



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 the Old Post Office and on our website.

COVID 19 LOCKDOWN 2020

The strength of our village community has been well demonstrated over the last few months. The Village Neighbours, Coordinators and Buddies scheme, alongside friends and neighbours have offered invaluable help and support to those in need.

We have been very fortunate to receive grant funding from the Nurse Bott Foundation and the Buckinghamshire Council Covid Crisis Fund, as well as from individual donors. This money has been used to provide food parcels to families and households who fall into a number of categories, including, but not exclusively, the self-employed unable to work, those not receiving government help or waiting for a government pay out, the elderly and self-isolating, vulnerable, sick or struggling families and key workers. To date 45 food parcels have been delivered to households in our village, plus 15 smaller packages. Whilst lockdown is easing we are aware that some of the effects from this time will only just be being felt and with some funds still available, if you or someone you know is in need please contact Janna or the Parish Clerk.

Acts of compassion and care during this crisis are surely something we can positively reflect on in the months to come. We would like to recognise and celebrate these acts of kindness. Look inside for details of how you can nominate your Community Superheroes and share your lockdown stories.



SOCIALLY DISTANCED VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



Despite lockdown, Seer Green turned red, white and blue to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May. Many roads held socially distanced street parties, with friends and neighbours marking the occasion together. A vast array of flags and bunting were displayed and many yummy treats were baked and consumed.

The nine soldiers in memory of those who lost their lives in World War II were on display at our war memorial.



Nominees should be village residents or have strong ties to the Seer Green community; age is no barrier, recipients can be young or old. You may have benefitted from their efforts directly, or simply know about what they have been doing. You can nominate more than one person.

For the last eight years the Parish Council has presented a small award to recognise the person judged by the Chairman as having made a significant contribution to the village community.

This year however, the Chairman has decided to ask for nominations for people who have made a positive difference to either individuals, our community or beyond during Lockdown and the Coronavirus Pandemic. This will not be limited to just one individual this year.

Please send your nomination(s) via a letter/ email with the following details to the Parish Clerk, details on the back page.

My nomination is for:

Why I am nominating them:

Your name, address and phone number.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 21st August.

We want to hear your lockdown stories and celebrate our community superheroes!

WILDFLOWERS IN SEER GREEN



Seer Green Gardeners, Jordans Environment Trust and Seer Green Parish Council have been working on a joint project to create a wildflower meadow on the corner of Bottom Lane and Longbottom Lane. The funds were provided by Jordans Environment Trust, and on May 7th the rotovation of the ground and sowing of the seed took place. This work has been undertaken by Amersham Town Council which has had great success in recent years with projects of this type. The idea is to turn a piece of scrubland into an attractive haven for wildlife that will also provide a splash of colour as we drive or walk into the village. Because of lockdown, the rotovation and seed sowing took place later than was ideal, but we are hoping that some of the wildflowers will take this season, and if not, then there is more seed to sow for next year.

VILLAGE ROADS UPDATE

We were pleased to report that Buckinghamshire Council (BC) repaired the road surface for Chalfont Road, School Lane and Bayne Hill during the recent lockdown. Rawlings Lane and Bottom Lane have now also been patched to allow residents a smoother journey.

BC have just finished upgrading the existing highway surface water drainage system to alleviate the flooding on School Lane. This involved the installation of new soakaway chambers and associated pipe works in the Farmers Way car parking area and Orchard Road.

They are still following up enforcements with three landowners who were illegally draining land into the public highway drainage system. Unfortunately this caused 9 weeks of extensive flooding last winter in Chalfont Road, Rawlings Lane and Bottom Lane.



GREEN MEADOW PLAYGROUND

For nearly 4 months Green Meadow Playground and the outdoor gym have been closed due to Covid 19 but on July 4th, following the latest government guidance, we were allowed to let these two important village facilities open again. Four members of the Parish Council met and cleaned all the equipment in Green Meadow ready for its opening.



During the lockdown, the climbing frame has been freshly repainted in all the colours of the rainbow (with the exception of orange!). The popular Spinner has had an overhaul with a brand-new central shaft assembly installed to rectify the 'wobble' that had developed on this piece of equipment, so it is now spinning freely and ready for action. The grass has been recently cut by our contractors, Amersham Town Council and our groundsman, Mr Horgan, has also done a magnificent job trimming the hedge in clean cut lines.



We do ask that if you use the playground or outdoor gym please follow the rules clearly displayed on each entrance to Green Meadow and on the noticeboard by the outdoor gym. Please maintain social distancing, avoid large groups (4 families on the equipment in Green Meadow), practice good hand hygiene and responsibly dispose of any litter.

Please do not use if exhibiting any illness symptoms and help us to protect our community.

VILLAGE AMENITIES SURVEY

At the end of last year we sent out a Parish Council Village Amenities survey, specifically focused on villagers' thoughts on two possible projects: a new piece of climbing equipment in Green Meadow or a tennis court at the Recreation Ground.

We were very pleased to receive 252 responses. Thank you.

75% were in favour of a new piece of playground equipment at Green Meadow.

79% were in favour of a tennis court.

71% were in favour of contributing to the cost of a project via an increase in council tax for two years.

We also received a number of helpful comments and suggestions for consideration.

As there was no clear preferred project above the other, with opinion being predominantly positive but split, it was decided that further research and thought was needed before proceeding and some other avenues of investigation were identified. No further action has been taken owing to the Covid-19 lockdown, but we will revisit this in the future.

ZOOM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS



Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, April and May's Parish Council meetings were cancelled. In June and July the Parish Council met on Zoom.

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates in the autumn.

1st September

6th October

3rd November

1st December

Please check the Parish Council noticeboard on Chalfont Road for further details regarding virtual or physical meetings.

GARDENS FLOURISHING IN LOCKDOWN

With everyone staying at home during lockdown, many found increased time to spend improving and enhancing their gardens. Sadly the activities planned by the Seer Green Gardeners for this spring and summer have necessarily had to be cancelled. But being a creative bunch, they have tried to provide an alternative where possible. The Spring Show was held virtually, with hundreds of photos of spring blooms sent in to be displayed on the Gardeners' website. The annual plant sale, which is such a popular event in the village calendar, was substituted with a Bring and Take event on the recreation ground at the end of May. This was carefully planned to comply with social distancing requirements, and attracted a lot of people



They also organised a virtual Open Gardens event, as that would have been held in the village at the end of June. 14 villagers made delightful videos of their gardens, and those who watched them were invited to make a contribution to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, which is a charity that has been supported by the Gardeners for a number of years, and which has faced a substantial financial shortfall during the pandemic. So far, the plant sale and the open gardens event has made over £500 for this very worthy cause. If you would like to watch the Open Gardens videos and enjoy looking round your neighbours' gardens, then the link is:

<http://seergreengardeners.org.uk/home/events-and-competitions/open-gardens/open-gardens-2020/>

INFORMATION

Post Office Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 10am – 1pm

@ Seer Green Baptist Church

Thursdays: 10am – 1pm

@ Jordans Village shop

One Can Food Bank Collection Points

One Can provides over 600 bags of food a week to those who are unable to feed themselves and their families in times of crisis.

Tinned / packaged items can be donated and left in the box outside Best One (or inside if it's wet) or at the front or rear of 5 Coat Wicks and they will be taken to the High Wycombe warehouse each week.

For current needs please check www.onecantrust.org.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. 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 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

Gerston, Back Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB
Or visit our website: www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk