

Chislehurst

REPORT

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ALUN & JOY JONES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2012

The Chislehurst Society's 2012 Jones Awards were presented on 14 June at Bullers Wood School. The theme, in this year of the London Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, was *The Pride of Great Britain*.

More than 1,100 students (some shown above) took part this year, over 200 certificates were awarded, and prizes worth over £2,000 were awarded to individuals and schools. Babington House School won the Alun Jones Award for the school with most winning entries. A full listing of prize winners and awards can be found on our website, together with a short slideshow from the presentation evening.

Well done to the staff and pupils of Babington House, and to all our prize winners!

Special thanks to Donna Bompas, who, after running the Awards for the last 14 years has announced her retirement from the Awards. Donna has done, and continues to do, so much in Chislehurst, and we are most grateful for the support she has given to us. *Read more about Donna's contribution to the Awards' success on our website.*

Go online to the Society's website at www.chislehurst-society.org.uk

Vandalism in Scadbury Park

Scadbury Lodge sits on the private road that runs into Scadbury Park from St Paul's Cray Road. It is an early or pre-Victorian single storey cottage with an unusual octagonal design. It is a listed (grade II) building. It has a tiled roof and the exterior walls are painted pebbledash.

Earlier in August we received a report that it had been vandalised, with a rather shocking photograph (below) of the damage. Members of the Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS), the Trustees of the Commons, and the Society were involved in contacting Bromley Council, who in turn were able to contact the owners (the Lord of the Manor). The owners have responded quickly to secure the building to prevent more damage, though we await reports on what can be saved.

It appears that the last tenant died earlier this year, and since then the building has been boarded up, though this appears to have highlighted the fact that it was empty, so that vandals were able to take advantage of the lodge's rather isolated position to wreak their mindless damage.

ODAS have taken the opportunity to do a survey of the property and they will be publishing their findings in their archives later this year.



Rush Pond Bore Hole - let's start again!

The Chislehurst Society has approved a proposal from its Grants Committee to make a grant of £8,850 to the Trustees of the Commons to sink a new borehole by Rush Pond to replace the original one.

The first bore hole was incorrectly installed and could not be repaired. Judgement has been obtained by the Trustees in the County Court against the original installer, and any funds received by the Trustees will be used to repay part of the grant.

Horse riding on the Commons

For many residents, one of the pleasures of living in Chislehurst is seeing horses on the Commons and local roads. Unfortunately, however, some riders do not act responsibly and can become a danger to themselves and others.

Following a recent incident on the Commons, the following letter has now been sent to local riding stables by the Trustees of the Commons:

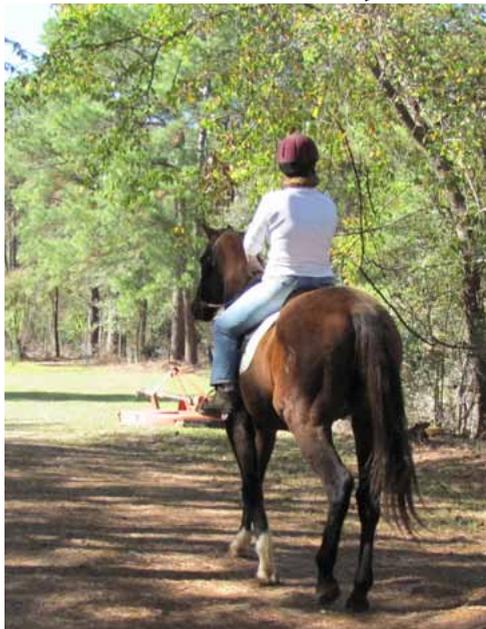
'This morning two young women riders galloped along a bridle path on St Paul's Cray Common and made no attempt to slow down when approaching a walker with dogs. The walker was understandably shocked and the riders were putting themselves at risk by not taking reasonable precautions when passing dogs. Our keepers witnessed the incident and shouted at the riders to slow down, but were completely ignored.'

In a more general vein, we are concerned at the frequency with which riders use the footpaths, rather than confining themselves to the marked bridle paths. Many of the walkers they encounter have dogs, so there is the risk of a horse shying and causing an accident unless due care is taken. Furthermore, horses tend to cut up the surface of the footpaths.

When, as far back as 1929, the then Board of Conservators amended the bye-laws in order to allow horse-riding on certain routes on Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons, there were strict understandings. Firstly, riders would keep to the paths marked at intervals with blue and white stripes on tree trunks. Secondly, although riders are restricted in this manner there is no way in which we could prevent walkers from using the bridle paths; in other words there is a measure of shared use. Thirdly, the Conservators would maintain the bridle paths by regularly cutting back marginal vegetation and ensuring clear headroom. We are working through a programme aimed at improving the drainage of lengthy sections of the bridle paths.

It would be helpful to us if you would remind the riders from your stables that their use of the Commons is not an unqualified right and that they should respect the safety of other users of the Commons.'

Please let us know if you have reason to be concerned at the way horses are being ridden on the Commons so that we may pass the information on to the Trustees.



More on Prickend Pond

The Wildlife Wetlands Trust has undertaken a survey of Prickend Pond for the Trustees of the Commons, who are proposing to undertake restoration work. We have reported in earlier editions of *Chislehurst Report* the need to undertake remedial work to save the pond. The following is a summary of the proposals, and of comments by WWT.

- **Develop marginal vegetation around the pond, in particular in areas where it is starting to establish.** WWT recommend that this is concentrated on the south side, and that the vegetation is protected from the Canada Geese. It also suggests that the same methods could be used around the island.
- **Reduce the amount of bird feeding at the pond and restrict it to one area.** WWT suggests that educational signage is introduced to explain why feeding with bread creates problems.
- **Create a boardwalk or footpath area.** WWT agree that a combination of a boardwalk and a platform could work very well over the area nearest the High Street as this could provide a focal point for visitors and help to protect any newly created marginal vegetation on a re-profiled section of bank.
- **Re-profile some of the steeper banks to create areas that would become wet during times of high water.** WWT support this and advise that this would be a major undertaking at the pond and recommend that local people that use the site are aware of any planned changes.
- **Increase the amount of vegetation in the sustainable drainage system.** This will also increase the residency time of water flowing through the ditch, which is now relatively short, resulting in poor conditions for reeds and marginal vegetation. WWT support this proposal.



The Trustees welcome comments on the proposals. The full report can be found on our website.

Camden Park Indenture

The Society is delighted to have recently acquired the original conveyance signed by William Willett in relation to the sale of Camden Park in 1891.

This beautiful historic document contains a large map of the park, including Lubbock Road and what became Wilderness Road, Yester Road and Camden Park Road and of course the Golf Club.

It is this sale that shows how much land might have been swallowed up for mass housing had the Willetts and Alexander Travers Hawes not agreed a mutually beneficial scheme to build the Golf course to attract potential home owners from amongst the newly affluent late Victorian business class!

David Miller, the owner of the document, was very keen that it should be available for Chislehurst residents to see and now that we have it, we shall be displaying it in style as soon as it is framed.

David was one of the cave dwellers during WW2, travelling with his mother and brothers along Elmstead Lane and Lower Camden from Mottingham every night. He also remembers playing along the Cow Path and on the farm land that he recalls along Elmstead Lane. He noted all the 'big houses' in Chislehurst with interest and has gathered a wealth of information along with his memories over the years.

One story he tells is particularly apposite in relation to Camden Park.

He was working as a plumber in 1953 and had a job in the Cedars, the house originally built for William Willett. He was directed to the room of an elderly bedridden lady by a maid in uniform, whilst kneeling down to attend to the gas fire he found coins, guineas and old pennies alike raining down on him!

Either this lady was trying to attract his attention or she thought it was a coin operated appliance. We shall never know!

We will provide more information on the contents of the indenture in our next edition of *The Cockpit*.



Update on the High Street

The Chislehurst Town Team continues to develop the initiatives set out in the last edition of *Chislehurst Report*.

The Team has developed a proposal for presentation to the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) intended to enable both parties to agree how to work together, constructively and positively, on a consistent strategy. One big learning point is how long it takes to get even the smallest thing done.

The Team is currently working on:

- Proposals regarding traffic management in the High Street and improvements to the car park behind the High Street.
- How to turn the now disused public toilets building (above) in the car park into community use.
- Seeking flexibility from Bromley on car parking charges, increased in May, which we believe are deterring shoppers to the High Street.
- Proposals by the Trustees of the Commons to rescue Prickend Pond.
- Plans to move the Farmers' Market to a new venue, the Red Cross car park, with a wider range of stalls and easier accessibility, as well as better visibility.
- Maintenance programmes for cleaning and planting, and in particular some new trees to replace those that have been removed.
- Unsightly metal utility boxes, which are installed with automatic planning consent. We want some form of consultation on appropriate locations.
- Improvements in the appearance around local shops; we understand that Zizzi will be embarking on a renovation programme soon.
- Better planning liaison on proposals for shop frontages and fascias, and remedial action where no consent has been sought.

Financing is a key issue. The Chislehurst Society has provided some funds, and the Team is pursuing grant funding from other sources, including Transport for London for traffic management, and the Portas initiative for Town Centres

There is so much still to do! If you are interested in helping, please contact the Town Team via the Chislehurst Society.



Update on the Litter Action Group

The long school holidays have once again highlighted how much more litter is dropped during term time. Crude analysis suggests that the problem is reduced by as much as 80% during the school holidays.

This is an indication of how much local students contribute to the problem. However, the lengthy school holiday also highlighted just how inadequate some of the litter bins are. The small green bins attached to lamp-posts were still overflowing, often with rubbish strewn around by animals – particularly scavenging birds.



The Action Group has had a series of meetings with Bromley Council's Street Cleansing team. They have now conceded that the lamppost bins do need to be replaced with larger capacity ones with lids. These were promised back in April but have still not been installed. The Action Group is chasing this up as a matter of priority, since it is difficult to encourage school students to use bins when they are full and already overflowing. The Group is working closely with Coopers Technology College, which must be credited for its proactive response. It has taken a number of important steps, including a commitment to educate students about the impact of dropping litter, and organising litter-picking after school, and has also promised a greater staff presence to supervise students on Royal Parade and as they cross the Commons before and after school.

These new measures do appear to have made a difference, but the volume of litter is still at an unacceptable level requiring volunteers to clean up the area on a daily basis, so the problem is actually worse than it may appear. These volunteers report that there is a growing problem of rubbish thrown out of car windows, which also reinforces the point that it is not solely students to blame.

If you have not already done so, please email g_lardner@yahoo.co.uk with your name and postal address to register your support for the anti-litter campaign. The success of this initiative is dependent on the backing of the community. Any comments or feedback on the issue of litter is also welcomed.

NB. Next litter and graffiti clean-up days:

Sunday 7 October and Sunday 28 November, 10 a.m. Red Cross Car Park

Go online to the Society's website at www.chislehurst-society.org.uk

Road Stewards' update

Two Road Stewards have resigned in the past month, and we welcome four new Stewards, and thank one existing road steward who has extended her round.

Many thanks to retiring Road Stewards Dr David Parsons (Summer Hill and Islehurst Close), Robert Bethell (Cromlix Close) and Kath Carpenter (Ashfield and Heathfield Lanes) for their support of the Society over the years.

Welcome to our new Road Stewards, Edward Hallam (Mill Place), Ann Hughes (Mainridge Road, Greenwich end), Hannah Terwilliger (Park Road), Richard Atkinson (Cromlix Close) and Pamela Nell (Summer Hill and Islehurst Close). Thanks to Una White who adds Ashfield and Heathfield Lanes to her existing roads.

Road Stewards' meeting: The meeting on 30 June was well attended and focussed mainly on the proposals of the Chislehurst Town Team.

The next Road Stewards' meeting will be on Saturday 20 October, at 10.30 at our offices behind the Methodist Church on Prince Imperial Road.

Can you help? We're looking for a treasurer.

Can you help? Or do you know someone who might?

Our current treasurer, Tony McClarty, has taken on the additional role of membership secretary. We are indebted to Tony for the work he does, but he cannot do both jobs, and has opted to take on the membership role.

We are now looking for someone to replace Tony as Treasurer. The position is an interesting role, and not onerous, for someone with accounting or finance experience who wants to use it for the benefit of the community.

Please contact the Chairman if you are interested, or if you know someone who might be.

Meetings for Society members

There was a good turn-out for the interesting and entertaining talks given on 5 July and 6 September. The July talk was given by the Curator of Bromley Museum, Marie Louise-Kerr, on the subject of 'Building over Bromley'.

Executive Committee member Joanna Friel spoke at the meeting on 6 September on the subject of former Chislehurst resident, Sir John Lubbock, the instigator of Bank Holidays, and much more besides. We look forward to Joanna's forthcoming book on the history of Lubbock Road. Thank you to all our speakers this year.

We will recommence our programme of talks in the Spring of 2013.

You can contact the Chislehurst Society

by phone: 020 8467 0900 or email: membership@chislehurst-society.org.uk

or by post: PO Box 82, Chislehurst, Kent. BR7 5TT