



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 142

Editor: Sue Stagg

AUTUMN 1981

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This issue of the 'Resident' sees a change in editorship. After a long period of service, during which time we have seen many improvements in style and presentation, Bob Hampson has reluctantly had to give up this task. Editing any publication is a time-consuming task and when it entails writing much of the copy as well, can easily become too much. Nevertheless Bob has done an excellent job, regularly bringing to us a bright, very readable and informative magazine. We, on the Committee, are very grateful to Bob and hope that he will continue to write contributions in his own inimitable style for our magazine. We are very fortunate that Sue Stagg has been writing in the wings as understudy and is now willing to step into the limelight. This issue whilst owing much to Bob has been completed by Sue, so we know already that we have a worthy successor and we wish Sue every success in the future.

As a child of Croxley Green, it seemed to me that our village without Dickinson's was as unthinkable as sausage without mash, or peaches without cream. The Mill on the moor was the work centre and Dickinson's Institute in New Road was the social centre. Now, with the onward march of time, both are gone and all that remains is the name attached to houses built for or because of the mill.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about the combined activities of the Action Group, local councillors and ourselves to ensure that the intentions of the Three Rivers D.C. planning brief are implemented. We are very much aware that two particular aspects of this redevelopment will affect us more than others. The first and the *raison d'être* of the Action Group is the possibility that the existing but minor and inadequate access road is improved to provide the sole access to the site. The consequences of this on environmental and road safety conditions are immeasurable. Funds must be made available for the relevant part of the Croxley Green Link Road. If the present minor road is developed it will involve both private and public funds; these must not be squandered in this way but diverted to the building of the most sensible alternative, the Croxley Link Road. The authorities must be reminded that both County, Local (and even National) funds come from us, and one authority should not be played off against another.

The other large problem facing us is the disposal of paper pulp waste from the site. There are three possible solutions — have you thought about them? The first and the easiest for the contractor is to spread the spoil over the moor, but how will this change the environment? This can only be considered if a suitable landscaping proposal is made under the control and expert advice of botanists and environmentalists, who must be independent. The second solution is to carry it away in lorries. With a projected 500 lorry movements a day for a year, this must be considered a non-starter unless all else fails. The third solution is to rebuild the existing rail link and carry it away in one rail movement a day. The proposal that loading should start at 5.30 a.m. in order to allow the train to leave at 11.30 a.m. must be re-examined. For example why not have a siding where one train can pull in whilst the other is loaded during the normal working day?

We need your support and comments, especially if you can offer expert opinion. Please help us, the Action Group and all local councillors, to help you.

I cannot end this column without answering a question. Many residents have asked "What happens to the Residents' Association if we have a Parish Council?" As you are aware we have not taken sides in the matter of whether we should have a Parish Council because we believe that there is no true consensus in this matter, and our constitution lays upon us the task of representing all the residents of Croxley Green. However, in my opinion, the existence or otherwise of a Parish Council does not invalidate our association. Chorleywood is in possession of both a Parish Council and also a very active and useful Residents' Association. They are not counterproductive but complementary. Your elected Committee has discussed the matter and is united in being willing to continue to serve the community, whether or not a Parish Council is formed, but we can only legitimately do so if you continue to believe in and support us.

John T. Hedges

EDITORIAL

As your chairman has said in his column, this is the last 'Resident' with which Bob Hampson has been involved. Bob has been Editor for over six years and I

can only hope that my efforts in the future can match his. Thank you, Bob, for all your hard work.

I also wish to thank all the contributors to this issue, some of whom wrote rapidly in the last few weeks at my request. As you will see, we have an extra insert in the 'Resident', allowing more items. The swelling ranks of subscription collectors led by Laurie Mathews and a sterling effort by Colin Walker, our Advertisement Manager, have brought in extra finance, thus allowing this. I hope that the enlarged 'Resident' sets a trend which will be continued. As there is so much going on in Croxley Green at the present time which is newsworthy and controversial, please do write and let us know your views. In fact, contributions on any subject will be gratefully received. Don't forget — the Association Committee exists to represent you and the 'Resident' is your newspaper.

Sue Stagg

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Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:

Mrs. S. Stagg
83 Links Way,
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Copy Date — 31st January 1982

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Lamentations 3 Verse 25.

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READERS' LETTERS SECTION

Dear Sir,

Could you possibly, through the medium of the *Croxley Green Resident*, ask the fanatic bonfire lighters (if they must), to light up their fires later in the day.

It is so awful when one wants to open windows, hang washing out, put babies out in prams or if one has the time, to sit in the garden and there is this awful acrid smelling smoke. It is, after all, just having a little thought for others.

This is such a delightful area that I am sure that if these folk were told that a motorway or a factory was to be put at the bottom of their garden, they would soon be up in arms and complain about pollution.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Rees

105 Links Way, Croxley Green

Dear Sir,

In your article *What's New from New Road*, in the *Resident*, you state you hope something can be done for residents who will be unable to park outside their homes, but how I do not know.

I would like to suggest that the council could assist by lowering the kerbs at a reduced rate (if a number were done) for anyone wishing to convert their garden to hard standing.

This would stop extra cars being parked in nearby roads, thus averting further difficulties.

Alternatively, an idea I saw in Lucerne Switzerland, could be used by allowing a ramp of concrete of 4 ins. from the kerb. This has the extra advantage of avoiding undulating pavements, it causes no inconvenience and the cost is negligible.

Yours faithfully

W. Stoner,

54 New Road, Croxley Green

Dear Mr. Hampson,

I was very interested to read the articles in the *Resident* regarding Croxley Woods.

As you can see we live in Frankland Road and back on to the woods, but I would like to 'brighten' the name of the people of Croxley Green a little by saying that from what we have seen it is not only they who dump rubbish. We have seen vans go along the road carrying London addresses which turn left at the end.

One other point I would like to make is about the railway dumping ground between us and the canal, on the edge

of the woods. We often wonder how much further they are going to penetrate into the woods. Trees on the edge are disappearing rapidly and it is no longer possible to walk along the path just inside the wood for they have made a high bank which has fallen on to the path. I have lived in this house since 1936 (and in Croxley Green since 1918) and understood originally that the railway would only be using the ground for twenty years.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A.B. Duncan,

47 Frankland Road, Croxley Green

Dear Editor,

It is entirely commendable that the committee campaigning for a Parish Council for Croxley Green should be seeking to influence local residents to this end and I would support them whole-heartedly if I felt we could be sure of a situation free of politics and self interest. I do not believe that this would be the case and to have a Parish Council which was not free of such forces would make our present position even worse.

Incidentally, I would be interested to hear about the names and backgrounds of the pressure group so that we may, perhaps, judge their motivation.

Let me play Devil's advocate for a few moments. Do the residents of Croxley Green deserve a Parish Council? The response to the referendum last year was pathetic: perhaps because of poor publicity.

Look at what else has happened during my short six years here. The neo-Georgian houses at the Baldwins Lane end of the Green have detruded with a failure to screen them from the road, and have you noticed how extensions are being added so that they are even more noticeable? Look down New Road at the places once occupied by Dickinson's Guild House and the old house at 85 (The Orchard?). You may say that there was little that local residents could do in these and other cases, but how hard did they try and did they really care? That is not all. Take a walk around the local recreation grounds and the Green itself and see how local residents and their dogs are prepared to put the health of the community and our children in particular at risk by leaving excrement, never mind the litter. This does not reflect a caring community.

Coming back to my main point, I do not wish to have prescriptions issued by political or self interested people and I, therefore, believe that maintaining and improving our present position is the lesser of two evils.

The people of Croxley Green, if they care enough, can influence Three Rivers District Council through other independent means in existence and if they are not already doing so, then they are getting and will get what they deserve.

I sincerely hope that this letter will stir enough people to at least give some serious thought to what is happening in Croxley Green and to voice their feelings.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest Burdis

17 New Road, Croxley Green

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY?

Well, you can borrow books. Yes. Language cassettes. Yes. Story cassettes and records. Yes. Posters and games for your children. Oh? All fairly straightforward. But what about our other services? As well as holding a range of journals, directories and information sources locally, we operate via a network which can draw on both regional and national resources, to provide the information you require, and our business is not just restricted to books. Commercial and technical information co-exists with cultural and recreational material. We expect to meet your demands, so why not make use of us to the fullest extent?

Your local library also has a role to play in the community, and aims to reflect community interests. Have you seen or heard of our extensive range of activities for children, ranging from weekly storytimes, to reading competitions, craft activities and competitions, participation plays — just a few of our recent ventures. And they are not just for the young. This year we have held art exhibitions, a display of exhibits now in the Watford Museum, and displays highlighting local activities and interests. Do you publicise your activities through us? Have a look at the *Local Diary* next time you are in the Library.

Do you know anyone unable to get in to the Library because of a disability? We operate a housebound reader service just for them, drawing on local voluntary support. If you know someone, put us in touch.

Remember, your rates support us, so make them work. Your local librarian is Mr Ralph Lynn, and he is keen to hear your comments and suggestions.

R. Lynn

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SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHY SHOULD CROXLEY GREEN HAVE ITS OWN PARISH COUNCIL?

- Because Croxley Green is a distinctive, autonomous community with a history going back to beyond the Domesday Book.
- Because the people of this community deserve a direct say in matters affecting life in the village.
- Because this administrative responsibility should be free of the party politics which are involved on the Three Rivers District Council.

WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS AND POWERS OF A PARISH COUNCIL?

Parish Councils have the statutory right to be:

- notified of all planning applications, and to comment on them
- to appoint managers to primary schools
- to appoint trustees to parochial charities
- to review the annual accounts of such charities
- to be formally consulted by the County Council in the survey of footpaths
- to be notified by the District Council regarding burial grounds and sewerage works
- to be notified by the District Council before laws are made regarding music, dancing and licenced premises licence applications, taxi licences, and paving streets.

Parish Councils have the powers to provide or contribute toward:

- Recreation facilities such as halls, community centres, youth clubs, playing fields, playgrounds, swimming pools and sports facilities, public open spaces and walks.
- Public road lighting.
- Allotments.
- Seats, bus shelters, toilets, litter bins, car parks, launderettes.
- Entertainments for the community.

A Parish Council also has the power:

- To create and maintain public footpaths, and to acquire rights of way.
- To clean out ditches, ponds and streams.
- To maintain War Memorials.
- To maintain roadside verges.
- To underwrite any loss the Post Office may make in keeping up its service to the community.

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE PEOPLE OF CROXLEY GREEN?

It means that our attractive village, with its playing fields, Green, ponds, schools, roads, Community Centre, allotments and other aspects that have been enjoyed for years will be looked after by the people who live in Croxley Green, not by a District Council with only 7 Croxley Green people out of 28 councillors.

WHAT WILL IT COST? WILL THE RATES GO UP?

The people of Croxley Green are *already* paying for the Parish Rate, which is part of the Three Rivers District Council Rate.

In a national report on the costs of Parish Councils it was shown that the majority of Parish Councils which incur

extra rates incur only 1p. The Three Rivers Rate in Croxley Green is currently 120.10p per pound of rateable value. An average semi-detached house is rated at, say, £260, with the annual rates bill of £312.26. With a Parish Council the most this would go up to would be about £314.86.

A very small price to pay for the people of Croxley Green to have a direct say in their own affairs . . .

Parish Councils in Chorleywood, Sarratt, Abbots Langley etc., have *proved* that they do their job in their villages *cheaper* than the District Council.

SO WE COULD ACTUALLY SAVE MONEY BY RUNNING OUR LOCAL FACILITIES.

Martyn Evans
Parish Council for
Croxley Green Committee

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CHRISTMAS TREE OF GOODWILL

Do you know who serenades you with Christmas carols? Father Christmas's float will be visiting Croxley Green again this year.

The float is brought to you by Rickmansworth's Rotary Club, Round Table, Inner Wheel, Ladies' Circle and 41 Club. Every year they hope to raise over a thousand pounds to enable a little Christmas cheer to be distributed to the elderly and less fortunate people living in the Rickmansworth and Croxley Green areas. The forementioned societies thank you for your generosity in past years and hope that you will again support them in their endeavour to bring some happiness to the less fortunate this Christmas. The float will be taking the following routes:

Tuesday 8th December

Grove Crescent — Baldwins Lane — Winton Drive — Claremont Crescent — Girton Way — Links Way — Warwick Way — Kenilworth Drive — Rochester Way — Lincoln Way — Lincoln Drive — Manor Way.

Wednesday 9th December

Durrants Drive — Richmond Way — Links Way — Ludlow Way — Dover Way — Little Green Lane — Canterbury Way — Warwick Way — Lewes Way — Hastings Way.

Thursday 10th December

Fuller Way — Dulwich Way — Owens Way — Repton Way — Rugby Way — Sherbourne Way — Lancing Way — Winchester Way — Barton Way — Malvern Way.

Friday 11th December

Watford Road — Hazelwood Road — Oakleigh Drive — Valley Walk — Sycamore Road — Sycamore Approach — Mayfare Estate — Beechcroft Avenue — Frankland Road — Harvey Road — Gonville Avenue.

Friday 18th December

Watford Road — Yorke Road — Dickinson Avenue — Dickinson Square — The Crescent — Winton Drive — Winton Crescent — Springfield Close — New Road.

Note that some of the main thoroughfares are visited more than once, e.g. Winton Drive, and collecting will take place according to the route being followed at that time.

Howard Brown

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WE GET WHAT WE DESERVE

In the past, and no doubt in the future, our Association has and will campaign for the protection and improvement of the facilities in Barton Way Recreation Ground. However, I am personally beginning to have some reservations as to the wisdom of our efforts.

I say this as the result of recent observations I have made (my house is adjacent to the recreation ground) and following a brief conversation I had with the groundsman.

Twice within the last three months I have had cause to reprimand older children over inconsiderate and dangerous actions carried out in the playground area. In the first instance, a bottle was deliberately smashed in the area of the roundabout. The second occasion was when a firework was exploded in a bottle in the same area, with the added danger of the presence of younger (7 to 10-year-old) children.

On both occasions I intervened not because I have a 'busy-body' nature, but because of the obvious danger not only to those concerned but also to the very young children normally using the play area during the day, for whom the area was constructed.

Whilst walking in the Grounds one Sunday, I made conversation with the groundsman. His comments on the treatment given to the facilities and to himself left me feeling perplexed to say the least.

He told me of the youth who makes a habit of excreting on the floor in the entrance to the changing rooms. Also the reaction of the father whose boys insisted on playing football on the grass tennis court, despite there being ample space elsewhere for the game. He was threatened with being 'sorted out' for asking them to leave the tennis court.

The groundsman is not an officious person, but someone who, for example, recently had the guts to refuse to collect fees for the hard court until the fencing had been repaired. This has now been done. He deserves thanks, not abuse.

This leaves me wondering whether it is not time we asked ourselves what we hope to achieve by these actions. It is right for us to expect recreation facilities to be provided out of the rates we pay. I suggest it is also right and in our own interest to respect the facilities and those who care for them, and above all *to teach our children to do likewise*. Failing that we may end up with 'what we deserve'.

Derek Thompson

CROXLEY MILL REDEVELOPMENT

Croxley residents may have seen the recent press release by Three Rivers District Council and, in particular, the statement that the siting of the roadway access to the above is being investigated as a matter of urgency. Readers may like to know a little of the background story:—

In April of this year the Three Rivers District Council held a public meeting to discuss the sale and redevelopment of the Croxley Mill site owned by the Dickinson-Robinson Group.

A group of residents who attended that meeting were concerned about some of the answers given by the Council and formed a local ratepayers Action Group to pursue matters with the Council in liaison with the Croxley Residents Association.

The Group sought the support of local councillors, county councillors and our M.P. — Mr. Richard Page — on the following vital aspects of the redevelopment to protect Croxley as a pleasant residential area:—

1. Bring forward in the County Programme the northern part of the proposed Croxley link road as an alternative to developing the unsuitable riverside one-way road (and preferably enter into a joint financing arrangement with the new owners of the site to help pay for it).
2. To reject any planning application that does not include demolition of the existing ugly mill buildings.
3. To insist on tree planting and landscaping to shield the site from Croxley and to have restrictions placed on building height, noise levels and waste emissions to protect the environment.

The Group stressed that the bringing forward of the proposed Croxley Link Road is a key issue in protecting Croxley and that a joint financing arrangement is a possible solution, as used by many Councils.

The Three Rivers press release appears to put aside this desirable solution to the traffic problems by stating no public money is available, but fails to state that the Croxley Link is already in the County Programme (and it now ought to be of high priority) and that the undesirable alternative of upgrading the riverside roadway at the junction with the A412 would also involve public money. The Group has emphasised, again and again, that there is no possibility of getting the

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link road built if the developer spends substantial sums on building a commercial roadway alongside the river, which he will wish to continue to use.

Your readers may wish to know that the local Action Group will continue to press for the sensible redevelopment of the Croxley Mill site and would welcome support from responsible rate-payers.

Paul Turner
Local Ratepayers Action Group

AN APPEAL – UNITY IS ONE

At the last rubbish clearing exercise in May at Croxley Woods, which I am sorry to say was supported by *one* local resident, we found in two places a considerable quantity of builders' brick, rubble, etc. This, of course, was impossible to clear by hand. However, on learning this, the Three Rivers Council supplied the necessary machinery and transport to clear it all, for which we do thank the Council for their co-operation.

This does go to show that if we do put ourselves out a little to improve our amenities the Council are always willing to assist where possible.

Some residents when strolling in the Croxley Woods, have seen a van in the area after the deposit of builders' rubble, and I would appeal to all residents to endeavour to obtain the licence number of any vehicle seen in the act of depositing rubbish and to communicate this to any member of the Croxley Residents and Ratepayers Association Committee and we will ensure that prosecution will be proceeded with for which we have the support of the Three Rivers Council.

O. G. Anthony

VICTIMS SUPPORT SCHEME

The Victims Support Scheme was started in the Watford and Three Rivers District areas on the 1st October 1977 to help people who have had the misfortune to become the victims of criminal offences. Being a victim may arouse feelings or anxieties which can be difficult to cope with, and many people find they could do with some support and reassurance at this time. Some form of practical advice may also be necessary. Most victims appear to benefit greatly from the rapid support of a trained and caring volunteer, who has both the ability to listen and the knowledge of available resources.

Each Scheme in the country (there are about 80 at the present time) has the administrative back-up of a Management committee which organises the fund-raising and publicity for the scheme. Most schemes are charitable organisations, and most are affiliated to the National Association of Victims Support Schemes which is also a charity. In each scheme the Coordinator is in daily contact with a Police Liaison Officer and receives information about victims during the previous 24 hours. The coordinator then asks a volunteer to see the victim as soon as possible, firstly to provide such support as is necessary

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and secondly to assess any further help or any referral to other agencies.

New volunteers are welcomed, and any offers of help with fund-raising is always appreciated. Victims of crime are the responsibility of the community – it is up to all of us to help.

Sue Tomson
VSS, The Abbots House,
Abbots Langley, Herts.

UPDATE

● The Planning Committee of Three Rivers District Council decided at its last meeting to refuse permission for paper pulp waste from the Dickinson's Mill Site to be deposited on Croxley Moor. This followed representations from a number of interested parties, including your Residents and Ratepayers Association. It is hoped that the possibility of removing this large quantity of material by rail will be investigated, and that it will disappear into the brick clay pits of Bedfordshire.

● The contribution of Three Rivers District Council to the feasibility study of providing access to Dickinson's Mill following redevelopment is now virtually complete. Both your Association and the Local Residents Action Group have pressed for the construction of part of the projected Croxley Link Road as the solution to the problem, and we hope that view will prevail – provided that Watford Borough Council and the County Council also see this as the only reasonable approach. But whatever the outcome, co-operation with a group of residents in dealing with a matter of considerable local importance has been a rewarding experience.

● As many of our readers will be aware, New Road has now been resurfaced. Several of you who attended our last A.G.M. expressed concern about the condition of the road and its drainage. We must now wait to see if the action taken will be effective. In the meantime, the state of the pavements still leaves a great deal to be desired!

● Have any ladies been caused offence by the station staff at Croxley Underground Station – specifically by a re-

fusal to open the Ladies' Toilet? Following complaints, your Association referred this to London Transport who have taken action to prevent any further . . . inconvenience!

● The siting of Bottle Banks in the area has caused some controversy. This is mainly because the act of placing bottles in the container is rather noisy. However, the scheme has proved to be very successful and most people agree that recycling waste glass in our present economic climate is highly desirable. Your Association has devoted some thought to the siting of a Bottle Bank in Croxley Green, and suggested a number of possible locations to Three Rivers District Council. Unfortunately, no site was without its disadvantages and we concluded that the only place which was both accessible and central was the Barton Way Car Park. Naturally, we hope that local residents will not be disturbed, but we will ensure that the situation is carefully monitored.

B.H. Stagg

R. J. COLE

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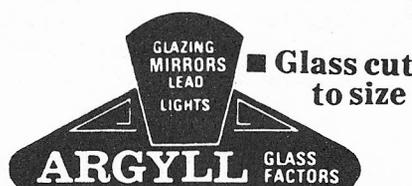
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