



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by
**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

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Assisted by: Molly Hedges

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All sponsored parish councillors
are ex-officio members.

Material published in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the Association nor its committee.

EDITORIAL

Whew! How did I get everything into this edition? I had hoped to answer at length the correspondent who accused me of racism over my remarks on *travellers*. As I was not talking of gypsies, from whom I am descended and who would be ashamed of these people, I cannot see that my remarks were racist. I suggest that my correspondent speaks to those who were most affected. I apologise to the contributors that, once again, I have done my job by editing to fit the space available. However, I have tried to express the outlook of all and not just my own feelings. I hope that all of importance is included.

**CROXLEY GREEN
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 22nd March
at 8.00pm at
METHODIST CHURCH HALL
NEW ROAD
followed by a
SLIDE PRESENTATION
*A Further Glimpse of
Croxley Green
Recent & Not-so-Recent***

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1995 promises to be a challenging year for your Association. Last year we updated the Constitution and Rules and we were also delighted to welcome some new faces on to the Committee. We also ran several successful Open Evenings in 1994 which the audiences seemed to enjoy: we plan to continue this idea in 1995 - watch out for announcements.

This year we hope to gain further new members to the Committee: it is also our intention to be able to welcome many more residents to the Association itself, by widening our subscription base through improved collections. In this way we hope to become more active and so be more of a campaigning voice for **you** in local affairs.

Elections to the Parish Council take place in May. Your Committee has put forward a list of potential Parish Councillors for sponsorship by the Association at the Special General Meeting that was held on February 8th. This action will, we hope, help us to ensure that the residents of Croxley Green are able to elect a sufficient number of Parish Councillors who represent the Association and all we stand for - in particular our non-party political views.

There are several 'hot spots' in Croxley Green which need to be carefully watched to ensure that developments do not take place that adversely affect the area - Long Valley Tip particularly springs to mind. We also need to keep a watching brief on the services provided by Three Rivers District Council and Croxley Green Parish Council to make sure that these are effective and efficient - it is after all our money, as local residents, which they are using.

If you are interested in helping to ensure that Croxley Green remains a pleasant place to live in, and would prefer to do this without the hindrance of Party Politics, why not contact one of the Committee members listed at the front of this newsletter - we are always on the look-out for helpers.

ANOTHER EVENING OF NOSTALGIA

It has been agreed to hold another slide evening at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22nd March at the Methodist Hall in New Road at 8 pm, to show a glimpse of Croxley Green in the recent and not so recent past. Although some 200 slides were shown at last years AGM it was evident when the last slide was projected the evening could have gone on much longer. Not only did the older residents enjoy reliving memories of the past but we *new-comers* found it fascinating to see how a community enjoys village activities as well as celebrating national events. Croxley Green has so many areas where one can enjoy a walk so it was an opportunity to show these on slide too, for the less able residents who are now unable to visit these parts.

Interest has also been expressed in recent activities on slides, such as some of the Gardens that have been chosen in the recent competition, started 2 years ago. The restoration, so far, of the ponds with the valuable volunteer effort of local residents and our school children who so enjoyed themselves. The recent re-introduction of the *mummers*, captured with pictures and slides. All this and slides that were not shown last time of old Croxley Green can bring an evening of enjoyable memories of our community.

Do come - it's FREE!

If you possess any photographs of Croxley Green in the past (even in the 70's, 60's, 50's) and would loan them to me for copying these can then go towards building up a valuable history of Croxley Green for our future residents to view and similarly enjoy.

Margaret Pomfret 0923 720088

Please send advertisements to:
Rosemary Hanscomb
22 Dickinson Avenue 449945
and letters and contributions to:
John Hedges
44 Ludlow Way (01923) 222715
by September 1st if possible.

CRIME LINES

I would like to start my first column by saying a big thankyou, from myself and P Sgt Bob Keen, for the support that I have had from the residents of Croxley Green. I hope that most of you will have seen me walking around but, if not, yes I am about and will be for some time. I would also like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. Crime in Croxley Green for 1994 has reduced by about 70 recorded incidents. The good news is that house burglaries have dropped from 65 in 1993 to 22 in 1994. However, garden sheds, garages and cars are still getting broken into. We must all remember to put a good lock on our sheds and also record all serial numbers from our electrical goods, power tools etc. **It does help us.** Also do not leave property in your car, no matter for how long, it will get stolen. I would like to speak to anyone who might have information on crime in our area, no matter how small. Please telephone **244444 ext 2205. PC 1634 Tinsley.**

MUMMERS REVIVED.

"We've come to show activity upon a Christmas time...."

With these words Father Christmas introduces the beginning of the Croxley Mummings Play. The play was written by Neggy Wilson shortly after the first world war. Neggy, one of Croxley Green's well known characters, was the headmaster of the Boys' School and he got together a group of former pupils to perform a Mummings play in the village. The play, which tells the story of St George and his triumph over the Giant, the Turkish Knight and the Dragon, was performed in various houses in the village on Christmas Eve for most of the next 40 years, the last performance being in the early 1950s.

Last year, a group of 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' Mummings 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 decided that we would perform the play

"The word of God is
living and active"
(Heb 4 v12)

You are warmly invited to the
Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane
Morning Worship: 9.15am
11.00am Secretary: Brian Pratt
Evening Worship: 6.30pm Telephone: 01923 442239

on the Sunday before Christmas. We were kindly allowed to hold our rehearsals at Yorke Mead School and in the Scout HQ in Watford Road.

As time went on, we began to get more information about the original mummings including a photograph. There is a very informative article by Frank Paddick, detailing the history of the Mummings and listing the places where the play was performed each year. They usually started off at All Saints' 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 manager at the Mill. The early years of the Mummings 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 Mummings to perform the play in their homes. Failure to respect the spirit of Christmas, the letter went on: *say, would make both the Mummings and their hosts the sport of avenging goblins.*

Frank Paddick in his article, gives a history of the Mummings Play and even their local variations, for example in the Andover play the hero is King George rather than St George. However all the plays tell basically the same story, that of our hero St George who is at first killed by the Dragon, is revived by the Doctor and, goes on to kill the Dragon, kills the Turkish Knight and finally the Giant and, by so doing, wins the hand of the King of Egypt's daughter. There are many opportunities for interaction with the audience and the other actors, so no two performances are exactly the same.

The original Mummings included Stan Lyons, Fred Randall and the three Samuels brothers, Jim, George and Bill. These, together with Frank Paddick, were the mainstay of the Mummings until the 1950s. 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 eleven!

Our recent attempt at a revival of the play, after a few initial difficulties with Three Rivers District Council, took place on the Sunday before Christmas, and seemed to be enjoyed as much by the cast as by the audiences. We performed the play some five times at:- All Saints' Church, Croxley House, Outside Little Gillions on the Green, Outside the Library/Fox and Hounds and at the Artichoke. For this last performance, we had an audience of over 100 and there was much good natured heckling from the crowd. Afterwards, we were grateful to sit down for a drink and for the lunch, kindly provided for us by the landlord, George Robertson. We received a number of favourable letters and comments from the local people and felt 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 Green Mummings Play to have escaped from the goblins' vengeance!

It is our intention to put on the play next Christmas and will be looking round for suitable venues. We might even have to send out the famous letter. After the deduction of a few expenses, the money that we collect will go to local charities. This year the collection was divided between Michael Sobel House and the Watford Hospice. If anyone has any further information about, or photographs of, the old Croxley Green Mummings or would like to suggest venues for next season's play, then we would be very pleased to hear from them.

**Chris Hillier - 01923 779580
for The Croxley Green Mummings.**

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ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Many will be aware of the contribution that The Croxley Green Road Safety Committee makes in the ongoing fight to make our local roads safe. This is to tell you, briefly, of the committee and its activities. It was formed about 30 years ago, in response to an inevitable public outcry following a tragic accident. Since then the main aim over the years, as the name indicates, is to reduce the risks of road accidents and to make the local roads as safe as possible. The public may write to air their views, or make representation at meetings, pointing out problem areas. Topics are also raised by members themselves. Issues are then discussed and, with the help of advisers, a course of action is determined. HCC provide monthly details of injury accidents that happen in the Parish, which are analysed in an attempt to identify problem areas. The Committee works closely with the authorities, The Residents Association and other interested groups, not to mention Councillors, whose interest, help and co-operation is appreciated.

The Committee have been effective in many issues such as road signs, marking, road layout improvements, pedestrian crossings and not least traffic calming in areas of *rat-running* in Links Way (by closing Rousebarn Lane) and the new road layout in Baldwins Lane. Efforts are being made to see what can be done elsewhere. The overdue resolution of problems in New Road, Winton Drive and Barton Way are high on the list of priorities. A constant vigil is maintained on the A412, Watford Road and The Green. The main cause of complaint from most areas is that some drivers are driving much too fast.

You are asked to consider the following problem which is sometimes aired. Thought is often given to the danger of a child or old person appearing in the

tracks of a driver whilst travelling at what was thought to be a safe speed of 30 to 40mph but, is it really sensed? Pedestrians certainly know the physical danger, whilst standing on the edge of the pavement waiting to cross the road, and know that even at 30mph the driver's speed is sometimes too fast. Drivers are pedestrians as well, do they drive accordingly? Even the view of the same person may change, depending on whether he is late driving to work or strolling along to the local newsagent to pick up the Sunday papers.

There are of course, limits to what any Authority, in a democratic society, can do in connection with speeding, or anything else for that matter, without public support. I have mentioned that in addition to supporting traffic methods that physically slow down or advise drivers of danger, we are very keen to help persuade people to be better drivers. We have supported national and local campaigns and the current campaign SPEED KILLS - KILL YOUR SPEED is a good example of this.

One of the more enjoyable and popular ways of getting the road safety messages across is at the *Revels*, where equipment has been available for testing peripheral vision & reaction times not to mention our ever popular Quiz Board and competitions. The Police have been supportive in this annual event by providing a motor vehicle on our stand (subject to operational demands), with all its majestic livery and lighting. This proves very popular and attracts people to our stand, particularly youngsters, and who knows some of these may be inspired to be future recruits of the Constabulary, helping to keep Croxley Green a safe place to live in?

The County Council has a duty to carry out road safety measures through engineering, education, publicity and training techniques. The committee is not directly involved in education and training as, clearly, these are highly specialised roles needing trained staff and are undertaken by the Road Safety Unit itself but, we support these activities and a regular presentation and report is made by the Road Safety Officer. Cycling Proficiency, advanced driving, in-car safety are well known examples of training. We may also

highlight the need for specific local training. The unit also provides equipment and publications for distribution at the *Revels*, on a variety of matters from repair of roads to pelican crossings and including a *Guide to Road Safety Engineering* mentioned elsewhere. This publication explains traffic calming methods, some of the features were used in Baldwins Lane. Also available is the annual review of the 1991-1996, HCC Road Safety Plan.

The committee structure comprises a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the members themselves - it also has representatives and advisers from the Police, the District Council, Road Safety Unit and Councillors from District and Parish Councils. The CGRSC is sponsored by HCC Road Safety Unit and funded via T R D C. There are six meetings a year and the AGM held in February, the venue is The Methodist Church Hall. Committee Membership is made up of representatives of the community and of the various organisations within the Parish. The Secretary would like to hear from organisations or persons interested in joining. The Committee likes to feel it is in touch with, working for and representing the community, Therefore, if you would like to know more, make any suggestions about the Committee's work or raise any road safety issues please contact me.

Ray Withers - Secretary, CGRSC.
118 Links Way - (01923) 448370

THANKS!

Following my recent accident, I should like to express my gratitude to my many friends, for their kindness and support, which helped me so much. I am very grateful. It is good to know that *Croxley Kindness*, which has been evident for so many years, is still here. Thank you!

Kay Raggett.

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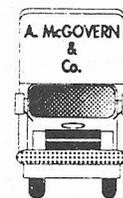
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CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

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"WE SHOULD HAVE ONE BUT"

Sadly, I have become rather familiar with the above remark when I have approached residents whose names have been forwarded to me, by our Neighbourhood Watch Manager Miss Ivy Young, as having said that they were interested in being involved in Neighbourhood Watch. People tend to think this is going to take up a lot of their time and effort. In fact it can take as little as 2 hours every six weeks when we hold our Co-ordinators meeting at Croxley Green Parish Council Offices next to the Community Centre. Every three months we distribute copies of *The Watch* to residents in our respective roads, which takes about 1 hour. Since taking on responsibility as Area Co-ordinator, I will admit there have been times, usually when communications have broken down with the Police for various reasons, that I have had some doubts. At the end of the day however, the thought that I'm doing something for the community I live in makes it seem worthwhile.

There are many roads in Croxley Green where co-ordinators need help, so *your* help would be very welcome and like me you'll find that it gives you a nice feeling to be helping your community.

Derek Thompson - Area Co-ordinator
Ring 778979 anytime.

CROXLEY SCREEN?

Am I at risk of developing a serious disease? How can I tell, in the early stages, when there is still time to cure it? Unless you're an ostrich, one way to try to answer these questions is screening, an aspect of medical care that is becoming increasingly available. Here are six examples of screening tests that are regularly carried out in local surgeries, opticians or in nearby hospitals and clinics. Do any of them apply to you?

Having your blood pressure checked. Someone with high blood pressure is not ill and usually has no symptoms. They, therefore, have no idea that their blood pressure is too high and may not find out until it causes serious trouble like a heart attack or stroke, a tragedy that might have been preventable. This is why doctors and nurses will often take your blood pressure when you've gone to the surgery for an altogether different problem. If yours has not been checked for a long time, it's worth getting it done, making a note of the result and when it will need checking again.

Cervical smear tests are another type of screening designed to pick up minor abnormalities of the cervix that, if left untreated, can go on to become serious. These are recommended every three years for women up to the age of 65, and more often if a problem is identified. Smear tests are very effective at sorting

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out which women need a more detailed examination (colposcopy) and perhaps laser treatment that can eradicate potential cancer cells. But they also demonstrate some of the problems with screening tests. They cause worry, both before the test, and afterwards when waiting for the result (which can take two or three weeks). This is the easiest test in the world to put off having done! Sometimes, reminder letters don't reach the right address and, sometimes, they may just be ignored. But, do think hard if you're tempted not to have your smear test done. Most women feel that the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks.

What about *cholesterol*? Should I get that checked? The answer is that it depends. If anyone in your immediate family has had a stroke or heart attack, in their fifties or younger, then it is certainly worth it. Or, if you have diabetes, heart trouble or high blood pressure, are very overweight or won't give up smoking. But, if there is no family history and you don't have any other risk factors, it's unlikely that your cholesterol is a problem. The best thing, instead, is to eat a balanced healthy diet that's low in animal fat and contains plenty of vegetables and fruit. And, it's also good for losing weight!

Another major screening programme for women is the *mammography* service

which is designed to invite every woman over 50 for a breast X-ray every three years. The invitations are sent out in batches so yours may not come straight away after your birthday. If you can't go on the day that you're invited, do ring up to let the screening centre know so that they can offer the appointment to someone else.

In recent years, a blood test has become available for men to help identify those at risk of prostate cancer. It's called a *PSA test* and is particularly helpful in men over 60, who have noticed minor trouble with their waterworks and are not sure whether they need to go on to more thorough tests on the prostate gland. A high result doesn't mean that you have cancer of the prostate, but it does need following up.

Finally, a word about eyes. *Glaucoma* is a common eye disease that creeps on so slowly that people who have it don't notice until they are virtually blind but, it has a simple and effective treatment, if caught early. Most opticians carry out a (painless!) screening test for glaucoma that measures the pressure in the eyeball. Anyone over 40, who has a parent, brother, sister or child with glaucoma, is entitled to this check up, free every year, with an optician. So, if this applies to you, do make sure that you get it done as it can save your sight.

Of course, screening isn't the whole answer to good health. It can raise anxieties, as well as help to alleviate them and, it's not a substitute for a healthy lifestyle. It's still necessary to exercise (I didn't do very well on my bicycle last year!). Throw the cigarettes in the bin and look after your body. But, screening can spot the molehills before they turn into mountains.

Nigel Corp - General Practitioner.

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BRITISH RED CROSS CENTRE

January 14th sees the opening of the celebrations for the 125th birthday of the British Red Cross, under the patronage of HRH Princess Diana. Events will be held nationally and locally. Watch this space.

The Trained Group under the leadership of Barbara Davis, has had a notable few months. In August, an emergency call-out presented the team with a *mock* traffic accident involving serious injuries to passengers in the two cars. Response to call-out was excellent and the team were praised by the assessors for their handling of the incident. In November their skills were put to a severer test. A standard bearer at the Remembrance Day parade collapsed, suffering a cardiac arrest. The team called an ambulance and, performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiac massage, were able to keep the patient alive until the Ambulance Service arrived to take over.

This excellence transferred to the students, who were following an eight week course in First Aid at the Centre. Examined in December, they achieved a 100% pass-rate. Starting on 23rd January the Group will be offering a resuscitation course and, starting on 20th February, a specialist nursing course - *Care of the Elderly*.

The Centre programme continues as specified in the Autumn issue of the *Resident*. We are pleased to tell you that we have been given approval to replace our sign in Barton Way and to repair the cracked floor tiles in the Centre. We are most grateful to the Parish Council for helping to keep the grass and flower beds around the Centre in good order.

George Ward - Centre Organiser.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?

We now have an official group of volunteers in Croxley Green with the simple title of *Croxley Green Volunteers*. Over the last six months, a small group of local residents, and volunteers from outside our community, have become involved with environmental tasks to assist with the conservation of Croxley Green. This first started in May and July 1994, when an increasing number of ragwort plants threatened to take over Stone's Orchard. This plant came to this country, as a visitor, many years ago and escaped, from its *accommodation*, into the countryside and has been on the loose since. It is extremely difficult to remove and the only effective way is by hand. On these two occasions we met at about 10.30am to *look, the growing season was late, for the plant*. We had some fun challenging who could find the most as they were so tiny. However we collected a few hundred, on the first occasion, thus preventing them from growing larger, leaving more friendly co-

habitees a chance to flourish. On the second occasion, 15 volunteers, with the Countryside Management Services removed over 1000 plants before they seeded. We shall have to do it again this year as ragwort is biennial. We are proposing Sunday June 11th at 10.00am. Do come! Don't worry if you don't know what it looks like - we'll show you.

Another extremely brilliant day, as volunteers, was spent on Thursday September 29th in Little Green Lane. We have two of our remaining ponds that hold a small amount of water during the winter months. These are situated outside Killingdown Farm, on the corner of the Green, and a much larger one further down the lane outside the cottages. Both of these ponds have played their part in the village, when ponds were vital for livestock - watering cattle and horses. Both ponds have been silted up, for many years and during the summer months the larger one resembled a grassy dell with willow trees that had become established in the pond area. It was difficult to ascertain their exact history and whether, in fact, they had clay liners, necessary to hold water. This was usually blue/grey or sometimes, less effective, red clay that was puddled and provided a sealant to hold natural rainfall. Pilot holes were dug and it was presumed that red clay, 18 inches down, was the lining. Advice from many sources, including Herts Environmental Centre, Countryside Management Services and a land drainage engineer, confirmed that the project would be worthwhile.

On September 29th all our schools sent small groups (Little Green, a whole class) of children to help clear the dead wood, grass and scrub from the large pond. Two rangers were on hand to supervise and organise the day. They provided all the necessary tools, gloves and refreshments. Those that stayed for the day brought a packed lunch. We all had a wonderful time, the children learning so much playing a part in recreating a beneficial amenity, not only useful educationally but something pleasant to visit while out for a walk. Amongst the adult volunteers, about 12 in all, one came from Radlett, one from Watford and, with our Parish Ranger, the rest from Croxley Green. At about 11.00am there were over 50 bodies in the pond, all having a great time. The following week, after the vegetation was cleared, a contractor moved in to remove the trees and silt.

The funding for this was provided by the Parish Council with the added bonus of a grant of £850 from Rural Action for volunteer work previously done in Stone's Orchard. This fund works by matching the estimated value of volunteer work, £1 for £1. A volunteer is valued at £7 per hour or £43 per day.

Volunteers are not paid but their time is valued so, that when the ragwort was pulled, their time was valued at £850 in kind and a money grant of £850 was received from Rural Action. As both activities have been beneficial to the community, they were counted as one project to obtain these funds.

Trailer loads of silt were removed and also glass and bricks. Many old coins were found and some small containers. More pilot holes were dug and, a further 12 inches down, an original blue/grey clay liner was found. Cross cutting across the pond would have revealed its extent and any damage but, the rains came. This pond has filled up considerably and is expected to hold water until the spring, whilst the ground drains into it, and then hopefully the next phase can progress. Meanwhile, the Chiltern Society have advised us and we are going to attempt to build a *dipping station*, a small jetty-like platform, so that children can safely stand or kneel on something firm whilst they explore the ponds, thus avoiding standing in mud or on slippery slopes. With the help of the CMS we hope to use as many children as possible in building this facility. Any adult who can spare time on Thursdays March 16th and 23rd to provide muscle power or supervision, is very welcome. PLEASE COME ALONG. Whilst a great deal of time has been spent in obtaining advice and the necessary investigation to put this project into operation, the actual valuable volunteer time was only three days. That has provided our community with an important conservation boost.

A further volunteer day, in December 1994, was a combination of the Colne Link Volunteers, C G Volunteers and Countryside Management Services on Common Moor. Scrub, which is fast taking over, was cleared and burnt in one area of the Moor needing careful management to prevent it becoming a wooded area. We have similar commons close by which lack open common land and now these areas are woodland. This, too, was an enjoyable time. Many of the volunteers in the Colne Link group come from outside Croxley Green yet gave their time to help. Sixteen adults in all, including local residents, came to give a hand. Delicious bonfire baked potatoes were enjoyed to warm us up (filling extra!).

I hope that this explains how easy and enjoyable volunteering is and that it actually doesn't cost anything to come along and have a good time meeting other people BUT the benefits that can be gained are enormous and, if necessary, we can use your time to get those grants to pay for specialist help and machinery, should we need it!

Margaret Pomfret - 720088

REVELS DAY - 17th JUNE

**The Parish Church of St. Oswald
Malvern Way**

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion 8 am
Family Eucharist 9.30 am
Family Praise (last Sun. in month) 11 am
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NEW SOLICITORS NEW ROAD.

Towards the end of 1994, David Wachtel and Michael Fox, took over the existing practice of Munds & Co upon the retirement of Sheila Munds. Previously David and Michael had been practising, as sole practitioners, from their respective homes. In November 1994, they moved the practice across the road to new offices at 165 New Road, formerly the temporary library. *Why had they chosen Croxley Green to commence their law practice?* "We wish to become a recognised part of the local community, the solicitors for the area where, people can drop in for a chat, get to know us and understand that we are relaxed and approachable", said David Wachtel. "This area has a clear identity of its own and we are here to be utilised by individuals and businesses in the locality. We both recognise the importance of personal service and we are always willing to go out and visit our elderly or infirm clients, or to visit businesses at their own premises, if that is what they want" added Michael Fox. David summed up the firm's policy by stating that their aim was to give jargon-free, clear advice, helping individuals and local businesses, recognising that each matter is of the utmost importance to each client, no matter how insignificant those matters might appear to other people. "Old Standards - but Modern Service" was the way Michael expressed this.

As part of their service they hope to be regular contributors to the *Resident*, dealing with different legal matters of importance and interest to our readers. The first of these is printed below:-

SHOULD I MAKE A WILL?

The main reason why people should make a Will is to save the problems and turmoil of their nearest and dearest, should they die without having made a Will. They would be leaving problems to those left behind at the worst possible time. There are also circumstances where a Will is essential. If you wish to leave a particular item or personal possession to a relative or friend, this can only be effected in your Will. If you do not make a Will everything you leave will go to your next of kin according to fixed rules. If you leave no next of kin, your estate will go to the Crown. Your husband or wife may not inherit the whole of your estate and, if you have young children, part of your estate may have to go into trust until your children are adults, which may cause financial hardship. A lifetime companion, to whom you are not married, will not benefit from your estate unless you make provision in your Will.

In a Will you can also express wishes about the disposal of your body. You can appoint guardians for very young children, which could be very important if for instance, a young married couple

died together in a car accident. You can save your beneficiaries from paying unnecessary tax. Inheritance tax, which affects people with an estate in excess of £154,000 (if the value of your house, insurance policies and assets are added together many people fall within this category) has been termed a *voluntary tax*. Considerable inheritance tax savings can be made on the passing of your estate to children. For peace of mind, protection of family and to save tax, the relatively small investment in making a Will, could be the best investment you ever make. For further information contact your solicitor. Appointments can be made for the elderly or infirm at home, and to suit individuals outside normal hours.

David Wachtel & Michael Fox

TRAFFIC CALMING

Having lived in Links Way for seven years, I have long been aware of the speeding traffic in the road both before and after the closure of Rousebarn Lane but, while I was working, it was something that I just accepted. Since becoming a parent, I have realised that it is a considerable danger to my child and I have had to seriously question whether it is the right place to bring up a family. In October, I delivered a questionnaire, to every house in the road, to see what other people thought about the traffic situation. There were over 100 replies and nearly everyone thought that there was a problem and most were in favour of traffic calming measures. Since then, I have been pressing Three Rivers for action through the Road Safety Committee and through our councillors. Some have been encouraging and some not so positive. I would like particularly to thank Cllrs Cummings, Gell, Lloyd and Neighbour for their support.

Minister of transport, Dr Brian Mawhinney, has sent me 180 copies of *Safer by Design*, a guide to road safety engineering. This highlights some of the more effective traffic management techniques that can prevent accidents, reduce risk, danger and anxiety and, protect the more vulnerable of road users. I have delivered to every house in Links Way. Of course, there is a shortage of funds for road safety schemes but, I feel that this makes it more important to be persistent and not to give up until we get what we want. Surely, traffic calming should be provided in every road which is suitable and where there is a demand. Accidents are far more costly than safety measures. On 18th November there was a major accident in the road, caused by speeding, which resulted in one car being turned over and two cars being destroyed. It was very fortunate that no-one was killed and it helped to bring home the dangers and the need for something to be done.

The proposed changes at West Herts Golf Club are a serious worry. From 1st April, the course will be open to the public, an increase in traffic is inevitable. While many feel that Golf Club members are among the worst culprits for speeding at the moment, at least the Club has some control over them whereas, once the public are allowed on to the course, then it will be open season for every reckless driver in Watford to use Links Way as a race-track. I think that it would be responsible of Watford Council to re-open the original access to the Club from Gade Avenue or provide funds for a traffic scheme in Links Way/Rousebarn Lane.

Road schemes are a joint matter for Three Rivers and Herts County Council. They will be meeting soon, to decide on which schemes are to be investigated for 1995/96 so, if you want to add your views, please write to Steven Parsons, Senior Transportation Engineer, TRDC, Rickmansworth WD3 1RL. Your support will make all the difference.

Vivienne Simister.

CLEAN-UP ON 8th - 9th APRIL

Is this going to be your *weekend* of 1995 to help clear those neglected corners and eyesores that can so easily be overlooked and left to build up litter and rubbish. Last year and the previous year (1993 Winners of TRDC Clean Up Shield in the first year) we had a good effort from many groups in the community. The Girl Guides cleaned up Rousebarn Lane, Malvern Way & Yorke Mead Schools collected numerous sackfuls of litter around their areas. Mill Lane and the Lock area had a face lift with two skipfulls of rubbish being produced from the woods etc. It isn't always the visitor to blame who creates these untidy areas, residents *tip* sacks of garden and household rubbish when they can easily be collected in the usual way.

Skips will go out during the weekend of April 8th and 9th, as usual, for the clean up. Sacks will be available from the skips during the day to take away and fill or, if your school or group would like to help during the week day/evening prior to the weekend, black sacks will be available from the Parish Office in Barton Way - 710250 or ring me on 720088 if you would like to help. The Parish Council will be sending out certificates to all those who participate.

We start at 10 am on Saturday and Sunday but if you can spare a little time during the day please take a sack and help to make our community *clean and tidy*. Posters with details of skip sites will be displayed prior to the event.

Cllr Margaret Pomfret Chairman
Environment & Amenity Committee.
Croxley Green Parish Council.

REVELS DAY - 17th JUNE

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Between late November and late February there was a three month consultation period concerning the merger between Mount Vernon and Watford General Hospitals. During the last quarter of 1994, the *Voice* welcomed at its monthly meetings various speakers who gave reports and/or answered questions, including Claire James, Trust Financial Director; Ian Hammond, Director of Acute Commissioning, Hillingdon Health Authority; Andrew Reid, Director of SW Herts HA; Dr Audrey Jacobs, Principal Officer, Hillingdon Community Health Council; Michael Whitcroft, Trust Marketing Director; Laura Sharpe, Director of Communications and Corporate Services, Hillingdon HA and Lynne Thornton, a Trust Director. Members of the *Voice* have received reports from the Medical Research Council (Health of the Elderly), from the Home Office, Hillingdon CHC and SW Herts CHC, as well as the Trust report and accounts. Many topics have been discussed with visiting speakers and within the committee. A few can be mentioned here - waiting times, out-patient clinics, care of the elderly, gynaecology, oral surgery, Accident and Emergency, children's services, mixed-sex wards and transport (where some improvements have been made and others envisaged).

During the Consultation period the Executive Committee of the *Voice* has submitted a paper to the Trust, which incorporates the views of the many organisations represented. The Hillingdon HA and the Chief Executive of the Trust have congratulated the Chairman on the standard and detailed argument of the paper. Papers have also been submitted to the MRC, who are researching care of the elderly, and to the Nolan Committee, which is seeking to improve standards in public life, stressing the need for accountability to the public. The Kings Fund has shown interest in receiving a properly researched paper on the working of the group, which might result in a small grant. The Trust directors have no mandate to consult the public nor even the CHCs. Little is known of the non-executive directors. Hence, the attendance of Executive Directors at meetings of the *Voice* is appreciated.

The *Resident* goes to press before the end of the consultation period, so it is not possible to report here, either on definite changes or on retention of the *status quo*. This should be possible at a later date and may well be publicised by the hospitals themselves.

Barbara Lloyd.

CHURCH ARCHIVES

On December 18th 1994, in the grounds of All Saints' Church after the 9.45am service, the Croxley Mummers gave a performance of their play. Soon after the First World War, School Teacher H T Wilson (Neggy) to all Croxley Green,

revived the Mummers troupe in the village. I am fairly sure that there was a troupe long before the Great War, so this is something to keep in mind for research. At the first meeting, those attending had one thing in common, they had all taken part in the school's annual Christmas Concert. Those chosen are listed in the article on the Mummers and remained the hard core for the next forty years. Many others joined and one in particular, Harry Mellor, still lives in Croxley Green.

So, the Mummers started to tour the village and performed, by chance, wherever their patrons welcomed them. It was soon decided that they would perform by appointment only and so traditions became established. Preparation would begin some weeks before Christmas. Masks were repaired, new apparel made and the play rehearsed. The performances always commenced at the Vicarage, where they had their smallest audience - the Rev C H Blois Bissop, his wife and one or two maids. From there to Elmcote, home of F B Adams, where, after the performance was over, the butler, Mr Graver, handed round glasses. It is recorded that already they were falling behind schedule, so saying farewell, they proceeded to Copthorne and the home of the Casebourne family. A large party awaited them here, just like Dingley Dell, complete with two grandmas who insisted on kissing all the Mummers. Then on to Parrotts and, after a lecture on punctuality, the performance took place. Little Green & Waterdell House followed and, from there to The Firs, another warm welcome. It was close to midnight as they started out to keep their last appointment at Lindiswara in Watford Road, home of Charles Barton Smith. After enjoying the Christmas fare they set out to return to their homes.

By the mid-thirties, they'd ceased their Christmas rounds, but they still appeared for national events - the Coronations of George VI and his daughter Elizabeth II, then the Festival of Britain. They also appeared on tour at Welham Green, Hemel Hempstead, Abbots Langley, Watford and Rickmansworth. Then, sadly, Father Christmas, Giant, Turkish Knight, St George and Doctor retired.

The above is all taken from writings by Frank Paddick and how thankful we must be to him that he made these records. It has come to light that, it was Christmas Eve when the Mummers toured, so it was no wonder that they got behind their schedule. I wish our new Mummers every success and hope to see them at the *Revels*, speaking of which, I would draw your attention to the Flower Festival at All Saints' Church on June 17th, 18th and 19th which will include an exhibition of photographs and documents.

Norman Spring - 01923 776933
Archivist, All Saints' Church

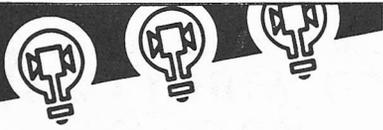
LIBRARY COLUMN

As many of you will be aware, the new Library was officially opened on 7th October by Claire Rayner, who stayed on after the opening ceremony to talk to an appreciative audience about her writing career. This was the high point of our programme of opening events lasting about six weeks. Other events included a talk by crime writer Susan Moody, a puppet workshop for children in half-term, a story telling session with Julia Marriage and a tea party for housebound borrowers. We were also visited by County Councillors and by groups of librarians from Indonesia and Portugal. A forthcoming attraction is a *Spring in your Library* event at the end of March which, we hope, will take the form of a gardening question and answer session with an expert from Wards of Sarratt.

When we opened, in September, stock levels were about 2,500 below our projected stock figures, due to the difficulty in finding suitable items. I am still buying large amounts of stock and will continue to do so until the last of the insurance money has been used. In November I visited a supplier in Nottingham, to top up adult non-fiction and, by the time you read this, Sylvia Williamson and I will have visited another large supplier in Preston to buy both adult and junior stock. We hope soon to restart our regular sales of withdrawn items and also to reinstate the magazine swap box, so popular in the old library. Thanks to all who have provided us with local information for our files. We are gradually plugging the gaps. We have had tremendous interest shown in the new built-in display case in the foyer. We have displays booked in until the end of July, including marquetry, embroidery, wood carving and pottery. Do contact us, if you would like to show your handiwork - there is no charge for the display facilities. The Library's study area/meeting room is being well used, outside opening hours and, weekly sessions are held by local weight watchers and yoga groups.

In my last article, I briefly mentioned the housebound service which is organised by Shirley Thomas and delivered by her and two hardworking volunteers. We have an ever growing waiting list for this service and I know that there are many, in the community, who cannot now get to the Library and who would appreciate having books and tapes brought to their homes. However, we cannot expand the service unless we can recruit a few more volunteers. If you can spare a few regular hours every week, have the use of a car and would be prepared to take books to people, in their own homes, we would love to hear from you. I realise that it is a big commitment to make but, it can be very satisfying and rewarding. If you are interested in finding out more, without committing yourself, please contact me at the Library.

Sue Durham - Community Librarian.



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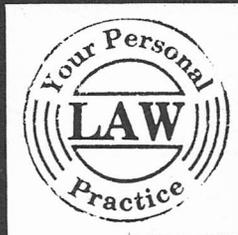
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CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ELECTIONS TO CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION DAY 4th MAY 1995

NORTH WARD

HEDGES

NORMAN

REES

SIMISTER

CROXLEY GREEN WARD

POMFRET

STUBINGTON

WILLIAMS

SOUTH WARD

BAINS

SAXON

WALDRON

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION DAY 4th MAY 1995

We ask for your support for the following candidates who have been nominated on behalf of the Croxley Green Residents' Association as a non-party based panel for election as parish councillors.

NORTH WARD (5 seats).

HEDGES, John T.

44 Ludlow Way, 60, married, 3 adult children. Architect. Born in Croxley Green and educated at local schools including Central School, Watford. Has served on the Parish Council for 9 years since its inception. Chairman for 3 years, vice-chairman for 4 years and active in all aspects. Active Methodist in Watford area, management committee of Wensum Court, Amersham & Chesham Bois Choral Society. Past Youth Leader, past Chairman of Residents' Association and Editor of *Resident* Newsletter. Revels co-organiser since 1986. Hobbies include:- Local affairs, conservation, nature, weather, singing and arts.

NORMAN, Brian R.

261 Baldwins Lane. Family man, resident in village for 23 years. Family educated locally and involved with local organisations. Has personal involvement with various local organisations and believes in encouraging others to participate and strengthen the culture within the community. Has tried to involve himself in the well being of the village, strengthen the community bond and believes that it is important to encourage new residents to participate in trying to retain the unique village community they have chosen to join.

REES, Lesley.

25 Rousebarn Lane, married with four children. Former governor of Little Green and Malvern Way Schools, has taught Sunday School and sings in local church choir. Lived in village for most of life, educated at Durrants School and trained as a hairdresser. Serves as a co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch, co-opted member on Parents' Association of Watford Girls' Grammar School and as member of Road Safety Committee. Is keen to ensure that Croxley Green retains its character and does not become over-developed.

SIMISTER, Vivienne.

174 Links Way. Has lived in village for 8 years and has young son. Main interest is in road safety, has campaigned for traffic calming in Links Way, and would like to see traffic calming available to all residential areas. Believes that this would not only reduce the danger of accidents but would create a better environment and a stronger sense of community.

CROXLEY GREEN WARD. (6 seats)

POMFRET, Margaret.

42 Repton Way. 2 children (16 & 12 years). Parish Councillor for 4 years serving as Vice-chairman and for 2 years as Chairman of the Environment & Amenity Committee. Projects and activities have included the Parish Map (from first recommendation to fruition), Organisation of Garden Competition (for 2 years), restoration of the ponds (including obtaining grants for same), Restoration of Stone's Orchard, Photographic displays of CGPC activities at various events, maintenance of Horse Trough by All Saints Church for 3 years, setting up volunteer group for environmental activities (including ragwort pulling in Stone's Orchard), assisting Neighbourhood Watch. Hobbies include Photography, gardening, historical research (& producing photographic history of the village), swimming and walking.

STUBINGTON, Norma Patricia.

20 Rugby Way, married with one son. Moved to village in 1977 after living in Rickmansworth for 13 years. Educated at La Sagesse convent in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Employed by Hertfordshire County Council, at Croxley Green Library since 1981, with responsibility for the Local Studies Collection. Past committee member of Watford & District Industrial History Society and Sarratt Women's Institute. Interested in the historical and environmental aspects of the village and was part of the team responsible for the Croxley Green Parish Map. Hobbies include reading, gardening and crafts.

WILLIAMS, F Graham,

8 Uplands, married with 4 children all educated locally. Resident in village for 27 years. Governor of Rickmansworth Park JMI School and has served the community in many ways, for 17 years, including as County Councillor, with especial concern for the environment. Has been associated with Scouting in the district for 25 years. Especial concerns are the community and the environment.

SOUTH WARD (5 seats).

BAINS, David

8 Frankland Road, age 38, married with two daughters and one son. Director of West-End sales consultancy. Lived in Croxley Green for 8 years, daughters at Harvey Road School and wife is a registered childminder. Local interests include cycling and walking, hence strong interest in environmental issues and matters of road safety, particularly traffic calming. Has assisted with school money-raising events and the Revels. Very keen for quality of life to be preserved for future generations. Other hobbies include DIY, sorting other people's plumbing problems and cooking.

SAXON, Mark

92 Frankland Road. 34. Married with two dogs! Resident in Croxley Green for the last 7 years. Currently Honorary Secretary of the Croxley Green Residents' Association and an active member of the organising committee for the Revels. Hobbies include walking the dogs, boating on the Grand Union Canal, looking after the local environment and DIY.

WALDRON, Madryn Bridget.

43 Harvey Road. Resident in Croxley Green for 34 years. Her 5 children all attended local schools for which she served for many years on two parents' committees. Also served as Road Patrol at Harvey Road School. Her sons were servers and choirboys at All Saints Church. Nursed at Michael Sobell House and at local hospitals for 14 years. Regular driver for CARE and a chorister at St Mary's Church in Rickmansworth. Was elected to the Parish Council at a bye-election and serves on the Environment & Amenity Committee. Has become very involved with the work of this committee and wishes to continue to support and enable these valuable environmental schemes to reach fruition.

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