

The Croxley Green Resident

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 102

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

JULY 1969

Spotlight on the New Youth Centre

The project of providing a permanent Youth Centre in Croxley Green will be known to every household by the time these words appear in print, as the house-to-house collection organised by the Youth Centre Supporters' Committee will have taken place, and copies of the brochure will have been delivered to every house in the area. Naturally, it is not possible to include every aspect of this scheme within the very limited compass of a brochure, so that it is not inappropriate to turn our "spotlight" upon it.

It all began as a result of discussions between the Revds. J. J. Clayton, A. S. Conway, D. Harper, W. R. Lloyd-Jones and F. Townley, representing the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and Roman Catholic churches, who felt that the interests of Youth, as part of the Croxley Green community, were not sufficiently catered for. The result of the decisions and plans then made was the formation of an ecumenical Youth Centre, with temporary club premises at the old Territorial Army headquarters on the Green; it was known from the outset that this site would be wanted by the Rickmansworth Urban District Council for housing development within a few years, so preliminary enquiries about a site for a permanent centre were soon made. The management committee was encouraged to plan for a permanent centre by the success the Club achieved under the very able leadership of Capt. Joint, of the Church Army; the very large active membership showed beyond doubt that the Club was fulfilling a real need, and that this could only be met satisfactorily by providing the continuity which only a permanent centre could give. The Urban District Council was most helpful over a site for the permanent centre, allocating a splendid one on part of the allotment land off Barton Way. The next event was our departure from the Green, which we left at the end of 1968, having moved house into part of the Parsonage Road School, Rickmansworth. This again was a temporary measure designed to keep the Club in being whilst the permanent premises were being built; naturally we expected membership to be reduced somewhat because our new meeting place is not so convenient for the young people of Croxley Green, and we have been

agreeably surprised at the way in which attendances have kept up.

In the meantime we had made formal application to the Department of Education and Science for our project to be included in the building programme for 1969-70; this involved consultations between our architect and the Ministry architect, so that the preparation of the final detailed plan could begin as soon as it was known that our project was approved. We have now reached that stage, and are awaiting confirmation of the details we propose to incorporate in the new building.

When the Ministry includes a project in its building programme for any county, it automatically sets the sum to be spent; in our case the gross total on the building itself is £17,000, to which has been added £500 for any equipment and furniture not included in the building costs. Normal procedure is for the Ministry to offer a capital grant towards the cost, provided the details of the application, the suitability of the site, and the local financial arrangements are satisfactory; this Ministry grant is 50 per cent of the total cost, and when this is known to be forthcoming the county normally makes a grant of 15 per cent, and the local authority one of 10 per cent. This leaves us with a local target figure of about £5,000, of which over £2,000 has been raised, not counting the result of the house-to-house collection in June. The balance is well within our reach, and well worth achieving in view of the value to the young people of our community of a permanent Youth Centre, such as is now to be built.

A formal Youth Centre, affiliated to county and national associations can only cater for young people between the ages of 14 and 21, and this we intend to do with the aid of an adequate number of full-time and part-time leaders; having got the experienced staff, we can go on doing something we have done very well already—the running of a holiday club for children under 14 during the summer holidays. We shall thus be able to cater for the young people of Croxley Green from early school age to 21, and thus help to foster the community spirit in this area.

*Contributed on behalf of
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WELCOME

If you have come to live in Croxley Green during the last year or so, may we bid you "Welcome"? There seems to be quite a large number of new residents in our midst and we hope you will find happiness in what used to be pleasurably described as "The Village". Alas, no longer a village but still with a village atmosphere.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTS

To promote the efficient and economical administration of the affairs of the district.

To act in the interests of the members in all local matters affecting them.

To enquire into and, if necessary, to take appropriate steps to obtain redress of grievances in the district.

To extend the activities and interest of the Association as far as possible.

To decide to support or not to support any candidate(s) for election to the local council. The decision shall be made at a general meeting and only upon a vote of 75 per cent of those present.

To initiate social clubs and/or societies where a definite desire and following for such is established.

To organise social events and sports.

To edit and publish a magazine solely or in conjunction with any other similar association as and when the Committee decide the time is opportune.

The Association is strictly non-political.

The C.G.R. & R.A. was founded in 1938 arising from troubles with the water supply. Since then it has weathered on without any increase in subscription. Lots of people aren't members; if you are one of them and would like to join please send your name on the form which appears on the back page. Really and truly the Association needs more people to take an active part in its affairs, so if you would like to seek a place on the Committee, or if you have a special comment to make, why not write to the Editor?

YOUR COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED

During the last two monthly meetings your Committee has considered: the North Orbital Road, the N.O.R. Public Inquiry, Bus Fares, the Sub-Post Office at 196 Watford Road, the Hertford House Appeal, the Croxley Green Society, Road Sweeping in the area controlled by Watford Rural District Council, the Green, Airports, Horse Riding on the Green, the North Orbital Joint Action Group Meetings, the Footpath running from Links Way to Rousebarn Lane, the Chandlers Cross Residents' Association, and R.U.D.C. Business (reported elsewhere).

CHILDREN'S RECREATION

Through the medium of *The Croxley Green Resident* we are asking our councillors to provide a recreation ground for the many children who live in Valley Walk, Sycamore Road, and other nearby roads. It is our fault that they get into trouble for playing in the road; it is an example of bad planning, as this should have ensured a playground was provided for the children. When you examine the problem of this area of Croxley Green you will find the nearest recreation ground is nearly a mile away at Barton Way—with the dangers of crossing Watford Road to reach it.

Where can these children play? The question must be answered with positive action—NOW. Suggestions will be welcomed by your Association.

HOLIDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN

Mr. A. B. Warner of 37 Cophthorne Road (Rick. 72953), has written to say that the holiday clubs arranged for local children have been so successful for the last two years that it is planned to have another this year between the 18th and 24th August.

The club will be for children over the age of seven and will be held in the mornings and afternoons. Mr. Warner will be pleased to give more details and to enrol members. Send your application now before it is too late.

NEXT TIME

The next issue of *The Croxley Green Resident* will be dated October and we would like to have all kinds of reports and news by 1st September.

AN INVITATION TO YOUTH

Many of you are likely to be living in Croxley Green in 25 years' time. Would you like to write an article describing what you would like Croxley Green to look like in 1994? Please give your article an apt title, and as it is proposed to feature this on the front page, please have regard to its length. Please state your age, which should be under 21 this year.

CASSIO BRIDGE

The contractors, Caffin Ltd., of Rickmansworth, have made a good start with providing a dual carriageway and the new bridge, with a roundabout by Baldwins Lane and Whippendell Road. The work is expected to take a year; the present rate of progress shows that the major work will be completed before the winter. Our comment is the removal of essential overhead lighting which, at the moment, makes it necessary to take care.

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OUR ROADS

Yet another year's finances shows a restriction on the amount of public money scheduled to be spent on major maintenance and improvement works for district roads. Of the eight items enumerated by the Council, three concern Croxley Green. They are: (i) Ludlow Way—carriageway resurfacing; (ii) carriageway repairs on the bridge in Harvey Road; and (iii) repairs to carriageway joints in unspecified roads in Croxley Green.

We hope it is fair comment to report that the amount allocated for roads maintenance is £6,790, yet on the next page of the Council's minutes you may read that £7,050 has had to be made available for the acquisition of land required for the southern by-pass and Rectory Road improvement scheme.

NORTH ORBITAL WANTED

With the initial letters NOW, the North Orbital Joint Action Group is circulating stickers for cars and windows. This is part one of a two-stage campaign to get the North Orbital Road built, and it is a condemnation of the dilatoriness of the Ministry of Transport. NOJAG comprises representatives of 14 associations who are about to embark on stage two in the form of a petition with a target of 10,000 names gathered in Rickmansworth and Watford by mid-September.

There is great scope to bring all residents into the campaign, and an appeal for helpers is now made. Every little helps. Mr. R. T. Willoughby, of 50 Gonville Avenue, has been saddled with the secretaryship and he asks for helpers.

The objective is to get heavy and through traffic away from Watford Road (Croxley Green), Uxbridge Road (Rickmansworth), Rickmansworth and St. Albans roads (Watford). The problem in St. Albans Road has brought about the formation of the Tunnel Woods (Residents) Association.

The Association thanks the Advertisers for their support and hopes all our readers will patronise them. We are grateful to our voluntary distributors who ensure that this publication is the only one to reach every house in Croxley Green.

ADVERTISEMENT SPACE

Advertising space is available. Please enquire for details from Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way, or phone Mr. Cherrill (Rick. 74285).

HEAR THESE WORDS OF WISDOM . . .

from Mr. Gilbert Longden, M.P., who said "a man can do so much more by getting into an organisation than by remaining outside it!"

ON THE CANAL

We see in the national press that the canals are expected to be overcrowded in the course of the next few years following the encouragement given to private boaters by the Waterways Board. Very good. But we cannot but be astounded that the local planning authority turned down an application to site a Marina at Cassiobridge Wharf, to include car park, boat storage, moorings and landing stage. The reason given for the refusal was that the layout of the site as shown on the application plan would fail to meet the needs of the amount and character of traffic likely to be generated by the proposed use. We expect the applicants will submit a revised application.

MONEY TO SPARE?

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WE HEAR . . .

OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY

Maybe the County Architect showed on paper a nice grass area outside the Library, but we—or lots of us—have used it as a short cut so much that grass will never grow there again. Our letter to the County Surveyor was passed to the County Librarian, who then passed it to the County Architect! In a recent reply it appears the County Architect wants to re-turf the area and surround with a protective barrier. We leave our readers to conjecture what a barrier will do.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Few people would have been very surprised if the Radcliffe-Maud Report on the Reorganisation of Local Government had recommended Watford Borough taking over the administration of Watford Rural, Rickmansworth Urban and Chorleywood Urban District Councils. But what the Maud Report has done is to recommend the formation of 58 controlling authorities in place of the 1,200 smaller authorities which now exist. For S.W. Herts their proposal would cover Luton, Dunstable, Hemel Hempstead, St. Albans, Rickmansworth, Chorleywood, and other rural areas, with an area of 358 sq. miles and a population of over 700,000. On size alone it is not much different from Hertfordshire as a county.

First reactions gleaned from the local press do not show much favour towards the Maud proposal for S.W. Herts, probably due to the inherent feeling that Herts County has always been felt to be remote, and we do not want to be remotely governed. The Maud Report inclines towards retaining local councils on a parochial basis. You will have read much more of this in the newspapers; we mention it now to remind you that the matter is far from settled.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Councillor L. V. Reason and Chf. P. Robinson who will represent Croxley Green South Ward for the next three years in place of Mr. W. H. Cox and Mr. A. W. Hauck. We record our appreciation to Mr. Cox who had been a councillor for 21 years, and to Mr. Hauck for his six years' service.

In Croxley Green North Ward, Councillor N. Young was re-elected for a third term of office.

May we also wish Councillor R. J. Firmin a very successful year of office as Chairman of Rickmansworth Urban District Council.

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FOUR NEW SHOPS

Although four new shops are taking shape in New Road there is so far no indication of the trades which will become available. Maybe the Liberals know something as, in their "late extra" election bulletin, they mentioned a desire for a post office and a chemist in New Road. The former accords with Association policy.

INDUSTRIAL NUISANCE

Without being specific, it can be said that the Association is taking up complaints from residents in Watford Road and Frankland Road who are suffering from industrial nuisance where industrial operation should not have been permitted by the Town Planning Authority. This is a case where one firm was allowed to operate a builder's depot and then passed over the site to a firm of metalworkers.

SNOW

This must be an unusual title in mid-summer, but we have just heard how the 1st Croxley Green Scouts were commended for helping motorists on a horrible snowy night last winter. Good show.

COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR PENSIONERS

If there is one thing that is common to us all it is that we are not getting any younger, and with that thought in mind the Association has a special regard for people who have retired. It is not very satisfying that retirement benefits will be increased in the autumn, but it should be helpful to have a cost of living index specially covering old-age pensioners.

LIGHT-CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

More dilly-dallying on the conversion of the pedestrian crossing outside the Red House in Watford Road so that it would be controlled by pedestrian-operated lights has brought about a County objection to the present site. As a result, the revised scheme showing a new siting 27 yards to the west will have to be submitted to the Minister of Transport. The estimated cost in July 1967 was £556, which is now likely to be more than doubled. We are still waiting to see something constructive done with our money.

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A STORY OF A FOOTPATH

From the side of 104 Links Way runs a footpath between the houses to 1 Rousebarn Lane. It is one of those paths where the gardens of four houses bound the path. The path has existed for a good many years and it has always been understood to have been a public path under the jurisdiction of Watford Rural District Council. It is known that that council has tarmaced the path, installed a street lamp mid-way along, put up concrete posts, displayed No Cycling notices, and allowed the Electricity Board a wayleave to install a sub-station.

Such is the history. Now for the facts. The path is being used by horses, being fouled by dogs, has become really filthy and unkempt. So that nearest residents wrote to the Divisional Roads Engineer (who, at County level, looks after the highway in the Watford R.D.C. area), but that office first of all denied that the path existed on any map and then made it clear they were not responsible for its maintenance. So the Association wrote letters. At first even the County Council declined to want to know. The story ends as follows (we quote): "The County Council has accepted responsibility for the future maintenance of this path and it will receive attention from to time as and when necessary. You may be interested to learn that arrangements have been made for the path to be included in the Draft Revised Map to be prepared when the first review is carried out in approximately 18 months' time."

THE GREENSLEEVES CLUB

We hope it is not too late to congratulate the ladies of the Greensleeves Club which recently celebrated its tenth birthday. The club meets every Thursday evening in Little Green School for talks, demonstrations and film shows. But it is a "doing" club—doing things for others—with its choir and drama group. It is believed there is a waiting list for membership.

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INDUSTRIAL LAND AT HARVEY ROAD

In June 1968 the County Council published its second County Development Plan and on it was noted the recommendation that the industrial land at the bottom of Harvey Road should be recognised for industrial use. This differed from the first County Development Plan of five years ago which noted this land as part of the Green Belt. You may remember last year *The Croxley Green Resident* spotlighted the situation as a result of which many residents in Harvey Road, Frankland Road and Frankland Close made formal objections. The objections (along with others from all over the county) will be heard at Hertford from 1st July onwards, and the Association will be represented.

CONSUMERS' CORNER

While I was selecting a pair of sox in a London store the assistant changed the price card from 3/11d. to 4/6d.—but sold the sox at the lower price. In the same shop Ajax cleaner was 1/1d. one day and 1/3d. the next day.

HOW TO EAT WELL ON A PENSION

Learning to cook on a limited budget is something many people have to face when the old age pension takes the place of the monthly salary.

Soon old age pensioners will be able to find out just how to go about it at Cassio College, Watford.

Next term the college is pioneering a new evening course—Cookery in Retirement—for men and women.

Miss Gladys Eaton, the college's head of domestic studies, will be attending a conference on the subject at Queen Elizabeth College, London, next week. The conference will deal with all aspects of running the courses, including the problems of helping the disabled and providing catering equipment for the elderly.

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COO!

Pigeons are fouling the front of Moor Park Mansion, and roosting on a high ledge under the portico. And at Tuesday's meeting of Rickmansworth Urban Council the chief public health inspector was ordered to destroy them.

Councillor Arthur Hauck, Deputy Chairman of the council, said Moor Park Golf Club Ltd., tenants of the mansion, are willing to pay 50 per cent of the cost.

Why only 50 per cent? asked Councillor W. Falcon, who was told by Councillor Geoffrey Thomas that similar conditions applied at Baldwins Lane railway bridge. The council had been unable to get anything from the railway authorities.

(From the "Watford Observer")

A WOOLWORTH'S FOR CROXLEY GREEN?

Yes, we must admit we're flying a kite. In fact, we're deliberately starting a rumour. Our efforts did, however, bring two banks to Croxley Green, so why not Woolworth? Many people have voiced the suggestion that an elaborate block of shops and flats should be built near Croxley Met Station on the land at the junction of New Road and Watford Road. The appearance of this land does nothing to enhance a visitor's impression of Croxley Green.

We would have thought that a go-ahead local authority would have had something to recommend, although, in fact, they have been reluctant to place the item on an agenda (Croxley Green councillors, please note!).

Until about two years ago it was understood the land was still in the ownership of the Crown Agents who, in the past 20 years apparently had ideas for constructing a main Post Office, but who have now abandoned the idea. Your Association pressed the R.U.D.C. to find out from the Crown Agents their plans for this site and eventually discovered they intended to relinquish ownership. Since then nothing has been heard.

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MODERN TIMES

Having heard, somewhat belatedly and somewhat secretly, that a traffic survey of north-west London had been undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Transport by a firm of consultants, it was beyond belief to hear that the data had been wrongly fed into a computer, so that the exercise would take about two months to do again.

Even the outcome of the survey will have to be analysed by the Eastern Region Roads Construction Unit of the M.O.T. to calculate traffic movements along selected routes—such as the A412 through Watford and Rickmansworth—leading to an assessment of the use which might otherwise be made along other routes such as the North Orbital Road.

We are glad to learn that, quite apart from the foregoing, Mr. Pike of the Road Engineer's Department of the Herts County Council has been authorised to carry out an independent survey of traffic movements in the county, to be done partly by a physical census asking drivers of departure and destination points, and partly by a selective enquiry from residents by asking them how much they use their car.

C.G.R. & R.A.

The Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association is pleased to publish this magazine quarterly, and ensures that a copy goes into every house (about 4,500) in Croxley Green irrespective of the householder being a member of the Association. We would like to achieve a 100 per cent membership. The annual subscription for the year to 30th September next is still only 2/-, which covers husband and wife. Expect our collector to call on you soon or kindly direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Broome at 114 Links Way.

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COUNCIL WILL PUT PUBLIC IN KNOW

Rickmansworth urban council has adopted a "getting to know you" policy. An open forum is to be held two days after each council meeting, at which the public will be able to talk to the committee chairmen on matters of policy and various aspects of council work.

The council has told the press how they propose to seek closer liaison with the public.

Just over a year ago a new clerk to the council, Mr. Brian Dutfield, was appointed.

Mr. Dutfield believes in a good relationship between the council and public, a policy he adopted in his previous appointment in West Bromwich.

With this view in mind, he worked out a number of schemes for the council's consideration.

The one approved will reduce the number of meetings to five—two of which will be open to the public. This will allow the councillors more time to consider public matters and get out and about.

The open meetings will be the new community services committee dealing with public health, welfare, safety and recreation. The public works committee will replace the former highways and traffic committee.

And members of the public attending the committee meetings will not be left in the dark, wondering what is going on.

A copy of the agenda, including officers' reports, will be available to the public, apart from items to be dealt with privately.

The committees that will remain private are those dealing with personalities and matters concerning housing, planning and co-ordination.

Mr. Dutfield said: "There was a need for improvement and closer understanding with the public. The council hopes that their reorganisation will be welcomed and that more people would attend open meetings and come to the special chairmen's forum."

These special informal sessions will be held at Basing House on 10th July, 21st August, 2nd October, 13th November, 5th February, 1970, 19th March, and 30th April, at 8 p.m.

—Reprinted from "The Evening Echo"

FORE

Somewhere there was a road full of holes. So the Residents' Association closed it as a protest against a council's decision to spend £50,000 on a new golf course—and instead the committee played golf in the road. This was at Bracknell.

IF YOU LIVE IN GROVE CRESCENT

Mr. Broome (114 Links Way) would like to hear from two people who would deliver this magazine to people in Grove Crescent—four times a year.

AND IF YOU LIVE IN WINTON DRIVE

Mr. Broome is having distribution problems to look after numbers 60-128 and 85-181 Winton Drive. The need is for someone to deliver this magazine to 79 houses—four times a year.

POINTS OF VIEW

Expressions of opinion in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the Association's Committee. Comments and matters of local interest will be welcomed by the Editor.

DO YOU PLAY BRIDGE?

Two newcomers asked me to put them in touch with a bridge club or players locally. Will you let me know if you can help them, or, perhaps, this could be the start of a bridge club.

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COPTHORNE FOOTBALL CLUB

A memorable season has just ended for Copthorne F.C. whose name derives from the locality in which the team lives. Their secretary is David Dobey and their treasurer is Bryan Ward. At the close of only their second season they have become West Herts League II champions and challenge cup winners. Congratulations! Their home ground is at Maple Cross, but we fancy they will be looking for a pitch in Croxley Green next season where their supporters can see them playing in tangerine coloured shirts.

The club is having a dinner to consume the 10 bottles of champagne they won in a five-a-side contest, but more so to celebrate winning 26 out of 32 games with three others drawn and three lost. They have embarked on a fund-raising effort to provide new shirts and equipment to enhance their reputation when they kick-off in Division I for 1969-70.

R.U.D.C. MEETINGS

The public are allowed to attend meetings of the full council on 8th July, 19th August and 30th September. Also meetings of the Public Works Committee on 31st July and 11th September, and the Community Services Committee on 29th July and 9th September, all at 8 p.m.

ARE YOU A MEMBER? IF NOT, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OR RE-JOIN

The minimum subscription is 2s. per year per family and subscriptions above this amount are credited to a separate fund which is used in furtherance of the Association's policy to secure representation on the Rickmansworth Urban District Council.

*To the Hon. Treasurer, at 114 Links Way
(or to any member of the Committee)*

Please enrol me as a member of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, for which I attach subscription for the year.

Mr. & Mrs. Amount

Address Date

*(You will not be canvassed for the return of this form;
your membership is entirely voluntary.)*