

Chislehurst

REPORT

A Publication of the Chislehurst Society

No. 47 Winter 2012

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Keith Heselden at the Remembrance Day service, 2010

Keith Heselden

We are sorry to report that Keith Heselden, the Society's Membership Secretary for 13 years, died at the end of October, following a lengthy illness.

Keith was Membership Secretary from February 1999 until he retired earlier this year. Many Society members and most Road Stewards will have had dealings with Keith during those years, and will recall his most effective ways of keeping our Road Steward system going.

A funeral service was held on 13 November at St Nicholas Church, attended by many of his friends and colleagues in Chislehurst, followed by a reception at the Sydney Arms, close to where Keith lived, in Old Perry Street.

We offer our sincere condolences to Keith's wife Marion and their family. We have lost a real character; someone who worked hard for the community of Chislehurst, a place he loved.

A full tribute to Keith will shortly be available on our website, and in the next edition of Chislehurst Report. The family has requested no flowers, rather a donation to Cancer Research.

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

The High Street - a further update

The Chislehurst Town Team continues to press ahead with its proposals for the High Street, though it must be said that progress is slower than hoped. Three developments are worthy of note:

Traffic.

We have had discussions with Bromley Traffic Department, and have offered £1,250 to kick-start a review of all traffic flows in and around the High Street. This will form the basis of a fuller review of effective traffic management. This review is likely to take place next year.



In the meantime, and as interim measures, the following have been agreed with Bromley:

- Proposals to introduce a turn left lane (into Willow Grove) on the High Street have been dropped; this would have detracted from the village feel, and not really helped the traffic flows at this busy junction.
- A green filter light will be added to the traffic lights at the end of Willow Grove for vehicles turning right into the High Street.
- A yellow no-stopping box will be positioned at the entrance to Sainsbury's car park on Willow Grove.

De-cluttering and maintenance.

The Town Team has offered £750 towards the removal of unnecessary and redundant signage and other street furniture on the High Street. We hope this will commence shortly.

Car parking charges.

We have requested, and now received, information about usage and income generated at High Street car parks. There is evidence that the increase in charges in May this year has exacerbated the increase in all-day parking in nearby residential streets, and reduced the usage of all car parks. We therefore have more unused capacity in our car parks.

Although it may be difficult to get the increases reversed, we will be arguing for greater flexibility in the levels of charges between different locations, for a reduction in all-day charges in some car parks, and a greater effort to promote lower priced season tickets for regular users.

The Town Team's proposals for improving the High Street are now being shared with Bromley Council, and can be downloaded from the Society's website.

Planning - a cause for concern?

One of the main elements of the Society's charitable objects is to promote high standards of planning and architecture in Chislehurst. Every four weeks our planning committee meets to review the latest planning applications affecting Chislehurst, and decisions reached, or appeals heard, in relation to earlier applications. Our ability to influence decision-making is coming under pressure in a number of ways:

Online review of applications

We are now required to review all planning applications on line. While that in itself is not necessarily a bad thing, our ability to review applications now depends on the quality of the documents that are uploaded onto the system. In particular:

- Architects drawings are large, and cannot always be effectively reviewed even on a large computer screen.
- We need assurance that Bromley's quality control of the documents loaded onto the system is adequate; we regularly find documents incorrectly named, or missing.

Delegated powers

Many applications never get as far as the Planning Committee, which meets in public and is chaired by an elected Ward Councillor. Instead those applications are delegated to an officer within the Planning Department.

- In cases where there have been no objections, or where the proposal is straightforward, we can understand why this should happen.
- However, delegated powers are used in cases even where there have been objections from residents, or where the proposed development is within a sensitive area, such as a conservation area. We want to be assured that there is appropriate oversight being applied to such cases, or, if there is not, then this practice should cease.

Government proposals on planning

A number of announcements from Government are aimed at reducing the bureaucracy of the planning process. Regardless of the merits of the objectives, we are concerned that the proposals will result in bad development, unless appropriate safeguards are in place.

- Proposals to allow utilities to install metal utility boxes anywhere, without requiring planning consent, will lead to an increase in the number of unsightly metal boxes located in sensitive areas. Already in Chislehurst there are too many such boxes, most of which could have been better situated.
- Proposals to allow, for at least a three year period, house extensions of up to 8 metres, have drawn significant criticism from a wide range of observers. We are interested in knowing what Bromley Council's view is on this proposal. We do now know that the relaxation will not be allowed in conservation areas.

We have written to the Chief Planner to request a meeting to discuss all these issues.

Policing in Chislehurst

At the latest Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting, Sgt White, the officer in charge of the Chislehurst Team, outlined some of the changes proposed for Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) in Bromley.

- SNTs will be congregated into 'clusters', with a total of four clusters in Bromley Borough. Each will contain 5 or 6 of the existing SNTs.
- SNTs will still focus on neighbourhood policing in that cluster and will also be responsible for answering E-graded calls, reassurance visits and dealing with anti-social behaviour. It should be noted that the combined resources of the cluster will be used throughout the enlarged area depending on need.
- Ward Priorities will still be set and notified to the cluster but overall cluster priorities may be different to those set by the Ward SNT.
- There will be the possibility that some SNT bases will be closed and will be based at Bromley Police station. Chislehurst police station may therefore close.

Chislehurst has seen significant benefits from having its own dedicated SNT based here, and credit is due to Sgt White and his team for a number of innovations that have helped reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and reassured local residents

Chislehurst is by no means a crime hot-spot, but that does not mean that we should be prepared to accept that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour can rise. While there may be some benefits in having a larger core of support from a cluster, there are real concerns that clustering Chislehurst with other locations will reduce the level of attention given to Chislehurst, resulting in a rise in crime and anti-social behaviour until it reaches the level experienced in other areas.

Residents need to be assured that sufficient resourcing will be available to our neighbourhoods, and until that can be confirmed, the proposed changes should be deferred. Members who are concerned can write to the Borough Commander, to our local MP, Bob Neill and London Assembly member, James Cleverly,

We will be writing to the Borough Commander asking for a meeting at which these proposals can be set out clearly to interested residents, with the opportunity for questions and clarification.

We are also asking our Ward Councillors for their views on the proposals.





Books about Chislehurst

The Society maintains a stock of relevant books available for purchase by members and non-members. Those shown over the page can be purchased from us by using the order sheet on the back page of this Report, or by going on-line to our website. Prices exclude postage and packaging.

The following books are also available – please call to check availability.

History of Chislehurst. (A. E. Webb and others) 1899

A.E.Webb's famous history of the village. A Centenary edition was published in 1999, but both editions are out of print. Occasionally original copies become available at local booksellers, or via abebooks.com, though they can be expensive.

Facsimile copies of the 1899 edition, in paperback, are available from us at £30 (we have four copies).

A CD containing a facsimile of the 1899 edition, prepared by Yvonne Auld, is available from Paper Lane, 39 High Street Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5AE Tel:020 8467 2024

Patchwork of the History of Chislehurst. (Dorothy McCall) 1963

A personal look at Chislehurst's history by a former resident. Long out of print.

We currently have three second hand copies available at £20 each.

Imperial Chislehurst. (Tom Bushell) 1964

A history of Chislehurst by one of our best loved local historians.

We have three copies available at £12 each.

Finally, the following book is available for purchase from Paper Lane and Bromley Local Studies Library:

For King and Country - The Men of Chislehurst who fell in the Great War.

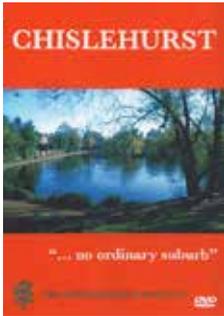
(Yvonne Auld) 2010

A first rate study of the impact of the Great War on the village of Chislehurst, with biographies on the men whose names are on the Chislehurst War Memorial.

Available from:

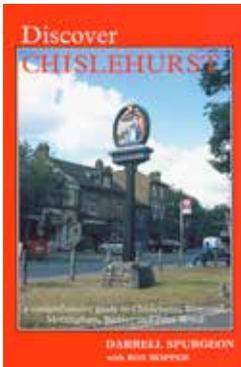
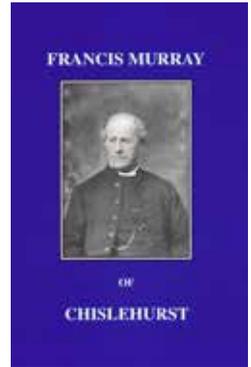
Paper Lane, 39 High Street Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5AE Tel:020 8467 2024 (£7.99), and

Bromley Libraries, Tel 020 8461 7170 (at the lower price of £7.50)



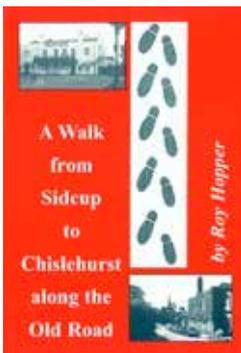
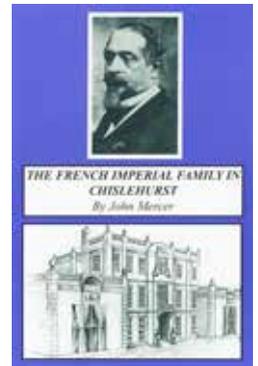
Chislehurst - No Ordinary Suburb DVD
Modern Chislehurst and some historical background. 23 minutes. (2007) Ref. CHD £8.00

Francis Murray of Chislehurst
As Rector from 1846 to 1902, his life illuminates Victorian Chislehurst. (Jean Pallang 2002) Ref FMC £10.00



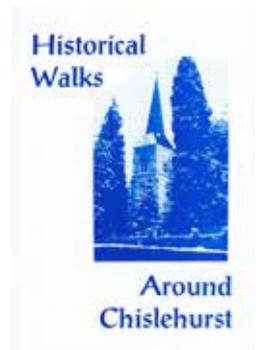
Discover Chislehurst and its Environs
Details of buildings past and present in Chislehurst and nearby areas. (Darrel Spurgeon and Roy Hopper 2007) Ref DCH £10.00

French Imperial Family in Chislehurst
Napoleon III, Eugenie and Prince Imperial at Camden Place, 1870 - 1880. (John Mercer 2002) Ref FIF £2.50

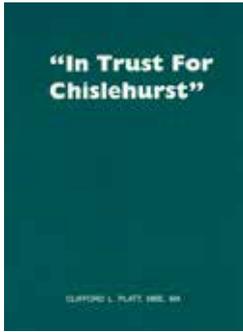


A Walk from Sidcup to Chislehurst
From the Black Horse, Sidcup via the line of old Perry St. to the Bull's Head. (Roy Hopper 2003) Ref WSC £3.00

Historical Walks around Chislehurst
Our best-selling tour of Chislehurst, featuring two walks. (Alice Sennett 1995) Ref HW £2.50

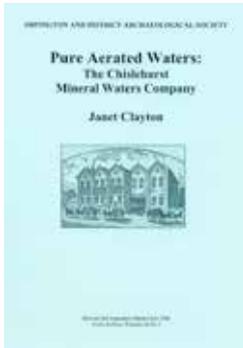
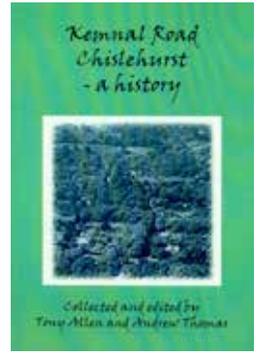


NOTE: Prices shown here do not include postage. For orders received by 17 December 2012, members with a BR7 postcode can receive copies without paying postage. See over.



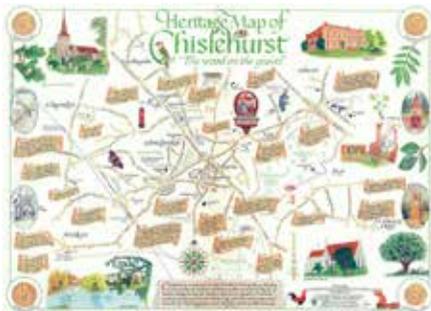
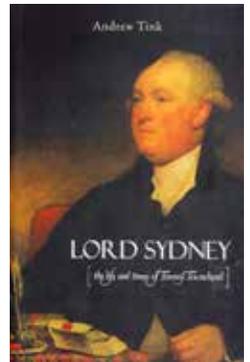
In Trust for Chislehurst
The Commons and National Trust lands - our hard-won open spaces.
 (Clifford Platt 1995)
 Ref ITC £2.00

Kemnal Road - a history
Detailed account of the growth of this interesting road. (Tony Allen/Andrew Thomas 2011)
 Ref KR £7.50



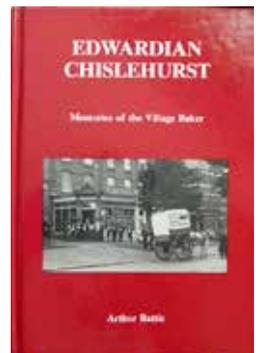
Pure Aerated Waters
Chislehurst Mineral Waters Co, widely advertised from late Victorian times to the mid 20th century. (Janet Clayton 2006)
 Ref PAW £2.00

Lord Sydney
A new biography of Thomas Townshend, Lord of the Manor, after whom Sydney Australia was named. (Tink 2011)
 Ref LS £15.00



Heritage Map of Chislehurst 2000
Will look at its best framed and hung on your wall. 30 x 42 cm Ref. HM £3.00

Edwardian Chislehurst
Memories of the Village Baker (Arthur Battle) 1988.
An evocative and personal memoir
 Ref EC £4.00 (until 17 December 2012)



Order Form

Ref		Price	P&P	Qty	Cost
BK	Bookmark (free with other purchases)	£1.00	£0.50		
CHD	Chislehurst DVD	8.00	1.50		
DCH	Discover Chislehurst	10.00	2.00		
FMC	Francis Murray of Chislehurst*	10.00	2.00		
FIF	French Imperial Family	2.50	1.50		
HM	Heritage Map	3.00	1.00		
HW	Historical Walks	2.50	1.00		
ITC	In Trust for Chislehurst	2.00	1.00		
KM	Kemnal Manor*	3.50	1.00		
KR	Kemnal Road* (includes Kemnal Manor)	7.50	1.50		
PAW	Pure Aerated Waters	2.00	1.00		
SM	Scadbury Manor (not shown over page)	1.00	0.50		
WSC	A Walk from Sidcup to Chislehurst	3.00	1.00		
EC	Edwardian Chislehurst	4.00	1.50		
LS	Lord Sydney	15.00	2.00		
	Total				

** denotes publications produced independently but promoted by the Society, and from sales of which a donation is made to the Society.*

NOTE: Members of the Society with a BR7 postcode using this form do not need to pay for packing and postage. We will arrange deliver free of charge.

This offer is available until 17 December 2012.

Your Details

Name	
Address:

Post Code
Telephone

Please complete the order form above, provide your name and address, and send this page with a cheque for the total amount, made payable to 'The Chislehurst Society', to:

The Chislehurst Society, PO Box 82, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5TT

Alternatively, orders for some of the books can be made online via our website.

Occasional volunteering - gardening at Elmstead Woods Station

As we rush to catch the 7.21 to Cannon Street, or single-mindedly seek the optimum position on the station platform, it's easy to miss what's around us. But next time you arrive at Elmstead Woods station, pause for a moment. Look around. Take it in. Because this isn't a normal railway station.

How many railway stations have two fish ponds, a woodland waiting area and a herb garden? How many ticket offices are decorated with awards for horticulture or have postcards pinned on the walls from travellers? Many of you appreciate the wonderful environment at Elmstead Woods station - the trees, bushes, pond and flowers all add up to a wonderful few minutes respite from the busy day to day.

Would anyone be interested in helping out from time to time gardening there? The staff in the ticket office do a great job in their own time, using their own money, making this one of the nicest stations in the area - but it's a big job and help would be appreciated!

If you could offer a few hours here and there, alongside a few others, (no big expectations, just occasional help) it would be much appreciated! Please call or text Chris Spencer on 07958 940 822 who is gathering names.

Let's keep Elmstead Woods station a local treasure!



A glimpse through the bushes (with thanks to Chislehurst News)

Chislehurst Heritage

Joanna Friel, our enthusiastic heritage representative, recently had the pleasure of meeting Year 6 at St Peter and St Paul Primary School. The pupils were studying World War Two and had made a worthwhile trip to Chislehurst Caves.

Joanna was telling the pupils, who were all dressed as evacuees, about the children rescued from Prague by The Barbican Mission for the Jews and brought to Seven Trees and Mount Zion in Lubbock Road. She also discussed the evacuation of Farringtons School, Dad's Army in Scadbury Park, and the death of Ivy Millichamp in Orpington, the last civilian killed on English soil by a V2. Following a lively exchange with the pupils one pupil asked her the killer question 'what did you do in the war miss?'. Somewhat dismayed, Joanna reminded the children that her own parents were only ten back in 1940! She is now looking for a make-over team and maybe a maths lesson for Year 6!

Joanna is working on a media studies project with Marjorie MacClure School next; look out for the students' historic character profiles in Chislehurst Library soon.

If any other schools want to get involved in local history related projects, please contact Joanna Friel via the Society, and we'll see if we can help.



A Knight in Armour, from the Society's stand at this year's Big Draw

Christmas Lights

The Chislehurst Town Centre Management Group has been able to wring more life from the existing Christmas lighting equipment, with the benefit of donations from a number of High Street traders.

There will be a series of events on the afternoon of **Saturday 1 December**. From mid-day Father Christmas will arrive at Churches 2gether to meet and greet any excited children for a chat. You can then wander up to the Queens Head at 3 p.m. for mulled wine and chestnuts and to hear Popchoir sing.

Finally, at 4 p.m., the Christmas lights will be switched on. **Come and enjoy!**

Remembrance Day 2012

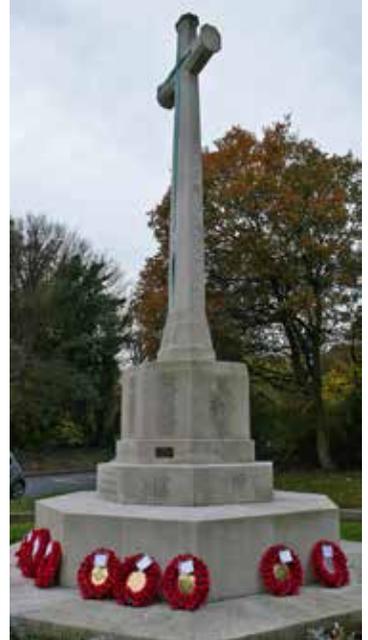
A huge crowd gathered for this year's service at the Chislehurst War Memorial on a fine sunny morning. By 11 o'clock there were five hundred or more people present, ranging in age from the many veterans from WWII and later conflicts, to young children attending with their parents.

The Rev. Alan Mustoe led the service, the choir from St Nicholas Church were in good voice, and the Royal Legion buglers sounded the last post to start the traditional two minutes silence. Cllr. Eric Bosshard led the laying of wreaths, and he was followed by many local charity organisations.

Executive Committee member, and Membership Secretary, Tony McClarty, laid a wreath on behalf of the members of the Chislehurst Society.

Those present were grateful to the police for making the area safe at this busy traffic junction. This year they reduced the flow of traffic immediately before and after the service, stopping all traffic during the two minutes of silence.

See page 5 for details of Yvonne Auld's book, *For King and Country - The Men of Chislehurst who fell in the Great War*, which explains the history of the Memorial, and information on the men named on it.



The Chislehurst Festival

In 2009, the Society ran the first Chislehurst Festival, taking place over a fortnight in late September. Two years later, the second festival was bigger, and attracted larger numbers to a range of events put on by local groups. The Society made all the arrangements for, and underwrote the costs of, both Festivals, and we are pleased that they were so successful.

For a number of reasons, it has been decided that the Society cannot continue to run a third Festival in the same format. Instead, in 2013, and for many years to come, we look forward to a series of individual events on Chislehurst commons, and Chislehurst Recreation Ground, during September and earlier months that will celebrate our village, our commons and other open spaces, including, the Summer Fair, Chislehurst Chase, The Big Draw, Chislehurst Rocks, and Chislehurst Country Fair.

Keep a look out for the dates on our website and elsewhere.

Road Stewards' update

One Road Steward has resigned since the last edition of the Report, and we welcome three new Stewards.

Many thanks go to retiring Road Steward Alec Hertzner (Walden Avenue) for his support of the Society over many years.

A warm welcome goes to our new Road Stewards Janet Port (Lubbock Road – Ross Court), Sinead Woodhouse (Lubbock Road 1–79 and 2–42) and Pam McWhirter (Park Road and Queen's Road). Marion Heselden has kindly agreed to continue the role of RS for Old Perry Street, which she previously shared with Keith.

Roads without Road Stewards are listed on our website. We are always interested in increasing our coverage to as many roads as possible. If you know of anyone who might be interested in getting involved with the Society, please let us know.

Road Stewards' meeting

Our meeting on 20 October was very well attended, virtually 'standing room only'. The chairman updated the meeting with information on planning, policing, litter and improvements to the High Street. Christine Barrett gave a short and very interesting talk on her spell as a volunteer during the 2012 London Paralympics.

Our next meeting will be in late Spring.

New Society Treasurer

Following our appeal for a new treasurer, we were pleased to receive a number of applications. In what was a difficult choice between good candidates, Colin Martin has been asked, and has agreed to take on the role. We welcome Colin as our new Treasurer and as a member of the Executive Committee.

Peter Munns

As reported in *The Cockpit*, we were very sorry to hear of the recent death of Peter Munns, Road Steward for Westhurst Drive until he retired last year. Peter was heavily involved in the Scouting movement in Chislehurst for most of his life. We extend our condolences to Peter's family.

Clean-up morning

We apologise for reporting the wrong date for the next clean-up morning. This will be Sunday November 25th and not 28th as reported. As usual, meet at the Red Cross Car Park at 10am.

*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*