

THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 74

Editor—Mrs. D. HORWOOD, 47 Owens Way.

No. 1—January 1962

A DATE FOR YOUR NEW DIARY
OPEN MEETING. 17th January 1962 in Dickinson's Guildhouse
at 8.30 p.m.

We invite you to attend our next Open meeting when you can meet our Councillor and members of the Committee who will be discussing matters of local interest.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It is the Association's aim to deliver a copy of each edition of the "Croxley Resident" to every house in Croxley Green; that is something like 4,000 copies. The latest available figures show that we have some 1,118 families as members so that only just over one in three of our readers are members of the Association.

At the risk of boring our own members, I wish to address the majority of our readers briefly on the aims and objects of the Association. In the first place we are non-party political. We wish to serve the residents of Croxley Green, no matter what party they support in National Politics. We firmly believe that Local Government is best served in the interests of all concerned by keeping it entirely separate from party politics in the national sense. Having said that, let me at once say we are a political party. My dictionary defines "politics" as "the art of government or the administration of public affairs" and this is exactly what the Association wishes to influence by sponsoring Candidates for election to the Rickmansworth Urban District Council. Last April the Committee of the Association called a public meeting, which endorsed their views, by altering our constitution to allow the supporting of candidates for the local Council as being the best way to make our voice heard and our views known in Basing House. We were very gratified that at the first attempt an independent was elected and in the future we hope Councillor Armson will be joined by others who will act in your interests as residents of Croxley Green.

We regret the pitifully small number of electors who bother to use their vote in local Council elections. It may

well be that those who do not vote may feel it is a waste of time as Basing House is at the other end of the area and once a Councillor has been elected little is seen of him until his three year term of office is up and he seeks re-election. This seeming failure of public relations is common to local government in many areas but we, as an Association, are experimenting and are going to hold four public meetings per year when members may question our Councillor on what has happened or is likely to happen. The first two such meetings have been held and were well attended by questioners on a variety of subjects ranging from rates to proposed bus routes in Croxley.

The subscription to the Association is a modest 2s. per annum (which includes both husband and wife). If you agree with our views that Local Government is better without party politics we invite you to add something to your subscription to go to the "fighting fund" to support future candidates for Council positions. If, however, you have strong party political loyalties and do not wish to see candidates put in opposition to those of your choice then we shall be content to accept your 2s. towards our general expenditure, the biggest item of which is the publication of the "Croxley Resident". So if you are not a member please fill up the membership form and send or hand it to any member of the Committee whose names appear elsewhere in this issue.

In conclusion, may I wish every one of our readers, A very happy and prosperous New Year.
both old and young,

B. W. GARDNER,
Chairman.

PHILIP MORRIS

M.R.S.H.

A.V.I.

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Water Ski-ing

The Rickmansworth Water Ski Club commenced their operations on Batchworth lake on Saturday, 14th October, but their activities resulted in complaints to the Council. Two visitors to the Aquadrome were disturbed by the noise of the motor boat, and a fisherman was so disturbed as to request a refund of 7/6d. on three Angling tickets. It seems that on the day of complaint the silencer on the motor boat had cracked, but since then a more efficient silencer has been fitted. The Council have agreed to the Ski Club operating for an experimental period until 31st March 1962.

Footpaths for New Road

Not for much longer will pedestrians have to wade through the mud of the Green, for it is proposed to extend the footpaths on each side of New Road across the width of the Green to link up with the existing transverse footpath along the main road of the Green opposite the War Memorial.

Traffic Signs

When it was learned that the 385 bus was to be re-routed along Barton Way, the Residents' Association were most concerned that the junction of Barton Way with New Road would become a new danger spot, so we were more than pleased to see the Council agree with a suggestion of ours that a "Slow—Major Road Ahead" sign should be erected, and so speedily erect it.

Surface Water Drainage, Baldwins Lane

Good News! The water which collects on the roadway between Watford Road and Links Way after heavy rain fall is to be dealt with. The remedy will be made by enlarging the existing soakaways, or providing new soakaways. When is this improvement coming? (Quote) "As and when sufficient funds are available out of the allocation made for this type of road."

Free Allotments for Keen Gardeners

At various times complaints are received with regard to weeds on empty allotments, uncultivated allotments etc., and due to shortage of staff it has been impossible to deal with complaints. The help of keen allotment holders willing to advise on any matters needing attention is to be sought, and for this service the reward will be a rent free allotment.

School Fence

Residents note that nothing has been done to improve the bad state of the fences running along the side of the Rickmansworth Grammar School.

Accident Figures

The Road Safety Organiser reported that during the months of August and September, 30 and 36 accidents occurred within the District involving 12 and 14 personal injuries.

Cycling Proficiency Scheme

The total number passed the test to date is 1,583. The total for 1961 was 192. The police are continuing training at Rickmansworth Grammar School, but they will not be able to train all children now waiting. It is hoped that School teachers will be able to help with the training, whilst the police carry on with the testing.

Baldwins Lane Recreation Ground

The new pavilion, very modern in design, is nearing completion, and tenders are to be invited for the construction of paths and car park. We look forward to the completion of the improvements in the Recreation Ground with new tennis courts and Public Conveniences, and shall be proud to have the finest Recreation facilities in the Urban District, situated in Croxley Green.

New Flats

We hear that it is proposed to build flats on the land at the rear of Nuttfield Close. The Residents' Committee consider it very dangerous that the Mill hill, which is without a footpath, should provide the only vehicular access to this site, in view of the large number of people going to and from work at Dickinson's.

Playing Fields and Open Spaces

It may be of interest to local organisers to learn of the new letting fees for local open spaces.

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------|
| | | Fee |
| Fêtes held in the Bury Gardens | ... | 3 gns. |
| Sports Day etc. on Scotsbridge Playing Field | ... | 1 gn. |
| Local Football Matches. | Adult | 10/6 |
| | Children | 5/- |
| Local Cricket Matches. | Adult | 17/6 |
| | Children (Under 11) | 3/- |
| | Children (Over 11) | 5/- |
| Use of Showers | 5/- extra. | |

New Rating Assessments

Fresh Rating Assessments are likely to be made in 1963, on all properties. Remembering the shocks of the last Assessment, the Resident and Ratepayers' Association is most concerned at the methods to be introduced, and a meeting with our Local M.P. to discuss these methods is to be held.

Bury Lake

The Chess Sailing Club report their summer sailing revealed a number of underwater obstructions in the form of shallows or shoal banks, which are unsafe for sailors and swimmers. With the support of the Herts Schools Sailing Association and entirely at their own expense the Club would like to remove these hazards immediately and improve the safety and amenities of the lake. The Club propose to purchase a 20' x 6' 6" pontoon to carry out the work, which could be moored to become an extension to the launching quay.

Bus Services

The Council are to lodge a protest with the London Transport Executive as they did not notify the Council, when deciding to introduce the new 385A service into the Berry Lane estate, that they were withdrawing the 321A Service.

R.U.D.C. Meetings

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Council Meetings | General Purposes Committee Meetings |
| 5.12.61 | 23.11.61 |
| 16.1.62 | 4.1.62 |
| 6.3.62 | 15.2.62 |
| 10.4.62 | 29.3.62 |
| 29.5.62 | 3.5.62 |
| 10.7.62 | 28.6.62 |
| 7.8.62 | 30.8.62 |
| 11.9.62 | |

Members of the Public may attend any of the above meetings. These are held in the Council Chamber and start at 8 p.m.

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REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The membership of the Committee elected at the A.G.M. held on November 3rd is shown elsewhere in this issue. Appreciation was expressed to the retiring Chairman, Mr. H. J. Stevens, for all his work for the Association.

The report from the Hon. Secretary listed the many items of local interest which the Committee had dealt with during the year. The vast amount undertaken by the Committee very often made the length of the meetings greater than those in the Council Chamber. The Secretary spoke of the relationship between the Rickmansworth Urban District Council and the Association, and stressed the way in which every endeavour was made to co-operate with the Council. The Council, however, insofar as their Minutes were concerned, often clothed the facts in secrecy, so that his job often meant collecting full information from the Council concerning their intentions.

The President expressed appreciation to Councillor C. E. Armson who became a member of the Council on his election last May, having been successful as the Association's candidate. The President stressed the good work done by Councillor Armson who needed support, and called upon Members to ensure that the next Election brought forth two Residents' candidates in Croxley North and another Residents' candidate for Croxley South Ward. (In 1962 there will be two vacancies in Croxley North and one in Croxley South Ward; the following year the position is reversed.)

The Hon. Treasurer reported a satisfactory balance in hand. He explained that the annual subscription remained at 2/-d. (for man and wife jointly). Quite separately from ordinary subscriptions, every member was asked to donate an additional amount to the credit of a Fighting Fund to cover Election expenses. This was optional; but every resident who wants to have a Residents' candidate in office was earnestly asked to do all possible in this direction. Without a doubt, there are many residents who do wish for this state of affairs, and the way is open in the next two years to ensure that Croxley Councillors stand with their allegiance to the Residents' & Ratepayers' Association.

A lengthy discussion followed on the impact of the fresh assessments on all properties for Rating purposes which were likely to be introduced as soon as 1963. The Officers of the Association undertook to press the matter with their Member of Parliament.

Criticism of road works in New Road was made, with particular reference to the lighting, as well as the incidence of traffic turning to and from Barton Way made more noticeable by the lengthening of the 385 bus route from Manor Way into Rickmansworth.

The War Memorial seat on The Green was discussed, and the Committee were asked to press for its early replacement.

DISTRIBUTION OF

"THE CROXLEY RESIDENT"

Will you help with the distribution of "The Croxley Resident"? As you can imagine the distribution of 4,000 copies of each issue is quite a mammoth undertaking which, is done voluntarily by many folk. Nevertheless, the Association is aware that residents in some roads either do not receive this paper, or it reaches them rather late. If, therefore, you live in a road where the circulation is somewhat haphazard, would you please consider this invitation to offer your services to see that each resident in your road has no cause for complaint. There are normally four issues per year; the job, each time need not take more than an hour. The vital thing is to ensure quick circulation to every house. As you know, each household, whether a member of the Association or not, receives a copy through the letter-box. **Please give this request your serious consideration** and if you are willing to help the Association please notify the Secretary.

1963 REVALUATIONS

At the recent Annual Congress of the Rating and Valuation Association it was suggested that the existing value of domestic property would be more than doubled under the 1963 revaluation.

Mr. Hersic, lecturer in Economics at the University of London, who addressed the Congress, said that on the basis of calculations made, owners in 1963-64 would encounter as much as 62% rise in rateable values. Although this might be subject to abatement until 1968, he contended that such a procedure was really a frustration of the purposes of the Act.

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R.U.D.C. DECISION ON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Sub-Committee have reviewed the results of their discussions with the Croxley Green Society and of their other investigations and they have been obliged to come to the conclusion that there is no evidence of any real desire or need for a community centre in Croxley Green. Neither is there any prospect of a local Community Association being formed or of such an Association being able to raise voluntary funds of a sufficient amount to attract Ministry and County grants. On the other hand, there is evidence that much of the accommodation already available in Croxley Green in the form of halls of various kinds is not fully utilised.

In these circumstances, it was clear to the Sub-Committee that it is not possible for the Council to proceed any further with proposals for either a community centre or a public hall; and the Sub-Committee **RECOMMEND** that no further action be taken for the provision of either type of building in Croxley Green.

If at some time in the future circumstances should change in Croxley Green then the Council would no doubt be willing to review the matter again.

In the course of their discussions with the Croxley Green Society, questions arose as to the need for a building in Croxley Green for a boys' club and also as to the needs of the Welcome Club for old people for a building. The Sub-Committee's terms of reference do not extend to cover institutions of this character. The Sub-Committee thought, however, that it would be advisable for their terms of reference to be extended so as to give them formal authority to deal with questions of this character: in the meantime they have given some thought to the situation in Croxley Green as regards clubs or similar institutions for old people and for young people.

ARE YOU A MEMBER? IF NOT, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OR RE-JOIN. The minimum subscription is 2/- per year per family, and subscriptions above this amount are credited to a separate fund which is used in furtherance of the Association's revised policy to secure representation on the Rickmansworth Urban District Council.

To the Hon. Treasurer, at 114 Links Way (or to any member of the Committee)

Please enrol me as a member of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, for which I attach subscription for the year ending 30th September, 1962.

Mr. & Mrs. Amount.....

Address Date.....

((You will not be canvassed for the return of this form; your membership is entirely voluntary))

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