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# The Parish Pump

*The Croxtley Green Parish Council's House Magazine*

Autumn/Winter 2006

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

## COUNCILLORS:

### North Ward:

Kathryn Duffy	710250
(Vice Chairman of P&D Committee)	
Tony Munroe	720141
Brian Norman	710250
Hazel Seeley	772696
(Vice Chairman of E&A Committee)	
Wendy Shafe	441638

### Croxley Green Ward:

Tim Davis	772918
Mark Englefield	495234
Carol Hearn	710250
Christine Jefford	771769
(Chairman – E&A Committee)	
Ron Jefford	771769
Cliff Vassiliou	779927

### South Ward:

David Bains	441480
Nik Bennett	773623
(Vice Chairman of Council)	
Mark Saxon	772581
(Chairman of Council)	
David Wynne-Jones	251905
(Chairman – P&D Committee)	
Robert Ridley	778638

## Chairman's Editorial

Once again it gives me great pleasure to write, what is now, my third editorial for the Parish Pump.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Councillors, our Clerk, Personal Assistant, and two Rangers for all the service and hard work they have provided this year.

First of all I would like to update you on some of the Parish Council projects I told you about in the last edition.



PCSO Paul Chong-Lles

Our first PCSO has been recruited and has now completed his training. Paul Chong-Lles will be a welcome addition to the policing requirements of Croxtley Green and we welcome him to our village.

If you see him out and about, please say hello as Paul will be **dedicated** to Croxtley and not shared with the other Parishes. He will need your active support and encouragement to make Croxtley as safe as possible. Indeed, we hope to have news of the second PCSO in our next edition.

You will see inside this issue our advertisement for the New Years Eve Fireworks Display on The Green. This

display is free to attend and should be a welcome addition to the activities that The Green supports throughout the year. Don't forget to come well wrapped up with a drink of something to welcome in the New Year with your friends and family!!

I am disappointed to announce that Hertfordshire Highways refused us permission to use the new street lamps up Scots Hill to erect Christmas decorations. However, we will continue to light up Watford Road near the Underground Station in our normal fashion in order to promote the Christmas spirit.

Our Village Sign competition is going well and we should have some exciting news about the winner shortly.

Our two charities for 2005 – 2006: The Alzheimer's Society and the Croxtley Sunnyside Club each received £878.44 from the Parish Council as a result of two charity walks, our annual quiz night and a couple of additional donations. They were presented with their cheques along with the winners of the garden competition at a very



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

enjoyable evening held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Part of our regular 'Focus On' series continues in this edition with a write up of Croxley Hardware at 43 Baldwins Lane. As Chairman of the Council I can think of nothing more important for our village than a vibrant, multi-faceted selection of shops and other commercial ventures. Communities without local shops quickly and inevitably become shadows of their former selves. We were faced with a number of these closures years ago in regards to the bank sub branches located in New Road. This could have spelt the end for the number and variety of shops that we have. I am, however, pleased to note that our local shops continue to serve their local communities.

However, it is also inherent for all of us to **use these shops as much as possible**. The local greengrocers, butchers, hairdressers, convenience stores, florists, computer store, sports shop, off-licences, cafes, sandwich bar, newsagents etc etc **ALL** rely on **us** to keep going. **Their survival** is dependent on **your custom**. If all the people in Croxley used the 'big' Supermarkets once a month less and used the local shops and local supermarkets once a month more, not only could you save on petrol and time but you would also be guaranteeing the future of our retail outlets.

The elections for Parish Councillors are due to be held in May of next year. Croxley Green Parish Council prides itself on being one of the few Parish Councils not beholden to 'Party Politics'.

If you are thinking of becoming involved in your Community, what better way is there than actually being able to make some of the decisions that matter to the people of Croxley.

The vast majority of our Councillors stand as 'Independents' and our aim is simply to 'Keep Croxley Special'.

I will welcome any persons who would like to stand as candidates in May and if you require any information on the roles, duties and responsibilities of being a Parish Councillor, please call in at the office in Community Way.

Finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of all your Parish Councillors & Parish Council Staff in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year in 2007.

**Mark Saxon**  
Chairman  
Croxley Green Parish Council

## Croxley Green Revisited

I have been re-visiting Croxley Green over the past six months to research a book indeed, I am writing about the place where I was born some sixty five years ago. There is still much to do before the book is published next year but I have to say that I have been pleasantly surprised to find that Croxley still maintains such a wonderful sense of community. I imagined that it would have been swallowed up by Rickmansworth and Watford!



Inevitably my research has conjured up many memories of my childhood, and my photographer David Thrower has already fired off his camera hundreds of times at images pointed out in a rather childish manner by my good self.

In a previous 'Parish Pump' article a picture of Croxley Wanderers FC appeared and my brother George and his mates were there grinning back at me. Little Green Lane School, Malvern Way School, the Old Merchant Taylors sports ground, Barton Way 'Rec', Copthorne Road and, of course, The Green itself are among the places we have already visited and each time we stop to take more photographs. Seeing all these places again is one thing, meeting the people has been quite another. The Parish Council could not have been more helpful and I am looking forward to many more visits. Residents really work hard at creating and maintaining the community spirit of Croxley Green and are rightly proud of the place where they live and most importantly they are happy to share that pride.

If anyone has any stories that they would like to share I would be most pleased to hear from you. The Parish Council have my contact details. I'm sorry to say that I cannot guarantee to use all of the material. Oh yes, one other thing, when you start a project like this you often get stuck on what appears to be minor points but cannot get them out of your head. So if anyone can help me specifically on a character we kids used to call 'Albert Sarratt' please do put me out of my misery! **John Pilgrim**



## Garden Competition 2006

On Friday 29 September prizes for the Parish Council's annual Garden Competition were presented by David Gauke MP. As we had received over 70 replies to this event, it wasn't possible to hold it in the Council offices and we were very fortunate that we had an offer from Helen at the Community Centre to use their newly refurbished room. As always a great evening was had by everyone, with our Chairman – Mark Saxon, making the evening go with a swing. The prize winners were:

### FRONT GARDENS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Jeffs, Owens Way
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs D Gander, Sycamore Road
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr & Mrs G Martin, Harvey Road

### *Highly Commended*

Mr B Jeffreys, Sycamore Road

### SMALL BACK GARDENS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Jeffs, Owens Way
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr I Bradley, Valley Walk
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs D Gander, Sycamore Road

### LARGE BACK GARDENS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs E Hargrave, Bateman Road
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs McLachlan, Kenilworth Drive
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Miss A Mackrow-Harvey, Baldwins Lane

### *Highly Commended*

Mrs K M Sheriff, Valley Walk

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Shaftesbury Housing, Shaftesbury Court

### PUBLIC HOUSE

The Artichoke Public House

### BEST FLORAL CONTAINER DISPLAY

Mr D Jeffs, Owens Way

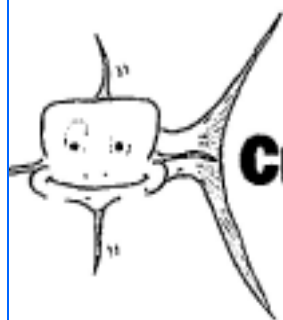
Many thanks to Christine Jefford who organised the Garden Competition and Friday evening with 100% assistance from our Clerk, David Allison and our PA Sylvia Stratford. David also took the beautiful photographs taken on the day of final judging, some of which are shown here.

Thanks too to Tony Munroe, Val Wilson and Ron Jefford for their help on Friday afternoon and Jayne Saxon for manning the bar. Christine and I organised the food with help from those well known chefs – M&S, Tesco's and Sainsbury's.

We look forward to next year and hope that even more entries will be received.

**Cllr Hazel Seeley**





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As part of the New Year Celebrations you  
are invited to attend

## **FIREWORKS ON THE GREEN**



**Assemble at 11.45 pm.  
Fireworks will commence at  
12 midnight sharp.**

This is a pedestrian event so no provision  
will be made for car parking.

**Free admission - No private fireworks please**



### **Fireworks on the Green**

Many avid readers will have noted the article in the last issue of The Pump and already made a note in their diary for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. For those who have not, here is a gentle reminder so that you and your family can avoid the disappointment of missing this firework extravaganza. Fireworks on the Green is the opportunity for the village of Croxley Green to join together and see in 2007 with this celebration.

Timetable for events:

**Assemble** on the Green from **11.45pm** (near the Revels site);

**Fireworks** commence at **12.00 midnight** sharp.

It is anticipated that the display will last approximately 15 minutes as we welcome in the New Year. The exciting and spectacular show is being provided by Whizzz Bang Fireworks of Kings Langley.

As with any large gathering there are a few rules to make this an enjoyable and safe evening for all:

- This is a pedestrian only event therefore no provision will be made for parking on the Green;
- Private fireworks (including sparklers) are **not** permitted;
- All spectators must remain behind the viewing cordon at all times;
- Please take home any litter.

With personal comfort in mind please wrap up warm, bring a torch and any refreshment that you think appropriate (tea/coffee?).

The Parish Council hope that this is a well supported event that they can repeat in future years.

**See you there!**

### **Book Lists**

The time of year will soon be here when Sunday paper supplements will be asking various "celebrities" what they will be reading at Christmas. The choices made are unbelievable, to me anyway.

Can you really believe that someone is going to snuggle down with "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom" or some obscure tome by an author nobody has ever heard of? I don't think so. Those asked all seem to vie with each

other as to how high-minded and intellectual they can appear to be.

I wish that real book readers (like myself of course!) were asked. But I suppose Lee Child, Robert B Parker, P J Tracy, Robert Crais (all American crime novels, to which I am addicted) would not fit the bill at all!

So, I suppose in my own way, my choices would be just as boring to newspaper readers as the "celebrities."

**CLlr Hazel Seeley**

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## I'm a hundred and one! No not me .....



The wife and I attended a local antiques fair a few months ago, at which my in-laws were exhibiting their wares. This gave my wife the chance to indulge in what she does best - shop!

While following my wife around the stalls rather closely with my money burning a hole in her pocket, we came across a man selling nothing but postcards. Flicking through the section marked Hertfordshire we came across one of Croxley Green. Postmarked 1905 Rickmansworth. The card appears to be what we now know as the Artichoke.

Personally, the real appeal is the correspondence which gives a glimpse into life over a hundred years

ago. This has fuelled the start of a small collection.

'Dear Alice (Webb)

I hope you are quite well your letter came all unexpected. I am glad the bonnet suits you. I hope your side is better. I expect you will be glad to know that there were 14 persons converted the Sunday before last and 8 or 4 last Sunday. I hope you will not be disappointed in having this (postcard) instead of a letter. This is all this time as I must see Dora Goodbye. God bless you. I remain your loving friend D Beeson'.



Cllr Mark Englefield

## Classics on The Green

Organised by the Watford & District Classic Vehicle Club, Classics On The Green has played a huge part of the activities staged twice a year over the summer months for the past five years.

These have been successful in every way, drawing in thousands of people including many local residents. It is a chance to participate in a local family event with many people coming from far and wide.

These events have raised a substantial amount which has been donated to charity.

We are pleased that a number of Scammell vehicles built locally at Scammell Motors just over the border in Watford have attended. Also there were Tornado Cars built



in Rickmansworth during the 60's.

Our sincere thanks also to Croxley Green Parish Council, Three Rivers District Council and the residents of Croxley for their support in helping to make our events as successful as they are now.

A note for your diaries...

Our evening event will be Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 and the Sunday event with Carters Steam Fair will be 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007. In addition we will once again be involved with Rickmansworth Week holding a Classic Car Show at The Aquadrome on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

All enquiries to Kevin France on 01923-673991 or Peter Batchelor on 07767-254012.

## Blimey! It's Croxley Zoo !!!



Having just returned from an arduous trek across the snow fields of Malaysia and seen some of the fantastic work being undertaken there in the field of rhinoceros procreation, I was absolutely delighted with Croxley Parish Council's decision to open its first wildlife Zoo and mating park on land **adjacent to the London Metropolitan Railway in Lavrock Lane**. This piece of land, most recently used as a dumping ground for earth, stones and weeds would be most suitable for a zoo, although I feel that the fence may need to be re-enforced somewhat. The commuters into and out of London could see the beautiful 'lovin' grey rhinos in the summer sun. The addition of some Saharan Monkeys would not only

provide food for the rhinos but would entertain the children on their way to Rickmansworth and Harvey Road Schools!

Well done Croxley Green for obtaining this land from London Underground for the price of 1 shilling and well done the Parish Council for being brave enough to come up with the idea in the face of some stiff opposition from the likes of the 'We don't want anything like this near us' group.

Yours sincerely

*Councillor M Adman*



## Café 0 - the place to start the week, St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green

The brainchild of our former Curate, the Reverend Christine Clarke, Café 0 has been a place to start the week for a number of people since January 2005. The baptistry is transformed into an intimate meeting area where our customers can sit and chat or just enjoy the peaceful environment.

We welcome a diverse range of people every week, from senior citizens to parents and their young children (often en route to or from school). On at least two occasions, we have been host to Class 6 from Malvern Way School - and that involved a lot of hot chocolate!!

We are proud to be recognised as a Fair Trade Church and this is reflected in all the products that we use and sell. Amongst the goodies on sale are home made cakes, scones, and local favourites -



Alison's tea bread and Brita's flapjacks, as well as a number of Fair Trade options. A popular addition to the cafe itself is a Fair Trade stall selling a wide variety of items from delicious coffee, scrumptious chocolate to the essential loo roll!

The welcome is always very warm and the prices are competitive; for example:

Cafetiere of coffee	70p
Pot of tea	50p
Selection of cakes	20p-30p

So, if you have a spare hour on a Monday morning, we would be delighted to see you.

Open: Every Monday (except Bank Holidays)  
08.45 - 12 noon



## Bill Oddie's Red Backed Shrike in Exotic Croxley Green

What a wonderful year this has been for wild life in Croxley. It started with the blazing June sunshine and continued into the long hot summer.

The highlight was the arrival of an exotic red backed shrike from North Africa, which set up its home in an area of shrub land on Croxley Common Moor. It stayed there for several weeks awaiting a mate so that it could nest. Sadly no mate arrived, but about two hundred bird watchers known as "twitchers" came instead, day after day. Indeed, groups of them could be spotted carrying tripods, telescopes and other professional paraphernalia on their way to view our rare bird. I talked to travellers from Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and all over Britain who were our guests in Croxley, courtesy of the marvels of the internet rare bird's website.

The highlight was a morning in July when I met Bill Oddie and the BBC camera team filming for a series



that will take place this winter.

Red kites and buzzards are now regular visitors to the moor and we had a very successful kingfisher and tawny owl nesting year. A Cambridge professor spent a week studying the last colony of mottled

moths left in Britain, which live on the petty whins (a type of rare bush) found on our moor. I think that this was the happiest time that the Friends of Croxley Common Moor have ever experienced. All our efforts have borne fruit and in our tenth year of existence our splendid rare meadowland site has achieved national and international recognition.

Thanks for the support from the people of Croxley, and especially to our volunteers who meet every second Sunday of the month throughout the year at 10am at Lock 79 of the canal (opposite Croxley Metropolitan Station).

Those of you who are interested in a couple of hours bush clearance and habitat development are very welcome to come, it's great fun to be associated with such a uniquely successful project.

**David Wynne-Jones**  
**Chairman, Friends of Croxley Common Moor**

## Christmas House Lights



This year the Christmas Lights were switched on by ex footballer Bob Wilson.

The charities that Mr and Mrs Edwards are supporting this year are the Willow Foundation Society and the Peace Hospice in memory of Peggy Williams.

## Lords & Ladies

Very conspicuous this year, along the hedgerows and shady places, Lords and Ladies are of the "Arum" family. In the late spring the flower stem is sheathed in a hood and then it's called Parson in the Pulpit or Cuckoopint.

Most people only notice this plant when the red berries show

in the late summer. These are rather lovely, but highly poisonous.

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## Village Ponds

Ponds are the home to one third of British native plants, over 1200 species of invertebrates and all British amphibians, as well as birds and fish.

Seventy five percent of Britain's ponds and pond life has disappeared in the last hundred years. Some of the ponds have been filled up purposefully; others have gradually silted up and dried out, while a few have been lost due to our water table lowering.

Village ponds were originally kept open by livestock trampling down aquatic plants whilst drinking. In the past people used these ponds to swell their cart wheels and also used the ponds as a source of water to fight fire. Without this activity ponds silt up to marshy bog, gradually trees recolonise and they revert to woodland.

The first nationwide effort in pond conservation began in 1974 with the "Save Our Village Pond Campaign". Recent research shows that conservation schemes can be overdone. If a pond has been cleaned out and sediment removed periodically then this course of action is appropriate. If, however, the pond is in a woodland setting, removing the silt can do more harm than good.

A new policy in the conservation of ponds is to manage less and create more. Put into practice this would mean creating a new pond next to an old, unmanaged pond allowing wildlife to transfer from the old pond to the new without damaging the ecosystem of the old pond.

However, appropriate action is determined by the pond itself and its surroundings. As no two ponds are the same there isn't a right or wrong way to do this for all ponds.

It is usually thought to be best practice and cheaper to conserve and manage an existing pond than to create a new one. For ponds to support a reasonable amount of wildlife they need:

- to have a reasonable depth of clear water
- to be open to sunlight
- to be free of rotting organic matter

When clearing overgrown choked ponds the process should be carried out in two sections. One half in the first Autumn/Winter, the second in the next. This allows for natural recolonisation of wildlife within the pond. This should be repeated at a minimum of ten yearly intervals. If this process is not undertaken the gradual accumulation of organic

matter within the pond decreases its depth until it becomes no more than boggy soil, killing the pond and therefore leaving its inhabitants without an environment to live and breed in.

Some of the species likely to be encountered in ponds are:



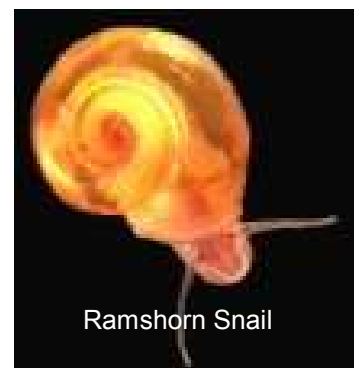
Watermint

### Plants

Common Reedmace, Bur-reed, Yellow flag, Native Yellow and White Water Lilies, Watermint, Broad-Leaved Pondweed, King Cup and Flowering Rush.

### Invertebrates

Ramshorn snail, Great Pond snail, dragonflies, Damselflies, Caddisflies, Water Boatman, Water spider and Whirligig beetles



Ramshorn Snail



Marsh Frog (laughing)

### Amphibians

Smooth newt, Palmate newt, Great crested newt, Common toad, Natterjack toad, common frog, Marsh frog and Edible frog.

All of Britain's ponds need careful attention to preserve them and the habitat they provide to wildlife before it is lost to us. The time to act is now, to conserve habitats for future generations to enjoy before it is too late. If seventy five percent of our ponds and pond life have been lost in the last hundred years, what will be lost in the next hundred?

*Andrew Goddard  
Assistant Ranger  
Croxley Green Parish Council*



## Hobbies and Craft Taster Day

The first Parish Council Hobbies and Craft Taster day took place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 at Little Green School and proved to be a great success.



The theme of the day was to have various crafters come along to demonstrate their crafts and to encourage visitors of all ages to take part in actually trying the crafts for themselves. This turned out to be a winning formula as both crafters and visitors alike enjoyed the day and there wasn't any shortage of participants. All the crafters who encouraged visitors to have a go only charged a nominal fee to cover material costs and with the free entry it turned out to be of good value for all who attended, especially those with young children.

It was estimated that in excess of 400 visitors came along, despite intermittent rain showers during the



day which couldn't dampen the atmosphere as it had a real buzz to it. Refreshments were kindly provided by the Friends of Little Green, who managed to sell most of what was on offer, raising funds for the school.

Children of all ages weren't afraid to have a go at

the activities Doody the Entertainer provided, which included juggling, using stilts, balancing feathers on noses and plate spinning to name but a few. Some brave parents even had a go at plate spinning despite an audience watching while refreshments were being served in the dining room.

A big thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets. This contributed £135.00 to the chairman's charity fund which helps raise funds for local organisations. This year's charities are the Welcome Club and the British Heart Foundation.

Comments from both crafters and visitors alike were positive. Crafters particularly pointed out that they don't usually have many opportunities to show off their talents to the public, or help to promote craft activities in general. This event gave them the showcase to do this and giving up their Sunday was more than worthwhile.



We would like to hear some more views from parishioners about this event so in future we can make it even more attractive and fun for all of the community to take part in. Please contact David Allison at the Parish Office.



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**TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE – EVERY FRIDAY**

### 1<sup>ST</sup> JOURNEY

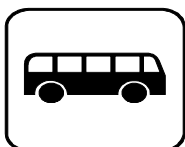
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>12 noon</b>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> JOURNEY

Sycamore Approach	10.00am
Valley Walk (Green)	10.01am
Valley Walk/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
Chalmers Court	10.08am
All Saints Lane (outside church)	10.10am
New Road	10.12am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>

### 3<sup>RD</sup> JOURNEY

Junction Links Way & Warwick Way	10.30am
Junction Links Way & Dover Way	10.31am
Junction Links Way & Little Green Lane	10.32am
Junction Little Green Lane & Durrants Drive	10.33am
Junction Durrants Drive & Dover Way	10.34am
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Lane Footpath	10.36am
Manor Way	10.38am
Grove Court	10.40am
<b>Return from Watford</b>	<b>1.15pm</b>



## FREE SERVICE

*For the exclusive use of Senior Citizens and  
persons in sheltered accommodation.*

### The Community Bus

For many years the Parish Council has been providing the **free** bus service above. This service has proved invaluable to many older residents who use it both as essential transport and as a social focus point. Recent usage of the service has been exceeding 50% of all available seats - what a result! There is still the scope to carry more however.

The cost to the local council tax payer works out at about £1.50 per household per year, half the price of just one single train ticket to Watford. Besides how do you get from Watford Met station to the town?!

Recently the viability of the service was brought into question, but at a Planning and Development Committee meeting on 1 November, unanimous backing was given to maintaining this valuable contribution to the well-being of our community.

Cllr David Bains



### Basketball Training

What a popular activity this has turned out to be! Croxley Green Parish Council has been hosting **free** basketball training sessions at Rickmansworth School gym for the kids of Croxley Green - see page 6 for details, at the time of going to press.

With a fully qualified coach and catering for kids between 9 years old to 15+ in two sessions, this is the second time the Council has run the training sessions. With some 20 or so kids turning up each time, their youthful enthusiasm is soon put through their paces as they eagerly try to make that all important shot at the basket.

The Parish Council will soon be considering whether to run the training sessions in the new year, so keep an eye out for any future advertising of the training sessions or just contact the office for up to date information.

tel :01923 710250



## Focus on Local Shops

This editions 'Focus On' series continues with a look at what can only be called an '[Aladdin's Cave](#)' of a shop situated at the bottom of Baldwins Lane.

**Croxley Hardware** at 43 Baldwins Lane is owned and run by Jackie and Lisa. The multitude of goods on display outside the shop gives the casual passer by a good idea of what can be found inside!!

It has a fantastic array of goods that range from a single bolt through to electrical, household, garden, paint and many other products.

They have a great selection of fine pet products and they stock food such as Hills Feline & Canine, Iams Cat, James Wellbeloved Dog, Eukanuba, Chappie and Bakers Complete.

If you can't make it down to the shop they have a **free** local delivery service available on request.

Both Jackie and Lisa pride themselves not only on their knowledge of Hardware items but also on their personalised customer service.

They know many of the customers by their first name and their main objective is to keep their customers happy!



They can be relied upon to provide excellent advice and guidance on the products that they sell and should an item not be on the shelf it can be ordered and within 2 days it has normally arrived. They will contact the customer to let them know the progress of the order and will store it until it can be collected.

The larger 'out of town' stores could learn a lot from this type of customer interaction.

Their prices are competitive especially if you take into account the time going to a local shop as

opposed to the fuel one wastes in getting to and from the well known super stores.

If you have searched for a particular product but can't find it, try ringing them. 9 out of 10 times they can source the product and order it in. They are open from 9-5 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with half day on Wednesday. They can be contacted on 01923 246907.

Remember, before you head off to the outskirts of Watford for that tin of paint, bag of dog food, ironing board cover, garden chair or wild bird feed call into:

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Christmas stock  
available from  
November.**

### Forbouys – Baldwins Lane

This friendly shop has a large selection of magazines and newspapers. Simon, the manager, has improved the choice of greeting cards and there have also been additions to the stationery on offer. Incorporated in the shop is a Post Office with helpful staff.

Lottery tickets are for sale as well as various scratch cards promising fortunes to be had. On sale are sweets, toys, cigarettes, cigars, tea, coffee, sugar, cold drinks, milk and a small selection of medication such as Aspirin and Nurofen.

There are three other staff – assistants John and Peter and their supervisor Lesley – who Simon says is really the boss! Those of us who use this shop know this to be absolutely true!

*Cllr H Seeley*

### Total Look – 45 Baldwins Lane

Total Look the hairdressers has been under the ownership of Jennifer Nicholls and Lisa Young for the past 10 years under its present name but it was formerly called "Jet Set".

Four stylists work at Total Look and another, is at present, on maternity leave – there are also three juniors. In addition to the usual perms, sets and blow dries, the stylists offer other services such as hair extensions, ear piercing, all aspects of colouring and hairdressing for weddings and other special occasions. Total Look also undertakes a hairdressing service for gentlemen customers.

The Nail Bar is now open for business being run by Michelle and the Beauty Room will be opening shortly. Total Look has a late night on Thursdays and approximately 300 customers pass through their hands during the course of a week.

*Cllr Christine Jefford*

## New Road Shops

I'm pleased to say that my previous article on shops in New Road prompted a good response from our older citizens, which allowed some of my observations to be verified.

Before going into New Road proper, just have a quick look at the parade of shops in Watford Road opposite the Red House. Starting at Gonville Avenue end we had the following:- butchers (Mr Drew), grocers (Hedges), toyshop (Mr Snatchel), hairdressers, Dr Bell's surgery, post office, fried fish shop (Murrays), chemist (Davis), sweet shop (Goodmans), and a cycle shop.

Crossing into New Road there were six cottages which were bombed in the war, flats now stand on this site. On the Red House side of the road there has been mention of a public house called The Rose, but this is questionable.

Carrying on along New Road:

267 sweetshop (Mrs Walley);  
222 barbers (Sharman then Evans);  
Cheshire's of Ricky – cold meats etc;  
gents tailors – Mr Batchelor.



In 1915 No's. 167/173 a fried fish and chip shop became Mrs Tom's sweet shop. On the other side of the butchers at No. 175 Mr Mead put out a stall in front of the cottage to sell wet fish and there was a ladies hairdresser where the library now stands. No. 54 was a fried fish and chip shop, ladies hairdressers and then

a dry cleaners.

Many of these memories are from the thirties. Before the Barton Way estate was built, several people remember driving cattle down The Green for milking at

dairies situated on Scots Hill and New Road and for slaughter at the rear of Jackson's butchers.

I particularly wish to thank Mrs Richardson of Springfield for sharing her memories with me. Also the owner of No. 115 New Road for giving me an old photograph of the original shop as Poulterers, the hooks for hanging poultry etc still show in their lounge ceiling. So in No. 115

we have Poulterers, wet fish, greengrocers, antiques, bicycle sales and now a residential property.

I am now researching the oldest part of Croxley Green – Scots Hill, so if any one has any information or old photographs please get in touch with me or the Parish Clerk.

**Dave Neighbour**

## Focus on The Sportsman

One little known aspect of Croxley Green is the number of dog-friendly pubs. On the Green for instance all three pubs are dog friendly and as a matter of fact very child-friendly as well.

My dog Ellie (a very cute Dalmatian) says that her favourite pub is the Sportsman. On a typical Friday night she walks me up there along with George and Louie (two Schnauzers), Frodo and Effie (two Pyrenneans (Ellie can't spell this one)) Councillor Davis' two dogs whose names

she has forgotten, and a small dog who usually sits on his own bar stool. The landladies don't



mind Ellie or her friends being off the lead, but do insist that each round of Dog Chews is

accompanied by a glass of their excellent Real Ale for me and any other lucky dog walker. Ellie also mentions that there are numerous country walks leading to the Pubs on the Green from all directions, her favourite being along the Chess riverbank.

Ellie would finally like to say that as a gregarious sort of dog she would be eager to meet any new friends who walk their owners up one evening... Or Afternoon... Or Lunchtime...

**Cllr David Bains**



## Letters and more.....!!!

Dear Parish Council,

Earlier this week (May 2006) I received my copy of the Parish Pump, and I had to write to say how much I enjoyed it. I must admit that in the past I have just thumbed through it but in this issue I found all of the articles interesting.

Congratulations to all of your team for producing a really readable and informative 'Mag'!!

*Janet Scammell*

Dear Parish Council,

On behalf of the residents of Chalmers Court I would like to say thank you for the shopping bus which is put on for us on Fridays. It is well patronised and much appreciated.

Many thanks

*M Buckley*

Dear Parish Council,

Having read the Brigadier's contribution in the Spring/Summer issue with great interest, I too decided to research the County archives and was truly amazed at the historical facts that came to light. Whilst none related directly to Croxley Green, the coming of

the Grand Union Canal did afford the opportunity for a certain commodity to be transported more easily via the wharf adjacent to Dickinsons Mill.

It would appear that in the 17th century, the very enterprising family, Clutterbucks of Sarratt, were working the Treacle mines adjacent to the family home. These were the only known mines of their kind in the country at that time it was only the coming of Messrs Tate & Lyle in the 1800's and their method of making treacle from cane sugar that saw the family riches go into decline and the family all but ended by the Great War.

The method of extracting the solidified treacle was very unique for that time in history. A large boiler house was built and the boiling water was used to liquify the treacle under ground, it was then pumped to the surface into large settling tanks where the heavier sediment sank to the bottom and the excess water was drawn off and used again. The heavier treacle was then filled into barrels and transported via the canal to London and Birmingham etc.

Further research revealed two other names as being workers at the mines and descendents of these two still living in the area as late as the 30's & 40's. The senior of the two bearing the name of , Sib son' and resided at 'Dead Man's Ash' he is listed as being the Head Stoker, in charge of steam raising! And the other as 'Poulter' from Chandlers Cross, classed as Assistant Stoker.

What is unique about the method of extraction is the very fact that the same method is used today to extract oil from the ground where pressure underground is too low for it to come to the surface naturally. Water pumped in and the oil flows to the surface on top of the water, quite simple really.

The ruins of the Clutterbucks House were still in evidence as late as the 1940's whether or not they are still to be seen is highly unlikely no doubt due to the high demand for land for house building.

Any further gems of history I unearth in the future I shall be only too pleased to forward to you for further consideration.

*Your humble servant,  
Ex Croxleyite (long retired)*

## Did you know that it is The Chanticleers 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year???

*The Chanticleers* is a group that puts on regular shows of songs and sketches at St Oswald's Church Hall. We are a diverse mixture of entertainers – all ages, genders and abilities!

Membership of *The Chanticleers* is open to all who enjoy singing, dancing or acting, and also welcomes those who do not wish to appear on stage but prefer to help in a back stage capacity. Although our main objective is to enjoy ourselves – and hopefully

give some enjoyment to our audiences – over the years we have been able to donate significant sums of money to a variety of charitable bodies from the proceeds of our shows.

We also regularly put on concerts for the residents of local sheltered accommodation units and groups such as The Welcome Club and The Sunnyside Club.

The *Chanticleers* are pleased and proud to be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup>

year of existence in 2006 and are marking this auspicious occasion with a specially written show, aptly called "*The Chanticleer Ruby*".

The plot is a tribute to a number of well known films and features songs from renowned shows and the world of popular light music.

If you would like to join us then do please contact our Chairperson, Michael Lee on 01923 776317 for further details of membership.

## Croxley Groomers

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## Dates for your Diary

### Harvey Road School Association Christmas Fair at Harvey Road School

Saturday 2nd December 2006—1pm to 4pm

Admission—Adults £1.00

Children free of charge

Stalls include:- Santa's grotto, face painting, secrets room, nail painting, tombola, cake stall, jam jar tombola, raffles, refreshments, children's craft, lucky dip, name the teddy, toy stall, mulled wine and mince pies, cracker and mask making



### New Years Eve Fireworks on the Green Sunday 31 December, 11.45pm

### Croxley Common Moor—Scrub Bashing

Sunday 10 December 2006

Sunday 14 January 2007

Sunday 11 February 2007

Sunday 11 March 2007

All start at 10am, meet at the kissing gate onto Croxley Common Moor at the bottom of Mill Lane or follow the smoke.

All of your hard work will be rewarded with plenty of bacon butties, hot dogs and lots of tea.

All tools are provided. Wrap up warm and wear sensible shoes. Everyone is welcome—no experience necessary

### Christmas Charities Market

3rd December 2006

10 am to 12 noon

Red Cross Centre, Barton Way, Croxley Green

Various charity stalls and Raffle

Come and enjoy the morning at our Christmas Charities Market

Refreshments Available

## Parish Council Meetings - general public welcome



**Council meeting** - last Thursday of each month (except May and August)

**Annual Parish meeting** - second Thursday in April

**Annual General meeting** - second Thursday in May

**Environment & Amenity meeting** - first Tuesday of each month (except May and August)

**Planning & Development meeting** - first and third Wednesday of each month

**Finance & Administration meeting** - second Thursday of each month (except August)





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Heathrow T1-T3	£27.00	£35.00	£45.00	£60.00
Heathrow T4	£29.00	£35.00	£45.00	£70.00
Luton	£27.00	£35.00	£40.00	£60.00
Gatwick	£59.00	£70.00	£80.00	£100.00
Stansted	£59.00	£70.00	£80.00	£100.00
City Airport	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00	£100.00
City of London	£40.00	£50.00	£55.00	£100.00
West End	£40.00	£50.00	£55.00	£100.00
Euston/Kings X/St Pancras	£35.00	£40.00	£45.00	£80.00
Paddington	£35.00	£40.00	£45.00	£80.00
Liverpool Street	£45.00	£55.00	£60.00	£80.00
Victoria	£45.00	£55.00	£60.00	£90.00
Waterloo	£45.00	£55.00	£60.00	£90.00
Milton Keynes	£40.00	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00
Chessington	£50.00	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00

**Note:** London prices **DO NOT INCLUDE** congestion charge

Estate car prices plus £5

Credit Car Bookings Taken Plus VAT plus £5 credit card fee

Airport pickups are plus car park fee

## Shop and Business Directory (4) - Scots Hill (incorporating New Parade)

In this edition of the Parish Magazine, the Shop and Business Directory is concentrating on Scots Hill and New Parade.

The name is reputed to have once belonged to the family of Simon le Skote who lived at the time of Edward II. "Scottesbridge" was named in a legal document of 1556. This area with the Green is the oldest part of the village.

The Sportsman Public House which was occupied in 1838 by Thomas Blackwell as a house and yard was not definable as a Public House until 1870. The

Plough and George and Dragon public houses were two hundred yards apart and were demolished simultaneously. There were also several cottages and a thriving blacksmith. Cherry Cottages remains today.

In 1954 Rickmansworth Grammar School was opened on the site where a large house called Briery Close, known locally as "Fanny Barkers" once stood. The house was renowned for its fine gardens and it was the home of the Reverend Alleyne Higgs-Barker, Vicar of Rickmansworth. After his death it was left to his daughter Miss

Fanny Barker, an eccentric who lived there with one brother and three sisters for many years. Just before the Second World War the house was left unoccupied and it became a playground for children by day and a refuge for tramps by night. When the house was demolished it became the site of the village pleasure fair. The roadway was developed into a dual carriageway in 1973. The hill had always been very steep and it was not uncommon for buses to get stuck, or for passengers to disembark at the bottom and walk up!

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### Cutting Crew

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## A Tree

I was sitting in my favourite armchair reading my copy of the "Parish Pump" and I saw the article about the Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostoides*) which grows just outside the Parish Council offices.

As a canine, my knowledge of trees started at an early age and my Latin improved at dog training classes, so I knew where a "Euonymus europaeus" was growing. It stands at the corner of the footway leading

from Dickinson's Field to Yorke Mead School.

The common name for this rather scruffy tree is "Spindle Tree" and I do not know of another one in our district. In the summer it has small white flowers, then in the Autumn small red lobed fruits show.

The cut wood is whitish, hard and smooth and has been used for making spindles, pegs, knitting needles, toothpicks etc. The next time you are out for a walk stop and take a look.

*Rover Reporter Bess*



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The Parish Council offices will be closed from 3pm  
on Friday 15 December to  
Tuesday 2 January 2007.

The Councillors and staff wish all of you a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.



**Editorial Committee:**

*Chairman*  
David Allison (Clerk)

Cllr Kathryn Duffy  
Cllr C Jefford  
Cllr Wendy Shafe  
Cllr Hazel Seeley  
Sylvia Stratford (PA)  
Cllr Cliff Vassiliou

The Committee would like to  
thank Leigh Duffy for her  
assistance with proof reading.



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