

The Croxley Green Resident

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 133

Editor: Bob Hampson

Autumn 1977.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
and
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR
to
CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS

L.W. Fry (Secretary), The Orchard, The Green.

EDITORIAL

Don't ask me how it happened; but somehow during the summer which we almost had, I found myself agreeing to edit the Resident on the resignation of your previous editor — Denise Mangles. She has left us — not only to raise in years to come, perhaps, a new generation of Editors — but she is also leaving the district. So, before going any further, let me wish her all the very best and offer her our thanks, not only for her excellent work in assembling the news, but also for helping to make some of that news.

Which leaves me in the almost impossible position of trying to follow the very high standard which she and her predecessors have set. So let me declare straight away my policy. Whilst I hope to produce a balanced magazine, I am, nevertheless, not averse to printing an extreme viewpoint so as to stimulate discussion in further issues, which in the long run leads to a more balanced conclusion.

Whilst appreciating the dangers of anonymous articles, there are times when a writer who might be an employee of a Council or Public Body, dare not criticise the shortcomings of his employer except under a pseudonym; I am therefore willing, albeit reluctantly, to publish an anonymous article provided that the name and address of the writer is supplied, but marked "not to be published". In short, any article is welcome as long as it is published under the heading "Not necessarily the views of the Committee". The editor's decision is however final in rejecting any article which is party political, libellous, i.e. accusations which cannot be proved as fact, or anything which, without foundation in fact, is offensive to any person or organisation. Equally, I must reserve the right to prune or even reject any article which is overlong — a page can bring in £52 in advertising! Finally, I cannot undertake to check the accuracy of information given for publication — unfortunately I am not retired yet!

I would like to finish by saying a few words on advertising, without which the Resident would be little more than a typewritten sheet run off by weary volunteers on a Gestetner. The Resident, in its present form, goes into something like 5,000 homes and is a powerful means of informing the community of a service, business etc.

An even more powerful method of advertising is by the use of handbills, prepared and printed by the Advertiser, (in colour if he wishes for greater impact), but delivered with and inside the Resident, for a fee. This is an extension of Denise's layout of grouping advertisements together at the front and back and leaving the central pages for Croxley's news and views. The method has the added advantage that, if the reader just is not interested in adverts *wherever* they are, he can hold his copy open horizontally over a waste paper basket, gently turn through 90° and allow gravity to do the rest. On the other hand a useful advertisement might find a home beside the telephone. However, some people DO have strong objections to this form of advertising, so before we embark on this idea, let me hear from you. No response will be construed as not having strong views.

CONGRATULATIONS DENISE — It's a boy.

Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:

**Mr. R. Hampson,
Halfway House, Cassiobridge,
Watford.**

Telephone: Watford 28418.

COPY DATE: 31st December, 1977.

WELLER HILL & HUBBLE

Estate Agents, Auctioneers,
Surveyors and Valuers.
Established 1862.

162 Watford Road, Croxley Green. Telephone: Rickmansworth 74734/5

15 Church Street, Rickmansworth. Telephone: Rickmansworth 75232

Head Office:

'Monmouth House', 99 The Parade, High Street, Watford WD1 1LT. Telephone: Watford 23372

Other Offices at: Abbots Langley, Bushey and Garston

If it's

ELECTRICAL

*Lighting, Sockets, Cookers, Garages,
Extensions, etc.*

Contact your local electrician

R. Walker, 1 Harvey Road, Croxley Green
Telephone: Rickmansworth 76318

NEW WINDOWS in beautiful satin anodised aluminium
— no more painting or woodrot. Keep warmth in and
cold out. Full Guarantee. Single or double glazed.
Also Patio Doors and Porches. Get details now. Our
advice and estimates are free. Sensible prices. Also
manufacturers to trade and industry.

Call, write or telephone:—

HIGHLIGHT WINDOWS LIMITED

4, Melinite Estate,
Brixton Road, Watford.

Telephone: Watford 30656 or Rickmansworth 76729.
(24 hour answering service)

"The Handyman's Shop"

Tel: Rick. 75697

P. BECKFORD Ltd.

307 BALDWINS LANE, CROXLEY GREEN

Timber, Hardboard and Mouldings
Ironmongery and Tools Domestic Hardware
Garden Requisites Key Cutting
Electrical Accessories Glass cut to size
Stockists of High Class Decorating Materials
Agents for Crown, I.C.I., Melody, Sanderson
and Shand Kydd Wallpapers

PLUMBING

24 HOUR SERVICE

HEATING

EMERGENCY!

SERVICES Co.

WATFORD

26666

ELECTRICAL

DRAINS

Decor Craft

3 New Parade, The Green, Croxley Green
Telephone: RICKMANSWORTH 74556

Hardware ♦ China ♦ Gifts ♦ Paints ♦ Wallpaper ♦ Tools

Picture Frames Made ♦ Timber ♦ Paraffin ♦ Delivery

FOR THE VERY BEST

IN

CARPETS

★
V. W. PENNEY
144-146 WATFORD ROAD,
CROXLEY GREEN
Rickmansworth 74904

★
*Save time and money by buying your
carpets from us. We offer the keenest
prices for Croxley residents. Compare
our prices with the large stores!
Easy parking. Estimates and advice
without obligation.*

TAKING ON BUREAUCRATS No. 2

In general, the relationship between your Association and the Council and its officers is on a happy two-way co-operative basis. Nevertheless, individuals do have problems with entrenched officialdom. So it is as well to know their methods. If you encounter any of these techniques in endeavouring to obtain satisfaction on any question, please bring your problem to your Association.

1. We all know "passing the buck" from one department to another. "Your letter is being forwarded to our Engineer", where it gets bogged down in the works, for ever. Its most sophisticated form is like this:

The officer says "our job is to implement the policy laid down by the Councillors".

The Councillor says "We employ experts to advise us and it would be foolish if we did not use that advice".

2. The "ever so helpful, but just miss the point" ploy. Very popular. A long letter answering points which are vaguely similar to, but never exactly the points which you want clarified.

3. The "nothing to worry about technique". Assurance that the new road affecting your property will not be built for many years; that no definite plans have been formulated yet; that you will be kept informed of developments etc. etc. In fact, any assurance that will make the writer go away and let the planners go on in their own sweet way undisturbed.

4. The "go away you naughty little boy" method. When you have written in desperation for a straight answer to a straight question, pleading for an urgent reply without evasions, to save your family's health — eventually back comes the reply — "The contents of your letter have been noted. I suggest you contact your chosen representative".

5. The "never say anything POSITIVE that can be quoted back" safeguard. If you have the official on the run, just count up how many vague expressions he uses. "It seems that an error may have occurred". "It appears that you may have a point", "I consider that it may be the responsibility of my Council" etc.

6. The "pretend the problem does not exist evasion". e.g. "There is no evidence in our records to support your claim"; "it does not satisfy Ministry criteria". I once had a reply, referring to an 80 ft. stretch of road where four cars, including one police car, had in 3 years, overturned like dead flies, saying that "according to police records, this stretch of road is no worse than any comparable stretch!"

So next time you are rescuing people from an upturned car in your garden, remember you are not alone, your neighbour may have one tomorrow!

7. The disdainful rebuff — "It is not the Council's policy to disclose such matters . . . to pay compensation . . . to insure our employees against this . . . etc".

In general, the bigger the organisation, the bigger the bamboozle. Beware of Public Participation — or Con and Conquer — schemes. The D.O.E. does not like the UNITED opposition which meets a proposed motorway route — so they propose several routes for discussion, sit back and let everyone fight each other

instead of the real enemy. Then when everyone is exhausted, they reveal the favoured route which was the one they wanted all the time.

May I express my thanks to the D.O.E., Ministry of Transport, British Waterways, various Councils, Electricity Board, the County Land Agent, etc., without whose assistance over several decades, this article could not have been written.

REMEMBER — "Patience is the art of losing your temper gradually". Do not write a rude letter back — consult your Association.

R. Hampson.

DISTRICT PLAN

Three Rivers Council are now preparing under their District Plan, to fill in the details as outlined under the Structure Plan for Herts. This covers all fields of our community including the Countryside and Recreation, Shopping and the Physical Environment.

Next Spring the Council intend to publish the Reports of Survey, which will form the groundwork of the Plan and later an opportunity will be given to express your views.

In the meantime, there is an opportunity for you to draw attention to a particular problem **NOW**. In my experience, this is the **ONLY** time to pass comment because once a plan has started to crystallise on the planners' drawing board, it becomes too late to make much impression.

One very pressing area is in the provision of off-canal moorings. The Thames has over 70 pleasure boats per mile, the canal system, as a whole, something like 5 — obviously more in our well populated area. Despite the difficulties, there is a vacuum on the canal which when filled can only lead to miles of linear moorings, viz Rickmansworth and to an increasing extent, at Cassiobridge, to the detriment of anglers, walkers and boaters alike. We have a chain of ex-gravel pits in this valley. If it paid Wilton Marina, out in the wilds of Northamptonshire, to dig a hole for a marina, surely we can use a ready made hole for this purpose?

That is one suggestion — there must be plenty more. So please let us have your ideas **NOW** for forwarding to the Council. Or you can call in at 46 High Street, Rickmansworth, to discuss your ideas with the planners.

WANTED URGENTLY!

Your new committee is too small for all the tasks to be done, so if you would like to make use of your talents in friendly company, to help serve your community, please contact Mr. Lewis Fry. We also need a few more **DISTRIBUTORS** to deliver the Resident — less than an hour four times a year, and some more **VOLUNTEERS** to **COLLECT SUBSCRIPTIONS** — once a year, with a small commission. This would suit an O.A.P. or someone who likes to have a friendly chat with his neighbours. Hostile dogs have been listed!

Lastly, this publication exists to tell you, the people of Croxley Green about the people of Croxley Green. Its life blood is your interest and support. So please let me have any news, views, glimpses of Croxley in the past, even grandmama's recipe for removing stains. And if you are a Secretary of a local Organisation, there's some free advertisement for you!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. took place this year in the warmth and comfort of the Library.

The Chairman, in his report, stressed the re-organisation of subscription collection giving us a surplus available for next year of £347, which was a suitable culmination to a busy year.

He expressed regret at the retirement of Mrs. Denise Mangles, Mrs. Winnie Rouch, Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. J.M. Marsden and Mr. P. Ling and thanked them for their services. The remaining members of the retiring committee were re-elected, together with Mr. Howard Smith.

It was agreed that the officers would be elected at the first meeting of the new committee and the Rules were amended by a Resolution which was unanimously passed.

The business of the evening was completed by an amusing and most interesting talk by the Crime Prevention Officer, Constable Gary Smith, on Home Protection, together with a film showing how easily "The Opportunist" can break into your home if you assist him, for example, by leaving a small window open for the cat or the back door unlocked whilst you pop across the road for a couple of minutes.

MATTERS DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Planning applications. Council reject our request to have applications available at the library.

Age limits of crossing patrols. Council say fitness and not age will be the criterion.

Red House car park sign. To be erected.

Farepayers Association. Croxley Residents and Ratepayers to be represented.

Croxley Week. Agreed to support the usual one-day only.

A.404 roundabout at Rickmansworth being looked into.

Clean up Croxley Woods — 2 skips filled.

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Your New Committee are:

Chairman:

David Dunderdale, Franklands Road;

Vice-Chairman:

John Hedges, Ludlow Way.

Secretary:

Lewis Fry, The Orchard, The Green.

Treasurer:

Andrew Brode, Parrotts Close.

Committee Members:

Bob Hampson; Howard Smith; Mr & Mrs. M. Turnball.

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Talks for Organisations

If the Secretary of a local organisation would like a speaker to talk on Inland Waterways, please contact me on Watford 28418 — Bob Hampson.

CROXLEY GREEN COUNCILLORS

We congratulate Councillor C.J. Ford on his appointment as chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. He also serves on the Planning Committee.

Other councillors and the committees on which they serve are:

Mr. J.E. Gell	— Community and Leisure Services;
Mrs. F. Kwintner	— Finance and Administration Policy & Resources;
Miss K.M. Raggett	— Housing;
Mr. P.H. Robinson	— Highways, Works and Transport Policy & Resources;
Mr. P.A. Sheraton	— Highways, Works and Transport;
Mr. J.M. Wilyman	— Finance and Administration Planning.

We apologise for the errors in our last issue. Miss K.M. Raggett is now living at Little Acre, Chorleywood Road. Two other councillors, Mr. J.D. Couch, who is one of Sarratt's councillors and Mr. Keith Holland, who represents Northwick, live in Croxley Green.

Council Meetings

All start at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

6th December 1977, — Watersmeet.

24th January, 1978 — Oxhey Social Centre.

7th March, 1978 — Henderson Hall, Abbots Langley.

14th March, 1978 — Watersmeet.

Special Rates Meeting

25th April, 1978 — Watersmeet.

Please try to attend at least one of these meetings. It is absolutely free and will give you a valuable insight into the ways your representatives work.

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Mr. J.W. Broome

It is with regret that we have to record the death, on the 20th October, of Mr. J.W. Broome. For twenty years he was a member of the committee of the Residents' Association and, for sixteen of them, he was Treasurer.

Jack Broome was a native of Surrey, who at the age of eighteen, became a professional soldier, serving in the first World War. Towards the end of it, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. and became a temporary Flight Lieutenant. Leaving the Army, he went into motor transport and so into that section of the Post Office. When he retired he was active in forming Old Age Pensioners' Associations. He was also a keen musician. As our treasurer, he was successful in the thankless task of getting subscriptions collected.

His funeral took place at Garston Crematorium on the 29th October, when the Association was represented.

Lewis Fry — Secretary.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT

For most of us it is "read the quickies now" and "leave the long ones until later" — or never? For once — turn to page 10 and read the long, but fascinating article on old Croxley.

EXTRACTION OF GRAVEL AND SAND AT HAMPTON HALL FARM

The local enquiry into the application to extract gravel at Hampton Hall Farm has been postponed until 21st, 22nd and 23rd February, 1978. The site is not on our patch but it is near enough to be of considerable concern — it is not far for a heavy lorry to shatter its way from Tolpits Lane to the A.412 and Croxley. The various Councils' objections on environmental grounds are strong, but we must not forget that resources of gravel at an economic price are running out at an alarming rate, with consequent pressures to exploit all possible sites nearby. Remember! every concrete erection, motorway, building, bridge etc. which we demand, means a corresponding hole in the ground, (a mile of motorway requires gravel from four acres). To effect this removal and conversion, the extractor, if left to his own devices, will use the method which to him is the cheapest in Pounds and Pence, regardless of the cost in terms of noise, dust, vibration and danger, not only those nearby, but to those en route to his destination.

We have to face the fact that the Council will have a tough battle in face of immense pressures. It may even lose. So do think of every way in which your life may suffer and let your Association know for co-ordinated communication to the Council. Consider how the effect of heavy lorries can be reduced, e.g. by the use of barges, which can carry the load of 5 lorries without noise, dust, vibration or danger to road users, and at a fraction of the cost of oil.

Remember it has been said that every time the weight of a lorry is *doubled*, the damage it does to road and property goes up by 16 times.

Hampton Hall Farm is on the canal, with connections to Birmingham, Leicester, Thames and 1400 miles of inland waterways — even the Continent if you want! Consider also what to do with the hole when it has been made. For example, unless filled with rubbish, using more lorries — and pressure will be great for this as we are running out of holes for our rubbish — it will fill with water. Do you want another area for anglers? Or how about moving the almost Linear Moorings along the canal onto the new lake and generally improving that area of the canal? There is a desperate shortage of off-canal moorings in this area.

Finally, it is not our immediate problem, but look at the pattern of lakes marching up the Colne Valley . . . in recent years too! Where next? Common Moor? Even Cassiobury Park? Both within easy access of the A.412.

(Score an extra 5 points if you have correctly guessed that I am a canal enthusiast!)

Bob Hampson.

PROVOCATIVE THOUGHTS

You will see a few contentious ideas have been thrown in here and there — commercial use of canals, free transport, techniques of officialdom etc. If you do not agree, or have any comments, don't just say "RUBBISH" — pick up your pen and answer!

CONSERVATION

Happily Three Rivers under the Hertfordshire Plan is not designated as an area of any great growth. Nevertheless, at the moment, the defences protecting our historical heritage are very weak against the might of a developer, whether he is private, Council or Ministry. Because of insufficient manpower, our Council is unable to complete a survey of the area for potential listed buildings or even advise on listed buildings, just when the Council has budgetted £7,500 for grants to enable owners to maintain worthy buildings. Surely this is a case where the talents of the local Historical Society could be drawn upon?

There is also a pressing need for a building to house a museum. The Tithe Barn, a museum in itself, is ideally suited to house local historic treasures. Surely there must be some legal mind somewhere who can find a way of obtaining access for the public to reach their property. If the owners of the surrounding land do not want the public crossing their property — and I can see their point — would not a short tunnel suffice, to satisfy both points of view?

BUS SHELTERS

A Company, Adshel, makes bus shelters which carry advertisements and are illuminated by night. It applied for permission to erect one in Baldwins Lane near the junction with Winton Drive, where there is already a shelter. We were not happy that people living in that area would like a shelter illuminated at night as some would feel that this is only suitable in a town. In any case, we felt that if Adshel wished to erect a shelter so that we can see what they are like, it should do so in a place where there is not one at the present time and suggested to the Council that outside Budgen's in New Road is a suitable place. The planning committee, however, decided that the shelter is to be erected on the Baldwins Lane site.

Lewis Fry, Secretary.

BUILDING SURVEYS

When a house is built or altered, the Council's building inspectors visit it to see that the work is being carried out correctly. If an accident occurs later, as one did at Ascot Court, the council can be held responsible. Thus the person for whom the work is being done gets what is equivalent to a survey. The cost of providing this service falls on ratepayers and taxpayers; those who benefit from it pay nothing.

Lewis Fry, Secretary.

SEEN ON T.V.

BLOTTO removes Dirt and Stains.

Then use BLANCO to remove the stains??

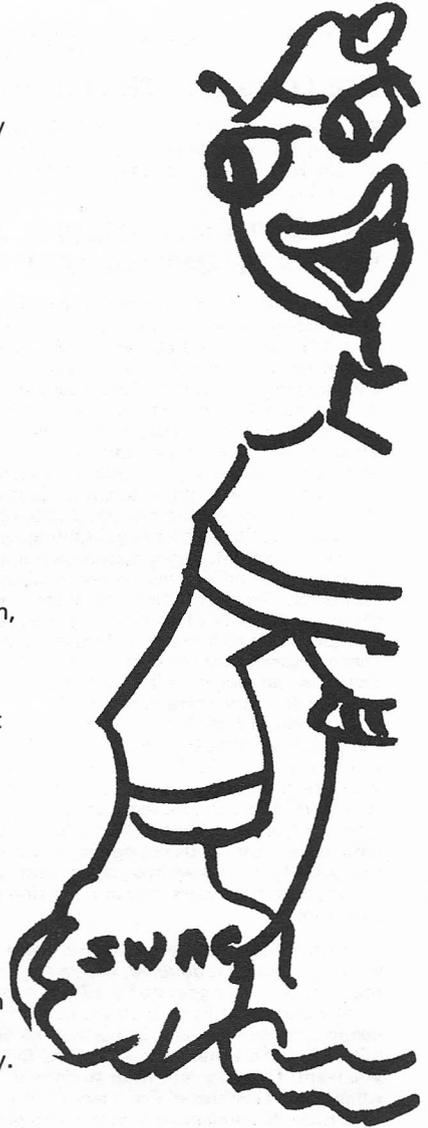
DON'T LET 'CRAFTY ARTY' SPOIL YOUR CHRISTMAS.

Crafty Artie is the Hertfordshire Crime Bug who particularly rises to the surface in the few weeks preceding Christmas. He preys on the complacency of the general public. At opportune moments he will try to steal anything that he can easily sell, which is not difficult when certain goods are in demand just prior to Christmas.

The best defence is to make it difficult for him to get away with it. Houses should have good quality locks on the doors and windows, even an alarm system, particularly if the house is remote or has secluded approaches. If he does get in, don't invite damage by locking interior doors, wardrobes or desks. He will simply smash them open to see what you are so jealously guarding. What he is after is nearly always portable, such as cash, jewellery, cameras, T.V. sets, radios, sometimes clothing and occasionally antiques. It is a good idea to record descriptions of valuable items in the house, perhaps to have them photographed. This does not stop them from being stolen, but it can help the Police to trace stolen property.

Bicycles are always a popular item on 'Crafty Artie's' Christmas shopping list. With the high cost of new machines, it is surprising how many youngsters (and parents!) treat their bikes. They are left all over the place without any thought of securing them. Many cycles look alike, and, without frame numbers and proper descriptions, the tracing of stolen cycles is made even more difficult than usual. So the advice is: Lock your machine securely to a fixed object and make a note of the frame number and general description.

The Crime Prevention Department at Watford Police Station have information on all types of security devices which are available, so be a Crime Bug Baffler and telephone Watford 42201 and ask for Constable Gary Smith or Sergeant John Hay.



THE FIRST WALK OF THE YEAR

An enjoyable splodge through the sludge was had by the stalwarts who turned out in the pouring rain for Roger King's last walk from Chipperfield to Kings Langley.

But the next walk, 3-4 miles round Croxley and Whippendell Woods, will be better. It will be on 2nd January, 1978, at 2 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

Meet outside 44 Hastings Way, Croxley Green.

This time the weather will be bright and sunny with temperatures in the upper 40^os, after the morning frost and fog have cleared. So come along and burn up some of those surplus post-Christmas calories.

BACK NUMBERS

In response to our appeal for back numbers of The Resident, we should like to thank Mrs Harris for supplying Numbers 19, 21, 23 and Mrs. Williams, an ex-Editor for supplying numbers 62, 67 and 115.

This means we are still missing the following:- 3-18; 27; 61, 65, 66, 70, 76, 101 and 116.

PLEASE HELP US TO COMPLETE THE COLLECTION SO THAT WE CAN GET THEM BOUND FOR THE LIBRARY'S SECTION ON LOCAL HISTORY.

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Croxley Green COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

As rumours about the possible use of 18 allotments in connection with the building of our centre are rife, it is time that the official view is made clear.

The Council have made provision for taking over these allotments in two stages for car parking and landscaping, as it is considered that the existing car park (78 spaces) is inadequate and, as it is public, cannot be considered in a private scheme. We have strongly opposed this view, but in order to get our building plans off the ground we have had to acquiesce to their demand. Council officers have undertaken to try to find alternative allotment land nearby.

Mr. Julian Thompson who has been commissioned to draw up the plans for our building, will liaise with the Council over this and any other problems.

We are now calling on existing members for the second year's subscription. However new members will be very welcome. Please call at our shop, 224 New Road, any Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Or call on any committee member listed below. Volunteer collectors are urgently needed.

Our Entertainments Committee, following up their several successful events, are actively organising some more and would welcome help from anyone with a flair for this type of work.

Notice of A.G.M.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in St. Oswald's Church Hall on Friday, 17th February, 1978 at 8 p.m.

Everybody welcome to hear of our progress in the last year and our plans for the future.

Croxley Green Community Association Executive Committee

Chairman:

Mr. M. Watkins,
123 Winton Drive. Watford 35190.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. D. Reader,
121 Kenilworth Drive. Ricky 74630.

Secretary:

Dr. D.C. Miller,
126 Kenilworth Drive, Ricky 72183.

Treasurer:

Mr. C. Turner,
9 Norwich Way, Watford 26172.

Entertainments:

Mr. I. MacLean,
60 Gonville Avenue. Ricky 74740.

Fund-Raising:

Mrs. Peakes,
15 Springfield Close. Ricky 75719.

Catering:

Mrs. V. Williams,
"Parrotts", Parrotts Close. Ricky 79941.

Club Chairman:

Mr. F. Armstrong,
67 Winton Drive. Watford 31359.

200 Club:

Mrs. I. Hockley,
92 Winton Drive. Watford 24286.

Membership:

Mrs. N. Forster,
39 Winton Crescent. Watford 28982.

Publicity:

Mr. D. Gahan,
4 Fuller Way. Ricky 77843.

Sports Officer:

Mr. R. Burnell,
4 Owens Way. Ricky 73581.

COMING EVENTS

December 10th —
Christmas Dance, Durrants School.

January 28th —
Barn Dance, Watersmeet.

March (*Date to be confirmed*) —
Party Night.

CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY

AUCTION SALE — Saturday, 21 January, 1978

DURRANTS SCHOOL

View 11.30 — 1 p.m.

Sale 2.00 — 5 p.m.

in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Research

Please donate generously — unsuitable Christmas gifts, excess furniture, china or antiques etc. *but no jumble please.*

Contact: Mrs. A. Middleton, 60 Beechcroft Avenue,
Croxy Green. Tel: Watford 24576.

or
Miss Moss, 4 Lindiswara Court,
Rickmansworth. Tel: Ricky 77048.

THE LIBRARY

Look out for posters in the library advertising Xmas activities for children. These will take place in the week following New Year's Day. Admission will be by ticket only. Tickets are free and are available on request from the Staff on the main counter. Tickets are issued partly to restrict numbers — the response to our Summer Clown Day was so overwhelming we could hardly cope with the number of children who attended — and also to comply with safety regulations.

Storytime for younger children is on Fridays — termtime and holidays — at 2.30 p.m. — 3 p.m. Please remember when clearing out your cupboards and attics that the Library welcomes donations of paperback books, games and puzzles.

Carole Hudson — Librarian.

THE CHILTERN SOCIETY

The idea of forming this Society was conceived in a Covent Garden pub by Ted (now Lord) Castle and Chris Hall who were colleagues on the Daily Herald in 1964. They shared a common interest — walking in the Chiltern countryside and both grieved its butchery by the proposed M40 motorway, the felling of beechwoods (too often replaced by unrelieved conifers) and the ploughing/obstruction of footpaths by local farmers. Ted said: "We ought to have a Society to preserve the Chilterns".

Chris followed this up, inviting everyone in "Who's Who" with a Chiltern address to take part, and, Viscount Esher of Watlington Park, a distinguished architect and conservationist, to become President. A public meeting was held on the 8th May, 1965 at the Guildhall, High Wycombe and the need for such a Society was well and truly established with other projects e.g. the threatened expansion of Pitstone cement works near Ivinghoe giving cause for concern. A steering Committee was formed and a draft constitution was adopted in the December of that year. Meanwhile the Society in league with others, successfully pressed for an early designation of the Chilterns as an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty" which would not be reduced by urban expansion beyond the Countryside Commission's recommendations. Also, they had saved trees from needless destruction in a road widening plan, opposed a plan for piggeries at Dunsmore, criticised plans to rush through permissions for gravel extraction and fought unsuccessfully against a footpath extinguishment order on Bledlow Ridge. It speaks well of the Society's success that today such an order would never be made in the Chilterns!

As the Committee's work expanded it was decided to split it into 5 functional groups: Rights of Way, Historic Works and Buildings, Trees and Woodlands, Water Resources, Litter and Commons — rather than to divide the area by County boundaries. Waymarking and clearing of public footpaths by Society members has been one of the finest contributions to the British countryside — (the first project being carried out at Chenies Manor in November 1966). The Group's waymarking takes the form primarily of discreet painted, white arrows. About 700 miles of footpath have already been marked — a free and useful service to landowners and public alike. The Rights of Way Group have now published maps of these routes (available at bookshops). They have represented the Society in discussions on proposals to close paths or divert them, on footpath improvement schemes involving creations and diversions, and has commented on countryside recreation plans. It has also created one of the country's first farm trails — at West Wycombe.

The Historic Buildings Group was formed in 1967 following a desire to restore Lacey Green Windmill. Successful completion of this task was followed by seeking buildings needing listing as historic monuments, the protection of others e.g. "Chequers" in High Wycombe, the clearing of Bledlow Cross and bringing about the rehabilitation of the Disraeli monument above Hughendon Valley. At present the Group are concerned with the establishment of a 4 acre open-air museum in the grounds of Newlands Park College of F.E., Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St.

Giles where traditional buildings from the Chiltern Hills and surrounding areas will be housed.

The first phase of development envisages the use of approximately half the land to establish a number of buildings which will form the nucleus of a "village area", "town houses", "ponds mill" and a "farm". It is unlikely that the public will be admitted for two or three years when at least three buildings may have been erected.

The second phase will not be for five years and will incorporate the remainder of the land for "archaeology", "cottages", "woodland crafts" and an extension to the "farm". There may also be a picnic area. Car parking will be provided near to the main college entrance road and will be increased as necessary.

The Litter and Commons Group was formed in 1973 and is responsible for clearing dumps in the countryside and helping in the initiation of schemes e.g. the collection of aluminium ("Coke" tin tops) and polythene fertiliser sacks. The Water Resources Group have helped to clear derelict ponds, and have taken up cases of water pollution and threats to Chiltern streams from deep bore-hole pumping, with the relevant authorities. The Trees and Woodlands Group have helped in the donation and planting of trees at selected sites, and the monitoring of tree felling operations. They have also undertaken work on Tree preservation and drawn up some guided walks on woodland property.

Two sub-committees deal with mineral resources, roads and transport. The former has scrutinised proposals for a water recreation area at Marlow on worked-out gravel pits, and devoted effort to minimising the worst eye-sore in the Chiltern Hills — the Pitstone Cement Works. The latter has had its say on improvements to the A413 at Chalfont St. Peter, the Aston By-Pass, improvements to the Lower Icknield Way, the Chesham link road etc.

All told, the Chiltern Society has made impressive progress in the past twelve years thanks to volunteers and donations. Your support will be readily accepted — Croxley being on the edge of this area — the largest wooded area in Britain. To obtain more information and to take part in their noble efforts, contact:

The Chiltern Society,
Cherry Cottage,
Stokenchurch,
High Wycombe, Bucks. (Membership: 50p).

JIG-SAW CLUB

The club meets every Tuesday evening from 6.00 p.m. — 9.00 p.m. at the home of:—

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Interested parties please contact Mrs. M.D. Hatton at the above address or Telephone: *Ricky 72160*.

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SOCIETY.

RICKMANSWORTH AND CROXLEY GREEN FAREPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

On the 17th July, 1977, London Transport Executive introduced a new discriminatory fare structure. Fares within the G.L.C. area were increased by 15%, but those outside were upped by 24%, with a threat of a further increase this year for the latter. London Transport's explanation was that despite a crippling cut in the Government's rate support grant, to Herts C.C., there was still a contribution towards the running costs of the Met. outside the G.L.C. area, which in their view should be used to subsidise the fares.

On the 1st September, more than 150 people attended a public meeting in Rickmansworth. The mood of the meeting was that, while M.P.s and local and County Councils were fighting the issue on a political platform, an Association representing commuters directly affected should be formed and known as "The Rickmansworth and Croxley Green Farepayers' Association". This Association is to investigate the basis of cost allocation which allowed London Transport to satisfy the Price Commission and the effect of discriminatory prices on the members using the Watford spur.

Recently London Transport have announced that there will be no further increases this year, which gives us a breathing space to formulate a plan of action.

But any action can only be effective if it represents the majority of informed local commuters organised as a recognised body. Membership of the R. & C.G.F.A. is £1. Please write to Mr. R. Cox (Secretary), 10 Mount View, Rickmansworth, for details and forms. General queries should be addressed to Mr. Howard Smith, 107 Frankland Road, Croxley, (Rickmansworth 74960) your local representative.
Howard Smith.

Editor's Comment:

Concern is felt over the basis of the case put by London Transport to the Price Commission. This is confidential and will not be disclosed. However, rumour has it that London Transport has assessed the income which they estimate could be derived from the land surrounding Croxley and Watford Stations (with their sidings and reversing facilities), claiming that fares should produce this income. It is felt that this notional income and terminal costs is being applied to the Watford spur only instead of the whole line.

There is a parallel with Los Angeles. Train and bus fares forced commuters on to the roads which grew ever more complex, as railways disappeared. Vast new junctions, fly-overs etc. with destruction of property followed, so that, coupled with a move of business out of town, rate revenue fell, to such an extent that not even the roads could be maintained and the area became a ghost town. (Compare with London). Then some genius thought of FREE transport on derelict RAILWAYS and straight away the process was reversed. Soon the running costs were paid for by the *saving* on road maintenance and construction alone.

A long, over-simplified story — and I have just thrown in the "free" transport as an arguing point — but it illustrates the fact that transport cannot be regarded in isolation or split into self-financing parts.

Before any change is made in cost or method in one area, the effect on the whole must be studied and the cost of the alternative must be evaluated, not only in pounds and pence, but in lost time, damage to roads, destruction of the environment, property etc.

There is a ray of hope and this could be the crux to part of a complex problem, involving the rate support grant, Herts. C.C.'s subsidy or lack of, the fact that the G.L.C. owns London Transport and wants to keep fares in its own area down etc. etc.

As from August 1st, the Price Commission is no longer *limited* to costs and income, real or notional. It now has to take into account efficiency and SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. The Price Commission staff is also changed. However, the rule that price increases can now be frozen for four months while objections are investigated is weakened by a clause which permits an interim increase to cover loss of profits. A lesson learned from Los Angeles?

PRESENTATION TO DR. PITT

Friends and patients of Dr. Pitt, who recently retired owing to ill health, will be pleased to hear that Dr. Pitt was presented with a greenhouse together with a cheque for fittings and Mrs. Pitt with a gold pendant, at a small get-together at Dr. Hodgson's on Sunday, 30th October, 1977.

Dr. Miller, his surgery staff and a few close friends attended. We, of the Resident, wish Dr. and Mrs. Pitt all the best and know that his plants will benefit from his patient care.

From S.A. Musk.

No price increase — it will just cost more!

The Gas Council announced this year that they would not increase prices by more than the Government's 10% levy. So what do they do? Change the method of costing so that, in my case at least, my bill cost 12% more, plus 10% on top of that!

British Rail said they would not increase fares this year. So what do they do? Cancel various concessions on season tickets so that they cost more.

Three Rivers Council, I believe, are genuinely trying to keep rate increases down. Yet the rules for cess-pool emptying, as from 1st April, were changed from £2.16 per load to a *minimum* of £40.50 for four loads. Happily for old age pensioners, as a result of representations from your Association, the Council will now service small households, with one emptying a year, for £10.50. But why dream up such a complicated system with minima and maxima penalising the small house and favouring the large? Why not make an honest increase of so much per load?

FOOTPATH FOULING BY DOGS

On this vexed question, a Councillor at the A.G.M. made it clear that the Council will support any individual who prosecutes the owner of a dog fouling the footpath. But this does NOT include the grass verge. So is there not room for a little compromise here? If pedestrians appreciate the needs of our four-footed friends and keep to the pavements, and the owners of dogs keep them to the verges, then a lot of unpleasantness could be avoided.

Croxley — My Childhood Home

When I was born, in 1904, Croxley Green consisted of cottages at the lower end of New Road, and houses built by J. Dickinsons in the Square round what was then the Band Stand; where the Band played on Friday evenings. I think the Institute was there in the form of a corrugated iron building.

One of my first recollections was seeing the women from the barges on the Canal come up for their shopping in their long black skirts and shawls. The Canal was very busy in those days, barges bringing wood pulp and coal to the Mill and transporting paper to Apsley Mills.

At the lower end of the New Road there was a grocers owned by Mr. Wilbee of Sarratt, managed by Mr. Blake, two milkmen, (Mr. Forster and Mr. Syrett) and further up a Grocer's owned by Mr. Dimmock (later J. & S. David) and a Haberdashers where my mother had been apprenticed, later owned by Miss Patterson.

When I was three years old, we moved into a house in the Square which I think was newly built by Dickinsons. I know the rent was 5/3d. per week and very nice houses they were with long gardens. In those days my father was a Papermaker, in fact, about that time my grandfather, uncles and aunt all worked for Dickinsons, and lived in the Square. In those days Croxley was Dickinsons and Dickinsons was Croxley with Mr. Barton-Smith, the Manager looking after everyone. Very good days they were too!

I went to the Infants School in York Road — Miss Dickinson was the Head Mistress of the Infants and Miss Clarke the Senior Girls School Mistress. They lived together in the School House at the corner of Yorke Road and Watford Road. Mr. Wilson was Senior Boys Master and he with Miss Ricketts looked after the musical side of the village and Mr. Haynes, the school attendance officer, looked after the truants, and, in those days was much feared.

The Mills were worked on a 12-hour shift basis, 6 a.m.—6 p.m., days and nights. There was little provision for food. The Day Shift took breakfast in their pockets, and at lunch time, boys and girls of 11—12 years, hurried out of school and collected baskets from the various houses containing enamel dishes with hot food. The baskets had a lid with skewered through loops to keep it closed and the lucky ones had a hot pasty or something to eat on the way (if they could carry it) — as most carried two baskets and got, I think, 6p. a week.

The village was a complete unit: Mr. Jackson and Mr. Saunders (butchers), Mr. Gibbs (blacksmith), Mr. Holloway, (baker), Mr. Ben Ward (Postmaster), Mr. Ellement (shoe-repairer) and another Mr. Ellement (Grocer) on the corner of Yorke and New Road. I remember Mr. Holloway used to make long plum cakes for the Saturday cricket match at Durrants Farm.

All the Winter activities were held at the Institute and on the Green in the Summer where Miss Ricketts would teach us to "plait the Maypole". Celebrations were marked with a Procession along the Old Road and up the New Road. I remember my father decorating his bicycle like a ship with glass fairy lights each with a candle in it — the Revels are ingrained in Croxley's history.

One Spring treat was to walk to Loudwater with

a penny and watch Mr. Dorrofield cut one a bunch of watercress — as much as one could carry.

In those days the Green was surrounded by Cherry Orchards and when the cherries were ripe, one Sunday, people would come from miles and sit on the Green, eating cherries and drinking beer. These orchards were mostly owned by Mr. Stone who had a Coal Merchants business and who also owned one or two brakes (covered wagonettes). We used to go in these for all our school treats, mostly to Bricket Wood where there was a fair, and for many of us, that was the highlight of the year along with Dickinson's Children's Christmas Party at the Institute.

We always managed to have a week at the seaside, but in those days it meant walking to Watford Junction and carrying your luggage. I well remember Croxley L.M.S. Railway Station being built, and the night the Suffragettes burnt it down; just as it was completed.

We attended the Methodist Chapel in the New Road, opposite where Mr. Charlie Sears lived — a great local character. Mr. Grace was Choir Master and Mr. Dimmock ran the Sunday School. Mrs. Rookes was Organist and the families of Chater, Groom and Hedges were all in the various activities — I do not expect there are many of those families left now. Of course, All Saint Church was always there, and in the early days, the Vicarage opposite, but in those days you were either "Church or Chapel" and it was in modern terms "a closed shop".

One lady all the older generation will remember is Mrs. Tandy who, with Dr. Evans saw most of us into this world, and made the passing of many much easier. She lived in the Square and, although sometimes criticised, was the first person one sent for when in trouble.

Until the General Strike, I do not think anyone was ever out of work. No-one had a lot of money but between them, Dickinsons and Mr. Barton-Smith made sure no-one was in real want. That is why when the General Strike was called, everyone at the Mill was appalled that they were not supposed to work.

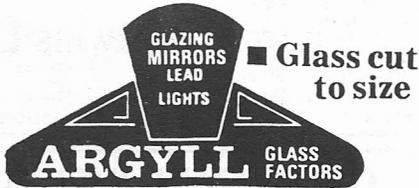
A meeting was called at the Institute. The men voted to return to work and The Union of The House of Dickinson was formed, which looked after Pensioners, etc., in a wonderful way — and, I think, it is still operating in some form.

In those days the Mill Hill was exceedingly rough and steep and I well remember my Aunt sliding down it on her bottom to get to work; crawling up on her hands and knees to come home. Such was the loyalty to Dickinsons in those happier days and such was life in my childhood.

Peggy Leader (nee Rogers)

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