

# THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 59

Editor—Mrs. D. HORWOOD 47 Owens Way

No. 2—1957

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Along with our demand for rates comes a copy of the Budget speech by the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Council and from it this year we learn, among other things, that the County Council require an extra £753,000, no small sum by any standard, and most of it is required in respect of Education. One often gets the impression that many people feel that too much is spent already on Education, and complaints are heard of waste, extravagance or needless expenditure. The Federation of Hertfordshire Ratepayers and Kindred Associations on which we are represented has considered this matter on many occasions and has written letters to the County Council asking if economies could not be effected. Precise details of instances where waste or unnecessary spending has occurred are not readily come by, and I am quite sure that if any were available the Federation would be only too pleased to take the points up with those responsible.

The Council, however, have told the Federation that the cost of building schools could be cut by using cheaper materials, but this would involve higher maintenance costs in the future and would obviously be a false economy. In connection with building new schools, I have heard it questioned whether such things as an Assembly Hall, complete with stage, curtains and lighting are necessary. Thinking on these lines indicates to me an altogether too narrow conception of what Education means.

Our children do have to be equipped for the task of earning a living for themselves and their families, but it is a sad outlook indeed if they are to grow up with this only in mind, with no eye or ear for beauty or art or worse still, without developing mutual understanding and tolerance, which are so necessary for leading a happy

and full life, especially in the international sphere to-day.

Schools inevitably play a large part in moulding the character of children, and teachers have an important function to perform. The pay they receive for it does not compare very favourably with what it was in 1939, when the present cost of living is taken into consideration. Nevertheless, about half the extra amount of money required by the County Council for Education is to meet the expense of pay awards. Teachers' salaries are fixed nationally and expenditure under this heading must therefore be beyond the control of the County Council. Kent Federation of Residents Associations have been considering ways whereby ratepayers might be relieved of some of their burden, and one suggestion is that teachers salaries should rank for a 100% grant from the Exchequer to the County Authority. Hertfordshire has had a heavy burden to bear in providing schools to accommodate an increasing number of children, occasioned partly by the establishment of new towns and L.C.C. Housing Estates within the county.

While money spent on Education is virtually invested in to-morrow's generations and could scarcely be put to better use, those responsible for expenditure have a duty to all ratepayers to see that no avoidable waste occurs. The process of County administration to-day is highly complex; at times our elected representatives may lack the technical knowledge to prevent local officials pulling wool over their eyes and we may sometimes feel that they do not do the job as we would like it done. At such times we ought perhaps to remember that they are elected by our votes and our right to criticise may be directly proportionate to the degree of concern we display about who represents us.

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**The Green:** A Council Sub-Committee has been formed to decide how best this can be preserved as a Village Green, and a map has been prepared showing all private roads, tracks and footpaths. From the Report it would appear that the Council are as much in the dark over Common Rights as the inhabitants walking along the unlighted roadway. Among suggestions considered for new paths was a winding footpath from North to South on the Church side of the Green and another for a path some 4 ft. from the road with a grass verge. The cost of these paths was not stated, but the official concerned advised that either type of path would cost more than £1,000. In the 1957/58 estimates a sum of £350 has been set aside for the maintenance of the Green.

At a subsequent Meeting the Council decided that the provision of a roadside footpath along the Green in the present circumstances should be given a higher priority than the widening of Shepherds Lane. The Highways Committee have been requested to make provision in their estimates for County Road Improvements for this work during 1958/59.

**Lighting:** The unlighted lamps across the Green are again causing concern to all involved. There is a move afoot, now that the Council may soon own the Green, to take down the concrete lamp-posts (for use elsewhere) and replace them with a type more in keeping with the character of the Green. £700 not yet spent is to be increased by a further £50 as this is the suggested cost of timber lamp-posts which are under consideration. It is not clear how many lamp-posts are affected but if it is only those unlighted we may one day have an additional bill to foot in replacing those already alight from Baldwins Lane to the junction of the Sarratt Road.

**Bus Shelters—Watford Road/Baldwins Lane:** In an endeavour to widen the pavement at this spot in order that pedestrians can safely pass intending bus passengers, the Council are to approach the owner of the nearby land to enquire if he will make a strip of land available. A new Bus Shelter is to be erected in Baldwin's Lane (North side) near the footpath to Kenilworth Drive. All the new concrete Bus Shelters are to be glazed at a cost of approximately £90.

**Street Lighting:** A recent survey carried out in the Croxley Green area revealed that between 60 and 70 gas lamps require new reflectors at a probable cost of 25/- to 30/- per lantern. The question of replacements has been deferred pending reports on the terms of contract with the Eastern Gas Board.

The new lamp standards in Watford Road are becoming "Aunt Sallys." Two have already been damaged and replaced whilst a third (outside the Rickmansworth Grammar School) has been pushed out of position—apparently by a passing road vehicle. Many residents are wondering why these lamp standards are placed some against fences and others near the kerb:

these latter constitute a danger as several mothers, unable to get by the post with a pram, have no alternative but to go into the roadway.

**Land at Cassio Bridge:** Confirmation of the Purchase Notice has been received from the Minister of Housing. The R.U.D.C. have requested from the Minister, a Grant to purchase and have also approached the Council for 50% of the balance of the costs acquisition and clearing.

**Public Conveniences:** The Council propose to erect in 1959 a Public Convenience near the Croxley Metropolitan Station at a cost of approximately £2,000. The official concerned has been instructed to make enquiries as to a suitable site and to negotiate for the acquisition thereof.

**Footpath—Frankland Road:** A suggestion was considered by the Council to close this public footpath, but was rejected.

**Dogs:** Owners may like to know that there are no designated roads in the R.U.D.C. area. The Council are, however, very concerned about dogs on allotments. Residents adjacent to Croxley Woods allotments are to cease using any gates from their gardens which lead on to the allotments, although consideration is to be given to allotment holders who live adjacent and they may have a gate at a cost of 2/6d. per year rent.

**Electricity Supply:** Residents of Loudwater Lane who have waited three years for a promised electricity supply had their hopes dashed when the Council voted 12 to 4 against poles to carry cables. In the light of subsequent developments much of the cable was over land under the control of the Watford Rural District Council who had already approved of the poles. The R.U.D.C. may now reconsider their decision.

**Street Collection:** The Infantile Paralysis Fellowship have been permitted a Street Collection in Croxley Green on 20th June, 1957.

**Corrections to Article "LOOKING BACK" in last issue.**

It has been pointed out to me that certain errors occurred in the article "Looking Back" printed in our last issue.

The first school built in Croxley Green was the school in York Road, which was used for Infants, Boys and Girls, but this became so overcrowded that the Boys' School in Watford Road was erected and formally open on October 15th, 1894.

Two errors of spelling:—Crowille Avenue should read Gonville Avenue. Megy Wilson should read Neggy Wilson.

EDITOR.

Confectionery: Books: Greeting Cards

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## PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP

versus

## PUBLIC APATHY

The Rickmansworth Branch of Nalگو (National and Local Government Officers' Association) recently gave a film show on Local Government to representatives of local organisations. This was the first step in a new policy for the local branch in furtherance of a National Campaign striving towards a better relationship with the ratepaying public. Due to the Branch assisting in the nation-wide Gallup Poll on "Public Interest in Local Government," it has not been possible to arrange a second Film Show, but in this article I will quote figures taken from the local answers to the Gallup Poll questions.

Generally the public is ignorant of the Local Government Officers' work. They do not realise that the Council's officers carry out the policy of the Council whose members are elected by you. Nalگو is out to build up an efficient and qualified service to serve you. Therefore, to explain this to the public one must always be in touch with them. For many years Nalگو has been asking the Employers' Associations to give more attention to Public Relations. This co-operation has not been forthcoming, so Nalگو has decided to "Go it Alone."

The local effort has been the starting of local government Film Shows, but we also required public support. Before the recent Film Show, invitations went out to twenty organisations to send two representatives each. The final count showed twenty representatives, two organisations apologised for absence and eight have still not replied. Out of seven chief officers on the Council, six "turned up" and the remaining officer was ill, though a deputy took his place. Councillors gave their support and afterwards, over cups of tea, both officers and councillors were engaged in answering any problems the representatives had.

Now to the recent Gallup Poll in which 236 households in this area were visited. A total of 197 people granted interviews, 10 houses no answer, and 29 members of the public refused, sometimes rudely, to answer questions. Yet 173 or 87% thought that local

government was important in their daily life. Thankfully, 68% were generally satisfied with the local government services. For some unknown reasons 49% would not like their son or daughter to work in local government.

Bear in mind that all the Nalگو members who took part in this Gallup Poll gave up their spare time and it was voluntary work. Perhaps these officers, who are always willing to tackle the problem of public apathy, brought about the following answer. A total of 90% of the public were satisfied with the manner in which the local council officials had dealt with their problems. The odd 10% proved that good public relations are still needed by local government. We in the Rickmansworth Branch of Nalگو are willing to assist any association to further the public interest in local government.

Ponder on the following words. When the cry of "Rag and Bones" fills your street, imagine the call to be "Bring out your Dead." The house may be on fire and how many neighbours would be around, if pails of water was the Fire Brigade of the day? Local Government insures you again these perils by running highly efficient departments to cope with these emergencies.

You pay for these services, you can stand for election as a Councillor and you run local affairs by electing Members of Parliament or Local Councillors. Who decides what it will do? The Member elected by your vote! And to carry out their instructions, Nalگو members, of whom there are a quarter of a million in the country, ensure that the service provided is as efficient as is humanly possible.

Rest assured if taxes leave you a pauper and you have no living relative, then the Local Council will pay for your burial. Yes, local government looks after you from the cradle to the grave. Yet public apathy will give local government an unwanted shroud.

E. G. DAWKINS,  
Public Relations Officer,  
Nalگو, Rickmansworth.

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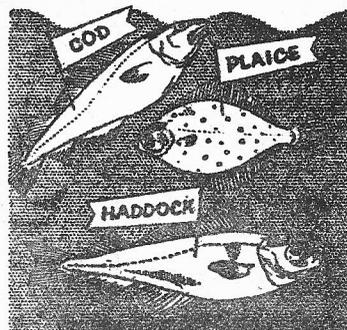
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## Your Local Branch of the BRITISH LEGION

The membership in Croxley Green is just over 400, a further six members having joined since the last issue of "The Croxley Resident."

It is true to say that here in Croxley Green a further Hall is needed for social and other events, and we are trying to give you this Hall, we have the site in Watford Road, and are now getting on well with the brickwork, which in fact we hope to have completed by the end of the month, our aim is then to get the steelwork erected and the building roofed in this summer.

Funds are our difficulty, and many functions have been arranged with the view of raising money. Whist Drives are held every third Wednesday in the month at the Guildhouse. Housey-Housey every Thursday at the Co-operative Hall, New Road, and every Saturday evening members and friends meet at the T.A. Club (opposite All Saints' Church). A hearty welcome is extended to all, and we can ensure that you spend a pleasant evening.

Once again this year our Summer Fête is being held in the Territorial Army grounds on Saturday, 8th June, and we shall be very pleased to have your support.

A few lines about the other side of the Legion's work, of which little is known, that of our Service Committee.

Throughout the year the Sick Visitor has visited the sick, either in their homes or the hospitals, and in several cases a helping hand has been given to those in need, and the welfare of ex-Service men, women, and their dependants looked after. All cases are dealt with in strict confidence.

I would like to establish one point beyond all doubt, the Service work of the British Legion is not just for the British Legion, it is not confined to members only, it is laid down in our Charter, and is our bounden duty to assist, where help is needed, all ex-Service men and women in our area, whether they be members or not.

We hope you will be interested in joining your local branch of the British Legion. New members contact P. Horwood, 47 Owens Way. M. C. PAICE, Chairman.

## ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

### Rickmansworth Division

The above Division urgently requires new members from the Rickmansworth and Croxley Green area to give a small amount of their spare time in the service of First Aid work.

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## CROXLEY GREEN CHORAL SOCIETY

Rickmansworth Grammar School was the venue of the Croxley Green Choral Society for the second concert of the season to mark its 34th Anniversary.

The programme included the "Peasant" Cantata (Bach) for choir and orchestra; Part Songs and "Mátra Pictures" (Kodály) by the choir; Opus 18, No. 4 in C minor (Beethoven) by the Joyce Preston String Quartette.

There are many residents, we feel sure, especially younger ones, who would enjoy being members of the Society, and a very warm welcome will be given to all voices; men's particularly.

The Society meets at 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, at Dickinson's Guildhouse, New Road, Croxley Green.

## THE CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY

The existence of this Society may not be known to all, but in fact it has been going on its way, sometimes quietly and sometimes not so quietly, since 1939. It was formed to foster the spirit of friendliness and co-operation which has manifested itself on various historic occasions, such as the Jubilee of King George V in 1935. It was also formed to co-ordinate and, if necessary, help the activities of the various local organisations, and to organise fêtes, celebrations, etc. Some of the more recent celebrations organised by the Society were the Festival of Britain celebrations in 1951 and the Coronation celebrations in 1953. Each summer the Society arranges the Midsummer Revels on the Green when a Queen of Croxley Green is crowned in traditional ceremony. During 1956 a very successful Social Evening was held at the Guildhouse.

The Society is administered by a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Council of delegates from local organisations. Nearly all Croxley Green organisations are affiliated to the Society and are entitled to send delegates to meetings of the Society which is, incidentally, non-political and non-sectarian.

Chairman of the Society since its formation is Major J. E. Payton.

## THE WELCOME CLUB WELCOMES YOU

The Croxley Green "Welcome Club" invite any Old Age Pensioners who have not already joined to enjoy the facilities and happy Saturday afternoons at Dickinson's Guildhouse. Any new members will be warmly welcomed.

We meet every Saturday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for tea and entertainment. Summer outings and holidays are arranged; also sick visiting and help in any way possible. Do come along and enjoy the happy atmosphere. Further particulars may be had from any of the following Officers or Committee:—

Mr. G. S. Wilcox (Founder and President), 92 New Road.

Mrs. Percival (Chairman), District Officer British Red Cross, Little Waterdell, Croxley Green.

Mrs. Robson (Hon. Secretary), 10 Green Lane.

Miss L. Barton Smith (Hon. Treasurer), Marden, Dickinson Avenue.

Mrs. Pitkin, 36 Scots Hill.

Mrs. Bass, 235 New Road.

Mrs. Sills, 260 New Road.

**STOP PRESS** - We understand that there are some, possibly many local residents who believe that this Association gave its support to one of the candidates who stood for election in Croxley South Ward.

In fairness to all concerned we would like to make it clear that this belief is completely without foundation.

If we do decide to support any particular candidate, residents will be notified accordingly.

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