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Parish Council

The Parish Pump

No 20 - November 2001

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EDITORIAL

In our last edition, I referred briefly to the troubles which had beset your Parish Council and commented that the new councillors had already shown signs of settling in well. Now that some six months have passed and the long awaited Auditor's Report has been received and actioned, it is clear that we have a strong Council once again.

As you probably know, we received a clear audit with some minor points on procurement and payment procedures to be addressed. The Council readily agreed to address these issues and ensure compliance in future. The nine councillors who remained faithful when the six resignations were received always felt aggrieved that their motives were questioned but felt, at the time, that they should not further muddy the waters. The support of the new councillors has amply demonstrated that the basis of the council was sound and they fully supported our final report on the matter. Copies of this report can be seen at the Parish Office.

We are determined that things should now go forward with the Council, once again, pursuing new ideas to meet the needs of our constituents. With your help we can do this.

During all this time, the ordinary everyday activities of the Council have proceeded without let. Our rangers have been active carrying out their various duties safeguarding our environment. The Green has received its regular programme of cuts and footpaths have been cleared and generally tidied up. Litter in the Skate Park has been cleared and other areas treated as necessary and often very quickly.

The Land Rover is very clear to see and you will know, if you've seen it, how wide spread their activities are about the village.

Our regular activities have not been neglected and both our working committees have been as busy as ever. It is true that the main activity of the Planning & Development Committee is, and will remain, examining and commenting on Planning Applications, but this is very important in safeguarding the environment in which we live. The weekly Parish Bus on Friday mornings has never failed and is greatly appreciated by all those who use it. We have new customers on a regular basis who don't just come once but keep on coming. For those of us who act as conductors it is a great pleasure.

The Environment & Amenities Committee have once again organised a most successful Garden Competition. All around you are hidden gems that are rarely seen by the public but can hold their heads up to the gardens which attract many visitors.

The Christmas decorations that we instituted, with so much favourable comment, will be augmented this year, thanks to both Committees who have investigated and put forward suitable proposals.

Our annual window dressing competition is to be carried out as usual and we urge you to use your local shops to see their displays and encourage them to continue their valuable service to the community. Big Supermarkets are soulless whilst our local shops care for their community. If you don't support them they will die and our community will be the poorer.

This edition is filled with articles that should be of interest. Many of the articles need a response from you and, if you wish to influence the work of the Council, please give us this response.

Please note especially our proposal to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of our monarch, won't this be better than a tree?

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The Parish Office

01923 710250 (10.00 am - 2.00 pm)

Copy Date:- 30 March 2002

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North Ward

Kerron Cross 441889
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John Hedges 222715
Vice-Chairman - Council

Michael Johns 231203

Geoffrey Langford 442975
Vice-Chairman E & A

Hazel Seeley 772696

Croxley Green Ward

Phil Brading 492893

Gabriel Gallet 771098

Christine Jefford 771769
Chairman - Environment & Amenities

Doug Pavey 773595

Giles Shaw 229617

Adrian Simpson 720041
Chairman - Council

South Ward

Jean John 231075

Robert Ridley 720580

Cliff Vassiliou 779927
Chairman - Planning & Development

David Wynne-Jones 251905

Edited by:- John T Hedges
Produced by:- Jill Wright

Clerk to the Council
Derek Fineberg 710250

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

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How Things Used To Be – More Reminiscences

Reading Mr. Pavey's article in the last Parish Pump was a trip down memory lane for me.

I was born and brought up in Harrow in the early 1950's. My Mum shopped every day in Wealdstone – not once a week as nowadays. My sister and I walked there and back and helped to carry the shopping.

I remember J. Sainsbury in Wealdstone High Street – marble counter tops, men in aprons and straw boaters. Cheese, butter and cold meats were at separate counters, sold by the ounce and wrapped in greaseproof paper.



The butcher, Mr Rixon knew all the regular customers by name. The fishmonger's was a fascinating place - lots of different kinds of fish and eels swimming in a tank waiting to be "chosen" for tea.

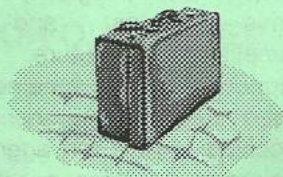


As Mr. Pavey said in his article, the coal man delivered sacks of coal into coal bunkers. Indeed, when my husband and I moved to New Road in the mid-1970's we also had a coal fire. The coal man delivered to us just the same. We didn't have central heating until we moved to Winchester Way in late 1988. Mr. Jones, the chimney sweep, visited every Autumn to sweep the chimney as he did at both my mother's and grandmother's houses. Mr Jones senior swept Grandma's chimney. As children our job was to watch in the garden for the brush to come out of the chimney top.

The Insurance man called once a week and the Betterware Rep. called regularly with his suitcase full of brushes and mops.

I can remember being sent to the local Co-op with a note from Mum asking for certain products. Quite often she would leave a list at the shop and a boy with a bike used to deliver it. She then paid the next time she went to the shop ... shades of Granville and "Open all Hours".

This was all before my Dad had a car. the seaside of course!), Dad would went by train (steam). Luggage collected by British Rail van the the Guest House when we arrived. after we did.



When we went on holiday (by borrow a car from a friend or we would be packed in a trunk and week before and be waiting at It then arrived home a week

Feet and inches, pounds and ounces, proper money (£ s d), and buses with a driver and conductor ... those were the days.

Barbara Pope
53 Winchester Way

Many people may like to share their reminiscences with us.
Subject to space limitations we will try to include them.
How about jotting some down whilst you enjoy your afternoon cuppa!

CROXLEY ALARM SYSTEMS

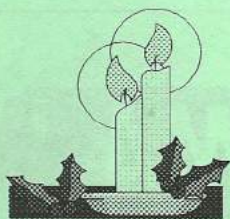
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A Message For Christmas

The world changed on September 11th this year. Many of the assumptions on safety and security by which we live our lives were shattered in such a devastating way. It was brought closer to home by the loss of so many British lives. Croxley Green may not have been directly affected but the reverberations from being so close to London must, I am sure, have reached people here. Our thoughts go out to those who lost family or friends.

But I want to pose a difficult question. How much did the world really change? No doubt the scale of the terrorism was without equal and should be remembered for such. But think of the number of lives lost over the years in other troubles, both near and far. I would like to suggest that the way the future pans out is very much dependant on the way we react to September 11th and the speed in which we bounce back.

Christmas is coming and a New Year about to begin. One of the things I have noticed recently is people not thinking back beyond the last couple of months. I like to think back to the events of December 31st 1999. Croxley Green really came together that night with the great crowd of people who saw the new Millennium in on The Green. I was lucky enough to be on the stage to count in the New Year and it is that feeling of togetherness and hope for the future on which I prefer to dwell.

So I ask you to look to the future with a hopeful mood – to enjoy Christmas and the New Year celebrations with your family and friends and neighbours. Embrace the possibilities of a New Year. If we are to win this war on terrorism it is also up to us, not just our brave troops on the front line. So get out and about – visit people – laugh with people. Take care, and be aware of course, but most of all enjoy life!



Cllr Adrian Simpson - Chairman



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Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
Return from Watford	12 noon

2ND JOURNEY

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

3RD JOURNEY

Junction Links Way & Warwick Way	10.30am
Junction Links Way & Dover Way	10.31am
Junction Links Way & Little Green Lane	10.32am
Junction Little Green Lane & Durrants Drive	10.33am
Junction Durrants Drive & Dover Way	10.34am
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Lane Footpath	10.36am
Manor Way	10.38am
Grove Court	10.40am
Return from Watford	1.00pm



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Clean and Shine-y



Croxley Green Parish Council welcomes the work that a number of young people are carrying out to improve life in the village. It has been my personal pleasure to assist teenagers from churches within Croxley Green who want to make a real difference to people's lives locally with a programme of community projects titled 'Shine'.

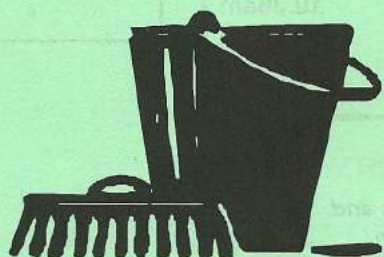
'Shine' takes up where the 'Noise' initiative left off in early May. You may remember that for the Noise we carried out an extensive pot-hole survey highlighting the worst affected areas in Croxley Green, held a community lunch and picked up litter amongst many other things.

But as most of you will realise, there is always something that needs doing locally so we have decided to periodically conduct small projects to help address community problems that currently exist.

At the start of October we were all down at Barton Way Recreation Ground in the pouring rain doing our best to clean graffiti off the apparatus and changing rooms! Why bother and, more importantly, why the funny names? (You may, but probably won't, be asking!)

Because young people at churches in Croxley Green want to give something back to the community. They want to make a difference in bright and loud ways – you may not notice a clean wall or roundabout... but you will undoubtedly notice a dirty, graffiti covered one – those living in Croxley Green deserve better.

Cllr Kerron J. Cross



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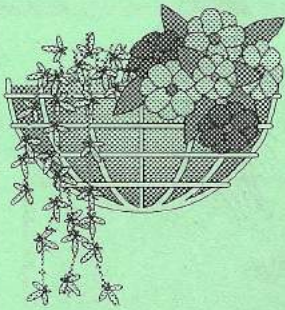
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FLORAL FEATURES FANTASY – A BIG IDEA FOR 2002

We all love Croxley Green and some of us fantasise about it. I do!

Occasionally I wake up, after a lovely dream of our village in summer with flowers cascading from hanging baskets, their fragrance wafting up and over our village as it shimmers in the summer sun.

Actually this fantasy started at a meeting I attended at the Parish Council about three years ago when the then Chairman of the Planning Committee suggested that we beautify certain areas with flowers. It seemed a blooming good idea.

The years have passed and we have continued to have discussions. The clerk has explored the various options we have suggested and we have come up with a concept of eleven hanging baskets in the area towards the bottom of New Road, around Croxley Metropolitan Station and merging onto the Watford Road – a little oasis of floral beauty in the centre of Croxley.

We also have thought how beautiful two static floral displays would be at the lower end of Baldwins Lane – another hub of local activity.

The floral displays are no problem – we can afford quite exceptionally beautiful ones: the problem is in keeping them maintained and watered during the long summer months. They would be quite high up and to get a contractor to use the correct equipment is unbelievably expensive. We could not dream of asking you to pay for it.

There have been several ideas. Would traders, firms and pubs whose premises are in the vicinity be prepared to 'adopt' the maintenance of this scheme? Are there individuals who would be motivated (and insured) to do this watering at a reasonable price? What do you think? Have you a solution (water only please)?

If the traders clubbed together it would cost each one relatively little – remember the council would put up all the flowers and you would have a say where they were situated. Think it over and please contact the Head of Planning Committee or the Parish Clerk on 01923 720352. They are counting on you!!



Flower Lover

Round the World on a Sofa

Roll up your flying carpet, turn off that box in the corner, sit comfortably on your sofa and meet the world.

Is this the latest virtual experience brought to us by Microsoft? No, this is real live person-to-person contact, good old-fashioned getting-to-know you, on a small but international scale.

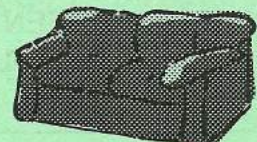
Did you know that in universities and colleges across the UK there are many thousands of international students who would just love to meet some of the inhabitants of these islands and chat about the differences in our culture and lifestyles, as well as discover points of contact?

Rather than be tourists, they would prefer to see the country in the company of the people who live here. Rather than stay on campus, with colleagues who speak their own language, they would value the chance to spend a weekend practising English with the locals. Rather than spend Christmas alone in a deserted hall of residence, they would love to join in with the celebrations and find out what's going on.

Could you offer a weekend or Christmas invitation to your home, to one or two students, once or twice a year? You would be giving them an experience which would stand out in their memories of Britain, and which might change their perceptions of this country forever. Your own life would be enriched by friendship with adults from all over the world, and you would be doing your bit for international relations, as well as responding to the call to be hospitable and to welcome strangers.

If your sofa is big enough for two (and you have a spare bed), you may like more information about volunteering under the HOST scheme. HOST is a well-established national charity, founded by the British Council and the Foreign Office.

Please call the HOST Regional Organiser Trina Golland on 01707 642091
Or email richard.golland@virgin.net
You can also visit HOST at www.hostuk.org





HALLOWEEN NIGHT



Not having young children around, the vagaries of this occasion are lost on me. I gather children come to the front door, perform a trick and are rewarded with sweets. Another American custom we appear to have adopted. To date, my wife and I have given sweets to children and then money when the sweets have run out. I have yet to see or hear of a trick being performed, until this year that is!

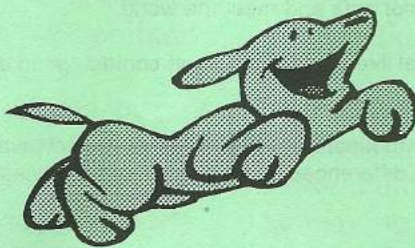
My wife and I were out for the evening and on returning, the bag of sweets we left on the doorstep had gone as expected. We thought all was well with the world until next morning when we discovered our front garden walls, plants and path had been sprayed with white spray paint and then horror of horrors, we found the side wall of our house had been sprayed in two places, the main area being about five feet square. The people who caused this damage were obviously not small children.

The main text of the graffiti was "ZOE WOZ ERE" with a tag (signature) attached. Who is Zoe? Where were her parents? Did they buy her the spray paint? It is not cheap. Since the event I have heard of other houses local to Sherborne Way that have received similar treatment, some residents even had eggs thrown at their houses. I am sure many senior citizens must be intimidated by this annual event. I have cleaned the worst of the graffiti off, unfortunately it is still just visible.

The only way this intimidation, and that is what it is, can be dealt with is in the hands of parents. Please be responsible parents. Know what your children are doing and where they are doing it. As a parent, would you like your property vandalized? Would you like to have your ageing parents, your children's grandparents that is, to be intimidated by such behaviour? Of course not. Croxley Green is a great place to live. Let us keep it so! Please!

Cllr Geoff Langford

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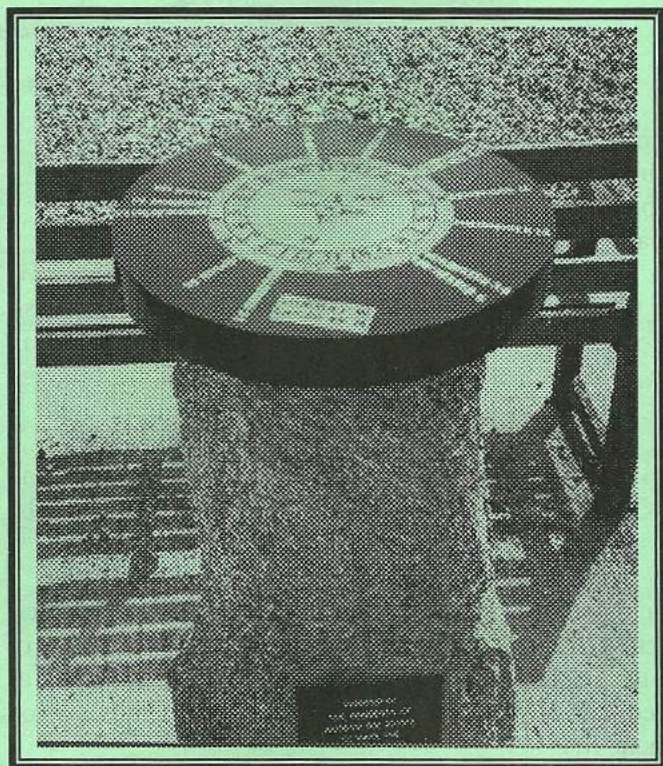


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MEMORIAL SUNDIAL



2002 is the Golden Jubilee of Queen's reign. The Parish Council is proposing to mark this event with a memorial sundial that is worked with your fingers? We will be displaying in the library from mid November, a collection of photographs of the intended type of sundial. We are asking for suggested sites for the sundial within Croxley Green. Please forward your suggestions to the Parish Office for consideration.

BUS SHELTERS



Until recently the mental picture many people had of the bus services serving Croxley was of two old age pensioners standing by a bus stop in the pouring rain.

Bus shelters are not the most exciting things to write about. They are not 'sexy' as the public relations people would say. Most of us own cars and haven't ridden in a bus for years. Yet, a surprising number of Croxley Green residents do rely on buses, particularly the elderly.

Until recently the Parish Council planned carefully, with limited funds, to erect shelters in particularly busy areas where the demand was heavy, such as outside Two Bridges Restaurant and opposite Links Way. But there were still many bus stops which did not have shelters.

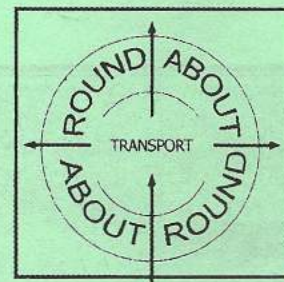
Luckily this is no longer a problem as a commercial firm is prepared to supply them for free on the main road – granted this means a spot of advertising, but it has revolutionised the 'keep dry' quality of life for bus users in Croxley Green as they wait to enjoy the delights of Watford.

Actually I rather like the advertisements – 'Barcelona for £39' or 'Why not try the Seychelles?' as they lend an exotic air to the otherwise drab surroundings. They are floodlit at night too which cheers up the gloomy winter evenings and is good for security.

Hopefully most of the bus stops in Croxley Green are now catered for with shelters but if your bus stop does not have one – why not write to the Chairman of our Planning Committee or ring the Parish Council Clerk on 01923 710250.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

ROUNABOUT TRANSPORT



Roundabout Transport started life in July 2000 when a small group, led by local Councils for Voluntary Service, sought aid from District Councils, Herts CC and the Countryside Agency, to start a minibus scheme aimed purely to support small community groups in SW Herts. Sufficient funding was raised to employ a full time manager and to plan operations. As a result, in September this year we started using our first two minibuses, which are already being used in the area by youth training, religious, elderly and ethnic groups. These vehicles can carry wheelchairs if needed and are based in Watford and Borehamwood. At the moment the scheme is obviously in its infancy but we intend to build up to about six vehicles as soon as possible and spread the vehicles evenly across the area so that they are conveniently located near to where the demand is.

Costs are intentionally kept very low but even charities have to meet costs. Prices are £15 for the first 15 miles and then 80p per mile after that (fuel is included in these charges). Groups using the minibuses have to be members of the scheme and this costs £10 per annum.



At the moment we have very few volunteer drivers and we encourage groups to "grow" their own since they understand the groups' needs best. However we also want to develop a pool of our own drivers to support groups who have none. If you want to be involved as a member or driver, or simply wish to know more, contact the scheme co-ordinator, Robert Bradshaw, on 01923-727295 who will be pleased to help you.

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TICKET TO RIDE

For some reason trains on the Continent have impossibly high steps to negotiate. When hampered by recalcitrant wheeled cases and an arthritic wrist it is no easy task to haul them on board, especially with other passengers anxious to get on the train. Can one relax after this muscle throbbing exercise? No chance, as seat numbers bear no relation to those on the ticket clutched in one's hand. Perseverance eventually wins through, seats are found and it is possible to sit immobile, recovering breath and gently wiping our overheated brows.

The journey from Paris to Strasbourg was to take 4 hours, so my sister and I decided to go and have a coffee. The buffet car was 14 carriages away we discovered. A hell of a wrenching open doors, balancing on juddering inter-carriage platforms, pushing buttons, lurching into the laps of unwelcoming travellers and swaying inelegantly through carriage after carriage. The coffee was wonderful and we sat for some considerable time thinking about the return to our two companions who were expecting coffee. Fortunately a man began to lurch back, so we followed, grateful that he was grappling with the doors and managed to deliver the coffee still fairly hot and nearly intact.

Our visit to Strasbourg was somewhat overshadowed by thoughts of the return journey to Paris, and hence by Eurostar to Waterloo. One good thing was that the buffet car was closed – we had taken the precaution to load up with fruit, sandwiches and water.

Gare du Nord, Paris was a nightmare of throbbing humanity as the Eurostar before us had been cancelled, the French police were x-raying everything and everybody (no complaints about that) and everyone was anxious to be on their way home. Our train left half an hour late but there was a buffet car. Coffee was brought to us this time, the first since 10.30 in the morning (it was now 6.30pm). Our train crept along once we were on English soil and eventually arrived at Waterloo 90 minutes late.

From now on, the only water we shall cross is from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight. If we decide to go to Europe again, it will be with Mullaney's Coaches who pick you up at Rickmansworth, you don't see your cases until you reach your destination, have coffee available at all times and is PAINLESS.

Any travel brochure that comes through the door goes straight into the bin and should I be foolish enough to show one to my sister within the next decade, she has my permission to hit me with it!



Cllr Hazel Seeley

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9th Annual Prize Giving Ceremony – October 2001

The prize-giving for the 2001 Garden Competition took place at Parish Council offices on Friday 5 October. The trophies were presented by Cllr Geoff Emery, Chairman of Three Rivers District Council and Cllr Adrian Simpson, Chairman of the Parish Council.

The prize-giving ceremony was followed by light refreshments and attended by approximately 50 people and everyone had a most pleasant evening.

Congratulations to you all!

Garden Competition Report – 2001

Once again the gardeners of Croxley Green have proved they can continue to impress us with their entries of such diverse variety and interpretations of the word 'garden'.

This year was the 9th year of the Garden Competition, which continues to go from strength to strength. There were 31 entries, which included local public houses and four community gardens. It was also most pleasing to see several new gardens being entered into the competition for the first time.

Despite the poor start to the summer, and the somewhat erratic weather that persisted throughout the summer months, we were once again treated to a selection of both lovely and imaginative gardens. The dedication and work that is put into achieving such results is hard to describe, but suffice to say it makes it very difficult for the judges when deciding upon the winners!

This year, amongst others, there was a Japanese inspired garden, another a garden in miniature, then one using recycled items in a most original way and a low maintenance one, to mention just a few. Mention must also be made of the community gardens entered, particularly those at Chalmers Court which truly are a sight to be seen – a profusion of colours and hues!

I have recently come across the following quotation in a magazine 'God Almighty first planted a garden; and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures'. I can quite honestly say that this is truly reflected in the gardens of Croxley Green.

The preliminary judging was undertaken during a two-week period by a panel of Parish Councillors, with the final judging on 28 July 2001. This was undertaken by Cllr Geoff Emery, Chairman of Three Rivers District Council and Mrs Emery, together with Harvey Wardell (retired Parks & Woodlands Officer, Three Rivers District Council) and Dave Cartwright of D & J Nurseries. The Judges were accompanied by Cllr Adrian Simpson, Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council and Cllrs Christine Jefford and Hazel Seeley acting as photographers and adjudicators respectively.

Congratulations to everyone who took part – once again you all made judging a very difficult but pleasant job! We are now looking forward in eager anticipation to the 10th Garden Competition in 2002 and meeting you all again, together with the new gardens that are waiting to be visited!

Cllr Christine Jefford

9th Annual Garden Competition 2001 RESULTS

FRONT GARDENS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mr E Barringer | - 67 Beechcroft Avenue |
| 2 Mrs V Butt | - 47 Sycamore Road |
| 3 Mr & Mrs M Bacon | - 35 Oakleigh Drive |

SMALL BACK GARDENS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mr J Britter | - 42 Ludlow Way |
| 2 Mrs V Butt | - 47 Sycamore Road |
| 3 Mr & Mrs D Edwards | - 3 Lancing Way |

LARGE BACK GARDENS

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mr & Mrs I McLachlan | - 3 Kenilworth Drive |
| 2 Mr & Mrs D Sheriff | - 126 Valley Walk |
| 3 Mrs K Johnson | - 36 Claremont Cescent |

COMMUNITY GARDEN – (Special Award)

41-45 Chalmers Court

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|---------------------|----------------------|



We've Got A Lot Of Bottle Too!

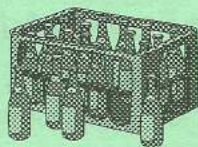
Shine projectors (see earlier article for more info) continue to be busy in the village trying to improve your everyday life. Since our graffiti purging project up at Barton Way we have been out collecting bottles for recycling from homes in the area surrounding the park.

Recycling is a very good way of protecting the environment, so one bright young adult suggested collecting bottles from doorways and delivering them into a new home in one of Croxley Green's under-used bottle-banks. So we did, and we got bags and bags of the things!

Everyone there from local church youth groups who attended were pleased to be involved and had some fun in the process (believe it or not)!

We are planning to continue carrying out similar community work in the future and would welcome any suggestions residents may have for forthcoming initiatives (bearing in mind we have many volunteers, but a very limited budget). So if you do, please do feel free to get in touch with me and I'll pass on your ideas.

CLlr Kerron J Cross



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Croxley Green Archaeology and History Society

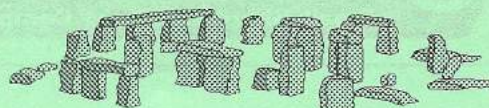
Good news for those who are interested in learning more about the history and archaeology of the area around Croxley Green. A group has started and is looking for members.

Basically it was kick-started by the massive earth moving excavation that is currently taking place at the Grove Estate just past Chandlers Cross where the manor house and three hundred acres are being converted into a luxury resort to open in Spring 2003. This former seat of the first Earl of Clarendon has been 'turned over' and extensive Stone Age, Bronze Age, Romano-British and Mediaeval settlements have been found.

Some of the extraordinary detailed treasure trove of information was outlined by the site director Mr. Charles Le Quesne at a recently, well attended meeting in the Library.

A programme of talks and activities has been worked out for the winter months. Contrary to popular belief, the area around Croxley Green is steeped in history with the remains of a Roman villa near Sarratt and a mediaeval tithe barn between Croxley Hall woods and the canal. We need recruits whether it is in digging (under professional direction) or just attending meetings and discussions.

If you are interested, contact David Harding on 01923 779284 or Stella Davis on 01923 442637.



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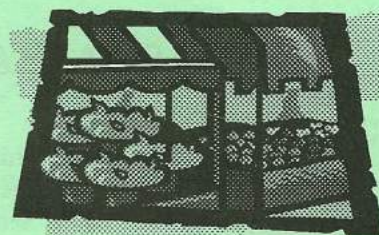
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STATION CAR PARK

The cost of parking at Croxley Station is only £1.60 per day. Yet how many spaces remain empty. In surrounding areas it usually costs anything between £4.50 - £10.00. If commuters utilised it more, who knows, would the cost come down, as the overall income would rise? Think about it, £1.60 a day not a lot, or should the car park managing company be charged £1.60 per day for every empty space, with that money paid to the Parish Council?



LOCAL SHOPS

Remember your local shops, use them or lose them, they are under enough pressure. Two greengrocers, one butcher have already closed along with the only bakers that baked bread on the premises. These shops are an integral part of any community. Also they, in many instances, beat superstore prices. It is your choice.

Notice Boards Available For Free Advertising

Have you noticed all the smart new green notice boards that have been erected around Croxley Green in the past few years? Have you seen how empty they are despite being purpose built to advertise events throughout the area? Does nothing ever happen in our area?

Christmas is coming, also this is the time of year when the many societies in Croxley Green wish to advertise their activities and recruit members as well as to tell them of events that have been organised for the festive season and beyond.

This is a happy little village with lots going on, but most people do not realise that they can advertise free of charge. All that is required is an understanding of the free publicity this facility provides.

Anyone or any organisation who wishes to use the notice boards (or a particular notice board) to advertise local events and activities can contact the District Council's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Stuart Marlton on 01923 727255. You will need to post or hand deliver the notices to his office and the council will insert them within seven days.

Let's see full notice boards as a reflection of the many interesting things that are going on in our community.

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CROXLEY COMMON MOOR

Some people's idea of sheer joy is tramping up and down Watford High Street or wandering around the Harlequin Centre for hours on end. We all have our own ideas of what constitutes a 'fun time'.

For a growing number of 'out door' residents, a walk on Croxley Common Moor is becoming a weekly (or even daily) high spot in their busy lives.

This lovely wilderness area has had a chequered history. For years it was in the shadow of Dickinson's Paper Mills and the River Gade was normally a milky white colour due to the use of china clay in paper making. It was grazed each year by the cattle belonging to the 'commoners' and the young people of Croxley Green flocked to Lock 79 in the long summer evenings, turning the bank into a sort of Lido as the young ladies watched the young men give a demonstration of their muscularity and swimming (and diving) skills. For the most part though the Moor was deserted.

Things really began to look up when the one hundred acres or so was designated an outstanding site of scientific interest in 1992.

It was managed by the Countryside Management Service and Three Rivers and the various aspects of the ecosystem were analysed. It turned out to be a treasure-trove for wildlife – a little niche just seventeen miles from Central London.

On May 4th 2000 the first AGM of the 'Friends of Croxley Common Moor' was held and a committee elected.



Since then there has been a lot of activity by the members to make the various parts of the area into an accessible wildlife area without disturbing its unspoilt nature.

A lot of progress has been made, including monthly 'scrub bashing' sessions in the winter, installation of 'kissing gates' for easy access, a large illustrated 'welcoming' board with the flora and fauna illustrated in living colour, and installation of nesting boxes.

Our last remaining resident commoner, Peter Foster, grazes his cattle there each year. Without these animals the Moor would soon become overgrown and the meadow grass would disappear.

If you feel like joining the 'Friends' and taking part in enjoyable monthly scrub management sessions during this winter, contact John Elvins, Project Officer Countryside Management Service on 0208 447 5466 or David Wynne-Jones on 01923 251905.

ATTENTION: ALL SHOPS IN CROXLEY GREEN



BEST DRESSED WINDOW DISPLAYS CHRISTMAS 2001



Croxley Green Parish Council
will present 3 prizes of
£75, £50 and £25



Parish Councillors will select the winners
week commencing 17th December 2001

SEAT SUGGESTIONS

The Parish Council has removed a seat from Girtton Way and is asking for proposed sites within Croxley Green to resite it and or others. If you believe a seat would be of benefit in your vicinity, please inform the Parish Council and also canvass the residents adjacent to the proposed site as, just because you would like one, not everybody does.



THE NEW ROAD DENTAL PRACTICE



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IT'S A KNOCK OUT

WOULD THE PARISH LIKE AN "IT'S A KNOCK OUT" COMPETITION? WE TRIED TO ARRANGE ONE LAST YEAR. IF YOU THINK YOU COULD RAISE A TEAM OF 8 PEOPLE (WE NEED AT LEAST 6 TEAMS) THEN CONTACT ME AT THE PARISH OFFICE.



Cllr Robert Ridley

CROXLEY GREEN FLOWER GROUP

The Croxley Green Flower Group was formed in 1965 by Miss Kay Raggett, who sadly died in December 2000.

Today, we are still holding our monthly demonstrations at the Red Cross Centre, Barton Way, Croxley Green.

Why not come along to one of our Flower Arranging Demonstrations. Our Demonstrators are N.A.F.F trained to Area and National Grades. Our Group evenings are held on the second Tuesday in the month, except for the month of August. Group evenings commence at 7.45pm.

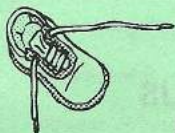
As most of our Members live in the Community, you will not be too surprised if you meet some of your neighbours. Many of our Members have been with the Group for sometime.

We have an interval half way through the Evening performance when tea and coffee is served and where we can enjoy chatting with all of our friends.

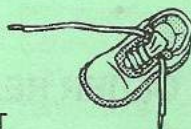
We have a sales stall as well as a bric-a-brac and publication stall. We also have a raffle, which is drawn at the end of the evening. Flowers, which have been skilfully arranged into six different designs by our evening demonstrator, are the raffle prizes.

Please come along, a warm welcome is waiting for you. Our invitation is extended to anyone interested in improving their skills with flowers, or like so many of us, who just likes to relax in the joy and the beauty of flowers.

I look forward to seeing you.
Mrs Vera McDonald (Chairman)

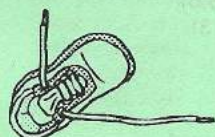


BARTON WAY TENNIS COURT

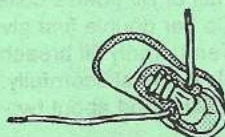


It is rather depressing to see this area still standing desolate most of the time. Some time ago the Parish Council considered ideas to make this area more inviting and more useful to the community which it is designed to serve. Now, we are considering renewing our plans for this area and turning it into a multi-sports facility. Goals could be placed at either end with a strong steel mesh interior upon which cricket stumps could be painted. Basketball/netball hoops could also be incorporated and the steel mesh would be ideal for the ball to rebound. The use of mesh would enable games to be played within the court area and also from outside. None of this would prevent tennis being played but as the demand, at present, appears to be low such alterations would use this hard standing to its maximum potential.

If we are to carry out this idea we will need permission and help from Three Rivers District Council, who own the facility. We will also need to include a sum of money within our budget. Kids, if you would like us to carry this idea further, or have any other ideas, please contact me at the Parish Office. It would help if you also approached your District Councillor.



Cllr R J Ridley





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PUZZLE PAGE

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

WORD SEARCH

BIRDS OF THE AIR

Can you find forty-six birds hidden in this word square up and down or diagonally up and down. Try to do it without looking at the list below.

Auk	Kite
Avocet	Knot
Bee-eater	Lapwing
Blackbird	Lark
Bluethroat	Martin
Bluetit	Merganser
Bunting	Oriole
Chaffinch	Peewit
Crane	Peregrine
Cuckoo	Rail
Dove	Raven
Dunlin	Rhea
Eagle	Robin
Emu	Serin
Firecrest	Skua
Fulmar	Skylark
Goldcrest	Smew
Goose	Swift
Grebe	Teal
Greenshank	Tern
Gull	Twite
Hobby	Weaver
Jay	Wren

R	N	I	B	O	R	P	K	G	N	I	W	P	A	L
R	A	V	O	C	E	T	E	R	E	S	T	E	A	L
S	E	V	O	D	T	T	S	E	R	C	E	R	I	F
N	I	R	E	S	A	A	O	B	W	H	K	E	R	U
I	C	R	A	N	E	S	O	E	D	I	N	G	Y	L
P	W	E	A	V	E	R	G	R	N	I	T	R	A	M
R	E	L	G	A	E	L	I	R	H	E	A	I	J	A
E	M	U	S	L	B	B	B	U	N	T	I	N	G	R
S	S	K	U	A	K	N	A	H	S	N	E	E	R	G
N	K	R	H	C	N	I	F	F	A	H	C	U	E	Y
A	A	A	A	U	K	L	T	T	I	T	E	U	L	B
G	U	L	L	C	N	N	E	E	W	F	I	N	O	B
R	B	Y	A	K	U	U	R	R	L	I	A	R	I	O
E	L	K	N	O	T	D	N	C	O	W	T	A	R	H
M	U	S	G	O	L	D	C	R	E	S	T	E	O	A

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD FOR OUR OLDER READERS BY ERINACEUS

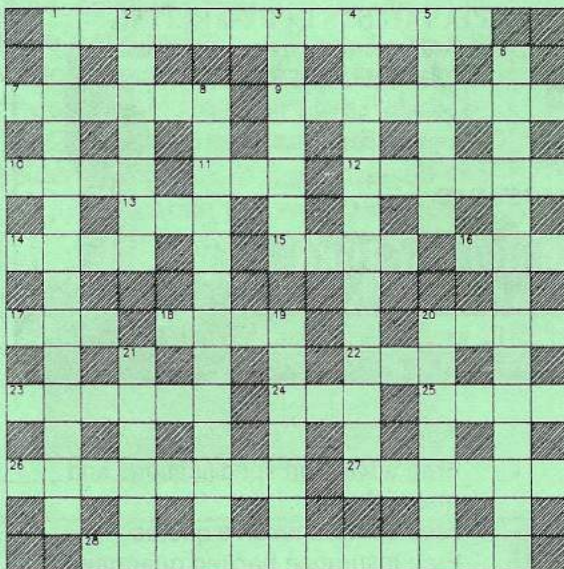
CLUES.

ACROSS.

1. Without a mixed clearer oxygen we can find our home. (7,5).
7. Medley of chants may capture. (6).
9. Goes before you on your tree. (8).
10. Second attic. (4).
11. Railwaymen come back fast. (3).
12. Reason for power. (6).
13. In this one may be trapped. (3).
14. Still sleeping in a bedroom. (4).
15. If this is your last answer you will be. (4).
16. Measurement of twelfth letter. (3).
17. Home of a very ancient mariner. (3).
18. Love returned can be painful. (4).
20. Equal or superior look closely. (4).
22. Not into applause for seeds. (3).
23. Bend the lock to cause tension. (6).
24. Blade or person who puts it in. (3).
25. Party for back-to-front girl. (4).
26. Intone one's alibi to be amenable. (8).
27. Santa's cries to clear weeds. (6).
28. Where one finds the lie in Psalm 23? (5,7).

DOWN.

1. See story of the Parson perhaps? (10,4).
2. Bound for adventure. (7).
3. Longed for what you shortly deserved. (7).
4. Value of farm labourer in town. (13).
5. False tears in confusion at last. (6).
6. Half of Sir John's college in tree lined street. (8,6).
8. Do her double first give a superior authority. (13).
19. Temporarily fill breach. (7).
20. New arrival scornfully. (7).
21. Make good about two. (6).



ANSWERS
ACROSS:- 1. CROXLEY GREEN, 7. SNATCH, 9. ANCESTOR, 10. BETA, 11. RUN, 12. MOTIVE, 13. RUT, 14. ABED, 15. DONE, 16. ELL, 17. ARK, 18. EROS, 20. PEER, 22. OVA, 23. STRESS, 24. OAR, 25. RAVE, 26. PLEASING, 27. HOEING, 28. GREEN
DOWN:- 1. CANTERBURY TALE, 2. OUTWARD, 3. YEARNED, 4. RICKMANSWORTH, 5. ERSATZ, 6. GONVILLE AVENUE, 8. HERTFORDSHIRE, 19. STOPGAP, 20. PARVENU, 21. REPAIR