



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

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CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 140

Editor: Bob Hampson

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

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I am often asked what the Association does and frequently am tempted to answer with another question. The Association is there to do what you, its members, wish it to do.

Our primary concern is with the quality of life in the community to which we belong, which we try to preserve and strengthen by listening to you and keeping our eyes open. The local press, Minutes of Council meetings and notifications of Planning Applications are monitored constantly and to the best of our ability we try to interpret what your reactions to certain proposals would be. We are well known to Council officers and hope that our comments on different matters are viewed as constructive.

Four times a year we meet with the Chairman of the council, the Chairmen of the various committees and some of the officers along with other associations to discuss our mutual concerns. By this means, it is hoped that the community gets involved with decision making. We value the contact and our hosts, the Three Rivers District Council, tell us they find it useful.

We are at present involved in negotiations to lessen noise nuisance from Tolpits Industrial Estate, controlling vandalism at Barton Way Recreation Ground, certain aspects of road safety and with representations concerning the District Plan.

What concerns you? How can we improve our community? Help us to help you. Write or call any committee member. We welcome your views.

EDITORIAL

No! your distributor did not leave you out last time. Owing to shortage of articles and a shortage of collectors to harvest the necessary finances there just was not a Summer Resident. A great shame, but there it is. Please see article under HELP to ensure that your next Resident does appear.

Talking of HELP, please read "This is not just a load of rubbish" and come and help us clear Croxley Woods on NOVEMBER 16th at 10.30 a.m. If we cannot stop the litter louts, at least we can stop our woods from becoming a festering eyesore.

REMEMBER THE DATE
November 16th at 10.30 a.m.
REMEMBER THE PLACE
Croxley Woods

THIS IS NOT A LOAD OF RUBBISH— IT IS AN APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP

Living in Croxley Green does offer many blessings and to me one of the best of these is Croxley Woods which provide an ideal playground for children in natural surroundings which they prefer to swings and roundabouts at Public Recreation Grounds. How much better to play Cowboys and Indians amongst the dips and hillocks, play Hide and Seek in the bushes or slide down the earthy slopes on trousers and knickers than to sit on the swings at the official playgrounds. What a delight for the adults to walk through the Woods in the Spring when the Bluebells carpet the slopes, the bright green of the trees just appearing and the birds singing in the trees. Such Woods I feel should be preserved and cared for and it is up to us Residents to ensure that this is done, but at the present time some parts are disgraceful, caused by unthinking and unfeeling people depositing their rubbish anywhere and everywhere so long as it is not within their sight or on their premises.

The Residents and Ratepayers Association have therefore decided to give a lead by arranging for Residents in the area to put their public spirit into action and collect this unseemly rubbish for disposal on Sunday morning, 16th November. The Three Rivers District Council have kindly agreed to place in the Woods two large skips and a quantity of plastic bags in two strategic positions. May I appeal to all Residents in the area to meet outside the Imperial Machine Company at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 16th November to help show what can be done. *O.G. Anthony*

P.S. The weather will be frosty early, but after clearance of Apache fog, we should have an Indian Summer for the rest of the day. Please wear stout gloves and if possible bring an old sack and piece of rope, to carry or drag rubbish to the skips — Editor.

THE KEYSTONE COPS IN CROXLEY?

Have you noticed, at peak hours, cars pouring forth from the Sportsman's apparent multi-storey car park? No, it is not the end of a Japanese car production line. The explanation is simple — there is now a short cut from the new Windmill estate thru (a short cut for "through"), to the A412. So watch out pedestrians! Don't be fooled into thinking you are on a pavement!

ITEMS DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE

New Road: Our secretary has written to the Council regarding maintenance to New Road and its pavements, hedges etc., particularly near the flats, Dickensons Sports Ground and the Community Centre.

Harvey Road: The Council has been written to regarding the number of accidents near the railway bridge, which can only be attributed to the fault in the road or its surface.

Litter Bin on canal towpath: The bin, which we requested, is seldom emptied. Complaint has been made to the Council.

Access from old railway bridge (Bridle Path) to canal tow path: There is still confusion as to who prevented free interchange between these two walkways with barbed wire. This **MUST** be restored. Your committee is working to this end.

Rousebarn Lane, Links Way, crossing at bottom of Baldwins Lane . . . see elsewhere in this issue.

Two Bridges roundabout: Your committee has complained. Line of sight trimming should be done shortly.

Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:

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

COPY DATE: 17th January 1981.

As many short articles as you can please!

HELP!

I have frequently stressed that we are desperately in need of subscription collectors to maintain our finances, which is the lifeblood upon which our whole existence depends. Because of insufficient funds, we had to miss out one issue of the Resident; we also had to forego our Xmas get-together. We are still desperately short. If I quote a few simple facts, perhaps a few more people will appreciate the urgency and come forward to help. At this moment, 39 whole roads have no collectors at all, many more are covered only because some collectors are doing more than their fair share; a fair share should be no more than 20 houses taking perhaps two evenings a year.

This deficiency means that we are losing a potential of £500, enough for at least two issues of the Resident. Not because our Residents are unwilling to pay, but because so few are willing to collect what is waiting to be collected.

Please, if you can help, contact Laurie Matthews, 26 Sycamore Road, Croxley. Alternatively, if you would like to send your uncollected subscription to our Treasurer, Mrs. Delfs, 110 Links Way, Croxley, a receipt will be delivered to you.

Subscription rates are 40p per household, Senior Citizens 20p.

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how kind he
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PSALM 34, verse 8.

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BLACK SPOTS OF CROXLEY

In reply to my misinformed remarks about the siting of a pedestrian crossing to serve the shops at the bottom of Baldwins Lane, Three Rivers Council's engineer sent me a long letter on the subject. In it he explained that unless a crossing is sited in the immediate vicinity of where it is required, people will not go out of their way to use it. In our particular case, there are prohibitive objections to a crossing where it is needed, i.e. opposite the shops. Firstly the service road outside the shops is for parking cars and vans, which militates against the legal requirement that the approaches of a pedestrian crossing must be free of parked cars. Secondly, it would be at the bottom of a steepish hill and inevitably some traffic would be travelling too fast to be able to stop.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that a crossing here would create *new* dangers in attempting to lessen the present dangers. It is, of course, even more unfortunate that planning permission was ever given for shops to be built in a place where their presence can only aggravate an inherently dangerous situation. Furthermore, it is just bewildering that the service road was allowed in front of the shops, thereby obscuring all vision of Baldwins Lane to traffic coming down the steep hill of Winton Drive and wishing to turn right — a danger amplified to a life or death lottery when delivery vans are parked in front of the shops. Why cannot deliveries be made at the rear? A reader in Links Way with children has written suggesting, as an alternative to a crossing, some form of roundabout to cater for Links Way and Winton Drive. If it were a *large* but mini one, providing an *obstruction* to traffic coming down Baldwins Lane, then perhaps speeds would be slower opposite the shops. A small island there, in addition, might help at this point.

This is a suggestion worthy of consideration.

Three Rivers Council Engineer has stated that he will welcome any suggestion to solve this urgent problem. So please write in to me or your Secretary with any idea — remember that many a good idea has grown and developed from an apparently wild suggestion, because it has broken *new ground in thinking*. Your Committee has written to all local Headmasters asking for support for a School Crossing Patrol.

The same Reader also suggested a mini roundabout by All Saints Church. This is something which has often been put forward and each time it has been turned down. Why in Heavens name, why? One of the basic reasons for

accidents at this junction is that one driver disputes the priority of another, who in turn refuses to surrender it. All a mini roundabout does is to assign priority, backed by the force of law. So why the objection — particularly from the Police?

Since writing the above, I have heard that we may have that mini roundabout — maybe even by the year end! Well, well! Who knows, we may yet have some yellow lines in New Road at the Green end!

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FREEDOM 'ABUSED'!

No doubt some readers of this Newsletter will remember my article in an earlier issue concerning "Free" fishing rights on the Gade in the area of John Dickinson's Mill.

Although, judging by the negative response to the article, I find myself wondering if indeed anyone did read it. Or alternatively, I must assume that no "genuine" anglers living within the circulation area of the Resident actually fish the Gade in the vicinity of the Mill. In fact, the only people to show any sense of active responsibility over the matter were the Gade troop of Croxley Green Boy Scouts.

About three weeks before the start of the fishing season they kindly offered to join me there one evening, and subsequently worked damned hard for nearly three hours to clean up the area concerned. This despite the fact that not all of them had any interest in fishing. I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to Mr. Martin Harris and the Gade troop for their very worthwhile efforts that evening.

However, on making my first visit of the season to this stretch of the Gade, I was sickened and disgusted to find that the lads' efforts had been in vain. It bore the same resemblance to a refuse tip that it had at the end of the last season.

One can only hope that for the sake of the wives and mothers of those responsible, the attitude shown towards this valuable free amenity is not typical of that shown toward their own homes.

I have come to the inevitable conclusion that it will only be when some fatal pollution occurs, created by the filth left by those whom I refuse to recognise as anglers, results in decimation of fish stocks in this stretch of the Gade, will anyone take notice of the damage being done.

As the Thames Water Authority will tell you, once the fish have gone it will be a long time before they return in the number and quality of the existing stock.

D. Thompson

ROUSEBARN LANE

Justified complaints have been made to your Committee about traffic from Hunton Bridge using Rousebarn Lane and Links Way as a short cut to Croxley. These comments have been passed on to the Council. Obviously residents with children are very concerned about this. At the A.G.M. the horseriding fraternity added their weight to the complaints, though I do think that the suggested closure of Rousebarn Lane to cars, to allow free use to horse riders will meet with considerable opposition from pedestrians who might consider galloping horses are a similar danger to them. Rightful other users of the woods already have experience of dodging galloping riders when trying to cross churned-up bridle paths, or struggling along muddy footpaths used by horses, contrary to bye-laws.

Three Rivers Council have spent £9,000 on two amazing rumble pads sited at each end of Rousebarn Lane. The deterrent effect of those rumble pads seems to work in inverse proportion to the speed — the faster you go, the less you notice them. Just try it and see for yourself.

Neither the Council's expensive but ineffective solution, nor the sledgehammer proposal of the closure lobby — what about police, ambulances, Blacketts Nursery? — will provide the answer to the problem of Links Way. (By the way, our Chairman has ascertained that Hydig lorries are probably legitimately using this route to outlying farms). The germ of an idea comes from Mr. Hitchcock of Blacketts nursery — he proposes diverting traffic from the lane into a small Z shaped area in the woods, which would require a car to enter along the top of the Z, parallel to the road, back down the diagonal and then drive out on the bottom leg. Such a slowing of traffic, with cars waiting to enter, would cause such a tail-back as to deter the short-cutters.

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There may be snags to the suggestions – but the principle is sound – cause sufficient delay to cancel out any time saving that the short-cutter might gain by going through Links Way and incidentally, Baldwins Lane, via the black spot area beside the shops at the bottom of the hill.

Croxley Woods

November 16th at 10.30 a.m.

REMEMBER TO COME

in old togs with some stout gloves,
to clear the rubbish.

MARATHON MENTORS

This summer has seen the retirement of four ladies whose service to the community has been remarkable both for its length and its devotion.

Harvey Road School was sad to lose the services of three members of staff who have served long and faithfully. Mrs. M. Litwinczuk joined the school in 1964 for 'one term only', Miss E. Batchelor has served since 1965 and Miss M. Green having arrived in 1951 became Deputy Head in 1956. Ladies, the people of Croxley Green will remember you with love and respect for years to come.

The Reverend W. Bridge moved to Rickmansworth with his family before the war, where he is well remembered as the minister for many years of the Baptist Church. But that is only the start of a remarkable story. His daughter Joan studied to become a teacher, commencing her career as a supply teacher in September 1938. One month later she came to Yorke Road Infants School to lead the reception class, where I first met her in 1939 at the tender age of 5. For me she was already Yorke Road but she strengthened her position in September 1948 when she became Head.

In May 1974 the school having far greater vigour than its original building moved to Dulwich Way, was re-christened Yorke Mead J.M.I. School and had its first class of juniors. Having set the school well on its way into the eighties and left it in the safe hands of Brian Sears a fellow Baptist, Miss Joan Bridge now starts a well earned retirement.

Having started under her care, I feel privileged that two of my children also experienced her christian love and concern. May I say, for the generations of Croxley Green children who have loved her, "We still love you and thank you for everything!"

John T. Hedges

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A.G.M. 1980

1979 Spring A.G.M. was remarkable for the turnout and for the enthusiasm of those who offered their services in forming a working committee.

1980's A.G.M. was fantastic. Over 50 people attended – what other organisation can draw that number to a meeting which it must be admitted in other organisations is often traditionally renowned for being formal and uninspired.

But the Residents came because they care for their community, they appreciate that Democracy depends on EVERYONE playing their part and giving their opinion either by word and debate or ultimately their vote; who know that the fellow who sits at home and evades his responsibilities, opens the door to Dictatorship, however well meaning that Dictatorship might initially quite genuinely purport to be. It was not known beforehand that Godfrey Cornwall, our famous local Historian, was to entertain us.

Debate there certainly was; among items discussed were Rousebarn Lane and accidents to horseriders and of course Parish Councils. Discussion was so prolonged that Godfrey Cornwall had to curtail some of his delightfully entertaining talk and slide show on Croxley and its immediate history. Nevertheless, Godfrey's humour, knowledge and wit made it a most memorable and enjoyable finish to the evening.

PARISH COUNCILS

I would like to stress that in the discussion leading up to the Referendum, your committee, though reflecting the different viewpoints, has remained strictly NEUTRAL. At the A.G.M. one member felt that we were biased in favour of P.Cs, because the previous Resident had given more space to the P R O lobby. So let me put the record straight. True, Peter Furr's article *did* occupy more space than Derek Thomson's. This was for two reasons:

- the committee agreed to offer equal opportunity to both writers to put their case – it just happened that Derek chose to write a smaller article.
- in deciding not to ask Peter to reduce his article, I was conscious of the space which had been given

to my own ANTI article in the previous Resident.

I would stress that both articles were printed in full, exactly as written by the authors. I, and I alone, decided what was printed. And as I hold the opposite views from Peter's longer article, it is not likely that I would support the P R O lobby.

I hope from the above that confidence in our impartiality is maintained.

OFFICIAL VANDALISM

It was with profound shock and anger that I saw the desecration which British Waterways have perpetrated along the canal towpath at Cassiobridge. In place of the lush hedge, blackberry bushes and pussy willow tree, which gave shelter to wrens, bullfinches, blackbirds, thrushes and sparrows, afforded pleasure to the walker and provided protection against the wind to the angler or boater alike, there is nothing left but bare stone-bestrewn land. The kids will have enough ammunition to throw at swans and passing boats for years!

R. J. COLE

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This butchery was carried out to facilitate clearing out the silt from the stream running close alongside the canal. Instead of cleaning it by hand (*and* making a better job of it), the B.W.B. party, displaying a complete disregard for our environment, attacked it with a powered J.C.B. If *we* grubbed out a healthy tree, we would be in serious trouble, but if a Statutory Body does it, nothing is said. Or is it?

If you feel strongly about this vandalism, write to Sir Frank Price, British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Marylebone, London N.W.1, and mark it "PERSONAL". His reply may be interesting. When I complained about an earlier outrage, he said it was not his responsibility as it was done by contractors! So much for an employer being responsible for the actions of his agents.



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