

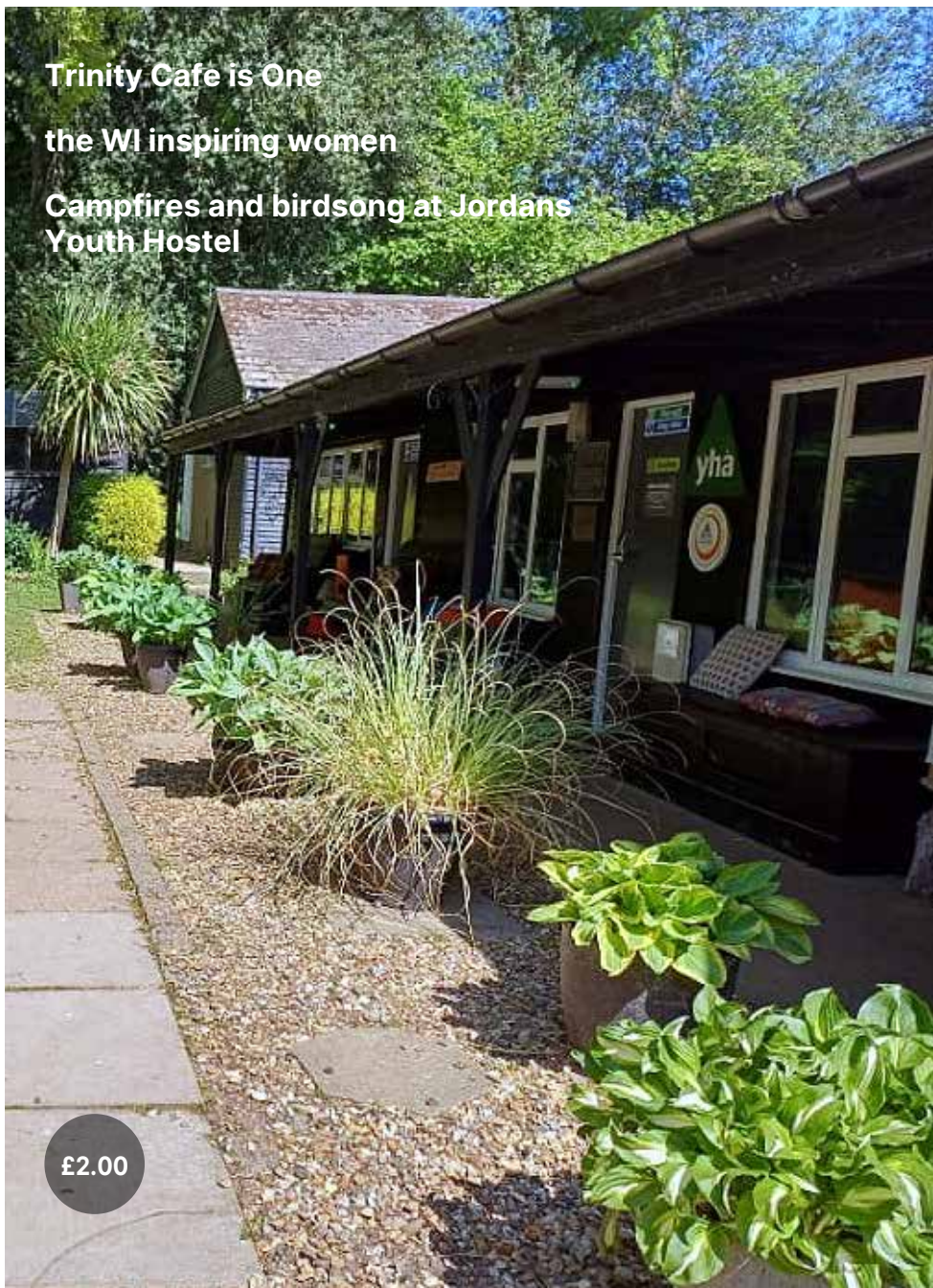
# COMMUNITY NEWS

Seer Green and Jordans Parish Magazine

June 2026

Trinity Cafe is One  
the WI inspiring women

Campfires and birdsong at Jordans  
Youth Hostel



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Local Residential Sales & Lettings



## Thought for the Month

There is something deeply uplifting about creativity - whether we see it in the natural world around us or in the imagination and skill of people, through art, music, ideas and inspiration. As the seasons move from spring to summer, we are surrounded by reminders of just how wonderfully creative life can be. No two flowers are the same, no sunset repeats itself, and even the smallest creatures are perfectly formed in an array of colour, pattern, and design.

To me they speak of a Creator whose imagination is boundless, whose joy is reflected in its beauty and who crafted the diversity of the world we share.

Last month, many of us enjoyed taking part in - or simply walking around - our village Scarecrow Trail. What brilliant imagination and effort we saw in the different displays. Congratulations to Chicken Run, which was voted the winner. Each scarecrow told a story, sparked a smile, or invited a moment of reflection and shared memories of favourite films.

At the end of May we celebrate a year of Trinity Café, an inspired idea and brave creativity to create something of value to our community which sits within the traditional fabric and ethos of the church building but welcomes all in to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation.

Later in June our two village choirs will be performing with a visiting choir Bevox from the north of England. All are welcome to come and listen at 3pm on Saturday **27 June** in St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield (free entrance).

Our village thrives on the creativity, generosity, and dedication of its residents, using their skills, talents and time for its benefit. Perhaps this month we can celebrate creativity around us. Pause and admire the beauty around us, encourage the creativity we see in others, and maybe be a little more creative ourselves.

**Janna Holder**

Children and Families worker



## Church and Community Organisations

### Vicar

Rev Jez Carr rev.jezcarr@gmail.com  
07916 559151

Primary working days: Wed, Thurs and Sunday  
Non-working day: Saturday

### Rector of the Benefice

Rev Dan Beesley revdbeesley@gmail.com  
07345 162642

### Benefice Assistant Priests

Rev Paul Henderson  
paul.e.henderson@btinternet.com

### Licensed Lay Minister

Linda West

### Children and Families Minister and SGKIDS

Janna Holder 07764 490960

### Churchwarden and General Enquiries

Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

### Holy Trinity Administration

Janelle Stevenson holytrinitysgj@gmail.com

### Parochial Church Council

Audrey Hardy | Treasurer 07342 652707

### Pastoral Care

Heather Rowe 01494 677573

### Church Flower Guild

Helen Lindsey-Clark 07880 736003

### Scouts | Explorers | Cubs | Beavers

andrew@seergreenscouts.org.uk

### Seer Green Brownies

Carole Wharrier 07977 423555

### Eight O'Clock Club

Monica Sado 01494 677851

### Folk Club

Bex 07793 743525

### Jordans Biodiversity Group

Emma Pegram 07940 816710

### Jordans and District Rotary Club

Brian Westwood | Secretary 07885 579442

### Jordans Horticultural Society

Liz Apedaile 07763 475997

### Jordans Music Club

Derek Lake | Chairman 07786 499596  
jordansmusicclub@gmail.com

### Jordans School

Holly Swain | Head Teacher 01494 874217

### 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

Nicola Coyne | Admissions 07952 993951

### 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

Jill Moody 07785 520539  
seergreengardeners@gmail.com

### Seer Green and Jordans Society

Alan Kell ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com  
www.ourlivingvillage.org

### Seer Green Lunch Club

Gill Roberts 01494 677281

### Seer Green Parish Council

Liz Bates | Parish Clerk 01494 874233

### Seer Green Pre school

Kirsten Pole | Manager 01494 677190

### Seer Green Football

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

### Seer Green Village Choirs

Jane Smith 07759 841205

## From the Editors

It is always a delight to receive emails with contributions for the next month's magazine. There is so much going on in the two villages and such a variety of interests displayed. We are very grateful to our contributors and to the people who distribute the magazines to everyone who subscribes,

without them there would be no Community News. We are having small 'Thank you' parties for both the contributors and the distributors this month and always get inspiration from them. We hope that you will enjoy the new ideas.

### The Editors

## Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **July/August double** issue to: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by **7 June 2026**. 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](http://www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org)

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

Front cover: Jordans Youth Hostel photo Nicola Lowe

## Good News for the world?

**Sunday 7 June, 10am**, our speaker will be Jason Lane, International Director of Innovista

Innovista grow local leaders who bring the Good news of Jesus to places ravaged by poverty, persecution and war.

Hear the latest stories from leaders in these places, including Ukraine.

**INNOVISTA**



## Trinity Cafe Update

At the end of May, Trinity Café will celebrate its first birthday! Over the past year, it has been a joy to serve our community, and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us, volunteered, and helped make the café such a welcoming place for people of all ages.

To mark the occasion, we'll be celebrating over the last weekend in May. On Saturday **30 May** there will be activities and competitions, and on Trinity Sunday, **31 May**, we'll have a special service at 10am, followed by the café opening from 11am – 1pm with coffee and birthday cake to enjoy together.

Whether you visit every week or have never been before, we would love you to come and join the celebrations!

In other news... alongside Yo's delicious cakes throughout the week and Stratton Bakery pastries on Saturdays, we also have a new Friday treat: homemade savoury scones. They're available only while stocks last, so once they're gone, they're gone - come early if you'd like to try one!

A graphic announcement for Trinity Cafe's 1st birthday. It features a circular logo with 'TRINITY CAFE' at the top and 'SPECIALTY COFFEE' at the bottom, with a coffee cup icon in the center. To the right is a large number '1' balloon and the text 'WE ARE in May'. Below are details for Saturday 30th May and Sunday 31st May.

**TRINITY CAFE**  
SPECIALTY COFFEE

**1** WE ARE in May

📅	DATE: SATURDAY 30TH MAY	📅	DATE: SUNDAY 31ST MAY
🕒	TIME: 8.30AM - 3.30PM	🕒	TIME: SERVICE 10AM CAFE OPEN 11AM - 1PM
🎮	GAMES, ACTIVITIES & COMPETITIONS	📍	LOCATION: HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
		💚	PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR 1ST BIRTHDAY

## Subscribing to Community News for 2026

Thank you so much to everyone who has already renewed their subscription to Community News.

The magazine is cheaper if you subscribe and you get it delivered to your door. If you already subscribe Your distributor will have been in touch re payment for 2026 and will tell you how to do that so we can tie the payment to your name.

If you are a new subscriber, please use the QR code opposite.

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

### The Editors



## 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](http://seergreenandjordanscofe.org) and scroll down the homepage to 'Online Giving' and follow the link.

Or go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4hx7cyzx>

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

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

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

If you would like to join our planned giving scheme, please speak to our treasurer Audrey Hardy on 07342 652707 or [chardyseergreen@aol.com](mailto:chardyseergreen@aol.com)



## Holy Trinity Services in June

7 June	8am 10am	BCP Holy Communion Morning Praise – joint service with SGBC Service will be at Holy Trinity and will welcome a guest speaker from Innovista
14 June	10am	Soul Space doors open at 9.30am
21 June	8am 10am	<b>Father's Day</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion with organ
28 June	10am	Morning Praise

Charity of the month is **Innovista**



## Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

### Baptisms in May

*Lachlan Wilson*  
*Paxton Campbell*



14th June & 12th July  
Doors @ 9.30am, brief gathering @10am

# Soul Space

- wisdom for the week

A faith-inspired thought for the day,  
framed with music, conversation,  
and free coffee.

Everyone welcome.

## Seer Green gardener's suggestions for June

**Gardening jobs** (in case your list isn't long enough already!)

- We're now in the midst of the busiest time of the year for gardening, when plants should be growing at their strongest. But maybe not if this Spring's drought continues? So watering will be a priority, but only for fast growing annual veg and flowers. Remember the rules: thorough watering weekly is much more effective than smaller bursts when you happen to have a few moments to spare. And target roots rather than foliage.



Photo - Sally Ash Comfrey. A wildflower determined to be in a garden

- For perennial plants that are producing their beautiful flower stems, it's good to put supports in place before they're hidden by foliage. I like to keep the natural look by using woody stems from winter tree/shrub pruning and jute string.
- I'm increasingly relaxed about letting most weeds just do their thing because of the huge benefits they bring to wildlife. Don't let them smother young plants that you've just put out but leave enough to allow pollinators to feed on flowers and finches to enjoy seeds during winter.
- Comfrey and nettles are at their best in June so cut plenty of stems to steep in water (preferably from the water butt if we've had rain) for several months, then use the liquid (diluted if it's really strong) to feed plants.
- Struggling to find enough plant labels for burgeoning pots? They're very easy to make from cardboard or thin wooden packaging used in some ready meals. If you already have plastic ones, use a soft pencil rather than pen, then scrub them clean for re-use.

Sally Ash

## Day trip to RHS Wisley



**Thursday 18 June**

This year's garden outing will be to the beautiful RHS Wisley Gardens.

Enjoy a relaxing day exploring the stunning gardens, seasonal planting displays, glasshouse, and gift shop. There will be a guided tour of the gardens (included in the price) and plenty of free time to wander, have lunch, and gather inspiration for your own garden.

The price per person is **£25**.  
The coach will be leaving Seer Green Baptist Church at 9.30am. Please arrive at the church at 9.15am. We expect to arrive back to Seer Green by 5pm.

Spaces are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Please note, we must have final numbers by 4 June and after that date, we are unable to provide a refund.

See Seer Green Gardeners website for booking details.

## Forestry England - Hodgemoor Wood Update

We are writing to let you know that the parking charges at Hodgemoor Wood are now live.

The pay machines are located to the left of the entrance with the Blue P sign.

### Alternatives to paying for parking

Payments can also be made Via RingGo Location 31106 which gives the option to pay 48 hours prior. For regular visitors to Hodgemoor Woods, we recommend Forestry England membership. This provides a year of unlimited parking at Hodgemoor Woods and dozens of other Forestry England sites such as Wendover Woods for £96 per household, which equates to less than £2 per week: [www.forestryengland.uk/membership](http://www.forestryengland.uk/membership)

Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 5 hours	Up to 12 hours
£2.00	£2.50	£3.50	£4.00	£5.00	£8.00



## Jordans Village Hall Trust hosts mid summer camp out

What could be better than camping out under the stars on the wonderful Jordans Village Green after an afternoon full of activities for all the family and an evening enjoying a drink from our well stocked bar and a delicious burger freshly cooked on the BBQ. Our 'headliner' Richard Cornish will be playing the key board and singing, and marshmallows cooked over the fire pit will end the wonderful day !

Climb out of your tent in the morning and pick up your pre ordered breakfast from the Village Shop and enjoy leisurely cooking it over the fire pit (or bring your own bbq)

A convivial experience, children having lots to enjoy and you end up feeling you have been away for the weekend but very little driving, if any at all, involved.

If you haven't already, why not book your pitch right now!

**Ali Cork**



## What's on at Jordans school



The summer term sees Jordans school spending lots of time outside.

They are dancing at the Village Fair on **13 June**, **26 June** is sports day on the village green, **30 June** they walk through the village to visit the Quaker Meeting House and on **2 July**, they are showing off their country dancing at Dropmore Country Dancing festival.

## On the Allotments

June arrives in Seer Green with a quiet confidence, nothing tentative now. The soil has warmed, the days stretch generously, and everything seems to grow not just steadily, but eagerly. Where April teased and May promised, June delivers.

On the allotment, beds fill into a patchwork of greens, sturdy rows of beans reaching upward, courgettes unfurling broad leaves like open hands, and tomatoes beginning their careful climb.

There's a rhythm, watering early or late, tying in, thinning out, and keeping a watchful eye for pests that seem just as enthusiastic as the gardener.

What stands out most in June is the sense of partnership with the environment. You're no longer coaxing life along, you're managing abundance.

Compost heaps hum with activity, pollinators drift between flowers, and even the weeds remind you this is shared ground.

This year, that sense of shared space feels especially alive. A robin has taken up residence nesting in Bazzar's shed, quietly raising its young alongside the comings and goings. In Ayako's pond, crested newts glide beneath the surface, an encouraging sign of a healthy, undisturbed habitat, a slow worm is keeping warm in Nora's compost bin and in Jon's hives, bees move with purpose, threading their way through blossoms and binding the whole place together.



In a village like Seer Green, the allotment is part of a wider living network of hedges, footpaths, and fields. Protecting it, by conserving water, encouraging wildlife, and treading lightly feels less like a duty and more like common sense. Small choices ripple outward.

**Will Luff**



# Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community

Monday Mornings  
10.30am to 12.00noon  
Seer Green Baptist Church



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## Scarecrow trail results

A huge thank you to all the people who took part in the Scarecrow Trail. There were some brilliant entries and lots of positive feedback from those who enjoyed finding all the different children/family films over the early May bank holiday.

The votes have been counted and the results are in!

In **First place** was Chicken Run on Godolphin Way. Congratulations to the Read family.

**Second Place** was Minions on Stable Lane. Well done to the O'Flanagan family.

**Third Place** was Shrek and Fiona on Drovers Way. Good Job by the Wixon family.

Next year the Scarecrow trail will take place again over the early May bank holiday and the theme will be 'Children's TV through the ages.' You have a whole year to get your entry ready!

**Janna Holder**



First place - the Read family



Second place - the O'Flanagan family



Third place - the Wixon family

## Cherry Pies WI

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

We are absolutely delighted to announce the formation of "Cherry Pies WI" here in Seer Green and Jordans.

25 women attended the inaugural meeting last month, and we are looking forward to welcoming many more as we establish ourselves as a modern, exciting group.

The meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Jubilee Hall, from 7.30-9.30pm and

will have a varied programme of events, activities and speakers.

We would love you to join us, please get in touch with one of the committee team for more information.

Why don't you come along as a visitor to our next meeting on Tuesday **9 June** to see what we're up to?

All women of any age welcome

**Committee members:**

Janet Stewart - 07740 857451

Jane Smith - 07759 8412

Kim Edwards - 07802 889887

Cathy Frost - 07534 968983

Hilary O'Flanagan - 07938 826898

Lyn Squier - 07707 461644

**Janet Stewart**

**SEER GREEN CE SCHOOL**  
**CHERRY PIE FAIR**

**SATURDAY 20TH JUNE**  
12 NOON TO 2.30PM

Over 11's  
£1 entry

**COME JOIN THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AT THE CHERRY PIE FAIR!**

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CASHLESS TOKENS\* AVAILABLE TO BUY IN ADVANCE AND ON THE DOOR

FAIRGROUND RIDES & GAMES

JAZZY JARS

EXTERNAL STALLS

LITTLE TRADERS

CHOCOLATE & BOTTLE TOMBOLA

CRAZY SAND

RAFFLE

FOOD STALLS, CAKES & BAR

## What's going on at Seer Green CE School



As we move into the summer term, I really appreciate the simple pleasure of watching the children enjoy the warmer weather and our amazing grounds. The introduction of our new OPAL stations has been really successful and include tyres, chalk, and the permission to bring in Loom bands, which has sparked genuine collaboration amongst the children. I have been impressed by their ambition—they are working together to create a chain to challenge a Guinness World Record. This kind of purposeful play, driven by the children, demonstrates the very best of what our new approach offers. We are planning to open further stations throughout the remainder of the term, and I look forward to seeing the enthusiasm continuing.

The children's safety has occupied much of my thinking in recent weeks, especially the role of smartphones in our pupils' lives. Whilst these devices have undoubtedly become indispensable

to many of us as adults, the research evidence is increasingly clear that early exposure carries significant risks to children's wellbeing, family dynamics, and broader social development.

We have surveyed our parent community, consulted with colleagues in other schools, and reviewed the latest research in this area. As a result, we will be reviewing our policy on phones in school ahead of September. The safety and welfare of our pupils remain the key drivers of all our decisions, and our decisions will reflect that commitment.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to the Seer Green Gardeners, who have once again supported our Reception children in growing potatoes. These practical and enjoyable experiences - nurturing plants, observing growth, and ultimately harvesting and enjoying the potatoes - help the children understand that learning extends outside the classroom and we are all learning for life.

**Mrs Morel** - headteacher

## Our Living Village: an 1812 Overture

A mapping survey of Great Britain had begun after the 1745 Jacobite rebellion in Scotland. However, insufficient resources had been made available and progress had been slow. Spurred on by the threat of invasion from France, following the French Revolution (see February Community News), the government initiated a complete strategic military mapping of the realm. In 1791, the Board of Ordnance at the Tower of London, having responsibility for military infrastructure and equipment, was tasked with systematically mapping the landscape. Initial focus was on the south coast, rivers, communication routes, and upland topography.



*Ordnance Survey Drawing, 1812*  
(© The British Library Board)

The first 'Ordnance Survey' map was produced in 1801, but it was not until 1812 that the surveyors reached our neighbourhood and produced their working drafts (at a scale of 2 inches to 1 mile). It then took until 1822 for the first definitive OS map showing our area, Sheet No. VII (1 inch to 1 mile) extending from Clapham Common in the southeast to Princes Risborough in the northwest, to be published, printed on paper with a linen cloth backing. To emphasise the strategic nature of these maps they were subsequently published in both 'Outline' and 'Hillshade' versions.

The 1812 OS surveyors drawing (examine it in more detail at [www.ourlivingvillage.org](http://www.ourlivingvillage.org)) names principal properties (but not Jordans!), shows the Chalfont St. Giles Pest House on the edge of the parish adjacent to Hodgemoor Woods, and the new Potkilm Lane diverting the route to Beaconsfield from passing in front of Josias Du Pre's newly built 'White House' at Wilton Park. The OS also introduced a 'Name Book,' recording the local names of places and features, from which the most authoritative usage was selected, thereby resulting in definitive naming conventions.

**Nigel Rothwell** - [ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com](mailto:ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com)

## 8 O'Clock Club

If you fancy a walk you could try one of a mere 1,269 miles averaging 13.5 miles a day, with the chance to enjoy the best of beautiful Britain as you journey from Land's End to John o' Groats. Equally, you could cycle, ... or take the bus!



Villager Jane Smith wanted to walk the route, and if that wasn't enough of a challenge, she wanted to walk solo. The inspiration came from a chance meeting with an American who had walked the Appalachian Trail; after ending her teaching career at Seer Green School and preparation spent walking numerous National Trails, 2022 saw the start of Jane's journey.

There is no defined route as such between these extremities

of Britain, but there is a wealth of experience, so warnings of a route where a stretch of path has inadequate safety barriers is heeded; so too was the stipulation from Jane's family that she wasn't to camp and she had to carry a GPS.

Don't think of attempting this if you're one who takes everything but the kitchen sink on holiday! Whatever you put in your rucksack you have to carry, so light and essential is key. Being an island the weather always offers many possibilities, and with the exception of snow, Jane experienced them all; 35 degrees of heat, to sleet and lightning.

A short cut around Cheltenham resulted in a hamstring injury, and the walk from there to Bakewell was painful. Medical advice said no permanent injury but that the pain would persist. In a remote landscape south of Jedburgh Jane's leg gave way, and the walk had to be resumed from the same spot once she had recovered.

The journey was not just one of physicality, but also one of emotion that surely culminated in an enormous sense of achievement.  
**[www.janesbigwalk.com](http://www.janesbigwalk.com)**

Thursday **June 4** Plague Houses and Pandemics' by Alison Wall Seer Green Baptist Church; £4 (cash) includes tea/coffee. All welcome

**Elizabeth Lee**

## Lemon Drizzle Cakes

Lemon drizzle cake never fails to please; it's a classic among cakes and can always be relied upon. This recipe is perfect to have up your sleeve when you are asked to bake a cake for a fete or a charity fund raiser. It gives you two loaf cakes so you can always keep one for yourself!

### Ingredients

- 4 eggs, beaten
- 225g butter or margarine, softened
- 225g caster sugar
- 60ml (4 Tbsp) lemon curd
- 250g self-raising flour
- 5ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- Zest of 2 lemons
- 45ml (3 Tbsp) milk
- Syrup Topping:
  - Juice of 2 lemons
  - 60ml (4 Tbsp) caster sugar
  - Extra caster sugar to sprinkle



### Method

- Preheat the oven to 155°C fan and line 2 × 1lb loaf tins, ideally with loaf paper cases.
- Place all the cake ingredients in a bowl and beat until smooth and pale in colour.
- Spoon the mixture equally into the loaf tins and bake for 40-45 minutes or until well risen and springy to touch.
- Meanwhile, prepare the lemon syrup - in a small pan gently heat the lemon juice with the sugar until dissolved. Boil for one minute.
- Once the cakes are ready remove from the oven and carefully pour over the syrup making small holes with a cocktail stick to allow the syrup to soak in. Brush with any remaining syrup to ensure the cake surfaces are completely covered. Sprinkle with the extra caster sugar and allow to cool completely before serving **or wrapping to donate.**

Helen Lindsey-Clark

## Layers Green and Stampwell Farm

A fairly easy walk taking in some lesser known areas near the village. Can be muddy in places.

**Length:** 5 miles

**Start point:** Seer Green village shops

**Difficulty:** Moderate

Starting at the Seer Green shops take the path to Jordans and carry on along the road through the village to Jordans Lane. At the junction turn right along the path that runs parallel to the road then left after 100 yards and through woods and fields to come out on Welders Lane. Go straight over and carry on beside the house (belonging to Sharon Osbourne!) then across an open field until you reach a track junction at a wood. Continue straight on into the wood where you will shortly see the paths diverge. The best option is



usually the left path as it is less muddy but both come out at the corner of a field. Keep the field on your left and when you come to Layers Green Lane turn left on the road and then immediately right down a path next to houses.

After 100 yards turn right at a path junction and continue over a stile and over the railway bridge. Then keep to the right of the wood and through a passage between hedges (sometimes a bit overgrown!) until you reach Mumfords Lane. Turn right for 200 yards where the view opens up before you, and then left down the hill eventually bearing left at the bottom towards Stampwell Farm. After one third of a mile you will see Latimer Church site on your right and after two new houses turn right along a path that borders plum orchards and pens housing some interesting pigs, goats and other livestock. Continue into the wood past the railway footbridge and at Potkiln Lane cross the railway then turn left down the hill. When you get to the road turn right and through the stile on your left. Follow the path uphill through a gap in trees and turn left between new saplings. At the road go straight across into Crutches Wood to the road junction then left back to Seer Green.

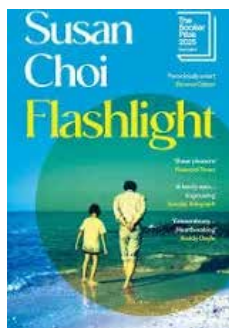
David Tryon

## Janet's Good reads



### **London Falling** - Patrick Radden Keefe

I rarely read non-fiction so it comes as a surprise when I come across a book so gripping as this, to the point that I can't put it down or stop thinking (and talking!) about it. This is the seemingly straightforward, if tragic, story of a young man on the threshold of making his way in the world, who kills himself by throwing himself off a balcony into the Thames one November night. What sets this book apart is its narrative style, so easy to digest and the other stories we discover as we find out the murky circumstances of both Zac's life and death. At the centre of it all is the heartbreaking picture of Zac's parents, coming to terms with their son's troubled life and questioning their roles and potential failings. Told with such pace and compassion, without being sentimental or sensationalist, I cannot recommend this highly enough.

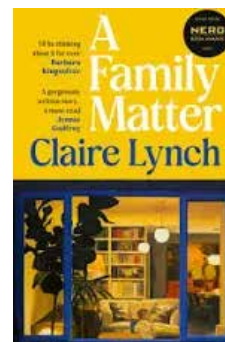


### **Flashlight** - Susan Choi

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for fiction – I'm currently immersed in this book and strongly recommend it.

It covers a period in history and politics that I knew very little about, the Japanese & Korean conflict the subsequent rise of the DPRK (democratic people's republic of Korea) and the US's part in it.

If you enjoy a novel with multiple character's points of view, this will be perfect for you. It starts with Louisa who's found injured on a Japanese beach, her father with whom she'd been walking at dusk, disappeared, her disabled mother waiting in their beach house.



As we come to know all the flawed and sometimes unlikeable central characters, it's easy to be swept away with their emotions and understand how various events in each of their histories has shaped and affected their lives and relationships, both with one another and beyond.

A literary book which would be perfect for book groups, so much to discuss.

### **A Family Matter** - Claire Lynch

What a debut novel - I will be looking out for more by this author

Set across two timelines, 1982 and 2022, the novel explores the interconnected lives of Heron, Maggie, Dawn and Hazel

In 2022, Heron, an elderly man, struggles with a life-changing diagnosis and the emotional weight of sharing it with his daughter, Maggie.

Meanwhile, the 1982 timeline delves into the life of Dawn, a wife and mother navigating the societal expectations of her era. Hazel's arrival disrupts Dawn's world, introducing joy and complexity leaving a lasting impact on her decisions.

The book poses thoughtful questions about family ties, hidden truths, and how the past shapes our present. Through vivid and tender storytelling, it shines a light on the sacrifices we make and the healing that comes from facing life's wounds.

An understated, important book, made me very cross, but also pleased with how far we've come in 40 years.

**Janet Stewart**

## Campfire and birdsong at Jordans Youth Hostel

I have always wanted to see Jordans Youth Hostel and when Ann Floyd asked us to write something about the hostel, I jumped at the chance to visit. It has the most beautiful woodland setting above the Friends Meeting House in Welders Lane. The hostel opened in 1933 and is one of the



earliest Youth Hostels to be built. It was going to be closed but Quakers Ann Floyd and Douglas Butterworth stepped in and took on the franchise.

When I arrived, the manager, Nicola Lowe, welcomed me with a cup of coffee and introduced me to the three volunteers who were busy in the grounds. The hostel has 18 beds in 3 rooms, the beds are bunk beds with comfy white duvets. There are toilets and showers in a separate block and a communal kitchen and living/ dining room in the centre of the block. Outside there is a BBQ and outdoor seating. Nicola described the essence of Jordans hostel as being 'Campfires and birdsong'

She told me that they have families and individuals from all over the world who are keen to explore the area and all it has to offer. They also provide accommodation for people attending events in the Meeting House, for example family parties and yoga weekends. It is an easy walk through the woods to the Meeting House. Then they are used as overflow accommodation for local families perhaps at Christmas, over the holidays or any time families gather.

Booking is via Booking.com and seems very flexible. You can book the whole hostel, one bed in a shared room or book a room for yourself

So, if you are looking for extra accommodation with a mini adventure try Jordans Youth Hostel. Campfires and birdsong thrown in.

**Sue Puttergill**

## Paws for thoughts : Sharing Our Wild Spaces

We are incredibly lucky to live in this corner of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Whether it's the ancient woodlands or sprawling fields that connect our villages, our local landscape is a sanctuary. For many of us, a walk with a four-legged friend is the highlight of the day.

However, as our paths become busier, we've seen a rise in "antisocial" canine behavior that is beginning to impact the safety of our neighbors. To keep our community friendly, it's worth a quick "paws for thought" on how we share these spaces.

### Respecting Other Path Users

Not everyone we meet on the trail is a "dog person." Some neighbors may be frail, others may have had bad past experiences, and many are understandably nervous around off-lead animals.

Please be extra vigilant on our tighter paths and put your dog on a lead if you see anyone approaching. If your dog's recall isn't 100% reliable, the most respectful thing to do is use a long-line lead.

### Small Feet and Narrow Paths: A Growing Concern

A significant concern recently raised by local parents. We've heard heartbreaking stories of

local families who are now avoiding certain walks. An approaching dog - even a friendly one - can be a very intimidating sight. We need to move past the common excuses: "Don't worry, they're friendly!" "They'll grow to like them". While your dog might be a sweetheart, a "friendly" jump or lick can cause serious distress. Antisocial behavior isn't just about aggression; it's about lack of control.

### A Shared Vision

Public paths should be a place where everyone feels safe and excited to explore, not anxious about what's around the next corner. By being mindful, we ensure that our wild spaces remain a sanctuary for every member of our community.





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## Bucks new funding for Adult Skills

Buckinghamshire secures £6 million of government adult skills funding through devolution.

Adult Skills funding supports learning and training for adults aged 19 and over, helping people to gain essential qualifications, improve core skills such as English, maths and digital, and access vocational courses that enable them to retrain or upskill. With devolved control of this funding, Buckinghamshire Council can now tailor provision more closely to local priorities and opportunities, supporting people to move into work, remain in employment or progress in their careers. This locally led approach will support inclusion, improve productivity and drive economic growth and prosperity across the county.

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