

CROXLEY + GREEN

PARISH + COUNCIL

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Autumn/Winter 2009

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

COUNCILLORS

Nik Bennett	773623
(Chairman - P&D Comn	nittee)
Frank Brand	248704
Brian Norman	710250
(Chairman of - E&A Col	mmittee)
Hazel Seeley	772696
Wendy Shafe	441638
(Vice Chairman of Coun	cil)

Croxley Green Ward:

Marion Birch	449092
(Chairman of Council)	
Leighton Dann	778484
Christine Jefford	771769
Janet Martin	774514
(Vice Chairman – E&A	Committee)
Roger Seabourne	332531
Cliff Vassiliou	779927

South Ward:

David Bains	441480
(Vice Chairman - P&D	Committee)
Phil Brading	492893
Jeremy Hollands	448382
Mark Saxon	774318
David Wynne-Jones	251905

Chairman's Comment

I hope that as you have been out and about in Croxley Green this summer you have noticed various planters, baskets and beds adding colour to our village. The Flowers 4 Croxley initiative has now developed its own identity and is working in partnership with the Parish Council to enhance areas of the village. Volunteers are needed so this project can continue to expand across the Parish so if anyone can spare some time to make a difference and brighten up someone's day please do make contact with the Parish Council office and they will pass your details on to the Flowers 4 Croxley group.

After a period of uncertainty we are reassured that our environment will remain in safe hands after Three **Rivers District Council** agreed to let the maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard remain with the Parish Council. By having a locally delivered service we can ensure that the Green is prepared in time for events like The Revels, Classic Cars on the Green and Carters

Steam Fair.

This summer has seen the departure of one of our Rangers, Andrew Goddard to pastures new. He had worked for the Parish Council for seven years and was extremely knowledgeable about our local flora and fauna as well as being very popular. His contribution to our work will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his new role at Chorleywood Parish Council. We have been extremely fortunate to recruit a very experienced Ranger to replace him in Jamie Marlow who has specialised in tree work, but also has a background in working for local authorities. We would like to welcome him to the team and hope he finds his work with us fulfilling and rewarding.

The Parish Council is now much more accessible to residents through the setting up of our website. By visiting

www.croxleygreenpc.gov.uk anyone can read our minutes, check agendas, look up back issues of the Parish Pump, find Councillor contact details, run over our accounts, get up to date news/events and become familiar with the work and responsibilities of your Parish Council.

More and more local clubs and organisations are taking advantage of the new facility available to them - the Village Hall. This space is free of charge to community organisations and can be booked through the Community Centre. All residents of Croxley Green can also join the **Community Centre** without a fee through this arrangement, making this a great resource for the people of Croxley Green.

With best wishes,

Cllr Marion Birch

Chairman Croxley Green Parish Council

The Councillors and staff of Croxley Green Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Playground Development Phase 1

We were really pleased that the multi-sports court markings were finished in time for the beginning of the summer holidays. This has meant that the children have been able to enjoy crossing the road on the zebra crossing and practising their driving/cycling skills on the road markings as well as playing hopscotch and target practice.



They have also been able to make up games of their own using a 100 number square, footsteps, an alphabet snail and a number caterpillar. As they are on the multi-sports court this will mean that the markings can be enjoyed through the winter months and during school time when the court is not being used by older children for ball games. It does mean, however, that during holidays and at weekends there will need to be some compromise between age groups to allow everyone to enjoy the facilities. If you haven't found these new games go and have a look!

Playground Development Phase 2

As many of you will know, widespread consultation was carried out by Three Rivers District Council to find out exactly what the children of Croxley Green want to see in the Barton Way play area.

The results of these meetings, which were held at schools, playgroups, nurseries and at the

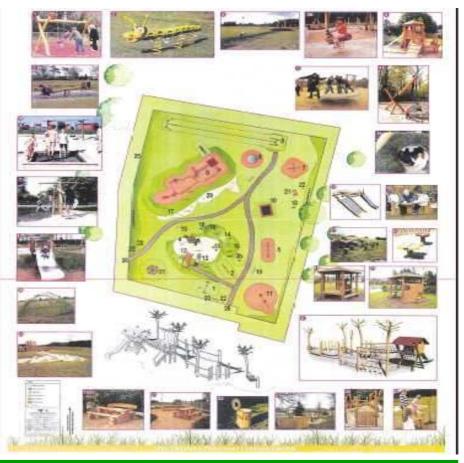


library, were collated and three designs were developed and displayed in the library. Many excited residents took the opportunity to give feedback and vote for the features they most wanted to see. A final design was decided upon and presented to the relevant council committee in August for initial agreement. This was finalised by the Planning Committee at their September meeting. Some of you may have noticed that work is now well under way, with new pieces of wooden equipment being installed and landscaping work being carried out. You will also notice how much larger the play area will be! The children of Croxley can look forward to more adventurous play in the very near future.

The funding for the equipment and landscaping has been provided by Croxley Green Parish Council, Three Rivers District Council and a grant from Herts County Council.

In order to get the best value for our money, we plan to involve the children in planting out the new areas and develop the seating, which many people requested, over the coming months. If anybody would be interested in sponsoring a bench or picnic table or some of the planting, please contact us at the Parish Council Office where we can provide you with more details. *Cllrs Martin and Shafe*

Play area on Monday 16th November





Day Trip to Eastbourne

On 8 June I had the privilege of accompanying a coach full of mature Croxley citizens to Eastbourne. This day out was organised by the Parish Council and was a great success.

Due to the number of people who had applied to go on the trip, a draw had to be held to pick out those who would be successful in getting a seat of the coach. So, on the 26 May, a passerby was asked whether they would be willing to help with the draw. Rae Carson kindly volunteered, seen here with Amanda Taft (*left*) and Cllrs Christine Jefford and Hazel Seeley.



I am sure we are all aware that this summer's weather has not been wonderful, but on our day out the heavens smiled on us. It was a pleasure to see everyone enjoying themselves in Eastbourne with its various attractions including a nice promenade, pier, shops, and cafés.



A number of citizens wrote to the Parish Council afterwards expressing their gratitude for such a wonderful day out.

It is nice to know that such an event was appreciated!

David Neighbour



Chairman's Charity Events

The residents of Croxley Green must have been wondering what was going on in the village on Sunday 6 September.

Around 100 people and numerous dogs were seen walking around the streets and open spaces clutching sheets of coloured paper (the people, not the dogs), some looking rather bewildered.

The first event to raise money for the Croxley Green Scouts was a Treasure Hunt which seemed to be enjoyed by all the participants. The clues led people round two alternative routes, gathering answers to questions like "What does MDF&CTA stand for?" on the way. The seven pictures of a local black and white Shetland pony in various windows must have puzzled a few people especially as he was holding letters which would spell out his name – it's Winston by the way!

The winners were actually ex-Croxley Green residents, now settled in Rickmansworth. Marilyn and Alan O'Neill commented on their win "We had a very pleasant time searching for clues and were surprised that we were led around parts of Croxley we had never seen before". Congratulations to them for scoring 100% and being the quickest to complete the course. The Parish Councillors' team would have done better if they could subtract 1869 from 2009 but they made a very good effort.

Thank you to everyone who took part with such enthusiasm, let's hope that the weather is fine again for next year's Treasure Hunt.

The next event organised on behalf of the Chairman's Charity was a photographic competition. The theme was 'Croxley Green' and some 80 entries were on show in the Village Hall on 29 November.

Cllr Marion Birch Chairman

Web Site Launched

On 30 July the Parish Council launched its website.

The site provides a host of information about Croxley Green, the Council, its functions (including its accounts) and contains Agendas and Minutes of meetings to name but some of the information that's available. Maintained on a daily basis directly by the staff at the Parish Council, the site is in its early days and more information will be progressively added. The site is structured on 10 simple topics:

Home – a description of the area and overview of the Council and access to the Council's house magazine, the Parish Pump;

The Council – more in depth look at the Council, its functions and accounts;

Councillors – contact details of Councillors and their Code of Conduct;

Meetings – Agendas and Minutes, updated as they are issued:

👞 Our Environment –

Introductory information about The Green, Stones Orchard, Common Moor, Croxleyhall Woods and Public Footpaths;

News – Press Releases and any other news items about the Council and its activities;

Events – a rolling calendar setting out what's coming up; Our Community – the

development stages of a directory of Clubs, Groups and third party services together with external links;

Contact – where we are and how to contact the Parish Council.

The site is easy to navigate through the ten icons at the top of each page with sub menus on the left hand side of each page. Since its launch in late July the site has had over 4,800 visits. The Parish Council's web site can be found at:

www.croxleygreen-pc. gov.uk.



Council Updates

Gardening Club at Little Green School

Gardening Club started last March at Little Green School after the Parish Council Rangers built some beds for us. We decided to use the beds to grow vegetables and soon set about planting seeds for lettuce, beetroot, carrots, spring onions and radish. We also planted some seed potatoes in four of the deep flower tubs that we have around School. The sunflower and pumpkin seeds were planted and kept indoors. We could not believe how quickly they germinated and the pumpkin plants took over the bench by the window as they seemed to double in size every day.

We tidied up our herb garden, with the Rangers' help. We rediscovered the brick pathways and many different herbs as we weeded, and trimmed back the overgrown shrubs with the secateurs (we enjoyed using the proper, DANGEROUS tools!).

The seeds soon began to grow and we tasted our first radish and cooked some beetroot to take home for tea. The lettuce grew and grew and grew even though we kept on cutting it. We filled lots of bags with the multicoloured lettuce leaves and shared them with others around the School.

Next we decided to make our surroundings more attractive by planting some flowers. We had a selection of bedding plants and arranged them in the many pots around School. We tried to remember to water them regularly, especially when it didn't rain. The pots looked great all summer and the last flowers are still surviving even though we are approaching autumn.

The vegetables grew so well that we were able to have some for sale at our summer fair - the

carrots were very popular. Visitors dwarf sunflowers and nasturtiums. to our School were surprised to see flower pots with potatoes in them at the front door but it was sunny there and the best place to grow them.

The pumpkins we planted continued to grow at an incredible speed and they have produced some VERY BIG pumpkins indeed - we are amazed and proud of our achievement.

Now we have come back to School after the summer holidays we are really keen to get started on planning what we want to do in the garden this term. There are vegetables to select and perhaps some small shrubs and flowers to plant near the front door to welcome visitors (although we might still put potatoes there next spring !).

The Club has proved to be very popular and a great deal of fun and we get to taste some of the food we have grown ! We think it's great.

Thank you to the Parish Council Rangers who helped us. They built the vegetable beds, helped us to use the tools safely and were extra pairs of hands at our very busy meetings.

Harvey Road School Garden

From March 2009, a Gardening Club at Harvey Road School was started to encourage children to enjoy the experience of growing their own vegetables, herbs and flowers. To enable this to happen, Parish Council Rangers built a four feet by sixteen feet (1.2m x 4.8m) raised bed.

The challenge was to choose vegetables which could be harvested by the end of the summer term. The children planted peas and broad beans and sowed seeds for French beans, carrots, beetroot,

As a result the children tasted freshly picked lettuce leaves, peas straight from the pods, chives and crunchy baby carrots. There have been set backs; a fox dug holes in the fresh compost; most of the broad beans succumbed to black stem rot; and slugs took a liking to the parsley, which never recovered. Oh yes, the children loved finding lots of mini-beasts! Planning ahead for the autumn term, the Gardening Club planted a main crop seed potato and sowed pumpkins and snake gourds. Fortunately (!), frequent showers over the summer kept the garden growing with little need for extra watering.

Classes also made the most of this new opportunity. First early potatoes were planted and looked after by Class 5, then harvested as part of their science lessons. Class 2 had the pleasure of growing delicious strawberries and Class 3 planted flowers of all kinds including asters, rudbeckias, strange looking amaranthus and tongue twisting mesembryanthemums. Herbs to taste and smell were also planted; lavender, curry plant, purple sage, lemon scented thyme and garden mint.



When the Gardening Club came back this September they found the pumpkin and snake gourd plants were taking over the whole garden! Two little pumpkins are growing and snake gourds which look like baby courgettes. Nearly 3 kg of potatoes have been dug up, leaving space for leeks and onion sets, which will be growing when the Gardening Club starts up again in the spring.



Council Updates

The enthusiasm of the children and success of the garden has been such that the Rangers are putting in a second bed this autumn. This means that next year there will be more herbs and vegetables, and may be even a blackcurrant bush!

Christine Cheek Gardening Club Organiser

Results of School Sunflower and Pumpkin Competition <u>Pumpkins</u>

1. Little Green Junior School with a massive 147cm circumference!

2. Malvern Way Infant School with a circumference of 67cm



Little Green with their prize winning pumpkin

Sunflowers 1. Yorke Mead with an amazing height of 248cm (although by the



time of judging it had broken and was horizontal on the ground!)



2. Malvern Way Infant School with a height of 228cm.



3. Little Green Junior School with a height of 211cm

Yorke Mead KS1 Gardening Club

Last Easter, the Parish Rangers completed our KS1 garden at Yorke Mead School.

With assistance from parents, and

supermarket vouchers, we have been able to equip our garden with gloves, trowels, forks and spades. We have joined the RHS Campaign for Schools Gardens and sent 1 member of staff on a Professional Development Course at Wisley. We are currently working on installing a Teaching Kitchen, and we are intending to link the produce grown in the garden to cooking in the kitchen to make delicious healthy snacks and meals. This project will be up and running by January 2010.

So far the KS1 children have been able to see where food comes from. The reception children were fascinated at seeing peas in the pod on the plant. They have harvested beetroot, lettuce, dwarf French beans, strawberries, radishes, peas and sunflowers. Some of the excess produce has been put into the school meals and lots of children were able to try beetroot, radishes and beans. We are currently stocking some column fruit trees.

We are still pursuing the long term goal of linking healthy food and healthy lifestyles. Ultimately, we would like to enthuse our pupils enough for them to begin growing gardens of their own in their own family space.

We have successfully secured an award from Herts Garden Trusts, which can help towards our next project - which is to construct the KS2 Growing Garden this Autumn. We hope that the Parish Rangers will continue to share their knowledge and expertise in order to get this up and running so that all our children can share these experiences.

Information from Wendy Seabrook Yorke Mead





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Council Updates

17th Annual Garden Competition 2009

Once again Croxley Green gardeners have come up trumps – we were overwhelmed by the standard of the gardens which were entered for the 2009 competition – ranging from small and large back gardens, to front gardens together with a variety of



imaginative floral containers.

The final judging for the 17th Garden Competition took place on 25th July. The three judges were: Mrs Kathleen Perry (Chairman of Croxley Gardening Club), Mrs Janet Tublin (from the Allotment Association) and ClIr Leighton Dann. They were accompanied by ClIr Hazel Seeley and David Allison, Clerk to the Council, who undertook the role of our official photographer.



The standard of the gardens was exemplary this year and the judges had a difficult task in assessing them and deciding upon the winners in the relevant categories. Needless to say, all the gardens entered deserved recognition, regardless of whether they got to the final judging or not!

Our thanks must go to everyone who took part in this year's competition.



The results were:

Front Garden

- 1. Mr B Jeffreys 14 Sycamore Road
- 2. Mr and Mrs D Sheriff 126 Valley Walk
- 3. Mrs B Gibbons 76 Sherborne Way

Large Back Garden

- 1. Mr and Mrs D Sheriff 126 Valley Walk
- 2. Mr L Mays 88 New Road
- 3. Mrs J Sewell Halewood Cottage, The Green

Small Back Garden

- 1. Mr B Jeffreys 14 Sycamore Road
- 2. Mrs I Waterman 21 Ludlow Way
- Mrs K Moore
 26 Sherborne Way

Floral Container

- 1. Mr and Mrs D Sheriff 126 Valley Walk
- 2. Mr B Duck 70 Watford Road
- Mrs S McLachlan
 23 Kenilworth Drive; joint with
- Mrs K Moore
 26 Sherborne Way

Community Garden

- 1. Mrs P Batten Cherwell Court
- 2. Mr P Slade Grove Crescent
- 3. Mrs S Seaman Shaftesbury Court

Public House Winner The Artichoke

Cllr Christine Jefford

Flowers 4 Croxley

Unfortunately we have had a few setbacks this year. Selective stealing of plants from the barrels outside the Baldwins Lane shops, Andrew Goddard's departure from the employment of the Parish Council and from our Committee and, due to circumstances beyond our control, the late planting of the flower beds in Watford Road.

However, the stolen plants were replaced and thanks to a great group of volunteers the flower beds were planted: Carl, who at that time was our only Ranger, was very helpful. Thanks must also go to everyone who planted up the various containers around the village and to everyone who has kept them watered.

Future plans include the Autumn planting with Winter flowering pansies and polyanthus, more bulbs in various areas and the enhancement of the areas outside the shops at the bottom of Baldwins Lane and opposite the Red House. The Guild of Sport has offered to provide the 'donkey work' and new compost in return for us improving their patio area.

Any gardeners out there who have any spare plants to donate or time to give us would be most welcome. We are also open to any ideas or suggestions to help us make Croxley Green look even more special.

Cllr Hazel Seeley



Maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard

The Parish Council is delighted to report that following its meeting on Thursday 30 July, the Council agreed a Contract with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) for maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard.



This Contract culminates many months of uncertainty as to the future maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard following TRDC's decision to go out to tender for ground maintenance for the whole of the district. Whilst The Green and Stones Orchard were eventually separately itemised in the TRDC tender documents, after representations had been made to them by the Parish Council, the Parish Council were subsequently not given the opportunity to tender directly for the work.

Residents concerned about the future maintenance and wanting the Parish Council to continue with maintaining The Green and Stones Orchard organised a Petition which finished up with some 800+ residents signatures. The Petition was handed to TRDC.

The outcome of TRDC's tendering for the district-wide contract was that Three Rivers Direct Services were successful and as a result of this, TRDC and the Parish Council have been in negotiation for the Parish Council to continue to

Our Environment

maintain The Green and Stones Orchard. The Contract agreed by the Parish Council puts the maintenance firmly back in the hands of the Parish Council. An arrangement with TRDC has been made for their Direct Services to assist in undertaking the cut of the meadow grass once a year given the Parish Council do not have at present have the necessary machinery to 'cut and bale'.

At the meeting of the Parish Council a recorded vote was requested. Cllrs Bennett, Birch, Hollands, Jefford, Martins, Saxon, Seeley, Shafe voted in favour of the Contract, Cllr Norman had declared an interest and abstained from voting and Cllr Vassiliou voted against.



Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Marion Birch said "The Parish Council has been overwhelmed by the support given to us by the residents of Croxley Green. Their campaigning on our behalf has given us the mandate to commit the council to looking after our local environment."

Just a Walk

Croxley Green and the surrounding area has some lovely walks, no matter what time of the year. There is always something to see that makes life worth living, be it the weather, the flowers, the animals and of course my favourite, the birds.

Some people walk and see nothing; my advice is to take it steady and look around, there is always something of interest. Take, for example, one morning walk around 'Stockers Lake'. In the winter there are many waders and water fowl to see such as Mallards, Coots, Moorhens, Pochard, Shelduck, Goosander, Smew, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye Duck, Heron, Gulls, Crows plus smaller birds like the Finches, Robins, Tits, Goldcrest etc. This was just one morning's watch in February!

Nearer to home, the River Chess has the occasional surprise, such as a pair of Little Egrets, two or three Water Rail and a Green Sandpiper, as well as the usual small birds and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker (again seen during a February walk).

My favourite walk is through 'Stones Orchard' where the variety of birds over the year is quite staggering for such a small area, although in part this is due to the excellent management of the area by the Parish Council who sympathetically cut and trim grasses, etc. in time with the season. One week's observations saw: Crow, Pigeons, Jays, Field Fare, Redwings, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Siskins, Great Tits, Blue Tits, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Green Woodpecker, Dunnock, Sparrow and Wren.

Obviously some of these birds are migratory but many are permanent residents. When the trees have leafed over and the birds are more difficult to see, try looking at the wild flowers. Through the seasons I have recorded at least sixty different flowers in the Orchard, so enjoy your walks!

David Neighbour

Weather Forecasting

Common Moor

skill)

Technique Demonstrated on

As a result of the Met Office's

weather forecasting service, a

demonstrated a new weather

Councillor Bonk'rs noted one

evening that the entire herd of

3 (positioned two cows in from

one end of the herd), who were

Thinking nothing further of it at

followed by 3 dry sunny days and

then a continuous miserable spell

monitored and the position of the

herd noted each evening. To Cllr

Bonk'rs further amazement the cows were achieving a weather

forecasting accuracy far better

In the following photograph a

forecast of just 2 fine days is

predicted for the whole of July

(photo doesn't show all of herd).

In the 2nd picture 2 fine days and

then a wet one are predicted on

than the Met Office ever

achieves.

the 8th of August.

the time, Cllr Bonk'rs was

amazed to discover that the

of wet weather. Over several

weeks the cows were further

following 2 days were wet,

cows was lying down, apart from

forecasting technique using the herd of cows regularly seen on

Croxley Green Parish Councillor

abysmal recent attempts to

has recently successfully

Common Moor.

standing defiantly.



Our Environment

Cllr Bonk'rs believes that the use of cows to forecast the weather could become widespread as



climate change takes place, and may possibly seek Parish Council funding to place a Super-Herd of a 1000 cows permanently on Common Moor with a 150 foot mast erected to provide a continuous satellite link to the Met Office using a Closed Circuit Television System, thus observing the cows all year long to predict the weather accurately at last. An additional benefit of the mast will be it's use as a mobile phone mast for the Parish Council to set up its own mobile phone company to get extra revenue.

The Cllr Bonk'rs Cow Weather prediction Glossary:-

- 1 cow lying down = 1 wet day approaching;
- N cows lying down = n wet days approaching;
- 1 cow moving quickly = 1blustery windy day;
- Large number of cows running = gales for the next few days;
- 1 cow lying down then standing then lying down = 1day of showers;
- Whole herd of cows slowly circling = hurricane approaching;
- Several cows chasing their tails = localised tornadoes.

Cllr Bonk'rs has also found that cows can accurately predict thunderstorms but felt the

analysis not suitable for publication.

Finally, on a re-assuring note to all you residents who have been too frightened to go near the cows for fear of being chased or trampled - a cow is simply a large weather prediction animal (Bos primigenius weatherumpredictus) with side products of mince, burgers, steaks, milk, and the ability to mow large fields.

So Go and enjoy.

This article was dictated by Cllr Bonk'rs to Cllr D Bains.

Any reference to any cow living or dead is purely intentional !!!!

Carter's Steam Fair on The Green





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Summer Surprises

Life in our village is never dull, especially if you are a naturalist. Who would have thought that one would be able to look out of one's window and see flocks of chattering parakeets. Yes, the Indian Ring Necked Parakeet is now a resident of our village and is thriving.



Birds of prey, like the Red Tailed Kite and Buzzard are soaring majestically over Common Moor for the first time in a hundred years and white egrets are to be seen on the River Gade and Chess. This is great news for birdwatchers.

Our area is also one of the last refuges of the cuckoo which have taken to laying their eggs in blackbirds' nests due to the shortage of small birds. The blackbirds seem to make good parents and the one in our garden was still feeding a large cuckoo chick well into August.

Once common birds, like the thrush and bullfinch, are now very scarce – possibly because they can't cope with our changed environment. Certainly blue slug pellets have done untold damage

Our Environment

to thrushes (and hedgehogs too) as the dead slugs and snails make an easy but poisonous meal.

There is no doubt that native birds are getting scarcer every year our tidy gardens make life much more difficult for them. Plant some 'bird friendly' bushes like ivy or firethorn, don't cut the hedge back too heavily, put up a nest box or two and leave a few holes in the eaves for sparrows and starlings. We had three sparrow's nests and two starlings under our dilapidated guttering this year; as long as I can persuade my wife to avoid plastic 'state of the art' replacement, these birds are safe - but for how long?

Some people say that parakeets are 'wrong' for this country – I don't agree. Nature welcomes diversity and our children will consider these beautiful birds as natural as our parents considered the sparrow not so long ago.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

Helping the Environment

The Parish Council is working towards a 'Cleaner and Greener' Croxley Green.

We supply residents with FREE dog waste disposable bags which 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.



Meet our New Parish Ranger

My name is Jamie and this summer I joined the Parish Council as a Ranger.



I have worked in London and Hertfordshire as a tree surgeon since completing my studies and gaining my qualifications from University in Lincoln in 2000.

I live with my partner and 1 year old daughter (oh, and not forgetting the dog!) in Hemel Hempstead, although I am originally from Nottingham.

I am a keen footballer and also enjoy running, having completed a number of full and half marathons. I am currently learning to snowboard as well.

I am enjoying being part of the Croxley Green community and the work that I am doing, and I am very positive about making a good impact in the village.

Please approach me with any suggestions or problems in relation to improving the area, or just for a chat!

Jamie Marlow Parish Ranger



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Vinton Drive Approach	9.30 a m	Sycamore A		10.00am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32 a m	Valley Walk		10.01am
/lalvern Way/Barton Way	9.34 a m		/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
ullerWay/BartonWay	9.36 a m	Frankland F	Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
lanover House	9.37 a m	Chalmers C	ourt	10.08am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40 a m	All Saints L	ane (outside church)	10.10am
Return from Watford	12 noon	New Road		10.12am
		Return from	n Watford	12.30 pm
3 RD JOURNEY				
	Way & Warwick W		10.30am	
	ction Links Way & Dover Way		10.31am	
	Junction Links Way & Little Green Lane		10.32 a m	\frown
Junction Little Green Lane & Durrants Drive		10.33am		
Junction Durrants Drive & Dover Way		10.34 a m		
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Lane Footpath		10.36am		
Manor Way		10.38am	\sim	
Grove Court		10.40am		
Return from N			1.15pm	
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Parish Council's Community Bus Service

The Council's FREE bus service to Watford for senior citizens continues to be a big success to those who want to get to Watford but are less able to get to local bus stops.



The Council's bus service, which drives down the local roads of Croxley where no public service is directly available, picks up residents near to their front doors. On average 50 residents per week utilise the service and since the records were computerised in 2007 over 6,000 passengers have been carried.

One of the routes, 2nd Journey (shown opposite on the

Timetable), has slightly changed its route and instead of going down Frankland Road, it drives down Harvey Road from Watford Road to be at the junction of Frankland Road, Frankland Close and Harvey Road at approx. 10.05. The slight change of route is due to the difficulties of getting the bus down Frankland Road with cars park on both sides of the road.





Beat the (credit) freeze this winter

If you are getting poor returns on your investments, why not try energy saving?

One of the biggest savers, cavity wall insulation, is very likely to cost nothing if you are 70 or over. Energy Saving Trust estimates that simple changes could save most households £300 a year.

Try the on-line home energy check at www.est.org.uk/check . See if this applies to you, or call **0800 512 012**.



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Dates for your diary

Please note that the Parish Council offices will be closed from 12noon on Thursday 24 December 2009 and will re-open on Monday 4 January 2010

For latest information visit our web site at: www.croxleygreen -pc.gov.uk As part of the New Year Celebrations you are invited to attend





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



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)



Chris Gardner

Chris Gardner comes from one of Croxley's oldest families and has lived here all his life.

Chris bought "Croxley Meats" from Steve Hiron four years ago. Afterwards, Steve moved to Chesham Bois. Chris had worked with Steve for quite a few years and has continued and improved the excellence of the products he sells. Chris has introduced a good selection of cheeses and he sells very good cold meats, eggs, frozen game and fish. He makes his own sausages of different flavours. His latest venture is to hire out a BBQ with or without a chef.

It is always a pleasure to go into the shop, be it for two sausages or meat for ten – customers are welcomed with a smile and that applies to Steve and Dave who work for him.



Apart from his family (wife Laraine and three adult children), Chris's great love was his ferret (I know – who could love a ferret?) who died recently. Next up is his white Ford Capri which sounds like a JCB when started up. His other pleasures are darts and motor sports.

Our Community

On the down side, he has an affliction – Foot in Mouth Syndrome - which he freely admits to. Example of this: wondering to an eight and a half month pregnant lady if she found it difficult to walk – I think "waddling" was used. <u>Not</u> sensible!!

Chris Gardner is one of the most pleasant men I know. I suppose he must be grumpy <u>sometimes</u>.

Cllr H.azel Seeley

Thirty Years on

David Wachtel and Michael Fox founded Wachtel Fox & Co Solicitors in Croxley Green in 1994, after acquiring Munds & Co Solicitors (a firm that was established since 1979 by one lady working on her own). From that time Wachtel Fox specialised only in Property Law, Wills & Probate.

Due to the recent retirement of Michael Fox, David Wachtel and Keith Chebsey have merged their respective firms. The approach of both Firms was similar: independent professional advice from specialists delivered in a personal and friendly way.

The specialist legal services offered by Chebsey & Co enhance and extend those previously available. So from a one lady Legal Practice in 1979, your local Solicitors Practice "thirty years on" now has over 20 Solicitors, Barristers, Abogados and Legal Executives that can assist you in most areas of law.

Chebsey & Co is a well established Law Firm in South Bucks with offices in Beaconsfield, Burnham and now Croxley Green. The Firm has been built on a culture that is creative, supportive and straightforward. It thrives on the diverse nature of its clients' problems and finding ways to support their objectives. It is here to help the people in the local community with all legal problems and queries that they may encounter.

Chebsey & Co employ only qualified legal specialists who provide specialist advice on a wide range of legal issues relating to both the private individual and business/commercial matters in both the UK and Spain. The team of high quality and motivated specialists has the right blend of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to achieve the client's particular objectives in a professional and efficient manner.

The Firm's aim is to provide all our clients (individuals and businesses) with a quality service. This is fully supported by the Firm being awarded the prestigious Law Society Lexcel Standard for Excellence in Client Care and Case Management. (LEXCEL) which recognises the high quality of the work of all employees.

Clients have constant challenges and issues to address, whether personal or commercial, as does Chebsey and Co in the legal market place of the future. Who knows what the next 30 years will bring!

For more information on the services they provide please take the time to visit their website www.chebsey.com or just call into their offices for a chat.

New Vocation for Parish Councillors?





Our Community

Legs Eleven

I am sure that you will be aware that some of my canine friends believe that postmen are fair game for a tasty snack. However, my postman is quite safe with me, I have found him a very sociable, pleasant person to talk to and he has a good sense of humour.

I decided to ask him for some personal details for a short article in the 'Pump', little realising that we had a worldwide adventurer for a postman. His name is Darren Sears and we will start in 1997.

Darren Sears: I started at Royal Mail in 1997 and delivered mail from the Kings Langley office. While there I delivered to Abbots Road for 4 years. In 2003 I had a career break for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years and in this time I became a scuba diving instructor and travelled the world. While working in Grand Cayman, my employment as a scuba instructor came to an end due to hurricane Ivan. The island was pretty much flattened on the 11th September 2004 resulting in me having to find my way home to the UK using whatever means necessary. Once back in the UK, I still had itchy feet, so bought a 'round the world' ticket and set out to accomplish a 'to do' list which took me to some pretty extraordinary places. Eventually, in the latter part of 2005, I came home and re-joined Royal Mail, only this time Kings Langley did not have a place for me so I ended up joining the team of posties at the Rickmansworth office. Since then I have delivered mail throughout the WD3 area. which includes Chorleywood, Mill End, Maple Cross, Croxley Green and Rickmansworth Town Centre to name just a few. I then became the permanent postie of the walk known in the office as 'Sherborne'. This walk includes Barton Way, Malvern Way, Sherborne Way,

Winchester Way, Fuller Way and Rugby Way, as well as the home known as Shaftesbury Court and Malvern Way Infants School.

My average day consists of getting into work for 5.30am...ish. Then for the rest of the morning until it is time to go out on delivery, I 'throw' my walk up, preparing it so everything goes smoothly while I am out on the streets. An average day can result in having to carry anything up to 8 pouches of mail. Ideally the weight of each pouch should start off being anything up to 16kg and gradually reducing in weight as I go along. Realistically though, this is not the case as mail can be heavy or light accordingly. I, like some of the other posties use my own personal vehicle to do the job. This is only a personal choice that allows you to get the job done a little quicker so you can get home straight after finishing your walk.



<u>Hazards of the job:</u> - weather, driveways and letterboxes. Most people would have instantly said dogs, but there are only a selected few that want to rip you limb from limb. For me personally, dogs are as much fun to my day as are the people I see.

These are two of the properties of my job that make it worthwhile day after day. The banter and smiles from my customers is priceless, especially when they tell me off for wearing my shorts during all weathers. My usual reaction is "no sense, no feeling", which leaves people just shaking their heads, but smiling all the same. I have always worn shorts, not because of a competition or anything, but just because I really find them comfortable! At the pace that I walk in the mornings (not forgetting that I am also carrying a heavy bag as well), I don't think people realise that this alone keeps me warm while I walk the streets delivering mail for approximately 3 to 31/2 hours every day.

After my day at work, I also enjoy taking my own dog out for nice long strolls and then I venture to the local gym/swimming pool at the top of Watford town centre where, funnily enough, I tend to bump into all of my customers all over again!

Having read Darren's details, I have definitely decided not to make any more comments about him wearing shorts in all weathers. Why legs eleven? Well, these uncovered legs appear after eleven each morning to deliver: one letter and fifty pieces of junk mail!

Bess, the Rover Reporter





Our Community

Parish Councillors Need Your Help

Walking around Croxley I often meet people who want to talk about the way our village is run. While it is nice to talk to anyone in our village, I always say at the end of the conversation 'write a short letter to our Parish Clerk stating briefly the things you have told me.' Sadly, very few people actually write and yet it makes such a difference as, if the issues were sent to us we could then raise them for discussion on a future Council Agenda. Never forget that we are here to serve you, but we need written (or emailed) points of view so that we can address them.

If, on the other hand, you are pleased with something we are doing, please let us know that as well – it is a wonderful morale booster and encourages us in our work to improve the services we provide.

For example: the use of our new Village Hall is something we need your feedback on – are you using it? Don't forget that it is available for use by groups and societies in Croxley Green – all you have to do is to contact our Parish Clerk – David Allison.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

The Christmas House

Dave Edwards of 3, Lancing Way, Croxley Green is going to decorate his house again this year to raise money for charity: the Herts Air Ambulance Service. The lights will be switched on at 6pm on Friday 27th November.

Dave has invited a paramedic and an air ambulance pilot to switch on the lights. As long as they are not needed for an emergency we look forward to seeing them there!

Croxley Becomes Safer

The excellent response to our plea for more Neighbourhood Watchers in the last Parish Magazine means that most streets in Croxley are now covered. The response was enormous and proves that our village is very much a responsible community.

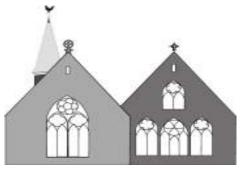
Recently, we have been involved in the 'Carry a Camera' campaign. Yes, one good photograph is worth twenty witnesses and the new, smaller digital devices (and especially the mobile phone pictures) mean that you can get a picture very discreetly of various anti-social activities that occur from time to time. This includes dogs fouling pavements and parks, graffiti artists at work and fly tippers: always carry a camera in your car - if you are involved in an accident, don't move anything until you have photos of the scene from different angles. This simplifies everything immensely, both for the police and for your insurance. With a good (or even not so good) picture, you have positive proof - it is important to include the number plate of the other person's car.

Recently some young men knocked on my door offering to tarmac my front garden for a very low price. I told them I would think about it but first I wanted a photograph of them beside their vehicle. They immediately jumped into their van and drove off at speed – a good 'mug shot' can save one serious money!!

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

Croxley Green Churches in the Community

Croxley's Churches have been an essential part of community life since the early days. As the population of the village expanded. with the growing work at Croxley Mills, the first Methodist chapel opened in 1868 and All Saints' Church of England was founded on the Green in 1870. Since then the Christian presence here has grown to embrace a range of traditions and serve local people as the more recent housing developments arrived. Today the Churches also include St Bede's Roman Catholic Church and the Baptist Church on Baldwins Lane, Fuller Way Church and the second Anglican Church, St Oswald's, in Malvern Way. But, of course, the Church is the people rather than the buildings and we also have Christian groups which meet elsewhere, such as the new Explorechurch at Harvey Road School and Open Door at Yorke Mead School.



As a result there is a wide range of lively Christian worship and teaching taking place in Croxley Green, ranging from modern informal to more traditional approaches. For the last three years the Churches have come together on The Green to worship





Our Community

God at a Summer Celebration on the Sunday following the Revels. This year, good weather made it especially enjoyable.

But an essential part of church life in Croxley is to be involved in the day-to-day life of the local community. The churches' job is to proclaim the good news of God's love for everyone, so they are not just a club for their own members but aim to serve the community as a whole. The churches sponsor a wide range of activities and those for young people are high on the list, including weekday youth clubs, toddler groups and Boys and Girls Brigades. In addition the churches support the local Guides, Brownies and Rainbow units which meet on their premises and two churches arrange holiday clubs for children for a week each during the summer.

For adults there are coffee mornings, a social group for the housebound and an amateur musical group (Chanticleers at St Oswald's). There are regular women's meetings, friendship groups and home groups. St Oswald's runs a "coffee shop" on Monday mornings and the Baptist church offers "lite lunch" on Thursdays for people to meet and chat.

As well as all of this, we shouldn't forget the role that the churches play in hosting other groups, including pre-schools, a stroke club, Scottish dancers, an orchestra and a karate club, all of which meet on church premises. The NHS baby clinic has now re-opened in St Oswald's hall which will be a great help for local families. Some churches also provide facilities for private functions and parties. For contacts and more information see our webpage at http:// www.croxleygreen.com/ ChurchesTogether.

Brian Thomson; Chairman, Croxley Green Churches Together

£3,000 raised for Charity

The Fox and Hounds in New Road, Croxley Green in an evening and weekend packed with activities raised a staggering £3,020 for Breast Cancer Research.

Activities included a Pink Fairy Wheel Chair Race, a Human Auction (which included their professional chef to cook for you at home), sponsored hair cutting and an auction of prizes donated to us by local businesses.

Breast Cancer Campaign's mission is to beat breast cancer by funding innovative world-class research to understand how breast cancer develops, leading to improved diagnosis, treatment, prevention and cure. But to do achieve this they need money.

Kate McHale, the landlady of the Fox and Hounds said "I was absolutely amazed at the response we had from our customers and local businesses to support this charity event. I would like to thank everyone who took part and to all my customers who generously contributed to such a worthy cause. My staff did a great job as well and my thanks goes to them as well."

Kate continued "A special thank you needs to go to 'The Fairies', they will know who they are, to 'Holby City Bill' for his personal donation of a hamper and to 'Tesco Dave' for all his efforts in the collection of donations".

In the sponsored hair cutting there were the usual anecdotes of "hair today, gone tomorrow" and "you can't be serious? You're not going to do that to me without water!" *[Rick said, or words to that effect]*!! And when it came to Jed's sponsored leg waxing, definitely 'Ouch'!! What a smooth move for Charity!



Trees on The Green Update

Following the last edition of the Parish Pump I have heard from the Chiltern Conservation Board that whilst carrying out the survey of the trees on The Green they discovered another important tree. This one is situated just inside the gates of Hollow Tree House. It is a false acacia or black locust (*robinia pseudacacia*) and is probably over 200 years old.



It is a native of N. America and virtually all of it is poisonous (i.e. bark, leaves, fruit, wood). The wood is very hard and because of its anti-rot properties was used by Native Americans to build canoes. It is recorded that Lincoln, before he became President, made fencing from it. There is one example of the false acacia in Kew Gardens - it's probably slightly older but not in such good condition as the one here.

As a result of this work it has been accepted into the Ancient Tree Hunt Records. Go and have a



look at it, it is a wonderful tree!

You can look at the articles which were written about the trees on The Green and the false acacia by going to the website of The Chiltern Conservation Board: www.chilternsaonb.org where you need to hover over 'caring for the Chilterns'. This gives you a drop down menu where you select 'special trees and woods project'. Click on 'interactive map' and you will get a map of the Chilterns area. All the trees and woods in the project are plotted on the map and ours are 2 of 4 just to the east (right) of the M25. If you hover the cursor over what look like yellow table tennis bats in this area you will see one for each of

the tree articles relevant to Croxley Green. Click on the 'bat' and it will link to the article. Alternatively, the actual web address for the page about the trees on The Green is www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/ stwp_site_details.asp? siteID=751&frommap=true

During the summer I spoke to the previous owner of Hollow Tree House (who, incidentally, had no idea about the importance of the tree at their gate!) and she told me that the tree planted on The Green for the Queen's Silver Jubilee outside Hollow Tree House was planted with a ceremony and a blessing from the vicar. This was all to no avail as the tree died a while later. It was replaced with no ceremony, just her and her daughter dancing around it and watering it! This obviously worked! She said they were always a bit disappointed that it was not a tall, elegant specimen like all the others, however I think it adds to the variety and is quite an unusual shape for an oak!

As it stands we have not heard from Three Rivers yet about planting another tree on The Green to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, hopefully we will be able to bring news of that in the spring! Thank you for the offers of young oak trees from several residents; we will be in touch as and when we hear that we can proceed.

Cllr Janet Martin

Editorial Committee

David Allison (Clerk) Cllr Christine Jefford Cllr Janet Martin Cllr Hazel Seeley Cllr Wendy Shafe Amanda Taft (Admin Asst)



'Keeping Croxley Special'

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