



JORDANS VILLAGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2020

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Welcome to the May 2020 issue of our Village Newsletter, published on the 5th anniversary of my joining JVL!

By now we've all become accustomed to distance queuing protocol, and have acquired new and interesting "lockdown-style" hair. Our gardens have never been so well tended, and our cars so highly polished. Judging from the number of walkers and cyclists about, we're probably all a bit fitter too!

So what other lockdown activities have residents been up to? Esther Cavett, an expert pianist, has kindly shown us some piano exercises (see below, in the article entitled [Jordans Lockdown Moments](#)) she has been using to keep her skills in trim while she is stuck at home, and is encouraging other residents to share similar videos demonstrating their own creative skills.

Film Director David Wooster is collating clips to

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make into a short film; if you have a video clip of any sort of fun activities that you and your families have been up to during the lockdown (including the creative type suggested by Esther), please do share them with David too! See below for details.

Hopefully the June issue will be bringing you news of how life is getting back to normal again after this pandemic ends, which has created such a mix of emotions - bizarre, scary, peaceful, sad, shocking, and refreshing all at the same time.

****Stop Press:** I was very sad to hear that long-time Jordans resident Stevie Edwards passed away on Tuesday 28th April. Formerly resident of 3 Chelsey Garden Cottages, she moved into full-time care at Bradbury House in 2018 where she remained until her passing - which was reportedly very peaceful.

Chris Jenkins, Editor

estateoffice@jordansvillage.co.uk



News from the Village Store

THANK YOU!

Jordans Village Community Store Managers and Committee thank all who are offering

such a brilliant brand of support to our shop during these tricky times. The enthusiasm and gratitude that our customers express is second to none and we will undoubtedly continue to attempt to meet everyone's needs.

It is really lovely to receive all your words of appreciation but the icing on the cake must be from long term villager Bob Redpath who surprised us with [a wonderful poem](#) which I am so pleased to share with you all (a copy immediately follows this article - [or click here to download](#)). Thank you so very much Bob.

A few reminders

- The big order of such a great variety of very fresh fruit and vegetables arrives on Wednesdays with a top up on Fridays. It sells fast so don't miss out!
- Bread orders for the following day should be in before 2pm - please note the earlier time.
- We are trying to close at 11am on Sundays - no problem if you come a little late.

We look forward, if not now always seeing you, to hearing from you during the next month and to those of you who haven't given your Village Community Store a try - why not do so right now ? Be prepared for a superb variety of fresh products in our chillers - yes our 'local' suppliers are delivering even more than usual - everything else that is available and of course a very warm welcome.

Annual Members Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Members Meeting can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

YOUR RAINBOW!

See your very own rainbow in our shop window during May!



EVERYONE'S RAINBOWS ARE WELCOME - it doesn't matter how old you are.

Too many to put up all at once? We will be changing them every Sunday morning.

DON'T MISS YOURS! Our shop windows are not very big so rainbows no larger than A4 size please. AND - on Sunday 31st May we will be choosing the one we like best and giving

the budding artist a PRIZE!

Ali Cork

News Editor, Jordans Village Community Store Committee

Email corkswd@btinternet.com | Mobile 07803 139079

Store 01494 873279 | www.jordansvillagestore.co.uk

About the Village Store

Jordans Village Community Store, founded in 1922, is an independent community store, owned, operated and controlled by the Village. It is run by a combination of part-time staff and volunteers from the local community. www.jordansvillagestore.co.uk/

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Bob Redpath - My Latest Obsession

My latest obsession*

My latest obsession is typing a list
of all of the goods in our shop.

I live in dread that there's something I've missed
which I'll remember, after I stop.

For each good I must enter margin and price
and my task is getting them right.
But the names of the goods lure and entice
and roll round in my head through the night.

There are hobnobs and sponges and chocolate chips,
Jaffa cakes, penguins and crumble.
Lemon drizzle, my weakness; my poor mind flips.
In a Slough of Despond I soon tumble.

Gavottes Crepe Dentelle sounds entrancing
but its meaning? I'm at a loss.
Is it about Strictly Come Dancing?
Or is it about dental floss?

Mrs. Crumbles Madeleines remind me of Proust.

And there's *Lazy Day Millionaire*.
In daylight I'd buy them to give me a boost,
but at 4 in the AM I'm going spare.

Pigs Nose Scotch Whiskey, Sweet Potato Spiced Rum
plus *Bramley 6 O'Clock Gin*.
Down on the farm is where I think I have come
but Lord only knows what county I'm in.

There's a cider called *Somerset Haze*.
There's *Fentiman's Bloom Gin and Rose*.
I lie awake thinking of bygone days
which my memory now paints as too rosy.

Yellow Tale Shiraz, Spinyback Pinot Noir,
Barefoot Merlot, Two Birds Old Tom Gin.
My sleepless mind is back in the car
when we drove West. Will sleep never begin?

Richelieu Blush brings back memories of France
and riding our bikes through the Loire.
There's *Smirnoff Red* and whiskey by Grants.
I don't really know where we are.

Brewdog Punk glasses and *Stella Artois*,
Rebellion beer blond and red.
Corona extra which sounds like a cigar,
but is Mexican beer instead.

These brand names I've mentioned are only a sample
of the delights to be found in our Store.
I hope you agree this sample was ample;
If you wish, I'll provide many more.

Bob Redpath



David Wooster calls for your Jordans Lockdown Moments which he plans to collate into a mini-film such as this

Jordans Lockdown Moments & Performances

Jordans gets creative!

Two villagers, David Wooster (david@worldmarkfilms.co.uk) and Esther Cavett (esther.cavett@gmail.com) have had some ideas for keeping us entertained during lockdown.

They are **sister** projects:

Lockdown Moments involves David creating a video compilation of photos and 10 to 15-second video clips of inspiring village activities.

Lockdown Performances are 2 to 3-minute performances by villagers posted online, so the village audience has time to sit down with a cuppa a witness a performative act unfold in time.

Lockdown Moments

WHAT ARE THEY? The intention is to create a snapshot compilation of what this amazing village has been up to during this extraordinary time. David will edit your contributions together and share it with the village.

What sort of thing? Your contributions can include anything that has been done in the last 4 or 5 weeks or it can be something you specially create. For example, an activity, gardening, a reading, the family doing something fun or serious together, your pets doing a trick, a moment of you playing sport or music, creating something for the first time, a simple fun viral moment or your thoughts on the experience to camera. It could be that you finally got around to tidying up a shed or cupboard or volunteered to help someone or you've done something you have been wanting to do for years.

How do you get involved? Email your picture (photo, JPEG, TIFF, etc) or video (if longer than 10 to 15 seconds, David can edit it down) to david@worldmarkfilms.co.uk.

If you don't know how to create or email a video, give David (07802 770291) a call and he will help.

Lockdown Performances

WHAT ARE THEY? The idea is to create an interactive online platform where a villager can **share** a 2-3 minute performance to entertain other villagers, and maybe respond to some questions about it from other villagers and get into a bit of a discussion.

What sort of performance? Anything you like (which needs longer than David's 10-15 seconds): narrations of poetry, performances of pieces of music, maybe you could demonstrate how to make a piece of origami or a pot.

How do you get involved? Depending on how performers feel, we can **EITHER** do this on the main [Jordans Village Facebook page](#) **OR** on a new **private** Jordans Village Performs Facebook page (meaning that only invited villagers can see it). However, to show the gist of what Esther is thinking of, Chris has posted a couple of 'homespun' performances of her playing the piano on the main [Jordans Village Facebook page](#). These were just done on her mobile phone and emailed to Chris!

To express an interest in contributing a performance, email or call Esther (esther.cavett@gmail.com; 01494 873284). If other villagers are a bit shy about this Esther is happy to post an online performance of something weekly on the Village Facebook page during lockdown, to keep a bit of music in the air.

Can you be involved in both projects?

A resounding **YES!**



Esther Cavett's Lockdown Piano Studies



Esther Cavett's Lockdown Piano Study - filmed from inside the piano



Your Memories of The Ark

Following on from Alan Kell's message in last month's newsletter, we would love to hear about people's memories of The Ark. Next year will mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of The Ark and we would like to pull together something to celebrate the building and the people who created this wonderful home.

We know The Ark has a special place in the history of Jordans and many of you have fond memories of life here. The story of the founding of The Ark is well told in the article written in 1948 'Home-Making - The story of Wayside and The Ark', which can be found on the Jordans Village website ([you can download a copy by clicking here too](#) - Ed).

There are also old photographs, books and (non-confidential) notes about its history we'd like to share. We would love to continue this story and honour those whose care and kindness made The Ark such a happy place.

If you would like to share your memories with us, please feel free to drop us an email, text or call and hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to arrange an opportunity to share these with everyone!

Clare and Nat Skidmore

The Ark, Jordans

clare.r.skidmore@gmail.com

07590 416639



Jordans Great Plant Giveaway!

Saturday 16th May - on the Village Green

Since many of us are turning to our gardens this year both for something to do and to escape the pressures of life in CV-19 times, the Horticultural Society is going ahead with its annual plant sale – but with a difference. Instead of a sale we are inviting you to take plants for free and in return to donate online to your chosen charity.

To abide by social distancing regulations and to keep everyone safe, please do the following:

To donate plants

- **Please wear gloves** and bring the plants and seedlings you wish to donate to the tables on the Green between 9am – 12pm on Saturday 16th May
- **Please label your plants.** There might not always be someone present to explain what plants are to potential ‘buyers’
- If you are self isolating and would like someone to collect plants from you, please contact Faith or Emma who can collect plants in the preceding week*

The Giveaway

- The ‘sale’ will be open **12pm – 4pm** for you to take advantage of during your daily stroll

- We will spread plants out over a number of tables but please make sure **only one person is at any one table at a time**. If necessary, please queue at a distance as you do for the Village Shop.
- **Please wear gloves and handle the pots as little as possible**
- Please bring your own bags or boxes
- If you are self isolating but would like plants please let Faith or Emma know and we'll keep some aside for you*
- **Please donate to your chosen charity**. We will not price the plants but do be as generous as you can.
- Any remaining plants will be left outside Wayside, Seer Green Lane, please take what you would like

Keep gardening and stay safe!

Jordans Horticultural Society

*To arrange for plants to be collected if you are self-isolating, please contact Emma 07940816710 or Faith 07786434636

Thoughts from the Chair

What an appropriate title in these extraordinary times! Restricted to home for weeks on end, there is certainly no shortage of time spent sitting, thinking. As community activities are at the heart of our Village, I would hope my contribution could look back on events from the preceding month. As we all miss these opportunities to gather together under so many different banners, my observations still focus on the amazing spirit of Jordans. Last month I considered the potential for our Village's values to be expressed in actions in the face of enormous challenges. This month I am privileged to reflect on those values being epitomised throughout our Community.

In the original [Prospectus - Jordans Village: A Social and Industrial Experiment](#), under Objects, the final entry reads *"To provide opportunities for training in citizenship, as well as in manual, agricultural and other pursuits."* I'm sure many homes have seen more DIY in the last month than the preceding year, satisfying the manual pursuits. Maybe horticultural has replaced agricultural for most of us, but I expect that many gardens are looking better than normal for the time of year. Another box ticked. Readers can consider their own "other" pursuits. However, the standout from the last month is the opportunity for "training in citizenship". Assuming that the objective was not to help people to obtain British nationality, our Founders would be proud of the contributions of so many of our

residents to efforts to ensure that none of our vulnerable neighbours are left more isolated than is absolutely necessary.

The determination to keep the Village Store running in such challenging circumstances, expanding services to make extra deliveries to those advised not to leave home, has been vital. Whilst I have been personally grateful for avoiding unnecessary trips to crowded supermarkets, the Store's services have been nothing less than a lifeline to others. I would like to add my voice to all those who have expressed their thanks to the Committee, staff and volunteers who have made this possible. And a special shout out to the young adults I have seen working with their parents as volunteers at the shop - truly "training in citizenship" in action.

I'm not sure if the title is official, but I would also like to salute the commitment of the Jordans COVID-19 Volunteer Group. Whether shopping for supplies not available from the Village Store, collecting prescriptions, providing transport and running errands or simply being a friendly voice on the end of the phone, they provide a crucial link to the outside world for many forced to self-isolate who would otherwise be truly isolated. Although not part of the Volunteer Group, others independently provide the same service for immediate neighbours or friends requiring support. Thank you all for helping us to meet one of the Objects stated in our Village Prospectus.

Of course, many of us get to see our neighbours every Thursday night at 8pm as we clap for our carers. The recognition of our nation's carers and for the many other previously undervalued key workers in our society is long overdue. The values of Jordans are expressed across the country in this and many other actions. As we progress beyond the challenges of COVID-19, will this training in citizenship endure?

Lest we forget.

Alan Evers,
Chair, Jordans Village Limited



Paws for Thought

The Life of Riley

During these weeks of lockdown, the majority of dogs have been enjoying a comfortable, carefree, and thoroughly enjoyable way of life. Being no longer home alone and having the constant companionship of their owners, their lives have been transformed. You can sense their happiness by the look in their eyes and their general gait. Similarly, the veterinary charity, 'The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals' found that 85% of pet owners reported that having a pet has had a positive impact on their mental health. Certainly during lockdown, the company of a dog has been a great asset to both families and those living alone.

Some dogs have slimmed down due to their new lock-down lifestyle, shedding extra pounds due to being walked every day. As I mentioned in a previous article, being let out in the garden is not the same. Dogs need to get out for at least an hour's walking every day, even if it's for two 30 minute walks. The difference it will make to a dog's mental and physical health being significant.

However, according to the Queens corgi trainer, Dr Robert Mugford (a respected animal welfare advocate and psychologist), during lock-down many dogs will have built up a reservoir of over dependency. This will mean that the dog will suffer post lockdown when its owner returns to work, and children go back to school. Puppies are particularly likely to suffer from severe social anxiety, becoming fearful of social interaction with other dogs, and people they don't know, once social distancing ends. Mugford suggest that dog owners start to separate themselves from their dog for periods of 30 minutes at a time during the day. This will help to ease the dog into the inevitable occasion when it will become home alone again.

This change in lifestyle post lock-down may manifest itself in a number of ways. For instance, going to the loo inside, chewing furniture, barking, and even self-harming could occur in the case of puppies. According to The Kennel Club more people were considering getting a puppy during the coronavirus lock-down than at any other time. The biggest increases on The Kennel Club's 'find a puppy' tool came the week before Boris Johnson announced the lock-down. However, no one should rush into such a move, as a dog is for life, not just for lock-downs! Below is a prayer that seems rather appropriate. It was on my mother's kitchen wall for many years, and now it is on mine!

A Little Dog's Prayer



A master who is firm
and kind,
And understands a Doggie mind;
A "Walkie" and a meal each day—
That's all I ask for
when I pray.

Jo Bell

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Chilterns Area

Friends' Corner

Bob Redpath writes:

Chris Jenkins has asked me to contribute a column to the Jordans Community Newsletter with news of activities at the Meeting House which may be of interest to the Jordans community. The column has been dubbed 'Friends' Corner' because another word for Quaker is Friend.

Meetings for Worship

The Jordans Meeting House is closed; however, alternative 'virtual' meetings for worship are held **every Sunday at 10:30 am** (join from 10am), using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting lasts an hour. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us, even if you have never been to a Quaker meeting before.

Please contact Ann Floyd (annfloyd@btinternet.com) if you wish to join us so that she can send you an invitation to the meeting.

Tuesday 5th May Poetry that Pleases: 11am. We have been having 'virtual' meetings using Zoom. The topic this time is 'Breath or Breathe'. You are invited to choose poems that you like on the topic and share them with everyone. Lasts about an hour and twenty minutes. Please contact Jane Edmonds for further details (jedmonds7@gmail.com).

Memories of Mel Nash and her gifts

Mel (Margaret) Nash, who died in 2015, is fondly remembered in Jordans by those who knew her. Many of us and our children, learned how to play the piano from Mel, or, in my case, learned how to COUNT, BOB! Mel lived in Shandon for sixty years and with her husband Kevin raised a musical family of four children, including Bridget Day who used to live in the village and another daughter Deborah (Deb) who is a member of the Jordans Meeting and lives in Letchworth Garden City. Deb carries on her mother's tradition of teaching piano and has overcome self-isolation by conducting her lessons using Zoom.

Mel left three gifts to the Jordans community. One gift was the Yamaha piano for the Village Hall. Another gift was a new gate, the Westminster Gate, at the entrance to the Jordans Meeting House graveyard off Jordans Lane.

The third gift will be a new pathway in the Jordans Burial Ground. Friends who have walked from the Meeting House or from the Westminster Gate to the Burial Ground will know the paths are rough, flinty and treacherous in wet weather. It has been distressing to know that elderly mourners have been unable to reach the site where

their spouse, relative or friend would be laid to rest, or their ashes scattered, due to feeling unstable or insecure on these paths. These improvements will also assist funeral directors, whose pall-bearers have been equally challenged by carrying their heavy loads over these uneven paths.

Publication of the Letters of Wilfred Littleboy (based on article in Chiltern Area Quaker Newsletter April/May 2020 Number 107)

There is a further reference to Mel Nash's family in the news. Deb Nash writes about Mel's father, Wilfred Littleboy, who lived in Shandon with Mel for the last years of his life.

Deb Nash writes: many of you will remember that my mother Mel Nash and I spent many years transcribing the letters my grandfather (Wilfred Littleboy) wrote to his family when he was imprisoned as a Conscientious Objector in World War I. Wilfred spent the first four months of his sentence in Wormwood Scrubs and then was transferred to Dorchester Prison. He was eventually released in April 1919.

The letters are an extraordinary insight into how he used this period of enforced isolation to read, to reflect, and to strengthen his conviction that the absolutist stance- a refusal to do any war-related work or to take up military orders- was God's will.

After Mel died the letters sat on my computer for a couple of years. Then, prompted by the need to find a home for some other documents, I approached Ben Dandelion of Woodbrooke to see if he would be interested in helping me get them published. He was indeed very interested. I last heard from him in January.

This week I heard that the book, *A Quaker Conscientious Objector: Wilfred Littleboy's Prison Letters 1917-1919* by Rebecca Wynter and Ben Pink Dandelion has been published, and can be obtained from the Handheld Press for £15.99.

(<https://www.handheldpress.co.uk/shop/20th-century-history/a-quaker-conscientious-objector>)

All proceeds from the book will go to the Wilfred Littleboy Bursary Fund at Woodbrooke.

African Friends

Ann Floyd writes: our ministry in the last four weeks has included messages from African Friends whom we have welcomed to Jordans in recent years. The news about Covid-19 in the UK has made them very concerned for us and they tell us that we are in their prayers.

In fact, many African Friends are themselves in considerable and increasing difficulty on account of the pandemic and urgently need any help we can give. John Muhanji, who visited us a few months ago, is a co-signatory to a letter to Friends in Africa and Friends around the world telling us that the Friends hospitals in Kenya and Burundi are in desperate need of PPE and other equipment. They tell us that humanitarian needs are considerable and escalating, exacerbated by lockdowns in Kenya, Rwanda and elsewhere. Hanningtone Muchera, who visited us in 2018, describes it as 'total blackout' in Nairobi slums, fearing that hunger will kill more people than the virus will.

Local Friends are doing what we can to support African Friends at this very trying time for them.

<http://caqm.org.uk/>



Bucks CC - Update on Green Waste

Collections

Dear Resident,

I'm really pleased to tell you that we are now in a position to restart our garden 'Green Waste' collections. These will resume from the week starting Monday 11 May. I know many of you have asked about this so I'm delighted to be able to give you some good news.

We are also standing ready to reopen five of our Household Recycling Centres, as I know many of you are as keen as we are to have this service restored too. However, while we are ready to go, this is a bit more complicated as we still have to wait for the government to

change the Guidance so that journeys to these facilities will be classified as 'essential travel'.

Otherwise, residents run the risk of being stopped by the police, fined and told to return home. This would be a dreadful position into which to put either residents or the police. Once open, these sites will also be operating with strict 'supermarket style' rules to make sure social distancing is maintained. When this is all clarified we really hope to be able to move forward quickly and I will update you as soon as I am able to.

We have been working hard behind the scenes to get these services back up and running for you as quickly as possible and I want in particular to thank all of our staff currently working in our waste collection teams for all that they are doing to keep this frontline service going.

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



Fish & Chips
Wednesday Nights Every Week
The van stops in the layby near the cricket hut on the Green between 7pm and 7:30pm
Call: 07342 173 366 (direct line to van) to place your order and get the exact time of arrival in Jordans

Events Calendar

Unfortunately all regular events are suspended until further notice.
Please contact the organiser for information about them.

There is so much to do in Jordans, see below for a list of regular events and activities:

Regular Events in the Jordans Village Hall

Yoga

Mondays Weekly 8 pm - 9:30 pm

Contact Georgina Wright

georginaw29@icloud.com | 01494 874552 or 07946 382570

Ceramics Classes

10 week course every Wednesday Weekly 7 pm - 9 pm

Contact Sophie Bruen

sophie.bruen@hotmail.co.uk | 07555 802535 | www.facebook.com/SophieBruenCeramics

Tai Chi / Qi Gong

Thursdays Weekly 6 pm & 7 pm classes

Contact Keith Fensom

keith.fensom@gmail.com | 07787 224823 | www.yangshengtaichi.com

The Jolly Quaker pop-up Pub

1st Friday Monthly (excluding August and January)

Contact Chris Waymouth

c.waymouth@btinternet.com | Tel: 07831 309379

Jordans Picture House

2nd Friday & some Tuesdays and Sundays Monthly (Autumn - Spring)

Contact Alan Sealy

alan@janetsealypartnership.com | 01494 873205 | www.jordanspicturehouse.co.uk

Lunch Club 2019

Thursdays, 1pm in the Village Hall

14th May

18th June

16th July

17th September

15th October

19th November

17th December

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If there is a subject you'd like to talk about, an event in Jordans you'd like to publicise, or have some other news relating to the Village, please contact Chris Jenkins, the newsletter Editor, on 01494 875177 or via email estateoffice@jordansvillage.co.uk

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