

# The Croxley Green RESIDENT

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**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION**

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**Editor: John Hedges**

**Spring 1988**

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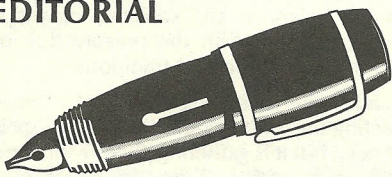
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**Material published in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the Association nor its Committee.**

## EDITORIAL



This edition you will see is the biggest for some time. This is possible partly because without chasing on my part you have provided copy and partly because advertisement revenue is sufficient. If it is to continue at this size then send me the copy and encourage the advertisers, they are all local and there to serve you. Copy to me please see bottom right hand corner of this page and advertisement enquiries to Colin Walker see list above he is always happy to hear from you.

Our treasurer Margaret Fry has asked if she can retire this year. We are very sorry for she has done the job with her usual quiet efficiency. Most of you will have heard of the almost legendary Neggy Wilson who was the village schoolmaster and so Margaret being his niece you will realise that she and Croxley Green are inseparable. Thank you Margaret for all your help in the past and I am sure your continuing interest.

By a chance meeting on the train and an even more chancy remark in conversation a prime candidate for her replacement has been found. However now comes the catch, the gentleman in question said he had often considered offering his help but had not before got round to it. I have several "round tuits" and they will be available at our AGM if only you are there to use them. At present our committee is top heavy with Parish Councillors so other Residents could be a very welcome influence providing fresh views and maybe different concerns. Do not wait to be asked, come forward on March 25th. Incidentally may I remind you that we are always seeking new subscriptions collectors and Resident distributors, we are running out of friends so why not join us.

An added attraction for the AGM will be a chance to hear about the opportunities offered by a local branch of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. I am looking forward to that.

An ever present problem is the amount of litter both casual and by anti-social dumping. I would urge you not only to support the campaign which is the project chosen by the Chairman of Three Rivers District Council for this year but even more the Litter Day organised by our Association and the Parish Council with other concerned people. There is an announcement in this issue. Also the Senior schools are carrying out a survey on litter. It is your heritage the litter lout is destroying. Let us destroy him instead. How about a Garden Rubbish collection service it must be cheaper than being fined for illegal dumping and no embarrassment! Local organisations and initiatives are well represented in this issue which is as it should be; this is the good news which other and particularly national publications do not print. I have had enormous pleasure reading them whilst editing and I hope you will find the same pleasure. In the last issue the piece about our local road sweeper brought more comment than I can ever before remember, but please comment in writing and see your comments in print.

Remember this is your newsletter, you can write to us on your pet subject and air it all in Croxley Green. Articles or letters from any resident or organisation are always welcome, if possible by the stated copy date. Please do not think that what you have to say is not interesting, I have yet to receive a contribution which is not worthwhile. Go on surprise me.

## THE REVELS 1988

Already the date is a question which is on many people's lips. Well here it is for your diaries. Saturday June 18th.

First of all a clarification. The children of old members of the committee mentioned in the last Resident are not so young, but they have some younger helpers. Currently we have about six main members of the organising committee but with wives (very important) and other helpers that can be more than doubled. Work starts at the close of one year's Revels and carries on to the next such is the keenness shown.

The Procession is master-minded by Don Griffin. He is most ably assisted by Janet Luck and Betty Sorrell. All of them have long been associated with the Revels, what would we do without them? I was talking to Kay Moss the other day who for many years worked on the procession. In those days jumble sales and coffee mornings provided the funds. Your booking fees for stalls help instead these days, there is enough work without fund raising as well.

There are already several trophies for the procession but two of our judges from last year seeing the enthusiasm of young people have presented a new cup "The Little Waterdell Cup" to be presented to the best school entry. Andrew and Ann Horsburgh are our benefactors and we are very grateful.

### Croxley Green Residents & Ratepayers Association

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 25th March 1988  
at 8.00pm to be held at

The Library, Barton Way  
Croxley Green

\*\*\*

Everybody welcome, please  
come and air your views

\*\*\*

To be followed by an illustrated talk  
by a member of Chorleywood and  
District Royal Society for the Protec-  
tion of Birds.

Please send letters, contributions  
and advertisements to:

John Hedges  
44 Ludlow Way  
Telephone: Watford 222715  
by September 1st if possible.

Therefore the "Jackadon Trophy" will be awarded to the Best Young Peoples float. The "Whitfield Bowl" will be awarded to the Best Non-float (perhaps a walking entry). The "Foster Challenge Cup" will go to the Best Commercial Float which leaves the oldest trophy the "Barton-Smith Shield" for the Best General Float.

If you entered last year you will receive an entry form. If not please contact Don Griffin on Rickmansworth 771716. The Arena is planned and controlled by Graham Judge ably assisted by Paul Pope. Already some events are booked but local talent is our aim if possible. Do not be shy, contact Graham now on Watford 228195 as this is probably the hardest section to plan. They did a marvellous job last year, help them do even better this year.

For my sins I look after the stalls, more than ever last year and with your entry even more this year. If you booked a stall last year, I have your address but if not or if your organisation has changed its representative I do not unfortunately have a crystal ball. I will send an entry form to all those I can but otherwise contact me on Watford 222715.

Because he does not have a specific task I have not yet mentioned the other child but you all know him, he is Peter Foster who with Pat his wife is a power house without whom nothing would be possible. Grace Butcher looks after the "royal" party quietly and efficiently making all the costumes with her own fair hand, even this year when only a few days later she has a very special event of her own to arrange.

To all these folk and the rest who I have not had space or have inadvertently forgotten to mention may I give your thanks and raise the toast "The Revels 1988" June 18th.

John T Hedges  
Revels Co-Organiser

## THE RED CROSS IN CROXLEY GREEN

21 years ago the building at the back of the Library was built and opened as the Red Cross Centre, co-ordinating all Red Cross services in S.W. Hertfordshire.

Excellent training courses in First Aid and Practical Home Nursing are given here, the trained members can be called on to give First Aid cover at local and national events as well as at any major disaster-Domiciliary Nursing Care is given at the request of Doctors and District Nurses.

Our Youth members also train here (age 11-15 years). The knowledge they gain enables them to cope with accidents, illness in their own homes, and instill in others as well as themselves understanding and importance of health education.

The Welcome Club offers membership to all of retirement age in Croxley Green. It is 30 years since it was founded by George Wilcox and 25 years since it became part of the Red Cross. Open 6 days a week it has much to offer the over 60's, but new active members are badly needed to boost the present activities of Whist, Bingo and Old Time Dancing, and to start up a Dart's team, mobility exercises and a drama group etc.

The Red Cross Sunnyside Club which includes both physically and mentally handicapped members also meets here on

"Blessed is the Nation  
whose God is the Lord"

Psalm 33 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. Rev. Derek Fraser, B.D.  
Evening Praise: 6.30 p.m. Telephone: Watford 31403

Tuesday evenings. Advice and information is available every morning on problems and equipment affecting all sections of the Community.

The Medical Loan Dept makes an average of 600 loans a year of nursing equipment or aids for the disabled, this service is available every day, and there are 5 other Red Cross Depts. in S.W. Hertfordshire.

Dinners are available 3 days per week for Welcome Club members and the Meals on Wheels service. Meals are cooked here 5 days a week. The other centres in S.W. Herts co-ordinated from Croxley Green are Rickmansworth/Chorleywood, Abbots Langley, Watford, Bushey, Borehamwood and Potters Bar.

The maintenance and running of the building is a costly and time consuming exercise. We are all volunteers working together because we believe that the Red Cross principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, Unity and universality give us the greatest opportunity to serve the Community. Our monthly market (3rd Saturday in each month) is our regular source of income apart from an annual (hopefully!) grant from H.C.C. towards our maintenance, heating, lighting costs etc. - based on our audited figures submitted each year and 100% rate relief generously granted to us by 3 Rivers D.C.

I hope that these facts will interest and encourage more Croxley residents especially the newly retired, both men and women! to offer their services as club members and helpers, kitchen helpers for tea or coffee or dinners, market help - fundraisers, beauty care teams in Watford hospital, and especially as drivers, long distance or locally, or regularly for the clubs on Saturday afternoon or Tuesday evenings, and as Collectors in Red Cross Week May 2nd - 8th, which is our only National appeal of the year and falls on the same week as May 8th which was the birthday of the founder of the Movement - Henri Duraunt.

Many of our members who give so much of their time and skills have left the District or are now older than those whom they are helping! So we do hope that younger Croxley residents will come forward to join us so that our services to the Community can continue.

G Beryl Fenning  
S.W. Herts Co-ordinator  
B.R.C.S.

## MUSEUM FOR THREE RIVERS

Thanks to the Three Rivers District Council the Council Chamber of Basing House has been made available for use as a museum for a period of six months.

This it to enable a true picture to be obtained about how the residents of this area feel about the establishment of a permanent museum, and to find out exactly how much support there is for such a proposal.

We would therefore like to invite you to visit the museum, sign the visitor's book and fill in a simple questionnaire. Admission is free, and it is open 2 pm to 4 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am till 4 pm Saturdays. Assuming this temporary project is a success, and at the end of the six months we can show the council a positive response, they have said they will consider favourably the establishment of a permanent museum. The important point at the moment is to establish the demand and support.

SO IT IS UP TO YOU!  
(Extract from leaflet)

## CAMPAIGN FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE

On the 17th June, 1987, Campaign for the Countryside, which is part of an international campaign sponsored by the Council of Europe in 21 European Countries, launched an important initiative. Its purpose is to draw attention to the special problems and the needs of rural communities and the Countryside in which they live and work. The campaign underlines the importance of maintaining a healthy economy through balanced and sensitive development consistent with the preservation of the local landscape and traditions.

Changes are occurring in country areas affecting the whole community. Change is not new, but it is gathering pace. More and more ideas and decisions are being proposed and implemented. How can we be sure that we know what the community thinks about the effects of change on local services and surroundings? How do we ensure that someone listens to the Community's views?

There are, no doubt, a significant number of people in Croxley Green who would like to

**WELLER**

**HILL**

**HUBBLE**

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put across their views to decision makers and thus influence their future. The object of this article is to invite interested people to let me know if they would be prepared to be actively involved in finding out what others regard as important or particularly interesting about local parish.

We would, if you like, make an appraisal of our Parish in a Systematic survey which would record things as they are seen today. It would describe the population, its activities and its problems. It would also cover life in the Parish, the buildings and the countryside. By collecting information in an organised way, it offers a way to assess life as it is today in our Parish, how it has changed and to look forward to the future. The appraisal would require a group of people to discuss, plan and complete a survey, collate the results and record these in a report and/or exhibition for local consumption.

A Parish appraisal would be carried out by interested local people, not by outside experts. It would take some commitment to time, a little money (we could ask the Parish Council to finance the exercise) and plenty of imagination and enthusiasm. The process could take a year or more. Here are some examples of issues we could ask local residents about, through door to door questionnaires or by whatever method we choose to use:-

- \* About residents - ages, time in Parish, working locally, etc.
- \* Attitudes to housing/industrial developments
- \* Car and bus use
- \* Roads - conditions and safety
- \* Health and social needs
- \* Churches and Chapels
- \* Shopping needs
- \* Libraries and information services
- \* Telephones
- \* Emergency Services
- \* Landscape - conservation and care
- \* Litter, street cleaning, lighting
- \* Rights of way
- \* Social and sports activities - existing facilities and proposed
- \* The most important features about the Parish

If you are at all interested in making an appraisal of Croxley Green, or have any comments to make about the idea, please get in touch with me (telephone 770599) or Ian Thomas, our Parish Clerk (Chorleywood 3605).

When we have assessed the level of interest and possible resources, we will report back to everyone.

Ernest Burdis

## SYLVIA DEWAR

Many people will have already heard of the sad loss of Sylvia Dewar of Frankland Close, who died suddenly on Wednesday 16th December. Always an active person, she was returning from pruning some new raspberry canes on the allotments when she had a fall from her bicycle. It seemed she was recovering from a broken arm sustained in the fall, when a blood clot caused her sudden death.

Sylvia was a well known Croxley person, having been born in Watford, but living most of her 65 years in Croxley. She was very active within the Horticultural and Allotment Holders Society, though often working 'behind the scenes' doing the organisational things and being supportive to her husband Harry, who has long been the Society's Honorary Secretary. For many years she was a member and, at one time, Treasurer for Greensleeves. She held an interest in both Scouts and Guides over the years and acted as an outside examiner of knitting for St Oswalds' Girl Guides.

Her interests and hobbies were evident to all who knew her, though her primary interests after her family were in plants and gardens. She never professed a wide knowledge of plants, but would usually come forward with a pertinent bit of information or a revealing question. Her plants, were always available for fund raising events.

She was a willing worker in all the bodies to which she belonged: her ready responses and sharp sense of humour will be sorely missed. Sylvia was one of the characters of Croxley and a good friend to many. I am pleased to have been counted amongst them. Her daughter Alison and son Ian are Croxley Residents.

Alma Mealor  
Social Secretary, C.G.  
Horticultural & Allotment Holders  
Society

## LIBRARY COLUMN

A belated happy New Year to you from all at the library and many thanks to all those who gave us cards and presents at Christmas.

As promised in the last column all fines for children (up to sixteen) and pensioners have been abolished. Just a couple of points to avoid confusion. The fine is charged on the reader's ticket not on the books. So if you have children who do not have tickets of their own, or if you have not registered as a pensioner, please do so. I know I can trust you not to try to take adult books on children's tickets and not to drag Gran out every time you want to borrow a book!

Rather less heralded, but just as welcome, there is now no charge on spoken-word cassettes. So if you want to listen to a good book in the car for a change, or have laryngitis and cannot tell the children their nightly tale, come in and borrow some cassettes. Talking of storytime, we have one for the 3 - 5's every Friday in the library from 2.30 - 3 pm. Having had a lovely large batch of children who have now all started school, we are left with only a few die-hard visitors, so why not come along? If, as I sometimes suspect, the timing is wrong for collecting your children from school etc., please tell us and we will try to find a time to suit everyone.

Finally, since January 1986 when the computer system was first installed, we have been unhappy with the counter. It is too high, too wide and not very convenient for the staff or yourselves. So I am happy to announce a new one is on its way. It won't solve all the problems, but if you are between three and five feet we will be able to see you for the first time in two years!

Bob Sharpe  
Librarian

## HARVEY ROAD SCHOOL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

In the summer we shall celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Harvey Road School on 5th September 1938.

Who would have imagined that our temporary "wooden shed" would have lasted so long? And its life is far from finished yet! The fact that the buildings have lasted so well that the school can still thrive in almost its original state is a tribute to the many people, teachers, caretakers, cleaning and ancillary staff, and, of course, children and parents who, over the past 50 years, have treated the school with such care, respect and affection.

Were you perhaps one of those people? Did you attend Harvey Road in those early years or during the war - or indeed at any time since? Perhaps you even worked on the building or can remember what the land was used for before the school was built!

Have you any photographs, reports or other memorabilia of the school - or just some recollections of childhood events?

If so, I would like to hear from you as we would like to collect as much information as possible to assist the children with projects that we plan to mount as an exhibition as part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations. We are hoping to hold various events to mark this special occasion - Open Days, a reunion-style party, tree planting etc. - dur-

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ing the first week of July so make a note of that week, look out any items you think may be of use, let me know about them and of your interest, then be on the lookout for further details of our celebrations and come along and join us!

There must be hundreds of you, still living in Croxley, who are connected in some way with our school, so we look forward to hearing from you - and of course from those who moved away to the far-flung regions of Watford, and all four points of the globe! I wonder who will contact us from the greatest distance? Spread the work, please!

Best wishes  
ALAN NICHOLSON  
Headmaster

P.S. Any news of Ian LeVesconte, Paul de Luca, Cedric Pope, Martin Cartwright or Martin Reed? all former Harvey Road School boys who were in my year at Watford Grammar School? Where are they now? Does it stir your memory, too?

## CROXLEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL AND ALLOTMENT HOLDERS SOCIETY

The Horticultural Society is probably one of the oldest societies in Croxley Green and although records can be traced back to 1920, it is believed that the Society was formed at the end of the 1914-1918 War.

Despite a few ups and downs in earlier years, the Society is a very flourishing organisation with a current membership of around 850 persons. Membership is open to all residents of Croxley Green.

The main focal point of the Society is the Trading Centre opposite the entrance of the Red Cross Centre in Barton Way. For nine months of the year, from late January to the end of October, the Centre is open on Sunday mornings for members to purchase their bulbs, seeds, fertilisers and a vast array of gardening essentials, all at discount prices. In addition, the voluntary helpers are ever ready to give what advice

they can to members on their gardening problems.

Social activities are not forgotten, for during the Summer months some 4-5 coach outings are arranged for members and their friends. These popular trips are extremely well planned, for in addition to visiting famous gardens and National Trust properties, the tours invariably allow for en route stops of some 2-3 hours to be made at towns and villages of touristic importance, or to see famous collections.

As an example, this year's visits (1987) included the famous Shuttleworth Aeroplane Collection, and Swiss Gardens at Old Warden; the village of Chipping Campden where some 25-30 private gardens were specially opened for the public to view; an evening visit to the Royal National Rose Society at Chiswell Green at a time when the general public were excluded; and an Autumn visit to Winchester and Hilliers Arboretum near Romsey where the trees were displaying their cloaks of glorious coloured foliage. Charged at cost price and to include admission fees, these outings represent good value to the Society's members and their friends.

In June the Society is always well represented at the Croxley Green Revels where a well stocked stall selling plants, fruit and vegetables donated by members, is patronised by visitors.

None of the money taken is retained by the Society, for every single penny of the sales (and sometimes a bit extra to round it up) is donated to local charities. This year the entire proceeds of £150 was given to Mount Vernon Hospital for their Scanner Appeal. In past years some of Croxley's Youth Organisations have benefitted from the Horticultural Society's donations to their funds.

The highlight of the Horticultural Society's activities is the Annual Show of flowers, fruit and vegetables held on the second Saturday in September at Durrants School. The quality and standard of the exhibits is generally very high and attracts much praise from the panel of professional judges. Here the ladies come into their own with superb exhibits of Floral Art, and also in the Domestic and Handicraft sections. A further section of the show is devoted to Home Made Wines, and several classes are available for Children's exhibits.

Even during the Winter months the Society is very alive and active with a regular series of talks and illustrated lectures given by eminent Horticulturalists. These take place on Friday evenings at the end of each month and are held in St. Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way. They are open to members and their friends, and there is an interval break for a chat and tea and biscuits.

From the above readers will observe that the Horticultural Society is a very active one and extremely popular. Newcomers to Croxley Green who may wish to join the Society may do so at the Trading Centre (opposite the entrance to the Red Cross Centre in Barton Way) on any Sunday morning after the end of January, or by application to the Secretary of the Society, Mr H.J. Dewar, 1 Frankland Close, Croxley Green (Telephone 775709).

Happy gardening to all in 1988.

Ben Leigh  
Committee Member

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## POLICE COLUMN

In our last article, we gave you a breakdown of the crime figures in relation to 1986. No, please DON'T SKIP OVER THIS BIT, it's important.

	1986	1987	Comparison
TOTAL CRIME	271	231	DOWN -40
HOUSE BURGLARY	25	14	DOWN -11
BURGLARY NON-DWELLING (SCHOOL,SHOP ETC)	11	23	UP -12
THEFT (NOT CONNECTED WITH MOTOR VEHICLES)	54	43	DOWN -11
THEFT (MOTOR VEHICLES RELATED)	88	82	DOWN -6
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	50	41	DOWN -9
TOTAL VALUE AS GIVEN BY AGGRIEVED	£178,433	£114,726	- £63,707 *

A glimmer of hope then, especially with house burglary. (Well done Neighbourhood Watch). An overall reduction in crime but a rise in non-domestic burglary which is worrying. \* This figure is only a very rough guide as often the initial figure is either not given or inaccurate. There are also a number of other categories (i.e. Assault, Indecency, Deception) which I have not listed. The detection rate is approximately 28%. Not good by any means but not bad given the sometimes impossible 'chance' given us by some who are just not getting the message on PREVENTING Crime either by adopting the attitude "It won't happen to me" or not even realising the dangers. Please PLEASE don't be like some who make the most appalling mistakes. "We must be exaggerating" I hear you say - "Surely people aren't that careless?" Well - just to prove it, here are some examples. The golfer who left £350 worth of golf clubs unattended for half an hour while he had a 'snifter at the 19th' because he thought "nothing would happen to them". (It did!). The people who leave handbags in the car, either on view or (so they think) hidden. The thief knows the hiding places and it takes seconds to steal it, together with cheque books, credit cards, personal papers, cash, house keys. Apart from the obvious problems not only for the aggrieved, but also for the banks and credit companies

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(and mountains of paperwork for us), this type of offence took on a more sinister meaning when a young lady started receiving telephone calls which were of an indecent nature. Obviously the thief had gone through her photographs and diary, all of which were in the handbag.

The people whose daughters were openly speaking to total strangers in a pub about going away on holiday, telling them where they were going, when, and even where they lived. (They were burgled - there's a surprise!) The people who leave wallets in jackets hanging up whilst they participate in sport. The people who leave jackets and coats (especially leathers) on the back seats of cars in a car park.

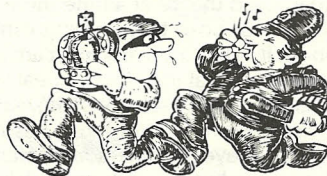
The office workers who left their Christmas money in a drawer (£90) which was stolen when the office was broken into. The list is endless, needless and pointless. This stuff wasn't so much stolen. IT WAS GIVEN AWAY.

In WPC BEGLEY and I, you have two officers who are willing, able and BEGGING to come out by appointment and advise individually on Crime Prevention. (House Security, Car Theft, etc). USE US.

There are now two superb anti-car-theft devices on the market which cost under £20 each and will effectively prevent 95% plus of cars being stolen. There are radio cassette players which clip in and out of the dashboard for easy fitting and easy removal when you leave your car. There are so many ways you can prevent crime and it is YOUR responsibility, not just OUR job. The more crime is prevented the less paperwork we have, the less paperwork the more we can be on the streets. Logical isn't it?

On a happier note, our programme of School Talks is going very well. Our Neighbourhood Watch is healthy with yet another scheme in the pipeline, and we would also like to point out that we would be delighted to speak to Church Groups, Clubs, Coffee Mornings (especially if we're served with coffee and biscuits!) etc. Please give our pleas great thought. We can and MUST prevent crime more. Some cases are just too ridiculous for words.

As a final thought, and on a totally different subject do you know what the 'Special Constabulary' is? It's a group of men and women who hold outside jobs but are willing to give up just a few hours of their time to help out the Regular Force. They are not paid but are given a Uniform, Basic Training and Allowances. Normally they help out at Parades, Fetes, Football Matches at weekends or evenings. Sometimes they come on duty for a few hours of an evening and go out with the lads and lasses in the Patrol Cars. They are a good bunch, but very short of numbers. Can you help? Are you aged between 18½ and 55? Do you want to learn more? If so please contact either of us or Inspector J LAWRENCE on the same number, extension 2212.



Best wishes  
WPC ALISON BEGLEY & PC STEVE  
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## CHURCH ARCHIVES

Since my last comments in the Autumn issue of the Resident I have visited the County Archives, Hertford, further research led me into another direction and this enabled us to discover some hitherto unpublished photographs.

We certainly hope in the New Year to stage another exhibition of documents and photographs. At this moment of time it is difficult to state a date but this will be published for we want you all to see what we have on Croxley Green.

Because of my activities as Archivist of All Saints Church many items have been given to me about the area and this has led me to open new files. In many cases they are only loosely connected to the Church and in particular this is true of the Institute or Guildhouse which was in New Road.

We already had a number of items but recently were given a real treasure and this I can only describe as a booklet giving details of the Menu and Entertainment provided at the Annual Mill Dinner held on Friday March 10th, 1899.

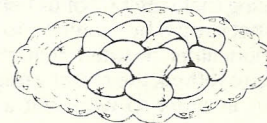
The meal was wonderful but the entertainment provided was very varied. First of all the Band conducted by Mr. A.C. Strugnell followed by Glee Party, Bayonet versus sword contest presented by Messrs. Flitten and Rogers (I wonder what the result was?). Fred Heckford, who was a chemist at the Mill, sang a song and also wrote a sketch "Those Wedding Bells", would it not be interesting if we could find a copy.

Now if everyone knows anything about these events or has programmes of other Dinners I would very much like to add them to our records.

Another matter of interest is the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary held on May 6th 1935, for which we have a programme of events which took place on the Green. We learn from this that the Procession will assemble on the Green near the top of New Road in good time to move off at 10.15 am. The route was New Road into Watford Road, then Dickinson Square, Dickinson Avenue, back into Watford Road down Scots Hill to Scots Bridge Meadow

## Elena Watts

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where it met up with the Rickmansworth Procession. The Procession then returned up Scots Hill to the Green. Events including Sports and displays commenced at 2.30 pm and went on all day. At 9.00 pm. Dancing, at 10.30 Bonfire was lit and at 11.30 after the singing of Auld Lang Syne a procession was formed headed by the Village Band.

By all accounts it must have been a wonderful day, already I have some photographs but I would like to hear from anyone who has any information and stories of this event. In the programme it mentions a special service which was provided and I quote:- "A special bus will operate throughout the day running from The Sportsman via Watford Road, Red House, New Road to the top of the Green and return by same route". Those were the days!

Recently I have been loaned some photographs which have been copied, they were taken in Baldwins Lane sometime in 1937 and amongst them is a photograph of the first house being built in Ludlow Way, at that time houses in Croxley were advertised at £450 or £25 down and Fifteen Shilling and Sixpence per week mortgage repayment. In present day figures that is approx 78p.

Do not hesitate to contact me for I welcome all information for this is the only way we can preserve the past for the future.

Norman Spring  
Archivist All Saints Church

## THE PARISH COUNCIL

The agendas for Parish Council Meetings tend to follow a set pattern. Most of the topics for consideration are presented by four committees of Councillors - on Planning, Open Spaces, General Amenities and Finance and General Purposes, and it is probably a measure of the pace of local government that each of these committees finds itself returning time and time again to a particular range of concerns. Progress sometimes seems exasperatingly slow. Nevertheless persistancy sometimes brings results and if there is one thing that your new Parish Council has learned it is that if at first you don't succeed....Although we often seem to be on very familiar ground the emphasis changed - as it did during the autumn months on the subject of the local transport services. No one can have missed the chorus of complaints from local people about the deterioration in the bus services since de-registration. It has been quite a common experience to wait a very long time for buses which never appear and the many changes which have taken place were so confusing that very few of us had a clear idea of what should be running and where. Parish Councillors decided that the time had come to rethink the existing routes and timetables in order to work out a service more in tune with the real needs of Croxley people.

We invited District Councillors to join with our General Amenities Committee in this review and it soon became clear to them that there were two main gaps to be filled. The first was the very inadequate bus connection with both Rickmansworth and Watford for residents in and around Baldwins Lane. The second was the poor service during shopping hours particularly for those wanting to go to Rickmansworth. The

# LITTER DAY

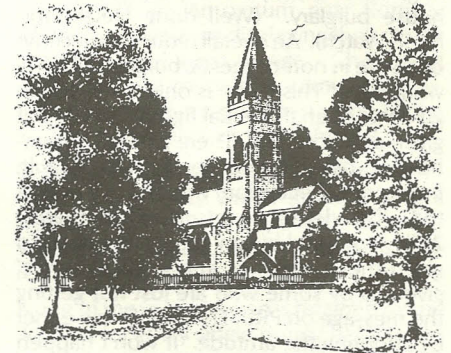
Sunday 20th March  
Meet at 10.00 am  
at  
Croxley Wood House  
or at  
Mill Lane, Watford Road  
or at  
The Artichoke, The Green



remedy for both these seemed to lie in the provision of a "shoppers' bus" which could be routed round the catchment areas and travel to Watford and Rickmansworth. In order to pursue this idea the Councillors invited representatives of the local operators and of the Herts County Council for a discussion and this proved to be very fruitful. The problems for both passengers and operators during a difficult period of re-organisation were well aired and the welcome news was that London Country North West were able to announce the introduction of two new services (526 and 527) from Rickmansworth to the new ASDA and TESCO shopping centres in Watford which would take in some of those areas of Croxley which had been deprived. There were to be seven runs in each direction mainly during shopping hours. Although these proposed new services were not as comprehensive as might be achieved with a run-around shopper bus Councillors agreed that they were most welcome and that it would be best to assess their value for Croxley people before taking matters any further.

Another continuing concern of the Council is the amount of rubbish and litter still to be found in public places. The Litter Rumble in November was not helped by bad weather on the day, but those taking part were able to collect many plastic bags full of small rubbish which was found on a walk from The Green through Croxley Hall Woods to the Canal. We have supported the drive by the Chairman of the District Council, Mr. Malcolm Dunstone, to "Keep Three Rivers Beautiful" but in truth it must be said that in some places it has first to be made beautiful. Even in some of our most frequented roads the untidiness is offensive and it is sad that after a time there is a tendency to suppose that nothing can be done about it. The Council is most anxious to support any local initiative to deal with this problem and has itself taken the lead in the provision of more litter bins. Responsibility for small eyesores can sometimes be difficult to trace but, for instance, we have managed to persuade the managing agents to do something about the ugly hoarding on the forecourt outside Rusts Supermarket in the New Road.

Many of the most attractive corners of Croxley are approached along lanes which have not changed greatly over the years. They are not through routes for motor traffic but are used a good deal by walkers and cyclists, -Little Green Lane at the top of The Green and Mill Lane running down to the Canal are good examples. Unfortunately they have a very low priority on the list for highway repairs and neglect has resulted in almost impassable stretches because of potholes, rubbish dumping etc. Mill Lane is in a particularly bad state and the problem there is complicated because there is no clear responsibility for maintenance. The Lane is on privately owned land for which the District Council will only accept an interest for a footpath 1½ metres wide and it is not certain where this footpath is. Your Council regards these lanes as a valuable part of rural Croxley and is urging more positive action on the district council to rescue them from their present miserable state.

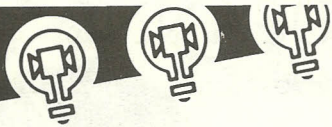


The experimental campaign against dog nuisance goes on and will be assessed when we come to the end of the first year of dog bins in the recreation grounds. We would like to encourage all dog walkers to get into the habit of using these bins. It is a voluntary scheme and we do not want to have to set up expensive enforcement procedures based on bye-laws if the same result can be achieved by the exercise of public spirit. The success of the experiment could lead to its introduction on other open spaces in the Three Rivers District.

Two of the most important proposals before the Planning Committee have been the Beefeater Restaurant at Scotsbridge Mill and the development of land behind 15/25 New Road. The Mill itself is outside the Parish boundary but Councillors have been concerned at the possible nuisances which could be caused for Croxley residents by trade at the restaurant and there are certainly worse fates which could befall it. The Council believes that the important issue here is to ensure that a development would not reduce the environmental standards for local people.

The New Road project, which was withdrawn after objections to the original plan has now resurfaced with revised lay-out for houses. At the time of writing it is under scrutiny but first reactions are that the proposed density is still too great bearing in mind the surrounding properties and access from the narrow but busy New Road. Council deliberations on all these and many other subjects are open to members of the public and we should be pleased to see you at our meetings at 8 pm. in The Library on the first Thursday of each month.

Ian Thomas  
Parish Clerk



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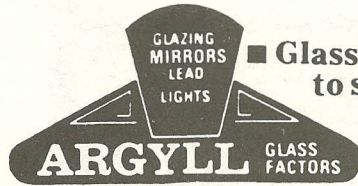
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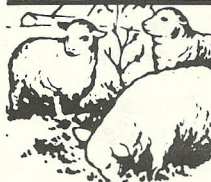
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