



The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Autumn/Winter 2012

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Letter from the Chairman

As we enter September it's time to look back at our summer and look forward to what pearls of delight we have for the coming months. Having had a quick resume of past and future I will need to be rather selective as I really can't include everything! Remember you can always keep up to date with news and events by visiting **your** Parish Council website at www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk I will of course also keep you advised via MyCroxley.

So what first? Well, we have seen a magnificent Diamond Jubilee followed closely by the London Olympics and as I write we are in the midst of what I am sure will be an extremely impressive Paralympics. A big thank you to Flowers4Croxley and our many residents for showing off our community spirit in red, white and blue floral displays. Thank you also to all of you who helped to organise and those of you who were able to attend the "Picnic in the Park" held in Barton Way

Recreation Park, this was a tremendous success and we may well see something similar next year, if we are lucky! You will recall that earlier in the year it was agreed, in keeping with a long tradition, that an oak will be planted on The Green this autumn. Again, please keep an eye on **your** website for details and see page 7 for more details.

For those of you who would like a regular opportunity to speak with one of **your** Parish Councillors we have now established monthly Surgeries. These are held at the Library in Barton Way. They take place on the second Saturday of each month from 10am until 12 noon. If you have any issues or concerns you would like to raise, or if you would just like to speak to a Parish Councillor on any Croxley matter, please feel free to call in and have a chat. Full details are posted on the website as well as being listed in this issue. You can of course contact **your** Councillors at any time, their contact details

are on the website, or you can contact the Office.

With the start of the new Council year new charities have been chosen for the support of all of us. Last year, support was given to 'The Stroke Association (Croxley Green)' and 'Home Start Watford & Three Rivers'. With your generous support we were able to raise a fantastic total of £1624 for them. This year there has been a slight amendment from 'The Chairman's Charities' to 'Parish Council Charities' to reflect the support given by **your** Councillors. The charities this year are 'The Peace Hospice, Watford' and 'Sunnyside Club, Croxley Green'. Keep your eye on the website for all of the fundraising event details to see how you can participate. As you will be aware various events are planned, and this year, as a new addition, Ellie and Dan at The Sportsman have decided to dedicate their Charity Quiz Night on 5th December to the Parish

Council Charities, so put that one in your diary to add your support.

As you have your diaries out, don't forget the Hobbies & Craft Taster Day on Sunday 14th October; full details are shown in this issue.

As we enter the colder months please also make a note in your diary for the Annual New Years' Eve Fireworks. This is so that you don't miss this magnificent, free and well attended Firework Display organised by **your** Parish Council and performed by 'Whizzz Bang' of Kings Langley. The firing on The Green starts, as always, at Midnight.

So thank you for reading this, have a lovely time in Croxley as we move into autumn and thank you for supporting the Parish Council and all of the organisations in Croxley Green which maintain such a vibrant community.

Cake Sale

In aid of the Chairman's Charities, the Parish Council held a Cake Sale in the Village Hall on April 1. This was the first time this venture took place and it was very successful, raising nearly £300.

An hour after opening at 11am we had sold half the cakes and had sold out completely by 2.45pm. I couldn't believe how many cakes there were to start with, all donated, with ages of the bakers ranging from 12 years to 92 years old! On offer there were cup cakes, apple crumbles, sausage rolls, fruit and sponge cakes, Hermans, coffee layer sponges, home made biscuits, flapjacks, chocolate, coffee and walnut, tea cakes and authentic Scottish soda bread. They all looked wonderful and I can't thank all of you who baked and helped on the day enough, I couldn't have done it without you.



We are going to do it again in 2013, so don't put those cookery books away just yet! Watch out for the date and come along.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Picnic in the Park

The Parish Council's Picnic in the Park for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June was a huge success. Despite awful wet and cold weather on the previous day, Monday dawned dry and certainly brighter. We spent the morning setting up in Barton Way recreation ground; gazebos, bunting, flags, even a collage of the Queen, her golden coach and a horse kindly donated by the children of Morris Minors Pre-School.

Just before 12 o'clock light rain began but it didn't stop people arriving with picnics, blankets, gazebos and even small tents. They set up around the small arena and the area soon began to fill up. It was designed to be a very informal event with the play area on hand to entertain the children if they wished.

At 1pm we gathered the small group of fancy dress entrants together and the two categories were judged by Rev. Miriam Mugan from All Saints Church and Amanda Taft, the Parish Council Administration Officer. Due to the weather most children had come dressed to keep warm and dry but well done and thank you to those

who did participate.

From 1.30pm we were treated to a performance by a very talented string quartet, put together for the event by Vicky Vandy. They played a variety of music, unfortunately under the cover of our gazebo due to the continued threat of rain but still enjoyed by many. As the sun eventually came out various games of football, cricket and rounders were played on the field and it was great to see groups of all ages getting involved. Apparently the last people finally packed up at about 8pm!



Thanks to County Cllr Steve Drury for giving money from his Locality Budget to fund the event; Carrs for lending us tables, Jamie, our Ranger, and Amanda for all their help and those Parish Councillors and partners who gave up their time to help too. Finally, thank you to all those who came along to support and enjoy the event. Many have already asked if it will happen again – watch this space!

Cllr Janet Martin

Clacton-on-Sea

On 27 June two coaches full of Croxley pensioners left for a day trip to Clacton-on-Sea.

The coaches were organised and funded by your Parish Council in order to provide for people of pensionable age who may not be able to get such a break.

Council News

The good will engendered by this action is incalculable and the prestige gained leaves the Parish Council at the top of the list.



I, with four of my colleagues, acted as helpers but with such a lively bunch of pensioners our job was made very easy. Traffic-wise the journeys both there and back were quite comfortable.



The actual day itself was superb (good weather helped which was a blessing this summer!). Clacton was clean and lively: good shopping and plenty of places to eat including excellent fish and chip shops! The seafront gardens were a delight; beautifully tended, colourful and in full bloom, and many of our friends chose to stay in this most relaxing area.

This was a wonderful day out and arriving safely back home the thanks were profuse; in fact one particular statement, "It's nice that someone thinks of us", was one that the Parish Council can be proud of.

May I also remind pensioners that the Parish Council provides a free bus service from Croxley to Watford every Friday morning. This calls at sheltered homes and

areas of Croxley not normally reached by other bus services. Details of times and routes can be found in this magazine (on page 14) and at the Parish office. Please use this service and help to keep it going.

David Neighbour

Meeting The People

We, as councillors, are very proud of our beautiful Croxley Green Village and are always thinking of ways to improve the service we offer to you. To do this properly we need feedback from you so we have decided to hold a 'surgery' in the library from 10am to 12noon every second Saturday of the month.

What is a 'surgery'? Well, two councillors will be present at a table wearing their identifying badges awaiting any residents who wish to talk to them about concerns or suggestions they may have. Quite a few people have already popped in and made some very interesting comments which have helped councillors to identify items to put on our agendas.

Many people have ideas about the area such as speed limits, wildlife conservation, the parish plan and many other topics which they want to bring to our attention. The surgery gives you the opportunity to do this if you are unable to get to the council offices in the week. It also gives you the chance to meet your councillors and put faces to names if you are unsure of who we are. If your concern is something which we are unable to help directly with, we may be able to advise you who you need to speak to, maybe Herts County Council, Three Rivers, Highways,...

You will find the monthly dates of when the councillor surgeries

below. Do come and see us, even if it is just to say 'hello'!

David Wynne-Jones

Councillor Surgeries will be held at the library from 10am until 12 noon on the following dates: 13 October 2012; 10 November 2012; 8 December 2012; 12 January 2013; 9 February 2013; 9 March 2013 and 13 April 2013.

Road Safety in Croxley Green

As the Parish Council representative, and chairman, of the Croxley Green Road Safety Committee I thought I would give you an update of our work over the last few months. Roads are on most people's complaint list for one reason or another and we have listened to concerns which have come to us and acted wherever possible.

We instigated, with the help of PCSO Jamie Hornett, new 15mph speed signs in Community Way and the adjacent car park following concerns from a resident about speeding and the safety of pedestrians, in particular children, using that area. Thank you to TRDC for getting those signs installed quickly. As a committee we have also designed leaflets and posters which you should have seen in shops and organisations in the area around this car park. Please adhere to this speed limit for everyone's safety.

Another ongoing concern has been the zebra crossings in Watford Road. Thanks to money from developers these are in the process of being upgraded to Puffin crossings as I write. Local councillors acted on concerns from local residents and, thanks to Cllr Chris Lloyd in particular, a site meeting was arranged which included many local district
(continued on page 5.....)

Dog Waste Bags

For those dog owners who have forgotten or were unaware, bio-degradable dog waste bags are **free** from the Parish Council Offices and we also supply them to the library. Please use them, and the bins around Croxley, to help keep our pavements, footpaths and open spaces clean and free from mess.

Please don't forget to use the **RED waste bins.**



Community Plan Questionnaire

Later in the Autumn the Parish Council and the Croxley Green Residents Association will be sending you a questionnaire

Look out for this and don't forget to fill it in!!!!

See page 9 for more info.

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Council News

councillors, County Cllr Steve Drury and myself (representing the Road Safety Committee and Parish Council) meeting with representatives from Herts County Council Highways and Road Safety departments. We were able to voice the concerns of Croxley residents, particularly about the width of the road at the point of the crossing. Fortunately for us, although the road was quiet, several of the bad practices we were worried about were beautifully demonstrated for us! As a result of this meeting several changes were made to the plans for the crossing; most importantly the road is being widened so that cars coming from Watford should be able to pass motorists waiting to turn right into the petrol station safely **on the road** rather than mounting the kerb or driving on the pavement as has so often been seen. This should keep traffic flowing and ease congestion. It did mean a slight delay in installing the puffin crossing but only 2 weeks: we felt it was better to wait a bit longer but get the best and safest possible solution to this very tricky area.

The crossing by Harvey Road has taken several weeks longer than anticipated and I am unaware of the reasons (I have my own ideas!). I did contact the Highways dept. raising my concerns for the safety of the parents and children who use this crossing now that schools have returned (as well as other pedestrians), as there was now no crossing at all for them to use and lollipop ladies were taking their lives in their hands to do their job. I noticed that a mobile crossing appeared the next day! It does pay to make those phone calls!

One other problem which comes up at every meeting is speeding along The Green. I have been in contact with Herts Highways

requesting new signs and/or road markings to remind drivers that the speed limit is **30pmh** along **the full stretch of The Green**. It sounds very hopeful that we will get these, especially as similar measures have been put in place on Sarratt Green.

A new campaign for the autumn/winter is trying to keep cyclists of all ages safe on our roads. If you are on your bike please remember to wear bright clothing, have your lights on and follow the rules of the road; **let drivers see you!** If you are in a car/van/lorry look out for cyclists and give them space. Please look out for more information about this but we are grateful to the local schools for their participation.

Please look at our website croxleygreenroadsafety.org.uk for dates of meetings and other information.

Cllr Janet Martin

Croxley Green's First Wassail Ceremony (as far as we know!)

When: January 17 2012

Where: Stone's Orchard

Time: 6.30pm to 8.00pm with formalities commencing at 7:00pm

Why are we doing it? - We have an orchard and Wassailing the fruit trees is an old custom although mainly found in the West Country. So, why have one in Croxley Green? Well, we seem to be very short on local tradition and ceremony, we have an orchard, the organiser of the event was born in Herefordshire and it will be a fun evening in a dreary month!

Who will be there? - It is all very much in the planning stage but we have invited at least one Morris Side, Folk Musicians and our very own Croxley Mummers. We

hope, therefore, to have dancing, singing, playing and Mumming and, most importantly, YOU!!!

What is the purpose? - to encourage the trees in the orchard to have a good year and produce lots of fruit (this is particularly important in cider counties!).

What will happen? - Well, we are still at the planning stage but we hope to start with some Morris Dancing, have some music and then some "Mumming." This will be followed by the Wassail incantation which will go something like: "Here's to thee, old apple tree, that blooms well, bears well. Hats full, caps full, three bushel bags full, an' all under one tree." Then pieces of bread, soaked in cider, will be placed into the branches of one tree and the remaining cider poured around the roots. Then we will all make as much noise as we possibly can (but only for a minute). Then there will be some more music and the ceremony ends with more dancing in which everyone can join in. There is no set ceremony as what happens varies from place to place but the incantation and the cider soaked bread is very much general to all. Perhaps we can devise something unique to Croxley Green!

Why come? - It will be fun, it will be something to do in the middle of January, it will start a new Croxley Green tradition and it will help make money for the Parish Council charities; the Peace Hospice and the Sunnyside Club (there will be a collection during and when leaving). Ellie and Dan at The Sportsman pub have kindly reserved The Shed for us so we hope to continue with some singing and playing afterwards and toast Croxley Green's first Wassail!

Cllr Dudley Edmunds



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



Diamond Jubilee Tree on The Green

As many of you will be aware from local knowledge and previous articles in our magazine, there are a number of oak trees planted on The Green commemorating the coronations and jubilees of some of our monarchs. The earliest one records the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and is situated just outside the gates of All Saints' Church. The most recent ones in this line are for Queen Elizabeth's coronation and her Silver Jubilee.

We are planning to plant an oak tree at the southern end of The Green, closest to the Queen Victoria tree, on Sunday 28 October at 2pm. We have left it until the autumn to plant the tree in order to give it the best start in its new location.

Details are still being finalised but we would love to make this a memorable occasion and would welcome a good turnout. One detail which has been decided is that the vicar of All Saints', Revd. Miriam Mugan, will bless the tree as part of the ceremony. For more details please see our website, local notice boards and 'My Croxley' but please put the date in your diary.

Cllr Janet Martin

Flowers 4 Croxley

The drought forecast in late spring, along with a hosepipe ban and talk of standpipes, led us to consult our garden nurseries for advice on what to grow this year. Being Jubilee Year meant our colour scheme had to be red, white and blue of course. "Petunias" they said and these were duly purchased. We also had some geraniums given to us from Councillor Leighton Dann, which saved us quite a bit of money. Two new projects were launched

this summer. Firstly, we were fortunate to receive a grant from County Councillor Steve Drury which enabled us to buy and plant 8 more barrels outside the shops opposite the Red House pub. Secondly, in partnership with London Underground, we planted up new troughs and baskets outside the newly painted Croxley Station. We hope that those of you who use the station have enjoyed the lovely displays.



The last two weeks in May were feverish as everything had to be planted before the Jubilee. This could not have happened without the hard work and enthusiasm of everyone concerned. The 4 beds in Watford Road along with 10 new barrels all had to be finished. A watering rota was agreed on but as you all know; came the Jubilee, came the rain (and wind), weeks of it! This led to slimy petunias, waterlogged barrels (which had to be pierced to get rid of the water), hours of deadheading and pruning rotting roses outside the library. Next year no more petunias! Everything has perked up during August now that we have had some sunshine and, at the moment, everything looks bright and colourful. Thank you to all the shopkeepers who watered the barrels (when needed). Flowers 4 Croxley do appreciate the help we get. We receive no financial help from the Parish Council; however

we do have the assistance of the Parish Council's Rangers - Jamie Marlow and Mark Fox. Thanks, too, to Amanda Taft in the office who helps in so many different ways.

We hope that you have all enjoyed the flowers around the village during this soggy summer and we now look forward to planting for the winter months.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

The Long Wet Summer

As I write the rain is bucketing down and it is the middle of July - what an unusually damp summer it has been!

Let's look on the bright side however - the 'Flowers for Croxley' areas have never looked lovelier and what a beautiful display there has been all over the village - a lot of hard work has gone into this and the rain has done the rest.

The Green has really deserved its name as an emerald oasis, keeping some of the grass long is a wonderful idea and has encouraged some rare plants and flowers to grow in profusion such as Harebell, Ladies Bedstraw, Ragged Robin and many others. There have also been some unusual insects such as glow worm, stag beetles and Cinnabar moths and although bird life has generally suffered this nesting season, a couple of Little Owls nested in the big oak tree on The Green opposite Whitegates. The owls are unusual as they are not nocturnal and can often be seen sitting on telephone lines in day time. Foxes are everywhere in Croxley these days - and they are so tame they stand and watch you as you walk into your garden, probably expecting you to throw them a chicken leg - badgers have also increased as the state of my garden fence shows! They are incredibly strong and apart
(continued overleaf)

from putting up a brick wall, they will move any obstacle in their path as they search for worms.

The really good news is that most people have stopped putting out toxic blue slug pellets which have killed off so many hedgehogs and thrushes and are using the harmless green ones. This has been a summer not for the birds and the bees but for the slugs and the snails - they are everywhere, loving the rain. I have picked up several small buckets of them during the season - if I were in France I could sell them but I prefer to tip them into a tank of salt water.

'Keep Croxley Green' has been our slogan for years - this year, despite rain sodden barbecues, we know what this slogan really means.

David Wynne-Jones

Croxfest

On Saturday 8th September between 12noon and 8pm, Croxley Green once more played

host to the second community music festival now well known as 'Croxfest'.



The weather was extremely kind as thousands of villagers came up to The Green with their families to watch 10 fantastic bands on a professional stage. Picnics were in evidence as were gazebos, blankets, chairs and the occasional sun umbrella as everyone, young and old, enjoyed the truly wonderful atmosphere of this event.

Mark Saxon, the event organiser, said that he was astounded by the numbers that had attended and that he believed it was the single biggest event Croxley had ever

seen.

Hundreds of pounds were raised by both All Saints Church for the refurbishment of their Hall Kitchen and by the Parish Council for their charities; the Sunnyside Club and the Peace Hospice. Without the financial support that the Parish Council provides the Croxley Green Society, events such as Croxfest and Revels simply would not happen. Our local business sponsors are also to be congratulated in supporting this event and we hope that local people make use of their services to support them as they have supported us.

Mark has asked everyone who attended Croxfest to contact the Parish Council (info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk) in order to tell local Councillors that this financial support should continue into the future.

Whilst these events are free to attend, they are not free to organise and the Council plays a



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vital part within this community in supporting these whole village events.

On a similar vein, Mark added that both the Revels and Croxfest are always looking for new volunteers to join either or both organising Committees. In the case of Revels, the same people (with one or two notable exceptions) have been organising the event for well over 20 years and he believes it's now time for the younger generation of Croxley residents to step up to the plate and join the Committees.

Without new blood coming on board, both Revels and possibly Croxfest are in danger of not happening, so, come on, please contact the Croxley Green Society and become part of your Community.

For Revels it's
mail@croxleyrevels.co.uk
For Croxfest it's
croxfestcroxley@yahoo.co.uk

The Community Plan

As most of you will know there is a team of people, all volunteers, from both the Parish Council and the CGRA who are working towards creating a Community Plan (CP). The Parish Council will also produce a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) at the same time. The NP is a document that has some real teeth under the new Localism Act which came into place last November. Both plans work together, there will be a lot in common and they will compliment each other. The CP will cover many topics and will be a blueprint of how we want to see Croxley Green in the future. The NP will deal mainly with planning issues, and help identify what we must safeguard and how we want the village to progress and develop in a sustainable way. At a later stage, we may put the NP to a referendum and, if it is agreed, it will have statutory powers working

with the TRDC local plan.

The first step for both of these plans is to put out a questionnaire to all the residents of Croxley Green. This is to get **your views** on a wide range of issues, the results of which will provide a lot of the information that will go into both plans.

The questionnaire is virtually ready to send to all of you, and a copy will be sent to each household later this autumn. We urge you all to complete the questionnaire **online**, and full details of how to do this will come to you at the same time. This will make it a lot easier to assimilate the answers and analyse them. We are using a programme called 'Survey Monkey', which is well known and very useful when we hope to get up to 12,000 replies!!!

It is very important that you all complete the questionnaire, so your voice is heard to help put together both plans for the future of our wonderful village. Please look out for the questionnaire later on and then complete it online. Thank you very much.

Cllr Chris Mitchell

Safe Pavements for Pedestrians

I first wrote an article on this subject 2 years ago but this problem continues to get worse. So I have altered it a little and make no apologies for addressing the issue again in the hope that, on reading it now, it makes some people take a little more care.

It has again been brought to my attention by several people in New Road that there is an enormous problem of cars mounting the kerb and driving along the pavement when passing oncoming vehicles.

I have witnessed this many times myself. I have 2 young children who either walk along the

pavement with me, or may ride their scooters, and it amazes me the number of 'close shaves' we have had! The worst area that I am aware of is in New Road between the library and the station where there are cars parked on one side of the road. Instead of waiting to pass these when there is adequate time and space, drivers pull round, reducing the space for the traffic in the opposite direction, which in turn leads many of the drivers of these vehicles to mount the pavement, because, of course, they can't wait to let them pass! The huge number of dropped kerbs along this stretch makes this an attractive option for car drivers, however this is not the purpose of a dropped kerb! (They also make the life of the pedestrian very difficult!)

Please, think of the safety of pedestrians when you drive along our roads, especially for our children who may be less visible and road-aware than adults. Take a little more time to let other cars through when space is limited; a moment or two of your time could save a life!

Please remember: the road is for motor vehicles, the pavement **should** be a safe place for pedestrians!

Cllr Janet Martin

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 11 November. The parade leaves Yorke Road at 2pm and the All Saints Church Service commences at 2.30pm. After this wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial on the Green at approximately 3.25pm.

During the two minute silence, traffic across the Green will be stopped by Police in the vicinity of the War Memorial.

Cllr Robert Ridley



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Our Community

Barton Way Allotments Open Day

Barton Way Allotments opened its gates on 14th July so people could take a peep behind the barbed wire and enjoy a guided tour around the grounds.

Despite the rain it was well attended, and people enjoyed the various attractions on offer including a "taster table" providing various food items all made from allotment produce.

For the first time a scarecrow competition was held which proved a big hit.

Over 100 visitors voted for their favourite. First prize went to an adult and child scarecrow, with lady scarecrows taking second and third place.



Other innovative scarecrows included Michael Re-cycle, a hand-carved scarecrow

and a typical British summer one dressed in a diving wet suit. It will definitely become an annual attraction.

Paul Tublin

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



Baldwins Lane

This photo is of some Croxley residents in Baldwins Lane



celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4th June. Many thanks to Cathy, Sarah and family for all their hard work, which made it a great success. We all had a great time and it was lovely to meet other residents in the Lane.



Beechcroft Avenue

The Beechcroft Avenue Street Party was a huge success and we would like to thank the Parish Council very much indeed for the generous grant of £100 towards our costs.

The weather was disappointing, but we didn't let it stop us having fun! In fact some said it was the best street party ever - and Beechcroft Avenue have been holding a "Big Lunch" since 2009 so they should know!



Residents sheltered under gazebos and makeshift canopies, which brought everyone closer together and encouraged conversation. We enjoyed an afternoon tea of delicious sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, and an amazing array of Jubilee themed cakes. All washed down with a nice cup of tea or glass of wine! Brendan and Izzi were deserving winners of the fancy dress competition and we were fortunate to have a band providing live music, which was followed by some impromptu karaoke.

One of the organising committee said: "Obviously it would have been lovely if the sun had shone, and we did briefly consider postponing when we realised it was going to rain. But many people had made arrangements for the Monday so we decided to carry on and the Dunkirk Spirit seemed to surface! People got their wellies out, kept calm and carried on!"



"We do of course hope that the sun shines for our Big Lunch next year when the residents of Beechcroft Avenue will again be dancing in the street!"

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The 'Other' Flowers of Croxley

Many of you will have heard of Flowers for Croxley who, for the past few years, have looked after the outdoor floral displays for the village superbly. What you may not know is that there is another flower group in Croxley that has been going since 1965 which the group meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7.15 for 7.45pm at the Red Cross centre just off Barton Way. The group is affiliated to NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangers). At our meetings you are invited to come and watch a trained demonstrator delight you with her (sometimes his) anecdotes and floral wizardry.



Most months we have a sales table where you can purchase floral accessories, plants, homemade cakes and jams, etc. Also, at the end of each evening, the skilfully designed arrangements are raffled off to lucky members.

We have various outings and other activities during the year. Last year one of our highlights was being able to go to Highgrove (the home of the Prince of Wales), where we had a look around the wonderful gardens, (we were all delighted to see he has weeds as well!). This year we visited the beautiful Kew Gardens on probably the only dry day in June and all had a superb time. Another area with which we get

involved is flower festivals in the local community, the most recent being the St. Oswalds festival to celebrate their 75th anniversary, where we did the floral display at the altar.



We are a very friendly group and would love to welcome new members or you can just come along as a visitor and see what you think. Our next meeting is on Tuesday October 9 at 7.15 for 7.45 pm at the Red Cross Centre off Barton Way, so do come and join us, we look forward to welcoming you.

Further meetings are on Tuesday November 13 and Tuesday December 11.

For any enquiries please contact Jennie Hollands 01923 448382

Croxley Guild of Sport "Cricket Wicket"

The "new" all weather cricket wicket at Croxley Guild of Sport was inaugurated on Jubilee Day this June with a friendly cricket match played by local players.

This "wicket" was funded by the generosity of Croxley Green Parish Council and local sponsors to whom we are indebted.

The all weather cricket wicket is, as far as we know, the only type in the district. It is for the benefit of the community and any local teams are welcome to play. All you have to do is contact John Coen at the Guild on 01923

770534 and book the wicket. It's that simple.

Since the inauguration the following teams have played: Fox and Hounds, Rickmansworth (twice), Rickmansworth School Staff, Royal Mail, Ebury Guild (Football Club) and Croxley Tennis Club. On 22 September we are holding a corporate day which we hope will be a great success.

Our other sporting activities which are open to the community include our Tennis Section, which is without doubt one of the best in Hertfordshire; Bowling Section, which has a superb green and facilities and Football both senior and junior and youth.

Our youth football side is growing from strength to strength which is all down to the sincere commitment of the managers towards the youth of Croxley. We possibly do more for youth football than any other similar organisation in Three Rivers.

Come along and give the Guild your support. The Club is there for you – the residents.

The funding from your Parish Council has not been wasted.

*Cllr Frank Brand
(Croxley Guild of Sport Secretary)*





CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY BUS

DO YOU USE THIS SERVICE?

TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE – EVERY FRIDAY

1ST JOURNEY

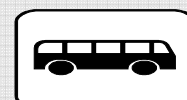
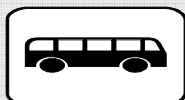
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
Return from Watford	12 noon

2ND JOURNEY

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

3RD JOURNEY

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



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You may be required to show proof of eligibility*

Would you like to see the bus at locations other than those on the existing timetable?
Is there a need for the bus routes to be reviewed?
If so, please write to the Parish Council.

Hobbies & Craft Taster Day

Little Green School, Lincoln Drive

Sunday 14th October

11am - 3pm

Free Admission

See how it's done & have a go!

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Magic with **Auntie Julie**

(children's entertainer)

from 12.30—2.30pm



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Email: info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk
http://www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk

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



EVENTS - dates for your diary

Oct	Saturday 13 October 2012 - Parish Council Surgery at the library 10am until 12 noon
	Sunday 14 October 2012 - Hobbies and Craft Taster Day at Little Green School 11am - 3pm
	Saturday 27 October 2012 - Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park at St. Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth from 10.45am
	Sunday 28 October 2012 - Planting of the Jubilee tree on the Green 2pm
Nov	Saturday 10 November 2012 - Parish Council Surgery at the library 10am until 12 noon
	Sunday 11 November 2012 - Remembrance Day parade and service at All Saints' Church followed by service at the War Memorial (see p9)
	Tuesday 27 November 2012 - Croxley Green Local Area Forum at Harvey Road School
Dec	Wednesday 5 December 2012 - Quiz Night at the Sportsman in aid of the Parish Council Charities
	Saturday 8 December 2012 - Parish Council Surgery at the library 10am until 12 noon
	Friday 21 December 2012 - Parish Council office closes at 12.30pm
Jan	Wednesday 2 January 2013 - Parish Council office opens at 9am
	Saturday 12 January 2013 - Parish Council Surgery at the library 10am until 12 noon
	Thursday 17 January 2013 - Wassail 6pm - 8.30pm in Stones Orchard
Feb	Saturday 9 February 2013 - Parish Council Surgery at the library 10am until 12 noon
Mar	Saturday 9 March 2013 - Parish Council Surgery at the library 10am until 12 noon

Parish Council Meetings - general public welcome



Meetings start at 8pm

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)

War Horse - Update

Croxley's War Horse; The Final Chapter

Following my article in the last edition of The Parish Pump regarding Croxley Green's connection with "War Horse" I have been asked by several people what eventually became of the cavalry horses who served on the battlefields of World War I.

The disposal of these animals was to become a shameful episode for Britain and the War Office.

There is no record as to the exact number of horses sent to the battlefields of France and Belgium from this country. Numbers vary from regiment to regiment against so called official War Office records.

My article related to the Scots Greys (they became Royal Scots Greys in 1877, their official title being 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys).

From the Cavalry Corps war diary, the following figures regarding the Scots Greys are shown:

1st Cav Division - 31 horses killed, 55 died from illness and wounds and 55 destroyed;

2nd Cav Division - 273 killed, 154 died of illness and wounds and 37 destroyed and from the 3rd Cav division - 563 killed, 18 died of illness and wounds and 24 destroyed - a total of 1,210.

From other regimental records we know that the Scots Greys after almost five years of service on the continent returned home on 21 March 1919 via Southampton with a total number of 133 horses. The horses were allowed to return to their natural colour grey.

Large amounts of equine stock were auctioned off in the Benelux countries (as portrayed in Steven Spielberg's "War Horse"). From accounts most ended up on butchers slabs. The War Office in London maintained it would be too costly to bring all the horses home. This short-sightedness caused a severe crisis on the farms of Britain during the early 1920's.

On the Middle East front of World War I where the Australian Light Horse served fighting "Johnny Turk" the horses fared slightly better.

At the war's end, the Light Horsemen were told quarantine regulations could not be relaxed in Australia for their horses. They could not be repatriated and were to be sold locally.

However, the men witnessed daily mistreatment of animals throughout the region and a massive protest swept through the ranks. The Australian Army compromised: those horses fit and young enough would be given to Indian cavalry regiments and the rest would be shot.

The rejects were picketed in olive groves at Tripoli, Syria, given a last nosebag and shot by special squads of marksmen. They were shorn of manes and tails for saleable horse hair, their shoes were salvaged and their skins were cured and sold.

I have in my possession a photograph taken in Palestine in 1917 by Frank Hurley, Australian showing 4 Regiments of 2nd Brigade Australian Light Horse. It is absolutely amazing. There are mounted horses as far as the eye can see; over 4000 horsemen!

The end of World War I was the beginning of the end for the cavalry, both in Europe and the United States. Mechanisation was taking over.

In 1931, General Douglas MacArthur, then Army Chief of Staff, issued an order that US cavalry regiments were to become mechanised and cavalry remount horses were to be destroyed.

An agreement was reached with the Mexican Government to slaughter the horses. Batches of 400-500 horses were driven over the border to be shot in Mexican lime pits.

Lt Marshall Buxton and Sgt John Libby with three troopers took 400 remounts to Mexico but when they saw the slaughter they decided there and then to save their horses. What followed was an amazing story. They drove the horses from the lime pits of Mexico, through the United States and over the Canadian border. The horses were then handed over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Buxton and Libby were court-martialled and imprisoned in Fort Leavenworth. They were eventually pardoned by President Reagan.

The last active engagement by Horse Cavalry was in January 1941 at Bataan, Manila by the US 26th Cavalry against the Japanese.

On 15 March 1942 the last horses (250) of a regular US army unit met their end.

What a way to treat our 'noble' friend!

Cllr Frank Brand

Editorial Group

Cllr Frank Brand
Cllr Janet Martin
Cllr Hazel Seeley
Cllr Wendy Shafe
Cllr David Wynne-Jones
David Allison (Clerk)
Amanda Taft



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