



Produced by Seneley Green Parish Council – October 2020

TALK ABOUT SENELEY GREEN

Cllr Ken Cleary MBE

It is with regret we announce the recent sad passing of one of our Parish Councillors. Cllr Kenneth Cleary, MBE (aged 80), a much-loved husband, father and grandfather. He had lived in Garswood for over 50 years and had served



this and the wider community as Councillor and Parish Councillor since 1983. Cllr Cleary had an illustrious political career, serving on St Helens Council and various parish councils, he was also Chairman of the National Association of NALC), which saw him receive an MBE in 2008.

During his time as Mayor of St Helens in 1990-91, Ken was instrumental in starting the fund for Willowbrook Hospice. Ken was also later named as vice patron of the hospice, and was also one of the founding members of Home-Start St Helens. He had also been governor at various St Helens schools throughout his career. Ken's health had deteriorated in recent years, but he continued to serve on the Parish Council up until his death (*the photo above was taken at one of the Parish meetings*)

Tributes have been paid to him at a recent St Helens Council virtual meeting where several councillors paid tribute to their former colleague and friend. Cllr Sue Murphy, ward councillor and parish councillor at Seneley Green, said: *"I met Ken 28 years ago at a Labour branch meeting and he has always supported me in my political career. Ken once told me that once you become involved in politics you will never and can never walk away from it. And how true that is as despite Ken's failing health, he still loved his politics and loved nothing better than in getting involved in the political debate. But Ken loved St Helens borough and its people. And he served them well over the years. He worked tirelessly for the people."*

Another of the many tributes received was from Michael Chater OBE FRS and NALC Vice President

"I knew Ken as a robust leader who gave very strong, enduring support to first tier local Government and we had long association through periods as Chair and Vice Chair of NALC etc. I know that he robustly faced the challenges of ill health in his latter years but sustained his commitment for Town and Parish Bentham (see below). He will be a much-missed MemberCouncillors. 'The like of his is rarely met' - R.I.P.

He will be very much missed at Parish Council both as a friend and colleague: our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Sandra and all the Cleary family.

A minute's silence was held at the November meeting of Parish Council in memory of Cllr Ken Cleary MBE and David Bentham (see tribute on page 2)

COVID 19 – Don't be Alone!

In these days of Lockdown and Tier restrictions – don't be alone. In **Seneley Green** our Councillors are available to you. Please call Cllr Sue Murphy on 07597399098 or Cllr Stuart Barton (Foodbank Vouchers) on **07932077310** if you are in need of assistance.

We have a team of truly amazing volunteers who are happy to help.

St Helens Council are also on hand and St Helens Together 01744 676767 is a single point of contact for people needing help or wanting to volunteer. They also have a website page dedicated to giving an array of information for local residents to access <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/coronavirusSt Helens Together>

LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance in Seneley Green this November included lamppost Poppies for the second year and local resident Jason Shawcross donated and installed large armed forces figures and poppies at several locations in the area including our schools. Our local Knit and Natter group had been very busy with their needles creating knitted poppies, decorating the library, parish hall, IMC etc. We reported in last newsletter about the work to the memorial area in Holy Trinity Churchyard and Parish Council laid a wreath there plus a wreath at the Cenotaph in St Helens. Lots of grateful thanks were given in person and on social media where photographs are available - Parish Council would add to these thanks by saying how proud they are of the efforts made by residents to remember our fallen heroes. Thank you.



PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Our younger residents got busy carving and creating pumpkin artwork in the run up to Halloween and we were delighted to send out prizes of £10 Amazon vouchers to our winners. A slideshow of entries was displayed on our Parish Council Facebook page on 31st October



IMPROVEMENTS AT RAIL STATION

Clr Pearson reported at our meeting on 12th November following the site meeting with Clr Liam Robinson (Chair of the Transport Committee for Liverpool City Region) at the Rail Station. Clr Robinson had since responded: confirming budget is not currently available to address accessibility issues but Northern Rail had been requested to address the repairs to the bridge and steps plus upgrading of the Liverpool-bound platform waiting room. Parish Council will be requesting updates on a regular basis to ensure the work goes ahead at the earliest opportunity if you would like to get involved in supporting efforts to update the railstation then please contact Parish Council (see back page for details)



Dog Fouling Problems Continue as always, this issue includes a plea for **ALL** dog owners to clear up after their pets and deposit in dog bins supplied or take with them to dispose of at home. For more detail: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/business/animal-health-welfare/dog-welfare-enforcement-service/>

DAVID BENTHAM

We were also greatly saddened to hear of the death of David Bentham who had been Clerk/RFO since the formation of Parish Council in the 1970's until his retirement in 2008.



In 1980 David was instrumental in beginning the process to set up the twinning of the Parish of Seneley Green with another similar Parish in Europe; Nienhagen in Germany was selected and a small delegation (including David) visited Nienhagen in 1981. Reciprocal visits took place every two years; see above pic taken during a visit to Seneley Green. Neil Cooper, Twinning Association said *"David remained a strong supporter of Twinning Association and became its Treasurer – without the hard work done by him it is doubtful if it would have ever been the great success it became. The friendship and happiness which was created between the members of both communities is testament to his efforts. He will be sadly missed by many of his friends both here and in Germany"*.

Parish Councillors past and present held David in very high regard and his work to support the Parish was much valued and appreciated – who can forget the halcyon days of community Carnivals, Christmas Parties, Pram Races etc and David was always involved. Past Chairman Jim Stevenson said *"As someone who had a wonderful working relationship with David for many years when I was Parish Council Chairman and he was Clerk; he was one of the nicest and hardworking colleagues you could ever wish to have and my great friend will be sorely missed by all that had the pleasure to know him"*.

Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his wife Joan and all the Bentham family.

GARSWOOD LIBRARY

The library is currently closed due to Covid19 but residents are being directed to Libraries' Facebook page where there are digital sessions happening every day and even though these are posted at specific times, they can be accessed at any time, please see details at www.Facebook.com/STHLibraries Click and Collect service is available at Chester Lane, Newton-le-Willows and Eccleston libraries (again details on Facebook)

Health Centre & Parish Council

Garswood Health Centre have worked in conjunction with Parish Council to provide Covid-safe facilities for a series of flu vaccination clinics

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS!

HOLY TRINITY

Sunday 6th Dec - 10:30am Christingle Service
Sunday 13th Dec - 10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 20th Dec - 10:30am Holy Communion Service
3.00pm A Christmas Celebration Service

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Thursday 24th Dec - 11:30pm

All services are subject to current COVID regulations at the time.

For Baptism & Wedding Bookings: please contact Church direct on holytrinityashton@outlook.com or via their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityAshton/?ref=br_rs

ST ANDREWS, GARSWOOD

A warm welcome to you all from the Team at St. Andrew's Mission Church a Church OPEN FOR YOU. We meet in the Mission Hall on Garswood Road each Sunday at 9.30am. As a Team we endeavour to serve the Community, our main focus being an active church in the village, our Mission is to increase the Discipleship within the community of Garswood and make "Outreach very much our purpose in serving God".

During the recent Pandemic we have been active in presenting our Morning Worship on the phone and on line- just follow these instructions: Please dial telephone number **0203 794 0272**

And "Conference ID" – **7712 710 483# (the # at the end is important)**

During December services will continue to celebrate Advent and Christmas and we are hoping to open our doors once again on Sunday 6th December, when we shall meet up again with a full programme of services each Sunday and on Christmas Morning at 9.30 am.

A special thank you to the "Knit and Natter" group who provided the beautiful poppy display which enhanced the front of our Church during the Remembrance Celebrations.

Come along and join us – You are very welcome. Blessings to you all **Rosalyn Unsworth (Local Missional Leader)**

IMC - Victoria Road

Our **Community Café** is open on Mondays 5pm-8pm; Wednesdays 10am-2pm and Thursdays 10am-2pm

See new website for up to date info

downallgreenimchurch.weebly.com

Christmas Services:

Sunday 13th – Covid friendly nativity service 11am

Sunday 20th – Carol Service 11am & Candlelight Service 6pm

Thurs 24th – Christingle Service 4.00pm

Friday 25th – Christmas Day Service – 10.00am

Everyone is welcome to join any of our services - COVID19 regs are in place and being regularly updated so some dates/services may change.

Contact Details: Email: downallgreenimchurch@gmail.com Tel: 01942 712106 or via website: downallgreenimchurch.weebly.com

OUR LADY IMMACULATE RC SCHOOL: two dates for viewings for parents and families who children are due to start school next September have already been held but if you have any queries then please contact the school:

Tel: 01942 708438 or Email: enquiries@ashtonourladys.wigan.sch.uk

SANTA'S SLEIGH

There are plans for Santa to drive his sleigh through Seneley Green prior to the big day!

Please look out on social media, our website and noticeboards for further information on this

Friends of Seneley Green

If you are interested in joining any of the FOSG activities then please contact Holy Trinity Church-details (opposite)

'Our Tom' Sings

Local singer Tom Loughlin has been engaged by Seneley Green and Billinge Parish Councils to bring a special online Christmas Concert from Holy Trinity Church to residents of Seneley Green and Billinge. Please look out on social media, our Website and noticeboards throughout the village for further information on this.

Christmas Dinner

For a variety of reasons some people do not get to enjoy Turkey with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and if you are one of these people then we need to hear from you.

Amanda Ryder of Amanda's

Sandwich Shop has very kindly offered to cook and deliver up to 50 Christmas Meals on Christmas Day to the homes of residents of Seneley Green completely free of charge!

All you need to do is contact:

01744 892167 (voicemail in operation) or email

seneleygreenpc@gmail.com, Cllr Sue Murphy on 07597399098 or

Amanda Ryder on 07510801996 (you will need to give your contact details and any information relating to food allergies/intolerances) by **Friday 18th December**



Your Parish Councillors:

Brenda Ashcroft	01942 721289
Susan Murphy	01942 802048
Stuart Barton, Vice Chairman	07932077310
Joe Pearson, Chairman	01942 743021
Peter Peers	07939 004421
Bernard Pilkington	01942 728466
Jim Stevenson	01942 726695

Clerk/RFO Carole Bolton
Tel 01744 892167
Email seneleygreenpc@gmail.com

Catch up with us at
seneleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk
.... or find us on Facebook



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

Online Parish Council Meeting Dates

10 December 2020, **2021** 14 January, 11 February, 11 March, 8 April (also Annual Parish Meeting) 13th May (also Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

What's On at the Halls and Playing Fields

All hire is currently suspended (at the time of print) due to COVID19 - please look out on our Facebook page and website for up to date information re activities at the halls

Merseyside Police

The St Helens Community Police Team cover our area, and under normal pre-COVID19 conditions the attended Parish Council meetings and offered regular public sessions at the local police station at Main Street, Billinge but obviously these are currently suspended – further information can be found on

<https://www.merseyside.police.uk/a/your-area/merseyside/st-helens/billinge-seneley-green>

(See side panel for reporting information)

Contact details for our MP Conor McGinn Constituency

Office: 6th Floor Century House, Hardshaw Steet, St Helens WA10 1QU
Tel: 01744 21336 **Parliamentary Office:** House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA **Tel:** 0207 219 4367 **Website:** ConorMcGinn.co.uk

Contact Details for St Helens Council: type St Helens into your App Store search box and download the app for free - alternatively Tel 01744 676789 or email contatcentre@sthelens.gov.uk

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. Telephone 01744 676789 or call in at the Contact Centre at Wesley House to make an appointment which can be carried out either at the same time as registering the death or at some other time convenient to you.

REPORT ONLINE
www.merseyside.police.uk

REPORT ON TWITTER
 @MerPolCC

REPORT ON FACEBOOK
 Merseyside Police CC

CALL US ON 101
 Please note our 101 lines can be extremely busy at times and there could be a wait.

CALL 999
 In an emergency always call 999

We can't hold our usual Tree Lighting this year but selection packs will be going to Rectory CofE and Garswood Primary Schools for all the children.

Despite all the challengers, problems and heartache this year has brought, we do wish you all

**Merry Christmas and
 Happy New Year from
 everyone at Parish Council!**

