



Issue 59  
Winter/Spring 2014



# 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 (60) is due by **Sunday 6th July 2014.**

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

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Month	Event	Where	Contact
<b>February</b>			
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Hughenden Manor	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night TBC	KW4, 8.00pm	Nicki Thomas 488665
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Speen Playing Fields AGM	Pavilion	Debbie Tilt 488733
<b>March</b>			
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Ash Die-back	Speen Village Hall, 7.45pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night TBC	KW4, 8.00pm	Nicki Thomas 488665
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Blues/folk/rock concert	Speen Baptist Chapel	Rev Ian Greig 488595
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Speen School Safari Supper	TBC & Speen School	Helen Davies
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Princes Risborough Rural Neighbourhood Action Group	TBC – Bledlow & Longwick Parishes	Paul Rogerson 488315
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Speen School Y2 'Energize'	Wycombe Swan Theatre	
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Speen Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt	Speen Playing Field 2.00pm	Alex Bloor 489838
<b>Future Events</b>			
Quiz Nights	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month - TBC	KW4, 8.00pm	Nicki Thomas 488665
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Speen v North Dean Golf	Beaconsfield Golf Club	Charlie Pearson 488483
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Speen Fun Day	Speen Playing Field	Tony Bobroff 488688
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Horses, Hounds & Heroes Fete	Home of Rest for Horses	Lucy Compton 488464
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Princes Risborough Rural Neighbourhood Action Group	TBC – Lacey Green & Hampdens Parishes	Paul Rogerson 488315
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Ball	Speen School	Zoe Baker 01844 342780
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Speen Fete	Speen Playing Field	Amanda Dobbs 488887
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Field	Andrew Howard 562775

It's January already and, as I write this, we have seen our fair share of wind and rain. To begin with I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated happy and prosperous New Year.



By now many of us have already broken the usual New Year resolutions but one of mine was to take a hard look at the magazine and see if we can "spice it up". As ever, I'm so grateful to the regular contributors but if there's anyone else out there with something they want to say or a budding David Bailey who can let me have some super pictures then please get in touch.

As for "spicing things up", is it just me who thinks that Buckinghamshire has some of the worst roads in the UK. I travel a bit around the UK and feel that we do have some of the biggest and best pot holes you can find, many of which are in this area!

Lastly, as ever, HS2 has proven to be quite a contentious issue and, to show just how

contentious, I have published a letter regarding the Speen Firework Night and the burning of the HS2 train effigy. For my part, I thought it was a bit of fun and the somewhat hysterical letter was quite surprising but, there again, I bet the writer would be happy to fill the Countryside with wind farms and solar panels. He is certainly entitled to his opinion but, what do you think?

*James Hazeldine*

## Welcome Packs

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

If you know of someone new to Speen please phone Christine on 488409 or email [christineoliver99@btinternet.com](mailto:christineoliver99@btinternet.com).

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

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## Snowdrop Walk at West Wycombe Park Sunday 9 February 12 – 4pm



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The Snowdrop Walk is a special day to remember the babies and children who have died and the children who are bereaved each year. Snowdrops will be available for purchase on the day and charity staff and volunteers will be on hand to help with the planting at The Temple of Venus within the park.

Special activities for children will include a Rhyming Creature Hunt so children can join in and find the missing rhyming creatures throughout the walk and receive a fun-filled goody bag at the end.

Hot food and refreshments will be available from West Wycombe Village Hall at the end of the walk, where some extra children's activities will



also be taking place including colouring and puzzle building.

Chief Executive of Child Bereavement UK, Ann Chalmers, said "The Snowdrop Walk has been well supported over the years by local families. As ever, we are very grateful to Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood, for their ongoing support on this special day in Child Bereavement UK's calendar. It's a lovely way to spend a Sunday in a beautiful setting and to admire the grounds of the park. Every penny raised will go towards our vital work supporting bereaved families, so please come along and join us."

### Pay on the day:

Adult: £2.50

Concessions and children over 3: £1.50

Children under 3: Free

Children's Rhyming Creature hunt - £1.00

West Wycombe Park restrictions - only guide and hearing dogs allowed.

Press Enquiries: Amanda Freed

Child Bereavement UK

Tel: 01494 568898

Email: [amanda.freed@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:amanda.freed@childbereavementuk.org)

Photos (including snowdrops on front cover)

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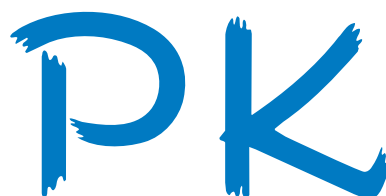
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## Down on the Farm

For this month's article I thought I would give you a glimpse of the industry as seen by the *Farmers Weekly*, which is the weekly magazine read by the majority of serious farmers. It so happens that the magazine was launched almost exactly 80 years ago when farming was an important industry. It then sold 250,000 copies a week; its editor dined with the prime minister, had a flat in London and a chauffeur driven car. Today's editor bemoans her lot by comparison!

The articles in the first editions appear to have changed little over nearly a century: poor commodity prices; anger at imports of beef and wheat, flooding in from Argentina; plus warnings to prepare for future years of drought! Since its

'Arla wants more milk' is one of the headlines. You will all have disliked the building of the giant Arla milk processing factory near Aylesbury as a scar on the landscape (which it is!), but we have reason to be very grateful for it. The factory is the first carbon neutral one of its type and is 'high tech' in all respects, with a cold store manned by two forklift drivers filling lorries with milk, through 30 loading bays, from pallets of milk prepared by 50 computer controlled driverless fork lift trucks. High tech indeed! This super-efficient system has enabled Arla to pay us more for our milk and so raised the price for other producers. Here I must pay tribute also to The WI (and others) for their campaign for a fair price for milk which has at last come to fruition, enabling milk producers like us to stay in business.



inception the magazine has given farmers weekly prices of all kinds of farm animals, feed stuffs, machinery, fencing materials, land etc; the information being collected from the many farmers markets held round the country. Formerly it was one of a few sources of private stock sales, jobs vacant and wanted or services provided. Now as in other industries, this function has been taken over by the Internet which has the advantage of being international. The hard manual labour under difficult conditions does not appeal to the average 'Brit', so again like in other industries, we rely on foreign labour.

This week's *Farmers Weekly* reports 'The Oxford Farming Conference' where the great and good of the industry from all over the world exchange ideas. The message that reaches me is that farming businesses will continue to increase in size, with outside investors playing an ever more important role. (Not good news for us!) Also reported is Prince William's foray into farming at Cambridge. It sounds like a good idea as long as he follows it up with a week's work on a working farm to find out what really happens. I seem to remember that Prince Charles worked on one of the Duchy Farms when he was a young man.

The *Farmers Weekly* continues to keep its readers up to date with the latest technology, which invariably means bigger factories and bigger machines. We fear the days of the family farm are numbered.

*Gill Kent*

## Speen Bridge Club

It is a well kept secret but there is a Bridge Club in Speen. We play friendly contract bridge in the Village Hall, meeting on a Monday afternoon from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

We would welcome new players of any ability – cost is £1.50 which includes tea and biscuits.

If you are interested in coming along please contact our secretary – Jo Giles on 01494 711749 for details.

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# Speen Pre-School

## Ofsted, Fundraisers and The Nativity Service

As mentioned as a 'Stop Press' at the end of the last edition's article, we received our Ofsted inspection on the day the article was filed. Since then we have received our full Ofsted report. We were delighted to have received confirmation that the grade has been uprated to "good" from "satisfactory". One quote from the report to highlight the positive aspects of our small village pre-school:

"Children make good progress in their all-round development in this inclusive and welcoming pre-school. Children achieve well because the quality of teaching and learning is good. This in turn helps the children to grow in confidence and self-esteem".

Much effort has gone into the pre-school by the staff, committee, parents and Bucks CC since the last inspection in 2011. It was critical that we received a good status at a time when the importance of Early Years Education is under closer scrutiny than ever before. We risked losing our funding from Bucks CC and it is likely that at some point the pre-school would have had to close. This would likely have had undesirable knock-on effects on other parts of the village.

However, now we are officially "good" we can apply for funded 2 year olds to attend and can advertise our service to a wider audience in a more confident fashion. The focus now not only remains continuous improvement until we reach our goal of becoming an "outstanding" pre-school but on how we can increase the numbers of children attending to ensure that as a charity we break even financially. Although we can only take 20 children a day our numbers fluctuate across the years, months and even days of the week.

Our fundraisers continue to help us to raise money for new equipment and staff training so thanks to all of you who have supported us across the many fundraising activities we carried out last term – from buying our hotdogs, burgers and chilli at fireworks, to visiting Father Christmas at the Christmas Bazaar or making use of our Christmas Tree recycling service.

Thanks to the chapel for hosting our traditional Nativity service that was attended by many parents and grandparents. To finish the term parents, staff and the children all enjoyed different Christmas parties and meals out.

Our thoughts are turning to fund-raising activities this term as Easter Eggs and Hot Cross buns have already been spotted in the supermarkets. Keep an eye out for posters and updates on the Village Messenger for details of our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Hopefully we won't have any snow this year!

Currently we have spaces available. We take children from two upwards and offer a range of hours including our core 9 – 12 morning sessions as well as three lunch clubs and two afternoon sessions. If you would like to visit the pre-school, receive a prospectus or put your child's name down on the waiting list please do get in touch. Contact pre-school direct on 01494 488160 or speak to our Admissions Officer Antonia Winson on 01494 489848.



*A young member of Pre-School  
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*Clare Morris  
Chair  
Speen Pre-School*

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# Speen & North Dean Toddler Group



Speen and North Dean Toddler Group meets every Tuesday morning during term time from 10amish to midday.

We meet in North Dean Village Hall. The recently refurbished hall has much improved facilities including brand new kitchen to prepare refreshments and clean, modern toilets with baby changer.

We are a small and friendly bunch and are always keen for new families to come and join us, especially now some of our older children are moving on to Pre-School. It is a great way to meet other parents/carers in the local villages and the children start building long term friendships at Toddler Group moving on to Pre-School and

Infant School together.

We welcome all parents and carers 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 in the Summer for the children. When the weather is dry we also make use of the play area outside the village hall.

If you would like to join us please feel free to come along any Tuesday morning during term time. £1.50 per family including refreshments.

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



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## High Speed 2 Update – January 2014

Members of SAAG - Speen Area Action Group against HS2, (Denise Bolland, Secretary; Tony Bobroff, Chair; Tony Davies, Mel Foster; Miv Hughes; Keith Rosling, Treasurer; and Jeremy Symondson) continue to represent the area at meetings of Bucks HS2 Summits, Chiltern Conservation Board, Chilterns Wider AONB, Central Chilterns Community Forum Group and HS2AA.

The Environmental Statement ES, lodged with the Hybrid Bill, has been published disclosing even more damage and potential damage than had been anticipated.

SAAG together with other local action groups in the Central Chilterns Community Forum are responding to the 50,000 page documents and maps. 56 days have been provided to the public to study the ES and respond and requests, submitted to Patrick McLoughlin, Transport Secretary, to extend this very short period, have been declined.

Amongst the key aspects for concern are:

- destruction of the Chilterns AONB
- impacts of construction and construction traffic
- socio-economic impacts
- impacts on health and well being
- destruction of ancient woodlands
- impact on wildlife habitats
- impact on footpaths and bridleways
- issue of compensation

Aspects of the Hybrid Bill provide extensive powers to the government on, for example, the purchase of whatever land is required if HS2 provides an opportunity for development, ignoring Green Belt controls, and the lifting of restrictions on heavy lorry movement including London night time ban. There is significant risk of adverse public water supply problems to this area and NW London. There are likely to be a significant traffic delays on the A413 at Denham, the Chalfonts, Amersham, Great Missenden and Wendover. The A4010 will also be affected.

Copies of the ES Key Introductory and Local Community Forum area reports are available at Great Missenden, Wendover, Amersham, Little Missenden and Wendover libraries.

We are adopting a top down approach for ES responses with Bucks CC and the Chilterns Conservation Board covering the major issues affecting this area. We will also be providing support to local groups for Petitioning during the second reading of the Hybrid Bill.

The longest possible fully bored tunnel under the Chilterns AONB would alleviate, significantly, many of these detrimental impacts if, indeed, the project goes ahead. The demand for this will be central to all local responses.

At the time of writing no decision has been handed down by the Supreme Court following the Judicial Review Appeal although one had been expected by the end of November 2013. The delay is unexpected and may mean there is not unanimity between the Judges.

Increasingly public and political figures are now openly opposing or questioning the scheme; however, the Government still clings to the belief that this hugely expensive vanity project is worth doing. Costs are likely to exceed £70bn but there are many better uses of this money. Resurfacing of roads and water defences are just two examples. Residents can help by responding to the ES, Petitioning (where appropriate) and pressing politicians on the wider issues of HS2. Write/Email Patrick McLoughlin, Baroness Kramer (Minister of State for Transport), Stephen Hammond (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport) or Robert Goodwill (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport) at Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR. There is a link 'Write to your MP' on the 51M website and writetothem.com (HS2AA).

We continue to challenge the case for HS2.

More information on High Speed 2 can be accessed on the internet at

<http://www.hs2aa.org>

<http://www.51m.co.uk>

<http://www.hs2.org.uk>

*Denise P. Bolland, Secretary, 01494 488422  
Tony Bobroff, Chair, 01494 488688*

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# Speen Playing Fields

2013 was another fine year in the history of the Playing Fields.

May saw the official opening of the half pipe, which has been very popular, never more so than for the Bike Park Challenge during the Festival. This was a first class event for all age groups. The Pre-School continue to use Ridgeley's Field for their Forest School at least once a week.

You will be pleased to know that Fun Day will return this year, bigger and better than ever. 7th June 2014 is a firm date in the diary.

The Village Fete on the field in July was a great success and we were all the more grateful to the Fete Committee who this year shared the profits between the Village Hall and ourselves. Thank you. The following day saw the Speen Group Craft Fair, with the additional attraction of 50 Porsches and MGs. Many thanks to Chris James for organising.

The Festival made great use of the field again for three weeks in September, especially Grease and the Proms (despite the weather).



However the climax of the Playing Field calendar this year was Bonfire night. Christian Arsonist Nagele and Pete Design Symonds combined their substantial talents, to create a massive scale model of HS2, 20 metres long by 3 metres high (see accompanying pictures). The structure was almost double the size of last year's Houses of Parliament! This combined with Keith's fireworks and food supplied by the Pre-School mums combined to ensure a great evening. Many thanks to all you builders, including young helpers. This was a strong performance; moreover the event generated almost half our annual funding requirements.

The closing event, as always, was the Lighting of the Christmas tree and onto the Village Hall, where Kate Laughton conducted a children's performance then led us all in carols. Many thanks to Debbie and Lesley for organising and for the mince pies and to Chris Walsh who donated the Mulled Wine. We even managed to collect £60 for the Air Ambulance service.

We look forward to an overwhelming response to the Spring work party in April. Work to be done will include spreading of a new bark surface under the climbing frame play area and cutting back ivy from trees behind that area.

*Tony Bobroff  
Chair  
Speen Playing Fields*

## Letter to the Editor

As residents in Speen, Buckinghamshire for the last 37 years, having previously lived in the UK for many years north of Watford and west of Reading, my wife and I were horrified, appalled and ashamed to see the image in "The Times" on Monday 4 Nov 2013 of the Bonfire Night in Speen two evenings earlier, showing the image of an HS2 locomotive in flames.

Burning an effigy or representation of a concept with which one does not agree is a pastime that is – we suggest – associated with parts of the world where democracy, education and literacy are limited. It is not an activity we have ever associated with this village.

We are ashamed that this act will tarnish this village as being an epicentre of unthinking, selfish nimbyism by a self-centred, inward-looking minority. This stupid, infantile act has severely damaged the reputation of all of us who live here. It is deeply embarrassing to those of us who have friendships and business interests in other parts of the United Kingdom, where others recognise the need to accept an equitable share of the infrastructure for industry, transportation, energy, utilities, communications, defence, etc., when this is identified by democratic processes as being for the benefit of all of the citizens of this great county.

Whatever one's feeling on the subject of the HS2 project, this means of making a point does not persuade. It simply hardens opposition. What a terrible example to set to local children, who will now see demonstrations like this as a substitute for rational debate. Sadly many of the children – no doubt instructed by parents to give a thumbs down for the photo – have now learnt from this that such activities can replace rational debate. This is wrong.

Those who perpetrated this immature, puerile, damaging act should be deeply ashamed. They should apologise to local residents and at the national level.

*John & Christine Oliver  
Speen*



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# North Dean Village Hall Refurbishment

Built in 1921 and regularly used to this day, North Dean Memorial Hall has provided the most wonderful setting for hundreds of family, community and social club gatherings. Improvements have been made to the hall over the years, including the installation of electricity and the purchase of a piano in 1930, the installation of swings in 1935 and more recently the addition of a proper play area for the younger generation. No major renovation works have taken place, until last summer.



With a £50,000 grant from The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE\*), a £5,000 grant from Hughenden Parish Council, funds from the Village Hall accounts and some loans, we have been able to extend the north end of the hall, and build a brand new kitchen, toilets (ladies, gents and disabled) and welcoming lobby area. The whole of the exterior has also been redecorated too. The result is the most wonderful fully modernised venue which has truly impressed all those that have been inside.



The first official function hosted in the refurbished Hall was an evening of musical comedy entertainment by 'Victor and Albert' (Theatre in the Village project) where the packed out audience was treated to a few hours of hilarity from the two very talented gentlemen. This is an annual autumn event held at the Village Hall, and is invariably a sell out, so if you want tickets this autumn be sure to buy tickets early.

The sounds of merriment oozed out of the Hall on December 23rd, during the Christmas Carols evening. A good gathering of villagers enjoyed wine and nibbles in between carols and wishing neighbours an enjoyable festive period. Our thanks must go to those from Speen Baptist Church who so kindly played the piano, and helped keep the singing on track and in time! The inevitable singing contest took place - this year between Team 1: Peter Keen/Ivor Beeks and Team 2: Judith, Megan and Jemima Broadley. Despite Team 1's best (painful) endeavours, the ladies were triumphant!



North Dean Village Hall committee is currently working on a promotional brochure, to be available electronically, which will contain all relevant information for those wishing to rent the Hall. All rental enquiries should initially be made on 01494 563980 (Beechdean Dairies) during work hours, or outside work hours and weekends to Jez Wicks on either 01494 563517, 07802 476712, or [jez@beechdean.co.uk](mailto:jez@beechdean.co.uk). Further information will also be made available on our website [www.northdean-bucks.co.uk](http://www.northdean-bucks.co.uk) which is kindly maintained by Sarah Booth.



\*RDPE is funded by DEFRA and the EU

*Susie Howard*

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# The Speen Website

Fifteen years after Speen had its first website, and four years after the new website was started, ([www.SpeenBucks.org.uk](http://www.SpeenBucks.org.uk)) it is receiving a major overhaul. It has a 'new look and feel'! Andy Forkgen is updating the software and sifting through the whole site to make it more attractive and accessible. To use Andy's technical jargon, he has:

- Updated the theme (website skin) to provide
  - o New dynamic fonts
  - o New menu layouts
  - o New compatibility with mobile devices (responsive theme) and iOS devices (no flash)
  - o Refreshed colour scheme
  - o Cleaner and faster codebase
- Updated the slider to work across all devices (this is a whole new image slider system that can be updated from within the WordPress menu)
- Updated the WordPress version to 3.7.1
- Added new sidebar "widgets" which allow for "quick links" and "recently updated" - we can add as many of these as we like

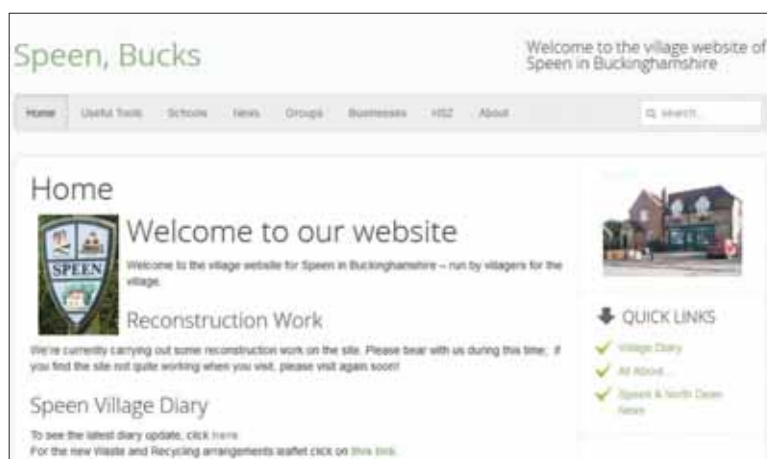
All this means that the following issues may occur:

- The menu is now completely manageable via appearance/menus - but
  - o Some items may be missing although I have tried to include everything
  - o Some people may not like the ordering of things; there is no specific ordering or bias here and we can re-order using "drag and drop"

I just wish I understood all of this (even some of it would be a good start!), but the end result is a more modern look and better intuitive use for those who are just looking at it, and a set of pages which are easier to edit, update and write for all those who are maintaining their sections.

The whole idea of the Village Website is to provide a place where everyone in the villages of Speen and North Dean can do something. A place where every club, society and group can let people know what they are doing, and where we can all find out what is going on in our villages. The more people that are involved, the less the website relies on one or two individuals to keep it up to date and relevant.

It would be great to have even more people involved, there's even an opportunity for one of the younger villagers to learn how to administer a website and perhaps develop a skill that can be used elsewhere.



At present the website has six main sections:

**Useful Tools** - This is where you'll find the Village Diary; a detailed map of Speen, naming or numbering most houses; a list of links to other relevant websites (amazing what you can find here); and the Lost & Found page for reuniting lost property with happy owners!

**Schools** - brief information about the school & pre-school, although both have their own websites.

**News** - This is for this free magazine. It lists all the advertisers and provides links to their adverts as well as giving access to many Back Issues

**Groups** - This should be the heart of the website, providing 'micro sites' for all of the clubs, societies and groups in the villages. There are 11 groups appearing, most of them are regularly updated, but some want a bit more TLC. How about the group you belong to?

**Businesses** - There are quite a few businesses based locally, and this section provides a showcase for them. At present there are fourteen businesses that can be found in this section.

**HS2** - This is probably the largest of the micro sites, although since the direct threat to the North Dean valley has faded, maintenance of this part is lagging behind current developments.

The website is hosted by GlobalizeMe and operated on the WordPress platform. There is a steady trickle of daily visitors, with the village diary being consulted by far the most often. The HS2 section is next, closely followed by the map, marquee and village hall pages.

Visiting the site is easy, just type [www.Speenbucks.org.uk](http://www.Speenbucks.org.uk) into your web browser. You can make comments in response to most pages, but you need to be registered with the website to do so. Registering is fairly easy, just visit the site and click on "logged in" (bottom left on the home page).

*John Radford*

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# Speen School & PTA

Another year has flown and the children, staff and PTA have collected many happy memories along the way.

Back in 2012, the school introduced a new English Scheme, Read Write Inc, which combined with extensive offsite staff training achieved exceptional KS1 Sats and Phonic Check results in 2013. The current Y2 also reached the level at which they could start the next stage of the scheme, 'Literacy & Language,' and is testimony to the excellent teaching quality at the school.

In September, the PTA was delighted to receive a very generous donation from the Speen Fete Committee. This was a brilliant start to the school year and much appreciated.

Also back when the skies were still blue, the PTA supported by Prayerworks organized the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning once again held in the school playground. Well attended by parents and friends of the school, the morning raised an impressive £130 due to some brilliant baking skills and the persuasiveness of Y2 who traditionally serve the cakes.

Always keen to support other charities, the children took part in the Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal and brought donations to the Harvest Festival Service. Staff and children also donned spotty attire, enjoyed a spotty pizza lunch and raised over £130 for Pudsey Bear and Children in Need.

The Royal Albert Hall was the destination for the whole school trip. Music for Youth provided a programme of musical contrasts and a broad repertoire of classical and modern pieces performed by schools and colleges. Followed by a visit to the Science Museum, the trip was a great success and Mrs Nayna was delighted to report that the children's behavior was exemplary!

National Book Week was another success – many thanks go to Mrs Hayman for her time spent organising this event and to Mrs Hearn who had the difficult task of judging the children's book design competition. Congratulations to Sarah Morris, Caleb Rees and Holly Forkgen for their winning designs.

With lots of hard work and willingness to give up precious weekend time, a small team of parents made a fantastic effort to clear the school pond meaning that come the warmer months the children will be able to start enjoying this rediscovered oasis.

Afterschool clubs remain as popular as ever and a huge thank you goes to the fantastic team of PTA volunteers who create such fun to do extra curricular activities. Thanks also go to the parents who run the weekly Friday Draw and organise and house the school uniform stock.

Theatre in the Villages returned to Speen and the school hosted an evening well supported by villagers who enjoyed an excellent production of Diary of a Nobody.

Festive celebrations and activities took up most of the last few weeks of the year with Mrs Laughton (mum to Edward & George) once again encouraging parents, teachers and staff to head into school for the early Morning Yawn singing sessions. The children enthusiastically sang this year's Christmas song 'Santa Clause is Coming to Speen' at the annual Christmas Fair. It was a wonderful, happy and relaxed lunchtime full of arts and craft activities, delicious refreshments and lots of fun had by all and raised £1000 for PTA funds. Thank you to everyone who helped in the run up and on the day. A production of The Tale of the Christmas Tree was performed with great enthusiasm by the children under the talented direction of Mrs Lidington. Parents had worked hard on an array of costumes including woodland animals, fairies, trees, naughty goblins and a Christmas Tree who really rocked! While the Nativity Play, held at St John's Church, was enjoyed by children and parents alike with some beautiful singing, music and readings by the children – thank you to Rev Dr David Williams, Rector of Princes Risborough for leading the service.

At the end of the year, the school bid a fond farewell to Peter Johnson, the school's caretaker for over 17 years, wishing him a very happy retirement and welcomed Mrs Karen Woodward who has stepped into the role.

2014 promises to be an exciting year. The current building work is due to finish by the end of January and will mean Mrs Lidington her class will have more space and a dedicated IT area for the school to log into. There are also plans to refit the kitchen, which with a combination of government grant and PTA funds will mean that school lunches will soon be on the menu.

The Safari Supper returns on Saturday March 22 with another evening of great food, wine and company. Everyone is welcome and it's a great way to meet past and present parents. As always the evening starts with a starter at one of the host houses before moving on for the main course, after which everyone treks back to the school for puddings and mingling until late. Please book your dinner place early by contacting Helen Davies at [helsbellsinny@hotmail.com](mailto:helsbellsinny@hotmail.com)

And plans are being made for the Speen School Ball. Last year's event was blessed by fantastic weather and was deemed a great success. The Event Team is looking for more volunteers and offers of sponsorship, raffle and auction prizes. If you'd like to support in any way – big or small – then please contact Zoe Baker at [zoe@zoecartell.com](mailto:zoe@zoecartell.com)

As always, everyone at Speen School would like to thank the invaluable support and interest that the village gives. From the hard work of the Board of Governors safeguarding and directing the school's future, the lovely ladies who come in and hear the children read to the support of many of the local businesses who generously sponsor the annual Summer Ball. The warmth and friendliness of many of the villagers towards the school is hugely appreciated by the children, PTA and teaching staff. Thank you again – we wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2014.

# County Council News – January 2014



May I wish you all a very Happy New Year 2014. As you may be aware but I represent Ridgeway West Division on Bucks County Council which includes Speen but not North Dean as that falls within the Ridgeway East Division and my colleague Cllr David Carroll is the elected member.

So here is the latest news from Bucks County Council. After the Local Elections in May 2013, the County Council recognised that following several bad winters with snow and rain that the roads had deteriorated considerably that it was decided that an extra £25m would be spent on improving the roads over the next 2 years and a further £3m was vied across from Reserves to accelerate the repairs in 2013/14 taking the extra total to £28m. In the previous 2 years a further £30m was invested in our roads. However in reality, £300m needs to be spent within the County to bring the main roads up to a standard which we sadly do not have the resources for.

We now are at the stage of setting budgets for the forthcoming year 2014/15 as well as the Medium Term Plan. A public consultation took place in the Autumn asking for Residents views on various options available for potential increases in Council tax. Sadly after 3 years of a Freeze on Council tax, we have no option but to look at an increase. If we increase Council below 2%, we do not need to hold a referendum. One of the options proposed was to increase Council tax by 5% which would enable a greater funding opportunity for investing in our roads. If that would be the case, a referendum would need to be held in May to coincide with the European Elections which would incur considerable costs and would be after the Council Tax Bills had been issued. If the electorate rejected the increase, then there would be additional costs in reissuing Council Tax bills at less than 2% and budgets would have to be adjusted accordingly. Therefore, proposals are being sought for a 1.99% increase in Council tax from 1st April 2014, which will go before Council on 13th February. For those of you have internet access, you can follow the Budget debate live as Council meetings are webcast.

Towards the end of 2013, in our area I am pleased to say that Main Road in Lacey Green was fully resurfaced which was part of the roads programme. I will continue to ensure that we can secure further funding for other roads in the area. If you find there are roads which are in need of immediate attention, please don't hesitate to contact either Transport for Buckinghamshire or myself.

Equally if there are any other matters relating to Buckinghamshire County Council that you would like raised, please contact me either via email [cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk) or by telephone 01494 564771 and if you would like a person to person meeting with me, I will happily come and see you.

*Carl Etholen  
Councillor for the Ridgeway West Division -  
Bucks County Council  
Chairman of Bucks County Council 2013-2014  
Chairman of the North West Chilterns Local Area  
Forum*

## District Council News – January 2014



As everyone will know, the new Waste Service was introduced at the end of October and overall, this has been a great step forward for recycling. Like many people I have spoken to, I have not needed to make any trips to the bottle bank or tip and the increased range of items that can be collected, such as batteries, is a significant improvement.

However, I am aware of some problems with missed collections and it is unfortunate that the handover to the new contractor has not been as smooth as we would have liked. With lots of phone calls and prodding, the situation is improving, so hopefully everything will have settled down within the next few weeks.

At the end of January an important consultation will begin on the WDC Local Plan. This crucial Plan provides the policy framework, used alongside the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF), to determine planning applications. The Local Plan must demonstrate how the District will respond to the anticipated growth in demand for housing and employment through to 2031. Without a clear and comprehensive Local Plan, which has to be approved by the Government's Planning Inspector, the Council has no mechanism to effectively manage and defend any part of the District, particularly the Green Belt, from overdevelopment.

A leaflet will be delivered shortly to all households with details and I would encourage you to participate in this key consultation.

*Mel Foster  
[mel\\_foster@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk)  
01494 488905*

# Speen Heritage Group

We are planning to make Bob Johnston's remarkable Archive more readily accessible. When we do, there will have to be a section on the village cricket team which flourished – and won Championships – for many years but is now in abeyance.

Can anyone tell us the history of the Speen cricket team? In Joan Janes' article (SNDN Issue 56) we published a photo of the 1950 team and would be very pleased to receive any similar photos of other years. Can anyone give us the date of this team photo?



Can anyone tell us more about the celebrated cricketer Ian Peebles who died, in Speen, in 1980, aged 72? Does anyone have a photo of him in Speen? He was one of the few Test cricketers to come from Scotland. Aged 18, he played in the 1927/8 Tests in South Africa - that was even before he played for Middlesex and Oxford University. At Constantia, the MCC innings was going well and, as he was a tailender, he joined some local lads for a dip in the river. He lost track of time and, having raced back to the match, was devastated to find that the English team were already fielding. Next day, the scorecard published in the *Cape Times* read: "Peebles, absent, bathing ... 0."

On his return, Ian Peebles played for Middlesex and Oxford University - in the 1930 Varsity match his leg-spin took 13 Cambridge wickets. Later that year, at Old Trafford, he famously discomfited the great Donald Bradman. Bradman wrote: "When I got to the crease I found Peebles bowling extraordinarily well, and, I may as well admit that for the first time in my life I was unable to detect a bowler's leg break from his "bosey" (googly). I watched Peebles as closely as I knew how, but there was no use. Neither by watching his hand nor the ball could I detect it, and definitely this day his bowling was too good for me. I had a most unhappy time." Ian Peebles played a total of 15 Tests and captained Middlesex in 1939 - they came second. During an air raid in WWII he lost an eye and retired from the game, but, amongst other things, he became the Cricket Correspondent of the *Sunday Times* and wrote several amusing and

very popular cricket books. Wikipedia says Ian Peebles was: "A noted bon viveur and raconteur". Any anecdotes ?

Clive Rainbow - 488658

## Speen WI

At the Annual meeting in November, Jean Elder was re-elected as President for the coming year and the new committee was announced.

The programme for 2014 offers speakers on topics as diverse as the History of Hughenden Manor, life as a paramedic, an insight into patchwork and Rock and Roll. As well as the monthly meeting in the village Hall, a wide selection of other activities will be on offer. These include theatre visits, shopping trips, outings to places of interest, craft get-togethers and rambles.

Members are also looking forward to the many events that are planned by the County Federation of WIs: A science day, a visit to the Gems and Jewels of London, quiz nights and rambles to name but a few. One highlight will be hearing (and seeing!) Chris Beardshaw at the County Annual Meeting in April.

The Gardener's club will continue to offer speaker evenings, the first of which is on March 19th in the Village Hall when the speaker will be from the Oxford Botanic Garden.

Three garden visits are planned for 2014. This offshoot of the WI has become so successful that it now has its own organising group and works independently.

2014 will be a busy year as usual for WI members in Speen and all the dates can be found in the village diary. Find us on our own page of the Speen website and come as a visitor to one of our meetings and find out what WI can mean for you.

## Speen Village Hall

After a busy Autumn we held our annual Christmas Bazaar which was very well supported and raised a record amount for Village Hall Funds. Thanks to all those who attended and to the Committee and other volunteers who helped make it such a success.

The Hall has hosted a number of birthday parties and on New Year's Eve it was the venue for a party for five local families.

We are planning another meal and film night for the Spring and will publicise the date.

We would also welcome any Speen resident who would like to join the Management Committee – the job is not onerous – four meetings a year. The Hall is owned by the village and is a significant asset to village life – please help us maintain it for future generations.



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## Speen Church

It was probably our busiest Christmas in recent times at Speen Church – and some said it was the best. We held three services in 24 hours with quite different approaches, and appealing to different people, and this worked.

It was great to have the chapel pretty much standing room only for the community carol service on Christmas Eve which is something we try to 'give away' as much as possible. Speen Church provided the musicians and singers, directed by Richard Hearn, who lives around the corner in Bryant's Bottom, and members made themselves brave to make precious seating available to guests, who spanned a complete age range. The Speen community also provided the readers: parish councillor David Clay, Olivia Cowan from the Old Plow Restaurant, local businessman and raconteur/historian David Warlock, Alison Templeman from Speen Stores, Speen Festival musical director Sam Laughton and Speen Group member Diana Summers. Roger Clarke, both a strong community champion and a church member, brought a short message with just the right amount of challenge to focus the real meaning of Christmas.

We also held a reflective not-quite-midnight Christmas communion, which proved popular, while Christmas Day was noisy and definitely joyful.



*Full house for community carol service at the Chapel*

This term we have a concert from our own blues/folk/rock singer-songwriter Kevin Brown on Saturday, 15 March – put that date in your diary, we'd love to see you there.

*Rev Ian Greig*  
Tel 488595 or 07976 365798  
[spchurch@gmail.com](mailto:spchurch@gmail.com)

# How much do you know about your Parish Council?

Lacey Green Parish Council (LGPC) - What does it do? How does it function? What responsibilities does it have?

Well, I'll try to enlighten you as briefly as I can; maybe you know as little about Parish Council matters as I did when I was invited to be a Parish Councillor over two years ago.

I say 'invited' because at the time there were no other nominations or volunteers wanting to represent the Speen Ward where there was a vacancy, and I thought it would be good to broaden my knowledge of the Parish and its issues.

These are some of the things you may not know:

**Jurisdiction:** Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen Wards.

**Meetings:** At 7.30pm on the first Monday of most months of the year, alternating between Speen and Lacey Green village halls. This year's dates and venues are posted on the LGPC notice board at the end of Water Lane.

Members of the public are welcome and may speak on matters relating to Parish affairs in the first ten minutes. Thereafter, they are welcome to listen to discussions regarding Agenda matters or leave the meeting.

**Councillors:** There are 5 Councillors representing the combined Lacey Green & Loosley Row Wards and 2 Councillors representing the Speen Ward.

We work as volunteers for the community with only minimal expenses covered, i.e. attending District or County meetings, printing and the cost of preparing specifications for work required in the Parish.

A paid Parish Clerk assists the Council and several other Parish Councils to make up a full-time job based in Princes Risborough. Lacey Green Parish is fortunate in having a very experienced Clerk who ensures we Councillors work within the guidelines of Council Laws.

**Responsibilities:** Around the beginning of each year we are asked by the District Council to submit an estimate on funds we think the Parish needs to meet its responsibilities for the forthcoming year (April to March). This includes: Grants to village organisations (e.g. Speen Festival, Speen Playing Fields, Village Halls); General maintenance (e.g. footpaths, benches, shelters, ponds); Playground equipment safety and maintenance; Website management; Admin (e.g. insurance, use of Village Halls, Clerk's salary); One-off expenses (such as the War

Memorial replacement in the Garden of Rest in Lacey Green).

If the District accepts the modest(!) budget estimate from the Parish then this is reflected in the council rates for each Parishioner in the forthcoming year.

Examples of current matters for the Parish Councillors' attention include the activities taking place in Monkton Woods (although outside our Parish Boundaries) by a logging company from Wales; planning applications; sign cleaning; use of land by travellers in adjoining parishes; and, the official opening of the new War Memorial in Lacey Green in the anniversary year of the start of World War I which will take place on 8th June 2014.

If you would like to know more, if you are interested in becoming a Councillor or if you would like to submit a subject for discussion you can visit the website at [www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk](http://www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk), speak to Roger Craft or myself or join us at the next meeting.

*David Clay  
Parish Councillor*

## Speen Tennis Club

On behalf of all the members of Speen Tennis Club, the Committee wish to say an enormous thank you to Cherry Seekins who, after over 20 years in the role, has relinquished her duties as Membership Secretary. As all of you who use the tennis court will know, Cherry has made a huge contribution to the club during her time in charge of membership. Ever enthusiastic about finding innovative approaches to encourage new members, she has also been a stalwart supporter of youth coaching and worked hard to develop the ladies' social tennis mornings with Lacey Green Tennis Club.

Cherry handed over the reigns as Membership Secretary last November to Philipppa Lane, to whom the Committee wish to extend a very warm welcome.

In the meantime Cherry, all the very best of luck for the future ~ and don't forget to pay your membership fees this year!

*Trevor Daniels  
Chairman  
Speen Tennis Club*

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 News - advertising	Tom Dent	488943
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Speen & North Dean Toddler Group	Alex Allan	489838
Speen Baptist Church	Rev Ian Greig	488595
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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	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
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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