



This is one of
twenty tales
in our
Midwinter
Miscellany



December 26th 1874 Demonstration against enclosure



Throughout history, Chislehurst residents have valued the local common land and protested against encroachment and damage.

On Boxing Day 1874, a crowd gathered at the end of the cricket ground where a 14ft fence had been erected enclosing a large area of common land. Although Lord Sydney had given permission, the freeholders had not consented, and the parishioners were opposed to the loss of any of the common.

When an appeal to Lord Sydney received no reply, a large number of residents assembled - ***“amongst whom were ladies and gentlemen living in the neighbourhood”*** - and tore down the fence. ***“The Chislehurst Band was in attendance, and, as the last portion of the fence was felled, ‘God Save the Queen’ was played amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the assembled spectators.”***

Chislehurst Commons has responsibility for managing the 180 acres of local common land under an Act of Parliament.

The Act made no provision for funding.

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PLEASE STAY SAFE – KEEP 2 METRES APART