

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 103

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

OCTOBER 1969

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To All Members,

The Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association will be held on Monday, 17th November, 1969, at 8 p.m. in the Dickinson Guildhouse, New Road, Croxley Green. All members are earnestly requested to attend.

10 Bateman Road,
Croxley Green, Herts.

F. N. CHERRILL,
Hon. Secretary.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 1968 Annual General Meeting held on 4th November, 1968.
2. Matters arising therefrom.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Hon. Secretary's Report.
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report and statement of accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1969.
6. Election of President and Vice-Presidents.
7. Election of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
8. Election of Hon. Auditors.
9. Resolutions:
 - (i) To consider the registration of The Green as Common Land.
 - (ii) To consider donations to charitable appeals.
10. Open Discussion. (Prior notice of items for discussion should be handed to the Hon. Secretary five days prior to the meeting.)

N.B.—All members of the Association are eligible to serve on the Committee. If you are willing to serve kindly write to the Hon. Secretary at least five days prior to the A.G.M.

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HAVE YOU LIVED IN CROXLEY GREEN FOR FIFTY YEARS?

If so, Councillor Miss K. Raggett, of 2 Scots Hill Close, would like to hear from you so that you can be invited to a party on November 15th at All Saints' Church Hall. She is being assisted by Mr. J. Tandy (Chairman), Mr. A. Barton Smith (Treasurer), and others. It seems likely the measure of response will be heavy and if so the party will be held twice. Miss Raggett will also be grateful for offers of help, especially for transport.

WELCOME TO A NEW MINISTER

Croxley Green Baptist Church gave a very warm welcome on September 6th to their new Minister, the Rev. Keith Moyes, B.D. Mr. Moyes will be living at 36 Lewes Way with his wife and infant son. We are sure Rev. Moyes, who had some years' industrial experience before entering the Ministry, will make a firm contribution in our local affairs.

LADIES IN THE NEWS

Two Croxley Green ladies, both engaged in the world of education, had their photographs in the press recently.

Miss Eileen Feasey, of Bateman Road, received a Commendation from the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, presented to her by the Commanding Officer of the R.A.F. at Uxbridge, for her work in organising education classes for servicemen and women.

Mrs. Katherine Wright, a freelance journalist, is currently assisting the National Union of Teachers in the preparation of photographs to appear in a book to mark the centenary of the N.U.T. next year.

JUNCTION OF ROUSEBARN LANE AND LITTLE GREEN LANE

Efforts have been made to set back the corner of this junction to provide better access and visibility, but the County Surveyor is unable to trace the owner of the land. Meanwhile a Give Way sign will be erected.

We learn that someone took a count of traffic travelling from Chandlers Cross to Links Way, etc., and during one hour 65 cars and 9 lorries were counted. Efforts are being made by Chandlers Cross Residents' Association and Sarratt Parish Council to persuade the County Council to prohibit heavy lorries using Rousebarn Lane—which we all know is a short cut to avoid going through Watford.

HORSE-RIDING ON THE GREEN

One thing is quite clear—Council and residents are agreed that The Green must be preserved and maintained for the benefit and pleasure of the residents at large, including the many visitors who enjoy having a drink in the local.

There has been bother over the parking of cars, which now seems to have been remedied to a fair extent. It has taken nearly two years to get the Council to look into the problems of horse riding on The Green. To test the sincerity of the Council as landlords of The Green they were asked to consider a ban on horse-riding, although if agreement were not reached on this point, then riding should be located in one part of The Green only.

The Association had in mind that a precedent would be taken from the way the problem had been tackled at Chorleywood Common whereby horses are restricted by a bye-law to using one part of the Common. However, in Rickmansworth District it transpired that The Green is not common land and therefore the Council could not, even if it wished, proceed to obtain a bye-law in respect of horses. But, on another hand, Watford Council has dealt with the problem in so far as Whippendell Woods are concerned.

The Association is in harmony with everyone else that unnecessary laws should not be made, although when looked at from the majority viewpoint, there are more people who enjoy a walk on The Green than there are people who want to exercise their horse.

We now broadcast the hope expressed by the Council that horse-riders will keep off the footpaths, away from the seats, and so control their mounts at all times as will not cause distress or unpleasantness to other people.

THE NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

We notice some work has been done to install the posts which will carry the flashing lights for the new pedestrian crossing by 171 Watford Road. This should be beneficial, especially at the present time when traffic diversion from Watford Road into Baldwins Lane means turning right at Winton Approach.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOCK

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THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Press has given wide coverage to Rickmansworth Council's consideration of where our local authority might be placed in the future. The Maud Report on local government organisation places us in a new area, taking in Herts and Beds with Luton as the major administrative centre.

The Clerk of Rickmansworth Council, Mr. J. J. B. Dutfield, has devoted much time and energy in advising the Council of the complexities in their nearness to Mid-Bucks (with High Wycombe as the focus), Reading in Berkshire (because Rickmansworth adjoins Eton Rural District Council's boundary), and the London Borough of Hillingdon (which has Northwood on our boundary).

The Council are seeking the views of local organisations and your Committee are to discuss this matter at their next meeting. In the meantime the Association would welcome personal views from residents—so if you have something to say please write to Mr. Cherrill of 10 Bateman Road as soon as possible.

Without prejudicing the outcome—which might easily take a decade to achieve—many readers, we are sure, will bend towards the shorter-term and more straightforward policy of assimilating a viable Authority of the Greater Borough of Watford. Immediate reactions to the Maud Report seem to be against altering the boundary of the County of Hertfordshire.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week by week the press—both national and local—carry public notices which have to appear in accordance with various laws, so that you and I may know what is proposed and have a chance to object if necessary. The wording is invariably voluminous and hence the charge for the advertisement is costly.

Surely it is time our local government administrators used their wisdom to say what has to be said in concise language, with quickly understandable wording—and at less cost to the ratepayers?

In the public notice regarding the compulsory purchase of land for a car park, the wording "... New Road, Croxley Green," appeared no less than twenty times.

WHO IN THE WORLD SAID THIS?

"I spent nine years on the Hertfordshire County Council, where those awful men smoke their pipes and never want to go home, so just keep on repeating the agenda. They completely killed my love for that kind of public service.

"I'm not a modest little flower doing my little bit in the corner. I am a noise—all my campaigns have been noises. They've all been very noisy—what with all this dreadful publicity. But it all works. It works.

"Of course, my main love is my books. So I think I'll spend Wednesday dictating 10,000 words on my recent travels to Japan."

The answer is given on page 8. The extract was taken from the *Daily Telegraph* Supplement.

CAR PARK NEAR NEW ROAD

The probable cost of acquiring the land (under a compulsory purchase order) for a service road and car park at the rear of New Road will be £6,500. It can be said that the car park will serve a dual purpose, for shoppers in the day-time and the new Youth Club in the evenings. Maybe so. Financially it means the ratepayers will bear the entire cost of the car park and its lengthy access road, thus lowering the outlay (on which national grants are available) for a permanent building for the Youth Centre.

SECRETARY SAVES RATEPAYERS' MONEY

On 14th August a public notice appeared in *The Evening Echo* regarding the compulsory purchase order for land at the rear of some shops and houses in New Road, and the Notice invited objections to reach the Ministry of Transport before 14th August. The Association's secretary immediately sent letters to Rickmansworth Council and the Ministry of Transport (for onward transmission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government) drawing attention to this obvious waste of public money. He also wrote to *The Evening Echo* asking them to publish his protest. It transpired that the Clerk of Rickmansworth Council denied that an official order had been given for the notice to be published, even though the newspaper had been given the wording only a few days earlier. The Advertisement Manager of *The Echo* explained on the telephone to Mr. Cherrill that a member of his staff was certain a verbal order had been given and in view of the shortness of time had sanctioned its appearance in print. The cost of the advertisement was £70, which the newspaper has decided not to charge to the Council in view of the uncertainty of the transaction.

FISHER'S GARAGE

A "fundamental" planning application has been granted for the reconstruction of Fisher's Garage, for Shell Mex B.P. Ltd. A scheme of landscaping the site is one of the conditions.

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WE HEAR . . .

CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY

We are pleased to learn that Croxley Green Society, which some people thought was fading away, has convened a delegates' meeting to re-constitute its Officers and Committee. So, the Revels on The Green, which was not held this year, might be revived next year. This will call for some concerted action on the part of the constituent societies (numbering over 30) which leads us to look forward to even better and brighter Revels.

SEATS

The Association's Committee recently drew the attention of the Council to damage and deterioration of some seats on The Green and asked for more seats to be provided—especially in replacement of the old plank seats. We ascertained there were six chair-back and four plank seats on The Green. One seat was in a damaged condition for three weeks before anything was done about it. We hear from the Council that a sum of £35 was included in this year's estimates for the provision of public seats on all open spaces and recreation grounds, so as the cost of a seat and its installation would be in the region of £35, it follows that only one new seat in the whole of Rickmansworth can be installed. It is noted that the cost of repairs and replacements is met from separate provision. The Council's Community Services Committee are not, apparently, happy with the state of affairs as they intend to explore alternative methods of financing the provision of seats in the district generally.

FOOD

Following reports by the Public Health Inspector the Council has decided to take legal proceedings against two firms in respect of the sale of a mouldy pork pie and green mould inside a carton of yoghurt.

CROXLEY GREEN YOUTH CLUB

The land for the new Youth Centre on part of Barton Way allotments site will be leased to the Youth Centre Management Committee for a terms of 60 years at a rent of £50 per annum.

The Youth Club has secured the use of premises at Parsonage Road, Rickmansworth, until such time as the new building is ready for their use. It seems a pity they lost the use of the T.A. huts on The Green.

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COUNTRY GREEN BUSES AND GREEN LINE COACHES

We notice from a report to the Community Services Committee that "separate increases for these services had been put forward at the request of the National Bus Company which would be assuming control of these services under the Bill. These were designed to raise a further £700,000 but did not appear to be justified on the same basis as the red bus and underground increases." We hope the National Bus Company will manage their services better than we have now.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Baldwins Lane Recreation Ground, in its south-west corner, has been chosen as the site where the Rickmansworth Round Table have offered to provide an adventure playground, subject to the Chairman (Councillor Young) of the Community Services Committee being satisfied with the type of equipment to be provided.

A similar project proposed by the Council for installation at King George V Recreation Ground has been shelved until an assessment of the success of the Round Table's project can be seen.

OPEN SPACE IN DICKINSON SQUARE

During the summer the *Evening Echo* published a large photograph showing the long uncut grass in this open space. We were glad to note that it was mown soon afterwards and the children were able to use it during the school holidays.

CAR PARKING BY THE MET STATION

The Council has been niggling for a long time in an effort to prohibit vehicles parking alongside the station in Winton Drive. Until now parking has only been prohibited on one side of the road, and, on at least two occasions, the Police view was that further restriction was not necessary. Now, however, the Council has decided to act and at the present time a draft Order has been submitted to the Minister of Transport. As *The Croxley Green Resident* voiced when the station car park was opened—still very little used—it would not be long before the Council thought it best to have a further dig at commuters' cars. Coming down on the side of practicality we can only conclude that when leaving a car for several hours a day it should be put elsewhere than on the highway. The proposed restriction will include part of Winton Drive with its junction with Springfield Close.

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A DISGRACE

If anything is a disgrace to the public in Croxley Green it must surely be the footpath on both sides of New Road.

LOAN SANCTIONS

Quoting from the Council Minutes it is observed that application is being made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for sanction to borrow £6,815 for comprehensive repairs to service courtyard roofs at Moor Park Mansion.

Being well aware (as many of us are) of the condition of the footpath in New Road, but not being so aware of the condition of the courtyard roofs at Moor Park Mansion, we venture to suggest that it would be preferable to deal with a job which would benefit the largest number of people.

A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT SYCAMORE ROAD

The suggestion in our last issue has sparked off quite a lot of interest. Your Secretary raised this matter with a Councillor and gleaned the information that the Council had an interest in the small piece of land which could ideally serve as a children's playground. Our hope is that it would be equipped with playground apparatus—but knowing our Council this might take a long time. Meanwhile it should not be too much to hope that the land could be levelled and grassed, which would be useful.

BUS SHELTERS: WE ASK WHY?

The Council has had an offer from a firm who are prepared to manufacture and erect bus shelters free of charge. The firm did not specifically mention that there would be advertisement panels on these shelters, although they had stated they were not restricting the positions to selected prime advertising sites.

The Council has declined the offer in view of their policy not to accept offers for bus shelters or litter bins where these would be used for advertising purposes.

We ask why? We would have expected our Council to be consistent. They permit massive hoardings advertising cigarettes, drinks, etc., and we would have thought that discretionary advertisements of local connection inside a bus shelter would have been a useful service and beneficial to finances.

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STREET LIGHTING

Those who get up before sunrise will have noticed that the street lamps are lit at that time. It seems the new switching gear has been brought into operation so that lamps will be lit from dusk until midnight and again from 6 a.m. until dawn.

Last year about half of the total number of tungsten lamps on district roads were converted to colour corrected mercury units, and in 1969/70 the remainder will be altered at a cost of about £3,000. This is, of course, quite a separate operation to altering the single switching gear to double switching whereby the lamps will be lit for two periods during the night.

TRAFFIC HAZARDS IN BALDWINS LANE

There is growing concern with vehicles parked or stopping outside the shops in both the lower end and upper end of Baldwins Lane. For delivery of goods to the shops at the top end vehicles are encouraged to use the service road at the rear of the shops but their drivers seem disinclined to do so. Of particular note is the school coach which waits for about 15 minutes each morning outside the shops in Baldwins Lane, constituting a hazard which reduces moving traffic to single file. The C.G. Roads Safety Committee is pursuing this matter, which might easily be resolved if the coach stopped in the shop precinct.

We learn that of nine accidents in which injuries were sustained during 1967 and 1968, five of the injured were school children. Apparently many children do not co-ordinate with arrangements for crossing Baldwins Lane a little distance away from Manor Way by preferring to cross at the junction.

SHOPS IN NEW ROAD

We are more than a little astounded to see the empty shops in New Road. There are four new ones still unoccupied; Wrights shoe shop is still empty (although we heard from someone who had ideas for taking it); then there is the small shop near the Busy Bee which we heard might become a pet shop—for this purpose the Council officials had to deliberate as to whether or not it could sell fish as well as birds, kittens and puppies. We wait to see what happens.

FREDDIES

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NORTH ORBITAL ROAD— THE PETITION

The Association expresses its best thanks to everyone who helped in the collection of signatures for the Petition, and to all who signed. It read:

We demand the speeding up of the statutory processes at present preventing the building of the North Orbital Road extension (Hunton Bridge to Maple Cross). We urge that this section of the road, which will by-pass Rickmansworth and Watford to the north-west, be constructed at the earliest possible date, and to the highest possible standards. We also commend to your attention the merits of the case for the inclusion of the villages of Maple Cross and West Hyde in the area to be by-passed.

To help the North Orbital Road Joint Action Committee, the Association undertook this exercise in the roads bounded by (but excluding) Watford Road, New Road, and Baldwins Lane. Reports indicate a considerable willingness to sign the Petition, clearly showing we want the Ministry of Transport to expedite the job. It is expected the Petition will be taken to the House of Commons in late October, and supporters at that time will be welcome. The exact date has yet to be arranged with our local Members of Parliament, and will be stated in the local press.

The latest news is that strength is being gained that the construction of this road is more than likely to get an early go-ahead in spite of opposition and alternative plans for the D-ring road and the so-called Aylesbury box. Frankly the North Orbital Road seems such an obvious need to link motorways that we cannot understand the militariness of the successive Ministers of Transport. We hear the Public Inquiry into objections is likely to be held in December; this in itself savours of deliberate delaying tactics since objections had to be submitted over a year ago. The Public Inquiry ought to have been held immediately afterwards.

RE-BUILDING CASSIO BRIDGE

As we go to press the construction of the new road and bridge is rapidly taking shape; certainly the position of the roundabout at the junction with Baldwins Lane can now be seen. We must compliment the contractors for carrying on their work without closing the road, but we are bothered on their behalf, and for all drivers, for the lack of overhead lighting. Some new lamp standards have been erected but not yet lit.

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DID YOU HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY?

We hope so. We have often thought there was scope for *The Croxley Green Resident* to expand beyond civic matters and become more personal—as, for instance becoming a clearing house for holiday experiences. Here is an example: "Six of us have just had a marvellous holiday with Clarkson's at Benidorm, staying in the . . . Hotel at a cost of £xx." On the other hand there is a resident who tells us how dissatisfied he was with a holiday in Austria organised by a firm who advertised "red carpet" holidays.

We would like to hear from you if you have had a happy or an unhappy holiday experience. By this means we could list tours which we know someone locally had enjoyed, as well as naming those firms whose brochures lead you to expect more than you get. Booking a holiday is very much a matter of trust—either in this country or abroad—but on a package tour you cannot pack up and come home.

When the Editor returned from holiday he was confronted with over 60 letters and mailings, amongst them a questionnaire on holidays from *Reader's Digest* asking a wide range of questions. We have asked *Reader's Digest* if they will let us see their analysis.

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NEWS FOR TYPISTS

We see the new Local Government salary scales now provide for an audio-typist to be paid on the same scales as a shorthand-typist. But we hasten to emphasise that learning to type doesn't make a typist a competent typist—she needs much practice, experience, and a good command of English. This is most necessary for audio work when the typist cannot immediately verify a word with her superior as usually happens with shorthand dictation.

There is a growing popularity for a centralised or "bank" system of recording. Instead of each officer having an individual recording unit with probably his own secretary/typist, dictation of correspondence is made by phone dialling straight through to the "bank" and automatically being linked to a tape. The several typists in a room simply lift out a tape when they are ready for more work. This system destroys the personal relationship between boss and typist, yet it gives variety to the typist in the people she does work for and the subjects of their work. One of the selling features of the system is that work is taken in rotation; indeed, if one official does a large quantity of dictating it could easily result in several typists working for him at the same time. In practice, all the typists could be very busy—or slack. Rickmansworth Council has installed this system; we gather from the Press that if a typist is slack she can go out shopping! In a well-known organisation, audio-typists work on piece-rates, being paid a bonus for each tape completed during a week—this is incentive in the office.

D.I.Y.

As so many of us have to do our own decorating, and as ceilings are the nastiest bit, you may like to know of two or three firms who are successfully marketing a new kind of paint brush. In four sizes and shapes the "brush" is a flat surface (max. 4" sq.) of mohair backed by foam rubber fixed to a plate and handle which can be metal or plastic. The latter are better.

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The public are able to attend these meetings which are timed for 8 p.m. at the Council offices:—Community Services Committee—21st October, 2nd December.

Public Works Committee—23rd October, 4th December. Council Meetings—11th November, 23rd December.

A Chairman's Forum is also held on the Thursday following Council meetings when any person may discuss future policy and developments affecting the Urban District.

CROXLEY GREEN FLOWER GROUP

New members and visitors are always welcome at the fixtures held in the B.R.C. Welcome Club: on 14th October, "Cut and Dried" by Mrs. E. M. Albertini; on 11th November, "Christmas decorations" by Mrs. E. Henderson; and on 9th December, a Social Evening. The secretary is Mrs. J. Quick of 3 Scots Hill Close.

CROXLEY CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club has embarked on another year of activity and meets in the The Guildhouse every Wednesday evening. You are invited to come as a guest if you want to see how good they are! A highlight from their programme will be the subject for a print competition, "Croxley Green".

SEA CADET CORPS

The Sea Cadet Corps are to have new headquarters on land at the south side of Cassio Bridge, paying a rent of £35 per annum on a 60-year lease. The long lease is necessary to enable them to qualify for a grant from the Department of Education and Science.

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.

DURRANTS

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YOUR COMMITTEE

President: Col. C. E. Rothery Moss, 35 Watford Road.
Vice-Presidents: Mr. C. E. Armonson, 14 Watford Road;
Mr. J. S. Robinson, 46 Warwick Way.
Chairman: Mr. W. T. G. Yabsley, 264 Baldwins Lane.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.
Mr. R. E. J. Boardman, 16 Frankland Road.
Mr. L. L. Dobey, 11 The Green.
Mr. J. H. Gardner, 46 Canterbury Way.
Mr. T. N. Millway, 3 All Saints' Lane.
Mrs. M. Milne, 286 Baldwins Lane.
Mrs. D. L. Nixey, 44 Oakleigh Drive.
Mr. L. V. Reason, 40 Repton Way.
Mr. W. W. Rutherford, 3 The Grove, Dugdales.
Mrs. M. Trinder, 62 Gonville Avenue.
Mr. B. H. W. Tullett, 9 Green Lane.
Mrs. D. B. Whitfield, 224 New Road.

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.

WHO IN THE WORLD SAID THAT?

Answer: Mrs. Barbara Cartland.

NEW WORDS

"Threatrecedes"—*The Evening Echo*.
"Decised"—the Council Minutes.

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.)