



# 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 Lamb's Newsagents and on our website.

## GREEN MEADOW

It has long been the desire of the Parish Council to provide more diverse play equipment to cater for the wide age range of children who use Green Meadow on a daily basis. After completing surveys with both adult community members and children to try to establish what was really wanted, we came up with a plan involving three phases; Phase one being the provision of equipment suitable for pre-school age children, Phase two for children aged 7+ and Phase three the provision of more seating, picnic tables and some form of softscaping to aesthetically enhance the area as a whole.

However, although the Parish Council had funds in its budget towards the project and generous donations from the Jolly Cricketers, Jordans Environment Trust and others had been received, play equipment and the required safety surfacing are extremely expensive and so it was necessary to apply for grants from a number of external funders. We were absolutely delighted when our application to The Lottery run 'Grants for All' and Bucks County Council Local Area Forum (LAF) were successful. This enabled us to purchase equipment that would be user friendly to pre-school children and position it amongst existing equipment suitable for this age group. At the same time the two flat swing seats were replaced with cradles thus effectively

forming a 'Toddler Area' away from the older children.



Unfortunately, our application to fund Phase two; the provision of more physically and mentally challenging equipment for those aged 7+ was unsuccessful. However, we did not want the older children to feel entirely left out, so we also ordered two bird's nest swings and a set of ordinary swings, together with the multi-user zebra seesaw and revolutionary 'spinner'.

You can imagine how pleased we were when recently the LAF agreed to fund the provision of two extra picnic tables and a circular bench seat around the large beech tree in the centre of the meadow thus kicking off the start of our Phase three plans.

Going forward; with Phase one complete and Phase three underway, it leaves only Phase two outstanding. Although further applications for grants from large companies who operate grant schemes are planned during the course of the next year and limited money has been allocated in our budget, there is still a need for contributions from other local businesses but, above all, we need the continued valued support of the community as a whole to make this happen. Therefore, if YOU have any great fundraising ideas then please do let us know.



*Children enjoying the new spinner in Green Meadow*

## SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL, BUDGET 2014/15

The Parish Council is responsible for Green Meadow playground and equipment, Green Wood, the recreation ground and pavilion, the allotments, the cemetery and war memorial, the street lights, certain grass cutting, tree and hedge maintenance, dog bins and general tidiness throughout the village (we won the Best Kept Village last year). We also comment on planning applications and may give other advice to villagers. In order to undertake these duties we employ a part time Parish Clerk, and the councillors give of their time freely. The cost of these duties is financed out of the council tax which all householders pay, and that part attributable to the parish households is shown separately on your council tax demand.

Each year in order to assess how much money we require, a budget is prepared in October/ November, discussed at the council meetings, and results in the council requesting our share of the council tax income (known as the precept) from the District Council who are responsible for collecting the council tax. For the last three years, like many other councils, we have not increased

this precept. However this year we felt we could no longer carry out these duties efficiently without a small increase and we have requested a 2.5% precept increase to £42,000. This unfortunately will result in a slightly larger increase for householders since there has been a reduction in the local tax support scheme from national government.

Our council is not richly endowed with cash but does own certain lands throughout the village mentioned above which cost money to maintain, and from some of which we derive a relatively small income. We budget with the intention that we should earn a small surplus each year to finance longer term projects (recently the war memorial and new play equipment). However this is becoming increasingly difficult, and in common with all public expenditure, the reverse side is tax which we all wish to minimise. This year we have made more economies in our budget so that we hope to earn a small surplus again, which over the years will continue to improve the facilities for all in the village.

## PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD 2014

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

The award is being run again for 2014 and we are asking for your nominations to be submitted before the closing date of 25th April 2014. The award (gift tokens to the value of £50) will be announced at the May 2014 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 (address overleaf) or drop it into the Post Office marked for the attention of the Parish Clerk.

**My nomination is for:**

Why I am nominating him/her (maximum 50 words):

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone No: .....

## SEER GREEN IN BLOOM

Seer Green Gardeners are brightening up the village by planting spring bulbs. "Snowdrops will be planted around the War Memorial shortly and crocuses in the verges near the Parish Church Hall in the autumn." Their Treasurer Alan Perks, said. "As a village society since 1946 we have always been central to gardening activity in Seer Green through our annual shows and other events. We have also supported various local projects and charities over time including the new War Memorial last year. It was always our hope that we would be able to donate further funds this year towards planting the area as a further token of remembrance."

The Parish Council was pleased to receive a cheque for £100 for winning the Best Kept Village Competition last year. The money will be used to purchase a planter for the white gate on Chalfont Road to give a colourful display of flowers when you enter the centre of the village. The Gardeners have kindly agreed to help with the display and the planter will be installed soon.

On 29th June residents of Seer Green will be opening their gardens to the public to raise money for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance. This will be the first time the village as a whole will have had an open gardens event. It is being run by the Seer Green Gardeners, and is supported by the Seer Green and Jordans Community Trust.

We have nine sites signed up, but it's not too late to get involved. If you would like to show your garden, then please contact the organiser, Philip Newton, and he'll get your garden on the map.

The event will be from 2.00pm until 5.00pm on the Sunday, and there will be tea and cake available at the Parish Church Hall.

If you'd rather not feature your garden, then you can still help on the day. Volunteers are required to help steward, and make and serve tea and cake. If there are a good number then it won't take up much of your time, and you'll still be able to enjoy the gardens - and get home for the football!

Any offers of help to Philip Newton on 0794 121 5433 or email [sgopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:sgopengardens@gmail.com)



*One of the Open Gardens to enjoy in Seer Green*

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR JOHN RICHARDSON

I have lived in Seer Green since 1992 and within the local area since birth. I am married with two sons both of whom attended the local primary school and nursery. I own my own retail business, based in Ealing, which has been in my



family for three generations. I also had a shop in Gerrards Cross for 25 years and have been President of the London Retail Meat Trade Association and was a founder member of the Guild Of Q Butchers.

I am a keen sports fan and continue to support the local youth cricket and rugby teams, for whom both my sons have played. I have good understanding of the work of Seer Green Parish Council, as my wife was formerly the Parish Clerk. My particular interests are in maximising opportunities for young people, especially in Seer Green, where resources are limited. I feel privileged to live in such a charming village, with a strong sense of community and am delighted at the opportunity to contribute to that community spirit.



## GALES AND FLOODS

Exceptional weather conditions, across the South of England have affected Seer Green. Several trees were brought down by the storms and many roads have been flooded.

Chalfont Road has flooded on several occasions as the area has to cope with a significant amount of water from the surrounding fields. When the road is flooded it is very deep, so we would like to



*Tree brought down by storms*



*New River in Bottom Lane?*

remind residents not to drive through the water but take another route round. Bucks County Council's (BCC) work has improved the area as the water dissipates far more quickly now that the drainage ditch has been cleared and the new gullies and boreholes have been installed.

We will continue to work with BCC to improve drainage issues and will report back when further improvements are in place.

## AROUND THE PARISH...

### VILLAGE PLAN

In March 2011 the Parish Council published the Seer Green Village Plan. This pamphlet was designed to provide a concise document to provide information to villagers about the village and Parish Council strategies. It has also been used to support overtures to the District Council and County Council on planning and related matters.

The pamphlet contains a short history of the village, census information, descriptions of Council properties and activities, village facilities, photographs and Council strategic and operational priorities. The pamphlet is being revised and updated but the previous version is available on our website. If you have any comments on the plan please contact the Clerk.

### JUBILEE HALL

Now that the new toilets and internal upgrades have been completed, Jubilee Hall is looking in excellent condition and stands up extremely well in comparison with virtually all similar village halls in the South Bucks area. We are fortunate to have a village facility with ample parking, separate kitchen and toilets, lots of seating and a stage area.

We hope shortly to be introducing a simplified online reservation system for those who would

like to hire the Hall but in the meanwhile a call to David Howkins, the booking secretary on 857760 can be made for reservations.

The Hall is popular and during weekdays is fully utilised by the school. On Mondays through Thursdays evenings there are regular users but the Hall is available for hire on Friday evenings and many weekends throughout the year.

If you are thinking of having a party, meeting or similar event give David a call or look at the website at [www.sgjubileehall.org.uk](http://www.sgjubileehall.org.uk) to check out what an attractive and versatile facility we have available for competitive hire in the village.

### WHO TO CALL

Please can we remind residents to report potholes, footpath defects and flooding to Bucks County Council Transport department on **0845 230 2882**. Streetlight issues should be reported to the Parish Clerk below.

### SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

**Liz Bates**

**Tel 01494 874233**

Gerston, Back Lane,

Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB

**email: [clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

**or visit the website at:-**

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