

COMMUNITY NEWS

Seer Green and Jordans Parish Magazine

October 2024



Learn a new skill - Hedgelaying

Janet's good reads

From Seer Green to Stratford

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Thought for the Month

October is traditionally the month when we celebrate harvest at Holy Trinity, giving thanks for the food we have and taking another opportunity to give to those less fortunate than ourselves.

I went to the supermarket and bought a loaf of bread – it was still warm and smelt lovely, so I thought I'd go back and say thank you to the check-out person.

But she didn't make it, the bakery counter people did, so they are who I should say thank you to. But they only cooked it. Bread is made from flour, which is milled at a factory, so the factory workers need a thank you. Flour is made from grain brought to the factory, so the lorry

drivers bringing the grain need a thank you. But the lorry drivers get the grain from a grain store, who get the grain from the farmer. So, the farmers need a thank you, they sow, nurture and harvest the seed.

But the seeds don't grow on their own, they need soil, sun and rain. The creator God provides these, so I really ought to say thank you to Him.

So many people and so much technology are involved in my simple loaf of bread.

Thank you God for making the soil, rain and sun, and for the seeds that grow. Thank you to the farmers, for their time, effort and dedication in growing the grain. Thank you for the people who harvest the crops, build the grain stores, for the lorry drivers, the factory workers, the baker and the checkout person. Thank you for my loaf of bread.

If you would like to support our One Can Harvest appeal, please bring non-perishable items to Holy Trinity between 10-3pm on Saturday **5 October** or on Sunday **6 October**, and all are welcome to join our Harvest Celebration at 3.30pm on Sunday **6 October**

Janna Holder - Children and Families minister



Church and Community Organisations

Vicar

Rev Jez Carr rev.jezcarr@gmail.com
07916 559151

Primary working days: Wed, Thurs and Sunday

Rector of the Benefice

Rev Dan Beesley revdbeesley@gmail.com
01494 872097 07590 123603

Benefice Assistant Priests

Rev Jenny Tebboth 07708 094532
Rev Paul Henderson
paul.e.henderson@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Linda West

Children and Families Minister and SGKIDS

Janna Holder 07764 490960

Churchwarden and General Enquiries

Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

Holy Trinity Administration

Janelle Stevenson holytrinitysgj@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

Audrey Hardy | Treasurer 07342 652707

Pastoral Care

Heather Rowe 01494 677573

Church Flower Guild

Pam Britton 01494 678466

Scouts | Explorers | Cubs | Beavers

andrew@seergreenscouts.org.uk

Seer Green Brownies

Carole Wharrier 07977 423555

Eight O'Clock Club

Monica Sado 01494 677851

Girl Guides

Brenda Orr | District Commissioner 01753 887209

Jordans and District Rotary Club

Brian Westwood | Secretary 07885 579442

Jordans Horticultural Society

Emma Pegram 01494 874574
Shan Liu 01494 730312
Faith Key 01494 870039

Jordans School

Holly Swain | Head Teacher 01494 874217

Jordans Music Club

Marion Pell | Chairman 01494 872875

Jordans Village Hall Office 10.00 - 1.00

Chris Jenkins | Booking Secretary 01494 875177

Jordans Village Lunch Club

Catherine Robinson 01494 873193

Jordans Village Nursery School

Julie Leonard 01494 875603

Jordans Picture House

Alan Sealy/Box Office 01494 873205

Jubilee Hall

David Howkins 01494 857760

Jordans Quaker Meeting House and Centre

Nina Liebenberg | Warden 07962 105305

Little Ducklings Nursery

Kelly Bartley 01494 677190

One Can

Janet Stewart janetestewart@gmail.com

Seer Green Allotments

Barry Richardson / Chairman 01494 673407

Seer Green Baptist Church

Rev Louise Gilbertson 07983 882260

Seer Green Bridge Club

Irene Machin | Secretary 01494 676321

Seer Green Church of England School

Laura Morel | Head Teacher 01494 676344

Seer Green Gardeners

Janet Stewart 07740 857451
seergreengardeners@gmail.com

Seer Green and Jordans Society

Alan Kell ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com
www.ourlivingvillage.org

Seer Green Lunch Club

Gill Roberts 01494 677281

Seer Green Parish Council

Liz Bates | Parish Clerk 01494 874233

Seer Green Pre school

Kirsten Pole | Manager 01494 677190

Seer Green Football

- United (juniors) Tim Wyatt 07833 246819
- FC (adults) Art Anderson 07919 027351

Seer Green Village Choirs

Jane Smith 07759 841205

From the Editors

October is here with the Harvest Festival of thanks for the plentiful fruit and vegetables despite such a wet year. There seems to be a bumper crop of blackberries and apples so we'll probably be eating a lot of crumbles, pies and cakes whilst some of us will be kept busy making jam and chutney. Lovely treats to look forward to over the winter months.

Read what the Villages have been busy with, events all for good causes and entertainment, and enjoy reading about the events and activities to come.

With best wishes Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Jill Moody

The Editors

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **November** issue to: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by **7 October 2024**. Diary dates for the next two or three months would be very welcome.

Articles should be **300 words max** and in WORD (.doc or .docx format) and photos should be jpeg format, preferably 300 dpi.

Please note any items submitted may be edited for space, content or style.

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Hedgelaying

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Stratford

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Rotary events

Front cover photo - Charlotte Baggins - 'The real Sew 'n' Sews appear on the Postbox Topper'

Holy Trinity Services in October

2 Oct	10.30am	Midweek Communion
5 Oct	10-3pm	Church will be open for early food drop off
6 Oct	3.30 pm	Harvest Service with Families @ 3.30 Please bring any harvest donations you have they will go to One Can in High Wycombe
13 Oct	8.00am 10.00am	BCP Communion Service Morning Praise
20 Oct	10.00am 5.00pm	Holy Communion Servic Confirmation and Baptism Service at Chalfont St. Giles Parish Church
26 Oct	10am-3pm	Church open for lighting candles of remembrance
27 Oct	10.00am	Morning Praise
27 Oct	3.00pm	All Souls Service



All Souls Service
Quiet and reflective
Led by Rev Jenny
3pm, Sunday 27th October

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Seer Green & Jordans

Candles will be available to light in Remembrance of a loved one

October charity of the month



ONE CAN
FOOD BANK TRUST

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
ONE CAN TRUST

Charity of the month

The current cost of living crisis has increased the number of people struggling to make ends meet. One Can Food Bank and Trust has been helping fill this gap. They have been operating since 2011 and they have a strong connection with housing associations and local organisations like Bucks Council. They provide weekly food parcels and also provide support to help families tackle the causes of their financial difficulty.

Located in High Wycombe

Work with local organizations

Referrals, direct requests and emergency parcels

Provide weekly food parcels to those who need help



D-Day exhibition at St Mary's Beaconsfield

As a church, St Mary's has always honoured those who have served and sacrificed, particularly highlighting where there is a local connection. So, it seemed appropriate to create a rolling display starting with D-Day, going all the way through to the 80-year anniversary of the end of the war.

The D-Day display had flags of all the countries that were involved in the Normandy invasion, made by the Brownies. The Davenies' school Cubs have wood-worked lots of ships for the Battle of the Atlantic display that is in place throughout the summer.

By involving young people, the church hopes to encourage families to visit as they highlight the importance of the act of remembrance to a younger generation. Over the next year as the displays change, other community youth and children's groups will be involved.

Where they can, the church has included personal stories from people known in the community: there is an interview with a naval pilot from the congregation who participated in the Battle of the Atlantic; a sermon given in 1941 by a priest whose bomber pilot son went missing; personal diary entries from an Auschwitz survivor. They have stories from Beaconsfield Town Crier, Dick Smith, about many of the local servicemen buried in Beaconsfield.

"When creating a display, we like to embrace all skills in the community, and help people to engage by adding interactive elements and take-aways," says Angela Shepherd, team leader for the Remembrance displays.

The church is inviting people to make white peace doves. There is a dove knitting pattern. There are templates and materials for felt doves and even cut-out foam doves for smaller children.



The plan is to create a whole installation to coincide with VJ day 2025 which can be used by the church for many years to come.

Do visit the church and have a look.

Tamara Reading

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Baptism

22 September

Ethan Ramrajsingh

Contact us

Holy Trinity website www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org

Church Wardens and
General Enquiries Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

ONE CAN
FOOD BANK + TRUST

SEER GREEN
HARVEST HEROES

Saturday 5th &
Sunday 6th
October

Holy Trinity's
Harvest Festival

Saturday 5th &
Sunday 6th October 2024

Any tins, packets or
toiletries are welcome
to be donated to
One Can.

Please drop off
at Holy Trinity
on Saturday or Sunday
between 10-3pm

Harvest Celebration Service
3.30pm
Sunday 6th October.

All welcome.

Donations to Holy Trinity

If you would like to donate to the work and upkeep of Holy Trinity Church there are many quick and easy ways to do so -

Go to our website:

seergreenandjordanscofe.org and scroll down the homepage to 'Online Giving' and follow the link.

Or go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hx7cyzx>

Or you can activate our Online Giving page by using the QR code opposite.

Donations in cash/cheque may be delivered to our treasurer at 58 Chalfont Road. If you can Gift Aid your donation, please add your name and address.

If you would like to join our planned giving scheme, please speak to our treasurer Audrey Hardy on 07342 652707 or chardyseergreen@aol.com



Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community



Monday Mornings
10.30am to 12.00noon
Seer Green Baptist Church

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Weekly events at Seer Green Baptist Church

Sunday

Meeting together as a church community at 10.30 in different ways across the month. We also run a children's group called SPARKS which meets every fortnight. Please check our church website for more details of what's coming up (Life in Seer Green).

Monday

10.00 - Baby group - for pregnant mum's and parents with their under 1's

10.30 - Coffee shop - a drop in cafe for our village seniors.

18.00 - Torchlight - An open Youth Club for 9-11's during term time

19.30 - Connect - Monthly youth groups for school years 7, 8, 9 during term time

(For more information about Torchlight or Connect, please contact Janna - 07764 490960)

Tuesday

10.00 - 13.00 - Seer Green Village post office

Wednesday

9.30 - Little Blessings Toddler Group - for parents, grandparents and carers and their 0-4's.

20.00 - Our weekly prayer meeting - meeting in the church welcome area

Saturday

9.30 - Who Let the Dad's Out? - WLTD0 runs six or seven times a year on a Saturday morning with Bacon butties. It is for dads, granddads and male carers and their 0-7 year old offspring.

The church also runs various small study groups throughout the week for women, men and those exploring faith.

Contact Rev. Louise Gilbertson for more details.
louisesgbc@gmail.com.

Rev. Louise Gilbertson - Seer Green Baptist Church

From the Allotments

Mistakes, Missings and Marvels

There Well I have to start this month with a correction. Misinformation, accidental fake news, erratum - call it how you wish.....Last month I waxed lyrical about the mysterious 'cone-like' curiosity we had been puzzling over that I wrongly identified as the staghorn Sumac. Since then we have been offered several alternatives but can now accurately identify our mystery as fruit of the *Banksia Serrata*, Australian native, relative of the protea genus, much loved by birds and a splendid home for insects. First collected and brought to our shores by Joseph Banks (C18) when voyaging with one James Cook on his voyage round the world. Wonderful, and though formerly incorrect I think you'll agree the misinformation was worth it for the extraordinary conduct of the sumac flea beetle that we might never have known!

Here on the allotment site we are used to thieves; be they slugs, rabbits or birds, but this year we have been surprised by squirrels feasting on our sweetcorn. Climbing up the stems and polishing off ripe cobs. One was even spotted carrying off a cob to eat elsewhere! A word of warning that pertains to all crops, if you think "Ooh that's looking good I'll pick it tomorrow" -

pick it today, or something will have it that night. Wildlife of any size will always recognise ripeness before you do!!

And finally...exciting discovery of the week, my plot has been graced by the presence of two slow worms: neither worms, nor snakes but legless lizards. They are a very welcome addition to the mini safari park that houses the Seer Green Allotment Site.

Charlotte Baggins from the Allotments.



A sweetcorn cob the squirrels didn't get

Our Living Village: Seer Green's Paralympic connection

Sporting greatness proven, medals awarded, and already the 2024 Paralympic games are fading into memory! But how did it begin?

When the 1948 Olympic games opened in London, a group of injured British service personnel, all wheelchair users, gathered at the National Spinal Injuries Centre (NSIC) in Stoke Mandeville for an archery tournament. Organised by Dr. Ludwig Guttman and called the International Wheelchair Games, this event became the International Stoke Mandeville Games from 1952, and then retrospectively the Paralympic Games from 1960 when they took place outside the UK for the first time, in Rome.

Guttman was a Jewish neurosurgeon specialising in spinal injuries. He was born in Poland (Prussia) in 1899 and became medical director at the Breslau Jewish Hospital in 1937. He fled Nazi Germany in 1939, continuing his research at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital. He established the NSIC at Stoke Mandeville in 1943 at the request of the government, on the initiative of the RAF to treat and rehabilitate pilots who had suffered spinal injuries during crash landings. Guttman became a naturalised British citizen in 1945, and remained the director of the NSIC until 1966.

On 20 April 1963 he opened the new swimming pool at the Ponds Home for Spastics in Seer Green. Ponds was established in 1954 and run



Dr. Guttman opens Ponds Home swimming pool, April 1963 © Mirrorpix

by SCOPE (formerly the Spastics Society), it was renamed the Princess Marina Centre in 1972; and became the Princess Grove private estate in 2008.

Guttman was appointed CBE in 1950, promoted to CBE in 1960, and knighted in 1966. In 2012, ahead of the London games, a bronze statue of him was erected at the NSIC.

Ponds House is now listed on the Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List.

Nigel Rothwell - ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

www.ourlivingvillage.org

Seer Green Gardeners

Happily the sun shone once again for the annual Spud-in a-Bucket 'weigh in' on 8 September. Seasoned and unseasoned gardeners from our village enjoyed a relaxed afternoon in their own designated area of the Cricketer's lovely garden. Good natured bantering over the Rutherford's apparent monopoly of the first place position (1.8kg) was tempered by enjoyment of the pub's legendary hospitality. The Gardeners' committee was just a little disappointed by the competition's unusually high drop-out rate: of 67 seed potatoes given out in April, just 37 spud buckets appeared for weighing.

Congratulations to everyone for taking part and particularly our 2024 winners: Josephine Rutherford (1948 grams) and Sophie Odell for the children's prize (646 grams). Andrew Godlonton and Georgia Ayling were compensated for their 'smallest of fries' with large packets of crisps and a wooden spoon each! As ever, all scores were displayed on Charlotte's beautifully embroidered Spudometer!

At the time of writing, we're still looking forward to the Autumn Show. Hopefully Seer Green's stalwart gardeners will work their usual wonders to fill the Jubilee Hall with late summer flowers, vegetables and fruit in spite of the massive slug invasion and serious dearth of sunshine. *Don't miss November's Community News to find out!*



Georgia Ayling winner



Upcoming

Autumn is the season for reflecting on successes (or otherwise!) of one's gardening endeavours and for pondering next year's plan. To help us with this, we're looking forward to welcoming professional garden speaker George Lockwood to the village. George's topic is "Planning for Early Summer Colour", but he'll be very happy to answer gardening questions on any aspect. Thursday **17 October** for 7.30pm start at the Baptist Church.

Gardening in October suggestions

- Plant spring bulbs (leaving Tulips until November or later)
- If you have large pots which you're not using over the winter, scatter carrot seeds onto the compost covering them very lightly with soil/compost. Leave in a cold greenhouse/conservatory or anywhere sheltered. Do this before the middle of October and look forward to a tasty harvest in April. Nantes II is a good variety for this.
- I've just harvested my best crop ever of onions, shallots and garlic, all planted from sets in November. They start into growth early, then look miserable for a few months before galloping ahead as soon as daylight increases.

Sally Ash for Seer Green Gardeners

8 O'Clock Club

With late Summer sun bouncing off a myriad of coloured lights, we were treated to the magical delights of the Amersham Fair Organ Museum. If you haven't visited, it's a must...it's free! (on public open days)

Evoking memories of Fair days and carousel rides, we are indebted to Albert Reed for collecting and preserving such a wonderful collection: from Barrel organs to the magnificence of beautifully decorated pieces built across Europe, complete with hand-carved wooden figures in all their finery, conducting and playing hand-held instruments in time to the music.

Before the days of streaming, this was the way in which the public heard the latest sounds, powered by hand, steam, then electricity.

Music was originally created by a cylinder with raised pins, and then by means of perforated cardboard books which revolutionised the length and widespread availability of music. If you want noise, you'll get it here; otherwise, ask for earplugs. Check out <https://afom.org.uk>

Equally stunning were the exquisite Pearls brought by Frances Carlaw to our September meeting. Frances has visited before, and reminded us



pearls have their origins in the mummified remains of a parasitic maggot that gets into the shell of an oyster, giving it an itch!

Frances also spoke about the Art Deco Movement and the advent of Costume Jewellery, Geometrical designs, vibrant colours, and new industrial material inspired designers.

French Glass worker, Augustine Gripoix, created a technique for creating transparent glass beads from melted glass, with the Design House crafting couture jewellery and counting Coco Chanel amongst its life-time customers. Also in Paris, Louis Rousselet used his Lampworking skills to design and manufacture his polished glass beads, drizzling patterns on to glass and setting silver and gold leaf into the hand-made beads. He also manufactured and carved beads from a plastic called Galalith, made from milk!

Future meetings

3 October

'The Curious Disappearance of Glenn Miller'

Since 15 December 1944, Glenn Miller's disappearance has remained a mystery. Did friendly fire destroy the plane? Was Miller involved in espionage? Was he on a secret mission to end the war? Historian Tony Eaton assesses the facts and rumours surrounding this mystery

All welcome £4 (cash) with tea/ coffee included

7 November

Blood Bikes

Volunteers who deliver blood, blood products, medical supplies, and human donor milk to hospitals 'out of hours' a talk by Kamran Irani Chair Oxon, Bucks and Berks Blood Bikes

Elizabeth Lee

How to subscribe to Community News

We have made it easier to subscribe using the QR code below. The cost of each copy is £2 but reduced to £1.50 a copy (£15 a year) if you subscribe. If you are not happy using a QR code you can also email editorseergreen@gmail.com and just ask to subscribe.

With best wishes Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Jill Moody

The Editors



Seer Green CE School

The summer holidays seem like a distant memory and school is already well up and running in its usual routine. We are delighted at how well both the Reception children and other new starters across the school have settled in.

We were busy over the summer improving the environment for the children. We upgraded four classrooms with new storage solutions, providing more efficient and organised spaces for learning and installed new flooring in two classrooms, creating a fresher, cleaner environment. We've also completely upgraded all the children's toilets, ensuring comfort and hygiene for all the children. In support of our BehaviourHub project we have updated the office area to better reflect our school rules, values and ethos. These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for our children.

These upgrades would not be possible without the regular donations made by parents to the Charitable Trust and we really appreciate your support.



If you would like to contribute to the Charitable Trust to support future projects, please contact the office.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to let you know about our Admissions policy consultation. This process, which it is compulsory for us to undertake every seven years, requires us to consult with all interested parties, including families with pre-school children, who will be invited to share their thoughts. If you are interested in our policy and would like to comment on it, you can access the consultation under Admissions on the school website. The consultation will be open from 1 October 2024 to 12 November 2024. I will communicate the outcome in a future article.

We always welcome opportunities to develop links with the local community, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions for us.

Laura Morel - Headteacher

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Jordans Picture House

Into the swing for our new season

On Friday **October 11** we shall screen "The Great Escaper".

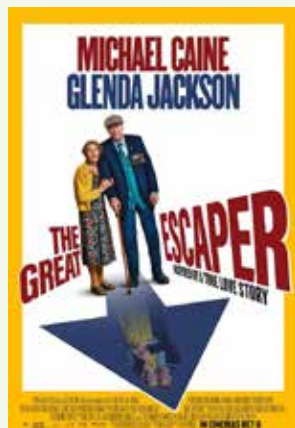
Doors open at the new time of 6.45pm and the Programme starts at 7.30pm.

We look forward to welcoming you again/back!

The Great Escaper 12A

Cast: Michael Caine; Glenda Jackson; Wolf Kahler. Director: Oliver Parker

Bernard Jordan escapes from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France.



On Friday **October 25** we shall screen "Cabaret".

Doors open at 6.45pm and the Programme starts at 7.30pm.

Cabaret (X)

Cast: Liza Minelli; Michael York & Helmut Griem. Director: Bob Fosse.

A female girlie club entertainer in Weimar Republic era Berlin romances two men while the Nazi Party rises to power around them.



How to buy tickets

(Adults £8.00, U15s £5)

Online: Go to www.jordanspicturehouse.co.uk
See "Programme and Buying Tickets"

Jordans Box Office: Alan Sealy
alan@janetsealypartnership.com 01494 873205

Seer Green Box Office: Gill Pettman
gillyp4@btinternet.com 01494 678050

Jordans Picture House Committee

hello@resultshpgym.co.uk'. The bottom of the ad features logos for Financial Times, Daily Mail, Cosmopolitan, ELLE, and Get The Press."/>

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Jordans biodiversity project

Ever fancied laying a hedge?

Hedgelaying course Saturday 5 October

We are planning to lay one of the overgrown hedges on the boundary of Manor Farm Field. Hedgelaying is a process of partially cutting through then bending the stems of shrubs and small trees to encourage them to produce new growth from the base. The result is a thicker, stock proof hedge that creates an ideal habitat for a variety of wildlife.

The training day will take place on Saturday 5th October and then, with expert guidance, we will lay our hedge over a number of days in the Autumn/Winter. If you are interested in learning this skill and then using it to help us to lay a hedge (you don't have to commit to every date), then do be in touch and we'll send more details.

Manor Farm Field North is managed by Jordans Biodiversity Group to promote the variety of life that might naturally be found in grassland in the Chilterns. The field is located on the footpath between Jordans and Seer Green, on the north side of the hedgerow along the narrow section just up from Wilton Lane.

For more information contact us: jordansbiodiversity@gmail.com
Follow us on Instagram: [Jordans_biodiversity_project](#)

Emma Pegram



22

Fundraising for our new village hall

It is with much excitement that the Trustees of Jordans Village Hall Trust forge ahead, under the guidance of the JVHT Fund Raising Committee, raising funds to build a new Jordans Village Hall.

The 'go ahead' from the Village Management Committee was heartening and now the sky's the limit with what we in the Village can now do to enable the funds required to be raised. And as quickly as is feasibly possible!

Different events planned will appeal to different villagers, as well as to those not necessarily living in

Jordans but with a firm belief that in building a central community space for the future will perpetuate valuable community spirit now sadly very absent in our materialistic western world.

Your support in any way that you can give, whether it be by pledging money, generously supporting fundraising events or simply getting behind this amazing venture with your enthusiasm will be very much appreciated.

Ali Cork - Chair, Jordans Village Hall Trust



23

Janet's good reads

October is the perfect time to curl up with a book. Janet Stewart our village book expert recommends



Restless Dolly Maunder - Kate Grenville

Shortlisted for the Women's prize for fiction.

Set in Australia in the late 19th century the story is the journey of a woman well ahead of her time, who isn't ready to settle down as a wife and mother, living the same life as her parents. Dolly is ambitious, bold and unafraid to stand up for what she wants, and whilst that can sometimes make her difficult to warm to, it certainly gives you a lot of respect for her! It's very much a character driven book with moments of humour and heartache, but mostly it's a compelling look at a woman who broke the mould and wanted to give her own daughter the opportunities she didn't have. It wasn't until the very end that I saw it was based on the life of the author's grandmother – she must have been quite a woman!

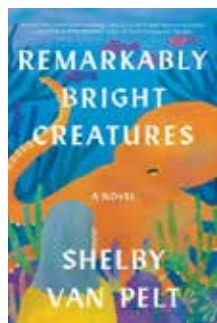
Remarkably Bright Creatures - Shelby Van Pelt

A giant octopus called Marcellus as a narrator – yes please!

A charming tale where humans and animals share that special (yet unlikely) bond.

Tova is an older lady still grieving the unexplained loss of her missing son 30 years ago,

Cameron, a young man, orphaned looking for the truth about his parents and of course Marcellus McSquiddles, a captive 60lb giant Pacific Octopus at the Sowell Bay Aquarium.



The tale is told from each of their perspectives with Marcellus's input being the most interesting as he is determined to help Tova uncover the truth about her son. One obvious problem...as a captive octopus he has a very limited lifespan and with time running out, he must 'investigate' from within the aquarium where Tova works as a night time cleaner.

A satisfying story of love, loss and friendship

You are Here – David Nicholls

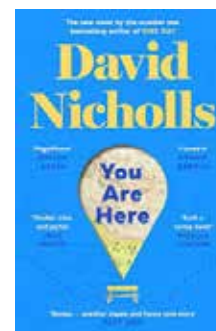
By the author of One Day, I loved this beautiful novel

Middle-aged Marnie and Michael are set up on a weird kind of blind date. Two characters set in their ways are thrown together onto the Coast-to-Coast walk in Northern England. Full of witticisms and real raw conversations about life, Marnie and Michael are all too relatable and their journey through life and the stunning countryside shows you how two completely disconnected people, with a mountain of differences between them, can connect and find common ground where you'd least expect to find it.

Whilst I know people who have done this walk and thought them mad, I have to admit that through the descriptions of the mountains, the rain and peacefulness of just walking, I can (almost) see the attraction!

This tender, moving, funny, poignant and perfectly observed book is an absolute must read.

Janet Stewart





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From Seer Green to Stratford-upon-Avon

It's strange how we are often keen to visit famous sights and attractions that are far from home but don't always make the effort to visit places just a short distance away.

We recently celebrated a big birthday with a 2-day visit to Stratford-upon-Avon, just 80 miles and a 90-minute drive from Seer Green.

As expected the charming riverside town makes the most of being the birthplace of the world's greatest writer. Every other restaurant, tearoom and cafe is named after a Shakespeare play or character and Othello Taxis were busy ferrying tourists to his birthplace and tomb. Away from the crowds we wandered through quiet streets of timbered Tudor buildings and visited the young Will's school where we met his amusing schoolmaster and learnt to write with a quill which was quite a messy affair.

The famous Royal Shakespeare Theatre dominates the banks of the River Avon with a pleasant riverside bar outside and soaring modern open spaces and galleries inside which make the unexpectedly intimate red velvet and dark wood auditorium even more of a surprise.

We saw a brilliant production of The Merry Wives of Windsor which had a full house roaring with laughter from start to finish. We wandered back to our hotel in Shakespeare's footsteps and thought of the young man who left Stratford for an unknown future in London 450 years ago and whose genius still inspires and enriches the world today.

Fliss Coombs



Actors and directors part 1

Cut! The director shouted. Let's go again.

Cut! He shouted again. Let's do another.

Cut! Let's do another.

And so it went on and on, take after take, after take.

This was in the late 1970's and I was working as an assistant cameraman on the film Dog Soldiers. It was a story set during the Vietnam war about American soldiers and drug smuggling.

The film was shot in Mexico and we were shooting this scene in Churubusco Studios in Mexico City. Before lunch we had set up a very complicated shot with lots of camera movement. The camera followed the actor as he moved around the set. At 2pm we returned from lunch ready to start shooting this scene.

The director was Karel Reisz, a famous director whose credits included The French Lieutenant's Woman, Saturday Night and Sunday Morning and many more. On the set Karel was quite an intense person, fully immersed in every shot.

The actor, at the time, was also a famous Hollywood actor known to be a method actor. Method actors, Marlon Brando is one, dig deep into their characters and everything they say and every movement they make, needs to be justified.

Back to the set. The problem was Karel wanted the actor to move around the set in a particular pattern and order. It was the first shot on this expensive set and he wanted the camera to see the set from every angle and to fully establish the layout for subsequent shots later in the film.

However the actor felt his character wouldn't move around the set the way the director wanted. Having worked on over 60 films in my 50 year career in the film industry I had experienced these situations before. Major film stars have a lot of power, often films only get financed and the go ahead because of such and such star signing up to do the film. Often the film is pre sold, prior to the beginning of filming, based on the cast and director involved.

Back to the set. Tension was rising, a power struggle had evolved. Neither the director nor the actor would compromise. It was now past 5pm and still we hadn't got the shot.

By 7.30pm, our normal finishing time, we were shooting take 43. Cut! The director said. Let's wrap for the day and we will continue doing this shot first thing in the morning.

At 8.30am we started shooting take 44. Still the actor couldn't/wouldn't play the scene the way Karel wanted. On take 57, finally the actor realised that Karel would go on shooting this shot all day and the next. Take 57 the actor finally did it the way Karel wanted. Cut! Perfect, check the gate. The next shot is over here.

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Chalfont St Giles to Amersham walk

A local walk around fields and woods

Length: 6 miles

Start point: The Green at Chalfont St Giles

Difficulty: Moderate



Go straight over the lane and continue for a mile with sloping fields on your left until you reach a path junction where you should bear right. Follow the path over the footbridge then turn left along the river eventually passing under the A413 and coming out onto a road by a out onto a road opposite the Chequers Pub.


This local walk follows a river valley for the first half then returns back over rolling farmland with some great views.

Cross the road and head north west from the village green in Chalfont St Giles, along a footpath that goes between houses. After about 200 metres bear slightly right and continue along the valley floor including a short bit of road at Chalfont Mill. You will eventually come out of the woods onto a path between fences and, after a gate, you will reach Bottom House Farm Lane.

Turn left along the road and, just before the Tesco roundabout, turn left on a footpath between houses and back under the A413. Follow the hedge on the right until you reach a footpath on the right that goes up diagonally across a field. Go through the corner of a small wood and continue on the path crossing a track to Quarrendon Farm. You will eventually run alongside and then cross over a hedge and continue along the side of a copse on your left.

At the end of the copse, bear right across the field and through a hedge then continue down the hill to Upper Bottom House Farm. Cross the muddy (usually!) farm yard and take the footpath on the other side of the lane after a brief right turn. After 200 metres take the left fork staying on that path which shortly turns into a lane through houses. When you reach a road junction turn left and then immediately right and follow that path back to the centre of St Giles and the welcoming arms of the Merlins Cave!

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Cost £20 to include a glass of wine and nibbles

Cash or cheques payable to Jordans Rotary Trust.

A new café for Black Park

Black Park featured in our series on fun places to go in the area and we have been informed of a new development.

Planning permission has been granted for a new café with indoor seating, an outside terrace, an external sales point for takeaway snacks and drinks, and improved toilet facilities. Clive Harriss, Buckinghamshire Council’s Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure,

said: “ we aim to open the new facilities in spring 2025.”

The new café will serve a variety of hot and cold drinks, meals and snacks, with catering provided by the park’s current catering company, San Remo. This will be in addition to the existing Lakeside Café – enhancing the catering offer within the park.

Buckinghamshire County Council



Jordans and District Rotary events

We have a speaker from “Bucks Search and Rescue” coming to our next dinner meeting at Beaconsfield Golf Club on Monday **28 October** and Monday **11 November** at the same venue Douglas McAtear is

talking about “Introduction to Digital Banking in Africa”. All guests are welcome.

For more information contact Jenny Owen on 0770738641



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