

# CROXLEY COMMUNITY NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.

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FEBRUARY—MARCH 1949.

## EDITORIAL

As foretold in our last issue, we have been able to blossom out into an eight-page publication and hope that, as a result, we have been able to provide more to interest you.

We have been able to find space for contributions which would have been impossible in the former meagre space available, which means that you will have more material with which to stimulate your own views and opinions on matters concerning our community.

If so, why not try passing them on to others? We shall be only too pleased to give space to any letter or article considered likely to interest the rest of us. A suggestion for a subject is shown as a competition on this page—why not HAVE A GO!

The next issue will be published in April-May and will contain several important contributions by local personalities dealing with present day conditions in Croxley Green.

We hope to continue the wider publication to bring our "News" to the notice of all residents.

## RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### DOWN UNDER . . . . .

Sir Patrick Abercrombie, the eminent authority on Town Planning has recently concluded a tour of Australia. Interviewed at Perth, Western Australia he is reported to have said he was glad to find various Town and Country Residents' Associations. In England he said, similar Associations had been extremely active in "pepping up" the authorities.

## HAVE A GO !!!

Here is a chance for you to spend an interesting hour—or evening, maybe—with the opportunity of winning a useful cash prize.

You are invited to write a letter—not more than 200 words—answering the following question:—

### WHY DO YOU PREFER NON-PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE COUNCIL?

A whole list of reasons will no doubt immediately come to mind—write them down in the form of a letter and post to the Chairman:—

Mr. R. King-Jones,  
98 Baldwins Lane,  
Croxley Green.

Your letter will be judged with all other entries and the one considered the best will be published in the next issue.

The writer will receive a cash prize of £1/1/-. Come on—HAVE A GO!

## BARGAIN SALE

*of Children's Wear*

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# What *IS* the Residents' Association?

There must be few—if any—in this district who have not at some time or other come across some mention of the "Croxley Green Residents' Association." Probably, however, during the present increased issue of this "Community News," some copies will come into the hands of those who know of the Association only as a name and are unaware of its background and what it stands for.

For these people the following brief account will no doubt be of interest.

Founded some two years before the War, the Association soon gained for itself the attention of residents and local authorities alike in its campaign for a WATER SOFTENING system to be installed at the water works. This campaign did not meet with the ultimate success that was later accorded to the Association's efforts in preventing the introduction of a GREYHOUND RACING Track into Croxley Green.

The intervention of the War postponed further activities but they were resumed when hostilities ceased by a determined effort to improve the various services and amenities so many of which were completely lacking as a result of mal-administration in the past.

Whilst bad planning in the North side of Croxley made it impossible for a SHOPPING CENTRE to be provided to occupy its proper place in the area, it was felt that some improvement to the existing shopping facilities could be made. A referendum was taken of the Association's members as to the most popular site and the findings made known to the Council. This information will be utilized when labour and materials are available for the necessary building to commence.

In the meantime, it is borne in mind that a temporary easing of the housewife's burden can be given in an improvement in the BUS SERVICES to take her to Watford, Rickmansworth and the existing shops in Croxley Green. Considerable time and effort has already been given to this problem and will continue until a really satisfactory service is evolved.

A definite assistance to the housewife has already been achieved by the provision of a FOOD OFFICE in Croxley Green North. Many obstacles presented themselves and were finally overcome and the resulting Office has been found well worth the effort.

During the War, a new and growing generation began to make its appearance and this brought to light the inadequacy of SCHOOLS in Croxley. Finding that application through the normal channels showed only evidence of the restrictions, shortages of labour and materials and similar present-day obstacles to be overcome, the Association made a direct approach to the Member of Parliament for the district, Mr. John Freeman, and through him to the Ministry of Education itself.

As a result, work was commenced on the two schools now reaching completion and to which it is understood will be finally added more to complete the educational programme for Croxley Green.

A most important item, on which probably more time than any other has been expended is ROAD SAFETY. Through the Association's representative on the Road Safety Committee and through correspondence and personal application every effort has been made to make Croxley roads safe for all. In particular, the danger points at the L.M.S. and Met. Railway Stations have been carefully studied and plans for Safety Crossings approved by the responsible authorities. Whilst again lack of man-power and the necessary materials prevents immediate action being taken in regard to the Association's approved suggestions, we have been given assurance of attention at the earliest possible moment.

During this time, scores of applications have been put forward in connection with the many and varied matters which affect the well-being of our community—such matters as:—

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES**—including Clinics, Maternity Centre, Sanitation, Pig-bins and Rubbish Dumping;

**ROADS**—being made up and repaired, Lighting, Telephone Kiosks, Fire Alarms, etc., etc.

The Association also supplies a very keenly felt need by its SOCIAL ACTIVITIES and its Dances, Socials, Whist Drives and Film Shows are much enjoyed. As a means of creating and sustaining interest in Local Affairs, the Association holds OPEN MEETINGS at regular intervals at which Croxley Green Councillors are invited to answer questions from the floor. These meetings are appreciated both by the audience and also by our local councillors who are thus enabled to give an account of their stewardship.

In conformity with its constitution, the Association nominates candidates at all LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

These candidates have met with considerable success in the past since they have the support of all those who feel, as we do, that national party politics have no place in the Council Chamber.

The Association has gained strong numerical support in its undertakings and is proud to have at its head the following well-known local personalities:—

President—Dr. Allan F. Miller.

Vice-Presidents—Dr. A. L. Ferguson.

Rev. Raymond S. Wilkinson.

Mr. L. Young.

Mr. A. E. Jeffery.

We invite you to join us in our endeavours to secure the best for YOURSELF as well as the rest of Croxley. It is to a great extent due to the size of our organisation that we have been able to achieve so much in the past and have such high hopes for the future.

H.W.R.F.

## WRITING ON THE WALL

The Clerk to the Exbridge Somerset Rural Council has resigned from his £1,100 per year post because he considers present day tendencies are suppressing initiative.

Announcing his decision he is reported to have "found it difficult to reconcile his views with the removal of control of local affairs to remote bodies and authorities."

This had inevitably resulted in complicated and costly administration arrangements and the by-passing of local initiative, knowledge and experience.

.....

There is likely to be a swing in favour of independence in local government when the results of the spring elections are known.

Throughout the country Residents and Ratepayers Associations are active and energetically pursuing their campaign to banish for ever the fear of political domination.

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**20 WEEKS TO PAY 20**

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**ERIC NORMAN'S WEEKLY CLUBS**  
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**20 WEEKS TO PAY 20**

## WE HEAR . . .

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The closure of the footpath from Lincolns Way to Lincoln Drive and from Lincoln Drive to Little Green Lane was agreed at the Epiphany meeting of the Herts. Quarter Sessions.

.....

The cost of concrete strips for cricket practice on recreation grounds is to be considered by the appropriate Council Committee.

.....

We understand that the Open Spaces are to be reviewed in July.

.....

Golf balls are being driven from the Council's subsidised Golf Course into adjacent resident's garden. More ratepayers' money may now be required to effect alteration to the course.

.....

The Swimming Bath, Ebury Road, Rickmansworth will be opened during this year.

.....

The Herts. County Council estimates reveal plans to spend a further £204,000 on Education for the current year, making a total of £4,003,607 to be found from all sources.

The £204,000 to be found from local sources will mean an increase of eightpence on the present rate.

.....

A Road Patrol will be on duty at the junction of Barton Way and New Road.

.....

Orders to proceed with the street lighting from Manor Way across the Green to Cophorne Way, have been given and we understand that the light at the fork on the Green will be alight all night.

## CHAIRMAN

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So many people are of the opinion that Conservatives, Liberals or Communists their LO AL

This Association does not subscribe to that view imposed upon our local affairs.

We, as individuals, cannot influence the Nation we can see to it that our local affairs, dealing as they as a community, are conducted without recourse to the proceedings. We can see to it that suggestions may receive equal consideration according to their merit from an unpopular source.

I know of instances, as no doubt do you, where the community have been rejected out of hand for no movement that bore the stamp of extreme tendencies.

That is what tends to happen when local representatives of a National party and when your local members

This Association has always stood for "NO PARTY" it today. We believe the best interests of all are served is to the people they represent.

It matters not one jot that you be Socialist, Communist, same amenities, your children attend the same schools, beauties that surround Croxley Green and deplore the

Wherein lies the difference in us as individuals difference in the aims and objects of members of the

On the other hand, can a party, composed of fixed doctrines, represent people who differ from the sympathetic consideration to a suggestion coming from a Labour Councillor give sympathetic consideration displaying an obvious capitalistic attitude, sponsorship

They that do so are the exception and not the rule, and prejudices the mind in favour of deep reflection

Party strife may be a popular pastime but it does not come the way of residents are only those reflecting

And what of the records of the local parties to date? Has either one claimed to have achieved anything? Not concerned with in its early stages? No. The records, closely analysed, was not primarily the concern of the

We do not boast that we have never been wrong, but our knowledge, our attitude on many things in the past that we do not take major decisions without recourse to under consideration and then only after due regard has been effected.

If at the local elections next May you find you conscientious of their responsibilities as members of the Association weigh very earnestly the names of those who claim GREEN, OWING ALLEGIANCE TO NO ONE

# 'S LETTER

... in NATIONAL politics they are Socialists,  
... politics must of necessity be of the same colour.  
... but believes that National issues should not be

... al political order of things to any great extent but  
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... ls living in Croxley Green and wherein lies the  
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... self amongst the 30-35% of the electorate sufficiently  
... his community to use their vote, I trust you will  
... your support as CROXLEY MEN FOR CROXLEY  
... UT THE PEOPLE OF CROXLEY GREEN.

R. KING—JONES

# . . . AND OBSERVE

The Rickmansworth Urban District Council have discussed a complaint that leakages of facts to the public have occurred prior to publication of Council proceedings.

.....

Extra street lamps are to be erected in Croxley Green and certain lamps will be kept alight all night. It was said that the saving effected on a lighting scheme for Maple Cross would pay for the Croxley scheme. Croxley however provides enough revenue to demand this as a right.

.....

The Post Office are sending out "detector vans" for the purpose of locating "pirate" sets being operated in the locality.

.....

Permission has been granted for the residential development of Station Estate (Winton Drive and Winton Crescent) Croxley Green.

.....

Dr. Edith Summerskill has stated that it is impossible to tell margarine from butter provided the taster is blindfolded.

We in Croxley can distinguish untainted or unflavoured local government from that flavoured by political influence whether we are blindfolded or not!

.....

Almost every voice is being raised on the question of an augmented Bus Service—no doubt wishing to be in at the kill. Your Residents' Association has been pursuing this for a lengthy period and can justly claim to have done more than any other organisation to secure a satisfactory decision.

.....

The London Transport Executive are to be pressed for immediate provision of Bus Shelters at Repton Way/Baldwins Lane, and Lancing Way/Baldwins Lane.

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

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So many people are of the opinion that because in NATIONAL politics they are Socialists, Conservatives, Liberals or Communists their LOCAL politics must of necessity be of the same colour.

This Association does not subscribe to that view but believes that National issues should not be imposed upon our local affairs.

We, as individuals, cannot influence the National political order of things to any great extent but we can see to it that our local affairs, dealing as they do with matters affecting the amenities of our life as a community, are conducted without recourse to the futile practices which partisan strife lends to such proceedings. We can see to it that suggestions emanating from any corner of the political field will receive equal consideration according to their merits and not be thrust aside because they originate from an unpopular source.

I know of instances, as no doubt do you, when well thought out ideas for the betterment of the community have been rejected out of hand for no better reason than that they had their origin in a movement that bore the stamp of extreme tendencies.

That is what tends to happen when local representatives are elected because they stand under the banner of a National party and when your local matters are confused with National issues.

This Association has always stood for "NO PARTY IN LOCAL AFFAIRS" and we stand for it today. We believe the best interests of all are served by local men and women whose only loyalty is to the people they represent.

It matters not one jot that you be Socialist, Conservative, Liberal or Communist, you enjoy the same amenities, your children attend the same school, you use the same 'buses, or you admire the beauties that surround Croxley Green and deplore the absence of planning in Croxley's early development.

Wherein lies the difference in us as individuals living in Croxley Green and wherein lies the difference in the aims and objects of members of the local parties and those of this Association?

On the other hand, can a party, composed of people who think alike and believe only in certain fixed doctrines, represent people who differ from those beliefs? Would a Conservative Councillor give sympathetic consideration to a suggestion coming from a representative of the Communist party? Would a Labour Councillor give sympathetic consideration to a suggestion emanating from some organisation displaying an obvious capitalistic attitude, sponsoring free enterprise and the interests of vested finance?

They that do so are the exception and not the rule. The human physiology displays its weakness and prejudices the mind in favour of deep rooted convictions.

Party strife may be a popular pastime but it does not produce wise administration. Such benefits as come the way of residents are only those reflected from the furtherance of the party doctrine.

And what of the records of the local parties towards improving the amenities of Croxley Green? Has either one claimed to have achieved anything which this Association has not initiated or been concerned with in its early stages? No. The records of parties contain little of merit which, when closely analysed, was not primarily the concern of the Croxley Green Residents' Association.

We do not boast that we have never been wrong. We do not claim that, in the light of subsequent knowledge, our attitude on many things in the past could not have been different. What we do claim is that we do not take major decisions without recourse to the people with major concern in the matter under consideration and then only after due regard to its ultimate effect on the concerns of others less effected.

If at the local elections next May you find yourself amongst the 30-35% of the electorate sufficiently conscientious of their responsibilities as members of this community to use their vote, I trust you will weigh very earnestly the names of those who claim your support as CROXLEY MEN FOR CROXLEY GREEN, OWING ALLEGIANCE TO NO ONE BUT THE PEOPLE OF CROXLEY GREEN.

R. KING—JONES

## CORRESPONDENCE

18th January.

The Chairman,  
Rickmansworth Urban District Council,  
Council Offices,  
Rickmansworth.

Dear Sir,

I am requested by my Committee that you should be made aware that this Association views with grave disquiet the action of the Council in endorsing the allocation of available accommodation to Mrs. Dickenson-Cheetham.

It is felt that their action was not in keeping with a previous Housing Manager's assurances to our representative of absolute fairness and impartiality in the Council's system of allocation.

Consequent upon this, it is the view of the Association that the action taken in this matter has gone far to destroy public confidence in the competence of individuals composing the Housing Committee to discharge their duties with the unscrupulous impartiality which the public have every right to expect of them, and further, has adversely affected the prestige of the Council.

If there are any means open to the Council by which they may vindicate the complete integrity of all concerned my Association consider that such steps should be taken, in order that the confidence of the public may be regained.

Yours faithfully,

for CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSN.

.....  
25th January, 1949.

Dear Sir,

The Chairman of the Council has requested me to reply to your letter of the 18th January upon the grant of housing accommodation to Mrs. Dickinson-Cheetham.

The Chairman feels that the terms of your letter indicate that your Association has not been fully informed of all the circumstances bearing on the case. He would be glad of the opportunity of correcting any wrong impression there may be and for this purpose he and the Chairman of the Housing Committee, Councillor Chavasse, would be pleased to meet the Committee of your Association and explain the reasons why the Council

made this decision and why they consider it to be right and just.

Yours faithfully,

C. G. RANSOME WILLIAMS,  
Clerk to the Council.

F. W. Withers, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Croxley Green Residents' Association,  
10, Richmond Way,  
Croxley Green, Herts.

.....

**Secretary adds:**— The above is published without comment at this stage except to state that the offer of Dr. Pears and Mr. Chavasse to meet this committee has been accepted.

.....

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

### GRAND NATIONAL DRAW

As usual, tickets are available on application to any Street Steward or Committee member.

All counterfoils and unsold tickets to be returned by March 18th.

Collect yours NOW.

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DELIVERIES DAILY

## RESIDENTS AT BUS MEETING

Representatives of the Croxley Green Residents' Association were present at a meeting sponsored by the local Labour party on 27th January. This meeting, which was for the purpose of discussing the 334 'bus route also attracted members of the Labour and Conservative parties, the local Chamber of Commerce, several local traders and a number of Councillors.

In the constructive debate on the 'bus situation which developed, the Residents' Association members were able to give information and advice based upon extensive experience in recent activities of the Association.

Mr. Griffith, of the Association's Highways & Open Spaces Committee, made the point that the existing routing of the 334 service via Watford West results in 'buses on the return journey being filled at Market Street with people travelling only half the journey so that shoppers from Baldwins Lane were still unable to get on the Manor Way 'bus.

He suggested, therefore, that the service should run via Watford Junction, Queens Road, High Street, Rickmansworth Road and Baldwins Lane, with a view to its extension, as early as possible, via the Green to the Croxley Met. Station with an alternative route through to Rickmansworth.

Councillor Gurney added many useful contributions to the discussion, pointing out the difficulties involved in some of the suggested routes.

It was finally resolved that all organisations should press the Herts County Council to make necessary alterations to the corner of Baldwins Lane to enable the Manor Way service to be extended to the Met. Station.

## CROXLEY GREEN FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

### SPRING PROGRAMME

Wednesday at 7.30, Old Boys' School  
CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Feb. 16th Dr. A. L. Ferguson, "How the Health Scheme is Working Out."  
Admission to the above, free to Centre Member, others 1/- the series.
- Feb. 23rd Mr. C. H. Lowings (Deputy Clerk R.U.D.C.) "Election Procedure"
- Mar. 2nd Mr. C. H. Lowings "The Clerks Department"
- Mar. 9th Mr. A. H. Gardner (Treasurer, R.U.D.C.) "The Finance Department"
- Mar. 16th Mr. C. R. Alexander (Senior Sanitary Inspector R.U.D.C.) "Public Health"
- Mar. 23rd Mr. R. W. Annear (Surveyor, R.U.D.C.) "The Surveyor's Department"
- Mar. 30th Mr. J. Godbehere (Asst. Surveyor) "Town Planning"

Admission to the above series on Local Government—free to Centre members, others 1/- the series

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### LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Tuesdays, 7.15, Old Boys' School—Fee 1/-

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### PLAY READING and DRAMATIC GROUP

Tuesday, 7.30, Old Boys' School  
Apply to Mrs. F. Carritt, 254 Baldwins Lane

.....

### TO BE ANNOUNCED MUSICAL FESTIVAL

Apply to Mr. Cripps, 12 Harvey Road

.....

### PRACTICAL ART GROUP

Apply to Secretary

MEMBERSHIP. The Session runs from September to April and fees are as follows:— Individuals 5/-. 2/6 under 21; Blocks of 5 tickets held by organisations £1, or 10/- to youth organisations. Fees are halved on joining after January 1st. Apply to Hon. Sec., R. W. Nurse, 19 Hazelwood Road, Croxley Green (Telephone Watford 7992).

FAMILY BUTCHER

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2576

# A. E. DARVILL

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