

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 117

Editor — John E. Gell

Spring 1973

The Croxley Green Society is proud to announce
that during the afternoon of

Saturday, 23rd June, 1973

THE REVELS WILL BE HELD ON THE GREEN

Dancing round the Maypole

Flower Festival at Croxley House

* Crowning of the Queen *

EDITORIAL

During the last few weeks I have experienced the very deep concern felt by many residents to the growing developments around the Green. It is not that I have only just discovered this fact — far from it — but recent events have prompted a number of local people to get together and plan their own action group. Whilst we are never exactly overjoyed at the idea of various people forming together behind our backs we have nevertheless agreed to join a "Friends of the Green" committee — I attended the first meeting — to see whether something could be done to slow down the very rapid series of events that have recently taken place on the Green.

The difficulties we face are huge. Are we to try and stop ALL further building around the Green — should we stand up for limited and low density development — or more to the point, what is limited development —

or should we keep a much tighter check on the type of houses and the quality of the building materials used to see that they are in keeping with the immediate neighbourhood? One must of course realise that this is much more of a national problem than a local one but I feel that we can be of help as a 'Committee' if we can put forward intelligent and constructive proposals rather than attacking the local authorities.

Unfortunately it looks as though the battle for Dickinsons Guildhouse is over with Croxley Green residents on the losing side. The R.U.D.C. find simply that they cannot have the funds to purchase it although they have agreed to reconsider the question if future fortunes permit. As I said last time I find the situation disturbing and feel that sometime in the not too far distant future a Community Centre must be made available for local people to enjoy.

Continued on page 4.

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THE GREEN

And suddenly its Spring! "How the weeks fly by" is a popular remark among my friends and perhaps it's wishful thinking to long for the end of winter. And with the Spring our thoughts and activities turn to gardening.

This year has been designated a special year for tree planting but any more planting must now be put off until the autumn. Don't let any good intention of planting a few new trees in your garden be forgotten until its too late - better to place your order soon and ensure the purchase of good stock.

The Residents' Association has often had to remonstrate about the apparent forceful removal of mature trees, and for this reason a survey has been taken to identify and locate many trees in the locality whose importance exceeds demands for removal. The survey has been registered under Preservation of Trees Orders. At long last the Department of the Environment has realised the nation-wide problem that a good tree once removed is more than difficult to replace, needing several decades to reach maturity. Hence 1973 has been designated "Plant a Tree Year"; the results of this year's planting may not be enjoyed until the end of this century.

Your Association intends to place six trees on The Green and they will be located adjacent to the fork road so that, in due time, the scene looking westwards from mid-way up The Green, will provide a vista pleasing to the eye. The proposal has almost unlimited possibilities! The Association has set the ball rolling and we are inviting anyone who would like to expand the project to make an arrangement with us, or, anyone might care to donate an amount less than a tree would cost (about £8 inclusive of planting).

The Association's Committee regards this project as an investment for the future, and, also, as an act of good faith to show to everyone that the people of Croxley Green do *care* about the state of The Green. A great deal of criticism has appeared in the local press during recent months, and your Association's Committee agrees with much of what has been written. On the other hand the displeasing appearance of The Green at times is due in some measure to the actions of people - noting in this respect, indiscriminate horse riding and car parking. The Green should be maintained for the pleasure of everyone. Car parking is not allowed but unfortunately some nearby residents cannot be sufficiently civic minded to prevent cars parking outside their homes. Without recalling instances of selfish parking it is better to look forward and ask everyone who resides on The Green to take it upon themselves to ensure the ground is not damaged by cars.

Let's give some more thought to the new houses on The Green. None so far built or proposed for construction violates the Green Belt, but the danger has arisen whereby the Minister responsible in these affairs has, in Hertfordshire, altered a green belt designation to permit the building of houses. The new buildings on the perimeter of The Green are planned to be in keeping with existing houses, but to be realistic, many of the houses are now growing old and the day must come when demolition must make way for reconstruction. Very earnestly, we must ensure that planning officers at County and local level, together with planning committees, and roads construction units, must examine in minute detail any application for development of open spaces. Had this been done then the catastrophe of the Highfield development might have been avoided; as it is (and new houses are welcomed in the local and national interest) there will be an additional volume of traffic from this estate emitting on to The Green near a junction which is already earmarked for traffic lights.

F.N.C.

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Mrs P. Sparrow (Con)	2,610
G. Aitman (Lib)	1,778
C. Rofe (Lab)	961

LITTLE GREEN LANE - ROAD CLOSURE

A public hearing was held on Saturday 14th April to ascertain residents views on whether or not this road should be closed from the house known as "Mawgan" to the junction of Lincoln Drive. Some felt that danger to children would increase after closure as there was greater danger in cars turning and reversing; others felt that the answer lay in providing a footway on the south side of the lane and a turning bay in Lincoln Drive. The headmaster of Little Green School said that he would not object to the playground of the school being used for parking by parents bringing and collecting their children. Our Chairman, Mr Norman Cherrill told the inquiry that it was not in the interests of the Association to close the road. Councillor Crawley wished it closed since he found that heavy traffic used the lane and he had seen children scrambling out of the way of a gravel lorry. A final decision will be made by June.

CROWN LAND FOR SALE

For over twenty years many residents of Croxley Green have hopefully anticipated the building of a Main Post Office on the corner site of New Road and Winton Drive. Many residents will recall that the main post office in Watford Road was housed in a temporary building until such time as the former G.P.O. could finance the provision of a new building on the land which they already owned. Our members will remember the Association's strenuous efforts to retain the facilities of the main post office (which used to be open from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on every weekday) but the (then) newly constituted Post Office Corporation contended the volume of business at that office did not make its further life an economic proposition. Consequently, the main post office was closed and facilities were remitted to sub post offices.

The Association has repeatedly sought to learn the intention of the P.O. Corporation towards the land they owned (which has been temporarily rented by the taxi firm). Now the land has been offered to the County Council and Rickmansworth U.D.C. The former considered building a Medical Centre but apparently rejected the idea. The Local Authority propose to buy the land for council housing purposes and to erect five three-storey houses.

Efforts have been made to convince the Council, and, particularly, six of the Croxley Green Councillors, that this site is an important one to Croxley Green. For visitors arriving at Croxley Met Station this view creates a bad impression. The appearance of the building which arises on this site will have a life of about 100 years and its design and construction must be such that in the year 2,073 it will be viewed as a building reflecting good quality architecture and workmanship. Shall we see it?

As the Council's plans will be published in the next two or three months it is essential that every interested person should seek to ensure that the proposals for the styling of the new building should be acceptable to the ratepayers. Incidentally, to those who think a block of shops should be erected on this site it must be explained that the development plan does not permit this, and, indeed, the provision of shops would (they say) bring the inherent car-parking problem.

F.N.C.

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"CROXLEY GREEN REMEMBERED"

The following poem was composed by the late Mr G. Revell, whom many local people will remember, and recited in conversation with Mr Frank Jackson of Yorke Road.

"The fairest sight I've ever seen
Is at Croxley on the Green;
Lying lazily in grass
Leisurely the cars go past;
Buzzing bees and butterflies,
Burling larks, clear blue skies;
Hot sun, birds a-tweeting,
White clad lads a-cricketing;
Ditches, delves and gravel roads,
Horse and cart with heavy load;
Cows that amble slowly by,
Udders full and dull of eye;
Old Nabby leaning on his bike
Tries in vain to light his pipe;
Curses at the tiny breeze
Whispering softly in the trees;
Silent as a waiting mouse
Sleepy stands the Public House
The Coach and Horses old and quaint
Sadly needs a coat of paint;
Cackling hens insect bent,
Dogs stretched out, exhausted, spent;
From the grass the daisies peep,
On the wall the cat's asleep;
Well worn paths whereon to stroll,
Grassy banks from which to roll;
Sight of hay o'er gates and stiles,
Girls with warm and happy smiles;
Fairest sight of all to me
Croxley Green as it used to be;
This is lovely to my mind
Because then, my friend, I was not blind"

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Collectors are urgently required for the areas around the following roads:

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Road (part),

Scots Hill/The Green, Green Lane/Copthorne Road,
New Road, Baldwins Lane,
Kenilworth Drive, Durrants Drive/Hastings Way,
Links Way/Ludlow Way, Dover Way/Canterbury
Way.

Ladies and gentlemen, please help us out here — as you can see we have quite a large area not covered with a corresponding loss of valuable revenue. Please contact Mr Broome, Editor, or anyone else on the Committee. This is, by the way, a rewarding job!

DICKINSON SQUARE

A resident in Dickinson Square recently drew to the Editor's attention the deplorable condition of the road surfacing there. It certainly appears that this road has been quite forgotten about in recent years. The council have been contacted and we will see to it that action be taken.

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ON THE SCREEN

A packed audience filled St. Oswald's Church hall on March 16th to see a film show presented by the Croxley Green Society with the Croxley Camera Club.

The show was greatly appreciated, so much so, that a repeat performance would not be amiss. The first half of the evening showed colour film of the 1972 Revels on The Green (better than John Betjeman's TV clip) and, separately, general views of a "Day in the life of Croxley Green"; for these efforts Miss Shirley Brown is to be congratulated for her expertise.

The second half of the evening was in the very capable hands of Mr L. Wilson, who showed his 'moving' slides of a holiday journey overland from Moscow to Japan, including many shots depicting life in Japan. There must be many people who never tire of seeing Mr Wilson's holiday shows, and there must be some who will follow his footsteps. His comment that the 'hard seat' ticket on the Trans-Siberian Railway was of better quality than any first-class train he had ever travelled on, is one of those comments people remember.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who made this a splendid evening.

F.N.C.

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THE WOODCRAFT FOLK

The Woodcraft Folk is a movement for all children, boys and girls together, who can benefit physically and mentally from its activities. Its aim is to enlist the energy of youth for the task of our generation — the building of a civilisation worthy of mankind. At weekly meetings and on outdoor activities members can participate in a varied programme that meets the physical, social and educational needs of their particular age group: Elfin 6-9 years, Pioneers 10-13 years and Venturers 14-17 years.

In Croxley Green an Elfin group meets on Fridays from 6-7.30 pm at the York Road School Annexe, and a Pioneer Group on Fridays from 7-9.30 pm at Little Green School.

At the weekly meetings groups offer a variety of games, folk singing and dancing, dramatics, craftwork, talks, discussions and film shows. Members also follow a programme of testwork for which badges are awarded, where older helpers and leaders pass on knowledge and skills about camping, nature study, the country code, map reading and other useful topics. At weekend and summer camps the children learn to live, work and play together in a community of their own making. They help prepare and cook meals, fetch wood and water, pitch tents, play games, go on swimming trips and rambles and join in singing round the evening camp fire.

For the older children there is camping abroad with sister organisations in other lands, and groups from overseas often join in Woodcraft camps. In 1971 Watford and district children spent a fortnight camping in Finland as guests of the Finnish Falcon movement, and as a result a party of Finnish young people joined the recent camp in Snowdonia and afterwards spent some days in their hosts homes. Such activity emphasises the desire of the Woodcraft Folk to establish a world outlook in their children so that as adults they will be of service to mankind. Woodcraft Folk leaders are trained in their own organisation and are unpaid. Members and leaders alike pay a small weekly subscription that provides group, district and national funds. The movement is democratic in structure and practices with an elected National Council responsible to a yearly Annual Delegate Conference. Although it is financially self-supporting, welcome assistance with rents of meeting places and provision of camping equipment is obtained from the Education Committees of the Cooperative movement and the older age

group receives a grant from the local Education Authority. Ideally each area also has a Supporters Council of parents and friends to assist in the raising of funds and in other ways.

Perhaps the spirit and purpose of the movement can best be summarised by the Creed with which the Pioneer groups open their meetings:—

“For these things shall I strive — a keen eye — a seeing hand — a body that fails not — an arm that is strong and willing to serve — a mind that yearns to understand — a spirit that seeks for truth and that loves the silent places — a heart that is courageous and bears good will to all men”.

Further information can be obtained from: Alison Bail, 10 Frogmore Lane, Rickmansworth.

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Our Committee have been into the question of forming a local Parish Council. The Department of the Environment, whilst being purposely vague about future legal moves state that as we are only a part of an existing Council area we are not able to do this. Rickmansworth Council did think of forming one themselves but it was discovered that they were too large in population to qualify for this status — Chorleywood were more fortunate and have been quick on the mark to stake their claim. The irony of the situation however is that if in the Boundary changes we had been separated from Rickmansworth and joined Watford we would then have been able to qualify!

We note that Watford R.D.C. and now certain members of Chorleywood U.D.C. are not too happy with the name of the new district "Three Rivers" to come into being on April 1st next. Certainly it does remind one of a Red Indian tribal reserve but no one appears to have come up with anything much better.

We are, however, given to understand by the Home Office that although the first elections for the 'new look' councils will be held under the old boundaries future amendments can and will be made in electoral divisions where clearly the geographical boundaries are now hopelessly out of date as is the case here.

Residents in the Watford R.D.C. section of Croxley Green will no doubt soon heave a sigh of relief. For many years those people living in Dover Way, Canterbury Way, Rousebarn Lane, Little Green Lane (part) and Links Way (part) have been literally stuck out on a limb by having to be 'governed' by the Watford Rural District Council which from the 1st April 1974

will cease to exist. Residents in these roads will then be included in the new Three Rivers District area which includes all Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Chorleywood, etc.

However for County Council elections they will continue to be part of the Electoral Division of Chorleywood and for Borough Elections instead of being under Watford R.D.C. they will be voting for candidates in the Sarratt Ward of Three Rivers.

It amuses me to see the rather farcical situation that existed at the recent County elections. One can hardly blame the poor electors of Chorleywood D.C.C. Durrants Ward for not realising that there was an election on at all — neither of the political parties standing ventured to trek from their main bases to canvass support in way-off Croxley Green. Indeed, I saw not one poster in these 5 streets — just as well some will be saying. If however the electors, by some chance, knew the names of the candidates they then proceeded up to Manor Way to vote making sure that they were not mesmerised by the names of all the other candidates standing for Rickmansworth East proclaimed on posters all around them and entered into a separate polling room where two electoral officers sat in regal isolation from their colleagues of the other division!

COPTHORNE ROAD

At the present moment in time this road is prohibited to all traffic except for access to properties fronting Copthorne Road, Milthorne Close, Chess Vale Rise, Copthorne Close and Scots Mill Lane. All the correct signs are in position and as far as we can tell relative peace reigns in these parts.

However, the Copthorne Road residents have not let the matter rest there and have insisted that the road be permanently closed at the Scots Hill end. They were particularly concerned at the extremely hazardous traffic manoeuvre required by motorists wishing to get to Rickmansworth so that it would not be of any advantage to use this route to avoid any bottleneck of traffic occurring at the junction of The Green and Watford Road. The police also expressed the same opinion and in view of this the council recommended that subject to the necessary objection time limit — now elapsed — and final consideration at the Public Works Committee on June 21st next this move would be carried out.

We must commend the Copthorne residents in their what looks like successful fight for a safer and quieter life.

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RICKMANSWORTH CARE SCHEME

It is now just over a year since the Churches in Rickmansworth started the Rickmansworth Care Scheme. Over 1000 individual tasks have been undertaken in its first year of operation, ranging from emergency help during sudden crises to the more routine requests for visiting and transport. The scheme has been widely used by hospitals, State welfare workers, W.R.V.S., and doctors as well as the general public. An average of 5 calls per day have been received since the scheme started. Some teething troubles were experienced at first mainly in connection with the telephone referral service but these were soon ironed out.

When someone rings the CARE number (Rickmansworth 73311) the call is intercepted by the Rickmansworth telephone exchange who give the caller a second number to ring. Only the second call is charged for, the first one is free. This second number is the home of the duty officer for the day who has a complete index of all volunteers. The duty officer uses the telephone to find a suitable helper to accept the task. There are about forty duty officers in all, and they take turns at being on telephone duty throughout a 24-hour spell. When the scheme started there were about 200 volunteers but the figure has now reached approximately 270.

As expected many of the calls received have been for transport. Taking elderly people to visit close relatives in hospital and taking the disabled or elderly to the dentist or opticians; these are examples of the kind of transport which CARE has been able to offer and has proved invaluable to the people concerned.

Visiting people in their homes or in hospital is another area of the scheme which has been in great demand. In an area like ours the problems of loneliness particularly amongst elderly people, should not be underestimated. During the recent Gas strikes, CARE volunteers were alerted to keep in touch with the many elderly people who had requested visits during the year. Also included in this scheme is "help in the home" whether it be for a family suddenly faced with a crisis through sickness perhaps, or old or disabled

people who need some heavy furniture moved or household repairs made.

There are no hard and fast rules about what jobs can or cannot be accepted; each case is decided on its own merits. If you think CARE might be able to help why not give them a ring? But please remember they cannot help anyone who has not asked for assistance themselves either directly or through a third person. CARE will not ask its helpers to go where they're not wanted. Helpers do

Helpers do not commit themselves in regular service, but simply say that they are willing to be asked at times when help is needed. If you would like to discuss the possibility of helping with the scheme, just ring the CARE number and tell the duty officer the areas of service which interest you.
Chris Pettit. Telephone: Watford 32983.

NATIONAL TOWNSWOMEN'S WEEK MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Is the strain of modern living getting you down, are you lonely, or are you new to the district and missing all your friends? Then why not relax with the Townswomens Guild, and find an outlet for your talents. You can be sure of a warm welcome to the monthly meetings which include excellent speakers.

You may like to join any of the following groups:

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One Croxley Green Guild has an excellent dress-making class, others have gardening and rambling.

Various sections entertain the Handicapped members of the community. Interesting outings are always being arranged to theatres, Stately Homes and factories.

There is a Guild in your area. We look forward to meeting you at our next meeting.

Croxley Green Evening Guild,
Secretary Mrs H. Saunders, Tel: Rick. 73186
Croxley Green Afternoon Guild,
Secretary Miss D. Jenner, Tel: Rick. 73895
Rickmansworth Durrants Guild,
Secretary Miss E.M. Gomme, Tel: Wat. 32511

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SCOTS HILL

Now that the re-development of Scots Hill has been completed I think that residents will agree that the Council have undertaken an excellent job in landscaping with many pleasant bushes and shrubs. So many road redevelopment projects these days are carried out with no thought whatsoever for the visual aspects of their surroundings.

R.U.D.C. MEETINGS

The public are admitted to certain meetings of Rickmansworth U.D.C. at Basing House, commencing at 8 pm as follows:

Council meetings:	May 22nd, July 10th
Public Works:	21st June, 31st August
Community Services:	19th June, 29th August
Housing:	12th June, 20th August

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor would be pleased to receive articles or letters concerning matters of local interest. Contributions,

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Vice-Presidents:

Mr. R. E. J. Boardman, 16 Frankland Road.

Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

Mr. J. S. Robinson, 46 Warwick Way.

Chairman: Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. W. A. Dixon, 33 Winchester Way.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

Mr. A. S. Brode, 1 Parrots Close, The Green.

Mr. L. L. Dobey, 11 The Green.

Mr. L. W. Fry, The Orchard, The Green.

Mr. J. H. Gardner, 46 Canterbury Way.

Mr. J. E. Gell, Little Waterdell House, Little Green Lane.

Mr. D. H. arritt, 11 Copthorne Road.

Mr. T. J. Lucas, 200 Baldwins Lane.

Mrs. M. Milne, 286 Baldwins Lane.

Mr. W. W. Rutherford, 104 Grove Crescent.

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 10p, 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.

tions, please, for the Summer issue must be received by Saturday 7th July. His address is Little Waterdell House, Little Green Lane. Tel. Rickmansworth 75570.

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