



# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trail – Village Route



This trail was created by Seer Green Parish Council to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022. It follows a tradition in Seer Green of recognising these significant dates in the history of our Country and is similar to a trail created for the Golden Jubilee in 2002.

**START & FINISH:** Jubilee Walk, next to The Three Horseshoes Pub, Orchard Road, Seer Green, HP9 2XX.

**DISTANCE:** 2.25 miles and will take approx. 1.5 hrs to complete (depending how long you take to solve the clues).

**TERRAIN:** Mainly on pavements and public footpaths but some paths can become soft and muddy after rain. Parts of the trail may be unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Two short sections have no footpath. Please take extreme care here.

**FACILITIES:** There are no public toilets available and no opportunity to purchase refreshments until you return to the village centre.

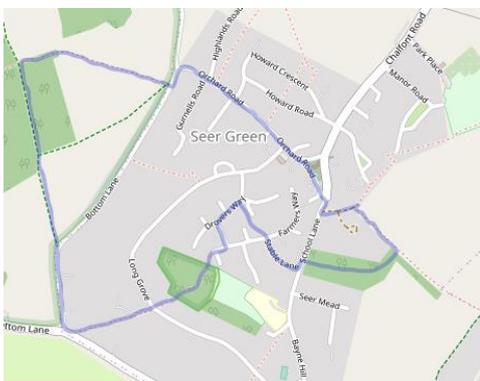
As well as hopefully being a pleasant walk around the village of Seer Green, the trail also passes by a number of places in the village of historical interest and there is information about the places provided here. Additional details about these places and much more information about the village can be found on the Our Living Village website at <https://www.ourlivingvillage.org/>, which is maintained by the Seer Green & Jordans Society, and we are grateful to the Society for their help and support.

For the young and young at heart, there is a treasure trail which provides a number of clues to solve. Each clue will provide a letter (or maybe more than one letter!) which form an anagram. Solving the clues and the anagram will give you a word relevant to the trail and event.

Seer Green Parish Council cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or injury sustained by any person(s) or pet(s) using the trail.

## Trail Route

The trail route is shown on the map on the left below. Take a look at how the centre of the village has changed over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by comparing this map with the one on the right.



The map on the right was published in 1900, the orchards are shown on the map as -  . Seer Green had extensive cherry orchards, the produce from which were sent as far as Covent Garden Market in London. Cherry Pies using the locally grown cherries were made in the village and this is why Seer Green is known as the Cherry Pie village and there is the annual Cherry Pie Fair.

The trail starts at the end of Jubilee Walk nearest to Holy Trinity Church, next to the Three Horseshoes pub.

1. Whilst a playground existed at this location previously, Jubilee Walk was named to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Across the road, Holy Trinity Church was built in 1846 on what was then the village green at a total cost of £1200.

*Clue 1 – For the first clue look up high, find a ringer, you need the start of the dinger, any time you can see it, but on Sundays you hear it, its first letter will get you off to a zinger!*



- Facing Holy Trinity Church, turn right and follow Orchard Road past Manor Farm Way on your right. This was the site of the original Manor Farmhouse. The area where Orchard Road joins Chalfont Road was once known as the Wide Place.



This was also the site of the first public well in the village. The well was built to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. You can see the well to the right in the picture below. If you look at the cottages today, the position of the well would be in front of the garden of Rose Cottage to the right of the gate.

- Continue walking along Chalfont Road which shortly becomes School Lane. You will shortly cross the road by the Old Parish Church Hall to take the track opposite. Before you do, take a look at Colliers, one of the oldest buildings in the village. The Old Parish Church Hall was originally built as a lace making school and Seer Green became well known for the quality of the lace produced, later it became the Baptist Church and then the Parish Church Hall.
- Take care crossing the road, but before you follow the track, you now have a new clue!

*Clue 2 - There are 3 numbers nailed to the pole. Add up the total of these numbers. If A=1 and Z=26, what letter of the alphabet would this be?*



- Follow the track, On the right is the entrance to Hall Place, probably the oldest building in Seer Green. It was once thought that it was built as a hunting lodge for The Black Prince (1330 – 1376) when Seer Green was surrounded by forests, but this is now believed to be a local legend. On your left, over the top of a gate you may glimpse Pondstile, another of the oldest buildings in the village. The track splits into 3 – take the right-hand fork. As you walk along, to your right you can see the back of Hall Place.



- Continue along the track and then take the first footpath on your right into Green Wood. This is one of the last remaining pieces of ancient woodland in the village, and is called Coat Wicks on the 1753 map extract, on the right. The map extract shows approximately the same area as the other two maps.



- Follow any of the main paths through the woods until you re-join School Lane. Turn to your left and walk to the War Memorial. The memorial was constructed by public subscription as recently as 2013 and now forms the centrepiece of the village Remembrance Sunday service.
- Carefully cross School Lane and walk-up Stable Lane. The Manor Farm Estate was built in the late 1970's and marked a significant increase in village population. The estate makes up just under 20% of the homes in the village and was built on fields which once belonging to Manor Farm. Some of the street names reflect this history having taken their names from the old field names such as Dell Lees, Culvers Croft & Barrards Way. Some street names reflect other local places such as Coat Wicks and history such as Godolphin Road, from Francis Godolphin who owned Seer Green (and its 16 houses) in 1753.
- At the end of Stable Lane, carefully cross Farmers Way and take the footpath between the houses, past the Green and into the Baptist Church car park, there is a clue here!

*Clue 3 – There is a defibrillator on the wall of the Baptist Church – on the box is the location using “What Three Words” – The entire world has been divided into individual 3m squares, each square is identified by a unique combination of 3 words. The answer you are looking for is the first letter of a word that appears in both this clue and the 3-word location on the box!*

The Baptists have a long history in Seer Green dating back to the 1820’s. Having first met in people’s homes, the Lacemaking School (now the Old Parish Church Hall) was bought as the Church and then subsequently the “old” Baptist Church was built on Chalfont Road. The “new” Baptist Church was built in 1980 at the same time as the rest of the Manor Farm Estate.



10. Leave the Baptist Church car park by the green sign and turn left into Drovers Way, turn left into Godolphin Road and right into Farmers Way. At the end of Farmers Way take the footpath on the left into Long Grove Wood.

Long Grove Wood is a nature reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust. In the woods you will find many beech and hornbeam trees. Holly and birch can be found in more open areas where trees have had to be pruned or felled. There are a number of old beech coppice stools (multi-stemmed stumps) because of prolonged coppicing of the trees in the past. Coppicing is where the main stem of a tree is cut, and new growth starts from the stump. This produces multiple smaller stems which are the cut at regular intervals and could be used for charcoal production or turned on a lathe to make spindles for the High Wycombe chair industry. Turning wood in this way is known as bodging.

11. Follow any of the main paths through Long Grove Wood and into the narrow path between fences to exit into Old Long Grove. Cross over Old Long Grove to follow the footpath on the other side. But don’t go too far, there is a clue here! (If you want to return to the start, do not cross over Old Long Grove, turn right and follow Long Grove back to the village centre although you will miss some clues)

*Clue 4 – Once you have crossed Old Long Grove you will follow a footpath down the hill, but on your right is a fence with concrete posts, you now need to do a bit of algebra to solve this equation.*

Number of Concrete Fences Posts + 1 = X

3

*If A=1 and Z=26, then what letter is represented by X? (and it’s not X!)*

12. At the end of the footpath turn right onto Longbottom Lane – TAKE CARE this is a narrow footpath and traffic moves quickly – note that there are no more clues until you are safely away from the traffic.



13. As you turn the corner into Bottom Lane, you will pass Broom House. This was built by author and poet Sir Herbert Read. The poet T S Eliot was a regular visitor to Broom House and his poetry collection “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats” was dedicated to Miss Susanna Morley who lived in Seer Green. It was this collection which inspired Andrew Lloyd Webbers globally successful musical, “Cats”.

14. TAKING EXTREME CARE turn right into Bottom Lane – there is NO FOOTPATH for approximately 250 yards.

15. After about 250 yards take the footpath on the left between the fields and continue on into Blue Close Wood. After entering the woods, continue to follow the path round to the left, through the woods for a further 300 yards until you reach a four-way crossing of footpaths.

In late April and early May, the woods are awash with bluebells making a truly spectacular sight



16. When you reach the sign showing 4 different footpath directions. Take the right-hand path through the metal gate.

*Clue 5 – Take a look at the plaque on the gate – there are 2 of the letters you need here – they are identical twins and sitting next to each other.*

17. Follow the path up the hill and straight on at the top into the next field. Take the path across the field which is locally referred to as One Tree Field due to the large single Oak tree in the field. You will pass the oak tree on your left. This tree used to be part of a mature hedgerow across the field which was cut down in the mid-1970s. When villagers saw what was happening, they rushed to the field and formed a human shield around this tree to prevent it from being felled. To see pictures of this tree through the seasons visit <https://www.instagram.com/onetreefieldsg/> . Janna Holder has taken a picture of this tree every day throughout the year, capturing the changing seasons from the cold of Midwinter through the Spring where the leaves and crops are growing, turning golden through the Summer, Autumn leaf fall and harvest and back to ploughing for another growing season.

18. At the end of the path turn left into Bottom Lane – TAKE EXTREME CARE, there is no footpath, and it is very narrow. In a few yards, you will be able to get back onto a footpath. Follow Orchard Road round to the right. If you revisit the map from the early 1900's you can see that Orchard Road had cherry orchards either side of the road where now there is housing. Carry on along the road until you reach the corner of Orchard Road & Wynnswick Road. The flats at Orchard Court were built on the site of the Lofty Family Bakery who made the famous Seer Green Cherry Pies. The bakery was in a number of locations over the years with the Lofty family's final shop being where the current parade of shops is.



19. Continue along Orchard Road until you are standing outside number 40a, if you look back along Orchard Road, you are approximately where the photo below was taken early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the road was called Beaconsfield Road. The scene has certainly changed over the years!



20. Carry on along Orchard Road until you reach the corner of Orchard Road and Raeside Close. This was the site of the Yew Tree pub (in the picture on the right) – It's surprising how a village as small as Seer Green could support 3 pubs at one time.



21. Continue on along Orchard Road, until you are in front of the shops. Here you will find a bench with a plaque dedicated to the Lofty Family. This will help with your final clue.

*Clue 6 – Can you solve this riddle, “Baker & Grocer, Cherry Pies are the best – this letter's in Ernie, but not in Ernest.”*

22. Now you have all the letters, you should be able to work out what the word is. Remember there are 6 clues but 7 letters!



23. Carry on down Orchard Road, past the Three Horseshoes back to the starting point

Hopefully you have collected all of the clues and have worked out the anagram, but if not the answers can be found on the Parish Council website. [www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

