

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 129

Editor: Denise R. Mangles

Spring 1976

CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY

request the pleasure of your company

from 2 p.m. on SATURDAY, 19th JUNE

when the REVELS CARNIVAL PROCESSION

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THE REVELS

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The motorised procession of about twenty floats and cars will leave Durrants School at 2 p.m. and follow the decorated route along Kenilworth Drive, Durrants Drive, Baldwins Lane, Lancing Way, and Sherborne Way to Barton Way Recreation Ground. There it will be joined by the walking contingent and continue on its way to the Green via New Road.

The stalls on the Green will be opened at 2.30 p.m. and Eileen Hewett, this year's Queen from Durrants School, will be crowned by the retiring Revels Queen, Deborah Wilkes of Rickmansworth School at 3.00 p.m. The **Crowning Ceremony** will be followed by a **Fancy Dress Show** – (competitors should contact Mrs. Withers on the Raffle Stall beforehand) and a variety of displays (including **Maypole Dancing**) by local schools and organisations.

Donkey rides, Clown Jack and his balloons, a roundabout, numerous stalls and competitions are some of the attractions in store. Come along and generously support us in our efforts for local causes. This year donations were given to Croxley House W.R.V.S., the Community Centre Association and towards a foetal heart monitor from the proceeds of last year's Revels.

Enjoy yourselves! See you there!

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EDITORIAL

This is where I take a deep breath and pray for guidance and your forbearance! Those who have appreciated John Gell's masterly summing up of Council policy and local events, must realise the amount of work and experience needed to justify this pretentious title. The combination of chairmanship and editor certainly put him in a strong position for representing the Association's views. The splitting of these roles may result in views expressed here that are not fully supported by other members on the Committee. I shall however endeavour to indicate this where it arises.

It must be appreciated that any group set up to represent the whole will only do so democratically when actively supported.

Anyone wishing to join the Committee who is a Croxley ratepayer may be coopted. The Committee wishes to represent the majority view of residents on local matters. *Your* views will always be welcomed and I will endeavour to include all correspondence in *The Resident*, space permitting.

There have been several action groups set up in the past to combat the intentions of faceless bureaucratic minds. These have frequently served their purpose and disbanded when the goal had been reached; unlike the Residents' and Ratepayers' Association which was formed in the late 1930s following a water dispute and has continued ever since with periodic lulls between times of militancy. I believe the Association is kept viable by publishing local news and views whilst also acting as a back-up for local grievances. However, we could do with active support from younger members of the community or those with time to spare to attend Council meetings.

With the longer Summer days, we are now being tempted to go for walks in the country – only a few minutes away for us in Croxley. However, one has to beware of the passing motor-bike on Common Moor

these days! For those who have tried to read the Byelaw on the Moor, the torn passage should read: "A person should not fly any power-driven model aircraft in the pleasure ground between the hours of 2 p.m. and midnight on Sundays during the months of May to September (inclusive)".

On the subject of Byelaws, those referring to The Green have been reaffirmed by the Home Office. The relative byelaw in respect to horse-riding states: "Where any part of the pleasure ground has by notice conspicuously exhibited in the places around, been set apart by the Council for the riding of horses or ponies, a person shall not ride or lead a horse or pony on any other part of the pleasure ground". In view of the unsightliness of notices, it is hoped that a responsible attitude will be adopted. The Council is seeking the views of riders and those interested in The Green in order that a voluntary code of conduct will be followed obviating the necessity of enforcing the byelaws.

After the bench seat erected to the memory of Mrs. Doris Leary was spoilt and the toilets in Barton Way made unusable by vandals, one cannot help wondering if the police will ever be effective in this area. If only these misspent energies could be redirected towards some useful purpose, I am sure that not only the community but the vandals themselves would gain some pleasure from it. Durrants School pupils certainly set an example by helping "The Friends of The Green" to clear the village pond near Killingdale Farm. No doubt this was a mucky, smelly job but must have had a certain element of fun attached to it.

With regard to housing, I wonder if the Council will follow Birmingham's lead in building houses and selling them to "half and half" tenants. The tenant who could not qualify for a Building Society mortgage gets a 100% council loan on half the value of the house and pays rent on the remainder until his circumstances enable him to buy the other half.

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Some advances have been made by Three Rivers District Council, however. They are adopting a scheme to improve the chances of empty properties being let. Full details will be available at C.A.Bs and the Council's Housing Department. Briefly, it involves the short term leasing of empty houses to the Council who sublet, keeping 10% of the rent for maintenance. When the owner requests his house back, the Council undertakes to rehouse the occupants.

Whilst on the subject of housing, permission has now been granted to Hanover Housing Ltd. for the building of 27 old peoples' flats at 89, New Road, at a housing density of 32 to the acre. This compares with the housing density of flats to be built on the Guildhouse site.

Those paying their rates monthly might be interested to know that instead of going to the rate-collectors at the Welcome Club, they can pay their money into any Bank, without requiring a bank account, via the Bank Giro Scheme. Since there are two banks in New Road and most workers find time to visit a bank during lunch-hours it seems to me that a sub-collection office at The Welcome Club is an unnecessarily expensive way of collecting money. Lastly, pensioners would do well to check they have not been charged the full rate for their allotment rental!

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

Croxley Green North		<i>No. of Votes</i>
Christopher Ford	(C)	677
John Gell	(C)	695
Croxley Green		
Flora Kwintner	(C)	749
Peter Sheraton	(C)	704
Norman Wright	(C)	690
Croxley Green South		
Kay Raggett	(C)	665
Paul Robinson	(Lib)	667

Council Constitution:

Conservatives: 32 Labour: 10 Liberal: 5

A massive swing to the Conservatives has now ended the coalition government in Three Rivers District Council. Thanks are due to the Liberal ex-Councillors for their long service in Croxley. Their regular clinics newsletters have been a good feature in their administration. It is to be hoped that the Conservatives will offer a similar service to the Electorate.

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PROPOSED SHOPPER BUS

The hearing before the Traffic Commissioners into the application made by Smiths Coaches (Rickmansworth) Ltd., for a shopper bus service was held in the Colne Suite, Watersmeet, on the 19th and 20th May.

Mrs. Whitfield has kindly agreed to represent this Association. It was thanks to her efforts in raising a petition about thirty five years ago that the 385 route was brought into being.

The proposed shopper bus would be a 25 seater, single deck coach operated by a driver/conductor, which would leave Baldwins Lane and pass along Manor Way, Kenilworth Drive, Durrants Drive, Dover Way, Links Way, Winton Drive, Girton Way, Malvern Way, Barton Way, New Road, A412, Frankland Road, Harvey Road, A412 to Penn Place. The proposed fares are: Adult 10p, Child 5p -- with the likelihood of concessions for pensioners. If the proposal is accepted the bus will depart Croxley Green at 11.08 a.m. and leave Penn Place at 1.05 p.m. on weekdays other than Wednesday and Saturday.

The total annual cost of operating two of the many proposed routes will be about £3,918. If less than four of the new routes are approved by the Commissioners, then the number of journeys on these routes will be proportionately increased.

GARDEN BONFIRES

From time to time, the careless burning of bonfires can cause much inconvenience and annoyance to neighbours and may, in extreme cases, give rise to nuisance justifying action under the Clean Air Act.

The Three Rivers District Council has no Byelaw prohibiting bonfires, or restricting the hours during which they may be burned.

The Council does, however, strictly enforce the Clean Air Act in relation to smoke from bonfires which constitutes a nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Woody material unsuitable for composting should be allowed to dry thoroughly and have the soil removed before burning. Less nuisance is likely if bonfires are lit at or after sunset.

Garden refuse is readily accepted at the Civic Amenity refuse reception sites now set up in the district.

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ACTION ON ROADS

The Croxley Green Road Safety Committee was instituted in July 1966 at a public meeting in All Saints Church Parish Hall following a fatal road accident in the Watford Road. The Committee was instructed 1: to study all aspects of road safety in the area and take what action they thought fit, and 2: to promote the building of the then suggested North Orbital Extension to by-pass Rickmansworth and Watford.

There is a long history behind the building of this road: it has been stated that it was first suggested in 1913. It was not long before the Committee realised a major effort aimed at stimulating the Government to build the road was too big for a Croxley Green organisation alone. Accordingly they invited representatives of local organisations in Rickmansworth and Watford as well as local and county councillors to a meeting to study the problem. At this meeting it was decided to form a much larger group representing a larger number of organisations. This group was called the North Orbital Joint Action Group (NOJAG) and did sterling work.

A petition urging the building of the road was organised and some 10,000 signatures were obtained; this petition was handed in at 10 Downing Street by members of Nojag accompanied by the two local M.P.s Sir Gilbert Longden and Mr. Raphael Tuck both of whom worked unceasingly for the cause.

The Committee compiled a documented survey of heavy transport users as its contribution to the Public Enquiry which was called to determine whether the road should be built. Over 100 companies replied and the survey report was submitted as written evidence showing a large majority in favour of the road being built.

The road is now open and the resulting reduction in traffic passing through Croxley Green is remarkable. The battle for the road to be built went on for several years. During this time the Committee urged forward a programme for the improvement of the Watford Road, which against initial opposition, eventually won support from officialdom. The Committee also examined safety problems in other parts of Croxley Green. Now is a convenient moment to look back on some of the schemes they have either initiated or supported enthusiastically. The following is a list of results:

- 1 Pedestrian-operated traffic lights in the Watford Road by the Red House.
- 2 Pedestrian Crossings on the Watford Road near Harvey Road and Winton Approach as well as the upper end of Baldwins Lane.

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- 3 Moving back the railway fence opposite the Met Station to improve the vision of cars coming from the Watford direction.
- 4 Improved site lines at the entrances to Harvey Road and Dickinson Square.
- 5 A "No Right Turn" from the eastern arm of the Green onto the Watford Road.
- 6 Attention to road surfaces at various times.
- 7 Removal of a large junction box owned by Eastern Electricity sited on the pavement near the Sportsman; at the same time realignment of the kerb line opposite Evans Cafe.
- 8 Yellow lines in Hazelwood Road, New Road and Winton Approach.
- 9 Promotion of radar speed traps.
- 10 Marked parking bays in parking areas alongside shops in Baldwins Lane and The Green.
- 11 Railings on the kerb at the lower end of York Road.
- 12 Widening of the pavement from York Road to the eastern arm of the Green.
- 13 Central carriageway markings opposite Scots Hill Close and Valley Walk.
- 14 Improved site lines at the junction of Little Green Lane and Rousebarn Lane.

Many other problems of varying natures have received attention. Contact with various transport operators and consultation with the police at times has been necessary. The Committee continues its study of all aspects of Road Safety.

Dr. N.P. Pitt.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is with some regret that I read in the Wint edition of *The Resident*, John Gell is relinquishing his responsibilities as Editor. The standard of the editions during his editorship have been excellent. As a previous member of the Committee of the Association, I am aware of the size of the task of producing *The Resident*.

The high standard achieved will present his successor with a formidable challenge.

P.W.A. Dixon, 78 Valley Walk.

LIBRARY CHANGES

The library has now undergone drastic changes. The shelving has changed to a more mobile form and several thousand hard backed books have been withdrawn to be replaced by a scheduled one thousand paperbacks. It is hoped these alterations will make the library more suitable for evening hire to small gatherings thereby greatly increasing the use made of the site.

Mrs. Adams is the temporary librarian until new librarians are appointed. Mrs. Jill Duncan will replace Miss Legge, starting Monday, May 17th.

FOR MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN AT HOME

Mothers' and Toddlers' Groups

These cater for children from birth to 5 years. They help youngsters to socialise whilst still having Mum around for reassurance. They give mothers a chance to make friends. Pregnant Mums and those hoping to adopt are welcome to go along.

Methodist Hall, New Road,
Monday & Wednesday, 1.45-3.15 p.m.
Janet Cornwall, Telephone: Rickmansworth 72779.

Youth Centre Barton Way,
Monday, 1.45-3.15 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday,
Sue Collyer, Telephone: Watford 32091.
Lorraine Humphreys, Telephone: Watford 41695;

The above have a shared waiting list, are well established and are non profit-making.

Playgroups, Nursery Schools, etc.

The following is a list of groups catering for children between 3-5 years. In general they run for three hours and leave mothers free to go to work if they wish. Most have long waiting lists and indeed, two groups in Croxley did not want to be included because of this.

Durrants House, O.M.T.
9.30-12.30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday),
Mrs. Clifford, Telephone: Rickmansworth 77887.
(Long waiting list. Endeavours to prepare children for school).

St. Oswalds Hall, Malvern Way,
9.15 a.m.-12 noon, (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday)
Mrs. Day, Telephone: Watford 25100.

(Waiting List - vacancies in September. Established nine years. Non profit-making. £4.50 per term per one day attendance).

Youth Centre, New Road.
9.00 a.m.-12 noon (Monday-Friday)
Mrs. Hall, Telephone: Rickmansworth 75340.

(Short waiting list - about 6 months notice. September vacancies).

Sea Scout Hut, Two Bridges.
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)
Mrs. Ward, Telephone: Watford 45172.

His new playgroup will open on Monday, 20th September and there are still some vacancies).

Tufty Club, Baptist Hall, Baldwins Lane,
Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.
Mrs. Wallis, Telephone: Watford 38573;
Mrs. Atkins, Telephone: Rickmansworth 77675.

This playgroup which introduces Road Safety to children takes children aged 3-5 years. Mothers may stay in an adjoining room and have coffee or leave if they wish.

Information of relevant interest

There will be a National Playgroup Week (June 11th -18th) with an exhibition at Watford Library. Some of the playgroups will have open mornings when mothers can see how they are run.

Programmes:

"State of Play" - Sunday 9.45 a.m. B.B.C.1,
April 18th - June 20th.

(Examines the question: "Do nursery schools and playgroups offer the best provision for pre-school children?")

"Coming up to Five" - Monday 6.30 p.m. Radio 3.
June 2nd - July 26th.

Books

The Playgroup Book, M. Winn & M.A. Porcher (Fontana).

The Penguin Book of Playgroups, Lucas and McKennell (Penguin).

Course for Playgroup Leaders - Cassio College.

There are also some groups run by local churches for young wives and mums, with crèches for the children run on a voluntary basis.

Young Mums, St. Oswald's Hall, Malvern Way.
2-3.15 p.m., 2nd Thursday each month.
Wendy Thompson, Telephone: Rickmansworth 78663.
Margaret Hamlin, Telephone: Rickmansworth 72246.
(Waiting List).

Young Wives, All Saints' Hall, Watford Road, (supported by the Mothers' Union).
10 am-12 noon, 2nd & 4th Tuesday.
Margaret Lemarie, Telephone: Watford 31726

Mothers' & Toddlers, St. Bede's Hall,
(Catholic mothers only).
2.15-3.45 p.m. Tuesdays.
Mrs. Fallan, Telephone: Watford 37852.

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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Items discussed at recent meetings have included the following:

- a) horse-riding on the Green; b) Tith Barn; c) Crescent cars; d) road sign by horse-trough; e) bonfires; f) shopper bus; g) Scots Hill House development; h) Hanover Housing's development of 89, New Road; i) Imperial Machine Company's extension; j) Community Association.

MANY THANKS

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to all those who have spared time and money in the service of the Association. In particular, Mr. John Gell, our past Chairman and Editor, who has, by his enthusiastic leadership and desire to represent the Committee's views rather than his own, built up the numbers of members to fourteen.

Several joined the committee in response to his appeal for active members in Autumn 1974 – when it was feared the Association would disband. Some of them continued on the Committee, namely Mrs. W. Rouch, Mr. P. Furr, Mr. P. Rennoldson and myself. Others, namely, Mr. Linhart and Mr. Badrock have joined since. We owe much to the goodwill of those who were on the Committee of the Croxley Green Consultative Council and who co-opted onto this Committee last year. Miss Raggett, Messrs. Dunderdale, Hampson, Hedges and Mr. Ling have now joined in their own right. Mrs. Whitfield, Messrs. Tullett, Brode, Fry, Gardner and Mr. Dixon are the longest serving members of the Committee.

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We are sorry to lose Miss Raggett and Mr. Gell – as they necessarily had to resign from the Committee on being elected as Councillors. However, we hope they will continue to serve Croxley residents and hope at some stage they will be able to return to our Committee. (If there is anyone who would like to join the Committee, please contact Peter Furr, of 15 Winton Crescent. Our friendly meetings to discuss local affairs are held at All Saints' Hall once a month).

The Committee would specially like to thank the Road Stewards who deliver *The Resident* voluntarily to every door in Croxley and also, those who have and in some cases, are still, collecting subscriptions. Mr. A. Warren, our chief distributor, is greatly appreciated for the time and effort put into sorting the 4,800 copies and delivering the required sized bundles to the 67 odd doors of the Road Stewards. (There is one door that he cannot deliver to and that is the Road Steward for Grove Crescent. If you could spare a couple of hours once every three months to ensure the old people living in the flats get their copy, please contact Peter Furr, or myself).

Lastly, as the new Editor, I should like to thank our advertisers, those who contribute articles for *The Resident* and Councillors and members of Three Rivers District Council who have answered queries. I hope that I shall be able to retain the standard of *The Resident* which you have rightfully come to expect. Any suggestions for improvement will be welcomed.

May we thank you all for your support and readership.

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THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

Council:

18 May, Watersmeet. (Annual Meeting)
20 July, St. Saviours Hall, Abbots Langley.

Planning:

27 May, Basing House.
8 June, Oxhey Pavilion.
1 July, Henderson Hall, Abbots Langley.
22 July, Basing House.

Community and Leisure:

15 June, Basing House.

Highways, Works and Transport:

17 June, Sarratt Village Hall.

Finance and Administration:

29 June, Basing House.

Policy and Resources:

8 July, Chorleywood House.

Agendas available at the library on the Monday of the week's meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

Croxley Green lost one of its most illustrious Sons when Arthur Barton-Smith died in St. Paul's Hospital, Hemel Hempstead, on Sunday, April 11th, aged 86.

His funeral service at All Saints' Church (and interment at Rickmansworth Cemetery) was attended by a large congregation. Arthur was the youngest member of the Barton-Smith family.

Charles Barton-Smith, father of Percy, Frank, Arthur, May, Maud and Lilian, set a shining example to his children as to where their duties lay in regard to the welfare and well-being of Croxley Green; making the village a place to be proud of and the inhabitants that much better for living there.

At the turn of the century, Mr. Barton-Smith (Sen.) was the Manager of Dickinson's, Croxley Mills, Through his endeavours and guidance, the Dickinson Guildhouse was built. This flourished as the community centre for all the social activities of the village for countless years.

May, the eldest daughter will be remembered with great affection as Croxley's Girl Guide Leader, for a great many years. Maud gave her services as a Sunday School Superintendent whilst Lilian went on to become a Matron of a London Hospital.

Arthur, who had a great love of the outdoor life, joined up with a contingent of local lads to fight in the King's Rifle Regiment during World War 1. Afterwards, he became a leading figure in the running of the Guildhouse and took on the Treasurership. He was actively interested in the Inland Waterways, Field Path Association, Camping and Canoeing Club and the local Historical Society. He was also a founder member and President of the Croxley Green Society.

A man of immense organising abilities, he made his mark on local life as Group Scoutmaster of the 1st Croxley Green Scout Group which he took on in 1929 and remained as its Leader for forty years. Hundreds of local boys have good reason to "thank their lucky stars" for having such a man as "Kal" - as he was popularly known by all in the movement - to guide them in the transition from boyhood to manhood.

The Scout H.Q. in the Watford Road, which he was responsible for building with parents and friends' help, stands as a monument to his memory, but the real impact of his selfless life will abide in the hearts of all those boys that passed through his hands in their quest to make this land a better place to live in. How ironical that as he lay dying, they should start to pull down his father's masterpiece - the Guildhouse.

R.N. Denton

COMING EVENTS

- May 22: Rickmansworth Week starts.
May 30: Tithe Barn Open, Croxley.
May 29-31: Carnival and festivities, Watford.
May 29: Hertfordshire Show, Friar's Wash, Redbourne.
June 6: Chandlers Cross, Country Market 10 a.m.
June 19: The Revels, Croxley Green.
June 26: Croxley House, Open Day.
June 30: Charity Market, Watford Market.

THE TITHE BARN

This will be open to schools during the last week of May in conjunction with Rickmansworth Week Celebrations. On Sunday, May 30th, it will be open to the public from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. It is accessible from Croxley Woods or via the footpath by the railway to Rickmansworth. A ramble organised by Rickmansworth Residents' Association will arrive at the barn at 3 p.m. for a talk on the barn's history to be given by Godfrey Cornwall. Details in the Rickmansworth Week Programme.



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FULLER HALL . . . HOLIDAY CLUB 1976

This will be our ninth annual Holiday Club, but this year things will be a little different - there will be no marquee and no Mr. & Mrs. Whittern. There will, however, be the same exciting activities, the talks, the games in the school field, the competitions, the prizes.

Because of limited accommodation, it will be necessary for us to limit numbers this year - over eights to 84 and sevens and under to 60. For the senior group there will be two sessions each day, from 10 - 12 noon each morning and from 2.30 - 4.00 each afternoon. For the younger group there will be just the afternoon session (2.30 - 4.00).

WHEN? . . .

Monday August 16th - Friday, August 20th.

WHEN & WHERE TO ENROL? . . .

Saturday July 17th, 10 am-12 noon, at Fuller Hall.

Come early to be sure of getting in and look out for further details.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor would be pleased to receive articles or letters concerning matters of local interest. Contributions, please, for the Summer issue must be sent by the 15th July to Mrs. D. Mangles, 41 Fuller Way. Telephone: Rickmansworth 77923.

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CROXLEY HOUSE OPEN DAY

OPEN DAY AND COUNTRY MARKET on Saturday,
26th June, from 2.30-5 p.m.

CROXLEY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

HOLIDAY ADVENTURE '76

July 26th - August 6th

We are happy to assure the parents of the 214 children who have already been enrolled for Holiday Adventure '76, that all the youngsters have been allocated to the sessions for which they applied. There are still a few vacancies in some sessions, especially for the afternoon session. The age range is 3 - 12 and parents who would like further details, should phone Adventure Office, Watford 44119, as soon as possible, or write to 9 Hastings Way, Croxley Green. There are no fees payable.

Our theme this year, is Olympics '76 and the Colouring Competition which is very popular, is open to any child in the district under 13 years of age, even if they cannot participate in the Adventure programme. There are some excellent prizes and entry forms can be obtained from Adventure Office.

Residents are warmly invited to come to Adventure Exhibition at Croxley Green Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane, on Friday July 30th at 7.15 p.m.

THE PHOTOCRAFT STUDIO

Shop & Studio 54a New Road, Croxley Green
(next to Meads Garage)

Portraits of Children

Weddings - Passports

Developing, Printing and Enlargements

Studio Hours: 9.30-12.30 & 2.30-5.00

Closed Wednesday & Saturday afternoons

Office telephone Kings Langley 64251