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Dec 1952

THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 43.

Editor: W. F. HADAWAY 83 Baldwins Lane.

No. 5—1952.

EDITORIAL

The Season's Greetings to all our Readers

Transport

Our postbag recently has contained an undue proportion of letters complaining of the shortcomings of local transport, particularly as regards getting to Watford from Croxley Green round about 8.30 a.m.

We publish two letters in this issue, both written in that sarcastic strain which of late has been the tone of local residents when speaking of "public transport."

No doubt the inability of a nearby Council to, so far, secure any sort of improvement in bus services has been noted with deep concern by the general public, and it is a fact that the topic of buses has now assumed widespread proportions—so much so that the London Transport Executive has, in this area at any rate, irrevocably lost what little "Public Relations" it ever had!

Not a day passes but what one or other of us has cause to criticise some aspect of this huge undertaking, which has a virtual monopoly (and so a responsibility) in public transport, and to add to our sense of grievance we are now to look forward to "Winter Schedules," which mean that there will be even less buses to cater for even more would-be passengers!

We would have preferred that our Christmas issue should not have found necessary this indictment of the London Transport Executive, but the conclusion forced upon us is that the Executive has signally failed in its task, and it is time that the transporting of the public should be undertaken by someone else.

Closing the Gap

Our recent perambulations in the highways and byways of Croxley Green have brought home the undoubted fact of the diminishing gaps, because of the building of houses, especially on the Watford side of the parish.

Certainly, in the last year or two, there have been developments in Links Way, Watford Road, Winton Crescent, Lewes Way and Winton Drive, and thereby the population of Croxley Green continues to mount, but to what purpose? Although we like to believe that all these new residents chose this locality primarily because of its own charms, we have to confess to a suspicion that a sneaking regard was had to Croxley's nearness not to Rickmansworth, but to Watford! By taking up local residence, many new families now find themselves within the "pull" of the magnetism of a large town, with its many domestic attractions, and it is only to be expected that civic pride in their "parent" town will be somewhat difficult to foster, unless they can be persuaded that, for example, the Local Council (which includes their representatives) is aware of their residence here and is "all out" to preserve, and improve, the local amenities; that the traders and shopkeepers really seek their custom, and that the various social events do extend a special welcome to them. The receipt of a "Rates" demand as one's first official welcome to a new home cannot be seriously regarded as being an "inspired" one; a friendly worded welcome would cost no more but could mean so much. The visit of the local Councillor(s), with a promise that the newcomer's civic worries and aspirations would always command attention, would be a worthy gesture indeed!

At this particular season of the year, when goodwill is proverbial, it might not be a bad notion to appoint a local Minister of Welcome, with portfolio, the latter to contain an unlimited supply of Friendliness and Fraternity. The reaction of the populace might well be that in addition to paying Rickmansworth their rates, they would pay it their respects!

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1952

In one respect the clause in the constitution of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association which decrees that the Annual General Meeting shall be held at this time of the year is to be regretted, as the accompanying weather has become almost proverbial. Those hardy spirits who braved the elements to attend this year's meeting were well rewarded and will have enough views and opinions of local government to occupy their thoughts for some time to come.

The heading of this report could well have been "Mr. Pooley speaks his mind" and certainly the address given by the Association's chairman covered the full range from those who are conscientiously performing their duties for the benefit of the community to those at the other end of the scale who seem to derive most satisfaction in defying all efforts to ease the burdens of the public and improve amenities.

Dealing first with the major items in the past year's activities, Mr. Pooley reported the action taken to improve local bus services and also to prevent innovations which would be to the detriment of the travelling public. He recalled, too, the successful outcome of the Association's contesting a move for the compulsory purchase of the Civic Restaurant site for the purpose of building a permanent public hall.

He then went on to discuss the membership of the Association. We have, said Mr. Pooley, passed through difficult times in the past three years, losing at first a lot of support through the decision not to contest local elections. The present position was, however, most encouraging and he asserted that the membership is now double the joint membership of any or all political parties in this area. Considerable support was gained from newcomers to the district who had had experience of similar associations elsewhere.

Following an appreciation of the work performed by members of the committee, Mr. Pooley spoke of the co-operative attitude of officers of the Council and, of the Councillors, he said that relationship is as high as it had ever been and that we have no difficulty in approaching Councillors of any political colour. He then went on to speak of correspondence appearing in the local press. Whilst he did not himself go to press for cheap publicity, he did consider it necessary when somebody shot at him. Recently he had had occasion to do so when a letter above the signature of a local gentleman inferred that the Association was decadent and dead—he particularly resented this as the gentleman in question lacked the courage to mention the matter in recent and frequent conversations.

On the influence of party politics in local government, Mr. Pooley stated that this made little difference in an administration where decisions were made by civil servants acting for the party who happened to be in power at the time. He had, however, a poor opinion of the position with regard to nationalised undertakings from whom it is impossible to obtain information as to how things are being run locally. It is his intention to press for local boards to publish their accounts and for the local press to be admitted to committee meetings.

Mr. Pooley then passed on to matters at county level and in particular the New Towns and L.C.C. Estates in Hertfordshire. In this matter, he said, "We don't seem to be getting very much forrarder." We have had a vast army of population deposited on us and, whilst some counties get an Equalisation Grant to assist in the cost of supporting such an influx of new residents, Hertfordshire is regarded as being a "rich" county

well able to afford this financial burden. Mr. Pooley asked whether Association members there present felt themselves to be sufficiently "rich" to justify such treatment. In his view, the L.C.C. should be made to carry a great deal of the burden or, otherwise, it should be borne by a central fund.

This subject led to a feeling that the time was ripe for some reform in local government. Whilst the officers of the various local authorities did their best under existing regulations, it was time for the whole structure to be reviewed and it was hoped to hold an open meeting shortly to discuss the position fully.

Mr. Pooley then spoke of housing. At present, he said, building licences were granted only to applicants on the housing list. If, however, they were granted to people already housed but who could afford to build their own homes, their present houses would in turn become vacant for others. So, as well as giving tenants of council houses facilities to buy them, why not grant them licences to build their own homes and so leave their present Council houses for letting to other applicants.

After giving vent to pungent comments on the non-co-operative attitude of the London Transport Executive towards local transport problems, and the state of the county highways, Mr. Pooley then asked for a re-adjustment of wards in the Rickmansworth district with consequent improved representation. He made mention of the small number of votes required to return a councillor in a Rickmansworth Town Ward compared with the number necessary to put a Croxley Green councillor into his seat. This was another problem which it was intended to tackle at an early date.

With an appeal to all present to do everything to make the forthcoming Coronation Year a success in Croxley Green, the Chairman terminated his address.

The Secretary in his report said that whilst few of the Association's activities during the past year had made "headlines," there had been good solid work by all officers, committee members and delegates in co-operation with members of other local bodies. He referred to the pre-election meeting held in May, the successful running of the "Croxley Resident" and the Social Committee and improvements effected at the instigation of the Association in the condition of roads, footpaths, street lighting, etc. Delegates had been active in their contacts with, notably, the Road Safety Committee and the Croxley Green Society and, through the work of the Herts Federation, they were taking an increasing interest in the county's affairs. He informed the meeting that their chairman, Mr. Pooley, had now been elected as Vice-Chairman of the County Federation, a fact which caused the officers and committee a great deal of satisfaction. It was undoubtedly his contact in that capacity which enabled Mr. Pooley to speak in such an informative manner on such a wide variety of subjects.

The Treasurer then presented his balance sheet which was accepted with a vote of thanks for his efforts during the past year.

In electing the officers for the year 1952/3, a precedent was created in that the present President was asked to continue in office for a further year. It was unanimously felt that as Mrs. Ritchie, through her work with the Croxley Green Society, would be a leading figure in the forthcoming Coronation Celebrations, it was most appropriate that she be asked to remain as the Association's leading personality. The final list of elected officers and committee members is as shown in column 2 of page 8.

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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

We are indebted to the City Librarian and Staff of the City of Cambridge Central Library for the following brief summary of the history and aims of a service which can truthfully claim to freely serve the whole community.

The Public Library movement was born 102 years ago; Royal Assent was given in August, 1850, to the first Public Libraries Act, and therefrom Town Councils were authorised to spend the product of a halfpenny rate on libraries, **but not on books. Books had to be provided voluntarily by the townsfolk!**

These limitations were gradually removed by succeeding legislation, first in 1855 when the rate was raised to a penny and the purchase of books by local authorities was allowed, then in 1919 when County Councils were permitted to establish public libraries, and the limit of rate was entirely removed. Following upon the latter Act, remarkable progress was made and, in the movement's 100th year (1950) there were nearly 600 Library Authorities, 23,000 service points and 12,000,000 yearly borrowers!

Yet not everyone can use the normal library service and so special provisions are made for schools, education groups and youth clubs, whilst many hospital libraries—and those of prisons—are administered by the Public Library Service.

Although the aim of all public libraries is to provide a well-balanced and representative stock of books, there is of course no library in which a reader will find everything he wants. But, by a well-organised plan developed along the lines of the "Regional" and "Outlier" system it is possible to obtain almost any book in quite a short time. The National Central Library co-ordinates this plan, under which books are borrowed from one library for use in another and this makes possible the supplying of books over the widest field, including that of specialised material. This huge and successful system moves smoothly into operation by the mere request by a borrower for a book which the local library hasn't got, and, all along the chain, the request is handled in courteous and efficient manner, so that finally the would-be reader finds available that "Treasurer-house of Knowledge," made possible by the PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE.

"BOOKWORM."

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I have never seen a conundrum in your magazine so why not use this one?

"If it takes a man thirty minutes to walk briskly from Croxley L.M.S. to Market Street, how long does it take to get on a bus about 8.30 a.m. and cover the same distance?"

If you know the answer break it gently to the London Transport Executive lest you disturb their "Public Relations."

Yours faithfully,

"SHANKS PONY (EXPRESS)"
(Name and address supplied)

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

You have been good enough to publish my previous letters on the subject of transport and rolling stock, and I felt I should again communicate with you.

Since I last wrote my condition has become considerably worse; not only am I suffering from acute bewilderment and "baffles," but I am now suffering also from aggravated frustration caused by buses passing me unnoticed and from over-exertion. This latter malady is directly due to having to run to Watford behind the buses which didn't want to carry me. It is indeed a hard life and the road is even harder!

Can you, Mr. Editor, please tell me when Winter starts? Somehow I have an idea the Transport Big-Wigs make their own seasons so we might expect them shortly to declare two Sundays in every week but reduce the number of days to five in all.

I am no longer a "Fellow Traveller" (non-political), I am now

Yours, etc.,

ALSO RAN (OUT OF FORM).
(Name and address supplied)

[We refer our correspondents to the "Editorial" on page 1. We also remind readers that names and addresses — not necessarily for publication — must accompany letters.]

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WE HEAR—

International Friendship League. The I.F.L., which is advertising its activities in this issue, exists to promote friendship between the ordinary peoples, of all nations, and has provided centres in foreign countries, where members may avail themselves of holidays at much below the normal cost of such travel. Members of the Croxley Green branch have visited Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden during 1952. Weekly meetings incorporating social activities, film shows and talks by different nationalities, are held each Tuesday evening at Dickinson Guildhouse. A Grand Xmas Party is being organised and a Dance will be held also at All Saints Hall on the 28th February. All desiring further information should contact the Secretary, R. Rollitt, 103 New Road, or attend one of the meetings. We are especially asked to emphasise that the I.F.L. is strictly non-political.

Allotments. The Croxley Green Horticultural Society, have, over a lengthy period, been pressing the Council to indicate their plans for the provision of alternative sites to replace allotments being de-requisitioned. At the time of going to press nothing firm had been forthcoming, even though the letter from the Horticultural Society was dated May. Many allotment holders are concerned lest arrangements are delayed beyond the time when they would normally be making provisions for the obtaining of seeds and manures, etc., and preparing the ground for the spring sowing. At this rate an allotment holder could sow his seeds and reap his harvest in an equivalent time to that taken by the Council to make up its mind.

Mill End Coronation Meeting. Apparently the Mill End Community are finding it difficult to put forward any concrete proposals covering the Coronation festivities.

Buses Again. Croxley Green is not the only discontented and disillusioned community as far as transport is concerned and the L.T.E. may expect a shoal of letters from all around the district telling them in no uncertain manner of the public's opinion of their disinterested approach to commonsense suggestions. The local press are now regularly publishing letters from just ordinary sensible members of the public who feel like we in Croxley Green, that it is about time the L.T.E. handed over its operations to private interests, who would serve the travelling public.

Derequisitioning. Steps are now to be taken to gradually derequisition properties as they are vacated by tenants. The requisitioning of properties served a very useful purpose, but the action to release them, has obviously, in fairness to all parties, to become operative before the properties begin to fall into disrepair. Councils are not likely to spend a lot of money on these properties and there is a danger that they will deteriorate to such an extent as to shorten their lives, and in turn create even further housing need.

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CUT FLOWERS A SPECIALITY

CHAIRMAN

It is a long way from Croxley Green to Kenya, a but pass on with the comment: "There will be no peace

This ready comment may well be based on good real facts emerge and the problem seen in its true perspective

Whether Kenya will eventually become a truly African will move forward together towards a common goal may and coloured will tread their chosen paths, and having residents of Croxley Green should pause and consider at

That some of the early methods of colonisation were but the years have brought with them those new approaches, Colonial policy has moved along more enlightened peoples—often at a high cost to the British taxpayer. Etc., are but a few of the benefits of this enlightened (sometimes the frailties) of the white man has encouraged are detrimental to their own people's interests under the

It would be a tragedy indeed for all concerned if

You may well be wondering what all this has in such magnitude, but we have with us daily a problem which even though the expression when directly applied has advanced, we have, during the very period when others were "governing themselves," had our right to a voice in the matter approaching again a state of servitude. "Progress" has freedom to run our own affairs until once again we are State.

Our every action throughout the whole twenty-four control. No longer are those matters once regarded as purely representatives.

Such is the power of the State today that practical directions of one Government Department or another. It your local Council are for the most part acting merely as the County Council act as agents for the Government also can do for you, and can also perhaps understand his feel

The Government changes occasionally, and we the of the various Ministries. Not a very encouraging thought should turn again—not backward but forward towards reality sufficiently far as to be entrusted with the conduct of the Councillors have adequate knowledge, or must we wait in concession? Do not wait hopefully but in vain. Take a Members of Parliament, write to the Press, and be sure to an assurance from your candidates that they will press for

The Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association on a national level. Through association with other similar in a way which we hope in time will be effective.

Must we be treated as backward peoples awaiting c

WOOLS. HABERDASHERY. CHILDREN'S WEAR



TELEPHONE WATFORD 3824

MAN'S LETTER

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ur turn for "education"?

T. POOLEY.

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—AND OBSERVE

Civil Defence Welfare Section. The Croxley Green Section (Welfare) of the Civil Defence Organisation has now held its first classes. According to reports there is considerable interest. The section meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. in the Dickinson Guildhouse. Basic First Aid is the subject now being taken and volunteers are finding this of value not only from a Civil Defence aspect, but also in case of emergency in the home. Mrs. Jervase of Sarratt, and a member of the Red Cross is in attendance at these meetings for the purpose of instructing the members. It is understood that various other welfare matters will be dealt with and on suitable occasions various aspects of Civil Defence (Welfare) will be illustrated by films. Further volunteers are requested to attend the meetings as above or contact Mrs. Morgan, 5 Winton Crescent. Tel. Watford 6520.

Politics and Opinions at Oxhey. Somebody has certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons in Oxhey, and the cat without doubt owes its ancestry to politics. Whether the colour of the cat is red, yellow, blue or pink matters little. What does matter, however, is that here is a typical example of how politics and political suspicion and distrust can bring a Community Association to breaking point and prejudice its future. Judging by the allegations and counter allegations which have been made in this "highly coloured" dispute, it would seem that the most sensible course to adopt would be to close down the Association and recommence with a clean sheet, not threatened by contamination with these coloured inks.

Coronation Mugs. The Rickmansworth U.D.C. have decided to purchase Coronation Mugs at a cost of approximately £400. This is equivalent to something like a halfpenny rate.

Public Servants. It would appear that a certain councillor believes that his duty to his electors ends when he takes his seat in the Council Chamber and that he need not be in any way bound by public opinion. Let him be corrected forthwith. He is but a servant.

Planning. There are others besides the Residents' Association, who criticise the county planners. Various planning decisions made during recent months are such as to make the residents of Hertfordshire wonder whether that part of the rate demand which covers planning expenditure is worth while. We have constantly emphasised the inability of planning officers, who move from one local authority to another, and have little or no knowledge of the locality or district, making decisions which appear to bear no relation to the decisions of previous occupants of their office. What can it matter to a "planner," how his decisions may affect the livelihood or lives of others, when he himself might move to another authority before his decision becomes operative.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It is a long way from Croxley Green to Kenya, and many residents will undoubtedly read their morning papers but pass on with the comment: "There will be no peace until the Africans rule themselves."

This ready comment may well be based on good commonsense, but there is much to be considered before the real facts emerge and the problem seen in its true perspective.

Whether Kenya will eventually become a truly African state in the fullest sense or whether white and coloured will move forward together towards a common goal may not be decided for many years to come. Meanwhile, white and coloured will tread their chosen paths, and having sown will reap accordingly. It is perhaps wise that we mere residents of Croxley Green should pause and consider at this stage and say, "Whither the British way of life."

That some of the early methods of colonisation were, to say the least, of a doubtful nature, cannot be denied, but the years have brought with them those new approaches and policies which have been so beneficial. Of recent years, Colonial policy has moved along more enlightened lines and has contributed much to the progress of backward peoples—often at a high cost to the British taxpayer. Education, Medical Science, Agricultural Development, Justice, etc., are but a few of the benefits of this enlightened policy. Unfortunately, increased knowledge of the ways (and sometimes the frailties) of the white man has encouraged certain elements of the coloured to embark on measures which are detrimental to their own people's interests under the guise of "demanding self-government."

It would be a tragedy indeed for all concerned if these movements are not to be seen in their true perspective.

You may well be wondering what all this has in common with Croxley Green? We may not have problems of such magnitude, but we have with us daily a problem which has a direct bearing on the expression "self-government," even though the expression when directly applied has another meaning. In the name of, and under the guise of "progress," we have, during the very period when others were being moved forward towards the day when they could "govern themselves," had our right to a voice in the management of our own affairs whittled away until we are fast approaching again a state of servitude. "Progress" has meant for us passing from servitude through days and years of freedom to run our own affairs until once again we are controlled—not this time by an overlord but by a soul-less State.

Our every action throughout the whole twenty-four hours of each day is subject to some measure of remote State control. No longer are those matters once regarded as purely parochial left to be dealt with by our locally elected representatives.

Such is the power of the State today that practically all the rates you pay are spent under instructions or directions of one Government Department or another. It matters little which Department is involved. In other words, your local Council are for the most part acting merely as agents for either the County Council or the Government, and the County Council act as agents for the Government alone. You can perhaps see how little your favourite Councillor can do for you, and can also perhaps understand his feelings of frustration.

The Government changes occasionally, and we therefore have direction and control by the permanent officials of the various Ministries. Not a very encouraging thought. The answer? It is surely past the time when the wheel should turn again—not backward but forward towards real freedom and enlightenment. Surely we have been educated sufficiently far as to be entrusted with the conduct of those affairs which are purely local and of which our elected Councillors have adequate knowledge, or must we wait until our "State guardians" consider we are ready for this concession? Do not wait hopefully but in vain. Take action through any organisation which can help, press your Members of Parliament, write to the Press, and be sure that when the next General Election comes around you obtain an assurance from your candidates that they will press for action if returned.

The Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association has already taken steps to have this matter raised on a national level. Through association with other similar bodies and Federations it is possible to pursue this matter in a way which we hope in time will be effective.

Must we be treated as backward peoples awaiting our turn for "education"?

T. POOLEY.

WOOLS. HABERDASHERY. CHILDREN'S WEAR



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GARDENING

Two years ago our gardening diary commenced and, since then, seasonal hints have been given in each issue, covering the gardening year, or so much of it as space has permitted. 31

In the writing of the "diary" we have often been reminded of the fact that quite a number of gardening tasks are inclined to be regarded as "specialised," for example, the cultivation of a particular tree, shrub or plant. We intend, therefore, to give the ordinary gardening diary a rest and, in this and future issues, concentrate upon one, or perhaps two, items of seasonal importance. Let us then begin with the planting of roses, the popularity of which is daily increasing. 32

Roses, generally, are quite hardy and will stand up well to our average winter season without coddling, BUT, not all roses will thrive in any particular garden, so the first lesson to be learned is that of choosing those that will, as your main stock, and then trying others, in small numbers, to find out those which will do well in your soil. So your collection will grow, with proven varieties, and with reasonable hope of a worth-while annual display of the "Queen of Flowers." 33

Here, to form the nucleus of your collection, are a few well-tried favourites which can almost be guaranteed to give a good account of themselves: Crimson Glory, Dame Edith Helen (rose-pink), Madame Butterfly (apricot, pink and gold), Mrs. Sam McGredy (orange shaded), Ophelia (salmon-flesh), Mrs. Henry Bowles (rose-pink, shaded orange), Etoile de Hollande (red), Shot Silk (cherry-pink, overshot with salmon orange). 34

Planting can be done between the end of October and the beginning of March, but the earlier the better. Do not attempt it when ground is sodden or frozen, and if your new roses have arrived at such a time, just heel them in until more suitable conditions arise. Keep the roots moist. This is "must" number one! Dig the proposed bed at least 2 feet deep and, if you find it a moderately stiff loam, so much the better. Mix in some sandy stuff, for example, builder's rubble, to keep the soil porous, and some bulky material such as peat or garden compost. (I do not recommend stable or farm-yard manure at planting time; it proves so often to be too rich.) Now, dig out the hole, keeping the surface soil separate. Look at your rose bush—you will see the union of stock and rose just above the root system and it is correct to have that union just below ground level. This is "must" number two! Sit the bush in the hole with the roots given plenty of elbow room and begin to fill in—first a sprinkling of friable (loose) soil to hold the plant in position—then more soil, lifting and shaking the bush as necessary to get the right depth. Plant very firmly—"must" number three! Fork gently into the top soil a handful of bone-meal as a safe, slow-acting fertiliser, put the last sprinkling of best surface soil on top, and that's it! 35

There is no need for overcoats of straw or bracken, nor winter mulches. It is easier to kill roses with kindness than with anything else. 36

The distances for planting can be from 18 to 24 inches for bush roses and about twice as much for standards and, with the latter, staking should be done at the time of planting and a good guide as to depth is the soil mark on the stem. 37

To sum up, then, the essentials for rose planting are (a) sufficient room for the roots; (b) a porous soil; (c) correct depth and (d) very firm planting. Roses planted as late as March should be pruned at the time. W.F.H. 38

THE "WELCOME CLUB"

It didn't say "Welcome" on the mat, but the atmosphere when one entered the Guildhouse on Saturday afternoon, November 8th, was one of more than welcome.

Over a hundred faces, many very lined with age, and in some cases with suffering, looked up to the platform on which sat Mr. Morgan Skeins, representing Dickinson's, Mr. Wilcox, the organiser, Mr. Barton-Smith and Mr. A. W. Carr. Unfortunately, the Chairman of the Residents' Association and Mrs. Pooley were unable to take their places on the platform owing to an engagement earlier in the day, but they arrived in time for Mrs. Pooley to express a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilcox.

The Co-operative children's choir, under the superb conductorship of Mrs. Glynis Fenton, opened the entertainment. The first song, "Bless this House," was a very fitting choice. Everyone who is connected in any way with the establishing of this Club for the old folk of Croxley will most certainly wish for God's blessing on the venture.

After the choir came tea, and a lovely tea it was, and much credit is due to "the ladies of the kitchen" for their fine effort. Tea over, Mr. Pooley said how very pleased he and the Residents' Association were to know that Croxley Green had its own Club for the "old people," and at the risk of being accused of preaching "Parish Pump Politics," he still maintained that Croxley Green and its inhabitants were "the tops."

Photographs were taken and then an impromptu entertainment. It must have been nearly 5.30 p.m. before the members left the Club, and the happy smiling faces proved that the vote of thanks given from the body of the hall by one of the members was very definitely the sentiment of all.

"Welcome." What a lovely word that is, and what a lovely feeling it gives one to know that there is a real welcome waiting at the end of a journey, however short, especially if one is old and alone, living in one room, dependent upon the charity of others for the little comforts which make life easier, grateful for a few minutes chat.

Couldn't we in Croxley Green extend our welcome a little further? Christmas will soon be here and it would be a nice gesture to ask one or two of the old folk, who haven't any folk of their own round them, to come and have a bite of dinner or a cup of tea during the festive season. Think it over.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

On November 1st the Croxley Green Horticultural Society staged the second only "Annual Chrysanthemum Show" at Dickinson Guildhouse, but it was so successful that the "third" is a matter of course and will probably justify the booking of the larger hall. It is a pleasure to record another "winner" on behalf of this Society, whose officers again deserved—and received—the public's support.

There were 90 entries this year, 15 more than in the 1951 venture, and the blooms in the 13 different classes were well arranged.

One was immediately struck by the really beautiful bowl of berries and foliage entered by Mrs. Skingley—Class 13 it may have been, but obviously a prizewinner, chrysanthemums or no!

The same lady secured another "first" in Class XI—"Bowl of chrysanthemums, home-grown, arranged for effect," and Mr. Skingley took the 1st prize in Class 12—"Single chrysanthemums with Autumn foliage."

(Continued on page 7 col. 2)

PLUMBING

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LADIES ONLY

By the time you read this, it will be almost Christmas and it doesn't seem twelve months ago since I was thinking up recipes suitable for the festive season. Here we are once more, wondering what we can make for a change.

We all have our favourite recipes for Christmas cake. How about it something a little different? Here it is:—

Cornish Saffron Cake

2 lbs. flour, 1 oz. yeast, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. lard, 6 oz. margarine, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. currants, 1 dram saffron.

Cut up saffron very fine, cover with water and stand somewhere warm overnight. Next morning crumble yeast in half a pint of warm milk with dessertspoon of sugar. Allow to stand in the warm while you rub the fat into the flour and sugar. Add currants. Pour yeast and saffron with the liquid into the centre of mixture and knead well. Put in a warm place for one hour. Place the dough in cake tins and stand for twenty minutes. Cook in moderate oven for one hour. This quantity makes three medium-sized cakes.

My next recipe is useful because it can be used equally well at tea time, dinner time or supper time, and since it is served cold is especially useful as it can be numbered amongst the "previously prepared" items.

Gateau of Apricots

Make a deep sponge cake by your usual recipe and when cold cut out a large circle in the centre. For the filling cook gently $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. dried apricots (1 lb. if fresh) with 2 oz. sugar and a little water. Beat them to a pulp. Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. gelatine in $\frac{1}{4}$ pint fresh milk and $\frac{1}{4}$ pint evaporated milk (1 oz. gelatine if "low melting point" type is used). Stir into pulp, fill centre of cake with this when almost set. Cover with mock cream and sprinkle thickly with chopped nuts, or alternatively decorate as required. Don't make the hole through the cake, leave a firm base.

If you want to finish up that leg of pork in a different way, this is it:—

Country Pork

Slice pork and fry slightly, peel and slice 3 carrots, 1 large onion, 2 large apples and 1 lb. of potatoes. Put layers of pork and sliced vegetables and apples alternatively in a casserole, sprinkle a little powdered sage between each layer. Finish with layer of sliced potato. Use any gravy left over—or stock to cover contents of the casserole—make up with water if necessary. Put lid on, simmer in low oven (350 deg. F., gas No. 3) for two hours. Remove lid for last $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to brown top layer of potatoes. Serve with brussels sprouts and apple sauce.

A tin of pork can be used in the same way using the liquid as gravy and draining pork before slicing.

Household Hints

Teaspoons are used for measuring seasonings, essences and flavourings.

Pointed knife is used for chopping peel, fruit, suet, etc.

To poach an egg: Bring water to the boil, adding a little salt, then stir very rapidly; drop the egg into the water, when the movement of the water will cause the egg to set nicely.

Glossary

"Entrée"—A made dish served at dinner between the chief courses.

"Fritter"—Fruits, etc., encased in batter and fried.

"Force"—Forcemeat.

"Frumenty"—Boiled wheat or barley served with milk, honey or sugar.

"Galantine"—A dish of white meat, glazed and served cold.

"Gateau"—A cake of fruit or meat.

Wayward Words

The Ideal Husband, like the prize fish, is the one that got away.

"FEMINA."

THE PARISH PUMP

We are invariably accused by those who live in the remaining districts which make up the administrative area of Rickmansworth, that we never join fully into the life of the district as a whole but tend to run all our activities solely for Croxley Green. To a degree there is truth in this, but before condemning us these other districts should study our difficulties and our point of view.

The Urban District Council of Rickmansworth administrative area is really a group of districts gathered together for administrative purposes only; districts which have little in common to bond them together socially or culturally. Each district has grown from a mere village or parish and has in many respects retained its old traditions, and although each returns its elected members to sit as councillors for the whole administrative area, very few of these elected members know much about the other districts beyond that which they represent. A study of the electoral roll of the various wards will reveal the unbalanced position in so far as the ratio of electors to Councillors is concerned.

If we appear to be apart it is because we are forced into this way of thought and action. Croxley Green houses a large percentage of the total population of the U.D.C. area, but does not have elected representatives on anywhere near the same percentage. What we need is a re-adjustment of wards in the whole area, after which we are sure that Rickmansworth would understand us better and we in turn would perhaps not feel forgotten. It is all a matter of balance and perspective.

"MODEL," NOT "CODDLE" T.P.

Almost daily our newspapers are "headlining" some report of yet another case of robbery with violence, armed hold-up, gang warfare or some other equally serious crime. Is it that these crimes are on the increase or is it, as some would have us believe, that the newspapers are featuring these cases for a particular purpose? Let us examine the reactions of those whose duty it is to mete out justice to the culprits. During the past few weeks some of our most able and level-headed judges have made it clear how they view the tendency to this type of crime. The sentences awarded have been severe and the observations equally severe and to the point. Questions in Parliament do not appear to bring forward much hope of a thorough examination of the facts by the Home Secretary, therefore it would seem to be another case where public opinion might force some more positive action.

Theoretical and misguided approaches by "reformers" and "welfare" workers are not of any use against calculated thugs who do not recognise these against.

The thug only understands his own approach and should be dealt with accordingly. If one of our "reformers" had the misfortune to receive a little of the "bad boy's" treatment, his ideas on reform might change appreciably.

What is perhaps the most disturbing aspect is the youthfulness of many of these criminals which leads us to wonder whether it is not the general slackening of discipline in the schools which is to blame. Whatever the cause the time has come to meet force with its proper counter, and not by a pat on the back and "the other cheek."

"PUBLIC OPINION."

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW (Continued from page 6 col. 2)

So far as the other 10 Classes were concerned, Mr. A. J. Ashby proved invincible, taking "firsts" in Classes 1, 2, 3 and 5, a second in Class 4 and a third in Class 9. His "Shirley Masterpiece" and "Shirley Triumph" deservedly won the National Chrysanthemum Society's Certificate of Merit, and he also received the "Watford Observer" Challenge Cup.

Mr. A. V. Bryant had one first, three seconds and four thirds. Mr. E. J. Chislett, two firsts and Mrs. Delderfield one first, three seconds and one third, and the all-round excellence of the entries taxed the judgment of Mr. C. I. Lambert to the full. His verdict, endorsed by all, was "a really splendid Show"!

SOCIAL SIDE

Old Time Dances. The Association's Dances are now definitely regarded as part of the accepted winter social programme in Croxley Green, and our Social Committee now arrange these "Old Time" events with confidence in the outcome, as witness the dance held on November 22nd at All Saints' Church Hall.

The next chance you have is on December 13th, at 7.45 p.m. in the same Hall, and a welcome is awaiting you on that evening. It will serve as a reminder for THE dance of the season, the New Year's Eve gala, to be held in St. Oswald's Hall—December 31st. Tickets are still available, but you must hurry!

Townswomen leave the sink for the glamour of the footlights. On Saturday, November 29th, Croxley Green Afternoon Guild gave a very meritorious performance of T. B. Morris's three-act play, "The Arrow of Song." This very strong and unusual play necessitated some strong and unusual acting, and it is to the credit of the cast that they really conquered it. It was well cast, and in general each artist felt the role she was portraying. Their ambitious effort was more than rewarded by the very complimentary reports from all members of the audience, amongst whom, were producers from other guilds and organisations, members of the professional stage, and a British Drama League adjudicator, one and all reported well, and the only regret is that the play was not performed for more than one night. It is the general feeling that it would be well attended if it could be given again at some future date.

Evening Guild gets down to business. Following a public meeting at Dickinson's Guildhouse on November 22nd to discuss the formation of an Evening Townswomen's Guild in Croxley Green, the first Guild meeting was held on Thursday, December 4th in the Science Room, Dickinson's Guildhouse. The business in general was to hear and approve the constitution as laid down by the National Union of T.G.'s and to elect a committee. The N.U.T.G. organiser pointed out that the lowest number for a committee was ten, and the highest eighteen, the Guild could choose its officers first, and then the committee or vice versa and let the committee choose its own officers. It was proposed and seconded that ten committee members be elected and they should choose their officers at the first committee meeting. This decision, said the organiser, had shortened the meeting by at least three-quarters of an hour. For the first time as an organiser she had no spoiled ballot papers. We could have told her that Croxley Green was noted for its efficiency. The forty-six paid-up members will hold their second meeting in the Science Room on Friday, January 16th, 1953, at 7.30 p.m.

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Committee	
Non-retiring members ...	Mrs. Pooley, Messrs. Cousins, Hadaway and Wilcox
Retiring members, re-elected	Messrs. North, Page and Thompson
Co-opted members, elected ...	Mesdames Dickinson and Wilkins
New members	Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Pitkin
Auditors	Messrs. M. J. Cusack and E. L. C. Stuart

The business of the meeting was followed by a showing of the "Festival of Croxley Green" film by Mr. A. Barton-Smith on behalf of the Croxley Green Guild of Old Scouts, which was greatly appreciated by all members present.

* * *

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

THE CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY IS ARRANGING CORONATION CELEBRATIONS ON THE GREEN ON JUNE 2nd, 1953. TO ASSIST TOWARDS THE COST A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION WILL BE MADE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN JANUARY, BY OFFICIALLY-NOMINATED COLLECTORS, AND IT IS FELT THAT IF EVERY ADULT WOULD GIVE A MINIMUM OF SIXPENCE TO THE FUND, THE AMOUNT NEEDED WOULD SOON BE RAISED.

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