



Issue 53
Autumn/Winter 2011



Speen and North Dean News



Guest Editor: Emily Radforth

Advertising: Peter Cooper

Production: Jude Awdry

Committee:

Gloria Holmes - Chair
Tom Dent
Megan Chinn
Nick Wheeler-Robinson
Julie White

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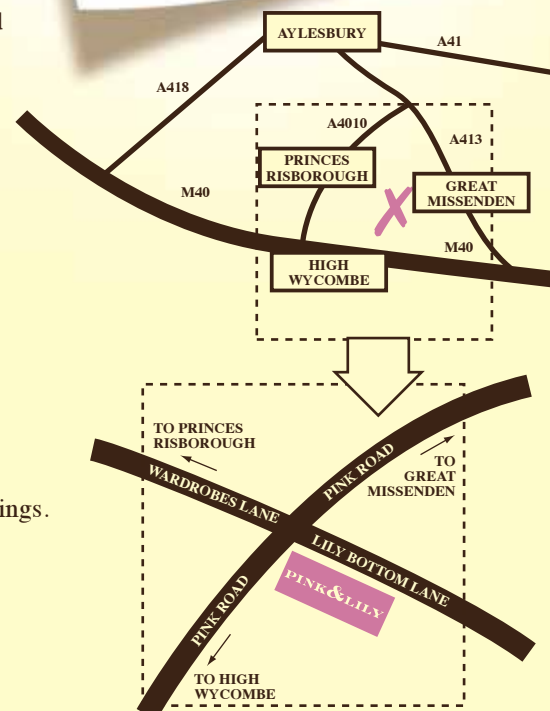
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Speen and North Dean News Extra Copies

Do you ever need an extra copy?
Perhaps to give to a friend or relative.
Further copies are available at a cost of
£1. Please contact Gloria Holmes on
488420.

NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (54) is due by
Sunday 1st April 2012.

The planned publication date is during
May. 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.

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Month	Event	Where	Contact
December			
Thursday 1 st	WI. Musical entertainment	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Monday 5 th	Lacey Green Parish Council	Speen Village Hall, 7.30pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 7 th	MPS	Old Plow (supper), Speen	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 8 th	Pre-School Nativity Service	Speen Church 11.00am	
Thursday 8 th	Christmas Quiz Night	KW4, 6.30pm	Geoff Smith 488701
Friday 9 th	Christmas Tree/Carols	Speen Playing Field, 6.00pm	Lesley Thorn-Davies 488851
Saturday 17 th	Rock Star Adventure	Speen Church 7.30pm	
Monday 19 th	Carol Concert	North Dean Village Hall	Julie White 562311
Wednesday 21 st	Martin Hart Jazz	KW4, 6.30pm	David Hill 488329
Thursday 22 nd	Light Walk	5.30pm	Nicky Pitt 488713
Friday 23 rd	Pub Sing-along	KW4	David Hill 488329
Saturday 24 th	Christmas Eve Carol Service	Speen Church 6.00pm	
Sunday 25 th	Christmas Day Service	Speen Church 10.30am	
Next Year			
May 26/27 th	Speen FunDay		
June 5 th	Diamond Jubilee		
June 23 rd	PTA Ball		
July 14 th	Speen Fete		

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Hello and welcome to the 53rd edition of the Speen and North Dean news edited by the 3rd youth editor for the magazine. I'm Emily Radforth and I have taken the opportunity to fulfil the position of the youth editor for this issue of the magazine.



I have spent 12 of my 17 years living in Speen, living 5 minutes away from one set of grandparents and my great grandmother. Along with my parents, we make up the four generations living in Speen. I am currently in the last year of 6th form at Princes Risborough School with dreams of University approaching.

In July 2011 I completed a two week expedition to Swaziland with the World Challenge organisation, specialising in all around the world trips and cultural experience. After meeting African locals and the young children staying at the orphanage we renovated, this trip inspired me to write an article on my experience, to be published in the Speen and North Dean News. I would be extremely pleased if you had a read to share my experience with me.

Looking through this autumnal edition of the magazine there are various articles, pictures and reviews of the Speen Festival which held some incredible events to get this small village noticed. Personally I enjoyed the Prom in the Park event where I saw friends and neighbours singing and waving their flags to *Jerusalem*.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy this edition of the Speen and North Dean News.

Emily Radforth

Welcome Packs

Speen's 'Good Neighbours' scheme was set up many years ago and is now run by Christine Oliver. One service is to provide new residents with a Welcome Pack of village information.

If you know of someone new to Speen please phone Christine on 488409 or email christineoliver99@btinternet.com.

New residents to North Dean should phone Judith Broadley on 563178 or email cooljude@btopenworld.com

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Speen and North Dean Toddler Group

Fun on a Tuesday Morning for the older children

It is with great pleasure that we have welcomed so many new children and parents to our fun toddler group. We are very lucky to have children of all ages, from as young as 3 months to the grand old age of 3 years. We have toys for all age groups and are very lucky to be situated adjacent to a lovely outdoor play area, which we use when the weather is dry.



The aim of Toddler group is for the children to socialise and for the parents to relax and chat with a coffee and biscuit (cakes have been known to make an appearance every now and then!) We are a small friendly group and hopefully very welcoming.

We meet on a Tuesday morning at North Dean Village Hall, Speen Road, North Dean from 10am - 12pm. There is a small charge of £1.50 per visit, but this will include tea/coffee, child's drink and biscuits.

For further information please contact Helen Davies - 01494 488847

Any donation of age appropriate toys are always welcome, thank you.

Speen Pre-School

Yoga, Enormous Turnips & Inspections

Halfway through the autumn term and highlights from September seem a long time ago now as Christmas approaches. As part of the Speen Festival children from the pre-school enjoyed a morning celebrating trees at Ridgeley's Field, accompanied by a fun yoga session.

In October we celebrated Harvest at the Chapel with the children delighting us with a rendition of "The Enormous



Turnip". Mums enjoyed the shopping opportunities, not to mention the coffee, chat and cakes at a coffee morning raising over £130.

All the fundraising has paid off with the installation over half term of the new play equipment in the Under 5's area on the playing field. The area is used by the pre-school during term time and the new tower, slide, shop and climbing combination should give many hours of enjoyment. Thanks to all those who have helped contribute to the funds. Now it's just a new sand pit.

As half term approached we had our long awaited Ofsted inspection. We have maintained our satisfactory rating. The full report is available for viewing on the pre-school website. It was a fair evaluation with the new team of staff and committee agreeing with the recommendations as to how we can continue to improve. We were pleased that it was recognised that 'children enjoy their time in this welcoming setting' and 'parents and carers are happy with the service provided'.

Pre-school places are filling up fast for 2012. We take children from two upwards. 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



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News from Speen School and its PTA

The summer holiday has come and gone and we're already into a new year with 13 new faces and our eagerly anticipated extension. The extra space that Reception Class is utilising has transformed the school; children, teachers and parents are absolutely thrilled with it.

Not only are the children enthusiastically making use of the new extension, but they soon will be able to exercise their active minds in the fresh air.



Before the new extension

Due to the great success of the Arabian Nights ball, we have placed an order for an outdoor seating area complete with canopy and teacher's chair. In appreciation of The Hideaway Club's generous raffle donation it will be known as 'Hideaway'.

The PTA remains an integral part of Speen School, not only in bringing all the mums and dads together, but in the very important role of raising funds for the school. It is with enormous gratitude that we thank Debbie O'Brien and the outgoing committee for all their endeavours in raising an incredible amount during the past year. Their success is in no small part due to the continued support that we receive from the villagers. We hope you all enjoyed this year's events and we look forward to welcoming you to some equally entertaining ones next year. It is always great to see you back at the school.

Cat Cook has taken over the responsibility of PTA Chair and, ably assisted by Angela Forkgen (Secretary), Cliff Percival (Treasurer) and parents, is pulling together a programme of events for the coming year. By the time this is printed we will already have enjoyed a Race Night with Pot Luck Supper.

Already, this term has provided opportunities for the children to venture outside of the school gates, including trips to Holly Green Farm in



The new School extension

Bledlow and experiencing the wonders of *The Jungle Book* at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. More excursions are planned for the second half of term.

We again celebrated Harvest Festival this year at St. John's Church, Lacey Green. The children not only sang with great gusto but were charitable with their gifts that were donated to the Homeless Families' hostel in Saunderton. A week later we continued our close links with the Pre-School when Reception Class attended their Harvest Festival.

Following on from Harvest Festival, we hosted a coffee morning at the school in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. Not only were we part of this national event, but it gave the opportunity for the new mums and dads to meet other parents. Thanks again to the PTA for supplying the yummy cakes and also to Year 2 for serving them and then helping in the disposal of what remained!

Some dates for your diaries . . .

- 26th November 2011
School Christmas Fayre - lots of children's activities and festive stalls. Any raffle donations will be gratefully received
- 13th December 2011
Christmas Play (most likely date), afternoon and evening performances
- 23rd June 2012
School Ball

In 2012 we will again be running our annual Safari Supper around the village.

Finally, a big thank you to you all. We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful school in our community, and your ongoing support will ensure that many future children will also flourish here.

Zoë Cartell Baker



We continue to be in our period of Interregnum so we don't have a pastor at present. We are being helped by a moderator, Reverend Peter Wortley, from Aylesbury who will also work with us to find a pastor in the New Year. In so many ways it has been a rewarding, if at times challenging, experience, with the fellowship really seizing hold of the opportunity to enter into the next phase of our development. We draw huge inspiration from our young people who make up a large and vital part of the Church family. Many of our younger members had acting or support roles in the awesome production of *The Dreaming* at the Speen Festival.

We have now published our new Vision, Mission and Values statement which you will be able to see in full on our new website. Through faith, we hope that we can be Together, Empowered and Effective for the benefit of the local community and the wider world.

The Chapel is old - built in 1802 - and we have been undertaking some essential repairs. We have had the floorboards treated and a new heating system installed with a heat pump which was generously donated to us. The electrics are being replaced and more modern, flexible and sympathetic lighting is being installed. The interior is being redecorated and we hope that the overall effect will make the Chapel lighter and more welcoming, an important step in our vision of making the building a seven day Church, and not one that is used mainly on Sundays.

Our work further afield continues. Our link missionary, Carol, is back in Afghanistan for her final stay before she retires. Carol works with the Hazara people, an oppressed minority in Afghanistan which itself is among the poorest countries in the world. She is training two Afghan nurses in midwifery and childcare so they can take over from her when she leaves. It is hard for us to imagine the difficulties of being a white female Christian in a strict Muslim country, but

her faith is strong and she does an amazing job.

Moirra from North Dean is back in Ethiopia using her skills as a healthcare worker, tending the poorest of the poor in an area where Aids/HIV is rife.

Agape, the work including a school that we support in India, continues to thrive providing the poorest children with breakfast, lunch and an education. Many of you have contributed to this inspiring work and you have our heartfelt thanks. Recent donations have been received from the Speen Festival and coffee mornings in the village.

Nearer home, members of our church are Street Angels, who walk the streets of High Wycombe in the early hours on Friday nights caring for, practically helping and listening to people, especially those in vulnerable or difficult situations. We also support the 24/7 prayer initiative when we join other churches in Wycombe in praying for the town, area and nation. Some of our members also work with the Wycombe Homeless Connection (previously Wycombe Night Shelter) which provides a safe haven for the homeless during the winter months and a mentoring programme to help individuals rebuild their lives. The donations from our harvest festival went to Saunderton Lodge which we continue to support with basic packs of essentials for new residents. Speen Pre-School recently held their Harvest Celebration Service at the Chapel and their generous donations of produce were also taken to Saunderton Lodge. We are also leading the "One Can Trust" collections of non-perishable foods for the needy in the area. There are lots of opportunities for villagers to get involved in helping the vulnerable in Wycombe and we would welcome your support. Likewise if you have activities where you feel our support might help, please let us know.

The autumn colours remind us that Christmas is approaching. The Chapel is looking forward to hosting several events to mark this most important time in the Christian calendar, starting with the Speen Pre-School Nativity Service on 8th December. Following on from the Passion Play held on the Playing Field on Good Friday and in the Chapel on Easter Sunday, we are putting on a Christmas production, Rock Star Adventure, on 17th December. The Adventure will tell the Nativity story using modern rock songs. Afterwards canapés and drinks will be served. There is a Light Walk for teenagers and preteens (Year 7s and over) on 22nd December. A further date for your diary is Christmas Eve when we will hold our traditional candlelit Carol Service. Details of all these events will be in the newsletter distributed to the entire village with our Christmas Card in early December. News on the life of the Church will also be available on our website which is currently being updated.

We wish everyone in Speen and North Dean a peaceful end to 2011.

Roger Clarke



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Speen Playing Fields Report, Autumn 2011

There is a lot to report as we head in to Autumn and first off some retirements from the committee.

Andy Thompson has decided to step down as chairman after more than 3 years in the post. The Playing Fields Committee would like to thank him for all his efforts during that time, overseeing successful Bonfire nights, carols at Christmas, Fundays and keeping the Fields, and committee, in good order. We welcome Tony Bobroff as the new Chairman.

Judith Newenham is also stepping down shortly as the Playing Fields draw co-ordinator. The committee would also like to thank her for all her efforts in helping to raise thousands of pounds which have gone to help maintain and improve our village facilities.

We're looking for new members to help us look after the Speen Playing Fields for the benefit of all the village and visitors to Speen. So if you want to help in any capacity, please do get in touch to hear what we do and how you might want to get involved. Please speak to our secretary Kay Knight on 488335, or any other member of the committee you know, see our web-site for details <http://www.speenbucks.org.uk/speen-groups/speen-playing-fields/>

Looking back, September saw the hosting of the Bike Park Challenge on Ridgley's field, a regular and popular event of the Speen Festival programme. A new committee was formed under the leadership of Alistair Tilt and with an able body of volunteers, the challenge once again proved a great success with over 70 entrants aged 6 to 16 competing within 3 age groups, a number of whom came from outside the village. Ridgley's field was looking in tip-top condition after a work party a few weeks before and with the going good to soft, competitors tackled three courses; timed laps of the bike park, a skills and obstacle challenge and finally the fearsome Saddle Safari,



Ryan Woodward



Our local community support officer was on hand to security mark riders' bikes

named in recognition of the Marlow bike shop that generously donated prizes. A special mention should go to Henry "Gunner" Lane who spent a solid 2 hours in the bush valiantly loading ammunition for the visiting snipers to shoot big game, having then to collect spent shells under a barrage of enemy fire. A true hero to his village!

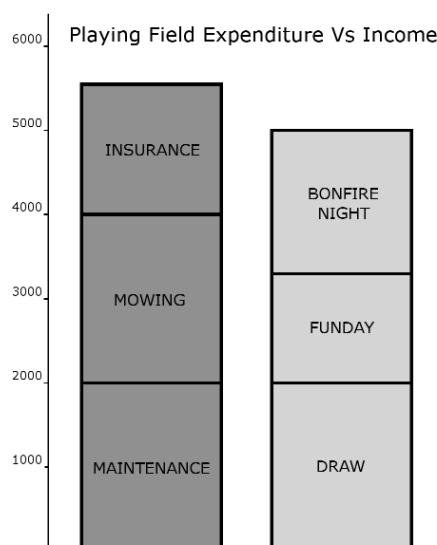
Following feedback from the statement published in the last edition, we would like to clarify the position regarding requests for use of the field for different functions and in particular that whilst the committee has a duty to comply with certain conditions of use, each one will be carefully considered on its own merits. Furthermore that we are happy to discuss with applicants how any decision has been reached. Please see page 31 for further details.

On Saturday 5th November the Bonfire Night and Fireworks Extravaganza was held on the main field. Speen Pre-School once again were the caterers and whilst adults tucked into hot dogs and soup, younger guests gorged on chocolate coated marshmallows, made the night before by Amanda Dobbs and her junior chefs (serviettes were provided free of charge!!) The bonfire was again huge with donations of wood and foliage received and left behind the pub next to the garages.

Nearer to Christmas and another date for your diaries, please join us for Carols round the Christmas Tree on 9th December where festive singing and mulled wine will be the order of the evening.

Finally, a quick mention on SPF finances as those new to the village may not be aware that our wonderful fields are owned and maintained by the village with only a very modest contribution from Lacey Green Parish Council. The three major fundraising events that help keep them in first rate condition are Bonfire night, the Monthly draw and Funday. The chart below shows the three main areas of annual expenditure and alongside the sources of income. We are very grateful for the continued support of these events

without which we would not be able to fund the ongoing maintenance or further improvements.



We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Keith Fisher

STOP PRESS - New Under 5s Play Equipment

Excellent Teamwork

We are proud to announce the addition of new play equipment for the Under 5's area on Speen Playing Field. Thanks to extensive fund-raising by Speen Pre-School and Speen Playing Fields, together with our generous supporters, the Under 5's area has a fantastic new play fort for our community. We are sure that many youngsters will enjoy this great new facility thanks to an excellent team effort.



Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

Main Funders: Speen Pre-School; Speen Playing Fields

Supported by: Speen Shop Charities Committee; Bucks Playing Fields Association; Lacey Green Parish Council

Speen Village Hall

Speen Village Hall continues to host Village meetings and events. Whilst the Pre-School, WI, Bridge Club, Parish Council Meetings and the Table Tennis Club are our main lettings we have also hosted Garden Club Evenings, Ballroom Dancing lessons, Festival Rehearsals, Birthday Parties, and Family Anniversaries.

We have already taken a booking for a three day Golden Wedding Celebration next year.

If any one wishes to book the Village Hall please contact Sue Taylor on 488500.

Future events include a Ramble with tea and cakes in the Spring and a joint Speaker Event with the WI.

Following the dissolution of the Horticultural Society we have inherited some 20 wooden display trestle tables. If any one has a use for these please contact me on 488180.

Bill Groves
Chairman Speen Village Hall
Management Committee

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Golf News

The Autumn Golf Challenge Match, between North Dean and Speen took place on Thursday 6th October, at Wycombe Heights Golf Club.

After a few anxious days of watching the weather forecast, the day dawned fine, very windy, but we completed the day without getting wet. Both courses were well presented and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

After bacon rolls and coffee, 12 players set off to contest the morning Texas Scramble on the par 2 course; after some very good scores, North Dean just pipped Speen having scored 7 under par, to Speen's 6.

A well earned Ploughman's Lunch was taken, and the morning stalwarts were joined by 11 more players to contest the afternoon round on the main course, playing for the Ivor Beeks Trophy.

A three course dinner was enjoyed, followed by prize giving. The usual banter ensued, especially as North Dean had a somewhat rare experience of being the victors.

Prize Winners

Texas Scramble:

Winners John Rogers; John Askew; Kevin MacDonnell

Runners-Up Charlie Pearson; Roger Clarke; Neil Stratton

Nearest Pin: Roger Clarke

Longest Drive: Mark Beeks

Individual Champion:

Ivor Beeks

Runner-Up Roger Shaw

3rd Martin Shaw

4th David Davies

5th John Rogers

Village Champions:

North Dean

This Challenge Match takes place twice a year and is a very enjoyable day out, both as a golf day and a social event. We would welcome any new players who would like to join us, and perhaps some of you who have dropped out for various reasons, would like to play again. The Spring match for the PK Trophy will be at Mentmore on the third Thursday in May, subject to confirmation.

Please contact either John Rogers 01494 562041 for North Dean or Charlie Pearson 01494 488483 for Speen.

Risborough Area Community Bus

Risborough Area Community Bus plans several outings during the run-up to Christmas -

World's End Garden Centre at Wendover on Saturday 26 November - 1 to 4.30pm
£3.00; children: 5 - 16 - £1.50; under 5s - free

World's End Garden Centre at Wendover on Saturday 10 December - 1 to 4.30pm
£3.00; children: 5 - 16 - £1.50; under 5s - free

Waddesdon Manor on Sunday 11 December 12.00 to 4.00 pm
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Speen WI Report

Going back to June when we had our AGM, two of the speakers were Sir Steve Redgrave and Erwin James, a convicted murderer. Our Bucks Chairman, Jean Morris, was sitting between the two - quite an experience, she reckoned, as it is not every day you sit next to a convicted murderer. Thankfully he is now a reformed character.

Our speaker in August was Jo Messenger, who gave a very interesting talk and slide show about trekking in Nepal, which she had been doing for about 25 years and had made a great many friends there.

Our September speaker was Jane Dunsterville, who talked about colour in the home; and our stint in the tent with the children at the Festival went down a treat with the children having a great time knitting and sewing. Also on the Sunday an interesting time was had in the food



tent.

In October our speaker was Nigel Eagling who had worked in the Regional Crime Squad and gave a fascinating talk on how detectives go about their work.

November will be our Annual Meeting with who knows what changes on the Committee! We are having a pot luck supper that night.

Unfortunately our December entertainer has had to cancel, so it was decided we would make our own entertainment - watch this space!

I cannot tell you what is in store for us next year as the programme has not yet been printed.

We keep trying to get some younger blood into our meetings and I am not talking 20 somethings but 50 somethings - you know who you are. Come on, give us a try, you know you want to.

Barbara Collett
488348

Theatre in the Villages

Fast Woman - A Racy Production

North Dean Village Hall Committee is very proud to have been given the opportunity to stage a Theatre in the Villages production again this year. The one-woman show, starring Sandra Hunt, was a 'racy production' portraying the astounding real-life tale of Helle Nice - a dare devil dancer, model, and grand prix motor racing driver from 1920's Paris.

The audience consisted of residents from North Dean, Speen and outlying villages, together with one guest travelling from as far as Wimbledon! They were all treated to an evening of superb entertainment thanks to the professional acting ability of Sandra Hunt, who convincingly transported them to 1920's Parisian life. A truly entertaining, one-woman show which captured the imagination of all those present.

Thanks go to Aylesbury Vale District Council for running the TiV initiative again this year. Thanks also go to Beechdean Dairies for supplying free ice-cream during the interval.

North Dean Village Hall Committee is hoping that Theatre in the Villages (TiV) will again be coming to North Dean Village Hall in the autumn 2012, so watch this space for further details.

Julie White
Acting Secretary
North Dean Village Hall

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World Challenge expedition to Swaziland

In September 2010 I decided to embark on a World Challenge expedition to Swaziland in South Africa.



At Heathrow ready for our expedition

and learning of a different culture challenging students to be out of their comfort zones and stretching their minds outside of the classroom.

The expedition took place in July 2011 giving me just 10 months to raise over £2000 to take part in this once in a life time experience. Through various fundraising events I completed my £2000 goal one month ahead of time.

There were three local schools from Buckinghamshire who were linked together for our expedition. I was the only student from Princes Risborough School taking part in the trip. The other students and teachers were either from Sir William Ramsay or Holmer Green Senior School.

Having not known the other team members taking part in the trip to Swaziland I was slightly nervous. Spending two weeks with 11 other people I had never met or spoken to before. After various meetings and greetings before the trip was to go ahead I had a good idea of who I was going to get on with and who I may find challenging.

Leaving on 24th July from Heathrow airport with a 10 hour flight to Johannesburg airport in Africa, we were all very excited, yet nervous of what awaited us.



Shewula mountain camp

World Challenge is an organisation specialising in all around the world trips and expeditions for students. They focus purely on the education



The children at the orphanage

Arriving at the

newly built and extremely modern Johannesburg airport was the first shock to our preconceived perceptions of what Africa would be like.



The completed artwork at the orphanage

We spent the first night at a back packer's lodge which was beautiful. There were monkeys and lots of brightly coloured birds in the trees.

We then spent the next four days up in the Mountains of Shewula. Here we walked 8 miles a day to the local orphanage which we all participated in renovating and painting. The children in the orphanage had all lost their parents to AIDs.

We met the children and the local people who were extremely friendly and very interested in the English culture and knew a lot more about the politics and history of our country than I did. We then continued to Mwanane, a nature reserve where we camped next to warthogs and ostriches. After spending three days at Mwanane we then continued to Malolojta, a mountain camp site. Cooking over an open lit fire and singing songs we spent three more nights here. The highlight of the trip was a canopy walk which we all assumed was a lovely walk through the treetops, but no, we were zip wiring across a 60 foot valley, beautiful views but too high for me!

This trip was a once in a life time experience and achievement. Africa is a beautiful country and the people we met were caring, interested and hospitable. By far the best experience I've ever had and something I definitely recommend anyone to be part of.



A traditional Swazi dance for our entertainment

Emily Radforth

Mongol Rally Follow up

Well, I don't really know where to start but . . . we made it, limping over the finish line on the afternoon of 3rd September in a very battered Dobby. In six weeks and covering 15 countries we crossed rivers, deserts, forests and mountains; the roads were very rough and hard to navigate, there were many times where we became stuck in sand, smashed the car on rocks or tore a tyre on hidden bits of metal or glass.

Out of 340 cars, just 272 reached the Mongolian border and only 168 drove over the finishing line, the remaining 104 generously scattered over the Mongolian mountains and deserts. Needless to say, we were pretty chuffed we made it the whole way but by the end of it we were all knackered, skinny, dirty and hungry but we have experienced some incredible cultures, met some of the most humble and friendly people, seen incredible sights and had a few hair-raising moments too.

We had our ups and downs, most memorably after crossing the Mongolian mountains we were so busy admiring the spectacular scenery and views and chasing wild camels that we ended up off course and just 200km from the Chinese border! The next day the roads were so tough that we had 5 punctures in one day and were left with no spares. Thinking our rally over, spirits dropped, but luckily some nice Italian ralliers happened to pass us and lent us a wheel and we made it to the next town.

The whole trip took us six weeks of driving solidly every day, with the occasional afternoon in some of the more interesting cities (Bukhara, Uzbekistan for example was unbelievable). Sadly, we didn't have time to stop more as the biggest hitch of the trip was being delayed at the Iran/Turkmenistan border for six days. We left Iran (a fabulous country with the most amazing people) ready to cross into Turkmenistan but at the border we were advised that there was problem with one of our visas and they wouldn't allow us to cross into Turkmenistan. This obviously posed



a real problem for us which rapidly escalated into a four hour shouting match which nearly caused an international incident. The Iranians refused to let us cross back into their country physically standing in the way, and the Turkmen were refusing us entry into their country. We had two wheels in each country and were getting nowhere as, funnily enough, neither country's military were allowed to talk to each other through the fence dividing them. Eventually the four of us got out our football to kick around until finally the very kind Iranian guards agreed that we could wait on their border until the problem was sorted out. Unfortunately our timing couldn't have been worse as we then had to wait for the Iranian Muslim weekend (Thursday/Friday) and then the Turkmen Western weekend (Saturday/Sunday) to pass before we could make any headway in sorting out the visa problem. However, after six days camping on the Iranian border, living off watermelons and crisps we were finally allowed to cross into Turkmenistan.

Of all the countries we visited Iran was the one which surprised us most and we all admit to feeling a little guilty about our preconceived ideas about the country and Iranian people. The people were the friendliest of the entire trip and wherever we went we were showered with people trying to help us, give us food, directions or just to stop and practice their English. There were several times when people took hours out of their day just to make our stay in their village, town or city more comfortable. In one scary incident, as I was driving through a small village in Iran, a small child on a bike shot in front of the car, I slammed on the brakes but the last I saw was the child and bike disappearing under the bonnet. We jumped out of the car but fortunately the child only had a grazed knee. An ambulance was called, just in case, and whilst I did my best to communicate my apologies and concern to the child and his mother, Lewis, Mim and Tom turned a potential crime scene into a pantomime, handing out sweets and performing magic tricks for the group of children who, by now surrounded our car. By the time we left the village there was a small street party around our car and the child's mother gave us bread and dips



to take for our dinner. The Iranians are unbelievably nice!

Our time in Iran certainly made us realise that much of what we see/are told in the media about Iran is quite wrong and most of the people do not support much of what their regime does. Needless to say, our views on that part of the world are entirely changed and I will never look at any portrayal of a foreign country in the news in the same way.

We had some very humbling moments, most of all when we arrived in Ulaanbaatar and went to the Christina Noble Foundation Orphanage to see the fantastic work they do. Thanks to the Mongol Rally, they have been able to create a fantastic and safe environment for children and we were delighted to spend an evening there seeing what the children learn and being treated to some dancing, singing and judo displays.

Following on from this I must take this chance to thank everyone for their help, we were perfectly prepared for the trip and raised nearly £4000 for the charities, plus whatever our car gets sold for in Mongolia (which despite its state, was expected to reach £2000 +). Without the fantastic support and guidance from our families and friends we really do not think we would have been one of the lucky cars to cross the border. So again, thank you so much to all of you.

I have so many fantastic memories and I think my dinner party stories are sorted for the next ten years, but I have attached a few photos of the trip and wish I could show more. If you have Facebook please feel free to search for me to have a look (Search : Will Collier), and for even more hilarious stories, please do log on and read our blogs at www.trekkerswithtekkers.co.uk which gives quite a detailed account of many of our experiences.

I hope to be able to see you all very soon to thank you in person and share more stories but in the meantime I hope the following statistics and photos give a bit more of an idea of our trip.

No of Days: 42
Miles: 10,958
Litres of Fuel Used: circa 1400
Cheapest Fill up: £5 (Turkmenistan)
Priciest Fill up : £65 (England)
Countries travelled through: 15, including Romania, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Khazakstan, Russia, Mongolia.
Warning lights on at the end: All of them
Other finish line issues: No working windows, back doors or lights, destroyed exhaust, broken

handbrake, front wheel mounting bent at ridiculous angle, leaking coolant, leaking oil. (I wonder how we managed to drive it over the line too!)

Tyres Burst: 6
Bladders burst: 2
Police Stops: 14
Largest bribe requested: \$500
Largest bribe paid: 2 Georgian cigarettes
Quasi Legitimate Border charges : £250 (£10 to "disinfect" our car at every border)
Imodium tablets consumed: 40
Packets of Starburst eaten: 45
Number of Harry Potter audio books listened to: All of them
Trips to Ulaanbaatar Kebab: 5 times in 2 days
Western Toilets seen after Hungary: 3
First big argument: Calais
First punch up: Mongolian border
First boy band video made due to boredom: Iran
First gun pointed at us: Bulgaria
Times a member of the team nearly died: 2 (yes, really!)

MONEY RAISED FOR GREAT CAUSES: £5500 approx

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SQUARE



front elevation before



front elevation after

Speen Heritage Group

The names and initials of the Speen men who were killed during WWI are listed on a memorial plaque inside the chapel lych-gate. The Speen Heritage Group tried to discover more about those ten men.

As you will see, we were not completely successful - and we hope that you can make good the gaps in our knowledge.

We started with the censuses of 1901 and 1911 - and the excellent records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The first surprise was that, for six of the ten casualties, the Army records could not tell us how old they were when they died - because their primary papers were destroyed during the bombing of London in WWII. For the same reason, the Army records could not always tell us their first names. We therefore turned to the census records and, by deduction, we traced them all. The census records, however, cannot be relied upon to give each man's date of birth. The main census page is written up from individual sheets completed by the head of the household. In many cases, Dad gave a date of birth for each of his children in 1901, and gave a different one in 1911. Where possible, we have searched other records and chosen the most likely date.

Most of the young men from Speen joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry - there were some exceptions. We have adopted the abbreviated title of the Regiment because that was used on the Speen memorial plaque and is used by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Lastly, the memorial plaque lists the fallen in alphabetical order. We thought it would tell us more about the history of our village if we listed the men in the order that they died.

H Dean. Harry Dean was born in 1893. He appears in the 1901 census, living in Speen with his parents Richard, a chair turner, who was born in Monks Risborough and his mother, Mary, who was born in Great Missenden. By 1911, Richard was 44 and Mary was 41; they had been married for 22 years. Mary had borne 12 children; one (Ella) had died and three - including Harry - were living elsewhere, so 9 of them were living in their 5-room house: Edward (21) a chair turner like his father, Alice (19) George (12) Owen (10) Phyllis (8) Maurice (6) Alick (5) Frank (2) and the six month old William. (Alice later published a fascinating leaflet about Speen.) When he died, Harry Dean was a Corporal (No. 6277) in a smart cavalry regiment, the 18th Hussars, who were known as "Queen Mary's Own". Perhaps he was a Regular, living in their London barracks, when the 1911 census was taken. Harry died on 25th May 1915, age 22, and is buried in the northern extension of



Memorial plaque

the Bailleul Communal Cemetery. There was an important military hospital at Bailleul so he probably died, in hospital, of the wounds he incurred in the horrendous Ypres campaign.

H R Burrows. When the 1911 census was taken, Harry Robert Burrows, a chair turner aged 18, was living in Flowers Bottom - in a 4-room house on the eastern side of "The Plough" public house - with his parents George (46) who was a farm labourer from Loosley Row and Julia (55) from Princes Risborough, together with his elder sister, Annie (21) and a five year old boy called Lester Janes who is listed as "Grandson". (In 1901, Lucy Burrows (13) was shown on the census. In 1907 she married a Speen man, Edward Lester Janes, whose father was the tenant of "The Plough"; young Lester was their son.) Harry Burrows was a 23 year old Private (No. 22616) in the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry and might have been one of the first to be compulsorily "called up". (Conscription of unmarried men from 18 to 41 years old had come into force on 2nd March 1916.) On 12th March 1916 he attended church parade at the Bovington training camp but reported sick in the afternoon. He died of cerebral meningitis four days later - then as now, meningitis was the scourge of poorly ventilated barrack rooms - and is buried at St Mary's church, Longfleet. By then, his father was the tenant of "The Plough".

H F Saunders. Harold Frank Saunders - known as Harry - is variously shown as being born in 1886, 1887 or 1888. We think 1888 is correct. In 1901 he was living near the "Pink and Lily" at 4 Hillock Cottages, an address that still exists. (In 1910, "Lady Ely, Enniskillen" owned those four cottages - can anyone explain her connection with this area?) In 1901 his father, George (48) is shown as a labourer. His mother, Sarah, was 47 and his elder sister, Minnie (23) was a parlour maid. Both his parents were born in "Princes Risborough". (The 1901 census did not ask how long people had been married.) Harry's elder brother Sidney (17) and

Continued on page 24 . . .

North Dean Village Hall Fete - Competition Winners 2011

Many congratulations to the following class winners, and thanks to everyone who entered this year's competitions. We look forward to receiving a wonderful number of entries next year too.

Pot Plant - The Campbell Cup:

Miss Gill Sandford

Arrangement of Cut Flowers - The Weller Rose Bowl:

Mrs Joan Prentice

Single Bloom - Silver Rose Vase:

Mrs Janet Cook

Cup Cakes - The Farmhouse Cup:

Miss Ginny Prentice

Fruit Jam:

G Rogers

Silver Tray:

Mrs Doris Redrup

Marmalade - John Lewis Bowl:

Rosemary Petty

Victoria Sandwich Cake: Mrs Joan Prentice

Vegetables - The North Dean Challenge Cup:

Mrs Julie White

Prize Vegetable or Fruit of The Year - The Beau

Vista Bell: Miss Gill Sandford

Handicrafts and Art, 15yrs and older - The Rogers

Bell: Mrs Christine Ryman

Junior Handicrafts, 14 yrs and under:

Miss Ellen Sandford

Junior Arts, 14 yrs and under:

Miss Alice Wilson

Photography, Black and White - The Morgan Cup:

Mr David Punter

Photography, Colour - The Evans Bowl:

Miss Ginny Prentice



North Dean Fete - photos



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Our publicity for September's Festival boldly announced '11 glorious days'. And though the weather didn't quite live up to this promise, audience reactions to an amazing 17 events - a bigger, more varied programme than ever - suggest that once again the Festival found the all-important 'wow' factor.

Ticket sales were up on the previous (2009) Festival and several events were a sell-out. Our opening show *The Dreaming* set the tone, playing to packed houses. Despite my belief that we had bitten off considerably more than we could chew in staging this ambitious musical, it proved a resounding success, due to fantastic acting and singing, particularly from the younger members of the cast; very high production standards including professional quality lighting, sound and scenery; and the painstaking work of the production team and artistic directors. I recall a handful of people who turned up to auditions claiming they could neither act nor sing, then acting and singing with great confidence. The luvvies and prima donnas turned up as usual (no names in this context Eamonn and Tony).



Thanks to the ingenuity of our event organisers, the Festival included several new treats alongside traditional favourites. Among the returning highlights were the Jazz Concert, Food Festival, Science Matters debate, Teatro Unfortunato and the Cabaret Supper. The local environment and local

history featured prominently with wildlife events for children and adults alike, a talk by Stuart King on Bucks crafts and customs, and an evening at the chapel, with evocative song by the Elysian Singers and accompanying readings from the Chilterns' oral history. The organisers of the popular Bike Park

Challenge created yet more fiendishly demanding circuits to test the skills of the riders, who turned up in record numbers.



First-time events for 2011 included a day of fun activities to entice younger and older participants to try their hands at some new creative task. Children sat with rapt attention as they figured out how to knit, make pompoms and paper flowers or turn buttons into bracelets, under the expert guidance of WI members. Families wandered into the pub to smile nicely, look gorgeous and sometimes clown around for a DIY Photo Shoot, with fantastic results, while others took to Ridgley's field to craft a bodger's shelter, and cook spuds and toast bacon and marshmallows over a fire. The outcome was sumptuous, particularly if you like your bacon on the rare side with grass garnish and your spuds like charcoal hand grenades. I have never tasted better, and the nettle tea was interesting . . .

'Youth Takeover' was another 'first' for Speen, designed to plug a gap in the programme by offering a night's entertainment that the younger members of the community wouldn't mind admitting to attending. In the lead-up to the Festival, workshops on graffiti art and dance blazed the trail. On the big night, youngsters from pre-10s to late teens did jaw-dropping wheelies, hennaed their arms, cooked burgers under KWIV instruction, put their hair up, strummed, sang and let their hair down on the dance floor. Audience feedback tells us that this event is just what the young people of the village needed, so mustn't be a 'one-off'.



For the very young, SpeenSchoolFest! was an imaginative tour de force which saw five schools - including Speen School, Speen Pre-School and St. John's Combined School, Lacey Green -



Youth Takeover "... that art thing with that Stu guy was really awesome!! ..."

The Dreaming "... singing, and ama

Youth Takeover "... a brilliant night - the band were super duper ..."



SpeenSchoolFest! "Drumming - that's my favourite!"

Prom "... a fabu the festival



Science Matters "Did I leave feeling massively unintelligent? Yes!! But did I have a good night? Yes I did!!"





... great music, fab
zing costumes ..."

Youth Takeover "Just what the young
people of this village needed."



The Dreaming "... a
village showcase ..."



...ous way to bring
to a close ..."

Cabaret Supper "... wonderful evening of talent ..."





collaborating in a three-day art, dance and music workshop in June, culminating in a newly choreographed

performance entitled 'Arabian Midsummer Nights'. This was cleverly timed to allow the children to decorate the marquee and craft feathery headbands, adding sparkle to the Speen PTA Ball. SpeenSchoolFest! also brought bandanas, tie-dye t-shirts and African drummers to the Speen Fête, and in September, local sculptor and artist Jeni Fairey led an autumnal art and animal yoga workshop for the pre-school children. One of their activities was to make those rather individual tree sculptures which you may have seen adorning the oak on Ridgley's Field.

The Festival 'finale' - 'Prom in the Playing Field' - was another new invention for 2011. I confess to some trepidation about this event: untried, enormous and logistically very complex, involving not only solo performers but also the creation of an 80-piece band with players drawn from no less than



seven local orchestras. But as Sam Laughton led the musicians through a wonderful selection of classical and film favourites,

apprehension rapidly gave way to elation - a feeling surely experienced by everyone on the field as they picnicked, chatted, waved their flags, sang along or sat awe-struck that Speen could pull off such a coup. The cold weather was kept at bay through rousing audience participation in 'Land of Hope and Glory', ending with a roof-raising 'Jerusalem'. And so it was that the sun set on England's green and pleasant land and on Speen's 2011 Festival.

We welcome your feedback on the Festival as a whole



and on individual events; armed with this information, future committees can build on past experience and develop new ideas. Do give us your views via the website www.speenfestival.org by clicking on the feedback tab, or email secretary@speenfestival.org.



This year's committee has greatly enjoyed its tenure. But now it's time to hand on the baton to new members with new ideas. Sam and Kate Laughton will stand down as Artistic Directors (but are still keen to take part . . .) and I shall

vacate my role as Chairman. If you are interested in filling these positions or wish to join the committee in any other capacity, please get in touch with a member of the current committee or email secretary@speenfestival.org.

Lastly, thank you for supporting Speen Festival 2011, whether by attending events, by being an organiser

or helper, or being one of our generous local sponsors. Once again it's been a superb manifestation of the strong community spirit in this and our neighbouring villages. I guess that over 100 local people assisted in making the 2011 Festival such an enjoyable and inclusive celebration of local talent.



And finally, in the words of dear delightful darling Doris Day:

*"Now you must wake up, all dreams must end
Take off your make-up, the party's over
It's all over, my friend."*

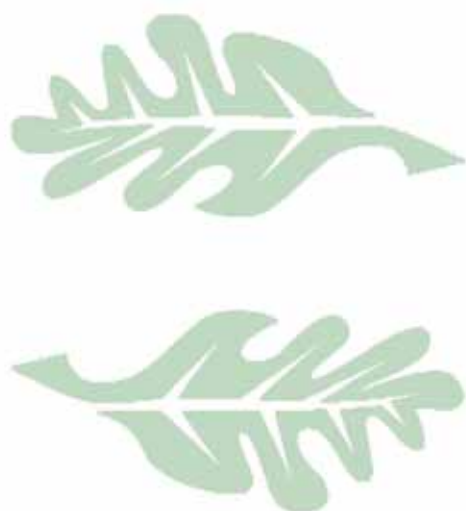
Jeremy Symondson
Festival Chairman

Acknowledgements to the following photographers:

Loiz Bale
Chris Dunnington
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Geoff Smith

Antony Cox
Martin Hart
Kate Laughton
Ian Warr

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... continued from page 17

Harry himself (14) were both listed as chairmakers. Ten years later Harry is shown as 25 and he is a "Clerk in the Estate Office". His domestic circumstances have also changed; he is living in the same 4-room family home but with just his 58 year old father. Harry died on 23rd July 1916. By then he was a Corporal in the 4th Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. We think he was 28. He is buried in the military cemetery known as Pozieres (La Boisselle). More Australians were killed at Pozieres than anywhere else during WWI. Pozieres, which is on the Somme, was assaulted again and again in July 1916 at huge cost and without success. It was finally occupied on 23rd July, the day that Harry died. He was the first of three men from Speen who were to die near Pozieres. Harry's service number was 2851 - does that indicate that he was a Regular?

Would you like to make any corrections or additions to these biographies? Do you have any photos - portraits, team photos - of these men? We will publish similar details of the remaining casualties in later editions of the Speen and North Dean News:

William Gibbons
Sidney Gibbons
Norman Sidney Simmonds
Edward Lester Janes
Frank Randall
John Rixon
Artie Ralph Bristow

Would you like to check the text beforehand? Do you have any photos we could use? If so, please contact Clive Rainbow (01494 488658) or email rainbows@speen.org.uk.



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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 Heritage Group.

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Down on the Farm



Maize harvesting October 2011

This really has been a season of mellow fruitfulness! All our worries about the drought earlier in the year and then the lack of sunshine in the summer have been translated into gratefulness for a dry sunny autumn. In this area we have had just enough rain (unlike some areas of GB) to produce reasonable crops. Top fruit growers have had their best yields for a long time and our maize harvest was a bumper one. The hedges are festooned with berries of all kinds; if old sayings are to be believed, we are in for a severe winter.

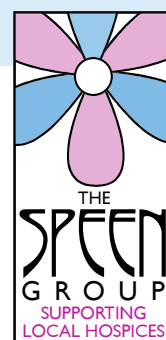
Work on the farm is always more enjoyable in the dry. Both animals and men do not thrive in mud and persistent wet. The vagaries of the weather only just beat the EEC rules and regulations in the effect on the profitability of the farm. At the moment we are suffering from the same 'one size fits all' attitude that bedevils the European Union.

Landowners and farmers are in consultation with the government about new arrangements for the agricultural support mechanism due to start in 2014. Contrary to general belief, 75% of GB farmers would not make a profit without it; but, how do you organise an equitable support system when the size, topography, soil type, rainfall and degrees of mechanisation of the farms within the community are so varied.

There are now EEC dates when you may spread manure. Farmers (and gardeners) try to spread when ground conditions are good (dryish). How can the bureaucrats in Brussels have any idea from year to year when this will be? The latest proposal would make all farmers grow at least three different crops (we only grow maize and wheat). The largest crop acreage to be not more than 75% of the farm and the smallest to be at least 5%.

We appreciate that all small businesses are labouring under excess legislation and are thankful that in agriculture there are many day to day events which raise one's spirits! Ploughing, harvesting and the birth of a new live calf give satisfaction to one and all. Our new milking parlour is at last working well with its computerised recognition and recording facilities. The herdsman no longer has to rush around to separate out a cow for treatment; this can be done by a system of electronically controlled gates. We now have 330 jersey milking cows, their milk being sold to make ice cream, cheese and also to supply the catering industry.

Gill Kent
gk@bfarms.co.uk



DIARY DATES 2012

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Neighbourhood Policing

This month's Princes Risborough update is given by PC Andy Ralph:

Speeding: We are continuing to assess speeding traffic at locations brought to our attention by local residents in Bledlow, Longwick and Bledlow Ridge by using the speed indication device to assess whether the problem is genuine or perceived. Further enforcement is planned at locations where speeding has proven to be a persistent problem.

Parking: We didn't receive any complaints of inconsiderate parking in the rural area during September; however we are continuing to monitor parking near the schools in the areas 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 lead to positive factors such as reducing speeding traffic.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB): We have received a couple of complaints around children gathering in both Ellesborough and Longwick. Police attended to assess what they were up to, details taken and group dispersed and moved on. Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of incidents, for example, erratic driving, noisy groups gathering, public order offences and arson. If you witness anything that you deem to cause alarm, harassment or distress please contact the police enquiry centre on 08458 505 505.

Area crime: There were 18 reported crimes in the month of September, which is the same as August's figures. Please see below for a break down of these crimes:

3 Thefts from a car
4 Non-dwelling burglaries including attempts
1 Criminal damage to a vehicle
2 Other thefts
3 Burglaries in dwellings
4 Assaults
1 Robbery

Partnership activity: There are some planned speeding operations organised with Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership to warn drivers who are slightly over the speed limit and prosecute speeders who are driving at sufficiently above the speed limit. Several locations will be targeted in and around the town.

Offenders brought to justice: A 16 year old youth was charged with a burglary in Speen

committed during August. Two men aged 21 and 17 were charged with theft of a vehicle from Loosley Row in August.

Future meetings: The next Neighbourhood Action Group meeting is Wednesday the 16th of November at Longwick CofE School, the meeting will start at 7.30pm.

We held Have Your Say meetings as follows:

10th October: Longwick CofE School
Lacey Green CofE School
11th October: Bledlow Ridge County Stores
Great Kimble CofE School
12th October: Speen Post Office

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.

Letters to the Editor

I should like to express my grateful thanks to everyone concerned with the inclusion of Speen to the Community Bus routes. I use the bus regularly and find the service excellent; the drivers helpful and friendly. Long may the service continue.

Jo Banks

* * * * *

5 Courtlands
Langford Budville
Wellington
Somerset TA21 0BF
01823 400964
mastock@globalnet.co.uk

Dear All

We were thrilled to be able to attend the 6th Speen Festival this year. We were both in awe and admiration of how the Festival has developed over the years and how professional it has become - the spanking new marquee, the amazing lighting rig, the seamless logistics and organisation and the superb artistry and variety of the events on offer. Speen certainly has a wealth of talent.

We are proud to be 'the acorn from which the oak tree has grown' (notwithstanding how big the real oak tree has grown which was planted to commemorate The Leaves of Time Pageant in 1999!)

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone involved in Speen Festival this year; the list of names would go on forever - suffice to say, a brilliant effort on all accounts and long may the Festival continue.

With best wishes from some who know how much blood, sweat and tears goes into putting on the Festival.

Marjorie & Martin Stockley

* * * * *

I see in the current edition, page 5, under "Welcome Packs" Speen Good Neighbours is mentioned.

I have previously made a suggestion before that we have a list of the following in the magazine:

- New residents moving into Speen and North Dean

- New residents i.e. births and deaths, maybe even marriages.

I think it is very important to welcome in new residents and also let people know who has died (there are sometimes obituaries), born etc. You can then also mention the Good Neighbours bit each time.


At the bottom of the entry format could be . . . Welcome to North Dean John and Jane Smith etc with a note below this list with email for the editor for anyone then wanting to let the editor (committee) know who has arrived, died etc.

Kind regards

Philip Suter

Note from Ed. - We will endeavour to create a section to include the above if enough interest is shown.

Please email editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk if you think this is a good idea and also include any items for publication.



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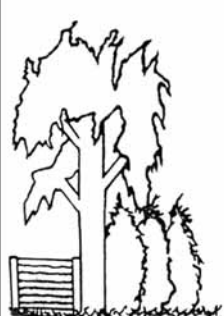
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Private Use of Speen Playing Field

The Playing Field Committee (SPF) has received requests regarding the use of the Playing Field for private functions.

Previously, after complaints from villagers this usage had been limited, but following some new requests, the Committee has decided to allow a further trial of private functions, subject to strict parameters.

A maximum of three private functions a year will be allowed for the benefit of villagers only on a first come, first served basis. This is for functions involving music in the marquee.

Use of both the Playing Field (and the marquee) will involve costs/donations which will assist the Committee in overcoming the shortfall in basic funding of both the Playing Field and Ridgley's Field where we are faced with significant increases in insurance and basic maintenance costs and falling levels of financial support from the Parish Council and other sources.

All events will be subject to a strict music curfew from 11.30pm with the marquee to be vacated by 12.00 midnight. Costs must be paid in advance and a Security Deposit will be held and forfeited in the event that conditions are not met. All such functions will be required to buy any alcohol from the King William IV (in accordance with the covenant on the Field). Parking may be available subject to ground conditions and strict control of any allocated parking area. Obviously all hirings would be expected to comply with any Local Authority environmental regulations (e.g. decibel limits) and health and safety requirements of the SPF. Hirers will also be responsible for the removal of any litter and making good any damage.

It is intended that during any private functions the bulk of the Playing Field shall always remain available for general village use.

Community hedge

In January 2009 several villagers and also children from Speen School planted 200m of hedge alongside the much-used footpath that runs from Water Lane to North Dean. The intention is to replace the current rusty barbed wire fence and provide a habitat for wild-life.

As you can see from the photo, the hedge is coming on quite well but growth has been slower than hoped for due to two cold dry Springs. As always, weeds and grasses have thrived and I recently spent time clearing the hedglings so we can see what we have.



Water Lane footpath hedge (with Ribbon)

There are some gaps which will be replanted this winter (courtesy of a hedging pack donated by the Woodland Trust). In a few years we should be able to lay the hedge to form a stock-proof barrier. Both are opportunities for volunteers who like hedging.

John Holmes
488420

Nick Higgins
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Wildlife Watch

By Peter Symonds

Changing patterns of wildlife distribution have again been apparent in and around Speen during the Summer and early Autumn.

Roe Deer have been recorded in one or two gardens around the village with sightings from Irene Clark and John Radford in Chapel Hill. One female that I watched during August had two fawns with her that would have been about three months old.

Glis glis numbers seem to have been booming with large numbers (circa 40) being removed from one loft alone and numerous records of individuals being caught by village cats.



With regard to birds there has again been a report of Parakeets in the village. A pair were recorded by Les Brown, squawking distinctively in his orchard in Spring Coppice Lane in September. These Rose-ringed Parakeets are quite common along the Thames in Maidenhead and Marlow as they spread from their original escape site near Barnes. Many hundreds still return every night to roost close to Barnes rugby club in London. They are now regularly being recorded at bird feeders in Beaconsfield and it may not be long before they are common place around Speen as their numbers increase quite rapidly.

Whilst we regularly have House Martins and a few Swallows around the village I was not previously aware of Swifts being resident in the village. However during the Festival I was pleased to learn from Kate Laughton that Swifts were nesting at the Old George close to the village school.

An interesting report of a rarity in the vicinity was of an Azure Tit in Naphill which would have drawn twitchers and birders from all parts of the country. The bird which is very like a pale coloured Blue Tit was eventually determined to be an escaped hybrid cage bird but nonetheless it demonstrates how unusual birds can be found almost anywhere. Another interesting report was of a very pale coloured badger at Great Hampden reported by Henry Lane on one of his early morning journeys.

Other news partly associated with wildlife relates to College Plantation, the wood to the north-east of the village. This 39 acre woodland has previously been the source of substantial environmental problems. I can confirm that it has now been purchased by a number of villagers and we can guarantee that it will no longer be the source of any such nuisances. The woodland is being split into various private ownerships at present. A significant area that I am buying myself will be managed as an undisturbed wildlife refuge/reserve.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds 01494 488016, or email: symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk



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District Council & HS2 News - November 2011



District Council News

Recent major Council initiatives include development of future plans for the Town Centre and the Wycombe Sports Centre Site Development project, where an exhibition of the proposals to redevelop the Handy Cross facility by 2015 has been on display at the Council Offices from 31st October to 18th November.

A key project which is scheduled to come to fruition on 12th December is the tenant-led transfer of WDC housing stock to Red Kite Housing. This directly impacts only a relatively small number of people in the ward, but represents a major step in providing improvements for both tenants and the Council.

The 2012 budget review process is getting underway and by the time you read this, I will have been involved in several meetings as a member of the Improvement and Review Commission. Given the reduced Central Government funding for next year and beyond, it is expected that some lively and challenging discussions will take place.

Mel Foster
mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk
01949 488905
District Councillor
Lacey Green, Speen & The Hampdens

HS2 Update post-TSC revision 10th November
 The fight against HS2 continues and is entering a pivotal phase, as the Government is expected to announce the results of the Public Consultation held earlier this year on 14th December.

Efforts since the Consultation ended on 29th July have been on raising public awareness of HS2 issues, particularly off route. 650 MPs may ultimately have to vote on whether HS2 goes ahead in a Hybrid Bill, so even if every single MP on the route voted against, there are well over 550 who will have to be persuaded!

Crucially, several more Councils have now joined



the 51M group opposing HS2, there is growing influential evidence and opinion against the project from groups who cannot be dismissed as NIMBYs.

Key events have included a debate in the House of Commons on 13th October, and a related demonstration in Parliament Square, which I know many local people attended, a concerted PR campaign managed by the Action Groups Against High Speed Two, (AGAHST) and an ongoing campaign to alert friends, family and business associates around the country to the sheer folly of HS2.

The Transport Select Committee HS2 report was published on 8th November and, whilst supporting the concept of high speed rail overall, raises many significant issues with current HS2 plans, including questioning the business case, the value of 'time saved', the lack of an overall transport strategy, carbon reduction claims which don't bear scrutiny and many other points.

As this is a 'mixed bag' of findings, the Government may choose to interpret the report as endorsement to press on and just note the points raised, or use the report as a reason to back out of the scheme now. We will know which option they took in December.

Next steps and action plans - if the Government remains committed to HS2 - are being developed.

Mel Foster
hs2@speenbucks.org.uk
01494 488670
Chair
Speen Area Action Group against High Speed 2

County Council News - September 2011



Responsibility for Public Health is returning to the County Council who, together with the District Councils, will be expected to deliver on preventative measures designed to improve the County's physical and mental health and tackle issues such as those related to drugs and drink. All of this will present some very challenging times for the Councils charged with delivering better health for everybody.

Health changes are beginning to take shape in Bucks with the new arrangements for considering strategy being undertaken by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. This board first met on 12th May 2011 and includes representatives from the County and District Councils, the PCT, user groups and the GP's Consortium who, together, will map out the priorities for health delivery in Bucks. The major change will come in 2013 when the PCT will cease to exist and the new arrangements will be in place for health delivery.

Hospital Trusts are again looking to find new ways to deliver their services more effectively. In September the NHS started on a process of consultation that will affect us all. The initial work undertaken was done to identify those specific services which will be formally consulted upon early next year. Views on areas such as A&E delivery were sought which could lead to radical change in the way we access these services. It is therefore very important that when the formal process of consultation starts you have your say on any proposed change.

For Transportation improvement of the local roads has remained a priority so it is good to see improvements coming through. The Rignall Road has seen work done to improve the surfacing and the long awaited works to Bryants Bottom Road and Flowers Bottom Lane have been completed.

This work followed the release of more money, circa £3M, for road repairs to boost a 2 year programme. Discussion took place with the local members for each Council Division to identify five priority roads for repair. For my Division (Icknield and Bledlow) this has been difficult as it covers seven parishes and has more than seventy roads, many of which do not conform to the standard you would expect. The choice was clear that only those roads which carry substantial volumes of traffic and/or were in poor condition

could be considered. The roads eventually chosen are: Bryants Bottom Road, Hampden; Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge; Wigans Lane, Bledlow; Haw Lane, Bledlow; Glade Road/Honor End Lane, Hampden; and Cadsden Road, Cadsden. This does add to six but as some are shared with other Divisions an exception was agreed.

Pot Holes and other defects remain important so please report any you see. The number to call is 0845 230 2882 or go on-line at www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport where you can also report problems and track the work.

High Speed 2 has been given a renewed focus with Martin Tett leading on the issue. 17 Local Authorities have now joined forces to fight the proposals with your County Council taking the lead. The group is named the 51M Group which represents the cost in millions to each and every parliamentary constituency. It certainly has made an impact and had its voice heard at the HS2 Parliamentary Select Committee where Martin was invited to give evidence.

If you have a concern about County Council services my email address is progerson@buckscc.gov.uk and my telephone number 01494 488315. So if you would like to contact me, I will do what I can to help.

*Paul Rogerson
County Councillor*



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