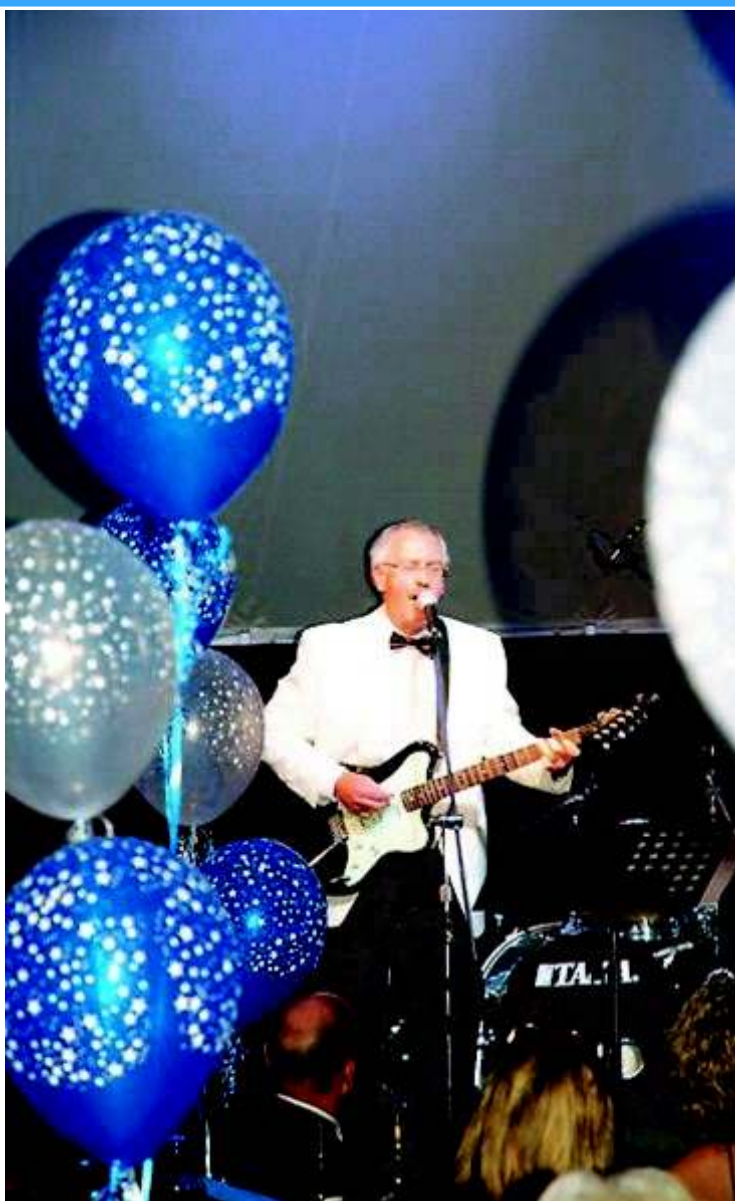


Fun, Fetes and Festivals

Issue 47, Autumn/
Winter 2009



Speen and North Dean News



SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS

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What's on in Speen and North Dean, 2009/10?

<u>2009</u>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<u>November</u>			
Friday Nov 06th 6pm	Fireworks Display & Pig Roast	North Dean Village Hall / Playing Field	Julie White 01494 562311 Beechdean Dairy 563980
7th	Bonfire Night	Playing Fields	Andy Thompson 488524
12, 7:00 p.m. (food) for 8:00	Pub Quiz Night	KWIV	Geoff and Clare, 488701
21st, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast: Tom Sanderson, Only Five Talents?	KWIV	James and Sandy, 488875
21st Saturday	Christmas Fayre	Speen School	Ann Myers 488692
26, 7:00 p.m. (food) for 8:00	Pub Quiz Night	KWIV	Geoff and Clare, 488701
<u>December</u>			
Saturday, 5, 2 p.m.	Christmas Fair	Village Hall	Bill Groves, 488180
Thursday, 3rd	WI	Village Hall	Barbara Collett, 488348
10, 7:00 p.m. (food) for 8:00	Pub Quiz Night	KW4	Geoff and Clare, 488701
Saturday, 12th, 5:30	Christmas Tree Lights and Carol Singing	Playing Fields	Andy Thompson 01494 488524
Saturday, 12th, 7:30	Great Missenden Choral Society Christmas Concert	Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Great Missenden	Christopher Boyce [christopher@dairymed.otadsl.co.uk]
Tuesday Dec 22nd	Carol Singing	North Dean Village Hall	Sarah Watson 565697
<u>January, 2010</u>			
Thursday, 7th 7:45 p.m.	WI	Speen Village Hall	Barbara Collett, 488348
Thursday, 7th, 7:00 p.m. (food) for 8:00	Pub Quiz Night	KW4	Geoff and Clare, 488701
Saturday, 30 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Ladies Breakfast: Dr. Ann Horrobin "Just Cards"	KWIV	James and Sandy, 488875
Thursday, 21st, 7:00 p.m. for 8:00	Pub Quiz	KW4	Geoff and Clare, 488701
<u>February</u>			
Thursday, 4th	WI	Speen Village Hall	Barbara Collett, 488348
Friday 5th	Race Night	North Dean Village Hall	Jez Wicks 07802 476712
<u>March</u>			
5-6 March	John Morris, Chiltern Woodlands Project leads a study group on Woodland Archaeology	Piggott's Farm – reservations required.	Chiltern Woodlands Project – 01844.355.503
13/20 (TBC)	Men's Breakfast: TBC	KWIV	James and Sandy, 488875
Wednesday 17th	History Night	North Dean Village Hall	Julie White 01494 562311

<u>2010</u>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Who to Contact</i>
<u>April</u>			
Thursday, 1st	WI	Village Hall	Barbara Collett 488348
<u>May</u>			
Saturday, 22 May	Ladies Breakfast Anne Coles: Life from death	KWIV	James and Sandy, 488875
<u>June</u>			
4t/5th	FunDay	Playing Fields	Andy Thompson, 488 524
20, Sunday	Breakfast on the Hill	Brow of the Hill behind NDVH	Andrew Howard, 563980
<u>July</u>			
Saturday, 10th	Speen Fete	Playing Fields	Niki Pitt – 488713
Monday, 19	Black tie Charity Ball	Piggotts' Farm	Nick Wheeler-Robinson, 562167
Saturday, 31st	North Dean Annual Fete	North Dean Village Hall/ Playing Fields	Julie White, NDVH Secretary 01494 562311

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01494 562045**

Dear Reader,

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be
done !
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riety of
homes



around the district in the last month, a collective sigh , at once tired and triumphal , heralded the end of the Speen Festival season . Spring to autumn in Speen and North Dean sees a great deal of use of the F word, as Fete succeeds FunDay, and FunDay is followed by Fete. And then, every second year, comes Festival. We suspect that the first meeting of the committee is always dominated by “we really are taking on too much...” “if only we could find a galvanizingly enthusiastic chairman ...” “of course , it is not clear that we have the artistic direction to carry this off ... “. Then , with the chairman appointed and the Artistic Directors in place , the whole unwieldy structure totters forward , months of planning decline to panicky weeks of urgent preparations which further accelerate down the steep slopes of the “last few days” into “it will be all right on the night “. And it is. From its unlikely beginnings this years’ festival ran the gamut of human emotions, at least from entertainment to education, and not one session took place which did not draw an appreciative local audience whose support will enable the Festival, like fete and FunDay,

to pay its way. While we salute the organizers and activists involved in all of these events , and give every credit to the sponsors (some of us are now hooked and need a daily slug of Beechdean before functioning properly) one moment of reflection may be in order before we close the books on a great job well done .

We watched a village friend moving chairs in the marquee one evening between performances , and heard the “ galvanizingly enthusiastic “ chairman say , sotto voce , “ he is wonderful , for nothing works unless logistics works “ . Obvious and true, but what a blessing that someone is prepared to participate by doing some logistics, and how seldom is the importance of that recognized). And then, another day, a participant commented “all village events have 50-70 people organizing them, 150-200 people attending them, and 800 or so in a community of around 1200 souls who never get involved at all”. We suspect that this is true of most communities (and there are very good reasons why many people of all age groups cannot participate). Yet it does expose us to risks, and clearly anything we can do as a community to mitigate those risks by encouraging a wider participation is vitally important. If we do not love participating and value those who do so in every role, then we shall deserve to lose it. An acquaintance visiting us recently

remarked “I live in a community where we prefer to keep ourselves to ourselves and go to London for our entertainment “. We would be happy to provide her address to anyone who thinks that is a superior way of life!

In this issue we have featured small businesses in the villages and written about three very different local entrepreneurs. As we come out of recession, it is good to remember that it is small businesses that drive economic growth, and Speen’s Small Business Group, under Derek Stephen’s energetic direction, testifies to the unseen business activities that provide employment, wealth creation and energy in the village. The group, which meets regularly in the King William IV, is well worth joining if you are running a home business, since it helps to network home workers, keeps up an active discussion on issues of common interest and provides the great solace of discussion of common problems with people facing the same issues. Our community needs schools and playgroups to stay lively, but it needs businesses as well in the huts in our back gardens!

Finally, we report on the Speen and North Dean News creative writing initiative, undertaken in conjunction with the Festival, as part of SpeenFest Interactive. On p25, 28, and 33 you will find a selection of entries from those exhibited in Speen Chapel during the Festival. We expect to

print most entries in the next three issues, and then start the competition again.

Please continue to send in or give us suggestions on how we can improve SNDN for you: since many wanted less words and better pictures we will stop at this point!

Anne and David Worlock
anne@monimail.net
epsdrw@aol.com

Tel: 488033

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of Advertisers on p. 28*

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The New Speen Marquee

The first Speen Marquee was bought in 2000 to provide a facility that could accommodate larger events than possible in the Village Hall. A 60ft x 40 ft,



second hand marquee was purchased at a total cost of £6000. The marquee reached the end of its usable life at the end of the 2008 season. So we purchased a new one of the same size.

The new marquee cost £10,000 including new matting and groundsheets etc. We sold the old on eBay for £1,650, used £8.700 from our hiring's reserve, and raised the remainder from a Grand Draw. Nearly all villagers bought tickets for the Draw – many thanks for your generous support.

The Grand Opening took place on 5th June when Andy Gower led a mass blessing by villagers. The Marquee has since been

used for Speen FunDay, Fete and Festival and North Dean Fete.

Our smart marquee has attracted local interest. We already have bookings in 2010 for a wedding, a Rotary Club function and a business exhibition. These will take place on either side of village events, so mini-

For information on the availability and cost of hiring the Marquee contact our correspondent

John Holmes (01494 488420 or jholmes@nildram.co.uk).

Fun Day Launches

Marquee

With an exuberance we've come to expect from the performers that local impresario Jem Symondson finds, Kasai Masai Opened Fun Day with energy and vivacity.

The following day Fun Day



mizing the need for several erections.

The changed marquee erection procedures took a little time to master, much to the frustration of our volunteer teams, but to the amusement of some onlookers! However, the skills have now been acquired. **Many thanks to the team leaders (Jem, James, Ashley and Trevor) and all the volunteer workers for your efforts this season.**

raised £2000 for the playing fields from optimistic punters, and just plain good sports, including a team from North Dean.

The Editors

Speen Fete 2009

This year Speen Fete has raised a considerable amount of money for its chosen charities and local organisations. £1,105 was raised for the local M.S. charity and £150 was given to the Hearing Dogs in Saunderton. Cheques were presented at an evening at the KW1V where representatives from both charities came to receive the cheques.

The local organisations have all received £250. A big 'Thank YOU' has to go to all those that attended meetings, sold advertising, designed the programme, put up tents, sold programmes and raffle tickets and ran side shows. Thanks also goes to all those who turned out on the day to take part and make it work by entering the fancy dress, making exhibits, performing the country dancing and parting with cash!! It really is a credit to the village that the fete goes from success to success each year.

Next year is already being planned so please reserve Saturday 10th July 2010 in your diaries for the Fete.

Paul Rogerson, Treasurer

NB If you would like to be part of the team that puts together the activities then please give Nicki Pitt a call – 488713



Launch of the stars quilt for the Festival

Sam Laughton (right) resting between gigs.

A Hearing Ear Dog works to get a message across. (below)



Photos Loiz Bales



And the winners are...

SPEEN FETE, 2009

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS

PRIZE WINNERS

Colouring Competition:

Under 6 yrs: Beth Podmore

6 – over: Jessie Laughton

Pasta Picture:

Youngest: Esme Daw

Older: Jemima Cranley

6 Decorated Biscuits:

Lucy Entwisle

Fancy Dress:

1st – Olivia Warr (Fish)

2nd – William, Emily, Ruben
O'Brien (Train)

**CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS TO ALL TAKING
PART**

**Thanks to Alison from Speen
Stores for judging and present-
ing the prizes. And thanks to
Kate Laughton for organising
the wonderful Fancy Dress mu-
sical opening procession.**

North Dean Village Fete 2009

The annual North Dean Village Fete has a reputation for traditional, family fun but most of all SUNSHINE. Having been going to the fete since 1987, I can only remember a handful of “wet fetes”. 2009 promised to break the trend of Sunny North Dean and deliver a rare Wet Fete.

As with all village events there is a lot of planning and hard work goes into these days. What is great about the North Dean Fete is the amount of help and gifts that the “North Deaner’s” generously donate each year.

Planning starts way back in the dark cold winter months, but by the time of the fete week everything is in order and the fete starts to take shape as the week-end of the fete draws closer.

This year saw many of the regular faces involved again but there were a few new faces filling some of the key roles. Sue Blakeley took over the Garden Judging competition. Re-introduced in 2008 (when the original cup was found after being lost for over 50 years). Sue did a great job with a multi class, point accumulating score system. A tie for first was a very special result and shows the high level of gardens in North Dean. Another new face was the Tent Competitions head person, Susie Howard. With a lot of help from Lillian Cash (ex head per-

son) a record number of entries were catalogued, judged and awarded prizes. If village life is in the decline then the number of vegetable entries is certainly bucking the trend. A complete list of prize winners will be published for the first time this year in the S& ND news. There will also be helpful “judging tips” coming out with the rules for the 2010 competitions, its never too early to start planning.

As is now tradition the fete was opened by a local dignitary, Desmond Ryman who gave a typically rousing speech. The competition winners were then called out and as the first rain of the day (well maybe the fifth shower) came tumbling down the marquee was opened and the usual Bric-a-brac onslaught took place.

For a day of rain showers interspersed with heavy rain it was amazing how many people turned up and the final numbers were only just short of the 2008 numbers. With the great South African BBQ, excellent bar, some local ice cream and lots of different games the fete still managed to deliver its traditional Countryside afternoon fun. Even the fantastic band from Piggots, Nestled under a large truck awning, managed to bring some light musical entertainment.

A very heavy burst of rain at 5pm brought the fete to a close and a record breaking pack up time meant that everyone was ready for the “helpers evening supper” in good time. *Cont. p. 11*



The King William IV Pub & Restaurant, in the heart of Speen.

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Events

Speen bonfire Night 7th Nov
Christmas Parties
Christmas Eve Dinner
New Year Party

Quiz Night every other
Thursday with set meal for £6

Previously

SSG christmas Market
Martin Hart Jazz Night Supper
Grease sing along & dinner
Octoberfest
Speen festival
Speen summer fete
St Georges dinner
Mothering Sunday
St Patricks night supper
St Davids Day
Valentines Dinner
Burns Night



Christmas Menu

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Starters

Chicken liver pate with cranberry & port chutney
Creamy parsnip & apple soup with pesto & olive bread (V)
Spiced white bait & aioli sauce
Sharing plate for two
Baked camembert served with warm bread & chutney (V)

Main courses

Traditional roast turkey & all the trimmings
Braised confit leg of duck & sweet chili gravy on garlic Mash
Fillet of salmon & creamy oyster mushrooms
Carrot & courgette Layer with tomato salsa (V)
Unless otherwise stated the above will be served with seasonal vegetables & potatoes

Desserts

Plum pudding with brandy cream
Hot chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream
Fresh fruit meringue with ice cream
Cheese plate with oat cakes
Duo of Beechdean icecream
Coffee or Tea £2.50

2 course £18.50 per person or 3 course £22.50 per person
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With food from the King William (excellent as ever) everyone enjoyed a sociable and relaxing meal and drink.

I hope everyone enjoyed North Dean Fete this year, it only happens due to lots of hard work by many people and the generosity of many others. We have some great plans for North Dean Fete 2010, still traditional but they did some great things in the past. Make sure you don't miss it!

Andrew Howard

Chairman

North Dean Village Hall Fete

Competition Winners 2009

Pot Plant, The Campbell Cup – Gill Sandford

Arrangement of Cut Flowers,
The Weller Rose Bowl – Mrs J Prentice

Single Bloom, Silver Rose Vase
– Rachel Palmer

Home Made Wine/Beer, The
Ryman Tankard – Keith Maries,

Fruit Cake, The Farmhouse Cup
– Mrs J Prentice

Fruit Jam – Doris Redrup

Marmalade, John Lewis Bowl –
Gina Fullalove,

Victoria Sandwich Cake – Pat
Rogers

Any Fruits In Season – Janet
Cook

Vegetables – The North Dean

Challenge Cup – John Rogers

Prize Vegetable or Fruit of The
Year, The Beau Vista Bell – Janet
Cook

Handicrafts and Art, 15yrs and
older, The Rogers Bell – Charles
Cook

Junior Handicrafts, 14 yrs and
under, – Jason Richardson

Junior Arts, 14 yrs and under –
Alice Wilson

Photography, Black and White,
The Morgan Cup – Sharon Con-
stancon

Photography, Colour, The Evans
Bowl – Sharon Constancon

Best Garden, The Renee Ayres
Cup – Pauline Jones, and Jim &
Gill Kent (joint winners)

Many congratulations to all the
above named winners. We look
forward to you entering the
competitions again next year!

North Dean's Breakfast On the Hill

On a bright
and sunny
morning in
June the an-
nual "Fathers
Day – Break-
fast on the
Hill" event
was held on
the upper
Grave-yard

field looking over North dean
Village hall and playing fields.

With the normal extensive plan-
ning and good teamwork, the
field was laid out ready for the
willing early morning breakfast
guests. Guests might be a gener-
ous word as the idea of the
Breakfast on the hill is that eve-
ryone attending brings along
their breakfast raw materials
and hands them over to one of
the resident chefs (again per-
haps an over generous term).
Whilst their bacon, sausages or
even black pudding is expertly
incinerated, the guests prepare a
non cow pat area with a rug or if
experienced in these events, a
complete chair and table ensem-
ble.

Having laid out their morning
pitch and poured the "flask
ready" hot beverage, they return
to the BBQ to collect their thick
streaky bacon and pork sausage.
The joy and good nature of the
event means that their raw ma-
terials have now become
smoked back bacon and crispy
Cumberland sausage; everyone
just enjoys what they get.



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Speen Village Hall Update: Life in the old girl yet

Speen Village Hall is alive and well. New activities in the Village Hall include a Bridge Club, Keep Fit Class and a Horticulture Evening both organised by the WI.

Please note in your diaries that the Christmas market will be held on Saturday 5th December 2009, doors open at 2pm.

We are urgently seeking new committee members to sustain this village resource. The work is not onerous – four meetings a year and help with the Christmas market.

The Village Hall is your Village Hall, it has been owned by the village since 1924.

If anyone is interested in joining the management committee please contact Bill Groves on 01494 488180

Collecting goodies for the Christmas Fair!

If anyone has **new** unwanted gifts or Christmas items we would be pleased to collect them for the Christmas market. Please call Margaret Groves on 01494 488180.

Bill Groves 488180

Chairman Speen Village Hall

Speen and North Dean play suspenseful tourney: Golf Day Sept. 24

In Issue 46 we reported on the genesis of this great event, so it is a pleasure to get a report on the great contest this year.

On possibly one of the nicest days of the year the two teams met again to do battle at Princes Risborough Golf Club.

Numbers were slightly down on last year; North Dean especially missing several heavyweight contenders. However, some pretty tidy golf was produced and the match overall was very close.

Result:- Morning 9 hole Texas Scramble;-

1st John Rogers , John Askew, John Dockett. Kevin MacDonnell

2nd David Kemp, Stuart Rowe, Andy Ruler, Alan Costin.

Afternoon 18 hole Stableford :-

1st Stephen Peake 40 points

2nd Mark Beeks 39

3rd John Dockett 38

4th Gerard Cranley 38

5th John Mulry // John Askew 37

Nearest pin hole 3 Russell Hansen

Nearest pin hole 8 and 17 and longest drive hole 11 all won by Mark Beeks(good job he is building a new house for all his prizes!)

Village Trophy

Winners Speen 220

North Dean 218

Our thanks again to John Rogers for all his tireless work in putting these days together, it can be a thankless task!

Anyone who has not played before and would like to be included contact-

Speen charliepearson@btinternet.com

North Dean johnrogers3@talktalk.net

Charlie Pearson

Macmillan Coffee Morning at Speen School.

On Friday 25th September Speen School held a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer, and to welcome the new parents.



The sun shone, the coffee flowed, and so did the money. Over £120 was raised.

The year 2 children from 'Let's Get Cooking' club kept the cakes coming.



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Support from Council, Tennis Club and Fun Day keep fields fit

Speen Playing Fields Report, Autumn 2009

I'm sure you will all agree our playing fields look magnificent at the moment. The combination of our wet summer and dry September means they are in excellent condition and have been looking tip top for the recent Festival, no welly boots required this year!

June saw our early summer village events of Fun Day and the annual village Fete on the playing field. This year North Dean were invited to take part in Fun Day and brought a strong team to challenge the traditional Speen teams. At the end of an exciting and eventful completion it was they who ran out winners much to the despair Speen and the delight of North Dean. Fun Day is one of our annual fundraisers which keep the playing field coffers full for us to spend on maintenance, to keep the fields in good order and also invest in new equipment. This year we made over £2,000 profit on Fun Day and the live band Kasai Masai on the night before, many thanks for your support.

I would like to remind everyone that the main field is a dog free area, so please do not exercise your dogs on the field or use as a shortcut when out dog walking.

Over on Ridgleys Field we have constructed the beginnings of

the Speen Trim Trail which provides some athletic challenges for the young and older kids.

Try linking in a visit to the bike park or a jog round the village with the Trim Trail for some new exercise challenges. Ridgleys Field was the location for two Festival events, a wildlife study and the Bike Park Challenge. Both events were well attended by local children, though the bike challenge benefitted from the better weather I believe.

Back on the main playing field, work is progressing on the installation of the new rotating climber and swings. We were very fortunate that we received support from Awards for All (National Lottery) Bucks Foundation and Speen Tennis Court to cover the majority of the costs. Your generosity in supporting our events has also contributed to the purchase of the equipment and we are pleased to show you the direct benefits of your support.

So summer is nearly over or just beginning judging by recent weather and so we turn our attention to winter. Our Autumn Work Party is scheduled for Saturday 17th of October. If you can spare a few hours to help with hedge cutting, cleaning, painting etc then we would be delighted to see you.

It is Bonfire Night on the playing field on Sat 7th November. If you would like to donate timber for the bonfire please contact me. We only use clean wood, no green, and so if you have an old shed you wish to get rid of or just some spare timber that is no longer required then we may be able to give it a good send off on the 7th! Pallets burn especially well and are good for building too!

We will be putting up the village Christmas tree in December and having the lighting up procession and carol singing on Saturday 12th December, a free event and all welcome.

Lastly, a big thank you to all our supporters and helpers who work at our events, work parties and on various field maintenance tasks. Also a special big thanks to the members of the Playing Fields Committee who have had a very busy time recently and who work tirelessly to keep our fields in excellent order for us all to enjoy.

Andy Thompson, [488524](tel:488524)

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News -
September 2009

Speen Conservation Area Appraisal,

The Conservation Area Appraisal for Speen is being updated. It is important as the Appraisal is used as supplementary planning guidance when assessing planning applications. The draft makes recommendations concerning the buildings that should be retained as well as identifying the issues that affect the area and will be available for comment either on line using the Wycombe District Council website www.wycombe.gov.uk or through representation to the Parish Council.

Risborough Rural Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Following the recent public consultation, the priorities for the NAG have been reset. **Speeding traffic** and **inconsiderate parking** remain as actions with **Anti Social Behaviour** replacing concerns on Fly-tipping. Andrew Ralph and Lisa Roberts have responsibility for the villages; you may have seen Lisa recently in Speen Stores where she is holding a series of surgeries. The dates are posted in the shop window so if you have an issue then please go along for a chat.

The NAG group still needs two more volunteers for Community Speed Watch equipment in Speen Lisa is coordinating this so if you would like to join the group please contact her. Lisa's email is Lisa.Roberts@thamesvalley.pnn.

police.uk or call 0845 8 505 505

Local Community Partnership Meetings

These are partnership meetings between the Risborough Area Parishes, District and County Councils where matters of common concern are discussed and hopefully actions agreed to improve delivery. The next meeting is scheduled for 25th November where the subject of Rural Public Transport is on the agenda. The opportunity to put questions directly to the members is included on the agenda so if you have an issue and would like to make a representation to the partnership then please contact Carole Burslem, our Area Coordinator on 01494 475380 or email cburslem@buckscc.gov.uk, and she will let you know what you need to do.

Coombe Hill Monument Appeal

The work to put together funding to restore this valuable memorial to the 151 men in Buckinghamshire that lost their lives during the Boer War is continuing. We are fortunate to have gained the support of the Lord Lieutenant and Major General Stuart Watson to help with the appeal. The objective is to replace the worn stones and to renew the inscriptions so that the memory to those who fought is not lost. If you would like to contribute or know of others that would like to help please let the appeal coordinator Mark Bailey know. His contact details are:

Mark Bailey, Natural Environment Team Manager, Natural Environment Team Planning, Environment & Development Service, Buckinghamshire

County Council,

County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks,
HP20 1UY. Tel: 01296 382389

Email: mabailey@buckscc.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

In last July's update I said I would let you have a report on the work of the Fire Authority. I certainly have been impressed with the service especially the dedication of the crews to their work. Interestingly rescue work related to traffic incidents now competes with fire as one of the prime responses for the service. With the M1, M25, M4 and M40 coming within the area this is probably no great surprise. Fire prevention is high on the priorities for the Fire Authority, if you would like some help with Home Fire Protection then please give the Community Safety Team a call (01296 744477) or email hsc@bucksfire.gov.uk to book a **free** Home Fire Risk check under the Home Safety Check scheme. The smoke alarms that are fitted come with a ten year battery.

Community Fund

If you have a community project then please let me know and I will see if some funding can be arranged. If you have an issue with which I can help, please also let me know. As well as writing to my home address Canastel, Water Lane, Speen, HP27 0SW, I can be contacted by phone 01494 488315 or by email at progerson@buckscc.gov.uk

Paul Rogerson

District & County Councillor

Speen Festival

we did it!

Hello everyone

Speen Festival 2009 – what an utterly incredible time we had! Looking back, it is really hard to believe so much was packed so effortlessly into so little time. But the facts speak for themselves: 14 events in just ten days, (plus 7 SpeenFest Interactive! events, many of which were free); nearly 70 volunteers, 6 sponsors including 2 local councils and our very first major sponsor; more than 2000 tickets sold plus unprecedented participation from more local villagers than ever before - the spirit of Speen Festival is clearly alive and rocking.

In an already packed village calendar, Speen Festival stands out proudly. A blaze of brilliant colour, not to mention a joyful melee of sounds, Speen Festival is special not just because it is packed to the rafters with exceptional entertainment of every shape and form but because this ten-day period engenders the most fabulously feel-good feeling imaginable – the truly inimitable, life-affirming sensation that arises when an entire community comes together. As well as being a unique platform for the amazing talent in and around the village, Speen Festival is a perfect showcase for the endless goodwill, boundless

energy and incredible ‘can do’ attitude that grips and galvanizes the village when ‘something needs doing’. To allow the stars of the show to shine, the true unsung heroes of Speen Festival (the backroom army of ‘can doers’) step up to the mark time and time again. Bravo Speen!

To thank all those involved in the Festival would take up far too much space on this page so on behalf of the committee, let me instead send my sincere thanks to each and everyone of you all telepathically (...,,,,,, ,!!.....!). Before I conclude, there is one more thank you I would like to pass on and that is to Alison at our very own Speen Stores. To Alison, who has had to endure for almost a year of poor lighting conditions due to the sheer number of posters and flyers she has kindly put up in her windows, our most sincere of thank you’s.

Best wishes

Jem

Chair

Speen Festival 2009

PS – for a memento of Speen Festival 2009, you can pick up a DVD for £7.50 of over 500 images taken by Speen Festival 2009 Official Photographers, PLG Photography (www.plgphoto.com). Copies are available in Speen Stores or from PLG’s website. A percentage of sales will be donated to the Festival.

HONK!

With the sun shining splendidly, Speen Festival 2009 opened in glorious style with HONK! our toe-tappingly brilliant musical theatre production based around the tale of The Ugly Duckling. With its medley of award-winning melodies and positively jaw-droppingly sensational performances from the wonderfully colourful cast, HONK! set the racy pace (and the standard) for the rest of the Festival. Hats off once again to our superb director, Annie Hill.

Photography Exhibition/ Competition

The great thing about the Harts, apart from being talented artists and musicians, is they just get on with it. As in previous years we were presented with a beautiful exhibition of photography by local photographers for the Village Hall and an excellent competition for all the rest of us with the contribution of a national photographic judge to help everyone raise their game. Before announcing the winners, Anne Minter, the photographic judge, commented on how the standard had enormously improved in the last 2 years. The event was preceded by a workshop led by Martin Hart in Speen (from which a regular group has been established) and a visit by young photographer

Caleb Wheeler-Robinson to
Lacey Green Youth Group.

Festival of Food

Another sunny day dawned for our first Festival of Food, which enjoyed a record number of visitors. On entering the Festival Marquee, the senses were pleasantly assaulted by the inviting smell of tasty dishes including Thai and Cambodian curries not to mention the many delicious titbits for sampling including game sausages, chutneys, cheeses, cakes and chocolates.

In the busy Children's Corner, there were plenty of workshops on making sugar paste roses, fresh pasta as well as imaginative cake decorating practice. Judging by the reaction to the day from both stallholders and visitors alike, this is definitely an event to be repeated.

Cosmic Quest

Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest, two top writers on matters astronomical, provided a fascinating background to the characters that shaped our understanding of the universe, from the Aborigines of 4000 years ago to the astronomers of the present day.

We can now drop into our dinner party conversation the fact that Tycho Brahe died of mercury poisoning and not an exploding bladder as popular belief has it. You may well ask who Tycho Brahe was: well, as far as I remember, he was a tip top seventeenth century astronomer. This and many other snippets of information concerning lives less ordinary were given during this marvellous talk.

Our own infinitesimal place in the Cosmos becomes all too apparent when talking of the stars. This was emphasised by the breathtaking photos shown of outer space that were taken from the Hubble Space Station. Once more we came face to face with the beauty and fragility of our planet.

An eclectic bunch gathered to listen to the talk, from strange other worldly astronomers to the worldly wise, all of whom agreed how much they had enjoyed the evening.

Heavens & Earth and In Between and Creative Writing Expo

The concept came about to reflect some of the themes of the Festival from astronomy to the Festival of Food: in other words, both heavenly and earthly pleasures. The floral arrangements and candlelight created a magical ambience, redolent of the retrospective eras and showcasing the masterful Sam Laughton on harpsichord and the stonkingly talented and engagingly entertaining Reid Sisters on violin. The literary accompaniments were researched by Anne Foster, focusing on local writers, past and present, evocatively recalled by Anne herself and husband David Worlock. Olly Treen brought us up to the present day with a sensitive rendition of his own poetry. We had a packed house with over 120 guests who enjoyed wine and canapés in the interval. The evening was complemented by an exhibition of local poems and writing inspired by the creative writing workshop back in May. The sheer sense of occasion, the wonderful music and delightful readings generated plentiful requests for similar future events.

Family Wild- life Fun

Just minutes into our event, an enthusiastic team of children in Ridgley's Field had found a new species of bush cricket - or at least, one that our resident wildlife expert, Fred Burnham, hadn't seen in the locality before. Back in the Marquee, barn owl



Snippets from the Festival Feast;

Top left and right performers in Honk!

Top far right – Cabaret

Centre – Wild about Speen.

Left – sampling food at the food festival

Far right – The Big Sing

Bottom Right – Heavens and Earth



pellets yielded tiny skeletons (mostly voles and shrews) and an observation beehive gave us a glimpse into the fascinating lives of honey bees.

Wild about Speen

We are all so used to seeing the wonderful wildlife programmes that abound on our screens, one moment seeing the world through the eyes of a Madagascan centipede, the next hitching a ride on the wings of an Andean condor, that we overlook what is happening on our doorsteps. This was the joy of Peter Symonds' engrossing talk and close up view of wildlife in Speen seen through the course of the year. Fascinating facts and extraordinary photography highlighting many of the rarer species that have been recorded in recent times together with Peter's pleasure in sharing his knowledge made this an event not to be missed.

Jazz

As in previous years, Martin Hart's jazz evening was sold out within a few weeks of the Box Office opening, attracting a good mix of jazz aficionados and those who would not normally attend jazz concerts. (This year's theme 'The Irving Berlin Story' proved so popular that it quickly developed a waiting list!). Indeed, this much-awaited

evening did not disappoint. On the contrary, Martin and his band gave a spectacular performance of Irving Berlin's music from his most famous compositions: 'How deep is The Ocean' and 'Cheek to Cheek' to some of his not so well-known numbers: "Change Partners" and "I used to be Colour Blind".

Science Matters

The science discussion evening attracted an audience of nearly 80 people providing for a very lively atmosphere. The panel of scientists answered many and varied questions and debated with the audience issues as diverse as swine flu, MRSA in hospitals, GM food, healthy diets, climate change, alternative energy technologies and how we can improve the communication of scientific ideas. Such was the enthusiasm during the evening that a regular science event is currently being mooted.

Speen Big Sing!

The sun shone, the beer was out, Peter's van was cooking up an aroma and by 6.00pm the playing fields were beginning to hum in anticipation of what must have been the biggest free-for-all event of the Festival this

year. Our Speen Machine was vocal, varied and of many parts and places including groups from Lacey Green, Bledlow and beyond. In the presence of our illustrious composer Julian Allwood we cranked up our components and gained momentum until by about the third time through, our world premiere was sounding (almost) commendable.

As part of the Big Sing! Kate Laughton, aided by Fiona Insley, ran workshops in local schools and visited many community groups to drum up support. Thank you to the many community leaders who leant considerable weight on their membership to attend the event and took part with such spirit.

What a happy coincidence that the Speen Big Sing! took place whilst The Choir was being broadcast on BBC 2, demonstrating so tangibly the power of music and song to bring together a whole community. I think we demonstrated this at the Festival this year and if it has moved you to want to sing a bit more please get in touch for advice on where to get singing.

Teatro Unfortunato

The somewhat mad but totally hilarious 'Teatro Unfortunato' came to themarquee on the morning of Saturday 19th. Nobody knew quite what

to expect but I don't think anybody, young or old, was disappointed. Whether anyone followed the story (if indeed there was one), I'm not sure but oh, how we laughed, especially the adults. The children were all very keen to get up on the stage and participate; some rather more reluctant Dads and Granddads had to do likewise. All coped superbly. A great time was had by all.

Bike Park Challenge

About 40 local youngsters took part in the second Bike Park Challenge with ages ranging from 7 to 17. Having registered and had their bikes checked at the Pitstop the competitors were divided into five groups to compete on the various challenges. As well as time trials on the main track we had the popular Slow Bike Race again, the Water Bucket Challenge and a new T.T. Race involving bikes and the Trim Trail together with the usual BBQ. Congratulations to the three group winners; the Sharp brothers from Lacey Green, Charlie Putnam and Jamie Thompson. Dan Ridgley would have been thrilled to see so many local youngsters enjoying his field on a sunny afternoon.

Cabaret Supper

The supper sold out almost immediately: those in the know obviously knew! Kate and Sam had not breathed a word about the evening, nothing, not who would perform or what they would do. As it turned out, the evening provided a varied programme from opera to pop, comedy sketches to classical music, a treat for the ears, a workout for the brain and healthy exercise for your laughing gear.

The food was a treat, catered by the King William IV and the waiting staff were the best ever: Gordon Ramsay could not have faulted them. The marquee was beautifully dressed in blues and silver with twinkling lights, flowers and stars, the whole decorative and foody side organised impeccably by the hard working and imaginative Judith Newenham and her sidekicks.

Thanks to one and all for making the cabaret supper a truly memorable and joyous occasion and a fitting finale to this year's Festival.

SpeenFest Interactive!

As important as the events that took place in September were also the more experimental workshops and activities that took part as a result of the Festi-

val. Not only did we host poetry and photography workshops, but also a visit from the charismatic and extraordinary performance poet, A.F. Harrold, to local schools. The Speen Stars tapestry signed by visitors to the Fete became a roving feature at the Pub, the Marquee and lately at the Village Hall. And Ian Warr's wonderful video masterclass with local teenagers helped us to broaden the scope of the Festival to include media and get us onto YouTube whilst giving expert advice and training to those involved.

These workshops only tickled the surface of what the Festival could offer to develop creativity in and beyond Speen but they exposed a heartening desire to share and develop creative talent. We still have plans to host a visit from the Science Museum's Education Department to Bucks and continue our creative work with local schools. And then there's the Cultural Olympiad to deal with... in the meantime keep an eye on www.speenfestival.org to learn about continuing events in the months to come!

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Remember for me

Remember for me
that the answer is yes
every time, no matter the question.
So long as it will make you happy.

Remember for me
that through all the gloom
in the dusty box with rusted lock
burns a fire that won't ever die.

Remember for me
that I love you
and I will never stop loving you even if
you tear my life in two.

Remember for me
all of these things:
the questions and answers, the box with its rust
and the promise I made.

Promise me you'll remember
For me.

Olly Treen

This poem was submitted by Olly Treen of Walter's Ash, and read by him at the Heavens and Earth words and music concert at Speen Festival. It is a highly personal poem, unafraid to express deep emotion. The Editors

Anthony Hernandez

02.06.79 - 21.09.08

Remembering a wonderful son, brother & friend.

Your memory lives on in our hearts.

We love and miss you dearly.



Down the wandering path

**I have travelled,
where the setting sun lies on
the ground,**

The tracks are hard and dry

**Smothered with the
weather's wear,**

**My mind did move
with them that had before me
been,**

Trodding down the ground

**A track to follow,
Leaving marks for others
A sign for them to follow.**

Speen WI

Our May meeting was the Resolutions where we had to vote on getting the Government to do something about the decline in the bee population and how it could affect everything we eat.

We hosted Gardener's Question Time in the village hall with Edwin Rye, which was a good evening and we made £30 which was given to the village hall for their funds.

Dr. Jill Eyers came in June to talk about the Geology of Speen. Unfortunately, Speen doesn't appear to have any geology as nothing of interest has been found in these parts. However, she did give a very interesting talk on what Speen did have to offer.

In July Margaret Deaking took us on a fascinating journey to Peru, with a talk and slides of a trip she took a few year's ago. She had brought some of the hats that the women wear and dolls and knick-knacks.

Do older members of Speen remember food rationing after the second world war? Most of us certainly did, as Kate Braford quizzed us on this and the fashions in the following decades. It was good fun.

Later in the month we visited Enid Blyton's old home near Bourne End. Unfortunately we picked a wettish day and at this late time of year the garden was past it's best. It would be nice to go again in, say, July.

In September June and Ken Brazier gave an interesting talk and slide show on Mercy Ships, which give free medical treatment to people in Africa and other poor countries.

Some of our members enjoyed the group meeting at Prestwood on the 22nd, when Mr. Richard Day showed us slides and talked about

the fire and restoration of Windsor Castle. For the competition, members had been asked to draw a picture of a castle of their choice in pencil. Unfortunately our two entries didn't win.

Future meetings are My Work in Uganda with Marie Cates on 1st October The Annual Meeting with pot luck supper on 5th November

Designs for Christmas and 'Hands On' for W.I members.

We are always happy to welcome new members on the first Thursday of the month.

Barbara Collett 488348

A storysack to engage the pre-schoolers

Speen WI members were reading children's story books, early this year, not because they had reverted to childhood and nor become senile, but in order to compete in the County Federation story sack competition.

Illustrating our chosen book, "Oliver's Vegetables" meant that the team once they completed the sack, must decorate it with items from the book. By July a staggering collection of items decorated the sack, including felt vegetables (and chips); knitted hedgehogs and bees; hand made games, a scarecrow dressing up outfit; and a variety of printed materials, stories and songs.

The team had a great time putting it together, although we didn't win.

The sack was displayed at the Autumn Group Meeting along with those from Great Hampden WI, Holmer Green Evening WI and Prestwood WI. The Speen Pre-School will be beneficiaries of our work.

Jean Morris

Wildlife Watch

by Peter Symonds

The summer wildlife period has seen the usual mix of successes and failures amongst our breeding birds. An interesting saga began on 22nd April in Monkton Way when 13 tiny Mallard chicks suddenly appeared from a nest well hidden high up in a large Leylandii hedge well away from any of the main ponds in the village. The chicks and their attentive mother set up home in Martin and Lol Simms fish pond. Over the next few weeks the young chicks progressed although their number was reduced due to predation, although the exact culprit was not identified. After four to five weeks the mother seemed to desert the growing chicks. That seemed to be the end of the story until a second brood suddenly descended from the hedge. This time the duck had hatched ten further chicks. Unfortunately this second brood was quickly predated and of the 23 chicks hatched only four survivors were subsequently relocated to a large pond at Great Hampden.



One of the species that was very successful were the local Starlings that descend on the village to breed. Dozens of young Starlings visited bird tables, lawns and the playing fields during May and June in a feeding frenzy. More welcome was a pair of Spotted Flycatchers who set up home under the porch canopy of a house in Abbotswood. The pair eventually raised at least one young bird. Elsewhere the Green Woodpeckers in College Plantation fledged a number of young as did the Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Marsh Tits.

House Martins fared well at the end of Woodview Drive with four nests instead of two last year. It is also believed that our local Red Kites may have raised at least one youngster. Since they are extremely vulnerable to disturbance when nesting I kept well away from the location.

A very dry spell in June seems to have hit the local badgers badly. Two young animals were found dead in the fields between our two villages. An informal autopsy suggested the animals may have starved due to a lack of worms; one of their main food sources. A further colony of Long-eared bats with five adults has been found in Abbotswood. There have been further regular sighting of Roe Deer both in North Dean and Speen whilst a dead female Polecat was found near Bradenham. Peter Dawson was able to watch a Muntjac give birth in his garden within feet of the windows of his bungalow. The new arrival was up and about after 30 minutes.



Generally butterflies seem to have done well with large numbers of Painted Ladies being notable. Peacocks and Comma have also been numerous although Small Tortoiseshells have been limited in numbers but have at last appeared towards the end of the summer. The butterfly highlight would be the report of a rare and elusive Purple Emperor close to the hot spot location in Spring Coppice Lane in late July feeding on dog excrement as is their way!

I have not received any reports of Grass Snakes from our villages this year although a large snake reported in Great Hampden is likely to have been a Grass Snake.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds

01494 488016

symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk

SNDN DATES			
Issue	Copy Date	Theme 2010	Approx Pub.
48	20/01/10	Oral History (Launch)	20 Feb. 2010
49	24/06/09	TBD	20 July. 2010
50	8/09/10	Oral History	15 Oct. 2010
Note that Ad copy should be available two weeks before editorial copy.			

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Earlier in the year we took a family decision to continue with milk production. Economists will think we are mad, as everyone knows that few can make money out of dairying. But, when farming is in your blood and you love the way of life, you have to be very brave to tear up your roots and throw everything away. We all feel that, in the long term with the expected increase in population and with half of all dairy farmers having left the industry in the last ten years, there must be a future for us. So after lengthy consultations with all the experts (including non-repentant bank managers) we are embarking on a programme of renovation and expansion, involving pulling down crumbling (and often dangerous) old barns and replacing them with modern clear span buildings. Until the new barns are erected, some of the cattle and all of the straw needed for winter bedding and food have to stay out of doors, so we are thrilled with this spell of extremely dry weather.

There has been a lot of publicity recently concerning walkers using public footpaths in fields grazed by cattle. Unfortunately two fatal accidents occurred, which opened discussion about the difficulties which can arise in

this situation. In forty nine years in the valley, we have never had any problems until this year when a walker felt he was being attacked by some of our Jersey heifers. Now as every countryman knows, the only bovine animals which show the slightest propensity to attack, are bulls of dairy breeds and cows which have just calved (their supra maternal protection instinct usually only lasts for a few hours). However, cattle and particularly Jerseys are extremely inquisitive and often want to say 'hello' to anyone who comes into the field. If twenty of them run towards you, the front runners invariably get pushed from behind as in a football fans crush. An unwary individual can thus be knocked down and trampled on. If you turn round, shout, and wave your arms, the animals will always turn away, as they have no malicious intentions. Dog walkers are particularly vulnerable as the cattle are even more interested in dogs. The country code said 'keep your dog on a lead'. We disagree with that and prefer 'keep your dog under control'. If cattle approach, always let the dog off the lead

unless you are confident enough to shoo them away.

We are very happy to give 'shooing' lessons if anyone is interested.

The maize harvest has just begun. We cut the whole crop and put it in a sealed clamp to preserve it as winter feed for the milking cows. The 'prairie' field adjoining the pond at Speen will be ploughed as soon as all the maize is harvested; we are praying that the polythene refuse put there last year by the compost contractors will not reappear in any quantity and that the 'composters' have learnt a lesson. Their product is normally a good soil conditioner as well as a source of nutrients.

The latest outbreak of E coli on a Surrey farm is very worrying for the farming industry. As far as I know, it hasn't been proven whether it originated from the animals or catering facilities; however, farm animals carry the bacteria all the time and those of us who work with them presumably acquire immunity from infection. As the urban population become even more isolated from the countryside, the chance of outbreaks must increase and

it is for this reason that we no longer have farm visits from schoolchildren. Any infection, apparently picked up on our farm, would have serious consequences for the family ice cream business.

Gill Kent September 09



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www.speenchurch.org

After an absence of over twelve years the Men's and Ladies Community Breakfasts have returned from the Village and Chapel Halls to their original home in the King William IV.

Many thanks are due to the team of men and ladies who have worked so hard behind the scenes over those years making it possible for these highly enjoyable, entertaining and informative community breakfasts to continue — heartfelt thanks to you! (you know who you are).



Our first "speaker" on returning to the King William IV was singer and song writer Rob Halligan (pictured above). Rob entertained us with songs and stories from his life, whilst David and his terrific team in the pub turned out an excellent full English Breakfast.

Early mornings are not the best time for musicians to perform but Rob did a great job, including sharing with us quite candidly and in a gentle understated way the impact of his father's death in the 9-11

tragedy.

If you liked what you heard but did not have the cash to pick up Rob's CDs, you could check out his web site:

www.robhalligan.co.uk.

And by the time you read this the Ladies will have had the opportunity to sample David's Breakfast whilst listening to Jennifer Rees-Larcombe and the story of her healing and more ...

Future community breakfast dates are:

21 Nov Men's Breakfast:

Tom Sanderson

'Only Five Talents?'

30 Jan Ladies Breakfast:

Dr Anne Horrobin

'Just Cards'

13/20 March Men's Breakfast: speaker tbc

22 May Ladies Breakfast:

Anne Coles

'Life from death'

*Tickets £8 from James/ Sandy
Tel: 488875*

Those who visited Speen Play-



ing Field on the sunny Sunday morning after the village Fun Day discovered excellent

Ethiopian coffee, a wide variety of 'eats', and Sunday newspapers - all free - available in the **Compassion Cafe** set up in the marquee. And to give dads and mums some peace and quiet to relax and



enjoy their coffee, the children were invited to the **Rock Revolution club** taking place in the Village Hall.

It was a beautiful morning. A lovely, quiet and enjoyable way for folk in the community to meet and chat, or if they



wanted, just to read the newspapers.

And in the marquee was information about North Dean resident Moira McLure who is working in Ethiopia as a health care advisor.

If you liked the Ethiopian Fair Trade coffee and would like more, bags of ground coffee are on sale at the Chapel on Sunday mornings; And since it is served with 'eats' from 10:15am before the Service. I guess you could say we have become a 'cafe church'.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Through the shady beechwood, past the tree with the creeper where we love to swing

Out into the field where the bee orchids grow

And there is the sunny strawberry bank

The buzzing of the bees, the blackbird's song

A lone aeroplane high in the sky

The sweet heady scent of wild strawberries in a jam jar

Hot from the sun

And my sisters, so happy and carefree

Their fingers stained red by the juicy berries

The long summer holidays stretching ahead

And the sunshine which would last forever

Judy Redrup

What is left unsaid in this lovely poem suggests as much what is said. "The sunshine that would last forever" draws the reader up with the knowledge that it could not be so, making the scent of strawberries and the sound of the bees even more poignant (The Editors)

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Special Issue—Working in the villages

A recent report from the University of Strathclyde highlighted how important the “working from home” brigade is to the UK economy. Home based businesses account for 36% of all businesses. The majority are full-time businesses and around one in ten have achieved a significant scale (10 or more employees, turnover in excess of £250,000) . Not to mention the benefits to our carbon emissions. We highlight three businesses working in or near home.

The Useful Little Shop on the Hill

If the politicians ever put together a model young business person for the entrepreneurial society, they would probably come up with Alison Templeman . The new shopkeeper of Speen has all the enthusiasm and tough-mindedness needed to make a go of things in the village shop, along with an acute understanding of the community she serves. And, vitally, she both respects that community and enjoys it.” People in the village like to have a shop here “, she says, “and like to see it working properly in their interest “ . “ The great thing about working here is that the people in the village want it to work – and I am just helping to make it work for them “ . Cheerfully admitting that the job can be full time in a sense she



never expected – “ watching television and writing out orders late at night seem to go together “ – Alison clearly revels in the challenges and has the determination to confront the problems .

She also clearly knows how to sell. “People buy from the person, not just from the shop. It is important to be cheerful and show an interest – visiting the shop should be an experience that people enjoy , not a gloomy visit for necessities “. When we suggested that happy shoppers bought more she candidly agreed, saying that customers often came in with one objective, but went away with several things they also wanted. She felt that the complete restocking of the shop and the far wider range of goods now sold paid off in this way, now that people could see that they could get many of their requirements within a short walk. She commented that while it had been her expectation that it would take time for the business to begin to perform satisfactorily, she was surprised and pleased with the speed with which

the community had responded to the restocking.

Alison describes herself as someone who likes targets and likes meeting them, though without making her expectation too public. She told everyone she would get 3 D grades at A level, and then went out and got three As. She did not enjoy estate agency with Christopher Pallet, and was looking around for other opportunities when the shop came along. Her family are clearly a huge support: her father, a semi-retired accountant, is now Speen’s Postmaster General, and brings to it the sense of humour required by someone with long experience in the construction industry (and as an ex-Chairman of Risborough Rangers Football Club). Her mother, too, runs her own business in complementary therapies, so the small business yearning is clearly a part of the genetic inheritance as well. And Alison is ambitious for her new business to build on the support she has received from them and from the village .While she is coy about

revealing her plans (remember the expectation –setting of those 3 Ds!) this winter could see village deliveries for those who have difficulty in getting to the shop , and even locally-prepared ready meals . But whatever it is , it will be Alison responding imaginatively to what she sees as the needs of the community and fulfilling those needs within the commercial framework needed to sustain the shop profitably. Alison says that “it is refreshing that places like Speen still exist “. Many of her customers say that it is refreshing that young business people like Alison still exist , and that communities like Speen really need them .

The Editors

Rooms with the best views in the villages...

One of the joys of North Dean and Speen is the sight of Beechdean Farm’s 250 beautiful Jersey cows grazing the pasture land around the villages . The farm , a separate business from the ice cream from which we all derive considerable pleasure and pride , is now expanding the herd and

developing its herd feeding production to make it as self –reliant as possible . But as Charles Kent and Alison Turner Holmes know, alongside every other farmer in Britain, the land remains a tough place to make a living, however careful one is to try to build a self-sustaining business.

So diversification is important, and so is using all the resources available for the creation of new revenue streams. Alison has just opened two farm cottages for long weekend lets (or maybe for midweek business visitors to the area). Investment in what she calls “ crisp , clean accommodation “ is clearly important , and so are the marketing touches : the gin and tonics (and lemon and ice) in the fridge when you arrive , or the children gathering their own eggs for breakfast , or the Sunday newspapers delivered to the door provide the hooks upon which to pitch a story which will lead to people wanting to test it out . And hopefully bookings will follow. At the moment Alison is test marketing in South West London.

This is the moment, perhaps, which calls for most courage and firm convictions. Alison, a marketing director in the financial services sector by background, is clearly unafraid of tough marketing challenges. And if the holi-

day cottage lets work, then there must be other diversifications that can be pursued as well. While Health and Safety provides a formidable thorn hedge of regulation to confront for anyone who wants to bring children onto the farms, Alison is convinced of the importance of showing our children that food production is humane and natural, and that we all have something to learn on the farm. And she hints at other business opportunities as well. It surely good to think that entrepreneurial talents and marketing nous have a real place at the centre of village life – on the farm .

The Editors

“Go and get some business...”

When the boss throws the Yellow Pages at you and tells you to go and get some business , it seems that the world must have marked you out as a Salesman . Or so at least it seemed to Derek “ Del” Stephens as he gave up being an engineering apprentice and started selling machinery at the beginning of his working life. Now living in Speen and working here and from an office in Wycombe, Del is a local man (with a childhood in Princes Risborough and

Prestwood) whose love of the



area means that his commute often does not take him beyond the hut in his garden. For the past 17 years he has been involved with printing in one guise or another : today he is a successful print buyer with a host of clients who trust him to find , in his network , exactly the supplier they need for the job in hand , and deliver it on time , on budget and at the quality specified .

In order to match a network of clients to a network of suppliers you need to be resourceful . He describes himself to clients as “ the biggest printer in the world “ , and so he is , since his universe contains all the printers to whom he might assign the work . So what does the job demand of him ? “ People buy from you if they like you and they trust you – and both of these are equally impor-

tant . “ And clearly you have to

have inner resources of another sort ? “ Well , being on your own is difficult at times – no one to have a drink with when you win the big contract , or moan to when things run slow “ . But there are compensations too : the family (two children and Donna who also keeps the books part time) are close by and when Del is at home this is clearly , from the emphasis he gives it as he describes it , a huge bonus in terms of staying in touch with a young family as they grow up .

“If you don’t keep cycling, or running on the treadmill, you fall off “ . At times the small local business can sound like a prison sentence. Then the conversation switches to schoolboy rugby at

school and the Chiltern club , and the reasons why forwards despise backs , and then on as quickly to a 2007 charity motorbike ride in South Africa, and the ace salesman who people like and trust is back on stage . In his hands selling is just what it should be: a noble business that adds value to the lives of customers. “So , Del ,” we asked as we parted,” will you please get our business cards printed , and there may be more to do after that ..?”

The Editors

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Who's who in Speen and North Dean

Speen and North Dean News - Editor s	Anne Foster & David Worlock	488033
Speen and North Dean News - advertising	Peter Cooper	488975
Speen Baptist Church - Minister	Andy Gower	488758
Speen Festival – Secretary	Sue Taylor	488168
Speen Fete - Chairman	Amanda Dobbs	488887
Speen Fete – Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen Infants School - Head	Denise Nayna	488321
Speen Infants School PTA	Ann Myers	488692
Speen Marquee	John Holmes	488420
Mother and Toddler Group	Katherine Matthews	489843
Speen PreSchool	Amanda Dobbs	488887
Speen Playing Fields Chairman	Andy Thompson	488524
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen Supporters Group	Edie Radford	488679
Speen Stores	Alison Templeman	488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall – Chairman	Bill Groves	488180
Speen Village Hall – Bookings	Bill Groves	488180
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
North Dean Village Hall - Chairman	Andrew Howard	562775
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Julie White	562311
North Dean Village Hall – Bookings Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
Pigotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler- Robinson	562167
Hughenden Parish Council - Chairman	R F Gould	
Lacey Green Parish Council - Chairman	Cathryn Davies	342800
Lacey Green Parish Council – Councillor Speen	Roger Craft	488343
Wycombe District – Member Lacey Green-	Paul Rogerson	488315
Bucks County Council – Member for Lacey Green	Paul Rogerson	488315
Police Contact number: PCSO Lisa Roberts	08458 505505	

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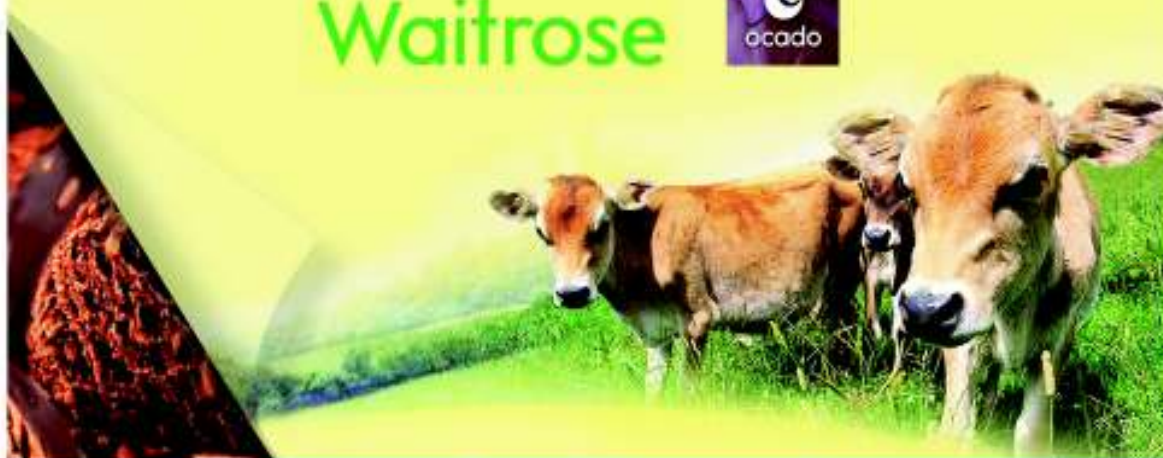
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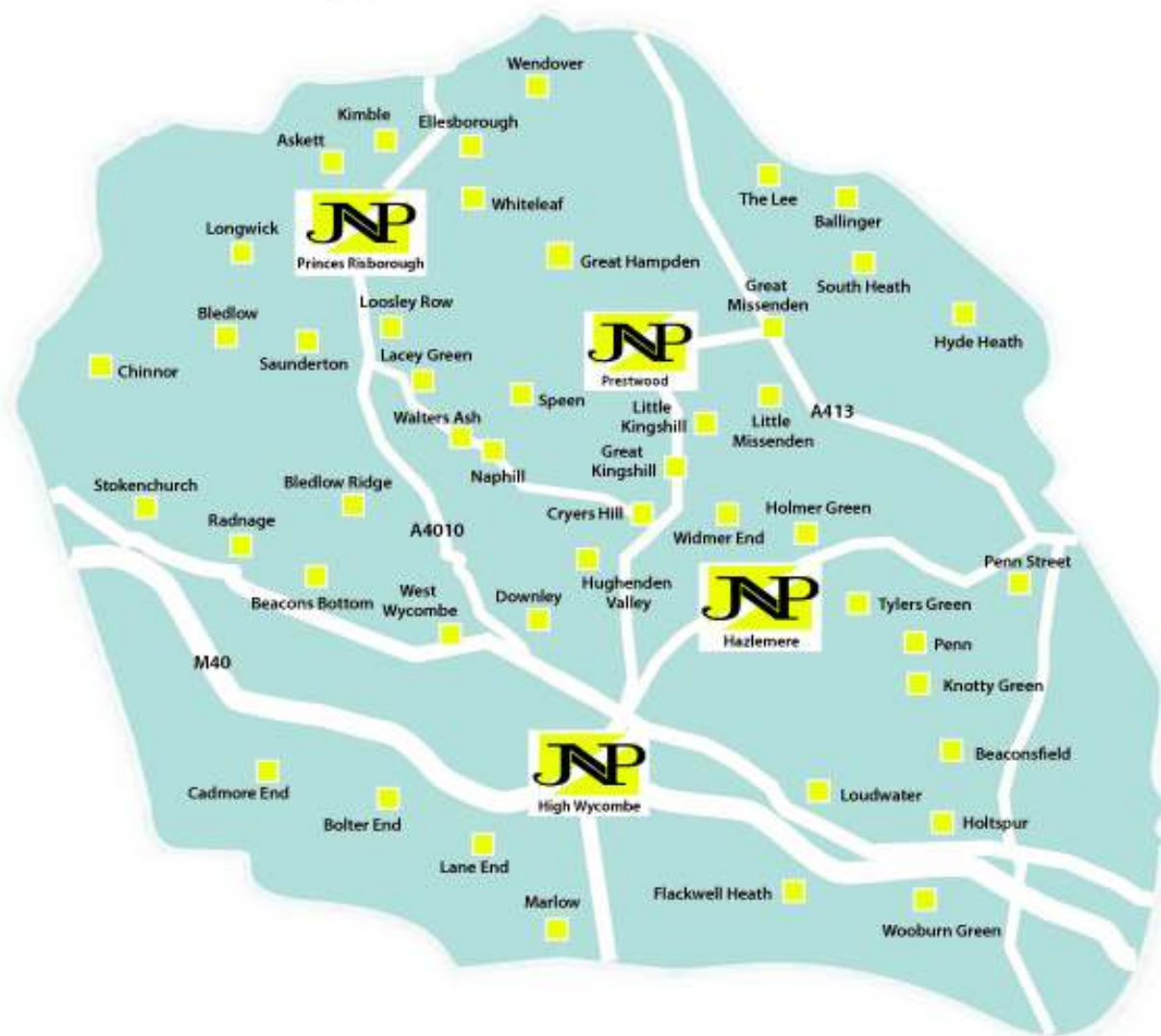
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