

THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Editor: W. F. HADAWAY
83 Baldwins Lane.

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93 Frankland Road.

No. 37.

No. 5—1951.

EDITORIAL

The continued good news of His Majesty's progress toward good health from his recent illness and operation is welcomed everywhere. When, a few weeks ago, it was made known that the doctors had recommended surgical action, the world suddenly became acutely aware of the seriousness of the King's condition, and countless heartfelt supplications were everywhere offered for his recovery. It seems, happily, that faith in those prayers is being fully justified, and, in the earnest hope that the recovery will be full and complete, we echo the wish—"God save our gracious King."

* * * *

According to a fairly recent consensus of public opinion, the cost of living is undoubtedly the most important topic of the day and is regarded with due seriousness and understanding by many to whom it was formerly somewhat of a mystery. Let us, however, hasten to emphasise that appreciation of any subject does not imply confidence in it, and there is little doubt that our belief in the accuracy of the index is, to say the least, somewhat strained. It has to be realised that the spending habits of 1937—which formed the basis on which the present index was compiled in 1947—included items which no longer rank as either necessary or desir-

able in these days of changed living standards, and, of course, many things which may, in 1951, be termed "necessities" are not in the reckoning at all.

However, enquiries are being made by the Ministry of Labour toward the formation of a new cost-of-living index and yours may be one of the 12,000 family budgets of which details will be sought by the Ministry. We guess your evidence will be convincing!

* * * *

Going to the country! It seems but a short time ago—actually it is only twenty months—since the electorate was being exhorted to support this or that party, with a view to ensuring stable government for a possible five years. However, since February, 1950, it has become increasingly obvious that the Government has functioned under considerable mental—and at times physical—strain, and it was, perhaps, the wisest decision to once more test public opinion through the ballot box. Whatever the result and whether or not we individually "pick the winner," let us be realistic, putting first things first for the sake of the country's future, and eschewing party strife until Britain can once more enjoy the luxury of politically—and colloquially—"Going to Town!"

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, at 8 p.m., in the Science Room, Dickinson Guildhouse. All members are particularly requested to be present—intending new members will be enrolled at the meeting

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"DARBY'S AND JOANS"

"Just like Darby and Joan." What picture does that phrase conjure up in your minds? A silvery-haired old couple, with patient lined faces, sitting by a cosy fire in their own home, with the kettle on the hob and a cat on the hearth? That is how one used to see it; to-day, however, the words have a different meaning—a club—yes, a "Darby and Joan Club."

Run by the W.V.S., these clubs flourish all over the country and are entirely self-supporting. The Rickmansworth "Darby and Joan" caters for the old of Rickmansworth, Mill End and Croxley Green, with a membership of about 120, and if you want the definition of the word "pleasure," go down to the British Restaurant in the Bury, any Saturday afternoon and see the faces, not only of the members, but the helpers also, and you will see the pleasure of giving, as well as receiving, truly portrayed.

I'm appealing to **everyone** in the Rickmansworth U.D. area to do something between now and Christmas to give our Darbys and Joans a really lovely Xmas. A small donation to the W.V.S. office will be gratefully accepted. Especially do I appeal to **organisations**; arrange a dance or whist drive and give the proceeds to the Darby and Joan Club, or, if you have an event organised and cannot arrange another in the time, why not give a donation from the proceeds. As I said in the last issue of this magazine, old age is something which comes to all of us, and it isn't easy getting old these days. The youngsters have their own sturdy legs to stand on and mother and father to lean upon. Can you mothers imagine the day coming when you turn to your sons and daughters for support and receive none? Possibly you can't; your children wouldn't see you in need. **But it does happen**, many, many times, and when one reaches the age of seventy or more it's very hard to have to face the world alone.

At the "Darby and Joan Clubs" age meets age; they chat together, play games; often there is an entertainment, and, ask them to join in the chorus of a song and they make the welkin ring. Without the club many would lead very lonely lives, so please do all you can to help. Thank you! M. P.

(See "Social Side" notes on page 6 "The net proceeds will be devoted to the "Darby & Joan" Club.)

DECORATIONS GENERAL REPAIRS

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THE MALVERN TEEN-AGERS' CLUB

Any organisation is dependent upon its assets, for its future is influenced accordingly. Assets are not merely accumulations of wealth, but goodwill, moral codes and citizenship. The future of this country of ours is in the hands of youth; any movement, therefore, which has as its aims the furtherance of good-fellowship, tolerance and sportsmanship must be commended, and we have pleasure in bringing to your notice the activities of a healthy club recently formed to assist the youth of the community. Mr. T. Hart, of 66 Claremont Crescent, the experienced Hon. Secretary, working with an able and energetic Parents' Committee, has succeeded in gathering together some twenty-four boys of 12-15 years of age and has established headquarters at the Civic Restaurant, Winton Drive, where the club meets each Monday evening. This is indeed an achievement, considering the date of formation—April 23rd, 1951. The club facilities include table tennis, table skittles, darts and a skittle alley, not forgetting football, the sport dear to the heart of most youths.

All activities are under the supervision of adult club leaders, and each boy maintains a record of his personal progress. The club runs an open whist drive on the third Thursday of each month, in the Science Room at the Guildhouse, and good prizes are given, despite a modest admission charge. Incidentally, it is hoped to add further indoor facilities, such as billiards, etc., when funds permit.

The club had its first holiday camp at Kessingland, near Lowestoft, during the summer, and members were able to enjoy a real holiday at an inclusive cost of 28/- per week, instead of the 70/- which would have been the charge but for club assistance. It is planned to arrange next year's summer camp in the Isle of Wight.

Mr. Hart would like it known that his boys are prepared to meet any team (under 15's) in a friendly football match, but, lacking a permanent pitch, would prefer to be the visitors and quite prepared to share the expenses of hiring a pitch. Efforts to secure a home ground have not, to date, met with much success—does anyone know of a vacant pitch?

The future of this healthy club is assured—it already has four cups and several medals to encourage and inspire the youngsters—and we are sure that from its humble but successful beginning will spring much greater things. It deserves to succeed.

WOOLS. HABERDASHERY. CHILDREN'S WEAR



TELEPHONE: WATFORD 3824

DIARY OF GARDENING

The present season may be regarded as the beginning of the gardening year, and whether it be for pleasure or profit, show or household, so much can depend on the next month or two. Let us then look back over the past year and ask ourselves a few questions. Why did some particular crop fall short of our expectations? What went wrong with this or that? What can we do about it? Well, I suggest the answer is in the form of another question—What are we going to attempt in the coming year? It may be that we intend to concentrate on flowers, or fruit, or vegetables, or perhaps we'll have a go at them all! Right! Here are some details concerning all three, in the order above-mentioned. Clean up the summer flower-beds, cutting back and potting Geraniums, and lifting, drying and storing Dahlias, Begonias and Gladioli, and transferring them all to a frost-proof greenhouse or shed. Then thoroughly dig the beds, incorporating manure, compost or bone meal and finishing with a top dressing of lime or old soot. Give the ground a few days to settle down, then put in your bulbs and spring-flowering plants; the latter first, so that you will note where the bulbs should go. Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots, Polyanthus, Sweet Williams, Brompton Stocks, Canterbury Bells, Primroses and Lilies of the Valley can all go in now, and in the bulb family there are Daffodils, Narcissi, Snowdrops, Crocus, Hyacinths, Scillas, and the bulbous Irises. This collection will (or should) give you a wealth of colour and perfume from early in the New Year until you are once again thinking of summer bedding.

October is the best month for sowing Sweet Peas; they should go into 60-size pots and into a cold frame, until they are up, then give them plenty of air, protecting only from frost and heavy rain.

Clean and fumigate the greenhouse to make ready for the late Chrysanthemums, and, after they are installed give them a spraying, keeping the house closed for a day or two so that the plants may quickly recover if they have been moved from open ground.

Cuttings of most of the flowering and leaf-shedding shrubs may be taken and, if the greenhouse is heated, cuttings of Pentstemons, Verbenas, Violas, Lavender and Pansies may also be accommodated therein.

Gather carefully the pears and apples as they ripen, and store away in order of keeping qualities. Grease-banding should be done without delay. Prune currants, blackberries, loganberries and gooseberries, and if you intend to plant replacements or new bushes or trees try to visit the nursery in good time and make your inspection before stocks are depleted. Some of the apples at recent shows have not been the best sorts, so do try to secure the varieties, both dessert and culinary, best suited to your soil and locality.

Prepare everything for winter spraying (excepting the "mix") so that when the ideal day of quiet, dry weather comes along in November or later, all will be ready.

Turning to the vegetable garden, all late potatoes should be lifted, as well as beet, carrots, turnips and swedes, but parsnips should be left in the ground. Finish planting out the cabbages intended for spring cutting, and then dig all spare land, introducing manure or compost and leaving the surface rough. Lime it and then let it weather; the frosts will break it down for you.

Turn your attention to next year's seeds requirements, bearing in mind the particular successes or failures of this season and so considering another sort when ordering.

And, finally, a few words about roses. Soil and weather permitting, new bushes should be planted, and the varieties are nowadays almost unlimited. Would it not be an advantage to spend a little more on roses; few subjects give such a good return and at the end of the season you still have the bushes. I suggest it is not beyond the capabilities of the Croxley Green Horticultural Society to hold a Rose and Sweet Pea Show in, say, June. However, that is looking ahead, and for the present we have enough jobs to do to try to improve on the state of the garden at this time last autumn.

A. BARBER.

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WE HEAR—

Proposed Radial Road

The question of whether Whippendell Woods are to be affected by the proposed radial road remains a matter to be settled in the future. Present plans carry the scheme to Cassiobridge, but no farther. The road must continue, but where?

Gas Meters

Hardship is being caused to many old-age pensioners due to the changing over of gas meters to shilling-in-the-slot only instead of having the alternative penny-in-the-slot. It is understood the matter is "under consideration by the Gas Board."

Watford Housing

Watford Borough expect to have completed 414 Council houses this year. This exceeds their 1951 allocation by 150.

L.C.C. Oxhey Estate

There would appear to be a difference of opinion as to the lay-out for building 110 houses on the Oxhey Estate. It would appear also that the County Council having delegated powers to the Rural District Council agree to the latter's decision only when it suits their purpose. It would still further appear that their policy is "Heads we win; Tails you lose."

Shopkeeper and Customer

The opinion has been expressed recently by a food control committee chairman "a man can exhibit anything in his shop window and you cannot demand that he sell it to you." This does not cover the case of rationed articles.

Hospital Services

An inquest is being held by practically all the hospital boards throughout the country in view of the rising cost of these services. From recent figures published it is rather shattering to see the small proportion of money spent on the patient compared with that spent under administration and other headings. It is noticed also that there is a wide difference in the amount spent per patient to cover the cost of food. Something is wrong somewhere!

Dustbins

A recent court action decided that the provision of a dustbin is a landlord's responsibility. This is an important decision which will affect thousands of landlords and tenants.

Buses

It is reported that the L.T.E. will neither extend a certain bus route for the benefit of St. Meryl's housing estate, nor will they allow a private contractor to operate the service. This would appear to be another case of "Heads we win; Tails you lose."

THE CHAIRMAN

It has been my custom from time to time to express my opinions on the various services, conditions and community and perhaps other such communities which have

These utterances have not as their motive the obvious facts may become more widely known in the hope that the

I have been most concerned during the past year or so with the Transport Authorities and the like taking upon themselves the "right to leave" or consideration of the opinions and needs of the

The past few months have seen much interchange of views between the Transport Authorities, and it is with regret that I have to say whatever from the officials responsible for administering the services enumerated, but let it be sufficient for this purpose to give

The L.M.S. rail service between Croxley Green and Watford has been under consideration for the needs of the district, but when an application was made to print the intentions of the Railway Executive regarding the rumoured "acknowledgment" "this matter is under consideration."

The Watford-Rickmansworth rail service which was another serious blow of which you are all no doubt well aware. The Authorities have taken some positive action.

It does appear that these curtailments and suspensions of the service, and this followed by a statement that the result will be arithmetic to see the relationship between the two.

It has been one of my main arguments that if the Authorities are not paying their way, then there is no just reason for continuing the service, without notice, they may even suspend all main-line

Another example is the fight which has been proceeding for the new estate at the top of Baldwins Lane. We have had it that one begins to wonder which excuse was intended to be run a single-decker bus, the 318, which is already carrying traffic on roadways and streets never designed to carry traffic of this kind. It is obviously to prevent any further discussion on the original

Thus, when I look through the correspondence which has been sent to the Transport Authorities, I can come to no other conclusion but that if they are paid to do, they are merely "fobbing us off" with

Such phrases as "the inter-availability of tickets because we cannot undertake to consult Local Associations or Bodies" or "many others, is constantly receiving consideration", are of course the persons who write them, they certainly leave me in no doubt that it is taken to eradicate from the public service such misguided

I have always been a believer that any public authority which is intended to convey my disbelief that such should still be the case. The administrator of service should be made fully aware that they are not to think, the masters.

This Association has made it abundantly clear to all that it is not to see the public deprived of what they have a perfect right to

I have every reason to believe that I am not alone in this. Every resident of this community prepared to join in the stand which I considers that my opinions are without foundation.

FAMILY

Tel.: Rickmansworth

2576

134 WATFORD ROAD,
CROXLEY GREEN

A.E. DARVILL

BUTCHER

MAN'S LETTER

express quite frankly and openly, both in writing and in verbal considerations which affect the day-to-day life of this community to experience similar conditions.

constructive criticism of our public services, but rather that the airing of these opinions may serve to benefit us all.

so at the ever-growing tendency of officials of public corporations to curtail or suspend public services without a "by your community affected."

of correspondence between this Association and various officials put on record that I can find no evidence of co-operation in these services. Many individual instances could be given as one or two examples.

Watford was curtailed without warning and without consultation was made to the Board concerned the only reply in my mind would be a waste of paper. A recent approach on the subject of the closure of this service entirely, merely produced an

equally affected by curtailment has, of course, suffered. It is, however, pleasing to see that at last various Local Authorities

are being well "planned"; the first step to curtailment of services were diminishing. It hardly needs a knowledge of

services had to be curtailed or cancelled because they were not being financed from Euston to Carlisle. Perhaps one day we shall have services!

waiting for many months for a bus service to serve the needs of the district so many excuses why this should not be provided. To my disgust, I now find a proposal to increase the number of buses to capacity, or at least so we were earlier told, through the medium of a new bus. The only reason for putting forward this proposal is a demand for a better service.

There has passed between this Association and the various officials a demand for that, instead of serving the public as these officials do, they should be serving the public as these officials do.

because a service has been suspended cannot be considered"; and "this matter, along with other matters, is quite common and whatever they might imply to the effect that it is high time some very positive stand was taken by the individuals.

It should be a public service and I am not, in this letter, referring to the case, but rather that officials who are appointed to serve the servants of the public and not, as they appear to

concerned that it does not intend to stand idly by and receive the money, in fact, paying for.

In this and would welcome a personal discussion with you, now being taken, or, for that matter, anyone who

T. POOLEY.

Housing

The outlook is anything but good for those unfortunate people who are requiring housing accommodation. The recent figures given by the Rickmansworth Urban District Council Housing Manager must spell despondency and do nothing to stimulate the hope of being allocated accommodation at an early date. Much of the trouble would appear to be the result of too much control.

Historical Buildings

Croxley Green has many historical buildings which are now to be scheduled as such and which must not be demolished or altered without consent of the Planning Authority. In this case, all will agree with the Planners. Some of the buildings scheduled are Coach & Horses Inn, Little Green Cottages, Croxley Hall Farmhouse, "Parrotts," etc. There are also various buildings scheduled in Rickmansworth and district.

Gas Stoves

A new means of collecting revenue has been found by the Eastern Gas Board. Various householders have been informed that they will now have to pay a rental for those old gas stoves which were installed free by the late Gas Company. There would appear to be no limit to what a nationalised industry board can do!

Buses

Residents of the Oxhey L.C.C. Estate are to have an additional bus service to serve the new estate. We know of other areas requiring bus services!

The Monster

During recent months watchful residents eyed, first with curiosity, then with trepidation, the slow but apparently relentless monster which crept out of Watford, down the Whippendell Road, across Croxley's boundary and up the Watford Road.

Where was it bound? Which way would it go when reaching the bend at Croxley "Met"? Well, the residents of Frankland Road proved to be the unlucky ones, although many of them sighed with relief as the monster turned into the cutting halfway along the road and its remorseless appetite forsook pavements in favour of a softer diet.

Inevitably its progress has left scars; inevitably, too, those scars will take time to heal, for even moderate road surgery has its limitations and cannot overnight reinstate things to their erstwhile conditions.

The Highways Committee of the Association, having due regard to the circumstances, and appreciating that time must be allowed for subsidence before the final remedial measures can be undertaken by the authorities, are maintaining a watching brief.

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THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It has been my custom from time to time to express quite frankly and openly, both in writing and in speech, my opinions on the various services, conditions and considerations which affect the day-to-day life of this community and perhaps other such communities which have to experience similar conditions.

These utterances have not as their motive the obstructive criticism of our public services, but rather that the facts may become more widely known in the hope that the airing of these opinions may serve to benefit us all.

I have been most concerned during the past year or so at the ever-growing tendency of officials of public corporations and the like taking upon themselves the right to curtail or suspend public services without a "by your leave" or consideration of the opinions and needs of the community affected.

The past few months have seen much interchange of correspondence between this Association and various Transport Authorities, and it is with regret that I have to put on record that I can find no evidence of co-operation whatever from the officials responsible for administering these services. Many individual instances could be enumerated, but let it be sufficient for this purpose to give one or two examples.

The L.M.S. rail service between Croxley Green and Watford was curtailed without warning and without consideration for the needs of the district, but when an approach was made to the Board concerned the only replies elicited were of such an arbitrary nature that to print them would be a waste of paper. A recent approach on the intentions of the Railway Executive regarding the rumoured closure of this service entirely, merely produced an acknowledgment "this matter is under consideration."

The Watford-Rickmansworth rail service which was equally affected by curtailment has, of course, suffered another serious blow of which you are all no doubt well aware, but it is pleasing to see that at last various Local Authorities have taken some positive action.

It does appear that these curtailments and suspensions have been well "planned"; the first step to curtail the service, and this followed by a statement that the receipts were diminishing. It hardly needs a knowledge of arithmetic to see the relationship between the two.

It has been one of my main arguments that if the services had to be curtailed or cancelled because they were not paying their way, then there is no just reason for continuing the service from Euston to Carlisle. Perhaps one day, without notice, they may even suspend all main-line services!

Another example is the fight which has been proceeding for many months for a bus service to serve the needs of the new estate at the top of Baldwins Lane. We have heard so many excuses why this should not be provided that one begins to wonder which excuse was intended to be the answer. To my disgust, I now find a proposal to run a single-decker bus, the 318, which is already carrying to capacity, or at least so we were earlier told, through roadways and streets never designed to carry traffic of this nature. The only reason for putting forward this proposal is obviously to prevent any further discussion on the original request to provide a proper service.

Thus, when I look through the correspondence which has passed between this Association and the various Transport Authorities, I can come to no other conclusion but that, instead of serving the public as these officials are paid to do, they are merely "fobbing us off" with paltry excuses.

Such phrases as "the inter-availability of tickets because a service has been suspended cannot be considered"; "we cannot undertake to consult Local Associations or Bodies in such matters"; and "this matter, along with many others, is constantly receiving consideration", are quite common and whatever they might imply to the persons who write them, they certainly leave me in no doubt that it is high time some very positive stand was taken to eradicate from the public service such misguided individuals.

I have always been a believer that any public authority should be a public service and I am not, in this letter, intending to convey my disbelief that such should still be the case, but rather that officials who are appointed to administer service should be made fully aware that they are the servants of the public and not, as they appear to think, the masters.

This Association has made it abundantly clear and all concerned that it does not intend to stand idly by and see the public deprived of what they have a perfect right to receive and are, in fact, paying for.

I have every reason to believe that I am not alone in this and would welcome a personal discussion with any resident of this community prepared to join in the stand now being taken, or, for that matter, anyone who considers that my opinions are without foundation.

T. POOLEY.

RVILL

Tel.: Rickmansworth
2576

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(H.P. te

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LADIES ONLY

Now that the cooler weather is just around the corner, perhaps it would be a good idea to think up a few hot supper dishes—just the thing for a cold night. Here is one which can be very easily prepared and, although it has to be cooked for quite a long time, it doesn't need a lot of attention. I'll give you its French name, sounds more expensive that way.

Pomme de Terre au Gratin

Butter a pie-dish. Slice in a layer of potatoes, cover with grated cheese and dabs of butter, pepper and salt. Put another layer of potatoes, cheese to cover and dabs of butter. Repeat according to size of dish. Pour in a little milk and cook gently for an hour or little longer, with cover on. Remove cover, and brown.

Try this new way of having cheese sandwiches. I think you'll like them:—

Cheese Dreams

Make cheese sandwiches of medium thickness. Beat an egg, season well, and add sufficient milk according to the number of sandwiches. Dip the sandwiches into the beaten egg and milk, and fry slowly in a little fat until a golden brown.

A Blue Hint

When blueing water to rinse clothes, add a little salt. This distributes the blue evenly and prevents patches.

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"FEMINA."

TOWNSWOMENS' GUILD

Members of the Croxley Guild are so keen on their organisation that they sometimes overlook the many women who are unaware of its existence. A very flourishing afternoon Guild meets in Dickinson's Guild-house at 2.30 p.m. on the second Friday in every month. Its object is to "serve as a common meeting ground for women, irrespective of creed or party, for their wider education including social recreation." Music, drama, handicraft, social studies, gardening, visits to places of interest, lectures and demonstrations are the main activities of the Guild. New members can enrol at the Guild meeting. Many women are unable to attend an afternoon Guild because of home or business duties and the National Union of Townswomens' Guild are willing to open an evening Guild if there is a desire for one in Croxley. There must be a minimum of twenty-five names of people who wish to join before this can be done. Would any ladies interested in the formation of an evening Guild give their names to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Hampton, 131 Frankland Road. Telephone: Rickie 2990.

* * * * *

SOCIAL SIDE

The first of our season's dances, on October 6, proved that the popularity of these "Old Tyme" affairs is well remembered, and the enthusiasts soon showed that the summer break had not impaired their dancing ability, and under the able demonstrations of Mr. and Mrs. Higgs a thoroughly enjoyable evening glided by, very successfully accompanied by the André Simone Orchestra. The Social Committee must have been well pleased with its labours to see such a satisfactory attendance and a corresponding appreciation of the refreshments.

Make a note of the next dance:—

November 10, All Saints' Church Hall, 7.45 to 11.45. Same orchestra; same demonstrators; same jolly atmosphere! Proceeds to the "Darby & Joan" Club. (See page 2.)

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CROXLEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We had forecast a " bigger, brighter and better " show for Saturday, September 15. It proved to be the " biggest, brightest and best," with 824 entries (100 more than last year) and a record attendance! Those who braved the showers—and there were about 800 who did—were rewarded with a display of horticultural exhibits of a higher standard than ever, which, together with a splendid honey entry, a truly " mouth-watering " collection of bottled fruits, jams and preserves, and some excellent cookery and needlework by the ladies, fully justified the judges' opinion that " this was as good a show as any in the county." This was indeed high praise and must have given great satisfaction to the winners and encouragement to the losers.

The opening of the show was in the capable care of Mr. A. H. Lugg (N.D.H.), Horticultural Superintendent of the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture, and his remarks, so very typical of his love of all that pertains to the garden, will surely have been taken to heart by all.

In such a wealth of excellence it would be mean indeed to discriminate, but for the " records " we must mention some of the entries which held the judges' final attention. Commencing, then, with the ladies: Mrs. Delderfield took both the Trench and Annual Challenge Cups; the " Woman's Own " Bronze Medal went to Miss Wood for cookery, and to Mrs. Bishop for handicraft; and Mrs. Cooper's crochet work secured a Diploma.

The collection of pressed wild flowers, by Christine Read (14) was a credit to her patience, neatness and endeavour. Well done, Christine! The Mrs. H. Wood Challenge Shield for Schools duly goes to " Durrants "—until next year!

Outstanding among the male exhibitors were Mr. A. Skingley, who won two cups, two medals and three other awards; and Mr. J. K. St. Aubyn, three cups for honey—whilst Mr. W. S. Tansley well deserved the Bryant Challenge Cup and " Amateur Gardening " Bronze Medal for his chrysanthemums. Other cup winners were: Mr. Hamblin (Forbes); Mr. Moore (Harmer); Mr. Bubb (Simmonds); Mr. Wilson (Rothery Moss); Mr. Seabrook (Raggett) and Mr. Brighton (Duncan), and Mr. Cox secured the Banksian Medal.

The prizes were presented by Vice-President Mrs. Harmer, and so ended the 32nd Annual Show, which reflected great credit upon both organisers and exhibitors, and should spur to even greater achievements the garden-lovers of Croxley Green. W. F. H.

To the Editor:—

Dear Sir,

Before I leave the " village," after fourteen years of residence, there are one or two things which I should like to bring to your attention. I am not a person of any note, as you will see, but one small voice in the chorus of influence.

You will agree that much that has befallen the rural nucleus of Croxley Green in recent years constitutes a series of " faits accompli," wholly out of character with country life. Certain things inevitably spring to mind: pagoda-like petrol stations; glorious technicolour schools, with their flaking paint; ye olde concrete lamp posts, which dominate the Green; the loud vulgarity of the advertisement hoardings; the craze for the wire and concrete fences, in the manner of the Army camps.

So much could be remedied at next to no expense at all. A coat of dark green paint for the lamp posts on the Green; bindweed and honeysuckle for the fences, with hedges flush behind; some green wooden boxes with the seats on the Green would spare us a lot of litter. There are no end of odd waste corners where a tree would improve the scene. The sort of jobs the Scouts could do better than most, to their own financial advantage and at little cost to the community. There is much that is not beyond correction.

On the other hand, it is better to be a step ahead of events. The new shops: discreet and country-like?—which is not to say " quaint-ed-up "—or vulgar self-advertisements, or shoe-box design, with fancy façades of no structural purpose? As residents, we have a right to know. The new public house by the station: Anything that Benskins may care to serve upon us? Or something to set the tone in a rural locality?

Not so long ago someone of taste and resolution had the bus stop by the Church replaced by a shelter of appropriate design. This, to a person with preservation of rural England at heart, was a source both of pleasure and of hope.

Yours sincerely

(Name and address supplied).

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THE BEST-LAID SCHEMES . . .

The delivery of over 3,000 "Residents" is no small task when it is realised it entails personal calls on over 3,000 houses. This part of the Association's service is in the hands of street stewards and helpers, and a very fine job they quietly perform behind the scenes.

The sterling worth of these workers was realised more than ever when our last issue was received from the printers, for it occurred at a time when many of the stewards were on holiday. As a result there was, in certain roads and avenues, some delay in the delivery of the "Resident." If you were one of those readers we offer our sincere apologies in the full knowledge that you will appreciate the difficulties to be overcome.

* * * *

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Council's faith in the need and demand for this service in this part of the county triumphed over official doubts of adequate support. In the four-day visit of the unit to Rickmansworth in September, 2,062 took advantage of the service; of this total 907 were men and 1,155 women. Indeed, this represents an average of 515 per day, only 85 short of the unit's capacity to handle in a day.

No figures of the Croxley Green people X-rayed are available, but on a "per head of population" basis it must have been substantial. Large works and factories enjoy far better facilities of this nature than the residential areas such as Croxley, and we feel that housewives should get greater opportunity. The Association is considering ways and means of improving the arrangements with that aim in view.

* * * *

WATFORD AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

The Society is holding a Social and Dance at the Guildhouse, Croxley, on November 9. Tickets 2/6 from W. S. Maxwell, 76 Repton Way, Croxley Green. All Scots and their friends are welcome.

* * * *

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

As we go to press the Festival Secretary, 72 Malvern Way, has still not heard from the holder of programme number 1557. Dig out your programme and if it is 1557 on the last page inside the cover—what are you waiting for?

* * * *

HERTFORDSHIRE FEDERATION

The activities of the Hertfordshire Federation of Ratepayers and Kindred Associations have included further studies of problems affecting the ratepayers of the county as a whole embracing such matters as cost of new towns, loans for house purchase, etc. This Association has been adequately represented during these discussions and takes its full part in watching the interests of the ratepayers of this area.

Further meetings are to be held in various parts of the county during the coming months.

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CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

Science Room, Dickinson Guildhouse, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 3. Open to all members of C.G.H. Society. Entries close October 31. Details: Miss Raggett, 39 Watford Road. Public admission 6d.

CROXLEY GREEN CHORAL SOCIETY

This Society has now commenced its new session and welcomes applications for membership, both ladies and gentlemen. A very interesting programme has been arranged. Young members of 17 upwards will be welcomed and encouraged. Rehearsals every Wednesday at 8 p.m., in the Guildhouse, New Road, Croxley Green.

FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

The Autumn Programme promises a varied and interesting session, including as it does:

Current Affairs.—Tuesday, 7.30, Old Boys' School. Nov. 13: J. D. Wickens, "Prospects for a Settlement in the Far East." Dec. 11: T. Pooley—leading a discussion—"Will Watford Borough take us over?"

Local History.—Series of lectures—"The Chiltern Countryside"—J. W. Wells. This series commenced on Tuesday, Oct. 9, Old Boys' School (7.30). Sessional fee—7s. 6d.

Art.—Nov. 5-6, Durrant's School—Local Art Exhibition. Saturday, Oct. 27 (afternoon)—Conducted Party—section of the National Gallery—by Ray Watkinson.

Drama.—Dec. 12, 13 and 14, Guildhouse (7.30): "Easy Money," by Arnold Ridley. Production by the Croxley Theatre Club. Admission 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.

Visits to Places of Interest.—Saturday, Nov. 24 (morning)—De Havillands, of Hatfield.

(Centre membership is now only 2s. 6d. per annum, and members enjoy Centre facilities free or at reduced cost. The Secretary is N. E. Griggs, 3 Dover Way, Croxley Green.)

MEMBERSHIP

Please enrol me as a new/former Member at the subscription of 2/- per annum.

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