



# The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION**  
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★ ★ ★

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

One of the most difficult things in running any sort of voluntary group is finding people who are willing to work for that group. Probably the most important post and certainly the most time-consuming is that of secretary. For the last two years Jennifer Bunce has fulfilled the role of Hon. Secretary for your Association. "Hon." stands for "Honorary" or to put it crudely "unpaid", but in my view "Honourable" would be more appropriate. I must now confess that not only did I persuade Jenny to join our committee, I also had not a little to do with the conspiracy that conned her into taking the post of secretary. My justification in this undertaking is now evident, she has more than fulfilled our confidence in her

ability proving to be an excellent secretary. She has worked long and hard for the Association and Croxley Green and amid many frustrations has helped us considerably in our objectives.

However, when someone is as dedicated as Jenny, after some time the time and effort required for even small successes begins to dictate one's life and the frustrations of non-answers from official bodies and quangos begin to take their toll. Jenny has tendered her resignation which we have reluctantly been forced to accept. Jenny, please accept our sincere thanks, we shall all miss you more than we can say.

No, this is not an appeal for a new secretary, we have been very lucky in that a recent addition to our committee, Ian Thomas, has stepped into the breach, and I am sure that you, along with me, will wish him well.

In order not to disappoint you however, I am going to make an appeal. One of Jenny's biggest frustrations was that so few people do all the work. Some others show an interest but very many do nothing at all. What we really need are subscription collectors. At the moment a few members of the committee are doing sterling work in collecting to produce the bulk of our income. If just a few people who read this newsletter were to offer just ONE EVENING A YEAR to do a very pleasant job we would have no money worries and could concentrate on the job we were elected to do. Yes it is pleasant, from experience we know we are well received and the vast majority of residents are friendly and interesting people. Please don't ignore this appeal, look up Polly Burdis's telephone number on this page and give her a lovely surprise.

John T. Hedges

## EDITORIAL

After an anxious August when articles seemed very thin on the ground, I was pleasantly surprised by a sudden deluge once the weather became cooler! Thank you all for making my task easier, except I have had to do more editing than usual!

★ ★ ★

Dog mess in our streets is acknowledged by all as a nuisance. I have met a determined lady, a mother of two young children, who has received complete support for her campaign from all those she approached, initially with her poem. If 'anti-dog-mess' campaigns appear

'anti-dog', remember that the owners are to blame and not the dogs. Barbara Woodhouse, after all, showed us what to do!

★ ★ ★

As I write, two residents in Watford Road are about to call a public meeting to discuss its traffic problems, which recently reached a peak with waste lorries from the Mill Site. We hope that the Road Safety Committee, the police, HCC and TRDC will come up with a solution.

★ ★ ★

There has been considerable concern locally about the proposed closure of Scots Hill sub-post office. Petitions and other representations are to be presented to the local Head Postmaster.

Sue Stagg

## POLICE COLUMN

Winter is just around the corner, perish the thought, and with it comes mist, rain, possibly snow, and certainly dark evenings. Parents, please give your children's bicycles a thorough check and regularly inspect lights, reflector and brakes. So many youngsters ride around with inadequate lights, or even none at all and I don't have to spell out the dangers involved there. For a very small outlay you can purchase additional reflectors for bicycles, preferably of the type on a collapsible 'arm' which protrudes on the offside, also reflectors that fit into the spokes are a good idea (it is equally important to be seen 'side on').

While you're at it why not invest in a good quality lock and chain — the figures for bicycle theft are horrendous.

On the subject of crime. So far this year we have had our share of burglaries, thefts and vandalism, but two 'Neighbourhood Watch' schemes have commenced now in small areas of Croxley Green where, with the assistance of an overall co-ordinator, people are sharing an awareness of the problems in the community, with relation to crime. Of course, police assist in this with talks, advice, leaflets and all the necessary starting equipment. It's all about reducing local opportunities for crime and thereby deterring would-be thieves and vandals.

Like to know more? Then ring 44444 and speak to me or my friends in the Crime Prevention Department at Watford.

Take care and please remember those cycles.

Steve Steddy

Croxley Green Constable

Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:

Mrs. S. Stagg  
83, Links Way,  
Croxley Green, Herts.  
Telephone: Watford 35059.  
by February 1st, if possible.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam,

#### *Barton Way Allotment Association*

After hearing the following remarks, I felt I must write to you in the hope that you might have room to include the information in your next issue.

"I didn't know there were any allotments in Croxley Green" and "It is no good applying as there is always a waiting list".

For those who do not know, there is a very large site of 143 plots behind New Road, off Barton Way as well as two other sites in the district.

We have quite a change over with tenants every April and this year more so, due to a number of people leaving the district and several pensioners retiring from being allotment holders. Consequently we have a few plots available, mostly 5 poles for which there will be no charge from 1st July 1984 until April 1985 since we feel this will give 'would be' holders the chance to get the plot going.

We are most anxious to have a full site in order to continue our successful management (we took over from the Council three years ago). It is hard going at first and of course we have 'ups' and 'downs' but in the main it is rewarding and very friendly.

Anyone interested please contact Audrey Savage at 33 Repton Way. Telephone: Rickmansworth 773724. Sincerely, **Audrey Savage**

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

On an exceptionally warm and sunny day just after Christmas I was driving through the Cotswolds with an American friend and we thought how fortunate we were. All went so well that for the day at least we really felt we did not have a care in the world. But as so often happens at such times, all was not quite so serene as it seemed. Just (as it transpired) as we were feeling so pleased with ourselves and darkness was descending on the motorway, evil forces were at work . . .

Back home at Croxley I struggled at the

front door with what seemed like a yale lock which had jammed. My American friend immediately suspected a break-in but I pooh-pooed the idea. With the help of a neighbour and a ladder we climbed a gate to reach the back of the house and soon saw that she was right. Patio doors wide open and things strewn all over the house!

It all had a very disturbing effect upon us both. The police, who were on the spot within minutes, did a sound job and I was subsequently given very good advice by the Crime Prevention Officers and a representative of the Victims Support Scheme (a voluntary organisation offering help to the victims of crime). But one was left with feelings of anger and helplessness. Obviously the police can not be in all places at the same time to deter crime of this sort and yet there had to be some way of making us feel better protected.

Some weeks before this happened I saw some very striking notices in Moor Park announcing that the area was covered by a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It all looked quite impressive and of course Moor Park is something of a law unto itself. Surely something similar could be done in Croxley? The Crime Prevention Officers seemed to encourage the idea and gave me useful background on the setting up of the Moor Park Scheme. But like a lot of things in life nothing much happens unless you get on with it yourself.

I drafted a letter to go to all residents in Frankland Road, Frankland Close, Harvey Road and Nuttfield Close; cleared the draft with the police; typed it on a 'skin' and was fortunate that a good friend rolled off enough copies on his duplicating machine. The letter asked for a response to the proposition that we should form a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the area. Two days after delivering it by hand through every door I had an overwhelming response and I held a public meeting at the library, which the Crime Prevention Officer attended. The meeting went off extremely well and there was unanimous support for setting up the Scheme.

### MAKE A DATE

Are you planning any special events? Why not avoid a clash of dates by recording your event in the Diary at the Library?

It involves calling for co-ordinators (about one to every 20 houses) who agree to act as a focal point on any matters to do with crime prevention and liaise with the police on suspicious circumstances. Each Co-ordinator receives a selection of informative documents from the police to hand out to the occupants on his/her patch and seeks a personal chat with them all to discuss any points of difficulty or ideas for improving the fight against crime.

We found no problems in getting volunteers to act as co-ordinators and the whole Scheme seems to have been well received in this part of Croxley. Nothing is of course likely to be foolproof, but it is surprising how many little things can be done to reduce the risks of burglary. Many of them do not cost any more than a little extra thought and a disposition to be helpful but not intrusive with one's neighbours, but better locks are often worth the extra expense and a burglar alarm may give more protection if you feel particularly vulnerable. When you start to think about the opportunities which we offer to burglars "on a plate" it is surprising what can be done to put them off. Nearly all houses in the Scheme display a Neighbourhood Watch sticker and we have now received permission for the local authority to erect some bigger signs on lamp-posts. All these tell potential burglars that there is a high state of watchfulness in the area.

As with most innovations, the first enthusiasms can wear off, but we try to keep interest going by having regular meetings with the co-ordinators and the police. These have so far been very well attended and interesting and we think we can keep the momentum going so long as residents in the area are willing to take a positive approach in support of the efforts by the police.

Although the Residents' Association supports the idea of Neighbourhood Watch it is impossible to organise one Scheme for the whole of Croxley. What we can do is to offer advice and help to anyone who feels that a Scheme could be launched in particular roads or areas. The important thing is that it should be

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manageable in terms of contacting people and also holding meetings when necessary. I should be only too pleased to pass on copies of letters and other papers which were used in our Scheme. It takes a bit of effort to begin with but I think you would be surprised at the response.

Ian Thomas  
95 Frankland Road

### CROXLEY GREEN TOY LIBRARY

About six months ago, six local child-minders started monthly meetings with each other and in the course of these decided to start a toy library, so that childminders, one-parent families, foster parents and parents of handicapped children would have a source of good quality toys to borrow for their children at a nominal sum.

As the project developed, it became obvious that special storage place was required to keep the toys, with a meeting

and playing area. A spare classroom became available at the far end of Little Green School and now the library is in full operation, term times only, on Tuesday mornings from 10-11.30 a.m. "Customer" parents are more than welcome to come along, enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat while their children play.

The library is run by a committee of the childminders and two social workers and they hope that one parent of each group, i.e. one-parent, foster and handicapped, will be interested in joining the committee.

£300 has been raised in the past months. Besides a car boot sale and coffee mornings, the group took over Jean David's shop in New Road for a day, have received a grant of £80 from the Wakeham Trust in London and a donation of £20 from PHAB in Rickmansworth. They have had a lot of toys donated, and recently received a bicycle, a tricycle and

a scooter from Rickmansworth Lions.

The project is off to a good start but there is still a need for good-quality second-hand toys and books. They would also be grateful if anyone has a carpet for the floor; an electric kettle or an old bookcase, which would increase facilities and comfort. Marilyn Andrews on Watford 28673 would be delighted to hear from you.

Editor

### COUNCIL INFORMATION SERVICE — FREE!

Did you know that the TRDC Information Office publishes a useful series of booklets, obtainable free of charge?

"Who to telephone at the council offices" is one. It gives a quick cross-reference list to the offices dealing with everything from Accounts to the Youth Training Scheme.

Another booklet, "Location of Council Offices and Departments" tells which specialists come under which "umbrella" department, with maps.

From this, I gleaned the following information —

The CHIEF EXECUTIVE (17-23 High Street, Rickmansworth) includes administration, solicitor, electoral registration, management services, personnel, information and Press Office, tourist information, reception and all enquiries.

WORKS AND SERVICES (Chorleywood House, Chorleywood) includes public health, cleansing/refuse, engineering, parks and recreation.

PLANNING (46 High Street, Rickmansworth) includes building control, architects.

FINANCE (17-23 High Street, Rickmansworth) including Entertainments section.

HOUSING AND ESTATES (40 High Street, Rickmansworth).

The latest booklet to be published is "Places to visit in Three Rivers Hertfordshire" and is full of information, photographs and a location map giving details. Opening times and telephone numbers, where applicable, are given.

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These, and other booklets about the area, are obtainable free on receipt of a visit or a written request to:

Mr. C. Jacques, Information Office, 17-23 High Street, Rickmansworth or a phone call to Rickmansworth 776611 (Ext. 51), where any queries will be answered also.

Editor

### CROXLEY CAMERA CLUB

Eleven enthusiasts met at the old Dickinsons Guildhouse in 1960 and formed the Club. Three of those original members are still active. Membership doubled in two years and passed the 50 mark by the fifth year. Membership now averages about 100 persons.

During this period the Club became involved with the local community. The first exhibition was mounted during Rickmansworth Week in the early 60's,

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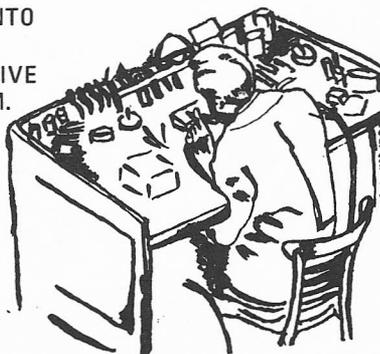
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and since that date the Club has been giving local shows and library exhibitions and now each year they mount a special exhibition of pictures taken at the Revels. Last year members supplied the pictures for the Three Rivers Council 1984 Calendar.

The Club is a member of The Chiltern Association of Camera Clubs and were the first winners of the Chiltern Rose-bowl, a trophy awarded to the winning club in a series of inter-Club battles held throughout the season. They are also affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Central Association of Photographic Societies.

The aims of the Club may be simply stated as being to promote an interest in photography. They want beginners and experts to work together to enjoy and improve their photography because it is an interest that appeals to all.

The meetings generally comprise of talks on various aspects of photography given by visiting speakers and members. Print, Colour Slides and Audio-Visual Presentations, Slide and Print Competitions are critically assessed by visiting Judges or advanced members, and of course, a good chin-wag is enjoyed.

The Club meets every Wednesday from early September thru' April at St. Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green at 7.45 p.m. and of course holds several Summer outings.

Why not go along and spend a couple of evenings with them before deciding upon membership? The Annual Subscriptions are quite reasonable with reductions for Family Members, Pensioners and persons under 17 years of age.

Meetings over the next few weeks are given below:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Oct. 24th | Autumn Show                            |
| 25th      | Slide Battle with Clements Camera Club |
| 28th      | Autumn Walk                            |
| 31st      | Print Competitions                     |
| Nov. 7th  | "Pictorial or Record" — discussion     |
| 14th      | Lecturettes by Club members            |

For further information, please 'phone me on Harefield 2202.

**Mrs. L.S. Laughton**  
Secretary

### "FRIENDS OF THE GREEN"

In 1066 it was Croc's Lea — the field of the Saxon, Croc. Today it is Croxley Green, and a Conservation Area in its own right, under the Town and Country Planning Legislation.

Like so much of Hertfordshire, Croxley Green once belonged to the Abbot of St. Albans, but after the Reformation it became Crown Property, and was granted to John Caius (of Gonville and Caius College renown) by Queen Elizabeth I. Comparatively recently, Gonville and Caius College conveyed the Green to the local authority, and now TRDC owns it as one of its public open spaces. And in acquiring it, Three Rivers became Lords of the Manor.

But not a lot of attention was paid to looking after it, and in 1973 local

residents became alarmed at a number of threatened developments. They joined together to form the Friends of the Green, with the simple aims of safeguarding and promoting its amenities. The organisation succeeded in having the Green designated as a Conservation Area, under the Town and Country Planning laws.

This meant that Three Rivers agreed to consult local residents as to the best way to manage the Area, and the Friends of the Green set to work to draw in as many

leading local groups and societies as possible to form a representative Croxley Green Conservation Area Committee, which has put a Conservation Plan to Three Rivers for discussion.

But apart from an overall plan, the Friends of the Green play their full part in dealing with day-to-day problems.

The new litter-bins are the result of FoG representations to Three Rivers. The FoG in fact paid for one of them and the Copthorne Residents' Society paid for

### EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAILY

*I have had some very unpleasant experiences in the last few years which have prompted me to compose the following poem. It is a disgusting poem about a disgusting subject, and before anyone reading it reaches for angry pen and paper to complain about the rude words, I would ask them not to underestimate the intensity of the anger which prompted the poem in the first place, and also to consider whose activity causes the most offence, and which is the more harmful. No, the problem is not insoluble; all it takes is a polythene bag and a shovel, a new by-law and a heavy penalty for infringing it.*

★ ★ ★

The holidays are here again, the kids are on the run,  
They're swarming through our playing fields in search of Summer fun.  
My pals and I have been at work . . . on them we make our mark,  
For first they must play Dodge-a-Dog in Cassiobury Park.  
The Mums and Dads are pleased the Summer Storyboat is here,  
With poems, paints and puppet-shows the Play-Bus comes each year;  
While kiddies on their Nature Trek learn of the bee and bird,  
The countryside is changing to a mammoth canine turd.

We occupy the children's pool, of that we're very fond,  
And neatly squirt our liquid contributions in their pond,  
But best of all we love to see the laughter disappear  
When some small child skids in a pile from one that's got diarrhoea.  
Here comes a double-buggy, lads! Let's watch three pairs of feet  
And all twelve wheels — there's surely *one* an accident will meet.  
We have to smile for just where they are picnicking with Mum,  
A well-aimed whopper tumbles out of comrade Fido's bum.

What bliss to be a Labrador, Alsatian or Great Dane;  
I often see them running in the woods near Rousebarn Lane.  
Such splendid super-dogs can yield a super-splendid mound;  
A heap like that must weigh at least three quarters of a pound.  
They say that Big is Beautiful, with that I would agree,  
For large and lovely are the smells which waft from every tree,  
We're getting satisfaction as our population grows;  
Our sweet perfume will soon be clogging everybody's nose.

The Councils all support us, they have made it very clear,  
The recreation grounds are free to everyone round here,  
And if you live near Croxley Green you have a choice of eight  
And not a single one of them is fitted with a gate.  
The notices are all dressed up in ways that make us smile:  
"Dogs must not foul the footpaths", or some other feeble style,  
Or "Dogs must be kept on a lead", which means, to you and me,  
Our owners have to stand and watch us while we take a pee.

The unsuspecting public think our mess just disappears,  
But Toxocara Canis lurks beneath for years and years.  
The tiny eggs from little fingers sucked will be unkind  
To little livers, little lungs and eyes that will go blind.  
Although some Councils set aside the places we can foul,  
There's little doubt we'll keep our right to exercise the bowel;  
The British public love us far too much to raise the fees . . .  
Besides, you'll find that many of our Best Friends are M.P.s.

From every Act of Parliament we're totally immune.  
We're sacred as the Hindu Cow, they'll never change our tune.  
On British towpath, woodland dell and every public way  
Five million of my buddies drop fine hundred tons a day.  
No Councillor is brave enough to curb our little lark,  
We shall go on for ever till each wood and beach and park  
Each alley, pavement and the road in every part of town  
And all the grass in this green land has changed to doggy brown.

**Rilla Paterson (Mrs)**  
31 Rousebarn Lane

another. The repaired and replaced seats which are much used every day were also the outcome of FoG requests.

The degree of grass cutting, parking abuses, erosion by bad use of access ways, the behaviour of horse-riders — all these are matters which the Friends of the Green deal with in consultation with Three Rivers.

Often, when individuals see something that displeases them about a public amenity, they complain: "Somebody ought to do something". Well, so far as Croxley Green is concerned, somebody does, The Friends of the Green. They welcome more members, so that they can get an even better feeling of public opinion. The Friends of the Green are a pressure group, not a social organisation; they don't spend much money, so they don't need to make a large subscription charge. Fifty pence a year from each member is all they ask to keep them going mainly in stamps and 'phone calls. In an area unusually rich in typical village greens, Croxley is perhaps the nearest to London — only 18 miles from Marble Arch — and so is perhaps the most vulnerable.

If you want to help to look after it, send your 50p to the Treasurer, Glyn Edwards, at 317 Baldwins Lane.

Croxley Green is where you live, be house-proud!

**N.S. Thomson**  
"FoG" Chairman

#### LIONS IN RICKMANSWORTH

A circus in town? Something loose from Longleat? No, wrong both times, but have you heard of Lions International and the Lions Club of Rickmansworth? Another No! Well Lions International is the largest charity-supporting organisation in the world, with over a million members in over 30,000 clubs spread throughout every country. Lions participate in activities to raise money for established charities and to use for local community service e.g. help for the disabled, old or infirm, single parent families, children in need. You name it, Lions can be helping (Charley Chester is a Lion). Lions also help in promoting information important to the community e.g. Medic Alert and drug awareness. Lions International has a large disaster fund from which money can be moved to any disaster area *anywhere* in the world before any of the other organisations, Red Cross etc., and can respond, thereby helping to relieve some of the immediate problems of the homeless and hungry.

#### CROXLEY T.V. VIDEO SERVICE

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**SALES : SERVICE  
RENTAL**

Lions International is not a profit-making organisation and clubs are administered from membership subscriptions. All other funds raised are used to help people. The Lions of Rickmansworth need more members to be really effective. Lions is a family organisation, women and children all have a part to play if they wish. If you are an active man over 18 years who would like to spare a little of your time to helping others, and having fun at the same time, call one of the numbers below. Come to a few meetings, no obligation to join, and find out what we do.

There is an active social life in the Lions if you want it, and many new friends, and anywhere in the world, if you're a Lion, you have contacts, friends and assistance in time of need. Any of your talents can be of help. Not your money. It is your enthusiasm and help we need. Give it a thought. Give us a ring and give Lions a try. Please call: —  
Watford 34399 — John Bolton  
Garston 72435 — Keith Miller  
Rickmansworth 772431 — John Ratcliff

Kings Langley 63258 — Ivan Langley  
*Lions International 'We Serve'.*

**Lion John Bolton**

#### INTERESTED IN MODEL TRAINS?

South West Herts Model Railway Society has vacancies for members over the age of 14 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings (7.30–10.30 p.m.). Novices are very welcome. Members usually work on one of the exhibition layouts in O, OO, OH and N gauge. A large OO layout is under construction. Club nights include "running nights" when members bring their own locos to run and there are talks, slide/film shows, visits, too.

**Contact Keith Griffiths,**  
108 Frankland Road  
Telephone: 773220

#### THE CHANTICLEERS CHOIR

The Chanticleers 17th Annual Show, called "Ragtime Rodeo" is on October 25th, 26th and 27th at St. Oswald's Church Hall. Tickets are available from: Mrs. Hamblin, 1 Lancing Way, Croxley Green. Tel. No. 779156 or any choir member.  
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