

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Seer Green and Jordans Parish Magazine

March 2024



The Great Seer Green  
Easter Egg Hunt

Our Living Village -  
Jordans Heritage Trail

Helen's Simnel Cake recipe

£2.00

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## How to subscribe to Community News

We hope that you like the new look of the Parish magazine and enjoy this month's contents too. We love to hear from new contributors, so do get in touch if you would like to put something in the magazine. We have made it easier to subscribe using the QR code.

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](mailto:editorseergreen@gmail.com) and just ask to subscribe.

With best wishes Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Jill Moody

### The Editors



## Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **April** issue to: [editorseergreen@gmail.com](mailto:editorseergreen@gmail.com) by **7 March 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.

## Contents

- |    |                                      |    |                       |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 4  | Church and Community organisations   | 16 | Comedy Night success  |
| 7  | The Great Seer Green Easter Egg Hunt | 22 | Jordans Picture House |
| 12 | Our Living Village                   | 28 | Helen's Simnel Cake   |

## 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

### 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

## Toddlers in the Woods

Toddlers in the Woods, the outdoor group for young families living in or having a close connection to Seer Green and Jordans is a group hosted by

Holy Trinity based in Jordans. It is really well supported by families from both villages, and it is a joy to have the opportunity to get to know so many of a generation rather younger than myself.

The support given from those who come is amazing, not just joining in with their children in Bridget's brilliantly led singing and the many craft activities but also helping take all we use, that cannot be stored in our much welcomed storage box, up to Beech Lane ready to be loaded into my car. How I appreciate this gesture of help.

'He has the Whole World in his hands' is our weekly song when we thank God for our amazing venue which literally has risen from the ground after the catastrophic wind careered through our woods now 34 years ago leaving total carnage in it's wake.

Who would have ever thought then that, when the replanted trees grew, they would leave a natural space that we call 'The Centenary Clearing' where adults and children alike can enjoy time together enjoying this wonderful world.

Toddlers in the Woods takes place on Friday mornings from 9.15 until 10.15 during term time and all preschoolers are welcome with an adult in tow. A voluntary contribution of about £2.50 is also welcomed.

However, all from our villages are encouraged to come and enjoy all that The Centenary Clearing and Crutches Wood has to offer anytime.

**Ali Cork** - 07803 139079 - alicork686@gmail.com



## Thought for the Month



Christians are in the season of Lent, a time which follows the contour of the cross. It's a time of seeing how the Christian life is modelled on the events of the Easter Weekend.

The cross is the defining moment of Christianity. The gospel writers - those who wrote the biographies of Jesus we find in the Bible - invest a huge amount in describing the events leading up to it. It is the moment where Christ draws into himself all the evil in the world - within us and without - and drags it with him into death. He pays in his own life for all our wrongdoing, earning our forgiveness and reconciliation with God - a new life, a fresh start.

During Lent, we look forward with deep sadness at the necessity of the cross, the cost within the Godhead of restored friendship with us. But we also recognise the abounding love which was willing to pay that price; we await the deep joy of what it accomplished - a life of eternal value; life the way it was supposed to be; a life which is pioneered by the resurrection of Christ. The Eastern Orthodox Church refers to it as a season of "bright sadness."

But Lent also reminds Christians that we model our lives on the contour of the cross. That we 'die' to the old life and 'rise' to Christ's new life. In other words, when we see the fullness of joy into which we're invited through Christ, all the fleeting pleasures of this world become a worthless distraction.

That's why many Christians fast from food, live particularly simply, and give away money during Lent: we're declaring that none of these things are worth hanging onto. We let go of them in order to take hold of all that Christ has for us.

**Rev Jez Carr**

## Church Events

Appropriately, there isn't a huge amount going on this month, as we await the big moments of the Easter Weekend.

Join us on Good Friday for a joint service with Seer Green Baptist Church, 10am at the Baptist Church; then later that day, 2pm, we'll have our 'Hour by the Cross'; a short, reflective service at Holy Trinity.

On Saturday, come and join the Great Seer Green Easter Egg Hunt, starting anytime after 10am at the Baptist Church.

Then on Sunday, Holy Trinity will have a short, simple, family-friendly Easter celebration, complete with 'He Is Risen' party poppers.



**The Great Seer Green**  
**EASTER**  
**EGG HUNT**  
**Easter**  
**Saturday**  
**30th March**  
**2024**

Join in with our Easter Egg Hunt, starting anytime between  
**10am - 3pm.**  
(It takes approx 1 - 1.5 hours)

Pick up your instruction sheet from SG Baptist Church  
and have fun around the village following the clues, finding eggs,  
answering questions and spotting the cheeky chicks.

No set charge but donations appreciated.

For further details contact Janna Holder  
07764 490960 / jannaholder@talktalk.net  
This event is sponsored and supported by  
SG Baptist Church & Holy Trinity Church



### Contact us

Holy Trinity website [www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org](http://www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org)

Church Wardens and  
General Enquiries Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

## Baptisms, weddings and funerals

### Funeral

12 Jan Alison Jane Tingey



**YOUNGMINDS**

*Charity of the Month*

*Young Minds* are leading the fight for a future where all young minds are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges. *Young Minds* wants to make sure children and young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's difficulties.

The crisis in children and young people's mental health is real and it is urgent. More children and young people than ever before are reaching out for help with their mental health. But, for those who take the brave step, help is much too hard to find. Together, we are changing this. We're fighting for young people's mental health. Join the fight.

We support young people

We support parents of young people

We support those who work with young people



## Holy Trinity Services for March

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 3 March  | 10am Holy Communion Service<br>3.30pm Families  |
| 6 March  | 10.30am Midweek Holy Communion  |
| 10 March | <b>Mothering Sunday</b><br>8am BCP Communion Service<br>10am Morning Praise                             |
| 17 March | 10am Holy Communion Service   |
| 24 March | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>8am BCP Communion Service<br>10am Morning Praise                                  |
| 29 March | <b>Good Friday</b><br>10am Joint service at Seer Green Baptist<br>2pm Hour by the cross at Holy Trinity |
| 31 March | <b>Easter</b><br>10am Morning Praise  |

For information about activities for children and families, please contact Janna Holder on 07764 490960.

## 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](https://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](mailto:chardyseergreen@aol.com)





DELICIOUS SOUP

*Lent Lunches*  
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 16<sup>th</sup> February finishing 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
 In the Reading Room from  
 11:30am to 2pm  
 At least four choices weekly  
 Check our Facebook page for the  
 flavours of the week  
 Donations to support The Reading Room  
 & The All Together Community  
 Everyone welcome  
 Bring a friend



## Farewell Phil and Hello Jill

It is great fun having three editors of the Parish magazine and everyone brings different skills. As well as editing the magazine Phil set up computer systems for us to make editing easier and he made us much more efficient. Thank you Phil!

Phil has decided to move on and here is his farewell.

For 20 years, I led a European initiative which allows consumers to know the source of their electricity – whether from coal and oil, nuclear power, or renewable (wind, hydropower, solar power, or wood, energy crops and waste). It is now enforced by law across Europe. Part of my job was editing annual reports, technical papers, newsletters, and the like ...

Three years ago, I retired, and was looking for fresh challenges. I took up golf and thought I would draw on my experience as an editor to help Sue and Carol edit the parish magazine.

The magazine has been great fun and I really enjoyed coordinating efforts with my fellow editors!

However, recently I reduced my work in environmental electricity and dusted off old plans to write a definitive book on the subject. Whether that eventually comes to fruition is quite another story!

It was at this point that my wife, Jill, agreed to step into my shoes as an editor.

I will still read the magazine and may well contribute the odd article too.

Jill has lived in the village for 30 years. Her career was in market research firstly for the RAC and then for a prominent market research agency. More recently she worked for local estate agents, Bramptons and then for Frosts. Jill is on the committee of Seer Green Gardeners with particular responsibility for organising the two village shows. A couple of years ago she rejoined Village Voices and loves singing in a choir.

Welcome Jill. We look forward to working together



## Our Living Village - Jordans Heritage trail

The vision for "Our Living Village" project was always to document both Jordans and Seer Green. To recognise what is different and distinctive about our two communities, whilst also capturing the unique relationship. Gradually, we are recording aspects of our history, culture, and heritage; sharing new knowledge and understanding, which we hope is of interest to long-term residents and relative newcomers alike.

The latest addition to our website is a walk exploring the historical development of Jordans. This nicely complements the existing walk which explores the history of Seer Green. These walks are intended to provide insights into the development of our villages, highlighting and explaining some of the historically interesting features, as well as introducing some of the people who have helped shape our communities.



The Grave of William Penn, Edward Hicks (© National Gallery, PD-Art)

These self-guided walks use the GIS (Geographic Information System) software that powers our interactive website, providing a wealth of detailed information. They are intended to be followed using a mobile phone or tablet device. It is our expectation that these walks will also be available on the Bucks County Council supported "Love Exploring" app (available from wherever you usually download your apps!). Using the Love Exploring app may be more appealing for anyone interested in short walks in interesting locations, rather than our detailed history. Watch this space – we will communicate when they are available on this new platform.

And as Spring is only just around the corner, if you seek something a little more adventurous, our website includes a longer walk, exploring the wilder green spaces in and around our communities. Perfect for spotting emerging local flora and fauna as the days lengthen.

Please let us have any ideas or feedback.

**Nigel Rothwell** - ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

[www.ourlivingvillage.org](http://www.ourlivingvillage.org)

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## 8 O'Clock Club



Summer Holidays on the South Coast always brought the possibility of seeing the Coastal Lifeboat launched. As youngsters we wanted to see the mighty Lifeboat in action as it pounded through the waves, spraying salt-water high into the air.

The perilous nature of a rescue, and the determination and bravery of Crews, has remained in the memory of one such holiday. The day was idyllic, blue sky, fluffy white clouds, sparkling shingle and a ribbon of yellow sand. Suddenly the loud 'boom' of the Lifeboat maroon vibrated around the cliffs, and crowds of holiday-makers parted as men came running from all directions towards the Lifeboat Station.

What ensued was a painstaking rescue of two injured teenage cliff-climbers. The tide had turned, and waves lapped the rocks. Eventually the young climbers were loaded into the bobbing Lifeboat that raced back to shore.

In the 200th year of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Mike Prager spoke about

this voluntary search and rescue service, its boats, and the future of this organization that will require the younger generation to keep on saving lives at sea 24/7, acting as seasonal Lifeguards, being part of Flood rescue both at home and abroad, providing safety advice, water education, and First Aid.

The RNLI is a Charity. As an island nation, the service relies on 238 operational Lifeboat Stations around our coasts, 441 Lifeboats and 7 Hovercraft. In 2022, the cost to run the service was £188M; a Service that is free at the point of need.

After the Marchioness Disaster, the RNLI have been operational on the Thames since 2002. The Tower Crew are the busiest in the UK/Ireland with the highest number of launches per year. Emergencies on the River require Crew to launch within 90 seconds of a request from the Coastguard.

**March 7** *'Taking People at Face Value'* by Denise Beddows. Looking at the increasing use of biometrics in our every day lives, Seer Green Baptist Church; £4 (cash) includes tea/coffee. All welcome

**April 4** *'Women in Intelligence: the hidden history of two world wars'* by Helen Fry Historian, Biographer and Scriptwriter

**Elizabeth Lee**

## Jordans school go shopping

At Jordans School, we adore being a part of such a lovely village community. Our youngest children have been learning all about the Jordans Village Store, which is just a walk up the lane from the school.



They have been finding out about how the shop has changed over the years, securing their understanding of past and present. The children had a very exciting afternoon walking up to the shop to buy their own fruit for snack time. They practised their road safety as they walked and used their newly learned money knowledge and two-way conversation skills in the shop. When they came back to school they set up their own shop back in the classroom!

**Holly Swain** - Headteacher





## News from Seer Green Pre-School

The first ever Seer Green Comedy Night was a roaring success. On Friday 2 February, top comedians Richard Morton, Shazia Mirza and Dominic Holland took to the stage in a sold-out Jubilee Hall along with MC and impressionist Steve Owen. They brought the house down and helped raise over £5,000 for Seer Green Pre-School, which is a not-for-profit charity run by a team of parents and early years teachers for the benefit of local families.

The pre-school's chairperson, Rebecca Davies, said: "We're so grateful to everyone who came along to support the comedy night and to the local businesses who sponsored it or donated auction prizes. It was wonderful to see the whole village coming together to enjoy themselves and, based on all the lovely feedback we've had, we'll definitely be putting it on again."

**Rebecca Davies** - Chairperson,  
Seer Green Pre-School



Headline act Dominic Holland deflects "the poshest heckle he's ever heard", much to the amusement of the crowd



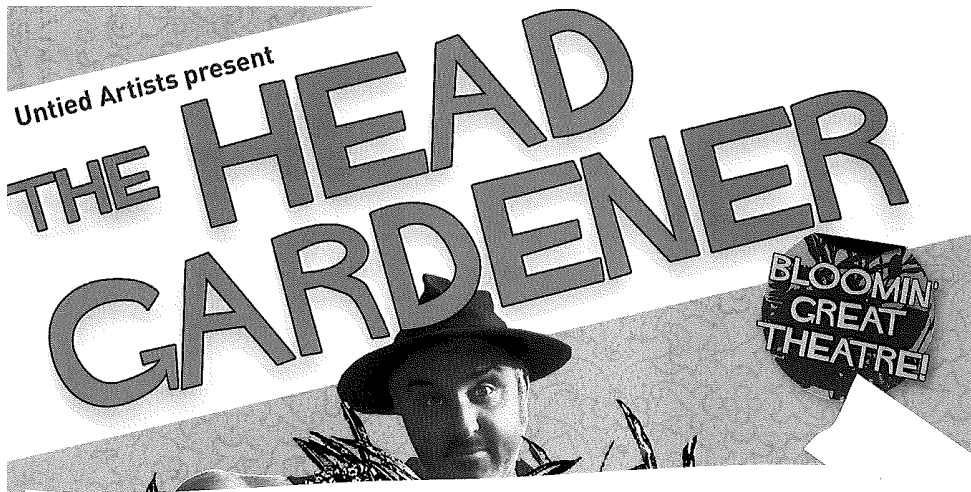
Comedians Shazia Mirza and Richard Morton swap their usual London comedy clubs for Jubilee Hall



MC Steve Owen impresses the audience with his uncanny impressions



The Seer Green Pre-School parents serve up Luke's legendary home-smoked hot dogs



Untied Artists present

# THE HEAD GARDENER

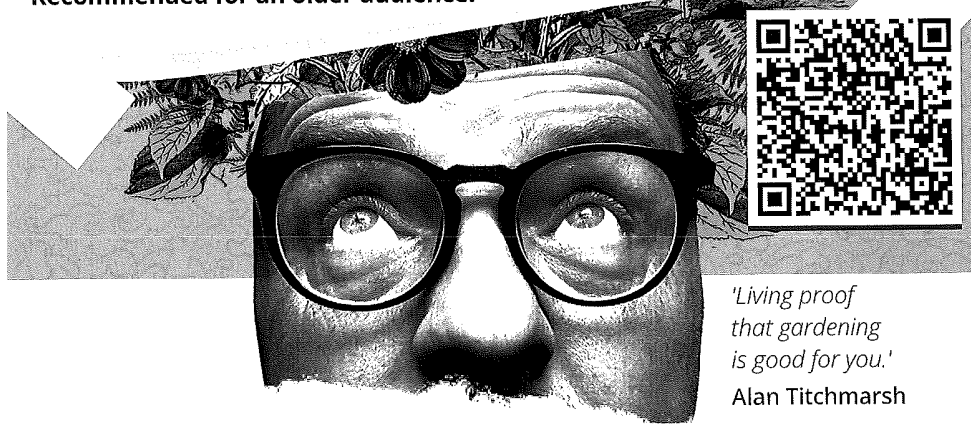
**BLOOMIN' GREAT THEATRE!**

## Beaconsfield Library

**Friday 1st March 2pm - 3pm**

**A blooming lovely theatre performance that digs deep into the reasons why we could all do with a bit more horticulture in our lives!**

**Tickets: Free, or £5 voluntary donation. Available online or in the library. Recommended for an older audience.**



*'Living proof that gardening is good for you.'*  
Alan Titchmarsh



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## From the Allotments

**March - the month of new growth and procreation.**

We welcome the light and the longer days but do not get carried away, there is still plenty of time for frost, snow, storms and general calamity!

However let us not be dismayed there are still things we can do this month outside on the plot or in the garden. If you have parsnips or leeks remaining now is the time to get them out of the soil and into the kitchen. Overwintering crops such as onions, kale, spring cabbages etc. would benefit from a top dressing of blood, fish and bone; chicken manure or seaweed fertilizer to perk them up. Similarly, the addition of such to areas you will be growing crops in this year will benefit from an application right now, rake it in and if possible cover with a cloche or polythene to allow the soil to warm up, your seeds and seedlings will thank you later.

If you feel the need for a bit of exertion without renewing your gym membership now is a good time to dig a trench (1ft / 30cms deep) for your climbing beans (runner and French) and add that well-rotted compost you so lovingly prepared last year, lining it with cardboard first can help retain water and the addition of well-rotted manure won't go amiss. If you dug a trench earlier and have been adding kitchen compost over the winter, topping it off with well-rotted compost/manure will finish it off nicely for when sowing or planting out takes place later. Putting down markers will aid you when it is time to build the supports!

It's last call for winter pruning of fruit bushes, and timely to sweep out and clean the greenhouse and pots ready for action stations later.

When ordering seeds for the coming season, be brave, add a new vegetable or variety as well as the tried and trusted favourites, always worth a try. Don't forget to remove the myriad of leaves that have fallen into your pond, leaving it inviting for frogs and toads to spawn in.

The magic of spring is not that far away - Enjoy.

**Charlotte Baggins**



## News from Seer Green School

### Young Voices 2024

In last month's magazine, Mrs Morel mentioned Young Voices at Wembley Arena.

The Year 6 class (aged 10-11 years) had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed taking part. There were 5,000 children in the choir and they rehearsed with a professional conductor and musicians.

Here are some of the children's comments:-

It was beyond words; everyone loved it. There were so many themes and songs, dance battles and music. It was totally jammin'.

#### Sophie

The atmosphere was booming. There was a piece of music for every one from ROCK to POP to classic 90s. I was cheering and shouting the whole time especially when the 13 year old drummer, Nandi Bushell, ROCKED the show!

#### Robert

The atmosphere was amazing and everyone was singing together.

#### Lucy

Young Voices was a great experience. A rapper named MC Grammar came and he rapped his song, Readers are Leaders. Nandi Bushell played so fast, it was incredible.

#### Harvey

Young Voices was a spectacular experience for me, because Urban Strides (a dance company) were very cool.

#### Hugo

The music players, singers and dancers were all extremely talented and we all loved watching and listening to them. My favourite part was the massive Mexican wave that we did. Throughout all of the songs, we were really excited and loved the experience.

#### Katy

Inside, the atmosphere was through the roof, it was crazily loud and when everyone was dancing, it felt like an earthquake!

#### Ellis

My favourite part was at the end when everyone who had taken part went on the stage and everyone sang a song together.

#### Divyanga

Young Voices was the best school trip of my life. It all started in the rehearsals when we saw everyone practise. There were many brilliant songs sung, dances performed and warmups that you couldn't experience during the actual performance.

#### Elliot



## Jordans Picture House

Our programme continues on **March 8**

On Friday **March 8** we shall screen "Emily" (PG13).

With a bracingly irreverent approach to its story and Emma Mackey bringing Brontë vibrantly to life, Emily is a biopic that manages to feel true while taking entertaining creative liberties. Source: Rotten Tomatoes

Doors open at 7.15pm and the Programme starts at 8.00pm.



Our other screening date in March is Tuesday **March 19**

On Tuesday **March 19** we shall screen "Empire of the Light" (15).

Olivia Colman goes all out in this heartfelt movie, set in the early 1980s, written and directed by Sam Mendes. She plays Hilary, a depressed cinema manager in a seaside town, who has a passionate affair with the new ticket seller, played by Michael Ward.

Doors open at 7.15pm and the Programme starts at 8.00pm.



## How to buy tickets

(Adults £8.00, U15s £5)

**Online:** Go to [www.jordanspicturehouse.co.uk](http://www.jordanspicturehouse.co.uk)  
See "Programme and Buying Tickets"

**Jordans Box Office:** Alan Sealy  
[alan@janetsealypartnership.com](mailto:alan@janetsealypartnership.com) 01494 873205

**Seer Green Box Office:** Gill Pettman  
[gillyp4@btinternet.com](mailto:gillyp4@btinternet.com) 01494 678050

## Jordans Picture House Committee

Memory Partners  
Tai chi café

Refreshments, chat and  
qi gong

Monday, 10.50 – 11.50  
St. Michael's Church Hall

Donation of £5 per person or  
two people together

For more information  
contact Kia

07709 201316  
[goodwin.kpr@gmail.com](mailto:goodwin.kpr@gmail.com)



Memory Partners

Also at

Totteridge Community Centre  
High Wycombe HP13 6UG

Thurs. 10.50 – 11.50

Further details from Sue

01494 532088  
[sastuart@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:sastuart@globalnet.co.uk)

Research shows that everyone can benefit from doing tai chi.

There are many health benefits: physical, emotional, social and cognitive.

Memory Partners is a charity which aims to spread these benefits widely to older adults. Donations are used to train more instructors.

We especially welcome people with long-term health conditions to the café.

Everyone breathes. Tai chi promotes health and wellbeing by helping you to breathe better.

## Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community



Monday Mornings  
10.30am to 12.00noon  
Seer Green Baptist Church

## Seer Green Gardeners

This year's Spring Show is on Saturday **13 April** at the Baptist Church. This lovely occasion is when we try to fill the hall with garden flowers, houseplants, homemade baked goods and crafts and children's artworks (thanks to the school for organising this section). But the show's success depends on contributions to the display. Entry details are in our colourful small brochure which should appear on your doormat at roughly the same time as this magazine. Information is also on our website where we ask you to sign up by 6pm on Friday **12 April**. You could also do this at the hall on the morning of the show, but it really helps speed things up if you register in advance.



There will also be stalls from local societies displaying their work and activities, and a tea bar. At the show you will be able to collect your seed potato for Spud in a Bucket and geranium plug plant to add to the display in the Autumn Show.

### Garden jobs in March

There's no shortage of things to tempt you out into the garden in early Spring!

- If, like me, you leave last summer's seed heads in situ for birds and insects to enjoy over the winter, it's time to cut them back.
- You're probably tempted to pull out weeds but there are good reasons for taking the lazier route. Many weeds are excellent for the environment because they feed others. Their flowers feed many insects; their leaves feed caterpillars, aphids and other soft-bodied things that in turn are the feed for other insects, birds and mammals. Come autumn, their seed feeds many wild birds.

- Rose pruning: it's good to check for technique as they vary for different rose types. But essentially the aim is to reduce the length of leading branches and create an open structure. Make all cuts close to the top of a bud and cut downwards away from the bud so water doesn't settle on it.
- Sow tomato seeds indoors - they germinate prolifically and you'll enjoy more interesting and tastier varieties than are found in the shops. Watch a few YouTube videos to learn how to succeed.

[www.seergreengardeners.org](http://www.seergreengardeners.org) - [seergreengardeners@gmail.com](mailto:seergreengardeners@gmail.com)



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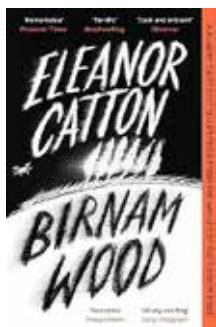
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## Janet's Book Reviews



### **Birnam Wood** – Eleanor Catton

If you'd like a great book with lots of discussion for your book group – look no further!

Shelley, Mira and Tony are part of a New Zealand guerilla gardening collective called Birnam Wood, which hopes to encourage a more sustainable way of living. When they are approached by American billionaire, Robert Lemoine - who made his money in drones - with an offer of sponsorship, they must choose between rigid ethics and a chance for Birnam Wood to thrive. Unfortunately, Lemoine's real reasons for being in New Zealand and supporting the collective are self-serving, illegal and potentially life-threatening...

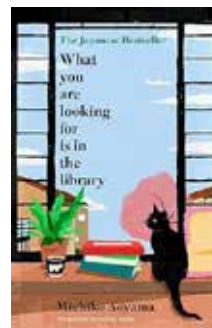
This book has real pace and momentum. There is never a moment when you are not on the edge of your seat. It's clever without ever losing sight of the fact that it is a book that has to entertain and grip you and it introduces big, meaty subjects in such a way as to make you think without distracting you from an extremely good read.

### **Absolutely and Forever** – Rose Tremain

Absolutely and Forever is set in the 1960s and is a story about first love, and rejection.

Marianne Clifford is the 15 year old daughter of a retired army colonel and his wife. She falls helplessly and absolutely for eighteen-year-old Simon Hurst who is destined for a glittering future, but when his plans are blown off course, he leaves for Paris and Marianne is forced to face her future without him.

Finding her way in 1960s Chelsea, and supported by her courageous Scottish friend, Petronella, she continues to seek the life she never stops craving. And in Paris, beneath his blithe exterior,



Simon Hurst continues to nurse the secret which will alter everything.

I love Rose Tremain's writing – each book is so different, the one constant is her characterisation which draws you in completely. Absolutely and Forever is a masterclass in character study of a small cast and a wonderful sense of time and place.

At only 200 pages, this novella is well worth a read.

### **What you are looking for is in the library** – Michiko Aoyama

I've really enjoyed reading some Japanese books in translation recently, they are quirky and distinctly Japanese! This one is no exception and is flawlessly translated.

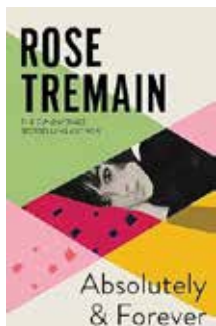
Sayuri Komachi, the enigmatic librarian with a box of delicious sounding cookies poses a question to visitors approaching her desk at the library. "What are you looking for?" But she's no ordinary librarian – her recommended books consistently prove exceptional and serve as the key to uncovering not just what is desired, but also what's truly needed.

This collection of short stories introduces us to 5 characters all of whom are searching for the solution to something in their lives. Sayuri provides them with a list of books and a small felt toy which magically gives them the means to find the answer within themselves. Their stories subtly link, although their journeys are unique.

This book is a beautiful homage to books, librarians and recommendations!

A short, gentle, read perfect for your bedtime reading.

**Janet Stewart**



## Simnel Cake

This classic fruit cake is traditionally baked at Easter: the eleven balls of marzipan on top represent Jesus's disciples, minus Judas.

### Ingredients

- 500g dried mixed fruit
- 125g glacé cherries quartered
- Zest of 1 Lemon
- 30ml (2 tbsp) Cointreau (optional)
- 175g soft unsalted butter
- 175g golden caster sugar
- 225g self-raising flour
- 5ml (1 tsp) mixed spice
- 25g ground almonds
- 3 eggs
- 30ml (2 tbsp) milk
- Filling & Decorations
- 900g marzipan
- Icing sugar for dusting
- 15ml (1 tbsp) apricot jam
- 1 egg white
- Easter Decorations, mini chocolate eggs and ribbon



### Method

Place the dried mixed fruit, cherries and lemon zest in a bowl and stir in the Cointreau, if using. Cover and leave overnight.

Grease and line an 8"/20cm round cake tin.

Preheat oven to 170°C fan.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Mix the flour with the mixed spice.

Beat each egg into the creamed mixture with a spoon of flour.

Fold in the remaining flour, ground almonds, dried fruit, and milk.

Dust the work surface with icing sugar and roll out 300g of marzipan to a circle to fit the cake tin.

Spoon half of the cake mixture into the tin, place the marzipan circle on top and cover with the remaining mixture, smooth the top.

Bake for 30 minutes, then turn the temperature down to 150°C fan for a further hour. Leave to cool.

Remove the lining from the cake.

Roll out 300g marzipan into another circle to fit the top of the cake.

Gently heat the apricot jam and then brush it over the top of the cake. Place the marzipan circle on top.

Make 11 apostle balls out of the remaining marzipan, each approx. 2cm in size.

Beat the egg white until slightly frothy and use it to stick the apostle balls in place.

Brush the top of the apostle balls with the egg white too and use a kitchen blow torch to lightly score each. Alternatively, place under a heated grill to very lightly brown. Keep an eye on it as it can easily burn.

Decorate the cake with mini chocolate eggs, Easter decorations and ribbon.

Store in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

Helen Lindsey-Clark

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## Black Park for an Easter adventure?

The park is only 9 miles away from Seer Green and Jordans. It covers over 500 acres of woodland, heathland and open space, as well as having the lake. There are lots of family friendly attractions, the adventure playground and, of course, Go Ape, which has climbing adventures for children from 1m tall to anyone (adults can go too) over 1.4m tall. The net adventures described as a treetop heaven for children (and adults) with four huge bounce nets (one filled with giant balls and one just for kids), seven canopy tree houses and one destination tree house. If climbing in the trees is not for you there is forest segway and bike hire.

You can fish in the lake and woodland craft days are organised. In the park there are beautiful woodland marked tracks and trails, as well as opportunities for wildlife spotting. Black Park has played host to Casino Royale, the Harry Potter films, Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life, Alexander and Phantom of the Opera and there are tours showing where the filming was done. For more information contact [countryparks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryparks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



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## Easter game for children - 'Roll - A - Rabbit'

### You will need:

- Paper plates
- Coloured markers, pencils or crayons
- Paper to cut out ears plus a coloured paper for inner ears
- Scissors
- Paper glue

### Rules for older children

Take turns rolling the die. Depending on what number you roll, make if needed and add that feature to your rabbit. First person to have a completed rabbit wins.



Photo: [controllingcraziness.blogspot.com](http://controllingcraziness.blogspot.com)

### Rules for younger children

One person rolls the die. All children make if needed and add that feature to their rabbits.

Roll a 1: Draw a nose on your rabbit

Roll a 2: Glue ears onto your rabbit

Roll a 3: Roll again

Roll a 4: Draw a mouth on your rabbit

Roll a 5: Leave alone

Roll a 6: Draw eyes on your rabbit

Now you can play:-

### Sleeping Bunnies

See the little bunnies sleeping till it's nearly noon (*lie down and pretend to sleep*)

Shall we go and gently wake them with a merry tune?

They're so still, are they ill?

No! Wake up bunnies! (*jump up from the floor*)

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop (*hop up and down like a bunny!*)

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop

Hop little bunnies, hop and stop (*show your child how to STOP when they hear the word stop!*)

Carol Wright



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