



**This is one
of twenty
“Tales from
the
Commons.”**

A destination for day trippers



Both Chislehurst and St. Paul's Cray Commons, being so near to London, were popular destinations for a day out in the past. There were often crowds of people picnicking, playing games, or walking the footpaths.

Newspaper reports give us snapshots of those times.

A report from July 1866, describes the annual treat for the Sunday School of St. Mary Woolnoth, in the City of London - an outing to St. Paul's Cray Common. "Cricket, football, swings, and various other amusements were furnished for the gratification of the scholars, who showed their appreciation by the hearty manner in which they enjoyed them". The report concludes that the children returned home "highly pleased with their school treat."

In August 1874, 300 children were brought to St. Paul's Cray Common on an outing from a school in Lee. They had a lunch of meat and bread and a "substantial tea." It was reported that after tea "the boys, and we must add the girls too" scrambled for biscuits and nuts, and ran races. It was described as "a most enjoyable treat".

The Act of Parliament that protects the Commons made no provision for funding.

If you would like to support our work of maintaining the 180 acres with a donation, please visit our website www.chislehurstcommons.uk or go to PayPal Giving at



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