



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. 3

October, 1967

"What has the Chislehurst Residents' Association been doing since the issue of its last Newsletter?" This is a question which, we hope, is in the minds of our 871 members.

In reply, we can state that the Committee has continued its regular meetings and, despite the holiday season, has maintained an excellent attendance record. To conserve our funds we meet, for the most part, in rotation in the homes of our members.

It has given us pleasure to send congratulations to two well-known members of our Association: to Alderman Mrs. A. L. Gunn, J.P., on her election as Mayor of the London Borough of Bromley, and to Councillor Miss Bertha James, J.P., on her elevation to the Aldermanic Bench.

Annual General Meeting: This was held at the Public Library on Tuesday, 28th February, and was well attended. There was a lively discussion on the local rates and representations were subsequently made to the Borough Council. The Committee has this question constantly in mind.

Know Your Councillors: There have been changes in the representation of the Chislehurst Ward of the Borough since last we went to press. For the benefit of our members we name the present Councillors and give their addresses:— Mr. B. D. Farmer, Oaklawn, Leasons Hill; Mr. A. F. Parkinson, 48 Kevington Drive, Marlings Park; Mr. C. C. S. Reeves, 6 Manor Place. As an Association we shall be seeking their help from time to time as the need arises. We shall also invite them to "sit in" at one of our com-

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, 7th OCTOBER

"Walk" on common land
Watts Lane, 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER

Social Evening
Graham Chiesman House,
St. Paul's Cray Road, 8 p.m.

mittee meetings in order that they may hear our points of view.

It is appropriate here to express our appreciation of the assistance we have had from Mr. A. McDonald, M.P. who has told us that, even if he does not always agree with the principle of some of the matters referred to him, that will not prevent him from making representations to the Ministries that may be concerned.

Planning Applications: Great vigilance is exercised in this matter in conformity with the declared aim of the Association to preserve, as far as possible, the present character of Chislehurst. We are not opposed to progress so long as it is for the benefit of the residents as a whole. On the other hand we are opposed to any schemes that, whilst lining the pockets of developers, would tend to change

the whole scene, as it were, over night. We can only report here on a few of our activities under this heading.

1. Norland Nurseries sites in Cricket Ground Road and Summerhill. Your Committee felt that 109 houses, each with two garages, might ruin for ever the rural aspect of the Cricket ground, and we were disturbed to find that the Borough Council had granted outline planning permission. The Association continues to contest this decision by such means as are open, particularly on questions of access and traffic on Cricket Ground Road.

We enlisted the support of the National Trust whose land abutts the lower slopes of this site. They have asked the developers to plant a screen of trees near the boundary, but this will not affect the sight line from the Cricket Ground.

2. Foxbury and Liskeard Lodge: We are not opposed to the Church Missionary Society, in fact many of our members support their work, but their proposals for development, adjoining the Common, at a density of 40 persons per acre were, we felt, entirely out of keeping with the general environs of the Commons. We therefore supported the Borough Council, and a large number of residents who were immediately affected, in opposing this planning application. We gave evidence and were allowed to cross-examine during the two-day public enquiry at Bromley. The Minister has not yet pronounced on this appeal.

3. Hostel in Lower Camden: Our members in Lower Camden felt strongly concerning the conversion of a dwelling house into a hostel for apprentices, particularly as the windows directly overlook the house next door. We supported our members in appealing to the Minister and as a result an undertaking has been given to appoint a resident Warden and to provide parking space for motor vehicles on the premises.

4. Development at Leasons: Development here appears to infringe existing covenants and we advised our members in that vicinity accordingly.

Chislehurst Caves: It is now possible to disclose that, following our objections to the owners of the caves concerning their use at night, with consequent disturbance over a wide area, the owners offered us the purchase of the freehold. Such purchase would have been subject to the terms of the existing lease which are such that it appeared doubtful whether any good would result from purchase. As an unincorporated association we should have needed to raise a large sum of money and appoint Trustees.

Instead, we pressed the matter of the Licensing Bill to cover clubs and entertainments in holes in the ground as well as in buildings. This has now become law, but the Act is not mandatory. We are now pressing the Greater

London Council—and our Borough Council is doing likewise—to adopt this Act so that all and any entertainment in the caves may be regulated and controlled. It seems likely that this will be done.

Chislehurst Common: Earlier this year the Commons Conservators placed a notice in the local press inviting representations on the registration of common land under the new Act. We immediately replied asking for a joint meeting in Cricket Ground Road where we propose to mark out the original boundary which, we feel, is the boundary that should be registered. It is understood that a joint meeting will be held when all points of view will be discussed.

In the meantime, and to maintain public rights, the annual walk over the ground in question will be held on Saturday, 7th October, when the Committee hopes to have the support of as many members as may find it possible to attend. As customary, the Police will be notified and every effort will be made to avoid damage to trees or shrubs.

Chislehurst High Street: The vexed question of the parking of cars on the verge on the west side of the High Street has come to a head by the publication of a notice by the Greater London Council proposing restrictions on parking after a certain date. After consulting our members in the High Street we wrote to the G.L.C. opposing the proposal in the following terms:—

- (a) The imposition of these restrictions appears to impinge on rights enjoyed by the frontagers from time immemorial and, in some cases, contained in the deeds of the premises.
- (b) We have no knowledge of accidents in recent years arising from parking.
- (c) We are not aware of any significant delays to traffic arising from parking.
- (d) The availability of this strip of land for parking has always been of great benefit to residents, shoppers and shopkeepers and its removal would represent a considerable loss of amenity in that respect.
- (e) The Association is in process of seeking the registration of this strip of verge as common land under the Commons Registration Act.

Gas and Electricity Prices: We took up the matter of increases and pressed for assurances that these would only be made after a maximum effort towards greater productivity.

Walls of Excessive Height: The owner of a house in "The Meadow" appealed against a planning decision requiring him to reduce the height of walls built without planning

consent. We supported the Borough Council and the local residents in opposing the appeal and the Minister rejected it. The house has now been sold and we are informed that the new owner, although he bought in full knowledge of the Minister's Order, is appealing against the Enforcement Order. This will require a further Public Enquiry and, in our opinion, is an action clearly against the public interest, particularly as the Council has indicated that an adjoining wall, also heightened without consent, will in due time have to be lowered in the interests of road safety. We shall enter a further appearance if this second Enquiry is held. The removal of cautionary signs at this same point in Ashfield Lane also causes us some concern.

Pedestrian Crossings: We made representations for a foot-bridge near the foot of Summer Hill to allow westbound bus passengers direct access to and from Chislehurst Railway Station. The danger at this point is conceded and a pedestrian crossing may be provided. The provision of a crossing in the High Street is now also a possibility.

Federation of Ravensbourne Residents Associations: We continue our membership of this body and entertained them for their July meeting at the Red Cross Hall, High Street. We have suggested that they should now concede

the name of the Borough and substitute "Bromley" for "Revensbourne".

Chislehurst Chamber of Trade: Cordial relations have been continued and we have, by invitation, attended some of their meetings.

May Queen: The May Queen crowning on Chislehurst Common took place on 6th May, in the presence of the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Mrs. A. L. Gunn, the Member of Parliament, Alderman A. MacDonald, Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith, D.B.E. and a large number of people. Pictures of this event were included in an international Folklore Exhibition at Folkestone. All the arrangements were again made by a Joint Committee with the Chislehurst & Sidcup Branch of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men.

Trains; Dartford Loop: The recent "improvement" in the train services from Mottingham reduced the number of trains by one third during the greater part of the day. This station, which is used by many of our members, is served by four bus routes and caters for a large number of passengers. In contrast, New Eltham, with only two bus routes, has had its train service increased by one third. We have taken up these points with British Rail.

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:.....

NamesIf 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.

Road Safety: We now have two representatives on the Orpington and Chislehurst Road Safety Panel. Any member wishing to make representations under this heading should communicate with our Hon. Secretary, or direct to Mr. G. Easden or Mr. F. W. Grundy (addresses below).

Refuse deposited on the Commons: Anyone witnessing the depositing of refuse on the Commons, or in any public place, should take the number of any vehicle involved and communicate this to the Police with as little delay as possible.

Residents are reminded that the Borough Engineer will arrange for special refuse collections, large or small, on payment to be arranged with his Department.

Social Evening: A Social Evening for members and their friends will be held at Graham Chiesman House, St. Paul's Cray Road, on Wednesday, 22nd November, at 7.30 for 8.0 p.m. The Worshipful the Mayor the Member of Parliament and the leaders of civic and religious life in Chislehurst have been invited as guests of the Association.

Refreshments will be provided. Tickets, at 4/- per person, are obtainable from the Chairman of the Social Committee, Mr. F. W. Grundy, or from any member of the Committee.

Please note this date. No further notice of this event will be sent.

Committee: We have accepted, with regret, the resignations of Messrs. L. Hammond and T. L. Twigg from the Com-

mittee after many years of excellent service, both in committee and in contact with the many members in the vicinity of their places of residence. They have been cordially thanked for their service.

Mr. F. Snocken has been co-opted to fill one of the vacancies.

Subscriptions: Members will appreciate the difficulty of a personal call in all cases. If your subscription remains unpaid, will you kindly pay to the nearest Committee member, or use the form provided for payment through Martins Bank, High Street, Chislehurst.

New Members: Is your neighbour a member? Have you approached him? To make its voice effectively heard the Association must reach a four-figure membership. Annual subscription is 2/6d. per person (sixpence for O.A.P's). Please do your best.

COMMITTEE

Miss D. P. Bushell, 48 Green Way, Chislehurst. T. A. Bushell, A.M.Inst.T., (Chairman), 48 Green Way, Chislehurst. B. G. Coffin, Rider's Way, Ashfield Lane, Chislehurst. Miss J. Cunningham, 9 Lower Camden, Chislehurst. A. L. Drage, A.H.A., (Hon. Treasurer), Little Heath, Heathfield, Chislehurst. C. M. Dunn, Hoblands Cottage, Kemnal Road, Chislehurst. G. Easden, 1 Paddock Way, Holbrook Lane, Chislehurst. J. Easden, 1 Paddock Way, Holbrook Lane, Chislehurst. F. W. Grundy, 27 Lubbock Road, Chislehurst. A. L. Gunn, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., (Vice-Chairman), 9 Holbrook House, St. Paul's Cray Road, Chislehurst. N. T. D. Hocknell, Manor Place Lodge, Manor Park, Chislehurst. Mrs. M. S. Holt (Hon. Secretary), 13 Oakleigh Park Avenue, Chislehurst. Mrs. O. Jarrett, 90 Chislehurst Road, Orpington. F. G. Snocken, 18 Westhurst Drive, Chislehurst. E. Thompson, 1 Green Lane, Chislehurst.