

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans
November 2020



**All Souls and
Remembrance
Day plans**

**Wendover woods
and canal walk**

**Veggie chilli
recipe**

**A local
woodturner**



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From the Editors

November is the month for Remembrance and this year we have a wonderful article about Seer Green men and the war. There is also information about how Remembrance Sunday will be marked this year. We are continuing our series influenced by environmental concerns with a delicious vegetarian recipe, a great

walk, some talks on environmental issues and a piece about birds seen locally. We have some very different pieces for you too, COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia and a new fishmonger in Seer Green. We hope that you enjoy this edition.

**Sue Puttergill and
Andrew Westlake**

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **December/January** double issue to: editorseergreen@gmail.com by **7 December**. Diary dates for the next two or three months would be very welcome.

Articles should be **300 words** max and photos should be jpeg format, preferable 300 dpi.

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

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Thought for the Month



November is the month where we often focus on remembering, with Remembrance Day featuring highly on our normal calendar of events. Of course this, along with all events over the next couple of months, will look very different to previous years.

I'm sure 2020 will be a year none of us will ever forget, even though we might like to!

In these strange times I have often been remembering what life used to be like, often reminded of the things I am missing.

In the Old Testament the people of God, the Israelites, were forever being called by God to remember – to remember who they were, where they had come from – and it was usually at times in their life when things were going wrong. But that call to remember wasn't about just reminding themselves how they had got into their current mess, it was also a call to look forward, and a promise to a future that would be different.

I think probably all of us are looking forward to that different future at the moment. We have all been changed in different ways by the last 7 months. We have all been in the same storm but in different boats. Last year my Remembrance Day talk closed with these words, which seem just as relevant, as we navigate these next 6 months.

“Let us strive for all that makes for peace. Let us seek to heal the wounds of war. Let us live lives of justice, courage and mercy. Let us care for our friends, neighbours and strangers. Let us pray for hope and a better tomorrow for all humanity.”

Janna Holder



Living well through the next six months

Living with COVID-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the Rule of Six. There are lessons and challenges that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times.

> SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON

Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.

> SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST

Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.

> SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH

Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.

> SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

Identify the people and community organisations you can support.

> SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH

If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.

> SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR

Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.

"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8.37-39



oxford.anglican.org/six

Church Events | News

Church News

Living through the next six months

We are now clear that the next six months are going to be bumpy and life is going to be different and hard for us all in different ways. Our diocesan bishop Steven has taken the 'rule of six' and made some very helpful suggestions about how we might apply the rule to a range of areas of our lives (please see page 6).

As two village communities I think we have to continue to prioritize taking care of our neighbours and family, near and far. Fortunately this is something we are well practiced at and very good at!

November Services and Events

Two of our key events in November, our All Souls Remembering Service and Remembrance Sunday will be happening rather differently this year. So for our All Souls Remembering Service on **1 November** we will have an invitation only service in Church for those recently bereaved who have had a church funeral service. However, we will have the

church open on Saturday 31 October 9-4pm for anyone to come and light a candle and include their loved one's name on our 'Remembering Tree'.

We will have the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial which will be broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube (please see Holy Trinity's website and Facebook page for more details) and attended by a small number of community representatives.

Doing Christmas Differently

We have some fantastic plans for some special online services such as a Christingle Service, Christmas Carol Service and Crib Service. Services in church will be very limited as we can only fit 12 'households' in a space that usually holds 150-200 people at each of our Christmas services. We hope you will understand that we are in exceptional circumstances this year and are trying to do our best to bring 'comfort and joy' to our communities as best as we can.

Cassa Messervy



Comfort
and Joy

Church Calendar - November 2020

Sundays in November

- 1 Nov 10am All-Age All Saints Service, on Facebook and on Holy Trinity You Tube channel shortly afterwards.
The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom.
3pm All Souls Remembering Service
- 8 Nov 10.45am Village Act of Remembrance, on Facebook and on Holy Trinity You Tube channel shortly afterwards. Also 10am Church @ Home Service, Diocese of Oxford www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/
4pm Communion Service in Holy Trinity.
- 15 Nov 10am Church @ Home Service, Diocese of Oxford www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/
The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom.
4pm Communion Service in Holy Trinity.
- 22 Nov 10am Holy Communion Service, on Facebook and on Holy Trinity You Tube channel shortly afterwards.
The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom.
4pm Communion Service in Holy Trinity.
- 29 Nov 10am All-Age Advent Communion Service, on Facebook and on Holy Trinity You Tube channel shortly afterwards.
The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom.
4pm Communion Service in Holy Trinity. Please book your place if you would like to come along places are limited.

Contact us

Holy Trinity website www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org
Cassa Messervy - Vicar cassamesservy@gmail.com
or 01494 672496
Church Wardens and General Enquiries Jane Spoerry 01494 677328
Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

Weekdays in November

Morning Prayer, 9am Tuesday and Thursday, in Holy Trinity and on Facebook.

'5 Minutes Peace', short meditation, 9am Wednesday, Facebook.

Coffee and a Chat, 10.30-11am, Thursday, Zoom.

Study Group, 11-12pm, Zoom.

Private Prayer, 9-4pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The church is open for you to use for your private prayers. Please follow the notices in church about social distancing.

You can watch the services at any time, go to: Holy Trinity's Facebook page www.facebook.com/HolyTrinitySGJ. You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service.

Holy Trinity YouTube channel can be found at www.youtube.com/channel/UCBCQBbOIFypBNofFpjzkizA/

Please book your place at 4pm services by contacting Jane Spoerry, spoerry.jane@gmail.com or ring 677328



www.facebook.com/HolyTrinitySGJ

The Big Sleep out - Helping the homeless in Bucks

Wycombe Homeless Connection's biggest fund raiser of each year, raising in excess of £50,000, is the BIG SLEEP OUT. This year the charity invites us all to sleep out in the open air on **Friday 20 November**, in groups of not more than six, in unusual places.

Six of us are going to sleep in the churchyard at Holy Trinity Seer Green.

We are setting up a Virgin Giving page in the name of Holy Trinity Church Seer Green and Jordans and we would be so grateful if you could sponsor us. Our hope is to help give those a lot less fortunate ourselves - somewhere to call home.

Ali Cork

Seer Green village advent calendar



each road having its own switch-on date. The aim is that different houses/venues will create a Christmas themed display for others to enjoy.

Every house that's taking part will be included on a village trail that others can follow to enjoy the decorations during the month. Let's join together once more and bring some festive cheer to our village during this difficult season.

For the last six years we have had a Village Advent Calendar and we would like to encourage you to get involved with it this year and make it even bigger and better than before! Houses, gardens and buildings throughout the village will be decorated and lit for Christmas, with

If you would like more information or to take part this year please send an email to sgadventcalendar@gmail.com or contact Janna Holder on 07764490960 by Sunday 15 November.

Janna Holder

This Christmas we need you!

There can be no crowded Crib Services this year so instead we want to create our own Seer Green Nativity, which will premiere on Christmas Eve at 3pm and we need you to take part!

Could you, your children, your family, be part of my cast and act out part of the story?

Could you do a reading?

Would you like to be involved in our virtual choir?

Do you play a musical instrument?

Could you or your children or grandchildren, dress up as a nativity character and take a photo of yourself?

I'm really excited about this... but it can only be possible if you are willing to get involved.

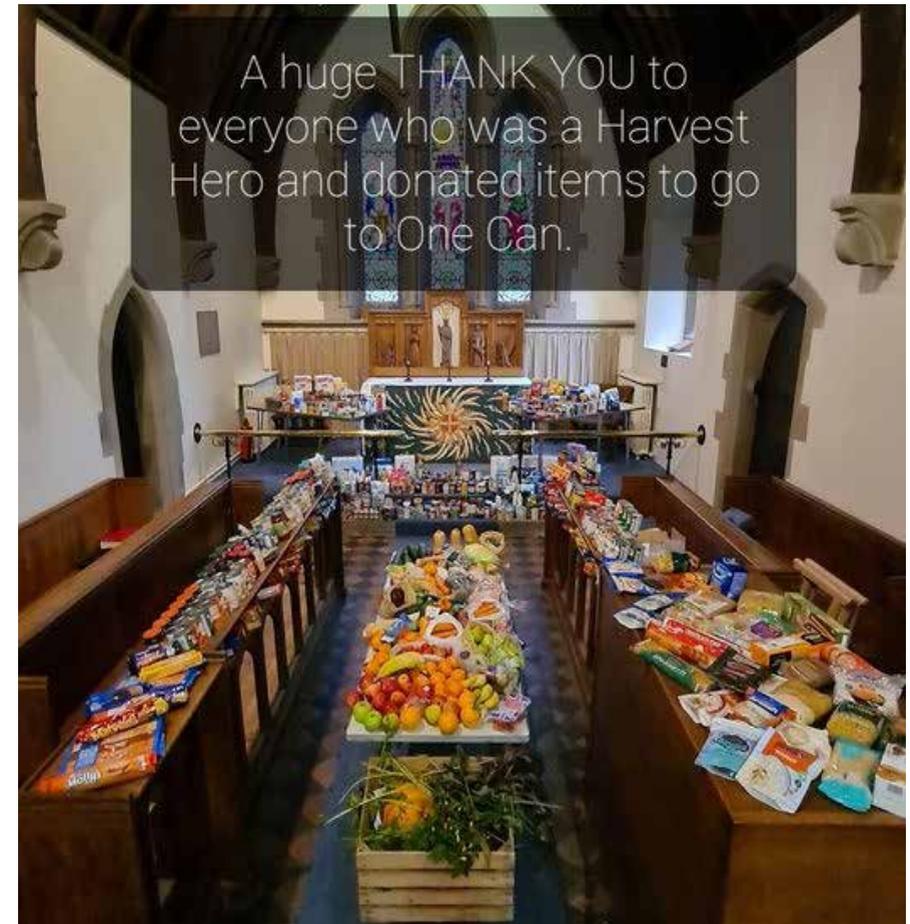
Please get in touch if you think you can help with any of the above... or think you might have something else you could contribute. Thank you!

Janna - 07764490960 - jannaholder@talktalk.net

Holy Trinity children's & family worker

Holy Trinity's harvest donations to One Can Trust

Thank you everyone!



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who was a Harvest Hero and donated items to go to One Can.

Current urgent needs are

Laundry detergent

Biscuits

Broccoli, onions and bananas

Halal tinned meat

Deodorant male & female

Tinned vegetables – carrots, mushrooms and green beans

Cooking sauces

www.onecantrust.org.uk

Combat Stress, our charity for November

COMBAT STRESS

FOR VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH

Since 1919 Combat Stress have provided support to veterans from every Service and every conflict.

Read Rebecca's story

'As a ward master in Afghanistan, Rebecca saw countless soldiers, civilians and children who were critically injured or dying. Rebecca only noticed how much these experiences had affected her years later, while she was stationed in the UK. I was thinking very negatively and I started feeling like I couldn't cope. I felt like I couldn't do my job properly and my state of mind had an enormous effect on my relationships'

'I decided to leave my job because I needed distance from the Army, but I stayed as a Reservist with the hope of one day going back. I started lecturing part-time at my local college, hoping a new job would help my problems go away, but I

was battling with suicidal thoughts. I was terrified, so I went to my GP for help.' Rebecca's doctor suggested that she get in touch with Combat Stress, she called their Helpline, she was diagnosed with PTSD.

Rebecca started having one-to-one sessions with a member of the community mental health team before she completed the six-week PTSD Intensive Treatment Programme (ITP). 'I'm so glad I did the ITP because I've got a lot out of it. I learnt techniques to manage my mental health problems in the long-term and as a result I take better care of myself. I also think the ITP made me feel more comfortable in speaking about my experiences, and in turn I've been able to express myself better at my local Peer Support meetings.' I was planning on going back to the Army, but after the ITP I realised I wanted to focus on just living my life without having too much on my plate. So I decided to leave.'

Now Rebecca says she feels stronger than ever and enjoys helping other veterans as a Peer Support volunteer, which she does alongside her job as a social sciences lecturer. 'The treatment I've had at Combat Stress has been amazing. It helped me come to terms with the things I've seen; it completely changed my life.'

Combat Stress Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is open to those currently serving and those who have served in UK Armed Forces and their families.

Donations in cash or by cheque may be placed in the green box in church using one of the blue envelopes

provided, or delivered to the Vicarage or to our treasurer at 58 Chalfont Rd, specifying the charity and, if you can gift aid, your name and address.

Jane Spoerry

To donate online www.combatstress.org.uk/donate

Domestic Abuse



Despite the government restrictions on movement, anyone suffering domestic abuse can leave their home and seek help. With the ongoing coronavirus crisis putting a strain on many families and individuals, we are continuing to work closely with partners to ensure those at risk of domestic abuse are able to access the help they need to be safe.

The following local and national domestic abuse services are continuing to offer support, including online and telephone services:

24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247

Aylesbury Women's Aid www.aylesburywomensaid.org.uk - 01296 437777

Wycombe Women's Aid www.wycombewomensaid.org.uk - 01494 461367

Victims First www.victims-first.org.uk - 0300 1234 148

Safe www.safeproject.org.uk - 0800 1337 938

Childline www.childline.org.uk - 0800 1111

Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault and Abuse Support www.avmksaass.org.uk - 01296 719 772

Give us a Shout www.giveusashout.org

Reducing the risk www.reducingtherisk.org.uk

Village Events | News

Squadron Leader George Williams OBE



Squadron Leader George Williams was my uncle and he is buried in Seer Green cemetery in a grave beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. In 1952 he was awarded an OBE and died on 2nd November 1953 at the age of 51.

At the time of his death he was based at RAF Medmenham. He was given a full military funeral, and I can remember watching the funeral cortege processing up from his home - where we still live, in Bottom Lane to Orchard Road and then to the church.

Some of the facts in this article I know are correct as I have provenance, other information is what I remember being told by other family members. I was 6 when he died.

Uncle George was born in Norfolk, he was a strong swimmer, and I have a small cup he won. I believe he was educated at Great Yarmouth Grammar School. He joined the merchant navy as a wireless operator and in 1926. While his ship, The Huntingdon, was docked in Fremantle Harbour, Australia, a stevedore fell into the harbour between two ships. Uncle George jumped in and rescued the man. For this he was awarded the Royal Australian Humane Society Bronze Medal which I still have and also a newspaper article about the incident.

I believe he transferred to the RAF on the outbreak of the Second World War again, I believe, as a radio operator. I think he was crew ferrying newly built planes from America. We certainly have photographs of him in uniform taken in the Bahamas.

It has not been possible to corroborate the following memories but family stories say that he was in Germany towards the end of the war and

went to Hitler's bunker. He also witnessed first hand the horror of the concentration camps and had a "nervous breakdown" on his return. We think today this would be called post-traumatic stress. Later he worked at Latimer Park, where German officers were interrogated.

At this time of remembrance I would also like to mention my husband's grandfather - Battery Sergeant Major George Whitehouse Smith, who died in France, from wounds received, on Armistice Day (11 November 1918).

Vivian Johnson

Life (or not) in Saudi during COVID-19!

We had been at Kaust (King Abdullah University of Science & Technology) in Saudi Arabia for a year when the world started to become aware of the threat of the pandemic. In early March Saudi announced that overseas nationals had 72hrs to return home. We realised that the airports were about to be closed so we made the difficult decision that I would return to Seer Green. However, when we did a hurried pack and said goodbye, we had no idea how long it would be before my husband Donal and I would see one another again - I think at that time we had thought it would be a few weeks.

Lockdown in Saudi Arabia has been strict. No one was allowed to leave the university campus (other than if they tested positive for COVID-19 - in which case they were transferred to hotels in Jeddah where they were placed in complete isolation with food delivered to the door for two weeks). A curfew was in place between 3pm-6am when people were not allowed to leave their houses to go outside. This was later relaxed to 6pm-6am.

In June the government tried to relax the lockdown rules but decided people were socialising too much and the lockdown was re-imposed within three days.

By late summer, as Kaust has employees and students of over 110 nationalities, it was recognised that some people did need to leave the country and the university chartered a number of flights. Donal came back to Seer Green and spent just over a month here, catching up and seeing family. There are now a small number of commercial flights allowed into the new Jeddah airport and he returned to Saudi at the end of September. It's still not simple: you have to have proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 24 hrs of landing in Saudi which necessitated a trip into a clinic in London to get one within the required time frame.

We were hoping by now we would have a clearer picture of when I would go back - but that will have to wait.

Bev Bradley

Seer Green Allotment Association.

We have been busy down on our allotments and happily harvested all that we have managed to grow, despite the strange weather we have



experienced. Some of the excess vegetables and fruit were contributed towards the One Can Trust collection I am glad to say.

There has been an increased interest in taking on an allotment this year and we now have a short waiting list, but if your patience is virtuous and you would be interested in joining our thriving Allotment Association, do contact Barry Richardson our Chairman on 01494 673407, to go onto our Waiting List.

Bronwen Collins

Seer Green Gardening Society

In September Seer Green Gardeners said farewell to their much-loved chair Philip Newton. We wish Philip all the best in the future.

The society also says farewell to Clare Newton who has been an invaluable and dedicated member of the committee over the last few years. Jane Smith has agreed to take over as chair for the coming year but the society is going to need extra hands. If you are interested in joining the team the most important thing to know is that you don't have to be a gardening expert, just an organiser or a 'doer'. Who knows which events might happen in 2021, but you could be involved with the Village Supper, The Plant Sale, or one of the Village Shows. This is a fantastic and sociable opportunity as all events are great fun!

If you'd like to get more involved with the Seer Green Gardeners and find out more, contact Jane Smith on 07759 841205. Or come along to our AGM on **12 November** at 8pm. This will probably be via Zoom, again get in touch with Jane for a link. Everyone is welcome.

Catherine Tilley



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James Davies (on the left) and Robert Davies with their beautiful geraniums.

Seer Green Scouts

The year of 2020 has been an extraordinary year. We ended 2019 with a Christmas Party in our fantastic new Scout Hall, thanks to all those who have raised funds for this over many years. We had hoped to hold an opening party in the spring 2020 but this was postponed due to the pandemic. It was rearranged to coincide with the Beer Festival. Sadly this was cancelled for 2020. We hope 2021 is a year full of celebrations and events!

Scouts became a victim of the lockdown. Scouts had not met face to face since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it was hugely sad that we couldn't hold our annual summer camp. Gradually the idea of hosting Beavers, Cubs and Scouts online via Zoom began to take shape and in July we hosted several Zoom calls, culminating in the Scout Olympics which was a great success. Also Scouting UK developed some badges for lockdown called The Great Indoors!

In September, we were allowed to restart scouting face to face. All four Scout groups (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) are up and running at maximum capacity. We are all doing as many activities as possible outside. We are so fortunate to have such an incredible outside

(and inside) space. Night football, campfires, hikes and wide games are now being enjoyed again.

As ever, we are always in need of more adult help. We lost a couple of long term parent helpers over the summer. Many thanks to Susanne Hardvendel and Helen Draper for their support. If anyone in the village would like to help in any way, please do get in touch.

Unfortunately with the pandemic still very active, we will be required to remain flexible with our programme. We very much hope that we can continue to run the various Seer Green Scout Groups to be fun and enjoyable for both leaders and our young people.

Rachel Gibson



Cubs sailing their homemade boats in Old Amersham

Richard Campbell - Wood turner



bowls of various shapes and sizes. He also regularly supplies vases to all Greenacre sites, including the local one in Potkiln Lane.

“When I first came to Seer Green it reminded me of my Essex roots as a farmer’s son,” says Richard. “A place where locals always held their heads high and were happy to smile and exchange a few pleasant words to strangers.”

Richard loves the various shops and services here in Seer Green, including the fact that there are so many local tradespeople who can assist in all manner of disciplines.

Floss Coombs



What started as a hobby for Essex-born Richard Campbell, has now turned into a fledgling business in wood turning and making many types of objects out of wood.

Richard moved to Seer Green in 2006 following a successful blind date which resulted in marriage. He moved a shed into the garden of his wife-to-be and started to develop his hobby from there.

From renovating garden chairs and making soap-box carts for the grandchildren, Richard soon became very busy. He now makes a number of different style vases, wooden planters, wind spirals and

News from Jordans

In Jordans we have a plan to reduce the use of single use plastic. Far from being recycled, a large percentage of it is shipped to the Far East where it is simply dumped. Acres of ground become covered with piles of it - both bags and single use containers bearing the names of our supermarkets. As it breaks up, particles of plastic seep into the streams running through the ground and end up in the rivers killing the fish that eat them.

A very small amount of the single use plastic remaining in our country is recycled and most is simply dumped in landfill where it stays as it is. A landfill site was recently dug up after

many years and the supermarket bags and the coleslaw pots were just as they had been buried.

So what are we in Jordans doing about this totally unacceptable situation? Come into our village shop and see. We have a refill station for laundry liquid, cleaning fluid, washing up liquid, body wash and hand wash. Simply bring in reusable containers and fill them with whatever you choose. You will be charged for what you put in your bottle. The bottle doesn't need to resemble what you are buying - just remember to label it when you get home! All the liquids are sold at competitive prices and the brands we use are all eco friendly.

Jordans Village Community Store now sells both semi skimmed and whole milk in glass pint bottles at the same price as plastic containers. These can be brought back and put in the crates outside the shop and they are then returned to the dairy for washing and re use. This considerably reduces the amount of single use plastic sold.

Come along to our village shop and join us in the fight against single use plastic.

Ali Cork



Happy Fish Friday

There is something new in Seer Green . Darren comes to Seer Green from Brixham each Friday to deliver to the Three Horseshoes and then sets up outside the pub to sell some wonderful looking fish. Mackerel, John Dorey, Turbot, and Dover sole were all on offer along with cooked

whole crab, crabmeat, oysters and some stunning scallops. I understand that Darren can also offer advice on the best way to cook his fish.

Pop along on Fridays 8.30am to 3pm and see what you think.

Sue Puttergill



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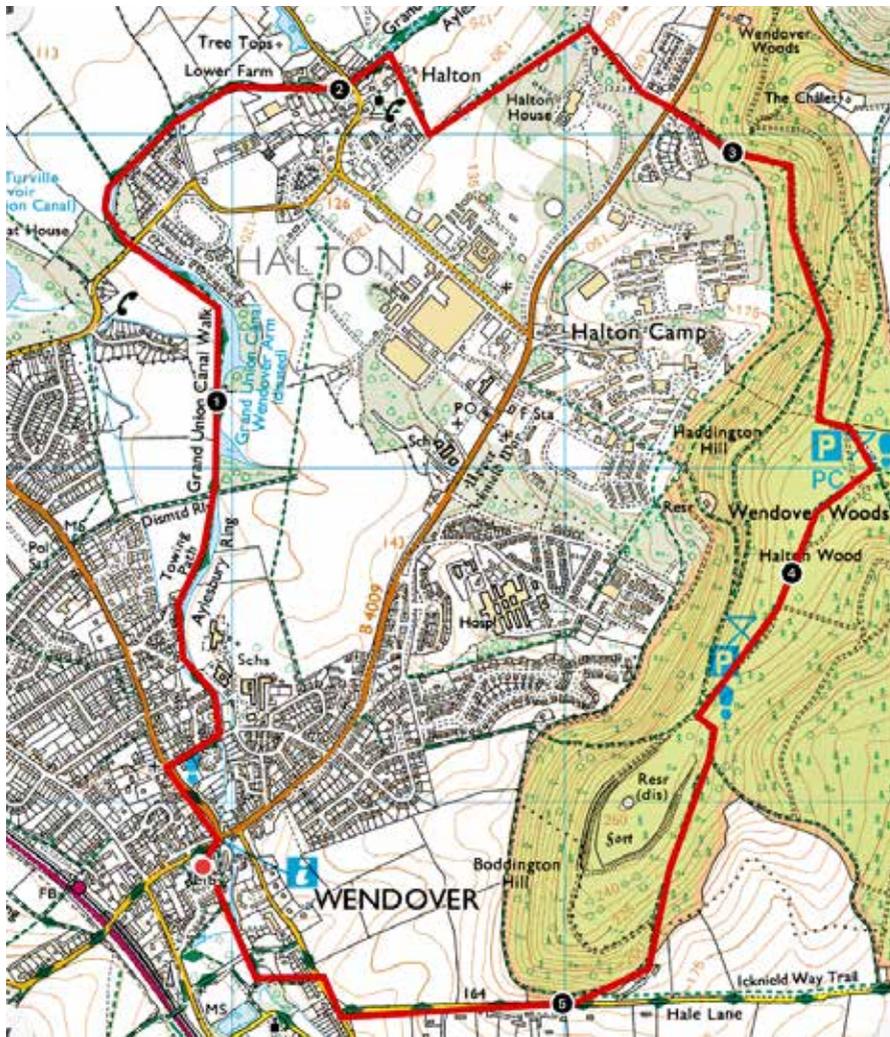
or by e-mail to howard.machin@machinandco.com

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Wendover – canal and woods



A beautiful walk along a little known disused canal and through stunning woodland.

Length: 6 miles
Start point: Wendover
Difficulty: Moderate

A bit further afield this month but this is a varied and beautiful walk with just one longish hill up to the top of Wendover Woods. Start from the car park near the library in the centre of Wendover and head down the High Street and along the Aylesbury Rd taking the first road right through the houses. Just before a bridge turn left on a footpath which takes you down to a disused canal. This was built in the 1790s as the Wendover extension of the Grand Union but has not been used for about a century due to leakage of the water. However, it has now become a pretty nature reserve under the management of the Wendover Canal Trust and it is possible to see many varieties of birds including Herons and Kingfishers.

Follow the canal for 1½ miles to Halton where the towpath changes sides via a road bridge. Continue on the other bank for 100 metres to a bridge then head right, away from the canal, into the grounds of RAF Halton. Turn left on the driveway and then right on a footpath and continue to the entrance at the main road. Cross the road and go up the hill into Wendover Woods taking the left fork angling away from the boundary of the woods. You will eventually reach the Visitor Centre at the top of the hill where there is a cafe if a short stop is desired. Afterwards pass through the car parks and follow the paths marked on the map as you head generally south and downhill for a mile or so until you reach Hale Lane.

Turn right on the lane and right again at a T junction at the bottom of the hill. After 50 metres take a path to the left and then right on another path back to the library and the car park with a number of pubs available nearby in Wendover.

David Tryon

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Eat less meat



Eating less meat is good for us and good for the planet. Bev Bradley who has been vegetarian for many, many years has given us a recipe which is enjoyed by vegetarians and meat eaters too.

A new recipe for vegetarian chilli (also suitable for vegans) which is great with rice, jacket potato or salad and easy to freeze into small portions.

Ingredients:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 sweet potatoes (peeled and cut into medium chunks)
- 2 tsp paprika
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 carrots (peeled and chopped)
- 2 celery sticks (chopped)
- 2 crushed garlic cloves
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1-2 tsp chilli powder (depending upon how hot you like it)
- 1 red pepper (cut into chunks)
- 1 tbsp tomato puree

- 2 x 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 400g can black beans drained
- 400g kidney beans drained

Method:

1. Heat oven to 200C/180 fan/gas 6. Put sweet potato in roasting tin and drizzle over half the olive oil, the paprika and the cumin. Toss well, season with salt and pepper. Roast for 25 mins until cooked.
2. Heat the remaining oil in a saucepan over a low heat. Cook the onion, carrot and celery for 8-10 mins stirring occasionally until soft. Add garlic and cook for extra minute. Add remaining dry spices and tomato puree, give it a good mix and cook for one more minute.
3. Add the red pepper, chopped tomatoes and 200ml of water to the saucepan and bring to the boil. Simmer for 20mins
4. Tip in the beans and cook for another 10 mins.
5. Add the sweet potato and season to taste.

The chilli can be made ahead and frozen for up to 3 months. It's nice served with lime wedges and/or fresh chopped coriander.

Bev Bradley

Tweet of the Month

Many people have commented that bird songs and calls were heard more easily this spring, with so little competing motor noise. One call I often heard in the hedgerows and woods around Seer Green was a clear, repeated 'wheet', delivered with a rising inflection. After consulting more experienced birders, I concluded it was *Phylloscopus collybita*, whose song is the rhythmic 'chiff, chaff, chiff, chaff'.



Photo - Andreas Trepte

The Chiffchaff is one of our more common warblers, the size of a blue tit, olive above, buff below, with a pale stripe above the eye. It is distinguished from the similar Willow Warbler not only by its song, but by darker legs, if you can manage to see them; I find warblers, unlike well-behaved Victorian children, are more often heard than seen.

Therefore I was delighted when on a sunny afternoon in late September, following some cool, wet days, I heard the 'wheet' call on the green between Stable Lane and Barrards Way, and turning my head spotted a Chiffchaff enthusiastically hunting insects in a birch tree. The warmth following rain may have brought out a new hatching; the Chiffchaff swooped erratically from one branch to another, plucking its prey from leaf and air, so avid for the hunt it wasn't bothered by me watching it.

Until recent years it was a summer visitor, but global warming has led increasing numbers to remain in the UK year round. I wonder if the little hunter I admired will be one of these, or if it was building up its strength for the long flight across the Sahara? Perhaps its presence so late in the year means it has decided to stay; I will listen for its 'wheet' call over the winter and then its 'chiff, chaff' song in the spring, when it greets the returning migrants.

Nora Bennett



The Three Horshoes

'Speak up for our Planet'

The Rotary Club of Gerrards Cross & Chalfont St Peter, and the Chiltern Speakers Toastmasters Club have collaborated to create 'Speak up for our Planet', an apolitical forum which aims to spark debate, inform people and inspire individuals to take action to protect our planet. The group is sponsoring a series of live, online talks on environmental issues, delivered by local enthusiasts and national experts. All talks are presented via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. To register for the live talks or view recordings of those already completed, go to www.speakupforourplanet.com/events

Why Bees Matter

Wednesday, 4 November

Fiona Matheson from Chalfonts Beekeepers Society will help us to

understand the vital role of bees and how we can all support them.

Plastic Pollution Solutions Wednesday, 25 November

Marine plastics expert and award-winning conservationist, Emily Stevenson, describes some of the untold issues with plastics, but more importantly, what we can all do to tackle them. The event will begin with a picture quiz, where you can identify items that have been collected off the beach.

Trees: What are they good for? Wednesday, 9 December

Paul Morris, Director of tree care specialist company Fineland Forestry, explains that these long-lived organisms need to be properly cared for, but in return they give us so much.

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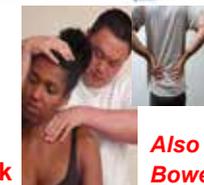
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