

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans
April 2023



**Explore Easter
Easter Egg Hunt**

**Charity Film
Night**

**Day out at
Oxford Botanic
Gardens**



one pound

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From the Editors

Winter has yet to leave us, with snow still hanging around and temperatures hovering around freezing, but the snowdrops and daffodils are making up for it. Hopefully, this month we will see the sun again.

Given the weather, most activities are indoors and there are some great films to see at Jordans Picture House, and at the charity film night at the John Barry Theatre in Iver Heath.

Also, some good recommendations for books from our resident literary critic, Janet. For those of you who want to brave the weather, what better than a day out at the Oxford Botanic Gardens?

Hoping you enjoy this issue!

Sue Puttergill, Carol Wright and Phil Moody

Next Month's Magazine

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

editorseergreen@gmail.com by **7 April 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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Contents

6	Church News	27	The slow worm
17	Elijah performed at Holy Trinity	28	Janet's book reviews
18	Hodgemoor Wood	30	Oxford Botanic Gardens

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Seer Green Football	
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- FC (adults) Art Anderson	07919 027351
Seer Green Village Choirs	
Jane Smith	07759 841205

Thought for the Month



There is a heaviness in the world. Wars, earthquakes, boats sinking, trains crashing, and so much more. While we watch the world burst into Spring bloom, many people in our villages have been touched by death in some way of late. Where is God in the midst of it? It's the age-old question and there is no simple answer.

But at Easter we remember one answer: that in Jesus, God enters the darkest of our suffering, and defeats its power. He heralds a new age which he will bring to completion one day: a restored heaven and earth, untouchable by death. A poem, written in the horrors of the trenches, expresses it beautifully: "Jesus of the Scars" by Edward Shillito:

*If we have never sought, we seek Thee now;
Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow,
We must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.
The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;
In all the universe we have no place.
Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.
If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear,
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.
The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.*

May we hear the wounds of God speak into our fears and griefs this Easter.

Jez Carr - Vicar



Church Events | News

Easter plans and news about our heating

Easter is upon us, and there will be lots of opportunities to engage with the story over the Easter weekend:

On Maundy Thursday (6 April), we remember the Last Supper, at which Jesus explained to his friends what his death would accomplish for them. Holy Trinity will be gathering to share a meal at the Three Horseshoes.

On Good Friday (7 April), we remember the crucifixion, in which Jesus did indeed die to accomplish those things. This is the darkest moment in the Church calendar,

even though it is also the moment of greatest victory. We have a joint service with Seer Green Baptist Church, 10am at the Baptist Church. There will also be a reflective 'Hour by the Cross' in Holy Trinity at 2pm.

On Easter Saturday (8 April), there's Janna's famous Easter Egg hunt!

On Sunday (9 April), we'll gather for an informal, everyone-welcome 10am Easter Celebration (in addition to a more formal 8am service).



We'd love to see you at any of the above. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

You may be aware that our heating system is beyond repair, and we've been meeting at the Scout Hut (huge thanks to the Scouts!). The building work which is required, presents an opportunity for us to think about how we might adjust our space to support the ways the church is changing, and how we might better use it to serve

the needs of the villages beyond Sundays. We would love to invite you into that conversation! In particular, come along on Sunday 3.30pm, April 2 (probably in the church), to hear our ideas and give your feedback. If you have any thoughts you would like to express, but have missed that boat, please get in touch by phone, email or in person.

Jez Carr - Vicar 07916 559151

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Baptisms

19 February Henry Brunt

26 February Frank Owen



Photo: Frank Owen is Baptised by Jez Carr

Church in the scout hut

We are very grateful to the Scouts for letting us use the scout hut for services on Sundays, while our church is so cold. It is very different to Holy Trinity. However, Jez and the team have managed to create a wonderful sense of spirituality and warmth there.

This is Jez playing the keyboard and Jenny Tebboth giving communion at a recent service.



Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community



Monday Mornings
10.30am to 12.00noon
Seer Green Baptist Church

Holy Trinity Services in April

- 2 April Palm Sunday
10am Holy Communion Service
3.30pm Gathering for Families
- 3 April 2.30pm Explore Easter at Baptist Church
- 5 April 10.30am Midweek Communion
- 7 April Good Friday
10am Holy Trinity and Baptist Church Good Friday Service at Baptist Church
2pm An Hour by the Cross
- 9 April Easter Day
8am BCP Communion Service
10am Easter Celebration
- 16 April 10am Holy Communion
- 23 April 8am BCP Communion Service
10am Morning Praise
12 noon Baptism
- 30 April 10am Holy Communion



Events

- 6 April Maundy Thursday
Maundy Thursday Evening Meal
- 8 April Easter Saturday
10am-3pm The Great Seer Green Easter Egg Hunt

For more information about families' activities and contact Janna

Contact us

Holy Trinity website

www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org

Church Wardens and
General Enquiries

Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

April charity of the month, Children at Risk Action Network

Children at Risk Action Network ("CRANE") works to alleviate suffering among the poorest and most vulnerable children in Kampala, Uganda. We have been working with CRANE over the last 18 months with Alison acting as Medical Advisor and Paul as Business Advisor. We have seen the wonderful work that CRANE does and are delighted and grateful that it features again as one of Holy Trinity's monthly charities.

One of CRANE's initiatives is supporting children who are held on remand. Children can be picked up by the police for any number of reasons, including for sleeping rough on the streets of Kampala because they have nowhere else to go.

In one of the remand centres in a district of Kampala, Naguru, there are currently over 100 children held on remand. Because of lack of funding, the remand centre is unable to transport the children to court, so CRANE steps in and arranges for the children to travel to court which often results in early release.

A second problem is that when the children do eventually get to court the parents are not there, which can lead to the children being sent back on remand. Consequently, CRANE will do everything possible to enable the parents to attend the court hearing,

including paying for their transport. And if a child is released, often he/she will require clothing which, again, is paid for by CRANE.

Please would you give generously to enable CRANE to care for as many children on remand as possible. The funds from Holy Trinity will be used for the direct benefit of the children, enabling them to be released from remand as soon as possible and to start to live normal lives again. Thank you.

Paul and Alison Bosson



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.



EXPLORE

EASTER

Monday 3rd April,
2.30-4.30pm @ SG Baptist Church

Join us for a fun time of creativity and activities with
Easter crafts, refreshments, toys and bouncy castle,
finishing with a short Easter themed gathering.

Aimed at 3-10s with their parents/carers, but all are welcome.
No set charge but donations gratefully received.
Book on www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explore-easter-tickets-535623152267

EXPLORE is run by Seer Green Baptist Church and Holy Trinity Church.
For further info contact Janna Holder 07764490960 or
Rev Louise Gilbertson 07983 882260

Village Events | News

What's going on at Woodfine Wine and Newbarn Farm



Vines at Newbarn farm

Whilst the vines and apples slumber, we are busy with winter jobs: we have built a DIY compost loo, are adding a 5th no-dig compost bed plus fencing to the organic kitchen garden (ably supported by the Seer Green Gardeners Sally Ash)

The old orchard and new apple saplings have been pruned and it's the turn of the vineyard next.

We have installed nesting boxes for Little Owl and Kestrel - and within two weeks we had our first visit from a Tawny Owl that ventured out of Hodgemoor Woods. This has demonstrated how building wild-

life corridors out of our natural 'nature banks' can extend range, distribution and territory of these wonderful native fauna and flora. All being well, we will receive nesting pairs in time...



The Tawny owl at Newbarn Farm

Newbarn Farm has become fully-certified as organic under Soil Association accreditation, for the first time in its history. This was after a two-year conversion process - no mean feat with sweat and tears involved too!

We recently hosted a wellness retreat for 25 people looking for some mental and physical restoration in a beautiful setting; the day included connection with nature, yoga, organic lunch from A Little Street Kitchen in Amersham, breathing, sound spa, natural wine tasting, massage therapy and educational talks regarding organic land management and links to human nutrition from a well-known local nutritionist.

We are preparing and planning for the year ahead: looking after the vineyard, veg beds and chickens, hosting the country's leading organic wine fair in May, more seasonal wellness retreats, educational tours and tastings and exploring other ideas to enhance the natural ecosystem in this corner of the village.

AirBnB is available at the farm and can include use of the wonderful barn too!

For more information:
www.woodfinewine.com
www.newbarnfarm.org

Richard Woodfine

Village Sew and Sews - Look out for more decorations!

We loved the Christmas post box topper, and now there is more.

The Village Sew and Sews hope you are all enjoying their springtime Easter post box decoration. They say 'look out for a right royal celebration coming your way soon!'

Penny Brooks



A postbox topper - but not ours!

Seer Green Gardeners



After three years, Seer Green Gardeners' annual brochure is back: you should have received your complimentary copy through your letterbox. It includes essential information to help you join the summer programme of community activities. Everyone's welcome - you don't need to be a keen gardener.

Spring Show and Plant Sale - Saturday 15 April, 2.30 to 4pm
at Baptist Church Hall, Wood Pond Close.

As well as the usual show, there will be an outdoor Plant Sale. Please join us to celebrate this joyful season and stock up on plants. You can also sign up for our popular growing competitions: Spud in a Bucket, and Fuchsia in a Pot, and enjoy tea and delicious home-made cake. It's the perfect way to spend an April afternoon!

Everyone is encouraged to enter something in the Show. The Hall will be bursting with spring flowers and plants, alongside children's art, home-cooked food and creative craft works. Each year complete novices join in and we'd love you to take part. See our website or brochure for the categories and details of how to enter.

Nursery grown plants will be on sale - cash or cheques only, please. There will be a Bring and Buy plant stall raising money for the local food bank charity, One Can Trust.

Please bring any plants you are donating from 9.00 - 10.45 am on the day.

Gardening in April

- *In April and May, self-sown plants such as forget-me-nots and poppies can take over! Thin them now so they don't dominate.*
- *Re-invigorate mature clumps of hardy perennials such as hostas, asters and daylilies by dividing and replanting.*
- *Look out for aphids on seedlings or roses and rub them off, blast with water, or spray with horticultural soft soap.*
- *To garden sustainably, consider growing tomatoes in garden soil with added (ideally homemade) compost rather than grow bags.*

Sally Ash - www.seergreengardeners.org seergreengardeners@gmail.com



Elijah



Tom Lidgley & Friends

from Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Present Mendelssohn's Elijah with Singers from
Village Voices & Seer Green Singers

Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green,
8pm on Saturday 22nd April

Tickets £15

Info/Booking: 07513 491520 or
Lidgley41@btinternet.com

Mendelssohn's Elijah to be performed in Holy Trinity church

Tom Lidgley was a pupil at Seer Green school and a member of Seer Green Singers. He is now studying at the Guildhall School College of Music.

As part of his degree, he and his friend Josh Quinlan are putting on a concert in Holy Trinity Church Seer Green on **Saturday 22 April** at 8pm. It is a scratch concert with Tom and his friends rehearsing with local singers during the day and performing in the evening.

There may be extra rehearsals on offer and music will be available beforehand too.

The concert will raise funds for further studies. It will be recorded and submitted for examination by the Guildhall.



To get involved or for further details email Tom at

Thomas.Lidgley@stu.gsmd.ac.uk

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Our Living Village

Exploring the Deep History of Hodgemoor Wood

An exciting new theme on The Geo-Archaeology of Hodgemoor Wood has just been added to our local website, at: www.ourlivingvillage.org This original research by Nigel Rothwell investigates how the geology, archaeology and historic land use have shaped the ancient woodland landscape of Hodgemoor Wood.

This much-loved woodland has a rich and ancient history. Lying within the administrative parish of Seer Green, it is one of the largest tracts of semi-natural broadleaved woodland remaining in the Buckinghamshire Chilterns, and is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England.

This theme looks at what has shaped features hidden in plain sight within our local woods. To understand these, and the development of the landscape, you also need to understand something of the geology that has provided the area's natural resources.

The recent Chilterns Conservation Board's LiDAR survey covering Hodgemoor Woods has revealed a hitherto unrecognised archaeological heritage, including a section of Roman Road, probable evidence of Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, enclosures, wood banks, earthworks, ridge and furrow ploughing, extraction activity, and the remains of building platforms.

Also evident in the LiDAR are 'natural' features, a consequence of the underlying deep 'bedrock' geology and more recent geologically processes that have helped shape the surface topography. The interplay of the historical land management and resource exploitation with the geology are considered, in particular the origin of depressions on the present-day land surface.

This high-resolution LiDAR data has been integrated with the surface geology and an analysis of historical

documents to understand land use, explain some of the surface and archaeological features, and provide a plausible explanation for the development of one of the most spectacular sinkholes in the Chilterns.

If you love Hodgemoor Wood, this is your opportunity to get to know it a great deal better.

Alan Kell - Seer Green and Jordans Society

ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

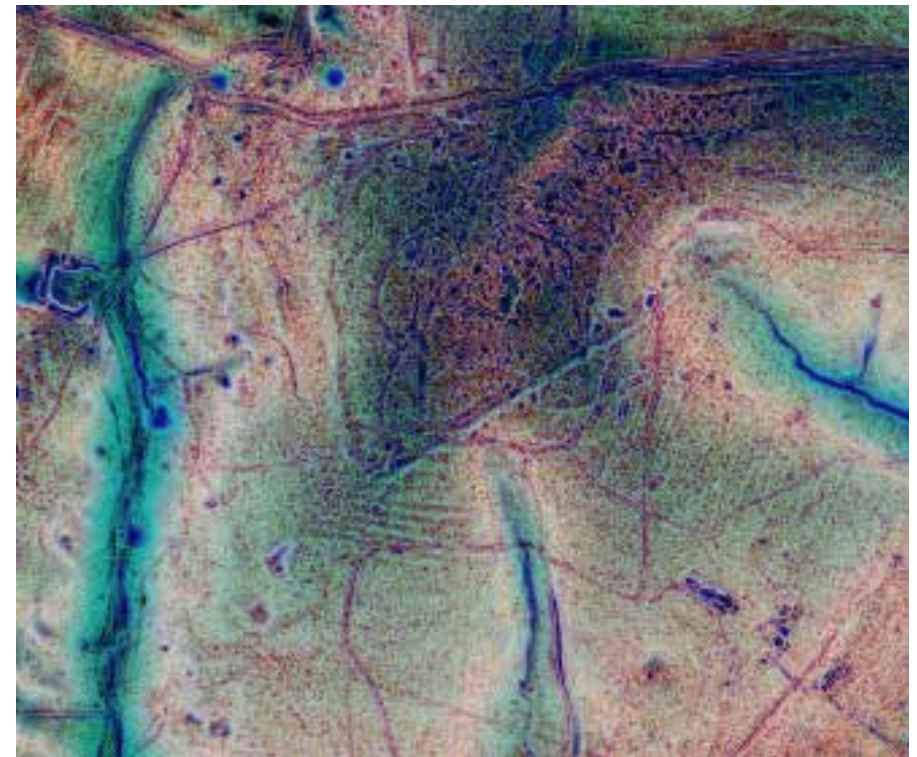


Photo: LIDAR image of Hodgemoor Wood

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Seer Green Service Station/ Chalfont Rd
Seer Green Beaconsfield

Seer Green Allotments association

Let's think about seasonal fruit and veg.

Once, we ate certain fruits and vegetables at certain times of the year ... recently, we have become accustomed to buying and eating what we want, whenever we want it.

The Allotmenters still - to a large extent - grow and eat by the seasons, although the use of cloches, greenhouses and poly tunnels has extended both the seasons and the available range of crops.

You could be forgiven for thinking that all we have to do is sow our seeds for beautiful seasonal crops? Would that it were that simple. Recent changes and weather extremes have thrown our seasonal knowledge into disarray; very warm early springs that plummet into hard frosts can wipe out everything in one cold night; and too much rain too early and shoots rot, then prolonged drought can stunt growth in the height of the growing season.

However, despair is not the lot of the plot-holder, and we adapt and invent. Water butts to collect rainwater off sheds and greenhouses are a must; lining a bean trench with cardboard before filling with kitchen waste and manure will help to retain the water, as does planting out seedlings in a

channel so that water goes more directly to the plants; while a pipe or similar pushed into the soil next to a tomato or squash plant will enable direct watering to the root, and is also handy for liquid feeds.

The April full moon overseeing this action is sometimes called "the sprouting grass moon" – there's a clue ...

If you want to see this in action and meet some hardy allotmenters, please come to our coffee and cake sale (plus some plants) on **Saturday 22 April** from 10 - 12 at the allotments by the recreation ground. The advice is free!

Charlotte Baggins - for the Allotmenters



8 O'Clock Club

Reading this, there are probably quite a few people familiar with the social media quote that has also found its way onto T-shirts in the last few years; "Some only dream of cake. Others bake it happen"!

At the last meeting, we had the opportunity to be treated to both, thanks to local resident Helen Lindsey-Clark who gave a fascinating talk on being vegetarian, vegan, or simply taking a little more time to think about what we eat.

Britain ate less meat in WW2; we grew more veg locally, walked further, and home cooked. The current food-focus is all about being plant-based; less animal, more plant material and rotation of land use.



Whilst food is a matter of choice, we were encouraged to eat nutritiously. Whether we define ourselves as meat-eaters, lacto-vegetarians, lacto-ovo-vegetarians, pollo-vegetarians,

pescatarians, flexitarians, fruitarians, vegans, raw-vegans, we all need fat, protein, iron calcium, vitamin D, Vitamin B12, plus fibre for a healthy gut. Whilst food choices can be governed by all sorts of motivations, Helen opened our eyes to the variety of foodstuffs now available.

Much has been said about eating at least 5 portions of fruit and veg a day. Helen has proved that it's possible to eat a variety of 30 different types of fruit and veg per week including food such as chickpeas, soya, herbs, garlic and dried fruits. A different way of looking at what we eat is to think about the plant material first and then the protein; vegetables, fruits, legumes for example, and then maybe the chicken and prawns, but key in all food talk is about getting the right balance.

..... and the cake? Not cherry pies this time, but we were treated to Helen's home baking; delicious and surprisingly vegan!

Next meeting: Thursday, 13 April 8.00pm. Seer Green Baptist Church

"Church Gardens: a Family's Restoration Story". £4 with tea/ coffee and biscuits. All welcome.

Elizabeth Lee

Jordans Picture House

Our screenings continue in April

On Friday **April 14** we shall screen "The Duke". Doors open at 7.15pm and the Programme starts at 8.00pm.

The Duke (12) 2020

Awards: 4 Nominations, Rotten Tomatoes Tomatometer 95%

Cast: Helen Mirren, Jim Broadbent; Heather Craney; Steven Rashbrook. Director: Roger Michell

In 1961, Kempton Bunyon, a 60-year-old taxi-driver, steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London.

<https://tinyurl.com/3yvcw6ye>



On Sunday **April 16** we shall screen "Another Round". Doors open at 3.15pm and the Programme starts at 4.00pm.

Another Round (12A) 2020

Won 1 Oscar 49 Wins and 73 Nominations

Cast: Mads Mikkelsen; Thomas Bo Larsen; Magnus Millang. Director: Thomas Winterberg

Four high school teachers consume alcohol on a daily basis to see how it affects their social and professional lives.

<https://tinyurl.com/38h7xkwm>

In Danish, with English subtitles.

Audience limited to 30, to allow visibility.



On Tuesday **April 25** we shall screen "Song for Marion". Doors open at 7.15pm and the Programme starts at 8.00pm.

Song for Marion / "Unfinished Song" (PG) 2012

Awards: 3 Wins, 8 Nominations. Rotten Tomatoes Audience Score 69%

Cast: Terence Stamp; Gemma Arterton; Christopher Eccleston. Director: Paul Andrew Williams.

Grumpy pensioner Arthur honours his recently deceased wife's passion for performing by joining the unconventional local choir to which she used to belong, a process

which helps him build bridges with his estranged son James.

<https://tinyurl.com/4kuk7fjy>



How to buy tickets

(Adults £8.00, U15s £5)

Online: Go to www.jordanspicturehouse.co.uk

See "Programme and Buying Tickets"

Jordans Box Office: Alan Sealy

alan@janetsealypartnership.com 01494 873205

Seer Green Box Office: Gill Pettman

gillyp4@btinternet.com 01494 678050

Jordans Picture House Committee



Toddlers in the Woods



Toddlers in the Woods is an exciting young enterprise in Crutches Wood, Jordans hosted by Holy Trinity Church, though totally lay led. It is primarily for the young families of our two villages, Seer Green and Jordans. All are welcome! There is no requirement to be part of our church and, yes, we celebrate all the Christian Festivals with enthusiasm; however, the focus is on having fun in the great outdoors for both adults and children alike.

We learn about all that is around us in the woods through exploration, and we do woodland craft using the natural resources around us - and add other materials too.

We sing enthusiastically and, this term, we have created the Toddlers in the Woods marching band - which is proving to be second to none!

Our woodland dens were kindly constructed back in 2021, when we first began, by Jordans villagers young and old - and still standing.

They serve as a kitchen for our young cooks, and a living area housing an assortment of dolls, all needing repeated walks in our buggies.

We have wheelbarrows, buckets, many dumper trucks and plenty of dinosaurs all helping the children's imagination grow. We also have sturdy oak logs under a rope to enhance physical skills.

However, the overriding feature is that we have fun outdoors, which encourages families to 'layer up' - it is not about the weather, but what we wear to keep warm and dry - and get out in the woods and enjoy themselves.

Enjoyment, getting to know one another, and seeing our children having such a good time is what it is all about. Do feel free to join us!



Ali Cork

Registered Osteopath

Preston Lee BSc (Hons) Ost.



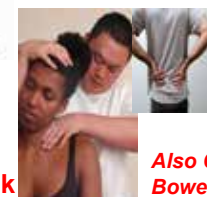
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Rotary Club of Jordans & District Charity Film Night

Thursday 20 April 2023 - 7.00pm for 8.00pm

HAMPSTEAD: "Funny, uplifting and full of heart"



See love from a new perspective: based on the true story of the Hampstead Hermit Harry Hallowes

Pinewood Studios (John Barry Theatre),
Pinewood Road, Iver Heath, SL0 0NH

For tickets, contact Jenny Owen (after March 25) on:
01494 677571 / 07707 386415

Cost £17 to include a glass of wine and nibbles - cheques payable to Jordans Rotary Trust

In support of SERV - volunteer bikers who provide, free of charge, 'out of hours' rapid response medical transport services to the NHS



On the Wild Side: The Slow-worm



Out for a country walk, we hope for skylarks or a hare loping across a field. But sometimes wonders appear where least expected. Hurrying down the paved path from Orchehill Road to the railway station in Gerrards Cross in 2020, I was arrested by a living streak of pewter. Like a miniature snake, with slim head and glossy scales, it lay in the footway, not visibly injured, but not moving. 'Better get you off the path,' I thought, and picked it up round its middle. It was shockingly strong and twisted vigorously: I just managed to set it down in the undergrowth.

The Slow worm, *Anguis fragilis*, is a legless lizard, a native species that burrows through soft soil, under leaves and into compost heaps. Four cm long at birth, it grows to 50 cm and can live 30 years in the wild if it doesn't fall prey to wild mammals, snakes, birds or cats. Colour ranges from silver to buff, ruddy and dark

brown; females and young are striped.

In hibernation from October to March, it is active now, in wood edges, road and railway verges, allotments and gardens. It eats invertebrates, including slugs and snails; try a sheet of corrugated tin or Onduline in a sunny, cat-free spot to coax one to grace your garden. Harmless to humans, the Slow worm defends itself by defecating, or as a last resort by shedding its tail, which wriggles to distract the attacker. The RSPB says you are usually safe to pick one up round its middle to rescue it, but I'm glad I didn't make mine lose its tail in a panic. Keep an eye out for them in Seer Green and Jordans: in 2021 I saw one at the edge of Green Wood, but perhaps one will surprise you near the railway.

Nora Bennett

Photo credits: Museum of Natural History; Topi Pigula Wikimedia Commons 4.0

Janet's Book Reviews



Before the Coffee gets Cold – Toshikazu Kawaguchi

What would you change if you could go back in time?

In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a cafe which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time.

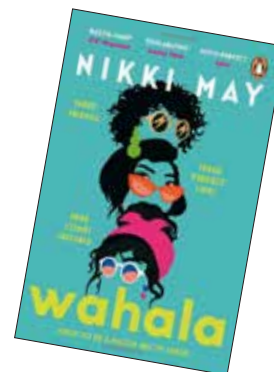
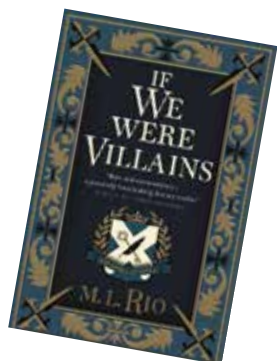
In this book, we meet four visitors, each of whom is hoping to make use of the cafe's time-travelling offer in order to: confront the man who left them; receive a letter from their husband whose memory has been taken by early onset Alzheimer's; to see their sister one last time; and to meet the daughter they never got the chance to know.

But the journey into the past does not come without risks: customers must sit in a particular seat; they cannot leave the café; and, finally, they must return to the present before the coffee gets cold ...

I loved this – Japanese writing is always quirky, and this is no exception. A very different read, perfect for any Book Groups out there.

If We Were Villains – M R Rio

This is a clever, beautifully written book, which combines the past and present day centred around students at a prestigious drama school, studying and performing Shakespeare. When one of their tightly-knit group dies, they start to – as Oliver puts it – “fall apart”. Was it an accident and, if not, who killed them? A similar premise to Donna Tartt's Secret History.



Wahala – Nikki May

“Wahala” is set in London and centred around three female Anglo-Nigerian friends with very different lives. Ronke, Boo and Simi have been inseparable since University and are constantly in and out of each other's lives, godmothers to one another's children, and shoulders to cry on. Until Isobel appears on the scene, causing chaos wherever she goes, and with whoever she meets. Everyone's lives are turned upside down and no one can understand what is happening. Apart from being a great read, the food references throughout the book are mouth-watering and there's an appendix of the recipes!



The Marriage Portrait – Maggie O'Farrell

One of my absolute favourite authors, I couldn't wait to read this book.

In 1560, fifteen-year-old Lucrezia di Cosimo de'Medici left Florence to begin her married life with Alfonso II d'Este, Duke of Ferrara. Less than a year later, she would be dead. The official cause of her death was given as ‘putrid fever’, but it was rumoured that she had been murdered by her husband.

This is Lucrezia's story, how she came to be married to the Duke, and the events leading up to this moment and following it. The author has taken a sliver of history and woven an incredibly rich tapestry. Within the first few pages O'Farrell paints a picture from which it is impossible to tear your eyes away.

Janet Stewart

A day out from Seer Green - The Oxford Botanic Garden

Oxford Botanic Garden is one of Oxford's many hidden gems, and one of the prettiest places in the city. Nestled right next to Magdalen Bridge on the River Cherwell, the garden was founded in 1621 and is the UK's oldest botanic garden, home to over 5,000 different types of plant from around the world.

It was originally set up as a "physic garden" to teach medical students at the nearby Magdalen College about the complex medicinal powers of plants.

In the 1830s it was renamed the "Botanic Garden", to reflect the growing focus on botany and the scientific classification of plant species.

Glasshouses creating a range of different climates from around the world were commissioned to house the growing collections of exotic plants, and today the thousands of plants represent a living library for botanical research, as well as being a delightful oasis for all visitors in the very heart of Oxford.

Spring is a magical time at the Botanic Gardens, with wonderful sights and fragrant scents in the Conservatory and Glasshouses, and spectacular spring bulbs and flowers outside.

The Botanic Garden is open daily from 10 am. There is a small pop-up café, or you can bring your own picnic. We parked at the Thornhill Park and Ride on the A40 at Headington, and caught the bus for the short ride to St Clements Street stop.

Fliss Coombs



Amersham Festival of Music

The Amersham Festival celebrates its 39th year! There is exhilarating music of the 1920s and 1930s from the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, as well as great orchestral works with a Scottish flavour by Mendelssohn, along with Vaughan Williams' iconic The Lark Ascending, a cappella singing, a concert by young people and so much more.



For more information and to book tickets please visit:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/amershamfestivalofmusic>

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