

*and  
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# THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The May Council elections did not materially alter the personnel of the Council—other than in the political sense of course. There were four new faces, two representing Croxley. So in theory at least one did not expect (or hope—according to personal opinion) any tumultuous upheaval of policy. However, political peace did not prevail very long and it was not surprising that the aldermanic elections at Watford were swiftly followed by a not dissimilar clean sweep at Rickmansworth in the S.-W. Herts. Divisional Executive; this time the boot was on the other foot, so to speak!

Irrespective of the arguments for or against these political manoeuvres, one very regrettable fact stands out. In these skirmishes good, sound and experienced councillors can be ruthlessly cast aside for political expediency. And so it will continue as long as political necessity takes precedence over all matters in local affairs.

Perhaps the time is opportune to have a brief survey of Croxley with regard to the year ahead. Space is limited and it is inevitable that some needs and aspects may be omitted although not overlooked.

Commencing from Rickie it is good to see the road widening at Scots Hill progressing. It is belated and long overdue but a project of this type involves many administrative difficulties and restrictions. But in quite a number of quarters have I heard doubt expressed as to the adequacy of the widening. I hope that these doubts are unjustified: it would be jolly if there were a lack of foresight in this respect.

Continuing up the Green dare one mention lights! I know by this winter the lighting programme of Croxley will be advanced considerably—and a long cherished wish of Councillor Cox nearer fulfilment—but the major legal hurdle to the Green lighting has been cleared. The standards have been stark and barren long enough.

What of The Green itself? A section of the public who attended the Open Meeting sponsored by this Association in the Spring made their views on The Green abundantly clear to the Council Chairman and the Croxley Councillors present. Since then the Association has put its views forward in certain quarters. The next move is the Council's. And if I may say so—no repetition of the Town Moor—please! That would be inexcusable.

The shops at the top of Baldwins Lane progress rapidly: the appeal concerning those at the bottom of the Lane is still in the Ministry's hands. This is vexing

in the extreme—particularly as in November last year, it was understood, the Minister had considered the appeal and called for the final observations of Rickmansworth U.D.C., Herts C.C. and Messrs. Pitkin Ltd. Since then—a vacuum.

By, shall we say, an extraordinary coincidence it was about the same time that the land on the other side of Baldwins Lane which adjoins the station and was formerly stacked with timber, suddenly became the subject of controversy. This site, zoned for light industry, was unexpectedly required by Rickmansworth Council as another Open Space. It is a little ironical that over this site Rickmansworth Council and Herts County Council should suddenly disagree but that is another story, the development of which will be interesting in the extreme. In the meantime I trust we shall have the minimum of official eloquence on the beautifying of Croxley in this area whilst only a few yards further away the Watford Road is being converted into an Advertising Hoarding Arcade. If the Council and its planners do sincerely wish to improve the amenities and appearances of Croxley I suggest they concentrate their energies and influences on that stretch of Watford Road from the L.M.S. station to the top of the hill.

There has been recent reference in the Press to the conditions of roads. It has always been the practice of the Association to advise the Council of spots where repairs are urgently required and there is a possibility of danger to the public. But it is an impossibility to meet all demands for this purpose, and repairs and improvements can only be selective. For 1955/56 a sum of £43,085 has been earmarked and the Council have an extremely difficult task in this respect. That sum is roughly equivalent to a rate of 3s. 4d.

The state of Croxley Woods; the area to the rear of Frankland Road and Close; the inadequacies of the 385 bus route and the continued absence of a link between North and South Croxley Road Safety in Baldwins Lane and elsewhere—all are subjects on which space does allow comment in this issue but which the Association has placed before the Council at various times.

One final point. It will soon be two years since the Association raised the question of bus shelters in Croxley. With the best will in the world I feel there has been ample time for some of the oft expressed promises of the Council to have materialised into something a little more "concrete."

A. T. THOMSON.

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## WE HEAR—

**Baldwins Lane** Recreation Ground may soon have three hard tennis courts if a scheme now being considered comes to fruition. It would be a decided improvement to the recreation ground if, once these courts are provided, regular maintenance could be assured to make it more of a credit to the Open Spaces Committee.

\* \* \* \*

**Windows** in some Council houses will need to be replaced within two or three years due to rusting of the steel frames resulting in panes of glass constantly breaking.

\* \* \* \*

**Saturdays off** on alternate weeks are the order of the day at the Rickmansworth U.D.C. offices. No one will begrudge the officers concerned their additional leisure provided steps are taken to ensure that these improved conditions of service do not result in inconvenience to ratepayers.

\* \* \* \*

**Industrial development** in Tolpits Lane is causing the planners to put themselves, the R.U.D.C., or our poor old friends, the ratepayers, on the spot. Those who set themselves up as "an authority" on planning so frequently find that their insatiable appetite to "restrict, curb, prohibit" (and only occasionally to "permit") brings them into conflict with another "authority," and unfortunately, at the ratepayers' expense they proceed to litigation. Might we remind "authorities" that they are using ratepayers' hard-earned money in such stupid activities, and suggest that petty squabbles between them be settled without appeals and legal expenditure.

\* \* \* \*

**Council Minutes** are now available to all members of the public at a cost of 1/- per copy, and will be obtainable on the Friday prior to each full Council meeting (normally held on a Tuesday). Additional copies will be available in the Libraries on the Saturday prior to the Council meeting.

This Association has always obtained copies of Minutes and whenever possible has an observer or observers at all open Council meetings so that matters of importance may be reported to its Executive Committee and members.

\* \* \* \*

**Cremation** is on the increase according to figures appearing in the Minutes of the West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee. Contained in the same Minutes is a proposal to pay certain officers of St. Alban's City Surveyor's Department amounts based on the time spent on the Crematorium Committee's work out of normal working time. There is also a proposal to pay "an appropriate sum" to the City Council covering work carried out during office hours.

It has always been considered expensive to die and perhaps now that we may look forward to having cremation facilities near at hand we cannot even expect the cost of dying to be tied to the cost of living but rather to "appropriate payments." We must remain alive to such a possibility lest this scheme develops any resemblance to the Colne Valley Scheme.

\* \* \* \*

**The Green** has another mention. We note that the Bursar of Gonville and Caius College requires the Council to pay the costs of transfer of the freehold. This should have been disclosed by the Council at the outset.

## —AND OBSERVE

**Boundaries** and changes being considered are causing some hard feelings. Whether there are good reasons or otherwise why certain rural areas should be incorporated into the Urban District Council Administrative Area it would surely have been wise to have had full discussions on these proposals in advance with neighbouring authorities.

\* \* \* \*

**Council House Rents** were the subject of a letter to the Council by a ratepayer. The Council are, however, not prepared to adopt a differential scheme but will continue as at present.

\* \* \* \*

**The Mobile Canteen** on the car park on Rickmansworth by-pass is to go or the owner is to pay £1 per week damages as from January 1 last. There are, of course, other matters affecting amenities not being pressed to such a conclusion—but this is Croxley Green.

\* \* \* \*

**Council Properties** on the Green with their yellow doors are criticised daily, not only by residents who regard the Green as a bit of old England, but by complete strangers who can, even at first sight, detect a glaring example of thoughtless planning. It may well be, of course, that this effect was deliberate. Let it serve as a warning of what might happen to our Green when (if ever) the Council are masters. Some of the excess paint ex Colne Valley Sewage Scheme could perhaps be used here to advantage!

\* \* \* \*

**Hot Air** can always be troublesome and never more so than when the Council Chamber is involved. Extractor fans are to be fitted at a cost of £36 12s. so that we can now hope confidently that the atmosphere will be much improved. Someone has suggested the installation of a fan on a movable arm above the heads of those addicted to degrading the air, the control to be in the hand of a member of the public in the gallery who always appear reasonably cool.

\* \* \* \*

**The Committees** of the new Council formed following the elections promise to be most entertaining according to rumour as the minority side are being pushed more than ever into obscurity. Without doubt their distrust of the majority party will create some heated arguments—another reason why politics in local government are harmful. Time spent in bickering could be used to advantage in the interests of ratepayers.

\* \* \* \*

**Moor Park** and the B.E.A. overhead transmission lines are the cause of much head scratching and heart burning. There may well be every reason for these flutterings but we cannot help but contrast the lack of interest when a matter of importance to the amenities of Croxley Green is concerned.

This Association has had occasion recently to draw the attention of the Council to the arbitrary way matters of import to our community are dealt with administratively by officials.

\* \* \* \*

**Baldwins Lane**, where children cross for school, has been causing some concern to parents. The County Council are, however, not prepared to provide a patrol at this point.

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

(Croxley Green Branch)

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Mr. J. BOLLAND [Rick. 5168] or Mr. L. ROLLITT (Sec.) 103 New Road or Miss I. SEVERN [Wat. 9383]

## LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG

This might be called the "theme song" of Dog Lovers, especially in Britain, where we pride ourselves on being "fond of animals." What would Dog Owners of Croxley Green say were they told they were cruel to their pets and unfit to own them? Write indignant letters, or dismiss it as being irrelevant? But it is the truth: about 90% so-called "dog lovers" are not fit to have dogs. Examine your own consciences, and deliberate before you answer—how many can honestly say that *their* dog has *never* fouled the pavement or someone else's path, or lifted it's leg at a shop front? But you're not cruel! Isn't it cruel to expose your dog to the sticks, stones and violence of irate ratepayers, property-owners and shop-keepers?

Mrs. Woodhouse, of Campions, is country-wide-known as a trainer of dogs, and anyone who has attended her Dog Obedience Classes, will realise that she "knows her stuff"; but anyone whose dog "fouls" during the one and a half hours' lesson, after one warning, is dismissed the class. "No dog," says Mrs. Woodhouse, "needs to relieve itself more than three times a day; a dog can be trained as easily as a child; in my opinion—and I've said this frequently—a filthy dog has a filthy owner." To quote again: "The streets of Croxley Green are revolting."

Nor is this the opinion of only one person. The ratepayers in the district are becoming more and more infuriated by this "couldn't care less" attitude of dog owners, and the Residents' Association should point out that there is a bye-law under Local Government Act 1933, under which the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs is a punishable offence and subject to prosecution.

Croxley Green has always been noted for its Good Neighbourliness. Let us see a little more in the prevention of this nuisance by dog owners; train your dog to use a spot in *your own* garden, and if you can't get out to fields or woods, train it to use the gutters, and then with pride you may say: "Love me, *and* love my dog."

"BEWARE OF THE DOG."

**Editorial Note.**—For some time the Association has received complaints regarding the fouling of Croxley pavements by dogs. Some roads, judging by reports and observations, are particularly bad, but the nuisance seems fairly widespread.

The Association has been, and is, in correspondence with the Local Authority, and at the time of writing the matter has been referred to the police.

The preceding article by a Croxley resident is both timely and appropriate. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the training methods indicated, nor in the results; they may well evoke criticism. Be that as it may we know that the grounds of complaint are only too evident; we know that the indignation of the correspondent is sincere and manifestly justified.

We publish the article in full and without modification.

It would be an injustice to the correspondent and the serious subject of the article to do otherwise.

*Local Government Act, 1933, Section 249, Byelaw No. (10) of the Bye-laws for good rule and government and the prevention of nuisances made by Hertfordshire County Council in 1954 deals with dogs fouling footways.*

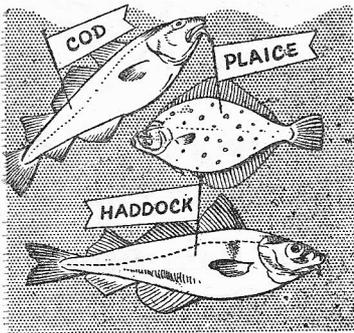
The Bye-law applies to the Urban District of Rickmansworth.

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### SOCIAL SIDE

August 27.—It is understood that the British Legion are proposing to hold a fête at the Bury Grounds, Rickmansworth, which is to last until 9 p.m.

September 21.—Croxley Green Evening Townswomen's Guild will be holding their second Open Evening on this date. This is an occasion when the Guild is open to welcome all members, visitors and friends. There will be a large display of articles made by Guild members and various other sections will also display their talents. Those of you who visited the Guild on their first Open Evening will remember that members of the Drama Section "displayed" a great deal of their talents. Will they see you there? The Hall, Dickinson Guildhouse, at 7.30 p.m. Admission, including refreshments, 2/-.

September 27.—The S.-W. Herts Federation of Townswomen's Guilds is holding a Michaelmas Fayre in the Watford Town Hall to be open from 2.30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Admission 1/-. Children half-price. Now is the time to buy your Christmas Boxes, so come in your thousands and avail yourselves of the huge selection of beautiful articles of infinite variety made by your local townswomen. Make a note now of the date, the time and the place.

#### ADVERTISING MANAGER

We would like to draw the attention of traders in Croxley Green to the appointment of Mr. A. Bleek, of 39 Durrants Drive as Advertising Manager for this Bulletin, which is distributed to every house in Croxley Green. Any traders who would like to ensure that the attractive features of their businesses are brought to the notice of all residents are invited to get in touch with Mr. Bleek who will be pleased to discuss the matter without fee or obligation. (Phone Watford 6990.)

#### CROXLEY THEATRE CLUB

The Club wishes to bring to the notice of all residents of Croxley Green that their aim is to provide them with good, live entertainment in their own village. While they recognise the very strong attractions of the television and cinema screens they make the suggestion that you try the Croxley Theatre Club for a change.

Their next production will be in November, when posters displayed throughout the village will give all the details.

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New members are always welcome for both acting and back-stage work. Those interested should write to the honorary secretary—Miss Sue Martin, 17 Frankland Close, Croxley Green.

#### CITIZENSHIP

We have recently received several letters and complaints on two matters which ought not to arise at all. One, the fouling of footpaths by dogs receives full treatment elsewhere. The other concerns the dumping of rubbish in such places as the rear of Frankland Road and Little Green Lane, opposite Lincoln Drive. It is difficult to understand how people can set out deliberately to create these eyesores in their own locality. We hope that any would-be offender will pause and heed an appeal to his sense of common decency.

#### CHIEF STREET STEWARD

Newcomers to the district are cordially invited to contact the Chief Street Steward of this Association, Mrs. G. A. Wilkins, of 22 Warwick Way. The subscription of 2/- per annum entitles both husband and wife to membership.

Present members are reminded that the Association's financial year begins on July 1, and that they would greatly assist the Steward by forwarding their subscription instead of waiting for her to call.

#### Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association

##### MEMBERSHIP

Please enrol me as a new/former Member at the Subscription of 2s. per annum.

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