

effect in the locality, not just on the Green, but throughout the Parish. All efforts are made to ensure that we get value for money in these essential, but hitherto neglected. areas of general maintenance.

The

Parish

Bump

No. 9 December 1996

Window

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

You will see from articles that our work on the Pond at Little Green and in the Orchard continues. Some ill-informed correspondence in the local paper, would lead you to believe that these activities are expensive. This is untrue as, not only are they budgeted carefully but many grants are received to fund these initiatives. We had thought that the Photographic Competition would require a reasonable financial input from us but the response from sponsors was overwhelming and our contribution was minuscule and covered just the administration. Our ventures actually publishing produce income which can be ploughed back into the community.

We are proud to be associated with the Mummers who are carrying on a tradition which meant much to our fathers. However, we deplore the imposition of legislation from TRDC which requires a licence for this local activity. Our annual Revels on the Green is also affected by the same legislation and is a thorn in the flesh of the organisers. The legislation in question was surely not meant to cover such events. Perhaps this is a case where the voice of the people should be heard. Why not, if you feel strongly about this, lobby your district councillor to remedy this silliness.

The Parish Bus continues to be well supported but some travellers do not appear to be aware of its existence, so I make no apology for reprinting the timetable. served by Parish are Councillors and even an ex-parish councillor in attendance on this weekly venture, and we would like to thank these people. Many of our clients will have missed the banter from Madryn Waldron, who has been in hospital for some time. She is in our thoughts and we send our best wishes.

Meantime business continues as usual and new initiatives are being planned.

May we wish all our readers A Very Happy Christmas.

GARDEN COMPETITION 1996 (4TH YEAR)

HOW DID YOUR GARDEN GROW? The late start to this summer did not deter the "regulars" to the Annual Garden Competition nor the new entrants who took part in this most enjoyable event. This year we introduced a new category on the MOST IMPROVED GARDEN. Obviously, this award requires a period for the work to be done and judged so the award will be presented next year.

The final judging panel again included the Chairman of Three Rivers District Council, this year Cllr Nena Spellen accompanied by her husband Ron Spellen also a District Councillor; Mr Harvey Wardell - Parks and Woodlands Officer for TRDC and Mr Dave Cartwright of D&J Nurseries (adjacent to Croxley House on The Green).

We would like to extend our appreciation to D&J Nurseries who sponsored the winners in each of the three garden sections. The winners and runners up receive awards which they keep and additionally each of the three garden section winners were presented with vouchers to spend in the NURSERY.

The judging of the gardens takes place about the third week in July and this is followed by an awards evening in September, which all the judges and entrants are invited to attend. This is an opportunity for all the gardeners to get together, compare efforts, swap ideas and pass on tips. There is a display of photographs of each garden entered.

District Councillor Phil Brading (Croxley Green South), presently Vice Chairman of TRDC, presented the awards.

If you would like to join in next year 1997 and would like to know details, please contact the Parish Office or watch out for the entry form in the next Parish Pump.

The categories were as follows:-Front Garden Small Back Garden Large Back Garden Public House Additional Prizes are sponsored by D&J Nurseries, The Green.

RESULTS

FRONT GARDEN

Winner

Mr Sills,1 Dulwich Way
Very Highly Commended
Mrs Martin, 54 Harvey Road
Highly Commended
Mrs Gibbons, 12 Evans Close
Commended
Mrs Hooley, 12 Winton Crescent

BACK GARDEN (SMALL). Winner

Mr & Mrs West, 35 Barton Way Very Highly Commended Mrs Gibbons, 12 Evans Close Highly Commended Mr & Mrs Edwards, 3 Lancing Way Highly Commended Mr Humphrey, 56 Winchester Way Commended

Miss Mitchell, 172a Grove Crescent

BACK GARDEN (LARGE).

Winner

Mr Benning, 69 Valley Walk
Very Highly Commended
Mr Wilcox. 43 Hastings Way
Highly Commended
Mr & Mrs Forrest,
30 Canterbury Way
Commended
Mrs Paddick, 52 Dickinson Avenue

PUBLIC HOUSES.

Winner

The Sportsman, 2 Scots Hill Very Highly Commended The Artichoke, The Green

D&J Nurseries - The Green (adjacent to Croxley House)

Would like to wish the residents of Croxley Green A Very Merry Christmas

> Christmas Trees, Christmas Wreaths, Cyclamen etc available

MY FIRST YEAR AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR

(A Personal View)

In May 1995 I was elected by the voters of Croxley Green South Ward to be a Parish Councillor. What had I let myself in for? Having lived in Croxley Green for the last eight years and having been involved in the Revels organising committee for six of those years there's not much, I naively thought, I didn't know about the area or some of its characters!

The first meeting I attended was dominated by heated discussion about a wooden platform over a pond that I didn't even know existed. A week later an anonymous letter about this platform dropped through my letter box with a veiled threat attached to it!!!

It can't get much worse, can it? Wrong. Less than twelve weeks after the election I was required to attend a special meeting to decide on a vote of confidence in the Chairman of the Council. Who said local politics was boring.

I volunteered to sit on the Planning and Development Committee of the Council. This committee deals with all planning applications and other matters like Bus Shelters and Public Notice Boards. I was of course instantly an expert on building regulations and knew immediately the difference between a hipped and gabled roof line, backland development, water tables, sloping and flat roofs etc. NOT. remember my first question regarding a loft conversion was 'What is a hipped roof line and what's the problem with changing it to a gabled one or vice versa and who cares anyway?

Luckily, I and the other virgin Councillors on the committee were guided, some might say led by the nose, through the maze of legal and technical jargon by our clerk and Chairman of the Council.

So, I ask myself now, is it worth it? The answer has to be - yes. I still find myself sometimes at a loss to know what the right decision to make is. I listen to the arguments and discussions and I make up my mind on what I hear. I try, to the best of my ability, to make the 'right' decisions for Croxley Green. I listen to constructive criticism of the Council and take note. I disregard falsehoods. innuendo and Remember I, like my fellow new Councillors, are learning all the time and that we are all unpaid volunteers. If we get it wrong, tell us. If we get it right then tell us as well. We are here to help and assist you in whatever limited way we can. If you want to see us in action you're more than welcome to come along to our meetings.

Cllr Mark Saxon.

"We've come to show activity upon a Christmas Time"

With these words Father Christmas introduces the beginning of the Croxley Mummers Play. Mummers plays were a traditional form of village entertainment and can be found in many parts of England. The earliest recorded reference to a Mummers play is 1750. All the plays tell basically the same story, that of our hero, usually St George who is at first killed by the Dragon, and is revived by the Doctor, and then goes on to kill the Dragon, the Turkish Knight and finally the Giant. and by so doing wins the hand of the King of Egypt's daughter. There opportunities are many interaction with the audience and the other actors and no two performances are exactly the same.

The Croxley Green version of the play was written by 'Neggy' Wilson shortly after the first world war, and is a compilation of bits from other Mummers plays from around the country. Neggy, one of Croxley Green's well known characters, was the headmaster of the Croxley Boys School, and he got together a group of his former pupils to perform in various houses in Croxley Green on Christmas Eve for most of the next 40 years, the last performances being in the mid 1950's.

Two years ago a group of Croxlev residents decided that it might be an idea to try to revive the play and perform it at Christmas time. We knew that, although the play had not been seen in Croxley Green for about 40 years, it was still being performed every boxing Day in St Albans. The St Albans' Mummers having "borrowed" Neggy's version of the play. We borrowed back a copy of the script and set about producing our version. Actors, and in these politically correct times, actresses were recruited and we were kindly allowed to hold our rehearsals at Yorke Mead School and in the Scout HQ on Watford Road. We had to make new costumes as the original ones were destroyed in the Dickinson Guild House fire.

As time went on we began to get more information about the original mummers including a photograph. There is a very informative article by Frank Paddick detailing the history of the Croxley Mummers and listing the places where the play was performed each year. They usually started off at All Saint's Vicarage and, as most of the cast were workers at Dickinson's Mill, they finished at Lindiswara Court, the home of Charles Barton-Smith, who was the then Manager at the Mill.

The early years of the mummers were fairly chaotic and they decided to perform by invitation only. They wrote a letter to the people of Croxley Green asking those who believed in the traditions of Christmas to invite the Mummers to perform the play in their homes. Failure to respect the spirit of Christmas, the letter went on to say "would make both the Mummers and their hosts the sport of avenging goblins".

The original mummers included Stan Lyons, Fred Randall and the three Samuels brothers George and Bill and these, together with Frank Paddick, were the mainstay of the mummers until the 1950's. Another article gives a later cast with some additional names: Bert Sadler, Felix Walsh, Albert Seabrook, Paddy Moohan, Jack Tandy, Don Webb and John and Michael Thomas. All of them well known Croxley Green family names. Over the years many others must have taken part and we have one photograph that shows a cast of 11! As you might have read in the recent Croxley Green Resident we have a letter from John (Jack) Thomas, who now lives in Australia. in which he writes about his memories of the performances in the 1950's.

For our revival of the play we have decided on the Sunday before Christmas as our main performance day, and this year we will be seen in and around Croxley Green on 22 December. The exact times and places will be announced later. In the last two years our final performances have been outside the Artichoke on The Green where we've had audiences of over 100. We have received a number of favourable letters and comments from the people of Croxley Green and feel proud and pleased to be able to continue the tradition. Frank Paddick finished his article with the plea that the play should be

continued by some younger members of the community "mindful of the attendant customs of the play on penalty of becoming the sport of the avenging goblins". We hope therefore by reviving the Croxley Mummers Play to have escaped from the goblin's vengeance!

After the deduction of a few expenses the money that we collect goes to local charities. Last year the collection went to The Peace Hospice.

If anyone has any further information about, or photographs of the old Croxley Mummers, we would be very pleased to hear from them and look forward to seeing you on Sunday 22 December.

Chris Hillier - 01923 779580 for The Croxley Mummers

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WHERE IS HE NOW?

Can any readers of the Parish Pump throw any light on the present whereabouts of George Yates whose family lived at 334 Watford Road, Croxley Green?

George joined the RAF as an apprentice, probably in 1941-42. He worked with me in the French Technical Liaison Unit in Blida, Algeria in 1944 as an aircraft fitter working on the repair of Spitfires damaged in the fighting in Italy

A group of Christians, stationed there, met at the home of English missionaries who had been there since the early 1920's. The group also held a service in the NAAFI which we called *Pukka Gen* - RAF slang meaning information that could be relied upon. George was converted at these meetings and, because his face reflected his obvious inward joy, was known to his friends as Smiler. I left Blida in 1945 and lost touch with him.

I have recently met with some of old Pukka Gen friends and we are anxious to get in touch with George Yates. He would now be about 70 but on making enquiries in Watford Road the only information I could get was that it was believed that the family had moved to America. If anyone can throw information upon George or his present whereabouts, could I ask them to write to me?

K H Riley,

Grove End, Latchmoor Grove, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8LN.

REPORT FROM P&D(Planning & Development) COMMITTEE

I have been asked to write a few words for this edition of the Parish Pump concerning the doings of the Planning and Development Committee, but more specifically on the provision of Bus Shelters for the residents of Croxley Green. Usually. I try to be positive but, on this grey November morning, my thoughts on this matter fit the weather; as despite our very best efforts to date, little progress seems to have been made when one considers our target was to have had at least two shelters, paid for by the Parish Council, erected by the end of October to protect travellers from the fast-approaching winter.

In the spring the Clerk had provided us with details of prices, styles and sizes. In May, armed with this information, members of Committee had toured Croxley Green looking at Bus Shelters, their siting and condition, and in some cases, made a note of where there was no provision at all.

Priorities decided, we then contacted TRDC to see if our order could be placed with theirs to secure a quantity discount.

Then silence!

The next thing we heard was that TRDC felt unable to use the company decided upon, as Hertfordshire County Council's Passenger Transport Unit had altered the specifications, requiring "real-time signalling" facilities. Using a contractor, able to supply Bus Shelters which will fit these specifications, enables the Parish Council (and TRDC) to qualify for a subsidy from HCC.

I end on a positive note as an alternative supplier has now been found, with installation promised early in the New Year. We await developments!

Chairman - Cllr Norma Stubington (We understand that a total of five shelters will be supplied. Replacement at the Red House and new in Watford Road (opp. Two Bridges) by the Parish Council. Replacement in Repton Way, new in Watford Road (by the Dentists) and new in Baldwins Lane opposite Links Way by TRDC. All assisted by HCC.)

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Over the past few years the Environment Committee has looked at ways to bring about an awareness to what we value in our community. We have encouraged local school, children to design posters highlighting litter problems and dog faeces that can spoil many of our local footpaths and open spaces.

This year, as a change, we have encouraged local "photographers" to go out and take pictures of what they value in our community and submit them for judging. This competition, open to residents of Croxley Green, was sponsored by many of our leading national Photographic Companies as well as local businesses. We received a wide range of photographs on the Environment and Village Life categories and for a light-hearted view - an Amusing Photo section.

The judging took place on Wednesday 6 October 1996 by Phillip Santler (Chairman, Croxley Camera Club), Joe Sheehan (photographer - Watford Observer), John Hedges (Chairman CGPC) and Rodney Stubington. The prizes, including a range of cameras and equipment, will be awarded on 17 January 1997 at the Parish Offices.

The Parish Council would like to thank the following for their sponsorship to this competition.

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

PRIZEWINNERS

Category 1 The Environment

Age 16+ yrs	
1st	Steven Biggs
	13 Gonville Avenue
2nd	Roger Dracott
	24 Winton Crescent
3rd - Joint	Gregory Hill
	38 Copthorne Road
3rd - Joint	John Kirkham
	5 Sycamore Road
3rd - Joint	Joanna Turffrey
	14 Dover Way
Very Highly	David Martin Jones
Commended	117 Links Way
Highly	Moira Logan
Commended	62 Baldwins Lane
Commended	Peter Hewett
	143 Links Way
Commended	Daphne Simmons
	41 Sherborne Way
11-16 yrs	
1st	Fiona McTaggart
	58 Oakleigh Drive
2nd	Fiona McTaggart
H0110	58 Oakleigh Drive
Under 11's	
1st	David Fish
100	76 Frankland Road
2nd	Daniel Dawson
all M	109 Springfield Clos

Category 2 Village Life

Age 16+

1st	Barbara Long	
	2 Hastings Way	
2nd	Dawn Walsh	
	49 Repton Way	
3rd	John Kirkham	
	5 Sycamore Road	
Very Highly	Joe Ekanayake	
Commended	18 Links Way	
Highly	Barbara Long	
Commended	2 Hastings Way	
	The state of the s	

Category 3 Amusing Photograph

1st	Angela Biggs
	13 Gonville Avenue
2nd	Dee Hewett
	143 Links Way
3rd	John Kirkham
	5 Sycamore Road
Very Highly	Moira Logan
Commended	62 Baldwins Lane
Highly	John Kirkham
Commended	5 Sycamore Road

REPORT FROM E & A (Environment & Amenity Committee)

Earlier this year (January) we coppiced the inside Hazel of Stones Orchard. This can appear drastic at the time, but it is essential management to this type of hedging, if new growth is to be sustained. During the summer months these quicky regenerated and in one season some grew as much as 6-7ft high and thickened. Many trees in this area have unfortunately disappeared and many gaps are being replanted with young hazel.

Orchard Area. The area to the right (from The Green entrance) will have (once more) fruit trees planted as part of National Tree Week. This occasion, Wed. 27 November, has been a joint project with local school children, brought to the Orchard to assist with planting, as it has been on the two previous occasions.

Community Orchards are increasingly becoming areas of local importance. Countrywide, counties are looking at sites that were once valuable orchards. Some were grubbed up whilst others have suffered through lack of management and are neglected.

We have, for sometime, had many enquiries about the Parish Councils efforts to restore what is left of Stones Orchard. There are many authorities recognising the value of these old sites such as ours and are interested in what we are doing to restore it.

Originally about 12 acres, this area is now reduced to approximately 3½ acres. Part is left during the summer to encourage wild flowers and a small area for relaxing/picnic etc. Whilst this area is also accessible to many dog walkers we would ask you to use the two bins provided to clean up after your pet and either take your litter home or use the new bins provided so that it is an area we can all enjoy.

The Pond - Little Green. Following the Council's recommendation to obtain an independent report for Phase 2 on the restoration of the pond in Little Green Lane, a survey was carried out by Dr Robert Dryden an Environmental Consultant. Water levels were monitored during the year and were

compared to the previous year. Part of the report recommended removing further accumulated silt and reprofiling the banks, some of which were steep. Float grass had crept back in and it was considered beneficial to the pond if this was considerably reduced.

The report itself went out to local groups, as well as nationally well known organisations for their opinions. This was well supported and from these recommendations the Council further endorsed the report to continue with Phase 2. This took place in October, the Consultant being on hand to oversee the operations. Plants were dug out and put to one side in containers ready for replanting. As the silt was carefully removed in layers, areas of clay were revealed. as well as quantities of sandy hoggin. Many country ponds were lined with clay (usually puddled) many years ago or established in natural areas where layers of gravel are removed and in these areas the clay layer is replaced and the ponds formed for use.

With the decline of horse and farm animals, these ponds have gone into decline and have become unmanaged. (A photograph of this pond in the early 1900's can be seen in "Croxley Green as it used to be" by Ann and Peter Frost.

A grant for £500 from Shell Better Britain was obtained towards this project and it is anticipated a further grant from the Community Development Agency (CDA) for Hertfordshire will be applied for.

The management of this pond will be monitored over the next few years as the E&A Committee are aware that, countrywide, we are losing ponds at a considerable rate. It is hoped that the work carried out - in time - will bring benefits to the local wildlife as well as, for the wetter months of the year, a pleasant area to enjoy.

Dog Hygiene - Out For A Walk? Where is your nearest Dog Bin to dispose of your pet's faeces?

These are the locations you can help to keep clean by disposing and cleaning up after your pet. Free Disposal Bags available from the Parish Office.

- New Road Footpath (opposite Yorke Road)
- 2 Croxley Hall Woods (end of Harvey Road)
- 3 Stones Orchard (entrance)
- 4 Stones Orchard (centre)
- 5 Barton Way Recreation Ground (play area)
- 6 Barton Way Recreation Ground (pavilion)
- 7 Little Green Lane (between Durrants Drive & Norwich Way)
- 8 Rousebarn Lane (nr Links Way Footpath)
- 9 Rousebarn Lane (Baldwins Lane end)
- 10 Cassiobridge Recreation Ground (play area)
- 11 Cassiobridge Recreation Ground (tow path)
- 12 Sycamore Approach (Watford Road junction)
- 13 Valley Walk (urban footpath)
- 14 Mill Lane (tow path)
- 15 Malvern Way (urban footpath)
- 16 Owens Way (urban footpath)
- 17 Baldwins Lane Recreation Ground (near play area)
- 18 Baldwins Lane Recreation Ground (car park area)
- 19 Dickinsons Field (nr Council Offices)
- 20 Dickinsons Field (nr school)

Environment & Amenity Committee Chairman - Margaret Pomfret.

VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to be a volunteer?
if so note the Dates and Event

Sunday 19 January 97 and Thurs 23 January 97 10.00am - all day

Meet All Saints Lane

Coppicing and clearance in Croxley Hall Woods with CG Parish Council. Countryside Management Services and Croxley Green volunteers.

Monday 24 to Friday 28 February inclusive - each day 10.00am all day Meet at Copthorne Cottages on the corner of Copthorne Road Building steps - Footpath No 7 - The Green with:-

CGPC 01923 710250 & CMS 01707 650041

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 Chu	irch 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

YOU MAY HAIL AND RIDE.

- 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.
- 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.

A History of ARISH MAP **CROXLEY GREEN** through its £3.00 EACH Street Names Available from: Croxley Green Parish Council Author: Shirley Greenman The Council Offices, Off Barton Way Illustrator & Designer: John Kirkham Croxley Green Library Barton Way **Price** £4.00 each The Perfect Christmas at state Presents

New Year's Resolutions!

Let the dream begin with

Slimming World

your local class is held in

Croxley Green Community Centre

Barton Way, Croxley Green on Tuesdays at 6.30pm. or contact:-Jan 01923 239051.

HELP!!

Can you spare an hour to sew or knit garments? Our hearts are in the right place but our fingers are less nimble than they were.

The Red Cross Centre depends on our fund-raising Saturday Markets - the second Saturday in every month. Our goods are in great demand but we need to renew stock every time. We are particularly short of bric-a-brac. If you can help in any way, please contact:-

Olive Bennett on 01923 776913 or Red Cross Centre 01923 720485 between 10.00am-12.30pm.

CROXLEY GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Co-Ordinators Meeting

Monday 20 January 1997 at 7.00pm Tuesday 18 March 1997 at 7.00pm Held at:-

> C G Parish Council Offices Off Barton Way

All residents are invited to attend.

Come - find out - it costs nothing.

ADVERTISE IN THE PARISH PUMP IN 1997

> £10 will buy you a box this size

Price & Distribution £2.00 per s.c.cm Payment with copy

4,700 households in Croxley Green

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1 March 1997 for Spring Issue

(minimum size

For details please contact: D Fineberg - Clerk to the Council Telephone: 01923 710250