



Holy Trinity Church
140th Anniversary
Festival



SEER GREEN

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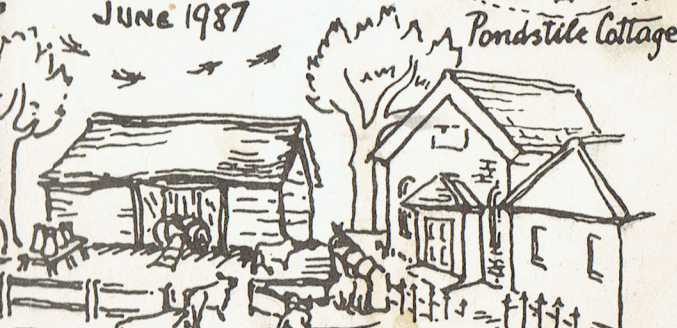
JORDANS



Let's Celebrate
Together!



12th 13th 14th
June 1987



Colliers Cottage

Manor Farm Gateway

The Old Baptist Sunday School.

FOREWORD

In the early 1840s Seer Green was very different, no church buildings, no school and no railway station. Jordans Village as such did not exist.

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER sums it all up as we give thanks this year for 140 years of life and worship in our Holy Trinity Parish Church. Previous celebrations include "Seer Green Then and Now" in Jubilee year 1977 and "Seer Green is the Theme" in 1984. We have used the booklets published in those years in compiling our Souvenir Programme with the addition of some items from Jordans Village. Many people and organisations have worked hard for this Festival to make it a success.

The Festival Programme has been designed to enable people from our two villages to celebrate together offering their gifts for the enjoyment of others - Craft, Music, Art, Exhibitions and much else. It is good that so many have agreed to take part including the Jordans (Quaker) Meeting and Seer Green Baptist Church. Both these Christian fellowships date back to days before the Parish Church was built.

I am delighted that Mrs Mamie Osborne, who with Malcolm did so much for our life together, will be with us for the Festival as chief guest.

I believe the "Holy Trinity" means that at the heart of reality there is celebration. God - Father, Son and Spirit - celebrated His own life of eternal creation, love and redemption. As we celebrate, we celebrate with God. We celebrate God.

Let's do it together

William Whiffen

Village Stories from

SEER GREEN

THEN AND NOW - 1977

A VILLAGE IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The following poem about Seer Green was written over 100 years ago, probably by a gentleman who lived in Peaceful Cottage, New Barn Lane:-

There is a place which may be seen,
It's sometimes sere and sometimes green,
It Doth with fruit trees much abound,
For 'tis encircled all around.

In the Springtime it looks most gay,
When all the trees their flowers display;
And when the fruit comes quickly on,
Warm'd by the rays of Summer's sun.

If you ask where it is found -
It lays between two rich men's ground
In Bucks, to wit, a county known
Where beech, and elm and oak are grown.

It is a place where trades abound
And often may be heard the sound
Of hammer, anvil, axe and bill -
And some are in their trades more still.

And some there are that plough the land,
And cast the seed with their right hand;
And others to their work may go
Where bushes, trees and brambles grow.

Some make the chairs on which we sit,
For us to rest ourselves a bit;
And others do the hurdles make,
To keep the sheep, lest they escape.

And some there are who make the brooms,
For gardeners, barn-men and grooms;
And some make shoes to keep our feet
From dirt and pebbles in the street.

And, if you walk a little way,
You'll see the potter with his clay -
Flower pots he makes with skilful hands,
And oftentimes, some larger pans.

And bricklayer now shall swell our score
And carpenter - not named before.
They in our list shall have a place,
Before we close up all the space.

And I must mention one more trade -
For in the Spring bee-hives are made;
And then from that to harvest work,
To gather in the fruits of earth.

And thus we toil from week to week,
An honest living for to seek;
And when the year has run its round,
We in the same trade are found.

But what about the female class?
Surely we cannot let them pass!
For, if we dare to leave them out,
No doubt but it would make them pout!

Well, some do at the washtub stand,
Rubbing and scrubbing with their hands,
To clean our linen for to wear,
And neatly sew up every tear.

And some to make new gowns to wear,
And others going here and there;
And some are ready for a run,
When the old Berkeley fox-hounds come.

Now if you trace this place around,
Three public houses may be found;
And shops are four, where we can buy
Both pins and needles and a tie.

A chapel and a church is found,
And oft' is heard the joyful sound
of Jesus Christ, who came to die
For guilty sinners such as I.

And there's a graveyard full in view -
A sacred spot to not a few -
Where our departed friends are borne -
To wait the Resurrection Morn.

And we ere long shall join them there;
Then let us now for Death prepare -
That when the summons calls us hence,
May rest on Christ, our Sure Defence.

* * * * *

A great deal of old Seer Green life is summed up in the foregoing poem. We do not intend this publication to be a history of the village; it is a compilation of stories, memories, facts about the Chapel, Church, School, houses, pubs, etc. which we hope will be of interest, not only to people born, bred and still living in Seer Green, but to our new friends and neighbours.

There is a map in the British Museum dated 1793 entitled "The Hamlet of Seer Green, being part of the Manor of Farnham Royal in the County of Buckinghamshire, belonging to the Honble. Francis Godolphin Esqr., taken in the year 1793." At that time there were about sixteen houses and cottages, but the village boundaries remain the same as they are today. It is also interesting to read that in 1086, Seer Green was known as "La Sere." (Literal translation, "Arid").

One of the most interesting houses in the village is "Colliers" in School Lane. It was known as "Colliers Farm" when Mr William Halt, great-grandfather of the late Mrs Gross purchased it from one Edmund Basill in the last decade of the 18th century. This house is still owned by the Gross family. Mr Halt opened the first shop in the village, a general store and the shop was on the left-hand side of the front door of "Colliers" with a window opposite the front door so that those inside could see who the prospective purchasers might be! The house used to be thatched and more timbered than it is today. Mr Halt was also the village constable, a powerful man

of 6ft 3 ins, well able to deal with the rowdies and clap them in the village stocks when necessary. However, he must have been a soft-hearted guardian of the Law: he used to go to Aylesbury Sessions - a journey of twenty miles - either riding or walking. If, by chance, there were any Seer Green miscreants locked up in Aylesbury Gaol at that time, Mr Halt would take them Christmas puddings and pop them through the round holes in the cell doors to console the inmates. The Halt's eldest daughter, Mary, married the Revd David Ives, Minister of the Baptist Church at Gold Hill, Chalfont St Peter, who was also the first Pastor of the Baptist Church here. She was a remarkable girl with the perception of one much older and a placid temperament. Her deep concern for others earned her the title of "The Village Star". Tragically, she died just two months after marrying the Revd David - not quite twenty two years of age.

You will have gathered from the poem that various small industries were carried on in Seer Green so there is no need to enlarge on this except to say that men and boys were mainly employed in agriculture - labourer's wages were about ten shillings a week and boys on farms earned one shilling per week. Womenfolk made lace in the 1800's and at the turn of the century, girls went into domestic service.

Mention of lace-making connected with Baptist influence in Seer Green may seem strange. However, what is now the Parish Church Hall, built in 1829, was originally a lace-making school. A group of Baptists formed a Church there in 1843, eventually purchasing the building in 1857. Prior to 1843, meetings were held in homes, indeed these people were the religious pioneers of this village.

1893 saw the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Baptist Church and with it the launching of a new-building fund - a mammoth undertaking at the time. The sum needed was about £800, roughly £20,000 today. With five guineas (£5.25) - the result of the collection at the special anniversary service - and with great faith, the scheme went ahead. The foundation stone was laid on 15th August 1899, one of the stonelayers being Mr Halford Mills, the

father of Bertram Mills of circus fame, and on Easter Monday, 1900, the Chapel was opened. People came from far and wide, by gig or on horse and the special service was addressed by the Revd John Wilson of Woolwich. At that time paraffin lamps lit the Chapel, suspended by chains from the ceiling, and the lighting was undertaken by the Deacon, Mr Ralph Loveday who lived next door.

At the turn of the century, when the Baptists were dependent on the services of lay preachers, one who was greatly loved was Mr David Lidgley, short of stature and affectionately known as "Little Dave". No story would be complete without this little incident. He liked to see his congregation so he stood on a box placed in the pulpit. One evening, in fine voice, Little Dave mounted his box and his voice rang out, "Behold! a greater than Solomon is here!" A sound of splitting wood - the box broke and the preacher sank behind the pulpit. He was reinstated on a sounder box and continued undaunted. The younger members of the congregation were helpless with laughter and even the serious Deacons found it hard to keep straight faces. Little Dave then began again - "Behold!

It should not be forgotten that Mr Frederick Saunders, whose pottery was in Potkiln Lane, was very active in the achievement of the Baptist Church, as he was in the case of the Band of Hope which was founded in 1888. In this he was aided by Mr George Worley from Old Town, Beaconsfield. At Easter they held an "Egg Service" and each child brought along one or more eggs on which was written a text or greeting. These were taken to the station by Mr Lofty in his bread van and onwards to Dr Barnardo's or other Homes, where they were much enjoyed. There was also a Flower Service, and flowers were sent to the old and sick. Other activities were a wildflower competition for children, lantern meetings, musical evenings, rambles, trips to the seaside, visits to Burnham Beeches. The Band of Hope continues in Seer Green, and the children meet on Mondays at 6.15 pm. They are well into their 90th year and hope to reach their 100th Anniversary.

Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green, also provides some fascinating and interesting memories. As you will have read,

Seer Green was originally in the Parish of Farnham Royal and before the Church was built, people went there for marriages and funerals, a journey of sixteen miles, and a coffin had to be carried that distance on a bier! Seer Green became a separate Parish in 1846, dedicated in October 1846. The Church was built on the village green at a cost of £1,250. Revd Richard Cockle was installed as Vicar, then came Revd Herbert in 1857, Mr Ottley in 1868 and Mr J. Taylor in 1870. Mr Taylor was Vicar for thirty years and is still remembered by some of the older people in the village. A well-loved character, a hard worker, he turned the produce of his garden to good account and apparently was capable of picking and bottling his own fruit. He made meat and vegetable soup and in the winter this was given to the poor of the Parish, from a large copper. We are told he invented the free wheel, and used to ride a tricycle which he made with his own hands. Obviously a good all-rounder, as he was described by a parishioner.

The railway came to Seer Green very early in the 20th century, and until then villagers used Chalfont Road Station - Chalfont and Latimer - or Wooburn, though a line went from High Wycombe to London. It was fortunate that there were quite a few village shops and tradespeople called, but journeys to Beaconsfield and Chalfont St Giles meant long walks for the housewives of the village and for people whose work took them further afield. In 1919 Seer Green station ranked as a "Halt" which served the Golf Club, and there were two trains a day. At that time when the larch plantations had not been planted and one had a clear view across the valley with only the Vicarage visible, the noble beeches of Crutches Wood stood surrounded by empty fields - the building of Jordans Village was only just beginning.

In those days people came from far and wide to see the cherry blossom in Seer Green, the village was a blaze of blossom and became known as "Cherry Pie Village". Orchards abounded where the Council houses now stand in Orchard Road, and in New Long Grove, the site of the shops, etc. etc. Most cherries were sent to Covent

Garden, but there were plenty left to be baked into pies for sale by Baker Lofty, and there was no shortage of customers. Readers may care to try the following Cherry Pie recipe, said to have been discovered in a tin box in the chimney of an old house in Seer Green in 1974:-

"For pastrie, use flour saved from ye cleanings and lard from ye fresh killed pig. Roll out verie thickly so as to contain ye cherry juice and give boddie to ye turn-over... Gather a hatful of black cherries by moonlight. Those high up are better in taste. Let them be ripe enough to contain ye juice when gentlie prest. Put a double layer in ye pastrie with four atop and seal with fresh drawn water from ye well. Cook gentlie in ye oven on a fire of faggots.. Gather round and when ye pastrie is cool enough not to scorch ye fingers, break off one end and drink ye juice.

Repeat ... and yet again ... and then again ... "

Ah! life is sweet!

Stories of cherry pies brings us to Milton Cromwell Lofty, known as Baker Lofty, whose bakery was on the site of Ernie Lofty's old shop on the corner of Orchard and Wynns-wick Roads. Baker Lofty was born in Chalfont St Giles and in 1904 he and his wife settled in Seer Green and villagers well remember the smell of bread being cooked in the old fashioned coal oven. Work was hard and tiring, entailing many hours of night work, after which it was delivered by horse and van, not only in Seer Green, but in all the adjoining villages too. In those days people often took their Sunday joint along to Baker Lofty on Sunday mornings where they were placed in the oven, cooked and collected after the villagers had attended Chapel. To within a short time of his death Baker Lofty was still serving in the shop, well-known to the village and highly respected. Lofty's grocers, as it became, was run by Ernie Lofty and now villagers, old and new, know the modern premises, still run by the Lofty family - very heartening to see a business continue in one family for so many years.

Most of our older village shops have ceased trading during the past two decades. Twenty years ago the shopping precinct was still cherry orchards, but Seer Green boasted six shops. The Post Office and General Stores in Church Road (now a private house), Mrs Hayer's little shop near the Chapel (demolished), a small General Stores in Howard Road (now a private house). Another Grocers in Chalfont Road opposite Hearn's Meadow (now offices) plus The Paper Shop. Our Post Office has not always stood in its present site. Around the turn of the century the first one was situated in the cottage next door to where the Chapel, which is now a private house, stood, and was run - in one room - by Mrs Watson. Just postage stamps were sold and letters were posted through a slit in the door. The mail was collected by a postman, on foot, from Beaconsfield Old Town and carried back there. Prior to that time stamps could be purchased from Mr Shepperd and letters posted in a box against the Jubilee Well. Before the end of the first decade a move up the road came - to the "Poplars", very near to the present Post Office. This was also a bakehouse and shop run by Mrs Fanny Worley. Soon after the first World War the Post Office moved yet again, this time to the General Stores in Church Road, run by Mrs Flossie Lofty. This, until recently, was the Wool Shop, and is now a private house. It stayed there for four decades and in 1958 moved to Howard Road where it remained for a while before moving to its present site.

In 1887 the Jubilee Well was built in Seer Green, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. It is situated on one side of the "wide place", now the garden of "Rose Cottage", opposite the old Chapel. This was the only public well for the whole of the village and was about 140 ft deep. A great meeting place for village men as they came in the evening, yokes over their shoulders ready to draw water. But, 'never on Sunday' when the Jubilee Well was locked for the day! There were other wells, "The Yew Trees", now the Coal Merchants; "The Three Horse Shoes", "The Jolly Cricketers", "Hall Place", "Perry Oak" on the corner of Wynnswick and Orchard Road and since demolished; Wynnswick Cottages; Manor Farm (where Manor Farm Way now

is); one at the Vicarage and one at Rawlings Farm. Water was precious and never wasted - yet plants and gardens thrived.

Most readers will know of the Princess Marina Centre for our spastic friends, previously known as "Ponds". The Home and the family, as we think of them, opened over thirty years ago. The activities of the family are truly inspiring and visitors can see art, products of workshops, typing, knitting, which is often done with toes, educational classes where 'O' and 'A' levels are studied and often achieved - some students are presently doing the Open University courses. Originally a farm of some 170 acres, the building was taken over by the Royal Green Jackets during the War. Afterwards it became a hostel for homeless children, then in the mid-1950's, was purchased as a home for spastics.

Nearby Rawlings House was originally a farm consisting of some 150 acres. Other farms in Seer Green included Boddys Farm, later Manor Farm, where Manor Farm Way now is, and New Barn Farm which is now a private house.

Hall Place is reputed to have been a hunting lodge of the Black Prince when Seer Green was part of a huge forest. Whether or not this is so, the building must surely be the oldest in the village. Until just after the War it consisted of five cottages. A footpath ran from the present entrance to Hall Place and into Green Wood, a much used short cut for the inhabitants going shopping to Beaconsfield and for children to school. On the left-hand side of the drive were four cottages known as "Cottage Row" or, more commonly, "Rasher Row" from the number of pigs kept there! There was a pond at the rear, also at the front and another one nearby where skating by candlelight proved a popular winter pastime. It is interesting to note that in the mid-1800's the farm labourers' cottages housed some four dozen people. Hall Place itself was purchased by the present owners, Mrs Elaine Brunner and her late husband about forty years ago, the work of altering it into one fine residence being undertaken by the then firm of local builders, F. Payne & Sons. Now the house is divided into three homes which are let.

It is to the generosity of the Revd J.H. Worsley, that we owe our Church, Vicarage and School. In 1846 he contributed £1,000 to the building of them, and the School was completed in 1859. It is believed that the first "governess" was Miss Emma J. Downe. In about 1873 she was succeeded by Miss Yates who remained "governess" for thirty years, and although strict, was held in great affection by her pupils. Her salary at that time was about £35 per year. Miss Yates' tombstone is beside the church door. At that time children went to school at the age of three years, usually leaving at about 12½ years, after attaining Standard 4, but earlier for those who achieved this Standard sooner. School hours were 9 am to noon and 2 pm to 4.30 pm and no homework in those days! (No doubt our children today will feel we have regressed!). School fees were 1d per week, but in 1880 a second class room was built and Miss Luttrell arrived to teach the infants. Fees were raised to 2d per week at which increase many parents rebelled and some children were kept at home for a week in protest. It is interesting to note that although the village has grown over the last hundred years, the number of scholars remained fairly static: 1892 - 95 children, 1914 - also 95, 1938 - 90 and in 1976 117 children. Today however there are about 200 children in the School which has been greatly increased and improved in the size and quality of the accommodation it offers. Extracts from the School Log Book make revealing reading, here are just a few:

Sept. 8, 1889 - Re-opened after 5 weeks' holiday with a very bad attendance. Sixteen children away on account of scarlet fever, for those who are not ill either live in infected houses, or are afraid to come.

August 8, 1890 - A few children have been away today, helping in the harvest fields.

October 31, 1890 - The attendance has been very bad, so many children gathering acorns.

April 9, 1891 - Holiday this afternoon, by permission of the Vicar, the Stag Hounds and Hunters being in the village and through the Vicarage grounds just before

school time. (The stag was brought to the field where the new Manor Farmhouse now stands, in a contraption akin to a horsebox. It was released, then after a certain time had elapsed the chase began. At least one person remembers that through watching this cruel ritual he was late for school and was caned!).

Feb. 10, 1893 - The attendance had been better until today, when a number of children absented themselves to gather wood.

Feb. 24, 1899 - The Assistant thinks of leaving and will possibly send in her resignation today. Her reason is that the village is too dull for her.

July 19, 1901 - Several boys away again cherry gathering.

April 8, 1902 - HM Inspector's report: "The school forms a happy family, which is being brought up in the best manner by its kind teacher."

Feb. 11, 1912 - Three children have been absent all week because they have no boots.

May 3, 1935 - Admiral James, one of the school managers visited the school, gave the scholars a description of the Battle of Jutland in which he was a participant, and then gave each child an ice cream.

Indeed Admiral James was a regular visitor to the school up to the 60's, always taking a great interest in it. The children, though, were more interested in the ices - bought from Mrs Hayer's little shop near the Chapel. When a new grandchild was born to him, Admiral James would visit the school and the children would receive an ice cream in celebration of the event.

It will be seen that in earlier days children were expected to be absent from school when harvesting was in progress, it was a case of survival in very hard times.

In about 1844, before the School was built, it seems there was an educational establishment in the village, at Greys Cottages. Indeed, there was another School run by Mrs Lane in Hall cottages, and one of the rhymes learned there speaks volumes:-

"You must not play on Sunday
Because it is a sin,
Tomorrow will be Monday
And then you may begin."

There was not much fun for children in the holidays, particularly in summer when they would glean the fields for more than half their flour for the year. They would pick up acorns, scare the birds and carry out domestic and farm tasks. The principal playing area was the "wide place", just at the corner of Manor Farm Way, where they played at hoops, tops, skipping, marbles, leap-frog. Races were run around the Church. Some of the boys spent their time at the sawpit watching trees being cut up for the chair factory near Pondstiles. Here and at others in Bottom Lane and Orchard Road, chair legs were made, as well as, it is believed, the "Windsor" chairs themselves. Chair legs were also turned at a shed adjoining "Eddystone", Chalfont Road. These were sent to the Wycombe factories.

In writing of Seer Green one cannot omit Scouting which was founded in the village by Mr Maurice (Maury) Finch in March 1923. He was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1937 and in 1949 the Seer Green Scouts received the Bar to the Medal of Merit. In 1973 the 1st Seer Green Scouts celebrated their 50th birthday, coupled with the opening of the new Scout Headquarters, the Venture Hall. It is sad that Maury Finch is no longer with us, for not only could he tell fascinating stories of life in Seer Green, but the humour with which he told them had to be heard to be believed.

A century ago Seer Green had three pubs, The Jolly Cricketers, The Three Horse Shoes and The Yew Tree. The Yew Tree in Orchard Road closed as a pub in 1909 and became a private house, then Saunders, Coal Merchants, and the last occupants were Mr and Mrs Worley. The Three Horse Shoes now run by Mr and Mrs Whiteman, is more or less as originally constructed except that the porch, over the off-licence, has been added. Apparently, years ago, there were stables at the side of what was the Bar entrance, and a wooden fence surrounded the front. Many years ago The Three Horse Shoes was run by Mr Joe Boddy, grandfather of Mrs M. Loveday and Joyce Lake who live in Bottom Lane. Mr Boddy was landlord for eighteen years, after which he

built a house in Gurnells Road - now the site of the maisonettes on the right-hand side of the road.

The Jolly Cricketers had been in the Cyster family for over 100 years until last year when Bob Cyster and his wife who had held the licence for thirty six years retired. The "Cricketers" was a typical village pub, full of old brasses and with thick wooden doors with hand-made latches. Bob Cyster kept the old beer pumps and was a member of the Campaign for Real Ale. Mr Cyster's grandfather was a blacksmith and a builder and in the yard at the back of the pub is part of the old blacksmith's shop. Bob says that the pub has been extended about three times over the years. The "Cricketers" has been the headquarters of the football and cricket teams - the cricket team, having lapsed, has been revived in recent years - the footballers now have their own Sport and Leisure Centre, and though the darts team faded away, the game is still played in the bar. The following words of advice hang in the Tap Room, hand-painted in 1881 by J. Coleman:-

"Come frequently,
Drink moderately,
Pay honourably,
Be good company,
Part friendly and
Go home quietly.
Let these few lines be no
man's sorrow,
Pay today and trust
tomorrow!

The "Cricketers" is now run by Mr R.G. Green.

On the spot where Moss Court now stands there used to be a row of cottages with attractive long gardens, well stocked and tended. The following lines will give you an idea, they are taken from a poem called "The Old Cottages", written by a lady well-known in Seer Green, the late Kathleen Hughes:-

"In Seer Green, long years ago,
They built a humble little row
Of workmen's houses, simple, plain;
Facing the narrow country lane,
Long gardens stretched behind, before,
In them was grown a goodly store -
Potatoes, onions, carrots, peas,
Old fashioned flowers mixed with these."

(Writer's note - I remember these well and loved them. To me, a "townie", they were old England and charming).

By the way, this row of cottages was very near to the "wide place" on Orchard Road side of the Parish Church, where the children used to play.

In the days before our Health Service, care for the sick was evident here. Cis Cyster and Olive Worley used to collect 4d per family per week so that if anyone was ill they could be taken to Chalfont Hospital. It is realised that similar schemes operated elsewhere, but think, in a very small community, pretty widely spread, these two good ladies regularly made their calls so that the sick could receive care they needed and be spared worry. Up to the early 1900's when there was no telephone system here or transport, if someone needed the doctor it meant a walk to Gold Hill, Chalfont St Peter to fetch Dr Brooks. He also dispensed his own medicine. One old villager remembers going on foot after school to fetch medicine, then accidentally dropping it when he got home! There was also a Parish doctor from Beaconsfield for those in very poor circumstances. For people with headaches etc., and who did not want to bother the doctor (or bear the cost) a Seer Green woman, Mrs Ann Picton, made pills - she also made her own ointments!

What was election time like here - say - sixty years ago? No, we are not becoming political! In those days a General Election was a highlight of village life, no tele or radio - it was an occasion. Women did not have the franchise, only men who were house-

holders and over twenty-one - but the village became deeply involved and without the media it was a case of local meetings in the hall or at the school which became pretty lively - an odd tomato or egg was thrown, though verbal brickbats were more usual! Children wore the rosettes showing family affiliations and so it went on. After the Election was over and the M.P. ensconced, back Seer Green went to its normal activities.

Did you know that Seer Green was probably the home of the last of the "Buckinghamshire Martyrs"? John Smith was a labourer of Farnham Royal Parish. He worshipped at Jordans though probably came from Seer Green. He was one of the many Quakers and non-Conformists persecuted for their beliefs under the Conventicle Act (1670). Members of the newly-formed Society of Friends met for worship at Old Jordans Farm, now a Guest House, but the old farm kitchen still exists. It was during a meeting at nearby Wooburn that he, along with twenty two others was arrested on July 1st, 1683. Sitting silently in prayer each was duly charged with causing a riot! A spell in Aylesbury Gaol followed and a trial at Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions. They were refused bail and found guilty, though one jurymen was apparently heard to confess afterwards that he didn't know what a riot was! John Smith was fined but steadfastly refused to pay. He was therefore committed to prison for LIFE or "The King's Pleasure". The former was to be, as, before James II issued his general pardon of 1687, John Smith died for conscience sake. Seer Green has further links with the early days of Quakerism in Daniel Wharley, a rich wool merchant, who married Mary Penington, daughter of the famous Quaker Isaac. His descendants - the spelling of the name has changed slightly through the years to Worley - still live here.

"Beautiful Bucks" has always been widely known for its trees, its interest in trees and their preservation. This remains today, and the following extracts from Parish Records will give you an idea of the vigilance shown and action taken to preserve our noble trees -

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting will be held in the Vestry on Friday the 5th inst. at 7 o'clock to consider what proceedings shall be taken in consequence of the malicious and wanton destruction of trees in the Church Yard.

William Boddy Church Wardens Henry Herbert
Charles Cyster Jan. 31st 1864 Incumbent

At a Vestry held pursuant to the above notice this fifth day of February 1864 it was proposed by Mr R. Lake that five of the trees damaged should be taken up at once and others planted in their room - seconded by Mr R. Gadbury. The following resolution was passed.

'We here present at Vestry assembled will use our utmost endeavours to protect trees planted in the Church Yard. The offer of defraying expenses being made by those present the Chairman promised to find the trees, Mr R. Lake and Mr G. Cyster volunteering to select and get them.'

PRESENT: G. Cyster R. Halt
R. Lake C. Cyster
W. Boddy G. Barnes
J. Swallow R. Gadbury
J. Hayers C. Lisley
C. Cyster (Jnr) W. Boddy (Jnr)

Henry Herbert - Chairman.

Seer Green House in Longbottom - originally a private residence was extended and became a finishing school, numbering among its pupils princesses from some of the European Royal Houses. During the second World War, it was a convalescent home for soldiers - not officers.

Broom House - Herbert Road, the poet and critic, built Broom House at the corner of Longbottom and Bottom Lane, or Spratt's Hill as it was formerly called, in 1926, and lived there until 1949. He wrote the following lines about his home, in his poem "A World Within a War" in 1943 -

"Sixteen years ago I built this house
By an oak on an acre of wild land
Its walls white against the beechwood
Its roof of Norfolk reed and sedge.

The mossy turf I levelled for a lawn
But for most part left the acre wild
Knowing I could never live
From its stony soil. My work is within
Between three stacks of books. My window
Looks out on a long line of elms ..."

When he was knighted for his services to the Arts, Read wrote of Broom House in a personal note that it was the place "where, if anywhere, the honour was earned." Friendship with Frank Morley influenced Herbert Read in the choice of Seer Green for his home. Lewis Mumford and T.S. Eliot often came to Broom House. Eliot's collection of delightful cat poems "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" was dedicated to Miss Susanna Morley (now Mrs S. Smithson), three other friends of ages varying between six and twelve and "the man in White Spats" (who was he?).

Frank and Christina Morley, who have themselves lived in Seer Green as well as Jordans have helped to get these brief notes together. "Ah yes!" Frank said, "Broom House has always been something of a hyphen between Jordans and Seer Green."

Coronation Day, 2nd June 1953, was celebrated in the village in a big way which most of the locals will tell you. Unfortunately the weather was not too good and those who could tear themselves away from the television, a novelty in those days, watched and participated in a fancy dress procession led through the village and headed in fine style by Bob Cyster from the Cricketers, on horseback, resplendent in a military style uniform. There was a fancy dress competition, a torchlight procession in the evening and a bonfire. Indeed a day to remember.

Nicknames have been a feature in Seer Green - how many of the following can you recognise:-

Catcher, Noah, Cordell, Lead, Juddy, Brandy, Hoppit, Miller, Snuffy, Josh, Sprite, Nobby, Wizard, Diddler, Blacker, Kipper, Muffin, Sales, Cockbird, Rush, Rabbit, Leggie, Topper, Puddler.

Similarly, a little local vernacular:-

"I ain't arf okkerd" I'm very annoyed
(literally 'awkward')
"I can't ackle it" I can't manage it
(literally 'tackle it')
"Aggled" Frustrated

We have covered to some extent life in Seer Green through the years, but what of now and the future. True our village has and is changing, but we pray it will remain "our village" surrounded by fields and with its own identity. It contains houses, cottages, bungalows of all sizes and a variety of people. The population in 1862 was 334 and in 1976, 1931. We have our Church and are fortunate in our Vicar and Mrs William Whiffen who do so much for the Church and the village. Likewise, the Revd Barry Cheesman and his wife who care for the Chapel and work hard in the interests of the youth of Seer Green. We have our Recreation field and the pavilion, a youth club - one which we hope will grow. The Venture Hall with its Scouts led by Brian Sims: we have our shops and now the Jubilee Hall, opened on the 9th July 1977 by Sir Ian Gilmour, Bt, who is our M.P. The Jubilee Hall is a joint project, to be used by the school children for a percentage of the week and available for rental for other activities for the remainder of the time. The Playgroup now meet in the Meeting Room, the John Orme Room of the Jubilee Hall each morning.

A debt of gratitude is owed to many people who have managed to bring this Hall to fruition, Mrs Marjorie Tomlinson, the late Mr John Orme and the Village Hall Management Committee, Bucks County Council, the School Managers and many others too, not forgetting the late Mrs Marian Gillam. The old village hall was unfortunately burned down in 1970. The hall had, in the past, been a focal point of village life, including whist drives, dances, political meetings, a base for a library service, etc. The Jubilee Hall has taken over that role and has served to bring the Community together, catering as it does for the needs of the School, the Playgroup and the many and

varied interests of the village people. It has become the focus of much of the life of the village and has proved to be a tremendous asset to the community life of Seer Green and Jordans.

On an old map of 'Seer Green in the Parish of Farnham Royal' which hangs in the School, can be read the old names of many of the fields in Seer Green at that time. Here are three of them:

Great Barrard, Coatwicks, Dell Lees

It is good to know that these names and many more will not be forgotten for these, among many others, have been perpetuated in the names of the roads in the new Manor Farm Estate.

Mr Ken Slade who was a pupil at Seer Green School from 1917-1925 has written some fascinating recollections of his school days. Alas they are too numerous to print in full but the following are a few extracts:

Seer Green being a Church of England School much emphasis was placed on the religious aspect of our education. There were prayers and at least one hymn - it was probably threequarters of an hour before we commenced lessons. The Headmistress would preside and sometimes be sarcastic about our singing..... When the line 'These creatures bless and grant that we may feast in Paradise with Thee' was sung she would say, 'I don't want to hear people singing about these screechers!' I remember playing 'Jump little wagtail no fall down'. We played all the usual games but this was the most exciting..... it was a form of leapfrog. The aim was for all the jumping side to land on the backs of the other side and hold on, feet off the ground then shout "Jump little wagtail, no fall down" before the lot of us collapsed, shouting and laughing, onto the stony playground surface. There were no prizes, no winners even but it was great fun and excitement. I have never seen this game played since those days and I have never heard of it being played anywhere else. (Do any readers, I wonder, remember playing this game?). We often played marbles. We played two different games - 'going along' and 'in a ring' and the former means exactly what it

it suggests. Two played, the first would pitch his tolly some 10ft-12 ft along the edge of the road and his opponent would pitch his tolly at the one lying ahead. If he hit it the other boy would give him one marble and it was surprising how skilled we became at this game, considering the rough roads, the loose stones, leaves and dust lying in the gutter. Many years later I was surprised to learn that the 'correct' form of marbles was played, knuckle down, the thumb nail flicking the tolly over the top of the forefinger. We could never have played like this at Seer Green - the uneven pitted surfaces of our roads and playing areas would have made this impossible.

School days were not too difficult for those with average intelligence; we got on well with our teachers and provided we worked hard we kept out of trouble. Periodically we had a visit from the Vicar it was no great effort for the Vicar as his Vicarage bounded the School grounds. It seemed to me that he was a huge man and we watched him with awe! Lessons would be stopped (and we enjoyed this!) and Daddy Stevens, as he was to us behind his back, would come in with 2 or 3 other people, smiling and good humoured. The retinue would sit and Daddy Stevens would make a short speech - I cannot remember what he talked about..... I was completely fascinated by his big, red nose, the biggest, reddest nose yet seen in my young life..... I have a fanciful vision of the Vicar and his Committee colleagues meeting at the Vicarage with lots of good humour, Scotches, Gins and Tonic, little bursts of laughter until Daddy says reluctantly, "Well I suppose we'd better go and see the little devils and get it over." No doubt I wrong him!

The dreaded Inspector! the weeks before his visit were filled with a fearful anticipation. 'You'll have to improve your writing before the Inspector comes' or, menacingly, 'The Inspector's not going to like this'. The dreaded day arrived. We were cleaner and tidier than usual and the silence when he walked into the room was absolute. He came alone. Unlike the Vicar he had no need of support, and unlike the Vicar he was unsmiling. He was a dark greying man with a grey moustache and red rimmed eyes. I remember him to this day. The teacher

introduced him brightly and nervously. He cleared his throat and in a stern solemn voice addressed the class. His theme was the virtue of hard work and learning and the fate that awaited those who wasted their schooldays. He did not speak of religion but he left no doubt in our minds that the eventual and for the idler and the truant was far worse than Daddy Steven's hellfire.....

We played football, I remember, we even had a School team. We saved up and bought our shirts, green with a red V and navy blue shorts but buying football boots was beyond us so we played in the boots we wore every day. One never-to-be-forgotten day we were required to dress in our football clothes and pose in the playground where a photographer recorded our picture for posterity, boots and all!

We even played a few away games at other Schools; I can remember playing at Herne Hill at Chalfont Heights but how did we travel? Bicycles I suppose, though I cannot remember possessing a bicycle whilst at Seer Green School.

Mr Slade expresses amusement at "sex lessons" being taught in school. "We never had such lessons either at school or at home..... occasionally one of the more forward girls would call out a provocative challenge to one of the boys. There would be a chase usually ending up behind the closets and a brief exciting tussle; the boy if he had no sisters would for the first time realise that girls' flesh was softer, different and altogether more interesting than that of boys!

I do not know what academic qualifications our teachers had, if any, but they obtained results with what was on the face of it unpromising material. They worked hard, they were patient and above all, they were dedicated. Rarely did they punish but if all else failed there was the Headmistress with her ultimate deterrent, the cane.

How many pupils were there in the School? Certainly not more than 100 and the great advantage was that the teachers knew us all. They knew our brothers and sisters, they knew our parents and on the village grapevine they knew if there was trouble in the family; if father was

'on the booze', if mother was near her time with another baby, if (to use a current expression) the child was under stress. Then there would be even more patience and kindness, a little treat perhaps, such as being allowed to go home 5 minutes early.

Mr Slade writes with warmth, humour and affection about his days at Seer Green School and we are grateful to him for providing these reflections.

Perhaps there are others in the community who would like to make notes of incidents they remember from the past. The Committee would be very pleased to receive them.

The original compilers of these village stories expressed the hope that they would be of interest both to those who had lived in the village for many years and to the many newcomers to Seer Green. They stated also that it would give them "great pleasure to present a complete history one day, but this would take a lot of time and research and would be an expensive exercise. It could be done by stages," they said, "who will carry on?"

The challenge is still there! Who will carry on? We hope this has served to stir the interest of many of you in this lovely village and that someone will take up that challenge made 10 years ago.

Original Edition compiled by
Geoffrey Sawyer and Abby
Warburton

This Edition updated for the 1987 Parish Festival

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LIFE IN SEER GREEN AND JORDANS 1987

SEER GREEN VILLAGE

Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green

Until October 1846 Seer Green village was in the parish of Farnham Royal and parishioners who wished for baptism, marriage or burial according to the order of the Church of England had to travel the eight miles or so to Farnham Royal.

This was changed in October 1846 when the present Church Building was opened for worship and Seer Green became a separate parish. The original Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers are still in use and kept in the church.

The church has always been in the Diocese of Oxford although recently the Bishop of Buckingham has been in direct pastoral oversight as our Area Bishop under the Bishop of Oxford.

In May 1986 the village of Jordans was included in the church parish of Seer Green. Services have been held regularly since the church was opened. Although the Church of England is 'established' by law no Government money is provided for the upkeep of the church or its Ministry. The Church is open throughout the day for any to use for quiet prayer and meditation. At present the affairs of the Church are directed by the Vicar, two elected Churchwardens (at present one living in Seer Green and one living in Jordans) and nineteen elected Church Councillors.

Sunday School and Creche

Two Sunday School Classes are held in the Parish Church Hall at 10 o'clock for children under 10 years old. They join the congregation in Church for the last part of the Service.

Children from 10 years upwards join with the adult congregation for worship but withdraw for their own vestry group during the Service.

A Creche is available in Church every Sunday where small

children and babies can play and be looked after. This is in the vestry so is easily accessible to parents and children at any time during the Service.

Classes are not held during the School summer holidays or on Festival Sundays, such as Easter Day, so that families may celebrate together in Church.

We enjoy parties, outings, barbecues, etc. together when the opportunity arises.

The Parish Church Flower Guild

It was suggested back in 1980 by Mrs Mamie Osborne that the parishioners who helped with the flowers in the Church should be known as the Flower Guild and she gave them tuition and valuable hints on flower arranging.

The members of the Flower Guild have been involved in decorating the Church for all the Festivals, i.e. Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and Harvest, and also on Remembrance Sunday. They have also decorated the Church for numerous Weddings and have received many compliments about the delightful settings.

If you feel you would like to join us and enjoy the relaxation of working with flowers, you will be most welcome. Contact either Margaret Rees, Mary Thornton or Una Collyer.

Mothers' Union

1986 saw Seer Green Mothers' Union celebrating with thanks giving 50 years of membership within this world wide fellowship. Our membership of 32 includes women of all ages and we look forward to many more worshippers, both men and women joining our fellowship.

Christian marriage and family life are at the centre of our meetings. We continue with a monthly afternoon meeting on the 1st Tuesday in each month. Added to this we have an occasional evening meeting, making it possible for parishioners, otherwise occupied during the day, to attend meetings and discussions and share together joys and problems in bringing up their children, the adults of the future.

Young Families Group

On the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of each month children under 5 years old and their parents come to Church for their Service and learn prayers, hymns, action songs, crafts and Bible stories appropriate to their age. Then on the 4th Tuesday afternoon there is a Holy Communion Service for all young families in the parish. Both these gatherings are to support parents asking for baptism for their children to fulfil the promises on behalf of their child.

1988 will be the Centenary of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Oxford. Plans are in hand for a Pageant to be presented at Buckingham Church in July 1988.

Church Choir

In 1949 the choir was affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. Since that time there have been many dedicated people who have given their time week by week to help with the music. Choir members have taken part in Festivals organised by the Archdeaconry of Buckingham. Two Festivals, one at St George's Chapel, Windsor and St Margaret's, Westminster, will always be remembered by those who were there.

Mrs Cameron is now helping to train the choir and we are very pleased that several members from the congregation are coming along to help with the singing.

1st Seer Green Scout Group

Scouting in Seer Green dates from 1910 when the Otter Patrol was registered, but it was from 1923 that the late Mr Maurice Finch really formed the groundwork for the successful Group we have today. Miss Olive Worley later ran the Cub Pack. Mr Finch was appointed District Scout Master in 1933. Mr Sidney Boddy succeeded Mr Finch as District Rover Scout Leader and Group Scout Leader. Maurice Finch resigned due to ill health, but even after retirement his interest, devotion and enthusiasm were still very much apparent.

1973 saw the Golden Jubilee of the Group and the building of "Venture Hall". A programme to celebrate the opening and the Jubilee was attended by the late Ralph Reader, CBE, and Mr Laurence Stringer, the H.Q. Commissioner for Scouts.

In 1968 Brian Sims joined the Group which really does owe so much to his fine efforts. In very recent years he relinquished his post as Group Scout Leader for personal reasons, but he continues to be very much involved and in fact runs the Wednesday Cub Pack.

Present day Scouting in Seer Green and Jordans continues to thrive with the aim of encouraging the physical, mental and spiritual development of boys, to enable them to cope with our modern world.

Scouting remains one of the finest ways of preparing youngsters to meet adult life.

For further information please ring our Acting Group Scout Leader, Mrs Marjorie Hunt (Beaconsfield 6362).

Seer Green Guides

The 1st Seer Green Guide Company was started in the 1920's by Miss Bennett and Miss Perryman from Beaconsfield.

Joan Goodall recalls that the Guides at this time wore "wide-brimmed hats which we had to have stiffened with a damp cloth and an iron. The iron had to be heated on a red fire, there was no electricity in Seer Green."

The Company continued to meet weekly at the Old Village Hall even through the second World War, when Miss Gordon and then Miss Judith Miller acted as "Captain", a title that was dropped in 1968. With wartime shortages, there were many difficulties. Uniforms were hard to obtain and sometimes plain triangular bandages were dyed red to wear as neckties. Camping, too, was affected; Mrs Elaine Morgan (nee Watson), a Guide at this time, writes that for Camp "ration books had to be taken and menus planned accordingly."

However, Guides and Guiding survived! Mrs Crawley-Boevey ran the Company while her husband was Vicar at Holy Trinity Church. Mrs Rose took over and then in 1975,

Mrs Heather Godfrey became Guider and later District Assistant, a position from which she retired earlier this year. Mrs Tertia McCombie took over as Guider in 1984, with Mrs Christine Burrows as a Unit Helper, and was joined by Mrs Eileen Paterson as Assistant Guider in 1986.

There are 33 enrolled Guides at present, all of whom are looking forward to a programme of outdoor activities during the summer and annual camp in August.

Brownies - 1st Seer Green Pack

The Brownies in Seer Green meet every Thursday evening in the Venture Hall.

They normally join at 7 years of age and after a few weeks in the Pack, they make the Brownie Promise:

I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God,
To serve the Queen and help other people, and
To keep the Brownie Guide Law.

The Promise Ceremony, when a Brownie wears her uniform for the first time, is an important occasion and often parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters come along to join in.

The Brownies take part in a variety of activities. This last term, for example, groups of Brownies did cooking, learnt to play the National Anthem on their musical instrument, went swimming, put on an entertainment, made toys, worked for a Conservation badge, learnt to wash their own socks and pack a suitcase, and practised skipping and ball-throwing. They also played games, did Good Turns, sang songs and made friends with the residents of Harrias House in Beaconsfield.

The most important day in the Brownie and Guide year is Thinking Day on February 22nd. This year all the Guides and Brownies in the District came to Seer Green Parish Church for a special Service on that day led by Mr Whiffen.

When they are 10 years old, the Brownies usually move on to the Guide Company in Seer Green.

The leader of the Seer Green Brownie Pack is Mrs Wendy Hines, or Brown Owl, assisted by Mrs Mary Fraser (Snowy Owl).

Seer Green Baptist Church

Our non-conformist fellowship has its origin way back in the 1820's, when Christians met together in homes and then officially formed a 'Church', in what is now the Parish Hall, in 1843.

Since then the Church has 'moved with the times' - quite literally when it moved onto the Manor Farm Estate! Now, the building (with its characteristic glass mini-spire) is very much at home in Woodpond Close, and we look forward to the completion of the Estate, later this year, bringing more new neighbours to be welcomed to our village.

The Church Fellowship today consists of some 85 members and other regular worshippers, who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and try to demonstrate His love in their daily lives. We attempt (with His help) to be what God is both steady and reliable - and yet ever new and up-to-date. And so the uses to which we put our premises continue to show God's involvement in all areas of life in worship and activities for all ages - to which we welcome you. Details of these activities can be found on the Church notice board and in the LINK magazine.

For further information, please contact:

Pastor: Barry Cheesman Beaconsfield 5010
Church Secretary: Colin Walker Chalfont St Giles 2957

Seer Green Young Wives

The Group was set up 18 years ago with the aim of encouraging young wives to meet outside the home; giving the opportunity to make new friends whilst attending talks on a wide range of subjects and participating in various social and village activities.

Any profit that is made is donated to charity. Last year £50 was donated to School and a similar amount to Playgroup. A further donation was made to the Mentally Handicapped when Phillip Sharon gave us a demonstration on Hair Care. Regular features include a meal out, barbecues, ploughman's lunch and nearly new sales.

Among items included in past programmes were talks on Lapidary, Nutrition, R.S.P.C.A., Stress Management and Beaconsfield Historical Society.

Future programmes hope to include items such as Homeopathy, Self Defence and a visit to Black Park.

Although we call ourselves Young Wives, there is no age limit and visitors are always very welcome.

For further information please contact Mrs Judi Herbert, Fourways, School Lane, Seer Green, tel: B. 5998.

The Origin of Seer Green Parish Council

On the 1st March 1894, two days before he resigned as Prime Minister at the age of 84, Mr W.E. Gladstone made his last speech in the House of Commons in support of the Parish Council Bill as the Local Government Bill was commonly called. This Bill was passed and became The Local Government Act 1894 which removed the responsibility of the Parish from the Church or Squire and put it to the people of the Parish.

A Parish Meeting of Seer Green was called under the Chairmanship of Mr W. Gurney when it was agreed an election would be held to elect the first Parish Councillors. This took place on 1st April 1895, when the following were elected:-

Mr B.E. Watson	Chairman
Mr S. Boddy	Vice Chairman
Mr B. Worley	
Mr G. Worley	
Mr W. Worley	Treasurer

At their first Council Meeting held on 9th April 1895 they appointed Mr H. Watson as Clerk and the first Precept was £4 to defray the expenses of the election

and to purchase the necessary books. The salary of the Clerk at this time was £6 p.a.

The first Parish Constables to be appointed by the Council at their meeting on 28th February 1896 were:-

Mr Herbert Watson
Mr George Lisley
Mr Vernon Lisley
Mr Thomas Swallow

The early Parish Council used to meet infrequently, not as we do today, once a month. We no longer appoint Constables but we own land and buildings and as the village has grown so have our responsibilities.

Seer Green Drama Club

The Drama Club was formed at the end of 1981. The aim, then as now, was mainly a social venture for the participation of the whole village, especially by giving members an opportunity to take part, both on and off-stage, in dramatic activities.

Over the last 6 years the Club has gone from strength to strength with comedies such as "Post Horn Gallop", thrillers such as "The Unexpected Guest" and "Towards Zero", and the emergence of very worthwhile Revue and Cabaret evenings.

Membership of the Club enables supporters to receive information about reduced price block bookings for tickets to West End plays and shows, as well as tickets for the surrounding theatres of Windsor, Watford and The Beck.

However if the Club is to continue to flourish it is important that it gets more members, particularly by finding more MEN! So if you are interested, please contact either:

Ann Wyllie, tel: B. 5023 or Michael Hargreaves
B. 6919

The Seer Green Flower Arrangement Society

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7.45 pm in the Jubilee Hall, Seer Green.

The Society was formed in 1973 with 12 members and has now grown to about 80 members. At the monthly meetings we have a demonstrator, who usually does some lovely flower arrangements and gives useful information about suitable plants which can be grown and used for flower arranging.

Members are invited to enter the monthly competitions for "Beginners", "Intermediate" and "Advanced". A "Cup" is presented to the member with the highest marks at the end of the year. Several of our members have taken "City & Guild" courses at local Colleges, and have reached a very high standard, one member is now an "Area Demonstrator".

It is not necessary to be able to arrange flowers to be a member of the Club. Indeed to some, it is just a nice relaxing evening, where one can meet friends. We have a "Sales Table", run by members of the Committee. Coffee and tea is available at the end of each meeting with special rates for senior citizens.

For any further information telephone the Chairman, Mrs Linda Young, Beac. 71361.

Seer Green Horticultural Society (1946 - 1987)

Inaugurated just after the second world war, the Seer Green Horticultural Society has continued to flourish within the community for over four decades.

In its early years the Society's Annual Show was the feature of the Village year. Flowers and vegetables apart, there were running races for children, ladies and veterans and a "Marathon". Whether the Society is responsible for the post war boom in such events as the London Marathon remains a matter of conjecture! Side shows of the time featured "Toad-in-the-Hole" and a Chinese Laundry, all to the accompaniment of a brass band. Indeed such was the success of the Society that the question of tax on Society funds was minuted at an early meeting, chaired by an Admiral no less!

In 1987, although unable to boast "an Admiral" as President, the Society continues to provide a focus for the gardening family within the community. There are 3 Shows a year, a Spring Exhibition usually in late April,, a Summer Show in early July and an Autumn Show in September. With a total of 174 Classes and 18 Trophies there is room for all level of gardeners, mum, dad and the children. For the coming year, we urgently need more entries from new members to make a broader base on which we can build for the next 40 years.

Seer Green Tree Group

Many people will have seen our Exhibition in Jubilee Hall on Cherry Pie Fayre day, two years ago, in celebration of the tenth year of our existence.

During that time, and since, we have planted literally hundreds of trees around the village, the school and recreation grounds, farms, woods and elsewhere. We have supplied the occasional memorial tree and conducted a memorable Tree Preservation Order. To perpetuate the Cherry Pie tradition, we have planted five black cherry trees in the grounds of the school and the Princess Marina Centre.

We are greatly indebted to the latter for the site of our Tree Bank, which has upwards of 200 hardwoods of some fifteen species. Trees are available free to Seer Green residents, subject to advice on species and planting time. and we should be delighted to hear from anyone wanting a tree.

May we congratulate residents on the number and variety of trees which they have planted in their gardens. It has been a pleasure to help.

Seer Green Over 60s Club

Our Over 60s Club has been running as long as Her Majesty The Queen has reigned - being formed in 1952. Some people in our Village then had the idea of providing a fortnightly meeting for the friendship and companionship of older people in the Parish of Seer Green and in Jordans Village.

Meeting first in the old Village Hall, then in the old Baptist Sunday School, the Club moved to the Jubilee Hall when that opened in 1977, meeting first in the Committee Room and then moving in 1980 to the large Jubilee Hall when numbers increased.

Card games, film shows, dominoes, slides and talks are arranged and a lovely afternoon tea is served at each meeting. The annual Christmas Dinner is a highlight and ~~some~~ years a summer lunch is arranged and is most enjoyable.

The warm community spirit in Seer Green produces a large number of volunteers who help with the catering and also ferrying members to and from meetings.

Members work hard for their own Sale each year and are grateful for all the help given to raise money for running expenses. Coach trips for shopping and garden visits are arranged and one or two day-trips to the sea-side and for fruit picking.

Contact Sheila Woodall (B. 6412) or Charles Sonnex
(B. 78217)

The Women's Institute

The Seer Green Institute was formed in March 1925 and some 60/70 members attended. The subscription was 2/6d per annum. In 1933 members of the Jordans Institute were welcomed and it was agreed that the name should be changed to the Seer Green & Jordans Institute. Jordans again formed their own organisation in 1970 but the name has not been altered.

One of the first public duties carried out by members was the formation of an anti-litter league to keep the village tidy. This was in 1930 and later strong support was given to the move to install a telephone kiosk at the corner of Chalfont Road. The Institute was responsible for the appointment of a District Nurse, and for the setting out and equipment of a children's playground in Green Meadow.

Arrangements were made for the billeting of 400 children and adults from London in the event of war, and during hostilities enthusiastic support was given to many activities for the benefit of the Forces and refugees abroad.

The Village Hall, where monthly meetings had been held since 1927, was burnt down in 1970. Immediately the Institute began fund raising efforts for the building of a new Hall and over £600 was collected.

The Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1975 and to mark the occasion a seat was installed at the corner of Manor Farm Way. In 1985 the Golden Jubilee Year, a Luncheon was held at which the guest speaker was Mr Val Doonican, a well known member of the Village.

The membership remains at 70 but the subscription has now risen to £5.60.

Seer Green C of E Combined School

During the year 1859 a school was built in Seer Green. It was a 'neat brick structure' with a school house and school room and cost £500. Miss Emma J. Downes of Truro in Cornwall became the first mistress of Seer Green National School. The original school room is still used today though the school now benefits from additions made throughout the years. The most recent extension was added in 1984 and gives space and a modern face to the old buildings.

The old school log books and admission registers not only remind us of family names that still continue in the life of the village, but also give us a vivid picture of the changing community which the school has always served. An entry in the log book for June, 1896, refers to poor attendance: 'the children do not attend very well as they are engaged in carrying meals to the men who are gathering fruit.' No longer do children stay away from school to beat for shooting parties or to gather acorns! The school is an essential part of a thriving village and as pupils program computers in rooms where children in the past used slates, it is good to see Seer Green School continuing to play its part into the next century.

E.A.G.

Eight O'Clock Club

The Eight O'Clock Club was opened in 1982, after lengthy consultation and discussion between the then incumbent and myself.

It was realised that there was a need for a Group to serve the needs both socially and in a friendly environment for both Church people and the Village generally where talks and outings of interest and culture could be heard and seen. It was particularly thought that this was needed by both sexes and with an 'open ended age range' and thus the Group was opened. It has grown in support, numbers and its activities, etc. Speakers indeed are vastly varied, ranging from talks by Departments of Local Government, Library Service, etc. to those by Medical Missionaries and outings and holidays have regularly been arranged and attended. It is very gratifying to say that approximately three quarters of those originally coming to the Group in 1982 are still regular active participants although visitors, etc. are always welcome indeed.

Any enquiries about the Group, of which there is no actual membership, people coming as they wish, should be made to Joyce M. Bardouleau, 64 Farmers Way, Seer Green, Bucks, telephone Beaconsfield 71164, or do come along to any meeting, where a warm welcome is extended to all. We meet once a month on the second Thursday evening, at, of course, eight o'clock, at the Parish Hall, Chalfont Road, Seer Green, during the months of February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December - i.e. no meetings, January, July or August. Christmas Dinners and parties are arranged in December.

The Group also actively supports our local Hospice, the Samaritans and other very worthy Charities.

Seer Green Music

Seer Green Music was started in 1978 by Gill and Alan Smyth, who had just moved into the Village.

After a pilot concert, a series of evenings was organised, presenting the best musicians of international repute in the acoustically excellent Jubilee Hall, then just completed.

10 years of concerts have followed, with a series of four planned for next year's season, starting in September.

Seer Green Music artists have included:-

Gabrieli Quartet	Delme Quartet
Jack Brymer	Quartet of London
Anthony Goldstone	Susan Milan
Orsini Quartet	Richard Adney
Homi Kanga	Skyla Kanga
Cann Sisters	Guarnerius Quintet
Gagliano Trio	Serenata of London
Alberni Quartet	Kenneth Sillito
David Snell	Barry Douglas
Celia Nicklin	Razoumovsky Quartet

There is a flourishing subscription list. Subscribers are assured of a numbered, reserved seat, a free programme, wine or squash after the concert, and a chance to meet the artists. There is ample parking.

This is a delightful way to enjoy great music in a local context, with no compromise of artistic standards.

Alan Smyth has all the details - to add your name to the free mailing list - ring him on Beaconsfield 5900 - or write to:-

Clear Croft, Bottom Lane, Seer Green HP9 2UH

Seer Green Village Playgroup

Seer Green Village Playgroup is held in the Meeting Room of the Jubilee Hall, adjacent to Seer Green School in School Lane. Sessions are held daily from 9 am - 11.45 during school terms,

The Playgroup caters for pre-school children of 3 - 5 years and provides a safe, stimulating and happy environment in which young children learn self-confidence and the ability to mix and share with a large number of children, in preparation for school.

Activities include water and sand play, painting, drawing, cutting, sticking, playing with puzzles, dough, clay and group games. Cooking, P.E. and Nature Study all have their part in Playgroup. The Playgroup has a home corner

and a plentiful supply of books. Stories, singing, rhymes and music are included every day. Children approaching school age are encouraged in their pre-reading skills.

The Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Playgroups Association and is run by a Committee of parents who employ one full-time Playleader and two part-time Assistants. Parental involvement is active and encouraged. The Playgroup has good and valued links with Seer Green School, its Head and First School teachers.

Please drop in to visit any morning or ring our Playleader Margaret Ridley at Playgroup (B. 3679) 9 - 12 noon in term time or at home on B. 5938.

A waiting list is maintained.

The Princess Marina Centre

Princess Marina is one of the Spastics Society's largest Residential Units, accommodating fifty-four adults who have Cerebral Palsy. There is provision for both single and married residents.

The individual's right to make choices is central to all that Princess Marina stands for.

Each resident has an individual time-table within the Activities and Educational programme, catering to their particular needs.

The current programme includes: Craftwork, Computers, Art, Swimming, Yoga, Horticulture, Games and Pottery, as well as English, Music, Drama, Photography and Social training.

Alongside these educational and recreational activities, the Centre also offers: Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy and Speech Therapy.

There is a Residents' Council elected by the residents to represent their views and to liaise with the management.

Encouraging residents to maximise their potential and take as much responsibility for their own lives is fundamental to the philosophy of the Centre. A ten bedded independent living unit has been established.

Volunteers are welcomed by residents and staff particularly for letter-writing and supporting other activities such as Riding and Yoga.

Drivers are particularly welcome as residents rely on volunteers to help with shopping trips, etc.

For further information, please contact:

Steve Barnard, Manager,
Princess Marina, Chalfont Road,
Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
Tel: Chalfont St Giles 4231

Seer Green Cricket Club

The Cricket Club was reconstituted in 1979 and primarily by the creative organisation of the late John Orme is now flourishing. Anyone mildly interested in cricket found himself seconded onto the Committee and numerous working parties.

Several years had elapsed since cricket had been played on the recreation ground and the square had degenerated almost to a field, so much of the early enthusiasm was directed to improving the playing surface.

As a result of much voluntary effort, led by Honorary Groundsman, John Fox, we now have a square to be proud of; one that visiting teams are pleased to play on and one that our Village School uses for School matches.

In the last five years steady work has been done to create a Club spirit with about 25 playing members plus wives and girl friends who have done sterling work with fund raising and teas. One of the main events on our varied and friendly fixture list is the Village six-a-side when one Sunday in July is set aside as a cricket fun day for the Village. Each year several hundred people spend the afternoon and evening eating and drinking whilst supporting their team which ranges from the Young Wives, to Pub teams and schoolboys and girls.

New members are always welcome as players or supporters so come and meet us at the Pavilion one weekend but especially come and support, or play, in the Village 6-a-side (on 28 June this year)

Short History of Beaconsfield Golf Club

Beaconsfield Golf Club owes its existence to the Du Pre family, or, more accurately, to one of that family, Colonel William Bering Du Pre. The family lived at Wilton Park and the earliest record of the estate goes back to 1209 when it was called Wheltones and was part of the Manor of Beaconsfield. Colonel Du Pre was in the Regular Army and was posted abroad from time to time when he used to let the house and that is how the Grenfell family and Sir John Aird are part of the history of the Club as tenants of the House. The formation of the Wilton Park Golf Club by Colonel Du Pre occurred in 1906. It was a nine hole course in the grounds of Wilton Park but in 1913, the Colonel decided to construct an 18 hole course, all on new ground, and the name was changed to Beaconsfield Golf Club.

When the railway was built in 1906 it cut right through the Du Pre estate and the Colonel had the foresight to arrange for the Halt to be built at Seer Green and the Clubhouse to be built beside it.

The first recorded President of the Club was Lord Desborough in 1922 who was a member of the Grenfell family who had close associations with Beaconsfield. In 1923, Lord Burnham became President. His family, the Lawsons of Hall Barn need no introduction and their name will always be associated with the Daily Telegraph. He was succeeded in 1934 by Lord Lewisham who was President until the War. There have been some distinguished names among the Honorary Members of the Club. In 1920, the Minutes of a meeting were recorded thus: 'It was decided to invite HRH The Prince of Wales to become an Honorary Member.' Other famous names include David Lloyd George and Stanley Baldwin.

Seer Green and Jordans Society (What it is. What it aims to do)

The Seer Green & Jordans Society grew from the former Preservation Society, mainly because it was agreed that "Preservation" was not forward-looking, and that it was necessary to suggest and encourage new ideas, and generally hold a yard-stick to the Local Authority. We believed

that a collective opinion was of more help to the Authority than individual ones.

Basically, the Society sets out to provide a focal point where ideas, suggestions and opinions on developments and activities in the local area can be discussed. They are then presented as a collective opinion to the proper Authority, in time for that opinion to be heard and considered before any decision is made.

As we have progressed over the years, we have kept a close liaison with the Local Parish Councils, Jordans Village Management Committee, and the District Council. We are affiliated to the C.P.R.E. Penn County Branch, to the Chiltern Society and the Civic Trust - which has been of considerable mutual benefit.

Among the many things we have actively discussed, and then challenged or supported, have been building development, large and small, road safety, footpaths, rubbish tips, trees, and times of trains at Sear Green. Some of these may have seemed trivial at the time, but equally may have proved important as the "thin end of the wedge". We aim to debate and consider all items which come within the scope of our aims.

The proposals for the Conservation Area at Jordans are at the time of writing before the Chiltern District Council, who are considering a Planning Department report on the scheme. Once this has been agreed and then accepted by the full Council, the area can then be formally designated. It does not have to go to Higher Authority, so hopefully, there should not be much further delay.

For the future, our concerns are for the recent draft circular of the Department of the Environment containing proposals to ease planning restrictions on the development of farmland, and we have initiated communication with the various relevant bodies to raise their consciousness about the problems it will present to our community. We have also contacted the Keep Britain Tidy Group who will be publishing shortly a project for small communities which we hope to be implementing later this year.

JORDANS VILLAGE

Jordans Village takes its name from Old Jordans, the farmstead where Quaker farmers lived in the 17th Century.

The idea of creating a Village Estate at Jordans took definite shape in 1915-16, when land became available and enabled Friends to fulfil a long-cherished wish to do something to preserve the surroundings of Jordans Meeting House, an area with a long Quaker history.

From the outset, the scheme went beyond the mere sterilisation of a few fields. The Jordans Committee, which conceived the project, considered it an opportunity to establish a village community. The declared aim was to create a Village based on Christian principles and in a manner serviceable to the national well-being by promoting suitable industries and to establish and carry on religious, social, recreative and educational works and institutions. The Village was intended to be a community where, among others, artisans could ply their trades and skills in conditions that would provide a fuller opportunity for the development of character and self-expression than existed at the time under normal conditions. It was not necessary to be a Quaker to come to the Village.

Building began in 1919 and the Village dates its official founding as 15th February of that year, the day the commemorative bricks were laid on the foundations of the first house to be built.

The development of the Village has been spread over more than 60 years. Responsibility for administering and maintaining the Village Estate is vested in the Committee of Management, assisted by a Secretary and an Estate Manager. The Tenant Members' Committee came into existence in 1921 and soon afterwards sent representatives to sit on the Management Committee.

The TMC, as it is usually called, organises a number of public events during the year, the most important being the Tenant Members' Supper. This is held in the Village Hall, on the nearest Friday to the 15th February, to

commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the Village. The Supper is something more than a social occasion, it is an integral part of the Village life. The TMC also holds a Summer Fair to raise funds to maintain or improve Village amenities and to carry out other activities such as the Bonfire Night festivities held on the nearest Saturday to November 5th on the Village Green.

The first group to concern itself with cultural and educational aspect of Village life was the Social Guild, which was formed by villagers while the builders' sheds were still being set up. Evidence of the Guild's vigour and enthusiasm is still apparent in the form of the Village Hall. In their spare time, the workers of the Village built the Hall in the space of six weeks, during 1919, to house the Social Guild activities - it was then known as the Guild Hall - using materials given by the Management Committee. It has since been enlarged and is used by Village groups and societies.

Old Jordans, known as "The Hostel" since the old farm was bought and turned into a hostel by the Society of Friends, continues to serve the community in many ways, primarily as a centre for rest and inspiration for private guests and conferences.

The old farm barn, the Mayflower Barn, also built in 1624, is a large, typical Buckinghamshire barn and one of the best preserved. Many of the roof tiles are probably original.

Jordans Meeting is one of the oldest established Quaker Meetings and the largest country Meeting. The Meeting House (New Jordans) is probably the best known of all Friends Meeting Houses although it is not the earliest. It was built in 1688 by a small band of Quakers who had been worshipping in Jordans Farm from the late 1650s (now Old Jordans Guest House). William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, is buried in the Meeting House grounds, with his two wives and several of his children.

We are fortunate to have this beautiful and peaceful setting. The resident Warden and his wife keep up a beautiful garden. The Meeting House is visited by

about 10,000 people each year. The Warden welcomes them and often gives a short lecture on the history and the way of Quakerism. Coach loads come from many denominations, schools and societies.

We have a meeting for Worship every Sunday morning at 10.30 to which visitors are most welcome. The children and babies join us from their classes for the last 10 minutes of meeting.

A Quaker Meeting is based on silence, but it is one of waiting and expectancy. We do not recite a creed, sing hymns or repeat set prayers. There is no priest and no pre-arranged service. We want to worship simply - all of us are trying to come nearer to God and to each other. Anyone is free to speak, read or pray and the silence is broken when one of those present feel that he has something to offer, which will deepen and enrich the experience of worship. In the quietness of a Quaker Meeting deep refreshment can be found.

Just above the Meeting House is Jordans Youth Hostel, which was opened in 1931. It was built and given to the Youth Hostels Association by Friends in the Village.

Jordans County First School is the successor of several small private schools that provided education for young children from 1922 onwards. The school was opened in 1943 and accommodated in the Village Hall with 12 children on the roll. A year later, it moved to buildings on the present site and these were extended in 1966.

This short summary of the history of Jordans Village is extracted with permission from the Jordan's Directory.

A list of some of the Village Groups & Societies follows:

Jordans Environmental Trust. Hon. Sec.: E. Rowley
The Trust - a registered charity - was formed in 1973 with several generous donations from residents in Jordans. It aims to acquire and preserve land and properties within a ten mile radius of Jordans Meeting House by way of gift or purchase and to negotiate covenants for the benefit of the community. The Trust owns 4½ acres in Long Bottom and was given land by Chelsea Cottage.

Jordans Singers

Directed by D. Roseveare. Hon Treas.: Katherine Bradnock
The Singers meet once a week to rehearse a wide variety
of choral music and give concerts several times a year.

Music Club Hon. Sec.: Doreen English

With the support of the National Federation of Music
Societies, seasons of concerts with artists of inter-
national reputation are arranged. These are held in
the Mayflower Barn, Old Jordans, on Saturdays in the
summer. Informal village concerts are also held in
the Village Hall during the winter.

Players Hon. Sec.: W.D. Barrow

Plays are presented in the Village Hall and in the
Mayflower Barn. Occasional evenings are arranged by
individual members in the Village Hall.
Theatre coach outings are also arranged.

Young Jordans Group Leader: Alan Loveday

An independent youth group which meets fortnightly
in the village.

SPORTS CLUBS

Bowls Hon. Sec.: Sheila Burnikell (Beac. 3718)
Playing season from May to the end of September according
to the weather. Club meetings on Tuesday and Thursday
evenings and at weekends. Matches with other Clubs
and competitions among members.

Cricket Hon. Sec.: Tim Bingle (Beac. 6433)
Matches with local villages from the end of April to
the beginning of October on Saturdays and Sundays, either
on the Village Green or away. During the season practice
nets are available on Wednesday evenings on the Village
Green.

Tennis Hon. Sec.: Liz Bradbury (Beac. 4896)
There is one hard court which can be booked by individual
members.

Holy Trinity Seer Green **140th Anniversay Festival**

12th, 13th, 14th June 1987

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday 13th June

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2 pm | Opening of Flower and Craft
Festival Mrs Mamie Osborne in the
Church |
| 7 pm | Concert in Jubilee Hall |

Saturday 13th June

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 9-10.30 am | Art Competition - Hall Place |
| 11 am | Judging of Competition and Prize
Giving in the Church Hall |
| 9.30am-5 pm | Exhibition in School |
| 12 noon | Guides and Scouts Tent Pitching
on School Grounds |
| 12.30-1.30pm | Barbecue Picnic on School Grounds |
| 10am-7 pm | Flower and Craft Festival in the
Church |
| 10am-5 pm | Exhibition of Paintings - Parish
Church Hall |
| 8 pm | Delme String Quartet with
Keith Puddy - Clarinet - in the
Church |

Sunday 14th June

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10.30 am | Simon, Bishop of Buckingham dedicates the Garden of Remembrance and the Book of Remembrance |
| 11 am | Service of Confirmation - Bishop of Buckingham |
| 12-5 pm | Exhibition in School |
| 12-6 pm | Flower and Craft Festival |
| 12-5 pm | Exhibition of Paintings in Church Hall |
| 12.30 pm | Bring and enjoy lunch |
| 2 pm | Craft making displays in gardens around Church |
| 6 pm | Dramatic Readings in Church on theme Seer Green with Jordans - Let's Celebrate Together |
| 7 pm | Songs of Praise in Churchyard |

Teas will be served in the Parish Church Hall -

Saturday 10am to 12 noon

2-5 pm

Sunday 3-5 pm

Coffee or tea will be available at the School during Saturday morning.