



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by
**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Editor: John Hedges
Assisted by: Molly Hedges

No. 164
Autumn 1992

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**Material published in this newsletter does
not necessarily represent the views of the
Association nor its Committee.**

EDITORIAL

I have little to say this time except to appeal to those who may be interested to offer themselves for co-option to the Association's Committee. As all Parish Councillors are ex-officio, our committee as printed above looks large but we are short of active members, who are not also Parish Councillors and who can bring new views and fresh insights to our deliberations. We meet about six times a year and are complementary to the Parish Council but in no way subservient or always in agreement. Help us to be independent. If you are interested please ring the Chairman on 778544, he will be pleased to hear from you.

Croxley Green Road Safety Committee are also looking for new members. Guess who the Chairman is? Yes, you are right, it is Mike Humphreys again. If this appeals to you more, then do give him a ring.

Both of us are listened to from on high, so

make yours a voice that is heard. Do it now - don't wait too long.

CROXLEY CAMERA CLUB

"SCENES & PLACES" CALENDAR

The members of Croxley Camera Club have published a 1993 calendar "Scenes and Places in SW Herts". It is now available and in the same format as the very successful calendars of previous years, that carried pictures of the local area taken by the club.

The full colour picture for each month can be separately used as a postcard. Where else can you get a calendar and twelve colour postcards for just £2.00? Yes! Two pounds and that includes an envelope for you to send copies to your friends.

The calendar is on sale, directly from club members and at local libraries, as well. The club has also made them available, at a discount, to other local organisations for them to sell on their own behalf.

This project is one small aspect of the activities of Croxley Camera Club. We are a friendly club and believe that photography is fun. We are always happy to welcome new members. So, if you are interested in photography, why not come along. We meet every Wednesday evening at St. Oswald's Church hall in Malvern Way, Croxley Green from September to May. For more information ring the Club secretary on 0895 822202.

**Mrs L S Loughton
Honorary Secretary**

CHURCH ARCHIVES

We have been very fortunate that in Croxley Green we have a number of people who put pen to paper. One of these was F.J.T. Heckford who worked at Dickinson's Croxley Mill. He wrote "Memoirs of a Native" and from that I have extracted the following:-

November 15th. 1895, at a meeting in the old Croxley Mill dining room -Manager, Charles Barton Smith - introduced the subject of a club and reading room for Croxley Green. The Directors were in favour of it and we voted for it unanimously. The writer acted as Secretary and his notes are the minutes of this foundation Meeting. His press notice was headed "Village Club" and ended with the flowery passage "***This Meeting which had thus decided to inaugurate a new era in 'Darkest Croxley' dispersed.***" To fellow servants he was suspect author of all Croxley Green news in all the Watford papers, and patriotic Richard Sanders, founder father of the local united patriots Benefit Society, vociferously censured

him for his slander of the village.

32 Milestone Field Cottage was converted into the Institution and on December 2nd 1895, Resident Director Charles Little named it "The Dickinson Institute" and declared it open. Charles Barton Smith appointed its officers. He took that of Chairman of Committee and Treasurer and appointed the writer Secretary of the Entertainment Committee and General Committeeman.

The writer again acted as secretary and his notes are the first minutes of the Dickinson Institute. Our Government was an autocracy of all male Dickinson servants under Charles Barton Smith. We voted a women's club part of the Institution and made a display of women's right to equality with men, by giving them an equal number of seats on the General Committee.

A new Institute was built with hall, stage, green and dressing rooms, kitchen, offices; men's club with dry canteen, and was opened on November 5th 1896 with a concert inside and incidental fireworks outside.

The Guildhouse became the centre of village life where many plays, dinners and exhibitions were held and Mr Heckford believes no other mill and factory working class community carried out a more comprehensive programme of activities more successfully or obtained a higher standard of excellence. Our Industrial Exhibitions lasted a week. They were unique, for their commercial manufactures and latest scientific inventions, in actual operation. Among these the Model Airship, Rontzen Rays and in 1902 Wireless telegraphy Temporary Science rooms were the green and righthand dressing rooms - therein the writer "The Genial Science Master", occasionally dispensed popular science.' 1906 - Mr and Mrs Heckford commenced a series of children's theatricals, performed by children at the Children's Annual New Year Entertainment. In the Institute they adapted versions of well known tales - taught and trained their own children (who had inherited their maternal grandfather's stage talent) and other children to perform

Please send advertisements to:
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John Hedges
44 Ludlow Way (0923-222715)
by January 1st if possible

in 1907 "Beauty and the Beast", 1908 "Snow White", repeated by request on February 5th and again by request in June to a matinee of Croxley Green mothers.

* * * * *

I was given, sometime ago, a programme of the Annual Mill Dinner held on Friday, March 10th 1899. As you might expect, I look upon this as an item of great interest. It is now some 93 years old and I will, over these next months, photocopy this document and perhaps makes it into a display. Before I close, the Dickinson Institute was in New Road at junction with Dickinson Square. Also I should add that Mr. Heckford was in the choir at All Saints for many years. Once again - if you have any programmes, photographs etc. about the institute - I would be pleased to hear from you.

Norman Spring. Archivist All Saints Church Tel: 0923 776933

The following is culled from our predecessor "The Croxley Argus" No. 2 dated July 1939, Price 2d. (Quarterly) Free to members

HISTORIC FACTS OF CROXLEY GREEN

Croxley Green seems to have been a settlement of some sort since early times, but its history until almost modern times is practically unknown. If that old sarsen stone by the Church Hall could only speak, it might tell of mighty doings in the past, or (what is more interesting) of ordinary doings of ordinary people who lived near it. But it remains silent, and so we are driven to consult Cussans and Clutterbuck, the county historians, and the Victoria History of the Counties of England. Unfortunately they do not tell us very much of the early history of the place. There is a reference to a certain Richard de Croxley in the records of St. Albans Abbey, I believe. He was a man who held a knight's fee of the Abbey of St. Albans in 1166, and another mention of Richard de Croxley (perhaps the same man, or his son) occurs in 1210. I have not seen the actual record, so cannot say how Croxley is spelt. In the Red Book of the Exchequer, Croxley is mentioned as Crokesleya and this spelling occurs frequently until 1280, along with various spellings Crokeslege and Crokesleigrene in 1349, and this spelling seems to have been in vogue till 1396. In 1556 Croxley is called Croxleyhall Meade, but in 1750 this had become Crosley Green. This spelling was retained apparently until about 1820.

In "The Place Names of Hertfordshire," published by the English Place Name Society, the derivation of Croxley is given thus, "Croc's clearing," though Cussans say that the family of Creke or Croke held a manor here of the Cellarer of the Abbey of St. Albans. He says that this family gave its name to the village. Actually, of course, the Saxon Crox may have been the

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ancestor of the mediaeval Crokes. Chenies and Latimer were given their names by families of the same names who were local landowners.

We cannot, I think, flatter ourselves that primitive man honoured Croxley with his presence except perhaps on his hunting expeditions. Until Roman times at least the valleys of the Thames and its tributaries were heavily forested and the haunt of bears and wolves. Primitive man did not dwell here, as he preferred the shelter of caves in which to make his permanent home. It seems that as man learned to use stone tools he became a dweller on the downlands and hills. It is interesting to note, too, that as men became skilled in the knowledge and use of metals they seem to have lived chiefly on the hills, as, for example, at Maiden Castle in Dorset. In every county in the British Isles almost there are stone circles, Cromlechs, standing stones, tumuli, camps and other signs of habitation, and these are almost without exception on high ground, as on Dartmoor, in the Chilterns, on the Cotswolds, in Wales, Derbyshire and in Scotland.

But like King Charles's head the Croxley stone comes in again. It is as I have said, a Sarsen, and one of the circles at Stonehenge is composed of Sarsens. The late Alfred Watkins of Shrewsbury made a special study of similar stones in the counties Shropshire, Radnor and Herefordshire, and his conclusion was that they marked important junctions of trackways. He also found a number of place names with "Scot" in them frequently near trackways. Our stone is not far from the brow of Scots Hill. Personally, I am of the opinion that the Croxley stone

marks the junction of two trackways. One of these, I believe, kept to the high ground on the Copthorne side of the Chess, through Micklefield Green on to the Sarratt camp overlooking Belsize before going on to Bovingdon and Berkhamsted Castle, which like many castles rose on much earlier earthworks. Continuing south-south-eastwards, this track seems to have crossed the Colne and gone to Eastcote and Northolt to cross the Thames in the region of Brentford (where Caesar is said to have crossed the river).

The other part of the "Cross" may have been a trackway coming out of the marshy Colne Valley (an almost impassable swamp in winter from Park Street to Uxbridge within living memory). Watkins had an idea that the "Scot" part of the name in "Scotland's End," "Scots Hill" and so on had something to do with fire. (A garden-bonfire in Gloucestershire is still a "scoutch" - fire.) Certainly some sort of beacon would be essential to travellers crossing such a marsh if they were to find their way at all. Perhaps the beacon was at the top of Scots Hill. In a way it is a pity that we cannot say definitely very much about the past history of Croxley Green. Yet the very fact that so little is known about the place adds zest to the pursuit of knowledge about it. Perhaps one day we shall be in a position to know a little more definitely the place of Croxley Green in history as more research with local records is carried on, or perhaps a chance discovery of ancient remains in a field or garden will lead to more exact knowledge of other folk who lived at Croxley Green.

R.W. Innocent

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

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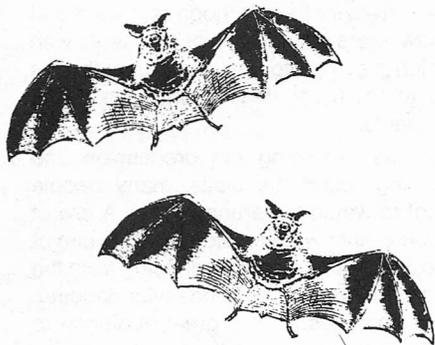
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You certainly meet some interesting people down a pothole!

I enjoyed an evening potholing in King's Langley recently, helped along the course by an experienced potholer by the name of Patty Briggs. Patty is the Regional Officer for the Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) Bat Project.

She is very concerned about the conservation of bats. Here are a few facts about bats: They are the only flying mammals. British Bats only eat insects and they act as a natural insecticide. They can live up to 30 years. The pipistrelle, our commonest species, weighs about 5g (less than a 2p coin). It fits into a matchbox, but can spread its wings to about 20cms.

Patty has agreed to come and talk at the Croxley Green Resident's Association meeting on October 14th, at 8.00pm. Please come along to this Open Meeting - everyone is welcome. I am sure that it will prove to be a very interesting and important meeting, to dispel the myth and consider the reality of general bat decline. **See you there!**

Alison Wall - Secretary.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Croxley Green Society, I should like to express a very sincere thankyou to John Hedges, Graham Judge and all their team for the time and effort that they put into making Croxley Revels such a happy, family fun day for all concerned. From personal experience, I know that it just does not all happen!

This year, I think that we saw the most people ever on the Green. The Revels have now established themselves as an event, not only for the people to visit and enjoy, but also an occasion to meet old friends and acquaintances.

Here's looking forward to even bigger and better things for 19th June 1993!

Yours faithfully,

**Mike Dix - Chairman,
Croxley Green Society**

CHURCH CENTENARY

The year 1992 is an important landmark in the history of the church which meets in Fuller Hall in Fuller Way as we shall, in October, be celebrating our one-hundredth birthday.

The church had its origins in what was virtually a shed at the top of Scots Hill near to where the old windmill still stands.

Four years later, in 1896, a brick building was erected on the opposite side of the road and this building, known as the Gospel Hall, became the home of the church for forty-eight years. In February 1944 it was almost completely flattened by a land-mine. Only the front wall, on which three large metal texts from the Bible were fixed, remained standing.

Until the purchase of the present site in Fuller Way, services were held in Dickinson Guildhouse and in people's homes and we were very grateful to our friends at the Methodist Church for the loan of their schoolroom on Sunday mornings.

As soon as possible after the war, the present site in Fuller Way was purchased and a pre-fabricated, corrugated iron church hall was brought in Watford and re-erected on this land. This remained our home until the opening of our present building in 1959 and the replacement of the metal building by a more permanent extension some years later.

We are grateful to God for His goodness to us for so many years and we are planning to hold a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, October 11th. at 3.00pm - do join us if you can.

We should also be pleased to see you at special services which we are arranging from Tuesday - Friday, October 13-16 at 8.00pm each evening. For the children there will be special activities at 6.30pm each evening including Monday October 12th.

Eric J. Plumridge - Fuller Hall.

GIS - A - JOB

The first Scout Group in Croxley Green was formed in 1928, was known then as the 39th South West Herts and was led by the very capable and well respected Arthur Barton-Smith, known to all his Scouting friends as "KAL".

In 1970 the 1st Croxley amalgamated with the 2nd Croxley (St. Oswalds) and became the Croxley Green Scout Group with its headquarters in Watford Road. Since then it has gone from strength to strength (with a few hiccups).

We now have a Beaver Colony (boys 6-8 yrs), three cub Packs (8-11 yrs), two Scout Troops (11-15½ yrs) and a Venture Scout Unit (15½-20 yrs). All these sections are run by our hard working leaders who will be very glad for some extra help, for instance - supervising simple cooking, helping with craft and painting, or helping to run games - nothing too difficult. So if you would like to help the young boys of Croxley Green enjoy themselves, please give me a ring. You do not need any experience (although if you were a Scout or Guide it would help), we provide all the training and if you join us as a helper and then decide, after a while, to join the uniformed section we provide a FREE uniform.

PLEASE give it some thought, we have a very long waiting list for Beavers and Cubs. Who knows, if we can get enough offers of help, we might be able to start another Beaver Colony or Cub Pack thereby keeping even more boys happy. Our immediate need is for help with Beavers on Thursdays 5 - 6.15pm and Scouts on Fridays 7.15 - 9.15pm, but we would be grateful for offers of **any** help at all. Please call at the Scout Hall in Watford Road on any evening or telephone me at home after 6.00pm. I look forward to many evenings on the telephone.

The number to call is 0923 779747.

**Martin Harris - Group Scout Leader.
Croxley Green Scout Group.**



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MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL COMMUNITY VOICE

Under the National Health and Community Act 1991, Mount Vernon Hospital was allowed to become a Trust Hospital. There is no obligation under the Act for the directors or other management of the Trust to consult with the community on their plans for the future of the Hospital. Yet, under the Act, the Trust now owns the hospital buildings and the land, and can decide which health services it will offer the community. To bridge the consultation gap, the **Mount Vernon Community Voice** was formed.

Membership of the **Voice** is made up of representatives of many organisations - Community Health Councils, Residents' Associations, local associations (such as Age Concern and the Alzheimer's Disease Society), two or three churches etc., who meet once a month at the hospital. At each meeting a director of the Trust speaks of the plans for the hospital, producing charts and diagrams. Discussion follows, the **Community Voice** aims to represent the community views to the hospital management, to monitor future developments on the Mount Vernon site to ensure that they are in the best interest of the community, and to report back to the community on the progress of the Hospital Trust. Details are received of building plans, policy plans and consultants' waiting lists. A small executive committee reports back to the main committee of the **Voice**.

Croxley Green Residents' Association was invited to send a representative at the end of 1991 and a report is made at the committee meetings of the Association. Of particular interest to members of the Voice has been the future of the Accident and Emergency Department. The Royal College of Surgeons is unwilling to recognize a department which has no permanent consultant in charge. At present the A & E department sees at least 25,000

people annually. A correspondence has been going on for some time between the chairman of the Voice, the hospital management and the Royal College of Surgeons. There have been reassurances from the hospital management about staffing the department, but at the moment there is still some uncertainty.

Although Hillindon is by far the largest "purchaser" of what are termed "consultant episodes" and hospital services, SW Herts is also a large "purchaser," and a member of the **Voice** committee is in touch with the SW Herts Health Authority. Rickmansworth and Chorleywood Residents' Associations also send representatives to the monthly meetings.

The management of the hospital obviously want to make a success of their role but, given the immense public interest in the NHS, a watchdog organization, such as the **Community Voice**, serves a very useful purpose.

Barbara Lloyd - Committee Member

REVELS '92

The 20th June was a date not to be missed by the community of Croxley Green. It was the annual **Revels** day, where most of the residents gathered on the Green to see floats, stalls and arena shows.

The day started off with the crowning of the Princess and the opening ceremony, the princess being Michelle Crilly of Yorke Mead School accompanied by Lana Fabb, Clare MacIntosh and David Whitby. The crowning ceremony was performed by Sue Durham, our new librarian, and many thanks go to her for doing so.

The procession left the Green at about the same time as the arena events and stalls commenced, this was just after 2.00pm. As some of you may have noticed we changed the procession route slightly.

The procession as usual was very well turned out with many spectators. The floats ranged from buses to Slimmers in Wonderland with the Pied Piper of

Hamelin and many, many more plus music from the Boys Brigade and Watford Hospital Radio.

As usual the British Red Cross provided the first aid for the afternoon and, as far as I know, there were no major accidents with which they had to deal. But many thanks go to them for dealing with the minor incidents.

Between watching the procession and strolling round the stalls, many people went to watch the arena events. A few of these events were music from the Joan of Arc Jazz Band. Maypole dancing from the Brownies as well as Medaeval dancing. The clown also got a great audience to which to perform, with laughs coming from both the old and the young.

I overheard one spectator say: "I think the Revels is a big success and an enjoyable day is had by all". I think everyone should agree.

Whilst you are remembering what a great day it was, I think you should spare a thought for the organizers. The Revels Committee are the roots for the Revels. Every person on the committee had something to do, and they all got on and did their tasks, whether great or small. For example the outfits for the princess and page are all hand made every year for the Revels. This takes a lot of time as they have to be made, fitted and adjusted according to the needs. The procession is accounted for in many ways as well. For example the order, the route and making sure that there is not too much of the same thing. Other people measure out the Green and plans are drawn up as to where each stall is going to be put. Some other members of the Committee are in charge of advertising for the programme and it extends right down to the people who make the teas for the performers in the arena. Every little bit is worked out in some way or another.

Unitl next year **Saturday 19th June**.

Caroline Hill



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PARISH COUNCIL

By the time this newsletter reaches you, you will have received the second edition of *The Parish Pump*. After some difficulties last time we decided to utilize the delivery service offered by The Free Observer and hopefully this time you will have received a copy. If however it has managed to elude your door, please telephone me and I will try to arrange a copy for you.

It is our aim to communicate with you our constituents, so that we can tell you what we are doing on your behalf and also to seek your views on matters of concern that come before us.

Our latest issue of The Pump will tell you about the progress of the building of a Parish Office where you will be able to call in person. As soon as it is available please use it, that is its reason for being.

In the meantime you are welcome to attend our meetings which are publicized in the Library and on TRDC notice boards. If you have a concern you are welcome at our monthly Council Meeting which is held on the last Thursday of each month at the Library starting at 8.00pm. You may, near the start of the meeting, address the Council and what you have to say will be noted and become part of our business. It is your council - use it.

John Hedges - Chairman
Croxley Green Parish Council

MEALS ON WHEELS

You will all have heard of Meals on Wheels - perhaps have a parent, grandparent or neighbour who receives them. It is an excellent service and enables many older people to stay in their own home when their resources are failing. The meals are cooked at the Red Cross Centre in Barton Way and are then taken by W.R.V.S. volunteers to the people whom we serve. We have a monthly rota and two people take the dinners out each day. However this valuable service is threatened because of a shortage of volunteers to carry out the deliveries.

Please would each of you consider whether you could give time, once a month, to this local service. I need urgently several pairs, one with a car and one to help. Delivery takes about two hours - 11.45am to 1.45pm

Will you ring me on 772016 and I can tell you more. We shall be old one day and may need the service!

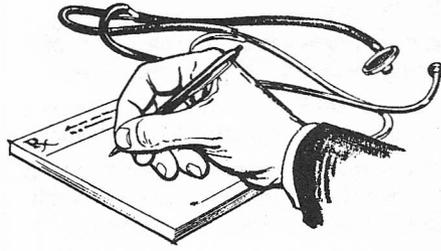
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CROXLEY HEALTH



Some Seasonal Suggestions.

Now that Summer has gone, those of us with hay fever and asthma may be able to draw breath and sigh (sneeze and wheeze free!) with relief that the pollen has gone with it. The season of allergies is over but autumn brings with it the threat of coughs, colds and if we are unlucky, influenza. But if we must succumb to the annoying bugs of autumn and winter, what can be done to keep their symptoms to a minimum and avoid serious complications?

Like dealing with any form of trouble, the first principle is avoidance. Most coughs and colds are caused by respiratory viruses, caught from other people if we breathe in air containing droplets of moisture contaminated with virus particles that others have sneezed out! The most infectious stage of the common cold is the first few days when our noses are streaming but before the thick catarrh develops, and at this stage we can help other people by keeping out of the way, and certainly by not visiting those, such as asthmatics, diabetics or people with chronic bronchitis, for whom a simple virus may cause more serious problems. People who smoke, and their babies and young children get more ear, nose and throat infections and are more prone to complications like bronchitis and pneumonia. Cutting down or stopping smoking helps avoid these infections - it really does work!

If a cold does develop, the symptoms are likely to last a week or so, and nothing can cure it. But paracetamol is always a good standby to bring down a high temperature and ease aching muscles and joints. Some people find decongestant tablets or

sprays helpful to dry up a streaming nose but they do not suit everybody and the nasal sprays can cause a nasty rebound congestion if used for too long. Antibiotics are sadly useless against the common cold (or any other virus come to that) and are best avoided unless there are special reasons for prescribing them in exceptional cases.

But what about flu? Influenza is caught in the same way as a simple cold but the symptoms are much more dramatic. There is usually a high fever associated with a cough, and severe aching all over. The patient feels very ill and weak, soon having to go to bed, which is the best place. It is definitely not a good idea to try to carry on working and true influenza often requires two weeks off work for a full recovery. Again paracetamol or aspirin for adults who are not allergic to it, is very helpful in lowering the temperature and reducing the aching, and lots of drinks help to replace the fluid lost by sweating. Many people with flu will want to see their doctor and a check up is particularly important for those with chronic ill health and the elderly. Antibiotics do not work against the flu virus either, but are sometimes needed to treat bacterial, secondary infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Avoidance is certainly the best policy with flu. Easier said than done perhaps, but with influenza there is at least a secret weapon to stave off or reduce its severity. Flu vaccine is produced every year to combat the strains of the virus around at the time, and gives 70% protection against the illness. It does not suit everyone, can have side effects, and it certainly will not prevent the common cold. But it can prevent what is a nasty and serious infection, and is particularly recommended by the government for people who suffer with chronic health problems such as diabetes, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, heart trouble and so on, and for the elderly and those who live in close communities where the virus may spread more easily. Flu vaccine is a single dose given in the autumn, and is usually available from your GP from October onwards. Supplies are often short and doctors try to make sure that it is available for those who have a particular need for it. If you think that might be you, get in touch with your surgery soon!

Have a healthy winter

Nigel Corp - General Practitioner

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HISTORY - CAN YOU HELP?

Two local enthusiasts (both Parish Councillors) are seeking to build up a history of Croxley Green, so that a record of the Parish is preserved for present and future generations and which could be used by local groups in the form of slide shows. We have a certain amount of material, but would greatly appreciate the loan or gift or anything which represents Croxley Green's past. We promise to treat any contributions carefully and return safely to donors. If you can help please contact:-

**Ernest Burdis, 17 New Road - 770599
or Margaret Pomfret - 720088**

LIBRARY COLUMN

By the time you read this column I will have been librarian at Croxley Green for almost a year. I have been getting to know lots of our regular borrowers during that time.

Those of you who use the children's section will have noticed some of the changes, especially in the area for younger children. By moving the old workbench which took up lots of room (it took six of us to move it!) we've made much more space for our younger borrowers.

For the first time for many years we held activities for children during the summer holidays. "Merlin's Quest" - a morning of shield making, stories and games proved very popular as did our special storytime for 5-9 year olds. Also nearly 20 children took part in our "Web of Enchantment" reading challenge and those who read and reviewed 16 books, throughout the holidays, received a special certificate.

Now --- your chance to look behind the scenes at the library. We are holding an "Open Afternoon" on Thursday 29th October from 2.30 until 5.00pm. We plan to have a story and craft session for children (it is half-term) and an introduction to our local studies collection. I hope that Stephen Moore, our regional librarian, will be able to attend together with members of our Local Library Advisory Group, in order to answer questions and listen to comments about the library service.

So come along and join us. You don't have to be a member of the library and as an added inducement, free refreshments will be provided. How can you resist?!

Sue Durham - Community Librarian.

The Parish Church of St. Oswald Malvern Way

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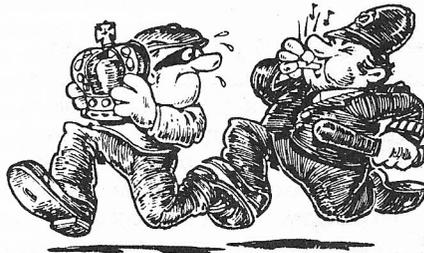
CROXLEY CRIME NEWS

Firstly, I trust that all those who have had their holidays had an enjoyable time and for those that still have theirs to look forward to may I wish you a happy and enjoyable break.

Now to update you with a little of the happenings Police wise in Croxley Green.

Pc Harry HALE is leaving us to take up a new position at Watford Police Station.

I'm sure that you will all join me in thanking him for all his efforts in the past and wishing him every success for the future.



Crime Trends

Sadly I have to inform you all that crime yet again is on the increase. Most of all the crime within the parish is related to Motor vehicles, the largest number of offences being that of theft from within the vehicles which is normally that of the radio being taken. There are of course the unsuccessful attempts to add to these where damage is caused in an effort to steal. This type of crime amounts to about 45% of all crime in this area. The next worrying offence is that of cycle thefts which is on the increase where, not a couple of days go by without another reported incident. These cycles are not just being stolen from by the roadside but from gardens, garden sheds and the Railway Station. Some of the cycles stolen were in fact locked and secured but this has not seemed to have deterred the thief. It has still come to notice that most of the cycles stolen have not been coded, so lets have an all out effort. If you are a cycle owner get them marked as soon as possible so at least those that are recovered can be returned to their rightful owners. The service is free and can usually be done by attending your local Police Station between 10am and 12 midday on Sundays.

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I am pleased to report that there does not appear to be an increase in the number of reported burglaries, but lets not get too complacent, and keep a watchful eye out and report anything or anyone you consider as suspicious.

It has come to my attention yet again, that our elder citizens are still being conned/cheated by persons knocking on the door offering to carry out the odd job or two and, on completion, charging an exorbitant amount for the supposed work. There has been the odd occasion where the price has been questioned and payment refused only to be met with abuse and threats to undo all work carried out so beware. I ask all of you, if you see these persons or hear of them in our area, make a note of their names, vehicles, and brief descriptions so that they can be circulated to all the neighbourhood watch coordinators and hopefully, we can at least make it hard for them to con our elderly citizens.

New Developments

As from September 1st, Watford and Three Rivers Division will be implementing the Unit Beat System of Policing.

What this means to you as the Public, is that you should now see more Policemen back on the Beat. Croxley will show an increase in Police manpower in real terms made up as follows; I will be remaining as your Neighbourhood/Community Policeman, backed up by a Unit Beat Car solely to cover the Croxley Green Parish and additionally, a Foot Beat Officer whenever resources permit. So hopefully, we will see a gradual decrease in the number of reported crimes in the Croxley Green area.

Pc 1047 R.COBEY



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