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Parish Council

The Parish Pump

No. 2 September 1992

EDITORIAL

This is the second edition of *The Parish Pump* and hopefully you will find it stimulating. Last time we had some difficulty in delivery, it being a new venture, but this time we have had time to consider this aspect more carefully. If you know of a hiccup in delivery please let us know. We had some feedback from the first edition and have tried to reflect the comments in the make-up of this issue.

Generally we try to include only items of Council business but this time we have included an article about Three Rivers Museum, as we have tried to support this venture and feel that it is of interest to you all.

Since our last edition we had the recurrence, but more heavily, of the presence of travellers on the Green. It is not easy to shift them once they are installed but strong efforts were made by us and others to minimise their tenure. They are reported to have left 40 tons of rubbish on their departure after some ten days. This was largely old asphalt and tree loppings. These itinerants exist by touring the district and offering their services in laying drives and tree lopping among other things. Anyone who has used their services will know that their work cannot be relied upon and they cannot be traced should something go wrong. It is true that their vans and lorries often carry a telephone number in evidence of respectability but has anyone tried telephoning such a number? The authorities have, with the expected outcome, it was useless. There is also considerable evidence of vandalism and theft during their tenure, but prosecution is difficult when they move on and no-one can trace them. You can help by not employing these itinerants; there are many reputable local workmen who in this time of recession are actively seeking employment, can be relied upon and are available for redress should this be needed.

At the time of going to press there is notice of the government's intention to repeal the present legislation, which protects travellers, and replace it with other proposals which are intended to protect the victims of travellers' temporary

encampments. This is due to pressure from MPs' constituents and we must give our views to ensure that hasty legislation does not increase confrontation and subsequent difficulties, but deals sensibly with the problem. As a Parish Council we shall respond but your views will be welcome in helping us to form our response.

John Hedges
Chairman

COMMUTER PARKING

From time to time the Parish Council receives complaints about the amount of commuter parking in the area adjacent to Croxley Station, and occasionally the complaint is accompanied with a suggested solution to the problem.

In examining the situation it quickly becomes obvious that any proposed solution for the immediate area, currently affected, has the twin disadvantages of a) inconveniencing the residents in the area and b) transferring the problem to adjacent areas.

The Council has found what it believes to be a practical solution and this will be circulated to households currently affected, together with those within a half mile radius of Croxley Station. Residents will be asked to not only express an opinion on the proposal put to them, but also encouraged to put forward alternative ideas or suggestions for improvements to the proposals of the Council. When the notices are circulated, probably by the end of October, recipients are asked to ensure that they are returned fairly quickly.

Following receipt of the completed forms, the Parish Council will analyse the views put forward and hopefully find a practical policy, to pursue or not, as the case may be.

Assuming a positive conclusion to the exercise the Council will start negotiating with Three Rivers District Council and Herts County Council for speedy application of the proposals.

Residents should note that if a scheme is practical, it will involve some inconvenience to those residents within the affected area. At the moment it is considered that restricted parking within a half mile radius of Croxley Station should be sufficient deterrent but if it were subsequently found that problems were being created, immediately outside this area, then obviously it would be necessary to propose extending the area and consequently to consult with the residents so affected.

To those households who will shortly be receiving the questionnaire the Council would thank you in advance for your cooperation in completing and returning the form promptly.

Joe Wesson - Chairman
Planning & Development Committee

COUNCILLORS

North Ward

Peter Foster 779841

John Hedges 222715

Chairman-Council

Alison Wall 777340

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Chairman - Planning & Development

Ray Withers 819102

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Heather McMaster 772317

Margaret Pomfret 720088

Chairman - Publicity

Ken Webb 775044

South Ward

John Brind 228785

Chairman - Environment & Amenity

Phil Drury 720701

Bill Hassey 775231

John Larter 253806

Lawrie Mathews 243420

Vice-Chairman - Council

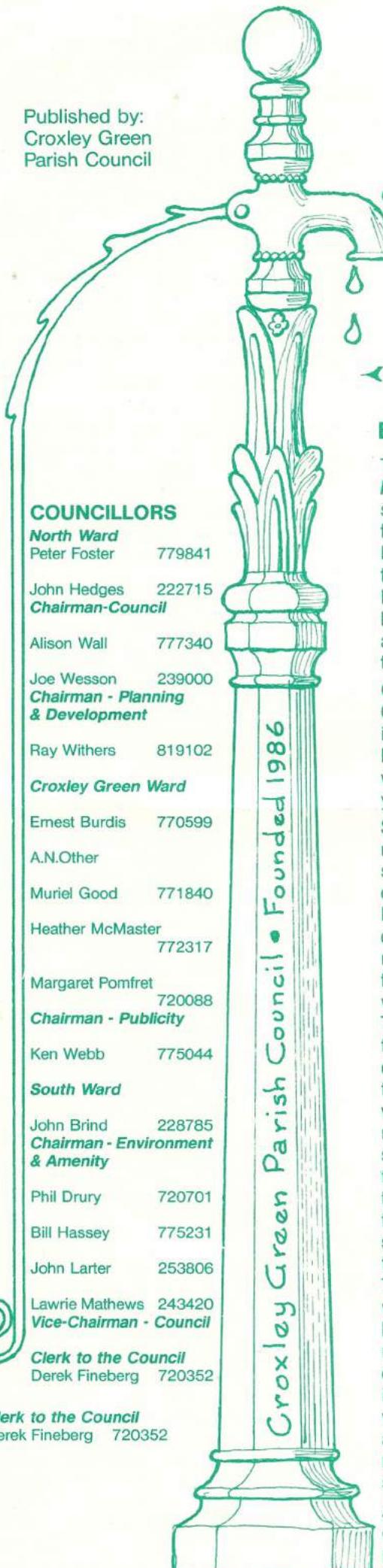
Clerk to the Council

Derek Fineberg 720352

Clerk to the Council

Derek Fineberg 720352

1986 • Founded • Croxley Green Parish Council





PARISH OFFICE

I had hoped that this edition could announce the opening date for our new Parish Office but the, not unexpected, legal niceties have delayed this longer than we had hoped. However with a fair wind, from now on, we still expect the office to be complete by the end of the year.

The office, of which a sketch impression is given above will be off the Barton Way car park adjacent to the Community Centre who have been most helpful throughout the long drawn out process. The building will be a prefabricated building of good standard and will provide a good base from which to work. Our intentions, at the moment, are that the office will be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm each weekday and subject to demand we will also open on Saturday mornings.

The opening of the office will mean that you the public will have access to us very readily. Your queries and concerns can be dealt with in a friendly fashion and we hope to be able to give you value for money as do our fellow parishes in Three Rivers.

Since our inception, some seven years ago, we have looked after the cutting of the grass on the Green and, though there have been difficulties, we believe that on the whole this has been carried out in a much more satisfactory manner than in the past. We have of course reacted to concerns over the Bus service and our Community Bus runs each Friday morning to assist the senior citizens of our parish. In our regular committee meetings we have endeavoured to plan for the environment and have planted bulbs on Scots Hill, planted out the horse trough by All Saints Church and tidied up the Library grounds. We have kept an eye on, and commented upon, various planning applications that concern our community. We have been successful in opposing unwelcome developments on the Green and our views have been welcomed and taken into account on many occasions by the local Planning

Authority.

We were asked some time ago if we would manage our playing fields and recreation grounds but lacking a base felt unable to do so. This can now change and we intend to negotiate with TRDC to take over this responsibility as do other parishes.

Future plans include carrying out a village appraisal, as at Kings Langley which we hope will help to guide our thinking for the future. This exercise will enable us to ascertain your views and concerns, and where feasible to satisfy them, knowing that they are of importance to you.

As you are probably aware, reorganization of local government is once again being considered. Hertfordshire is at the tail end of the list for review but it will be far reaching with the possibility that the County Council could be abolished and the District be amalgamated with another. On the other hand the County Council could be confirmed and the District become less involved. However, whatever the outcome, it is highly probable that Parish Councils will be given more responsibility. This will present a challenge but, with our own base and a strong programme, one that we will be better able to meet.

In these pages we also set before you some of the concerns and plans we have at present. The next few weeks and months could prove very busy and very exciting, but the vital ingredient will be your wishes and your aspirations for Croxley Green.

John Hedges - Chairman

MUSEUM PIECE

The Parish Council has lent its support to the Three Rivers Museum and to inform readers include this piece.

A Rickmansworth Museum - a dream! Instead of saying this dream started twenty-five years ago, there is more impact if I say a quarter of a century. It was this long ago that members of the Rickmansworth Historical Society, see-

ing the old buildings of the town being demolished around them, started to seek out and save items suitable as memorabilia. Prominent among those so collecting were Eddie Parrott and his friend Len Leach, who was also a member of the Watford and SW Herts Archaeological Society. Today one must bless them for their foresightedness.

Many were the overtures made to bodies such as the Rickmansworth UDC, Herts CC and County Libraries among others, seeking somewhere that items collected could be put on display, but to no avail. The only alternative was storage and this took place mostly in the homes of such people as Eddie and Len. One can only wonder at their ladies' forbearance.

It was in 1981 that the newly opened Watford Museum agreed to hold all the items in storage as the *Rickmansworth Collection*. Some were put on display with the rest being retained until such time as a local museum was established. Most of the items have now been returned, but some are still on display at Watford.

By now Parliament had amalgamated Rickmansworth, Abbots Langley, Oxhey, Chorleywood and smaller villages under a new name *Three Rivers* within a new District centred in Rickmansworth.

On 10 December 1986, TRDC set up a public meeting to ascertain if there was support for a museum in the area. It cannot be said that pressure had been brought to bear upon the Council, but certainly the idea had been kept alive by friend Eddie. Further meetings were held early in 1987 with the result that TRDC offered the old Council Chamber in Basing House for use as a museum for a trial period of six months.

A steering committee was formed to organize and control things, which culminated in the Museum being opened on 10 November 1987. The success of the opening vindicated those in favour of the venture, since more than 3,000 visitors were admitted before the Museum was closed on 2 April 1988. It was realised that a properly elected body was needed, and yet another public meeting was called on 17 March 1988. It was from this meeting that the Three Rivers Museum Society came into being. The Society negotiated with TRDC, resulting in the offer of continued use of the same premises, on a temporary basis, since Basing House was due for a complete refurbishment.

The second opening took place on 13 August 1988 and the expected closure did not come until 13 October 1990.

Vacation of the Chamber boded storage problems, but the Council came to the rescue, offering the now unused Good Companions Workshop. Fittings and display cases were stored there, but the Society having carefully packed all the artefacts etc., being worried about security and dampness at the Workshop, ensured their safekeeping by dispersing them into the lofts of Committee members' homes.

The closure period was used for stabilisation. We could not be sure what, or if any, premises would be offered, but we lived in hope and made plans accordingly.

Our display stands were mostly discarded shop furniture and we realised that this might not be good enough in the future, not in keeping with our ambitions.

The Committee embarked on a series of fund raising activities. Much bric-a-brac was donated, collected and sold which together with most welcome grants and gifts saw our balance sheet rise steadily to four figures.

Speculation on where we might finish up included consideration of the Good Companions Workshop, but it was in such a poor state of repair that a sum of £40,000 was mentioned to make it usable. We certainly had no knowledge of our destiny, only speculation and hope.

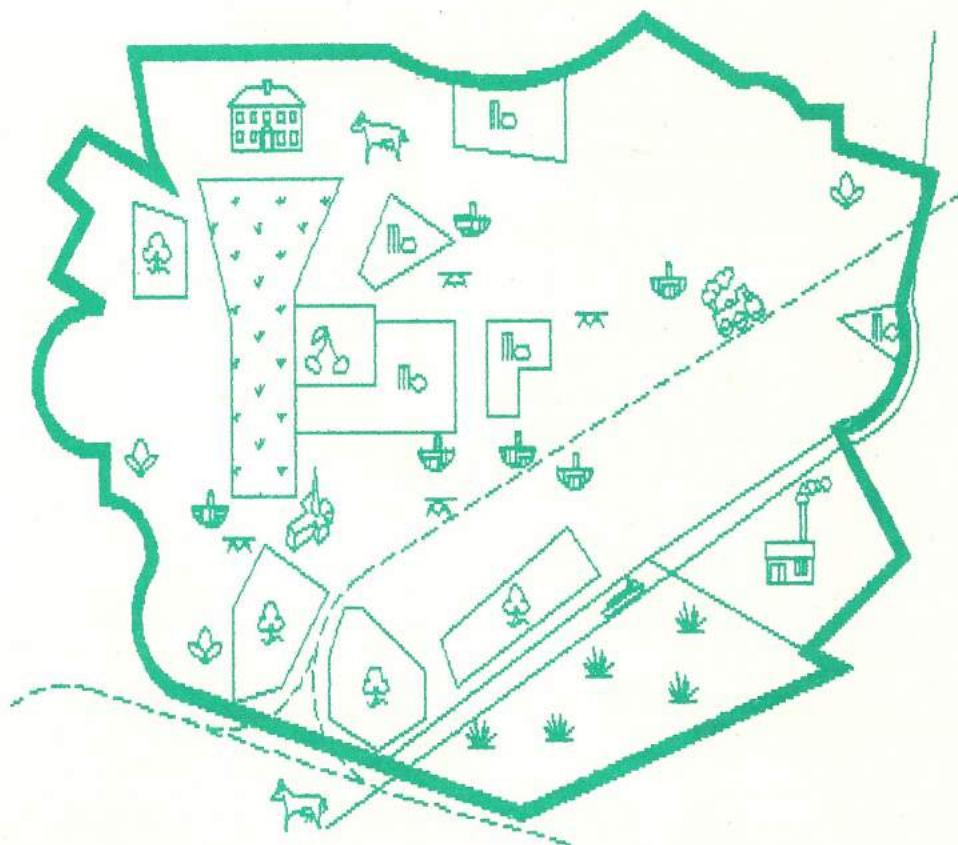
After many contractual delays, we were advised that the new exhibition room would be ours for an initial twelve months from September 1991. The delays cost us dearly. Two members of our small band had major illnesses, Christmas was looming, only scant progress could be made. Early in the New Year, efforts were renewed and gradually our ambitions took shape. With our declared aim, to be as professional as possible, we used up practically all of our accrued monies. Nothing was skimped in our endeavour to match the quality of the new room, impressive by any standards.

On 21 March 1992 for the third and hopefully last time, Mrs Carol Boardman, Chairman of the Council reopened our museum. Why not come and see for yourself? We are open Monday to Friday from 2pm to 4pm and on Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

If a postscript is needed, may I refer to the first three words of this article - A Rickmansworth Museum. These were quite deliberate. We would have been delighted had the museum been exclusively for our home town, but Three Rivers breathed life into our slumbering ambitions and we are therefore committed wholeheartedly to include all of Three Rivers. Most of our material has been collected within the original Rickmansworth UDC area and as such Croxley Green has featured significantly. However we hope that, in time, the residents of the whole area will support us in our quest to build stocks of memorabilia and photographs, so that we can truly be a Three Rivers Museum. Who knows? If others feel the need as did Eddie and Len, there may be scope to regionalise and have branches located in other areas. Let us be grateful that two such stalwarts wanted a museum. If they had not then it is doubtful that I would have been called on to write

MUSEUM PIECE.

Cecil J Mead - Editor
(TRMS Journal)



A PARISH MAP

A Parish Map is a new approach to conservation, encouraging local people to be actively involved in the place where they live. It is not just an ordinary map of the Parish but a map showing local features which are important in our everyday life. They may be particular buildings, an orchard, a favourite walk by the canal or across a moor, an event held on the local green.

Through the making of such a map we can identify what Croxley Green has to offer and what aspects of our community may require attention. It can be a snapshot in time and reinforce our defence against insensitive change and future plans that may be in store for Croxley Green.

Many Parishes have been very successful producing such maps, whereby its reproduction can act as an educational aid and an informative document for established residents, newcomers and visitors.

In producing a Parish Map one could ask, "What would be missed?" e.g.: The cottages on the Green, the Green itself (if it were to be taken away), Common Moor, Dickinson Square, there are so many things which are in danger of disappearing from Croxley Green and many corners that are unknown to many residents. The importance of establishing them on record, will hopefully preserve and protect them as a legacy to future generations.

The map can be made in a mixture of textiles, either as a collage or a painting, that can be reproduced in many forms and with the involvement of local people. Pro-

ceeds from the sales of reproductions can be used for a special project or scheme that will benefit the conservation of Croxley Green.

All of this now begs the question:- "What is required of you?" If you feel that you care enough about the place where you live, either as an individual or a group and would like to develop this project, we will be interested to hear from you. Maybe you are a local school that would like your children to be a part of this, bringing about a sense of involvement in their childhood. You may be a mature group, a camera club, a women's group who meet regularly and would like to share what Croxley Green has meant for you (That is why you live here maybe!). Even if you are an individual who just cares about "keeping what is ours", we would like to hear your views.

Clrs Margaret Pomfret & Ernest Burdis

ANSWERS

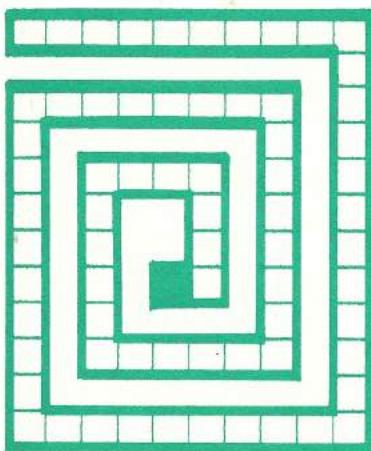
STREETWISE

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. BATEMAN | 2. MANOR |
| 3. NORWICH | 4. CHERWELL |
| 5. LUDLOW | 6. OWENS |
| 7. SHERBORNE | 8. NEW |
| 9. WARWICK | 10. KENILWORTH |
| 11. HASTINGS | 12. SYCAMORE |
| 13. REPTON | |

GOOD TIMING

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. FULLER | 2. HARVEY |
| 3. REPTON | 4. GROVE |
| 5. GIRTON | 6. BARTON |
| 7. LUDLOW | |

PUZZLE CORNER



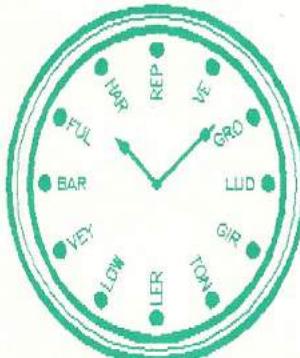
STREET WISE

Work your way to the centre of the grid. Street names in Croxley Green overlap from one name to the next.

Clues

1. Supplies worms to piscators?
2. Dr. Caius was once the local lord.
3. "Canaries" to their supporters.
4. As professor Lindeman he was "Winnie's" wartime scientific adviser.
5. Very old Shropshire market town.
6. Starts and ends at 13.
7. Old public school in Dorset.
8. So named as it was Croxley's second.
9. The Kingmaker.
10. A very famous ruined 12th Century castle in the shire of 9.
11. Almost everyone knows the date of this battle.
12. Has winged seeds that fly like helicopters.
13. Very old Derbyshire town famous for its Public School.
(Famous landscaper too).

GOOD TIMING



In which road should you be according to the time?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Ten thirty | 2. 11.40 |
| 3. Twelve twenty five | 4. 2.05 |
| 5. Four twenty five | 6. 9.25 |
| 7. Three thirty five | |

TO SCHEME OR NOT TO SCHEME?

The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of setting up an "*After School Scheme*" for the children in Croxley Green.

As you may recall TRDC's Leisure Department undertook an investigation for such a project approximately two years ago. The idea was not pursued due to an apparent lack of demand for such a service and perhaps the cost.

However, we feel that we need to see if the situation has changed since this survey. More mothers are returning to work whilst the children are still young and suitable childminders are very difficult to find. A childminder's domestic situation can obviously change, so children may experience several differing childminding environments through their school years.

We are considering children from 5-12 years, which differs from TRDC's proposal, which would have catered only for children from 8 years onward. To date we are making initial enquiries in discussions with TRDC and Social Services. We will be in contact with the local schools. We need to carefully consider the economics of the scheme and ascertain costs so that the scheme, whilst being self supporting, does not fail through excessive charges. In the near future we will be visiting two local schemes, in order to appreciate the practicalities and problems that such a scheme would generate, but, we remain optimistic.

It appears from reading the relevant literature that schools provide the most suitable venue and it is hoped that such premises will be available. We would envisage running a coach to collect children from their respective local schools. The scheme would comply with the letter and the spirit of the new Children's Act, which became law in October 1991. Meeting children's need will be a priority for such a scheme.

From the kid's Club Network, we gather that there are 300 successful schemes in the Country. We would very much like to put Croxley Green on this map! I would appreciate comments - both positive and negative, from any residents. Also please contact me if you feel that such a scheme would meet your childcare needs.

Thankyou in anticipation,
Cllr. Alison Wall - (0923 777340)

MODEL AIRCRAFT ON THE MOOR

Model aircraft have been flown on the Moor for over half a century, for the most part without causing annoyance to the residents at large. However some years ago the volume and noise had reached a point at which local people had cause to complain. As a result of this, informal discussions took place with representatives of Wayfarers a

model flying club who were the main users of the moor. The outcome was a set of byelaws restricting the noise level and times of use by model aircraft enthusiasts. This worked well, at first, but some years ago the Wayfarers moved to their own field and consequently the flying was no longer group controlled. The increased size of planes and more powerful engines, has led to the fliers once more creating a nuisance. The Parish Council, believing that no-one wants to spoil the enjoyment of the considerate fliers but at the same time does not wish to cause residents annoyance, has discussed the situation carefully and is making proposals to TRDC that rather than banning flying altogether, which could be difficult to enforce, a compromise should be sought. We are suggesting that the considerate fliers should be encouraged to form a club and that TRDC should grant them a licence, with safeguards, which they will need to police themselves, to ensure that the licence is continued. We believe that self-help is the best form of control and this should also obviate the need to involve the police in trying to enforce an unenforceable prohibition.

John Hedges - Chairman

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE EVERY FRIDAY MORNING TO WATFORD	
Departs:	
Junc'n Hazlewood/Beechcroft	9.57am
Junc'n Frankland/Harvey	10.00am
Chalmers Court	10.03am
Red Cross Centre	10.08am
Shaftesbury Court	10.13am
Return from Watford Market St. 12.30pm	
Departs:	
Hanover House/Cherwell Close	10.35am
Grove Court	10.40am
Junc'n Durrants/Dover Way	10.43am
Junc'n Links Way/Ludlow Way	10.45am
Return from Watford Market St. 1.00pm	
Fare 50p RETURN	
FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION. YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO SHOW PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY	

GARDEN COMPETITION

For the first time, in 1993 the Parish Council will hold a residents' gardens competition and entry forms will be available in the next edition of the *Parish Pump*. Cups and certificates will be awarded in various classes that will include;

Front Gardens, Back Gardens, Public Houses, Shops etc, and also classes for novices and pot plants from flat dwellers.

Judging will take place in mid-summer and a presentation evening held later. Watch out for further details and start planning now.

John Brind - Chairman Environment & Amenity Committee