



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.

PAVILION REFURBISHMENT

Over the past three months the pavilion's sports facilities have been totally refurbished. A new, larger shower room was installed in August. The previous shower area was closed in 2003 as it was in a poor state of repair. This new shower facility was requested by the adult football club since their promotion to the High Wycombe Sunday League, which requires the home team to offer shower facilities to all players.

In addition, both the home and away team changing rooms were redecorated by volunteers from the football team and the Jordans Taverners Cricket Club who use the recreation ground as their home ground.

Grateful thanks go to Dave Anderson, Lewis Payne, Chris Edridge and Gavin Lyons, who gave up their free time to carry out this redecoration.

All the woodwork including the benches were sanded and re-varnished by local craftsmen from the village and the floor was replaced by a new non-slip vinyl surface.

The Parish Council was able to provide the majority of the funding through long term planning for the project and the Seer Green adult football club provided a generous donation through their fundraising.



SEER GREEN UNITED - NEW SEASON, NEW BEGINNINGS

A lot has happened at Seer Green United over the last few months. We have a new chairman and secretary, and best of all we are back playing at the recreation ground.

Simon Charman, our chairman, is a successful local businessman who wants Seer Green United to provide a safe place for children from Seer Green and the surrounding areas to play and enjoy their football. All our coaches are FA level 1 qualified. Currently we have boys and girls playing from the ages of six to eleven and hopefully we can expand on this as the boys and girls get older.

Our under 8's, 9's and 10's play in the South Bucks Mini Soccer Conference whilst our Under 11's are now playing in Wycombe & South Bucks

Minor Football League. If you have a son or daughter who is interested in playing for Seer Green United then please contact : Tim Wyatt (Secretary) at tjwyatt@btinternet.com.

Come along and give the boys and girls a shout at their next game. We play at the recreation ground most Sundays. For more information take a look at our website www.seergreenunited.co.uk.



GREEN WOOD AND THE CEMETERY

The Chiltern Woodlands Project officer visited Green Wood (which is owned and managed by the Parish Council) in August to provide recommendations for woodland management. The ancient wood covers about 3.5 acres and is quite varied in the species it contains, which include maturing oak, wild cherry, old coppiced ash, birch, hazel, field maple, rowan, hawthorns and yew.

The report concludes that some of the oak and cherry have been defoliated by insects this year but it is hoped they will recover next year. Other trees, notably some birch and cherry, may have been affected by the spring drought. It was noted that the holly understorey is becoming very invasive and areas should be cleared regularly to let light in to benefit the ground flora. The officer recommends a 50% removal of these smaller trees over the next two to three years together with the removal of all laurel bushes for the same reason.

Please note that some work will be carried out this winter and footpaths may be temporarily closed for safety reasons.

The Parish Council has been a burial authority since 1938 with the first burials taking place in the cemetery in 1940. Green Wood was purchased by the Parish Council from the DuPre estate expressly for the purpose of providing a burial ground in the village since there was no further space in the Holy Trinity Churchyard.

There have been two applications to extend the cemetery into the woodland, one in 1989 and the second in 1991 (to extend by another 0.25 acres).

Both were refused by Chiltern District Council. The second application went to appeal and was also dismissed by the Department of the Environment. The cemetery is now over three quarters full and space is at a premium as there are no further plans to extend the cemetery. At the July Parish Council meeting it was agreed to re-landscape some areas to provide more burial plots. It was agreed to remove the raised flower bed at the rear of the cemetery, to demolish the rear wall and to remove paving slabs at the rear of the oak tree. The area cleared by this work will be used to provide full burial plots.



Seer Green Cemetery

In 2008 the Parish Council took the decision to stop the pre-purchase of graves and these can now only be purchased at time of death. Also new graves (both cremation and full plots) are only available to Seer Green residents in order to ensure that sufficient burial space is available for many more years. If you have any queries or comments about these proposals please contact the Clerk.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNITY AWARD



Mr. Brian Sims receiving his award from Cllr Dennis Scourfield

Last year the Parish Council introduced an annual award to recognise the person nominated by residents, and judged by the Chairman, to have made the most significant contribution to the village. Several nominations were received and this year the award went to Mr. Brian Sims in recognition of the many years of dedicated service that he has given to our community.

Mr. Sims was nominated by Pauline Bowles, who wrote, "Brian Sims has given so much to the village, not for just one year but his whole life, running Cubs, Scouts, Youth Clubs and raising money through his memories DVD, giving more to the village than anyone I know."

SEER GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

One of the ideas from the survey carried out by Holy Trinity Church and Seer Green Baptist Church in 2007 was to have an outside war memorial in the village, something that Revd Gaenor Hockey and Revd Richard Palmer had already considered. A more recent village survey also gave a general sense of support. At the last AGM at Holy Trinity, Parish Councillor Dennis Scourfield undertook to investigate further and, following a number of recent meetings and discussions, this brief report gives an update on the position.

Both granite and wood have been considered for the design. One suggestion is a wooden memorial designed and made by local craftsmen in the shape of a cherry tree for which the village is well known. While perhaps not quite as robust as granite or stone, similar crafted wooden memorials both locally and in the city are still going strong after many decades of exposure.

The suggested location, subject to planning permission and local council agreement, is in front of the cemetery on School Lane. Any memorial service could take place within the cemetery area. The memorial would be owned by the Parish Council who would also take responsibility for maintenance. It is hoped that the Parish Council will fund well over 50% of the cost

with other donations from the churches and individuals.

It is planned that the Memorial will be in situ by 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. The names to be remembered would be taken from plaques which already exist in the churches and the Jubilee Hall, and will be circulated in this and other village publications before being finalised.

Anyone with information about those from the village who died serving their country in wars and who do not feature on these plaques should contact Councillor Dennis Scourfield at the address below, as should any possible donors (Grays Cottage, Church Road, Seer Green, telephone 01494 672167).



An example of a village war memorial

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR - ART ANDERSON

I have lived in the village for about 25 years but originated from the east side of London in Essex. Our two sons have grown up in the village and we have supported their activities during their time in Cubs and then Scouts and in school, resolving computer problems and helping out with sports.

I have been involved with sports most of my life but mainly football when I haven't been working. My leisure time has been taken up with either playing, coaching (juniors), refereeing or supporting football. A few years ago my son, David, asked me to become involved with Seer Green Football Club which he had re-formed. I help him with the organisation and coaching of our village side. We play at the recreation ground on a Sunday morning, kicking off at 10:30 a.m. when we are at home, so if you feel like supporting come along (watch out for posters).

During my time in the village I have noticed the increasing size of the village population and traffic. I would like to support the current hard working Parish Councillors in helping address the village issues.



Cllr Art Anderson

I hope to bring my sporting enthusiasm and knowledge to the Parish Council to improve facilities for sport and exercise while keeping the character of village.

AROUND THE PARISH...

The Parish Council continues to work on a number of initiatives to increase safety and improve facilities around the village. Please find an update on village activities below...

Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)

The issues of excessive speed and inconsiderate parking in the village, especially near the school, remain a major source of concern to local residents. The Parish Council continues to press for improvements in 'traffic management' and through funding secured from Bucks County Council (BCC) we are pleased to report that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on School Lane is now installed and operational. An application for funding for a further VAS on Chalfont Road has recently been submitted.

Issues on the highway and footpaths

If you notice a pothole, dangerous pavement, blocked drain, or overgrown footpath please call BCC Transport department on 0845 230 2882 or visit www.bucks.gov.uk/transport. If you notice a streetlight is not working please call the Parish Clerk on the number below.

Dog fouling

Sports users of the recreation ground continue to request that dog owners pick up after their dogs and dispose of the waste in the two available bins. ***Please monitor your dogs!***

Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council still has two vacancies for Councillors, as there are only seven Councillors at present. The Parish Council is looking for two local residents who would like to volunteer some time to oversee projects which will benefit the whole community. If you have lived in the village for over a year and could give some time, then please contact our Parish Clerk for more information on becoming a Councillor.

Please help us to maintain a vibrant village.

Jubilee Hall

The Parish Council has been the sole trustee of the Hall for a year. Since we took over and staffed the Seer Green Jubilee Hall Committee we have adopted the SGPC accounting, budgeting and project planning procedures. We continue to work closely with the School and Nursery to ensure that the Hall meets their operational and health and safety requirements. A new Management Agreement has been put in place with the landlords, Bucks County Council.

We have carried out a number of improvements to the Hall's equipment, machinery and electrical systems and its decoration and appearance. Discussions are taking place with BCC to refurbish the toilet blocks. Our website has been redesigned and the booking system improved.

We record our thanks to Jerry Maddox, previous Committee Chair, for his patient instruction and assistance throughout this first year.

We look forward, as funds permit, to making further improvements and working with local clubs, institutions and villagers to ensure the future of this important village amenity.



Best Kept Village Competition

Seer Green received very positive judges' comments in the Best Kept Village Competition but unfortunately the village did not win.

Judges' comments:

"All areas well maintained and litter free. Wooded areas adjoining the cemetery (Green Wood) and at Long Grove Wood are valuable amenities, the latter in particular much used by walkers. Shops generally well kept and one of the pubs has obviously been the subject of a recent makeover. Large and informative notice boards. The judges felt that there was much going on in the village with evidence of overall community effort."

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

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