



# SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL JUBILEE TRAIL

## **SEER GREEN HISTORY**

There is a legend that King Arthur's 'seer', Merlin, rested here on his journeys to and from Camelot. Locals would consult with him about the future at the village well. A more likely origin of the name 'Seer' comes from a Norman map that shows a hamlet called 'Sere' (literally 'dry').

Edward, the Black Prince (1330-1376) hunted in the large forests that covered the area and built a hunting box close by. The box is now called Hall Place and is in private ownership. This is the oldest building in Seer Green and is remarkably well preserved. The epithet 'Black Prince', probably posthumous, referred to his black armour.

In the 1800's, the centre of the village was dominated by cherry orchards.

Local people would harvest the fruit and take it by horse and cart to Covent Garden, the great London fruit and vegetable market. Seer Green became known as the 'Cherry Pie Village' and held a Cherry Pie Fayre every year.

Sadly, many of the orchards have disappeared but the careful observer can still find the odd tree. The Parish Council have begun a modest programme of cherry tree planting to recapture some of the former scenes.

The principal source of employment in earlier years was based on agriculture. Some small industries such as chair bodging, tile and brick manufacture in nearby Potkilm Lane, and lace making were also in evidence.

The Parish Village Hall was built in 1829 as a lace making school for women and girls in the village. Seer Green was renowned for its lace and the Seer Green pattern was the motif for many beautiful pieces of work.

The arrival of the railways in the early 1900s brought irrevocable change to Seer Green with the demand for housing away from the busy city centres but within commuting distance for work.

However, Seer Green jealously guards its village atmosphere and surrounded as it is by trees and fields, will seek to preserve its heritage.

## **THE JUBILEE TRAIL**

The Trail was designed as a way of celebrating and commemorating the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June 2002.

It is based on roads, bridleways and footpaths that are accessible to members of the public at the date of publication of this Guide.

The Seer Green Parish Council cannot accept any responsibility for any closure (temporary or otherwise) that may inhibit any person(s) using the Trail nor responsibility for any loss or injury sustained by any person(s) or pet(s) using the Trail.

The Trail, and its alternative variations, has been designed so far as reasonably practicable to provide a pleasant walk around the edge of the village and to provide an opportunity for users to enjoy some of the most beautiful parts of our village.

The route, for the most part, enjoys good to firm walkways but it should be noted that some stretches may be soft and muddy underfoot after heavy rain.

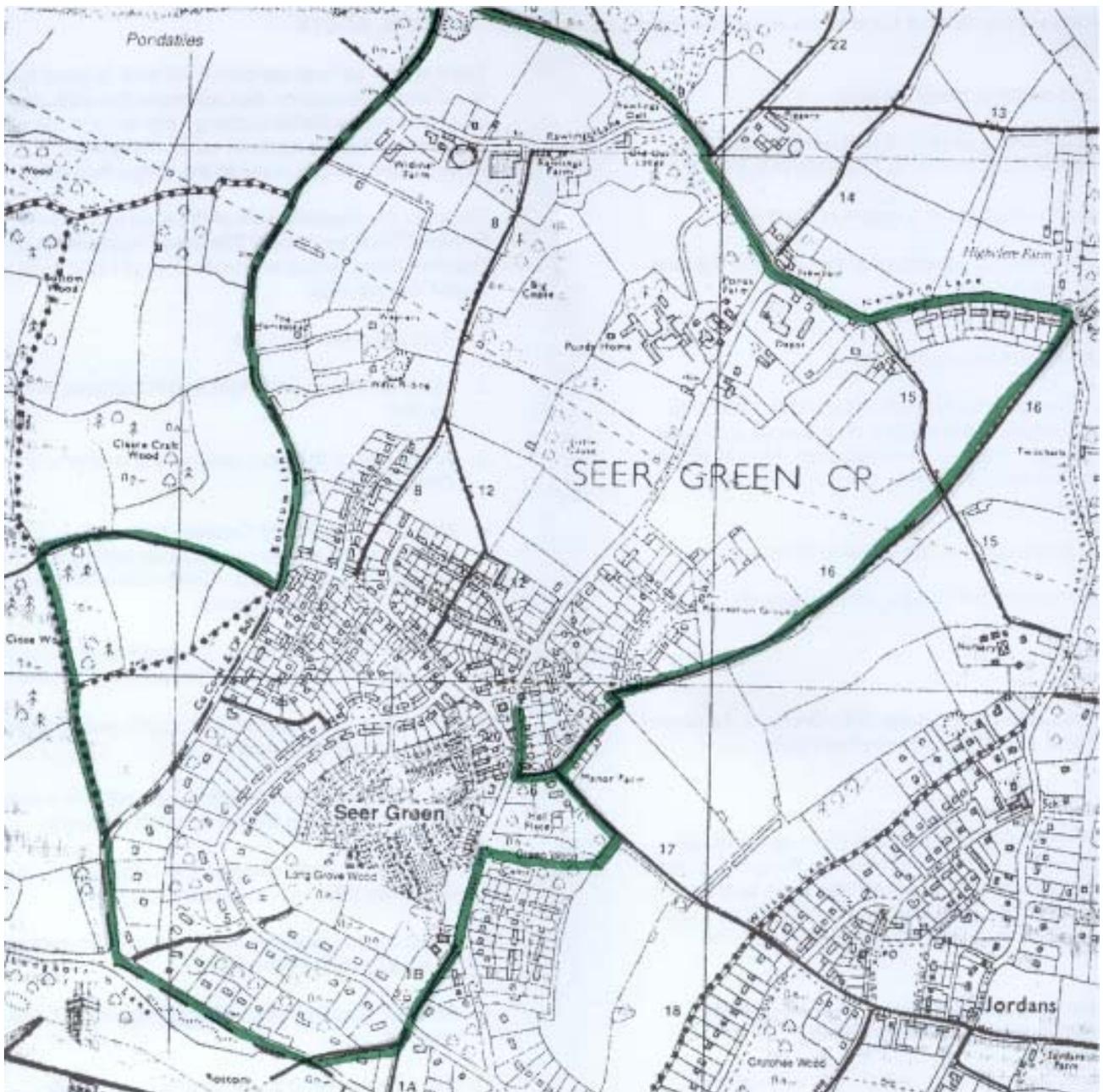
The full walk takes some two hours to complete at a steady pace. It is not suitable in parts for wheelchairs or prams etc.

Care should be taken over those parts of the Trail that involve local roads and lanes.

We hope that villagers and visitors will enjoy the Jubilee Trail.

### **THE TRAIL ROUTE**

The full Trail as outlined below will take at least two hours. There are 'Options' and 'Alternatives' that will make the walk shorter. Consider your footwear and take suitable clothing - just in case the weather changes. We suggest you take a bottle of water with you. Once you set off, it will be a while before you are close to the village hostelries!



Begin on the opposite side of the road to the Best Kept Village sign in the Parish Church yard, near The Jolly Cricketers pub. Walk south down Chalfont Road, which becomes School Lane, until you are opposite the Parish Church Hall:

1. Turn left down the track
2. Hall Place is on your right and Pondstiles, another Listed Building, is on the left,
3. At the end of the track turn right and after a short distance turn right into Green Wood.
4. Owned by the Parish Council, Green Wood is under a management plan. An ecological survey has recently been carried out by Bucks Environmental Records Centre. Enjoy your walk through the wood, but please do not pick the wild flowers.
5. Choose any of the paths and head west through the wood, emerging at the side of the cemetery and back onto School Lane.
6. Cross School Lane and walk south, passing Green Meadow [children's play area] on your right
7. At the end of Green Meadow you will see a small road leading down to the School and on the left a Public Footpath.
8. Take the footpath, crossing Old Long Grove, and then take the right hand fork down the slope to Longbottom Lane.
9. Longbottom Lane can be a busy road so take care when crossing to the pavement on the other side.
10. Go right, heading west, along Longbottom Lane, with the golf course on your left.
11. You will come to Bottom Lane on your right.
12. Cross the road carefully and walk up Bottom Lane to the white field gates on your left, at the first bend.
13. Pass through the gates and continue along the path.
14. At the next gate pass through onto a wide path that runs through Blue Close Wood. (DO NOT TURN RIGHT UP THE NARROWER TRACK).
15. In late April and early May the woodland is a carpet of bluebells.
16. At the end of the wide track turn right passing over the stile into the field.
17. Follow the path up the field to the next stile.
18. Climb over the stile and head east across the field.
19. At some time this field is ploughed and the path disappears. The path runs from the stile almost straight for the houses on the other side passing the large oak tree to the left. This oak tree was once threatened with removal so the villagers linked arms around it; It still survives as a reminder of old England's forests.
20. When you reach the other side pass over the stile into Bottom Lane.
21. Turn left and after a short while fork left into the narrow lane, the upper part of Bottom Lane.

**Option:**

*At this point you may continue round the corner into Orchard Road and back into the village centre and The Three Horseshoes pub.*

**Alternative:**

Rather than continue to walk up Bottom Lane, turn right up Orchard Road until shortly after Highlands Road turn left onto a Public Footpath. This footpath runs parallel to the upper part of Bottom Lane and will rejoin the Trail. This is quite a narrow path and can be overgrown with nettles, there are some large tree roots to negotiate and it can be rather damp under foot.

If you choose this route, when you reach the road [two stiles later], Rawlings Lane, turn right and you'll rejoin the trail @ 26.

22. At the end of the lane, where the road turns sharp right, walk straight ahead into Hodgemoor Wood.

23. After a short distance turn off to the right, heading east, parallel to Rawlings Lane.
24. This part of the Trail is marked with posts displaying horseshoes' i.e. a Bridlepath.
25. To your right, you will pass a small disused pumping station.
26. At the end of the Trail through the woods, you will join Rawlings Lane where you turn left.
27. Walk down Rawlings Lane to the corner of Chalfont Road and Newbarn Lane.

**Option**

***Turn right here and walk down Chalfont Road back to the village.***

28. "The Tythe Barn", Newbarn Farm has recently been carefully restored by the present owners. The reason for the large doors in the side of the barn is interesting and there is another pair on the other side, at harvest time both doors were opened and as the crop was thrown into the air by the labourers the natural draft running through the barn would help separate the seeds from the chaff.
29. At Newbarn Lane, cross the road and head east passing houses and cottages on your right.

**Alternative:**

Soon after the road turns sharp left, turn right at the Public Footpath sign towards Willowcourt Stables. The path goes across the field from a 'kissing gate' to the left of the stable entrance. Follow the path until the next 'kissing gate' on your right ... and rejoin the route @ 32.

30. When you reach the three-road junction [Newbarn Lane, Three House-holds and Twitchells Lane], known as Butlers Cross, by the letterbox, pass through the 'kissing gate' and walk out across the field.
31. You pass through a number of gates and along a corralled walkway.
32. At the next junction, go through the gate into the field, passing under the overhead power lines. Continue on, through the final 'kissing gate', and you're into the Recreation Ground.
33. Head for the left-hand corner, with the pavilion away to your right.
34. Enter the footpath that runs behind the houses until you reach Manor Farm on your left.
35. Here you are, at the end of the track [@ 3] that you walked up before you went through Green Wood near the start of your journey.
36. You have a choice to **either** go straight ahead back to School Lane, turn right and head back to the centre of the village, the Church, The Jolly Cricketers or The Three Horseshoes, or take another walk through Green Wood.

***We hope that you have had a safe and enjoyable walk around the edge of our village, and will return at some later date.***

**COUNTRYSIDE CODE**

Please:

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Shut and fasten gates

Keep pets under control

Take litter home

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Help to keep natural water clean

Please do not pick wildflowers, leave for others to enjoy

Guard against all risk of fire

Make no unnecessary noise

Take special care on roads

*Thank you*