

# CROXLEY COMMUNITY NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Editor: A. T. THOMSON  
93 Frankland Road.

Advertising Manager and Sub-Editor:  
W. F. HADAWAY, 83 Baldwins Lane.

No 29.

MAY—JUNE 1950.

## Editorial

There is an old established saying to the effect that "Coming events cast their shadows before", and it has proved on many occasions to be apt in relation to elections, both municipal and national. However, May 13th, 1950, was an occasion when it was singularly inappropriate so far as Croxley North Ward was concerned, for although many may have forecast the result, it is extremely doubtful if anyone foresaw the drama which attended the determination of the final figures.

### CROXLEY NORTH

This was the Ward wherein the voters created history, and it is unlikely if the annals of Rickmansworth U.D.C. will ever record a more amazing election. The ballots had to be counted four times in all before the Returning Officer declared the final figures in the early hours of Sunday, May 14th, and a weary band of officials, candidates and agents were released from tension! The result was:

Wise (Labour)	1197	Elected
Gurney (Conservative)	1164	Elected
Lindsay (Labour)	1161	Not elected
Fisher (Conservative)	1151	Not elected

Every aspect of this election was dramatic, for apart from the tense atmosphere created by repeated recounts, it will be seen that only 46 votes separated the top and bottom candidates in the poll and there was but a margin of 13 votes between three candidates!

And yet, for all the attendant drama it is a difficult matter to resist the argument of the cynic who remarked that, "Mr. Apathy topped the poll," particularly when one realises that over 40 out of 100 failed to register their vote. This fact makes it impossible for one to refrain from wondering whether the result would have been altered had a 80 per cent voting been made and if so, in what respect would the alteration have been reflected. Nevertheless, Croxley more or less maintained its reputation of being well to the forefront of the County in the percentage of votes cast, and the voters of Watford might fare worse than follow the lead in discharging one's civic responsibilities as displayed by Croxley ratepayers.

The result of this election has effectively silenced the harsh criticisms levelled at this Association in these last twelve months. The accusation of having "split the vote," is proved as unjust and our accusers in this respect will, no doubt, remain humbly silent!

Similarly the oft repeated parrot cry of "Tories in disguise" has received its death knell, and the Association takes justifiable pride in being vindicated of the charges which our friends of both the Left and Right preferred against us so unjustly.

### SOUTH WARD

The result here was:

Naughten (Conservative)	946	Elected
Boal (Labour)	657	Not elected

and not unnaturally it was overshadowed by the drama of the North Ward.

Finally may we say a word to the successful candidates.

It is our sincere wish that good luck and good health may prosper your Councillorships irrespective of the political party you may represent. May your decisions be tempered and directed at all times toward the welfare of the ratepayers who have placed their affairs in your hands.

It is to the ratepayers and to the ratepayers alone you owe allegiance—for the offspring of divided loyalties is broken pledges. Subjugate the interests of the community to the advantage of Party doctrine and you are not only failing in your duty but breaking faith with your fellow citizens.

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DELIVERIES DAILY

## Croxley Green Further Education Centre

The Annual General Meeting of the Centre was held on Thursday, May 18th, at the Old Boys' School.

Mr. A. E. Jeffery, the Chairman, summarised the past year's activities—a period of considerable achievement. He ended on a personal note, explaining that the extensive demands upon his time made it impossible for him to continue as Chairman. Thereupon Mr. Worthy was elected as his successor.

As a mark of sincere appreciation of Mr. Jeffery's Chairmanship, which office he had held since the inception of the Centre, he was unanimously elected President.

A detailed report was presented by the Secretary, Mr. Nurse; it showed the diversity of the Centre's interests. To the Secretary's lot also fell the reading of the Treasurer's report, as Mr. Spivey was unfortunately indisposed; there was a small balance in hand and the position was considered a satisfactory one.

After disposal of the usual business, an address was given by Mr. Winters, of the South-West Herts Education Office. He referred to the word "Education" in the Centre's title, and provoked quite a lively discussion regarding that particular word, which, being suggestive of "school days" and "study," might prove a deterrent to prospective new members. However, no one present could suggest a suitable new title—(we wonder if you can!)

The Centre's future programme will include:

**Local History.** Commencing June 6th, fortnightly evening expeditions under the leadership of Mr. Innocent (Lecturer on Local History). Details from Mr. Hawkins, 87 Frankland Road.

**Country Dancing.** The class will be giving a display on June 17th, as part of the Croxley Green Society's Midsummer celebrations. Autumn classes will meet each Wednesday at Durrants School.

**Current Affairs.** Debates and discussions will be included in the Autumn session, as will also the popular lectures, so well attended in the past.

Special functions, such as the Art Exhibitions and the Music Festival, will again be staged, and it is hoped to hold more Socials on the lines of the one in January last, when, at the Guildhouse, members of the various classes enjoyed a real "get-together" and voted the evening a huge success.

The Centre is eager to cater for all tastes by promoting interesting activities for the "leisure hour," and readers are invited to make their wishes known to the Secretary or any member of the Committee. All suggestions will be welcomed and if a sufficient number of persons (say a dozen) desire the same subject or attraction, a class can be formed.

The Centre exists for you! Why not use it! Contact the Secretary at 19 Hazelwood Road.

W. B.

## Chairman's Letter

Dear Members,

It is my prerogative and pleasure to have my usual letter featured as the central item in the "News," and to date I have always taken advantage of this position. However, as the Association functions for the good of all members and not merely to feature the writings of a particular officer, I am sure you will understand why I have vacated my normal position to leave this free for a letter from the Executive Officers of your Association. In doing this I am extremely happy because the unanimity of your Committee in its approach to all matters is worthy of note and publicity.

Perhaps as never before in the history of the Association it can be said that its policy and approach to the many problems which require attention are being pursued with that vigour and enthusiasm as must always accompany the efforts of those who are united in their labours. There is no need for me to refer in detail to the activities of your Committee, but I would like you to consider the many delegations sent out to represent your interests, and I can only ask that you in return will do everything within your power to support their efforts, remembering that such duties are indeed not only exacting, but are undertaken in normal "after work" hours. The only reward is that satisfaction which comes from mutual help and—your appreciation.

Yours sincerely,

T. POOLEY.

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## What Do YOU Think?

Apart from its primary official function, this publication is available not only as a medium of your views and opinions, but also as a purveyor of articles or items which are likely to be of topical interest to the householders and ratepayers of Croxley.

Our last issue included, at the request of a number of members, an article by a professional gardener, and it has been suggested we include a few gardening hints in successive issues.

If there is any subject of particular interest to you, whether it be gardening, household repairs and hints, local history or features, or a dozen and one such things, the Editorial Staff will be delighted to hear your views and your preferences—your criticisms are equally welcome, too!!

We are fortunate in having available a panel of experts on a surprising number of subjects and we invite members to make use of them, not only for the matters of personal difficulty with which we frequently cope, but also for the lighter side of life—the matters of topical interest.

**We WANT YOUR Views!**

## Rev. Raymond S. Wilkinson

To the Secretary,

I must now formally tender with great sorrow, my resignation as President of the Croxley Green Residents' Association after occupying the post for a short while only. When I accepted this great honour I had no idea that I should be pressed to move to an important new sphere so soon after; and, indeed, I am leaving Croxley Green with a heavy heart, tempered only by the knowledge that the move, from the point of view of my ministry, is thought to be right by my ecclesiastical superiors.

My connection with the Residents' Association has played no small part in the happiness of my ministry here, and I wish all success in the years to come to such a first-class organisation; adding at the same time, my deep appreciation to its Committee-men for their co-operation and assistance at all times.

Will you please convey my sentiments to the Committee.

Believe me to be,

Yours very sincerely,

RAYMOND S. WILKINSON.

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## ERIC NORMAN'S WEEKLY CLUBS

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## Going on Holiday?

Housebreakers are always on the look out for premises which are temporarily unoccupied.

You may be interested to know that the following precautions are recommended by the police.

- (1) Avoid obvious advertisement of an empty house.
- (2) Remember to stop delivery of milk, newspapers, etc.—which are the commonest signs of an empty house.
- (3) Do not leave any notes for tradesmen pinned on doors, etc.
- (4) Ensure all ground floor windows are securely closed and fastened.
- (5) If possible, lock **every room** and particularly those (such as the kitchen) which are at the back of the house and more hidden from passers-by.
- (6) Warn your neighbour and if you leave the key with friends or relatives inform the police of this fact.

Finally we would stress a fact which is not always fully realised. The police authorities **would be pleased** if householders would inform them of dates of proposed absence, and holiday address—and phone, if any.

Premises known to be temporarily unoccupied are carefully noted by the officer on the beat.

## Buses

There was a meeting of the Watford and District Area Council (Bus Services) on Thursday, June 1st.

Although we are not at liberty to disclose what took place at this meeting, our delegates assure us that definite progress is being made on this important matter and an early development is expected.

### NEW REGISTRATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED

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## To the Residents of Croxley

You are entitled to hear, from time to time of the because of the decision at a recent Special Open Meeting ever essential that the Association's policy should be

Here we wish to emphasise, in the hope that despite the difficulties and uncertainties of the times, Officers and Committee, who work in co-operation a many interests.

This democratically elected team has as its solving it would be if members of the Public Bodies who out **their** duties in a like manner! During the past years, blings, due to the lack of common understanding a now be completely vindicated of all those ill-considered

The recent election proved beyond all doubt that that successful candidates should be supported by sympathy on the part of the electorate.

However, the election is past, and now is the possibility of misunderstanding regarding our future of all elected representatives in their handling of local

We shall be honoured to co-operate, without an measure of co-operation in return. We shall reserve their position for mere Party advantage. The Council propagating Party Politics, and we give a timely warning Opinion to take steps to deal with any such activities

Now to return to our present commitments. You affecting your well-being. The Association is a meeting of Residents', Ratepayers' and Kindred Association and which cannot be determined parochially. You of our total Rate of 20s. 8d. is representative of "Cro-

We have Delegates serving, by invitation, on the Citizens' Advice Bureau, R.U.D.C., Road Safety Council Services), Croxley Green Further Education Centre.

An observer is present at all open meetings of the points requiring attention.

There have been many matters in the past with Street Lighting, Refuse Removal, Roads and Footpathing and Recreational Facilities—we take them as they are. A very active Social Committee caters for your "ad Drives within the district.

It is our declared intention that not only will all sion to deal with the future needs of a healthy, growing earnest hope that your Committee may be strengthened public-spirited residents, willing to share these very needs

It is the considered opinion of the Association's than ever vital to band together, to ensure that any necessary shall be effectively undertaken and rigidly supervised

On behalf of the General Committee,

T. POOLEY (Chairman)

H. W. R. FOWLER (Secretary)

## Green

the Committee's activities. At this particular moment, in not contesting the local election, it is more than planned in the light of the changed circumstances.

Members will find pleasure in the announcement, that there remains complete and absolute unanimity of mind and harmony which cannot fail to benefit the members.

Our aim, the betterment of our community. How pleasant it is to see the Local Government would carry out what we have witnessed their bickerings and squabbling and tolerance, and surely we, as an Association, can stand up to the accusations made against us.

It is not as if we are no "colour" in disguise; our desire was for a majority, and not minority, votes, and we regret any

time to be frank and explicit so that there shall be no more such actions! It will be our policy to watch the activities of the Local matters.

As regards Party leanings, and we shall expect a full use of our right to openly criticise those who seek to use the Council Chamber is not a suitable place for fostering and promoting that we are sufficiently representative of Public opinion. We hope there will be none.

Our Committee is actively engaged in many matters of importance, and the recently formed Hertfordshire Federation of Clubs, which will deal with questions at "County" level, will not need reminding that no less than 14s. 10d. per month "county" requirements!

The following organisations:—Croxley Green Society, Croxley Green Committee, Watford and District Area Council (Bus

and the R.U.D.C., and reports back to the Committee

on which the Association has dealt—we would mention Councils, Housing, Workman's Tickets, Nuisances, Shoplifting, etc. If anything is **your** worry, it's **our** concern. Let's make "ter work" hours by promoting Dances and Whist

As our present activities continue, but the necessary expanding of our community will be forthcoming, and it is our hope that from time to time by the inclusion of further necessary obligations.

Officers and General Committee that it is now more necessary expenditure of what is after all **your** money, and we are glad to be

A. T. THOMSON (Vice-Chairman)

J. S. ROBINSON (Treasurer)

## **A Little Forethought**

The number of occasions when authority takes decisive action on matters which affect indirectly the property of a resident, without prior consideration or consultation of that person, tend to be too frequent.

The erection of a directional sign adjoining a house owner's property in Winton Drive was a case in point. The necessity of the sign in that area was doubtful, and it was unfortunately a too frequent target for stone throwing by passing mischievous children with the consequent danger to the owner's family and property. The Association's action in the matter resulted in the removal of the sign, and we acknowledge the Council's co-operation.

We comment on this in the hope that authority will endeavour to anticipate and consider a ratepayer's point of view before taking any precipitate action.

Incidentally, it is another instance of one of the many problems we take up on behalf of residents and members, and which we find in our post bag every month.

## **Rickmansworth R.U.D.C.**

At the Council Meeting on May 30th, Mr. J. H. Rothera was elected Chairman for the year 1950/51, and Mr. W. Wright was elected Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Rothera will be particularly remembered in Croxley Green for his addresses at meetings convened by the Residents' Association, when he provided members with interesting and informative insight into the problems and difficulties which attend the determination of our rates.

In the course of the first address in his new office, Mr. Rothera expressed the hope that the Councillors would work together as a team and it is the earnest hope of this Association that for the sake of the ratepayers, the Chairman's hopes are fulfilled.

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## To the Residents of Croxley Green

You are entitled to hear, from time to time of the Committee's activities. At this particular moment, because of the decision at a recent Special Open Meeting not to contest the local election, it is more than ever essential that the Association's policy should be planned in the light of the changed circumstances.

Here we wish to emphasise, in the hope that members will find pleasure in the announcement, that despite the difficulties and uncertainties of the times, there remains complete and absolute unanimity of Officers and Committee, who work in co-operation and harmony which cannot fail to benefit the members many interests.

This democratically elected team has as its sole aim, the betterment of our community. How pleasing it would be if members of the Public Bodies which plan and supervise Local Government would carry out **their** duties in a like manner! During the past year we have witnessed their bickerings and squabbings, due to the lack of common understanding and tolerance, and surely we, as an Association, can now be completely vindicated of all those ill-considered accusations made against us.

The recent election proved beyond all doubt that we are no "colour" in disguise; our desire was that successful candidates should be supported by majority, and not minority, votes, and we regret any apathy on the part of the electorate.

However, the election is past, and now is the time to be frank and explicit so that there shall be no possibility of misunderstanding regarding our future actions! It will be our policy to watch the activities of all elected representatives in their handling of local matters.

We shall be honoured to co-operate, without any regard to Party leanings, and we shall expect a full measure of co-operation in return. We shall reserve our right to openly criticise those who seek to use their position for mere Party advantage. The Council Chamber is not a suitable place for fostering and propagating Party Politics, and we give a timely warning that we are sufficiently representative of Public Opinion to take steps to deal with any such activities. We hope there will be none.

Now to return to our present commitments. Your Committee is actively engaged in many matters affecting your well-being. The Association is a member of the recently formed Hertfordshire Federation of Residents', Ratepayers' and Kindred Associations, which will deal with questions at "County" level, and which cannot be determined parochially. You will not need reminding that no less than 14s. 10d. of our total Rate of 20s. 8d. is representative of "County" requirements!

We have Delegates serving, by invitation, on the following organisations:—Croxley Green Society, Citizens' Advice Bureau, R.U.D.C., Road Safety Committee, Watford and District Area Council (Bus Services), Croxley Green Further Education Centre.

An observer is present at all open meetings of the R.U.D.C., and reports back to the Committee points requiring attention.

There have been many matters in the past with which the Association has dealt—we would mention Street Lighting, Refuse Removal, Roads and Footpaths, Housing, Workman's Tickets, Nuisances, Shopping and Recreational Facilities—we take them as they come. If anything is **your** worry, it's **our** concern. A very active Social Committee caters for your "after work" hours by promoting Dances and Whist Drives within the district.

It is our declared intention that not only will all present activities continue, but the necessary expansion to deal with the future needs of a healthy, growing community will be forthcoming, and it is our earnest hope that your Committee may be strengthened from time to time by the inclusion of further public-spirited residents, willing to share these very necessary obligations.

It is the considered opinion of the Association's Officers and General Committee that it is now more than ever vital to band together, to ensure that any necessary expenditure of what is after all **your** money, shall be effectively undertaken and rigidly supervised.

On behalf of the General Committee,

T. POOLEY (Chairman)

H. W. R. FOWLER (Secretary)

A. T. THOMSON (Vice-Chairman)

J. S. ROBINSON (Treasurer)

## 5-Day Workmen Tickets

We are now in a position to publish a summary of the correspondence we have had in this matter.

In January we approached the Railway Authorities of the two routes which serve Croxley Green, pointing out the increase in the number of firms introducing the five-day week and the growing desire for five-day tickets; in addition, comment was made on the queuing for daily workmen's tickets each morning by passengers who were reluctant to purchase a six-day ticket when only five journeys were required.

The British Railways (London Midland Region) indicated their willingness to co-operate if we could produce evidence of sufficient demand, and this we quickly furnished. As a result of our endeavours the London Midland Region made five-day workmen's tickets available at Croxley for Willesden Junction and Acton Central, but (and it is a big but), they were unable to extend a similar issue to Tube Line stations, as the London Transport Executive did not permit such! (And at this stage we take the opportunity of thanking the L.M. Region for their co-operation and willingness to meet our suggestions.)

The L.T.E.'s response on the other hand was extremely disappointing—and surprising; their reply speaks for itself!

“Weekly workmen's tickets are available between certain stations on the Metropolitan Line, but the charges show no saving on the sum of six daily workmen's tickets. From past experience we have found that passengers holding weekly workmen's tickets have more opportunity for delaying their departure until the last minute, thus adding to the congestion usually to be found on the last workmen's trains. There are even cases of the holders of such tickets endeavouring to use them to travel by trains after the authorised time of use. For these reasons there is a strong objection to extending generally the issue of six-day weekly workmen's tickets, and to introduce a series of tickets to cover five-day travel would add to the present problem.”

In the opinion of this Association some of the objections are extremely flimsy, and it is scarcely creditable that an abuse by a few is regarded as a serious objection to the introduction of a widely demanded reform; moreover, we consider the inference of abuse and the implied criticism of the time passengers choose to travel to be, to say the least of it, in extremely bad taste.

At the time of going to press we understand that anomalous matters appertaining to railway travel are to be the subject of a Tribunal enquiry, and we will comment fully on the published findings.

Meanwhile it is a pleasing and a significant feature to note that the views of Residents' and Ratepayers' Associations are to be heard by the Tribunal.

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## Federation of Ratepayers and Kindred Associations for Hertfordshire

This Federation, which has been formed to unite the activities of all Ratepayers', Residents' and Kindred Associations throughout Hertfordshire, has, as its aims, the exchange of information and views on all aspects of County Local Government.

In these days of complex “government by regulation” based, in the case of counties like Hertfordshire, on the two-tier system, where the rate demand is made up of County and Urban or Rural District precepts, it is vitally necessary that the machinery of the Croxley Green Residents' Association is geared to deal with the many complexities involved.

To attempt to cope with problems arising at County level when an Association is organised parochially is impracticable if not impossible. Therefore, to enable the interests of Croxley Green to be closely watched and suitable action taken when necessary, this Association has agreed to joining the Federation along with most similar bodies throughout the County.

The reports of the appointed delegates will be published for the information of members following each attendance, and it is to be hoped that members will assist by bringing such matters as are within this sphere of interest to the Association's Committee.

For the guidance of members an analysis of County and Urban District responsibilities will be given in a subsequent issue, but meanwhile any matters of urgency which may be raised will be dealt with through the appropriate channels.

## Building Licences

We view with pleasure the recent announcement (understood to be effective as from May 22nd, 1950), by the Minister of Town and Country Planning whereby the Regulation which hitherto required the permission of the Town Planning Authority before alteration or additions to private dwelling houses, etc., could be made, is now abolished.

It is understood that additions may be made to private dwelling houses and certain small industrial premises provided:

- (a) the expenditure does not exceed £100;
- (b) the addition is not greater than ten per cent of the original floor space;
- (c) the alterations meet with the approval of the Local Council—to ensure there is no contravention of bye-laws.

The Association will examine the amending Regulations governing the announcement as soon as they are published in full.

## The Social Side

The season 1949/50 came to an end with a final Old Time Dance on May 13th at The Guildhouse, and we are happy to say that the high measure of success which attended our functions throughout the year was maintained right to the end.

We look forward to season 1950/51 when we hope to renew acquaintanceship of old friends and to acquire new ones.

We take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that while our social efforts are primarily organised on behalf of Association members, we nevertheless accord a hearty welcome to non-members, for our aim is the creation of social activities for the residents and ratepayers of Croxley.

Before the new season starts in September, 1950, full details will be published in this magazine. In the meantime this Committee extends their best wishes for a happy holiday to all friends and members.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

## The Early Bird!

A correspondent has drawn our attention to an attraction which, he says, is quite free, but will only be available for a short while. In answer to our eager enquiry as to the nature of this "something for nothing," he replied: "Nature," and continued to explain that now is the season of "the Dawn Chorus." On a recent morning he was in Whippendell Woods by 3.30, and by 4 o'clock was enjoying "the most wonderful music in the world!"

An old Rooster had "arranged the score" by 3.25 a.m., and the first musician to tune up was a Lark at 3.40; further members of the orchestra soon arrived: Cuckoo at 3.45, Robin and Thrush at 3.50; Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Rook, Pheasant and Great Tit a few minutes later, and by 4 a.m. the concert was in full swing with Tree Pipit, Wren, Turtle Dove and a dozen others (excepting a rather "muted" Nightingale!) all fortissimo, whilst Maestro Woodpecker beat time! The woods were swamped with melody and we quite believe our correspondent when he says that the thought uppermost in his mind was, "Oh, what a beautiful morning!"

## Membership

Membership renewal becomes due on July 1st and Street Stewards will in due course be collecting the annual 2s. subscription.

This is quite a big job to perform, so would you consider giving them a hand? You can do it so easily by giving your Steward your 2s. sub. and your gesture will be greatly appreciated. Perhaps the next time you are passing your Steward's home you would give him or her that little bit of assistance and pop your sub. in with your name and address. Thank you.

## Unity is Strength

The reputation and status of the Residents' Association is, we are proud to say, of the highest standing and it is no secret that the Council respects the integrity of purpose in any matter which the Association takes up on behalf of a member.

If you are not already a member then join the Association and strengthen the organisation whose sole allegiance and aim is to and on behalf of Croxley ratepayers.

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