

The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 152

Editor: John Hedges

AUTUMN 1986

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Material published in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the Association nor its Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

The Residents Association Committee meets each month to deal with any complaints or requests for help that we receive. Whilst our aims to date have synchronized with those of the Parish, we are there as watchdog for the residents. We may not in the future always agree with the Parish Council but we hope always to continue the friendly co-operation in which we now work. We need the support of all residents and invite their views on any subject involving the welfare of Croxley Green. If we can be of assistance to you in respect of planning applications, etc. please let us know.

Mike Humphreys.

EDITORIAL

This period before the publication of my second edition of the Resident has been a most exciting time.

First came the very first elections to our own Parish Council in which your association's candidates swept the board.

Then came the highlights of the year, our

annual Revels on the Green. Long in jeopardy due to the failure of the Croxley Green Society to find a new chairman and secretary, the Revels went ahead, since two of us stepped forward because of long parental involvement, to liaise with several stalwarts in running this traditional happy event in our yearly calendar.

We hope the Revels will continue but we need your help. If you enjoyed this year's Revels then come to the meeting advertised on this page. Those involved this year are willing to continue, but the society needs a new chairman and secretary. Neither of these tasks need be onerous, the established team will run the Revels but the society needs direction. Put the date in your diary now.

CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY

An Emergency Special
General Meeting of the above
Association
will be held at
The Library, Barton Way
on

Thursday October 30th at 8.00p.m.

Coming Soon:-

The ideal Christmas present
A picture book

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For full details contact:

Peter and Ann Frost

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Telephone Watford (0923) 32661

ST. BEDE'S MOTHER & TODDLERS GROUP

The St. Bede's Mother and Toddlers group is held at St. Bede's Church Hall in Baldwins Lane, every Tuesday afternoon between 1.45 & 3.30pm. We charge 20 pence per visit to cover the cost of tea, coffee and squash. We are able to provide toys and

equipment to cater for children from birth to school age. We are a small group and would be pleased to see any mothers who would like to bring their children along. If you require any further information, please contact:-

Stella Davis

or

Heather Falvey,

284 Baldwins Lane,

119 Winton Drive,

Croxley Green,

Croxley Green,

Tel:R 720615

Tel:W 33386

FOULING BY DOGS

The Parish Council has received complaints concerning the nuisance caused by dogs fouling areas in Croxley Green used by the general public. This problem has been with us all for a very long time, it is not restricted to our parish and the fact that it is so general reflects the difficulty in dealing with it.

This subject was debated very comprehensively in the correspondence columns of our local newspaper not so long ago and I think that most readers were surprised by the number of participants in the debate to say nothing of the amount of heat generated. Whilst the columns were packed with readers views on the problem, constructive ideas for its alleviation were rather harder to find.

The Parish Council wish to find a solution to this problem which will be acceptable to the whole community including of course dog owners. To assist in this we welcome practical ideas from any interested parties and will be pleased to receive these via our letter box which is situated in the Library in New Road.

Obviously the only way to guarantee the complete elimination of the problem would be to destroy all dogs. I cannot believe that there are many residents would subscribe to this drastic solution. If this is unacceptable then perhaps consideration of other courses open is in order. Firstly, I suggest that the most important areas to be dealt with are:-

- 1) Areas where small children play.
- 2) Sports Fields
- 3) Pavements

It might be possible to find ways of excluding dogs from some of the first two by means of fencing and automatically shutting gates but I think that these would be extremely vulnerable and impose a continuing expense on the ratepayers without achieving much success. Alternatively, dogs can be forbidden to cause any nuisance by clearly displayed notices threatening penalties for any misdemeanour. Unfortunately such notices are rather lost on the dogs and in practice it is impossible to enforce such restrictions. Finally we must turn to the dog owners. With the exception possibly of recreation grounds, it is unusual to see unaccompanied dogs nowadays and therefore I maintain that the great majority of instances of dogs fouling in

Please send letters, contributions
and advertisements to:

John Hedges

44 Ludlow Way

Telephone: Watford 22715

by January 1st, if possible.

public places, occur within sight and control of their owners. I submit therefore that the solution to this problem lies with the person walking the dog. As a dog owner I know that it is a simple matter, by means of a plastic bag, to remove any mess created by my dog and it is not difficult to dispose of the bag afterwards.

Obviously to persuade dog owners, who have been used to allowing their pets complete freedom of the environment, to adopt this practise will neither be easy nor will it be achieved overnight, but I believe that this course holds the best chance of success towards the cleaning up of our parish.

Ken North - Parish Councillor

CROXLEY GREEN ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Our Chairman for many years Dr. N.P. Pitt has now moved away from the district and we said a regretful goodbye to him and his wife at a farewell gathering when the Committee presented them with gifts, expressing our gratitude for his hard work on behalf of Road Safety. We shall miss his help. It is good therefore, that the much discussed and 'Fought-for' Roundabout at the junction of A412/The Green was in operation before his departure. Our new Chairman is Michael Humphreys who we know will carry on Peter Pitt's good work.

Kay Raggett, Hon. Treasurer.

PARISH WALK

In Association with Rambler's Association Walking the Parish Boundary on recognised public footpaths on October 26th at 2.30pm meeting at the Artichoke. about 4 miles.

POLICE COLUMN

Well, here we are again, Winter approaching (did we have a Summer by the way? If we did, I must have blinked and missed it!) Anyway I have some good news and some bad news.

First the good news. As I prepare this piece of literary genius, there are 22 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Croxley Green with 2 more in the offing. House burglary is DOWN in Croxley-surprise surprise. There is no doubt at all in my mind, and of my Senior Officers, that this is largely due to the efforts of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme residents and particularly the overall coordinators and their many helpers. Thank you all very much. The one danger is the good old British disease-complacency, please let's work together to ensure we don't suffer from this.

Now the bad news. While burglary is down, theft from motor vehicles is UP. It seems that you are protecting your homes and leaving the poor old car up for grabs. Those of you with a half-way decent stereo cassette player are prime targets and the teams perpetrating this kind of offence can be in and gone in a minute or so-it's that easy. Another favourite is the leaving of handbags and jackets/coats etc. in the car while drivers go shopping or walk the dog. The villain knows the hiding places as well as you. Please NEVER NEVER leave valuables (cash, coats, wallets, credit cards, cheque books etc. etc. etc.) in cars. Take them with you. I

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you.
Psalm 55, Verse 22.

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

know it's a bind-but losing them and having the car smashed in the process is worse. A good, effective car alarm is not expensive and provides peace of mind while giving a good resale point into the bargain.
Happy Winter

Steve Steddy
Community Constable, Wat. 44444

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a relatively recent resident of Croxley, it is encouraging to see the community spirit so alive. Our views were endorsed by an entertaining evening spent at St. Oswalds' Youth Review early this year. All participants in this show are members of youth organisations attached to the church. Therefore if you are not parishioners, or family and friends of the youngsters taking part, you could so easily miss a highlight of the Croxley scene.

This annual event takes place around February/March. Each youth group performs an individual item, the various scene changes are punctuated by talented musicians, and the opening and finale sees a colourful and musical display by over 100 youngsters. Thank you so much everybody at St. Oswalds' Youth Review and long may you continue to give so much happiness to so many people.

Eric and Marie Hill
8 Durrants Drive

Dear Mr. Hedges,

I manage a Youth Football team, Croxley Youth under 14, based at the Croxley Community Centre.

Could I through your pages, thank Weller, Hill & Hubble, for their generous sponsorship. In particular Sue Craig, the office manager for her great help.

A local company helping a local football team - a winning combination!

Yours sincerely,
T.R. Guy
8, Dorrofield Close.

LIBRARY COLUMN

The library has now been computerised for 6 months and now would be a good time to bring you up to date with the gains and problems we have encountered.

We now know at any time where any of our books are and those of 14 other Hertfordshire libraries. This has meant that our provision of requested books has been greatly speeded up and our overall control of the system is much greater. The disadvantage is that we rely almost totally on the computer and when it breaks down we have to resort to a very slow and tedious manual system. After about 3 hours without a computer we have so many books piled up and such a large backlog we have to close just to catch up. Unfortunately this has happened twice, first when our computer telephone line was disconnected and secondly when lightning struck County Hall where the main computer is kept. We do realise the frustration this has caused and hope you will bear with us. All new systems have their problems and we hope the future will reveal an even better service for all our users. Please feel free to ask me or any of the staff if you want more information.

Finally a plea to all car drivers. The forecourt outside the library and Red Cross Centre cannot take cars because they crack the paving stones and the drainage system below. Please do not park here. Thank you.

Bob Sharpe. Librarian.

RICKMANSWORTH DRUG CONCERN

In October 1984 the Lions Club of Rickmansworth, in response to a call from their International Headquarters that all Lions Clubs should bring an awareness of drugs misuse to their communities, organised a public meeting to which local statutory and voluntary bodies from all disciplines were invited.

As a result of this meeting a Steering Committee was formed from those assembled. A further meeting for the various disciplines, to acquaint them with the local situation which the Steering Committee had found during their researches was held in February 1985, with a speaker from the Hertfordshire Drug Squad and the Chairman of the Hemel Hempstead support group.

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THE PARISH COUNCIL

Thusday 3rd April was a date to put in the chronicles of Croxley Green - the first meeting of the first Parish Council elected specifically to serve the interests of you, it's inhabitants. A historic photograph of the occasion, published in the Watford Observer, shows the new Councillors looking rather serious (even apprehensive?) and of course this was and still is something of an adventure in local politics.

The Residents' Association candidates had expected to do well in the elections in March but even they were slightly overawed to find that it was a clean sweep - all sixteen coming top of the poll. It was to be sure a poor turn out, partly due I think to a misunderstanding about the arrangements for the election. Although we had incorporated information about our candidates in the last Resident and had prepared posters, this was done in the expectation that poll cards would be delivered to all householders. With some dismay we discovered during the last few days before poll that it was not the practice to do this in Three Rivers District. Our protestations were in vain but some good friends rallied round with a hastily prepared handbill and this was delivered on eve of poll to all households. We thank all of you who took the trouble to vote.

I was most pleased to be asked to set up the administration of the new Council and it has proved to be a fascinating task. Although our friends in Three Rivers had made provision from the rates to launch our first year in office everything had to be organised from scratch.

The Council soon decided to hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month (except August) and those meetings are held at 8 pm in The Library, New Road. Anyone is welcome to attend and the Chairman always offers an opportunity for visitors to make a statement to the Council at the start of the proceedings. Participation in the debates is however only allowed at the special invitation of the Chairman.

The Council has decided to delegate a good deal of its work to committees of Councillors. There are at present four committees - Finance and General Purposes; Planning; Open Spaces; and General Amenities. The first of these meets regularly immediately after the full Council meeting; the others on the third Thursday of each month at 8 pm in the Library. The committees have already found themselves involved to a surprising degree in a wide range of subjects, and the fruits of their labours have been marked by some generous letters of thanks from some residents for the Council's work.

The Parish Council is the tier of local government nearest to the day-to-day life of Croxley. It is just as anxious as the Residents' Association to maintain a close involvement with the concerns of those who live here and hopes that in its particular way it will be able to make a notable contribution to the quality of Croxley life. We shall welcome your approaches to us on any local concerns - you don't even have to pay the cost of a stamp or telephone call if you make use of our own postbox specially installed in the Library.

Some local issues already taken on board by the Council include:

- The contentious outline plans for the factory site at Harvey Road
- the implications of the Herts County Council Structure Plan
- bus services and facilities
- some controversial plans to build new houses and alter existing ones
- the maintenance and provision of facilities on The Green
- access to Common Moor and prevention of nuisances there
- toilet facilities
- litter everywhere
- road repairs
- dog mess
- neighbourhood watch

and there are many more. I am sure you have views on some of these topics. Don't keep them to yourself - make sure your Councillors know what you think. Their names and addresses are shown on the list published in this newsletter.

Setting up the machinery to facilitate the Council's work has been time consuming. Of course there were the obvious and ordinary materials to provide for communication and the proper recording of proceedings and decisions; an accounting system to keep a track of monies received and spent; a filing system to get order into correspondence, minutes of meetings and so on. Then there were the more complicated matters of insurance to cover the activities of Councillors on the Council's business and the making of rules (we call them Standing Orders) as a framework for the conduct of the Council's work. Membership of local government associations can be invaluable when problems arise and the Council has wisely decided to join the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Government Clerks.

In all this I have received help in large measure from the Parish Clerks of adjacent Councils and I should like to record my thanks to them all.

Your new Parish Council is now in gear and running in at a modest pace. By the time we hold our second annual Parish Meeting in the Spring of 1987 - at which anyone can join in discussing local issues with the Councillors, we hope it will provide a lively forum for us all.

Ian Thomas, Parish Clerk

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

James Evett, (Chairman)
5 Watford Road. Rick 778464

John Hedges (Vice Chairman)
44 Ludlow Way. Watford 22715

Howard Brown
33 Frankland Road. Rick 775395

Ernest Burdis
17 New Road. Rick 770599

Harry Dewar
1 Frankland Close. Riak 775709

Peter Foster
3 Little Green. Rick 779841

Peter Furr
45 Dickinson Sq. Rick 770715

Stella Hayward
237 New Road. Rick 779722

John Larter
65 Sycamore Road. Watford 53806

Laurence Mathews
26 Sycamore Road. Watford 43420

Kenneth North
193 Baldwins Lane. Rick 774138

Marjorie Parkins
3 Grove Crescent.

Colin Powell
27 Canterbury Way. Watford 50869

Peter Rennoldson
1 New Road. Rick 720603

Colin Walker
155 Winton Drive.

Ann Wynne-Jones
37 Oakleigh Drive. Watford 51905

Ian Thomas (Clerk)
34 Furze View Chorleywood. CW 3605

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Shelagh Booth 779932

for further information

The group of volunteers had now expanded and included members of the nursing profession, probation, social services, teachers, a pharmacist, a local councillor and concerned members of the community. Having recognised that the subject of drug misuse is very complex the Executive Committee embarked upon a programme of self education by attending lectures and meetings with other drug related volunteer groups and eventually found a training course designed for supporters in the drug misuse field. Having decided the aims of the group we became formally constituted in April 1985. Our objectives include providing educational material for local schools in an attempt to forestall the urge of youngsters to experiment with drugs, and to provide information for teachers, as well as help and support for anyone, parent - relative - or friend, who thinks that they may be involved with someone who is misusing drugs. For those who are already faced with this problem in their family, Drugs Concern will provide support and advice - Drugs Concern will also provide support for ex-addicts to help them to stay free of drugs. It is hoped that Drugs Concern can thereby give local doctors the long term support which is needed in the non-medical help for users who want to break their habit. It is well known that months or even years of personal help are needed to keep ex-drug users free once the medical profession have helped them through the de-toxification process. It is little wonder that some doctors are wary of becoming involved in this subject unless they know that they have the support of a well prepared organisation such as Drugs Concern.

In order to provide these services, Drugs Concern have formed links with other groups already involved in this field, the most important of which is the formal affiliation of Drugs Concern to The Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Standing Conference on Drugs Misuse, who can provide access to skilled backup for the group - this also gave us immediate charitable status as they are a charitable body.

Also during the course of 1985 we were able to obtain the use of the Day Centre at Meresworth on Wednesday evenings, which enabled us not only to be available to give advice and support, but gave us a location for a 24 hour help-line telephone answering system. With much help from Mr. R. Page M.P. British Telecom were persuaded to make a donation to our funds, for which generosity we were most grateful. We have also obtained funding from Three Rivers District Council towards regular running costs such as telephone charges, training courses, postage etc. A jumble sale and car boot sale have added to these funds and we have more ventures planned, including exploring the field of covenanted donations. In January 1986 the support group and help lines were launched by means of press releases and posters, but all of this is only a beginning. Helpers are needed both for manning the advice centre and telephone line, and for fund raising. The hard drugs problem in this area exists and if the

pattern in the U.S.A. is repeated here it will become worse, and a strong, lively group is essential to fight drugs misuse by prevention, and help to rehabilitate those who fall victim to it. Drugs Concern do not limit themselves to providing help and information

about illegal drugs, we will also cover the fields of solvent abuse and tranquilliser problems, neither of which are necessarily illegal, but present exactly the same need for support and advice.

This is a community problem which can respond to community initiatives. Further training courses are planned for new volunteers and your help and ideas for fund raising are always needed. Anyone who wishes to join us in fighting this social evil, in any capacity, will be made welcome - it is very worthwhile community work.

Pat Langley - Chairman Drugs Concern

"DRUGS CONCERN"

Telephone Rick 779076
Answer Phone Service

Write. P.O. Box 92 Rickmansworth
WD3 3AW

Help for Families

Meet us on Thursday evenings
7.30p.m. to 9.30 at Barn Lea Hall,
Springwell Avenue.

Help for Families and Users

SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE VICTIMS SUPPORT SCHEME.

The first scheme to help Victims of Crime was set up in Bristol in 1974, it was experimental and the aim was to visit all victims of personal crime within 24 hours of the offence. An enormous number of problems experienced by Victim's came to light, and it was found that a visit in the very early stages could prevent traumas continuing to develop.

The South West Hertfordshire Scheme began in 1977 initially in the Three Rivers District, but soon expanded to cover Watford, and in the last 2 years has been extended still further into the Metropolitan Police Area of Bushey. In 1977 there were 121 referrals, and in 1985 there were 879. The cost for each referral is approximately £2.30 and the annual budget has risen from £684 to nearly £2500 today.

The Scheme is run by a Management Committee consisting of a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, 2 co-ordinators, volunteer representative, doctor, solicitor, and representatives from both Police Forces, Social Services, the Probation Office, Red Cross/Age Concern, Citizens Advice Bureaux, and a Publicity Officer. They meet quarterly and are responsible for the overall management of the scheme, policy making and implementation, and fund raising.

The Scheme cost £2059 to run in 1984/85 but it is expected that in the current year £2500 will be needed. The Management Committee endeavour to make sure that there is one year's running costs in the bank, in order that they can run an efficient and worthwhile Scheme. Funds are raised

through grants from the local councils, donations from such organisations as Rotary, Round Table, and local businesses, and donations or covenants from individuals,

as well as running stalls and other fund raising events. The money is spent on Honorarias for the 2 co-ordinators, telephone and travelling expenses, postage and stationery, and training for the volunteers. The day to day running of the scheme is undertaken by the two co-ordinators and the 19 volunteers. One of the co-ordinators is telephoned by the two police forces and receives from them a list of crimes committed against individuals in the previous 24 hours. The co-ordinator then contacts the volunteers and allocates victims according to the area and availability, the volunteer will then try to make a visit the same day. If the victim is out, a card will be left with a name and telephone number to contact the scheme. One visit is usually sufficient to allow the victim to talk through his or her experiences and to help with small practical problems, and the vast majority fall into this category, however the more difficult ones may need further visits or referrals to the agencies for long term help.

The most serious offences such as sexual assault or rape may need many visits, and some volunteers receive further special training to enable them to help those victims over a much longer period. The types of offences with which the scheme is involved include burglary, theft from the person, vandalism, bogus officials, robbery, sexual assaults, and assaults causing actual and grievous bodily harm.

The effect of the offence on victims can be considerable, one victim, a club steward, was severely beaten up and the takings of the Club taken. He suffered severe depression and was unable to continue with his job, finding that he could no longer take responsibility for money. The volunteer remained in close contact for a considerable time and was able to help him to obtain compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. In another case the victim was confined to a wheelchair, and the volunteer was able to arrange for an occupational therapist to call at the flat and help with practical aids to make the victim's life easier. Each victim reacts differently, and has individual problems, but the volunteers are trained to be able to offer emotional and practical help.

The volunteers themselves are of both sexes, all ages and from many different backgrounds. They are carefully selected and trained. The new volunteer is expected to attend 4 training sessions before receiving an Identity Card, and all the volunteers attend monthly meetings at which a Probation Officer and the two co-ordinators are present. Day training and conferences are also arranged as well as visits to magistrates and Crown Courts. Volunteers should not be out of pocket as travel and telephone expenses are paid by the scheme.

The work of the scheme increases annually as does the crime rate, and the need for funds and for new volunteers is always present, but one which it will endeavour to meet with the encouragement and support of the community in which it operates.

Mrs R.K. Parker
36 Clarendon Road
Watford, WD1 1JP

UPDATE



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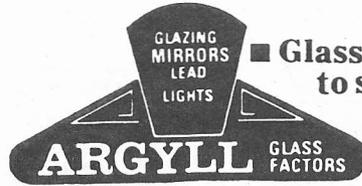
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