

Published by:  
Croxley Green  
Parish Council

# The Parish Pump

## Memorial Sundial

To mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee the Parish Council is planning to place a Memorial Sundial in front of Croxley Green Library in Barton Way.

Consideration is currently being given to the design of the sundial and it is hoped that it will be in place some time towards the end of the year.

If there are any Croxley Green residents who were born on either 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952 or 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 then would you please telephone the Parish Council office to let us know.

## Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window

The winners of this competition were:

1. New Road Dry Cleaners
2. Quay Designs – Scots Hill
3. Browers – Opticians, Watford Road

As usual the windows of these shops were innovative and very Christmassy. Indeed, all the shops which decorated their windows were a pleasure to see, and made it hard to choose the winners.

Thank you to all who took part.

**Cllr Hazel Seeley**

## JUST A THOUGHT!

### Bus Turning Areas

Should road junctions where buses turn be marked in some way so that cars etc can stop and allow the buses to turn with ease?

Either a latticed area or a line with "Stop – Buses Turning".

**Cllr Robert Ridley**

Contributions or requests for advertising space will be gratefully received by:

**The Parish Office**

01923 710250 (10am – 2pm)

Copy Date:- 30 September 2002

No 21 May 2002

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## EDITORIAL

Apologies for the Spring edition of the Parish Pump being late this year.

Due to the resignation of John Hedges who edited the Pump for many years, we are without his expertise and advice so we have done the best we can.

We hope that you enjoy the various articles, and would like to draw your attention to the Garden Competition form in particular.

**Cllr Hazel Seeley**

## Do You Know?

Which matters listed below are the Parish Council's responsibility?

1. To sweep the streets.
2. To fill in the potholes in the roads.
3. To empty the dog litter bins.
4. To install/empty the waste bins.
5. To re-lay uneven urban tarmac/paving stone paths.
6. To keep clear rural paths of encroachment.
7. To install street furniture.
8. To change the broken lamppost bulbs.
9. To cut the grass on The Green.
10. To cut back overhanging branches on paths.
11. To repair broken fences.
12. To remove dumped cars.

(Answers on back page.)

## COUNCILLORS

### North Ward:

Kerron Cross 441889  
*Vice Chairman – Council*

Andrew Green c/o 710250

Michael Johns 231203

Hazel Seeley 772696

### Croxley Green Ward:

Philip Brading 492893

Leighton Dann 778484

Gary Evans 777722

Christine Jefford 771769  
*Chairman – Environment & Amenity*

Doug Pavey 773595

Adrian Simpson 720041

### South Ward:

Robert Ridley 720580

Mark Saxon 772581  
*Chairman – Planning & Development*

Anne Senior 219631

Cliff Vassiliou 779927  
*Chairman – Council*

David Wynne-Jones 251905

The Council Offices  
Community Way  
Croxley Green  
Rickmansworth  
Herts WD3 3SU  
Tel: 01923 710250  
Fax: 01923 710586

Edited by:- Hazel Seeley and  
Moyra Pumfrey  
Produced by: Moyra Pumfrey

Croxley Green Parish Council • Founded 1986



## The Parish Council Office

The Council offices are situated in Community Way, next door to the Community Centre, and since Derek Fineberg was suspended on 16<sup>th</sup> January this year the office has been slightly more chaotic than usual.

Since our previous assistant left at the end of the last year, the Council have been very fortunate to have had the services of three "temps" – Janet, Lesley and Moyra. Each one of these ladies has been very efficient and helpful and coped with all the different duties thrown at them. Moyra is still with us and although she looks slightly bemused at times, she has nevertheless been a great asset to Cliff Vassiliou and Doreen Boast.

Cliff Vassiliou is our current Chairman, but has taken it upon himself to oversee the running of the office. Nearly every day he appears, to deal with correspondence, complaints, members of the public, phone calls and the Rangers' duties.

Doreen Boast (ex-Clerk at Sarratt) comes in on Mondays and Wednesdays and oversees the accounts, salaries and gives advice.

I have been helping out wherever I can, on a fairly regular basis, but my input is very lowly. I do photocopying; order stationery; petty cash; buy toilet rolls, milk, coffee, tea and generally try to be as useful as I can without getting under too many feet.

The Council have great hopes of being able to employ a new Clerk in the near future. Until then, those of us involved with the day to day running of the Parish Council office will continue to do so.

**Cllr Hazel Seeley**



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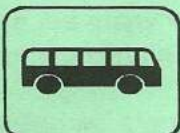
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
Return from Watford	12 noon

**2<sup>ND</sup> JOURNEY**

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

**3<sup>RD</sup> JOURNEY**

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



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## How I came to live in Croxley Green

Up until 5 years ago I had lived in London for over 40 years, so moving to Croxley Green was somewhat of a culture shock. A lot of the reasons I moved were to do with my beloved mother who had lived in a little village in Spain and, as she got older and more vulnerable, I persuaded her to move back to England.

Now, she was a west country girl and not into big cities. As soon as she saw Rickmansworth she fell in love with the area, and when she saw Croxley Green there was no budging her, not only the village, Nuttfield Close and the house. She raved about the shops, the neighbours and the walks. She was extremely happy and just before she passed away in 1999 she made me swear that I would not part with the house.

It has taken me quite a long time to settle here, but when I compare where I live now to where I used to live, there is absolutely no comparison. It is clean, safe and I have marvellous neighbours who talk to me and above all care. I am sad to say that you don't get that in London!

**Cllr Anne Senior**

## Three Rivers CVS Community Directory

Copies of the above can be seen at either the Parish Council offices or the Library.



## Tree Planting in Stones Orchard 11<sup>th</sup> March 2002

Although it rained in the early morning, for once it was dry during the actual tree planting.

Children from Yorke Mead, Malvern Way, Rickmansworth Park and Harvey Road Schools all came along at their specified times. Each child put a shovelful of earth round the tree they were helping to plant, even going so far as to search for worms to put in the hole, once they had been told how good worms were for the trees.

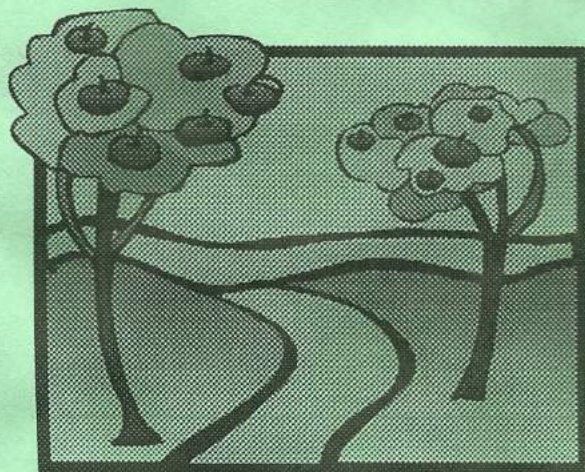
Councillor Ridley tried to persuade the children that he'd seen a giraffe walking through the orchard and that sometimes rhinos climbed the trees – however, I don't think he was believed!

Each school was presented with a certificate by the Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Vassiliou.

Also in attendance were Councillors Jefford, Ridley, Pavey, Seeley, ex-Councillor Gallett and Mr Ron Jefford, who took the photographs.

The two Council Rangers, Mr Batson and Mr Kingshott, dug the holes for the trees and firmed them in, so that hopefully in years to come we shall once again have a proper orchard for all to enjoy.

Cllr Hazel Seeley



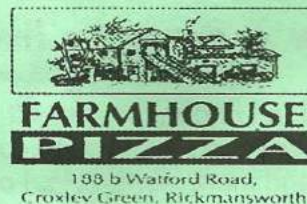
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# 10th Annual Croxley Green Garden Competition 2002

At long last winter seems to be over as we have experienced a lovely early Spring with an amazing display of daffodils to prove it!

Gardening now comes to mind with the purchase of seeds and plants etc and so a good time for some forward planning – as once again the Parish Council will be holding their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Competition in 2002 – you will find an appropriate entry form below.

Each year we continue to be impressed by the standard and variety of gardens entered and we would like to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee by having a bumper number of entries this year. We know that there are many lovely gardens in Croxley Green – we have seen them – but are certain there are more just waiting to be discovered!

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Judging will start in early July with final judging on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2002. We all greatly enjoy both viewing and judging the gardens, but more so a pleasure to meet all the enthusiasts who join in the fun of the competition – we do hope we will have the pleasure of meeting you all again this summer.

The competition is, of course, open to all residents in the Croxley Green Parish.

Happy gardening to you all!



## CROXLEY GREEN GARDEN COMPETITION 2002 – ENTRY FORM

Mr/Mrs/Miss	_____	First Name	_____
Surname	_____		
Company (if applicable)	_____		
Address	_____		
	_____		
Telephone No	_____	Post Code	_____
		Signature	_____

Categories – Please tick ✓ where appropriate

### HOUSEHOLD SECTION

Front Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back Garden (less than 60' x 30')	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back Garden (more than 60' x 30')	<input type="checkbox"/>

### BEST FLORAL DISPLAY FRONTING PUBLIC HIGHWAY

Public House	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shops/Commercial Premises	<input type="checkbox"/>

Completed entry forms to be returned no later than 15<sup>th</sup> July 2002  
The Clerk to the Council, Croxley Green Parish Council



## Continuing to Make a Noise!

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

This time last year, you may remember that for the Noise that we carried out an extensive pot-hole survey highlighting the worst affected areas in Croxley, held a community lunch and picked up litter amongst many other things.

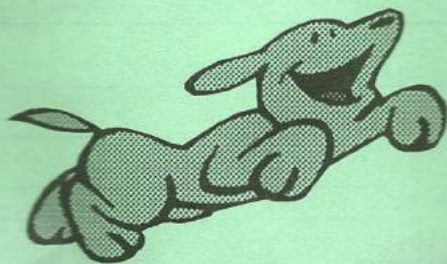
Well we've been at it again! By the time you read this we will have been out picking up litter from those parts of the village which seem to attract it by the lorry load, washing cars to ensure everyone has a nice gleaming motor to drive about in over the summer months and be holding another community lunch to ensure everyone is well fed and not short of a conversation piece or two for their holidays!

Seriously though, it is great to see that young people are taking an interest in what happens in their local community and want to make a real difference to people's lives. I've been really struck by the enthusiasm that the young people in Croxley's churches have, not only to come up with these ideas themselves, but to carry them out too.

Hopefully, the events have been a success again, but as we will be doing more projects throughout the year to address problems in the community, if you have any ideas for what we can do in the future please do not hesitate to get in touch and I'll pass your suggestions on to the group.

**Cllr Kerron Cross**

### JESSIE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S OFFICIAL GUARD DOG IS HAPPY!



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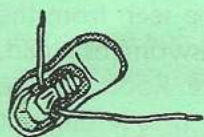
## Barton Way Tennis Court (continued)

Still stands empty and lonely but the Parish Council have budgeted to create a multi activity area that could be used for other sports including tennis.

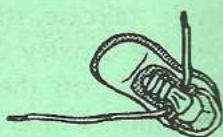
It could have goals at either end with basketball hoops which have steel mesh centres allowing the ball to rebound off and which would have cricket stumps incorporated.

This would allow people to play not only within the court but both ends could be used at the same time.

Please help the Parish Council by contacting your District Councillor asking them for their assistance and help by budgeting for it.



Cllr Robert Ridley



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## Fly Tipping

There's a lot of it about. I am sure that many people in Croxley Green have noticed how some of our local woods and lanes are being spoilt by fly-tipping. Recently, Little Green Lane seems to be favourite and the woods themselves. One particular offender obviously just dumped a whole truckload of rubbish so that it was strewn the lane, making it virtually impassable for walkers.

An eagle-eyed couple spotted a piece of a box with a name and address on it, and brought it into the Council offices. We wrote to the address and had a very enlightening phone call in response. It transpires that they had recently had a new kitchen installed, and the fitter was approached by a man who offered to remove all the resultant rubbish for the sum of £70. Guess where it ended up? That's right - Little Green Lane!

We have the offender's name and this will be sent to TRDC, who will hopefully press charges.

Members of the public can help reduce fly-tipping if they find any information which may assist in tracking down these persistent offenders. Please help the Parish Council by keeping your eyes open.

Cllr Hazel Seeley



### The Horse Trough, All Saints Church, The Green

I do hope that everyone has seen the spring display of daffodils and narcissus together with pansies that have been flowering merrily over the past few weeks in the horse trough – they certainly looked a picture this year!

It will soon be time to plant the trough for the summer and with the Queen's Golden Jubilee fast approaching, it has been decided to have an appropriate theme – so watch this space!

Many thanks to everyone who kindly helped to keep the trough watered throughout the summer months last year – it is very much appreciated.

Cllr Christine Jefford



### Looking Back and Forward

Do you remember the old Co-Op Hall? It was up an outside staircase, still there, which can be seen from the Co-Op car park. I got to know of it in 1955 when I joined the Croxley Green Evening Townswomens Guild. This was in the September. In the following year we went across the road to the Science Room of the Guildhouse. We continued to meet there until the Fire Prevention Officer forced Dickinsons to stop letting out the upper floor because it had only two wooden stairways for access.

We then moved to St Bedes Hall where we remained until recently when we moved to the Library where we are very comfy. Over the past 49 years we have heard many interesting speakers and seen some beautiful slides. It is sad that so many members are no longer with us – some having moved away when retirement came.

We are still in Croxley and very much alive and kicking. We would be happy to welcome new members. Just give me a ring on 01923 446638 when I will tell you more. We meet on the third Friday of every month.

Betty Norman  
Sherborne Way

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## The Cathedral of Croxley Green

A hundred years ago our beloved village was really just a hamlet depending on its excellent annual cherry harvest, but above all on Croxley Paper Mill, which had been founded near the Grand Union Canal in 1853. It was the mill that imported large numbers of workers from Yorkshire and which built houses for these workers in what is now Dickinson Square. Yes, New Road was the central thoroughfare in the rustic sleepy village in those days.

Like all employers then the mill owners and managers were very anxious that the workers should be sober, industrious and well versed in the word of the Lord. Attendance at All Saints Church wasn't exactly compulsory but any worker not seen regularly in the congregation on a Sunday morning, without an excuse, soon found that it had been decided that he was 'unsuitable' for employment at the mill and lost his job. Consequently attendance at the 'cathedral of Croxley Green' was always excellent and in fact the church had to be enlarged as Dickinsons Mill prospered.

Not many people know that All Saints was officially the most heavily bomb damaged church in Hertfordshire during the Second World War. A land mine came down by parachute and blew in a large section, including parts of the tower, all the stained glass windows and the wall adjacent to the church garden.

Nowadays, though attendance is not compulsory, we have a happy and contented congregation and just recently CCTV cameras have been installed to allow the church to be open each day so that local residents (anyone in fact) can come inside to meditate and pray if they wish. It makes such a change to sit in the tranquillity of this beautiful place of God, even for a few minutes, away from the rush and bustle outside.

Next time you pass by, spare a few minutes to drop in and enjoy the atmosphere. You will emerge a calmer and happier person.

**Cllr David Wynne-Jones**



### Perspiration

You tell me horses sweat  
that men perspire  
that ladies gently glow occasionally  
You've not met my Aunt Nancy;  
Blimey

Previously published in Peer Poetry

**Cllr Michael Johns**



### Christmas Decorations around Croxley



The shopping areas in Baldwins Lane were the next step in the Parish Council's ongoing plans to gradually provide Christmas lights and decorations around the village.

There were a few hiccups here and there but with a bit of compromise and co-operation, in particular from Keith Marsh (butchers) and R & R Stores (Grocers), the two Baldwins Lane shopping areas looked very festive and received an enthusiastic response.

An astonishing number of private houses provide marvellous displays of great ingenuity and colour. However, one house in particular was absolutely amazing and raised an amount of £2452.84 towards a children's hospice in Bedford. Mr and Mrs Dave Edwards of 3 Lancing Way are to be congratulated for their hard work and the pleasure they gave to the rest of us.

**Cllr Hazel Seeley**



## Harvey Road School

Harvey Road School was opened in 1938 as a temporary structure because Durrants School hadn't been finished. It continued to be used because of the outbreak of the Second World War and proved especially helpful with the influx of evacuees from London. Locals were taught for half a day and the evacuees for half a day. Many of the Anderson Shelters survived until the recent demolition of the original building in 1998.

Originally the school was for junior age children. This changed in the early 1970's when York Road Infants closed and Harvey Road School became a JMI.

There have only been four head teachers since the school opened. The continuity of this has brought is one of the reasons for the strong sense of tradition within the school. Miss Cooper was the first, followed by Ernie Ford and Alan Nicholson, who was head until he retired in 1997. Since that time Alison Gauntlet has been head.

The school has taught the first, second and third generations of many families in Croxley. Alison Gauntlet was herself a pupil at the school until she left to go to Watford Girls Grammar School in 1973. She returned to HRS as a classroom teacher in 1988 and succeeded Alan Nicholson as the first head in the new school building.

The demolition of the old 'temporary' wooden structure and the opening of the new school coincided with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1998. Many of the first children at the school turned up to the celebrations to regale us with their stories of life in the original building during the war.

Over recent years the school has enhanced its reputation. Last year's Ofsted report started with the words: 'HRS is an outstanding school'. The ability of the staff to find a balance between the traditional and the modern is the foundation of the school's present successes. Last month the school's achievements were features in Ofsted's annual report and subsequently Harvey Road was offered Beacon status on the strength of its academic standards.

The new, purpose-built school has been carefully designed to meet the requirements of the modern curriculum. Each class has its own computer with access to the internet. There are four more computers in the library and a set of 16 laptops with wireless networking for whole class teaching.

The facilities have been developed with potential use by the wider community in mind. The dining hall and large hall are ideal for hiring for parties, receptions and meetings. For further information on lettings, contact the school on 773801.

Greg Hill  
Chair of Governors

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## The Changing Face of Public Road Transport

One of my many hobbies is buses, something which I have pursued since my primary school days in Southall when a new fleet of diesel engined STL type double deckers arriving at the then named Hanwell Bus Garage stimulated my interest, just before the outbreak of war.

My first recollection of buses in the Watford area are of ST type double decks parked in an open space in the Lower High Street nearly opposite the long since closed Watford High Street garage (LT code WA) of London Transport. This organisation at that time also operated what I believe consisted of mainly single deckers from another depot in the town at the St Albans Road end of Leavesden Road, known as Watford, Leavesden Road (LT code WT). This building is still in use for other purposes today, but both garages have been superseded by the present one at Garston.

The date 1<sup>st</sup> January 1970 is a defining one in Watford area bus history, for on that date the former Country Area of London Transport passed into the control of the then National Bus Company and became known as London Country, which title appeared on bus sides instead of London Transport.

Since 1970 there have been various changes of ownership and metamorphoses of our main local bus company. In 1986 London Country was divided into four geographically based companies, our part being designated London Country North West (LCNW). In 1990, following an earlier management buy-out, LCNW was purchased by Luton & District and some red and cream livered vehicles also appeared on some local routes.

Later on groups of routes in the same localities received brand names and ours became Watfordwide with that designation appearing on the then mostly green coloured vehicles. Many of these buses were repainted into a royal blue and yellow livery, as were the Luton & District red and cream ones, in an attempt to create a uniform image.

Luton & District were bought by the then Cowie Group, which changed their name to today's Arriva and the present day livery of turquoise and white was adopted for vehicles operating outside Greater London.

I hope that this article will be of interest and may encourage readers who have lived in the Watford Area longer than I have (since 1969), to put their memories on this or other subjects into print.

Cllr Doug Pavey

*a name you're at home with*  
**01923 710500**

141 New Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3EN  
Tel: 01923 710500 Fax: 01923 710555

**Maureen  
James**

ASSOCIATES

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## Wot's in a Name?

More than half a century has gone by since I came away from Aldershot Barracks with my demob, suit and trilby hat leaving behind memories of largely wasted years spent in the conscript army of the early 1940s. It goes without saying that when the government of the day decided they could at last dispense with my contribution towards the war effort, and the peace that followed, I was delighted and wasted no time in trying to forget all about it. Nevertheless, as the years go by and nostalgia begins to bite I have to admit that the memories are not all bad and some do manage to return at the click of the TV controller button for the Teletext 'Service Pals' page and its plaintive 'Where are you now?' messages. It is here that I am reminded of something that was especially popular in the armed forces of the time but which regrettably never really followed through to become commonplace among colleagues in the post-war office and works environment. I am referring here to the everyday use of nicknames, and especially the kind of nickname where the Christian name – sorry, the forename – was supplanted by one having what I can only describe (and forgive me for this!) as an adjectival affinity with the man or his surname. Perhaps I should explain. When, for example, did you every hear of the MP Tony Banks being called 'Dogger' Banks, or Mike Tyson the boxer as 'Muncher' Tyson (this on account of his liking for chewing his opponents' ears)? Or the beleaguered Transport Minister Stephen Byers as 'Wobbler' Byers because of the precarious state of his political career? No, never. Yet such 'handles' were commonplace in the Services of the '40s.

Now, call me boring if you like, but whereas there are some who collect matchbox labels, some 'holidays from hell' memories, and some beer mats, my particular fetish happens to be 'Service nicknames of the '40s'. So what better way then, say I, to supplement a failing memory in pursuit of this strange hobby than by tuning in to Teletext page 172 every Saturday evening instead of watching something intellectual like 'Blind Date'? And all that is required for this is a pencil and paper and enough willpower to stave off the inevitable desire to fall asleep!

Everyone, I am sure, will be most interested to know, for example, that there were few Service units indeed in the 1940s, whether they be army barracks, warships, aerodromes, or whatever, that did not boast on their roll at least one, and possibly more, 'Jock', 'Taffy', 'Paddy' and 'Mac'. And maybe even a 'Scouse', a 'Yorky' a 'Brummy' or a 'Geordie'. Some were more imaginative, like 'Dusty' Miller, 'Doughy' Baker, 'Nobby' Clarke (why 'Nobby' I wonder?), and the ubiquitous 'Smudger' Smith. I once knew a chap called 'Timber' Wood, though he could equally have been called 'Chippy', along with anyone with the surname Carpenter. And what White was not called 'Chalky' or 'Snowy'? Then there was the Bell family, 'Dinger', 'Ringer', 'Ding-dong' and sometimes even 'Clapper'. 'Bunny' Warren was another, and of course 'Dickie' Byrd. Some had a celebrity-based origin. Any Crabbe became a 'Buster', any Crosby a 'Bing' and any Flynn an 'Errol'. As for a Chaplin, he was of course a 'Charlie'! Moreover, it has to be said that anybody of an obese nature (this in spite of the best efforts of his cookhouse chef, who often went under the title of 'Cookie', or something less complimentary), was a prime choice for being called 'Tubby', 'Tub', or even 'Fatso'! Then there was 'Lofty' and his mate 'Titch'. I could go on.

One thing that for the life of me I cannot recall, however, and even page 172 has so far let me down on this, is any nickname that went with such popular surnames as Green, Brown and Thomas. Any ideas you septuagenarians?

As for me, I never had a proper nickname, more's the pity. Just the occasional '!&@&£%'.  
.

Mr L J Duggett



## **Owls and Hawks and Nesting Birdlife in Croxley**

One of the most pleasant sounds on the warm sultry nights of April, May and June last year was the 'tu-whit-a-woo' of a pair of tawny owls. Some public spirited person had obviously put a nesting box out and this wonderful sound, so evocative of childhood memories when wandering through the woods at dusk, was brought back to those lucky enough to be in the area. As far as I could hear, this was an area of Lower Copthorne Road and the Windmill Estate.

Owls used to be quite common – every churchyard had one – but sadly today they are quite rare. The Friends of Croxley Common Moor contacted the RSPB and the Countryside Management Service and arranged to have a variety of nest boxes erected in an effort to lure them to this site of special scientific interest (SSSI). One of our members who is an official in the local RSPB arranged for a 'Hawks and Falcons' expert to visit the Moor and point out the most suitable spots for this project.

In February we put up two tawny owl nest boxes and two kestrel boxes, and on the other side of Tolpits Lane two barn owl boxes were also put up.

So far one kestrel box and one tawny owl box has a nest in it so with luck they will breed successfully, adding to the beauty of the Common Moor. We have also erected forty five other nesting boxes – most of which are fairly active – so why not visit the Moor during this summer and see if you can spot the results of all this ornithological effort.

**David Wynne-Jones**

## **Charity Quiz or "Who wants to be a Millionaire" comes to Croxley Green**

In December 2001, a new venture was added to the Parish Council's calendar in the form of a quiz to benefit a local charity – MacMillan Cancer Relief being the one chosen for this year.

The quiz took place at St Oswalds Church Hall with a cold supper being served to over 100 people – 12 tables in all, – including the local MP Richard Page and his wife Madeleine and a large contingent from MacMillan Cancer Relief. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Adrian Simpson was 'Chris Tarrant' but no 'Millionaires' were created that evening – only a very pleasant evening and having to make our minds work!

We were delighted to be able to present MacMillan Cancer Relief with a cheque for £839.21 as a result of the quiz, after all expenses had been deducted. It has also been decided that a similar quiz will be held later this year for the benefit of another charity of the Council's choice.

**Cllr Christine Jefford**

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## Jolly Boating Weather

Usually an expressing referring to punting around the universities, but in my case, a narrow boat on the Grand Union Canal. I was quite a lot of fun and not as hard as I thought it would be.

We picked up the boat (Bustopher Jones – all the boats are named after the characters in the musical Cats) at Bridgewater Boats at Berkhamsted and we chose to go north. The weather was perfect and the friendly people at the boatyard showed us how everything worked and went with us through the first lock.

In our party there were 2 adults, 3 children and 3 dogs (a nutty Boxer, a deaf and grumpy Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a very grumpy little Spanish breed who is nearly blind and selectively deaf). It was very exciting because none of us had ever been on a narrow boat before and over a period of 4 days Buster the Boxer and Chino the Spanish dog and one of the boys managed to fall in. None of them drowned! The canal is very shallow except near the locks.

Learning to steer the boat took me a while, it is certainly easier to steer a car than a 60 foot long narrow boat, but the good thing is that there is not much traffic and it travels at 4 mph or less, whichever way I turned the wheel (actually I mean pushed or pulled the tiller, for the nautically minded) the boat seemed to go the other way.

We covered not many miles. We did in fact only get to Leighton Buzzard before we had to turn around to be back within the 4 days that we had chartered the boat. We could have covered the same distance by car in less than an hour but what we would have missed. The pace of travel and life along the canalside was so relaxing and interesting.

The first night we stopped the north side of Tring and had dinner in a very old and popular canalside inn. We moored the boat about 50 yards from the pub, no problem with traffic wardens or drinking and driving (boats don't move after dusk). I thought Croxley was quiet but Tring is quieter.

One of the things you notice very quickly is how friendly and helpful the people on the other boats are, sharing locks, helping with winding the paddles up, giving advice on shop locations, good places to eat, etc etc.

As we were coming back from Leighton Buzzard we noticed lots of different types of boats going in the opposite direction. They were all going to a large festival at Milton Keynes. One of the boats was being pulled along by a horse and it made us think about how life used to be before the invention of engines. It would have been nice to go to the festival but people had booked their moorings many months in advance. Maybe next time we will give ourselves more time.

I would highly recommend this type of holiday if you have children and dogs, it is so very relaxing between the locks, and if the children are old enough they can work the locks for you (supervised of course) so you don't need to do anything, apart from providing them with a continual snacks and drinks.

**Cllr Anne Senior**

### Dog Litter

Did you know that the Parish Council clears out the 'Poop a Scoop' litter bins all over Croxley? Did you know that dog dirt, left on the ground or in the grass spread disease, especially among children?

Most people take out a plastic bag and collect and bin the offending 'poop' but a surprising number do not. It is an offence to leave dog mess on the ground. Please co-operate with your Council in this matter – we will remove it if you will put it in the correct bin.

I always take a camera out with me and if I see, on rare occasions, a dog depositing its permanent 'present' on the pavement, I take a photo. It may not be a masterpiece of photography but it certainly scares the 'poop' out of the irresponsible dog owners. Why not try it?

**Dog Lover**

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# CYCLING IN THE CHILTERNs



## Some suggested cycle rides radiating from The Green

### Introduction

I began cycling seriously in 1950 with a round trip of France stopping for a while on the South coast. I had travelled down the Rhone Valley through Nimes, Avignon and Aix en Provence on the way taking in a minimal section of the Alps, seeing the Mediterranean for the first time in my life. On this trip I was introduced to Vin Rouge Ordinaire, Galoise Bleu Cigarettes and French youth hostels. I developed an addiction for cycling on this trip that is still with me.

My romance with the bicycle continued in the Watford area by racing early Sunday morning with the 'Ricky' Cycle Club in 25 mile time trials starting from The Grove out along the A41 as it was in 1952 for 12½ miles to just past Berkhamstead and back. Returning to Watford after the events for breakfast.

Study, marriage, children and work curtailed by cycling somewhat until 1980 when I came to Croxley and enlisted for my first London to Brighton bike ride, having bought a racing bicycle well beyond my financial means. I did my training for this even in the areas that I'm about to describe. I have since that date cycled in the Chilterns most Sunday mornings and I would like to share the beautiful routes that I have found with you.

I have listed 9 routes, beginning with a simple 7½ mile round trip and culminating in a more difficult 42 mile return trip. With each trip I include distance, suggested time, hill categories (1 = gentle, 2 = moderate, 3 = steep) and places of refreshment on the way.

NOTE: Some of the location names are my own nomenclature. A start and finish is assumed from the top of the Green. Directions employ abbreviations.

### 1. FLAUNDEN

11 MILES – 1 hr 45 mins

Take the Sarratt Road up the Sarratt Hill (cat 2) over Sarratt Green on to top of Poles Hill above Belsize left into Bragmans Lane, right at t-junction, left at triangle, follow windy road to Bricklayers Arms, left at crossroad up shortish hill, right at crossroads to Church and the Green Dragon. Return by reverse route. The lanes from the Sarratt Road to the Bricklayers are lovely at any time of year and the return along this road is gently downhill. Good food and drink at both the pubs.

### 2. THE HAPPY VALLEY

12 MILES – 1 hr 50 mins

As route 1 to Bragmans Lane but continue down Poles Hill to Belsize, turn sharp right at bottom of hill into Lower Road (THE HAPPY VALLEY), continue passing the junction to Commonwood on the left and the return road to Sarratt on the right, short sharp hill on to t-junction at Toms Hill, turn right at triangle and up hill (cat 1) over M25 to Chandlers Cross, right at tee past the Clarendon Arms, slight hill, on along Red Hall Lane to rejoin Sarratt Road, left to Green. The woods at the top of Poles Hill and the woods along the first section of the Happy Valley are a wonder in bluebell season. The whole of Happy Valley has a slight downhill gradient and is secluded for most of its length and is almost totally devoid of traffic apart from a few friendly horse people. In the early morning the fluctuation of sunlight through the trees at the west end of the Valley makes for fairyland food and drink at the Clarendon.

### 3. CHIPPERFIELD AND COMMONWOOD

18 MILES – 2 hrs 15 mins

As 1 and 2 to Belsize but straight on to Chipperfield crossroads, right up short sharp hill, past Baptist Church, on to Chipperfield Common. Straight across the Common on to Commonwood, turn on right passing Peter Sellers' old house on the way. Turn right into Commonwood, a dead end location but well worth a visit for it's agricultural history, fascinating 1930's block of flats and a charming public house. Turn about and return to the main road, turn right and continue to and down Toms Hill to Chandlers Cross. On and up hill into Red Hall Lane, left at the Sarratt Road, back to Croxley Green. Food and drink at the Windmill, Chipperfield Common.



**4 CHESHAM AND BACK VIA RAF CHENIES 20 MILES – 2 hrs 45 mins (experienced riders)**

South across Croxley Green, right at roundabout into and down Scots Hill, right at roundabout up to station roundabout, right into Amersham Road. Gradual drag up to and through Chorleywood to Chenies turning on right. Through Chenies down hill to Chess Valley lower road. (Take care on down hill). Along valley road past Latimer on right, past Chesham new sewage works and municipal dump, incorporate detour around swimming pool, under railway to roundabout, turn right left at second roundabout then turn into Chesham High Street. Start the return journey as you came to Chesham but noting that the swimming pool detour does not apply in the return direction, therefore turn left at FIRST roundabout out. Follow lower valley road past Latimer till foot of Chenies Hill, turn left over Chess and begin the long hard climb (cat 3) up to RAF Chenies and beyond. Turn right at triangle signposted Belsize on to Bragman's Lane, on right up incline and return to Sarratt Road, turn right into Sarratt and continue to Croxley Green. Only place I've found in Chesham for coffee on Sunday morning is MacDonalds. No pubs on route till Belsize on the way home. The natural delights of the trip are the Chess Valley and the magnificent view across the Chess Valley from halfway up RAF Chenies hill.

**5 THE FLAUDEN VALLEY 15 MILES – 2 hrs**

As route 4 through Chorleywood, turn right into and through Chenies along Chess Valley Road to Latimer, cross road, turn right through Latimer and into Flaunden Valley. On until road veers to the right up Green Dragon Hill (cat 2) with a sting in the tail. At the top of the hill a wooden green dragon peers at you from over the hedge on your left. Church on the right (of some interest). Green Dragon pub on the left. Return as route 1. The Flaunden Valley has a haunting beauty about it in all seasons and the majesty of Green Dragon Hill compensates for the agony of the climb. Refreshments at Green Dragon and Bricklayers.

**6. BERKHAMPSTEAD AND BACK 30 MILES - 3½ hrs (experienced riders)**

As route 1 to Bricklayers Arms, straight over crossroads to incline, veer right and on to Bovington Green. Round green to triangle junction, turn left, follow road round to t-junction, turn right and then left almost immediately into Boxmoor – Chenies Road. Past Bovington Airfield and turn right at t-junction signposted Wheppley Hill through village, veer right past mobile home village and on to delightful double hairpin 1 in 7 downhill over dry valley and commence long slow climb to Berkhamstead Heights (cat 2). Turn right at tee then over new A41, left at roundabout past cemetery on left, veer right downhill, turn right into Berkhamstead High Street. Café on right. Return by old A41 Apsley, Kings Langley, difficult roundabout into M25 and new A41 junction. Take both care and Watford exit. Through Hunton Bridge lights, cross to far pavement at end of dual carriageway, stay on walkway over canal and into tunnel under M25 approach road. Join Hempstead Road to Watford three quarters round Town Hall roundabout. Rickmansworth Road to Croxley green. The lane from Wheppley to Berkhamstead Heights is of particular interest and free of traffic. Food and drink in Berkhamstead café and pub opposite Kings Langley Church.

**7. AMERSHAM AND BACK VIA CHESHAM 30 MILES - 3½ hrs (experienced riders)**

As route 3 to Chorleywood on to Little Chalfont and Amersham, taking third exit out of new A41 entrance roundabout bottom of Amersham approach hill. Into High Street. Café on left opposite church. Return through churchyard, follow pathway up hill over Amersham. Path through woods to join road at Amersham Hill, under bridge and left at roundabout, downhill through beautiful wooded area to Chesham. Return as route 3.

**8. ALDBURY VILLAGE 37 MILES – 4 hrs (experienced riders)**

As route 8 to Wendover Heighs, past cemetery but straight on at Film Museum, windy road through superb country with views over Amersham valley. Under new A41 down to old A41, straight over main road. Take signpost Aldbury. Over railway, over canal down to Aldbury with smart view of village on approach. Past pond café on right (rear of shops). Return by same route to old A41, left at junction to Berkhamstead, back to Croxley as route 4. Food and drink at Aldbury Café, Vallient Trooper and Pond Pub. Hills as route 4.

**9. WENDOVER VIA AMERSHAM, GT MISSENDEN, ASTON CLINTON & BERKHAMPSTEAD 42 MILES – 5 hrs**

To Amersham as route 7 on through Great Missenden (café left) to Wendover (café on left), turn right onto double roundabout, exit right signposted RAF Halton, past RAF on to high ground overlooking Aylesbury Vale Aston Clinton village and Gliders in season. On and down to old A41, turn right up second half of Aston Clinton Hill to roundabout. Take Tring exit, through Tring passing Aldbury, turn on left, return to Croxley Green as route 8.

**CONCLUSION**

I could go on but I would like to think that these few rides may get some of you interested in cycling in the countryside around Croxley Green. Should you cheat and travel my routes by car then an enormous hairy foot will descend upon you from the heavens.



## Green To Be Enlarged?

Should the road that dissects The Green be removed so that The Green could be enlarged? A parishoner asked me this question some time ago. I believe that the question should be asked. Remember those who choose to serve as Councillors or MP's are meant to be there to take people's concerns forward. That's why we ask you the people of Croxley Green to tell us if there is anything that you want us to attempt to bring about if it is possible. Not all are successful, but that does not mean that the question shouldn't be asked.

Of course, some people will dismiss this, whilst others may consider it to be of advantage to Croxley. Cricket could then be played on The Green. It might make it easier to protect against travellers. Would it be overall safer for children playing on The Green? The only way to find out is to debate this issue. It's your Green as much as it is the politicians'.

**Cllr Robert Ridley**

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## Free Publicity – Why not use a Council Noticeboard?

We now have some really nice green Council noticeboards all over Croxley. Everyone knows that there is always a lot going on in the village and yet you wouldn't think so by looking at the boards which are often quite empty.

Events can be advertised FREE of charge. All you have to do is contact Stuart Marlton on 01923 727255 and bring the posters in to his office at Three Rivers House at least three weeks in advance. Mr Marlton says 'If anyone or any organisations would like to put up a notice we would be happy to consider it'.

## Noticeboard Reader



## ONE WAY TO GO!



Traffic and cars/vehicles everywhere – what to do? Lack of parking, traffic flow problems, does this sound like your road?

Should we make more roads one way, some will say that they will become rat runs – will they? Do you believe a one way system would benefit your road? Crescents for example, first in/last out – would it be that awkward?

Are you concerned that the lack of passing space in your road would restrict emergency vehicles, do you believe that if your pavements were wide enough that parking bays could be created? Would you rather have a large grass verge or a smaller one with additional parking making the road wider?

It's something to consider, and it has already been done in some roads. Whether your road qualifies, I don't know, that's up to TRDC/HCC Highways Partnership and our District/County Councillors.

**Cllr Robert Ridley**

## French Without Tears

Surprisingly as it may appear to some, there is a group of Croxley men, women and children who would very much like to see our picturesque little village twinned with an equally beautiful one abroad, particularly in France.

The French Government is really keen on the idea of 'twinning', so much so that it gives a grant to any village or town who manages to set up a scheme. This goes towards the hospitality that is given when a group arrives in France.

So far there is not a great deal of enthusiasm for this idea in Croxley despite the fact that most of our villagers love to travel on their holidays but at least one group is taking an active interest. This is the French Group or 'Le Cerle Francais' which meets in Mr and Mrs Pavey's house in Sherborne Way every fortnight. We enjoy a cup of tea, croissants and talk about our lives, hopes, hobbies, travels and aspirations in French. It is a wonderful get-together and a great opportunity to meet people. As one might imagine, the group is now full up with a waiting list which is why we are hoping that another similar group will start to take up the disappointed ones who will have a long wait. If you are interested in setting up a French Group, just contact the University of the Third Age (Croxley and Rickmansworth Group) or ring 01923 251905 for further information.

**Croxley Francophile**



**Croxley Green Parish Council  
Invites you to come and have**

# **FUN ON THE GREEN**

**Sunday 30 June 2002**

To include

## **A Picnic**

**Bring your own food**



**Try the  
Circular Parish Footpath Walk  
(start and finish on The Green)**



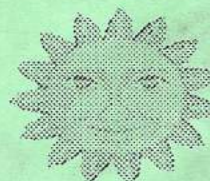
## **Informal Games**

**From**

**2.00pm to 5.00pm**



## **Just Relax and Enjoy**



**Parking Available  
In front of Stones Orchard – Opposite Coach & Horse Public House**



## ANSWERS TO 'DID YOU KNOW' QUIZ

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. TRDC.  | 7. TRDC.                          |
| 2. Highways Partnership.                        | 8. Highways Partnership.          |
| 3. Parish Council.                              | 9. Parish Council.                |
| 4. TRDC.  | 10. Highways Partnership.         |
| 5. Highways Partnership.                        | 11. TRDC (if they own the fence). |
| 6. TRDC/HCC (depending on who land belongs to). | 12. TRDC.                         |

### REMINDERS

#### Dog Walkers:

Please remember to pick up your dog's faeces, especially on public footpaths or open spaces where children play. Free dog hygiene bags can be obtained from the Parish Council office between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday, and from the Library.

#### Rubbish:

The Parish Council's Rangers try to keep the level of rubbish down on the Green, the recreation grounds and playing fields. If members of the public notice any excessive rubbish in any areas, would they please contact the office on 01923 710250 between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday.

#### Bins/Dog Bins:

It is hoped to install dog bins at the corner of Lincoln Way and Little Green Lane, another in Stones Orchard and at the top of the footpath leading from Copthorne -Road to the River Chess.

Any suggestions for litter bin placements would be gratefully received.



**DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR ENTRY FOR  
THE GARDEN COMPETITION BY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY**