



# The Croxley Green RESIDENT

Spring 2013 Edition Number 206

Published by The Croxley Green Residents' Association

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

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

## YORKE ROAD SCHOOL A Future at Last!

We are sure you must have heard a great deal recently about the former Yorke Road School and so we thought that we would let you have the perspective of three people involved in trying to save the building;

### **P J O'Reilly – Restoration Builder**

As a local restoration builder (Sarratt) I had been aware of the former Yorke Road School and believed that it would be a great project.

When Yorke Road School came up for sale I managed to outbid developers and secure the building. The first job was to advise local neighbours of my plans and this is when I discovered the huge level of local support and love for the old school.

My first week was spent tidying and securing the building and throughout the week I was visited by local residents and members of both the Residents Association and Parish Council.

The support I have received from local residents and organisations has been much more than I could have wished for and it makes me even more passionate in making a lasting historical legacy for Croxley Green.

I am keen to keep everyone updated on my progress and any updates will appear on the CGRA website [www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk)

### **Rose Hanscomb - Former pupil and CGRA committee member**

It has been a long haul trying to save Yorke Road School. The building looked more like a bombsite than my dear old school, it seemed sadder



with more of the roof falling in each time it rained. Then along came Paul O'Reilly.

It was a miracle and a chance for all the old school's many supporters to get behind his planning application to restore it to its former glory.

Having met Paul I am sure he will do everything he can to carry out this restoration to the best of his ability. I hope the local Planning Authority will support his application **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm.**

I want to thank everyone who has got involved over the years in trying to save the school and hope as many people as possible can attend the meeting at the TRDC Council main office.

### **Ross Humphries – Resident of Yorke Road**

I see the former school on a near daily basis and when the threat of development started I sent my objection letters (as with many others) but nothing seemed to happen. With all avenues exhausted I went along to a Croxley Green

Residents' Association meeting and found many like minded people who were trying to preserve the building. I also realised that there were other issues in Croxley Green affecting me such as the new proposed secondary school and the proposed Rail Link to name two.



I wrote this piece because I believe that whilst residents of Croxley Green do not necessarily need to go to every residents meeting (6 per year) they can keep in touch with the Residents Association via the CGRA website and like the Facebook page thus knowing what is going on locally and taking pleasure in knowing that there is a group of people who are only motivated by a love of Croxley Green who are trying to make it an even nicer place for everyone to live in.

## CGRA Chairman - Barry Grant

Thank you to all 1,500 or so local residents who took the time to submit Community Plan Questionnaire responses. Your responses gave some pretty clear messages to the authorities! The results will soon be available on our website.

The high level of responses reinforce the notion that Croxley Green is highly cherished by its residents and that we have something special that is well worth maintaining and nurturing. The questionnaire was a unique way of obtaining and documenting fairly detailed local resident opinion on local matters and it was obtained in a manner, and at a time, that was not motivated by local elections, party political concerns or by major impending local issues.

The data, together with analysis and action plans, will be published in a Community Parish Plan pamphlet and presented at a public meeting later in the year. It is anticipated that the information obtained can be used in a) supporting specific projects which many local residents support and b) demonstrating to local authorities and their councillors where priorities lie. I'm sure that in Autumn edition of The Resident we will highlight the main issues and summarise what is being done to address them.

### **OWLS preventing crime?**

One area of questioning concerned our use of, and reliance upon, the email OWL service run by local Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. This is a fantastic use of email as information about crime that may be about to be perpetrated against you and/or your family is efficiently sent to your inbox. The take up for this service should be huge in a community such as ours and I have no qualms about printing an article from OWL in the Resident. Do sign up for the emails!

### **Old school thinking**

The tale of the demise of one of Croxley's oldest and well loved buildings as partial demolition,

weather damage and looting took their toll was coming to a sad end until, at the eleventh hour, a local builder stepped in, purchased the land and submitted a planning application that would preserve the integrity of a once proud building. I remain appalled by the actions of the national charitable organisation that owned the property and allowed the building to a) fall into disrepair and then b) initiated demolishing in such an underhand way. Unfortunately, this organisation was not prepared to enter into dialogue with local residents (and the CGRA) and listen to some of the viable options that were available. Hopefully, by this time next year, a beautifully restored building will brighten up this corner of Croxley Green.

### **Quiz - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

The Association's committee has boundless energy, is full of good ideas and is always available to assist when issues arise. The only thing holding us back from world domination is...money! This is the second reason for holding the first CGRA Quiz night. The first reason is in the fun and bonhomie that will be had by gathering folk together for the first (and best) quiz night of the 2013/14 season.

We aim to cater for teams of 6 to 8 people at £5 per head. The venue will be our local Village Hall (Community Centre hall). Contact us via our website to reserve tickets for you and/or your team. We promise an innovative quiz with more jokers than you'd normally expect together with "music" and a conveyer belt of quality raffle prizes.

Please apply for tickets now and help us put the "FUN" into fundraiser!

### **Community matters – we need you!**

We are constantly being told by visitors to Croxley Green, or by those who have moved out, that we should never, ever underestimate the wonderful sense of community we have.

It is amazing that a community within the M25 belt can be so friendly and neighbourly and have so much going on.

It doesn't happen by accident and there are hundreds of us giving freely of our time and in a wide variety of ways. However, there is always a need for volunteers (and all manner of talents) who can help out in some way or another.

If you want to contribute in some way (even a couple of hours per month) but need a push in the right direction please contact us (see website).

For example, the CGRA and the Revels teams are friendly bunches, always on the look out for help in a wide variety of ways, even if that means just helping out for a few hours on Revels day or spending one evening, every other month, as a CGRA committee member.

Rewarding stuff!

**The Revels  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013**



**Come along  
for a great day out.**

## Neighbourhood Watch

In recent years the concept of Neighbourhood Watch [NhW] as a way of thwarting crime where you live has gone digital.

Police email alerts using Online Watch Link [OWL] are an effective and unobtrusive way of alerting local residents to crime occurring in and around Croxley Green. You will automatically get OWL messages coming into your 'inbox'

Recent Home Office national crime stats show that overall recorded crime continues to fall in Hertfordshire. Your police force, assisted by [NhW], is helping to make your area a safer place to live in.

Following the retirement of Geoff Ellis, we have three new Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators who are keen to sign you up to OWL so that you receive crime alerts as well as crime prevention advice.

**Alison Akers,**  
NhW Co-ordinator if you live in **Croxley Green Central**  
alison-akers@hotmail.com  
Tel. 01923 444659

**Kelly Keating,**  
NhW Co-ordinator if you live in **Croxley Green North**  
kelly.keating@sky.com  
Tel. 01923 467099

**David Wynne-Jones,**  
NhW Co-ordinator if you live in **Croxley Green South**  
wynnejonesda@gmail.com  
Tel 01923 251905



## Croxley In Postcards



Dated July 28<sup>th</sup> 1910 addressed to Mr R Jacobs  
Dear Mr Jacobs, received your PC and was glad to hear you have enjoyed yourself but have worried since you did not return Monday as you said, if you were taken ill, hope all are well at home kinds regards to yourself and brother, yours etc. (name unclear)

Dated 1907 and addressed to Mr Miles  
Dear Par I shall be home about 5 o'clock tomorrow or after. Kate has gone home to see Jim, before he sails to abroad. Auntie wrote and asked Grandma if Kate could come for a day or two love from Beatie



Dated 1912 with best wishes for Xmas and the New Year from Mr and Mrs W W Lass (?)



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## Community Plan Results

It's a simple notion - just ask people what they think about aspects of living in Croxley Green and use that data to support an action plan or to support responses to subsequent official consultation.

We introduced the concept two years ago at the CGRA Question Time, Croxley's biggest ever indoor gathering. Later, a public meeting was held and we asked residents to help us identify key areas of concern, and we then formed a local resident steering committee to drive the CP project forwards.

The tricky bit was finding and phrasing questions that would draw out clear responses. We settled on 74 questions but, in reality, the response options called for over 300 individual answers. It was therefore somewhat miraculous that we received over 1500 responses. We now have a wealth of local resident feedback covering topics over which the PC has differing levels of influence. So what were the response highlights?

A 50/50 split as to whether people consider that Three Rivers District Council takes sufficient account of the character of Croxley Green.

Overwhelming agreement that outdoor areas should be managed, wherever possible, by the Parish Council.

There was strong support for maintaining our Green Belt, adopting "green" initiatives and enhancing the look of roadside areas.

Over three quarters agreed that we couldn't accommodate significantly more housing development and, overall, there was strong agreement that additional housing had already put too much strain on local infrastructure.

Speeding, congestion, car parking and road safety were major concerns as was the state of our roads. There was scope for looking at improving cycle lanes.

There was strong support for a new Health Centre offering an increased

range in services and for developing a village centre. The concept of a regular market day was highly regarded.

The questionnaire revealed a shortfall in the provision of indoor recreational facilities and a strong demand for a public swimming pool, dry-play pitches and a further allotment area within Croxley Green.

Responses showed that the vast majority relied on The Parish Pump, The Resident and My Croxley News for local information and that more had to be undertaken in getting people to access information via websites.

There was a 50/50 split when it came to people being prepared to become involved in community projects. The challenge will be to harness the potential volunteer army.

Over fifty per cent considered Parish Councillors were sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings. Forty per cent had no opinion. Parish councillors fared far better in perceived awareness stakes than our District Councillors.

There was exceedingly strong support for enhancing our local shops.

Two thirds of respondents did not subscribe to the Neighbourhood Watch OWL service (we need to increase this figure through greater awareness).

Overall, the top priorities are: 1. Protecting and maintaining open spaces and woodlands. 2. Protecting our Green Belt. 3. Improving road surfaces.

There were plenty of extremely useful responses that can be passed on to the Police and emergency services, the library and highways services to assist in service improvement.

Incredibly, nearly three quarters of respondents would be prepared to pay a slightly higher Parish Precept of up to £20 to meet some of the



## Croxley Green Community Plan Questionnaire Blank forms



CROXLEY GREEN  
PARISH COUNCIL



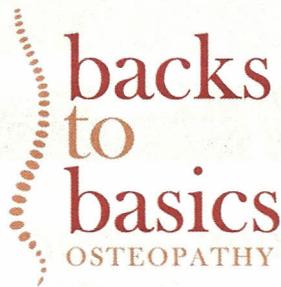
needs of Croxley Green. The results gave a clear indication that the Parish Council is held in high esteem by residents and that it should be encouraged to take an even more active role in looking after Croxley Green and the needs of its residents.

We would like to send out a big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to do the important task of data entry for the Community Plan.

There were over 600 paper versions of the questionnaire to transfer on to the online system. Without the help of these volunteers it wouldn't have been possible to get the results ready in time for presentation at the Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting in April or for the Spring edition of the Resident.

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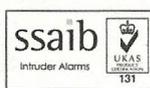
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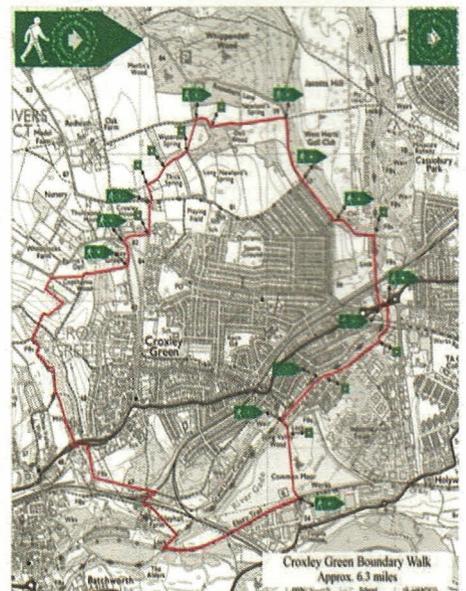
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## New Boundary Walk - walking around Croxley

Dear Residents, The CGRA, together with the Parish Council, County Cllr. Steve Drury and the Keep Croxley Green Group invite you to enjoy a walk along all or part of Croxley Green's new Boundary Walk. The 10km walk utilises existing Rights of Way to trace a picturesque circular route around the Parish boundary. You'll find a route map on the CRGA website, which you should be able to print off, but the route is generously sign posted - you shouldn't get lost!



It is hoped that our Parish Council can introduce an annual "beating the bounds". This is the age old process whereby young folk from Croxley are taken around the Parish boundary by Elders of the Parish who pick them up by their arms and legs and "gently" knock their heads against prominent landmarks.

This, apparently, ensures the young folk remember the extent of our boundary and foils attempts from those unscrupulous folks from Watford, Rickmansworth and Sarratt who are always trying to increase their own boundaries. You are asked to report any unofficial beating of the bounds to our local PCSO's!

**Steam on the Met**

**May 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>**

**For details and timetable see**  
**www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk**

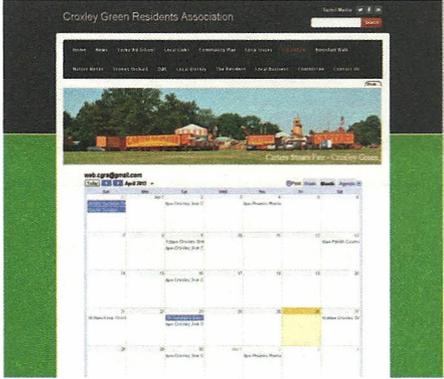
## CRGA Website - Keeping Croxley informed

The CRGA website [www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk) has gone through a major development in the last year thanks to the efforts of resident Ross Humphries.

There's plenty of news highlighting current issues to keep residents informed about what's going on in and around Croxley.

There's the publicity of local events and telling residents about organisations that are working for the good of our community.

There is the calendar page for residents to see what's coming up or is open for local groups or organisations to use to let others know what's happening during the year.



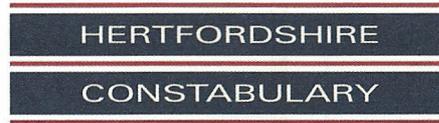
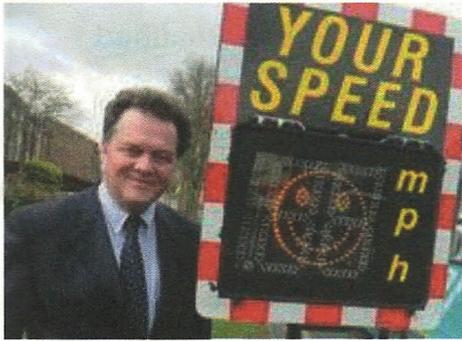
It also lets people from outside the area get an idea of what Croxley is like. It's an effective means of communicating and exchanging information or creating links. An example of which was journalists making contact through the website asking for more information on the silencing of the All Saints church bells and the proposed Croxley Rail Link.

Above all, it is a resource for residents to engage with their community. It can be even more beneficial if more Croxley residents take the time to have a look around the site, tell others what's on the site and to use the contacts page to inform the association on issues or events that should be brought to the attention of residents.

If more of us get in the habit of using the website then we can have the opportunity to make even more improvements for our community. Visit the website at: [www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk)



## Community DriveSafe



## Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire in response to concerns about speeding traffic through villages and local communities in the county has launched a new initiative called "Community DriveSafe"

The aim behind the campaign is for local police to work directly with groups of community volunteers to identify speeding hotspots and then

set up regular roadside speed monitoring sessions. The roadside speed monitor equipment has a panel which lights up as cars approach, and instantly flashes up a digital number showing the driver their actual driving speed.

The aim is to try and make drivers conscious of monitoring their speed whilst travelling through built up areas, and show just how easy it is to stray above the legal speed limits.

Full training is provided by the police and a member of the local police will be present with volunteers during speed monitoring sessions to make sure things run smoothly and to reassure volunteers.

To get the campaign started the commissioner has to receive a

petition with a minimum of ten names from households in the vicinity of the speeding hotspot. From these people volunteers will need to come forward for training and to act as coordinators for the group.

As Herts police are being squeezed for police numbers and resources due to major cuts, this initiative gives the possibility of offering an active way to tackle speeding issues and concerns in local communities such as Croxley.

For further details and to download a petition form, use the following link:

[www.herts.police.uk/advice/community\\_drivesafe.aspx](http://www.herts.police.uk/advice/community_drivesafe.aspx)

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'The Queen's Jubilee Woodland Path'

In order to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, and with the help of a grant from the local council and a donation from Mr Edwards' Christmas House, Malvern Way Infant and Nursery School have created a woodland conservation area.

The children have been busy making insect and bug hotels which they hope will attract a variety of creatures. Hedgehog homes, a variety of bird and bat boxes plus log piles have also been established to provide natural habitats for wildlife.

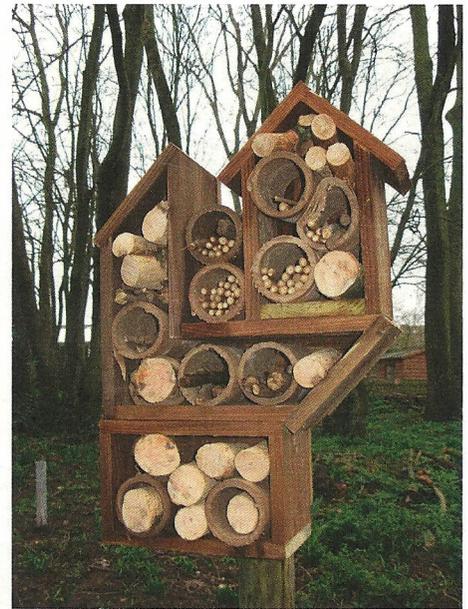
Members of the local parish cleared brambles as part of the 'Love Croxley' initiative and with their hard work the bluebells were able to flourish.

A path has been created through the woodland so that the children can access all the learning areas and signs have been placed detailing all the plants, trees, mammals, minibeasts and birds so they can identify a variety of species.

Native trees donated by the Woodland Trust have also been planted and the children will enjoy watching these grow and mature. The children are encouraged to feed the birds at the feeding stations and then watch and record the birds that visit from a special bird hide.

The stag beetle, the dormouse and the once common bluebell are all examples of native species that have declined in recent years due to vanishing habitats.

We hope that our wildlife areas will help to redress the balance and be a



lasting legacy for future generations of pupils at Malvern Way School.

We hope that our wildlife areas will help to redress the balance and be a lasting legacy for future generations of pupils at Malvern Way School.

## Rickmansworth School



### Sports hall will inspire a Generation

Hundreds of pupils have been enjoying the fantastic playing surface provided by the Multi Purpose Games Area (MUGA) at Rickmansworth School since its handover in February. The space includes 4 tennis courts, 3 netball courts, markings for football and hockey, which are supported by 8 football and 2 hockey goals.

And it is the standard of hockey that has seen the most significant improvement from the uneven surface provided by the tarmac

courts. The number of pupils attending hockey club has gone through the roof and the PE department is looking forward to next years hockey season.

The school celebrated the handover of this fantastic facility with an official opening supported by Watford Football Club.

We are pleased to confirm that the sports hall has also been handed over to the school from the contractors ASHE, whom we would like to thank for providing the school with a sports hall that is the envy of Hertfordshire. Following a series of test events it is anticipated that the sports hall will be fully operational from the start of the summer term, with the official opening being celebrated at 10.30am on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April prior to the Parents Guild Spring Fair.

Consisting of 4 badminton courts, 2 volleyball courts, 1 netball court, 1 basketball court and 5 cricket lanes,

this state of the art facility will provide an outstanding learning environment for Rickmansworth pupils for generations. The sports hall complex also has 3 classrooms, an IT room, a dance studio and fitness studio that will be a show site for Matrix Fitness.

This state of the art facility has only been possible thanks to ASHE construction and their partners who have built a stunning sports hall. It is also due to the hard work of numerous individuals who have worked tirelessly to complete the project on time, within budget to an outstanding standard. Thanks must go to our project manager Mark Eustace, premises manager Chris Holt and governors Tim Harrison and Peter Harman. However a special thank you must go to Head of PE, Mr White for his drive, passion and attention to detail in creating a facility that will inspire our pupils and truly make a difference to their education.

Chris Hambleton  
Assistant Deputy Head

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## York House School

The new Headmaster Mr Jon Gray, his wife Emma and their two young boys joined York House in September and have settled into the area quickly and easily, after spending the last seven years both working in central London schools.



He is extremely pleased to be with his young family at a school where his own children can be educated and be part of the busy and sociable life that a Hertfordshire countryside school offers. Mr and Mrs Gray believe many of life's lessons can be learnt beyond the classroom walls; either during a competitive match or from nature itself, it is the philosophy of outdoor education that they want to instil in York House. Set in 47 acres it is important to ensure each and every child is getting the best from the stunning surroundings of York House.

Their eldest son Harper, has settled in well at the Nursery with their younger boy, Ivo attending the York House toddler group 'Little Yorkies' every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Having their own children involved in the school truly adds to the 'family ethos' that is such an important feature at York House.



With a number of exciting developments underway and numbers up by around forty already, it seems many local families are looking to bring their children to share this educational experience.

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## Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Can you imagine living in a silent world? A world where all around you people are chatting, listening to music or watching the television but you are completely isolated from all that by your inability to hear what is going on.

One adult in six in the UK has a measurable hearing loss. Some, like me, are profoundly deaf with no useful hearing at all. We learn to cope with most everyday situations, communicating by lip reading, written notes, or, maybe, by sign language..

But this does not tackle the terrible feeling of isolation that deafness imposes through being unable to enjoy the normal verbal interaction that is such a vital part of our everyday lives. Add to that the problem of being totally cut off from electronic sounds as well: - doorbells, telephones and, most frightening of all, the smoke alarm, and it's a wonder that we don't retreat into a little world of our own? Until that is, one's problems are all solved by the presence of a furry bundle of energy, specially trained to fill that gap in our lives.

I am one of the fortunate people who has been allocated a Hearing Dog – a Golden Retriever of laid back disposition and a fondness for food, called Maple. Maple has been specially trained to alert me to everyday sounds in my home: - the doorbell, telephone, alarm clock, cooker timer and, most important of all, the smoke alarm. He will alert me by touching me with his paw and, where appropriate, lead me to the source of the sound. For the alarm clock he takes great pleasure in prodding me awake with his paws and when the smoke alarm sounds he touches me and then lies down – the sign for danger.

The dogs can be trained for up to about eight different sounds; for example, if there is a baby in the house, that dog will be trained to alert the deaf parent that the baby is crying. Can you imagine what peace



of mind such dogs bring to their deaf owners? The dogs also have a further role when they are out and about. Wearing their distinctive Burgundy coloured jackets with the Charity's logo on them, they alert the general public to our hearing impairment, not something they might otherwise be aware of. Unlike some other disabilities, deafness is invisible! Many are the times, when travelling on public transport, someone has come up to me to tell me of a public address announcement that I was unable to hear.

Awareness does encourage people to make the effort to communicate by speaking clearly and facing me when talking to me.

But, above all, it is the unconditional love and the companionship that the dog brings that totally alters the quality of life of a deaf person. No longer isolated from the community, we are now the centre of attention when out, and the dog is part of the family when at home. It is almost worth being deaf to experience the joy that a Hearing Dog can bring.

For more information about Hearing Dogs in Hertfordshire, contact the Branch Chairman, Liz Arendt MBE on 01923 671869 or by e mail on [hearingdogs@arendt.me.uk](mailto:hearingdogs@arendt.me.uk)

*(With thanks to Laura of Fantasy Flowers for encouraging Liz Arendt to write this personal article for The Resident and for Laura's support, fund raising and personal involvement in the charity)*

## Croxley History Hub

In the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Croxley Green was one of many thriving rural villages in Hertfordshire. It attracted paper manufacturer John Dickinson who established his paper mill on Common Moor in 1830. He supported the initial development and transition from a rural village that led to the unique setting that we live in today.

Within the Croxley Green Residents Association there is now a history hub group who are endeavouring to research, collect and save whatever historical records that residents, past and present, have stored away. We already have many collected items and the intention is to create a community website archive to which material can be uploaded. Moving forwards, you will be able to submit your photographs/documents relating to Croxley Green's past. We will keep you updated via our website.

The following websites sites are useful resources that we will draw from:

**heritagehub.herts.ac.uk** The Hertfordshire "Heritage Hub" was created in 2010 by Hertfordshire University (Hatfield). As experienced historians they can help shape ideas and give guidance through the application process including the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as their own limited funds. Recording facilities are available on loan.

**historypin.co.uk** Historypin allows users to upload photos, videos, audio recordings, and stories and "pin" them to a particular date and time on the Historypin map of the world.

**wearewhatwedo.org** Historypin and was originally set up by a non-profit making organisation "We Are What We Do". Their ethos is about bringing people together all over the world, from across different generations, cultures, communities, families, to explore and share their history in a new way.

Margaret J Pomfret



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## CGRA meeting dates

Monday 13th May (8:00pm)  
In the Library, Barton Way,  
Croxley Green

8th July 2013

9th September 2013 - 11th

November 2013

13th January 2014

10th March 2014 with AGM

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## Dickinson Square A Hidden Gem

I recently sat on the seat in the garden in Dickinson Square (The Bandstand) and thought how quiet and peaceful it was. It is a little gem in a conservation area that few people seem to know about in Croxley, it is not a private garden for the use of the residents in Dickinson Square, but for everyone to enjoy. John Dickinson provided the garden, like so many other things in Croxley Green, for the use and pleasure of his workers at the Paper Mill.



I understand there were band concerts held there in its heyday, hence the old name. Does anyone know if this is correct or have a photo of the actual bandstand please? Have you found any hidden gems that you could pass on to us?

Rose Hanscomb



My parents, Donald and Barbara Lloyd, moved to Croxley in 1970. My father came to the area in 1935 to teach at Merchant Taylors'; spent 6 years in the RAF, married my mother in 1945 and returned to MTS, where they lived in a staff flat in Tolpits House. From 1958 to 1970, my father was Housemaster of the school boarding house, The Manor of the Rose, and my mother catered for 60 boys and managed the domestic staff.

My mother grew up in Birmingham and attended King Edward's High School and Birmingham University, where she studied French and German. She studied in France in 1940 and had to flee when the Germans invaded. She taught French at local schools including Durrants, Rickmansworth School (two weeks holiday cover, as I discovered at her funeral), Watford Girls, Northwood College and Chorleywood College for the Blind, and she was also a Governor of Northfield School. As a young mother she was involved in Watford Languages Club and in retirement she learnt Italian, gaining a Grade A GCSE, aged 70.

Our passion for education and community involvement came from both our parents. They were active within Croxley Green Residents' Association and represented them on Community Voice, a forum for monitoring and supporting Mount

Vernon Hospital. They were also involved in Copthorne Road Residents' Association and volunteered at Three Rivers Museum. My mother was on the WRVS Committee that ran Croxley House in the 70s and was a member of the British Federation of University Women and U3A.

She continued her campaigning after my father died in 1999. She encouraged Copthorne Road residents to continue to use their post box to ensure it remained, and wrote many letters on planning matters giving comments on the local development plan and opposing housing on the OMT ground and Applegarth.

From Robert Simpson of Copthorne Road:

*"We remember her local crusades for Croxley Green – in particular her doggedness in trying to establish that there was a right of way at the bottom of the garden and that it should not be ploughed up! No doubt she set the pattern for your public service!"*

From Alison Wall of Parrots Close:

*"I have fond memories of Barbara at the Residents' Association. She was a real community person who clearly loved her family and Croxley".*

Chris Lloyd, Barbara's son

## FRIENDS OF STONES ORCHARD

The inaugural meeting for the Friends of Stones Orchard, convened by resident Steve Farrell, will be held on **Wednesday 22nd May** at **7.30pm** at the Parish Council Offices

## Stones Orchard

We are fortunate to have this valuable resource within Croxley Green. Many people use it for a variety of recreational uses on a regular even daily basis. Others may drive or cycle past barely aware of its existence.

TRDC are currently drawing up a new management plan as the existing one does little more than allow for cutting of the meadow grass in the summer.

TRDC intend that the new plan will include an improved provision for the diverse flora, especially the fruit trees, as well as the surrounding hedges. It is hoped that this plan will go out for public consultation this summer.

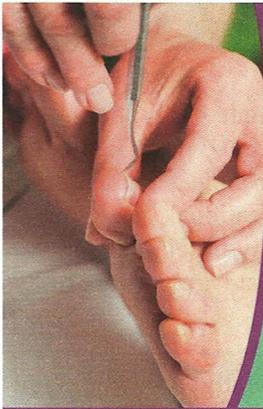


In addition, a group of enthusiastic residents have been meeting recently with a view to setting up an organisation called 'Friends of Stone's Orchard' This is at a very early stage, but the underlying vision is to maintain and improve the orchard through public donation.

This could include replacing old or diseased fruit trees, improving the biodiversity of the hedges, and signage to reflect the history of the orchard and its contents.

Leighton Dann

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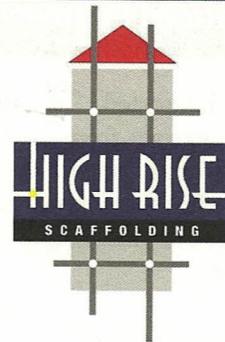
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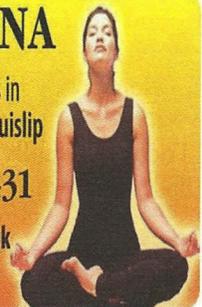
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## The Watford Pullman

I was interested to read the following extract from an article by Nick Brodrick from the Steam Railway Magazine Issue June 24 – July 21 2011. How many residents remember-

### The Watford Pullman

'Many of the panniers were confined to shunting duties during daylight hours, as engineering work tended to be tackled overnight when no passenger trains ran.

However, they did regularly ventured out on to the main line during the day not into the 'Smoke' but out into Metroland as it was dubbed by the late Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, Within these leafy suburbs was Croxley Green tip sited on the edge of Watford The panniers were much photographed on what became the 'Watford Pullman'. Formed of low-height bogie wagons, these daily freights carried refuse ash and waste, generally LT permanent way waste.

Croxley was also the destination for the remains of Neasden power station (that once backed onto the shed site there) during its demolition. The ironically named 'Pullman' weaved its way out of Neasden through Wembley Park and Harrow-on-the-Hill on its fascinating journey to Watford Met Station, where the locomotive ran round and returned the waste to Croxley tip, before returning empty to Neasden.

Today, virtually all trace of the tip has vanished.'

The Croxley tip is now Croxley's other Village Green that the Residents Association and others, fought so hard to save from the development of the proposed



London Transport depot 6 years ago. It is believed that the wreckage from a number of train crashes was also buried there.



The Keep Croxley Green Group (KCGG) who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, work to keep this area of woodland and open space for wildlife and the enjoyment of everyone. If you would like to know more contact:-

grantbmjb@gmail.com

*Photo of L90 (7760) by Peter Zabek  
Jan 11 1968 Croxley Tip  
Note John Dickinson's Mill in right  
hand corner.*

*Excerpt and photograph reproduced  
by permission of Bauer Consumer  
Media Ltd, Peterborough*

Rose Hanscomb

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