



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, A.M.Inst.T.
Vice-Chairman: Alistair Gunn, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.
Hon. Treasurer: Alex Drage, A.H.A.

Hon. Secretary:— Mrs. M. S. Holt,
13 Oakleigh Park Avenue,
Chislehurst, Kent.

No. 2

February, 1967

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twenty-first Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Public Library, Red Hill, Chislehurst, on Tuesday, 28th February, 1967, at 8 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting.
2. Committee's Annual Report for the year 1966.
3. Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year 1966.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Committee Members.
6. Any Other Business.

By order of the Committee

MARY S. HOLT,
Hon. Secretary.

February, 1967.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1966

1. **Officers and Committee:** The Committee has met eleven times since the last annual meeting and the meetings have been well attended. In addition, there have been meetings of the Commons, Rates, and Social sub-committees as required.

Messrs. G. D. Neely and G. Wall retired from the Committee during the year, being unable to attend the meetings. In their places, Messrs. B. G. Coffin and I. H. King were co-opted under Rule 6, but Mr. King was unable to accept.

Under Rule 6 the following members of the committee retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election:— Mr. C. M. Dunn, Mr. E. Thompson, Mr. F. W. Grundy, Mrs. Jarrett, Mr. J. H. Easden and Mr. B. G. Coffin. There is an additional vacancy to be filled.

Nominations for election as Officers, or to the Committee, may be sent by post to the Hon. Secretary or may be made at the general meeting.

2. **Finance:** The Annual Accounts are attached and will be submitted to the meeting with the Auditor's Report.

The collection of annual subscriptions remains a problem. This is mostly undertaken by committee members, some of whom are not as young as they used to be. The committee urgently appeals for street wardens who will undertake collection of subscriptions and the delivery of the newsletter to their neighbours. Subscriptions may also be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Alex Drage, "Little Heath", Heathfield, Chislehurst, or may be paid in to Martins Bank Ltd., High Street, Chislehurst. The service of the Bank is greatly appreciated. Slips with the name of the payer and his address must be handed in.

3. **Membership:** The membership, subject to certain arrears of subscription, at 31st December, 1966, stood at 748.

An increase in membership is essential if the Association is to play an important part in the local affairs of Chislehurst. If your neighbour is not a member, will you ask him to join on the grounds that unity is strength? The Association operates within the Chislehurst Ward of the Borough.

4. **The Rates:** Your Committee has paid special attention to this subject and in October, 1966, addressed a letter to the Bromley Borough Council with sub-headings of Administration; Capital Expenditure and Debt Charges; Capital Estimates; Education Services; Housing; Children's Services; Rate Balances; Costs borne but not controlled by the Council; The need for a Cost-Effectiveness Enquiry on the Council's Administration.

This letter was submitted to the Council's Finance Committee and, under date 29th December, the Town Clerk sent a long and carefully considered reply to all the points raised. This will be read at the general meeting. A considerable part has been published in the Kentish Times.

Joint meetings with the Chislehurst Chamber of Trade were held on 12th September and on 11th November. The second meeting was open to the public and was well attended. The Borough Treasurer was among the speakers.

5. **Education:** On 16th December, the Borough Education Officer was asked for details of the circumstances in which payments for students educated outside the Borough exceeded the estimates by half a million pounds. Mr. Welbourne replied in detail under date 30th December explaining that the under-estimate arose from the lack of figures when the education services were transferred to the Borough under the London Government Act. This letter will be available at the annual meeting.

6. **Evening Entertainments in Chislehurst Caves:** This matter continues to cause grave concern. During the night of 23/24 December residents in the Lower Camden area were disturbed by fire engines and disorderly conduct during which arrests were made by the Police. Alarm and despondency prevails in that area and is not lessened by radio advertisements which might increase the attendance, it is feared, to many thousands. The Association has renewed its appeals to the Home Office, to the Greater London Council and to the Borough Council for control of these functions. A Bill to this end in the House of Commons (which has the support of the Member for Chislehurst) has not yet come before the House. Meanwhile negotiations continue with the freeholders, the Westminster Construction Co. Ltd.

7. **The Commons:** The Board of Conservators gave sympathetic consideration to matters raised with them concerning encroachment on the verge at Shepherds Green, horseriding on footpaths and the clearance of undergrowth on the village green. The annual walk on certain common land in Cricket Ground Road was carried out on Saturday, 24th September.

8. **Commons Registration Act, 1965:** The Board of Conservators applied for exemption from registration of the commons on the grounds that the people's rights of com-

mon were extinct and had not been exercised for the past 30 years. We have had legal advice that all our rights of common are protected under the 1888 Commons Act. At a joint meeting with the Conservators we were able to show that these rights are still actively enjoyed and must be maintained. We accordingly entered an objection to the Board's application in the prescribed form and have since been informed by the Ministry that the application for exemption has been rejected.

It is hoped to act in concert with the Conservators in the registration of the boundaries of the commons as they were up to the year 1964. In the interests of the people of Chislehurst your Committee feels that every effort should be made to achieve harmony, thus avoiding any further reference to the Ministry.

9. **Public Transport:** The Divisional Movements Manager, British Rail, received a deputation from the Committee in March concerning the crowded conditions of travel during peak hours and the irregularities of the services. Mr. Howell, Area Manager at Orpington, subsequently attended our committee meeting to discuss local conditions. Certain improvements at London Bridge Station were promised.

We have also had correspondence with London Transport concerning increases in bus fares and irregularities in bus services, particularly in service No. 61.

10. **Postal Facilities:** We protested at the earlier collection times in Chislehurst as causing much inconvenience, particularly the last collection of the day. No satisfaction was received.

Towards the end of the year we conducted a vigorous campaign against a proposal to eliminate "Kent" from our postal address and to substitute an S.E. number. Bromley Borough Council also protested to the Postmaster General. Our slogan "Kent for ever, S.E. never" attracted attention in the national and local press. The Postmaster General advises that no change is contemplated for the present. "The Times" newspaper states that whilst a general postal code number may be eventually applied, it is unlikely that any more London postal district numbers will be allocated.

11. **Telephone Service:** At one time the majority of public telephone call boxes in Chislehurst were out of order due to hooliganism and we called attention to this. The situation is now much improved. The difficulties of the authorities in this connection are fully appreciated.

12. **Local Press:** The attention of the Kentish Times was drawn to the amount of Woolwich, Eltham etc., news appearing in their Chislehurst edition and the comparative lack of news of the Borough of Bromley in which we are situate. This representation was very courteously received and a deputation from our committee was invited to meet

the Editor-in-Chief and to inspect the printing works. More Bromley news is now included.

13. Federation of Ravensbourne Residents Associations: Mr. Alex Drage continues to represent us at Federation meetings, with Mr. N. Hocknell as deputy. We also sent representatives to a meeting of the London Ratepayers' Alliance.

14. Commons, Footpaths and Open Spaces Preservation Society: We have joined this Society and have already benefited from their advice.

15. Social Evening: A very successful and well-attended Social Evening was held at Graham Chiesman House, on Wednesday, 5th October, when the Deputy Mayor of the Borough, Alderman Mrs. S. M. Gunn; Mr. A. Macdonald, Member of Parliament for Chislehurst; and Mr. L. Leighton Irwin, Chairman of the Chislehurst & St. Paul's Cray Commons Conservators, were among the many guests.

The arrangements were made by our Social Subcommittee under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. W. Grundy.

16. May Queen: The Joint Committee with the local branch of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men continued the traditional May Queen ceremonies which were held on Saturday, 7th May. Due to bad weather overnight, the crowning was held in the hall of Red Hill School, but it was possible to hold the usual procession through the High Street and the dancing on the school playing fields.

The Joint Committee wishes to thank all those who by

their labour, their interest, or their donations, make it possible to continue these pleasing ceremonies. Statement of account is annexed. Our May Queen and retinue attended the Festival on Hayes Common on the following Saturday.

17. Varia: Among other matters engaging the attention of the committee during the year were (a) Walls of excessive height in Ashfield Lane. (b) Car parking at Lower Camden. (c) Opposition to a second betting shop in Chislehurst. (d) Condition of pavements in certain roads and (e) The registration of buildings of historic interest or architectural merit.

Early in the year the committee welcomed Mr. Alistair Macdonald as the newly-elected Member of Parliament for Chislehurst (who attended one of our meetings) and expressed its cordial thanks to Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith, the outgoing Member, for all she had done for Chislehurst during her term of office.

18. Appeal: The committee repeats its appeal to all members to interest their neighbours and friends in the work of this Association. Our annual subscription (the only item that has not gone up in 30 years) remains at 2/6d. per annum (6d. for O.A.P's.) but we hope that man and wife will join when applicable.

Issued by Order of the Committee

MARY S. HOLT,
Hon. Secretary.

Chislehurst, February, 1967.

CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

To the Manager, Martins Bank Ltd., High Street, Chislehurst.

Please receive.....subscriptions to The Chislehurst Residents' Association, at 2/6d. per annum. Total:.....

Names If a new member please tick:

Address

Subscriptions may also be sent to the Hon. Treasurer: Alex Drage, Little Heath, Heathfield, or to the Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. S. Holt, 13 Oakleigh Park Avenue, Chislehurst or to any member of the Committee.

CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31st December, 1966

1965	Payments	1966	1965	Receipts	1966
6 6 6	To Postage	16 16 5	51 5 0	By Member's Subscriptions	75 11 0
15 16 0	Printing and Advertising	46 6 9	1 9 0	Donations	5 4 0
1 6	Stationery	4 18 1	12 1 7	Proceeds Social Function	5 16 4
1 3 0	Hire of Halls	9 4 5	47 14 0	Proceeds May Queen Celebrations	30 6 6
1 0 0	Affiliation Fees	2 2 0			
33 13 4	May Queen Celebrations	30 12 4			
5 0	Cheque Book	10 0			
2 2 0	Council Minutes	-			
- - -	Honorarium	2 11 6			
52 2 3	Excess Income over Expenditure ...	3 16 4			
<u>£112 9 7</u>		<u>£116 17 10</u>	<u>£112 9 7</u>		<u>£116 17 10</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1966

40 13 6	Balance at 31st December	93 15 9	91 0 4	Cash at Bank *	94 9 2
52 2 3	Excess Income over Expenditure ...	3 16 4	2 15 5	Cash with Hon. Treasurer	1 9 6
1 0 0	Unpresented Cheque	-	-	Cash with Hon. Secretary	13 5
		97 12 1		* £13 14 10 held for May Queen Committee	
	deduct 1965 cheque presented 1966 ...	1 0 0			
<u>£93 15 9</u>		<u>£96 12 1</u>	<u>£93 15 9</u>		<u>£96 12 1</u>

ALEX DRAGE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct
K. A. MESSETER, *Hon. Auditor.*
24/1/1967.

CHISLEHURST MAY QUEEN JOINT COMMITTEE

(Chislehurst Residents Association and Chislehurst and Sidcup Branch, Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men)

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1966

1965	Payments	1966	1965	Receipts	1966
2 17 6	Hire of Halls	7 10 0	3 1 0	Donations	5 2 0
1 0 0	Insurance	1 0 0	1 6	Excess Prize money (returned)	-
5 18 9	Prizes flowers, etc.	6 14 6	1 13 0	Teas	-
7 7 0	Printing, postage, etc.	7 11 10	8 17 6	Sale of Programmes	9 17 0
3 12 0	Advertisement	1 16 0	7 17 0	Collections from Public	15 7 6
3 0 0	Hire of Public Address Equipment ...	4 0 0	26 4 0	Proceeds Lectures	-
- - -	Hire of Field Equipment	2 0 0	-	Deficit (charged to General a/c) ...	5 10
2 12 9	Provision of Teas	-			
6 9 6	Expenses for Lectures	-			
15 10	Offsetting deficit 1964	-			
14 0 8	Balance carried forward to General a/c	-			
<u>£47 14 0</u>		<u>£30 12 4</u>	<u>£47 14 0</u>		<u>£30 12 4</u>