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# The Parish Pump

*The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine*

Spring/Summer 2008

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**The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views or policy of the Parish Council.**

## COUNCILLORS

### North Ward:

Nik Bennett	773623
Frank Brand	248704
Brian Norman	710250
<i>(Chairman of Council)</i>	
Hazel Seeley	772696
<i>(Chairman of - E&amp;A Committee)</i>	
Wendy Shafe	441638
<i>(Vice Chairman of Council)</i>	

### Croxley Green Ward:

Marion Birch	449092
Leighton Dann	778484
Christine Jefford	771769
<i>(Vice Chairman - E&amp;A Committee)</i>	
Janet Martin	774514
Roger Seabourne	770629
Cliff Vassiliou	779927

### South Ward:

David Bains	441480
<i>(Chairman - P&amp;D Committee)</i>	
Phil Brading	492893
Jeremy Hollands	448382
<i>(Vice Chairman - P&amp;D Committee)</i>	
Mark Saxon	772581
David Wynne-Jones	251905

## The Chairman Reports at the Annual Parish Meeting (April)

I would like to welcome all our Councillors to this, the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting. Likewise I welcome Amanda Taft, our new admin assistant who has added her valuable presence to the workings of the Council.

During this last year, the Council has worked towards establishing a formal Management Plan by building in provisions for future projected ideas of the Council. To act as a conduit, a management team was created to firstly brain storm any ideas for a foundation by which the Council can communicate with the residents within the Parish on an informal basis to research into what they felt that the Parish precept should contribute towards. The budget proposals for 2008/09 gave the Councillors the opportunity to put forward new ideas for the benefit of the community which, I am sure, will be represented in the respective Committee Chairpersons' reports. Likewise to review existing projects, particularly the funding of the PCSO's which will have to be debated during 2008.

As a means of cohesion within the community, the Council embarked on inviting and gathering information towards entering this Parish into the Hertfordshire Village of the Year competition. A small management team have now taken on the task of processing the information, gathered from the community, prior to submission to the judges. A benefit that has been gained from the project is that we now have further information to add to the local register of interests. Also, the Council has agreed to the investigation of information in respect of potential

grants that could be used to assist future projects or external activities within the Parish. As the current Chairman, I feel that it is important that the Parish Council is positive in its objectives and wherever possible to encompass the community.

Our latest project, which emanated from a local resident, was an initiative to consider trying to place floral displays around the village. A small, select team including one of the Rangers, together with a small approved budget, have already put the idea into reality. The involvement of the Rangers goes to endorse the reliance that the Members require from the expertise that they have gathered and been trained in. I have mentioned but a few of the activities that we, as Councillors, have been involved in over the past year, but we must not lose sight of the background work and management that enables us to be a progressive Council. Our thanks must firstly go to our Clerk, David Allison, who is now being admirably assisted by Amanda Taft for their work in preparing the stage for these events.

Finally as your incumbent Chairman, my wife and I have been pleased to be able to represent this Council as ambassadors at local functions thereby hopefully endorsing the Council's commitment to become more fully integrated with the community's aspirations and concerns. Last but by no means least, I wish to thank you, the Council, for your work and support that has been put into the last twelve months as Parish Councillors. A proud office to behold.

*Cllr Brian Norman, Chairman*

## New Village Signs

Back in 2006, the Parish Council held a competition to design a new village sign for Croxley Green as the old signs were over 10 years old, and past their best.



Chairman, Cllr Brian Norman unveils the new sign on The Green

The competition entries were displayed in the library and over 500 residents voted. The signs, which are situated at Scots Hill, the Green and on the Watford Road depict an artist's impression of All Saints' Church. On 5 February the new signs were installed. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Brian Norman said "the competition was to design a village sign which portrays Croxley Green's distinctive character and this is the sign that received the most votes from members of the public. The Parish Council's aim was to give a good first impression to people as they enter Croxley Green."

## Hertfordshire's Village of the Year – could it be Croxley Green?

Croxley Green Parish Council have entered 'Hertfordshire's Village of the Year 2008' competition. The overall winner of this competition will then be put forward to enter the 'Calor Village of the Year England' competition. The Parish Council has, for some time been compiling a database of clubs and activities held in the village, and would like to hear from you if you attend or run such a club. Part of the entry form asks

'what makes my village special'. "Croxley Green is special because of its fantastic environment and community". It has "retained much of its country character, despite being so close to London". "It is a lovely village with a host of local shops, facilities and services ..... surrounded by countryside and woodland". The Chairman said "this is a wonderful opportunity for local organisations, clubs and societies in Croxley Green to come together and give a broad perspective of what the village has to offer".



**The Parish Council asked children in Croxley Green about what they like and dislike about Croxley.**

*In boxes like this one throughout this Edition of the magazine, read what they have to say:*

**"What I like about Croxley Green is that there are lots of places to play and have fun."**

## Croxley Green? Or should it be Croxley Brown?

At their meeting in January, the Junior Council decided to tackle the issue of dog mess on the streets of Croxley Green. The Junior Council is comprised of six children from each of Harvey Road, Little Green and Yorke Mead Schools.

The Parish Council were asked to report back to the Junior Council about the budget for dog waste, as well as the number of fines issued by Three Rivers District Council to people for allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths. With the Parish Council allocating such a large sum out of their budget to dog waste, it is such a shame that some owners are still acting irresponsibly in not clearing up after their dogs. The Parish Council receives a considerable number of complaints from local residents about this problem, and hopefully these owners will now take note of the Junior Councillors!

At their meeting in February, the Junior Councillors brought with them posters chosen by their schools which have since been copied and laminated and sent to Three Rivers District Council for them to display on their notice boards around Croxley Green. Posters have also been sent to the Keep Croxley Green Group who will display these posters on the new Village Green. Two local residents kindly offered to take the posters around the shops, vets and library in Croxley Green to ask that they be displayed in the windows. There are seven different posters – can you spot them all?



**"I feel sad that people just dump rubbish everywhere."**

## Does our War Memorial need updating?

The Parish Council is considering whether there is a need to update our War Memorial on the Green.



There have been so many wars and conflicts since World War II, that the Parish Council would like to ask if anyone in Croxley has lost a relative in any of them.

The last inscriptions which were added to the Memorial related to the Korean War. Hopefully, it may not be necessary but if any family who has been affected would like to let David Allison (our Clerk) know the details, we would be very grateful.

*Cllr Hazel Seeley*

## Basketball Training

Since November 2006, the Parish Council has been providing basketball training sessions for the youth of Croxley Green and it is always good to get feedback on what the Parish Council is doing. Some of those who attend the Wednesday evening basketball sessions at Rickmansworth School have this to say:

“Basketball lessons at Rickmansworth School have really helped me improve my overall abilities and improved my confidence. It is great fun and a perfect opportunity to make new friends. I have only been going for a few weeks, but I have definitely got better at playing basketball. I understand the rules more clearly and the coaches and staff are very helpful and brilliant at what they do.”

“I like basketball because I started out rubbish, getting a 1/10 chance of scoring, but now I’m a lot better and have a 1/3 chance of scoring.”

“When I first started basketball I was really nervous but I saw my friends playing basketball really well. It is great to join, you get to make new friends and we also learn in a fun way.”

“Basketball is really fun. When I first started I got put in a group of kids my level. We have a warm-up, then we go into learning and the coach doesn’t just teach us what he’s teaching the class, he teaches us what we are struggling with. After we’ve done the learning part, we go into a game and he points out where we could improve our game. Basketball is great fun so why don’t you come too?”

*Cllr Wendy Shafe*

## Croxley Book Club

Enjoy a good book? The Croxley Book Group meets at the Library in Barton Way on the third Monday of each month at 7.15pm. New members are always welcome and a different book is discussed (but not always agreed about) at each meeting. Books that have



been discussed so far this year have been ‘What Was Lost’ by Catherine O’Flynn – a satirical look at the life of a shopping centre with a mystery thrown in to keep the reader wondering!; and ‘Northern Lights’ by Philip Pullman – first of the ‘His Dark Materials’ trilogy this is an adventure story with a spiritual twist.

The next meeting and the book to be reviewed is:

**June 16** - ‘Room with a View’ by E M Forster – a social comedy with witty observations of the English middle classes as they holiday in Florence.

If you would like to join this group and need a copy of the book being reviewed call in at the library where the staff will be pleased to help you.

*Cllr Marion Birch*

**“I like the events that happen in the summer, like The Revels.”**

## The Christmas House Lancing Way

Mr and Mrs Dave Edwards are very pleased to report that following their Christmas lights display, the following amounts have been donated to charity:

- £1,000 to Keech Cottage Children’s Hospice;
- £900 to Croxley Green Scouts;
- £900 to Fingerprints Nursery, Garston.

Dave and Carol would like to thank everyone concerned in Croxley Green for their support and look forward to seeing you all again at the end of 2008.

*Cllr Christine Jefford*



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## Dog Time

I was out walking with my master (so he thinks!) when I met Jessie and Louie, two friends of mine. We passed the time of day, and briefly discussed the weather, also, whether it was fair to take us away from a pleasant lie by the fire. We concluded that it was right that we should take our masters' out, in order to make them feel that they were in proper control of us, but of course, we know who's in charge!

People who are not dog owners, do not understand the delicate balance between an owner and their dog. For instance, "let's go walkies", really means they fancy a drink at the local. "I think I will take the dog out" means the TV is rubbish, and vice versa. When it's raining heavily, I just give that 'you cannot be serious' look, or the sad eyed spaniel look – it works every time!

But my "master" has been a bit clever and bought me a water-proof jacket; I must see if it can be buried in the garden. I'm away now, because my master is asleep in his chair and I think he needs to go out for a run, bless him.

*Bess  
Roving Reporter*

PS He's awake now and writing an article about dogs so he will need me to give him some tips...

"What I like about Croxley Green is that it's a caring place and the people are nice."

"It is a safe place."

## Mobile Police Station

The Mobile Police Station (MPS) is now scheduled to visit Croxley on a regular basis.



The MPS parks outside the Red Cross Centre in Community Way, off Barton Way and will be there every 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month.

The MPS is an important part of community Policing in that it provides the opportunity for members of the community to speak to a local officer (confidentially, if necessary) on matters which are of concern locally. Advice can also be sought about crime prevention in general.

## Croxley Art Group

One of the most pleasant things about living in New Road is that there are still people living there whose families have been part of the Croxley village for more than a century. One such gentleman, whom I had the privilege to meet, was Leslie Rollitt. His parents came to live at the house in New Road where Leslie was born when staff were moved from Yorkshire with the John Dickinson's Paper Mill. Leslie lived in that same house until 2002, when he sadly passed away aged 93.

Leslie answered the phone to me when I enquired about the Croxley Art Group nine years ago. I had been fascinated with the TV programme 'Watercolour Challenge'. I had not painted

since my schooldays and it was with some trepidation that I phoned and he said "you don't know what you can do until you try". With his encouragement, I found my own level as have others in our friendly group. Leslie will always be an inspiration to those who remember him, and now we inspire each other.

We meet at the New Road Methodist Church Hall from 2.00pm until 4.00pm most Thursdays during term time and pay a small fee. We work in all media, so come and join us with your equipment, even if it is only pencil and paper to do some drawing. The kettle goes on at 3.00pm when we down tools for a break. If you are unsure, why not come and have a cuppa with us and see what we are up to.

*Maureen Hembley*

"I don't like the amount of chewing gum that is stuck to the pavements."

## And further more!....

In the Parish Pump magazine Autumn/Winter 2007 Edition, page 7, we ran an article about the New Road Surgery.

Mrs Denton of Kenilworth Drive telephoned to say Dr Alan Miller and Dr Margaret Miller were practising at New Road Surgery in 1938.

## The Biggest and Best...

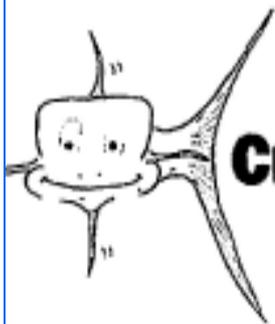
This year the Parish Council is running a competition to see who can grow the biggest sunflower and pumpkin. The competition involving Harvey Road, Little Green, Malvern Way and Yorke Mead Schools was devised by Carl and Andrew, the Parish Council's Rangers. Good luck all!

## The Parish Council Budget 2008-2009

### Finance & Administration

	Agreed Budget (£)	<b>103</b>	<u>Groundworks</u>	Agreed Budget (£)
<b>101</b>	<b><u>General Administration</u></b>			
4001	60,000	4001	Salaries & Wages	53,000
4007	210	4006	Protective Clothing	400
4008	1,000	4008	Training	1,500
4009	1,400	4010	Misc Staff Costs	620
4011	2,600	4017	Health & Safety	1,500
4012	1,000	4018	Refuse Disposal	270
4013	100	4036	Property Maintenance	500
4014	1,600	4037	Grounds Maintenance	2,100
4016	1,100	4041	Equipment Hire	520
4017	100	4042	Equipment Maintenance	1,000
4020	1,000	4046	Equipment Purchased	1,500
4021	1,200	4051	Vehicle License & Insurance	1,500
4023	2,500	4055	Fuel & Oil - LS08 WCP	1,100
4025	4,000	4060	Fuel & Oil - Groundworks	780
4026	1,500	4070	Maintenance - LS08 WCP	1,000
4027	1,000	4071	Maintenance - Tractor	1,000
4156	910	4072	Maintenance - Ride on Mower	540
4157	780		<b>OverHead Expenditure</b>	<b>68,830</b>
4158	750			
4963	30,000	1061	Agency Income - HCC Mtce	1,300
4964	5,000	1062	Agency Income - TRDC Mrce	0
Tfr from Prov of Village Hall 2007 budget	-5,000	1080	Miscellaneous Income	0
			<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>OverHead Expenditure</b>	<b>112,750</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>67,530</b>
1076	239,030	<b>107</b>	<b><u>Grants (incl S137)</u></b>	
1090	7,500	4200	Chairman's Charity Expenditure	1,000
		4711	S137 Grants	1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>246,530</b>		<b>OverHead Expenditure</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>101</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-133,780</b>		
<b>102</b>	<b><u>Local Democracy</u></b>			
4024	1,700	1077	Grants Received	0
4033	5,300	1200	Chairmans Charity Income	1,000
4201	1,600		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,000</b>
4251	1,700	<b>107</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>1,000</b>
4300	1,000	<b>199</b>	<b><u>F &amp; A Capital &amp; Projects</u></b>	
<b>OverHead Expenditure</b>	<b>11,300</b>	4175	Sale of Assets	0
1031	50	4823	Tfr to Vehicle Repl Fund	5,900
1051	1,500	4824	Tfr to Equipt Repl Fund	4,100
			<b>OverHead Expenditure</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>102</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>9,750</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Admin.</b>	<b>- Expenditure</b>
				<b>204,880</b>
				<b>- Income</b>
				<b>250,380</b>
			<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-45,500</b>





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**If the answer is "Yes" and you would like further information, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Janet English on 01923 773430.**

## Croxley Green Children's International Folk Dance Group - Malvern Way School

Does anyone remember the Croxley Green Children's International Folk Dance Group, which flourished at Malvern Way School in the 1950s and 1960s? There were regular reports of our activities in the *Watford Observer* and the *West Herts Post* in those days and, for those of us who grew up with this group, it was an important part of our lives, which resonates still... A snatch of folk music (now called 'world music'!) on the radio, or shots of traditional folk dancing on TV, as background to news from afar, bring it all back!

Malvern Way Infants School teacher Kathleen Monroe-James created the group in about 1950, with the support of the head teacher and pianist Winifred Hemmens. The scope of the dancing developed and expanded as we founder-members moved on to Little Green School (or Harvey Road) and then to Rickmansworth Grammar School. Each week in term-time we returned to Malvern Way School on Wednesdays (after school) and Saturday afternoons until we reached the age of eighteen and most of the original group of girls moved away to college.

Miss James was a highly creative lady with a passion for dance and, no doubt, dance qualifications too but, sadly, I'm not familiar with her background before Malvern Way days. We learnt ballet and gave public displays at Malvern Way School, performing dances that she

choreographed to classical music like 'The Sylphs' from 'The Damnation of Faust' by Berlioz, Grieg's Norwegian Dances and Chopin waltzes. And in 1956 she devised and produced a version of 'Cinderella' with us eleven year olds enjoying our roles as Cinderella, Prince Charming, the Ugly Sisters, and so on. Everyone had a part.



Dance Group - 1951

We even did some gymnastics as well but, as the years went by, the main focus became international folk dancing, learning and performing dances from mainly Western European countries, but also including a lively 'Hopak' from the Ukraine, and Mexican dancing as well. We took part in the annual Festival at the Royal Albert Hall (no less!) run by the Society for International Folk Dancing (SIFD). Most of the groups taking part were from their own countries, displaying their national dances, but we filled in some gaps, with displays of dances from Sweden, Italy, Lithuania and Mexico in the late 1950s and early 1960s. By this time, some adults had joined the group and some of us accompanied the dances on musical instruments, including the violin, classical guitar and the piano accordion. We also learnt, and performed, on other occasions, folk

songs from different countries.

Miss James had contacts within the SIFD and I know she used to attend classes of Balkan and other nationality dances in London to learn the steps and pass them on to us. Authenticity was paramount, as it was with the costumes, which were made by the Mums and especially by Mrs Buckley of Warwick Way.

I have not read any other mention of the tremendous achievement of Miss James in creating and running this group over so many years, so I am very pleased to write this brief account. Her commitment in time and energy to us all was amazing and certainly had a profound effect on my life in my interest in music and dance. Some of us had our first taste of professional ballet

in trips she arranged to London theatres. Those of us who are still in touch are very grateful for the selfless support and interest she took in us all and the years of her life she devoted to the dance group.

Sadly, Miss James died prematurely in the early 1970s and Miss Hemmens some years after that. I left for university in 1964 and my family moved to Norfolk in 1965 so, although I was still in touch with Miss James, I'm not sure how long the group continued. Younger members had joined throughout our time with the group as well as some adults. So I believe it did continue for a few more years.

Oh, happy memories!

*Jane Hardy,*  
(formerly of Kenilworth Drive and Links Way)  
& *Sue Lowry (née Gordon),*  
(formerly of Baldwins Lane)

## Wild Food

As we are being asked more often to consider where our food comes from and by what methods it was grown, I have found it hard to ignore the abundance of wild edible plants we are surrounded by, nearly all growing naturally without the aid of chemicals. Some of these plants; their fruits, roots, leaves and nuts are widely available in shops, others are not.

A lot of wild foods are regularly collected by many people, it's pretty common to see lots of people scouring hedgerows in the Summer and Autumn, tubs and bags in purple stained hands, collecting blackberries. These are probably the most universally eaten wild food and considering their price in the shops, they are hard for fruit lovers to ignore. Other wild foods however, have become forgotten by many of us due to the fact that most of us rely on shops for our food.

Interested to see how many edible plants I could find in our area, I invested some time delving into books to find out which wild plants can be eaten and I have compiled a list of the ones I have most commonly encountered in and around Croxley Green. I have to admit I haven't tasted them all, but some of the ones I have, I've found very pleasant, some are widely available in the shops and out!

For ease of listing, I have divided them into three groups:

1. Leaves
2. Berries/fruits
3. Nuts

I have purposely left out roots although there are plenty of wild roots available. This is because it is illegal under the 'Wildlife and Countryside Act' to dig up the roots of wild plants unless you have the land owner's permission.

I have also left out fungi because most of the edible ones commonly found in our area, I covered in the last issue of the Parish Pump.

### Leaves

A broad category ranging from Hawthorn leaves to the highly nutritious stinging nettle. I have further included the locations they are likely to be found.

**Aquatic** - common at the Rivers Gade and Chess:

Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*);  
Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium – aquaticum*).

**Grassland** – found on the Green, Stones Orchard, lawns and verges:

Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*);  
Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*);  
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*);  
Crow Garlic (*Allium vineale*);  
Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*);  
Wild Rocket (*Eruca versicaria*).

**Hedgerows** – fairly frequent along rural footpaths, gardens and woodlands:

Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*);  
White Dead Nettle (*Lamium album*);  
Red Dead Nettle (*Lamium purpureum*);  
Henbit Dead Nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*);  
Ground Elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*);  
Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*);  
Chickweed (*Stellaria media*);  
Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*);  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*);  
Ramsoms/Wild Garlic (*Allium ursinum*);  
Garlic Mustard/Jack by the Hedge (*Alliaria petiolata*).

### Berries and Fruits

Nearly all these examples can be found in hedgerows and woodland with the exceptions of a few found in gardens and on lawns.

Mountain Ash/Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*);  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*);  
Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*);  
Rosehips/Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*);  
Blackberries (*Rubus fruticosus*);  
Blackthorn/Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*);  
Raspberries (*Rubus ideaus*);  
Cherry Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*);  
Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)\*;  
Cherry (*Prunus avium*);  
Crab Apples (*Malus sylvestris*);  
Quince (*Cydonia oblonga*);  
Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) seeds only.

\* flowers may also be eaten

### Nuts

Some of the most easily recognisable of all, found mainly in woodland and parks:

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*);  
Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*);  
Walnut (*Jugulans regia*);  
Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*);  
Oak (*Quercus robur*).

If you wish to sample any of these wild foods make sure you know what you are picking. Some plants can be easy to misidentify, Cow Parsley for example looks similar to Hemlock and Hemlock Water-Dropwort which can both be deadly if eaten. **ONLY EAT PLANTS IF YOU ARE CERTAIN OF THEIR IDENTITY.**

I'm sure many of you have come across other wild food plants locally that I haven't mentioned. You would be surprised how many you could find if you look hard enough and get a taste for it.

*Andrew Goddard  
Ranger*

**Aquatic**



*Water Mint*

**Grassland**



*Crow Garlic*



*Wild Rocket*

**Hedgerows**



*Ground Elder*

**Croxley Common Moor**

In May 1998, the society called ‘The Friends of Croxley Common Moor’ was founded. Up to that time the moor had been owned by various Croxley residents who had ancient rights to graze cattle, cut wood, keep sheep and even flocks of geese on the moor. Most of them had died and the rest were not interested and so the moor began to become overgrown. A lot of us were distressed about this especially when it was suggested that a housing estate should be put there. We held a meeting in All Saints’ Church Hall and our society was born.

With the help of the Countryside Management Service, the moor was legally declared a ‘Site of Special Scientific Interest’ which means it is preserved for ever as a green wild area. With help from Three Rivers, it was fenced again and cattle now graze there each summer. The ‘Friends’ meet up every second Sunday of the month at Lock 79 at 10.00am. We cut back bushes in autumn and winter and remove ragwort and other poisonous weeds during summer. It is a beautiful place to enjoy wildlife: quiet and tranquil – no one could believe that it is just sixteen miles from Trafalgar Square.

*Cllr David Wynne-Jones*

**Street Trees**

If you are lucky enough to live in a street with trees in it; you may not know what to do if one of them suddenly dies or is removed. A lot of people in our leafy village value the trees outside their house and take good care of them. They are very upset when a gap appears and the tree is not replaced.

The Planning and Development

Committee invite anyone who feels they have a good case for a tree to be replaced to contact the Parish Council with details of the area affected, and apply for a new one.

These applications will then be placed on a list and dealt with. You will be asked to water your new sapling and take care of it until it is firmly established. Many trees just die each summer of drought even though people nearby can see that they need help.

If you want a street tree, apply now and we will do all we can to help you.

*Cllr David Wynne-Jones*

**Croxley Lace Makers**



This lace tablecloth which has taken about 18 months to make, has been made by us in memory of a fellow lace maker and is being raffled in aid of Michael Sobell House.

All prizes in the raffle will have a small piece of lace attached and the draw will take place at Michael Sobell House on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2008. Tickets at £1 each are available from Croxley Lace Makers who meet in the library reading room on Thursday evenings or from Michael Sobell shops.

*Elaine Norman*

## Exciting Times Ahead For Local Tennis Club

The Croxley Tennis Club is situated on the opposite side of The Green from The Artichoke Public House. There has been a tennis club there for many years, (I was first a member nearly 50 years ago as the only junior!). In those days it was known as Dickinson's Tennis Club because the sports ground was owned by John Dickinson's paper mill. It was for the use of their staff, and local residents were also allowed to join the different sports sections.

As the only tennis club in Croxley we try to make ourselves known locally by advertising our existence at The Revels, where we always have a stall, and with a coaching team which is very active in many local schools.

We are now entering a very exciting time because we are expanding our facilities with new courts and a new, larger clubhouse.

Until now we have had 5 hard courts, 3 of which are floodlit, a practice wall and a small clubhouse.

The club committee, with help from a number of our members, have made the plans for enlarging our facilities. Our present courts are in such great demand all year round with club social play, match play, junior social play and coaching for juniors and seniors that a sixth court has become essential if we are to meet the needs of all the members. We are going to have all six courts floodlit as many members want to play in the winter and after dark in the summer. We have also been able to incorporate two mini tennis courts for the younger juniors, as

well as retaining the practice wall. At the time of writing this article the ground is being prepared for the footings to be dug for our new clubhouse. We have had to make do with a temporary clubhouse for the last few years and so we are looking forward to a far superior home. A larger clubhouse will give us the opportunity to provide other activities, including table



*Footings dug and the new Clubhouse nearly complete*

tennis for members, as well as a comfortable environment to sit and relax when they are off court.

Of course this venture cannot come to fruition without funding and, to this end several members have been working very hard on ideas on how to raise the money required for the expansion which will not only benefit the current members but the Croxley community as a whole. It is a huge project and requires a lot of work to explore avenues for grants and loans which are necessary for such a large venture and this work is ongoing.

Croxley is an accredited club for mini tennis and as such we host tournaments and matches for the mini tennis groups. There are eight teams in the Watford and District summer league for the senior players plus some matches during the winter. We play all year round and have even been

known to sweep the snow off the courts to play on Christmas Eve!

The club has a very varied social calendar: a dinner dance, quizzes, a summer party and barbecues on social tennis evenings to list just a few. In addition to these, there are some new ideas for the coming year. The club is well known for its friendly atmosphere and there have been many strong

friendships forged amongst members. New members - junior and senior, all standards – are always welcome and made to feel at home.

If you would like to come along to find out more about the club, or to join us, please contact our membership secretary, Jon Taffel, on 07866 360331.

**"One of the things I think needs improving is the litter on the ground."**

## The Parish Council seeks your views...

*(Keeping Croxley Special)*

As part of the continuing development of the Parish Council's objectives, policies and priorities, we would like to hear from you with your views on:

**What would you most like to see in Croxley Green?**

**What issues most concern you?**

**What amenities would you like to see in Croxley Green that we don't already have?**

**What do you consider are the priorities for Croxley Green?**

**What do you think would benefit the community most?**

**What sort of activities do you do in your spare time?**

Send or email your views on the above questions to David Allison, Clerk to the Parish Council, Community Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, WD3 3BN. Email: [croxleypc@btconnect.com](mailto:croxleypc@btconnect.com)

Thanks for your help.

### Chairman's Charity Quiz

On Saturday 5 April Croxley Green Parish Council held its third Chairman's Charity Quiz Night. The annual event is organised by Cllr Christine Jefford with help from local residents, staff and Parish Councillors.

Each year, two Charities are chosen as the Chairman's Charities and money raised for the charities is shared between them. This year the nominated charities are Prostate Cancer and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Representatives of the two Charities attended, together with

some hearing dogs. The evening was a huge success with 107 people filling the hall to capacity!



The total amount raised for these charities was £890.28 and the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who donated a raffle

prize or contributed in any way to help raise funds for these excellent causes.

The local branch of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People have informed us that they will be using their share to sponsor a puppy. We hope to be able to follow this up and obtain some pictures of the puppy at some future date.

The quiz and supper were enjoyed by all and the winning team was that of Cllr Marion Birch and the champions were presented with a token prize and a certificate at the end of the evening.

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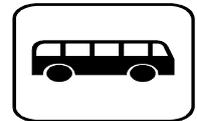
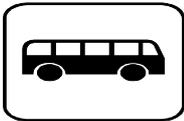
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>12 noon</b>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> JOURNEY

Sycamore Approach	10.00am
Valley Walk (Green)	10.01am
Valley Walk/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
Chalmers Court	10.08am
All Saints Lane (outside church)	10.10am
New Road	10.12am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>

### 3<sup>RD</sup> JOURNEY

Junction Links Way & Warwick Way	10.30am
Junction Links Way & Dover Way	10.31am
Junction Links Way & Little Green Lane	10.32am
Junction Little Green Lane & Durrants Drive	10.33am
Junction Durrants Drive & Dover Way	10.34am
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Lane Footpath	10.36am
Manor Way	10.38am
Grove Court	10.40am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>1.15pm</b>



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## A Croxley Bird!

Regrettably, I am no longer in a position to comment on the various organisations presently functioning in the Croxley area. My knowledge covers only the period 1939 -1952. The inter-war years saw a rapid growth of pigeon racing in the UK and Croxley produced some very notable fanciers and two in particular, L C Palmer and A Ashby.

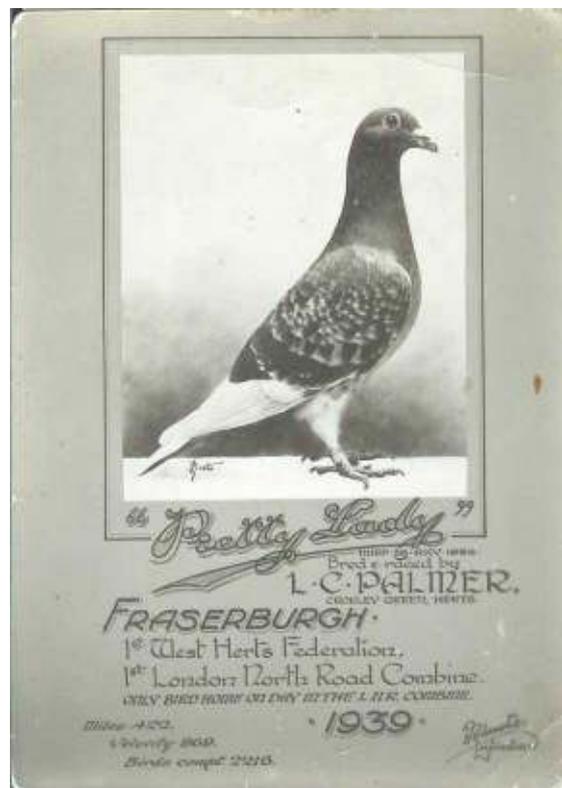
Len Palmer was the village shoe repairer and had his business in New Road, and Alf Ashby lived in a small cottage at the rear of what was then Dimmocks Store, also in New Road. I believe the cottage was part of the store. Their two names are enshrined in the hall of fame for long distance pigeon flying.

The Club had its headquarters at the Railway Tavern in Rickmansworth, opposite the LMS station. Mine host at that time was J Windle, also a fancier. The secretary was Major Wallington, (I think he came from Chenies), Bill Bean and J Maisey came from Mill End and the Croxley contingent in addition to Ashby and Palmer were A Oliver, (Winchester Way) and Mr Gibson, (I think he lived near the Fox & Hounds in New Road). There were two other members but I cannot recall their names and of course my Father and I, Richmond Way.

Len's claim to fame came in 1939 when his bird (Pretty Lady) topped the then mighty London North Road combine, being the only bird home on the day of liberation, 2216 birds competing. This bird went on to repeat the same performance in 1941. A truly wonderful pigeon. In 1942 tragedy struck, she was missing

from the loft. Len could not say for certain that she had returned from exercising, or whether she was in the loft when he let them out. Len always believed that the bird had been stolen as a footpath from Barton Way ran at the back of the loft and would have made easy access into his garden.

Alf's claim to fame was to win the London North Road Combine Race from Thurso, a distance of 500 miles. I am not sure of the year, possibly 1939 or 1940.



I am aware that pigeon racing does not hold a very exalted place in many people's estimation, but the sterling work that was carried out by these birds during the war carrying vital messages and saving aircrew lives when they had to ditch in the sea was in no small measure due to the expertise these men put into producing those birds with the quality to enable them to carry out the tasks demanded of them.

The only other organisation that I can recall for that period was the Amateur Operatic Society that the

Reverend Wilkinson so successfully founded which brought to the forefront many fine young singers, both male and female. Whether such a society exists today I cannot say.

*W J Roberts*

*[Ed. After Bill wrote this article, it is with deep regret that we learn that he has passed away. The Parish Council would like to express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends].*

## What's in a Name?

I noticed my Jack Russell, Bess, writing an article concerning dog behaviour, which is quite good when one considers she's only been an authoress for about four years. She did offer me some advice on my own scripts, which I readily accepted after she gave me a share of her biscuits.

It was her reference to the names of her friends, "Jessie" and "Louie" that made me think of the many dog walkers in my area of Croxley that I speak to on a daily or weekly basis. Who are these people? Millie, Louie, Jade, Daisy, Toby, Harry, Cracker, Ruby are the names of the dogs.

One knows the dog but not the owner and it's most strange that the pleasantries shared with these owners are on a dog-to-know basis only. I feel sure that dog owners reading this article will know what I mean.

*David Neighbour*

**"I think the roads need improving because there are holes and cracks all over the place."**

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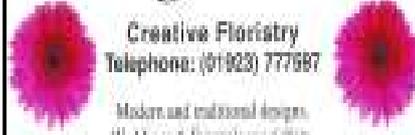
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# Dates for your Diary 2008



**Basketball** Every Wednesday at Rickmansworth School during term time  
9 -13s 5.30 to 7pm; 14s+ 7pm to 9pm. **Free.** Sponsored by the Parish Council.

## June

21 - The Revels  
22 - Churches Together Summer Celebration  
30 - TRDC Croxley Green Local Area Forum, Harvey Road School 7pm

## July

11 - Final submission date for entries to the Annual Garden Competition  
15 - Initial judging of the Garden Competition starts  
26 - FINAL Judging for Garden Competition

## Aug

6 - Classic Cars on the Green

## Sept

21 - Classic Cars on the Green & Carters Steam Fair

## Oct

5 - Craft Fair, Little Green School. Lincoln Drive, Croxley

## Nov

9 - Remembrance Ceremony, The Memorial, The Green. Parade at 2.45pm, Yorke Road.

## Dec

31 - Firework Display 11.45pm (Pedestrian event ONLY)

## Local Election Update

In the local Three Rivers District Council election that took place on May 1 in Croxley Green Ward, District Councillor Brian Norman was duly re-elected. Cllr Norman (Liberal Democrat) won 833

votes, followed by Mark Englefield (Conservative) with 647 votes and Roger Holmes (English Democrats) with 152 votes.

There was a 38.61% turn out of the 4,255 electorate in the Ward.

"Croxley Green is spacious and the Green is so big you can have funfairs and other events."

## Parish Council Meetings - general public welcome



**Council meeting** - last Thursday of each month (except May and August)

**Annual Parish meeting** - last Thursday in April

**Annual General meeting** - second Thursday in May

**Environment & Amenity meeting** - first Tuesday of each month (except May and August)

**Planning & Development meeting** - first and third Wednesday of each month

**Finance & Administration meeting** - second Thursday of each month (except August)

## Carl's Styrian Pancakes

Styrian pancakes (*Palatschinken*) are a warm sweet dish.

Usually thinly cooked and traditionally stuffed with hot apricot jam. These pancakes are known and loved by everyone in Austria. They are also eaten with beef broth or other clear soups, omitting the sugar and cut into strips. People also occasionally use these thin pancakes to make a lasagna.

Not just for Pancake day, they are great for breakfast or anytime and children love to help make the batter.

### Das Recipe for thin pancakes (Makes around 12 thin pancakes)

- 2 cups milk
- 3 whole eggs
- 8 oz wheat-flour
- 2 Tsp good olive oil
- Butter, apricot-jam, icing sugar, pinch of salt.

### How I cook Styrian pancakes

Mix milk, eggs, pinch of salt and add flour and oil. Mix thoroughly so the flour completely absorbs the liquids. Now let this mixture stand for at least 10 minutes.

Ideally using a wide, flat iron pan (a copper-bottomed stainless steel frying pan is also good), heat the pan so it is really hot. Add a little oil or butter and move the pan so that oil covers the total cooking surface. When the oil starts to smoke lightly, this is the time to cook. The oil must not burn with a flame which is obviously much too hot!

Using a ladle, pour some batter onto the pan. Lift the pan and move it around so the batter covers the pan's surface. Return to heat right away so that the pan does not cool.

Let the pancake cook on one side to the desired colour; then flip it or turn it and cook the other side.

You have now reached the fork in the road. You can.....

Place the hot pancake on a plate, spread some jam on it, roll it up and sprinkle icing sugar on it. Yum!

OR you can stack pancakes on a plate, let cool and stuff with whatever you like. Das ist gut, ja !!

Some possible stuffings:

- spinach and goats cheese
- ground meat pan-fried, seasoned, OR
- Guacamole (one ripe avocado chopped, mashed or blended, lime juice, salt, paprika, parsley and chopped green chilli peppers).

The options are endless !!

Vorzüglich (*excellent!*).

*Carl Batson, Senior Ranger*

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Stansted	£65.00	£75.00	£85.00	£110.00
City Airport	£65.00	£75.00	£85.00	£110.00
City of London	£50.00	£60.00	£65.00	£110.00
West End	£50.00	£60.00	£65.00	£110.00
Euston/Kings X/St Pancras	£45.00	£50.00	£55.00	£90.00
Paddington	£45.00	£50.00	£55.00	£90.00
Liverpool Street	£55.00	£55.00	£60.00	£80.00
Victoria	£55.00	£65.00	£70.00	£100.00
Waterloo	£55.00	£65.00	£70.00	£100.00
Milton Keynes	£50.00	£65.00	£75.00	£90.00
Chessington	£55.00	£65.00	£75.00	£90.00

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## To Bee or not to be!....

In a recent Press Release issued by the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), a charity set up in 1874, they claim that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is ignoring the threat that the nation's honey bees could be wiped out in 10 years.



At a recent meeting with representatives of the BBKA, to discuss the serious threat currently confronting honey bees, Lord Rooker, Minister of State for Sustainable Farming, Food and Animal Welfare, while not denying that bee health is seriously at risk said in a Lords debate on 27 November 2007, there was "no way in which the government could find additional money to put into bee research".

Tim Lovett, Chairman of the BBKA, said: "Despite his statement in the Lords, Lord Rooker has rejected the modest proposal the BBKA put to him to provide up to £8 million over five years to carry out the necessary programme of research. Over this same period bees will contribute more than £800 million to the economy.

"This is unacceptably complacent of the Government. Beekeeping pays its way. Through pollination bees annually contribute £165 million to the agricultural output yet the Government currently puts a paltry £200,000 into bee health research. "

There was however agreement on the vital importance of honey bees to the environment, again through pollination of seeds and fruits for wildlife and enhancement of species diversity.

Mr Lovett continued, "This refusal must be viewed against the many £100millions of compensation paid out by DEFRA in recent months for Foot and Mouth, Avian Flu, Blue Tongue, Bovine TB and payments to Hill Farmers.

"Again, DEFRA has been alerted to, and has recognised a potential disaster but chooses to take no action to avert it.

"The British Beekeepers Association has alerted the government and we want action. BBKA will launch a campaign to make sure this action happens."

[Source: *BBKA News Release 20 December 2007*]

"Croxley Green would be a better place if there was no vandalism and destruction, and we should not allow lots of houses to be built on our fields."

## 'Flowers in Croxley'

The Parish Council are instigating a new project in Croxley to brighten some areas with flowers.

The suggestion to do this came from Mandy Grant (a resident), so she was immediately asked to be part of a small committee which is managing the project. Her help and enthusiasm has proved invaluable resulting in our first decision to tackle the grassed areas in front of the shops 200 - 208 Watford Road (from outside the Standard Tandoori to Shamma Dry Cleaners.



We have obtained permission from the owner of the site, so it is hoped that during May, the Parish Council's Rangers will begin work on clearing, digging the flower beds and planting. It is hoped that this project will gradually be extended to other areas.

The Parish Council has also recently taken over maintenance responsibility from Three Rivers District Council for the two planters in the parade of shops at the top of Scots Hill.

At the moment we are thinking big, but starting small!

*Cllr Hazel Seeley*

## Parish Council's AGM

At the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 8 May, the Council re-elected Cllr Brian Norman as their Chairman for 2008/09. Cllr Wendy Shafe was also re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council's Committee's are:

### Environment & Amenity

Cllr Hazel Seeley, Chairman;  
Cllr Christine Jefford, Vice-Chairman.

### Planning & Development (P&D)

Cllr David Bains, Chairman;  
Cllr Jeremy Hollands, Vice-Chairman.

Cllrs Frank Brand and Roger Seabourne relinquished their seats on the P&D Committee and are therefore Councillors without portfolio.

## More from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April.....

Reported on the front page of this Edition of the Parish Pump magazine is Councillor Brian Norman's Annual Report which he gave at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Below are the other Reports given at the meeting.

### Planning & Development Committee Annual Report - David Wynne-Jones

Your Planning and Development committee has had an extremely busy year.

We meet twice a month throughout: mainly to examine planning proposals put forward by businesses and the public. The change in social attitudes of ownership in our country away from 'starter homes' and then moving has meant that house owners now wish to extend, improve and change their present and permanent property. This means that a lot of time is spent in vetting applications to ensure that they are appropriate for the varied ambience of our village.

The number of applications each month is large and requires careful consideration. In this we are helped by the up to date electronic equipment which the council has acquired which enables details of each application to be projected in detail onto a screen. This reflects the decision by Three Rivers District Council to go paperless as far as circulation of planning applications upon which we comment.

The large gardens at the back of many of the houses abutting the Green lend themselves to opportunistic backland development and we have been careful to 'fine tune' these appropriately. We are also glad to report that we liaise with community groups, particularly in South Croxley who are dedicated to preventing inappropriate development, on derelict industrial

sites.

The ever changing business application profile of our village is continually monitored by us in particular to maintain the multi-faceted character of our village where small shops still prosper. This means careful vetting in conjunction with Three Rivers District Council of applications for large retail outlets which alter the character of a community. This entails skilful consideration as at least one applicant is an international conglomerate.

Street maintenance has been expanded to include the planting and maintenance of roadside trees when and where appropriate and discussion of applications made by members of the public. We are responsible for two bus shelters adjacent to All Saints' Church and highway work and mobile phone transmitters have all been dealt with satisfactorily during the year. We have received requests from two schools for the installation of puffin crossings so that children can cross the A412 safely on their way each day. This is under active consideration in conjunction with the Highways Committee.

We continue to work together to maintain a pleasant accident free uncluttered leafy environment in our village.

Finally, I would like to thank Cllr David Bains for standing in as Chairman while I was away. Our multi-faceted committee has done sterling work and the state of the carefully thought out continuing development of our village reflects this.

*Cllr David Wynne-Jones  
Chairman, P&D*

### Environment & Amenity Committee Annual Report - Hazel Seeley

We tried two new projects last year, both of which were very successful and enjoyable. A day trip to

Brighton for residents from the local sheltered accommodations and an afternoon tea for senior citizens in the Community Centre. A similar event is planned for June 18 this year, so any help on the day would be very much appreciated. If you cannot help with the setting up, then perhaps any Councillors who have a spare half an hour would like to come along, just for a chat.

The Garden Competition was delayed by about a month last summer, due to the Parish Council elections which delayed the Parish Pump containing entry forms. However, despite bad weather, as usual the gardens looked as good as ever. Thank you to everyone who helped with the judging.

We have another project this year which will tie in with the Village of the Year Competition. This is Flowers in Croxley, suggested by Mrs Grant. We have a small budget which hopefully will be increased gradually, so that other areas of Croxley can be made more colourful.

This year's Quiz raised nearly £900 which will be split between the Chairman's Charities; Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Prostate Cancer. The success of the evening is due to the organisational abilities of Cllr Jefford ably assisted by Amanda Taft. Thanks also to all the Councillors who made such light work of helping to get the hall ready. The raffle was an enormous success, so thanks for all the donated prizes and thanks to our Clerk, David Allison for MC'ing the evening.

David Allison, Amanda and our two Rangers have been, as always very supportive and helpful during 2007/08.

Thank you to all the Members of the E & A Committee for their help and support.

*Cllr Hazel Seeley  
Chairman, E&A*

## Finance & Administration committee Annual Report - Brian Norman

Councillors and members of the public. I have pleasure in presenting my Report as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee of the Croxley Green Parish Council in what has been a very successful year for this Council.

New Members of the Council were elected last May and all have settled in well and contributed enormously in looking after residents' interests in Croxley Green.

This Council, yet again, has all of its accounts up to date which have been externally audited and we are grateful to the hard work of our Clerk in making this be the case.

The precept for the last year had decreased by 7.7% from the 2005/06 year and this in the main was due to using monies held in our Reserves to fund the Police Community Support Officers. However, as these monies were taken from Reserves it has resulted in the current years Precept (2008/09) being increased to fund the PCSOs. The Accounts for the 2007/08 financial year will be published shortly in line with the external Audit procedure.

The Council scrutinised all expenditure during the course of the year to ensure that residents were receiving value for money and we made appropriate decisions on expenditure, which in terms of quality, may not necessarily be the cheapest option. The Clerk has introduced new Monthly Management Accounts information towards the end of the year just past which has helped considerably in monitoring our financial position on a regular basis.

I would like to thank the members of the F & A committee for their hard work during the year.

*Cllr Brian Norman  
Chairman, F&A*

## Buses In Croxley

These days we seem to jump into a car to go everywhere. There is, however, a greener method of getting to many of the towns and villages that surround Croxley, the bus. Below are the major routes and destinations that pass through our village, along with a few tips to help you on your way.

**336:** From Watford to Chesham via Chorleywood and Amersham.

The service travels along the Watford/Rickmansworth road passing Two Bridges and Croxley Met station. There is one bus an hour in each direction. The service is operated by Carousel.

**352:** From Watford to Hemel Hempstead via Sarratt, Chipperfield and Bovington.

The service travels along the Watford/ Rickmansworth Road passing Two Bridges and Croxley Met station. There is one bus every two hours in each direction. The service is operated by Arriva

**5/6:** From Watford/Hemel Hempstead to Berry Lane/Maple Cross. The service travels along Baldwins Lane, Repton Way, Barton Way, New Road and the Green. There are 4 buses an hour in each direction. The service is operated by Arriva. The 6 is run as an evening service W6 under contract to Herts. County Council. After 19.30 the 5 is replaced by the 321, which travels all the way to Luton, again on behalf of Herts County Council.

**724:** Harlow to Heathrow Airport via Welwyn, Hatfield, St Albans, Watford, Rickmansworth, Denham and Uxbridge. The service travels along the Watford/ Rickmansworth road passing Two Bridges and Croxley Met station. There is one bus an hour in each direction. The service is operated by Arriva

**R4:** This is a limited service route to/from Watford and Chorleywood. The service travels via Baldwins Lane, Links Way, Dover Way,

Durrants Drive, Grove Crescent and Fuller Way. There is also an R5 service that runs twice a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Chandlers Cross though it misses out Fuller Way. The service is operated by Red Rose.

For more information and timetables contact the operators or intalink ([www.intalink.org.uk](http://www.intalink.org.uk)).

Here are a few tips to help you with your journey:

All bus stops in Herts are request stops, so if you want the bus to stop for you, you need to signal clearly to the driver. If you're on the bus, ring the bell once giving the driver time to slow down and stop. If you are at a bus stop, raise your hand so the driver can see it.

Bus drivers are not issued with a float. The only change that they have is what they manage to acquire throughout the day. As a result, early in the morning or at the beginning of a shift, most drivers will have little or no change. Also they will not be able to change £20 or £50 notes, so please try and ensure that you have the correct money when boarding the bus.

It is illegal for a bus driver to allow passengers to board or alight at places that are not designated as bus stops. There are a few exceptions to this but, in essence, are only for emergencies and are at the driver's discretion.

If you are making several journeys in one day/week, ask the driver about day/weekly passes. In some cases they are much better value. Did you know that 4 people travelling together can have 1 days unlimited travel on Intalink buses for just £10?

All children of 11 and over require a Saver card in order to get half price travel. Drivers are not allowed to issue child tickets without first seeing a valid card. The card is free to 11-15 year olds, though a charge is made for replacements.

*Cllr Jeremy Hollands*



"The thing I think needs improving is .....nothing. Everything is great!"



Croxley Business Park



Croxley Business Park



**Editorial Committee**

*Chairman*  
David Allison (Clerk)

- Cllr Christine Jefford
- Cllr Wendy Shafe
- Cllr Hazel Seeley
- Cllr Janet Martin
- Amanda Taft (Admin Asst)

**'Keeping Croxley Special'**

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