

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans
July/August 2023



Fairy Tale Fete

Open Gardens

**Jordans Music
Club**

Church News

**Janet's summer
book reviews**



one pound

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From the Editors

Summer is upon us, and this double-issue gives us over-worked editors a chance to take a break.

We lost a Queen gained a King, the war in Ukraine rumbles on, climatic catastrophes are escalating, and World population now exceeds 8 billion: it's been quite a year! In Seer Green, things are pretty much back to normal after lockdown - the beer festival was a success, as were the gardeners' events, and we have a new Vicar!

In this issue, we have the regular features such as Janet's book reviews, On the Wild Side, news from Jordans, the Church, the allotmenters and gardeners and the eight o'clock club plus Our Living Village. We also have items about the Fairy Tale Fete at Seer Green school, open gardens, Jordans music club and a briefing about prostate cancer, plus an update from Uganda and the Vicarage party.

Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Phil Moody

Next Month's Magazine

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

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

Articles should be **300 words max** and in WORD (.doc or .docx format) and photos should be jpeg format, preferably 300 dpi.

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

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Kirsten Pole Manager	01494 677190
Seer Green Football	
- United (juniors) Tim Wyatt	07833 246819
- FC (adults) Art Anderson	07919 027351
Seer Green Village Choirs	
Jane Smith	07759 841205

Thought for the Month



The sun has finally decided to join us! But for how long? I do love the long and warm summer days and it is when I replace my beer with a cider, this might be due to me having grown up in Herefordshire and the association I now have of cider and summer days but there is nothing better than a cold, crisp cider on a summer's day. I think for my wife it is Pimm's that invokes the same memories. These are both drinks that you won't find us drinking in the dark days of winter, we have other tipples for that season.

We find associations like these in Christianity and they can be used to help us go deeper in our faith and, in those times of trouble, can help us to remember the good times. A good personal example of this for me was when I was on placement whilst I was at theological college, I went to a high Anglo-Catholic church because I didn't know that side of the church, as I am an evangelical. At my placement church they used a lot of incense, so much that, when I walked into the room that it was prepared in on a Tuesday morning, I could still smell the incense from Sunday. But the smell took me right back to Sunday morning when we were worshipping God, amazing (Although it didn't make me become an Anglo-Catholic).

Associations can be immensely powerful. By creating these associations, we can help ourselves when we are going through a difficult time in our lives, we can also use them to come closer to God. You can do this in different ways such as going for a prayer walk, sitting outside in a particular place at a particular time or whatever way you choose. By doing this may you know Him more deeply in your lives.

Dan Beesley - Rector of the Parish



Church Events | News

News

Despite the slower pace of the summer months, there's lots going on at the church. We're thrilled to be welcoming a curate (trainee vicar!) to the benefice this July. Michelle Fotherby will be joining the clergy team for the next three years, with her time spread between Holy Trinity and St Giles. Her first Sunday with us will be 9 July.

We will have four baptisms and a wedding in the coming weeks (no, not a sequel to Four Weddings and a Funeral!). We also look forward to celebrating with all of our baptism families past and present at a Vicarage garden party on the afternoon of **23 July**. Bishop Alan will be doing confirmations at Chalfont St Giles on **17 September**, so if you or anyone you know would like to be confirmed, please get in touch with me (Jez) about confirmation preparation.

We will be hosting teas in the churchyard every Sunday afternoon (3-5pm) in August and the first Sunday in September. It will be a relaxed way to welcome everyone, young and old, new faces and old friends to Holy Trinity. In particular, on Sunday **3 September**, we will be handing out goodie bags to all those

heading back to school, to ensure them of our love and prayers as they start the new academic year. Do pop in on your way to Spud In The Bucket.

One request: If you or anyone you know might be able to help us keep on top of the mowing of the churchyard, we would love to hear from you!

The church building group has been working hard exploring the options for mending the heating sufficiently to allow us to use Holy Trinity this winter whilst consulting and considering how we use our building and how we may use it in future years. We have met with a designer, a heating engineer, the diocesan net zero carbon advisor, a Diocesan Advisory Committee officer, and an architect. We look forward to being able to show you a fuller sense of our plans in the coming months.

Rev Jez Carr - Vicar, Holy Trinity Seer Green and Jordans

Primary workdays: Sunday to Wednesday.

For urgent matters, please call/text me on 07916 559151

Vicarage tea party

Jez and Miriam invited everyone for tea at the vicarage on a beautifully sunny day in June.



Janna Holder, Val Baty and Carol Fischer enjoy their vicarage tea.



Vicarage teas

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.



Holy Trinity Services in July

2 July	10.00am	Holy Communion
	12.00pm	Baptism
	3.00pm	Explore pop up church, Long Grove Woods
5 July	10.30am	Midweek Communion
9 July	8.00am	BCP Communion Service
	10.00am	Morning Praise
	11.30am	Baptism
16 July	10.00am	Traditional Holy Communion Service
23 July	8.00am	BCP Communion Service
	10.00am	Morning Praise
30 July	10.00am	Holy Communion Service



Holy Trinity Services in August

2 Aug	10.30am	Midweek Communion
4 Aug	2.00pm	Wedding
6 Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
	12.00pm	Baptism
13 Aug	8.00am	BCP Communion Service
	10.00am	Morning Praise
20 Aug	10.00am	Traditional Holy Communion Service
27 Aug	8.00am	BCP Communion Service
	10.00am	Morning Praise

For information about activities for children and families please contact Janna Holder 07764 490960

Contact us

Holy Trinity website www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org
 Church Wardens and General Enquiries Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

Summer fun for children and families

Sunday 1 July

Explore - Pop Up Church in Long Grove Woods, 3 - 3.45pm. All are welcome but particularly aimed at families with children, providing an opportunity for fun, creativity, activities and reflection.

During the Summer Holidays

Create! Monday Mornings 24 July and 31 July, 7 and 14 August, 10am – 12 noon at SG Baptist Church. An opportunity to enjoy creative activities aimed at 2-10s. All children must be accompanied please.

Family Fun - Wednesdays 26 July, 2 and 9 August 10am – 12 noon and 1.30 – 3.30pm @ SG Baptist Church: Family Fun is for parents/carers and their 0 - 7 year olds. Come and enjoy a change of scenery with lots of toys, crafts, games and activities and a chance to catch up with your friends.

For further details on any of the above activities, including cost and how to book, please contact Janna on 07764 490960, jannaholder@talktalk.net.

Summer Sundays
Afternoon Tea in the Churchyard
6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Aug & 3rd Sept
3-5pm
Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green

All donations will go to the building fund for Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green and Jordans

Prayer letter from Uganda

Paul and Alison Bosson, who are part of Holy Trinity congregation, have gone to live in Uganda and work as missionaries there. They send us reports of their work regularly. We have chosen a section a section which gives an idea of their work. If you would like to read the whole letter please email editorseergreen@gmail.com and we will send it.

Mbarara Marriage Conference

In mid-May, the Mbarara marriage conference took place with over 200 delegates attending to hear excellent Bible teaching on Christian marriage from two Bishops and an eminent psychologist and family therapist, supported by a very practical workshop discussion in the afternoon. Mbarara is a major

city about 5 hours driving time from Kampala heading west towards Rwanda.

The marriage conference programme, led by Paul under the umbrella of the Bible Society of Uganda, is specifically aimed at church leaders so that they may be encouraged and equipped to teach about Christian marriage in their own churches. This way, over time, we will be able to cover most of the country and, in so doing, push back on practices that are so destructive to the lives of so many people, especially women and children. The next marriage conference is scheduled for the eastern city of Mbale, in late September.

Paul and Alison Bosson



Speakers at the conference including Bishops Onesimus and Sheldon

Charity of the month for June - St Andrews Family Support Group

[Apologies to those concerned: this article was erroneously missed from the last issue of the Magazine]

The St Andrews Family Support Group (FSG) meets every Tuesday during term time in High Wycombe with the aim of strengthening struggling young families by providing a support group for the women, upskilling them to parent well, and enabling their families to flourish in life. The group provides a creche, lunch (prepared by Seer Green volunteers!) and life skills – parenting, budgeting, wellbeing, cooking – for the mums as well as a vital support network. Many of the families struggle with anxiety and depression so the group is often one of their few connections outside the family home each week.

A testimonial from one of the mums: "I find it hard parenting pre-school children as well as teenagers and struggle with my mental health. I had postnatal depression that has now turned into depression and anxiety. The Family Support Group gives me a safe space to learn and share parenting issues and helps me to be a better more mindful parent." (Referred by a Family Worker (Early Years), Family Support Service High Wycombe). Other successes from the group include a previous

attendee who now runs the creche for the FSG and another person who was a member of the group cooks for our Seniors Lunch Club each week for about 40 guests.

As Charity of the Month for Holy Trinity in June, all donations will go towards the worthwhile work of this group and specifically towards funding a summer day out. For many families the coach and day at Beale's Park is one of the few days out they can afford during the summer holidays, and it is always a highlight, no matter what weather the British summer throws at them!

To support this worthwhile charity please donate in one of the blue envelopes in Holy Trinity church or contact Claire Jenkin - 07979 707612 if you're interested in volunteering with the group.



Charity of the month for July Church Action on Poverty



Our focus for July is Church Action on Poverty, www.church-poverty.org.uk. This is an ecumenical UK charity working in partnership with other organisations in the field and, above

all, people in poverty themselves, not just to provide immediate relief – important as that is – but to tackle its root causes, nationally and locally. That involves campaigning on government policies, challenging harmful business practices and holding the church to account. It includes small grants to some of their partners enabling them to speak truth to power. At one such meeting with MPs, a Bishop remarked that it was the first time he had knowingly conversed with a prostitute!

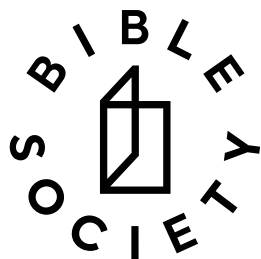
Charity of the month for August Bible Society

Our Focus for August is the Bible Society, biblesociety.org.uk, which began in 1804 when a young girl walked 26 miles to obtain a Bible in Welsh. The organisation now makes the Bible available through its translation work in 240 countries, focusing on Africa, China and the Middle East. Up to date versions include signed, visual, audio and digital formats. It also reaches out to lawmakers, school children and underserved populations – for example prisoners - here in the UK, and offers courses, study aids and resources for everyone.

Donations to either organisation may be made via their website; by cheque (payable to Seer Green PPC)

or cash, directly to our treasurer, Mrs Audrey Hardy, 58 Chalfont Road; or in one of the blue envelopes available in church and placed in the green collection box. In either case please mark your envelope with the charity you wish to support and, if you can giftaid your donation, your name and address.

Nora Bennett



Village Events | News

Step into a magic world at the Seer Green Fairy Tale Fête



A magical new fair is happening this summer - the Seer Green Fairy Tale Fête. On Sunday **9 July** from 11am to 1.30pm, Jubilee Hall and the grounds of Seer Green Primary School will be transformed into a wonderful world full of fun activities inspired by classic children's stories.

Pet the Three Little Pigs, courtesy of the miniature pigs from Kew Little Pigs, sign up to forest school in the Three Bears' Den with Woodland Adventure Club, join Mummy Bear and Goldilocks for singalong stories, and try your hand at fairy tale-themed crafts and games. The Seer Green Gardeners will be showing you how to grow your own 'magic beans', plus there'll be face and nail glitter art, as well as stalls selling children's books, jewellery and more.

Mr Wolf's Brunch Bar will be serving up bacon sandwiches, kids' lunch boxes and sweet treats alongside artisan coffee provided by specialty coffee roasters Three Cords Coffee, and 'Tinkerbellinis' supplied by The Three Horseshoes.

Children of all ages are invited to dress up as their favourite fairy tale character and enter the fancy dress competition. They can also submit drawings illustrating their favourite scenes from fairy tales, which will be displayed at the fair and the winners of the three age groups (under 4, 4-7 and 8-11 years old) will also be featured in the next issue of this magazine. Please hand entries in to the Pre-School office by Friday **7 July**.

At 1pm, six brave mums and dads from Seer Green Pre-School will take part in a unicorn hobby horse race. Come along to place your bets and cheer them on! The children of Seer Green Pre-School will close the fete with a specially-written song.

All proceeds will go to Seer Green Pre-School. To find out more, please email Rebecca Davies at chair.seer.green.preschool@gmail.com.

Our Living Village – Time Passes. Listen. Time Passes.

It's now four years since the Seer Green and Jordans Society launched the Our Living Village project and, despite the rude interruption of Covid, tremendous progress has been made.

We now have a total of thirteen themes available to be explored on the Our Living Village website www.ourlivingvillage.org. These include two recently uploaded themes on The Wilder Side of Seer Green and Jordans – an illustrated walk exploring our local flora, fauna and natural history – and Parish Council Land Holdings, which documents how vital village assets such as

Green Meadow, Green Wood, and the Recreation Ground came into the possession of the Parish Council. If you've not had a look at the website recently, now would be a great time to do so.

But with the rich diversity of our local history, there still remains plenty more work to be done. New themes currently being developed include Local Myths and Legends, a Jordans Heritage Walk, and Lives Well Lived which explores the life stories of some of the notable people who lived in, or were associated with, our two villages. Other important themes still to be completed include



Hall Place

Industry, Trade and Commerce, War and Peace, and Education, and we're still considering how to make best use of the personal memoirs and oral histories that we have available.

In reality, we'd greatly appreciate the involvement of a few extra people to

help us to take these themes forward, so if you think you might be interested in getting involved in any way please do let us know on ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

Alan Kell - Seer Green and Jordans Society



Colliers



Cottages by Baptist Chapel

Seer Green Eight O'Clock Club

Life and Work of An Estate Agent by Gareth Ashington of Ashington Page.

I was the eldest of five children living in a 3 bed semi in High Wycombe with our mother and step-father when I ran away in 1982 the day before the rest of the family moved to Disley, near Stockport.

Aged just 16 and 10 months I needed a job and with just 3 O Levels all I could find was Youth Opportunities Programme placement at an estate agency in High Wycombe. £25 per week and after the initial 6 month period they kept me on.

In 1984 I got a job at the prestigious AC Frost & Co who then went onto

sell the business to Prudential Property Services. I then became part of an 805 office operation whose focus was on cross referring mortgages and endowments.

Frosts opened again as The Frost Partnership and I joined them until leaving in 1997 to form Ashington Page with Jerry Page, who grew up in Seer Green.

When I came to Beaconsfield, the houses seemed so big compared to those in High Wycombe and the largest may have been up to 5000 square feet. Today I know of an apartment in Beaconsfield that is 5000 square feet and of quite a few properties that are over 10,000 square feet.



Hall Barn

Ashington Page is now 25 years of age and started with 3 of us and now has 17 people, full and part time.

Next meetings

Thursday 6 July 8.00pm 'The World of Fungi' John Tyler Nature Conservationist at Seer Green Baptist Church, £4 includes tea/ coffee.

Thursday August 3rd 7.30pm An historical walk of the village led by Nigel Rothwell (see posters for details).

Visit to Penn House

Thirty members were warmly welcomed by Earl and Countess Howe into their family home, which has been passed down in a direct family line since the Middle Ages. Frederick Curzon (7th Earl Howe) the present custodian, is the successor of at least fifteen previous generations of the Penn, Curzon and Howe

families and we learnt the history of these families.

The tour was of the ground floor where we saw paintings of naval scenes and other naval memorabilia associated with several generations of the Howe family.

The 5th Earl Howe was also a successful motor racing driver and memorabilia associated with this aspect of his life was also on display.

We then had tea and delicious home-made cakes.

The participants and the Eight O'Clock made donations to the charity 'Heart of Bucks Community Foundation' of which The Countess Howe is president.

Monica Sado

Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community

Monday Mornings
10.30am to 12.00noon
Seer Green Baptist Church



Seer Green Gardeners

Hopefully, after last summer's drought, perennial plants and shrubs will have demonstrated their gratitude for the wet spring by growing strongly. Now at the time of writing in June, we seem to be back to weeks without rain and the prospects of arduous watering loom. However, maybe our plants are more resilient to drought than we think: recent scientific research reveals that mycorrhizal fungi naturally occurring in soil play a big role in delivering water and nutrients to plants over very large distances providing they're not disrupted by digging and fertilisers. For aspiring gardeners, there's really interesting reading on the web on this subject - try rhs.org.uk for example.



And another 'hopefully' that by July, wild flowers will once again be blooming at the village entrances. Thanks to the Parish Council for relieving SG Gardeners of the not inconsiderable labour involved over the past few years!

Scarecrow Celebrities need to be in place by **25 August**, and hopefully spud buckets are getting nice and heavy for their weigh-in on **3 September** and Blue Angel Fuchsias flowering well to show off at the Autumn Show on **16 September**. Go to seergreengardeners.org for information on all these events.

Gardening ideas for high summer

- *There's nothing like home grown basil for flavour. Seeds germinate quickly in 20+ degree temperatures 3-4 seeds to a 7cm pot. Check the internet for more guidance.*

- *In 2015 'Which' researched the value of dead-heading roses and found it resulted in many more blooms, and that cutting just above the first leaf below the flower resulted in even more.*
- *Resist the urge to spray! So says the Royal Horticultural Society. Predators such as ladybirds and lacewing larva will soon be along to feast on them.*
- *Holiday reading suggestions: anything by Dave Goulson - from his slim "A Buzz in the Meadow" to more meaty "Silent Earth"*

Sally Ash



The season of mellow
fruitfulness is on the way!

Coming up in Seer Green

25-28 August Scarecrow competition



3 September Spud in a Bucket weigh-in



16 September Autumn Show



22-23 September Seer Green Beer and Music Festival



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Book your Free Consultation with Rich - hello@resultshpgym.co.uk



Seer Green Allotments

Summer



"Only two things that money can't buy. That's true love and homegrown tomatoes" - Guy Clark

So here we are; now crops have grown we can start enjoying the fruits of our labours. I suggest now is not the time to go all MasterChef but keep it simple, for there is nothing quite so tasty and satisfying than eating home-grown vegetables. It's not just the lack of air miles, chemicals, cold storage or shelf life, but the joy of eating food one has grown which reaches into the primeval depths of our relationship with this wonderful planet, hunter-gatherers all!

It is worth taking the time to down tools and enjoy your plot, relax with a cuppa or a glass and survey your site, enjoying the colours and scents, watching the pollinators at work and the parent birds busy collecting food for their young, small spiders rolling their egg sacks like miniature golf

balls to places of safety and reflect on the myriad creatures and organisms that share this space with us.

Now is the time to remember that a very tidy plot or garden is not a friend to biodiversity. The presence of 'weeds' can be a lifeline for many creatures; if you banish nettles, where will the peacock butterfly lay her eggs? Some of our common weeds are useful in the kitchen: I am informed - although I have not tried them myself - of the splendours of young nettles (sometimes standing in for spinach), and young dock leaves are edible - who knew? Obviously one should seek informed authority before eating any leaves, roots or flowers where their provenance as food stuff is doubtful or unknown, but if you want to join the burgeoning trend of foraging food for free you might as well start with your plot or garden.

Moon names for July are Hay Moon (Anglo-Saxon) and Claiming Moon (Celtic). For August, Grain Moon (A-S) and Dispute Moon (C). Something to ponder on!

Charlotte Baggins for the Allotments

News from over the Fields in Jordans

Ali Cork is away hiking in the High Andes. We hope that she is enjoying her amazing adventure. As she is away, we don't have her report for this edition but we have these lovely pictures of Jordans Fair on June 10. The weather was perfect and there were two bouncy castles, a fire engine, vintage cars, teas and

delicious cakes, lots of interesting stalls and games to play and a petting corner.

A huge amount of work had gone into putting the fair on and there were lots of people to appreciate it all.

Sue Puttergill



Jordans and district Rotary Club

At the end of April we had a special charity gala dinner at the Beaconsfield Golf Club to which we had a famous sportsman speaker. He was Zinzan Brooke who although now retired, was a many capped player for the New Zealand Rugby team the "All Blacks". He talked about his upbringing and then his long career in rugby.

We were able to give £500 to his charity of choice that evening, "OK OUR KIDS" a small charity that we have supported which gives school children books with advice on how to approach the dangers they might come across in society, like bullying, drugs,



alcohol and weapons like knives. For the last couple of years we have donated these books to Seer Green School.

Jenny Owen - 01494 677571
07707 386415

The Soiled Underpants Challenge

Join us for the Jordans Soiled Underpants Challenge!

What is the easiest way to tell if you have healthy, fertile soil that is good for growing plants? Bury a pair of cotton pants 5cm deep in the soil, leave them for at least 8 weeks, then dig them up and see how much is left!

Bring your soiled pants to the Jordans Flower and Produce show on 10 September and we will hang them on the Soiled Pants Line and judge whose pants have the most holes. Remember to label them with your name, where you buried them and how long they were buried for.

Find out what makes your soil healthy: <https://tinyurl.com/37dr4bht>

Date for your diary - Jordans Flower and Produce Show Sunday
10 September

Jordans Horticultural Society

Seer Green and Jordans summer wordsearch

S	H	S	S	C	H	O	O	L	E
L	O	U	E	H	J	O	W	E	J
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	O	O	O
T	S	L	R	U	Z	G	O	V	R
Z	E	M	G	R	H	E	D	Y	D
L	S	O	R	S	F	O	S	J	A
R	T	R	E	E	S	L	L	S	N
L	A	M	E	R	Z	U	T	Y	S
X	A	O	N	Y	S	E	D	E	M
G	F	O	O	T	P	A	T	H	R

HOLY SEERGREEN FOOTPATH FRIENDS GAMES HORSES
JORDANS NURSERY PETS SCHOOL TREES WOOD

Bluebell Fair

Jordans school sent us these pictures of their sunny summer fair. The fair raised £2035.66 for the school.



Jordans Music Club 80th July Concerts



In July, we have our final two live concerts in the Jubilee Hall, Seer Green, HP9 2QJ at 7.30pm. 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.

Sunday 2 July - Jeneba Kanneh-Mason (Piano)



The third of the Kanneh-Mason clan to establish herself as a soloist, pianist **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** recently made her BBC Proms debut with the Chineke! Orchestra, performing the Florence Price Concerto and was heralded by the press as “demonstrating musical insight, technical acuity, and an engaging performing persona” (Music OMH).

Shostakovich	Prelude and Fugue No 5 in D Major, Op. 87
Liszt	Vallée d'Obermann from Book I Années de Pèlerinage
Prokofiev	10 Pieces from Romeo and Juliet, Op.75
Beethoven	Piano Sonata No 7 in D Major, Op. 10 No. 3
Debussy	Estampes

Sunday 16 July - Nicholas Daniel (Oboe) with the Britten Oboe Quartet



For our final concert, we welcome back **Nicholas Daniel** and his string ensemble, the **Britten Oboe Quartet**. Nicholas Daniel founded the quartet together with his colleagues and co-principals of the award-winning Britten Sinfonia.

Elgar	Andante and Allegro
Britten	Phantasy Quartet Op. 2
Mozart	Flute Quartet in C major, K171
Musgrave	Cantilena
Danish Trad.	Sønderho Bridal Trilogy
Mozart	Oboe Quartet in F major, K370

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Full details at www.JordansMusicClub.org.uk

Old Denizens

Many years ago The Old Denizen Society was set up for all the students that went to Long Dene School, which was started in Jordans in the 1930s by Joy Clark and was bought by John Guinness in 1939, before the school moved to Stoke Poges in 1940.

John Smithson was the Chairman of the Old Denizen Society in the 1980s, and obtained permission to plant an American Oak tree in memory of John Guinness in front of Seedlings across the road from Long Dene House, with a carved wooden plaque marking its significance.

The wooden plaque rotted away some years ago, so John Smithson made up a new brass plaque and together with fellow Old Denizen Julian Wormleighton installed the replacement plaque on 11 May, as pictured below.



On the Wild Side: The Eurasian Magpie



While spring is all about birdsong and nest building, in summer we see the outcome – the fledglings. Everyone loves young blue tits, flying round in an excitable gang, or young robins with speckled breasts.

People are often not as enthusiastic about young magpies. Though handsome in their 'pied' plumage, Eurasian or common magpies (*Pica pica*) are noisy chatterers, blamed for decreasing songbird numbers, and it's true they predate nestlings if they can. But they also do an important job cleaning up carrion, in places where less manoeuvrable red kites fear to tread - thus the 'mag' (maggot) in their name.

Magpies are famous for cheeky curiosity and, according to folklore, steal shiny objects, as in Rossini's 'The Thieving Magpie'. They are also, like all the crow family, very clever and were once popular pets, like the one in Goya's painting of Manuel Manrique de Zúñiga.

Curiosity can sometimes be the downfall of inexperienced young birds, who are distinguished from adults by their shorter tails. Recently I saw a young magpie dead on the verge of School Lane, across the road from a dead wood pigeon. We can speculate that the pigeon was hit by a car, that the young magpie thought it would have a go, and was hit by another car in its turn. A sad end to a young life.

On a happier day a few years ago, I left the door open while busy elsewhere. Entering the front room I was astonished to see a young magpie on the windowsill, trying to find a way out. Gingerly I reached across and opened the latch, hoping it wouldn't panic and fly into my face. It quickly escaped, but it was rather marvellous to have that wild thing inside my house, if only for a few moments.

Nora Bennett



Photo credits: Juvenile magpie, Saffy H, Flickr.com; Pet magpie, Francisco Goya

Janet's Book Reviews

I thought I'd choose some books set in popular holiday destinations for you to take with you this summer.



France - The Cleaner of Chartres - Salley Vickers

There is something very special about Agnès Morel. A quiet presence in the small French town of Chartres, she can usually be found cleaning the famed medieval cathedral or doing odd jobs for the people of the town.

No one knows where she came from or why. She has transformed people's lives in her own subtle way, but nobody suspects the dark secret she's hiding.

An accidental encounter dredges up her past and the nasty meddling of town gossips forces Agnes to confront her tragic history and the violent act that haunts it.

An atmospheric, holiday read – perfect if you're in that area

Italy - Ratking - Michael Dibdin

An oldie but a goodie!

'A ratking is something that happens when too many rats live in too small a space under too much pressure'

The first in the series featuring Aurelio Zen.

You may have seen the television adaptations of this series, but believe me the book is way better in my opinion.

A tense police procedural, psychological thriller set in Perugia. It encapsulates the regional cultural differences, the civil service system and the endemic corruption of the country at that time.

An industrialist is kidnapped, and Zen, a paper pushing police officer after a case that went wrong



in Rome, is sent to find him. The family seem reluctant to find the necessary ransom money, are they involved?

Spain - Driving Over Lemons - Chris Stewart

I know that this is another oldie, but if you haven't read it, it's a gorgeous book.

Ex rock band Genesis drummer, the author decides to relocate to a remote part of Andalucia to run a farm, his only experience of farming being a sheep shearer!

I'm guessing that you can guess that this is not straightforward, and through his exploits, we meet wonderful characters and get a real sense of rural Spain, while smiling at the situations and relationships.

An upbeat, warm and optimistic book, this will definitely give you a sense of the real Spain and its inhabitants. The latest edition has a new chapter updating the reader on the last 25 years of moving to 'El Valero'.

A gorgeous read whilst on your terrace in the sunshine.

Other suggestions - too many to list them all!

India - A Fine Balance - Rohinton Mistry

Congo - Poisonwood Bible - Barbara Kingsolver

France - The Nightingale - Kristin Hannah

Iceland - Burial Rites - Hannah Kent

Australia - The Dry — Jane Harper

Spain - Winter in Madrid - C J Sansom

Japan - Norwegian Wood - Haruki Murakami

Cornwall - Notes from an Exhibition - Patrick Gale

Ireland - Heart's Invisible Furies - John Boyne

Janet Stewart



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Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Gardens open for charity

There are the most wonderful collection of gardens open nearby, and I have chosen these two as particularly intriguing. More details can be found at ngs.org.uk.

July 4 - Eton College gardens

A rare chance to visit a group of central College gardens surrounded by historic school buildings, including Luxmoore's garden on a small island in the Thames, reached across two bridges. You can also explore Eton College's Natural History Museum Refreshments sold in aid of Thames Hospice.



2 July - Chiltern Forage farm

Tours at 2.30 and 4.00pm. Pasture in an attractive hillside setting is being restored to hay meadows and planted with fruit trees and soft fruit. There are tips for foraging, and encouraging wildflowers and wildlife habitats.

Sue Puttergill



Eton College's Natural History Museum

Talking Cafes

Local surgeries have combined with Arc PRN to run Talking Cafes. The nearest to Seer Green and Jordans are:

The Dove Café, St Thomas Church, Mayflower Way, Holtspur 10.30 to 12.00 on Mondays.

Beaconsfield Library, Reynolds Road, Beaconsfield 11.00 to 12.30 on Tuesdays.

The surgeries describe the cafes as a great way to meet like minded individuals, talk about what is going on in your community and connect with other people.

Sue Puttergill

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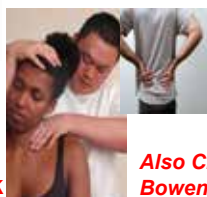
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Beaconsfield Library

Weekly Activities

Talking Café	11.00am - 12.30pm	Tuesday
Knit and Natter	10.30am - 12.00pm	Wednesday
Scrabble - Adults	10.30am - 11.30pm	Wednesday
Storytime	10.00am - 10.30am	Thursday (term time only)
Duplo	10.30am - 11.30am	Thursday (term time only)
IT Help - Bookable session	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Thursday
Bridge group - all level	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Thursday
Bounce and Rhyme	10.00am - 10.30am	Friday (term time only)
Chess	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Saturday

Coming in July - September

Please look out for more details on our website, Facebook Page and in the library.

Carolyn Ing - Library Service Officer, Beaconsfield Library

Email: Carolyn.ing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries

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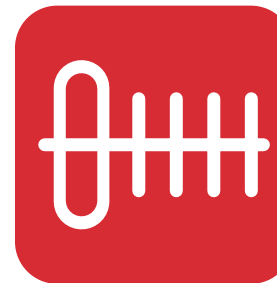
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