

COMMUNITY NEWS

Seer Green and Jordans Parish Magazine

November 2025



Christmas Issue Art
Competition

Trinity Café

Seer Green United

£2.00

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Thought for the Month

November often feels like a thoughtful month. The clocks go back, the evenings draw in, the trees are bare and there's a stillness that invites us to pause and remember.

At the beginning of the month, on All Saints' and All Souls' Days, we can remember those who have gone before us – the saints of faith and the loved ones who have shaped our lives. On **11 November** and on Remembrance Sunday, we pause again, honouring those who gave their lives for peace and freedom. These moments remind us how much our lives are built on the love, courage, and faithfulness of others.



I'm sure you have fond memories of time spent with those you love and the impact that they have made on your lives. There are some people who come into our lives for a short time, others are with us for a long time. But all of them play a part in shaping who we are.

Remembering connects us to our past, to one another and to what truly matters. It helps us look back with thanks for the journey so far. It reminds us of kindness shared, friendships formed and the way we are gently held when life feels uncertain.

The Bible often encourages us to remember – not just the past, but God's faithfulness to us thought every season.

As the year darkens, we might be tempted to see only the gloom and the cold. But as we move through November, let's make space for remembering with gratitude, not only those who have gone before and those in our daily lives, but also the people we might overlook in the rush of daily life, our friends, neighbours and familiar faces that make our village feel like home.

Janna Holder

Children and Families Minister

Church and Community Organisations

Vicar	
Rev Jez Carr	rev.jezcarr@gmail.com 07916 559151
Primary working days:	Wed, Thurs and Sunday
Non-working day:	Saturday
Rector of the Benefice	
Rev Dan Beesley	revdbeesley@gmail.com 01494 872097 07590 123603
Benefice Assistant Priests	
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Children and Families Minister and SGKIDS	
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Heather Rowe	01494 677573
Church Flower Guild	
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andrew@seergreenscouts.org.uk	
Seer Green Brownies	
Carole Wharrier	07977 423555
Eight O'Clock Club	
Monica Sado	01494 677851
Jordans and District Rotary Club	
Brian Westwood Secretary	07885 579442
Jordans Horticultural Society	
Emma Pegram	01494 874574
Shan Liu	01494 730312
Faith Key	01494 870039
Jordans School	
Holly Swain Head Teacher	01494 874217
Jordans Music Club	
Derek Lake Chairman	07786 499596
jordansmusicclub@gmail.com	

Jordans Village Hall	Office 10.00 - 1.00
Chris Jenkins Booking Secretary	01494 875177
Jordans Village Lunch Club	
Catherine Robinson	01494 873193
Jordans Village Nursery School	
Nicola Coyne Admissions	07952 993951
Jordans Picture House	
Alan Sealy/Box Office	01494 873205
Jubilee Hall	
David Howkins	01494 857760
Jordans Quaker Meeting House and Centre	
Nina Liebenberg Warden	07962 105305
Little Ducklings Nursery	
Kelly Bartley	01494 677190
One Can	
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Seer Green Bridge Club	
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Seer Green Church of England School	
Laura Morel Head Teacher	01494 676344
Seer Green Gardeners	
Jill Moody	07785 520539
seergreengardeners@gmail.com	
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Alan Kell	ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com www.ourlivingvillage.org
Seer Green Lunch Club	
Gill Roberts	01494 677281
Seer Green Parish Council	
Liz Bates Parish Clerk	01494 874233
Seer Green Pre school	
Kirsten Pole Manager	01494 677190
Seer Green Football	
- United (juniors) Tim Wyatt	07833 246819
- FC (adults) Art Anderson	07919 027351
Seer Green Village Choirs	
Jane Smith	07759 841205

From the Editors

Welcome to the November edition of Community News. Well done to both our villages in the Best Kept Village competition. Not only did Seer Green win the DeFraine cup for the best kept village in our category but was also awarded the Sword of Excellence for best overall winner and Jordans village won the Fisher Ryman Cup - testament to the power of community in our

two villages. It is great to see that Trinity Café is going from strength to strength, opening for longer and hosting a weekly sewing group and a weekly get together for secondary school students. And in Jordans the monthly Jolly Quaker takeover of the Village Hall celebrated its 10th anniversary in October.

The Editors

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **December/January** issue to: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by **7 November 2025**. Diary dates for the next two or three months would be very welcome.

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

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

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Contact us

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

Front cover: photo by Paul Stewart

Teen Spirit
presents...

A night of rock & pop music featuring
three local youth bands

STONESTAR★ HOUSE ON FIRE XSCAPE

Saturday 8th November

@Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green
Doors Open: 6.30pm

Tickets £5 - In advance only
www.ticketsource.co.uk/holytrinitysgj

Licensed bar & café
Over 13's only
U15s need an accompanying adult

Fundraising for

YOUNG MINDS

Coming up in November

Teen Spirit Presents...

Stonestar, House on Fire and Xscape

Saturday **8 November** @ Holy Trinity Church. Doors open 6.30pm

An evening of rock and pop music with 3 of our village's incredible youth bands who you may have already seen rocking the stage at Beer Fest!

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is on the **9 November**. In keeping with previous years we will hold an outdoor gathering at the War Memorial, starting at 10.50am – 11.15am approx. All are welcome.

Uniformed organisations will meet at the Jubilee Hall and walk up to the war memorial joining village and community representatives for our act of remembrance and silence at 11am.

School Lane from Vicarage Close to the corner of the Holy Trinity triangle where School Lane turns to Chalfont Road will be closed from 10.35-11.25am. The junction of Stable Lane onto School Lane will also be closed.

Soul Space

Our second 'Soul Space' takes place on Sunday **23 November**. Doors open from 9.30am when you can come in and grab a drink and catch up with friends before a gathered short faith-inspired thought for the day, framed with music and conversation, at 10am. After this, we continue the discussion accompanied by refreshments. All welcome.

Janna Holder - Children and Families Minister

Holy Trinity Services in November

2 Nov	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Families @ 3:30
5 Nov	10.30am	Midweek Communion
9 Nov	10am	Remembrance Service
16 Nov	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	Holy Communion with organ
23 Nov	10am	Soul Space
30 Nov	10am	Holy Communion with organ

Donations to Holy Trinity

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

Go to our website:
seergreenandjordanscofe.org and scroll down the homepage to 'Online Giving' and follow the link.

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

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

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

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

If you would like to join our planned giving scheme, please speak to our treasurer Audrey Hardy on 07342 652707 or **chardyseergreen@aol.com**



Christmas Issue Art Competition

Open to all Primary aged children

Closing date Friday **7 November**

The winning entry will appear on the front cover of the December issue of the Community News and the winning artist will switch on the Christmas Tree lights on Sunday **30 November**.

The Brief

The brief is to design a Christmas picture for the front cover of the December issue of the Community News. The rest is up to you! It could be Nativity related or food, decorations, family, Christmas characters or scenes. The background should be coloured in so that it stands out against the white of the cover of the magazine. Bold and simple designs work well but now it's a larger picture, more detail can be included. Paint, collage (as long as it is not too thick as we have to scan

the image), felt pen, coloured pencil, mixed media are some ideas to use.

A template will be made available to download from the Community Chat or pick it up from the Seer Green School Office and the Jordans School Office.

All entries should be returned to Seer Green School Office and the Jordans School Office or scanned and sent to **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by Friday **7 November**.

The Editors will judge the winner which will be printed onto the front cover for the December issue. There will be two runners up who will have their entries printed inside the magazine.

Best wishes from the Editors.

NB Don't forget to write your name, age and school on your entry.



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25 YEARS



Coffee Shop

A meeting place for the community

Monday Mornings
10.30am to 12.00noon
Seer Green Baptist Church

November Charity of the Month

YOUNG MiMDS

Charity of the Month

Young Minds are leading the fight for a future where all young minds are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges. *Young Minds* wants to make sure children and young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's difficulties.

The crisis in children and young people's mental health is real and it is urgent. More children and young people than ever before are reaching out for help with their mental health. But, for those who take the brave step, help is much too hard to find. Together, we are changing this. We're fighting for young people's mental health. Join the fight.

We support young people

We support parents of young people

We support those who work with young people

Visit our website & read our blog. It is full of real life stories written by young people who have struggled with mental health



Trinity Cafe

In September we celebrated selling our 2000th coffee and in October our 2000th Cake! We are delighted that Trinity Cafe is becoming a place where people can enjoy delicious coffee and yummy cake. But more than that, it's about finding a 'home', a place where people of all ages feel welcome, to come on their own, or to meet with friends.

As we continue to expand what the cafe offers we now open on a Thursday afternoon for the Slow Stitching Sisters and Misters group and members of the public from 1-3pm, followed by Teen Takeover, where secondary age young people can come, hang out with their friends, relax or do their homework from 3.15-5.30pm.

New on the menu for the autumn season is pumpkin spiced lattes with further seasonal and Christmas treats to follow. If you haven't already been in, do come and pay it a visit - and if you are a regular - thank you!

Janna Holder

OPENING HOURS

Monday
8.30am - 12.30pm &
2pm - 4.30pm

Thursday
8.30am - 12.30pm

Friday
8.30am - 12.30pm &
2pm - 4.30pm

Saturday
8.30am - 3.30pm





Seer Green CE School news



Autumn feels well and truly upon us, with nights already drawing in.

We started the Autumn term, as always, by working on the children's entries for the Seer Green Gardeners' Autumn Show. The theme this year was Autumn, which gave the staff the freedom to be creative as well as show progression in knowledge and skill across the school.

It is fantastic for the school to be part of these events which attract the wider village community.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Laura Morel - Head teacher



Cara - year 2



Amalie - year 5

Would you like to subscribe to Community News?

Would you like to subscribe to Community News ?

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

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

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

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

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

The Editors



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Our Living Village: The Godolphin estate map

This is the earliest map of Seer Green. Often referred to as the 1753 map, it dates from 1802. Much of what is illustrated is familiar today: principal routeways; field pattern; woodland; village centre around a green (but no church until 1846); with names listed indicating to whom properties belonged, including "Four Cottages on the West for the use of the Poor." The map is surprisingly accurate, reflecting progress made in surveying practices during the Georgian period.

Frances Godolphin purchased lands in Seer Green from Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, in 1752 and had John Richardson draw up this map, on parchment, the following year. Looking closely (examine it in more detail at www.ourlivingvillage.org) a few things stand out. The shape of the 1866 civil parish (in 1753 the "Hamlet" was still a detached part of the "Manor of Farnham Royal") is clear, but detail in the west is missing as it was not part of Godolphin's purchase. Across this area is written "Land belonging to James Dupree Esq." (and other "fundry perfons"), but Dupree was not born until 1778!

The mapped 1753 field boundaries are marked with coloured hedges ("laid on ye Lands to which they belong"), and the fields are coloured indicating land use: purple (faded to pink) is arable; green is meadow.



© The British Library Board

Across the central portion of the map amendments were made in 1802 using Indian ink (faded to brown), with tenants listed in margin notes. Godolphin died heirless in 1785 so this must have been updated after his estates were dispersed.

A particularly nice aspect is that the fields have names (we will return to this in a future article), many of which have been preserved in our modern road names.

Nigel Rothwell - ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

www.ourlivingvillage.org



TODDLERS IN THE WOODS

For all pre-school children
accompanied by a responsible adult

We don't go outside, we are outside

Hosted by Holy Trinity Church
Seer Green and Jordans

Every Friday during term
9.15 am - 10.15 am

Venue:

The Centenary Clearing,
Crutches Wood,
Jordans

£2.50 donation
per session appreciated

For more information contact Ali Cork
☎ 07803 139079 ✉ alicork686@gmail.com

Autumn on the Allotments

Liz's allotment flowers cheered us all through the summer and she richly deserved a first prize for her Dahlias.

Remember Remember Frost can kill in November! (So can lighting your bonfire before checking for hedgehogs.)

If any readers followed last November's 'what to do with fallen leaves' suggestion you can now use that leaf mould as a mulch in your winter preparations, how quickly a year goes by. We will have gathered in our crops but for the winter veg, and cleared dead leaves from around the brassicas so as to deter mould etc. Some of us will clear the ground and some will cover to deter weeds, let us all leave some cosy nooks and crannies for insects, cocoons and other wildlife, so that all may safely overwinter.

We have had a curious year with bumper crops and failures both, it has been a 'mast' year for several types of tree resulting in hordes of nuts for squirrels and allotmenters alike.

Apples have been almost too numerous to mention this year and it is about this time whilst peoples freezers, jam jars and stores are packed with fruit that I wish we could organise an apple wassailing in the new year, a heady mix of old folklore, singing and cider that would surely grace the

village in that quiet aftermath of early January.

So step forward any volunteers!

At the autumn show in September plot holders made a good contribution with flowers and veg. Alan scooped the Banksian medal for his wins in the vegetable classes whilst

Allotment of the year went to Louise and Alisdair Gilbertson, with Commended going to plot holders Andy and Sarah Matthews, and Phil and Lindy Hardy. Best Newcomer was awarded to Laxmi Shukla. Congratulations to you all and we will happily raise a glass to you at our November bonfire and barbeque festivity. Plot on comrades! Charlotte from the allotments.

Charlotte Baggins from the allotments.



Seer Green United – Growing the Game for the Community



Seer Green United is more than just football – it's about bringing families and young people together. Run entirely by volunteers, the club is proud to offer a welcoming approach where boys and girls can enjoy the game, develop their skills and make new friends. Our aim is to help youngsters build confidence, teamwork and a lifelong love of sport in a safe, supportive environment.

We currently run teams and training sessions for a wide range of age groups, including Under 6s (Year 1 at primary school), Under 8s (Year 3), Under 11s (Year 6) and Under 18s. Our three younger age groups (Under 6s, Under 8s and Under 11s) train on Saturday mornings at Seer Green Recreation Ground, which provides an open, friendly space where families can gather and watch the action. Matches are available from Under 7 onwards, giving players the chance to enjoy games alongside their regular training.

We're also exploring the possibility of starting an Under 5s group. If parents are interested in helping coach, we'd love to hear from you – it's a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference at the very beginning of a child's football journey.

The club also welcomes support from local businesses. Sponsorship opportunities are available for companies or individuals who want to invest in grassroots football, support local young people and raise their profile within the area. Whether your children are already football-mad or just starting out, Seer Green United provides fun, structured training sessions and matches designed to help players grow in skill and confidence.

For more information about joining, helping to coach or sponsoring a team, please contact our Club Chair, **Ian Millward**, at ianpmillward@gmail.com.

Come and be part of something special – let's grow the beautiful game together in Seer Green!

Jordans wins Fisher-Ryman Cup

The Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition, Carol Hayward, has awarded the Fisher-Ryman Cup to Jordans.

This new Cup was awarded for the first time last year (to East and Botolph Claydon) to recognize a village or town that has not won a cup in the last ten years (although we did win the Leofwine Shield for Best Kept Village in the Chilterns in 2019!) but who have consistently entered and promoted the values and objectives of the Competition.

Our Parish Councillor Jackie Lomas and JVL Treasurer Bob Barber were also on hand to enjoy the celebrations. Well done Jordans residents!



8 O'Clock Club

By choosing to wear a skirt for ceremonial duties rather than trousers, Countess Howe Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, is spared from carrying a sword as part of her ceremonial dress. A sword can be a nuisance, as one of her predecessors remarked!

In her official role, the Countess has visited Seer Green twice within a fortnight, this time to tell us how the role became part of English history and the relevance it has in the 21st century. There have certainly been some colourful characters throughout history who have held the position in Bucks since the initial appointment of the first Lord-Lieutenants back in 1545, although the Office wasn't recognized by Parliament until 1549.

History shows us that incumbents across the shires have been unpopular and powerful. Henry VIII demanded loyalty and made his own appointments from those with wealth and status. Tudor Monarchs used them as a strength of force to provide indirect rule; unpaid recruiting sergeants standing as the Monarch's representative on the Battlefield.

These days the appointment process is more transparent, with the consultative process instigated a year before the present incumbent departs office. An appropriate candidate is sought who has shown commitment and; service to the local community, whether through business or the voluntary sector. Countess Howe is Buckinghamshire's first female representative. Once she had been chosen and accepted, her name was put forward to the Prime Minister, who took her name to the Monarch. She is King Charles' representative in the County with a duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown.

The Countess wanted to follow in the Royal Family's spirit of co-operation, and to engender a good atmosphere. She has embedded this, not least through her presidencies/patronages across the county, and by the presentation of medals and awards to local people.



Lady Lord-Lieutenant brooch

Future meetings

Thursday **November 6** at 8.00pm

'Gareth Williams And The Mystery of The Body in The Bag' In August 2010 MI6 spy Gareth Williams was found naked in his flat locked inside a sports holdall placed into his bath. What were the possibilities as to his demise and who may be responsible? - Paul Barwick Retired Met: Detective

All welcome £4 (cash) with tea/coffee included

Thursday **December 4** 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Christmas supper at Beaconsfield Golf Club

For menu and booking form contact Monica Sado monica100seer@gmail.com

Elizabeth Lee

Jordans' School children love being outdoors

Jordans School have sent us this lovely photo of the children enjoying being in the woods at their Forest school.

Jordans School open morning for 2026 entry is 5 November, if you

want to go and have a look at what they do. Places are available for children from surrounding villages as well as Jordans.



Jordans Picture House

Our 2025 programme continues

We look forward to welcoming you again!

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

On Friday **November 14** we shall screen "Darkest Hour".



Darkest Hour (PG) 2017

Cast: Gary Oldman; Lily James; Kristin Scott-Thomas. Director: Joe Wright.

In May 1940, the fate of World War II hangs on Winston Churchill, who must decide whether to negotiate with Adolf Hitler, or fight on knowing that it could mean the end of the British Empire. (Source: IMDB)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4555426/>



On Friday **November 28** we shall screen "A Complete Unknown".

A Complete Unknown: (15) 2024

Cast: Timothy Chalamet; Edward Norton; Elle Fanning. Director: James Mangold.

In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York City with his guitar and forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world. (Source: IMDB)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11563598/>



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



Jordans Village Nursery School

A new academic year and some new activities for our children to enjoy. On a Friday morning we are very excited to introduce 'Fun flip Friday.' The session is led by our qualified dance teacher and includes a climbing frame, balance beam, air tracks, tunnel, a wedged mat for rolling and plenty of mats for floor work.

The children are always keen to get started and it is wonderful to see them challenging themselves, developing their coordination, balance and strength. Initially many preferred a steady hand when traveling across the balance beam, but after doing this a few times they are now happy to try it without any help. It is great to see their confidence grow, and to see them having so much fun.

We are also enjoying learning some Spanish words and phrases and learning a little about life in Spain. Our Spanish teacher has taught us to say 'hello' and 'goodbye' Our topic at the moment is 'My family and me' so we have also learnt the names of some body parts, such as los ojos, las orejas, la boca and la nariz. As expected the children are proving to be quicker learners than the staff!

We have looked at our timetable and are providing even more opportunities for cooking as the children are always keen to cook. We cook a selection of savory and sweet treats including jam tarts, pizzas, cheesy scones and more recently with so many apples at this time of year, apple crumble.

Visitors are always welcome. Contact our admissions manager Nicola Coyne if you would like to come and look around admissions.jvns@gmail.com. A warm welcome awaits.

Susan Lawrence

Gardening thoughts from Seer Green Gardeners

At the time of writing this, we are looking forward to gardening national celebrity Matt Biggs' talk in the Jubilee Hall. His topic: perfect plants for problem places, which we chose from a plethora of options, seemed timely for November when the soil is usually still warm enough to move things around or to plant new acquisitions. There's usually still warmth in the soil in November so not a bad time for taking up some of his suggestions for 'perfect plants for problem places'. Contact us for the low-down if you weren't able to attend on 14 October.



Other gardening suggestions for lifting the spirits at this often gloomy time of year!

- If you have photos of your 2025 spring garden, check them out for locations which could benefit from the splashes of colour that autumn planted bulbs produce. Take a look at the DeJager website for new inspiration.
- Remove any saucers beneath pots and raise them onto pot feet to avoid damaging water-logging.
- Move any pots containing tender plants to somewhere warmer, or protect them with old bubble wrap - if you don't have any, post a request on the SG&J Buy and Sell (or give-away) WhatsApp group.
- It's easy to accumulate lots of woody prunings at this time of the year. Instead of donating it to the Council via a green bin, chop it up and mix it in with the softer 'green' waste in your compost bin - by creating more air spaces it works like a compost activator.
- A wildlife-friendly 'dead hedge' is another great idea for tree and shrub prunings - lots of useful info on YouTube!
- The charming yellow flowers pictured this month are called 'Bidens' and were blooming through November last year. Somewhat invasive but if you'd like some plants, contact Sally at the email address below.

Finally, please do get in touch with us with any suggestions for Seer Green Gardeners' 2026 events and activities programme. We'll be planning this during December so please let us have your ideas! Talk to any committee member or email us at seergreengardeners@gmail.com.



The Jubilee Hall was a riot of colour for the Autumn Show – beautiful autumn blooms and foliage, impressive vegetable and fruit specimens (despite this year's challenging growing conditions), photographs of local animals and clever craft creations. In the domestic section there was a delicious selection of baked goods and preserves for the judge to taste.

As always Seer Green School children created a stunning, colourful and varied display of artwork on the theme of "Harvest". In the afternoon the Jubilee Hall was filled with visitors coming to look at all the entries and admire the winning ones, keeping the tea bar busy serving hot drinks and cakes.

Sally Ash and Jill Moody

Dates for your Diary

Wed 5 Nov	Jordans School – Open Morning
Thurs 6 Nov 8pm	8 O'Clock Club – Gareth Williams and the Mystery of the Body in the Bag
Fri 14 Nov 6.45pm/7.30pm	JPH – Darkest Hour
Sat 22 Nov 7pm	Village Voices/SG Singers – 20th Anniversary concert
Fri 28 Nov 6.45pm/7.30pm	JPH – A Complete Unknown
Sat 29 Nov 12.30pm-2.30pm	SG CE School – Christmas Cracker Fair
Sun 30 Nov 5.45pm/6.15pm	SG Village – Christmas Lights Switch on

Janet's Book Reviews

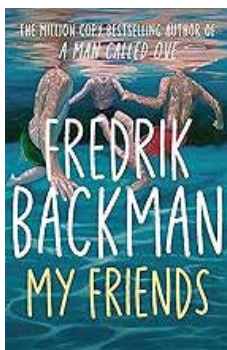


Heft – Liz Moore

Heft was recommended to me by a friend, and I'm so pleased I listened! It's one of those novels that stays with you, I've found myself thinking about it often.

At its heart, it's about unlikely connections: Arthur Opp, a reclusive former academic who hasn't left his house in years, and Kel Keller, a teenager juggling baseball dreams with the heavy weight of his mother's struggles. Their lives are worlds apart, but Moore draws them together with warmth and honesty, showing how even the loneliest people can find unexpected connections.

Moore has a great ability to make you care deeply for her characters—flaws and all. If you're in the mood for something beautifully written and moving without being too saccharine, Heft is a novel well worth a read.



My Friends – Fredrick Backman

This book will be in my Top 5 of the year – I loved it as I have all of this author's books.

Told across two timelines, it follows four teenagers—Joar, Ted, Ali and Kimkim—who escape difficult home lives by clinging to each other and dreaming big on a weather-beaten pier by the sea. That summer, their friendship sparks the creation of a painting, The One of the Sea, which ends up changing all of their lives.

Fast forward twenty-five years and we meet Louisa, an eighteen-year-old foster kid grieving her best friend and carrying a battered postcard of that very painting. When fate places the painting in her hands, she sets out with Ted to uncover the secrets behind it, piecing together a story of love, loyalty and regret. It's heartfelt, funny, and quietly devastating – a gorgeous exploration of how friendships shape us. Put it on your list!



The Artist – Lucy Steed

Lucy Steed's debut novel is the sort of book that makes you want to pack a bag and head straight to Provence. Set in the 1920s, the story centres on Ettie, who's spent her life looking after her eccentric, reclusive, famous painter uncle "Tata" Edouard Tartouffe. Joseph, a curious young British journalist arrives, and suddenly secrets start spilling faster than the wine on the table.

I loved the author's descriptions – you can practically taste the food and smell the turpentine! Steeds manages to balance mystery, and romance, wrapped up in beautiful writing in a stunning setting.

A lovely book, perfect for the darker Autumn evenings.

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Village Voice

Wycombe Homeless Connection

The winter is a particularly dangerous time for people who are homeless. Wycombe Homeless Connection are asking the community to come together again this winter to offer help and hope to people who would otherwise have no option than to sleep on the street.

On 5 January, their winter night shelter will open its doors. Hosted by seven churches for one night each every week, it will be open for three months over the bleakest months of the year.

A team of 300 volunteers from across High Wycombe and beyond will come together to make it happen. Guests are greeted with a warm welcome. A hot meal is served and volunteers sit together with the guests which creates a feeling of community. Hot showers are available at some of the venues and guests can have fresh warm clothes. And most importantly, they have a safe and warm place to sleep.

All of this will happen while Wycombe Homeless Connection works to find our guests homes for good and to end homelessness in south Buckinghamshire.

If you would like to support the night shelter please sign up to volunteer! We have lots of roles that need to be filled, both in-person at the shelter and behind the scenes. Whether you like cooking, can help to transport goods, can offer to do laundry or much more, find out all about the shelter on our website.

You can also watch some of our volunteer videos to find out what volunteering at the shelter is like!

Training starts in October so don't delay and sign up today:

<https://wyhoc.org.uk/night-shelter>



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