

The Croxley Green Resident

No. 93

Editor—Mr. F. N. CHERRILL

No. 2—APRIL 1967

I have been looking at the aims and objects of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, and, in a nutshell, it is safe to say that these are to encourage good citizenship among our neighbours of all ages. In other words "To maintain our heritage". We must be thankful to our ancestors for planting trees which in our era have reached maturity; on the other hand we can blame our forefathers for not building our roads straighter and wider. Nevertheless, there are old proverbs of being "wise after the event", and "gaining by other people's experience", so undoubtedly those who live in Croxley Green in the year 2,000 will have their own thoughts about us who live here in 1967.

Looking at the composition of our present Council there isn't one Councillor who serves as an Independent with the personal right to say what he likes and vote in any way he likes. Only a few years ago we had two Independent Residents' Association Councillors on the Council. Subsequently, there was a drive by the Liberal Party who, at one time, brought their strength to six out of a total of nineteen Councillors. Why must Councillors show any allegiance to a political party? Surely it is not necessary even if the finances of a party have been used in pre-election expenses. Surely, once a person has been elected a Councillor he should feel absolutely free to carry out his duties in the way which, from his personal experience, he believes to be the best for the community as a whole. This is not news! It has been said time and time again (and denied), but the old idiom of Victorian days seems to hang over the whole country when results are broadcast saying, for example, the Conservatives have won two seats from Labour, or a particular place is now a Liberal controlled Council.

So this editorial sticks out for independence of outlook for our Councillors. Maybe you agree, maybe you don't.

What is it like to be a Councillor? You need to be able to give a lot of time to the job because it is not just a matter of attending Committee and Council meetings, but it is also the ability to be indulgent with anyone who comes to see you for help, and if you do the job properly you have to enquire into all the aspects of the problem so that if it comes before the Council you are adequately prepared to state the facts.

This year your Residents' Association was prepared to put two candidates into the field—but it has not done so simply because it has not been possible to find

persons of desirable calibre and the willingness to undertake a voluntary job. While this is to be deplored for 1967 it is yet possible that the position will be different in 1968. Certainly there is every good reason in saying to our readers "maintain your heritage" and in doing so take a greater interest in local affairs.

It should not be the purpose of this magazine to preach to its readers—simply to say things which we hope you might do to uphold our heritage. And even the paintwork of our houses, the close-cropping of our lawns, and the beauty of our gardens are contributions towards the national heritage.

In just over a month's time everyone in Croxley Green who is entitled to cast a vote for the election of some members of their local council will be able to do so. This year there is one vacancy in the North Ward and one vacancy in the South Ward. In case you do not know, there are four Councillors for each of these wards and periodically two vacancies arise in the same year because a Councillor holds his seat for three years, at which time he democratically puts himself before the electorate again, the idea being that you can judge him as having served you well or otherwise, and from his point of view he can resign or carry on. Unless, of course, he is an Alderman with security of tenure on a Borough or County Council.

So this edition of *The Croxley Green Resident* is something of a pre-election address. Will you exercise your vote on 13th May? In recent years the proportion of people using their votes has been around 40 per cent—once exceeding 50 per cent, although it has been around 80 per cent for a Parliamentary election. But for local elections it means that one out of two of our present readers last year failed to use his vote. Naturally there are, for some of us, good reasons, although for the majority it can only be inferred that apathy is the answer. Apathy is not sufficient in itself, but lots of us will regard it as a good reason. There is good reasoning to say "well, what does it matter?". Rickmansworth Council and Hertfordshire County Council will demand their (ever-increasing) rates, we shall have to pay up or go to prison, and we shall go on seeing instances of over-costly public works and disregard of essential renovations. Sufficient you might say that we get our dustbins emptied, our roads lit, our sewerage taken quietly away, the services of the fire brigade if we ever need them, and an education fitting for the rising generation.

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WE HEAR . . .

LLOYDS' BANK IN NEW ROAD

Three years ago this Association communicated with each of the leading Banks suggesting they provide branches in Croxley Green. Success has been secured in the opening of Barclays Bank last January, and we now hear that Lloyds' Bank will soon open a branch at 129 New Road. Seems a pity the Postmaster General cannot provide comparable services for us.

CROXLEY GREEN WOODS

Two voluntary wardens keep an eye on the Woods; they are Mr. T. N. Millway (3 All Saints Lane) and Mrs. Knight-Mohan (41 Harvey Road). Mr. Millway tells us he is continually noticing rubbish and rubble beings dumped in the Woods, and in the river. He keeps the Council's Engineer informed and action follows. Will anyone who enjoys strolling in the Woods please support the wardens by letting them know—or better still writing to the Council—of any damage or rubbish they may see.

CROXLEY GREEN WELCOME CLUB

It is pleasing to learn that Rickmansworth Council, shouldering its responsibility to help Old Folks Clubs, has made a final grant to both the Darby and Joan Club and the Welcome Club, making a total for the year of £250 each.

PETITION FOR A POST OFFICE AT THE GREEN

Considerable progress has been made at Sweet-Fayre with a petition which will seek consent for a Post Office to be opened in that shop. Will you please remember to sign this petition if you reside within half-a-mile from All Saints' Church.

COUNCIL MAY BUY FRUIT MACHINES

This heading was extracted from *The Watford Observer*, and it transpires the Local Council are thinking of installing fruit machines in the golf course shop and in the pavilion. The latest news is that legal enquiries are being made. Councillor Craft is reported as saying (we quote) "The people of Rickmansworth will certainly accept the idea if it is going to bring in something like £2,000 a year into our rates".

A PERMANENT YOUTH CENTRE FOR CROXLEY GREEN

The Council's Community Welfare Committee has recommended that, in their opinion, the best site for a permanent Youth Centre would be on part of the Barton Way allotments site. The Allotments Committee concur. It is possible that, if planning consent is given, financial provision for the project could be made next year.

Our Roving Reporter tells us that the area of land on the allotments site is situated furthest away from Barton Way, and it is difficult to understand why this is so, unless a fresh access is to be made from New Road. The plot-holders concerned are to be given immediate notice to relinquish their plots twelve months hence.

ELECTIONS

County Council election—15th April.
U.D.C. elections—6th May.

. . . AND OBSERVE

YOUR RATES

Should have been reduced by 5d. in the £ for each dwelling house which derives from a government grant in compensation. But because the rates will go up 1d. in the £, the net effect is a reduction of 4d. in the £. Which is something to be thankful for.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION IS DOING

During the recent monthly meetings of your Committee the following items have been considered:— the parking of lorries in Watford Road opposite the Calypso Cafe; the state of the Green; cleanliness of roads, especially near fish and chip shops; footpath in Rousebarn Lane; the planning appeal for gravel, water and ready-mixed concrete at Great Westwood Estate; Post Offices; Cassio bridge; public conveniences; 600-caravan site at Horrocks Wood; car parking in New Road and outside the public library; rubbish dumping in Croxley Woods; Cheshire Homes; and children's adventure playgrounds.

HOUSE MORTGAGES

Local Authorities are now allowed wider discretion in deciding to whom they will lend money for house purchase. Rickmansworth Council will normally give favourable consideration to the granting of an advance of 90 per cent for house purchase, and may grant up to 95 per cent with certain safeguards. The interest charged is $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent above that currently charged to the Council on loans.

WATFORD ROAD

The Croxley Green Road Safety Committee are to hold a Public Meeting on Friday, 21st April, with Mr. Gilbert Longden, M.P., in the chair.

This Committee pressed their points strongly when their deputation met the Highways and Traffic Committee (to which the Council had mainly said "no"). Some progress was made (a) that the Police be asked to watch traffic behaviour especially regarding overtaking; (b) that an approach be made to the Ministry of Transport to have a light controlled pedestrian crossing; (c) to approach London Transport concerning the U-turns made by buses outside the Met. Station. It is reported that the road at All Saints' Church corner will be re-surfaced this year.

FOOTWAY IN WATFORD ROAD

The footway between All Saints' Church and York Road is very narrow and, following requests for its improvement in width and texture, high priority is to be given. The problem is aggravated by the large trees and the need to acquire land on which the trees stand.

P.S. TO THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Stephen Swinger, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, spoke at a meeting in Croxley Green recently, and is reported as saying "The North Orbital Road is of high priority, as indeed are all roads which by-pass the centre of cities". What more he said on this we do not know. We do know that we would like to have some high-level *action* and less plans on paper.

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BUS SERVICES

Rickmansworth Council has again asked its Public Transport Sub-Committee to examine and report on bus services in the area. There is little doubt that when two, or even three, buses come up behind each other—even on different numbered routes—there is something radically wrong.

WE WAG OUR FINGER . . .

At that naughty Councillor who used a bad six-letter word during an Open Spaces Committee and had this reported in *The Watford Observer*. We note, however, that the Minutes of the meeting do not reproduce what was allegedly said. In all seriousness, it must be accepted that grass verges should be preserved and neither horses nor cars should damage such amenities.

NEW OPEN SPACE BY CASSIO BRIDGE

The area of land on the south side of Watford Road by Cassio Bridge has, for a long time, been earmarked for public open space, but some part of it had to be relinquished for the Cassio Bridge development scheme. The County Surveyor is being asked to provide 6 ft. high wrought iron railings with matching gates along the frontage when the road widening is carried out.

TREES AS A SCREEN

A condition of a planning application in 1949 was that trees should be planted to screen William Old's site at Tolpits Lane. Apparently this has not been properly done, so the Council are now pressing for a wider margin of land adjoining the railway fence with trees planted thereon. Look out for this eye-sore when you travel by train and see how their rubbish has been thrown on to the railway embankment.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1962

We are always hearing of difficulties in this direction. It transpires a house in Croxley Green was given permission three years ago to run a nursery school for 12 children. Now that the original consent has expired, a fresh application has been made in respect of 25 children. It seems there have been complaints about this activity, as well as recommendations for its continuance. The Council, as the Local Planning Authority, has declined to renew the consent.

TENNIS COURTS

In the last financial year the Council estimated spending £120 on re-surfacing one tennis court at Barton Way Recreation Ground, but was intentionally deferred last season because the emulsion treatment needs warm atmospheric conditions. It is intended to do this work soon.

RENOVATIONS ON THE GREEN

Your Committee last year asked the Open Spaces Committee to meet together to discuss improvements on the Green, especially at the time when a drain was being laid down the length of the Green. This suggestion was rejected by the R.U.D.C. Since that time we have been watching to see what the Council intends to do. The latest announcement is that loan sanction for £6,600 has been granted for the kerbing, road drainage, and re-surfacing of the road which should be carried out this year. Nevertheless there is a lot of less costly work which, if carried out during the spring, would quickly enhance the appearance of the Green. Many people feel that the state of the Green is deteriorating and if we do not ensure its maintenance to a high standard we shall be sorry later.

VISITING THE LIBRARY

If you go by car please remember that it is illegal to cause an obstruction by parking within 15 yards of the junction of Barton Way and New Road. Unless we all exercise care in this matter we are threatened with No Waiting restrictions—which involves signposts at the kerbside.

ESTIMATES

Why cannot the public see a copy of the Local Council's annual estimates? By way of comparison the estimates for the S.W. Herts Crematorium are shown in full in the published Minutes of Rickmansworth Council. Queer! or highly secret? The writer has seen the confidential estimates in years gone by and recalls they are so bracketed under veiled headings that it must defy even a Councillor to know what he is voting for, but he would still like to know the contents.

POST OFFICE FACILITIES

In spite of setbacks by the Watford Postmaster and an apparent lack of support from Rickmansworth Council, it is again recorded that this Association will go on pressing to secure the provision of a permanent Post Office in Croxley Green as well as a sub-Post Office located near the Green.

It has been discovered that there are some 200 Advisory Councils throughout the country who act in the capacity of link between the public and the Post and Telephone services. The address can easily be found in the telephone directory covering Herts and N. Middlesex. The dissatisfaction experienced by residents in Croxley Green has been notified to the Advisory Council. There was recently severe comment in the House of Commons for poor services throughout the country and it was a wonder that Croxley Green was not mentioned. We are not alone—but neither shall we rest until success is gained.

It was hoped the sub-committee of Rickmansworth Council would examine and report on postal facilities for the whole of Croxley Green but they tended to evade the issue by simply agreeing with the Watford Postmaster that there was no option but to open a sub-Post Office in Baldwins Lane as a substitute for the closure of the s.p.o. at Pikes Stores. This, in our opinion, is simply nonsensical; the known public opinion wanted (and still wants) a Post Office at both places. If the authorities took the trouble to mark the positions of Post Offices on a street plan it should be clear to them that a population of about 12,000 people needs more than three sub-Post Offices. And if they compared that fact that two leading Banks have recently chosen to open branches in New Road, they should be ashamed of their feelings to their customers.

The local Postmaster must have had a shock recently when the counter staff at Moxley's disappeared, and Civil Servants had to quickly man the office. It transpires that Moxley's was purchased last year by Davis's—the building firm who have fallen into

liquidation—and it is assumed their employees on the postal counter quickly resigned. Rumour has it that Moxley's shop may close soon, and if this proves true we guess the Watford Postmaster will have wished he had retained the Crown Post Office. He cannot go back to the G.P.O. building now—it's been demolished!

SOMEWHERE, SOMEBODY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Without much attention being focused on the change, many pillar boxes in Croxley Green have lost the 8.15 p.m. collection. This means that in most cases the last collection on a weekday is sometime after 5 o'clock. On Saturdays the only collection could be 11.30 a.m. Sunday collections do not appear to have been changed.

GROVE CRESCENT

The second contract for the re-development of Grove Crescent is likely to be given to a Harrow firm in the sum of £111,920, being the lowest tender received.

QUESTIONABLE ART

Moor Park Mansion again figures in the news with proposals to spend up to £500 to provide a reproduction fireplace of the one removed in 1920 now in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. A provisional sum of £500 was put in the estimates for the purchase or borrowing of pictures, but it is now thought a reproduction fireplace would restore the room to its original condition—the missing focal point being the fireplace. Readers are reminded that they can visit Moor Park Mansion on Mondays and at other times with prior appointment with the steward.

COPTHORNE ROAD

The Council intend to spend £43,000 on private street works for the renovation of Copthorne Road in 1968/69, thus will end the long period when this road has been private and thereafter become a "street repairable by the public at large".



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TRIBUTE TO "KAL"

Little did we realise when Arthur Barton-Smith enlisted in the K.R.R. in August 1914, and after getting wounded three times, return to Croxley Green, he would through sheer merit and perseverance, forge another milestone in the history of our village.

Such an occasion arose at the end of March when he retired from the position of Group Scoutmaster of the 1st Croxley Green Scouts. His advice, help and friendship must have influenced, at some time or other, directly or indirectly, most of us in Croxley Green.

"Kal" as he is affectionately known in Scouting, started as Rover Scout Leader in 1928 when Headquarters were in the Tank Building at the back of Dickinson Square. It was not many months before Scoutmaster John Paterson moved to Stepney and Kal took over duties of Group Scoutmaster and Rover Leader. Under his guidance hundreds of children have been taught the true meaning of the Scout Law and trained to be useful members of the community.

Scouting expanded during this period and the "Tank" became too small and there is no doubt that without the help and guidance of Kal the Headquarters in Watford Road would never have risen. Scout Concerts were an annual event at this time and soon the land was purchased, plans submitted and with the help of the various skills of the parents of the day the building was erected and completed just before World War II.

During the dark days of 1939-45 Kal kept the Group running, Headquarters was let to the Herts County Council and the Scouts acted as runners for the Home Guard. With most of the Rover Crew and Scoutmasters away at war and numerous children clamouring to join the Cubs and Scouts war came to an end, and the H.Q. officially opened. On this occasion Kal was awarded the "Silver Acorn" for his services to Scouting. The Parents' Association was going strong and the B.P. Guild of Old Scouts came into being, as most of the old Crew and Scoutmasters came back, the majority were married with children. Under new conditions and with a thriving Group, Kal guided, cajoled, disagreed, but blended the sections of the Group amicably to the strength they are today.

In 1962 under reorganisation of Districts, Croxley Green became part of Rickmansworth and District, and at this time Kal was again recognised by the Scout Movement and awarded the Medal of Merit and the Long Service Award.

All this time he was also Secretary of the Guildhouse in New Road until he retired in 1961. He saw the Guildhouse being built, and he saw the Hall burn down to the ground.

From the inception of the Croxley Green Society he has been its Treasurer, another post from which he retired earlier this year.

We all as residents of Croxley Green, salute you, Arthur Barton-Smith. Thank you, and we wish you many happy years caravanning in your Volkswagon.

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COLLECTING SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Association needs three (or more) people to assist with collecting subscriptions. This is a rewarding task and the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way) will be glad to provide the details. The areas concerned are those of Harvey Road and thereabouts, Kenilworth Drive and thereabouts, and Sycamore Road and thereabouts. Our membership has increased in recent years and our ambition is to have someone call at every house in Croxley Green.

REVELS ON THE GREEN

Note the date—3rd June, 1967. The Secretary of the Croxley Green Society (Mrs. Hauck, 335 New Road), and her Committee propose a full day's entertainment in which they hope all Croxley Green organisations and societies will participate. What are you doing?

CLAREMONT CRESCENT

If you live in this road or nearby we would welcome an offer to distribute this magazine in that road.

CROXLEY GREEN IS WITH IT

First we have the "Croxy Twist"; now it's the "Croxy Quick Step"; so congratulations to Mrs. D. Horwood and Mrs. P. Fenson of the Greensleeves Club for winning 1st prize at the West Herts Winter Social.

OBITUARY

We deeply regret to record the passing of two founder members of this Association.

Dr. A. F. Miller was a former President. He died suddenly in Edinburgh at the age of 84 years. Only a few years ago he moved from Croxley Green to Edinburgh to look after his brother, and in those years he kept constant contact with Croxley Green. He and Mrs. Miller planted the Winston Churchill Memorial tree on the Green a year ago.

Mr. E. E. Page, a Vice-President of the Association died after a long illness at the age of 83. He had lived in Watford Road for many years, and in the many years he served on our Committee he had taken a particular interest in problems of road safety.

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It is the policy of this Association to encourage its members to take an interest in local affairs, and in this connection the public are allowed to attend the following meetings which all start at 8 p.m. in Basing House, Rickmansworth.

Council Meetings: 25th April, 23rd May, 27th June.
Highways & Traffic Committee: 3rd April, 12th June.
Open Spaces Committee: 4th April, 13th June.
Road Safety Committee: 26th April, 28th June.

READING TO YOUNG CHILDREN

We hear of an attractive idea whereby the Librarian has arranged afternoon reading sessions for younger children.

LEISURE FOR MOTHERS

We hear that several mothers have clubbed together to do baby-sitting for each other. By exchanging services in this way there is no cost when one wants an evening out. The service can be arranged in the daytime as well as evenings. When we enquired we were told there was no age limit; but on reflection our reporter cannot remember whether this only applied to the children. Mrs. B. Clifford, of 60 Malvern Way (Rick 77887), would be pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to join the group.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Your Editor (Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road), would be pleased to hear from any Society, Organisation, or groups who wish to announce forthcoming events in this magazine. There is no charge; we only want everyone to know what is going on. The next issue will be distributed in July, and copy would be needed by 1st June.

ARE YOU A MEMBER? IF NOT, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OR RE-JOIN

The minimum subscription is 2s. 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.

Mr. & Mrs. Amount

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