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THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 41.

Editor: W. F. HADAWAY 83 Baldwins Lane.

No. 3—1952.

EDITORIAL

Very shortly there will be a noticeable thinning in the Watford bus queues in the morning. At the same time homes will become a little noisier and the daily routine of many houses will receive a jolt. In other words the school holidays will be upon us and all that young energy and zest, hitherto rigidly controlled and bottled up in the classroom, will be released and unleashed in a frenzy of expression. The bus traveller may sigh with relief; the mother and housewife sigh in resignation but both will probably sigh a little reminiscently too as the memory flashes back momentarily to their own school holidays.

Where will this youthful energy be expressed? In the recreation ground, field or garden? Splendid. But a child's game does not begin and end there; it commences the moment they leave home and continues back through the streets until they cross the home threshold. And it is often in the street the danger lies for in the heat of the game the most capable child forgets and darts into the roadway and disaster.

Now a remarkable thing has been happening in Lanarkshire. Road fatalities have been dropping so steadily that they are almost non-existent and for the month of April were in fact—nil! This, in an age when accident figures mount daily on the ruins of saddened hearts and homes, is more than mere statistics: it is a sign that the appalling evil can be arrested.

How has Lanarkshire achieved this? Here are the words of the County Road Safety organiser, "We have been concentrating on the children with our campaign and they are good pupils. If only we could get the parents to follow their lead." He had a further suggestion, "It may be that the Zebra, which many thought would increase accidents, is causing drivers to take a renewed interest in pedestrians."

But whatever the reason the signs are good. What Lanarkshire can do can be done in other counties.

* * *

Watching recently the determined and, in some cases frantic, efforts made by youthful competitors at a local

sports day, it seemed a big step indeed from Croxley Green to Helsinki, where the Olympic Games will take place in a few weeks time, and where the cream of the world's athletic talent will strive just as determinedly (perhaps not quite as frantically) for the victor's laurels. And yet, despite the distance which separates the "local rec" from the Helsinki Stadium, this same magnetism for sporting events is felt both here, and there, and in all other places too, quite regardless as to the standard of performance or the condition (or geographical position) of the arena.

The spectators at the local sports meeting are as delighted to cheer home to victory their favourite as will be the thousands filling the huge stadium when the "world's best" breasts the tape. There is no thought of rancour or enmity, no questionable tactics or underhand machinations, but, instead, the honest striving of individual against individual, team against team, with a background of partisan, yet withal, friendly onlookers sharing the thrill of a record performance or the disappointment of a failure with equal generosity.

What is the seemingly magical "something" that attracts hundreds, indeed thousands, of people having different beliefs, different views, often different colours and languages? Why is it possible to hold such cosmopolitan events as Olympic Games without fearing some international "crises" may result? If the answer is that all the world loves a sportsman, then the world should live up to the moral thereof.

What can be done, indeed, what is being done, every summer week-end, in every country, to foster good fellowship on the sports field can surely be extended to the sphere of committees, conferences and Councils. Let them all be imbued with the spirit of friendly and not fanatical rivalry, inspired to win gallantly and lose graciously. In this way only will the lessons so sportingly presented on Farmer _____'s field or in the Helsinki Stadium benefit mankind.

Truly "sport knows no barriers." World friendship should permit of none, either!

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CORRESPONDENCE

49 Malvern Way,
Croxley Green.

Dear Sir,

I note your paragraph in the last issue of "The Resident" re cycling on the footpaths. Can we get some movement? Two or three years ago I approached the Council and they said "It was a matter for the Police" but no policeman available. Now we seem to have hordes of Police even living on the corner of the Malvern Way footpath.

A Councillor with whom I also had correspondence over this whilst being very sympathetic, informed me that "It required a new Bye-Law." After all this I gave up; now I hope your note will stir the matter up!! I doubt it.

The only thing the H.C.C. spend money on is EDUCATION.—Yours faithfully, E. P. Elliott.

[Our correspondent is right in substance but wrong in fact, and we would remind him that whilst "Education" is County, the Bye-law referred to would be "Local."—Editor.]

* * *

Dear Sir,

Your review of Croxley Council elections in your last issue omitted to comment on one very revealing aspect—the singular way an established and approved representative can be ruthlessly cast aside because he ceases to have a political tag.

I am not a voter in North Ward, as you will see from my address, yet it was not without regret that I saw disappear from Rickmansworth Council a man, although I would oppose his political views, has as an individual councillor given unstinted labour and service to the ratepayers of Croxley. He has fought solely for their betterment as those who interest themselves in Council affairs know. Yet when he disclaims political "line-up" and prefers to decide or vote for issues on their merits (or lack of them) as a good councillor should do, he is cast aside like an old glove—past services forgotten except by a few hundred ratepayers.

If this is the reward for individual integrity and service in local affairs then the political squabbling, the baiting and enmity seen at our Council meetings is no more than we deserve!—Yours, etc., "Disgusted."

(Name and address supplied.)

BRIEFS

Civil Defence—Welfare Section

It is hoped that in September Croxley Green will be able to have its own branch of the Welfare Section of the Civil Defence. This service is not only of value to the community, but also many of its aspects are of immediate interest to all housewives. A small amount of training in basic subjects is needed and this can be given by afternoon or evening talks and demonstrations. Any Croxley Green ladies who are interested will be cordially welcomed. Further information can be obtained at the W.V.S. Office near the Library, Rickmansworth.

That the Fouling of Footpaths by dogs is causing extreme annoyance to both dog owners and others, and the Council are considering what steps can be taken to remedy the position.

That the Rickmansworth-Watford L. M. Railway Section is again in the news. The Railway Development Association are understood to be making enquiries as to whether the Council would support them in an endeavour to have the branch re-opened, working under a more economically balanced system.

QUEEN OF CROXLEY GREEN

Once more tradition has come into its own—and Croxley Greens' May Queen was crowned with all the ceremony of days gone by on Saturday, June 28th and it is the fervent hope of many residents that this feature of Croxley Green life will continue. The ceremony was performed by Miss J. Cooper, retiring Headmistress of Harvey Road, a fitting memory for one who has always helped to uphold the village tradition. The new Queen, Elizabeth Cave, was supported in her duties by the retiring Queen, Pat Ramsey (now Mrs. Compson) who was crowned six years ago. We wish Miss Cooper a very happy and peaceful retirement; to the new Queen a years happy reign, and, to the retiring Queen much happiness in her new life when she joins her husband in Burma.

PLUMBING

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GARDENING

In covering the programme of garden tasks for July and August, it is expected that many of you will be away on your "annual" during those two months. There is, however, no need for the garden to be looking like a jungle upon your return, if a little extra effort is made before you go on holiday.

First of all, then, pay attention to those crops or flowers which you may intend to exhibit at the Shows. The application of a quick-acting fertiliser will give that extra stimulant at this important stage, and tide things over for a week or two. Similarly, a good mulch applied just before you go away will ensure that no harm will come to peas, beans, etc., however sunny or dry the weather.

Mow the lawn at the last possible moment (without the grass-box).

Make sure that all necessary staking has been done and that the stakes and supports are secure, and as growth is rapid at this time of year, you must also do any pinching out or disbudding.

Gather all the seasonal fruits that are ready, and tidy the strawberry bed by retaining only the runners required for increase.

If you are holidaying during August, you will be wise to "stop" outside tomatoes by pinching out growth beyond the fourth truss, and if any potatoes are ready for lifting remember that they also require thorough drying-out before being stored. Finally I include among the "musts" the need for spraying if the crops are suffering from red spider or a fungoid disease; use Lime Sulphur for spider and Bordeaux Mixture for fungus.

Now, if any time remains, you may care to give attention to sowing and increasing, and during July there can be further sowings of carrot, globe beet, turnips and swedes, and, about mid-month, spring cabbage, of which you were reminded last year and forgot to do!

Next year's wallflowers will also repay you well if they are now moved from the seed-bed and each given about 4 inches of space. Which reminds me that I have no more space (but a lot of jobs in the garden), so "happy holiday" all!

CROXLEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL AND ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' SOCIETY

Autumn in Mid-Summer! Seems unusual, but you will not think it so strange when I reveal that the reason my thoughts so suddenly changed seasons was the arrival of a "Schedule," which was the official herald of the "Thirty-third Annual Show of Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables and Honey" promoted by the above-mentioned Society.

One quick glance at the cover, and I had gone from June to September in a flash, and was again seeing the grand array of exhibits which made the "Thirty-second" one of the best shows in the County.

How, I thought, could a relatively small place like Croxley Green expect to improve on the 1951 Show? But gardeners have, of course, more optimism than anyone else, so I turned my thoughts back from September last, and gave my attention to a study of this year's event, which will be staged on **Saturday, September 13th at Dickinson Guildhouse**. My first impression was one of regard to the prize list which, surely, is so wide in its range that none of the exhibitors need despair of some reward. There are over 300 cash prizes for individual entries, 14 Cups for different points collections, the Banksian Medal (Royal Horticultural Society's presentation), silver and bronze medals for flowers, vegetables, cookery and handicraft, diplomas and merit certificates for various outstanding exhibits and gardeners "presentation boxes" for points in certain classes. A most impressive prize array and one which should warrant a record number of entries of a very high standard.

The Committee have obviously worked hard to be able to arrange so comprehensive a Schedule, which I commend to all garden lovers, exhibitors and lookers-on alike. Much more hard work will be necessary before the show can be staged and the Committee's reward will be the measure of your support "on the day," which is (and make a note of it now) Saturday, September 13th, at 2.30 p.m.

Schedules may be obtained from Miss K. M. Raggett, 39 Watford Road. This is YOUR show! Don't miss it!
W.F.H.

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WE HEAR—

That the **Wilson Memorial Committee**, are calling a Public Meeting on July 11th at 8 o'clock in the Science Room, Dickinson's Guildhouse, to decide the form and site of the Memorial to the late Mr. N. Wilson, for many years Schoolmaster of Croxley Green. It is hoped that as many Old Boys, and interested members of the public as possible, will attend.

That the **New Housing Manager**, Mr. S. C. Philpott of Owens Way, Croxley Green, who was the late Mr. Shirts' deputy has been appointed as Housing Manager on the staff of Rickmansworth U.D.C., we are pleased to record this appointment and to know that the new Housing Manager can be depended upon to use the benefit of experience gained as deputy, when dealing with matters in his new capacity.

That **Baby Sitting Husbands** who, by the devotion to fatherly duties, have allowed their young wives to take a fuller part in the social life of the community, were again honoured by All Saints Young Wives' Fellowship, who entertained them to supper. We wonder who minded baby on this occasion!

That the **New Grammar School** which is under construction at Scots Hill, is the subject of much controversy when it comes to a name for it. This is another example of petty officialdom difficult to understand. Why bother about the name when the first essential is obviously to get the school built. What does it matter whether it is named "Croxley Green," or "Rickmansworth," or for that matter "Scots Hill," but let the name at least fall in line with postal and other considerations and avoid confusion.

That the **Council Chairman** elected to the Rickmansworth U.D.C. is Mr. Councillor A. L. G. Chavasse, J.P., and Mr. Councillor Payne, Vice-Chairman. Both these Councillors have done good work in the district. Mr. Councillor Payne is a resident of Croxley Green and represents South Ward on the Council.

That **Self-Help Housing Groups** are becoming active throughout the country and are interested in schemes affecting the Rickmansworth Council Area. No decisions have been finalised but it is understood that these activities will be the subject of considerations in the light of long term policy.

That the **Refuse Bins** which have been for so long the refuge of every conceivable nuisance are finally to disappear. Apparently it is not now considered necessary to collect kitchen waste for which purpose these were originally placed in the roads. There should be a suitable ceremony to mark the occasion.

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CHAIRMAN'S

Life and people are both strange subjects, and I must think an Association such as ours can ever really please its members.

There are those who wish us to be merely a social or local events, or bothering about transport, street lighting, but I think we should publicise our every action and gain the most

Every association has its rules and constitution, which activities within the framework of those printed rules are, to a committee. When an individual accepts office, he or she is rarely but rather that some service can be given to fellow residents of office. Invariably the approach to problems which arise and the Officer's own temperament.

I have always taken the view that Croxley Green Residents all matters of local appeal or concern, whether they are Local or the many other divers matters which arise from time to time. I believe also that we should be interested in National events, and so on. On the other hand, I do not believe we should be in any way connected with members and that our actions should at all times be above reproach. I know, shared by the other officers and Committee of the residents of Croxley Green. It is well, however, that these activities be the benefit of new or intending new members, who have not been at the meeting.

Having outlined the Association's approach to its duties and its approach to publicity. My fellow officers share my view that the responsible body, were to indulge in "cheap," "stunt" or "headline" headlines whenever some useful action has been taken or some

By such publicity we would be lowering the status of our Association that of the Sunday newspaper sensationalist. We prefer, and also prefer, that our activities are factually presented when the successful action and service.

An Association similar to ours requires no stunt publicity to grow membership and especially the new membership applications.

During the period I have had the honour to be Chairman, my duties have been freely given by the Committee, many of the members of the Association which have to be overcome.

There is always plenty to be done and the more widely we are all concerned. In conclusion, therefore, I would ask any resident of the community, to join us in our quiet but consistent ideal

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T. POOLEY.

Political Bargainings against which many voices have
been raised in Watford and elsewhere, and which re-
sulted in there being no contests in some recent Watford
bye-elections. Since when has it been the duty and
prerogative of political party officials to deny the voter
his rights and render the basis of sound democracy a
farce? If such action is now legal, the sooner steps are
taken to amend the law, the better. Otherwise such
actions may be the beginning of the end of free elections
and the franchise as it is now understood.

On the **Subject of Estate Development** and Planning,
Carpenders Park and St. Meryl Estates Ltd., and Wat-
ford Rural District Council had the opportunity to air
their differences in connection with the proposed layout
of the remainder of the estate, at a recent Ministry of
Local Government and Planning enquiry. Whatever the
outcome such public enquiries do help to establish the
right of land and property owners to have at least some
say in what they should do with their property. Too
often arbitrary action by County and Rural or Urban
Councils takes no account of the owners or near residents
wishes.

Watford Football Club. Support for the new regime
is increasing and there are now reasonable hopes that the
Club will "weather the storm" and emerge at the end of
next season in a much stronger position. An important
centre like Watford, having easy access by road or rail
and having a large population within reasonable travel-
ling distance must surely be able to maintain a top level
club. It is evident that a sound direction and day to
day management is equally necessary to finance.

Waste Paper collections will be affected by the reduced
prices now being offered by the mills. To maintain the
present income the rate of collection will have to be
considerably increased. Unfortunately if the price falls
below an economic level there will be a danger of the
roads and footpaths being littered with waste.

Cycling on Footpaths is becoming so prevalent that
there is pressure from many sources for some positive
action against the offenders. A few prosecutions will no
doubt put a stop to the practice for a while.

The **London Passengers Association** have requested an
independent enquiry by experts into the affairs of the
London Transport Executive. This request has been re-
fused, but the Association is endeavouring to obtain
sufficient support from Local Authorities in the area to
enable a fresh approach to the Minister to be made.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Life and people are both strange subjects, and I must confess that there are times when I wonder whether an Association such as ours can ever really please its members.

There are those who wish us to be merely a social or cultural association, not interesting itself in National or local events, or bothering about transport, street lighting, housing, or sewage. On the other hand, there are those who think we should publicise our every action and gain the utmost credit for the work we do for our members and others.

Every association has its rules and constitution, which on paper seem very formal and rigid, but its day-to-day activities within the framework of those printed rules are, to a large extent, influenced by its elected Officers and Committee. When an individual accepts office, he or she is rarely activated by a desire for self aggrandisement or publicity, but rather that some service can be given to fellow residents or members, who are themselves perhaps unable to accept office. Invariably the approach to problems which arise and the tone of the Association's publicity is influenced by the Officer's own temperament.

I have always taken the view that Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association should be interested in all matters of local appeal or concern, whether they are Local Authority, Public Transport, Health, Housing, Welfare or the many other diverse matters which arise from time to time, and which affect the day-to-day life of the Community. I believe also that we should be interested in National events, as they usually in turn have their bearing on local matters. On the other hand, I do not believe we should be in any way concerned with the political views held by the Association's members and that our actions should at all times be above party political controversies. My views as Chairman are, I know, shared by the other officers and Committee of the Association, and are, I believe, quite well known to the residents of Croxley Green. It is well, however, that these views should, from time to time, be publicly re-affirmed for the benefit of new or intending new members, who have not hitherto had the opportunity of attending a general meeting.

Having outlined the Association's approach to its duties and functions, I feel I should perhaps also outline the approach to publicity. My fellow officers share my view that it would be in very bad taste if we, as an executive of a responsible body, were to indulge in "cheap," "stunt" or "scare" publicity, and were to rush into print in bold headlines whenever some useful action has been taken or some benefit achieved.

By such publicity we would be lowering the status of the Association as a body—and its members equally—to that of the Sunday newspaper sensationalist. We prefer, and we are sure the vast majority of Croxley Green residents also prefer, that our activities are factually presented when the need arises, and that we refrain from perpetually claiming successful action and service.

An Association similar to ours requires no stunt publicity to keep it going, a fact which is fully borne out by the growing membership and especially the new membership applications which are being received.

During the period I have had the honour to be Chairman, I have been impressed by the service which has so freely been given by the Committee, many of the members of which are beset with domestic and vocational difficulties which have to be overcome.

There is always plenty to be done and the more widely the work is shared, the easier and better it will be for all concerned. In conclusion, therefore, I would ask any resident who can give a little of his or her time to the service of the community, to join us in our quiet but consistent ideal of service.

T. POOLEY.

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THE HERTFORDSHIRE FEDERATION

From time to time reference has been made to this Association's affiliation to the Hertfordshire Federation of Residents', Ratepayers' and Kindred Associations, and members may occasionally wonder whether such activities are beneficial to the residents of Croxley Green.

Local Government has long ceased to have the meaning which its name implies and a local council today is little else than a branch office of some larger body. A Rural or Urban District Council is left with little power in its hands and its almost every move is governed or influenced by either the County Council or Whitehall. Whether there will ever be a return to truly local government is very problematical and the only way an Authority can have any real say in its own area is by becoming a County Borough—something which, unless incorporation with Watford is considered, can never happen to Rickmansworth.

Having to accept the position as it exists, it has therefore become vitally necessary to establish and maintain channels through which matters can be examined and cleared, and this Association's affiliation is beneficial. The Federation comprises nominated delegates from the numerous affiliated Associations and from these delegates the Officers of the Federation are elected. The function of the Federation is to carry forward to a satisfactory conclusion matters which, because of their "County" nature, are beyond the level of the local Ratepayers' or Residents' Associations.

The value of such a tie-up does not end there, as the Federation is in turn affiliated to the Home Counties Council of County Federations, and the National Union of Ratepayers' Associations. Such links enable any matter to be raised—even up to Ministry level—and furthermore enable questions to be raised in the House with the assurance that more than a single member of Parliament is interested.

As examples, such matters as the National Policy on rateable valuation, equalisation grants, planning, preservation of rural amenities, trunk and secondary roads, hospital and other welfare services, sewage schemes, water supplies, requisitioning of properties, etc., are under constant consideration.

In general the officers of the Federation, and other higher organisations comprise those delegates from the Federations who have had considerable experience in local Government and other comparable or similar bodies. They bring an experienced and considered opinion to help on any problem which may be passed forward by an Association such as ours, and can in turn have the benefits of legal opinions when necessary.

Members will, on consideration, realise the value of such co-operation, as whilst it is never expected there will be matters for urgent or special action at all times, the day always arises when the benefit of other advice and assistance can be most welcome.

The Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association joins fully in the activities of the Federation and is always represented at the delegates meetings and in addition has a seat on the executive Council.

To remain purely parochial in outlook and action would in these days of Central Control render any Association's activities virtually valueless to its members.

MEMBERSHIP

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LADIES ONLY

There are times when we all get into "jams"—now let us talk about making it! Most of you have your own favourite recipes, there may be some new housewives amongst us however, who would like a few tips, and again one can often learn something from studying another person's approach to the same job.

Important Steps in Jam-making

1. Fruit should be fresh, firm and ripe. Over-ripe fruit must NOT be used. Fruits which do not set well, e.g., cherries, pears, marrow, strawberries and rhubarb, need the addition of lemon, red-currant or gooseberry juice, or of citric or tartaric acid.

2. If you want a jam which will keep well it is most important that not more than 10 lb. of jam should be obtained from 6 lb. of sugar.

3. Store away from the light in a dry place.

Low Sugar Jam

If sugar is scarce, or if a less sweet jam is preferred, the amount of sugar can be reduced, but not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per 1 lb. of fruit; these jams won't set so firmly and will not keep more than a few weeks, unless sealed in airtight containers.

Apple Ginger

Six lb. apples, 2 pints water, 6 lb. sugar, 2 level teaspoons citric or tartaric acid, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ground ginger.

Peel, core and cut up apples. Place peel and cores in muslin and hanging them in pan. Place apples and water in pan with acid and ground ginger, and cook slowly until tender. Remove bag of peel, after squeezing. Add sugar and boil jam rapidly until setting point is reached.

Cherry Jam

Ten lb. stoned cherries (11 lb. before stoning), juice 6 small lemons, 7 lb. sugar, a little water if necessary.

Put the stoned cherries in a pan together with acid and stones tied in muslin. Cook over low heat and then bring to a gentle boil and cook for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, or until cherries are tender. Add sugar and stir until boiling. Boil briskly until setting point is reached. Remove stones.

This should give about 13 lb. finished. If 10 lb. only is obtained the jam will be too sweet. If Morello Cherries are used, half the quantity of acid should be sufficient.

Glossary

"Bain-Marie"—a large vessel half-filled with hot water in which small pans are placed to keep contents hot without burning.

"Caramel"—sugar boiled to a very dark brown. Used for flavouring and colouring.

"Consommé"—clear soup.

"Croustons"—Thin slices of bread cut into shapes and fried. Used for garnishing.

"Colcannon"—an Irish dish of mashed potatoes and boiled cabbage.

"Charlotte"—a mould of biscuits filled with cream.

Household Hints

To test an egg, place in a vessel of water. If perfectly fresh it will sink to the bottom and lie there. If several days old it will rise, one end lying at bottom. The staler the egg, the more it rises.

Coffee or tea stains can be removed easily from silk. Spread soiled piece over a basin and pour clean boiling water through the part. If the stain is an old one, rub

THE SOCIAL SIDE

The Social Committee report the completion of another successful year's functions, the last of which took place on 17th May in the form of a gala dance.

During the course of the season there were two further special dances—New Year's Eve and one in aid of the "Darby and Joan" Club.

These summer days it seems a far cry to the darker evenings, the bright lights and the music of dances, but already the Committee have had to organise and book ahead for next season.

So enter these dates in your diary **now**: 25th October, 22nd November, 13th December, All Saints; 31st December (Special Gala), at St. Oswalds.

Keep an eye on this column for further details in later issues. Till then "Happy Holidays" to all members and friends from the Social Committee.

Croxley Theatre Club

On Whit-Monday the Croxley Green Theatre Club held a dance at the Guildhouse, the endeavour being to rouse funds to help the Club—whose aim is to further dramatic art in Croxley—to acquire the necessary equipment to ensure that their productions are well-staged. As anyone who is interested in drama knows, the scenery, etc., used by the back-stage members, are as all important as the choice of play and the casting. It is hoped that the Club will have benefited by their Whitsun effort.

1st Croxley Green Scouts

The Senior Scouts of the 1st Croxley Green Troop recently returned from a wonderful holiday in Switzerland. They made their Headquarters at the Scouts International Home, Kandusteg. From all accounts they had a wonderful time under the leadership of Scout Master S. Derek Last. The return journey was broken in Paris (Ooh, la la!! What a theme for a sketch in the next Scout Show). They were received with courtesy, kindness and generosity by the people they met; if only this spirit could always prevail amongst people of all nations.

T.G. Drama Section at Home

The Drama Section of the Croxley Green Townswomen's Guild, held a most enjoyable Social Evening in the Science Room, Dickinson's Guildhouse, on Wednesday, June 11th. Over a hundred people, including some husbands, enjoyed a sketch, "The Rest Cure," dialogues and monologues given by the members of the Drama Section. The entertainment was interspersed with games and competitions and there was naturally a break for refreshments and talking. The section hope to benefit considerably from the evening.

Ladies Only—continued

on a little powdered borax and continue to pour boiling water through.

To prevent the bristles of hair-brushes getting soft when washed, rinse in equal quantities of milk and water before drying, preferably before a fire.

Tough meat may be made tender by placing in vinegar for a few minutes.

Wayward Words

The real problem of your leisure is how to keep other people from using it.

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"ROLLING STOCK"

When I am discussing transport with anybody, somehow or other the words "rolling stock" seem to keep cropping up. It is a term which seems to come so readily from the Officials and Public Relations Officers. Somehow or other, I have a feeling, when discussing transport, the term "laughing stock" would perhaps be a little more appropriate. Let us have a look at the two approaches to the transport problems.

I am told that all staff, be they drivers, conductors, guards, or what have you, receive training before they commence their duties. This training does seem to be quite effective, and I have no real quarrel with the attitude of these servants to the travelling public generally; rather the opposite, there are many occasions on which I admire the service they give.

On the other hand, I am also told that the Senior Staff, such as Executives, etc., receive training, and attend discussions and conferences for, presumably, fitting them to lead the public service under discussion, and to teach them the proper approach to the travelling public, their clients.

The traveller, going about his or her business, has of necessity to use public transport extensively, and sees or knows little of what happens behind the scenes to enable the service to function.

You may think that I am patting everyone on the back and to a point this would be quite true, but there is a particular aspect of the relationship between the transport officials and the travelling public which is far beyond my comprehension. Such is the attitude, that I believe it would be beneficial to us all if the syllabus of training, and the principles behind the staff discussions were publicly declared, or perhaps it might even be considered that to enable the traveller to understand the officials' attitude, there might be established a training school for travellers.

I have always thought that transport was a public service, run primarily as a service to the public, which its name implies, and it is very difficult to reconcile the two viewpoints. In the days of private enterprise, if a transport service was required and the transport operator could make even a small profit out of it, then the service was put into effect and there was satisfaction all round.

Today it is different. It is a heartless monopoly (I almost said enterprise, but realise there is no enterprise left), where the emphasis would appear to be on service to the staff and executives, rather than service to the public. The traveller is quite a sensible individual and I can hardly believe that we need an army of public relations officers to tell him what he does and what he does not want, or what is good for him, after all he has been travelling many years, and knows where he wants to go and what is a reasonable price for the journey. He knows that he was able to get it before and cannot understand the frustration existing now.

Let us just think for a moment of the local matters which have affected the residents of Croxley Green. Let us think of the curtailment of the old L.M.S. Section, and its threatened closure: the 385 bus controversy: the ridiculous 318 bus proposal: the "dog in the manger" attitude of the 335 and 336 proposals, etc. Almost without exception, the old story of shortage of staff, shortage of rolling stock, and uneconomical running was brought out. The position has, of necessity, had to be accepted for the time being, but it is not being accepted for good.

Travellers and citizens generally have memories, and

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to be able to report a steady increase in membership of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association. This membership increase is an indication that the Association's quiet but methodical approach to the many matters referred to it for attention is providing a service, which cannot be offered by any other body in the district.

During the past two weeks there have been numerous enquiries from new residents, who have recently come to live in the district, and who have had experience of the benefits gained by membership of a Residents' Association in the district from which they came.

Membership of this Association does not mean that the member benefits purely from parochial activities, as affiliation to the Hertfordshire Federation of Residents', Ratepayers' and Kindred Associations allows matters of an even wider interest to be dealt with, through the Home Counties Council and the National Union of Ratepayers' Associations. The trend over the past few years, whereby local affairs have been influenced to such a marked degree by Whitehall demands that we, as humble ratepayers, should watch this aspect.

As an Association, we also work in co-operation with various other local bodies and associations, to further the social and cultural activities of the district. A member of the Association's Committee serves on the Rickmansworth U.D.C. Road Safety Committee. We also publish six issues of our modest little journal annually, the columns of which are always open to contributions from members, and which serves as a link throughout the community. These, and other facilities, plus the knowledge that the Association is always ready for service in an emergency, are worth far more than the annual subscription of 2s. per year.

Our Street Stewards will be glad to discuss membership with you. Fill in the form today. Tomorrow you may need some service.

Rolling Stock continued—

whether the transport authorities are aware of it or not, they are also sometimes observant. Parallel to the refusal to consider sensible suggestions emanating from the travellers, we see the transport authorities advertising special excursions almost daily. Perhaps some of these run without drivers or conductors, and perhaps without even "rolling stock," and are mere dreams on paper. It is certain, however, that they are not all economical journeys. Where, therefore, is the reasoning and sense? I had the experience the other day of seeing a double-decker bus, bearing the intriguing indication "Sight-seeing Tour of London," with three very lonely passengers on the upper deck. Perhaps they took the upper deck so that they could smoke. There was not even an invalid on the lower deck. The cost—who knows?

On the same day I saw twenty buses pass a particular point in London within ten minutes, and the average number of passengers on each bus was around ten-and-a-half, and the half was not a child. Surely it would have been better to have used some of these vehicles and the staff employed on running what would be economical services in Croxley Green. Perhaps I am in need of a training course, or might be allowed to sit at one of the discussion groups, so that I might, in due course, come to understand the other man's point of view. At the moment, I am just completely baffled.

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