



# The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Published by

CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Hedges  
Assisted by: Molly Hedges

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101 Barton Way

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4 Evans Close

All sponsored parish councillors are ex-officio members, they are:- David Bains, John Hedges, Brian Norman, Margaret Pomfret, Lesley Rees, Mark Rumsey and Mark Saxon

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

## EDITORIAL

This is probably one of the most difficult editorials that I have ever had to write. At the end of the summer, our village suffered a great tragedy. All our hearts went out to the parents and families of Claire Rogers and Daniel Gibbs as they tried to come to terms with the tragic, accidental death of two lively and popular children.

This double tragedy was followed, almost immediately by the accident in Paris which robbed the nation of the Princess of Wales. No-one could have forecast the deep sense of loss that was shown by the nation as a whole.

One fact emerged from both these incidents which highlighted the value of ordinary people's feelings to those who had been bereaved. When I read Nigel Corp's article, which was sent to me for inclusion in this edition, I was relieved

that someone else had saved me the unenviable task of writing suitable words. All of us have suffered bereavement at some time or other but such tragedies leave most of us unable to respond as we would wish. I shall treasure this piece for many years.

At one time, I thought that this edition would be short on content but, as usual, the regular contributors have come up trumps. Occasional contributors have also supplied interesting articles, so that this edition now looks good. I hope that you will agree.

It is sad, but enjoyable for her and her family, that April Rumsey is taking a sabbatical, I am sure that we all hope that this will be the case for we shall all miss her articles and her clients will miss her care.

Mark Saxon has taken up the cudgels for responsible use of tradesmen. I have sometimes felt that my voice was alone in condemning the use of casual labour, unknown to us, who have no care for our community. Cowboys, except in the wild west, are bad news.

Although Nigel Corp's piece is not strictly medical this time, Marjorie Dennis's article fills this breach and makes interesting reading beside the regular detailed report from Barbara Lloyd on the meetings of the Voice. Barbara, and her husband Donald, do a grand service in representing our association on this valuable committee.

Other articles, from local organisations and societies, show the breadth of activities that surround and are available to us all. These are the life-blood of our community and we need to shout about them. However, we can only shout about them if we are given the ammunition so, I am grateful for the time taken by these correspondents. If you have something interesting to say about your group, we shall be pleased to hear from you. You might increase your membership but, more importantly, we shall all have a chance to learn about your activities and the wealth of social and cultural activities that are there for us.

I sometimes wonder how long I can go on producing this newsletter but, I certainly can have no fears when my post brings in such interesting and diverse articles.

Lastly, my thanks to Rosemary for her dedication in producing advertisers who pay for this publication.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By the time you read this column, summer will be just a pleasant memory and winter will be fast approaching. Many of us have had a summer holiday away from Croxley Green, perhaps outside the UK. Am I alone in giving a great sigh of relief when I return from such a holiday, pleased to be back home? In my case it is not just good to return home, but also it is good to be back in Croxley Green. I have lived in Croxley for 22 years and thoroughly enjoy living here. There are other places in England with less traffic, cleaner streets, better climate etc., but as a package Croxley Green is difficult to better. Let's all work together to keep it that way!

\* \* \* \* \*

## REVELS 1997 A SINCERE THANKYOU

May I, through your columns and on behalf of the Croxley Green Society, express a very sincere thankyou to all the organising committee for the amount of time and effort that they put into organising the Revels and making it such a happy occasion for all concerned.

Last year we had the Euro '96 Football Championships to contend with - this year the rain! In spite of the dreadful weather, I think the Watford Observer got it right with its headline - "Villagers Work Together To Beat The Rain".

It was extremely gratifying to see how all concerned entered into the spirit of the occasion, from the participants who took part in the procession and the arena events, the stallholders and general public who supported the whole affair with such enthusiasm.

Here's looking forward to June 20th 1998 Revels. Book it now!

Mike Dix - Chairman CGS.

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

## **The Churches in Croxley Green warmly invite you to share in our Sunday Worship:**

### **All Saints (C OF E), The Green**

08.00 am Holy Communion.  
09.40 am Junior Church.  
09.45 am Parish Eucharist.  
11.30 am Family Service (3rd Sun in month)  
06.00 pm Evensong.  
Revd Luke Lee - 772109

### **The Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane.**

09.15 am Morning Worship.  
11.00am Family Service.  
06.30 pm Evening Worship.

Revd David Walker - 231403.

### **The Methodist Church, New Road.**

10.30am Morning Worship  
with creche/Sunday School.  
06.30 pm Evening Service.  
Revd Stephen Fulcher - 263248  
Bookings: Frank Haines - 230088

### **St Bede's (R C), Baldwins Lane.**

Saturday 06.00 pm Vigil Mass.  
Sunday 10.00 am Mass  
06.00 pm Mass.

Father Bert Haines - 231969

### **St Oswald's (C of E), Malvern Way.**

08.00 am Holy Communion.  
10.00 am Family Service (1st Sun in month).  
Family Eucharist & Sunday School (others).  
06.00 pm Choral Evensong (1st Sunday in month).

Revd Anne Lovegrove - 232387.

## **COMMUNITY VOICE**

The Community Voice, representing many local organisations, has continued to meet monthly in the past year. Contacts between the Voice, the Directors of the Hospitals Trust and the Health Authorities have become closer. Directors, including the Chief Executive - Stephen Ramsden, and members of the Health Authorities and the Community Health Councils come regularly to meetings, listen to views expressed and explain their own position. As readers of the local and national press will realise, problems are largely financial. In common with other Trusts throughout the country, the Watford and Mount Vernon Trust hospitals have a large budget deficit. The reasons are manifold. The Health Authorities, with a fixed budget, have been asked to make savings (cuts) each year - the number of emergency admissions, at all hospitals, has increased - treatments have become more sophisticated - there is an ageing population - people's expectations have become higher.

One major factor affecting Mount Vernon was the closure of the Accident & Emergency department, which was replaced by a Minor Injuries unit. It was expected that the number of patients treated at the unit would fall. In fact, the number of those treated there, combined with those assessed and admitted by the Medical Assessment Unit, have brought the figures up to those of the former A & E department. In 1997-8, Mount Vernon expects to receive £1.2m less from Hillingdon Health Authority and £0.6m less from

Brent & Harrow HA. This £1.8m has been given to other hospitals.

Mount Vernon has a fully staffed and efficient Coronary Care unit which needs the support of the Health Authorities and GP fund-holders. Since the closure of the A & E dept., its position has become more precarious. The London Ambulance Unit has agreed that, if a GP arranges for a patient to be accepted at Mount Vernon, the ambulance will take the patient to the CC Unit or the Medical Assessment Unit.

Letters regarding these two matters have been sent, from the CG Residents Association, to various bodies and individuals (eg Health Authorities, Health Centres, NHS Executives and local MPs) apprising them of the financial situation and our concerns. Most replied - sympathetically and at some length - including Miss Claire Ward, the MP for Watford. Some have contacted other people of influence.

Drastic measures are being taken by the Trust to deal with the deficit. It is closing 44 surgical beds, 2 operating theatres and cutting 60 hours of surgery at Mount Vernon. Additional cuts are to follow at Watford, with a Trust closure total of 76 beds. This is without public consultation, for which there is a legal requirement. The Voice has demanded that these closures are halted.

On the positive side, it has been announced that a £350,000 extension to the Genito-Urinary medical clinic is now open. The Hand & Upper Limb Clinic, at Mount Vernon, now has a £25,000 computer link to America - the first UK

clinic to install the system. A new Haemo-Oncology unit was opened at Mount Vernon in April. A new Digital Screening room is to be opened at Watford in October. The Medical Unit has now been approved for the training of Junior doctors and the Trust is likewise now approved by the Dieticians Board as a training centre for student dieticians.

Barbara LLoyd - C'tee Member

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## **VET LET(TER).**

Dear All,

Sadly, this will be my last entry in the Resident Newsletter, as I am leaving the Veterinary Surgery to start a family in November. In my place, Mr Robert Bird will be taking over the practice and, if asked, will continue to write for you on pet subjects.

Robert qualified from Massey University (New Zealand) in 1989 and has been in practice for seven and a half years. During the last four years he has concentrated on domestic pets and recently acquired a post-graduate qualification in canine "internal medicine". Robert, and his wife Jane, have two small children, Ellie & Thomas, and are very much looking forward to settling in Croxley Green.

On a personal note, it has been my pleasure to see your pets over the last five years and I wish to thank you all for your support and patronage. I hope that you will continue to support Robert in the same way, as I know he is keen to offer a caring, community service,

Yours sincerely, April Rumsey.

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## LIBRARY COLUMN

During the summer holidays even more children than in previous years joined in our summer reading challenge, Cosmic Quest. At the time of writing around 25 have finished the challenge by reading 15 books and I expect even more to complete the course by the closing date in late September.

We hosted 3 activities for children during the holidays culminating in "Aliens on the Beach". Twenty two children produced a stunning frieze which has been on display on the notice board in the children's area attracting lots of attention.

Thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council we now have copies of "A History of Croxley Green through its Street Names" available for loan on audio tape. The tapes which were recorded for us by the RNIB were produced as a result of a plea from one of our partially sighted borrowers who had heard about the book but was unable to read it for herself.

On the subject of audio tapes, we have a steadily growing collection available for loan. Because of the ever increasing cost of these sets we now buy co-operatively across the County and circulate the tapes around several libraries which means that the collections are changing regularly. Tape sets can be borrowed for three weeks and there is a charge of 50p or £1.00 per set depending on the number of tapes in the box. There is still no charge for borrowing children's story tapes and we hope that this concession continues. Please remember to let tapes run to the end (and to rewind video tapes) as we get several grumbles from borrowers who have to waste time getting tapes back to the beginning. Also please let us know if you have any problems with audio or video tapes so that we can remove them from circulation and check them ourselves.

Since January we have been grouped with Rickmansworth and Chorleywood Libraries and have bought some of our non fiction stock co-operatively with the intention of circulating. The first few collections at Croxley Green are 'true crime' and 'the unexplained' and both have proved popular.

Armchair travel, computers, psychology and popular science collections should be available soon as the collections move round.

Don't forget to let us know when you pass your 65th birthday so that we can amend your details on the computer system. Anyone over 65 pays a lower rate of fines on items returned late and can borrow compact discs, music cassettes and story tapes free of charge. There are no concessions on video loans but I believe our fees are very reasonable and the money raised is ploughed back into the service.

Sue Durham, Librarian.

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## BEWARE OF THE COWBOYS

During the last few months, the problem of *FLY-TIPPING*, the illegal dumping of waste, has again returned to our area. Croxley Hall Woods has been particularly badly hit but most of our open spaces have been hit by cowboy operators dumping rubbish at one time or another.

These people are not local, but they probably have been employed by someone who lives locally.

Please follow my five-point plan to try to run these varmints out of town:-

1. If you employ anyone to take rubbish etc. away from your house - don't be afraid to ask them where they will take it for disposal.
2. Don't employ casual callers at the door who volunteer to take rubbish away "cheap".
3. If you see a vehicle fly-tipping, note down the number plate, time, date, place and try to remember a description of any driver.
4. Ring either:-
  - a) Herts County Council - 01438 312696
  - b) TRDC - 01923 776611 ext 1138
  - c) CG Parish Council - 01923 710250
  - d) Herts Police - 01923 472000
5. DO NOT PUT YOURSELVES AT RISK. DO NOT CONFRONT ANYONE YOU SEE FLY-TIPPING. Just report it and leave it to the authorities.

By keeping vigilant and following my five-point plan, we can win against the fly-tippers.

Mark Saxon - Secretary, CGRA.

## CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

On behalf of my household I .....  
of ..... , Croxley Green  
Apply for life membership of the association and enclose remittance of £5.00. Signed .....  
Cheques payable to the Association. Return to:-  
Polly Burdis 17, New Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3EJ

## DANGER AT THE REVELS

Firstly I would like to apologise for yet another article about the *Revels*. However, the Revels Organising Team would like to express their deep concern regarding the movement of vehicles before, during and after the *Revels*.

As a committee, we ask that all vehicles should be removed from the site between the hours of 1.30 and 5.00 pm. This request was published in the official programme that was circulated to every house in Croxley Green prior to the *Revels* taking place. Despite this request, there is a certain lack of courtesy and concern shown by some members of the public for the safety and enjoyment of others - even to the point that they are packing up their stalls whilst others are still trading and while the Arena events are still taking place.

The attitude of these people seems to be "Let's get our vehicles and drive across the site, at whatever speed we like", irrespective of the fact that the whole area is looked upon as a "Safe" place for children and adults alike.

When committee members ask these people to move their cars, to the allocated space, they are met with abuse and sarcasm. This, in the opinion of the Committee, is totally unwarranted and uncalled for.

Sorry for the gripe but, all your volunteer Committee wish for, is a safe and happy family day. Would everyone please abide by the requests from these volunteers, who organise your *Revels*, and not drive on the site while the events are in progress.

Thankyou all for your co-operation and here's to a safe and happy 1998 *Revels*.  
Ian McLachlan - Vice-Chairman - CGS

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## CROXLEY GREEN ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE.

It was the intention of the Road Safety Committee that the Annual Report for 1996 should have been published in the last edition of "The Resident". Unfortunately the timing of the Committee's Annual General Meeting and publishing deadlines made this impossible. Therefore on the basis of better late than never the report follows these brief current comments.

### Secretariat.

You will note from the report that the Committee were hoping to appoint a new Secretary, regrettably no such appointment has been made and the Committee are desperately looking for a more than willing volunteer. There is an Honorarium, currently £80.00 per annum, and anybody interested should make themselves known to the Chairman, Mike Humphreys (tel: 778544). The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday 24th November 1997.

### Membership .

Membership of the Committee is open to representatives of any Organisation, Club, or Society which serves residents of Croxley Green and is based in the Village. Currently this large parameter of local opinion is not fully represented on the Committee and present members would welcome some new people which, among other views, would include opinions on Road Safety matters from Schools, Sports clubs and Youth Organisations to highlight a few.

Should not your Club or Society be represented?

### Green Zone

Most readers will be aware of the Green Zone Traffic Proposals and may be interested to know that a substantial number of the proposals emanated from recommendations and suggestions put forward by the Committee.

The Committee will monitor progress and developments, if any, of the proposals.

### Report of the Committee's Activities for 1996.

#### 1. Membership and Attendance.

The Committee met 6 times throughout the year. The members are as follows :-

M Humphreys (Chairman) (6);  
R Withers (Secretary) (2);  
J Wesson (Treasurer) (5);  
C Bone (2); Mrs P Cawood (4);  
K Cooper (6); G Foster (1); T Gilbert (1);  
Mrs R Hanscomb (2); Mrs C Martindale  
(2 out of 2); Mrs S McLachlan (1);  
I McLachlan (4); Mr Puddephat (2).

#### LA Representatives:-

TRDC:- Cllr Mrs E Neighbour (3 of 3);  
Cllr Mrs S Wright (1 of 2).

CGPC:- Cllr Mrs L Rees (5).

**Other Officials in Attendance:-**  
PC G Lee (Herts Constabulary);  
S Parsons (TRDC) and  
R Kersey (Road Safety Unit HCC).

#### 2. Commuter Parking

The Committee received a number of complaints concerning the problem of Commuter Parking in the vicinity of Croxley Station. The subject has been discussed with the Local Authorities involved and the Committee is committed to supporting any practical proposals that may eventually be put forward.

#### 3. Watford Road Traffic Review.

Throughout the year the Committee has been regularly informed that a review of traffic using the Watford Road through the Parish was being carried out. The results of the survey are still awaited together with proposals for dealing with any problems that may be identified.

Factors which the Committee would expect to be included are:-

- Improvements to the approaches to the Pelican crossing adjacent to *The Red House*;
- Proposals to deal with the Commuter Parking problem (see para 2);
- Improvements to the visibility of the Zebra Pedestrian crossings similar to that carried out at the Harvey Road junction.

#### 4. Sarratt Road and The Green.

The Committee have expressed concern at the speed of traffic using The Green and Sarratt Road and are seeking the support of Sarratt and Croxley Green Parish Councils and other organisations for the introduction of a restricted speed limit, extending from Red Hall Lane to the beginning of the existing speed limit on The Green.

#### 5. Accidents.

Regrettably there are still too many traffic incidents throughout the Parish.

Reports received by the Committee covered the period September 1995 to May 1996 and sadly there was one fatal accident during this period. There is no regular pattern to the incidents and it would seem that the principal cause is driver error.

#### 6. Transport in South West Herts.

The Committee have received the consultation documents on this subject and were represented at the seminars held locally to discuss the papers. Further comment will be made when detailed proposals are made for the area by the appropriate Local Authority.

#### 7. General.

Various minor problems affecting roads throughout the Parish were discussed by the Committee. The roads involved included Baldwins Lane (E & W); Links Way; All Saints Lane; Springfield Close; Little Green Lane; Green Lane; and Sarratt Road.

#### 8. The Revels.

The Committee was present at The Revels in June. The principal and popular attraction was the "Seat Belt Sled" and a Road Safety Quiz was also organised. Winners of this competition were published in the Autumn 1996 edition of *The Resident*.

#### 9. Secretariat.

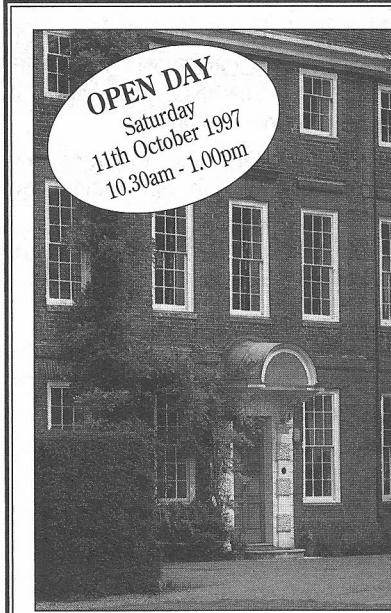
Ray Withers has been unable to carry out his duties as Secretary since last March and J Wesson has covered the responsibilities during his absence. Mr Withers has now resigned and a new Secretary should be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

January 1997.

J Wesson - CG Road Safety Com'tee.

**REVELS 1998**

**Saturday 20th June.**



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### **York House School**

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## CHURCH ARCHIVES

As you all probably know, All Saints' Church is, this year, celebrating its 125th Anniversary and, as I am the archivist, I have to record the events marking this occasion. Already, a large amount of material is coming together; you see it is important for the 150th Anniversary, which takes place in the year 2022. I hope to leave a complete picture so that they may be able to use some of our records for their exhibition.

Many of you will remember Yorke Road School which was started by the Church and opened on January 4th 1875. The headmistress was Harriet Lawrence. During that week some 72 children were enrolled and by the end of that month some 109 children had enrolled. Prior to this, children from Croxley Green had to walk to Rickmansworth, the building still standing near to Watersmeet. I have in my possession the School Log Book which will be kept in the Church Archives and, from time to time, I will publish excerpts in the *Resident*. As the Logs cover the period 1875-1952, you will appreciate that it takes time to get the picture. Sometime, in the future, I will have them on display but, I hope you will understand, I cannot permit them to be handled. However, I will endeavour to be as helpful as possible.

Norman Spring - 01923 776933  
Archivist - All Saints' Church

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## LADIES' EVENING

Croxley Green Flower Group, first formed in 1966, isn't about people with special know-how in the art of flower arranging. The thread that brings us together is floral, but the floral part is no greater than our declared aim which is, to enjoy ourselves in the company of friends, old and new, in a social and friendly atmosphere. That isn't to say that there is no expertise.

The expertise is provided by the professionals who come to entertain us, giving demonstrations built around simple basic ideas that, none-the-less, produce stunning results. Their hints on combining foliage and flowers, what to use, how to use it, colour, shape texture; their short cuts to amazing displays; all presented in a jolly style with amusing dialogue, gets the least ambitious amongst us itching to try. It must be admitted that some of our members never arrange anything, other than arranging to be free on club night. Flowers are fun and, yes, we do talk about them during our refreshment break etc., but like any group of women, anywhere, we talk of other things. We are out to enjoy ourselves for the evening and having a good natter is part of that enjoyment. Knowledge of foliage and flora is not required to enjoy yourself at our flower group though, we guarantee, without realising it, you will pick up learning along the way. Your jar of Daffs will never look the same again.

We are a group of mixed ages that meet regularly at the Red Cross Centre on the second Tuesday in each month. doors open at 7 pm for a 7.45 pm start. Each evening costs £2. *Try something really different*, it's probably more than you think. Come and make new friends, you can be assured of a very warm welcome. We will be even more pleased if you bring a friend or two.

Wynn Peirson - 01923 772650

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## ON BEING BEREAVED

A young policeman came to see me. It was during an evening surgery in July 1982. He wasn't a patient, but just popped up suddenly in between one patient leaving and the next coming in, one of my partners just having time to tell me that he was bringing bad news. It's true of course, they do look young, and this one looked sad and serious as well. He told me my wife had been involved in an accident on the M1 and had died.

I remember guessing what he was going to say before he said it, but not really believing that he would. And when he had finished, there was a powerful feeling of disbelief, so that although I understood the words, the concept was unbelievable. The news was unreal, impossible and outrageous.

That sense of unreality lasted a long time. There was a sensation of being detached, outside my own body, watching myself as I did the things that needed doing. It lasted long after being driven to Bletchley to identify my wife's body, and it was still there, but fading, at the funeral. Looking back, the weeks that followed now seem to have gone by in a blur.

Experts (not me! – I mean psychiatrists and psychologists) have written much about their theories of bereavement, and usually talk about the grieving process as a series of stages. They call the first stage *denial* (what I was describing just now), and this is supposed to lead on to other stages of *pain and distress, realisation* and then *acceptance*. But I couldn't tell you now where one began and one ended. Theories aren't of much practical use because we are all different and we react differently when someone close to us dies. We each get through the best way we can, applying our own unique strengths and abilities to the task of surviving, carrying on, coming to terms with life without someone we love.

So what did help? It should be "who", not "what", because people, all sorts of people, helped tremendously. Family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, patients, all helped me in different ways. Just someone "being there" helped. Being available to talk, listen, go over what had happened again and again, or sit in silence. Lots of cups of tea were

drunk. Excellent hot meals appeared at my front door (thank you Betty!). People were very kind to me and their tangible goodwill was a real support. Some people found it hard to know what to say to me at first but I was grateful that they made the effort and didn't avoid me out of embarrassment.

I found too that trying to keep the basic routines of life going, and the routine of working, helped me to regain a sense of stability as the shock began to subside. Every bereaved person will no doubt have found support in different ways, whether personal, practical or spiritual. I suspect that what is most important is being allowed to grieve in your own way, at your own pace, with support and company when you want it, and peace and your own space when you don't.

In spite of the theorists, there are no rules. There is no "right way" to grieve. Does it help to cry? The answer is no doubt different for every individual. Is there something wrong with me if I can't cry? Certainly not, because as we all know, you don't have to cry to feel something very deeply, and yet you can cry over something sentimental, but totally unimportant, in a television soap. What each of us feels, whichever way we decide to go about facing up to the awful shock of being bereaved, that is, and must be, right for us.

But what if we want extra help, someone to discuss our feelings with, someone who really knows how it feels? We can be bereaved by the loss of an unborn baby, a child, a parent or a life-long partner, and as many of you may know there are organisations, professionals and volunteers ready and willing to help if asked. Locally there is a team of trained bereavement counsellors who can be contacted via the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Rickmansworth. Cruse is a national charity that offers help to anyone who is bereaved, young and old, men, women and children, anywhere in the UK. Its nearest branch is in Amersham, and there is a bereavement helpline number. The Compassionate Friends is a nationwide organisation of bereaved parents that offers friendship and understanding to other bereaved parents. It too has a local group as well as a helpline. Family doctors, health visitors and social services are also useful sources of help and information.

If you think you might need a little help in coping with your personal bereavement, whether in the early days, or years later, there is help available if you ask for it.

Some useful phone numbers:  
Rickmansworth CAB 01923-720424  
Cruse Bereavement Line 0181-332-7227  
The Compassionate Friends Helpline 0117-953-9639

Nigel Corp, General Practitioner.

### FULLER WAY CHURCH

FULLER WAY, CROXLEY GREEN

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## THAT WAITING LIST!

I have just perused the West Herts Health Authority Annual Report for 1995/6 - I truthfully can't say that I have read it, because it is so full of statistics that it is quite baffling. However the small article, that caught my eye, particularly referred to "slashing waiting times for operations".

If one accepts what the report says, at the end of March 1996 I was one of only fifteen people waiting for my particular operation. Why then did I have to wait for another twelve months for surgery, in considerable pain and with reduced mobility?

Since March 1995, I have had difficulty walking comfortably and had fallen over for no apparent reason. An X-ray, at Watford General Hospital, was interpreted as indicating "mild arthritis" - what's new, I was 65. So I continued taking the tablets and tried to carry on as best as I could, spending a considerable sum of money on osteopathy, seeking relief from pain.

Eventually, when my GP suggested that I should see a Consultant, I opted to pay to reduce the waiting time. I was told, in March 1996, that I needed a total right hip replacement as my joint was virtually non-existent. I appreciate that surgery is the last resort, and that other treatments must be tried, but I was angry and really felt that I had wasted a year already.

I was put on the waiting list at Mount Vernon Hospital and every time I rang, during the remainder of 1996 and through to 1997, the waiting period had lengthened. It started at 7/8 months, became 8/9, went to 11/12 and finally reached to May 1997, which was longer than the waiting time under the Charter, as originally quoted to me. Apparently the goal posts had moved and the waiting period was eighteen months!

After my GP had written a third letter, stating that my condition had deteriorated considerably, I was eventually admitted to Harlequin Ward at Mount Vernon on March 18 1997. It was a surprise, to me and to my GP, that such letters urging treatment have to be written to an Admissions Officer, not to the Consultant concerned.

I must say that, once in hospital, I cannot praise the staff highly enough for the treatment, care and rehabilitation that I received. It is a very happy ward and I have made good progress. In my mind, this has been helped by the exercises that I did before the operation, following a visit to a Physiotherapist arranged by the GP.

Something is radically wrong somewhere. Harlequin Ward had many patients, from Orthopaedic Consultants at Mount Vernon and Watford General, all doing well and pleased to be out of

pain. Yet beds were being shut down every day and patients shuffled to fill empty spaces. When I left there was only one woman left in Bay F (my second location) so, presumably, she would be moved again.

My experience leads me to disbelieve that the waiting lists have been reduced to zero and, if anyone is waiting for an operation, my advice is to be persistent. I didn't see any shortages of equipment, beds or nurses and the care that I received was first class. The bottleneck seems to be getting the patients off the paperwork and into the operating theatre.

Marjorie Dennis - CGRA C'tee Member

\*\*\*\*\*

## RETURN OF THE CATTLE

April heralded the start of a new era on Croxley Common Moor as cattle returned after a seven year absence. This coincided with a new designation for the Moor as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), arguably one of the finest in Hertfordshire. The Moor now enjoys statutory protection, through both its LNR status and its existing status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

If this all sounds a little esoteric, then let's not forget that the value of the site, for most visitors, lies in its qualities as a very pleasant place to spend some time. A quirk of the local landscape gives a deceptive rural feel to the Moor, surrounded as it is on all sides by urban development. Fortunately, through happy coincidence, the welcome return of the cattle helps to add to the effect.

Future management of the Moor, will seek to emulate the traditional management techniques that have resulted in the great diversity of flora, and associated fauna, found on the site. Low intensity grazing of cattle, under commoners' rights, will help to check the spread of scrub bushes onto the Moor and steadily eat into the rank grassland that has developed in the absence of management over the past few years.

The cattle, however, cannot do everything and there are many challenges facing the management of the Moor, particularly as it potentially comes under increasing pressure from proposed surrounding developments. If the Moor is to flourish, we need to enlist the help of the local community. There are many ways that you can be involved with looking after the Moor, from practical tasks to carrying out surveys or research work. If you would like to volunteer your help, then please contact the Countryside Management Service on 01707 650041.

Jonathan C Wilshaw -

CMS Projects Officer.

## PERENNIAL WINEMAKING

Croxley Green Wine Guild is now in its 27th year and has about 50 members. Meetings are held at the Welcome Club, Barton Way on the 2nd, Friday of each month at 8 pm. and consist of talks on winemaking and related topics. we also hold social evenings and have commercial wine tastings several times during the year.

Wine making has been an occupation for over 4000 years and, for the amateur, it is an economic, productive and progressive hobby.

Home winemakers are not tied to an annual harvest. They make wine all the year round from the fruits of the garden, hedgerows, *pick-your-own* or farm shop; also from fruit juices, tinned and dried fruits from the market, super or otherwise. Fruits and juices are stored in the freezer until required.

For further details, please contact:-  
Joyce Tarrant - 01923 237279

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## HISTORIC THRASH

How well do you know  
Croxley Green?  
(Recent and Not-so-Recent)

The Rickmansworth Historical Society invite you to their annual Christmas Social Evening to be held on Thursday 11th December at 8.00 pm in the Cloisters Hall which is in The Cloisters off Rickmansworth High Street.

This year it is intended to be in the form of a Quiz evening, showing slides of Croxley Green to test memories of the recent and not-so-recent past.

Tickets are available from:-  
Geoff Saul, 20 West Way,  
Rickmansworth 01923 774998.  
Non-members £2.50 (inc. refreshments)  
Cheques made payable to:-  
*Rickmansworth Historical Society*.  
Closing date: 1st December.  
Margaret Pomfret - 01923 720088.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BACK NUMBERS

Do you have, or do you know of anyone who may have, copies of *The Resident* prior to No 140 (pre 1980).

These back numbers contain many issues concerning Croxley Green, as well as articles written by local people, that build up historical information regarding the recent past of the village. Molly Hedges, who keeps the archive for the editorial team, has loaned me their collection for photocopying but, unfortunately, it is not totally complete - especially the very early editions.

If you can help by loaning them for copying, or even perhaps donating them, we would be most grateful.

Margaret Pomfret - 42 Repton Way  
01923 720088

## CROXLEY GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

For those of you who do not know or recall, the money to build Croxley Green Community Centre was raised by the residents of Croxley Green in the late 1960s, originally as a Youth Club, and this is why we would like to welcome the residents of Croxley Green to the Centre. The Community Centre has now progressed into a Club where people of all ages may meet and we are trying to provide facilities for the children who come to the Club with their parents. Garden equipment, a television and video player have recently been purchased to keep the children amused.

*The cheapest beer in Croxley Green?*  
*Probably.* Why not try an evening out and sample our guest real ales. Bob Hallett, our steward, and his staff will be pleased to see you. You may remember Bob; he was the landlord of the *Duke of York* Public House in Watford Road for many years! What's more we are open all day, every day, and serve snacks from behind the bar.

Why not join our darts team or even our Golf Society? Perhaps your children would like to join our Kids Club? Maybe, you are seeking a venue for a party? We have a Function Hall which holds up to 100 persons at a very reasonable hire rate. Just telephone Marion, our secretary, on 01923 778607 any morning. She will be able to make your booking (subject to availability). There is a pool table, dominoes and cards available, if you wish to have more than a drink and a chat. For the family, Friday night is Bingo night. It begins at 7.30 pm and afterwards you can enjoy a drink in the lounge bar.

We will be holding a Halloween disco on Saturday evening 1st November, with fancy dress for the children, and a bonfire night on Saturday 8th November, so come along and have some fun. At Christmas time, we have a party or pantomime for members' children under 10 years and a Christmas dinner and dance for pensioners. We also hold a Christmas Eve disco and a New Year's Eve party (ticket only).

If you wish to sample our hospitality, again please contact Marion who will make arrangements for your entry. You never know, you may enjoy your evening and wish to become a member. Membership fees are very reasonable:-

Single adult (over 18) \*£10 pa.

Family membership \*£12 pa.

We really do try to look after the members of our community. Please come along and give us a try. We will look forward to seeing you. New members are always welcome and we have quite a lot to offer. Come and see for yourself!

Cheryl Frost - Chairman, CGCC.

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

*Have you ever thought of being associated with the Rotary movement?*

*Would you like to hear more about Rotary?*

Rotary International was formed in Chicago, USA in 1910 and today is active in no less than 160 countries, with a membership of over 1,200,000 in some 29,000 clubs. The aim and object of Rotary is to provide a club in which members can enjoy good fellowship and the opportunity to give service to the local community, support National Charities and give assistance to developing countries. Rotary looks for personal service rather than purse service.

In Great Britain and Ireland there are 1000 clubs and our club in Rickmansworth, established for over 50 years, covering an area which includes Croxley Green and Chorleywood is keen to offer more people the opportunity to join an organisation that provides an opportunity for service to others, great fellowship and social activities.

All Rotary Clubs meet once a week at a regular venue. In our case this is on Tuesdays, for a lunch meeting, at which we either have an interesting speaker or deal with Club business matters. Membership is open to both men and women, and it should be mentioned that in Rotary, the member's political, national and religious differences are irrelevant.

Members of Rotary are welcomed and accepted as visitors at all 29,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide, giving the opportunity to meet Rotarians throughout this country and overseas. In the main, however, the Club's activities are centred in its home community.

*Why not find out more about Rotary International?*

The secretary of the Rotary Club of Rickmansworth will be only too pleased to give further information.

Bob Constable - 01923 772972

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMORIES OF CROXLEY GREEN (continued from Spring '97)

In the last edition of the *Resident* (Spring 1997), I wrote on the progress of this project and promised to keep you up-dated and informed.

Your contributions are now being transferred on to computer, along with other information gathered about the recent past of the village life. This will enable the editing of your memories etc. to be sorted/collated into subject headings.

Local residents who have continued to live in Croxley Green from childhood, to

those who have moved here because they chose this village to make their home, have recorded their memories which are not only vivid but, in many cases, entertaining to read. Some families have contacted relatives and friends who have moved away to local areas such as Chorleywood, Berkhamsted and St. Albans, as well as further afield to Colchester, Frinton-on-sea and Charlbury (near Oxford) to encourage them to pass on their memories of the times they either visited or lived in Croxley Green. The response so far has been tremendous and, although time-consuming, it is most rewarding.

Besides these written memories the photographs, that have been loaned for copying, are quite unique. Each one has been photocopied and recorded with the owner's details and any details regarding the photograph itself. Each one has a copy negative to identify the original.

It is hoped to match photographs with your memories. However, there are many memories, that are special recollections, for which I do not have photographs which could accompany them. I wonder whether you may have, or know of friends/relatives who may just have, tucked away in albums or photo-boxes, any photographs referring or including the following subjects:-

- The cottages opposite Croxley Station on the corner of Winton Drive.
- Front of the British Restaurant near Winton Crescent.
- Home Guard practising on Croxley Moor in World War II (or elsewhere).
- Second World War troops, either British, American or others passing through Croxley Green - Tank/Aircraft Carriers.
- Playing/swimming near the Canal/River Gade.

If you can spare a moment or two to look through your photographs to loan for copying, I will be most grateful.

Any other photographs of interest, which may be useful to keep as records of our history will be gratefully received for copying.

It's not too late to add your memories - there is still time.

You can contact me through the Parish Office, off Barton Way 01923 710250 or at 42 Repton Way, 01923 720088.

Parish Cllr. Margaret Pomfret.

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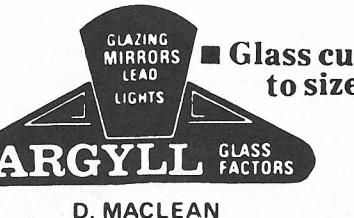
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