralty, and the system was first worked on the 25th of January 1796. By means of a line of

such telegraphs between Dover and London, a message could be conveyed from one terminus to the other in seven minutes, each station-keeper reading the message by telescope, and then arranging his apparatus so as to convey it in a similar manner to the station behind him. It was used during the war, and continued in use until superseded by the semaphore, in 1816. When the boards were turned round one quarter, so as to present only their edges to the observer, no message was intended, but by lowering firstly the six shutters singly, and then in combination with others, sixty-three different signals could be made. These numbers or signals allowed every letter of the alphabet to be dictated, and there still remained a number of signals for words or expressions in common use."

If enough Chislehurst people were to take the trouble to write to the owners urging them to restore the original name or, if unacceptable, accept one of the alternatives suggested above they might agree to change the name again.

Address your letter to:
Sir Michael Angus
Chairman
Whitbread & Co. Plc
The Brewery
Chiswell Street
London EC1Y 4SD
and keep your fingers crossed.

RT

THE COMMONS

The Editor has received the following communication from the Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons Conservators. We are pleased to learn that the Council and the Conservators have amicably resolved their differences.

"In the last issue of *The Cockpit*, the editor gave the Commons Conservators the opportunity of replying to an article about the Commons which contained one or two inaccuracies.

However, since then the London Borough of Bromley have listened afresh to the case that the Conservators have presented to them to such an extent that they have offered more funding and further talks about the balance in autumn.

In view of this the Conservators thought that it would be ungracious, to say the least, to pursue that offer of a reply."

Moats, Marlowe and more . . .

Orpington & District Archaeological Society will be holding a half-day conference from 2pm on Saturday 30th October on the theme 'Scadbury under the Walsinghams: a moated site and its history'. Scadbury is a moated site now under excavation. The conference will focus on the site's archaeology and its history during the 16th-17th centuries when it was the seat of the powerful Walsingham family, courtiers of Elizabeth I and patrons of Christopher Marlowe.

Speakers will include social historian Joan Thirsk (on the Walsinghams and the Kentish gentry), author Charles Nicholl (on Christopher Marlowe), architectural historian Kenneth Gravett and the site's director Alan Hart.

Super Buffet Supper

Why not join us for our next members' evening at Foxbury on Friday 1st October 1993? The event commences at 7.30 pm.

After an excellent buffet supper we shall be entertained by Ray Garwood who will give a lighthearted talk with slides, entitled "A reluctant gardener looks at National Trust gardens".

Mr Garwood is on the Committee of the Kent and East Sussex Region of the National Trust. For those of you who have not yet visited Foxbury it is in Kennel Road and is a most interesting and comfortable venue, with a pay-bar where drinks may be obtained throughout the evening.

Tickets are available at £8.25 each; to reserve these or for further details please 'phone Pat Bushell on 467-2118 or write to her at 48, Green Way, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6JF.

The programme has been deliberately designed so that it contains items of interest to a wide range of audiences — looking at the history and archaeology of one site from several different perspectives. There will be talks on: — the archaeology of the site, including the mediaeval and post-mediaeval structures and finds, including ceramics; — the history of the Walsingham family and their relationship to Kentish society; — the Walsinghams' patronage of the playwright Christopher Marlowe; — the architecture of Tudor manor houses of the period.

The venue is Farrington's School, Chislehurst, Kent (accessible by public transport), and tickets are available from B. J. Bull, 36 Walden Road, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5DL, price £4 (£3.50 students/OAPs). Cheques should be payable to ODAS; please enclose an sae.

There will also be an opportunity to visit the excavations at Scadbury on two public open days, 18th-19th September. Free guided tours will be given from 2-4.30 pm. Limited car parking is available at the site for the elderly or disabled. For more information, or a car park ticket (for specified day), apply to the address above enclosing an sae.

PARKING PROBLEMS

The Society's Honorary Secretary, Tony Turner, wrote to the editor of the Bromley Times in May, to make the case for our many members who are concerned about the parking of commercial vehicles in residential drives. A Chislehurst resident had previously written to the Bromley Times arguing that people had a right to park such vehicles in their own drives and that her own neighbours did not object to this. Tony Turner's counter argument will be of interest to both sides of this debate and is reprinted in full here.

"The publication of a letter in the Bromley Times (28.04.93) in which a Chislehurst resident complained about Bromley Council's stance regarding the parking of commercial vehicles on residential property, draws attention to what others would see as a serious environmental problem.

Employers who allow their employees to take commercial vehicles home at the end of the working day may well be saving the firm the costs of garaging while their drivers will enjoy the 'perk' of avoiding the normal

costs of commuting to and from their working base. Such advantages are, however, usually at the expense of other residents who suffer a reduction in the level of their residential amenities and property values. It is therefore understandable that D.O.E. Appeal Inspectors generally uphold Bromley Council's decisions on commercial vehicle parking. It is not sufficient to say that the neighbours don't mind, as their unexpressed thoughts may be quite the reverse. Other residents in the vicinity might well have cause to object and in any case it would be wrong to commit future residents to the unenlightened views of their predecessors. There are a large number of residents living in many other roads throughout the borough who would not be at all happy at the prospect of things to come by way of a precedent set elsewhere; difficulties would arise if the driver of a commercial vehicle decided to move from a road where the parking of his vehicle might have been tolerated, to a road where it positively would not.

The encouragement given by the government for the setting up of small business enterprises also increases the incidence of commercial parking in residential areas, but again D.O.E. Appeal decisions indicate that it is not the intention that the country's economic recovery should be at the expense of diminished residential values. So far as Bromley is concerned this will come as no surprise, for the Appeal decisions which uphold the Council's stand on these matters are seen as a vindication of its stated prime policy objective for housing which is:

'To maintain and enhance the quality of the residential environment'

This major tenet was unchallenged at both the Borough Plan Inquiry in 1984 and the Unitary Development Plan Inquiry held last year. Its aim is fully supported by the Chislehurst Society which looks to Bromley Council for its fullest implementation."

Living in Chislehurst

Our members are very conscious of continued efforts by developers to make money by building in Chislehurst, not always with a sympathetic regard for our special environment. One member wrote to me recently about this.

"I and surely everyone else living in Chislehurst chose to do so in the knowledge that it was a very special place, and that indeed it meant paying a special price for the privilege. A semi-rural setting with trees, ponds and a village atmosphere, historic buildings and large garden plots are not cheap commodities in the London area but their value can be diminished through the persistent chipping away by people who seem to see the richness of Chislehurst purely as an opportunity for development and certain home-based businesses. One effect of pursuing such unfettered ventures is that the price of a des. res. in Chis. will end up on a level with a dwelling in Welling, which is the same distance from central London but does not enjoy the same salubrious reputation."

I can only add that your Society will always do everything in its power to prevent undesirable developments and encourage positively enhancing projects. We can only do this if we are seen to have the backing and support of residents — do you have neighbours who haven't joined yet? Did you come to the last AGM? *Your* attendance, *your* vote, *your* voice are vital to the health of *your* Society, *your* Chislehurst.

Editor

"NO WAY" TO ONE-WAY

Last October, following a request from local residents, Council officers put up a report to the Council's Traffic Management Sub-Committee recommending that an experimental one-way scheme be instituted in Church Lane. This was agreed subject to consultations taking place with residents in Church Lane and Walnut Tree Close. Not a word was said about the effect the scheme might have on the many other residents in the surrounding area or on this part of the conservation area.

Mrs Sennett, our Road Steward for Church Row, lost no time in organising a petition from her members as their road would be one of the roads mainly effected by such a scheme.

Undoubtedly, the reason such a measure was proposed in the first place was because of the increased parking in Church Lane outside the *Bull's Head* and beyond, which was a direct result of the 'Pay and Display' parking being introduced in Royal Parade. In one of the two letters your committee wrote condemning the scheme we suggested that double yellow lines were put down at that end of the Lane. We thought this would cure the problem in a very much simpler way.

Well, as many of you know, this little tale has a happy ending. On 6th May the Technical Services (Operations) Committee rejected the scheme in order to look at moderate controls for parking restrictions.

KSC

A small piece of Chislehurst history

Older residents of Chislehurst may remember the small forge at the rear of Burlington Parade which was still in use in the late 1930s, when my friends and I called there after school. There was always a chance that we might find a horse being shod, a great attraction for children. I'm not sure when this forge ceased to function as there were still horse-drawn delivery vans, mainly local bakers and dairies, until the early 1950s. I knew all the horses by name, and they must have been stroked and patted by a great number of children.

Other forges in Chislehurst were Baxter's in Perry Street, which I only vaguely remember, and Lash's in the High Street, which ceased to function long before my time. It became a shop for spare car parts and electrical equipment, but I remember Mr Lash telling me that he still used the forge occasionally for repair work. The building was pulled down in the early 1960s.

There was also a forge at the rear of 'White and Bushell's', which stood at the corner of the High Street and Park Road. My grandfather Thomas Bushell was a master blacksmith, but after he died in the early 1900s that part of the business ceased to be.

The forge building behind Burlington Parade has remained in use as a garage until very recently when it was pulled down to make way for the extension to the Newsagents to provide a "new" post office. Only a small piece of Chislehurst history but interesting nevertheless.

PB

European Heritage Days 1993 Saturday and Sunday 11-12 September

Your Society has been chosen by the Civic Trust to take part in the pilot launch of the 'European Heritage Days' scheme in England. Many buildings usually closed to the public will be open on these two days. See our separate News Sheet for details.