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The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Autumn/Winter 2005

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**The views expressed
in this publication are not
necessarily the views or
policy of the Parish
Council.**

COUNCILLORS:

North Ward:

Kathryn Duffy	710250
Michael Johns	231203
Tony Munroe	720141
Hazel Seeley	772696
Wendy Shafe	441396

Croxley Green Ward:

Tim Davis	772918
Mark Englefield	495234
Carol Hearn	710250
Christine Jefford (Chairman - E&A Committee)	771769
Ron Jefford	771769
Cliff Vassiliou	779927

South Ward:

David Bains	441480
Nick Bennett (Vice Chairman of Council)	773623
Mark Saxon (Chairman of Council)	772581
David Wynne-Jones (Chairman - P&D Committee)	251905
Robert Ridley	778638

Chairman's Editorial

It is with great pleasure that I am able to write this editorial as Chairman of your Parish Council. I would like to thank all the Councillors both 'old and new' for their advice and guidance since I took up this position in May.

I would like to concentrate on three things for the front page of this issue. The first being the seemingly never-ending appetite for developers to create more housing in Croxley Green. The second being the natural environment we all live in and thirdly the finances of the Council.

It would appear that housing developers are on the move again in this area concerning the application for housing in Sycamore Road, and for flats at the rear of 134 Watford Road. The enormous proposed Barrett development of Old Merchant Taylors and the selling of a factory site in Croxley South Ward all lead me to suspect that without careful scrutiny, this Parish of ours will simply become a linked settlement between Rickmansworth and Watford. We are all aware of the need for affordable housing in this area, but the above proposals appear to do nothing to alleviate the chronic shortage of decent quality, affordable housing that allows first time buyers onto the housing ladder. It is heartening however, to see local residents getting involved in the planning process, whether that is coming along to the Parish Council planning meetings or attending Three Rivers House to speak at the Development Control Committee meetings. My message to all residents is to keep a constant look out for proposed developments in your area. Get involved with such groups as the Keep Croxley Green Group or the Residents Association. Come along to the planning meetings of your Parish Council but above all don't ignore what is happening around you!

I would like to see The Parish Council get more involved with managing the natural environment that surrounds us. We are attempting to source an agreement from Three Rivers District Council that will allow our groundwork team to manage the day to day running of such places as Long Valley and Croxley Hall Woods. These areas have, for too long, been neglected and I would like to see a partnership agreement reached between us, TRDC and the Countryside Management Services. This agreement would allow our staff to work in the woods, clearing footpaths, felling dangerous trees and litter picking without having to seek permission each time. District Councillor, Brian White, will be attempting to arrange a meeting between the parties to see if such agreements can be reached. I know that the Parish Council groundwork team are eager to undertake such activities and this time of year is ideal for such work to be undertaken.

I am pleased to announce that the Parish Council accounts are, for the first time in a number of years, completely up to date. This is a tribute to the hard work and dedication put in by our Clerk, David Allison. As I write this editorial at the beginning of October, our budget discussions for year 2006-2007 are beginning and we are all well aware of the need to provide a professional, efficient and effective service that is value for your money.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us at the office if you need information or advice on any matters pertaining to the Council, or if you want, just drop in for a chat!!

Best Wishes to you all.

Mark Saxon

So who spotted the deliberate mistake!

Do you remember the article in the last Edition of the Parish Pump about the total length of all the footpaths? The article said there were 63 miles of footpaths in the Parish. In fact, the total length of the 18 footpaths is 5 miles.

One resident noticed this and phoned in to the Office. Another regular contributor to the Parish magazine, "Bess", your local 'Rover Reporter' (see letters page), also spotted it but having 4 legs, 5 miles seems like 63! This has given us the idea for a competition. In this Edition there is another deliberate mistake—can you find it?

If you do spot the deliberate mistake send your answer by post, email or simply drop in to the Parish Office with your contact details (name, address and telephone number) and those with the correct answer will go into a draw to win a framed copy of the Parish Map worth about £46. (*The competition is not open to Councillors, staff or their families!*)

Chairman's Charities for 2005

At their meeting on 30 June, the Council agreed that the charities benefiting from the Parish Council's fund raising activities during 2005 will be the Croxley Sunnyside Club and the Alzheimer's Society. The charities were selected from a list of 15 charities put forward for consideration by Councillors and staff.

The Croxley Sunnyside Club, funded out of voluntary contributions, caters for some 30 local people with disabilities. They meet regularly at the Red Cross Centre in Croxley Green. The Alzheimer's Society is the leading care and research charity for people with dementia.

The Chairman of the Council, Mark Saxon said, "I am delighted that these two very worthy groups have been chosen this year and that during the course of the year we can raise plenty of money for them."

The Parish Council has raised over £3,500 for charity over the last four years. See Page 7.

Budget 2005—Annual Review

The Parish Council's budget for this year is £197,287 gross. The Precept, the monies collected by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) through your Council Tax and given back to the Parish to deal with local matters, is £187,137. The difference, £10,150, is money generated externally by the Parish to assist in its operations. External generation of funds will become an important feature in the future.

So far this year there have been a number of projects previously agreed by your Council that have been 'sitting in the wings' for some time with no action. Grants that had

been received for works on footpaths had not seen those works progressed but now they are completed. In the Spring edition of this magazine, we reported about the delivery of the wood chipper. In this issue, on page 9, you will see the practical benefits this has brought—an environmental friendly way of dealing with all the necessary coppicing that the Parish Council undertakes to maintain The Green, the footpaths and hedges—to keep Croxley special.

The current position is:

Finance & Administration—Budget £155,717; Spent to date £95,604

Planning & Development—Budget £9,440; Spent to date £4,556

Environment & Amenity—Budget £30,130; Spent to date £5,339.

Under the terms of the lease that the Parish has with TRDC, the Offices have been externally refurbished. This refurbishment should be undertaken every 5 years externally—it should have been done twice by now, but better late than never! The Parish accounts from the financial year 2001-02 to 2004-05 are now all up to date with the most recent waiting external audit clearance.

Compostable Waste Collection (Brown Bin)

Do you know what you can/cannot put in your brown bin?

Yes please!

- Cardboard food packaging (including cereal packets)
- Brown cardboard
- Envelopes (not with plastic windows) and shredded paper. Grass cuttings.
- Toilet/kitchen roll centres and egg cartons
- All food scrapings/peelings including bones (raw and cooked)
- Tea bags and coffee grounds

- Fruit and vegetable waste
- Woody prunings (max dia3"/80mm)
- Real Christmas trees
- Straw/hay (including the bedding of small animals eg guinea pigs/hamsters)

No thank you!

- No waxed or plasticized cardboard (milk and fruit juice cartons, washing powder boxes etc)
- Telephone directories

- Cat litter and dog faeces
- Ash, soil, fabrics
- Vacuum cleaner bags and dust
- Treated wood (fence panels, painted doors/wood)
- Hardcore, bricks and stones
- Other household waste and recycling

If you have any enquiries regarding the schemes which Three Rivers District Council provide, please call on 01923 776611 or e-mail enquiries@threeivers.gov.uk.

13th Annual Garden Competition—Results

FRONT GARDENS



1st - Mr Jeffs



2nd - Mrs Bawcutt



3rd - Mr & Mrs Edwards

SMALL BACK GARDENS



1st - Mr S Chester



2nd - Mr Jeffs



3rd - Mr & Mrs Edwards

LARGE BACK GARDENS



1st - Mr Crossley



2nd - Mr & Mrs Martin



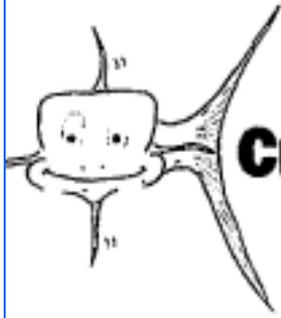
3rd - Mr Mays



Highly Commended

<p>PUBLIC HOUSE - WINNER The Artichoke</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GARDEN - WINNER Croxley Guild Bowls Club</p>
	

The prize giving evening for the Garden Competition was held on Thursday 22 September in the Council Offices. The combination of drinks, nibbles and gardeners made for a very convivial evening. All competitors were invited and enjoyed the displays of photographs of the winners gardens and others. The prizes were presented by our Chairman—Mark “One Tomato” Saxon. Our special thanks go to all our judges. **Cllr Hazel Seeley**



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Councillors in Focus—New Councillors

Since the last issue of the Parish Pump several new Councillors have joined the Parish Council. Brief details are given below:

Cllr David Bains—representing South Ward and sitting on the Planning & Development Committee

Cllr Tim Davis—representing Central Ward and sitting on the Environment & Amenity Committee

Cllr Kathryn Duffy—representing North Ward and sitting on the Planning & Development Committee

Cllr Mark Englefield—representing Central Ward and sitting on the Planning & Development Committee

Cllr Carol Hearn—representing Central Ward and sitting on the Environment & Amenity Committee

Cllr Tony Munroe—representing North Ward and sitting on the Environment & Amenity Committee

Cllr Wendy Shafe—representing North Ward and sitting on the Environment & Amenity Committee

At the time of going to press we have been advised that the final outstanding position on the Parish Council has been filled and Cllr Robert Ridley will be taking up his position on 17 November 2005.

Cllr Ridley will represent the South Ward and sit on the Environment & Amenity Committee

Revels 2005

A “revelling” time was had by all at this years Revels on the Green. In scorching hot sunshine, hundreds and hundreds of local residents turned out to join in the festivities.

The Parish Council made a return to the Revels with a stand manned by David Allison, the Parish Clerk; Sylvia Stratford his assistant; Carl Batson, the Senior Ranger and Andrew Goddard, the assistant Ranger. Parish Councillors were also on hand for residents to talk to.



Future Rangers being shown the ropes!

A popular feature of the Parish stand was the Kubota ride-on mower more commonly seen cutting the grass on the Green. But on this occasion, it was more of ‘can I have a go!’

The parish stand also featured a display and information about Croxley Green and face painting.

Equally popular was the ‘If you want to be a Ranger, try this for size!’



Even the girls had a go. Good for them!





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Chairman's Charity Challenge Trophy 2005

On Sunday 25 September, a charity walk took place to raise money for the Chairman's nominated charities for 2005. Some 72 people took part starting at the Coach and Horses public house on the Green for a gentle amble over 3.5km. Over two separate routes, teams and individuals picked their wits against a number of preset questions, the winner being the team or individual who got all the questions right. With 5 people/teams getting the maximum score, the tie break question was invoked. The Chairman's Charity Challenge Trophy of engraved glass was won by "The No Hoppers" team of Vivian and Colin Hewitt of Frankland Road so congratulations to them! Each

member of the team also received a Certificate.

In presenting the Trophy, Parish Chairman, Councillor Mark Saxon said "Everybody was a winner for taking part. Well done everyone". The event raised £295 towards the Chairman's Charity funds.



Receiving the Trophy on behalf of the 'No Hoppers' was Mim Dowghty

Chipping of Christmas Trees



At the Environment and Amenity meeting held on 6 September 2005 the committee agreed that the Parish Council would offer a Christmas tree chipping service (no artificial trees please!). Whilst we are aware that other bodies are offering this service, we thought that residents may appreciate a local service. Indeed, if you want to take some chippings back home with you (assuming we have some!) then remember to bring suitable bags or containers with you. This is a free service, but if you wish, a donation can be given to the Chairman's Charity Fund (information about the Charities is on page 2).

Chipping of Christmas trees will take place on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 January 2006, between the hours of 10am and 12 noon.

"Lights, Camera, Action!"



In May, Stones Orchard was used as the venue for shooting a commercial for a new mains powered Black and Decker strimmer.

With no electricity readily available and the nearest socket probably being the Parish office, a portable generator was used to power up the strimmer. The 4 man crew were on site for some time as they waited patiently for the sun to decide whether it was going to stay out or go in so they could get their lighting consistent for filming.

Also what a result for the Parish Chairman's charity fund raising—a donation of £200 from Hammonds AVS, the company doing the filming! Thank you!

Feature Pages

The Pest House

One of the most popular footpath walks in Croxley is the one that cuts through Green Lane across Copthorne down to the fields to the River Chess. However, if one carries on along the (unparished??) length of footpath to Chess Lane, there is a tale to tell.....



On one side of the footpath is Pest House Field and on the other is Pest House Meadow, a clear reference to the fact that a Pest or Plague house was close by. Indeed I remember the ruins of an old red brick building with a large triple Tudor chimney which was eventually pulled down in the fifties.

As a young child I remember my mother telling me that this was where they sent people to die. I decided to investigate and recently walked the footpath but no sign of the building remains.

Back in the 17th century a town or village would have had a pest house or isolation cottage to send people who had such diseases as the plague and Smallpox so as not to contaminate the community.

Money would be allocated either by the local council, church or benefactors for the upkeep of the building and its occupants. My research shows that this Pest House was probably in use during the 17th century and continued until the mid 19th century. The salient point of the building was the triple Tudor chimney shown clearly in the 1980's publication "Croxley Green as it used to be" - *picture on left*. At that time it was not known for certain that this was a picture of the Pest House, but I can now confirm that it was.

In researching this project I contacted many people and authorities, gathering snippets of information here and there, but my most valuable contact turned out to be a local lady – Mrs Esther Dorrofield. I called on Esther and explained my quest. She immediately knew of the building and explained in some detail the usage by her relatives of the building as a family home from the 1920's to the 1940's.

Much to my surprise and delight, an oil painting of the Pest House hung on the wall in Esther's dining room - *pictured below*.

The view is from the Chess side with the current footpath running behind, once again the triple chimney can be identified.

The particular interest to me of the original land use of this building is the isolating of families because of Smallpox or other contagious diseases, which did not change much over the years. Indeed, I was sent to Watford isolation hospital, all my clothes, bedding and toys were burnt. The date 1939 – The disease – Scarlet Fever. Not much had changed from 1650 till 1939!!

Although I feel satisfied that I have fully identified the building and its use, I will dig a little further to see if I can put some chronological order to the buildings construction. If anyone else has relevant information please feel free to contact David Allison, the Parish Clerk, or myself.

My particular thanks to Esther Dorrofield for her valuable assistance and to the local librarians who are always helpful.

David Neighbour



The Christmas House

An interview by Cllr Christine Jefford

I recently called to talk to Dave and Carol Edwards to discover the story behind the "Christmas House". Dave told me that the whole idea started in 1978 with the decoration of the porch, and this, like Topsy, "just grew and grew". He has no specific plan for the decorations, but certain items do have particular places. The decorations start to go up during the second week in November and this takes three weeks to complete, but only two days to take down!

In total, approximately 15,000 light bulbs are involved with the cost for electricity used being in the region of £100 which the Edwards personally pay.

Items of course need to be replaced and advantage is taken of the January sales. Dave also told me that the Christmas tree is donated annually by Webbs of Hunton Bridge.

On a more serious note, Dave mentioned that although they have not suffered any vandalism, money was taken from their collection box. The police were informed and the area regularly patrolled.



A variety of charities have been supported over the past 27 years – during which time approximately £30,000 to £35,000 has been raised for good causes. This year the nominated charities are Keech Cottage Hospice for terminally ill children and Lung Function in Children.

A number of celebrities have been invited to perform the opening ceremony of switching on the lights and in recent years this has included Brian Conley, Derek

Redmond (ex 400m Olympic Hurdler), Billy Byrne (SOS Do it Yourself) and Ian MacGaskell.

The date for the "switching on" ceremony is 23 November 2005 and will be undertaken by Paul McGann who was Dr Who a couple of years ago. Also, a children's disco is planned for 2005, commencing at 5pm prior to the lights being switched on.

Carol and Dave will be happy to see you all there that evening.

Chipping away!

After putting our chipper through its paces, we have discovered how useful the machine is.

It has already saved us countless runs to the dump thus lowering our expenditure on fuel due to fewer journeys. This has also reduced the amount of waste we, as a Parish Council, unnecessarily send to landfill sites.

The woodchip produced by the machine has proved to be a good surface for our (rural) public



footpaths. It is comfortable to walk on, firm when wet and keeps footwear reasonably mud free. We will continue surfacing the footpaths throughout this winter as we will be producing more

chippings as a by-product of our coppicing work throughout the Parish.

Carl and I are looking forward to continuing using this machine as an essential part of our equipment as it makes our jobs simpler by avoiding unnecessary man handling of brush.

It also gives us the satisfaction of knowing we are putting something back into the environment and enhancing rural walks in Croxley.

*Andrew Goddard
Assistant Ranger*

Croxley Common Moor – Cllr David Wynne-Jones

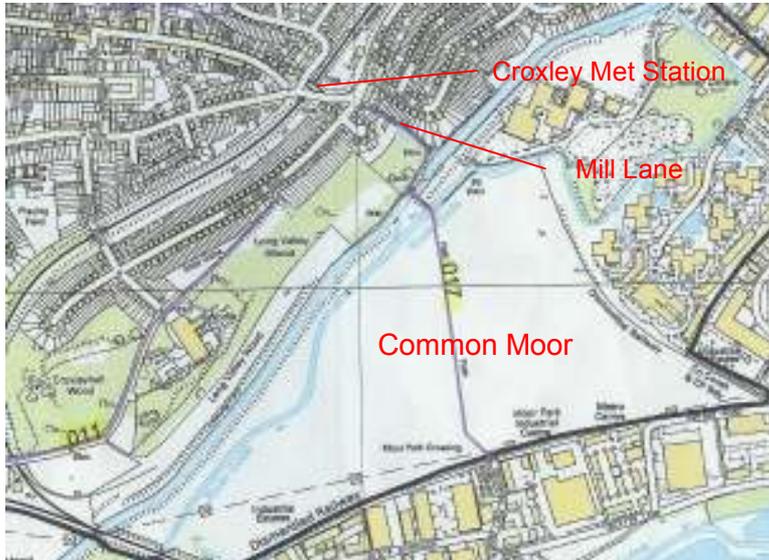
I am often surprised when walking around Croxley to find out that a large number of people don't know where our Croxley Common Moor is. Here we are in the two square miles that comprise our village and yet one of the jewels in our crown is largely unknown.

To get to Croxley Moor you cross from Croxley Metropolitan Station turning left as you emerge to the parade of shops on the other side of the A412. At the end of the parade adjoining Frankland Road you will see Mill Lane which goes downhill all the way to Lock 79 on the Grand Union Canal, keep

going and you will see the moor gate and large illustrated panel of all the wildlife you can expect to see. These include Kingfishers, Green Woodpeckers, Partridges, Muntjac and a pair of Roe Deer. In the summer months there is also a herd of cattle which is used by a local farmer to keep the one hundred

acres of meadowland well grazed.

Walking around on a hot summer's day with butterflies flitting from one meadow flower to another it is



difficult to imagine that this haven of rural bliss is only sixteen miles from Trafalgar Square as the crow flies.

The Moor is a special site of scientific interest and is managed by Three Rivers District Council and the Countryside Management Service.

There is also a dedicated group known as Friends of Croxley Common Moor who actively manage the area.

We meet at Lock 79 on the second Sunday of each month (except August). In the Autumn and Winter we are actively engaged in cutting down scrub and clearance activities. All gloves and equipment are provided although strong shoes are essential. In the summer we pull ragwort, repair fences and generally enjoy a good days exercise in the countryside and we are fully insured.

New members are always welcome; just turn up or ring 01923 251905 for information. We have a website and look forward to seeing you. Above all, on the next fine day, make a resolution to have a walk on our marvellous moor – you will be surprised and refreshed by the experience.

'Flying the Flag'

After a number of years of being on and off the Council's agenda, it was agreed at the July Council meeting that a flagpole should be



purchased. Installation at the office took place on Friday 23 September and after allowing the foundations to set properly, the St George's Cross was hoisted on Monday 26 September by the Parish Clerk, David Allison—but no bugler was there!

Three flags were selected: the St George's Cross, the Union Jack and a special Croxley Green Parish Council flag has also been commissioned. However, it will be the Parish Council flag that will normally be flying with the others used for appropriate and special occasions.

Parish Chairman, Cllr Mark Saxon, said "I'm proud that this project has come together and that the flag and associated flagpoles distinguishes our building."

Council at full strength

For the first time in a number of years, the Parish Council is at full strength and up to its maximum of 16 Members. Chairman of the Council, Cllr Mark Saxon said "This is an excellent position to be in. With new Councillors representing their Ward Parishioners, their views and opinions will greatly add to the quality and depth of discussions at meetings for the betterment of Croxley Green."

**Revels on The
Green
Saturday 17 June
2006**

POET'S Corner

ROUNDNESS—Cllr Michael Johns

There's something round and smooth
about autumn in Southern England

The bees are round the flies are fat
the conkers, acorns, pomegranates
take on a spherical appearance

Jane Porter's round, her baby's due in later
October. She spends her days trying to
work out who the father's going to be

Jack Sugden's getting rounder by the minute
he eats too much, he sleeps, too much
he drinks ten pints of larger every evening

The roundness of the August evenings
draws in bringing cool breezes
quelling passions prior to bedtime

Yet Clarence Butt stays just
as thin as ever worrying about
her husband's strange obsessions

So let there be roundness in the autumn
lean days in early spring. Nothing can change
the orderliness of nature, just yet.

The next event to look out for is
"The Best Dressed Christmas Window
Competition".

The best three windows will receive certificates
and the winner will receive a trophy which can
be kept for the year.

So please get festive!!

SOUTHWOLD—Cllr Michael Johns

The beach, strong wind
rows of little multi-coloured
beach huts. Identical but
for their colour schemes.

Yet in each hut a very different story.
In some and burden. In others
pleasure on special occasions dreams
of the past. Of chance once missed

Cockles and whelks
brought in from
sea food stalls nearby

Far better for some in Southwold
than in the South of France
no pressure here

Just sleepy summer times
with sun occasionally
Going home on Sunday.

BROKEN ENGLISH WORDS—Carl Batson

Hasta la vista baby
Le veré un día en el sol
Quizá algún día cuando se hace la cólera
Hasta pronto mi muchacha Hermosa
En algún lugar donde el agua es fresca
Quizás un día cuando yo no soy el tonto
Yo le pierdo
Y pierdo lo que podríamos haber tenido
Tan, hasta la vista baby
Hasta ese tiempo
Seguiré siendo un poco triste.
(Translation available on Page 16)

My Commute

Why is it that every time I need to be
somewhere there is never a train
running through Croxley on time?

Most mornings it is a lottery. Will my
train be on time? Will it even turn
up?

Most mornings it is a lottery; I lose.

My train only has to travel up the line
from Watford, 5 minutes max. Why
is it then the train cannot reach me
on time? Is it the Hogwarts
Express? Is it a magical train that
skips up to Glasgow before it
decides to grace me with its

presence? How hard can it be?
How hard can it be for the chap in
his kiosk in the station to tell me
where my train is? I just know he's
drinking a nice warm cup of cocoa
as I stand freezing in the rain.

Once I get on the train, do the
powers that be know that I hate
being thrown out at Harrow on the
Hill in the pouring rain, because of
the ubiquitous "signal failure"?
There is, as always, a bright side
A crawling train journey does give
me a longer time to have a good
snooze or read the latest Harry
Potter pretending it's a Dickens by
hiding it behind the Metro.

No matter how tired I am or how
many Martinis I've drunk at the client
"lunch" that day, I seem to have an
inbuilt beacon in that I wake up at
Croxley just as the doors open. I
may be in a panic (with
accompanying drool and wide eyed
stare) and I may look like I have
been dragged through a hedge
backwards, but I still make it. And
do you know what? For all the long
journey and cost, when I see the
station sign for Croxley it makes it all
worth while because I know that I
am home.

Cllr Kathryn Duffy

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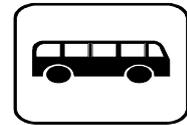
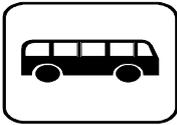
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
Return from Watford	12 noon

2ND JOURNEY

Sycamore Approach	10.00am
Valley Walk (Green)	10.01am
Valley Walk/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
Chalmers Court	10.08am
All Saints Lane Outside Church	10.10am
Return from Watford	12.30pm

3RD JOURNEY

Junction Links Way & Warwick Way	10.30am
Junction Links Way & Dover Way	10.31am
Junction Links Way & Little Green Lane	10.32am
Junction Little Green Lane & Durrants Drive	10.33am
Junction Durrants Drive & Dover Way	10.34am
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Lane Footpath	10.36am
Manor Way	10.38am
Grove Court	10.40am
Return from Watford	1.00pm



FREE SERVICE

*For the exclusive use of Senior Citizens and persons in sheltered accommodation.
You may be required to show proof of eligibility*



Girlguiding
Croxley Green District



Guiding is a game - with a purpose. It provides opportunities for girls and young women to be challenged by new adventures and experiences and achieve a sense of pride in accomplishment and teaches them to understand and learn about the world, its people and cultures.

The year 2005 has been designated Year of the Volunteer by the UK government and is a joint venture between the Home Office, CSV and Volunteering England. This is a great opportunity for Girlguiding UK to thank all current guiding volunteers and raise awareness of our need for more volunteers.

Croxley has a long history of Guiding - How many years have you seen the Brownies dancing round the Maypole at the Revels? - But we do much more and now need new volunteers to ensure that we keep our Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, units open into the future.

Interested?

Guiders or Friends of Guiding will be happy to have a chat with you or why not visit the UK website to find out more - www.girlguiding.org.uk

Your valuable time will be much appreciated by the 221 girls aged from 5yrs to 15 yrs who are currently having fun as members of Croxley Green Girlguiding.

For more information please contact - Frances Lee - 01923 442789



Residents Views & Comments

Croxley Green Parish Council is at present undertaking a survey to decide if the Residents of Croxley Green would support the idea of the building of a Swimming / Sports Complex within the Parish.

The views of the Residents are very important to whether the Parish Council looks at progressing this project.

Question:

Do you agree that Croxley Green could benefit from the above 'project' if a suitable location and funding could be found ?

If yes, what would your preference be ?

Yes

No

Swimming Pool

Sports Hall Complex

Swimming Pool & Sports Hall Complex

Other Comments

Name.....

House Number.....

Full post code

Please return your completed form to:

Croxley Green Parish Council
Council Offices, Community Way, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3SU

Alternatively, you can e-mail your views/comments to:- croxleypc@btconnect.com

A Year in the Life of the Keep Croxley Green Group

- August 2004** TRDC Development Control Committee follow Croxley Green Parish Council in unanimously agreeing to reject London Underground application to build a track replacement depot on Green Belt land – much to the delight of a meeting room crammed full of Croxley Green villagers.
- September** The Keep Croxley Green Group is formed to polarise opposition to an expected appeal.
- October** London Underground appeals to the Planning Inspectorate - there will be a Public Enquiry.
- November/
December** Members of the group gather information and evidence to counter London Underground, Metronet, their Planning Consultants, PR firms, solicitors and Barrister. The Group holds a meeting at Harvey Road School to apprise residents of the situation in the week before Christmas – it's packed out
- January 2005** A frantic month as the Group finalises its Statement of Case for the Planning Inspectorate Enquiry in respect of the multi £ million track replacement depot.
- February** No letting up in the campaign as even the National Press get involved in stories concerning the depositing of the Moorgate disaster wreckage in the Buddleia Walk site.
- March** Having previously lodged our application for Village Green status for the Buddleia Walk with County Council we cement our application with separate written declarations from over 200 households in the village.
- We learn of the 100 trees that have been felled in Croxley Hall Woods by London Underground contractors. Residents are upset. The Council "TRDC" is "outraged". Legal action is threatened and the issue receives colour photo/headline treatment from the Watford Observer – making an overnight star of one Group member.
- April** London Underground/ Metronet withdraw the appeal they lodged with the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the rejected Planning Application.
- May** Elections. All candidates claim to have helped the community in rejecting the rail depot (this includes some candidates we have never even heard from!!)
- The Group meet with the Leader of TRDC and key departmental Heads to discuss and seek clarification on issues affecting the Buddleia Walk, Croxley Hall Woods, Long Valley Wood, maintenance, illegal tipping, IMC and future development issues. The Council promise to apprise the Group of issues that will impact on the area. **TRDC respond to our point about restrictions on building new homes in Croxley by stating that there are no such restrictions or quotas in operation.*
- A major clear up of the woodland areas in south of the village is organised. David Gauke MP, Councillor Kerron Cross and members of the Parish Council are amongst 70 or so residents piling rubbish into giant skips.
- June** You may have met some members of the Group at their stall at the Croxley Revels.
- July** We are asked to assist and advise community groups in three separate instances involving 3 to 4 storey developments (flats) in South Croxley Ward.
- Outraged TRDC (protector of the environment) is told by Police that they will not be prosecuting anyone in respect of the felling of trees!
- August 2005** Even activists have holidays but then....the Group learns of that IMC have entered into an agreement with a property developer. The Group awaits information from TRDC in respect of the developer's plans for the site and adjacent woodland area.
- Events go full circle as once more we attend a Development Control committee meeting to support local opposition to aforementioned flats.
- *Council's Planning Department advise us that there has been a moratorium on certain sized dwellings being completed in Three Rivers since April!*

LETTERS



The Condition of our Local Watford General Hospital Today

Very recently I entered the above premises for an operation. While there I went to the toilet and also looked elsewhere around the area of the fifth floor, which to my delight was spotlessly clean. The floors shone, and everywhere I touched I could find no dust at all. On many walls were small orange boxes with hygiene wipes to keep hands sterile.

The entire staff who saw me through the routine of preparation from 7am, were bright and very understanding to all who attended and the Staff Nurse on duty informed us all of the procedures that we were to go through, such as meeting other members of the medical team who may be assisting in the theatre that day.

What had happened in a short period of time to have brought this change about? It was not so long ago that I had seen dirt, dust and general grime everywhere.

Common sense had prevailed at last and a Chief Executive Officer plus the famous Matron had returned. Discipline was once more established. Now we can enter this hospital without fear of picking up something we did not go in for.

My hope is that all other places for the sick will follow this example.

Thank you, I feel better after my operation and better for my stay in nice surroundings.

C W Mead



Tales from Bess

Hello to my canine friends, including any new members of the dog walking fraternity.

I think this is the year of "The Foxglove". Since the Parish Rangers coppiced the hazel hedges along the football side of the Orchard, a profusion of Foxgloves has bloomed for the first time in at least five years. The Foxglove (*Digitalis Purpurea*) is a wholly poisonous plant and is still the source of the drug digitoxin, used to

slow the heart beat. This is an ancient plant with mystic powers and was first scientifically examined in the mid 18th century.

This year has also seen a profusion of "Lords & Ladies", sometimes known as Parson in the Pulpit or Cuckoo Pint, again these have not flowered for the past 3 years. It is part of the Arum family and has bright red berried stems and traps insects for nourishment, beautiful but deadly; "like me!"

Bess Neighbour—Your Rover Reporter!

Community Bus

Just a word to say how very much the Community Bus is appreciated by us "Oldies" - also for all the help given to us by our driver and escort for the getting on and getting off!

Yours sincerely

*Patricia Moss
Valley Walk*



The free community bus dropping off passengers at the rear of Watford market.

Footpaths

After revelations in the previous Parish Pump that there were 63 miles of footpaths in Croxley, my master felt we should walk them all! I did some fast thinking and suggested that as dog years are 7 to humans 1, and with four legs and some paws, these could easily be divided into 63 and come out nearer to 6 miles, this walk I could accept. My master is still trying to work out this calculation!

Bess Neighbour

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Jo Jingles is here!



- Music, Singing, Movement for Pre-School children aged 4 months - 5 yrs
- Age-specific classes
- Children's percussion instruments
- Fun sessions with an educational slant
- Children's parties

Classes running in
 ABBOTS LANGLEY, BRICKET WOOD, WATFORD,
 and now RICKMANSWORTH/CROXLEY GREEN.

Call Alison on 01923 872730
 alaisy@jojingles.co.uk
 www.jojingles.com

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To advertise your business locally, contact the Parish Council office on 01923 710250

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174-176 NEW ROAD · CROXLEY GREEN · HERTS
TEL: 01923 710323

OIL CHANGE AND SERVICING
 CARS BOUGHT AND SOLD

Translation of poem on page 11

**Broken English Words
 (Lost in Translation!)**

See you in the distance baby
 Perhaps, somewhere in the sun
 Somewhere when the rage is done.
 See you soon my beautiful girl,
 Some place where the waters are cool,
 Perhaps, I will no longer be a fool.
 I miss you,
 I miss what we could have had.
 So, see you in the distance baby
 Until that time
 I will continue to be sad

Dates for your Diary



Christmas Charities Market 4th December 2005

10 am to 12 noon

Red Cross Centre, Barton Way, Croxley Green

Various charity stalls and Raffle

Come and enjoy the morning at our Christmas Charities Market

Refreshments Available



Croxley Green Charity Christmas Fair

Friday 9th December

at

Barton Way Car Park

6.30pm — 10 pm

Fun Fair—Stalls—Refreshments—Santa's Grotto

sponsored by

Maureen James Estate Agents

Charity collection proceeds to the Croxley Sunnyside Club
and the Alzheimer's Society—the Parish Council Chairman's nominated
charities for 2005

Stalls Welcome—Contact 07961 120972



Parish Council Meetings



Council meeting— last Thursday of each month
(except May and August)

Annual Parish meeting—second Thursday in April

Annual General meeting—second Thursday in May

Environment & Amenity meeting — first Tuesday of
each month (except May and August)

Planning & Development meeting — first and third
Wednesday of each month

Finance & Administration meeting - second Thursday
of each month (except May and August)

...we do all the chasing!

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relax and rest assured
your property is in
the very best
of hands.*



As the leading independent estate agent for the local area, our proven reputation and experience knocks the spots off the competition.

If you are thinking of moving talk to someone who listens and gets results, talk to Maureen James Associates for a Free No Obligation Valuation of your property.

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James**
ASSOCIATES
estate agents

141 New Road, Croxley Green
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3EN

www.maureenjamesassociates.com

01923 710500

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Accounts Welcome
Courier Service

FROM 14 OCTOBER 2005

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Destination	Car	5/6 Seater	7/8 Seater	15 Seat Minibus
Heathrow T1-T3	£27.00	£35.00	£45.00	£60.00
Heathrow T4	£29.00	£40.00	£50.00	£70.00
Luton	£27.00	£40.00	£45.00	£60.00
Gatwick	£59.00	£70.00	£80.00	£100.00
Stansted	£59.00	£70.00	£80.00	£100.00
City Airport	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00	£100.00
City of London	£45.00	£55.00	£60.00	£100.00
West End	£45.00	£55.00	£60.00	£100.00
Euston/Kings X/St Pancras	£40.00	£45.00	£50.00	£80.00
Paddington	£40.00	£45.00	£50.00	£80.00
Liverpool Street	£50.00	£60.00	£65.00	£80.00
Victoria	£50.00	£60.00	£65.00	£90.00
Waterloo	£50.00	£60.00	£65.00	£90.00
Milton Keynes	£45.00	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00
Chessington	£50.00	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00

Note: London prices **DO NOT INCLUDE** congestion charge

Estate car prices plus £5

Credit Car Bookings Taken Plus VAT plus £5 credit card fee

Airport pickups are plus car park fee

Switch or Debit Cards Plus VAT

Shop and Business Directory (2)— Baldwins Lane

In this edition of the Parish Magazine, the Shop and Business Directory is concentrating on Baldwins Lane. The Lane is said to be named after Margaret Baldwin whose name first appeared in the Parish Records for 1581. The family settled in South West Hertfordshire in the 15th and 16th Century and it was William Baldwin who first leased the Manor of Croxley from the Crown in 1538. The two shopping

parades, along with houses, were constructed after the Second World War.

In future editions of the Parish magazine we will focus on shops and other businesses in Croxley Green. We hope eventually to have a complete list available for publication in order that the residents of Croxley Green can see at a glance what a wide and diverse

variety we have. One of the objectives of the Parish Council is to support local businesses so a reminder to you all therefore is to **use** the shops in Croxley whenever you can.

If you are a business in Croxley and would like to be added to the directory then please call the Parish Office on 01923 710250 or contact us via e-mail at croxleypc@btconnect.com.



Husse—Home Delivery of Premium Quality Dog and Cat Food
Tel: 01923 718664



The Corner Plaice Fish & Chip Shop
Tel: 01923 897728



Forbuoys Newsagents & Post Office
Tel: 01923 775722



Roberts Greengrocers
Tel: 01923 774559



We Are Hair For You John The Barber Hairdresser (Unisex) - Barber
Tel: 01923 711478



Balfour News Newsagents/Post Office
Tel: 01923 228851

Croxley Car Centre Car Sales & Servicing "Good Looking Cars, better looking prices"
Tel: 01923 244469

Londis Grocers & Off Licence
Tel: 01923 775778

Spar Supermarket

Wilyman Chemist Pharmacy
Tel: 01923 775696



Bliss Beauty Salon
Tel: 01923 771822



Croxley Hardware Hardware, Household "Christmas decorations and gifts available now"
Tel: 01923 246907



Premier Butchers "Christmas orders being taken now"
Tel: 01923 231821



Total Look Hairdressing & Beauty "Men & Women Welcome"
Tel: 01923 222485



Roberts Greengrocers—305 Baldwins Lane

When Robert McKenary bought his greengrocery shop from James Evett sixteen years ago, there were six or seven other greengrocers in Croxley Green. Now his is the only one left. Robert sells excellent fruit and

vegetables, as well as flowers and pot plants.

As Robert or his son, Paul go to market every day, this accounts for the spanking freshness of the produce on sale. They deliver to

schools, restaurants and individual customers.

The staff – Hazel, Carol, Steve and Ken are always friendly and helpful.

Cllr H Seeley



'Keeping Croxley Special'

Telephone 01923 710250
E-mail: croxleypc@btconnect.com

