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Croxley Green
Parish Council

The Parish Pump

No. 8 May 1996



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Brian Norman	779331
Lesley Rees	248126
Mark Rumsey	239059
Ray Withers	448370

Croxley Green Ward

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Christine Jefford	771769
Margaret Pomfret	720088
Chairman - Environment & Amenity	
Robert Ridley	778638
Norma Stubington	721243
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Sheila Wright	772460
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South Ward

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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

I suspect that the *Parish Pump* is now becoming as popular as the *Resident* though the distribution is not done by volunteers and therefore does not reach all our constituents, where they bar the delivery of free newspapers, which is the most reliable medium we can find. However it is your way of keeping in touch with the activities of your elected local representatives.

This edition we have decided to concentrate on the cause of local traders, which keep our village alive. Yes! Cllr. Sheila Wright's article surprised me with its findings but it was a pleasant surprise. I am one of those old-fashioned bodies that regret the passing of the true village grocer who found out the items that one required on demand. I am always lost in supermarkets and do not enjoy serving myself, my ignorance of weights, measures and use of items needs help. I find that local shopkeepers are willing to help in this manner and I don't have to spend precious time looking around countless shelves. Cllr. Brian Norman's article on local entrepreneurs looks interesting and perhaps will fire a newly redundant but enterprising person to research more fully this interesting prospect.

The article concerning our proposals for the protection of the Green from its annual invasion deserves your careful consideration. We are willing - are you?

This edition also shows, contrary to some opinion, that we care about and are working in other areas than the Green. Yes, I know that we have recently renewed the surround to the War Memorial but we have also constructed a much needed footpath in Little Green Lane to protect our younger citizens. Work is also proceeding to protect and improve our heritage of country footpaths.

We do care, will you help us. Our door is always open. Well between 10.00am and 2.00pm every weekday.

PARISH COUNCILS COST LESS

A number of people have said, very pointedly, that our Parish Council is a waste of money and that they get nothing for the Council Charge that they pay. It is, therefore, time that the facts were made clear.

Look again at your Council Charge demand. It is clear that the charges, in total, show that the un-parished area is the most expensive and that parished areas are cheaper, depending on the length of establishment and the services covered. The basic rate covering Hertfordshire County Council and Three Rivers District Council are the same throughout the area and amount to (on a band D property):-

Herts CC	£450.77
Herts Police Authority	46.02
TRDC -General expenses	72.81

TOTAL £569.60

The rest of the bill is made up of charges specific to each area. These consist of *Special Expenses* and *Parish Precepts*. The totals vary from area to area but observation shows that these are greatest in the un-parished area and lowest in the parishes which do most under their own management. These are laid out below for our Parish with comparisons (in brackets) for last year:-

Special expenses	£ 5.98 (£22.01)
Precept	£29.35 (£19.30)

TOTAL £35.33 (£41.31)

This gives a grand total of £604.93 (for a band D property) and shows a saving of £5.98 per household. Then compare this with the Grand Total (Band D property) for the un-parished area which is £620.40.

But how have we achieved this? We have been anxious, for some time, to take over the management and expenses of maintaining our playing fields. Examination shows that those parishes which already do this for themselves show savings and we want the people of Croxley Green to share the same advantages. We have now taken the first step and have persuaded TRDC to let us take over the expenses and pay, from our precept, for the management of the playing fields. The figure is removed from *Special Expenses* and a revised figure is now covered by our normal *Parish Precept*. We can show savings like this on pure administration and are convinced that, if we can actually carry out the work with our own labour force, we can save even more.

We are not criticising the work done by TRDC but feel that, as we are on the spot, we can do as good, if not better, a job. Only time and the chance will tell. Parish Councils are worth while, check your facts and see for yourself - look at the extra services you get from our Rangers - at no extra cost.

**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.

LITTLE GREEN LANE

Before I became a Governor at Little Green School, I put in a petition to Three Rivers District Council, on behalf of parents who used Little Green Lane to get their children to school, to make up a footpath. Mrs Mary Tither, a teacher at the school and also a District Councillor, took on the task of trying to persuade TRDC to fund such a footway in the following year's budget. She could see the problems, threatening at the time, of extra traffic coming off the new M25 Motorway and using Rousebarn Lane to get to places within Croxley Green. Since the closing of this lane, it has been so much better.

As you are aware, things at Council level sometimes take years to achieve. I became a governor myself and we all, on the governing body, pulled together to get this pathway started. It eventually got started whilst my daughter was at the school, about five years ago, but - to our disappointment - stopped at Durrants Drive, due to lack of funds.

Last year, I became a Parish Councillor and, together with Vivienne Simister, put pressure on TRDC to finish the job - all to no avail. We then suggested to the

Parish Council that perhaps we could do it ourselves, if it didn't cost too much. It was costed with TRDC's Works Department and they offered to do it for us if we paid them £10,500. Using our own labour, we found that we could do the basic job for about £2000 and eventually after some delay, due to lack of labour, the job has recently been completed by our Rangers, Byron De'Ath and Garry Morris-Jones, leaving the final tarmacadam finish to be laid by TRDC and then adopted (hopefully in the not too distant future). We are indebted to TRDC for the supply of the hoggins, which is the base for the tarmac, and makes the path usable pending this final topping. The path, which has been built to the statutory specification, was officially opened on Monday 29th April, by our own Chairman, and immediately used by representative schoolchildren and the headmaster of Little Green School. An important occasion.

I hope that this project will prove to be worth the fight, in keeping our community safe from the traffic using the lane as a through route.

Cllr Lesley Rees.

**TRAVELLERS
AND THE GREEN**

The season of the traveller is imminent and Croxley Green could be in for its, now, annual visitation.

With the change in law, in respect of travellers, they may now reside in our vicinity for longer periods of time. Proposals to try to secure the Green against another invasion have been put forward to the Parish Council, by its own working party, and your support is now needed to make provision to deter the travellers from camping on the main area of the Green. There is currently little easy access, due to the height of the verges, and it is proposed to extend these bunds with limited small accesses guarded by minor barriers. It is appreciated that there is no finite solution which will prevent access by the most determined but, on the other hand, no deterrent is an open invitation to use our Green as in previous years, leaving us with the cost of making the Green clean and safe after their departure.

As residents of Croxley Green we can help by NOT encouraging these people in giving them work in the form of illicit tree pruning or making up driveways. Remember, you pay the cost twice, once by paying for the service of the task done and, secondly, by the indirect payment of cleaning up - via your Council Tax.

It is your opinion that counts! So, please make your Parish Council aware of your feelings on this subject by writing to them c/o the Parish Office. Or, call in and see the detailed proposals. No final decision will be made until consultation has taken place, but we cannot canvass everyone individually.

Cllr. Brian Norman

* * * * *

CLEAN-UP WEEKEND

20-21st April 1996

**WELL DONE
CROXLEY GREEN**

Croxley Green Parish Council have been awarded Three Rivers District Council's *Clean-Up Shield* for the best Community efforts during the Clean-Up Weekend as part of the National Tidy Britain Group's annual event which took place over the period 10th - 21st April.

We won this shield in the first year of its presentation in 1993 and in winning it again we have shown that we care about the place in which we live.

THANK YOU!

It's your trophy.

SHOP LOCALLY

LOCAL SHOPKEEPERS

The plight of an ever decreasing market share of our village shops against multiples, must be of great concern to all residents in Croxley.

This sorry state of affairs is wide spread throughout our village communities. To this end a business man living in a Sussex Village decided to research the problem. After carrying out a market research within the community he found there was a need in the market place for re-establishing the personalised delivery service, with the aid of modern technology. With the co-operation of local shop keepers he established a master catalogue of their products; these were then coded for ease of communication. The customer would then communicate either by telephone, fax or by updating a previous order, when delivered, by listing the codes of the products required. The products were then purchased on the customers behalf from the selected stores and one single delivery made. The cost to the consumer for this service is £2.99 per delivery. The balance of the expenses in organising the business was derived from agreed discounts from the retailer to the delivery service company.

It was found that the service has been beneficial to the shopkeepers by promoting more trade and by making consumers more aware of the benefits of such a scheme.

During interviews with local residents, it was found that it was not only beneficial to the elderly or those that were housebound, but many business people working from home were able to discard the pressure of shopping in large stores. One other interesting comment was made, that they were able to purchase only those goods that they required. Therefore not being coerced into buying unscheduled products, this being a direct cost saving.

This news item was documented by BBC radio in March 1996. So if local retailers feel that there may be grounds for a similar idea in Croxley, one then asks if there is any person willing to organise and put into action such a scheme.

Cllr Brian Norman

WHY SHOP LOCALLY?

In the last few days I have had a tremendous surprise.

I have always been a great believer in shopping locally, if only because I can see a day coming - though I think it's still a long way off - when I shall not be able to drive and shall certainly not want to toil into Watford on the bus and stand in a queue with all my shopping afterwards. I want to be quite sure that when that day comes I shall have local shops available just round the corner.

So when the Parish Council decided to organise a promotion for local shops, I proposed to do a little "comparison shopping" - taking an average sort of shopping list and seeing exactly what it would cost at a big supermarket and what it would cost in Croxley. What I expected to find was that the supermarket would prove somewhat cheaper, but that this saving would virtually disappear if one considered the costs of getting to the supermarket by car or bus.

But to my absolute astonishment I found that, for my "average" shopping list, this "saving" simply did not exist. There was actually *no* saving to be made by going to the supermarket - what would have cost £29.48 at Croxley shops would have cost £31.65 there. My shopping list (selected simply as ordinary and normal) would have cost *more* at - well, I'd better not lay the Parish Council open to a libel suit by naming them, but you know who I mean.

I have never been so surprised in my life, but it was true. I did all my sums as honestly as I could, and tried very hard to compare like with like (not always easy, what with the beef scare and the effects of winter weather on vegetables) and there was no doubt - it is actually *cheaper* to shop in Croxley.

So why don't we? Because "one-stop shopping" saves time? But personally I always find I waste more time at a supermarket looking for what I want, and then standing in the checkout queue, than ever I do in the small friendly shops of Croxley. Because we are fascinated by the variety of exotic foods on offer? Yes, I can admit that; but must also recognise that the big retailers are adept at seducing me into buying all kinds of things I don't really want, can't really afford, and often don't really enjoy when I've got them.

In any case, I still come back to my original reason for using Croxley shops. One day I shall *depend on them for my every day need. If I don't use them now, they may not be there when that day comes. And then what shall I do?*

Cllr Sheila Wright

LOCAL SHOPS!

Included in this issue of the Pump is a spreadsheet on which we have invited local shops and traders to advertise.

There are many diverse trades in Croxley and hopefully by reading through the spreadsheet you will find a local trader who will fulfill your shopping needs, without having to leave the Parish, and you might be pleasantly surprised.

Local shops are not just interested in your "bar code" and usually can spend a couple of minutes to explain what is suitable for your requirements, from their years of knowledge.

Many local traders might offer discounts, home delivery service, or will put by your telephone order for you to collect at your convenience, not always available at the "Superstores".

BIG IS BEST ISN'T ALWAYS RIGHT OR CHEAPEST.

USE THEM OR LOSE THEM

Cllr Robert Ridley

CHINA GARDEN

Chinese Food
to Take Away

190 New Road
Croxley Green
Tel: 01923 779300

THE SPORTSMAN

Scots Hill
Croxley Green

Pool League
Darts League
Sky TV for EURO 96

**STANDARD TANDOORI
INDIAN RESTAURANT**

Delicious Indian
Cuisine

208 Watford Road
Tel: 01923 241538 &
240031

**THE CROXLEY
TANDOORI**

First Class Indian
Takeaway

197 Watford Road
Tel: 01923
223547/223529

**Farmhouse Pizza
Collection Only**

Tel: 01923 211733

CROXLEY CAFE
146 Watford Road
Tel: 01923 770046

Breakfasts all day
Home Made Lunches
Rolls & Sandwiches
Take-aways available

Unwins Limited

Extensive Range of
Wines, Beers & Spirits
Free Local Deliveries
Now Once a Week

148 Watford Road
Tel: 01923 772829

R & R Stores
47/49 Baldwins Lane

Off Licence

Open - 7 Days
8.00am-10.00pm

National Lottery

COACH & HORSES

A Warm Welcome
Hearty Food
Garden

Car Park
overlooking The Green

The Artichoke

Cask Ales
Refurbished
Beer Garden
Quality Food
Car Park
on The Green

THE DUKE OF YORK
Watford Road

Live Music
Real Ales
Childrens Play Area
Food Served
Bar B Q's

**BLOCKBUSTER
VIDEO****The Two Bridges**
Croxley Green

Restaurant
SKY TV

Tel: 01923 236784

Corner Plaice

for
Traditional
Fish and Chips
Chicken
Scampi
Pies

Baldwins Lane

BARRETT & OTTAWAY

Bakers & Confectioners

*Fresh Daily Bread
Snacks & Drinks*

*The Green
Tel: 01923 772355*

W A Carr & Son Ltd

Furniture - Cutlery
Crockery - Linen & Glass
Hire/Sales
Catering for All

219 New Road
Tel: 01923 773611
Fax: 01923 711154

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Stationers Ltd**

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from the professionals
Your local Colour
Copyshop -Fax Bureau

200 Watford Road
Tel: 01923 237710
Fax: 01923 237648

Winton Catering

**Catering for
Weddings, Parties,
Office Functions etc**

**Winton House
Winton Approach
Tel: 01923 800006**

Premier Butchers
41 Baldwins Lane

Scotch Beef - English Lamb
English Pork
Prime Gammon,
Home Cooked Meats

Premier - Fish Direct from
Billingsgate Fish Market

Freezer Orders
Free Delivery Local Area
Tel: 01923 231821

DENNIS PUTT BUTCHERS
194 WATFORD ROAD
TEL: 01923 221669

FAMILY OF BUTCHERS FOR
OVER 100 YEARS

HOME MADE SAUSAGES, HOME
COOKED HAM, SCOTCH BEEF
SPECIAL CUTS OF MEAT FOR
THOSE SPECIAL OCCASIONS

COME AND HAVE A CHAT

Croxley Meats

175 New Road

Tel/Fax 01923 772171

Retail - Catering
Sausage Manufacturers

Buy superior quality
meat at below
supermarket prices
prepared to your exact
requirements
Homecooked meats
sliced and plattered for
your function

Free home delivery
service
(min £10.00)

Keith G Marsh

303 Baldwins Lane
Tel: 01923 770594

Member of the National
Federation of Meat and Food
Traders

Traders You Can Trust

Fancy some chicken or a nice
pork chop?
Then pop along to your
butchers shop.
Advice on cuts and cooking
your meat,
We'll help you serve up a tasty
treat.
Personal service is our style,
A kind word and a friendly
smile.
Why traipse down to the
superstore
When your local butcher offers
you more?

Free local delivery
10% discount on all
orders over £50

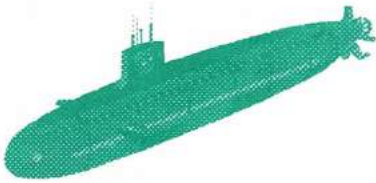
T Bone & Son
53 Baldwins Lane

Established 100 years,
we're the oldest
established independent
greengrocers in the area.

Our new floristry dept.
opened last year and has
already made a name for
itself for high quality floral
work for all occasions.

Tel: 01923 222478

CONTENTIOUS CORRESPONDENCE



I have lived in Croxley Green for 20 years and recently discovered that the Village is surrounded on two sides by the Grand Union Canal. Is the Parish Council aware of the danger this very deep stretch of water poses to the general public? I suggest that on the grounds of safety the water level is reduced to a depth of less than three feet or alternatively the whole canal is concreted over. The Parish Council could then recover the cost by charging canal users a fee to be transported by lorry from one end of Croxley to the other. Alternatively a submarine conversion kit could be hired out to enable barges to travel in the water below the concrete top. Just think of the advantages - barges will be able to travel underneath the locks without all the hassle of waiting for the water to go up and down.

Yours sincerely
Charles Boffin
Sycamore Close

An integration of the Community Centre and Parish Council Offices could solve a lot of the problems currently facing these organisations. During council meetings, a quick dash (between items on the agenda) to the bar by Councillors and members of the public would quickly diffuse contentious situations (especially if the Councillors pay) and in the meantime the Parish Council toilets could be used by people using the hall (as they do now).

The meetings would also be more fun - imagine telling fellow Councillors what you really felt about them.

Cllr P D Brains
Croxley West

People are always complaining that Parish Councillors don't do enough to hear the views of the general public. Well, if one is prepared to venture to the Community Centre on any Friday night there are usually at least two of them

prepared to discuss any subject you like as long as you don't disagree with them and as long as you buy them a beer.

Yours faithfully
P Head
c/o Toilets by Community Centre

I recently read in the Croxley Observer of the Parish Council's plan to turn the Little Green Pond into a Skateboard Park. Does this comply with the Conservation Area Plan? I for one will not be using it.



Yours protestingly
N Walnut (Parish Councillor)

The Skateboard Park planned by the Parish Council to be built at Little Green sounds a wonderful idea. For far too many years the youngsters of Croxley have had nothing to do and this has led to a rocketing increase in arson, burglaries and rioting in the Streets. If a complete sports stadium was also built at Little Green, Croxley would overnight become a peaceful and safe area.

Mr P E Triffid
New Way



I am writing to complain about the Parish Council. Last spring I made use of their newly erected Diving Platform at the Little Green Pond. On successfully completing a swallow dive with twist, tuck and triple salco I discovered on entering the water that the Pond was only six inches deep! How dare the Parish Council not warn us of this fact! I really must insist that a notice board is erected stating the depth - like any well run swimming pool would.

Yours just released from Watford Hospital.

Ivor Shortneck
Cophthorne Street

With reference to N Walnut's letter on this page - I can answer that the Conservation Area Plan does not allow change of use or development. However since I believe that the Little Green Pond is used as a Skating Rink during the Winter, the whole matter could be debatable!

Certainly building a stand for spectators will constitute development.

D Iceman
Harvey Street



I heard the other day that a Parish Councillor is planning to open a new business in Croxley, something to do with computers. Since all Parish Councillors are old, retired and haven't a clue about business or commercial awareness I expect the company to go bankrupt straight away. Or even sooner!

Yours sincerely
B I Gott
Croxley Observer Reader

I recently read in the Croxley Observer that the Parish Council has bought a rubbish tip for £250,000. For £1,000 they could have had my compost heap and household waste and saved a fortune. Whatever will they spend money on next? A moat around The Green?

Yours
F Flintpebble
Croxley Hall Mews



MEMORIES OF CROXLEY GREEN

Croxley Green has changed considerably in the past 150 years since John Dickinson first decided to build one of his many paper mills in the area.

What was a small village, mainly settled around Scots Hill with a scattering of farms and country houses became the Croxley Green we now know.

There are several families still living in Croxley Green who remember many of these changes, their memories of how life used to be are important when we wish to record local history for the future residents of Croxley Green, who will be interested in learning about the history of the place in which they live.

Local history is about the memories and the relationship between people and the places that are important to them.

It is about the common place, the local character that many people can take for granted.

This local distinctiveness is about childhood memories and reminiscences. You may be nine or 90 and these can be lost and forgotten.

Story telling is an ancient art - a lively way of keeping local knowledge alive.

It was a tradition to pass on and remember the locality. Local places are a mixed bag of nature, history, legends and lives and are changing all the time. The smallest things can delight us and take us into another world that we can share with others. Local places mean a great deal to us, whether it is about events that take place on The Green, our school days, the time we spent at the Mill or the Institute or more recent events.

These things can be hard to create and easy to lose.

These "Memories of Croxley Green" are being collected and with photographs will be collated in a book.

If you would like to help:

Jot a few things down - make a list of the things you remember and you are half way there. Looking at old photographs - recalling people who were important to us - events and places.

For some weeks now the LIBRARY has been most generous in giving space to this project in the foyer with a display of photographs many loaned that have been copied. They can be as small as 1½" x 2½", they can be enlarged.

To those residents who have entrusted their family photographs to us to be copied - we are extremely grateful.

Some "memories" for you to write a sentence or two, to get you started.

- Did you take part in the Festival Parade 1951 or the coronation Parade 1953? How or where were you, what did you do whilst Queen Elizabeth was being crowned?
- Tell us about your school days - were you at Durrants for instance?
- Have you something you would like to confess to, that's amusing and still remain anonymous!
- Did you work for John Dickinson - what did you do - did you witness the demolishing of the mill?
- Did you ever go to Bricket Wood for a Sunday School treat?

There is so much to tell - here is your opportunity to put pen to paper and write a sentence or two about your memory.

These can be handed in to the:

Parish Office Barton Way
Library Barton Way
Margaret Pomfret 40 Repton Way
Norma Stubington 20 Rugby Way
John Kirkham 5 Sycamore Road

Cllr Margaret Pomfret

STREET TREES

The Ranger has been replacing trees in sites on the road verges that have not had a tree for some time. This may be due to vandalism or removal due to age, where mature tree roots may have lifted the paving or tarmac.

If you have one of these new trees close by PLEASE help it during its early years by sparing some time "once a week" to water the roots

THE POND AT LITTLE GREEN

What has been done so far?

September/October 1994 the pond was dug out with many trailer loads of silt being removed (approximately 22).

Prior to this volunteers/school children had spent a day clearing scrub and grass from the area. Four willow trees were moved from within the pond area that had grown up over many years when the pond had not had any management. Early, heavy rainfall that Autumn (1994) prevented any further work and it was recommended to leave the pond during 1995 and monitor water levels through until summer 1996.

Photographs and measurements have been recorded since then. The Council recommended a report be prepared by an Environmental Consultant who would advise/recommend the best way forward to manage the pond so that it will bring both visual pleasure and educational enjoyment to old and young residents.

When this report is received it will be available at the Parish Office for inspection and hopefully the recommendations can be carried out during the time when the pond is without water during the summer.

If we are to see this pond remain attractive, future management proposals are important otherwise within a short period the pond will revert to the "swampy grass hollow" that it had been in the past years.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT CROXLEY HALL WOODS

In January of this year the Parish Council, Three Rivers District Council and the Countryside Management Services together, made a start on clearing an area at the bottom of All Saints Lane/corner of Lavrock Lane of Sycamore trees that are beginning to take over these woods. This species readily spreads and can become a "weed" to a woodland, cutting out light and preventing beech, oak and native trees etc from becoming established, as well as the bluebells that are so beautiful here in the spring.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret

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and Letting Agents

LLOYDS CHEMISTS**Pharmacy Services**

Caring for the
Community

188 New Road
Tel: 01923 772072

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301 Baldwins Lane
Tel: 775778

Your Local Grocer
Orders delivered

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Croxley SuperMarket
188 Watford Road
Tel: 01923 223603

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snacks & soft drinks
Best range of
newspapers etc,
delivered to your door
or reserved for
collection

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Lottery Tickets
(under new
management)

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STONES ORCHARD

(Tree Planting, Vandalism, Coppicing)

Once again our local school children aged from four to eleven years helped to plant fruit trees in the old orchard earlier this year in February. Twelve trees including, apple, cherry and plum were planted by Harvey Road, Little Green, Malvern Way, Yorke Mead and Rickmansworth Park (as many Croxley Green children attend this school).

Each school was photographed and presented with a certificate to remember the occasion and most recently each school was given a photograph to commemorate their morning planting the trees.

Only one month later, sadly some of these and some of the trees planted during March 1995 were severely uprooted - plus the stakes and watering systems and strewn about the orchard. Several trees were snapped in half or bent over. Hopefully many will survive, having been replanted and in some cases taped where they had been bent just in case they will "knit" back together.

If you know any details about this event please let us know or if you regularly walk the orchard perhaps you will report any incidents to the Parish Office.

These tree planting days involving a large number of our younger children, take considerable planning and have been enjoyed by those that have taken part in this restoration of one of the few remaining orchards in Croxley Green. More and more local authorities are beginning to recognise the importance orchards are to a community, for wild life and places to enjoy and experience.

Coppicing in Stones Orchard

Whilst the orchard was primarily known for its fruit trees, at the front there was once a thick hazel "wood" whereby filbert nuts were harvested each year.

These trees would have been regularly coppiced on rotation. Four rows of trees with approximately 10 Hazel Trees per row would have produced a viable harvest which was sold as was the fruit. (primroses once grew amongst these trees).

Why Coppice?

These trees have been unmanaged for many years (in 1960 the tenancy was relinquished by the Stone family).

Periodic coppicing (cutting back) prolongs the life of a tree, allowing the tree to regrow from the cut stumps (stools) this encourages and produces numerous shoots or poles rather than one main stem. Coppiced wood would have been used for traditional building, fencing material and for firewood (faggots). A supply of young shoots would also have been used to create new hedging.

Unmanaged coppiced hazel will eventually grow into trees, that can become top heavy and will in time naturally fall with age or blow over in strong winds.

Three of the four rows were coppiced in February and the gaps planted with "whips". These will be "left alone" to root and the coppiced trees to regrow, the outside row will be left for five years when this too will be coppiced to encourage new growth and prolong the life of this hedge.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret

"DOGGIE BINS"

AND DOG HYGIENE

During 1995 the Parish Council encouraged the use of the bins around the parish by highlighting this with a poster competition amongst the local schools.

Bins can be found throughout the parish some adjacent to play areas, footpaths etc for your convenience to clean up after your pet.

POOP SCOOP BAGS ARE FREE AND AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE ASK AND USE THEM TO MAKE THOSE AREAS A NICER PLACE TO WALK NOT ONLY FOR YOUNG MUMS AND THEIR CHILDREN BUT FOR US ALL.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret

PARISH PATHS

In the previous issue of the "Pump" we reported the work we are endeavouring to achieve this year on upgrading and re-signing our public footpaths.

Many of our footpaths (rights of way) are not signed at all, some have the old district numbers on the direction arms (for example, footpath No.36 from Copthorne Road to the River Chess, should be Public Footpath No.3 as we only have 18 public rights of way!).

The survey is now completed and hopefully the directional arms will be ordered this summer when the Rangers can make a start in placing them on the footpaths.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret

PARISH MAP

Copies of the Parish Map, produced by the Council are still available having recently been reprinted by "popular demand". These can be purchased for £3 complete with a postal tube from both the Parish Office and the Library.

VILLAGE APPRAISAL

In the forthcoming months, The Parish Council hope to issue a questionnaire to all the homes in Croxley Green.

The information gathered will act as a base for identifying local needs or demands for action.

When the questionnaire arrives through your letterbox, take a few minutes to read through and answer the questions, then return it to the Parish Council. The information you give to the Parish Council will help in any initiatives we might carry forward, not only at Parish level but also in making proposals to District Council.

Cllr Robert Ridley

**COME AND SEE US AT
THE REVELS ON THE GREEN
ON SATURDAY 22 JUNE 1996**

**CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 1996
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.
4. I wish to enter my garden in the Most Improved Competition for judging next year.***

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 Friday 28th June 1996 to:

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

GARDEN COMPETITION 1996

The Garden Competition, open to all Croxley Green Residents, is becoming increasingly popular each year. We have promoted this competition for the last three years and 1996 sees our fourth event.

*** This year we are seeking a new category, to be judged next year. Is your garden a poor example? Do you have plans for improvement? Or, can we persuade you to formulate such plans? If so, then enter it this year. We will photograph it in July, this year, and visit again at judging time next year. You will need to enter a year ahead. ***

As with any competition, the enjoyment comes in taking part and this certainly true, judging by the responses we have received from the competitors who attend our prize giving evenings.

We do not expect Chelsea exhibits when the judging takes place - just a little TLC (tender loving care) - with colour.

How to Enter.

Just complete the form above and return it to the Parish Office in order to register your garden for this event.

The entry for the Most Improved Garden is for next year's competition but is needed now in order to judge the improvement.

Now it is Up to You!

Around the second and third weeks in July, a small party of Parish Councillors will visit your garden, photograph it and recommend a short list for a panel of judges to view again for the final placing. These judges, who will be experts and people from outside the Parish Council, will then decide which gardens will receive First, Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended and Commended awards.

In September, an awards evening will be held in the Parish Office and all entrants are cordially invited to attend.

Do you have a garden that you are proud of and care for?

Look out for the gardens that were entered last year. Photographs of these will be displayed at the Parish Council's stand at this year's Revels on 22nd June 1996. You will still have four days left to enter.

Cllr. Margaret Pomfret.

Croxley Green Parish Council

PHOTOGRAPHIC

COMPETITION 1996



How well do you know Croxley Green?

Are you involved in a local organisation?

Are you a teacher in a local school?

Are you a pupil in a local school?

During this summer we would like you to show us what you think represents the best of Croxley Green.

This can be either:

The Environment to include, landscapes, nature, animals and plants etc

Village Life for example The Revels, School days or taking part in a local organisation/activity

An Amusing Photograph that has been taken in the parish.

We will be launching this competition at The Revels this year with details on how to enter. Posters and entry forms will be available giving age groups, categories, rules etc - meanwhile, where did I put that camera?

We have many exciting prizes and that photograph you may take this summer in Croxley Green could win one of them!

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the following organisations/persons who have generously sponsored this competition:

Argyll Glass - Croxley Green
Aerofilms of Borehamwood
Dixons - Watford
Dennis Nunn
Graphic Photo Centre - Watford
Greville Studios - Watford
Jessop Photo Centres
Kodak Limited - Hemel Hempstead
Pentax UK Limited
Photocare - Rickmansworth
Samsung
SRS Microsystems Ltd - Watford

