

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 104

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

JANUARY 1970

A Happy New Year to all our Readers

SPOTLIGHT

Several people in Croxley Green have been talking of forming a Pensioners' Association in the district, and 'Spotlight' commends the project for your personal consideration. It is a serious reflection to realise that, of Croxley Green's 14,000 population, something in the region of 2,000 of you live on pensions. *The Croxley Green Resident* is simply setting the position before you; once a pensioners' association is formed it will look after itself. It has got to start by making contact with people who are keen to get it off the ground, so we ask everyone who is interested in working for the purpose mentioned below to write to the Editor or to contact any member of the C.G.R. & R.A. Committee. We will then bring these people together to examine the project and to learn more of its implications. Then, as a second move, to hold a general meeting on Saturday, 2nd May, at 10.30 a.m. to gather together as many folk as can attend; venue to be arranged.

Why place a spotlight on birthdays? Simply, very simply, that one thing every one of us will have in 1970 will be a birthday. Such is life that every one of us will soon be one year older. Among the young folk there will be transfer between schools—and birthday parties. For all the youth who will reach their eighteenth birthday in 1970 will be given the responsibilities endowed on them by a new law: the right to vote, to sign contracts, to buy a house, and to marry without parental consent—and wedding parties.

The mature and older folk will be well aware of the comings and goings of their monies; many will be forcibly aware that their years of contributing to social service insurance brings them a State pension insufficient for the necessities of life. Indeed, pensioners who have saved against the needs of old age are caught in two ways: they are taxed on the interest from their savings, and they are deprived of a supplementary allowance because they have saved.

The purpose of forming a pensioners' association is to develop unity of purpose from people who live on fixed incomes. The membership should not be restricted to old age pensioners (who we prefer to call Senior Citizens), but extends to others below the statutory age who have retired and to widows, whether reliant on a State pension or not.

Membership of the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations is for anyone of any age—fundamentally we shall all grow old and sometime in the future we shall all join the ranks of Senior Citizens. An active local branch needs keen officers—Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Committee, plus a Council of

representatives from every road in Croxley Green. There ought to be plenty of volunteers.

An active branch will be backed by the Churches who have already made a survey of residents and have taken some steps to keep an eye on the aged and infirm. But more should be done. In the Rickmansworth District an open meeting is likely to be held soon from among youth clubs and other societies who work to help elderly people.

We must be bothered by the needs of Senior Citizens and should believe that they are entitled to a fair deal after working days are over. They are entitled to be independent—but they are entitled to an income which allows them independence. They must know where to get any help they need. We heard recently of a widow complaining of the tax she paid on her pension. We heard recently of a very elderly lady who burst into tears when she was given a harvest gift. We hear of many pensioners whose supplementary allowance has been reduced by nearly the amount of the recent State pension increase.

A local pensioners' association will not be a club—unless they wish it. Certainly it should not conflict with the welcome efforts of the Welcome Club. Things done by a neighbouring association for a subscription of one penny a week include birthday cards (quite a job for someone), day outings, a week's holiday in rotation, the use of their own mini coach with lifting gear for wheel-chairs. We know of a holiday camp which fills for two weeks in the spring and again in the autumn with Senior Citizens; the camp has installed wider doors and slopes to allow the free movement of wheel-chairs—and the camp staff of Golden Sands say the old ones are the best fun of the season!

An active branch must be run by its members for the benefit of its members. There are surely plenty of people in Croxley Green who, if asked, would be willing to take an active part in the branch. Through the medium of *The Croxley Green Resident* you are now being asked.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. SEND A NOTE TO THE EDITOR INDICATING YOUR INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP. The Residents' Association will get a Croxley Green branch of the Pensioners' Association off to a good start, remembering that every reader must be able to help in one way or another—it's just a question of getting to know you. **WE MUST HAVE A FIRST MEETING ON MAY 2nd.**

Earnestly yours,

F. N. CHERRILL.

10 Bateman Road.

P.S.—We have already had one promised donation!

SHOPPING IN NEW ROAD

While we are pleased to see that Lloyds Bank has moved into permanent premises, conspicuously lit, we cannot avoid mentioning the six or more empty shops in New Road. Croxley Green is not well served for shops, with the consequence that many people favour a frequent trip to Watford. Even so, the delays of road transport, whether it be by bus or car, must guide many people to feel that, given more attractive shopping facilities, they would not need to go far for their goods.

The four empty shells opposite the Library show no sign of occupation; the former double shop of Wright's footwear is still empty, as is a small shop near the Guildhouse.

THE FIFTY-YEAR PARTY

November 15th was the occasion when most of the people who had lived in Croxley Green for over 50 years were able to join together for a party. This was organised by Miss K. M. Raggett, ably assisted by a willing group of helpers, and our thanks go to everyone who assisted on the day with gifts and helped to make this a memorable occasion. Pride of place for the longest resident title went to Mrs. Rosa Gibbard who had lived locally for 85 years, while the oldest person present was 88-year-old Miss L. Barton-Smith.

CROXLEY GREEN BRANCH LIBRARY

Since the opening of the new Library here three years ago, there has been a considerable increase in the use made of the library service by the residents of Croxley Green. This is only to be expected as the wider selection of books and periodicals in much more comfortable surroundings is infinitely more attractive than the previously cramped accommodation.

I should like to mention two points which should receive as much publicity as possible. One, that we hold a Story Time at the Library each Friday afternoon when the children are read stories by a member of the staff. We find that it is extremely popular and if you would like your children to come along, it is from 2.45 p.m.-3.15 p.m. for under five-year-olds, and from 4.15 p.m.-4.45 p.m. for the over fives.

Secondly, that the Local Library Committee have decided that from 1st February, 1970, the Library (and its sister branch at Rickmansworth) will be closed all day each Wednesday and will not, as in the past, close on a Thursday. We hope that this alteration will prove to be more convenient for you.

*Miss R. Cowle,
Branch Librarian.*

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was such a large attendance at the A.G.M. on November 17th that many people had to stand. This was brought about by the threat of a few days previously for an alternative route for the North Orbital Road to pass through Croxley Green; this item was the only matter raised under the heading of general discussion which followed the formal business of the meeting.

In view of the seriousness of the threat, the reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were brief and businesslike. In précis, it is very clear the *Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association* still has a major part to play in local affairs, and will continue to press its views in authoritative circles.

It is pleasing to record that Mr. J. W. Broome was elected a Vice-President in recognition of his long service as the Association's Treasurer; Mr. W. F. Hadaway (one of the Honorary Auditors with Mr. D. G. Hattersley) spoke in high regard for the meticulous way the accounts were maintained.

Consideration was given to donations to other causes. It was agreed to give ten guineas towards the running expenses of the Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee. The A.G.M. gave authority to the Committee to make donations up to ten guineas to any other cause, provided these were recorded in the Committee Minutes and subject to the Association's finances being healthy.

Attention was given to the registration under the Commons Registration Act of The Green and Common Moor, and the meeting unanimously agreed the Association should ensure the registration of these lands.

THE LIGHT-CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

The dark mornings and evenings have shown how great is the need for the installation of the light-controlled pedestrian crossing in Watford Road. We express a lack of confidence in both the R.U.D.C. and the H.C.C. for their dilatoriness in this necessary amenity, the promise of which is long overdue.

DURRANTS SCHOOL

An Association is to be formed of former pupils of Durrants School at a meeting to be held on March 4th. Leaflets are being distributed—but note the date and support this venture.

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A BY-PASS THROUGH CROXLEY GREEN?

It was a shock for many residents to be told by the Eastern Roads Construction Unit (Ministry of Transport) that someone had proposed to them an alternative route for the North Orbital Road which might mean the demolition of many houses in Valley Walk with an arterial road within yards of Sycamore Road and Oakleigh Drive. It transpired that the person who devised this idea had little knowledge of planning when he suggested the new road should emerge from Hunton Bridge through Chandlers Cross, Whippendell Woods, Cassio Bridge, Valley Walk, and on through the Gade River valley to eventually reach Maple Cross and the Denham By-pass. *It is incredible that an individual suggestion could gain the apparent support of the Eastern Roads Construction Unit whose experience should have quickly told them to advise the individual of the impracticability of his scheme.* It is almost beyond comprehension that one person could gain consideration of a scheme without recourse to the local authorities in the area involved.

We say the Ministry of Transport's Eastern Roads Construction Unit has demonstrated its inability to carry out its duties in so far as, when notifying householders of a scheme involving the destruction of their homes *it failed to advise every householder concerned* (some got a letter and some did not).

Residents Act

Residents of Croxley Green were quick to act. The proposal was discussed in a crowded meeting of the *Croxley Green Residents' Association*, who set up an Action Committee before they went home. They were supported by the Residents' Association, the Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee, the North Orbital Joint Action Group, culminating within 48 hours in a joint statement from Rickmansworth and Watford Councils.

The Evening Echo and the *Watford Observer* carried front-page reports—welcome publicity.

The Law proclaims that this alternative N.O.R. proposal shall be considered along with the 'official' line, at the Public Inquiry.

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NORTH ORBITAL JOINT ACTION GROUP

N.O.J.A.G. has been working hard for nearly two years; it is a federation of all bodies—residents, political, and manufacturing—pressing for a common achievement.

It collected over 10,000 signatures on a petition demanding swift action to build the North Orbital extension, presenting this in the company of Mr. Gilbert Longden and Mr. Raphael Tuck to the Prime Minister with a request for his endorsement before onward transmission to the Minister of Transport.

It has carried out a detailed survey of the number of children crossing the A412 road to and from school, and the worries to parents due to the lack of enough school crossing patrols.

It carried out a survey with road carrier companies whose vehicles regularly use the A412 by asking "Which route would best suit your vehicles, the A412, the North Orbital or the D-Ring. 80 per cent favoured the North Orbital road. The survey acquired vital statistics (which no one else has got) on the type of vehicles operated, viz. tankers, articulated vehicles, box trailers, 21-ton eight-wheeled lorries, and the type of goods carried. The survey brought to light the wide area from which goods were transported on their way through Watford, Croxley Green and Rickmansworth.

During these surveys information was acquired of the volume of goods vehicles whose drivers consistently use the short cuts through the lanes around Chipperfield, Sarratt, Chandlers Cross, Hunton Bridge and Chesham. Everyone who knows the lanes in Hertfordshire knows of the frequent bends and narrowness of the roads.

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WE HEAR . . .

DICKINSON SQUARE

This open space was a shambles during the summer and the long grass was eventually cut. We hear the garden is to be developed as ornamental and that children will not be able to play ball games there.

COMPUTER FAILS; 'FLU HITS

The scheme to construct the North Orbital Road has dragged on since 1924 (some say 1911). In April 1969 further delay arose from the incompetence of computer programming of vital statistics whose strength was intended to prove or disprove the need to take M1-M4 motorway vehicles away from the A412. The law provides for objections to proposals to be heard at a Public Inquiry which, again after lengthy retardment, was due to start on December 8th. But on the vital day the appointed Inspector was ill with influenza, so that the date was refixed for December 30th.

We now learn that January 8th has been specially reserved to deal with the alternative route proposal. The Action Committee are pressing that a rapid decision will be announced rejecting this, especially in view of the fact that no resident involved can even sell his house while a planning blight rests on its roof.

THANKS

We have pleasure to record our appreciation to a local man, County Alderman D. F. Lindsey of 60 Frankland Road, who has served on Herts. County Council since 1952, who has now retired for health reasons. We wish him a happy life and hope he will be able to do those things his civic duties have denied him.

FAREWELL

The Deputy Clerk and Solicitor of Rickmansworth Urban Council, Mr. Arthur Challoner, has been appointed Clerk of Cwmbran Urban Council, Monmouthshire, where he will take up his new duties in January. We send him best wishes following his three years' service in Rickmansworth.

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"HIGHFIELD" AND THE T.A. SITE, SCOTS HILL

The Council has had an option on the T.A. site for the provision of Old Peoples' dwellings, and now that the "Highfield" estate has come on the market they have nearly decided that both parcels of land should be developed as one entity. Rickmansworth Councillors were, however, faced with a choice recently because they were being pressed to say 'yes' rapidly to the acquisition of the old L.M.S. station site in Rickmansworth and had to admit they could not afford to purchase both sites. They decided to go for the old railway site as a place for old people's dwellings, only to be told soon afterwards that that locality, so near to the canal, is so damp that old people would not wish to live there.

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome Miss June Sherwood, a 25-year-old Church Army Sister, who has taken up her appointment as Leader of the Croxley Green Youth Club. The Club's headquarters are at the Parsonage Road Youth Centre until they eventually move to new premises in Croxley Green.

STREET LIGHTING

Owens Way, Dulwich Way and Fuller Way are to have the tungsten lighting converted to colour corrected mercury which will involve the replacement of ten existing columns. The work is to be completed before April 1970.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MRS. ELIZABETH PITKIN

It is our pleasure to record that subscriptions given to a memorial fund have been used to install a teak seat with a carved inscription which will stand outside the Welcome Club.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

The result of the house-to-house collection was £62 9s. 4d.

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COUNCIL BUYS OLD PROPERTY

The Council is to apply to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for a loan of £15,155 to acquire the property at 34, 36, 46/48, 50 and 52 Scots Hill, plus four garages.

PLAYING FIELDS AT CROXLEY WOODS

The need for allotments at Croxley Woods has so diminished that plans are afoot to turn the land into playing fields. Recreational facilities will provide soccer and hockey pitches mainly for the use of the nearby Grammar School during the week, but it is hoped to arrange lettings to others at weekends. Although a small area will be retained for allotment holders, consideration is being given to the provision of a children's playground—a facility which would be welcomed by many children. R.U.D.C. please note.

CASSIO BRIDGES

While work progresses under difficulties, real problems have arisen for pedestrians trying to cross the road against two streams of traffic. So bad did the situation become that the police had to be involved. Now there is a pedestrian crossing of sorts, but the forfeit of the narrow pathway on the east side of the canal bridge has meant many people having to cross the road twice. What is more alarming is the apathy of Herts C.C. and Rickmansworth Council's Engineers; both gentlemen have replied to Association letters agreeing the situation is hazardous yet loath to offer assurances for improvements. No one seems to have thought of temporary traffic lights at the Whippendell Road T-junction where no protection is given to people who have to cross the road at that point.

RICKMANSWORTH : 77613

SUZANNE

Hair Fashions

244 NEW ROAD, CROXLEY GREEN

Reduced Charges to O.A.P.s

SPENDING IN THE 1970s

Soon local authorities will be finalising their expenditure for the coming financial year. May we hope that Rickmansworth Council will so arrange their operations so that work is done and can be seen to have been done rather than to expend on items which are obscure to the public eye.

1.743 ACRES

We see the Council are to pay £56,160 for 1.743 acres of land, being part of the garden at "Highfield", Scots Hill, and at 72 Scots Hill. The Council noted that the latter parcel included 237 sq. yards not required for the construction or improvement of the road, but it would be necessary to demolish the dwelling house.

We comment that the time has come for the local authority to stop expending large sums of money for the purchase of land and property and to get on with some real work. We venture to suggest that their financial estimates for 1970/71 should omit all items which are not practical propositions.

L.A. FINANCES

Supplementary estimates have had to be voted for: Machine accounting £1,510, increased salaries for chief officers £315, replacement of speed limit signs £500, and legal fees, etc., awarded against the Council £105.

Readers may like to be reminded that they can read the Minutes of Rickmansworth and Herts County Council in the comfort and warmth of the Library.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?

News and views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the considered opinion of the Association's Committee, although, in general, they reflect the policy of the Association to uphold the amenities for everyone who lives in Croxley Green.

Reports for the April issue should reach the Editor by March 1st.

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CHILDREN, TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

The teaching profession has long been respected; is it now in danger of losing that respect for ever? We make no excuse when we remind our readers that whatever the award of higher salaries to teachers we, the ratepayers, are going to have to pay at least some part of the cost. Are the children of today getting the standard of education we knew 50 years ago? Are the ratepayers getting a square deal for *their* money? There is little doubt (as expounded in the editorials of the national press) that children of today are emerging from school into the working world deficient in the "Three Rs". Witness the young man in my office who stipulated he could not add up all those figures until he could have the adding machine. Witness the boys of long ago who had to have a 'fourpenny one'—the pudding basin haircut so that their hair did not show below their cap; and woe betide the youngster who did not touch his cap to his teacher. The law of the land says that all children must attend school regularly. Schools must not only have standards of discipline for dress and behaviour but the teachers must uphold those standards.

All children (and grown-ups also) like a day's holiday, but is it right for a school to close for a day so that the teachers can attend a conference on decimalisation? Why close a school for a day for polling purposes? In fact, schools are empty of children for a quarter of the year; is this good economics, especially when costly laboratories and workshops are idle? In this light, ratepayers are fully entitled to ask, "Are we getting a square deal for our money?"

May we hope the present revolution in the teaching profession, involving their withdrawal of labour, will result in a productivity deal to make the profession worthy of its calling. Shorter holidays could be a first move in this direction, and longer school hours commensurate with working hours to fit the pupils for their place in society.

RATING OF EMPTY PREMISES

The Council has decided not to levy a rate on empty properties.

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Not for the War on Want, Biafra or Oxfam, but the expenditure of Herts. County Council for an American-produced computer! One County Councillor stated the government had made a grant of £7m. to establish the British computer industry in this country (by way of investment grants at 20 per cent of the outlay) and the H.C.C. should have supported a British manufacturer. Knowing how often computers break down, we feel the county would have been wiser to install an ICL product manufactured at Letchworth, thus ensuring constant maintenance from a prominent local factory. H.C.C., please note.

IT'S HARD TO SAY

(We quote) "One such tree was situated outside no. 205 Baldwins Lane and the occupier had recently complained, not only regarding loss of light, leaves, etc., but that it was a source of danger in view of its position close to the roadside. The Public Works Committee received the report of the Council's tree consultant recommending the removal of this tree: recommended that the tree consultant's recommendation be confirmed.

It is equally hard to say that a tree outside a Councillor's house has been in a state of wobble for several months but no one seems capable of refixing the stake.

THE NEED FOR PUBLIC TOILETS

A long time ago the Council were advised by this Association that the provision of toilets was necessary on the A412 and suggested that the site part of Croxley Met Station would be a useful and prominent place. We remember that the Engineer and Surveyor was asked to prepare a report on such a project but in the time that has elapsed the 'necessary' could have been built and in use.

At the other extreme, the plans for a car park at the rear of New Road are now to be elaborated to provide for toilets. This is not necessary, for the reason that the users of this car park (if they use the car park) will be local people and, additionally, the toilets will be incapable of supervision.

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YOUR COUNCILLORS

Mr. Ralph Thomas Willoughby, of 50 Gonville Avenue, was elected a Councillor for Croxley Green North Ward in the recent by-election caused by the resignation of Mr. Wenderlish, who has moved away.

Councillor Willoughby will take with him to the Rickmansworth Council Chamber a vast and intimate knowledge of highways and traffic matters since, for the past few years, he has been secretary of the Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee, and latterly secretary of the North Orbital Joint Action Group.

Croxley Green North Ward

Cllr. A. E. Gibbons (until 1970), 316 Baldwins Lane.
Cllr. C. J. Ford (until 1971), 25 Durrants Drive.
Cllr. R. T. Willoughby (until 1971), 50 Gonville Avenue.
Cllr. N. C. Young (until 1972), 63 Longcroft Road, Maple Cross.

Croxley Green South Ward

Cllr. Miss K. M. Raggett (until 1970), 2 Scots Hill Close.
Cllr. F. J. S. Hall (until 1971), 45 Copthorne Road.
Cllr. L. V. Reason (until 1972), 40 Repton Way.
Cllr. P. Robinson (until 1972), 2 Harvey Road.

County Councillor for Rickmansworth East

Mr. A. Peebles, 1 Hertford End Court, Sandy Lodge Way, Northwood, Middx.

County Councillor for S.W. Herts.

Mr. F. J. Cogan, Holly Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, Herts.

Sarratt Ward of Watford Rural District Council

Cllr. G. Dimond, 3 The Green, Sarratt.
Cllr. Mrs. G. Morison, Glyndedale, Firtree Hill, Chandlers Cross.

Durrants Ward of Sarratt Parish Council

Mr. J. R. G. Hawes, 6 Canterbury Way.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

It is pleasing to note that several residents have had their names and photos in the local papers during the past few weeks. There was Mrs. Hall, who won a car; a lady who won £100 in the football competition; and the ladies who were the guests of "Operation Santa".

SUNNY CARIBBEAN

All being well, Mr. Ian Campbell, of Manor Way, should have reached Barbados on Christmas Day. He is a member of the crew of the 57-year-old ketch *Sir Thomas Lipton*, sponsored by the Ocean Youth Club to satisfy the demand for young people to go to sea in well-found yachts at reasonable cost.

THE HAIG POPPY FUND

Croxley Green and District branch, British Legion, broke all records for last year's Poppy Day collection by topping the £1,000 mark. The figure was £1,119 3s. 10d., compared with £757 3s. 8d. for 1968, and nearly double 1967's £578 15s. 0d.

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—24th February, 7th April.

Public Works Committee—26th February, 9th April.

Council Meetings—3rd February, 17th March.

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

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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.

Help is required to circulate to Repton Way, Fuller Way, and Watford Road between the stations. Offers of help to Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

STOP PRESS. The N.O.R. alternative route proposed to pass through Croxley Green has been withdrawn.

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YOUR COMMITTEE

President: Col. C. E. Rothery Moss, 35 Watford Road.
Vice-Presidents: Mr. C. E. Armson, 14 Watford Road.
Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.
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. L. W. Fry, The Orchard, The Green.
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Mr. T. N. Millway, 3 All Saints' Lane.
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Mr. A. P. Vickery, 61 Harvey Road.
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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.

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.)