

# CROXLEY COMMUNITY NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.

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JUNE—JULY 1949.

## Editorial

On Saturday, May 14, some 60 per cent of the electorate of Croxley Green (North) Ward responded to the call to elect two representatives to the Rickmansworth Urban District Council. Those who were sufficiently keen to attend the count were able to have early intimation that the result was:—

Barton	(Cons.)	669
Griffith	(Res.)	630
Gurney	(Res.)	676
Pitkin	(Lab.)	1051
Wise	(Lab.)	967
Young	(Cons.)	700

From the above result, Mr. Pitkin was returned to the Council for the full period of three years and Mrs. Wise took the place of the F. J. Reeds who resigned and will therefore be in office for the coming year.

From the Association's point of view, whilst this was disappointing, it cannot be regarded as discouraging when the full facts are considered. In a three-cornered contest, particularly where political influences are taking part, the extent to which public feeling is attracted towards—or more especially against—any one of the political parties is somewhat unpredictable and an analysis of the results over the past few years does little to assist. It is sufficient to say that the response to the Association's policy completely justified contesting the election and showed that a considerable proportion of the electorate are not swayed either one way or the other by the swing of the political pendulum but remain firmly behind the independent attitude of this Association.

It is necessary whilst on the subject of the election result to deal with an expression of opinion which has been made from various people. It is that "the Residents' Association split the vote and gave the seats to the Labour Party"! A moment's thought will prove how fantastic is this statement—convenient as it may be as a "face-saver" in certain quarters. The actual fact is, of course, that it was not the Residents' Association who split the vote for the

following obvious reasons:—

Firstly, this Association nominated candidates for the Council long before the political parties became interested in so doing.

Secondly, both seats being contested in the North Ward had been held by Residents' Association nominees, Mr. Gurney and Mr. Reeds.

And thirdly, the Association's constitution, confirmed by the last annual general meeting, makes it clear that all seats on the Council shall be contested by Residents' Association's candidates.

It is hoped that this explanation, if such were needed, will clear the doubt as to the responsibility of the vote being split in this ward. The Association has for a number of years successfully won and held seats against the Labour party and would be well able to do so in the future if given the chance of a straight fight.

And now, in conclusion, let this fact be made clear to all interested bodies or individuals. This Association intends to maintain its existing policy of contesting all seats for local government where at all practicable and certainly where the seat becoming vacant has been held by a nominee of the Association. This statement is made not only to reassure those supporters who may have doubts as to our future course of action but also to kill

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the type of statement described above.

Let it be understood that, whatever occurs in other parts of the district or the country generally, whilst we are prepared to lose seats we do not intend to give them away without a fight. On the contrary, we are convinced that our policy is right and will eventually gain us the support to see the representation of Croxley Green in the hands of people who put Croxley first, last and all the way.

## **Death Watch Beetle— A Warning**

Almost without exception the exploits of the infamous death-watch beetle are well known to all those unfortunate persons who have the well-being of their public buildings and institutions at heart. Unfortunately this ravaging pest attacks without outward visible signs at the outset and the damage caused under cover so unobtrusively cannot be repaired. Such damage often necessitates the complete removal of the affected woodwork and replacement by a new structure—a very costly undertaking.

Furthermore many valuable examples of local craftsmanship and of historic and cultural association are forever lost.

Remembering these facts and their effect on local traditions and interests generally we cannot fail to notice the parallel which we now see all around us by the domination of local government by political party interests.

We see the whole structure of local government on which British democracy has been based, being attacked from within by the ravages of the political bug.

The exponents of these national philosophies must realise only too well that, by their actions at the seat of local government, they will eventually destroy the timbers which the electorate expect them to maintain.

Such then is the result of the advent of the political bug into local affairs, but possibly we may consider ourselves fortunate in that there may be every chance of combating its effects before the damage has gone too far, firstly by being ever watchful for those unmistakable signs which can be stabilised by exposure, and secondly, to eradicate for ever the whole species at the first available opportunity.

Examples of the insidious nature of this threat to our local interests may be seen and heard by any one who cares to attend the Council meetings. To see and hear the various species of political bug in operation would make any elector want the answer to the following questions:—

1. Can any man or woman claim to be serving the interests of the community as a whole when his/her actions in the Council Chamber are

governed by party philosophies and not by the needs of the district?

2. Can any such person claim to serve the whole community when his/her heart is filled with malice against those considered of a higher or lower class, remembering that electors are entitled to equal benefits as they share burdens irrespective of the so-called class to which they are supposed to belong?

3. Can these persons justify the alignment with the national policies of the various Parliamentary political parties when these parties bear no relation to the requirements and functions of local government.

4. Can these persons justify block voting and automatic opposition to proposals from those who do not hold the same political views as themselves irrespective of the nature and value of the proposal?

Let all electors therefore be vigilant, ever-watchful for those signs for which no other explanation will account, and join hands in the battle to eradicate this danger to the very foundations of our local autonomy, lest one day in the not-too-distant future we find that the activities of the political bug have so weakened and undermined our structure that we are powerless to prevent the complete demolition and have no other honour left to us but the pleasure of paying the receiver and liquidator.

There can be no better way of defence against this danger than joining the ranks of your Residents' Association and to go forward openly and healthily into the future for the good of all irrespective of party, creed or hypothetical class.

Surely to-day we have progressed sufficiently far to enable us to live side by side in mutual tolerance and goodwill whether our first spoon was gold, silver or plastic.

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TAP and ACROBATIC**

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### **Resignation of Mr. King-Jones as Chairman**

We regret to announce that Mr. R. King-Jones has found it necessary to resign from the Chairmanship of this Association: his reasons are explained in his final "Chairman's Letter" on the centre page of this issue.

It is the desire of the officers and committee to record their regret at losing his leadership in their activities and to express their warm appreciation for the way he has so ably filled that position during the past 2½ years.

In an Association such as ours, the duties of Chairman call for the utmost tact allied with firmness of approach to the many calls he has to make upon his colleagues; Mr. King-Jones possesses the happy knack of getting things done willingly—a gift not vouchsafed to every one.

Those who have worked with him during this period know the immense amount of time he

has devoted to the service of the Association and, through its medium, to people of the Croxley Green. He has fully earned a rest from his responsible duties.

### **News from Neighbouring Districts**

The sexton of West Hyde is reported as declaring that politics is even dividing the Church—a new species of death-watch beetle.

A member of the Hitchin Rural District Council has complained against day-time meetings of the Council on the grounds that, as all members were not available, the meetings assumed an undemocratic nature.

The new Oxhey U.D.C. estate residents have organised themselves into an association to protect their interests.

The chairman of the Watford Rural District Council has expressed a hope that politics will be left at home and not carried into the council chamber. The only way this can be ensured is to return only independent councillors!

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## **ERIC NORMAN'S WEEKLY CLUBS**

### **171 High Street, Rickmansworth**

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## **ERIC NORMAN'S WEEKLY CLUBS**

## WE HEAR . . .

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Although Rickmansworth U.D.C. appear to be opposed to municipal trading they have left on their hands a quantity of seed potatoes which were purchased for re-sale. These are now to be planted and the produce used in the civic restaurants—a "potato nuts" scheme!

Almost all local authorities are appealing to residents and visitors to refrain from leaving paper and other litter lying around on the open spaces and roadways. In almost all cases receptacles are provided for the depositing of this rubbish.

The action of the Rickmansworth U.D.C. Road Safety Committee in using the lamp-post display boards for a new type of safety advertising is causing much comment. No doubt this matter will be very closely watched for further developments.

The register of electors is being revised—and all persons over the age of 21 are requested to ensure that they are now included on the new register.

There is to be a conference of interested authorities to consider the hardness of the water supplied by the Colne Valley Water Co., Ltd.

The Council's Open Spaces Committee is to further consider the proposal to provide a water supply to Frankland Road allotments.

The fixing of swill bins to lamp-posts so as to prevent them being overturned by dogs is to be discussed at the June meeting of the Highways Committee of the Council. A much better idea would be to remove them from the streets altogether.

## CHAIRMAN

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The announcement that I have resigned the C page, will not come as a surprise to many of you.

I hinted at the possibility of being unable to see Meeting. The circumstances I then envisaged have

There is no political significance attached to me. I am no longer able, or, indeed, willing, to devote man have come to demand of me.

The main effort of the Association to maintain Council of Rickmansworth having passed, the time effected now, when there remains time for the new Annual General Meeting.

My interests still remain with the Association a capacity as my available time will allow.

The greatest enemy of this or any other organisation; it is the apathy of the people and particularly

The Creed which I have preached for the Re will continue to advocate is a good Creed, and one fancies which converge and recede in popular appeal time.

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Finally, may I take the opportunity of thank and support that they have extended to me during extended to my successor in even greater measure

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R. KING-JONES.

## . . . AND OBSERVE

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More and even more evidence is forthcoming  
from all quarters proving that aldermen, who have  
given good public service, are being unseated by  
party blocks. It is clear that colour is given  
preference to electors' interests.

The question of shops for Croxley Green is  
again being discussed and it is understood that  
permission is being sought to develop the land  
at junction of Winton Drive and Baldwins Lane.  
Rumour also has it that land at the top end of  
Baldwins Lane—opposite the prefab. estate—may  
also be developed for this purpose. The Divi-  
sional Planning Officer has been requested for a  
report.

The temporary branch Crown post office is  
expected to be opened at an early date, this to be  
followed with a permanent building at a later  
date.

Controlled tipping by the Railway Executive  
of clean spoil on the Frankland Road site has  
been agreed by the Council. This should enable  
this site to eventually lose its title of Croxley's  
eyesore No. 2—the Pig bins being No. 1.

The Council are appealing to all residents to  
assist them in preventing damage by children to  
street lamps.

Estimated loss on Rickmansworth Civic Restau-  
rant for the month of April is £46 including loan  
repayments. The Croxley Green Restaurant is  
estimated to show a profit of £7 for the same  
period.

A name-plate is to be affixed in Malvern Way  
opposite the pathway from Winton Crescent.

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

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The announcement that I have resigned the Chairmanship of the Association, appearing on another page, will not come as a surprise to many of our members.

I hinted at the possibility of being unable to see the year out in the office at our last Annual General Meeting. The circumstances I then envisaged have now materialised.

There is no political significance attached to my resignation; my reason is the very good reason that I am no longer able, or, indeed, willing, to devote the time and effort which of late the duties of Chairman have come to demand of me.

The main effort of the Association to maintain the representation of the district on the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth having passed, the time seemed to me to be opportune for the change to be effected now, when there remains time for the new Leadership to prepare the recommendations at our next Annual General Meeting.

My interests still remain with the Association and I shall be pleased to continue to serve it in a minor capacity as my available time will allow.

The greatest enemy of this or any other organisation is not those who contest against it at Election time; it is the apathy of the people and particularly its own membership.

The Creed which I have preached for the Residents' Association and which I hope my successors will continue to advocate is a good Creed, and one which cannot be assailed by the changing whims and fancies which converge and recede in popular appeal according to the fever heat prevailing at a particular time.

The needs of our Community remain constant and will continue so until time shall provide us with those amenities which this Association has been in the forefront in demanding.

But how much louder could any cry become if each individual resident added a whisper to that cry. How much more pressing would our needs appear if each resident took more than an armchair participation in the fight to attain our needs.

It is to be further regretted that certain sections of Croxley Green have seen fit to ply their political party trade within our area. This has resulted in confusing the minds of the people and has divided our community against itself. This division has been made, not on matters of vital concern to us as dwellers in Croxley Green, but on issues that fall within the category of National politics.

I am concerned that the people of Croxley could be so led to think their ends can best be served by expression through a political party machine rather than through individuals whose only interest is to voice the feelings of the people they represent.

The saying that a people gets the government it deserves applies here in Croxley Green, as it has applied in the sphere of National politics. The conversion of Rickmansworth Urban District Council chamber into a cockpit of party bickering is the reward of allowing your affairs to be handled for party purposes.

As has happened during the past 2½ years, the Residents' Association has faced crises with equanimity and courage. So, I am sure, it will face the future and survive to be a rock upon which Croxley will be pleased to build towards the future. To do this, I exhort all who can to lend a hand. Many hands make light the work.

Finally, may I take the opportunity of thanking officers, committee and members for the confidence and support that they have extended to me during my Chairmanship, and I hope the same will be extended to my successor in even greater measure.

R. KING-JONES.

## Notes on Local Housing

A heated exchange on the allocation of building licences by the R.U.D.C. was one of the highlights of the May meeting of the full Council.

The Rickmansworth Council have objected to the erection by Herts. C.C. of two houses for caretakers of the new schools, on the grounds that this would reduce the number allocated to the Council.

An applicant for a council house, having given false and misleading information, has had his application cancelled for two years.

Tenants of pre-fabricated houses are to be charged 5s. each time the flues are swept. This is because normal sweeping cannot be resorted to as the flues have to be swept from the top instead of the inside as is the case with ordinary flues.

All single applicants on the housing list are to be transferred to the deferred list.

Interviews with applicants for council houses are now to take place as and when necessary. Interviews previously were on Wednesdays.

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## Help Wanted

No, don't be scared—we are not asking for anything very strenuous. Just a little assistance once every two months in distributing a few copies of the "Community News."

Our Street Stewards are doing an admirable job, but they—and we—would appreciate a willing hand. If you find you can spare an hour six times a year.

Please give your name to the following:—

*North Ward*—Mr. R. CROCKER,  
26 Richmond Way.

*South Ward*—Mr. G. THOMSON,  
93 Frankland Road.

## Support from North of the Tweed

The following is an extract from a letter published recently and written by a gentleman in Scotland:—

In the old days when town council candidates were individuals and not party-stamped automatic machines, electors had a real chance to weigh up their various merits before the poll. For in those happier days a candidate stood on his own programme, and from that programme and his defence of it was possible to arrive at some conclusion as to his brain power as well as to his appearance and manners.

Now, however, we have a row of candidates ranged on one side or the other, all spoon-fed with party dope and trotting out mechanical answers on the occasions when they run up against a question that cannot be dodged.

What we have to deal with now, in fact, is an assembly of party-schooled parrots. The successful candidate of to-day doesn't need to have a brain. All that he needs to pass the electoral examination is a good memory.

Is it unfair to suggest that this is why the standard of town councillors has been steadily going down ever since party politics crept into the conduct of local affairs? After all, you can't really expect initiative and executive ability from a parrot.

We could not have expressed our own feelings better!

## NEW REGISTRATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED

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## Secretary's Report

While the Council elections and the resignation of our Chairman have necessarily been uppermost in the deliberations of the General Committee, the varied subjects brought forward by residents have not in any way been overlooked, and the following are among the many items taken up by the Association:—

### Postal Deliveries

A complaint made to the Postmaster elicited the reply that owing to staff reductions it is not possible to improve on the present postal deliveries and our request for an afternoon delivery instead of at mid-day could not be met.

### Tarring of Roads

As the ridges of loose gravel collected after tar spraying were not promptly removed a protest has been made to the Herts. County Council pointing out the danger caused to cyclists.

### Open-type Carriage, Met. Line

The proposed adoption of this type of carriage will inevitably mean a higher proportion of standing passengers on the morning run to London and we have advised the Transport Executive that we do not like the suggestion.

### Dustbins

As the collection of refuse is done street by street on set days the incidence of Monday bank holidays results in the same streets not having their dustbins emptied. We have asked the Council whether they can arrange for some suitable adjustment for bank holiday weeks.

### 385 Bus

It has been reported to us that the 385 bus frequently moves off from the parking point without stopping at the authorised bus stop and that in consequence passengers are left behind. Furthermore, even on wet days some conductors will not

let passengers board whilst at the parking point. This matter has been taken up with the Transport Executive.

### Scotts Hill

We have asked the R.U.D.C. Road Safety Committee for a "no-overtaking" sign to be put up on Scotts Hill.

## Local Transport Notes

British Railways announce that, for the convenience of long-distance travellers, accommodation is set aside on the following trains from Watford Junction: 8.58 a.m. to Liverpool; 9.5 a.m. to Manchester; and 9.23 a.m. to Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

There is pressure being brought to bear on the Railway Executive to extend the services between Croxley L.M.S. Station and Watford.

Action is being taken by all interested bodies and also the R.U.D.C. to press the Railway Executive to retain the existing type coaches in service in preference to the proposed new open type coaches.

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RICKMANSWORTH  
3323

**DELIVERIES DAILY**

We are pleased to give publicity to the following—

### **Report of Annual Meeting of Croxley Green Further Education Committee**

The first annual meeting of the Further Education Committee was held on Wednesday, May 18, in the Old Boys School, with Mr. Jeffrey, headmaster of Durrants Modern School, in the chair.

In a survey of the past year's work, Mr. Nurse, the Secretary, stated that 95 members joined the organisation and that during 1948 film shows were held, a very successful art exhibition and a music festival as well as many regular classes, one of the most popular of which was a local history class.

The officers elected for 1949 were Mr. Jeffrey (chairman) with Mr. Worthy, headmaster of the new school at Little Green Lane, as vice-chairman. Mr. Nurse was re-elected secretary and the following are the new committee: Mrs. Dimmock, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Cripps, Mrs. Carritt, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Swainson, Mr. Barton Smith, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Hedges, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Dimmock, and Mrs. Spivey. Mr. Spivey was elected treasurer. Under the new constitution, the committee were elected directly by the members instead of, as previously, being delegates from local organisations.

Suggestions for next winter's activities were a writer's evening, classes on architecture, and a drama festival, in addition to the popular features of last year.

### **Croxley Green Horticultural and Allotment Holder's Society**

The Croxley Green Horticultural and Allotment Holders' Society are endeavouring to regain their pre-war position and are aiming for a substantial increase in membership. The annual subscription is 2s. per year. What benefits does one gain by joining? We have always been aware that these did not amount to much, apart from the fact of supporting an old-established Society and thus enabling them to run an annual show which it is pleasant to visit. We are now trying to offer members other facilities. We are shortly erecting a shed for storage purposes and hope then to be able to sell seeds, fertilisers, etc., to members at favourable prices. There is also certain garden equipment for loan to members. Also it is hoped to start monthly meetings for members in the autumn when we may have lectures and discussions on matters of interest to gardeners.

We do hope that you will give us your support by becoming members of the Society. Our annual show this year is being held at the Guildhouse on September 17 and we are looking forward to a record number of entries in the open and members-only classes. Please do not be deterred by thinking that your exhibits are not good enough. Few of us are experts and, anyway, this year we have a special class for novices!

Schedules for the show and any other information regarding the Society may be obtained from the Hon. Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. R. Ramsay, 16 Rugby Way, Croxley Green, or from the undersigned at 39 Watford Road, Croxley Green.

KAY M. RAGGETT,

Hon. Secretary.

39 Watford Road, Croxley Green.

**FAMILY BUTCHER**

Tel.: Rickmansworth  
2576

# **A.E. DARVILL**

**LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSE  
ON THE PREMISES**

**134 WATFORD ROAD,  
CROXLEY GREEN**

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