

## JORDANS VILLAGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2021

### www.jordansvillage.co.uk

Our archives are burgeoning thanks to research being carried out by Bob Redpath, and some fascinating stories sent in by the <u>Lomas</u> and <u>Elliott</u> families. Take a look at the <u>Down Memory Lane...</u> section of this issue to read more. We've also included an updated version of the article about Charles Lagus and Nick Broomfield (<u>Residents of interest of Puers Lane</u>) after the wrong version was sent in last month!

History buffs will also be interested to know that a discussion about "*Mayflower Lives*" hosted by the author Martyn Whittock will form part of this year's Chalfont St Giles Literary Festival (and takes place via Zoom).

Jordans Horticultural Society is holding a Plant Sale on 15th May on the Village Green, so come and find something to plant and nurture in time for their Flower and Produce Show which will take place on 5th September!

### Chris Jenkins, Editor estateoffice@jordansvillage.co.uk

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# Pictures of the Month



Here we publish the best images of Jordans or by Jordans residents that we've received in the past month

Above: Nigel Morgan captured this stunning image of the bluebells at Penn House Estate.



Above: Chris Waymouth spotted a spectacular Mandarin Duck at Marsworth Reservoir



Above: Andrew Wilcockson sent us this shot of the tulips in bloom at Puers Field



# **Reminders from Jordans Horticultural Society**

## • PLANT SALE SATURDAY 15th MAY

Please bring along excess seedlings, plants and shrubs from 9.00 – 10.30am. Then a **cash sale** will take place between 11.00am and 1.00pm on the Village Green. One free plant with any donations made. Everything welcome – indoor and outdoor, annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetables, herbs...

### • FREE SUNFLOWER SEEDLINGS FOR YOUNG GARDENERS

We're adding a new category to the September Flower and Produce Show – the tallest sunflower! If you are under 18 collect a sunflower seedling from the Plant Sale, nurture it and see how tall you get it to grow. For the Show in September we'll ask you to enter a photo of your sunflower with you standing next to it and a record of its height.

# • FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW Sunday 5th September – SAVE THE DATE!

This is the event to celebrate your success in the garden, show off your creativity and win some prizes. The spirit of the Jordans Flower and Produce Show is about having a go and friendly competition. Pick up some plants at the May sale and do your magic.

### • <u>PLANTLIFE'S</u> **#NoMowMay**

Please join us in supporting Plantlife's Every Flower Counts campaign by not mowing your lawns during May (and longer). Amongst other environmental benefits, allowing the plants in your lawn to flower provides vital food for insects. This citizen action project from Plantlife is helping to understand the benefit of lawn plants by encouraging you not to mow, and to take part in their flower count <u>https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/</u>

Join us by leaving a section or your whole lawn unmown for the whole of May!

## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM <u>@jordans horticultural society</u>

We are regularly posting gardening tips and sharing our joy of gardening on Instagram. Hashtag us to share the progress of your sunflowers and the flowing grasses and flowers in your lawn!



## **Bench Testing**

Thanks to the Lockdown rules gradually lifting, Ian Simmons took a trip to Jordans with his daughter Nikki and tested out their new bench!

## JET helps at Chelsey Garden Cottages

We are happy to report that Jordans Environment Trust (JET) was able to assist JVL with funding some work to improve the gardens at Chelsey Garden Cottages; removing an old concrete base and paths, levelling the ground and re-laying it with lawn.

JET has assisted JVL with a number of projects in the recent past to benefit residents, including the donation of land on which the Chelsey Garden Cottages were built; planting bluebells and snowdrops around the village; the addition of trees and flower borders to the communal gardens at Chelsey Garden Cottages and funding for the benches in the Centenary Clearing in Crutches Wood.

Donations to this worthy charity, whose aim it is to preserve and enhance the environment around Jordans, are always most gratefully received and can qualify for GiftAid. For more information about their work, please contact Dawn Franklin on <u>Jordansenvtrust@gmail.com</u> (telephone 01494 671473).



### Welcome!

Welcome to the 2021 Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Literary Festival – this time a 'virtual' Festival!

We hope our varied programme, which includes a musical event, a gardening expert and a Milton workshop, will tempt you to enjoy a few hours of culture, relaxation and interest.

All events will be available via Zoom or Zoom Webinar and tickets will cost £5 per person per event.

Please check out the Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Literary Festival website for booking details:

www.chalfontstgiles literary festival.org.uk

For your information, we are already planning a full Festival for 2022. Details will be published early next year.

#### THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 17.00 Lester Hillman *Roses Round the Door*

Lester will be talking about the march of Edward IV's army to the Battle of Barnet - with the future Richard III and Henry VI in tow. He will pick up on Shakespeare's take, weather, military and logistical practicalities, heraldry, medical aspects, mercenaries and technology. Also, 550 years down the line, a living relative, Michael Ibsen, Richard' II's 17<sup>th</sup> great nephew, who made the casket for Richard's re-interment in Leicester, in his workshop along the route of the march (Upper Holloway).

#### THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 20.00 Andrew Mikolajski Gardens of Tudor England

Andrew will share the importance of gardens in Tudor times, as spaces for growing rare plants, to displays of wealth and as backdrops to intrigues of all kinds.

Please note that Chalfont St Giles Gardens Association members have free access to this talk. www.csgga.org

#### FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 17.00 Jane Robinson Ladies Can't Climb Ladders

The adventures of women pioneers in the traditional professions following the introduction of the Sex Disgualification (Removal) Act of 1919.

Ladies Can't Climb Ladders focuses on the lives of pioneering women forging careers in the fields of medicine, law, academia, architecture, engineering and the church. In her startling study into the public and private worlds of these unsung heroines, Jane sheds light on their desires and ambitions and how family and society responded to this emerging class of highly-spirited working women.

#### FRIDAY 14th MAY AT 20.00 Ryan Thwaites

#### Vaccines:

What are they and how do they work? Ryan's - very appropriate! - talk will cover the history of vaccination, beginning long before Edward Jenner's famous studies of smallpox, and the successes of vaccines against diseases that once decimated global populations.

### SATURDAY 15th MAY AT 11.00

\*Coffee and Cake' musical interlude A recorded performance of Baroque music and poetry inspired by coffee houses. To be enjoyed over a cup of mid-moming coffee! Co-produced by The Vache Baroque Festival and Milton's Cottage.

#### vachebaroquefestival.com

#### SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 15.00 Denise Beddows Bulstrode: Splendour and Scandals

### of a Buckinghamshire Mansion

The once magnificent estate of Bulstrode is nowadays hidden from view to passers-by and its formerly extensive lands are mainly swallowed up by Gerrards Cross and Hedgerley, but this recently sold-off treasure, which inspired George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, has been home to some fascinating residents, including blue-bloods and Blue Stockings, the richest woman in England, the most beautiful woman in England, the most scandalous woman in England, plus a spiteful drunken judge and a notroirous hanging judge.

#### SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 17.00 Geoffrey Gudgion

**DRACA:** in support of Combat Stress Jack's a Royal Marine. A war hero, haunted by his past. Or is he just haunted?

Geoffrey will tell the story behind the book, its path to publication and his partnership with the veteran's mental health charity Combat Stress.

### SUNDAY 16th MAY AT 11.00

A family workshop from Milton's Cottage Celebrating the 350th publishing anniversary of Milton's Paradise Regain'd. Inspired by his stay in Chalfont St Giles we invite you to join us for this family workshop, to create your own paradise-themed garden in a pot, decorated with lines of Milton's poetry and images from his best-known illustrators.

www.miltonscottage.org

#### SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 15.00 Martyn Whittock Mayflower Lives:

The People behind the Legend In November 1620, 102 poorly prepared men, women and children landed at the wrong place on the wintry coast of North America. Six months later half of them were dead. Yet, despite this tragic beginning, their impact on the cultural DNA of the United States is immense.

#### SUNDAY 16th MAY AT 20.00

Helen Fry MI9: The Secret Service for Escape & Evasion in WWII

in WWII When Allied fighters were trapped behind enemy lines during WWII, one branch of military intelligence helped them escape: it was called M19 and it was headquartered at Beaconsfield.



www.miltonscottage.org

The Vache vachebaroquefestival.com

## www.chalfontstgilesliteraryfestival.org.uk

## Mayflower Lives feature at CSG Literary Festival

Martyn Whittock, author of *Mayflower Lives: Pilgrims in a New World and the Early American Experience* is one of the keynote speakers at the forthcoming Chalfont St Giles Literary Festival. This is of particular interest to residents of Jordans, as the timbers of the ship were brought here and turned into the Mayflower Barn, situated next to Old Jordans as I am sure you know.

For details on how to attend the festival, please refer to the images above.

Martyn's book is available on Amazon:

<u>Mayflower Lives: Pilgrims in a New World and the Early American Experience: Amazon.co.uk:</u> <u>Martyn Whittock: 9781643131320: Books</u>



# Friends' Corner

by Bob Redpath

## Jordans Meeting House

### **Meetings for Worship**

The Jordans Meeting House is now reopened for in-person meetings during May concurrent with Zoom meetings ('blended meetings'). The meeting starts at 10:30am, lasts one hour and is followed by a 'bridge' of about ten minutes when people who wish to do so can comment on the issues raised during the meeting. If you are planning to attend in person for the first time, please contact Adrienne Midgley as there is limited space due to social distancing. Please bring your mask. There won't be social mixing afterwards. Adrienne's contact details are: tel.no.01753 889581 or <u>adriennemidgley@hotmail.com</u>)

### **Blended Zoom Meetings for Worship**

Concurrent with the in-person meeting will be a Zoom Meeting for Worship each Sunday commencing at 10:30am and lasting an hour, followed by the 'bridge' referred to above. If you are a newcomer and wish to attend the Zoom meeting for the first time, please contact Ann Floyd (ann@quakersintheworld.org or telephone 01494 874273).

### Junior Jordans Sunday School

Junior Jordans (Quaker Sunday School) will continue to be suspended during the lockdown. However, depending on announcements by the government during May, the outdoor childrens' meetings held in Crutches Wood may recommence. Please contact Jo Brennan for further details (tel.no.07766391722; email address: josephinebrennan@me.com)

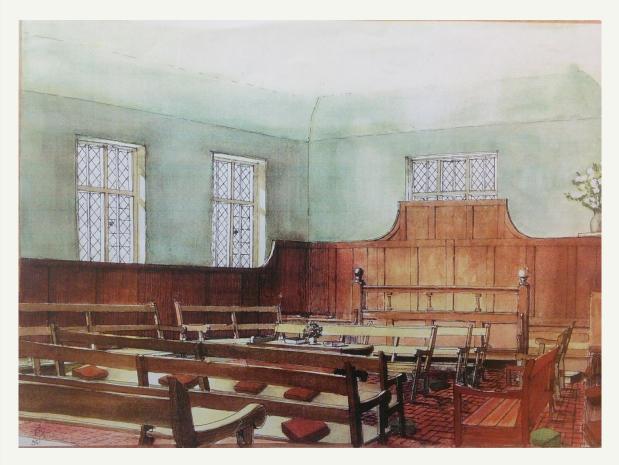
## Douglas and Jenny Butterfield Zoom Meeting for Worship

Douglas and Jenny Butterfield would like to invite you to a virtual Meeting for Worship at

their house, which is on zoom during lockdown. The meeting will be held on Friday 7th May at 10:30am for about 40 minutes with fellowship afterwards. If you want to join us you would be most welcome. Please contact Douglas by email <u>douglasbutterfield13@gmail.com</u> to be sent the Zoom link for this meeting.

### Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations webinar

On Thursday 29 April the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) held a webinar entitled "What it means to be a non-credal church". Two Quaker theologians, Rex Ambler and Ben Wood, discussed the remarkable fact of the Religious Society of Friends being a 'non-credal church'. They discussed the implications of this for Quaker selfunderstanding as a faith community as well as the effect on ecumenical relations with other Christian churches, as most Christian churches have creeds. Those interested in learning more about Quaker beliefs can find this webinar on Youtube.



The picture above is a copy of a watercolour of the interior of Jordans Meeting House painted by Paul Garland. Paul and his wife Irene were wardens of the Meeting House from 1992-1998. They now live in Leominster but still keep in touch with the Jordans Meeting. If readers wish to freely download a full-sized copy of this watercolour, please contact Paul whose email address is percybede@gmail.com.



# Down Memory Lane...

<u>Memories of Growing Up in Jordans in the 1920s - and how the</u> <u>Lomas family came to Jordans, by Connie Lomas</u>

Jane Green has kindly sent in this article about her mother's and grandmother's recollections of Jordans in its early years. Jane herself did not grow up in Jordans but her mother, Connie Lomas did grow up in Jordans and her grandmother, Alice Glaze Lomas was the first Lomas to come with her family to Jordans more than one hundred years ago. Several members of the Lomas family still live here today.

To read the full article, please click here to download a copy.

The article is also available from the <u>Jordans Village website under Historic documents &</u> <u>newsletters</u>.

**Bob Redpath** 

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# The Story of an Old Table

The old table now standing in the Estate Office has " lived " in the village for almost a century. Made of walnut , a hardwood valued by furniture makers for its strength and durability, the table first came to Jordans with Helen Ellershaw when she moved into Birchwood (now the Blue House) in Wilton Lane in the late 1920s. Helen Ellershaw was the youngest child and only daughter of the Reverend John Ellershaw who was rector of St. Andrew's Church in Chew Stoke in Somerset. Her eldest brother Brigadier-General Wilfred Ellershaw served as Aide-de-camp to Lord Kitchener during the First World War. Whether the old table actually came from the Mendip Hills in Somerset will remain a mystery, however, until now it has proved to be durable and continually supportive in many respects.

Once in Jordans it first served as a dining and living-room table in the upstairs flat at Birchwood. Sitting round the table guests and family had a wonderful view over the fields stretching almost as far as the railway station. When Helen Ellershaw died in the early 1960s the table was bequeathed to Annie Elliott and her family and so it came to "live" in the Elliott family house in Green East Road. It was to remain in our family for the next 60 years.

Friends and family from all over the world have sat round this robust old table. On Sundays we often welcomed student visitors from Commonwealth countries who would come down from London for a Sunday lunch organized by a group of Friends at Jordans Meeting House. There were numerous visits from exchange students and the table was always a focal meeting point for the "United Nations" which was the term our father, William Elliott, used to refer to our family as it grew to include members from all parts of the world. Plans were made round the table, jokes

were told and experiences shared.

In 1987 the old table was moved into "Mercote" in Seer Green Lane where its rich brown colour gave off a special warmth and glow to Annie's cottage. Meals were served round the table on festive occasions and it was also used quite regularly by Annie's painting friends. The leaves of the table were pulled out to make room for their sketchbooks and other painting utensils.

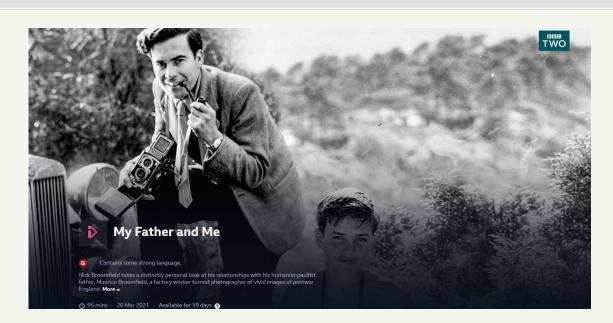
The table was like a faithful family friend and as such great care of it was always taken, it was treated for woodworm and regularly dusted and polished with beeswax. If the old table could talk it would certainly have many a tale to tell! We are really pleased that a new home has been found for it and that it can continue to stay in the village which has been its home for such a long time now.

# On behalf of all our family **Jane Doerry (née Elliott)**

(Many thanks to the Elliott family for their kind donation - the table is now in use at the Estate Office as shown in the image below - Ed)

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## **Residents of interest in Puers Lane, Jordans**

Charles Lagus is a Czechoslovakian wildlife photographer and film maker who travelled the world with David Attenborough making Zoo Quest in the 1950s. He was the first cameraman engaged by the BBC to film natural history footage. Lagus and his second wife Mona, a Mauritian, lived in Jordans in the 1980s at 'Easdale', now 'The Wood' Puers Lane, and home to the Tadman family. Mona was by all accounts a good cook, something she had in common with Daphne McDonald, her neighbour who lived at 'Coanwood'.

Lagus is the uncle of the documentary film maker Nick Broomfield, whose mother Sonja was his sister. Broomfield affectionally nicknamed Lagus Uncle Chunk. A resident of Jordans who used to work at Ealing Studios told me recently that Lagus and Attenborough were both incredibly good looking, and that all the girls heads would turn when they entered the canteen at lunchtime.

In Broomfield's latest film, '*My Father and Me*', which was broadcast on BBC 2 on March 20th, there is some archive footage of his uncle. This time Broomfield turns the camera on himself. He examines his family tree and his relationship with his father Maurice Broomfield, his mother and grandparents. Maurice was a British industrial photographer who took pictures of the factories and factory workers of post war Britain. As a child Broomfield was close to Lagus and his first wife Biddy. He liked to visit them as they always had a variety of animals at their home. In the film there is some archive footage of his uncle with Biddy, visiting them at home where they kept a traditional gypsy caravan. There is also footage of his uncle and aunt with a flying squirrel, and Benjamin, a three month old Malaysian Honey Bear he had rescued after it was abandoned by its parents. Lagus kept Benjamin in his London flat for 8 years before giving him to Bristol Zoo after he grown too large for the flat. Benjamin was often walked on Hampstead Heath by Lagus and on one occasion a woman shouted out to him, "Your dog has got rickets"!

Broomfield was a regular visitor to Jordans when Lagus lived there, but in the late 1980s he and Mona moved to Mauritius. I have known Broomfield since I was 14 years old, since we both went to Sidcot, a Quaker co-educational boarding school in Somerset. We both suffered badly from homesickness, as did many pupils, which is something he mentions in his film.

In 2018 Broomfield visited me at Woodside because he wanted to rummage through my school memorabilia thinking he might find something of interest that could be used in a V&A exhibition planned for later that year. He arrived with two assistants and took away some old letters and photographs, which thankfully were returned a few weeks later. After visiting what Broomfield described as "your tuck shop" meaning the village store, and feasting on food from the village bonfire night barbecue, they departed.

'*My Father and Me*' contains some remarkable footage of the now lost era of post war industrial Britain. However, Broomfield thought that his father's pictures glamourised the lives of the workers. His father however did not approve of some of his son's films finding them too confrontational. All this is revealed in the film along with interviews with close family and friends. It is a captivating story and well worth a watch. Broomfield has made over thirty documentary films and has received several awards (The titles of all his films and awards can be found on Wikipedia). However, he claims his latest film was harder to make than any of his others, often bringing him to tears. Harder even than his film '*Aileen: Life and death of a Serial Killer*' (2003).

*'My Father and Me'* is now available on BBC iPlayer. An exhibition of Maurice Broomfield's work will be shown at the V&A Museum in November 2021. <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/mooothyl/my-father-and-me</u>

Jo Bell

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# Easter Egg Hunt thanks

## The Great Jordans Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt was such a "wow" and all who took part loved it - and went away full of chocolate! All credit to the amazing Janna Holder from our Parish Church who made it work sticking to Covid restrictions. All I did was gather the Jordans families who took part. Definitely to be repeated on another glorious Easter Sunday afternoon! **Ali Cork** 



# Paws for Thought

## Dog Theft and The Pet Detectives

As disturbing reports of dog theft continue to appear on our social media pages, TV, and in the press, I decided to do some research on this subject and came across a detective agency that specialised in tracing stolen dogs.

One such agency was 'The Pet Detectives', founded by Colin Butcher in 2005. Prior to setting up the agency, Butcher had a career with The Royal Marines, and the Surrey Police. As Butcher points out, with the increasing demand for puppies due to the Pandemic, they are in short supply. As a result, last year was the worst ever for dog theft. The increase in the demand for puppies has caused the price of dogs to soar. The Dogs Trust reported recently that the price of a Beagle puppy in October 2020 was £560, but by March 2021 it had risen to £1415.

A consequence of this is that thieves are taking advantage of the situation, cashing in on the breeds that fetch the highest prices, such as gun dogs, Cocker and Springer Spaniels. In a YouTube video, Butcher tells of the different categories of thieves that are stealing dogs. There are the 'specialists', who usually have a buyer in mind, and know exactly what they are going to do with the dog. Specialists normally target places where the dogs are kept outside, such as kennels and private gardens, as well as those walking dogs, especially loan dog walkers. The 'occupational thief' however, is quite often in a position of employment where they can exploit their situation, such as kennel maids and even dog wardens. He tells of one dog warden he found who was not keeping records of the dogs collected, going on to sell them for a profit. He also warns of the perils of using unregulated casual arrangements for dog care, or walks, where no insurance or licence is in place. Some dog walkers, according to Butcher, have been known to steal dogs.

Butcher is releasing a video every week to help dog walkers stay safe. You can find them on The Pet Detectives Community YouTube channel, Pet Detective TV. In his video, *'How to Prevent Dog Theft During A Country Walk'*, he tells how thieves often work in pairs, lying in wait in car parks when they become busy in spring and summer. These thieves use distraction techniques, taking a dog within seconds.

Common sense advice, such as keeping your dog in the car until the last minute and putting it

back in the car as soon as the walk is over, will mean it is not running around in the car park, increasing the opportunity for its theft. Keeping off your mobile phone whilst out walking with your dog is advisable, as this is also a distraction. Always keep your dog in your line of sight, and do not let it linger behind you at the end of your walk. Check out Colin Butcher's Facebook page to find out more or visit his website <u>https://thepetdetectives.com</u>.

However, there is some hope on the horizon, as reported on Sunday April 25th, in Country File on BBC 1. The Home Secretary, Secretary of State and the Lord Chancellor are discussing a cross government approach to combating the issue of dog theft. At present dog theft is not defined as a specific offence, and therefore a low-risk high reward crime, and tougher penalties cannot come soon enough. High value gun dogs are making hardened criminal gangs even more money than drug dealing, and the deterrents owners are putting in place are not keeping these professional thieves away. As Dr Daniel Allen from Keele University, (whose geographical interests centre on the relationships between humans and animals, with focus on animal welfare and pet theft), spoke on the programme of his concerns, that at present thieves are getting away with no more than a slap on the wrist and a low fine. Yet as Allen points out, these thieves can be sending dogs to puppy farms, which is making them hundreds of thousands of pounds. There is much support for new reforms within the law from celebrities such as David Walliams, Ricky Gervais and Sarah Cox, who all spoke of their concerns on the programme.

The morning news on April 29th made me aware of an additional problem, as it reported on the increasing activities of scammers, who prey on the already distraught victims of dog theft. They offer to return the dog at a price, extorting thousands of pounds from their victims, when in fact they do not have the dog in their possession. These scammers find information on missing dogs on social media.

So whilst out walking, or visiting a car park, keep your wits about you and be wary of what is going on around you.

Jo Bell Back to top

## **Fish-and-Chips**



## Fish & Chips Wednesday Nights Every Week

The van stops in the layby near the cricket hut on the Village Green between 4:30pm – 4:45pm

Call Rich on 07392 732 774 (direct line to van) to place your order and get the exact time of arrival in Jordans

Menu: https://howeandcofishandchips.co.uk/menu/

Vegetarian cheese and veg cake is offered. Prices not shown on the menu; the cod (excellent) is £5.00 and basic one-person chips is £2.00. Mushy peas are £1.00.

# **Events Calendar**

At last! The events calendar is back!

**Plant Sale** Saturday 15th May Village Green

Music on the Green Sunday 11th July Village Green (Subject to lockdown rules allowing this event to go ahead)

**Flower & Produce Show Sunday 5th September** Village Hall

## **Regular Events in the Jordans Village Hall**

We expect regular events and activities to re-start after the Lockdown is lifted.

Tai Chi / Qi Gong Thursdays Weekly 6 pm & 7 pm classes Contact Keith Fensom <u>keith.fensom@gmail.com</u> | 07787 224823 | <u>www.yangshengtaichi.com</u>

The Jolly Quaker pop-up Pub 1st Friday Monthly (excluding August and January) Contact Chris Waymouth <u>c.waymouth@btinternet.com</u> | 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 Thursdays, 1pm in the Village Hall Dates TBC Back to top

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 <u>estateoffice@jordansvillage.co.uk</u>

The Jordans Village Community Newsletter is published on the 1st of each month. Deadline for copy is 28th of each month.