

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans
November 2022



**Jez becomes
our vicar**

**Local history
quiz**

**Jordans school
news**

Shaggy to Chic

**Eurasian
Sparrowhawk**



one pound



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Following the easing of pandemic restrictions, it is wonderful to be able to welcome visitors to our office again.

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Gareth

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From the Editors

The Parish magazine has some new contributors this month. Chris Waymouth has provided us with a beautiful collection of seasonal photographs taken around the two villages and we plan to use them for the front cover when we can. Camille Hine offered to interview local businesses and her first piece

about Jordans Pet Spa is printed this month. We have a Seer Green quiz which looks like great fun and lots of information about upcoming events.

We love new ideas and different contributions so do get in touch.

Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Phil Moody

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **December/January** double issue to: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by **7 November**. 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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Front cover photo - Chris Waymouth

Church and Community Organisations

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Benefice Assistant Priests	
Rev Jenny Tebboth	07708 094532
Rev Paul Henderson	paul.e.henderson@btinternet.com
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Children and Families Minister and SGKIDS	
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Church Flower Guild	
Pam Britton	01494 678466
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	andrew@seergreenscouts.org.uk
Seer Green Brownies and 1st Seer Green Rainbows	
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Eight O'clock Club	
Monica Sado	01494 677851
Girl Guides	
Brenda Orr District Commissioner	01753 887209
Jordans and District Rotary Club	
Naomi Arnold Secretary	01753 663305
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	
Alex Wildwood	01494 876594
Little Ducklings Nursery	
Libby Wilson Director	01494 672209
Seer Green Allotments	
Barry Richardson / Chairman	01494 673407
Seer Green Baptist Church	
David Horncastle - Head Deacon	01494 677266
Seer Green Bridge Club	
Irene Machin Secretary	01494 676321
Seer Green Church of England School	
Laura Morel Head Teacher	01494 676344
Seer Green Gardeners	
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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

Thought for the Month



A couple of week ago at Little Blessings Toddler Group the children enjoyed sponge painting of leaves. I loved the different colours they used, reflecting the colours we could see on the trees around us. This time of year is great for the senses, provoking many memories.

As I wander around the village, walking through carpets of leaves, I'm reminded of the fun that my mum and I used to have walking through the crunchy leaves on our school runs. Leaving the house in the early evenings met with a burning smell lingering in the air, takes me back to heading out for bonfire night parties.



At this time of year, I often have the song 'Autumn days' humming round in my head, many of you may remember it from school days. "Autumn days when the grass is jewelled and the silk inside a chestnut shell. Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled. All these things I love so well, So I mustn't forget, no, I mustn't forget. To say a great big Thank You! I mustn't forget."

November gives us a number of opportunities to remember and be thankful. At the beginning of this month, we mark All Saints Day and All Souls Day, an opportunity for us as individuals to remember and give thanks for those who we have loved and lost. During the middle of the month, we collectively gather to remember and give thanks for those who died in conflict, and to pray for those working for peace, justice and freedom around the world today. At the end of the month Advent starts, where we prepare to remember once again that baby who was born to change the world.

This month some memories may bring a tear, but may there be others that make you smile and be thankful.

Janna Holder



Holy Trinity Services in November

- 2 Nov 10.30am Midweek Communion Service
- 5 Nov 10am-3pm Light a Candle to Remember your Loved One
- 6 Nov 8am BCP Communion Service
10am All-age Service
3pm All Souls Remembering Service
- 13 Nov 10.45am Village Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
- 20 Nov 8am BCP Communion Service
10am Holy Communion Service
- 27 Nov 10am Holy Communion Service for Advent Sunday

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.



Contact us

Holy Trinity website

www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org

Church Wardens and
General Enquiries

Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

Church Events | News

Remembrance Sunday outdoor service

This year Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday **13 November**. Following the success of last year, and for safety reasons, we will have an outdoor service at the War Memorial. School Lane, from Vicarage Close to the corner of the Holy Trinity Triangle, where School Lane turns into Chalfont Road will be closed from 10.30am - 11.30am. The junction of Stable Lane onto School Lane will also be closed.

Uniformed organisations will meet at the Jubilee Hall and parade up to the War Memorial where we invite village and community representatives to gather for our Act of Remembrance, starting at 10.50 - 11.15am (approx.).

Janna - Children and Families
Minister - 07764 490960



Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Baptisms

18 September Edie Kilgour

8 October Beatrice Frost-Wellings
Rupert Frost-Wellings

Church News

Holy Trinity had a wonderful licensing service for Rev Jez Carr at the end of September, led by Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, and Associate Archdeacon Chris Bull. Bishop Alan guided us through the service, explaining the meaning of each section. Miriam, Jez's wife, led us beautifully in a song set to a traditional American tune. Members of the church presented Jez with tokens for his ministry: a Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, baptismal water, oil, bread and wine, a cross and a map of the village. He was then welcomed into the villages by the Baptist Church minister, the headmistress of Seer Green Church of England School and the vice chair of the Parish Council.

Jez led his first service, Harvest Festival, on 2 October, together with Janna Holder. Janet Stewart, our

OneCan advocate, filled her car with the generous donations to OneCan, the charity for October.

Holy Trinity will be open on **5 November** from 10am to 3pm for anyone who would like to remember a loved one. You can come and light a candle, sit quietly and reflect, or leave a prayer on the prayer tree. On Sunday **6 November** at 3pm, we will have the All Souls Remembering Service.

Do you like arranging flowers? It is great fun to be part of making the church look beautiful for a wedding, a baptism or a special service. Our Flower Guild will provide training if you would like. Please contact me on janine.dunnell@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Janine Dunnell - Churchwarden



Photo: left to right Janna Holder, Bishop Alan, Rev Jez Carr, Rev Dan Beesley Janine Dunnell, Linda West, Jenny Tebboth

How did we get here?

We thought that as part of the celebration of our 175 year anniversary it would be good to remember lay people (that is not the vicars) who helped make Holy Trinity the church it is today. These memories are from Geoffrey Brand, Audrey Hardy and Adrian Roach. We would welcome more, just email editorseergreen@gmail.com with your thoughts.

The Worley family have played an enormous role in the church. Three successive generations between them totted up nearly 100 years' service as Churchwardens: Benjamin Worley, senior (1872 – 1905), his son Benjamin Worley, junior (1905 – 1938, with two short breaks) and grandson Geoffrey Worley (1954 – 1983). Their duties included keeping the church warm, every Saturday night lighting the original coal-fired stove or later the central heating system. But Geoff's wife, Edith, outdid them all, retiring in 1991 from her position as Organist after 48 years. Their name is preserved for posterity by Worley Place, on the site of Geoff's and Edith's former home.

Admiral TN James was a churchwarden and vice-chair of the Parochial Church Council. He used to visit the school on sports day every year in June. He would pick dates

at random from a calendar and give half a crown to any child who had a birthday on that day. At the end of sports day, he would send one of the older children to the shop to buy ice creams for the whole school. When he died the White Ensign flown on his ship at the Battle of Jutland (May 1916) was used as a pall and subsequently donated to the County Museum.

Richard and Penny Ling lived in the cottage at the end of the churchyard. Richard was a churchwarden and tended the churchyard. Together they organised many wonderful church social events. Richard and Penny always produced a beautifully decorated whole salmon as the centrepiece for the feast.

Reg Powley was a stalwart member of the choir for many years, providing a firm basso profundo and rarely if ever missing a service. His family still live in the village.

Sue Puttergill



Charity of the Month - Royal British Legion

In 2022, the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal will focus on how your poppy shows you care, and helps the RBL to continue its vital work supporting the Armed Forces community.

The Legion's 2022 Poppy Appeal will focus on the sacrifices our Armed Forces make and how they are willing to risk everything to protect us, despite having never met us. From maintaining security and peace around the world to providing support during disasters and the pandemic, they serve and protect us all.



Photo: Copyright RBL

We encourage people to recognise this bravery and commitment by taking part in the RBL's Poppy Appeal 2022. From wearing a poppy and donating to the Appeal to raising funds or attending a local Remembrance event, however you wish to get involved, you will be showing the Armed Forces community, past and present, that their service and commitment is appreciated.

This year, we will highlight that the Armed Forces community needs our support more than ever as, like many across the UK, they face significant additional challenges with the cost-of-living crisis. Throughout the Poppy Appeal we will demonstrate how the funds we raise mean the RBL can continue its vital work supporting serving personnel, veterans and their families.

The Royal British Legion is there throughout the lives of our Armed Forces community, whenever they need us. Please do take part in this year's appeal, by wearing a poppy, attending the service on Remembrance Sunday or, if you wish, by donating on-line at www.rbl.org.uk/donate.

Guy Upward

Your Village Church needs you!

Could you spare a couple of hours to help maintain the churchyard? Would you be willing to bake a cake for one of our special events during the year?

If you could use your time and skills to help Holy Trinity please speak to Rev Jez, Janine or Janna. Thank you.

Janna Holder - 07764 490960 **Janine Dunnell** - 07525 322955

Jez Carr - 07916 559151

Warm spaces this winter

Holy Trinity and the Seer Green Baptist Church have been considering warm spaces in our villages during the winter. Holy Trinity is definitely not a suitable venue as it is too cold.

Venues available locally are libraries, which have been designated by the Buckinghamshire Council as warm spaces. In the villages, the Baptist Church has the Coffee Shop every Monday from 10.30 to 12 noon, and

the Village lunch on the third Tuesday of the month. Jordans has a lunch on Thursday **17 November** for £8. Booking is required by Monday 14, so please contact Pat Holdsworth on 01494 874565 if you'd like to attend

Both churches will monitor the weather and temperatures to decide if they need to provide further support.

Janine Dunnell

Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community



Monday Mornings
10.30am to 12.00noon
Seer Green Baptist Church

Dedicate, Remember, Reflect, Share



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is offering a Tree of Light commemoration service on **11 December**, Books of Honour and an online dedication page to support those who have faced the loss of a loved one this year.

"We recognise Christmas can be a very emotional occasion, a time when we particularly think of loved ones who are no longer with us" says Ann Kenny, the Bereavement Support Team Lead at the Hospice. "These last couple of years have been enormous challenges for everybody, and sadly, many people have faced the loss of a loved one with little outlet to express their feelings properly."

The Charity has set up an online Tree of Light remembrance page where you can dedicate a memory to someone special. Dedicate a light in memory of someone special to illuminate our beautiful Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity remembrance tree, which will be lit at our Tree of Light commemoration service.

The dedication tree will remain lit throughout the festive period as a shining symbol of those no longer with us. For more details see website Florence Nightingale hospice

Annabelle Watkins



Seer Green Sings

Saturday 26 November

Featuring local choirs Village Voices and Seer Green Singers

The Hub, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter

Tickets £15, £10 for under 16s to include a glass of wine or soft drink

Contact - janesmithmusic@gmail.com

Village Events | News

Seer Green Allotments

A crab pear tree gracing our allotment hedgerow is the ancestor to all our pear trees - as the crab apple is to apples - but we were a little concerned to see it in blossom in October, in these strange times.

By now, the winter preparations should be well under way, and we are protecting delicate plants from frost, clearing beds of dead vegetation, turning and layering up compost heaps so they can work their hot magic of decomposition over winter, and checking on the brassicas - will there be Brussels sprouts for Christmas dinner?



Whilst clearing up do not forget the birds and bees, as leaving some seed heads provides welcome food for them, while a pile of leaves in a sheltered spot will house a hedgehog. Also, moths will winter behind ivy, and beetles love a pile of dead wood, so it doesn't do to be too tidy!

The November moon is called the Beaver moon, as the beavers prepare for winter (in different times it was also when they were hunted as their winter-ready fur was much prized). It is also called the Frost Moon - enough said!

*"November smells of rue, bitter and musky,
Of mould, and fungus, and fog at the blue dusk."*

(excerpt from Winter Poem by Anne Ridler).

Charlotte Baggins



Our Living Village – Quiz No. 1

How well do you know the history of your village? Well, here is our first quiz to test your knowledge, with questions relating to the three new themes that have recently been uploaded to the Our Living Village website at: www.ourlivingvillage.org

Our Village Pubs

1. How many pubs were there in Seer Green in 1900? Which one was the oldest?
2. Which family ran The Jolly Cricketers for 160 years?
3. Where and when can you finally get a drink in Jordans?

The Manor of Seer Green

4. Seer Green is not explicitly mentioned in the Domesday Book, probably because it formed part of which Manor?
5. In what year was the hamlet of Seer Green first recorded as la Sere in a Close Roll of Henry III?
6. The first distinct mention of La Sere as a manor comes in the Calendar of Close Rolls produced in 1284. For which king?

Mark 1 Motors

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Seer Green Service Station/ Chalfont Rd
Seer Green Beaconsfield

Origins

7. Between 2.5 million and 10,000 years ago, as the glaciers retreated to the north, which river deposited the surface gravels which exist across much of our area?
8. Where does the recently discovered Roman road run through Seer Green, and how was it discovered?
9. For whom was the wonderful 1753 estate map of Seer Green produced? Which feature in the map is called 'Coat Wicks'?

And finally

10. Which organisation partnered with the Seer Green and Jordans Society to deliver the Our Living Village project?

All of the answers can be found at www.ourlivingvillage.org, and they will also be published in next month's Parish Magazine.

Alan Kell - ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com



Looking for local themed gifts this Christmas?

Since Lockdown 2021, I have been taking a photo a day of the tree in the middle of Baylis Field, affectionately called 'One Tree Field', running alongside Bottom Lane. These can be found on Instagram @onetreefieldsg.

Using these daily photos of 'One Tree', I have created a range of different gift items for sale, including prints, coasters, calendars, jigsaws and cards. 10% of all profits are donated back to village causes. If you would be interested in buying any, please get in touch with me.

Janna - Children and Families Minister - 07764490960



Seer Green Eight O'Clock Club

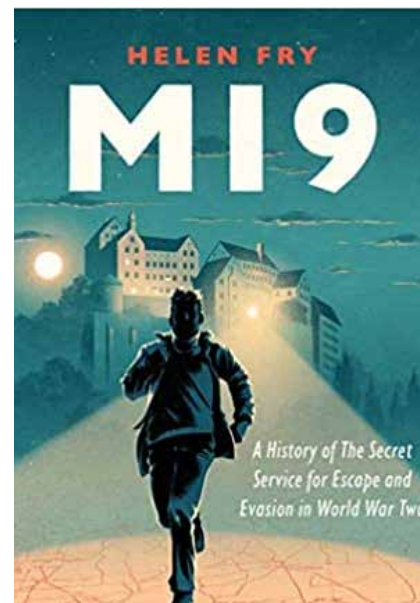
Aficionados of James Bond movies will know that Q the Quartermaster is one of the Films' enduring characters; an inventor of gadgets that get Bond out of tricky situations. How many of us know that the Secret Service Agency MI9 was engaged in the

development of such gadgets during WW2 very close to home!

MI9, a Military Intelligence Agency as secret as MI5 and MI6, was the brainchild of Brigadier Norman Crockatt set up for escape and evasion behind enemy lines. Formed

in December 1939, MI9 worked out of London's Hotel Metropole. After bomb damage to the Hotel, MI9 moved its operation to the Shean building at Wilton Park in October 1940. This building was demolished in September 2014.

Historian Helen Fry, author of "MI9" shared with us some of her research findings into the Agency and its role in saving thousands of lives. Although both Airey Neave and Foot and Langley had authored books about MI9, they were written over 40 years ago without reference to the de-classified files available now for Helen Fry to consult.



The three areas of interest for MI9 were in training, producing escape items, and running escape lines across occupied Europe. Crockatt's team produced training manuals and ran a three-week training course, aimed at teaching the art of blending into the surroundings to evade capture. Miniature compasses were developed that fitted behind the top button of uniforms, and colour maps printed on each side of a piece of silk that could be consulted silently unlike their paper counterpart. Under the auspices of fake charities, gadgets were smuggled into POW camps masquerading as welfare parcels.

Working for the escape lines was a very dangerous activity, often undertaken by young women and family units. Often betrayed, their lasting legacy was of a fight for freedom and democracy.

Next meeting **3 November** 8pm
Mike Payne will illustrate a talk on "Locations for Downton Abbey".

£4 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.
Christmas meal at the golf club, **November 24**. Contact Monica Sado (monicaseer@gmail.com) for booking form.

Elizabeth Lee

Seer Green Gardeners

It was a joy to welcome so many people to our post-pandemic Autumn Show in the Jubilee Hall in September. The tea bar was extremely popular, so thanks to all our volunteer bakers and helpers.

The long dry summer had made it a tough growing season, but the flower, fruit and veg exhibits were top- notch, so well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to all the prize winners.

Rachel Ayling took home the RHS Banksian Medal for the most points earned across all classes, and her daughter Georgina collected the Owen Cox cup for most points in the Children's classes.



The very next day, an excited crowd of all ages gathered in the Jolly Cricketers' garden to find out who had grown the heaviest total of spuds in one bucket. Congratulations to Jonty and Esme Manjuna with a harvest of nearly 3kg of tasty Nicola potatoes.

November in the garden

- *As you tidy up your garden this autumn, do bear in mind that everything you pull up and clear away can be turned into next year's potting compost.*
- *Composting is easy and fun, it's good for the planet and you won't need to buy compost next year, so you can save money too. There is plenty of online guidance on how to get started and the RHS website has a particularly good video. www.rhs.org.uk/videos/advice/Making-compost*



You could also join our Gardening Chat WhatsApp group, where we share tips and ideas on all gardening topics. Please email us if you'd like to join. Happy composting!

Please join us at our AGM on Thursday **17 November** at 19.30 at The Three Horseshoes.

www.seergreengardeners.org - email: seergreengardeners@gmail.com

Rotary Club Fundraising



This year, in common with Rotary Clubs worldwide, our major fundraising donations have been shared between: the Food Banks of The Altogether Community Fridge in CSG for the ever increasing families and seniors in need; and to the conflict in Ukraine where, because of business contacts through our Rotarians, we were able to send out nearly £36,000 of medical equipment directly to Ukraine's Rotary Clubs, which will be distributed directly to the makeshift hospitals being forced consistently to move because of the bombing, and another £600 of medical and dental equipment, in association with Seer Green Scouts and our Rotary District.

Over the last 8 years (2014-2022), we have been able to support very worthy projects and charities by the huge amount of £96,433. These charities included: our own Seer Green Scouts, The Epilepsy Society in Chalfont St Peters, Cure Parkinsons, Diabetes UK, End Polio Now, and Shelter UK. More recently, we have supported: Thames Valley Air Ambulance, and Medical Detection Dogs, to whom we gave

over £4,500 in order to support the training of a puppy (we called it Jordan) through to becoming either a medical alert dog for a family, or a detection dog - we should find out soon how he is faring. Not forgetting the many disasters in India, Haiti, Pakistan, Australia, and two large health projects in Nepal just before their earthquake and since.

Should anybody be interested in helping us give back to our community and beyond, and sample our camaraderie too, please do contact me, Jenny Owen (01494-677571) or our secretary, Naomi Arnold (phone details at the front of this magazine).

Save the date notice

Saturday **19 November** at 8pm - Charity film night at Beaconsfield Film School.

Sunday **December 4** at 12.00 noon - Seer Green Santa Dash.

Jenny Owen



Seer Green Winter Market



There's no need to trek to Germany, or even London, for your winter market fix this year - on Sunday **November 27** there'll be one right here in Seer Green.

From 1pm to 4pm, the Jubilee Hall will be transformed into a Christmas shopping extravaganza with stalls selling jewellery, vintage handbags, Christmas decorations, bespoke art, books, jigsaws, hand-painted Christmas cards, scented candles, artisan gin, wine, foodie gifts and more.

You'll also be able to snap up pre-loved Christmas jumpers and festive children's clothes - much kinder to the planet and your wallet than buying new - and just in time for Christmas Jumper Day on **December 8**.

As for refreshments, you can look forward to mince pies, mulled wine, sausage rolls and other treats, kindly supplied by The Three Horseshoes, while Frank's Coffee Truck will be serving hot drinks to keep your cockles warmed. Plus, there'll be face painting and festive games to keep the kids entertained.

The market is generously sponsored by local artist Nicola Jones of Absolutely Hanging, who will be there on the day selling her beautiful hand-painted baubles and personalised art.

There'll also be a raffle with some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

All profits made from the event will go towards supporting our wonderful village Pre-School. Any Christmas jumper, festive clothing or raffle prize donations would be gratefully received. Please email the Pre-School Chairperson, Rebecca Davies, at chair.seer.green.preschool@gmail.com if you have anything to donate or would like to find out more about the event.

Rebecca Davies

News from over the fields in Jordans

Wow I am writing about Christmas activities in our village already and I am still walking around in shorts! Well maybe by the time you all read this I won't be! The wonderful summer of '22 will certainly, as the one of '76, go down in the history books.

Now to what we are planning for the Christmas season. The Children's party and the turning on of the Christmas tree lights is to be on Saturday **3 December** with our much loved 'Supper and Song' returning to its normal slot in the Village Hall on **Saturday 10**. Lots more information about both nearer the time but please put the dates on your calendars.

Before then, on Friday the **4 November**, the Jolly Quaker opens its doors to all from our villages to enjoy a very social time - inexpensive draught beer from the Rebellion Brewery in Marlow as well as anything else you would like to drink and music from Alec Penny and Richard Cornish played with such gusto on our amazing Yamaha grand piano.

On Tuesday **8 November** at 2pm all villagers have received a really lovely invitation to go to the School

for a Tea Party and on **Friday 11 November** Jordans Picture House opens its doors for the screening of the unmissable 'The Best of Men' and on **Tuesday 22 November** 'Dream Horse'.

Regulars are Lunch Club on the **17 November** and of course 'Toddlers in the Woods' hosted by our church every Friday morning. (Get in touch with me for all about this weekly event).



Enjoy this season of 'mists and mellow fruit fullness' leading up to the start of Christmas and all the wonderful events that it brings.

Ali Cork

From Shaggy to Chic

The Jordans Pet Spa is run by two incredible hard workers dedicated to making dogs feel luxuriously beautiful. Unlike many dog groomers, their mission is to make dogs feel free and at home, The Jordans Pet Spa do not cage their dogs. Instead, they work in a home designed to be a lush dog spa. It is surrounded

by nature with a big garden which dogs can play in, almost like a garden of Eden for dogs, and a sweet-scented field next door.

Each dog's journey in the dog spa moving from terror to adoration exemplifies how Melanie and Rhiannon succeed in their aim to make dogs feel beautiful. In my interview with the manager, Melanie, she gave the example of Barney. He would not even let her touch him at first and had to be dragged to the grooming room as he pulled back in a flat starfish shape across the floor. Now? His excitement at seeing Melanie shows just how much the care for the dogs in The Jordans Pet Spa leads to the dog's utter delight.

Sometimes the grooming of a dog seems like too much of a luxury. However, denying a dog a groom can sometimes lead to horrible situations. For example, it can even lead to dogs not being able to walk properly. One of Melanie's dogs arrived in the dog spa with wood that had been so matted into its fur that it had gone into his skin. Melanie sat down with tweezers to remove the wood. Now the look on Max' face is so content when he arrives at the spa each week for a moment of bliss.

So, to summarise, to any dogs out there, I hope you have the lovely opportunity to enjoy the haven of The Jordan's Pet Spa.'

Camille Hine



Jordans School

Well, what a wonderful start to the school academic year we have had at Jordans School!

Our teachers and their families have been in school over the summer, giving the classrooms and outside spaces a spruce up. It was all worthwhile to see the children come in so happy and settled, enjoying being back with their friends and the new learning spaces. The new Reception children, who have come up from the nurseries, came in proudly in their new school uniforms and, together with their parents, have become a part of the Jordans School family.



Jane's big walk

In May, I wrote a piece for this magazine about my prospective long walk. I set out to walk from Lands End to John O'Groats, aiming to complete 1200 miles in 104 days, fundraising for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

The short version of the story is that at 64 days I had to stop, as a problematic hamstring that I'd been nursing for several weeks decided that it had really had enough. So I temporarily ended the challenge 4 miles from the Scottish border. This was obviously disappointing, but the longer version of the story is that it was the most fantastic experience.

People have asked me whether it's what I expected, and the answer is always yes, in that I was expecting everything. It was both exhilarating and worrying, exultant and tearful, exhausting and easy. Walking solo for most of the time was a challenge, and I missed my friends and family, but it gave me the opportunity to properly engage with and get to know some remarkable people on the way.

I encountered nothing but kindness from my fellow travellers, together with extreme generosity from many people who supported me. Friends came to walk the odd day with me and were kind about the fact that I made them walk long distances in the rain. Pub landlords upgraded



my room and gave me free drinks. I got to see the very best countryside in the world. And all over England, people generously gave to the charity, ranging from donations in the hundreds of pounds to a couple of coins from someone who had almost nothing.

I raised over £11,000 for TVAA, and the best of all is that I have Scotland to walk next year!

If you wanted to read about how I got on in more detail, then my blog is www.janesbigwalk.com.

Jane Smith

Janet's book reviews



Janet Stewart, our book shop guide, makes these recommendations for reading on a chilly November day.

How to Kill Your Family – Bella Mackie

This is such an amazing novel! Dark, furious, and very, very funny, I absolutely loved this!

When Grace discovers that her millionaire father rejected her mother's dying wish to recognise her as his daughter and help her, she decides to avenge her mother by killing him and his family. Grace's motivation to eliminate her father and his family seems perfectly reasonable and makes her the ultimate anti-hero.

What makes the story extraordinary is the lengths she goes to carry out her plan. As Grace says, there is a certain art to a good murder and with each murder more ingenious than the last Grace definitely shows us her artistic side!

Mackie has created a brilliantly funny story with a memorable character and one of the best endings I have read for a long time.

A flawless story of rejection, betrayal, and revenge; enjoy it.

The Downhill Hiking Club – Dom Joly

Something a little bit different for you ...

At a boozy, cricket-filled afternoon at Lord's, Dom Joly convinces his two closest friends to agree to the unthinkable: a challenging hike across Lebanon, from the Israeli border in the south, along the spine of the country's mountain range, all the way to the Syrian border in the north. For Joly it is something of a homecoming, having grown up in



Beirut. It was a happy childhood, though he did go to school with Osama bin Laden!

The Downhill Hiking Club is a big-hearted, witty, and affectionate love letter to Lebanon and its rich history with a meditation on family and homeland at its heart.

Written with Dom's trademark humour, it is a tribute to both the simple joys of friendship and to growing old disgracefully.

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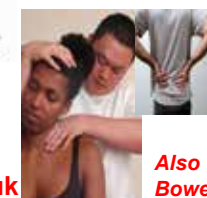
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On the Wild Side: Eurasian Sparrowhawk

Recently a friend told me 'I've seen an exciting bird ... you'll know what it was'. 'Bet I won't', I thought. But as soon as she described the 'biggish stripey bird' chasing a smaller bird through her garden, I said 'Female sparrowhawk ... near enough guaranteed.' A hunting sparrowhawk is like the speeder bikes on Endor in *Return of the Jedi*—it follows its prey at blistering speed through the gaps between trees, and right through beech hedges. The female is brown-backed, with horizontal brown bars on a white breast; the smaller male has a slaty back and rusty bars; both have striking yellow eyes.



Male bird - Hajottu
Creative Commons 3.0

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) is roughly kestrel-sized, but takes a different approach. Kestrels will hunt from a wood edge into a field, flying up and hovering over a vole before rocketing down. Sparrowhawks ... well the clue's in the name, but they're not limited to sparrows. The wee males cannot manage anything bigger than a mistle thrush, but females have a wider repertoire. I once stood at the woodland edge in the hills above Henley and saw a sparrowhawk pluck a red-legged partridge. When you see lots of woodpigeon feathers on the path in Green Wood,



Female bird - Mike Prince
Creative Commons 2.0

Lady Sparrowhawk has likely been breakfasting.

If you're birdwatching and you suddenly notice the birds have vanished, or you hear a chorus of alarm calls, look up. You may spot the sparrowhawk that has sent them under cover. 'Sprawks', as birders call them, succeed in about 10% of hunts, and disproportionately take the weak and sick. They themselves are

prey to goshawks and tawny owls, or may meet their end by crashing into a window while in hot pursuit. Their call is a high, repetitive mewing, but they're not a highly vocal bird.

Fascinating facts:

<https://tinyurl.com/ye6a3e4t>

Sparrowhawk call:

<https://tinyurl.com/yymas822>

Waste not, want not!

If you have green tomatoes still on the plant, you can either use them to make chutney or pick them and put them in a brown paper bag with a banana - bananas make other fruit ripen because they release a gas called ethene (formerly known as ethylene).



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Wycombe Homeless Connection

There are two ways for you to join in the Big Sleepout 2022.

We are back at Adams Park, home of Wycombe Wanderers. You can join sleep out in the stand, building shelters on the concrete floor. Join us for a meaningful and moving event. This is for over 12s only and children need to be supervised.

Or take on your challenge 'at home'. Arrange to sleep out on your own or with a group, picking a place that will make it a challenge - sleep in your garden, an empty bathtub, on your school playground or work car park or just somewhere you wouldn't normally sleep. All ages can take part!

Registration is open now www.wyhoc.org.uk/bigsleepout2022

If this isn't for you please share the news. Perhaps your local Guiding

or Scouting group might like to take part? 1st Flackwell Heath cubs raised £750 with their sleepout - amazing!

We're close to running out of sleeping bags!

As the weather has turned, in what seems like no time at all, we are needing more help so we can help others in turn. We are getting through our stock of sleeping bags quickly and if the current level of requests keeps up, we will run out in less than a week.

We need new, stuff-sack type bags. All the details are on our website and we have an Amazon wish list but you can buy from other places if you prefer. <https://wyhoc.org.uk/giving-goods>

Financial donations are very welcome as they help us respond quickly and buy exactly what is needed.



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Thursday 1st December 2022
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Gather outside Orchard Road shops and start the festive season with our annual lights Switch On!