

November 2015

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Jordans Village Community Newsletter



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Speaker's Corner

Although this issue is being published in early November, many of us are already making our plans for Xmas and the New Year, and so in this issue I have put together some information about various places your friends and relatives can stay in Jordans.

This review of accommodation was sparked by the recent discovery of the original plans for Long Dene House, and subsequently finding out that the newly restored Barn is now available to stay in. The Barn used to be the classrooms for the school that operated there in the 1930s and early 1940s, and so the subject of this month's History & Heritage article is a brief history

of the School, together with a lovely article recalling life at the school from former pupil, Sue Owen, who very kindly jotted down some of her memories to share with us. They really take you back in time and can help to picture how our Village was before many of the houses and flats we know so well were built.

After the recent presentation on the Future of our Village Hall, I have received a huge amount of votes, offers of help with the project, comments and suggestions, all of which was constructive, and I would like to thank everyone on behalf of JVL for taking the time to think about this important project and sharing their views with us. Once the response has been reviewed and collated, JVL will publish the results in a separate message later in November. What is clear is that everyone living here values the Hall enormously and very much wants it to continue as the focal point of village life for years to come.

And on that note, do join your friends and neighbours at the next opening of the Jolly Quaker on Friday 6th November, and help support your local Village Store!

Chris Jenkins,
Secretary, Jordans Village Ltd

If there is a subject that you'd like to talk about in this column, please send your submission to the Editorial team, whose contact details you will find at the foot of this message.



Village Store News

Get into the Xmas spirit at the Village Store's **Xmas Open Evening** on Friday 27th November from 6-8pm. Mulled wine, mulled Jordans Apple Juice, and nibbles will be available, so mark this date in your diary, come along and support the Store, and stock up with your favourite Christmas treats.

Also available from the Store are Jordans Village Community Store **gift vouchers**. They will be available in any denomination, and will make a great gift for friends and family.

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Village Event Diary

There are numerous events held in Jordans throughout the year. Coming up in the next two months are:

The Jolly Quaker
Jordans Village Hall 7pm - 11pm
Friday 6th November
Friday 4th December
Chris Waymouth 07831 309379

Bonfire Night by the TMC
Jordans Village Green
Saturday 7th November
9:15am - 11am - building the stack



Fresh Fish from Cornwall

We are pleased to announce that our Village Store's growing list of suppliers is joined by [Matthew Stevens & Sons, of St. Ives in Cornwall](#), a family business which has been supplying sustainably sourced and traceable fresh fish since 1948.

The Store will receive deliveries twice a month on Wednesdays - delivery dates in November are on the 11th and on the 25th. Fresh seafood in stock will include Cornish crab, plaice, haddock, and salmon but all types of flat fish, round fish, and shellfish that can be found off our South Western shores are available. If you have a specific order, you can use the [Fish in Season Tracker](#) to find out what is available.



Bespoke Xmas Hampers

A perfect gift for friends and relatives at Xmas, the Village Store can make up bespoke hampers containing a selection of your favourite products from around the Store. Priced from £20 upwards, order yours now as they are in limited supply! Contact the Village Store for further details on 01494 873279.

BBQ & Bar from 5:30 pm
Bonfire Lighting at 6:00 pm
Pat Holdsworth 01494 874565

Concert - Piano, Cello, & Violins

Jordans Village Hall @ 3pm
Sunday 15th November
Bob Hall 01494 873186
r@rkhall.com

TMC Lunch Club

Jordans Village Hall
Thursday 19th November @ 1pm
Thursday 17th December @ 1pm

Jordans Village Store

Xmas Open Evening
Jordans Village Store
Friday 27th November 6-8pm
Emma Holdsworth 01494 873279

Supper & Song Night

Jordans Village Hall
Saturday 28th November @ 8pm
Nigel Morgan 01494 672416

Yoga at the Village Hall

Mondays @ 8pm / Fridays @ 2pm
November: Fri 6th, Mon 9th, Fri 13th,
Mon 16th, Fri 20th, Mon 23rd
December: Fri 4th, Mon 7th, Fri 11th,
Mon 14th, Fri 18th
Georgina Wright 01494 874552

Exercise Class at the Village Hall

Every Thursday @ 7pm
November: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
December: 3rd, 10th, 17th
Samantha Pearce 07875 215372
sam@getpersonalpt.com

"Boot Camp" Exercise Class at the Village Hall

Tuesdays from 8-9pm
November 3rd, 10th, 17th,
24th; December 1st
Julianne Li 01494 265544
juliannejli@me.com



Bonfire Night

With hedge trimmings amassing on The Green, you can't fail to have noticed that Bonfire Night is soon to be upon us, and this year will be held on Saturday 7th November.

An event organised by the Tenant Members' Committee, volunteers are required to arrive from around 9.15am to 9.30am onwards, to help build the bonfire. Those volunteers will be rewarded with free Tea & Coffee, and Bacon Butties for breakfast from 10.30am.

Please bring your own rakes, forks, and wheelbarrows which are all helpful in building the stack...ladders may also be useful as the pile gets bigger.

Subject to everything going well.....the BBQ and bar will open at 5.30pm, and the Bonfire will be lit at 6pm.

Refreshments available on the night will include:

Soft drinks; Beer in bottles and cans, plus Draught Rebellion Ale from Marlow Brewery; Red & White wine; awaiting confirmation of availability of Dom and Emma's Secret Special Brew of Mulled Wine.....

On the BBQ will be Burgers, Cheese Burgers, and Hot Dogs all with or without Onions.

If you are holding your own fireworks party, please remember to follow the [Fireworks Code](#), and consider your neighbours and their pets. It is against the law to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on Bonfire Night

Jordans Quaker Meeting House

This historic building at the heart of Jordans contains a fascinating exhibition and library, and is open to visitors from Tuesday to Sunday 2pm to 5pm, and on Bank Holiday Mondays, from 1st March to 31st October, and at other times by prior appointment.

Contact 01494 876594

www.jordansquakercentre.org



Accommodation in Jordans

As we are entering the festive season, many of you will have friends and family coming to visit.

If you don't have the space to put all of them up, there are several options for places to stay within the village, for families, couples, or individuals which will suit all budgets.



Accommodation in Jordans: Spindrift

Spindrift is a simply enchanting oasis of natural beauty and a perfect place for up to two couples to stay whether visiting

when the cut off is midnight, and New Years Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year when it is 1am. Above all, be safe!



Jordans Village Concert

We now have a great programme for you at the next village concert, which is taking place on Sunday 15 November at 3 pm in Jordans Village Hall. Local musicians will be playing music on piano, violin, cello and clarinet, with pieces by Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak, as well as some readings.

It promises to be a most enjoyable occasion, and tea and cakes will be served afterwards. Entry is free, and donations towards the cost of the event and a local good cause will be welcome. Do come and bring your friends and relations!

For more information please contact Bob Hall on 873186 or email r@rkhall.com.



One Thousand Bluebells

Girls and boys from 1st Seer Green Scouts were out in force on Saturday 10th October, planting 1,000 bluebell

friends and relatives in the village, or if taking a short break in the wonderful Chiltern Hills.

With privately accessed accommodation, the rooms have wonderful views over the secluded garden and heated swimming pool. Of course, London is within easy reach by road and rail, as are a number of nearby attractions such as Windsor Castle, Bekonscot, the Quaker Meeting House, Milton's Cottage, the Roald Dahl Museum, or Cliveden House.

You will find everything here to ensure you are in the lap of Five Star luxury - enjoy Norma's famous shortbread with your early morning tea or coffee! Room Rates are £150 per night for a Double or Twin.

Norma Desmond-Mawby and John Mawby
Spindrift, Puers Lane
Jordans, Buckinghamshire
HP9 2TE
Tel: 01494 873 172
enquiry@spindrift.biz
www.spindrift.biz



bulbs in Crutches Wood. The planting was organised by [Jordans Environment Trust \(JET\)](#) as part of Scout Community Week, in which more than 2,500 scout groups across the country helped their local community with a range of projects.

The scouts are working hard to raise funds to replace their collapsing Scout Hall, built in 1973 and Scout Leader, Chris Rumsey, said *"Raising funds for our hall whilst doing good work in our community just feels right. It is good for everyone."* As well as planting bluebells, the scouts have been washing cars, gardening, doing useful work at home, working with animals, making deliveries, and selling bacon butties at the recreation ground in Seer Green.

JET's Chairman, Dawn Franklin, said *"We were lucky to have a bright, autumnal day for the bulb planting and a great turn-out from the scouts. Everyone worked together enthusiastically, digging around tree roots and carefully planting the bulbs donated by JET. We couldn't have done it without the important contribution from the scouts and shall all be looking forward to seeing the bluebells coming through next spring."*



Accommodation in Jordans: Long Dene

Long Dene House is home to a fabulous 2 bedroom converted barn that sleeps up to 6 people, and is ideal for families visiting friends and relatives over Xmas.

Newly renovated, the bungalow (formerly the school's classrooms) is set in a large garden and safely fenced in with amenities including gas CH, Freeview TV & DVD player, fibre optic WiFi, a fully fitted kitchen with oven, hob, microwave, dishwasher, and full size fridge/freezer. There's also a hair dryer, ironing board, iron, cot, & high chair. The master bedroom has a king size bed and a double futon, and outside guests have access to the large garden space, with climbing frame and swings



and there is plenty of private parking too.

To make a booking, call Jules & Alan Evers on 01494 265544, or for more details and to make an on-line booking [visit their webpage on AirBnB.](#)



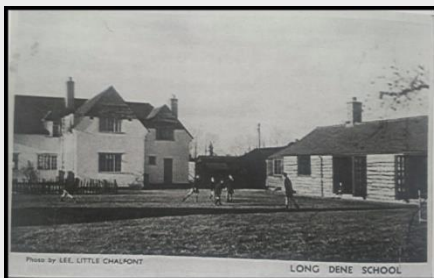
Supper & Song

Saturday 28th November at 8pm in The Village Hall

Volunteers are still needed to entertain and/or amuse: whether by song, instrumental, sketch, poetry, prose, etc. Offers please to Alan Sonnex on 874536.

Tickets priced at £7 will be on sale from Saturday 7th November on a first come first served basis. Please contact Evangeline Evans (873165) at Candlemas on or after that date. Cash with orders please!

Bring your own drinks (glasses provided), and see you there!



History & Heritage: Long Dene School

From the start of Jordans Village, young families were welcomed, and education for young children of between 8 and 10 years of age at prep schools in nearby towns and boarding schools further afield, were a priority of the Village committees. A junior school for children of 4 to 8 years was started in the Village Hall in 1922, and subsequently carried on in private houses; this was always dependent on the numbers of children of the right ages living in the village.

By 1926 the average age must have been younger as in that year Phyllis Bligh took over the school furniture and started her own private nursery school which she ran for some years. The school that was to become Long Dene School was formed in 1929, at The Croft, already described as lying below the hill crowned by Crutches Wood. The school moved another couple of times before being bought by Joy Clark with her assistant Annette Eaves in the early 1930s, and installed at the newly built Long Dene House in Crutches Lane.

This house, later described by John Guinness as "eight roomed", had space upstairs for several boarders, in addition to the teachers. The classrooms were separate from the house, built of timber, and ran along the north side of the garden plot, which was 200 feet by 90 feet. They had large "French window" doors, which could be opened along the south facing side of the classrooms when the weather was good.

The flavour of Joy Clark's school comes through from the prospectus, thought to date from around 1935, in which the school is described as an "open air school for girls and boys 3-10 years". (You can find a copy of the Prospectus below)

In about 1937, Joy Clark was forced



Accommodation in Jordans: YHA

If you want a relaxing weekend break in a rural retreat with good access to London, YHA Jordans is perfectly located just behind the historic 17th century Friends' Meeting House.

The oldest permanent Youth Hostel in Britain, it's self-catering only, with a light breakfast available on request. With room rates of just £16 per night in December, this is certainly the cheapest way to visit friends in Jordans during the festive period.

Contact Nicola Lowe at YHA Jordans on 01494 873135, or for full details and to make an on-line booking visit: www.yha.org.uk/hostel/jordans



through ill health to sell the school to Leslie England, who already had family connections with Jordans, and who came with his wife Dorothea to live in Long Dene House. Leslie found that he was not really suited to running Long Dene School, and advertised it for sale at the beginning of 1939.

It was at this time that John & Karis Guinness happened to be living in neighbouring Seer Green at the time, and had been formulating their ideas to start a school for about 15 months. When they went to look at Long Dene they fell in love with Jordans, a little community with progressive ideas; the Quaker foundation with its beautiful old Meeting House seemed to offer values that they could believe in and support.

Karis described the first Long Dene School, in a letter written in 1980 as *"a small house at the end of a little road at the far end of the village green. The garden seemed like the size of a pocket handkerchief and actually boasted the possession of a swimming pool about 6x12 feet long. But the great advantage to us was the presence of some well built classrooms with sliding partitions, a little separated from the house and good enough for our immediate purpose. With only 17 students aged 4-9, the school was not paying its way, and the head and his wife were planning to work on the land. He was prepared to pass the school and its contents for £200. John's mother nobly came up with a gift of £500 and Long Dene School was to become ours at the end of the current term"*.

The outbreak of war in September 1939, and the subsequent arrival of students and staff from Geen Heath School in Sussex, modified considerably John & Karis' original ideas for starting their community school and growing slowly. The use of a number of houses in and



Jordans Quaker Centre Retreat Days 2015 – 2016

The Jordans Vision
"... nurturing ideas and actions that interpret and manifest Quaker values for the 21st century, in harmony with kindred spirits from wherever they come..."

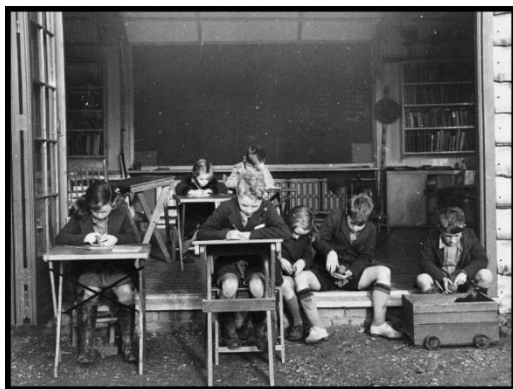
Background

around Jordans were begged and borrowed, and the students who were there remember cycling down lanes and around the village green as they slept and had lessons in different places. At the end of a very muddy track called Jordans Way, was a house called Grove Meadow, which was used as well. Bicycles were included on the school clothes list.

John Guinness himself wrote in an article published in "Sport and Country" in December 1944: "The evacuation of London had begun, and the little house in Jordans had become impossibly overcrowded. At the same time, the Army authorities were requisitioning all the larger places around. It was barely a fortnight from the beginning of the September term when Stoke Poges Manor House was discovered untenanted. The group moved in without waiting for an agreement to be signed".

And so Long Dene School moved from Jordans, to Stoke Poges; it subsequently moved again to Chiddingstone Castle in Kent in December 1945 when its tenancy in Stoke Poges expired.

For the full Story of Long Dene School, written by Sue Smithson in 1999, you can purchase a copy for just £8 from: John & Sue Smithson
Tel: 01494 583484



Jordans Quaker Meeting House, built in 1688, is one of the earliest purpose-built Quaker Meeting Houses in England. Meeting for Worship had been held here for more than 300 years until a serious fire in March 2005 caused extensive damage.

The Meeting House reopened in August 2008. After the fire, Chilterns Area Meeting Friends conceived of, and raised funds for, a new, larger extension behind the restored Meeting House which offers a range of rooms available for hire and to house exhibitions and non-residential events of all kinds.

Retreat Days...

We would like to invite you to experience for yourself the peace and tranquillity of this historic Meeting House and our new purpose-built facilities. We are making the Meeting House and conference rooms available for quiet days via the Retreat Association Annual Guide.

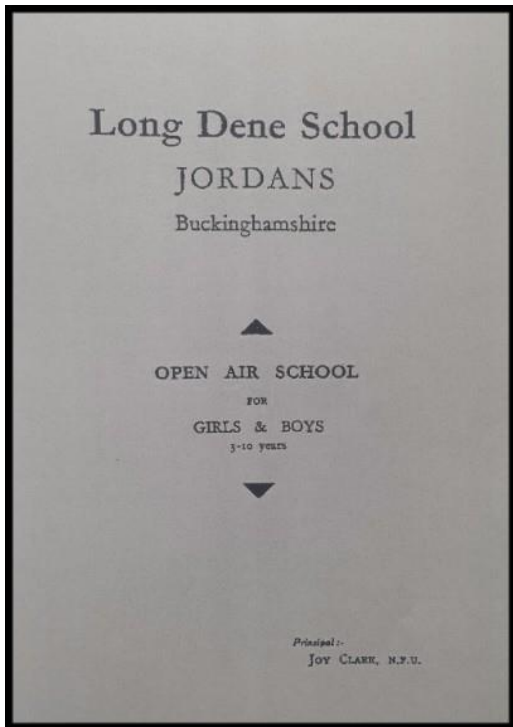
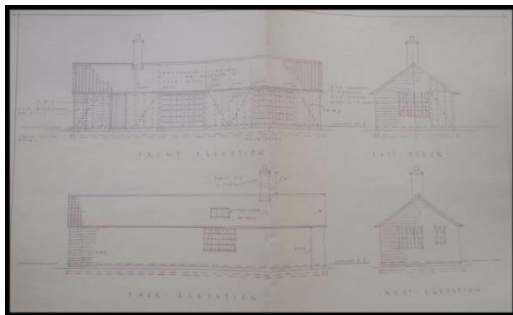
In addition, we are running our own retreat programme. Retreats are held bi-monthly on a Friday. Why Friday? Because we feel that having a break from the pressures of work and daily life on a Friday leaves participants better able to relax into the weekend that follows.

Programme 2015 - 2016

Friday 13th November 2015 Mindfulness

On this day Reinhard will introduce the popular meditation practices that are proving to be beneficial for physical and emotional wellbeing. Participants will be encouraged to develop a regular home practice.

Reinhard Kowalski is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Mindfulness Teacher in the NHS



and
in private practice.

Friday 15th January 2016
Change

(limit 12 participants)

A day for you to understand what you need to let go of in order to allow the new to emerge in your life. Using presence, dialogue and visualising tools from Theory U.

Caroline Pakel has been a creative facilitator, trainer and coach for the last 10 years, bringing understanding and facilitating positive change in individuals and groups. She now lives and works in a spirit of service to others.

Friday 11th March 2016
Unknowing

Accepting that there is much that we do not know and cannot control frees us to walk the path of faith. We will use this day to explore alone and together how we can be more open to the guidance of the Spirit.

Jennifer Kavanagh is an associate tutor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, and has published six books on the spiritual life. Her latest is 'A Little Book of Unknowing'.

Friday 13th May

Spirituality: awareness, intention, action
Today many people describe themselves as 'spiritual but not religious' – but what do we mean by 'spiritual'? This is a chance to reflect on our personal experience of Presence and 'the call of Life within us'. Participants will be guided through a gentle process of self-examination and invited to look at what helps and hinders us in living more authentic, joyous, and compassionate lives.

Alex Wildwood is a Quaker author and

AIM OF THE SCHOOL.

The true aim of education is to give the child the fullest possible opportunity for its natural growth—physical and mental.

Physical Development is ensured by the children living as much as possible in the fresh air or in open air school rooms. A large playground is equipped with a swing, sand pit, bathing pool and different climbing apparatus to encourage the children to be adventurous and fearless.

The Diet is very carefully planned on modern lines and the children are given plenty of fresh fruit and home grown vegetables.

Mental Growth is stimulated by allowing the children free access to a large variety of sense training apparatus, books, educational toys and materials such as clay, paint, etc. and simple tools.

Scheme of Work.

Nursery School. The children under 6 years play either in the garden or in an open air school room, where they are provided with toys and materials of all kinds.

Singing, dancing and stories are taken as group lessons.

Children over 6 years. All the usual school subjects are taught partly by individual methods partly by group work.

Individual Work.	Group Work.
Reading	Geography and History.
Writing.	Literature and Dramatic Expression.
Arithmetic.	Nature Study and Elementary Biology.
Handwork.	Rhythmics and Dancing.
Drawing.	Singing and Percussion Band.
Painting.	French.
	Games—Football, Rounders & Wood-craft Games.

In all group lessons the children are encouraged to ask and answer questions and learn to express their ideas freely.

educator who has been guiding groups for over two decades. He is committed to exploring and articulating the spiritual diversity of British Friends.

Friday 8th July 2016

A contemplative day

Would you like to 'set aside a time of quiet for openness to the Spirit, to deepen your awareness of the divine and find the inward source of your strength'? (Advices & queries 3) Grounded in silence and stillness, there will be a gentle rhythm throughout the day of encounters with different contemplative practices, time for sharing and time alone. We will eat part of our midday meal in silence. Come and spend a little time resting in the Light!

Ginny Wall is a retreat leader and writer who is passionate about prayer, spiritual friendship and everyday contemplative living.

Friday 9th September

Thin Places

The metaphor of 'thin places' comes from Celtic spirituality. Thin places are geographical locations, music, people, periods of time where our hearts have been opened and we have sensed the Divine very close. We will reflect on the thin places of our lives and explore how these might be further cultivated.

Julia Ryberg, an American-born Swedish Friend, works for the organisation that links Friends around the world as well as offering various teaching and retreat ministries.

Friday 11th November 2016

Forgiveness

Is forgiveness an obligation or a gift of grace? Rare and difficult, or something happening every day? Must people needing it first repent? The answers come by listening to our experiences and

Discipline. The children are encouraged to conquer their own difficulties and be independent as far as possible. They are expected to abide by the few laws which are necessary to live together happily in a community. This leads to self control and self discipline.

Health. Special diets can be provided for children if required but will be charged extra.

Slight illnesses will be nursed in the school, but infectious diseases will be either sent to the local hospital, or nursed in a house near the school, in which case nurses and Doctors' Fees will be charged to the parents. All children must bring a signed Health Certificate at the beginning of each term.

Camping. Every Summer Term a Camp is held for a long week end for all children over 6 years who wish to go.

The children regard this as a great adventure and as they all help in pitching tents, gathering wood, fetching water and the cooking of the meals they get a real feeling of independence which it is difficult to give them in any other way.

FEES.

Day Children.	Rhythmics only	£1 3	per term.
Morning only	Nursery School	£3 13	" "
	Under 3 years	£4 4	" "
	" 6 "	£5 5	" "
Morning & Afternoon	Six years and over	£7 7	" "

Dianers 2/3 per day or £3 3 a term.
Milk for Lunch 6d. per week.

Boarders.
Full Term £28 per term.
Weekly boarders £24 " "
All fees must be paid in advance.
A full term's notice must be given before a child is removed from the school, otherwise a full term's fee will be charged.

Uniform. During school the children wear brown linen overalls and coloured belts which can be obtained at the school 7/6 complete.

School Hours.
Morning - 9 o'clock—11.30.
Afternoon - 2-15 " —4.

Extras.
Elocution Lessons
Piano "
Laundry (Boarders).

There are at present in the school:—
24 Day Children.
4 Boarders.

those of others.

John and Diana Lampen run a small training and consultancy agency, The Hope Project, which works for peace in partnership with local organizations in Britain, Belarus, Bosnia, Croatia, Uganda and Ukraine.

Practicalities

Retreat days run from 10am to 4pm with refreshments available from 9.30. Please bring lunch to share.

Cost

£35 (or what you can afford) per retreat.

Booking

Places may be booked in advance via Alex Wildwood using the contact details shown below. Numbers will be limited to 18.

Jordans Quaker Meeting House
Welders Lane

Jordans
Beaconsfield
HP9 2SN

Phone: 01494 876594

office@jordansquakercentre.org

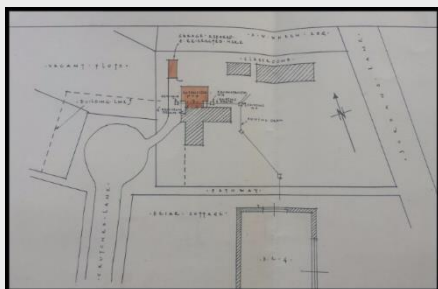
www.jordansquakercentre.org

Charity No: 1130332

[Download a brochure by clicking here](#)

The Jordans Noticeboard





Memories of Long Dene School by Sue Owen

I imagine that I first went to Long Dene as a 5 year old in 1938, but I don't remember it.

I know that I attended Phyllis Bligh's "nursery school" which initially took place in a hut in the garden of Further Pegs and later at Walden where she lived.

At some point we joined up with the school run by Leslie England at Long Dene, housed in the glass fronted bungalow in the left side of the garden of Long Dene House.

Handwriting using a Marian Richardson textbook comes to mind, and Music & Movement compered by a lady named Ann Driver which was listened to from the radio.

We were exhorted to be "little fairies" skipping in the garden, then hiding under nasturtium leaves when it rained. It was all rather "twee" I was very shy and found it rather trying!

Our peace was suddenly disrupted by a change in headship, when John Guinness and his wife took over the school.

They arrived with a bunch of what seemed to be large & noisy girls, I expect there were boys too but what I remember is doing PE on the lawn in their bathing suits and I marvelled at the size of their bottoms, and I was very thin!

Fuel Fitness 4.0 Treadmill

Professional standard, silver & black, cost £350 new. Any reasonable offer considered.

Please contact Esther Cavett on 07775 911251



Compost Bins

Jules Li of Long Dene House has kindly offered three compost bins to anyone who wants them. They cost about £40 new, and she requests that whoever wants them simply makes a donation to the Village Store. Contact her on 01494 265544 or via email on

juliannejli@yahoo.com



At playtime, we all played on the lawn at the back of the house, and climbed on the climbing frame which we called a jungle gym, although I thought it was "Jim". It was a place to perch, and chat to friends and to barter small treasures which we kept in matchboxes with other children.

Then we moved into the main building. We sat in a room whose window overlooked the front doing geography and sticking things into our books. It was all very strange but the paste of our glue was delicious, we all tried it!

Coming to school every morning was an adventure. At the time, my family were living at Spindrifft; I walked down to where the ash tree had bent over and formed a sort of stile, which became an imaginary horse to ride if you had the time.

There were no Puers Fields flats then, no "Pippins", or "Seedlings", just a large field with a clay pit in it (this was where clay was taken from to make bricks when the village was built - Ed). I walked right around the edge, it seemed like miles. At lunch time I walked home, and came back again in the afternoon.

Later, some of us were housed in a house right down the far end of Jordans Way. I liked the walk, stopping to look for frogs and tadpoles in the pond at the far end.

When a new maths master arrived, it was rumoured that he was a German spy! Goodness knows why, but we all got very excited.

I started French and can still remember the first page of the text book, but I had no idea what I was doing.

At about 9 and a half, the school moved from Long Dene House to Stoke Poges,

Useful Contacts

Jordans Village Estate Office

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Jordans Village Store

01494 873279

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www.jordansvillagestore.co.uk

Quaker Meeting House

01494 876594

www.jordansquakercentre.org

How to Book the Village Hall

Jordans Village Hall is available for hire and holds regular events. Bookings are taken by the Estate Manager, on 01494 875177

or estateoffice@jordansvillage.co.uk.

but always retained the name Long Dene.



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Alternatively, if you do not have access to a computer, or need help to compile an article, drop in to the Estate Office where Chris Jenkins, our Estate Manager and Contributing Editor will be delighted to assist with text and images. Chris can be contacted at estateoffice@jordansvillage.co.uk or on 01494 875177.

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