

# The Croxley Green Resident

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 108

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

JANUARY 1971

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## A Happy New Year to all our Readers

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### SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIBRARY

Your Library! because an element of the Rates goes to the Library Service—a service which extends in other places to mobile libraries with special services for the elderly and disabled.

I have recently seen the annual report of the Libraries Committee covering Rickmansworth and Croxley Green. In our local library there is a stock of 27,037 books; compare this with the estimated population of Croxley Green of about 14,000. So this could mean that if everyone borrowed two books at the same time then the Library shelves would be empty. In fact, the shelves usually seem to be bursting at the seams, so it is my job to encourage you to borrow more books! Those people who are regular customers at Barton Way Library certainly do their full share of borrowing, as 187,978 volumes were issued during 1969-70.

How good is the Library? Opinions differ—as they should. Yet it is as well known to Miss R. Cowan, the branch librarian, as it is obvious to the regular customers, that there is a lot of dead wood on the shelves. Surely, we may ask, could we not anticipate a spring-clean to remove many books which quite obviously never leave the shelves. By the same token could we hope to see some new books?

The Library Service in Hertfordshire is as good as anywhere else, and its availability in the evenings and weekends gives many people the time to browse. This is distinctly different from Westminster Library which is always milling with people like a market at lunch-time. The Library Service not only caters for the general public (you and I) but also for the schools and colleges. If you particularly want something the library will get it for you, even if they need to go to the National Library to borrow the book. I recently wanted to see a copy of the Trades Description Act, and this was obtained for me from a technical college.

Then there is the Reference section. Many school children derive benefit from the Croxley Green reference library which contains the Encyclopaedia Britannica; copies of "Which" going back several years; directories of various parts of the country, and a good many telephone directories. In Rickmansworth Library it is possible to borrow Ordnance Survey maps—very useful at holiday time.

I understand travel books are among the most popular, and even if some are anything up to twenty years old, the basic information remains reasonably factual.

Hobby subjects, too, are in great demand. Another kind of book which brings many reservations is radio's "Book at Bedtime" and novels mentioned in "Woman's Hour".

Librarians are public servants, and invariably they know that in following their calling they must act as practitioners. They have some ready-made prescriptions too, such as the pamphlets issued on many subjects such as Modern Gardening, Mother and Child, Antiques, Pottery, Witchcraft, Canada, The 'Thirties, and Exploring the Countryside.

Lots of readers go round the Library with a list of selected books and seem to enjoy the game of seeking them out. I do! Whereas we could easily use the reservation service, which still only costs 4d. for the postage on the card.

Starting in 1971 there will be a Public Diary. The Librarian's idea is to encourage all local societies to record coming events in the library diary which will be available for public inspection with a view to avoiding clashes of events—which often happens with summer fetes. *The Croxley Green Resident* is also available for publicising future events, so why not advise the Editor as well as the Librarian?

The Library staff wish you happy reading in 1971, and they look forward to giving you service with a smile.

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## THE BENDIX LAUNDERETTE

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### HAZARDS OF CROSSING THE ROAD

Everyone knows the hazards of crossing Watford Road and even the pedestrian crossings do little to make the crossing easier for able-bodied people; for the elderly and infirm it is well-nigh an impossibility. But the Ministry of Transport don't believe this.

For about two years approved plans have remained on the shelf for the installation of a light-controlled pedestrian crossing (nick-named a Pelican) in Watford Road near its junction with New Road. The new idea is to re-site the pedestrian crossing 40 yards westward so as to give drivers a better vision when approaching from Watford. The Association and the Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee are tiring of frequent letter-writing on the subject; months ago we were told that there was a long delay for delivery of the special apparatus. Latterly, the Council decided that it would be necessary to prohibit parking with yellow lines from Frankland Road round to the new pedestrian crossing, but they were criticised on this score—mainly, we hear, by the shopkeepers—so this scheme looks like being pigeon-holed until someone is satisfied that a car park is available. On the latter there was a suggestion to make a car park behind the shops but this did not prove to be a good idea.

### CANDLES—CAROLS—CHOIRS—CHRISTMAS

Although Christmas has gone its memories linger on! We recall the pleasure of joining Durrants School choir with orchestra and story-tellers in a concert given in aid of the Round Tablers' Christmas appeal for parcels for the Old Folks.

We recall the packed congregation at the Baptist Church candle-lit carol service—and the delicious mince-pie afterwards. And we recall the youngsters, Michael and Kevin, whose doorstep singing raised a donation for the Save-the-Children Fund.

### A HAPPY NEW CENTRE . . .

. . . for Croxley Green Young People is taking shape on its site at the rear of New Road. Croxley Green's Youth Worker, Miss Tansy Wild, has made an impact since she took office two months ago; she can be contacted at 3 Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, tel: 75564. A D-Day donation of pennies and 3d. pieces in your possession will be sought in a collection on 13th February.

### APPROACHING CROXLEY GREEN

After many years of trying, the Council (nearly two years ago) agreed to place "Croxley Green" signs at Cassio Bridge, the foot of Scots Hill, and Sarratt Lane. The work was deferred until Cassio Bridge was completed, and we now learn that the job will not be done until later in 1971.

### THE LATE MR. B. W. GARDNER

We are sorry to record the sudden death of Mr. B. W. Gardner at his home in Clacton-on-Sea, where he moved some three years ago when his Firm removed from London. Mr. Gardner had been Chairman of our Association until his reluctant resignation. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gardner had lived in and known Croxley Green for a long time, so that he brought a vast knowledge of the locality for the benefit of the Committee.

### STICK IT IN YER FAMILY ALBUM!!

Two local personalities, Rosalind Dobey and Graham Wickersham were on stage for the Cassio Operatic Society's production of "The White Horse Inn".

In February, "Half A Sixpence" will be produced by Watford Operatic Society at the Palace Theatre, when Graham will take the part made famous by Tommy Steele, and Rosalind will be a shopgirl. Early booking is advisable as these semi-professional shows are always popular.

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### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's funny how the press pick on something and make more out of it than they should. This happened after the A.G.M. following the Hon. Treasurer's report when Mr. Broome stated that expenditure had exceeded income by £62 during the year; this, of course, is mainly due to rising costs, especially printing this magazine. The balance carried forward to the current year is sufficient to keep the Association going until the Spring when our collectors will be out and about calling on you for your annual subscription. The effect of the press report was that many people posted their 2/- subscription. As you may know that the Association was not able to collect from some roads last year and your Committee has done some reorganisation to make sure that every house is visited for this purpose. Moreover, the Association believed there was no need to increase the 2/- subscription provided every householder in Croxley Green was a member. The A.G.M. went on to decide that an amount of £52 1s. 6d. which had accumulated in a fighting fund (mainly intended to finance local election candidates) should be absorbed into the general account; the Committee however will endeavour not to touch this money so that it should remain as a cushion against a possible contingency. Donations will, however, be welcome to swell the funds.

### SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Did you, like me, collect the used stamps from your Christmas card envelopes? By sending them to S.C.F., 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1, you would help the Save the Children Fund.

### HANDS OFF HERTFORDSHIRE

Miss Judy Graham put things in a nutshell when she wrote "1970 was a year in which ordinary people became more and more conscious of the threats of pollution in their lives, but it was also a year in which a lot of people grew more and more frustrated by their inability to influence events which looked like spoiling the quality of their surroundings or invading their right to privacy".

*from the Evening Echo*

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### ONE ALONE

We quote "Standing Order 31: The Chairman referred to his remarks at the last Council meeting about the publication in a local newspaper of confidential information before it had become public Council business. He said that in spite of his reminder of the terms of Standing Order 31, another leakage had occurred, and whilst previously there might have been some excuse on the grounds of ignorance of Standing Orders, what had occurred since then must have been blatant and deliberate. It had been established beyond all doubt that it was not an officer who was responsible, and it must therefore have been a member of the Council. If he chose to, the member concerned could make it known that he and he alone was the person responsible".

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## WE HEAR . . .

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### WHY MUST WE WAIT UNTIL 1972/73?

Remembering the poor quality of the workmanship when New Road was renovated not many years ago, there have been frequent complaints of the dangerous state of the footways. Blame has often been levelled at delivery vans, but we are sure this is not entirely correct. Having brought this matter before the Public Works Committee they have decided the replacement of the broken paving slabs in the footways in New Road should be done in 1972/73. Our Association considers this a matter of priority and will take all possible steps to get the work done before the end of 1971.

### MAKING UP OF COPTHORNE ROAD

The Council intend to make up the hitherto private street in 1972/73, and to enable a detailed land survey to be prepared an aerial photograph is to be taken. We hope this might be published for all to see.

### A PROPOSED CAR PARK

Thought is again being given to making a car park in the vicinity of the shops nos. 136-148 Watford Road. This will not be behind the shops, as objections were made to this proposal some time ago. Nor it is likely to be the "Crown land" at the corner of New Road. Our roving reporter says the only likely place is the car park at the public house, and he goes on to suggest that it would be better to have a lay-by outside the shops and move the bus stop beyond the new position of the pelican crossing.

### FAREWELL

Mr. Lawrence Fone, for many years deputy head of Durrants School, left at the end of the year to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Staff, present pupils and many ex-pupils bade him farewell at a special evening, when, amid all the true things said about Mr. Fone, it was fairly clear he was sorry to leave. We know he will not be one to be idle in his retirement and hope he will long be able to use his mine of information on local history.

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### ELECTRICITY

This magazine was written during the week of the power-cuts and by the time you read it the subject will no longer be news. Nevertheless it must have impressed all of us with the dependency we place on electricity—it is always there at any time of the day or night. It will drive quite large pieces of machinery in the home, and massive machines in the factory. In fact, in many ways with the time clocks it serves us as a robot might do. Lastly the money side—we all know what it costs and how big the bills usually are, so we expect to be served by the staff of the generating stations whatever their personal problems over rates of pay.

### FRANKLAND ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Fencing is to be erected alongside the public right of way; the work is to be carried out as soon as possible.

### TREES IN BALDWINS LANE

There are two trees outside 282 Baldwins Lane, and one outside 290/292 Baldwins Lane. The Tree Consultant has recommended that the wych elm outside 282 Baldwins Lane should be felled and replaced with a new nursery tree. Surgery work will be undertaken on the other two trees.

### BUS FARE CONCESSION

Rickmansworth Council is about to inquire into the extent which old age pensioners and disabled persons might take advantage of reduced fares on the buses. Such a scheme has already been adopted in Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans; Watford is experiencing difficulties because two different bus companies are involved. If the scheme operates in Rickmansworth and district its extent will be limited to a distance covered by a 2s. 7d. fare and during off-peak hours. The Association has submitted its views—in liaison with the Pensioners' Association—that such a scheme is desirable as a benefit to a large number of people and as a help towards the cost of living. It must be stressed that the consideration is exploratory, but we hope a favourable outcome will not be long delayed.

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**CROXLEY GREEN TO WATFORD LINE**

It is a continuing source of amazement that someone named the L.M. station "Croxley Green" while the Met. station is named just "Croxley".

The Association was one of the 53 objectors to the threatened closure of the rail service which now only runs part time from Croxley Green to Watford, and the Chairman, Mr. Yabsley, spoke at the Public Inquiry. Both Watford and Rickmansworth Councils submitted objections and the Town Clerk and Clerk of the Council opened the proceedings which were heard by a ten-man Committee.

Since the Inquiry views have been strongly expressed reviving an old idea of joining up Croxley Green station with the Met. Line.

**METROPOLITAN TRAINS**

Almost daily cancellation of the same timed trains happened during November, and the Association's sub-committee dictated telegrams to the Chief Operations Manager of London Transport. Although business people's trains run more frequently than the normal 15-minute intervals, the cancellation of a train can make a passenger as much as 20-30 minutes late for work.

**ACCESS ROADS ACROSS THE GREEN**

The Council's Community Services Committee has examined their policy relating to an application for a permanent access road across The Green instead of the existing track. They decided that the position in this case was not the same as with a nearby development, and resolved that the Council, as owners of The Green, should refuse this application to enlarge the access.

**GROVE CRESCENT**

The third stage of the Grove Crescent development provides for the provision of old people's flats, and should have commenced last October. The cost of 42 dwellings will be £133,000.

**TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS**

Administering a local authority frequently brings problems over and above the usual routines. In recent months there has been the national strike of refuse-collectors (only supported in Rickmansworth by an overtime ban); a national strike of electricity generating workers which played havoc with highway lighting; and snow (an occurrence which is annually anticipated but never drops at a regular time or in consistent amounts such as the Canadians expect).

To meet the problem of securing the necessary labour to carry out its commitments, Rickmansworth U.D.C. has been paying an excess rate of pay of 15s. 0d. per week since 1964, and 26s. 0d. per week since 29th September, 1969. Confronted with a national award of 50s. 0d. per week wages increase, effective from 9th November, 1970, the R.U.D.C. has decided that the present excess rate of 26s. 0d. per week should not be merged in the new pay award, and that steps be taken to consult with other surrounding local authorities to consider the question of excess rates including the relation to incentive schemes.

**THE FUTURE OF YORKE ROAD SCHOOL**

Everyone knows that Yorke Road School is to move, but no-one seems very clear where the new site will be. A good suggestion is a site not far away on land behind the T.A. Centre; the other contemplated site at Dulwich Way on the present playing fields is regarded by many as being too far removed. It is gratifying to learn that the school will soon have new premises as the old village school suffered in many ways—not least the old fashioned toilets away across the playground.

**A COMMUNITY HALL FOR CROXLEY GREEN?**

When Yorke Road school eventually removes it will vacate two strong buildings—not perhaps modern, yet very useful for community hall purposes. The Association is looking into this matter and hopes to have discussions with the education authority.

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## NORTH ORBITAL ROAD

The Ministry of Transport wrote on 1st October: "The Minister assures you he is very conscious of local concern about this scheme and of the worsening traffic conditions in Rickmansworth and Watford. He is at present considering the Inspector's Report (of the Public Inquiry held last January) and hopes to reach a decision in the near future. As soon as the line of this section of the North Orbital Road has been established the Minister proposes to publish the remaining Orders concurrently where possible in order to speed up the statutory processes."

In another letter the Minister was reported as saying "he did not want to make a hasty decision".

## N.O.J.A.G.

The North Orbital Joint Action Group has met twice since receiving the foregoing letter. At first they prepared to convene a public meeting in January and invite the Minister of Transport to explain his reasoning as a Diamond Jubilee celebration of sixty years of waiting. At a later meeting it was thought that no good purpose would be gained by holding a public meeting in January. The representatives of the fifteen constituent Bodies who form N.O.J.A.G. declared that there must be some channel through which pressure could be brought to bear on the Minister of Transport and decided to write to the Prime Minister.

## VETOED BY WHITEHALL

When the Council examined the need of pedestrian crossings along Watford Road, they decided on a new one near Fisher's Garage (which has been done), and another between Yorke Road and Harvey Road. The mis-informed Ministry of Transport Industries has refused to sanction a pedestrian crossing near to Harvey Road as "the volume of traffic along the A.412 does not justify this". We ask: just how inconsistent can the Ministry get because the amount of traffic half-a-mile away cannot be any different from that part of the A.412 in question.

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## EXTENDING THE LAY-BY

Complaints have been made of vehicles encroaching on and damaging the footpath (with its low curb) outside 210 and thereabouts in Watford Road. Rickmansworth Council is to extend the lay-by from outside the shops as far as 218 Watford Road, the work being placed in the priority list for 1971-72 at a cost of £1,600.

## WE LEAD—OTHERS TRY TO FOLLOW

During his report to the Association's A.G.M., the Secretary spoke in appreciation for the work of the refuse collectors, and for their not having gone on strike like so many of the employees of other Authorities. This carried press coverage, and during the next few days similar expressions were made by other Bodies in the District.

## COUNCILLOR MRS. G. FENTON

We welcome to the ranks of Rickmansworth Councillors Mrs. G. Fenton, who was the successful candidate in the by-election brought about by the death of her husband, Cllr. C. R. Fenton, O.B.E. Mrs. Fenton will be a worthy successor to her late husband as, apart from a lady's presence in the Council Chamber, her knowledge of the District is vast and comprehensive. Many readers will remember her as a teacher at Harvey Road School, and for her interest in children's choirs, so that we can be grateful she will know so much about Croxley Green affairs.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the late Councillor Fenton's service as a councillor for fifteen years, including his chairmanship of the Council, for, as has been said elsewhere "we shall not see his like for many a long year".

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## A MINI ROUNDABOUT

Several years ago the Association asked the Rickmansworth Council to consider utilising some of the greensward outside the Grammar School so that the road could be improved to provide a less acute turn for vehicles, and a bus lay-by outside the school which would lessen the number of children who had to cross Watford Road from the Church. BUT the Council shunned the idea. Now, mainly because of the "improvements" to be made by dualling Scots Hill they are making a detailed survey and estimates to build a mini roundabout at the top of Scots Hill.

## MILK ROUNDSMAN RETIRES

We are pleased to wish Mr. T. Luckett a happy and restful retirement after long service as a milkman for Express Dairy. Your Editor came to know him well since the people of Bateman Road were among his customers; his reliability was outstanding—I remember helping to dig his van out of the snow when most motorists would not venture out.

## W.H.M.D.A.

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### R.U.D.C. MEETINGS

The public are admitted to certain meetings of Rickmansworth U.D.C. as follows, at Basing House, commencing at 8 p.m.:

Council Meetings—2nd February, 16th March.

Public Works Committee—14th January, 25th February.

Community Services Committee—12th January, 23rd February.

Road Safety Advisory Committee—23rd March.

The Chairmen's Forum takes place two days after each Council Meeting, when anyone is invited to discuss matters with Committee Chairmen.

### C.G.R. & R.A.

The Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association is pleased to publish this magazine quarterly, and ensures that a copy goes into every house (about 4,500) in Croxley Green irrespective of the householder being a member of the Association. We would like to achieve a 100 per cent membership. The annual subscription for the year to 30th September next is still only 2/-, which covers husband and wife. Expect our collector to call on you soon or kindly direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Broome at 114 Links Way.

Published by Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, 10 Bateman Road, Croxley Green.  
Printed by Watford Printers Limited, 58 Vicarage Road, Watford, Herts.