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The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Autumn/Winter 2008

Inside this issue:

Flowers in Croxley	2
Bulb Planting	2
Sunflower & Pumpkins	3
Garden Competition Results	5
Commemorative Trees	6
Croxley Great Barn	9
Meet your PCSOs	11
Hobbies & Craft Day	13
Junior Council	13
Dates for your Diary	15
Life under Water	16
Carl's Berlin Potato Soup	19

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

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Frank Brand	248704
Brian Norman	710250
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Hazel Seeley	772696
<i>(Chairman of - E&A Committee)</i>	
Wendy Shafe	441638
<i>(Vice Chairman of Council)</i>	

Croxley Green Ward:

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Leighton Dann	778484
Christine Jefford	771769
<i>(Vice Chairman - E&A Committee)</i>	
Janet Martin	774514
Roger Seabourne	770629
Cliff Vassiliou	779927

South Ward:

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<i>(Chairman - P&D Committee)</i>	
Phil Brading	492893
Jeremy Hollands	448382
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Mark Saxon	772581
David Wynne-Jones	251905

Chairman's Corner

Changing times calls for a rethink of ones short and long term objectives. During the past twelve months a small group of Parish Councillors have been invited to meet with local organisations, of all ages, to be able to get a grass root feed back of what the residents would like the Parish Council to consider for our community. Besides trying to establish a wish list, it has also been a good opportunity for Councillors to appreciate the community's needs, especially where we have a changing population whose needs and aspirations have not been thought about. It is gratifying to see how many younger families have moved into the village because they perceive that Croxley still retains a strong community spirit.

Listening to the residents ideas has already been beneficial to the community. We have tried to raise the profile of the village by turning redundant corners of the village into areas of beauty by the introduction of floral displays hopefully enjoyed by all and especially the people passing through. In some instances, local businesses have enthusiastically welcomed and financially contributed to the projects for which we are grateful.

Our Rangers' knowledge and training in suitable plant arrangements and now the addition of the display planters has certainly added a more rural aspect to our village.

It was gratifying to receive the villagers support in respect of maintenance of the Green and we have taken a positive decision to continue its maintenance until the final outcome next year. We shall continue to maintain the high standard expected by the community in the presentation of the Green.

It is our aspiration as Councillors to have a positive outlook on the community's well being. The more we can embrace you in our partnership, the more you will become an active part of our proud village.

On behalf of Croxley Green Parish Councillors and staff, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Cllr Brian Norman
Chairman*



*Please note that the Parish Council
offices will be closed from 12noon
on Wednesday 24 December 2008
until
Monday 5 January 2009*

Flowers in Croxley

In the Spring/Summer Parish Pump, I said we were starting small but thinking big with this new project. I am sure that the beds of flowers in Watford Road and the planters and horse trough near All Saints' Church have been much appreciated. We have had a lot of feedback from the residents, all complimentary.



During the course of the last six months we have received many donations from local businesses for which we are very grateful.

Future plans include Winter planting in Watford Road, the planters and trough. Additionally, we have permission from Peter Knightley to plant on the roundabout at the bottom of Baldwins Lane, starting with bulb planting and in the Spring to dig out and plant up beds of flowers.

The top and bottom shops in Baldwins Lane will have half barrels of plants for the Winter to be replanted in the Spring. Winter flowering hanging baskets are already outside the butchers in New Road and it is hoped we can extend this to other shops in this area.

Ranger Andrew Goddard has written elsewhere in the Pump about the bulb planting by local schools. If all the bulbs that the children enthusiastically planted survive, it should look very impressive.

Thank you to everyone who has

helped with money and time. Special mention and thanks must go Mrs Mandy Grant who suggested the whole scheme. Also to our Rangers Carl and Andrew for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to the following local businesses who have given financial support to the Flowers in Croxley project:

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Bliss Beauty Salon
Londis (Baldwins Lane)
Croxley Meats
Evans Harding & Co UK Ltd
Wachtel Fox & Co
Cutting Crew
The Old Bakery
The Sportsman Public House
Café Amici
Croxley Hardware**

Bulb Planting

As part of the 'Flowers in Croxley' initiative, Croxley Green Parish Council invited children from local primary and infant schools to help with bulb planting around the Parish. The response from the schools was good and we arranged planting with Little Green, Malvern Way and Yorke Mead Schools. Harvey Road School however, had already committed to another bulb planting scheme so were unable to participate.

On Tuesday 14 October, we met on the corner of Lincoln Drive and Little Green Lane with 30 students from Little Green School. This enthusiastic group managed to plant the grass verges from Lincoln Drive to Durrants Drive with 100kg of daffodil bulbs.



On Wednesday 15 October, it was the turn of Malvern Way who provided us with another twelve keen students. These we met in Barton Way Recreation ground and they planted bulbs around the play area and trees within the park. After another busy morning they had planted a total of over 60kg of bulbs.



On Thursday 16 October, we met with Yorke Mead School, on the footpath from Dulwich Way to Dickinsons field, who provided us with two groups of fourteen eager students (*pictured right*). The first group began by planting the footpath where we met and soon managed to plant over 30kg in the stony soil. The second group moved into the field and planted along the boundary of Yorke Mead and Stones Orchard. They also managed to plant over 30kg of bulbs before they ran out of time.

All in all we were amazed at how interested the students were in the bulb planting and their enthusiasm exceeded all our expectations. The proof of this is in the volume of bulbs they managed to plant in such a short space of time. We even had to buy two more sacks of bulbs as we were close to running out.

Due to the dedication of these students, we can look forward to a very colourful Spring with masses of daffodils for everyone to enjoy – I would like to thank the Parish Council for allowing us the time to spend on this project, Flowers in Croxley for providing the bulbs, the teachers and parents who looked after the children and finally the students themselves for all of their hard work. Additional thanks go to Mandy Grant (Flowers in Croxley initiator) and Councillors Jefford and Seeley for coming out to visit the children and help with the task.

Andrew Goddard, Ranger

Sunflower and Pumpkin Competition

In Spring 2008, the Parish Council decided to set the pupils of Yorke Mead, Harvey Road, Malvern Way and Little Green Schools a challenge! The challenge was to



see who could grow the tallest sunflower and the largest pumpkin.

After a few phone calls and visits, Carl and I managed to secure donations of pumpkin and sunflower seeds from Garden Scene in Chipperfield, compost and pots from Dave Cartwright (formally of DJ Nurseries on the Green) and compost and peat pots from the Parish Council.

Following correspondence a suitable date was arranged for delivery of the seeds, compost, growing instructions and pots to the schools which they received on the same day so as no school should get a head start. The stage was set and the challenge was on!

After leaving them with all the necessary equipment we allowed them time to get the seeds sown and growing before our initial check, shortly before the school holidays. After this time we went to Malvern Way and Yorke Mead (other schools did not respond) to check on progress and were pleased to see that the pupils of both schools had been very busy and their seedlings were growing happily and healthily bar a few problems from the ever persistent slugs and snails (sorry if your seedlings got eaten!) Pleased with the initial results of our inspection, we left the green fingered students to carry on tending their plants until our final check and judging in the Autumn.

By mid October, we were ready to carry out the final judging. However, unfortunately we only received a response from Malvern Way School. The other schools had had to let their pupils take their plants home due to lack of suitable space at school for growing them.

On Wednesday 15 October, we

met with Mrs English, the Head of Malvern Way School who showed us how productive her students had been. We could tell that the pupils had done well by the numbers of nodding sunflower heads that greeted us. Upon measuring the sunflowers we could see that Miss Simpson's Class 9 had done extremely well with sunflowers up to 165cm, but better still were Mrs Baron's Class 7 who managed to just beat them with a sunflower of 176cm grown by Ami.



The pumpkins they found a little harder to grow due to their space requirements and susceptibility to slug damage, so their entry was a joint effort by Mrs Pettie's Class 5 whose largest pumpkin measured 56cm by 48cm.



(cont'd on page5)



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(cont'd from page 3)

We were very pleased with the results from Malvern Way and were glad the other schools had a go and hope they enjoyed it.



We would be very pleased if they tried again next year and would be willing to help them find some space to allocate for growing on purposes. As they say, 'it's not the winning that counts it's the taking part', however as it was a competition, there has to be winners so in first place for the sunflowers is:

Ami, Class 7 Malvern Way with 176cm
and for the pumpkins:

Class 5, Malvern Way with 56cm x 48cm

*Andrew Goddard
Ranger*

Parish Council's 16th Garden Competition

There was a new slant to the Garden Competition for 2008 in that Croxley Gardening Club was invited to participate in the preliminary judging. The arrangements for this task were placed in the able hands of Ged Mealor and members of the Club kindly undertook the first round of judging. Finals Day took place on 26 July (one of the few really hot

days this Summer) with the final judging being undertaken by Mrs Kath Perry, Chairman of the Croxley Green Gardening Club, Mr Dave Cartwright of D & J Nurseries and Mr Andrew Goddard, Parish Council Ranger. Mr David Allison kindly undertook the role of official photographer. We are most grateful for their contribution to the competition.

Once again, the standard of the gardens was extremely high, particularly in view of the poor Summer weather and the three judges were confronted with the difficult task of selecting the winners. The presentation of the awards will take place at a future date which is yet to be announced.

Cllr Christine Jefford

The winners were:

FRONT GARDENS

1st Mrs Gibbons

2nd Mr Jeffreys

3rd Mrs Batten

SMALL BACK GARDENS

1st Mr Jeffreys

2nd Mrs Waterman

3rd Mrs Moore

LARGE BACK GARDENS

1st Mrs Noctor

2nd Mrs Hargreave

3rd Mr & Mrs Martin

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mrs Batten, Charter House

PUBLIC HOUSE

The Coach & Horses, The Green

BEST FLORAL CONTAINER

1st Mr Maclean

2nd Mr & Mrs Martin

3rd Mr & Mrs McLachlan,



Front Graden



Small Back Garden



Large Back Garden



Community Garden



Best Floral Containers

Commemorative Trees

Earlier this year I was taking part in a treasure hunt organised by members of the Croxley Tennis Club and one of the early clues was directing us to a tree on the green which had been planted to commemorate Sir Winston Churchill. Having lived in Croxley all my life I knew what the clue meant and headed up towards Croxley House where the tree stands. On completing the treasure hunt I was amazed how few people knew about this tree and so the idea for this article started.

In all there are 9 commemorative trees planted along The Green. The first, starting opposite Dugdales and in front of Croxley House, is a conifer planted for Sir Winston Churchill. The plaque beneath only has his name on, it does not say when or why the tree was planted.



Walking away from Croxley House onto 'the triangle' you will find the next two trees. They are at the southern end of this area of grass. The first is a small oak tree which commemorates the

gathering of 5000 people near that place to mark the millennium.

The next one, another oak, is by



'Millennium tree'

the log bench and the plaque at the base reads 'World War 2 1939 - 1945'.



'World War 2 1939 - 1945'

To find the rest of the trees continue along The Green to the entrance to the Tennis and Bowls Club. Standing in front of Providence Hall is a Turkey Oak marking the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953 (*pictured right*).

All the rest of the trees from here are oaks. A little further along the same stretch of grass is one with

a plaque which reads 'E R REX 1936', commemorating the coronation of King Edward VIII, and a third with the inscription 'G R PER ANNOS XXV 1935'. This one tests both Latin and your knowledge of Roman numerals and marks 25 years of King George V's reign.

Cross over New Road and immediately you will find the next tree, planted for the coronation of King George V in 1911. The next tree, outside Hollow Tree House, does not appear to be a commemorative tree, however the next one is remembering the coronation of King George VI in 1937, Queen Elizabeth's father. Also on the plaque is another piece of text which reads 'This plaque was placed by the George VI tree, when it was planted and placed here in 1973. This makes it sound as though the tree was planted in 1973 although I am not sure at the moment. The final tree is another oak just outside the gates of All Saint's Church garden, right on the kerb side. This one commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1837 - 1897.

I have found out that the trees were planted by the Commoners



Outside Providence Hall





'E R REX 1936'



'G R PER ANNOS XXV 1935'



'King George V in 1911'

of The Green, but more than that I don't know. If anyone knows more about this, or remembers any of the trees being planted, please let us know at the Parish Council Office and we can include any further information in a future edition. I certainly would love to

know more, especially as the size of the tree does not always appear to match the timescale for the events being commemorated.

Next time you are out for a walk along the Green, stop and have a look at these trees and the information at their roots.



'King George VI in 1937'

While carrying out the research for this article, I was asked by a New Road resident if I had heard the tale explaining why there is a lot of holly along New Road? I had not and was told that there is a story which says that Queen Victoria came along New Road to visit The Guildhouse (I think) and gave a holly sapling to each household as she passed! Has anyone else heard this tale I wonder?

Cllr Janet Martin



Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1837 - 1897

Paws in the Park

Together with my friend Suzanne Dutton, I decided to enter my 5 year old miniature Dachshund in the Peace Hospice fund raising event which took place in Cassiobury Park on 1 June 2008.



A variety of dogs took part in the four mile

course through the park and Whippendell Woods. I am pleased to say that Amber (plus Suzanne and myself) completed the course in good time and raised the sum of £348 for the Hospice. However, it was very muddy underfoot and Amber had a much needed bath when we got home!

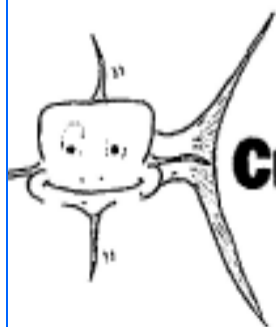
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored Amber with such a good result.

Cllr Christine Jefford

The Christmas House, Lancing Way

Dave and Carol Edwards 'Christmas House' lights will be switched on in November. A raffle will be held this year to select a lucky child to undertake the 'switching on' ceremony – (there will be a small charge for tickets which will be donated to Dave and Carol's chosen charity for 2008 – ie Mount Vernon Cancer Unit). Dave and Carol will look forward to seeing you.

Cllr Christine Jefford



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This is an open invitation to visit one of Hertfordshire's oldest timber framed buildings: Croxley Great Barn, which is a Grade Two listed building and was built in 1398.



Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Owen and Three Rivers Museum, the barn is now open to visitors on the last Saturday of every month from July to October.

Not many people know that a fifteen minute walk from Croxley Metropolitan Station, down Mill Lane to Lock 79 and along the canal path to Lot Mead Lock (Lock 80) will bring them in sight of this wonderful 5-bay aisled 'threshing' barn which can also be reached by All Saints Lane, opposite the church, and then through Croxleyhall woods.

Tours commence at 11am and take about an hour. Join the tour guide at Caravan Lane, Rickmansworth High Street (east end) at 10.30am. There is parking beside the bypass opposite (but not in Our Lady Help of Christians Church).

For many years access to the barn was not possible, but thanks

to English Heritage clearing and repairing the inside and the kind permission of Saint Joan of Arc School you can now visit this historic building for free. So far on each outing this year about ninety people have turned up to look around and to hear an explanation of the barn's history from our resident lecturer.

Groups are welcome. Enquiries welcome for next year's visits to 01923 772325 or 01923 251905, email: info@trmt.org.uk, web: www.trmt.org.uk

At last the future of our barn is assured – make a date to visit it. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning in Croxley with the family next summer. Book now!

Cllr David Wynne-Jones ('Guide')

Ladies Who Lunch (Cheaply)

A few years ago, a friend and I used to go out each Wednesday for lunch at local eating places. We used to give each place marks out of 10 – just a little harmless fun.

We now number four and still go out each Wednesday. A new slant on our lunches is to get value for money and there are some good examples of this.

Our topmost favourite is Tang's Chinese Buffet in Station Road, Rickmansworth where they offer 'eat all you like' for £5, closely followed by the Rising Sun and the Harvester at around £5 per head. The Coach and Horses on the Green have a special OAP menu for £6, as does Rickmansworth Golf Club. The Coach and Horses have a particularly moreish treacle pudding and custard on the OAP menu.

The Black Horse on Chorleywood Common have starred specials for senior citizens and the portions are very generous. We don't go there as often as we would like as the parking is atrocious. We are very fond of the Whip and Collar in Mill End, particularly in the winter, with a cheerful fire (and landlord) and again very generous helpings.

We all look forward to our Wednesday lunches and each has his/her own favourite. I have to admit that Tang's Chinese is mine!

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Croxley Lacemakers

Croxley Lacemakers would like to thank all who supported their recent raffle of a hand made lace tablecloth in aid of Michael Sobel House.

A total of £1616 was raised and a cheque was recently given to Rod Lacey, Chair of Michael Sobel House and they will be purchasing a syringe driver to aid with the care of their patients.

As a result of our recent Lace Day at Harvey Road School on 1 November, a cheque for £250 will also be sent to support the recently formed Hertfordshire Air Ambulance.

This day was fully supported by lacemakers near and far, some coming from Norfolk, Milton Keynes, West Drayton and London as well as more local areas.

In recent years our lace days have been able to send donations to other branches of the Air Ambulance Services as well as supporting local charities including the Red Cross, BLISS and Mencap.

Elaine Norman

Changing Times in South Croxley

Not so long ago, South Croxley was dominated by a huge paper mill – it was world famous but the amount of polluting smoke that poured out of its twin chimneys was frightening – even the river Gade ran milky white because of the china clay used to produce the famous 'Croxley Script'. The canal was full of working barges – the public was not encouraged to walk the towpath as I found when I arrived in 1962. Further down was the huge Metropolitan rail dump – another eyesore with a small train tipping builders' waste, old track materials and broken porcelain insulators. What a change we can see today!

The 'greening' of South Croxley started with the demolition of the mill in 1982 and a huge clean up of toxic waste. The site was taken over by Marconi which developed the underwater missile 'Sea Slug'. When this project was cancelled by the Government, the area became unused for a few years until it was developed into the pleasant housing estate that we see today. Meanwhile the London Underground dump became full up and was also abandoned. It soon developed into the pleasant Buddleia Walk.

The famous community spirit of the people of Croxley South has also played a crucial part. In 1998 various residents became very concerned about the derelict state of Croxley Common Moor. They

held a meeting in All Saints' Church hall in May of that year and the Friends of Croxley Common Moor Association was born. We lobbied to have the site declared a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and this was done. This unique and ancient moor land was thus protected, by law, from builders and preserved for the public. A group of volunteers now meets every second Sunday of the month during autumn and winter to clear and manage it.

Both sides of the canal are now public spaces offering a magnificent natural setting during the four seasons of the year for naturalists, dog walkers and lovers of the open air in general.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

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Croxley Green Red Cross visit Buckingham Palace



This photo shows some of the Croxley Green Red Cross members, taken before leaving for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 9 July 2008. Twenty-five members from the Centre travelled to London by coach – which was just as well, as it was one of the wettest days this summer! Nevertheless, it was a great experience and enjoyed by everyone, including the three members in wheelchairs. The afternoon was hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales to mark the centenary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the Red Cross. The Duchess of Cornwall and Princess Alexandra were also present.

The group from Croxley included members of the First Aid Group, Medical Loan, Welcome Club and the Fundraising Group. George Ward of the Medical Loan group was honoured to be selected to be presented to Princess Alexandra.

Although the weather was atrocious, the general atmosphere at the Garden Party was great with members attending from all over the country.

Croxley Green has had a Red Cross centre for 50 years. The Centre houses a large First Aid Group, an over 60's Welcome Club, the Sunnyside Club for the disabled, a Fundraising Group and an extremely busy Medical Loan Section.

For information on Basic First Aid courses for members of the public please telephone Pat Phillips – 01923 778022.

*Barbara Davis
Centre Organiser*

PCSO's

Patrolling the streets of Croxley Green, talking to the friendly residents, sharing a few laughs with the local shop owners and having fun at the skate park. These are all reasons as to why your Police Community Support Officers enjoy their job. But how did we get here?



Hi, my name is Che Cooper and as you may have seen, I have been patrolling the area of Croxley Green for nearly two years now.

A question that I am asked all the time is how I became a Police Community Support Officer or PCSO as we are more commonly known. In July of 2006 I travelled to Europe from Australia, where I was born and lived, visiting countries such as Ireland, France, Italy and Spain before finally stopping in the UK. I had enjoyed myself so much whilst travelling that I decided to stay for 6 months and not just 6 weeks as planned. I made lots of friends and enjoyed a little job behind a bar in Watford, Herts. It was during this time that I saw an opportunity to try something I had never imagined and that was becoming a PCSO. With the encouragement of my newly made friends, I submitted my application and one by one passed all of the required tests. Suddenly I was faced with a huge decision. Do I go back to Australia or do I take a fantastic once in a life time opportunity? As you can see I took the fantastic

opportunity and now we have another PCSO in lovely Croxley Green who joined me not so long ago...



Hi my name is Ryan Legge and I too patrol Croxley Green with Che. I've always had a keen interest in the public services, so left

school at the age of 16 to study a National Diploma in public services at West Herts college for two years. Following this I really gained an insight into which service I'd like to join and for me it was the Police Force! Whilst still finding my feet and gaining valuable life and work experience I secured a job as a placement officer for the NHS in Watford. Although this was a nice secure job I didn't really feel it was for me. All my days were spent in an office, on the computer, doing the same sort of stuff day in day out when I'd much rather have been out and about talking to people and not knowing what to expect from each day. After two years I decided to go for the job as a PCSO and 6 months on I'm still enjoying myself.

Che Cooper & Ryan Legge

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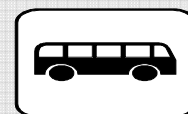
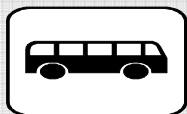
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Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
Return from Watford	12 noon

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

*For the exclusive use of Senior Citizens and
persons in sheltered accommodation.
You may be required to show proof of eligibility*

Friday Bus Service - Thank you to those who took part in the Parish Council's recent survey. The results showed that there was around a 50 / 50 split among those who wanted the bus to travel to other destinations and those who wanted it to stay the same. Therefore, Councillors decided that there will be no change to the Friday bus service.



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Hobbies and Craft Taster Day: Sunday October 5th – a view from a regular participant

Roger Gibbs and myself have contributed to the Parish Council's taster days for three years now, I have been asked to give my views of what it is like from the other side. We had been watching the weather forecasts with growing unease, the rain which was predicted duly came on Sunday morning, there had been breaks in the weather and this we hoped would enable us to unload our trees without sitting in wet clothes all day. Someone up there liked us enough to let us get the trees inside the hall of Little Green School for the start at 10.30am. Most of the other contributors we had met annually and most we knew from the previous taster days.



John Perry & Roger Gibbs 2006

At 10.30 the people began to trickle in and the day began, the children soon got down to doing silk paintings and jewellery making. Some were interested in lace making; these we could see from our display area. We had quite a few queries regarding our Bonsai trees so maybe we will get a new member, or hopefully members. Like most clubs we are getting low in numbers these days. It was lovely to see the children doing handicrafts assisted by parents, not a computer or X-box game in sight!

Throughout the day Rhubarb the clown juggled and did sleight of hand tricks to keep the children (and adults) amused! At events like this, Croxley Green seems to be more of a village. Some of the people, although not interested in Bonsai, nevertheless stopped and said hello, which was nice and will encourage us to participate again in the future.

It was good to see the school being used for weekend events. One question nearly foxed me, it was from a lady, and she asked 'why are you here if you are not selling anything?' I pointed out that the whole reason for the day was to show people different hobbies and handicrafts and Bonsai was our hobby. Roger and I are constantly reminded of a lady some years ago, who asked us to sell her a tree, I replied that the trees were my children, I asked 'would you sell your children?' Her reply was 'make me an offer!' Although we thought that there were not as many visitors, mainly I think due to the weather, we hope that this event will continue. It was well set up and run by unseen volunteers. The tables were miraculously there when needed and the doors were unlocked and the car parks staffed with volunteers. The free drinks were especially welcome.

An enjoyable day,

*John Perry
Middlesex Bonsai Society*

Community Bus Social

The second annual tea party took place on 18 June at the Community Centre in Croxley Green. The Chairman, Cllr Brian Norman, invited approximately 70 guests to this year's function. Everyone sat down to a cup of tea or coffee and a selection of cakes and biscuits and had a great time chatting to each other and making new friends – in fact they



thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the success of the afternoon, particularly the Clerk, David Allison, his Admin Asst Amanda Taft, and not last the two Rangers, Carl Batson and Andrew Goddard – also much appreciation to the ladies who washed up!!

Cllr Christine Jefford

Junior Council

The Junior Council was formed approximately two years ago. It is made up of 6 representatives, aged 9 – 11 years old, from Harvey Road, Little Green Junior and Yorke Mead Schools so there are 18 junior councillors in all.

The Junior Council meets about 5 times a year to discuss issues that concern the children of Croxley Green and then try and do something about it.

A litter-pick in Croxleyhall Woods was the first venture, which was backed up by litter posters. There has also been a campaign about dog mess, again backed up by posters designed by the children.

The latest concern is road safety and the children have produced [The Children's Charter](#) to remind adults about their driving,



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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



**British Red Cross
Christmas Market**

20th December 2008

plus

**Charities and Craft Market
7th December 2008**

10 am to 12 noon

Red Cross Centre, Barton Way,
Croxley Green Various charity stalls
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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
of each month (except August)

Life Under Water

As some of you may already know, I'm a keen angler and have been so for most of my life. This has given me an insight into fish's lives and habits, some of which I'd like to share with you.

In Croxley Green we are lucky to have a variety of habitats for fish to dwell in. This variety of habitats allows many different species of fish to thrive in our area.

In this article, we will cover the Rivers Gade and Chess and the Grand Union Canal and look at which fish are likely to be encountered at each location, followed by a brief description of some of the species mentioned.

The River Gade

The River Gade runs through Croxley from Cassiobury Park, through the Business Park and along Croxley Common Moor. It runs parallel to the Grand Union Canal with which its waters mix through weirs. I have heard of people reporting catches of Brown and Rainbow Trout, Carp and Grayling in the past, but the species included are resident native fish to the river.

Chub (Leuciscus cephalus)
Roach (Rutilus rutilus)
Dace (Leuciscus leuciscus)
Gudgeon (Gobio gobio)
Bleak (Alburnus alburnus)
Perch (Perca fluviatilis)
Pike (Exox lucius)
Minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus)
Bullhead/Millers Thumb (Cottus gobio)
Bream (Abramis brama)

The Grand Union Canal

The Grand Union Canal runs from Birmingham to London, being fed by many rivers along the way including the Chess and Gade. Some of the fish in the canal have come from these rivers. However, many angling clubs operate along

the canal and these clubs often stock fish into the water to provide good sport for their members and, in certain stretches such as in Croxley for anyone willing to purchase a day ticket. The species likely to be encountered here are:

Carp (Cyprinus carpio)
Ruffe/Pope (Gymnocephalus cernua)
Roach (Rutilus rutilus)
Perch (Perca fluviatilis)
Minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus)
Bleak (Alburnus alburnus)
Tench (Tinca tinca)
Chub (Leuciscus cephalus)
Dace (Leuciscus leuciscus)
Pike (Exox lucius)
Gudgeon (Gobio gobio)
Bream (Abramis brama)

The River Chess

The River Chess is a beautiful spring fed chalk stream with clear unpolluted water. It originates in the Chilterns, runs into Croxley from Loudwater and denotes the Croxley/Rickmansworth border. It's calcium rich water is suited to aquatic insects and crustacean such as Gammarus pulex (the freshwater shrimp). These insects are ideal food for the fish that live in the river.

The Chess is what would be called a classic trout stream and in the 1980's was one of the only rivers in Britain to have a naturalized breeding population of Rainbow Trout. However, this may no longer be the case. The species here are:

Chub (Leuciscus cephalus)
Roach (Rutilus rutilus)
Dace (Leuciscus leuciscus)
Perch (Perca fluviatilis)
Minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus)
Brown Trout (Salmo trutta fario)
Bullhead/Millers Thumb (Cottus gobio)
3 Spined Stickleback

(Gasterosteus aculeatus)
10 Spined Stickleback (Pungitius pungitius)
Stone Loach (Noemacheilus barbatulus)

The Species:

Chub (Leuciscus cephalus)



An omnivorous fish with a dark back, golden sides, dark to red fins and a large mouth. Its diet includes small fish, crustaceans, invertebrates and vegative matter. This fish can grow large given the right conditions, up to about 4kg occasionally, however an average size of 1.5 – 2kg is more normal.

Roach (Rutilus rutilus)



A shoaling fish with a beautiful silver colouration finished off with red fins and reddish-orange eyes. It feeds on insects, invertebrates and worms. It grows on average to about 0.5kg but can grow larger given the right conditions and specimens of 2kg and above have been recorded.

Dace (Leuciscus leuciscus)

Very similar in appearance to the Chub. There are two noticeable

differences being the Dace's smaller mouth and the shape of the anal or ventral fin (Dace have



a concave fin, Chub convex). Its diet consists of insects, larvae, crustacean and algae. Dace can reach a maximum length of about 15cm and weigh up to about 600g.

Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*)



A predatory fish which is easily recognizable by its alternate green and black bands of colour arranged vertically along its flanks, its pointed large dorsal fin, extremely sharp gill covers, (please be careful if you intend to handle this fish) and large mouth. Its diet consists of small fish, worms and invertebrates. Perch can grow to over 2.5kg but usually only reach about 1kg.

Pike (*Esox lucius*)

Britain's most famous predatory



fish. They are solitary and visibly unmistakable. Their huge mouth full of needle sharp teeth is enough to make any angler wary of them. They have a streamlined green body with mottled flanks and large tail. Their diet is made up mostly of fish, including smaller pike, but they will also take ducks and other water-fowl, rodents and amphibians. Pike grow large and specimens of over 20kg have been reported.

Minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*)

From large to small! Minnows are popular fish with children as they are easy to catch with a net. One of the smaller species of fish with one of 12cm being a whopper. They like to live in the security of a shoal as they are popular food for larger species such as Perch, Pike and Chub. They have dark backs, striped flanks and creamy-silver bellies. They are omnivores and their diet includes insects and invertebrates.

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta fario*)



A member of the salmon family, the Trout is famously popular with fly-anglers. Trout thrive in clean, unpolluted water, feeding on insects, invertebrates and small fish. They are usually about 250 – 500g in weight when fully grown. However, in some large, deep lakes they can turn to a diet of fish and grow much larger, up to 12kg. These are known as 'Ferox Trout'. They have sleek bodies, small sharp

teeth and their colouration can vary immensely from silver with brown spots to golden with red spots. All trout and other members of the salmon family possess an 'adipose fin' not seen in other species of fish, this is located behind the dorsal fin.

If you intend to catch any fish from these locations please return them to the water as soon as possible unharmed. It is illegal to take fish without proper permission. If you choose to catch a fish with a rod and line you need to purchase a rod license available from the Environment Agency online, by phone or from a post offices. A closed season applies to rivers and streams from 15th March to 15th June inclusive.

Environment Agency:
Phone: 08708 506 506

Web:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish

*Andrew Goddard
Ranger*

Book Club

The Sportsman Book Club meets at 8pm on the last Tuesday of each month.



New members are always welcome and a different book is discussed at each meeting. Dates of the next meetings and details of the books are as follows:

30th December The Girls by Lori Lansans

27th January Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson

31st March Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Marion Birch

Focus on New Road Service Station

Lawrence Hamperl has worked at this garage for the last 19 years. Since his partner Mick Breese retired three years ago, he has become the sole owner.



Employing 13 staff, Lawrence tries to engender a good working environment. He considers it very important that this includes communication with his customers and maintaining the garage's reputation.

New Road Service Station is the only independent garage in this locality, always busy with polite, pleasant staff ready to help and advise. Also, it is one of the few garages which carries out motorbike MOTs. The fact that Lawrence is a motorbike fanatic may have a lot to do with this!

I have been using New Road Service Station for several years now and have never been let down or disappointed with the service received.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

A bit about Berlin

Berlin is wonderful, an incredible mix of modern and old. It is a clean, friendly and exciting city with something to offer everyone. Extensive parkland, lakes, wonderful boulevards and historic buildings, Berlin is truly beautiful. When visiting this great city, one can notice that the Berliner is not only smartly dressed but also has an inclination to have a little snack

now and then between meals, because as the writer Kurt Tucholsky said, "a Berliner has no time!" Luckily the eating habits of the Berliners suits my own lifestyle perfectly and whilst I had ample time on a recent visit, I needed no encouragement to partake in regular snacking.

Berlin food is wholesome and simple and betrays influences from a variety of cuisines introduced by various immigrant groups over the years. When the German Empire was founded in 1871, the Prussian royal capital rose to become the capital of all Germany. The rate at which the city's industrial base grew attracted people from all areas of the country looking for work, especially Pomerania and Silesia. It is said that all true Berliners can trace their roots back to Breslau (now known by its Polish name Wroclaw).

The Berlin cultural life flourished during the 1920's and developed into a Mecca for the avant-garde; bars, cafés and restaurants were the meeting places for artists and intellectuals. After the second world war the city was divided. The construction of the Berlin Wall sealed the eastern part of the city from the west until 1989 when the GDR government lifted the border controls. In 1991 it was decided that Berlin was to be the federal capital and most of the German Federal Government moved there in 1999. The city has now regained an important international role.

A simple taste of Berlin is Berliner Kartoffelsuppe, Berlin Potato Soup.

An easy, seasonal and traditional recipe that is enjoyed as a main meal or as a starter:

Berliner Kartoffelsuppe

Berlin Potato Soup

- 1½ lb / 750g floury potatoes
 - 2 carrots, 2 celery stalks, 1 leek, 1 bunch of parsley all roughly chopped
 - 1 mild onion
 - 1 tbsp clarified butter
 - 1 litre of hot meat stock
 - 1 tbsp rubbed marjoram
 - salt and pepper
 - 125ml cream
 - 2 medium slices of bread diced into croutons
 - 4oz / 100g lean bacon
 - 2 tbsp butter
 - 1 tbsp chopped parsley to garnish
- Here's what to do.....

Wash and peel those potatoes and dice them finely. Now dice up all of your vegetables and the onion. Melt the clarified butter in a large pan and fry off the onion and vegetables until the onion turns transparent. You can now put in your diced potatoes and just fry briefly with the vegetables and onion. Pour on the meat stock and season with the parsley, marjoram and salt and pepper to taste. Boil now for 20 minutes, bring down the heat and stir in the cream to blend. Fry the diced bacon in your butter and then add the croutons, fry until a lovely golden brown. Pour your soup into a suitable bowl, scatter the bacon and croutons over the top, sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve straight away.

Carl Batson, Senior Ranger



Handy Tips from your Local Vets

Keep your rabbit up to date with vaccinations – we have seen an increasing number of Myxomatosis in the Croxley Green area within the last few weeks.

Myxomatosis is caused by a virus spread by blood sucking insects such as fleas and mosquitoes.

The virus causes large swellings around the face and genital area. This causes difficulty in sight and the ability to eat and drink and in 90% of cases the rabbit will die within 12 days.

Fireworks

Walk your dog during daylight hours;

Shut all windows, curtains and blinds;

Ensure your pet has a place within the heart of the house that they can take cover and feel safe in;

Leave the radio/TV on at peak times to help drown out the sound;

Make sure all cats are safely indoors before nightfall and lock the cat flap;

Ask your vets for sedative medication for extreme cases of anxiety. Use a pheromone product such as DAP/Feliway – this comes in either a plug in diffuser or a spray and is extremely effective – most vets will stock this item and it can be bought over the counter.

There are a wide variety of CD's on the market that help desensitize your pet to sounds like fireworks, as well as other common causes of anxiety such as thunder.

An extra handy tip to ensure the safety of the local wildlife – take care with bonfires, build them as

late as possible and disturb the foundations before lighting to warn any sleepy critters that may be hibernating.

At Christmas time not everyone likes to over-indulge themselves!

Chocolate is EXTREMELY poisonous to your dog, so make sure you place all those festive treats in places where your inquisitive pet won't be able to reach.

Those pesky turkey bones are at it again! Bones such as those found in chickens and turkeys splinter very easily causing a very painful stop off at our Medivet 24 hour surgery on Christmas day more than likely between the Queen's speech and re-runs of Only Fools and Horses.

These handy tips have been provided by your local Veterinary Surgery – Medivet Croxley Green where the girls are always happy to offer more advice and tips to help keep your pets safe and healthy.

MI5½ Canine Division

In the Spring/Summer issue of the Pump, my master mentioned several dogs' names. This, I am sorry to say, blew the cover on our covert operations to apprehend a Mafia clique.

As head of the canine section of MI5½, along with Kelsey, Harry and Louie I make up the ½. Knowing that our cover had been blown, I decided to act fast. I contacted Cracker our 'mole' who told me that a meeting was to be held on Sunday morning on the old Dickinson's playing field.

At precisely at 07:30 on a Sunday the round up began, with Kelsey isolating two golden retrievers, whilst Louie tackled a large black retriever and Harry and I cornered

the ringleader known as Fred. However, Pepper put up a fierce resistance and Nina the retriever made a dash for freedom and escaped. A squad of greyhounds also beat a fast exit towards the Orchard.

After such a successful operation, it was decided that we should stand our unit down and enjoy retiring at the top. The Sunday meetings of friendly owner and dogs will still take place, but under our watchful eye, because there are still some un-named operatives in the area, being controlled by the new head of section 'M'.

Bess

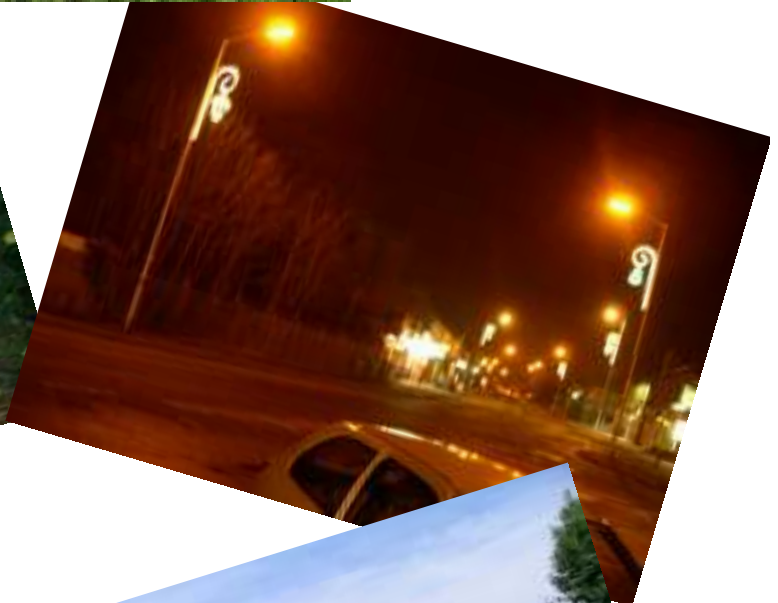
What's good about your job? - Carl, Senior Ranger

Working outdoors, as I do for the Parish Council, has its pros and cons, much like any other job I suppose. The cons are obvious; sleet, rain, cold and snow or blistering hot sunshine. However, when the conditions are just right, with powder blue skies, the gentle warmth of the sun and a delicate breeze brushing your skin, the amount of people remarking how they wished they had my job is seemingly endless.

One of the good things about this job is seeing the changing seasons and the colours and effects that each one has on the landscape. Then, seeing that landscape change from year to year as, inevitably, things age and die and others sprout, grow and mature.

So my favourite time of the year? Autumn, for its bright sun and slight chill that laces the air, threatening the cloak of Winter that is close behind.

Carl Batson, Senior Ranger



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Cllr Hazel Seeley
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Printed by:
Metro Commercial Printing Ltd
Mowat Industrial Estate
Sandown Road
Watford, Herts WD24 7UY