



Issue 58
Autumn 2013



Speen and North Dean News



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Speen and North Dean News

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

NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (59) is due by **Sunday 12th January 2014.**

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

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Month	Event	Where	Contact
October			
Friday 18 th	Swing Band Concert for RDA	Speen Village Hall	Gloria Holmes 488420
November			
Saturday 2 nd	Speen Bonfire	Speen Playing Field, 6.00pm	Christian Nagele 488247
Saturday 2 nd	Halloween Party	KW4, 7.30pm	Dilly Hill 488329
Wednesday 6 th	MPS	Black Horse, Lacey Green, 8.30pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 7 th	WI, Annual Meeting	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Saturday 9 th	Theatre in the Village	Speen School, 7.30pm	Amanda Cleaver 488299
Tuesday 12 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents and Children	Speen School	Denise Nayna 488321
Friday 15 th	Children in Need	Speen School	Zoe Baker 01844 342780
Friday/Saturday 15/16 th	SG Christmas Market	KW4	Diana Summers 488344
Saturday 30 th	Christmas Bazaar	Speen Village Hall, 2.00pm	Margaret Groves 488180
December			
Wednesday 4 th	MPS	Old Plow, 7.30pm (Supper)	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 5 th	WI, Christmas Party	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Saturday 7 th	Christmas Fair	Speen School	Zoe Baker 01844 342780
Saturday 7 th	Theatre in the Village	North Dean Village Hall	Beechdean 563980
Wednesday 11 th	Martin Hart Jazz	KW4, 7.00pm	Dilly Hill, 488329
Friday 13 th	Christmas Tree/Carols	Speen Playing Field, 6.00pm	Tony Bobroff 488688
Tuesday 31 st	New Year's Eve James Bond Party	KW4, 7.00pm	Dilly Hill 488329
2014			
No events to report as yet			

As ever, we get to October and wonder where the time has gone. At least this year we can celebrate a most glorious summer. Also the period in Speen has been stuffed full of events including the Festival and the Fete.



All these events don't organise themselves and I'm sure you'll join me in thanking all the hard working volunteers who put all these functions together. As ever, it's often the same names that appear on the various committees although I know for a fact there's plenty of room for new blood. Often the work isn't as time consuming as you'd think, so why not join in and volunteer?

For the magazine we're always looking for new contributors with something to say and also some good quality photographs that can be used with a caption.

We also are lucky in having three great businesses here in Speen, The Shop, The King Willy and The Old Plow, all of which are central to Village life so please support them.

You will notice that, despite numerous reminders, there's no County Council news this issue. Perhaps it's because our County Councillor is too busy working in the Lacey Green Community Shop (good photo op) or organising the repairs to our pot-holed roads!

James Hazeldine

Theatre in the Villages

'Theatre in the Villages' is coming to Speen this autumn. The season starts with 'Diary of a Nobody' hosted by Speen School on 9th November at 8pm. The production is a new adaptation of the classic comic Victorian novel featuring 'nobody' Charles Pooter – a clerk in 1880s London who records in his diary the aspirations, trials and tribulations of his life both in the office and at home. Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions) and are available from Amanda Cleaver 01494 488288 or 07870 636691.

Please be advised that, owing to the redevelopment of the village hall in North Dean, the scheduled theatre in the village for October 2013 has been cancelled. TIV will be back on 7th December in the improved hall.

For details and dates of the North Dean production contact Beechdean Dairies on 01494 563980.

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Down on the Farm

At last the BBC is making an effort to show an accurate programme about farming. Those of you who watched 'Harvest' were entertained by a fascinating presentation of modern day techniques for growing and harvesting vegetables, fruit and cereals. Let's hope they make some more programmes of similar quality. 'Country File' is a sanitised version of what actually happens throughout the rural areas and gives people such as Brian May the wrong idea of the reality of country life. If, as the BBC says, 'you may find some of the report upsetting' then don't read any further!



*Broccoli harvester on Lincolnshire farm
as seen on BBC 'Harvest'*

The pleasures of farming are numerous, the birth of every healthy live calf, the recovery of a much loved cow after illness, seeing your plants grow (this spring was an exception!), the view, or the sight of numerous kites on the ground picking up worms behind the plough. I could go on for pages, but I also want to explain just how many unpleasant tasks the countryman has to perform nearly every day.

The arable farmer must battle against the elements and he is bound, every year, to kill a wide variety of wild life if he is to harvest a good crop. No-one will shed any tears for millions of greenfly or slugs, but many will regret the thousands of rooks, pigeons and rabbits which must perish for the sake of human food. The grower does not enjoy using sprays, they are expensive and nasty to handle and he only resorts to shooting when the numbers of birds or rabbits get out of control.

For the livestock farmer, the picture is less straight forward. He/she has to accept that every animal he has nurtured will have to go the abattoir one day, but it is the aim of nearly every farmer to make sure that the animal's life is as good as possible while in his care. On the day when favourite cows, pigs or sheep have to go to the abattoir, everyone finds an excuse to be distant when the lorry arrives. To make matters worse, expensive and complicated EU regulations have forced the smaller abattoirs out of business,

so that animals have long journeys (sometimes running into over a hundred miles) to the slaughter.

'Fashion' also plays a part in the food market. The British still think that veal is produced from calves kept in crates

(producing white veal) where in reality this practice was banned in the UK decades ago and UK veal is 'rose' veal produced with calves reared in open barns. Because of this lack of understanding, we eat very little veal so that instead of having a good life for nine months, the small dairy-like calves (which would grow into good veal) must be shot at birth, as there is no demand for them.

While thinking about slaughtering animals for meat, I was amazed to hear on Radio 4 one morning recently of a Dartmoor pony farmer who was providing pony meat for the local zoos. Pony grazing is essential if the grass sward on Dartmoor is to be kept in good condition but too many ponies result in overgrazing and starvation for the weaker ones. The demand for these ponies for riding has greatly decreased so in order to maintain the balance, the surplus must be culled.

A recent BBC News South West broadcast an item on controlling the pony numbers, by giving the mares an injection to prevent them coming into season. Perhaps this represents an opportunity to control the overproduction without the need for slaughtering the excess.

Perhaps too, I am going to have to change my views on the BBC!

Gill Kent



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Speen Fete

Well another year has almost gone by and along with it the 2013 Speen village fete; this year we had a blisteringly hot day and so many of you came out to enjoy yourselves and support your community; the annual highlight 'School country dancing' was lovely and thanks to Mrs Nayna once again for all the hard work she and the children put into their performance. Thanks to the WI who spent a very very hot afternoon keeping everyone refreshed in the marquee and a huge thanks to those of you in the village who helped on all the stalls, the set up and the clear up, you helped to make it another successful fundraising fete. (Please see page 31 for the winners of the children's competitions.)



The fete is a long held tradition and has always been the highlight of the village calendar, for both young and old, and whilst in recent years we have put a modern twist on the whole event it has not always been to everyone's liking, so this year we took the suggestions from the feedback forms and went "old School" again, hoping to please the majority. However some of the feedback has again been mixed; too spread out; not enough in the arena, where last year it was too much in the arena and everything too close together; too much going on, which obviously means we can't please everyone.

But the fete is an essential event that raises a lot of money for the local village organisations, money that they would otherwise not have, and it benefits the village as a whole. It is now organised by a few dedicated people, and takes a lot of work to make it a successful day; the committee, once 14 strong, was made up of one



member per organisation but over the last few years through retirement and illness and work commitments, it has dwindled to the present number of just 7, so to continue the fete and build on its success each organisation will once again be asked to provide an active member to continue to receive their share of the fund.



The fete needs new blood, it needs you and your ideas to keep it fresh and the village needs the fete.

*Amanda Dobbs
Chair
Speen Fete*

Village Hall Presentation



On Friday 27th September David King (Fete President) and Amanda Dobbs (Fete Chair) presented all of the participating village organisations with their share of the proceeds from this year's Speen Fete. Over £3,000 was handed out, but the largest payment was £1,000 in support of the Village Hall which Bill Groves accepted.

The Fete and all of the organisations, including the bi-annual Festival are an essential part of the village life, they are what make Speen the vibrant community that it is. Amanda encouraged other villagers to get involved with organising the Fete. Without such active participation, small villages such as both Speen and North Dean can end up becoming just another dormitory village.

To help shape Speen Fete next year, contact Amanda on 488887 or email amanda.d.speen@btinternet.com.



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Speen School and PTA

We have just returned from the Harvest Service in St John's Church, Lacey Green, where again the children donated parcels to Saunderton Lodge. We were last there in July saying goodbye to the Y2 children as they moved on in their lives, as we had recently done to Rev. Denise Critchell. There is no better time than the present to reflect on the incredible opportunities that Speen School and its PTA provide for the children as they start out on their own amazing journeys.

As I reflect on all that has gone on, above and beyond the day-to-day school activities, it is a testament to the staff, the parents and the local community that the children's lives are enriched so much in the arts, sport and charities.

Music and dance play a big part in the school and, aided by Y2 music lessons and dance classes, the children have performed at the Country Dancing Festival in High Wycombe, the Come and Sing Morning in Beaconsfield, the High Wycombe Music School Concert and at the Speen Fete. Next week the whole school will be taking a trip to the Royal Albert Hall. To show that it's not all dosey does, circles and squares, the children this term are also having Street Dance lessons! In July the whole school came together in the Speenschoolfest, joined by children from the Pre-School and other local schools. With a BIG dose of parental and villager support, there ensued a celebration of music, song, dance and art. The two days were sponsored by Speen Festival, with a Midsummer Night's theme as a prelude to the annual Summer Ball.

After school sports continue to be well provided and supported, with the children participating in Tag Rugby, Multi-Sports and Football. Later on this term there will also be Premier Sport Gymnastics. On top of the regular gym classes during school time, the children have been let loose this term in Karate lessons. Venturing beyond the school gates, the budding Olympians have showcased themselves in the Y2 Tennis Festival in Princes Risborough, the Inter School Cross-Country and at the 'Golden Wellie'.

Supporting charities has always been at the forefront of extra curriculum thinking with the School Council, made up of elected children, playing a prominent role in the chosen charities. Within the last year the children have raised money for Action Medical Research, Readathon, Children in Need, Red Nose Day, One Can Food Trust Bank and SSAFA amongst others. When not directly involved in the fund raising they have been on hand to serve cakes at the PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Many of you have contributed either directly or indirectly towards the work that the PTA does and the funds that it raises to support the children. With the established Hideaway providing a quiet area for the children, there has been an addition to the playground. New markings designed to encourage

physical and imaginative games are now in place and are a scene of great energy and enterprise. Popular events such as the Safari Supper and the Midsummer Night's Ball have come and gone. Aside from the enormous amount of planning and dedication that the PTA brings to these events, the support from within the community is equally laudable, be it erecting a marquee or dressing in your finest and hitting the dance floor. Although the PTA as a body provides a sterling service, it is often individual parents who enable a richer experience for the children. Without this commitment, we wouldn't be able to run the Gardening, Cookery and Film after school clubs.

Not only does the school continue to grow in stature, so it does in size. It was only three years ago that the 'new extension' was added and soon that will have to lose its title. Building work has started on a further extension and we look forward to 2014 with even more room for the children to grow physically, intellectually and emotionally.

I have made a conscious effort to not thank anyone personally. Not for fear of embarrassing anyone but due to the vast number of you who have put yourselves forward to ultimately provide further colour to the children's education. Saying that, I must immediately contradict it by expressing a massive thank you to Tessa for chairing the PTA over the past twelve months. On behalf of the School, the PTA, and ultimately the children, we look forward to having your support again this year.

See What's On for diary dates.

Zoe Baker

Speen WI

As ever when organising speakers for our meetings we get "the curate's egg", good in parts. Well, our June and July meetings were no exception. June saw our talk on medical detection jobs presented by a last minute substitute speaker who majored on their fund raising activities. July saw Arthur Evans persuade us that teachers are only human. Neither were what we quite expected but enjoyable never the less.

However, August was much more promising where we welcomed Malcolm North who began by giving us a demonstration of his expertise on the concertina. He finished with a most intriguing story about his work on repairing a concertina that was traced back to Bletchley Park. Our September talk was about Hadrian's Wall.

Future meetings we have to look forward to include Climbing Kilimanjaro at the age of 67 in October, our AGM in November and December will see us enjoying a demonstration of juggling! Our programme for 2014 has yet to be finalised so watch this space.

Barbara Collett
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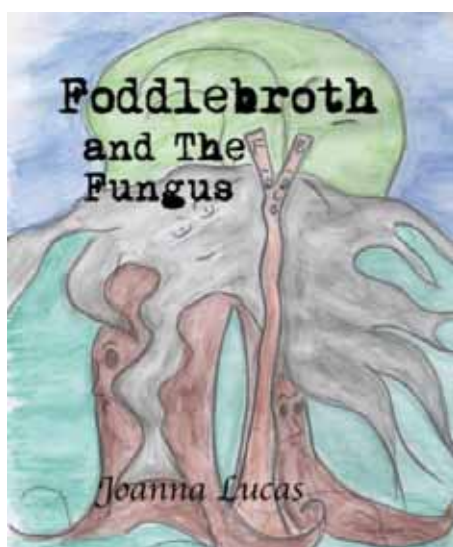
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Book Review



***Foddlebroth and The Fungus* by Joanna Lucas**

Blurb Inc., May 2013. ISBN 978-0-9568672-2-3

To residents of Speen and North Dean it is not at all surprising that the countryside surrounding these villages should inspire creative minds, whether artists or poets, musicians or potters. Woodlands, hills and steep-sided shady valleys bring nature closer and become places of magic and mystery where it's possible (and even quite straightforward, if you are a child) to imagine that all is not as it seems.

In *Foddlebroth and the Fungus*, local author and Highwood Bottom resident Jo Lucas captures this sense of the magical world that lies just behind the ordinary, and is visible to those who know how to look. She combines the easily recognised geography of our lanes and landscapes with the classic ingredients of a good children's story. We find a band of fearless children caught up in a desperate mission to save the planet; animals that speak and adults who understand animal-speak; everyday objects that spring to life in an instant; trees that take on human form; and a slightly incompetent magician whose spells go disastrously wrong.

But this is a book for adults too, with perceptive insights into the innocent wisdom of young children and poetic evocations of Granny's cottage, whose garden is "an open box of treasure". The wintry trees in the Enchanted Wood nearby are "white like cathedral spires, with flying buttresses". The author cleverly and humorously points out the mundane in human failure to protect the environment: those in charge have been too preoccupied with "meetings with the other Elders, administration, paying the bills, and lack of sleep".

It's a book for adult and child to enjoy together. Local readers will be amused and delighted to discover certain known Speen personalities revealing an altogether different dimension of their lives: the 'ordinary grandmas' who meet in secret, do dangerous work undercover and have the ear of the prime minister. So, next time your neighbour says she is planning a quiet evening indoors, with her sewing and a glass of homemade elderberry wine, watch out!

Foddlebroth and the Fungus can be obtained, price £6, by emailing joannalucas2001@aol.com

A sequel entitled *Foddlebroth's Adventures* will be on sale in November.

Sue Taylor

Speen & North Dean Golf

Following the Golf Day between Speen and North Dean held on 23rd May, which this year North Dean won, giving the village pleasure, I attach a photograph of 4 of the golfers celebrating - from the left - John Newman, Peter Keen, Ivor Beeks holding the cup and Jeremy Mudie holding the glass.



A very enjoyable day was had by 30 golfers at Mentmore Golf & Country Club - a couple of downpours with hail - but otherwise a great afternoon and dinner, all expertly organised by Speen resident, Charlie Pearson.

Winner (Speen) - John Mulry
Nearest the Pin (North Dean) - John Newman
Longest Drive (Speen) - Duncan Dow

If there are any new golfers in North Dean reading this, don't hesitate to give me a ring to get on the players list for our next match.

Peter Keen
01844 348299
01494 562151

Speen Group

Speen Group's Annual Charity Arts & Crafts Fair held on 14th July was a great success and raised £1,360 of vital funds for Florence Nightingale House, Helen & Douglas House, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and The South Bucks Day Hospice, the four local hospices supported by the Group. Work by local designers and artists was on display in the village Marquee and outside on the playing field was the added attraction of a car display by members of the Porsche Club GB and the MG Car Club. The King William IV also provided a BBQ especially for the Fair.



It was a chance to enjoy the lovely village, relax, have a stroll round the cars and craft fair, refuel at the pub or barbecue and Speen Group would like to thank all those who came along and helped make the day such a success.

The Speen Supporters Group was founded by Suzi Rose in 2001, with the aim of raising funds for the local hospice charities by putting on local events. They are now known as 'The Speen Group' with several of the original members still on the committee and everyone giving tirelessly of their time and effort for free. With limited Government funding the Hospice Charities rely heavily on organisations like Speen Group to raise the funds necessary to care for people with life limiting conditions and give support to their families.



The next event to be organised by the Group is their annual Christmas Market. This is held in The King William IV and is a 2 day event and like the summer Fair there will be work by many exciting local designers and artists in jewellery, ceramics, art, quilting, glass, candles and much more, but with a difference. For the Christmas Market there is the addition of Cakes, Game and other festive foods. The Vendors will differ over the 2 days and of course also available will be Charity Christmas Cards supplied by the Hospices supported by Speen Group.

The King William IV dates from 1668 and creates a wonderful atmosphere for the Christmas Market, with the old beams bedecked in decorations, the log fire lit and the Market running the full length of the pub. There will be seating near the fire where you can enjoy drinks or the special menu available from the bar. The pub is steeped in history, starting life as a farm, John Free obtaining its first Liquor Licence in 1827. The idea of the owners having two professions continued into the 1850s when the Landlord and Master Tailor was Thomas Stevens and the 1890s when the Landlord Thomas Gomme was also a Wood Turner. In 1935 Speen residents purchased most of the land from the Wheelers Wycombe Breweries (2.75 acres) for £160 with the Brewery retaining the land between the pub and Studridge Lane. In 1960 the Courage Brewery owned the pub and over the next 30 years the pub changed hands several times even becoming an Indian Restaurant. In 2008 after total refurbishment the premises were re-established as The King William IV by the current owner Mr David Hill and re-opened as a free house and home to the family. The rustic style food is inspired through locally sourced suppliers including gluten and wheat free dishes.
www.thekingwilliamivspeen.co.uk

Come and enjoy Speen Group's Charity Christmas Market and find unique gifts for your family and friends whilst raising vital funds for the local hospices. Admission of just £1.
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As this issue goes out the summer season is a memory and autumn colours are appearing. The Alpha banner at the centre of Speen village, also red, announces this season in the life of many churches in the area, when people gather for friendship over a good supper to discuss questions of what life is really all about in the context of the Alpha course.

More than two million people have experienced Alpha and 65,000 courses are currently running (that's worldwide), so it is well tried, well known and popular. It has probably done more to change the expectations we have of church and of living out Christian belief and values in our complex lives, than anything else in recent years. Pretty much every strand of the Christian church uses Alpha.

Alpha at Speen Chapel is on Wednesdays at 7 for 7.15pm, starting on October 2. If you missed the first one or two, just come along anyway. It starts with a meal of simple excellence, plenty of real coffee throughout, a talk and discussion round tables facilitated by a leader at each one. This is all about people voicing their questions and mutually exploring answers, so no one is telling you what to think. The commitment is just to come along to one and see what you think – we would love you to journey with us on successive Wednesdays but we won't follow up if you decide not to, so there's no pressure of any kind. It's free (you can put something in the basket towards the food if you want) and it's fun and we may well end up in the pub for the real discussion!

We will have people of all ages coming from all around this Chilterns area, and our leadership is shared with friends from St John's, Lacey Green and Union Baptist in High Wycombe, so it is a collaborative kind of venture. I would also mention that St Michael's, Hughenden, are also running Alpha on the same nights at Church House - the contact there is Helen Peters on 01494 716722.

For our Alpha at the Chapel in Speen your contacts are Graham Peart, am@advancedinteriors.net (Speen), Graham King (graham.king@rpj.uk.com) (Lacey Green) or Rob Wallbank, rwaconsulting@btinternet.com (Hazlemere/Wycombe) or call me, Ian Greig, on 01494 488484 or email speenchurch@gmail.com. More on www.speenchurch.org

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Sam The Man

We're pretty lucky to have a man like Sam in the village aren't we? Not only was Sam the Artistic Director for the Festival, he was fundamental to the musical workings of most of the events. A man of capacity, having had a solid run of almost daily Festival rehearsals and events, he put in a day in the office then learnt the scores for the Prom 'on the way home on the train'! So Sam, on behalf of the village, thank you for your musical talent, artistic drive and calm leadership and for shaping a Festival of which our little hilltop village can be very proud.

Festival Feedback - The People Have Spoken

"I thought the whole of the Festival was GREAT. Grease was amazing, I was impressed by the precision and enthusiasm of the chorus, especially the little ones. The whole show a knock-out, singing by the soloists excellent and the 'black-clad' scene changers impressive, very slick."

"The Jazz, as ever, was marvellous, so interesting to hear the life story of the musician along with his music. The Scientific evening fascinating."

"Loved the Cabaret Supper, always enjoyable, but I think this was the best yet."

"Please accept my thanks - and expressions of admiration - for quite the best Speen Festival ever. The quality, and the variety, of the events were excellent."

"Do you really have to wait till 2015 for the next one?"

"... congratulations on another amazing afternoon and a wonderful festival - we are so lucky to have such talented and organisationally brilliant people locally!"

"... all those extra helpers who gave their time to get the marquees and covers up in such awful weather were rock stars too! Sam was as brilliant as ever and I always learn a lot when I play in his orchestras so despite the cold and rain I really enjoyed it all - and the opportunity to play with such talented soloists, who are such lovely people too! I found the sight of all the audience who still turned up standing in the rain singing quite moving at the end!"

We would love to hear what you thought. The Festival is entirely dependent on the generous voluntary support of lots of individuals living in and around Speen, but we don't want to waste our time. We'd love to know how you enjoyed this year's Festival, both to help our planning of future events (see you in 2015?) and to feed back to the people and organisations that have provided vital financial support to make Festival 2013 happen. Please visit www.speenfestival.org/feedback to have your say!

SPEEN FESTIVAL 2013
Grease

A Foto
in Pic





Photography by Christine Dunnington, Ian Warr, Geoff Smith, Hannah Cox, Jem Symondson & Loiz Bale



www.speenfestival.org

A huge thank you to all of our 150 volunteers; car park stewards, event organisers, chair movers, ticket sellers, ice cream sellers, marquee uppers, downers and decorators, photographers - every single one playing an essential part in creating Speen's fabulous Festival 2013. THANK YOU

We are grateful for financial and in-kind support from:



Aston Hearing Services, Beechdean Ice Cream, Cannon Moorcroft, John Codling, Gorgeous Giggles, Heppelthwaite, High Wycombe Gang Show, IL Beeks, insurance4carrental.com, Jacqui Laing, JML Training, JNP/Fine & Country, King William IV Pub & Restaurant, Lacey Green Parish Council, Leigh Lewis, Missenden Abbey, Nicki Thomas Web Design, The Old Plow, Saddle Safari Marlow, Rebellion Brewery, Seasons Farm Shop, Speen Shop Charities, Speen School PTA, Ten Mile Menu, Tim Russ, Valufin/Genius Methods & Wycombe District Council.

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Box Office Hits

This year saw the addition of an online box office which was not without its own problems. All the events which historically have sold out quickly did a brisk online trade with > 90% of Cabaret Supper tickets being sold online. Constructive feedback on the website has been taken on board so hopefully improvements can be made for 2015. Our headline show Grease were sell-outs on Friday and Saturday; the Box Office had a waiting list of would-be attendees on standby and yet more people were turning up on the night in the hope of returns. People who attended on Friday and Saturday have since commented that they could have come on Thursday, so maybe in 2015 Thursday will be a sell-out too so that families can attend on the non school nights.

Voice of the Volunteer

CORINNE SYMONDS - BOX OFFICE: "After 23 years in the village, not only did I meet new people I also caught up with people who I never usually see. What was interesting for me was that volunteering for the Festival was very different to my 'day job'. I will definitely be volunteering again in 2015."

CAT COOK - MARKETING: "Volunteering to do the marketing and publicity for the Festival was driven by a sense that during Festival 2011 some of the brilliant events were not fulfilling their potential and reaching their audience. My aim was to ensure all events had the best turn out possible and nobody missed something because they didn't know. It has been a great exercise in communication across social media, the website, print and digital media and liaising with the other event organisers, some of the sponsors, Nicki doing the website, Jacqui doing all the artwork and the core team who knew what was going on! Beats changing nappies all day!"

SARAH ROGERS - ADMINISTRATOR: "For me, as a relative newcomer (and certainly new to the Festival), the most impressive aspect was the sheer mass of willing help to make it the best it could be: so many people offering help, taking responsibility, putting in hours of their free time - and expertise - and producing something really polished, high quality, and greater yet than the sum of its parts. Years spent involved in voluntary organisations hadn't prepared me for quite this level of collective operation; really something to be proud of as a community."



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Cookery Demonstrations

Held monthly in the evening introduce the attendee to Bread making, Sausage making and many more. An example of future classes are "understanding the cuts of meat and different ways to cut and cook it" and Indian cookery. Be sure to book as they get very busy.

Butchers

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Speen Village Hall

After a busy late summer with hosting events for the Speen Festival we are now preparing for our major fund raising event - the CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 30th November 2013. Doors open at 2.00pm and entry is free.

If you have not attended before or not been for some years please come along to see the updated format with great gift stalls, home made cakes, tombola and super raffle. Enjoy the spirit of Christmas with mulled wine and mince tarts as well as meeting Father Christmas on the Pre-School Stand.

Any donation of unwanted good quality gifts would be much appreciated - please contact Margaret Groves on 488180 - collection can be arranged.

Please put the date in your diary now - we look forward to seeing you there.

Bill Groves
Chairman

Speen Village Hall Management Committee

Ten Mile Menu

Making Eating Local Pay – a question of understanding, not comparison

It is an accepted fact that the vast majority of us support the idea of eating locally produced food and understand the resulting local economic and environmental benefits. Unfortunately, the reality is that very few of us do so on more than an occasional basis. The question is why? Simply put, in most cases price is key, and if not, then certainly convenience is. Local food, sourced from butchers, grocers, farm shops and farmers markets just can't compete with the convenience and low prices on offer from our supermarkets.

I'm also sure it is generally accepted that produce bought from a farm shop or butchers will come with a higher price tag, but do we genuinely understand why, and rather than view these purchases as a special treat, can we tailor our eating habits to become more regular 'local' shoppers, without spending more each week on our food?

I for one, firmly believe the answer can be yes. The first step is to understand that what we buy from high-quality local producers can actually offer better value than the supermarkets, despite the higher price tag. Take sausages as an example; at the time of writing, Tesco sell Richmond Pork Sausages (454g) for £2.40 per pack. A pack of traditional pork sausages from local producers can cost us to £4.75 - a difference of nearly 100% in price. So how, you may ask, can the local equivalent offer better value for money? Firstly, the local version is likely to be handmade,

seasoned with quality herbs and spices (again by hand, not via a pre-mix), with a minimum 75% prime pork content. The pork itself from locally reared, traditional or rare-breed pigs, using far superior cuts of meat than it's supermarket equivalent. The skins used are natural hog-casing, as opposed to the cheaper synthetic supermarket version, that give you an unnatural 'crunch' when biting into them and ensure perfectly 'straight' sausages of exactly the same size.

I probably don't need to tell you that the Richmond sausages have a significantly lower pork content (42%), and contain many other artificial ingredients. We are offered no information on traceability, a factor growing on the public conscience following this year's revelations concerning provenance of supermarket meat. Recently we have even seen the integrity of Tesco's 'Red Tractor' usage brought into question following Dutch pork found labelled with the 'guaranteed British' stamp of authenticity.

So in fact, although our local equivalent is nearly twice the price, the 'per-pound' pork content will be very similar, and that's before you consider quality of the meat itself. Then throw in the benefits of almost zero food miles plus keeping spend within our local economy, and you end up with a compelling case in favour of buying local bangers!

Before the rise of the 'two-chickens for a fiver' supermarket generation, there was a far greater value placed on meat, and it was therefore eaten with less frequency. High-quality meat is expensive to produce, the pigs that go to make our local sausages often live for twice as long as their pink, commercial equivalents and therefore cost substantially more to rear. Our local farmers cannot run a viable business without charging a reasonable price.

We produce some amazing food in the Chilterns and should be very proud, especially of our pork, beef and lamb producers (if you haven't eaten the Pedigree English Hereford Beef from Seasons Farm Shop you really should). But since moving to Speen from London two years ago, I eat less meat than I did before. Why? A new found respect for our farmers, their livestock, and for what meat should actually cost.

I've also realised that you can call a sausage a sausage, but it doesn't always mean you're right.

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More Speen Memories

I have just been given a copy of 'Speen and North Dean News' (Issue 56) by my dear friend Maureen Laing and I was fascinated to read Joan Janes's 'My Life in Speen' - so many of her memories exactly reflect my own.

Before I was married to Mike Grimmer (who I met in The Old Plow in 1957 when he was working at Bomber Command) my name was Christabel Goffin. I was born in 1937, and I lived all my childhood at Turnip End. So if Joan gets to read this I can solve the mystery of who Peter Goffin was - he was my father, and my mother was Margaret. My sister Lucy was the one born in that terrible winter in the nursing home on the West Wycombe Road (I thought it was 'The Shrubbery' not 'The Willows' but I could be wrong.)

The people that Joan mentioned took me back all those years ago.

Miss Emily Saunders and her lovely shop, I so loved our trips to see her to get my sweet ration for the week.

Doctor Edwards who looked after us so well and was always kind and helpful.

Arch Janes was also always ferrying us about (we didn't have a car) to Wycombe station if the bus didn't run, when we were off on a summer holiday with too much luggage to carry, and I am sure he also brought my mother and baby sister back from the nursing home in that terrible 1947 winter. I was ten and well remember the snow was so deep at Turnip End that mother was unable to come home for some time.

My father was a Theatre Designer and often had to stay in London during the week. When mother was stuck in the nursing home I stayed with the Cheshire family who lived behind Rose Ellis's pub (they had a chicken farm). I went to school with Bella and Susan Cheshire. I remember when my father came to collect me, we struggled through the snow from Speen to Turnip End and then had to dig our way through the snow to find our front door! It certainly was a never-to-be-forgotten winter.

Every Christmas Day Ted Martin at The Bakery used to cook our turkey (together with many others) in the bread oven. It must have been his busiest day of the year. At 1 o'clock we would go to collect our delicious golden bird, so perfectly cooked. It was quite a social occasion in the Bakery. To be sure we got the right turkey we would fix a small metal tag on our baking tin.

You could get your name stamped on an aluminium strip at a big green machine on Marylebone station . . . I loved doing that!

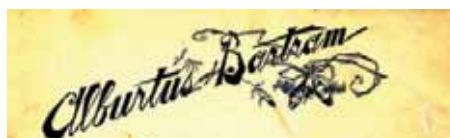
As for 'Calor gas, outside toilet and a well', we had all three and I was well into my teens before we had the luxury of a proper bathroom. It was the tin bath in front of the copper fire for many years. My little sister had her bath IN the copper, but of course only when the fire was well and truly out! In hot weather mother used to hang a bucket down the well to keep the butter and milk (from Parslow's farm) nice and cool . . . once or twice we lost the lot when the string came undone!

Because I visit Maureen regularly and still have friends nearby, I am often back in Speen and never drive through without being reminded of times gone by. A lot has changed but it still seems to have a great community feel with wonderful Festivals, a Fete and family fun - I remember my mother made a pantomime horse costume from old faded wartime blackout fabric and we often entered the Fancy Dress parade at the Speen Fete.

Thank you Joan for reminding me of those happy times when we were growing up in lovely Speen, and taking me back to the winter of 1947, that particularly amazing snowy winter when my little sister and your first child Vivienne were born.

Christabel Grimmer

Juggling



An entertaining troupe demonstrating Circus Skills were good fun at this year's Fete. Two of them juggled Indian Clubs; a standard circus feature nowadays.

Mr DeWitt Cook pioneered juggling with Indian Clubs in the 1800s and he trained his stepson, Claude Bartram. Bartram, a Canadian, formed a partnership with Samuel Alburtus, an American, and the Indian Clubs juggling act of Alburtus & Bartram became world-famous.

Alburtus was my Grandfather.

No; I did not inherit his skills.

Clive Rainbow

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.

We would like to thank Speen Church for kindly loaning us their hall and toys for our session while North Dean Village Hall is being renovated. We expect to be back in North Dean during November.

We are a small and friendly bunch and 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. We hold a party at Christmas and Summer for the children and most recently hired a



bouncy castle for our Summer party in July.

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!

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



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Year 11: the best school days of your life?

The past year has been a whirlwind of emotions with GCSEs looming and the realisation that you probably should have listened to the past four years of lessons as they were in fact important, the beginning of your future as a higher education student or possible worker and the end of compulsory education and hands on teaching, the knowledge that old friends will be moving away to different sixth forms or work places but also the reassurance that new ones can be made when others join the school. The unforgettable school trips and leavers assemblies, the long and tedious study leave that you cram all your revision into, the horribly long wait for results and of course, every girl's dream and every guy's nightmare: the formal event of year 11: prom.

Year 11 can be said to be the most important school year, this is because big decisions are being made. A levels are being chosen which can open doors to university and essentially your future career. This can be a daunting process for some people, especially those who are unclear about what they want to do in the future and have thought of every possibility from princess to vet, like myself. This is why I looked for a lot of help when choosing my options; I asked friends and family members as well as teachers. Everyone I asked told me the same thing; 'make sure you

have a wide range of options so you appear well rounded and have a greater amount of options for university courses, keep all the doors open'. I thought this was useful advice especially for an unsure person such as myself. However, once I sat down and looked at the course options it became clear to me what I wanted to do and which path I wanted to take.

As well as the stress from exams and school work, year 11 is a constant countdown to 'the end'. Although everyone knows 'the end' is coming quickly, this is definitely the best time to be at school, especially to witness the nostalgic assemblies and the fun school trips. As a 'treat' my school took us to Thorpe Park. To me this was a great treat as it was a thrilling way to spend time with my friends, however, I can see how it wouldn't be fun for everyone; some people aren't as fond of the tummy turning rollercoasters. As well as going to Thorpe Park we had a prom. Held at Missenden Abbey in a marquee, prom was a great success! Trying to have that 'last dance' with your friends was sad but it was also a great reminder of all the fun times from over the past four years.

I would definitely say that year 11 was one of my favourite school years, although the work was hard, it was very satisfying once it was all over and done. And the celebrations made up for all the torturous revision.

Sophie Radforth

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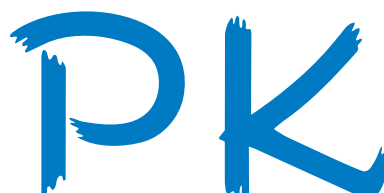
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Speen Pre-School

Midsummer Dreaming, Sports, Snakes and Afternoons

The summer term seems a while ago now but was packed with activities and special events.

The children had an enjoyable day at 'big' school joining the older children and staff in creative crafts, music and dancing for the Speen-fest activities following the theme of Midsummer Night's Dream. Speen School then joined us for our traditional sports morning on the playing field. Everyone received a winner's medal and the event was followed by a picnic lunch for the children and a "Pimms & Ploughman's" for the many parents and relatives watching. Thanks to the Playing Fields Committee for allowing us to use the field and pavilion for this much-loved event.

The Annual General Meeting took place in July with a review of the year's activities and accounts, and election of the committee members. All positions have been filled although we have a smaller committee this year of just seven trustees managing the pre-school as a charity.

The school year finished with a visit by Zoo Lab, a company specialising in bringing all kinds of animals for children to hold and see close up. These included spiders, snakes and stick insects. We said a fond goodbye to seven children who were heading off to Speen School or pastures new. For the parents the year ended with a record turnout for a very sociable meal at the King William.

Now three weeks into the new term we have welcomed three new boys and one staff member to pre-school. We are trialling opening for a couple of afternoons a week following parent feedback as well as planning our Harvest event in the Chapel and organising our major fundraiser of the year, providing the catering for the annual Speen fireworks display. Please do come along and support us.

On a more disappointing note the wooden horse and sandpit that have been installed in the Under 5's play area over the last couple of years with the generosity of those who have donated funds was vandalised recently. It's very disheartening for all involved when this happens and rather difficult to explain to a 3 year old questioning why the horse has lost its ears.

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

STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!!

On the 30th September we received our unannounced Ofsted inspection and improved our rating from a satisfactory to a good grading - great news. A huge thanks to the staff and volunteers involved in Pre-School and our village supporters who have helped us achieve this.

*Clare Morris
Chair*

Clare.morris@mac.com or 488553



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District Council News and HS2 Update – October 2013



District Council News

The new Waste Service Contract is being implemented in the area and if the new recyclable collections have not started by the time you read this – they will shortly! A number of people have mentioned to me that the additional bins add to your storage needs, but hopefully this is more than outweighed by the fact that WDC now recycles a much wider range of materials, in response to residents' demands.

Great progress is being made with the new Sports & Leisure development and construction has started on both the new running track at Little Marlow and the synthetic playing pitch at John Hampden school. These new facilities will free the land needed for the phased construction of the new main facility which is scheduled for completion in 2015.

The development of High Wycombe town centre is moving ahead, with Planning Inspectorate approval of the Masterplan and the recent release of detailed proposals for the new road system in the town. This is intended to provide an additional route through the town centre which could eventually replace the Abbey Way flyover and allow the town centre to be 're-united'.

Mel Foster
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01494 488905

HS2 Update

A great deal has happened since the last edition of SNDN, perhaps the most significant development being that as a result of continuous campaigning, barely a day goes by now without HS2 featuring in mainstream news bulletins and almost always this shows a growing and more credible sentiment against the project.

Members of the Speen Area Action Group continue to act on your behalf, represent the area at Action Alliance group meetings and have participated at the community forums which have recently been run (as a cynical 'box-ticking' exercise) by HS2 Ltd. By the time you read this, the party conferences will have all concluded and campaigning by the High Speed 2 Action Alliance featured at key events. The Supreme Court appeal on a key Judicial review on 15th October will be a key milestone and for updates, it is best to look online at the sites shown below.

Speen Fete Children's Competition Prize Winners

Colouring Competition:

Age 4-7: Evie Baker
Age 7-11: Lily Bowen

Fancy Dress:

Amy Entwisle (Cup Cake)

Clown Collage:

Olivia Davies

Circus Glove Puppet:

Olivia Warr

Circus Poem:

Annabel Hull

6 Cup Cakes:

Becky and Emma Buxton

Congratulations!
Thanks to all taking part

Thanks to Alison (Speen Stores) for
judging and presenting the prizes

Many political and public figures are now openly opposing or questioning the scheme, including most recently Ed Balls who has said that there will be no 'blank cheque' for HS2. With Alastair Darling, Peter Mandelson and others openly opposing HS2 it is likely that Labour will ultimately turn their back on this waste of resources, despite it originally coming from them.

With the Government admitting that costs are likely to be around £50 billion and many experts predicting that this could easily rise to £70 billion or more if precedents like HS1 and the Olympics are followed, it is becoming increasingly clear that this project does not make sense. However, the Government clings to its belief that this vanity project is worth doing, so it is critical that residents continue to help by pressing David Lidington on HS2 – bury him in emails and letters on the wider issues, not just the Chilterns.

Contact friends and relatives to ask them what they would rather have the country spend £50 billion on – wherever they live they will have a better idea than HS2 – and ask them to tell their MP what they think. The fight is not over.

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

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Stephanie on **01844 212271** or

E-mail **Stephanie.hill@risboroughcarers.org.uk**

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Wildlife Watch

The warm summer of 2013 provided a welcome opportunity for butterflies to recover from the poor breeding conditions in 2012. Good numbers of small Tortoiseshells and Red Admirals have been apparent in gardens. Within local woods Speckled Woods and large orange Silver Washed Fritillaries were present in good numbers. Up to 6 of the latter were apparent on one visit. However no Purple Emperors were seen locally or reported to me. Meanwhile Duncan Wilson has been collecting records of local moths in a moth trap in Abbotwood during the summer. He recorded a vast range including all of our large Hawk Moths I believe.

With our birds changes in distribution patterns become apparent over a number of years. Some birds like Siskins which are regarded as winter visitors have started to stay and breed in the south of the country. Young Siskins were reported from Marlow Bottom and Whicharch and then George Butler reported some in his Speen garden in June. Meanwhile young Crossbills have been recorded in June in Prestwood. One bird which has extended its range northwards rather than southwards is the Firecrest.

These birds are predominantly found in continental Europe but have migrated to southern England to breed for many years in small numbers. Wendover Woods has been a stronghold for years but now the Speen area is also a major hotspot for these tiny birds. Three were recorded in Great Hampden in early August whilst Lee Evans, one of the country's top bird-watchers, reported 31 singing males plus an additional 9 rearing family groups already fledged in a report centred on Speen on 21 June.



I suspect that the search covered a wide area but will have taken in Munkton Woods and the conifers around Hampden House where these birds are regularly recorded by the experts. Firecrests are very similar to the more familiar Goldcrests that are more widespread, but they are somewhat brighter with a yellow and black eye stripe and a bright orange stripe on the top of their heads.

Within our own garden we have seen young Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Jays that have nested successfully in the local woods. Local Bullfinches have been regular visitors throughout the year with two pairs present together on occasions. The first juvenile appeared in mid June. Elsewhere in the garden Mallard have laid two clutches of eggs. The first was abandoned after nearly 4 weeks of cold weather for no particular apparent reason but a second clutch was eventually hatched. Sadly the young were rapidly predated in our absence, within a short period. Young Tawny Owls have been heard and also recorded in Munkton Wood along with 4 Woodcock in June, engaging in "roding" display flights. Local Wood Pigeons still seem to be breeding, as late as September, with fresh egg shells being found in the garden. Mandarin Ducks were present on woodland ponds in the Great Hampden area for much of the year, again, but I am not aware of any successful breeding locally.

Local lizards seemed to have a successful breeding season with young seen in several local ponds whilst frog numbers seemed very low. Sightings of Grass Snake have been low this year with reports of the local Red Kites carrying snakes indicating a threat to them that will have grown significantly in recent years.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings

Peter Symonds 01494 488016, or email: symonds@speen101reserve.co.uk

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
Police Contact	Non emergency Emergency	101 999
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen & North Dean News - advertising	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
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Speen Fete - Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	488939
Speen Playing Fields Chairman	Tony Bobroff	488688
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Speen School PTA - Chair	Zoe Baker	01844 342780
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
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