

# The Croxley Green Resident

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 96

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

JANUARY 1968

*A Happy New Year to all our Readers*

## Spotlight on the Older Generation

I am certain I am not alone when I say I am deeply concerned in the plight of residents who are living on national retirement pensions and with, perhaps, income from other fixed incomes where the value is continually depreciating. I am sure that in Croxley Green alone there must be well over 2,000 residents above the statutory pension age. The Welcome Club has over 200 members with a waiting list, yet it is most probable that lots of older folk do not wish to be connected with a Club. We all recognise the way in which the older folk like to maintain their independence, and good luck to them! Nevertheless, lots of their sons and daughters and grandchildren know how difficult their elderly parents can be so they often have to be very tactful.

If you—our readers and our neighbours—feel there is something to be done for the older folk then let's set up an appropriate organisation in Croxley Green. If you feel really livid about the plight of old age pensioners then subscribe to "Pensioner's Voice".

It seems to me there is scope for an information bureau. Somewhere for elderly folk to obtain advice and guidance. For example, a lady pensioner was given 10/- a week extra for medicines, but since the basic pension increase started, her 10/- was reduced to 5/-. This just isn't good enough, and it was fortunate that a friend engaged himself in fighting the case that he won back the difference she had lost. But how many old folks are able to fight their own battles or have someone to do so by way of filling up forms and so on? There is another example of a pensioner being notified that he would have a refund from the Rates department of his Council. It didn't come as promised and it took correspondence to eventually get the money through. When it did come it was in a cheque endorsed "not negotiable".

A good way to take up injustices is through a Club which is in membership of the National Federation of

Old Age Pensioners' Associations. Hear what they say: "All men are equal, why should the pensioner have £4 10s. 0d. a week as a reward for 50 years' service to the community while the 'money men' of industry collect £1,000 a week?"

The effect of devaluation is alleged to have reduced a pension of £4 10s. 0d. by 11/- a week—thus washing away the recent increase of 12/6d. a week. There is the problem of fuel prices, where quantities of less than 5 cwt. carry an excess charge of 1/- per cwt.

The N.F.O.A.P.A. has been going for 30 years. In 1939, in spite of war, they presented a Petition to Parliament which resulted in the National Assistance Act abolishing the original poor laws.

More could be done to help pensioners, and one way which would not deprive the transport undertakings of much "lost" revenue would be to give Old Age Pensioners a free travel ticket for use in the quieter times of the day. We heard recently of a conductor who forced an elderly lady off the bus because she argued that she had not reached the maximum of her 4d. ride. If some school children and students can be given bus passes for travel in peak hours it is time the elderly folk were similarly looked after.

Has this set you thinking? If so, consider what you could do. If, like me, you are not yet retired, just remember that you will some day enter this category. Let's get some arrangement independently organised to watch over the living standards of our elderly neighbours.

There is something we can all do now especially if you have an elderly neighbour—keep one eye open to see that the milk is taken in each day. And if not, see what you can do to ensure someone is not suffering.

*The Editor*

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## WE HEAR . . .

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### CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

A long time ago this Association advocated the revival of the provision of a Citizens' Advice Bureau. The Council has decided to call a general meeting of the representatives of interested bodies on 17th January to which the C.G.R.A. will send a delegate. The information needed by the bureau to advise the public is supplied by the National Council of Social Service, and the manning of the bureau needs voluntary workers.

### CROXLEY GREEN YOUTH CLUB

Congratulations to the Club for having raised over £550 towards their new Youth Centre.

We must be specially concerned with the Club who have been given legal notice to quit their existing premises in the T.A. Centre. It is hoped this is a formality because a new centre is unlikely to materialise within 2 or 3 years and the reality of the situation would be disastrous to all the work done for the club in recent years.

### PRIVATE CENSUS

A neighbour tells me he has to walk along Watford Road at 7 a.m. and during the ten minute walk he counts heavy lorries. He has never counted less than 24 and reckons on average there are 36 vehicles travelling at that time of the morning. Just a little bit of proof for the need for the North Orbital Road.

### ROBBING PETER TO PAY —

It's not often Rickmansworth Council really work a crafty trick, but this time Herts County Council are convinced they are being robbed. The local council will charge the County £2,500 p.a. for 99 years' annual ground rent for the site of Rickmansworth Library now being constructed. Mind you, we're not likely to benefit from this paper transaction.

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### THE NEW CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

*The Croxley Green Resident* takes pleasure in giving an early welcome to Mr. J. J. B. Dutfield, LL.B., who will take up his duties as Clerk to Rickmansworth Council on 1st April. Mr. Dutfield, a native of Dudley, will be coming from the county borough of West Bromwich.

Formal best wishes are expressed to Mr. C. G. Ransome Williams for a happy retirement from his position as senior official at Basing House.

### 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE R.A.F.

Former members may like to know that a Grand Reunion and concert will be held in the Royal Albert Hall on 30th March, 1968. Mr. Broome of 114 Links Way will have further details during February. He was in the R.F.C. in 1914/18.

### OVERFLOWING PILLARBOXES

Since the Post Office reduced the number of pillar boxes where a 7.30 or 8 p.m. collection had previously been made, we have had complaints that often some boxes are filled to overflowing. One lady with a bundle of letters at 7.20 p.m. just had to await the arrival of the collection van. The local Postmaster says he will install larger boxes at 196 Watford Road, Scots Hill s.p.o. and Lower Baldwins Lane s.p.o. We have since seen the 5 o'clock collection delayed somewhat with the effect that business postings are cleared then.

### CROXLEY GREEN (L.M.R.) GOODS AND COAL DEPOT

News has reached us that British Railways wish to sell this site, and we hear Rickmansworth Council has expressed interest for residential development. This is another eyesore in Croxley Green where the industrial usage and advertisement hoardings not only blemish the appearance of our locality but considerable annoyance has been caused to residents on the other side of Watford Road. We hope the Council will lose no time in arranging for a private developer to build houses here.

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## HAS PLANNING GONE MAD?

It may seem from this report that this is so. A resident of Croxley Green sought permission to install a portable loft ladder, and as the R.U.D.C. were unable to determine whether the erection of a loft ladder was subject to control under the building regulations they sought guidance from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government who ruled that consent was not necessary. But the R.U.D.C., in their wisdom, decided that it would be a good thing to control such installations and intend to remit their decision to the Urban District Councils' Association with a view to securing an amendment of the law to ensure that loft ladders are subjected to control.

## TOO MUCH PAPER WORK

We have wondered for a long time that there is too much planning on paper and not enough *in situ*. The reconstruction of Cassio Bridge is a case in point. Now we hear that Herts County Council has increased its staff by over 1,000 in the past twelve months, making a total of 16,703, plus 14,261 part-time.

## AN EMPTY COUNCIL HOUSE

Many people commented on an empty Council House in Watford Road which had been unoccupied for eleven months. The Association's Committee deferred a decision at their September meeting hoping that within the following weeks the matter would have been rectified. But no! A month afterwards the house was still empty and the Secretary was asked to seek an explanation from the Housing Manager. Our enquiry brought forth a reply: "Your letter has been passed to the Chairman of the Housing Committee, as I think it is more appropriate for him to give any answer he deems necessary in a matter which does not directly concern the Association or its Committee on whose behalf you are writing." Mr. Philpott was not told that the matter had been raised by three members of the Association's Committee who are tenants of Council houses. We comment that there are still many folk in need of houses, and we find it extremely difficult to understand why a house should be empty for so long. Even more strange to note that the Chairman of the Housing Committee, Councillor Hauck, lives near to the empty house—and we still have not heard from him in reply to our enquiry.

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### POST WAR CREDITS

If you will soon reach the age of 60 for a man or 55 for a woman you may like to be reminded that you will then be eligible for repayment of your post war credits. These now carry interest at 2½ per cent, although you should remember that the interest so granted ceases at the time of your eligibility for repayment so there is no point in leaving your money with the government. Repayments are made to widows without age restriction.

### SNOW

The falls in early December certainly caught most of the country unawares, and the press has rightfully criticised the upset to everyone in this so-called technological age. Between ourselves we noticed few householders who were quick to sweep it away from outside their houses even when most people were at home on the Saturday. Surely it's a matter of civic pride to look after the footpath outside your house and if everyone did this then moving on foot should be easier. As to the roads and railways, enough has been said in the newspapers. In Rickmansworth and Watford gritting operations were seen on the major roads, but even on the day following few residential roads had been treated. Let's hope this downfall will serve as a warning and a reminder of a few years ago; it's of little use anticipating a change in the weather which might be six weeks before it arrives.

### NO WAITING

The 1966 A.G.M. of the Association had a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of controlled waiting in New Road and Barton Way, and the consensus of opinion was to inform the Council that we could do without no waiting bans at this point. The Council seemed to agree that they should not attempt to do this until they had made a real effort to provide car-parking facilities. Now (without any consultation with the residents) they come out in the press with a public notice of their intention to restrict waiting at the junction of New Road/Barton Way, and New Road/Dickinson Avenue. Before much longer we shall be blessed with signposts at every corner of Croxley Green—unless we get up in arms.

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## NORTH ORBITAL ROAD v. A25

While we go on politely fighting with deputations to secure a North Orbital Road, the residents of Surrey are trying to stop the Ministry of Transport "scandalously wasting" £134,000 of the taxpayers' money.

Watford and Rickmansworth recently sent a joint council deputation to the Ministry of Transport to press for an early start to the North Orbital Road extension. Many readers will think that the time has passed for being polite and action is now required, especially after Mrs. Castle said yes and then she said no!

The dispute in Surrey concerns the 12 winding miles of the A.25 between Dorking and Guildford with its 18 picturesque little villages. The Ministry want to improve the existing road at a cost of £918,000, but the County Council want to build a by-pass costing £784,000. Many of the villagers fear that homes would be bulldozed to make road widening possible. A by-pass would save the villages.

## CROWN LAND: JUNCTION OF NEW ROAD/ WINTON DRIVE

For a long time the Association has been badgering the Local Authority and the Postmaster-General regarding the development of this site (such an eyesore) where for many years we had been led to believe that a permanent post office would be built. The site obviously lends itself to a splayed block of shops which, we would think, would include a bank and a post office. We now hear the Ministry of Public Building has abandoned its proposals for a branch post office on this site. The R.U.D.C. Surveyor has advised the Council that the site is allocated for primarily residential purposes on the First Review of the Development Plan, although the approved Development Plan makes provision for shopping use. The Committee disagreed with a suggestion from the County Planning Office that a petrol filling station would be appropriate. There is not a shadow of doubt that the site ought to be developed very soon (since the Ministry bodies have relinquished their interest) and we want to see a parade of shops or flats for old people, which will enhance the appearance of Croxley Green.

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## TRICKERY

We saw a letter from E.B.C. of Croxley Green published in *The Evening News*. "You may be interested in the latest border incident in the Traffic Warden-Long-Suffering-Public war.

"Recently the parking line in Rickmansworth High Street has been altered, and in my ignorance, but in the presence of a traffic warden, I parked my car over the line.

"The warden was about two yards from me when I stopped, and she watched me park, extricate shopping bags, dog, lock the car and go off to the shops. Then she slapped a ticket on the windscreen.

"I later saw her warn another motorist, and feeling somewhat cheated I wrote to the authorities and received a duplicated reply which said that after consideration the fixed penalty must be enforced. This in the best tradition of 'send the usual bug letter'.

"We are told that officials are always ready to help the public, but to my mind this is disproved by behaviour of this sort, which is nothing short of trickery."

## CROXLEY GREEN ROADS SAFETY COMMITTEE

At last the Council has adopted a suggestion from this Committee so that the purchase of a strip of land at the top of the railway embankment by the bridge opposite Croxley Station will allow the boundary fence to be set back to improve the sight line. The cost of purchase of the land will be about £33.

We note that nothing has yet been done to install the light controlled pedestrian crossing near the Met. Station, and would have thought that this work could have been carried out expeditiously. It's funny how "Give Way" illuminated signs can be erected so quickly, but when something really useful is required the Council appears to be apathetic.

*The Association thanks the Advertisers for their support and hopes all our readers will patronise them. We are grateful to our voluntary distributors who ensure that this publication is the only one to reach every house in Croxley Green.*

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## WATFORD AND DISTRICT CONSUMER GROUP

Five years ago Watford and District Consumer Group came to public notice with a biscuit survey, and for my first article in your magazine it is biscuit packing that I consider is a cause for concern. Although Christmas is now over you may have noticed the gay tins produced for the festive season by biscuit manufacturers. Do you, when contemplating purchase of such a tin, look for the weight of the contents? Let me give you some examples I have seen—14 ozs. of biscuits for seven shillings and ninepence, 12 ozs. of biscuits for six shillings and sixpence. Is this good value for money? A well-known chain store offers 1 lb. of first-class biscuits for 2/6d. Is an attractive packing worth four to five shillings? Surely not.

Another cause for the housewife's concern is the lack of price tickets in butchers' shops. The housewife, knowing her resources, wishes to know the price of meat offered, so that she may compare prices before entering a shop. She may otherwise be forced into a quick and unwise purchase because of pressure of crowds and time. If the butcher does not mark price per lb. on all meat, ask him why he does not, and suggest he should help the housewife by reorganising his system.

You may feel that the Consumer Group is only a complaints organisation. This is not the case. We are at present at work on a survey: "Eating out for Special Occasions." We aim to publish the results of our survey in the spring, and this booklet will be free to members of the Group and on sale to the public. This survey should, therefore, provide a consumer-tested guide to eating out in this area—every home will need one. Look out for your copy on the book stands.

We are also busy at work rewriting our "Family Leisure Guide" so that it will be available for next summer's holidays. We should be glad to receive material and suggestions for inclusion and also criticisms of last year's publication.

Now—congratulation to Trewins of Watford who, when asked to withdraw a potentially dangerous toy from their stock, did so at once, and also took action to withdraw the toy from all stores in the John Lewis Partnership!

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### "GIVE WAY"—LET US STOP IT

Sir, Is the Association going to protest about the number of "Give Way" illuminated signs which have recently been placed at junctions with Watford Road? I am appalled to visualise that Croxley Green might soon be a mass of "iron trees" you once spoke about, and that our village might be spoiled in the way that Rickmansworth has been. Does Rickmansworth Council think that all drivers are mad?—apparently so, if the maze at the junction of Church Road and High Street, Rickmansworth, is anything to go by. As I understood the situation any former "Halt" sign was to be replaced by a "Give Way" sign; in any case surely a white line painted at any junction is sufficient to indicate that it is necessary to be careful before making a turn into a main road.—Yours faithfully, T. Drake.

### HULLO AND GOODBYE

Welcome to Mine Host at the "Duke of York", P.H., Mr. and Mrs. Tunstall, and a spirited farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Walters, who have retired.

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### THE GREEN

On Saturday, 14th October, Members of the Committee of the Association, inspected The Green, Croxley Green, and asked the Council to effect improvements in the following ways:—

- (a) Noting firstly that the several gullies placed below road level were receiving attention but at 17th October were still unsatisfactory although remedial work had apparently been completed by the contractor;
- (b) At the War Memorial there was a broken post which needed to be replaced before Remembrance Sunday;
- (c) At the War Memorial it has been observed that cars have been parked inside the perimeter of the Memorial and it was recommended that one or two more posts be carefully sited to prevent this recurring;
- (d) The gravel approach road to the "Artichoke P.H." is partly in good condition yet partly ruined with potholes—could the holes be filled in?;
- (e) On the roadway outside Parrotts the kerb is higher than the footpath and between the two is about 12 inches of soil which needed to be graded and seeded;
- (f) The "Dell" nearest to Copthorne Road needed cleaning up;

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- (g) Outside Croxley House there is a well worn horse-riding track and this was reported in furtherance of our request that horse/pony riding should be prohibited on The Green;
- (h) Outside Mrs. Woodhouse's paddock it is known that cars bring gymkhana equipment for the benefit of young horse riders, and it is important to note that these cars pass an official notice saying that "car owners parking on the grass will be prosecuted";
- (i) When will "car owners parking or driving on The Green" be prosecuted?;
- (j) An official noticeboard to replace those damaged/lost was needed at the junction of New Road/The Green, and near to All Saints Church;
- (k) The footpath leaving The Green at Baldwins Lane junction is much too steep—dangerous in fact—and should be effectively graduated;
- (l) The small area outside the Youth Club ought to be surfaced with tarmac as it is always being used for car parking.

The reply from the Engineer and Surveyor assured us that every item would have attention, and, as far as he was able, we were pleased to note that the work has been done. Regarding (a) one gully is still troublesome; (d) the Council are not inclined to make up approach roads but will investigate the matter; (e) the footpath on the north side will probably be entirely re-made in 1968; (l) the Council were not inclined to tarmac this small area. The problem of horse-riding is still before the Council who are in the process of considering the provision of riding tracks.

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## CROXLEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

As far as we are aware this was the first church established in, what was at that time, the village of Croxley Green.

Records show that the church was established on its present site in New Road in the year 1868, although the original building was extended and absorbed when rebuilding took place towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Under the leadership of the Minister, the Rev. Frank H. Townley, comprehensive plans have been made for the celebration of the church's centenary.

Members of the church have been busy with site clearance and the laying of foundations for a new church hall which is being erected at the rear of the existing building. This work has proceeded so well that it is now nearing completion.

The new hall will be officially opened on Saturday the 27th January, at 4 p.m. by the Chairman of the district, the Rev. A. Kingsley Turner. Tea will be available at approximately 5.15 p.m., and this will be followed by an hour of light entertainment by the Lime Walk Singers.

There will be a service of dedication of the new

hall on Sunday, the 28th January, and we extend a warm welcome to any friends in the district to join us at either the opening ceremony or at the dedication service, or preferably, of course, at both.

A programme of special services has been arranged to take place throughout the year, having as its climax the one hundredth anniversary service on Sunday, June 9th.

We hope to welcome a great number of local residents to our church during this centenary year. In particular the Minister is anxious to extend a special welcome to all those who have been married in the church in past years.

Please do come and join with us on some occasion during 1968. Perhaps it will awaken memories of the day your marriage was solemnised. (*Contributed*)

## WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT OLD SCHOOLS?

The answer is next to nothing. Pinpointing Yorke Road School which was well and truly frozen up four years ago, we hear that most of the toilets are still outside across the playground and the children still have to wash in bowls.



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## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Although the hall was not filled to capacity there were some lively reports and discussion. The Committee were re-appointed with the addition of Mr. Colin Baker.

It was recalled by Mr. Broome that he had attended the public inquiry last January into the refusal to give planning permission for gravel excavation at Gt. Westwood Estate. The Minister had granted the application subject to several restrictions. But it transpired that the production of ready-mixed concrete was the prime business of the applicants, and the Chandlers Cross Residents' Association as well as ourselves were dreading the thought of 20-ton vehicles moving in the area of narrow lanes; this was one of the restrictions which we feared would be violated.

The Chairman drew attention to the Grand Union Canal Users' Association, stressing that we must all take a big interest in the development of the canals as an amenity.

The Secretary reported that the Committee had considered no less than 54 items during the past year, many of which recurred at subsequent meetings. They were very concerned about anything which affected the people of Croxley Green.

On a personal note the Secretary again drew attention to the lack of any public relations spirit with the Rickmansworth Council. It seemed the Association had always to be chasing the Council. He questioned "Who are They—whether They be the Local Authority, the County Council or any of the Ministries?". Surely such bodies were intended to act for the people. He mentioned the North Orbital Road which looked like being constructed in the near future, but the latest news showed a terrific increase in estimated cost such as might defer the construction even later. Locally he pinpointed a recent meeting of the Highways and Traffic Committee to which the public were admitted. At this meeting the Committee had decided that all but one item would be heard in private. Again, he had asked for the loan of a plan to show members the improvements to Scots Hill, only to hear that a final plan had not yet been settled. The Secretary felt that our Local Council was far too secretive and that it would be wise for them, either as a body or individually, to ascertain the views

of the people. Certainly the Association had not been invited to comment on any Council matter during the past three years.

Appreciation was expressed to the Hon. Auditors, the distributors of *The Croxley Green Resident*, and the collectors of subscriptions.

## YOUR COMMITTEE

*President:* Col. C. E. Rothery Moss, 35 Watford Road.  
*Vice-Presidents:* Mr. C. E. Armson, 14 Watford Road;  
Mr. J. S. Robinson, 46 Warwick Way.  
*Chairman:* Mr. L. V. Reason, 40 Repton Way.  
*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. W. T. G. Yabsley, 264 Baldwins Lane.  
*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road.  
*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.  
*Committee:* Mr. C. Baker, 142 Links Way; Mr. R. E. J. Boardman, 16 Frankland Road; Mr. L. L. Dobie, 11 The Green; Mr. H. J. Gardner, 46 Canterbury Way; Mr. T. N. Millway, 3 All Saints' Lane; Mrs. M. Milne, 286 Baldwins Lane; Mrs. D. L. Nixey, 44 Oakleigh Drive; Mr. W. W. Rutherford, 3 The Grove; Mrs. M. Trinder, 66 Gonville Avenue; Mr. B. H. W. Tullett, 9 Green Lane; Mrs. D. B. Whitfield, 224 New Road.

## R.U.D.C. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Readers are reminded that they may attend certain R.U.D.C. meetings to which the public are admitted; the meetings commence at 8 p.m. in Basing House.

Highways and Traffic Committee—8th January, 19th February.

Open Spaces Committee—9th January, 20th February.  
Council meeting—24th January, 13th March.

## COLLECTORS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Association needs two or three people to help collect subscriptions (which, be it said, remains unchanged at 2s. 0d. per household). This is a rewarding task usually carried out in the spring and early summer evenings. Mr. J. W. Broome at 114 Links Way would be glad to hear from anyone who can help in this way—and you will be insured while on the job!