

THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 77

Editor—Mrs. D. HORWOOD, 47 Owens Way.

No. 4—November 1962

THE WIDENING OF SCOTS HILL and WATFORD ROAD TRAFFIC

These are only two of the subjects which will be under discussion at Croxley Residents and Ratepayers' Annual General Meeting to be held in the Science Room at Dickinson's Institute, New Road, Croxley Green, on Wednesday, 28th November, 1962, at 8 p.m.

We hereby invite all Members of the Association, and anyone interested in the affairs of Croxley Green, to join us at this meeting.

To All Members,

The Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Resident and Ratepayers' Association will be held on Wednesday, 28th November, 1962, at 8 p.m. in the Science Room of the Dickinson Guildhouse, New Road, Croxley Green. All Members are earnestly requested to attend.

F. N. CHERRILL,
Hon. Secretary.

10 Bateman Road,
Croxley Green,
Herts.

14th November, 1962.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 1961 Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting held on 21st March, 1962.
2. Matters arising therefrom.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Hon. Secretary's Report.
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report and statement of accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1962.
6. Election of President and Vice-President.
7. Election of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
8. Election of Hon. Auditors.
9. Open Discussion. (Prior notice of items for discussion should be handed to the Hon. Secretary.)

N.B.—All Members of the Association are eligible to serve on the Committee. The Committee needs new members. If you are willing to serve kindly write to the Hon. Secretary at least two days prior to the A.G.M.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- President: Col. C. E. Rothery Moss, 35 Watford Road.
- Vice-Presidents: Dr. A. F. Miller, 41 Watford Road.
E. H. Page, Esq., 226 Watford Road.
J. S. Robinson, Esq., 46 Warwick Way.
- Chairman: Mr. B. W. Gardner, 8 Repton Way.
- Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. J. Wallwork, 44 Canterbury Way.
- Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road.
- Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.
- Elected Members: Councillor C. E. Armson, 14 Watford Road.
Mr. R. E. Boardman, 16 Frankland Road.
Mr. W. N. Bryan, 85 Links Way.
Mrs. D. Horwood, 47 Owens Way.
Mr. T. N. Millway, 3 All Saints Lane.
A. W. Nicholls, 250 New Road.
Mr. F. A. Randall, 7 Bateman Road.
Councillor L. V. Reason.
Mr. G. S. Wilcox, 92 New Road.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

In this issue of the "Croxley Resident" the place usually occupied by my letter is taken up by the notice calling the Annual General Meeting of the Association and the agenda of the business to be transacted at that meeting.

It is a peculiarity of our way of life that the "shareholders" in a concern so often take very little notice or interest when things are running well and only turn up and become vocal when they are dissatisfied.

Your committee has worked hard during the past year on many subjects and at the Annual General Meeting I shall give an account of the year's work and I would like to see a bigger audience this year. It will give us all encouragement to renew our efforts in the year ahead—which I fancy will bring us plenty to think about when the new rating assessments are made public at the end of December—that is if the experience of the last revaluation is repeated as I feel sure it will.

After the Annual General Meeting has ended the meeting will become one of our series of public ones when anyone (whether a member or not) may ask questions on matters of public interest and it is hoped the two councillors nominated by the Association will be present to help answer questions on Council matters.

It gives me great pleasure to report now the amicable settlement of a long outstanding matter—the Memorial Seat on the Green. The Association offered to send a delegation to the Open Spaces Committee of the Council and this offer was accepted. In an effort to settle this matter the delegation presented a factual report of the case and expressed the hope that the Council, as Freeholders of the Green, would see fit to provide a new seat in place of the one so mysteriously destroyed. At the following full Council meeting it was agreed to do this without a word being said against the proposal. This new seat will be on the same site as the previous one but will not carry the plaque on the original seat. It will, however, be inscribed "In memoriam 1939-1945" and thus perpetuate the memorial aspect of the original bequest. So we say "Thank you, Ricky Council" for agreeing to restore the only seat between New Road and All Saints Church on the Green and I am sure many of my readers will have cause to be thankful for this restored facility when taking an evening stroll along the Green.

Yours truly,

B. W. GARDNER,

Chairman.

The Honorary Treasurer wishes to thank all subscribers to the Association, and would welcome any offers of help in delivery of the "CROXLEY RESIDENT". If you can help in any way please drop me a Card and I will visit you.

I hope that I will meet all subscribers old and new in the year ahead, when I will be personally calling for your subscription.

J. W. BROOME,

Hon. Treasurer.

Film Premiere

A world film premiere held recently in Croxley Green was attended by many parents at Durrants School. The all-colour and sound film "The Boy who walked backwards" is the very latest production of the Durrants Film Society. Not only did the pupils take the leading roles and act as extras, but all the shots were local. It was most pleasing to see Meads Autos and the Fox & Hounds in colour. In the same programme was shown the entry which secured a highly commended tag in the National Film Awards, namely "Fits and Starts". This film was quite a masterpiece of colour and sound, the colour being blobs of various dimensions, and the sound derived from such every-day articles as washing machines and motor scooters. A very commendable effort which deserves showing again at an early date and which should command high box office returns.

F.N.C.

ARE YOU NEW TO CROXLEY ?

A warm welcome awaits all newcomers to Croxley Green at the Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association.

We are a non political party whose interests are those of all Croxley residents

Membership is still only 2/- per year to cover the whole family, and all members are eligible to serve on the Committee.

The Committee meet once each month, when lively discussions take place over local conditions, and as a result representation is made to the local Council both by letter and by our own elected Councillors.

Every three months we hold an open meeting when all can attend to meet the Councillors and Committee, and ask any questions.

Many residents called on our legal representative for guidance over the Rent Act.

Our newsletter, The Croxley Resident is issued four times each year, and a copy goes into every house in Croxley Green bringing you news of local interest.

We do hope you will join us on Wednesday, 28th November 1962, at 8 p.m., in Dickinsons Guildhouse (Science Room).
Editor

Printed by G. Young & Son Ltd. (T.U.), 34 Yorke Road, Croxley Green. Tel. Rick. 2311.

Published by Croxley Green Residents' Association, 114 Links Way, Croxley Green.

LOCAL GOSSIP

Baldwins Lane Prefabricated Houses

Consideration has been given to the removal of tenants from the first section of this estate to enable it to be redeveloped. The Council are prepared to guarantee to return to Baldwins Lane (if they should so wish), those tenants temporarily housed at Maple Cross who were resident in the prefabricated dwellings at the time of the decision of the Committee to this effect in 1960. The scheme will involve a removal of some 36 families to Maple Cross.

Children's Home in Croxley?

Permission has been sought and granted to John Groom's Crippleage for the use of "Crossley Wyde" previously "Campions," The Green, as a Children's Home.

The Aquadrome

It is learnt from the Council Minutes that the income derived from facilities to the public at the Aquadrome during the summer months gives cause for satisfaction. We would ask the Council to publish these figures and show comparison for the same period last year. Why the secrecy?

Classified Road—Major Improvements

Advance notice of schemes the Ministry of Transport are likely to approve during the next 3-year period are as follows:—

- (1) Schemes estimated to cost over £100,000.
1965-66 Southern Bypass.

Schemes estimated to cost between £25,000 and £100,000.

- (2) 1962-63 New canal and river bridges and improvement of A412 at Cassiobridge (£95,000).

The following schemes are to be submitted for consideration for the ensuing period 1965-68.

- (1) Scots Hill (A412)

Construction of uphill bypass including new bridge over the River Chess between Park Road and Scots Hill Close (£138,000).

- (2) Uxbridge Road (A412)

Widening and improvement between Field Way and Maxwell Close.

Car Parking on Grass Verges

Notices prohibiting parking on the grass verges are to be erected in Repton Way. We hope there will be no more "tombstones".

North Orbital Road

There is the feeling in some quarters that the early construction of the North Orbital Road (between Maple Cross and Hunton Bridge) would overcome most of the local traffic problems and possible obviate the need to construct a second carriage-way on Scots Hill. This whole question is being referred to the Member of Parliament for this Constituency.

Proposed Development at Junction of York Road and Watford Road

Application for planning permission is being sought for the erection of 10 two-storey terraced houses with garages on the piece of ground at the junction of Yorke Road and Watford Road. The Highways Committee has wisely proposed that access to this site should be from Yorke Road, and not the Watford Road.

Litter

We note from a local press report a nominal fine of £2 was imposed by the Watford Magistrates recently for depositing litter near Croxley Hall Woods. Next time you are in the woods don't throw that empty cigarette carton or toffee paper away, it could cost you £10—far better, take it home and burn it.

Proposed Footpath—Watford Road

The possibility of obtaining land to construct a footpath between Croxley L.T. station and the entrance to the goods yard is being explored. If this missing link could be filled in, many crossings of the Watford Road by pedestrians at a dangerous place could be avoided.

Cycling Proficiency

Training and testing of cycling proficiency has been carried out at the local schools by the Police Authority.

Little Green School 39 passed
Rickmansworth Grammar School ... 32 passed

The total number of passes during 1962 to date is 168. Congratulations to boys and girls who are "Road Safety Conscious" and enter for these courses.

Road Safety Films

During the Summer School holidays Road Safety Films were shown in Barton Way recreation ground, in connection with the Local Play Leadership Scheme. These shows were very well attended and it is hoped to incorporate similar film shows as a permanent feature of the Play Leadership Scheme.

Watford Road

The Chairman of the Road Safety Committee referred to the talk that has been circulating about the section of Watford Road from All Saints Church to the Croxley Station. The Road Safety Organiser reported that information obtained from the County Police Traffic Department was that this particular section of the road was not as bad for traffic volume, noise and accident injury rate as some other comparable roads elsewhere in the County.

From this information it would seem that there is at present no case for recommending any special action on this section of Watford Road.

New Valuation List

The Treasurer reported that the new valuation list which comes into force on the 1st April, 1963, will be received for deposit and inspection in his office at the end of December.

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THE CROXLEY PIRATES

The local waterways have nothing to do with the Croxley Pirates; they were in fact, road pirates seeking to take away passengers who would otherwise travel by rival omnibuses. All the "action" of this cut-throat phase is confined to the ten years between May 1923 when the first private bus began to run in Watford and July 1933 when the London Passenger Transport Board came into being with monopolistic powers and put an end to all independent bus company operations, in the Greater London area.

At the formation of the L.P.T.B. it was stated that, apart from London, Watford had the largest bus service per head of the population, in the country. Croxley being on the fringe of Watford shared in some of the services centred on Watford.

The first bus service to Croxley was started by the old London & North Western Railway and ran from Watford Junction to the Green by way of Watford Market Place. Starting in 1905 or 1906 it lasted until the opening of the branch railway.

Then shortly after World War I the National Omnibus Company commenced to run the N.1 route between Garston "Three Horseshoes" and Croxley Green "The Sportsman" with solid-tyred double-deckers. They had open tops and an outside staircase. Amongst the conductor's duties he had to fix the seat covers on the upper deck every time it rained. These buses were painted battleship grey with the name "National" in gold on a blue panel. This route was later extended to St. Albans Market Place and still later to the newly-developed suburb of Fleetville. At the other end the fear of Scots Hill was overcome and the service extended to Rickmansworth. These old buses were fitted with a special gear, much on the lines of the winches seen on seaside beaches to haul up boats, and this was used when climbing steep hills and produced a metallic clicking noise. Not only did these "veterans" tick up Scots Hill but quite frequently passengers were asked to walk up the hill whilst the conductor walked beside the back wheels with a scotch ready to place it under the wheels in the event of an unexpected halt.

Before 1926 when the Watford Council, took powers to issue licences to bus operators, anyone could start a service without a fixed route or timetable and "poach" competitors' passengers to his heart's content.

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IN REMINISCENT MOOD—

Mr. F. Lewis started to operate a service in and around Watford with a small fleet of single-decker Lancias, which were capable of much higher speeds than the "National" buses. He operated through Croxley to Rickmansworth and, to "cut out" his rivals, used to travel straight along the Watford Road between the Met Station and All Saints church arranging his times at the Red House so as to leave there after the "National" bus, but to be in front of it at the "Sportsman". Lewis's services were extended to Harefield via Mill End and West Hyde using the skew bridge over the canal by the asbestos works. He also ran a service to Windsor, via Chorleywood and the Chalfonts.

Starting in a small way in 1924 Biggerstaffs of Sarratt started to run a service via Croxley to Watford Market Place. This increased to a daily service as trade flourished and in 1929 an additional service from Bucks Hill to Watford was added. These buses were painted blue.

Another bus seen in Croxley was that operated by Mr. Hewett under the name of "Premier". His buses were painted purple with the name in gold letters, and although this service was mostly run to North Watford via Gammons Lane, Croxley and Rickmansworth were served if passengers wishing to travel there could be found waiting!

In 1926 the General strike produced the first express services to London from Watford which were the fore-runners of the "Green Line" services we now enjoy, but then, as now, none of these passed through Croxley Green.

In this brief review, many readers will have discerned the foundations of our present-day bus net-work, much of which was started by pioneers of private enterprise.

My thanks go to the Watford Borough Librarian and Mr. Hewitt for their help in recalling these events of nearly 30 years ago.

B. W. GARDNER.

NOTE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 28th 1962

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Madam,

I have wondered how many residents in Croxley Green have been thoughtful of the possibility of a smokeless zone for this district. During recent weeks we have had an early introduction to morning and evening mists, sometimes so thick in places as to become foggy. This locality has always been susceptible to water mists rising from the canal and the valley. Many residents would no doubt like to know what is the first step towards designating the district as a smokeless zone. I, for one, would also like to know if such a designation would have any effect on the fogs we experience. It does seem that the coal and other smoke from industry and private houses alike must have some effect on the fogs which settle down on us. Perhaps your Association would like to make enquiries and make a report in the next issue of your magazine.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd.) S. D. HUNTLEY.

Land Junction of New Road and Winton Drive

Many residents have anticipated that one day this site would see the erection of a permanent Post Office, a Bank, and possibly public conveniences. At present it carries a wooden shack converted to a shop, and is very much an eyesore since it has been empty for some months. It is now learnt that a business of car hire is proposed along with a formation of parking area for private hire vehicles and off-street car park for private vehicles. The Council has granted limited planning consent for three years. The conditions of the consent omit all mention of proper garages and it is easy to visualise that open parking will soon lead to a deterioration of this site. We feel the Council should be more constructive in their considerations and, for this site at least, allow only proper and permanent development.

* * *

The local group of the English Folk Dance Society now meets at 7.30 p.m. on TUESDAY evenings at Malvern Way School. New members welcome. Enquiries to 148, Baldwins Lane or 8, Repton Way, Croxley Green.

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SALE OF WORK**

A Sale of Work will be held in Dickinson Guildhouse on Saturday, 24th November, 1962, at 2.30 p.m. Proceeds will be in aid of their Christmas Party. Music will be provided during the afternoon by The Frankland Four.

NOTE THE DATE—November 24th, 2.30 p.m.

* * *

THE CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY

A very interesting exhibition depicting local activities in the recent, and not so recent past of Croxley Green was held in the Guildhouse during October for representatives of local organisations, affiliated to the Society. Two excellent films were shown of the procession during 1951 Festival Year, and of Crowning the Revels Queen during the past 2 years. Many pictures and documents of 'Old Croxley' were on show. It is to be hoped that this exhibition can be staged again for a wider audience, as I know many residents would be interested.

* * *

Croxley Camera Club

Our local Camera Club, now in its third year, started its 1962-63 session on 12th September with an Open Night to which over 40 people came. Holiday pictures were the theme of the evening and the display of coloured slides extended from classical shots of Venice to a sunset shot from a Croxley window. The Programme of fortnightly meetings at Dickinsons Guildhouse includes talks and demonstrations covering black and white, colour and cine photography. Cine is a new field for many of the members and this is the first session in which it has been included in the programme, but the two evenings so far devoted to it have proved very popular. Competitions of both prints and colour slides are held from time to time, and early next year the Club is having a colour slide battle with Watford Camera Club. All are welcome to Club meetings, from experienced photographers to those who have not yet aspired to a Brownie. Hon. Sec. F. N. Goode, 11 Dickinson Avenue

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 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, 1963.

Mr. & Mrs. Amount.....

Address Date.....

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