

COMMUNITY NEWS

Seer Green and Jordans Parish Magazine

April 2025



Children's activities for the
Easter break

From the Allotments

News from Seer Green C of E School

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Thought for the Month

I'm writing during the glorious sunshine we had in early March, and of course I have no idea what the weather will be like in April! You may need to cast your mind back to the aliveness we feel as the sun warms our bones, as we see all of creation filled with light, colour and movement. It all reminds me of the words of a poem from Song of Songs, in the Bible's Old Testament, about how falling in love feels like spring after a hard winter. While the poem is firstly a celebration of human love, it is also a reflection on the restorative beauty of God's love for us:

My beloved spoke and said to me:
"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me.

See! The winter is past, the rains are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit; The blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

Arise, come, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me."

(Song of Songs 2:10-13, New International Version)

We celebrate Christmas in the depths of winter, reminding us that Christ comes into the dark and

cold of this broken world. But we celebrate Easter in the onset of spring, reminding us that, through Christ's death and resurrection, God is making all things new. We ask, with Samwise Gamgee, "Is everything sad going to come untrue?" And the risen Christ replies, "Yes!"

Experiencing the love of God is supposed to feel like the first day of spring after a hard winter. If you're looking to encounter something of that, a great place to start would be the plethora of activities our churches are running in the coming weeks!

Reverend Jez Carr



Church and Community Organisations

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07916 559151

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Rector of the Benefice

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Licensed Lay Minister

Linda West

Children and Families Minister and SGKIDS

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Holy Trinity Administration

Janelle Stevenson holytrinitysgj@gmail.com

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Audrey Hardy | Treasurer 07342 652707

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Heather Rowe 01494 677573

Church Flower Guild

Pam Britton 01494 678466

Scouts | Explorers | Cubs | Beavers

andrew@seergreenscouts.org.uk

Seer Green Brownies

Carole Wharrier 07977 423555

Eight O'Clock Club

Monica Sado 01494 677851

Girl Guides

Brenda Orr | District Commissioner 01753 887209

Jordans and District Rotary Club

Brian Westwood | Secretary 07885 579442

Jordans Horticultural Society

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

Jordans School

Holly Swain | Head Teacher 01494 874217

Jordans Music Club

Marion Pell | Chairman 01494 872875

Jordans Village Hall Office 10.00 - 1.00

Chris Jenkins | Booking Secretary 01494 875177

Jordans Village Lunch Club

Catherine Robinson 01494 873193

Jordans Village Nursery School

Julie Leonard 01494 875603

Jordans Picture House

Alan Sealy/Box Office 01494 873205

Jubilee Hall

David Howkins 01494 857760

Jordans Quaker Meeting House and Centre

Nina Liebenberg | Warden 07962 105305

Little Ducklings Nursery

Kelly Bartley 01494 677190

One Can

Janet Stewart janetestewart@gmail.com

Seer Green Allotments

Barry Richardson / Chairman 01494 673407

Seer Green Baptist Church

Rev Louise Gilbertson 07983 882260

Seer Green Bridge Club

Irene Machin | Secretary 01494 676321

Seer Green Church of England School

Laura Morel | Head Teacher 01494 676344

Seer Green Gardeners

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Seer Green and Jordans Society

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Seer Green Lunch Club

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Seer Green Parish Council

Liz Bates | Parish Clerk 01494 874233

Seer Green Pre school

Kirsten Pole | Manager 01494 677190

Seer Green Football

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

Seer Green Village Choirs

Jane Smith 07759 841205

From the Editors

Now the days are becoming longer and somewhat warmer there is plenty to see and do both in the garden, allotments and further afield. Music and gardening feature a lot in the April edition. This month we have a reminder of the Jordans Music Club in June/July which always brings talented musicians to our doorstep.

Easter is fast approaching and we have the traditional Great Seer Green Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Saturday **19 April**. This is always a fun family event.

The Editors

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **May** issue to: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by **7 April 2025**. 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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Contact us

Holy Trinity website www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org

Church Wardens and General Enquiries **Janine Dunnell 07525 322955**

Bluebell photos taken by Dipesh Khira in the woods near One Tree field.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

Holy Trinity; Seer Green and Jordans

Every six years the Electoral Roll of every Church of England church is revised in order to obtain accurate numbers of worshipers. Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the parish church's annual meeting. This year, 2025, everyone who wishes to be on the Electoral Roll of Holy Trinity is required to complete a new application. The timing is related to Holy Trinity's Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) which will be held on Sunday **18 May**. Application forms will be available at the back of the church from **30 March** until **27 April**. Please complete and place into the box for completed applications.

To be eligible you must meet the following criteria:

Be baptised and aged 16 or over

Be a member of the Church of England and a resident in the parish who regularly attends church


If not a resident in the parish you habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment

Heather Rowe - Electoral Roll Officer

Holy Trinity Services in April

2 April	10.30am	Midweek Communion
6 April	8am	BCP Communion Service
	10am	Holy Communion Service with organ
	3.30pm	Families @ 3.30
13 April	10am	Morning Praise Service – Palm Sunday
18 April	10am	Good Friday – Joint Service at SG Baptist
	2-3pm	Hour by the cross at Holy Trinity
20 April	8am	BCP Communion Service
	10am	Easter Celebration Service
27 April	10am	Holy Communion Service with organ

April Charity of the Month



The **Bible society** is a non-profit organization, usually nondenominational in makeup, devoted to translating, publishing, and distributing the Bible at affordable prices.

The Bible society **translates** the Bible and make it accessible in people's heart languages.

They're **developing resources** that help local churches to engage more deeply with Scripture, and sending thousands of volunteers to primary schools to share Bible stories with a generation almost entirely unfamiliar with them. And in politics, the media and the arts we're bringing the Bible to life in fresh, exciting and relevant ways.

The Bible is for everyone

Find out more about God

Working locally and overseas





Donations to Holy Trinity

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

Go to our website:

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

Or go to:

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

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

Donations in cash/cheque may be delivered to our treasurer at 58 Chalfont Road.

If you can Gift Aid your donation, please add your name and address.

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

chardyseergreen@aol.com



Things for children and families to enjoy in the Easter holidays...

Sunday 6 April - Families @ 3.30pm @ Holy Trinity

An informal, fun, opportunity to explore faith with your children through story, song, activities and refreshments.

Tuesday 8 April - Easter Messy Crafternoon 2.30-4.30pm @ SGBC

Bring your children along for 2 hours of Easter creative fun! Aimed at 3-10s. All children must be accompanied. Enjoy a range of different activities including Lego, beads, sand, playdough, glue, stickers, crafts and more! Suggested donation £5 per child (refreshments included).

Wednesday 9 April, 9.30-11.30 @ SGBC

Aimed at 0-7s (ish) accompanied by their parent/carer. Come and enjoy a change of scenery with lots of toys, crafts, games, and activities, and time to catch up with your friends.

Donation per family, suggested £2.50 per person over 6 months (refreshments included).

Monday 14 April - Explore Easter, 2.30-4.30pm @ SGBC

Particularly aimed at 3-11s, accompanied by their parents/carers. Come and enjoy Easter crafts, activities, and refreshments, with the afternoon finishing with a short Easter themed gathering altogether. Suggested donation £4 per child.

Saturday 19 April - The Great Seer Green Easter Egg Hunt 10am - 3pm

The Great Seer Green Easter Egg Hunt is back this Easter Saturday, 19 April - Head to the Baptist Church to join in between 10am - 3pm. Have fun exploring round the village, following the clues, finding eggs, answering questions and spotting the cheeky chicks. New challenges for 2025. It will take 1 - 1.5 hours to complete. Fun for all the family discovering more about Easter. Yummy treats to be won.

For information or to book places, contact Janna Holder 07764 490960

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Wedding

21 December Amy Bullock and Robert Goodall

Funeral

7 March Agnes Cameron

Would you like to subscribe to Community News?

Would you like to subscribe to Community News ?

We have made it easier to subscribe at any time now, so if you missed the January subscription date you are not too late.

New subscribers can use the QR code to sign up and pay for their 2025 Parish magazine, at a discounted cost of £15 for 10 editions, rather than £20.

Just scan the QR code, click subscribe, add a 10 edition subscription to your cart and checkout! Your details will go to the

distribution team and the magazine will arrive at your door each month (subject to address in Seer Green/Jordans).

If you are not happy using a QR code then just email us at editorseergreen@gmail.com and we will sort it out

The Editors



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The allotments

April - Prepare for action!

While it is still necessary to protect from frost, it is timely to begin to harden off some seedlings, warming the soil before sowing and erecting bean and pea supports; now is the time to do as much preparation as possible to be ready for everything exploding into life next month.... (including all the predators that want to munch on young tender seedlings). The allotment site gets busier and we meet up again with more allotmenters re-emerging after winter.

Whilst allotment sites have a common theme in terms of horticulture they are made up of many individuals and every plot is a vivid expression of each plot holder. So unlike French allotments that appear to follow a strict pattern, with sites in this country the variety in produce, style and method makes for wonderful difference, truly no allotment is like another - and the same goes for allotmenters!

Over the years certain individuals make their mark and are apportioned their place in allotment history. One such was Jarlath Quinn; in his nineties our oldest allotmenter Jarleth could be seen early mornings digging, weeding, sowing and tending his plot. Always neatly dressed with shirt and tie, a cap on his head, Jarleth was at first sight the archetypical allotmenter.



His root crops were legendary, no carrot fly dared to breach the protective fleece around his carrot bed, once harvested they would be cooked or frozen by his wife Aggie, along with parsnips, beans, spuds and more. Although old school in his practice, he was interested in what others grew, and would happily discuss 'moon planting' or double digging versus no-dig in his soft Irish brogue.

So it was that when we found ourselves asking 'I wonder if I should sow this now' or 'is it time to put these plants out' when working our plots, the answer was always, 'I'll see what Jarlath's done'.

And that is why the prize we compete for every year to be awarded at the autumn show is The Jarlath Quinn Best Allotment Tankard.

Happy Plotting, **Charlotte Baggins** from the allotments.

News from Seer Green CE School

This year's World Book Day celebrations were a resounding success, thanks to the hard work and organizational skills of the Year 6 children. Their leadership skills shone as they led Collective Worship and ran activities across all year groups providing inspiration and



enjoyment for all. I am immensely proud of the way Year 6 planned and led these activities, it was heartening to witness the laughter and enthusiasm permeating the entire school. Their efforts truly embodied the spirit of World Book Day.

Feedback from the day was really positive, firstly from Year 6. (Alex, Aria Hibah, Jade and Ila)

Before World Book Day we had to devise the games and activities for our allocated year groups, and plan collective worship. Then the big day arrived!

The day started with everyone gathered for collective worship, which we led. We split into groups which either talked about our favourite book or character or asked the school to guess a character from our clues. It was great fun!



We then went back to the classrooms where we read books to the children and played games with the children which included quizzes, acting out stories and even making shoe puppets.

During the afternoon we ran a book swap so that every child went home with a book that they had not read before. It was a fab-book-ulous day!

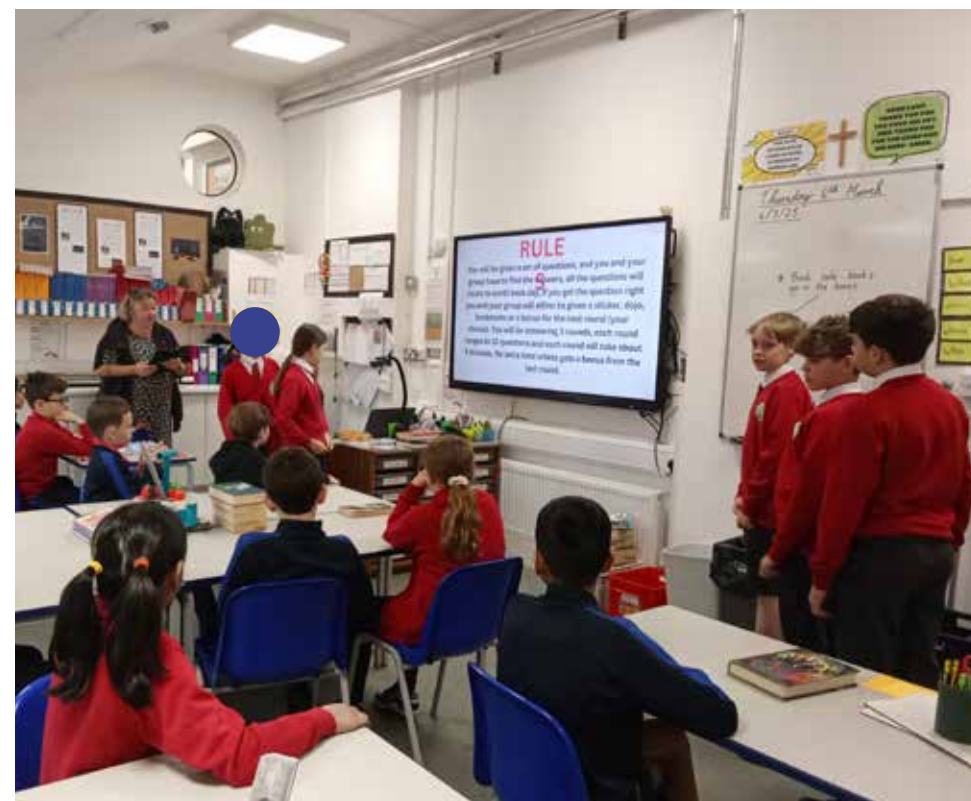
The children should be very proud of their achievements as the events were clearly enjoyed by all:

"I enjoyed World Book Day because I loved hearing about why they liked reading" (Elsa Y2)

"My favourite thing about world book day was the guess the character quiz" (Bronte Y2)

"I really liked they chose to read to us and we had fun with the acting game" (Freddie A Rec)

Mrs Morel - Headteacher



What a coincidence

Our vicar, Jez Carr, sent us this picture of a watercolour called The Promise by J Walter West which was found at his parents' house.

On the back were some details about the picture. It was originally exhibited at the Watercolour Society exhibition in 1928. It represents a Quaker wedding in the early 19th Century, 'where that atmosphere of quietude and simplicity prevailed that was so characteristic of Quaker life of that period'.

What is the connection to Seer Green and Jordans? Firstly, Jez has the picture because the man modelling as the groom is his grandfather, Quentin Carr, and secondly the picture is set in Jordans Meeting House.

Walter West was born in Hull in 1860, and is best known for his Quaker subjects. Many reproductions of the paintings were made and were sold in both the UK and the USA. Walter West also drew many of the well known Underground posters and these were exhibited at Burlington House (The Royal Academy of Arts) in 1916. He died in 1935 and his funeral was held at Jordans Meeting House.

Sue Puttergill



Note the 18th-century stand (with which the painter has taken some liberties) and the brick-tiled floor which exist to this day.

This print is in Colchester Meeting archives. The following notes appear on the back and were provided by Friends House Library:

"J. Walter West RWS. Born 1860 at Hull. Died 1933 at Northwood, Mddx and funeral at Jordans (Quaker) Meeting House.

From a family of modest means, he left his Quaker school, Boothams, in his mid-teens to work in the engineering works of Priestman Brothers, Hull. Priestmans were a Quaker family and it is likely that Walter West was encouraged by his employers' family to pursue his ambition to paint because that family included an established artist, Bertram Priestman.

In 1884, aged 24, having saved his money, he set off for London and was quickly accepted by the Royal Academy Schools. Frugal Quaker habits must have helped his early years but by 1904 he was elected to the Royal Society of Watercolour Painters and was popular and successful. He exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy and by 1913 had a picture in the Tate.

He married a Quaker, Ada Wise, in 1891 and they had four daughters, at least one of whom, Cicely became a successful artist.

Walter West is best known for his Quaker subjects, of which great numbers of reproductions were made and there sales both here and in America were not restricted to Friends. He drew many early Underground posters which were sufficiently admired to justify a Burlington House exhibition in 1916. More recently in 1983 the Bookplate Society published an article about his bookplates - now a rare artform. He signed himself 'J. Walter West' with a stylised compass incorporating the letters of his last name. "[see bottom right-hand corner of the picture]

Isabel Penraeth www.quakerjane.com/index.php?fuseaction=plain_dress. has suggested that the time portrayed is in the 1820s.



Pop Up Florist Shop for Mother's Day

All Proceeds to Cure Parkinson's

9am – 1pm on Saturday 29th March

On The Green, Orchard Road, Seer Green (opposite shops)

Fresh cut flowers and plants, all gift wrapped

Every year we have lots of disappointed children and Dads who see the beautiful bouquets, only to find they are pre ordered. Don't be disappointed this year!

Contact Rachel on rachel@rachelgibson.org or 07957684109

The path between our villages



Way back in 1987 I took over running Jordans Village Nursery School and parents from Seer Green, who chose to bring their children over to attend it, would happily walk over pushing their children in buggies, even double buggies! Now all these years later the children coming over from Seer Green to JVNS and Toddlers in the Woods, who need to use a buggy, cannot and parents need to come by car. This is a great shame.

The footpath understandably over the years has deteriorated and not been maintained. It is still very evident how it used to look as the hard core at the sides, now high above the extremely narrow central strip, is apparent.

We are all encouraged to get out in the open air in the early mornings and walk to wherever we are going. It is therapy in itself to walk to a toddler group, nursery and school. How can we perpetuate this between our villages so that the parents/carers of young children and all villagers can easily walk from one to the other.

So whose responsibility is the path on the Jordans side of the rails?

It is the responsibility, surprisingly, of Chalfont St Giles Parish Council.

Jordans Village Limited is responsible for cutting back the hedges on either side but not for the path. Quite understandably the Chalfont St Giles councillors have far more significant matters to attend to than repairing a footpath that their villagers rarely use.

A joy to see walking along the path will be Manor Farm Field North as it develops.

Jordans Biodiversity Group with the help of those young and old from both our villages is rewilding Manor Farm Field North which is already looking wonderful. Shrubs have been planted, one day a haven for wildlife, and wildflowers, that will enrich the soil, are growing.

So it would be a benefit to both our Villages if we could come up with a plan to keep the path open and accessible to all regardless of age.

Any constructive thoughts on a solution please contact

Ali Cork - alicork686@gmail.com
07803 139079



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Jordans Music Club

82nd Summer Festival 2025 - 1 June to 6 July

*If you appreciate classical music
Come and enjoy a glass of wine
along with some fine music from
musicians of international calibre
without high prices or the need to
travel into London.*

1 June - The Castalian Quartet Returns

Acclaimed for their captivating performances, this brilliant string quartet launches our season. Tonight they perform Haydn, followed by the exuberance of Mendelssohn's D major quartet, finishing with one of Beethoven's final quartets.



© Kirk Truman

15 June - Jeneba Kanneh-Mason Takes the Stage

The unforgettable virtuoso pianist returns, showcasing her fabulous talent. Making her debut at the BBC Proms, she is now a regular guest at Wigmore Hall.

29 June - A Baroque Extravaganza with Red Priest

Experience the thrill of this revolutionary quartet's theatrical performance, blending music and drama. The group – now in its 29th year – explores some of the highlights of its glittering international career.



6 July - Cellist Guy Johnston and Pianist Tom Poster

Two of the UK's finest musicians come together for an unforgettable musical experience. Guy Johnston is acclaimed as one of Britain's most exciting cellists; Tom Poster is praised as "mercurially brilliant".

Mark your calendars now for an incredible season of music.

Concerts at the Jubilee Hall, Seer Green HP9 2QJ at 7.30pm.

Tickets at [Ticketsource.co.uk/JordansMusicClub](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/jordansmusicclub)

For more information visit [JordansMusicClub.org.uk](https://www.jordansmusicclub.org.uk)

8 O'Clock Club - The Titanic and the Kelly family

It was the murder of her paternal Great-Grandmother in the 20C, that led Denise Beddows (aka D J Kelly), to research the shipyard of Belfast's Harland and Wolff. They built the White Star Line's Olympic Class of steamship: Olympic, Titanic and Britannic.

In it's heyday, the shipyard was the biggest employer in Belfast, although it was also known for paying its employees less than ship-fitters in England and Scotland. For economic reasons, the Shipyard used cheaper materials, such as pig-iron rivets, to lower their costs.

Like most, life for William Henry Kelly's Family was tough. Kelly was a shipwright and Caulker by trade and worked on the Titanic. He married Isabella Gordon in 1879 who met her tragic death after 30 years of marriage in 1910, aged 49.

There were tragedies in the Shipyard itself, long before the concept of Health and Safety at Work and the advent of PPE. and it was not uncommon for men to be injured or lose their lives during their working day. The best their work colleagues could do after a death would be to locate their colleague's wooden clocking-on tab and ensure they clocked it out with their own at the end of the day. This way, their colleague's widow would receive a man's full day's pay; a token by way of compensation.

Loss of pay took other forms: over seven minutes either in a morning or afternoon to use the lavatory facilities, or men going to see the ship launched on which they'd worked, resulted in loss of pay that families could ill-afford.

Two years after Isabella's death the Titanic sank and two years beyond that the shipyard entered a new era when the skilled workforce departed for WWI.

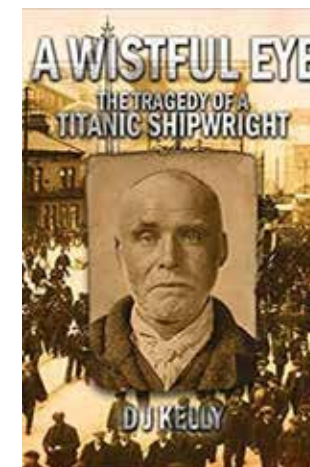
The Kelly's are captured in "A Wistful Eye" by D J Kelly: 978-1781760116.

Next meeting Thursday **April 3**
8.00pm Seer Green Baptist Church

'What Did The Romans Do For Seer Green' - Nigel Rothwell (Archaeologist)

£4 (cash) to include tea/coffee and biscuits

Elizabeth Lee



Our Living Village: Protecting our built heritage?

What of our built heritage is worth protecting, why, and for whom?

If you are interested in our environment, history, or the development of our village, you may be aware of recent planning applications for the Old Vicarage ('parsonage house') on Old Long Grove. But what other aspects of our built environment are deemed worthy of extra protection?

Sites which are nationally listed because of their special architectural or historic interest benefit from legal protection. Seer Green has several such Grade II listed properties: Holy Trinity Church; Hall Place; Colliers; Pondstile; Peaceful Cottage; Newbarn Farmhouse, Barn, Cowbyre, Dairy and Stable; and Beaconsfield Golf Clubhouse.

In 2021 Buckinghamshire Council initiated a public Local Heritage Listing (LHL) project to record sites (buildings, parks/gardens, public art, archaeology) of local (rather than national) significance, because of their importance for local character. These sites are classed as Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA). This classification does not prevent permitted development rights, but it affords an extra level of protection through being a "material consideration" when it comes to

considering planning matters: the benefits of any proposed development must outweigh the loss through damage to, or destruction of, the impacted NDHA.

NDHAs within Seer Green are: Broom House; Old Vicarage; War Memorial; Parish Hall; Old Baptist Chapel; East and West Barns; The Jolly Cricketers; Flint, Lilac and Corner Cottages; Ponds House; Rawlings Farm, Air-raid Shelter and Pump-house; and Hodgemoor Polish Resettlement Camp monument; with a number of other sites under consideration.

*Oct. 22. A new church, erected from the designs of Mr. James Deason, at Seer Green in the parish of Farnham Royal, was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Oxford. The hamlet of Seer-green contains a population of between 300 and 400 persons, situated at a distance of eight miles from the parish church, and upwards of two miles from any other place of worship. The Rev. J. S. Grover, with the consent of the patrons of the living, the Provost and Fellows of Eton, engaged to endow the new church with the rent-charge and glebe, producing 100*l.* per annum, besides subscribing 50*l.* towards the building. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners contributed both to the church and parsonage house. The former curate of Farnham Royal, who is nominated to the incumbency, in consideration of his liberal contribution to the work, subscribed the munificent sum of 1000*l.**

*From 'The Gentleman's Magazine' 1846
vol 26*

Sites on the Buckinghamshire LHL can be investigated at <https://tinyurl.com/ykru6b6x>. Nationally listed buildings can be found on the National Heritage List for England at <https://tinyurl.com/4axk7fer> and through <https://tinyurl.com/2ew3n9mk>. Members of the public can comment on planning applications through <https://tinyurl.com/mpxjaz3w>.

Nigel Rothwell - ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com
www.ourlivingvillage.org

Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community



Monday Mornings
10.30am to 12.00noon
Seer Green Baptist Church

Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thurs 3 April 8pm | 8 O'Clock Club 'What did the Romans do for Seer Green?' Nigel Rothwell |
| Fri 11 April 6.45pm/7.30pm | Jordans Picture House 'Book Club – The Next Chapter' |
| Sat 19 April 10am-3pm | The Great Easter Egg Hunt starts at the Baptist Church |
| Fri 25 April 6.45pm/7.30pm | Jordans Picture House 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. |
| Sat 3 May until 5 May | Seer Green Gardeners Scarecrow Trail |

Jordans Picture House

Our 2025 programme continues

We look forward to welcoming you again!

On Friday **April 11** we shall screen "Book Club – The Next Chapter".

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

Book Club – The Next Chapter (12A)

Cast: Diane Keaton; Jane Fonda; Candice Bergen. Director: Bill Holderman

Follows the new journey of four best friends as they take their book club to Italy for the fun girls' trip they never had. When things go off the rails and secrets are revealed, their relaxing vacation turns into a once-in-a-lifetime cross-country adventure.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20768712/>



On Friday **April 25** "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry".

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

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

Cast: Jim Broadbent; Penny Wilton; Earl Cave. Director: Hettie McDonald.

Harold is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the side lines, until he goes to post a letter one day...and just keeps walking.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14097206/>



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



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Seer Green Gardeners

April is one of the busiest months for veg growers. With temperatures hopefully climbing along with hours of daylight, seed sowing is top of the list. While many are skeptical about matching sowing dates to the moon cycle, no-dig guru Charles Dowding is partly persuaded. So if you have a choice, try to sow when the moon is waxing (getting bigger). Check out his research at <https://www.charlesdowding.co.uk/post/moon-sowing>. This year, full moon is the 13th and in May it falls on the 12th.

With the climate being ever more unpredictable, more judgement is needed when raising plants from seed. Will there be more frost? What rainfall can we expect? Long term weather forecasts do seem to be improving so it's worth checking out the Met Office site. In early March they were saying "in early April, there may be a transition to drier and more settled weather. Temperatures will probably be above average overall." We shall see, but it's a good idea to be prepared with fleece covers and full water butts.

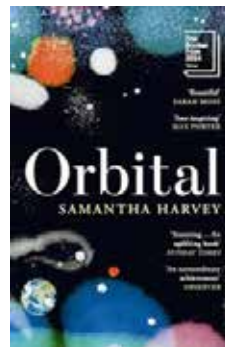
With favourable weather, young plants can grow really fast, so be ready with supports. (When winter pruning I've got into the habit of keeping aside a few nice straight sticks of varying thicknesses for this purpose.) There's nothing worse than finding your young healthy plant having been treated as a supper for slugs!

Diary date for Tuesday **October 14**: Matt Biggs, one of the nation's most celebrated broadcasters and authors will travel from his Hertfordshire home to give us a talk on a practical aspect of gardening. Details on seergreengardeners.org. All welcome.

Sally Ash



Janet's Book Reviews



Orbital – Samantha Harvey

2024 Booker winner. Sometimes these prize-winning titles are inaccessible and not enjoyable. This one is certainly a unique read, but one I thoroughly recommend.

Set on the space station orbiting earth 16 times a day, it connects the lives and work of the astronauts and the earth they can see.

It could be taken as non-fiction at times yet the lyrical, poetic writing defies that. It makes the reader look both inwards and outward, confronting the vastness of the universe while thinking about the minutiae of everyday life.

Well worth a go.



Three days in June – Anne Tyler

Just published, I'm a huge fan of this author and her latest doesn't disappoint.

Her characters come to life in a way that makes you feel you're peeping through their curtains! Set 3 days before her daughter's wedding, Gail Baines should be happy, but she unexpectedly resigns from her job, being told by her boss that she lacks people skills. Her ex-husband turns up unannounced with a cat, and a secret is discovered about her future son-in-law.

Anne Tyler is the mistress of understatement, a single sentence tells us what other writers take a chapter to describe.

If you've read her books before, you'll love it, if you haven't then what are you waiting for?

Janet Stewart

Twenty Years of Village Voices

During the many years that I was the music specialist teacher at Seer Green School, I used to invite parents to join their children to sing in the choir, or play in the orchestra. We would enjoy rehearsing together during the autumn and then would perform in the Christmas concert. In the Spring, the groups would return to being for children only. Twenty years ago, at the beginning of the Spring term of 2005, I was approached by one of the mums, saying that she would like me to form a choir so that those women who'd taken part could continue. I said that I would do it if she found 12 people who would commit, thinking that she'd not be able to, with everyone's busy lives. A couple of days later she told me that she'd got 15, and when could we start?



Now, in 2025, Village Voices is an upper voices choir with a membership capped at 85 singers, and the singers come from a wide catchment. The ethos is the same though. It is a community choir, unauditioned, with everyone welcome. But we work hard, mostly learn our songs by heart, and if you came to the Christmas performance in Holy Trinity last year you will have heard the quality and joy of the women's singing. With my husband David on the piano, we have performed in various venues locally over the years, but have also really enjoyed sharing our music with others further afield. We've sung in prestigious venues across Europe including Vienna Cathedral, sung with Boney M in the Royal Albert Hall, been honoured to sing at the Menin Gate in Belgium, had riotous outings in Ireland, been on the local TV in Bratislava, and this autumn we are going to sing at Liverpool Cathedral and the Cavern Club.

We sing the music that I enjoy, and that is a pretty wide range. So in any season we might have an African folk song, a song from the shows, a pop song, a specially commissioned brand new song, a more serious or challenging piece, anything goes!

I am choosing my favourites of the last twenty years for this season's repertoire. This is no small job, there are so many wonderful songs. But going through my library of music has allowed me to reminisce and reflect on the happiness that this fantastic choir has given others, and me, over the years. They are more than just great singers, they are a warm and caring community. We stuck together through the huge difficulties of singing during Covid, and came back stronger, and new members always comment on how welcome they are made to feel.



On a Wednesday night in the Jubilee Hall there is laughter, glorious sounds and magic happening.

And brilliantly, twenty years later, of the 15 original members, 9 still sing with Village Voices.

If you'd like to be part of it, do get in touch at:
janeasmithmusic@gmail.com

Jane Smith

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Passing on the Baton: Amersham Festival of Music 2025 marks a Historic Transition

The Amersham Festival of Music returns this Spring for a momentous season of concerts, celebrating over four decades of musical excellence under the direction of Iain Ledingham in his final festival as Artistic Director. While Iain will remain involved with the festival through



his continued leadership of South Bucks Choral Society, this year marks the official passing of the baton to his successor, Chris Hopkins.

Chris, a former pupil of Iain's, brings an exceptional musical pedigree to the role. Having been the Conductor for 10 years at the English National Opera and currently serving as Head of Vocal Faculty Opera at the Royal Academy of Music, he is deeply honoured to be taking the reins from one of his musical idols.

The Spring 2025 Festival promises a dazzling array of concerts, including:

Friday 4 April 8.00pm *The Syd Lawrence Orchestra presents 'The Big Band Legends'*

Sunday 6 April 4.00pm *Amersham A Cappella*

Thursday 10 April 7.30pm *The great American songbook with great American wine*

Saturday 12 April 7.30pm *South Bucks Choral Society*

Tuesday 22 April 8.00pm *'Desert Island Discs' with Iain Ledingham in conversation with James Luckhurst*

Saturday 26 April 8.00pm *Iain Ledingham's grand farewell concert as Festival Artistic Director*

This year's festival is not just a celebration of music, but a farewell to a musical visionary who has shaped Amersham's cultural landscape for over 40 years.

Book your tickets

www.ticketsource.co.uk/amershamfestivalofmusic

Full festival details: www.amershamfestival.org/programme

Hilary McCann - Pro and Publicity Lead for Amersham Festival of Music
07899 033022

Passion Inspire Perform Succeed



Pips Dance Academy was formed in Chalfont St Peter in 2019 by husband and wife duo - Scott and Pippa Fisher-Coldwell, to provide all ages and abilities with excellent dance training. Whilst having a dance for all ethos, Pips also provides industry links and

gives students many performance opportunities.

The academy is for age 3 to adults offering a range of dance styles and opportunities for everyone. We operate most evenings across Chalfont and in the Jubilee Hall Seer Green.

We do our whole dance school show in January every year and do a summer school leading to a musical. Last year we did Shrek the musical and our theme for our January show was Musicals themed.

We often perform, and we are off to Disney again this coming October and are competing at the Dance World Cup in Burgos Spain in July

For more information and lots of photos of the dance school see <https://www.pipsdanceacademy.co.uk/gallery>

Pippa Fisher-Coldwell

Photo: Pips dance academy in the Jubilee Hall

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More information on the SG Gardeners website, or speak to Janna