



Issue 55
Summer/Autumn 2012



Speen and North Dean News



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NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (56) is due by Sunday 13 January 2013.

The planned publication date is during January/February. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (download from the SNDN website www.speenbucks.org.uk). Send to editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk.

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Month	Event	Where	Contact
August			
Wednesday 22 nd	Village Lunch	KW4, 12.00 noon	Gloria Holmes 488420
Thursday 23 rd	Marquee erecting	Speen Playing Field, 5.00pm on	Jem Symondson 488654
September			
Thursday 6 th	WI. Living with Thalidomide	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Saturday 8 th	Speen BMX/scooter show	Speen Playing Field, 5.30pm	Amanda Dobbs 488887
Tuesday 11 th	MPS, Archery	Walter's Ash, 6.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Saturday 15 th	Village Hall Ramble	Speen Village Hall, 2.00pm	June Pilkington 488071
Sunday 16 th	Blue Grass Band	North Dean Village Hall, 12 noon	Christine Symondson 488654
Saturday 22 nd	'Ladies of Cranford'	Speen School, 7.30pm	Cat Cook 488939
Wednesday 26 th	Village Lunch	KW4, 12.00 noon	Gloria Holmes 488420
Sunday 30 th	Family Sunday Lunch	North Dean Village Hall	Julie White 562311
October			
Wednesday 3 rd	MPS	Black Horse, Lacey Green, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 4 th	WI. Japan	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Friday 5 th	SG Chilli Evening	Lacey Green Village Hall	Diana Summers 488344
Saturday 27 th	Theatre in the Villages. 'Opera Dudes'	North Dean Village Hall, 8.00pm	Julie White 562311
November			
Friday 2 nd	Fireworks Display	North Dean Playing Field	Andrew Howard 563980 Jez Wicks 07802 476712
Saturday 3 rd	Speen Bonfire Night	Speen Playing Field 6.00pm	Christian Nagele 488247
Wednesday 7 th	MPS	The Whip, Lacey Green, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Friday 9 th /10 th	SG Christmas Market	KW4, 10.30am	Diana Summers 488344
December	Carol Concert	North Dean Village Hall	Megan Chinn

I sincerely hope that by the time you read this we have seen the start of an "Indian summer" with some really warm and dry days.



There have been a huge number of events cancelled due to the weather but in Speen and North

Dean we seem to have been lucky and have a strong resolve to not let a little rain dampen our spirits - so well done to all. As always in the villages, there's plenty happening and on page 4 you'll find dates and events.

In the last issue we inserted a questionnaire to ask your views on the content of the magazine. We had a good response and, it appears that overall, you're quite happy with things.

Lastly, is there anyone out there who might like to join the magazine team to handle the production side of things? Jude has done a tremendous job but would like to hand over the "baton".

James Hazeldine

Speen and North Dean News **reader questionnaire**

Many thanks to the thirty-one readers who completed the questionnaire in the last edition of SNDN. We are grateful for all your ideas and feedback.

We did the survey to see if we were hitting the mark and how we could improve the magazine. Based on this admittedly rather small sample of our readership - we print 500 copies - our readers are a dedicated and contented lot. Most of them read most of the magazine, and a third say they read it from cover to cover. All but one thought the magazine was about the right length, the single dissenter wishing it was longer.

What do readers like? Not surprisingly, the most popular feature is village news, but our regular columnists have a loyal fan base too, particularly Peter Symonds's Wildlife Watch and Down on the Farm by Gill Kent. Local history is also in demand, and some people wanted more of it.

Other ideas suggested were small ads for local

items for sale and more coverage of cycling and of environmental matters. One reader wondered when the magazine would be available in a digital format - I think our answer might be when we have a volunteer to make it happen! However, for back issues go to <http://www.speenbucks.org.uk/speen-north-dean-news/back-issues-of-the-news/>

Anyway, we are pleased that we seem to be doing OK, and will look into the helpful suggestions made.

Tom Dent

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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Wildlife Watch

The early Summer (if one can call it that) period has produced some interesting records. Caroline Cranley reported watching Badger cubs at play outside a sett on the periphery of the village at about 4.00pm one afternoon in May. Hares were reported from the orchard off Grubbins Lane by Ceri Syner but are more readily seen in the Flowers Bottom area. Roe Deer have bred again in the locality with two separate young recorded on 26 May in the village and also about half a mile away. Other interesting reports include a Stoat in Spring Coppice Lane chasing young Rabbits noted by Les Brown and further afield a Polecat was seen by Jeremy Symondson at Hughenden Manor.

Interesting breeding records for birds include what I believe may be the first success of the local Mandarin Ducks who reared one young at a pond about a mile from Speen. In College Plantation, two Tawny Owl chicks were recorded in early May and were still present in June, albeit I am not sure that they have survived the cold wet conditions. Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Nuthatches also raised young successfully in the same wood. In my own garden, young fledged from four boxes of Blue Tits and two boxes of Great Tits, albeit some of the young fledglings were picked off by Jays and Magpies as soon as they emerged. On my garden pond, my visiting Mallard eventually tried out a Duck box set on a small island and laid nine eggs. Incubation proceeded for three weeks but then it seems that a Fox must have trapped and killed the mother in the box almost as the eggs must have been due to hatch. Kate Laughton reported the return of Swifts to their house, the Old George, whilst the O'Briens had five pairs of House Martins feeding young in Woodview Drive.

Our own garden has seen a lot of colour with regular visits from up to six Pheasants and two Red-Legged Partridge whilst Bullfinches have become regulars at our bird table. My other bird records include a Cuckoo at Great Hampden in early June and a Parakeet flying through North Dean. I also photographed a Barn Owl first reported to me by Adrian Farley near the village during part of June. Henry Lane provided an interesting account of a Sparrowhawk taking a Collared Dove in his garden, which was itself then subject to an attack by a Red Kite. Finally a Quail was reported from Loosley Row during May.



The weather has not been good for sun loving reptiles but a large Slow Worm was recorded in Coleheath Bottom in May whilst the remains of a headless Grass Snake were found on my back lawn in June.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds
488016

symonds@speen10.freeserve.co.uk



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The advertisement for Solinium features a photograph of a white house with a dark roof, covered in blue solar panels. The sky is blue with white clouds. In the top right corner, the Solinium logo is displayed, consisting of the word 'solinium' in a sans-serif font, with 'THE SOLAR LOGISTICS COMPANY' in smaller text below it, and a stylized yellow flower icon to the right. A large, yellow, starburst-shaped call to action is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Call us NOW for your FREE survey'. A yellow banner at the bottom of the image contains contact information. On the left side of the banner, there are logos for REA, a blue circular logo, and a red cross logo. The main text on the banner is 'Call us on 01494 455571 or visit www.perfectsensesolar.co.uk'. To the left of this text, a small block of text provides the company's address: 'Solinium Ltd, 7 The Valley Centre, Gordon Road, High Wycombe, HP13 6EQ'. A line of text in the upper left of the image reads 'Now that you get paid for being green installing Solar makes perfect sense!'.

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Theatre in the Villages returns to North Dean Village Hall

The Committee of North Dean Village Hall is proud to announce the return of Theatre in the Villages again this year.

We have been lucky enough to secure **The Opera Dudes** - an unlikely duo comprising a posh former Cambridge scholar and an ex-builder turned international operatic tenor.

Tim Lole and Neil Allen combine their musical and vocal pedigrees with an injection of humour and charm. Don't be surprised to find your feet tapping, your sides splitting and your heart breaking. Neil and Tim always go the extra mile to ensure their audience has a great time.

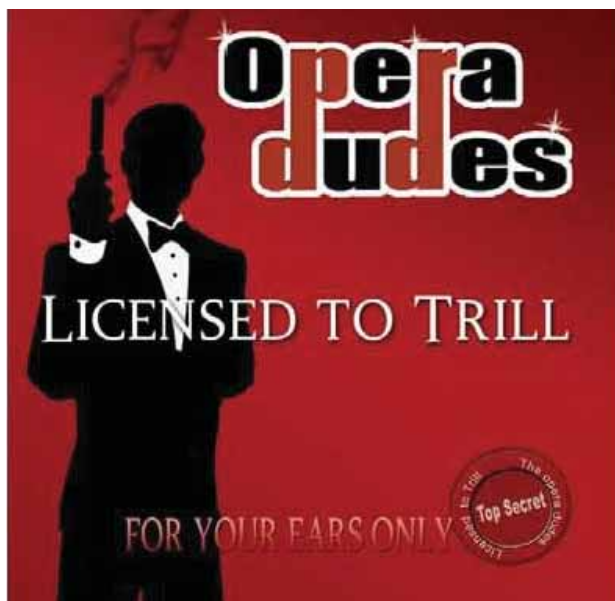
The show is **Licensed to Trill** - starring two intrepid singing agents - code-names Posh & Bricks.

"This fearless pair chart their journey through a variety of musical styles, always on the lookout for their evil nemesis, Donald Duck. This unique cocktail of funny stories, sing-alongs and heart-rending music will leave you both shaken and stirred."

Show date: Saturday 27 October, 8pm.
Tickets £10.00 - available from Julie White 01494 562311.

Having seen Tim and Neil 'in action' at a recent show case evening, I can virtually guarantee you will have a fun-filled evening. The balance of slapstick humour, audience participation and great singing combine to make this a thoroughly entertaining show.

*Julie White
Committee Member, NDVH*



Speen Craft Fair

The setting up of this year's Speen Group's Craft Fair was complicated by the fact that we were pleased to accommodate more sideshows than planned but we managed to shift tables round as the exhibitors were arriving. We welcomed back a number of popular stallholders and they were joined by some new faces; everyone was comfortably fitted in adding to the variety of crafts displayed. There was a lively atmosphere as people chatted with friends from previous years.



We were fortunate to have a number of helpers who did stalwart work on the teas and manned the entrance table. Ann James and Maureen Laing ran their ever popular quilting stall. They make every item on their stall with material mostly donated by friends and all their profit goes to the hospices which, thanks to their hard work, raises about half the total funds. Our own Loiz Bale exhibited some pictures which were much admired and David Clay sold some of his delicious local honey.

We raffled a beautiful hand crafted doll's house which had been donated to us by the maker and the lucky winner lives in Prestwood.

The fair got off to a slow start and the numbers of entrants were down a little. This was due to the weather, which had finally improved giving people time to catch up with all the garden chores put off over the previous weeks. We still managed to make a good profit which means we should be able, later this year, to give each of the four hospices we support a sizeable annual donation thanks to all your help.

Speen Marquee

By the time you read this our village owned marquee will have been used for the Home of Rest for Horse's 'Help for Heroes' day, the Diamond Jubilee Tea Party, Funday sports, a week of School activities, the PTA Ball, Speen Fete, the SG Craft Fair, North Dean Fete and three private functions. An essential village resource!

It has not been good weather for the uppings and downings - it rained on every occasion except North Dean! The marquee is looking a tad muddy now. Our recent acquisitions of a dedicated trailer, the Wacker and a stake puller helped make each hiring go smoothly.

Each hiring relies on volunteers to help. We have a very loyal core but would welcome some additions. It is not that hard work, you meet your fellow villagers and there is a drink at the KW4 after. Why not give it a go next year - watch for the emailed call.

John Holmes

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Speen Village Fete

Seven o'clock on the morning of the fete (14th July) saw yet another downpour on an already saturated playing field. The marquee had been put up the previous Wednesday, thanks to the invaluable help of the young boys involved with the scooters and we were now ready to prepare the field for the entertainment.

The fete was opened at 2 o'clock by His Honour Christopher Tyrer, a retired judge. He is Chair of the Steering Group of the charity we supported this year called 'New Leaf'. It assesses prisoners about to be released and provides mentoring and support services to help with housing, family, health and employment issues.

The afternoon started with a Fancy Dress parade, where the children circled the arena in a variety of colourful and original outfits. This was followed by music from the **Speen New Orleans Feet Warmers** provided by our very own Martin Hart. They played familiar and lively Dixieland style jazz numbers during the afternoon, which set the feet tapping, lifted the spirits and added to the general buzz of expected excitement around the field. The next event was the Country dancing by the children from the village school. They gave a magnificent display and showed off their skills in front of the large audience.



This year we reverted to a traditional fete with a wide variety of sideshows but sadly, due to the soggy conditions we couldn't offer the tractor rides, which have become so popular. As our main attraction we were fortunate to acquire the services of the North Bucks Ferret Club. They explained a little about these fascinating animals and ran a number of races throughout the afternoon. This seemed to be an extremely popular event as large groups surrounded their arena every time a race was run.



Towards the end of the afternoon it was a great pleasure to welcome to the field the village boys, who were keen to show off their skills with scooters and bikes. They gave a display in the main arena and amazed the audience with their stunts. Look out for a show they have coming up later in the summer.



The afternoon concluded with a Tug of War, which left some egos shattered but had the audience cheering and provided a lively end to the day.

Despite the disappointing weather the fete was able to raise significant funds which will go to the village organisations and our nominated charity. We are extremely grateful to all those who helped with setting up and running the sideshows, it could not have happened without their enthusiastic support and we hope that those who attended on the afternoon enjoyed their day.



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North Dean Diamond Jubilee Tree Planting



Gill and Jim Kent, residents of North Dean for 50 years, standing by a copper beech gifted to North Dean by Hughenden Parish Council and planted by Jim and his grandson, Rob



HM the Queen looking a bit grumpy because she missed the tree planting

Speen and North Dean Toddler Group

As I write this we have enjoyed a good few days of glorious sunshine; however last term saw so much rain our Toddler Group summer party had to be held inside! Even so a great time was had by all and the smallest babies in our group joined the bigger toddlers at the table for a delicious picnic lunch.



We are a small toddler group who meet every Tuesday morning during term time from 10am-ish to midday at North Dean village hall. We are always looking for new families to come and join us.

It is great way to meet other parents in the local villages and the children often become close friends moving on to Pre School and Infant School together.

We welcome all parents from Speen, North Dean and surrounding villages with babies and toddlers aged from birth to 3 years.

Refreshments are served by the mums every week and a variety of play equipment is on offer for the children, ranging from ride ons to role play to colouring crayons.

If you would like to join us please feel free to come along any Tuesday morning during term time. We are a friendly bunch.

Any donations of unwanted baby and toddler toys gratefully received!

For further info please contact Alex Allan on 489838 or 07776 250778 or alex_bloor@yahoo.co.uk

What is the object below?

This object was found in Monkton Wood by Andy Thompson. See page 19 for the answer.



Have you got your Risborough Rewards Card yet?



Your local Risborough Rewards scheme is going from strength to strength so if you haven't already got your card, don't delay. Access great discounts now.

The scheme rewards customers who choose to shop locally by giving them access to permanent discounts and special offers. Look out for the window stickers and special offer posters in shop windows or use the website www.RisboroughRewards.co.uk to see what discounts are available. As a card holder you can also access Big Brand discounts of 5-30% on supermarket shopping, department stores, days out, theatre vouchers, DIY stores, holidays and even cars.

For every £20 card bought, £10 goes into a community fund so if you buy a card you are not only supporting your local economy but also community projects, and saving money on your everyday purchases. If you are over 65 years old you can get your card for just £5! You will receive vouchers worth up to £80 with your card, plus you can get a Leisure Card from Risborough Springs which gives you 30% off fitness and swimming courses and classes, just that would normally cost £23.50; so your card makes your money back in no time. Where would you use your card?

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The Chiltern; The Old Plow Speen; George and Dragon; Daws Hill Vineyard; Richkin Builders.

Apply for your card at The Risborough Information Centre or in your favourite Risborough shop. If you are interested in getting your business on the scheme or buying cards for your staff in support of your local economy, contact catcook@waitrose.com for more information.

Broadband

If your current broadband speed doesn't meet your needs you can do something about it today by visiting www.superfastforbucks.org and backing your local county council's campaign to bring superfast broadband to Buckinghamshire.

These days it's not uncommon for households to have more than one way of accessing the internet - be it through a computer, tablet, smartphone or games console. But standard broadband cannot always cope with the requirements placed on it by modern families, who like to use the internet to do a variety of things - from watching catch up TV, streaming films, uploading photos, or enjoying online gaming.

With superfast broadband, multiple devices can be online at any one time and still enjoy high speed connectivity.

Unfortunately from town to town and even street to street, internet connection speeds vary significantly across Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Business First have secured government funding to improve access in areas which currently have no broadband access or suffer very slow speeds.

Registering your demand for superfast broadband will only take a couple of minutes and won't cost a penny. You're simply helping Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Business First demonstrate to broadband providers that there is a strong demand for superfast connectivity here in the county. If you are unable to register online please call 0845 370 8090 or 01296 395000.

Register by 1 September 2012 and you will be entered into a free prize draw for a chance to win an iPad kindly donated by Buckinghamshire Business First. More information, including answers to frequently asked questions, is available on www.superfastforbucks.org. Details about which areas will benefit from our government funding and when improved broadband access will be rolled out in Buckinghamshire will be published on the website as soon as we know, so please check the website for updates.

Down on the Farm

In 50 years of farming I cannot remember a season like this one. This excuses all the mistakes one makes, as one has never been in a similar situation before! Just when we were preparing to sow our maize seed in April (maize silage is a most important part of the cows' winter rations) the heavens opened for the next month, making cultivations impossible. After the very dry conditions in March we were able to turn the dairy herd out to graze three weeks earlier than usual, only to bring them in again two weeks later as their feet were poaching (spoiling) all the grass. This 'in out' situation has lasted all summer creating problems for animals and men alike.



Neither crops nor livestock have flourished in this summer's weather

Fortunately a short let up in the rain at the end of May allowed us to make a large quantity of grass silage which will probably be our saviour as the pale yellow stunted maize plants will never produce a worthwhile crop. The maize Maze at Lacey Green had to be abandoned as the plants did not grow high enough to make a Maze! Fruit and vegetables have suffered from lack of sunlight and from physical damage caused by heavy rain or hail, and so are going to be very expensive this winter; the wet also encourages moulds and we hear that much of the national wheat crop is infected with a fungus which makes it unsuitable for human consumption.

The better news for us has been the success of the recent national campaign by farmers to obtain a fair price for milk. Having announced a price cut in May, the processors who pasteurise and package the milk then announced another one in July, because they said the supermarkets were squeezing their margins too much. Several years ago the WI tried to highlight the problem but nobody took much notice; however these price cuts meant that most farmers were losing 5p on every litre of milk they produced, a situation which is obviously totally unsustainable; hence the protest demonstration which resulted in an improved split in the margins in the milk supply chain. The farmer's margin still does not make

any allowance for reinvestment so there will have to be further rises. I still cannot understand why one pays more for a pint of bottled water than for a pint of milk!

One way that some farmers could reduce the costs of production is to increase herd size. When a 3,000 cow herd was proposed for Nocton in Lincolnshire every conceivable obstruction was put in the way, although the plans were drawn up by a vet who built and runs a successful 30,000 cow unit in America. The cows would have lived inside all their lives but the standards of care would probably have been superior to those of a small farmer who cannot afford a full time vet on the premises, as was proposed in the above scheme. However, the loss of grazing animals in



the fields is definitely a loss to the environment and we have been encouraged by both the Chiltern Conservation Board and Wycombe District Council to keep our animal outside in the summer to help with their objectives. Without them, floral diversification will suffer. Are the general public prepared to pay more for their milk and help to protect the environment?

Gill Kent

Nick Higgins
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At the time of writing our last update, we had just experienced the hottest, driest March on record and I think some of us were forecasting a glorious summer. Having just returned from the Christian New Wine Conference in Shepton Mallet, I have to report that 15,000 campers were joined in prayer to end the rain!

As we seek to realise our vision to make Speen church even more relevant to the community we serve, and to provide a proper welcome to our visitors, we need to modernise the buildings adjoining the Chapel itself, starting with the provision of a modern kitchen and toilet block. Our initial plans for this project caused some understandable concerns on the part of some villagers, notably around the external appearance of the new buildings. We had an open evening at the Church in May so that these could be properly aired and discussed. After listening carefully to the views expressed, we decided that the plans should be withdrawn in order to take account of some of the many helpful suggestions given. We won't be able to please everyone but we are grateful for the feedback nonetheless. New drawings are in hand which will aim to make the new buildings more sympathetic to the Chapel. These will be available for view on the Church website www.speenchurch.org.

We have now begun our search for a new pastor whom we hope we shall be able to appoint later in the year or early in 2013. In anticipation of the new pastor's arrival, we have drawn up plans to modernise and extend the Manse on Hampden Road. Again these plans, once they are ready for submission for planning approval, will be posted on our website.

Although we do not have a pastor at present, life at the Church continues to be vibrant, diverse and outward looking. In June we welcomed Becky who is our new link missionary based in Kabul, Afghanistan. Becky is helping the poor to learn to read and write English, many of them having been denied any access to basic education under the former Taliban regime.

In July we welcomed Ian Hollman and his family who were on home leave from Nigeria where he is a coordinator for the Wycliff Bible Translators,

helping translate the Bible into the many different languages that exist in that diverse country which is home to the largest population of Christians in Africa. Ian gave us a powerful insight into daily life in Nigeria which is becoming more precarious with the increasing terrorist activities of Boko Haram who are deliberately targeting Christian Churches in Nigeria as they seek to undermine the secular Government of Nigeria and impose Sharia law. Ian reminded us that being a missionary for Jesus does not have to mean living in a distant land spreading the gospel but that it starts at home with our families, friends and neighbours. In this light, Speen Church's continued support of the 24 hour prayer movement in Wycombe is vitally important as we pray for the local community and for those who are ill, bereaved, unemployed, homeless or suffering in some way.

Finally a date for your diaries: following the great success of singer songwriter Rob Halligan's concert at the church in May, his good friend and musician Gareth Davies-Jones will be playing at the Chapel on Friday 12th October. This promises to be a tremendous evening for adults and teenagers. More details will be posted shortly on our website.

Alastair Blundell
488509

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Speen School and PTA

As another year finishes at Speen CofE School we can look back on another very busy, successful and fun filled term.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee provided a great opportunity for the children to dress up in red, white and blue and have a 'street' tea party for lunch in the playground. Lunch was preceded by a standing rendition of God Save The Queen before the children tucked into their full plates of food. They learned about the coronation from Gloria Holmes who spoke of her memories of the day, sharing a neighbour's TV. She then presented each of the children with a commemorative mug which had very kindly been bought by the Playing Fields committee and the PTA.

Once the Jubilee activities were over, Speen Festival emerged in the form of Speen School Fest under the jubilant and enthusiastic direction of Kate Laughton. With the village marquee in place, the sun in the sky and the help of various parents and villagers the children had 3 days of workshops covering art, drama and music and culminating in a great Olympic themed show. The days were shared with children from St John's School which meant the legacy of the Speen Festival was reaching out beyond the bounds of Speen and the Year 2 children who will progress to St John's this September were able to forge early friendships. We also had the grand opening of The Hideaway which is a lovely outdoor seating area, funded by the generous donation of an incredible holiday from The Hideaways Club which was auctioned at last year's Ball. You might have seen the pictures in the Bucks Free Press!

So with the Olympic Torch decorations in place, made by the children during Speen School Fest, the marquee was all set for the School Ball which was, as ever, attended by so many ex-parents of Speen School; huge funds were raised for the PTA through the auction and raffle. It was a great night of Greek food from The Hampden Arms, dancing and fundraising and no one noticed the rain, until we all stepped outside to go home!

The following weekend saw a glorious weekend camping at Brimmers Farm in a beautiful spot just outside Princes Risborough, which is run by two very generous parents at the School. They gave us and Speen Pre-School exclusive use of the campsite where the children enjoyed nature trails, games, walks, campfire marshmallows, BBQ and a bacon buttie breakfast.

Towards the end of term Olympic activities and

the prospect of the inter-school 'Golden Welly' competition fired up the children's competitive spirit to great effect. Lots of proud, and equally competitive, parents cheered on as the children stormed to victory against 7 other local schools in a multi-activity sports competition; a first that left the children basking in the glory of their success and the proud owners of a 'golden welly' trophy for a year.

With the school year drawing to a close, the KS2 children were escorted around High Wycombe on a Worship Trail visiting a mosque, the Kings Centre Church and All Saints Church where they identified the similarities and differences in the various churches and ways of worship. There was also a very excitable trip to Legoland where the children participated in an Atlantis workshop and got to enjoy the submarine delights of the latest undersea ride.

So as another Year 2 leaves Speen School thanks go to all parents and villagers of Speen and North Dean who have supported our many events over this last year. The role of the school as part of the village is highly valued by all children, staff and parents alike; it is very special to be able to give the children such an incredible sense of community so early in their lives. The activities the children get the chance to experience are primarily thanks to the skills, support and generosity of the parents and local supporters of the school and we thank you all. We said good bye to Mrs Fitt and Mrs Hughes who have left the school and we wish them every success with their future after 10 and 15 years of dedicated service to the School and a generation of children. As retiring chair of the PTA I would like to add my personal thanks to the unending generosity of the parents for their time, ideas, skills, cakes and for supporting all the activities, enabling so many after school clubs to happen and sustaining such a vibrant social life for the parents and villagers all centred on our little school. It is truly a very special place. I wish Tessa Lumsden every success and support as she takes over the role of PTA Chair from next term.

The next School year starts on Thursday 6th September which marks the start of the School's 150th year, let the celebrations commence.

Dates for your diary:

Theatre in the Villages initiative comes to Speen with a production of *Ladies of Cranford* 22 September at Speen School at 8pm. Tickets from Speen Stores.

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Letters to the Editor

Greetings,

I have been having an e-mail exchange with someone who was living in Hughenden Valley when a plane crashed in North Dean in 1945. He now lives in New Zealand and remembers the crash taking place.

According to this website <http://aviation-safety.net/wikibase/wiki.php?id=17469> there was only one person on board who was flying Mosquito HK245 at North Dean, Bucks when it crashed on 30.4.45 Flg Off (Plt) William McCabe, DFM (25). The plane seems to have been on a training flight from RAF Cranfield. I have been told of some stories that seem to have been common knowledge over the years but don't seem to accord with the facts. One was that a local boy pulled two airmen from the wrecked plane but they died afterwards in Wycombe Hospital. For that the boy got a medal but again there is nothing about it anywhere and as he was at the RGS High Wycombe at the same time as me, in fact in my class, I am sure that a great deal would have been heard of the event. The boy's name was Felix Cribb.

Do you have any information on the event or know where it might be possible to look into this?

Regards,

David Wiltshire
3 Woodlane Gardens
Flackwell Heath
HP10 9ER
01628 527223

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to share a Good Thing.

Last week I caught the 9 o'clock Community Bus to Risborough station for the 9.43 to Marylebone. It arrived there, exactly as timetabled, at 9.20 - so in plenty of time to buy tickets, coffee etc.

What a brilliant service!

*Di Rainbow
Speen*

Dear Editor,

I am writing to tell you about Macmillan Cancer Supports 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2012.'

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is our biggest fundraising event of the year. In 2011, 51,000 people signed up to Coffee Morning, raising a record £10 million, this year we hope to raise even more!

Coffee mornings are a fantastic opportunity to engage the community, boost staff morale and encourage internal networking. It can also be a perfect excuse for a get together with all your friends and family! Whether you choose to do coffee and cake with your colleges, a raffle, a book sale or an all day event in your local community centre or library, every penny made makes a massive difference to people suffering with cancer.

This year our World's Biggest Coffee Morning will be held on the 28th September. We would love you to get involved in any way you can! Even if you are not able to hold a coffee morning yourself, then perhaps you would be willing for us to send you some leaflets and posters to display and hand out on behalf of Macmillan to promote the event?

Please let me know if you are keen to be involved and would like to register for Coffee Morning. Once registered, we send you a starter pack containing all the essentials you need to get started. (Bunting, doilies, balloons!) Alternatively, you can register online with the following address: <http://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/Home.aspx#.UBhHYUdW1mo>

If you are unable to hold an event but would be able to put up some posters for us or hand out some leaflets please let me know and I would be happy to drop some off to you. This would be very much appreciated.

Looking forward to your reply!

Warm Regards

*Sophie Panting
Macmillan WBCM Intern Ox and Bucks
SPanting@macmillan.org.uk*

Mystery object (page 13): It's the intelligent part of a weather balloon which had fallen to earth after completing its task of sending back weather data . . . the balloon was seen too high in a tree and this was found underneath.



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Speen Diamond Jubilee Tea Party

It rained, it rained and it was cold! But we think that everyone present agreed that on 5th June the village celebrated our Queen's Diamond Jubilee in a very appropriate manner.

A small team of reps from every village organisation first came together last October. The agreed intention was to invite everyone in the village to a communal tea party - and it seemed to work. The early estimated attendance was 300, but on the day over 400 packed into the hastily erected village marquee and adjacent gazebos.

Villagers brought their own food and chairs, and also their teapots! We had a trumpet fanfare to open the proceedings; a fancy dress competition (a Royal look-alike, princes and princesses); a best dressed table competition; a village sing-along (concluding with the Royal Anthem); and commemorative mugs for village children.



The total cost of about £500 was covered by generous grants from the Speen Shop fund, Bucks CC and Wycombe DC.

Many thanks to all the organisers and helpers, and to all the villagers who joined in, despite the rain. It was a great occasion which will go down in the annals of Speen folklore (see the photo collage in the KW4).

John Holmes



Speen WI

Our talk in June about the Welsh cattle drovers didn't sound all that interesting but what a wonderful speaker was Mr Smith. Did you know that Coleheath Bottom was a drovers' road? And what a long haul the drovers had. We were enthralled.

Susie Marshall came in July with a beautiful doll depicting Georgina the Phenominal Duchess and Mrs Deakin gave a lovely talk and slide show on Shackleton's Antarctica.

We have also had some lovely outings to gardens with the garden club. The first two were in Berkshire, very near Kate Middleton's parents and the other one to Postcombe, where we had a very nice cream tea! The weather was kind to us on both occasions, which is a small miracle for this year.

Our next meetings include Living with Thalidomide with Miss V Barrett on 6th September, Japan with Mrs Lilwall-Smith on 4th October, Annual meeting in November and Christmas Crackers on 6th December.

We look forward to seeing any new faces at our meetings.

Barbara Collett
488348

Speen Village Hall

It has been a busy time for the Village Hall. We have recently hosted our first Wedding Reception for many years as well as continuing with our regular bookings for Pre-School, WI, Bridge Club, Table Tennis, Garden Club, Birthday Parties and Anniversaries.

The Hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates and anyone who is interested in hiring the Hall should contact our booking Secretary - Sue Taylor on 488500.

We are planning a Village Hall Ramble on Saturday 15th September commencing at 2.00pm from the Village Hall. Dogs are welcome on the walk and there will be tea and home made cakes following the ramble at 4.00pm. Anyone who would like more information should contact June Pilkington on 488071.

We are also planning a film show and meal for October.

On Saturday 1st December we will be holding our popular Christmas Market commencing at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. If anyone has suitable gift ware or Christmas items or is willing to help please contact Margaret Groves on 488180.

Stan Bale has recently resigned after many years of service on the Village Hall Management Committee and we are now looking for a replacement. The task is not onerous - four meetings a year- and anyone interested should contact me on 488180.

Thanks to the generosity of the Pre-School the exterior has been painted and it is planned to have the interior redecorated during the summer break.

The income from lettings barely covers our expenses so please consider using your Village Hall for future events.

Bill Groves
Chairman
Speen Village Hall Management Committee

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An historic guided walk at Pigotts

The Speen Heritage Group had organised their inaugural event for an evening before the Olympics started and when nearly every day had some rain falling at some time. A mixed group of 26 gathered on Thursday 26th July at 7:00pm for what had been billed as a "Heritage Walk around Pigotts". Tickets were booked at the Fete two weeks previous. Those attending were mainly from Speen, but included a few guests - one from France, and even one from Gerrards Cross. If you have never been to Pigotts, it is a fascinating place, full of local history.

Our guide, Nick Wheeler Robinson, had no sooner introduced us to the first building than he strode outside with his characteristic "Let's go" and marched us off into the woods.



Now, as we all know, the beech woods of the Chilterns were used by the Bodgers as the material for making chair legs - you may have seen the demonstration at this year's Fete - however, Nick reminded us that this was only after the Industrial Revolution started. You probably saw the idyllic countryside life depicted in the opening ceremony of the Olympics before the coal fired factories and machines took over. The people of the Chilterns were the fuel suppliers to the metropolis of London. We felled the trees, logged them, and carted them down to the Thames to be transported into London. It was only when the coal came down from Newcastle that another income generating use had to be found for all of that wood.

Our first stop was at a hollow in the ground. This was not a feature of nature, nor the result of someone digging for chalk or clay. This was a carefully constructed tool to assist the logging of trees - it was in fact a 'saw pit'. The hand sawing of timber was carried out by two men using a



two-handed saw - one stood at the top, and the other underneath in the saw-pit. It is suggested that this is the origin of the phrases 'top dog' and 'underdog'.

Nick is a fascinating guide, full of information which he conveyed to us as we walked round. Near to the edge of the woods we could look through the trees over Bryants Bottom Road and the Gate Pub towards Denner Hill. Nick took us back towards the North Dean side of the woods and pointed out one of the many boundary markers that are located in this ancient woodland - a pudding stone, probably carried from Denner Hill. Then with a final "Let's go", we were ushered back into the Pigotts site itself and the buildings where Eric Gill moved in 1928 and where he produced some of his best known works including the controversial figures of Prospero and Ariel on the front façade of the BBC in London (1932). He designed his own head and foot stone to mark where he is buried in Speen Churchyard.

Nick showed us round the place, the old chapel (now a workshop) and of great interest to many musicians, the huge orchestra room, built by Nick's father, Bernard, after he moved his Music Camp to Pigotts in 1966. Never having been to one of these music camps, it was fascinating to learn about the ethos of the camps. Music-making is paramount. Those who attend are expected to make it their first priority. Conditions are kept



basic, not to say Spartan, which has two marvellous effects: stressing the music and sense of communing with friends; and encouraging the young and, more importantly, young in spirit. All work is shared equally, not just chores like washing up, scrubbing and cleaning, but even carpentry and brick-laying; this fosters a sense of belonging rarely found in such a large musical organisation. It is a testimony to the family spirit of Music Camp that there are so many second and even third-generation Campers.

We finished up, back where we started, for refreshments served by members of the Speen Heritage Group and further insights into the whole area of Pigotts and its inhabitants. The guest from Gerrards Cross was Colin Hughes, chairman of the David Jones Society. David Jones had been a close friend of the Gill family in the 1920s and was a renowned poet, artist and essayist.

It had been a wonderful evening, and should you wish to join the Speen Heritage Group or be kept up to date with any future events they may be organising, please contact Peter Symonds (488016 or by email Symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk). You can also visit the Speen Heritage Group pages on the Village Website at <http://www.speenbucks.org.uk/speen-groups/speen-heritage-group>

Speen Pre-School

Another School year comes to an end

The summer term has been packed with activities and special events.

The children had great fun making decorations for the Jubilee Christmas tree with bunting decorated with handprints and paper plate pictures decorated to look like the Queen. Unfortunately the rain rather dampened the effect. To finish the Jubilee week celebrations the pre-school were pleased to welcome Amanda Dobbs who presented the very special Speen Jubilee mugs to each of the children.

Current and future parents had the opportunity to see displays of the children's work and have a chat with all the staff and committee members at a very successful Open Evening. Next time round we will invite all the villagers to pop in and have a look at the activities the thriving pre-school gets up to.

The children had an enjoyable day at 'big' school joining the older children and staff in the Speen-fest activities beginning our Olympic themed events. The theme continued at our very

traditional Sports Day with all four teams led out by their own torch carrier. We were cheered on by the whole of Speen School during one of the most enjoyable mornings of the year. Everyone received a "winners" medal and certificate and the event was followed by a picnic lunch for the children and a "Pimms & Ploughman's" for the adults.

The annual general meeting took place in July with a review of the year's activities and accounts and election of the committee members. All positions have been filled with a committee of nine trustees managing the pre-school as a charity.

Plans for the weekly Forest school sessions are now taking shape with a couple of trial runs going well. The Playing Fields committee who manage Ridgeley's Field have been very supportive. The aim is for these sessions to run weekly from September. It would be great if local people interested in nature, the outside and wildlife could advise and support our Forest school team. Please contact Jeni Fairey on 488930 for more information.

The school year finished for the children with a beach party and we said a fond goodbye to over half of our children who are heading off to school or pastures new in September. We wish them and their families all the best. For the parents the year ended with a very sociable and delicious meal at the King William.

Over the summer we are working with the village hall committee to fund the redecoration of the village hall. As major tenants we are committed to helping update this space. We are looking for volunteers to help make new curtains to complete this task so if you can help to make one pair please contact either Bill Groves 488180 or myself.

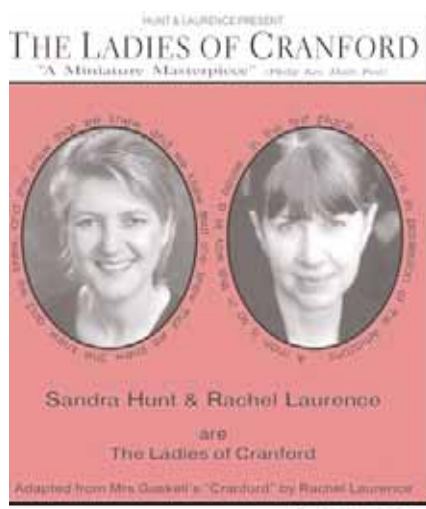
On the 6th and 7th September the staff will be completing a 12 hour accredited paediatric first aid course in the village hall. We have a few spaces available if anyone would like to attend. Please contact me for further details.

Speen Pre-school is open to children from two upwards and we still have a few spaces available for September onwards. If you would like to enquire about a place or receive a prospectus please contact our Admissions Officer, Antonia Winson, on 01494 489848.

Clare Morris
Chair
Clare.morris@mac.com
488553

Theatre in the Villages - Ladies of Cranford

Saturday 22nd September at Speen School



"Ladies of Cranford" is set in a small market town in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign and tells the story of Miss Matty Jenkyns and her friends, ladies of a certain age and position in society. The adventures of the ladies (and one or two of the men!), from burglars and bankruptcy to marriage and magic, are presented in modern dress, with an irresistible mixture of comedy, pathos and astute social comment in this fond and faithful adaptation, which has been touring the UK with great success since 2000.

Adapted from Elizabeth Gaskell's "Cranford" by Rachel Laurence and directed by Richard Stone "A miniature masterpiece" Daily Post, Liverpool
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The Romans are coming

Discover what life was like in Roman Wycombe in a hands-on FREE exhibition at Wycombe Museum.

Find out why the Romans liked to eat garum (a salty sauce made from fish guts), what their houses were like - including the villas on the Rye and at Yewden near Hambleden, and how they spent their free time.

Dress up as a Roman, see the Museum's specially reconstructed Roman toilets, have a go at building a Roman hypocaust and more.

The "Roman" exhibition runs until January 2013 and entry to the exhibition, and museum, is free. Opening times: Monday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm, Sunday: 2pm to 5pm, Bank holidays: closed

Location: Wycombe Museum, Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6PX

For further information www.wycombe.gov.uk/museum, phone 01494 421895 or visit Wycombe Museum on Facebook.

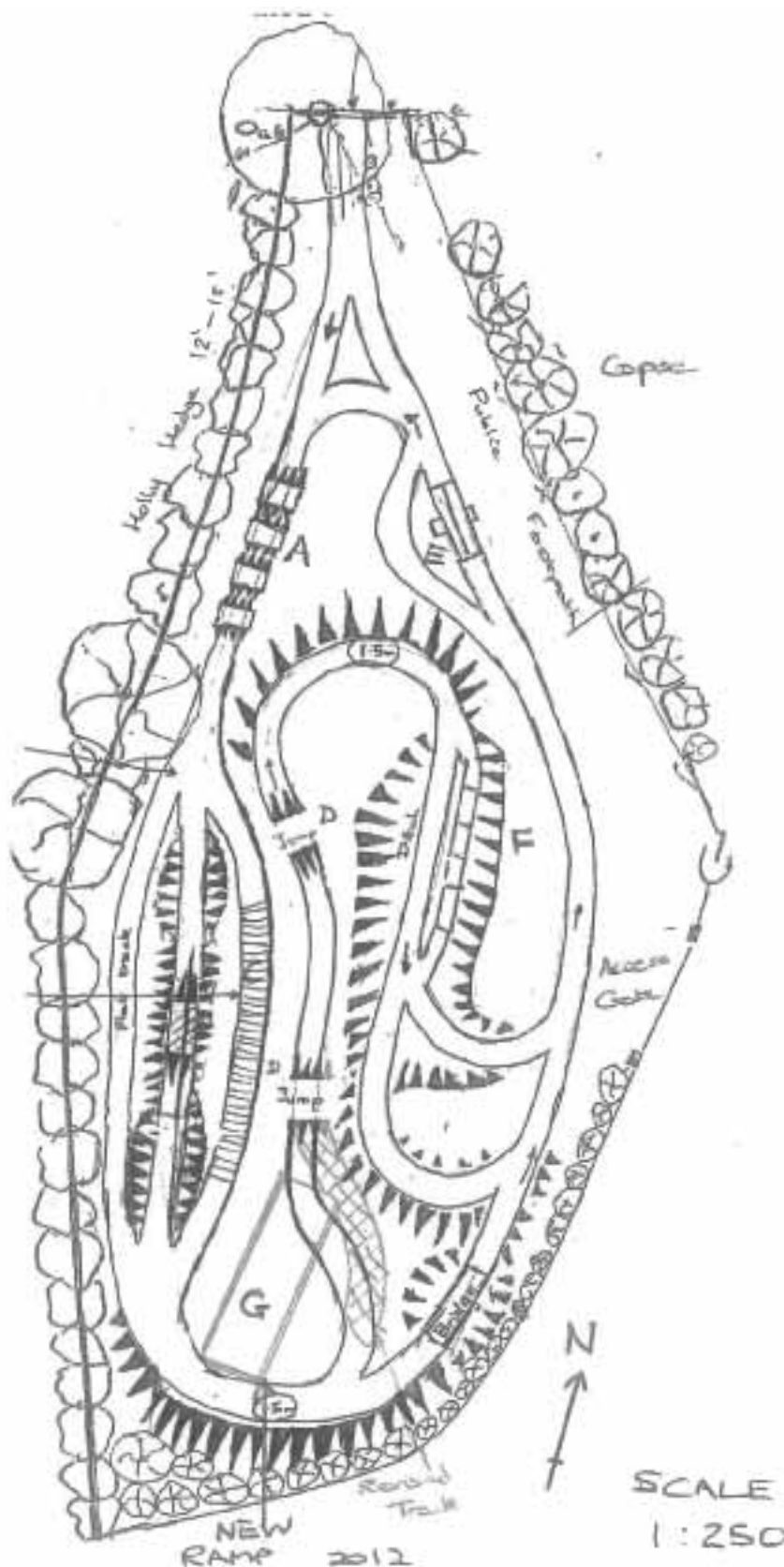
Bike Park Improvements

Many villagers will be conscious that several of the lads in the village are currently risking life and limb performing bike and scooter stunts in Hampden Road.

In an attempt to provide a proper safer venue for this activity, the Speen Playing Fields Committee is currently working on plans for a new ramp to be installed on the Bike Park on Ridgeley's Field as indicated on the adjacent plan.

The intention is to enlarge the hollow at the far end of the bike park, under the main earth bund. The hollow will be lined with a synthetic "Skatelite" surface. The bikers will be able to jump off the ramp surface onto the grass. There will be minimal noise from this design scheme and the area is well screened by the mature hedge and the earth bund.

Funding has already been offered (subject to conditions) by Speen Shop Charities, by certain individual parents and the lads have also undertaken some fund raising themselves. Subject to completing the fund raising we hope that it may be possible to carry out these works towards the end of the year.



Speen Bike Park Features:

- A - Small Roller Jumps
- B - Dips & 'Table-Top' Jump
- C - Raised Broadwalk
- D - Open Jumps
- E - Seesaw
- F - Bouncing Bridge
- G - New Ramp - 2012

29th March 2012 - The day my life was changed

On 29th March 2012, I was sitting on the Olympic plinth in Trafalgar Square eating an egg sandwich and planning to go into the National Gallery after lunch. And then my phone rang.

In 1995 I had been diagnosed with polycystic kidneys. This means that cysts are growing on the surface of the kidneys. Eventually they cover the entire kidneys and cause them to cease functioning. This was a shock as I felt very fit and had no symptoms that anything was wrong. There is no cure but once the kidneys aren't working, I was told that dialysis would keep me alive.

I received regular checks at the Wycombe Hospital branch of the Oxford Renal Unit and over the past seventeen years I have been watching the gradual deterioration of my kidney function. Two years ago, I was told that dialysis would not be far away. The doctors monitored how effectively the kidneys are/were removing the toxins from the body and balanced the numbers against how I was feeling, which was mostly fairly well.

I had choices to make about what kind of dialysis I wanted. Haemodialysis is carried out in hospital, usually for four hours per session, three days a week. Peritoneal dialysis is done at home by the patient, either three times a day or overnight, every night. The pre-dialysis nurse gave me time, information and support to make a decision about what would suit me and my lifestyle. As I was still working, I opted for overnight dialysis at home. I then had a visit from the peritoneal dialysis nurse to my home to give me further information and to check that my accommodation was suitable. The dialysis machine is about the size of an overnight case, so I was told that it would be easier to go away on holiday or for short breaks, as I could take the machine with me.

I also had an appointment with a dietician who advises me about how to make changes to my diet to reduce the levels of potassium and phosphate contained in our food, which my kidneys were no longer removing.

Dairy products had to be limited and I was only allowed half a pint of milk every day. This isn't easy if you start your day with cereal, especially as yoghurt, custard and anything containing milk had to be included in my half pint.

Potatoes had to be peeled and brought to the boil

in cold water. The water was then poured away and the whole process repeated, but this time the potatoes stayed in the water until they were cooked.

I wasn't allowed soup as this was made with meat or vegetable stock. I couldn't have bacon or sausages, coffee or chocolate. Green vegetables had to be boiled not steamed, and there was a long list of fruit and vegetables which were banned. Top of the list were bananas and tomatoes, both of which are high in potassium - you'd be amazed how many things have tomatoes in them. I couldn't make gravy with meat or vegetable stock and was only allowed two portions of vegetables and two of fruit every day. Eating in restaurants or even at friends' homes became a bit of a nightmare! I wasn't allowed wine or beer, but could drink spirits so G and T became my drink of choice.

One year ago, I saw a surgeon at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford who discussed transplants with me. He sent me for further tests to check whether I was suitable to receive a new kidney and I then received a letter saying that my name was now on the national transplant list. The surgeon had told me that once I reached 70, I would not be the highest priority - I was then 68, so time was limited! I reconciled myself to spending the rest of my life on dialysis.

In January 2012, I started dialysis. For various reasons at this time, haemodialysis in hospital was considered most suitable, but I hoped to change to dialysis at home in due course. I was introduced to the dialysis unit at Wycombe Hospital, where the staff were all very welcoming, friendly and efficient. The sessions there ate into my week until I felt that my whole life was revolving around trips to the hospital. The process of dialysis sometimes left me feeling very dizzy, which meant that the rest of the day was taken up with recovering. The usual timetable of my life had to undergo drastic restrictions.

And then, in Trafalgar Square on 29th March, my phone rang and a voice said, "This is the Oxford Transplant Centre. We think we may have a kidney for you. How soon can you get here?" After I had got over the shock and had begun to believe what was happening, with help from my friend Di Rainbow, who was with me, we got to Oxford in record time. Throughout that evening I had tests, answered questions from numerous doctors, saw the anaesthetist and the surgeon, who told me about why he thought I should agree to the transplant. I signed the consent form before he changed his mind!

I went to the operating theatre at 1:30am and was

back on the Transplant Ward by 5:30am. All had gone well. I stayed in hospital for six days being carefully monitored. I was given medication to suppress my immune system to prevent the new kidney being rejected, plus various other medications with different purposes. I came home taking thirteen tablets each morning and six each night. Some of these will be stopped eventually. I have been advised to stay away from anyone with any infection and to avoid crowded places like cinemas, theatres, trains or planes, busy supermarkets etc for at least six months.

But I feel I have my life back. I can eat and drink what I like, go on holiday and begin to live a normal life again.

I cannot express enough my enormous gratitude to the doctors, surgeons and nursing staff, dieticians and pharmacists etc who have been part of what I think is a miracle.

I am also so very grateful to my Speen friends - collectively known to me as 'the kindness of Speen' - two of whom had me to stay after my discharge from hospital, until I felt fit enough to return home. Others have reliably transported me to checkups in Oxford, at first three times a week, until I felt able to drive myself, and even more have sent flowers and cards. Where would we all be without friends!

I give especial thanks to the family of the donor and the donor herself for this opportunity to live life for longer. Transplanted kidneys have a limited life, but I am grateful for every day that the new kidney has given me.

If you have been interested in my journey with kidney disease, please make sure that your name is on the National Organ Register. You never know how you could transform someone's life, as mine has been! Organ Transplant Register - www.organdonation.nhs.uk/

Sheila Tidball

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North Dean Fete

North Dean fete was held on Saturday 28th July; speculation was high on the days before, on the likely weather, but the day dawned bright and fine and it turned out to be a perfect day for a fete.

After many years of being the voice of the fete, David King stepped up to celebrity status to open the Fete for us.

Presentation of the silverware for the competitions followed the opening. Due to the adverse weather during the year, the entries were sparse, but what was lacking in quantity and quality was made up for in enthusiasm. Julie White seemed to be the only one in the village with runner beans, so she swept the board in this category. For the winners of the competitions see separate list.

Keeping to the theme of being a village fete the stalls were aimed to please everyone from the very young to the not so young, with prices to match all pockets. The Committee were pleased to welcome the watch makers, woodworkers, and the cake icing experts, to demonstrate their skills to a captive audience, and to thank them for their time given to attend the fete. Pigotts Band once again entertained and their music provided the perfect background, for people to stand and listen, or enjoy as they walked round the field.

Refreshment was provided as usual by "North Dean Teas", supported by a Bar-B-Q, and ice creams, washed down by a pint or two from the Bar. All the stalls reported being well supported, with the total take being in excess of £4000, with a profit of approx £3,600.

The children's races were a great success, with the children queuing up to take part, and some going home proudly displaying a winners or runners up medal round their neck.

A fete can only be as good as the people who run it; a big thank you to all the committee, and all the helpers who gave their time in setting up the stalls in the week before, for everyone who ran the stalls on the day, and to those who helped clear up after the event.

I think perhaps a special thank you to Steve Rogers, who stepped in and took over the running of the fete in the absence of the Chairman, well done.

The day was concluded with an evening meal, for all the helpers who could make it, and was enjoyed by everyone.

Competition Class Winners 2012

Class entry numbers were considerably down this year, mostly due to the appalling weather for months leading up to the fete, resulting in a lack of vegetables growing nicely in people's vegetable plots! So for those who did manage entries, well done!

Hopefully, next year's weather will reward us with a greater show of vegetables at the 2013 fete. Please do encourage all your family members and friends to enter the competitions next year to help make a spectacular show in the marquee.

- Class 1. Pot plant, The Campbell Cup - Gill Sandford
- Class 2. Arrangement of Cut Flowers, The Weller Rose Bowl - Joan Prentice
- Class 3. Single Bloom, Silver Rose Vase (Mrs Olink) - Rachel palmer
- Class 5. Fruit Cake, The Farmhouse Cup (Mr and Mrs Cash) - Joan Prentice
- Class 6. 6. Fairy Cakes - Zara Richardson
- Class 7. Fruit Jam or Marmalade , Silver tray (Mrs G Rogers) - Gill Sandford
- Class 8. Chutney, John Lewis Bowl (no engraving) - Gill Kent
- Class 9. Victoria Sandwich, (Mr and Mrs N Dawson) - Diana Cliffe
- Class 11a. Vegetables - The North Dean Challenge Cup - Julie White
- Class 11. Prize Vegetable of The Year, The Beau Vista Bell (Mr & Mrs J Rogers) - Gill Sandford
- Class 12. Handicrafts and Art, 15yrs and older, The Rogers Bell - Christine Ryman
- Class 13 and 14 share the Junior Silver Cup (6months each):
- Class 13. Junior Handicrafts, 14 yrs and under, - Jason Richardson
- Class 14. Junior Arts, 14 yrs and under - James Viner
- Class 15. Photograpy, Colour, The Evans Bowl (no engraving) - Andrew (from Pigotts)



Proud cup winner, Julie White

The Old Codger

Speen Heritage Group

The names and initials of the Speen men who were killed during WWI are listed in alphabetical order 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 are grateful to Sandra Clark for correcting one detail concerning our reference to Alice Dean. There was an Alice Dean who was the sister of Harry Dean, but the Alice Dean who wrote the leaflet about our village was the wife of William Dean, Harry's youngest brother.

We are listing the Speen casualties in chronological order. In Issue 53 of the Speen & North Dean News we listed Harry Dean, who died on 25th May 1915, aged 25; Harry Burrows who died on 16th March 1916, aged 24; Harry Saunders who died on 23rd July 1916, aged 28. In Issue 54 we listed William Gibbons who died on 28th February 1917, aged 26; his brother, Sidney Gibbons who died on 9th June 1917, aged 33; Norman Cyril Simmonds who died on 4th October 1917, aged 25; Edward Lester Janes who died on 7th April 1918, aged 32.

We have since found a typing error. To maintain chronological order, we should have entered Frank Randall - see below - before Edward Lester Janes.

F Randall. Frank Randall was the eldest son of Owen, who was born in Loosley Row, and Mercy, who was born in Flowers Bottom. In 1911, the family were living in a 4-room house, on a triangular site in Flowers Bottom, across the road from "The Plough". Owen, a farm labourer, was 54; Mercy was 46. They had been married for 13 years and had 3 children. Harry (17) was a farm labourer, Frank (13) was a schoolboy and Eva was 6. Frank Randall was 20 years old, a Private (No. 202806) in the 5th Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, when he was killed on 23rd March 1918. Frank Randall is buried in the Pozieres military cemetery. (His elder brother, Harry, a Private in the same regiment, survived the War.) Pozieres had been occupied, at horrendous cost, in 1916 on the day that Harry Saunders died. It was won back by the Germans on 25th March 1918, two days after Frank Randall was killed. The Kaiserschlacht, the colossal German offensive that was launched in March 1918, was initially hugely successful - but ultimately disastrous.

J Rixon. John Rixon's parents, Eli and Rose, lived at "Fir View" where Grubbins Lane connects with the main road. Both were born in Speen - as were their many children. In 1911, Eli (62) said he was a wood turner; the enumerator added "chair making". (Do all these terms indicate that he - and many similar workers in Speen - were Bodgers?) In 1911, Eli and Rose had been married for 38 years and Rose (57) had borne 13 children. Six were still living at home; one had died. Clara (25) was an invalid; William (21) and Frank (13) were wood turners; John (18) was a farm labourer. There were also Daisy (20) and Bert (8). William Rixon, an Artillery man, survived the War. John Rixon, who was then a 25 year old Corporal (No. 266052) in the 1st Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, was killed on 26th August 1918, fighting the Austrians in Italy. His body is buried in the British military cemetery at Magnaboschi, which is so high in the mountains that it is under snow for several months in the year. WWI ended 77 days later, but John Rixon was not the last of Speen's sons to be killed.

A R Bristow. Whoever completed the 1901 census return of the Bristow family entered the name of one of the children as "Archie". The 1911 return shows the boy's name as "Artie". That unusual name is correct - his parents said he was to be called "Artie" when they registered his birth in 1898. In 1911, Artie Ralph Bristow was living in Speen with his parents, Albert (47) a sandstone cutter and Eva Jane (46). Albert had been born in Speen; his wife was born in Little Hampden. They had been married for 24 years and Eva had borne 8 children - one had died; one had left home. The family lived in a 6-room house on a site just to the north of "Woodbine Cottage". (The 1910 valuation officer originally entered "John" as their landowner - presumably thinking of John Wood, who had recently died - and then crossed that out and wrote "Alice Simmonds" the new married name of John Wood's daughter. In his 1918 Army records, Artie gave his address as "Woodbine Cottage". Maybe the Bristows moved into it



Artie Bristow

after Alice moved out and married Mr Simmonds; maybe that was more convenient for the Postman.) In the original house in 1911 were Elsie Beatrice (18) Cissie Florence (15) Artie Ralph, entered as "School boy" (12) Edgar Roy (7) Ronald Albert (3) and Constance May who was 1. The Speen memorial plaque says Artie was in the Machine Gun Corps of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. But, no matter what variations were made of the spelling of his names, we could find no mention of him in the Commonwealth War Graves records. Then we solved the riddle. Artie might have come home, seriously ill, and died of his injuries after the war was over. We searched again and found that the death of Artie Ralph Bristow was registered by his cousin, Mr D F Bristow, in Wycombe, in 1920. (Dudley Frank Bristow had also served, as a Private, in the War. Another cousin from Speen, Archibald Charles Bristow, was a Corporal in the Machine Gun Corps - did Artie ever meet him?) Artie died, in Speen, on 15th October 1920; his age is given as 20, in fact he was 22.

Just before this edition of the Speen & North Dean News went to press, another researcher kindly sent us copies of Artie's service documents - WWI military records are rare; most were lost in the bombing of London during WWII. We saw

that Private Artie Ralph Bristow left the front line on 20th July 1918 to report to his Casualty Clearing Section. He felt feverish and painful red blotches had appeared on his body. The medics passed him back to a hospital at Boulogne where, on 4th August 1918, he was admitted with "Erythema Nodosum". (The correct spelling is "Nodosum".) He was discharged from hospital 10 days later as "Sick". The war was still raging but he was not sent back to his machine gun unit; he was given light duties at the Base HQ. His medical category was recorded as B3. (If we assume A1 was the highest grade, B3 does not seem to be all that healthy.) Artie was transferred from one admin unit to another until 7th December 1918 (the war was just over) when he was given 3 weeks leave in the UK. We can imagine that, with the lad at home for 3 weeks leave, after 19 months in the trenches with a machine gun company, followed by 5 months "sick", the family would have formed a firm view that the War had undermined the health of their eldest son - Artie had been called-up when he was barely 18.

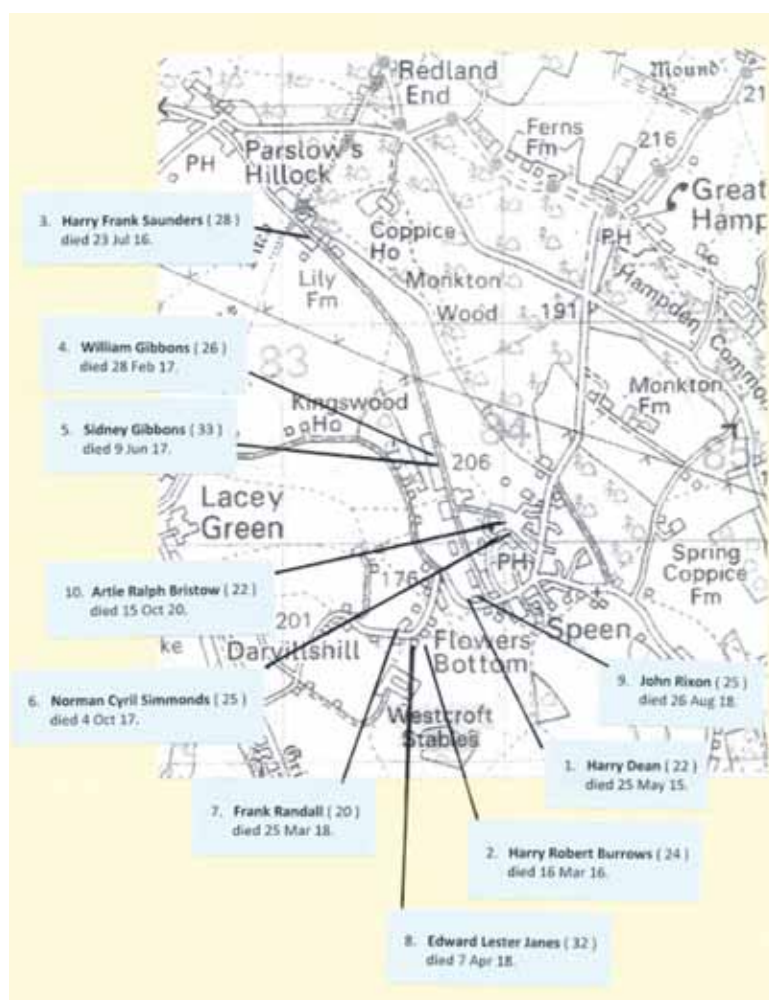
When Artie died, he was being attended by Dr A Wills who gave the causes of death to be: "(1) Acute rheumatism (2) Endo-carditis, Pulmonary embolism." In modern parlance, acute

rheumatism implies the sudden onset of joint pain. Being immobile - for example, laid up in bed - could produce a pulmonary embolism. Endocarditis is an infection of the heart - which can also cause joint pain. Erythema nodosum can have many causes, including TB and Group A streptococcus. The last named can cause rheumatic fever which damages the valves of the heart and can predispose you to endocarditis. (Today, it can be cured by 10 days of antibiotics.)

Artie Ralph Bristow enlisted in November 1916. He was demobilised in November 1919 and was dead 11 months later. The people of Speen were right to count him as a casualty of The Great War.

Would you like to make any corrections or additions to these biographies? Do you have any photos - portraits, team photos - of these men?

If so, please contact Clive Rainbow (01494 488658) or email rainbows@speen.org.uk.



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Neil's right we're afraid - the Pavilion is 25 years old and the roof is now in desperate need of repair.

The bill ... an eye watering £8,000.

To plug the hole in our finances and protect this valuable village amenity we need your support more than ever. The committee are applying for grants, seeking donations and making extra fundraising efforts and you can help by:

- * Spreading the word *
- * Making a donation *
- * Supporting our forthcoming fund raising events *

Cheques for donations should be made payable to *Speen Playing Fields* and can be left at the shop or via Peter Cooper (Treasurer) 488975.

Boom Shankers!

Speen Funday

The 2012 Funday weekend kicked off on the Friday evening with England's opening game of the Euros taking place and the opportunity to run a "beat the keeper" and "guess the first scorer" competitions.

With worries of a wash-out uppermost in our minds, it was with a sigh of relief that Funday dawned bright and dry. Once again, the fertile minds of the committee had devised a set of games to tickle and delight although there appeared a collective sense of déjà-vu amongst the contestants when the opening event started. Was the Olympic rings not in fact a re-title of the royal rings from the year before or hoola-hoola the year before that? Matter not, no one seemed to care and fun reigned on the field once again. Despite being dry on the day, the going on the course was good to soft at best and as the runners and riders in the Steeplechase game tackled the obstacles there were the inevitable fallers. Messrs Charlie Tilt and Percy Thirkell in particular ended up looking more like mud wrestlers than riders!

In glorious tradition, the Kiddy Kurling Cup rounded off the day and in scenes reminiscent from the US masters golf, it was for the incumbent holder to present the trophy to its new owner. The 2011 champion Will Laing did an excellent job of hiding his anguish as he passed it to Emily Stringfellow.

We must thank all those for attending and helping us to raise £900 over the weekend, the hardworking committee whose physical and mental toil makes the games happen each year and a special note of gratitude to Dilly of the KW4 who generously donated food for the BBQ.

Speen Playing Field Pavilion

The Speen Playing Field Pavilion, which is an essential support to all the playing field events such as The Fete, Festival, Funday, Craft Fair, School Sports day etc, has sprung a leak in the roof. There is now water entering the roof void. We have temporarily patched but, on further investigation, have established that the original, which was built in 1988 out of chipboard and bitumen felt tiles, is rotten and needs replacing. We now have to urgently replace the roof and are planning Cement Tiles on batons at a cost of £8000 and with estimated lifespan of over 50 years. The Parish Council have very kindly loaned us money so that we can get started as

soon as possible but we will have to repay from funds that we can raise ourselves. We are trying District and County Councils as well as other local charity and community support foundations, but I suspect that we will have to raise the money ourselves. The Pavilion Roof Fund is now officially launched. Anyone wishing to donate please feel free to support this essential village facility. Cheques for donations should be made payable to "Speen Playing Fields" and can be left at the shop or via Peter Cooper 488975.

Tony Bobroff
Chair

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County Council News - August 2012



Energy from Waste (EfW)

With the ever increasing cost of landfill, the County Council has been looking at alternative ways to dispose of Buckinghamshire's waste. The initial response was to invest, with the Districts, in Recycling which now accounts for 45% of household waste.

Even with this success the projected rise in landfill tax from £11.6M per year to £16.5M per year by 2020, means that other ways have to be found. The decision to invest in an 'Energy from Waste' plant seeks to provide the answer. By entering into a contract with FCC Environment which will provide a 300,00 tonnes EfW facility near Calvert in the north of the County, it is estimated that landfill will be greatly reduced and enough power to service 36,000 homes will be generated.

Green Waste will still need to be diverted from landfill. The County Council working with getcomposting.com continue to make available Compost Bins at special rates. Bins at a RRP of £39 are now only £16 with "buy one and get one half price" offer as well it is worth considering. You can get more details at www.getcomposting.com or call 0844 571 444 for details.

If you already compost then you can help by becoming a Master Composter and so share your experience and give advice and encouragement to others. If you would like to find out more about this then call 01296 387797 or email composting@buckscc.gov.uk

Health

The implementation of the Government's Health proposals continue to progress with the completion of Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board's consultation on the priorities for Health Commissioning for the County. This consultation will influence the strategy for health provision when the formal transfer takes place in April next year. You can find more about the proposals and the work of the Board by going to www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingboard

In April 2013 the Council will also take responsibility for Public Health. Key to this is public awareness of health issues and a programme for early intervention. The County's response to this has been to develop a programme called **Prevention Matters** aimed at promoting independence and delaying the

debilitating effects of ageing, illness and disability. Recognised as best practice within the Government, it is anticipated that, through this programme, many Bucks residents will enjoy independence for more of their lifetime.

Encouraging walking is high on the list and together with our partners, the County Council is promoting the Simply Walk initiative. This initiative covers walks for all abilities from Getting Started lasting about 45mins over level ground to Red Walks lasting about 90 mins and usually including gradients. Walks are planned throughout the year and are detailed either online at www.buckscc.gov.uk or by asking for the booklet by calling 01494 475 367.

If you do have any concerns regarding County Council issues or have noticed areas where action is needed then please let me know and I will do what I can to help.

*Paul Rogerson, County Councillor
01494 488315, progeron@buckscc.gov.uk*

HS2 Update - August 2012

There are several significant developments to report with High Speed 2:

Perhaps most importantly, a decision has been made that all 5 Judicial Reviews requested to challenge the lawfulness of Government's decision to proceed with HS2 have been accepted by the relevant Court, and a date set of December 3rd 2012 for the hearings to start. This is a major milestone, as it both represents a clear opportunity to have the decision overturned and creates an ideal vehicle to further build awareness and understanding of the issues with HS2 around the country.

It has been revealed that the flaws in the Government's consultation process are even more serious than at first thought. As has recently been reported in the Bucks Free Press, a large number of consultation responses have been omitted from the results, and even more have been incorrectly interpreted.

The business case for HS2 continues to deteriorate, and now a new Public Accounts Committee report into High Speed 1 (the Channel Tunnel rail link) has indicated that the Government should re-do its case for HS2. Re-affirming an earlier report, the PAC says that the DfT should revisit its assumptions on the HS2 business case and develop a full understanding of the benefits and costs of high-speed travel compared to the alternatives. It challenges assumptions on forecasting, pricing, how it values time savings, and its lack of evaluating alternative options (everything we have been saying for 2 years). Encouragingly, it is now being more widely



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.

THE LEAVES OF TIME is available from Speen Stores and by email from
symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk

understood that time spent on train journeys is productive, as people do work on the train - a crucial factor, as billions of pounds of 'benefit' within the HS2 business case assumes that all time on the train is completely wasted. The Treasury are now beginning to seriously question the wisdom of proceeding with HS2.

Perhaps as a further sign of disarray within the Government over HS2, delays have been announced to the compensation consultation,

which will now be in the 'Autumn' rather than the 'Spring'.

The latest published timetable from HS2 Ltd is as follows:

Mel Foster
Chair

Speen Area Action Group against High Speed 2

01494 488670

hs2@speenbucks.org.uk

Date	Phase 1: London to West Midlands	Phase 2: Leeds, Manchester, Heathrow
2012	Decision to proceed with high speed rail network.	
2012	Decision on preferred route. Property compensation consultation.	Station and route options submitted; engagement programme on preferred route.
2013	Consultation on draft Environmental Statement including design refinements. Hybrid bill submitted to Parliament.	Engagement programme on preferred route continues.
2014	Hybrid bill process continues.	Formal consultation on route takes place; decision announced.
2015	Target date for Royal Assent to hybrid bill, containing legal powers to construct Phase 1 of HS2.	Commence engineering design, environmental impact assessment and preparation of second hybrid bill.
2026: Phase 1 opens to passengers.		2033: Phase 2 opens to passengers.

Bucks County Council - Member for Lacey Green	Paul Rogerson	488315
Hughenden Parish Council - Chairman	Tony Konieczny	715296
Lacey Green Parish Council - Chairman	Cathryn Davies	01844 342800
Lacey Green Parish Council - Councillor for Speen Ward	Roger Craft	488343
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
North Dean Village Hall - Chairman	Andrew Howard	562775
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Robin Hughes	07920 748580
Piggotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler-Robinson	562167
Police Contact	PCSO Lisa Roberts	0845 850 5505
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen & North Dean News - advertising	Peter Cooper	488975
Speen & North Dean News - Chair	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen & North Dean Toddler Group	Alex Allan	489838
Speen Baptist Church	James Entwisle	488875
Speen Festival - Secretary	Sue Taylor	488168
Speen Fete - Chair	Amanda Dobbs	488887
Speen Fete - Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
Speen Marquee	John Holmes	488420
Speen Playing Fields Chairman	Tony Bobroff	488688
Speen Pre-School - Chair	Clare Morris	488553
Speen School - Head	Denise Nayna	488321
Speen School PTA - Chair	Tessa Lumsden	488782
Speen Stores	Alison Templeman	488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall - Bookings	Sue Taylor	488500
Speen Village Hall - Chairman	Bill Groves	488180
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
The Speen Group (was Speen Supporters Group)	Diana Summers	488344
Wycombe District Council - Member for Lacey Green & Hampdens	Mel Foster	488905

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A photograph of a garden path made of light-colored gravel, leading from the foreground into the distance. The path is flanked by a low, neatly trimmed green hedge on the left and a large, arched trellis covered in climbing roses on the right. The roses are in full bloom, with many red and pink flowers and some white ones. In the background, a white building with a window is visible through the foliage.

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