

# The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 110

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

JULY 1971

## CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS—SPEAK UP

The Executive Committee of the *Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association* believes that the people of Croxley Green should have their say in their future local government administration. Because the Maud Committee Report on the re-organisation of Local Government has mainly been adopted by the Government, and the Secretary of State for the Environment has prescribed in a White Paper that future second-tier local authorities will, after 1974, control an area having a population of at least 40,000 (but preferably 75,000/100,000) people, the future of Rickmansworth Urban District Council with a population of slightly over 30,000 is at stake.

Croxley Green is in a unique position. With our probable population of 14,000 we are close to Rickmansworth on one side—and close to Watford on the other side!

Your Association has decided to take a referendum and every household is invited to take part—NOW. Please complete the coupon (which provides for every member of your family over 18 years to participate) and return it quickly to any member of the Committee whose names appear on the last page of this magazine.

We plan to meet the problem of getting your votes back quickly by asking every resident who lives in a house numbered 1, 11, 21, 31, 41 and so on to collect the votes from the next nine numbered houses above his own. Our faith is in you to do this—QUICKLY. Paid up membership of the Association is immaterial at this time; the material feature is that you, as a resident of Croxley Green, have a copy of *The Croxley Green Resident* delivered to you—that is every house in Croxley Green—and everyone on the Electoral register can express their opinion.

Firstly, the new Rickmansworth authority as proposed and approved by Rickmansworth U.D.C. will retain Rickmansworth (population 30,360), and take in Chorleywood (8,100), Sarratt (2,932), Bovingdon (3,550), Flaunden (235), Chipperfield (1,883), Kings Langley (5,233) to give a total population of 52,293. Geographically these areas

adjoin to meet the County boundary in south west Hertfordshire. They share an urban affinity by being in or close to the green belt. But as the population figures show, only the areas of Rickmansworth and Chorleywood are anything like densely populated, and the whole rural area would present much more costly administration by reason of greater road mileage to be maintained, refuse to be collected from a sparsely populated area, engineering works with remote control, and community services on an equal basis. Chorleywood has recently decided to join Rickmansworth in what Mr. Norman Wright describes as the 'shot gun marriage of the century'; noting that part of Chorleywood lies in Buckinghamshire under the present Amersham U.D.C. Nor are the opinions of the outpost villages likely to be swung away from allegiance Hemel Hempstead which, like Watford, is now highly developed. By and large the new Rickmansworth Borough would be fighting a continuous battle to maintain essential services with limited finances.

Secondly, a look at Watford. Here we have the opposite residential situation with a dense population whose roads and other services already exist. The Watford Borough undoubtedly has its sights set to become an authority comparable to Harrow and has announced its plans to assimilate Watford Rural District authority as well as Bushey and Rickmansworth. Here it must be mentioned that part of Croxley Green is now in the area of Watford R.D.C. so that they (residents of Dover Way, Links Way, and thereabouts) might easily find themselves under the new Watford while the rest of Croxley Green was under the new Rickmansworth—this would be rather silly at a time when fresh boundaries were being created.

Thirdly, you can sit back and do nothing. Yet it will cost you nothing to express your view NOW! If Croxley Green were not sandwiched between Watford and Rickmansworth this referendum would not have materialised—but here we are—so let us have a say in our future. Croxley Green is in an enviable situation.

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## THE BENDIX LAUNDERETTE

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### ASSOCIATION NEWS

During the past three meetings of your Committee the undermentioned subjects have been considered:

Revels on The Green,  
Curtailement of bus routes,  
Local Government re-organisation,  
T.A. Centre, The Green,  
North Orbital Joint Action Group,  
Dareves Moulding Mills, Cassio Bridge,  
Highways improvements and maintenance,  
Parking in Frankland Road,  
Bus stop in New Road,  
Speed of vehicles in Baldwins Lane/Links Way,  
Street Lighting,  
Adventure playground at Baldwins Lane Rec. Ground,  
Concessionary bus fares,  
Hazelwood Road/Watford Road junction,  
Land adjoining Croxley Green (L.M.) station,  
Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee,  
Health Education posters.  
Most of the items are separately reported in this magazine.

### TRAFFIC HAZARDS IN BALDWINS LANE

Baldwins Lane is not a very safe road. It has three nasty bends and the hill for downward motoring inclines drivers to exceed the speed limit—something which the Police are aware of. Then there are two parades of shops which invite motorists to park outside. The shops at the lower end are provided with a reasonable parking area; so are the shops at the upper end but many more vehicles park in that area in the roadway. The Croxley Green Road Safety Committee has examined the problem over a long period and is asking shoppers at the shops at the 'upper end' to avoid parking their cars in Baldwins Lane by making more use of the car park in the recreation ground. Let us try to avoid having any more yellow no-parking lines in Croxley Green because you will realise that this is the ultimate result.

### SOUTH CROXLEY

#### NORTH ORBITAL CAMPAIGN GROUP

Sir,

In November 1969 at a crowded A.G.M. of the Residents' Association, the South Croxley North Orbital Campaign Group came into existence to fight a suggested alternative route for the North Orbital Road, which, had it been adopted would have completely ruined the Sycamore Road—Valley Walk—Hazelwood Road area, quite apart from having a very adverse affect on property values over a much wider area. The campaign group committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Colin McCall of 47 Valley Walk received magnificent support from the residents of the affected area—active, financial and vocal.

As a result of this response we were able to put before the Public Inquiry which opened in December 1969, a very strong case prepared by the Group's solicitor plus supporting oral evidence and a petition bearing nearly one thousand signatures. When the Inquiry got under way, the author of the alternative route withdrew his proposals, which was not surprising in view of the mass of evidence and weight of public opinion we had been able to assemble.

Following the publication of the Inspector's Report and on receipt of confirmation that the North Orbital Road was to be built (at last) along the line of the published M.O.T. route, the campaign group committee met, to disband and to dispose of unused funds, in accordance with the constitution agreed at date of formation. For the record the Group's income from all sources was £121.24. Expenditure inclusive of legal fees—£54.85 leaving a balance of £66.39. It was the unanimous decision of the last meeting of the committee that these surplus funds should be paid into the Residents' association funds and our cheque for the amount stated is enclosed.

May I close by expressing my personal thanks to the Residents' Association for their prompt action in November 1969, to the residents of the affected area for their wonderful response in defence of our homes and to the Chairman and committee members for their hard work and team spirit.

Yours sincerely, Norman Hewitson, Hon. Sec. S.C.N.O.C.G.

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**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
OLD AGE PENSIONS ASSOCIATIONS  
CROXLEY GREEN BRANCH**

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of our Treasurer, Mr. H. F. Williams, on June the 5th. Mr. Williams who was a Founder Member of our Branch, and was elected as Treasurer at our first meeting has been ill on several occasions during the time that we have been working together; but his determination to make the very best of his life, his courage during ill health, his capacity for hard work and his obvious love for the human race, have been an example to us all. We are very proud to have known him and to have worked with him and we extend our sympathy to his wife and family in their sad loss.

Like most new organisations we have had our share of teething problems during our first year. Our biggest headache has been the lack of people coming forward to act as Road Stewards. We celebrated our first anniversary with a display at the Revels and since then we have been offered more assistance. Now at last we seem to be getting our Roads and Road Stewards sorted out. We do, however, still have a number of vacancies and are especially looking for at least four Road Stewards for Baldwins Lane, there are other areas as well still to be covered. In the meantime the Committee are trying to cover these areas as best they can. We would like to apologise to any of our Members who have not had as much attention as we and they would have liked in our first year; however the future looks brighter and we hope that we can improve our efforts this year. Surely some people who live in Baldwins Lane could give us a hand? The more help we have the better, some of our Road Stewards are being asked to cover much larger areas than we had intended and we would like to break these areas down. We have recently enlisted the help of some younger people, this was our original aim and we would be happy to hear from more.

Our (almost) Monthly meetings are becoming very popular with our members and we have had some very good speakers. We have planned our Meetings for the rest of 1971 and will be publishing the details in the near future. We are very grateful for the co-operation of the management of the Welcome Club who have been most helpful when we have been using the Club for our Monthly Meetings, and to the Red Cross for the help which we have received from them.

Our Chairman went to the annual conference of the Federation at Paignton this year and will be writing to tell you about this in time for the next issue of *The Resident*.

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**N.F.O.A.P.A.—NEXT MEETING**

We are very concerned about the rise in the cost of living, especially in relation to the Pensioner and others on fixed incomes. We are, of course, grateful for the extra £1 a week which will be paid to Pensioners in the Autumn; but this, in our view, is nowhere near enough to keep up with the ever rising prices. We are anxious to know what arrangements are in hand and how our Pensioners are going to be protected should we enter the Common Market and food prices rise still further. To this end we have asked our M.P. Mr. Gilbert Longden M.B.E. to come and talk to our Members and answer their questions on Friday 23rd July in the Welcome Club at 7.30 p.m. We hope to pack the hall that night, it is important that we should let the Government know that we are concerned before it is too late. Will Members and other Pensioners please note the date and turn out in force for this Meeting.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Council for arranging for the Concessionary Bus Fares for Senior Citizens, this will ease the financial strain a little. We would, however, like to say that it would be more practical if the National Pension were to be increased sufficiently to obviate the necessity for concessions locally. (*Contributed by their Secretary, Mr. N. Hewitson, 52 Sycamore Road.*)

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## WE HEAR . . .

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### REVELS ON THE GREEN

Our congratulations to the Croxley Green Society for organising the 1971 Revels on The Green, and particular thanks to their secretary, Mr. L. W. Fry for his enthusiasm. Thanks, too, to everyone who took part—and particularly for making an attractive procession through part of Croxley Green.

### MID-SUMMER REVELS 1972

We are telling you now—the date of next year's Revels will be 17th June. The Committee of the Croxley Green Society decided that, while it was nice to have a May Day celebration, the possibility of inclement weather at that time, made a change to a later date desirable. The organisers are very keen to make the Mid-summer Revels really great, and that means they need the help of every organisation in Croxley Green.

### CROXLEY GREEN ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

The new secretary is Miss P. M. Archer (c/o Malvern Way School) who has succeeded Cllr. R. T. Willoughby consequent on his appointment as Chairman of the R.U.D.C. Public Works Committee. Miss K. M. Raggett becomes Hon. Treasurer of the C.G.R.S.C. The Committee are always glad to hear from local residents on matters of road safety in Croxley Green.

### THE AQUADROME

We are asked to remind old-age pensioners that they can obtain a permit from the Council Treasurer allowing them free admission to the Aquadrome at any time. And a reminder to the rest of us that there is no charge for admission after 6 p.m. on weekdays.

### CONCESSIONARY BUS FARE SCHEME

Permits may still be obtained, costing 25p by an old age pensioner, or a registered blind person, or a permanently disabled person unable to walk. Personal application must be made at the Council offices on Mondays to Fridays, 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. and applicants must produce evidence that they are qualified. The concession provides half-price fares on London Country Bus Service for a distance having a normal fare of 13p (above that distance normal fare is payable).

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### BUS STOP, NEW ROAD

At the bus stop outside Barclays Bank in New Road the Council seriously considered a plan to provide a bus lay-by, but the estimated cost of the scheme proved to be £3,705 plus other compensatory costs. The idea has been rescinded in favour of a less costly scheme which will have the effect of placing no waiting restriction outside 167/169 New Road for "Bus stop clearway". In addition a yellow line will appear from the corner of Dickinson Square for 48 yards along New Road (i.e. opposite the bus stop).

### HAZELWOOD ROAD—WATFORD ROAD JUNCTION

For some time there has been a traffic hazard for vehicles turning to the left from Hazelwood Road into Watford Road (and almost an impossibility to turn right), while it is none too easy to turn right from Watford Road into Hazelwood Road. To overcome these hazards the Council proposes to prohibit the waiting of vehicles on Mondays to Saturdays between 8.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. by means of a yellow line from No. 2 Hazelwood Road and round the corner into Watford Road along to its junction with Frankland Road.

In connection with the No Waiting the lay-by will be altered outside 200 Watford Road to prevent vehicles obstructing the northern side of the Watford Road/Hazelwood Road junction. At the same time the lay-by will be extended for a distance of 100 ft. eastwards; the latter is subject to necessary finance being granted by the County Council who are responsible for the A.412.

### CROXLEY CAMERA CLUB

The Croxley Camera Club are thanked for providing two grand evenings of colour slides in support of Rickmansworth Week activities. There is a good thing about this Club in that they are always willing to share their enjoyment with others. The content of both these evenings is likely to be repeated for an autumn function of the Croxley Green Society.

The Club starts its next session on 1st September when new members will be welcome. Do not be put off by thinking you are just an amateur; there is always much to learn and when you remember what photography costs you there is good sense in trying to make every picture you snap a first-class photo! Their secretary is Mrs. Howard, 79 Shepherds Way, Rickmansworth (Tel. 73533).

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Officers and Committee have been pleased to co-opt two new members to the Committee: Mr. P. W. A. Dixon and Mr. J. E. Gell.

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**PROMISES**

No. 1, we are still awaiting the installation of the pelican style light-controlled pedestrian crossing due to replace the existing zebra crossing but 40 yards southwards (outside 150 Watford Road).

No. 2, we are still awaiting the appearance of "Croxley Green" signs on the three entrance places to Croxley Green; may we remind the Council that this is ten years overdue!

No. 3, is the service road (and car park) from the Red Cross Centre to the new Youth Centre. At the present time this is just a rubble track and if something is not done quickly it will reveal procrastination on the Council's part, such as will be noticeable to the V.I.P.'s who attend the official opening of the Youth Centre on 25th September.

**T.A. CENTRE, THE GREEN**

The Association's Committee found good reasons to support a complaint made to them regarding the T.A. Centre being used for immoral purposes and as a dump for building rubbish. Subsequent to the complaint being made there was a fire in one of the huts. Your Committee asked the owners of the site, the Council, to take some suitable action to preclude easy access to the site. However, the Council's officials did not agree there was sufficient grounds for complaint. If any resident can give first-hand information to help our evidence we shall be glad to hear of this.

**RABBITS**

In the springtime a white rabbit's thoughts of love guided him or her to leave home and migrate across Watford Road where he was found on the lawn at the rear of a house. Fortunately he was friendly and responded to loving treatment while his finder hastily prepared 'found' notices. Soon afterwards his owner came along to claim him and presumably his hutch is now securely fastened, but it is still a source of wonder as to how he did not get run over.

Not so much love was given to two baby rabbits who nearly got run over when I left the Station car park at close on midnight—but the headlamps were full on and the brakes were in good trim. I (like others) have noticed for a long time that there are new burrows on the railway embankment and maybe we shall soon have to take a census on rabbit movements in Croxley Green. At least they do not seem to have a housing problem—nor do they have a feeding problem!

**"PENSIONERS' VOICE"**

Many of our readers will know that "*Pensioners' Voice*" is the monthly magazine of the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations. On 13th April, their secretary wrote to the Minister of Health and Social Security.

Dear Sir Keith,

We are deeply concerned that the proposed increases in retirement pensions, announced recently in the budget, do not come into force until September 20th next. This is a time lag of some six months, and with the ever rising increases in the cost of living—food, transport, and the added increases in fuel just announced, the increase of £1 for single pensioners and £1.60 for a married couple will be mortgaged before it is given.

It is imperative that the increase should be given immediately, or backdated from the announcement, and we urge upon you to give serious consideration to the present plight of the elderly.

We shall be glad of your observations in order that we may keep our members fully informed.

Soon afterwards the Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph replied in a letter which is too long to reproduce. The gist of his reply is that the government is pledged to review pensions every two years and a bi-annual increase this year would have been payable from November. Some parts of his letter can be extracted without getting out of context, such as "After considering all aspects of the matter we decided to bring forward the operative date of the new rates by six weeks" . . . which means they will apply from the week of 20th September. From this time the scheme will guarantee an income of £6.30 a week to an elderly single householder and £9.95 a week to a married couple, plus—and this is important—provision for rent and rates. "From September next the long term addition for supplementary pensioners will be increased by a further 25p where the pensioner or a dependent is over 80". (Contributions by employers and employed persons are raised from July, Ed.)

**CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

We are pleased to record the appointment of County Councillor R. E. Groves to the chairmanship of Rickmansworth Council for the ensuing year, and take this opportunity to wish him a successful year of office. This is the third time he has held this high office.

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**CROXLEY GREEN YOUTH CENTRE**

The Official Opening will be on 25th and 26th September; the reason for staggering arises from the problem of accommodating so many expected visitors so that V.I.P.'s will be invited to attend at 3 p.m. on the 25th and the Club members will attend that evening. On Sunday evening, 26th September, the residents of Croxley Green are given an open invitation for "At Home" at 8 o'clock, when the Club hope many interested people will come to see the new premises. Further information may be obtained from the Youth Leader, Miss Tansy Wild, 3 Berry Way, Rickmansworth (75564)

**VANDALISM**

It is deplorable to report that a considerable amount of malicious damage has been done to the new Youth Centre during its construction. This damage has delayed the building programme and has added unnecessary charges to the cost of the building. Presumably the damage has been done by young people and this magazine takes the opportunity to say "stop it".

**INVITATION TO YOUTH**

All Croxley young people between the ages of 14 and 21 are invited to apply for a ticket to the Kiscotheque, marking the opening of the new Youth Centre on Saturday 25th September, 8.00 p.m.—10.30 p.m. Admission is by ticket only, and these may be obtained from the Leader at the forecourt of Baldwin's Lane Shops on the first three Wednesdays in September, between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m., until supplies run out.

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The C.G.R. & R.A. has always been proud that its quarterly magazine is delivered to every one of the 4,500 houses in Croxley Green. This is due in no small way to the willing help of our distributors to whom we re-iterate our thanks. Yet the organisation of distribution presents its problems and it is sometimes difficult to find helpers. At the present time we would welcome offers of help to deal with Links Way (even numbers) and Rousebarn Lane. Also there is a problem in delivering to the flats in Grove Crescent where it is desirable to contact two or three active people who would not mind climbing the stairs. If you could help with any of these roads, or if you would be willing to help in an emergency, a note to Mr. J. W. Broome at 114 Links Way would be welcomed.

The Association has found that it is easier to send the magazine into every house in Croxley Green than to select who are members and who are not. It is our belief that every household desires to be in membership and another of our problems has been to find people to collect the annual subscription. This year we have more collectors who will cover every road, but it may be that someone calls on you when you are out and it is a time consuming business to make return calls. We stress that the annual subscription (covering a household) remains at 10 new pence—a charge which has operated since 1939—our reasoning being that a fee from every house will adequately cover the annual expenses of the Association. If, therefore, you have not paid please do not hesitate to send 10p with your name and address to any member of the Committee.

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## PLAYING FACILITIES

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to see in your April 1971 issue reference to the lack of a suitable playing area for children living in the Sycamore Road/Valley Walk area.

As you rightly say, the Council own the land adjoining the railway and canal, known locally as the "coffin land" and if I remember rightly a sum of something like £400 was once allocated by our local Council for the development of this land into an ornamental garden area. Since then, of course, the Council in their wisdom have allowed the Sea Scouts to erect a headquarters, but nevertheless I am quite certain there is sufficient spare ground for the provision of a play area for the children concerned. The children most affected by the lack of these facilities are on the whole a well-behaved crowd of youngsters with a sense of responsibility and who in the main do realise the difficult position which now faces them.

We are also advised that the housing development will shortly commence on the land between the Watford Road and the odd numbered side of Sycamore Road—some 55 houses we are told. I trust the local Council will ensure that adequate provision is made within the confines of this development for play area facilities for the children who will inevitably live on this new estate.

May I suggest the time is now ripe for the parents of the children in Sycamore Road/Valley Walk to maintain pressure on the local Council for the provision of adequate facilities as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully, N. Hewitson.

1570

We expect many of our readers will recognise 1570 as the number of the last of the steam engines used by the former Metropolitan Railway. *The Daily Telegraph* printed a rather wonderful photograph of 1570 passing through Croxley Station—and we still wonder if the station was specially repainted for this purpose!

## SOMEWHERE TO GO IN HERTFORDSHIRE

A commendable booklet has been published by the local consumer groups in the County. It should be attractive to young and old alike for it is full of details of places to visit. The cost is 15p from your newsagent, or 20p from Mr. D. Judd, 14, Wiggshall Road, Watford.

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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—17th August, 28th September.

Public Works Committee—29th July, 9th September.

Community Services Committee—27th July, 7th September.

Road Safety Advisory Committee—13th July.

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

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Mr. R. E. J. Boardman, 16 Frankland Road.

Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

Mr. J. S. Robinson, 46 Warwick Way.

Chairman: Mr. W. T. G. Yabsley, 264 Baldwins Lane.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

Mr. P. W. A. Dixon, 33 Winchester Way.

Mr. L. L. Dobey, 11 The Green.

Mr. L. W. Fry, The Orchard, The Green.

Mr. J. H. Gardner, 46 Canterbury Way.

Mr. J. E. Gell, Little Waterdells, Little Green Lane.

Mr. N. Hewitson, 52 Sycamore Road.

Mr. T. N. Millway, 3 All Saints' Lane.

Mrs. D. L. Nixey, 44 Oakleigh Drive.

Mr. W. W. Rutherford, 104 Grove Crescent.

Mr. B. H. W. Tullett, 9 Green Lane.

Mrs. D. B. Whitfield, 224 New Road.

### LOCAL ELECTIONS 1971

In Croxley Green North Ward Councillor R. T. Willoughby was re-elected and Councillor A. J. J. Crawley was elected to fill the second seat. In Croxley Green South Ward Councillor J. L. Vosper was elected.

### YOUR COUNCILLORS

Croxley Green North Ward:

Cllr. N. C. Young, 63 Longcroft Road, Maple Cross (until 1972)

Cllr. J. M. Wilyman, 38 Copthorne Road (until 1973)

Cllr. R. T. Willoughby, 50 Gonville Avenue (until 1974)

Cllr. A. J. J. Crawley, 32 Winchester Way (until 1974)

Croxley Green South Ward:

Cllr. L. V. Reason, 40 Repton Way (until 1972)

Cllr. P. H. Robinson, 2 Harvey Road (until 1972)

Cllr. Dr. P. S. B. Russell, 5 Watford Road (until 1973)

Cllr. J. L. Vosper, Windmill House, Scots Hill (until 1974)

### FORMER COUNCILLORS

We record our appreciation for the services rendered to Rickmansworth Council by County Councillor F. J. S. Hall, 45 Copthorne Road, who did not seek local re-election due to his commitments as our County Councillor. Also to Mr. C. J. Ford who did not achieve re-election.

May 15th was something of a boisterous day politically and 52% of the electorate voted in the local elections. The result for Rickmansworth strengthened the Liberals to securing eight seats, while the Conservatives have seven seats, and the Socialists have four seats.

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Chairman: Mr. W. T. G. Yabsley, 264 Baldwins Lane

Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way

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