

The Croxley Green RESIDENT

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CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Editor: Bob Hampson

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Secretary: Brian Stagg, 83 Links Way, Croxley Green. Tel: Watford 35059

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As a Residents' Association we are accustomed to receiving many and varied reactions to our different activities. It is obviously very pleasant when people agree with us and with a committee made up of individuals of varied party political persuasions or no obvious accent, we believe that normally we reflect a wide spectrum of views or try to put forward, as fairly as possible, the alternatives. However there are occasions when someone does not agree and when that happens we are always ready to re-examine our position.

At the time of our last Annual General Meeting we were accused of siding with one particular political party and more recently of being a training ground for councillors of an opposite persuasion. With a largely unchanged committee, unless we change our minds with our underwear, we cannot be both. I see this as a healthy sign, a mark of respect from those who regard us as opponents. May I stress, yet again, that we seek not to oppose but propose, not to distort but to make plain, not to put forward narrow views but to try to reflect the opinions of the whole of Croxley Green.

Nowhere, I trust, in 'The Resident' will you find extravagant claims. Elsewhere you will read that this or that group has by its' sole efforts achieved a certain end. Do not believe all you read. We know from experience that very little is achieved by the actions of any one group, but rather by the concerted efforts of many. We are proud that by working with and supporting others, things get done and policies are amended for the better.

In our opinion, one's duty as an elector is not complete at the ballot box but must continue with support for and, if necessary, healthy criticism of the efforts of elected representatives, no matter which banner they carry. The environment which is yours is too important than just to warrant five minutes a year at the polling booth. Get involved, stay involved and best of all allow those who will to reflect your views by telling them what you think. Tell your councillors. Tell us.

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Will you be at our Annual General Meeting on **FRIDAY, 27th MARCH** at 8.00 p.m. at Croxley Library?

EDITORIAL

In the last issue, I was perhaps a little blunt in pressing the case for more subscription collectors, without whom the Croxley Green Residents' Association and further Resident issues were in jeopardy. Sorry about that, but it really was very serious. So let me say, straight away, **MANY THANKS** to those who came forward, and under Laurie Mathew's leadership (our subscription collection organiser), made this, and the next issue, possible. We can breathe again and I can start thinking of a bigger Resident again! But can I still give a word of caution — we shall soon be into a new financial year and *we will still need collectors*. The more the merrier, and the easier for all the old stalwarts who have been doing more than their fair share.

Let me also tender my sincere thanks to those who have written in and phoned on a variety of subjects in the last two issues. This two-way communication is absolutely essential for your Committee to do what you want and to reflect your views.

As examples:—

(a) One member rang to say that she had refused British Waterways permission to enter her garden to cut down the line of beautiful willows along the towpath adjacent to Valley Walk. As a result of a Solicitor's letter from her husband, British Waterways have now reduced the felling to lopping.

Our grateful thanks are due to this member. For our part, we have written to the Chairman of British Waterways, asking for a replacement for the perfectly healthy tree which was grubbed out at Cassiobridge. His typically evasive answer refusing to replace the tree has not been accepted by your Committee. It was quite unnecessary for that tree to go and it *must* be replaced.

(b) The Highfield Residents too are not happy with the way in which the Sportsman's car park is being mis-used as a through route (see 'Keystone Cops' last issue), particularly by young motor cyclists using it as part of a circular training circuit. Your Association is giving full support to their objections to the Council, though it must be said that the Publican is sympathetic. He tried to please everybody and it has boomeranged.

(c) The situation over the closing of the free passage for walkers between the

canal towpath and the old disused Watford—Rickmansworth railway line, was for a long time very vague. As a result, the Watford Piscators were being blamed for the situation. It appears, thanks to a phone call from them, that they are NOT directly to blame, although one letter and two phone calls suggest that a certain Water Bailiff's enthusiasm for enforcing his interpretation of the law, far exceeded his tact.

The position appears to be that between the two walkways lies a small portion of a large area of land which has been let to a new lessee, who in turn has granted fishing rights to the Piscators, provided that they help to ensure that no one crosses the little corner in getting to and from the railway. That is the essence of the position which explains the confusion over the ownership and how the anglers come into it.

This is a case where one hopes that the new lessee will concede a little, or that the Council will use some of their powers, or even look to the other side of the railway for a path up to the railway. Whatever the solution, a solution we *must* have. It is absolutely daft that two hard-fought-for leisure ways should be kept separate by such a tiny piece of land.

By the way — you will see that I have left names out. Is this how you want it? If you do not mind your name being printed in future, please let me know. In general, I would much prefer to give the author's name, but nevertheless, I do recognise that some people — say an employee of a firm polluting the atmosphere — might have to stay silent but for a cloak of anonymity.

Again — many thanks for your participation in our community. Which leads me to our most important meeting of the year, because it is *your* meeting, with usually a chance to meet some of your local Councillors.

This year, after the usual business is finished, the Police will be called in! But never fear — they have been invited to give a talk and film show. If it causes anything like the 'stir' of last time, their show will be most arresting, and not to be missed.

So Don't Forget

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on **FRIDAY 27th March, 1981**
at **THE CROXLEY LIBRARY**
at **8.00 p.m.**

Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:

Mr. R. Hampson,
Halfway House, Cassiobridge,
Watford, Herts.
Telephone: Watford 28418.

Copy Date — 2nd May, 1981

As many short articles as you can please!

The Lord says "Turn to me now, while there is time."

Joel Chapter 2 Verse 12.

You are invited to worship at the

Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane

Morning Worship: 9.30 a.m.

Family Service: 11.00 a.m.

Evening Praise: 6.30 p.m.

Rev. Keith Moyes, B.D.

Telephone: Watford 31403.

A LOAD OF RUBBISH CLEARED

The morning of the 16th November commenced with heavy rain and we naturally became pessimistic as to the turn-out for this, the first rubbish clearing effort organised by the Residents Association. However despite the inclement weather and the mud underfoot, helpers began to arrive in goodly numbers and proceeded to work with zest, the first large skip was overfilled with the large rubbish items such as prams, push chairs, washing machine remains and even the remains of a garden roller. The other skip positioned near to All Saints Lane was half filled but with probably a larger number of items all small such as drink cans and cellophane bags etc.

May I take this opportunity of saying THANK YOU to all who answered this appeal and hope that this action will prick the conscience of all those who have in the past thrown their rubbish in the woods and will thereby refrain from doing so in the future.

O. G. Anthony

... AND SOME MORE

What a satisfying morning, I remember it with pride. It was a wet Sunday last autumn when a gallant few gathered to clear our woods of rubbish.

After some hard work two skips were filled with carpets, boilers, tin cans, car axles, washing machines. You name it we found it.

"Aren't we lucky," I thought, as I walked through the woods the following week. "Not many people live near to beautiful countryside and ours is even prettier now it's clean."

But disaster. The very spot we had cleared the week before was again littered with paint cans and oil tins. Since then I have found a car bonnet and bumper, a heap of broken bottles, curtain track, rubble and more oil tins, apart from the usual sweet wrappings, cigarette packets and soft drink cans.

It is evident that there are people living in Croxley who would be more at home in a London slum. Is it possible they can be so selfish? Surely they are aware of the existence of Council tips in the area. Surely they are aware that these offences carry heavy fines.

One thing is certain. Sooner or later I will catch one of these litter louts, and I will be satisfied again seeing them fined by a Magistrate.

Roger Cattermoul

THOSE WOODS AGAIN – A SECOND CHANCE

Many residents, like those who missed the Battle of Agincourt, felt dismayed that they had missed our earlier onslaught on cleaning up Croxley Woods. So here is another opportunity – no doubt the litter louts will be hard at work dumping as vigorously as ever, before next time.

Our next meet will be at 10.30 a.m. in the woods on Sunday, 10th May. We shall have two skips and a supply of plastic bags, Council quality. But if you are near enough to bring a wheelbarrow or a rake, or even a couple of children, please do so. And of course do bring some stout gloves, with clothes to combat the vagaries of the weather.

Will all volunteers please give Mr. Owen Anthony a ring a bit nearer the time on Rickmansworth 73455 or myself on Watford 28418, to give us an idea on how many are coming. Meet at the bottom of Harvey Road by the Imperial Works, or as requested by Owen, as we may have a skip sited a bit nearer to you.

Don't forget the dates –

A.G.M. FRIDAY 27th MARCH, 1981
CROXLEY LIBRARY, 8 p.m.

CROXLEY WOODS CLEAN-UP
SUNDAY, 10th MAY, 1981

10.30 a.m. Bottom of Harvey Road

*Please ring Rickmansworth 73455 or
Watford 28418 to check final details
in the week beforehand.*

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WHAT'S NEW FROM NEW ROAD

It had to come. I hear that the Council has had to agree, on safety grounds, to NO PARKING, along New Road between the Green and the Flower Shop. I am sure that many Councillors must feel, as I do, that this decision had to be taken on the basis of reason. Inevitably a tragedy *must* happen if something is not done. You can imagine the criticism in that case "Why do we have to wait for someone to be killed before something is done"? On the other hand, we must all sympathise with the Residents (as probably all Councillors do) who will be unable to park outside their own houses. I hope something can be done to help them, but *how* I do not know.

EVANS CLOSE

The new houses built round the new close off New Road now have an address – EVANS CLOSE, in memory of Dr. Dickie Evans. I think this will please many Residents.

DOWN IN THE DUMPS

Owing to the collapse of the scrap paper market – another example of how we are willing to squander our good Earth's resources instead of recycling what we already have – I have been transporting bundles of old newspapers saved for a charity no longer requiring them, to the Council dump in Rickmansworth.

Apart from the opening times being different from those advertised in the Council's Rate Payment department, I noticed the following points:

1. All the skips contained indiscriminate *mixed* rubbish.
2. Several contained a lot of bushes and part trees. This seemed to practically fill the skip with nothing very much at all.
3. Practically all skips had a lot of someone's good, but unwanted articles, which could be very useful to someone else.
4. All skips were full by mid-day on Sunday.

As a suggestion, would it not be better to:—

1. Have separate skips for
 - a) builders rubble, suitable for hardcore
 - b) scrap metal
 - c) burnable rubbish.

NOTE:

a) and b) could be free, or cheap, to any dealer who would collect.

2. Have a 'rummage heap' for *unwanted* items, but in reasonable condition, for people to pick over and take away – one man's poison is another man's meat!

By this means, many skip journeys could be saved, perhaps even some money could be made from sales and certainly a lot of stuff could be burnt – like bulky garden rubbish, old oil, tyres, cardboard etc. Anything to avoid transporting rubbish ever *increasing* distances to fill up ever *decreasing* holes in the ground cannot help but be beneficial to us now and to our children later.

ACTUAL OPENING TIMES (at going to press) ARE:

Monday–Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

**CROXLEY WOODS ARE CLOSED
FOR DUMPING – AT ALL TIMES.**

--- o O o ---

Seen on a cake box – "This cake may contain cherry stones. Look out for any other specialities." Like nuts – with bolts on?

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PARISH COUNCIL FOR CROXLEY GREEN COMMITTEE

In September 1980 a Referendum was held to establish whether the people of Croxley Green wanted a Parish Council. The result showed a majority in favour.

Following this, a group of interested residents, under the Chairmanship of James Evett, a local shopkeeper, formed a committee to maintain the pressure on Three Rivers District Council to carry out the wishes of the residents.

It is appreciated that this committee was formed hurriedly to handle the immediate matters with the Local Council and the Boundary Commission.

We feel that now is the time to properly elect a new committee and to this end we will be holding a meeting at the Public Library, Croxley Green on Friday 24th April at 8 o'clock. All residents who are interested in seeing a Parish Council being formed will be welcome to attend. Nominations for committee members will be accepted at the meeting.

James Evett, Chairman

Space has been given to the above committee in accordance with our usual facility offered to all new local organisations. It must not be inferred that the CGR and RA necessarily agree with the contents. — *Editor*.

TOPLESS BOTTLE BANK

You will no doubt have read about the success of the Bottle Bank in Rickmansworth. Whatever the financial benefit to the community, remember that to recycle glass uses very much *less* of our energy resources than to actually make the stuff. Also, the cost in injuries from broken bottles can be greatly reduced, as well as the ever-mounting pollution of our countryside with discarded bottles. How about a *Tin Tank* — or an *Ali Alley* — for discarded coke or beer cans as well?

There is a strong case for a Bottle Bank in Croxley. But, like a new by-pass road, this is an excellent idea — as long as it is on someone else's doorstep! The Barton Way Car Park has been suggested. Nice and central, plenty of parking space, but what about the possible racket from late night merry-makers? It could be a two edged sword, with the locals on the cutting edge. Anyway, think about it and *let your new secretary know your views*.

CONGRATULATIONS

Through these columns may we congratulate Fred Housego on his success in B.B.C.'s 'Mastermind' contest. It was nice to see the name of Croxley Green in the news for pleasant reasons even though Mr. Housego's address was sometimes given as Rickmansworth or even Watford. Our good wishes go with him as his success appears to be leading to bigger things.

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OUR SECRETARY HAS RESIGNED — LONG LIVE THE SECRETARY

It is with sincere regret that I heard that our Secretary Derek Thompson has reluctantly had to give up office — although I am delighted to say that he is staying on as a committee member. He says that he has so many other commitments that he cannot do the job as well as he feels he ought. All I can say is that he is the only one who thinks so.

Derek stepped into the position at very short notice and we all think he has done a great job in his quietly efficient manner. Sorry to hear that you are going, Derek, but delighted that you are staying!

So now let me say how pleased I am that Brian Stagg of 83 Links Way, Croxley (Watford 35059) has agreed to take up the reins. Brian is a comparative newcomer to the district, but he is already well-established in our esteem — on his second committee meeting he chaired the proceedings. But for the demands of their rising generation, we might also have had his wife Sue on the committee and had a real Stagg party! Happily, Sue is our assistant Editor, so we can still have the advantage of her valuable assistance.

SAGE AND FUNNIONS

If pyramids had been built to today's building requirements, the paper work would have dwarfed them.

If only our ailments were as interesting to others as they are to us.

You cannot do a kindness too soon — you never know how soon it may be too late.

Conversation means being able to disagree and still continue the discussion.

In a London Transport poster, Henry VIII was shown asking for a return to Tower Hill — and a single for his wife?

I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous.

Have you noticed how often work is less boring than doing nothing?

YOU CAN'T SEE THE WOODS FOR THE HORSES

In the last issue I expressed concern that some bridle paths in Whippendell Woods were so churned up that some riders are now starting on footpaths. From all reports, Croxley Woods too is becoming an equestrian preserve, complete with fences for jumping, whilst the footpath by the Chess at Rickmansworth leading to the Woods, is virtually useless for pedestrians at times. Local Riding Schools and equestrian colleges seem to be appreciative of the problems caused by this cavalier attitude, but there is reason to think that many private pirates are coming from far afield. These woods are OUR woods, for the peaceful and equitable enjoyment of all; they are *not* to be exploited by a minority group, whether it be horse-riders, motor cyclists or fly-dumpers. If you do see any examples of thoughtless or selfish action by any group, and can identify them, please let us — or the Council — know.

R. J. COLE

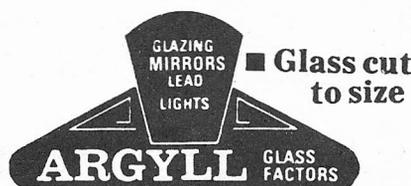
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THAT'S THE WAY THE MONEY GOES

One weekend last August I was pleased to see two Council workmen with a tractor cleaning the rubbish from the edge of the Aquadrome lake. To my right, two more were trimming a hedge and clearing a ditch or something. Necessary I supposed, but what a pity volunteers were not doing it. The next day was shattered by the noise from a grass cutter, trimming the grass embankment at Cassiobridge. Again, necessary I supposed, but why at a weekend at extra cost? Then the full impact hit me — the two days in question were August Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday. WHY OH WHY? Would you or I *employ* people to do such work at peak cost time, when it could be done during the week?



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