

# THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 45.

Editor—A. T. THOMSON, 15 Lewes Way.

No. 2—1953.

## EDITORIAL

In early May, with or without the proverbial blossom, Croxley Green will be involved in council elections. In the North Ward the three-year term of office of Councillors Mrs. E. Wise and F. H. Gurney comes to an end; the South Ward will have a vacancy to fill in consequence of the death of the late Councillor Naughten.

It will be a week or two before the nomination of candidates takes place but at the time of going to press we understand that in the North Ward both retiring councillors are likely to seek re-election. In the South Ward the election will not seem the same if Mr. Sefton Boal does not once again stake his claim.

Inevitably one's memory will recall that extraordinary election battle of 1950 when Councillors Mrs. Wise and Gurney won the seats they are now about to relinquish. Only 46 votes separated the four candidates for the two seats and there was only a margin of three votes between a successful and a non-successful candidate. The votes were counted four times in all before the Returning Officer ended the polling clerks' nightmare of count and recount in the early hours of a Sunday morning.

Will local history repeat itself? Frankly, we see no objection to a repetition of that air of competition *provided* it is not marred by a repetition of 1950 apathy wherein only 40 citizens voted out of every 100. Time and time again local elections are won, not by Mr. Smith or Mr. Brown but by a "Mr. Apathy". Let us do our best to oust him this time!

And now what of the present? Already the first political manoeuvres appear to be taking shape: already the first political lances have been broken. At the close of February the Council Chamber witnessed the first skirmish, although the honours of that evening went to one of Croxley Green's ratepayers when councillors were at the receiving end of a salutary rebuke.

In the weeks to follow candidates may well find the path to the polls a critical one. A wise candidate will require to prepare him or herself carefully. He or she will find the ratepayers alarmed, disturbed and critical to an unprecedented degree; alarmed at the tremendous burden of rates, disturbed at the little prospect of reduction and critical of their representatives and officials who seem unable to cope with the situation.

To the average man or woman everything has a limit—at some point or other. Perhaps the only exception are the skies above but now the more cynical citizen is beginning to suspect the rates are to rival the heavens in their ever upward trend. What is the limit?

In the past each rise has been regarded as an annual disease; a spring fever that was to be dismissed, accepted, tolerated and endured in that order as year succeeded year. Now it is no longer the spring fever of yester-year; it has become a disease which, if not arrested somewhere, somehow, will destroy the very life-blood of local government. This is no over statement. It is a frank realistic view which every ratepayer will endorse if he but thinks it out for himself. No matter what method of approach is adopted, a continued upward soaring of rates can only lead to one thing—bankruptcy of the system of local government as we now know it. Let that collapse and in its place there will be central government with all the attendant evils on which remote control breeds.

What is the cure? What remedies are there? In an ocean of expenditure it is difficult to locate the tiny island of solvency but the attempt must be made.

The first step is at county level. In past decades local authorities have had to yield, little by little, control of policy and finances to county councils. Ostensibly such steps should have produced economies. Instead, like all top heavy, remote centralisation, they have created duplication of work and waste in administration. Too much groundwork is carefully vetted and prepared locally only to be re-done—and often undone—at county level in pointless duplication called county planning, etc.

Education? No, let us be frank about this and dispel the false vote-catching of politicians. Safeguard education and ensure its quality but—and it is a big "but"—are there not too many costly frills and trimmings which have no more place in sound solid education than a herring boat would have in New Road. There is nothing wrong in education but is all that comes under the name REAL education?

County planning, administration, education: they are but three headings, but a start must be made somewhere!

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## GARDENING

You will probably be reading these notes about mid-April, at which time and particularly in this Coronation Year, we should be looking ahead to yet another seasonal task, that of Summer Bedding.

Quite a number of us will recollect the rather formal displays of our youth, when most bedding arrangements seemed to consist of Lobelia, Alyssum, Calceolaria and Geranium (and very neat and compact they looked!) However, in more recent years the bedding displays have ranged very much wider, both in form and in colour, and this year there will also be a desire for red, white and blue patterns. Let us then consider what is necessary to obtain a rich and pleasing summer show.

Firstly, the beds. If bulbs have been grown therein, lift them and replant in a spare corner of the garden, where they can remain until it is time for them to go into their next year's flowering positions. Next, clear out the spring-flowering plants which have had their day, then fork over each bed and add some well-rotted material from the compost heap, or some old manure, and level off.

Have ready a plan for planting-out, regard having been paid to the growing habits of each chosen subject, and colour of bloom. Remember it is important that each plant should be given ample elbow-room; those wide-open spaces at setting-out time seem rather wasteful, but when each plant is fully grown you will see very little soil between them.

Now, in considering the colour scheme, we unfortunately find that the range of blue flowers is somewhat limited, but with judicious ordering and buying, after reference to the following listed varieties, I am sure you will achieve a pleasing Coronation blend.

Reference is given to colour, height, time of planting-out and length of flowering period, and other interesting detail is given where necessary.

**Antirrhinum** (red and white varieties): 15/18 in. for "intermediates"; late May; all summer.

**Ageratum** (blue): 9 in.; late May; all summer.

**Balsam** (scarlet and white varieties): 18 in.; May; (particularly suitable for shady beds).

**Celosia** (red): up to 2 ft.; early June; July and August.

**Lobelia** (white and blue varieties): up to 12 in. in the case of "tall" varieties; up to 6 in. for "dwarfs"; late May; long flowering period.

**Alyssum** (white): up to 9 in.; May; long flowering period.

**Salvia** (blue "salvia patens"—red "salvia splendens"): up to 18 in.; late May; all summer.

**Verbena** (scarlet, white and blue varieties): up to 12 in. if tips are nipped out before planting-out; late May; all summer.

**Viola** (white "swan"—blue "Pickering blue"): up to 6 in.; April; long flowering period.

There are, of course, many other bedding plants, in a variety of colours, and among the favourites are Begonias (worth a bed to themselves), Stocks, Nemesias and Calceolarias (all late May) and Petunias, Zinnias, Dahlias (the Coltness Hybrids) and Geraniums (zonal pelargoniums), all early June. Each of these subjects has an extensive flowering period, especially if all blooms are removed as soon as they are faded. By attention to this latter point, you will ensure that most of the subjects listed here will reward you with colourful blooms right round to the early frosts, which period, we all hope, is a long way ahead!

W. F. H.

## PLUMBING

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R. GRIFFIN

## DECORATING

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Much has appeared in print in the past few years on the possible trend of future Local Government. Although much has been speculation, sooner or later we will see changes likely to affect us materially. Recently published rate figures have revived these speculations and, apart from official discussions, the many Residents' and Ratepayers' Associations, together with the Federations and kindred bodies, are actively studying this complex vexed problem.

Local Government expenditure has reached a point where positive action is necessary; it is no use accepting these increases and hoping they will halt of their own accord. The present structure of Local Government is either powerless to control the matter or alternatively (and many believe this to be the case) is conducive to ever increasing expenditure.

Sooner or later every Council will be faced with the problem of irrecoverable rate arrears. Imprisonment for defaulters or the levying of distress will only mean an increase in the national taxation and perhaps leave the arrears as a further burden on those struggling to meet the Council's demands. Someone must pay is the basic theory, but even the healthiest can be bled to death.

An urgent national movement of protest is already under way, but if we criticise we should also advise. Therefore, without delay, let us in our own way, apply our minds to the basic underlying reasons for heavy rate increases. Take as an example a company who finds its trading accounts revealing heavy losses. Because there is a basic value to almost all products, it cannot increase selling prices to recover. The company takes only one road to solvency; it reorganises, cuts out unnecessary expenditure, and puts again in balance the ratio as between production and administrative overheads. It is only this course which will lead us to sanity in Local Government.

Ratepayers are advised to consider the services now being received from Councils with pre-war services, and, after taking into account the increase in rateable value of the district together with pre-war and today's rate demands, compare the difference in non-productive administrative costs. The comparison will no doubt impress on the ratepayer's mind the urgency of action for Municipal and Local Government reform.

Discussions now taking place in ratepayers organisations nationally comprise in the main:—

(a) What is considered to be an administratively economic unit, bearing in mind local needs.

(b) Will the fusion of two or more small Council areas assist in reducing expenditure.

(c) How does the cost of the tier (County/Urban/Rural) system compare with single unit system (County Borough).

(d) What services could become wholly national and which should become wholly local.

(e) How does Central Government control offset costs.

(f) Should the De-Rating Acts be repealed or amended.

(g) What action is necessary in regard to Assessments and the operation of the Equalisation Fund.

(h) Comparisons of the levels of Local Government staffs throughout the country, with comparisons of the cost per service, both pre-war and current.

These are but a few of the matters under consideration and in order that every possible voice of opinion may be heard, *you are requested to write to the Secretary of this Association putting forward any points you would wish to be considered. The Croxley Green Association is very active even on a national level and is in a position to put your opinion forward.*

T.P.

## CIVIL DEFENCE OR CIVIL DUTY?

We know that the "Floods" are old news and quite a lot of people may say, "Oh, we don't want to hear any more about them", but how many realise, that had not the Civil Defence gone to the rescue, the loss of life and property would have been very much greater.

That really brings me to my point. Civil Defence is what the name implies, the defence of the Civil Population, and not only is it needed in wartime, it is very essential in peacetime.

Let us think back over the past six months; the Harrow Wealdstone tragedy, the Lynton and Lynmouth disaster, Canvey, etc., practically on our doorsteps. In all these instances the Civil Defence were among the first on the scene; not only did the rescue parties go but the Welfare Section as well, and as someone remarked at Canvey when the ladies of the local team were handing out the "cup that cheers", "Thank God for the Civil Defence"; words, which to hear, must have heartened every one of the team. The same few, however, can't do everything, and one never knows when the knowledge of how to do things might be needed.

The Civil Defence Welfare Section in this area does need your help and for the ladies, there is a class every first and third Tuesday in the month in the Committee Room, Dickinson's, at 2.30 p.m. If this time is not convenient, Group-Captain Clarke will be very pleased to arrange evening classes to suit the majority.

Please ladies, *try and spare two hours a month*. What you learn is never wasted and one can face up to any emergency when one has the confidence of knowing what to do at the right time.

Croxley Green is noted for its public-spiritedness; don't let us lag behind on this occasion. C. D.

### Mr. J. S. Robinson

Mr. Robinson, of 46 Warwick Way, is the well-known M.C. of the Association's Old Time Dances. He has served as Treasurer of this Association for 12 years, and is Chairman of the Social Committee.

His reputation and activities in further "fields" is equally well known throughout the County, and the Herts County Football League is to present him with a plaque in recognition of 15 years faithful and loyal service as a referee. He is, in fact, now in his 27th season as an F.A. referee.

We extend our congratulations to a colleague who contributes so much and in so many ways to the leisure moments of his fellow citizens. A. T.

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## Coronation Front Garden Competition

The Croxley Green Horticultural and Allotment Holders' Society propose to hold a Front Garden Competition in connection with Coronation Year.

The competition is open to all householders irrespective of whether they are members of the Horticultural Society or not.

### NO ENTRANCE FEE

Size of your garden is immaterial.

1st PRIZE £4                  2nd PRIZE £3  
3rd PRIZE £2                  4th PRIZE £1

Judging will be by "Herts Institute of Agriculture".

Gardens will be judged by Best Decorative effect, taking into account space available. It is hoped by this method to give equal chance to those with only small gardens.

It is the intention to deliver an entry form to every householder with a later edition of this magazine in ample time for completion before the closing date. They will also be available from A. V. Bryant, 104 Kenilworth Drive, or 141 New Road. Closing date for receipt of entry forms will be 6th July, 1953.

Judging will take place week commencing, July 20th, 1953.

### Further Efforts

On March 21st a large number of residents and their friends enjoyed a pleasant evening dancing to the André-Simone Band. The success of the evening is proved by the sum of £5 10s. which was handed to the "Flood Relief Fund". The Social Committee wish to thank all members who assisted by gifts and their presence at the dance, in raising this sum.

M. P.

## WE HEAR—

**Coronation.**—Watford Borough Council have appointed a Coronation Organiser, on a temporary basis only. This would appear to be a sensible move provided he does not try to run everything centrally, but rather that he will act as the guide and adviser to the various organisations running their own festivities.

**Buses.**—There seems to be no hope of immediate improvement in the bus position and it would appear that we shall have to wait and see. The residents, however, have not forgotten, and even though it does take time, will pursue the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

**Bushey Hall.**—The news that Americans are to take over Bushey Hall as an Army H.Q. seems to be causing comment in certain quarters. It is indeed a reminder that the country must regard itself as being in a state of national emergency. The question as to whether we should have American troops in this country or not is a matter on which we would all require more inside information, before giving an opinion.

**County Development Plan.**—The Rickmansworth U.D.C. are lodging objections to the County Development plan on points where the plan differs from the thoughts of the Local Council. Without doubt, the county plan is a well prepared document but how it can be possible for distant officials, who know little of the area, to effectively plan it for the future is not easily understood. Planning can be a decided advantage; but uninformed planning can so easily be detrimental.

**Requisitioned Properties.**—The Council have scheduled certain properties now under requisition for release during 1953, and will review the position of other requisitioned properties later. Certain requisitioned properties are of course occupied by Council Officers in addition to those occupied by normal applicants on the housing lists. The end of 1953 should perhaps enable the position on these properties to be seen much more clearly.

**Waste Paper.**—The collections of waste paper are now becoming embarrassing as the mills will not, for the time being, accept further supplies of this waste. This is indeed a pity because sooner or later, more and more paper will find its way on to the streets, giving them an untidy and unsightly appearance.

**Telephone Kiosks.**—The Area Telephone Manager has agreed to the placing of a kiosk in the Owens/Dulwich Way area, as soon as a spare line is available.

## CHAIRMAN'S

I have many times referred to the subject of having encourage us to live on others' earnings and labours, or to down to a level from which they cannot rise. Again I feel

Most local authorities throughout the country have financial year, and although at the time of writing, no nation as to what we have to find by way of national taxes. adult wonder how the demands are to be met, as it is no use vain effort to balance as our selling prices in the world n and still charge the same price. Other countries are produ

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Housing has been a serious problem for many years problem for central guidance and assistance where necess are going as the burdens on both local rates and national tax at an uneconomical rental. What we surely need is hous the present heavy burden but which, at the same time, are rid of some of our crushing taxation and the administrati enterprise into the building industry I am sure we could go price.

We are today living in part on defence production or later we must realise that we have to live within the limit that day comes we are not supporting hordes of unproduct and incentive stifling by nature. Controls are not merely which has almost become a subject suitable for the study actions of this species would surely be a best seller anywhere.

I have, from time to time, opportunity to study the own, and, whilst it would only be fair to say there are si for incentive and honest effort. Allow incentive and effor trol, with the automatic reduction of taxation and rates a that before casting a vote for any candidate in any elec reduced, not merely a promise that everything possible wil worth your support irrespective of the party to which they

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## CORONATION

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The Committee wish to thank

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Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ritchie,

## S LETTER

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T. POOLEY.

## CELEBRATIONS

of the Coronation Committee has given  
to-house collection as £132/11/9  
all who assisted in any way.

ards will be required for assistance on  
willing to offer their services contact the  
9 Green Lane, Croxley Green.

## —AND OBSERVE

**Those Rates.**—Most Local Authorities are raiding their balances and reserves to try and counter the ever increasing rise in rate-borne expenditure. This can only go on for a short time and sooner or later the real blow must fall unless action is taken to reduce expenditure to more sensible levels. The requirements of the County are, to say the least, excessive. One way of reducing County demands would be first of all reduce the staff by at least 25 per cent or 50 per cent, and those left would refrain from demanding heavy precepts in case they suffered the same fate the following year.

**The Green.**—Members of the Council who are toying with plans to give "The Green" its "New Look" should be extremely careful that they have public opinion behind them. It is noted that discussions on a plan have already taken place, but we would advise an open meeting on the subject before any decisions are taken.

**Those Vacant Plots.**—Untidy plots which have been the subject of complaint by this Association so many times, have at last been surveyed and we understand that notices are being served on the owners. At long last it appears that something is being done apart from writing letters.

**Bicycle Thefts.**—These continue to increase and attention is again drawn to the need for a little more care by owners. Even though a lock and chain may not prevent a cycle being stolen it does at least deter and delay.

**School Places.**—The County seem to be in difficulty again in providing sufficient school places for the rapidly growing child population, brought about by the new towns and the L.C.C. estates.

**Bus Shelters.**—The present law on the erection of bus shelters is one of those typically stupid pieces of legislation which almost forbids the erection of a bus shelter at all and it is pleasing to note that a private member's bill which has been introduced may succeed in putting some sense into this matter. Bus shelters are certainly needed urgently in Croxley Green, more especially so, when, because of the wretched services provided by the L.T.E., waits of up to half-an-hour, at certain times of the day, are not unusual.

**Mr. T. Pooley** has been re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Herts Federation of Residents', Ratepayers' and Kindred Associations for the current year.

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I have many times referred to the subject of having our economy based on sound foundations, such as do not encourage us to live on others' earnings and labours, or to burden our children with millstones which will drag them down to a level from which they cannot rise. Again I feel compelled to comment on this matter.

Most local authorities throughout the country have now made known their rate requirements for the coming financial year, and although at the time of writing, no national budget details are available, we have had an indication as to what we have to find by way of national taxes. The figures are such as to make even the most irresponsible adult wonder how the demands are to be met, as it is no use considering the raising of prices, profits or wages in a vain effort to balance as our selling prices in the world markets are already too high. We cannot reduce quality and still charge the same price. Other countries are producing high-class goods at very attractive prices.

It is, however, no use just criticising these ever rising rates and taxes; we must do something about it, and perhaps now of all times is when we should commence in earnest as we have the local government elections just ahead, and who knows, we may well see a general election in the autumn. Welfare is an all-embracing word these days, a word which (originally covered the succour of the needy) now seems to be regarded as an umbrella under which the needy are almost crowded out by the idle, the cadgers, the grabbers, the spivs—in fact all except those who realise that if civilisation is to exist, they must put a little more into life than what they take out.

We have had of recent years costly experiments of nationalisation where incentive has been stifled and a spineless bureaucracy has thrived on the earnings of the supporting taxpayers. We have seen local government staffs and the Civil Service expand to astronomical figures. We have had control on top of control foisted on us, many of them for no other purpose than to harness the people to the central machine so that one day they may be squeezed or guided or pushed as required. The burden of purchase tax with its pernicious percentage basis of levy was originally intended to raise money for a specific purpose, but appears to have become established as the killer of incentive and a blot on the fiscal system of the country. An examination of the cost of its application in unproductive labour and other charges will sober even the most indulgent drinker.

Housing has been a serious problem for many years, and it is right that it has been classed as a national problem for central guidance and assistance where necessary. But here again there is need to consider where we are going as the burdens on both local rates and national taxes are being increased each time a house is built and let at an uneconomical rental. What we surely need is houses—plenty of them, built on terms which will not add to the present heavy burden but which, at the same time, are within the reach of the average wage earner. If we were rid of some of our crushing taxation and the administration costs proportionately, and let a little more fresh air of enterprise into the building industry I am sure we could go a long way towards producing dwellings at a reasonable price.

We are today living in part on defence production which quite obviously cannot go on indefinitely, and sooner or later we must realise that we have to live within the limits of our real productive earnings. Let us see that when that day comes we are not supporting hordes of unproductive persons administering controls which are meaningless and incentive stifling by nature. Controls are not merely rationing and the like, but also cover town planning, etc., which has almost become a subject suitable for the study of psychiatrists. An analysis of the inner thoughts and actions of this species would surely be a best seller anywhere!

I have, from time to time, opportunity to study the economics of other countries and compare them with our own, and, whilst it would only be fair to say there are shortcomings elsewhere, we fall far behind in the reward for incentive and honest effort. Allow incentive and effort to be rewarded, halt the growth of officialdom and control, with the automatic reduction of taxation and rates and we can surely succeed. It is my earnest advice to you that before casting a vote for any candidate in any election to secure a pledge that rates and/or taxes *will* be reduced, not merely a promise that everything possible will be done. Those who cannot give this assurance are not worth your support irrespective of the party to which they belong.

T. POOLEY.

## CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

**FUND COLLECTION**—The Treasurer of the Coronation Committee has given the final figures in respect of the house-to-house collection as **£132/11/9**

The Committee wish to thank all who assisted in any way.

**STEWARDS**—A large number of Stewards will be required for assistance on Coronation Day. Will all who are willing to offer their services contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ritchie, 9 Green Lane, Croxley Green.

## EDUCATIONAL VIEWPOINT

"I wonder if Freddie has passed?"—"What shall we do if Molly fails?" In hundreds of local households just now fathers and mothers—especially mothers—are in a state of anxiety which could be equalled only by the imminence of a world war.

For months, in some cases years, speculation as to sons and/or daughters passing their scholarship examinations has been of major importance amongst parents, teachers and the children themselves. By the time this is in print, the swotting, the nagging will be over, the results awaited in an atmosphere alternating between hope and despair.

Now, who suffer the greatest strain in this matter? Not, as a rule, the children in spite of the pep-talks, grousing, etc., which are given as incentives. No, it seems to be mainly a parents' concern and for varying reasons. An anomaly of the fuller educational facilities, certainly not in accordance with the spirit of the scheme, is that a form of parental snobbery has emerged. "Of course" (always "of course") my children will be going to the grammar school". It seems to take the place of conditions in the days when such scholars were known as "grammar-grubs" and scholarship boys and girls regarded with some contempt by their colleagues. There are others who feel they have a family tradition (whatever that may be worth) to maintain, either they themselves having qualified for a higher education or their nephews and nieces being held forth as shining examples. Those with whom can be shared a degree of sympathy feel that, with the fantastic amount now being paid through the rates and taxes for education, they should at least get their share. As a result parents, some parents, tend to feel considerably let-down by their offspring who fail to make the educational grade, to the discomfort of both parties.

This, of course, is hardly justified as more thought should be given to the final outcome of this scholastic achievement which causes so much concern. Parents should surely take a much broader view—not so much what is most flattering for their own personal feelings but what will ultimately be best for the child according to his or her mental—and physical—capabilities.

If the child has real mental ability nothing, in these days of open education, will stop it; if a university degree and a professional career are within the child's capabilities he or she now stands every chance of getting them. If again, the child makes the local grammar school grade and no further, the danger then exists of drifting into one of the white-collar jobs which appear

so desirable but lead nowhere. Unless guided intelligently, the future for the young man or woman in such an occupation can be most precarious or deadly uninteresting despite the fact that what is now the main object of achieving a "clean hands" job has been attained in preference to a little honest dirt.

Let us suppose that Freddie or his sister do not pass. After the initial shock to pride, indignation about the authorities and reproaches to the child have been well and truly dealt with, then is the time to consider the matter in a balanced, sensible frame of mind. Parents do not expect their children to display the highest standard of athletic prowess at the school sports and know that not all children have the physical ability to win the high jump, the 100 yards sprint or the hurdles. Surely then the same tolerant attitude should be brought to bear in considering their mental ability and the child encouraged to plan his or her future accordingly.

Nowadays, when there appears to be a glut of intellectuals, the artisan, the craftsman stands a far better chance than he realises. The white-collar man is only too often dependent on circumstances which may be outside his control or which can be turned to his own advantage only with great difficulty. The professional man or woman is assured of a sound position only by the sacrifice of personal time and a good deal of strain. How much better is the lot of the craftsman who has taken the trouble to learn a job which is within his own powers to perform and in the performance of which he derives considerable satisfaction. Furthermore, should he desire to gain a wider knowledge of his subject, there is now every facility for him to do so in free libraries, technical schools and the like. His sister can concentrate on what is ultimately to be her main concern in life, that of being a good housewife, able to cook, sew, keep house efficiently and so make a valuable contribution to her own future family's well-being.

And the final result of intelligent acceptance of suiting the individual mental and physical ability to the future of our children? Will it not inevitably lead to a race of good citizens; good citizens being only the happy contented people amongst us, doing to the best of their means a job well within their capabilities. That point of view will have to be cultivated and enlarged if we are ever to achieve what we all so earnestly desire, a world free from international friction and envy in which everyone is too concerned in doing his or her job well to worry whether somebody else has something better.

H.W.R.F.

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## LADIES ONLY

In the hope that this issue would be published before Easter I thought of giving you a simple receipt for "Simnel Cake". In the North and Midlands these cakes are more usually made for "Mothering Sunday", but in some parts of the country it was always eaten at Easter. Perhaps you would like to try it for yourselves, even if it's after Easter.

### Simnel Cake

½-lb. Flour.  
½-lb. Currants.  
4 Eggs.  
½-lb. Castor Sugar.  
2-oz. Citron.  
½-lb. Butter or Marg.  
1 tea-spoonful Treacle.

Beat butter to a cream, dredge in the flour and castor sugar, add currants and citron, beat up the eggs and mix with the other ingredients; beat all together for twenty minutes and bake in a moderate oven.

### Supper Dish

Bake large potatoes; when cooked cut a slice from each and scoop out the centre. Put a poached egg into each. Make a nice cheese sauce and pour over each egg. Sprinkle with brown crumbs and put in oven to heat through and lightly brown.

### Cold Banana Pudding

½-oz. Cornflour.  
1 pint milk  
1-oz. Sugar.  
½-oz. Castor Sugar.  
½ wine-glass juice of lemon.  
2 Bananas.

Slice bananas and put in the bottom of a glass dish, sprinkle with sugar and lemon juice. Make the cornflour into a thick sauce by boiling; stir all the time—about eight minutes. Add castor sugar. Let it cool, pour over bananas, serve, when set, with cream. For special occasions use brandy instead of lemon juice and prepare in a mould.

### Preserving Eggs (Canadian Method)

If you are fortunate to obtain a reasonable number of new-laid eggs, this is a very-easy way to preserve them. Take a square-shaped muslin bag, and place along the bottom of it a row of new-laid eggs. Have ready a pan of boiling water which must be kept boiling all the time. Dip the bag containing the eggs into the pan while you count two, lift out, drain a second or two, then repeat the process, three times in all. To store away, wrap each egg in paper, place in a box without a lid, and keep in a cool dry place.

### Glossary

"Jugging"—Term applied to that form of cooking when meat is stewed in a jar.

"Jumbles"—A type of biscuit.

"Kromeskies"—Balls of minced cooked meat, rolled in ham or bacon dipped in batter and fried.

"Roumiss"—A beverage made from fermented milk.

"Liaison"—A mixture used for thickening soups and sauces.

### A Useful Hint

Coffee grounds should never be thrown away. Poured down the sink they will thoroughly cleanse it. A little burnt on a shovel will rid a room of an unpleasant smell. They can also be used to remove the shine from navy blue or black garments. Pour some hot water over the grounds, dip a soft clean rag into the liquid, and use it to sponge the material.

### On the Tiles

If laying tiles on hearth or kerb, always soak first for ten minutes in a basin of water; otherwise they will draw the water out of the cement and come loose in very quick time.

### Wayward Words

An optimist is a man who knows a thing will never happen even when it has.

"FEMINA."

## CORRESPONDENCE

[We have received both verbal and written opinions on the criticism of the Croxley Theatre Club's last production and which appeared in our last issue. Some endorsed the criticisms; others disagreed—in some cases violently.

Unfortunately space does not permit publishing examples of the contrasting views and in this issue they must give way to—what is most important to the Group—its next production.—EDITOR].

### Croxley Theatre Club

17 Frankland Close,  
19th March, 1953.

Dear Sir,

I should be very grateful if you would give us a little advance publicity in your next edition of the "Croxley Resident" regarding our next production.

We have in rehearsal Oliver Goldsmith's play, "She Stoops to Conquer", which we are presenting at the Dickinson's Guildhouse on the 4th and 5th June, as our contribution to the Coronation Celebrations.

We shall look forward to seeing all our very good friends and patrons and would assure them that we shall do our best to give them good entertainment.

Yours sincerely,  
S. MARTIN (Hon. Sec.)

45 Frankland Road.

Dear Sir,

I understand the Transport Authorities are seeking power to acquire that strip of land to the rear of Frankland Road, known as Long Valley Wood, as a dump for their waste and to build sidings thereon. Speaking for myself I view the prospect with dismay and I hope the various opposing bodies succeed in squashing the Transport Authorities purpose.

I also hear some talk of the Moor being adapted for recreational purposes. Just how that would be achieved and at what cost when it is so frequently waterlogged it is difficult to foresee.

Now if both projects have to go forward (and heaven forbid the former) is it beyond the possibility of compromise between the two? The Transport's waste over a period of years could convert the bog-land comprising I should say at least one third of the Moor, into land of infinite more use and value than it is in its present state. Whatever its ultimate use—be it recreational, amenity land or the same old Common Moor it would be better enjoyed than it is in its existing useless, mosquito-infested, bogged condition.

Yours, etc.,  
(Mrs.) A. K. VICKERS.

### Hints for Councils?

Since November, 1951, the number of official government cars has been reduced from 722 to 444. Whether this represents a sign that the present administration is finding its feet as has been reported, is a matter of political opinion. What it does signify in our opinion is a saving of public expense and therefore makes good reading.

We also feel sure that what can be achieved in central government can possibly be repeated in local government.

## SOCIAL SIDE

### Lucky Dip?

In March, the Croxley Green Afternoon Townswomen's Guild celebrated its fifteenth birthday. Before the party commenced, Mrs. Westwood the Secretary, announced that the Guild had been fortunate to have drawn a ticket for a Coronation Seat.

After the business of the meeting was over, the members and visitors from other Guilds, totalling over a hundred in all, spent a pleasant afternoon playing games and dancing, finishing with a splendid tea. The birthday cake, iced by Mrs. Hampton, the Chairman, was cut by the President, Dr. Margaret Miller. The party broke up at about five o'clock. On all sides could be heard murmurs of appreciation of the officers and committee for a really enjoyable afternoon.

### High(brow) Ways?

If it's laughter you're after, you can't do better than go to a Scout Show; what they lack in polish, is made up for in sheer zest and exuberance of spirits. Amongst the older members is plenty of talent. This we expect; but it's good to see so much amongst the younger members too. One could hardly say it was "High", all the way, some of the track was definitely "Low" but how we loved it. By the way, girls, hold on to your lads, after this last "show" we shall be having Norman Hartnell down scouting for "models".

Producer John Vesey, gave full praise to all who had helped with the show, but his was the responsibility and he is to be congratulated on his "first attempt".

### Combined "Ops"

The Male Voice Party of Croxley Green organised a concert in aid of the "Flood Relief Fund". Local artistes rallied round and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by a large audience. The pleasure of both artistes and audience will have been appreciably heightened to learn that the splendid sum of £45 was the result.

### "At Home"

On April 29th the newly-formed Evening T.G. will be at home to all their friends. It is to be hoped that as many people as possible will go along to the Science Room at 8 p.m. and meet the Guild. This is an occasion on which gentlemen are most welcome. Now is the chance for husbands to find out what their wives are doing on the nights they "shake off the shackles". Come and spend a pleasant evening for the modest sum of 2s., refreshments included.

## WOOLS. HABERDASHERY. CHILDREN'S WEAR



## STRIVE FOR SAFETY

During 1952 there were 226 accidents in this Council area. Of this number 106 involved personal injuries.

These numbers may seem small when you look at them quickly. Yet it was these same figures which, together with similar districts in this island of ours, mean that in one year some 200,000 were injured on the road and 5,000 people died. It gives those local figures a different appearance does it not?

There is a ministerial campaign to cut down these figures somehow or other by ten per cent. And somehow or other each and all of us must try in whatever way we can contribute.

The fading days of winter tend to make one forget those times of sleet, snow and bitter winds when that waiting bus never seemed to come: then a bus shelter seemed the first obvious necessity. Apparently local Councils have no statutory authority to erect or allow them. The Highways Committee have recommended the Council to lay the facts before the Urban District Council's Association as they feel this question warrants maximum investigation.

The Ministry of Transport will be asked to contribute some £220 toward the Road Safety Estimates for 1953/54 of £450. The Council's contribution is £230.

### SEA RANGERS

The tang and freshness of the sea may appear a long way from Croxley Green, but perhaps not so far as one might think.

We recommend to any girl between the ages of 15 and 21 who is interested in seamanship to pay a visit to Malvern Way School Hall any Tuesday between 8 and 9.30 p.m. There she will find the distance between Croxley and the sea foreshortened and a warm welcome will be given her by the Skipper, Miss M. Burnel, and the Sea Ranger Crew of S.R.S. "British Pride".

An enterprising programme of boating, etc., at Batchworth has been planned for the summer season, and a cordial invitation is extended to all girls between the ages specified.

The aims of the Sea Rangers include training for citizenship, with opportunities for the practice of service, the practical application of campcraft and the understanding of the responsibilities of leadership, combined with the fun, discipline and traditions of the sea.

Guiding is particularly strong in this district, there being four Guide Companies and six Brownie Packs, and we hope the S.R.S. "British Pride" will fulfil the requirements of the girl of Ranger age.

### Martin

As readers will observe from the advert on page 1, Mr. Martin has changed his nurseries to Scotts Hill.

Why not pay a visit to his new premises? You will probably find the very thing you are looking for in your 1953 garden planning.

### MEMBERSHIP

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

Full Name .....

Address .....

..... Date .....

Post to: Secretary, 9 Harvey Road, Croxley Green, or (if old member) hand to Street Steward

[Membership includes husband and wife]

# CROXLEY GREEN NORTH WARD SHOPS

RESIDENTS of this Ward are rightly concerned at the prolonged delay in providing the long promised shopping facilities.

RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL have rightly decided that the matter is now urgent and that the cost of providing shops should be borne by PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (*vide the West Herts Post and Watford Observer*).

The majority of houses in this area are privately and individually owned. When the area was developed, mainly in the years 1930 to 1939, shop sites were planned and approved by the Rickmansworth Council. Shops were promised and a large proportion of the residents acquired their own properties naturally expecting this undertaking to be fulfilled.

In these circumstances it is felt that the facts of the site at the JUNCTION of Baldwins Lane and Watford Road, owned and occupied by ARTHUR PITKIN LTD., should be placed before the public.

This site was acquired in 1936 as a SHOPPING SITE. Sufficient land fronting Watford Road and Baldwins Lane was presented to the Council for the purpose of widening the road, providing footpaths and generally improving the corner for Road Safety purposes.

PLANS were submitted to Rickmansworth Urban District Council in 1936 for Shops with Flats over and **approved by them**. The construction of these Shops was delayed owing to the lack of sewer facilities. (These facilities are now available by the completion of the Colne Valley Sewer this year). The preparation of the site for Shops and Flats was commenced the week before the War broke out and subsequently suspended.

Application for recommencing building was made to Rickmansworth Urban District Council and refused.

Under the new COUNTY PLAN this site is ZONED as an OPEN SPACE.

The cost of providing an open space by the aquisition of this site may cost the Rickmansworth Ratepayers an addition of approximately 2/- per annum for every pound they pay now.

If Shops and Flats are permitted on this site it is estimated this development may provide an extra REVENUE amounting to the equivalent of a fourpenny rate.

It is suggested that all (a) Shops can be erected IMMEDIATELY on this site at no cost to the ratepayers

(b) Extra and vital living accommodation will be provided

(c) The additional rateable value will make a substantial contribution to the rates instead of a heavy demand for upkeep if used as an open space.

## THE RIGHT AND PROPER PLACE FOR SHOPS FOR NORTH CROXLEY IS HERE.