



The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Autumn 2009

No: 199

We now know that the planning inspector has decided in favour of Tesco following the 'public' enquiry into the application for what will be Croxley's biggest-by-far store on Watford Road. Some concessions were secured but the Inspector decided that this development – nearly twice the size of the Co-Op – is an appropriate size for the site, will have little adverse impact on local shops, will create negligible traffic issues, and fills a need. What planet is the Inspector from? The same one that Herts Highways occupy, who concurred with Tesco's contention that 600,000 customers a year will mostly walk.

- * We must not take what we have for granted; preservation of the good stuff is not negative, or conservative, or dull – its just common sense.
- * We can't rely on others to do it for us.
- * Organisation takes time and effort. To improve our large village / small town life, we need commitment and contribution (activity, not money) from a wide group of people.

We did what we could to represent the views of the vast majority of Croxley

residents and even though the Tesco issue was of widespread concern, the burden of work fell on too few people. As well as most members of the CGRA committee who put in the time – there are a few that need special mention. Sue Maxwell Smith for her excellent all-round support, particularly at the public enquiry itself. Mandy Grant for her energy and commitment and generous amounts of wine at the many meetings in her house; Gaynor Brown of 'Tescopoly' for bringing her experience and expertise in fighting Tesco up and down the country – and to Barry Grant, CGRA Chairman, for his remarkable capacity for detail, procedure, documentation and organisation – and his dedication to the cause. Thank you Barry and all who did their bit.

So what is this village life we seek to preserve and develop? Musings on that subject in my previous 'Resident' editorial provoked a surprising amount of reaction – most complimentary but the odd 'you are nuts' letter came my way. It is surprising that people find the time to react so adversely to genuine and local efforts to make life a little better, but there you are. It takes all sorts.

Croxley is a rare if not unique phenomenon. In reality, it is already too big to be a village but it does manage to retain a village feel about it. This derives, I think, from the geography of the place. Croxley is actually a conurbation – a collection of small communities each with its own very local character and indeed, characters, knitted together in the collective known as Croxley Green. There is the smart labyrinth of 'Ways' and 'Drives' north of Baldwins Lane bordering onto open countryside and woodland and where, it is rumoured, multiple party circuits lurk. Nestling in the middle somewhere is the beautiful and threatened Durrants, a real local treasure. Up Baldwins Lane and the 'Rec' with a really handy set of little shops at the top, fruit and veg, fish and chips, hair cut and blow dry, confection and news – and a convenience store to boot. Going west to the top of the Green (well, technically 'a' green – now that we have two) and home of the magnificent 'Revels', fairs, exhibitions and family picnics. Off to the right are Copthorne

Published by

**CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Stephen Martin Rosemary Hanscomb
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and its tributaries, with secret gateways to the valleys of Rickmansworth and another set of smart and self-contained avenues and cul-de-sacs through to the Windmill estate – and yes, it does have a windmill. Emerging onto the lower Green and the ever-busy junction of All Saints Church, The Sportsman (when are they gonna put Croxley's own '11th Hour' on stage?) and Ricky School and another nest of local commerce from bakery to jewellery (every little shop helps). For the through traveller, this is where Croxley starts - or ends – and it's a little village in itself. Behind the school is another Lane – All Saints – which reveals the glory of Croxley Hall Woods, home to so many adventures for Croxley's children. Moving east, through the commercial hub of Croxley on New Road; hairdressing, computers, small supermarkets, butcher's, the Library, the nicely refurbished Community Centre, doctor's and dentists – and of course The Fox – all you need really. The main throughway of Watford Road – past the vulnerable (see 'My Croxley') Yorke Road School of old – and on down to the junctions of New Road, Frankland Road and the space-time vortex known as the Croxley tube, sucking much of the life out of the place in the morning and throwing it up again from late afternoon. Just opposite, sports, films, hair and convenience shopping all catered for along with popular Indian, Eastern and British takeaways. So down Frankland and the hidden doorways to Long Valley Woods – now officially the other Green – leading through to the rivers, the canal – and the beautiful Croxley Common Moor, with glimpses too of the 'new' and pretty Bywaters development. Thence finally to the other end of Watford Road / Baldwins Lane – another convenient place to get hardware, grab a cappuccino and another round of the general shopping.

The point of this is that Croxley has so much to offer but it is so easy to take it for granted, or simply to not be aware of it. We have to be careful with it, support it, protect it, appreciate it, use it. Beautiful Greens, character pubs, mysterious woods, quirky building, real local shops - you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone.

Stephen Martin
Vice Chair, Croxley Green Residents
Association
Chair, Media Committee

A CROXLEY BOY - David John Marchant, better known as Dave to most of his friends was born in Croxley on 9 November 1973, son of John and Mary, brother to Hayley and lived in Oakleigh Drive until he met Lydia (his partner for 15 years). They moved to Coombe Hill Road in Rickmansworth.

His great passion was his motorbike and he loved biking through Europe. Visited the Nurburgring several times and rode through France, Switzerland and Italy. It was returning from this trip that he was killed on the Route Napoleon close to Nice. He died on 3 June 2009.

He attended Harvey Road Primary, then Durrants Secondary School. He did not enjoy school much but the one part he really did enjoy was the trips to the Outward Bound Courses at Aberdovey. These trips developed into his passion for the great outdoors. Friends made at school he remained close to all his life and he encouraged them all to get involved, and join him on his long walks or mountain climbing, these trips always ended in a "cheeky beer" "at the end of the day". He loved Wales, Snowdonia, Brecon Beacons, he did the three peaks challenge, climbing Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike.

Dave grew up to be extremely fit and energetic and enthused his whole family with the same love of the countryside that he had in abundance. They walked the

lakes and peaks, climbed Skiddaw, Cat Bells, and Grisdale Pike. Together they also snorkelled in the warm waters of Cuba and walked around mountain Lakes in Canada.

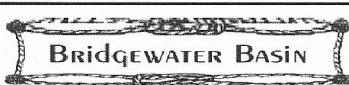
His greatest achievement and the one he probably was most proud of, was obtaining his black belt in Karate. He had worked hard, with great passion and dedication to earn it. Not that you would know it when you talked to him. In his usual self effacing way, he would tell you all about karate with great enthusiasm, without ever mentioning that he himself was a black belt.

He learnt Spanish to be able to converse with Lydia's family. Also taught himself to play the guitar.

A favourite spot for Dave was the Aquadrome, as he worked from his home in Rickmansworth, he walked there most days for lunch at the cafe in the park. A bench is to be placed at Stockers Lake in his memory, he found it a peaceful place to be.

Dave worked as a Senior Systems Manager for Orange Mobile, and as such took part in many charity events. He took part twice in London to Brighton and also London to Paris cycle rides, also crossed the Pennines at Hadrians way. He was very environmentally aware, and would never use his car unless it was absolutely necessary. A web page was opened in his memory on JustGiving.com. So far this has raised £2,750 for Friends of the Earth. This website will remain open for a year. Thank you everyone who has contributed. His ashes have been scattered on Tryfan, one mountain he never managed to climb in Snowdonia.

David will be remembered forever by his Mum and Dad, Lydia, Hayley, her partner Leigh, and his many friends. We have all suffered a great loss.



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IN BRIEF.....

Many thanks to the **donors** of prizes for the **The Revels on the Green** :- Beauty Box, Croxley Meats, Roberts Fruit, Croxley Hardware, Croxley Tandoori and Croxley Osteopathic Clinic. and for the **June 6th Fundraising Social** The Sportsman Public House Costcutters and Croxley Supermarket, the CGRA are most grateful for their generosity which helped make a success of both events.

Good Luck to **Colin Turner** of Premier Butchers as he retires after three decades in Baldwins Lane many thanks to him for all the advertising support he gave to The Resident over the years as well as the excellent service he offered to all his customers.

The **Baby clinic** will be back in Croxley Green every Monday excluding Bank Holidays from Monday 19th October from 2.00 pm until 3.30 p.m. in St Oswalds Church Hall, Malvern Way. The clinic at Skidmore Way in Rickmansworth will be open on Fridays only after that date from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm.

Pilates classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6.30p.m. – 7.30p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall Croxley Green and Thursday mornings from 11.0a.m. – 12. noon in The Community Centre come and join us. details from Nikki Harlow nikki.Harlow@btopenworld.com

Rickmansworth Players 'Hey Big Spender' come and spend a little time with Sweet Charity presented by Rickmansworth Players.

This lively musical has all the ingredients of a good evening's entertainment. Charity Hope Valentine is a dance hall hostess, (played by Mandi Aldridge) a tart with a heart who dreams of making something of herself and of finding a man who will love her.

Local resident, Barbara Loose is once again turning her sewing skills to creating some sexy dance hall hostess dresses for the Big Spender number.

For tickets to see the Rickmansworth Players production of Sweet Charity at Watersmeet Nov 10th-Nov 14th. Call the box office 0844 745 1944 tickets priced at £10 (Tues) £12 (concess) and £14.

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WHAT MAKES A GOOD CARER? Foster carers need to be flexible and available. They need patience and a strong sense of family. They require sufficient time and energy to invest in the role together with the support of significant others. Foster Carers provide essential and nurturing environments for children for many reasons and so must be non-judgemental and able to empathise.

HOW ARE FOSTER CARERS SUPPORTED? In Hertfordshire, to guide someone toward the skilled task of becoming a Foster carer you have to complete a training course and assessment. During this time, you will meet Social Workers and experienced Foster Carers. Foster Carers are supported and supervised by teams of professionals during their placements and are expected to attend support groups, further training and gain qualifications.

WHAT ARE THE REWARDS? Although fostering presents lots of challenges, carers are often rewarded by seeing children in their care develop and grow. Under their guidance and encouragement children who have had the most difficult start in life, go forward into the future with hope and confidence. Making a difference to a child, however small or large can be hugely rewarding.

HOW LONG DO THE CHILDREN STAY WITH FOSTER CARERS? Anything from overnight or a weekend, to several months or even many years. Following a lot of planning and discussion, some children and young people will remain in foster care into adulthood.

WHAT KIND OF CHILDREN ARE FOSTERED? Children from every community, ethnic background, religion and age are fostered for a variety of reasons. Sometimes a parent might need a short term break, due to ill health or family difficulties or it can be longer-term due to other more serious care issues. Whatever the reason, these young people are in need of caring individuals and families who can help ease the trauma of being separated from their birth families.

To ease this separation, carers are expected to support and encourage children to maintain regular contact with their birth families unless a decision is made by the court that contact should be terminated.

If you feel you could help to make a difference and would like to know more, please visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering or telephone FREEPHONE 0800 917 0925



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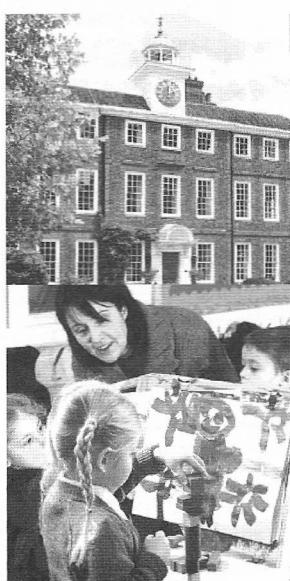
Culture and Literature at the Pub The popularity of the Book Group at Croxley Green Library inspired the formation of another one at the Sportsman on Scots Hill just over one year ago. It quickly grew to 12 members and meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 8pm.

During 2009 a diverse range of books have been reviewed, from Bill Bryson's witty observations in *Notes from a Small Island*, the moving *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, the mysterious *Labyrinth* by Kate Mosse, classic humour in *Three Men in a Boat* to Sebastian Faulk's powerful *Birdsong*.

For anyone who would like to join the book group the schedule for the next few months is: Tuesday 24th November - Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier; 29th December - Deadline by Simon Kernick; 26th January - Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder.

If there is a group of keen readers that would like to set up their own book group, talk to our Library staff who are very supportive and can give help and guidance on how to start.

Marion Birch Sportsman Book Group 01923 449092

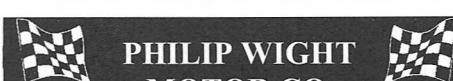


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FROM THE RECORDS

Yorke Road School



Picture supplied by Madelaine Gray

The school was opened in 1875. It was a church school and during the first week about 70-75 pupils were enrolled but the numbers varied a lot as it wasn't compulsory to attend.

The first vicar was Rev. Astley Roberts and according to the notes, was very active in arranging things, especially Religious Education. At one time, some of the boys left to go to Rickmansworth School, as their parents preferred Masters and all the teachers were Mistresses at Croxley Green.

Every Summer, there was an exodus of children to go gleaning, the results taken to the old mill opposite the present Rickmansworth School also blackberrying and acorn gathering, I think they paid by the sackful.

There always seemed to be a lot of illness in the Winter, measles, whooping cough and ringworm, along with colds and 'flue'. Sometimes the school would be shut for a month or more when the measles epidemic was bad, if the weather was wet or very cold, hardly anyone turned up - I don't know if it was that they hadn't much to wear or that they had a long way to come.

Religious Instruction was the top of the list, it seems you had to know all about the Old and New Testaments, the Prayer Book and the Catechism. Ascension Day appeared to be the most important festival as everyone went to church then had the rest of the day as a holiday. There were always two days off for the Sunday School treats - both All Saints and the Methodist Chapel in New Road.

In 1893 there was a scarlet fever epidemic, the school was closed and

everything was burnt and lime washed. In 1894 it is reported that one boy died of a dog bite and one boy was sent home for kicking and swearing at a teacher. Each year the Circus came to Rickmansworth and consequently, few came to lessons.

Not much is mentioned about the First World War except that Dickinson's Institute (as it was then called) was turned into a hospital (Now the Guildhouse Flats).

Miss Stamford started in 1918, I remember her and in 1918-19 there was a Peace Pageant and in 1920 the playground was tarred. Miss Cooper started and the bill for an outing to The Old Vic to see "As you like it" was - 8d ticket, Fare to London 1s 1d, dinner 11d tea 8d, total 3s. 2d (16p today).

It seems to me that the people of Croxley Green were very poor until John Dickinson built his mill and provided employment.

When I was five (1925) I joined the Infants' School, Miss Dickinson was the Head Mistress until she retired at the end of my second term, the school gave her an armchair and we all danced round it. Miss Coney took her place. When we started, one of the older girls was put in charge of us (mine was Violet Mead) who lived where the garage is now and if we were worried about anything, we had to go to her first.

There was only gas lighting and heating was by coal fires, which meant that if you sat at the front of the class you were very hot whilst at the back it was very cold. The toilets were outside which made it very cold to visit them in the Winter.

I remember some of the names of the teachers - Miss Cooper, Miss Vincent, Miss Groom and Miss Walker. The vicar was Rev. Blois Bishop and he came once or twice a week for prayers and a talk, we always went to church for special days, including Harvest Festival.

We had a longer dinner hour so that girls and boys, whose fathers worked at the Mill could take their dinner down to them. I never had any homework and we only had one special exam at 10 or 11 to see if we could pass to go to the Grammar or Central School. We left school at 14 years old.

Dickinson's management were very good to us, we had the use of the Guildhall for plays and country dancing and the recreation ground was available for netball and other sports.

Empire Day was always kept with Britannia, her attendants and flags of all the nations, then the rest of the day was a holiday with the crowning of the May Queen and country dancing in the evening. On November 11th, a few girls went to the Boys School to make laurel chains to hang round the War Memorial, we always went there for a service and 2 minute silence.

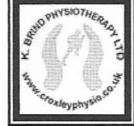
We went down to Rickmansworth for cooking and housewifery and these classes were held in a big hut where the Council Offices now stand. Of course this was all before the building of Harvey Road and Durrants School.

Three generations of my family attended there. The school closed in 1975.

We are reprinting these extracts from the logbooks and the personal memories of Margaret Hobbs who is in her 90th year with many thanks.

All Saint's Church Archivist

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LATEST UPDATE

No news yet from English Heritage regarding granting Grade 2 listing although we have waited almost 2 years in all since Leukaemia Research Trading closed their warehouse housed in the Yorke Road School building.

Leukaemia Research's agents have twice approached 3 Rivers' Senior Planning and Conservation Officer to find out how 3 Rivers stood if an application to demolish and develop the site for housing was sent to the council.

The advice that the officer gave to the agents was that they should consider employing a sympathetic architect, experienced in conservation work, to design the refurbishment of the building for say 3 flats, thus keeping the fabric of the building in tact. No planning application of any kind has been received by the Planning Department as we go to print.

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Moving the Goalposts

Picture if you will (although I could understand you not wanting to) a rather elongated pair of spindly legs emerging from beneath a clinging green nylon cagoule. The cagoule has long ago given up any pretence of being waterproof and cold torrents are flowing freely, running down, over it and inside it, dribbling through soaked shorts then gathering speed again. When the water hits the knees, steam rises, but the torrent splashes on driving all before it – in this case thick woolly socks transformed into sodden sponges that cannot hold on to those un-muscle-bound calves. The socks descend and as they slide downwards they start to bubble and froth until foam is flowing. And of course those splendid legs, still steaming and foaming, keep on striding onwards and upwards.

You will surely have guessed. The location was the Lake District, and we were walking, for pleasure you understand, up Coniston Old Man. It was a long time ago and I don't think my knees have steamed since, but fell walking has more in common than you might think with life in contemporary general practice. Walking is of course good for us, but undertaking a demanding walk is really working towards a goal. I remember, on a sunny day for a change, the ascent of Glaramara from Borrowdale. A lovely walk, glorious views all around, but whenever we thought we were reaching the summit it turned out to be just another hill along the way to the top. And so it went on over a series of false summits until we finally made it. The goalposts just seemed to keep moving further away.

And that is often what it feels like in general practice today. For some years GPs have been pushed by the government's contract to meet targets set up to monitor and then improve the health of their practice population. Like many of you we are actively performance managed. You will see us beavering away gathering data from you to feed our computers. This has led to some real improvements in the health of local people, for example in diabetic care where setting targets for GPs to help their patients achieve tighter diabetic control has really paid off – at least in terms of their blood test results.

There is now a highly complex system in operation which feeds national healthcare guidelines and diktats through the computer network into the consulting room. There are percentage targets set for how many of a practice's patients, across a vast range of complaints, must have certain test results within specified ranges. Not only must the figures be right but

measurements and tests must be carried out as specified intervals. Patients with certain diseases must be on specific drugs if targets are to be satisfied. And of course as one set of targets is achieved, another series is set up. The goal posts are off over the horizon again and the summit of Glaramara slides a bit further into the distance. This is why it can sometimes be hard to catch your doctor's eye as he or she stares forlornly at the pop-up box on the monitor listing the latest set of computer demands!

The government now must know more about the statistics of health monitoring than ever before and one can see the attraction of actively improving health care indicators (which hopefully translates into improving health care) for whole populations. But I cannot help feeling this information technology revolution blessing is a mixed one. Patients are not just vast swathes of population statistics, they are people and most of all they are individuals. They have their own ideas and are often refreshingly happy to decline to be treated generically. And GPs I suspect are not always comfortable in their new role of population health manager which may often conflict with, and distract them from, their traditional role as personal physician to an individual person who has taken the trouble to make an appointment.

A new health centre for Croxley Green, purpose built, better equipped and offering a wider range of services, is another goal whose posts are proving elusive. Surgery premises are not the be all and end all of primary health care delivery, it's what goes on inside them that counts. But well-designed buildings that are fit for purpose certainly help to make the patient's experience more comfortable and enable the primary health care team to offer more to the local population. My own surgery (in fact it's not ours, we rent it) has had two major extensions since it was built in 1972. Like Dr Who's Tardis, it's much bigger on the inside than you would ever guess from its New Road frontage, but we are still bursting at the seams. All rooms are used to maximum capacity and when one nurse, midwife or doctor finishes a session another is waiting outside to get in and get started.

Since the late 1990s we have been looking for ways to develop a new Croxley Health Centre, and occasionally the project has come close to looking viable. We have talked to developers, landlords, architects, councillors, planning officers, "fixers" – you name them and we've had a meeting with them! But, as you will have guessed, the goalposts have kept moving away, and especially those relating to money. Years ago, so many I can't remember, the Primary Care Trust told us it supported a

new and improved Health Centre for Croxley. But it never had enough funding and the management of local health care was set to change yet again (this happens frequently). Then for some years health care managers could not agree who had control of the budget for premises development and the system was paralysed. Now there is at last, and only just, the beginning of clarity about the process for securing funding for building, but we remain stuck in a morass of conflicting views and vested interests. We are trying hard - but don't hold your breath!

And now back to where we started, the healthy pursuit of walking. This time a marathon length charity walk for breast cancer that I found myself entering at the last minute in May after my wife, already honed to the peak of fitness in preparation, tore a ligament in her knee and couldn't take part. (I of course was not in the least honed, and spindle-training was limited to a walk to Harefield and back). The walk was the 12th annual Playtex Moonwalk which this year raised £7.75m for breast cancer charities and research.

As many Resident readers will know, the participants are mainly scantily clad women, itself enough to get those knees trembling, but I knew some men did the Moonwalk every year. Wiser men than I would have twigged from the name of the walk that under-garments of a certain type feature prominently in the essential Moonwalker's kit. Like an innocent abroad, yours truly kitted himself out in T-shirt and jogging bottoms, intent on preserving a cool masculine calm in spite of the shocking pink bosoms heaving all around. But as we were dropped off at Hyde Park Corner I was presented with my own item of clothing that is the emblem of the Moonwalk. The sponsors' insist that no-one can enter without wearing a bra, and so it was that I discovered, tassels notwithstanding, cross-dressing in not all it's cracked up to be. As they say in panto, I felt a right charlie.

But my wife's walking partner became my bosom-buddy and kept me going admirably throughout the night, feeding me jelly babies as we passed each of the twenty-six mile posts. She even saved the energy in my i-Pod by talking non-stop for the whole eight hours so that I never needed to turn it on. Taking part in the Moonwalk was a great experience and a surprisingly moving one. There was no rain that night, the knees didn't steam and there were no foaming socks. And for a change, for once at least, the goalposts stayed where they were. You can find out more about the Moonwalk at www.walkthewalk.org

**Nigel Corp
general practitioner**



Fencing – A Modern Sport!

Ever thought about fencing as a sport? Ever thought about it but had no idea how to start?

Just down the road at the Girls' Masonic School is a modern, well equipped fencing club with excellent facilities and coaches. Three Rivers Young Blades Fencing Club was founded in 1996 by Prof David Austin then President of the British Academy of Fencing. From a small group of first members it has expanded to a club with four coaches, seventy plus members and an enviable reputation.

TRYB caters for fencers from about the

age of 8yrs up to 18yrs when many go on to the senior club (Watford Fencing Club). The coaching team are well qualified and comprise two full Masters a Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist and our youngest coach started as a club member back in 1996.

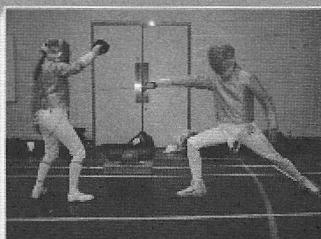
Over the years TRYB fencers have competed in this country and abroad and have won many medals. Our top fencers have represented the Eastern Region in the British Youth Championships on a number of occasions. The County age group championships show a very impressive set of results for TRYB over the years. Foil, Sabre and Epee are taught to a high standard.

Fencing is a sport that is open to all and it is the policy of the Club Committee to spend the fees received to ensure the

best level of coaching, venue and equipment. There is an exciting development plan underway that will lead to even greater levels of performance.

If you want to find out more please have a look at our website <http://www.tryb.org.uk> where you will also find a contact address for more details.

Beginners Courses



The Keep Croxley Green Group

Our new Village Green (25 acres of Long Valley Wood and the Buddleia Walk) will be 2 years old next month. It's there for the pursuit of all manner of pastimes and affords splendid views of Common Moor and the Colne Valley. With the onset of Autumn we hope to step up our monthly clear up sessions and we'd welcome any assistance that local residents can provide. We pick litter, clear paths, remove obstacles, put up bird boxes so wear gardening clothes, bring gloves, shears, clippers

We meet on the grassy area (see the gallery page at www.keepcroxleygreen.co.uk) below Long Valley Wood (access is via the start of Footpath 11 halfway along Frankland Road or via the woodland path halfway down Mill Lane) on the third Sunday of the month at 10.30am and work through to 12.30pm. Our next session will be on Sunday, 15 November (just ask for Mandy or Barry) and we look forward to seeing you!

Mandy Grant

The Calendar of Local Views for 2010

which has been produced by John Kirkham is now on sale @ £3.50 available from John direct on 01923 224168, Croxley Library, Croxley Hardware and Croxley Newsagents (next to Blockbusters), all illustrations are available as prints or cards.

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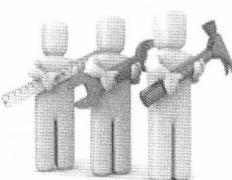


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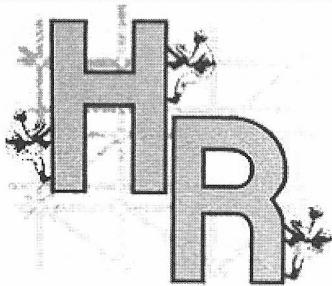
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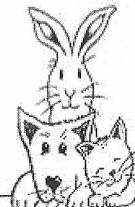
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Age Concern Hertfordshire

has a home visiting scheme designed to support lonely, possibly housebound people in their own home. Over 50% of over 75 year olds live alone and research has shown that older people living alone can become isolated, lose their social skills and become depressed. Our home visiting scheme aims to prevent that deterioration.

Anne, a volunteer who visits Kathleen, says "I have been visiting Kathleen for over 10 years and I think the visiting scheme is a great idea. I get as much pleasure from my weekly visits as Kathleen does. You should try It".

Kathleen says "We get on really well and have become good friends. I appreciate the friendship and support and look forward to visiting day. I am able to confide in Anne and we really can talk forever. I am fortunate to have a supportive and loving family but there are many people who simply do not have that

support and they would benefit greatly from having an Age Concern Hertfordshire volunteer visitor".

We have clients in Croxley Green hoping to join our befriending scheme so they can enjoy some conversation and keep links with the outside world.

Our volunteers are carefully chosen, references taken up and have CRB checks. They are matched up with an older person needing company. We also have our popular Telephone Club, supporting those who are not currently receiving visits.

If you can spare one or two hours a week to befriend someone in your community please call Carole Collier on 01923 256361 or email her at visit.watford3R@acherts.org.uk. She would be delighted to hear from you.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a visitor or a regular telephone call, please call Carole.

For information on all our services please call our countywide information line 0845 601 3446

A Summer's Evening

From my window wherever I look,
I see swifts and starlings and
sometimes a rook,
And as the evening sun shines on the
trees
The wind bends branches and rustles
leaves.
Across the far field, long shadows lie
As twilight darkens the sunset sky
And as I gaze out at the peaceful scene
Of old Stones Orchard in Croxley Green.
Jane Wallbridge '09



This delightful picture was supplied by Mr Geof Herman who visited the CGRA stall at the Croxley Green Revels in June this year.

One of the subjects featured was the possibility of re-instating one of the ponds on Croxley Green.

Do you recognise yourself or the boys fishing in the pond opposite Killingdown Farm?

Please contact Dr Joan Zanelli our Secretary on 01923 774985

We will bring news of any progress towards a pond on the Green in the Spring issue of the Resident.



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Would you like to help older people remain independent and living in their own homes? We are looking for home helpers willing to work flexible hours

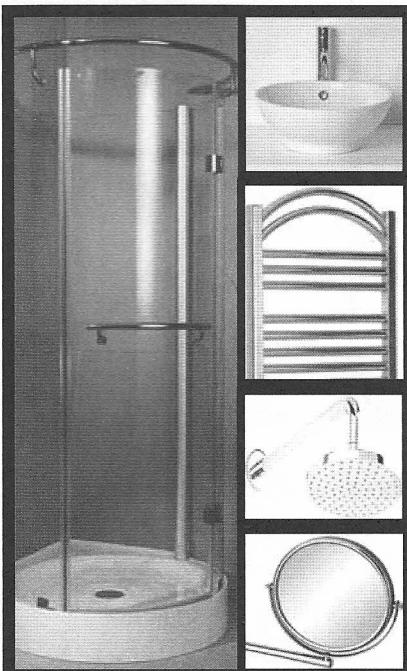
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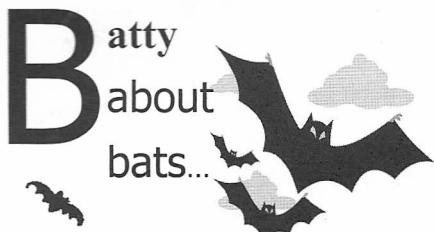
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During the Summer I looked after my neighbour's cats and promised to water her plants in the house.

After a couple of days I thought I would check on them and, imagine my surprise, there in the bath was a tiny pipistrelle bat. I carefully brought it downstairs in a soft tissue so that I wouldn't hurt it assuming it had been caught by one of the cats and telephoned the Herts & Middx. Bat Group. The lady that answered contacted a lovely lady who came along within ½ hour with a little box. She gave the tiny creature 2 syringes of water as it was dehydrated and after looking, unsuccessfully for a roost, took her (as it turned out the little bat was an immature female) to her home to attempt to rear it. She warned me it only had a 50/50 chance of survival, but a week later with her TLC and some mealworms the little bat was still alive. I have had updates on her progress and with a lot of care, am hoping she can eventually be released again near my home.

This was not the end of the story because when I went to my neighbour's house the next night there was an adult bat flying round the house, much to the excitement of the cats. It was safely let out of the front door and it left me wondering if this bat could have been my little bat's parent.

Bats are much-misunderstood little creatures, apparently we may have as many as 9 species in Hertfordshire and Middlesex (the pipistrelle is the smallest and commonest weighing no more than a 20p piece) and they are truly amazing, surviving on just insects and declining in numbers by a third since 1945 due to loss of farmland hedges, meadows and chemicals used to protect timbers in house roofs, dead trees are cleared and caves blocked up leaving them without roosts. These shy, rare, gentle creatures are not blind, don't get caught in your hair and rarely live in belfries! (It is an offence under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act to intentionally injure or disturb a bat, or roost, or to obstruct an entrance to a roost and the Herts & Middx Bat Group was formed to help protect them and as you have heard also take on abandoned or sick babies.

If you would like someone to talk about bats or need further information please telephone the

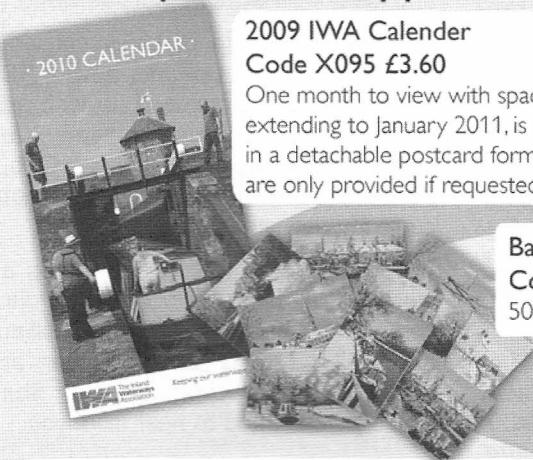
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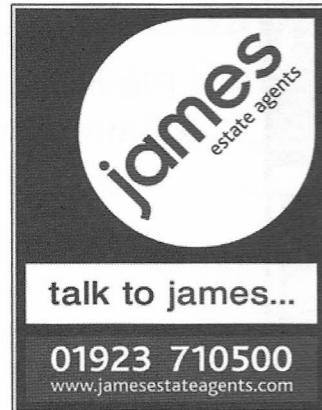
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September 4th was A BIG NIGHT FOR Jason, Tracy and family at the Sportsman in Croxley Green

when they were presented with a Special Achievement Award by Andrew Vaughan Chairman of the Watford & District branch of CAMRA. for their outstanding achievement in the promotion of Real Ale

They were also praised for their loyalty to local breweries and they even have their own Croxley Sportsman's Bitter as well as a real cider. As you can see they were delighted to receive this award and for being the only pub in Croxley Green and Rickmansworth to be featured in the 2010 edition of the prestigious "Good Beer Guide".



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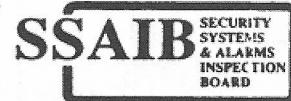
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