

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 111

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

OCTOBER 1971

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To All Members,

The Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association will be held on Monday, 8th November, 1971, at 8 p.m. in the Dickinson Guildhouse, New Road, Croxley Green. All members are earnestly requested to attend.

10 Bateman Road,
Croxley Green, Herts.

F. N. CHERRILL,
Hon. Secretary.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 1970 Annual General Meeting held on 2nd November, 1970.
2. Matters arising therefrom.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Hon. Secretary's Report.
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report and statement of accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1971.
6. Election of President and Vice-Presidents.
7. Election of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
8. Election of Hon. Auditors.
9. Resolutions.
10. Open Discussion. (Prior notice of items for discussion should be handed to the Hon. Secretary five days prior to the meeting.)

N.B.—All members of the Association are eligible to serve on the Committee. If you are willing to serve, kindly write to the Hon. Secretary at least five days prior to the A.G.M.

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THE HONORARY SECRETARY

Your Committee has received, with considerable regret, a message that their Secretary will not be able to continue this duty after the A.G.M. We hasten to record our sincere appreciation to Mr. Cherrill for eleven years' service to the Association and hope his experience will still be available to us.

The Committee now seeks a new honorary secretary, and they hope someone will come forward to undertake this important task. Desirably a person of administrative ability coupled with experience of local government would be welcomed, bearing in mind the Association is non-political and always maintains an independent outlook. Anyone interested is invited to contact the chairman, Mr. W. T. G. Yabsley (phone Rick 72931).

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Land at "Whitegates" and "Clare Cottage", The Green, is to be developed with four detached houses and 18 terraced houses. Conditions have been made to preserve many trees but no control of vehicles proceeding to and from the new houses has been determined. Local residents objected to the original plan for 24 houses and this had the result of improving the density more in line with existing properties in Baldwins Lane who, at the time of construction, were dictated by density.

FORGET-ME-NOT SALE

Please come to the Welcome Club sale in the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 30th October. There will be stalls for sewing, handicraft, white elephant, good-as-new clothes, garden produce, groceries, cakes, sweets, as well as tombola and a raffle. If you would like to help with donations or gifts, please contact the secretary at the British Red Cross centre, Barton Way.

OUR REFERENDUM

The referendum on the position of Croxley Green in the future local government reorganisation in South-West Herts brought only a small response, and the quantity could not be said to give a fair and true assessment of the opinion of our readers. Nevertheless the result can be regarded as a gallop poll showing that four out of five residents would wish to remain with Rickmansworth rather than become part of Watford.

While outwardly the referendum exercise sought to obtain the views of our readers, it has had the effect of telling the press and local authorities that the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association was very much alive to future developments in our locality.

The national and local press carried news of our activity. The Clerk of Rickmansworth Council deplored our action as being unconstitutional! The Vice-chairman of Rickmansworth Council who issued a press statement in similar vein, credited Mr. Cherrill with the phrase "shot-gun marriage of the century", which had originally been used by Mr. Norman Wright of the *Watford Observer*! Nor were the Liberal councillors of Croxley Green much in favour. All these comments add up to the fact that Rickmansworth Council, as our local authority, missed a golden opportunity of public relations with the community to, firstly, speak clearly of their intentions, and, secondly, to give the shareholders the chance to say aye or nay.

Quoted elsewhere are reports from the Association of Municipal Corporations, and a current editorial from the *Watford Observer*.

MID-SUMMER REVELS

All societies and organisations are asked to keep the date in mind for the Mid-summer Revels to be held on The Green on 17th June, 1972. The Croxley Green Society hope there will be many more floats in the procession, and more displays during the afternoon. What can you do?

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REORGANISATION THOUGHTS

The *Watford Observer* comments: "Local government reorganisation is inevitable. This much we can be sure of, but the grouping of the existing local authorities under the proposed second-tier restructuring and the effects this could have on community life in the short term and the long run are obscure, to say the least. But it is the effects on the community which must be most carefully considered. While in certain spheres of life the bigger-the-better concept is being questioned, and even declared to be a false god, such thoughts do not appear to have crossed the minds of many who have been, and will be, deliberating local government reorganisation."

Their editorial goes on to say: "The real point is what do people want and how will regrouping affect them?" They suggest the creation of three local authorities for South-West Herts (but do not show any plans) believing three authorities would be more in line with the wishes of the people who, incidentally, have been presented with too few opportunities for making their views known.

Your Association is glad that it presented you with the basis of the problem in so far as Croxley Green is concerned and gave you the opportunity to make your views known.

ELECTRICITY METER READINGS

Arising from several comments that consumers were being given estimated readings, we took the matter up with the Eastern Electricity Board. They state that a card is left when their meter reader is unable to do his job, and the occupier is invited to read his own meter and return the pre-paid card. But a meter reader to whom I spoke denied he had ever seen a reply-paid meter reading card—if there was no one at home he simply left a card to say he had called! This seems like the left-hand doesn't know what the right-hand is doing. Enquiring of the situation where a house is regularly unoccupied during the day, the Board say they are willing to make an arrangement so that the consumer can remit quarterly reading which the E.E.B. will accept.

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THE EDITORSHIP

During the past six years *The Croxley Green Resident* has been prepared by Mr. F. N. Cherrill, and he has now advised the Committee that he will no longer be able to continue as editor after the publication of this issue. It was with considerable regret that the Committee learned of his decision, and it was their unanimous wish that an expression of their appreciation should be recorded in this magazine. When he took over the editorship in 1965 the size was four pages, but his enthusiasm soon persuaded the Committee to agree to an expansion to six pages and subsequently to eight pages. We are sure our magazine has proved of major interest to our readers (in every house in Croxley Green) and we are proud to maintain an interest in civic affairs by keeping the ratepayers of Croxley Green informed of where the money goes.

Now, however, we seek a new editor. We hope somebody will come forward and invite anyone interested to have a chat with the chairman, Mr. W. T. G. Yabsley (Rick 72931) or Mr. F. N. Cherrill (Rick 74285).

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WE HEAR . . .

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The renovation of the Methodist Church (which passed its centenary last year) has now been completed at a cost of £3,700, and, in a message of thanks from the Rev. Vaughan Tong to all friends who have worked and given to make the renovation possible, he says: "We now have a building which will be a great asset to our worship and witness."

CALLING ALL BOYS

For several years in the past there was a very strong company of the Boys' Brigade, 1st Croxley Green Company. After a period in the doldrums it has now been revived on Monday evenings at the Methodist Church in New Road, and boys between the ages of 8 - 12 years of age are invited to join the Boys' Brigade.

PUBLIC TOILETS

The Association is again pressing for the provision of toilets primarily for travellers along Watford Road; suggested sites are at the top of Scots Hill, by the Met station, or by Cassio bridge roundabout—the latter offers easily acquired vacant land with space for cars to stop.

HELP

Helpers are sought for the distribution of *The Croxley Green Resident* at Scots Hill; Watford Road even numbers between Rickmansworth School and the railway; Watford Road odd numbers from Met station goods yard to Merritt's garage; and part of Grove Crescent. If anyone is willing to help—once a quarter—please contact Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

CAR PARK AND SERVICE ROAD

A contract has been accepted in the sum of £15,575 for the construction of the rear service road and car park at New Road. This is apart from lighting and the public conveniences, and does not include the cost of acquiring the land.

STREET LIGHTING

Fresh and taller lamp standards are proposed on The Green.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS

The 32nd annual conference was held in Paignton with over 1,000 delegates. The outcome of 46 resolutions on the order paper kept the chairman and delegates busy in debate, many covered claims for assistance towards the costs of TV licences, telephones, fuel, etc. It was claimed that the increased pensions payable from 20th September, of £1 for single persons and £1.60 for married couples was "too little and too late", as the increase had already been overtaken by higher prices, greatly due to the inception of decimalisation. Retrospection in the payment of increases was sought in parallel to wage increases gained by trade unions.

Particular attention was given to the plight of sick and infirm members and to the frequent lack of hospitalisation for them both in hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged.

The Conference dispersed, determined to pursue a claim for the 7½ million pensioners who had helped to produce the affluent society of today, to enable them to live in decency and dignity. The Croxley Green Branch of the Federation will play their part in working in this way.

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARDS

New R.U.D.C. notice boards have been erected at Dickinson Square/New Road, by the bus stop at The Green, and adjoining the shops at the top end of Baldwins Lane. People have already noticed that the boards are being used for all sorts of notices which are not Council material and it seems the purpose of the boards for our information is already being thwarted.

A NEW LAW FOR DOGS?

Tring Residents' Association has been quick to draw attention to legislation now passing through Parliament which, when it becomes law, will render the owner of an animal which causes an accident liable for damages. The Act will specially concern owners of dogs and they will be advised to take out an insurance to cover the contingency of their pet causing a road accident.

"CROXLEY GREEN" LEGENDS

We are informed that the name-plates were ordered about four months ago.

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TAR AND CHIPS

The surface-dressing of our roads has never, understandably, ranked among the more popular exercises carried out by the county authority, particularly as far as the motorists are concerned. At best it has been regarded as a necessary evil, but it is seldom indeed that it has provoked such an intensity of wrath among both motorists and housewives as it has done this year.

Since a South Oxhey resident broached the matter in the correspondence columns of the *Watford Observer* a month ago, complaints of damaged cars and tarred carpets have arrived in a steady stream, reinforced by the grouches of pedestrians who have had to tread a tarry and uncomfortable path over footways strewn with granite chippings.

Some inconvenience is, of course, inevitable in this sort of operation, but the angry reaction of so many members of the public suggests it is time that the highways authority gave careful thought to the methods it is using. Cars and carpets are expensive items these days, and owners who have suffered damage are hardly likely to be pacified by being told that a better method of road surfacing could be used, but would be more costly. Their immediate reaction is to ask, "How costly?"

They will certainly not agree with the official who was reported last week to have described the present system as "reasonable" as well as cheap!

By courtesy of the *Watford Observer*.

We were sorry to learn that a lady was injured by a flying stone which hit her between her eye and nose.

The cost of surface-dressing Winton Drive was £724.

TREES ON THE GREEN

The Committee is dismayed with the appearance of some of the trees on The Green. Ten of them are commemorative trees, of which five have plaques. In particular a trench has been dug alongside the War Memorial (and it is hoped this will be satisfactorily reinstated expeditiously), and there is the unkempt surround to the Churchill Tree. The Council's Engineer is being asked to improve the surrounds of all the commemorative trees, and he is to be thanked for the fine greensward on the area of grassland where the Revels are held.

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PELICAN LOSES ITS HEAD

The installation of the pedestrian operated light-controlled pedestrian crossing in Watford Road has been fraught with snags. Delivery of the apparatus took two years and three months. On the day the first lighting post was erected outside the shops a message was sent to the Engineer advising him that the concrete lamp standard impeded the sight line for traffic approaching from Watford; so the lamp standard had to be taken down and has now been replaced by another sited nearly three feet away from the kerb! On the other side of the road the foliage of trees hid the traffic lights. We then discovered the starting date of operation would be 23rd September but a few days earlier the whole set of traffic lights disappeared.

Someone who is incensed with the volume of heavy traffic going along the A.412 sees the pelican as a means to delaying the traffic flow; the idea is for a small group of people to operate the button individually in succession, and each individual would set the traffic lights at red for the 14 seconds, that is, 7 seconds while the little man is at green and 7 seconds while the little man flickers, showing that your time for getting across the road is running out.

Stop Press: Operative from 1st October.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

In June 1972 All Saints' Church will be 100 years old. Among the special activities will be an exhibition to show the life of the Church over the last 100 years, and the organisers ask anyone who has any articles, postcards, newspaper cuttings and so on to kindly contact the Rev. A. S. Conway at the Vicarage (Tel: 72109).

DISTRIBUTORS

The Association thanks the Advertisers for their support and hopes all our readers will patronise them. We are grateful to our voluntary distributors who ensure that this publication is the only one to reach every house in Croxley Green.

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N.F.O.A.P.A.: CROXLEY GREEN BRANCH

Branch membership now stands at approximately 380 members but we still have an urgent need for additional helpers to look after the old people of the Village, particularly from non-pensioners. The category of people we are looking for is, for instance, young housewives with about two hours per week to spare to make visits to people living alone and/or delivery of notices of meetings, etc. This is a worthwhile, spare time, "unpaid" job and can be very rewarding. Please contact the Secretary at telephone number Watford 41154 with offers of help.

Since the last issue of the *Resident*, Branch activities have continued and in particular I must report a meeting on 30th July, 1971, which was addressed by Mr. Gilbert Longden, M.B.E., M.P., on the subject of the Pensioner and the Common Market. This meeting was attended by something like 150 people, by far the best attendance at our meetings so far. The main point of Mr. Longden's address was the fact that the present Government are committed to making certain that the pensioner does not suffer financially if and when we become part of the E.E.C. Naturally Mr. Longden was unable to give specific figures at this stage but did point out that in the E.E.C. it is possible for retirement pensions to be tied to the cost of living and for a review to take effect within three weeks.

This is a big improvement on our present system whereby a review is announced in the Budget Statement

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in March or April and does not take effect until September, by which time the cost of living has risen sufficiently to erode the amount of the increase.

At a more recent meeting addressed by the Branch Chairman giving details of Resolutions discussed at the Annual Conference, the general concensus of opinion was that whilst assistance to pensioners for television licences, telephone rental, bus fares, etc., was all very well, the very simple answer to the pensioners' problems is to give them a proper and adequate pension based on the national average weekly wage and to tie this to the cost of living, so that it is reviewed whenever circumstances deem it necessary.

Mr. N. Hewitson, Secretary,
52 Sycamore Road.

Future meetings held in the Welcome Club

29th October:

Members' Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Warren, Ministry of Social Security, explaining recent changes to pensions.

26th November:

Members' Meeting. Mr. Cornwall—an illustrated talk on "Old Croxley Green".

17th December:

Christmas Party for Members (free).

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HIGHFIELD, SCOTS HILL (Statement from Rickmansworth Council)

Since 1966 the Council have been conscious that the land between Copthorne Road, Scots Hill and The Green was one of the most important sites in the town and sought to persuade the County Council to make an "action area" plan for its redevelopment. Whilst the previous owner of Highfield was alive the core of the site was secure from development but after his death the situation changed and it became obvious to the Council that development could no longer be resisted. Simultaneously the Council's plans for the dualling of Scots Hill began to take some shape and involved the demolition of some properties. The Council were anxious to reduce the number of access points to the main road and also to provide a "new look" to the road frontage.

The simplest and easiest method whereby the Council's objectives could have been achieved was the purchase by the Council of the Highfield Estate, but the Department of the Environment refused to make loan sanction available. As a result the owners of the Highfield Estate agreed with the Council to prepare a single all-embracing plan for development of the whole area, including the former T.A. Centre, for residential purposes. The T.A. Centre was an integral part of the solution of the highway problems posed by the proposed development and its sale enabled the Council to proceed with its plan for the acquisition of the old L.M.S. Goods Yard in the town centre and to transfer its programme of building for senior citizens to part of the Grove Crescent development in Croxley Green.

The plan for redevelopment of the area displayed at the meeting between officers of the Council and affected occupiers in Ebury Hall on Thursday, 10th June, has now been considered by the Planning Committee and the planning application has gone forward for consideration by Hertfordshire County Council.

In order to ensure that the plan can be implemented smoothly the Planning Committee are recommending the

Council to make a Compulsory Purchase Order on the land within the area. This will not prevent any owners who wish to do so from voluntarily negotiating with the Council or with the developer for the sale of their property. In fact, the Council is anxious to encourage voluntary negotiations in preference to compulsory purchase.

(Since this statement was issued a separate private planning application has been submitted to the Council.)

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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—9th November, 21st December.

Public Works Committee—21st October, 2nd December.

Community Services Committee—19th October, 30th November.

Road Safety Advisory Committee—28th December.

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PROPOSED CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

With a view to developing public relations between the Urban District Council and the ratepayers, the Council has decided to drop the scheme whereby the Chairmen's Forum was held to encourage informal consultations. In its place the Council propose to organise a Consultative Committee comprising three representatives from each of the five residents' associations, with three representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, and six Council representatives. The proposed committee would meet quarterly.

Your Association welcomes any proposal to encourage informal consultation on matters of local interest. It has, however, commented that we meet monthly as distinct from the Council's idea of quarterly meetings, and it would seem to be more administratively easy to develop consultation in writing rather than to wait three months for a matter to be heard which might be of localised interest, in which case other representatives at the meeting might feel their time was being wasted.

CROXLEY GREEN CINE CLUB

The Croxley Green Cine Club has just recently celebrated its first year of existence. During the year the Club has made two films. One with the aid of a local dramatic group, the other, a sponsored film for the local Horticultural Society: the Club filmed its Annual Show at Durrants School.

The Club invites any local society to use its facilities to film events and happenings, that they would wish to put on record.

Its programme is both varied and full, covering all aspects of cinematography, and it meets each Wednesday at 8 p.m. at St. Oswalds Church Hall, Malvern Way. Anyone interested is invited to come along or contact Mr. Laurie Brown (Watford 25719), Chairman, or Mrs. Betty Sorrell (Rickmansworth 72337), Secretary.

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 10p, 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

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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