

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans

February 2023



**Jordans Picture
House aids
Wycombe
Homeless**

**Our village
shop BestOne**

**On the Wild
Side: The
Treecreeper**

**Seer Green
Gardeners
Village Quiz**



one pound



Ashington Page

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Welcome Home!

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Gareth

Gareth Ashington with the Ashington Page team

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From the Editors

It's lovely to see the days becoming a little longer and the Hazel Catkins in the hedgerows. We've had a very wet December/January so let's hope for a little more sunshine to cheer us all up this month.

We have recruited a young reporter to provide us with some articles for the next few issues to give the magazine a new voice.

There are lots of families struggling with rising prices at the moment and some articles discuss this topic. We have plenty of varied articles to appeal to all and we hope you enjoy this issue.

Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Phil Moody

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **March** issue to:

editorseergreen@gmail.com by **7 February 2023**. Diary dates for the next two or three months would be very welcome.

Articles should be **300 words max** and photos should be jpeg format, preferable 300 dpi.

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

Are you a subscriber?

You can buy an annual subscription to this magazine for only £10 a year (for 10 issues) and it will be delivered free of charge to your door. Please email: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** with your name, address and phone number and one of our distributors will contact you.

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Thought for the Month - Reflection



As I write, my New Year's Resolutions are gloriously intact; I'm in the midst of that classic post-Christmas season of reorientation: this year is going to be characterised by fruitful disciplines — by taking initiative with the important, rather than responding to the urgent, etc etc. But by the time you read this, I fear that some of those resolutions will have failed so thoroughly that I've forgotten that I even made them. How might I keep them going this time? How might I keep the immediacies of day-to-day life framed in the big purposes I re-articulated only weeks ago? It's partly a modern quandary. In "The Abolition Of Man," CS Lewis observed that technology (even in the 1940s) makes robots of us all: it creates a pace, repetitiveness and responsiveness of life that constantly distracts from the big questions of what it all means.

It won't surprise you to hear that I think the person who cracked this is Jesus. He only ever saw the world at walking pace. His whole mode of being gave him reflective space to set the small within the big. It was more than a consequence of his agrarian culture — it was a personal discipline. At the very moments he felt most indispensable, he stole away into the quietness of the mountains to prayerfully revisit questions of meaning and intentionality — to reframe his responsiveness within the grand purposes of his loving Heavenly Father. Jesus invites those who walk with him to keep pace with him: "Gaze at the birds! Gaze at the flowers!"

How might we dust ourselves off from our failed resolutions and embed some space — temporal and physical — to walk, read, pray, reflect, and keep the small framed within the big this year?

Rev. Jez Carr



Church Events | News

Church News

New Sunday Gathering

We are introducing a monthly afternoon gathering for anyone (especially families) who may struggle to make Sunday mornings. It will be on the 1st Sunday of the month, 3.30pm, at Holy Trinity. It will be short (45 minutes) and informal: we'll play, pray, create, sing and hear a little about why Jesus is such great news. We'd love you to come along, and indeed help us shape it. All levels of wriggleness welcome!! Do get in touch if you would like to hear more.

Ash Wednesday and Lent Course

Lent begins on **February 22**, with an Ash Wednesday service at 10.30am that morning, including the opportunity to be 'ashed'. Lent is a season of letting go of the immediate satisfactions of our lives in order to grasp the deeper, more beautiful satisfaction of the life Christ won for us at Easter. 'Giving things up for Lent' is a way of reminding ourselves to yearn for God more than anything. What might you give up?

Revised Pattern

We have adjusted our morning service pattern: 10am Holy Communion is now on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

of the month. These services tend to be a little more traditional, though with a light touch, and last about an hour and ten minutes.

10am Morning Praise is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. These services are simpler and more contemporary, often with an aspect of interaction (always optional!), and last about an hour. Everyone is always welcome to all services; toys and activities are available at the back for anyone who wants them.

8am BCP (Book of Common Prayer) services have moved to 2nd and 4th Sundays. These are reflective and traditional, with no music, and last half an hour or so.

We'd love to welcome you to any of the above.



The Mayflower Barn

Holy Trinity Services in February

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 1 Feb | 10.30am Midweek Communion, in person only |
| 5 Feb | 10am Holy Communion Service, in person and You Tube
3.30pm Activities for Families and Young people, in person only |
| 12 Feb | 8am BCP Communion Service, in person only
10am Morning Praise, in person and You Tube |
| 19 Feb | 10am Holy Communion Service, in person and YouTube
12 noon Baptism |
| 22 Feb | Ash Wednesday Service, in person only
<i>See noticeboards for further details</i> |
| 26 Feb | 8am BCP Communion Service, in person only
10am Morning Praise, in person and You Tube
12 noon Baptism |

Our streamed service will be on our YouTube channel.
<https://tinyurl.com/4n9xbhct>

For more information about families' activities contact Janna

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 01494 672592.



Charity of the Month – David Nott Foundation

Our charity for February is the David Nott Foundation. Their mission is simple: they are dedicated to delivering the specialist training which surgeons need to save lives in countries affected by conflict and catastrophe. They have worked in Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iraq, Libya, Kenya, Yemen and Cameroon.

One of their courses is designed for medical professionals working in, or travelling to, conflict and catastrophe zones. It equips doctors with the skills to make decisions, perform a range of surgical procedures, and handle common abdominal emergencies affecting civilian populations in challenging environments.



The Hostile Environment Surgical Training (HEST) course is designed to improve the emergency trauma surgery skills of local surgeons and doctors, and better equip them for the incredibly challenging circumstances which they face. The course is delivered locally in the centre of the conflict zone. Usual methods of teaching are impossible, so the David Nott Foundation has designed a bespoke full-body trauma dummy. Embracing the latest technologies, they also use Virtual Reality (VR) to simulate mass casualty scenarios, training surgeons in the decision-making skills needed to prioritise patients and save lives.

The charity has trained 213 war doctors in Ukraine and another 570 online since Russia's brutal invasion. Within 9 days of the war starting, The David Nott Foundation trained doctors on Zoom, with all their teaching resources translated into Ukrainian. The charity then entered war torn Ukraine and taught doctors in the operating theatres how to manage war injuries.

Contact us

Holy Trinity website
Church Wardens and
General Enquiries

www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org
Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

The charity has returned to Ukraine several times and trained hundreds of doctors with their HEST course.

Their Co-Founder David has just been recognised by Time Magazine for the charity's work in Ukraine.

The charity recognises that it cannot stop conflict or catastrophe, but by training more doctors, it can change

the prospects for the people that endure these disasters.

I recommend you visit their website to see stories/videos of their vital work. <https://davidnottfoundation.com>.

You can donate in the usual ways. Thank you.

Rachel Gibson

Eco-Church Silver Award for the Baptist Church



Recently Seer Green Baptist Church was delighted to be awarded a Silver Award by the A Rocha's Eco Church Programme (Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project). Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes which provides a framework to support churches to take practical actions to care for the environment.



Achieving a Silver Award has involved the Baptist Church building a small wildlife pond, installing a church water butt and compost system as well as working in the outside space



with some of the children that use the church building. As a church community, we try to care for nature when we make decisions about our building and use of resources. It feels really positive to have this hard work recognised and to share the results with those that use the church. Well done particularly to Marion and Tim Cox who have contributed so much towards this project.

News from Uganda

Paul and Alison Bosson moved from Seer Green to Uganda to work as missionaries. This is a shortened version of their letter to the Parish magazine



We have been in Uganda for just over one year now and we give thanks to God for the wonderful opportunities we have been given to serve here in many ways. We are enjoying getting to know a group of three couples who we invited to form a Bible study group and we meet every Wednesday evening in our apartment. One of Paul's regular activities is Bible teaching at pastor's conferences. These pastors typically have had no theological training, yet are leading quite large churches, so it is good that Paul can help them to become better equipped as pastors, Paul speaks through an interpreter – something he has got quite used to. On Saturday evenings, which is prime listening time in Uganda, Paul is often invited

to be a guest on a radio show. Paul presented a series on the life of the late Queen Elizabeth, explaining her Christian faith and also her connections with Uganda. Teaching about the Christian faith on Prime Radio is a wonderful way of reaching several million people across the whole of Uganda.

Alison is continuing her work with CRANE (Children at Risk Action Network) teaching about maternal and child health issues to the group of fifteen peer educators who work in the poorest areas of the city. Alison is also meeting and helping to support the staff of CRANE who wish to discuss medical or counselling problems. There has been an outbreak of Ebola in Uganda, including cases in Kampala. This strain has no known cure, so the Ugandan government is seeking to contain it to the major outbreak areas. So far, no lockdown measures have been implemented in Kampala, but that could quickly change if cases escalated.

Paul and Alison thank the people of Seer Green and Jordans who support them with their prayers

Paul and Alison Bosson

Village Events | News

Seer Green Allotments Association

To dig or not to dig that is the question....

It's February and the mind turns to all things earthy.

Soil is a wondrous thing and if healthy the home to myriad organisms small and minute. There are some hard and fast rules about what to do and when to do it for the allotment-tee but also, as in so much of life, opposing schools of thought.



Wassailing in an Orchard.

Generally one should dig heavy soils in the autumn leaving rough, fist-sized clods for the frost to deal with, digging light soils in the spring so that winter rains don't leach out the nutrients. Never dig if the soil is frozen or waterlogged, if it sticks to your boots go and tidy the shed!

So what's all this about the no-dig system? The idea is to leave the soil undisturbed while laying on a thick top layer of well rotted compost, which acts as a mulch. Below, the earthworms get to work building up fertility and improving the soil structure while the earth stays moist and the micro-organisms which release nutrients to the plants get an extra boost. However problems will resurface if you haven't already dug out the perennial weeds or your drainage is problematic. Meanwhile the allotment robins will be distraught and the soil born pests on which they happily feed whenever we turn clods over will thrive.....so there we are, perhaps selected no-dig beds with a heavy mulch is the answer...Remembering to rotate crops, look after your back and clean the greenhouse really well.....as for the full moon, the words: snow, storm and hunger are attached.

Charlotte for the Allotments Association

The Best Shop, Best Life, BestOne for Kajan

If I have learnt anything in all my research of the shops in Seer Green and Jordans, it is that we must appreciate the people and shops within it. This was made highly noticeable to me when I started speaking with Kajan, the boss of BestOne: a small shop that you'd assume does not have much history but has life within its four walls.

This dear shop came to him from his father and to his father from a friend. Since the moment BestOne become a part of his family's history he has been working there, and as the days went by Kajan worked more and more until he one day became the manager. With the love of the peaceful nature of Seer Green and the friendly people within it that inspires Kajan's family, how could he not fall in love with working here?

This is not to say that working at BestOne is only a dream, Kajan admits that there are troubles. Within this small picturesque village, there are difficulties in trying to keep a shop alive. Most prominently is that there is little passing trade in Seer Green which can lead to high levels of wastage. Kajan is always keen to listen to his customers and stock products they need, so please feel free to put in any requests.

Keeping BestOne open and profitable also comes with a lot of hard work and long hours.

Despite its challenges, what makes BestOne the best one for Kajan is the happiness he can bring to customers through working here. Especially in such a closely linked community in which Kajan has been working for almost 20 years. Kajan speaks of how from this little shop he has had the opportunity to see the lives of Seer Green evolve and to grow up with them:

'Some of the families I have seen since 2005 and it is nice to see kids growing up and moving forward. I as well as the customers feel part of the journey through time' – Kajan

So next time you're passing by BestOne come in, have a chat with Kajan, help him keep the shop alive for many more years... and maybe even fulfill his dreams of expanding!

Camille Hine



Seer Green Gardeners

Village Quiz Night, Jubilee Hall Friday 24 February

We are delighted to invite you to a Village Quiz Night, a chance to mingle with friends and neighbours as well as those you don't yet know. Funds raised will enable us to continue gardening enhancements in the village and support our other community events.

The quiz night replaces the traditional Village Supper. Inviting you to bring your own food means we can keep the ticket price low, whilst retaining the usual convivial atmosphere.

Tickets are £8. Further information and details of how to book are on the website:

www.seergreengardeners.org



Photo: Jan Payne

Gardening in February

- *If you still have leaves covering flower borders or lawn, gently rake them up and pack into old plastic sacks (increasingly valuable as people adopt greener garden practices!). They make wonderful leaf mould, excellent for homemade seed and potting compost. Punch holes in the sack for ventilation and store out-of-sight for 18 months or so for nature to work its magic.*
- *Will this be the year that you try 'no dig' gardening? Scientific evidence points to reduced carbon emissions and increased soil fertility without using garden centre chemicals. Go to charlesdowding.co.uk for inspiration and descriptions of his very helpful publications.*
- *This is a good month for pruning clematis that flower in late summer - cut stems back to the lowest growing bud to encourage new growth from low down. There are 3 different pruning regimes depending on the variety of clematis so it's a bit of a dark art! The RHS website is helpful.*

Sally Ash

Jordans Picture House

Our Season continues on February 10

On Friday **February 10** we shall screen "The Courier". Doors open at 7.15pm, programme starts at 8.00pm.

The Courier (12A) 2020

Awards: 1 Nomination. Rotten Tomatoes Audience Score 95%

Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Merab Nididze, Rachel Brosnahan. Director: Dominic Cooke

Based on actual events, Cold War spy Greville Wynne and his Russian source try to put to an end to the Cuban missile crisis.

<https://tinyurl.com/33at9and>



On Tuesday February 21 we shall screen "After Love". Doors open at 7.15pm, programme starts at 8.00pm.

After Love (12A) 2020

Awards: 1 BAFTA, 12 Wins, 15 Nominations. Rotten Tomatoes Audience Score 86%

Cast: Joanna Scanlan, Natalie Richard, Talid Ariss. Director: Aleem Khan.

Set in the port of Dover, Mary Hussein suddenly finds herself a widow following the unexpected death of her husband. A day after the burial she discovers he has a secret, just 21 miles across the English Channel in Calais.

<https://tinyurl.com/47u8m2sd>



Critic reviews from "rotten tomatoes":

"It's a beautifully restrained yet devastating exploration of love, loss, grief and identity wrapped up in a story that's not just gripping but also – prepare yourself for a shock:

ready? – wholly original." – Source: Deborah Ross – The Spectator

"It's a giant performance in a perfectly measured film of simmering tensions." – Source: Kevin Maher – Times UK

If you have never been to a screening at Jordans Picture House, we are offering the first ticket free. If you are a Member of Jordans Picture House, you can claim a free ticket for yourself if you introduce a friend or neighbour who has never been to a screening before, and they will get the first ticket free as well. This offer includes all screenings in January through to Tuesday May 9, the screening of "The Phantom of the Open" - 12 films.

How it operates: you should buy your ticket from the website in the normal way and then claim your refund when you check in for the film.

We hope to see some new faces enjoying the relaxed and happy community ambience of our screenings.

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

NB We have retained the option for buyers of our tickets to pay a donation. It is not a requirement.

Jordans Picture House Committee



Wycombe Homeless Connection



We have FREE places in two of the biggest 2023 challenge events going! Taking part in a challenge event helps you reach a personal goal, is an amazing way to raise money and awareness of the hope and help we offer, and is vital in helping us make sure no one in our community loses their home. If this isn't for you, please share with anyone you think might be interested!

Virtual London Marathon 2023

The virtual London Marathon takes place on **Sunday 23 April**, and we have three free places! You can run, jog, push or walk 26.2 miles wherever you like, as long as you start and finish on the day and it is outdoors. You can even do it in stages, if that's the kind of challenge you need.

RideLondon 2023

Again, we have three free places! The RideLondon-Essex 100 cycle festival is a 100 miles ride, on traffic-free roads through the heart of London and neighbouring Essex.

The important bits

- We don't set a fundraising target, but most people who take on this challenge look to raise a minimum of £250.
- We will help you with your fundraising, offer support throughout your training, and aim to get you local press coverage.
- You'll get a WHC t-shirt with your name, so people on your route can cheer you on.
- Places are on a first come, first served basis.

More details about the above events are at:

<https://wyhoc.org.uk/support-us/challenge-events>.

Fancy either of these? Get in touch ASAP by emailing communications@wyhoc.org.uk, or call 01494 447699 and speak to the fundraising team.

Heather Stanley

Jordans Picture House raises over £600 for Wycombe Homeless Connection

Through donations generously given at our November and December screenings, we supported Wycombe Homeless Connection in their winter fundraising campaign and donated over £600.

Prior to our film on December 9, Sheena Dykes, a co-founder of Wycombe Homeless Connection, gave a short presentation on their work and how people become homeless. The biggest single reason, she explained, is poverty.

"When people talk about homelessness they typically think of rough sleepers. Rough sleepers are the visible face of homelessness but in fact they are only the tip of the iceberg. It is important to say that most homeless people are not on the street – they are in temporary accommodation or on a friend's sofa. Right now, in England there are 130,000 children in temporary accommodation with their families and about 1 million sofa surfing."

In Sheena's presentation she described the situation as follows: "I'd like you to imagine standing in a fast-flowing stream. It's hard to keep your balance, that's what life is like for many people in our country at the moment, who are just about managing to cope. Our economy creates powerful currents that can pull people into poverty, like low wages or increasing living costs as is happening at the moment."

If you are earning a good salary and have savings and financial reserves, you can keep your head above water. But if your wages have not kept up with inflation for some considerable time and you are having to contend with significant cost increases for your accommodation – mortgage/rent, heating, petrol/diesel costs for your car and food - you will have little option but to make drastic economies, probably going without food, turning off heating - and visiting the local food bank.

In the words of the 50s hit song – "Something's gotta give".

Alan Sealy

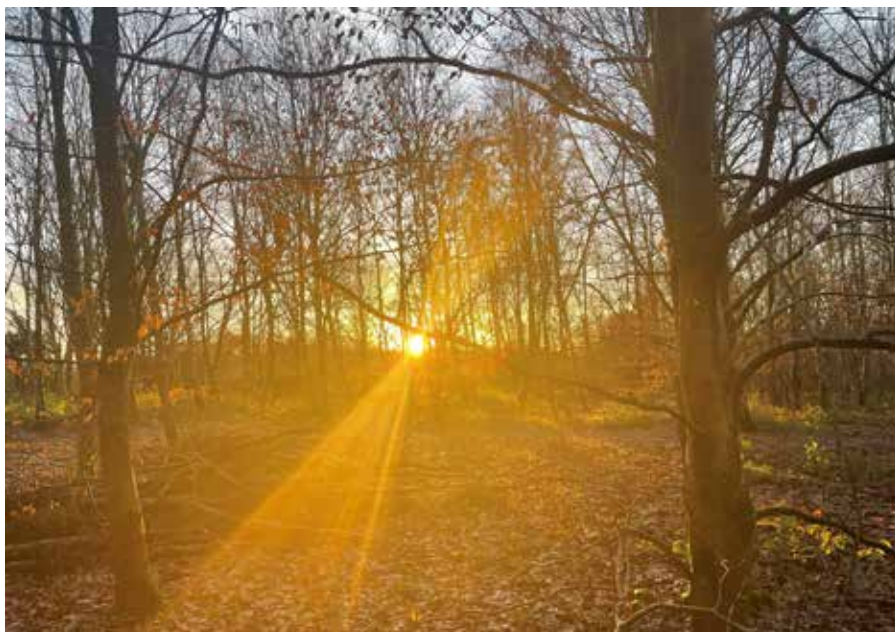


News from over the fields in Jordans

February is a very special month for our village as, on the 15 February 1919, the first brick of the first house to be built in Jordans was put in position and the building of our village began.

Since then, a Tenant Members' Supper has been held in the Village Hall annually. In 2023, we celebrate on **Saturday 18 February**. All who live in the village are welcome to enjoy a delicious meal cooked by villagers, and join hilarious games created by the organiser, the Tenant Members Committee. It is a real community gathering, and much appreciated by all.

February features our usual monthly community events, including great films at Jordans Picture House, our village pub - The Jolly Quaker, our Lunch Club, and Toddlers in the Woods. The last is very much part of our church - Holy Trinity - an outpost in Jordans providing weekly somewhere for young children and their accompanying adult from our villages to connect with the wonders of the natural world. Here, children and adults alike learn to 'play' alongside each other, far away from modern day battery-operated toys and screens.



We are outside in the woods, whatever the weather - unless a very strong wind is forecast - and learn much about the changing seasons, woodland birds and animals, and the variety of trees growing, as well as how natural resources can be used in a wide range of child-led craft activities.

We learn how to have fun in the woods, and also to feel safe in that environment. We appreciate

the freedom we have in the great outdoors, and thank God for creating this wonderful space in Crutches Wood that we can all appreciate, regardless of age.

Please feel free to join us with your young children on Fridays during term time. You will get a great welcome!

Ali Cork

Jordans and District Rotary Club

Jordans Rotary Club would like to wish all of Seer Green and Jordans villagers a very Happy New Year. We would also like to say thank you to all the families, especially the children, who came out to speak to Father Christmas on the three days he came to visit us all - we raised £887, which will go to local charities.

A further just-short-of £400 was raised at our really fun Seer Green Santa Dash during the first weekend in December; the rain held off nicely for us, and a good time was had by all. The Scout Troup - thanks to all the delicious cakes and cookies that were donated - also raised a fantastic £210 towards the purchase of new tents, to replace the ones that Jordans Rotary Club helped them buy way back in 2009.

On Monday **February 27**, our meeting speaker will be Kamran Irani on the subject 'Blood, Babies and Bikes'. 7pm for 7.30pm at Beaconsfield Golf Club.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact me on 07707 386415 - you would be very welcome.

Jenny Owen



Janet's Book Reviews



A Tidy Ending – Joanna Cannon

“A Tidy Ending” is a darkly humorous tale, featuring as its unlikely heroine the middle-aged Linda. Charity shop worker Linda becomes obsessed with the glamorous previous occupant of the suburban home into which she and her husband Terry have recently moved, poring over fashion and lifestyle catalogues that arrive in the mail for the mysterious Rebecca, meanwhile fantasising about a more exciting existence of her own. Meanwhile, Terry’s behaviour is becoming increasingly erratic, and a series of vicious attacks on young women are keeping the town in a state of ghoulish agitation ... Lashings of dark humour, revenge and jaw-dropping twists make this a wonderful read.



The Guest List – Lucy Foley

Guests gather on a remote island off the coast of Ireland, to celebrate the wedding of Jules, the publisher of a successful online magazine, and Will, an attractive television personality. As an immense storm approaches the island, frequently plunging the marquee into darkness, the tension really begins to mount. A distraught waitress stumbles into the marquee claiming to have discovered a body on the cliffside. With a guest list full of people with deep, dark secrets and many having a reason to kill another of the guests, who is the victim? And who is the Killer?

It is cleverly written, and it kept me guessing right up to the end. Gripping and tense, creepy and atmospheric.



Tomorrow, Tomorrow and Tomorrow – Gabrielle Zevin

I kept hearing about this book in roundups of the year, so I decided to read it. I probably would not have picked it up from the description as its protagonists are video game designers whose relationships are centred around gaming. But it took me by surprise, and I am so glad I did.

It is a book about games and people and people making games, but it is also about the games we play with people; friendships, relationships, the things that go said and unsaid ... literally the game of life. Sadie, Sam and Marx are characters that will stay with you. Give it a go!



Unsettled Ground – Claire Fuller

“Unsettled Ground” is the story of 51-year-old twins, Julius and Jeannie, who live an isolated, rural, hand-to-mouth existence with their mother, Dot. The novel opens with Dot’s death, and the twins struggles to give her a decent burial with no money. As the story progresses, and the twins’ financial situation becomes ever more precarious, secrets that their mother has been keeping all their lives begin to emerge. Their predicament and their struggle for survival is very believable. I felt strongly for Jeannie: I wanted to whisk her off to the Citizens Advice Bureau to get the benefits and money issues sorted, and was worried and frustrated when their situation worsened during the course of the book.

A beautifully written book which was poignant and understated – not a beach read!

Janet Stewart

100 Years of Love and Care



The Jordans Village Community Store recently proudly celebrated 100 years of downright hard work. When interviewing one of the managers, Sally Wilson, who has been working part-time at the shop for four years, I came to understand that this was not easy. With the struggles of Covid-19, and having to rely on donations from the local community, it has been tough to keep going. Nevertheless, their determination has led the village shop to carry on. Bravo!

One aspect that helped build their determination that Sally made clear was the smiles they see every day from the people. When I asked her

what the best part of her job is, she did not hesitate to say 'the people'. Interviewing the shopkeepers of Seer Green and Jordans has made the love for the villagers so evident to me. On behalf of the shopkeepers, I would like to say a dear thank you to you all for keeping the villages so uplifting!

Amongst the joy of interacting with the villagers of Jordans, Sally said she also takes pleasure in her many jobs, such as sorting her everyday emails, posting invoices in the accounting system, sorting the shop supplies, organizing the shop finances, reporting to the

village shop committee and sourcing new supplies the villagers might appreciate having in their local shop. One big job that the shop has recently done is completely change the ceiling. Although this may not bring much profit, this has given a modern ambiance to the shop that they hope the villagers will enjoy.

We look back at the hundred years of Jordan's Village Community Store made of love for the villagers and for the workers and hope to see many more happy years ahead for the store.

Camille Hine

Coffee Shop

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Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again - but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Bucks www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks has loads of walks to download and print, free, and it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own, or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bucks

(part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to more than twelve miles, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

john@walkinginengland.co.uk
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Stop thief!



Working together for a safer Buckinghamshire

Property Marking

After Christmas, many homes will be stocked with the latest gadgets, so now is the perfect time to think about security marking such items. It only takes a few minutes to security mark your valuables and get them photographed and registered on a property database such as 'Immobilise'.

Security marking can deter thieves by making the items harder to sell on. It also makes it easier for the Police

to return your item, in the event of it being lost or stolen.

Items should be marked on the back or underneath with a postcode and house number, using an ultra-violet pen. Larger items, such as bikes, scooters or machinery, can be permanently marked using an engraver or an etching kit. Ultra-violet pens, engravers and etching kits are all available online. For smaller items, use synthetic DNA, microdot

and other chemical marking liquids, which can be used to mark just about anything. Quick to apply, each solution is unique to the owner and practically impossible to remove.

If it's expensive, it is also desirable, so please get it marked!

Rubbish / Recycling

Your rubbish can give thieves an insight on what you own and what valuable items are in your home.

Recycling is of particular interest, because the thieves can see whether or not you have purchased any big-ticket items. Make sure to break down your boxes. If you leave them intact, it is easier for thieves to know what to look for when breaking into your home. Let's not tempt burglars by leaving packaging of expensive items purchased on view, as an advertisement to thieves of what is inside your home.

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Florence Nightingale Hospice - New year, new challenge



Florence Nightingale Hospice is looking for people to take on a challenge and help them be there for more patients this year. Whether you are looking to test your physical limits or set a personal goal, take on an exhilarating experience or journey

across the world on a once-in-a-lifetime trip, the charity is there to support you to make the most of the challenge.

With a growing and ageing population, the Charity knows that the number of patients across Buckinghamshire and its borders who could benefit from specialist care is going to increase rapidly, and is determined to be there to support everyone who needs them.

Helen, a Day Hospice patient says: "Until I needed palliative care, I hadn't realised how much Florence Nightingale Hospice relied on charitable funding. I am incredibly thankful for those who donate and undertake fundraising activities."

The Charity has dates coming up to take part in an adrenaline-filled skydive, or train for a once in a lifetime experience by trekking across the Saharan Desert next year. You could even design your own challenge.

Sisters Paula and Fiona are taking on The Conqueror's Lord of the Rings virtual challenge in aid of the charity, aiming to walk over 1800 miles with their much-loved dogs Buzz and Zoe.

Paula tells us: "We like to do a challenge each year for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity – we have had a number of friends who have been looked after by the amazing team. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent facility locally, but like all charities they rely on donations to survive. We are pleased to be able to help in some small way".

Visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/challenge to start planning your next adventure, or you can email fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk, or call 01296 429975.

Zoe Brown - Marketing and Communications Manager



Community Flower Farm

Hello, we are Jana and Shan. We founded Community Flower Farm Limited by cultivating unused community land at Beaconsfield Tennis Club, and have been sowing, planting and gardening for a combined more than 20 years. We are passionate about growing unusual, artisan and sustainable cut flowers, and sharing their beauty with you.

We are inspired by quintessential English landscapes of meadows, hedgerows and woodland, and grow a wide variety of flowers to create a naturalistic look. Our flowers are rarely found in supermarkets and are selected for their delicateness, their scent and their drama. Even at your home, our flowers will continue to evolve in their vase. Some will even grow into an other-worldly-looking seed head. No bouquet is the same!

We grow our flowers in Jordans, Beaconsfield and Penn, with only peat-free compost, sunshine, water, and a little love. Handpicked, and wrapped in biodegradable and home-compostable materials, our flowers are grown using sustainable farming practices that do not harm our planet.

Come and see us at one of our flower patches at Beaconsfield Tennis Club, or check out our website at www.communityflowerfarm.com. We offer a wide range of products from everyday flowers to bespoke bouquets, from event flowers to florists' buckets. Do check out our subscription flowers - they are perfect presents for creative souls. We look forward to seeing you!

Shan Lui



Our Living Village – On the Street Where You Live



It's a new year, and there's plenty of new information on the Our Living Village website to amuse, inform and delight – www.ourlivingvillage.org.

Firstly, there's an extensive new theme on The Origin of Our Street Names written by Nigel Rothwell, extending the original research done by Geoffrey Sawyer. Why do our roads have such quirky names as Coat Wicks and Wynnswick, where was the Manor, and who might Howard have been? Have a look to see if your road's included or not, and please give us your feedback.

We've also posted a Seer Green Heritage Walk which incorporating information from last year's Chiltern Society and Eight O'clock Club village walks. This illustrates a walk through the village of Seer Green and its history that can be used either as a virtual tour of the village, or as a guided tour of the village on a mobile phone or tablet.

And finally, Nigel Morgan continues to enrich the theme of Music, Literature and the Arts by discovering new local personalities. Please do have a look and find out about the creative endeavours of William Bowyer Honey - formerly of The White House, Copse Lane – the author and curator of the Department of Ceramics at London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

As ever, please do get in touch if you've got information you'd like to provide or you'd like to know more about this exciting local community project.

Alan Kell - Seer Green and Jordans Society ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

The Mighty Snowdrop

Drifts of sparkling white snowdrops are one of the most welcome sights of late winter, bringing cheer on even the darkest days. They remind us of the remarkable power of nature as these seemingly delicate little plants are capable of powering through frozen earth and snow to flower, however harsh the conditions might be.

In really cold spells, snowdrops often collapse to the ground, only to resurrect themselves once the temperature rises. This is due to 'anti-freeze' proteins that inhibit ice crystals forming, protecting the plant cells from damage, and due to snowdrop leaves having specially hardened tips to help them break through frozen soil.

The snowdrop (*Galanthus*) has been used as a traditional medicine since ancient times, and today the alkaloid galantamine is used to treat Alzheimer's disease and traumatic damage to the nervous system and many other illnesses including HIV.

To most of us, however, snowdrops are simply uplifting and a joy to behold at this often bleak time of year.

If you belong to the National Trust, two of the best places to enjoy snowdrops in Buckinghamshire are Cliveden and Stowe.

Fliss Coombs



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On the Wild Side: The Treecreeper

I have a friend who is a bit obsessed with Treecreepers. Whenever we are in a wood, he looks and listens for them. 'I heard it calling,' he'll announce, 'before I saw it.' I never seemed to hear or see them; didn't have the luck, or the eye, or the ear for it.

But winter, with its leafless trees, is a good time to hunt. On New Year's Day, I sat on a log in Hodgemoor Woods, a flock of Long-Tailed Tits zipping overhead, with Blue Tits in their wake – and then something else caught my eye, fluttering into a nearby hornbeam. It vanished behind the trunk; emerged further up, circling like the stripe round a barber's pole; then ventured onto a limb and strolled along upside down. I finally got my binoculars onto it, and saw the little sailmaker's needle of a bill – yes! I was as chuffed as if I'd spotted a leopard, though *Certhia familiaris* is common in most of the UK, and is BTO green-listed.

Robin-sized, with a mottled brown back and white breast, its West Country name is 'tree mouse', and a group is 'a spiral of Treecreepers', in honour of its signature move. It cannot perform the Nuthatch's trick of descending headfirst; instead it flies to the bottom of the next tree and starts spiralling up, winkling insects out of crevices other birds can't reach, bracing itself with its stiff tail, long toes gripping the bark. It will eat a few spruce seeds at a pinch in winter, or visit a garden on the edge of woodland if suet is on offer. Like my friend, you may first hear its peeping call, quieter than the Long Tailed Tits' excitable twittering; or in breeding season, its high pitched song.

Treecreeper call:

<https://xeno-canto.org/597565>

Treecreeper song:

<https://tinyurl.com/jjvavhwv>

Nora Bennett



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