

Published by:
**Croxley Green
 Parish Council**
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The Parish Pump

Issue No 24
 November 2003

EDITORIAL

On behalf of all the Parish Council Members and employees I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone in Croxley Green a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2004.

Six months have now elapsed since the elections and the Council has seen many of its former Members retiring and has welcomed nine new Members. We are very pleased to be operating at full strength now. Since the last edition of the Parish Pump we have continued with all our usual activities and have taken on some extra tasks.

We were very pleased to be awarded the five year contract for the maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard from Three Rivers District Council.

The Parish Council's Rangers, Carl Batson and Andrew Goddard, are now fully trained in all groundwork activities, having undertaken courses in use of chainsaws and arboricultural work and gained the appropriate certificates.

In the last edition of the Parish Pump I invited residents both to come along to Council meetings and visit the Parish Office to air their views on any matters concerning Croxley Green. I am pleased that some of you took the opportunity to visit or telephone the office but we would still like to see more of you at our meetings. Agendas for meetings are posted in the Library and a full schedule of all meetings can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Parish Pump. Please do not hesitate to telephone the Parish Office if you have any queries and our Clerk, Neil Saxon, or Secretary, Moyra Pumfrey, will do their best to deal with your enquiries.

With very best wishes for 2004.

Cliff Vassiliou
 Chairman, Croxley Green
 Parish Council



COUNCILLORS

North Ward:

Sarah Barratt	897870
Ian Bignell	777722
Steve Hiron	772171
Michael Johns	231203
Hazel Seeley	772696

Croxley Green Ward:

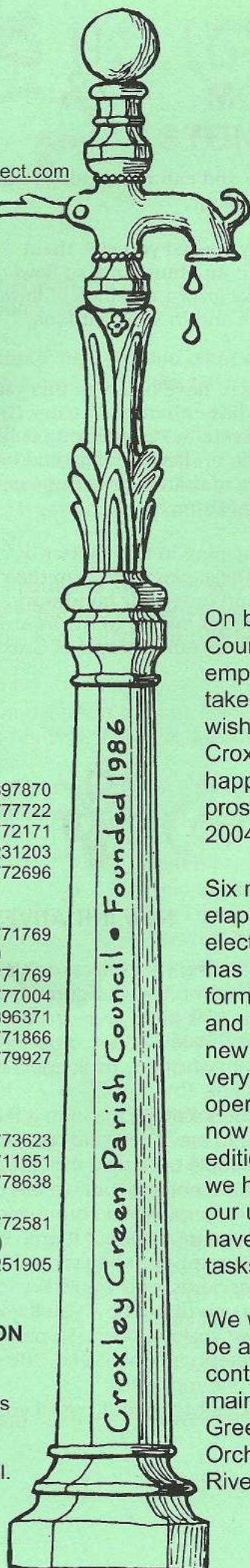
Christine Jefford	771769
<i>(Chairman – E&A Committee)</i>	
Ron Jefford	771769
David Lee	777004
Jessica Rannachan	896371
Russell Smith	771866
Cliff Vassiliou	779927
<i>(Chairman of Council)</i>	

South Ward:

Nik Bennett	773623
Tony Bennett	711651
Robert Ridley	778638
<i>(Vice Chairman of Council)</i>	
Mark Saxon	772581
<i>(Chairman – P&D Committee)</i>	
David Wynne-Jones	251905

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL – NEIL SAXON

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views or policy of the Parish Council.



Parish Council Office opening times:

Mon-Thurs:	10am – 3pm
Fri:	10am – 1pm



BLOOMING SUMMER TIME

Please pause to think what in this world is free and can nearly always pacify and give us an uplifting effect. One answer is colour.

Think about it. If you want to please somebody special you give them flowers to brighten their lives. This year we had an abundance of flowers everywhere in Croxley Green. Many people have grown all kinds of flowers in profusion, in window boxes, hanging baskets and in their gardens, whether they have had large or small plots.

Some people who have never grown flowers before have had a go this year and have been very successful. All this colour has enhanced Croxley Green immensely, and I have heard remarks from passers by commenting on the lovely show when they have been out for a stroll, or driving home and have passed flowers in full boom somewhere. I'd like to thank all these people for their effort this year and may it continue in the future.

The Parish Council also needs our thanks for helping in this matter by organising a Garden Competition every year. These people give up their precious time voluntarily to visit our gardens and judge our handiwork. We can't all be winners, but it is a bit of fun and we get invited to the award night where we can meet the Councillors as well as other people of Croxley Green.

Bill Mead
Croxley Green Resident



NEW INITIATIVES

We are asking you, the residents, for any ideas that might improve the community you live in. If you can think of any new initiatives that would improve Croxley Green, drop the Parish Council a line with what you think could be done.

If the Council thinks the idea is feasible we can arrange to meet you and discuss it further. Some people complain that the Parish Council seem to do nothing, but we are all residents like yourselves and we can only bring forward your ideas if you tell us about them. We have 16 Councillors representing some 5000+ homes and 11000 residents, and would like to hear from more of you about how you think we could improve Croxley Green. So please, drop us a line or telephone the Parish Office on 01923 710250 or e-mail us at croxleyipc@btconnect.com if you have any ideas.

Cllr Robert Ridley

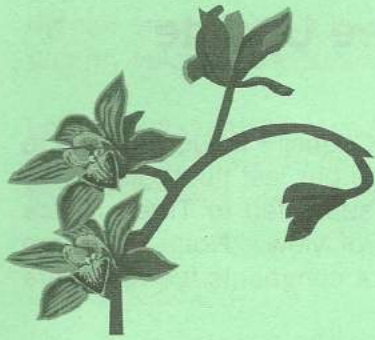
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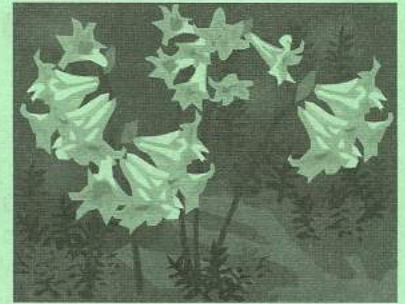
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MORE ABOUT STONES ORCHARD



For those not familiar with this part of Croxley, this is one of the old cherry orchards of about 3½ acres, sandwiched between Yorke Mead School, Dickinsons Playing Field and The Green.

Last year I wrote about the birds and other wildlife to be found in this area. Although much is the same, some species have diminished whilst others have increased, but this is nature's way.

This year while walking my dog Bess, I have been taking a note of the wild flowers. However, I must confess that as an amateur "botanist" I may have missed some flowers and particularly the grasses. Also, of course, some plants do not flower every year. The Parish Council's policy of only cutting some of the grassed area has had a marked effect on the spread of flowers, either by self-seeding or windborne methods.

Past surveys of the flora and fauna in the Orchard have noted at least 16 different grasses, 56 wild flowers and overall some 100 species have been recorded around the area of The Green and the Orchard. In August I was particularly pleased to see the lovely pale blue harebell in the meadow area in front of Croxley House.

Butterflies, moths and insects such as Brimstone, Common Blue, Small Skipper, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Peacock, Meadow Brown and many smaller moths have been abundant.

The follow is a list of my observations throughout the flowering year – March to September – but not necessarily in their flowering order:-

Ground Ivy	Beaked Hawksbeard	Mugwort
Honesty	Field Bindweed	Common Bent Grass
Garlic Mustard	Common Cats Ear	Meadow Grass
Wild Mustard (Hedge)	Ribwort Plantain	Maram Grass
Daisy	Greater Plantain	Common Sorrell & Sheeps Sorrel
Dandelion	Common Mouse Ear	Dock (Broadleaf) Curled
Germanda Speedwell	Dogrose	Yarrow
Buttercup	Cutleaf Cranesbill	Perennial Rye Grass
Sticthwort (Lesser)	Agrimony	Cocksfoot Grass
Common Storksbill	Lords and Ladies	Meadow Foxtail
Meadow Cranesbill	Goats Beard	False Cat Grass
Nettle	Thyme Leaved Speedwell	Yorkshire Fog Grass
White Dead Nettle	Red Dead Nettle	Black Medick
Red Clover	Smooth Sow Thistle	Ladies Bed Straw
White Clover	Betony	White Bryony
Red Campion	Nipple Wort	St Johns Wort
Common Vetch	Woody Nightshade	Small Leaf Willow Herb
Tufted Vetch	Oxeye Daisy	Pineapple Weed
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Common Toadflax	Lesser Trefoil
Cow Parsley	Rosebay Willow Herb	Corn Mint
Pig Nut	Golden Rod	Hedgebedstraw
Thistle (Spear)	Ragwort	Common Knapweed
Plantains (Common)	Hawkweed	Autumn Hawkbit

David Neighbour

Planning and Development Committee Update

As Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee of the Parish Council I thought I'd like to update you on some of the planning matters that we have looked at since our last publication. My Committee sees all the Croxley Green planning applications which are submitted to Three Rivers District Council and our job is to comment on them from a local point of view. None of us are planning experts but I am always pleasantly surprised that the majority of comments we make are accepted by the District Planning Officers.

Since the beginning of May we have seen 76 applications. The vast majority of these are residential and they include side and rear extensions, loft conversions and erections of conservatories.

We have had two or three applications for the building of new houses on land situated in the rear gardens of existing properties. As a committee we look hard at these applications and have been pleased to see that they appear to have been refused planning permission by TRDC in accordance with our comments.

We were pleased to note the enforcement action taken by our County and District Councils with regards to the misuse of land at the Smallholding in Lavrock Lane. For those of you that do not know this area, if you go to the end of Harvey Road and turn right into Croxley Hall Woods, the Smallholding is about 500 metres down on the left hand side.

A new parking enforcement regime will be up and running soon along parts of Watford Road and at the end of Frankland Road at the area near the row of shops. We were pleased to be consulted on this scheme but very disappointed that our local knowledge and ideas were not taken up by the District Council. At the junction of Watford Road and Frankland Road parking will be limited to one hour only, with no return within two hours, between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Saturday inclusive. (We requested this be extended to a two hour concession). There will be no parking at all for 10 metres on the junction of Watford Road and The Crescent. The idea of this enforcement is to prevent commuter parking in the area and to encourage the use of the car park at Croxley Underground Station.

NEW IDEAS FOR 2004- 2005

My Committee is more than aware of the need to be financially prudent in our spending plans for the forthcoming year. We will look long and hard at any proposals for spending. I understand that it is our money, in the form of the Council Tax Precept that we spend, and my Committee will ensure that only sound and well thought out ideas are brought forward.

However, the following MAY be in our 2004-2005 budget.

- Community Bus and an extension of the service to Rickmansworth
- The provision of new bus shelters
- The provision of one or two new public benches
- The provision of one or two new dog hygiene bins
- The installation of a Flagpole outside the Parish Council Office

Our discussions will take place in October, November and the early part of December of this year and they will be open to the public. Agendas are placed in the Library so if you are interested in what we want to achieve then please come along and let us know. Just contact the Clerk a few days before on 01923 710250.

Please remember that the Parish Council is YOUR local Council. It is not run on party political lines and my fellow councillors and I just want to try and enhance the quality of life within the parish.

Local democracy IS important. Apathy among voters and disillusionment about politics in general is allowing extremists to gain power. Don't let it happen here. Support your Parish Council and help us to keep Croxley Green a great place to live and work in.

Cllr Mark Saxon

The following Councillors are members of the P&D Committee:

Mark Saxon (Chairman)
Sarah Barratt
Ron Jefford

David Wynne-Jones (Vice Chairman)
Ian Bignell
Cliff Vassiliou (ex officio)

Michael Johns
Jessica Rannachan
Robert Ridley (ex officio)

POETRY

A PLAGUE OF FROGS

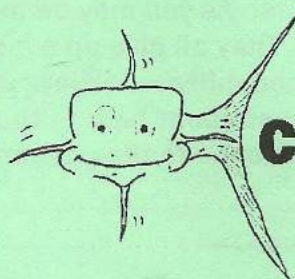
**A plague of frogs
a surfeit
of fat people,
Abundance correlating
with lean cattle.
These things
obsess my mind
disturb my sleep**

**That I could
Dream of fairies
Pixies, leprechauns,
Of Sunday School
and treats
to seaside
coastal
watering places**

**That I were young again
Oblivious**

**Previously published in
Poetry Nottingham and
Poetry Cornwall**

Cllr Michael Johns



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A Clerk's Chronicle

By Neil Saxon – Clerk to the Council

November marks the 13th month of my appointment as Clerk to Croxley Green Parish Council – and what a year it has been! There have been many high points of the past year.

The planting of the new hedgerow in the Orchard, winning the Three Rivers District Council tender to maintain The Green and Stones Orchard, ensuring that our Rangers attain new qualifications have all been a benefit to the community. Add to this the fact that our Garden Competition once again was a huge success and it is now in its 11th year.

During my many tours around the parish I have met many people, and to my delight many have noticed the work which the Council is undertaking within the parish. But there's much more to do. During the next twelve months the Council will hopefully be undertaking new projects, woodland management, new planting of trees, more litter picking and will be arranging many new activities for the community. Of course we always entertain suggestions from the community on new initiatives which we could undertake – so don't be shy, just telephone the Council Offices with your suggestions. We may not be able to do everything, but the more ideas we have the better!!!

Just a word about our Councillors. As you may be aware we have many new Councillors following the elections in May. They all give up a huge amount of their private time to serve on the Council and its various committees, always unpaid and always with a smile on their faces. Their tireless work is a testament both to their commitment to the community and their desire to truly make a difference to the environment in which we all live.

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Turtles



Does anyone have any turtles? I'll take 'em. I like them. A lot. Well this is the story:

While eating a burger in Watford, we happened to notice a yellow and black striped head sticking out of the pond ... The pond had a lot of rubbish in it – turtles don't survive the winter well here ... I like turtles and so you guessed it – we lured him with a bit of turkey and now he's ours. Actually, we call him Miracle as that's what we consider him to be!

You see, I've been wanting one for some time. Then I mentioned to 'Water World' in Kings Langley that I like to rescue turtles and the man said, "do you want my three?" ... Blow me down with a feather! And it was my birthday. Now I have four, and they are all doing great.

I like to spend my Saturdays gazing at our pond. It is most relaxing. Their names are: Emmanuel, Naomi, Ruth and Miracle.

Cllr Jessica Rannachan

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NATURE

How many men are drawn today
into the gardening trade
hoping to live as Melors did
working in easy gardening times
blessed by the lady's favour
in part remuneration

They watched that spring
the sunflowers grow
the phlox the spurge the dropwort flower
turning their blooms unfathomably
to face the sunlight

They watched this world entranced beguiled
through the garden shed's window
a shed fitted out within with bed with bar
with tasteful patterned Paisley curtains

Summer days warm moonlight nights
they made their love amongst the roses
eating rye bread drinking cheap wine
and taking predictable liberties

The gardening trade moves on, you know
as did our lady's fancy
finding the family butler's taste in wine
much more to her liking

She'd wearied of his gardening tales
his boots his double trenching.
Goodbye then boring gardening man
acquire a new appointment

Previously published in Poetry Monthly

Cllr Michael Johns

News from the Environment and Amenity Committee

For the future we plan to maintain The Green and Stones Orchard to the high levels that we have achieved this year and hope that everyone in Croxley Green will continue to enjoy their benefits. We are also hoping to plant some more fruit trees in the Orchard, the probable varieties being Pear and Plum. In addition we are planning to relocate two flowering cherry trees.

The Annual Garden Competition, now in its eleventh year, was again a great success. Twenty five gardens plus six public house gardens were judged and we were very pleased to have some new entrants. As ever the standard was very high which made judging difficult (as did the extremely hot weather in July!). The final judging was undertaken by Councillor Elizabeth Boléat, Chairman of Three Rivers District Council, Mrs Kath Perry, Chairman of Croxley Green Gardening Club and Mr Dave Cartwright of D&J Nurseries. The prizegiving ceremony took place on Friday 10th October. Over 40 people attended and a pleasant evening was had by all. Our thanks go to all the competitors, judges and everyone involved in making the competition so enjoyable.

The Parish Council was represented at the Revels in June with the E&A Committee maintaining a display of photographs of the 2002 Garden Competition. The Horse Trough All Saints Church was planted with daffodil bulbs for the spring and this was followed by geraniums and bedding plants for the summer season. Spring bulbs will shortly be planted for 2004.

Once again Cllr Robert Ridley organised "Fun on The Green". This took place on Sunday 13th July which must have been one of the hottest days of the year. Some 70 brave souls turned out in the heat and we even had a visitor from Belarus. All the usual games, from sack races to tug-of-war, were played and a good day was had by all.

The Council's Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Competition will take place in early December and the annual Christmas tree will be placed in the Library entrance. Similarly, the Christmas street lights will be installed in the designated areas of the village in good time for the festive season.

The parish's canine population continues to be catered for with the provision of dog waste bags. These can be obtained free of charge from the Library and the Parish Council Offices.

We were very pleased that the Parish Council's Rangers are now qualified tree specialists and can undertake arboreal work, having passed all the relevant training courses.

The following are ideas that have been put forward for projects in the year 2004/05. As yet they are only ideas, nothing definite has been agreed upon as yet.

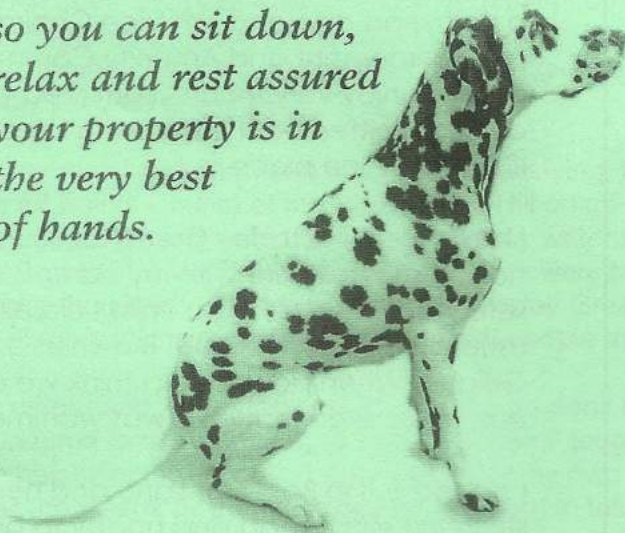
- Roller disco in Barton Way car park
- 5k Fun Run in aid of the Chairman's Charity
- Craft fair
- Farmers' Market to be held on The Green
- Pancake Race on or around Shrove Tuesday
- Fun Dog Show
- Charity Wheelbarrow Race visiting public houses in Croxley Green
- "It's a Knockout" competition
- Classical music evening

The following Councillors are members of the E&A Committee:

Christine Jefford (Chairman)	Hazel Seeley (Vice Chairman)	Nik Bennett
Tony Bennett	Russell Smith	Steve Hiron
David Lee	Cliff Vassiliou (ex officio)	Robert Ridley (ex officio)

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MULTI USE GAMES AREA



As this edition of the Parish Pump goes to press we are hopeful that next year we will have a multi use games area installed in the Barton Way Recreation Ground. This will be available for everyone in the community and, if it is approved by the Executive Committee at Three Rivers District, will be a joint project between them and us.

Hopefully, in partnership with the Parish Council, a new 7-a-side football/hockey/netball/basketball pitch will be built by TRDC.

We wrote to 100 local residents whose houses back onto the Barton Way Recreation Ground, inviting them to a public consultation meeting which was attended by 14 residents. Concerns were highlighted concerning behaviour, language, toilets, parking and possible floodlighting. All comments were noted and will be taken into consideration when the final plans are drawn up. Before any work commences the plans will be on public display, however the strength of public opinion was such that initially at least, the area will not be floodlit.

Cllr Robert Ridley



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A Word From Councillor Seeley

I became a Parish Councillor about four and a half years ago and am Vice Chairman of the Environment and Amenity Committee, which I enjoy very much. I am pleased that our Committee has helped with keeping Croxley a nice place to live.

I have lived in Croxley Green for 65 years, having moved here with my parents and sister from London. As a child I did all the usual things – Youth Club, Brownies and Girl Guides. When I look back I think we enjoyed ourselves, even though it was wartime.

I started out in Baldwins Lane and here I am, still in the same road and happy to be so.

My hobbies are gardening, reading, theatre and walking my dog, Jessie. I like going on holiday but it is always nice to come back to Croxley where I have spent so many happy years.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

NEW PUBLIC SEATING

The Planning and Development Committee would like to purchase and install two new public benches within Croxley. Is there an area that you know of that could benefit from such an amenity? If so, let us know and we will consider any locations notified to us.

Cllr Mark Saxon



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1ST IMPRESSIONS OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Since being elected onto the new Croxley Green Parish Council in May, I have been amazed at just how much goes on in this Parish, and how many people are readily giving up their valuable spare time to contribute so much to the local community. I can hardly believe it has just been 5 months...already I sit on 5 committees for various organisations (on the last count) and the number will surely keep on growing!!

One of my most important, and surprisingly satisfying, roles is to water the flowers in the horse trough outside All Saints Church at the top of Scots Hill on a Friday evening (I am sure the regulars in The Sportsman are getting quite used to me and my watering can by now)! The dedicated efforts of members of the Parish Council have kept the flowers blooming all through the summer, despite all those long, hot days. The trough, like the Croxley Great Barn, are important reminders of the history of the village and it is great to know that local people are working so hard to preserve them.

On the other hand, given the quality of all the gardens in this year's Garden Competition (in which I was honoured (and surprised!) to be an 'informed' judge), it's perhaps not surprising that the Horse Trough has bloomed so well. I may well enter my own garden next year, if I can successfully hack away all the weeds by then (sometimes it is hard to tell a weed and a flower apart..)!!

So far so good, then, as regards my introduction to the Council. You certainly get a good feel for all the local issues affecting the Parish and, believe it or not, some of the meetings can be over in a short space of time!

Cllr Russell Smith
Croxley Green Ward

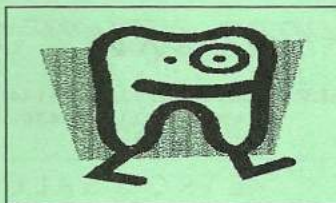
Vandalism

Every area suffers from vandalism, the cost to the local community could run into many thousands of pounds and has to be paid for by the residents by way of Council Tax. Inconvenience is caused due to the damaged amenity becoming unusable and people are deterred from trying to improve the area they live in as they see no point in doing so when anything new is vandalised. When this happens the vandals have effectively won.

If you know of individuals who are causing damage and vandalism to property then please inform the relevant authorities, who will hopefully take action to stop this happening. Don't forget, you are paying for this through your Council Tax.

Cllr Robert Ridley

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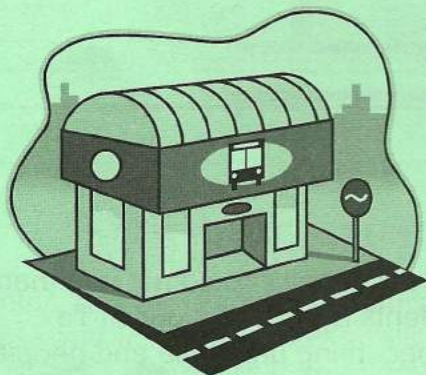
We endeavour to create an agreeable, comfortable atmosphere and offer an attentive service for all ages in a family orientated setting.

BUS SHELTERS

Do you use the bus service in Croxley? Are there any bus stops that you think could benefit from having a bus shelter attached to them?

If the answer is yes to either question then please let us know the location of these bus stops as we may be able to erect two new bus shelters in the forthcoming financial year. Again, contact the Parish Council Office on 710250 or e-mail to the usual address.

Cllr Mark Saxon



POETRY

This poem was written by Chloe Saxon, (age 13) daughter of Neil Saxon, Clerk to the Council

WHO AM I?

You look at yourself in the mirror,
You hate what you see,
You put your head in your hands
And cry.

Who is that person inside of me,
Who is that girl who cries,
Who is that person looking back at me,
Who am I.

You can't see me,
And you don't care,
You don't understand
And you don't try.

Who is that person inside of me,
Who is that girl who cries,
Who is that person looking back at me,
Who am I.

Lift your head high
And see the sky,
Dry your tears
And stand up high.

Who is that person inside of me,
Who is that girl who cries,
Who is that person looking back at me,
Who am I.



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- We have an implant center headed by our highly qualified oral surgeon, Dr Guy McLellan. As well as providing the latest in implant technology, he also holds teaching forums for the dental practitioners in the local area.
- We receive over 3000 referrals every year from dentists who take full advantage of our multidisciplinary set-up.
- We are one of the few remaining practices who are still able to offer sedation under the NHS for diverse courses of treatment.
- Our team includes an oral surgeon who has medical and dental qualifications, consultant anaesthetist, specialist prosthodontist as well as highly qualified support staff.
- We also have an ever increasing NHS patient list of our own and we would love to welcome you too!

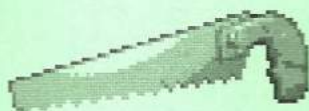
For further information, please phone or visit our website at:

www.chartwelldental.com

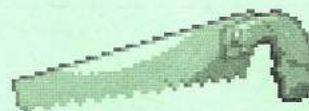
CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS – NOVEMBER 2003-MAY 2004

		2003		2004				
		Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May
Environment & Amenity Committee	TUES	4	2	6	3	2	6	
Planning & Development Committee	WED	5	3	7	4	3	7	
Finance & Administration Committee	THUR	13	11	15	12	11	15	
Planning & Development Committee	WED	19	17	21	18	17	21	
Council Meeting	THURS	27	18	29	26	25	29	13

All Meetings are held in the Council Chamber and commence at 8.00pm unless otherwise notified.
Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend.



MASSACRE IN CROXLEY GREEN



In the local paper last November I saw a job advertisement for the position of Assistant Ranger with the Parish Council. I thought that perhaps this job would suit me, as I had some relevant qualifications, wide experience in that type of work and have lived in Croxley Green all my life and know the area very well. So I applied for the job and was eventually offered it.

Our first major task was the coppicing of hazel and removal of dead elm trees along the hedgerows of The Green. The work was met with approval from some residents and disapproval from others, one particular parishioner even referred to it as "massacring". But those people who understand the principle behind coppicing thought it was "a job well done".

Coppicing, a process of cutting back the growing stems of trees almost to ground level, has been a way of managing trees in Britain for thousands of years. The process encourages the tree to live longer, almost indefinitely. It also allows more light to get into the hedgerow thereby creating more diverse species growing in and around it, which in turn provides a habitat for more insects and birds. Also, a crop of wood is harvested which can be used for anything from dead hedging or hurdle making to materials vital in thatching roofs and making weaved furniture.

Hopefully, this explanation of coppicing will help residents understand why we undertook this work and the purpose behind it.

Since then Carl, the Head Ranger, and I have undertaken many different projects, from laying steps in footpath 7 (from the top of The Green leading to the River Chess), to hedge planting in Stones Orchard.

I was very pleased that the Parish Council decided to send Carl and me on courses in order that we could qualify as "tree surgeons". We were both glad to pass these courses in August.

All in all I have enjoyed my first ten months in the job and hope to continue enjoying it for a lot longer.

Andrew Goddard
Assistant Ranger

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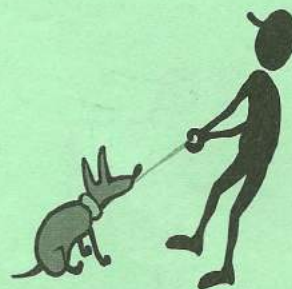
Chubb
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01923 718999

23 Station Road
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 1QP



The Trials and Tribulations of a Pooper Scooper



We have always been in the habit of using "doggy bags", having owned a black and tan miniature dachshund named Emma who lived to over 18 years. Emma has been superseded by a shaded red mini dachshund called Amber who is now six months old.

Using these doggy bags is not without its funnier moments. When the dog is taken out for a "toilet break", using these doggy bags can present problems when the dog decides to pull on the lead at the critical moment, or when there is pouring rain and a howling gale you find yourself running down the road to retrieve the bag blown away in the wind, only to start the whole procedure all over again. The other option is to keep your foot firmly on the dog's lead or tie the leash to a fence or gatepost. This is fine until the animal feels it has been abandoned and starts to howl in protest, giving passers-by all sorts of wrong impressions.

Once the doggy bag has been used, of course, the next step is to find a dog bin. This should not present too much of a problem in Croxley as there are 28 such bins around the parish. However, it doesn't hurt to carry a spare bag or two, just in case of emergencies.

Doggy bags and bins are essential for the cleanliness of our streets, footpaths and open spaces. Dog bags can be obtained free of charge from the Library or the Parish Council Offices and we are pleased that so many residents within the parish are responsible about dog hygiene.

Happy K9 walking!!

Cllrs Christine and Ron Jefford

For information, dog waste bins in Croxley Green are sited at the locations listed below:-

New Road Footpath (opp Yorke Road)
Croxcley Hall Woods (end of Harvey Road)
All Saints Lane (adjacent to School)
Stones Orchard (entrance)
Stones Orchard (centre)
Stones Orchard (nr Owens Way f/path entrance)
Barton Way Recreation Ground (play area)
Barton Way Recreation Ground (pavilion)
Little Green Lane (junction with Lincoln Drive)
Rousebarn Lane (near Links Way footpath)
Rousebarn Lane (Baldwins Lane end)
Rousebarn Lane (middle)
Cassiobridge Recreation Ground (play area)
Little Green Lane (between Durrants Drive & Norwich Way)

Cassiobridge Recreation Ground (tow path)
Sycamore Approach (Watford Road junction)
Valley Walk (urban footpath)
Mill Lane (tow path)
Malvern Way (urban footpath)
Owens Way (urban footpath)
Baldwins Lane Rec Ground (nr play area)
Baldwins Lane Rec Ground (car park area)
Baldwins Lane (near Kenilworth footpath)
Dickensons Field (near Council offices)
Dickensons Field (near School)
The Green (junction of footpath No7)
Cophthorne Road (end of footpath No3)
Frankland Road (footpath 11)



A History of The Croxley Green Royal British Legion

161-163 Watford Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3ED
Telephone: 01923 443210

The Royal British Legion was formed in 1921 and the Croxley Green branch was formed in the same year.

It was a small "Band of Brothers" who met once a month in the Dickinson Guildhouse. Following World War II, the membership grew and we held special social events every year at the Guildhouse. We later made an agreement with the local T.A. HQ on The Green to allow us to use their clubroom every Saturday evening.

We held social events and bingo which was a great success, our membership expanded tremendously. We had the use of the club bar, but of course all profits went to the Territorial Army.

We acquired a piece of land at 161 Watford Road and in 1954 we decided to build our own headquarters. In 1956 our profit for the year was £400 and we agreed to go forward with the project. Fortunately we had members in different trades who volunteered their labour free of charge.

"Jacko" and Harold Picton, who had a demolition and site clearance business, very soon had our site cleared of bushes and rubbish. With their heavy equipment they laid the footings and supplied sufficient second-hand bricks to build the four walls. We bought all the timber needed as well as electric heaters. The second-hand bricks were donated. We took a loan of £1400 for the metal roof frame. Most of the young members worked in various ways free of charge. We opened in 1959 with bingo three times a week and dancing on a Saturday after the bingo. Under Royal British Legion rules we had to form a separate club to allow us to have a bar. Our reputation grew very quickly bringing new members within a 100 mile radius.

The branch continued to run the entertainment and in 1964 we had a new lounge built to accommodate another 100 members. In 1988 the branch handed all entertainment to the club.

For over 42 years the bingo has been held every Monday and Thursday with dancing on Saturdays. In the lounge area we had snooker and pool tables.

Author – Milson Watkins

Full size snooker table
Darts teams
Reduced drinks prices
£250 fruit machines
Pool table
Function Room
Bingo nights
Large screen satellite

New members are always
welcome at the Croxley Green
Royal British Legion
Normal membership - £20 p.a.
Senior Citizens -£15 p.a.
Everyone made welcome
Open all day Friday/Saturday,
Noon-6pm Sunday

Tea dances
Live bands on Saturdays
Race nights
Quiz nights
Massive raffle
Family friend
BBQ evenings
Friendly club atmosphere

Activities on The Green

Here is a very quick quiz for you No prizes for the right answer!!

What have the following in common with each other?

Revels day in June
Fun on The Green
Classic Car Show
Motorcycle Show
Artichoke Fun Day
Horse riding
Walking
Football
"Twitching"
Long, lazy sunny days outside two pubs

Yes, you've guessed it, all the above activities take place in, around or on "The Green".

This fantastic piece of open space in Croxley hosts many events and activities throughout the year come rain or shine. The Parish Council are always looking at ways to encourage more use of The Green and we would like to enlist *your* help.

Does anyone have any ideas about future activities that they would like to see organised? If so, don't be a shy and withdrawn wallflower, but step forward and let us know. We are always receptive to new suggestions and would welcome any comments you may have.

There are a number of ways to contact us. In person, at the Office in Community Way, by phone on 01923 710250, by 'snail mail' (that's a letter to you and me!) or via e-mail at croxleypc@btconnect.com.

Cllr Mark Saxon

Badgers

I have been fortunate enough to have lived in a very quiet residential location for 25 years and one of my greatest pleasures has been to enjoy all sorts of country wildlife.

There has been so much to see from my window. The birds have been very entertaining and to list all the different species would be a major undertaking.

Foxes and tiny muntjacks all pay a visit. But my most frequent visitors have been badgers. They visit every evening with such regularity that you could almost set your watch by them! I have enjoyed feeding these badgers for over fourteen years and I am fortunate enough to have neighbours who kindly donate various titbits for them.

Nature at its best.

Croxley Green Resident



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Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3NH

All Saints Church Spire

On the evening of 25th September 1940 all seemed quiet in Croxley Green as the villagers prepared to go to bed. Suddenly, at 9.36pm, there was an enormous explosion and the windows of all houses from Scots Hill to New Road were shattered.

What had happened? The answer was that a German mine attached to a parachute had fallen beside All Saints Church and had exploded. The east end of the Church was badly damaged and the roof was blown off the steeple. In fact, the Church was the most badly affected by bombing in the whole of Hertfordshire and was not repaired again fully until 1947. The parishioners had to make the long walk to Saint Mary's in Rickmansworth. Even today there are few stained glass windows in All Saints as the beautiful windows were all blasted to bits by the explosion.

Nowadays we take for granted the beautiful spire as part of the historic heart of Croxley – the bell faithfully tolls out the hours over The Green, and coming up Scots Hill it is the first real symbol of our village that one can see. It looks in good order and beautiful at first sight but if one gazes carefully at the cedar shingles on the roof, one can see that many are missing and others are rotten. The Church does not have the money to repair it as steeplejacks and scaffolding are very expensive indeed. There is a possibility that what the Germans failed to do sixty years ago, apathy will allow to destroy in the next few years as the roof caves in.

All Saints, like many churches today, has a dwindling congregation. They give generously but gone are the vast amounts of yesteryear. If you value the view of your beautiful spire and want to continue to have it there you might like to donate to the All Saints Spire Appeal Fund. Please contact Reverend Luke Lee, All Saints Vicarage, The Green, Croxley Green or telephone him on 01923 772109.

Think it over, you may never use our church, although it is open every day for those who seek refuge for a few minutes from the noise outside; but how would Croxley look if this historic spire is lost for ever? It is up to you.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

Eagle Cars Croxley

139 Watford Road

Croxley Green

Herts WD3 3DY

Tel: 01923 771111 Fax: 01923 718622

Accounts Welcome

Courier Service

Destination	Car	5/6 Seater	7/8 Seater	15 Seat Minibus
Heathrow T1-T3	£27.00	£35.00	£42.00	£60.00
Heathrow T4	£29.00	£37.00	£44.00	£60.00
Luton	£27.00	£35.00	£42.00	£60.00
Gatwick	£56.00	£68.00	£72.00	£100.00
Stansted	£56.00	£68.00	£72.00	£90.00
City Airport	£56.00	£68.00	£72.00	£90.00
City of London	£40.00	£55.00	£70.00	£80.00
West End	£40.00	£55.00	£60.00	£80.00
Euston/Kings X/ St Pancras	£35.00	£42.00	£47.00	£75.00
Paddington	£32.00	£40.00	£45.00	£75.00
Liverpool Street	£40.00	£55.00	£60.00	£80.00
Victoria	£40.00	£55.00	£60.00	£80.00
Waterloo	£40.00	£55.00	£60.00	£80.00
Milton Keynes	£45.00	£52.00	£55.00	£70.00
Chessington	£45.00	£52.00	£55.00	£70.00

Note: London prices DO NOT INCLUDE congestion charge
Estate car prices plus £5
Airport pickups are plus car park fee

Red Cross Market

Everyone is welcome to pop in to the Market held at the Red Cross Centre in Barton Way from 10am to 12 noon on the third Saturday in every month.

There are a variety of stalls selling books, clothes and bric a brac, etc. The proceeds go towards the running costs of the Centre which benefits the Croxley Green community.

There will be special Christmas Markets on 15th November and 20th December.

A charity event will be held on Sunday 30th November. As all our goods are donated, any contributions would be very welcome.

Please contact Mrs Olive Bennett on 01923 776913 if you have any items which you would like to donate.

Olive Bennett

THE SPORTSMAN

2 SCOTS HILL
CROXLEY GREEN
RICKMANSWORTH
HERTS WD3 3AD
TEL: 01923 443360

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- GUEST BEERS
- FRIENDLY FAMILY ATMOSPHERE
- DOGS WELCOME
- LUNCHTIME PUB FOOD

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WD3 3BX
Tel: 01923 210000

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- Unbeatable Service
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NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
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CROXLEY CLEAN UP DAY

If you would like to help keep Croxley clean and tidy, please make a note of this date. Between 9.30am and 12.30pm on Sunday morning the **2nd May 2004**, the Parish Council in partnership with Three Rivers District Council are planning a 'Clean and Clear' day.

We will be locating skips in six strategic positions in Croxley and handing out black plastic sacks to all **volunteers** who want to help us keep Croxley free from litter and abandoned articles.

So if you would like to get some exercise before your Sunday roast AND help the environment, then this is your chance.

If you have an idea of where you would like a skip located then please contact the Council Office on 710250 or e-mail to croxleypc@btconnect.com. Look out for further details.

Cllr Mark Saxon



COMPETITION

Each group of animals, birds, fishes, etc has a collective name, or "collective noun", eg a "herd" of cows.

Listed below are 24 names for which you must find the collective noun. For example: Deer – a herd, Fishes – a shoal.

To enter the competition, put the collective noun against each group listed below and then complete the caption in more than ten words. Send your completed form to the Parish Council Office by **31st December 2003.**

There will be a prize for the entry with the most correct answers and the best caption. We will publish the answers and the winner's name in the next edition of the Parish Pump.

Good luck!

(Cut along dotted line and return completed form below)

	Collective Noun		Collective Noun
Badgers	Kittens	.....
Budgerigars	Larks	.....
Coots	Moles	.....
Cranes	Partridges	.....
Donkeys	Penguins	.....
Elk	Quail	.....
Ferrets	Seals	.....
Frogs	Snakes	.....
Geese (in flight)	Spiders	.....
Goldfish	Tigers	.....
Grouse	Turkeys	.....
Hawks	Woodpeckers	.....

Complete the following sentence in no more than ten words:-

I think Croxley Green is a great place to live because

.....

Name:

Address:

.....

Tel No:

Entries should be sent to:- Croxley Green Parish Council, Community Way,
Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3SU