The Croxley Green RESIDENT

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CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
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Material published in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the Association nor its Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

As I write this column I have almost completed a move within the office in which I work involving some twenty-five people. Due to other internal moves we had for some time occupied space which had allowed us to spread and now we were to move into space which was sufficient for our needs but not capable of taking the paper, samples and spare furniture which we had accumulated over some time. There had been no incentive to clear out unwanted and out-of-date material. I had the unenviable task of directing the disposal of this material into store or into the rubbish skip. By the time the move took place it seemed that the amount which was actually moved was less than that cleared out, though nothing in the latter category was necessary to our continued operation and we should operate more efficiently without it.

Most of my readers will have moved at some time and will understand readily the problems I have written about. I think that there are few who do not suffer to some degree a 'squirrel' mentality keeping this or that in case it comes in handy. It rarely does. However, some people do not wait until they are forced to take stock but really do have an annual spring clean and for these sensible people things do not get out of hand.

Once a year in our democratic system we have a chance to take stock and look at our elected representatives, judge their performances and either endorse their continuation in office or replace them with someone else whom we think will do better. Once a year, that is, for our local authority and longer for our national government, but in all cases, a very important time.

This newsletter is published prior to our Annual General Meeting, to which you are all invited. Have you paid your annual subscription? You can pay at the meeting and also if your area lacks a collector offer your services. If you agree with regular stock taking, please come and tell your elected committee where they could improve their performance. Change the committee if necessary and if you feel strongly about local issues and are willing to devote some time to the solution of local problems, offer yourself for election.

This is your chance to do some spring cleaning, do not forget the date, time and place, it is printed on this page. Put it in your diary now.

John T. Hedges

EDITORIAL

For the first time, the contributions for this issue have made me feel crowded out before Press Day. I'll have to keep my own short! They are all so interesting and varied that I hope very much that I don't have to edit them too much after type-setting. Thank you all.

★ ★ ★

I've been asked to mention bonfires. A number of people are causing offence by lighting them in the morning and early afternoon when others have washing out or are engaged in more innocuous gardening activities. Do be thoughtful, and ask yourself whether the rubbish has to be burnt at all. The Household Refuse Sites are there for your use. For opening times, see within (if I have room to put them in!)

S. Stagg

POLICE COLUMN

Recently, in an area not too far from Croxley Green, we suffered a series of thefts from vehicles overnight. A resident saw somebody loitering in their driveway at 3 a.m. one day, but didn't ring the police until six hours later, because she ''didn't like to bother us knowing how busy we are.''

We are here to be bothered. Because of the lady not wanting to bother us, the offender (for that is who it undoubtedly was) got away. So please don't be afraid to pick up that phone and dial 999. We never mind a false alarm with good intent.

Please also give some thought yet again to security of your houses. Empty garages, insecure windows and doors, insecure tool sheds with spades and

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

The

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the above Association

will be held at

THE LIBRARY, BARTON WAY

on

FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, at 8.00 p.m.

E.V. Parrott — ''The Changing Face of Croxley Green''

an illustrated talk.

Please send letters, contributions and advertisements to:
Mrs. S. Stagg
83, Links Way,
Croxley Green, Herts.
Telephone: **Watford 35059**
by August 31st, if possible.

Let everyone bless God . . . He holds our lives in His hands.
Psalm 66, verses 8-9.

You are invited to worship at the

Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane

Morning Worship: 9.30 a.m.
Family Service: 11.00 a.m. Rev. Derek Fraser, B.D.
Evening Praise: 6.30 p.m. *Telephone:* Watford 31403

forks readily at hand, old ladders lying in gardens etc. are all gifts to the opportunist burglar.

Don't forget we have a first class Crime Prevention department who will always give good advice (and it's free). Also we are looking for more Neighbourhood Watch schemes. If you think your neighbours would be interested why not get together and make a positive move to improving your community? We will help all we can to get you started.

THINK PREVENTION!

Steve Steddy
Croxley Green Community Constable
Watford 44444
Rickmansworth Police Station

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Madam,

Croxley Hall Woods Allotment Association

Now that the fine weather is upon us many people will be thinking of ways to occupy their leisure. One very rewarding way is to run an allotment to grow fresh vegetables and soft fruit with enough surplus for the freezer.

Croxley Hall Woods allotments is a medium-sized site situated between Bateman Road and All Saints Lane, and we have a few vacant plots. The cost is small — between £3-£5 per year and the rewards worthwhile.

For further information, telephone 773573 or 771874.

Yours faithfully,

R.H. POWELL
Honorary Secretary
3 All Saints Lane

CROXLEY GUILD OF SPORT AND SOCIAL CLUB — The Past, Present and Future

Are you aware there is a combined Sports and Social Club in Croxley Green?

It is called the Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club, formerly the House of Dickinson Guild of Sport, which is situated just off the Green with access by road opposite the Artichoke Public House. Alas, the distinctive wrought iron gates are no longer there at the entrance as they were sadly demolished by a lorry. No, the driver was not inebriated, just a lapse of memory that after unloading his vehicle, the height of the lorry was increased. These gates are at present the subject of an insurance claim which TRDC is dealing with as there is a preservation order on them. Alternatively there is a footpath from New Road, opposite York Road.

The term Guild of Sport is linked with the history of Croxley Green emerging from a sleepy hamlet in the 19th century to the present flourishing village community. The change began in 1829. Earlier in 1826 John Dickinson opened negotiations with Caius College, Cambridge, to purchase land some ½-mile below Cassio (then Cashio) Bridge, to erect a Paper Mill. Work started on the building of the Mill in 1828 and production commenced in 1830 during a period of unrest in the country. All mills at this time were being threatened by gangs of machine breakers. Fortunately the gang intent on destruction of Croxley Mills were dispersed before any damage was done. Two rows of four cottages were built and let to the workers of Croxley Mills at a weekly rental of half a crown. As the Mill expanded Dickinson Square was developed. The Institute was built in Dickinson Square where the workers and their families gathered for social activities and indoor sports.

During the General Strike of 1926 Dickinson's broke away from the National Unions and formed the Union of the House of Dickinson. One of the benefits arising from this was the birth of the House of Dickinson Guild of Sport. At the same time the present Sports Ground and Pavilion was provided. Several events were held annually, one of which was the Fire Brigade's Competition between Croxley Mills, Apsley Mills, Nash Mills and other branches from all over the country. These events always caused delight amongst the youngsters. Adverse to water on bath nights, they loved their annual soaking from the fire hoses.

In the early 1960s the Institute was gutted by fire and was rebuilt only to be sold in the 1970s. The indoor sports were then transferred to the Sports Ground Pavilion. Following the closure of the Mill in December 1980 the Sports Ground was sold to the TRDC who in turn is offering the site on lease to the community of the area. At present, during negotiations, the Guild of Sport is being run independently by a voluntary Management and General Committee which will continue providing it remains viable. Every effort is being made to keep alive a service to the community which started some 60 years ago.

Facilities include a licensed bar, pool, darts etc. together with entertainment evenings. Outdoor activities include tennis, bowls, football and cricket. Each of the outdoor sports sections has and is enjoying successful seasons, particularly the football team which has risen to the heights of the Middlesex County League.

The governing Committees fully hope to develop the facilities further in the future, have some great ideas and hope shortly to be in a position to improve the Pavilion making it more attractive by fitting new carpets and installing new furniture. The Sports sections hopefully will be increased with the introduction of a putting course and a youth football team. A children's play area is also planned.

In the summer months, one can visit the Clubhouse with the family knowing the children can play safely in the Sports Grounds away from any roads whilst the adults can enjoy a quiet drink in relaxing surroundings.

It is a family Club, children accompanied by parents are welcomed. Membership is open to all residents of the area. If you wish to join and be part of the future why not pay a visit to the Clubhouse or contact the General Secretary, Mike Shrimpton, on Rickmansworth 773393. An annual membership fee is payable in October of each year.

B. Sadler

IT'S GOODBYE TO THEM . . .

We would like to record our appreciation of the services of two members of the Committee who recently resigned for various reasons.

Kay Delfs joined us originally as our treasurer when the post was vacant. She served us well in this capacity for two years and afterwards as an ordinary committee member.

Martin Harris joined us when we had need of renewal of a committee which was shrinking due to long service by its members. He served us faithfully, representing us also on the Road Safety Committee. Martin is well known for his scouting activities and felt unable to serve the Resident's committee to his own satisfaction and high standards at the same time.

Our thanks to both our colleagues, who will, of course, need replacing at the A.G.M.

John T. Hedges

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CROXLEY GREEN ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Committee has continued to meet about six times a year on a regular basis and an Extra-Ordinary meeting was called in the Autumn to consider two urgent matters — the proposed ban by the Greater London Council on heavy goods vehicles entering Greater London by day and the proposal by Hertfordshire County Council to erect dwellings for old people in Dulwich Way. The ban by the Greater London Council would have resulted in the heavy goods vehicles parking close to the Council boundary, an area which includes Croxley Green. A strong protest was made to the Council. It is understood that there was considerable opposition to this scheme.

In the opinion of the Committee the proposed plan for the development in Dulwich Way had several bad points. The road is narrow and there is considerable street parking of cars resulting in the road being turned into a single track road causing traffic problems. The proposed plans for the development showed the site entrance only a few feet away from that to York Mead School. A strong protest was sent to Three Rivers District Council who referred the problem back to Herts County Council who are the proposed developers; revised plans show the entrance to be about one hundred yards north of the original. The Committee is profoundly unhappy about this development but is powerless to do any more.

The junction of the Green with the A412 by All Saints' Church has officially been designated as a Black Site and careful consideration is being given by the County Council to provide a low cost scheme. The Committee has been battling since its inception for a roundabout of any size at this spot.

During 1984 the Committee lodged official protests to various development plans on the grounds of road safety; all the applications were refused. Many other problems have been considered, alas not all with success — the problem of the junction of Baldwins Lane and Winton Drive appears to be insoluble.

The Committee is planning a Road Safety Quiz during the Revels this year in conjunction with the County Road Safety Committee. Anyone with a road safety problem should contact the Committee in person or in writing and the matter will be considered.

Lastly the Committee is grateful to the Police, Three Rivers District Council and Hertfordshire Council and thanks them for bearing with us.

P. Pitt

CROXLEY GREEN LIBRARY

A warm welcome to what I hope will be a regular column informing you of the developments at the library in Barton Way. My name is Bob Sharpe and I took up the post of librarian at the end of February 1984, having been a pupil at Rickmansworth (then Grammar) School and an assistant at this library in 1971. It has been a hectic year, getting to know the staff and users of the library and reintroducing myself to the area. The major event has been the replacement of the roof and I hope this did not cause you too much inconvenience. At least it now means you have a warm and *dry* building to use. The main changes I have made are to double the number of large-print books, reflecting the greater demand, and to revamp the area for under 7's. This now includes a parents' collection, incorporating books about pregnancy, child development and problems, children's toys etc. As the father of a one-year-old son, I hope this collection will reflect the problems and joys of bringing up a child today. Future changes will include an update of the magazines we take, and I do hope you will give me your ideas. In fact if you have anything you would like to discuss, my staff and I are always happy to meet you. So keep using the library, or join if you do not belong, and we look forward to seeing you all in 1985.

B. Sharpe

HEALTHY JOB IN THE OPEN AIR

Meet the interesting people of Croxley Green (+ 20% commission)

Yes, another plea for more subscription collectors! We had a good response to our appeal in the last issue of the 'Resident'. Eight brave souls came forward and one of our collectors in turn recruited three more. Unfortunately, we have also lost a few for a variety of reasons, so if you have thought you might like to give it a try, please do not restrain yourself any longer. If you feel shy about knocking on doors and asking for money, I can assure you that doesn't last after your first few encounters. The people of Croxley Green are extremely nice, you meet some interesting characters, and those who refuse, do so

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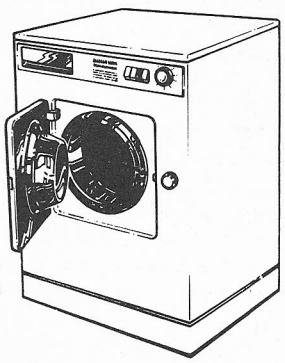

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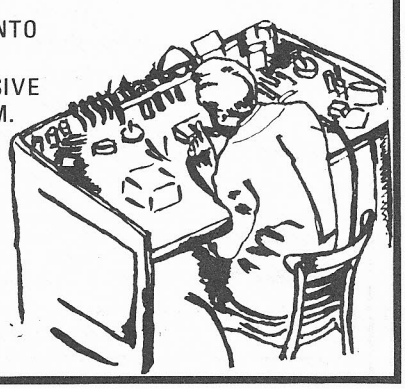

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in a most affable manner. As the majority opinion opts for the present standard for the 'Resident', costs are high and every bit of revenue is welcome.

Our grateful thanks to all our collectors, past and present, your work is much appreciated. If you have not yet done yours, well make yours one of the first in the Bank for 1985!

★ ★ ★

Any problems or queries please contact me.

Polly Burdis
Tel: 770599

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG . . . TO THE BITTER END?

"Britain is a nation of dog-lovers." This is only a half-truth. It applies to half the dog. The front half. Back end of Bonzo has been a problem for decades. Just how big a problem is it? One thousand tons a day, that's how big.

So what should Britain do with 1,000 tons of dogs' faeces? Well, at the moment, we stand back and watch it descend from the "irresponsible" onto our pavements, alleys, parks, grass verges, towpaths and beaches, where we step in it, lie in it or attempt to spread picnics around it. Or we watch it descend from the "responsible" onto our gutters, so that you can open your car door and flatten one as six little feet scramble off to school every morning; onto the road, where the first passing vehicle scatters it across the tarmac like a Catharine Wheel; or in the woods, where any attempt to stray from a strip of path 20cm wide ends up as total immersion in Dettol for the whole family.

No one would deny the sheer nauseating unpleasantness of having to clean it off the family's shoes, hands, hair and sports equipment. It is not only filthy, but unhealthy. Dog faeces are dangerous.

However, now that the Government have seen fit to raise the cost of a dog licence to a level which reflects the responsibilities of owning a dog, dare I suggest that this responsibility extends to the Sacred Rear End? After all, we act responsibly towards the nether regions of our children, do we not? If every mother were to make daily excursions to the woods and parks to empty the contents of her baby's nappy onto the soil, would there not be uproar? Yet there are *four and a half times* as many dogs as there are children under two.

So what is the unfortunate dog-owner to do when out for a walk, not knowing the precise state of Bonzo's bowel? Why do people always look at me in disbelief when I suggest they CLEAR IT UP? I'm not suggesting they do so with their bare hands. No, the answer lies in the POOP-SCOOP. Carry a plastic bag and a shovel, if you can manage that without feeling stupid. Or just a plastic bag: invert it, scoop the poop with plastic-covered fingers, revert it, and before you can say "Bob-a-job", it's done. Knot the bag, take it home. Better still, a more sophisticated version should be available, say, a teflon lined metal cylinder with a spring-loaded trap-door at one end. BSI Approved Poopscoops (APs) should be given to every licensee, along with the identity disc and literature about health hazards and byelaws. (Many people in Croxley *still* don't know tha grass verges form part of the pavement). The AP should be carried at all times, attached to the lead. Failure to display should incur a heavy fine, and failure to use should result in compulsory quarantine for the dog at the owner's expense for 48 hours. Such a punishment would have a profound effect on the children in the family, who would soon learn how seriously society regarded the crime of leaving faeces behind, whether on woodland, park, grass, soil, pavement, gutter, road, alley, towpath, ANYWHERE AT ALL.

Where is all the money coming from? From £20 a year, being the fee I would strongly recommend for a dog licence, collected 6-monthly on production of a worming certificate from a vet. £20 does not represent many cans of Wolfitup, and is a fraction of what the veterinary fees are likely to be for a well-cared-for pet. It would also net a cool £160,000 a year for Watford, and £34,000 for Croxley Green alone. Enough for a Warden to every, say, 2,000 dogs with vehicle and radio, fencing for children's playgrounds, sports pitches and dog-free zones in parks, and sandpits for dogs whose owners wish to keep their APs clean. (There could be reductions for pensioners and other folk who would lose much beneficial companionship from being unable to afford this fee.)

Who is going to enforce these new laws? We, the public, that's who. I for one am not afraid to remind someone with a polite, but firm, "I hope you are going to clear that lot up" (provided, of course, that I don't *know* the person — I do wish to retain *some* friends when this article gets into print). Furthermore, I think that people would use their APs if they were not unpleasant to use.

If you think that £20 is a sensible licence fee, and that dogs should not be allowed to foul any part of our environment, why not write to Richard Page MP, and tell him so, before Central and Local Government limit the licence to £10 and illegal fouling to "designated areas", both of which they are likely to do before long. Change is in the air; there is already a National League for Introduction of Canine Control. Croxley could have its own PRESSURE group. How about the Society for Quelling the Unacceptable and Indiscriminate Deposit of Germ-ridden Excrement? Or perhaps the Society for Quarantining Urban Excretors Littering Croxley's Habitat? Or just APs for YAPs? **RILLA PATERSON (Mrs.)**
31 Rousebarn Lane.

dampcure woodcure/30

19 Repton Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts.
Tel: Rickmansworth 770085

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WASTE NOT . . .

Our countryside is again showing signs in places of being used as a tip. Throughout the summer I watched a double mattress gradually disintegrating on one site opposite the Golf Club and in Little Green Lane the demise of a tumble dryer. Heaps of builders rubble and paint cans appear in Whippendell Woods alongside Rousebarn Lane.

The Council will still collect household rubbish but as a reminder, it can be taken to either of two Household Waste Disposal Sites. The opening hours are as follows:

Riverside Drive, Rickmansworth
Monday-Tuesday 10 a.m.–4 p.m..
Wednesday CLOSED ALL DAY
Thursday-Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge
Monday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday CLOSED ALL DAY
Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Times apply unless skips full up early. Weekdays are best. From observation, in winter the skips fill less quickly because of less garden rubbish. **Ed.**

SECRETARY REPORTS

When a community finds itself faced with dramatic changes, its Residents' Association is centre stage for action to deal with the situation. When, as at present in Croxley, there is nothing startling on the horizon the Association does not steal away to hibernate — it keeps both eyes open on a whole series of items which are not exciting, but which must be watched if general standards in the area are not to slip. If you were to come to any of our monthly committee meetings (and please let me know if you would like to) you would find us in earnest discussion over a whole range of issues which might have escaped your notice, but which seem quite vital to other residents. Often we battle on for months to get some action (or prevent it).

Who are the people who come together in this way for what we hope is the public good? Many are long standing residents of Croxley whose involvement in local issues singles them out as dedicated Croxley watchers. But committee members change from time to time and the new faces are usually people who have found themselves at the centre of some local controversy and been prepared to give up their time and energy to represent the interests of neighbours and other residents in their patch of the woods. If you feel that you may be in this category please get in touch as we are always interested in new blood to add spice to our activities. You may not wish to be a full committee member but we often co-opt for special purposes with benefit to us all.

As an insight to only some of our current pre-occupations, the following may be of interest:—

DRG SITE: The re-development of the old Mill site is likely to provide Croxley with a welcome boost to its prosperity and we have therefore been keen to support the Residents' Action Group to ensure that the work is done to their satisfaction.

SCOTS HILL POST OFFICE: Strong representations against closure were rejected by the Post Office but we returned to the attack with the signatures of many customers of that Office who wished it to remain open. These objections together with those of many other local organisations and the Three Rivers Council have all been rejected by the Post Office who see their responsibility to run a profitable business as overriding that to maintain well-used and wanted local facilities.

SCOTSBRIDGE MILL: Plans for The Mill prompted our representations on the traffic and parking problems which would result and the application was turned down. A revised plan is now under consideration but our original objections remain.

THE LIBRARY: Many residents have been worried at unruly behaviour by some young people who congregate around the Library. Following our representations, local police have concentrated attention on this area. Removal of a small fence on the New Road aspect of the Library has led to deterioration in the surrounding area, but we are told that there is a plan to plant low bushes to improve the general appearance.

Ian Thomas
Honorary Secretary

THE REVELS, 1985 - June 22nd

Start planning now. We make another appeal for *variety* in stalls. We would also like original ideas for arena events as well as the old favourites.

John Bolton
Secretary, Croxley Green Society
Tel: Watford 34399

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B.R.C.S. Open Gardens, Copthorne Road, June 30th.

Ed.

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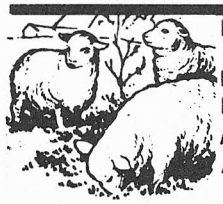

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