



The

# CHISLEHURST RESIDENT



NUMBER ONE

DECEMBER, 1961

Dear Members and Friends,  
At the Annual General Meeting on March 22nd, you asked us to produce a bulletin so that Members might be informed of what was afoot. Well: here it is!

We have called it the Chislehurst Resident No. 1, not only because it is an apt title, but also because we hope there will be Nos. 2, 3, 4 and so on.

What's afoot? A great deal. You will find overleaf a full account of our efforts to preserve the Water Tower and the trees in the High Street. Our representative was here day at an Inquiry held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into a proposal to erect 72 flats on a single plot in Kennal Road. We thought this a bad proposal, in view of the fact, particularly, that this is a quiet, unadopted road, with a big hostel for old people.

We are happy

to say that this scheme was turned down. We are also very pleased to report that the Kennal Road Residents Association has become a corporate member of our Association.

It must not be thought that our main objective is the prevention of change. Improvements there must be and we are in favour of anything that represents a step forward.

We are glad to see the civic trust scheme for the Royal Parade and wish it every success. 'Tis rather a pity our friends in the High Street were not able to adopt a somewhat similar scheme.

We continue to deal with the individual problems of our Members. Some we tackle ourselves. In other cases we put the Member in touch with the organisation most likely to be in a position to help him. And we can modestly claim a number of successes in this field.



# The Chislehurst RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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THE forerunner of this Association was the Chislehurst Ratepayers' Association, formed in 1934 with objects similar to our own. It sponsored candidates for the then newly-formed Chislehurst and Sidcup Urban District Council and succeeded in securing all four seats for what was then called the Commons Ward. One of them, Mr. H. N. Beecher Bryant, served as Chairman of the Council during the first four years of the late war and rendered valiant service to the community during those dark and difficult years. He went on to the Kent County Council and is now a County Alderman (and a member of this Association).

The war disrupted the Ratepayers Association. A group of survivors, learning of the formation of the present Association, effected a merger.

The Chislehurst Residents' Association was formed in the closing months of 1945, mainly due to the efforts of the late Mr. V. G. H. Medley, its indefatigable hon. secretary, who held that office until compelled by ill-health to retire. The first Committee included Mr. H. T. A. Sharpe, M.I.E.E., a vice-president of the old Ratepayers Association. He is still a committee member.

Mr. Medley was succeeded by Mr. H. S. Copp, another stalwart. On relinquishing office at the end of last year he was presented with a silver ashtray in recognition of 10 years of faithful service. The present Hon. Secretary is Mr. G. D. Neely, M.A., of Staplecross, Bromley Lane, Chislehurst.

The Chairmen of the Association have been:--

Mr. Frank Fehr, C.B.E.	. . . . .	1945 - 1948
Commander A. Pollock, R.N.	. . . . .	1948 - 1950
Lieut.-General Sir Frederick Wrisberg, K.B.E., G.B.	. . . . .	1950 - 1955
Mr. F. M. Fuller, O.B.E., J.P.	. . . . .	1955 - 1961
Mr. T. A. Bushell, A.M.Inst.T.	. . . . .	1961 -

Like its predecessor, our Association put forward candidates for the local Council and held four seats, but could not face the full weight of the two main political parties. It, therefore, withdrew from the field, taking a stand instead as a watchdog "on the touchline." We have a strong Committee, which

? Are you a member? ?

members wish now try s n  
meets monthly. It includes those who hold office, or are members of many other local bodies such as the British Legion, Chamber of Trade, Commons Conservators, Men of Kent and Kentish Men, the local churches, and so on.

Perhaps a word may be said as to the social side of our activities. For some years now, and in conjunction with the Chamber of Trade, we have acted as the organisers of the annual May Queen festivities. By permission of the Commons Conservators these are held normally on the first Saturday in May on the Commons near Prickend pond.

We recently visited the Lemorbey East Residents Association, the first reciprocal visit between Residents Associations in Chislehurst and Sidcup. We invited them to return the visit on the occasion of our Social Evening at Chislehurst Library on Tues. Dec. 12.

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WE HAVE to thank the "Kentish Times" for telling us, before the April meeting of the Urban District Council, that the demolition of the Water Tower was on the agenda. This Association only had a few hours in which to act, but we got a letter to the Clerk on the morning of the meeting. As a result, consideration was deferred for one month. We were grateful, for they could have gone right ahead if they had wished.

*The* WATER TOWER

The next month was hectic indeed. It so happened that we were holding a public meeting to discuss the Boundary Commission's proposals. At that meeting of 77 people, 75 voted for the retention of the Tower. They did not want a long resolution. "The fact that we like it is sufficient," they said. Two only abstained from voting.

We inserted notices in the local Press. When Mr. R. M. Carter started his petition we joined him and he joined us! People sent cheques to our Secretary or stopped our Chairman in the street to give him money for our campaign. In all we received £16.1s. for which we say THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all concerned. We applied this money in the payment of Press advertisements, circulars and post.

As you know, in the face of a petition signed by 2,673 people (thank you, Mr. Carter!) and a large number of letters, the Council referred the matter back. The Council has now submitted alternative proposals to the K.C.C. and the Ministry (1) demolish the Tower and widen the road £3,510; (2) two-way bypass £19,650. We regret to say that our application for the Tower to be

listed as a Building of Historic Interest has not been successful.

THE TREES IN THE HIGH STREET

A deputation of the Officers of this Association was received by the Council on August 29th. They gave us a full hearing and will "take note" of our representations that in any widening of the High Street the trees should be preserved. We were not successful in asking that the rights of the frontagers to the verge on the west side should be considered.

GREATER LONDON

Chislehurst has little to gain and a great deal to lose from the Government's Greater London proposals. These are for the benefit of London. The Planning Authority will be London. The County Borough into which we shall be forced will be so vast that the Councillors will not

know the area they govern: AND IN ONE-TIER LOCAL GOVERNMENT THERE IS NO APPEAL to the County Council (which we have found so valuable in the past). The necessity for a Residents Association when all this comes into operation will be greater than ever.

CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 8pm  
SOCIAL EVENING  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ronald Elvey, Entertainer :: Local Quiz  
Kent in Colour :: Games (on tape).

Members and Friends  
Cordially invited

If you

are already a Member and have paid your subscription--THANK YOU!  
have not paid, will you please renew your sub. as soon as possible?  
are not a Member, will you join us. FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION?



The Association must have funds if it is to serve you.

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