



The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Spring/Summer 2016

Issue No.46

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

Outing Draw Form

Dickinsons Ward

David Bains

COUNCILLORS

441480

Dualey Edmunas	121214
Jeremy Hollands	07762569054
Jussie Kaur	07494416116
Chris Mitchell	775642
Robert Ridley	778638
Mark Saxon	774318
David Wynne-Jones	251905
5	
Durrants Ward	
Kenneth Baldwin	225460
Frank Brand	-
Andrew Gallagher	896366
Amanda Greenman	07706333125
Andy Hobbs	777099
Viral Kataria	07917236142
lan Taft	770136
Cliff Vassiliou	07714286089

From the Chairman



I have now been Chairman for three years, and it really has gone fast. Most people I speak to are thankful for the work we do, and appreciate how Croxley Green looks and feels a better place because we have a Parish Council that represents us all at a local level.

There are a few people who I speak to who don't know much about the Parish Council and what we do. Here is a little background for those who do not know. Parish and Town Councils are the building blocks of democracy and are the most local form of councils. We do not have many duties (things we must do), but do have powers (things we may do) that we can use to improve our local

By using the power of democracy in bringing motions forward to the main council, we can agree to use the money we raise to carry out many projects and ongoing support to "make a difference" to our great village. The main council meetings held 10 months of the year are where most decisions are made.

However we also have three committees;

- Finance and Administration. This reviews the monthly accounts and other financial issues that occur. It is the main method of financial governance for the council.
- Planning and
 Development. This
 committee meets twice a
 month so they can
 comment on all planning
 applications that come
 up in Croxley Green. We
 are a mandatory
 consultee, and TRDC do
 take our comments into
 account.
- Environment and Amenity. This committee leads on many projects for the environment and reviews the works list for the rangers.

We also have a number of working parties to take projects and events forward. Working parties report into one of the committees or the full council.

So what do we achieve? This includes PCSOs to help with security, employing two rangers who maintain many parts of the village, including the Green and many of the footpaths, Community Bus and an annual seaside trip for the elderly. We work in partnership with Flowers 4 Croxley to add colour to our streets, and also the Canal and River Trust to help improve the canal. You can see the canal improvements by looking at Common Moor lock.

One of our councillors, the staff or a working party, organises the dog show, New Year's Eve Fireworks, the Wassail, the Christmas tree at the Library and the Christmas market. We also provide some funding to support the Revels and Croxfest. We help fund some one-off projects that benefit the community carried out by other organisations, for instance, the History Project by the Croxley Green Residents Association, which is now live—see page 11.

We are in contact with TfL about the Metropolitan Line Extension (was Croxley Rail Link) Project and our influence did help improve the design of the viaduct. TfL have now taken over this project and as you know works are underway to relocate the services in the two Bridges area. We

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will continue to represent residents on the consultation forum that TFL have set up.

One issue in particular is that we believe that some of the land that TRDC currently owns, i.e. the Green, Stones Orchard, and may other plots, should be handed over to us. We are the council closest to the residents, and it should be a simple transfer. We are working towards this with TRDC and we are pushing for a meeting now the elections are over.

The Localism Act 2011 is an important part of Government's ambitions to devolve power to the local level. It provides some helpful tools for local communities and councils to act on communities' needs and aspirations.

One of these tools is the Neighbourhood Plan—see page 8. We have carried out a lot of work so far, and we now have a "Final Consultation Draft". It is on our website and also you can see a hard copy in the library. If you want a hard copy please contact the office. We do want your comments, and also if all you want to say is that you agree with it.

Most people who have seen it consider it a very good document and support it. However I have had a few questions;

- How did this come about?
 Ans. The 2011 Localism Act started this. The first step was the Council deciding to proceed. This happened in 2013 following the Community Plan survey questionnaire. We then had to determine the area, i.e. the Croxley Green parish area, and we consulted on this with local residents during 2013/14.
- When will there be a Referendum? Ans. This is the final step, which we plan for May 2017. If the residents vote in favour of the plan, then it will become part of TRDC planning policies for Croxley Green.
- Will the plan end up costing Croxley Green money? Ans. In fact it will mean that our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy will increase from 15% capped at £100 per household, to 25% uncapped. This will mean Croxley Green will receive a lot more money in the

future if we have a Neighbourhood Plan.

We are so lucky that we have a very clear defined boundary, and are mostly surrounded by beautiful countryside. This countryside is ALL protected Green Belt, and if it was not so, it would have been developed now. Croxley Green is a popular and now expensive place to live, so the pressures on the Green Belt are even • greater, especially when you hear murmurings from Government Ministers saying the Green Belt has to be built on, and also there are record number of homes being built on Green Belt land. In our view, we must protect the Green Belt as much as we can over the coming years, as once it is gone that is the end of it.

The Parish Council is here to give a strong voice for our community and also to carry out works that keep our village looking good. Please support the Parish Council in any way you can and do come to any of our meetings that interest you. You can see what is coming up on our website.

Thank you.

Chris Mitchell, Chairman

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 28 April 2016

Chairman's Report

Thank you all for coming. As I have said before, I believe that Croxley Green is a very special place to live, work and play. It is down to the many organisations and people who make things happen. The Parish Council support many of these organisations through mainly one off help on projects and also organise events and provide services to improve our village and community. I am going to run through them:

What we do.

- PCSO's to help keep a feeling of security
- We have two rangers who do an excellent job in keeping Croxley Green looking great
- Community Bus for the elderly, I have been told that it is the often the highlight of the week for many. 2191 passenger trips last year
- Annual seaside trip for the elderly.

Last year they went to Clacton.

- Neighbourhood Plan, more later.
- Three Canal Volunteer days at Common Moor lock, makes quite a difference.
- Rangers work on the extra Green (Buddleia Walk)

Events

- Remembrance Day we booked the brass band for the procession and also on the Green
- Dog Show, for the fourth year
- Fireworks. Still so popular and this year being one of the best!!
- Wassail. Now becoming a tradition!!
- The Revels
- Croxfest
- Barn Dance
- Christmas tree at the Library and the Christmas lights and carol singing - (see below)



First festive market - (see below)



Many are free to join in with, and they are open for all. These are the things that contribute towards Croxley Green being a community rather than

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just a dormitory village.

Issues that affect us

Croxley link now Metropolitan Line Extension.

 TFL have now taken over the lead in this project, and you have had an update.

Neighbourhood Plan

 It is so important that we get this done, as it gives us more control over what happens in Croxley Green, and also ensures that 25%, comes to Croxley Green from what is now called the Community Investment Levy, or CIL. At the moment we only get 15%, and capped at £100 per property.

Now out to consultation, so responses welcome—visit our web site.

Charities

Monies raised for charities this last year was around £2,000 for the Peace Hospice and the Food Bank. The Barn Dance, collections at Croxfest, the Dog Show and the Wassail and maybe more after the sale of a signed Watford shirt.

Other issues

I have attended a meeting with the other parishes in TRDC, along with our Clerk. This is to see what common issues we have and work together, especially in dealing with TRDC.

One issue in particular is that we believe that some of the land that TRDC own, i.e. The Green, Stones Orchard, and may other plots, should be handed over to us. We are the council closest to the residents, and it should be a simple transfer. At the last meeting they were more positive, however we are trying to get a meeting on this issue only, and so far no response.

We did have a meeting with the clerk from Harpenden Town Council, and they have taken over quite a lot of land. So we know there is a precedent and also the processes used.

Finally, the election.

 Only four people stood in Durrants ward, for eight seats so we have four co-opted councillors now to make the eight.

 Eight people stood in Dickinson ward for the eight seats.

The next three years are going to very interesting as I do believe that powers will continue to be pushed towards the Parish Councils for many different reasons.

For example, the cuts, and the promises about devolution. We are the building block of democracy and providing services. Let's make the most of it.

Thanks to our Clerk, Admin Officer, the rangers, the PCSO's. Also great thanks to the Councillors for their time in attending meetings and making the decisions etc. Please remember they are volunteers, and we do not get any allowances for our time. Also, a great thanks to all the volunteers to who directly help us deliver our services, and to all of you who do something to help Croxley Green.

I hope you support the work that we do for all of you to:

- Provide extra services
- Support events
- Maintain the village to a high standard

By doing this and working together with others, we help keep Croxley Green a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Thank you.

Cllr Chris Mitchell Chairman of the Parish Council

Environment & Amenity Committee Report

It seems that some of the issues addressed in previous reports are still with us. The proposed development at the bottom of Baldwins Lane, potential development at Killingdown Farm and the continued threat to our Green Belt protection. You will hear some people say that there is no real threat to our Green Belt and that bricks and mortar are more important than green spaces. Fortunately there are many who value the green spaces that serve as a buffer between the sprawl of our towns and cities and, like me, fight to protect them.

Although your Parish Council is still

keen to engage with TRDC on taking over areas of Croxley Green it is with considerable regret that I have to report a complete lack of progress. However, the taking on of the Green, Croxley Hall Woods and Stones Orchard are still very much in my mind and I will be putting some pressure on our Chairman to restart the conversations with TRDC.

We had another highly enjoyable Wassail this year and looking at the amount of blossom on the trees it would seem, once again, to have been successful. For the past few years there has been a profusion of wild flowers in the meadow area and it remains gratifying to see the number of people, of all ages, enjoying the sights and sounds of Stones Orchard.

The work on the Metropolitan Line extension has now started and I do wonder if TRDC will be as quick to act on complaints of excess noise as it was in the case of the village clock!

Your Councillors continue to involve themselves with "green" matters outside of the Parish Council. Cllr Wynne-Jones and I are members of the TRDC Environmental Forum where Cllr Wynne-Jones represents the Parish Council and I represent the CPRE (of which the PC is a member).

We will be holding our annual Dog Show on the last Sunday in September. This has become increasingly popular and very much a family event. We have been fortunate with the weather (with one notable exception) and I am hoping for another fine and sunny day this year. Do come along and bring your dog if you have one: if you don't borrow one!

There seems to be an increasing number of dogs in Croxley Green and by far the majority of owners are excellent in picking up after their dogs. To the very, very few that don't, please be advised that you will be seen and you will be reported as your unacceptable behaviour tarnishes the reputation of the rest of us!

As usual I would like to thank the members of the E&A committee for their time and input this last year. I would also like to thank our Head Ranger Phillip Hinton for the truly excellent work he has done and the care and attention he pays to the

environment of Croxley Green. Some on the development next to the Shell of you will know that our second Ranger, Oliver, has left to go travelling and I am delighted to advise that his replacement James Townley will be joining Phillip to make, what I believe will be, an outstanding team. We can all help our Rangers by ensuring that we do not drop litter! Thanks also to our Clerk who is always there to support and help with our events and tasks.

E&A meetings are open to the public and I encourage you come along and speak on any agenda item that interests and/or concerns you. We really do like to hear your views.

Cllr Dudley Edmunds Chairman, E&A Committee

Planning & Development **Committee Report**

The Planning and Development Committee has sat 22 times since the 20th May 2015 with no meeting being cancelled.

We have looked at 178 planning application, the majority of which have been for residential extensions.

I am pleased to announce that Three Rivers District Council only disagreed with our comments on six of these planning matters and two of these six were for Telecommunication Masts allowed under Permitted Development.

I must congratulate all of the members of the Planning Committee who, although not trained in planning matters, are able to look objectively at plans and provide a high level of correct interpretation in making their decisions.

This is particularly so in the case of our new Councillors, Kaur, Hobbs and Gallagher, and I must also mention the significant input of Councillors Baldwin, Wynne-Jones and Bains; Councillor Bains having stood in for me when I have been unable to Chair the meetings.

The Committee have been concerned at the continuing cases of poor design and cramped development in back land or garden developments particularly behind 163-169 New Road and The Studio at the rear of the butchers shop in New Road.

We were extremely disappointed that the 2 'affordable units' due to be built

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Petrol Garage were removed from the plans, on payment to Three Rivers District Council of s106 money. We know from previous occasions that this money is unlikely to be spent in Croxley. Although allowed by planning law, this decision continues to prevent first time buyers being given a choice of housing in Croxley and continues to make our Parish one of the least affordable places to live in Hertfordshire for first time buyers.

Although it was just outside the Parish, we felt it absolutely necessary to raise our objections to the proposed massive development on the Wolsey Business Park on Tolpits Lane comprising 401 housing 'units'. This development would have significantly affected views of Croxley Common Moor and we were surprised that the developer tried to intimidate the Committee via The Clerk once he had communicated our views to Three Rivers District Council. Although this proposal was withdrawn by the developer, we can expect it to return in an undisguised fashion once more.

The Metropolitan Line Extension is now underway and we can expect significant but temporary road closures and traffic congestion during the construction phase. However this is a major infrastructure project which should bring continued prosperity to this area.

The situation concerning the new school at the bottom of Baldwins Lane, now apparently renamed Croxley Danes School is unclear and the lack of information concerning its progress is worrying but not surprising bearing in mind the parties involved.

Our thanks go to Councillor Gallagher for the work he has done on a number of projects including both the Neighbourhood Plan and Watford Road Parking.

The Neighbourhood Plan when it comes into being will have a significant impact on planning matters within the Parish for anyone who wants to build, alter, extend or add to their property.

It is vital that this fact is communicated loud and clear to our residents so that they can make an informed choice of whether to vote for it or not. It will provide clear guidance

on what is and what is not considered to be acceptable in the various character areas in Croxley in order to keep our identity as a separate community that is neither Watford nor Rickmansworth.

Cllr Mark Saxon Chairman, P&D Committee

Finance & Administration **Committee Report**

The draft accounts show that our income was £287k and expenditure is £244k. We have transferred £29k to our reserves for specific items and the balance to our general reserves which will bring our overall reserves to near recommended levels. However, some of the reserves will be used for next year's budget. The budget for next year is projected to be £294k with a Precept of £284k.

Budgets have been tight, and there is a grant that we get that is reducing that comes via TRDC from central government. It has been even further reduced for next year, from £8.5k to less than £4.3k and will be £0 in the next budget year (2017/18). We decided that we did not want to cut services, so we have a small increase. It works out at an average of £2.00 per year per household. One risk was a charge for TRDC for election costs from 5 years ago. This was heading towards £12k, but we agreed a figure of £6k. The amount we are able to put into reserves brings us up to close to the recommended level of general reserves for a council. This means we are in a good financial order.

The F&A committee keep good governance on the finances of the Council, and we meet once most months to scrutinise the expenditure of the month and look at how the expenditure for the year is progressing. Also two councillors have to sign cheques for complete due diligence on payments.

We are here to serve you and to run our council in a "proper" way, and I am comfortable that this has been the case. Our auditors have been satisfied at the way we run the council budgets. The funds we use mainly go to provide the service to make Croxley Green special. It's the little things that make the difference.

Cllr Chris Mitchell Chairman, F&A Committee

EVENTS - dates for your diary

May Saturday, 28 May — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am

Monday, 13 June — Draw for the Senior Citizen's day trip to Eastbourne

Saturday, 18 June—Croxley Revels 1.30-5pm

June Wednesday, 22 June — Senior Citizen's day trip to Eastbourne

Saturday, 25 June — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am

July Saturday, 30 July — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am

Wednesday, 3 August 2016 — Classic Cars on The Green 2pm until late

Saturday, 27 August — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am

Saturday, 3 September — Croxfest noon until 8pm

Saturday, 10 September — Great Pram Race

Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am

Sept Sunday, 18 September — Classic Cars on The Green with Carter's Steam Fair 10am-5pm Saturday, 24 September — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am

Sunday, 25 September 2016—Dog Show in Stones Orchard from 12noon

Monday, 3 October—Nomination Forms for the "Hazel Seeley Award" available at the Parish Council office or on our website

Saturday, 29 October — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of

Nov
Sunday, 13 November — Remembrance Day with Marching Band
Tuesday, 29 November — Local Area Forum at Harvey Road School at 7.30pm

i ue:

CROXLEY · GREEN

PARISH + COUNCIL

Oct

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY BUS

DO YOU USE THIS SERVICE?

TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE - EVERY FRIDAY

1 ST JOURNEY		2 ND JOURNEY	
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am	Sycamore Approach	10.00am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am	Valley Walk (Green)	10.01am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am	Valley Walk/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am	Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
Hanover House	9.37am	Chalmers Court	10.08am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am	All Saints Lane (outside church)	10.10am
Return from Watford	12 noon	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



CROXLEY · \ GREEN

PARISH . COUNCIL

FREE SERVICE

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

Page 6	The Parish Co	ouncil Bu	dget	2016-2017	ne Parish Pump
Finance	<u>& Administration</u>	Budget (£)	4018	Refuse Disposal	0
			4036	Property Maintenance	500
<u>101</u>	General Administration		4037	Grounds Maintenance	1,500
			4038	Maintenance Contracts	2,000
4001	Salaries & Wages	80,000	4041	Equipment Hire	0
4007	Courses / Conferences	0	4042	Equipment Maintenance	1,500
4008	Training	500	4046	Equipment Purchased	500
4009	Travel	1,300	4051	Vehicle License & Insurance	2,500
4011	Rates	2,900	4055	Fuel & Oil - LS08 WCP	1,000
4012	Water Rates	560	4060	Fuel & Oil - Groundworks	840
4013	Rent	110	4070	Maintenance - LS08 WCP	560
4013	Light & Heat	3,000	4071	Maintenance - Tractor	1,100
4014	_		4072	Maintenance - Ride on Mower	500
	Janitorial	1,400			
4017	Health & Safety	270		OverHead Expenditure	72,470
4019	Consultancy Fees	2,700			
4020	Misc Establishment Costs	400	1061	Agency Income - HCC Mtce	0
4021	Telephone & Fax	1,600	1062	Agency Income - TRDC Mrce	0
4023	Stationery, Printing & Postage	4,000	1080	Miscellaneous Income	0
4025	Insurance	3,900		Total Inco	-
4027	Computer Software & IT	2,500		103 Net Expenditu	re 72,470
4030	Recruitment Advertising	2,500	<u>107</u>	Grants (incl S137)	
4036	Property Maintenance	400	4200	Chairman's Charity Expenditure	3,000
4156	Audit Fees - External	1,000	4260	Community Hall Membership Grai	nt 8,988
4157	Audit Fees - Internal	910	4711	S137 Grants	1,500
4158	Accountancy Fees	880		Stained Glass Window or Doors at All Saints	5,000
	OverHead Expenditure	110,830		Tfr from Reserves	-5,000
1001	Rent Received	10		OverHead Expenditure	13,488
1076	Precept	284,021		·	
1080	Miscellaneous Income	4,277	1077	Grants Received	0
1090	Interest Received	30	1200	Chairmans Charity Income	3,000
	Total Income	288,338		Total Inco	
	101 Net Expenditure	-177,508		107 Net Expenditu	
<u>102</u>	Local Democracy	,	<u>150</u>	Community/Village Hall	
				Works Transfer from reserves	0
4024	Subscriptions/Publications	7,400		Hansier Holli reserves	U
4033	Parish Pump Newsletter	3,400		Occarding a different	0
4201	Chairman's Allowance	500		OverHead Expenditure	0
4251	Election Expenses	5,000		Total Inco	
4300	Events - Revels on the Green	350		150 Net Expenditu	ire 0
	OverHead Expenditure	16,650	<u>199</u>	F & A Capital & Projects Sale of Assets	0
			4175		
1031	Map Income	0	4823	Tfr to Vehicle Repl Fund	4,000
1051	Advertising Income	1,600	4824	Tfr to Equipt Repl Fund	3,000
	Ğ	·		Annual Civic Award	200
	Total Income	1,600		Depot Extension (Phase 1 - Plans	,
	102 Net Expenditure	15,050		Transfer from Reserves (Depot Ex	-3,000
	102 Net Experientale	10,000	4963	PCSO	28,500
<u>103</u>	<u>Groundworks</u>	Budget (£)			_3,000
100	<u> </u>	_uugut (~)		OverHead Expenditu	ire 35,700
4001	Salaries & Wages	57,200		199 Net Expenditu	
	Salaries & Wages				- 3, 3
4006	Protective Clothing	340		Finance & Admin. Totals - Expenditu	re 249,138
4008	Training	500		- Inco	
4010	Misc Staff Costs	730		- IIICOI	202,000
4012	Water Rates	700		Not Francis 114	42.000
4017	Health & Safety	500		Net Expenditu	-43,800

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Envir	onment & Amenit	<u>ty</u>		<u>221</u>	<u>M S C</u>	
202	The Creen			4042	Equipment Maintenance	1,00
<u> 202</u>	The Green				OverHead Expenditure	1,00
1042	Equipment Mainte	enance	0		221 Net Expenditure	1,00
1072	Fly Tipping	Charlot	500	299	E & A Capital & Projects	,
	,		000	4932	War Memorial Updating	20
	OverHead Exper	adituro	500	4938	Brown Bin Caddy Liners	25
	Overneau Exper	lulture	300	4961	Plaques on oak trees/Metasequoia	1,46
		000 N (F III	500	4969	Canal Adoption Scheme/Towing Path works	40
		202 Net Expenditure	500		Local Producers Market	30
				4933	Information Board - Stones Orchard Defribilators - new	1,00 1,50
<u> 203</u>	Open Spaces &	<u>Trees</u>			Definibilators - new Defribilators - maintenance	1,50 50
					Tfr from Reserves (ex War memorial 2014)	-20
	Plants. Shrubs &	Trees - General	500		Tfr from Reserves (ex Market 2014)	-30
	Dog Hygiene		10,000		Tfr from Reserves (if required)	-1,46
1699	Stones Orchard	- Hedging	1,500		Tfr from Reserves (ex Info Board 2005/06)	-1,00
	Fund	Hadaa Canault	0			
		- Hedge Consult			OverHead Expenditure	2,65
	Tuesday for D	- Projects	1,000		Net Expenditure	2,65
	1 ransfer from Rei 2015)	serves (ex Projects	-1,000			
	Transfer from Re	serves	-500	1077	Grants and Donations Received	
		ex Hedging 2014)	-1,000	1082	Brown Bin Caddy Liners	40
	110111110001100 (5X 110 dgillig 2011)	1,000			
	OverHead Exper	nditure	10,500		Environment & Amenity - Expenditure	31,40
			.0,000		- Income	60
077	Grants Received		0			
0	Dog Bag Dona-		200		Net Expenditure	30,80
	tions		200	<u>Plann</u>	ing & Development	
				<u>301</u>	Roads & Street Furniture	
		Total Income	200	4043	Salt Bins/Salt	50
		203 Net Expenditure	10,300	4047	Footpath Maintenance	1,00
			,	4050	Bus Shelters	10
11	Events			4056	Street Trees CMS Grant for Footpath Maint.	2,00 -1,00
<u></u>	LVents				Tfr from Reserves (ex Salt Bins/Salt 2014)	-1,00 -50
1604	Cardan Campati		0		From Reserves (ex Street Trees -2015)	-2,00
1001	Garden Competi- tion		0		OverHead Expenditure	10
602	Quiz Night		50		301 Net Expenditure	10
	Christmas Lights		8,500	<u> 302</u>	Community Bus	
	Fireworks on		5,000	4702	Community Bus	6,90
	Green		0,000		OverHead Expenditure	6,90
611	Senior Citizens S	easide/Outing	1,200		302 Net Expenditure	6,90
	Library Xmas Tre	•	500	<u>399</u>	P & D Capital & Projects	
	Picnic in the Park		0		Community/Neighbourhood Plan	10,00
617	Wassail		150		Community Plan publication	
618	Dog Show		200		Carbon footprint reduction/Sustainability	25
	Local Travel Map		1,000		Tow path Cyclists speed reduction signage	1,00
	Bird Boxes		150		Tfr from Reserves for Neighbourhood Plan	-5,00
	Remembrance D	ay - Brass Band	250		Tfr from Reserves (Carbon Footprint ex 2012)	-25
	Poppies on The	•	250		0 - 11 - 15 15	
	Green				OverHead Expenditure	6,00
	The Great Pram		500		399 Net Expenditure	6,00
	Race Tfr from Reserve	s (Local Travel Map)	-1,000			
	. II II OIII I (GSEIVE	c (Loodi Havel Map)	- 1,000		Planning & Development - Expenditure	13,00
	OverHead Exper	nditure	16,750		- Income	
	Overrieau Exper	IMITUI G	10,730			
	Miscollansaus		^		Net Expenditure	13,00
$\Delta \Omega \Delta$	Miscellaneous		0			
080	Income				- 4 1 - 1 4 - 14	202 52
080	Income				Total Budget Expenditure	293,53
1080	Income	Total Income	0		Total Budget Expenditure Total Income	293,53 293,53

Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plan – where we are and what happens next (how will it affect YOU?)

Last year's Parish Pump had a long article on the Neighbourhood Plan. Since then a small working party, ably supported by a professional architect and town planner, Peter Goodwin, has completed a draft for consultation which is on the Parish Council website.

Many people in Croxley Green do not seem to realise just how important the Neighbourhood Plan will be. It is going to affect everyone who lives in Croxley Green, because, when it is adopted, it will become part of the statutory planning framework which governs house building and extensions.

The policies in the Plan will be used by Three Rivers Planning Officers and the Planning Committee when considering planning applications, and by Planning Inspectors when considering appeals against decisions. And they will be applied by the Parish Council when commenting on planning applications.

The aims of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- To maintain Croxley Green as a place to live, work and flourish and to keep the community 'family friendly'.
- To ensure that the use of land enhances the "village" and protects the built environment.
- To maintain the semi-rural character by protecting and improving the green spaces and keeping rights of way.
- To ensure that new buildings are environmentally friendly and built to the highest standards in terms of sustainability and sensitivity to their surroundings.

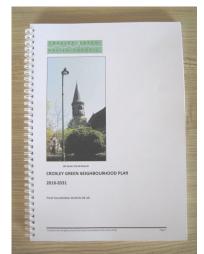
The overall approach supports the Parish Council's aim – "keeping Croxley special".

The built environment – the houses and other buildings that give character to the different parts of Croxley Green – are one of the main things that make Croxley Green special. The Plan has specific

policies for each of nine separate Character Areas, as well as overall policies for the whole of Croxley Green.

The objectives of the Character Area and Heritage policies are:

- To preserve and enhance local character by sympathetic development whatever the proposed use.
- To encourage all new housing developments to be appropriate for the Parish's needs, to suit the Character Area in which they are located and to be of the highest standard of design, construction and sustainability.
- To ensure that all residential extensions are appropriate in scale, design and materials for the Character Area in which they are located.



The Neighbourhood Plan front cover so you can recognise it—the plan is on our web site and in the Library to view

The next stage in the development of the plan is "informal consultation". A copy is being sent to a wide range of official bodies that have an interest in local plans and to a wide range of organisations within Croxley Green, inviting their comments. At the same time Three Rivers District Council is having the Plan reviewed professionally, to ensure that it will be "fit for purpose". Once all those consulted have commented (or the deadline has expired), the Plan will be revised in the light of those comments and submitted to Three

Rivers District Council for adoption.

Three Rivers District Council will send the revised Plan to the formal consultees for their formal comments and then, with the comments, to a Planning Inspector who will review it and the comments and recommend any necessary changes. Once these have been taken on board the Plan will be put to a public referendum of Croxley Green residents (probably in May 2017). Provided a majority vote in favour, the plan will then be formally adopted by Three Rivers District Council.

That probably all sounds a bit longwinded but it is because this will be an official part of the Local Planning Policy for Croxley Green and have statutory force.

So now is the time to read the draft Neighbourhood Plan (and the Appendices) on the Parish Council's website, at the Parish Council office or at the library and decide how it will affect you and your neighbours, and whether you want to comment, or not.

Cllr Chris Mitchell

Community Plan – update

The Residents Association and the Parish Council surveyed residents' views in 2012 under seven themes, the initial analysis of the results of the survey was published in June 2013, and reported in the Parish Pump in Autumn/Winter 2013. Since then the Community Plan has taken a back seat whilst we worked on the Neighbourhood Plan, which has been based on the results from the survey. In parallel an effort was made to develop a Community Plan covering subjects that are not part of the Neighbourhood Plan and some draft text was prepared during 2014 covering a number of the topics in the Survey under the headings:

- Background
- What you told us in the survey
- What matters for the future
- What we intend to do.

The proposed topics for the Community Plan (some of which are covered in more depth by the Neighbourhood Plan) now include:

- Administrative and legal context
- History of Croxley Green

- Croxley Green today
- Natural environment & Green Spaces
- Built environment (planning, housing, etc.)
- Transport & Road Safety
- Health and Well-being)
- Leisure, Recreation and local facilities
- Safe Society
- Business, Commerce and Employment
- Young people and Education

The problem, as with all the Parish Council's initiatives, is that progress depends on finding enough willing volunteers who have the relevant expertise and can spare the time to make an effective contribution. So, for the moment, progress has stalled. If anyone would be interested to help take this forward, volunteers would be welcome.

Cllr Andrew Gallagher

Croxley Great Barn Tour Dates 2016

Great news for all Croxley residents is that the Great Barn is open for visitors again this year. Thanks to Barbara Owen, Rickmansworth



Updates

Museum and St Joan of Arc Catholic School; a happy compromise has been worked out.

The Barn is open on the last Saturday of each month. Dates are 28 May, 25 June, 30 July, 27 August, 24 September and 29 October.

Join us at Caravan Lane, Rickmansworth High Street (east end) at 10.30am for a ten minutes' walk. Guided tours last about an hour. Wear appropriate footwear as the lane can be muddy. School groups and others are especially welcome.

Enquires to 01923 772325 or 019823 251905 or email enquiries@trmt.org.uk

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

The "Hazel Seeley Award"

Last year the Parish Council agreed to present an annual civic award to someone who has improved the lives of the people within the Parish or someone who has provided services to the community of Croxley Green.

At the Annual Parish Meeting back in April this award was presented by the Chairman, Cllr Chris Mitchell, to the award's namesake – Hazel Seeley. Hazel served as a Parish Councillor for 18 years up until 2015 and she was also one of the founders of the Flowers4Croxley group. As well as this, she also helped to raise money over the years for the Parish Council's various charities.

Hazel stated that she was delighted to be the first person to receive the



"Hazel Seeley Award" and added that she had really enjoyed the time she spent on the Parish Council. Hazel has lived in Croxley Green for 78 years and she thinks it is a lovely place to live. Hazel said that she was flattered with the honour of being the first recipient of the "Hazel Seeley Award" and also that it was named after her.

Nomination forms for next year will be available at the Parish Council office from October and will also be available on the Parish Council's website.

New Parish Council Ranger

The Parish Council is delighted to welcome James Townley who started as a Ranger on 10 May.



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 - Thursday 19 May 2016

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)

Met Line Extension

Metropolitan Line Extension

In November last year, Transport for London took over the delivery of the Metropolitan Line Extension (MLX), previously known as the Croxley Rail Link (CRL).

The MLX project will enhance the rail network, providing access from the Metropolitan Line into Watford town centre and creating interchange opportunities between Underground services, London Overground and National Rail services at Watford High Street and Watford Junction stations. The core purpose of the project is to help unlock the investment potential of Watford and drive growth in the region.

Two new fully accessible stations will be created at Cassiobridge and Watford Vicarage Road, served by new air-conditioned trains. These stations will mean 2,700 additional households will fall within an 800m catchment area of a railway station, which will be crucial to supporting growth and regeneration in the area. Research has estimated that the MLX will help create over 6,500 jobs and add £2bn to the local economy.

Once the new link is open the existing Watford Metropolitan Line station will close although the tracks will be retained for use as sidings.

The main construction work is due to begin later this year, subject to contract negotiations, with delivery into service targeted for December 2020.

In preparation for building the new viaduct over Baldwins Lane and the Watford Road, utility services (gas, water, electricity and telecommunications) are being diverted near the Two Bridges roundabout. The latest information on current works can be found on the TfL website www.tfl.gov.uk/met-line-extension.

Whilst some disruption will be unavoidable, the project team will aim to give plenty of notice about work and any likely impact on residents and businesses and will work closely with contractors to manage, minimise and mitigate any disruption from the work.

As well as regular notification letters, a Community Liaison Group has been set up with Three Rivers District Council, providing a forum through which:

- The MLX team can provide information on the progress of the project and advance notice of work schedules
- Interested parties can raise matters of interest or concern

regarding the construction works

 The MLX team can demonstrate how the project is meetings its commitments

The group is chaired by a Three Rivers District Council councillor, and consists of members are in touch with local concerns and who can represent local people, including two Parish Councillors, Chris Mitchell and [who is the other one?]. The meetings are held in public so that anyone interested may attend. The first Three Rivers Community Liaison Group took place on 16th March and the presentation and draft minutes from the meeting are available on the MLX webpage. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 June 2016.

Historic information about the CRL development is available on-line at www.croxleyraillink.com. For the latest information on the MLX project visit www.tfl.gov.uk/met-line-extension. You can e-mail mlx@tfl.gov.uk if you have a query or would like to receive e-mail updates on the MLX.

Olivia White, Stakeholder Communications Manager, Metropolitan Line Extension, TfL)



Updates

The Council's New Website

Have you visited our new website yet?

If not, do try it out. Developed by KVA Digital the website has new features including a virtual noticeboard where organisers of events and activities and other items of interest to the community can be posted simply by filling in the form.

There is also a new Public Consultation page where the Council will make consultation documents and information available to residents to view and feedback their comments by using the form provided on the page. Currently, the Council is consulting on its Neighbourhood Plan and full details and the Plan itself is available on that page—see also page 8.

The site is full of information about the Parish Council and includes all the usual information about the Council, who we are and what we do and includes Agendas for forthcoming meetings and Minutes of previous meetings. There's information about some of the areas in Croxley Green under the Places and Spaces in the Environment section and you can read about Croxley Green by its street names. In the Information section you can check on local road works, report a highways fault from anything like a street light not working to pot holes in the road and bushes overhanging pavements

Since the site is fully responsive, whether you view from desktop, iPad or mobile, the site will reformat to suit your screen size (see picture below).



The site was launched in November 2015 and replaced our old site, which was some 7 years old. Technology has moved on a lot in those 7 years and our new website which will be progressively added to has a new fresh look.

So go and try it out at www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk.

Public Access Defibrillators in Croxley Green

The first recorded defibrillation took place in France in 1899 and was on a dog. The external defibrillator as known today was invented in 1930. The first use on a human was in 1947. Over the next 50 years the defibrillator developed from an open heart instrument to the external paddle type seen in the likes of Casualty, ER or Grey's Anatomy. There was one further development and that was the portable defibrillator or "Packer Whacker" as it was called in Australia after its successful use on Kerry Packer the Sports/TV Mogul.



The portable unit has been developed further resulting in the AED or automated external defibrillator. This unit takes the guesswork out of using the device as it instructs the user on how and when to use it. It also prevents its own use if it not required. Because the units can be used by untrained users AEDs started being placed in public places, where since their introduction they have saved thousands of lives.

About a year ago the Parish Council in partnership with CGRA and HCC decided to look at placing a network of AEDs in the village. On Friday 29th April 3 IPAD AEDs were delivered to the Parish Offices ready for installation. The first will be

installed outside the Council offices in Community way, another will be at the Baptist Church in Baldwins Lane. The third site will be announced shortly. This is the start of a programme that could see 5 or 6 units being positioned around the village to make access to a unit as quick as possible and help to save lives.

Each unit will be registered with the East of England Ambulance service who will direct responders to the AED nearest to an incident. They will also supply the code to unlock the unit and stay in contact to help anybody who is using it.

Once units are up and running more details will be put on the website and it is hoped to have a demonstration at the next Local Area Forum with a Q&A session.

I have been involved in this project since re-joining the Council in May last year and I hope that like me you will see the benefits to the community of these lifesaving machines. Let's hope we never have to use them but knowing that they are there has the potential to save lives.

Jeremy Hollands, Vice Chairman

Croxley Green Dog Show

The Parish Council holds an annual Dog Show, in Stones Orchard, and this seems to be fairly well fixed for the last Sunday in September. The event has been very well attended and has a loyal and hardworking band of enthusiasts who, with virtually no organising, put the show on, do the judging and obtain sponsorship.

The event starts at noon and there are classes for all whether young, old, male, female or the possessor of a wondrously waggy tail! The turnout, especially on a fine day, is really excellent and it is quite clear from the comments received that everyone has a most enjoyable time. Local dog trainers Dober Dayz have supported the event by providing a "have a go" agility course and their participation is very much appreciated. As, indeed, is the help from those that set up the ring and the gazebo and help the event to run smoothly: special thanks to the Rangers and the Parish Clerk for their help before, on and after the Show. For the last two or three years we have been sponsored by the

Updates

Artichoke and the Coach and Horses and I hope that both have benefited from some extra trade on the day! We are always delighted to hear from potential sponsors and would be very pleased to hear from someone who could provide a PA system or sponsor the hire of one.



In the past there has been some misinformation about the funding of the Dog Show which has an allocation within the Parish Council Annual Budget. The money for the rosettes and any other prize for the Dog Show, has come from sponsorship. In fact the only charge is that levied by TRDC for the use of the Orchard.

We very much hope to see you at the Dog Show in September, with your dog, or simply to enjoy the event.

Cllr Dudley Edmunds

Wassail

During recent years two events have become fixtures on the Croxley Green Calendar, our Dog Show and our Wassail.

The exact origin of Wassail has been in lost in the depths of time but, as an event, it is very much alive and healthy, particularly in the West Country. However, as Croxley Green has an extremely good orchard it seemed a good idea to create our own Wassail Ceremony. Like the Dog Show, Wassail is a Parish Council sponsored event so having gained approval it was necessary to sort out the format and get some help. The definitive book of Wassail is "Wassailing, Reawakening an Ancient Folk Custom" by Colin and Karen Cater (who, I am delighted to say, joined us for our second year) and this gave the bones of the Ceremony. Wassail varies throughout the country, some celebrations may consist of a very few people whilst others are big

public events. Some are organised by local interest groups, some by local authorities and some by the local church. We decided to set the traditional date of January 17th (Old Twelfth Night) and the foundations of the ceremony were laid. We are fortunate to have the enthusiastic help of Phoenix Morris and our own Croxley Mummers who bring colour and humour and an equally enthusiastic group of folk musicians to lead the singing. In fact, our very own Croxley Wassail Song was penned by Watford folk musician Chris Lawley who adapted a traditional tune for his words. Keeping it in the family, Chris's wife Liz bakes the Apple Cake in which the beans are planted to select the Wassail King and Queen. As in all such events, on the night it needs someone to lead, cajole and inspire and this is done extremely well by Mark Saxon.

The event is a money raiser for the Parish Council Charity Appeal and anyone who has encountered Phoenix Morris Squire, Mike Stimpson, with the collecting bucket will understand why we always do rather well! The event has been very well supported by young and old and I hope that it will be continuing for many, many years.

In the past there has been some misinformation about the funding of the Wassail so let me take the opportunity of providing the true story. The Wassail does have an allocation within the Parish Council Annual Budget. However, Phoenix Morris give their services for free as it is a charitable event, Croxley Mummers give their services for free, the musicians (some of who are professional or semi-professional) give their services free of charge. The cider, toast and cake for the Wassail are donated. In fact the only charge is that levied by TRDC for the use of the Orchard: a point that you may like to raise with your local District Councillors!

Cllr Dudley Edmunds

Flowers4Croxley

Flowers4Croxley began eight years ago after a resident noticed that several nearby towns and villages enjoyed beautiful floral displays and yet Croxley had just three. (Well, only three that I can remember). At

the time, Parish Councillor Hazel Seeley took up the gauntlet and invited interested residents to form a community group. Armed with a small grant and a long list of projects, Flowers4Croxley was born. We now have over 30 floral displays including barrels throughout the village.



But we couldn't have done it alone. Although we are an independent community group and all our projects are self-funded through donations and grants, we are lucky enough to have formed a great partnership with the Parish Council. The Parish Rangers have become an integral part of our team. They have liaised with us on several schools' projects and they regularly maintain some of our floral displays. Twice yearly they assist with the preparation and planting of beds and barrels and collect the 1,200 plants and several bags of compost required for the summer and winter seasons. Thank you Phil and Oliver for all your help last year, good luck to Oliver on his world travels and welcome to James, his replacement.

We also owe a big thank you to our local shopkeepers, many of whom keep a watchful eye on our barrels and plants and water them when necessary. Unfortunately, some of our barrels are now in need of replacement. With this in mind, we are hoping that local groups or businesses, or even individuals, might consider sponsoring a barrel. The flowers in one barrel for one year can be sponsored for £15, or a new barrel, including flowers, can be sponsored for £50.

We would like to say another big thank you to the following groups for offering to sponsor displays this year:

 The Brownies are sponsoring and planting the flowers in 3 barrels at the top shops in Baldwins Lane. Boys & Girls Nursery (Croxley Business Park) is sponsoring and planting flowers in the window boxes outside Croxley Station.

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsorship, or just want to make a small donation, please contact the Parish Council who will put you in contact with a committee member. Alternatively, we will be at the Revels again this year, on Saturday 18th June. You won't be able to miss our stall as it will be covered in artwork provided by children from local afterschool art clubs. We will be running a raffle and selling plants to raise funds.

On a final note, Flowers4Croxley is running the Gardening Competition again this year, by popular demand! It is sponsored by Garden Scene, Chipperfield, with vouchers as prizes. Anyone can enter – forms are available in My Croxley News, at the Parish Council Offices or on their website.

Mandy Grant, Flowers4Croxley

Croxley History Project

The Croxley Green History Project is a community based history and archive project supported by the Croxley Green Residents Association to enable the residents of Croxley Green to identify and celebrate their heritage. The Project has set up a dedicated website initially containing hundreds of photos, documents and statements from local residents at http://

www.croxleygreenhistory.co.uk/.

The website, supported by the CGRA, Hertfordshire County Council and Croxley Green Parish Council, is an historical record of the parish that



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can be added to for future generations to access enjoy and learn from. The majority of the current content has been collected over a period of 25 years. To this have been added memorabilia, given, loaned or copied.

The website was launched at a very well attended event in Harvey Road School in December 2015 as a resource for researchers, schools and families, and provides a starting point to learn about the history of Croxley Green. Much of the present content has been kindly made available from other sources including the Archivist at The Paper Trail Three Rivers Museum and many local generous residents.

The Croxley Green History Project would welcome any historic photographs or documents about Croxley Green that people would be willing to share with others. There is a contact page on the website at http://www.croxleygreenhistory.co.uk/contact.html.

Margaret Pomfret & Ross Humphries

Croxley Mummers

Mummers plays were traditional folk plays performed by village people from about 1750 onwards though there are references to Mummers in the time of Henry VIIIth . The traditional tale tells how our hero overcomes difficulties and a succession of evils including death until he claims the prize of the hand of the Princess. In Thomas Hughes' novel Tom Brown's Schooldays the first dramatic performance Tom ever saw was the Mummers play performed by the local boys at his home in the Berkshire Downs, he remembered it for the rest of his life.

They were a traditional form of village entertainment and can be found in slightly different forms in many parts of England. Croxley Green has its own version of the play. Many of the plays tell the story of the hero, often St George, who is at first killed by the Dragon, and is revived by the Doctor, and then goes on to kill the Dragon, the Turkish Knight and finally the Giant, and by so doing wins the hand of the King of Egypt's daughter.

Croxley's version of the play was written by HT 'Neggy' Wilson, and is a

compilation from two Cornish plays. Neggy was the headmaster of the Croxley Boys School, and got a group of his former pupils together to perform the play in Croxley Green nearly every year from the 1920s until the late 1950s. There are pictures showing the early Mummers performing at Parrots on the Green. Unfortunately, the costumes were stored in the loft at the Dickinson Guild House, on New Road, and were lost when it burnt down in 1965.



In 1994 a group of Croxley residents decided to try to revive the play and perform it at Christmas time. The original script had been lost but the St Albans Mummers had been using the Croxley Play for a number of years and so we borrowed it back! A cast was recruited and we set about making our costumes and rehearsing. The first performance of the revived Mummers was at Christmas 1994. After a few initial troubles with Three Rivers Council and theatre licenses we have performed the play on the Sunday before Christmas ever since. This year's performances will be on Sunday 18 December 2016. We usually start off at All Saints Church then, after visiting Dickinson Square and the pubs on the Green, we finish up at the Sportsman.

There is a memorial seat to Neggy Wilson on the Green and picture 2 shows the present cast posing by the seat.



At the end of each performance there is a collection and since 1994 we have raised over £6,500 for the Peace Hospice. Many of the older residents in Croxley still remember the original Mummers and we feel proud to be able to carry on the tradition. As Father Christmas says in his introduction to the play: "We've come to show activity upon a Christmas time"

If you have any photos or more information about the Croxley Mummers they would be pleased to hear from you. Contact Chris Hillier 01923 779580 or via the Croxley Mummers Facebook page.

Chris Hillier

The Friday "Happy" Bus

The Parish Council provides a free bus service every Friday to take senior citizens and people living in sheltered accommodation to and from Watford. The Friday bus service is known colloquially as the "Happy Bus" due to the fact that those using the service are always happy to be able to get out and about and meet other people. The bus follows three different routes through Croxley and the timetable and routes are published on page 5. Each bus is usually accompanied by a volunteer helper who helps people on and off the bus and notes the number of people using the bus on each trip. The bus service relies on a dwindling band of volunteers to help so if you do have some spare time on a Friday morning and are willing to help out, please contact the Parish Council.

The bus service costs the Parish about £500 per month and has to provide good value for money. Those using the service are so appreciative of it but that can be difficult to translate in terms of money. So "use it or lose!"

David Neighbour

Bikes and Bells

As a regular user of the Ebury Way and the Grand Union Canal towpaths in and around Croxley Green, it is very evident to me that there can sometimes be a small level of conflict between the large number of cyclists, walkers and their dogs that share these paths.

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This can often be due to one or more cyclists coming up behind walkers / dogs at some speed but without clearly announcing their presence, or slowing down to pass safely

Using a bicycle bell is already a legal requirement for road use and, in my opinion, should be also applied on cycleways and towpaths.



"Ding, ding!!"

If you are a cyclist approaching walkers, their dogs or anybody else, you should 1) slow down to a speed that allows you to brake to a halt immediately, if you have to, and 2) ring the bell on your bicycle, even if approaching walkers face to face, to make sure that everyone has seen or heard you coming. Most walkers will acknowledge by moving to the side of the path, even so keep your speed down as you pass them.

To most people the above is just common sense, but some cyclists seem reluctant to ring their bell as though it is somehow impolite! People and dogs all have ears and a brief "ding" to announce your presence will always be very welcome, especially if you pass slowly with a polite "thank you"

Cllr David Bains



Keeping Croxley Specially Clean

Have you ever noticed how many people exercise their dogs in Croxley Green? And have you ever been annoyed at finding dog mess fouling the paths or greens, or neatly wrapped in a bag and hiding under a hedge or dangling from a twig?

I have, and wondered I what was being done about it. There are just over 5,300 residential properties in Croxley Green, and I guess about one in ten of my neighbours keeps a dog – but some have more than one, so probably somewhere between 500 and 1,000 dogs. That's an awful lot of dog mess for someone to clear up!

The Parish Council has paid for 42 special bins for dog mess around Croxley Green and pays for them to be emptied regularly.

More than that, the Parish Council provides disposal bags which are free for dog owners to collect (with a suggested donation). I was shocked to discover that we are providing about 700 bags every day (on average through the year) until I realised that every dog owner probably needs a couple of bags every day. And, speaking to local dog owners, I understand that many of them buy their own disposal bags, to leave the free ones for people who cannot afford to buy them.

Just imagine what Croxley Green might be like if there were no dog mess bins and no free disposal bags! Or if the majority of responsible dog owners did not pick up the mess and dispose of it tidily – either in the special bins or with their household waste

So keeping Croxley specially clean is a partnership between responsible dog owners and the Parish Council. And the funding for this service comes from all council tax payers, through the precept.

Cllr Andrew Gallagher



Changing wildlife in Croxley Green

Spring is in the air and a long hot summer awaits us but something is stirring in Croxley Green – namely our ever changing wildlife population. Not so very long ago the sound of the cuckoo could be heard everywhere from the middle of April onwards. Sitting in All Saints' Church garden in early May in the seventies, the sound of skylarks on the Green and around was the very perfection of happiness in our little village paradise. Today the skylark can very occasionally be heard singing and two pairs nested again on Common Moor last year.

The cuckoo has become another rare bird, two thirds have disappeared but there are still a couple of pairs near Croxley Great Barn and in the area of the river Gade close to the Lot Mead Lock. They fly across and around the Moor in the early morning and late afternoon but can be heard at any time of the day in May, if you are lucky. We still have a rich dawn chorus but it is getting weaker every year as the numbers of little brown birds who used to migrate across the ever growing Sahara each year gets smaller and smaller.

However we do have some new bird life. Red kites, hunted almost to extinction, were reintroduced in the Chilterns and have returned in numbers.



They are common visitors lazily drifting over our village on the wind and in the thermals and we also have small flocks of rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) with their shrill

cries spreading out from the London suburbs.



The small Muntjac deer are common visitors to larger gardens, they breed in the woods around Croxley as do badgers and foxes. Some foxes have become so tame that they stand in gardens looking into the windows for scraps.

There are far fewer butterflies and other insects these days, which may account for the falling numbers of birds and the bee population has been heavily reduced by disease, but the news is not all bad – there has been a bumper crop of bluebells in the woods this spring, the trees are bursting into leaf and blossom.

So get out and about this spring and summer and banish those recession and austerity blues. Croxley has so much to offer, surrounded by Green spaces on all sides, one of the prettiest places to live so close to London. Once you are out into the open countryside you will remember that some of the best things in life are still free, and are here, right on your doorstep.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones

Senior citizens outing

On Wednesday 22 June 2016 the Parish Council will be taking a group of senior citizens on a day trip to Eastbourne. This year two coaches will leave Community Way car park at 9am and will arrive back at 7pm. This is expected to be a popular event and as seats are limited, places will be decided by means of a lucky draw. If you would like to enter the draw,

please complete the entry form with your details and the name of your guest and return the slip to the Parish Council before Monday 13 June 2016, when the draw will take place. To be eligible to enter, both you and your guest must be senior citizens, residents of Croxley Green and independently mobile.

An entry form is printed on the back page. Further entry forms are available at the Parish Council office or can be found on our 'Forms' page on the Croxley Green Parish Council website at: www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk/images/downloads/EntryForm.pdf

And now, for something completely different

When I was co-opted to the Parish Council in 2015, the Chairmen set all the newly elected or co-opted members a challenge – could we think of a way of raising money for the Councils two charities, the Peace Hospice and the Food Bank, that would involve people from the community, that would be fun, and would help to keep Croxley special.

My idea was to organise a pram race and a date in September 2016 for the first one. If it is successful, perhaps it too will become an annual event?

It turns out that there is so much more to organising and event like this than I could ever have imagined – starting with getting permission for road closures – so it has turned out to be a really interesting challenge for me, and for the Parish Council.

The date has been provisionally set for Saturday 10 September and now we need volunteers from the community to get involved and make it happen. There are three main ways you can help.

One is to set up or join in a team – the more teams, and the more people in each team, the merrier.

Another (for the less athletic) to volunteer to assist as track marshals – to help with road closures, directing traffic and keeping things safe.

The third is to sponsor the teams, and join in cheering them on through the day. So there is something for everyone to do!

Cllr Andrew Hobbs

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Coach Trip to Eastbourne

On Wednesday 22 June 2016, the Parish Council will be taking a group of senior citizens on a day trip to Eastbourne. This year, two coaches will leave Community Way car park at 9am and will arrive back at 7pm. This is expected to be a popular event and as seats are limited, places will be decided by means of a lucky draw. If you would like to enter the draw, please complete the form below with your details and the name of your guest and return the slip to the Parish Council by Monday 13 June 2016, when the draw will take place.

%
Name
Address
Telephone Number
Name of Guest
I would like to attend the day trip to Eastbourne on Wednesday, 22 June 2016 and I confirm that both my guest and I are residents of Croxley Green, senior citizens and are independently mobile.

The Parish Pump is published by Croxley Green Parish Council

'Keeping Croxley Special'

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