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The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Spring/Summer 2006

Inside this issue:

Parish Budget 2006—2007	2
PCSO's	3
Remembering New Road	7
All Saints Church Tower	8
Croxley Wanderers	10
Under 18's and drinking	14
Garden Competition Form	15
Meeting Dates	17
Watford Road Shopping	19

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

COUNCILLORS:

North Ward:

Kathryn Duffy	710250
(Vice Chairman of P&D Committee)	
Tony Munroe	720141
Hazel Seeley	772696
(Vice Chairman of E&A Committee)	
Wendy Shafe	441638
(vacancy)	

Croxley Green Ward:

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

South Ward:

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

Chairman's Editorial

It is with deep regret that I have to report the passing away of Councillor Michael Johns on 3 April. Michael was a respected member of the Parish Council for a number of years and will be sadly missed.

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to write to all of you directly explaining what the Parish Council is hoping to achieve during 2006/2007.

The forthcoming year will see a number of new events, activities and projects taking place within the Parish and we hope there will be something for all age ranges.

Probably the most important news is that, in the face of the ever increasing calls for 'something to be done' about the rising levels of anti-social behaviour, the Parish

negotiated agreement, we will have some input into the hours and areas within the Parish where these PCSOs will work.

As a result of this new and innovative partnership scheme, we hope it will solve many of the low level but still significant problems many of you have faced. I would expect that after recruitment and training, we should see these officers patrolling our community by June or July (see page 3 for more). Let us know what you think of the scheme to enable us to consider funding options for future years.

Following on from the success of the millennium firework display on The Green, we have decided to organise a further display to mark the coming of the New Year in 2007. This will be a free event and may mark the start of an annual display should it be well attended. More details will be published nearer the date but put a note in your diaries now for 11.45pm 31st December 2006!!

Continuing the Christmas theme (sorry), we hope to install new Christmas decorations on the lamp posts up Scots Hill. These will be in addition to the lights already installed around the Underground Station.

Other activities proposed will include a Craft Workshop day where local people can show off their skills (and sell their wares), in the hope others may be encouraged to take up a new hobby. We also hope to run basketball sessions for the youth of the area.

A competition will be also organised to design a new Village sign to replace the others that are now well over 10 years old and are showing their age. More details of this scheme will be forthcoming soon, but if you are interested in showing off your artistic skills with the possibility of getting your design erected at the entrances to



PCSO Steve Jacob. Two PCSOs soon.

Council in partnership with Hertfordshire Police has agreed to fund, for an initial two year period, the employment of a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Croxley Green. The advantage of the scheme is that by funding one PCSO, match funding is found to employ a second PCSO, again dedicated to Croxley Green. Indeed, the Parish Council have been given an assurance that, barring exceptional circumstances, these officers will be dedicated to patrolling our Parish and will not be taken off for other duties. We are also led to believe that through a

(Continued on page 2)

Budget 2006/07—Annual Budget

At their meeting on 26 January 2006, the Parish Council agreed the annual budget for 2006/07 as £238,071 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 £211,930. The difference, £26,141, is money generated externally by the Parish to assist in its operations or represents a transfer from our reserves where money was

received in 2005/06 but remained unspent at the year end.

The 2006/07 budget presents an increase of 13% from 2005/6, but this is due to the Council agreeing to fund a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). Current arrangements for PCSO funding means that in funding one PCSO you get another free! See *opposite page for further information about our PCSOs*.

A summary of the budget by the three

Committees that the Parish has is:

Finance & Administration

Budget £203,221

Planning & Development

Budget £6,450

Environment & Amenity

Budget £28,400.

The full budget detail is on display in the library on the Parish Notice Board as well as in the Parish Office.

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman's Editorial

the Parish, contact our Clerk, David Allison at the Council Office on 01923 710250 or via email to croxleypc@btconnect.com.

We continue to run the free weekly bus service for the elderly as well as provide grants for organisations such as the Welcome Club and the Scouts.

On a personal level, I would like to see more of you at our Council meetings, either taking part by asking questions or just listening to our discussions. The Councillors are all residents like yourselves and we hope that the schemes and activities we put forward are not only what we want but are also what you want.

Remember, you can contact us by phone, e-mail, or better still come into the Council Office for a chat.

Best wishes to you all.

Mark Saxon

Chairman
Croxley Green Parish Council



So who spotted the deliberate mistake!

Ms Matheson did. In the last edition of the Parish Magazine we ran a competition to see who could spot the deliberate mistake. On page 7 we had reported on the Chairman's Charity Challenge Trophy for 2005. In the article we said that 72 people took part on a gentle "amber" over 3.5km. Of course the word should have been "AMBLE". *By the way, 'Amber' is the name of Councillor Christine Jefford's dog.*

Ms Matheson's name was picked out of a hat from those who entered by Councillor Kathryn Duffy at the Parish Pump magazine Editorial Committee meeting held on 7 February.

Ms Matheson wins a framed copy of the Parish Map. Well done!

Ms Matheson collecting her winnings at the Parish Office



Something Special

by your Rover Reporter, Bess Neighbour

After the Christmas festivities I decided to take a stroll down by the River Chess. Several of my canine friends had also dragged their owners along and many pleasantries were passed.

I stood quietly for a while watching herons fishing, a little egret keeping watch and the usual moorhens scuttling about. A sudden movement by the reeds caught my eye, it was a "water rail" a very secretive and shy bird. My master, a keen bird watcher, was over the moon having

only ever seen one other in all his life. I told him to get out more!



The shy water rail

Police Community Support Officer

For the financial years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 the Parish Council has decided to fund via our precept the cost of employing a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) **DEDICATED** to Croxley Green. This funding will be matched by Hertfordshire Constabulary and meant that Croxley will have **two** PCSO's that will patrol the area on a regular and dedicated basis.

This initiative has been brought about because of the great concern raised over the increasing levels of anti-social behaviour that have affected our area over the last two to three years. This is a real step forward in local people regaining the upper hand in the fight against low level disorder, anti-social behaviour, graffiti and criminal damage.

The PCSO's will be the visible presence around our Village that significant numbers of you have been calling for a number of years. Once recruited and trained you should see them regularly in our area by June or July. They will become part of our community, so if you see them say hello and make them welcome!

The Parish Council has signed a Service Level Agreement with Hertfordshire Constabulary which details on what we can expect from them and vice versa. It is available for inspection at the Parish Council Office. The cost of this scheme for year 2006/2007 is £31,400 and for 2007/2008 £32,300.

This is a new and innovative partnership scheme between the Parish Council and Hertfordshire Constabulary and we hope you will recognise the value of these officers in ensuring Croxley Green continues to be a great place to live.

Woodland Management

As we go to press, we are delighted to say that the Parish Council has entered into a historic agreement with Three Rivers District Council. This means that our groundwork team are now responsible for the woodland management of the two sets of woods either side of All Saints Lane. Our thanks go to District Councillor Brian White for assisting in the negotiating process and to our other

Councillors on the Parish Council who voted for the scheme to be implemented. For too long our woods have been neglected and this agreement will allow us to manage the areas in accordance with the woodland management plan. This plan is available for inspection at the Parish Council office.

Indeed, if you use these woods and see either Carl or Andrew working there, they will be only too happy to let you know what they are doing.

If you don't use the woods, we would recommend you take time to visit this area to see for yourself what a wonderful and precious piece of woodland we have on our doorstep.



Best Garden Competition 2006

As hose pipes are now banned, the Parish Council had considered abandoning the annual Garden Competition. We would not want to be seen to be condoning the unnecessary use of water. However, after careful deliberation, we felt that it would be a great pity if this very popular annual event were cancelled.

As a result we have decided to hold the competition once again this year; but with water conservation very much in mind. **Every entry** in each of our categories **will have to demonstrate the means they have used to save water**. Special attention will be paid to the use of rainwater, bath water, washing up water, in fact any water that has not come directly from a tap. Additional points will be awarded to the more ingenious schemes and devices devised by gardeners to help preserve this precious resource.

If your lawn is not as green and fresh as in previous years, it could well get a higher mark than one that appears to have been watered irresponsibly.

A new category entitled 'Best Floral Container Display' has also been added to the Garden Competition to encourage those people who concentrate their efforts on 'container' gardening. Even the smallest patio or window box can boast a crop or display of vegetables or flowers.

Planter boxes, wooden barrels, tubs, window or hanging baskets and large flower pots are just some of the containers we



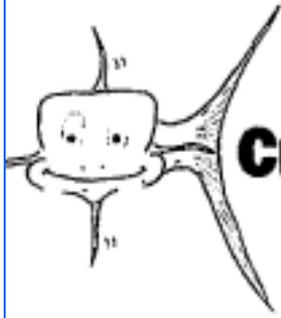
mean. The container gardener is limited only by their imagination, so we look forward to receiving applications from lots of Croxley Green's avid gardeners.

(Entry Form on page 15).

New Village Signs Competition

The Parish Council has 3 village signs at the entrances to Croxley Green. These are located on the A412 Watford Road by the bridge over the Grand Union Canal, the A412 Scots Hill and on The Green. These signs were installed over 10 years ago and are now showing distinct signs of aging. Indeed, one of the signs, the one on Scots Hill, was recently vandalised with graffiti but unfortunately we were unable to remove the graffiti without damage to the surface of the sign. This latest incident led to the Parish Council has deciding that the signs should be replaced with new ones. Local schools, residents and professional firms are being approached to come up with a suitable designs and further details of design criteria etc can be obtained from the Parish Council Office.





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A Fishy Tale

I was walking along New Road, when I was accosted by a large freshwater crayfish, it was asking for directions to the nearest water. It was in a sorry state, which was not surprising, having tried to swim up New Road! I took it down to the Parish Council office and dropped it in to the dog water bowl for some quality recovery time.



Now, I ask you, when have you come across such a strange creature in a place so obviously not its natural habitat? Had someone lost their lunch? This was not our natural crayfish, which are usually quite small (4"). However, it could have possibly been a European cousin, where they are bred for eating, but more likely it was an American species. This one did not have the stars and stripes on its back however and it was not particularly "gung ho!"

Whilst my new found friend was recovering, (although I don't think I would want to shake paws with it), my

master made enquiries for a suitable new home. Fortunately, the search did not take long as my little legs were getting tired and I really just wanted to have a snooze! But a home was found and permission given and a new life was started in a garden pond.

Your Rover Reporter, Bess Neighbour

Chairman's Charity Quiz

Hosted by our ebullient Chairman, Mark Saxon and ably supported by our quiz master, dapper David Allison, the Parish Clerk, a very enjoyable night out was had by all. The sum of £754.79 was raised for the Chairman's two chosen charities – The Sunnyside Club and the Alzheimer's Society.



All the raffle prizes were donated by various people, for which, many thanks. Everyone gave very generously. Special thanks to Christine Jefford who organised the evening and who, with her band of helpers, laid on a cold supper.

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Council Spreads Its Wings

Among the interesting raffle prizes at the very successful Chairman's Charity Quiz Evening on 11 March, was a guided trip around the House of Commons and tea on the terrace with our local MP.

The most unusual prize was the title deeds to a one acre plot on the moon which included planning permission! This was donated by Moon Estates Company which is already planning inter-planetary retirement homes for those who have everything!

Cllr Wynne-Jones

Fireworks on the Green

Christmas and New Year are a time for both family and communities to gather in festivity. Now, you may think the invitation to the New Year's Eve firework display below is a little early. But with this sort of advance notice you can put it in your diary **NOW**, to avoid disappointment!

The timetable of events is simple - assemble on the Green at 11.45pm and the display will commence at 12.00 midnight sharp and last for about 15 minutes. Due to our unpredictable British climate you are advised to wrap up warm.

You will be provided with an exciting and spectacular show so you can start the New Year off with a bang!

See you there!



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New Road “Shopping”

To me the heart of Croxley has always been “New Road” where at one time there were at least fifty thriving businesses offering a wide range of goods and services. Many of the shops have still retained their facades, while some have now become homes.

I am sure that you realise that the advent of supermarkets and the customers demand for a wide range of cheaper goods hastened the demise of local shops. However, we are lucky that in Croxley there are still local shops offering good value, especially if you take into account the cost of travelling to out of town shops.

I am going back to the 1960’s for a wander along New Road to look at the shops, but please bear in mind my memories may be different to yours. Also, some shops had dual usage and many changed hands over short periods. However, some also had a long history. So, if you’re ready, let’s take a stroll down the South side (even numbers) starting at:-

No. 22 Was Elements/Mardlings - grocers, now a domestic property

No. 48 New Road Service Station. It has a long history. In 1904/05 Jesse Gibbs, Blacksmith, 1930 Gibbs Bros, Blacksmiths, 1934/39 Gibb Bros, motor painters, then Mead Autos.

No. 54 Sketchley Cleaners, now a domestic property (possible early barbers)

No. 68 Gibsons – coal and coke merchants

No. 96 Rusgrove - cleaning services or (Jerry Saunders butcher)? – now a domestic property

No. 132/146 London Co-Operative – sold a wide range of household goods, clothing etc and also incorporated a greengrocer and butcher

No. 170 At one time Fosters dairy – now a shop

No. 174/176 Browning G H – motor repairs

No. 204 Sullivan Turf-accountants

No. 204A Plant hire

No. 206 Greengrocers

No. 216 Fox & Hounds (Bill Tyson)

No. 222/230 Now a smart row of cottages, but at one time contained a launderette, Idris Evan, Barbers, Martin’s Electrical, Gibb’s confectioners

No. 244 Suzanne - ladies hairdressers – now a dwelling

No. 276/278 Busy Bee – confectioners – tobacco, bread, cakes and sundries. Both shops have retained their frontages, one now being an estate agent, the other a security company. I wonder what 2/- worth of sundries would have been?

Starting again at the Green end (north side, odd numbers) there were a number of small builders right down to the footpath leading to the sports field.

No. 97 Alf Warns – paper bag merchant and suppliers – now domestic property

No. 113/115 both at one time were grocers and greengrocers but are now dwellings (possible fishmonger)

No. 117 Mason Joan - ladies hair stylist – now Chiropodist

No. 127 Durrant Ernest – watch maker/repairer – now Osteopath

No. 133/135 Wades (Towers Prop) newsagent, tobacco, confectioners – recently developed to dwellings

No. 141 Bryant AV – grocer originally a Joseph Dimmock sub-postmaster from 1914 onward. Changed to Bryants - grocers and post office until after the war, now a florist and estate agent.

No. 143/145 Macleans – hardware – façade still there

No. 163 Sadik - hairdresser

No. 165 Barclays Bank

No. 167/173 Budgens grocers – now Rusts

No. 175 Jackson, Gaddeson & Sons Butcher – now Croxley Meats

No. 219 Thompsons - ironmongers – now Carrs

No. 245 J W Wright/Paynes - footwear shoe retailer

No. 275 Newton/Coombes - florist



245 New Road, then and now

I fully realise that some people will have different memories of these properties and indeed memories of businesses and properties now long gone. If this is the case, please pass the information to the Parish Office for future publications.

David Neighbour

School Governors Required



Are you interested in being a Governor at Malvern Way School? Can you support, encourage and influence the Governing Body to deliver the School’s Vision, Values and Aims?

If the answer is “Yes” and you would like further information, please contact either The Chair of Governors, Mrs Emma Barker on 01923 467084 or the Headteacher, Mrs Janet English on 01923 773430.

All Saints Church Tower by Cllr David Wynne-Jones

"Now stands the clock at ten to three
And is there honey still for tea"

These evocative lines from Rupert Brooke's beautiful poem "Grantchester," just about sums up a lovely summers afternoon spent in our Stones Orchard or enjoying the beauty of our Green, or any English village green. They have a timelessness about them that sum up the typical languid, tranquil English village green in full summer.

All Saints Church is very proud that its church steeple has a clock that has chimed out over the Green every half hour for the last sixty years. Yet a couple of years ago, the whole future of our clock tower was at risk. It needed urgent re-roofing and the foundations needed expensive repairs. A fund was set up for this and gradually we made some progress.

Suddenly the situation was transformed by the discovery that

church towers throughout the country were considered, by the rapidly expanding mobile phone companies, as the perfect non-intrusive place to put their masts. All Saints Church was contacted and passed the request on to the Church of England which has lawyers dealing with all the applications. Indeed this has become an important revenue earner for churches with ever declining congregations and increasingly expensive maintenance expenditure.

Eventually, the plans for three companies to use the spire were put to the Parish Council and was agreed upon after careful study. Shortly after Three Rivers District Council also gave permission. The tower will look exactly as it does at present, but will be rebuilt where necessary and modified inside with new generation phone masts. The future of this outstanding building – the "Cathedral of Croxley Green" is now secure. As Father Luke Lee of All Saints Church

said, "the church spire is one of the landmarks of Croxley Green. It has been there for communication for a long time." None of the mobile phone mast will be visible however, so as to destroy the beauty of the church.



La Belle France

The first time I went abroad was the first time I ever tasted omelette or garlic. It was in August 1948, a couple of years after World War II ended.

We came off the ferry at Calais, with me riding pillion on a Vincent HRD 1000cc motor bike, which was overwhelming enough! The admiring glances from various

French men were directed at the Vincent HRD, sadly not at me. As this was to be the pattern of our journey in every town and village we visited, I came to terms with it!

We stopped at a road side café about 100 miles along the road for lunch. Lunch? You couldn't possibly have called it lunch – just heavenly. Bear in mind that eggs were still in very short supply back home and coffee was a brown liquid in a bottle, called Camp coffee. We ordered omelette and chips and this large, golden six egg creation arrived, with just a touch



The admiring glances.....

of garlic (never tasted before), chips and a salad. Coffee served afterwards nearly took the enamel off my teeth!

This first introduction to new food set the tone for the next two weeks. We travelled south then on to Nice, back over the Alps to Grenoble and eventually Calais. Along the way I think I tasted every variety of omelette with a few steaks here and there – again, food I had never tasted!

Cllr Hazel Seeley

Café Culture Arrives

Enjoying the Mediterranean climate of Croxley has just got better with the opening of a new up-market café for Croxley Green. **Café Amici**, on the corner of Baldwins Lane and Winton Drive, fuses together the delights of a fantastic range of coffees and other drinks with the mouth-watering delights of delicious cakes and spectacular snacks.

The owners of the Café have obviously invested a great deal of time, money and energy in bringing to Croxley a new venture that should be sampled by all.

My favourite was the Americano coffee and this taken outside in the recent warm Spring sun, where seats and tables are provided, enabled me to wile away half an hour or so doing nothing more relaxing than 'people watching'.

We are blessed with a great range of individual shops in Croxley Green so remember to use them whenever you can.

Cllr Kathryn Duffy

The Drought of 2006

Having had one of the driest winters in a long time it is not surprising to hear we are having a hose pipe ban. In 2006 we already have less water than in the "long, hot summer" of 1976. We also have an increased demand for water due to a higher population and expanding development.

The River Chess and the Gade are running extremely low, in fact the lowest I have ever seen them.

There are now several sandbars protruding from the surface of the River Chess that in previous years were always submerged with a good 15cm of water above them. The Chess is spring fed so this lack of water shows how low the water table actually is.

Usually whilst walking along the Chess, Chub and Trout can be spotted lurking around overhanging trees. In recent months, I have failed to spot one fish and assume they have migrated downstream in search of deeper water. Hopefully these fish will return if the depth goes back to its normal level.

We can all help to save water in the garden by using mulches. These act as a barrier to prevent water loss from the soil. Suitable materials include composted wood chippings and tree bark, dried grass cuttings, leaf mould, straw, black polythene and geotextile membranes. Mulches also have the added benefit of reducing weeds which compete for water with your plants.



Soil rich in organic matter can hold far more moisture than poor soils, so by adding compost and manure to the soil we can increase its ability to hold water. Water retaining granules can also be added to compost in

containers and bags of compost can also be bought with water retaining gel added to them.

Another idea to help save water is to save rain water from the roofs of houses, greenhouses and sheds. This can be stored in water butts or other suitable containers and used around plants or to top up ponds or water features.

Watering plants thoroughly ensures moisture is also available deep in the soil. If plants are watered little and often the water stays in the surface levels of the soil and evaporates quickly without reaching the roots of the plant.

By not cutting lawns as short as normal the moisture below them will evaporate more slowly due to the increased shade given by longer grass. This in turn will keep your lawn greener for longer.

By using these methods we can avoid wasting water unnecessarily in the garden and do our bit to reduce the risk of drought in the future.

Andrew Goddard, Ranger

A new website for walkers in Hertfordshire

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day. Studies show that walking can:

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- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol and improve blood lipid profile
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being

So, how do you find out what is on offer? www.walkinginherts.co.uk.

This gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County.

Guided walks: eighty walks detailed every month. The website tells you how long the walk is, which group is running it, when and where it starts and a contact number in case of questions.

Books of walks: There are more than twenty books of walks for the County. All the details are here.

Leaflets of walks: More than eighty leaflets are produced around the County, many of them difficult to find. Not any more! The web site lists them all.

Walking groups: Every walking group in the County is listed (more than 35 of them!).

There are also links so that you can check such as the weather for your walk, links to other useful sites, how to get to your walk by public transport and so on. So check out the website and get walking!



Ainsworth Farm Cattery
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Croxley Wanderers Football Club

The first seeds of the idea for a Junior Football Club came in 1947. To some degree it was a follow on from the Youth Fellowship Club that the Reverend Raymond Wilkinson established at All Saints Church in the early 1940s, when he was curate.

Following the end of the war Wilkinson became the Vicar of St Oswalds, but the success of those early years did not travel with him. The duties of the Church had to come first and also the young people at All Saints were that bit older and had other interests to indulge. For a while he considered the Church Lads Brigade as a means of fostering comradeship and it was at this time he solicited my aid to help with the formation of a unit. This really was not for me, marching and barking orders were not my cup of tea and the venture never really took off. It was at this time I conceived the idea of the Football Club and he gave it his blessing and told me to get on with it. I think it is fair to say that by word of mouth and no other means, the nucleus of Croxley Wanderers came into being.

The early recollection I have at this time was playing on the Barton Way ground, our home ground, and hiring a coach to take two teams to play a



friendly fixture at the Cadbury sports complex, Bournville, Birmingham. That was something on a scale ordinary people only dreamt about. Acres and acres of Football, Rugby, and Hockey pitches. It was nice to know that the profits from eating all that chocolate was put to such a good cause! The under sixteen side were victorious that day, I cannot remember how the older boys fared. We were treated to a meal in a huge clubhouse after the games, along

with many other teams that were playing there that day. Although the weather was not very good, cold, damp, and foggy, everyone had a good old singsong coming home.

It was truly amazing how interest in the club quickly grew, particularly among the various fathers and they gave me terrific support. This was most welcome as we were now fielding three teams every week. As I type this article I have in front of me a photograph of the members for the season 47/48 and among the adults I see are Mr Good, Mr Paver, and three others, whose names I regret elude me at the moment.



One person that is not there but did so much for the boys was Mr Taylor. A great asset at that time was Mr Paver, he worked for the NAAFI in London and was able to purchase the proper shirts with which to kit the teams.

Funds to run the Club were raised by the selling of pontoon tickets on a weekly basis and this was carried out by almost every man and boy.

As we were competing in what was then classed as a senior organisation, The Great Western Combination with exalted names such as Slough, Amersham etc we were expected to provide bathing facilities at Barton Way. This work was carried out by Leon Good and helpers, assisted by the blind eye of the Recreation keeper! This saved us the horrors of going through Rickmansworth Council for permission to carry out the work that could have taken

months to comply with as there were many regulations in force at that time. We also had to provide a meal for the visitors and this was done via a small cafe on Watford Road.

Because of the higher class of football we were competing in we attracted other lads from outside the village. We did however keep this to a minimum as it was essentially a local club. If my memory serves me correctly, as an example of the quality of some of those players, Jim Pettit went to St Albans City, Leon Good went to a South London Club, Falconer went for trials at Aston Villa, but the saddest thing of all was young

Puddephat who went to Arsenal, but was killed soon afterwards in what I believe was a motor cycle accident. If I am wrong with any of these details, or some that I have missed please put it down to old age - 60 years is a long time ago!

From the photograph the names of those that I recognise are the Taylor twins, the Pettit Bros, young Walton, Russell Tizzard, Charlie Dutton, the McBride boys, Dave Ballard, Ken Newman, Derek Drury, Stan Chamberlain, etc.. I must apologise to those not mentioned.

Having started this journey through time I find many memories coming back. But I shall log off now and thank all those old gentlemen today, who were boys 60 years ago for the wonderful memories that I have today.

Bill Roberts

Christmas Revisited!



The Christmas House

Now that the decorations are long taken down and packed away for another year, Dave and Carol Edwards have reported that the final figure raised for Christmas 2005 was £2,700. The money collected goes to:

£1,000 - Herts and Bedford Keech Cottage Hospice for terminally ill children.

£1,000 - Lung Function Research for Young Children (based at Great Ormond Street Hospital).

£700 - Paul McGann (who performed the opening ceremony of switching on the Christmas lights last year) for a charity of his choice in Bristol.

Dave and Carol would like to thank everyone for their generous support and also for the personal Christmas cards they had received. They would also like to thank Mike's Discos for entertaining the children on the "switch on" night, also Julie and

Vanessa for their balloons. On a final note, Dave and Carol are looking forward to seeing you all again at The Christmas House later this year.

The Welcome Club

The annual Christmas dinner for the members of the Welcome Club was a bit late this year, The Welcome Club, which is run by volunteers to provide social activities for our senior citizens, was short of money to pay for the dinner, but help was at hand from the



Parish Council. With a grant of £250 the Christmas dinner became the New Year dinner and was really enjoyed by those who attended.

Parish Council lights up Watford Road

Once again the Parish Council had a display of Christmas light decorations on the lamp posts in Watford Road near to the Red House Public House. Some 11 new styles were selected and were very well received.



Subject to successful negotiations with the Highways Department, extra Christmas decorations are planned for Scots Hill in 2006.

And finally!

The Croxley Mummers were out again with a vengeance. The play tells the story of the hero, St George, who is at first killed by the Dragon, but is revived by the Doctor. He then goes on to kill the Dragon, the Turkish Knight and finally the Giant. His reward? The hand of the King of Egypt's daughter! I wonder whether the Chairman's wife knows!!



And what's this? Do I spot the Council Chairman with a crown and some other Councillors?

Jurassic Park?

No, it's not dead! It's not the Christmas tree that lost all of its needles. It's Metasequoia Glyptostrobooides more commonly called The Dawn Redwood. Yes, Croxley Green can boast of some plant life going back to Jurassic times. The Dawn Redwood, which is a relative of the Great Redwood trees that you see with roads running through their trunks, was thought to have been extinct for over 5 million years but was found in the remote Chinese village of



Szechuan in 1941. Although it is not an uncommon sight in parks and gardens throughout the UK now, in nature the Dawn Redwood is classified by the World Conservation Union as 'critically endangered.'

This specimen of the conifer, that drops its needles, lives outside the Parish Council office and is expected to reach some 75 ft to 100 ft high—in time. During the summer it looks like a conifer with its ½" linear green flat leaves but in autumn they turn a reddish bronze colour before they drop off.

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE – EVERY FRIDAY

1ST JOURNEY

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
New Road	10.12am
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	1.15pm



FREE SERVICE

For the exclusive use of Senior Citizens and persons in sheltered accommodation.

'Water' from heaven! New Community Hall Community Bus and....

In conjunction with the Parish Council, the Barton Way Allotment Association have installed rain water storage tanks. Three tanks, each holding about 700 litres each (150gallons), were purchased and installed by the Allotment Association. The Parish Council then arranged to have the guttering pipes from the Council's Depot, which is situated adjacent to the allotments, re-routed so the rain water can be collected into the tanks.

The tanks are already full and will provide a valuable free (*sic*) source of water to keep the plants and vegetables happy.



Well, actually not new, it's been there for some time, but there's now a new use for Watersmeet in Rickmansworth. Did you know that Watersmeet is now being run as a Community Hall and is available for you to hire. No? You do now!



And why are we mentioning this? Because the Parish Council does not have or run a community hall under its control, some of the Council Tax that Croxley Green residents are paying is going towards running Watersmeet. Further information is available from Alison Cook on 01923 727391 or you can email her at: watersmeet@threerivers.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of Hanover Court and Cherwell Close residents, I thank you for the provision of the Friday Community bus. It is very much appreciated by all.

I also thank you for supplying the dog bins and bags.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Walker



Remembering our friends

Michael Johns

It is with much regret that we have to report that Parish Councillor Michael Johns died on Monday 3 April. Our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife, family and friends.

The Parish Council gave a £100 donation to the British Red Cross.

Mr Ernest Ford

I feel sure that many families with long connections with Croxley Green and Harvey Road School in particular, will be saddened to learn of the death of Mr Ernest Ford, who was Headmaster from 1952 until 1975. He also taught at Little Green School and was a prominent member of the Fuller Hall community. He was a committed Christian whose faith controlled his life and played a very significant part in his roles of teacher and Headmaster.

He was a gentleman who was respected by everyone connected with the schools, especially the

children, for some of whom he remained a friend and mentor for many years. I truly believe that he was responsible for sowing the seeds of Harvey Road's current success and popularity and I was indeed both proud and privileged to have worked with him and then followed in his footsteps as Head. Sadly, his health deteriorated over the past few years, despite the best attentions of his daughters and their families, and he died peacefully, in early January, at the ripe old age of 90.

Alan Nicholson

Miss Mildred Green

Those families who remembered the late Mr Ford will doubtless be equally saddened to learn of the recent death of Miss Mildred Green, the former Deputy Head, who gave 29 years of excellent and devoted service to the school. Although she was a native of Sudbury in Suffolk, for whom she played hockey at county level in her youth, she made her home in Croxley where she began teaching at Harvey

Road in 1951 and chose to stay here following her well-deserved retirement in 1980.

Past pupils will, I feel sure, remember her with genuine affection for her considerable contribution to their lives. She was an inspirational teacher who was respected by everyone for her dedication to her pupils, her school and her profession. Few former pupils will forget her energetic coaching of generations of netball teams, who had many years of unbeaten success on home ground.

Some years ago now Miss Green decided to leave her home in Rugby Way and take up residence in Croxley House, where she played a significant part in the life of the home. Sadly, in mid-February while in her late eighties, she suffered a stroke which led to complications that eventually caused her death.

*Alan Nicholson
(Head of Harvey Road School
1975-1997)*

Sunnyside Club

On behalf of the Sunnyside Club I would like to express our grateful thanks to the Parish Council for being chosen as one of the Chairman's nominated charities.

The club has a membership of some 30 people with physical and learning disabilities. We have been established for over 30 years and some of our original members still attend regularly! We meet at 8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at The Red Cross Centre in Barton Way. Our evenings are always very well attended but we have a very willing band of voluntary helpers and any local residents with a disability would be made most welcome.

Our activities include indoor bowls, craft evenings, domino drives, scrabble, etc.. We also have regular visiting entertainers including the 'Chanticleers' singers and the Saracens Ladies Rugby team. In the summer we have a picnic and some level walks which help to

accommodate our wheelchair-bound members. The highlight of our year, however, is our annual summer outing when we hire a coach and take the entire club for a day out, usually to the coast, but we have also visited Whipsnade Zoo and the Cotswolds.

We are funded solely by voluntary contributions, our main source of income for the year being our barbeque stall at The Revels - so if you are on The Green on 17th June please do visit us and sample our locally produced cuisine!

Bob Parnell

Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition

The winners of the 2005 Competition was Total Look in Baldwins Lane. Seen here with Cllr Christine Jefford (on the left) are Lisa Young (centre) and Jennifer Little (right) receiving the shield they will keep for a year.

Congratulations.

DON'T FORGET!
Need to contact the Police?
0845 33 00 222
 In an emergency always dial 999
 An emergency is when:

- There is a risk of injury to someone or a risk of serious damage to property;
- You suspect a crime is *in progress*;
- There is a serious incident which needs immediate police attendance.



Under 18s and Drinking in Croxley Green

The new Licensing Act took effect from November 2005 and firmly places the licensing decision making process with elected Councillors who form the Licensing Committee. A big community benefit brought about by the Act is that anybody who is affected by a Pub or Off-licence can very simply ask the Licensing Committee to review the way each premises is being run and change the licence to reduce or get rid of any problems.



Keeping control of underage drinking in Croxley is like trying to stop a leaky dam – plug one hole and another appears. That is why it is difficult to make the problem go away.

Parents in particular need to understand just how determined and resourceful their children can be in finding ways of obtaining alcohol.

Understandably, there is growing concern in Croxley about the damage, assaults, noise and anti-social behaviour of the few, and it is clear that there are parents who can smell the drink on their children when they get home, but do not care about the damage they are doing to themselves or to everybody else in Croxley, in some case even supplying the drink! It is with those parents that the most complete answer to our problem will rest. Those parents should not be surprised to be summoned to the hospital or Police Station to assume rightful responsibility for any damage or to collect children one night very soon.

The most obvious places that kids get drink are the supermarkets and corner shops. Of course Police are

aware of the shops with the reputations and are keeping a close eye on them, frequently visiting them and ensuring they know the penalties they face if caught. This is a fine of up to £5,000 and the likelihood of losing their liquor licence. Where there is some suspicion that sales to under 18s take place, test purchasing by Trading Standards and Police takes place, leading to prosecution of the shopkeeper and/or restriction or removal of the liquor licence for the store.

This puts the shop owners in a very perilous situation, one they are aware of and which will severely affect their business and one which they do their best to avoid.

Out on the streets Police and PCSOs regularly confiscate alcohol from children – hundreds of pounds worth per month. It is astounding how much money they are prepared to spend and risk being taken from them in their quest to get drunk. Children who illegally buy alcohol risk a fine of up to £1,000!

It is the over 18s who buy for the under 18s that contribute most to the problem. However, it is difficult for shopkeepers to detect and prevent and likewise it is difficult for Police and PCSOs to deal with. When identified, people who buy for the under aged are prosecuted and also face a £5,000 fine.

People who live in Croxley have the power to solve the problem of underage drinking by contacting the Police or Three Rivers Council if:

- Alcohol is being given by an adult to a young person.
- Children are coming out of a shop with alcohol.
- You are approached by children to buy alcohol for you.

Children are drinking in a pub.

Any resident of Croxley Green who is adversely affected by any licensed premises, pub, off-licence or supermarket, can make use of the new Licensing Act. Indeed they can

simply ask for the licence to be reviewed so that the problem can be resolved.

If any of these issues cause you problems, or if you are unhappy with the way a licensed premises is run, please contact me;

Ian Sizer, Licensing Officer on 01923 472621,
ian.sizer@herts.pnn.police.uk
or

PC Stephen Cooke on 01923 472112,
Stephen.cooke@herts.pnn.police.uk
or

Police Community Support Officer
Steven Jacob on 01923 472112,
steven.jacob@herts.pnn.police.uk

Control Test proves cocaine test kit works

The Parish Council has been helping the Watford Observer in testing out Home Office approved kits used to detect cocaine. Emily Hassall, a Watford Observer reporter, had been undertaking random tests in Watford pubs and clubs using the test kit and was finding an alarming positive test for cocaine all the time.

So was she actually finding traces of cocaine all the time or were the test kits not working? As a control measure, Emily asked whether she could use the testing kit at the Parish Council offices - as far an extreme to Watford's pubs and clubs as you could get! The test proved negative - no sign of cocaine.

Emily's worrying findings about the pubs and clubs in Watford were published in the Watford Observer on 31 March.

The Parish Council were very pleased to have been able to help, as a scientific control test, in checking that the cocaine test kits actually work.

Let's just hope that the testing kits can be used in a constructive way to 'reduce the abuse.'

“You Can’t be Serious”...

The Croxley Hunt

Dear Parish Council,

Whilst researching the history of hunting in Hertfordshire, I came across an article from 1897 that indicated Croxley Green was the centre of what was the Watford-Crockslee Hunt.

According to the article, the hounds of the Duke of Baldwin were used to flush out game and other animals on the area south of New Road, now covered by Dickinson Square, Watford Road, Gonville Avenue, Frankland Road, Harvey Road etc and stretched all the way to what is now Tolpits Lane.

I was wondering therefore, if the Council would consider resurrecting this ancient practice using modern methods of drag hunting. The Watford-Crockslee pack has long since vanished but I am sure that there are many owners of domestic dogs and horses who would be only too happy to exercise their animals in this way.

Perhaps if you invited interested owners to send in pictures of their pets in ‘hunting or running pose’ and also contacted the owners of any local stables, interest may be forthcoming and a suitable pack formed. Similarly one of your Councillors may wish to get involved as again, I understand the Duke of Baldwin used to get one of his tenanted farmers to dress up as a fox to assist the hounds in searching for their quarry!

In this day and age, I believe it is vitally important to preserve the traditions of our great Country, of Hertfordshire and of our Village in order that the younger generation can be once again proud of our sense of fair play, stiff upper lip and tea at three etc etc.

Yours most respectfully

*Brigadier Arthur Bonkers-Stoatstrangler
(Retired)
Pumper Cottage
The Green
Croxley Green*

Proposal: Croxley to Become an Independent Postal Area

Dear Residents of Croxley Green,

We at the Office of the Deputy Minister have been informed by the postal regulator ‘Ofmail’ that due to the massive increase in housing within the WD3 postal code area, the Post Office are now running out of appropriate postcodes.

Through the auspices of the Parish Pump and the Parish Council, we are asking the residents of Croxley Green if they would accept a proposed change to their postcodes from WD3 XXX to CG1 XXX.

For this change to proceed we require notification to reach us by 31st June 2006. Please write to me at the above address before that date giving me your reaction to this proposal.

Ivan Tufhart
Dr Ivan Tu-Phart

CROXLEY GREEN GARDEN COMPETITION 2006 ENTRY FORM



Mr/Mrs/Miss	_____	First Name	_____
Surname	_____		
Company (if applicable)	_____		
Address	_____		
	_____	Post Code	_____
Telephone No	_____	Signature	_____

Categories – Please tick where appropriate

<u>HOUSEHOLD SECTION</u>	OR	<u>BEST FLORAL DISPLAY FRONTING PUBLIC HIGHWAY</u>
Front Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public House <input type="checkbox"/>
Small Back Garden (less than 60' x 30')	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Gardens <input type="checkbox"/>
Large Back Garden (more than 60' x 30')	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Best Floral Container Display	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Completed entry forms to be returned no later than 10th July 2006
Croxley Green Parish Council, Community Way, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3SU

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07843 378603

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Dates for your Diary

Croxley Common Moor

Sunday 14 May - Ragwort pulling
 Wednesday 17 May - RSPB Bird Walk
 Sunday 11 June - Ragwort pulling
 Sunday 9 July - Butterfly and Insect wander

All start at 10am, meet at the bottom of Mill Lane by Lock 79

Croxley Green Revels

Saturday 17 June 2006

Craft Workshop Day

Sunday 1 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm at Little Green School. If you are a keen 'crafter' and would like to demonstrate your skills, please phone the Parish Council Offices for more information to book a stall.

New Years Eve Fireworks on the Green

Sunday 31 December, 11.45pm



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)

Wilyman's The Chemist

Greg has owned the chemists in Baldwins Lane known as Wilyman's for the last 12 years. A very pleasant young man, he is following a family tradition, as his father was also a pharmacist. He has a staff of four – Patsy, Barbara, Joan and Lisa and nothing is too much trouble for them.

Greg has instigated a free delivery service for his elderly and housebound customers, also a free prescription collection service from either of the doctors' surgeries.

The stock in his shop is very impressive and if he hasn't got the item you want, he will do his very best to obtain it for you.

Cllr H Seeley

Chairman's Charity Walk

After a fine and sunny start to the week, Sunday April 9 proved to be a grey day.

However, this did not dampen the spirits of the participants of the 2nd Chairman's Charity Walk, in aid of The Sunnyside Club and the Alzheimer's Society.

As with the previous walk, Croxley Green residents took part in a gentle 2 mile amble around Croxley, beginning and ending at Stones Orchard answering some questions along the way.

Forty six people and numerous dogs took part, and the winning team was Pauline Clapham and Eve Santler. Their prize? An engraved glass

trophy presented by the Council's Chairman, Mark Saxon.

It was an enjoyable day and £260 was raised for the Chairman's Charities. *Cllr Kathryn Duffy*



Pauline (on right) & Eve receiving the engraved glass trophy from Chairman, Mark Saxon

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Shop and Business Directory (3)— Watford Road

In this edition of the Parish Magazine, the Shop and Business Directory is concentrating on Watford Road. The road was listed as Croxley Green Road in 1898 but once formed part of the Hatfield to Reading Trust turnpike road. The road and shops came into their own following the arrival of the Metropolitan Railway in 1925.

In future editions of the Parish Magazine we will focus on other 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.

Argyll Glass

Glass Merchants and Glaziers
Mirrors/Picture framing
Tel: 01923 226567
E-mail: argyll.glass@virgin.net

D & J Brower

Registered Opticians
Tel: 01923 779595
E-mail: opticians@brower.co.uk

Chartwell Dental Clinic

Tel: 01923 244133

Croxley Plumbing & Heating Supplies

Tel: 01923 229857

Darosi Kitchens and Bathrooms

Tel: 01923 896020
E-mail: dave@darosi.co.uk

Extreme Lengths (Head Talk)

Hairdressing—Hair Extensions
Tel: 01923 442277

Jewson Limited

Builders Merchants
Tel: 01923 252222

Scorpio

Hairdressing Supplies
Tel: 01923 212552

The Sign Shop

Tel: 07974 753368

The Tanning Shop

Tel: 01923 896000

The Barber Shop

Men's Hairdressers
190 Watford Road

C B Autos

Servicing & Mechanical Repairs
Tel: 01923 236488

Croxley Café

Tel: 01923 770046

Croxley Sports

Sports wear
Tel: 01923 245598

Dilip Patel Newsagent

Tel: 01923 221705

Farmhouse Pizza

Tel: 01923 211733

Moor Models

Model Shop
Tel: 01923 896129

Shamma Dry Cleaners

200 Watford Road
E-mail: shammadc@aol.com

Standard Tandori

Tel 01923 241538/240031

Your Move

Estate Agents
Tel: 01923 774734
E-mail: croxleygreen@your-move.co.uk

Blockbuster

DVD and Games Rental & Retail
Tel: 01923 250125

Central Tool Hire Limited

Tel: 01923 711192
E-mail: centraltoolhire@aol.com

Croxley Dental Clinic

Tel: 01923 775135

Croxley Tandori

Bangladeshi & Indian Take Away
Tel: 01923 223547/223529

Eagle Taxis

Tel: 01923 771111
E-mail: eaglecarscroxley@btconnect.com

Global Newsagent & Post Office

Tel: 01923 333712/772512

V W Penney

Carpets & Furniture
Tel: 01923 774904

Shell Garage

Tel: 01923 800930

Style Shop

Hair, Beauty & Nail Salon
Tel: 01923 776657

Bed & Breakfast
Tel: 01923 226666



Editorial Committee:

Chairman
David Allison (Clerk)

Cllr Kathryn Duffy
Cllr Wendy Shafe
Cllr Hazel Seeley
Sylvia Stratford (PA)
Cllr Cliff Vassiliou

The Committee would like to thank Leigh Duffy for her assistance with proof reading.



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