



# 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

To mark 100 years since the end of WW1, last November you may remember the 16 wooden soldiers positioned around the war memorial, one for each soldier from Seer Green killed in WW1. This year 9 additional soldiers have been added to remember those killed in WW2. Thanks to Ian Hawes for his work in creating these soldiers and to Timberstore for once again donating the wood.



## VILLAGE AMENITIES SURVEY

Following the recent successful addition to the village amenities of the outdoor fitness equipment, the Parish Council is looking at ways of further enhancing the village facilities and has identified two possible projects and seeks to gain your view on these.

### Green Meadow Play Area

We have good facilities for younger children in Green Meadow. However we are conscious that there is less available for older children and it has long been our intention to rectify this. We are thinking of adding one significant item of play equipment, such as a climbing structure, suitable for junior aged children upwards. This would be located near the present equipment, with a cost in the region of £40k.

### Tennis Court

The village could benefit from the addition of a hard surface tennis court. We have identified a suitable location in the north-west corner of the Recreation Ground, next to the allotments. This would be managed via an online booking system, with electronic access, and would be utilised on a pay-to-play basis, with an annual membership fee. The cost of this project would be in the region of £60k.

We have designed a survey and would be very grateful if all adults over the age of 18 could complete, either the paper copy enclosed inside this newsletter or the online version, using the link below. All named completed responses will be entered into a free prize draw to win a voucher to use at our Village Pubs.

Completed surveys must be returned by Monday 16th December.

👉 Hand deliver to the boxes at The Jolly Cricketers, The Three Horseshoes or JM Mash Butchers.

📧 Post - FAO SG Parish Council, Gerston, Back Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4PB

💻 Complete this survey online – <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SGPCsurvey2019/>

## PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARD

Congratulations to Ian Hawes, this year's winner of the Chairman's Community Award.

Although nominations received for Ian were in the main based on the truly inspiring display of wooden soldiers that he produced to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW1, this is a small part of the picture of what he has quietly and unassumingly contributed to our community both now and over many decades past.



Ian has for many years volunteered tirelessly wherever he sees he can be of help to enhance and maintain village life, helping out at the school, the Holiday Club and Torchlight to name but a few. Indeed it is thanks to Ian's skills that we now have a new owl box in Green Wood replete with a new feathered incumbent!

However, whilst Ian was the recipient of the Chairman's Community Award, I would also like to pay tribute to his wife, Kathy who is also actively involved in the community and presented us with the lovely knitted poppies that adorned the chains surrounding our War Memorial. Unbidden, together they regularly undertake work in the village such as cleaning the war memorial, helping distribute Parish News and much more.

In summary, using words written by Amanda and Chris Lillitou in their nomination, "Their help and community spirit to make this village a better place is very much appreciated."

*Councillor Mandy Thomas*

## NEW COUNCILLOR – JANE SMITH

I have lived in Seer Green with my husband for 28 years. Our daughters both attended Seer Green School, and I was the music specialist teacher there for 25 very happy years, retiring from the post in July. Aside from my work at the school, I work as a freelance choral director and music animateur. I set up and run the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs, and I am the musical director of the Energize festivals at the Wycombe Swan Theatre and the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. I also run a workplace choir in a law firm in London. Closer to home, I direct Village Voices and Seer Green Singers, the two choirs based in the village, which rehearse in the Jubilee Hall, and which now have almost 150 members between them. I was also the founder and musical director of the Seer Green Jubilee Music Festival, which led to the development of the Seer Green and Jordans Community Trust. Aside from my musical work I have been a member of the Seer Green Gardeners' committee for a number of years, currently acting as Treasurer. Through



this I have helped to organise many community events, including the Village Supper and the Open Gardens fundraising events. I also help to organise the Christmas village celebrations, including the Christmas tree lights switch on and the Village Advent Calendar. I am delighted to be a new member of the Seer Green Parish Council, to allow me to make a further contribution to our thriving community.

# COUNCIL TAX

Where does your money go?

Seer Green Parish Council plays a vital role in making our village such a pleasant and safe place to live.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers and, as such, are unpaid. Part of our role is deciding how to spend the money allocated out of the council tax we all pay, an annual sum known as “the precept”.

This year our precept was £47,000. We use this to manage and maintain Green Meadow Playground, Green Wood, the Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion, the Cemetery, Allotments and Jubilee Walk.

One of our biggest expenses is managing our trees and woodland. We pay for a professional arboricultural inspection to ensure that any important safety work is carried out.

We spend over a quarter of our budget on maintaining, replacing, and supplying electricity for 68 street lights around the village.

Some responsibilities which were previously the County Council's have been devolved to us, including mowing village verges and cutting back foliage from 4,000 metres of footpaths around the village.

Any surplus from the precept is spent on projects like the electronic signs to reduce traffic speed and the new Outdoor Fitness equipment at the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council also looks after Jubilee Hall which is widely used by local community groups and is available to hire.

We continue to ensure that our funds are well spent and that the village is kept looking its best. Please let us know if there is anything we have missed!



## OUR LIVING VILLAGE – A Short Project Update

After a brief lull over the summer the Seer Green & Jordans *Our Living Village* project is now making exciting progress. The technical team building the computer model has completed an intensive training course in Aylesbury with the GIS software provider, and a detailed systems implementation plan is currently being finalised. Based upon expressions of interest from supporters in the two villages, five historical themes have been selected for initial development: Built Environment - historic homes and buildings; Natural Environment – landscape, woods & wildlife; Music, literature & art; Schools & Education; and Religion in the two communities.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in researching these and other village themes - just get in touch if you're interested. Finally, there have been some really important initial observations from the Lidar data that we're getting from the Chiltern Conservation Board's aerial survey. So far we've identified what appears to be the remains of a large medieval manor house close to the centre of Seer Green, plus the totally unexpected route of a major Roman road passing through our local woodland. And that's just the start of our discoveries! Watch this space for more, or better still why not get involved directly in this special local project.

Alan Kell, [alan.kell@iqsystems.co.uk](mailto:alan.kell@iqsystems.co.uk)

## Around the Parish

### Litter

The Parish Council does its best with this ongoing problem, with the help of a contractor and volunteers, but they cannot be expected to cover the whole village. Please help us keep Seer Green looking its best. Can we please ask residents to take a few minutes each week to clear any litter outside their properties.

### Objects placed on grass verges

The Parish Council has been contacted by residents concerned about logs, concrete boulders or large rocks which have been placed on the grass verges around the village presumably to prevent damage by vehicles driving over these areas and eroding them. Buckinghamshire County Council have stated that this action contravenes the Highways Act 1980 Section 149 as they can pose a risk to pedestrians and other road users. The Local Area Technician advises "it is fast becoming an issue across the county and these rocks should be removed. They pose a problem to highway users and as long as the resident is also made aware that any incident arising from these obstructions, be it a trip and fall from a pedestrian to damage to a vehicle, the resident would be completely at fault here and responsible for any law suit pursued by the implications involved."

### Flooding Relief

Bucks County Council have been working to upgrade and improve the existing carriageway drainage system in Newbarn Lane and Rawlings Lane to alleviate existing issues with flooding.

Considerable drainage improvements have been made at the entrance to Rawlings Lane to cope with the water that drains down the road which increases the flooding issue in Newbarn Lane. The pipe under Newbarn Lane was too narrow to cope with the amount of water that builds at this point so now a new larger pipe has been installed. This will hopefully mean that the bore hole that is already in situ in Newbarn Lane can be utilised to its fullest capacity. Hopefully both these measures will stop the area near the sharp bend from flooding.

### Post Office Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 10am – 12 noon

Thursdays: 1 – 3pm

@ Seer Green Baptist Church

### Food Waste

Contractors have reported significant amounts of food waste ending up in our village litter bins. If it continues the bins will be removed. Please use the brown food bin provided for food waste. A second bin is available if required. Please call 01494 586550 or go to the website [www.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk](http://www.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk)

### 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.

### SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

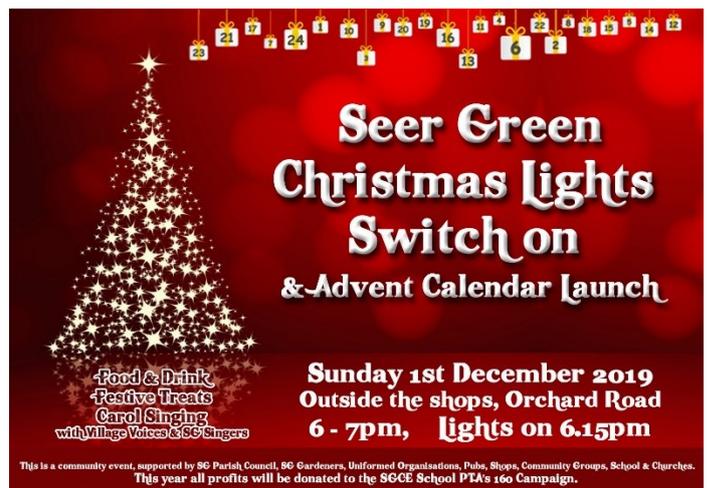
Liz Bates

Tel: 01494 874233

[clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Gerston, Back Lane, Chalfont St. Giles,  
Bucks, HP8 4PB

Or visit our website:

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



The poster features a red background with a white Christmas tree on the left, decorated with white lights and ornaments. At the top, a string of 24 numbered advent calendar boxes is displayed. The text on the right reads: "Seer Green Christmas Lights Switch on & Advent Calendar Launch". Below this, it says "Sunday 1st December 2019 Outside the shops, Orchard Road 6 - 7pm, lights on 6.15pm". At the bottom left, it lists activities: "Food & Drink, Festive Treats, Carol Singing with Village Voices & SC Singers". At the bottom, a small line of text states: "This is a community event, supported by SG Parish Council, SG Gardeners, Unformed Organisations, Pubs, Shops, Community Groups, School & Churches. This year all profits will be donated to the SGCE School PTA's 160 Campaign."