



Issue 48
Spring 2010



Speen and North Dean News



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	Event	Where	Contact
February			
Wednesday, 3rd	Mens' Philosophical Society	Harrow, Hughenden, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday, 4th	WI	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Friday, 5th	Race Night	North Dean Village Hall, 8.00pm	Jez Wicks 07802 476712
Tuesday, 9th	'The Mark Experience'	The Old Plow	Graham Peart 488327
Sunday, 14th	7.48 Concert	Pigotts, 7.48pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Wednesday, 24th	Speen Pub Lunch	KW4, 12.00/12.30pm	Gloria Holmes 488420
Sunday, 28th	7.48 Concert	Pigotts, 7.48pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
March			
Wednesday, 3rd	Mens' Philosophical Society	George, West Wycombe, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Wednesday, 3rd	Speen Playing Fields AGM	Speen Pavilion, 8.00pm	Kay Knight 488335
Thursday, 4th	WI	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Saturday, 6th	PTA Safari Supper	Around Speen	Annabel Warr 488340
Saturday, 13th	Mens' Breakfast, Gary Grant	KW4, 8.30am	James Entwisle 488875
Saturday, 13th	WI outing	Mill @ Sonning, 11.45am	Gloria Holmes 488420
Wednesday, 17th	History Night	North Dean Village Hall, 8.00pm	Julie White 562311
Wednesday, 24th	Speen Pub Lunch	KW4, 12.00/12.30pm	Gloria Holmes 488420
Sunday, 28th	7.48 Concert	Pigotts, 7.48pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
April			
Thursday, 1st	WI	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Monday, 5th	2.48 Pigotts/Hughenden	Hughenden Church, 2.48pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Wednesday, 7th	Mens' Philosophical Society	Red Lion, Bradenham, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Sunday, 11th	7.48 Concert	Pigotts, 7.48pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Wednesday, 21st	North Dean VH AGM	North Dean Village Hall, 8.00pm	Julie White 562311
May			
Wednesday, 5th	Mens' Philosophical Society	Plough, Cadsden, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday, 6th	WI	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Sunday, 9th	7.48 Concert	Pigotts, 7.48pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Thursday, 13th	Speen v North Dean Golf	Mentmore, 9.00am	Ch Pearson 020 7680 9293
Saturday, 22nd	Ladies Breakfast, Anne Coles	KW4, 8.30am	Sandy Mitcheson 488875
Wednesday, 26th	Erect Marquee	Speen Playing Field, 6.00pm	Jem Symondson 488654
June			
Wednesday, 2nd	Mens' Philosophical Society	Golden Cross, Saunderton, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday, 3rd	WI	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Friday, 4th	Funday, Rope String Band	Marquee, 8.00pm	Jem Symondson 488654
Saturday, 5th	Funday, Sports	Speen Playing Field, 2.00pm	Andy Thompson 488524
Friday, 11th	Business Group exhibition (tbc)	Marquee, 10.30am	Derek Stephens 489879
Sunday, 13th	Strike Marquee	Speen Playing Field, 2.00pm	
Saturday, 19th	Dinner for CAMFED	Pigotts, 7.30pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Sunday, 20th	Breakfast on the Hill	Hill above North Dean, 9.30am	Andrew Howard 563980
Sunday 20th	Erect Marquee	Speen School, 9.30am	James Entwisle 488875
Sunday, 20th	Charity Brunch	Pigotts	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Thursday 24th	PTA Children's Party	Speen School	Debbie O'Brien 488734
Thursday 24th	SNDN copy in		Anne Worlock 488033
Saturday, 26th	PTA Ball	Speen School	Debbie O'Brien 488734
Sunday 27th	Strike Marquee	Speen School Field, 2.00pm	
July			
Thursday, 1st	WI	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Wednesday, 7th	Mens' Philosophical Society	3 Horseshoes, Bennett End, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday, 8th	Erect Marquee	Speen Playing Field, 6.00pm	
Saturday 10th	Speen Fete, 2.00pm	Speen Playing Field, 2.00pm	Amanda Dobbs 488887
Sunday 11th	Strike Marquee	Speen Playing Field, 2.00pm	
Monday, 19th	Charity Ball	Pigotts	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Thursday, 29th	Erect Marquee	North Dean, 6.00pm	
Saturday 31st	North Dean Fete	North Dean, 2.00pm	Julie White 562311
August			
Sunday, 1st	Strike Marquee	North Dean, 2.00pm	

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Dear Reader

The sharp, piercing call of a Red Kite circling very low over the garden is a reminder that, new year or not, we have to get on with life as it is, and not always as we want it to be. A remark from Peter Symonds the other evening that a local Kite had been identified by its ring at Rhyader in mid-Wales highlights the feeding problems, in snowy weather, of even our largest birds. And as we, the "esquimaux" of Speen and North Dean, crawl out of our igloos into a wet January, we are bound to wonder if the dramatic snowstorms of late December and early January are likely to join us for February, as last year, or March, or even May. Village scientists are quick to point out that there is no correlation between extreme weather and the trend to Global Warming. Pity that this is the case!

Not that we have too many feeding problems in Speen, with the Village Shop now bringing in new suppliers, including first rate meat from Clays of Thame, and the King William IV full for Burns Night. But it was not always like that, and as a village we perhaps need more collective memory than we have at present, both so that the struggles of our predecessors are fully appreciated, and so that we do not take for granted, in the two villages, our current good fortune. It is partly with this in mind that we are proud to launch, in this issue, the



beginnings of a Speen and North Dean Oral History project. We want to harness the group experience of these parts in a slightly more scientific way than before, and use our talented young people within that process. Please see page 34 for more details.

While doing this we do not wish to neglect other long running themes that we have been developing here. In this issue you will see more poetry from the competition and the Festival display. And many readers will have had notes and reminders about the website. We hope to post yet more poems there, as well as material arising from the History Project and other activities where there is just too much content to put more than a taste in these printed pages. And in doing this we are delighted to report that John Holmes, who has long been the driving force behind the website, will be acting as diary editor, co-ordinating our diary pages here with those on the web to give you a constantly (and consistently) updated version of what is going on in the villages (changes and new events to John: 01494 488420 or jholmes@nildram.co.uk).

Another issue from last year which continues to interest us all, is the idea of creating a Science Forum to continue the public debate on science issues, initiated by the event which Barry Stickings moderated at the Festival. Barry has agreed to become our Science Editor at SNDN, and we look forward to contributions from him on the issues raised in the Forum programme as it develops. In

this issue he is also writing to start a debate of a different kind. Many of us have been concerned about issues that the villages would face if, instead of the smaller projects for which our various events raise money during the year, we were faced by the desire, or requirement, to undertake some quite major infrastructural investment. Should we be saving for such a rainy (snowy?) day, when we need a five figure sum or more and can only get it if we can match donations from sources like the lottery funds? Creating a Speen Foundation might be the only answer: the debate begins on page 15.

Finally, we were delighted by reader response to the last issue. Thank you to everyone who sent us comments, or stopped us in the street or the pub, and thanks especially to Jude Awdry, whose astute production management earned a lot of those credits for the improvement in our look and feel, and to Peter Cooper, whose energetic work on the advertising front is enabling us to earn the right to those improvements. Our editorial policy remains one of retaining the reporting role in the villages, while introducing new issues which reflect upon the history, business and creativity of those who live here. Please continue to help us make that work, and direct us in the ways that you seek to make that different.

Anne and David Worlock
anne@monimail.net
david@davidworlock.com



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Speen Supporters Group benefits from new sources of fund raising

Have the Boyces started a trend?

Our profits have been boosted recently by some local, personal donations. Sue and Christopher Boyce celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary recently and suggested that their guests donated to a charity of their choice and not give them a gift. Thank you so much to Sue and Christopher for their suggestion and to their guests who chose SSG. We will hopefully be able

to give money to each of our five hospices at the end of 2009.

Our annual spring lunch and Christmas stalls added greatly to our profits. The spring lunch made a profit of £522.63 and the menu received lots of compliments, in particular the salmon en croute. [Ed Note: we are pursuing the recipe for publication.] Our guest from the Sue Ryder organisation gave us an impromptu but very interesting talk about her work. We held our Christmas Market Days in the KW4 on the 24th & 25th of October, making it a particularly convivial start to the shopping season. Many thanks to all of you who have so generously supported us this year.

Edie Radford
Edie@SpeenBucks.org

Thank you from the Save the Children Fund

Once again the Old Plow's annual fundraiser for "SAVE THE CHILDREN" was a great success with a record number of people attending the lunch and dinner on 13th November. A sincere "THANK YOU" for your support which helped raise over £930.00 on the day.

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An upside to everything: resilient grass and mud are ideal for slide tackles

Speen Playing Fields
Report, Spring 2010

Welcome to the Spring update from Speen Playing Fields. With a very wet November and the recent Arctic conditions our field has soaked up a lot of water recently. The grass seems to be draining and wearing well and these conditions also make a great surface for slide tackles when playing football!

In October we completed the installation of our new play equipment. The new toddler and junior swings and our rotating climber have been well used by village children. We celebrated the official opening on 17th October and obtained some press coverage in the Bucks Free Press.



On Saturday 6th November we hosted a very successful Bonfire Night with one of our biggest bonfires in recent memory and a spectacular firework display. We raised a very impressive £1,300 towards playing field funds on a very well attended cold but dry night out. Thanks to all those who donated pallets and wood for the fire - at least two village sheds came to a bitter end, along with our effigies of the infamous Guy Fawkes.

Village children enjoyed a musical parade from Speen School to the playing field to

enjoy carol singing around the Christmas tree in mid December. Those adults who joined the parade also enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and mince pies as reward and we all joined in for some carol singing around the tree. A collection was made and we were able to donate £54 to the Salvation Army.

In the coming months we have repairs to make to the roundabout and the small slide on the playing field and some fence and hedge work on Ridleys Field. We are hoping this year to turn our attention to the Under-5s area and working with the Pre-school to improve this area for the little ones in the village.

Let's hope for an early spring this year and a welcome break from the cold and wet and we look forward to seeing you at our Spring Work Party.

Andy Thompson
488524

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Speen Schools

Speen Pre-school launches feasibility study

Hello again to all the faithful followers of the Speen Pre-school. I have once again been remiss with my employment of pen and paper so must now fill you all in on our exciting and scintillating last few months, so if you are all sitting comfortably then I'll begin.

The start of a new year is always an interesting time, the school opens and all the new children arrive with trepidation, the old ones already know that they won't get away with anything, the newbie's don't!!!! It is a very interesting time for Mrs Carter

and her team. Soon however the team have settled them all, know who can sing, and who has the loudest voice, so necessary in their hunt for the next superstars of the Harvest Festival, the Nativity Play, and the Easter service.

In 2009 Mrs Carter found that the children of the Pre-school also had untapped photographic potential. She gave each of them a digital camera and asked them to take pictures of their environment. She got back 500 pictures with not a single one of a left ear or a lens finger, but of very artistic and beautiful scenes of Speen and how they saw it. We made a collage of about 50 of them and proudly displayed it in the Village Hall, for the Speen Festival art exhibition for all to see. Well done to all of them.

This year saw a very special Anniversary. Mrs Lorna Wilson has lovingly spent the last 25 years looking after the children of Speen village in the Village Hall, and is still a valuable member of our school. We celebrated this momentous occasion in our usual fashion, with a party. Mrs Cox organised a truly lovely afternoon for many of the teachers from past years and the parents who came to celebrate and to thank Mrs Wilson.

Parents and grandparents again turned out in great numbers for the Harvest Festival and the Nativity Play. Not only did they make the cakes; they also paid to eat them later!!! All in a day's work for our fundraising

Continued on page 18 . . .

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SPEEN SCHOOL From Show to Snow

The latest Speen School performance, the Elves and the Shoemaker, made a wonderful prelude to the Christmas Break. Thanks to all the efforts of the teachers, for their directing, coaching and encouragement. Of course we can't forget the stars of the show; the children. All their hard work and rehearsing paid off and resulted in a very entertaining show for all

and a great finale for the autumn term.

Christmas flew by too quickly, but the post Christmas blues soon

children had to entertain themselves the only way you can when you live at the top of a snowy hill - by sledging down it as fast as you can. If this weather



continues, sledging might just become a Speen speciality. Perhaps next year the school Christmas play should be that children's classic 'The Snowman'?

*Ann Myers, PTA
annislamyers@hotmail.com*



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Poetry feeds hungry minds

The signs are going up for a favourite schools fundraiser, Safari Dinner, in March. We may want to reflect upon our children's relationship to food, unconstrained by adult squeamishness or concerns about elbows on tables. The charismatic performance poet A.F. Harrold drew forth these morsels as part of SpeenFest Interactive! Here and on page 13.

The Editors

Class Two's Poem **St John's C of E School, Lacey Green**

I eat ice cream
I eat soup
I eat sugar
I eat gloop

I eat burgers
I eat chips
I put vinegar
On apple pips.

I eat sausages
On my plate.
I eat chocolate
With my mate.

I eat lettuce
With my rabbit
Beans give me
A windy habit.

I eat carrots
When they are crunchy.
I eat broccoli
It's so munchy.

I eat spinach
If it's clean
And only if it's grown
In Lacey Green.

Reception Class **Speen Church of England School**

I eat fish and chips
I eat peas
I eat tuna
I eat cheese

I eat pasta
I eat dogs
I eat cakes
shaped like logs.

I eat shreddie's
I eat eggs
I eat socks
with a nose full of pegs.

I eat porridge
I eat trees
I eat honey
made by bees.

I eat crisps
I eat cornflakes
but most of all I
eat cakes and cakes
and more cakes, please.

Written by reception class, Speen C of E
School with the help of poet A.F. Harrold,
Summer 2009



Speen and North Dean Toddler Group

First steps to the big school up the hill . . .



Looking out of the window at our current January snowy scene it seems a long time since we last met up at North Dean Village Hall for our weekly play session for the under 3s!

We are a small but dedicated group who meet up each Tuesday morning during school term time from 10.30 - 12. A friendly welcome awaits

and we really do need the regular support of local mums, dads or carers with babies and toddlers to sustain our future.

A typical morning begins with free play with the variety of toys available keeping your children entertained while you enjoy a cup of tea, coffee and chat with each other. In fine weather we have also enjoyed the benefit of the excellent outdoor play area adjacent to the hall and impromptu picnics were a bonus last summer. The Beechdean cows are also of interest to our little ones!

Whilst the tidy up and wash up session begins we keep the children amused with music and story time to conclude the morning's fun.

The children enjoyed a special



visit by Father Christmas during their party held last month as the accompanying picture illustrates.

The toddler group is a natural link to the village pre-school and the many friendships that have begun here are a testament to this as our children progress through the local schools. Please do support us if you have baby and toddler age children or grandchildren. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Katherine Matthews
matthewsfamily@clara.co.uk*



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More poetic morsels . . .

In my magic Fridge . . . by Year 1 St John's School

In my magic fridge I have . . .
the red juiciness of strawberries,
the sweetness of sweets,
and the potatoey goodness of
chips in ketchup.

In my magic fridge I have . . .
the smoothness and crunchiness of
strawberry cheesecake,
the fishy smell of fish,
and the exotic sourness of lime.

In my magic fridge I have . . .
the coldness of vanilla ice-cream,
the green crunchiness of lettuce,
and the squidginess of eyeballs!

My Magic Fridge by Years One & Two Speen C of E School

In my magic fridge I have . . .

The crunchy green of an apple
The tasty red of the strawberry
The dribbly juiciness of a pear
The whiteness of the icing on the birthday
cake
Lying like the snow.

The yummy scrummy splutz of the tomato
The soft slithery swallow of a sandwich
The porky blacky brownness of the
barbecue sausage
The superb warm squidginess of the
chicken pie
With the cracked pastry lid.

The sweetness of the bees of the honey
The pinkness of the roundness of the
beetroot
The autumn taste of the blackberries
The slippery slimy feel of the pasta

. . . In my magic fridge.

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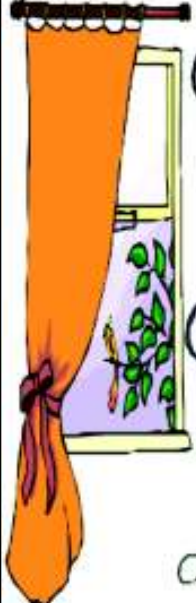
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The Speen Foundation

Is this a way to secure a village future?

Speen is a great place to live and a great place to bring up a family. We're a Chilterns hill-top village with all the benefits of "outstanding natural beauty" but little through traffic. We have very good facilities - a village hall, a chapel, a shop/post office, a pub and a restaurant, playing fields, tennis court, bike path and well respected schools. And we have a very active social and sporting community, including the Speen Festival which is hardly matched anywhere in the country for a community of our size. It is a place with a vital, active community that makes these facilities come to life; art exhibitions and bridge in the village hall; festivities of all kinds on the playing fields; fund raising events everywhere, many supported by our restaurant and pub; a shop whose profits flow back into the community.

But even though some have compared Speen to Brigadoon, we are not really tucked away in a mythical valley immune to the shocks felt in the rest of the world. The bodgers, who had been the backbone of the community, faded away in the 1950s. Apple orchards disappeared. Other ways of keeping a village lively have come and gone. We've been without our pub and didn't like it. Our shop and post office appeared at risk not too long ago.

With this in mind, a proposal is being developed for a new village fund - christened The Speen Foundation - that would support the village fabric and infrastructure through grants and loans. Informal discussions with a number of villagers have shown strong support for this initiative.

The mandate of The Speen Foundation would be to enhance village life and to help build and maintain the community. By helping to maintain and develop village infrastructure and as a vehicle for strategic funding in Speen, the fund could be a base and a catalyst for the future and for our children and grandchildren.

Where would funding come from? Village activities might consider contributing a proportion of any surplus. The Tennis Club showed us what potential there is for this kind

of initiative. Many villagers and families have already indicated their willingness to make small monthly or occasional contributions (for example via direct debit); local businesses could offer some support; and, although it's always sad when we lose friends and neighbours, one way of being remembered could be through a bequest. The fund would be set up as a charity so that contributions are optimised.

How would the fund be managed? A shadow board would manage the process of setting up the foundation, following which the governance would be with elected trustees. The trustees would need to ensure that any funds were allocated only after a thorough business plan discussion and after ensuring that all matched funding opportunities were being pursued. The foundation would not replace existing

funding avenues for our various village activities, nor would it provide normal running expenses. Rather the foundation would be concerned with major projects that are beyond the scope of our organisations.

A draft constitution will be prepared and a village meeting held in the spring (when it comes!). Meanwhile comments and ideas to barry@willottsfarm.net would be most welcome.

Barry Stickings
barry@willottsfarm.net
488852

M. R. COLLINS GARDEN CONSTRUCTION

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District and County Council News – January 2010



Winter Weather

With probably the worst winter conditions for 30 years there have been many issues with the roads and services that will need evaluation and further thought. Firstly I am sure you will agree that we all owe the Gritter Crews, the Emergency Services, along with all those that have gone the extra mile to keep services running, a big thank you for doing the job they have done. It cannot be easy, in these conditions, to continually face the snow and ice covered roads and put in the hours they have.

The wider planning work necessary to keep all emergency services able to respond has been coordinated through the 'Gold' Emergency Planning Group. This group, which includes members of Government Agencies, the Emergency Services, Health and Councils, meet on a daily basis to review the decisions taken and to see where new action is required. An example of this was the identification of services for vulnerable elderly adults not able to be provided by Social Services being met by the Fire and Rescue Service who had appropriate 4x4 vehicles. A similar response was made to ensure paramedics got to those in need of help. It also had the responsibility for dealing with

the priority gritting of roads and coordinating the distribution of dwindling supplies of grit in response to the Government 'Salt Cell' directive.

Having said that, it is very clear that arrangements we have are not capable of meeting everybody's expectations and many have been left isolated in rural communities unable to travel or receive supplies. It is with this in mind it is important that the lessons learnt from this are examined and ways to improve the responses found.

One suggestion is to give more scope to the Parish Council through a Parish Emergency Plan to mobilise local resources to clear snow from areas that the County Council cannot as part of the first response. This together with the provision of more grit bins at strategic points would mean that, in times of exceptional weather conditions, a more local response could be made to help keep schools and other services open.

This topic will be discussed at the North West Chilterns Local Area Forum meeting to be held in Longwick on 20 February so any thoughts on how things could be improved, perhaps with more grit bins being provided and the use of locally based equipment from farms, contractors etc, would be helpful. To find out more about this meeting please contact Carole Burslem on 01296 385380 or email cburslem@buckscc.gov.uk

Potholes

Since the thaw the condition of local roads remains a concern and a lot remains to be done.

New Road between Walters Ash and Lacey Green was given a first priority response and the numerous potholes repaired. This has been followed up by action on the Rignal Road and the Hampden Cross roads. For Bucks £2M specific funding for repairs is being made available so please report any defects you see to Transport for Buckinghamshire (Highways on Call) on 0845 230 2882 or email tfb@buckscc.gov.uk.

Buy With Confidence Scheme

The Buy With Confidence and 'Customer First' schemes were initiated by Hampshire and Devon County Councils respectively to help businesses comply with the law while improving consumer protection through a partnership approach. Both schemes have now spread to a number of Local Authorities including Buckinghamshire. To find out more about the scheme and how it could help you go to www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or ring 0846 404 0506.

Community Fund

A small amount of funding still remains for this year so if you have a community project then please let me know and I will see if it 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
progerson@buckscc.gov.uk
District and County Councillor*

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SNDN DATES 2010

Issue	Copy Date	Theme	Approx Pub
48	20/01/10	Oral History	20 February 2010
49	24/06/10	Outdoors in Speen	20 July 2010
50	08/09/10	Oral History (cont.)	15 October 2010

Note that Ad copy should be available two weeks before editorial copy

The July issue invites you to come outdoors. We would love to hear about favourite walks, cycle routes and rest stops! (See page 26.)

... continued from page 9

geniuses. On the trail of raising money we also did a Halloween party for the children called "grave Robin". We turned my house and garden into a graveyard and haunted house, much to the amusement of my neighbours. We again provided sustenance for all at the Bonfire Night festivities, having for the 2nd year running seconded all the older children in the village to help make Marshmallow Rockets on the Friday evening at the pub. It seems we have started yet another "new tradition" using slave labour. This year's glow stick wars had no spark. Without duels by neon light or flash fights, they were a flash in the pan. So here's to next year boys! The gauntlet is down.

We hope you will all be pleased to hear that we have finally started the Feasibility Study, thanks to the Tennis Club's generous donation, and will over the next few months be asking everyone in the village to help by completing a questionnaire. We will of course keep all of you informed on a regular basis.

And finally thanks to all our friends in the village and surrounding areas for all the help and support you give to your Pre-school, especially the ladies of the WI who took the time and trouble to engage the children in a wonderful story.

Here's to the next 6 months.

Amanda Dobbs
amanda.speen@btopenworld.com

North Dean & Speen Golf Days return in 2010

Two dates for 2010 have been confirmed:

- Thursday 13th May at Mentmore
- Thursday 16th September at Weston Turville

The usual format will apply with Texas Scramble in the morning and a Stableford in the afternoon, plus Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Please make a note in your diaries. More information will follow nearer the dates.

We would welcome any new players who are interested, any standard, it is a good social day out, not too competitive???

Anyone interested, please contact John Rogers on 562041.



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Events

St Davids Day Sunday lunch 28th Feb
St Patricks 20th March

Quiz Night every other
Thursday with set meal for £6

Previously

Valentines day
Rock N Roll Band & supper
Jazz Night
Burns Night Supper
New Year Party
Christmas Eve Dinner
Christmas Parties
Speen bonfire Night
SSG christmas Market
Martin Hart Jazz Night Supper
Grease sing along & dinner
Octoberfest
Speen festival
Speen summer fete
St Georges dinner
Mothering Sunday

Dinner & Sunday Lunch Menu

Daily Specials Menu

Starters & Sharing Plates

Olives, bread & balsamic with olive oil for dipping
Soup of the day with bread
Breaded blanchebait with garlic mayonnaise
Pan fried wild mushrooms on toast cooked with double cream & a hint of garlic
For two sharing
Baked Camembert with bread & chutney
Houmous, Taramasalata with olives & flat bread

Mains

Cajun chicken breast, sweet potato rossetti & French beans
Pork loin steak baked in a stilton cream sauce with vegetables of the day
Confit of duck with port & mandarin sauce and red cabbage
Pan fried Sirloin steak with mushrooms, onion rings, tomato, chips & peas

Fish

Grilled Salmon with herb butter
Baked Hake Florentine with spinach & prawn sauce topped with sliced potato with savoy cabbage
Prawn skewers with sweet chilli dressing & mixed leaves

Vegetarians

Brie & red onion tart
Wild mushroom risotto
Both served with a choice of vegetables or mixed leaves
Pasta Neapolitan with sundried tomato & garlic bread

Burgers

Classic King Willy burger with cheese, tomato & gherkin
Venison burger with tomato & red onion relish
Cajun chicken burger with rocket & coleslaw
Three bean & coriander vegetable burger

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Wildlife Watch

The end of the summer period saw some interesting sightings in and around the village. Warm conditions saw an increase in the number of Hornets around the village. Two large Elephant Hawk Moth Caterpillars were found in Abbotswood in September. However the top entomological record in a year when we had an influx of butterflies from Europe was a large Convolvulus Moth found in our garden on 7 October. This moth is larger than our largest native Hawk Moths. It migrates here to this country from North Africa and has a wing span of some 12 centimetres.

Large numbers of Edible Dormice (Glis Glis) have turned up again in lofts in houses in Flowers Bottom and also Hampden Road. There were further sightings of Roe Deer and a Deer seen by Sue Thompson on Kop Hill sounded much like a Fallow Deer Buck, described as having broad flat antlers. Whilst there



Brambling - male, winter plumage

are Fallow Deer near Marlow and at Asheridge they are not normally found in our part of the Chilterns. Interesting birds included a Rose Ringed Parakeet in Grubbins Lane recorded by Jeremy Symondson. Peter Dawson reported some 20 Red Kites circling to the south of the village in October.

Winter birds started to arrive in late November with Siskins, Redpolls and Redwings noted

briefly in the garden. On 20 December the Pearts had a female Blackcap on their feeder as well as three Muntjac deer in the garden at Abbotswood.

After Christmas heavy snow and severe frosts greeted the New Year driving wildlife to food in gardens. One, and occasionally two, female Blackcaps took up residence in our garden. A male Brambling appeared for several days along with occasional Redpolls. A pair of Pied Wagtails feeding at the bird table was most unusual. 12 Fieldfares on our front lawn was certainly a record early on 3 January. Large numbers of common birds were consistently present including some 10 Blackbirds, between 6 and 8 Robins and lots of Blue Tits. Redwings have made occasional garden visits next to the shop. Foxes also appeared in gardens in Dairymede in daylight.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings

*Peter Symonds
symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk
488016*



Convolvulus Hawk-moth

So which is the Canadian Winter?

Canadians make it a point of honour to drive, walk and generally ignore snow that doesn't reach the roof. Or so they say. Courteous, but ironic smiles greet reports of traffic brought to a halt in England at the falling of a few flakes. Here, however, are two photographs taken by Barry Stickings, one in Speen and one in Stanley Bridge, Prince Edward Island.

Any guesses as to which is the Canadian winter? Please email the editors or drop a note to Monimail House if you think you know . . .

The Editors



Photo A



Photo B

A HISTORY OF SPEEN



The "Leaves of Time" was first published in 2000 as part of Speen's Millennium Celebrations and is a history of the village and its inhabitants since records began. It records the building of Speen Chapel as well as the birth of our school, the origins of the 'bodger' and Speen's brush with the Second World War! It is a fascinating account of the self-reliance of the inhabitants of this remote hilltop village.

Updated in 2007, the current edition records recent events in the village such as the school's 40th birthday, the opening of the children's bike park, the numerous S.S.G.'s fundraising events and of course the biennial SPEEN FESTIVAL with its art and photographic exhibitions, plays and musicals.

THE LEAVES OF TIME is available from Speen Stores, Corbett's book shop in Princes Risborough and online at olivia.cowan@onetel.net

Wildflower News

The ghost orchid tantalises rare plant hunters. And in May, join our wildflower editor in a guided walk of Ivinghoe Beacon.

Two new alien species have turned up in Bucks, the Dwarf Wood-Sorrel from Chile and New Zealand Bitter-Cress. They seem to have come from a nursery with market plants.

Our Rare Flower Group found many elusive flora this year, but it was not all good news. Some plants were not found on known sites and have been listed as possibly extinct. On 21st October, Roy Maycock told the Group that the Ghost orchid has been declared officially extinct, nationally.



Ghost Orchid

After the meeting Alan Showler told us that a ghost orchid had been seen in 2009, but the site is secret.

The Ghost Orchid's official name is *Epipogium aphyllum*,

or Spurred Coral Root.

However, it is not surprising that as it disappears the name that lingers is Ghost. It was first found on the Welsh border in 1854, and transplanted to a garden where it died, and no more were found on this site. Two more were found flowering nearby between 1867 and 1892, but never seen in this area of the Welsh borders after 1910. The centre of distribution seems to have moved to the Thames Valley.

In 1924 a school girl, Vera Paul, found it in a wood overlooking Henley. In 1931 it emerged nearby in Satwell, Oxfordshire, growing out of a decaying stump of a tree. It flowered in Satwell 1931, 1933, 1953, 1961, 1963, 1979, 1994 and was last seen in 1999.

Photo copyright Nigel Kendall

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From 1933 no Ghost Orchid was seen in Britain until in 1953 Mr R Graham found a population of 24 flowering plants at a new location in beechwood just outside Marlow. The orchid appeared spasmodically from 1961 to 1987. I have been lucky to have seen this orchid in three different years. Whilst I was on the site in 1987, when visitors had come from all over the British Isles to see the plant, I met a friend as I was about to leave. So we walked back to the orchid site, only to find that the orchid had been picked. That was the last time that the Ghost orchid flowered on that site.

The orchid also grows in Germany, across Europe into the Balkans, around the Baltic, Sweden, and Finland and scattered across Asia. It grows chiefly in conifer forests, but its

sightings are infrequent.

The British Ghost Orchid grows in deep shaded Beech woods. The stem of flowers is two or three inches tall with creamy yellow blooms tinged red, and two or three blooms which are creamy white with purple spots. Bees and flying insects have been seen to visit the plant but it is very rare for it to fruit. They mostly rot after flowering.

This orchid depends on fungi; lacks chlorophyll and its root or rhizome feeds on humus and decaying leaf litter. The root stock seems to need everything in its environment to be just right. I speculate that something like a wet spring or warm August trigger its blooming. Because flowering is so intermittent, it is very hard to study.

A date for your diary

Sunday, 23 May, 2pm
Meet Ivinghoe Beacon
NT car park

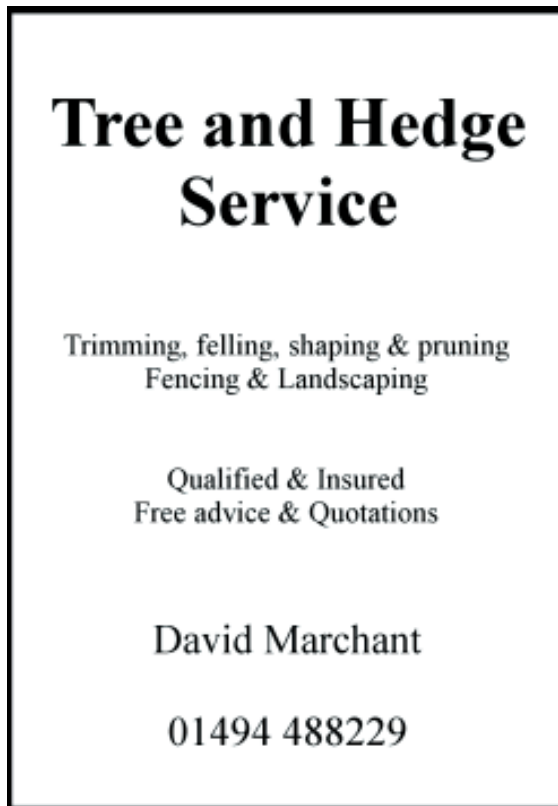
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Fred Burnham
488303



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Exploring the Speen and North Dean terrain

One of the themes of the mid-year issue of the Speen and North Dean News will be walks and walking from and around the King William IV pub in Speen. As we put that issue together we need as many ideas from the villages as you can give us on where those walks might go and how they might be constructed. We have Peter Symonds to guide us on wildlife in the villages, and Fred Burnham demonstrates in this issue his sharp eye for unusual plants and flowers, and places like Ivinghoe where we may encounter them. Peter as well is an accomplished walk mapmaker and has indicated his interest in helping this project off the ground.

So what precisely is the project? Well, a first step is to put together a set of routes of differing lengths beginning and ending at the KW IV. The object of each route would be to note wildlife features, of course, but also a little more. Here is an opportunity to note features in domestic architecture and map the development of the villages across time. We can also learn on these walks about some of the celebrated people who have lived in the villages, from Eric

Gill to Rumer Godden to Edmund Rubbra. And we can learn some vital things about modern agriculture and land use as we follow the tracks and bridleways around the villages.

So does this mean that we are going to have to create a Corps of Guides to instruct villagers and visitors on what they are seeing while walks are in progress? This might prove impractical, so we wonder if the right idea is not to produce a set of illustrated walk plans which indicate what might be seen, and sell them to walkers. Another idea is to sell these guides through the KWIV and Speen Stores, along with refreshments for the journey and a pre-ordered meal and drink at the KW IV on the return of the voyagers.

But then, again, it may not mean any of these things. We certainly feel that the maps should be an effort combining all of the knowledge and input that the villages can muster, and we also recognise the need for the walks to be self-sustaining, so that they do not depend upon too much voluntary effort once the initial map set has been created. Should the villages publish the collected mapping and its necessary annotation and text as a book? How does such a project relate to the existing village history, and the archives which in time the village hopes to load onto its

web site? Should the maps be downloadable from the website (where they would certainly be held for reference and updating). And what about updating? And should there be an audio commentary on these routes, both as a guide and to give more background than the maps can contain? Should there be special routes for younger children, or older and more limited walkers?

The ideas above came simply from a discussion held by the editorial group at Speen and North Dean News. We are convinced however that more and better ideas remain in the villages, and we would like to have them so that we can include them in the next issue and then develop them further, in conjunction with the proposers. We certainly do not wish to duplicate or re-invent what has been done before, though we certainly see a need to continually remind all of us of the significance of what we are seeing as we walk around the villages and their environs.

Please send ideas in the first place to David Worlock (either at Monimail House or at david@davidworlock.com). We will then seek to hold a meeting to discuss the ideas emerging, and publish a plan in the next issue. But it all depends on you!

The Editors



Down on the Farm

Gill Kent on the realities of winter; a lethal swallowhole makes Christmas 2009 unfortunately memorable

Having lived in the valley for nearly fifty years I suppose it is not surprising that we are experiencing our second severe winter. Thank goodness this year is not as cold as 1963 when the snow arrived on Boxing Day and stayed till March. We were much better prepared then for icy conditions, and as a

matter of course, all water troughs were protected with piles of fermenting dung to prevent a freeze up. As you can see from the picture, the council were also much better prepared; huge piles of grit were placed beside steep bits of road. With all the publicity about global warming, lagging pipes is a forgotten art and as a consequence we have had to provide water each day for 100 cattle by hose pipe - a very boring job!! Speen Road was well gritted and snow ploughed throughout 1963 as the gritting supervisor lived in Speen!

Rumour hath it that The Council is considering providing farmers with snow moving equipment so that they can clear local roads. Obviously no one has told them that farmers looking after animals



Chapel Hill, 1963

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- MAR 17** St. Patrick's Day - glass of the creamy black stuff & 2 courses £15.95
- APR 4** Easter Sunday - special family menu, 3 courses £25.95
- APR 23** St. George's Day - roast beef day! 3 courses £19.95

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spend every minute of the day battling against the elements to keep their stock well fed and watered. Arable farmers will have to save the day!

Many of our younger animals were out in the fields when the snow started. They are happy in the cold as long as they are well fed. They did not like November when it rained incessantly. All the milking cows are housed from October as bad weather affects the milk yields adversely. Unlike sheep, cattle, if given a choice, will choose to be inside. I have tried to explain this to animal rights activists but they have obviously never watched cattle on rainy days.

You have read in previous articles that one of the enjoyable things about farming is that you never know what will happen from day to day. Well, on Christmas day we experienced a phenomenon unknown to most people. While feeding young stock on land up at Kingshill, Charles noticed that two animals were missing. After checking all the boundary fences, a faulty one being the usual source of missing animals, he saw a brown patch in the deep snow in the middle of the field; at the edge of the patch he could just see an animal's nose. The brown patch was a swallow-hole and in it was a live heifer standing on the top of a dead one. The hole was the size of a table tennis table and when Charles got into the hole to rescue the live heifer he found it to be at least five foot deep. (This was not an enjoyable experience for Christmas

morning but Charles drew some comfort from the fact that he had not found the hole by falling in himself when spreading fertiliser with the large tractor.)

Swallowholes occur most often on limestone and more rarely on chalk-land. (This was only the second one we had seen in 50 years.) Water collects in a hollow in the field and gradually dissolves the limestone or chalk underneath until the area collapses leaving a 'swallowhole', the size of the hole presumably depends on the size of the original hollow.

Gill Kent
gk@bfarms.co.uk

John Radford reports the following in the Village Messenger

You have probably received a leaflet (with a picture of doves on it) through your door this weekend asking you to donate "your unwanted clothes".

THIS IS NOT A CHARITY COLLECTION.

I am grateful to Nick Knight for identifying this - he was alerted by the spelling mistakes that this leaflet contained. (You might amuse yourselves to see how many spelling and grammar mistakes you can spot!)

Nick checked the company (RUTEX LTD) and this advert on the Advertising Standards Authority website, and found that in September of last year the company broke three rules of the Committee of Advertising Practice - including the key one of Truthfulness.

They were ordered not to use the ad again, an order that they have clearly ignored. You may wish to add your complaint to that already received by the ASA.

You can read the ruling yourselves by following this link http://www.asa.org.uk/Complaints-and-ASA-action/Adjudications/2009/9/Rutex-Ltd/TF_ADJ_46902.aspx.

The leaflet does not not make clear that clothing collected is sold for profit by CARTEX.

Please bring this information to the attention of your neighbours and anyone you see leaving clothing and other items outside in assorted plastic bags over the next few days. Should anyone still wish to have such items taken away and used for charitable purposes, I am sure a deserving charity can be found.

However, if (now you are aware of these facts) you wish to give items to RUTEX (Company Reg No 6894447 - not a charity) this email is in no way intended to interfere with that company conducting its legal business. As Graham said on Blind Date "The decision is yours!"

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Even before the great storms of '09, Speen Stores were getting praise. Now, we just marvel – they didn't close!

Dear Editor,
Three cheers for Speen Stores. From the time Alison took over the shop things have been getting better and better.

With her family to help her, we villagers have been treated to reliable hours, smiling faces, full shelves with a wide variety of things to buy and superb service.

During the particularly difficult wintry weeks this service never failed, so I repeat, "Three Loud Cheers for Speen Stores!"

Jo Banks
488249

Dear Editor,
15/01/10

Contingency Plans for Snow

As I write this it is snowing again. I managed to get to Wycombe yesterday but now, driving conditions are very bad and I am stuck at home. Surely, it is time to make plans for the community to pull together in the event of future snowy periods.

I am in my mid sixties, living alone, and usually very independent and self sufficient. However, I am sure that I am

not the only one in Speen who is frightened of driving in snow and ice, which make even short journeys impossible.

Here, I must praise Alison and her team, who have kept the shop open, well stocked and welcoming to all who can get there on foot. Thanks also to Dave and the William 1V staff, who have provided a warm haven, offering food and drink and good company in very difficult conditions. So, those of us who can get out will not starve or become too isolated, but what about those marooned at home? There have been a lot of individual acts of kindness during this snowy period, but could we extend this generosity in a more organised way?

I would suggest that the "Good Neighbour" scheme be extended and better advertised. Could a list of 4x4 drivers willing to take others to the doctor or hospital

appointments, to collect prescriptions or urgent shopping (anything that can't be bought at the shop!) be kept by the "Good Neighbour" scheme? This would enable those of us lacking the confidence to venture out alone to get a lift, or receive medication and other essentials by ringing one central number to find out who is willing to help.

Could someone organise a band of teenagers to clear snow from drives, especially for those unable to clear snow themselves, for a small fee, so that visitors, delivery drivers and workmen didn't get stuck in the snow?

Finally, in the event of lengthy power cuts, would it be worth having, perhaps in the Village Hall, a calor gas stove so that villagers could fill flasks with hot water for tea, or warm soup etc?

Yours,

Sheila Tidball
Struan



Bob Templeman keeps the shop well stocked



www.speenchurch.org

In this issue Louise Wilson profiles a member of the community and the church – Muriel Groves.

If any Speen or North Dean children are unfortunate enough to leave school this year without qualifications, it's unlikely to be because they are expected to stay at home and look after their younger brothers and sisters. That's what happened to Muriel Groves - a scholarship student - when she was barely 15 years old.

Muriel, or *Topsy* as she is known to a generation of Speen children, was born into a working class family during the First World War in Chiswick, West London. She was one of a family of thirteen children, nine of whom survived early infancy. She doesn't believe her life story is interesting enough to record; but our expectations have changed so much in the last century that some of the details Muriel barely considers worth mentioning read like historical drama.



Muriel fourth from right with her eight brothers and sisters

It was a family crisis that cut short Muriel's school career: her mother went into hospital

to have a hysterectomy. ("All those children!" says Muriel, "Maybe she should have had a hysterectomy a lot earlier . . .")

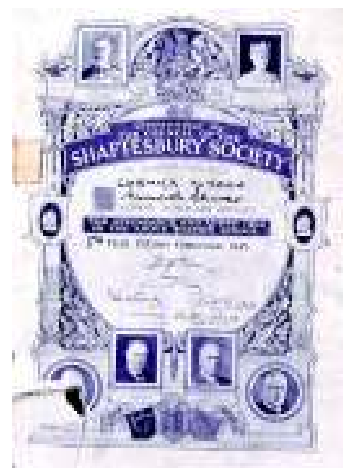
This was the 1930s and her mother was prescribed many months' post-operative rest. Muriel, who had won a scholarship to Chiswick County School, was expected to stay at home instead, to help her older sister Phyllis with the five younger children and the heavy household work.

So what kind of social life did a teenager have in those days? All the children were sent to Sunday school, both morning and afternoon: "Mainly," says Muriel, "to give our parents a bit of time to themselves". The high-light of Muriel's week was club night at the Chiswick Mission. The family was happy to let her have a night off - so long as she took along a bagful of socks to darn.

The Chiswick Mission was part of The Shaftesbury Society, which pioneered social welfare in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Muriel was in the Girls' Brigade at the Mission, and it was also there that she found the guidance and inspiration that led to her lifelong Christian faith.

At sixteen, but with significant experience in child care already, Muriel went to work as nanny to the children of two school teachers. When they heard her story, her employers paid for her to take evening classes at the local poly-technic. And so Muriel, qualified with her RSA certificate in bookkeeping, joined the first of several firms in and around London. She met her future husband, Bill, at work. They

married in 1940 and twin boys Bill and Bob and daughter Barbara soon arrived, war babies like their mother.



The frontispiece in the Bible presented to Muriel, recognising five years of 'attendance and active help' at the Chiswick Mission.

After her husband died, Muriel moved to Speen to be near her son Bill and his wife Margaret. Naturally, she joined Speen church almost at once. Nor was her family surprised that she spent a sizable part of the next ten years babysitting. "I think I knew every child in Speen," she grins, and they all knew her by her family nickname: Topsy.

These days, Muriel is not as mobile as she was, and rather than going to the chapel for services she prefers to meet up with a mid-week 'small group' in someone's house for fellowship and prayer. She still takes a great interest in children though. At the last count, she had 23 great grandchildren, and one on the way.

Ethiopian blanket appeal update: so far, £3,500 has been raised and sent to Ethiopia, including the Carol Service collection of £300.

WI builds on Gardening Club events to attract villagers

Plans for 2010 include Darwin, and accordions

We enjoyed hearing Marie Cates, a retired school teacher, talking about her time in Uganda doing voluntary service, in October. Later in the month Peter Bird gave a talk in the village hall about colour in the garden. This was part of our Gardening Club events and quite a decent amount of villagers attended.

November was our Annual

meeting with a delicious pot luck supper afterwards. Some members also visited the Mill at Sonning to enjoy a musical play.

In December Primrose Cundell (a very suitable name in the circumstances) gave a lovely, chatty demonstration on making a Christmas flower arrangement. In fact, she made about four, which were later given away to lucky raffle prize winners. Refreshments made by the committee, with a glass of mulled wine, finished the evening off nicely, thank you.

Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather, our January meeting was cancelled, so we will never know what Jean

Morris and Jacqueline King had arranged for the evening. Maybe next year.

Hopefully the weather will be better for our February meeting when Mary Simmons will be talking about Frayed Round the Edges (not sure what that's about) and in March, John Noakes (not THE John Noakes of Blue Peter fame, surely) will give a talk on Darwin and Galapagos (this will be an open meeting). April brings around our birthday party when Victoria Molinar talks about and plays accordion music with a quiz.

Barbara Collett
488348

Almost as easy as Lego; be ready for the Speen Marquee season

Management Group publishes dates for your diaries

The Grand Opening of our new village owned, 60 ft x 40 ft, Marquee took place in June



Up	Function	Location
Wednesday, 26th May (6.00pm)	FunDay	Playing Field/KW4
Saturday, 19th June (9.30am)	PTA Ball	Speen School field
Thursday, 8th July (6.00pm)	Speen Fete	Speen Playing Field
Thursday, 29th July (6.00pm)	North Dean Fete	North Dean

2009. It was then used for Speen FunDay, Fete and Festival and North Dean Fete. We have a similar programme of hiring in 2010 for village events. We have been fortunate in also obtaining some private hiring either side of Speen FunDay so minimising the need for several erections.

The Management Group is considering acquiring a mechanical stake hammer to reduce the effort of knocking in 52 steel stakes. So please put the erection dates shown in your diary and lend a hand - it's quite enjoyable really!

For information on the availability and cost of hiring the Marquee contact me.

John Holmes
488420
jholmes@nildram.co.uk

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Spit and bobbins

There are many stories to tell and hear about living in a Buckinghamshire village

SNDN and SpeenFest Interactive! launch Oral History project

There's a YouTube site with rare footage of the anarcho-punk band Exit-Stance playing *"I have no gun but I can spit"*. The music came from Milton Keynes. The title came from W.H. Auden. We learned this because we have become members of the Oral History Society www.oralhistory.org.uk, and an article in the autumn 2009 issue lists rock songs written in Milton Keynes in the 1980s (about 60) with an equal number of bands.

We hear other comments, because we stop to chat, and other people do the same. Olivia Cowan once told us, *"I remember when we first came to the village, someone said to me 'Well, the village really changed when everyone went away to work'. And I thought they meant going to London, or something, but they meant going to the next valley."*

Or

"At night, they worked by candlelight or oil lamp. This was a very lonely life but one could hear these men singing miles away; they seemed to really enjoy this hard but rewarding life".

Or

"I remember Mary Campbell's mother always had a bell, and when she wanted Mary she just pulled and Mary was off."

Or

"My father was born in the village at what we used to call Red House Farm. And his father, too, of course."

The villages had been tight communities, then. Stories and memory would weave in and out of daily conversation. We were reflecting on a drive into London the other day that, traffic permitting, it's possible to get to Marylebone in an hour. An hour if you're walking gets about two miles, so the *"other valley"* was indeed some stretch away, and two hours would almost get you to Wycombe, or Saunderton train station. It makes for a different kind of commute. So now, working away means something different, and the strands of conversations get stretched or may not even seem to belong in Speen or North Dean.

Even so, in contrast to our acquaintance who said *"I live in a community where we prefer to keep ourselves to ourselves and go to London for our entertainment"*, the Speen effect seems to weave us all back into the pattern like a bit of Buckinghamshire lace. One of the editors even discovered after moving here a great-great grandfather who'd owned land in the village, before emigrating to Prince Edward Island. But that's a story for another day.

And that's the point. There are

many stories for another day. The Speen and North Dean News, in association with SpeenFest Interactive! are launching an Oral History project. We want to use the video recording skills, and technology skills, that Ian Warr instilled to start to capture memories - even recent ones. And, in addition to running stories, we want to share what we know on the web.

This issue already has two stories that reflect our villages' history. Louise Wilson interviewed Muriel Groves, and on the following page we see the Whites celebrating a shared 80th birthday, and reflecting on life here in the last 50 years.

So what do we do next? *"One step at time"*, our fathers always said. The Oral History Society offers splendid practical advice, and training sessions. <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/advice/index.php>

We invite people who are interested in interviewing, learning new skills, remembering their life stories - or those of others - to get in touch with the editors.

We will organise a planning session in March to decide on our first project and attend a training session at the British Library. We can also call upon local Oral History advisors.

Please get in touch by email or telephone:

Anne and David Worlock
488033
anne@monimail.net
david@davidworlock.com

The Whites celebrate their 80th birthdays in the Village Hall

We have often walked along Water Lane and smiled at the sign in the window of the small outbuilding of *Two Stiles*. "Reading" it says in the British Rail signage of the 1960s and behind it are shelves upon shelves of books. We like a little pun ourselves from time to time. And shelves of books provide vital sustaining walls in Monimail. On a sunny day, the garage beside "Reading" often has its door open, and Don White and son Stephen may be seen cossetting two glorious vintage cars (one of them a Rolls Royce Silver Dawn) like favourite show horses.

Stephen and his sister Jill wanted to celebrate their parents' 80th birthdays, and were the hosts at a party in the Village Hall, on 6th February. Don and Mollie White have lived in Speen since 1955 - with a hiatus to Hughenden in the 1960s. Mollie, who had been a



Stephen and Jill White

student at Miles Aircraft in the 1940s, and a graduate of the Technical School, (now part of the University of Reading), designed their first Speen home, *Field End House* in Studridge Lane. She has also restored the upholstery on two of Don's vintage cars. The love of cars extends to the next generation with Jill zipping about in her classic red Mini.

For 25 years the Whites have run the ice cream stall at the Village Fete, and have been members of the Horticultural Society for 40 years. Mollie has been a member of the WI for just as long. In 2007, Don played the Ghost Teacher in the Speen Festival's production of *Three Cheers for Mrs Bennett* and has been in five of the Festival Theatre productions.

Both Mollie and Don have connections with the building trade, and Don's family were well-known builders in Wycombe since 1919, so perhaps it's not surprising that they wanted to build a home to their own specifications. *Two Stiles* was an unusual and untraditional design, an award winner at the ideal Home Exhibition in 1967. Paul Rogerson, who gave an address at the birthday party, says that it was the challenge of getting planning permission that made Don the skilled politician he was to become. More likely it reflected a family tradition. His grandfather Arthur White had been Mayor of High Wycombe. Don has been treasurer of the Village Hall since 1973, being



Don and Mollie White

chairman and secretary before then.

In 1979 Don joined the Lacey Green Parish Council, and was its Chairman for 23 years from 1984 to 2007. He saw many changes in the effectiveness of Council functioning, sometimes finding the tendency of District and County Councils to overlook parish needs very frustrating. Still, in his time he oversaw the introduction of rational speed limits to the villages and negotiated a gas supply for Lacey Green. He is very pleased that in a Council representing Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen he was able to guarantee Speen the right to two councillors, through a process called 'Warding'. Rosemary Mortham, said of him, "He has always tried to be impartial and not to let politics influence his decisions. There are few local people prepared to put so much time into helping the community as Don and Mollie."

Certainly the affectionate group in the Village Hall seemed to confirm her view.

The Editors

Speen Festival emerges from winter quarters

And will soon be looking for nourishing new ideas

We have not gone. We have been in hibernation and recovery.

In 2009 The Festival sold 1567 tickets and over 1000 additional visitors took part for free or attended our SpeenFest Interactive! workshops. Our audiences came not just from Speen and North Dean and other local villages but from much, much further afield! We:

- ran free, participatory, events for all ages
- attempted to cater for a variety of interests
- raised money for charity
- used as many top quality local artists, suppliers and young participants as possible
- have kept in the black thanks to the huge generosity of our main sponsor Beechdean Dairies and our grant from Wycombe District Council, other vital local grants, and, of course, our stunning audiences.

As a result we are able to pursue our programme of creative participatory events, known as SpeenFest Interactive!, for the whole community between Festivals, keeping all of us alive and creatively kicking.

Events that are already being planned include: a May Poetry Day; a Speen SchoolFest extravaganza for local schools in the marquee in June; a joint venture with Speen and North Dean News bringing together technology and stories from young and old; and another Speen Big Sing! to keep you all in good voice for the next Speen Festival production. Photography, Jazz and Art are meanwhile being kept hot by the Harts, and Science is under further investigation by Barry Stickings.

We'd really welcome further suggestions for SpeenFest Interactive! events at director@speenfestival.org or ring Kate Laughton on 01494 488548. Dates and details will appear on the Speen Festival website, the Diary of Village Events on the Village website and on local notice boards shortly.

On Friday 26 March the incumbent Artistic Directors of the Festival and any other members of the committee that are free will be in attendance at the KW4 pub to buy a pint for those who come up with the best idea(s) for the Festival in September 2011. We'd be particularly keen to meet those who didn't find much that appealed to them in 2009, and those who'd like to join in creating one of the most exciting community creative events in the local calendar. There are definitely vacancies!

If you would like to join the Festival email list to receive updates about events and plans please email

update@speenfestival.org or contact us through the website www.speenfestival.org

Kate Laughton
kate@oldkinggeorge.plus.com

Police activities

PC 4755 Andy Ralph gives this month's update for Princes Risborough rural neighbourhood team

Progress on priority 1, Speeding:

On 28th January a speed enforcement operation was carried out by PCs Ralph and Logan at Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge at school pick up time. Eight motorists were cautioned or dealt with by way of fixed penalty notice with the fastest recorded at 39mph.

The speeds recorded were slower than on previous occasions but support the continued use of speed enforcement in the coming months.

The use of speed indication devices is being looked into by the neighbourhood action group as a possible way to impact on speeding motorists. Community speedwatch volunteers are sought for the following areas; Lacey Green/Loosley Row, Great/Little Kimble and Ellesborough/Butlers Cross in order that evidence of speeding in these villages can be used accordingly by the Police to support speed enforcement

operations accordingly. To register your interest email; lisa.roberts@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Progress on priority 2,

Parking:

We are continuing to monitor the parking near the schools in the area where it can be problematic. The commendable attitude of most residents is that this problem is inevitable at certain times of the day and can even lead to positive factors such as reducing speeding cars near the schools. A travel plan group, including PCSO Lisa Roberts, meets in Longwick periodically to assess the problem and seek ways to improve the situation for the local residents. A poster competition to highlight the problem involving the school pupils is being set up by Lisa.

The parking of a van on a pavement in Longwick has been reported by local residents. It transpires that this is a specially converted transit to carry a disabled lady and that this is the only viable place to park. I am happy that there is room to walk a pram past the van and concluded that in these circumstances this is acceptable.

Progress on priority3, Anti social behaviour:

Please let us know if you have noticed a location in the area where you feel our presence could be used to prevent any ASB affecting your quality of life.

In general the area is very low on ASB and this is a credit to the local schools and parents.

Area crime information:

9 crimes have been reported in the area during January:

- A garage break-in Bledlow Ridge where nothing was stolen.
- Damage was caused to a car at Saunderton Lodge
- An assault occurred at Saunderton Lodge
- A house burglary in Bledlow whereby shotguns were stolen
- Two thefts from cars in Bradenham Wood Lane during the snowy period whereby a chain saw and a satellite navigation system were stolen
- A quad bike was stolen from a farm outbuilding in Great Hampden
- Theft of fuel from a vehicle in Chestnut Way, Longwick
- Gardening equipment was stolen from a shed in Great Kimble

Offenders dealt with:

A suspect has been dealt with by way of a conditional caution for making off without paying for petrol from Total garage, Longwick. This means that the offender now has a Police record but as long as he pays for the fuel by a given deadline the matter will not go to court.

Partnership activity:

A speed enforcement operation took place involving Thames Valley safer roads partnership and Bucks County Council speed education officers.

I visited Longwick School on 27th January to look at some evidential statements the pupils

had been working on relating to a staged crime that took place at the School. Thanks to their statements I was able to identify a suspect in the class and arrest him!

We have been working closely with staff at Saunderton Lodge to hold beat surgeries with vulnerable families that are currently staying there in order to help them understand our work.

Future meetings:

The next NAG meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 18th March 2010 at 7.30pm to be held at Longwick school.

"Have your say" meeting dates for February are as follows:

Thursday 11th February at Tesco, Princes Risborough between 11am and 1pm.

Thursday 25th February at Tesco, Princes Risborough between 5pm and 7pm.

We are always looking for ways to improve our service to the people in our neighbourhood. If you have any concerns or comments on how we can improve your neighbourhood, or to find out more about the team, please contact us at Princes Risborough police station or via the non-emergency number on 0845 8 505 505 or visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

Who's Who in Speen and North Dean

Speen and North Dean News - Editors	Anne & 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 for Speen Ward	Roger Craft	488343
Wycombe District Council - Member for Lacey Green & Hampdens	Paul Rogerson	488315
Bucks County Council - Member for Lacey Green	Paul Rogerson	488315
Police Contact	PCSO Lisa Roberts	0845 850 5505

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