



Croxley Green Parish Council,
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The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Spring/Summer 2007

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

COUNCILLORS:

North Ward:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Brian Norman | 710250 |
| (Chairman of Council) | |
| Hazel Seeley | 772696 |
| (Chairman of - E&A Committee) | |
| Wendy Shafe | 441638 |
| (Vice Chairman of Council) | |

Croxley Green Ward:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Christine Jefford | 771769 |
| (Vice Chairman - E&A Committee) | |
| Phil Brading | 492893 |
| Leighton Dann | 778484 |
| Marion Birch | 449092 |
| Cliff Vassiliou | 779927 |
| Janet Martin | 774514 |
| Roger Seabourne | 770629 |

South Ward:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| David Bains | 441480 |
| (Vice Chairman - P&D Committee) | |
| Mark Saxon | 772581 |
| Jeremy Hollands | 448382 |
| David Wynne-Jones | 251905 |
| (Chairman - P&D Committee) | |

Some things change and some things don't....

On May 3, residents in Croxley Green Ward and South Ward went to the polling stations to cast their vote on who they wanted to represent them on the Parish Council. Meanwhile in Croxley Green North Ward, no election took place as there were only 3 candidates standing for the potential 5 places on the Council. So the 3 candidates, Wendy Shafe, Brian Norman and Hazel Seeley, all existing Parish Councillors, were elected unopposed.

In South Ward there were 8 candidates for 5 places on the Parish Council and in Croxley Green Ward, locally referred to as Croxley Green 'Central', the competition was hot with 11 candidates for 6 places.

The votes were counted on the afternoon of Friday 4 May. The results of **those elected to the Parish Council** are:

Croxley Green (Central) Ward:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Marion Birch | 595 votes |
| Leighton Dann | 959 votes |
| Christine Jefford | 461 votes |
| Janet Martin | 523 votes |
| Roger Seabourne | 813 votes |
| Cliff Vassiliou | 534 votes |

Croxley Green South Ward:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| David Bains | 351 votes |
| Phil Brading | 690 votes |
| Jeremy Hollands | 303 votes |
| Mark Saxon | 357 votes |
| David Wynne-Jones | 347 votes |



In the uncontested North Ward, **those elected to the Parish Council** are:

Croxley Green North Ward:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Brian Norman | Elected unopposed |
| Hazel Seeley | Elected unopposed |
| Wendy Shafe | Elected unopposed |
| vacant | - |
| vacant | - |

So, as we go to print with this edition of the Parish Magazine, 14 Councillors have been duly elected to the potential 16 strong Council. As for the 2 vacancies in North Ward, arrangements are being made for these to be filled - watch this space! Should you wish to one of those to fill the vacancies then contact the Parish Clerk, David Allison, for further information (tel: 01923 710250) or email on croxleypc@btconnect.com.

Your Councillors are there representing YOU and YOUR views. So if you have any matters you would like to raise about Croxley Green, contact your local Parish Councillor.

New Parish Council Formed

Following the Parish Elections that took place on 3 May, a number of new Councillors were elected to represent the residents of Croxley Green on the Parish Council.

There are 16 Councillor seats available for the Parish Council and in the elections some 22 candidates stood for these 16 places. The full list of those who stood for election are:

Croxley Green Ward

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Ms Marion Birch | Elected |
| Mr Frank Brand | |
| Mr Leighton Dann | Elected |
| Mrs Christine Jefford | Elected |
| Mrs Janet Martin | Elected |
| Mr Tony Munroe | |
| Mr David Neighbour | |
| Mrs Wendy Rennoldson | |
| Mr Robert Ridley | |
| Mr Roger Seabourne | Elected |
| Mr Cliff Vassiliou | Elected |

Croxley Green South

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Mr Brian Acreman | |
| Mr David Bains | Elected |
| Mr Nicholas Bennett | |
| Mr Philip Brading | Elected |
| Mr Jeremy Hollands | Elected |
| Mr Martin Rennoldson | |
| Mr Mark Saxon | Elected |
| Mr David Wynne-Jones | Elected |

Croxley Green North

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Mr Brian Norman | Unopposed |
| Mrs Wendy Shafe | Unopposed |
| Mrs Hazel Seeley | Unopposed |
| Vacant | TBA |
| Vacant | TBA |

Message from The New Chairman

Now that the elections are behind us I would like to welcome our new Councillors and also those who have been re-elected. The councillors have now taken their respective positions on the committees that go to make up the working order and debating forum of the council.

I would also like to personally thank the past Chairman and Vice Chairman for their continuous hard work in running the Parish Council over the past years.

It is inevitable that our new councillors will need to familiarize themselves with the procedures and standing orders by which the Council and its debating process is conducted. Notwithstanding even the re-elected members will be faced with a full revision of the Council and its respective members Code of Conduct. To enable all members to be fully aware of the consequences of the code, they have the opportunity to attend a training course that has been organised to encompass all Councillors within the West Herts Region.

We are grateful for the support of the residents of Croxley Green and would appreciate your ideas and thoughts for the benefit of the community. These can be given to the Parish Clerk or to a Councillor for discussion at the next appropriate meeting.

These proposals and projects would be put to the Council for review. This is firstly to see if they fall within their capability or indeed to see if we would need assistance from an outside authority to move the project forward. Likewise, existing organisations within the community which have proposals that could benefit the residents of Croxley are welcome to submit their proposals.

Residents are welcome to attend any of our meetings especially if they have any ideas or concerns to propose. These would be re-directed to the appropriate committee to be duly evaluated and considered.

Cllr Brain Norman, Chairman of the Council (May 2007 onwards)



Croxley's Second PCSO starts on the beat

In April this year the second Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) that the Parish Council has, started walking the streets of Croxley.

PCSO 6021 Che Cooper (*main picture*) joins PCSO Paul Chong Lles (*inset*) in patrolling Croxley Green to reduce the anti-social behaviour that has been seen of late.

The Parish Council had decided that the area should have the support of PCSO's. When the decision was made it was a matter of when the Parish Council funded one PCSO then Hertfordshire Constabulary would match the funding to provide a second

PCSO. We therefore welcome Che to Croxley Green and look forward to our PCSO Team taking an active role in the community to provide a safe and trouble free environment for us all.

POSTSCRIPT TO OUR PCSO'S

An incident of vandalism allowed our PCSO's to show their strength in assisting the police by gathering much needed intelligence to help find the perpetrators. You, the residents, can play an important part in making Croxley a safe

community. Indeed, if you are aware of any incidents that need police attention then contact the Parish Council office who will inform the PCSO's.

Cllr Brian Norman



Charity Quiz Night 2007

A grand total of 95 people attended the 6th Croxley Green Parish Council Charity Quiz, which took place on 31 March 2007. This high volume resulted in tickets almost selling out.

The Council's nominated charities for the 2006/07 year were The British Red Cross Welcome Club in Croxley Green and The British Heart Foundation.

Each charity received an equal share of the total proceeds which amounted to £446.55 each.

The quiz was held at St Oswald's Church hall with David Allison, the Parish Council's Clerk, being the

quiz master for the evening and Cllr Mark Saxon (Chairman of the Council) as Master of Ceremonies.

Many thanks to all those who were involved with the evening from arranging the questions right down to clearing up after the night's activities.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and it should be noted that to date the Parish Council has now raised over



£5000 for various charities since 2001.

We are already looking forward to next year's quiz night.

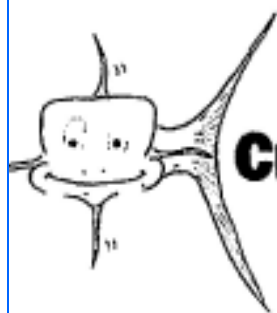
Cllr Christine Jefford



(left) Mr Ian Stewart receiving a cheque on the behalf of "British Heart Foundation" from Chairman, Cllr Mark Saxon

(right) Mrs Martin & Mr Smith receiving a cheque on the behalf of "Welcome Club, Croxley Green."





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Croxley Green Junior Council

In January this year Croxley Green Parish Council decided to set up a Junior Council. The Members of the Junior Council are from the three junior schools in Croxley, namely Harvey Road School, Little Green School and Yorke Mead School.

The Junior Council meetings are chaired by one of the junior members with the Clerk to the Parish Council, David Allison, providing the necessary support and guidance at the meetings.

One of the first initiatives the Junior Council has focussed on has been an anti-litter campaign.

The Junior Council together with other pupils from some of the schools organised a litter pick session in Croxleyhall Woods on June 14. This was to highlight the amount of litter that is just thrown on the ground. After only an hour some 12 plastic bin bags had been filled.

As a follow up to this litter pick, pupils from each of the schools designed anti-litter posters; the winning ones will be used in an anti-litter campaign around Croxley Green.



The litter pickers and what they collected in only 1 hour.



Croxley Bowls` New Clubhouse

Croxley Guild Bowls Club has a new clubhouse! It's been a long time coming but the club can now offer excellent facilities to visiting teams and guests both on and off the green.

If you don't know where they are, The Bowls club is just off The Green almost opposite the Artichoke Pub in part of what used to be known as "Dickinson's Sports Ground, but is now the Croxley Guild of Sport.

The Guild provides excellent facilities for football, hard court tennis and lawn bowls for residents in Croxley Green and the surrounding areas.

The club is always looking to welcome new bowlers of all ages and abilities; and so they arranged an open day on Bank Holiday Monday (28 May). Bowls were provided and the only condition was that flat soled shoes were worn (most trainers were acceptable for the open day), as heels would have damaged the playing surface.

Additionally, light refreshments were provided in the new clubhouse where everyone met up and chatted to members.

The bowls club was formed for the workers at Croxley Mill in 1926 and the old bowls clubhouse was showing its age. Members of the bowls club organised numerous fundraising events over the years and also contributed nearly £40,000.00 in donations and loans. Three Rivers District Council also made a grant of £20,000.00 towards the costs, enabling the new clubhouse to be built.

The club plays over 30

home matches each season (ladies, men's and mixed) against teams in Watford and District and Herts County competitions and also enjoys friendly matches against local clubs, so members can look forward to a variety of fixtures both competitive and social. The Club is affiliated to the National English Bowls Associations for men and women.

So, if you fancy a new sport to enjoy, gentle exercise, fresh air and a friendly social atmosphere, why not go and try it. You might find that you have a natural talent and who knows, if you're really good, you could be going to the commonwealth games as part of the England team!

Any queries to Tim Bowdery (01923 224234) Peter Watson (01923 220035) or Moira Wishart (01923 443239).

Are you a member of your local Neighbourhood Watch?

Croxley Green has a very healthy Neighbourhood Watch working in the area. If you are not already a member and would like to know more, please contact Jan Nicholls, Watch Liaison Officer on 01923 472033 or email:

jan.nicholls@herts.pnn.police.uk

Or alternatively you can contact one of your neighbourhood PCSO's Paul Chong-Iles, Che Cooper or Steve Jacob.



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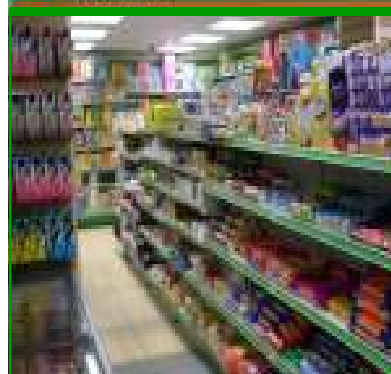
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Woodlands Updated

Last year we began work in Croxley Hall Woods. Our main aims were to widen the footpaths throughout the woods, start coppicing the many Hazel stools (during the winter months) and to remove some of the Sycamore saplings.

The reason for doing this is to allow more light into the wood to promote varied ground flora. The Hazel will grow back reasonably quickly.

The saplings on the paths will be cut back regularly to keep them open and the stumps of the Sycamore will be treated to prevent them from re-growing.

Most of what we have removed from the pathways were small saplings.

Dead or dangerous trees on or near the paths have also been removed for "Health and Safety" reasons. As well as these we have removed a few small trees to create a more open network of paths.

Countryside Management Services (CMS) have been round to "Way mark" the footpaths with wooden posts and direction arrows (pictured right). They have also started to remove some of the smaller Sycamore saplings from within the woods.

We have coppiced the Hazel on the left hand side of the first entrance on All Saints Lane. The cuttings were used to create a dead hedge to prevent unwanted vehicular access (see picture below) and we have continued to coppice down the left side. All remaining cuttings from the coppicing and path widening of a low enough diameter have been fed



Coppiced Hazel stool showing 2 months regrowth

through our chipper and used as a surface for the paths. The left over logs have been stacked to create "Habitat Piles" which will provide food and shelter to invertebrates and other wildlife as they rot down.

We will be continuing to widen the footpaths we have yet to finish during the summer. Coppicing will resume in the winter.

If you have any queries about our ongoing work you can contact the Parish Council Office, or if you see my colleague or myself please feel free to ask.

*Andrew Goddard
Assistant Ranger*



Dead Hedging



Sycamore Saplings

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April

Chairman's Annual Report - Mark Saxon

It gives me great pleasure to present, what will be for me, my final report as Chairman of the Croxley Green Parish Council.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors who in their own way, and without accepting any remuneration, work hard to provide services for their fellow residents of Croxley.

I am pleased to report that during the last two years, the Council has found some stability after what had been quite difficult times.

I am aware that we as Councillors do not always see eye to eye with each other and some have played out their frustrations outside of the Council Chamber. As Chairman, I have deliberately kept out of these exchanges as I believe that the correct place to air ones views is within these walls and not within the pages of the Watford Observer or other magazines.

That being said however I must not forget that we, as a Council, have provided some excellent value for money to our residents.

The provision of two PCSO's, the weekly Community bus service, the youth basketball activities, garden competition, the excellent firework display on The Green, the scrutiny of all planning applications and the craft fair are just some of the examples of how we spend the money supplied to us via the Parish Council precept.

On the matter of the precept I have to report that this Council is the only Council in Three Rivers area that actually cut its precept for this year by a massive 7.7%. That means the households of Croxley get their Parish Council for a little under £40 per year.

If that's not value for money I don't know what is.

I would like to pay tribute to our previous Administration Assistant, Sylvia Stratford who left us at the beginning of the year for pastures new.

I would like to welcome our new Administration Assistant Helena Flynn. I hope you enjoy working with the Councillors and for the Council.

To those Councillors who are not standing for the forthcoming elections, Cllrs Hearn,

Davis, Englefield, Ron Jefford and Duffy may I say a particular thank you. Our residents should be grateful that we still have people like yourselves willing to undertake the voluntary work that comes from being a Parish Councillor.

To those Councillors who are standing again and to those new members of the public putting themselves forward for the public vote, good luck.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to personally thank our Clerk. This has been an interesting year with some very lively and controversial debates and decisions. The Clerk's position is a difficult role to fill. He serves the Council and not individual Councillors. He is sometime Chief Executive, sometime Chief Accountant, sometime staff manager, sometime Legal Officer, sometime office manager, problem solver, editor, project manager and sometimes people forget that we have one person doing this role, not a herd of staff in a large department.

Without the Clerk's good humour and dedication to the job, a lot of what we've done this year would not have been achieved. My personal thanks go to you.

This Council has a lot going for it. The volunteers who make up the Councillors plus the Clerk and the staff. We should accept constructive criticism and advice and admit when we have made mistakes. However, we are an independent Council free of political ties or party whip and we have a right to disagree with others and go our own way if we believe it to be the correct thing to do.

Whoever becomes Chair of this Council in May will have an interesting course to steer over the next year and I genuinely wish whoever that may be the very best of luck.

*Mark Saxon,
Chairman of the Council*

Planning & Development Committee Annual Report - David Wynne-Jones

Your Planning and Development committee had a very busy year.

First and foremost, we met twice a month mainly to examine the planning proposals put forward by the public. The present system of "staying put" in property and enlarging it instead, meant that a lot of time was spent in vetting applications for planning permission to ensure that they

were appropriate for the varied ambience of our village.

The number of applications has soared in the past year. A certain amount of opportunistic "backland" development applications were also considered. The large back gardens of many houses abutting The Green lend themselves to this type of development. I believe we fine tuned these appropriately. Eternal vigilance is necessary.

We have also considered the ever changing new business application profile of our village and attempted to ensure that retail outlets and restaurants/take aways are not permitted to intrude in areas where there is already adequate sufficiency. Our aim is to ensure all shopping areas provide a balanced service in each area of the village.

Street furniture, the bus shelters we are responsible for, highway work and the mobile phone transmitters on All Saints Church were all dealt with responsibly and satisfactorily during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank Cllr David Bains and Cllr Kathryn Duffy for standing in as chairman for me while I was away. Our multi-faceted committee has done sterling work and the state of the carefully thought out continuing development of our village reflects this.

*David Wynne – Jones
Chairman
Planning & Development Committee*

Environment & Amenity Committee Annual Report—Christine Jefford

Once again this year promised to be both eventful and busy. However, unfortunately, we said goodbye to the Personal Assistant Sylvia Stratford who resigned in December 2006. We miss her enthusiasm and hard work. David Allison, the Clerk held the fort admirably until this month when Helena Flynn joined the staff of Croxley Green Parish Council and we all wish her well in her new job.

A stall was held at The Revels on the Green in 2006 and was ably manned by the Clerk, David Allison, together with various Councillors assistance. They were also supported by the two Parish Rangers Carl Batson and Andrew Goddard.

July brought the annual Best Kept Garden

competition which is now in its 14th year. Once again, this event proved to be very popular with a good number of entries being received. The gardens entered were of a very high standard which made the judging a very difficult job. A new category was added this year, i.e. hanging baskets and plant containers which proved to be a popular addition to the competition.

Mrs Kathleen Perry, Chairman of the Croxley Green Gardening Club, together with Dave Cartwright of D&J Nurseries and Andrew Goddard, one of our Parish Rangers, kindly acted as judges. We were joined on judging day by John Pilgrim, a well known author, who is writing a modern history of Croxley Green, together with his photographer David Thrower. Mark Saxon, the Chairman of the Parish Council, presented the awards to the winners at a reception at the end of September 2006.

Christmas 2006 saw the illuminations being installed in Watford Road shopping area which gave a festive air to Croxley Green. Local private houses continued to be decorated for the Christmas season and so complemented the Council's contribution. The Parish Council again provided and decorated the annual Christmas tree which was on display in the Library foyer. December also brought the annual Best Dressed Shop Window competition with the winner being "Bell'a Beauty" in New Road.



Maria Halls from 'Bell'a Beauty'
2006 Xmas window winner

March 2007 brought the 6th Parish Council Charity Quiz with The British Heart Foundation and The British Red Cross Welcome Club being the two nominated charities for this year. Some 95 people attended the quiz which raised a net profit of £893.10 and this will be divided equally between the two charities. It is hoped that a similar function will be held in early 2008.

It is pleasing to note that we have raised the sum of £5180.38 through the charity quizzes over the past 6 years.

The horse trough at All Saints Church is planted on a bi-annual basis, with appropriate displays of bulbs and bedding plants for spring and summer and watered regularly.

The Council continues to look after the canine population by providing dog bags free of charge and the dog waste bins are emptied regularly. This will be increased to twice a week during the summer months, commencing shortly. A water bowl has also been provided at the Council Offices for visiting thirsty dogs.

Two new projects were instigated during 2006 by Cllr Tony Munroe. Firstly a craft fayre which was held at Little Green School at the end of September. This proved to be most successful, with a good number of stall holders booking pitches in the school hall. Catering was also provided plus entertainment for the children and "tasters" on the craft stalls. It is hoped a further event will be arranged in late 2007.

Secondly, Cllr Munroe organised basket ball coaching sessions and practice for the youth in Croxley Green. This was held on Wednesday evenings during term time at Rickmansworth School, between 5.30pm and 9.00pm, which allowed for two sessions, i.e. different age groups. This proved to be both popular and a big success with the youngsters.

A new project was also introduced by Cllr Wendy Shafe, a Junior Council, to which representatives of the local junior schools were invited. Meetings have taken place and all is proceeding well.

Lastly, a further new venture was introduced by Cllr Nick Bennett, in that the Parish Council staged a firework display on The Green to welcome in the new year on New Years Eve 2006. This proved to be a great success with a great turnout despite the weather conditions that evening. It is hoped that a further firework display will be held on New Year's Eve for 2007.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Environment & Amenities Committee, together with the members of the Planning & Development Committee who were involved with various events, and David Allison, Sylvia Stratford, Carl Batson and Andrew Goddard for all their

hard work and support over the past 12 months, which is very much appreciated.

*Cllr Christine Jefford
Chairman
Environment & Amenities Committee*

Finance & Administration committee Annual Report– Mark Saxon

Fellow Councillors and members of the public.

It gives me great pleasure to present, what will be for me, my final report as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee of the Croxley Green Parish Council.

This Council is in a healthy financial position within the set guidelines and this has come about by the hard work and dedication of our Clerk and the members of this Council.

Our precept for the forthcoming year has decreased by 7.7% as I have already mentioned.

Accounts will be published in accordance with guidelines and are always open for inspection.

During the year we have made a number of grants available to local organisations. We have always scrutinised each request on its merits and have not always made the popular or easy decision. I make no apologies for that because we have to take a balanced view when dealing with what is public money.

The Council will continue to spend money in accordance with statute, standing orders or on the recommendation of Committee or Council.

I believe that our purpose is to provide the services and benefits we say we are going to provide and not simply to look for the cheapest option.

Our accounts once again have been checked and audited in accordance with regulation.

I would like to thank the members of the F & A committee for their hard work and sometimes difficult decisions.

I would like to wish whoever takes over the reigns of this committee the best for the future.

*Mark Saxon
Chairman
Finance and Administration Committee*

The Parish Council Budget 2007-2008

| <u>Finance & Administration</u> | | Budget (£) | <u>103</u> | <u>Groundworks</u> | Budget (£) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--|------------------------|
| 101 | <u>General Administration</u> | | 4001 | Salaries & Wages | 55,000 |
| 4001 | Salaries & Wages | 62,000 | 4006 | Protective Clothing | 300 |
| 4007 | Courses / Conferences | 200 | 4008 | Training | 1,000 |
| 4008 | Training | 1,000 | 4010 | Misc Staff Costs | 600 |
| 4009 | Travel | 1,300 | 4017 | Health & Safety | 850 |
| 4011 | Rates | 3,900 | 4018 | Refuse Disposal | 260 |
| 4012 | Water Rates | 970 | 4037 | Grounds Maintenance | 2,000 |
| 4013 | Rent | 100 | 4041 | Equipment Hire | 500 |
| 4014 | Light & Heat | 1,100 | 4042 | Equipment Maintenance | 1,000 |
| 4016 | Janitorial | 1,300 | 4046 | Equipment Purchased | 1,000 |
| 4017 | Health & Safety | 0 | 4051 | Vehicle License & Insurance | 1,800 |
| 4020 | Misc Establishment Costs | 1,200 | 4055 | Fuel & Oil - N697 KBH | 1,100 |
| 4021 | Telephone & Fax | 1,500 | 4060 | Fuel & Oil - Groundworks | 750 |
| 4023 | Stationery, Printing & Postage | 2,400 | 4070 | Maintenance - N697 KBH | 1,000 |
| 4024 | Subscriptions/Publications | 0 | 4071 | Maintenance - Tractor | 1,000 |
| 4025 | Insurance | 3,700 | 4072 | Maintenance - Ride on Mower | 520 |
| 4026 | Photocopy Hire / Charges | 1,100 | | OverHead Expenditure | 68,680 |
| 4027 | Computer Software & IT | 1,000 | | | |
| 4156 | Audit Fees - External | 880 | 1061 | Agency Income - HCC Mtce | 1,248 |
| 4157 | Audit Fees - Internal | 750 | 1062 | Agency Income - TRDC Mrce | 3,700 |
| 4158 | Accountancy Fees | 720 | 1080 | Miscellaneous Income | 0 |
| 4159* | Provision of Community/Village Hall | 3,000 | | Total Income | 4,948 |
| 4963 | F&A Project - PCSO | 28,500 | | 103 Net Expenditure | 63,732 |
| 4964* | Research | 2,000 | | | |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 118,620 | 107 | <u>Grants (incl S137)</u> | |
| | | | 4200 | Chairman's Charity Expenditure | 1,000 |
| 1001 | Rent Recieved | 0 | 4711 | S137 Grants | 1,000 |
| 1076 | Precept | 196,004 | | OverHead Expenditure | 2,000 |
| 1080 | Miscellaneous Income | 0 | | | |
| 1090 | Interest Received | 5,600 | 1077 | Grants Received | 0 |
| | Total Income | 201,604 | 1200 | Chairmans Charity Income | 1,000 |
| 101 | Net Expenditure | -82,984 | | Total Income | 1,000 |
| | | | 107 | Net Expenditure | 1,000 |
| 102 | <u>Local Democracy</u> | | 199 | <u>F & A Capital & Projects</u> | |
| 4020 | Misc Establishment Costs | 0 | 4175 | Sale of Assets | 0 |
| 4024 | Subscriptions/Publications | 1,900 | 4823 | Tfr to Vehicle Repl Fund | 5,700 |
| 4033 | Parish Pump Newsletter | 5,100 | 4824 | Tfr to Equipt Repl Fund | 3,900 |
| 4101 | Events - Revels on the Green | 0 | | Tfr from Reserves (Community Hall yr 1) | -3,000 |
| 4201 | Chairman's Allowance | 1,700 | | Tfr from Reserves (PCSO funds from 2006/07) | -25,750 |
| 4251 | Election Expenses | 1,600 | | Tfr from Reserves (Research funds ex 2006/07) | -2,000 |
| 4300 | Events - Revels on the Green | 1,300 | | Tfr from Reserves (Pension Admin ex 2006/07) | -8,827 |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 11,600 | | Tfr from Reserves (Pension Grdwork ex 2006/07) | -4,191 |
| | | | | OverHead Expenditure | -34,168 |
| 1031 | Map Income | 50 | | | |
| 1051 | Advertising Income | 1,500 | | 199 | Net Expenditure |
| | Total Income | 1,550 | | | -34,168 |
| 102 | Net Expenditure | 10,050 | | Total F&A - Expenditure | 166,732 |
| | | | | - Income | 209,102 |
| | | | | Net Expenditure | -42,370 |

The Parish Council Budget 2007-2008 - cont'd

| <u>Environment & Amenity</u> | | Budget (£) | <u>Planning & Development</u> | | Budget (£) |
|---|--|------------|------------------------------------|--|------------|
| 202 | <u>The Green</u> | | 301 | <u>Roads & Street Furniture</u> | |
| 4042 | Equipment Maintenance | 0 | | | |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 0 | | | |
| 202 | Net Expenditure | 0 | 4042 | Equipment Maintenance | 0 |
| | | | 4047 | Footpath Maintenance | 250 |
| 203 | <u>Open Spaces & Trees</u> | | | OverHead Expenditure | 250 |
| 4037 | Grounds Maintenance | 1,200 | | | |
| 4038 | Maintenance Contracts | 1,800 | | | |
| 4048 | Plants. Shrubs & Trees | 1,000 | 301 | Net Expenditure | 250 |
| 4049 | Dog Hygiene | 8,200 | | | |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 12,200 | 302 | <u>Community Bus</u> | |
| 1077 | Grants Received | 0 | 4702 | Community Bus | 6,200 |
| | Total Income | 0 | | OverHead Expenditure | 6,200 |
| 203 | Net Expenditure | 12,200 | | | |
| 211 | <u>Events</u> | | 302 | Net Expenditure | 6,200 |
| 4601 | Garden Competition | 220 | | | |
| 4602 | Quiz Night | 160 | 399 | <u>P & D Capital & Projects</u> | |
| 4603 | Activities in Barton Way Rec Grd | 700 | | | |
| 4604 | Campaigns & Comps. | 200 | 4961 | CAP P & D | 0 |
| 4605 | Christmas Lights | 7,000 | 4962 | P&D Project - HiVis Armbands | 260 |
| 4606 | Exhibitions | 150 | 4963* | Purchase of laptop & digital projector | 1,900 |
| 4607 | Youth Sport Activity | 6,800 | | OverHead Expenditure | 2,160 |
| 4608 | Library Xmas Tree | 60 | | | |
| 4609 | Craft Workshop Day | 1,400 | 399 | Net Expenditure | 2,160 |
| 4610 | Fireworks on Green | 4,500 | | | |
| 4612* | Senior Citizen's Coach Trip | 720 | Total P&D - Expenditure | | 8,610 |
| 4613* | Community Bus Users' Social Event | 200 | - Income | | 0 |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 22,110 | | Net Expenditure | 8,610 |
| 1080 | Miscellaneous Income | 0 | | | |
| Tfr from Reserves (Christmas lights 2006) | | 4,300 | | | |
| Tfr from Reserves (Exhibitions 2006) | | 150 | | | |
| | Total Income | 4,450 | | | |
| 211 | Net Expenditure | 17,660 | | | |
| 221 | <u>M S C</u> | | | Total Budget Expenditure | 213,552 |
| 4042 | Equipment Maintenance | 1,000 | | Income | 213,552 |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 1,000 | | | |
| 221 | Net Expenditure | 1,000 | | Net Expenditure | 0 |
| 299 | <u>E & A Capital & Projects</u> | | | | |
| 4935 | Village Signs | 1,000 | | | |
| 4936* | Installation of Wind Turbine | 1,900 | | | |
| | OverHead Expenditure | 2,900 | | | |
| 299 | Net Expenditure | 2,900 | | | |
| Total E&A - Expenditure | | 38,210 | | | |
| - Income | | 4,450 | | | |
| Net Expenditure | | 33,760 | | | |

* Account code to be confirmed



Parish Council - Maintaining The Green for you

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY BUS

DO YOU USE THIS SERVICE?

TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE – EVERY FRIDAY

1ST JOURNEY

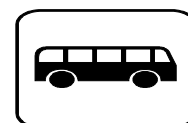
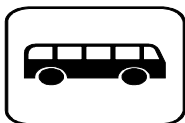
| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Winton Drive Approach | 9.30am |
| Shaftsbury Court | 9.32am |
| Malvern Way/Barton Way | 9.34am |
| Fuller Way/Barton Way | 9.36am |
| Hanover House | 9.37am |
| Sherborne Way/Baptist Church | 9.40am |
| Return from Watford | 12 noon |

2ND JOURNEY

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

3RD JOURNEY

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



FREE SERVICE

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persons in sheltered accommodation.
You may be required to show proof of eligibility*

Try walking in 2007!

Walking is the most natural and simple form of movement, and an excellent all round mode of exercise. Yet as a nation we are walking less and less. Walking can help you to:

- Improve your general health
- Get fit and stay fit
- Control your weight

Live longer!

Walking helps protect the body from many illnesses and conditions: heart disease and stroke, high blood pressure, osteoarthritis, obesity, depression, some types of diabetes and colon cancer.

Health experts agree that 30 minutes brisk walking on most days of the week is sufficient to improve fitness. That might seem a lot at first but walking can be incorporated into your everyday life more easily than any other activity.

You don't need any special gear and you can do it wherever you are. It raises your energy levels, works off calories and doesn't cost a bean!

Where to start? Try looking at www.walkinginherts.co.uk – this website gives you all the

information you need to know to start walking. It lists guided walks taking place, leaflets and books of walks and contact details for dozens of walk groups.

Go on, check the site now – you know you will enjoy a good walk!

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How does your garden grow.....!!!!!!

CROXLEY GREEN GARDEN COMPETITION 2007 ENTRY FORM



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

Categories – Please tick where appropriate

HOUSEHOLD SECTION

OR

BEST FLORAL DISPLAY FRONTING PUBLIC HIGHWAY

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Front Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public House | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Small Back Garden (less than 60' x 30') | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Large Back Garden (more than 60' x 30') | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Best Floral Container Display | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Completed entry forms to be returned no later than 10 August 2007
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As advertised in Yellow Pages

The Urban Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

A little Dachshund friend of mine was attacked in her garden by a fox, which prompted me to consider foxes in general.

They are lovely to look at with large bright eyes, pointed faces and bushy tails; unfortunately they are scavengers and at times pointless killers.

In the Croxley area there are quite a lot of urban foxes, I meet them most nights on my evening walks. Sherborne Way has some, as does Fuller Way, Rugby Way and there's even a den under Yorke Mead School's building.

In December and January you can hear them barking to attract a mate and see them tottering along the roads with almost no fears of humans; my master will not let me chase them, because they generally have mange and many other diseases

So, just a warning, to all you people out there who have rabbits, birds, guinea pigs or other small pets, keep them well secured and safe, because the lovable fox may not be as nice as it appears.

Rover Reporter, Bess



Fag (Butt) Ends

By the time you read this I would have become a social pariah. I have to admit that I am a smoker and, what is even worse, I enjoy smoking and have done so for more years that I care to remember.

Quite out of character I did try to give up a few years ago, using nicotine patches (useless) and Zyban (nauseating) and eventually gave up giving up. However, I don't smoke on aeroplanes or other people's houses or cars (mainly because I know I can't).

So what happens when the fag (butt) police force watch to make sure that I don't break the law, not only by unknowingly smoking where I should not, but also in case I inadvertently drop a cigarette end? Help is at hand. Three Rivers District Council has come up with a small plastic box with a lid which can be hooked on to a belt.



If I use this and take notice of the "No Smoking" posters being distributed, hopefully, I shall avoid breaking the law. Who knows? Maybe the hassle of it all may do the near impossible and make me give up the dreaded weed.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

How safe do you feel?

Hertfordshire Home Safety and Security Service (HHSS) can provide a number of security measures for you including locks, door chains, spy-holes and smoke alarms. The service, including labour and materials, is free of charge if you have been an actual or are a potential home burglary victim **or** are aged 60 or over; a single parent; or vulnerable/ housebound.

You can also arrange a free fire safety check. Additionally, HHSS can carry out all kinds of jobs around your home that improve safety or make it easier for people to look after themselves in their homes. This service comes at a modest cost to those aged 60 or over, or for those of any age registered as disabled.

You can contact HHSS on 01923 801138 or via the West Herts Against Crime, Lemarie Centre, 524 St Albans Road, Watford, WD23 7WF

DON'T FORGET!

Need to contact the Police?

0845 33 00 222

In an emergency always dial 999

An emergency is when:

- **There is a risk of injury to someone or a risk of serious damage to property;**
- **You suspect a crime is *in progress*;**
- **There is a serious incident which needs immediate police attendance.**

And don't forget about your local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). They are there for you, so why not talk to them about anything that concerns you.

Scots Hill

Over the years much has been written about Scots Hill with various suggestions given as to the origin of the name, of which I can add no further. However, the hill does have some particular memories for me.

Firstly the single road up from Ricky was only a 1 in 8 gradient for a short distance before flattening out towards All Saints, and was fronted on both sides by houses. At one time it had two pubs, the "George & Dragon" and the "Plough", both long since demolished. However, this short gradient played havoc with the old buses and many a time, passengers would have to disembark and walk up to the top and then wait for the bus to catch up! But sometimes it didn't and the passengers would then have to continue walking or wait for another bus.

Secondly, my father lived in Ricky and like many others worked at "John Dickinson" paper mill. The bus fare to work for the whole week came to two shillings. My father, having served in the First World War, was not in the best of health and made enquiries of the new houses being built in Valley Walk in order to ease his work journey.

The selling price was £250.00 and the repayments would have been 2 shillings and 6 pence a week. My father unfortunately could not afford the extra 6 pence a week so consequently stayed in Ricky.

He continued his journey to and fro and very sadly and ironically died on the bus coming down the hill, he was only 47. What a life for 6 pence!

David Neighbour

"The Rose ? "

Mention has been made that another public house was in Croxley, and could have been in New Road.

I have carried out some research but have been unable to positively identify a site, with the exception of No. 276 which has a cellar and possible beer barrel flaps in the front drive.

Records also show that several beer sellers lived in the vicinity.

It was not unusual in the 18th and 19th century for people to sell beer from houses or what we might now call an Off Licence.

If anybody has any other information I should be glad to receive it.

David Neighbour

Revels 2007

The Parish Council was again at the Revels this year. The Council's stand featured a display about the new village sign, the Junior Council's litter pick and the winning posters that will be used in a local anti-litter campaign. The ride-on grass cutter, used to maintain areas of grass on The Green, was also on show. The stand was manned by David Allison (Clerk to the Council), Helena Flynn (Admin Assistant) and Andrew Goddard (Assistant Ranger) and a number of Parish Councillors were on hand to discuss local matters with residents.



Red Kites

Since the re-introduction into mainland England and in particular to the Chiltern Area, these magnificent birds have increased, both in numbers and the range of their flights.

I have seen several pairs of kites over the A41 and around the fringes of Dunstable Downs; I have also been delighted to see at least two of these kites on the edge of the Chess side of Croxley.

They are unmistakable in their circulating flight pattern being scavengers. The sharp edged square tails are obvious and markings are a wonderful shade of rufous red on top and pale white underside markings.

Keep your eyes open for a rare treat, but I am sure they will increase and spread further afield.

David Neighbour



Parish Council office goes Green

Although water doesn't seem to be a problem this year as it was last, the Parish Council is currently installing rain water storage butts. Four 700 litre tanks (616 galls in all) have been delivered and are currently being installed. The water from the tanks will be used to fill a water bowser for watering trees in Stones Orchard and on the Green when needed.

Croxley Groomers

For all your dog and cat's grooming needs or just a bath and freshen-up!

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Dates for your Diary

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

FIREWORKS ON THE GREEN



New Years Eve

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

**CROXLEY GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL**

**Hobbies & Craft
Taster Day**
Free Admission

Sunday 7 October
10.30am to 3.30pm
Little Green School,
Croxley Green

learn a new craft, get some ideas, have a go!
something for everyone

**CROXLEY GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL**

For further information contact the Parish Council on
01923 716250 or email info@croxleygreen.org.uk

**Yes, folks
the Craft Taster day
AND
New Years Eve
Fireworks
are Back!!**

Parish Council Meetings - general public welcome



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

Annual Parish meeting - last 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

Preview of new village sign

Last year the Parish Council ran a competition to design a new village sign to replace the existing ones which are showing signs (sic) of wear.

Some 16 entries were eventually received and displayed in the library for residents to vote for the one they liked the best. The winning entry is shown below.



The sign is currently being prepared and installation will follow as soon as possible after manufacture. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to all those who submitted entries.

Pick up your free dog waste disposable bags

The Parish Council is working towards a 'Cleaner and Greener' Croxley Green. We supply residents with FREE dog waste disposable bags. The bags can be picked up at either the Parish Council Office or from Croxley library.

The bags are "Enviro Degradable" which means that the bag is environmentally friendly and will degrade in a land fill site leaving no harmful residue. The Parish Council arranges for dog waste bins to be emptied twice a week during the summer. So, please do not put dog waste into general litter bins, place it in the **RED** dog waste bins. Thank you.



Eagle Cars Croxley

139 Watford Road, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3DY

Tel: 01923 771111 Fax: 01923 718622

Accounts Welcome

Courier Service—Air Conditioned Cars—Courteous Drivers—Reliable Service—4, 6, 8 and 16 Seaters

| Destination | Car | 5/6 Seater | 7/8 Seater | 15 Seat Minibus |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 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 Card Bookings Taken Plus VAT plus £5 credit card fee

Airport pickups are plus car park fee

Recipe Time

CARL'S CARNE CON CHILE COLORADO

This is one of my favourite authentic Mexican meat recipes. With the coming of summer, it can be enjoyed served with some fresh, warm flour Tortillas and an ice cold Corona beer or Tequila Sunrise. However, it is delicious at any time of the year. Rather than the cheaper Tex Mex version, this recipe consists of large tender chunks of meat in a thick, smooth, rich sauce.

The sauce is a little bit of work, but the result is well worth it. It is equally delicious with beef or pork.

Should serve four. Or two of me!

8 middle sized chillies; California / Jalapeno type
 Half tsp Cumin seeds
 3 cloves Garlic, peeled
 1 small Onion, chopped
 1 tsp Oregano
 700g / 1 and half lb lean, boneless meat (purchased at local butcher)
 Oil or lard for frying
 450ml / 16 fl oz water or stock & salt to taste

Let's start by preparing the chillies. Split them open, de-seed and de-vein them. Cut or tear them into reasonably flat pieces, and toast them briefly on a hot, dry frying pan or griddle. Hold them down for a few seconds, until they change colour and crackle. Flip them and do the same for the other side. Do not allow to burn. Pop them into a medium sized bowl and cover them in boiling water. Place a saucer on top and leave them for half an hour. While they are soaking, grind the cumin seeds with a pestle and mortar or spice grinder. Drain the chillies but keep approximately one cup of the liquid. Add the garlic, onion, oregano and fresh ground cumin. Puree the lot, with the soaking liquid, in a blender. Blend until smooth, then strain through a wire sieve; time consuming, but makes for a lovely smooth sauce. Right, cut the meat into 2 and half cm / 1 inch cubes, and fry in a heavy deep skillet with a little lard or oil until browned all over - around 10 minutes. Keep turning the meat and scraping the pan. Almost there. Add the strained sauce to the meat, continue to cook, stirring and scraping frequently to avoid burning, for a few minutes (5 at most). The puree should be thick and rather darker than when you started. Now add the water or stock and bring to the boil. Simmer now, over a low heat, for at least an hour, stirring occasionally. If the sauce gets too thick, add a little water or stock. It will be ready when the meat is very tender. Enjoy. *Carl Batson*



Focus on Local Butchers

Try this experiment at home.

Buy a pack of sausages or bacon at a supermarket, and then buy a few more from the local butcher. Cook identically (a grill is best) and spot the difference.

Not only does the Butchers' product not shrink but it indeed tastes better. Price? Usually nothing in it except when the supermarket one is economy branded, which means it is full of nasty white liquid that fills up your drip tray.

Did you know that a 10oz steak is actually quite large when you cook it yourself? If you've had one in a steak house type restaurant recently and like me have been quite disappointed with a smallish dried up looking piece of tasteless meat and gristle, then there is a home-cooked superior alternative. A 12oz and T-bones that are utterly superb and will completely cover a dinner plate - (and yes, they don't shrink!).

As for ready made barbeque food, the last time I bought it from a supermarket the ghastly sauce that had been added to flavour the chicken set fire to an overhanging tree! (The chicken also turned black!)

I have held many a barbeque using only produce from the local butcher and the results are always spectacular (and the tree still lives!)

Although I work near Croxley Meats and therefore am biased, I am assured by others that both of Croxley's butchers maintain exceptional quality and overall value.

Cllr David Bains

Focus on Estate Agents

Judy Pearson-Turner has lived in Croxley for about 34 years. She first set up her own business about 12 years ago, but eventually acquired premises in New Road about two years ago.

The office is bright and friendly, specialising mostly in letting properties. When they have a house to sell (particularly in Croxley) Judy says there are at least six potential buyers.

Neither Judy nor her staff countenance "gazumping" and if the price of the property is a fair one, that is the price they stick to.

The staff consists of Judy herself, Betty, Sue and Lesley and all have many years experience of letting and selling properties between them.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Croxleyhall Woods

off All Saints Lane



The two areas of Croxleyhall Woods off All Saints Lane are managed by Croxley Green Parish Council on behalf of Three Rivers District Council.

**Don't forget about the
Garden Competition
- application form on
page 13**

Editorial Committee

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David Allison (Clerk)

Cllr Christine Jefford
Cllr Wendy Shafe
Cllr Hazel Seeley
Cllr Janet Martin
Cllr Jeremy Hollands
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