



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Assisted by: Molly Hedges

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EDITORIAL

We now have over 100 life members, will you join us? Fill in the form on page 4 and send it to Polly Burdis, cheap at half the price. Seriously it is well worth while.

May I pay tribute to a faithful servant of this Association. For many years now Colin Walker has been our Advertising Manager, by his efforts this magazine has been made possible and I should like through this column to give him my thanks and say how much I shall miss him as I work on this publication.

If you lost keys, walking stick, child's shoe, bottle and hat, sunglasses, a tray or an earring at the Revels give me a ring.

Do you value Croxley Green, then come and join us for our Litter Day, old clothes, with gloves. See box above. There are many nice people in this village meet with them and do something to make this village nicer at the same time.

Lastly, this newsletter can only exist through advertising. It is therefore only fair that we ask you to support our advertisers who make it possible, and do not forget to tell them that we are noticed
JOIN-THANK-SEEK-HELP-SUPPORT,
PLEASE.

CHURCH ARCHIVES

When I was much younger it never occurred to me that I would become so interested in the history, these last few years have seen my involvement in the history of Croxley increasing. This interest is shared by Mr H Packman who at present is researching the gravel workings in Croxley especially the gravel washing equipment which stood at the side of the canal between Common Moor Lock and the railway bridge, should you have any information, photos etc. he would be pleased to hear from you.

As the Archivist of All Saints Church I already have a great deal of information about events and happenings and am continually looking for new material on anything which has taken place in Croxley. For example the building of the Metropolitan Railway to Watford opened in 1925, has anyone photos, timetable or a poster of the early days.

Now and again one comes across an item which strikes a chord more so in view of the Summer we are having, it was the following poem which I read in a copy of the Rickmansworth Historian, it was written by G. Revell about whom I know nothing, hope you will enjoy it for I am certain he must have been born in Croxley.

CROXLEY GREEN

The fairest sight I've ever seen, Is at Croxley,
on the Green, Lying lazily in the grass
Leisurely the cars go past; Buzzing bees and
butterflies, Burlbling larks, clear blue skies;
Hot sun, birds a-twittering, White clad lads
a-cricketing; Ditches, delves and gravel
roads, Horse and cart with heavy loads;
Cows that amble slowly by Udders full and
dull of eye; Old Nabby leaning on his bike
Tries in vain to light his pipe; Curses at the
tiny breeze Whispering softly in the trees;
Silent as a waiting mouse Stands the sleepy
Public House The Coach and Horses, old
and quaint Sadly needs a coat of paint
Cac-kling hens, insect bent Dogs stretched out,
exhausted, spent; From the grass the daisies
peep, On the wall, the cat's asleep;

Well-worn paths whereon to stroll Grassy
banks from which to roll; Sight of hay o'er
gates and stiles, Girls with warm and happy
smiles; Fairest sight of all to me Croxley
Green as it used to be; This is lovely to my
mind, Because then, my friend, I was not
Blind.

G Revell

Should you wish to contact either Mr. Packman or myself then messages may be left at Croxley Library or Phone Mr. Packman Rick 773406 or myself Rick 776933 We will be very grateful for any assistance you can offer please bear in mind we are interested in anything connected with Croxley.

N. Spring

LITTER DAY

Sunday November 5th
10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Mill Lane/Watford Road
Harvey Road (Imperial Machines)
The Artichoke, The Green
The Weather House, Lavrock Lane.
Please join us and keep
Croxley Green beautiful

Dear Sir,

SOMETHING FOR THE CROXLEY LADIES

Some years ago after moving from Croxley which was my childhood home, I returned to live in Croxley again. It was lovely to be back - Croxley really hadn't changed much, but unlike the "old days" people are more mobile, and one just doesn't pick up the threads so easily. I think I half expected to bump into my old school friends in the street!

Have you ever felt at a loose end? Either you have been retired, from a busy job which you became totally immersed in, and woke up one morning realising that you had become completely out of touch with the goings on of your neighbourhood. Other neighbours were too busy rushing off to work to stop and chat - and likewise, the housewife, whose life had been taken up with the kids and feels not needed any more. Or perhaps you are working - if you have the time, what a good thing it would be to become involved, even if only for one evening a week, in a local group of women, so that you too will not feel redundant, should your way of life change.

Why not, as I did eight years ago, come along to your local Townswomen's Guild - we hold a Guild Night on the third Friday of each month at St. Bede's Church Hall, Baldwins Lane, at 7.45 p.m. we also have other social meetings during the course of the month. You may feel a little overwhelmed at first, but we are a friendly crowd and will do our best to make you welcome. We have a wide age range. On Guild nights apart from the minimum amount of business we have a Speaker (all sorts of topics) perhaps slides, a cuppa and a gossip!

I have just moved to Rickmansworth and still attend the Croxley meetings, the members are my friends and could be yours also. They represent the true spirit of Croxley. For further information please ring our chairman, Mrs Wakeling, Rickmansworth 773672.

Yours faithfully
Maureen Hembly
Bury Meadows, Rickmansworth

Please send letters, contributions
and advertisements to:
John Hedges
44 Ludlow Way (Wat: 222715)
by January 1st if possible

BARTON WAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Very few readers could have failed to notice how expensive vegetables have been this year in the shops, particularly during the Winter months, when the need has been the greatest. Yet with little effort most of this expense could easily be avoided.

How many of you know how delicious it is to eat really fresh vegetables that have been cooked within an hour of being picked, and to have the reassurance that no harmful chemicals have been used during the growing process.

The answer, of course, is to grow your own vegetables on your very own rented garden estate. The Barton Way Allotment Association has a number of vacant 5 pole plots (10 by 15 yards) available for cultivation at a rental of £5 per year. (£2.50 for pensioners). For this princely sum you can grow whatever vegetables and soft fruits you fancy.

Carefully planned, a 5 pole plot can keep you supplied with your vegetable needs for most of the year. One of our members who, I must admit, really knows his stuff, runs two adjacent plots. He supplies his entire family and swears it would cost him around £500 a year if he had to buy what he produces in the shops. Others keep their freezers filled with surplus crops of Runner Beans, Peas, Broad Beans, Brussel Sprouts etc so that even during the Winter they can enjoy with pride their home grown vegetables.

Cultivating an allotment is not entirely for men. Quite a number of ladies are enjoying the healthy benefits of working in the open air, getting advice (where required) from their nearby neighbours and benefiting from their labours.

Members each have their own key to the allotment site and the same key opens the private entrance to the toilet block so that you do not have to rush back home should the need arise. In the same building the Association has a number of mowers for path maintenance, miscellaneous tools and a small rotavator that can be hired for £1 a time (to cover petrol costs) to save the work of digging the ground.

The rent for an allotment plot is payable in April each year but, until payment is due, no charge is made to applicants who take over a vacant plot after the end of June. This enables them to tidy up the ground and get their Spring greens, Cauliflowers etc planted in good time.

Most allotment holders are also members of the Croxley Horticultural and Allotment Holders Society whose trading centre is conveniently situated at the main entrance to the Barton Way site. Here Society members can buy their Seed Potatoes, Vegetable seeds, Onion Sets, Shallots etc. as well as tools, composts fertilisers etc, all at discounted prices. The Horticultural Society also runs a Summer series of coach outings to well known Gardens and Horticultural Centres, and a monthly programme of illustrated lectures during the winter.

If you fancy a spell of 'The Good Life' and would like an Allotment, please get in contact with Mr Roger Simmonds, 16 Haystings Way, Watford, (telephone 0923 36236).

Ben Leigh

BWAA Committee Member

P.S. My colleague at the Frankland Road Allotment site also has a few vacant plots.

Applicants for them should contact Mr. Harry Dewar, 1 Frankland Close, Croxley Green (telephone 775709).

Happy is the man
who delights in doing
God's commands
Psalms 112 verse 1

You are invited to worship at the

Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane

Morning Worship: 9.30 a.m.
Family Service: 11.00 a.m. Rev. Derek Fraser, B.D.
Evening Praise: 6.30 p.m. Telephone: Watford 31403

POLICE COLUMN

In this my first column as your Neighbourhood Officer, I should like to take the time to talk firstly of Crime Prevention and secondly of the problem of Graffiti.

Before that, I should like to start by thanking you all for the friendly welcome I have received whilst carrying out my duties in the area since May.

Figures show that crime in general in Croxley Green is lower this year compared with the same period as last year. However, whilst thefts of and from motor vehicles has been greatly reduced, burglaries have increased over the same period. So please let us continue to be security conscious. Keep an eye on your neighbour's house and remember if you are going away, cancel doorstep deliveries. I know all this is 'Old Hat' but some of us tend to get lax and think 'It won't happen to me'. But it can!

If you see anything in the streets that you are not happy about and you get the feeling that something is wrong, please don't hesitate to call us and use the 999 system if it is urgent. The times I have been told whilst making enquiries at neighbouring houses 'I heard the sound of breaking glass but didn't think anymore of it' are too numerous to mention. If it is a call with good intent we are only too pleased to attend and if it turns out to be something in order, don't worry we do not mind. For those of you that are not aware most house burglaries are committed during the daytime.

Whilst on the subject of burglaries, I should like to mention a 13 year old resident of Croxley Green who was responsible for the detection of a house burglary earlier this year. He was commended by The Crown Court Judge for his public spirited action and initiative. I dealt with this particular case as Investigating Officer and this young man did extremely well by observing certain things which initially were happening away from the attacked house. Not only did he get the feeling things were untoward but he showed initiative and conviction by following it through and telling us about what he had seen and suspected. He is a credit to the community.

So let us know!

As already mentioned, I should also like to raise the problem of 'Graffiti' again. I know Steve Steddy has spoken about it recently, but I can't help noticing what an eyesore it is in such a pleasant area. So I am appealing now that the offenders who actually live in Croxley Green to STOP defacing the public and private property in the area and perhaps we can start cleaning it all up. Because, understandably, nobody wants to clean it up if there is still a risk of a repeat.

Whilst on the subject, let us ask ourselves where the offenders get this canned spray paint from? Is it from shops; are they purchasing it; stealing it; or are they finding it in sheds and cupboards at home? Parents please discuss this problem with your children and I am sure it will help deter this social disease which we are starting to accept far too easily. We do not want to see young persons getting criminal records for such stupid offences of criminal damage. So let us get the message through to those concerned, who are only a small minority, 'STOP IT NOW' and we can get on with cleaning it up.

Best wishes to you all.

Gary Sibson
244444 (Ext 2205)

CROXLEY GREEN SCOUTS

During 1988 we celebrated 60 years of Scouting in Croxley Green which we marked with a reunion of past and present members of the Group. We actually made contact with one of the members of the original patrol, he still lives in Croxley Green.

We feel we have made a contribution to the development of Croxley Green and have been an active member of the community, having helped at least 2,000 boys on their way in life. We are now asking the community if they can help us in one of the following ways:-

- (1) be actually involved in one of the sections
- (2) assist in the social and fund-raising side
- (3) perhaps there is someone who has been involved with young people, or even scouting, who feels they would like to give something back to help the youth of Croxley Green.
- (4) Collecting waste paper. We require as much waste paper and computer paper as possible, it can be left beside Scout Hall, in Watford Road, in cupboard provided, or if you have a large amount we could collect. We require help to sort and tie this paper.

Hoping you can help us to help the youth of Croxley Green.

Yours faithfully

R.K. Gibbs

Chairman of the Group Executive
Telephone: WATFORD 31702



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**PRECAUTIONS AGAINST
WEIL'S DISEASE
(LEPTOSPIROSIS : LEPTOSPIRAL
JAUNDICE)**

Inland waters of all kinds - rivers, canals, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and ponds - are now being increasingly used for very many recreational activities, including the various forms of angling. Apart from the obvious risks associated with such activities, e.g. drowning, etc. there are some other health risks against which it is worth taking sensible precautions.

Fresh water, in its natural untreated state in rivers, lakes, ponds, ditches etc. contains large numbers of micro-organisms of all sorts - minute animals, bacteria, viruses - as well as dissolved chemicals and often some mud. The risk of catching something really nasty from untreated water is small, but is always present and should not be overlooked.

One such possibility is Weil's disease, caused by infection with an organism called leptospira which is one of the spirochaetes. Leptospirosis is mainly a disease of animals, both wild and domestic. Rodents, cattle, pigs and dogs are particularly important in transmitting the disease to man. Rats are the most common cause, the infection being carried in their urine which in turn contaminates water and river banks.

The likelihood of becoming infected is greater from stagnant and still waters, but it can occur in any watercourse. The organism survives for several months in warm, wet, tropical areas but in our temperate climate this time is greatly reduced and the incidence is seasonal, being highest in late summer and autumn.

Entry into the human body is through the mucous membrane of the eyes, nose and mouth during such activities as bathing or accidental immersion, or through minor abrasions of the skin.

Symptoms occur after the incubation period (normally 7 to 10 days) and can resemble a 'flu-like illness which may include muscle pain and headaches. In the later stages abdominal pains, vomiting and jaundice may occur. Fortunately most people who are infected contract only a mild form of the disease. A diagnosis of 'flu' or viral illness is often made. There are about 100 cases reported per year of which about 10% are fatal. Diagnosis is via a blood test and the treatment is with anti-biotics.

Prompt treatment produces very good results. As it is a rare disease, it may well be down the list of possible diagnoses unless you tell your Doctor that you have been at risk, especially if you live away from water or agricultural land. Since prevention is better than cure, some precautions which individuals may take include:

- i) dressing cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters before and during fishing trips,
- ii) observe the best hygiene practices possible before eating and smoking,
- iii) do not wash up or brew up with water from the lake or river,
- iv) keep food in rucksacks or containers, particularly when night-fishing - a time of increased rodent activity,
- v) do not encourage rodents by throwing unwanted food, etc. into adjacent undergrowth
- vi) report signs of excessive rodent infestation,

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Realistically, the risk of suffering fatal Leptospirosis is very slight (much less than that of drowning or other physical injury), but it is one against which the sensible person will protect himself as much as possible.

Dear Sir,
The Resident is sent to me in Australia by my mother, its a great way to remember my old home Croxley, and what memories came flooding back after reading the Mummings article. My father, Jim Samuels often told me stories of the performances he and the others put on at Christmas and other special occasions. There was one performance put on I think for the coronation celebrations, and I watched in awe as dad who this time was to play St. George repainted the silver shield and polished the ex-firemans brass hat which represents his St. George's helmet.

St. George was well armed for his battles with the giant, dragon and other foes. There was this very large and very real sword which fortunately, for the future generations of Croxley was worn in his belt and only used for show, a wooden one was actually used for the play. Atop his magnificent horse even though it only had two legs, he looked fantastic and what a show they put on those Mummings that day.

Several years later, some friends of mine and I were approached to revise the Mummings for the Croxley Green Revels.

Dad was very enthusiastic and wanted to help. We found some of the original costumes under the church hall stage and with papier mache and paint we were able to make repairs. I being the tallest was given the part of the giant and his head also found in the church hall was easily repaired. We even found the original giants club. For costume, an old sack dyed green in mothers kitchen sink, made a wonderful shirt. A pair of pyjama trousers with sacking wrapped around my feet, I looked the part. My only concern was how to deliver my famous line which was 'FEE FIE FOE FUM I SMELL THE BLOOD OF AN ENGLISHMAN' through the large giants head.

On the day outside the Coach and Horses, we put on our performance. I was quite hoarse from shouting my words, managed to be slain by St. George brilliantly. The dragon who had to have smoke coming out of his nose, coughed his way through a packet of cigarettes to be slain with great gusto by St. George. The performance was a huge success and appreciated by past Mummings.

If any of your readers have an original script I would love to receive a copy as I am sure I can get the kids here interested. (One is on it's way. Ed.)

I send my regards to all my old friends in Croxley and wish you 'GOODAY'!

Yours sincerely
Alan James Samuels

LIBRARY COLUMN

Hope you caught the sunshine on your holidays before returning to the "normal" British summer. Thinking of damp dismal times always seems to lead to the computer and its problems/advantages. We have recently introduced a new system to replace the out-moded old one, although the changes cannot be seen physically as they are at County Hall. One of the main advantages to us is that we can now tell you exactly which items you have out at any one time, a facility much used already. In theory it also means that the system will work more often, which in fact it has done, touch wood etc. However, it has made one large mistake. Anyone borrowing or returning items Saturday June 24th (Revels Day) was not recorded! This has led to hundreds of queries which we hope we have dealt with patiently and apologetically, sorry for any inconvenience caused and please inform us if you get an overdue when you know you have returned the offending item.

Remember the famous maxim "To err is human, to make a total cock-up takes a computer!"

We hope the new classical recordings on cassette have proved useful they will be swiftly followed by shows on cassette and compact discs across the whole range of music. There are three reasons for having compact discs; 1. vinyl records are being phased out. 2. they are less liable to be scratched or damaged, so making them ideal for libraries; 3. more and more people are buying disc players. Hope you agree!

Bob Sharpe, Librarian

CROXLEY GREEN REVELS

On behalf of the Croxley Green Society, I should like to express a very sincere thank you to John Hedges, Peter Foster, Graham Judge, Grace Dennis and all their helpers for all the effort and hard work that went into the making of the Croxley Green Revels such a happy family day for all concerned.

It was particularly noticeable how the people of Croxley had entered into the spirit of the occasion by the amount of time and effort that had obviously gone into the preparation of the floats for the procession, and the entrants for the fancy dress competition. I am sure that the stall holders must have been very pleased with all the results of their labours which in turn will help our local charities and good causes.

A truly delightful day involving the whole of the 'Family' of Croxley Green.

Once again, many thanks.

Mike Dix,
Chairman,
Croxley Green Society

PARISH COUNCIL

A good deal of the Parish Council's time during the summer months has been devoted to matters connected with the upkeep of The Green itself and with the preservation of areas adjacent to it. Good husbandry of this essential feature of our Parish has to go hand in hand with a constant vigilance about the plans of developers which could change the special character of this ancient village green.

One of the most interesting planning decisions was given by the Inspector for the Department of the Environment on the appeal against a decision by Three Rivers District Council to refuse an application to demolish the houses known as Applegarth and Pefka and to build either 8 or 10 bungalows on the associated land. The Parish Council had been greatly concerned about the implications for the future of The Green if this application were to succeed. Strong representations were made in writing and at the enquiry held at Chorleywood House in May and it was therefore gratifying that the basis of our objections was upheld. The value of conservation area status was clearly demonstrated in the detailed report prepared by the Inspector but this does not of itself offer protection and the arguments for preservation and re-development are sometimes nicely balanced. In this case the Inspector concluded that this balance would have been ruinously upset if the proposed small estate of bungalows had been allowed to rise on the site. The aspect from the public footpath and open space immediately south of the site would have been changed; the sense of space presently provided would have been eroded; and the contrast between the estate developments at Parrotts Close and Owens Way provided by the open space afforded by the spacious setting of Applegarth would have been reduced. On the separate application to demolish and leave the site vacant would probably lead to it becoming untended and derelict and this was unacceptable in a conservation area. All these arguments are of exceptional importance in the fight to preserve our heritage.

In another area adjacent to The Green - Killingdown Farm, application has been made to build a development of 10 bungalows, fifty self-contained units and two wardens houses. The proposed site is within the Green Belt and largely also within the conservation area and the Parish Council has objected to the application for such a large development facing onto The Green. It also registered other concerns as the limited amount of parking space proposed for the units; the narrowness of the existing Little Green Lane from which the access was planned; and its proximity to a very dangerous intersection at the Baldwins Lane junction. Three Rivers District Council have now refused the application. Continuing concern about the dangerous intersection of roads on the other side of The Green at the junction of roads to Loudwater and Sarratt has given rise to suggestions that a 30mph speed limit be applied in this area. We understand that there could be difficulties in that the present qualification as for the introduction of such a limit are not met at this junction but some nasty collisions there clearly demand measures to stop speeding on some of the approaches. The Road Safety Committee is considering the problem.

Overgrown trees and hedges often interfere with sight lines for both traffic and pedestrians. This was evident on a recent inspection we made of the boundaries of The

Green but the object of the exercise was to examine the amount of encroachment onto areas of what should be open grass land. In some places the depth of encroachment is startling. Several yards of land have been taken over by the gradually expanding shrubs and hedges and at some points there is a danger that they will grow together to form spinneys and mini-woodlands. Control of the hedges and trees on The Green is presently with Three Rivers District Council and we have asked them to look urgently into the need for drastic cutting back on certain stretches. This could be a big job and may have to spread over 2 or 3 seasons.

Further improvement to the appearance of The Green will, we hope, result from the success of the campaign to replace the ugly concrete lamp standards which disfigure the prospect in all directions. The choice of the "Edinburgh" standard with its elegant slim column and decorative arm and lantern has met with the approval of local organisations, and, fortunately, earlier problems about financing the project have been overcome. It had been proposed to undertake replacement in a rolling programme over several years but on close examination this did not seem such an attractive proposition money-wise as it at first seemed and TRDC have now decided to do the whole job at once.

The less exciting but very necessary work of cutting the grass on The Green gives rise each year to problems of timing. Ideally it would be nice to treat this task as one does the lawn at home - do it when it seems necessary, but the reality is not quite so simple. In the first place the Parish Council has to place a contract for the work to be carried out during the whole season and it would not be reasonable to expect any firm to be standing by with a labour force and machinery to swing into action just when the Council thinks it should. Then of course there is the weather pattern about which no one can give reliable forecasts. Last year we had an exceptionally wet summer with lush growth of grass, weeds and wild flowers while this summer has been just the opposite. Our contractors have been most accommodating and, we think, taking into account the difficulties caused by the laying of the water pipes across the entire length of The Green, have done a good job for us. We shall never please all tastes for the management of this area but we hope to achieve some sort of balance.

I wish we could report such good results with cutting down the amount of litter on and around The Green. A black spot is undoubtedly near the bus stops at All Saints Church. The worst culprits come from Rickmansworth School - witness the general improvement when the school is on holiday. Pleas to the school authorities to exercise control over the behaviour of some of their pupils in this area have met

with little success and it is dispiriting to find that when a special effort has been made to clear up the rubbish it is just as bad again a few days later. But we must persevere and we ask parents to do their part in educating children in their public responsibilities.

To turn to other parts of the Parish, some concern has been aroused by the suggestion that Beggars Bush Lane should be opened to accommodate morning rush hour traffic trying to negotiate the double roundabout. Assurances were given at the time the approaches to the Business Park were designed that this Lane would be used only in the case of emergencies, the local residents in the adjoining estate being particularly concerned about the implications for them if a full traffic flow were permitted. The Parish Council does not agree that it is necessary to use this Lane to solve the rush hour problem. The precise location of the entrance to the Lane does not suggest that it would ease the flow at the roundabouts very much and we think that a better solution would be for the Business Park to organise a policy of staggered opening hours so that there could be a more even spread of vehicles between 8 and 10 in the morning.

We have been concerned for some time about the conditions of Long Valley Tip - the area of land owned by London Transport which used to be a siding and timber store. Some years ago there was a determined effort to tidy up these grounds. New trees were planted, fences were erected around the perimeter and stout entrance gates installed. Vandalism has taken its toll on all this and the area has now become a free for all. Rubbish is dumped and there is a real danger to children who go to the area to play. Efforts to persuade London Transport to deal with all this have met with no success. They seem to have lost interest in this patch of their territory, and have said they would be glad to sell it off.

Three Rivers District Council has been trying to take up this offer but the terms are not right and we seem to be in something of an impasse. An action group to inject some new initiative into this situation has been proposed and we should be interested to hear from anyone who would like to take part in this.

We hope you have all had a good summer and are refreshed. We should be glad to see you at our Parish Council Meetings - at 8.00 p.m. in The Library on the first Thursday of each month.

Ian R. Thomas
Parish Clerk

LITTER DAY
Remember Remember
5th November

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT'S & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of my household I
of, Croxley Green
Apply for life membership of the association and enclose remittance of
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