

# The Croxley Green Resident

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 86

Editor—Mr. F. N. CHERRILL

No. 3—July 1965

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

### THE FUTURE OF CROXLEY GREEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A few issues ago I made a brief reference to this and the best informed opinion now thinks that this question will be with us in about 18 months to two years time.

What is going on at the Bucks county border at Chorleywood at the present time may be considered now because the results of this County revision may be felt in Croxley Green when the Herts County review takes place. It so happens that Chorleywood lies partly in two counties. That part in Herts is under the Chorleywood Urban Council; that part in Bucks is under Amersham Rural Council; Shire Lane forms the dividing line. I think it most unlikely the present Bucks review will leave a closely knit community divided between two counties. Consider the possibilities. The most likely is for the Bucks part to be transferred into Herts and thus come under Chorleywood Council. (There is talk of a compensatory transfer of an area near Tring to redress the balance of the counties). It is, of course, possible for the part of Chorleywood in Herts to be transferred to Bucks and come under Amersham Rural Council in which case Chorleywood would cease to exist as a Local Authority. When the Bucks review findings are known I feel sure that from the Herts review point of view we shall see either an enlarged Chorleywood—or no Chorleywood at all.

Rickmansworth Council's plans for a new civic centre are in 'cold storage' pending the outcome of the forthcoming Herts review. From this it is clearly a possibility that Rickmansworth might cease to exist as a Local

Authority by being merged in a larger Watford Borough or County Borough. The position of Croxley Green between Watford on the one hand and Rickmansworth alone or Rickmansworth enlarged with Chorleywood on the other hand is going to be most interesting. Should Watford bid to become a County Borough, then a close study of the events of a year ago when Luton withdrew from Bedfordshire should be most rewarding. We are indeed fortunate to have such a closely parallel case for comparison.

When the time gets nearer and the possibilities are more easily discerned, this Association will seek to inform, and also ascertain the opinion of our members, on this most important issue in whatever way seems most appropriate. Who knows, the same review may also unite all of Croxley Green under one authority, which should be a good thing as a local issue, quite apart from the larger issue involved.

B. W. GARDNER,  
Chairman.

## CROXLEY GREEN WELCOME CLUB

An appeal is being launched for funds to help the Welcome Club when it gets its new premises. Your Committee undertook to circulate an Appeal Letter with this issue of *The Croxley Green Resident* and as co-ordination on the effort is a matter of timing it is probable this issue may be a little late in reaching you. Separate arrangements will be made for collecting donations to the appeal, or donations may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. A. E. Jeffery, 7, Old Barn Lane.

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## WE HEAR . . .

### TERRITORIAL ARMY CENTRE—THE GREEN

Approval has now been given for the purchase of the T.A. Centre with freehold interest at £27,500. This Association, through its Councillors, expressed the clear desire to use the site and buildings as a Youth Centre. The County seek the use of the site for an old peoples hostel. Perhaps the Rickmansworth Council could show its strength to do something really tangible for the teenagers if only for a matter of two or three years?

### ROAD RENOVATIONS

By the time this magazine reaches our readers the work of renovating Gonville Avenue should be completed with fresh trees to replace old ones removed. Some residents have complained that no improvement in the width of this rather narrow road has been made. During this financial year the footways and carriageway of Warwick Way are to be resurfaced and the footpaths of Springfield Close will have similar treatment.

### THE 1965 ELECTION

The new Councillors for Croxley North are Mr. S. C. Davies, of 58, Barton Way, and Mr. D. F. Jones, of 36, Links Way, and for Croxley South, Mrs. E. M. Beesley, of The Haven, High Street, Rickmansworth, and Mr. F. J. S. Hall, of 45, Copthorne Road.

The Association thanks its candidates, all the helpers, and the electors who supported the effort to keep independent councillors in the Council chamber. Appreciation is expressed to Mr. L. V. Reason for his untiring efforts as a councillor for the past three years. His services will continue to benefit to the Association as he has now been elected Vice-chairman of the Committee.

### THE REVELS

Our thanks to all who took part or assisted in the preparation for this year's Revels on the Green which was enjoyed by a large audience on a very warm afternoon in May.

### IT'S NEW

An Advertisement Kiosk has been placed outside 163, New Road, with planning permission granted for five years. Its usefulness seems very doubtful—it's not even large enough for shelter from the rain.

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council's Planning Committee has spent a lot of time dealing with the development of a shop in New Road and decided to take enforcement action. The requirements of planning and development do need the sanction of the Local Authority (acting under delegated powers for the County) so if you contemplate improvements to your house or shop be sure to obtain guidance from the Engineer's Dept. before you start.

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14 Oakleigh Drive,  
Phone Watford 24323 Croxley Green.

## PUBLIC INQUIRY

Because Mr. R. C. Hampson of the Half-way House, Cassio Bridge, objected to a proposed compulsory purchase order for the site of his house, a public inquiry was held on March 18th. It was unknown beforehand whether the inquiry would be restricted by its terms of reference simply to the proposed new bridges or if other aspects of the A.412 would creep in. Assuming the latter the Association submitted written observations and was represented at the Inquiry by the Hon. Secretary.

The Inspector appointed by the Ministry of Transport was independent and not a civil servant. The County was represented by a solicitor, an engineer from the traffic department, and a consulting engineer. The objectors were Mr. and Mrs. Hampson, and the Association. About 20 people attended the hearing which lasted all day.

It was soon evident that such questions as 'black-spot accident records,' traffic census figures (projected to 1984), the junction with Baldwins Lane and the incidences of peak-hour traffic from Whippendell Road, were of major concern. The County want the bridges rebuilt to provide dual carriageways with two-lane traffic of a standard anticipated suitable for 20 years hence.

Because the inquiry is still sub-judice, and with a tribute to the "Watford Observer" for its expeditious report in its issue of the following day, it would not be wise to elaborate this report, but if any reader wishes for a copy of the evidence submitted by the Association they are welcome to have a copy. It was a very fair hearing and it was very clear that the North Orbital Road would, for the time being, make expenditure of £150,000 not immediately necessary.

## RICKMANSWORTH GOLF COURSE

Trees. Yes. A supplementary estimate of £365 has been approved for the removal of a tree and the erection of protective fencing near the twelfth tee.

## THE NEW FOREST

(Rickmansworth NOT Hampshire)

Croxley Green residents who drive through Rickmansworth will have noticed the eleven traffic light standards at the junction of the By-pass, Park Road and High Street. This seems an odd way to control traffic at a T-junction. Surely a roundabout would have been a simpler proposition but what the Ministry of Transport says "do," the Local Authority does. We wonder how soon it will be before these "trees" are felled by some carelessly driven vehicle?

## NEW LIBRARY AND OLD FOLKS' CLUB

Without undue delay, work is proceeding with the new building to house the Library and Welcome Club on the site at the junction of Barton Way and New Road. Only the walnut tree now survives to remind us of what used to grow there.

## ... AND OBSERVE

### SWIMMING POOL

The scheme for the Rickmansworth Swimming Bath was put in the Council's five-year programme for year III, i.e. 1966/67 but as there were so many other capital projects such as the Northern Relief Road, the Southern By-pass followed by the Southern Relief Road and Town Centre redevelopment it seemed *out of the question* to consider starting the swimming pool in 1966/67. Dare we—the residents and ratepayers—expect the chance for some relief in our leisure time especially in hot weather, or must adults simply envy their children's private pools in the various schools? Should we press for a new public pool?

### TO DO THOSE THINGS...

We are often asked "What does the Association do?" Your Committee meet once a month and there is usually a long agenda. But remember *You are the Association*. While it is difficult to control the amount of rates levied by a local authority it is possible carefully to watch the way in which the income is spent. If, therefore, you know of any job in Croxley Green which you think should be done then let us know and we will seek to ensure that your Council do those things which ought to be done.

### WHIPPENDELL WOODS

There have been many complaints of rubbish being dumped in Rousebarn Lane and Whippendell Woods. Let us hope that local residents are in no way to blame, and that our readers will assist by deterring such action if they happen to see it being done. The police are watching for the culprits. Watford Rural Council have the costly job of making the place tidy.

### COUNCIL HOUSE RENTS

The Council has adopted a scheme of rent reductions in "long term" cases, so if you are of pensionable age and have ceased full-time employment and have no other non-dependent relatives, lodgers or sub-tenants living in the same house, or if you are under pensionable age but are permanently disabled (with some other conditions), then this scheme may apply to *you*. You are advised to consult your Councillor if you think you may be eligible under this scheme.

### COUNTY BOUNDARIES

In the evidence presented by the Rickmansworth U.D.C. to the Local Government Commission for England Southern General Review Area re County of Buckingham, opinion was expressed that the Urban Districts of Chorleywood and Rickmansworth ought to be amalgamated and form *one* Urban District within the County of Hertford. Your Association is watching this and similar matters very carefully and intends to call a public meeting when a proposal directly affecting Croxley Green is made known.

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### "THE TIP-TOPPERS"

So successful was the Tip-Toppers Sunday evening of "Sing-along" at the Palace Theatre that they are repeating their show in the Guildhouse on Saturday evening, July 17th (tickets from Mr. Warren, 94, Winton Drive). This Croxley Green company of do-gooders for spastics funds has presented 82 shows, and proudly announce their intention to present "The Wizard of Oz" for a whole week during November at the Palace Theatre, Watford.

### MOOR PARK MANSION HOUSE

This fine Palladian (1727) Mansion by Leoni is owned by the Council and is leased to Moor Park Golf Club as a clubhouse. During the war it was used by the Armed Forces and at the end of the war the interior in particular was in a most dilapidated condition. The Council, therefore, decided that it should be restored, the cost being spread over a number of years and the first stage of the restoration has been completed with the aid of grants from the Ministry of Public Building and Works. The Council's Open Spaces Committee have now approved the next stage in the restoration work and they are anxious that the outstanding qualities of the Mansion should be better known particularly by local residents and that they should know of the facility of visiting the Mansion. Local residents are therefore invited to visit the Mansion which incorporates traces of a Stuart house of James, Duke of Monmouth with interior decorations by Thornhill, Verrio and others. It is open all the year on Mondays and on other days by previous arrangement with the Club Secretary. Parties of more than four people also by arrangement. Admission is 2s. 6d. and teas are obtainable.

*The Association thanks the Advertisers for their support and hopes all our readers will patronise them. This publication is the only one to reach every house in Croxley Green.*

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## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Readers are reminded that the public are admitted to certain meetings which commence at 8 p.m.

|                  |     |                   |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|
| General Purposes | ... | 19th July, 1965   |
| Open Spaces      | ... | 22nd July, 1965   |
| Highways         | ... | 26th July, 1965   |
| Finance          | ... | 3rd August, 1965  |
| Council          | ... | 10th August, 1965 |
| Road Safety      | ... | 11th August, 1965 |

and thereafter at six-weekly intervals except Allotments Committee.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Functions to aid the Swimming Pool Fund at Durants School will be a Dance on 25th September, a Jumble Sale on 9th October, and the Christmas Fair on 20th November.

*The Editor would be pleased to have items of Local interest, and dates of coming events.*

## COUNTY ROADS

Of the £17,045 asked for from the County for resurfacing and general maintenance, all has been granted, but of £53,100 requested for minor improvements only £14,100 has been granted.

## CONSUMER CORNER

Sir, I wished to buy a packet of cleaner. In one shop in the town which had a sale on the price was reduced from 1s. 11d. to 1s. 8d., but I found the same size packet in the popular store for 1s. 5d. Yours . . .

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Printed by G. Young & Son Ltd. (T.U.), 34 Yorke Road, Croxley Green. Tel. Rick. 72311

Published by Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, 10 Bateman Road, Croxley Green.

# BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

## **CROXLEY GREEN WELCOME CLUB APPEAL**

*Hon. Treasurer: A. J. JEFFERY*

7 OLD BARN LANE, CROXLEY GREEN.

As you may have read in the local press, there is to be an Old People's Club and Red Cross Centre, adjacent to the new County Library on the corner of New Road and Barton Way, Croxley Green.

In spite of generous grants from the County Council the Urban District Council and the British Red Cross Society there is still £3,000 to be raised in order to complete the cost of building, furnishing and equipping this Old People's Club and Centre.

This project will provide the following facilities :

1. Social Club for all pensioners. (Potential membership 200 – 250).
2. Specially equipped bathroom for all handicapped persons with V. A. D. in attendance.
3. Chiropody treatment room.
4. Medical Loan depot where nursing aids may be hired for short or long periods.
5. Red Cross office open daily for advice on nursing and welfare matters.
6. Future amenities. Once established, it is envisaged that the Club will provide :

Daily Dinners

Meals on wheels (in co-operation with the W.V.S.)

During the week July 19th - 24th the enclosed envelope will be collected.

We do ask for your most generous support of this appeal.

5s. per head from the whole population in Croxley Green would see us there !

Thank you so much.