

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans

May 2023



**Allotment seed
sowing advice**

**News of Seer
Green's 7th
Beer and Music
Festival**

**A Spring Walk
to enjoy**

**Our Living
Village updates**



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From the Editors

'And all the world is glad with May' John Burroughs (1837–1921 naturalist and writer).

We certainly have plenty to look forward to in May with gardens and wildlife all bustling with new life.

The Coronation of King Charles III this month brings us an extra day of holiday and time to spend with family and friends as we help celebrate this historic occasion.

In this edition find out about the various names for the Dunnock from Nora's article and try David's walk incorporating Aldbury, Ashridge and The Ridgeway.

Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Phil Moody

Next Month's Magazine

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

editorseergreen@gmail.com by **7 May 2023**. 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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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

Thought for the Month



I can't quite believe it's May already and this month sees the long awaited coronation of King Charles III. With an additional bank holiday weekend our communities have the opportunity to engage in both celebration and service. After his mother's amazing 70 year reign, he was the longest serving heir apparent. At the Proclamation of the King, King Charles said "in carrying out the heavy task that has been laid upon me, to which I now dedicate what remains to me of my life, I pray for the guidance and help of Almighty God."

At Holy Trinity help and guidance is also something that we continue to seek. As many of you are aware our heating has broken beyond repair. Sadly there is no simple solution to this problem. Whilst a small group are looking into possible solutions to bring heat back into the building, it has led us to think about what we use our space for, what are our needs and the needs of our community and how might we seek to find creative ways to use our building.

We have some exciting ideas, but we want to hear from you too – there will be ways to get involved in the near future, to share your thoughts and ideas, so please take the opportunity to engage with us in this process.

The Bible contains many verses of both people asking for guidance and their testimonies having seen God's faithfulness and leading. For King Charles, for Holy Trinity, and for each one of us, may we seek guidance from God to know the way ahead, so that our lives, and the lives of those around us can be enriched and strengthened throughout the years ahead.

Janna Holder - Children and Families Minister



Church Events | News

STOP PRESS

Holy Trinity is meeting back in its main building. Or at least, that's the hope unless there's a significant, late cold snap. Do get in touch if you would like confirmation. We're so grateful to the Scouts for allowing us use of the Scout Hut for the past few months. Note that the heating hasn't been fixed; we just feel like the weather will likely allow us to handle being in there without it! You may want an extra layer on colder days...

Having said that, on **7 May**, there will be no service at Holy Trinity! We will be in the Jubilee Hall at 10am, for a joint service with the Baptist Church, in honour of the Coronation.

On **14 May**, we will be in the church. After the service on 14 May, we will have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), where we look at what we have done over the past year and what we would like to do in the future, so feel free to come and join that. APCM reports about our

activities will be available in advance from the church on request, just let me know if you want to have a look at them.

Explore is also happening on **14 May** - 3pm in Long Grove Woods, in conjunction with the Baptist Church: a chance for littlees to explore faith and enjoy being outdoors.

There will be an Ascension Day service at the Parish Church of Chalfont St Giles at 8pm on Thursday **18 May**.

Pentecost Sunday is **28 May**, where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. Details of all the services are on the calendar

As ever, we'd love to see you at any of our services. All stages of faith and life are always welcome!

Jez Carr - Vicar 07916 559151

Contact us

Holy Trinity website
Church Wardens and
General Enquiries

www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org
Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

Holy Trinity Services in May

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 3 May | 10.30am Midweek Communion |
| 7 May | 10am Joint Churches Community Service Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III, Jubilee Hall |
| 14 May | 8am BCP Communion Service
10am Morning Praise followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting |
| 18 May | Ascension Day Service at CSG, see notice board for more information |
| 21 May | 10am Holy Communion Service |
| 28 May | Pentecost
8am BCP Communion Service
10am Morning Praise |



For information about activities for children and families please contact Janna Holder 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 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.



Christian Aid, charity for the month



This year the Christian Aid campaign for Christian Aid week (14-20 May 2023) focuses on Malawi and Mozambique. They say 'Soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world. Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis.'

Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working families are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record (lasting 34 days), has hit Malawi and Mozambique. This cyclone is the equivalent of a full North Atlantic hurricane season.

Malawi experienced a year's worth of rain during the 4-week cyclone.

The number of people affected by the Tropical Cyclone in Malawi continues to rise. Over 508,000 people are displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. There's also an increased risk of malaria and cholera in the immediate aftermath.'

Jen's story

'Jen dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve. Her hard-working boys have earned places at top colleges-but Jen cannot afford to send them both. 'My heart longs to see our children finish school,' says Jen. 'These dreams are important to me, because by doing so, I'll be sure that I am creating a good future for the children.'

Jen and her husband have two acres of pigeon peas, but they are struggling with the effects of

the climate crisis. The rainfall is unreliable, and there are more storms, flooding and stronger winds.

The pigeon pea is a tough plant, able to withstand a lot just like Jen. But to make the most of her crop, Jen needs to plant good quality seeds and sell for the best price possible, and not to unscrupulous middlemen.'

Christian Aid hopes to help farmers like Jen plant better seeds, secure a fairer price and build happier futures for their children.

For more information or to donate go to their website

www.christianaid.org.uk



Toddlers in the Woods Easter Bonnets

Toddlers in the Woods is a Holy Trinity supported venture. Here they are with vicar Jez joining their session and singing with them. Easter bonnets were made too. For more information contact Ali Cork on 07803 139079



Fruitfulness meditation

If you fancy a bit of quiet reflection

Then why not visit the fruitfulness meditation in Holy Trinity church? It is set up so that you can follow the suggested activities independently. Please allow 10-20 mins to look at the display, follow the guided meditation and decorate a pebble of your choice. We do hope you'll pop in, all the materials you need are supplied.

Sarah Allen



Village Events | News

Seer Green Beer and Music Festival



2023 dates announced for the 7th Seer Green Beer and Music Festival.

After a spectacular, sell-out weekend in 2022, we are delighted to confirm that the Seer Green Beer and Music Festival will be returning this autumn for the seventh time.

The first Festival was held in 2014 to raise funds for a much needed new Scout Hut for the village. Initially the brainchild of Rachel Gibson and Simon Edwards, that first weekend was not only a great fundraiser but a much enjoyed event which brought the local community together around

fantastic music, food and drink. That first undertaking resulted in a beer and music festival committee chaired by Nikki Walker and before we know it has become an annual fixture! After a two-year break for Covid in 2020-21, the demand to bring it back had not faded and the 2022 event was so popular that we sold out.

Over the years, the Festival's stage has showcased a mix of local and national music talent. Performances from homegrown bands like Crows and Arrows, Josh Harper's band and Al Breeze's band, Blind Diviner,

have been interspersed with a range of professional bands and this year promises to be no exception.

Paul Waters, Band Co-ordinator, adds "We are very lucky to have such a depth of great musical talent in the village, and are delighted that so many local bands have signed up again for the 7th Festival this September alongside some professional acts. We have a fantastic lineup planned this year, including the outrageous rockers from the PFJ come back on stage by popular demand. Please follow our Facebook page where we will announce more details over the coming months."

This year's dates have been announced as Friday **22 September** (6.30pm to 11.00pm) and Saturday **23 September** (3.30pm to 11.00pm). Tickets will only be available online and will be on sale through Eventbrite from **1 May**.

Please check on the festival's website **www.seergreenbeerfest.com** for links to purchase.

The festival committee is now chaired by Kay Senior who adds, "What is so amazing about the Seer Green Beer and Music Festival is the way that it really brings the village community together as well as supporting local food and drinks suppliers. The current committee would like to thank all who have been involved to date making this such a great event and all those that continue to be involved. I do hope to see as many of you as possible at the event in September."

Do watch out for those online ticket sales links which will go live on 1 May and, after last year's sell-out, please purchase your tickets early! Any questions about the festival can be sent to seergreenbeerfestival@gmail.com

James Pennefather

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Seer Green Gardeners



We're excited to have been invited to help Seer Green children with various gardening projects this year. Ninety Key Stage 1 children at the school will be growing spuds in buckets during the summer term while Fuchsia planting was on the agenda at the churches' Explore Easter event on 3 April. We helped fifty children to transfer their own tiny 'Blue Angel' plug plant into a pot to take home and care for over the summer. A few were hesitant about plunging their hands into lovely crumbly compost but most relished it! Fingers crossed that lots of them will appear in blooming glory at the Jubilee Hall on **16 September!** 25 more of the plants are earmarked for our Brownies to do the same and the rest are for residents signing up as below.

At the time of writing, we're still looking forward to our Spring Show and Plant sale, hoping for a Baptist Hall full of flowers and people signing up for our own 2023 spud and fuchsia growing competitions. If these passed you by and you'd like to take part, click on the link on our website or drop us an email.



Gardening suggestions for May

- If you grow tulips in pots, they're more likely to flower in future years if you move them from pot to open ground. Either way, after flowers are over, cut the stalks off at the base so they don't waste energy on producing seed.
- If slugs are enjoying the fruits of your labours, May is a good time to apply biological control nematodes which are easily obtained online.
- If you're ever unsure about how many tomatoes to plant in a Growbag, "Which" offers a handy rule of thumb - check the bag volume and allow 10 litres for each tomato and 15 or more litres for cucumbers.



Sally Ash - www.seergreengardeners.org seergreengardeners@gmail.com



8 O'Clock Club

Owing to the Coronation the May meeting will be on Thursday **May 11** at the Seer Green Baptist Church at 8pm.

Denise Beddows - Writer of local history and biographical fiction will give a presentation:- *'Digging up the Bodies'* - featuring 4 murders in the speaker's own family tree, which came to light during family history research.

£4 with tea/coffee & biscuits. All are welcome.

Monica Sado

Coffee Shop

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Spring photos by Phil Moody

These lovely local spring photographs were taken by Phil Moody. We welcome contributions and you may have noticed some by Chris Waymouth in the magazine too. Just send them to editorseergreen@gmail.com



Seer Green Allotments association



Even our beautiful new gate can't protect us from a late frost, keep checking the forecasts.

The month of May can bring us to more than one kind of succession so whilst the great and the good are busy in Westminster Abbey let us look at not just what we are sowing, but how much and how often. Succession planting, more often aspired to than achieved in my case, is the staggering of sowing the same type of seed by a few weeks so as not to crop all at once and be overwhelmed by a glut, forcing a cry of "Oh not this again" at the supper table and having acquaintances hide round corners when they see you approaching with another armful of courgettes/ lettuce etc...

By all means sow an extra cucumber/ tomato/brassica/courgette seed or two, handy in case of unexpected fatality, and spares can be happily swapped or gifted. But a two week gap between sowing bean seeds can prolong your cropping season while not exhausting your love of the vegetable. Unless you are running a soup kitchen there is a limit to the number of ways you can enjoy a courgette, 3 plants is more than sufficient for most households! An early row of beetroot seedlings can be thinned, young'uns destined for the salad bowl leaving space for the rest to grow. Don't forget to harden young plants off gradually if started indoors.

Tradition has us putting our spuds in on Good Friday, beans on May Day (old style 12 - 14 of May). Moon planting simply put, is root crops in when the moon is waning, plants that grow above the soil in when the

moon is waxing. If you are dancing under the full moon this month call her Mother's Moon, Hare Moon or Bright Moon.

Charlotte Baggins



Photo: copyright Chris Waymouth

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Preston Lee BSc (Hons) Ost.

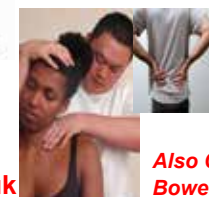
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Our Living Village— Ah yes, I remember it well

Few things are more evocative than the first-hand memories of the older residents of our villages. As part of the Our Living Village project we're collecting such memories, ready to post them on the community website www.ourlivingvillage.org.

Several previous residents have contacted us from far and wide. Here are just a few examples.

Michael Rabiger lived at The Poplars, 42 Chalfont Road from 1943 to 1952 (aged 4 - 13). He's now a world-famous documentary maker living in Chicago.

He writes: I grew up around people called Boddy, Bowler, Cyster, Child, and Payne; my teacher in the village hall kindergarten was Miss Fanny Worley. I saw a V1 fly over the church during WW2 and participated in the VE day victory celebration. I learned to ride my bike in the Cherry Orchard near the 1940s post office, and have many memories of growing up in the village.

Dr Digby L James, publisher of old books and minister of the Quinta Independent Evangelical Church, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire has written:



Photo: Flossie Lofty - Inside the Old Post Office

I was born in the upstairs main bedroom at 14 Orchard Road in 1952 and lived there until 1966. The privet hedge was planted by my father and, I guess, other neighbours. The long rear garden went down to a barbed wire fence bordering a Manor Farm field/cherry orchard. Going under the barbed wire once I caught my cheek on a barb and still have the scar - though now covered by my beard!

And Peter Martin wrote: My family moved out from Acton, W3 in October 1950 when I was three and bought a bungalow, built in 1924 (since demolished) and replaced at 38 Highlands Road. At that time Highlands Road was unmade as were Howard Road/Crescent and

Gurnells Road. The latter was particularly prone to large puddles and mud - great fun as a child playing with friends!

If you've got any village memories you'd like to record, please do share them with us at

ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

Alan Kell - Seer Green and Jordans Society



Photo: Beaconsfield Road now Orchard Road

Jordans' School Jokes

We were sent these by Jordans school. Thank you!

Which animal makes
the best pet?
A cat because it is
purr-fect

What did the toilet say
to the other toilet?
You loook flushed

What do you call a sleepy
Stegosaurus?
A Stegosnorus



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Lessons
running in
Beaconsfield!



News from over the Fields in Jordans

Spring is here in force and the
colourful signs round the village
breed optimism.



Photo: copyright Chris Waymouth

So 'get growing' suggest members of
our very active Horticultural Society
and to encourage us all they will be
on the Green on Sunday **14 May**
both receiving seedlings grown by all
with green fingers, (9am -10.30) and
selling them for a very small amount.
(11am - 1pm.)

All proceeds will go to fund the
wonderful Flower and Vegetable
Show in September. Come along and
get just whatever you would like to
see growing in your garden whether
colourful flowers or potentially
delicious vegetables!

However before then we, as a village,
join many other towns and villages in
celebrating THE CORONATION - an
event we haven't had for a very long
time. Join us on Sunday **7 May** on

the Village Green at 1pm armed with
bunting, tables chairs - and of course
crowns! - to celebrate in style - well
- Jordans style.

As last year for the Jubilee the village
BBQs will be alight and ready to
receive anything that you would like
to cook, music will resound over the
Green and this year for the children -
adults can join in too! - a fancy dress
competition! The theme - well crowns
and 'kingly' attire of course! Come
and join us wherever you live - an
event for all.

Musical events are strong in our
village and I encourage you to come
over the fields and join in. **Jordans
Village Performs** is looking for
local talent of all ages from both our
villages to continue to stage informal
concerts in our Village Hall. Simply
get in touch with me and I will send
relevant contact details. Don't delay,
it is such an exciting opportunity
to play with, and listen to fellow
musicians.

An exciting time of year - how I hope
you enjoy it !

Ali Cork

Jordans Picture House

Our AGM and last screening of the season

On Tuesday **May 9** we shall hold our Annual General Meeting, followed by the very entertaining film “The Phantom of the Open” (12A).

Doors open at 7.15pm and the Programme starts at 8.00pm. All are welcome, although only Members may vote at the meeting. The event is free for Members, but bookings should be placed in the normal way, either online or through one of our Box Offices.

The Notice of the AGM has already been emailed to our Members together with the Agenda, our Committee Report and the Accounts for the financial year to date.

During the meeting we will announce the selection of films for our next season (September 2023 to May 2024) reflecting the votes received from our Members.

“The Phantom of the Open” (12A)

“The Phantom of the Open” is based on the true story of Maurice Flitcroft, a crane driver from Barrow-in-Furness, who managed to gain entry to the 1976 British Open Golf Championship qualification round despite being a complete novice. Mark Rylance is brilliant as always, striking a remarkable likeness to Flitcroft, and his co-stars are Sally Hawkins and Rhys Ifans. Peppered with dry humour, it is an uplifting and moving comedy drama about pursuing your dreams and shooting for the stars.



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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Fair Saturday 10 June

If stall holders would like reserve a pitch,
please contact: Pat Holdsworth

01494 874565 07930 648485

Email p_holdsworth@hotmail.co.uk

Any raffle prizes or bottles for the tombola
would be gratefully received.

Jordans Music On The Green Sunday 9 July

We'll look forward to seeing you all on the Village Green
with your BBQ's and Picnics.

Classical meets folk

A Concert in Jordans Village Hall

Friday **23 June** at 7.30pm

Classical meets Irish Folk music in an evening of two halves.

Jordans Music Performs offers you a varied and uplifting performance with the first half played by local musicians Jane Faulkner (violin) and Esther Cavett (piano): Bach G minor Sonata, Brahms A Major Sonata, Boulanger, Beech, Price and other delights.

After the interval (when drinks will be available from the bar) the folk band Inauria – with Lewis (guitar), Ellie (fiddle), and Louis (singer) – will ask us to rechoreograph the seating to encircle their magical and exuberant performances of Irish Folk Music.

For full details of the event and to reserve your seat, please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/azefsdh7>

Esther Cavett



On the Wild Side in May: The Dunnock

Its name is Middle English for 'small and brown.' It feeds quietly under the shrubbery, hence its old name, 'hedge sparrow'. Its song is brief and businesslike, pretty in an inconspicuous way: 'Heedle de deedle de deedle de dee'. So sober does the Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) appear, that the Rev Frederick Morris cited it in his 1853 **History of British Birds** as an example for us all to emulate.

But, as ornithologists now know, that's not quite right. On April 1, in Hall Barn Lane, I saw two Dunnocks fly into a hedge and sing. Most male birds won't tolerate a rival so near, so what was up? Another Dunnock had just vanished into cover nearby. It might have been a female being courted by two competitors, who were only briefly tolerating each other. They would woo her by flapping their wings overhead while, if interested, she would flutter hers - hence another old species name: 'shufflewing'.



Photo credit: Hobbyfoto Wiki, Wikimedia Commons Zero

Or this may have been a 'beta male' helping an 'alpha male' see off an interloper from their shared territory. What does the beta gain from this? The female in such a ménage will sometimes evade the boss's attention and mate with his lieutenant. This increases her reproductive chances, as all males who pair with her will help feed her chicks. Other Dunnock family structures include monogamous couples; two females with a male; and complex patterns of four or more.

Unfortunately, the story doesn't end there: the Dunnock is a favourite target of the Cuckoo, whose monstrous chick pushes the infant Dunnocks out of their nest, with the parents blind to the substitution. Dunnocks may raise up to three broods in a summer, however, so there's a good chance some of their young will have a happy ending.

Dunnock song: <https://xeno-canto.org/788930>

Nora Bennett

Janet's Book Reviews



Lily - Rose Tremain

Lily is a murderer!

Abandoned as a baby at the gates of a London park, she is rescued by a police constable and taken to the foundling hospital from where she is fostered by a loving family in rural Suffolk.

On her return to the hospital, she is faced with the suffering and harsh realities of being a poor orphan for the first time.

Lily is a wonderful character, and it is impossible to not empathise with her circumstance and journey in life – the reader really roots for her

I love Rose Tremain's writing – no two of her books are the same. She engages the reader, sharing just enough information to keep us captivated, but not enough to guess what happens next, keeping our interest until the very last page.

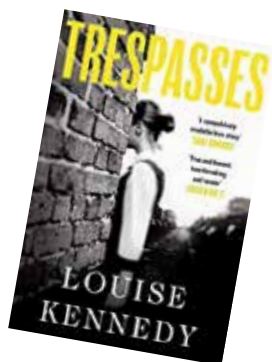
This is a heartrending story of the injustice and cruelty inflicted upon children in Victorian England, and of the tantalising possibilities of love and redemption.

Trespases - Louise Kennedy

On the long list for the Women's Fiction prize this is a devastating novel set in Belfast during The Troubles.

In the daytime, Cushla Lavery teaches seven-year-olds in a small town near Belfast, in the evening, she helps her brother in his pub. In between, she makes sure that her alcohol addicted mother is still alive.

There is not much happening in her life until, one evening, Michael Agnew shows up in the pub.



He is a lot older than Cushla, but nevertheless, something sparks between them.

Times are hard in Belfast when the war is raging in the streets and the news reports deaths daily.

Michael's job as a barrister puts him at risk, yet, with Cushla, political tensions are far away. Until they aren't anymore.

She finds herself unable to help one isolated child Davy McGeown and his family.

The two threads become expertly and painfully interwoven. Cushla finds herself living two lives, one secret, interior and with dangerous consequences.

Not a cheerful read – but definitely one that will stay with me.

The Echo Chamber - John Boyne

This latest book from this versatile author, The Echo Chamber, is an hugely entertaining light read.

It features the Cleverley family, how they live their privileged lives while at the same time, documenting and sharing their escapades on social media.

The father is a TV anchor – a national treasure, the mother an author whose books are ghost written. She's having an affair with her Strictly Come Dancing partner The children, well they are living the lives of privileged "snowflakes"!

At times hilarious and always thought provoking, it describes the obsessive preoccupation some people have for relating their experiences to the world while castigating and shaming others whom they perceive to have been offensive.

A modern satire with humour on every page.

Janet Stewart

Aldbury, Ashridge and The Ridgeway



A beautiful ridge walk with extensive views

Length: 5½ miles

Start point: Greyhound Inn, Aldbury

Difficulty: Easy, but one fairly steep bit early on

This walk starts from a pub in the middle of Aldbury, proceeding through the Ashridge Forest and on to views from The Ridgeway. Walk east from the village pond for 100 metres along the road, then take an unsignposted track diagonally to the left. Follow the track through the woods as the path gets steeper and eventually merges with a path from the right. The path flattens, and you arrive at the open space by the Bridgewater Monument, dedicated to the third Duke of Bridgewater, who lived in Ashridge House and was famous for building canals during the industrial revolution.

Take the obvious path north past the Monument, and continue on this well-maintained, level track for 1½ miles. Pass a house and ignore tracks to left and right until a view opens up at the corner of a field, then go through a gate

and head down beside the field until you reach The Ridgeway. Turn left, and stay on The Ridgeway for 1½ miles, crossing a road and car park and climbing gently up a ridge, with views to your right, to the top of Pitstone Hill.



After the high point, the path bears left, entering woods and Aldbury Nowers nature reserve. Follow the path until you turn to the left down wooden steps, and at the multiple path junction at the bottom leave The Ridgeway by turning left and then rapidly right through a copse. There is a golf course on your left and you eventually come out onto the course and walk down a clearly defined path through various gates back to the road near Aldbury. The golf course is part of Stocks House Hotel (seen to the left), previously owned by Hugh Hefner - with an 'interesting' and lurid recent history! It was also the venue for the cover of the Oasis album 'Be Here Now'. Turn left at the road and the village centre is ahead of you.

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