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Croxley Green
Parish Council

The Parish Pump

No. 7 December 1995



COUNCILLORS

North Ward

John Hedges	222715
Chairman - Council	
Brian Norman	779331
Lesley Rees	248126
Vivienne Simister	233544
Ray Withers	448370

Croxley Green Ward

Gabriel Gallet	771098
Christine Jefford	771769
Margaret Pomfret	720088
Chairman - Environment & Amenity	
Robert Ridley	778638
Norma Stubington	721243
Chairman - Planning & Development	
Sheila Wright	772460
Vice-Chairman - Council	

South Ward

David Bains	441480
Cyril Eustice	441654
John Neighbour	710728
Mark Saxon	772581
Madryn Waldron	779548

Clerk to the Council
Derek Fineberg 710250

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Having issued an edition of the *Parish Pump* at the end of the four year term of the last Council, we have now had six months experience as a new council so it seems fitting to produce another. This is not in competition with the *Resident* but rather complementary, seeking to advise you of the activities of the Parish Council carried out on your behalf.

Six councillors have had previous experience but ten are new to the Parish Council which entails a degree of learning and familiarisation. As Chairman, I am very impressed with the way that the new members have quickly understood the limitations which a Parish Council has upon its activities. Whilst it is a statutory body its powers are very limited and can only increase with the co-operation of higher bodies.

Our committees and the Council are functioning well and there are many new ideas, as well as older ones, which are being progressed. The main limitation is the need to budget before a project can take shape.

This edition shows some of the ways in which we are seeking to serve the community. None of these tasks have been made easier by the vilification that we received in the press earlier this year. I think that our little Fairy Story about three engines is a good comment on this matter.

One criticism, received and voiced by many, is that the Parish Council costs money for doing nothing. A perusal of your Council Tax demand will show that the Parished areas attract less Council Tax than the un-parished areas. We can carry out local tasks cheaper than a larger authority, we have less overheads. When, sooner or later, our objectives for local control of open spaces and amenities comes to fruition, the figures show that you should find reduced charges. It is true that the Parish Precept will increase but the additional Special Expenses charge will

reduce more than to just compensate. It is not the precept alone which is related to our locality but also the Special Expenses charge for works carried out by Three Rivers in our area. You can lobby your District Councillors on this matter. We haven't despaired of eventually caring for all our local open spaces - nor will we!

This edition contains three separate articles concerning local shopping. All three have been included to show the importance and concern which is felt here. Our own family shopping, while not totally confined to Croxley Green, certainly is carried out, to a large part, locally, subject to availability. In the overall picture it is not more expensive when considerations of travel are taken into account. Please think on this and use your buying power accordingly.

Included is a brief description and the date of all committee meetings. It is hoped that in later editions further information will be given on the work of the various committees. It was unfair, with so many new councillors, to expect them to formulate definitive statements for this issue.

Our main task, over the winter period, is to formulate our budget for the year beginning April 1996. It will be foremost in our minds not to increase our demands upon you but this does not mean that we shall stand still, it means that we are examining our finances to use them wisely for the benefit of the community.

Several projects are on hold due to one delay or another but ways ahead are constantly being sought. Our work in the environment will continue with our ranger, Byron De'Ath and his assistant. You will have seen his van about and, if you have, will see how hard he works. Not just on the Green but throughout the community. This is one of the many advantages of local operations, we can respond quickly to local needs.

Our office staff is constantly busy, though both part-time. The Clerk attends all our meetings and many with other bodies, including Three Rivers, where our voice is heard. He is in the office every weekday morning from 10.00am to 2.00pm. He also gives a lot of time without pay.

Lesley Sanders, his assistant is there four mornings a week and many of you will have met her. She prepared the copy for this *Parish Pump*, much of it in her own time. She always has a cheery word for all callers.

They don't know all the answers but they usually know a man that does.

If you have any comments on this edition or know of anyone who fails to receive it, then please let us know. The office is open to your call.

RESTORATION OF THE PONDS AT LITTLE GREEN

It is just over one year since the initial start was made to manage and restore these ponds. We know the loss of ponds in Hertfordshire is considerable and to manage these old ponds can be long term as their uses have changed since the introduction of new farming methods and the general changes to the countryside over the past few decades.

Many fields/lanes etc. have been subjected to change and altered with land drainage. The water shortage during freak summer heat waves has resulted in the water table falling. All these play a part in pond losses and not least of all to unmanaged ponds.

To restore the larger pond an initial impact had to be achieved by way of removing four willow trees grown up in the centre area. Scrub was cleared and choked grasses strimmed and burnt. Twenty two trailer loads of silt were removed so that tests could be made to ascertain damage to the impermeable clay seal that we expected to be present.

At this point work on further sections of the pond would have improved the overall depth by removing more silt but as the autumn rains persisted it became impractical to continue.

However, during the winter and spring considerable quantities of water remained giving an attractive setting. Many plants and pond-life returned as did several bucketfuls that were donated.

We received much publicity regarding the Dipping Platform - installed to provide access and benefit to both able and disabled children whilst the water was at its highest. It was anticipated that a marsh area planted up would have camouflaged most of the wood when it was revealed during the summer months.

The pond will be left during this winter and spring and water levels and pond-life will be monitored and photographed to compare with the detailed photo record to date.

The next phase will start again once the pond life has left next year (normally by the summertime) and before it returns we hope to deepen certain areas and reshape parts of the banks.

This pond is shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 and although many people remember it through their childhood we do not have any records providing us with its initial history. If you have any knowledge or even family photographs taken in this area that might show the pond in the picture this would be

extremely useful to us. These could be copied and returned.

Maybe YOU remember walking in this area as a child and were photographed?

Cllr Margaret Pomfret



GET INVOLVED

You have a right to involvement in your Parish. The Councillors spend your money, raised by precept on your Council Tax demand. After administration costs etc. the rest of the budget can be spent on projects within the Parish.

At the moment Councillors spend your money on projects that they bring to the Council. Many are deserving and I'm sure the majority of the residents in Croxley Green would support them. However, you can influence the way your money is spent. If you have any ideas that may benefit the community, put them down on paper, do some research work i.e.: location, cost, benefits, planning regulations etc., etc. Submit them to the Parish Council Offices. The Council can then look at their merits and if feasible, progress them, *not all will be accepted*.

Sixteen part-time Councillors can't always get it right, as everyone has their own projects that they will pursue.

It's no use complaining after the event! Influence it now, it's your money!

Cllr Robert Ridley



STONE'S ORCHARD

Despite the hot summer and the vandalism to some of the flowering cherry trees, the 16 fruit trees planted on 16 March 1995 by local school children from Malvern Way, Yorke Mead, Little Green and Harvey Road are still looking healthy. They have been watered regularly by our Ranger and Parish Councillors who found time to take water to the Orchard.

The Management Plan produced by the Herts Environmental Records Centre has recommended different mowing regimes for each area of the Orchard which began this summer.

For example:-

Entering the Orchard from The Green, the grass on the left hand side was left to grow to encourage summer wild flowers and was cut as a hay meadow in July. The area to the right is being replanted as an Orchard and the grass was cut for comfortable walking, whilst

the area to the front of this section was cut closer for sitting and picnicking.

1995 has been celebrated with the 50th Anniversary of the Cessation of Hostilities of the 2nd World War. Stone's Orchard was considered a suitable area in which to mark these occasions. On 8 May 1995 over 200 people came to join in a short service to mark the planting of a Walnut tree. This was followed by the unveiling of a seat close by, on 20 August 1995, so that when the tree matures it will give shade to residents resting and enjoying the Orchard.

Community Orchards are now being recognised as important sites that are part of our local heritage. Croxley Green, was only one of many villages in SW Herts that had orchard sites, now lost to developments or different farming methods. They are now being encouraged throughout this country and can provide a community with an important lost amenity. They provide places for quiet contemplation and a refuge for wild life; animals, birds, insects and plants. The planting of new fruit trees, incorporating varieties local to this area, enhances the distinctiveness of that place.

Many local residents enjoy walking through the Orchard and especially taking their dog for its daily walk. Two dog bins have thus been provided, one outside on The Green and a second one in The Orchard Area. Please clean up after your dog and use these bins so that other walkers and especially young children may enjoy the benefits of freedom without stepping into it. Please obtain any poop-scoop bags that your require **Free of Charge** from the Parish Office.

As it was and should be a fruit orchard, during the Autumn/Winter time we anticipate that the flowering cherry trees in the Orchard area will be moved to other areas in Croxley Green and replaced by a further selection of fruit trees - hopefully many local to this area.

There are still copies of the booklet about Stone's Orchard, published by the Parish Council, available from the Parish Office or the Library price 50p.

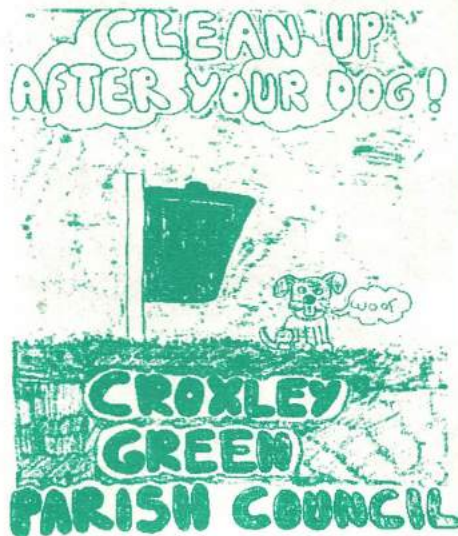
Cllr Margaret Pomfret

DELIVERY

We have tried various methods of distributing the *Parish Pump* but sadly cannot guarantee complete coverage.

If you know of any household that does not receive a copy please call at the Parish Office. There are spares.

If you have ideas on delivery please contact the Parish Office.



1st Prize (9-12 years)
Daniel Brooks Age 10

PRIZE WINNERS

Age Group 5 - 8 years

- 1st Anna Sheppard Age 7
Harvey Rd School
- 2nd Lois Cheetham Age 5
Harvey Rd School
- 3rd Jade Lynch Age 5
Harvey Rd School

Age Group 9 - 12 years

- 1st Daniel Brooks Age 10
Little Green School
- 2nd Louise Kavanagh Age 11
Yorke Mead School
- 2nd Lucy Bywater Age 9
Little Green School
- 3rd Andrew Scorgie Age 11
Harvey Road School

School - Best Contribution
Harvey Road School

DOG HYGIENE POSTER COMPETITION

Following the installation of extra bins for disposing of dog faeces, to help clean up the footpaths and recreational areas in Croxley Green it was decided to involve the local schools in a poster competition.

This would be a way of highlighting this problem to the younger generation, who hopefully would encourage parents and grandparents to understand how necessary it is to clean up after their pets.

We had over 300 posters from which to select the winning entries and the best slogan - a difficult task, but most enjoyable.

The winners were awarded their prizes on the afternoon of "Revels on The Green" and all the winning posters were on display on the Parish Council's stand. This display was transferred to the Library and a selection of the remainder were also shown over the following six weeks.

All the winning entries have been reproduced either A3 or A4 and can be seen around the parish to encourage you to clean up after your pet. Reproductions of the first and second prize winning entries are featured on this page of *The Parish Pump*.

So as the winning slogan says:- **EVEN GOOD DOGS NEED A POOP, SO DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT YOUR SCOOP.**

Poop-Scoops can be obtained free of charge from the Parish Office. All you have to do is ask and then use them to help yourself and the community.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret

PLEASE CLEAN UP
AFTER YOUR DOG.



CROXLEY GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL.

1st Prize (5-8 years)
Anna Sheppard Age 7

Best Slogan:

**Even Good Dogs Need A Poop
So Don't Leave Home Without
Your Scoop**



IF YOUR DOG DOES
A POOP PICK IT
UP WITH A SCOOP



2nd Prize (9-12 years)
Louise Kavanagh Age 11

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
EVEN GOOD DOGS
NEED A POOP!



SO...
Don't Leave Home
Without Your



SCOOP!

2nd Prize (9-12 years)
Lucy Bywater Age 9

HARVEY ROAD SCHOOL

NEEDS A

ROAD CROSSING PATROL

Could you help

*or do you know
someone who could?*

Our children desperately need someone to see them safely across Watford Road on the Zebra crossing. They want a kind, reliable, friendly and brave person to be there, every school day, before and after school - or perhaps two people to share the job on a regular basis!

The person would be provided with:-

1. a uniform and training
2. per hour for 7 1/2 hrs per week
3. weeks holiday on full pay
4. half-pay for the rest of the school holidays
5. sickness pay

and our very grateful thanks.

So if you are interested - and under 74 yrs of age - please contact either Teresa or Heather on 01923 556096/99 or the Headmaster, Mr Alan Nicholson, on 01923 773801 or just call in to see him.

Could it be you?



TRDC QUIZ NIGHT

On the 1st November a Quiz night was held in Watersmeet by the Chairman of Three Rivers District, Cllr Alan Littlejohn, in aid of his charity for the year - *Children in Need*. There were 37 tables of six competing for the prizes of Gold and Silver medals.

A team was entered from the Parish Council and included a guest, Alan Womack. With his brilliance, assisted by the other members of the team, we achieved a creditable 4th place and only missed second equal by 2 points.

Nearly £1700 was raised on the night and the fund stands at over £3000 with three events still to come.

May we offer our congratulations to the Chairman for this great effort.



VJ DAY - the seat in the Orchard.

Seated: George Newstead.
Standing: Cllr Alan & Mrs Littlejohn,
Cllr John Hedges, Mrs Newstead.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VE & VJ DAYS.

CESSATION OF THE HOSTILITIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

On 8 May in Stones Orchard (off The Green opposite the Coach and Horses public house) a crowd of over 200 residents took part in a short service to mark VE day and to remember in particular those residents from Croxley Green who fought either abroad or played their part in defending this Country during 1939-45. Prayers were said prior to the planting of a Walnut Tree in remembrance of those Croxley Green residents who lost their lives.

Father Haines led the short service that was attended by the British Legion, Wing Commander Samuel Hatton, Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council Cllr John Hedges and their wives together with the young and old of Croxley Green.

Later during the Summer, on 20 August, a second service was held with the unveiling of a seat close by the Walnut Tree. This was performed by Mr G Newstead, President of the British Legion local branch, who received a framed scroll to mark the occasion.

The Chairman of Three Rivers District Council Cllr Alan Littlejohn and his wife together with the Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council Cllr John Hedges led the community (on a very hot summers day) to the Memorial on The Green. A short service was held, led by Father Haines, with the laying of a wreath by George Newstead.

All Saints church was chosen to hold an Ecumenical Service following this and Cllr John Hedges conducted the service with Father Haines. Cllr Norma Stubington read an appropriate lesson.

This was followed by a pleasant tea and light refreshments served in the Church Hall.



VJ DAY - Father Haines conducts the service at the War Memorial

SHOP TACTICS

To many residents Croxley Green is still a village and they would like it to remain so. They promote this view as often as possible, intent on Croxley Green keeping its *identity* and *character*. However, it sometimes seems as if one aspect of village life is neglected. I am referring to our local shops. We have a good selection of shops and we must preserve them. It is not enough to use them in an emergency, we must all make the effort to use as many as we can as often as we can on a regular basis. Use them just as a stopgap and one day you could find yourself facing a door marked "**Closed - For Good!**". These businesses need *regular* customers.

I am aware that many people will cite prices as their main reason for not shopping locally. While I will not disagree that supermarkets have many items at a lower price than an independent retailer it is often a case of what you gain on the swings you lose on the roundabouts.

Specialist retailers such as butchers and greengrocers are only too happy to offer their advice and I, for one, am only too glad to receive expert help. Perhaps supermarkets have a greater range of, for example, exotic fruit than a local fruit shop so buy the exotica at the supermarket and the more everyday items locally.

Try asking local retailers for something specific that you wish to purchase that is outside of their normal range. Most of them will try to help you if they can. Local butchers will be happy to explain different cuts of meat. I find it very helpful to be able to purchase the amount of meat that I require rather than what the supermarket says I need.

Superstores are not even always cheaper. I was pleased to find King Edward potatoes less expensive in a local shop than in the supermarket. Another bonus when shopping locally is that sometimes goods can be delivered to your door.

Let us not forget the hardware and gardening shops: in my experience the retailers in these establishments are really helpful. We have off-licences, newsagents who can deliver your newspapers, hairdressers, florists, model shops, stationer, glaziers, bike and antique shops, convenience stores, chemists and opticians.

My only criticism of local shops is that some still have an early closing day. I'm sure other people find this frustrating too. It is no good shopkeepers claiming that "we always have an early closing day", they must realise that many customers find it all too easy to hop into the car and head for Watford, they do not want to wait until the next day.

Local shops contribute to community events and causes and also provide employment for residents. They also pay rates which go towards providing local services. Money spent in Croxley shops is more likely to stay in Croxley.

All of these shops help to keep our village community alive - when and where possible shop locally!

While you're at it how about keeping another tradition alive? If you are able, why not WALK to the shops? Leave the car at home, you might just enjoy it.

Cllr Vivienne Simister



GARDEN COMPETITION

The third garden competition was held in July by CGPC with a very high standard of beautiful gardens on show. 38 private gardens were entered and 5 commercial premises. Each garden was inspected by three judges and we were grateful to the Chairman of TRDC Cllr Alan Littlejohn and Mrs Littlejohn, Mr Harvey Wardell, *Parks and Woodlands Officer of TRDC*, and Mr Simmonds of *Gardenscene* who made the final decision. The winners met at the Artichoke Public House and were interviewed by the Watford Observer and the Prize Giving Evening in September was a very happy event. We were pleased to see new entrants enter the competition and would be happy for more gardeners to join us next year.

Cllr Madryn Waldron



GARDEN COMPETITION 1995

WINNERS

FRONT GARDENS

Winner

Mr Sills, 1 Dulwich Way

Very Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Dawes, 21 Richmond Way
Mrs Saville, 50 Cophorne Road

Highly Commended

Mrs Martin, 54 Harvey Road
Mrs Hitchcock, 124 Winton Drive
Mr Jackson, 29 Yorke Road

SMALL BACK GARDENS

Winner

Mr & Mrs West, 35 Barton Way

Very Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Gregory, 37 Barton Way
Mr Humphrey, 56 Winchester Way
Mrs Quelch, 92 Barton Way
Mr & Mrs Gibbons, 12 Evans Close

Highly Commended

Miss Mitchell, 172a Grove Crescent
Mr Ekanayake, 18 Links Way

Commended

District Cllr Williams, 8 Uplands
Mr & Mrs Edwards, 3 Lancing Way

LARGE BACK GARDENS

Winner

Mr Benning, 69 Valley Walk

Very Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Keane, Milthorne Close
Mr & Mrs Sheriff, 126 Valley Walk

Highly Commended

Mr Martin, 54 Harvey Road
Mr Wilcox, 43 Hastings Way

Commended

Mrs Paddick, 52 Dickinson Avenue
Mrs Mallett, 31a Watford Road
Mr & Mrs Forrest, 30 Canterbury Way

PUBLIC HOUSES

Winner

The Artichoke, The Green

Very Highly Commended

The Duke of York, Watford Road
Fox & Hounds, New Road



IF YOU DO NOT USE IT YOU LOSE IT

We have all heard that expression. If we relate it to the small shopkeepers it becomes worryingly real. We all pop off to the local supermarket in our cars thinking, what a good idea to shop for everything in the same store. But wait, one day we may not be able to drive, catch a bus or have anyone to take us shopping then we will want our little local stores, with not too far to walk home with our goods.

Now is the time to think about that - because if more and more people shop in the supermarket, the little store has no customers and then - surprise - we've lost it. I have to admit to being one of the many, but I am now thinking - what can I get locally. Won't you???

RUBY GALLET

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

STONE'S ORCHARD CROXLEY GREEN

The booklet giving a brief history of the Orchard on the Green and general information on orchards is still available from the Parish Office or the Library. Price 50p.

"A TALE OF THREE ENGINES"

The Croxley Parish Railway was slowly getting back to normal. The majority of the engines had been recently replaced, and new ones were in the process of learning their routes. These included Thomas the Frank Engine (number 8) and his friend Henry (number 92), a new but rather marked engine, who regularly pulled the airport express. Thomas and Henry puffed slowly from the Parish Engine Sheds towards the Service Centre.

"I think we need filling up," quipped Thomas.

"Yes," replied Henry, "but hurry in case Percy gets there first I don't want to help him fill up too."

Percy was an old tank engine with a history of mechanical defects, who felt that he should still be pulling the main Parish Expresses. However, whenever he was attached to any reasonable sized train he would disappear into a cloud of his own hot steam leaving the No-so-fat-but-bearded Controller gasping for breath and the train still in the same place! Percy was, as a result, employed to shunt empty carriages and trucks around in an effort to improve the workings of the railway, a task not approved of by some of the newer engines.

Thomas and Henry noticed that Frank, the chief mechanic, was eyeing them suspiciously as they filled up.

"He doesn't like us engines very much, does he?" Thomas pointed out to Henry.

"No, I think he prefers to service his carriages and trucks. I think he'd like to convert our engine sheds into another Service Centre, in fact."

"That would be a pity, without us Parish based engines it will cost more to run the railway."

"Why's that?" Henry remarked.

"Because using the bigger Three Rivers Railway engine is less efficient!" replied Thomas authoritatively.

"Heard anything more about the bridge over the River Dippy?" Thomas asked.

"No, but I gather its being pulled down," Henry added, "a lot of steam was let off about that wasn't it, especially by Percy. He let off such a hot cloud of gas that it was reported by the Railway Observer. Percy has always wanted it built too!"

"Oh well, at least it's history now - but did you read the report about the new signal boxes, another controversy apparently."

"That's strange," Henry replied, "we both know that all of the engines and Railway Conservation Committee approve."

"Yes, we both saw them all agree at that meeting in our engine shed!"

"Except for the Keep Cogs Clean Society - it thought we were going to replace all of the signals as well, not just the three worn out signal boxes!" quipped Henry knowingly.

"Full yet?" Thomas asked Henry.

"Yes."

"Right, time to replenish with some extra-hot burning coal. By the way, what a shame that the Parish Railway Company failed in its bid to take over track maintenance from the Three Rivers Railway Company."

"It is," responded Henry, "it would have saved our passengers a fortune. Still next year - who knows!"

Thomas and Henry puffed off to the coal depot leaving the engine shed in darkness, the other engines sleeping peacefully.

At the standard coal depot Henry asked as an afterthought, "By the way, what's the situation with the Little Green Branch Railway - is it going ahead?"

"Yes, but wait until Puffing Percy has had a trip on it - bet he'll tell the Railway Observer that it cost too much!" replied Thomas.

"Well they've got to find something to cause a stir haven't they?" stated Henry, finally.

Clr David Bains

* * * * *

HAZELMEADE WOMAN'S CLUB

This club was started in 1968 and was at first called the 68 club. Unfortunately we were regarded as an old age pensioners club and used to get asked if one had to be 68 to join. As we were young women in our 30's and 40's we resented this and changed the name by vote, everyone thinking of a name and then choosing the best. Hazelmeade was born.

I have been a member since 1968 and a lot of the members have been with the club since then too. Mrs Emes is our Chairman and a founder member. We meet on Tuesday evenings in term time at York Mead School at 8.00pm. We have speakers covering a wide variety of subjects, some social evenings (when we entertain ourselves), bingo, quizzes and the like. On occasions we go on coach mystery trips and have a Harvest supper each year which we provide ourselves and which is always delicious.

The atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly. Our numbers now have, unfortunately, somewhat diminished as people move away and we would welcome anyone who has moved into out area and does not know we are here. One lady was widowed seven years ago and said that she did not know there was a woman's club here and as she only lived down the road it would have been a godsend to her!

The programmes are varied and cater for all. We have had a lady bringing bats (which were delightful), displays of craft works, slides and a talk about our beautiful countryside. Why not come as a visitor for £1, which includes a cup of tea, and meet us. We would be delighted to see you.

Margaret Keen

* * * * *

HAZELMEADE WOMEN'S CLUB

(AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME).

Since coming to live in Croxley Green over 10 years ago, a kind neighbour introduced me to our local ladies' club. No buses to wait for or trains to catch, just a short walk away although sometimes I do get a lift in the family car. What better way of settling down into a new community and finding company of friendly ladies? Over the years it has been nice to share in the entertainment and outings, exchange views, ideas, family chat, try a few new crafts together. When birthdays come around there's a card from the club on the front door mat from your new found friends. Ill in bed and there's a "get well soon" message or a visit. I soon felt part of a warm, caring community, and it encouraged me to spread my wings and get even more involved in village life. So folks don't sit at home every evening of the week, so many these days when living on their own say, "I haven't spoken to a soul all day," or "I could do with an evening out away from children and husband however much loved!" Come and join us and there will be a warm welcome for you.

*Hazelmeade Woman's Club
York Mead School
Dulwich Way
Croxtley Green*

Tuesday Evenings 8.00pm- 10.00pm

Mrs Ruby Gallet

REVELS ON THE GREEN

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE 1995

DURRANTS SCHOOL ARCHIVE

When Durrants School closed in July 1991, a large quantity of archival material was given to Croxley Green Library, with a smaller amount going on loan to Rickmansworth Museum. The task of sorting it all out had hardly begun when the Library was destroyed by fire in December 1992.

A great many photographs, awaiting identification, had been in the Librarian's office, and were destroyed, but as these had mainly been of the School's regular trips to Aberdovey, this loss was sad but not too critical. The more important items had been stored in a metal filing cabinet, and although scorched, damp and dusty, were rescued, and along with other valuable papers from the Local History Collection, were taken to the Conservation Department in Hertford, where they were washed (even the photographs), dried, pressed and mounted, a task taking the best part of a year. The collection was eventually returned to the Library in July 1994, just before the new building was opened to the public in September of that year.

The Durrants Archive consists of photographs from the opening in 1939 to demolition; school magazines, Speech Day and theatrical programmes, the Souvenir Programme for the 21st Anniversary and newspaper articles.

Recently, Mr Malcolm Wallis (Headmaster), Mr George Ward (Deputy Headmaster), Mr Percy Graver (Woodwork Master), and Mr Peter Rule (Games and Russian), gave their time to identify children and teachers in various photographs. The items from the Rickmansworth Museum have now been added to the Collection by Mr Wallis.

The Archive material is available to all who wish to see it, during Library opening times.

Cllr Norma Stubington

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH MAP

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND THE DEFINITIVE PARISH MAP HAS BEEN REPRINTED AND IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE (off Barton Way) OR THE LIBRARY IN NEW ROAD.

Price remains unchanged at the ridiculously low figure of £3 from the Parish Office or the Library price £3.

PARISH FOOTPATHS AND THE PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Rights-of-Way - Footpaths etc.

Rights-of-Way are footpaths, bridleways and byways and are an important means by which we can enjoy our immediate countryside. They are public rights of way which any person may travel or pass across land.

We all know a footpath can get "lost".

We may be ignorant of its existence.

Landowners may obstruct these ways by putting up misleading signs or not managing them, allowing vegetation to over grow.

What are they:

- A Footpath:- is a way over which the public has a right of way by foot.
- A Bridle way:- is a way over which the public has a right of way on foot, horseback, pedal cycle (inc. mountain bikes).
- A Byway:- is a way open to all traffic over which the public is entitled to pass. This may be on foot, horseback, pedal cycle and by any wheeled vehicles of all kinds including horse-drawn vehicles.

The Parish Paths Partnership Aims

The Countryside Commission's initiative is a partnership between highway authorities (HCC), local councils and voluntary groups to keep rights of way open and in use and was set up in April 1992.

How Does It Work:

Local councils or groups will receive grants towards the cost to undertake, over a three year period, funding to improve their rights of way and to include:-

- Survey - to find out what needs to be done.
- Upgrading - re-opening paths, clearing vegetation, repairing styles/kissing gates and way-marking these paths.
- Promoting these footpaths with walk leaflets and guided walks.

What has been done so far - A Brief History

Peter Garrett, the Parish Paths Liaison Officer from HCC outlined the scheme to the council in February 1993. Following this members of the E&A Committee undertook to walk all the rural and urban footpaths in our Parish

and produced a brief report on their condition. These reports highlighted several things:-

- Many signs were missing and those that were in place had outdated footpath numbers.
- Some footpaths were impassable.
- Kissing gates/stiles missing or in need of repair and attention.

From these reports our newly appointed ranger was able to take immediate action and made a start clearing footpaths of fallen trees and clearing vegetation on impassable footpaths. A handrail was built on a precarious slope and a stile rebuilt. Urban paths were cleaned/scraped and dog hygiene bins installed.

Recent Activities

A footpath Sub-committee has been set up consisting of Cllrs Neighbour, Norman, Pomfret and Waldron to continue with this scheme.

During the summer period the rural footpaths were again surveyed in the company of John Goodman from Sarratt who advised us on the procedures for way-marking and replacing footpath signs, stiles and kissing gates.

Croxley Green has 18 numbered footpaths that are marked on the Definitive Map (a copy of which can be seen either at the Parish Office or the Library). There are several other footpaths in Croxley Green but these may be paths that are not officially definitive rights-of-way but are permissive paths which have been agreed by the landowner for public use.

Future Activities

It is envisaged during this winter and next spring that our ranger will make a start on replacing the old footpath signs and installing those that are missing so that we can be certain that we are using our rights of way correctly.

From the Spring of 1996 we hope once again to start another survey, this time, on the flora and record our findings. We then anticipate the first walks leaflet can be produced that will guide and encourage residents into our countryside and hopefully incorporate items of interest on route. (If you would like to help on these surveys - please contact the Parish Office).

Note:- Although attention has been paid to the Urban footpaths it is only the rural footpaths that are within the Parish Paths Partnership.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret
**Chairman - Environment & Amenities
Committee.**

**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.

IS IT A VILLAGE?

"Croxley Green", mention that to someone living outside the area and what is the reply:- "It's the Green." - "Where is it?" - "It's got a station, no need to go there, pass through it on the way to Watford, even Rickmansworth High School".

Whereas other areas have a definitive image i.e. Rickmansworth has a High Street, Sarratt is set around the green, Chorleywood has a central shopping area, etc., etc., - Croxley Green sprawls, is it urban or rural, is it an area trying to retain its own identity, but in danger of becoming an outpost of Watford?

It has five shopping areas, Scots Hill/The Green, either end of Baldwins Lane, the shops by the station and a few along the Watford Road and New Road, *Hardly the Village Image!!*

With the pressure, on those small businesses still trading, from out-of-town developments, i.e. Watford, Tesco's development etc., can our small traders survive? If those businesses close it will put the *Croxley Village* image even further from the people's minds. Before you jump into the car and shop outside the area see if your local businesses can support your needs.

The shout of "cost" might disappear, as local businesses may be able to compete in both cost and service, if you don't use them they will surely disappear and who knows what transport policies future governments will decide and will you have transport to get there? Your legs, hopefully, will carry you to your local shops.

Cllr Robert Ridley

**CROXLEY GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL**

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

All meetings take place in the Parish Office which is situate on the Car Park off Barton Way. They are timed to start at 8.00pm and should be complete by 10.30pm. They are all open to the public and a chance is given, at the start of each meeting, for members of the public to address the meeting.

The abbreviations given below are:-

E & A - Environment and Amenity. This committee deals with all aspects of the green environment and recreational amenities within the Parish.

P & D - Planning and Development. This committee deals with responses, to Three Rivers District Council, on all planning applications affecting the Parish. It also deals generally with the built environment.

F & A - Finance and Administration. This committee deals with all aspects of overall finance and administrative matters.

DECEMBER 1995.

Tuesday	5	E&A Committee
Wednesday	6	P&D Committee
Thursday	14	F&A Committee
Wednesday	20	P&D Committee
Thursday	21	Council Meeting

JANUARY 1996.

Tuesday	2	E&A Committee
Wednesday	3	P&D Committee
Thursday	11	F&A Committee
Wednesday	17	P&D Committee
Thursday	25	Council Meeting

FEBRUARY 1996.

Tuesday	6	E&A Committee
Wednesday	7	P&D Committee
Thursday	15	F&A Committee
Wednesday	21	P&D Committee
Thursday	29	Council Meeting

MARCH 1996.

Tuesday	5	E&A Committee
Wednesday	6	P&D Committee
Thursday	14	F&A Committee
Wednesday	20	P&D Committee
Thursday	28	Council Meeting

APRIL 1996.

Tuesday	2	E&A Committee
Wednesday	3	P&D Committee
Thursday	11	F&A Committee
Wednesday	17	P&D Committee
Thursday	25	Council Open Meeting

MAY 1996.

Thursday	9	AGM
Thursday	16	F&A Committee