

Published by:
Croxley Green
Parish Council

The Parish Pump

No 14 December 1998



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This newsletter comes to you following the Inaugural Craft Fair which we believe was a great success. We know that we made some mistakes, who wouldn't the first time, but these did not affect the overall running of a successful weekend. You turned up, it would have been nice to have attracted more people but, overall, the attendance was pleasing. Judging from the response, so far, you enjoyed it and that is what it is all about. I think that there is little doubt that, at the same time next year, the Craft Fair will appear again. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Clerk and his able assistant for all their extra efforts in this venture.

But, apart from staff, the Council will be a new one. After four more active years the whole Council comes up for election next May. Traditionally, and around the country, this tier of local government attracts little support from voters. This either means that we are doing a good job or we are irrelevant. I do not believe that the latter is true. If I, and my fellow councillors, believed that then we should be wasting our time and some of us put in a great deal of time and effort.

The work of the Environment Committee is self evident and, we believe, that much has been done to conserve and improve our local environment. The work of the rangers goes largely unnoticed but it would be noticed if they weren't doing it. Stone's Orchard becomes more eco-friendly each year but it is a long term project and trees take time to grow. The schoolchildren certainly take a great interest and

work hard when called upon. They each have their own little stake in its success. When others have helped, such as on Common Moor, they have found the effort worthwhile.

The work of the Planning Committee is not so obvious. We do see all local applications and have a chance to comment upon them, our views are listened to by the real power at Three Rivers. It is important that, with our local knowledge, we comment in this way. Other aspects of our work are less well known. The Parish Bus on Fridays is welcomed by many of our senior citizens and, if you haven't tried it yet, why not give it a go. The provision of bus shelters by TRDC is very haphazard, but we have tried to be methodical and we believe it is worthwhile. Tell us what you think.

The new local government notice boards were paid for jointly by TRDC and this council.

The proposed skate board facility is largely our initiative and we are putting funds into its creation. This is a good example of co-operation between different tiers of government and of local consultation.

We have other plans in the pipeline and, when the time is ripe, we shall consult with you. This is the purpose of our new column - Parish Projects - but we must do some initial work in order to be able to lay the facts before you.

We are not responsible for all local matters but we can have an influence on TRDC and, in some instances, can act where they are unable due to lack of funds. We do not have an open purse but, we believe, that money spent locally is often more economically and better used.

Perhaps you will think on these things and show, next May, that the Parish Council is important to you. Croxley Green is better than most other communities and that deserves your support. Let's show that we are different by bucking the national trend and coming out in force to vote.

This is your council.

**Use your vote in May and
support local democracy.**

COUNCILLORS

North Ward

John Hedges 222715
Chairman - Council

Geoffrey Langford 341228

Brian Norman 779331
Vice-Chairman - Council

Lesley Rees 248126
**Chairman - Planning
& Development**

Mark Rumsey

Croxley Green Ward

Gabriel Gallet 771098

Clive Hunt 773870

Christine Jefford 771769

Margaret Pomfret 720088
**Chairman - Environment
& Amenity**

Robert Ridley 778638

Sheila Wright 772460

South Ward

David Bains 441480

Roger Cattermoul 441269

Vivian Rhodie

David Wynne-Jones 251905

Clerk to the Council
Derek Fineberg 710250

The Council Offices
Community Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 3SU

Croxley Green Parish Council • Founded 1986

INAUGURAL CRAFT FAIR

Thankyou to everyone who supported our Inaugural Craft Fair on the 19/20 September. From the feedback we have received, the Craft Fair was a real success – admittedly partly because of the glorious weather that weekend.

Many people commented on the happy and relaxed atmosphere, on the quality of the craft stalls and on

the variety of the music and dance entertainment. The evening barbecue and dance on The Green, went down particularly well.

Because the first event went off so well, the Parish Council will be considering another Craft Fair for next year. From all the things that we learnt this time around, next years event will probably:



be held at the same time of the year

include another evening of open air music and dance

be expanded with maybe a 3rd marquee and an even broader variety of crafts

build on the involvement of local groups and individuals with perhaps art, photography and/or other community-wide competitions

have more for the children

continue to have the music and dance displays throughout the two days

To help us continue to develop an annual Craft Fair that is enjoyed by everyone in Croxley Green we need your comments and ideas – please spend a few moments completing this small questionnaire and return it to Mr Fineberg at the The Parish Council Offices, Community Way, Croxley Green. Many thanks – Cllr Viv Rhodie

1. Did you attend the Craft Fair in September

Yes/No

If yes, how did you hear about it? _____

If no, why not? _____

2. What did you like about the event? _____

3. What could have been better? _____

4. What should be included next time? _____

CROXLEY GREEN CRAFT FAIR



I was proud (as Croxley Greens oldest known resident) to be invited to draw the raffle, on Saturday evening at the Inaugural Croxley Green Craft Fair.

People to whom I spoke were very interested in the Croxley Green of my youth, and I found I was talking to grandchildren of people I knew as a boy.

Thanks to the Parish Council (in particular Cllr Ridley) and I hope this is a forerunner of many such events, to promote interest in my beloved Croxley Green.

Alf Hedges

Picture left to right: Mr Alf Hedges, Cllr Robert Ridley – photograph by Cllr Gabby Gallet

Picture right:

Cllr Tim Davis accompanied by his brother Andrew Davis CBE who officially opened the Craft Fair

Picture far right:

Cllr John Hedges Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council accompanied by Cllr Barbara Lamb Chairman of Three Rivers District Council.

Photography by Cllr Gabby Gallet



Professional Marquee



Mrs Lorna Volker – Novelty Greetings Cards

Local Organisations Marquee



Members of Croxley Camera Club

YOGA

at Croxley Green Library

Open to anyone, with any body! Stretch and relax in a non-competitive environment.

Teacher: Andrea Fox

BWY Dip., Cert. Stress Man. Tr.

Tuesday evenings 7.45- 9.15pm

Wednesday mornings 9.45-11.15am

Fee: £42.00 for 10 sessions

All levels of experience and ability will be warmly welcomed, including beginners. Please ring to book a place for January (places are limited).



Increase your understanding of stress. Learn some coping strategies. Teach yourself how to relax. Free yourself from the restrictions that stress puts on your life.

STRESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

8-week relaxation courses for individuals or small groups in Croxley Green. By appointment Mon-Wed 9.30am - 5.30pm (except Wed am).

For more details about yoga classes or stress management training please ring

Andrea Fox on: 01923 720916



YOGA FOR MEN

New class starting in January

Strengthen and tone muscles • care for your back • regain suppleness and flexibility • let go of tension and relax • feel revitalised

All in a friendly and non-competitive environment

Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm at Croxley Green Methodist Church Hall, New Road

Fee: £42.00 per 10 sessions

To book a place in the class or for further information call Paul Fox on 01923 720916.

Local Talent takes Centre Stage



After many months of preparation and keen anticipation, the weekend of the Craft Fair finally arrived. The marquees were on site, the electricity and PA installed and the exhibitors were busy setting up. After a long period of poor weather, we were blessed with two beautiful sunny days. Everything was falling into place perfectly.

For me, however, the best part of the Craft Fair was the stage and the performances of those who gave up their time to entertain us. Firstly, I must acknowledge my brother Andrew who gave up, free of charge, one of his very scarce weekends off to open the Craft Fair. I know that he was impressed with the event and, in particular, by the community spirit that it engendered.

A community spirit engendered so fully by the children and teachers of the Hertfordshire Music School, based at Little Green School. All of the performers gave their all and we were particularly impressed by their musical précis of the Last Night of the Proms. I think Andrew must be looking over his shoulder!

Rickmansworth School Orchestra graced the stage on Saturday afternoon and one would be forgiven for believing that one was listening to a top professional ensemble. They played both classical music and gave

renditions of more modern themes and are to be congratulated for the excellence of their performance. There must be some amongst them for whom a glittering career in music beckons.

On both Saturday and Sunday we were treated to the spectacle of dance by Collective Dance and Drama. Both the junior and senior troupes gave us incredible performances. Their precision and artistry were wonderful to behold and I congratulate all of them on the amount of practice and hard work that goes into creating a performance of that high quality.

We were treated to a feast of Morris on the Saturday, organised by Jackie and Mary at the Sportsman, themselves keen dancers. Four sides from around the area performed traditional dances for our enjoyment. I, for one, was not aware that Morris could be such a varied art form.

Folk dancing from further afield was on display from the Croyley International Folk Dancers. Dressed in fantastic national costumes from around the world, these local ladies graced the stage with dancing from places as far flung as eastern Europe and South America. As well as for their performance, they should be congratulated for their needlework in producing such amazing costumes.

The Craft Fair was a great success and everyone that I have spoken to enjoyed it greatly. It would not have been anywhere near as good without the performances given by all those who put in so much work to entertain us. I thank them all!

Cllr Tim Davis

ANDREW DAVIS CBE

Andrew Davis is one of Britain's leading conductors and was raised in Watford from an early age.

He attended Chater School, Watford Boys Grammar School and then Kings College Cambridge.

He first appearance with the BBC Symphony Orchestra was in 1970. Appointed their Chief Conductor in 1989, he has maintained and enhanced the tradition of innovative programming which has given the orchestra its justly deserved reputation as one of the world's most versatile ensembles.

In September 2000, he will become Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Chicago Lyric Opera. At that point, he will relinquish his Glyndebourne Festival Opera and BBC Symphony appointments. The longest-serving Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra since its founder, Sir Adrian Boult, he will become its first-ever Conductor Laureate, with regular London appearances, including Proms each year. He will also return to Glyndebourne as guest conductor.

In recognition of his services to music, Andrew Davis was awarded the CBE in May 1992.



ARTISTS COMPETITION



As part of the Craft Fair, during the weekend Sat/Sun 19/20 September an Artists Competition was arranged to give local artists an opportunity to enter a competition and also an occasion to exhibit their work.

From the very young to the more mature who entered, the standard was, as expressed by all of the judges, extremely high and diverse.

Rickmansworth School students contributed many varied pieces of work and a joint entry of a very large painting from Harvey Road JMI School based on the Croxley Green Parish Map received a special mention from the judges.

As well as paintings, a free standing entry of "Life Death and Rebirth" in the form of an old chair entwined with ivy and placed in earth was very much admired and different.

It is extremely difficult to describe the many entries, all worthy of mention but it is hoped that there will be a display of photographs of the Exhibition at next years Revels on the Parish Council's stand.

The Parish Council has for many years, organised competitions and has offered prizes that have been appropriate for each one. It was, therefore, especially fortunate for this, our first attempt at a combined competition and Craft Fair we were fortunate to have the help of two local residents, Ian McLachlan who handmade the awards, and was ably assisted with the design of them by Graham Judge. They were in the shape of an artist's palette mounted on a turned wooden base. These were presented during Sunday afternoon.

We were also very pleased that our judges who gave up their Sunday morning to come along to select the winners also enjoyed the task, albeit a difficult one.

Although the Sunday morning (It seemed like night?) had started very early to put the exhibition together it was professionally handled with the invaluable help of Graham and Ian and also Vivian Williams of Parrotts -Thank you.

The Judges were:

Mrs Jo Waters
(who arranges the annual Art Exhibition at Clements Watford)

Max Greenwell
(local Croxley Green artist)

Helen Halliday
(Secretary Of the Rickmansworth Arts Society)

Olive Budden
(local Croxley Green artist)

Ian Poulton
(portrait tutor at local Watford Art College)

Winners

Under 11 yrs

1st Miss Nimmi Parikh
17 Bateman Road
Croxley Green
Cold Winter Flowers

2nd Matthew Peel
10 Kenilworth Drive
Croxley Green
Sea Monster

3rd Stephen Smith
24 Winton Drive
Croxley Green
Teddy

11yrs-16yrs

1st Nicola Edwards
Rickmansworth School
Docklands

2nd Tasmin Clement
Highfield Chess Vale Rise
Croxley Green
Norfolk Boat

3rd Simon Galloway
Rickmansworth School
Self Portrait

Over 16yrs

1st Anna Tatarek
293 Baldwins Lane
Croxley Green
Man In Charcoal

2nd Alex Williams
Parrotts Parrotts Close
Croxley Green
Entrance Hall - Parrotts

3rd David Loose
23 Dickinson Square
Croxley Green
My Pedalling Parents

Cllr Margaret Pomfret



FRONT GARDEN

Winner

Mrs Hooley, 12 Winton Crescent

Very Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Martin, 54 Harvey Road

Highly Commended

Mrs Quelch, 92 Barton Way

Commended

Mrs & Mrs Fishpool, 43 Valley Walk

BACK GARDEN (SMALL)

Winner

Mrs Quelch, 92 Barton Way

Very Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Edwards, 3 Lancing Way

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs West, 35 Barton Way

Commended

Mr & Mrs Ekanayake, 18 Links Way
Mr Hines, 53 Chalmers Court

BACK GARDEN (LARGE)

Winner

Mr Benning, 69 Valley Walk

Very Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Martin, 54 Harvey Road
Mrs Quittenton, 71 Valley Walk

Highly Commended

Mr Sherriff, 126 Valley Walk
Mr Stockely, 75 Springfield Close

Commended

Mr Cawthorne, 138 Baldwins Lane

PUBLIC HOUSES

Winner

The Coach & Horses, The Green

JUDGES

Cllr Barbara Lamb,
Chairman Three Rivers District Council
Mr David Cartwright D&J Nurseries

Mr Harvey Wardell,
Parks & Woodlands Officer TRDC

Stones Orchard

In the past few months the Hertfordshire Orchards Initiative was launched at Tewin Village Hall - September 26th. This was aimed at District Councils, Parish Councils, private landowners and individuals who are interested in the conservation and maintenance of the remaining traditional orchards in Hertfordshire / or the creation of new ones.

In the past 30 years Hertfordshire has lost approximately two thirds - 66% of its old orchards and local fruit varieties, once special to this county.

The purpose of the seminar was to gather together a group of speakers ranging from experts on orchards/ fruit such as Dr David Pennell, Director of Horticulture, Brogdale Horticulture Trust (Brogdale holds the national collection of fruit varieties) Dan Keech, Community Orchards Officer, Common Ground and local Hertfordshire groups who have already begun to take an interest in an orchard in their locality; these were represented by Jaycocks Orchard, Tring; Rivers

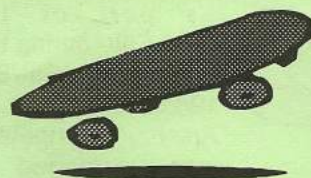
Orchard, Sawbridgeworth and Stones Orchard, Croxley Green.

David Curry (St Albans Museum) Chairman, and the Hertfordshire Steering Group intends to plot all the original orchards in the county and record all that remain.

Over the past 5/6 years the Parish Council has actively been working with the local community and in particular involving the young people i.e. local schoolchildren over the past 4 years to try and restore one of Croxley Green's remaining orchards. Looking at old maps of Croxley Green it is quite evident that this corner of the county once produced an abundance of fruit including cherry, apples, pears, walnuts etc. The Council's intention to create an orchard for our future generations to enjoy as well as to encourage a place for wildlife and once again local school children planted FRUIT TREES IN STONES ORCHARD on Tuesday 24th November.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret - Chairman
Environment & Amenities Committee

SKATEBOARD PARK



All year the Parish Council have undertaken to provide amenities/ facilities for our youth. With Three Rivers District Councils help, a skateboard park with numerous pieces of equipment might be sited in Baldwins Lane Recreation Ground.

After consultation with the youth of Croxley Green, a public meeting and a Three Rivers District Council planning application the park will hopefully open in April 1999.

Our next project in conjunction with the District Council is to develop our underused tennis courts into Multi Activity areas.

If you have an idea drop us a line.

Croxley Green Parish Council
Community Way

Cllr Robert Ridley

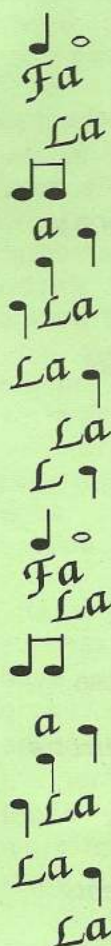
FUN ON THE GREEN

On Sunday July 19 in the year of our Lord 1998, people gathered and revelled on The Green from two o'clock in the afternoon till early evening. Families from as far afield as Ickenham and Buckhurst Hill were in attendance.

Much food and beverages were consumed and partaking in sport, such as The Isle of Man Race, Potato delivery and fleet of feet races. Balancing the speckled hen crop and also a feat of strength between two teams of equal proportion.

Ye people of Croxley take heed, next year this event should be repeated and you can partake in the end of day activities, such as hitting the rounded object with a short stout stick and hoofing the inflated pigskin into a heavily defended area.

Cllr Robert Ridley

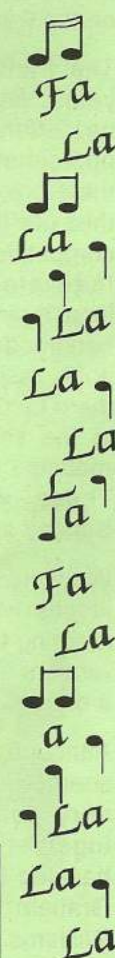


Croxley Green Parish Council
will present three prizes of
£75, £50 and £25
for the

Best Dressed Window Displays Christmas 1998

To: All Shops in Croxley Green

Parish Councillors will select the winners
week commencing 14 December 1998



Croxley Green Mummers – A Christmas Tradition

One of the many Christmas traditions is that of the Mummers play. These plays were a traditional form of village entertainment and can be found in many parts of England. All the plays tell basically the same story, that of our hero, usually St George who is at first killed by the Dragon, and is revived by the Doctor, and then goes on to kill the Dragon, the Turkish Knight and finally the Giant, and by so doing wins the hand of the King of Egypt's daughter.

A version of the play exists in Croxley Green and was written by 'Neggy' Wilson shortly after the first world war, and is a compilation of bits from other plays from around the country. Neggy one of Croxley's well known characters was the headmaster of the Croxley Boys School, and he got together a group of his former pupils to perform a Mummers play in Croxley Green. The play was performed nearly every year from the 1920s until some time in the 1950s, and there is a report of a performance in The Watford Observer of 27th July 1956. We have a letter from one of the early mummers John Thomas who emigrated to Australia, who thinks the last performance was in 1958.

Four years ago a group of Croxley residents decided that it might be an idea to try to revive the play and perform it at Christmas time. Actors, and actresses were recruited and we set about making our costumes, and rehearsing. Unfortunately the original Croxley costumes were destroyed in the fire at the Dickinson Guild House in 1965. As time went on we began to get more information about the original mummers including a photograph. There is a very informative article by Frank Paddick detailing the history of the Croxley Mummers and listing the places where the play was performed each year. They usually started off at All Saint's Vicarage and as most of the cast were workers at Dickinson's Mill they finished at Lindiswara Court, the home of Charles Barton-Smith, who was the then Manager at the Mill. All names familiar to present day residents of Croxley.

Many of the older people of Croxley still remember the Mummers and we feel proud to be able to carry on the tradition.

Chris Hillier
The Doctor of the Croxley Mummers

This years performances
will be on
Sunday 20th December,
at the
following times and places:

- 12.15 Dickinson Square
- 1.00 Croxley Guild of Sport
- 2.00 The Coach & Horses on the Green
- 2.30 Artichoke The Green
- 3.00 The Sportsman



As Father Christmas
says in his
introduction to the
play :
" We've come to
show activity upon a
Christmas time"



BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS ON COMMON MOOR

Sunday 4 October saw local volunteers out in force alongside the Hemel Hempstead Conservation Volunteers in tackling a thorny problem on Croxley Common Moor.

This site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve is a haven for hundreds of types of wildflower and associated wildlife. Without careful management, the Moor could become choked with scrub bushes and what has taken centuries to develop would disappear under a mass of thorn. There is however a small snag: the thorn bushes themselves are a valuable habitat for all types of wildlife and to get rid of them all would be to the detriment of the Moor.

Rather, work will concentrate on thinning out some of the scrub, preventing further spread and this is what volunteers are getting to grips with ... literally.

The volunteer day was a very successful one, and given the nature of the task, there was indeed quite a lot of sweat, small doses of blood and even a few tears (from the youngest member of the group who was missing his mum). Not only was a great deal achieved on the ground, but just as importantly was the getting together of a group who are interested in the Moor and want to be involved in looking after it. Hopefully this was only the start of things to come, and volunteers

will soon be getting together to plan future involvement in the care of Common Moor.

There are many ways volunteers can be involved, not only in practical on-site tasks, but in other activities such as surveying, publicity, writing newsletter articles etc.. The Moor remains one of the most valuable sites in the country for its diversity of flora and fauna. If you would like to be involved in looking after it, please give me a call at the:

Countryside Management Service:

Jonathan Wilshaw,

Tel: 01707 650041



' DEAR MR PUMP....' YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE IN WITH YOUR VIEWS ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

Dear Mr Pump,

Last Friday I happened to notice 2 old ladies standing in the rain waiting for a bus. Although they were standing beneath one of the Parish Council's newly - erected bus shelters they were both obviously shivering with cold. Surely the Parish Council would benefit the community more by cancelling its' Fridays only Bus Service and therefore nobody will have to stand shivering in the cold again. As for the existing shelters, what better way of removing them than to follow the example of the local constabulary and drive the Parish Council Land Rover into them at high speed.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur Logic, Baldwins Way.

Dear Mr Pump,

I went to the Parish Council's much vaunted Craft Fair and was dismayed to only find one roundabout. Consequently I had to go on it 20 times just to get my money's worth. Next year couldn't we have some bumper cars and a Ferris Wheel - they'll get my support.

P.U.E. Riley - (living with parents)

Dear Mr Pump,

I was very much disappointed that the recent craft fair has led to so much money going out of the local area. Surely the Parish Council should ensure that only local companies get invited to exhibit at their craft fairs, thus ensuring that local businesses benefit to the full. As a result I am going to drive my brand new Hyundai Nexia down to the Parish Council and give the clerk a piece of my mind.

S. Portillio - The Green

Dear Mr Pump,

The standard of English in your last Parish Pump (Know Your Craft mis-spelt Creft Fairs!) was appalling. That conversation between those two upper-class twits contained 51 spelling mistakes! And they couldn't even get their facts right - there **was** a Merry-go-round (although a bit small) and not a single ruffian in sight. I for one will not be reading the Parish Pump again.

Mr Pedantic, Sherwoods Forest

Dear Mr Pump,

I would very much like to protest about the Barratts Housing development. Not only do the builders keep us awake all night but they seem to be building sand-castles at the side of the canal bank. I say that we should introduce a Croxley Green - wide ban on Liquorice Allsorts - that will make them think again.

Yours sincerely
Miss I.N. Form - Caius Close.

Dear Mr Pump,

The Parish Council is wasting money yet again by buying New Village Signs for Croxley Green. I **know** where Croxley Green is and so do 90% of it's residents. The other 20% will normally be found in the many drinking establishments in the area and consequently to pXXXed to care!

Al Cholic - c/o The bins next to the Community Centre.

Dear Mr Pump,

The recent apallingly wet weather has led me to a rather inspired idea to put before the Parish Council planning department. Why not install extra - large glass-roofed Bus Shelters like those seen at Centre Parcs? With the addition of a small pond, far from shivering to death the old folk will think they are in a tropical paradise as they sit waiting for their next bus - and will be perfectly warm all the year round.

Mrs T Budget

Dear Mr Pump,

As further proof of global warming I have noticed the steadily rising water level in the Little Green Pond. Is the Parish Council doing anything about it? You can bet your life they're not. It'll take a hole in the ozone layer the size of Watford to make them get up and doing anything.

B.I Gott - Croxley Green.

Dear Mr Pump,

I was aghast at the high cost of getting into the Craft Fair. In old money that was the equivalent of three pounds per person. Surely the Parish Council could have saved money by providing less expensive marquees, like they do at the revels. A stall selling umbrellas would have sufficed in the event of rain, and wellies too. As for spending thousands of pounds hiring Andrew what's his name Webber to open it, well my husband Ronnie once opened a Garden Fete, just after the war, and he only charged sixpence.

Ida O'Grady

Andrew Davis was free actually Ida,
Sorry - Mr Pump

Credits:

Mr Pump was provided by

Anonymous Parish Council
or Productions Ltd..

TOP TIPS FOR CROXLEY GREEN USERS

London Underground Commuters - why not park in the local adjacent roads? It's much cheaper than in the tube station car-park and only inconveniences local residents and other road users.

Members of the Community Centre - do an Eyes Right as you leave and you will discover that you now have a roll-your-own Car Park !

Drivers going up the Green - See if you can achieve 70mph by the time you pass the Artichoke; despite the 30mph limit there aren't that many children playing near the roadside.

Drivers going down the Green - See if you can slow down to 70mph by the time you pass the Artichoke; despite the 30mph limit you still have plenty of time to stop before the Scotts Hill roundabout.

The minority of residents of Croxley Green who haven't extended their house - Keep the planning committee of the Parish Council busy by extending your house.

Retailers - why not fit an over-sensitive old fashioned Burglar Alarm with a siren that wails all night. There'll be so many local residents kept awake that burglars wouldn't dare strike.

Drivers parking in New Road, park as far on to the footpaths as you can! By forcing pedestrians pushing prams and pushchairs into the road you are creating a beneficial traffic calming effect as drivers have to slow down to avoid hitting anyone.

Editor of the Parish Pump - be prepared to fend off scores of readers who have taken these comments literally!

Councillor Bains who usually writes anonymously.

Everything changes, but nothing changes

"The children now love luxury; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in the place of exercise. Children are tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs and tyrannise their teachers."

Sound familiar? Could this be a statement by a leading politician, a jaded headteacher, a leading child psychologist or even a loving but frustrated parent? Well it was actually written 2500 years ago by a chap called Socrates. As you can see, some things never change!

Young people and children are perhaps the most misunderstood, maligned section of our community. They fill us

with hope that perhaps this will be the generation who will learn from their elders in a way that we failed to from ours, but at the same time they fill us with dread as we see behaviour which seems alien, antisocial and utterly confusing. Why is this? Why are they and their interests so different from mine when I was their age? Why does everything have to change?

And here lies the root of the problem, we rebelled in our own time as teenagers and adolescents in a way which 'worked' for our generation, remember the early days of Beatlemania, Mods and Rockers and of course Punk! Why was this so? In order to do something that every generation needs to do, establish its own identity and ideals. Young people today are simply acting out this age-old process and just like Socrates it sometimes baffles and angers the generations above.

I am the Youth Minister at the Baptist Church here in Croxley and represent the interests of over 70 teenagers from Croxley and the surrounding area. Through my job, I also go into some of the local schools and I have fast realised how fortunate we are in this village. We not only have excellent schools, we have some fantastic young people. I am totally convinced that this

generation has the potential to succeed in many ways that previous generations haven't, a generation who care about the world they live in, who are concerned with ethical issues that I've never even thought about, a generation who don't rush in but give careful consideration before committing themselves to others, ideals or institutions. Surely these things alone are enough of an encouragement to us to give them as much help, guidance and where necessary space to be themselves.

As many of you are aware there are proposals to build a skate park at the top of Baldwins Lane, and I personally hope that this not only happens, but that it happens with the whole community's backing and support. This is a great way of showing trust and encouragement to a group of people who want to be able to do what they do, in a safe supervised environment.

Let us not be like Hesiod an eighth century poet who said "I see no hope for the future of our people...for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words". Sometimes we need to remember what we were like as young people because whilst everything seems to change, nothing changes.

Dave Steell

CROXLEY ALARM SYSTEMS

**ALARMS ★ LOCKS ★ CCTV
DOOR ENTRY SYSTEMS**

**FREE ADVICE AND QUOTATIONS FOR ALL
YOUR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS
DOMESTIC OR COMMERCIAL
YOUR LOCAL
NACOSS APPROVED INSTALLER**

**204a NEW ROAD CROXLEY GREEN HERTS WD3 3HH
Phone 01923 771920 - Fax 01923 772901 - Mobile 0468 274750**



Autumnal Gardens



As autumnal shades increasingly cover Croxley Green, we are again able to enjoy the diversity and continuity of the dynamic process of the seasons. One of the joys of living in such a leafy area is that our gardens are now alive with bird life, all busily preparing for the long wintry darkness ahead. The song thrushes have returned to my garden after an absence of several years partly, I imagine, because people have realised the harm they did in poisoning this lovely song-bird in putting out poison pellets for slugs and snails. I can, again, enjoy the sight of this robust little bird smashing snails against its chosen stone at the end of the lawn. The jays are extremely active, flying around with acorns to store for the winter. How many of the oak trees, that we see around, were started by these birds in their legendary forgetfulness about where their hoards are buried. I have read that one of the things that Croxley Green used to be renowned for (apart from its famous cherries) was the 'harvesting of jays' beautiful wing feathers for the manufacture of trout flies in London. Thank God that this trade has ended.

The robin is back and singing its heart out – these aggressive little birds stake out their territory, about this time, with melodic and beautiful song and our resident robin can be seen chasing off intruders with a series of ferocious pecks. The hedge has become the home for a colony of sparrows – these are no longer as common as they used to be having changed their habit back to more of a woodland bird. Blue tits and great tits are back and very active on the 'hopper' of peanuts which is fixed on our french window. It's such a treat to be sitting writing this article and watch a couple of blue tits swoop down and remove their food before flying off to the nearest bush. One problem has been solved – the sparrow hawk which used to sweep through our bird table has twice come a cropper when instead of removing a tasty morsel he has smashed into the window pane.

Luckily, having just knocked himself out and, left in a box on the bench to recover, – has recovered his dignity and flown off – a wiser bird.

Of course all these birds are in my garden because they think it is a woodland glade of which there are many in the beautiful gardens of Croxley Green. The main thing is to resist the modern urge to 'tidy' gardens; not enough dead wood and piles of decaying hedge clippings are placed in the corner in which hedgehogs, dormice and grass snakes can hibernate. Our obsession with green bin liners and taking all garden rubbish to the dump is bad news for wildlife, they need a refuge for the long hard winter. Cutting back berried bushes like cotoneaster, firethorn or holly at this time of the year is depriving wild birds of much needed food. Now that the rural hedgerows have been so heavily cut back, the main source of nourishment for many birds is the suburban garden. The old saying 'a tidy house is the sign of a wasted life' could also be applied to the extension of our houses, our gardens, in that they become a wildlife wasteland if too manicured.

Now is the time to be putting up nesting boxes for next year, carefully sited out of reach of cats and

squirrels, facing anywhere except south which is where the sun shines all day. Of the four nesting boxes, put up in All Saints Church Garden last year, one had a treecreeper, another a robin while the other two (at front and back of church) had blue tits. I have just cleaned them out ready for next year and added two more for luck. How lucky we are in Croxley Green (although I doubt we all realise it) to have such a fine collection of ecosystems, the meadow on The Green with its hinterland of large gardens; the Chess Valley; Croxley Hall Woods (home of the greater and lesser spotted woodpecker) and Croxley Common Moor with its green woodpeckers, skylarks, reed buntings and waterbird life.

To those who feel a bit despondent that winter is on its way, I say let your garden entertain you. Put out food regularly, enjoy the birds and if you wish for an extra treat go to the Library, or the Parish Office, and obtain one of the excellent Circular Walks Leaflets, "The Croxley Green Loops" and "Around Croxley Common Moor". You will discover a world of wild-life wonderland that will make your joy complete.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones



NEW GROUP FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

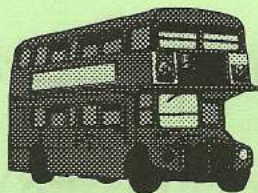
"parenting is a full time job...no pay...no formal training...
sometimes the challenge can feel overwhelming"

This six week course is designed to help with the ups and downs of everyday family life in a SAFE, CARING, and SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

- Croxley Green Library
- Thursday Evenings 7.30 – 9.30 pm
- January 21st 1999 – 4th March 1999 (no class 18th Feb)
- £45 for the course

For booking and further details contact:

JAN PACKMAN R.G.N. (CERT.EXPLORING PARENTHOOD) on 01923 823276



Bus Shelters

It is important that we, as Parish Councillors representing your views, know what those views are. Each issue we shall cover a different matter and hope that you will respond by filling in and returning a slip, which will be appended to each such article, to the Parish Office or will take the time to telephone the Clerk. Our first enquiry is concerning bus shelters.

A History of the Bus Shelters

This Council's current policy is to provide, each year, two bus shelters at busy bus stops in the village. Unfortunately, arrangements with TRDC haven't always gone to plan. The area is very spread out over a few major roads and several diverse bus routes.

The Green Line service stops at Croxley Green Station and opposite the Red House Public House, neither has a shelter. Then we have the route up Watford Road. Turning into New Road, a new bus shelter replaced the old one, a very narrow path there, restricting the choice available. Room has to be allowed for pedestrians and push-chairs. The first shelter to be installed, was at Two Bridges for Rickmansworth bound passengers, a closed in type to keep out the wind and the rain.

We need to look at Baldwins Lane, a new one on the Winton Drive side. Again a narrow footway there, thus restricting the space available. Repton Way needed a new shelter, that was again in our first group, we would like to put one opposite, but due to the Three Rivers District Council contract with the supplier, it has not been possible to get an identical shelter to match it at this time. This year we have ordered two again, to be installed very soon, one to be put opposite the Library and the other is to go to Baldwins Lane/Durrants Drive side. We are hoping to provide two in New Road, outside the Co-op and at Rusts, these may have to wait as the Council would like some work done in New Road for the Millennium and the Croxley Green Zone is to be included in this area. There are lots of sites where there are bus stops with no shelters, can you put in your suggestions to the Council, by sending in ideas where you think you would like to see a shelter. This Council wishes to continue a rolling programme, installing at least two each year. We would like any comments to be passed on to us. At the bottom of this letter we have a return slip, so do fill it in and send it back to the Parish Council, Community Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3SU.

Why we need Bus shelters in Croxley Green?

Have you ever seen groups of people waiting for buses – we have! Gone are the days when buses ran

regularly and to time – new arrangements under privatisation, sheer volume of traffic and above all slipshod bus timetables mean that the most vulnerable people in our normally caring community spend long periods of time, nowadays, waiting for the occasional bus while the rest of us go speeding by in our comfortable cars. One can't help feeling a spasm of guilt, particularly when driving down New Road, when one sees groups of people, young and old, huddled against the driving winter rain and sleet. They will be getting on the bus and spending the whole day soaking wet. Many are old and infirm and have health problems – exposure to the cold and wet is the last thing they need. The Parish Council has a scheme to put up more bus shelters but we need your help, particularly those who use buses regularly. Please let us know where you think new bus shelters are needed. Base this on your own personal experience or on what you have noticed while travelling through our beloved Croxley Green. Remember we can only help you if you are prepared to make the small effort to let us know. Remember that we are on the council to help you and to see that your money is put to good use helping the quality of life of everyone in Croxley Green.

We are here to serve you and have identified Bus Shelters as something in which Croxley Green is sadly lacking. Contact us now while the matter is still fresh in your mind.

To: Croxley Green Parish Council
Community Way

A bus shelter is needed at: _____

I agree that the programme should continue:

Yes/No

If possible: Matching everywhere/or similar

Yes/No

Enclosed from weather

Yes/No

Please tick as appropriate

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

"never early - sometimes late"

TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE - EVERY FRIDAY*

1ST JOURNEY

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



2ND JOURNEY

Sycamore Approach	10.00am
Valley Walk (Green)	10.01am
Hazelwood Rd/Beechcroft	10.03am
Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
Chalmers Court	10.08am
All Saints Lane (outside church)	10.10am
Return from Watford	12.30pm

3RD JOURNEY

Links Way/Warwick Way	10.30am
Links Way/Dover Way	10.31am
Links Way/Little Green Lane	10.32am
Little Green Lane/Durrants Drive	10.33am
Durrants Drive/Dover Way	10.34am
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Footpath	10.36am
Manor Way	10.38am
Grove Court	10.40am
New Road Methodist Church	10.43am
New Road/Barton Way (library)	10.44am
Return from Watford	1.00pm

- It is the intention of the Parish Council that the bus does not leave the departure points before the stated times. Traffic problems may cause the service to be a little late on occasions.
- Passengers may return by any bus but should note that there may not always be a spare seat on the preferred bus. (check with the driver).
- Future alterations to the time table will be notified in advance.

*when a Bank Holiday falls on a Friday (eg Good Friday) the service will operate on the Thursday of that week or such other agreed day. Verbal notice will be given at least one week in advance.

FARE 70p RETURN

For the exclusive use of Senior citizens and persons resident in sheltered accommodation. You may be required to show proof of eligibility.