



The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Summer 2010

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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
(Chairman – P&D Committee)	
Frank Brand	248704
Brian Norman	710250
(Chairman of - E&A Committee)	
Hazel Seeley	772696
Wendy Shafe	441638
(Vice Chairman of Council)	

Croxley Green Ward:

Marion Birch	449092
(Chairman of Council)	
Leighton Dann	778484
Christine Jefford	771769
Janet Martin	774514
(Vice Chairman – E&A Committee)	
Roger Seabourne	770629
Cliff Vassiliou	779927

South Ward:

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

The Chairman Reports at the Annual Parish Meeting (April)

From July 2009 the workings of Croxley Green Parish Council have been available to the public through our website. All minutes, agendas, policies, accounts and Councillor details are available at the click of a button. If residents do not have computer facilities documents are on display at Croxley Green Library. Since the site went live we have around 1500 visits a month from people wanting to access information about the Council. This has helped to cut down on the amount of paper being distributed from our offices – saving resources, time and money.

Croxley Green is a wonderful place to live and one area that makes our village special is Croxley Hall Woods. This historic woodland is maintained, under contract, by the Parish Rangers. Their knowledge and skills ensure that the woods are protected for our enjoyment and for future generations. I do hope that residents will take advantage of this valuable amenity and visit it through the seasons, especially bluebell time.

During 2009 the maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard was the subject of furious debate in the Council Chamber of Three Rivers District Council. It had been proposed that the open spaces of the district should be looked after by one contractor which would mean the Parish Council would be excluded from tendering for the work. Luckily, common sense prevailed and the Green and Stones Orchard remain in

the care of our Rangers.

The young people of Croxley Green are being encouraged to look after their environment and become self sufficient through the Parish Council support for gardening clubs in our local schools. I was delighted to be able to visit two junior schools during the year to award the prizes for the tallest sunflower and largest pumpkin. Our Rangers visit the schools regularly to help the children with the cultivation of their plots. I am very pleased to report that we are now working with Rickmansworth School on a new initiative to establish an allotment to grow fruit and vegetables. Our local children have also benefited from the new adventure playground constructed in the Barton Way recreation ground with money from Three Rivers District Council and Croxley Green Parish Council.

My Charity of the Year also focused on the young people of the village by supporting the Croxley Green Scout groups. Our fundraising events included a Treasure Hunt with participants from a wide of ages, a photographic competition which demonstrated amazing talent by the competitors and our quiz which baffled some of the brains of the village. I would like to thank everyone that supported our efforts to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause.

As part of our partnership and community involvement we are supporting the Croxley Revels and Flowers for Croxley. We are pleased that we now

Council News

Reports from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2010

supported our efforts to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause.

As part of our partnership and community involvement we are supporting the Croxley Revels and Flowers for Croxley. We are pleased that we now have achieved Village Hall status for the Croxley Green Community Centre and we are working with the Community Association to strengthen that relationship. Our commitment to making Croxley Green a safe and healthy place to live and work is demonstrated through our continuing funding of the Police Community Support Officers who have a high profile throughout the village. The Parish Council also encourages clean streets, footpaths and open spaces by providing dog mess bags and 42 dog bins around the village.

Croxley Green Parish Council has a duty as an employer to protect and support its employees. As part of best practice we have introduced policies and procedures, and with professional advice, we will continue to update our working arrangements. During the last year we have introduced a Vexatious Complainant Policy and implemented it by placing an individual on our Awareness Register. We are mindful of our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act but this action has enabled us to operate free of the demands and stress of multiple emails, numerous telephone calls and visits.

Thousands of residents of Croxley Green joined us to celebrate the arrival of 2010 with the Parish Council Firework Display but this time with the added attraction of music. We hope that the event

planned for this New Year's Eve will prove just as popular and spectacular.

Preserving the character of Croxley Green but also improving our surroundings is a vital part of our role so we will be forming links and developing communication channels with organisations like Croxley Residents' Association, Three Rivers District Council, Hertfordshire County Council and other interested parties to work towards formulating a Village Plan that is realistic and achievable.

*Cllr Birch
Chairman*

Planning & Development Committee Report

Fellow Councillors, electors of the Parish, it gives me great pleasure to present to you my report for the year, on behalf of the Planning & Development Committee.

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there have been 24 P & D meetings scheduled. As you may be aware this committee consists of five Members of the Council, as two Members have declined to serve. I therefore thank the serving members for their diligent attendance as there was only one occasion when the meeting could take place as it would not have been quorate. The only other occasion when a meeting was cancelled was due to the January snows. I would also like to thank Cllr Bains and Cllr Hollands for chairing the three meetings that I was unable to attend during the year.

The functions allocated to this Committee include planning, transport, road safety, village appraisal and sign posting. In our consultative capacity for planning

within Croxley Green, 136 applications have been considered with our recommendations being forwarded to Three Rivers District Council. Over this period there were only 13 occasions where Three Rivers District Council have disagreed with the recommendations given.

The Committee has followed closely the separate Section 106 planning agreements, where funds will be set aside to upgrade both the Harvey Road and Shell zebra crossings on the Watford Road. We will continue to monitor both of the developments and to liaise with District and County Councils, to ensure these upgrades do take place.

For the next financial year the Committee has budgeted £100 for the maintenance of the two bus shelters the Council is responsible for on the Green. £6900 has been budgeted for the continuation of the very welcome and appreciated Community Bus service. Also a figure of £1000 has been put aside so that additional Salt Bins can be provided for the residents of Croxley Green this coming winter.

Following Tesco's successful appeal we have liaised closely with TRDC to ensure that the Parish Council has valid input as to how the £29,000, agreed for the provision of open space, is used.

The Committee continue to liaise with Three Rivers District Council to ensure that the Yorke Road School Building is not left to fall into a dilapidated state.

Input has also been given by the Committee for Public Rights of Way, Bridleways, Highways Works and, not least, the Local

Council News

Development Framework Core Strategy Preferences.

All in all quite a busy year for the Committee.

*Cllr Bennett
Chairman*

Environment & Amenity Committee Report

The newly formed Environment and Amenity Committee were duly co-ordinated towards the future events in the summer of 2009. The mature residents of Croxley had their day trip to Eastbourne; the report in the Parish Pump underlines its success with our residents and many letters of thanks were received. The Revels endorsed the past activities of the Parish Council especially towards looking after our local environment, likewise many thanks to our Junior Council for their ideas and support through the year. The Garden Competition was supported by our usual gardening enthusiasts within the village but due to the inclement weather the prize giving has had to be postponed.

The new year, 2010, staged the opening of the new Barton Way play area, the Parish Council were pleased to act in partnership with Three Rivers District Council not only with a financial contribution, but also with hands on research carried out by Parish Councillors Cllr Shafe and Cllr Martin, so that they were able to advise on the type of equipment to be considered.

August 2009 saw a new member to our staffing team Jamie Marlow, who has already shown his capabilities in keeping the village up to the rural standard that we have been proud to maintain.

The Council's E & A budget was reviewed and without loss of

events we have managed to keep the budget within previous years' expenditure. At this period of events, the forthcoming programme for 2010 can be either reviewed or altered to try new ideas. After due debate, it was decided to allow the Garden Competition to lapse this year to allow another format of a similar competition to be considered for 2011 to hopefully encompass new abilities within the community.

Even though we have monthly meetings, our Committee members involve themselves in researching many aspects of the Village's environment to see how we can improve Croxley Green.

As Chairman of the E & A I would like to thank the Committee members and the Council staff for their support towards our main goal in looking after Croxley Green.

*Cllr Norman
Chairman*

Finance & Administration Committee Report

The Finance and Administration Committee have the responsibility of scrutinising the Parish Council accounts and making recommendations to the Council regarding the governance and management of the Council. The members consist of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Environment & Amenity and Planning & Development Committees.

By meeting on the second Thursday of the month the committee is able to go through the accounts for the previous month and compare against the budget.

During 2009/10 the following matters were considered by the

Finance and Administration Committee:

- Implementation of web site;
- Review of standing orders;
- Staffing structure working group;
- Investigating professional employment advice service;
- Setting budget for 2010/11;
- Community Village Hall works;
- Provision of roadside salt in adverse weather;
- Introduction of policies and procedures;
- Recommending grant applications;
- Discussing business planning process;
- Agreeing purchasing policy;
- Replacement of missing village signs.

The Finance and Administration Committee will continue to address staffing and employment matters, consider the use of external specialist consultants, introduce policies and procedures and decide on a business planning process.

*Cllr Birch
Chairman*

SALT BINS

The Parish Council has purchased an additional six salt bins for Croxley Green. Residents are asked for suggestions of locations for these new salt bins. Contact the Parish Council—details on back page.



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Carriers In and Out and 7 Seats	£15.00	
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Small Car	£30.00	
4X4 and 7 Seats	£30.00	
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Small Car	£60.00	
4X4 and 7 Seats	£60.00	

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Croxley Green – A Great Place to Grow Up In

As a Granddad in our beautiful village, I have plenty of chances to evaluate, when pram pushing, what is on offer for the younger generation. In many areas of our country, children can get bored very easily as there is nothing to do. Not so in Croxley where there are lots and lots of 'fun things' to do from an early age.

For a start there is the Under One Club for babies which allows new mums (and dads) to take their little ones to a cheerful and welcoming group. Then there are numerous toddler and pre-school groups before going on to our excellent 'state of the art' schools. We have girl guides and boy scouts, and even a sea cadet group based on the canal, among many others. What joys are to be found fishing along the River Gade or exploring the mysteries of Croxley Hall Woods and the Common Moor? In the summer there is so much green space to run about and play and picnic on. There are super play and recreation grounds, especially the 'new' one at Barton Way which must be top of the class when it comes to fun! Who wants to go to Alton Towers when we have our own mini one on our doorstep? For the thrill seekers we have a top notch skate park which is safe, adventurous and well managed; who could ask for anything more?

Each year at the Revels I watch the children waving happily from the many floats which pass by in the procession – one can get an idea of all that is happening for young people in Croxley by looking at the variety of activities represented by the floats, stalls and entertainment at the Revels itself which is an afternoon of real community activity on the Green every June.

As a Parish Councillor, I feel really proud that we have such a

youth friendly environment. Croxley Green is surely one of the best places to grow up and this is celebrated at the end of the year with a wonderful, free firework display where thousands of us welcome the new year.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

Collective Nouns

It's been a very hard winter for many birds, particularly lakeside birds as there was thick ice on the water making it difficult for them to find food. Field birds had hard frozen ground to contend with; therefore bird feeders in gardens became a lifeline for many birds that would not normally venture around domestic habitation.

My own garden had fieldfares and redwings, redpoll and my usual number of goldfinches which made me think about what groups of birds are called, such as:

- a covert of coots;
- a murder of crows;
- a team of ducks (in flight);
- a convocation of eagles;
- a skein of geese (in flight);
- a cast of hawks;
- a siege of herons;
- a tiding of magpies;
- a peep of chickens;
- a clattering or train of jackdaws;
- a building of rooks;
- a herd of wrens;
- a host of sparrows

and finally, my favourites: a charm of goldfinch and an exultation of larks.

There are, of course, many other collective nouns for animals but as I am a bird lover I concentrated on these.

My master saw me at work and as I get some notoriety for my writing, he will come up with something to try and outdo me... some hope!



Bess - Roving Reporter

The Christmas House, Lancing Way

Once again Lancing Way was lit up for the festive season when the Christmas lights were switched on in December 2009 at the Christmas House. This year Dave and Carol nominated the Herts Air Ambulance as their chosen charity and were delighted to donate the sum of £2537.00 to this worthy cause.

Dave and Carol would like to thank everyone for their support and look forward to seeing you all again in December 2010.

Cllr Christine Jefford

Batteries Provided

For those in the community who need them, are you aware that hearing aid batteries can be procured at Skidmore Clinic, Rickmansworth, at any time during opening hours? Just remember to take your brown book with you.

Council Updates

The Parish Council Budget 2010-2011

<u>Finance & Administration</u>	<u>Agreed Budget (£)</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>Groundworks</u>	<u>Agreed Budget (£)</u>	
101	<u>General Administration</u>				
4001	Salaries & Wages	64,000	4001	Salaries & Wages	54,417
4007	Courses / Conferences	0	4006	Protective Clothing	500
4008	Training	1,500	4008	Training	1,500
4009	Travel	1,200	4010	Misc Staff Costs	650
4011	Rates	4,600	4017	Health & Safety	1,000
4012	Water Rates	900	4018	Refuse Disposal	0
4013	Rent	100	4037	Grounds Maintenance	2,000
4014	Light & Heat	1,500	4041	Equipment Hire	0
4016	Janitorial	1,300	4042	Equipment Maint.	550
4017	Health & Safety	250	4046	Equipment Purchased	2,000
4020	Misc Establishment Costs	500	4051	Vehicle License & Insurance	1,800
4021	Telephone & Fax	1,500	4055	Fuel & Oil - LS08	1,200
4023	Stationery, Printing & Postage	1,800	4060	Fuel & Oil - Grdworks	750
4025	Insurance	3,900	4070	Maintenance - LS08 WCP	500
4026	Photocopy Hire / Charges	2,500	4071	Maintenance - Tractor	750
4027	Computer Software & IT	500	4072	Maintenance - Ride on Mower	580
4036	Property Maintenance	2,100		OverHead Expenditure	68,197
4156	Audit Fees - External	960	1061	Agency Income - HCC Mtce	1,400
4157	Audit Fees - Internal	820	1062	Agency Income - TRDC Mrce	0
4158	Accountancy Fees	790	1080	Miscellaneous Income	0
4963	PCSO	28,500		Total Income	1,400
	Tfr from Reserves (if required)	-10,000		103 Net Expenditure	66,797
	OverHead Expenditure	109,220	107	<u>Grants (incl S137)</u>	
1076	Precept	244,967	4200	Chairman's Charity Expenditure	1,000
1090	Interest Received	200	4711	S137 Grants	1,500
	Total Income	245,167		Community Hall Membership Grant	9,600
	101 Net Expenditure	-135,947		OverHead Expenditure	12,100
			1077	Grants Received	0
			1200	Chairmans Charity Income	1,000
102	<u>Local Democracy</u>			Total Income	1,000
4024	Subscriptions/Publications	2,000		107 Net Expenditure	11,100
4033	Parish Pump Newsletter	5,000	150	<u>Community/Village Hall</u>	
4201	Chairman's Allowance	500	4036	External Decoration	4,000
4300	Events - Revels on the Green	1,000	4036	Flood Prevention work	6,500
	OverHead Expenditure	8,500		Transfer from re-serves	-10,500
1031	Map Income	0		OverHead Expenditure	0
1051	Advertising Income	1,500		Total Income	0
	Total Income	1,500		150 Net Expenditure	0
	102 Net Expenditure	7,000			

Council Updates

The Parish Council Budget 2010-2011 (cont'd)

<u>Environment & Amenity</u>		Agreed Budget (£)	<u>299</u>	<u>E & A Capital & Projects</u>	
202	<u>The Green</u>				
4042	Equipment Maintenance	0	4932	War Memorial Updating	250
			4934	Flowers in Croxley/Lamppost planters	0
				School Flower beds	2,000
				Development of Play Areas	0
				Interpretation Board, Stones Orchard	1,500
	OverHead Expenditure	0		OverHead Expenditure	3,750
	202	Net Expenditure	0	299	Net Expenditure
					3,750
203	<u>Open Spaces & Trees</u>			Environment & Amenity - Expenditure	31,050
4048	Plants, Shrubs & Trees - General	1,000		- Income	0
4049	Dog Hygiene	10,000		Net Expenditure	31,050
	Tfr ex trees	0			
	OverHead Expenditure	11,000		Planning & Development	Agreed Budget (£)
			301	<u>Roads & Street Furniture</u>	
1077	Grants Received	0	4042	Equipment Maintenance	0
			4047	Footpath Maintenance	0
				Salt Bins/Salt	1,000
			4050	Bus Shelters	100
			4056	Street Trees	0
	Total Income	0		OverHead Expenditure	1,100
	203	Net Expenditure	11,000	301	Net Expenditure
					1,100
211	<u>Events</u>			302	<u>Community Bus</u>
4601	Garden Competition	250	4702	Community Bus	6,900
4602	Quiz Night	250		OverHead Expenditure	6,900
4605	Christmas Lights	8,000		302	Net Expenditure
4608	Library Xmas Tree	50			6,900
4609	Craft Workshop Day	1,400			
4610	Fireworks on Green	5,000			
4611	Senior Citizens trip (Seaside)	350			
4612	Senior Citizens Social	0			
	OverHead Expenditure	15,300	399	<u>P & D Capital & Projects</u>	
1080	Miscellaneous Income	0		Miscellaneous Road Safety Works	0
				Tfr from Reserves for Misc. Road Safety works	0
	Total Income	0		OverHead Expenditure	0
	211	Net Expenditure	15,300	399	Net Expenditure
					0
221	<u>M S C</u>			Planning & Development - Expenditure	8,000
4042	Equipment Maintenance	1,000		- Income	0
				Net Expenditure	8,000
	OverHead Expenditure	1,000			
	221	Net Expenditure	1,000		
				Total Budget Expenditure	249,067
					249,067
				Net Expenditure	0



Our Environment

Curious Corners in Croxley

I have a large and lovely map of Croxley on the wall of my study and quite often, when I glance up from the computer, my eye catches yet another interesting corner of our village – so much to see and learn and an adornment to any resident's room. Two square miles and approximately 15,000 inhabitants – not a huge area but packed with interesting facts, too numerous to mention here. Maps are sold by the Parish Council.

Our village was, until quite recently, a quiet rural hamlet, untouched by the Industrial Revolution until the building of the Grand Union Canal in the late 18th century (around 1773) brought about the start of change. Thousands of labourers (navvies) dug the canal from London to Birmingham using only shovels. This was the equivalent of the M1, M4 and all the other motorways together in those days. Then along came Mr John Dickinson in 1832 and built his huge paper mill on a site on Croxley Common Moor which was demolished after many years of paper making in 1981. He brought in all his paper making raw materials on barges which came along the canal. He also imported lots of workers and their families, (many from Yorkshire) and built Dickinson Square to house them plus lots of houses in New Road, which was then the main High Street of Croxley (and still is).

In the 1930's the owners of the Metropolitan Railway Company pushed out from London into the countryside of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It needed customers (commuters) and thus the great building boom of the 1930's took place – we can see many of the houses built in that period in ribbon development in Croxley today.

Apparently, about a million houses were built between the wars. An interesting thing was that semi-detached houses were then more expensive (£800) than bungalows (£600) but now the roles have been reversed because of the big frontage and gardens which these bungalows possess.

Croxley has been very fortunate because, although it is only seventeen miles from Trafalgar Square, it has managed to retain its Green Belt almost untouched up to now. A lot of this has been due to well organised and concerned citizens and their groups lobbying successfully. The Common Moor has been preserved forever as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Green has been enlarged to take in all adjacent woodland as well.

Next time you look at your map of Croxley spot the special things that have happened in your area – don't forget to frame it and hang it on the wall! To anyone who doesn't have one, don't despair – there are a few left; just contact the Parish Council or pick one up from us at the Revels.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

Flowers4Croxy

It was great to see the pansies and polyanthus planted by the group in the autumn surviving the harsh winter and giving such a lovely display of colour this spring. Once again we thank all the shopkeepers who have watered the plants when needed.

We recently bought some larger half barrels to put in different areas around the village to be filled with bedding plants. We shall be buying more hanging baskets this year but have not decided where we will position

them as we are dependent on shopkeepers to water them and bring them in each night.

A shared project with the Parish Council was supplying planters for the Croxley signs for which the Council supplied the plants. It is unfortunate that one of the signs was stolen on St Patrick's night but these planters have brightened up the entry points into the village.

Unfortunately there has been some selective stealing of other items such as lavender plants, a pot of pansies from outside the library (and this was sunk quite deeply in the earth), compost and a few busy lizzies. We are always very disappointed when this happens as it shows that a few people want to spoil what has been done to try to improve our environment for everyone.

We are very grateful to Steve Drury, the local County Councillor, who gave us a grant which will enable our plans to expand this year. Our thanks, too, to Parish Councillor Leighton Dann for over wintering last year's geraniums. Without our volunteers and occasional help from Rangers Carl and Jamie we would not have achieved all that we have. We hope to have a schedule put together soon which will publicise times when gardening activities will be undertaken, so if you are able to help out for a little while we would be very happy to see you. Many hands make light work! The schedule will be put up in the library, on the Parish Council notice board and on its website. It is hoped that a lot of you have noticed our efforts and enjoyed them.

*Hazel Seeley
(Chairman, Flowers4Croxy)*



Coach Trip to World's End

On Friday 2 July 2010, the Parish Council will be taking a group of senior citizens on a day trip to World's End Garden Centre in Buckinghamshire. This is expected to be a popular event and as seats are limited, places will be decided by means of a lucky draw. If you would like to enter the draw please complete the form below with your details and the name of your guest and return the slip to the Parish Council by Friday 25 June 2010. The draw will take place on Friday 25 June 2010.

To be eligible to attend you (and your guest) must be a resident of Croxley Green, a senior citizen and must be independently mobile.

Good luck for the draw!!!!

✂ **Name:**

.....

Address:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Telephone Number:

.....

Name of Guest:

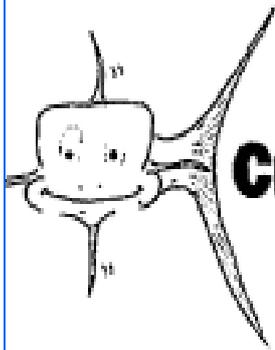
.....

I would like to attend the day trip to World's End on Friday 2 July 2010 and I confirm that both my guest and I are residents of Croxley Green, senior citizens and are independently mobile.

Signed:

.....





Croxley Divers

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Energy Saving Light Bulbs

- an electric offer!!



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Our Environment

New Playground for Barton Way



Finally, after months of meetings and discussions, the new play area in Barton Way was completed and open.

Construction had continued through the winter, despite rain, snow and very cold weather and it was opened for use on 15th February with a small-scale opening ceremony. There were members of Three Rivers District Council and Croxley Green Parish Council present, as well as representatives from the local schools. Despite the cold weather, there were also many local families who had been excitedly watching the progress at the site.



Since opening, the play area has proved a huge hit with the local young people. After school, at weekends and during the school

holidays it is always packed with children, a massive change from this time last year! The outdoor gym has also proved popular with the adults, giving them something to do while their children and grandchildren are playing, as you can see from the photo of Cllr Hazel Seeley!



It will be even more popular when the weather finally improves, and will be great for picnics and playing in the sunshine. Please remember to keep the area clean and tidy by putting rubbish in the bins or taking it home.

The Junior Council have asked Three Rivers if there can be some planted areas around the equipment and this has been agreed. Find out more about this initiative from the Junior Council at the Parish Council stand at The Revels!

There have been a few teething problems, including: some areas of grass wearing out (Three Rivers will be re-grassing these soon); excessive litter which the small litter bins have not been able to cope with (Three Rivers are going to put in more/bigger bins and it has been suggested that one of the large recycling bins should be put in to encourage recycling of plastics

and cans in particular) and several pieces of equipment have had faults, which should have been repaired by now. Three Rivers are also looking at the closing mechanism for the wooden gate to ensure that it automatically closes and stays closed, as there have been occasions when dogs have got into the fenced play area as the gate has been open. If you have a dog, please remember that this is a dog-free zone, to keep it clean and safe for the children for whom it has been designed, so do not be tempted to pop in with your dog for a sit down on one of the nice, new benches. If you have any concerns regarding this play area, please contact Three Rivers District Council on 01923 776611 or pop into the Parish Office and we will pass on your comments.

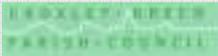


We are very excited to have been involved in initiating the modernisation of this fantastic facility in Croxley, and even more by the number of people who are using it! Keep having lots of fun



through the months to come and let's hope the sun shines!

Cllr Janet Martin



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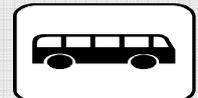
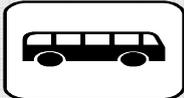
Winton Drive Approach 9.30am
 Shaftsbury Court 9.32am
 Malvern Way/Barton Way 9.34am
 Fuller Way/Barton Way 9.36am
 Hanover House 9.37am
 Sherborne Way/Baptist Church 9.40am
Return from Watford 12 noon

2ND 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
Return from Watford 12.30pm

3RD 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
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Dog Waste Bags



*Please don't forget to use the **RED** waste bins.*

For those dog owners who have forgotten or were unaware, bio-degradable dog waste bags are **free** from the Parish Council Offices and we also supply them to the library. Please use them, and the bins around Croxley, to help keep our pavements, footpaths and open spaces clean and free from mess.

The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who has some old photographs of Croxley Green so we can build up our photo library and use them in future publicity material. Please contact the Parish Council's office by phone or email - details on the back page.

How HEALTHY are YOU?

- Do you get out of breath walking up the stairs?
- Are you happy with your body weight?
- Do you worry about the physical effects of getting older?

The 2008 Dept of Health Strategy for WELLBEING (healthy weight, healthy lives) cites the FACT there is deterioration in the health of the British public!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Croxley Wellness Centre opened in New Road, Croxley Green in May 2010 with a mission

“To serve the fitness needs of the people of Croxley Green”.

Stepping inside Croxley Wellness Centre you will find a fully supervised gym, where qualified instructors are happy to take you through your first steps to fitness. Croxley Wellness Centre also boasts a smart new dance studio. A varied timetable of classes runs throughout the week, from Spin classes to Pilates, all YOU have to do is CHOOSE!! Debbie Bishop and Carole-Ann Withers aim to use their wealth of knowledge and experience to fulfill that mission.

Debbie Bishop has been involved in the fitness industry for the past 25 years. During that time she has engaged in extensive research and teaching in a number of related academic and operational disciplines of the wellness industry. She holds a BSC in Sport and Exercise Science, a Pg Cert in Management, An FA Sports Physiotherapy Diploma, an RSA Exercise to Music and a FFI Gym Instructors Certificate. Addition training with The Australian Institute of Physiotherapy and Pilates has enabled Debbie to not only run Pilates classes but also to facilitate teacher training courses at West Herts College for the Oxford and Cambridge

examination board. More recently Debbie has been the author of advanced teaching materials which have been adopted by two examining boards which regulate the Certificate in Teaching Exercise to the Older Adult. Debbie feels that the aims of any exercise program should not only encompass looking slimmer and feeling fitter, but also enable a person to function better in their everyday life.

Carole-Ann Withers has been teaching fitness in the local community for the past 20 years and has taught very successfully, at many local clubs within this time. She is renowned for her attention to detail and exciting fun filled classes. She has filled many roles within the fitness industry including Gym Instructor, Studio Programme Co-ordinator and of course Fitness Instructor. Carole-Ann holds an extensive range of Fitness Instructor qualifications including RSA Exercise to Music, Reebok Step, BodyPump Instructor, Spin Instructor and RSA OCR Pilates Matwork Instructor. Her wealth of experience over the years enables Carole-Ann to consistently deliver a high standard of teaching. Carole-Ann is passionate about her teaching and wants to motivate, help you achieve and sustain your personal health and fitness goals. Carole-Ann believes 'enjoying fitness' is the key to keeping exercise as part of your life.

Let it make YOU feel more energised, less stressed and more relaxed.

Details can be found at www.croxleywellnesscentre.co.uk
Alternatively, Debbie or Carole-Ann can be contacted at The Croxley Wellness Centre on 01923 710676.

West Herts Against Crime

West Herts Against Crime provide a free home security and fire safety service. Everyone is entitled to a free home security survey and fire safety check; however, to qualify for the free supply and fitting of security equipment, you must be over 60 years of age, disabled, a lone parent, a repeat victim of burglary or a victim of domestic violence, race or hate crime. The service includes fitting a range of equipment such as door and window locks, spy holes, door chains and smoke alarms. They also provide expert advice on how to stay safe and secure in your home and will do presentations to local groups on crime prevention and bogus callers.

The Charity also provide a handy-person service for elderly and disabled residents in Watford and Three Rivers for a modest charge of £10 per hour up to a maximum of £45.

West Herts Against Crime works in partnership with organisations including Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Three Rivers District Council and Thrive Homes.

For more information or to book a free home security survey call 01923 801138.

Sunflower and Pumpkin Competition

Thank you to Garden Scene, Chipperfield for donating sunflower and pumpkin seeds for the schools of Croxley Green





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EVENTS - dates for your diary

- June** Saturday 19 June 2010—Revels on the Green
- June** Sunday 20 June 2010—Churches Together Summer Celebration on the Green—picnic at 3.30pm, service at 4.30pm
- Friday 2 July 2010—Senior Citizens outing to World’s End Garden Centre, Wendover, Bucks
- July** Sunday 11 July 2010—Sponsored Dog Walk from 11am at the Parish Council, see website for details or call into the office
- Aug** Wednesday 4 August 2010—Classic Cars on the Green 12pm—late
- Aug** Wednesday 4 August 2010—Picnic and Play at Barton Way 12.30—3.30pm
- Sept** Saturday 18 September 2010 Classic Cars on the Green with Carters Steam Fair—Scammell road run and display 12—5pm
- Sunday 19 September 2010 Classic Cars on the Green with Carters Steam Fair—Classic Car Show 10am—late
- Oct** Sunday 10 October 2010—Craft Day

Croxley Green Parish Council Craft Fair

I am interested in demonstrating my craft at the Craft Fair on Sunday 10th October 2010.

My craft is _____

Name _____ *Contact* _____

Please return to the Parish Council Office or tel: 01923 710250 for further information

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)

School Gardens Updates

Malvern Way

Year one children at Malvern Way have been very busy growing a variety of herbs and vegetables and look forward to harvesting their crops later in the year. All the children were delighted with the quality of their potato crop last year and hope to have a bumper crop of fruit to pick as well this year.

Janet English, Head teacher

Harvey Road

At last year's Harvest Festival, for the first time, the school displayed a basket of produce from its own garden. This included main crop potatoes, baby pumpkins, sunflowers and herbs. By October Half Term, the Gardening Club had planted leeks, onion sets, garlic cloves and purple sprouting broccoli. We also potted up 'runners' produced by our strawberry plants and put in a blackcurrant bush. The Parish Council Rangers built us a second large raised bed and volunteer parents and grandparents spent one Sunday building a wooden arch to link the two beds together. A honeysuckle was planted to grow up one side; this was chosen as a food plant for moths, rather than butterflies.

Although frost or snow covered the garden during much of the winter all our plants survived. When the Gardening Club met again at the end of February we discussed what to grow this year. The children involved with the garden last year told us what they had liked growing and tasting (lots of chives and peas, please!) and everyone listed their favourite fruits and vegetables. This gave us lots of ideas, some more practical than others, so we are

going to try tomatoes, raspberries and sweet corn, but not bananas or grapes!

We have subdivided the garden into eight square beds, each with 1.2m sides; two for soft fruit, four for vegetables, and two for herbs and other plants. Peas and broad beans were sown by the children and grown on in a cold frame (not at school, as we don't yet have this facility) producing strong, healthy plants which have now been planted out. We also have beetroot, carrots, lettuces and mini 'Snowball' cauliflowers growing in the garden and since Easter we've sown seeds in pots for French beans, runner beans and tomatoes.

The school registered with the Potato Council's 'Grow Your Own Potatoes' scheme and received 'Rocket' and 'Vale's Emerald' "first early" potatoes along with growing kits. The Gardening Club and Class 5 planted these in the garden, as well as some more early and main crop potatoes. Thankfully there was time to earth up all of these, to protect them from the May frosts!

Half a dozen small leeks have been dug and now the children have been eating chives and peppery radishes. We have lots more sowing, growing and, of course, tasting to look forward to over the coming months.



*Christine Cheek
Gardening Club Organiser*

Little Green School

We have recently resumed our gardening after the winter break. Before Christmas we planted some cabbages and onion sets and they did not seem to be harmed by the cold and snow as they grew and grew and GREW

The cabbages have not turned out as we expected them to – but they have been a talking point.



Several weeks ago, we had a shed delivered and built (Thank You to Croxley Green Parish Council for some money towards this). We now have a store next to our vegetable beds so that tools, buckets and other equipment are close at hand and safe.

Now that the weather is warmer, we have been busy planting our vegetables for this year. Our radish, carrots, lettuce, potatoes and beetroot were a great success last year and we have planted some more to see if we can do as well this year. We are also trying out some new vegetables – French beans and courgettes and maybe some peas if we have enough space. We have been given some tomato plants to see how we go with those. One thing we are all looking forward to is the tasting!

Last year we **eat** some of our produce and sold some of it at our Summer Fair. Our plan this year is to have a vegetable stall at the end of term to sell any vegetables that are ready. We can then use

the proceeds to buy more seeds for next year.

We have not forgotten the flowers either. Calendula, nasturtiums and sunflowers (both short and tall varieties) have already been planted. The plan is to have some around School to brighten up our surroundings and to sell some at the Summer Fair. Time has also been spent tidying up the flower pots ready for summer planting and generally keeping the gardens weeded and fed.

Our composting has been going well and we have used our home-made compost in the vegetable beds. We hope it helps everything to grow. We are planning to start some new compost bins in the near future as we have so many leaves and other matter that we can put in them and the ones we have are just not big enough.

We are having great fun at Gardening Club at Little Green and we are learning a lot about how to grow flowers and vegetables. If you haven't tried gardening as a hobby we recommend that you do. It is hard work but it is rewarding and FUN!

Yorke Mead School Garden

With a huge thanks to the Parish Rangers, who worked tirelessly over the Easter holiday to build our KS2 garden, we are now up and running with two gardens.



Our KS1 garden is flourishing - the peach tree has blossomed, and we are currently looking at the wonderful apple blossom on our ballerina fruit tree. The children's potatoes are just showing and the broad beans are maturing nicely. The children are very excited at watching the progress of their radishes, runner beans, lettuces, tomatoes, carrots, beetroots, strawberries and blackcurrants and can't wait for the taster and cookery sessions that will follow their harvest!

Our KS2 garden now has potatoes, lettuces, spring onions, parsley, onions and sweet peas. Our Gardening Club has been busy painting the shed, and we



are looking forward to adding to our produce - yet to plant are sweet corn, carrots and peas. We also would like the children to choose some fruit trees for this area.

Wendy Seabrook

Parish Council Annual Garden Competition

Over the past 17 years, the Parish Council has successfully organised the annual Garden Competition. Unfortunately, over the past few years, the number of entrants has decreased and the competition seems to have reached its 'sell by date'. Regrettably therefore, the Parish Council has made the decision to discontinue the competition. However, it has been a great

privilege over the past 17 years to visit and judge so many lovely gardens in the village. We have met so many enthusiastic gardeners and made friends in the process.

As to the future, we are looking to introduce some new ideas on a similar theme - any suggestions from readers of this article would be gratefully received by the Parish Council. How would you like to see us supporting and encouraging Croxley's green fingers in the future?

A presentation of trophies to last year's winners of the competition will be made at a tea party during the course of the summer. This was postponed due to very heavy snow on the evening on which this should have taken place in January.

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for their support over the past 17 years and look forward to a new and exciting venture next year!

Cllr Christine Jefford

Picnic and Play, Barton Way

Following the installation of the new play equipment at Barton Way and to celebrate this year's 'Play Day - Our Place', Three Rivers District Council will be organising a small, family celebration for the residents of Croxley Green at Barton Way playing fields. The 'Picnic and Play' celebration will take place on Wednesday 4 August from 12.30pm - 3.30pm and families are welcome to bring a picnic and join in the fun. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

*Charlotte Masters
Active Communities Officer
Three Rivers District Council*

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For an application pack please contact the Council offices:
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email: info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk

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341657**

Chairman's Charity Quiz

This year, Croxley Green Parish Council held its 9th annual Chairman's Charity Quiz on 13 March. Once again Cllr Mark Saxon ably undertook the task of Question Master for the evening.

This year's nominated charity was Croxley Green Scouts and was chosen by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Marion Birch, as she felt that it would be appropriate to support a local organisation this year.

The evening was a great success with 83 contestants sitting down to a buffet supper and the quiz. In the event the evening resulted in a grand total of £748.34 being raised. The quiz was organised by Cllr Christine Jefford with the assistance of Parish Councillors, staff and friends which was much appreciated.

The winning team, led by Cllr Chris Lloyd was presented with an Easter egg together with a certificate to mark the occasion.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who provided raffle prizes or took part in the quiz and look forward to seeing many of you for next year's event.

Cllr Christine Jefford

Carol Hearne

Carol Hearne opened her salon 'WE ARE HAIR FOR YOU' 15 years ago, providing a much needed service for the area at the top of Baldwins Lane where the shop is situated. The ambience of the salon is friendly and customers vary from toddlers to senior citizens.

Carol's daughter, Lauren is now a qualified hairdresser and works with her mother. Other members of the team are John (previously of New Road) who has been attending to the gentlemen, and Saturday girl, Holly. Carol says

she tries to keep up with modern trends, but sometimes finds it difficult as she is virtually a one woman band. Carol said to me that she has a good team now, is happy in what she does and is pleased with what she has accomplished in the years that she has been her own boss.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Safe Pavements for Pedestrians

It has been brought to my attention by several people in Croxley that there is an increasing problem of cars mounting the kerb and driving along the pavement when passing oncoming vehicles.

I have witnessed this many times myself. I have 2 young children who either walk along the pavement with me, or the older one may ride her scooter and the youngest may be in her pushchair, but it amazes me the number of 'close shaves' we have had! The worst area that I am aware of is at the station end of New Road where there are cars parked on one side of the road. Instead of waiting to pass these when there is adequate time and space, drivers pull round, reducing the space for the traffic in the opposite direction, which in turn leads the drivers of these vehicles to mount the pavement, because, of course, they can't wait to let them pass!

Please, think of the safety of pedestrians when you drive along our roads, especially for our children who may be less visible and road-aware than adults. Take a little more time to let other cars through when space is limited. Please remember: the road is for motor vehicles, the pavement **should** be a safe place for pedestrians!

Cllr Janet Martin

Wedding Anniversaries

I noticed 'Bess' scribbling away in her basket and decided to try and come up with something more appealing than 'collective nouns' so I am trying anniversaries as follows:

First	Paper
Second	Cotton
Third	Leather
Fourth	Flowers
Fifth	Wood
Sixth	Sugar
Seventh	Copper
Eighth	Bronze
Ninth	Pottery
Tenth	Tin
Eleventh	Steel
Twelfth	Silk
Thirteenth	Lace
Fourteenth	Ivory
Fifteenth	Crystal
Twentieth	China
Twenty-fifth	Silver
Thirtieth	Pearl
Thirty-fifth	Coral
Fortieth	Ruby
Forty-fifth	Sapphire
Fiftieth	Golden
Fifty-fifth	Emerald
Sixtieth	Diamond

I am not sure whether this will be of more interest than Bess's nouns but at least I've tried to give her some competition, although I still think that when we are out for a walk, people will still say "Hello Bess" before acknowledging me – if at all!

David Neighbour

PS Since compiling this list, it has been suggested to me that it might be nice to find out which couple in Croxley Green have been married the longest, so we must start at 50 years and over, please write in to the Parish Council.

WANTED

(alive please)



Frank Headley Geraniums

Stolen from the planter on the Green between
31st May and 1st June 2010

Please return to the planter or send replacements, information or
donations to the Parish Council Offices

Computers for Idiots

My daughter gave me a laptop recently. Emboldened by this good fortune, I enrolled for "Computers for beginners" at the library, as my computer skills are about 20 years old.

Then a friend told me about a package deal for telephone and broadband which meant I could get connected to the internet. The router duly arrived with the words "only 20 minutes to connect" (I wish!). There was no way that I was going to touch this so called in my computer-friendly friend. In all, I suppose it took two weeks of several phone calls, each lasting approximately 40 minutes, speaking to people called Jayran, Nishit, Rajai and an un-named lady who suggested he took the phone socket to pieces.

Unfortunately, these people who were based in Bangalore did not understand Brian and he did not understand them. Impasse!

Brian is a person who hates conceding defeat but after one mind-numbing evening spent hanging on the phone with "your call is valuable to us", "thank you for your patience", and "you are in a queue" interspersed with truly awful music, he was no further forward than when he started.

Fortunately for his and my sanity, he knew a professional who appeared the next day and within 30 minutes had the whole thing up and running. This delightful man pointed out something small which Brian had missed.

So here I am, connected to the internet, a little apprehensive about using it – but no doubt my 10 year old great niece will soon put me right!

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Walkers website gets better

Walking in Herts www.walkinginherts.co.uk is a website packed with useful information for walkers.

With more than 150 walks to download and print, free of charge; details of around 100 guided walks every month; books of walks; contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more, it is a very useful resource. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place. Now, after three years hard work, local man John Harris has taken the concept Countrywide. Walking in England www.walkinginengland.co.uk has thousands of walks to download and print – and again, all free of charge!

John said, "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. 'Walking in England' has brought it together in one place so, whether you are walking from home or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you".

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

Did you know that walking for just 30 minutes a day can help you:

- Feel good (you will feel fitter, your body will be more toned, and you will feel better about yourself)
- Have more energy
- Sleep better
- Reduce stress (have you ever noticed how it's difficult to walk and worry at the same time?)
- Reduce your blood pressure
- Manage your weight?

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

Solar is an earner with new feed-in tariff

When you get an approved renewable energy system installed you can now benefit from a Feed-in Tariff (FIT). Your electricity supplier will pay one tariff for the electricity you generate and one for any electricity you export to the grid. For a standard household Solar PV system they'll pay 41.3p per kWh generated and at least 3p per kWh exported.

FITs mean that a well sited Solar PV system can now pay for itself in as little as 12.5 years. To qualify for FITs, equipment and its installers must both be MCS approved. The Microgeneration Certification Scheme is the new guarantee of quality.

A 2.5kW peak system for a two person household could save/earn you £1000 a year and currently costs around £15,000 fitted. A new set up like this will reduce your annual CO₂ emissions by around a tonne. In terms of its positive environmental impact this is comparable to getting loft and cavity wall insulation fitted together.

FITs replace government grants for electricity generating technologies like Solar PV and wind turbines. Grants for renewable heating systems remain but are due to be superseded in April 2011 by the Renewable Heat Incentive.

To qualify for a grant your home must be insulated (270mm in the loft and cavity wall filled) with energy saving light bulbs throughout.

For the latest information on renewable energy systems and incentives, **contact the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.**

Chairman's Charity 2010 – 2011

The Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council, Marion Birch, has announced that her Charity of the Year will be the Dogs Trust at Harefield Rehoming Centre.

Dogs Trust Harefield opened in March 2006 and is one of 18 Dogs Trust Rehoming Centres in the UK and Ireland. The 16 acre plot of farmland has state of the art facilities; including 75 glass fronted kennels, six exercise paddocks, a Veterinary Suite, a Puppy Block complete with outdoor Puppy Palace, and a tea room open to the public. Staff at the Rehoming Centre care for over 150 dogs at any one time and endeavour to find loving new homes for over 1000 dogs each and every year.

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity and they receive no government funding. The charity cares for over 16,000 stray and abandoned dogs every year in the UK, and also help dogs in need overseas. Dogs Trust also promote dog welfare through educational, neutering and lobbying campaigns, and continue to work towards the day when no healthy dog is ever destroyed.

Various fundraising events will be planned for the year in Croxley Green, many with a 'doggy' theme. Keep an eye on the Parish Council website for details.



Registered charity nos. 227523 & SC037843

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