

CROXLEY COMMUNITY NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.

Editor: A. T. THOMSON
93 Frankland Road.

Sub-Editor: W. F. HADAWAY
83 Baldwins Lane.

No. 26.

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 1949.

Right on your Doorstep

Have you noticed the following alterations at the Croxley L.M.S. Station?

- (1) The partial clearance of the hedge at the corner of Watford Road and Baldwins Lane, and the laying of footpath.
- (2) Removal of the island.
- (3) The road wider towards Cassio Bridge.
- (4) The bus stop having been moved to this point.

We are watching further developments with a particular interest.

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IN 3 DAYS.**

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Watford Road

TELEPHONE: WATFORD 3824

This appeared in the "Community News" dated November, 1947:—

"At 9 a.m. on Sunday October 12, a sub-committee met at the Croxley L.M.S. Station to draw up a plan for the revision of the lay-out of the Baldwins Lane Junction to the Watford Road and this plan has been submitted to the appropriate authority. 57

"For some time past your committee has received complaints of the danger in this area and several representations have been made to the Council, but whilst they have assisted by cutting away the hedge in the Watford Road and at the "blind corner," it was felt that much more could and should be done in order to avoid accidents and to make it easier for pedestrians to cross the main road to the station or to board buses going to Rickmansworth. 74

"The plan decided upon by this sub-committee involves a considerable amount of work, but it is felt that this work is of vital importance in the campaign to make our roads safe for pedestrians and motorists alike. 35

"It is not possible to publish a copy of the plan submitted, but here is a brief explanation. 17

"Approaching the L.M.S. Station from Pike's Stores, it is suggested that (1) the hedge from the garage to the corner, and up to the entrance to the dairy in Baldwin's Lane, be removed, and a footpath laid. (2) Instead of the present "island," two bollards to be placed in the centre of the main road, or the "island" moved to that position, in order to lessen the speed of traffic. The three or four trees to be removed, and as the path widens from this point to Cassio Bridge, (3) the road to be made wider, by taking a few feet from the footpath and (4) the bus stop placed at this point. 176

"On the station side of the road the bus stop to be a few yards beyond the café and near this stop, a pedestrian crossing to the proposed new footpath, and in conjunction with this crossing, a further crossing to be made across the end of Baldwins Lane. (4)

"Your Committee will watch the progress of this plan with the utmost vigilance and will report to you in due course."

**THE "RESIDENTS" GET THINGS
DONE—AND CAN PROVE IT!!!** 28

From our new President . . .

THE REVEREND RAYMOND S. WILKINSON, A.K.C.

85 I feel very keenly the honour done to me by the members of the Croxley Green Residents' Association in electing me as their President for the ensuing year, for such genuinely independent movements of the people have always appealed to me in much greater measure than the highly-centralised political and Party machinery emanating from Whitehall, which is so foreign a visitor to Local Government, and so productive of bitterness and strife amongst those elected for the prime purpose of forwarding the community's well-being.

110 Whether we will or no, Party claims and battle cries force themselves into our vista today; and it is indeed the duty of every responsible citizen to give careful thought to Party programmes so that he may ultimately vote with understanding of the issues involved. But — let there be no mistake about it! — the differences between the Parties are not nearly so wide as Party champions try to pretend. All Parties are agreed on many aspects of social policy. They all support social services; no Party is prepared to advocate drastic cuts in food subsidies; all Parties declare that every effort must be made to raise exports, to make our industries more efficient, and to hold inflation in check.

47 The country's economic situation imposes its hard rule on all Parties, leaving them little room for independent manoeuvre. Whatever government takes office after the election, it will be forced to pursue an economic policy not very different from that of the government now in power.

52 This is far from saying that the election issues will be trivial; there are sharp differences of outlook and long-term policy between the Parties. But I am saying that the whole future of Britain will not hang upon the election result, and it will be dangerously misleading if Party champions persuade people that it does.

64 All this has a very real bearing upon local issues. From my conversations with many, I may claim to know something of the mind of the vast mass of stolid British people who do not see in Party politics the be-all and end-all of life, and who are appalled at the depths to which invective between the Parties has sunk. Large numbers might welcome a National Government, giving us the best

6 brains of all Parties which the country can provide at this critical period in our history. But such are the feuds and hatred now stirred up by men capable of such infinitely greater things, that it is extremely unlikely that this will be.

56 But we still have the issue in our hands in Local Government. Here, we still have the opportunity to vote, not primarily for Party allegiance, but for the proven integrity and uprightness and ability of candidates who put their local community's needs long before the demands of outside Party politics.

74 I think we have a mission in Local Government to re-educate those in "a higher place" as to the kind of leadership we really desire.

45 The Executive Officers of the Association recently elected are vigorous, hard-hitting men, who will do much to extend the activities of independent representation if you will support them whole-heartedly. Given this support, 1950 will be a year of action and results.

RAYMOND S. WILKINSON.

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358

How Time Flies

66 It seems hardly possible that it was just over two years ago that we wrote to the Council asking that the Malvern Way/Winton Crescent footpath "should be completed before the winter." Reference to our copy correspondence confirms this, however, and also that we asked that the path, when completed, should be made safe for pedestrians by having "No.Cycling" notices displayed and enforced.

50 We are very pleased to comment on what a fine job has at last been made of the path—at least, on our way to the station in the morning when it is light; in the evening, on the return journey, we have some difficulty in finding the path at all and would be grateful for a light at the Winton Crescent end.

57 One of our members received assurance on a personal visit to the Council Offices that the question of cyclists was receiving early attention. We would ask that the path from Baldwins Lane to Kenilworth Drive might also be watched as complaints are being received from parents whose children use the path on their way to the schools at Durrants' and Little Green Lane.

Wanton Damage

It was observed that a stretch of fencing surrounding the Malvern Way School had been broken down along the Winton Drive boundary and inquiries were made as to the culprits. } 31

It appears that the damage is caused after school hours, and after the caretaker has left, and is done by children aged approximately nine to eleven years. Some time ago a police patrol drove round and caused a cessation of this wanton destruction. } 41

This Association has asked the police to patrol the area again as, in addition to further damage to fencing, some newly-planted young trees have been broken and supporting poles removed. } 32

May we also ask that parents will do what they can to check this waste of money and effort. } 18

ERIC NORMAN'S MUTUAL CLUB

For Father

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Brighter Croxley

Another Aspect

53 { In the "Chairman's Letter" of the last issue of the *Community News*, he referred to many of us brightening our houses. Strolling round the neighbourhood with this in mind, I noticed that many residents have started to clear away withered flowers and shrubs, and there was one thing which occurred to me very forcibly.

35 { What a revelation was visible after the clearance! What a state some fences, walls and posts are now seen to be in! All these things so depreciate the value of one's property and lower the general tone of the district.

76 { May I here appeal to the owners to improve matters before the spring. There are many jobs which can now be attended to and so leave more time for the garden when the fine weather returns. Gates, for instance, are meant to close easily—if they drag or overlap through dampness, they are a nuisance to the postman and every tradesman who calls — after all — for your convenience. Further, a dragging gate soon falls to pieces and presents a most disreputable appearance.

28 { There are plenty of jobbing carpenters and joiners who will rectify the trouble at a reasonable cost and then, if kept well painted, the gates will last you a very long time.

42 { Another thing which needs the attention of residents is the matter of overhanging hedges and shrubs. We are now due for our quota of rain and fog; these hedges will then be very annoying after dark. Make up your mind to attend to your own next week-end.

75 { An examination of your cistern and adjoining pipes will do much to ensure you a more comfortable winter. A dripping ball-valve, so easily cured, can cause a nasty accident on your sidepath or cause trouble through a damp wall. Covering the pipes before the hard frost comes is so much better than thawing-out with the possibility of a "burst." Be your own — and the plumber's — best friend this winter and prevent before it's necessary to cure.

F.H.G.

CHAIRMAN

15 These are indeed difficult days. Whichever
17 or forwards, we see nothing but the effects of one
18 partially able to visualise the effects of the most cri-
19 of our affairs being in the hands of theorists who w
14 the inconvenience, hardship, restrictions and humili
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17 Let us study for one brief moment how such
15 country. Generally the political theorists' approach
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18 I am convinced that, if the electorate were gi
26 selection was being fought, there would be difficulty in
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17 Unfortunately for you as residents of Croxley
14 "Political Theory and Practice" in operation.
17 theorists have now directed their attention to local a
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control local councils.

15 Occasionally here again they resort to hiding
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22 { When a local council comprises blocks forme
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15 Where a council comprises a majority of the
17 then invariably the path is made easy for whatever
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17 sentatives is freely permitted, but what is the valu

18 As the Chairman of the Croxley Green Reside
18 the dangers of permitting the conduct of your affairs
16 because of their affiliation to central remote headqu
3 cannot be local.

19 It is, however, no part of my duty, neither
16 elected by you and sponsored by this Association wil
20 is an impossibility. Rather that I put it frankly to you
18 to make decisions which displease certain individua
18 best likely to serve the interest of the community as
15 the difference between making a promise which can
14 your interests will be served best by viewing the ov

18 Finally let me say that the columns of the
14 have anything of interest to contribute, and I wou
19 with any resident of Croxley Green who considers the
3 as a whole as a result of such a discussion.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

15 These are indeed difficult days. Whichever way we choose to glance—be it backwards, sideways
17 or forwards, we see nothing but the effects of one political experiment after another, or are perhaps
18 partially able to visualise the effects of the next crisis looming on the horizon. We have seen examples
19 of our affairs being in the hands of theorists who will carry their ideologies to any length regardless of
14 the inconvenience, hardship, restrictions and humility with which the population has had of necessity
18 to be content, as invariably all these experiments and theories from the clouds can have only one ending. 101

17 Let us study for one brief moment how such a state of affairs can possibly exist in a democratic
15 country. Generally the political theorists' approach to the electorate is by offering some attractive bait,
19 and depending on the lack of knowledge of the people, fails at the same time to explain the harmful
19 effects of the hook to which the bait is attached. Once hooked and secure, the poor elector just has
19 to stand the pain and try to carry on; in fact even greater efforts are demanded than were recommended
3 before the injury! 92

16 Such are the wiles of those who choose politics as a career. Remember, they know that they
19 cannot succeed if the full facts are made apparent to all, and there is no difference whatever in the
18 approach or the effect whether the political theorist is clothed in white, black, or some attractive paste
shade. 53

18 I am convinced that, if the electorate were given the full and true facts at all times when an
26 election was being fought, there would be difficulty in finding a candidate willing to don the coloured
cloak and stand before the people offering to serve them. 444

17 Unfortunately for you as residents of Croxley Green, we now have the second and third line of
14 "Political Theory and Practice" in operation. Not content with operating on National issues, the
17 theorists have now directed their attention to local affairs. There is, of course, method in their madness
22 as the "Party Masters" realise only too well how much easier their task will be nationally if they can
control local councils. 48

15 Occasionally here again they resort to hiding the facts—I refer to so-called "Independent" can-
34 didates going forward with active support of a political party. I am sure that the residents of Croxley
Green will not be hoodwinked by this ruse and will in their own way attach the appropriate label. 44

22 When a local council comprises blocks formed by the grouping of the opposing political factions,
your affairs have a low priority in the deliberations. 22

15 Where a council comprises a majority of the same party as happens to be in power nationally,
17 then invariably the path is made easy for whatever legislation the central body cares to impose. This
18 is still a free and democratic country where criticism of the actions of our rulers, or our elected repre-
17 sentatives is freely permitted, but what is the value of this freedom if the criticism passes unheeded? 67

15 As the Chairman of the Croxley Green Residents' Association, it is my duty to point out to you
18 the dangers of permitting the conduct of your affairs to pass into the hands of those whose allegiance
16 because of their affiliation to central remote headquarters and by virtue of their declared political bias,
3 cannot be local. 53

19 It is, however, no part of my duty, neither is it my intention to promise you that the councillors
16 elected by you and sponsored by this Association will do everything necessary to please everyone. This
10 is an impossibility. Rather that I put it frankly to you in my first letter that they may have on occasions
15 to make decisions which displease certain individuals but which are in their considered opinion the
18 best likely to serve the interest of the community as a whole. It is much better that we understand
15 the difference between making a promise which can never be fulfilled, and the frank declaration that
14 your interests will be served best by viewing the overall needs of the district. 117

18 Finally let me say that the columns of the *Community News* are always open to you if you
14 have anything of interest to contribute, and I would personally appreciate the pleasure of a discussion
19 with any resident of Croxley Green who considers that he or she can further the interests of the community
5 as a whole as a result of such a discussion. 59

T. POOLEY.

707

Report of the Annual General Meeting

20 { The meeting was held at St. Oswald's Hall on Wednesday, October 26, the Chair being taken by Mr. H. W. R. Fowler.

40 { After the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on November 3, 1948, had been approved by the meeting, the Chairman drew attention to his report which had been circulated to all members. In it, Mr. Fowler stated that:—

Chairman's Report

92 { (1) The Association's representation on the Council had suffered a set-back as a result of the May elections in which two seats were lost in the North Ward; in spite of the strong political opposition, some 28 per cent of the votes has been gained thus completely justifying our decision to contest the election. Whilst convinced that our policy would ultimately gain the support necessary to increase our representation in the Council Chamber, we would meanwhile watch closely to ensure that the real needs of the residents are not overlooked in the party strife.

64 { (2) The decision at the last A.G.M. to resume the practice of electing a president and vice-presidents had led to inspiration and encouragement being given to the other officers and committee by the interest shown by these gentlemen in the affairs of the Association. The loss of Mr. L. Young, a founder-member and vice-president, was keenly felt on his retirement.

50 { (3) In June we were faced with the resignation of Mr. King-Jones from the office of Chairman after two and a half years of service. On behalf of the members an expression of thanks was made to Mr. King-Jones for his efforts on their behalf and the degree of energy and enthusiasm he had displayed throughout.

(4) During the year the officers and committee had pursued their activities with appreciable success; members had served on the Road Safety Committee, Croxley Green Society and Further Education Committee in addition to the two representatives on the Rickmansworth Council. In conclusion, Mr. Fowler thanked all those people who had devoted so much time and energy in the service of Croxley Green. 36

Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Mr. Withers, whose report had also been circulated, recorded appreciation for the consideration shown to our requests by the various authorities although some disappointment might be felt at the slowness of results in some cases. Among the more important activities of the Association were:— 80

Bus Services, Road Safety, Street Lighting, New Schools, Shopping Sites, etc., improvements in which were in many cases brought about by pressure from the Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Following the acceptance of these reports, the Treasurer, Mr. J. S. Robinson, asked for consideration of his balance sheet and gave a comparison between corresponding items for the years 1947/8 and 1948/9. The statement of account was accepted by the meeting with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer. 51

Election of Officers and Committee 1949-50

The next item on the agenda, which will be of interest to all members, was the election of officers and committee for 1949-50. 24

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|-----|
| President | ... | Rev. Raymond S. Wilkinson | 191 |
| Vice-Presidents | | Dr. Alan Miller
Dr. A. L. Ferguson
Mr. A. E. Jeffery
Mr. R. King-Jones | |
| Chairman | ... | Mr. T. Pooley <i>Equivalent</i> | 168 |
| Vice - Chairman | | Mr. A. T. Thomson | |
| Secretary | ... | Mr. H. W. R. Fowler | |
| Treasurer | ... | Mr. J. S. Robinson | |

Committee—Non-retiring members

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. R. Crocker | Mr. W. Blanchard |
| Mr. R. Crocker | Mr. E. Sheath |
| Mr. W. J. North | Mr. H. F. Newton |
| Mr. E. H. Page | Mr. R. Fox |
| Mr. F. W. Withers | Mr. H. Unsworth |
| Mr. W. G. Brambleby | |

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Elected Members

Mrs. J. S. Robinson Mr. W. Hart
Mr. F. H. Gurney Mr. J. W. Crisp
Mrs. T. Pooley Mr. E. E. White
Mr. W. F. Hadaway

Aiditors—Mr. M. J. Cusack. Mr. E. S. C. Stuart.

Following the election, Mr. Pooley took the Chair, and introduced the item of "Other Business." The chief items for discussion were:

Other Business

Forces Fund.—The Treasurer pointed out that £20/16/6½d. had been held since 1945 when it had been intended to use the money to provide seats in the then proposed Garden of Remembrance; as this had not materialised, he asked for a decision for the disposal of the money. After some discussion, it was agreed that the original intention of providing seats be carried out.

Shops.—On being put to the vote, a strong preference for Pitkins Land site was expressed by the meeting to that at the corner of Winton Drive/Baldwins Lane and it was decided that the feeling of the meeting should be conveyed to the Council.

Other subjects included Bus Shelters, Trees, Telephone Kiosks and Road Safety generally.

Chairman's Remarks

In his closing remarks, the Chairman, Mr. Pooley, stated that he had implicit belief in the aims of the Association and that he was glad to accept the challenge of the introduction of party politics into local affairs. He would enjoy this fight as he could not be accused of any connection with a party machine and he referred to so-called "independents" who were supported by party funds. He further challenged the right of parties to form youth groups, asking what right they had to take our young people under their wing before they reach the age of franchise. He concluded with a strong appeal to all to give greater prominence to the rightful place of independent thought in local affairs.

Improvement of Bus Services

Since it is understood that the Bus Services Subcommittee of the Rickmansworth U.D. Council is taking a keen interest in the requirements of residents in the Baldwins Lane area, recommendations from the Association's Committee have been addressed for their attention.

This matter is being watched closely for early results.

An Evening Out

The Residents' Association would like to remind you that you can spend an interesting and instructive evening by attending the open monthly meetings of the Rickmansworth Urban District Council when you will have an opportunity of seeing and hearing your representatives in action.

These meetings are held in the British Restaurant, Rickmansworth, on the last Tuesday in every month at 7 p.m. (except for December, which will be Thursday the 29th).

In order that you may have ample time to make yourself comfortable and see the whole proceedings you should be in your seats by 6.45 p.m.

Ask for the loan of a copy of the minutes to be discussed so that you may follow the proceedings fully.

The Secretary of the Residents' Association would be pleased to have your views on any matters arising from the meeting or to obtain further information for you on any item which may interest you in particular.

To all our Members
we wish

"A Merry Christmas"

IF YOU REQUIRE HIGH-CLASS
GROCERIES & PROVISIONS
THEN GIVE US A TRIAL!

Our Motto has always been—
and always will be—

QUALITY
SERVICE
CIVILITY

A. V. BRYANT

141 NEW ROAD, CROXLEY GREEN

Telephone:
RICKMANSWORTH
3323

DELIVERIES DAILY

Local Art Exhibition

114 The Croxley Green Further Education Centre held its Exhibition of Local Art on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 27-29, at Durrants School. The catalogue contained titles of 97 oils, water colours and engravings by adult artists, and 7 panels of drawings and paintings from local schools were on show. None of these works had been hung at the Centre's previous exhibitions. The exhibition was opened by Councillor E. J. Baxter, J.P., chairman of the S.W. Herts Further Education Committee, who said that he did not claim to be an expert on Art, although at the last exhibition that he opened he had received a two hour course in art appreciation from Sickert. He complimented the organiser, Miss B. Bettinson, and recommended the Centre to keep up their intention of holding the exhibition annually.

95 On the Friday, the adult work was criticised by Mr. J. Watson. Mr. Watson's announcement that he was a "modern" provoked a vigorous discussion from the many artists present and he illustrated his views by a tour of the exhibition, selecting many of the works for detailed analysis. Miss Mary Head was the speaker on Saturday, when she dealt with the children's section. Miss Head is the Art Organiser for the Herts County Council, and her sympathetic and expert treatment of the subject was greatly appreciated by the audience, among which were many local art teachers.

101 The hall at Durrants School is well lighted by day and night and the exhibition, which was beautifully arranged, was a striking proof of the diversity and high standard of local amateur art. It is difficult to select any exhibitor for special mention, but those provoking most discussion among the public were the macabre illustrations of Miss Bettinson and the detailed and colourful work of L. G. Harries. The critics gave high praise to the wonderful etchings of C. Chaplin, and to the water colours by B. P. Waller. Pottery and paintings from Watford Girls' Grammar School were much admired.

310
W.B.

The Social Side

We are asked by the Social Committee to show the following programme of events arranged for this season. 17

December 21st.—Grand Christmas Whist Drive. St. Oswald's Church Hall. *Seasonable Prizes.* 21

January 7th.—Old Time Dance. St. Oswald's Church Hall.

February 25th.—Old Time Dance. All Saints' Church Hall.

March 11th.—Old Time Dance. Croxley Guildhouse. *Provisional date; to be confirmed later.*

April 15th.—Old Time Dance. All Saints' Church Hall.

May 13th.—Old Time Dance. Croxley Guildhouse. *Provisional date; to be confirmed later.*

Our popular M.C., Mr. J. S. Robinson, will be on the floor at these functions—all of which commence at 7.45 p.m., the dances finishing at 11.45 p.m.

Tickets, which may be obtained from any member of the Committee, or Street Steward, are 2/6d. each for the dances and 2/- for the whist drives, and, whether this will be your first season with the "Residents," or you are already a supporter, you will be well advised to enter the above dates in your diary.

A feature of our dances is that at each there are expert demonstrators for all numbers, so that learners may be encouraged to take heart and join those who are further advanced. Every help is given to make the evening enjoyable to all.

The dances are select, but the general atmosphere is very friendly, and it is certain that having been to one you will take care not to miss any more. Come along and see the Residents' Association in its lighter mood!

FAMILY BUTCHER

Tel.: Rickmansworth
2576

A.E. DARVILL

LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSE
ON THE PREMISES

134 WATFORD ROAD,
CROXLEY GREEN

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