



# The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Hedges  
Assisted by: Molly Hedges

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## C.G.R.A. COMMITTEE

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Kay Raggett (Vice-President)

Chairman - Position vacant.

Vice-Chairman - Position vacant.

Secretary : Position vacant.

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All sponsored parish councillors are ex-officio members, they are:- David Bains, Roger Cattermoult, Tim Davis, John Hedges, Brian Norman, Margaret Pomfret, Lesley Rees and Mark Rumsey.

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

## EDITORIAL

Not that this edition is anything else but it is necessary. So, perhaps you'll forgive me - just this once.

The success of the Residents' Association and, in particular *The Resident*, belies our problems. Appeals for help have fallen on deaf ears. *If it ain't broke - why fix it?* Well, perhaps this edition will tell you why. Please read it.

## IS THIS THE LAST EDITION OF THE RESIDENT?

Dramatic words - a bold statement - but unfortunately it could be true.

We are currently unable to fill necessary posts. Just glance to the left and you will see that we have no Chairman - no Vice-Chairman - and (most critically) - no Secretary. This means that the Association cannot continue.

We do have the rump of a Committee but, apart from those indicated as holding posts - important posts - there is no one else. The former office holders have had to resign due to pressure of work and Parish Councillors cannot be expected to, nor is it appropriate that they should, serve in any official capacity.

So, we have, as an emergency measure, decided to issue this Special Edition and to hold a Special General Meeting. It is now over to you. Read this carefully and please respond - it is now up to you !!!

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

With the sole purpose of electing a new Committee  
and saving the Association

to be held at  
The Parish Office, Community Way  
on  
TUESDAY 30th JUNE 1998  
at 8.00 pm

Your presence and willingness to serve is essential if the Association is to continue!!!

## **WHY DO WE HAVE - OR NEED - A RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION?**

The Residents' Association was founded in 1939 to fight the residents' corner in a main drainage scheme. It has fought successfully on many occasions but only seldom does such a fight become necessary and the fortunes of this Association have fluctuated with the demand. Nevertheless it has continued, sometimes strong - sometimes weaker, ever since.

***The Resident*** has been a feature almost from the beginning. Sometimes it has had a crusade to fight but, more often, it has been just a chatty newsletter which people seem to like. That is certainly true of more recent editions but its variety is something of which we can be proud.

It has always been difficult to find people willing to collect subscriptions but, strangely enough, it has been comparatively easy to find deliverers. If they are willing then they must value it. That is what makes me think that it is a worthwhile object in itself.

***The Resident*** is self-financing, due to the generosity of its Advertisers. It is also produced on a shoe-string budget, very little expense except for printing. The regular contributors are very willing and, from comments received, their efforts are appreciated. As you can see, the people involved are willing to continue, at least at present. So, that is no bar. However, it is important that we have the strength of an active Association behind us.

### **This is necessary for two reasons.**

Firstly we need a publisher. No newsletter can be issued by law without the backing of a responsible body. Our name has to feature on the copy. Any ad hoc body would quickly find it too difficult.

Secondly, should the present Editor, Advertisement Manager or Treasurer be unable to continue - then new personnel would need to be found. With a backing Association this can be done - without, it would be difficult if not impossible.

I hope these arguments are convincing enough in themselves - but, if not, read on. There are more arguments, perhaps more important to you.

With the advent of a Parish Council, in 1986, it was felt, by some, that the Residents' Association would become superfluous. Its care and scrutiny of all things to do with Croxley Green would be taken over by the Parish Council. To a certain extent this is true. With statutory funding the Parish Council is able to address environmental concerns and, with conscientious Councillors, look after local interests. At the moment at any rate.

A number of us decided at that time that, if the Parish Council was to be an independent body with no party-political allegiance and agenda, then we would need to seek to be elected. At that first election all 16 elected councillors were nominees of the Residents' Association. At two further elections, not to mention by-elections, we have also been successful but, due to a difficulty in finding suitable candidates, we are now only eight in number. Some newer councillors are still independents but there has, inevitably, been some party-political input. Whilst this is not bad in itself, in my opinion, Party-political control would be.

Residents' sponsored candidates hold, and have held, major positions on the Parish Council. They have always endeavoured to serve all the people of Croxley Green and have listened to all representations. This has proved a strength which has ensured that the Council should develop as a meaningful body. We are listened to by Three Rivers District Council and other statutory bodies. In association with our fellow Parish Councils we have a strong voice and an informed voice.

Personally, I could not continue to serve as a party nominee and other influential councillors feel the same way. The fact is that we would not even have considered standing for election unless we could be independent. Without ***The Resident*** we would stand little chance of election for no-one would know us. A true independent, with no backing, stands as much chance of being elected as winning the lottery. I'm no statistician but the odds are phenomenal. Through the pages of ***The Resident*** you have come to know us and, I hope, trust us.

If you can agree with my arguments - if you are willing to stand up and be counted - if you are not afraid of a little work for your community - then see us at the Revels but, more importantly come to our meeting - willing to offer in any capacity. **This means you !!!**

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RESIDENT**

**What exactly does a Residents' Association Member do?**

Approximately every 2 months a meeting is arranged to attend to and discuss local issues.

**Where would these be held?**

Meetings take place in the Parish Council Offices, Community Way.

**How long do these meetings last?**

Meetings start at 8 pm and last for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

**What does this add up to in 1 year?**

Approximately 6 meetings a year  
@ 1 hour 30 minutes = 9 hours  
= **ONE WORKING DAY**

**How does the Residents Association relate to the Parish Council.**

In 1986 a Parish Council was set up by a group of residents - some 100 years after many parishes had considered this.

The Residents' Association decided to nominate candidates for this new body and won all 16 seats.

Croxley Green was administered through Rickmansworth Urban District Council. (prior to the advent of Three Rivers District Council).

**Why do we need a Parish Council?**

Many long-standing residents remember how John Dickinson provided the work force and village with an Institute/ Guildhouse that was to become the centre of the village where every conceivable activity was catered for.

Croxley Green had also been blessed with Residents who would look after all these activities and provide all the necessary organisational skills to maintain them.

**What has this got to do with today?**

In 1965 after a fire destroyed part of the Guildhouse where a great deal of these

activities took place, the remainder was closed down in the 1970's. The land was sold and flats were built on this site.

The patriarchal society, that had served the village so well, was now defunct.

Although Three Rivers District Councillors represent the community Parish Councils, once considered a thorn in the side of the higher tiers of Government, are now able to exert considerable influence and have substantial resources at their disposal to act and to contribute positively to the debate on local change and conservation.

**What is Croxley Green Today?**

Shops and houses.

Common Moor/Croxley Hall Woods/The Green Village activities eg. The Revels.

The Library/Red Cross Centre.

Schools/Group activities/Stones Orchard.

Open spaces eg Recreational areas.

The River Gade/ River Chess/ The Canal.

Long Valley Woods.

An attractive countryside on the doorstep.

**What does Croxley Green mean to You?**

**Why are these things important to Croxley Green?**

Croxley Green is not just another Hertfordshire village - it is a place where Residents choose to live all their lives and people like myself choose to join them.

Many residents move away, but so many have chosen to return.

Croxley Green can be given opportunities that fulfil the needs of a Community in every respect.

All these things require looking after and managing now - for our future generations.

They are part of our everyday living.

Sometimes changes have to be made.

Whilst we hold on to and remember the past, we juggle with the best for the future.

## **Who can do this?**

YOU can achieve this

## **How can YOU do this?**

By giving up the equivalent of one working day a year and coming to the Residents' Association meetings and having an input into the way in which you would like your Parish to continue to be a nice place to live in.

## **POST SCRIPT**

Do you know that the Croxley Green Parish Council is still free of Party Politics because the Residents' Association still sponsor candidates?

The majority of the Council is made up from residents, like myself, who are willing to give the Residents' Association the equivalent of

### **ONE WORKING DAY A YEAR**

Put in perspective - that is not very much.

**PLEASE, COULD YOU MAKE THIS COMMITMENT - TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Parish Cllr Margaret Pomfret.

## **MORE EDITORIAL**

I hope that Margaret and I have convinced you of the importance of this matter. At least, we have done our best.

In conversation with other sponsored Parish Councillors we believe that most feel the same as we do. That is, that without the backing of the Residents' Association we should not be able to continue as Parish Councillors as being Political Party nominated candidates would not be acceptable to us. Indeed, what attracted us in the first place was the non-party backing of the Residents' Association. Where else would we get that backing?

This is your chance to show your trust in the Association and in the Parish Council, as represented by us. Are you willing to take over the task of any of the Officers? Or to offer as a Parish Councillor? Or to become just an ordinary committee member. Act now !!!

## **AN IMPORTANT ISSUE**

One burning issue for our whole community is, of course, the future of Watford General and Mount Vernon Hospitals.

Will one or both of them be closed. Are we to find the whole of our health provision moved to Hemel Hempstead or some other spot that will be difficult to reach, especially for our Senior Citizens.

This could be disastrous.

We, as a Residents' Association, should be supporting the retention of these essential facilities. It is true that we have a place on the Mount Vernon **Voice** committee but we shall lose this if we cease. We are also unable to write or argue our corner without the proper officers.

Is the Residents' Association to be declared defunct just when we have a crusade to fight?

It is true that there is a special group set up for this purpose but, as I have often said before, two voices are better than one and twice as effective.

Over the years we have been listened to by our local authorities and our views respected. It is true that the advent of the Parish Council has changed this relationship a little but we can still be heard.

### **Don't let that change now?**

For your information we are now in a consultation period until the end of September. We need to speak up in that time. Will you help?

### **REVELS 1998.**

You wouldn't believe that it was me writing this if I didn't remind you of this important event.

### **Don't Forget**

**Saturday 20th June 1988.**