

# THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 52

Editor—R. H. HUTCHINSON, 4 Rochester Way

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## EDITORIAL

The enjoyment of the season of goodwill in retrospect presents this Association, in common with other bodies and individuals, with a fitting occasion to reflect on its endeavours during the past twelve months. We feel that we are able to do this with some modest pride without, it is fervently hoped, lapsing into smugness or complacency. We have no regrets if the results of our activities have not been so far-reaching as to have been deemed worthy of report by the national press or command widespread attention, for our concern is primarily with the welfare of and amenities enjoyed by the community we represent and in many instances our voice needs to reach no farther than Rickmansworth, where so many issues affecting Croxley Green are decided. It is as well, perhaps, that our aims do not take us too far from home.

Nevertheless a vigilance over the interests of our own community has been, and will continue to be, maintained without any seeking to gain an advantage at the expense of others, whilst ensuring that we, in turn, do not suffer as the result of some whim or caprice of authority unmindful or heedless of our desires and aspirations.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a necessarily brief report of the Association's Annual General Meeting, wherein appear references to several topics which have been the subject of our comment and deliberations many times before. Some of these have engaged our attention for longer than we would desire and we would have hoped to have seen them disposed of by now. Others seem likely to be with us almost permanently!

Not the least of these is Road Safety which always figures prominently at our Committee meetings. This Association, naturally, does not play a lone hand in this very vital matter but acts in co-operation with other bodies who share its concern and interest. We have viewed with disgust the behaviour of traffic, particularly along the Watford Road between Oakleigh Drive and New Road and thence to the church and are still far from happy about the situation. At the same time we have signified our approval of the improvement in this

sphere at the junction of Baldwins Lane and Watford Road and hope there will not be many more setbacks to the widening on Scots Hill. This has been a pressing need for all too long and the opening of the new Rickmansworth Grammar School has increased an urgency already grave enough.

We are optimistic concerning the erection of bus shelters for the district and that this winter may be the last in which travellers will be forced to wait exposed to all the vagaries of our climate! The initial cost is proving a stumbling-block and the desire to obviate any increase in the rates is laudable. At the same time there is a distinct and urgent need for these shelters and we feel that the problem will yield to sufficient resource and determination.

The provision of a bus service linking the North and South Wards has also been one of our cherished hopes, the fulfilment of which appears to have receded even further. The difficulties which have to be overcome by any transport undertaking in present-day conditions are acknowledged but the nature of objections put forward against proposals to improve matters in this direction have not always, in our view, carried sufficient conviction.

Space forbids mention of all the matters which occupy us and which range from annual requests to property owners to cut hedges, so as not to involve passers-by in accidents, to the very vexed questions of rating systems, on which we join with neighbouring Associations who constitute the Herts Federation of Resident and Kindred Associations, and of Civil Defence. This last subject formed the basis of our preceding Editorial columns and is one on which the Annual General Meeting showed our members to be far from apathetic but as puzzled, as must be citizens throughout the country, to know exactly wherein their effective duty lies.

Many and diverse as are our interests, the views or criticisms of members will be welcomed. Being in the happy position of having no axes to grind, we are enabled to give impartial and objective consideration to whatever comes to our notice, whatsoever its degree of importance and whomsoever it may concern.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1954

Two factors contributed towards the success of the Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, held in the Guildhouse on the 28th October, the outspoken statements of the Chairman, Mr. A. T. Thomson, and the enthusiastic contributions from the small but keenly interested audience.

Mr. Thomson, in his address, first dealt with the question of BUS SHELTERS. Until 1953 only the L.T.E. had the power to erect shelters, so that, when a statute was passed in that year granting local authorities similar powers, the Association immediately approached the R.U.D.C. calling for action. The Council had temporarily postponed the matter, "but," said Mr. Thomson "I look to this winter as being the last in which, for some sites in Croxley at any rate, waiting for buses will not automatically involve a soaking."

On the subject of BUSES, Mr. Thomson reported little change in the past twelve months, efforts to obtain a link between North and South Croxley still being unsuccessful. He commented on the L.T.E.'s persistence in their suggested re-routing via Baldwin's Lane, Repton Way, Sherbourne Way and Barton Way, and asked that the L.T.E. Public Relations Officers explain how, if insufficient crews are available to extend the 385 service from Manor Way to the top of Baldwin's Lane, they could be provided to man a route three times as long as above indicated. He questioned the use of buses by the L.T.E. for private hire while public transport was lacking.

Next, dealing with the vexed question of SHOPS, Mr. Thomson reminded the meeting that, as the Association's Chairman, he presented a petition of 4,000 votes at the enquiry in January last. In announcing that no result was known to date, he pointed out that as the appeal was one of 600 actually heard, he anticipated that the results would become known *in toto* and not individually. He felt the result should be forthcoming shortly.

He then passed on to a subject which has caused grave concern to a section of the community in Croxley Green. He first referred to the decision of the R.U.D.C. to withdraw the licence of a mobile canteen in Rickmansworth after a Council debate displaying an extraordinary difference of opinion in the merits of the case. To return to Croxley, a certain trader had operated in the South Ward in a manner which, according to local residents, extended far beyond the activities for which he was licenced, thereby causing considerable nuisance from smoke pollution and noise. Repeated complaints had brought repeated "investigations," in the midst of which the licence was reviewed and extended for an

indefinite period! "I invite you," said Mr. Thomson, "to compare these two cases. In one we have a service being provided to the public but, because of objections, the alleged offender is due to go. In the other, no service of any kind was rendered to the ratepayer who was, in fact, the sufferer. But was this licence revoked? No, it was extended indefinitely under conditions 'to be fulfilled.' I say to the Council, 'I sincerely trust the zeal with which you can pursue and revoke one licence will be applied equally assiduously and impartially in this far-flung outpost of your administrative area and look to you to fulfil your obligations to the ratepayers.'"

Finally, looking to the future, Mr. Thomson expressed a hope that we should soon see the widening of Scot's-Hill a solution of the lighting problems on the Green, Ward reform especially in Croxley Green and an economy drive in County expenditure. Meanwhile, he said, this Association will continue to tread the centre of the road in local affairs, looking neither to the political right or left but preserving the expression of independent thought in Croxley Green.

The Secretary, Mr. T. Hoey, in his report spoke of the many and varied activities of the Association, not only by its direct efforts but through the medium of the Herts Federation of Ratepayers' Associations, the Road Safety Committee, the Croxley Green Society and other bodies. He spoke also of the work of the Bulletin Committee, the Social Committee and the Health, Housing and Highways Committee, together with details of current membership.

After the Treasurer, Mr. J. S. Robinson, had given a detailed report of the finances of the Association, the meeting passed to the election of officers and committee for the year 1954/5, particulars of which appear on the back page.

The item on the agenda entitled "Other business" was the signal for some lively exchanges from the body of the meeting. On the subject of CIVIL DEFENCE a warm discussion led by Mrs. E. Wise revealed the apathy of the public in this district. It was felt that the Association should give a lead in Croxley Green and the Executive Committee were asked to treat it as a special problem. Further debate followed on a variety of subjects ranging from granting membership to persons having no residential qualifications, councillors residing outside the district and subsidies on council houses. It was also decided to resume the practice of holding three-monthly open meetings. It is hoped to give details of these in the next issue of the "Croxley Resident."

The clock brought the meeting to a reluctant close.

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## WE HEAR—

A well-known and long established dental practitioner in North Croxley emphatically states that rumours of his imminent retirement from practice are entirely incorrect.

*Transfer* The "Case of the Missing Ricky Councillor" (not reported in the *News of the World*) has been settled with honour on both sides. We would not have bothered with the "honour" aspect but we are only the ratepayers and we are not politicians. Any more for "honourable" mention? And incidentally some Croxley ratepayers must take to the Woods to see their elected representatives.

And applaud the Council's decision recently to disagree with the Divisional Planning Officer's recommendation to prevent development in Tolpits Lane. Whilst Tolpits Lane does not directly affect Croxley we have little reason to date to acclaim planners' efforts here, and to oppose development, as occurred in this instance, because it would create additional employment facilities, hardly seems Planning Officer's country at all.

The vexed problem of rating assessments and what may happen when this matter is finally resolved, appears to be troubling many traders and property owners. We are not at all surprised. We have repeatedly raised this matter in many quarters for some time past; in particular a special article by the Chairman appeared in a recent issue of this magazine.

And trust the Council staff seating difficulty in the autumn has been finally settled. It was reported that in a departmental change round "... it had become apparent... there was a shortage of chairs" and that the purchase of a further twelve would "approximately meet the situation." As only two additional staff were mentioned in the minutes we were most concerned to think that the other ten had been standing to their duties without complaint!

We understand the Minister's decision regarding the shops appeal at the bottom of Badwins Lane is expected soon. Indeed, with some luck, it may be announced before this issue reaches the public.

That the completed "make up" of Lewes Way has been warmly praised as "a nice job." Its baptism has been a severe one from the weather point of view. Time will be the test.

## —AND OBSERVE

Following damage by fire a requisitioned property in Watford Road was thereafter released from requisition. It seems a pity that it needs a fire to move the Council in a problem which, to say the least, is a "burning" one!

Talking of fires, the Watford Fire Brigade are considering siting the new fire station very near the Croxley boundary.

And, finally, we hope there is no connection!

Another case of the cart before the horse? While the public are being persuaded to convert to smokeless fuel in the "defeat the smog campaign," is it not a fact that existing production plant is inadequate to meet a resultant increased demand. But of course we are also being cajoled by the local Utilisation Council (presumably officially sponsored) to burn more coal and yet our politicians tell us to use less coal and avoid an import loss of £2 per ton. There is a saying that "one of us is queer"; we wonder who.

It would appear that before the making up of Winton Drive could be undertaken such technical difficulties as disposal of surface water drainage must be overcome. What is of paramount urgency, however, is the very early provision of adequate lighting, as the position at the moment is very bad indeed.

We salute the gesture by Councillor Gurney in providing a seat outside his residence in Baldwins Lane. Many elderly people will appreciate this public spiritedness.

The discussion by the Council of a proposal to take over the freehold of the Green revealed a singular, indeed disquieting, ignorance of the history of the Green and such matters as Commoners' rights, lamps on the Green, Copthorne Road—in fact anything and everything of relevance. It is very disturbing to witness yet another issue near to the heart of Croxley on which some Councillors should be so ill-informed. It is doubly disturbing to see, on such a serious issue, decisions put forward for ratification without adequate exploration and investigation of the full background and possible repercussions.

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## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1954/55

**President:** Mr. W. A. Carr.

**Vice-Presidents:** Mr. R. W. Annear, Dr. A. L. Ferguson,  
Dr. A. F. Miller, Mr. S. A. Williams.

**Chairman:** Mr. A. T. Thomson.

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. R. H. Hutchinson.

**Secretary:** Mr. T. Hoey.

**Treasurer:** Mr. J. S. Robinson.

### Committee Members:

(Non-retiring) Mrs. T. Pooley, Messrs. A. Bleek, F. Cousins, H. W. R. Fowler, R. H. Hutchinson, J. S. Robinson, A. T. Thomson, G. Wilcox, A. C. Woollard, T. Hoey.

(Retiring members—Re-elected) Mesdames R. J. Pitkin, G. Wilkins, Messrs. W. J. North, E. H. Page, T. Pooley.

(Co-opted member—Elected) Mr. L. W. C. Bleek.  
**Auditors:** Messrs. M. J. Cusack, E. L. C. Stuart.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The October and November dances proved successful and well supported, although it would be gratifying to see a few more people from Croxley at these functions.

At the time of going to press, the New Year's Eve dance has still to come. It is hoped that this will be a success despite the fact that we are without a band and are having a radiogram, but we are assured from several sources that we have no need to worry.

Our dates for 1955 are as follows, and it is hoped that those of you who have not yet been to one of our Old Time Dances will join us as we feel sure they will have a most enjoyable evening.

15th January. 19th February. 19th March.  
23rd April. 28th May.

F.C.

## CORRESPONDENCE

"Torwood,"

47 Durrants Drive.

Dear Sir,

May I, through the medium of your paper, make it known in Croxley that the competition organised by Thomas Hedley Ltd. was won by the National Spastics Society.

The value of the tops sent in by me on behalf of the Hertfordshire Group was £54 14s. 6d.

To all the people who posted soap packet tops to me at the above address, to the many who either dropped them in my letter box or left them in the porch, to the members of the Rickmansworth Round Table and all the unknown people who contributed soap packet tops, please accept the grateful thanks of the Hertfordshire Spastics Society.

Yours sincerely,

A. KELLY.

### CROXLEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Our last issue contained a report of the Show, held on September 11th, and referred to Messrs. Ward and Messrs. East as staging the "two Trade Shows." We should of course have included Messrs. Bristows' Springwell Nursery, who were responsible for the very fine chrysanthemum display on one half of the stage. We tender our sincere apologies to the latter company.

**February 9th.**—Annual General Meeting Croxley Green Horticultural and Allotment Holders' Society, Dickinson Guildhouse, 8 p.m.

**February 23rd.**—Talk and Film, "Chase Clothes," also at Guildhouse, 8 p.m.

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