



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.

SEER GREEN WIN BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2013

The winning villages in the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition for 2013, organised by the Bucks & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils, have been revealed and we are pleased to report that Seer Green has won the DeFraine Cup for villages with a population over 1000.

Seer Green also won the real estate adviser, Savills, Community Trophy for showing the most evidence of community effort in achieving best kept village status.

Seer Green has also won Chiltern District Council's Leofwine Shield 2013. This is awarded annually to the town or village within the District achieving the highest number of points in the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition.

Competition Chairman, Richard Pushman commented: "The Best Kept Village Competition remains as popular as ever. Our judges were impressed with the standard of entries and highlighted that Buckinghamshire as a whole, and not just the Best Kept Villages, is in remarkably great shape. Well done to all those litter pickers and volunteers who make such an effort to keep their communities tidy."



Chairman Dennis Scourfield being presented with the DeFraine Cup by the Lord Lieutenant

Picture by Beaconsfield Advertiser

The award was presented by the Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher on Saturday 14th September, who read out the judges' comments:

"Holy Trinity Church had a good overall appearance with its well managed graveyard. The Baptist Church was tidy. The cemetery is also a good area. The youth shelter was tidy and the field's entrance gate and associated perimeter furniture were well looked after.

The small Parish Church Hall was tidy. Long Grove Wood is an excellent area of well managed and diverse woodland and the Jubilee Walk, now maturing, is well kept.

The areas around the pubs and shops were neat and tidy. The Parish Council notice board had up-to-date information and a Best Kept Village notice was displayed.

Special mention is made of the new War Memorial, beautifully laid out, a superb community achievement. The various information signs around the village are a good initiative."

The Parish Council Chairman thanked all of the villagers, groups, shops, pubs and businesses who work tirelessly to keep the community thriving with so many different services and activities. He said we were very lucky to live in such a vibrant and popular village.



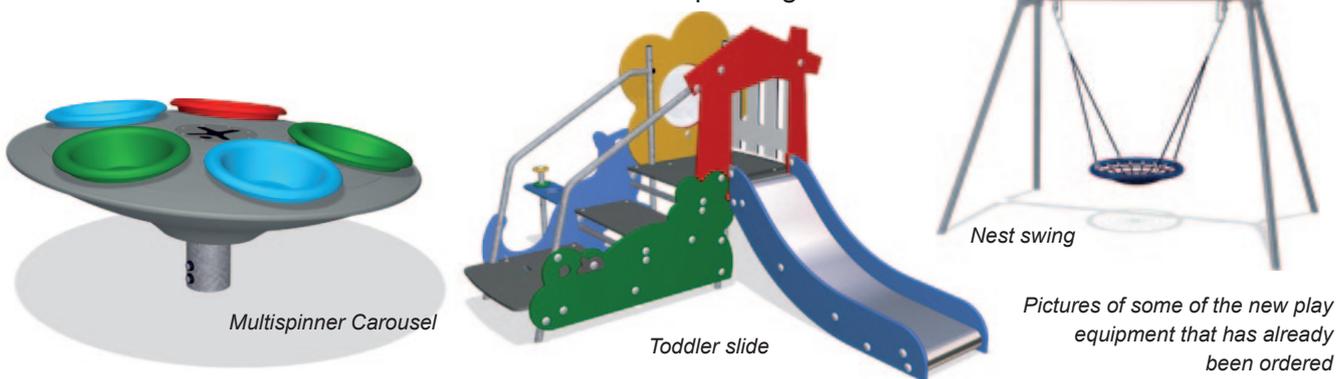
GREEN MEADOW REFURBISHMENT

It has long been the Parish Council's intention to further develop Green Meadow to create a safer and more aesthetically pleasing communal facility, which offers scope for creative and challenging play and social opportunities. Accordingly, we are delighted to announce that we have secured an Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery Fund for £10,000 and a £2,500 grant from the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Area Forum towards the purchase of new play equipment for Green Meadow. Unfortunately applications made to Veolia and Chiltern District Council for funding were unsuccessful.

However, the Parish Council has in its 3-Year Plan already allocated £16,000 towards the development of Green Meadow. In addition to this, money has already been donated by The Jolly Cricketers, Jordans Environment Trust and others which provides us with the resources to commence Phase 1 of the project this year.

To this end, an order has now been placed for several new pieces of play equipment, which should be installed later this year. For the older children we have ordered four swings, two of which will be bird's nest swings, accommodating a number of children at any one time, a multispinner carousel and a new raft springer which will replace the old see-saw. Specifically designed for toddlers, there will be a new home/garden play area and small slide, and two of the existing swings will be converted into cradle swings.

This is only the beginning... we plan to apply to other institutions for grant funding, seek further donations and try to identify possible fund-raising initiatives from within the community itself in order to fund not only more equipment for the older children, but also a solid pathway across the green to make travel to school safer, provision of more seating/picnic tables and landscaping/ planting.



PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD 2013

For the last two 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. Several nominations were received and this year the award went to **Janna Holder** in recognition of her work with families and children in the village.

Janna was nominated by Nina Liebenber who wrote *"She constantly reaches out to children and families and brings a smile to every child. She has formed strong bonds between the two churches and the school through community events. She never tires and loves to see children having fun with their families."*

Janna was presented with the award, during an enjoyable service for the school children at the

Baptist Church, by Headteacher Mrs Davison-Oakley and Chairman Dennis Scourfield.



WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION

I awoke early on Sunday, 14 July and was delighted to see yet another hot and sunny day since this day was to be the culmination of the efforts of the Parish Council to erect and dedicate a war memorial in the village. The planning had started in 2007 when the village churches had expressed support for a memorial and the council took up the challenge to have one in place by 2014, the anniversary of the start of the First World War.



Thanks to the efforts of many, and financial support from both organisations and individuals, we were able to have this dedication service a year earlier than planned. Earlier newsletters have informed about the progress of the memorial and this article, together with the many photos, reports on what we hope the whole village regard as a successful service.



Those who attended included the Lord Lieutenant Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, the chairmen and standard bearers from the British Legion, many county and district councillors. We were also pleased to have representatives of the village churches, the Chalfont Wind Band, Holy Trinity choir, Scouts and Brownies, school children, Conor Bradley who played "The last post" and, most important of all, many relatives of those commemorated on the memorial. The service was beautifully conducted by the Rev Derrick Carr (the legion padre).



We processed from the Parish Church Hall along School Lane to the memorial for a brief but moving service, wreaths were laid, and we took time to remember. We then retired back to the hall to read about the soldiers on the War Memorial and heard a moving speech from Mr Keith Sansom, son of one of the soldiers. The Women's Institute provided tea and a wonderful selection of cakes.



The memorial is now a permanent feature in the village, and incidentally helped us to win the Best Kept Village contest. I hope that it will remain there for years to come and be the focal point of all future Remembrance Day services, where we remember and honour those from our village who gave their lives that we may live in peace.

Dennis Scourfield
Chairman Parish Council

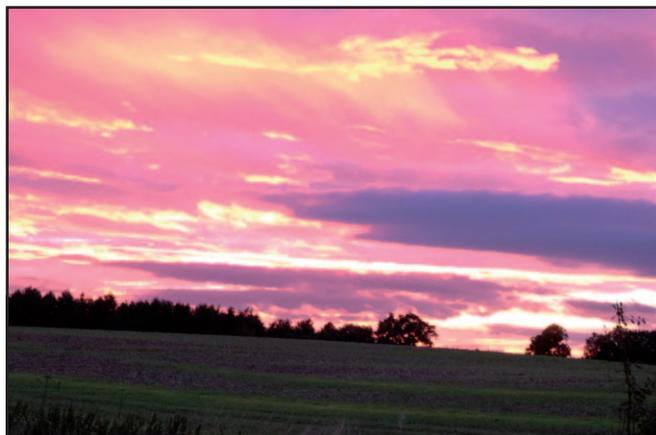


Chairman Dennis Scourfield, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Mr Mike Barry & Mr Dick Smith Chairmen of the British Legion

Photographs by David Howkins

EXPENSIVE - BUT SPECIAL!

The locations Kensington, Chelsea, Westminster, Virginia Water, Cobham and Seer Green are seldom mentioned in the same context. However according to a report in the Sunday Times earlier this year they were the five most expensive places to buy a home in 2012. The survey also listed out other various benefits relating to



Special Seer Green, view across the fields from Bottom Lane

identifying the best places to live such as schooling, culture, outdoors, family and safety.

While being an expensive village to buy a home the reasons for our popularity are clear to see. Our schools, churches, pubs and shops are of the highest quality and our location near to London, the M40 junction, the rail station and Heathrow, while still being a part of the Chiltern district, is a very attractive proposition for a family looking to move into our area.

The community spirit in the village as evidenced by our choirs, our sports teams and our social groups is second to none and the way we all have a pride in our community resulting in our recent 'Best Kept Village' win is a reflection that the homeowners in Seer Green while probably quite often bemoaning the cost of buying their home here, do feel the village is special and want to keep it this way.

AROUND THE PARISH...

FLOODING ON CHALFONT ROAD

During June Buckinghamshire County Council carried out drainage improvements as part of their Capital Drainage Programme in Chalfont Road near to the village gates to try and resolve the flooding issue.

They re-dug approximately 342 linear metres of existing drainage ditch and installed two new gullies in the carriageway, which were connected to the existing ditches.

This autumn they will re bore three boreholes in the existing soak ways located in the verge. This will then complete the drainage work and hopefully alleviate the flooding in this area.

GREEN WOOD HOLLY PROBLEM

Visitors to Green Wood are soon aware of the mass of holly that has taken a hold on the wood. Whilst holly is a naturally occurring tree its spread has reached an unacceptable level and blocked sunlight from reaching the forest floor. As a consequence sapling growth from beech and ash etc. has become stunted and many wild flowers fail to appear.

The Parish Council is formulating a plan to progressively remove much of the holly sapling growth and some of the larger holly trees. The whole wood is protected by a Tree Preservation

Order and necessary permissions are being sought from the Chiltern District Council. The proposed plan involves professional tree specialists initially removing the holly from a strip of woodland from the road and back into the wood of some 30 metres. Based on this experience we will then progressively select other areas for holly clearance. Supervised work by volunteers is also being considered for the removal of smaller holly saplings.

Whilst Green Wood is a natural wood (not man planted) it does need to be managed. The Parish Council hope this work over the next two years will open up the wood for the benefit of both today's and tomorrow's visitors and ensure this important village asset continues to make its contribution to the locality.

Potholes - who to call

Please can we remind residents to report potholes, footpath defects and flooding to Bucks County Council Transport on **0845 230 2882**

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:-
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