

# The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 97

Editor—F. NORMAN CHERRILL

APRIL 1968

## It's Nice to Know You Are Nice to Know

Maybe it is the Cadbury's advert which has faced me every morning at the station "Award yourself the C.D.M." or perhaps it's the remarks of compere Leonard Sachs when closing "The Good Old Days" . . . "but most of all yourselves!" Maybe it was a scrap of conversation heard one winter evening in Watford Road "Well, they seem nice people".

With Spring in the air I feel I want to hand out praise right, left, and centre! So—award yourself the C.D.M.; and I believe there are a good many folk in Croxley Green who qualify.

Harping back to the snowy weather let's say thanks to everyone who turned out to make the roads and paths easier to walk on. There was one morning when I actually walked along Watford Road in the road while the vehicles stood motionless, and by evening the road surface was clear of snow again. Then there were the refuse collectors who inevitably get behind in their programme at Christmas and were further retarded by the snow, but who caught up again in a few weeks. How I miss them if they fail to call on the usual collection day.

I don't want to mention names for the C.D.M. or any other award but it is worth recalling the well-known local teacher who has been honoured with a long-service award for her years of devotion to a chosen cause.

Thinking around as to who to mention next I think of the Aldermen and Councillors who serve on Hertfordshire County Council and even feel like thanking them for having kept their rating increase to no more than 6d. in the £. If I lived in Gloucestershire I would certainly hit the headlines with appreciation to that County Council for having reduced their rate by 6d. in the £. So it fell to our local council to so trim their needs that they did not vary their portion of the rates for the coming year.

Of course thanks might be given to the workmen for having laid out such a smooth and level car park in the former goods yard at Croxley Met Station, and many will ponder to ob-

serve that this area might be better used as a bowling alley. Looking forward, the summer season will soon be with us and we really ought to make more use of the bowling green down in Ricky or the nearer tennis courts in Croxley Green's recreation grounds.

With enough C.D.Ms. it would be easy to award them to all the folk who did the do-it-yourself project of building a new hall at the Methodist Church. And several more medals might easily go to everyone who has shared in making the dream of a swimming pool at Durrants School become a reality.

Our thanks then to everyone who keeps Croxley Green the nice place that it is to live in and "most of all yourselves".

*The Editor*

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

During last year Rickmansworth Council set up a sub-committee to consider and report on public transport in the District, and to this extent invited and received observations from residents. In addition to this Association two local residents made submissions.

Their findings have now been published; comments about trains directly concern Rickmansworth, but the following comments about buses are reproduced:—

That the London Transport be asked:— (i) to re-arrange their services which run along a common route to be scheduled so as to provide a better service; (ii) to ensure that buses complete the whole of their scheduled journeys irrespective of whether they are keeping scheduled times or not; (iii) to re-time services from areas west of Rickmansworth so that they make a reasonable connection with train services; and (iv) to investigate the possibility of revising certain bus stops in Watford so that all buses on a common route leave from one stop.

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### CROXLEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

The Church has been in Croxley Green for 100 years and this is their Centenary Year. The Anniversary will be celebrated during the week-end of 8th and 9th June.

### DON'T STOP HERE

'No waiting' restrictions have come to New Road and Barton Way. The official intention appeared as a public notice last December and nobody objected to it. Consequently vehicles will not be allowed to stop on either side of New Road and Barton Way for a length of 35 yards from the junction. Similar restrictions have been imposed on the junction of New Road with Dickinson Square.

The Association, and the Council, view this matter gravely to the extent that a restriction on kerbside waiting should be balanced with car parking facilities. It is a pity that the Public Library and the Welcome Club border a restricted length of kerbside and where whose patrons can be expected to exceed the number of shoppers. Fortunately the restriction expires at 6.30 p.m.

### WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

From an exam. paper: "Ratepayers are a cross section of population" (*The Evening News*). We hope the lad got full marks for this; we ratepayers sure are as cross as cross can be.

### ROOM FOR 110 CARS

The first public car park in Croxley Green can now be found at Croxley L.T.E. station where 110 cars can find a space at a charge of 2/-d. per day or 8/6d. with a weekly season. So far, demand has been very light; we wonder how popular it will become.

### LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION

The local council elections will be held on 11th May. This year there will be one vacancy to be filled in each of the North and South Wards of Croxley Green.

### TREES

During February it was goodbye to several elm trees alongside Watford Road between the Church and Yorke Road. There had been talk for a long time on the need to widen the footpath and the only solution was to fell the trees in order to provide space for making the footpath sufficiently wide to accommodate a pram. Maybe it's a pity to see these trees felled, but on the other hand they might at any time have crashed in a storm in an accident which might have had fatal consequences.

### THE RIVER COLNE

Moves are being made by Watford Borough Council towards cleaning up the state of the River Colne in South West Hertfordshire. Apparently a petition is being prepared to ask the Thames Conservancy Board to act immediately against river pollution, and to authorise landscape improvements along the whole of the Colne valley.

### COMING EVENTS

WELCOME CLUB: 27th April—Spring Fair.

DURRANTS SCHOOL: Swimming Pool Committee, 27th April—New Moon Dance; 4th May—Jumble Sale; 11th May—Official opening of swimming pool; 25th May—Grand Dance; 29th June—Summer Fete.

'68 CLUB. This club was inaugurated in January as part of the National Association of Women's Clubs. It meets every Tuesday at 7.45 p.m. in the Guildhouse. Details from Mrs. A. M. Lipscomb of 25 Harvey Road.

CROXLEY GREEN FLOWER GROUP: Demonstrations at 8 p.m. on 8th April (Spring Delight), 13th May (Japanese arrangements), 10th June (June Glory), in the Science Room, The Guildhouse.

B.P. SCOUT GUILD: Former Scouts or anyone interested is invited to contact the Secretary, Mrs. P. Bennett at 38 Sherborne Way.

REVELS ON THE GREEN: Watch for posters.

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By Day 74074 or 75922

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## SHOULD YOU DO IT YOURSELF?

Before the Building Regulations came into force in October 1965, to replace the local by-laws in England and Wales, the D-I-Y householder did more or less as he liked in repairing and maintaining his property.

It was only when he was engaged in major structural alterations that he was liable, under the by-laws, to inform the local authority of his proposals before starting the work and then to carry out the work to the satisfaction of the council's borough surveyor.

When the full impact of the Building Regulations became known there was, of course, a tremendous outcry from the public who considered that it was an example of bureaucracy gone mad and a serious threat to freedom.

No one in his right mind can condemn out of hand a serious attempt by authorities to bring about a much needed standard in building work, but it has always seemed a great pity that when this first highly technical and legally-phrased document of 178 pages was prepared it took no cognisance of the individual's right to be "King of his castle".

All the arguments, the frustrations, the revolt against the decisions of employees of local councils (and the inevitable evasions) have come about because the Ministry has ignored the desire—and the ability—of the householder to carry out practical improvements to his home.

*(Reproduced from the April issue of D.I.Y. which explains the new amendments to define a carport).*

## THE EVENING ECHO

Many residents in Croxley Green will have enjoyed a free issue for a month of *The Evening Echo* and most of us will have enjoyed some reading material with a difference from the national dailies. During the complimentary month the newspaper carried plenty of news items from Croxley Green, especially a very good photograph of the Association's Treasurer, Mr. Broome, as well as several extracts from the January issue of *The Croxley Green Resident*.

## CROXLEY HALL WOODS

We remember that the next stage of renovation and preservation of the woodlands is due to take place this year. It is probably worth remarking that trees are funny things! Their outward beauty is not necessarily a reflection of their inner health, and the cross section of a felled tree can often be a surprise to the viewer. The woods are our beauty spot—please help to keep our heritage.

## . . . AND OBSERVE

C.G.R. & R.A.

*The Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association is pleased to publish this magazine quarterly, and ensures that a copy goes in to every house (about 4,500) in Croxley Green irrespective of the householder being a member of the Association. We would like to achieve 100% membership. The annual subscription for the year to 30th September next is still only 2/- which covers husband and wife. Expect our collector to call on you soon or kindly send direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Broome at 114 Links Way.*

## FAREWELL

Members of Croxley Green Baptist Church and many others wish the Rev. D. Harper farewell as he moves to Bury St. Edmunds after having served us for over five years.

## POINTS OF VIEW

Expressions of opinion in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the Association's Committee. Comments and matters of local interest will gladly be reproduced.

Recently the Editor circulated to 35 organisations and societies in Croxley Green asking for news of their activities. To help us keep an informed membership please let Mr. Cherrill hear from you.

## LINKS WAY

With Links Way becoming a feeder road to Chandlers Cross and an increase in the flow of heavy commercial traffic, surely the rates for all residents in Links Way should be reduced or all commercial traffic barred in both directions.

*(J. W. Broome)*

## GIFT TO THE WELCOME CLUB

As decided at the A.G.M. the Association has arranged to donate a book trolley to The Welcome Club.

## ACTION LINE

*The Daily Express* now features a service to chase-up broken promises. Non-delivery of goods, inefficient service, and such like. A Croxley Green resident has already secured help in a matter concerning the Council's highways department.

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## CROXLEY GREEN ROADS SAFETY COMMITTEE

During recent months interest in the North Orbital Road extension has dominated the committee's activities. As most readers will know the Ministry of Transport has issued a number of contradictory statements, some of the most glaring occurring in correspondence with the committee. The only certain things we can advise you from the mass of half promises which are appearing in print are these:

- (1) A section 7 order is promised to be published in June. This will seek to lay down the line of the road. It will be open to objection and Chorleywood Council have announced their intention to object.
- (2) The process for appointing a Public Enquiry to hear the objections will be started at the same time as the order is published.
- (3) The scheme has not been taken out of the 1970 rolling programme and could in theory still be built at this time.

Readers should be made aware that the government has *not* promised the £4m. finance necessary to construct the road and has only earmarked one million pounds in the original 1970 programme. Furthermore the project has to go through the major section 9 process and to be cleared through all the stages of compulsory purchase of land. Only a continuous clamour by everyone interested can overcome these obstacles and the committee is trying to make interested parties aware of the lack of assurance to present press stories.

In the more humdrum sphere of local improvements to our own poor roads we are actively pursuing the Cassio Bridge improvement, currently held up for finance by the Ministry, the provision of traffic lights to assist pedestrians at the Red House P.H. crossing, which having passed U.D.C. and Divisional Road Engineer is now held up by the County Council for want of finance, the widening of the footpath between All Saints Church and the Duke of York P.H., now nearly completed. One minor success attributable to our policy of persistent representations is the decision to improve the sight lines at the junction of Harvey Road and Watford Road by some alterations to fences, taken by the Urban District Council in the last few weeks. Persistent representations to the London Transport over a period has resulted in the new "No Parking" signs outside the Met. station which

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should result in allowing buses to be parked off the main road when waiting at the Bus stop. A number of other improvements are under active consideration and the committee is happy to report improved relations with the local authority in regard to matters brought to their attention.

R. T. Willoughby—*Hon. Secretary.*

## RED CROSS CENTRE, CROXLEY GREEN

With reference to the article in the January issue of "The Resident" entitled "Spotlight on the Older Generation", I would like to emphasise that the Divisional Red Cross Office in the Welcome Club Building, Barton Way, Croxley Green, is open every morning from 10 a.m.—12.30 p.m. to advise and help anyone who needs it, regardless of age or whether they are Welcome Club members or not. If direct help cannot be given, then the enquirer will be put in touch with the appropriate authority. Every Monday morning, our Divisional Welfare Officer is in the Office to help solve personal problems, and there are quite a few Croxley residents who can testify to the help given to them.

Chiropody every Monday afternoon is available to any Old Age Pensioner, and the Medical Loan Depot is available on a 24 hours basis to any Croxley Resident. During 1967 470 pairs of elderly feet received attention.

I would very much like to endorse your final paragraph regarding keeping an eye on elderly neighbours. The over 60 population of Croxley Green is very high, and it is impossible for the Red Cross members to help everyone who needs it, much as we would like to do so.

We work in close liaison with the local Doctors, District Nurses and Health Visitors and will always visit and help when we are assured that the need is real, but much can be done by good neighbours in the community. Often a cheery greeting and an offer to shop or fetch coal, is all that is needed to make the elderly and the lonely feel that they are still a precious part of our community.

During ten months of 1967, 6,960 hot dinners were served at the Welcome Club.

*Mrs. G. B. Fenning, Divisional Director.*

## COUNCIL CUTS "WILL PUT UP FUTURE RATES"

By Our Local Government Correspondent

A sharp rise in rates in future years is regarded as almost inevitable by many local authorities, following Ministry of Housing and Local Government advice on cuts in expenditure.

The Government expects substantial economies in staff as well as the postponement of town centre schemes, amenity, cultural, leisure and recreational projects. This would involve "hard and painful decisions," leaving little room for improvement of services with in some cases "a temporary lapse of standards."

Many authorities are calling on their reserves, but it will inevitably mean heavy budgets falling on ratepayers as councils try to catch up with this year's axed developments. The Ministry's circular makes it clear that councils cannot expect any increase in rate support grants before 1970.

(from *The Daily Telegraph*)

### INTERESTING

At our A.G.M. a member asked if it were known how much of the rateable income was expended by Rickmansworth Council on loans and interest charges on loans. The answer is that in the year 1968/69 loan repayments will be £16,375 and interest on loans will be £50,410. The combined amounts will represent 24.1% of the amount of rate levied for District Council purposes. (*Information kindly provided by the Treasurer of the Council.*)

### SHOPPING SPREE

In the supermarket I noticed a young lady pushing a loaded trolley to the check-out point. But there was only one cashier on duty, and about 15 people in the queue ahead of her. "Blow this" she mumbled, "let him take me out to dinner." And she walked out of the store empty-handed.

(*Reader's Digest*)

### SALAD OF PEARS

Cut pears into quarters peel them and remove cores. Sprinkle with castor sugar and a little cinnamon, baste now and then with the liquid formed and serve from coldest part of refrigerator.

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## ELDERLY PEOPLE

Our leader in the last issue of *The Croxley Green Resident* has developed in various directions. We hear that All Saints' Church is embarking on a scheme in which members in various roads will serve as stewards to keep in touch with elderly folk in their road. The Trefoil Guild will also discuss what can be done. One suggestion is to organise a "Fish Association" on the lines of the Oxford group who were recently televised. Then there is the Bushey suggestion of "Help" notices which can be displayed in the window if need arises.

### FOOTPATHS IN WATFORD RURAL

Footpaths in Watford Rural section of Links Way and other roads have recently been denuded of paving slabs and replaced by tarmac. Kerbstones remain untouched. The result is the shoddiest job of work ever executed in the area, a waste of public money and an absolute disgrace.

(*J. W. Broome*)

### IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBERED?

With Spring in the air and thoughts of do-it-yourself jobs around the house, do please have a look to see that the number outside your house is a credit to your property.

### FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

"May the authorities itch where they cannot scratch."  
(One of the lines remembered from this famous show.)

### DISTRIBUTORS

*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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## THE HEARTLESS SOCIETY

By their odd juxta-position, two items of news from the decisions of Hertfordshire County Council are significant for the future of our society.

Item: The Council has scrapped the weekly issue of cigarettes and sweets to 1,200 old people and will thus save £8,000 a year.

Item: The Council has agreed to provide a family planning service and contraceptives for married and single people and thus will spend £10,000 a year.

Comment seems almost superfluous, except to point out that, in the search for economies, it seems to be the old who are going to suffer most.

Hertfordshire's action is by no means isolated. Staffordshire, Canterbury, Southampton and Wolverhampton have all announced the ending of these comforts for the old.

It smacks too much, say opponents, of the handouts of old Poor Law days. In which case, the old folk might well sigh for "the Good Old Poor Law Days."

But it smacks of nothing of the sort. It is a legacy of more recent times and of the civilised thought that the old and poor should be cushioned against the effects of inflation, taxation and—now—devaluation.

These two decisions by the same Council typify a trend in a Permissive Society which regards the old as a necessary but expensive nuisance and the young as in need of advice which, by all the evidence, is superfluous.

And these are signs of not only a Permissive but also a Heartless Society. *(Evening News Editorial)*

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## GRAVEL AND READY-MIXED CONCRETE

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, on appeal, granted to Messrs. Hall & Co. Ltd., planning permission for the extraction of gravel at Gt. Westwood Estate, Kings Langley, and consultations are taking place following the submission by the Company of the proposed scheme of working. The Watford Rural District Council with Sarratt Parish Council and the Chandlers Cross Residents' Association are aware of the proposals. The County Council are preparing observations on Highway matters. This is the point which is of direct concern to residents of Croxley Green for it will be considerably difficult to prevent heavy lorries carrying gravel and ready-mixed concrete from using urban roads in our locality en route for major routes.

## CHANDLERS CROSS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The C.G.R. & R.A. supports the Chandlers Cross Residents' Association in the troubles brought to residents by the sanction given for gravel excavations and production of ready-mixed concrete on the Great Westwood Estate. There are strong fears that the traffic situation in the narrow lanes of Chandlers Cross will become unbearable. Our Association has taken up with the Highways authority a proposal to prohibit heavy traffic using Rousebarn Lane and Links Way.



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## ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Sir,

From recent comment in your pages, it would seem that your readers might appreciate a note on the complexity of the machinery for dealing with road improvements.

There are three main levels of government involved, national, county and urban. The national authority is the Ministry of Transport who employ a Divisional Road Engineer at Bedford to act for them in most day to day matters. The County Council controls the finance for the smaller projects, the Ministry the finance for the larger ones.

The first stage in most traffic and highway matters is for the proposed improvement to be considered by the Highways and Traffic Committee of the U.D.C. who examine the problem with the assistance of their permanent officials—the Surveyor on matters of regulation and engineering detail, and the Clerk on legal and policy matters. In the mass of regulations it is clearly laid down that some of the more minor works such as the painting of lines down the centre, or marking the boundary of a road, or the installation of a "Give Way" sign are open to the Council to carry out without reference to anyone else—although regulations giving guidance on how the signs should be used are published by the M.o.T. Other matters, such as extra pedestrian crossings and traffic lights to control existing crossings, have to be submitted to the D.R.E. for approval before the U.D.C. can approve them, and then the County has to provide the finance. Yet other matters require public advertisement and the hearing of objections.

Medium sized improvements—the twinning of Scots Hill for example—are the subject of U.D.C. requests to the County Council who in turn have to approach the Ministry for the finance. The U.D.C. then carries out the work. The Cassio Bridge scheme is a special case because it lies across the boundary of two council areas and as a result the County Council have to carry out the work. When it comes to a matter like the use of 30 m.p.h. repeater signs the regulations are firm and prohibitive and no authority can break them—a new Act of Parliament would be required. Where compulsory purchase is needed the Planning Committee may be involved.

I am afraid that this means that quite a lot of the complaints hurled at the local council over delays in carrying out work are not truly the fault of councillors or officials but of

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the system for which they work. The whole process seems to have been deliberately designed to ensure that nothing can be done quickly. Whilst this gives an excellent safeguard to private property, it has the disadvantage of leaving the authorities always several steps behind the development of the traffic problem. The answer to this problem lies not in the local but in the National sphere, where the machinery of Local Government was fashioned.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. Willoughby, Hon. Secretary,  
Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee.

## NORTH ORBITAL ROAD

From information derived from Watford Rural District Council it transpires that the plan for carrying the North Orbital Road across the Chess Valley were for Solebridge Lane to be crossed at a height of approximately 20 ft. with the road embankments adjacent to this and for it to return into cuttings on either side of the Valley. This is subject to possible amendment both before and after the publication by the Minister of Transport of the draft Order under Section 7 of the Highways Act, 1959.

## GRAND UNION CANAL SOCIETY

April 18th, 7.30 p.m. Watford Library: the public are invited to the second members' meeting. The Society is still trying to bolster its membership and you may like to know what has been done in the last six months: four public meetings, two Councillors' boat trips, a campaign for the Wendover Arm, a "Put Slough back on the Waterways Map" campaign, a campaign for the new Thames link, a Slough Study Group, a Newsletter, a display amounting to a small exhibition, a battle to prevent Halton Bridge being lowered, and many meetings with such people as Watford Council and the Chiltern Society. There must be many people who are interested—boaters, anglers and the naturalists. If you would like to join the Society please contact Mr. R. Hampson, Halfway House, Cassio Bridge, Watford.

Looking forward there will be a mini Rally for Boats on May 25th adjacent to the Aquadrome in connection with Rickmansworth Week, and a mass cruise to Slough on June 1st for a week-end rally at Slough.

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Would you be so kind as to find space in the next issue of the "Residents' leaflet" for the following, please.

The Rickmansworth and Chorleywood Savings Committee has the highest number of Street Groups in the West Herts District and Croxley Green has the greatest number of groups in the Rickmansworth and Chorleywood area, there being a total of 76, with about 54 secretaries.

We are proud of this record and endeavour to maintain this high standard, but, through a number of causes, we lose several secretaries each year. There is always room for the willing helper in this well-worth task and we are very anxious to recruit more.

May I appeal to you to offer yourself, I can assure you of a great welcome. The task is not overwhelming, a matter of half an hour or so, one afternoon or evening a week is all that is required. You will find the work is most interesting, there are opportunities of meeting your fellow neighbours and friends and you will know that you are doing a fine service, not only to them, but to the task of "Backing Britain" and preventing inflation.

Please get in touch with me—Mr. B. H. W. Tullett, 9 Green Lane (Rick 72016), and I will give you all the help I can and any information required.

### SHOPPING—20th CENTURY

Readers of *Drive* (the new A.A. magazine) may have read some controversial articles on Shopping. We quote from one article "As long as the town councils pour the ratepayers' money into grandiose town centre schemes, which merely increase traffic jams, we must drive our cars to the places where the jams are less horrifying. And shoppers could be more active by making out-of-town shopping centres a local election issue, as would happen in America". The article went on to report the new Woolworth's shop on the outskirts of Leicester where part of the super-market has been sub-let to other companies who have their own specialised shops within the Woolco building.

### ADVERTISEMENT SPACE

Advertising space is available. Please enquire for details from Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way, or phone Mr. Cherrill (Rick. 74285).

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### TRAFFIC ALONG NEW ROAD

I was disappointed to read your views on the proposed double yellow lines at certain road junctions in New Road. This course was proposed by the undersigned in conjunction with the Croxley Green Roads Safety Committee in an effort to reduce the increasing traffic hold-ups in New Road and to avoid further accidents at these points.

At a recent Meeting of the Highways and Traffic Committee of the Rickmansworth Urban District Council, the question of traffic congestion in the New Road area was very fully discussed. It appeared, however, that no temporary Car Park was available in the vicinity. I am sure that any suggestions as to a suitable site, pending the construction of the proposed service road, would be welcomed.

Yours truly,

*Cllr. Miss K. M. Raggett*

### COUNCIL MINUTES

Readers may like to be reminded (and may find the task a pleasant one in the easy chairs of Croxley Green Library) to peruse the Minutes of Rickmansworth Council, Watford Rural District Council, and Herts County Council.

### R.U.D.C. MEETINGS

The public are admitted to some meetings held at the Council offices commencing at 8 p.m.:

Council meetings, 30th April, 28th May, 2nd July, Highways & Traffic Committee—8th April, 17th June, Open Spaces Committee—9th April, 18th 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 .....

Address ..... Date .....

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

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