



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 WAR MEMORIAL

The Memorial is now complete, and the drive to the cemetery has been resurfaced. It is hoped that by the time you read this the final work around the concrete base will also have been completed. The fact that we could do all this work well in advance of the targeted date of 2014 is due to the very generous grants and donations we have received, over £16,000 in total. These include grants from Buckinghamshire County Council and from our local County Councillor, Tim Butcher, a large donation from the Seer Green Music festival last summer, and many other local organisations and individuals. The Parish Council is most grateful for these donations.

War Memorial
Unveiling and Dedication Service
will be held on
Sunday 14th July 2013 at 2pm
All Welcome

It is hoped that it will be attended by representatives of the British Legion and other dignitaries. Full details will be made available later when the arrangements are confirmed, and will be published widely throughout the village. We hope that a large number of villagers will attend as well as representatives from the village churches, scouts, school, and other organisations.

We felt that rather than writing a long article, you might prefer to read extracts from a note about Cyril Sansom, one of the men inscribed on the memorial. His wife (now Mrs Hilda Child) still lives in the village and this was written by his son, Keith, who lives largely in Australia, and was one of the generous donors. He visited the memorial with his mother shortly after it arrived.

The war memorial – a personal note

I grew up in Seer Green, with the usual fond memories, but effectively left some 50 years ago. My mother Hilda, remained though, which both occasions many visits but also leads on to my thanks to the village for the war memorial. For many, especially the younger residents, this is probably a mere token. For a few of us, however, it has great meaning; one of the names is that of my father.

I was less than two years old in 1945 when he died in far north east India just when the Japanese were being driven back down through Burma. He was buried in Imphal. My mother remarried and through all my teenage years and those we call our "career" my natural father was more of a myth than someone who had once been alive. Until, that is, my wife and I made a pilgrimage to his grave site.

The trip to Imphal is not without adventure with our governments stating:- "We advise against all but essential travel to Imphal. If you intend to travel to Imphal then you should only travel there by air. There is a risk from insurgent groups, kidnapping,



Hilda and Cyril Sansom's Wedding Day - May 8th 1943

SEER GREEN WAR MEMORIAL CONTINUED:-

banditry and insurgency are rife throughout the region.” Thus the Indian government only let you travel there if you have a permit. Anyhow, we persevered, and we got our permits a couple of days before we left home.

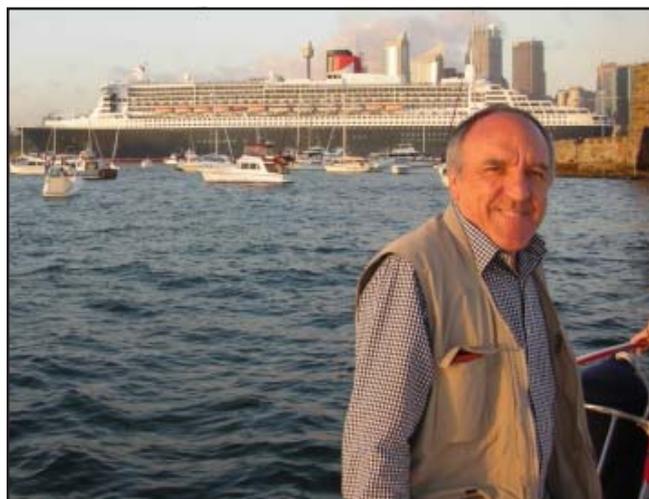
After many mini adventures, mostly with cockroaches and rats, we finally made it to the cemetery; an immaculately kept oasis in the middle of chaos and poverty; rows and rows of headstones most with names but many with “unknown soldier”. Between each headstone are flowers and the ground very neatly tilled. I sat by the grave chatting about all our lives for an hour or so during which time I buried a few photos. I didn’t want to leave but we then went as planned to the Kangla Fort which during the war was the British military base and General Slim’s headquarters. Most of the buildings, including his, are still there including what was the military hospital and almost certainly where my father died.

Back to the cemetery where we placed a few flowers on the grave and I was left on my own for

an hour or so just revelling in the serenity of the place. Again I didn’t want to leave. Next day we stopped at the cemetery on the way to the airport. Now I cried as we left for the final time. Somehow it had brought the myth “alive”.

It is only fitting that the village should also have a memorial so please accept my thanks.

Dr Keith Sansom



Dr Keith Sansom in Sydney Australia

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 the most significant contribution to the village community.

The award is being run again for 2013 and we are asking for your nominations to be submitted before the closing date of 26th April 2013. The award (gift tokens to the value of £50) will be announced at the AGM on 1st May 2013.

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 theLamb’s Newsagent.

My nomination is for:

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

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

FLOODING ON CHALFONT ROAD

As residents will be frustratingly aware Seer Green has again been struggling to cope with the regular flooding on Chalfont Road during heavy rain. As a major thoroughfare for traffic this has caused significant inconvenience for local residents as the road has now had to be closed several times.

Many cars have taken a chance driving through the flood (before warning signs are in situ) but the water has been too deep and several cars were written off. This has sometimes been aggravated by lorries and buses driving through the flood water whilst a car is trying to navigate through. It has been reported that their bow wave has been the cause of some of the damage.

Following the January Parish Council meeting a letter was sent to Bucks County Council (BCC) Transport Service Leaders to ask what could be done to alleviate this ongoing problem. In



Chalfont Road flooding

February BCC said “we re-bored the current borehole a couple of years ago and also re-dug some 110m of drainage ditch either side of the Equestrian Centre in September 2009, in an attempt to address the flooding issue. However, as a result of the flooding in October 2012, the Local Area Technician (LAT) instructed the super sucker to attend and clean all the gullies, jet the lines and empty the soakaway. This work was carried out on 10/01/13. At that time it appeared that the borehole was working as there was no evidence of any water backing up in the borehole.

Unfortunately shortly after, we experienced long periods of heavy rain and the area flooded again. The LAT checked the borehole/soak away and it was full to the top with water, which implies the borehole is not working as expected. The next viable option is for the installation of an additional borehole with all of the associated works, thereby doubling the capacity of the drainage system. This scheme will also include re digging all the ditches. This is a substantial piece of work with a considerable cost, and we are not currently in a position to carry out these works immediately, however, the site has been identified as a priority to be implemented in the next financial year.”

So the Parish Council will continue to chase for this work to be done now that we are in the new financial year. In the meantime please remember that this area of road has a dip and the flood water is deeper than it may look, so please avoid the flood and take an alternative route to save damaging your car.

GREEN MEADOW REFURBISHMENT

In line with the findings of 2 surveys undertaken recently; one by the school children and the other residents 18+, the refurbishment of Green Meadow aims to provide a diverse selection of equipment for children age 7+ which is both challenging and stimulates creative play.

Also within the scope of the project is softscaping in the form of uncut swathes of flower meadow, tree planting and the provision of benches and picnic tables all aimed at creating an inviting, pleasant and safe environment for the enjoyment of all age groups within the community.

The Parish Council has now set aside a significant sum towards this project, which includes donations from Jordans Environment Trust, The Cricketers and Seer Green Sports and Social group and is now applying to Veolia Environmental Trust for a large grant to hopefully redevelop the whole area.

If the grant application is unsuccessful (the outcome will be determined by 16th July 2013) the money will be spent on new play equipment this year and the softscaping will be developed with the help of local residents.

AROUND THE PARISH...

Stop Dog Fouling!

The Parish Council has been writing articles in its Newsletters about the problems of dogfouling in the village since 2003. Sadly the problem does not seem to be improving despite the fact that the Parish Council has provided dogwaste bins around the village. You are legally required to clean up after your dog since the Dogfouling of Land Act 1996 came into force in 2003. This applies especially to pavements, grass verges and other designated areas which include the Recreation Ground, Jubilee Walk and the entrance to the cemetery. Dogs are not allowed in Green Meadow.

Some dogwalkers go to the trouble of picking up after their dog and then throw the bag into hedges. This is a disgusting habit and not good for the environment. Please stop this antisocial behaviour. We would ask residents to report any incidents to Environmental Health at Chiltern District Council on 01494 732058.

Jubilee Hall Upgrade

Over the last eighteen months an upgrade program has been undertaken on the Jubilee Hall which is now approaching 40 years old and although overall still in excellent condition it was ready for an upgrade to meet the developing needs of the school, current hirers and potential hirers. The work is now completed and included separating and adding brand new toilet facilities for adults only, renovating the stage area and the back wall, removing the leaky roof light and upgrading the electrical system. In addition new cookers and kitchen utensils have been installed and the entry way and car park improved and repaired. The hall is looking in excellent shape and if anyone in the village is needing a venue for parties, weddings, meetings, presentations or events then include the Jubilee hall in your considerations. I think you will be very pleasantly surprised. Book online at www.sgjubileehall.org.uk or contact David Howkins on 01494-857760.

Seer Green Church of England School

During most of 2012 a working party of School Governors and Staff have been engaged in the legal and administrative processes of conversion to Academy Status. This has included securing a 125 year lease on the land used by the school, setting up a private company, new bank accounts and systems for producing statutory accounts

and reports. The Secretary of State for Education granted the school Academy Status on 1st February 2013. Most secondary schools in Buckinghamshire have already converted and primary schools are beginning the process as well. The school has achieved "outstanding" status in its inspections and currently provides education to some 211 local children.

As a Church of England School the school already enjoyed some flexibility in the delivery of the education syllabus but this has now been further extended as a result of conversion.

There has been some restructuring of the Governing Body and its Committees to assist the school in meeting its new legal, financial and regulatory responsibilities and support staff and parents in the continuing delivery of high quality education and life skills for village children.



Green Wood

If you have been walking in Green Wood over the winter you will have noticed the poor condition of the footpaths. Sadly the weather conditions have been exceptionally bad but hopefully they will improve in a drier Spring. The Parish Council will monitor the problem and consider some re-surfacing work if things don't improve. You could help the situation by finding an alternative route for your daily walk.

We have just completed another thinning of holly and other trees marked for us by the Chiltern Woodlands Project and would ask residents not to remove any logs from the wood without prior permission. Thankyou.

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:-
www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk