

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 118

Editor — John E. Gell

Summer 1973

A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR CROXLEY GREEN

Those who have lived for some time in Croxley Green will remember the 'Stute', the Dickinson Institute. It was built at the turn of the century by John Dickinson as a place for evening classes. When Mr C. Barton-Smith was manager of the mill, the club with bar was built and also a hall with stage. It was then the place where everything 'happened'. In 1926, the evening classes were no longer being held and the name was changed to the Guildhouse. Then, a few years ago, the hall was burnt down. Now the red brick building is to be demolished and there appears to be a shortage of space for organisations to meet.

The solution, so we understand, is to have a Community Centre. The object of this article is to try and explain what this means. Community Centres have been built for over half a century and there is a section of the 1944 Education Act which encourages them. There is a National Federation of Community Associations which is connected with the Department of Education and Science and which has considerable experience of these centres.

A Community Centre may be built by:—

- (1) a District Council and run by council officers. The experience of the N.F.C.A. is that this is not a very successful method of running it.
- (2) a District Council and run by a Community Association. This is considered a better method.
- (3) and run by a Community Association. This is considered to be the best method.

This, then, leads us to Community Associations. These have two purposes:—

- (a) "to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants".

- (b) "To establish or to secure the establishment of a Community Centre and manage, or to co-operate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of, such a centre for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in furtherance of the above objects".

Regarding (a) the people who belong to a Community Association are divided into sections according to their interests. A person may belong to more than one section. There might be sections for table tennis players, singers, retired people, etc. The Association might also organise the events open to non-members (at one price) and members (at a lower one) such as a film show, barn dance, lecture or concert. It might organise events for members only, such as bingo or a discotheque. It would probably have a club room in which refreshments may be purchased and consumed. In addition to this, organisations which require a room in which to meet could join the Association as associate members while the centre might be used for parties, receptions or political meetings. A community association has a council consisting of representatives of the sections and associated organisations and, perhaps, a few other people. The council has an executive committee which does most of the work.

Regarding (b) the centre may be built by a District Council or by the Community Association. In the second case, one third of the cost has to be raised locally. For us, it would mean £8,000 to £10,000. It is usual to build a centre gradually as the money comes in. At the time of writing this article, a survey of leisure interests is being conducted by members of the Residents Association, political parties and other organisations. This is to find out how much a centre is likely to be used. If the verdict, when the results have been 'processed' by the N.F.C.A. is that there is need for a centre then public money can be made available for it. A public meeting will be held to consider the matter and an effort will be made to get somebody from a community association which has built its own centre and somebody from one which uses a council one, to address the meeting. The meeting will then have to decide how to proceed. If we do

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have a centre, perhaps we should remember the parts played in the past by Mr C. Barton-Smith and his son Mr A. Barton-Smith and name the building the Barton-Smith Centre?

Contributed by Mr L. Fry, Hon Sec,
Croxley Green Society.

EDITORIAL

The Residents Association are pleased to see that plans are now under way in forming a Community Association. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a large response to the survey.

385 Bus Route. This subject has come up at most Committee meetings of the Association lately and it is reasonable to suppose that it will continue to do so until there is some apparent improvement in the service. Our Secretary now possesses a large and ever growing file of letters, mostly to the bus company, on the matter but our labours have so far failed to bring any appreciable results. In a recent telephone conversation with London Country Buses at Garston Garage an official did go so far as to admit that this route took the brunt of cancellations due mainly to shortage of staff and traffic delays in North Watford. We do not dispute the reasons for the delays but why should we get the worst of it? It would appear that the reason might be because for three-quarters of its journey it is duplicated by other services but this fact is not much comfort to the residents of North Croxley who rely solely on this service. The bus company, however, ask residents to inform them of the exact dates and times that these buses fail to run or are late so that detailed checks can be made. Please, therefore, would you make relevant notes, however briefly, and send them to one of us – or write direct to London Country Buses, Garston Garage.

"Rickmansworth Historian". It is understood that some people may be having difficulty in obtaining copies of this very informative magazine which appears twice yearly, price 8p per copy. If this is so then the Publicity Officer, Mr L.C. Leach would ask you to get in contact with him direct at 5, Kenilworth Drive, Croxley Green, Telephone: Watford 25340.

LONGWAYS. THE GREEN

The outline planning application for two houses and garages was submitted to the Planning Committee but after considerable discussion at this meeting it was decided that the matter should go before the full Council for approval. The R.U.D.C. then gave further consideration to this application and took into account all the objections which had been received. They decided that the application should be approved subject to the following conditions: –

- (1) Standard outline condition.
- (2) Standard limitation of duration of planning permission condition.
- (3) The existing means of access on to Baldwins Lane shall be retained to serve both houses and no direct access to the Green shall be permitted.
- (4) The existing hedge on the Green frontage of the site shall be retained to the satisfaction of the local planning authority.
- (5) The consent does not extend to the siting of the proposed buildings shown on the submitted plan and that a scheme of tree planting to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority be included with the scheme.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD (CROXLEY GREEN EVENING)

Croxley Green Evening Townswomen's Guild are holding an Autumn Fair on Saturday 22nd September at 2.30 pm at All Saints Church Hall. A donation will be made from the proceeds to a local charity.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OLD AGE PENSIONS ASSOCIATIONS.

The Croxley Branch has been in existence for three years and has a present membership of over 400.

It is apparent that there are a number of people in Croxley who are not aware of the Association and its functions. We have a close association with the British Red Cross Centre and Welcome Club, but have a very different role to play.

The National Federation which is non-political and non-sectarian is primarily a pressure group to look after the interests of pensioners in general and old-age pensioners in particular. The pressure brought on various governments has successfully resulted in a bi-annual, and latterly an annual review of pensions. At the present time we are pressing for a much larger basic figure than that promised for 1973.

To make the movement effective, our negotiators must be backed by strong local associations, and numerical strength is essential. There is no age qualification, and we would invite and welcome new members of all ages. In particular we would welcome people in middle-age groups, with a desire to help, and to take office in the branch, which will obviate the constant turnover of officers and helpers when posts are held by members of advanced age. One of the main strengths of this organisation is its system of road stewards. This enables the Federation to be in close touch with the members, and members with the Federation. There is room for improvement and we would appreciate assistance from any members prepared to help in this very vital work.

At a local level our main job is to hold our monthly meetings at the British Red Cross Centre and Welcome

Club, when speakers are able to talk to us and advise us on the various complex problems which face members in general, and the older and lonely members in particular. Recent speakers have been from Citizens Advice Bureaux, Fire, Police and Geriatric workers.

Also, at local level, we have at present under review:-

1. In conjunction with Watford Area Branches, a simple and cheap visual alarm system for people living alone.
2. A visiting system both at home and in hospital for the sick and lonely.
3. Further social activities which will be complimentary to the work done by the Social Committee of the Welcome Club.

We are a very active branch of a virile national movement. Come and join us and help in our work.

Contact the Secretary: W. Walmsley, 31 Cophorne Road, Rickmansworth 74517.

CROXLEY CAMERA CLUB

The first meeting of the Croxley Camera Club after the summer recess will be on Wednesday, 5th September, at the Rickmansworth Sports Club pavilion. New members will be welcomed as well as visitors who will have the chance to admire the scope of the Club's activities. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs F. Howard - telephone Rickmansworth 73533.

At the Film Show presented by the Croxley Green Society last March, the slide show "Across Siberia to Japan" was given by Mr C.L. Smith, O.B.E. (and not by Mr Wilson as previously reported). Several people missed the cine show of The Revels and other Croxley Green views on this occasion and we would ask the Croxley Green Society to repeat this enterprising event.

CROXLEY GREEN - WATFORD JUNCTION BRANCH LINE

To a relative newcomer to this area, the Croxley Green - Watford Junction Branch Line is rather a mystery. On the few occasions which I have used it, I have felt that I'm putting myself to a great deal of inconvenience. On one particular occasion, having already completed a 20 minute walk to the station, I found that I had just missed the 08.23 and would have 25 minutes to wait. If I hadn't already bought my

ticket, I would have walked over the road and caught one of the very frequent buses I saw passing!

When I finally caught the train, it arrived at Watford High Street just after the Euston train had left; surely a better connection than this could be made? Having about 12 minutes to wait at Watford High Street, I finally arrived at work late - in fact one and a half hours after leaving home - a journey which only takes 25 minutes by car and should take only 55 minutes by train, including a walk at either end. Over 30 minutes were wasted in waiting for trains, and that was in the rush hour too! If other people, who may be less enthusiastic about rail travel than I am, have had similar experiences of this railway, I am not surprised that they are not using it!

As regards the future, I think publicity would be of very little use unless trains are to run everyday of the week, between 06.00 and 00.30, at regular and frequent intervals, i.e. every 15 minutes off peak, 10 minutes or less in the rush hour. Good connections should also be provided at Watford High Street and Watford Junction.

At present this line is only of any use to people living at the Watford end of Croxley. Therefore people at the Rickmansworth end will use the Metropolitan Line for travel to London and the bus for travel to Watford.

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If this line is to survive, I feel that there is no alternative other than linking it with the Watford Branch of the Metropolitan Line. At Croxley Green Station, although I haven't actually measured it yet, I'm sure that these two lines can't be much more than 100 yards apart. A viaduct, or preferably two, could be built with little interference to property. The terminus of the Metropolitan Line near Cassiobury Park is a 'loose end' like Croxley Green Station. On reading an article in the 'Down your Street' section of the *Watford Observer* (dated Friday May 19th 1972), I understand that the Metropolitan Line was originally intended to terminate at a station on the site of Grange Furnishings in Watford High Street. Although the present Watford High Street Station isn't as central as that one would have been, a link between these two lines would be the completion of the original plan — even more so, as Watford Junction would be the terminus!

Of course I realize that the idea of a link is not a new one. I read a most interesting article in the *Watford Observer* (dated August 4th 1972) concerning an Oxhey man's 20-year fight for the rail link. I feel it is about time that local residents give him and his organisation more support.

As I see things, a link could bring about a railway revolution to the area. I know that I haven't as yet mentioned expense, but as pointed out in the letter to which I referred in the above paragraph, "A subsidy is to be paid anyway. The public is entitled to the best service that this money can buy. Combining the two train services would reduce costs for the operator and provide something much more useful for the user". I realize that problems will arise on account of the

Croxley Green — Watford High Street section being single track and Croxley Green and Watford West stations not being of London Transport Standard, but once all these are resolved the two railways could have a very bright future. By arrangements between British Rail and London Transport, a link could involve through running trains from Watford Junction to Baker Street and the City, also to Rickmansworth, Amersham and Chesham, which sadly lacks rush hour trains.

From a recent issue of the *Watford Observer*, I understand that British Rail are going to make a decision soon on the possible electrification of the Marylebone to Aylesbury Line. Also they may possibly take over all the services to Amersham and Chesham. If this takes place, which I hope it does, it could give our possible new link two more advantages:—

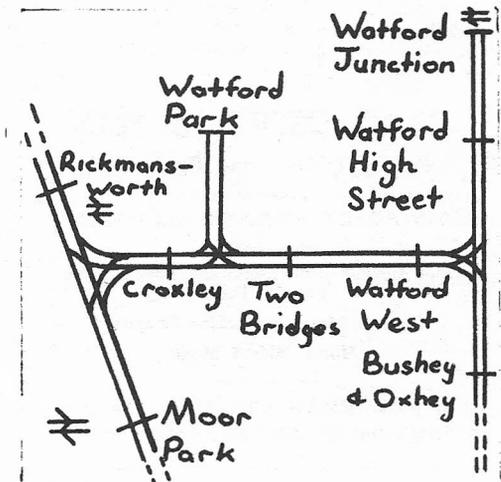
1. More Metropolitan rush hour trains could be run from Watford — possibly as many as on the Uxbridge branch, which, I regret to say, is far better off for trains than we are.
2. Passengers from Watford West, Croxley Green, Watford (Met.) and Croxley could change at Moor Park onto a frequent and very fast service to Marylebone (and Harrow) — covering the whole journey in around 12 — 15 minutes!

The only snag I can see in a link is that Watford (Met.) Station will still be out on a limb, and this could lead to its eventual closure. However, in the rush hour there will be a limit to the amount of trains travelling between Watford West and Watford Junction, because of the other regular services from Watford Junction to London. Therefore certain Met. trains will have to start from Watford (Met.) Station.

I feel there is also a case here for the loop line between Watford West and Bushey and Oxhey to be reopened. This could be very useful in the rush hour. During the off peak periods, the 15 minute Bakerloo Line train service from Elephant to Watford Junction could be reintroduced and the 15 minute Euston slow trains could then terminate at Watford (Met.) and Rickmansworth alternatively.

Watford Met. Station could be renamed — Watford Park. Croxley Green Station could be renamed — Two Bridges.

J.R.H.



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NEW YEAR AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

We are now embarking on the busiest time of the Club's year, and have quite a packed programme planned for part of each week from now until Christmas, as well as offering several purely social evenings each week which the members enjoy so much. It would be difficult to list all the activities planned to the end of December, so I will highlight some items and give the general week's programme, with more detail for September and October.

Enrolment

The Club is now re-opening for its "new year" in September, beginning with Enrolment Day on Wednesday, 5th September. This is the time (from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m.) when all members from the past year come to re-enrol, and when new members enrol for the first time. The cost for those at school is still 10p per year, and for those at work, 15p. After that they pay a nightly subscription of 3p or 5p.

Each member receives a new membership card with his or her new number, plus name, address and age, after filling in an application form.

Start of Club Meetings

The actual club starts on Thursday evening, 6th September, when the usual social programme is offered with one or two additions since the previous year. We still have records, coffee-bar, darts, table-tennis, table football, badminton and snooker available all evening. In addition we have a new pin-table, which is something like the old game of bagatelle, but with flashing lights, bells, buzzers and gay pictures to show the progress of the ball round the course. We have also been told that a snooker table with a table-top may be coming our way and we are keeping our fingers crossed, as the old one is very tatty.

Discos

We are starting our Discos for the year on Thursday, 20th September, when the Jason West International Roadshow is again visiting the Centre, by popular demand of the members. In addition to a very wide variety of records, Jason shows a number of short comic films, does comedy acts between records, and displays a lot of interesting lighting effects. Naturally the cost of this entertainment is much higher than for a normal Disco, so we have to charge members 40p and visitors 45p.

However, we have so far been able to keep the cost of our own Discos, run by a senior member, down to 15p per member, 20p for visitors, so there is plenty of chance for finances to recover, and we only have Jason about twice in the year. Otherwise we have more local shows alternating with our own.

Weekly Programme

It is hoped that from now on, the Club will be open every Sunday afternoon; certainly it will be functioning every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening. The times and a rough outline of the weekly programme are given below:—

Sunday 2.30 - 5.00

General Club Meeting

Monday 7.00 - 10.00

General Club Meeting

Tuesday 7.00 - 10.00

Activities-only night - a wide variety of activities with one hour of coffee-bar but no records (see autumn programme below).

No Club Meetings on Wednesdays

Thursday 8.00 - 10.30

(Week 1: General Club Meeting

(Week 2: Disco

There are also a number of other special events, competitions and attractions offered by outside organisations, and held mainly at the Youth Centre.

Tuesday's Activities

Something different is planned each week for part of every Tuesday evening, and as the evenings are still fairly light in September, we have two outdoor activities lined up:—

Archery on Tuesday, 11th September and

Tramplining on Tuesday, 25th September (both with qualified instructors).

These will both start at 7.00p.m., in order to make the most of the daylight. In between, on the 18th September, there is badminton instruction, starting at 8.00 p.m. On the 2nd October, the first session of balloon volleyball will be held.

Tuesday 9th October heralds a new venture - outings for the whole club to an activity or place of interest not available locally. The first will be to the ten-pin bowling alley in Hemel Hempstead. These outings will obviously cost a lot more than club meetings, but it is hoped that members will be able to

Continued on Page 7.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by the Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force if we can trace any information on the unit of the A.C.F. raised in 1942/3 and called 'B' Company 5th Cadet Bn Hertfordshire Regt. Durrants Senior School. If you have any documents, photos or personal memories amongst your readers that we can copy and pass on, I should be grateful.

(signed) D.J. Taylor, M.A.
Headmaster, Durrants School.

CROXLEY REVELS

The revels were held on the 23rd June amid glorious sunshine. During the afternoon local Brownies danced around the Maypole; there was a fancy dress parade; the crowning of the Queen and an excellent flower display at Croxley House. Unfortunately the procession was smaller than in previous years and it was rather disappointing that so few decided to make the effort to support the best dressed vehicle competition, but, having said that, one must congratulate the Green-sleeves group for their magnificent nautical float.

There were a number of local organisations represented at the show including our own which had a

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display of aerial photographs of Croxley Green. The local Horticultural & Allotment Holders Society ran a stall selling plants and produce grown by members. They tell us that receipts were just over £29 which was a very notable effort and they wish to thank all those who supported the stall. The money will be given to local charities.

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afford them once a month, especially when the cost of transport can be kept very low by the use of the South-West Hertfordshire Youth Service Coach, which will take 30 members and several helpers.

Youth Week

The week of 19th - 28th October is Club Week, when the Council of Youth for the Rickmansworth area organise a wide variety of events:-

table-tennis, a car rally, folk evening, the "Miss Youth" competition, and with a mystery event planned for the final Saturday. Last year it was the Relay Marathon, in which Croxley Youth Centre team came third.

Summing Up - Uses of the Centre

The above will give some idea of the things arranged at the Youth Club itself, catering for many tastes.

In addition to the Club activities, the Centre is used for various other meetings - a pre-school playgroup in the mornings, an art group on two afternoons a week, and on some Saturday afternoons, a pop group which writes its own music can be heard lustily practising its newest creations.

The new name for the professional youth service is the Youth and Community Service, and certainly Croxley Youth Centre is catering for the needs of quite a wide range of ages and tastes in the community. Perhaps the ways in which it can be used have not yet been fully explored, but it is already doing its bit as a meeting-place for the community of Croxley Green.

TREASURER

We are looking for a new Treasurer in succession to Mr Broome who, at the age of 84 has decided, much against our wishes and a great deal of persuasion to the contrary, to retire from this post which he has held for many years.

We should be glad to receive names of any willing volunteers. Please contact one of the Committee or direct to Mr Broome.

THE GREEN/WATFORD ROAD JUNCTION

At a recent meeting of the Public Works Committee it was agreed that a pelican crossing should be installed in Watford Road east of the junction with The Green. The Committee would also like to see yellow box markings in the junction, no left turn from the Green into Watford Road (the slip road would be sufficient for this) and re-alignment of the kerb. They felt that a mini-roundabout incorporating a pedestrian subway should be the *ultimate* scheme for the junction. They will consider extending the Scots Hill dual carriageway to All Saints junction but this would entail pulling down 13 houses known as Cherry Cottages between Scots Hill Close and the entrance to Rickmansworth School.

It will be recalled that traffic lights were originally considered as suitable but on further reflection it is now considered that delays would occur on Scots Hill thereby reducing the benefits of the Scots Hill improvement.

STOP PRESS

At the full Council meeting on July 10th the recommendation by the Public Works Committee to reconsider the possibility of extending the Scots Hill dual carriageway to the All Saints Junction was defeated; the remainder of the proposals were agreed.

LITTLE GREEN LANE

The report on the Public Inquiry held in April has now been published. It was recommended that part of this lane should NOT be closed to traffic after all but that there should be a footpath instead on the south side of the lane, preserving as much vegetation as possible, and the road should be widened to 13ft. Also, there should be a waiting bay in the grounds of Little Green Primary School for parents. The Public Works Committee recommended the report's proposals and the matter now goes before the full Council meeting on July 10th when it is expected to be passed.

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CROXLEY GREEN NAMEPLATE

We recently pressed the Council to erect the 'Croxley Green' nameplate on Scots Hill which was promised once the dual carriageway scheme had been completed. We were, however, surprised to learn that the sign is 'lost' presumably somewhere in the engineers archives. A further sign has been placed on order with the manufacturers.

R.U.D.C. MEETINGS

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

Council:	September 18th.
Public Works:	August 31st.
Community Services:	August 29th.
Housing:	August 20th.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

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"FRIENDS OF THE GREEN"

By the time these notes are read you will probably have heard of the formation of a "Friends of the Green" Society at Croxley. "No", you may say, "Surely not another Society in Croxley Green"! A great deal of thought and consultation between representatives of existing societies took place before the formation of "The Friends" and it was generally agreed that there is a place for it.

Many people have become alarmed at the way in which development has taken place recently on the Green, and there is the very real fear that a unique public amenity of importance to many thousands of people is in danger of being destroyed. The object of "The Friends" is to safeguard and promote the amenities of our Green and its immediate surroundings as a place of natural beauty. That may seem a very narrow object but it is perhaps because of our intention to concentrate on this one vital task that the Society is justified. The aim is not to stop development, for the need for housing is fully recognised, but we are determined to ensure that what development does take place shall not crudely destroy existing amenities.

"The Friends" do, of course, appreciate the efforts of existing Societies, who are making a great contribution to the life of our village, but their responsibilities may be either much wider, or perhaps more specialised than the conservation of the Green and its immediate surroundings. Our constitution certainly binds us to co-operate with other organisations in achieving our aim.

We do hope that everyone with a care for our Green will join "The Friends". At the time of writing, Dr Robert Leach, of Hollow Tree House, The Green, is acting as Chairman and he will be very glad to have names of those wishing to join. *Mr David Williams.*

tions, please, for the Autumn issue must be received by Saturday 29th September. His address is: Little Waterdell House, Little Green Lane. Telephone: Rickmansworth 75570.

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