

Published by:
Croxley Green
Parish Council

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL -
NEIL SAXON

The Parish Pump

No 22 November 2002

EDITORIAL

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Neil Saxon as our new Clerk.

Moyra Pumfrey, who has done most of the work in getting this newsletter together, has also joined the office staff in a permanent capacity as assistant to Neil. She has been invaluable during the months that we have been without a Clerk.

Our next Parish Pump will be published in May 2003, so if any of our readers would like to submit an article please let Moyra have it by 31st March 2003.

In the meantime, we would like to wish the residents of Croxley Green a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2003.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

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

The Parish Office

01923 710250 (10am - 4pm)

Copy Date: - 31st March 2003

Welcome to the new Clerk

Croxley Green Parish Council has at last recruited a new full-time Clerk. Neil Saxon, a resident of Croxley Green has spent over 20 years in the commercial sector holding senior director roles in a number of companies and groups of companies.

Neil moved away from West Watford over 16 years ago to re-locate to Devon and returned about a year ago and took up the post of Clerk on 7th October.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have been selected" commented Neil. "There is a lot to do in the Parish and the community in general and I look forward to the challenges ahead."

The role of Clerk means that Neil carries out the directions and decisions of the Parish Council and is also responsible for developing new ideas and initiatives to suggest to the Council. The Clerk also acts as an advisor to the Council on all matters legal, financial etc, plus being responsible for administering the finances and all correspondence.

Neil has to attend all of the main Council meetings plus all of the evening sub-committees as well, ensuring all agendas are prepared and all minutes carefully taken.

Keeping up with the latest legislation is also part of the Clerk's duties. "Every week the Council receives masses of paperwork from numerous sources, District Council, County Council and central government. "All of this has to be read and, where necessary, acted upon," observed Neil.

Now that Neil is in place the Parish Council offices in Community Way are open daily from 10am until 4pm Mondays to Thursdays and on Fridays the office will close at 3.30pm.

If you have any views on what the Council should be doing, need any advice, help or assistance just telephone Neil or Moyra, his assistant, on 01923 710250.

After all, they're there to help!

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 778638

Mark Saxon 772581
Chairman - Planning & Development

Anne Senior 231962

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

E-mail: croxleypc@btconnect.com
Edited by: - Hazel Seeley and
Moyra Pumfrey
Produced by: Moyra Pumfrey

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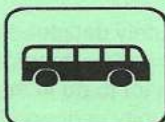
| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Winton Drive Approach | 9.30am |
| Shaftsbury Court | 9.32am |
| Malvern Way/Barton Way | 9.34am |
| Fuller Way/Barton Way | 9.36am |
| Hanover House | 9.37am |
| Sherborne Way/Baptist Church | 9.40am |
| Return from Watford | 12 noon |

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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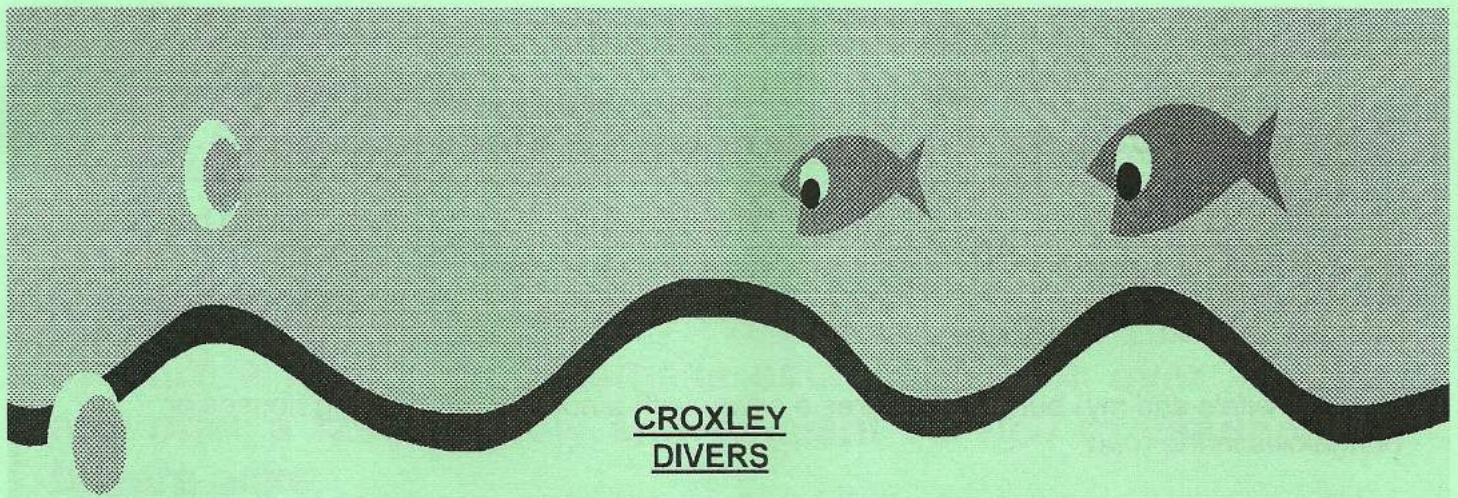
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A gateway to the world – in Croxley Green, surely not. Well the fact is it's true, here at Croxley Divers people come from far and wide to train as divers with the possibility of the chance to travel to distant places around the globe. In recent years travel to exotic destinations has become far easier and available to a larger number of people. This combined with the media's interest with the underwater world with programmes such as "the Blue Planet" has fuelled people's drive to travel to these places to see the wondrous sights first hand.

In recent months we have trained couples getting married and going off on their honeymoon as a diving holiday to places such as Australia, Thailand and the Galapagos Islands, students with gap years, off around the world diving, people coming up to or in retirement not opting for the quiet lifestyle, boyfriends and girlfriends, husbands and wives wanting something in common with a diving partner.

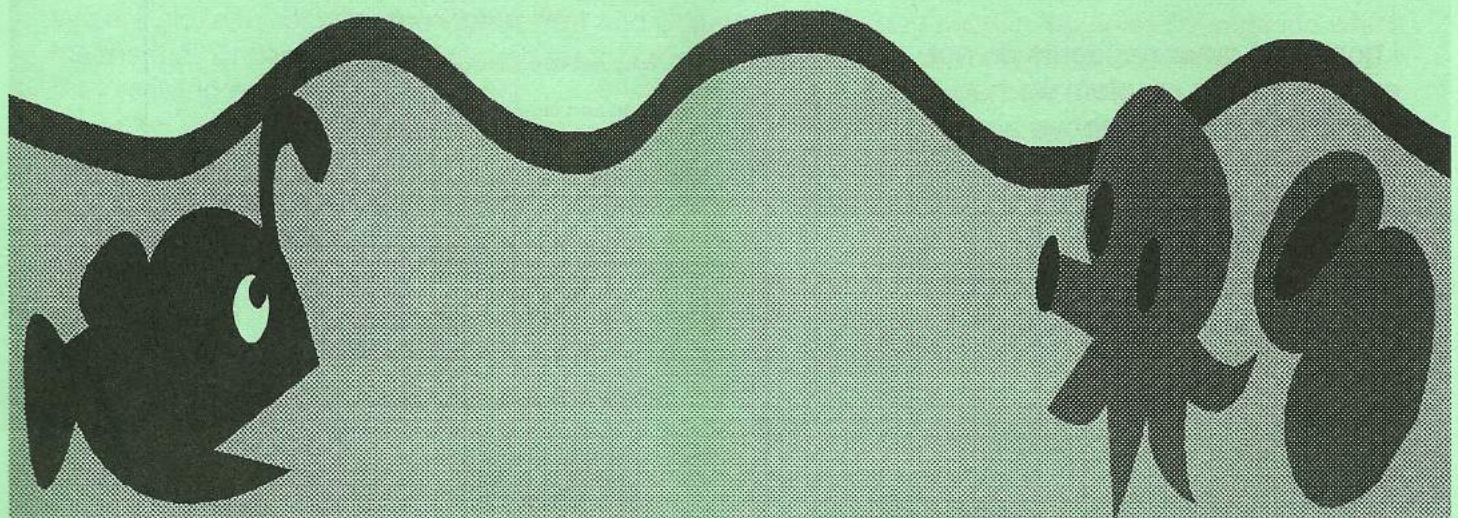
If I may indulge myself here for a while I too, along with my colleagues, have had the chance to dive around the world in places such as the Maldives. We've all seen pictures of paradise – the white beaches with the overhanging palm trees and crystal clear blue waters and more marine life than a month's worth of wildlife programmes could do justice to. Picture again the contrast of a trip to Borneo with the journey an adventure in itself, with every leg of the journey on a plane diminishing in size. A final boat journey of about four hours starting off on a narrow muddy river, slowly getting wider as you approach the open sea, watching the barges float past over-laden with hardwood and wondering if any of that wood will end up as your new window frames. Then suddenly the water starts to clear and you are in the open sea and all land disappears. Strange objects on thin stilts appear and the guide informs you that they are built by fishermen on reefs and that they can live on them for a week at a time.

You arrive at your remote island destination, the next stop being Australia. You unpack and fall into bed for your first night on this remote island. Fast asleep you dream of diving the next day in a prehistoric lake with millions of stingless Jellyfish when you are awakened by strange noises that seem to be coming from underneath your bed. You investigate and find the noises are actually giant green turtles laying their eggs underneath your room as they have done for hundreds of years.

The next ten days you spend diving and more diving, maybe in the hope of seeing the giant whale sharks, or maybe in search of the extremely rare pygmy seahorse or just watching manta rays grateful of a grooming in a "cleaning station". Then its time for the journey home, yet another adventure, maybe a stopover in Borneo to visit the orang-utan sanctuary or possibly a few days in Singapore to investigate the street markets and the varied night life.

So next time you pass the shop, think of it as more than just another retail outlet. To many it really is a gateway to travel, new adventures and possibly a new way of life.

Graham Hearn – Resident Instructor, Croxley Divers



Do you have a problem with a blocked sewer?

This is not a subject which I would normally choose to write about; however, having had to solve a blocked sewer problem recently I thought it might be helpful to other residents who might find themselves in a similar situation if I were to outline how eventually we were able to have the blockage cleared.

Our (my wife's and my) bungalow shares a sewer with a number of adjoining houses or bungalows in the road.

We had taken out plumbing insurance under the Three Valleys Water Scheme and in response to our phone call they sent someone who inspected the channel under our manhole cover and advised us that the blockage was further along the sewer.

This man advised us that Three Valleys Water provided a clearance service only for policyholders, where the blockage was within their property and that non-policyholders were responsible for arranging and paying for clearance by a specialist commercial company of blockages within the confines of their properties.

This was reported to our immediate neighbour, by which time the weekend had arrived and no further attempts at clearance were apparently made.

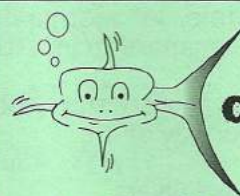
On the Monday morning after our neighbour had given us permission to enter their property whilst they were at work, in desperation we phoned the Environmental Health Department of Three Rivers District Council to report the problem and to seek their advice. The person we spoke to at TRDC was most helpful and advised us to contact Thames Water, who were responsible for sewage collection and treatment in our area.

We did this and two men arrived in two separate vans later that day. They inspected our neighbour's manhole and although the blockage was further along the road, they were able to clear it by persistent use of the rods they had brought with them. We were not asked to sign anything and as far as we know none of our neighbours have received an invoice for the work.

We did not make a note of the phone number of Thames Water but I notice that on the Information page of the Watford Free Observer under Thames Water (Sewerage) the number 08459 200800 is quoted.

I hope that other residents do not experience the problem we had, but if they do, maybe the above account might be helpful.

Cllr Doug Pavey



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House prices continue to soar in Croxley

Croxley Green has again experienced a significant rise on property prices over the last 12 months with increases in the region of between 20 – 25%. The highest rises have been in the larger 3 to 4 bedroom semi-detached properties that have increased by £40,000 to £50,000 in some cases.

With mortgage rates and unemployment so low, linked to high housing demand in Croxley we see no reason why the market should not continue to increase next year. We do believe that the price increases will level off at between 10 to 15% over the next 12 months.

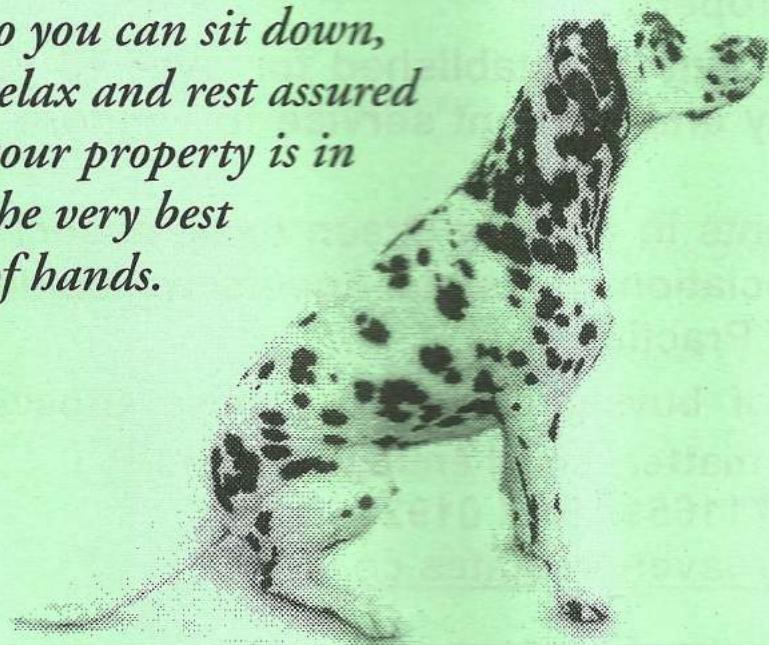
Location is also a big factor as to why housing is in such demand. Being on the Met line, proximity to the M25 and M1 motorways are all factors. Additionally the village has a friendly atmosphere a good range of shops, pubs and restaurants plus numerous good schools.

We are close to villages such as Sarratt and Chipperfield offering access top open countryside which means that Croxley is ideally placed for those who need access to London but want to feel like they're living near in a rural location.

Anthony Bennett A.N.A.E.A
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The Great Barn of Croxley Green

One of the mysteries to many residents of Croxley is the whereabouts of our old building – the great barn. Few people even know about it and yet in an area not over endowed with really significant historical wooden buildings it is a building that everyone should visit. A walk down all Saints Lane opposite the church on The Green will take you through Croxley Hall Woods and across the Metropolitan Line bridge. Once across you come to a farm, take a right turn along the footpath to Rickmansworth and the barn is there – an incredible towering reminder of our mediaeval past.

Croxley Hall Barn was built in 1398 by John Moote Abbot of Saint Albans Abbey. Almost all the wood used on it was cut down from the surrounding oak woods in the single year of 1396-97. Because oak is a hard wood the tree trunks were sliced up immediately after they were cut. In this 'green' state with the sap still in them they were pliable and easily moulded together. They then dried out into the hard and durable wall one sees today.

Croxley Barn was used by Cardinal Wolsey to store food for his great parties in Moor Park and was known as the slaughter house because of the huge numbers of animals killed there to keep him well provisioned. It was also used during the Civil War to billet Roundhead soldiers, and their graffiti (initials etc) can be seen carved on the beams. It is a fascinating place.

Why, you may ask, do we never hear anything about it. The answer is that it was one of the last parts of land handed over by Gonville and Caius College in Three Rivers in 1965 and was tacked onto the land given to the school that was in place before our present Joan of Arc School. Nobody knew what to do with it, although it belongs to the school. It is a Heritage listed building just crying out for some useful purpose. Do you have any idea how we should use this barn – a folk museum, a historical centre – there are so many options. If you do, just give me a call on 01923 251905. We can't let this historic masterpiece fall into disuse and decay.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

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Parish Action A Note from The Clerk

How often does something occur in the parish that warrants you to call either the District Council or County Council? We are hearing of many instances where members of the community make telephone calls only to be led around in circles being told "it's not our responsibility" or "it's not our job".

Your Parish Council is here to help. No matter what the issue, just call me. If we cannot solve the problem we will take up the issue, contact the relevant authority and report back to you on our progress. Just call me at the Council offices on 710250 between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

Please Help us to Help You.

Neil Saxon
Clerk

WANTED

The Parish Council is looking to find the owner/driver of the vehicle shown below in connection with an incident in Croxley Green.

The registration mark is N884GLR, and the vehicle is a white Toyota Hiace open backed truck.

If you see this vehicle parked up in the area then please contact the Parish Council on 710250 with the day, date, time and place that you saw it. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Cllr Mark Saxon

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YOUR VIEWS SOUGHT – PROJECTS 2003-2004 / 2004-2005

Two ideas thought about for projects require your views.

The first is a fireworks spectacular and bonfire sometime during the first two weeks of November.

- Should we hold one?
- If we do, then where should it be held?
- Should entry be free?
- What amount of money should be put aside for the event?
- Should we encourage a 'Bring your own fireworks and we'll set them off' section?
- How long should it last?
- What facilities should we provide?

On a similar note, an idea has been brought forward that we stage a classical music and fireworks night for a nice summer's evening ????

Bring your own picnic, gazeboes or tents and we'll provide the music and fireworks??

- Again, good idea or bad?
- Where should we hold it and when?
- How much should we spend?
- How long should it last?
- Should we try and get any roads closed off for the event?

Remember, if we got a good positive response, the costs would have to be borne by the community as a whole via the Parish Council – part of the precept of your Council Tax. We are happy to organise these types of events but we must also be willing to pay for them! That could mean asking an extra £5-10 per year per household to stage these shows and we would look to community organisers and helpers to join us in their commissioning and production.

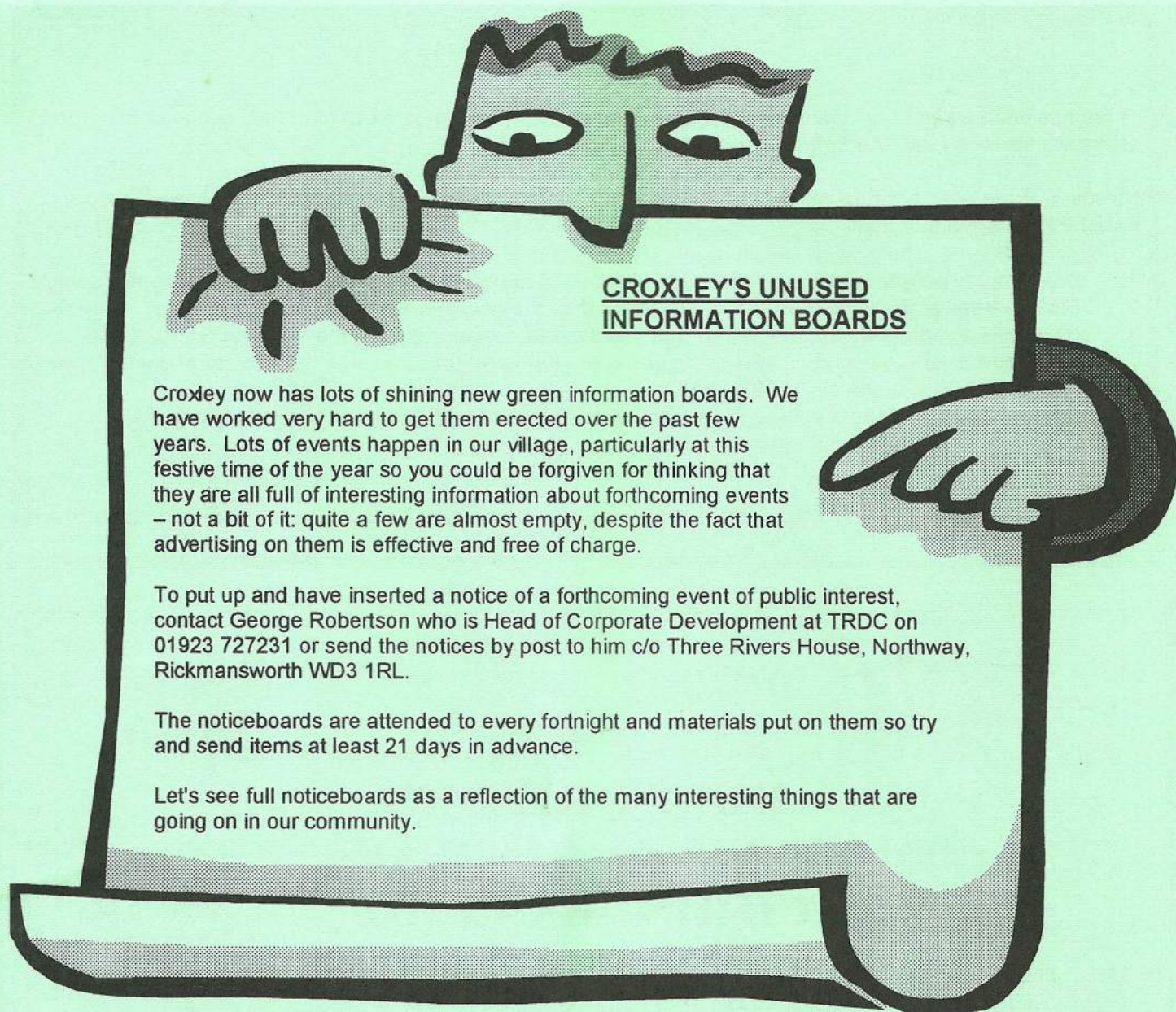
Nothing has yet been decided and if one or both ideas are overwhelmingly rejected then they will not go ahead. **BUT WE DO NEED YOUR VIEWS, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE** so please take time to contact us as shown below. *'It only takes a minute'.*

Over the last few months, the Parish Council has suffered at the hands of thieves and burglars. Numerous items of equipment have been stolen, culminating in September when the doors to the Depot in Community Way were forced open and the Land Rover and other items were stolen. Luckily we got the Land Rover back but we are now being forced to spend some extra money on further security for both the Depot and Parish Council Office. These thefts concern us all as we have all paid for the equipment via the community charge.

If anyone you know has information about these thefts or any other crimes going on in Croxley Green, please please, please let the police know or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. This is our community and we must all play our part in protecting it.

Give us a call on 01923 710250, e-mail the office on croxleyipc@btconnect.com or drop in for a chat. We are situated in Community Way, next to the Croxley Green Community Centre.

Cllr Mark Saxon



CROXLEY'S UNUSED INFORMATION BOARDS

Croxley now has lots of shining new green information boards. We have worked very hard to get them erected over the past few years. Lots of events happen in our village, particularly at this festive time of the year so you could be forgiven for thinking that they are all full of interesting information about forthcoming events – not a bit of it: quite a few are almost empty, despite the fact that advertising on them is effective and free of charge.

To put up and have inserted a notice of a forthcoming event of public interest, contact George Robertson who is Head of Corporate Development at TRDC on 01923 727231 or send the notices by post to him c/o Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth WD3 1RL.

The noticeboards are attended to every fortnight and materials put on them so try and send items at least 21 days in advance.

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

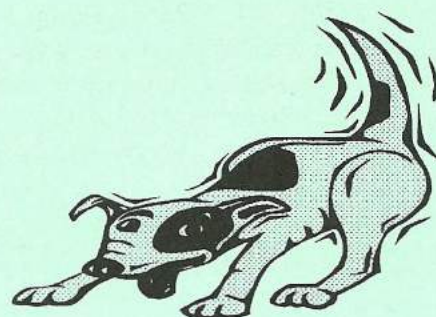
Two Dogs Up a Tree

It's the squirrel season again, which means of course that dogs can be seen in Cassiobury Park hurling themselves at trees whilst barking madly. I can go one better than that, or rather my dog, Jessie, can.

My walk each day is usually along the River Chess with a friend and her dog Paddy (aka Hooligan), up to the bridge where stands a large willow tree. Jessie is convinced that a squirrel sits there waiting just for her and climbs up through the branches to a height of about 25 feet searching for the squirrel (any squirrel!). She is usually joined by Paddy and it has caused some concern amongst other dog walkers to see these two terriers traversing the branches as sure-footed as a cat. What would happen if either of them got stuck I don't know, as my friend and I are both mature ladies whose tree climbing days are well and truly over.

So, if you are taking a quiet stroll by the river after a nice Sunday lunch at Scotsbridge Mill and you see two dogs up a tree, don't worry, you are not hallucinating – it's really happening!

Cllr Hazel Seeley



FLYTIPPING

There has been a significant increase in the amount of flytipping going on in our area. Some of the worst areas are Lavrock Lane, All Saints Lane and Little Green Lane.

However, there is something we can all do to try and prevent these vandals destroying areas within our Parish. Here are a few tips:-

1. Only employ people who you are sure will dispose of household or garden waste in a proper manner.
2. Make a note of the vehicle registration marks they are using when completing your job.
3. If you see a vehicle fly tipping or one that you suspect is looking for somewhere to dump, again make a note of the vehicle registration mark, the date and time you saw the vehicle and call Three Rivers District Council on 01923 776611.
4. Do not tackle fly tippers yourself. Let the authorities deal with them in the proper manner.

Cllr Mark Saxon

ATTENTION: ALL SHOPS IN CROXLEY GREEN



BEST DRESSED WINDOW DISPLAYS CHRISTMAS 2002



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



Parish Councillors will select the winners
week commencing 16th December 2002

Fly Tipping Continued

I send a copy of the Parish Pump to an old school friend of mine who has lived in California for many years (more years than either of us care to remember!) In the May Parish Pump I wrote an article about Fly Tipping which she showed to an American friend who "cracked up" and wants to know how the name evolved.

I have consulted a dictionary with no luck, so I wonder if any of our readers could enlighten me.



Can You Help?

Croxley Green is a delightful small village inhabited by very nice people who are caring, very sociable and take pride in all they do to make life for all inhabitants worth living.

Unfortunately there are quite a lot of lonely people here, mainly because they are elderly, incapacitated due to arthritic limbs and pacemakers being used, and other disabilities. Their week is confined within four walls which is very boring and time drags on.

Some years ago the British Red Cross Association, realising the problem existed, set up the Welcome Club for such people. Each day coffee mornings are arranged and lunches are served if required.

Entertainment is provided with dancing, bingo, hoy and quizzes. Saturday is the main day when music makers and singers are hired to provide further enjoyment. The session then commences at 2.30pm and finishes at 4.15pm.

This Club has brought a little more life to these people. It gives them something to look forward to. They meet friends and chat. The main problem is getting people to the Club and back home again.

We already have some wonderful people who kindly do this for them but not enough to cope with the number who require this facility. Therefore we would welcome people of either sex who would be prepared to do this on a regular basis – one Saturday afternoon a month between those times. You will be giving interest and more life to them and in return you will receive their very grateful thanks.

If you can help in this way, please contact **Bill Mead (Transport Adm.)** on **01923 446564**. It costs so little but will mean so much to them.

Thank you.

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3. We reserve the right to refuse any order that we judge to be unreasonable. 4. No cash refunds or alterations for any reason.
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HOME SECURITY

Worryingly, Croxley Green is still the target for burglars. Here are five quick tips to try and thwart their nefarious activity.

1. Make sure all your windows and doors are locked when you go out.
2. Ladies, got all your jewellery in a box on the bedroom dressing table? If the answer is yes, BEWARE. It may only take thief a second to steal all your treasured and sentimental possessions. Think about moving your jewellery to different parts of the house so that if the worst happens you won't lose the lot.
3. Consider installing a burglar alarm. Sometimes the deterrent of seeing the box on the outside wall is all that is needed to keep a potential burglar away.
4. Don't let anyone into your house that you don't know unless you have seen, recognised and understood any form of identification they may have. All bona fide callers will be only too happy to wait whilst you telephone to check their credentials.
5. Don't open your door to youngsters asking for glasses of water and the like. This is a favourite ruse of robbers who use this distraction method to gain entry to your home. Don't be afraid to say 'NO'.

Cllr Mark Saxon

CONTRAST

Third week in February
a pensive and enlightened time of year
making many of this past winters
sordid aspects dysfunctional
before their chance to happen

Easy lazy weather
bringing on the daffodils
snowdrops crocuses. With tulips
making their presence known
in previously tawdry household gardens

Hawthorn now in early bud. White and
setting out dramatically peripheries to country lanes
and hedgerows. Shy early almond trees budding
defining access ways to homes in Hertfordshire

Yet in these early promises of peace
I find the pointless evidence of man's coarse
destructive nature trying hard to harm
sweet promise of the summer coming

(Previously published in POETRY MONTHLY)

Cllr Michael Johns

DEIDRE ALCOTT

They say you see
your life pass by
whilst drowning

I hope then that
my fate is death
by cardiac arrest

To have to live again
that tedious affair
with Deidre Alcott
would be unbearable.

(Previously published in PEER
POETRY)

Cllr Michael Johns

STONES ORCHARD

Just off The Green, sandwiched between York Mead School and Dickensons playing fields, lies part of the old Croxley cherry orchard. The site is surrounded by a variety of trees and shrubby hedgerows, containing oak, horse chestnut, laburnum, holly, hawthorne, black thorn, hazel, elder, sycamore and blackberry.

These surroundings give shelter to the inner grassland area which also contains a variety of fruit trees, such as cherry, apple, pear, damson and plum.

The flora and fauna is varied and a pleasant walk in this area throughout the year affords an ever changing scene.

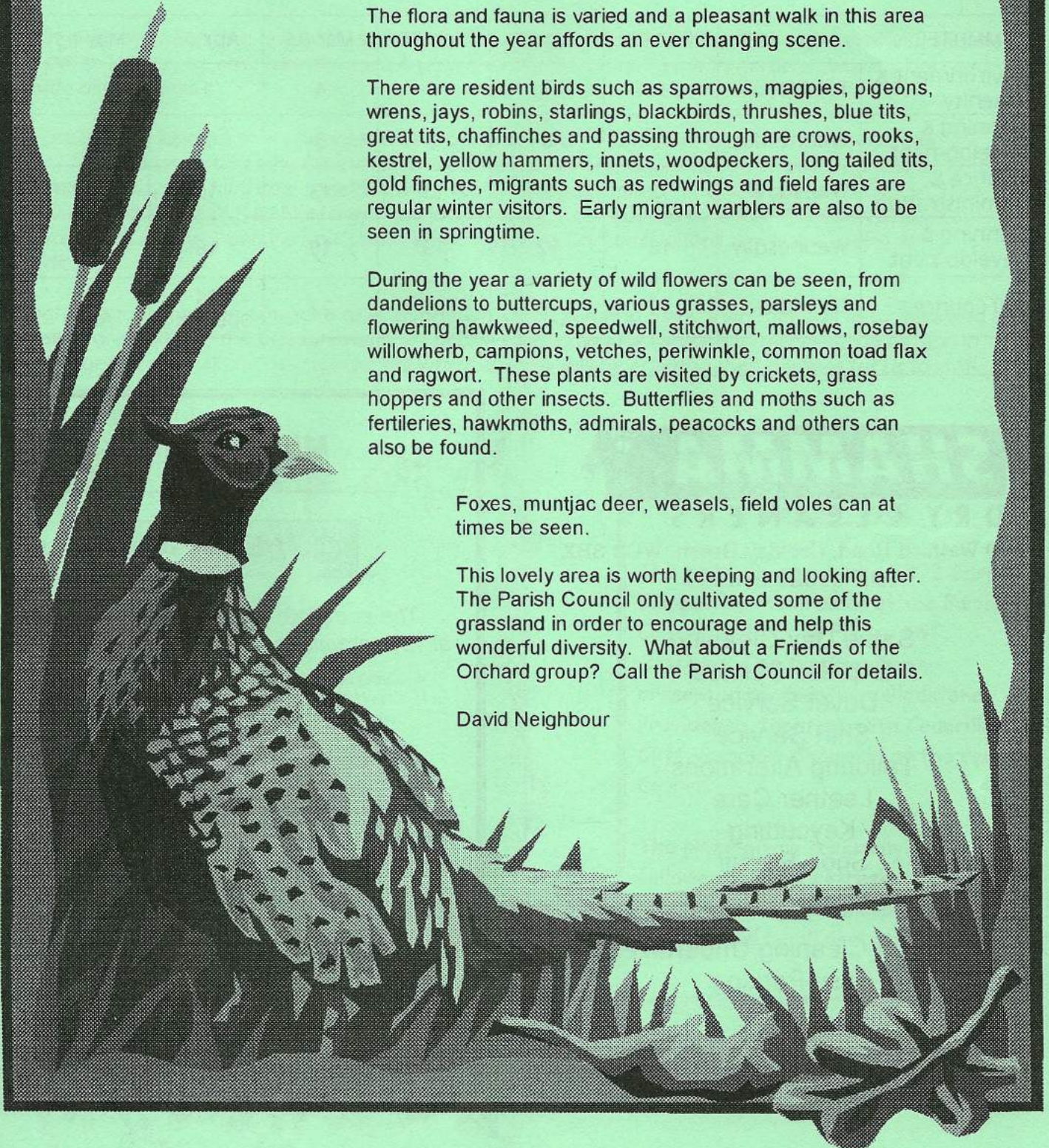
There are resident birds such as sparrows, magpies, pigeons, wrens, jays, robins, starlings, blackbirds, thrushes, blue tits, great tits, chaffinches and passing through are crows, rooks, kestrel, yellow hammers, innets, woodpeckers, long tailed tits, gold finches, migrants such as redwings and field fares are regular winter visitors. Early migrant warblers are also to be seen in springtime.

During the year a variety of wild flowers can be seen, from dandelions to buttercups, various grasses, parsleys and flowering hawkweed, speedwell, stitchwort, mallows, rosebay willowherb, campions, vetches, periwinkle, common toad flax and ragwort. These plants are visited by crickets, grass hoppers and other insects. Butterflies and moths such as fertileries, hawkmoths, admirals, peacocks and others can also be found.

Foxes, muntjac deer, weasels, field voles can at times be seen.

This lovely area is worth keeping and looking after. The Parish Council only cultivated some of the grassland in order to encourage and help this wonderful diversity. What about a Friends of the Orchard group? Call the Parish Council for details.

David Neighbour



Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council publishes a list of its meetings in the Library, but for those of you who may not have seen this, here is a schedule of the meetings up until next May.

All residents of Croxley Green are welcome to attend the meetings – they start at 8.00pm and are held in the Parish Council Offices in Community Way. The agendas are published in the Library three days before the meeting. Similarly, minutes of meetings are also available in the Library and Parish Council office for anyone to inspect.

| COMMITTEE | | Dec 02 | Jan 03 | Feb 03 | Mar 03 | Apr 03 | May 03 |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|----------|
| Environment & Amenities | Tuesday | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 1 | |
| Planning & Development | Wednesday | 4 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 2 | |
| Finance & Administration | Thursday | 12 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 8 |
| Planning & Development | Wednesday | 18 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 16 | |
| Full Council | Thursday | 19 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 24 Open Mtg | 8 AGM |

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Garden Competition Report – 2002

Once again, the gardeners of Croxley Green came up trumps with some really beautiful gardens – well worthy of being featured in such magazines as 'Homes & Gardens' etc.

The year 2002 was the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the now annual Garden Competition and this year, being the Queen's Golden Jubilee, we hoped to have a record number of entries. In the event we judged 27 gardens and six public houses – it was also most satisfying to have eight brand new entries.

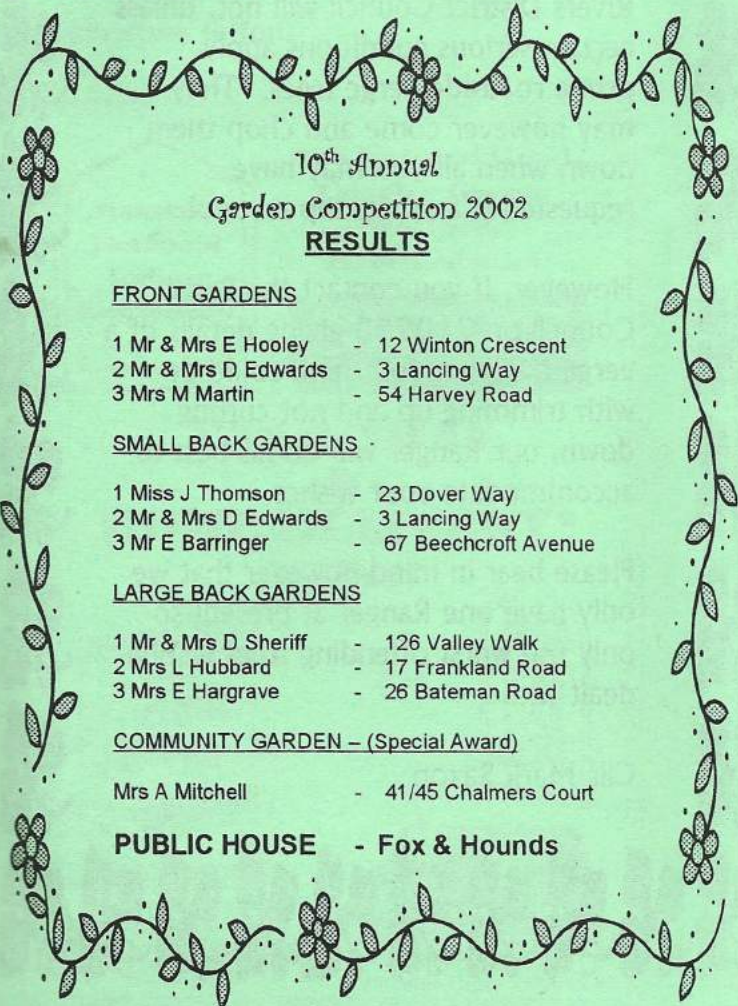
The summer had a poor start with so much rain and low temperatures, but fortunately our stalwart local gardeners persevered and by July we were blessed with a typical English summer and gardens to match. We are always so impressed with the amount of hard work and dedication that is put into achieving such lovely gardens where not a blade of grass is out of place – needless to say this all makes judging a difficult but pleasant task!

Again, the inspiration and originality in the creation of such gardens is incredible – gardens with Japanese and Italian influences, easy maintenance ones, water features together with gardens with decking and outside dining areas.

The preliminary judging was undertaken by a panel of Parish Councillors with the final judging on 29th July 2002. This was undertaken by Councillor Gladstone Providence, Chairman of Three Rivers District Council, accompanied by Mrs Avril Cox, together with Harvey Wardell (retired Parks & Woodlands Officer, TRDC) and Dave Cartwright of D&J Nurseries. The judges were accompanied by Councillor Cliff Vassiliou, Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council and Councillors Christine Jefford and Hazel Seeley as adjudicators.

Congratulations must be extended to everyone who took part and many thanks to you all for allowing us to visit your gardens – the pleasure really is ours! We will now look forward to meeting you all again in 2003, together with all the new gardeners who hopefully will be entering their gardens for us to visit!

Cllr Christine Jefford



10th Annual Garden Competition 2002 RESULTS

FRONT GARDENS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Mr & Mrs E Hooley | - 12 Winton Crescent |
| 2 Mr & Mrs D Edwards | - 3 Lancing Way |
| 3 Mrs M Martin | - 54 Harvey Road |

SMALL BACK GARDENS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Miss J Thomson | - 23 Dover Way |
| 2 Mr & Mrs D Edwards | - 3 Lancing Way |
| 3 Mr E Barringer | - 67 Beechcroft Avenue |

LARGE BACK GARDENS

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mr & Mrs D Sheriff | - 126 Valley Walk |
| 2 Mrs L Hubbard | - 17 Frankland Road |
| 3 Mrs E Hargrave | - 26 Bateman Road |

COMMUNITY GARDEN – (Special Award)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Mrs A Mitchell | - 41/45 Chalmers Court |
|----------------|------------------------|

PUBLIC HOUSE – Fox & Hounds

10th Annual Prize Giving Ceremony – October 2002

The prize-giving for the 2002 Garden Competition took place at the Parish Council Offices on Friday 25th October. The trophies were presented by Councillor Gladstone Providence, together with Councillor Cliff Vassiliou, Chairman of the Parish Council.

The prize-giving ceremony was followed by light refreshments and attended by approximately 50 people and enjoyed by all present.

Congratulations to you all!

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2003

The Parish Council is seeking to initiate a pilot Community Safety Scheme in Croxley Green.

To reduce the fear of crime, to reassure shop keepers and residents alike, and to bring back our local 'Bobby on the Beat', we intend to finance a scheme whereby a **uniformed police officer will patrol the Parish on foot for one day per month over the next twelve months.** This is in addition to the general policing arrangements made for Croxley Green. The scheme will cost no more than £3000, which by dividing the number of households there are in Croxley Green means that you will receive these extra patrols for less than £1 per household per year! Value for money we think.

The Parish Council is seeking your views on the idea, the patrol areas and times and days that you would like to see the police officer work. Patrol areas already suggested include Baldwins Lane shops (top and bottom), Watford Road shops and the area around the Underground Station, New Road shops and Community Way car park. Patrolling times have been suggested as 2pm – 10pm or 4pm to midnight, possibly on a Friday or Saturday night.

This is an opportunity for you to have a direct say in the policing of our area so please contact the Parish Council on 710250 with your ideas.

The scheme will last initially for a year and if considered a success will become a regular part of the Parish Council budget.

The Parish Council is conducting an audit of all footpath signs in the areas but we need your help. If you see a footpath sign that has either been damaged or destroyed then please report it to us on 710250 and we'll replace it as soon as possible.

Cllr Mark Saxon

SPEED LIMITS

Don't forget some new speed limits in Croxley Green.

New Road Speed Zone = 20mph

The Green, from All Saints Church to the Sarratt Road = 30mph

Cllr Mark Saxon



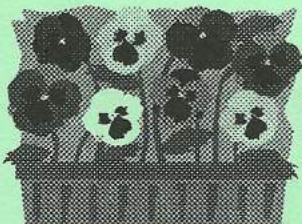
VERGE TREES

Did you know that at present Three Rivers District Council will not, unless certain serious conditions apply, prune roadside verge trees. They may however come and chop them down when all you may have requested is a timely lop or two!

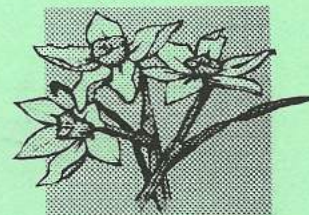
However, if you contact the Parish Council on 710250 giving details of a verge tree that you think could do with trimming up and not cutting down, our Ranger will do his best to accommodate your wishes.

Please bear in mind however that we only have one Ranger at present so only the worst offending trees will be dealt with.

Cllr Mark Saxon



Our Parish History – The Horse Trough



I wonder how many people realise that the colourful flower arrangement outside All Saints Church by the side of the busy highway is actually a granite watering trough set up in the nineteenth century by the Metropolitan Society for the Welfare of Horses. I wonder how many people have read the inscription on the side!

A hundred years ago Croxley was a very small village – a hamlet really – but the main roads from London were very much the same and horse-drawn traffic was very busy by the standards of those days. The main buildings on The Green were the three public houses that we still have today where thirsty travellers could drink their fill; however, the horses were not quite so lucky and they relied on the drinking fountain – which was always kept full – to quench their thirst. Many thousands of horses must have toiled up Scots Hill in keen anticipation of a good refreshing drink at the top.

Those days are gone now and your Parish Council takes great pride in providing a colourful display of flowers in this historic receptacle. This summer we had a wonderful show of geraniums and mixed blooms, the only civic flower display in Croxley. It was tended and watered by a variety of public spirited individuals from the Sportsman Pub, All Saints Church and members of the Environment & Amenity Committee of the Parish Council.

Soon it will be time to put in our annual display of spring bulbs – we hope that everyone enjoys our efforts and thank all those who tend and keep an eye on it to prevent the occasional acts of vandalism. This exotic historical addition in its outstanding location is a source of pride to all who tend it and hopefully will continue to provide a sparkle of colour in our midst for years to come.

Cllr Christine Jefford




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CROXLEY REVELS

Did you enjoy the Revels earlier this year?

A large number of Croxley residents turned out on Revels day this year, as in previous years, and if the feedback which we received is correct then most people did enjoy the event. It also seems that a good number of folk who have left Croxley to live elsewhere take this opportunity to return to meet up with friends.

Of course, the Revels event does not occur by accident. It takes planning and preparation as well as some hard work on the day. This work is carried out by a small, friendly group of volunteers, some of whom have been involved for 15 years or more. Inevitably, over time, the group has become smaller than we would wish as we have not been able to recruit sufficient replacements to compensate for those who have moved on.

Would you like to help? We always need reliable people who will assist with the planning and preparation or setting out The Green on the day, perhaps stewarding or clearing up afterwards. You can choose to be part of a team or, if you prefer, you could take responsibility for some particular aspect of the event.

You do not have to commit yourself to the whole day - we shall be grateful for any assistance and we are always looking for new ideas to keep the Revels fresh and interesting.

Please help if you can. Remember that without the Revels Team, the Revels will not happen. The more people who are prepared to get involved, the easier it will be for everyone and the more likely it will be that the Revels (YOUR Revels) will continue to be a success.

If you are willing to have a go, please contact one of the following:

Ian McLachlan 01923 236163 (you can leave a message on this number) or
Barry Grant 01923 778660

Contact us now - don't put it off. We have fun creating each Revels and we would like you to be a part of it.

Ian McLachlan
Chairman, Croxley Green Society

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To Wheelie Bin or not to Wheelie Bin? That is the Question

Whether it is nobler in the mind to put your rubbish in a wheelie bin or cast it down to the pavement in a black plastic bag and thereby dispose of it!

Some time ago I noticed a number of streets around where I live appear to have acquired dark green wheelie bins for their rubbish. I waited, full of anticipation, for mine to arrive. Imagine my disappointment when it didn't arrive! It is apparently an experiment/trial. Whilst I haven't spoken to anybody at Three Rivers District Council about the trial, I think it would have been nice to know what was going on and not feel dis-enfranchised by lack of bin. I suppose, as a Councillor, I should know what was going on but alas I know the same or less than other residents.

Perhaps somebody will enlighten me and the other residents of the parish as we patiently wait for the outcome of the experiment

Cllr Anne Senior

Grandchildren

Am I alone in struggling to keep my sanity when I am visited by my grandchildren? Is it normal after three days of a visit from only one of them to feel physically and emotionally knackered? My daughter has four children, ages ranging from 2+ to 14+, and apart from looking tired by the evening she seems to cope with them very well.

At the beginning of half term my granddaughter Sophie decided that she wanted to visit her grandmother (me) for a few days in the country (Croxley). Caught off guard whilst drinking coffee in my daughter's flat in London, Muggins went along with the idea and duly brought her back with me. The realisation of what I had done dawned to me as we drove home – how was I going to amuse a six year old used to playing with her brothers all her waking hours.

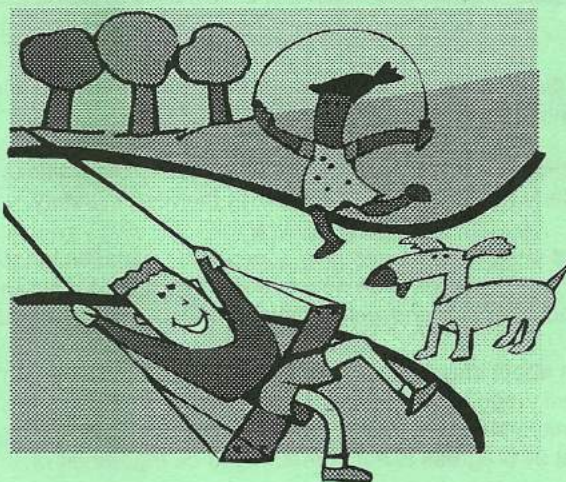
I needn't have worried. She was tired on the first night and went to sleep quickly. Day 2 she amused herself looking through all my cupboards (nosey little tyke). On coming across an old powder compact which belonged to my late mother, she immediately asked me whose it was. I told her it belonged to my mother, her great grandmother; she paused in what she was doing, looked at me and said "Oh dear Grandma, she must have forgotten to take it with her!" Later that day we sat and caught up with some videos she hadn't seen.

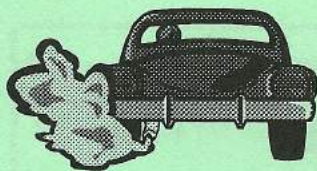
Day 3 dawned and we had plans and things that we had to do. First a visit to the vet with one of the dogs – she enjoyed that. Next shopping for some clothes; I didn't realise that Barbie clothes came in sizes other than for dollies and at prices to match! Next we went out to lunch. Back in London on Saturday I had said that if she wanted we could go swimming. After lunch she reminded me that she had brought her swimming costume and could we go swimming as I had promised.

We went home, picked up our gear and went down to William Penn Leisure Centre. Sophie surprised me by swimming like a fish, beating me in a race then swimming along the bottom scooping up locker keys and 20p coins. The visit to the pool was probably the best value for money of the whole three days.

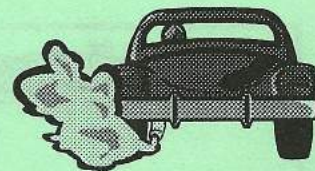
It was with great relief that I returned her to her mother clutching her new clothes in a small suitcase on Tuesday lunchtime.

Cllr Anne Senior





ROAD TRAFFIC



Notes on a Consultative Conference on improving conditions on the M25 held in London on 2nd July 2002

I attended a consultative conference on improving conditions on the M25 to discuss recommendations by central government's traffic consultants as a Council delegate, as it affected councils on the periphery of the motorway.

The conference was in the form of question and answer session followed by division into four discussion groups. A document had previously been prepared on the subject (ORBIT) setting out proposals to be passed onto the Highways Authority for government consideration.

It has been established for some years that the provision of more or widened motorways leads only to an increase in total road traffic. Therefore other solutions are being sought to improve conditions. These include some minor widening, the inclusion of a system of lights and roundabouts restricting access to the motorway, together with toll charge points. Schemes to improve incident clear up rates were also proposed.

The discussions took in the wider question of inevitable traffic chaos on our roads. It became clear that most of those present and the consultants were of the opinion that the only solution to the problems on this country's roads was a reduction in the use of the motor car. Car ownership has been growing at an alarming rate and most of those present saw it as essential that this trend should be reversed. Persuading the public to engage voluntarily in alternative means of transport has not found much success and will not until an improved standard of public transport is available. It is therefore recognised that charging is the only way at present in which a reduction in the number of cars and their use can be achieved. Legislation to this end is seen as a certain road to electoral defeat in our democracy.

The charges suggested in the discussion document are tolls on motorways, penalties for single person car use on motorways and increased taxation. Although the suggested physical changes to the motorway have been mentioned by the government and projected costs announced, there has been little mention of suggested charges.

It is recognised however that something drastic has to be done to prevent inevitable gridlock on our roads but there is a reluctance by the administration to directly challenge the motoring lobby.

On a personal note, I find it hard to understand why society seems to be engaged in boosting the individual egos of its members by encouraging the ownership of bigger, more expensive, shinier, newer motor cars when there are so many other aspects of life to consider.

Cllr Michael Johns

Puffin Crossings and Road Safety

After two years of discussion, objections by a few and petitions by various groups we now have two elegant puffin crossings in Baldwins Lane.

Contrary to the expectations of the few, they don't hold up the traffic to any great extent and are a wonderful help to children and elderly people who can now cross the road in safety.

The redevelopment of New Road was also a long and headache inducing affair but in fact most people now consider it a great improvement. The new bus shelters are popular and safe for those catching buses along the Watford Road, floodlit at night and well constructed – again after months of objections by people living nearby.

What can we learn about improving the quality of life in our village from all this? It is that most developments are good if they are well thought out and that we should give our councillors a chance to try out new ideas to improve life for the community. Most people appreciate this fact but the small group who always object are hopefully learning slowly that all progress is not something to be frightened of.

Bush Bashing in Croxley

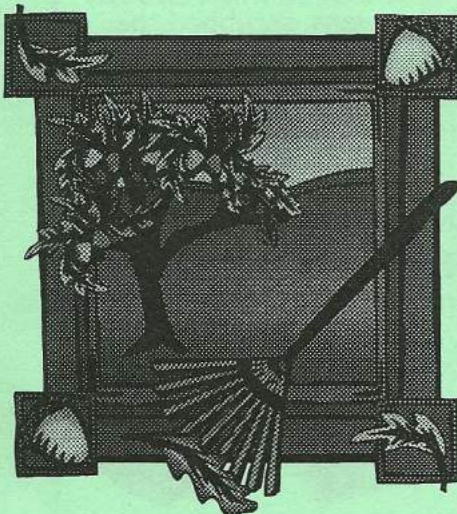
Lots of people are confused by the term 'bush bashing'. In fact it was what the settlers in Africa used to do when they arrived at a place covered in forest – they literally bashed the bushes with axes and other tough implements – then they burnt it and next year they planted in between the stumps. In that way, many very successful farms were created, and an agricultural industry was formed.

Down on Croxley Common Moor things are slightly different. The Friends of the Moor (FCCM) have a committee which manages the Moor under the supervision of the Countryside Management Service. The Moor itself is a site of Special Scientific Interest and our job is to ensure that it is kept as environmentally interesting as possible. Cattle graze the Moor, there are a lot of rare plants and interesting birds – so we must not let it get overgrown. In fact we are proving very successful at keeping the scrub under control on this valuable acid grassland.

Several members of the FCCM have been to training sessions so that we can undertake management tasks throughout the winter. The bush bashing will take place every second Sunday in November, December, January and February. We meet up at Lock 79 (Common Moor Lock) at 10am and head off to our allotted area for that day. All tools will be provided as will gloves by the warden in charge for that day – the event is fully insured.

The first session for your diary is Sunday 12th January. Apart from the vigorous exercise in the fresh air, it is a lot of fun – bring your own sausages and potatoes and beans if you want to barbecue on the embers of the bonfire. Tea will be provided. For further details and if you want to become a member of Friends of Croxley Common Moor and receive our regular news sheet contact John Elvin on 020 8447 5446 or David Wynne-Jones on 01923 251905.

Chairman
Friends of Croxley Common Moor



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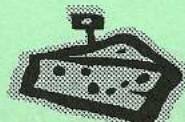
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School Dinners

During WW2 my mother was asked to "help out" by working at Durrants School as a general assistant in the school kitchen. At that time the kitchen was quite small to provide dinners for the children but they managed to do so somehow. The chief cook was a Mrs Naughten and I think that there were another two or three ladies also "helping out".

A new kitchen and school dining room was eventually built after the war, the staff increased and by the time my mother became the cook in charge, the ladies were preparing dinners for 600 pupils daily, plus teaching staff.

I worked there as a vegetable cook for about two years - huge vats of potatoes and cabbage, large saucepans of carrots and peas. Another lady called Doll Brierly and I had to drain off the potatoes, then mash by machine with butter and milk and put into large tins to keep hot. Cabbage tipped into colanders and chopped by hand, carrots, peas -all to be kept hot. Potatoes for roasting all had to be hand sorted into the correct sizes but at least there were no wretched machines to wash.

Only my mother and her assistant, Marge Woollams, were allowed to make pastry for pies, roast the joints, make the casseroles, toad-in-the hole, oversee milk puddings, jam roly poly, bananas in pink blancmange, spotted dick (or Richard as it is now called!) and steamed syrup and jam suet puddings. On Pancake Day there were even pancakes dished up for each child. All very politically incorrect these days.

The real triumph of the school year had to be Christmas dinner. The puddings were made weeks before, as well as approximately 1200 mince pies, starting late November and stored in airtight tins. Eight huge turkeys ordered and cooked the day before they were needed, large tins of stuffing made, hundreds of Brussel sprouts prepared, 600+ sausages, approximately 1800 roast potatoes to cook, gravy, bread sauce, custard for the puddings and pies. Somehow on the day itself it all came together and when my mother called out "Anyone for seconds?" she was never short of enthusiastic takers.

The ladies had their own dinner eventually, having previously washed up plates, basins, hundreds of pieces of cutlery, endless tins, saucepans, cleaned the ovens, scrubbed the duck-boards and mopped the floors. Although our backs and feet were aching and we were all shattered, it was the best Christmas dinner with a sense of achievement and pleasure enjoyed by us all.

I am sure that there are still some ex-Durrants School pupils who remember the dinners cooked by my mother and her team of ladies who were heroines all!

Cllr Hazel Seeley



CROXLEY FILM UNIT

A Traditional Film Show

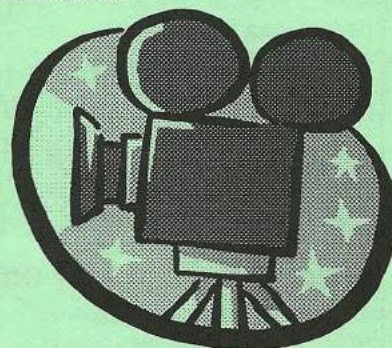
A time there was, in amateur movie-making circles, when the term 'film show' meant what it said, a showing of films run through ciné projectors, presented on a large screen. Then videos joined the scene, shown at first on ordinary television sets but gradually as the technology became affordable, on the same screen as the films. Nowadays if you attend a 'film' show put on by the local movie-making club it will be mainly if not totally video.

However good these latterday shows, many find them a little mechanical, lacking the magic and sense of occasion of the traditional film show, with skilled operators tending ciné projectors purring away at the back of the hall.

This isn't just nostalgia, or a luddite yearning for the 'good old days' – there is a difference between the look of film and projected television. Those of you who recognise and appreciate the difference may be interested in the Harrow Ciné and Video Society's **Croxley Film Show** which is held annually at St Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green. This film show generally takes place some time in November and the admission price (generally about £3) includes a programme and interval refreshments. There's a free car park and the nearest tube is Croxley Green on the Metropolitan Line.

Anyone who may be interested in attending next year's Croxley Film Show should contact Mr Harold Legg at 7 Scots Hill Close, Croxley Green, telephone 01923 720725. Alternatively you can write to HCVS Hon Secretary Heather Lee at 12b Wellesley Road, Harrow HA1 1QN.

Last year we had a full house! It's all film – no projected television!



French Without Tears

Following Cllr David Wynne-Jones' article on this subject in the May 2002 edition of the Parish Pump, the Council has received a letter from Mrs Diana Pavey of 22 Sherborne Way concerning this matter. Mrs Pavey writes:-

"Thank you for publishing David Wynne-Jones' letter (from Croxley Francophile) in your last magazine. It is good to have a group of eager learners of the French language meet in our home on a regular basis, especially in these days when one can pop across, or under, the Channel so easily. I have had a considerable number of telephone requests from people who are interested in joining such a group since the Parish Pump dropped on our doormats.

Unfortunately for them, our group belongs to the University of the Third Age, which is a learning facility for retired people. I agree with David's suggestion that it would be good if a second group were to start up to which all interested folk could come. We are very keen to go ahead with a "twinning" project with a similar large village in France. May I suggest that anyone who is interested in this should contact David or myself and we will try to get another group started to which anyone could come and, hopefully, set things in motion for closer links with our neighbours."

If anyone is interested in the above Mrs Pavey can be contacted on 01923 773595 and David Wynne-Jones' telephone number is 01923 251905.

Rickmansworth Historical Society

The RHS was formed in 1954. Our Golden Jubilee will be soon! We meet for talks and slide lectures on many historical subjects. Meetings begin at 8pm and take place at the Cloisters Hall opposite St Joan of Arc School on Rickmansworth High Street.

Visitors are welcome to attend our meetings free of charge, but contributions are invited. Society membership is £5 annually or £8 for family membership or £10 for corporate membership, due at the beginning of each September.

For further information please contact:- Geoff Saul – Chairman – 01923 774998
Ann Vernau – Secretary – 01923 775882
Brian Warmington – Treasurer – 01923 775360

Coming Events – 2002: 12th December – Christmas Society with picture quiz and mince pies

Coming Events – 2003: 9th January – 'Around Sarratt Green', a talk by Mrs Dawn Pitts
13th February – 'Riots', a talk by Mrs Heather Falvey
13th March – Rickmansworth Cycling Club
10th April – Members Contributions
8th May – Rickmansworth Week Lecture – 'Rickmansworth Players',
a talk by Mrs Audrey Timberlake
12th June – AGM Lecture to be confirmed

Claire Roffe – Publicity Officer – 01923 230938

Answers to "Know Your Parish Councillors" Competition – Revels on the Green

The answers to this competition are:

- A. Anne Senior
- B. Kerron Cross
- C. David Wynne-Jones
- D. Christine Jefford
- E. Hazel Seeley
- F. Phil Brading
- G. Mark Saxon
- H. Adrian Simpson
- I. Cliff Vassiliou
- J. Byron Batson
- K. Michael Johns
- L. Doug Pavey
- M. Jessie
- N. Robert Ridley

Only one person answered all correctly.

Answers to "Where Are You?" Competition – Revels on the Green

The answers to this competition are:

- 1. All Saints Church Tower
- 2. One of the Croxley Green Entrance signs
- 3. New Road sign
- 4. Library roof line
- 5. Croxley Guild of Sport entrance (left hand pillar)
- 6. Parish Council Depot – Barton Way allotments
- 7. Croxley Green Underground Station main entrance
- 8. Speed camera – Watford Road approaching Shell Garage from Rickmansworth direction
- 9. Tower within Durrants (seen from Little Green Lane)
- 10. Lock gate on Grand Union Canal (seen from Byewaters side)
- 11. Skate Park
- 12. Underground bridge at bottom on Baldwins Lane