



SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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 Lamb's Newsagents and on our website.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a brief Questionnaire from the Parish Council. It is important that we understand the views of local residents on the way that their taxes are spent. Accordingly, every few years as part of our long term planning process, we conduct a survey to identify the areas of village life and activities where you feel we should be prioritising our spending. Please take a few moments to fill in and return the Questionnaire.

UPDATE ON GREEN MEADOW

Earlier this year the Parish Council were invited by Chiltern District Council to apply for one of two Playbuilder grants of £50k to improve the play area in Green Meadow to make it more exciting and suitable for a wider age group. As part of the application process we consulted with parents and children and we are grateful to everybody who completed the questionnaire and offered valuable comments and advice. Unfortunately, as a result of Government spending cuts, the Playbuilder grants were withdrawn.

Nevertheless, encouraged by the responses we received, the Parish Council has continued to develop these plans and are currently obtaining quotes for a major refurbishment of the play equipment. Using the ideas generated by the survey, we aim to provide more swings, offer challenging equipment for older children, extra seating and a safer play area for under fives. For this to be successful we will require the involvement of the local community as well as

external financial support, which we are actively pursuing. Watch this space!

Many parents that took part in the Green Meadow survey said that they would appreciate more seating. Accordingly, when BCC Councillors Martin Tett and Tim Butcher invited us to apply for a grant from their Community Leaders Fund, we successfully bid for an extra picnic tri-table (see below), which has now been installed. Grateful thanks to our BCC Councillors for their support.



ILLEGAL DUMPING COSTS

On Wednesday 29th September a quantity of old bathroom furniture and water tanks (see picture below) were dumped on the footpath to Jordans



(Footpath 17) in broad daylight behind Green Wood by a white van with a yellow flashing light. If you saw this vehicle or witness dumping taking place please report it on 0845 330 1856. If you are using a trader to dispose of your rubbish you **MUST** check they have a Waste Carrier Licence which means your rubbish will be disposed of properly and **NOT** dumped in the countryside. You can check they're registered by calling THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY on 08708 505 506 or visiting www.environment-agency.gov.uk/publicregisters. Keep hold of any paperwork and if possible pay by cheque. Also take a note of the vehicle's licence plate.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2010

Seer Green received very positive judges' comments in the Best Kept Village Competition including a Runner-Up certificate for the DeFraine Cup as Seer Green achieved 84 points out of 100 (from 83 in 2009 and 79 in 2008).

Judges' comments:-

"Both churches were of tidy overall appearance and the cemetery is a good, quiet, reflective area. The open spaces, hall and pavilion also were all tidy. Long Grove Wood is an excellent area and seems well managed. (We considered there might be a need to install some dog waste bins near the woodland areas.)"

The public houses' surroundings were neat and tidy. It was good to see up to date and newsworthy information on the Parish Council noticeboard with a Best Kept Village Competition poster evident! Overall the village is very well kept with much evidence of community involvement."

The Bucks Association of Local Councils would like to thank the Parish Council for entering Seer Green this year and congratulate everyone involved for all their hard work in achieving such a high standard.



Holy Trinity Church

JUBILEE HALL

During the summer the current members of the Seer Green Jubilee Hall Management Committee decided to step down having been involved with the management and running of the Hall for many years. Seer Green Parish Council were approached to form the Hall Committee and manage the associated charity.

Discussions are now being held with Bucks County Council, owners of the hall, to develop a management agreement and lease that will enable the Parish Council to take over. It is necessary to establish that monies managed by Seer Green Parish Council, those collected in the council tax, are kept completely separate from the revenue income of the Hall. One cannot subsidise or benefit from the other.

A working group of councillors has been formed to begin managing the bookings, hall maintenance, finances, and liaison with the school, nursery and other regular users. The Parish Council are involved to ensure that this facility remains a viable concern and available to the village for social, educational and recreational purposes.

Internal and external surveys are being carried out to identify necessary repair and refurbishment works. These will be prioritised and addressed as funds become available.

This important village asset needs the on-going support of and use by villagers.

Information, hall availability and online bookings can be found on the updated website at www.sgjubileehall.org.uk or you can contact the new bookings secretary David Howkins on 01494 857760.



Jubilee Hall

UNITING TO REMEMBER

War Memorial in Seer Green

Recently the Rev Gaenor Hockey of Holy Trinity Church and the Rev Richard Palmer of the Baptist Church contacted the Parish Council to ask whether they would support construction of a war memorial. This followed a survey which they had carried out a few years ago when a number of residents were asked what they thought about life in Seer Green, and one of the ideas from the survey was to have an outside war memorial in the village. Neither church building is large enough to accommodate the congregation of the annual Remembrance Day service, which includes the local uniformed groups. Although there are two war memorial plaques in Holy

Trinity, one in the Baptist Church and one in the Jubilee Hall, they do not provide a central village focus to remember those villagers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Seer Green Parish Council support this idea, and has estimated that the cost of an appropriate memorial, in the shape of an obelisk about 5' to 6' high and 2.5' at its widest point, would be about £7/8,000. If agreed the memorial could be jointly financed by all three organisations, and of course any other interested parties or individuals.

The survey gave a general sense of support from the village for a war memorial as and when funds are available, and amongst other things if it were to go ahead, a decision would have to be made as to location. Suggestions are outside the cemetery on School Lane, in Jubilee Walk, in an appropriate place in the church yard, or on the green area where Orchard Road meets Manor Farm Way.

If you haven't already made your views known, or if you would like to be involved, please contact either of the above church representatives or Cllr Dennis Scourfield on 01494 672167.



War Memorial in Jubilee Hall

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR - BRIAN KANE

A native of Cumbria I moved down to South Bucks with my family over 30 years ago, the last seven of which we have lived in Seer Green. Having had homes previously in Amersham, Tring, Hazelmere, Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield does mean, if nothing else, that I now know most of the back roads!

I retired early from business five years ago where I had been involved in marketing of pharmaceutical and consumer products. My claim to fame being the creator of the Mr. Muscle brand of cleaning products, and I still get a kick when I see it on the shelves at Tesco.

My time these days, when not involved in Parish Council matters, concerns either Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, where I am Vice-Chairman or The Wildlife Heritage Foundation where I am a Director and Trustee. This latter organisation is involved in the conservation of big cats, their breeding and ultimately their release back into their natural habitats. I am also a Director and Trustee of the Wycombe

Community Trust which is an organisation to develop the education and social skills of children in the area using sport and football in particular as the incentive.

I believe Seer Green is an exceptional place to live, not only because of its location in the Chilterns or its closeness to London and international links but because of its residents, its schools, its community and its way of life. I will give the Parish Council my best efforts to help maintain these standards.



Cllr Brian Kane holding a white lion cub

Seer Green Parish Council currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. For more information please contact the Clerk.

RIGHTS OF WAY - FOOTPATH UPDATE

Bucks County Council have asked the Parish Council to conduct a Survey of the Rights of Way footpaths in the Parish of Seer Green. This will take several months but gradual improvements will take place where necessary. Over 12 paths have already been surveyed and the appropriate actions (remove vandalised street furniture, cut back foliage blocking light from the streetlamps etc) have already been logged with BCC. Following feedback from residents a new wider access gate has been installed (the previous gatepost had rotted) at the junction of footpath 15/16 on the path from the Recreation Ground to Twitchells Lane to improve access.

MINUS 200 - SEER GREEN WALK

Starting at the junction of Bottom Lane with Orchard Road walk up Bottom Lane (slight incline to warm you up - watch for the odd car and horse), turn right at top into Rawlings Lane (almost flat), turn right at end into Chalfont Road (flat), turn right at church into Orchard Road (flat with down hill ending).

About 4100 steps, 1.9 miles, takes 34 minutes and burns off **200 calories!** Option: At top of Bottom Lane enter wood, swing right along bridle path past an old pumping station and then rejoin Rawlings Lane.

Free uncomplicated exercise, very pleasant rural environment, friendly people.

John Forsaith, Vice Chair SGPC



View down Bottom Lane

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD 2010/11

Last year the Parish Council introduced a small award to recognise the person judged by the Chairman as having made the most significant contribution to the village community during 2009. A number of village residents expressed interest in nominating people, but the deadline was too short notice for many. The award is being run again for 2010 and we are asking for your nominations to be submitted before the closing date of 31st December 2010. The award (Book tokens to the value of £50) will be made at the May 2011 AGM.

Nominees should be village residents or have strong ties to the Seer Green community; age is no barrier, recipients can be young or old; their contribution might have been towards community spirit or social cohesion in the village, or it might have been to improving or up-keeping the village environment. We would like to hear from you about those unsung heroes whose contribution goes unnoticed as well as those who are known to play a prominent role within our community.

Please use the adjacent slip and send your nomination to the Parish Clerk or drop it into the Post Office.

My nomination:

Why I am nominating him/her (maximum 50 words, use a separate sheet is preferred):

My name:

My contact details:

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

Liz Bates Tel 01494 874233
Gerston, Back Lane,
Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB
email: clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk
or visit the website at:-
www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk