



Issue 51
Spring 2011



Speen and North Dean News



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NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (52) is due by Friday 15th July.

The planned publication date is mid August, looking back on FunDay and the Fetes, and looking forward to the Festival. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (download from the SNDN website on the village web).
Send to editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk.

Thank you.

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Month	Event	Where	Contact
May			
Monday 9 th	Parish Council AGM	L Green Village Hall, 7.30pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Tuesday 10 th	Art Group, Aerial Perspective	Speen Village Hall, 2.00pm	Glenn Hart 488528
Thursday 12 th	Speen v N Dean golf	Mentmore GC	Charlie Pearson
Sunday 15 th	Ubiquitous Theatre Co	Pigotts, 7.48 pm	Nick W-Robinson 562167
Wednesday 25 th	WI Gardener's Club	Savill Garden, 10.00am	Daphne Westray 488742
Wednesday 25 th	Speen Pub Lunch	KW4, 12.00	Gloria Holmes 488420
June			
Wednesday 1 st	MPS	Archery/King William, 6.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 2 nd	WI. Thalidomide	Speen Village Hall, 7.45 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Monday 6 th	Parish Council	Speen Village Hall, 7.30pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Friday/Sat 10/11 th	Speen FunDays	Speen Playing Field	Andy Thompson 488524
Tuesday 14 th	Art Group, Building Perspective	Speen Village Hall, 2.00pm	Glenn Hart 488528
Sunday 19 th	Breakfast on the Hill	North Dean	Andrew Howard 562775
Wednesday 22 nd	Speen Pub Lunch	KW4, 12.00	Gloria Holmes 488420
Wednesday 22 nd	WI Gardener's Club	Upper Chalford Farm, pm	Daphne Westray 488742
Saturday 25 th	PTA Ball	Speen School	Anthony Palmer 562765
July			
Monday 4 th	Parish Council	L Green Village Hall, 7.30pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 6 th	MPS	Wheel, Naphill, 8.30 pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 7 th	WI. Lace Making	Speen Village Hall, 7.45 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Saturday 9 th	Speen Fete	Speen Playing Field, 2.15pm	Amanda Dobbs 488887
Sunday 10 th	SSG Craft Fair	Speen Playing Field, am	Christine Symondson 488654
Tuesday 12 th	Art Group, Alternative colours	Speen Village Hall, 2.00pm	Glenn Hart 488528
Wednesday 20 th	WI Gardener's Club	Kew Gardens, 10.00 am	Daphne Westray 488742
Saturday 30 th	North Dean Fete	N Dean Playing Field, 2.15pm	Julie White 562311
August			
Monday 1 st	Parish Council	Speen Village Hall, 7.30pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 3 rd	MPS	Pink & Lily, L Green, 8.30 pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 4 th	WI. Trekking in Nepal	Speen Village Hall, 7.45 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Tuesday 9 th	Art Group, Colours for emotion	Speen Village Hall, 2.00pm	Glenn Hart 488528
September			
Monday 5 th	Parish Council	L Green Village Hall, pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 7 th	MPS (RAF Hendon)	Harrow, Hughenden	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 8 th -18 th	Speen Festival	Speen Marquee and village	www.speenfestival.org
Wednesday 29 th	WI Gardener's Club	Flower Arranging, 8.00 pm	Daphne Westray 488742
November – 5 th	Speen Bonfire Night	Speen Playing Field	
December – 10 th	Christmas Tree/Carols	Speen Playing Field	

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the 51st issue of Speen and North Dean News. My name is Lucy Entwisle and I am the first guest editor of the year. The committee has decided that this year we will have a different youth editor for each issue, so I guess that you will see lots of us running around organising articles over the next few months!



Before I get down to business, let me tell you a little about myself. I am 13 years old, and I have 2 siblings, both younger than me. I love to draw and paint, and I also like organising things and public speaking. I am fond of animals and enjoy bird watching. I go to Wycombe High School, and I write the wildlife section for the year 8 magazine. But enough about me; it is time to see what's in store in this issue!

We have decided that we will have a Youth Focus theme for this Spring's issue, so I hope that you youths all find this paper interesting! We have some new writers too, such as Toby Burton writing about what he likes to do, and Isabelle Tilt's amazing collage. We also have Alice Wilson who has interviewed Louise Wilson about the upcoming Speen Festival.

It's that time of year again . . . Summer is just around the corner! With it comes the yearly Fun Day and Fetes. This year we hope that the teens will be involved in these more than ever before. There are lots of ways that they can participate but still have fun. Rumour has it that the older members of the community are feeling their age and need new recruits to help put up this year's marquee!

We have a lot of new competitions open for the children, so keep your ears and eyes open! See top right for the first. Your work could be published in the next issue . . .

So, I hope you all enjoy reading this issue of Speen and North Dean News. Roll on Summer!!

Lucy Entwisle
Guest Editor

Thank you Lucy for being the first guest editor. You have done a great job. Who would like to volunteer to be the next?

We look forward to receiving copy for the next edition. See page 3 for the editor's email address. For more news see <http://www.speenbucks.org.uk/speen-north-dean-news/news-extra/>

Gloria Holmes
SNDN Chair

Photographic Competition

Theme: My Hobbies/Interests
Age: 7 to 15 years
Judge: Miss Walton
(photography teacher at Wycombe High School)

Rules:

- 1 photo only to be submitted per person
- Photo must be taken by the person who is entering
- Photo must be no bigger than A5 paper
- All entries must be submitted by **30 June**
- A prize will be awarded to the winner whose photograph will be published in the next issue

Write on the back of the photo your name, age, title of photo and your telephone number and send to - Lucy Entwisle, 5 Abbotswood, Speen, Princes Risborough, HP27 0SR



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Speen Pre-School - A Time of Change

All change at pre-school as we have said farewell to our leader Natalie Carter and our Chair Amanda Dobbs. Both were in their roles for three years and will be missed. Our new leader is Tracey Winfield, whom many of you will know was the deputy leader, and I have taken over as Chair.

It's also a time of change for many of our children as we say a fond goodbye to our older children as they head off, with our best wishes to 'big school' after Easter. Along with the children go several of our long-standing committee members so come the July AGM we will have key vacancies that need filling.



The children have celebrated Chinese New Year with fortune cookies, drumming and lantern making; St David's Day with Welsh cakes, daffodils and dragon pictures and Red Nose Day with a funny face competition, dressing up and biscuit decorating. We have also welcomed the local police for a visit. If you are able to share an experience with our children, for example story telling, local wildlife or can bring a pet along for a visit etc. please contact the pre-school.

Much of our fundraising over the last twelve months has focused on replacing the plastic play equipment in the Under 5s' play area on the playing field. The installation of the new wooden horse and cart is stage 2 of 3 and as the picture shows has been warmly received by the children. We hope to be able to raise the final funds and install the last piece of equipment - a wooden fort - before the summer is out. Any donations will be gratefully received.

We continue to have a full pre-school and for most sessions we are operating on a waiting list basis. We take children from two upwards so if you would like to add your child's name to the list please contact the pre-school for an application form.

Clare Morris
Chair
488553

Help us make a difference

You know that Speen pre-school provides good quality childcare. Did you also know that it is managed by a dedicated group of volunteers?

We really need more people to help make a difference.

Being a voluntary committee member takes dedication and commitment. The reward for this is the opportunity to feel that you are helping to make a difference to children's lives, and to the community. You don't need any special skills. What you do need though is:

- A willingness to make a difference
- Care for the continued success of Speen pre-school
- A commitment to give up a few hours each week

You don't need any experience. We will give you the help and support you need. And you don't need to be a parent or grandparent of a child at Speen pre-school.

You can take on as much or as little as you like. If you can help make a difference then please contact Clare Morris on 488559 or clare.morris@mac.com

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News from Speen School and its PTA

Life at Speen School has as usual been a myriad of fun activities. Christmas brought with it all the usual celebrations. The school play, The Shiniest Star was a brilliantly written and performed version of the nativity, with the unusual additions of talking mice, belly dancing shepherds and Egyptians - walking - well, like Egyptians!



Father Christmas dutifully arrived on time. The lack of a chimney at the school meant he had to walk through the front door but fortunately he wasn't hampered by the imminent arrival of snow which closed the school early on the last day of term.

February saw the children legging it around the playing fields - all in the name of cross country - watched by adoring parents cheering the children on whilst feasting on the delicious cake and hot chocolate kindly provided by the PTA. Pounds were simultaneously lost by children and gained by parents. A huge thank you to all in the village who struggled to park on that day! About 200 children and 150 adults from 8 local schools took part.

The children have also been busy doing their bit for a number of charities. £180.00 was raised for children in need, by the children dressing up and enjoying a hot dog lunch in November. Comic Relief brought with it another hot dog lunch, cake decorating and the compilation of Speen's very first joke book along with £250 raised! And



currently the children are enjoying a hot meal every Monday as part of a 'meal for a meal' scheme (see below). The money raised, £317, will not only pay for children in Speen to have a hot meal but children at Agape school in India will also receive more than 1,000 lunches.

Parents too have not missed out, the annual safari supper had a record number of guests, 90 in all, enjoying sumptuous feasts in various houses around the village, finally culminating in a dessert back at the school.

Preparations for the ball on 25th June are well underway so please keep your eye out for posters around the village!

Finally, a huge thank you to all who so willingly support Speen School and make it the fun and active place that it is.

Speen School is Making a Meal of it!

The Meal for a Meal event is an initiative run by two culinary mums in conjunction with Speen School. £10.00

donated by parents pays for 4 school meals in Speen, with the rest of the money going to the Agape Charity which is associated with Speen Baptist Church. The donations have paid for a whopping 1,200 meals for children at Agape School in Hyderabad. In the meantime the local volunteers use the balance of the money to provide our school children with a hot lunch. In the 4 weeks over 200 home cooked healthy meals have been served up at Speen School. The empty plates and requests for 'seconds' are proof that the meals have gone down a treat!



Meal for a Meal is providing 6 meals in Hyderabad for every 1 in Speen. With hard to swallow facts like that we would like to say a big thank you to all involved, including those who have donated, for James Entwistle who was in Hyderabad in February to see the funds turn into food (see page 21), Speen School, and of course our intrepid mums who have been busy providing and serving up the good meals here.

Star visits Speen School



Jessica Cook, Gloria Holmes, Ethan Ray-Kemp
and Liam Barlow with Star

Star

Star is a kind and gentle dog who is training to be a guide dog. Star is a clever dog and she is allowed to go on trains, buses and cars. She is also allowed to go in shops.

by E sme Darr

star

Star is a kind and gentle dog and is training to be a guide dog. Star is allowed in shops and vehicles except motorbikes and star is ten months old and is only with Mrs Holmes two more months then she is going to dog school be trained properly for 4 months so she will be 2 year and 2 months then she will be a proper guide dog and have blind people to look after. Star is a golden labrador by Emily Lily, Kieran O'Brien Bowen Cranley

Sebastian Sharma.

Star

Star is a kind and gentle guide dog. star is a clever guide dog. Star can go into buses and shops. Star gets trained for ten months before going to dog school.



A HISTORY OF SPEEN

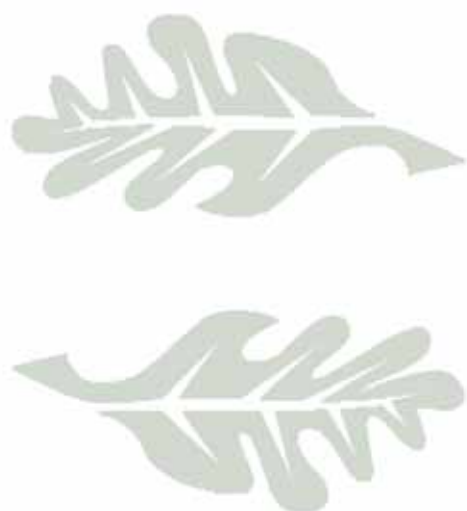


The "Leaves of Time" was first published in 2000 as part of Speen's Millennium Celebrations and is a history of the village and its inhabitants since records began. It records the building of Speen Chapel as well as the birth of our school, the origins of the 'bodger' and Speen's brush with the Second 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. All proceeds of the sale of the books go toward Speen Festival.

THE LEAVES OF TIME is available from Speen Stores and online at olivia.cowan@onetel.net

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By Isabelle Tilt

Speen Shop Charities Committee

Andy Gower became Chairman of the Speen Shop Charities Committee at its inception in 1998. Under his leadership the Charity has benefitted many projects in the village, one of the very first being the SNDN.

At his last meeting in December, Andy was presented with a gift on behalf of the committee by the new Chairman Peter King. This was the pictorial map of Speen produced by Peter Symonds in 2000.

Reminder: Application forms for financial assistance either for individual need or for the benefit of the community can be obtained from Speen Stores.

*Judi Booth
SSCC Committee Member*



The end of an era! We say "Farewell" to Andy and Carolyn Gower after fourteen inspirational years

On Sunday, 16th January, Andy preached his last service to a packed congregation at the Chapel. For fourteen years, He, Carolyn, Richard, Sam and Ben have been an integral part of village life and we wish them many more happy and successful years at Farrington. But, at the little church on the hill, it's 'business as usual' as our gifted members work together to fulfil God's purpose and plan for us and the church.

As a fellowship, we have celebrated over 34 adult baptisms since 1998 but the 9th of January 2011 was particularly special as no less than four people were baptised together - our lovely Megan Chinn, Alistair and Julie Blundell and one of our teenagers, Jack Fradgley. It was, as you can imagine, a moving and inspirational occasion as they shared their stories of their 'journey' to faith.

The name 'Rob Halligan' may be familiar to many now. In 2009, he was a guest speaker at a 'Men's Breakfast' at the King William IV but more of us came to know and appreciate his wonderful songs recently as he visited five local homes for a



Andy Gower baptises Megan Chinn

'Lounge Gig', an evening of music, song and chat which proved a great success and will, I hope, be repeated later in the year for those who 'missed out' the first time around!

*Jenny Pearce
Church Administrator*

Afternoon Family Walk

Last Spring SNDN invited us all to submit maps for walks around Speen: nature walks; heritage walks; child-friendly walks. We volunteered our five grandchildren aged 8 - 3 to test-walk the surrounding area.

The walk had to be mostly off-road, of interest to all ages and suitable for all seasons - so that ruled out, for example, the ever-popular Autumn toadstool spotting, blackberry and conker walk. (Hampden Woods, bridleway and then home along Grubbins Lane.)

The Speen Home of Rest for Horses is a perennial favourite, especially now that they have introduced hands-on grooming and other events for children during the holidays. Opening times: Thursday - Sunday 2-4pm until the end of the October half-term.

The map (see centrespread) is illustrated mostly by Mabel (8) though Sophie (4) contributed the interesting six-legged alpaca.

How long does it take? About an hour for an adult. Much longer for a three year old!

Di Rainbow

The Clare Foundation

The Clare Foundation is a new philanthropic initiative endowed by Mike Clare, the founder of Dreams plc. It was created in October 2009, to support and improve the efficiency and work of UK registered charities. It will advise, educate and train charities in best practice and operational excellence with the aim of helping them become as effective as successful private companies. Optimising a charity's social impact through business efficiency is the Foundation's core objective.

The Foundation acquired the Saunderton Estate in November 2009 and immediately set to work to create a 'charity hub' - a centre of 'Charity

Excellence' - for local charities based in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The 50,000 ft² office complex, set in 12 acres of beautiful Chiltern countryside, has now been refurbished to provide flexible serviced office accommodation for charities at subsidised rates.



The excellent onsite Conference and Function facilities used by 'hub' tenants will also be available to local charities and commercial organisations at preferential rates.

The Foundation is looking forward to establishing closer ties with local communities in the Thames Valley & Chiltern region so if you would like more information please visit www.theclarefoundation.org or call on 0300 777 7000.



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SPEEN MARQUEE

Our village owned, 60 ft x 40 ft, marquee was used in the summer of 2010 for Speen FunDay, Speen Fete and North Dean Fete and, a new hiring, for the PTA Ball on the School field. We have a similar programme of hirings in 2011 for village events.



We speeded and eased our erection procedures by using our 'new' mechanical 'Wacker' to drive in the heavy steel stakes, and a new trailer to store the marquee to avoid loading/unloading every hiring.

Greg Cook has gallantly 'volunteered' to join our team leaders. Please put the 2011 erection/strike dates shown below in your diary and lend a hand - it's quite enjoyable really! Last year we were very pleased that several village teenagers helped. We hope they will again this year.

Location/Function		Date	
		Up	Down
Playing Field/KW4	FunDay	Wed 8 th June (6.00pm)	Sun 12 th June (pm)
School field	PTA Ball	Sat 18 th June (9.30am)	Sun 26 th June (pm)
Playing Field	Speen Fete	Wed 6 th July (6.00pm)	Sun 10 th July (pm)
North Dean	North Dean Fete	Thu 28 th July (6.00pm)	Sun 31 st July (pm)
Playing Field	Speen Festival	Sat 27 th August (9.30am)	Mon 19 th September (day)

For information about the Marquee contact John Holmes (01494 488420).

Speen Village Fete

To all you fete lovers out there, here is a heads up for the treats we have in store for you all on 9th July 2011.

It was difficult after last year's terrific fete to come up with something that could possibly compare to that wonderful Puma and 230 Squadron, but I think we may have done just that. This year our main attraction is Masquerade 2000, a world renowned Carnival troupe who just happen to be one of the opening acts at the 2012 Olympics - Lincoln and 13 of his wonderful troupe will be strutting their stuff in leafy Speen; Amra Productions will be performing with children from Speen School, St John's School and the Hannah Ball school in Radnage, a fantastic piece of African music and movement; then teenagers and young adults from the Sound Studio and performing arts group in Aylesbury are coming to perform and do 'a set'. To satisfy the Ladies in the area there will be a resurgence of manly thighs, bulging biceps and beating of chests, in the form of the Speen versus Hampden and North Dean tug of war. So along with 'the usual suspects' and the fantastic side shows (including some new and exciting games), we will have something to tickle everyone's fancy. The programmes will be out at the end of May and the raffle includes a fantastic cash prize, so cancel your holiday, phone all your friends, bring wads of

cash and come and help us raise money for your local charities and have some amazing fun.

Amanda Dobbs

amanda.speen@btopenworld.com

Speen Arts & Crafts Fair 10 July

Following the resounding success of our first Arts & Craft fair last year Speen Supporters Group are organising their second fair on 10th July, the day after Speen fete. Many of the exhibitors who joined us last year are keen to be here again as they so enjoyed the friendly village atmosphere. We have also sourced some interesting new people and products and intend to organise some hands-on activities so 'watch this space'. We were thrilled that, as ever, many of our local supporters turned out on what was a busy weekend and we hope that you will do so again. Do take this opportunity to browse amongst the many stalls, right on your doorstep, and perhaps buy some unique gifts and thereby help contribute to the hospices we support. If you happen to know a local artist/craftsman that may like to attend contact Christine Symondson on 01494 488654 to check availability. Here's hoping for a bright and sunny July weekend that we can all enjoy together.

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SPEENFESTIVAL2011

dates for your diary ...

www.speenfestival.org

<p>The Dreaming 8, 9 & 10 September</p> <p>The Dreaming, our headline family show, is the magical opening for this year's festival. Set in a hilltop village surrounded by woodland 100 years ago, this musical version of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream inspires an entertaining journey of festival events for all ages, celebrating artistic talents, local history, food and the wildlife and nature around us. Music by Howard Goodall with book and lyrics by Charles Hart. Fantastical family musical.</p> <p>Wild Weekend – Saturday 10 September</p> <p>Traditional craft workshops for children including papercraft, buttons and beads, plaiting, patchwork pictures, knitting and pompoms.</p> <p>Surviving in Ridgley's Field</p> <p>Picnic and family fun with shelter building and outdoor arts and crafts.</p> <p>Speen Photo Shoot</p> <p>Run your own fun photo shoot using wild and whacky props.</p> <p>Wild Weekend – Sunday 11 September</p> <p>Food Festival</p> <p>Another fabulous celebration of local produce - Yum!</p> <p>Photography competition and exhibition</p> <p>Featuring work taken at our Speen Photo Shoot.</p> <p>Echoes of Old Village Life – Pictures, Poems and Prose</p> <p>An evening with Stuart King, local craftsman, artist and photojournalist.</p> <p>The Elysian Singers 12 September</p> <p>Your song will live in my heart: a soirée of words and song in Speen Chapel.</p> <p>Young Speen Goes Wild 13 September</p> <p>A host of fun activities inspired by nature for 4-10 year olds.</p>	<p>Wildlife in Speen 13 September</p> <p>Talk and slide show tracking fauna and flora in Speen and North Dean during the course of a year.</p> <p>Jazz Concert 14 September</p> <p>Johnny Mercer - A Life In Music. The Martin Hart Quintet featuring Lynn Garner.</p> <p>Science Matters 15 September</p> <p>A thought-provoking debate with experts on topical science issues, including the brain, the mind and ageing.</p> <p>Youth Takeover 16 September</p> <p>A showcase of local talent presented by young adults for young adults.</p> <p>Folk music in King William IV Pub & Restaurant 16 September</p> <p>For those not young enough to take over, but remember how!</p> <p>The Mad-Hatter's Tea Party! 17 September</p> <p>Teatro Unfortunato return to Speen with a re-working of the Lewis Carroll tale told through the eyes of the sleepy dormouse.</p> <p>Bike Challenge 17 September</p> <p>New challenges for young cyclists.</p> <p>Cabaret Supper 17 September</p> <p>Food, entertainment and style with a twist of Art Nouveau.</p> <p>Prom in the Playing Field 18 September</p> <p>Fabulous free finale afternoon treat for all ages. Favourites from film, TV and the classical masters performed by local orchestras and soloists.</p> <p>PLUS Speenfest Interactive!</p> <p>A host of creative events leading up to and during the Festival including SpeenSchoolFest!, Speen Festival visits Speen Fête, outdoor activities for toddler groups and pre-schools, workshops to support the Youth Takeover showcase at the Festival and an ongoing oral history project. Please check website for more details.</p>
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All dates, times and events subject to change.

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SpeenFest Interactive 2011

Here is an outline of events in store for you this September. More details about every event can be found on our Festival website. A leaflet with booking form will be available by early June and the box office opens on Monday 13 June. Join our email update list (via website) for news as it emerges over the next few months and check out posters and information in Speen Stores.

We still need volunteers and sponsors for everything, as well as people to buy tickets, so please do get in touch with us if you can support us in any way at all.

Before the festival begins we will be busy gearing up with the following creative learning and participatory events. Please do come and support these and spread the word beyond Speen:
SpeenSchoolFest! tackles the theme Midsummer Arabian Nights in music, dance and art (performance 2pm Wed 22 June, Speen School - all welcome)

Speen Festival visits Speen Fête
Isokan Sing, Dance & Play Friday 8 July, 7-8pm, Speen Marquee, Speen Playing Fields. African Drumming workshop for all ages and abilities. Free admission.
Isokan performance Saturday 9 July at the Fete

by Speen, Radnage and Hannah Ball Schools, alongside the fabulous drummer and dancer Angie Amra Anderson.

Youth Takeover: Wild Graffiti Part 1 Saturday 9 July 2-5pm Festival Marquee. A workshop for ages 13 to 25-ish led by a professional artist, in preparation for the Youth Takeover event in September. Free admission.

As for the future, most of us on the committee are ready to use the Olympic year to pass the Speen Festival baton. So who wants to think towards 2013?

Read on about two headline events of this year's Festival: The Dreaming (which has been accepted as part of the RSC Open Stages Project) and our Youth Takeover.

Alice Wilson interviews Louise Wilson, the director of "The Dreaming"- the Speen festival play

So Louise, what inspired you to take up the role of director this year?

Well, not many people get the chance to direct a play, and I suppose it seemed like too good an opportunity to pass up.

What's the play about then?



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*Love, magic and going a bit mad in the woods. The story is Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** but it's rewritten in modern language and set in 1913.*

Do you think all is going to plan?

Of course. It's amazing how much talent there is in this village. Not just actors and singers but designers, musicians, artists and technical people too!

What are the best bits of the play?

*There's really beautiful music by Howard Goodall - who composed themes to **Blackadder** and the **Vicar of Dibley**. We're working really hard on the design of the whole thing too. We plan to have rather different staging and lighting effects this year.*

Are you daunted by such a huge task?

I've got loads of backup. Kate Vale is a highly efficient producer, Sam Laughton is an extremely talented musical director and Lynn Andrews is co-directing with me - so you see I hardly have anything to do at all.

Thank you, Louise. The play sounds like a must see and that it's going to be a great success.

The Dreaming will be on during Speen Festival on 8th, 9th and 10th of September.

Youth Takeover: A celebration of local young talent

Friday 16 September, from 7pm
Calling all young talent!

Speen Festival 2011, in partnership with Speen Stores, has consulted about 20 young people, ages 15-ish up to 25, about creating a fabulous youth-led event for this September. The emerging plan is an evening celebrating local young talent, perhaps X-factor-style.

Key questions: what sort of talents are around and who is bursting to take part?

Ideas include music (can you sing, do you have a song?); stand up comedy (watch out, this is hard!); dance (would you like to perform in our Festival dance troupe?); design and fashion (choose your outfit, have a makeover, parade down a catwalk); art (maybe a 'graffiti wall', to be explored in a workshop at Speen Fete); film and photography (show your own short animation or photos?). Or maybe you're good at technical skills (work with the experts who sort the lights/staging/recording?); cooking (this event will need refreshments!); doing some creative promotion to publicise this event in places we've not

reached? Perhaps you favour a spot of physical activity (parachute game? Climbing wall?)

Your talent may not be listed here, but could be if you want it to be. Or you might just be the perfect one to help organise this 'Takeover'. Don't wait: just get in touch! Contact our facebook page to get involved or email director@speenfestival.org

Speen Playing Fields Report, Spring 2011

The public events associated with the Speen Playing Fields since our last report, number only one non-recreational and one recreational - namely the lighting of Speen's very first living Christmas tree back on Friday 17th December 2010. Once again Kate Laughton organised and arranged us all musically with the parade and carolling through the village - our thanks to Kate and to the SPF members, led by Lesley Thorn-Davis and Debbie Tilt ensuring the rest of the logistics actually happened and ran smoothly (like mince pies, mulled wine and the all important lights themselves).

Our non-recreational public event was the AGM held on 9th March, where Andy Thompson was voted in to continue as Chairman of Trustees with unanimous support from the SPF team, as was Kay Knight as our superbly organised Secretary. Our thanks also go to our outgoing treasurer - Christian Nagele, who is replaced by Peter Cooper.

As we enter the Summer (and hopefully warmer) season villagers can look forward to the usual Summer events of FunDay, Fete and this year the Speen Festival. In support of another village enterprise we are delighted that the Speen PreSchool have opted to help upgrade some of the play equipment in the under 5s' area next to the pavilion. As a result of this, our fundraising this year is targeted towards raising further funds to improve the under 5s' play area by installing a wooden fort and slide. Whilst many of us have older children or even no children, I'm sure every villager will agree that even our younger villagers have a right to updated equipment that is in keeping with the rest of the play equipment on the field and, importantly, in line with health and safety regulations.

FunDay this year is planned for 10th/11th June, and as ever promises to be a fun-filled and action packed day with an ever topical theme! Remember the funds raised go towards our playing field and in particular the under 5s' area this year. The team always need support and volunteers to help organise, so please do get in contact if you would like to be involved.

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Despite it being a relatively quiet time of public events the SPF team have worked steadily in the background on ensuring the play equipment on both the playing field and Dan Ridgley's Field, is maintained in good working order. Additionally our volunteers have to empty the litter bins on the field and at the bike park; in respect of this less than glamorous side to our job could we ask villagers to be understanding if occasionally these bins are a little full. Likewise, would all dog owners please remember to respect the rules of the Playing Field and keep dogs off this area, and not to put dog waste in the playing field bins. There are public bins in the village (at the top of Water Lane and by the Hampden Road bus stop) which are emptied by the Council Refuse Collectors, please use these.

As ever our thanks go to all the volunteer Speen Playing Field Trustees, and those who help with working parties and fundraising (see page 33 for Peter Cooper's report on the working party). Without this support and the valuable fundraising we achieve, the upgrading of equipment and village events we hold on the field could not happen.

Functions on Speen Playing Fields

Periodically the Trustees receive requests to use parts of the field for different functions.

Requests are considered on their merits but the key criteria which will be used in considering these requests is whether the event is in the interests of the village and whether general public access to the event is permissible, since the field is covenanted for the recreational use of the village.

The committee will also take into account numerous other issues but these will include potential conflict with other users, the impact on the field itself and on local residents. Private night time functions are unlikely to meet these criteria.

The committee may also request that a contribution is made towards the annual running costs of the fields which are around £5-6000. In the first instance any request should be made as early as possible to the chairman of the Trustees of Speen Playing Fields.

Liz Andrews
488000

Andy Thompson
488524

Extraordinary Women

Several years ago a group of us from Speen church set up a charity called Agape Alive In India. Agape (pronounced ah-gap-pay) is a Greek word meaning "unconditional love". I have made an annual trip to India for the last nine years to develop the work of the charity over there. That work has been supported by many in Speen and North Dean over those years (including the

wonderful 'meals for meals' initiative at Speen School).

In a week in Hyderabad, amongst other things, I:

- Chatted and played cricket with the 17 orphans we care for;
- Spent time teaching on the Christian principles of servant leadership in our Bible college;
- Hung around Agape School (which now has 240 pupils) for half a day to see how things are going;
- Visited a new site where we plan to build a church and launch a series of social care projects;
- Developed our strategy for the next couple of years with Chandra and Sekhar – our main contacts over there.

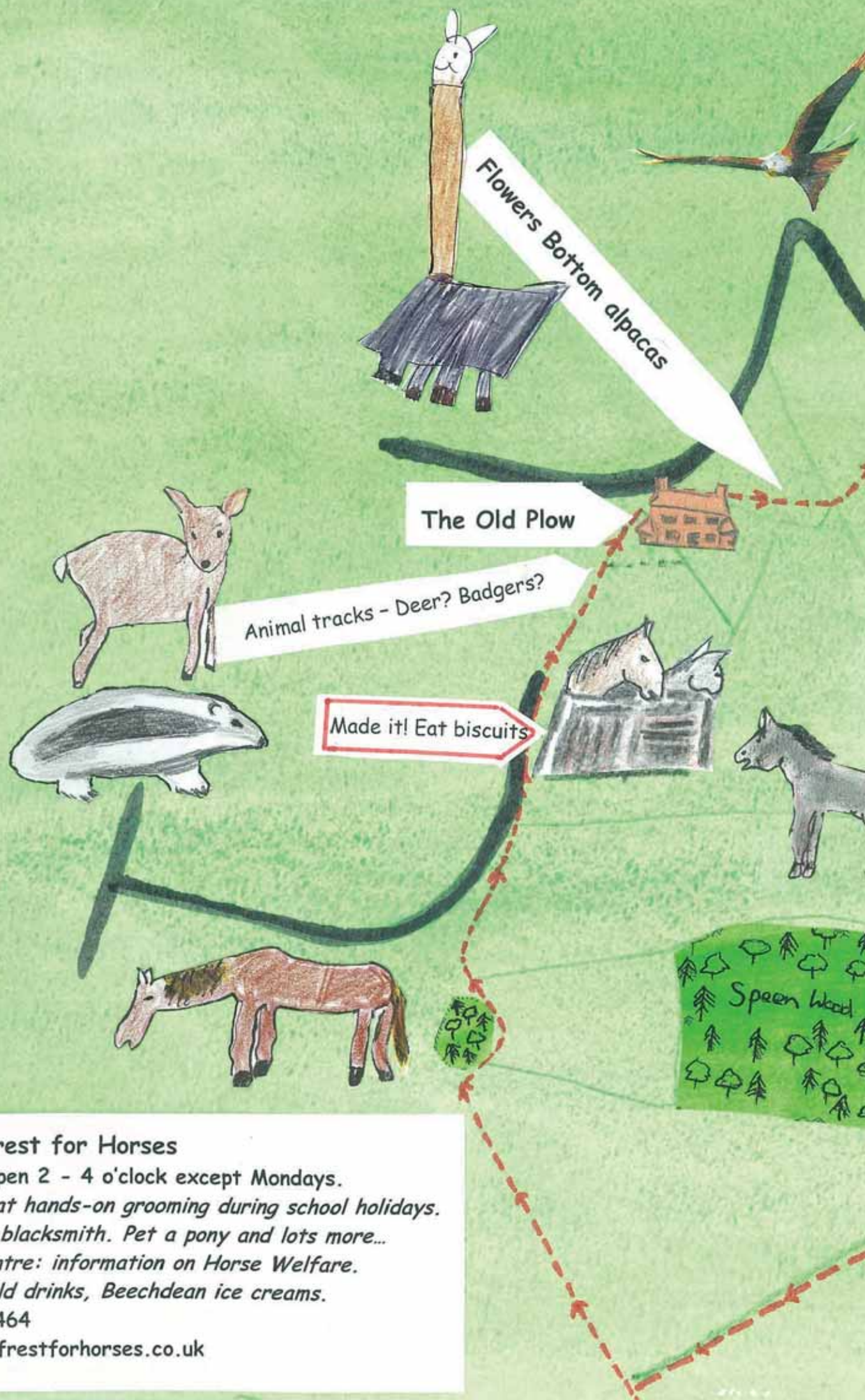
Our next steps became increasingly clear whilst I was there. Yes, we remain committed to schools for impoverished children, to caring for orphans, and to training potential pastors through the bible college. But we need to extend this to do much more for the women in that country. A simple case study will show why and how.

Maniratnam is routinely beaten by her drunken husband. He has told Priscilla, his 20 year old daughter, that he wants her dead and sees no value in her. Priscilla was admitted to hospital, whilst I was there, (we had to negotiate this as state healthcare is not what it should be) with chronic malnutrition. The women are now living in our 'women's refuge' in relative safety – assuming Priscilla pulls through. The refuge is not enough though. We want to provide adult education to help prevent abuse; to give women skills training so that they can earn their own, decent living; to provide childcare where necessary; to give access to microfinance loans so small businesses can be established; and much more.

I hope and pray that Maniratnam and Priscilla will be a success story. Maniratnam is likely to become one of our trainers, running classes in sewing for disadvantaged women in the new church we are building. We will provide sewing machines and materials to learn on, and childcare whilst they are learning/working if needed. When they graduate the ladies can take a microfinance loan to set up their own business. And Maniratnam will be paid for her teaching time so everyone wins.

My time in India this year was heartbreaking and inspiring in equal measure, in large part because of these two extraordinary women who endure so much and still smile. I would be very happy to share more on our work in India with anyone who will stand still long enough to listen.

James Entwisle
488875



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Congratulations to Ivy Whittle of North Dean

One of the most senior residents of North Dean - Ivy Whittle - celebrated her 90th birthday on 28 March 2011. With the exception of a few short periods living away in outlying villages, Ivy has spent her entire life growing up and living in North Dean.

Born in Great Kingshill in 1921 and being a girl from 'local stock' - Ivy's father was born at Piggots and her mother moved from Brill to a farm in Stocking Lane. Ivy moved to North Dean aged four and a half and spent her early childhood living at Upper North Dean Farm where her father was a tenant farmer (now the home of Peter and Judy



A young Ivy with her family

Keen). She has fond memories of playing with Joyce Rogers who lived opposite at the Turnery (now the home of Ivor and Janet Beeks). The little girls would play happily in the lane with only the worry of a passing horse and cart to interrupt their game - possibly the milk man from Flowers Bottom? Ivy remembers the excitement of hearing an approaching lorry, when the little girls would run down to the lane for a chance to catch a rare



Young love - Jim and Ivy

glimpse of the new phenomenon - an automated vehicle! A far cry from the lane as we know it today.

Having contracted scarlet fever at the tender age of three years old, Ivy sadly lost the sight in one eye - but that didn't stop her enjoyment of life. Early childhood memories of her infant school days in Speen were not her happiest however. Ivy recounts

the extremely strict regime of the late 1920's classroom. An era of school discipline that would perhaps be welcomed back by struggling teachers of today - or maybe not?



Jim and Ivy on their wedding day

The Penn Green Bus company eventually set up a service through North Dean to Speen and Ivy remembers being tempted to attend school with the lure of an exciting bus journey - for the incredible price of 1d. School days settled down by the time Ivy reached the juniors and she has fond memories of a teacher cycling to school every day from Downley - whatever the weather.

The family moved to Tarsia (Ivy's current home) where her mother Martha started a small grocery shop in one of the front rooms of the cottage, where Ivy could often be found helping her mum. Basic provisions were on offer to the local community who at that time didn't own a single car between them. With the onset of war and the introduction of rationing, sadly the convenience of the village shop was short lived. However, a shop soon returned, but this time in the home of Nellie Hatt - Ivy's second cousin - who lived at Dean Cottage (now the home of Karen and Jeremy Mudie).

The village hall played an important part in the community during Ivy's early adult years, with dances being held almost every week. Fred and Lydia Ayres (parents of Rene Ayres, formally from The Cottage) used to run the popular dances. Ivy remembers the local lads having a few beers in the The Sportsmans Arms next door, which at the time, was run by her Uncle John Hatt - currently the home of Sarah and Kevin Booth. I understand that young men from miles around came, admirers of a group of North Dean girls, of whom Ivy was one. The young lads, full of bravado and daring, would then join the girls for a dance in the hall. Dutch courage being needed even in those days before the young gents would flex their dancing feet.

With her school days behind her at the tender age of fourteen, Ivy started her working life at Harrison's printing factory where she worked for a short time before going onto work



Ivy aged 22

in the Reliance Building in Oxford Road (the ex Co-op laundry site. The workers joined the war effort during the second-world-war and Ivy found herself involved in the munitions effort - making casings for bombs. Hardly a glamorous occupation for a young woman of that era but a worthwhile occupation and one that she could be proud of.

It's not long before romance blossomed however and she met James (Jim) Whittle who moved to Margaret Cottages, North Dean from Lancashire as a farm worker. Jim was a regular customer at the Whittle grocery shop and often popped in for a packet of cigarettes and would be served by Ivy. Young love developed and they married and moved out of North Dean for a short time but soon returned to live at Lower North Dean Farm where their two children, Pat and Colin, were born.

Ivy's husband Jim was much involved with the



Ivy on her 90th birthday

Village Hall in the 1950s and was the local Youth Group leader. Youngsters from Naphill, Speen and North Dean frequented the group meetings, as facilities for young people were few and far between in those days (not much has changed there I hear some of you saying!)

The young family eventually moved back to Ivy's childhood home of Tarsia in the mid 1960's where Ivy still lives today.

Ivy has seen some incredible changes - both in North Dean and the area as a whole - and has lived through some difficult and challenging times. Having reached the grand age of ninety years old, we, the villagers of North Dean, offer congratulations to her and hope that she enjoys many more years in the village.

*Julie White
Resident and Neighbour*

Birthday Celebrations in North Dean

Joyce Pyle returned to North Dean to celebrate her 90th birthday on 5th March in North Dean Village Hall

Joyce was born at the Turnery and lived there for eight years, then moved to Havendale where she lived until she was married.

Joyce went to school at Naphill, walking there and back each day on her own (Oh, for those days back).

In her teens, her pleasure, apart from the occasional trip to the pictures, was to roll back the carpet in the front room and dance the night away to the latest (Victor Sylvester?) music, with her best friend who was lodging with the family.

On marrying she moved to Loudwater with her husband Jim, where Roger was born.

When the war came and Jim joined the Army, Joyce returned to Havendale and spent the war years there, where Sylvia was born, returning to Loudwater after the war.

With the children off her hands, Joyce joined the ranks of the employed and worked in the electronics industry, being promoted to supervisor.

Joyce has a love of gardening, inherited from her father, and often helped out at Havendale when her father became unable to cope with his garden, and also used her skills to give a hand with the gardens at Rene Ayres and Roy Rogers.



Joyce on her 90th birthday

As part of a close family, Joyce visited North Dean very frequently, so North Dean has always been a part of her life.

When ill health forced her to go into care she moved to Princes Risborough, where she has settled into a comfortable life.

Almost fifty people attended her party in the Village Hall, coming from as far away as the Isle of Wight and Bournemouth; many of her cousins came, who she had not seen for a number of years; she also

welcomed friends from the village who she has known for most of her life.

Joyce enjoyed her birthday and would like to thank everyone who came to make it a memorable day.

John Rogers

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A Local Record?

For a 'family' celebration of a big birthday, how many would you expect? In North Dean, we think that least a local record will be set this summer.

Joe Nuttgens is reaching his three score years and ten - and yet is expecting seven score relations - or more. Joe's father, a very distinguished stained glass artist, lived and worked in North Dean, and married twice. He had twelve children, all brought up in North Dean. Joe's mother, who died aged 90, welcomed visits from all the family - and, as an old lady, some twenty years ago said she had "at least" sixty-three grandchildren and great grandchildren. A generation later, and you can see Joe and Pamela's problem - especially as they have a new, and much smaller house, than his mother's (with only a single guest room!).

Much planning has gone on - a massive catering undertaking (some shared), finding plates, glasses, utensils, pots, chairs, tables, tents, an occasional marquee, portaloos, and long journeys.

For some of the younger ones it will be a first visit to where their great great grandfather lived and worked (Joe keeps on the stained glass tradition, making and teaching). Joe may find it hard to remember the names of some of his great great nephews and nieces - but the gathering will be a wonderful family one, as four generations of Nuttgens gather to celebrate in North Dean once more.

We wish them wonderful weather - and a "Happy Birthday" party!

Nick Wheeler-Robinson

Theatre in the Villages

Eyes Front - An exciting combination of live performance and film detailing the effect of music in wartime

What a treat it was to have the professionalism and talent of the famous Isla St Clair performing live at North Dean Village Hall in October 2010. It may feel like a far distant memory, but for those lucky residents of North Dean and Speen, it was a nostalgic evening of music and film - not to be forgotten.

Isla was extremely professional, but more importantly, she engaged the audience and made them feel relaxed enough to want to join in. With her opening song, the audience immediately started singing along, which set the scene for the rest of the evening. We asked ourselves afterwards how we all seemed to know the lyrics of those popular war-time songs - even though a good few of us were far too young to remember. Perhaps it was some sort of subliminal indoctrination in our youth?



Isla St Clair

Film maker Patrick King accompanied Isla and gave a fascinating and humorous 'behind-the-scenes' look at the making of their award winning documentary film. Fascinating clips were shown, illustrating how songs and music played an important part in people's daily lives during wartime - for boosting morale, for propaganda or for just reminding people of better times.

The show was a superb mix of song, film, funny out-takes and audience participation. All-in-all, it was a thoroughly entertaining evening - much enjoyed by everyone.

The show was a superb mix of song, film, funny out-takes and audience participation. All-in-all, it was a thoroughly entertaining evening - much enjoyed by everyone.

NDVH Committee is pleased to report that Theatre in the Villages (TiV) will again be coming to North Dean Village Hall in the Autumn. The show has yet to be chosen; however, once the date and show have been booked, the details will be published in S&NDN - so watch out for it in the next edition!

Wine & Cheese Evening Goes Down with a 'Splash'

The Committee of NDVH were pleased to arrange a social evening with a bit of a difference for the villagers of North Dean. Residents enjoyed an evening of wine, cheese and musical accompaniment on Friday 25 March at the Village Hall.

With the expertise of Nigel Gibbes from Stratford Wines, Cookham, residents were given the

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Tasting begins

opportunity to taste a selection of fine wines from around the world.

The evening started with a delicious spread of cheese and pate etc (courtesy of Judith Broadley, Janet Beeks and Judy Keen) washed down with a variety of pink, white and red wines. Perhaps not the best way to 'sample and appreciate' the delicate flavours and flowery bouquets of fine wines - but us North Deaner's are happy to sample wine whatever the circumstances!



Musical accompaniment

We were lucky enough to be serenaded by the gentle guitar music of Henry Dyer (boyfriend of North Deaner) whilst we enjoyed our wine tasting extravaganza. Gentle accompaniment soon turned to a

party revelling atmosphere, as those with more lubricated throats decided to join in for a raucous sing along session.

I understand copious amounts of wine were ordered from the sommelier, which no doubt will go down just as well at some future gatherings later in the year.

All-in-all, a very pleasant social evening had by all.

Julie White
Secretary, North Dean Village Hall

In January, we didn't book a speaker, as we didn't know what the weather would be like, so just met up for a chat and a cuppa. However, Jean Morris took to the floor and gave us the low-down on what the WI was all about and I am sure the members didn't know the half of it, so it proved quite interesting. In February Mrs Jo Patience, with husband, Derek, to help with the slides, gave a talk on their tour around the world a few years ago. This proved quite interesting for those members who had had holidays in New Zealand, Australia and the USA. In March Sue Croxford gave a talk on Pilates and although we didn't do anything strenuous, she had us sitting back in our seats and doing breathing exercises.

Some of us have enjoyed the village pub lunches and are due to pay a visit to the Mill at Sonning on 19th March. By the time this is read, we will, of course have been and I am sure we will have enjoyed the delicious food beforehand and, of course, the play.



WI members by the waterwheel electricity generator at the Mill at Sonning

Our next meeting will be the birthday party, when Mrs Page will be 'Talking Hats'. On 5th May we will be discussing the Resolutions down in the Chapel Hall, as it is election time again. On 2nd June Vivian Barrett will be Living with Thalidomide and on 7th July Mrs Orford will be talking words of worth, wit and wisdom, called A Pocket full of Posies.

Any new ladies in the village might like to come along and sample our meetings. You will be very welcome.

Barbara Collett
488348

Letters to the Editor

To Bin or Not to Bin

As a regular dog walker around the village I was very disappointed to see the sign attached to the bin in Ridgley's field, telling people not to leave their dog's waste there because of a "potential health risk to others". I have a few points to make about this:

1. Unfortunately there are some dog walkers in the village who do not pick up after their dog(s) and this is not only disgusting, it's unnecessary, selfish and careless. I particularly feel sorry for the people who live in Studridge Lane and who have put signs up asking dog walkers not to let their dogs foul on the verges. Despite these understandable and polite requests, dog mess is still left there and I do not believe the dog walkers do not know their dog has left its calling card. This is not the only place you will find dog mess around the village, however, and those people who do not pick up, give the rest of us a bad reputation;
2. By removing one bin from use to doggy bags, there is the risk that more people will not pick up after their dogs (I hasten to add do not include me in those numbers) because they do not want to walk around either carrying a bag of poo or putting the bag and its contents in their pocket. Surely it is better to encourage people to pick up, and have a bin for it to go into, than for more dog mess to be left lying around;
3. It is very obvious that dog mess left on the ground where "predominantly children" play is much more of a "potential health risk" than a bag of poo being placed out of the way in a bin;
4. I realise the people who empty the bin are volunteers and I admire and applaud them for doing such a wonderful job. The bin is usually lined with a plastic bin liner though so there is no need for anyone to even touch any poo bags left inside the bin;
5. My final point some of you will consider unnecessary but I am going to say it anyway: if you do not want your children to come into contact with a "potential health risk" from a bag of dog mess in a bin, don't let them play in the bin!

This bin is provided for the use of villagers, predominantly children, using the playing field and is maintained by volunteers. To reduce the potential health risk to others, please do not use for the disposal of animal waste.

Eunice Wennberg

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If you go down . . .

Since September, Pigotts Wood, above North Dean, has been used regularly by Great Kingshill School, as the base for the 'Forest School' initiative. On each term-time Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday fifteen children (a half class) spend the morning deep in the woods. During the year every pupil will have six visits (on successive weeks). Rain or shine, they come (barring gales or a thunderstorm) with three or four accompanying adults. One comment: "I quite like being wet - it makes a change from being dry".

What is undertaken depends on the age of the group and their ideas, as much of what goes on is child initiated, individually or in self-selected groups. They learn safe ways to use hand tools and tend a fire; they climb trees, build dens, and lash sticks

together; they come to recognise a few flora, fauna and fungi; understand a little of the past (sawpits, an ancient metalwork site) but above all they explore and enjoy time in an ancient woodland. It is very popular - "I'm exhausted, but I've had the best day ever". Parents help, and enjoy - "What an experience - seeing the children free to explore, take risks and challenges". Confidence and

friendships grow, ingenious objects are made, exciting tales are invented and enacted, all are well exercised in mind and body and, as one passing dog walker put it, "That sound of young voices echoing in the woods is a joy to hear".



Nick Wheeler-Robinson
01494 562167

Speen Heritage Group

A new committee has now been established within the village and is busy working on various projects.

The aims of the group are to protect, preserve and promote features of the heritage of Speen.

The committee have identified several key elements of the heritage related to the wood-turning industry, the tradition for lace-making and also the background of religious non-conformism which have all influenced the development of the village. In addition there is the brick and flint architecture and use of other local materials reflected in many of our buildings and in a broader context the local beechwoods and our natural environment.

A considerable amount of research was carried out in the past by Bob Johnston and Martin Stockley, much of which is recorded in the *Leaves of Time*. However the committee are still interested in hearing from anyone in the village with historical records or any artefacts that would be of local interest.

We are looking into the possibility of producing a guided heritage trail leaflet and possibly historical plaques for our more significant buildings amongst other schemes. We would also like to be able to collect old photographs of the heritage that could be utilised in an exhibition display. We are also looking ways of preserving old records that have already been collected.

If you have an interest in this subject or have contributions please contact Peter Symonds in the first instance. (01494 488016 or Symonds@speen10.freeserve.co.uk). Whilst we have no funding at present we hope to progress some of these ideas over a period of time.

Down on the Farm

At this time of the year, just as gardeners rush out in the first dry spell of weather to tend their lawns with scarifiers and rollers, so do farmers suddenly appear in their grass fields with their tractors, chain harrows and rollers. Both are aiming to get rid of obnoxious weeds and by

aerating the grass and improving the conditions for its growth. But whereas scarifying the lawn will pull up much of the moss whilst aerating the soil, chain harrowing (which spreads out old dung pats) does not tear up thistles and nettles which are the farmer's biggest enemy. With the emphasis on environmentally friendly farming nowadays, one hesitates to get rid of all nettles and thistles as both are important foods for butterflies or their larvae. We try to compromise and remove (by careful spraying) big clumps in the middle of fields and leave those under the trees at the edges.



Talking of nettles, a farmer friend in Cornwall who was the original maker of Yarg Cheese, (so named because his cheesemaker was a Mrs Gray!!) tried to grow nettles as a field crop for his cheese wrapping. He did not succeed as he found that nettles like to grow in partial shade. He had to revert to the locals picking nettles from waste sites for him.

As for the rolling, we are not just making nice stripes on the fields!! Last autumn was very wet; the cattle made big holes with their feet and turned up numerous flints. Rolling levels the grass and puts down the stones, so that when we make silage or hay, the machinery is not damaged by the flints and more importantly the 'chopped' flints do not get picked up into the silage and then pass through the cows' stomachs (where they don't appear to do much harm) and end up on the concrete walkways where they cause considerable damage to the cows' feet.

Now to turn to more academic matters. The European parliament has recently pulled back for banning cloned animals entering the food chain because they are unable to distinguish the clone from its parent. In reality although there may not be any genetic differences, it appears that cloned

animals do not live as long as 'uncloned' animals. However, for beef animals whose life is probably three years at the most, this tendency can be ignored if an outstanding bull can be cloned to produce outstanding offspring.

History tells us that there has always been opposition to scientific innovation. In 1790 a few inhabitants of several Ayrshire villages were vaccinating their children with cowpox extract, but because of opposition from the church on the ground of it being 'unnatural' the practice was not widespread and hundreds of small children died from smallpox. It was not until Edward Jenner investigated the practice over a number of years that vaccination began to be accepted. Similarly when artificial insemination became widely available for cattle after World War II there was widespread resistance amongst farmers. Today AI is the preferred way of getting cows in calf for the majority of herds.

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Chris Gant
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Spring Work Party 2011

If you don't know what the Playing Fields work parties are about, then in brief, twice a year a group of people give up a few hours on a Saturday morning to 'fix things' on the main field and Dan Ridgley's field. Depending upon the weather, the time of year and the numbers that turn up, we can attend to quite a lot of maintenance issues on the fields that we all have an interest in, and are enjoyed by many.

We're not an exclusive bunch, some people turn up for the work parties when they can make it, others nearly every time. In actual fact, everyone is welcome even for just a couple of hours. You don't have to have a particular skill or opinion to come along, although you'll probably leave with one!

You don't even have to attend on the day to help out. You can look at the list on the web-site to see if there is something you can help with on another day, or to check that something is on the list that needs doing.



You'll find the list at:-

<http://www.speenbucks.org.uk/spen-groups/spen-playing-fields/spf-maintenance-tasks/>

This time, on Saturday 2nd April we managed to fix some of the items in the Bike Park that had become worn and wobbly, we fixed up and painted some fencing on the main field, re-set the flag stones outside the Pavilion, weeded the play areas, lubricated the rotating climber, fixed the holes in the football nets, started on repairing the basketball back board, and strimmed any weed in sight!

We even cleaned the gutters at the Pavilion, cleaned the toilets, re-fixed Dan Ridgley's sign on the field he left to the village, and fitted a weatherproof lid on the bin in Ridgley's field. You see, not much of that is particularly demanding, it just needed doing!

Hopefully you'll notice the improvements.

Peter Cooper

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Percy and Barney



Percy, Jemima and Barney

I'm lucky enough to be able to have my own pony and ride another one too! My own pony is called Percy and he is a cheeky, friendly and affectionate Dartmoor pony.

I got him when I was five, and rather reluctantly I know that my brother Kieran has to ride him now.

I am lucky enough to be allowed to ride Barney, a bit taller and a beautiful grey who loves rolling in



Jemima with Barney

mud. Barney's owner, Ali Stickings, lets me take him to Pony Club rallies and have lessons on him.

They are both great ponies. My brother and I have plenty of fun on them, especially in the summer!

*Jemima Cranley
Aged 8*

Thoughts on where I live

The Green in Abbotswood

My special place is on the green in the middle of the lane. I play there with Katie, Lily, Lucy and Chris. We are "the Outlaws". In the summer we get the tepee out and play games of Red Indians and things like that. But in the winter we sledge in the snow and that is my special place.

*Amy Entwisle
Aged 7*

Spring Coppice Lane

I like going up Spring Coppice Lane with my mum and I cycle in puddles and get very wet and muddy. Once me and my mum were chased by a load of cows.

*Toby Burton
Aged 7*

My dog Beethoven

Beethoven is my dog Kieran
After every meal he Cranley
burps. He gets in the green bin when the door Age 6
is not locked. He likes to play with our other dog
Honey. We all like playing in the woods.
He ate the TV remote control. I thought it was funny
but Mum did not!



Wildlife Watch by Peter Symonds

The winter of 2010/11 will be remembered by many naturalists and birdwatchers for the Waxwing invasion. Waxwings are attractive Scandinavian birds that migrate here every few years when the berry crop fails in Scandinavia. This year the scale of the invasion was unprecedented resulting in Waxwings being seen in most parts of the country. Apparently five were noted off Hampden Road in late December and on 28 February a call from Clive Rainbow alerted me to a larger flock. Some 35 birds were feeding on fallen apples and then raiding a large cotoneaster bush draped in berries between Woodview and Hampden Road. The flock remained for some 3 days roosting in tall trees in Woodview until the berries were depleted.



Mealy Redpoll, Speen, 22nd March 2011

During the winter period Alistair Blundell reported up to 6 Green Woodpeckers feeding on fallen apples in Moses Platt Lane whilst Redwings came within a few feet of our windows to find berries. A Blackcap has been seen regularly in Woodview apparently whilst in my own garden my feeding stations have attracted new visitors. A Goldcrest feeding on the fat balls was new as, remarkably, was our first House Sparrow in over 20 years also on the same feeder. Whilst there is a strong breeding population of House Sparrows some 300 yards away opposite Speen Stores they do not normally venture down Abbotswood. Elsewhere in the garden in early Spring I have had large numbers of Redpolls, Siskins, Goldfinches and Bramblings visiting and in late March a couple of rare Mealy Redpolls visited, attracting interest from local birdwatchers and twitchers (ie extreme birdwatchers) keen to see a bird barely recorded before in the county. All of these birds have attracted Sparrowhawks to the garden on several occasions (see photo). Another uncommon bird recorded from Monkton Wood in January was a Firecrest reported by members of the Bucks Bird Club.

Elsewhere several observers have seen Roe deer locally whilst the usual foxes, badgers and Muntjac deer have also all been seen. By late March, bats were out hunting over our ponds and by their size I would guess that these were Long Eared Bats. In the ponds themselves frogspawn is now hatching whilst the toads were just commencing laying their strings of spawn.



Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds 01494 488016, or email: symonds@speen10freeserve.co.uk

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District and County Council News - April 2011



The much publicised cuts to Government Grants to local councils are now becoming a reality. The process of deciding how these will affect council spending is now under way. There is a mixture of good and bad news. As you may know the Council's Revenue is made up basically of two parts: Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from Government and Council Tax from residents. For the County Council the bad news is that 14.3% is cut from the RSG and other grant support. The good news is that the Council Tax increase for both Councils has been set at 0% so triggering an additional 'one-off' payment of 2.5% from Government. This does mean that there is still an overall reduction in spending capacity as many grants have been withdrawn or rolled into the revenue settlement. The overall effect for this year for all grants looks to be a circa £14m reduction and with further cuts totaling £58m over the next three years, the Council will have to look hard for savings if it is to live within its means. A freeze on pay for employees and allowances for members is already in force and a programme of transformation based on efficiency savings is in place.

Most service areas are facing reductions. For those major areas at risk: Youth Services, Transport and some Adult Social Care Services, proposals for fundamental change are being developed for their delivery. In order to take into account the public's views on their redesign, separate consultations have been carried out in addition to the consultations on Libraries, Day Care and Transportation.

Consultations focused on five areas:

- Capital and revenue budget
- Transport - road safety, street lighting, buses
- Adult Social Care
- Youth Services
- Home to School Transport

These consultations will take into account feedback already received through the 2010 Bucks Debate and gave a further chance for residents to have their say on the proposals being made.

There is some good news for capital funding to

the County Council. Changes to the way the Government calculate the sums due to each council means that, for the first time in some years, the County Council will actually receive capital grant. For Bucks; £31m will be paid for 2011/2012 allowing a substantial capital programme to be developed. This has been split into three parts so school buildings, council buildings and road maintenance will all benefit.

The severe winter conditions have again brought the County Council's ability to react into sharp focus not only with the way gritting and snow clearance is carried but also to deal with the aftermath over pot holes and drainage problems on country roads. With regard to snow clearance I would like to thank the farmers who, due to a change in council policy, made plant available to help those areas not on ploughing routes. Their actions made conditions much easier for those routes on non 'ploughing' routes. With temperatures falling to record lows the aftermath has been to leave Council resources stretched to make timely repairs. I have been making officers aware of the dangerous situations that have occurred and asked that repairs are made. Due to several complaints I have locally highlighted the New Road, Lacey Green, Bryants Bottom Road, The 'Gated' road from Hampden to the Rignal Road and the Rignal Road as a high risk area where drivers, in an attempt to avoid the potholes, swerve to avoid damage to their cars. Two of these have been attended to but action is still required on others. If you see any road defect please report it through the Transport for Buckinghamshire (formally Highways on Call) number 0845 230 2882 or email address tfb@buckscc.gov.uk.

For Wycombe two issues stand out. The first is the proposed transfer of the housing stock to Red Kite, a tenant led/not for profit association. It is for the tenants themselves to make the choice between staying with the Council or moving to Red Kite.

The other is the Stadium project which brings together Wycombe Wanderers, Wasps and the Council to explore whether or not to build a new Community Stadium. The chosen site is at Booker Air Park which brings the Green Belt issue into play. So far no commitment has been made by the Council to proceed and investigations are on-going. The Council Scrutiny process, of which I was part, made several recommendations which include a further hold point to check whether or not the tests needed to be satisfied for Business, Environment and Sport are met. These were



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accepted by Cabinet so no final decisions will be made until the new council meets after the elections.

High Speed 2 remains a major concern. With the announcement of the preferred route through Wendover and Ellesborough Parishes the threat to our protected countryside remains high. The County and District Council's view remains that without compelling evidence to explain the reasons why the proposals are in the National Interest supported by a convincing Business Case, consultation on any part of the route carries very little credibility. Arguments about the damage being caused to protected countryside and rural communities are equally important as it is only when all the 'high level' tests have been satisfied and all 'alternatives' have been considered, should consideration to placing the line through the Chilterns be considered at all.

It is really important that everybody responds to the Consultation and attends the advertised meetings along the route. Included in these are two day exhibitions on 10th & 11th May in Stoke Mandeville, Olympic Lodge Hotel, in Wendover on 13th & 14th May in the Memorial Hall with a one day 'trailer exhibition' in Great Missenden on 12th May. Please put these in your diaries but check to see if any changes are made.

I have decided to stand down from Wycombe District Council this year after 12 years. I have enjoyed my time as District Councillor but feel it is time for somebody else to carry on. I would like to thank everybody who gave me their support and I wish the new councillor well in the next four years. I am remaining on the County Council so if you have a concern about Council services my email address is progerson@buckscc.gov.uk and my telephone number 01494 488315. If you would like to contact me, I will do what I can to help.

*Paul Rogerson progerson@buckscc.gov.uk
District and County Councillor*

Hughenden Parish Council News - April 2011

One of the things that many of you will be concerned about locally is the proposal for a high speed rail link through the Chilterns. Last June, the Parish Council passed a resolution aligning itself with the Chiltern Society, which is against any proposed route passing through the Chilterns, but the members were waiting for the consultation to be issued before finalising its position. The consultation still has not arrived, as I write this, and the Parish Council passed a resolution in its February meeting to confirm its policy in this regard - that this Council is firmly against the principle of any high speed rail link running through the Chilterns and Chilterns AONB. A letter to this effect is being sent to the Ministry of Transport with a copy to Bucks County Council, Wycombe District Council, Chilterns Conservation Board and the Chiltern Society as well as newsletters within the Parish.

In Widmer End, Cllr Lyn Ryan has been appointed to the School Travel Plan committee for Widmer End School and I am sure she will be keeping the Council up to date with any new initiatives. Some of the schools in the Parish have Travel Plan Committees and several Councillors have been nominated to represent the Council on these.

Hughenden Valley has been given a further grant of £5,000 which is to help with the costs of the refurbishment of their new kitchen, and maintenance work on the Naphill and Hughenden Valley playgrounds, which cost over £1,000 has been carried out, to ensure that safety requirements are met. The Parish Council were sorry to hear about the lead being stolen from the Naphill village hall roof and hope that this type of theft does not continue. The village hall committee is looking at upgrading/replacing the heating system, but the costs for this appear to be £50,000, so some help will be needed with that, I am sure.

Some of you may have wondered where the BCC Community Gangs have gone, as they haven't been obvious in the Parish for a couple of months. I am sure you will not be surprised to hear that they have all been 'co-opted' to filling in the potholes in other parts of the District. I am sure they will be returning to us soon - unless we have more snow, of course!



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Several policy documents have been re-considered and updated, including Standing Orders and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 policy. Standing orders are not the ones to do with banking but are the 'rules' under which the Council and its members operate. The original ones were two pages long and now they are seven pages long, with a lot more specific detail. This change is intended to ensure the smooth running of the Council. The Parish Council have policies on several issues and they all need to be re-considered on a regular basis, to ensure they are kept up to the latest requirements.

Hopefully, the above will have given you a flavour of some of the things that Parish Councillors get involved with.

Hughenden Parish is split into four wards - Great Kingshill - including Cryers Hill (3 seats), Hughenden Valley - including Bryants Bottom, Denner Hill and North Dean (4 seats); Naphill & Walters Ash (4 seats) and Widmer End - including Four Ashes (4 seats). As you can see, this adds up to 15 seats in all, with each ward only voting for its own members.

I spoke to the newest member of the Council, Cllr Lyn Ryan, and she told me that, although she is enjoying the experience immensely, she is finding that it takes about one whole day per week to keep on top of the issues. There are evening meetings of the full Council eleven times a year (not August) and 24 committee meetings during the year.

The committees cover Planning; Services and Finance & Administration and every member is normally on at least two committees.

The Council and the Services and Finance & Admin Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays and the Planning Committee meetings are held on Thursdays. Apart from these, there are several outside bodies, of which Councillors are expected to attend at least some and then there are working parties, which are held on an ad hoc basis. Some of these may be during the daytime if members are available.

You may look at this and think I am trying to put people off standing for election. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have been the Clerk for the past four elections and on one occasion was amazed by one candidate (no identifying information) who had been selected. The day after the election I visited the candidate to give them the bundle of papers they would require for

the following week's meeting, as well as a schedule of the meetings for the upcoming year. I was then told that they had been coerced into standing on the understanding that it would 'only take one or two hours a month'! The individual concerned did not even take office and the Council had to co-opt immediately once the new Council was in place. This has always made me conscious of ensuring that any prospective candidates know what they are taking on. I also speak to people when co-options are involved, again, to let them know what to expect. Thankfully, so far, I have not had anyone say they wouldn't consider it.

This is all for now, but I am sure we will be in touch again after the new Council takes office.

*Lynne Turner
Clerk of the Council
01494 715296
hughendenpc@btconnect.com*

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Couplets for my Ancient Woodland

Wheels and hooves, and feet, and there and back
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Sunrise and set and moonlit leaf and grass,
As planets turn and generations pass . . .
And rain and snow and sleet wash joys and fears,
And hours and days and weeks make months
and years.
From buds to verdant green to russet fall . . .

Mid beech and ash and elms and cherries tall
Make pitsawed beams and planks and woven laths
And polelathed legs for chairs and charcoal
hearth;

Take firewood loads on backs and carts and
sledges;

Keep saplings thinned and pruned, and well laid
hedges.

Woodworthy men see how a tree might grow
And trim young branches out to make it so.
Such choices grow past us, our offspring too.
Whose hand will mark the last for felling? Who
Once opened earth for tender roots fine splayed
To make, slow grown, our canopy and shade?

No more the furnace glows, nor do we hear
The bellows blast as smelters sweat and swear -
But iron slag among the leaves shows where.

Two centuries ago, in winter work
Of throwing up a woodland bank, spade broke
A pot of Caesar's pennies, all unspent
For forty generations - hid - from what event?

For simple winter warmth I cut and split
And stack to dry for three hearths - and a bit.
Some should remain when I'm too cold and stiff
To mind a fire reducing me to ash - and if
My ashes blow about the leaves - that's fine!
This body and this wood no longer mine.

Nick Wheeler-Robinson

Ode to my Sebo

Dear Mr Sebo man
Please listen to my plight,
I woke the other morning
And had a dreadful fright,
My trusty Sebo Hoover
Whom I love with all my heart,
Stood there in the living room and wouldn't
ruddy start,
I reasoned with him gently
Even threatened with a broom,
But all he did was limp out, of the living room,
He says that I don't love him
And don't clean out his fluff,
Or wipe around his mouldings
Or untwist his cord enough,
He says he's always stuffed up
Even though I change his bags,
And he's had enough of wood floors, mats and
rugs and fags
I've never been unfaithful
Since he came into our home
And even with all the pet hairs I've never heard
him moan
I've never been that tempted
With all the techno news
Talk of central fusion, balls and Dyson's latest
mews
But he says he wants a service
To brighten up his day
And if I don't comply this time
He's doing a "BA"
So please oh please be gentle
And offer up his parts
And let him once again become
Our Hoover "king of hearts".

Amanda Dobbs

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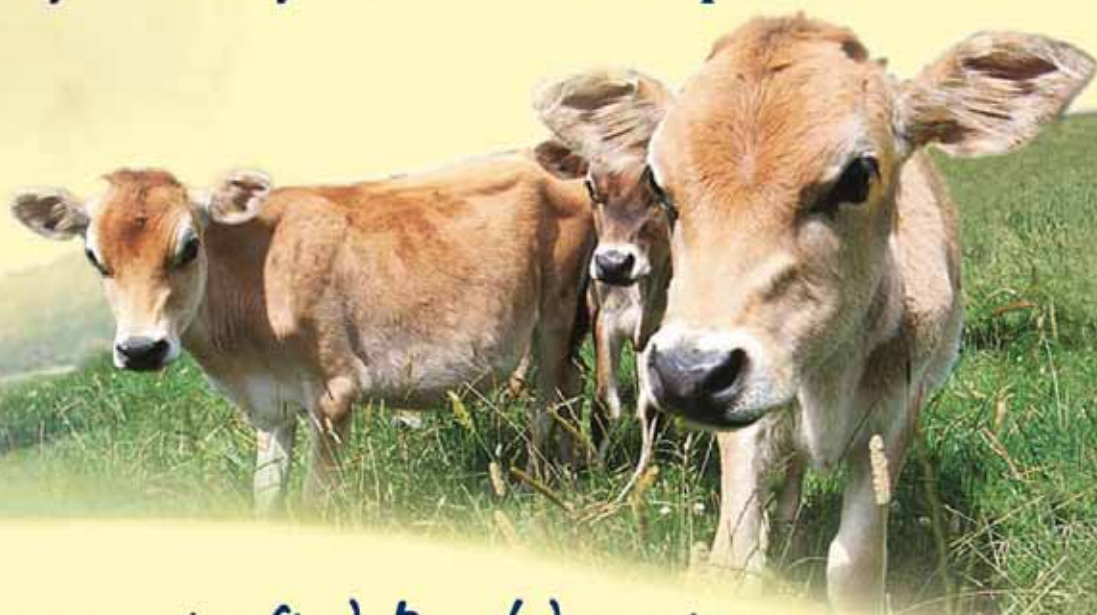


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