

The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 139

Editor: Bob Hampson

Spring 1980

Secretary: Derek Thompson, 239a New Road, Croxley Green.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Nearly a year has passed since I became Chairman of your Association, and the experience has proved most pleasurable. The committee we found last March is conscientious and lively, the topics they have raised being varied and though small in themselves, important in the life of the community. Apart from the early years of my marriage, I have lived in Croxley Green and watched it grow. The one constant factor in all that time, has been the number of people who care. I would venture to guess that in few communities are there as many voluntary bodies and organisations as we have around us here.

The problem arises that with so much activity, 'willing horses' are somewhat stretched. I believe that many of our readers, are willing but frightened of the unknown. We have appealed for subscription collectors with little success, it really is not very onerous, without them and with rising costs we are having difficulty in producing this magazine as often and as big as we would like. What about it?

Enough of our problems. The Croxley Green branch of The National Federation of Old Age Pensioners needs a secretary, not as difficult or time consuming as you think, they have a very good committee. The person they are looking for doesn't even need to type, just be willing to deal with a small amount of correspondence and little more. Whatever your age, if you care and wish to see a thriving group continue please contact Mrs. Farmer of 10 Lewes Way or on Watford 29448, she can tell you more.

Croxley Green is important to me, I hope and believe it is important to you, together we can maintain and improve our 'village'. If you have ideas or can see problems, which we can pursue please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other committee members.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Why was the surface of the West bound carriageway at Cassiobridge completely removed and resurfaced only a few years after the bridge was built? If it was fair wear and tear, why has not the Watford bound carriageway been done? If it was NOT fair wear and tear, did the Contractors pay for it, or did the ratepayers? Judging from the silence and evasion whenever I periodically ask these questions, I get the impression there is something to hide.

EDITORIAL

In the last issue I commented that without more subscription collectors, in a year or two, the traditional 'thank you' evening for collectors and distributors might have to go and perhaps the *Resident* be drastically reduced in size. I regret that owing to totally unexpected factors, both these predictions have now come to pass.

The last issue was typeset, pasted up and in the hands of the printer with 12 pages. A few days later I was informed that printing costs would be increased by nearly £300, subject to a possible discount reducing it to £150 *extra*. Obviously this was quite out of the question: the issue was withdrawn and reduced to 8 pages. I do apologise for the unbalanced and disjointed result, but we could not incur any more time or money on typesetting.

So once again we have a major crisis. Last year, although Croxley has the talent, enthusiasm and concern for the community, we did not have enough members actually at the Annual General Meeting to form a working committee. But once the problem was recognised members surged forward and the crisis evaporated overnight. This year the crisis has parallels. Croxley has the money in the form of uncollected subscriptions, but because of the dire shortage of COLLECTORS, a considerable amount of our income is being lost every year. If we can collect that lost income, we can build up a balance to survive these blasts of ill-fortune; if we continue to lose that income, then the prosperity of the last few years will be lost. That is the *problem*, its *consequence* and its *cure*.

So let me appeal again for more collectors — please give George Harrison a ring (Watford 32082) and volunteer to collect from a mere 25 to 30 houses in your area, or wherever preferred — just an evening or two. That is all that is needed from 40 — 50 people to get us back to being able to make committee decisions without having to debate whether it is financially possible. And don't forget that for you, too, there is a 20% commission to cover your expenses! Apart from that, it is a chance to meet people, with the added bonus that it is a very worthwhile and essential job.

This year will be the first year in which our A.G.M. will be held in the Spring instead of the usual dank, dreary and dismal November. It will be held on Friday, 11th April 1980 in the Croxley

Library at 8.00 p.m. This will be a very important meeting at which our finances will be discussed, not so much how to MAKE money, although we never say No! — but rather how to gather in the harvest which is waiting. SO PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE AND TIME:

11th APRIL 1980 at 8 p.m.

CROXLEY GREEN LIBRARY

and come along and give us your support — your Association works for you: without you it cannot work at all.

In contrast to the somewhat depressing and distressing beginning, let me end on a more cheerful note. Conditions have changed: we have obviously had very favourable printing terms in the past; in future, our costs are going to be doubled for the same product, or we will have to get the best we can for the *same* cost. Hence the new smaller format of your Resident.

Please let me know what you think of it together with suggestions for improvements or savings to cut the cost even more. A single large sheet eliminates the cost of stapling and collating — there may be other economies.

Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:

Mr. R. Hampson,
Halfway House, Cassiobridge,
Watford, Herts.
Telephone: Watford 28418.

Copy Date — June 30th 1980.

As many short articles as you can please!

DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH FACTS: WE MIGHT HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!

When preparing the last issue I wrote a few words, (not printed) about the roundabout by the Fire Station, saying that the next motorist who was going to spin off and end upside down by the river had better hurry up, to maintain the average one per year, because time was running out. As it happened, the 11th one did just that — this one went right over and ended up on its wheels again. All these 11 vehicles have turned over within a few feet of the same spot. Yet the Herts County Council say that this stretch of road is no worse than any comparable stretch! With this sort of blind vision, it is no wonder that we cannot have a pedestrian crossing at Baldwins Lane's lower end.

ASSISTANT EDITOR

I am delighted to report that in response to last edition's appeal for assistance in producing your *Resident*, Mrs. Stagg, who is relatively new to the district and who is anxious to become involved in our community, has come forward. Please give her a great welcome by sending as many articles as possible.

Mrs. Stagg's address is:—
83 Links Way, Croxley.

PARISH COUNCILS

YOUR VOTE IS ASKED FOR NOW!

In the very near future the Three Rivers Council is taking a decision on this very important matter. As stated in the last issue, there has recently been Party Political moves, combined with a petition, to influence this decision. Your Association committee is strictly NON-party political and in general the committee is worried about these pressures. In order to obtain a balanced survey, we ask you to read the two views below, together with the last issue's comments. Then *please* complete the form below and hand it to a committee member:

Voting Paper for		house no.	road
		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
We are in favour of a Parish Council for Croxley Green			
Please tick box:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
YES	NO	don't know	
Please return by 27th April to any committee member.			

A PARISH COUNCIL FOR CROXLEY GREEN

As a lifelong resident of Croxley Green who believes that we would benefit from having our own Parish Council, I welcome this opportunity to explain the reasons that lead me to this view.

A Parish Council is a kind of neighbourhood council. It is a statutory body, democratically elected, with certain legal rights and obligations. Briefly, a Parish Council controls and administers playing fields, recreation grounds, allotments, public toilets, footpaths, car parks, bus shelters etc. It can also appoint certain governors of primary schools.

The District Council must consult the Parish Council over all planning applications in the area, and the Parish Council can demand a public enquiry into any planning application to which it objects. A Parish Councillor may attend meetings of the District Council's Planning Committee and voice the Parish Council's views.

At present, all areas in Three Rivers have their own Parish Council apart from Croxley and Rickmansworth. Until now those areas with a Parish Council have paid the rate levied by the Council (normally about 1½p. in the £) in addition to the District Council rate paid by us all. From April 1980, however, a large part of the costs incurred by the Parish Councils will be spread equally over all areas in the District. The effect will be that Croxley Green ratepayers will pay a little more whether we have a Parish Council or not.

Parish Councillors are elected at the same time as District Councillors; voters merely have two ballot papers instead of one. The extra cost involved is, therefore, minimal. A Parish Council normally

has eight to twelve members, depending upon the size of the area it represents. Unlike District Councillors, members of a Parish Council are not eligible to claim allowance for attending Council meetings.

Fears have been expressed that a Croxley Green Parish Council would be just another vehicle for the main political parties and that the same faces would appear. While it would be foolish to pretend that party politics could be kept out of our Parish Council elections entirely, it is by no means true to say that all surrounding Parish Councils are dominated by the main political parties. In Sarratt, for example, nine of the eleven members are independants. The time commitment for a District Councillor is considerable, and many people with the necessary interest and personal qualities are dissuaded from standing for this reason. This does not apply to anything like the same extent for a Parish Councillor.

What about Croxley's District Councillors — are they not already there to represent us? The fact is that the seven Croxley Councillors are in a small minority on the District Council, which has to concern itself with the whole of Three Rivers and not just Croxley Green. Something which may be in the interests of the District as a whole (a new road, for example) may well not be in Croxley's best interest. The Croxley District Councillors are also all members of two main political parties and will almost certainly take account of the views of their colleagues from other areas. A Parish Council would only be concerned with Croxley Green, would be nearer the grass roots of local feeling, and would be more responsive to local problems.

It is an interesting fact that, when given the choice, all areas in Three Rivers with a Parish Council chose to keep it rather than allow the District Council to take over its functions. Clearly the residents of Abbots Langley, Chorleywood, Sarratt, etc. feel that a Parish Council has something to offer. I believe that we in Croxley Green should also have our own Parish Council. We have very little to lose and everything to gain.

Peter Furr

The Person, NOT the Party

The heading I've chosen for this article puts my reason for being against Parish Councils in a nutshell.

Parish councillors are, with very few exceptions, Party Politicians. It is perhaps a sad reflection of our times that politics should have encroached on what used to be a very personal way of giving service to the community.

Even those elected as independants, eventually face a choice between being 'A voice in the wilderness', or lining up with one of the party groups, in the faint hope of having some of his/her elector's expectations at least partly realised.

To my mind, one of the best aspects of our Committee is that in accordance with the Constitution of the Association, politics are forbidden either in discussion or practice. We are a collection of individuals with one common aim — the preservation and welfare of Croxley.

We are not and have no wish to be another branch of bureaucracy. The same cannot be said of Parish Councils, as you will no doubt be aware. In reply to those who feel that perhaps Parish Councils have more authority than Residents Associations, I would say that this is a debateable point. Any decisions taken by Councils have to be rubber stamped by Three Rivers District Council and have no more guarantee of success than items which are put forward in an efficient manner by a Residents Association.

Finally, whilst I am unable to quote precise comparisons, I am convinced that the cost of a Parish Council to Croxley residents would most certainly exceed, by a considerable amount, the yearly subscription paid to the Residents Association.

D. Thompson

The members of your committee are:

President:

Mr. B.H.W. Tullett, 9 Green Lane.

Committee:

Mr. O.G. Anthony, 42 Frankland Close.

Mr. H.R. Brown, 33 Frankland Road,

Mrs. E. Burdiss, 17 New Road.

Mr. J.W. Cornwall, 31 Harvey Road.

Mrs. K. Delfs, 110 Links Way.

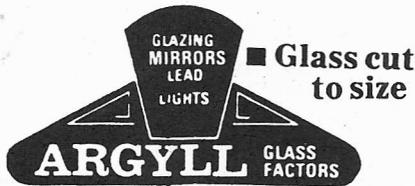
Mr. P.R. Furr, 15 Winton Crescent.

Mr. R.C. Hampson, Halfway House, Cassiobridge.

Mr. M.G. Harris, 24 Dickinson Square.

Mr. J.T. Hedges, 44 Ludlow Way.

Mr. H.G. Smith, 107 Frankland Road.



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RECENT ITEMS DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE

1. *Rousebarn Lane* — more sleeping policemen asked for.
2. *Motor Cyclists on the Moor.* Prohibition signs are being removed as quickly as the Council erects them. We have written to the Police and to Three Rivers Council about this.
3. *Municipal Tennis Courts.* Three Rivers Council are willing to hand over the running of Council tennis courts at a fee of £80 per annum. Takings would then belong to the lessee. In view of the problems of manning, security, collection of money, insurance, vandalism etc. etc. your Association refused the invitation.
4. *Pedestrian Crossing at bottom of Baldwins Lane,* opposite the shops. Three Rivers Council objection seems to be that it would be too near the Two Bridges roundabout. What about the crossing on the A412 by the Two Bridges? You could not get much closer than that without being on it!
5. *Barton Way Recreation Ground.* Three Rivers Council are proposing a new Sports Pavillion with a car park. The groundsman to be available during daylight hours only. Would this not lead to misuse by motor cyclists? We have written to Three Rivers Council expressing our fears.

THE EDITOR, CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT.

May I through the Resident make a protest about the foul state of the streets of Croxley Green, and I direct this not to the local council but the dog owners of the district. Dogs, as meat eating animals, leave a most obnoxious mess which is well-known to be a carrier of serious disease. Even if a dog is regularly 'wormed', and supposing this were to remove all health hazards, the smell brought into the house by feet that have accidentally trodden in such mess is quite revolting. I do recognise and accept, however, a dog's natural instinct to mark its territory with its own urine.

The aspect of this that annoys me most is that many dogs are brought onto the streets and open spaces for the specific purpose of 'messing' rather than

this being done in the owners' gardens. Apart from the occasional accident, it is quite possible to train a dog to use a garden 'lavatory' i.e. special spot, before it is taken out in public; in fact my family had a quite large dog for the first six months of her life and only twice did she let us down.

The main problem comes from children who like to play in such places as the Barton Way recreation ground and for little children who run around pavement trees and whose first step in crossing any road inevitably into the gutter. It is against the law for a dog to foul the footway but gutters, grass verges and ground around the base of pavement trees are in a very dubious position in this respect.

Not that I would want to make this a legal issue. All I ask, and there was a lot of support for this at the Meeting of the Association on 30th March, is that dog owners accept the responsibilities as well as the pleasures of their companions, keep their mess within their own gardens and not spread it throughout their and my neighbourhood.

John W. Cornwall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11th APRIL 1980 at 8 p.m. CROXLEY GREEN LIBRARY

Among items to be discussed will be:—
How to increase the number of collectors and a proposal to increase the subscription to 40p. per annum with 20p. for old age pensioners.

We shall most likely be having our usual cross section of Councillors, ready and anxious to answer your questions.

It is hoped to have some entertainment to finish the evening.

EVERYBODY IS MOST WELCOME

SOBER SOLILOQUIES

A yawn is a silent shout.

What is morally wrong, must not be politically right.

One place in which a celebrity does not want to see his name is in the telephone book.

Moral indignation can foster envy or hate under the guise of virtue.

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MINNIE BROOME

It was with great regret that we learnt of the death of Mrs. Minnie Broome on New Years Day. She had been a patient in the Geriatric Ward (Juniper) at Napsbury Hospital for the past two years, the staff had grown very fond of the gentle little lady we all know. Married to "Jack" they were a very public-spirited pair and gave their best to "Pensioners Voice" and The Residents Association, and would fight for the right with all their might, as they saw it.

Minnie will be remembered for her great skill in needlework — she could proudly boast of making her coats and dresses, yes and hats, since she was 16, and was a great garden lover, and at the end of a day at work enjoyed the healing power of the soil.

Jack and Minnie thoroughly enjoyed motoring from 1926 onwards, and asked nothing more than a visit to "Treyarnon Bay" in Cornwall — which we have shared, together with their lovely open fires (oh yes it was work!) and cups of tea and a welcome.

Minnie often said 'How glad she was to have lived in a period when graciousness counted and a finished garment was a joy' — Of such people is the History of England made.

E. & F. Soar

BUDDING BEAUTY

It was born, born of the earth. It pushed up through the blackness of the soil, pushed, climbing the ladder from Hell, from Hell to Heaven. The green appeared above the ground and anyone who saw it, lifted their thoughts from their heavy packhorses of worry and found happiness. It sprang, and the colour could be distinguished in its petals, the purity was tears suspended in air, a joyful weep of eternity, of a mission accomplished and, as full bloom was reached, the crescendo of high, low and dull voices was brought together in harmony, brought into a shining glistening jewel and set onto the ring, finished and placed in the display cabinet for all to wonder at.

Then it started to brown, wither and wrinkle and, slowly, it withered and fell, rotting into the earth in dull drips; shrinking from the earth, leaving no trail behind of how it came or went, or what it did. But then, as the snow melts, in the trickles of winter, leading into the rivers of the next season, one can see green as another plant shoots, as Spring arrives and again beauty buds forward and upward.

Editors Note: This was written by a 12-year-old, who remembering that she had some homework, jotted it down while eating her breakfast.

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Psalm 32 v 10

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JOCULAR JESTING

An insurance agent to a potential client:
"Don't let me rush you. Sleep on it. If you wake up in the morning, we may be able to do business."

I have nothing against young people - I just hope my son will not become one. Is guilt-edged security another name for Conscience Money?

CROXLEY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH, Baldwins Lane

Dates for your diary . . .

21st-25th July, 1980

Holiday Adventure

29th, 30th and 31st July, 1980

Junior Adventure.

Details of from where you can obtain Enrolment Forms will be given in the next issue of the Resident.

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