

The Croxley Green Resident

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

No. 127

Editor — John E. Gell

Autumn 1975

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To all Members,

The Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association will be held on MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER, 1975, at 8 pm in All Saints Church Hall, Watford Road, Croxley Green.

We are pleased to announce that MR. CLIVE MINTY, Director of Financial Services, Three Rivers District Council, will be giving a talk at the meeting on LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

An opportunity to ask him questions will be provided. We ask all members to come along and make it a successful evening.

*L.W. Fry, Hon. Secretary,
The Orchard, The Green, Croxley Green.*

EDITORIAL

The bus situation now looks very grim. As from the end of this year London Country Buses are to withdraw completely 11 routes — 4 of which directly affect Croxley Green; namely the 352 Sarratt bus, the 335 to Windsor, the 336 to Chesham and the 803 peak hour bus to Maple Cross. There are to be severe reductions on 4 other routes which include the 385A Rickmansworth to Garston.

We have all heard a lot about lack of spare parts and shortage of drivers but this time it is a matter of finance. To keep services going as they are now requires a subsidy of £1.7 million (£59,000 from this Council). However, Herts C.C. who have to pay this subsidy, are not prepared to go beyond £471,000 unless the County Council have a representative on the board of L.C.B. or receive a binding assurance that current services will run on time, which seems rather unlikely.

A subsidy of £471,000 will mean the severe reductions just outlined. The District Council had apparently kept £3,280 aside in the estimates for their contribution to next years subsidy but they now find it has jumped to £10,839.

Meanwhile, the shopper bus idea is still being worked out. The plan is that there will be 4 or 5 routes — possibly as follows: 1) Rickmansworth — West Hyde — Rickmansworth; 2) Rickmansworth — Chorleywood — Rickmansworth; 3) Rickmansworth — Croxley Green — Rickmansworth; 4) Rickmansworth — Sarratt — Rickmansworth and 5) Rickmansworth to Mount Vernon and Harefield Hospitals. It has been agreed that each run should allow shoppers 1½ hours shopping time. Smiths Coaches are being asked to submit timetables and a licence is to be sought to operate these routes from the Traffic Commissioners.

Continued on page 2.

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Editorial – continued from page 1.

Advertisers for the "Resident"

A number of local traders have contacted me recently requesting advertising space in this journal. I have had to tell them that we have a full allocation just at present with a waiting list. However, if they would let me know their requirements, I will insert them as and when space becomes available.

Committee Members

Whilst there are plenty of advertisers I would like to say the same about Committee members. I am sure there must be a number of people who would be prepared to help their fellow residents by joining us once a month in hammering out local problems. If you are interested please contact me or any other Committee member.

RAIL LINK CROXLEY GREEN/ CROXLEY STATIONS

Councillor Robinson put forward the following motion to Three Rivers D.C.: "This Council notes the suggestion from British Rail that a link line should be built between the Metropolitan line east of Croxley Station and the British Rail Croxley Green Branch at Croxley Green Station. The Council having noted the severe disruption that would be caused, herewith informs the Greater London Council that it could not support such a scheme."

The Planning Committee, to which the matter was referred, had before them a letter from Wing Cmdr. Hatton, who contributed to this journal in our last edition, conveying the concern expressed by residents of South Croxley at the proposal. The Committee expressed their concern at the possible disruption and the threat to properties if the scheme were to go ahead.

It was decided that: 1) the County Council and the G.L.C. be informed of the Council's concern at the social and environmental implications of the proposals and 2) the County be asked to supply relevant information in connection with the South West Herts Transportation Study.

ALL SAINTS BADMINTON CLUB

There has been an All Saints Badminton Club since the 1930s – there are in fact still a few members who have been with the Club since its inception. Two stalwarts, Dorothy & John Moore, who between them have held many offices in the club, have recently moved to Yorkshire on retirement.

Sessions are held in All Saints Church Hall twice a week and are made up of an even number of men and women usually twelve each. The season runs from September to the end of April. There are now more badminton clubs formed in the area so the list of people waiting to get into the club is not as long as it used to be.

During the past few years there has been one major change to the game – this is the introduction of plastic shuttlecocks, these do of course reduce the cost tremendously. At the Club's last A.G.M. a discussion took place on whether a change should be made to "plastic feathers" – however it was decided to continue to play with the traditional feather shuttlecocks which now cost about 50p each and so need a great deal of careful treatment.

The club is primarily a social badminton club, though in the last four years teams have entered into various divisions of the South West Herts league. The first mixed team has had a fair measure of success having won the 1st division championship in 1972. A number of friendly matches are also played. This has given an opportunity for all members of the Club to get match play experience if they wish. Since most of these matches are played locally, they tend to turn into social occasions as well and matches with some local clubs have taken place every year for a number of years.

Although the club has usually a full complement of members any experienced players wishing to join and who live locally should contact the secretary Richard Putman, 298 Uxbridge Road, Rickmansworth. Telephone: Rickmansworth 73496.

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REUNION – CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS – “OVER 50 YEARS”

The Organising Group who arranged the two previous “Over 50 Years” Reunion are hoping to arrange another Gathering on Saturday afternoon, the 29th November, at All Saints’ Church Hall, Croxley Green. The number attending must necessarily be limited to the capacity of the Hall. All residents of Croxley Green who have resided here *continuously* (excepting War Years) for 50 years and over and who wish to attend the Party are invited to give their name, address and the number of continuous years they have been resident here to one of the following as soon as possible.

Mrs. G. Brown, Sunnyside, The Green
Mrs. E. Groom, 1 New Road
Mr. A.H. Hedges, 17 Rugby Way
Mr. Dick Lovatt, 39 New Road
Kay Raggett, 2 Scots Hill Close
Mrs. D.E. Whitfield, 242 New Road
Mrs. A. Wright, 12 Green Lane

This year an entrance fee of 25p (including refreshments and raffle) will be charged, to help cover the expenses. Tickets will be issued in strict order of seniority and will be delivered to those residents are able to include. We shall be sorry is some applicants have to be disappointed, but we will do our best to include as many as possible.

We hope that the Party will be as happy as in previous years. The organisers stress that it is up to those wishing to attend to give in their names, as no other invitations will be issued.

HIGHFIELD DEVELOPMENT

Bryant Homes have asked the Council to be released from their agreement to build 30 flats on the area fronting Scots Hill beside Hunt’s. The developers indicated that the high cost of this land affected the viability of the scheme and that if they could not be released from their agreement, they would have to cease work on the remainder of the site, which involved 108 houses.

The Council were not in favour of buying this land back again and suggested that someone else might like to develop it. The developers have recently introduced a housing association who were prepared to give the Council 100% tenancy nominations and were interested in developing the site. The Council are at present considering the proposals.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications granted include the following:
1) Coral Fish Bar, 152 Watford Road, Convert flat kitchen to shop preparation room and erect single story rear extension.

2) Change of use from shop to booking office for taxi hire service, 160 Watford Road.

3) Permission for 4 extra children for nursery class – “Brackendale”, The Green.

4) Erection of 15 two-person flats (three storey) – land at junction of New Road and Winton Drive.

5) Replacement of existing Church Hall, Fuller Way.

The planning appeal for the use of the existing building as a workshop and store at the rear of 197 Watford Road has been upheld.

The application for a caravan for an agricultural employee at the Chiltern Fruit Farm, Loudwater Lane has been turned down. An earlier application for a bungalow was also refused mainly on Green Belt grounds.

724 EXPRESS BUS

Pressure onto London Country Buses to reverse their decision to withdraw their coach stop at Croxley Station continues. L.C.B. have said they are not prepared to reconsider their decision and stated that short distance passengers would adequately be served by route 321. The Community Services Committee have replied pointing out that route 321 buses frequently fail to run according to the public timetable.

BALDWINS LANE – WAITING RESTRICTIONS

It has been decided that the proposed waiting restrictions in Baldwins Lane and Winton Drive be held in abeyance until a report is prepared on the traffic conditions in Baldwins Lane three months after the North Orbital Road is open to traffic.

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**NEWS AND VIEWS FROM
THE YOUTH CENTRE**

Yes! we are still in being — many local people have been to the centre to see and enquire if all is well. (I only remember not writing an article for the summer edition) to advertise the activities at the centre. The summer period of our work is very sluggish during this time for many reasons.

For the young, the schools are closed, mum and dad taking Jimmy and Mary away for the annual trek to the sea for two or three weeks, and as residents you are lucky to have the "Holiday Club" at Fuller Hall — two very worthy organisations helping to cater for the needs of the young.

Our own work at the centre for people hiring the building ceases at the start of the school holidays but our own youth work continues for two to three weeks at the end of July into early August, in fact until the staff notice a decline in the numbers using the building. Some afternoons during a week the centre is also open — free of charge to all age groups — this is a tremendous amount of work on me as I have no day-time staff, only evenings. If we had suitable playing field space of our own also facilities and staff we would no doubt be able to provide an additional service to the community with regard to adventure playschemes. Alternatively, the centres work with youth in the evenings stops, and with members help and local people assisting the idea mentioned or adventure playgrounds. Ratepayers often refer to the lack of use of schools/colleges etc. during holiday times and a building such as the youth centre could be made available for any schemes which are approved by the management.

If you have any thoughts on the above, then please contact me at the centre, because now is the time to start planning for 1976.

The centre has now started a new session, which

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means a lot of work for the staff in respect of signing-on fees and new members to register. This normally takes the entire month and during this time we are all trying to chat to all the new and old faces.

To date, we have held a disco after the first two weeks of opening, this was fairly well attended and many more are planned in the next few months — so look out for the advertising. Yet another successful event — the Autumn Fete held on the 27th September we were able to raise in the region of £80 for centre funds. We were upset by the terrible weather in the morning and this meant the stopping of the kiddies funfair on the ground around the centre, and also through the lack of local response for the bangers and beans with entertainment in the evening. The latter event will be held later in the year, and we hope that you the residents will be able to support such an event.

An event to come is our very successful annual event — "Christmas Bazaar" — this will be held at the centre on the last Saturday in November (29th) and we hope that you will all again make your way to the centre for what will now be the annual pilgrimage. Again, look out for literature local and in the press.

Prior to the above event, the young will be having a combined viz. all ages Hallowe'en Party and Disco on Friday October 31st. If all our youngsters attend we shall have a very large number present, but we feel that the event will be self programming with a few funny items from the members of staff — or could it be the nasties having a final fling before All Saints Day. Do not forget the fancy dress etc.

Changes are still taking place within the walls of the centre, and very soon now the work will be finished in the kitchen and the coffee-bar also the television lounge. Once this is all complete, as a previous article intimated, we shall be "open" for customers to call in for either a light snack or meal. The workshop area will be the next for our team of workers to start clearing and changing into a two-unit area and boiler house.

We have for sale at the centre, a billiards table, complete with all new accessories viz. cues, balls, marker and the size of the table is a third (not standard) 7 feet by 3 feet 6 inches with slate bed and standing on four solid legs. The price for entire item is £150. A new table would cost in the region of £900 plus. If you know of an organisation who could be interested please contact me at the centre. Needless to say, that is too large for the average home, unless one has a spare room or one belongs to a club with suitable space.

In the last edition of The Resident there were changes indicated. Well we have done it yet again, more changes. This time, we have moved activities night from Wednesday to Thursday evening. At present we have divided the week into specific age groups viz.
Monday for the 13-15 year olds 7.30-10 pm
Tuesday as before Judo 7-21 year olds 7-10.30 pm
Wednesday for the 14-20 year olds 7.30-10 pm
Thursday for the 13-20 year olds 7.30-10 pm
Friday for the 9-12 year olds 5.30-7.30 pm
for the 16-20 year olds 7.45-10 pm.

No increase has been made in respect of nightly subscriptions, but an increase has been made with the young peoples annual affiliation fee if they are still at school. It is now 15p and not 13p as last session.

We have at the centre, a self explanatory leaflet which will be available in the next few weeks to schools, libraries and other places where people congregate and if you would like to receive a copy, please contact either of the above or the centre.

H.D. Roderick — Area Youth & Community Worker.

SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY 1975

B.P. Scout Guild,
Miss M. Bennett, 38 Sherbourne Way, Croxley Green.
Croxley Camera Club,
Mrs. K.E. Howard, 79 Shepherds Way, Rickmansworth.
All Saints Church,
Mr. Lloyd Davies, 40 Watford Road, Croxley Green.
Croxley Green Baptist Church,
Mr. F. Hilsden, 5 Lodge End, Croxley Green.
St. Bedes,
Father Clayton, St. Bedes Church, Baldwins Lane,
Croxley Green.
S.W. Herts Conservative North,
Mrs. F. Kwintner, Driftwood Lodge, Parrotts Close,
Croxley Green.
S.W. Herts Conservatives South,
Miss K. Raggett, 2 Scots Hill Close, Croxley Green.
Flower Group,
Mrs. S. Thomas, West Lodge, Watford Road,
Croxley Green.
Friends of the Green,
Dr. R. Leach, Hollow Tree House, The Green,
Croxley Green.
Greensleeves Women's Club,
Mrs. B. Gridley, 27 Norwich Way, Croxley Green.
C.G. Horticultural Allotment Holders Society,
Mr. H.J. Dewar, 1 Frankland Close, Croxley Green.
Croxley Green Labour Party,
Mr. G.A. Rowlands, 46 Claremont Crescent,
Croxley Green.
Croxley Green Liberal Association,
Mrs. L.E. Baker, 18 Kenilworth Drive,
Croxley Green.
Mothers + Toddlers Club,
Mrs. L. Humphreys, 5 Girtton Way, Croxley Green.
National Federation of O.A.P. Association,
Mr. W. Walmesley, 149 New Road, Croxley Green.
N.S.P.C.C.,
Mrs. A. Downs, 77 Repton Way, Croxley Green.
British Red Cross Herts, 56 Division,
Mrs. D. Anderson, 24 Yorke Road, Croxley Green.
British Red Cross Herts Division, Cadet Unit,
Mrs. J. Jollyman, 5 Dorrofield Close,
Croxley Green.

Planning a reception or a party?

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Ian - Rickmansworth 79453.

Croxley Green Residents & Ratepayers Association,
Mr. L.W. Fry, The Orchard, Croxley Green.
Croxley Green Road Safety Committee,
Mrs. M. Reid, 35 Dover Road, Croxley Green.
Hazelmead Club formerly 68 Club
Mrs. D. Read, 66 Durrants Drive, Croxley Green.
Croxley Green (Afternoon) Townswomen Guild,
Miss I. Lawrence, 65 Watford Road, Croxley Green.
Rickmansworth Durrants Afternoon T.G.,
Mrs. P. Turner, 163 Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green.
Croxley Green Evening T.G.,
Mrs. M. Reid, 35 Dover Way, Croxley Green.
The Trefoil Guild G.G. Association,
Miss J. Newton, 8 Downer Drive, Sarratt.
Welcome Club, B.R.C.S.,
Mrs. D.B. Craig Red Cross Centre, Barton Way,
Croxley Green.
Woodcraft Folk,
Mr. D. Bail, 10 Frogmore Lane, Rickmansworth.
C.G. Youth Centre,
Mrs. S. Windsor Richards, 67 Cophorne Road,
Croxley Green.

THE TITHE BARN

A working party has been set up composed of councillors, representatives from the County Council and interested local bodies to look into the possible future uses for and access to the barn at Croxley Hall Farm.

The barn is owned by the County Council who have recently spent quite a considerable amount of money in restoring it although it is now only being used as a storage area. It appears that there is quite a considerable problem on the access question and the possibility of increasing public visits to the barn is under active consideration.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE

This disease is taking its toll in a very savage way in and around Croxley Green. The Council have been hard at it felling and in some cases trimming those trees affected. A programme of injection has been carried out on Council-owned trees. It has been noted that of the 42 trees treated a 60% success has been observed in holding the disease in check, but that this was essentially a holding operation which would need to be treated annually until the disease had subsided.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Over 30 years ago when I was a young mother living in Croxley Green and bringing up my family in wartime conditions, we were treated once a week to a snatch or two from an operatic aria or maybe a bit of Gilbert & Sullivan, as Godfrey Cornwall sat on top of the council dustcart singing his heart out. It seems that someone down at the Council offices had other ideas for Godfrey and gave him a job behind a desk. One could almost say "local boy made good". I say almost because that delightful accent tells us Godfrey is no local boy . . . indeed to goodness . . .!

After the war Godfrey and I met on the amateur stage when we both had parts in a childrens choir; ah, happy memories indeed!

Now, it would seem that working on the dustcart had given Godfrey a liking for delving in the dust because it wasn't long before he was blowing the dust off local history and what he found there was certainly not rubbish.

Thank you Godfrey, for using your talents to delight us Croxley residents for so many years, and I hope you continue to do so for many more years to come.

Yours sincerely, Lilian Hickson (Mrs.)
72 Durrants Drive.

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WILLIAM RUTHERFORD

The President and Members of the Committee of the Residents' Association announce with deep regret the death on September 3rd of Bill Rutherford. Bill was for many years the life and soul of the Committee and he will be greatly missed by us all. He will be particularly remembered for his tireless national campaign for the repayment of post war credits. In 1973 despite trouble with his hip he stood as Progressive Independent candidate for Croxley North Ward which meant knocking at the door of hundreds of different houses with no party backing behind him. He was rewarded with quite a sizeable personal vote which clearly reflected his true character.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Re British Rail – Metropolitan Link

This letter is in response to your request for opinions on the above-mentioned subject.

The termination of the Metropolitan Watford Line at Cassiobury Park was always an absurdity, and in principle we full support the proposal for a link-up. We are, however, strongly opposed to any plan which involves the demolition of a single house by compulsion. We consider that it is utterly immoral for any plan of any kind whatsoever to deprive people of their homes and force them to move elsewhere against their will. In any case it is most unlikely that the victims would be adequately covered for the full expense involved. In our opinion it would be an act of sheer wickedness for the estate recently built on the former B.R. sidings in Croxley Green to be demolished, and quite naturally we are equally concerned that our own property would be in jeopardy.

However a link-up was achieved it would cost many millions of pounds and we suggest that the once-for-all capital expenditure is not the most important consideration. Driving roughshod over people's property should not even be contemplated, even though it may be the least costly way of achieving the link-up.

We consider that the whole project should be re-examined with a view to ascertaining how it can be realized without demolishing existing dwelling-places, perhaps by starting a link from a point between Moor Park and Croxley Green, or perhaps by going underground. In any case we consider that the existing line to Croxley and Watford should be retained and that train services should alternate between the two routes, i.e. Watford Metropolitan and Watford Junction via the existing intermediate stations.

The fact that many people have settled in Croxley Green and the Cassiobury Park area largely because of proximity to the railway should be a prime consideration in all deliberations concerning a rail link.

Yours faithfully,
W.F.E. Horton (Miss), L.F. Horton (Mr.)

CROXLEY GREEN SOCIETY REVELS PROCESSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Overheard whilst strolling among the throng of people during the Revels of 1975 "I've lived in Croxley for several years and didn't know that anything like this happened – wish I had entered".

Well, this can be *your* wish granted because already plans are being formulated for the 1976 Procession – what better than to think about it NOW. How about this for a theme – Fairyland and the Ballet – a tremendous scope here for everyone; Swan Lake, The Nutcracker Ballet, Coppelia, Cinderella, The Sleeping Beauty, to name but a few.

Look out for a letter from us in January when we hope you will say "Yes, we would like to join in the fun". Maybe you can provide your own transport; if not we have a list of firms who were kind enough to help this year.

We think it is good to be able to do something about the Revels Procession during the Winter months, and are all agog with ideas and enthusiasm! If you would like some help telephone Miss K. Moss after 6 pm at Rickmansworth 77048.

SUBSCRIPTION COLLECTORS WANTED URGENTLY!

We are very short indeed of subscription takers in all areas. We hope that as many as possible of the 'Resident' distributors will undertake this job as well. Our central distributor, Mr. Warren, will endeavour to find out from them when undertaking his bulk delivery, if they would be willing to do this. Meanwhile, if you *are* prepared to assist would you please contact our Treasurer, Mr. Andrew Brode, at 'Carfax', Parrotts Close, The Green. Telephone Rickmansworth 79387.

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Holiday Adventure '75

Congratulations to the following prize-winners in the colouring Competition, which was run in conjunction with Croxley Green Revels:

Ingrid West, Lorraine Rolfe, Damien Calnon,
Stephen Ludlow, Rochelle Rolfe, Stephen Ausden,
Sharon Brentnall, John Gowing, Alison George.

Over 300 entries were received.

Holiday Adventure '76

We extend our thanks to the parents who have expressed their appreciation of the programme arranged for local young people during the summer holidays of 1975.

As promised, we are pleased to announce the dates for the 1976 Holiday Adventure, as follows:

Ages 5-12 Monday, July 26 to Friday July 30.

Ages 3-4 Tuesday, Aug 3 to Friday Aug 6.

Further information from Adventure Office, telephone Watford 44119.

EDITORS NOTE

The Editor would be pleased to receive articles or letters concerning matters of local interest. Contributions please for the Winter issue must be received by the 31st December. His address is: Little Waterdell House, Little Green Lane, Tel: Rickmansworth 75570.

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THREE RIVERS D.C.

Council meetings are held in halls throughout the district commencing at 7.30 pm. All are open to the public.

COUNCIL:

2nd December, Watersmeet.

27th January, Oxhey Pavilion.

PLANNING:

13th November, Basing House.

4th December, St. Saviours Hall, Abbots Langley.

8th January, Chorleywood House.

HIGHWAYS, WORKS & LEISURE:

30th October, St. Saviours.

16th December, Oxhey Pavilion.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

28th October, Oxhey Pavilion.

11th December, St. Saviours.

HOUSING:

4th November, Chorleywood House.

27th November, Basing House.

18th December, Chorleywood House.

CO-ORDINATION:

20th November, Chorleywood House.

15th January, Basing House.

ST. OSWALDS CHURCH

The new vicar of St. Oswald's Church was inducted on Friday September 19th by the Bishop of St. Albans. He is the Reverend Denis Morgan, aged 39 and married with one small son. Before coming to Croxley Green he was curate to St. Nicholas Church, Stevenage, and at the same time was Chaplain to the Lister Hospital. He has been a priest for seven years and was trained at Cuddesdon College, Oxford.

The Reverend Morgan can be reached at St. Oswald's Vicarage which is at 159 Baldwins Lane and the telephone number is Watford 32387.

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