

THE

# CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Editor: A. T. THOMSON  
93 Frankland Road.

Advertising Manager and Sub-Editor.  
W. F. HADAWAY, 83 Baldwins Lane.

No. 31.

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1950.

## EDITORIAL

There was some very pointed criticism from a somewhat unexpected quarter at a recent Rickmansworth function when the Watford Town Clerk attacked the prevalence in many councils of local government affairs being controlled by party politics and of issues being decided by politicians before Council meetings.

The substance of the criticisms is not a new one in the columns of this publication. It is, and always has been, the aim of this Association to eradicate party politics from the administration of local affairs but to see our ever-constant protestations so fully endorsed by a council official is indeed confirmation with a vengeance!

There is, however, a further point on which it is felt comment must be made. We are accustomed—and wisely so—to complete anonymity on the part of council officials who, after all, are public servants and though we may duly note such criticisms we cannot accord to any public servant the right to express them publicly.

\* \* \*

The suggestion by a contributor in our last issue that "there is too much masculinity" in the magazine promptly brought several confirmatory responses from readers.

We hesitate to invoke a war betwixt the sexes and it is with pleasure—and trepidation too—that we introduce a new feature in this issue designed primarily, as the title indicates, for "Ladies Only." We hope that in this innovation our female readers will find something of particular interest.

The Editor will be pleased to consider any contribution, however small, for publication. Criticisms too, are equally welcome and—to use an essentially masculine phrase, — "Don't pull your punches."

Many householders in Croxley Green have received visits from canvassers seeking support of a peace pledge petition. Public press has thrown doubt on the sincerity of the originators and the petition has received some rough handling in the national newspapers: moreover, many eminent public figures have been scathing in their criticisms of the methods adopted by many sponsors of the movement in their quest for support.

Doubtless it was bearing these factors in mind that prompted several of our householders to question and probe some of the canvassers and we are informed that this questioning left little doubt as to the political background of these "visitors." Marxian philosophy—or is that too kind a word—and clichés were too often to the fore of their glib explanations.

There is no people on this sore and tried earth more sincere in their yearning for peace than the people of this island. We are satiated to the point of sickness with war and the talk of war and would willingly shake the hand of any nation sincerely seeking peace. But it is difficult to find suitable words for those hypocritical pledge protagonists who clamour for peace in the West whilst ravaging the East in war and bloodshed.

"O Peace, what infamies are suffered in thy name!"

\* \* \*

The summer of 1950 has gone and its demise is not likely to be widely mourned. As the wag said, "It was drowned in its own tears." We agree.

Nevertheless out of misfortune comes some good and the produce of the vegetable garden is a small measure of recompense.

FAMILY

134 WATFORD ROAD,  
CROXLEY GREEN

A. E. DARVILL

BUTCHER

Tel.: Rickmansworth  
2576

## CORRESPONDENCE

28 Valley Walk.

Dear Editor,

About three years ago I got a few local talented children together, rehearsed them in my front room and presented them to a children's matinee in a Watford cinema. After three successful shows of this sort I decided to form a troupe who call themselves "The Gang." These children have taken part in many charity shows including one last October for the P.D.S.A. and one in March this year for Croxley's "Youth Week." Occasionally, too, we visit the Rickmansworth Darby and Joan Club.

Four of these children have been with us since we started and most of the others joined us about two years ago.

I am sure there must be more local talent though, and I would welcome some new acts other than singers and tap dancers. Rehearsals are here every Thursday evening, 7 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. There is no charge.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) LILIAN HICKSON.

Dear Sir,

The Committee of Croxley Green Horticultural and Allotment Holders' Society would like to thank you for your column in the last issue regarding their Annual Show. As a result we have had a number of new members from your Society and we are hoping for more applications.

The service the Society is able to give depends largely on the strength of the Membership. We hope, therefore, that local residents will give us their support by joining our Society.

Yours truly,  
KAY M. RAGGETT,  
Hon. Secretary.

### NEW REGISTRATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1950

Will members please note that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Dickinson Guildhouse Science Room on Wednesday, the 8th of November, 1950, commencing at 8 p.m. The usual notices will be distributed at a later date and it is hoped that a good attendance will be made. We shall be glad to enrol new members at the meeting.

### MEMORIAL SEATS ON GREEN

The end of the last war found this Association in possession of a sum of money which had been subscribed by members as a "Forces' Fund" and at an early meeting it was decided that, as the money could no longer be used for its original purpose and in view of the nature of the fund, it would be an appropriate gesture to provide with it seats for inclusion in the then proposed "Garden of Remembrance."

As, however, the War Memorial when erected in its modified form did not permit of any such seats, the Committee was instructed at the last Annual General Meeting to proceed with a scheme for providing Memorial Seats to be erected on the Green itself. Estimates have been obtained for two seats which it is felt would be entirely suitable, subject to the necessary permission being obtained.

The Council when approached expressed entire approval and has agreed to assist by supplying concrete bases and the erection of the seats. These preliminary arrangements being complete, application has now been made to the Commoners for permission to proceed. At the time of going to press, this sanction is awaited but it is confidently felt that, having regard to the nature of the request, their co-operation will be readily forthcoming.

### CROXLEY SCHOOL OF DANCING

Principal: E. A. SEALEY, A.M., N.A.T.D.

\* \* \*

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TAP and ACROBATIC**

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From 6.30 p.m.

\* \* \*

**SPORTSMAN ANNEXE, SCOTS HILL**

All enquires to: 77 Barton Way, Croxley Green.

“ LADIES ONLY ”

I don't know whether your family is the same as mine and takes an interest in food as mine does—and a very appreciative interest too. Consequently I am always on the lookout for something new in the way of recipes. This benefits in two ways; it gives me something new to do, and something new for the family to consider.

All this leads up to the query—have you a favourite recipe you would like to send in? If so, send it along and let us publish it. Not only recipes will be welcome, but any household hints, make do and mend, and thrift items will also be welcomed. The following recipe was sent in by Mrs. Welch, 63 Winton Drive:—

**Breakfast or Supper Dish**

1 piece of toast per person, 1 egg, small amount of grated cheese, chopped onion and/or tomato; season to taste.

**Method.**—Place a little cheese in the bottom of a greased cup, crack egg into cup being careful not to break the yolk. Add more cheese and a layer of tomato and/or onion, steam or bake for twenty minutes, turn out on to buttered toast and serve hot.

**Coconut Pyramids**

Here is a very quick and easy recipe which you may care to try; it is a great favourite with most children and grown ups too.

Half a tin of condensed milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. desiccated coconut.

**Method.**—Mix together, take a small eggcup, moisten with water and pat some of the mixture

into the eggcup and turn out on to a greased baking sheet; cook in a moderate oven for about twenty minutes. This amount will make about eighteen cakes. As a change I colour mine. To get an even distribution of colour add a few spots to the condensed milk before adding the coconut.

Did you know that cake tins greased with butter will make your cakes taste as though they were made with it?

**Buying Carpets.** When buying carpets, remember that a plain floor makes a small room look larger and the best way is with a close-fitted plain carpet. The extra expense in having a fitted carpet is repaid in comfort and the impression of space which it gives. Felt underneath the carpet is also a good investment and a great life saver preserving the carpets from wearing against the boards and gives me that feeling of softness and luxury. Good thick newspaper is, however, an admirable substitute. Before laying a carpet examine the floor carefully. If the floor is boarded make sure that no boards are loose, otherwise the carpet will be worn at those points, and don't ignore any suspected mousehole; new carpets are a great delicacy with mice.

Unfortunately, carpets are a very expensive item and felt is an excellent substitute which is sold in many good colours, and as a rule wears very well. Don't buy cheap felt. It is no saving, but a good one will look and last almost as well as a carpet.

“ FEMINA. ”

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And would like to endorse the many expressions of regret on the retirement of Mr. R. W. Annear from the position of Surveyor to the Rickmansworth Urban District Council. Mr. Annear has given excellent service to the district and we can only hope that the loss in this respect will be compensated by having him amongst us in Croxley Green where it is understood he will spend his retirement.

\* \* \*

A temporary Pavilion hut is to be provided by the Council on the Baldwins Lane Recreation Ground.

\* \* \*

Although in these days of labour difficulties it may on occasion be necessary to restrict the House Refuse collection service, there is nevertheless no adjustment in the rate demand to balance this shortcoming. If a certain sum of money is collected and set aside for a specific purpose even though directly employed labour cannot be obtained to fully implement the service, it is reasonable to expect that the balance of such monies should be used to employ contractors where necessary. It is, however, understood that the labour position has now improved and we can look forward to regular weekly collections in the future.

\* \* \*

That Baldwins Lane will soon be equipped with better lighting throughout its whole length, and that the third burner in gas lamps generally, will be lit during the coming winter.

\* \* \*

Very favourable comment on the manner in which Messrs. W. F. Hadaway and E. H. Page—the Association's delegates on the Bus Council (formed to solve the many transport difficulties) conducted their case for route 385.

\* \* \*

Much about the Baldwins Lane-Girton Way footpath but what is eagerly looked for, more than just another paper development, is the day when the footpath can be used.

**DECORATIONS  
GENERAL REPAIRS**

**Ralph  
STONELL**

**[A card—or a ring—for a call]**

32 Barton Way,  
Croxley Green.

Telephone:  
RICK. 3231

Now that the holidays are over—and whether a few who had real holiday weather—the time has come. In other words we should turn our thoughts

From time to time when reading the national news when I see something which, although perhaps only a single phrase what we as British citizens regard as democracy and the synthetic brands one sees flour

It has always been recognised as ideal to have a quiet static regardless of the ebb and flow of the political and discretion; never voicing praise or criticism of the always been centred around the tendering of consent to seek notoriety or self aggrandisement by public and continuity of the country's administration as defined

Some may say that such a status is not in keeping with conditions of service, be they binding by regulation or to openly criticise when he thought fit—regardless of the envy of the world. Let me here point out that these officials and, unless I am very badly informed otherwise; therefore, it is only right to expect that having should be honoured.

I find it difficult to reconcile some recent utterances to the outburst by a very senior Local Government clerk. This officer, who fortunately does not serve to openly criticise in public, the activities of elected representatives by vote constitutionally. To say this outburst was the incident. Whether or not we, as ratepayers, and a councillor is elected, it is generally appreciated that to conduct himself when on Council business is ce

I have, in these pages many times criticised council district and it may well be that I shall have occasion and see those who are paid (and paid well) for the derogative of the public but not of the public servant.

As a contrast, I saw a report the other day of a standard of conduct from its officers in their dealings at this end they put all members of the staff through and improve their dealings with the public, but perhaps they were servants. It is a laudable effort which should not too distant future, we find a senior servant ever

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T. POOLEY.

The Divisional Planning Officer is reported to have inspected the vacant site at the junction of Sherbourne Way and Lancing Way, and whilst finding the conditions of the site undesirable, he considered the amenities of the adjoining property were not seriously affected by the state of this land. Furthermore it would be difficult to prove serious injury to the amenities under the terms of section 33 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947.

This Association has repeatedly stressed the need for some action on this and other similar sites. We are sure that if the Planning Officer lived in, or owned, one of the adjoining houses, he would be very reluctant to come to a decision that no action was necessary.

We cannot but wonder if the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 has no enforceable relevance whether a Health Act of any year may provide the key to the solution.

\* \* \*

That Civic Restaurants, having for a number of months past shown a large deficit in their trading accounts, are now receiving the attention of the Council who are considering their early closure, and the use to which these buildings can be put in the future. (Readers may recall our reference to the Restaurants in our July/August issue.)

\* \* \*

That forty-seven Council House tenants entered for the Tenants Garden Competition arranged by the Council, and it is understood that the inspection revealed a very high standard throughout. All those who participated, whether successful in obtaining a prize or not are to be congratulated on their efforts. They have at least the satisfaction of knowing that not only did they make their own home and garden look more attractive, but they contributed materially to the appearance of the district as a whole.

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Now that the holidays are over—and whether or not we were fortunate enough to be amongst the few who had real holiday weather—the time has come when we should take stock of the year's happenings. In other words we should turn our thoughts and attention to more serious things.

From time to time when reading the national and local newspapers, I pause and ponder especially when I see something which, although perhaps only a minor detail in itself, foretells some trend likely to have a far reaching effect on our way of life. I say, "our way of life," very deliberately as depicting in a single phrase what we as British citizens regard as the difference between that which we understand as democracy and the synthetic brands one sees flourishing under the same name in other lands.

It has always been recognised as ideal to have qualified and experienced public servants who remained static regardless of the ebb and flow of the political tide. Such officers being renowned for their loyalty and discretion; never voicing praise or criticism of their temporary but elected superiors. Their duty has always been centred around the tendering of considered advice, legal, technical or administrative, never to seek notoriety or self aggrandisement by public appearances or utterances, and above all preserving the continuity of the country's administration as defined by the acts while remaining free from any bias.

Some may say that such a status is not in keeping with the modern trend of life and that these conditions of service, be they binding by regulation or custom, should be relaxed to allow a public servant to openly criticise when he thought fit—regardless of the code which has made our administration the envy of the world. Let me here point out that there is no compulsion or persuasion exercised to recruit these officials and, unless I am very badly informed, there is even much competition for these appointments; therefore, it is only right to expect that having decided to serve the country and the public, custom should be honoured.

I find it difficult to reconcile some recent utterances with this code, and in particular would refer to the outburst by a very senior Local Government Officer—a public servant no less than the most junior clerk. This officer, who fortunately does not serve our Urban District Council, had the audacity to criticise in public, the activities of elected representatives, notwithstanding that they had been elected by vote constitutionally. To say this outburst was in bad taste is to under emphasise the seriousness of the incident. Whether or not we, as ratepayers, agree with the particular colour of the ticket on which a councillor is elected, it is generally appreciated that he is there to represent the district. How he cares to conduct himself when on Council business is certainly no concern of the paid servant of the Council.

I have, in these pages many times criticised councillors for putting party before the needs of the district and it may well be that I shall have occasion to do likewise in the future, but I cannot stand by and see those who are paid (and paid well) for their advice, enter into controversies which are the prerogative of the public but not of the public servant.

As a contrast, I saw a report the other day of one Local Authority which insisted on a very high standard of conduct from its officers in their dealings with ratepayers and the public generally. To this end they put all members of the staff through a course of training designed not only to accelerate and improve their dealings with the public, but primarily to instil into the minds of the officers that they were servants. It is a laudable effort which should be copied by all authorities lest one day in the not too distant future, we find a senior servant even assuming the right to sit in the chair of honour.

I am sure that we who simply remain "the public" are fully capable of criticising the elected representatives activities when necessary and whether we agree with their views or otherwise we will support them whenever a paid official resorts to public criticism.

T. POOLEY.

## THE FRUITS OF LABOUR

Croxley Green Horticultural and Allotment Holders Society held their Annual Show on September 23, 1950, and a highly successful event it was too.

Miss Kay Cavendish opened the show which had a record entry of 727 — 200 more than last year—and a second record was broken in the attendance. Mrs. F. E. Harmer presented the prizes.

The judges praised the high standard of the entries and said they had not judged a finer show. Praise from the experts is praise indeed.

Pleasure was expressed at the number of new names appearing in the prize list and it is to be hoped there will be many more again next year. It is impossible to list all the prize-winners but the following include the cup, medal and diploma winners:—

Mrs. H. G. Delderfield of Hazelwood Road.  
Mr. A. Skengley of Rugby Way.  
Mr. G. W. Hamblin of Lancing Way.  
Mr. H. Barton, of Watford Road.  
Mr. A. Hedges of Rugby Way.  
Mr. W. J. Whitehead of Sherbourne Way.  
Mrs. J. D. Williams of Kenilworth Drive.  
Mr. J. G. Foster of New Road.  
Mr. R. G. Brown of Claremont Crescent.  
Mr. A. V. Bryant of Kenilworth Drive.  
Mrs. A. M. Blaise of Baldwins Lane.

The Society are providing two extremely interesting and instructive lectures in the near future.

**October 26.**—A lecture "Fruit Culture," by Mr. A. H. Lugg, N.D.H., Horticultural Supdt. Herts Institute of Agriculture, to be held at the Science Room, The Guildhouse.

**November 23.** — Also at the Science Room, a lecture, "Culture of Chrysanthemums," by Mr. Lambert—member of the teaching staff at the Herts Institute of Agriculture.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

\* \* \*

And talking of gardens, etc., a contributor reminds us that:—

1. Those bulbs should be in by now.
2. If you have fruit trees, get those grease bands on.
3. Your gooseberries may be grown as cordons. Select this year's well-ripened shoots about 14 inches long; remove all except the top four or five buds and plant in holes of fine sand, firming well. Grow them up canes which are linked by horizontal wires. Prune only sufficiently to curb laterals.
4. Fruit trees should be pruned as soon as the weather is suitable. There is no reason why trees should not be pruned before the leaves have fallen if you think it will help to "shape" the tree.

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## ERIC NORMAN'S WEEKLY CLUBS

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**X ONLY 8 WEEKS!**

**M DON'T W8 WEEKS!**

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**S Your PRESENCE**

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(opposite Electricity Showrooms)

## SOCIAL SIDE

The first Old Time Dance of the season, held at All Saints' Church Hall on Saturday, 23rd, was a great success. Seventy dancers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were soon in their usual top form after the summer rest.

In addition to the better known dances we had the pleasure of seeing the latest dance—as accepted by the National Association for Old Time Dances namely "The Gainsborough Glide." The demonstration provided by Mr. and Mrs. Higgs was so expertly given that in no time most of the company were enjoying the new dance.

The latest American Square Dance was also tried out—and thoroughly enjoyed.

Our next Old Time Dance will be held on November 18, at All Saints' Church Hall, so note the date and get your tickets early from your usual source of supply.

## FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

The October and November programmes include the following events which are extremely interesting and varied.

**Art.**—Local Exhibition at Durrants School on October 27th and 28th.

**Drama.**—Three One Act Plays by the Y.W.C.A. Players. Admission 2/-: Members 1/6. At The Guildhouse at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7.

**Current Affairs.**—Political Brains Trust on "Nationalisation" at Old Boys School, Tuesday, October 24, at 7.30 p.m.

Also debate "That Men are the Weaker Sex," November 21, 7.30 p.m. at Old Boys School.

(Editor's note.—The series "Natural History of English Countryside" which commenced on Tuesday, October 3, will of course be on alternate Tuesdays and not Thursdays as inadvertently stated in our last issue.)

The "CATCH of the SEASON"

is at

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## CROXLEY SOUTH WARD

The resignation of Councillor Mrs. Horsefield necessitated a By-election in the South Ward and Mr. O'Sullivan (Conservative) was elected.

Although Mrs. Horsefield's career in Council matters was short it was a very full one and the posts she held were numerous and varied.

When speaking to the Press on her withdrawal from Rickmansworth Council and her removal from the district, Mrs. Horsefield made an extremely interesting comment, which, coming from a political party councillor is illuminating in the extreme. It was:—"I do rather deprecate the extent to which Party feeling has grown in the Council."

And yet again this Association's words are confirmed.

## MEMBERSHIP

I enclose 2/- subscription for 1950/51 membership of Croxley Green Residents' Association.

I am a \*new/former member.

Full name.....

Address .....

Date .....

\*delete as appropriate.

Send completed application forms to either the Secretary, 140 Baldwins Lane, or the Editor, 93 Frankland Road. Alternatively you may bring it with you and enroll at the Annual General Meeting to be held at The Guildhouse, Dickinson Square (Science Room) on Wednesday, November 8, at 8 p.m.

Old members may, if they desire, send the application to their Street Steward.

Note.—Membership includes automatically the wife of the member.

The **RIGHT** Step

*will take you to*

**THE**

**WRIGHT**

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## BUSES

"It's a long lane that has no turning," is a truism with which we are all familiar, but this Association's protracted campaign for improved bus facilities seems at last to have rounded the "turn" and to be proceeding along the "straight."

Since 1945, when we recommenced activities as a Residents' Association after the war years, we have repeatedly endeavoured to show, first to the L.P.T.B., then to the L.T.E., the urgent and desirable need for linking Croxley North with Croxley South by public transport. Our arguments have been many and varied and have included all the inconveniences suffered by North residents by reason of the distances between

- (a) Homes and shops, post office, library, etc.;
- (b) Doctors and chemists;
- (c) Schools and school-children's homes;
- (d) Homes and the railway station.

Despite our repeated approaches, and those of the Rickmansworth U.D.C., to which body we submitted copies of correspondence on the subject of Transport, we could extract no satisfaction for our residents and so in January last we wrote to the local Council, to the Watford Borough Council, Watford Chamber of Commerce, Rickmansworth Chamber of Commerce and other local organisations, suggesting the need for a combined effort in this matter.

We received encouraging acknowledgements and in February an Area Council was formed on which we were invited to appoint two delegates. The terms of reference were "to endeavour to acquire more satisfactory Bus Services in all areas connecting to and in Watford," and at the first meeting in March it was surprising how many local services seemed to require improvement. Our delegates naturally stressed the shortcomings of Route 385.

As a later result of personal observation of various routes by the different delegates, a formidable list of suggestions was submitted to the L.T.E., and it was suggested that their representatives should meet the Area Council for discussion. That meeting took place on August 31, in Watford Town Hall, where we welcomed Mr. Robertson

(Public Relations Officer), Mr. Walker (Divisional Traffic Supt.) and Mr. Adcock (Local Traffic Supt.) and for nearly five hours under the very able chairmanship of Mr. S. J. Tunwell, we reviewed nine local bus routes and made suggestions for improvements thereto. Our delegates, speaking in connection with Route 385, in particular that it should be "extended from its present terminus at Repton Way, along Baldwins Lane, The Green and New Road to Croxley (Met.) Station, returning by the same route," based their case on the fact that such an extension would cater for all North residents—rail travellers, shoppers, schoolchildren, local workers — by providing the necessary link with both Croxley South (direct) and Rickmansworth (by changing at New Road corner). It was stressed that many North residents were a mile or more from the shopping and other facilities and that the only existing method of journeying to those shops by bus was extremely inconvenient, including as it did the need for changing at the bottom of Baldwins Lane, where no bus shelters were in existence.

Of course, the representatives of the L.T.E., were expertly able to state the Executives' points of view and bombarded the delegates with statistics, which obviously were meant to prove something or other. But we returned to the attack and summed up by suggesting that the chief argument in favour of extending any service was surely the potential value of that service to both providers and customers, and this point was conceded, the eventual result of the discussion being that the Public Relations Officer promised to recommend the suggested extension. When it is realised that this was the only **concrete** promise extracted during the whole meeting, our readers will doubtless agree that our delegates are to be congratulated on so ably handling a question that has for long been of great concern to the Croxley Green Residents' Association.

Up to the time of going to press the extended Route 385 had not started to operate (the recent staff trouble has no doubt had an effect on all such plans) but we shall if necessary remind the L.T.E. of our expectations in regard to the public transport of Croxley Green.

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