



Issue 56  
Winter/Spring 2013



# Speen and North Dean News



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## Contents

What's On .....	4
Speen School and PTA .....	6
Theatre in the Villages: North Dean .....	9
North Dean Family Sunday Lunch .....	9
North Dean Carol Concer .....	9
Down on the Farm .....	12
Speen Pre-School .....	13
Speen Group's Chilli Evening .....	15
Letters to the Editor .....	15
College Plantation .....	16
Wildlife Watch .....	17
Speen Heritage Group .....	18
Speen Marquee .....	21
Speen Shop Charity .....	21
Bangers, Beer and Boyz Night .....	21
Speen WI .....	22
Speen Village Hall .....	22
Seasons Farm Shop .....	23
Speen and North Dean Toddler Group ..	23
Speen Church .....	24
County Council News .....	26
District Council News .....	26
HS2 Update .....	27
Lacey Green Parish .....	27
Speen Playing Fields .....	29
Speen Festival 2013 .....	31
Who's Who .....	34

## NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (57) is due by Sunday 5 May 2013.

The planned publication date is during June. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (download from the SNDN website [www.speenbucks.org.uk](http://www.speenbucks.org.uk)) if any of the photos are of children.  
Send to [editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk](mailto:editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk).

## Index of Advertisers

Alan Tucker .....	25
Alchemille .....	2
Beechdean Farmhouse .....	35
C.G. Tree & Garden Services .....	33
Chiltern House Partnership .....	8
Clickettyclack .....	20
Coles & Blackwell .....	32
David Marchant .....	20
Fine & Country .....	36
Fraser-Morgan School of Dancing .....	7
Hughenden Builders .....	10
Ian Gray .....	33
Independent Living Consultants .....	22
Jenny Greene .....	32
JML Training & Consultancy .....	8
John Bishop .....	33
Judith A Newenham .....	30
Kevin Mills .....	10
LJM Electrical .....	10
M.R. Collins .....	33
MWH Interiors Limited .....	28
Nelson Electrical Services .....	16
Nick Higgins .....	7
Nicki Thomas Web Design .....	30
Paul Newman Limited .....	14
Pickels Farm .....	17
PK-Inprint Ltd .....	25
Seasons Farm Shop .....	11
Speen Stores .....	5
Springline Cars .....	25
Taps UK .....	30
The Old Plow .....	10
TopDogs .....	30
Village Environmental Services .....	28

Month	Event	Where	Contact
<b>February</b>			
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	MPS	KW4, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	WI. Work aid	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night	CANCELLED	
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Valentine Disco	Speen Village Hall, 2pm	Clare Morris 488553
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Playing Fields AGM	Pavilion, 8.00pm	Debbie Tilt 488733
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Hart Jazz	KW4, 7.30pm	488329
<b>March</b>			
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	MPS	Harrow, Hughenden, 8.30 pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	WI. Kennet & Avon Canal	Speen Village Hall, 7.45 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Race Night	North Dean Village Hall, 7.30 pm	Beechdean Ice Cream
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Easter Egg Hunt	Speen Playing Field, pm	Clare Morris 488553
<b>April</b>			
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	MPS	Hampden Arms, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	WI. Birthday Party	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	North Dean Village Hall AGM	North Dean Village Hall, 7.30pm	Robin Hughes 07920 748580
<b>Future Events</b>			
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Speen Funday	Speen Playing Field	Andy Thompson 488254
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Speen School PTA Ball	Speen School	Katherine Matthews 489843
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Speen Fete	Speen Playing Field	Amanda Dobbs 488887
27 <sup>th</sup> July	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Field	Andrew Howard 562775



Firstly, a belated happy New Year to you all. Probably like many, I was quite happy to see the back of a very soggy 2012. Let's hope for better this coming year.



This issue is a somewhat slimmer edition to those that will follow but, there's still lots to look forward to including our regular contributors who are much appreciated. 2013 will see The Speen Village Festival and this issue covers a major announcement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers. Without them there wouldn't be a magazine. Whilst acknowledging special efforts, the village owes a big debt of gratitude to John Holmes who is passing the baton to Greg Cook. John has led the marquee team and being instrumental in ensuring the success of such a valuable village asset.

For the next issue it would be good to hear from some new contributors, to receive some

suggestions as to what else we can cover and, lastly, to have some young contributors. Also, it would be great to receive some quality photographs that reflect life in Speen and North Dean.

So, over to you.

*James Hazeldine*

## 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](mailto:christineoliver99@btinternet.com).

New residents to North Dean should phone Judith Broadley on 563178 or email [cooljude@btopenworld.com](mailto:cooljude@btopenworld.com)

## Village Diary and Village Messenger

The Village Diary is a simple list of village activities during the next months. It is updated on the 1st of each month. It is loaded onto the village website and emailed to those villagers who have agreed to be kept informed about village events. It is managed by John Holmes via [jholmes@nildram.co.uk](mailto:jholmes@nildram.co.uk).

The Village Messenger provides more details about village related activities and includes other information which may be of interest as well as some Neighbourhood Watch stuff. It goes out about twice a month. It is managed by John Radford via [Village@SpeenBucks.org](mailto:Village@SpeenBucks.org) - send an email with the word "Include" as the Subject title to be added to the circulation.

The Diary and the Village Messenger both rely on input information from event leaders so please send in if you want your event promoted.

Send us your email address and consent if you are not on the email lists and would like to be.



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hours and more information

## Speen School and PTA

2012 was a golden year for the nation and an important milestone in the history of Speen C of E School as it celebrated and gave thanks for its 150th anniversary. In October, past and present pupils, parents and governors were invited to the Service of Rededication given by Bishop Alan of Buckingham who also unveiled a commemorative plaque. The school was full and everyone enjoyed the service, which included details about past pupils and life at the school read by current pupils, 19th century hymns and a delicious cake made by Mrs Chandler.



Another October highlight was a London outing for Years 1 and 2 who watched the Bright Sparks Concert performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall and then enjoyed a flight on the London Eye. Thank you to Mrs Nayna for organising such a successful day out.

The School continues to support many charitable causes and the children enthusiastically play their part in this. Children In Need was a spotty themed mufti day with hot dog lunch and Pudsey Bear biscuits hugely enjoyed by the children. Year 2 were on hand to serve the cakes at the Macmillan Coffee Morning, and once again the School supported the Rotary Club Shoe Box appeal and brought donations to the Harvest Festival Service, while Mrs Hayman's organisational skills made National Book Week a great success and included an evening bedtime story telling session for the children.

In the run up to Christmas, Kate Loughton, both parent and Speen School's wonderful 'music director', had everyone starting the day with Morning Yawn singing sessions. Frosty The Snowman was this year's chosen song and many of the school braved the weather for the Speen Annual Christmas Carol concert.

The Russian nativity Babushka was the Christmas Play and involved some good foot stomping music, fantastic performances and a

wonderful time for everyone. While the Nativity Play, held at St John's Church, was enjoyed by children and parents alike with some beautiful singing by the children - thank you to Rev Denise.



An evening event held at the school saw a lively crowd of over 60 people, making up 10 teams and taking on the might of local quizmasters Geoff and Clare, who very kindly donated their time, meant our first major fundraiser - a Quiz & Curry Night - was a big hit and raised over £900 for school funds. Special thanks go to the chefs, behind-the-scenes helpers and washer upper.

And it wasn't just the adults having fun, the annual children's Christmas Fair was another huge success bringing some festive cheer to the school and raising £1000. The mix of crafty activities, raffle goodies (thank you to everyone who donated), delicious home-baked cakes, the most incredible Gingerbread House, Treasure Hunt and walk-in Santa's Grotto make for a truly magical afternoon for both children and parents to enjoy. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

Looking ahead to 2013, we're trying out some new fundraising ideas and as New Year is a great time for a clear out, we're hoping there may be a few unwanted mobile phones gathering dust somewhere. If you have one, then how about donating it to the Speen School PTA who can exchange it for cash. Until 15 February, you will be able to deposit any unwanted mobiles in fonebox collection boxes situated in the School Reception Area and Speen Stores. Even broken, faulty or locked phones still have a value, just remember to remove the Sim card before donating. Full details are available from PTA Chair Tessa Lumsden [tessa@odpl.eu](mailto:tessa@odpl.eu) who will also happily collect from you.

Afterschool clubs continue to thrive and return in 2013 - the cooking, gardening gymnastics and film activities are hugely popular and could well be the beginnings of the next Delia, Titchmarsh, Louis Smith or even a Spielberg - many thanks to all those parents who give their time to these invaluable extra curricular activities.

As the evenings start getting lighter, the PTA are working hard on plans for this year's Safari Supper and Speen School Ball - both of which are a great chance for the community to enjoy an

evening together. This year's Midsummer's Night Ball theme promises to be a magical evening and we're already on the look out for local sponsors. Please let Katherine Matthews (matthewsfamily@clara.co.uk) know if you would like to support us.

Some dates for your diaries . . .

Safari Supper - March date coming soon  
Midsummer Night's Ball - Saturday 29 June

Speen School continues to be a lively, creative and fun environment for all of its children. Many of the activities are linked to the local community and you may well see the children out and about exploring the local history and geography or even learning their Footsteps Training - a road safety initiative for Y1 & 2s. We are grateful for the time villagers give to the school, from hearing children read to being school governors. Thanks again to everyone for your valued support. We wish you a happy and healthy 2013.

#### **Babushka - the children's view**

"The Speen School play was Babushka and we performed it twice on Tuesday 18th December 2012. We started learning the songs in November and then we practised our play for several weeks.

Before our first performance we felt nervous, worried and excited, though Zain felt full of glee when he was changing. Lily said that she felt nervous when she first went on the stage, but then she began to feel confident. Becky found it a bit scary to have the audience so close, but later she found she forgot that they were there.

Felix liked being a narrator as he enjoys reading so much. However Laaibah was terrified to be on stage with everybody looking at her. Ellen was not feeling brave when she was going on stage for the same reason and was feeling scared as she sang her solo. Afterwards she felt happy because she had got it right. Bryonie found singing with the other camels terrifying, but Annabel (also a camel) felt very confident.

Syd became nervous just as he spoke for the first time, because everyone went quiet. Louisa said she could not stop smiling when she walked on stage, but felt nervous when she was talking. Ewan found it nerve-wracking talking when everyone was watching them.

Bryonie felt confident saying her words and she enjoyed saying "She's bossier than my mum!" Ahmed also felt confident both on and off stage, whereas Max felt awkward in the second performance because he got his words wrong

and Ethan found it really fun doing the dance at the end.

After it was all over Mabel was squealing with delight, because it was over. Evie felt happy and sad, especially as it was the last play she would do at this school.

We would all like to do another play."

*Zoe Baker*

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## Theatre in the Villages returns to North Dean Village Hall

The Committee of North Dean Village Hall was very proud to host yet another production this year, thanks to an initiative of Bucks County Council called Theatre in the Villages.

The chosen show - *Licensed to Trill*, by the Opera Dudes - was a sell-out performance on Saturday 27 October. The performers (Tim Lole and Neil Allen) entertained the audience with a variety of musical styles and funny stories and even succeeded in getting everyone to sing along. The interaction was at times 'intimate', as Neil Allen joined the audience and sang passionately to two of the female attendees.

The balance of slapstick humour, audience participation and great singing combined to make this a thoroughly entertaining show. It was a pleasure to see the teenagers and 'our elders' in side-splitting laughter - an unusual occurrence and a credit to the skill of Tim and Neil.



The Opera Dudes were indeed an unlikely duo (comprising of a posh former Cambridge scholar and an ex-builder turned international operatic tenor) but the combination of vocal excellence and clever humour left the audience wanting more. The performers did not disappoint and delivered a rousing encore to rapturous applause.

A thoroughly successful evening enjoyed by all!

**Julie White**  
Committee Member  
NDVH

## North Dean Village Hall Family Sunday Lunch - back by popular demand

The sunny Sunday afternoon of 30 September feels like a long time ago now that the days have become so short and the weather cold and grey - but the memory of a delicious home cooked roast meal and a hall filled with fun and laughter lingers on.

Back by popular demand, Julie White and her 'band of merry cooks' reinstated what was once an annual event in the village - the traditional home cooked family Sunday lunch.



The tables were set, the meat was carved and everyone sat down to enjoy a hearty meal, washed down with a glass or two of their favourite tipple. Young and old alike had time to catch up on village news with friends and neighbours and to relax and enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Thanks to all the 'merry cooks' for their efforts in making this event so successful.

## North Dean Carol Concert

Villagers were once again brought together for a festive sing along on Monday 17 December at North Dean Village Hall.

The singing commenced - lead by members of Speen Baptist Church - Megan Chinn, Nicki and Andrew Pitt, and was accompanied by musicians Richard Hern (keyboard) and Peter Salmon (violin). Soloist Alison Wilson once again delighted villagers with her angelic verse of *Once in Royal David City*.

Despite the low turnout and a high percentage of revellers suffering from colds and sore throats, the evening was a musical success - helped along by the lubricating effect of a glass or two of hot mulled wine.

**Julie White**  
Committee Member  
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# Down on the Farm

Gone are the days seen in the idyllic Constable paintings, where one viewed a horse and cart, perhaps a few cows, or even a dozen sheep, in grassy meadows surrounded by floriferous hedgerows. Nowadays, in order to feed an ever growing population, (and to make a reasonable living) farmers have had to become experts in large scale animal and crop production, not to mention business men of considerable acumen. However, the vast majority of us still feel firmly rooted to the soil and ever concerned for the welfare of our land and for the wild life living on it.

As you have probably read in the National Press the agricultural industry is facing an ever bigger problem of recruiting young entrants to the industry. Not only have you got to feel attached to the soil and concerned about the welfare of your stock as in days of old, but because of the scale and complexity of farming today, you must be numerate, literate, computer literate, physically fit and strong and tenacious at all times!! To give you an idea of just what is involved I will describe a day's work on our medium sized dairy farm.



*Cows arriving in the milking parlour*

4.30 am Herdsman and general farm worker (GFW) get up and collect the 1st batch of cows from barn for milking. The early hour is for two reasons, a) The Milk Link lorry from our farmers cooperative arrives any time after 8 a.m. to collect the milk and b) we try to space the two daily milkings as evenly as possible (ie 5a.m. and 3p.m.) for the comfort of the cows. The herdsman milks the 300 cows whilst the GFW scrapes out the liquid manure from the passages between the cow beds in the now empty barn. The GFW also fills the mangers with food which consists of maize silage, grass silage, processed wheat and soya meal mixed up in a wagon rather like a gigantic cake mixer. We can't buy BOGOF bargains for animal foods but we try very hard to use ingredients which give the best value for a balanced diet! After breakfast the herdsman has to cope with any necessary dairy machinery maintenance, cow treatments such as foot trimming and most importantly, a computer session, filling in all the records which are necessary for himself, Defra, the dairy consultant,

the vet and not least the farmer.

8.0 am Two more workers begin work. In addition to the cows we have a Hereford beef herd and 350 young animals on the farm, from 1 day to 2 years old. The young calves are fed individually with milk from a bucket - this can be very time consuming!

The older ones are fed sacks of dry foods and are given straw every day for clean bedding. Each animal is checked for any signs of illness eg lameness, lack of appetite or infected eyes. The horn buds of each calf must be removed (using an anaesthetic) as the points on the ends of the adult cows' horns are extremely sharp and they can easily damage each other.

In very cold weather the water supply often freezes as it is almost impossible to keep a good supply of lagging on pipes in open barns. In extreme conditions parts of the milking parlour may freeze; space heaters have to be squeezed into awkward places whilst the cows get bad tempered and fret because their routine is being upset!

It is the herdsman's job to artificially inseminate any cow which is 'in season'. We use semen from the best Jersey bulls from all over the world; on some days there will be six or seven cows to be inseminated.

It is usually mid day before every routine job has been completed, but if a machine breaks down, or parts of the buildings flood, as they have this year, they have to be pumped out. If loads of grain are being moved in or out, a cow has a difficult calving or worst still, one man is ill or on holiday then 'the routine' can last all day.

After lunch the assistant herdsman takes over the milking routine and the herdsman catches up on all the jobs he has been meaning to do for weeks! For everyone else there are always routine tasks such as cleaning out pens, spreading the gallons of slurry (liquid manure) which accumulate everyday, mending gates and fences, servicing of tractors etc.

The herdsman knocks off at 4pm unless he feels that he has an animal that needs some attention. The assistant herdsman goes home when he finishes afternoon milking usually about 6.30-7.00pm. The farmer (who has doubled as one of the general workers) goes home in the evenings to do the paperwork which any normal business would do during the working day. In addition, since the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 2000 he has to register every birth and death of any animals on the farm and also inform Defra of all animal movements, even if it is only to the



*Foot trimming*



next door farmer's field. Fortunately many farmers are helped with paperwork (VAT returns, accounts, Defra censuses etc) by their wives or if they can afford it - a farm secretary.

Why on earth does anyone want to enter the dairy industry? I find it very hard to explain, except to say that love of the land and livestock is almost an addiction. Most farmers who have to give up farming for health, financial or HS2 type reasons, suffer a bereavement when they leave their land. Family farms are definitely under threat as they find it very hard to compete with factory farms which can take advantage of large economies of scale. Even the big units will be vulnerable if the threatened removal of the EU subsidy takes place. It is likely that majority of farms would not make any profit if the EU payments were removed.

We all have to face up to the fact that the 'old days farms' have disappeared for ever and hope that modern technologies will enable farmers to make a decent living whilst maintaining the wild features that we all value.

*Gill Kent*

## Speen Pre-School

Christmas terms are always busy and our pre-school term was no exception.

We began with a pyjama day for Children in Need, with various activities from cake decorating to pinning a tale on Pudsey helping to raise over £80 for this good cause.

One of the key highlights and certainly one that will be remembered for years to come was the planting of a British apple tree on Ridgeley's Field on Friday 30th November. This coincided with National Tree Week, part of the Jubilee Woods project to encourage the planting of over 6 million trees across the UK. We will be entering our tree planting into the Royal Record; a lasting record in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee that will be preserved online and presented to Her Majesty. We received reports and photos in our two local papers which all help to raise our profile and hopefully encourage newcomers. Our Forest school is beginning to take off with weekly sessions and we now have proper outdoor clothing for both staff and children. Forest Schooling began in the 1950s in Sweden and was introduced to the UK in the 1990s; the ethos is based on educational research showing that children learn better in an outdoor environment. We have received lots of support for our Forest school initiative from local businesses and in particular, from the Speen Playing Field Committee.



Following the tree planting, parents and guests were invited back to the village hall for warming hot chocolate and homemade cakes. The children took the opportunity to thank all those that made curtains for the village hall and helped with the re-decoration project. In December we were pleased to be involved in supporting the village hall Christmas bazaar, persuading Father Christmas and his elves to attend.

The term ended with our traditional Nativity in the Chapel and parents, staff and the children all enjoyed different Christmas parties and meals out. Thanks to Amanda Dobbs for co-ordinating, as well as all those who supported the Christmas tree collection in the New Year, which has raised over £250 for pre-school.

Many of you will have fond memories of Lorna Wilson who retired at the end of the year after over 25 years of working at pre-school. If you or any of your children would like to add a few words a book of thanks is being pulled together by Karen Woodward and is currently available at the shop for contributions.

Our thoughts are turning to activities this term as Easter Eggs and Hot Cross buns have already been spotted in the supermarkets our annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday 23rd March, with plans this year for both an over 7s and under 7s hunt. We are also joining forces with St John's School and Church to hold a joint Nearly New Sale at Lacey Green Village Hall on April 27th. Please come along to hunt for a bargain or speak to me if you would like to book a table to sell items of babies/children's good quality clothing, toys, books and equipment.

We take children from two upwards. If you would like to visit the pre-school or put your child's name down on the waiting list please get in touch.

*Clare Morris  
Chair  
Speen Pre-School*

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## Speen Group's Chilli Evening

This year the Speen Group wanted to hold an additional fundraising event. With so much going on in local villages it is quite difficult to fit in another function but we managed not to clash with *anything*! We thought it would be good to have an evening that could include the menfolk for a change and decided that dancing to a live band, with some food included, would achieve this. We hoped for a sizeable audience to make the evening go with a swing so hired Lacey Green Village Hall. We even attracted some locals!

The Dirty Mavis Band, who had previously played at the King William to an enthusiastic audience, agreed to play for us at a special rate, as they regularly fundraise for Iain Rennie themselves, so we were all set for 'Hot Chilli, Cool Music and Dancing'.

Once decorated, the hall created a party atmosphere and set everybody in the right mood for the evening to come. When we had finished our light supper of Jacket Potato and Chilli con Carne, which went down a bomb, the band started to play and our audience took to the dance floor. So many in fact that the seats were deserted, the aisles were full and the hall was heaving. It was wonderful to see so many people letting their hair down and enjoying themselves.

The evening was a tremendous success for all. Many people commented that as they seldom had the opportunity to dance these days they had definitely made the most of the evening.

The Speen Group would like to thank all their supporters who made this event go with pizzazz and helped us raise substantial funds all of which will be given to the four hospices that we support. By the time this is published we will have also had our Christmas Market in the King William IV; how quickly the year moves on. We look forward to seeing a number of you at our Spring Lunch next year, which will hopefully be at the newly refurbished Horse Trust barn. Watch out for the date on the Village Diary or posters and don't forget you will need to book early to be sure of a place!

*Diana Summers*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I sent this letter to David Wiltshire in response to his letter in your Summer/Autumn Issue.

Dear Mr Wiltshire

I was intrigued to read of your interest in the plane crash in the field above North Dean in 1945. The boy you mentioned, Felix Cribb, died some years ago but his brother, Colin, is my brother in law. I thought it best to check with him first, but there has never been any suggestion that Felix rescued two pilots from the wreckage, or was given a medal for it (!).

My family lived at Glasyers directly above the field, and I was four years old when the plane crashed. It was evening when I heard a violent explosion and brilliant flash. My mother told my elder sister not to let me out of house but I persuaded her to take me down to the fence above the field where the plane crashed. By that time my parents and most of the people from Pigotts (possibly Felix as well though the Cribbs lived in Bryants Bottom) were watching, helplessly, as the wreckage blazed. One of them, Anthony Foster, thinking he could see a man struggling to get out, became extremely agitated and tried to approach the plane but was forced back by the blaze. I thought that there were two men in the plane and that they had taken it out (on April 30th) for a joy ride to celebrate the end of the war (which ended officially on May 8th) but I may be wrong about this. However I am sure that nobody survived.

*With regards, Joseph Nuttgens*

Dear Editor

Your readers may be interested in the Princes Risborough Music Society. Come and join us on Sunday 24 March at The Wycombe Swan when we perform Verdi's Requiem with Marlow Choral Society. Tickets £16 and £12, available from 01844 342202, choir members, Princes Risborough Information Centre and The Wycombe Swan. You can also find more information on the website - [princesrisboroughmusicsociety.org](http://princesrisboroughmusicsociety.org)

*Gilly Norris*  
01908 271775/07500 977585  
[gilly\\_norris@btinternet.com](mailto:gilly_norris@btinternet.com)

# College Plantation

Many villagers will be aware that College Plantation, which is some 40 acres of woodland to the east of Speen village, came onto the market in 2011, for the first time in some 25 years and was available in five lots.

This wood had been a source of problems to villagers over the years. Local residents have been obliged to engage in lengthy legal and planning battles whilst enduring unreasonable levels of disturbance from a variety of activities.

Commercial paint-balling was proposed but this was eventually blocked. Subsequently, there was clay pigeon shooting and, more recently, 4 x 4 activity days which destroyed the peace of the area on some of the best weekends of the year and devastated the vegetation and the wildlife. After enduring several years of appalling disturbance, a major legal battle was mounted with submissions going forward to the Secretary of State which were ultimately successful in blocking this particular activity. There were also breaches of planning regulations with Enforcement Action being needed to prohibit the unauthorised storage of vehicles.

Against this background, residents were keen to purchase not only the parts of the wood nearest their houses but to acquire the whole wood so that it could be fully controlled. After numerous meetings, various residents agreed to work together to achieve this goal. After a long drawn out legal process, contracts were exchanged for four individuals to initially purchase the whole wood in one lot. Subsequently, all of the villagers involved have agreed to impose on themselves numerous restrictive covenants that control what can be done in the wood. All noisy and unsociable activities are prohibited with other covenants in place to prohibit redevelopment and to protect the wildlife and the general character of the wood.

The ownership of the wood has been sub-divided into five key areas with some 25 local residents having some measure of financial involvement. Two areas are held by syndicates keen to protect and preserve their outlooks whilst three other families own the bulk of the woodland. These families have invested very substantial sums to preserve the woods and these areas remain privately owned. The recent decision of the Secretary of State confirmed that the track through the wood is not a public footpath. There are, therefore, no public rights of way other than the public footpath from behind the Scout Hut to Spring Coppice Lane.

The various owners have already made considerable efforts to remove the junk and litter that has been dumped over the past 25 years. A wrecked vehicle has been removed and 52 car wheels collected from the undergrowth in one area alone. Literally hundreds of plastic and glass bottles have been collected. Other residents have removed garden rubbish that has been dumped and elsewhere coppicing work and replanting are underway. The aim over a significant area of the wood is to create a wildlife refuge which should remain completely undisturbed. This should enable villagers to see wildlife in their gardens and in the general locality which might otherwise be absent without a refuge area. Already there is progress with breeding successes amongst the birds and mammals and more sightings of snakes.

The owners of the wood, therefore, ask the villagers to respect these wishes and to avoid disturbing the wildlife. Even when using the public footpath by the Scout Hut, the owners request that dogs are not allowed to encroach into the woods since this can be extremely damaging to the wildlife. In turn, the owners of the wood can almost guarantee that College Plantation will never again be the source of noise and disturbance to the village.

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## Wildlife Watch

Since the last report we have seen the tail end of the summer, the autumn period and the start of the winter.

Throughout the summer of 2012 a Grass Snake remained resident in our garden living within our compost heap at night and sunning itself on logs by our main pond during the day. I could almost guarantee to see this specimen, which was nearly 3 feet long, on any sunny days. If the Mallards which laid 9 eggs on our pond had succeeded in hatching these, I would have had a dilemma because Grass Snakes can take ducklings. Whilst my female Mallard succumbed to a Fox, I understand that another female was more successful in Grubbins Lane in hatching 10 ducklings.

Other late breeding successes were some 8 tiny Pheasant chicks seen in College Plantation, whilst a pair of Bullfinches brought two young fledglings to our garden feeders in late July. Slightly further afield at Great Hampden a friend reported two Woodcock with behaviour that suggested they were protecting young. Another interesting record from this location was a Firecrest (which is similar to a Goldcrest but has a pronounced white eye stripe). Other unusual sightings in the village included a Siskin reported by George Butler in July, (these birds normally being winter visitors). In November my wife gave a description of a juvenile Moorhen feeding in our garden which would be a first for us. A Barn Owl was also reported in Great Hampden in early December and later in Little Hampden.

By 24th November winter visitors were starting to appear with my first garden Brambling and Redpoll for 2012. Numbers have increased since with up to 10 Redpolls currently visiting my feeders. Both Greg Symondson and myself saw further individual Woodcock in November and December. These woodland birds are uncommon,



Woodcock

well camouflaged and very difficult to see but can be flushed when walking through woods. Winter numbers are sometimes boosted by Woodcock from Scandinavia. Apparently 12 of these birds were shot on the local estate before Christmas but Ashley Cooper saw one in early January. Other Scandinavian visitors in the general area include Waxwings recorded in Prestwood. In 2010/11 they visited Speen but I have not heard of any in the village yet this winter. Ravens have also been recorded in Great Hampden and also by myself in Speen.

My most unusual mammal sighting during the period was a bat, which was probably a Pipistrelle, flying around our neighbourhood on 8th and 9th December during the middle of the day for up to half an hour.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds  
01494 488016  
symonds@speen10.freeserve.co.uk

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# Memories of Speen



## My life in Speen 1945-1952

by Joan Janes

After Harry and I were married, in my home town of Shotton, near Chester, he returned to his regiment (Royal Artillery) at Ballater, Scotland, and I went south in 1945 to live with his widowed mother - Lucy - at Aveluy Cottage, Speen. Harry's father - Edward Lester - was killed in the 1914-18 War, so Harry never knew him.

I was met at Princes Risborough station by Arch Janes and his taxi, and, whenever needed, he was there - and sometimes at High Wycombe - to meet me.

From always having a bathroom and all mod cons at home, it was a shock moving to Aveluy, to no running water (drawn from a well outside the front door with a long pole and a bucket) and no indoor toilet (a walk down the garden path) but luckily there was electricity. When I needed a bath, it was in front of the fire in a tin tub, but later I was able to have the use of a friend's bathroom.



*Joan Janes next to the well  
at Aveluy Cottage*

Harry was eventually demobbed and our first daughter - Vivienne - was born in 1947 at The Willows nursing home in High Wycombe. 1947 was a very, very, cold and snowy Winter and no buses were able to get to Speen - but good old Arch Janes managed to get me to the nursing home in time for the birth. But what a drive! Snow topped the hedges either side of the road between Speen and North Dean.

When he could, Harry used to motor-cycle to work but when I had Vivienne he had to walk across Naphill and Downley Commons to visit me in the nursing home in West Wycombe - and he also used to do that on his way home from work in Sands.

Having a baby whilst living in Aveluy, a two-bedroomed cottage, was hard work. Having to draw the water from the well to nappy wash etc (no modern nappies then) and fill the copper, which was situated in a corner of the kitchen, light a fire beneath and wait for the water to boil to wash clothes clean, then empty the dirty water by bucket and throw it away. Actually, I enjoyed drawing the water with a pole - quite a knack to it - and sometimes losing the bucket!



In 1947/8 cricket was played regularly behind the King William; Harry at times being Captain. Saturday matches were never missed - playing at Lacey Green, Hampden, Kings Hill, Widmer End and many more. It was picnic time and all the families joined in, and, when at home, cricket teas were supplied by the wives at the Village Hall. I remember one time, we must have won something special, as we held a dinner in the Hall, and everyone was there. Harry was good at writing lyrics, and that particular time he wrote one, incorporating every member of the cricket club - and it was hilarious - how I wish I had a copy!

When Viv was born, together with two friends and their new babes (Joan Wilson from Pond Cottage and Mrs Ernie Rixon, I can't remember her first name) we pushed our prams over to Hampden once a month to the clinic. There weren't any other activities in the village during the day, so we met each other with the babes for a chat and a 'cuppa'.

Dr Edwards from the Princes Risborough surgery had a room at Miss Hopton's once a month. Otherwise, it was down to PR - no appointments; you could spend hours waiting to be seen. We either cycled, or, again, used Arch Janes. Dr Edwards was very good to Lucy (she ironed his shirts!) and he made 2 or 3 visits to see me whilst I was in the nursing home.



When I first arrived in Speen, I used to catch the 6.30am bus to High Wycombe, change at Frogmore and take another bus to Loudwater where I worked (until I found I was pregnant) not arriving back in Speen until early evening. Saturday was usually a visit to High Wycombe with Harry, shopping, by bus. Weekday shopping was done at Arch and Elsie's shop or at Miss Saunders' - or the Post Office. There was a bakery next to Arch's shop, run by Ted Martin - always lovely fresh bread!



*Speen Cricket Team 1950*

*Rear row l-r: Bill Rixon, Brian Janes, Harry Janes, Jack Wilson, Ralph Ridgley, Eric Ellis, Mrs Ellis*

*Middle row l-r: Cyril Ridgley, John Newport, Wilf Tilbury, Ron Wilson, Ernie Rixon*

*Front row l-r: Jim Fowler, Arch Rowe*

In 1949 our second child was born - Leslie - and it was very cramped at Aveluy! Luckily Arch Janes came to our rescue again and rented a cottage to us at Long Yard. There were 3 cottages - we had the end one, Mr and Mrs Hughes the middle one and Mrs Tilbury the other end one. It was a very small cottage, one up and one down, with a tiny, tiny, kitchen and an outside toilet - no bathroom! But we had Calor Gas which was great. The bedroom was very large; when I had my second daughter - Barbara - in 1951 it contained one double bed, two single beds, and a cot; PLUS - a wardrobe, dressing table and chest of drawers (all 'Utility' furniture). Eventually, one leg went through the ceiling, but Arch repaired it! Living at Long Yard was one of our happiest times - after cricket we would hold parties to either celebrate a win, or drown our sorrows if we lost! Good times. We lived there until, in 1952, we were allocated a Council house, but, in Lacey Green to where we moved until 1965 when we all moved to Somerset and, eventually, in 1971 to West Sussex, Chichester, where I now live alone - Viv living in France, Les in Worcester and Barbara in Cheshire.

Reading 'The Leaves of Time - a History of Speen', brought back so many happy memories, seeing names and faces I had forgotten about. Harry's brother Harold, and his wife Ivy, lived and worked at the White House (Major Caldwell) and I think Kath and Wilf Tilbury lived at The Manse (but I may be wrong). There was a Nursery opposite the White House - can't remember their names. Seeing a photograph of Harry at Speen School in 1927, with his cousin Arnold Ridgley, and as a young man with the Cricket Club in 1935, neither of which I had seen before, was a

bonus. I wonder how many - if any - are still around.

A mention of Mr Rubbra also reminded me that I did housework there at one time. It was necessary at that time to earn any extra money. Harry earned good money as an upholsterer at the William Vere furniture factory (Sands) but he was on piece-work and there were many times when he was on a 3 day week. The Wilson family from Pond Cottage were exceptionally kind to us in times of need. Jack Wilson was a London taxi driver and brought his taxi home - taking me in the taxi, in a mad

rush to get me to Amersham General Hospital for my 3rd birth in 1951. He was also helpful in carrying cricket gear to and from matches.

And Peter Goffin rings a bell - I wonder if he was born the same time as Viv in The Willows nursing home. There was a Mrs Goffin there at the same time - will I ever know?

Mother-in-law Lucy was a great lace-maker, with her own 'pillow' and was a friend of Joyce Coleman, taking me with her on her visits. Every year a Fete was held on the Playing Fields, a planning committee meeting in the William IV to arrange stalls etc, of which at times I was a member. I know one prize was a pig! (Bowl for a Pig!).

At the rear of Aveluy was a large plot of land with a wooden bungalow which Harry and I had the loan of whilst our friend was on holiday. Is it still there I wonder?



*Lucy Janes lace-making at Speen Fete*

Labour Party meetings were held at 'Glenwood' (Next to the William IV) the home of a Mr Laver, which I attended for a while. Roger and Janet ??? lived in a cottage along a drive by Mrs Saunders' shop but (great excitement in the village!) it was burnt to the ground - thankfully, no casualties.

Speen Farm was occupied during the 1950s by Mr and Mrs Buckingham where I went 'baby sitting' - a very pleasant family. They had a daughter - Eliza - and I have often seen that name on TV, but is it the same Eliza?

Since writing this, Viv and I had a fantastic weekend last September, travelling down 'Memory Lane' and visiting Princes Risborough, Lacey Green, Speen and High Wycombe. The weather was perfect and we had a lovely time. We drove around the village, remembering where people we knew once lived. "Long Yard" was an eye-opener - with a road cut through it and new houses built. It should now be re-named "Short Yard"! We did visit "Aveluy" but unfortunately no one was at home. It looked exactly the same but I was disappointed to discover that the well had been filled in - no visible sign now that it ever existed, and no sign of the wooden bungalow at the rear; new builds again.

We hope to visit Speen again in 2014.

*Joan Janes*

**Speen Heritage Group** seem to receive periodic enquiries from interested parties about various different matters. I attach one from Australia, which we cannot answer. Do any readers know the answer here? If so can they email me please on [symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk](mailto:symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk)

*Peter Symonds*

"Good morning!

I am a researcher for a university here in Sydney and I am currently footnoting a biography of an Australian writer named Jack Lindsay. In one chapter, he mentions that he once rented a cottage "on a hilltop near Speen in Buckinghamshire. The place had previously been inhabited by a journalist connected with the rationalist movement, who committed suicide there; he had left a large library of anthropological works on his shelves."

I am having absolutely no luck in working out who this journalist may have been and I wondered if somebody familiar with local history might have any idea - my assumption is that this would have been in the first three decades of the twentieth century as Jack was there in the late thirties.

Any help at all would be so very gratefully received.

Regards, Amelia"

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## Speen Marquee

The village marquee was well used during the 2012 season. Outings included 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!

The 2012 hirings produced a healthy net income after paying for (sharply increasing) insurance and maintenance costs. The surplus from each year is held in a fund that is planned to be sufficient for when the Marquee needs replacing, probably in 6 - 8 years time.

We have had a village marquee for 13 years now. I am very pleased that Greg Cook has, at our AGM, taken over the leadership of the Marquee Management Team. The other team members who have done sterling service over this same period are Jem Symondson, Ashley Cooper, James Entwisle and Treasurer, Roger Anderson. Their support has been much appreciated.

Each hiring relies on volunteers to help erect and strike. 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 Shop Charity

As we welcome in 2013 we can reflect back on the past year of 2012 which was an eventful year of anniversaries, The Queens Diamond Jubilee, and exciting events, such as the Olympics and Paralympics. However, it is worth noting that 2013 will bring a more local anniversary - 15 years since Speen Stores opened in May 1998.

Speen Stores has been a success, for as well as being a "Useful Little Shop" providing a service to the residents of Speen and surrounding villages, it is worth noting that it has in turn been able to support local Speen organisations, events and facilities. It may not be common knowledge that any profit arising from income rental from Speen Stores is managed and overseen by the Speen Shop Charities Committee, consisting of representatives of Bucks Housing Association, a Lacey Green Parish Councillor and local Speen residents. Currently this charity is run by a Committee that consists of the following representatives: Peter King (Chairman), Tim Crossley, Sarah Bowen, Trish Preston-Whyte, Roger Craft (Lacey Green Parish Councillor),

## Bangers, Beer and Boyz Night!

Just what flavours do sausages come in?

Well, one night in December a large group of Speen and North Dean gentlemen spent an evening, with artisan beer and nibbles, at Seasons Farm Shop in North Dean, making sausages that have never been made before!



An excellent and fun night saw Tony Bobroff, Eamon Barrett and many others try their hand at mincing, mixing and knotting the jalopeno, Rogan Josh and Beer sausages which their poor families were able to endure in the following days.

Watch out for the next available night at Seasons Sausage Session.

Keith Dobson and Rosemary Pickworth (Bucks Housing Association).

Since its formation, nearly 15 years ago, the Speen Shop Charities Committee has been able to award grants of nearly £35,000 to local Speen organisations, events and facilities, an average of over £2,250 per annum! The Committee meets four times a year (in early March, June, September and December) and reviews applications for grants which have been submitted.

As we go into 2013, if any local organisations require any financial support by way of grants, then applications can be made by completing a form that can be obtained from Alison in Speen Stores.

As we move forward into another year, please continue to use your local Speen Stores so that we can continue to support in return the local community.

*Roger Craft  
For and on behalf of Speen Shop  
Charities Committee*

## Speen WI

We start with our September meeting when Vivian Barrett talked about what it was like to be a thalidomide child, without legs and only one small arm. We were amazed to hear she had passed exams and become a teacher of music theory for 25 years. Her mother had taken only two pills for morning sickness to make her as she was and, of course, there wasn't any scanning in the 60s to show that the foetus wasn't growing properly.

As our speaker for October was unwell we were, instead, entertained by the Emerald Singers from Holmer Green WI who sang with great gusto and asked that members join in if they felt like it - which they did.

Our Annual Meeting went off without a hitch in November and was finished off with a finger pot luck supper.

For our December meeting Mrs Jean Young gave an interesting demonstration of Ikebana flower arranging in the Japanese style, in place of Mrs J Dark who was unable to come.

Some of us had a day out at the WI's Denman College and enjoyed a nice cup of tea or coffee on arrival and then a cookery demonstration and a nice lunch and later in the afternoon a cream tea. Can't be bad.

*Barbara Collett*  
488348

## Speen Village Hall

The Village Hall has now been completely re-furbished. Thanks to the generosity of the Pre-School and the Speen Shop Charities Fund together with our own fund raising we have successfully completed the re-furbishment of the Village Hall. This includes internal and external painting, sanding and varnishing the floor and new curtains. We have also managed to obtain comfortable padded chairs - so there are no excuses not to use the Hall for your next function !

The Hall is available to hire at very reasonable rates - please contact our booking Secretary - Sue Taylor on 01494 488500.

We held a very successful Christmas Bazaar and thanks to all those who attended we raised a record amount.



We are planning a film evening and meal for early Spring and we intend to have a coffee morning to showcase the newly decorated Hall.

The Hall has been owned by the Village since 1924-so it is your Hall-please give it your support.

*Bill Groves*  
Chairman  
Speen Village Hall Management Committee

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## Seasons Farm Shop



Have you visited the New Farm Shop yet? Seasons Farm Shop opened at the end of October this year in North Dean. It is located in a transformed Grain Barn on Home Farm which is between Clappins Lane and Little Stocking Lane. Charles and Alison Kent opened the shop primarily to enable people to enjoy good quality meat that is affordable. Andy the butcher has been employed full time and is very happy to give advice and cut the meat to your desire. The meat is raised on the Beechdean Farm by Charles and Alison and ensures that it is of high quality and from happy animals enjoying high welfare standards.

The cafe is always open and offers homemade cakes, wonderful fresh ground coffee and an array of quality teas.

Delicious homemade soup is on the menu everyday along with omelettes, salads and freshly filled sandwiches.

The cheese counter offers a huge selection of wonderful cheeses from cows, goat and ewes milk and many beautiful biscuits and accompaniments.

If you haven't had the pleasure of visiting yet, put it on the agenda! Tuesday to Sunday 9am until 5.30pm.

## Speen and North Dean Toddler Group

Speen and North Dean Toddler Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning during term time from 10am-ish to midday at North Dean Village Hall.

We recently celebrated Christmas with a festive party, the little ones had a party lunch and the grown ups tucked into the odd mince pie!

We are always keen for new families to come and join us. It is a 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.

The mums serve refreshments 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 01494 489838 or 07776 250778 or [alex\\_bloor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alex_bloor@yahoo.co.uk)



Some Speen residents may remember Natalie Awdry who attended Speen Toddler Group, Speen Playgroup (now Pre-School), Speen School and St John's. She was married on 10 November 2012 in the Mediterranean Biome at the Eden Project, Cornwall, to James Keeble from Stokenchurch. Wynne Davies from Abbotswood entertained the guests at the reception.



2013 is a special year in the life of Speen Church as we celebrate 200 years of active worship at the Chapel. When it was first formed as a Baptist Church, on 3rd January 1813, there were just six members which included the Pastor! A rare vellum bound notebook from that time gives an insight into the early life of the Church and will be displayed as part of the anniversary celebrations. These pioneers had a vision of a church that would not simply satisfy their needs, but one that would serve the spiritual needs of "generations to come" to quote directly from the notebook.



This vision is paid tribute to in the beautiful poem 'Speen Chapel' written by Roy Bristow (1902 to 1973) which is published in full on the page opposite. Roy, who lived all his life in North Dean, expresses his thanks to

"those dear hands which in days long ago  
Gathered stones on the opposite hill,  
And build this dear house, to the glory of God"

We think that Roy would be happy to know that 40 years on, the Church is a vibrant part of village life. The Christmas activities exemplified this: A lunch for our senior friends in the village was held followed by a screening of the timeless movie "It's a Wonderful Life." The Christmas Fair at the Chapel raised over £500 for the Wycombe Homeless Connection thanks to the support of so many of you. The Chapel was packed on Christmas Eve to sing in Jesus's birthday in customary joyful and uplifting style and this year's collection raised a terrific £445 for One Can Trust.

Our Interregnum continues, but we are now actively recruiting a new pastor to lead us forward and we hope that an appointment will be made in the first half of the year. We are still seeking the best way to take forward plans for the improvement and extension of the hall at the Chapel, and will keep the village posted on developments. We have received planning permission to extend and modernise the Manse and we hope to start the work shortly.

Church outreach activities continue to be central to our mission to be a church which is active everyday not just when we gather on Sunday mornings. The tough economic climate makes this work all the more relevant with homelessness and food poverty becoming growing problems. Church members are actively involved in the night shelter project in High Wycombe and support of the Wycombe Homeless Connection. The inspired "One Can Trust" initiative, which aims at delivering food boxes to some of the most vulnerable families in the Wycombe area, is also keenly supported by the Church.

I'll close on another historical note. In the 19th century, the village had a brass band. The bass drum has been preserved in the chapel for many decades. To mark this year's 200th anniversary, the drum has been sensitively restored. The skin has been washed and oiled and the ropes, brassware and original paintwork cleaned. The drum is now back in the chapel for all to see.



We do hope to welcome you during the course of 2013 as we celebrate our 200th birthday - you can find out more information on forthcoming events by visiting a special section of our website: <http://www.speenchurch.org/Speen-Church-200-Diary>

*Alastair Blundell*



## Speen Chapel

It's a little old house on the side of a hill  
But it's Heaven on earth to me,  
For it's here that I hear my Saviour's voice,  
And some of His glory see.

Oh! Who can tell of the peace in my heart,  
As I enter the door so serene -  
For the Prince of Peace waits to welcome me here  
In the little old Chapel at Speen.

It is here that I meet with the blessed few  
Who have given their hearts to the Lord,  
And the sweet joy of Heaven seems to rest in my soul,  
As we praise Him with one accord.

Oh thousands of prayers have ascended on High  
From this blessed and holy place,  
And God - in His mercy - has heard and blessed,  
From the very throne of Grace.

If the world should oppress with its troubles and care  
And sin should my soul fill with grief.  
My burdens I lay at my Saviour's feet,  
It is there I find sweetest relief.

These holy old walls - these prayer soaked beams  
This pulpit, and organ, and seats,  
These bibles, these hymn books, this modern Bethel  
Where Heaven with earth ever meets.

How I bless those dear hands which in days long ago  
Gathered stones on the opposite hill,  
And build this dear house, to the glory of God -  
Fulfilling His holy will.

May God's richest blessing aye fall on this House  
On the side of the hill fair and green,  
This home of the blest, this light to the lost  
This lovely old Chapel at Speen.

*By Roy Bristow  
1903-1972*



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# County Council News - January 2013



## 2013/2014 Budget

The good news at this time is that the County Council is set to freeze Council Tax for third successive year.

Other major recommendations from the Council's Cabinet include investing an additional £25m in road repairs, protecting grants to the voluntary sector and approval of the Council's brand new Strategic Plan. Whilst not finalised yet I anticipate that all the recommendations will be adopted by full council at the Budget setting meeting in February.

Despite £14.4m less funding from Government, freezing Council Tax again forms the centrepiece of the County Council's budget plans for 2013/14 and firmly reflects the views of 82 per cent of residents who said they wanted it to stay the same. On average, the combined effect of the three year freeze will see around £100 back in the pockets of hard-pressed local council tax payers.

In proposing its balanced budget of £335.2m, the Council has also been able to cope with inflationary rises and the increase in costs of safeguarding the most vulnerable. Grants to the voluntary and community sectors also remain protected to recognise the valuable work they do across Buckinghamshire.

The transfer of Public Health from the NHS back to the Council is set to happen in April this year. Transition plans are progressing with the appointment of Dr Jane O'Grady to the position of Director of Public Health. Dr O'Grady comes into the post with experience as previously she was in charge of public health for the NHS in Buckinghamshire. At this time the funding for the new service is unknown but pressure from the County Council looks to have paid off with the expected settlement from central government substantially higher than first indicated.

## Elections

With County Council elections taking place in May, this will be my final update for Speen and North Dean News. With the changed divisional boundaries meaning a fresh start for whoever is elected, I have decided not to stand for re-election this time. On a personal note I would say that I have enjoyed my time as the representative for

Speen and hope that I have made some small difference to the services provided by the Council. One of my main priorities has been to improve the environmental conditions in rural areas and hence the quality of village life but the last few years have seen dramatic reductions in funding putting a great deal of stress on the delivery of services.

During my time we have had some success, the improvement of the A4010 Culverton junction, reduced speed limits through the villages, the return of traditional finger post direction signs and more grit bins around the patch are good examples. Road maintenance has proved to be more difficult however with a continual battle against pot holes. There has been some improvement with surfacing works carried out to Hampden Road, Bryants Bottom Road and Chapel Hill. Recently I have asked, and gained agreement, for Studridge Lane and Flowers Bottom Lane be considered for treatment of the worst areas but as yet no dates have been given.

The threat from HS2 remains and we await the outcome of the judicial review. Should this be negative then pressure for greater environmental and community protection must be given.

Finally I would like to thank all of you that have helped me carry out the task over the past twelve years and look forward to meeting you in a more relaxed atmosphere in the coming months, years . . .

*Paul Rogerson, County Councillor*  
*01494 488315, [progerson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:progerson@buckscc.gov.uk)*

## District Council News and HS2 Update - January 2013



### District Council News

As with Bucks County Council, Wycombe District Council intends to freeze Council Tax for a further year - having developed a budget which maintains vital services while at the same time reducing costs to offset the further reduction in central government funding. WDC already sits in the lowest 25% of councils for Council Tax, and the decision to freeze tax again will help all District residents with their personal budgets.

A new contract for waste services, jointly negotiated with Chiltern District Council, will begin implementation from March 2013 and is an



excellent example of the way in which WDC is reducing costs.

The projected savings are in excess of £1million per annum, with the benefit of additional recycling for glass and the potential for further items such as batteries and textiles, which will be introduced progressively as the new contractor implements the new agreement.

Further details of the new waste service will be issued over the coming months by WDC. interpreted.

### **HS2 Update**

The main activity concerning HS2 has been the series of 5 Judicial Reviews which took place in December 2012. By the time you read this article, the results should be known.

The best outcome would be for the reviews to determine that the project should be stopped, but realistically, that is unlikely to be the outcome. It is hoped that the reviews will, however, be highly critical of the processes used by Government in their handling of HS2, which will provide further ammunition for the campaign against the project.

It is now one year since the Government indicated it would proceed with HS2 and over that time, the business case has steadily eroded to the point where, by normal standards, this project should not go ahead.

Unfortunately, HS2 is a project of political dogma, so the campaign has to continue to focus on demonstrating that this is a monumental waste of taxpayers' money which could be invested better elsewhere (for instance in rolling out high-speed broadband across the country).

Also by the time you read this, the second part of the HS2 route to the North should have been announced for consultation. The Government will try to persuade Northerners that this will help their economic outlook (for which there is no evidence) and it will be interesting to see how much resistance is generated when millions more people realise the cost, in both environmental and economic terms, that HS2 will incur.

**Mel Foster**  
**Chair**

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

## **Lacey Green Parish Community Planning Group**

Readers of Speen and North Dean News don't hear from us very often which always seems rather a pity. Perhaps it's because Speen doesn't seem to have many burning issues - no doubt a reader will tell me that this is not true. Or perhaps because we only have one Speen representative on the Planning Group. Anyway, we do have something to say this time - see below.

### **Wycombe District Local Plan**

WDC has started working on a new local plan, which looks ahead to 2031. Parish and Town Councils, together with other interested organisations, have been asked to contribute their views.

The Parish Council had decided not to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan, it being considered that existing WDC local plans, and the location of the Parish within the countryside, together provided good protection. However, it will collaborate with WDC, so that the interests of Lacey Green Parish can be considered in any future local plan. Recent government initiatives might indicate a lessening of protection against further development, and there is of course the unsettled situation with regard to HS2.

We would try to ensure that Lacey Green Parish gets what its residents would like, and not something imposed from outside.

Issues of importance to residents have been identified, and are listed in the Parish Plan. Many of the more important issues have already been dealt with. The Village Design Statement for Lacey Green and Loosley Row is referred to regularly when dealing with planning applications in that part of the Parish. Some time ago, a similar document was started for Speen, but progress seems to have stalled.

Both the Parish Plan and the Lacey Green/Loosley Row Village Design Statement can be seen on the new Parish Council website ([www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk](http://www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk)).

The Community Planning Group will be working together with the Parish Council to make our views known to WDC. Readers of Speen and North Dean News may have further ideas to contribute, so please tell us.

**Tony Molesworth**  
**Community Plan Steering Group**  
**01844 344975**  
***molechem@yahoo.co.uk***

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# Speen Playing Fields

The Pavilion roof has now been replaced, thanks to an excellent response to the appeal launched in August. We managed to secure a grant from Bucks County Council for £5,000, enabling us to repay the urgent loan we received for our Parish Council. Our heartfelt thanks to both these local councils. Further funding was gratefully received from Bucks Playing Fields, The Speen Shop Fund, Speen Fete (including the Tennis club who gave us their donation), The Pre-School, who gave us some of their hard earned money from catering at bonfire night and finally several very generous private donations from the good villagers of Speen. We hope to be able to make up the balance through fund raising at a Wine tasting evening (details to follow). I never imagined, sat here six months ago, that we would have this project completed and financed by the year end. Many thanks to you all.



Bike Park improvements. The Skatelite surface boards for a half pipe have now been delivered and we are busy specking up the frame. We hope to have this built by end March. Again we have done unbelievably well in our fund raising efforts. We have a £2,500 grant committed from Bucks County Council, plus further funds pledged by the Speen Shop Fund, and two very generous villagers. We have also received £316 raised by the boys who at present dice with death on Hampden Road! This is all money they raised at their bike show in October. They set the venue up, planned the event and with the help of parents and friends ran a very well attended, great afternoon, with all sorts of side shows and workshops. They have been very keen, all the way through this project, to help where they can, even accompanying me to present our case for funding at the LAF (Bucks CC), so many thanks to Ryan, Jake and friends.

The Bonfire night once again surpassed all previous, Christian's idea of building a replica of the Houses of Parliament was brilliant. The lifelike



face of Big Ben and windows were created by the Children of Speen School. The edifice itself was built of pallets and probably 50% bigger than any previous fire. Proceedings commenced with a best guy competition followed by the successful "Gunpowder Plot" fire and a great firework display as usual from Keith. The Pre-School once again provided the food and drink. Many thanks to all those who helped, particularly the children and the many loyal citizens who partook in Christian's folly, it felt like the Pillars of the Earth!! Bets are now being taken on what he plans to build next year; it could be a High Speed Train, with politicians on board!!

The Lighting of the Christmas Tree lights could have been marred by the rain, but we managed to turn the conditions to our advantage. The traditional noisy procession from the School to the tree, a punctual lighting followed by one Carol and then onto the newly renovated Village Hall, where Kate Loughton conducted a children's performance, then leading all in Carols. It really was quite moving and further enhanced by Debbie and Lesley's mince pies and Chris's mulled wine. We even managed to collect £60 for Macmillan Nurses.

Finally, a couple of housekeeping points: As you know Dan Ridgeley's Field is a natural children's play area, in fact it was specifically bequeathed to the village as such. We are delighted that the Pre-School is now using the field as a forest school to teach the little ones about nature. They also planted an apple tree as part of National Tree Planting week in November. This makes it all the more important for dog walkers (of which I am one) to behave responsibly. Could I please request that you keep dogs on a lead through Ridgeley's field and should they do their business, please ensure you pick up and take it home to your own bin. Dog fouling is a health hazard to our children and we are blessed with many open fields and woods around the village to exercise our dogs.

As previously announced in the Spring/Summer SNDN we hired out the Marquee for 2 private parties on consecutive Saturdays evenings in August. These were very successful and contributed to both the Marquee replacement and the Playing Field maintenance funds. We have agreed to charge a standard fee for an evening party in the Marquee on the playing field of £1000. If the marquee is already standing for some other village event we charge a reduced rate of £800. This is less than half a commercial rate.

Dates for your 2013 Diaries:  
Wine Tasting, Village Hall TBC  
Hounds for Heroes, Home of Rest 2nd May  
Fun Day 8th June  
Speen School PTA Ball 29th June  
Speen Fete 13th July  
North Dean Fete 27th July  
Speen Festival 7th -15th September

*Tony Bobroff*

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# SPEENFESTIVAL 2013

1st - 15th September

**You remember Speen Festival 2011 don't you?**

It started with that amazing production of The Dreaming in the marquee on the Playing Fields then meandered through a glorious 10 days and various village locations with Craft, Nature, Survival, Food, Photos, Jazz, Science, Folk, Biking, and Cabaret, finishing with a 70-piece orchestra and the slightly soggy Prom in the Playing Field. Our seventh biennial event celebrating local talent and creativity in the heart of the Chilterns is created, run and enjoyed by the residents of Speen and beyond - and the time has now come to focus on Speen Festival 2013.

**What's new for 2013?**

With many of the old favourite events like the Cabaret Supper and some new initiatives programmed this year 'we' have decided to spread the period of the Festival from 10 days to 2 weeks. The hope is, that with the events less concentrated all those juggling jobs and families are more likely to be able to attend the numerous events they enjoy without burning out too fast! Not to mention giving the logistics team a breather before reorganising the marquee! Among the new events is the Speeniversity Challenge for those who want to move on from the pub quiz. We also plan to kick off the Festival in style with another famous Big Sing to whet your appetites for our show and to give you chance to buy tickets at the box office.

**Who is making it happen?**

So who are WE? WE are nothing without YOU! The committee format from 2011 is no longer in place and despite Sam and Kate Laughton's best efforts to step down as Artistic Directors they are still well and truly at the centre of our 2013 Festival. So, Sam is coordinating a skeleton team from which the various event organisers can seek support. Sarah Rogers from Pigotts has taken over the admin role with the help of the most impressive file diligently handed on from Sue Taylor, Cat Cook will coordinate the Marketing and Publicity and Kate Laughton is busy delegating SpeenSchoolFest! and similar participatory pursuits. Antony Cox is heading up the Logistics team and all of us need teams of people to get the jobs done. The Festival is entirely created by volunteers and it really is the most amazing community event for such a small village. If you would like to unearth long forgotten talents or even use tried and tested skills on a valuable community enterprise we would love to hear from you. It's not too late if you have any ideas, we are all ears!

## Grease is the retro-word!

The really hot news is that Speen has capitulated to Sam's long-held dream of staging Grease as our musical theatre production this year: so dust down your hairgel and combs, lads, and join the Pink Ladies for some Summer Lovin'! We are assembling a cracking team of top locals to put it all together: as well as Sam in the musical hotseat once again, Debbie O'Brien has stepped up to the plate as Director, Carolyn Kendall returns as choreographer, and Judith Newenham is adding the title of Producer to her lengthy CV. So, if you think your teenage years are behind you, or indeed in front of you, forget it: as the man keeps saying, 'we are all in this together', so as long as you can recite the phrase 'boop-she-wap' without falling over we will find room for you! (And more seriously, there are some actual adult roles but we are particularly keen to find the teens!).

**Now to the all-important dates for your diaries if you do want to become involved.** The show itself will run between **Thursday 5th and Saturday 7th September**. The majority of rehearsals before the summer holidays will be on **Sunday afternoons**, with a few weekday evenings, but it is also vital that you are not away during our **Production Week** commencing on **Tuesday 27 August**, where we shall be putting in some very concentrated time stitching everything together - so please block that out now.

**Tell me more, tell me more!** Well, whether you fancy a star turn or just want to join a gang of over/undergrown high school kids, just turn up on one of our two **audition workshops** in Speen Chapel on **10th or 17th March**. Everyone should arrive for **2.30pm**, with primary school kids (Year 3 plus, ideally) leaving at 3.30pm and everybody else staying till 5.30 pm. See you all then!

**And finally...**

In addition to Nicki Thomas's website  
**www.SpeenFestival.org**

where you can subscribe to our newsletter, we are hoping to use Facebook and Twitter to keep more of you engaged with what is happening. We hope you will LIKE us at **www.facebook.com/speenfestival** and FOLLOW us on Twitter **@SpeenFestival** to keep up to date.

For any queries, questions, big ideas and offers of help please contact any of the team below:

**Sam Laughton** [director@speenfestival.org](mailto:director@speenfestival.org) • **Sarah Rogers** [administrator@speenfestival.org](mailto:administrator@speenfestival.org)  
**Antony Cox** [logistics@speenfestival.org](mailto:logistics@speenfestival.org) • **Cat Cook** [publicity@speenfestival.org](mailto:publicity@speenfestival.org) • **Cristina Delgado** [frontofhouse@speenfestival.org](mailto:frontofhouse@speenfestival.org)



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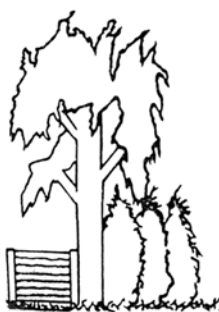
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Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall - Bookings	Sue Taylor	488500
Speen Village Hall - Chairman	Bill Groves	488180
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
The Speen Group (was Speen Supporters Group)	Diana Summers	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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