



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.

BID TO RETAIN AN INVALUABLE COMMUNITY ASSET



The closure of the Seer Green Post Office last autumn has had a profound effect on the village and, while we acknowledge the long and valuable service of Steve and Sandie Patel, it is clear from the huge public outcry that the loss of our Post Office has been felt keenly. Seer Green Parish Council has not rested on its laurels. Following the refusal of planning permission to turn the Post Office from a mixed-use property to a residential property (which was vigorously opposed by both the Parish Council and local residents), the Parish Council submitted to Chiltern District Council, an application for registration of the property as a Community Asset. If approved and listed, this asset remains on the list for five years and allows certain community and voluntary organisations six months in which to bid or find a bidder for the property in its current guise as a mixed-use premises.

We believe that the property will be marketed by Estate Agents shortly. Once this process has started, this provides a six-month window in which to explore the possibility of finding another owner, community led group or consortium to take the premises over and run a Post Office and/or possibly another business or community-orientated activity there. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in the Post Office premises, please contact Mrs Liz Bates on clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk to register your interest and proposal. The more serious expressions of interest we have, the better the chances of saving the Post Office for the village.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

The Parish Council have decided not to enter the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition this year.

Our village community has worked extremely hard in previous years to present the village to a high standard and have enjoyed the competition. However, over the past few years we have found some of the Judges' comments confusing as they have contradicted comments from previous years and this has left villagers frustrated. For instance in 2016 the Judges stated: "The churchyard is well kept, with mown areas and wildlife areas giving an attractive mix." But last year they stated: "The Holy Trinity churchyard was tidy but with some unkempt areas contrary to the cemetery in School Lane which was excellent." The area was kept to the same standard so what one set of Judges thought of as an attractive feature another set thought was

unkempt. We have contacted the organisers to inform them that we will not be entering this year and our reasons why. The organisers replied writing, "I understand the comments, including those about lack of consistency, and will pass them on to Richard Pushman, the Chairman. We do have an annual training day for Judges where we emphasise the need for consistency and we do try to standardise as far as humanly possible. That said, opinions will inevitably differ from time to time, but the Judges do act in good faith."

The Parish Council will continue to work to keep the village to a high standard and will review the situation next year.



CHALK, CHERRIES AND CHAIRS

The Chilterns Conservation Board has been awarded a £2.1m grant for a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This money is for initiatives that support heritage, people and communities.

The scheme aims to:

- * Restore, enhance and record wildlife habitats, landscape features and cultural heritage of the Central Chilterns;
- * Create new opportunities for people to investigate and celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of the Chilterns, inspiring a wider range of people to become stewards for their local heritage;
- * Strengthen the capacity of local communities to take action for their local landscapes and natural heritage.

They have decided to use this money to run a project entitled Chalk, Cherries and Chairs, to restore, enhance and record wildlife habitats, landscape features and cultural heritage in the Central Chilterns, including this area. The name "Chalk, Cherries and Chairs" reflects the landscape, land use and industrial heritage of the Chilterns.

They hope to inspire local people to get involved and feel more connected to the area and to deliver long-lasting benefits to landscapes and communities.

Councillors and members of the community met with Nick Marriner from the Chilterns Conservation Board earlier in May to discuss opportunities for funding in Seer Green and further details will be discussed at future Parish Council Meetings.

SEER GREEN IN BLOOM

In March the Seer Green Gardening Society planted new roses at the foot of the arch at the entrance to Jubilee Walk. The arch was originally erected in memory of Nigel Bingle who tragically died in a road accident in 1981 at the age of 22. Sadly, the original roses died and the replacement roses planted by Bert Child were stolen. So for many years the arch has stood unadorned.

Following consultation with the Bingle family, the village gardening society has planted new roses to climb over the arch. The chosen variety is Wollerton Old Hall which is described as "one of the most fragrant of all English Roses. Its strong, warm, intensely floral fragrance is in the myrrh family and has hints of apricot. The plump buds, with attractive flashes of red, open to form beautifully rounded, chalice-shaped blooms of soft apricot, which eventually pale to cream."



The Bingle family appreciate the efforts of the gardening society to bring the arch back to life with the planting of the roses. It is hoped the new plants will flourish and villagers will enjoy the flowers for many years to come. In the meantime, please do not allow your dog to urinate over the roses as this will harm them.

You may have spotted the purple crocuses planted on several sites around the village. In conjunction with Seer Green and Jordans Rotary, The Seer Green Gardening Society planted the crocuses to raise awareness of the Rotary fight for a polio free world.



Eradicating polio has been Rotary's main humanitarian focus for over 30 years. When a child receives their life saving polio drops on mass polio immunisation days in many countries their little finger is painted with a purple dye so it is clear they have received their life saving vaccine. The Purple4Polio initiative here in Great Britain and Ireland was designed to unite Rotary club activities engaging with local communities to help raise the vital funding needed to wipe polio off the face of the earth.

The crocuses were a lovely addition to the village's green spaces and gave much pleasure. Other spring bulbs and plants have also been planted around the village to add life and colour to our road signs, gate boxes and green spaces.

NEW LOOK 'WELCOME TO SEER GREEN'

As part of our ongoing commitment to visually improving and enhancing Seer Green, three new signs were commissioned and cherry trees planted next to them with the aim of adding to their numbers in due course. It was envisaged that these attractive new signs would act as 'gateways' to the village centre, as well as reminding motorists entering to drive with care and pay attention to the legal speed limit of 30mph through it.

Several designs were considered with the one chosen being seen as best encapsulating Seer Green's historic association with cherry growing. As many may already know, in the 1800s the village was surrounded with cherry orchards and people came from surrounding areas to marvel at the magnificent spectacle that they produced when in blossom. Whilst most of the crop harvested was sent to Covent Garden, local baker Mr Lofty used the fruit to bake pies and Seer Green became known as the 'Cherry Pie Village'.

The cherry logo was drawn by local artist, Heather Rootes and the entire project match funded by the LAF (Local Area Forum). The decision to plant *prunus 'Shirofugen'*, an ornamental cherry tree, at each entrance was based on the fact that the blossom is more spectacular and longer lasting than the fruiting cherries that would have been grown in the orchards of the 1800s.



In 1974 a tin box was found in the chimney of an old house in Seer Green. Inside was the following recipe for Cherry Pie...

"For pastrie, use flour saved from the cleanings, and lard from the fresh killed pig. Roll out verie thickly so as to contain the cherry juice, and give boddie to the turnover. Gather a hatful of black cherries by moonlight. Those high up are better in taste. Let them be ripe enough to contain the juice when gentle prest. Put a double layer in the pastrie with flour atop, and seal with fresh drawn water from the well. Cook gently on a fire of faggots. Gather round, and when the pastrie is cool enough not to scorch the fingers, break off one end and drink the juice. Repeat... and yet again....then again.



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE JUBILEE HALL

Seer Green Parish Council is sole Trustee of Jubilee Hall and continues to invest in hall improvements. Over the past twelve months the leaking roof dormer has been removed, the heating and wiring has been updated to work more efficiently, the kitchen and hall ceiling have been repainted and all of the main hall lights have been upgraded to soft white LED lights to make the hall brighter. The hall can be booked through the website www.sgjubileehall.org.uk or by calling the bookings secretary David Howkins on 01494 857760.



PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD 2018

For the last seven 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.

The award is being run again for 2018 and we are asking for your nominations to be submitted before the closing date of Friday 29th June 2018. The award (gift tokens to the value of £50) will be announced at the July 2018 Parish Council meeting.

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 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 below).

My nomination is for:

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

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

Who to contact?

Report Potholes via www.fixmystreet.com or contact Bucks CC Transport Department at www.buckscc.gov.uk/online or call 0845 230 2882

Waste, litter, road sweeping, fly-tipping and clearance of paths should be reported to wasteteam@chiltern.gov.uk or call 01494 586550. Report dog fouling to Environmental Health on 01494 732058.

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



All the family are invited to join in as we get together in a simple act of Community, Friendship and Fun!

Seer Green

big lunch

Sunday 3rd June
12 noon til 3pm

The grounds of Seer Green CE School
School Lane, Seer Green, HP9 2QJ

Join us for a village picnic!
Bring your own food, drink and picnic blanket
(some tables and chairs provided - please no dogs)

This event is supported by SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

the big lunch! | CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL | SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL | SEER GREEN CE SCHOOL | SEER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH | SEER GREEN GARDENERS | SEER GREEN SGCE SCHOOL | SEER GREEN VENTURE HALL

For further details please contact Seer Green Parish Clerk at clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk 01494 874233

In the event of hot weather this event will not take place.

2018 Seer Green Village Events

June	175th Anniversary Celebrations of Seer Green Baptist Church	
3rd June	Civic Service celebrating Seer Green	Holy Trinity
3rd June	Seer Green Big Lunch	
10th June	Open Gardens	SG Gardeners
23rd June	Cherry Pie Fair	SGCE School
1st July	Holy Trinity Church Fete	Holy Trinity
21st - 23rd Aug	GOLDEN TICKETS Holiday Club 2018	SGKIDS
25th Aug - 8th Sept	Scarecrow Competition	SG Gardeners
8th Sept	Autumn Show (venue Jubilee Hall)	SG Gardeners
14th-15th Sept	Seer Green Beer Fest	Venture Hall