

Special Festival Pullout
SPEENFESTIVAL2013



Issue 57
Spring/Summer 2013



Speen and North Dean News



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NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (58) is due by Sunday 22 September 2013.

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

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Month	Event	Where	Contact
May			
Thursday 23 rd	Speen v North Dean Golf	Mentmore GC, 1.00pm	Charlie Pearson 488483
Friday 31 st	Marquee up	Home of Rest for Horses, 6.00pm	Greg Cook 488939
June			
Wednesday 5 th	MPS	The Wheel, Naphill, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 6 th	WI. Medical Detection Dogs	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Thursday 6 th	Pub Quiz	KW4, 8.00p but 7.00pm if eating	488329 to book a table
Friday 7 th	SG's Hospice Lunch	Home of Rest for Horses, 12noon	Diana Summers 488344
Saturday 8 th	Speen FunDay	Speen Playing Field, 2.00pm	Andy Thompson 488524
Wednesday 12 th	Italian Evening	KW4, 7.00pm	Dilly Hill 488329
Sunday 16 th	Grand Reopening Fete	Home of Rest for Horses 11.00am – 5.00pm	488464
Sunday 23 rd	Marquee up	Speen School, 9.30am	Greg Cook 488939
Saturday 29 th	PTA Ball	Speen School, 7.30pm	Katherine Matthews 489843
July-September			
Monday 1 st	MPS, Archery	Whiteleaf Bowmen, Walter's Ash, 7.00pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 4 th	WI. Most Teachers are Human	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Thursday 11 th	Marquee up	Speen Playing Field, 6.00pm	Greg Cook 488939
Thursday 11 th	Pub Quiz	KW4, 8.00pm but 7.00pm if eating	488329 to book a table
Saturday 13 th	Speen Fete	Speen Playing Field, 2.00pm	Amanda Dobbs 488887
Sunday 14 th	SG Craft Fair	Marquee/Playing Field 10.00am	Diana Summers 488344
Thursday 25 th	Marquee up	North Dean Playing Field, 6.00pm	Greg Cook 488939
Saturday 27 th	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Field, 2.00pm	Andrew Howard 562775
1 st -15 th September	Speen Festival	Various venues (see pullout in this issue)	Sam Laughton 488548

As I write this the Bank Holiday has literally just passed and the weather is hot and dry. Well, that's the summer gone! I'm sure we'd all like to see a better year than last.

Again a big thank you to our regular contributors. Without them the magazine would be extremely thin. On the subject of volunteers, you will read in this issue that the Speen Pre-School is looking for help and it is sad to report that Hughenden Beavers will close from the end of this term unless they can find more help.

The big event for this coming year will be the Speen Festival. This is a wonderful chance to see just what the Village can do when it comes together. The centrespread is designed as a "pull out supplement". So please do just that.

James Hazeldine



Scannappeal Open Gardens 2013

Scannappeal's Open Gardens scheme for 2013 has been launched to raise funds for life saving equipment at Wycombe, Amersham and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals and in the community. From April to September, fourteen gardens around Buckinghamshire are taking part including some in Great Missenden and Ellesborough.

From smaller neighbourhood gardens to those at larger properties, there are a range of different places to visit, with varying special features. Refreshments are available at all the properties and some will also feature musical entertainment to give the charity's supporters further reasons to visit and enjoy a morning, afternoon or evening out.

To request a copy of the Scannappeal Open Gardens leaflet which gives details of all gardens or to book tickets in advance (including a discounted multiple entry ticket) telephone 01494 734161, email info.scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk or visit www.scannappeal.org.uk.

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Speen Playing Fields and Bike Park



The main news since we last spoke has been the completion of the half pipe in Ridgeley's field. The structure has been purpose built by Billy Sutherland, in a bowl, mostly below ground level, so as to be sympathetic to the park and as muffled as possible.

The Grand Opening took place on Saturday 4th May. This was heralded by the cutting of the ribbon by our planner/designer extraordinaire, Pete Symonds, followed by a bike show from the boys.



The Speen paparazzi were naturally there to record the presence of such local dignitaries as Madeleine Howe from the LAF at Bucks CC and Tim Crossley and Sarah Bowen representing the Speen Shop Charities Committee, as well as several individual villagers, who all contributed very generously to funding this project. We thank you all. I'm sure Dan Ridgeley would be very proud to see his field developing with the era.



Dates for your 2013 Diaries:

- Hounds for Heroes, Home of Rest 2nd June
- Fun Day 8th June
- Speen School PTA Ball 29th June
- Speen Fete 13th July
- Speen Group Craft Fair and Porsche/MG exhibition 14th July
- North Dean Fete 27th July
- Speen Festival 1st -15th September

Tony Bobroff





Alison and Ian Greig

Becoming a hill dweller

Discovering the beauty of the hills and hangers* has been easier in spring than it was in a winter that went on and on. Not living in Speen yet, it was a frequent drive, uphill for miles, and encountering the snow line where the trees were white-haired and majestic. And then back to the Thames Valley where everything felt very different.

We've got over that now, and the serious geography is in hand. I've discovered that the most immediate people I am called to 'shepherd' (for want of a better term) come not just from Speen and North Dean but relate to a dozen villages and three towns between Risborough and Wycombe, Great Missenden and Stokenchurch. It's not only where you live, but the involvements -- for young people it's school, college and clubs, for parents it's workplaces and often commuting challenges, it's where you get the shopping and the charities you support, and the many activities that draw on the talent and enthusiasm that abounds in this area. I discovered early on that this is no sleepy village.

It is also a place where people place a high value on being a community, and invest in making that happen. As a couple, we would like to invest in that, too. It is a good fit with being called to a pastorate of the Chapel. So one part of life is about modelling and encouraging a particular kind of community that is empowered by Jesus. The other side of the coin is to play a part (which everyone at the Chapel would share) of supporting and helping to grow the wider community. It's such a friendly place, I'm sure a lot of that will just come naturally.

It is a change coming to a place where people are interested in each other and are 'for' each other. Strange as it may seem, people don't always want community. I am thinking of another village situation which was a fairly closed settlement until new people, with different perspectives, started moving in. There

was resistance from those who felt they 'owned' the village, and that made building community (I was a parish councillor as well as a church leader) quite a task. Then there was an edge of town suburban situation . . . a busy kind of area, with traffic backing up at school run time and always a lot of people around. Where people feel crowded they can want to protect their space, grow the hedges tall and keep themselves to themselves. So I am finding Speen and the neighbouring villages a refreshing change.

It's good that local people are involved in projects, such as the manse extension drawn up by Jeremy Symondson and being completed by builder Mark Wengler. I haven't met architect Jo Podmore yet but she is involved in another project of ours. It all has that feel of being in the family.

Handy being almost next door to the pub, as well. Someone came up to me in the King William and said, "Oh, you must be Ian, our new pastor". This tells me that people see the Chapel as 'theirs' and with 200 years of history on their side, I am happy to agree. A good MP knows they are elected by a few, but strives to serve all in the constituency. That seems like a good model to me.

Revd. Ian Greig

* http://www.chesham.gov.uk/Walks/CCV_Walk_Four.aspx

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Wildlife Watch

In January, bird tables in the village were busy with both local birds and winter visitors seeking extra food. Throughout the winter my own feeding stations attracted large numbers of Lesser Redpolls and Siskins and the occasional Brambling but there were none of the rarer Mealy Redpolls this year or wintering Blackcaps. The largest numbers were 16 Redpolls with 15 Chaffinches on 18 January and 22 Siskins on 19 February. Up to 6 Robins have been noted together in the back garden and 4 Jays were present on several days. A pair of Bullfinches have been regular visitors throughout. 5 Crossbills were recorded in Monkton Wood on 19 January and Waxwings were seen in numbers in Prestwood and elsewhere in the district but I did not hear of any in Speen this year.

Other local birds doing better include Barn Owls with individuals seen in Speen and also noted in Great Hampden by Dick Seekins and Henry Lane. Tawny Owls are also present, albeit dead birds have been found in Coleheath Bottom and in Great Hampden. These birds can be vulnerable to poor weather and particularly on roads where they often hunt when the ground is snow covered. The prolonged winter weather makes it difficult for our local deer to find sufficient food drawing many into local gardens to browse. Visits by Muntjac are common but some residents have had 3 Roe Deer feeding in the early hours. Local frogs returned to their breeding ponds in February but any spawn laid in late February or March is almost certain to have failed due to the extreme frosts over that period.

I have been trying to provide a safer local site for Mallard to breed in our garden by enlarging our main pond and providing a small island and a duck box. Last year the female was taken by a fox after three weeks of incubation. This year a new pair arrived and took to the box and laying commenced on the 13 March with one egg added every day for 12 days. The female incubated the eggs for three weeks during some bitterly cold weather but then disappeared leaving the eggs well covered with her down whilst she flew off to feed. Unfortunately, she did not return and the clutch failed but the male returned with a new female about 10 days later. This female formed a nest in the open on the island and duly laid her first egg on 28 April. Unfortunately, she left this entirely exposed and by the time I returned from a garden centre with some wire netting to provide some cover, a crow or other predator had visited the nest and removed the nest and removed the egg which was broken open nearby. To disguise the damage, I returned the remains of the egg shell to the nest and covered it with

feathers and formed a protective arch with wire mesh and reeds over the nest. The female has returned and added several further eggs but it remains to be seen whether these will make it to hatching. Meanwhile, 12 Mallard chicks hatched successfully in Grubbins Lane at the end of April with another nest in Spring Coppice Lane yet to hatch.

As well as the local birds we now have the summer visitors arriving and passing through the area. Les Brown reported a Stonechat trying to find food on a fat ball on his bird table in cold conditions at the end of March. By late April, Blackcaps and Willow Warblers had taken up residence and late frog and toad spawn, laid in mid April, was hatching and at last it seemed as if Spring had arrived.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings over the summer period.

Peter Symonds

01494 488016

symonds@speen 10.freeserve.co.uk

The Horse Trust

The Horse Trust would like to say a huge thank you to The Old Plow Bistro and Restaurant in Speen which has raised nearly £200 to go towards the care of our horses. Olivia and Malcolm, proprietors of The Old Plow, helped raise money for The Horse Trust by selling our calendars in their cosy, countryside bistro and restaurant. For more information go to www.facebook.com/HorseTrust

Dear Editor,

THANK YOU! to so many of your readers who purchased a Horse Trust 2013 calendar from us, earlier this year. A cheque for almost £200.00 was given to the sanctuary from donations and calendar sales. This year's calendar featured terrific photos of Duke and many of the other horses rescued from the notorious Spindles Farm - it is a testament to the Trust's expertise that none of these horses bears obvious signs of the criminal neglect they suffered. A letter of thanks from the Trust can be seen on our Facebook page.

Yours sincerely,

Olivia at The Old Plow

Speen School and PTA

Despite the wintry days and lack of Easter sunshine, the children, parents and teachers at Speen C of E School have enjoyed a happy and productive Spring Term.

A Parents Forum was held in March and heard the teachers explain how the school has changed the teaching of English across all year groups and suggested ways in which parents can support their children. The National Curriculum is changing and new Programmes of Study will be published later this year for implementation from September 2014.

The rain held off for the Cross Country Challenge, hosted by Speen School on the village playing fields, which saw 7 local schools run foot to foot with the home team who achieved their best ever results. And Friday 15 March was indeed a funny day as the children donned red noses and PJs, shared their favourite jokes, ate cake and raised a fantastic £250 for Comic Relief. Even the lunchtime ladies came dressed in their jimjams.

PTA Chair Tessa Lumsden hit upon the 'Smartie Tube Challenge' - an ingenious idea combining chocolate eating and fundraising which was an instant success with the children, giving them a half term activity. A wonderful array of decorated Smartie tubes, filled with almost £180 in coins, made their way back into school and our thanks go to Alison from Speen Stores who helped Mrs Nayna with the judging.

Thanks also to everyone who dug out their unwanted mobiles and donated them to the school's 'fonebank' appeal. 50 phones were collected and exchanged for an impressive £180 in cash for the PTA bank account.

Last year the PTA purchased a bird box with built-in camera which is now filled with nesting material and home to a family of blue tits who the children will be able to watch on the FS computer. More recently, PTA funds have paid for the ever-popular Y1&2 karate lessons and an Italian comedy inspired drama workshop.

We found a little bit of sunshine on a cold foggy morning when the Speen Green Team (aka the gardening club) celebrated the Spring Equinox with a sale of beautiful flower baskets and bird feeders. The profits will help make the club self-financing - thanks to everyone for buying up everything on the first day of the sale. The Film and Cookery Clubs also ran throughout the Spring Term with many of the children enjoying these activities.

Roaring back into Speen in April, the annual Safari Supper was a resounding success enjoyed by over 70 friends and parents who sampled the culinary delights of the host houses before trekking back to school for puddings and more socialising. Thank

you to everyone who supported this event - a fantastic way of bringing the school and community together. A special thanks to Helen Davis for her organisation skills despite having a very new baby Harry also needing her attention.

The Summer Term brings with it the highlight of the PTA's fundraising calendar - the annual Summer Ball which will be held at the school on Saturday 29 June - an event which is so brilliantly supported by past parents and local residents. This year's Ball Event Team have taken inspiration from the magical woodlands that surround Speen with a nod to Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream.

As always, the Ball is generously supported by a raft of local companies who, as this goes to press, include this year's main sponsor, the Hadley Property Group along with other sponsors: The Hampden Arms, Clubwise, Anytime Fitness, Centra Stage, The FD Centre and GlobalizeMe. There are still sponsorship opportunities available. After 3 very generous years of donating the main auction prize, the Hideaways Club has decided not to support us this year so we're also on the lookout for any auction prize donations.

Ball tickets cost £45 per head and include welcome cocktail, canapés, dinner, puddings, raffle tickets and live music by NBS - a Wycombe based band who believe in playing what the crowd wants to hear . . . just let the Ball Event Team know what gets your feet tapping. For the latest Ball updates, to book your tickets or offer up sponsorship or auction donations please go to www.speenschoolball.co.uk

The children will be helping with the Ball decorations and also enjoying their own Summer Party in the marquee.

Finally, we bid a sad farewell to the Rev Denise Critchell who has decided to retire in early July. During the 10 years she has been with us, Rev Denise has been a staunch supporter of the school and we wish her good health and happiness. The Team Ministry, led by the Rev David Williams in the Princes Risborough, has plans for the interregnum so that the school will not be left without spiritual and pastoral support. On a brighter note, we welcome two YR parents, Alistair Scott and Katherine Matthews, who are set to join the School's Governing Body.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks to everyone living within the Speen and North Dean area. The continued support and generosity of the Governors, local residents and businesses is hugely appreciated by all of us at the school and plays an important role in maintaining such an excellent environment for learning and creativity.

We wish you all a very happy summer.

Zoe Baker

Seasons

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Down on the Farm

I have often wondered, why, the very respected image that farmers had during and after World War 2, has completely disappeared today? I'm coming to the conclusion that population increase and car ownership are largely responsible. In pre-war days, travel was difficult, holidays for the urban workers limited and so town and country rarely met. Today when thousands of people come to the countryside, they expect to find the rural idyll that their grandparents enjoyed. This idyll no longer exists except perhaps in mountainous areas. As in other industries, things have moved on and visitors will find huge machines, instead of horses and carts, enormous barns, housing hundreds of animals, instead of a few cows in the byre. They will see fields being sprayed and notice a lack of animals grazing; is it surprising that they blame the farmers for 'spoiling' their vision of farming?

At the risk of boring those of you who are country born and bred, this article will attempt to explain why some of the farm operations which offend you are necessary and, in the long term, often beneficial to everyone.

If we start with the premise that farmers are essential to provide food for an ever growing population, many of whom are underfed or starving, then nearly all farming operations ought to be tolerated! In general, the operations on cereal growing land areas interfere little with everyday life. The exceptions being, heavy machinery blocking up country lanes making commuters late for work, dust generated during cultivations and the use of sprays, both of which can cause human respiratory problems. The sprays are necessary to produce good yields, they kill parasitic insects, leatherjackets, slugs and competing weeds but often kill other flora and fauna and deplete the biodiversity. The alternative 'organic' way of farming benefits the environment but results in minimal yields in poor soils in areas such as the Chilterns. Scientists all over the world are agreed that it is impossible to feed the world using only organic methods.

If we then consider livestock farming you may be surprised to hear that cattle in particular do not always enjoy being in a field. Keeping animals inside, nearly always benefits their growth. They hate getting wet; our cattle always rush into the barn if it starts to rain. In summer, heat brings flies and again being inside minimises the fly irritation. Smells and mud on the road are by-products of livestock keeping which unfortunately cannot be eliminated and only occur on a few days each year. So why are many farmers antagonistic to the general public?

Buckinghamshire has a plethora of footpaths which are well used by people and dogs, so putting animals into the fields always has the potential to



Harvesting at West Wycombe in the 1940s: note the thin crop; today's crops would yield 4-5 times as much grain

give farmers headaches! 60 years ago children grew up knowing how to walk safely in a field grazed by cattle. Everyone knew that it is advisable to keep well away from cows with calves as they can be quite protective and that when cattle follow you, they are only being inquisitive, (easily countered by turning round and facing them). Because people are unaware of these safety first behaviours, accidents happen. Fencing and gates are always a problem. Gates are left open and, however well you erect a fence, there will always be an occasion when frightened animals break it. Country houses now are often without fences or gates, allowing straying animals to wander at will, making it difficult to move groups of animals along the road. Additional hazards are hot air balloons which terrify cattle, Chinese lanterns which they ingest with the grass and dog sticks which break the mowers in hay fields.

Politicians must take much of the blame for degrading the farmer's image as they imply that the annual government payments are subsidising farmers. In reality the payments are keeping food prices artificially low and it is estimated that without them at least half of agricultural businesses would be unviable.

What is the remedy?

Both farmers and the general public have got to accept that circumstances have changed, and we must make every effort to understand one another. In spite of the present compensation culture, (there is a risk of visitors picking up infections from farm animals) farmers must open their doors to visitors and explain what they are doing and why. Schools, aided by agricultural support groups, are already improving children's knowledge of farming and the countryside but the general population must embrace changes such as badger control, GM crops and large-scale farming.

Gill Kent

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Speen Pre-School

A Snow-covered Easter Egg Hunt, New Resources & Toasted Marshmallows

As the sunshine has now finally decided to arrive it seems a long time ago that the village children turned out for a freezing cold and snow-covered Easter egg hunt. Thanks to a donation of fifty eggs from Tesco the team raised over £200 for pre-school despite the poor weather. Easter was celebrated with the traditional service at the Chapel where it was nice to meet the new Pastor.

We are now into our final term of the year, which has seen us receive a substantial grant from Bucks County Council for new resources. We have bought equipment for use in the Village Hall courtyard enabling us to have an open door policy so that the children always have the option to play outside whatever the weather.

Our Forest school project continues to grow, despite a few cancelled sessions due to the rotten weather. The children really enjoy spending the entire morning at Ridgeley's Field weekly. We have been fortunate enough to build a link with an outstanding Pre-School in Downley whose Forest school has been established for a couple of years. Their inspiring leader joined us for a session bringing along her fire-bowls. The children helped build a fire and then toasted marshmallows for snack-time.

Parents have been busy making story-sacks for the children to use. The children will now be able to take turns to take home a story-sack containing a much-loved book and items that help bring the story to life, the aim being that it encourages a love of books and reading from an early age.

Parents play a critical role in the management, as the school is a charity run by a committee. Perhaps you could help us in our treasury role or have experience of working in human resources? Any help would be much appreciated. Our AGM is in July where we will be looking for new committee members.

A couple of dates for the diary:

We have our popular Coffee & Shop morning taking place at Pye Croft, Chapel Hill (just behind the Chapel) from 9.30 am on Wednesday 12th June. Join us for coffee, homemade cakes and an opportunity to browse our stalls. Currently we have Stella & Dot jewellery, ladies clothes, Usborne books and Phoenix Cards attending.

We have an Open Evening at pre-school on the 26th June from 8pm. Please come and have a look at our facilities, meet the staff and talk to the committee over a glass of wine. This is a great opportunity to look at what we can offer.

We take children from two upwards. If you would like to visit the pre-school or put your child's name down please get in touch. We do have some vacancies, particularly from September onwards.

*Clare Morris
Chair
Speen Pre-School*

Speen & North Dean Toddler Group

Speen and North Dean Toddler Group continue to meet every Tuesday morning during term time from 10/10.30am to midday at North Dean Village Hall.

We are pleased to have some warm weather this term so that we can get outside and use the lovely play area beside the hall. The children enjoy playing on the swing and slides and we also have quite a few ride-on toys, a see-saw and trampoline for more fun in the sun!



We are always keen 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.

We take turns to serve refreshments every week and a variety of play equipment is on offer for the children.

If you would like to join us please feel free to come along any Tuesday morning during term time.

Any donations of unwanted baby and toddler toys gratefully received! We are currently looking for a baby bouncy chair.

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

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1st - 15th September



www.speenfestival.org

Planning for our little hilltop community Festival is in full flow. People across the village are already engaged in rehearsals, planning meetings, scheduling, researching, cajoling, begging, tweeting and generally whipping up support for 1st-15th of September, otherwise known as Speen Festival 2013. In the next 4 pages you will find all the **pull out and keep** information you need to plan your diaries and book your tickets. You might also consider how you, your business or your kids could benefit the Festival or *from* the Festival; plus discover more about the mysterious people who magically create a festival out of nowhere.

Volunteers

Remember the Olympic Gamesmakers? They really made London 2012 special didn't they? Our little Festival needs the same support (maybe not the same numbers!). Speen Festival is a true community collaboration; take our showcase theatrical production of Grease for example; with a cast ranging upwards from 7 years of age, we have teenagers cast in the main parts, a teenage band, teenagers as part of the Production and Direction team and a group of technical teenage whizzes assisting our Technical Director in the sound and lighting.

Where else could you find such a safe and supportive environment to gain such great experience for a portfolios or CV? Similar opportunities exist with our Photography team and with Marketing and Publicity. Do you know anyone who wants to be in Marketing or journalism or revive some latent skills? Why not work alongside others and learn or support others who could learn from you? Maybe

someone might want to spend some of their summer holidays on Facebook for us or writing press releases for local media? If so, do contact Cat at publicity@speenfestival.org. Every event is supported by first aiders, ice cream sellers, front of house, car park assistant and general logistics support; so if you want to be a 'Festival Maker' contact Cristina at frontofhouse@speenfestival.org and let her know where you want to use your skills. No one does it for glory and most people are juggling jobs and/or children but the more people we have, the less everyone has to do! So if you plan to be in the audience for one event, how about finding another one where you could offer an hour or so of your time? Why bother? Well, you can be part of something great and make your community stronger; a community that puts on a knockout Festival. Ask around, everyone says it is worthwhile, and it must be true because they keep coming back to do it again! How could you be part of it?

Booking your tickets

We are launching our online ticket booking facility on 1 June, when you will be able to book tickets for each and every festival event. Please do book online if you can; it's an easy way to make sure you don't miss out, but also means that a lot of the administrative work is cut down for the volunteers behind the scenes. Of course it will still be possible for you to book tickets by other means too if that is better for you: booking forms will be available in June, as well as selling advance tickets outside the shop, at other festival events and on the door itself.

Visit the Festival website to book tickets from 1 June
www.speenfestival.org



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SpeenSchoolFest

Speen School

SpeenSchoolFest! is back at Speen School with its usual whirlwind of creative fun for local schools and pre-schools devised by professional parents and local experts. This year look out for a bit of song-writing alongside arts and crafts of a Shakespearian persuasion. An informal presentation at the end of the day on Tuesday 25 June in the marquee at 2.30pm is open to all.

Organiser: Kate Laughton

Festival Launch Party

Speen Marquee

This is the taster event to get you in the mood for the forthcoming events. The cast of Grease will be there to showcase some excerpts and Sam will lead another Big Sing of a song or two from the show. The Speen Diner will be open for a burger and the Box Office open for tickets. You can ask questions of the Event Organisers or even volunteer your services - it's never too late! Whet your appetite for the Speen Festival at the Festival Launch Party.

Sunday 1st September 4pm

Joseph Nuttgens - Stained Glass Artist & Printmaker

Village Hall

Eminent artist and Piggotts Hill resident Joe Nuttgens will talk about his work and that of his father Joseph E. Nuttgens (Eddie) - in stained glass, paintings, prints and drawings. A display of Joe's current work will accompany his talk.

Organiser: Sarah Rogers

Tuesday 3rd September 7.30pm

Tickets: £3.00 / Concessions £2.00

WI Open Meeting - Travelling Hadrian's Wall

Village Hall

Speen WI will be throwing the doors of the Village Hall open to everyone in this Open Meeting where Mr J Bates will be talking about his travels along this famous route.

Organiser: Jean Morris

Thursday 5th September 7.45pm



Playing Fields Marquee

Our showcase production of Grease is a true community collaboration. Our showcase production of Grease is community collaboration at its finest. Rydell High School comes to Speen; you know the story, you know the songs, you know this will be entertainment of the highest order!

Organisers: Debbie O'Brien & Judith Newenham

Thurs 5th / Fri 6th / Sat 7th September 7.30pm

Tickets: £12.00 / Concessions £8.00

Be Crafty

Village Hall

The talented ladies of the WI are hosting 3 craft workshops for children aged 3-12 years. The children will complete a craft item to take home bundled up with a sense of achievement. Workshops will comprise Simple Sewing (10am), Knitting and pompoms (11am) and Buttons and Beads (12noon).

Organiser: Jacqueline King

Saturday 7th September 10am-1pm

Tickets: £2.00

Bike Park Challenge

Ridgley's Field

The bike park challenge is a fun, exciting challenge event, for children and teenagers. The aim is to test biking skills on a range of events from BMX trials, to bike mobility skills. Entry includes a BBQ and a drink plus access to bike mechanics.

Organiser: Alastair Tilt

Saturday 7th September 2pm-5pm

Tickets: £3.00

Food Festival

Playing Fields Marquee

A great selection of the finest producers and suppliers of food and drink in the Chilterns will be on your doorstep. Come and watch cookery demonstrations and sample diverse and delicious range of produce for you to try and buy. Top tip - come hungry!

Organiser: Christine Symondson

Sunday 8th September 11am-4pm

Tickets: £2.00

Photography Studio Session

Village Hall

Who needs expensive studio shoots when you can have your very own professional session just the way you want it? We'll arrange the lights, the camera and you do the action. Family or friend groups or just you vogue-ing it for 15 mins and the .jpgs will be with you before you know it.

Organiser: Chris Dunnington

Sunday 8th September 2.30pm-5.30pm

Tickets: £5.00



www.speenfestival.org or from Corinne on 01494 488016

SpeeniVersity Challenge

Playing Fields Marquee

Speen's take on the popular TV show – the same rules but much less academic and hopefully a lot of fun. Two Speen teams take on the North Dean & Hughenden team and the Lacey Green team to battle it out through general knowledge, picture and music rounds to take the title of SpeeniVersity Champion.

Sunday 8th September 7.30pm - 10pm

Tickets: £5.00 / Concessions £2.00

Organiser: Barry Stickings

Words & Music - If These Stones Could Talk

Music: Anna Crookes (Soprano) & Sam Laughton (Harpichord)

Speen Chapel

Come and hear the stories and the lives behind the headstones found in local churchyards discovered through the investigations of David and Anne. Their curiosity has enabled long gone voices to speak again, brought to you through their moving words and evocative 17th & 18th Century music from Sam and Anna.

Monday 9th September 8pm

Tickets: £10.00 / Concessions £6.00

Organisers: David & Anne Warlock

Jazz Concert - The Jerome Kern Story

Playing Fields Marquee

An evening of Jazz performed by the Martin Hart Quintet featuring Vocalist Lynn Garner presenting some of Jerome Kern's most favoured songs like 'Smoke gets in your eyes' and 'The way you look tonight'. Bring your own food and drink, sit back and relax.

Tuesday 10th September 8pm

Tickets: £15.00

Organiser: Martin Hart

Science Matters

Playing Fields Marquee

A panel of big-brained experts will be in place to discuss your big questions that have even bigger answers. Be part of it and expand and bend your mind without the aid of drugs and return home all the wiser for your evening. Professor Barry Stickings comperes Question Time, Speen style.

Thursday 12th September 7.30pm

Tickets: £5.00 / Concessions £2.00

Organiser: Barry Stickings

Friday Fright Night

Playing Fields Marquee

Do you remember dance cards, ration cards, the test card? If you cried when Charlene and Scott married in Ramsey Street or know who shot JR. If computing has ever meant an Enigma machine, ZX81 or Spectrum and computer games only colour was green. If you **DON'T** know what that was all about, this evening is yours, what happens is up to you.

Friday 13th September 7pm

Tickets: £2.00

Childrens' Theatre

A Wind in the Willows - Teatro Unfortunato

Playing Fields Marquee

Join Mole, Ratty and Toad as they go "messaging about in boats" on their river adventure. Teatro Unfortunato bring their usual blend of comedy chaos clowning, live music and complicated story-telling to this classic tale.

Saturday 14th September 10.30am

Tickets: £6.00

Organiser: Beccy Scott

Survival Night

Secret local woodland wild site

Fancy a night out in the deepest darkest woods of Speen with only your wits to keep you alive? This is your chance to use those SAS Survival Guide tips and make your own shelters to sleep out overnight. The adults provided to guide you are mostly military trained and will be heavily equipped with marshmallows, but you can bring your own adult if they insist on coming (or you are under 12).

Saturday 14th September 2pm-10am

Tickets: £5.00

Organisers: Greg Cook & Peter Chapman

Cabaret Supper

Playing Fields Marquee

This is always the sell-out event of the Festival and this year will be no exception. A heady mix of homegrown entertainment, food and wine all orchestrated by our musical maestro Sam in the (almost) final event of the Festival. A black tie event that proves Speen can scrub up mighty fine when it wants to.

Saturday 14th September 6.45pm

Tickets: £30.00

Organiser: Judith Newenham

Prom in the Playing Fields

A fabulous free festival finale event for all ages with a brand new orchestra put together from local musicians. The audience is promised an enthralling afternoon of quality musical entertainment and some prom-style flag waving participation. Bring some food and drink as you'll need to keep your vocal chords lubricated through the afternoon.

Sunday 15th September 3pm

Organisers: Cat Cook & Annabel Warr



www.speenfestival.org

Sam-i-can



Is there anything this man cannot do? If ever you think you don't have time to do something, take a leaf from this multi-talented multi-tasker. Sam takes on the role as Director for our Festival, generally making it all happen and is also the musical lynchpin of many of the events. Despite that sounding like a full time job he is also Musical Director of the Elysian Singers, the Craswall Players and the Chiltern Camerata who are all in rehearsal mode for imminent concerts. Oh, did I mention he is a Barrister, and a father of four? Sam, we are humbled in your enthusiastic, inclusive and good humoured presence; you know we are never going to let you step down from the Festival don't you?

Professor Stickings

You might know him as 'Barry' but did you know he is a Professor of Chemical Industry? This has made him passionate about the impact of science on society which is why he has created the Science Matters event. This year he is also organising The SpeeniVersity Challenge; after all every Festival needs a quiz doesn't it? Somehow a pub quiz just wouldn't crack it for our glorious Festival, so taking the pre-eminent quiz University Challenge as a template, let battle commence; Speen v The World.



David 'Hot off the Press' Warlock



It's only an opinion, but I reckon anyone who has worked in 'intelligent life-form games environments' deserves a listening to; let alone if they have been Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology's enquiry on Science publishing. May I present David Warlock Esq, forecaster, arbiter, advisor, publishing professional and digital guru; is there a committee this man has not been on? It is fair to say this Speen gent knows how to string a sentence together and, with his wife Anne, produce an enchanting evening of Words & Music.

Judith 'It's Curtains' Newenham

Maybe it's because Judith is the 'go to' lady for curtains and blinds that the 'draw' of another 'curtain call' was too much to resist. So once she had 'pulled herself together' after stage managing The Dreaming in 2011, she agreed to be the Producer of our centrepiece show Grease this year. Did you know she's also an amazing chef and can cater a mean dinner party? Rydell High school lunches will be safe in her hands. If that were not enough, Judith also organises the Festival favourite sell out event the Cabaret Supper – she can do no wrong!



Cat 'Born on the 4th July' Cook



Have you seen the state of this girl? There she is agreeing to do the marketing and publicity for Speen Festival 2013 and then evidently thinks better of it and has to take to pretty drastic action to get out of it. So the baby arrives 4th July and she is really going to need a team of willing helpers in the July and August run up to the Festival – HELP! (for social media, copy writing, press releases, media coord, print coord, distribution). You would never guess she did 17 years in the RAF in logistics, but maybe that's why she is organising the Prom in the Playing Fields with Annabel; she loves having lots of people to organise!

Greg the Tent

You might know Greg because you are a golfer or a Sunday morning mountain biker, or maybe you have had a marquee worthy event going on in your life and Greg has gathered the 'erection team' to make it happen. In days gone by he used to fly Hercules transport planes in the RAF, but now that those days of low level sorties for the SAS are a distant memory he has to satisfy his Bear Grylls tendencies with organising the Festival's Survival Night.



Christine 'Little Black Book' Symondson



Now this lady has contacts, lots of them. Every year Christine puts her little black book to work to produce a brilliant Craft Fair, and on a Festival year produces a Food Festival as well. So if it is arty, crafty, foodie contacts you need, she's your gal. Now, the fact that she also works as a receptionist in a doctors' surgery might mean she not only has the phone numbers but medical histories too, but no doubt she has signed something to say she'll keep quiet about that. She knows a thing or two about rowing the Atlantic too, but that's another story.

Sponsors

Although the Festival is created by volunteers there are many costs involved and these are not entirely met by box office receipts. In the past, the generous support of local businesses has ensured we keep ticket prices low, deliver a professional Festival and advertise some great local businesses. Might your business be interested in sponsoring the Festival? Sponsors will have a one third of a page advertisement in the souvenir festival programme, have their company logo with hyperlinks on www.speenfestival.org and have the opportunity to promote their organisation at any individual event they may choose to sponsor using advertising material they provide.

To find out more email Philip Suter / David Davies at sponsor@speenfestival.org or visit the Speen Festival website.



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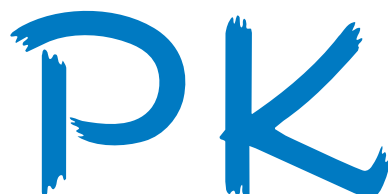
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Speen Village Hall

The Silver Screen comes to Speen

Speen Cinema opened its doors on Friday 26th April with the Village Hall transformed into a 50 seat cinema showing *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. This was a curry and film night in aid of Village Hall funds.



The three course meal was prepared by members of the Management Committee and friends and the curry was to a special recipe prepared by June Pilkington.

The film was screened under the direction of Amanda Dobbs who holds the requisite licence to show films to the general public.

The event was a great success and raised a much needed £480. We have received many requests to hold a similar event in the Autumn so if anyone has a good idea for a film title which could be combined with an appropriate meal please let me know.

The Village Hall has now been completely refurbished to a high standard and is available at very attractive rates for Villagers. Please contact our booking secretary Sue Taylor on 488500 for details.

The Village Hall has belonged to the Village since 1924 - please consider it for your next function.

Bill Groves
Chairman

Speen Village Hall Management Committee

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Speen WI

After all the excitement of Christmas and snowy conditions, we all settled down to watch Jean Morris's holiday slides of Laos, which looked a tad warmer than here.

Michael Lawton, from Work Aid, a charity for unwanted tools in Chesham gave a very interesting talk in February. So if you have any unwanted tools, sewing machines, etc., take them over to Chesham, where they will be repaired, if necessary, and sent to Africa.

Graham Horn gave a lovely talk and slide show of the Kennet & Avon Canal in March.

For our birthday party in April, we decided again not to have a speaker but just to enjoy the food and have a quiz and chat.

On the day of THE funeral, ten of we ladies ventured up to Aylesbury Waterside theatre for our yearly council meeting. Michael Portillo had been booked months ago to come and speak to us and we wondered if he would be able to attend, but after the funeral, he popped onto the train in his full morning tails and black tie, and gave an excellent talk about life in and out of politics and now calls himself an entertainer. We also enjoyed the singing of the WI choir who finished off the day with a medley of well-known songs.

Other interesting outings in the WI calendar are a visit to Broughton Castle, near Banbury, in June and Outdoor Painting in Bledlow with local artist Julian Renouf. Also a visit to the Black Country Living Museum in August and Eton College & Windsor in July. These last few are arranged by the Bucks Federation, not our own WI.

Future speakers:

June - Medical Detection Dogs with Pam Jones
July - Most Teachers are Human with Arthur Evans (really!!)
August - History of the Concertina - Malcolm North

Maybe one of these talks will interest some of those ladies who think all we do is make cakes and jam, but we don't do those things very often and are interested in lots of other things outside the home.

Barbara Collett
488348

Speen Marquee – 2013 Summer season

Ladies and gentlemen it is upping and downing season again. Whether your expertise is holding, stitching, pulling, measuring or generally supporting, we need you all, man, woman or teenager.

Putting the marquee up or taking it down is not a strenuous task but it does require a certain number of people to make it happen and someone to direct activities. We, the marquee committee, will provide the direction and hopefully you will be able to support at least one upping or downing. The more the merrier and the more the quicker so watch out for the e-mails and please help where you can.

In terms of an update on the marquee as a village asset, we had a good season last year despite the

very wet weather and we have a full diary this year. This means we have been able to keep the charges level for the last few years and the cost remains at less than 50% of a similar commercial hire. The full diary also means that we are on target to meet the projected marquee replacement cost.

The marquee was delivered in May 2009 so whilst it is only 4 years old, we are advised that we should look to replace it at approximately the 10 year point.

I cannot part without thanking John Holmes for his incredible support over the past 10 plus years through the various shapes and sizes of the Speen village marquees. We are in a good position with a fabulous asset thanks to the leadership of John and the support he has generated from you all over many, many years. Thank you John.

Greg Cook

Location	Up	Down
Home of Rest for Horses	Friday 31 st May	Friday 21 st June
Speen School	Sunday 23 rd June	Sunday 30 th June
Speen Playing Field	Friday 12 th July	Sunday 21 st July
North Dean Playing Field	Thursday 25 th July	Monday 29 th July
Speen Playing Field	Friday 6 th August	Monday 9 th August
Speen Playing Field	Friday 30 th August	Monday 16 th September



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Memories of Speen



Following the series of articles about the 10 casualties of WWI, whose names are recorded at the Chapel lych-gate, two families who no longer live in Speen have thanked the Heritage Group for telling them so much that they did not know about their relatives.

We have also been contacted by Mr Roger Ward, now in his 90s, who lives in Southampton. He said he found Lucy Janes' essay (in Issue 56 of the Speen & North Dean News) very interesting. He wrote:

"I also have the photo of the Speen Cricket team of 1906. Two of my family are featured: Grandfather Charles Ward and Great Uncle Alf Turner; I also have their Championship silver medals."

"Charles Ward died in 1908 at the early age of 38. He was injured at the Lacey Green lightning strike, which happened on 27th July 1891, during a cricket match. Three men were killed and several were injured."

"Alf Turner, with my father, were the Ward and Turner who built the Lych-gate for the sum of £122-16-6d. The final payment of £13-16-6d was made on 9th January 1923. The villagers were most generous; £100 was donated to the High Wycombe war memorial. The list of subscribers and the Lych-gate accounts are in Bob Johnston's records."

As it happens, the Heritage Group are planning to make Bob Johnston's records of Speen more widely known - they are remarkable. Over a period of years he published several pieces in the Speen & North Dean News and Mr Ward contributed a great deal of material.

A few days later, Roger Ward sent a photo of John Rixon who was killed on 26th August 1918, in the Dolomite mountains in the north of Italy, when he was 25 years old. In this cheerful photograph he is the confident Lance Corporal, seated, on the right. Mr Ward wrote:

"John Rixon was engaged to my Mother's cousin, Elsie Plumridge. Elsie later married Arch Janes."

By the oddest coincidence, when Mr Ward sent that picture, two other families were discussing



whether they had a photograph of John Rixon. Before Mr Ward's picture settled the question, we had decided that this serious young man (see below) was probably not John Rixon. He is posed in profile to show, firstly, that he was a Corporal and, secondly, that he was a Royal Engineer. John Rixon, like most of the Speen men, was in the Ox & Bucks.

Interestingly, Norman Cyril Simmonds was a Royal Engineer, but we doubt whether this is his picture - when he died, on 4th October 1917, he was an acting-Lance Corporal. This picture was taken by a professional photographer in Hitchin. Does anyone know who this is?



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Child Bereavement UK

Local charity opens its doors to visitors

Child Bereavement UK is inviting visitors to attend its Open Day on Wednesday 3 July between 2pm and 7pm at the Clare Charity Centre, Saunderton. The charity has been working in Bucks, and at various locations across the country, for nearly 20 years, supporting families and educating professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement. It made headlines recently when its Royal patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge visited with the Duchess and met bereaved families participating in the charity's support groups for children, parents and young people.

During the Open Day, you will be able to learn more about the bereavement services provided for families, and the broad range of training courses the charity offers professionals whose work brings them into contact with bereaved families. You will also be able to find out more about volunteering and fundraising, and chat to staff and volunteers, who will be on hand to provide information and advice - as well as offering refreshments.

Child Bereavement UK's Support and Information line receives 1500 calls per year from families and professionals, and c. 200 bereaved families are supported via its groups and one-to-one sessions with its trained bereavement support workers.

If you are interested in volunteering, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved, where projects will be matched to your skills which will be highly valued.

Teresa Griffin, who has volunteered with the charity since 2011 on the Support and Information line, said: "I have completed a course of training to become a bereavement services volunteer for Child Bereavement UK. I remain very conscious of the vulnerability of those families who have the courage to ring the charity and I feel proud and privileged to be associated with such a worthwhile and much-needed organisation."

Chief Executive of Child Bereavement UK, Ann Chalmers said: "We are very grateful for the on-going support that the people of Bucks have given us over the years. Our Open Day is an informal opportunity for you to come along and find out more. As a charity, we depend on the generosity and support of so many people to ensure that we can continue to help families receive the support they need to rebuild their lives when a child grieves or when a child dies. Whether you are interested in our services, our courses, volunteering or fundraising - we look forward to welcoming you."

For more information about the Open Day please contact Sue Randall on 01494 568919 or email sue.randall@childbereavementuk.org

Naphill & Hughenden Scout Group

Hughenden Beavers suspended from the end of this term

Some of you will be aware that we have been looking for new leaders for Hughenden Beavers as the current leader stepped down at the end of last term. To date no one has come forward which means that as from Easter there are no more Beaver meetings in Hughenden. This is hugely regrettable as this Beaver colony was formed four years ago and has provided a popular environment for youngsters to be introduced into the Scouting world and providing a feed into the Cub pack above it. There were plenty of children still attending each week having loads of fun, and there is a healthy joining list.

We are really keen to maintain a Beaver colony in Hughenden as experience shows once a colony closes it can be many years before it reopens, not because of lack of interest from children but because it is much harder to start a colony from new than maintain an existing one. Once closed, any equipment is redistributed and more importantly continuity both of children and leaders is lost.

The leaders have met and taken the unusual decision, rather than close Beavers completely at this point, we will suspend Beavers for one term to have a once and final push to recruit leaders to take this forward. All current Beavers will have their places maintained during this period so if it does restart in September they will carry on. We will be closing the joining list for the time being. If no leaders can be found then the Beaver Colony will formally close at the end of the summer term. Any Beavers currently attending will be given the contact details for other colonies in the area but no guarantees can be given of places in any other colony.

To show how seriously we are taking this, the Bucks County Scout team will be providing specialist resource to work with us to endeavour to recruit new leaders over this period. However, in scouting, the leaders tend to be parents of those children somewhere in the Group, so although we will be trying a number of avenues to recruit it is probably unlikely that there will be many candidates outside the existing circle. So even if you have never even thought about volunteering now is the time to give it serious consideration. Full training will be given and you would be joining a thriving scout group with over 150 children in total. You will definitely not be on your own!

If no one steps up then Hughenden Beavers will officially close at the end of July.

For an informal chat to hopefully take us forwards, please call 01494 447121.

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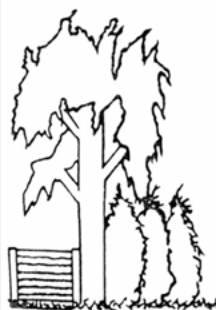
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District Council News and HS2 Update – May 2013



District Council News

The new Council year sees a change within Wycombe District Council as a new Leader, Cllr Richard Scott takes over from Cllr Alex Collingwood. As your Ward Councillor, I will now also hold the position of Cabinet Member for Finance, having served as Cabinet Spokesperson for Finance since February of this year.

You may be aware that Wycombe District Council Tax was not increased for the 3rd successive year, however, vital services have been maintained. This has been achieved by a combination of 'back-room' business process efficiencies and improved procurement (such as the new Waste Service Contract) combining to reduce operating costs, despite inflation and continuing cuts in funding from Central Government.

The new Waste Service Contract has been successfully introduced - in fact, apart from seeing different vehicles, many people have noticed no changes in service, although the cost savings took effect from late March of this year. The introduction of new recyclable collections, for example for glass, will take place later this year.

Mel Foster
mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk
01494 488905

HS2 Update

As mentioned in the last edition of SNDN, the 5 Judicial Reviews concerning High Speed 2 have now been heard. Unfortunately, and as feared, the outcome was not favourable, with only the challenge on Property Blight and Compensation being accepted. The Judge decided that the 2012 consultation on compensation was flawed - he said it was so unfair as to be unlawful - and the process should no longer stand. As a result, the Government will have to re-consult and reconsider its position. Although the route of HS2 does not directly affect our area, the delay and exposure of the Government's flawed and biased approach to the overall project should help stimulate wider public opposition to HS2.

Of key significance is the decision by the High Speed Two Action Alliance (HS2AA) - with whom our local area action group is closely

affiliated - and the 51M group of 14 local councils to appeal against the Judge's decision in the case of the second JR. This relates to whether HS2 has been properly environmentally assessed and properly consulted upon and the appeal hearing has been set for June 10th 2013, so the fight is by no means over.

If the appeal is successful, the Government would have to re-assess all alternatives to the current HS2 proposal, undertake an environment assessment for each and then consult on each. Whilst this in itself would not stop the project, the significant increase in timescale and costs would push this past the next General Election in 2015 and hopefully provide additional time for the flaws in the business case and logic for HS2 to be fully exposed and understood.

The recent County Council Elections should have sent a clear message to Government with the success of UKIP candidates, who doubled their share of vote from 13.5 to 27% in Bucks - much higher than their national figure, and secured 6 Councillor seats. UKIP campaigned strongly against HS2, and even though Bucks CC has consistently opposed HS2 and their Leader, Martin Tett, heads the 51M group of Local Councils against HS2, the Conservative vote fell by over 8% from 2009. There is still much work to be done to persuade Government that HS2 has to be scrapped, but UKIP gains should make them more receptive to campaigning voices.

As previously indicated, the second part of the HS2 route to the North was announced on 28th January, and campaign groups are working with local communities along the extended route to help them understand the issues with HS2.

In other news, the Government has revealed that the true cost of HS2 is over £41 billion, as the previously-published figure of £33 billion did not include the rolling stock!

More information on High Speed 2 can be accessed on the internet at <http://hs2aa.org/> <http://www.51m.co.uk/> and <http://www.hs2.org.uk/>

Mel Foster
Chair
Speen Area Action Group
01494 488670

Talented Emily Williams wows judges at TeenStar auditions



TeenStar is an exciting national talent competition which searches for the UK's best teens and pre-teen singers, singer/songwriters, rappers of all genres who perform either covers or original material.

One contestant who has evidently caught the judge's eye is local talent Emily Williams who is now in the running for a place in the National Final within the O2 in London.

Emily is eleven years old and is in year seven at Wycombe High School. She splits her time between her mum's house in Walter's Ash and her dad's house here in Speen. Her taste in music is quite diverse but her favourite all time singer is Joss Stone who she idolises. At the regional finals in Reading, Emily wowed the judges with her cover of Joss Stone's "Right to be wrong" and her YouTube video has had around 1,000 hits in only a few weeks. For the next round of the competition she is planning to do a soulful, acoustic cover of the Kings of Leon hit, "Use somebody".

Other than music, Emily's other passion is horses, just like her idol Joss Stone who became known when she entered the BBC's talent show "Star for a Night" because her mum and dad sold her horse!

Emily says "I'm so excited to have made it this far, it's a great experience getting a small taste of the music industry. However far I get, to have this opportunity is amazing".

Claire and Paul, her mum and dad, say "We are extremely proud of her. She's really passionate about music and is always singing".

For more information see
www.teenstarcompetition.co.uk

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hours and more information



Christine Oliver welcomes a new resident to Speen in February 2013



"I have found such friendliness in the village and enjoyed the WI, Glenn Hart's Art group and of course the King William lunches and most of all outings on the little green bus! Why isn't it full every Tuesday at 9 am? It is a perfect way of ensuring you catch up on Speen news! Thank you all for making me so welcome this past year during my stay with my family - I will be back, that's for sure."

*Pam Williams
(Granny to the Cook family)*



John Slater playing trumpet in Speen New Orleans Feet Warmers

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Zoe in Speen is a new recruit helping with the Riding for Disabled group at Widmer Equestrian Centre, Lacey Green

Jean Ridgley 100th birthday



On 9th June Jean Ridgley, formerly of the Old Post Office at Speen, will celebrate her 100th birthday.

She is the third of four daughters born to George and Frances Ridgley and is the last surviving one.

On leaving Speen School at aged 14 she went into service but was soon back home helping in the post office and shop.

She became postmistress in her own right in 1949 and remained so until her retirement at the age of 67 in 1980.

With the help of her brother-in-law, Charles Hendry, she was able to live at the Post Office, where she was born, until December 2009 when she reluctantly moved to Hampden Hall care home near Aylesbury.

She follows her father, George, who also reached his 100th birthday in 1955.

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Doris Redrup 90th birthday



On 24th February, Doris Redrup, who has lived all her life in the local area, notably North Dean, celebrated her 90th Birthday. A party was hosted for Doris by her sons Brian and Alan and their families at North Dean Village Hall. The party was attended by over 50 people who came to wish Doris a happy birthday. It was time for Doris to be with family and friends and to share some of her rich memories of life in the village and of the many changes she has witnessed. As Brian mentioned in his thank-you speech, Doris has lived under four monarchs and over 20 prime ministers!

Doris has asked that the following words be included with this article: "Thank you all so much for your good wishes, gifts and cards on the occasion of my 90th birthday. I enjoyed the day and was touched by everyone's kindness".

Speen Shop 15th anniversary

Saturday 4th May 2013 saw celebrations in Speen as the village shop and Post Office celebrated fifteen years of trading under The Buckinghamshire Housing Association. On 4th May 1998, residents gathered in the hope of catching a glimpse of Colin Baker who was expected to officially open the new look Speen Stores. Unfortunately it soon became apparent that the tardis had failed him! It seems that even with the ability to travel in time, much like the rest of us, Doctor Who was lost without his diary! In his absence, the shop was instead opened by then local councillor Jean Gabbittas together with the former Chief Executive of Bucks Housing. Sharon and David took their place behind the counter as trading began and in



time, ownership passed to Sandra and Peter followed by Tracy and Keith before the lease was taken on by current owner Alison in July 2009.

Fifteen years after its reopening, there was no standing around whilst eagerly awaiting the arrival of any celebrities, as celebrations were kept low key. Although the weather wasn't on our side, villagers still turned out in their droves to help mark the occasion with a glass of Bucks Fizz and a slice of cake - a thoroughly good time was had by all.



In tough economic times, the shop continues to go from strength to strength and was recently named as a finalist in the 'Village Shop of the Year' category of the 2013 Countryside Alliance Awards. This bears testament to the village and to the unfailing support of such a wonderful community. For those who were unable to attend the celebrations or missed the big announcement, following months of speculation, Alison has now signed a new lease meaning she, alongside Connie and Bob will remain in charge of the shop for the next six years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all previous owners for helping us get to this stage and all villagers for their support to date. We hope that with your continued help and support, Speen Stores will have many more successful years ahead.

Bucks County Council - Member for Lacey Green	Carl Etholen	01494 564771
Hughenden Parish Council - Chairman	Roger Beavil	01494 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
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Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
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Speen & North Dean News - advertising	Tom Dent	488943
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	Sarah Rogers	07771 534234
Speen Fete - Chair	Amanda Dobbs	488887
Speen Fete - Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	488939
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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