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Croxley Green
Parish Council

The Parish Pump

No. 6 April 1995



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Joe Wesson 239000
**Chairman - Planning
& Development**

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Croxley Green Ward

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Gabriel Gallet 771098

Muriel Good 771840
Vice-Chairman - Council

Margaret Pomfret 720088
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& Amenity**

Brian Sainsbury 720451

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South Ward

John Brind 228785

Cyril Eustice 441654

Sally Herbert 774052

David Maizey 442131

Cliff Vassiliou 779927

Croxley Green Parish Council • Founded 1986

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This edition of the *Parish Pump* sees the end of this Council as it completes its four year term. It has been an eventful four years and, we believe, that the Parish Council has made itself known and has contributed to the community. I would like to thank all councillors for their contribution. It would be invidious to pick out individuals but, as in any community, there are those who have given selflessly of their time and have made a major contribution. This edition reports on some of the work of the committees which are, principally, Planning & Development and Environment & Amenity. The first deals with mundane matters but has commented upon numerous planning applications and has also dealt with matters like the Parish Bus and the Rail Link. E & As work is much more prominent but read for yourself.

Now it is up to you. Please use your vote on May 4th to elect your most immediate local authority and express your support.



ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

To mark the 50th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in World War II, the Parish Council has arranged to plant a Walnut Tree in Stone's Orchard. The ceremony will be conducted by Father Haines of St Bede's Church and the tree will be planted by Wing Commander Samuel Hatton, a local resident. All are invited to attend at 11.00am on Monday 8th May in Stone's Orchard. It is hoped that ex-service organisations will be present and as many people as possible.

In August we are planning a civic service and maybe another event to mark this important occasion. Please look out for details.

VILLAGE APPEARANCE

Many are the varying features that contribute to the attractiveness of particular areas. In Croxley Green one of these features are the grass verges that adorn some streets especially where there is a wide pavement. One such avenue is Baldwins Lane although there are a number of other roads similarly blessed.

The Parish Council is concerned at the damage being done to some of these verges, detracting from the appearance of the village, either by parked cars or by contractors working on adjacent premises. It is accepted that the wet weather of recent months has not helped.

Attempts are being made to persuade Three Rivers District Council to repair and renovate those areas in most need of attention, but, if this is successful, the effort will be wasted unless residents exercise restraint in the way the verges are abused. In some roads local Bye-Laws forbid parking on the grass verges and you are asked to observe these restrictions which have been made as a required part of the good government necessary to enhance the appearance and enjoyment of living in Croxley Green.

Even where no Bye-Laws prevail your respect for the appearance of the village is requested.



AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDCARE

It is with regret that the Parish Council finds it necessary to apologise to parents for the fact that promises made in respect of After-School Child Care have not, as yet, been honoured. Please be assured that the Council is still actively searching for suitable accommodation and, as soon as such premises are available, will publicly announce the fact.

If you are bemused as to why the Council is having problems in finding suitable premises there are at least three basic requirements to be met:-

1. The accommodation must be available on all of five days each week, at the required times, Monday to Friday, during term time,
2. Must provide suitable facilities for a reasonable number of children of varying age groups between 5 and 12 with varying interests, and
3. Most importantly, must be of sufficient standard to be approved by the Social Services department of Hertfordshire County Council.

The requirements are stringent but the Council is hopeful of being successful in its search. We thank you for your patience.

Clerk to the Council
Derek Fineberg 710250

The Council Offices
off Barton Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Herts. WD3 3SU.

**CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE
NEVER EARLY - SOMETIMES LATE**

TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE - EVERY FRIDAY*

1st Journey

Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftesbury 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
Hazelwood Rd/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd.	10.05am
Chalmers Court	10.08am
All Saints Lane Outside Church	10.10am
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
New Road Methodist Church	10.43am
New Road / Barton Way (Library)	10.44am
Return from Watford	1.00pm

NOW YOU MAY HAIL AND RIDE.

1. It is the intention of the Parish Council that the bus does not leave the departure points before the stated times. Traffic problems may cause the service to be a little late on occasions.
 2. Passengers may return by any Community Bus but should note that there may not always be a spare seat on the preferred bus. (CHECK with DRIVER).
 3. Future alterations to the timetable will be notified in advance.
- * When a Bank Holiday falls on a Friday (eg Good Friday) the service will operate on the Thursday of that week or such other agreed day. Verbal notice will be given at least one week in advance.

FARE 70p RETURN

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

DOG HYGIENE

For some time the Committee has endeavoured to raise an awareness to the importance of clearing up after our pets (not least of all the fine that can be levied). A map showing the location of bins has been published but also poop-scoop bags are available, from the Parish Office, FREE OF CHARGE. To continue this we have introduced a competition for the under 16's to produce a poster, and separately a slogan, to promote the drive to keep all paths and recreational areas faeces free. We hope that you encouraged your children to have a go.

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**SPRING BULBS & WATER
TROUGH**

These have continued to be planted to bring a lift to the spring and brighten up our community.

**ENVIRONMENT DAY -
WATERSMEET**

The Committee participated at this, on Saturday 11 March 1995, when John Craven opened the event. A Photo display of on going activities was mounted and, as the theme was the *Year of the Cycle*, two bicycles were borrowed, a child's (new) and an old delivery cycle and completed the display. Our stand was visited by John Craven who took an interested look at the Environment Committee's projects and activities.

We were delighted to receive the award for Best Parish Council Display.

* * * * *

**We will be exhibiting, as usual,
at the REVELS on Saturday
17th June 1995.**

TRANSPORT SERVICES

A. Public Transport - Better Buses

You probably read the recent edition of *Three Rivers Times* which gave information of additional bus services provided under TRDC's Better - Buses initiative. Your Parish council made a contribution to the deliberations.

As far as Croxley Green is concerned, the most obvious output has been the introduction of the new service R2 - Rickmansworth to Mount Vernon Hospital, via Croxley Green, Watford General Hospital, Watford, Bushey Station, Carpenders Park, South Oxhey and Batchworth Lane. The outward route through the village is via Scots Hill, The Green, New Road, Barton Way, Fuller Way, Dulwich Way, Owens Way, Repton Way, Baldwins Lane, Durrants Drive, Dover Way, Links Way, Baldwins Lane, Watford Road and Whippendell Road.

The service runs daily from Monday to Saturday, with NO service on Sundays and Bank Holidays, at Two Hourly intervals from approximately 7.00am at The Green (All Saints Church) with the last bus at 7.00pm. The return times from Mount Vernon Hospital are 8.00am to 8.00pm.

The most important feature of this service is that it now provides a direct service to Watford General Hospital for residents in North Croxley. It is unfortunate that the long route is taken to Mount Vernon Hospital but hopefully, in the future, it will be possible to make the service fully circular, thus enabling access to Mount Vernon from either direction. The service is currently experimental and its continuation will depend on customer use. The Parish Council would therefore ask residents to use the service whenever possible, even if it is only to go into Watford or Rickmansworth.

Finally, complaints and suggestions. If you should find cause to criticise or complain about this service, or any transport service for that matter, please let the Parish Council know. Preferably your comment should be in writing and give as much information as possible. Equally if you have any suggestions to improve the various services then drop a note at the Parish Office where it will receive attention.

Just a word of caution - *Don't expect an overnight solution or response.*

B. Community Bus

This Friday morning service to Watford, run by the Parish Council, will continue throughout the year with one minor adjustment. In addition to the pick-up points listed in the timetable it will now be possible to "hail and ride". The fare remains at 70p return.

THE RIVER

A Croxley Churches Together Project.

You may possibly have seen posters appearing throughout Croxley Green recently, especially on local church notice boards. They are advertising *The River* and it is possible you may be wondering what this is all about

The River is a Croxley Churches Together joint youth project which has begun recently. It has arisen out of a joint vision and desire to see somewhere for our young people to meet, learn and worship together. We hope that this will excite and motivate them into their own youth and community projects, in which we will support and encourage them.

At present, *The River* is meeting once a month, on the first Sunday, at 8.30pm. The venue varies at present, moving between the various churches. The evening lasts about an hour and a half and provides an alternative youth service, with a live worship band, visiting speakers and drama presentations etc.

Looking to the future - we feel we may eventually outgrow church premises and may be looking to hire a bigger centre such as a school hall. We also hope eventually to have somewhere for young people to meet more regularly with their friends, with pool, table tennis, music, a non-alcoholic bar etc.

As Christians, our desire is to live the gospel in a practical way, and we feel called to this work with young people. We would value your support - you are most welcome to come along and see us. *The River* was at the Baptist Church on April 2nd, will be at the Methodist on May 7th, All Saints on June 4th and the Baptist church again on July 2nd. If you would like to chat further, or if you would like us to come and speak to your church/group/organisation, please do give us a call.

Best wishes

Dan Welberry

(Youthworker, All Saints Church)
01923 674176 or 0956 355844.

Linda Anderson

(Local Scripture Union Associate Schoolworker) 01923 251242

PARISH PATHS

Both Urban and Rural Paths have been improved since the employment of a Parish Ranger. Footpath No 44 (off Loudwater Lane) to Sarratt was cleared last summer and a new stile has recently been built which has much improved the access to our neighbouring parish. Other work is proceeding, and will continue, on other paths both urban and rural.

RESTORATION OF THE PONDS IN LITTLE GREEN LANE

The story so far:

For those residents who are not aware - there has been much activity over the past six months or so in Little Green Lane.

Work began last September clearing the ponds of scrub and grass. Our Ranger and the Countryside Management Services plus approximately 40 children and 12 adults, throughout Thursday 29 September 1994, thoroughly enjoyed themselves on Phase I of clearing and restoring these ponds - (the first one being at Little Green Cottages).

October saw the willows, that had grown in the pond over many years, being removed. These apparently drink gallons and gallons of water daily so had been partly to blame for the pond drying up. Silt also had built up to many feet in depth and this too was partly removed, 22 trailer loads in total were taken away. Some of the remaining silt being used to build up the banks.

At this point advice was sought about the clay liner and whether this pond would need much repairing. The Ranger from Chorleywood (they have six ponds) came to give us some sound advice as did a representative from the Chiltern Society.

Cross cutting of the pond would have given us the extent of where the liner existed so that we could establish the next phase that required organising. This has had to be delayed - it rained - and has done so on and off since. This pond has filled up and remarkably does not appear to drop very considerably on days when it has been dry - time will tell.

We have had the pond tested by Mike Warburg of Chorleywood who breeds Great Crested Newts and already our pond contains food for pond life. Daphnia (Water Flea), that newts feed on, is present so we are hopeful that the newts, that were here years ago, will return. Frog spawn is in abundance, some by frogs that have made their home here and some donated by local residents.

The pond has begun to be part of village activity and because of this, and the importance ponds can play in the education and fun of the many younger residents, a dipping platform has been constructed. Used sensibly this "jetty like" feature will enable small children to sit or stand over the water to dip their nets into the pond and examine at close quarters the delights that a pond can hold and the fascination they bring.

As the pond is bounded on two thirds by the land and the sides are fairly steep this was recommended so that not only

will the pond be an attractive landscape feature but can also be an activity centre. Already different bird species are visiting the pond, ducks that were winter visitors and a pair of pheasants have been sighted, along with a disappointed heron!

Killingdown Farm Pond

This pond too saw some restoration during last autumn. Being smaller it was much easier to tackle the clearing of silt etc. Bricks - it seemed like a wall full - were in the bottom and were removed.

In the past this pond has been a farm pond taking away the excess water from Killingdown Farm especially from the milking sheds (cooling systems) when they were operational. It does not appear to hold water to any considerable depth and again will be looked at during 1995 for the appropriate action to complete the first phase.

The ditches however have been cleaned up in this area which hopefully will free the road of excess water - new grips have been put in along the road (drainage channels into the ditches) further assisting to keep the pond from completely drying out.

Since the 1880's when a survey of ponds was carried out and updated in 1988 over half of Hertfordshire's ponds have disappeared - about one every 10 days so we hope that we are making a contribution to keep those that can be saved.

ENVIRONMENT DAY - WATERSMEET

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We were delighted to receive the award for Best Parish Council Display.

PLAY AREAS

How lovely to see the play areas that have been smartened up, with new equipment, and bringing delight to the younger members of the community. Our thanks to Three Rivers District Council for this, a result of our response to their Draft Management Plan for Children's Play in Three Rivers, highlighting the need for much improvement to these play areas.

**CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 1995
ENTRY FORM**

HOUSEHOLD SECTION.

1. I wish to enter my front garden in this year's competition.
2. I wish to enter my back garden (less than 60' x 30') in this year's competition.
3. I wish to enter my back garden (more than 60' x 30') in this year's competition.

Name (Block letters please) Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address:

Telephone No: Signed: Date:

BEST FLORAL DISPLAY FRONTING PUBLIC HIGHWAY

PUBLIC HOUSE SECTION

Name and Address of Public House:

Name of Licensee: Telephone No:

Signature: Date:

SHOPS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL PREMISES SECTION

Name and Address of Premises:

Nature of Business:

Name of person submitting entry: Telephone No:

Position in Business (eg Proprietor, Manager etc.):

Signature: Date:

Entry forms to be returned no later than Wednesday 28th June 1995 to:

Derek Fineberg, Clerk to the Council,
Croxley Green Parish Council, Parish Office,
off Barton Way, Croxley Green,
RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 3SU.

GARDEN COMPETITION

For the third year we hope to run what has been a very successful venture. Start now with those plans for the best ever garden in 1995. Our previous entrants have proved the pleasure and beauty that this competition engenders.

As in the past judging is most likely be in July followed by the presentation in September.

An Entry is printed above and forms will also be available from the Parish Office.

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RAGWORT PULLING

Are you available on Sunday 11 June. Come to Stones Orchard to pull Ragwort - an hour or more if you can spare it would be most welcome. Samples will be handed out to those who don't know what it looks like. Gloves, and a trowel, are all that is required - do come and help remove this invasive weed, that is taking up valuable meadow space driving out other grasses and flowers that are more beneficial. We are beginning to win but we need to be ever vigilant.

SEATS

Have you noticed the *green* ones. Responding to a request by the older residents, the Environment and Amenities Committee have now been able to place these seats in the community, at sites specifically requested, for the less active to rest on their way - for example to the local shops or just out for a short stroll.

* * * * *

STONES ORCHARD

We are working closely with the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre and the Countryside Management Services and Three Rivers district Council (who own the site) to recommend the future of Stones Orchard for the benefit of our community. Originally 12 acres and now only 3½ acres it is important to recognise the practical and usefulness of such a site.

A Draft Management Plan has been produced by HERC which includes a mowing regime for the grass - different areas requiring different cutting times. Replacing an area with fruit trees - there

are few of the original ones left - and managing and replacing existing hedgerows that have become out grown and in some places disappeared altogether.

On 16 March 1995 sixteen fruit trees were planted (replacing inappropriate flowering cherry trees) by all the local schools (junior and infant). Some 100 children or so helped plant these which included many of the old varieties eg

Lanes Prince Albert, Wellington Bramley, King of the Pippins - Apples

Black Heart - cherry

Ponds Seedling, Victoria - Plum

A booklet has been published by the Parish Council about Stones Orchard and the importance it has played since orchards were first introduced by the Romans to this Country. This is available from the Parish Office and Library and costs 50p. We hope that by raising the importance of this historical area, and this natural wildlife oasis, we can all share in the benefits that it can bring to a community.

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CROXLEY RAIL LINK

Readers will be aware that London Underground Ltd are about to apply to the Secretary of State for Transport for permission to construct the Croxley Rail Link connecting the Metropolitan Line to the British Rail line at Croxley Green Station.

All local authorities associated with the enterprise have considered the details of the application and some members have seen a model of the planned construction in the Two Bridges area. Having considered the matter the Parish Council resolved inter alia to:-

- a. Support TRDCs endorsement of the proposals whilst reserving its position to make further comment, and submissions, both before and at any Public Enquiry.
- b. Seek adequate direct pedestrian access to the proposed Ascot Road station from the vicinity of the present Croxley Green station.
- c. Urge LUL to examine the use of rail - canal transport for construction.
- d. Use of waste spoil from the River Gade/Ascot Road embankment in the proposed new embankment.
- e. Seek integration of the Croxley Rail Link scheme with Crossrail at Rickmansworth Station.
- f. Express concern for the residents of Cassiobridge Terrace.

The Council have asked LUL to put the models of the construction on display at the Library as soon as possible. When this happens, the Parish Council would ask all residents to visit the exhibition and make their views known, not only to LUL but, to the Parish Council. This includes opinions both for and against the project.