



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

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**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

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Assisted by: Molly Hedges

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

Please send advertisements to:-
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by January 1st if possible.

EDITORIAL

In our last edition we appealed for candidates to offer themselves for election to the Parish Council. We managed to raise nine candidates, three for each ward and, thanks to your support, all nine were elected. They are all coming to understand the workings of the Parish Council and, each in their own way, are beginning to be effective in this new role. Necessarily, the role of the Parish Council is restricted - it being a third tier of local government but, within the limitations, we have proved and will continue to prove a worthwhile part of the local scene.

Our Parish Councillors cover a broad spectrum of the local scene and the new blood is very welcome. Several projects precede their term of office, such as the Craft Fair which has just taken place as I write. Despite the weather a very good weekend, ably supported by our councillors. There are the first glimmerings of new projects which need details put on the bare bones and this is where their wide knowledge of the local scene will come in useful. In planning terms the proposed development on the OMT site will take all our powers of persuasion to limit the effects on our local infrastructure. It should be stressed that our role can only be advisory but, with your support, minds can be changed. I hope that you will continue to support us as we try to preserve our village culture and try to improve what we have.

Once again, this edition of the *Resident* has been a joy to put together. Our regular contributors have once again come up trumps and new contributors have come forward particularly regarding the Millennium. Our imagination has been fired and it is hoped that the celebrations on the Green, both on New Year's Eve and at the *Revels* in the Summer, will be well supported and worthy of the celebrations which took place on past national occasions. If you can help in reminiscences please respond to the appeals. Do you remember street parties for VE and VJ Days, Coronations and other celebrations. Did you take part? Were you there? We know that Kilroy was but were you?

If you have memories send them to the Millennium Memories Committee. Items can also be included in the *Resident*. Don't delay - do it now!!!

DISTEMPER

Distemper is a very nasty viral disease that is usually fatal for most dogs should they become infected. There is no cure. Your dog's only salvation is that they are protected against this deadly disease with their normal vaccination. So they are initially immunised as a puppy to protect them against distemper. Then every year their levels of protection are boosted with the annual vaccination.

So why am I mentioning this? Well I must admit that I have never seen a dog with distemper and this is probably due to the fact that the majority of dog owners routinely vaccinate their dogs. For those owners that don't vaccinate their dogs, they are protected because most owners do vaccinate their dogs. This is called the "flock effect" However a colleague of mine, in Garston, astonished me the other day when he said that he had diagnosed a case of distemper in a dog. The dog was an older dog that had been vaccinated as a pup but had not had any booster vaccinations. So why had this dog developed distemper at such an old age? How had the dog become infected? Well my initial thoughts are that the dog was no longer immunised/protected and it had come into contact with a dog that was shedding the virus and became infected. Obvious! The basic facts are that most dogs that become infected develop a very acute form of distemper and die. However there are several strains of the distemper virus and some of these only cause very mild symptoms such as kennel cough. So a fit and healthy dog, that is fully vaccinated, which then becomes infected with a mild to moderate strain of the distemper virus, will probably not be affected at all. They may just have a transient bout of mild non-specific illness. In the case of the old dog this very mild virus may have been too much especially if the dog had an underlying illness, e.g. kidney disease, that was not enabling the dog to fight off the infection as normal.

The moral of the story is that this virus is still about in its many forms. The fact is that Garston is not that far away as the crow flies. Most importantly vaccination is still the only real protection against this deadly disease. Sadly, if we all think that the "flock effect" is going to protect our pet and we don't vaccinate, man's best friend could be in big big trouble.

Robert Bird - Veterinary Surgeon

The Churches in Croxley Green warmly invite you to share in our Sunday worship:

The Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane

9.15 am Morning Worship
11.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Worship
Revd David Walker - 231403
Dave Steell - 241191

St Bede's (RC), Baldwins Lane

Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 10.00 am Mass
6.00 pm Mass
Father Bert Haines - 231969

The Methodist Church, New Road

10.30 am Morning Worship
with creche/Sunday School
6.30 pm Evening Service
Revd César Guidi - 774011
Bookings John Rowe - 234920

All Saints (C of E), The Green

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.40 am Junior Church (2nd & 4th Sunday in month)
9.45 am Parish Eucharist
11.30 am Family Service (3rd Sunday in month)
6.00 pm Evensong
Revd Luke Lee - 772109



St Oswald's (C of E), Malvern Way

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Service (2nd Sunday in month)
Family Eucharist & children's groups (others)
Evening services as advertised
Revd Anne Lovegrove - 232387

REVELS 1999

Dear Sir, May I, through your columns and on behalf of the Croxley Green Society, offer a very sincere thankyou to the members of the Organising Committee for all their effort in organising the Revels and making it such a fun occasion. I should also like to thank all the children and grown-ups who participated, in any way, in the day's events. Thanks also go to our sponsors for their cash support and the Parish Council for provision of toilets.

Despite the Royal Wedding, the crowds came flocking, the rain held off and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

New Year's Eve plans are well ahead for staging Croxley Green's own Millennium Celebrations with Trafalgar Square coming to the Green. The suggestion is that a torch-lit procession should come from all corners of the village to meet together on the Green at about 11.30 pm. Proposals are being put forward for a fireworks display and a mock-up version of Big Ben that can relay the chimes at midnight. Having seen the New Year in together, as a community, everyone would then be able to disperse back to their own celebration parties, or just return home.

Next year's Revels are going to be a special Millennium event on Saturday 24 June 2000. We are hoping to have a mediæval theme complete with jesters, demonstrations of sword fighting and much mediæval mayhem! We hope our local groups, societies and schools will bear this in mind when planning for their stalls and procession floats.

It should be quite a day! Looking forward to seeing you all,
Mike Dix -Chairman - C Green Society.

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LOOKING BACK TO THE FUTURE.

I have been reading many articles from past Residents and came across the following piece. There has been much debate from both sides regarding the future of the Skatepark at the top of Baldwins Lane. I thought a revisit would be of interest to some.

Margaret Pomfret

An article taken from the Resident published **Spring 1978 - No 134** (21 years prior to the opening of the Skatepark April 1999).

SKATEBOARDS

Almost as emotive as the National Front! But whichever side of the fence your sympathies lie, skateboards are here to stay - I can see them in the Olympics! This means directing their good points into socially acceptable channels and controlling their undesirable aspects. There is no doubt that they are a wonderful outlet for young people's energies.

Against any cost which the Council would incur in supplying sites, must be set the enormous saving in the cost of vandalism, the noise and annoyance caused to residents and shoppers, the deaths and injuries caused not only to skaters themselves in road accidents, but casualties caused by them.

Credit must also be given for the "invisible" benefits...character building and self-discipline achieved by participation in a recognised sport with its inevitable competitive element.

Your Council estimates £5,000 to £10,000 for a basic site and up to £70,000 for a comprehensive site.

Fortunately the County Council are being asked to allow school playgrounds to be used during evenings and weekends. A help perhaps, in as much as it will keep some young skaters off the pavements, but what we really need is some waste land with hillocks and hollows concreted over to provide obstacles and challenges to develop skills far beyond skating on the level. Would it really cost £5,000 for this? Could the young people themselves not do a lot towards constructing such a facility - and learn something in the process? Does the Council always have to "provide?" cannot young people be encouraged to participate in "making things possible?"

Has anyone any ideas for a site, how to make one cheaply, how to raise some money? Our Chairman has suggested a lottery. How about paper, or scrap collection? Please let the ideas flow - even a ridiculous idea can sometimes trigger off a thought in someone else's mind.

Note:

The Council - TRDC
Chairman - CG Ratepayers Association

Revels on the Green

Saturday 24th June 2000

Arrangements are well in hand for next years Revels. If you had a stall or float this year then you will receive an entry form in due course. If not, then contact:

John Hedges - 01923 222715.

If you require information on the arena events please contact:

Graham Judge - 01923 442537

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MORE MEMORIES OF JOHN DICKINSON'S MILL

As promised, here are some more memories of Mr Sadler, some of these are 70 years ago. That thought made me realise that when I started there in 1936 is now also some years ago. At 16 one became eligible to do shift work and Mr Sadler jumped at the chance to work on one of the paper making machines. These were monsters, I haven't got the actual size but, if my memory serves me right, they were about 12 feet wide and some 300 feet long. His job was the oiling, wiping the framework with thin paraffin oil, and polishing the brass fittings, on the Calender Roll ends, not forgetting that all the steel parts had to be burnished with emery cloth.

After roughly three years of this, I was promoted to Dryerman and at the age of 19 became, I believe, the youngest ever. No one had died, no one had retired, the two criteria for promotion, but then Arnold McNaughton took over as manager and decided promotion was to be on merit.

As I had been elevated over much older, and long serving, men as well as my fellow juniors, I felt very unhappy. After two weeks Mr McNaughton enquired as to how I was getting on. "Alright, I think". "Think," said Mr Mc Naughton "I pay people to know". I told him of my position and feelings and was told that you only get one chance in life, take it and hang the consequences.

I worked as a Dryerman on No. 3 machine until my call-up in February 1942. All my attempts to join up were baulked by the fact that I was in a reserved occupation. I will skip the painful occasions when, going along the towpath to work the 6.00 pm to 6.00 am shift, I passed the girls going home who gave me white feathers and hurtful comments.

In the Autumn of 1946, resuming on No. 3 machine, later becoming Manager.

During my period as Dryerman, the machine was converted to produce "Evensyde Offset", quite an achievement for John Dickinson had caught up with Thomas Tate, who had been producing this paper for some two years. The advantage of this paper was that it had both sides of equal quality for printing.

After a long time with no raise in pay, I became disenchanted and decided to work elsewhere. I had all but signed a contract to work in a paper mill in Whitewater Rand, South Africa when Mr K Timberlake found out. He persuaded me to stay as he had higher things for me to do.

York Road School Log.

I have been given the Log of this school which is very interesting. For example the following entry dated July 1930:-
July 23rd.

On Wednesday, we held our Annual School Sports on the Dickinson's Sports Ground. The afternoon was fine and the sports a great success. The evening ended with country dancing to the music of a gramophone, recently given to the school by the Parents' Union.

July 30th.

Thirty poor children from St. Mary's Church, Paddington, accompanied by two helpers, came to Croxley Green by invitation of the children. Tea, provided by the children and their parents, was given to all on the Sports Ground, members of the Parents Union acting as waitresses. At 7.00 pm, after final refreshments, our children took the Paddington children back to the Station, each child carrying a bunch of flowers, some fruit and sweets to give to their friends at home.

The Millennium.

This will be the subject for some time to come. Many churches, and other organisations, will have their plans. At All Saints' Church, we have decided to build a new Parish Office and, at the same time, provide a room for the young people to meet. After much hard work, planning permission and a faculty from the diocese has been obtained, it is hoped that they will come into being some time during the year 2000.

As we approach the end of this century, may I thank you all for your help, not only with Church history but also, with local history. Your memories are so important.

Norman Spring - 01923 776933
Archivist - All Saints' Church.



THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS Watford General Hospital

The League of Friends are looking for more Volunteers to help serve in their Tea Shop and Outpatients Tea Bar at Watford General Hospital. Each year the League of Friends raise thousands of pounds for your local hospital. All the money donated provides the wards with vital medical equipment for our patients.

The Tea Bar and Shop open Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.45 am until 4.00 pm. If you have any spare time during the week and would like to come and help, we would be pleased to hear from you. All the volunteers play an invaluable role which is much appreciated by the Trust.

If you would like more information about volunteering for the League of Friends, please contact:-

Vivienne Payne, Voluntary Services/
Fund-raiser Manager - 01923 217307



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COMMUNITY VOICE

The past year has seen much change and development in the local organisation of the NHS, some of it government-led, some of it through the work of individuals, different statutory bodies and the public in general.

Readers Of The Watford Observer will know that the Secretary of State, Frank Dobson, has finally rejected the proposals of the West Herts Health Authority to build a new hospital on a "green-field" site in SW Herts. This means that the future of the Accident & Emergency Departments at Watford General and Hemel Hempstead are assured for the foreseeable future.

The dedicated work of WATCH (Watford Against the Threat to Close Hospitals) and of the Community Health Council, together with the many letters, from individuals and from organisations, to the Minister of State and others have all contributed to the this decision. MPs from Herts and Hillingdon have also been involved. Many letters have gone out from Croxley Green Residents' Association to the Minister of Health, to Health Authorities and other bodies. Our Association is one of the forty organisations which make up the membership of The Community Voice. The "Voice" is now recognised by Hospital Management, CHCs and Local Authorities as a body keen to promote the welfare of the public and the NHS. It continues to campaign to retain the Pædiatric unit at Harefield Hospital. It raised 80,000 signatures in support of retaining the Plastic Surgery and Burns units at Mount Vernon Hospital and succeeded in preventing their move to the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. However, in spite of the desire of the Cancer Unit to retain them and of the plastic surgeons to remain at Mount Vernon, the surgeons themselves and the Community Voice are now resigned to the unit's having to move as long as they can go themselves, en-bloc, with RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust). This is due to the policy of the Royal Colleges.

Perhaps the most important new development in the NHS is the establishment, nation-wide, of local Primary Care Groups (PCGs). Groups have been set up in West Herts (Watford & Three Rivers) and in Hillingdon and Harrow. Although the Health Authorities are still functioning, at present, the PCGs will take responsibility for deciding which services will be provided and where - in hospitals, health centres, clinics and the home. Boards have been set up to run the PCGs. These are made up of doctors, nurses, other health professionals and lay people. The Community Voice, with its access to so many organisations, will seek regular dialogues with these Boards to ensure that the views of the communities are

heard. The chairman of the Voice is a member of the Hillingdon PCG.

The PCGs may wish to become Trusts. It is very important that the public should take a close interest in these, to see that they are run democratically and in the interests of all.

Barbara Lloyd - Voice Rep. CGRA.

We are very grateful to Barbara and her husband, Donald, for the sterling work that they do in representing us on the Voice and in their reports.



LIBRARY COLUMN

As many of you may now be aware, fiction in hardback format is now being bought again. This follows a year during which no hardback novels were bought for any Hertfordshire libraries. Requests can now be taken for hardback titles as well as paperbacks and if a title is not in our stock we can obtain it for you from elsewhere. Thankyou to everyone who donated hardback books to the library during this period. We were fortunate to receive lots of books in almost mint condition. We are always pleased to receive donated books in good condition. If we can't use them ourselves we may pass them on to other libraries or if they are not in good enough condition for our stock we take them to charity shops or sell them in our book sales. Withdrawn books, videos and other items sold in book sales raise much needed income which is ploughed back into the service.

Croxley Green Library now has its own book group which meets on the third Monday of every month. We held our first meeting in March and membership has been growing steadily since then. Group members decide which books we'll read and introduce the title of their choice. I obtain several copies of each title so that hopefully every member can have a copy to read at the same time. Among titles we've discussed so far are Bill Bryson's **The Lost Continent** and **Sophie's World** by Josteen Gaarder. The meetings are very informal and enjoyable and we've all found ourselves reading books that we wouldn't necessarily have chosen and books that we always intended to read. During the next few months we'll be reading and discussing **Captain Corelli's Mandolin**, **Angela's Ashes** and Iris Murdoch's **A Severed Head**. We'll be choosing next year's titles soon and I'm already agonising over my choice as it's difficult to narrow down the selection from the huge number I'd like to read and discuss. We would welcome new members and if anyone is interested in joining the group just come and talk to me about it in the library.

During the Summer we had a very successful *Reading Safari* for children.

Sixty one children completed the challenge by each reading and talking to us about 6 books. Out of these, 30 then went on to complete the Super Challenge which involved reading another 4 books. By the time you read this, the successful 30 will have received certificates and enjoyed a special storytelling and presentation session held at the library.

Finally I'd like to make a plea about reporting problems with faulty videos, compact discs and story tapes. If you have problems playing any of the above items while you have them on loan, please report them to us when you return them so that we can check them ourselves. It helps if you can tell us, for example, which tape in a set is twisted and running backwards so that we only need to check that particular tape.

Sue Durham - Librarian.



ACTivities

a new leisure idea for children in Croxley Green.

Joy and I have been friends for years, firstly when attending the University of Hertfordshire, Wall Hall Campus together and now in working on this exciting venture of creating a recreational drama based programme for children, mainly between the ages of 6 - 9 years, and primarily, living within the locality of Croxley Green.

Joy, with her background as a teacher and from the public sector, has already had experience running a similar programme with great success. Since retiring from Hertfordshire Library Service, and my position as a professional librarian with a specialism for children and young people, we have set up a partnership to produce **ACTivities**, believing strongly that children need the chance to develop through creative play and fun. We use games, improvisation, mime, role-play, drama and stories in a fun way to result in a personal, social, creative and general educational development. Children gain a chance to build up confidence, increase communication skills, express their own ideas and opinions clearly and calmly, develop dexterity and become more self-reliant.

ACTivities is a new leisure idea, running at a local venue for one hour a week on Tuesday afternoons during term time, from 4.30 - 5.30 pm. If you are interested in your children having this opportunity to attend and develop, whilst enjoying themselves, please contact either Joy (01923 720425) or myself Judith (01923 772798) for more information.

ACTivities began on Tuesday 14th September.

Judith Turnbull.

MEDICAL MATTERS

MENINGITIS UPDATE

Every winter we hear and read stories in the media about meningitis. One particular form of the disease, caused by a bacterium called meningococcus, has a frightening reputation because it can take hold quickly and has the power to kill its victims. We all feel vulnerable. We know, and sadly all too often newspaper headlines of family tragedies remind us, that we are not immune to its attack. Up until this year that is.

About the time you get your copy of *The Resident* the first ever national programme to immunise children and teenagers against *group C meningococcal* infection should be under way. At the time of writing we only know the projected plans but some information in advance may be useful.

Some facts:- the *meninges* are the membranes around the brain and spinal cord, and *meningitis* means these membranes have become inflamed, usually because of infection. The causative germs can be viruses or bacteria, and though all can be serious, *bacterial meningitis* is potentially the most dangerous. The *meningococcus*, which exists in three strains (called *groups A, B and C*), is the deadliest. In this country, although still an uncommon disease, the number of cases of meningococcal infection has risen each year, and the proportion of cases caused by the group C strain has risen to 40% of the total. In 1998/99 *group C meningococci* were estimated to have caused 150 deaths out of 1530 cases overall. This is the germ the new vaccine is aimed at.

At this point, a word of clarification (at last I hear you cry). It is usually *meningococcal meningitis* that hits the headlines, but this organism can also get into the bloodstream and cause *meningococcal septicaemia*. It is the septicaemia that causes the famous rash (more about this later), and although both may occur together, it is possible to have meningitis without the rash and *meningococcal septicaemia* without the typical symptoms of meningitis.

So what are the symptoms that we should look out for?

In babies and infants there may be drowsiness and irritability. The child may be off feeds, distressed by being handled, feverish, and perhaps be vomiting or have diarrhoea. In older children and adults there may be vomiting, fever, back or joint pains, and headache. More specific symptoms include neck stiffness and sensitivity to light.

Everyone has heard that meningitis can be associated with a rash (in fact it's really the septicaemia as we have just mentioned). It can come in various guises but the classical rash of *meningococcal septicaemia* can occur anywhere on the body, tends to have a purplish appearance a bit like a bruise, and does not blanch when pressed. This is the basis of the "glass test" you may have heard about. If you press the side of a clear tumbler against the spots they do not go white but stay just the same purplish colour. The presence of this type of rash, in an ill child or adult, really is a medical emergency. Call the doctor straight away or if you prefer take the patient straight to a hospital Accident and Emergency department.

You can tell from the above that diagnosing these infections in their early stages can be difficult. Most parents are used to their children getting infections from time to time, often with a temperature for a day or two. How do you tell, especially with a very young child, that this time it could be something more serious? There is no smart answer. One big clue is that children (and adults) with any type of meningitis, but particularly meningococcal infection, tend to get rapidly more and more ill. A child with a temperature who gets more irritable and drowsy over a few hours or so is very worrying and needs medical attention quickly. With babies and infants, their parent's instinct about how ill they are is very important. Ring the surgery and ask for your child to be seen as quickly as possible. You will not do any harm by taking the child out of doors, so it is usually better not to wait until a doctor can call. If the patient gets worse after seeing the doctor, contact the surgery again. Prompt treatment makes a real difference.

But even better is prevention.

One kind of bacterial meningitis that used to affect young children,

Haemophilus influenzae B, has virtually been eradicated by the *Hib* immunisation programme that started in the UK in 1992.

Some diseases have been eradicated from the planet by the power of immunisation. Smallpox is the best example. There are high hopes that the new *group C meningococcal vaccine* will make a real difference by protecting children against at least one strain of meningococcal disease. It should be incorporated into the routine children's immunisation schedule about now (autumn 1999) as well as to schoolchildren in the 15/16/17 age group. As supplies will be limited, the Department of Health has said it can only be given according to their planned programme.

Nigel Corp - General Practitioner.



CROXLEY GREEN ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Revels - Junior Road Safety Quiz

There were 51 entrants to the Junior Road Safety Quiz held during the Revels. The maximum score was 13 and three participants scored 12 whilst a further 13 managed a total of 11.

The slogan was marked separately.

The winners were as follows:-

Joint First (12 pts).

Lucy Fernandes	Harrow Weald
Eleanor Davies	Croxley Green
Pippa Allward	Croxley Green

Runners-up (11 pts).

Rebecca Bartlett- Watford; Jake Davies; Daniel James - Harrow Weald; Sophie Marriott, Victoria Marriott; Alice Martin; Mandy Pickersgill - Watford; Edward Salter, Frankie Salter & Pip Salter - Sarratt; Lauren Walters; Theo Williams; Thomas Womack.

Road Safety Slogan

Rebecca Sherriff.

The Road Safety Committee congratulates the winners and thanks all who took part.

J Wesson

It would be nice if other societies would give us reports on the Revels.

Think about it! - Editor.

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

On behalf of my household I
of, Croxley Green
Apply for life membership of the association and enclose remittance of
£5.00. Signed
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I would be prepared to help in collecting subscriptions - please contact me.

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Address:-

Tele No:-

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Telephone:- 01923 770599.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Sadly, we are becoming accustomed to reading about the decline in numbers of some of our common birds. Even so, I was very surprised to learn, this summer, that the familiar mallard - our typical park lake duck - is also disappearing. Its numbers have dropped by 40% in the last ten years, and at present no-one seems to know why.

I am sure that for many people the mallard was one of the first water birds that we came to recognise. We may not have known its name, but feeding the 'ducks' in Cassiobury Park, or at the Aquadrome, was a childhood treat in countless families. The mallard seemed to be a permanent feature of our lakes and rivers, and it will be a great pity if this friendly bird becomes so rare that children have to go to zoos, or special reserves, just to see one.

But the mallard is just the latest of our every-day birds to be threatened. Another common water-side bird - the pied wagtail - has also declined in recent years, probably due to pressure from development and building activity near its traditional haunts. A year or so ago we discovered that the cheeky house sparrow was close to becoming an endangered species and, as for the song thrush - well when did you last see one in your garden? Some people may say "Does it matter if there aren't as many mallards, wagtails, sparrows, thrushes this year?" But keeping a count of our "common or garden" birds can tell us a great deal about what is happening to our environment. If their numbers are down because the waters are polluted or the wildflowers have all been sprayed with pesticides then they can give early warnings of changes which may affect ourselves just as much in the future. Historically, the observations of country parsons - such as Gilbert White of Selborne - told us a lot about the natural history of the English countryside. Today the counts of blue-tits and chaffinches from a thousand suburban windows can provide up-to-date figures about the numbers of birds, their breeding success, and their feeding preferences. They may also be telling us about our own future.

It is in many ways ironic that the decline in bird populations has come about at the same time as a growing interest in conservation, and a remarkable increase in the membership and activity of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Twenty-five years ago the RSPB was delighted when its membership reached 200,000. Today the figure is well over 1 million - of which 32,000 are in Hertfordshire.

Also twenty-five years ago, the Society established a local members' group in Watford. It is now a thriving organisation which informs, educates and entertains its members about all

aspects of the life of birds and, at the same time, it works to raise funds to preserve habitats for future generations. Many Watford Group members make regular counts of the birds in their gardens. Others are even more dedicated and may spend many hours on rain- and wind-swept coasts and marshes, counting wildfowl and waders. Whatever their level, the Group caters for anyone with an interest in wild birds and their conservation. You may have seen the Group's stall at the Croxley Revels this summer, when many more people were introduced to the pleasures of RSPB membership. But if you missed it then, or would like to know more about how we can all help to save a place for the birds, why not come along to one of the monthly meetings. (Details below). The parks would be duller places without the mallards.

The Watford RSPB Members' Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, at St. Thomas' Hall, Langley Road. Coach trips and local bird-watching walks take place throughout the year. The current programme can be obtained from:-

John Britten - 01923 673205.

REVELS
for the
MILLENNIUM
Saturday 24 June 2000
A Special Afternoon
in Mediaeval mode, in
Celebration of the Millennium
Look out for further details.

DO YOU HAVE A SMOKE ALARM? ... DOES IT WORK?

Here are a few figures that you should find interesting:-

Nationally, the British Fire Service is called out to 60,000 house fires a year, which in turn result in 500 deaths and 11,000 injuries. Seven of those deaths, on average, occur in Hertfordshire.

Part of the problem is that only 4% of people have actually experienced fire in their own home, which makes the danger feel *unreal* to those that haven't. Believe me, the danger is real. Imagine waking up in a house filled with smoke and fire, it is terrifying enough isn't it, especially if you have a young family! But the reality is that you may not even wake up before the smoke kills you.

For just a few pounds you can buy an effective smoke alarm (make sure it

conforms to BS5446) that will warn you in the early stages of a fire. It could not only save your life but, by its early warning, effectively reduce the amount of damage done to your home.

Smoke alarms should be fixed to the ceiling, in the centre if possible, but at least 30 cm from any wall or lighting. They need to be close to where a fire is most likely to break out but also in a position where the alarm can be heard throughout your home. In a single storey home, the alarm should be fixed in a corridor between the living and sleeping areas but, in a conventional two storey home, the best place for a single alarm is on the landing ceiling above the bottom of the staircase. The ideal is to have smoke alarms in as many rooms as practical, bearing in mind that there are various rooms and positions where they shouldn't be fitted (e.g. Kitchens and Bathrooms).

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

"We have got a smoke alarm" I hear you say, "my family and home are safe!"

Good, well done, you are one of the 82% of people who do have smoke alarms but, are you really safe now? Having a smoke alarm is good but, it can't do its job if it isn't fitted or maintained properly. We often visit people's homes where the smoke alarm is disabled, sometimes the battery has been taken out of the unit because it keeps going off (is it sited correctly?) or it keeps *chirping!* (the battery needs replacing). Once I even came across a smoke alarm still in its box, on top of the fridge, having never been fitted in the six months since it was obtained!

If any of this sounds familiar, then your smoke alarm is worse than useless. It could be giving you a false sense of security.

Maintaining a smoke alarm is very simple. Assuming that it is properly located, all you have to remember are three basic things:-

- Once a month (and upon return from being away for more than a couple of days) check the alarm by pressing the TEST button.
- Once a year, replace the battery (or earlier if it starts *chirping*).
- Once a year, gently vacuum the smoke alarm workings and wipe its casing to ensure dust isn't blocking the sensor chamber. (If your alarm is mains powered remember to switch off first).

None of these tasks takes more than a few minutes. Not much effort to ensure the security against fire of your family and home!

Your local Fire Station will be more than willing to give any further advice should you require it. **John Print GI Fire E**, Sub Officer, Red Watch, Rickmansworth Fire Station Tel: 01923 776988.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

THANK YOU.....

For supporting the Millennium Celebrations at this year's REVELS. Because of your support, purchasing succulent burgers and buying our specially commissioned Millennium Mug as well as the £1 dash into the arena, enough money has been raised to provide a firework display on the eve of the year 2,000. Special thanks must go to our sponsors who supported us with their donations by advertising in our leaflet at the REVELS.



Don't miss the fireworks!!

31st December 1999

THE GREEN

11.30pm --0030am
(approx times)

Many families will be wondering or undecided how to celebrate NEW YEAR'S EVE this year and the arrival of the new century. As part of your own celebrations why not join many other Croxley Green residents and their families and friends on The Green.

The idea is that there should be two processions making their way to The Green to arrive at about 11.45pm - join in the count-down to the New Year and hear the chimes of Westminster relayed from Croxley Green's own *BIG BEN*, erected on the REVELS site. After the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" - there will be a **Free Firework Display** and we would then ask you to disperse back to your own private parties and celebrations or simply back to the warmth of your own home and bed.

The organisers of this event are concerned with the safety of those attending the Millennium Celebrations. After taking advice from the Police and other relevant authorities, we ask you to keep to the programme of events and to follow these few, simple but essential, safety rules:-

Programme

There will be two main meeting places for the procession meeting at approx 11.15pm:-

- The Library/Barton Way Car park.
- Outside the shops at the top of Baldwins Lane.

Marshals will guide you to The Green.

For safety reasons please cross only by the marked placés.

There will be stewards at these points to control the traffic.

THE POLICE HAVE PARTICULARLY ASKED THAT NO NAKED FLAME TORCHES BE USED IN THE PROCESSION OR TAKEN TO THE GREEN.

Arrival at The Revels Site approx 11.30 to 11.45 to the sounds of seasonal music

The Event

A mock -up façade of *BIG BEN* will be mounted on scaffolding to relay seasonal music and, at Midnight, the sounds from Westminster will be relayed when you are invited to join in "Auld Lang Syne" and watch the Firework Display.

At the close you will be asked to follow a similar route home or to your place of celebrations

Parking.

There will be strictly NO PARKING ON THE GREEN.

At this time of the year The Green does not allow for vehicles to be parked and will easily damage the surface and would be unsuitable for driving conditions.

If you require transport for disabled people to get you nearer to the Green, parking is available close by.

PLEASE telephone 779580 for further information.

First Aid - Lost Children

There will be a First Aid caravan on the site and this is the place where lost children should go and from where they can be claimed. Please tell your children that if they become separated they should go to the First Aid caravan.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANYTHING WITH YOU THAT IS A "LIGHT" THAT IN ANY WAY HAS A NAKED FLAME -

Battery torches only

PS. Thank you to all those residents who filled in our questionnaire and to those who have volunteered their services to assist us.

For further information please contact:-

Chris Hillier Tel: 779580

SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MORE TO COME?

What's going on NEXT YEAR!!!

As well as a *SPECIAL REVELS* that is being organised by the Revels Committee, The Millennium Committee is hoping to organise a special weekend during the May Bank Holiday. We are also hoping to provide all the children under the age of 11 years with a special mug to commemorate the year 2000. There will hopefully be an opportunity to buy one for yourself or for presents for members of your family. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE THIS MONEY.**

Please contact:-

Chris Hillier Tel 779580

if you have any ideas - thank you.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Stuck for a Christmas present to send/ give to your long not so lost relatives!!!

ONLY A FEW LEFT -

still time to purchase your

Croxley Green Millennium Mug

@ £2 only each, helping to fund

The Millennium Celebrations

Please contact:-

David Tait - Tel 779408 - 17 The Green



MILLENNIUM MEMORIES COMMITTEE

We are trying to achieve a record of past history of Croxley Green. This may take the form of a "scrap book" which could perhaps be kept as a reference at the library, together with audio/video tapes, which could be borrowed. The scrapbook itself could be borrowed for special events.

We are approaching many local organisations that may wish to help. - Do you? Would you be willing to participate in any way, any ideas would be welcome?

1. Have you any memorabilia lurking in your attic?
2. Could we borrow any photographs?
3. Would you or your group like to be involved in taking photographs throughout the year to record the events, environment etc of Croxley Green?

We have been given Colour as well as Black and White films from JESSOP who have a branch in Watford to start us off.

We are interested to hear from the very young as well as the senior groups in the community.

Please give us a ring - we will collect, borrow, take care of your treasures.

Caroline Davis 42 Bateman Road

Tel:772918

Carole Maddison 51 Frankland Road

Tel:770167

Judith Turnbull 127 Frankland Road

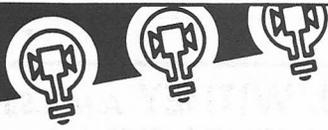
Tel:772798

Margaret Pomfret 42 Repton Way

Tel: 720088

Please note The Memories of Croxley Green project is still progressing!!!

The Millennium Memories is in addition to this in a different format.



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