

# The Croxley Green RESIDENT

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Website: [www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk)

Email: [croxleyresident@gmail.com](mailto:croxleyresident@gmail.com)



## Rambling On . . .



Photo © Anthony Britton

**Croxley Green.** Unlike "Willesden Green" the clue is in the title. I'd guess a big factor for those of us who live here (and the many who aspire to live here) is the appreciation of being surrounded by countryside and general greenery whilst also enjoying the contrasting benefits of living within the M25 belt. Recent, record, local response to public consultation on building on our *green belt* was not a nimby response to development but a huge indication to our local council that it should strictly adhere to its own green belt policy and preserve our wonderful and diverse green borders for us and for future generations (check out a dictionary definition of "sustainable"). However, many of us take our fortunate location for granted. It's said that Croxley folk don't walk - they drive! Indeed, many of my Croxley friends and neighbours hardly ever, if at all, venture into the countryside that is on their doorstep. There's more criss crossing rights of way and publicly accessible open space around us than you will ever find in most rural areas so it's important that, now and again, articles such as this are placed prominently in the local media so as

to promote the countryside amenity that is on our doorstep.

The current threat to this amenity is the loss of a huge swathe of green belt land alongside *Baldwins Lane* and *Links Way*. Whatever your opinion on the need for a secondary school the fact is that, unless the local council takes note of those people who responded to the latest rounds of local council consultation on development, this land (on the border between Three Rivers and Watford BC) will be taken out of the green belt and a genuinely green buffer against the creep of Watford domination will disappear..... forever.

Your Residents' Association strives to be proactive in promoting a vibrant and sustainable Croxley Green and, as mentioned in our previous edition, we are working with the Parish Council and local residents to produce a questionnaire that will feed into a *Community Plan* and form a wish list of targets that can, over time, be achieved with the benefit of a sound consultative base. It's taken a bit longer to get together than we thought, mainly because we want to ask the right questions, consult and learn from the Plans produced by other communities, but we're getting there!

The *Revels* are not that far off (Saturday, 23rd June).

Have you, or a local organisation you are connected to, considered having a stall or participating in the procession? It's the event to be seen and get noticed at by the largest annual gathering of local people. The Revels is run by local resident volunteers and funded mainly by stallholder fees, local firms sponsorship and by a local Parish Council grant.

continued on page 2 . .



## Rambling On . . .

Considering the unfurling of ever increasing lengths of red tape it is amazing that the Revels comes together and continues to thrive but, last year, more local organisations were represented than ever before - so, *please* put aside a few hours to help out in showcasing Croxley Green and having a bit of fun whilst you're at it.

And talking about celebration, a suggestion from *Flowers4Croxley* has been that borders and hanging baskets in Croxley Green could be decked out in red, white and blue flowers for this summer's celebration of royalty and sport. How about red and or white mixes of geraniums / petunias with shades of blue from lobelia?

BBC1's Olympic satire "2012" invented the word "multiculturalism" and in the real world we now have to get round the concept of "*localism*". As far as we can understand "localism" derives from the Government's concept of the "Big Society" and the "Localism Bill" gives our community the chance to draw up a "Neighbourhood plan" where "we" (whoever "we" are) can draw up an authoritative (a real word) development plan that guides where development can take place within our community.

The CGRA will be looking into this concept in an attempt to;

- a) see if drawing up such a plan is as good an idea as it seems and
- b) reduce the number of speech marks it includes in it's sentences!

Have an enjoyable summer! Barry Grant, CGRA Chairman

## Residents Support Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at a packed Explore Church Hall, Fuller Way on Thursday 26th April. Nik Bennett, the Parish Council Chairman provided his annual report and introduced subcommittee chairpersons who provided their reports on Environment & Amenity and Planning issues. The CGRA chairman provided an update on the progress of the Community Plan and the advantages that could be obtained if the Parish Council produced a Neighbourhood Plan (a planning development plan for the Parish).

Many members of the public expressed their support of the Parish Council as a consequence of one councillor proposing a poll to abolish the Parish Council. A public vote (64/5) defeated the proposal. What emerged from well informed discussions was that Parish Councils, in general, will play a heightened role in the future development of communities.

## CGRA Committee

Our efforts are entirely voluntary, politically neutral and conducted relatively informally and free of fuss. If you are interested in dabbling in things such as website management, producing this magazine or if you merely have a general interest in matters concerning where you live please contact us. We need your input and we favour enthusiasm over any other aspect. Thank you.

## Croxley Rail Link

The Department of Transport has advised the CGRA that it will hold a local Public Inquiry into the application for the proposed Rail Link Order (no date has been set as at the time of writing). As part of the consultation process the CGRA wrote to the Department of Transport seeking clarification on issues relating to land exchange, compensation, screening (sound and visual), rail operation (incl. revised Moor Park transfer arrangements) and financial viability.

It is anticipated that the Public Inquiry process will bring balance, clarity and transparency to the application process whereas, up until now, most of the related information placed in the public domain has been published by the co-applicants of the scheme.

If local residents have evidence that they would like highlighted by the Inquiry they can contact us (contact details on back page).

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## Destruction of the Railway Embankments

**Residents will surely have noticed London Underground's idea of "coppicing the trees" (silver birches, beech, apple, oak, holly) on the railway embankments through Croxley Green this winter.**

The CGRA (Vice-Chair, Rose Hanscomb) was alerted by a resident in Gonville Avenue who, naturally enough, was furious that the work had been carried out without thought for the residents that live above the embankments nor for the wildlife that lived in this green corridor through Croxley Green. London Underground had apparently arranged for a survey to be done regarding badgers and had also contacted Natural England and Three Rivers District Council before carrying out this work. They claimed they had properly informed affected residents in advance, which actually amounted to a letter advising that they would be carrying out some "coppicing" of the trees along embankments in the area.

The reasons for this work included clearing damaged trees that might fall across the lines; leaves on the line and undergrowth that might obscure the signals.

Many other complaints quickly followed because the actual work meant that many hundreds of undamaged trees were actually felled, all the undergrowth was cleared leaving the area looking like a WW1 battlefield.

David Gawke, our MP, was involved and has been following up the matter on our behalf. However, the damage has already been done and residents have been left angry that there is no screening for the houses bordering the railway and it is noisier; worst of all there is very little wildlife activity left. London Underground said that the work was done before the bird nesting season, but now there are very few trees left for birds to nest in this Spring.

Let's hope this corporate vandalism is not repeated so that the embankments can return to the attractive wild places they once were.

### Rose Hanscomb



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## A day in the Life of Croxley Green's Youth Minister



My name is Jon Bishop (or Rev Jon) and I am the Children's and Youth Minister at Croxley Green Baptist Church. I've

now been there and living in Croxley for a little over five years and am enjoying being part of such a wonderful community here in Croxley.

I am here to work on behalf of the church to help care for, look after, support, encourage and develop children and young people in their whole lives. As a result my average day is far from average and it's a very varied job.

So often young people are given a bad press or a rubbish reputation. Now, OK, we all know that sometimes people, both young and old, do things that the rest of the community find harmful or unkind but the vast majority of young people are absolutely brilliant.

A day in my life? Well no one day is the same. I often visit the local schools to take assemblies or run Christian groups or take part in RE lessons for all ages. I also support and work with lots of wonderful volunteers at the Baptist church who run all our activities; from playing Lego at Anchor Boys to Stop Frame Animation at Boys Brigade, Bowling with Girls Brigade, Sailing with Quench (our Youth Cafe) for those in Year 7 up. I help run our church programme for young people. This involves leading small groups on a Sunday, running a monthly special service, called Encounter Youth, for young people as well as meeting elsewhere to talk through issues they are facing and help them explore their faith and what it means to follow Jesus and be his disciple. It also means interacting with young people on Facebook and Twitter - which sometimes can be a big distraction!!!

Our weekly program - we have groups on a Sunday morning for 11-14 year olds and a Sunday evening group for those in Year 10+ as well as a monthly service. We run Anchor Boys and Junior Boys Brigade on a Tuesday and Wednesday respectively and Explorers and Junior Girls Brigade on a Friday. Thursday nights are our Youth Cafe "Quench" for those in Year 7 upwards.

If you want to know more about any of these activities please get in touch with me at [revjon@me.com](mailto:revjon@me.com) or 01923 202137 or just pop in and visit us at the church.

For me it's really important for us all to recognise the valuable role that so many play in the lives of children and young people in Croxley Green. From the schools to the churches, to the community projects, sports clubs and other activities that run in Croxley. We are blessed with some wonderful people who care massively for young people and that is why it's great to work with them in so many ways.

## Barbara Owen

You may have met Barbara Owen if you visited Croxley Great Barn last summer, she usually makes visitors welcome to this wonderful cathedral-like ancient 14<sup>th</sup> Century building. Barbara really deserved the MBE that she recently received for her services to heritage in the area. Barbara is an active member of the Rickmansworth Society as well as Chairman of Three Rivers Museum of Local History.

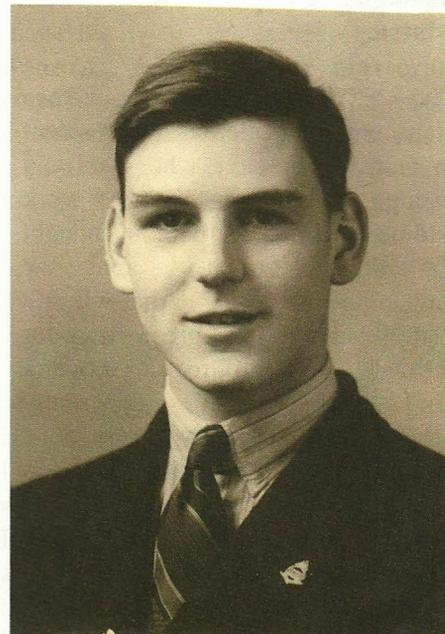
### 2012 Tour Dates for The Great Barn

*11.00am on the last Saturday of the month from April to October.*

*May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> and Oct 27<sup>th</sup>*

## Croxleys' Own Olympian

With the forth coming Olympic Games in London does anyone remember Ray (Raymond) Barkway who grew up in Hazelwood Road?



Born in 1924 in Uxbridge, Ray attended Watford Grammar School for Boys where he became Head Boy. Having left school during the Second World War, he trained in Canada as an RAF pilot gaining the highest marks in an Elementary Flying training course.

He left Exeter College, Oxford with a second-class honours degree in Chemistry gaining a Blue in athletics and became a master at Marlborough College.

In 1948 he represented Great Britain in the London Olympic Games in the 110 metres hurdles. He later became a science master at Clifton College and on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1956 he was killed in a flying accident whilst on exercise with the R.N.V.R.

Have any other Olympians had connections with Croxley Green?

**Contributed by Shirley Greenman**

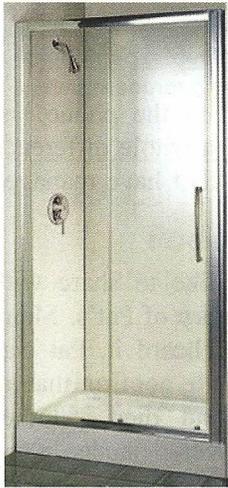


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Many of you will remember Dr Russell who died suddenly at the end of November. He was the senior GP at New Road Surgery from 1958 until his retirement in 1988. Many of you will have been his patients and quite a number will have been brought into the world by him! Apart from his GP work, Pat was passionate about improving services for care of the dying. And he was a devoted family man, as anyone who saw the wonderful family photos at his funeral will know. What follows is a short address I gave at Pat's funeral:

I am very grateful to Maureen for being allowed a few minutes to speak about Pat who invited me to join him in the practice in New Road in 1982. We worked together until Pat's retirement in 1988.

Pat was a very good family doctor. He had once thought of a career in obstetrics but then discovered his passion for general practice – a role that fitted him like a glove. Pat was a wise and knowledgeable GP. But he was more than that. He combined expert diagnostic and treatment skills with a natural empathy and compassion. He always saw the patient within the wider context of their beliefs, their home life, their wider family, their workplace and community. He knew how to listen to patients' concerns long before textbooks were written telling GPs how to consult. He practised holistic medicine before it became fashionable. His patient records, in beautifully neat handwriting, were works of art. And he enjoyed his work.

His first few years in general practice were in Essex, but the practice there did not feel quite right and he and Maureen moved to Croxley Green in 1958 when Pat joined Geoff Bond and Mike Rope in practice. Maureen remembers the job offer came in a phone call from Geoff when Pat was in the bath!

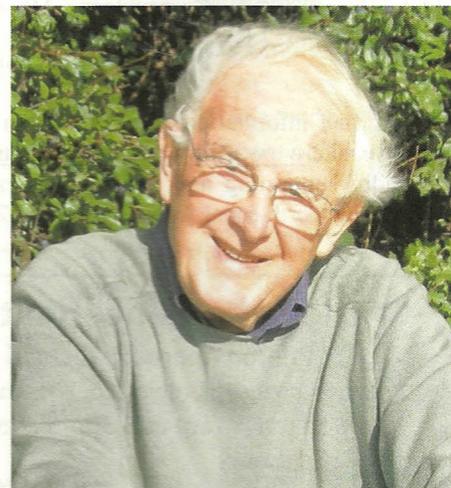
Plans to move into the original house at Lindiswara Court where the retiring Drs Miller lived and

practised did not materialise and Pat and Maureen moved into The Outspan in Watford Road. Pat set up the Croxley branch of the surgery in a converted outbuilding and practised there until moving to new premises in New Road at the site of the old dairy in 1972.

Pat worked hard to build up the practice. He did on-call work, evenings, nights and weekends, throughout his entire GP career. He took on new partners, Carolyn Fowle and David Wood, and became a trainer for other GPs. He worked for the local Red Cross for 30 years. In 1982 Pat was joined by myself and, soon afterwards, by Katharine Garrow, one of his former trainees. He chose his team with great care [of course I would say that, wouldn't I?] because he valued the welfare of his patients above all else. It was made clear that reception staff were there for the patient, not to protect the doctor. He set very high standards.

But Pat was soon seized by another passion. A visit to Maureen's aunt who died in a hospice in Sydenham years before sparked a devotion to care of the dying. A conviction that patients with appalling diseases could nevertheless be cared for so well that they could experience a good death. Pat was inspired by the work of Cicely Saunders, the nurse who became a doctor and the pioneer of the hospice movement. With Maureen's full support, he combined his GP work with a hospital practitioner post at Michael Sobell House and went on to play a key role in the creation of the Peace Hospice – where he continued to work long after he retired from the practice. These few sentences cannot do his contribution justice. Pat was involved throughout the project from finding a site, fund-raising and planning the service, to being one of the first trustees and working in the hospice as a volunteer clinician. Dame Cicely would have been proud of him.

I know from first hand experience that many of Pat's old patients still remember him with affection.



One said to me on the phone last week: "He made a whole difference to my life. I couldn't have managed without him".

Finally I would like to share with you a favourite story of Pat's. Many of you may have heard it. Pat was called out at night to confirm that an elderly patient had died. Clothes were pulled on over pyjamas in the early hours. He went out, certified the death and probably had a cup of tea and stayed a while with the family, then went back to bed. Half an hour later the phone rang again. This time the midwife wanted his help with a mother who was just about to deliver. Again clothes pulled on in haste.

This visit would have taken even longer. Pat remembered the weary drive back home, dawn just breaking and morning surgery looming ominously close.

He had said goodbye to one patient and welcomed a new one into the world. He smiled on the way home and thought what a privilege it was to be a GP.

Well ..... Pat, it was a privilege to have known you.

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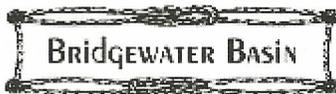
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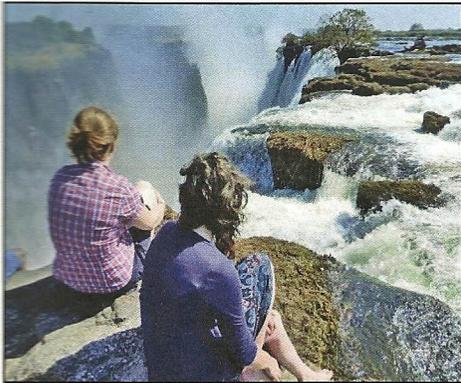
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## My Eight Weeks Medical Work Experience in Monze Mission Hospital in July/Aug 2011

Zambia is a landlocked southern African country. The total population of Zambia is 12.9 million, and this is made up of 76 different tribes, each with a ruling chief and a completely different tribal language. English is the national language; all professionals speak good English, and around 50% of patients in the hospital could at least get by in English.



The country's tourism industry is on the rise due to its beautiful landscape, friendly people and natural wonders of Victoria Falls or Mosi o Tunya (the smoke which thunders).

My friend Joanna and I stayed in Monze, a small but bustling town located on the main road through southern province.

**We experienced first hand the devastating effect HIV has had on Zambia. 13.5% of Zambia's population is affected, and the average life expectancy of a Zambian at birth is 46 years.**

**The Hospital has a 276 bed capacity, however in reality, there are mattresses in the wards on floors and under beds, and consequently far more patients. There are only 8 doctors for the whole hospital.**

By Zambian standards it is a very well resourced hospital with a well-stocked pharmacy.

On the other hand, there are many shortages of drugs and equipment,



shortages that you would not see in the UK. No ECG machine at the hospital meant that most cardiac patients are referred to Lusaka.

The hospital also has no facility to do blood cultures, therefore accurate diagnosis and treatment of infectious disease is very difficult. Often the hospital is out of basic drugs, such as pain relief and insulin, or basic items such as rubber gloves. Finally, much of the equipment that the hospital has is in need of replacement, for example, hospital beds, theatre tables and neonatal resuscitation units. A huge learning point here was that staff at the hospital have substitutes and ways around the limitations.

Monze was the perfect balance between being included, but still being a student. We were not laden with responsibility but were welcome to come in every day, assist in decision making with the teams, assist in surgery and minor procedures, and examine patients as we pleased. We were quizzed and taught during ward rounds, as well as going to formal teaching sessions for Zambian health care students.

Our first rotation was on Obstetrics and Gynaecology, run by an Irish Doctor who has been living and working in Monze for the past 11 years. On busy days we saw up to 100 women on the ward round.

There were always very interesting cases and emergencies on Maternity. We saw a delivery of Siamese twins from a mother who had not been seen by a health care professional throughout her whole pregnancy,

which was a common story in Monze.

We also saw many other late presenting and dangerous conditions. We saw many normal deliveries too,



and the midwives always encouraged us to assist them or deliver on our own (under supervision)!

We spent one week on female medicine, one week on male medicine and one week on child medicine, where every case was completely different. We saw, listened and felt so many unusual signs which we had only ever read about in text books, as well as assisting in procedures such as lumbar punctures.

We also sat in on lots of outpatient clinics. Every doctor in the hospital had to take their turn in clinic, and there were a huge variety of conditions, from ox wounds to TB.

On surgery there were also many contrasting patients, and we learnt so much. We were always welcome to assist in surgery and we also had the opportunity to assist with the Orthopaedic team and a Plastic



Surgeon who visited Monze from Lusaka.

About half way through our stay, we went to Lusaka to one of the large medical pharmacies, with a long list of things the hospital needed. I had raised just over £1,100, and with it we bought 2 wheelchairs, 5 weighing scales, 5 BP machines (electronic), 5 glucometers plus extra boxes of strips, a whole load of surgical tape, a laryngoscope set, neck braces, an examination lamp, and some alcohol gel for some of the doctors who kept borrowing ours!

We then presented these gifts to the hospital management team the following morning. They said we were the first medical students in Monze to ever buy them things they need, rather than just handing over a cheque. We knew exactly what the money had gone on, and once everything had been recorded and labelled, we began to see our purchases being used on the wards, which was incredibly rewarding.

I would like to say a big thank you to those of you who contributed to my fundraising. I hope you can tell how grateful the hospital was, and how useful the equipment is that we were able to get them.

*Claire Mitchell, younger daughter of Parish Councillor Chris Mitchell and CGRA Treasurer Mary Mitchell, is a fourth year Medical Student at the University of Southampton. She attended Harvey Road School and Watford Grammar School for Girls.*

**If anyone would like to make a donation to Monze Mission Hospital, please send a cheque, payable to Claire Mitchell and send to 9 Frankland Close, Croxley Green WD3 3AR.**

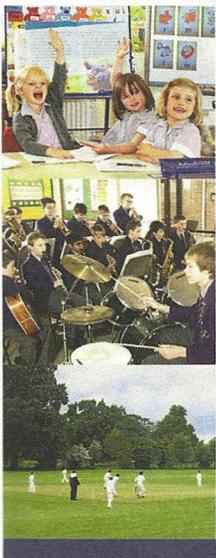


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As a person gets older, the body starts to change; the physiological changes start to slow the body down. The heart becomes less efficient at circulating blood around the body, muscle strength and endurance decline rapidly and ligaments and tendons get stiffer. Everyday tasks prove to be more challenging. Quality of life becomes impaired, the prevalence of disease and disability increases. So how can a man who was 100 years old run 26.2 miles, a feat that puts stress on every system within the body?

We are always told that exercise promotes better health, increases functional capabilities and improves the quality of our lives, that it can, in effect, help combat a whole range of conditions from arthritis to heart disease as well as reducing the risk of falls.

The answer is simple USE IT OR LOSE IT!! Remember age is not an illness, if you don't use your body's functional capabilities, you will lose them.

The biggest obstacle to an older person exercising is their mental attitude, it might appear alien to a person in their 60s to start an exercise regime as a preventative measure. Yet a person who has had a heart attack, undergoes cardiac rehabilitation exercises to strengthen the heart and the person who has damaged muscle tissue might undergo physiotherapy to regain full use of the limb - so surely the person with illness associated with inactivity should become more active?

When an older person has a fall, the consequences can be catastrophic. Falls can be devastating to the individual involved; often leading to fractured femurs, even lesser falls can lead to loss of self confidence and reduced quality of life and even in some cases loss of independence and the cost of residential care. The NHS recognizes the need for "fall clinics" for the elderly; body

density and balance decrease with age making the older person more susceptible to falls.

A more pro-active approach would be to educate the older person that they are never too old to increase their muscle strength, bone density and improve balance.

For the older person who doesn't want to run a 26.2 mile marathon, but does want to maintain independence for longer in a stronger more resilient body and inevitably increase the quality of life, they should start to look for the means to address their needs.

Most local Sports Centres and Health Clubs run specialized activities for seniors; these might be activities in the gym, swimming pool or in an exercise class.

Walking groups are also well established in most areas.

If you are looking to train for the marathon then an increase in activity is essential or if you just want to increase the quality of your life then an increase in activity is also essential.

Debbie Bishop  
(BSc Sport Science, Dip Sports Physiotherapy) Croxley Wellness Centre

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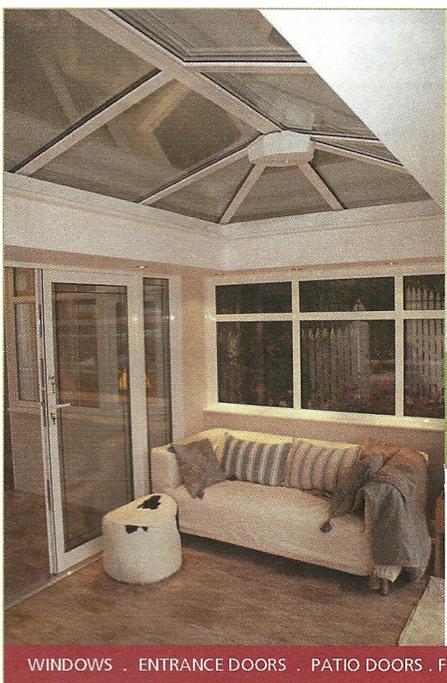
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Every week, a group of people check the current issue of the Observer for items of particular local interest and these are edited and photocopied, ready for the voluntary Reading Teams.

There are ten Teams working in rotation and these must meet for their recording session on a Thursday evening, so that the 'Newspaper' can be delivered on the Saturday.

(It comes in a special user-friendly form, to be played on a machine.) Each Team consists of four or five people. The Leader introduces the session, announcing the names of the Readers. And to make it a more friendly occasion, the session closes with each Reader signing off by bidding 'goodbye' and repeating their own name. In addition to the 'Newspaper', there is a 'Magazine' which follows straight on. Also present at the sessions is one of the Technicians, who is responsible for recording the proceedings.

The story does not end there. For such an undertaking, as with many charities, relies heavily on donations from the public in order to keep this wonderful service going.

Indeed, one day you may see some of the voluntary helpers operating a Collection near you . . .

*If you would like to know more, please contact Ray Andrews on 672974*

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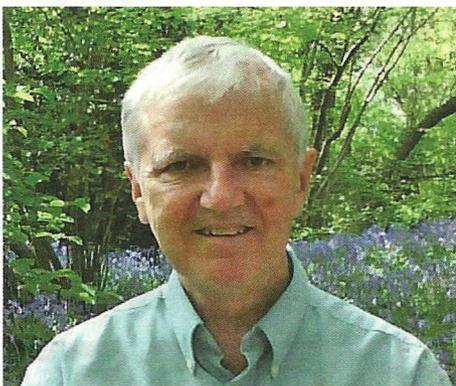
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## Keith Turnbull



Keith Turnbull (husband of our long term committee member, Judith), sadly died on February 1<sup>st</sup>. You may remember the Residents' Association held a benefit evening for them last year to help with the cost of trips to Germany for treatment that was unavailable in England for asbestos related cancer (mesothelioma).

Judith would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral, or sent their condolences to her family and for the donations sent c/o James Peddle of New Road for Keith's nominated charities The Peace Hospice or the Keith Turnbull Snowdrop Fund in aid of Mesothelioma Research

## DEFEATING THE MEETING

THE DAILY MEETINGS IN DECEMBER  
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WHICH IS FIFTEEN LESS THAN THE MONTH BEFORE  
OR WAS IT FIFTEEN MEETINGS MORE?  
WITH CHRISTMAS COMING IN BETWEEN  
CAUSING HAVOC WITH OUR ROUTINE  
I GET CONFUSED, BUT WHO 'S COUNTING.

THERE'S EIGHT OR NINE ARRANGED NEXT WEEK  
THAT'S ONE A DAY, SO TO SPEAK  
OR IF YOU COUNT PRE-MEETS, THEN TEN  
WITH EXTRA MEETINGS IF AND WHEN  
WE CAN HAVE A MEETING TO FIX THEM.

AT THIS MEETING I WANT TO DISCUSS  
THE ONE BEFORE THE LAST ONE, PLUS  
THE ONE ON WEDNESDAY ABOUT TODAY  
AND FURTHERMORE I WANT TO SAY  
THAT THURSDAY'S MEETING A WEEK TOMORROW  
WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY IF WE CAN BORROW  
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Derek Wakefield



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We enjoy a relaxed casual evening which is very informal, part of which is usually given over to a different speaker most weeks. They entertain us on a wide range of subjects and these can take the form of a film or slide show as well as an interesting illustration explaining their unusual hobby.

We have been fortunate recently when groups have entertained us with a variety of singing and occasionally on some evenings we organise a quiz or a social event.

In the past too, we have enjoyed a coach trip twice a year to watch the Kings Langley Review and at the end of our summer term we arrange a trip to a local country pub for evening dinner.

Our Club, founded in 1968, was originally referred to as 'The 68 club' but was renamed 'Hazelmeade Ladies' in order to avoid the misunderstanding that 68 was the age for joining!

We like to celebrate the anniversary each year too – 44 years this year!

Would you like to come along for an evening as a visitor to see if you would like to join us? We would make you very welcome. If so, please contact for more details or a chat Audrey Simpkins 01923 778432 or Janet Wallis 01923 720191

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## Update Yorke Rd School

Leukaemia Research was contacted yet again by CGRA Committee member Rose Hanscomb to enquire whether they had made a decision regarding the future of the old school building; they stated that they have no update at the current time.



The building has been left to deteriorate and numerous opportunist thieves have broken in and the police have been called. Even at this late stage it would not be impossible to restore this unique, well loved building if the will and the money were there and it was put on the open market. It was necessary to ask LR to update the security as the site fencing had been repeatedly vandalised.

### Rose Hanscomb

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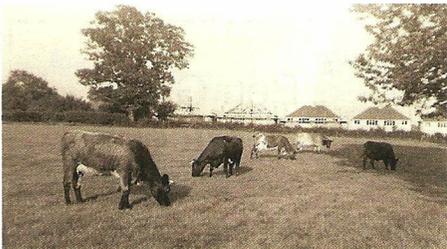
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## Stone's Orchard

### Where is it? What is it? What was it?

Now that Spring is here (!) you may feel a bit more energetic so why not amble into Stones Orchard? A stroll across The Green will take you to a point almost opposite The Coach and Horses Public House. Here there is a track that leads into a large open space that contains many young fruit trees. This is Stones Orchard.

The orchard was established a couple of centuries ago and it holds many fond memories for older residents of Croxley Green. Up until the 1950/60s the orchard covered a 12 acre site (it now covers only 3.5 acres). It was called Stones Orchard because of the association with the Stones family who farmed the land. It is thought that Walter Stone leased the land from the Woolrych family. The Woolrych's owned the adjacent Parrotts Farm. Another family member, possibly Walter's brother George, farmed the land for a number of years until Walter took it over in 1893.



It is hard to imagine that this site was partly meadow for grazing animals as well as housing a large barn, cow sheds, a piggery as well as the prolific orchard that provided apples, pears, plums as well as its delicious cherries. Cherries were abundant in June and July and many families would look forward to the special treat of going up to The Green and purchasing a good quantity of cherries and enjoying them on the grass outside of the Orchard.

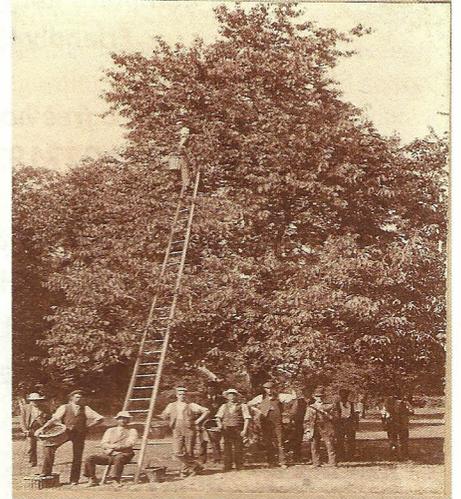
Walter had two sons, Jesse and George, and they carried on an additional business on the site as coal and wool merchants. The coal was collected from Croxley Green Station and stored at the Orchard before it was delivered to local residents. Bob Woods eventually took over this side of the business and married Doris Stone, the daughter of Walter's son George.

The Orchard was owned by John Dickinson from 1948. Dickinson's had the paper Mill on land that now forms a part of Bywaters Estate. By the 1970's just 3.5 acres remained of The Orchard, the greater part having been sold to Hertfordshire County Council for the construction of Yorke Mead School and a smaller part for housing. The Dickinson Robinson Group (DRG) then sold the Orchard to Three Rivers District Council. It was mindful of its long links with the community of Croxley Green and conveyed the Orchard to the Council for the sum of £1 on the proviso that it was only to be used as open space and recreation purposes in perpetuity for the benefit of future employees of the company, Croxley Green residents as well as residents of Three River District.

Some fifteen years ago a plan was set up to restore part of the remaining orchard area and to set up a Community Orchard with new young fruit trees. A Management Plan was provided by the Herts. Environmental Record Centre in 1994 and it was adopted by Croxley Green Parish Council with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). The plan set out to provide both an orchard and a meadow.

At that time a survey had shown that the site had 3 different types of buttercup (quite unusual in one small meadow) and also contained sedge: *carex muraticus* - rarely found in Hertfordshire. As part of the Management Plan it was originally envisaged that the meadow area (once cleared of ragwort)

might be a valuable source of hay which could be sold to local stables.



### Cherry picking in July

This Spring, TRDC joined up with the East of England Apples and Orchard Project and planted a substantial number of fruit trees in the meadow area. These were set out in rows in contrast to the informal way the trees had been planted for many years from 1994 onwards by the children of our local schools.

Stones Orchard is **NOW** a Community Orchard and, hopefully, it will be maintained by the community for future generations of local residents to enjoy.

I hope you enjoy your stroll through the Orchard!

**Margaret J Pomfret**

### Walter Stone and his dog



**Chairman:** Barry Grant 01923 778660

**Vice-Chair and Advertising:** Tony Munroe 01923 720141

**Secretary:** Amanda Mackie e-mail: [secretary.CGRA@mail.com](mailto:secretary.CGRA@mail.com) **Treasurer:** Mary Mitchell

**Members:** Mandy Grant, Rose Hanscomb, David Neighbour, Margaret Pomfret, Judith Turnbull, Joan Zanelli  
e-mail: [croxleyresident@gmail.com](mailto:croxleyresident@gmail.com) website: [croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk)