



# The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Autumn/Winter 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
<i>(Chairman – P&amp;D Committee)</i>	
Frank Brand	248704
Brian Norman	710250
<i>(Chairman of - E&amp;A Committee)</i>	
Hazel Seeley	772696
Wendy Shafe	441638
<i>(Vice Chairman of Council)</i>	

### Croxley Green Ward:

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

### South Ward:

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

## Letter from the Chairman

Public spending cuts are very much in the news at the moment so, as it is now the time to consider our budget for the next financial year, Croxley Green Parish Council will have to decide how to allocate our funding. We are fortunate that we are not in the position of Hertfordshire County Council who is planning cuts of £150 million. The scale of these savings will obviously have an impact on the lives of many residents of the County in terms of social care, education, children's services, highways and policing. The Parish Council currently funds one of the Police Community Support Officers that you see around the village and we hope that this valuable resource will remain so we can be safe and secure in our environment. If you have any thoughts on how you would like your money spent please do contact your local councillor, we would like ideas from the community.

Next May will see the local elections and it will be time to elect a new Parish Council. Much is being said about the Big Society and how individuals can

play their part in supporting their communities. If you would like to become more involved in the workings of our village please do consider standing as a Parish Councillor as it would be good to have some new ideas particularly when considering a Village Plan.

Many people have told me how much they enjoyed our Fun Dog Show in September. As well as raising around £500 for my Charity of the Year, the Dog's Trust, we all had a great afternoon. I would like to thank everyone who helped to plan and run the day and the hundreds of people and dogs who turned out and entered into the spirit of the event. I smile every time I picture the pair of dogs dressed as bride and groom in the fancy dress class and also when I remember the complete chaos around the biscuit eating competition. The animal companion theme has continued with a charity photographic competition. The 57 entries will be exhibited and prizes awarded on Saturday 20th November.

One of our Councillors, Christine Jefford, has very

kindly agreed to run one of her very challenging quizzes early in 2011 for the Dog's Trust so look out for details of that on our website.

It has been a busy time on The Green with classic car events and fun fairs so I would like to thank our rangers Jamie Marlow and our new addition, Mark Fox, for their hard work and expertise in keeping Croxley special. The Green will be hosting our annual New Year's Eve firework display and as I have seen Christmas decorations in the shops I assume that it can't be that far off!

With best wishes,

*Cllr Marion Birch*

The Councillors and staff of Croxley Green Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# Council News

## Fun Dog Show for Chairman's Charity - The Dogs Trust



Croxley Green are very aware that we are a community of dog owners but I was astounded by the numbers of dogs and their families that participated in this event. It was obvious that everyone, on two legs and four, enjoyed this fund raising dog show and, as well as having a good time, over £500 was raised to help the work of the Dog's Trust."

Stones Orchard, a historic site in Croxley Green for fruit growing, was the location on Saturday 25 September for a fun dog show arranged by Croxley Green Parish Council to raise funds for its Chairman's Charity of the year, the Dog's Trust rehoming centre at Harefield.

Over 300 people accompanied around 150 dogs for an event which awarded prizes for categories such as the dog with the waggiest tail, the best rescue dog, the best six legs, fancy dress and the dog the judge would most like to take home. The judging, by David Gauke MP, Adam Binnie from the Watford Observer and Hazel Seeley, Parish Councillor, identified the best dogs from 12 classes, not easy decisions to make with rivalry running high and dog owners working hard to make sure their dogs reached the required standard.

disputed, the fancy dress competition was full of brilliant ideas but topped by Radley, the Scottish Terrier, with a wizard outfit (*below*).



*Fancy Dress winner*

The Best in Show was won by a very elegant lurcher (*right*).



*Best of Show winner*



*David Gauke, MP undertaking some judging*

The class of the best six legs was deservedly won by Brian and his bulldog Fred, the position of fastest biscuit eater was hotly



*'Best Six legs'*

Marion Birch, Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council commented " Residents of

A proportion of the Parish Council's budget is spent on limiting the impact of man's best friend on the living environment through the supply of dog waste bags and installation/ emptying of 42 dog waste bins around the village which demonstrates its commitment to dog owning in the community. The biodegradable bags are available free from the Parish Council offices and are also supplied free for collection at the library in Barton Way.



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

## Council News

The Chairman of the Parish Council will not be announcing how much money has been raised so far this year for her nominated Charity, The Dogs Trust, until all the events and activities, including the raffle from the Parish Council's Craft Fair held on 10 October (more later) and the Chairman's Charity Quiz Night in the next calendar year have been held - but it looks like it is going to be a bumper year!

Chairman, Cllr Marion Birch, said "I am delighted that the events I have arranged for this year have proved so popular and I am very grateful to everyone who has supported this very worthy cause".

### Meet our New Parish Council Ranger

My name is Mark Fox and I started working for the Parish Council in September.



I have lived in West Watford all my life, have had an interest in gardening from a young age and have now been given the opportunity to work for the Parish Council as a Ranger.

I have worked as a gardener mainly in London since I left school. I have also attended Capel Manor College for three years on an apprenticeship scheme working in a number of parks to further my knowledge.

My interests are in outdoor activities. I try to go camping a

couple of times a year to coastal areas in Norfolk and the New Forest. I have also recently taken up fishing.

Although I have only been with the Parish Council for a short time, I am enjoying the job and working alongside Jamie.

*Mark Fox, Parish Ranger*

### Senior Citizens Day Trip to Worlds End

On the 2 July 2010, a party of 48 senior citizens visited the Worlds End Nurseries in Wendover – the names having been selected by ballot. It was an enjoyable day and there was plenty to see.

The first point of call was the restaurant for lunch, which served a good, reasonably priced meal. It was then time to explore the Nurseries – there was such a variety of merchandise from a great choice of plants, garden accessories, tools and furniture to even a pets department – plenty of scope for shopping!

The day was completed by a cup of tea at the restaurant. Everyone had a good day and had plenty of plants to show for it!

*Cllr Christine Jefford*

### Craft Fair

The fifth annual Croxley Green Parish Council craft fair was held on 10 October. This event has gone from strength to strength and was even busier this year



than it has been in the past. There were many familiar faces as well as lots of new visitors this year. Crafts available to sample included silk painting, jewellery making, book making, glass painting and flower arranging. Doodletots had a range of activities for younger visitors and there was a variety of needlecrafts on display and an impressive array of Bonsai trees.

Auntie Julie gave two performances of her magic show to entertain young and old and the refreshments enjoyed by all – thanks to parents of Little Green School.



The idea behind the Craft Fair is to encourage people to 'have a go' and develop new skills. Twin girls who made books last year came back this year to have another go. They told us that since last year they have made all their Christmas cards and birthday cards with their parents as they had enjoyed creating their own designs so much. We think it is great that they have been inspired by this event and hope they continue and that others will follow their example.

A raffle of prizes donated by stallholders and Parish Councillors raised £140 for the Chairman's Charity, The Dogs Trust. It was a truly memorable occasion!

*Cllr Wendy Shafe and  
Cllr Janet Martin*



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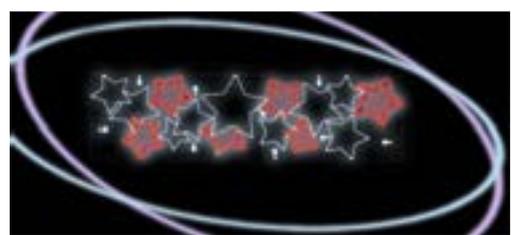
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## Wedding Anniversaries

You may recall that in the summer issue of the Pump, I put forward a list of collective nouns for the names of wedding anniversaries, followed by the suggestion that couples who have been married for over 50 years write in to the Parish Council.

I am happy to say that there have been several replies, which I shall list below:

- Brita and Clifford Blackwell of Winton Drive married at All Saints' Church in 1959 (51 years)
- David and Margaret Neighbour of Fuller Way married at Rickmansworth Methodist Chapel (now demolished) in 1956 (54 years)
- Mr and Mrs Fountaine celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years) on 15 July 2010
- Bill and Lilly Mead of Manor Way celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 3 June 2010 and received a card from the Queen.
- Peter and Janet Ward of Waterdell House who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 16 September 2010. Their secret? They disagree often but agree on all the important things!
- Mr and Mrs Galashan of Kenilworth Drive have been married for 65 years

However, the longest married couple to notify us were Bill and Joan Merrick of Dulwich Way who have been married for 69 years!

Several couples highlighted some interesting changes in the housing market over the years. Bill and Joan Merrick lived in one of the 80 prefabs on Grove Crescent as did

my uncle Harry Parr. These prefabs were positively luxurious in comparison with most ordinary houses of that date, few of which had inside toilets or bathrooms.

Mr and Mrs Fountaine remember that the house they bought cost the vendors £300, Mr and Mrs Fountaine purchased the house for £1,999 and last year it was on the market for £179,000.

My own father lived in Rickmansworth and worked at the mill, a weekly bus fare to Croxley cost 2 shillings, houses in Valley Walk were £250 and repayments were two shillings and sixpence (2/6); he could not afford the extra sixpence.

I tried to buy a house in Harvey Road for £4,050 but could only raise £4,000 so I lost it for the sake of £50.

I know that all things are relative but have all things changed for the better? (I think not). It is still a fine place in which to live, let us all enjoy and cherish it.

*David Neighbour*

## Café-O, St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green

My friend Ida Dutton and myself recently discovered Café-O.

The Café-O is situated in the main body of St. Oswald's Church and has been open on a Monday for the past five years. In term time it is open between 8.30am and 3.30pm and regularly serves 50-75 people. During school holidays, the opening hours are reduced to 8.30am – 12.30pm. When the mother and baby clinic is open in the hall the café is a popular venue for mums with young children.

Café-O caters for adults, in particular mums with young children, as there are toys for the

children to play with. There is an extensive menu with many choices of food including Cuppa soup, rolls, scones and jam and home-made cakes, all at very reasonable prices.

We were most impressed with the food on sale and had to sample (as a matter of duty!) a mug of coffee and a slice of coffee sponge which was delicious!

There is a rota of ten people serving, plus others who go in first thing in the morning to set up the tables and chairs and then later in the day to put it all away again.

PLEASE DROP IN – YOU WOULD BE MADE WELCOME!

*Christine Jefford and Ida Dutton*

## Salt Bins

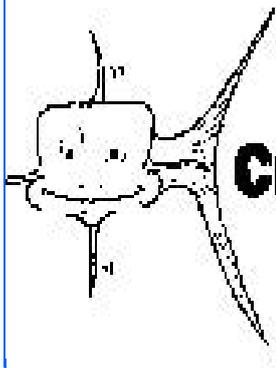
Following a request in the last edition of the Parish Pump for residents' suggestions for locations of new salt bins we had several responses.

The Parish Council was already responsible for a number of salt bins in Croxley and we are pleased to advise that this year an extra six salt bins have been purchased by the Parish Council.

Following this consultation, they will be sited at:

either end of Beechcroft Avenue;  
the junction of Frankland Rd and Harvey Rd;  
the top of Dorrofield Rd;  
near the flats in Sycamore Road  
and by the Parish Council depot in Barton Way car park.

Residents are reminded that the salt is not intended for personal use on private land, ie. driveways, but is there to keep the roads, especially at junctions, clear of snow and ice and to improve conditions for everyone.



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## Speeding on the Green

If you try to exceed the speed limit on the Green think again. The Community Police for Croxley Green have now been fully trained on the new digital hand held speed camera. It is being deployed with Officers, day or night, randomly on The Green and elsewhere and its range is just awesome! The speed limit across The Green and throughout Croxley Green is 30mph except for New Road where the limit is 20mph.

If you spot the camera, it is probably too late as it's already recorded your speed, captured your number plate and taken your picture – smile, I think not as you're nicked! The new hand held digital camera does an automatic check with DVLC to check road tax and insurance.

Around Croxley Green the Auto Recognition system has been used to great success on those who think they can exceed the speed limit. In doing so they put other lives at risk and this is a message we must all remember.

In New Road the speed limited is 20mph. Around the schools and elsewhere in Croxley Green there are the lampposts which tell the drivers it is a 30mph limit but would you drive past a school at 30mph? At 30mph you would probably kill a child. If that was your child, how would you feel? At 20mph the child may survive, but only may.

There are two zebra crossings in Croxley Green; by the Shell Garage on Watford Road and by the junction of Watford Road and Harvey Road. There have been so many near incidents, if not actual accidents, it is untrue and even the Traffic Control Lady at the Watford Road/Harvey Road zebra crossing has herself suffered with close encounters of the non-stopping car kind. Why? What happened to the Highway Code? Stop on no zone areas for dropping the kids off? I think not. Why can't drivers think?

Only the other day a near incident happened when a car turning right, and indicating to do so, was overtaken by a motorcyclist – lucky for the motorcyclist the car didn't turn. Cyclists are driver so drivers should not just be categorised as car drivers. Car, bicycle, electric bike, moped, car, van, lorry - if it has the capability of speed there is the capability of an accident.

Why is it that drivers today think they rule the road? Think of everyone else on the road and beside it on the pavement.

**Observe, keep alert but most of all, THINK!**

## Community Safety

Sign up to Hertfordshire Constabulary's new 'Community Messaging' and stay in touch with your local police service – **Hear it Direct from Us !**

Community Messaging uses the award-winning Online Watch Link (OWL) to send regular news to anyone with a Hertfordshire home, or work, postal address.

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Living or working in such a safe county, you may not feel the need for more information about policing but you may be interested to hear about a local issue that's been dealt with, such as reducing dangerous driving near a local school, or about offensive graffiti that's been cleared up or even to hear about opportunities in your area to meet and chat to one of your Neighbourhood officers.

After signing up, you will receive one or two messages a fortnight. Simply input your name, address and contact details on line at 'Community Messaging – Hear it Direct from Us' on

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If you are also interested in receiving information from your county council, delivered direct to your inbox, please visit [www.hertsdirect.org/emailalerts](http://www.hertsdirect.org/emailalerts) for more information or to subscribe.

## Croxley Hall Woods – Glades of Tranquillity

Although barely ten minutes walk from All Saints' Church, Croxley Hall Woods are quite unknown to many residents and yet they are a beautiful unspoilt area of mature trees and bluebell woodland, stretching as far as the railway line. The rangers of our Parish Council in collaboration with the woodland management services of Three Rivers District Council and Countryside Management Service have cleared much of the undergrowth and continue to do so each winter; in doing this they have created several beautiful woodland glades suitable for picnics surrounded by the peace and tranquillity of deep woodland habitat. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the first new picnic area was opened, thanks to a generous grant – more and more people are now discovering it, with its state of the art picnic furniture. It is just the place to spend lazy summer evenings watching the woodpeckers, jays and roe deer as they go about their business. As evening draws in the Pipistrelle bats appear, swooping and squeaking as they flash past eating insects.

Many thanks to those who helped with this project, especially Parish Councillor Brading and our own rangers who are responsible for its maintenance. Hopefully if this picnic site is successful it will be followed by many others – another jewel in Croxley's crown!!

*David Wynne-Jones*



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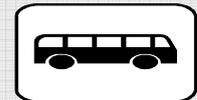
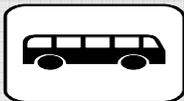
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>12 noon</b>

### 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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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.



And the 2010 winner of the tallest sunflower and the biggest pumpkin is:

**Little Green Junior School**



Harvey Road's sunflower entry

*"We have saved some of the seeds to see if they will grow as big next year"*

**And what did they say about growing the pumpkins and sunflowers and entering the competition?**  
.....

*"It was fun growing them. We are really proud of our enormous pumpkins"*



*"They just grew so fast - much faster than we imagined they would. They are fantastic. They were taking over our School landscape"*



*"The pumpkins looked just like Cinderella's coach"*

*"I enjoyed scooping them out to make them hollow"*



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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.

## Christmas Lights Lancing Way NOW ON!

Paul Lyalls of Big Slam Poetry House and the BBC, who was the first poet to perform at the new Wembley Stadium, switched on the lights on Friday 12th November. Money raised this year is going to the charities 'Introduction of Poetry into Schools' and 'Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital'. Please go and have a look at the wonderful display and give generously to this charity.

**Please note that the Parish Council offices will be closed from 12noon on Thursday 23 December 2010 and will re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2011**

As part of the New Year Celebrations you are invited to attend

## FIREWORKS ON THE GREEN



Assemble at 11.45 pm.

Fireworks will commence at 12 midnight sharp.

This is a pedestrian event so no provision will be made for car parking.

Free admission - No private fireworks please



## 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

### Little Green

Gardening Club has been very productive since we last wrote about what we get up to. In the spring we decided that we would plant some of the same vegetables as last year and try out some new ones. We planted lettuce, radishes, carrots and beetroot that we had grown before and they have been just as successful this year. We took samples home to try them out – the radishes were not very popular but the rest of the produce was. We grew potatoes again but planted them in the deep black plastic sacks this time. They were successful too.

New vegetables we tried were French beans, onions grown from sets and red cabbages. We also planted some flower seeds and courgettes and sold those plants at our summer fair.

We were given some tomato plants and added them to our plot. They seemed to grow and grow and we received many envious comments from other gardeners who visited our School.

Most of the vegetables and spare plants we have grown were sold at our Open Evening at the end of July. The money we raised will be used to buy seeds for next year's crop!

We also planted some pumpkin seeds for the Parish Council Competition and the plants seemed to go wild. They spread all over our vegetable area and even started to climb up the wall of the School. They have produced some good sized pumpkins which we are looking forward to carving into faces at our next meeting. We gave some to two local Harvest Festivals to add to the decorations and we

have been asked for any left over by keen cooks who want to make pumpkin soup and chutney. We hope we will be given some samples to taste!

We have had some surprise plants growing in our plot too – some that we did not plant. Part of our gardening work involves composting any waste we can and we have used the compost we make to feed the plants. When the classes in School do cookery or the children have their snacks, we collect up the waste and put it into our composting bins. We think that somebody must have had watermelon because we found that two watermelons had grown when we came back from the summer holiday. We also had a pepper plant but there were no peppers on it.

Work has also included planting the big flower pots with bright flowers to make School look more attractive. We also try and keep our herb garden under control by pruning, but that is proving to be a much harder job.

We will soon be having our 'winter break' from Gardening Club but we are already thinking about what we would like to try to grow next year and how we can make the School environment better. We'll tell you about what we decided to do next time.

*Wendy Shafe*  
*Gardening Club Organiser*

### Harvey Road

At the School's Harvest Festival, the Gardening Club showed some of the vegetables we've grown this year. Our produce basket included potatoes, a spaghetti squash, plaits of onions and garlic, runner beans, parsnips and bunches of fragrant herbs. Other notable successes this year were peas, carrots, radishes,

strawberries, blackcurrants and dwarf French beans.

We planted our tomato seedlings into trugs with colourful French marigolds and were rewarded with lots of sweet tasting fruits. For the first time, we grew brassicas producing two cauliflowers and a huge purple sprouting broccoli. The children enjoyed picking and eating the tasty spears straight off the plant. We also had more than 30 Large White Butterfly caterpillars which ate the leaves, got fat and then vanished, all within two weeks!

Not everything was so successful. The Gardening Club and Class 5 harvested their "first early" potatoes in June however the results were very disappointing, perhaps due to frosts in May and a dry June. Our main crop potatoes dug up in September



were better. Our broad bean plants were covered in black fly, although these did provide food for lots of ladybirds and their strange looking black and purple larvae. Sweet corn germinated poorly and the later plants didn't develop proper cobs but we'll definitely try this again next year.

The prolonged hot, dry weather in

June and July made it very difficult to keep the garden sufficiently watered; seedlings struggled to grow into strong plants. When our water butt ran dry we had to carry water from the school buildings. However, we are grateful that Jamie the Ranger has set up a second water butt and the Parish Council have provided us with 75 metres of hose – enough to connect to the nearest outside tap! So we should be able to keep our plants watered and have even better crops for next year's Harvest Festival.

*Christine Cheek*  
*Gardening Club Organiser*

## Yorke Mead

The growing gardens were off to a great start with the initial summer heat. We were very proud of the



variety of produce, and the children were able to harvest strawberries, lettuces, parsley, beetroot, courgettes, spring onions, and peas. We had a few cooking sessions and the children enjoyed their home-grown produce and we were also able to provide the school kitchen with salad items for school dinners.

Then the rain came along with a variety of pests such as fungus and black fly! However, the plants continued to grow well and when the children returned after the summer holidays they harvested some large marrows, runner beans and an abundance of tomatoes. We have had a few delicious apples and blackcurrants, but sadly the peaches succumbed to the wet weather. The Gardening Club has been busy picking the last few crops and clearing the beds ready for a winter mulch. We will have



one more cooking session, and do a few winter jobs such as making bird feeders and nest boxes to encourage the wildlife into the gardens. The gardens will have a few winter sowings such as garlic and leeks, but otherwise we are looking forward to another season after Christmas.

Although it has been a steep learning curve, our successes are 100% down to the enthusiasm of the children.

*Wendy Seabrook*  
*Assistant Head*

## CROXLEY REVELS 2010

The theme chosen by the Parish Council for their stall this year was 'Croxley Green – A Great Place To Grow Up In'.



Our PA, Amanda Taft, created a very comprehensive collage of photos showing people and places in and around Croxley which reflected this theme and attracted a lot of interest.

The Junior Council 's contribution was a map of the new Play Area in Barton Way recreation ground. Their idea, which was to ask for donations to buy shrubs and plants, was very successful and had a lot of enthusiastic donors. The children enjoyed selling the idea to visitors to the stall.

There were free dog bags, maps of the walks around the village and various leaflets of other activities. All this and balloons to send off as well.

Flowers4Croxley raffled 4 hanging baskets with a number of Parish Councillors helping to sell lots of tickets. Our Ranger, Jamie Marlow, kept everyone supplied with hot drinks during what was quite a chilly day. He had arrived at 7.30am to erect the gazebo and remained until 6pm. So thanks to him and all the people who turned up to help, especially the school children, the day was an enjoyable one.

*Cllr Hazel Seeley*

## A look at some of Croxley's oldest Houses

After writing a series of articles in the Parish Pump about trees on The Green, I thought I would write about some of the older houses and buildings in Croxley which may be unknown to many residents.

### Waterdell House

This is a large family home located at Little Green, in Little Green Lane. It has been owned by Peter and Janet Ward since 1953, where they have raised their family of 8 children.

It began as a modest house and appears on a map of the area dated 1766. The original thick outer walls are now interior walls, where the house has been extended over time, becoming a large house by the Victorian era. Originally it had a chapel opposite, located in the area which is now a small wood. At one

time, the extensions to the house included incorporating 2 windows from the chapel into the western side of the house. It would also



appear that another pair of windows, or perhaps the chapel door, were used as the new front door of Waterdell House which can be seen on the roadside today. Little Green Lane was the main road through to Watford and so the chapel would have been in an ideal position. I do not know when this chapel was demolished or fell into disrepair, but there is certainly no

sign of it now. Janet remembers that, when her children were small, she filled in a very large hole in the wood, probably left behind from the days of the chapel, to stop the children falling into it as they played there.

Waterdell House was owned by Mr. Woolrych (who also owned Croxley House) until April 1921, when it was sold to the Forbes family. It was requisitioned by the National Fire Service (NFS) during the Second World War who used it as a dormitory for the firemen. A bomb-proof telephone exchange was built in the grounds and there still remain a huge number of telephone cables beneath the floor around the house. Women based there during this time told of the times they would look out of the upper windows of the telephone exchange, across the wall surrounding what is now the field behind Croxley House, where they would wave to the American

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soldiers based there!

In May 1945 it was sold to a Mr. Bagshawe who occupied the entire property until June 1949 when it was advertised as one house for the last time. This advert included a



The front door - notice the chapel window shapes

cottage and paddocks (later to become Coachman's cottage) as well as the main house. It appears that it was sold to developers who split the property into the 3 existing properties: Waterdell House, Little Waterdell House and the separate Coachman's Cottage.



Waterdell House was bought in 1950 by 'Foot and Lines', the 'Foot' being the brother of Michael Foot, who then sold it again in 1953 to Janet and Peter Ward, the present owners. Having looked at many properties in London and the surrounding area they almost didn't look at this house, but the fact that

the advert said that it was part of one house which had been split into 2 caught their eye. Janet says that the hallway was what really sold it to her, a real welcoming part of the house, as well as the house having a feeling of spirituality. Little has been done to the house in the 57 years in which they have lived there, still retaining many of the features of the original house. If you look at the outside of the house it is clear which bits have been



added, and the windows on the east and west side are slightly different.

When they moved in to the house, the extensive garden was very overgrown. Janet knew nothing about gardening but was to learn an enormous amount from her gardener, Mr. Bradley. This knowledge has enabled Janet to have a beautiful rear garden, with fine trees, a topiary holly hedge and



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herbaceous borders. As a child, living across the road, I remember spending hours playing in the gardens and picking numerous raspberries from the fruit cages during the summer.

The garden is still evolving today, with sculptures being added, a secluded pond area, pathways through the trees and a wooden fort which Janet has built for her grandchildren to enjoy, with views over the fields of Redheath. There are two very large oak trees: one which is probably well over 200 years old; and a second, a sapling from the first, which Janet retained when she cleared the garden shortly after they moved to the house. Each year, at the end of June, the gardens are open as part of the National Gardens Scheme and are well worth a visit, they are stunning! The date for next year is Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June so put it in your



diary: enjoy tea and cake, buy plants for your garden and explore this hidden gem on the outskirts of Croxley!

If you have any further information about this house or the chapel, or about any other old buildings in Croxley which would help me for future issues, please contact the Parish Office.

*Cllr Janet Martin*

(with thanks to Janet and Peter Ward for sharing the information and their memories with me)

## Spooky!!

Just as the last edition of the Parish magazine had been printed and was being delivered to residents with a request from the Parish Council for old photos of Croxley Green, what happens? Former Councillor Ernest Burdis (1986 - 1994) came into the office with an old photo album – definitely spooky, as he did not

know we had requested old photos!

Ernest had taken some photos and has given the copyright to the Council to reproduce them. He has a bank of photos which he has said we can have and we are so looking forward to having such a historical picture of Croxley Green.

So far, some of this particular

pictorial record relates to the Parish Council office being installed in 1993 – we are hoping for older pictures as well.

It seems from the pictures that at the time there was much commotion in Barton Way and Community Way as the two halves of the building were being delivered – note the Police escort!

So from grass to building....



2 April 1993

Coming up to the last bend, will they make it?

5 April 1993

Two halves almost become one! Nearly there.



1 May 1993

The Grand Opening of the new Parish Council Office

## Editorial Committee

David Allison (Clerk)  
Cllr Christine Jefford  
Cllr Janet Martin  
Cllr Hazel Seeley  
Cllr Wendy Shafe  
Amanda Taft



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