



Annual Report by the Chairman

TALK ABOUT SENELEY GREEN

Produced by Seneley Green Parish Council – August 2023

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in April (see website for Minutes) our Chairman Cllr Sue Murphy, gave her report on the business of the Parish Council for the year April 2022 to March 2023: She welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this Annual meeting is the only time residents can raise issues and agree resolutions. Items raised under 'Public Session' at normal business meetings can subsequently be included on a future Parish Council meeting Agenda. Cllr Murphy spoke about (in summary): *Continuing efforts to resolve public transport issues including accessibility funding (Garswood Station is not included in the current round but we will continue to press for inclusion in future rounds); Representation to St Helens Council relating to residents' feelings following the Libraries Review under which Garswood Library was earmarked for closure but a further review is under way; The Miners' Memorial; The part-funding of the schools crossing patrol on Rectory Road for a number of years but that this ended at the end of August 2022; Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022 (working in partnership with Friends of Seneley Green on the Jubilation event) Thanks were given to everyone who assisted and took part; Providing space at the front of the Community Hall for residents wishing to leave floral tributes following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and a contribution to the Book of Condolence by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council and Residents; Provision of space for the NHS mobile unit on the car park at our Community Hall*

for a week – mobile deals with pre-arranged appointments for early-stage cancer detection; Fitness Forever sessions on Wednesdays at our Community Hall; Tree Lighting Event – a welcome return after two years' absence, held at the Community Hall. Assistance with storage/sorting /collection space for Cllr Sue Murphy's Toy Appeal which was well-supported by toy and financial donations from residents who were most generous, the appeal culminated in a collection taken during Santa's visit to the streets of Seneley Green (and also in Billinge); Working in partnership with Seneley & Garswood Juniors to bring a second defibrillator to Seneley Green at the Community Hall (the other defibrillator is at Hamilton Road shops); Routine work has included: Planning Applications monitoring and action by our Planning Committee; work towards resolving one off issues raised by residents. Negotiation over new introduced land charges which had an adverse effect on our budget planning for 2023/24; The trialling of online circulation of our newsletter was agreed. Cllr Sue Murphy recorded thanks for: the work of Friends of Seneley Green and also the Knit and Natter Group for their wonderful work in improving and decorating our area. All Councillors were also thanked for their work in supporting Seneley Green Parish for the past year, along with members of staff. The Chairman further commented that last year and the coming year will be among the most challenging we have ever faced financially, with the cost of living rises we are all experiencing

Changes to our Newsletter whilst other local Parish Councils have changed from delivering newsletters to taking space in a locally distributed magazine, we are not able to do the same, because part of our area is omitted from their distribution. Instead, we have decided to trial the newsletter as a predominantly online publication. Printed copies will be displayed on our noticeboards and will be available locally for those unable to access online and if you know of anyone less mobile or housebound then please pick up a copy for them or alternatively contact the Clerk who will post one out to them.

GARSWOOD LIBRARY

Our library had been earmarked for closure on 31 October 2022 following a consultation by St Helens Council. The above decision (along with others is now being reviewed with a further consultation taking place – and the results published in the near future. After listening to comments from residents at our meetings about their wish to retain a service if the outcome of the consultation is still sadly to close our library. To this end we would like to hear from anyone who would like to express an interest (in the first instance) in being involved in a volunteer-led facility. We would need at least 12 residents to take this idea forward.



In the meantime, Parish Council funded commemorative bookmarks to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this service to the area.

Current opening hours: **Monday 10am-2pm** (includes **Read & Rhyme** at **10.30** parents and children are most welcome to go along) and **Friday 1pm to 5pm** (there is a **Brew and Browse** session from **2pm** (when you can have a cuppa and a chat whilst browsing books to borrow). It is important that residents continue to use and support the library whenever possible. If you wish to contact them outside of the above hours
Email: garswoodlibrary@sthelens.gov.uk

TOM RETIRES the names Tom Nugent and Seneley & Garswood Juniors have rarely been used separately in Seneley Green over the past 40+ years and have together provided a base for boys and girls to experience the best that football has to offer: regular exercise, working together towards success, friendship and all-round character building and Tom's been at the helm for all that time. They also support many local causes and stepped up during the pandemic: just in the last year, S&G Juniors have provided the Christmas Tree outside the Community Hall and have worked in partnership with us to provide a further 24/7 defibrillator.

Parish Council is quite sure a large number of our residents/former residents will have enjoyed and continue to enjoy the service of this valuable local club. Tom is always quick to point out he hasn't done this alone and is equally speedy to give credit to others, but just this once, we want to say: Take a bow Tom, and the numerous rounds of applause coming in your direction; they are richly deserved. Time to put your feet up – although we suspect you won't be doing this anytime soon! Enjoy a long and happy retirement!

Parish Council Events once again we will be installing lamp post poppies for Remembrance and these will be in place as soon as possible after 31st October – if anyone would like to help, not only to put them up but to take them down again, please contact the Clerk.

Our Tree Lighting Event will take place on Friday evening, 24th November (more details to follow) and the halls and tree will be illuminated all through December.

We are also looking to hold an event in June 2024 when the whole country will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings (again, more details to follow)

RAIL STATION

Parish Council continue their efforts the address outstanding issues at the station: the waiting room on the Liverpool bound platform was improved some time ago and the pre-pandemic service of two trains per hour (in each direction) was restored in December 2022 (we are also aware of regular cancellations and these too have been reported to Liverpool City Region Transport Committee. Parish Council has recently reported once again our ongoing concerns re the condition of the footbridge and the accessibility issues. We have recently requested Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham to meet with us on site to see our issues first hand and we will keep residents updated on this via social media and our noticeboards.

Our ticket office is also under threat as part of a national proposal. Both LCR and Greater Manchester Mayors are opposed to this and concerned about inadequate

consultation:
<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-07-18/five-mayors-to-take-legal-action-over-rail-ticket-office-closures>

MINERS' MEMORIAL

The memorial (at the front of the Parish Hall) is nearing completion and will soon be ready to receive time capsule contributions from local school children. The memorial will commemorate all men, women, children and animals who worked at the mines in our local area. Please look out for news on the official opening date on social media and noticeboards

FRIENDS OF SENELEY GREEN.

FOSG have been planting fruit trees and bushes along with wildflowers and plants which are taking shape at Birch Grove. Bulb planting will be carried out in October – they would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been supporting their events and for donations of Raffle prizes, tombola items and plants. They were successful in a bid to the National Lottery to replace the kitchen at the Community Hall to further support their activities and projects. Please scan the QR code to access FOSG Facebook page for updates on their activities or keep a lookout on our Facebook pages/noticeboards for details of Halloween and Christmas events.



NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE COMMUNITY HALL



A second defibrillator was installed at the Community Hall earlier this year and officially opened by Mark King (from Oliver King Foundation); the Foundation kindly donated the consumables needed to get the equipment up and running. The defibrillator itself was kindly donated by Seneley & Garswood Juniors with Parish Council purchasing the external cabinet to provide 24/7 availability. This facility is a welcome addition to the

one already in place at Hamilton Road shops. The official opening was held at the Community Hall on Friday 21 April to acknowledge the partnership working to bring a much needed second public defibrillator to Seneley Green: Parish Council supplied the cabinet (24/7 availability), Seneley & Garswood Juniors donated the defibrillator and the Oliver King Foundation donated the consumables needed to get the whole facility up and running! Special guest Mark King was invited along to officially open the facility and to speak about the Foundation. Those present found the talk informative, interesting and, at times, emotional story but one that had brought about such a positive national result in securing the supply of defibrillators to sports teams, schools, communities, individual families, etc. As always, we hope that our defibrillators remain unused, but there is great comfort in knowing they are available to assist in saving an otherwise lost life. Please keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and noticeboards for any defibrillator awareness training sessions.

HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT Parish Council recognises that things are continuing to be challenging for lots of individuals and families. We would encourage everyone to take care of their mental health by seeking assistance when needed, or simply reassurance for yourself, or on behalf of family or friends. We continue to liaise with our local Mental Health Practitioner Kate Andrews. *This list below is not exhaustive(it is also included on our website and Facebook –details on back page).* Garswood Surgery's website (in common with most GP websites) carry details on contacts/assistance: <https://www.garswoodsurgery.co.uk/digitalpractice/wellbeing-centre/mental-health/> **NHS CONTACT SUPPORT:** contact your GP, call 111 or Out of Hours GP - Mental

Health Crisis Line 0800 051 1508 – 24 hour/ 7 days a week - NHS Direct (0845 46 47) - Walk in Centre (now called Urgent Treatment Centre) or Hospital A&E HELPLINES: Samaritans - 0845 790 90 90 or on 116 123 (free) 24 hour/ 7 days a week service - Papyrus - 0800 068 41 41 working with young people who have suicidal thoughts - CALM phone line - 0800 58 58 58 365 days, 5pm-12am—a charity to help prevent male suicide in the UK - HOPEline UK 0800 068 4141 - staffed by trained staff who provide non-judgmental support, practical advice and information to people up to the age of 35 who are having suicidal thoughts - The Age UK Advice Line 0800 678 1602 open 8am – 7pm every day of the year, even Christmas day.

ONLINE RESOURCES: <https://happiful.com/>
www.mind.org.uk www.getselfhelp.co.uk - www.samaritans.org www.papyrus-uk.org www.thecalzone.net www.stateofmindsport.org Also there is a great course on the NHS website for Sleep hygiene [Sleepstation - sleep improvement & insomnia course](#)

24-HOUR MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINE - Call **0800 051 1508** if you live in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens or Warrington Call **0800 051 3253** if you live in Wigan

Don't be Alone!

St Helens Together model, which was created in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, will once again become a priority to pull together the help available across the area to help those in need. Please refer to their website for full details: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/sthelentogether>

Your Parish Councillors:

Brenda Ashcroft	01942 721289
Sue Houghton	07894 726678
Elaine Murphy	07840 395387
Susan Murphy (Chairman)	07597399098
Joe Pearson	01942727833
Bernard Pilkington	01942 728466
Jason Shawcross	07989 050722
Jim Stevenson (Vice Chairman)	01942 726695

Clerk/RFO Carole Bolton

Tel: 07561 477 596

Email seneleygreenpc@gmail.com

www.seneleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk

.... or find us on Facebook (scan QR code)



If there is anything you wish to comment, compliment or complain about in relation to the Parish of Seneley Green then please contact the Parish Clerk

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings and contribute during the Public Session. Meetings are held the second Thursday in the month) at 7.45 pm

Upcoming meetings: 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December. Look out on Facebook, website or noticeboards for confirmation of locations/times.

What's On at the Halls and Playing Fields

PARISH HALL

Trinity Girls Brass Band: (Mon and Wed 7-9PM: Diane Haselden 01942 718229

Garswood School of Dancing: Tues: Garswood School of Dancing from 4.30 pm, disco and rock and roll classes and Adult tap steps class. For further information contact Elizabeth Whittaker 07850 228893 or liz.whittaker21@btinternet.com or their Facebook page.

Coffee n Chat: further details to be announced

Garswood Tai Chi, Thursday 7-8:30pm and Saturday mornings. Contact Ged 07599 699491.

COMMUNITY HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

Football: Seneley & Garswood Juniors F.C. Contact: Paul Ellis on ellisp9@hotmail.co.uk

Rugby League: Garswood Stags ARLFC Coach Jon Rattigan – 07718 078762 or email ratty1605@gmail.com

Rainbows: (5-7 years) Thurs - 5-6pm: **Brownies:** (7-11 years) Wed or Thurs 6.15-7.30pm

Guides: (11-14 years), Tues - 7.30-9pm To register for any of the above, please complete the online form www.girlguiding.org.uk

Garswood School of Dancing: Monday from 4.30pm, ballet grades and Adult Ballet Steps class and Saturday mornings from 9am, ballet, tap and modern classes (contact as above)

Fitness Forever: each Wednesday from 11, nominal charge – no booking necessary

Our halls and playing fields are available to hire – contact the Clerk for details

Merseyside Police

The St Helens Community Police Team cover our area . Details relating to our local area can be found on <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/>

Crimes etc. can be reported: online at <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Report on Twitter @MerPolCC or on <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=merseyside%20police>

Alternatively call 101 but **FOR EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 999**

Contact details for our MP Conor McGinn Constituency Office: Westway House, Bridge Street, Newton Le Willows WA12 9QT Phone: 01744 21336 Parliamentary Office: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel: 0207 219 <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4458/contact>

Contact Details for St Helens Council: Tel 01744 676789 or <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/contactus>
St Helens Council – ‘Tell us Once’ Service:

St Helens Council offer a ‘Tell us Once’ for the newly bereaved to help inform all those who need to know.

Tel: 01744 676789 or <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/search?q=tell+us+once>