



# SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

[www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Our Newsletter is delivered twice a year to all Seer Green households. We also regularly post information on our Notice Board opposite the Old Post Office and on our website.

## SEER GREEN REMEMBERS

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the village gathered together on Remembrance Sunday for a service and act of remembrance to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1.



As part of this, local residents Ian and Kathleen Hawes created a poignant visual display of 16 wooden soldiers (one for each person from Seer Green killed in the First World War) and knitted red poppies.



We are grateful to Timberstore for donating the wood and Yaldens for donating the black paint for these soldiers.



16 metal poppies were also installed near the War Memorial and a commemorative book was funded as a tribute from Chiltern District Council.

Hundreds attended the service in Jubilee Hall, with many more joining at the War Memorial for the 11 o'clock silence. Wreaths were laid on behalf of groups and organisations associated with Seer Green.

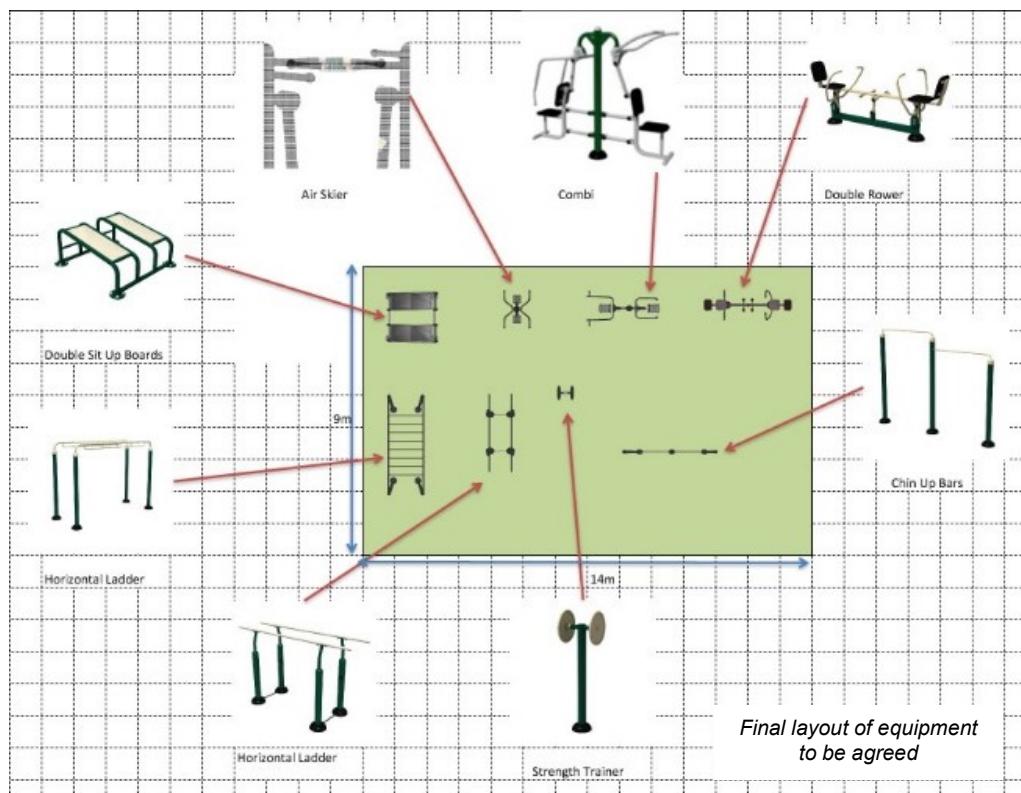


*Ian and Kathleen Hawes pictured with Councillors Carole Hughes and Janna Holder installing the soldiers and poppies.*

# IN THE NEW YEAR SEER GREEN WILL HIT THE GROUND RUNNING.....

...with the installation at The Rec of an outdoor gym designed to promote fitness whilst having fun. It also provides an opportunity to re-energise one of the village's open spaces following the loss of our cricket team several years ago.

Following research and site visits by Jane Smith and Philip Newton, Fresh Air Fitness was identified as representing the best quality and value for money, and a selection of various pieces of equipment was made with the aim of providing a coordinated 'training circuit' for which full instructions on use will be available.



Seer Green Parish Council are most grateful to the Seer Green Community Trust, the Bucks County Council Local Area Forum and the Seer Green Gardeners who have provided the additional funding to make this project possible.

We are hoping that this exciting new facility will be enjoyed and well used by Seer Green residents both young and old.

## SEER GREEN RETAIL SHOP AND POST OFFICE

It is with great sadness and disappointment that we have to inform Seer Green residents that our efforts to save the retail shop and Post Office have not borne fruit.

Our application to have the property listed as an Asset of Community Value was rejected by Chiltern District Council and the owner's submission of a 'Prior Approval' application was passed, meaning that the property can now be turned into a single residence.

It is a matter of concern to Seer Green Parish Council that 'Prior Approval' was relied upon to achieve the conversion, as this has now set a precedent for future applications involving conversion of small commercial premises to residential use to employ this legislation to gain approval without the need to pursue the normal planning process, which sets a much higher bar. SGPC understands that there have been other such Prior Approval applications in neighbouring villages, resulting in the loss of many of the vitally important small shops that are the very 'life blood' of the future of rural communities.

Accordingly, we intend to work towards bringing this anomaly, which threatens the very fabric of small villages all over the United Kingdom, to the attention of James Brokenshire, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. At the same time we will continue to explore alternatives with The Post Office Limited to try to find a solution that will offer resumed postal services to our residents, albeit possibly limited ones.

## PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARD

For the last seven years the Parish Council has presented the Seer Green Community Award to recognise the person judged by the Chairman, currently Mandy Thomas, as having made a significant contribution to the village community.



We received some wonderful nominations this year and the decision was very difficult. However 13 people nominated one very deserving winner. So this year's award goes to Monica Sado.

*Monica was nominated for - "30 years outstanding service promoting community spirit. Helped then ran (20++ years) 8 o'clock club meetings and outings, Brownie assistant, new residents welcome packs, focal point for receiving then actively distributing information, Church Choir, organising village holiday, supporting many initiatives, e.g. running a stall at the Church fete, supporting individuals etc."*

Our thanks and congratulations to Monica

## ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Sadly there has been a spate of antisocial behaviour around the village, with underage drinking, drug taking and littering at the Recreation Ground, Green Meadow and Green Wood. The last week in October was a particularly disturbing week, with a significant amount of small nitrous oxide canisters (as seen in photo opposite) found around the village. A number of pumpkins were stolen from outside houses and smashed, which was upsetting for many local families.



## ONE NEW COUNCIL IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

On The 2<sup>nd</sup> November the government confirmed that "A brand new county-wide unitary council will be established in Buckinghamshire."

*The announcement was made by Secretary of State James Brokenshire:* "I am today announcing that I have decided to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, the locally-led proposal to replace the existing five councils across Buckinghamshire – the two tier structure of Buckinghamshire County Council and the district councils of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe – by one new single unitary district council, and that I have decided not to implement the proposal for two new unitary councils."

The proposed date for the new council is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, however this may be delayed if it is taken to a judicial review. View the Secretary of State's full statement at: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-11-01/HCWS1058/>

# Around the Parish

## Ash Trees

The Parish Council has had an arboricultural inspection on the ash trees in Green Meadow. The tree nearest the picnic tables had a stress fracture at the base of the trunk and they recommended that it should be felled, which was carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The two adjoining trees were also recommended for some reduction which was carried out at the same time." A further Ash Tree will be felled at the front of the Cemetery as rot has been detected at the base of the trunk.

## Defibrillators

We have two defibrillators in the village, one at the Pavilion, next to the Recreation Ground and one at the Jubilee Hall. On calling 999, if a defibrillator is needed they will provide details of the nearest one available and the access code for the cabinet.



## BT Telephone Boxes

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that the two silver and glass BT Payphone boxes have now been removed from the village. This is a countrywide initiative as the majority of telephones are now no longer used.

## Village Policing

If you need to contact the Police please use the 101 number, or in an emergency call 999. You can also contact our local policing team by email at [chalfontsnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chalfontsnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

## Dog Fouling

The topic of dog fouling is still an issue that causes much upset and annoyance and there are still many people who are not clearing up after their dog. Most recently the problem has been in Jubilee Walk, the Recreation Ground and in Green Wood. There are four bins provided in the village for dog poo bags.

## Who to call?

The Parish Council is often approached by residents when issues and problems arise in and around the village. Generally we are either able to deal with these directly, if the issue is under our control, or to help get matters sorted out by liaising with the appropriate local authority or utility, when we have no powers to deal with the issue ourselves. However it can be helpful if residents themselves report particular problems directly to the responsible agency as it can save time.

Report potholes/flooding/trees on the highway to Bucks County Council Transport Department on [www.fixmystreet.buckcc.gov.uk](http://www.fixmystreet.buckcc.gov.uk). Waste, litter, road sweeping, fly-tipping and clearance of paths (e.g. path to Seer Green Station) should be reported to Chiltern's Waste Team on [www.chiltern.gov.uk/contactwaste](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/contactwaste) or call 01494 586550. Village Street lights can be reported to the Parish Clerk, details below.

## Christmas in Seer Green

We had a wonderful event starting the festive season with the annual turning on of the Christmas tree lights, along with carol singing, food and drink by the local pubs and a great opportunity for friends and neighbours to get together. The Parish Council funded the Christmas Tree, with many of the baubles decorated by families in the village.



## SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

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