



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by
**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Editor: John Hedges
Assisted by: Molly Hedges

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Autumn 1994

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All sponsored parish councillors
are ex-officio members.

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

EDITORIAL

This edition of the *Resident* has again made itself, thanks to our contributors. However one contribution has not been printed. This was a detailed criticism of the Association which, whilst fair in some respects, was not deemed to be so in its entirety. The larger part was concerned with the AGM which was attended by about 100 people who did not agree with the correspondent when he raised the points at the meeting.

The *Residents' Association* is anxious to keep the Parish Council non-party-political in its membership. However, there are only three sponsored candidates, with possibly two more, who have indicated their wish to stand again in May next year. It is the Association's wish that any candidates sponsored should take an interest in the Association and attend some of its committee meetings. If you are interested and wish to be considered, then you should show your interest by attending our next meeting which is on Tuesday 15th November at 8.00pm at the Methodist Church Hall, New Road or by contacting the Editor. If you believe, as we do, that there is value in keeping party politics out of local affairs, then don't leave it to someone else, you are needed *NOW*.

This Association is yours. Make it work for you! We are always needing people to help. Polly needs help to collect subscriptions. Not as onerous as it seems - two or three evenings a year will be sufficient - and the reward is an Association which can be more effective and a percentage comes your way. I am ready for your phone call at any time. Call now!

**WITH MY CAMERA
IN THE CHILTERNs
A SLIDE
PRESENTATION BY
KATHERINE HOWARD LRPS
TO BE HELD IN
THE NEW LIBRARY**

**On Tuesday
8th November 1994
at 8.00pm**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

From time to time we are asked: 'What does the Residents' Association do?' or 'What are the aims of the Association?' and of course, 'Is it really a non-party political body?' At the Annual General Meeting this year we adopted an updated constitution which clearly answers these questions. The objects of the Association are spelt out as follows:

- To influence and promote efficient and economic administration and management of local government for Croxley Green.

- To act in the interest of the members in all local matters affecting them, taking appropriate steps to deal with concerns.
- To nominate and support, if so desired, members as candidates for election to local government authorities covering Croxley Green.
- To nominate members to represent the interests of the Association on local bodies such as Road Safety, Police Liaison, Neighbourhood Watch, Library Advisory Group etc.
- To organise and support local social and sports events, any surplus from which to augment the funds of the Association.
- To edit and publish a regular newsletter/magazine for the residents of Croxley Green.
- To extend the activities of the Association as appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The Constitution also clarifies our political standing in these two linked statements: 'The Association shall be strictly non-party-political and non-sectarian. Discussion of party politics is prohibited at all meetings.'

A most important clause relates to membership: 'All residents of Croxley Green shall be eligible for membership.' Every household, once it has purchased life membership or paid the annual membership fee, automatically becomes a member. Your membership fees cover the costs of our open evenings and also help to cover our administration costs such as meeting room hire and postage. Prudent management of our limited financial resources ensures that *The Resident* is more or less self-financing thanks to the support of our advertisers.

We believe that the 50p per year membership fee, or £5 life membership, is very good value for money - but do ensure that you get the benefits of membership. Please support our open evenings which feature interesting local speakers on a variety of fascinating subjects - the next event is advertised on this page! You might also want to contact us if you feel strongly about any

Please send advertisements to:
Rosemary Hanscomb
22 Dickinson Avenue (0923 779966)
and letters and contributions to:
John Hedges
44 Ludlow Way (0923 222715)
by January 1st if possible.

subject covered by our aims and objects - your Committee are always happy to hear the views and opinions of our members.

The Residents' Association is your association - so please help to keep it active and relevant by supporting us.

FLEAS!!

If your dog or cat is scratching, he is not the only one! The end of the Summer marks the high point of the flea population explosion, as the weeks of hot weather encourage the rapid production of new generations. Every day we receive many enquiries from residents about controlling this problem.

Fleas are incredibly successful at detecting vibrations from a n animal passing by, and then they can leap 510 times their own length onto their target. Once there they move quickly through the coat, to escape detection, feeding regularly from the animal's blood. Often the only evidence of fleas is the flea *dirts* in an animal's coat - little black flecks next to the skin. On dogs these are usually to be found around the base of the tail, on the back. In cats often the chin and neck are favoured. The damage caused to the skin in these areas varies, but can develop into skin infections or eczema. Fleas can also transmit tapeworms to pets.

Research has revealed that the majority of fleas are to be found, in immature developing stages, in the carpet and furniture of the house. Treating these areas is therefore the cornerstone of eradication. This can be done with a residual effect environmental spray, available from most Veterinary Surgeries. New treatments are constantly being developed, and the latest one is a medication to feed your pet, which then renders biting fleas infertile, so eliminating the problem of flea eggs in the house. As central heating allows flea eggs and larvae to survive the winter in homes, these treatments need to be used for at least six months

Then, how to tackle the problem on your pet?

There are a multitude of products for treating animals - sprays, powders, collars and drop treatments. Different pets suit different products; for instance a dog which swims frequently will wash off sprays and powders, rendering them ineffective. Often it is best to go to your Veterinary Surgery and discuss the problem, to be sure of getting the right treatment.

Once controlled, both pet and pet owner can breathe easy without being plagued by this minute but extremely capable parasite!

April Rumsey - Veterinary Surgeon.

"The word of God is
living and active"
(Heb 4 v12)

You are warmly invited to the
Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane
Morning Worship: 9.15am
11.00am Secretary: Brian Pratt
Evening Worship: 6.30pm Telephone: 0923 442239

YOUR C A B NEEDS HELP

The Citizens Advice Bureau began in 1939 to give help and advice in time of war. Your local CAB in Rickmansworth opened in 1968 and, over the last twenty years, the aims and principles of the service have remained the same.

- to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available or through an inability to express their needs effectively:

and equally - to exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies both locally and nationally.

The service offered remains free, independent, impartial and confidential. However, the number of problems brought to the Bureau have greatly increased and have become far more complex, particularly during the last ten years.

Employment problems have increased dramatically, unfortunately many of them now related to unemployment. The Bureau will advise about rights regarding notice, redundancy or unfair dismissal. We may write to the employer on the client's behalf if he/she has not been given her/his statutory entitlement. Recent changes in legislation now give protection to employees dismissed for pursuing a statutory right. Evidence from CABx throughout the Country was a key factor in this change - a positive example of our social policy work.

Debt problems have also increased. These are often caused by unemployment, unexpected redundancy or ill health, or by the break up of relationships.

Unemployment and debt can put a great strain on all parties and many of the family problems brought to us relate to separation and divorce. We also advise on parents rights and responsibilities, caring for the young, the elderly and bereavement. Today an important part of our work is offering a sympathetic ear if the client just wishes to chat over a

problem. The benefit system can be a nightmare. There are contributory benefits, such as state retirement pension and unemployment benefit; non-contributory benefits, such as Attendance Allowance and Child Benefit; and means-tested benefits, such as Income Support and Council Tax Benefit. We try to guide people through the maze of the benefit system and ensure that they are getting the benefits to which they are entitled.

But whatever the problem, large or small, we will try to help and have a comprehensive information system which provides us with most of the answers. We do not carry information in our heads!

The Bureau in Rickmansworth is open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm, except on Wednesdays, when it closes at 1.00pm. It is also open on Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 12.00noon. You can either call in or telephone on 0923 720424.

Nearly all the advisers are volunteers and we are needing to recruit two more trainee advisers in the Autumn to enable us to keep up the level of service to the public. Maybe you think you would like to work as a volunteer adviser? You don't need special qualifications, as full training is given. You do need to be non-judgmental, sympathetic and a good listener. If you are interested, and are able to make a regular weekly commitment, then contact the Manager, Mrs Jill McCluney, on 0923 720424 or write in, to the Bureau at Northway, Rickmansworth, WD3 1EH, for an information pack.

Lesley S Laughton - Deputy Manager.

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HARRY PACKMAN - A LIFE

Harry Edgar Packman was one of those characters that make our village what it is. and our regrets at his passing, during the summer, at the age of 76 are fittingly expressed in this our Newsletter.

Harry was born in Geraldton, Western Australia where his parents had emigrated. His grandparents were well known for their greengrocery shop in West Watford and in 1920, at a tender age, Harry settled in England. He was a pupil at Watford Central School where he became interested in all forms of wiring and communication. This led to a career with the General Post Office, Telephones department, interrupted by service in the British Army, in World War II. He was later transferred to the RAF and spent the War serving in this country. Resuming his career, following the War, he travelled extensively in the British Isles.

Harry became interested in cameras and photography and was a central figure in Croxley Camera Club, which was founded in 1960, serving on the committee from 1972 to 1974, as Vice-President in 1981 and Treasurer in 1982. By the time of his retirement he had won many prizes for his photography and developing. One of his greatest achievements with his lens was his recording of so much of John Dickinson's paper mill, which has retained for history memories of this now demolished important part of the life of our community. He put together display boards in a pictorial history of this concern and was gratified by the interest shown.

His photography led to an interest in history and his many talks with slide shows were backed by meticulous files including newspaper cuttings and other memorabilia. His anecdotes from the past were always of great interest. This, and his being a close neighbour, led me to his door and I have to acknowledge my debt to Harry for his help and encouragement in the conception and production of the famous Parish Map. His photographs were used to convince the Parish Council and he took great pride in the result.

I shall miss him for he was truly one of Croxley Green's great characters.
Margaret Pomfret.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Since the spring issue of *The Resident*, the merger between Mount Vernon and Watford General Hospital has become a reality. *The Voice*, which has forged a link between Mount Vernon Trust Hospital and the community, now regards itself as 'the link between local hospitals and the community,' embracing Mount Vernon, Watford General, Harefield and Northwood/Pinner hospitals. The merger only concerns the first two.

There is to be a three-month public consultation period, beginning in October, about the services to be provided and notices regarding this have been posted in libraries. It is most important that individuals and organisations should put their points of view. The Directors have already made some decisions, particularly where no change is envisaged, but they do await the views of the public.

The Chairman of the *Voice*, Mike Turner, has already sent the list of concerns expressed by members to the Chief Executive of the new trust, Mr Stephen Ramsden, but the *Voice* will be submitting more detailed proposals to the Health Agencies conducting the consultation, in due course.

Although the *Voice* has no official position of power, it has had some influence on decisions. Mr Ramsden or one of his colleagues attends its monthly meetings, imparts information and listens to views. At the August meeting Mr Ramsden replied to some of the queries he had received. He said that Mount Vernon was to retain a Minor Injuries Unit, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This will entail a back up of X-ray services. It is hoped that there will be additional facilities at Health Centres and GP surgeries. The Trust will seek to make improvements in care for the elderly. It intends to increase work in gynaecology at Mount Vernon and to retain oral surgery. This has long been a distinguished department. At the moment there is no fresh thinking on Michael Sobell House though they would like to extend the existing Patient/Relative Hotel. The Gray Research Laboratory has been acquired. Some benefits should accrue from this e.g. the availability to increase research work and a more flexible use

of the building. The level of services in the Cancer and Plastic and Burns Units depends on contractual arrangements with a number of Health Agencies.

The original transport committee has been increased in size and is considering all aspects of transport. Inter-site buses and improved public transport are proposed. A report will be issued in due course.

Other proposed developments are the establishment at Mount Vernon of a two-bed Intensive Treatment Unit, to cope with major surgery, and a Medical Admissions Unit to receive urgent GP medical admissions. Regarding the re-accommodation of Plastic Surgery, nothing will happen until the public consultation exercise, being conducted by the District Health Agencies, is complete.

The Chief Executive then spoke on the subject of mixed wards. The Trust has conducted an internal inquiry. The staff are working towards meeting certain criteria:

- a) Ensure segregation of Male and Female toilets and washing facilities.
- b) Within the ward areas, use mobile solid dividers and set a limit that curtains should reach, so as to increase privacy.
- c) Introduce a communications system, for informing people that they may be in the same ward as people of the opposite sex.

Since the *Community Voice* has hitherto been connected only with Mount Vernon, opinions are earnestly sought from people and organisations in the Watford area. Anyone wishing to express an opinion should write to:
Community Voice, 2 College Drive, Ruislip, Middx HA4 8SB.
Barbara Lloyd.

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

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of, Croxley Green
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PRINCESS FOR A DAY

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Dear Editor,

I think I was very lucky to be chosen to be the Princess as there were lots of girls who would have loved to be her. It was very exciting to have someone come round to measure me for a dress as well as someone to come round and take my photograph for the newspaper. As the day drew closer and closer I was feeling nervous as well as excited. Finally the day arrived, June 18th., and I was shaking like a jelly.

When I arrived at the Green, with the Page and Attendants, we were given a basket of flowers. The car we rode in was big and glamorous and I really enjoyed the procession. At the end of it we all got out and sat in the arena. It was time to be crowned and to make the speech, the bit I had been practising and dreading for weeks. After I had read the speech and been crowned, I was so pleased and relieved that I hadn't messed it up. I thoroughly enjoyed myself that day and it will be a day I will never forget.

Sarah Dorling - age 11
Little Green School.

VACANCY FOR SECRETARY - Apply Now!

Due to increasing commitments, I am unable to continue my role as Secretary to the *Croxley Green Residents' Association*. A community spirited person is therefore urgently required to take over as soon as possible.

So, what does it involve?

The committee meets approximately six times a year, usually on a Wednesday evening. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15 November at 8.00pm at the Methodist Church in New Road. The Secretary is required to attend and take minutes of the meeting. The minutes are then typed and about thirty copies distributed to various members, including sponsored Parish Councillors.

A small number of letters may also be required to be sent, as a result of decisions taken for action at the meeting. Correspondence received is discussed at each meeting. The venue is booked, in advance, by the Secretary. At the Annual General Meeting the Secretary will present a report of his/her activities, alongside the Treasurer and the Chairman. That's basically it!

The workload amounts to about 6 hours around every meeting, 36 hours per year and a small honorarium is paid for this service. Secretarial skills are minimum but it is essential to the life of the Association. If you are interested or feel you would like to know more, please do contact me. *We are counting on you!*
Alison Wall - 0923 777340

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VOLUNTEERS - How can you help?

Today, as more and more of our community's remaining open spaces are threatened by development and the costs of conserving our land and buildings rise, there is an increasing need for volunteers. Through a programme of careful management, the things we most value and enjoy, can be looked after and protected.

With the help and guidance of the *Countryside Management Services*, who can lend tools and can assist in many ways, volunteers can work in the community (at no extra cost) other than their valued goodwill.

This is a straightforward source of help that can be harnessed by simply lending your support, energy - not forgetting enthusiasm - on such projects and by setting up a Volunteer Register. In some cases this voluntary work enables grants to be obtained to assist with the funding of specialist help or machinery needed in a project.

If you would like to find out more, or would like to help, please contact me or leave your name and address at the Parish Office.

**Margaret Pomfret - 42 Repton Way
0923 220088**

PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES

The new Library opened on Thursday 1st September and we estimate that over 1500 people visited us on the first day. The 3-4 weeks before the opening day were very hard work for all of us, as we had to keep the temporary Library open whilst trying to find time to unpack and shelve stock in the new Library.

As is usual with most new projects there were a few minor problems. The computer system, in the new building, was not fully operational until the weekend before we opened and, as all the stock had to be registered on the system, we had to carry out five days' work in just two days. Everyone worked extremely hard to ensure that we could open on time although, as those of you who used the Library in the first few weeks will be aware, there was no guiding to direct borrowers to the different areas. Apologies for this but we were still moving books around until the early evening of Wednesday 31st August.

Our opening hours have changed slightly too. We now open earlier each morning - at 9.30am instead of 10.00am - which gives an extra two hours each week (we have always opened at 9.30am on Saturdays).

Thankyou to everyone who took time to complete the questionnaire in the last issue of *The Resident*. We received almost 400 replies, which Sylvia Williamson and I managed to analyse before we started visiting showrooms for stock-buying in mid-April. Usually I buy all the stock for the Library but, because we had a much larger budget than usual, I was able to take at least one member of staff with me on each visit. Everyone helped to buy stock and, in less than two months, we bought over

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6,000 items including books, maps, story tapes, compact discs, language tapes and videos.

We also took into account comments from the questionnaires, to help with our selection of newspapers and magazines, and we are now stocking a wider range.

Some of you may have tried, unsuccessfully, to return books outside normal opening hours and realised that we have no letterbox in the new building. I took this decision, reluctantly, as a result of problems at the old Library. Every year, I had to withdraw from stock several dozen items which had been damaged as a result of being returned through the letterbox. In many instances, book spines were broken and CD cases smashed but the most serious damage was caused by vandalism. Half-eaten food and other rubbish was pushed through the letterbox, on several occasions, damaging returned items beyond repair.

Now, a plea for help!

Not only did we lose the old Library and the stock but also our files of information about local societies and groups. During the eighteen months spent in the temporary Library, we started to put together this information again but we still have many gaps. If you belong to a local society or run a playgroup and haven't already given us information about your group, please could you contact us with details.

We are also pleased to display posters both for one-off events, such as jumble sales, and for societies which wish to publicise their existence.

In the old Library, we occasionally exhibited work by local artists and photographers and, I hope to be able to provide this service again, especially as we have extended our display facilities.

As well as working in the main Library, where most of you see us, a tremendous number of duties are carried out behind the scenes. Everyone has responsibility for a variety of activities such as, story-telling for our younger readers or, providing the housebound service for those of our borrowers who can no longer visit the Library. Our local studies collection is overseen by Norma Stubington who is willing to talk to local groups about the collection.

It is great to be back in a full size building and I hope that, if you have not already visited us in the new Library, you will soon do so. Thank you to everyone for their support during the last 20 months. I hope that you are all as pleased with the new Library as we are.
Sue Durham - Community Librarian.

CHURCH ARCHIVES

Whilst going down Baldwins Lane and passing Manor Way I was reminded of Durrants School, and so here a few words on our schools.

The first school as opened in Yorke Road on January 4th 1875. From the School Log on that day we learn that Harriet Lawrence, Head Teacher, admitted 71 children during the week. It is most interesting to read the School Log and here is another entry.

June 14th 1909. The timetable was not kept to this morning, the children lined up on the road and by-and-by the motors came along. The Queen and Princess Victoria kissed hands and the King bowed and raised his hat. I was very glad for the girls to have the opportunity of seeing their sovereigns.'

So the school went on and at one time in the thirties used the Church Hall as the school was overcrowded, but already changes were underway.

From the minutes of HCC Educational Committee dated November 1st 1937 we learn that they approved plans for an elementary school to be built on the Durrants Estate, Croxley Green. Furthermore a temporary school was approved to be built in Harvey Road.

In January 1938 the Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Church advised Hertfordshire County Council that they could no longer provide accommodation for the education of the children of this parish and entrusted the task to that authority.

Work proceeded very quickly in Harvey Road then, in May 1938, it was found that there were 185 more children to accommodate so it was decided that additional buildings be built to deal with children in the area for the next few years. Harvey Road School opened in September 1938 when 139 children were transferred from Yorke Road School. This school closed in July 1975 when Yorke Mead School was opened.

Meanwhile work was proceeding in Manor Way and the new school opened in September 1940 and all children born in 1929 were transferred there. The school came to have a place in all our hearts - pupils, teachers and parents. When my son was there, I remember how many of us were cajoled into raising funds to build a swimming pool. Fetes were held and it was plain to see what a wonderful feeling we all had for the school.

What a party took place when the time to say goodbye to the school. The place was crowded with old pupils, some with their own children, and also many who came in memory of old times and to meet friends.

The doors finally closed on July 26th 1991, the buildings were soon demolished and houses stand on the site. Perhaps many of you will wonder if it was not a mistake, time will tell.

Finally, I must thank all of you who helped me to put together a complete set of the *Rickmansworth Historian*, they are a most valuable source of information and will be kept in the Church archives.

Some 12 months or so ago, I completed an History of Croxley Green. It needs some editing and one day I must make the effort to do this. Has any interested person time to spare to assist me in this task?

Norman Spring - Archivist, All Saints' Church - 0923 776933.

CROXLEY CAMERA CLUB

The club meets in St Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way at 8.00pm on every Wednesday between September and May. This year our first meeting was on 14th September with a light hearted look at a *History of Photography*.

Meetings are informal and friendly, with a break for refreshments giving the opportunity for a chat with other members. This year's varied programme includes talks on photographic technique, historic photography and travel photography. There are also competitions for slides, prints and small prints - the small prints being ideal for beginners to get the feel and excitement of competitions.

1995 Calendar Present for Christmas

The club produces its own calendar, using local views selected from members' photographs. These calendars are available to local organisations and charities for re-sale to benefit their own funds. The new 1995 calendar includes pictures of Bushey, Cassiobury Park, Chorleywood Common, Croxley Green, Hemel Hempstead and Rickmansworth. It consists of one page for each month, plus an illustrated cover, and is spiral bound in A5 format. Each page has a full colour picture, a day/date calendar and a useful space for notes. The pictures can later be separated for use as postcards, giving a calendar and twelve postcards for only £2.00. This has always been a big seller, which makes a very useful Christmas gift and will be available at the newly opened Croxley Green Library.

Our annual show will be held at St Oswald's Church Hall on Friday 24th March 1995. If you would like more details about Croxley Camera Club please contact:

**Philip Santler - 0923 229923 or
Paul Bradley - 0923 220240.**

The Parish Church of St. Oswald
Malvern Way

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion 8 am
Family Eucharist 9.30 am
Family Praise (last Sun. in month) 11 am
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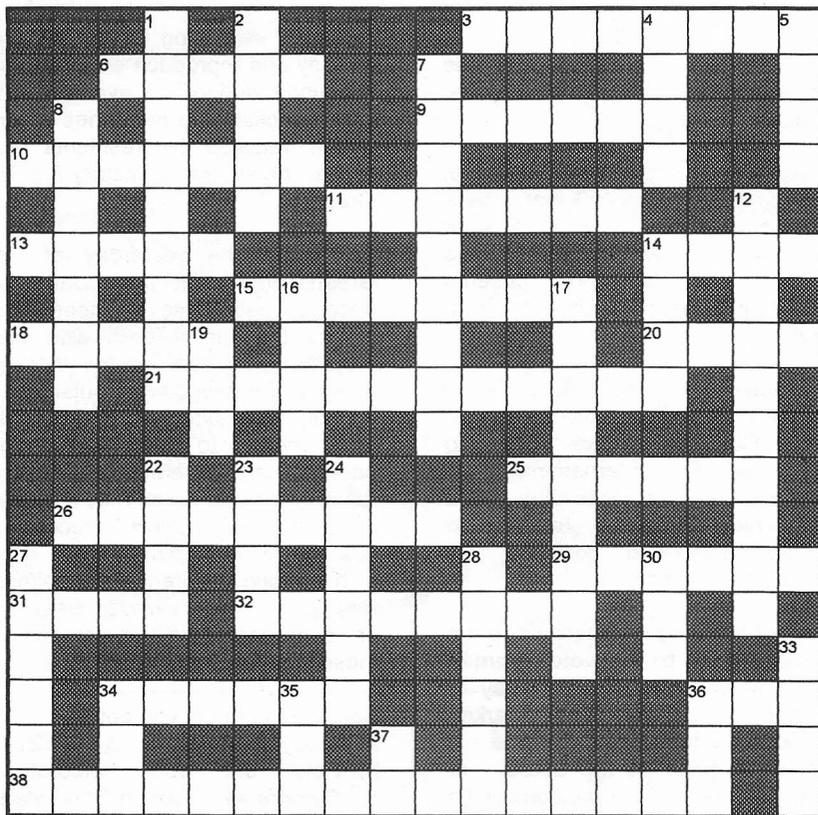
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Prize Puzzle for Croxley's Smokers

My contribution this time is aimed at only a proportion of readers, and is offered with apologies to those of you who can do the Times crossword in 20 minutes. It is not very cryptic or subtle (and may even be construed as propaganda!) But I hope it provides a few minutes amusement and perhaps some food for thought. A £5 gift token is waiting for the first correct entry pulled out of the editor's hat. *Send completed entries to the Editor by 1st November.* Advice on stopping smoking is available from doctors' surgeries. Good luck!

Nigel Corp

Clues across

- 3 Cigarette advertisers' little targets? (8)
- 6 Organ that loves you to stop (5)
- 9,11 How many Britons have already given up? (6,7)
- 10 Thinking of stopping? Do this! (2,3,2)
- 13 You'll need to find something else to do with these (5)
- 14 There is a way out (4)
- 15 Smokers' lungs are gasping for it! (5,3)
- 18 Consequences of smoking are definitely this (5)
- 20 Some tobacco companies have been (4)
- 21 Financial implications of giving up (3,4,5)
- 25,32 Gas smokers share with car exhausts (6,8)
- 26 If you smoke, your lungs could do with this rest... (1,8)
- 29 ...but if you don't, food does this (6)
- 31 What do you call a healthy old smoker? (4)

- 34 Compulsory smokers if their mums do (6)
- 36 Who's in control? A little white tube of dried leaves, or... (3)
- 38 How much you could save a year by stopping! (8,2,6)

Clues down

- 1 Alternative term for the smoking non-smokers do (9)
- 2 Use this organ to stop poisoning the rest! (5)
- 4 What to do if you're tempted (4)
- 5 You can safely smoke this many per day (4)
- 7 You'll be this when you've stopped (9)
- 8 Poisonous plant that kills millions worldwide (7)
- 12 After stopping, you should do this (4,6)
- 14 Giving up is, once you've made your mind up (4)
- 16 Four letter word you take with each puff! (4)
- 17 Athletes don't smoke so they can... (3,6)
- 19 Who your family want to quit smoking (3)
- 22 Released from worry and guilt? (4)
- 23 What cigarettes do (4)
- 27 20 a day makes you short of (6)
- 28 If you smoke, do this now! (4,2)
- 30,37 Just given up and a "friend" tempts you? (3,2)
- 33 What your lungs say when the smoke hits them! (4)
- 34 Place your full cigarette packs here (3)
- 35 This should be the final clue (3)
- 36 Can you quit smoking? (3)
- 37,24 The answer when you're offered one (2,6)

REVELS ON THE GREEN

House of Commons.

Dear Editor,

It was both a pleasure and privilege to perform the opening ceremony of this year's Revels, and in doing so I was conscious of the first one I attended back in 1980 as the newly-elected Member of Parliament for South West Hertfordshire.

Not only are the Revels a success, because they bring people together and provide an expression of the community of Croxley Green, but this year I was even more aware that the Revels do not *just happen*, but are a product of a lot of hard work and energy by a dedicated group of people. I cannot claim a hundred percent perfect recall, but I do know that a number of those working in producing the Revels for this year were also responsible for the first one I attended back in 1980. As the Revels have been taking place in their present shape and form since the Second World War, for all I know there will be those who have links that stretch back decades.

The thought behind this letter is to express my appreciation to that band of volunteers who produce the Revels and, with them, an enjoyable afternoon for so many people. I do not know the full list of everybody who has made a contribution, but to all of you, please accept this *Thank you* for a job well done and much appreciated.

Yours sincerely, **Richard Page MP**

In response I can list the names of those involved as follows:-

Graham Judge, Moira Logan, Trevor Crossley, Trevor Gilbert, Barry Grant, Ian McLachlan, Mark Saxon, Nick Bennett, Felicity Bull, Mike & Jean Dix, Alan Howard, John, Molly & David Hedges; to which should be added Joyce Newton who has organised the Brownies & the Maypole for many years.

95 Baldwins Lane.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Croxley Green Society, I would like to express a very sincere thankyou to John Hedges, Graham Judge and all the organising Committee for all time and effort they put into making the *Revels* such a happy and successful family fun day.

The *Revels* have now become one of the major events in the local calendar. A time when friends and acquaintances can meet and join in all the fun of the fair, and at the same time have a fling on some of the stalls and in so doing help the local charities and organisations. A time when people come from far and near to join in the carnival atmosphere. Long may it continue! Here's looking forward to even bigger and better things for 17th June 1995!!

Mike Dix - Chairman, C G Society.

ROAD SAFETY QUIZ - REVELS

103 contestants took part in the Road Safety Quiz run by the Croxley Green Road Safety Committee on the occasion of this year's *Revels*. Although there were no all-correct score cards the level of scoring was high. The following individuals (Croxy Green residents unless stated) were awarded prizes:-

11 Correct - £5 voucher.

Lewis Duncan, Eastman (Rick'worth), P Frost, Georgina Sears (Rick'worth), Dave Hart (Watford), M. Humphrey, C. Milner (Watford), G. Tinsby,

10 Correct - £2 voucher.

P. Arthur, J.J. Charnley, Ann Frost, Kathryn Harris, Simon Harris, Kim Harkison, Meagan Hempel, David Hedges, R Kirke, Gillian O'Keefe, Jenny O'Keefe, Charlotte O'Grady (Bushey), Sanders, S.M. Sherriff, D. Simpson, Mrs C. Wilson.

The committee would like to thank all those who participated and trust that everyone uses the roads with safety in mind.

C Green Road Safety Committee.

A HELPING HAND

Just as the Library has risen, phoenix-like, from the ashes, so its neighbour, the British Red Cross Centre and Welcome Club has survived the intense heat and smoke damage with the subsequent trials of a building site on its doorstep. We are now fully refurbished and fully operational.

Historically the first brick of the present building was laid by George Wilcox, the founder of the Welcome Club for pensioners in Croxy Green, on 17th July 1965. We believe that it was the first time that County and Local Government authorities combined with a voluntary organisation, the BRCS, to finance a public building. It was the residents of Croxy Green who rallied to support an appeal for the extra £3000 needed to equip the Centre.

That same Welcome Club continues to flourish and is open to local residents over the age of 60. Coffee is sold every morning and hot lunches are available four days a week, Tuesday to Friday. Every Saturday there is an afternoon meeting with live entertainment. Transport can be arranged for those unable to walk. Group holidays are arranged annually and names are already being registered for Eastbourne in September 1995.

During the week you can enjoy Ballroom Dancing on Mondays and Thursdays, Whist on Tuesdays and Bingo on Wednesdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The BRCS trained group also run a full programme. Their First Aid courses last year attracted more than 40 candidates. They meet on a Monday evening at

8.00pm. The Youth Group meets at 6.00pm the same evening and the Junior Group meets on Wednesdays at 6.00pm.

The Centre also operates a medical loan scheme and over 400 loans were made last year. There is a constant demand for wheelchairs and commodes, particularly from patients who have just been discharged from hospital.

The building is home to a wide variety of evening activities - Brownies, Rainbows, the Wine Guild, the Flower Arranging Group, Keep Fit, International Folk Dancing and the Sunny Side Club. It is a Saturday morning venue for Jumble Sales and week-end bookings are available for family parties.

A Centre of this kind is expensive to run and it is sustained by a devoted team of fund-raisers. On the third Saturday of each month they hold their Market. Articles can be brought in for sale - a percentage is given to the BRCS - or donated. We particularly welcome gifts of bric-a-brac.

The Centre flourishes because we are supported by a dedicated team of voluntary helpers. If you can spare time and would like to join us then please contact us at the Centre.

- If we had four more drivers, operating just one Saturday afternoon a month each, we could make it possible for four more less able to reach the Welcome Club.
- We need help in serving tea on Saturday afternoon.
- There is always need of another pair of hands at the Saturday Market as stallholder, knitter or cake-baker.
- The office has to be manned each morning - 10.00am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday.

ANY OFFERS? - Call us on 720485.

We thank the residents of Croxy Green for their encouraging support.

George Ward - Centre Organiser.

MEMORIES

THANKYOU - to all those residents who came to see the slides of *Old Croxy* at the AGM of The Residents' Association last April. Approximately 100 people came to the Methodist Church Hall. Croxy Green, in mind and in spirit, was at large that evening. About 200 slides were shown, on a journey round the village, showing how Croxy Green was at the turn of the century up to the present time. and how changes have taken place. No pretence was made to my knowledge, other than what I have gleaned from the relatively short time I have lived here. I am very fortunate, having been introduced to the history of Croxy Green, by my late friend Harry Packman, and the response by

residents in loaning family photographs to copy and reproduce on to slides. As I explained during the evening, it is an *idea* to collate the memories of Croxy Green recalled by residents and to record for all time a history for Croxy Green.

To record the yesterday of Croxy Green does not necessarily mean decades ago. Time is important at all stages for our children who are set projects at school or for their group activities for badge work outside school. To help them understand how/what the past meant to their parents/grandparents can hopefully guide them in future decisions which they may have to make. If you would like to record part of your life, either individually, as a group, or by setting children at school/group a task, within their activity, to research part of someone else's memories, then these could all be collated.

Some ideas to get you going:-

- a) A day in the life of..... 1952? '72?
- b) How did you celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II?
- c) Was a particular year at the *Revels* memorable to you? Did you take part on a float?
- d) Have you a particular walk you enjoy?
- e) School days?
- f) The shops in New Road - now gone - do you remember a particular visit?
- g) What was it like to work at the Mill?
- h) What did you look forward to?

A few sentences/a short paragraph.

If you would like to contribute, please send your *Memories* to me. Thank you.

Margaret Pomfret - 42 Repton Way

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

The Croxy Green Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators have now set up meetings regularly every three months. These are simply for the local co-ordinators and their assistants to meet and discuss issues relevant to our community. They have been well attended and our Community Officer attends to give *on-the-spot* information where he can. At the most recent meeting, a representative from a security company came to demonstrate alarms, from personal to the latest home security. It was agreed that no *selling* would be used and the meeting found this most useful and informative.

If you feel that your area/street would be interested in joining the scheme and you wish to gain more information or details of when these meetings are arranged please contact me. I will be pleased to help. I would also be pleased to hear from anyone, in Fuller Way and Barton Way, who could help with the delivery of *The Watch*, our regular newsletter.

**Derek Thompson - Area Co-ordinator
239a New Road. 0923 778979.**



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