



Issue 61
Autumn/Winter 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 (62) is due by **Wednesday 1st April 2015.**

The planned publication date is during April. 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
December			
Saturday 13 th	Christmas Quiz	King William IV, 7.30pm	
Wednesday 24 th	Carols by Candlelight	Speen Chapel, 6.00pm	Ian Greig 488585
Wednesday 24 th	Village Get-together	King William IV	Dilly Hill 488329
Wednesday 24 th	Reflective Communion for Christmas	Speen Chapel, 9.00pm	Ian Greig 488585
January 2015			
Sunday 4 th	PTA Used Christmas Tree Collection	Villages	Jeni Fairey 488930
Future Events			
13 th May	Speen v North Dean Golf	Beaconsfield GC	Charlie Pearson 488483
6-20 th September	Speen Festival		Sam Laughton 488548
WI Programme for 2015			
Contact: Jean Morris 488529. All meetings in Speen Village Hall at 7.45pm. * Venue to be advised.			
	Topic	Speaker	
January 8 th	Shops and Shopkeepers of a Bucks town	Mike Payne	
February 5 th	West Wycombe Park and the Dashwoods	Peter Hague	
March 5 th	Passion for Pearls	Francis Benton	
April 2 nd	Birthday Party		
*May 7 th	Resolution Discussion		
June 4 th	Out of the Dark	Sweet Dreams Charity	
July 2 nd	Motor Cyclists and Premature Babies	Emergency Rider Volunteers	
August 6 th	The New Genetics – Dream or Nightmare	Dr Brenda Harold	
September 3 rd	The Magic of the Rainforests	Prof Simon Bearder	
October 1 st	My Life as a Bird Vet	Alan Jones	
November 5 th	Annual Meeting		
December 3 rd	Magic Lantern Show	T Brown and G Casbeard	

Ruth and Max Bloomquist

Ruth and Max Bloomquist played at the King William IV at the end of the summer. The duo from Muskegon, Michigan, who were joined by

Dan Seabolt, fiddler extraordinaire, entertained a small group of



enthralled customers with their Roots Acoustic Americana Folk music. Ruth has a pure sound very reminiscent of Joan Baez.

See www.ruthbloomquist.com

Following a great summer we gently slide into winter with the promise of the next three months being the wettest on record. Having now cheered you up, at least we have Christmas to look forward to.



Again, I make a heartfelt plea for more news and good quality photographs representing life here in Speen. The magazine is in danger of becoming stale covering the same news and showing pictures of the same people. Come on, put fingers to the key board and surprise me!

Lastly, a request from our hard working Ad. Manager, Tom. If you reply to an advertisement, please mention where you saw it.

James Hazeldine

Activities in the village have been as plentiful as ever with the usual amounts of hard work put in by all those involved working on so many of the committees. This year's firework display was as impressive as ever. Whilst this one didn't make the national news, it was bigger and better than ever, was enjoyed by a huge audience (despite the weather preceding it) and made the Bucks Free Press.

Is it just me, but are the pot holes in the verge coming up Chapel Hill getting worse? Perhaps it's about time these were fixed!



Photo Quiz

No prizes but do you know the location of this old cedar tree? And if you do, do you know who planted it?

Answer on Page 33



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Congratulations to John & Pat Rogers – Celebrating 60 Years of Marriage

Thursday 23 October 1954 – the date that John Rogers and Pat Jackson confirmed their love on their wedding day at Speen Baptist Chapel, followed by the wedding breakfast at North Dean Village Hall (with 74 guests).



Sixty years later, the happy couple celebrated in style at the newly refurbished North Dean Village Hall, on a sunny Saturday afternoon - 25 October 2014 (with 65 guests).

Family, friends and neighbours were invited to enjoy a delicious lunchtime buffet, washed down with a glass (or two) of wine.

Son Steve gave a speech as did the best man David Dorey. John then gave thanks to everyone for attending and to all those who helped to organise the event. Special thanks were given to niece Pam for the slide show which followed, depicting notable events of the happy couple's 60



year journey. Acknowledgment was also given to the amazing team who have – and continue to – help and support John in his recovery from a recent stroke.

The three bridesmaids – Sylvia Tanner, Dorothy Upfold and Pam Bowell – were each presented with a bouquet of flowers identical to those used at John and Pat's wedding.

The ceremonial cake cutting (the perfect picture opportunity) was the 'icing on the cake' to bring the afternoon formalities to a close.

The party continued into the early evening with the arrival of friends and villagers (30 guests) who joined the festivities to celebrate John and Pat's special day.

*Julie White
Friend & Neighbour*

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Speen WI

We were all saddened by the death of Margaret Easom – a member of Speen WI for over forty years and a former president and secretary. We shall all miss her, particularly as a regular on the WI Quiz team. She had such knowledge of so many things; not only was she expert at art and literature and history, but had gleaned so much scientific knowledge from George too.

We have again had some interesting speakers at our meetings recently, including helping to understand the work of the RNLI and of a paramedic. Doreen Kempton helped us to make decorative flowers and gift-tags from floral ribbon although many feel that they need a little more practice!



Speen WI members show off their artistic expertise making ribbon flowers

The WI has its own college, near Marcham, offering a wealth of opportunities to learn new skills and improve old ones. Daphne Westray and Jean Morris attended a weekend Indian Cookery Course making bahjis, naan bread and delicious curries and rice; the result was a stocked freezer and a store of good ideas. Other members have been for courses in beading, silk painting and family history.

The cheese and wine evening was well attended



Daphne Westray and Jean Morris try their hand at Indian cookery at the WI Cookery School

and many visitors expressed surprise at the opportunities afforded to WI members and also at the size, scope and influence of the organisation throughout England and Wales.



Jean Whitehouse (centre) with visitors Bron Davies (right) and Rosemary Speight (left) at the cheese and wine evening

Several members are visiting Waddesdon Manor for an evening in November and seeing a production at the Wycombe Swan Theatre in December.

At the Annual meeting in November, the work and finances of the year were reviewed and Jean Elder was re-elected President for the coming year. Members, including four new ones, then enjoyed a delicious pot-luck supper. The programme for next year is booked and again looks to be informative and entertaining.

2015 will be a very busy year as it is the Centenary of the formation of the first WI in England and Wales, on Anglesey. There will be many celebratory events and also television programmes marking this very special WI year. We are all looking forward to a busy and interesting year. (See 2015 programme on page 4.)

Jean Morris
488529

speenwi@gmail.com

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Thank you

. . . from the Rogerson and Chiverton families for all the support we received from everyone in Speen since Jenny's death in April. We were so pleased to see so many friends, both from the village and more widely, at Jen's memorial service in July – she seemed to be with us in spirit at the church and at the KWIV afterwards on what was a perfect balmy summer's evening.

So many of you have asked how the boys are and we felt this would be good opportunity, in addition to saying thank you for your understanding during the early days, to let you know how life does inevitably move on without forgetting those memories of Jenny which will continue to be with us forever.

Sam has moved into the sixth form at Princes Risborough School and is studying Business Studies, Sociology and Forensic Science in a joint



'A' level/BTec course. He was 17 in September and will be taking to the roads around Speen shortly having just received his provisional driving licence. Jake is at the moment grappling with his two major presentations for his drama exam and is aiming to move on to an apprenticeship course after this year. Aaron still has football as his major interest, both playing for Princes Risborough Rangers, watching any match he can find on television and visiting Chelsea with Grandad when he can. Noah is just taking his first steps and visits us all regularly – he is a very happy, noisy little boy and full of mischief.

We were so very proud of Sam and Jenny on 11th September when Sam received his mum's posthumous BSc (Hons) Social Work degree from the Vice Chancellor of Bucks New University.

Jill & Paul Rogerson

Speen v North Dean Golf

On 15th October 25 locals between Speen & North Dean travelled to Temple Golf Club to thrash out their Autumn annual golf competition.

It was a dry day – fantastic course and well organised by Peter Keen and Charlie Pearson, and I am pleased to say that Speen won – it was very close though, so watch out Speen next time.

Winner: Greg Cook

NTP: James Kent

The next Spring game has been fixed for 13th May at Beaconsfield in the afternoon – and perhaps you would be kind enough to put this date in your diary now.

Peter Keen



Peter Keen congratulates Charlie Pearson



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Speen School and PTA

Fun, fish and chips and first term!

Returning refreshed after great summer holidays the children were raring to go, happy to be back with their friends and make new ones as Speen School welcomed many new children and their families.

The year kicked off with the AGM, parents had the chance to meet the Governors and hear their priorities for the year which was really useful. During the subsequent PTA meeting I was happy to be voted in as the new chair. I follow in the footsteps of Zoe Baker who did an amazing job for the school. Thanks to Zoe for all her time and efforts. I am also delighted to say the other committee members, Helen Davies as Vice Chair, Libby Luckett as Treasurer and Louise Lucas as Secretary were happy to continue and so a big thank you to all of them as well. The focus this year is on organising more fun activities for children and adults, and raising funds for the library project, outdoor learning and to resource the new National Curriculum. So please support as many of the activities as possible!

In September, the PTA was delighted to receive a very generous donation from the Speen Shop Charity Committee towards new library books. This was a brilliant start to the school year and very much appreciated.

Harvest Festival took place on 29th September at St John's Church. Rev James Tomkins had the children captivated and the new Y2 children did brilliantly with their readings and prayers. The generous gifts were taken to Saunderton Lodge, a hostel for homeless families.

The children love the fundraising events and the PTA organised the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September. It had to be held inside this year due to rain but it certainly didn't dampen your spirits or generosity. The morning raised an impressive £215. The children have also just taken part in the Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal and had a mufti day and decorated Pudsey biscuits on November 14th for Children in Need.

Book Week early in October was a fun packed week organised by Mrs Hayman, there was a guess the staff's favourite book competition, Scholastic book fair and a 'design a theme for our new library' homework and competition. Congratulations to Harry Williams who won with his Mad Science design which will be implemented soon.

The Quiz night on Saturday 11th October was a great success with the hall packed with parents and locals. Well done to Miss Bound's team who won (again), but only by 1 point. Thanks to everyone who supported the night, we raised a fantastic £336. While lots of people helped make the night possible, I would like to particularly thank Speen's very own Magnus Magnusson,

Matt Davies, and Mel Nagele and Helen Davies for all their support.

The varied sports programme at the school this term has included street dance, karate and a premier sports club after school in which the children have had a chance to try out junior archery, tag rugby and handball to name but a few. The other after school clubs have been our green fingered Garden Club, French, Mad Science and just premiering last week was Film Club. Thank you to all the parents who work so hard to make these possible.

I should highlight how successfully the school has coped with the introduction of hot lunches. A big thank you goes out to Karen Woodward and Mrs Chandler, all the midday supervisors and the staff.

And now the lead up to Christmas begins, a visit has been organised to Wycombe Swan Theatre to see Joseph & His Amazing Technicolour Coat, a lovely treat for the children. The PTA are paying for the coach travel and subsidising the ticket cost so the funds we raise really do go a long way. We have our annual Christmas Fair on Sunday 7th December 12-3pm which is always a firm favourite with the children and really puts you in the festive spirit. There will be a Secret Santa, delicious lunches and many different craft stalls for the children to get creative.

As always, Speen School would like to thank everyone in the village for their invaluable support and interest. 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 general support of PTA fundraising events.

Dates for your diary:

Safari Supper – Saturday 7th March 2015

Summer Ball – Saturday 27th June 2015

*Becky Khaira
Chair*



A note from Speen School Governors:

It was good to meet so many parents at the Annual meeting for governors and parents in September. After the recent retirement of two long-serving governors and as part of our regular review and refreshment of the governing body, we are very interested in talking to parents and others in the village who might be interested in joining us. It's a rewarding way to support your community! We would welcome a variety of skills and backgrounds, but two areas where we feel the governing body would benefit from more input at present are: a) IT/Communications; and b) property management (to help deal with premises and health and safety). Since we are a Church of England school, we are also very interested in potential candidates who have been brought up in the Christian faith: local authority and Diocese regulations require that the Governing body has a majority of "Foundation" governors who have this background.

If you are interested in learning more, Eamonn Barrett (Chairman), Mrs Moore in the school office or any of the other governors will be happy to tell you more. We look forward to hearing from you – many thanks in advance for your interest!

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Speen photo-workshop; a brief history



The Speen photo-workshop came into being in June 2009 and was prompted by an idea by Kate Laughton following the Speen Festival; Kate approached Martin Hart who together with his wife Glenn, had helped put together a second successful photography competition for the festival, suggesting to him to run a photo/camera workshop, which he did. 'It's popularity was apparent' said Martin, 'a number of contestants were extremely enthusiastic with the idea'.

The philosophy of the group is to meet with like-minded enthusiasts on a regular basis, and to undertake projects which allow the photographers, not only to extend their knowledge of the camera and photography in general, but to begin to question what makes a good image, and the power of composition and balance. Each project has a subject or task that is approached creatively. There are no competitions and no divisions based on ability.

Some of the original group members have dropped out and changed over the years; at present there are nine regulars. Each member brings to the group an original and personal view of how they see images, and this is apparent when we see such divergent images of the same project.

Christine Dunnington

Free beer!

Yes this article really is about free beer so read on and get in contact. The village marquee was used to great effect again this year supporting all the usual events, the school ball, the fete, the craft fair, the village 'funday', the North Dean fete and one private party. The upshot is a healthy financial return which continues to support the plan for a replacement marquee in about 5-8 years' time.

Last year the number of uppers and downers dwindled so we had to take steps to encourage support for the upping and downing of the marquee. Our genius idea was to coincide the marquee upping and downing with the opening hours of the King Willy. The result you may have noticed was on a few Friday nights, the small band of regular helpers could be seen toiling on the playing field and subsequently quenching their thirst at a rather convenient watering hole. We took the decision to treat the first drink as a justifiable expense to reward the endeavours of all involved. The lure of a single drink proved to be a valid reason for turning up and aiding the erection or downing events so we will continue this in 2015.

.A huge thank you to all those who supported the success of each of the village events by turning up and drinking **free beer**. Your support enabled us to run the marquee not only as a financial success but to contribute to the success of the ball, the fete, the craft fair and funday. Without your support for each upping and downing the events would not be delivered in the same manner or they would have the considerable expense of an external marquee hire.

The **Free BEER** will continue in 2015 so please keep an eye out for dates.

My thanks to the committee: Ashley Cooper, Jem Symondson, James Entwisle and Roger Anderson (Treasurer).

But most importantly my thanks to all of you who like **FREE BEER!**

*Greg Cook
Marquee Chairman*

Nick Higgins
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Missing Names. In issue 60 of the SNDN we said that, in 1918, nine men from Speen were serving in the Labour Corps or its equivalent. We gave the names of the two who served on comparable duties, but not those of the seven in the main Corps. They were all Privates: Joseph Bowler; Dudley Frank Bristow; Arthur John Brown; Alfred and Lawrence Harry Gibbons; William Janes and Cecil Ridgley. Most of these men had brothers in the front line Regiments, why did they not join them? They might have been selected for the Labour Corps because of their physique - or for a more interesting reason. The pre-war Army tried hard to put brothers into the same Regiment, but, after the catastrophe of the Somme, the policy was changed. Brothers were still enlisted into the same Regiment but were put into different Battalions - so the likelihood of a family losing several sons in the same engagement was greatly reduced. Later, the Army often went even further and divided brothers between different Regiments.

Peter Hill. In the same article we said that Harold Stanley Austin and Leslie Walter Austin were both serving in the Royal Navy. They gave their address as "Peter Hill, Speen". We asked if anyone knew where that was. We are grateful to Ian Menzies-Conacher; he lives in St Peter's Close and his original conveyancing documents (before the modern development) refer to the site as 'land adjacent to St Peter's Hill'. Bravo Ian.



Weavers and Spinners.

People have asked us if we knew what had happened to the Speen Weavers and Spinners sign. We had no idea, but, by chance, one of us met the new owner of the cottage on Studridge Lane. He confirmed that the repair and restoration of the sign was

well under way but that the workshop had said there was no point in rushing the job as the site was not yet ready to receive it. As you can see from the photo, this much-loved feature of our village was in need of some TLC.

The hand at the top reflects the symbol that is carved on the gravestone of Eric Gill. Presumably there was some association with his artists' community at Pigott's Hill. Does anyone know about that?

Pigotts Hill. In August, we organised a walk around the house and grounds at Pigotts in North Dean. Nick Wheeler-Robinson kindly took 21 of us on a fascinating tour of the woods. He pointed out various natural features such as swallow holes, venerable trees - and evidence of squirrel damage - and also artefacts of man such as charcoal pits, ancient boundary ditches and a copy of an Eric Gill cross. Returning to the farm, he told us about the history of the house with particular reference to the time of Eric Gill - such a colourful character. This is the second Pigotts tour that we have arranged and their popularity is undiminished; perhaps you would like to join us if we repeat it? (This paragraph is set in Perpetua, one of Eric Gill's most successful typefaces; it is named after his eldest daughter.)

"Best of Speen". We are running a "Best of Speen" photographic competition. We are looking for pictures that record the heritage and character of Speen; this could include landscapes, buildings, architectural features, gardens, wildlife, activities or people - anything that reflects well on the village. Ideally, the best twelve photos would be incorporated into a calendar for 2016. Please send as many images as you wish to John@SpeenBucks.org.

Speen Heritage Group. Our aim is to protect and enhance the heritage of the village and promote awareness of its history. We have been established for several years and have organised talks, walks and displays and have researched and recorded articles on a variety of subjects. The group is currently working on a number of new projects; would you like to join us? Anyone from the village with an interest in local history and heritage is welcome to join the group. In the first instance, please contact Peter Symonds (01494 488016) for more information.

Clive Rainbow
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Speen is going Green

The greatest contributor to energy costs in an average household is heating & hot water, this accounts for around 89% of energy consumption. With escalating fossil fuel prices it's very concerning how much our bills will continue to rise, however since the Government's announcement of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme there is no better time to replace your old oil heating system.

Local Installation – The Laurels, Chapel Hill, Speen.

The RHI is a financial incentive to encourage the uptake of renewable energy solutions to heat homes in the UK, which residences of Speen and surrounding areas are taking full advantage of.

Several home owners in the area have used the services of local company Heppelthwaite Green Building Solutions to convert their oil fired central heating system to a high performance BIOMASS system. This very modern, automated, high quality, renewable energy system provides annual cash returns, fuel cost savings and reduces the carbon emissions for the home.

One of the installations took place at The Laurels, Chapel Hill in Speen where recently they held an open day inviting local residence to view the system and discover the benefits. Heppelthwaite were on hand to demonstrate the systems performance and provided further details on Biomass.

Properties that currently use an oil heating system benefit the most by changing to biomass, which is great news for residence of Speen and surrounding areas. Anyone can apply for the Domestic RHI scheme from homeowners, private, landlords and people that build their own homes.

What's Biomass?

Biomass heating systems work by burning renewable fuel such as wood pellets, chips or logs. These boilers are designed to replace existing oil boilers and use an existing 'wet system' (eg through radiators) and provide hot water to a home. Quite literally home owners are now being paid to go green in an effort by the Government to ensure the UK reduces the Carbon footprint to meet EU targets.

At first glance the idea of burning wood does not seem like a "Green" solution, however burning Biomass fuel creates a carbon cycle and removes the need for burning Fossil fuels. This is a major step forward in creating a greener planet, ensuring we progress away from fossil fuels and into a new era. There has never been a better time to go green.

You can find out more details on the Heppelthwaite website or by contacting local renewable energy specialist Jamie Howard.

www.ecogreenbuildingsolutions.co.uk/
Jamie.howard@heppelthwaite.co.uk

(Note to readers: Paid for Editorial)

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Risborough Carers Ltd is a private independent local family run Home Care Agency, established in 1992, and are registered and compliant with the Care Quality Commission

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Speen Playing Fields

We have not yet recovered from another year's extravaganza Bonfire Night. The Building was the best and most ambitious yet. The brainchild of



our very own visionary Christian 'The Arsonist Extraordinaire' Nagele; designed in 3D by Pete 'Design' Symonds; Built to scale by Duncan 'Kiwi Builder' Wilson; completed by John 'The Roof' Mulry; (thank goodness Greg and these boys are all taller than me!), aided and abetted in true

Speen tradition by a two day work party of 10 on the Friday and about 30 on the Saturday, with the help of John Holmes's tractor.

The re-creation of Pudding Lane on the Playing Field of Speen was amazing as you can see, particularly the way it was built to scale 5.5 meters to the top gable, each house, pub and shop being 2.8 meters wide, 11.2 meters in total: so that the dressing of

the front fitted perfectly. Every detail was attended to. The two carts out front; the signage for the pub and shop; the beams and brickwork, beautifully painted by the school children (some of whom totally immersed themselves in the job!); and especially Pete's gallows built to life size, complete with swinging guys, silhouetted against the flames until they too succumbed.

The evening was completed by a bring-a-guy competition, our usual great firework display, thanks to Keith Jones and an excellent BBQ and Chilli, prepared by Alex Allen and the pre-school Mums. The rain in no way deterred over 500 people attending and the event was once again a huge success. Many, many thanks to all who

helped; it was a huge amount of work but much appreciated and one of the main fundraisers for our playing fields.

We really do have something special in this village, not sure if it is sanity, but it certainly is fun!

*Tony Bobroff
Chair
Speen Playing
Fields*





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Speen Helping Hospices Annual Christmas Market

Speen Group has changed its name to Speen Helping Hospices. The committee are in the process of registering with the Charity Commission and felt their name needed to be more meaningful.

SHH held their 6th Christmas Market in The King William IV pub/restaurant, which creates a wonderful atmosphere for the market. Owner and Landlord David Hill, very generously, allows SHH to fill the pub for two days with the work of many exciting local artists and designers in jewellery, ceramics, art, quilting, glass, candles, cakes, game and other festive foods. Also available were the Charity Christmas Cards supplied by Florence Nightingale House, Helen & Douglas House, Iain Grove Hospice at Home and South Bucks Hospice, the four hospices supported by SHH.



The Market was a great success with a record number of people attending who found unique gifts and enjoyed a drink or the special menu whilst helping to raise £3,077 of vital funds for the local hospices.

SHH would like to thank everyone who came to the event for their support and for their helping to make the two days such a success.

Cardiac Arrest in Rural Villages

The Rural Community Defibrillator Group has been recently set up with the aim to provide an accessible defibrillator for those villages where access to early intervention would significantly improve the chances of recovery from cardiac arrest. Villages such as Speen and Saunderton have been identified through recent tragic events but it is felt that others such as Lacey Green and Hampden would also benefit. At present the

nearest accessible defibrillator for Speen is sited at the Hughenden Valley Surgery with nothing available outside surgery hours.

Rural locations such as Speen and Saunderton are sometimes difficult for ambulances to respond to a patient within the target time of 8 minutes. Statistically with the use of CPR together with a defibrillator, chances of survival from cardiac arrest improves from 1 in 10 to 4 in 10. It is the aim of the project to provide defibrillators in strategic locations so that on ringing 999 the Ambulance Service can assess the situation and, if appropriate, give the location and access code of the device to the caller, staying on the phone to give support and full instructions.

It is hoped that this initiative will meet with local approval as none of this can be done without your help. Each machine costs in the region of £1,400 so funding is very important. The group is already approaching the relevant Members of Local and District and County Councils for funding but individual help will also be needed with fund raising appeals. If you can help then please let Christine Symondson 488654 or Paul Rogerson 488315 know.

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The local branch of Allied Healthcare has been operating for over 21 years, based just outside of High Wycombe, has a proven track record of providing domiciliary care in the community.

Increasingly there are fewer hospital beds and long term care homes that are accessible to those needing help, support and care, and most people, if given the choice, would prefer to be treated at home with their own possessions around them. We can offer a wide variety of Care calls from 15 minute pop-in call, once a day to

multiple calls or indeed a full time Live In Care.

The offices of Allied Healthcare at High Wycombe are able to help with assessing your needs and advising on all aspects of your care. Before care starts you would be visited by our assessor to ensure that a comprehensive care plan was written and tailor made to suit the needs of the client. This can be for a basic care package to a more specialized and complex packages in the case of a serious illness. We will help you to consider whether you need a full-time carer, perhaps a special bed or other equipment, or maybe additional carers at certain times of the day to help with lifting or turning. If needed you would have the advice of the 'In House' Trainer to advise on specialist Moving and Handling issues. Allied is willing to go the extra mile to provide the highest standards of care. They try to ensure clients build a relationship with a small team of carers rather than having a constantly changing set of faces. They recommend the use of a Keysafe

which ensures a carer, can always gain access to a client's house to provide the care and raise the alarm if needed. All of the Care workers are trained to the highest standard as required by our regulators, CQC and our stringent internal audit team. Many of our workers have training and expertise in specialist areas but if we needed to we would provide training to meet a specific need of a client.

If you would like more information about Allied and the services we offer then call 01494 488040, and we can meet with you for a no obligation visit or provide you with details and costings of our services.

Work for Allied Healthcare

We always have a need for additional employees to support the services we offer. If you are interested or know of a friend who is interested in joining us as an employee we offer an attractive package. We provide care across the High Wycombe and surrounding areas.

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If you are interested in becoming a Carer or working with Allied Healthcare then please call the numbers above for more information and an application pack.

Allied Healthcare is an equal opportunities employer and is regulated by the CQC. Allied Healthcare is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, adults and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



District Council News – November 2014



By the time you read this, everyone should have received and hopefully enjoyed the latest edition of Wycombe District Times, which provides a timely update on all of the schemes being implemented across the District – of which there are many! I can take no credit at all, but it was great to see the 2015 Speen Festival mentioned on Page 11.

Although it is too early to release any details, very positive discussions are taking place with a number of companies who are keen to occupy the new office facilities planned for the wider Handy Cross site, some of which will occupy the space vacated by the current sports centre when it is demolished. This is excellent news as these developments will create even more local jobs and further stimulate the District economy.

In the last issue of SNDN, I outlined the implementation of the new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system for parking across the District. I know many local people use the car parks in Princes Risborough and there have been some initial teething problems, such as with the cameras missing some vehicles and also more recently some glare issues with the screen. These are all being worked on and WDC is confident that these early hiccups can be resolved: operation in the various other car parks across the district is now running smoothly.

One key change which requires some getting used to is that with ANPR, payment is made as you leave the car park (if you want to pay there and then instead of online, for example) rather than when you arrive. This has caused a little confusion at first, but experience from around the District and elsewhere in the country suggests that people quickly adjust.

Some readers may know that I have been campaigning to secure funds for an improved broadband service – specifically from the Hampden Row exchange – and it now looks as if around £900,000 should be available across the District. This is unfortunately around half what we were hoping for, as Buckinghamshire County Council, who originally intended to contribute, had to withdraw funding.

Sadly, I can't make any promises about when Hampden Row will be upgraded: the amount we have for the entire District is quite small, and believe it or not, there are areas where the broadband is even worse than here, so I am working the process to see what we can achieve. I

will provide a further update when I can.

Although not a District Council matter, several people have mentioned to me the large number of small power outages we have suffered recently. Recipients of the "Village Messenger" email may already have noted that when there are power cuts, there is no point calling the company you pay for your electricity, as the supply infrastructure is the responsibility of UK Power Networks in our area. They can be contacted on 0800 783 8866 to report a fault, the majority of which are caused by stormy weather or by branches coming into contact with overhead cables.

Power cuts, even short ones, can be quite disruptive but unfortunately there is not a great deal that can be done to avoid them, although if you are aware of any issues with overhanging branches or other potential hazards to the supply network, call UK Power Networks and let them know.

One final point which might help – if you don't already have one, get hold of an "old-fashioned" corded phone. Modern cordless phones generally don't work if you have a power cut, whereas even with no electricity, a corded phone should do.

Mel Foster
mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk
01494 488905



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Down on the Farm

As you might guess, being a dairy farm, we have been hit hard by the average 20% drop in the price of milk. At last the government are taking some notice and have asked one of their many committees to look into the problem but few farmers have any confidence in the outcome. The current situation will force many smaller dairy farmers out of business, which is of course not in anybody's long term interests. All the supermarkets admit they are selling milk as a lost leader. This devalues milk as a product, but none of them are willing to be the first to raise the price to a realistic level.



Cows relaxing on bank in North Dean

On a global scale, there have been no catastrophic weather events anywhere in the world this year which has enabled dairy farmers worldwide to increase production dramatically, creating an imbalance between supply and demand. The sanctions on Russia have resulted in the loss of a major cheese market, and the Chinese have stopped buying milk powder as they have already built up large stocks of it. Industrialists can turn production off at times like this, but sadly we do not have this option, as cows will not stop milking and then start again just when required!! We monitor costs very carefully, but nearly always come back to increasing production as the only way to cover the reduction in income, which just prolongs the problem!

Politics is at the root of another of the problems of food producer's (particularly in Europe). Herr Juncker has just dismissed his chief scientific advisor, Prof. Anne Glover, because she is in favour of the use of genetically modified crops. Being "pro GM" is not accepted by many of the non scientific community, but to feed the 9 billion people expected on our planet in 2050 we have to accept we have to use all the tools that are available which will include GM, sprays and fertilisers. Nearly all sprays and fertilisers are products of fossil fuels in one form or another, the supply of which is finite, so by adopting its current position (ie anti GM) the

EU risks entering a scientific back water and reducing their options for the future. The majority of the rest of the world is making use of GM crops, but no Frankenstein foods have appeared and there have been no prosecutions for side effects in the decades since they were first introduced.



*Old Man's Beard on
Lacey Green to Princes
Risborough road*

Have any of you have noticed the poor state of many of our hedgerows? Old Man's Beard is rapidly becoming a worse problem than Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. Cattle and sheep enjoy eating this Wild Clematis, and in doing so controlling its growth, but since grazing animals have largely disappeared from the fields, our hedgerows are being strangled; Clematis is very difficult to kill as it roots down wherever it touches the ground and it seems very resistant to the usual sprays. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has a remedy.

Gill Kent

Breeza

I have recently started helping out a couple in Speen, called Wally and Jill. It's hard for them to walk their dog, a lovely border collie called Breeza, so I do it for them when I can. This is my volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. I walk Breeza every weekend for about an hour and a half, either in Speen or at Hughenden Manor.



I enjoy it so much. Partly it's because we don't have a dog and Breeza is such a friendly one and easy to take for walks. But also it's great to be able to help people in the village and have fun at the same time.

Hannah Dent



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Speen Pre-School

I am writing this during my first term as the new chair of Speen Pre-School's voluntary management committee. So far things have got off to a good start and our new children have settled in very well. Thanks primarily to a great handover from my predecessor and a good staff team!

One of the things that is important to Pre-School is how much the local community supports us. The Playing Fields Committee continue to open up Ridgley's Field for our weekly Forest School sessions and we would like to thank the working party that helped clear the field in September, we have opened up a wonderful woodland space for the children to explore.

This leads me on to thanking the Speen Shop Fund who recently gave us a grant to invest in our outdoor play areas, we have purchased a new swing seat for the rope at Forest School as well as a digging pit. We have also been able to invest in a wooden outdoor kitchen and play table for the courtyard at Pre-School providing much opportunity for imaginative play and mud pie cooking! The children have also enjoyed much imaginative play inside at Pre-School with our hairdresser's, doctor's surgery and shop set up.

Just before half-term we held our Harvest Festival at Speen Church where the children and staff expertly performed 'Handa's Surprise' to an audience of several parents and grandparents as well as children from Speen Infant school.

We are looking forward to being part of the Village Hall's annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December with our Santa's Grotto. Children will be able to write their Christmas wish list and post them in our special Santa post box as well as visit the man himself.

This term we started to use Bucks County Council's Library Services to expand our reading materials relevant to topics being covered at Pre-School. The children have really enjoyed choosing books to take home to read and then returning to discuss them with staff helping to develop literacy and listening skills.

Speen Pre-School has now entered 'the digital age' and moved all children's learning records to an online portal called Orbit. Staff upload photos, observations and assessments of children to the secure website and parents receive an email alert whenever a new piece of information is shared about their child on the site.

As several children moved on to big school last term we have spaces available in many of our sessions for immediate start. Prospective parents are most welcome to pop in and visit us at any time.

Speen Pre-school is open to children age from 2 to 5 years. To enquire about a place or receive a prospectus please contact our Admissions Officer, Antonia Winson, on 01494 489848 or call Pre-School on 01494 489160 during term time.

*Alex Allan
Chair, Speen Pre-School
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Play it again Sam!

Did this September seem somewhat lacklustre? Did you feel that there was something missing? Well I'll tell you what was missing, it was the Speen Festival! Fear not, the Laughtons have not left the village and there will be another great Festival, 6-20 September 2015; put it in the diary, you won't want to miss it. Thanks Sam & Kate, we knew you had another one in you!

Our festival celebrates local talent and is created by and for our local community; it is not too early, or late, to step forward with your skills, ideas or sponsorship. We are particularly keen to learn of people with new ideas and the energy to make them happen. But we will of course include many perennial favourites, with something for everyone from wildlife to music, and from science to survival skills. Our flagship

musical theatre show will include a production week between 29 August and 5 September so all children and adults in the show will need to keep this free. And of course we will finish once again with Speen's own Prom in the Playing Field, this time in glorious sunshine!



And if you have offspring heading to Uni in Oct 2015 or kicking around after 'A' Levels this summer, we have some great opportunities for work experience and CV credits for a host of skills: marketing, event planning, PR, social media, theatrical production and design, film production, e-commerce, photography, sales and even chair-stacking. Do get in touch and they could be learning from a professional or filling a vital skills gap.

All thoughts, ideas, contributions or suggestions to Sam & Kate Laughton at director@speenfestival.org

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A busy Autumn season at the Chapel

We celebrated the wedding in September of Will and Amy Blackburn, who now live in one of the Sportsmen's Cottages in North Dean.

October is not usually a barbecue month but a well attended gathering marked nine years of more or less singlehanded devotion by Nick Baker in strimming and mowing the five acre plot. I'll be taking my turn riding the mower next spring but I would welcome some more churchyard lovers to sign up for some turns as we cut the grass fortnightly in the growing season and hold occasional fun working parties.

At the end of October the Speen Pre-school came to the Chapel for their harvest gathering, which also supported OneCan Trust, the local food bank.



Chapel member and OneCan coordinator Kate Vale telling the story of Billy, the tin of corned beef from Argentina, who had been sad while sitting on the shelf but then felt so proud to be helping a family who were in pressing need.

During this period we have been privileged to conduct five funerals and thanksgivings:

Barbara Payne, widow of John Payne, a pillar of the chapel community in the 1960s-80s in particular;
 Peter Dawson, whose life career was at Equity and Law in Hazlemere and who was a renowned dog breeder;
 Margaret Easom, WI member and bookclub poetry reading aficionado;
 Poppy Ellis, longtime Speen resident from 1950 in the then King George pub, whose tributes spoke of her generosity in helping others;
 Peter Johnson, who worked for many years at G-

Plan but was better known locally as an expert gardener – and Speen school caretaker.

There have also been interments of ashes of:

Jean Rolfe
 Tony Redrup
 Edwin Keep
 Margaret Easom
 Joseph Haynes

As Christmas approaches, come and be part of a capacity crowd for the 6pm Christmas Eve carol service where the mood will be subdued, colourful lighting and traditional music recalling the wonder and mystery of the nativity of Jesus. Later on Christmas Eve there will be a quiet, reflective service around the communion table where we welcome anyone who loves the Lord to share in a simple Chapel celebration of Holy Communion to focus on the presence of the risen Lord at the centre of all the busyness of Christmas.

*Rev Ian Greig
 Minister of Speen Church
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Wildlife Watch

The late summer period tends to be relatively quiet from a wildlife point of view. However in my own garden my bird table is suddenly coming back to life after several very quiet months and overhead autumn movements of large numbers of birds are apparent. Huge flocks of Woodpigeons have passed over and winter Redwings and Fieldfare from Iceland and Scandinavia have been seen on migration. The autumn crop of berries has already been significantly depleted and the apple crop that many of these birds depend on has been very poor this year. In village gardens and the orchard in Moses Platt Lane where these birds usually feed very few windfalls are apparent. It is likely they will fly further south as a result.

On the bird table Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Bullfinches, Goldfinches and various tits have re-appeared. Our resident birds of prey have been noted regularly. As well as the Red Kites that are constantly visible Buzzards have been seen regularly and Sparrowhawks have been recorded overhead and also at kills in several gardens in Abbotswood. A small male made a successful kill at our bird table in July taking a juvenile Blue Tit. The female Sparrowhawk is however significantly larger than the male and will concentrate on larger prey like Woodpigeons and Collared Doves. Keith Rosling sent me photographs of a female ripping apart a Woodpigeon in Abbotswood and Jean Whitehouse has reported the same from her garden. (If you witness a kill I would appreciate a phone call to try to come and photograph it. If undisturbed the birds will regularly stay with the prey for 15-20 minutes.) Tawny Owls have been seen and heard regularly in the woods calling both at night and during the day. Young birds were heard in Flowers Bottom calling for food near the Old Plow in late summer. Unfortunately one of our local birds was found dead by Leslie Thompson on Hampden Road in late October. (They are often dazzled by headlights and are not fast flyers so allow them time to move if you spot one at prey on the road.)

The local Mandarin Ducks which have bred successfully in the area seem to be doing well. Some of these birds winter on our woodland ponds. I have recorded 6-7 together whilst Jeremy Symondson has reported 13-15+ of these birds at one location. What is remarkable is how difficult it can be to spot the glamorously coloured birds on the woodland floor. The bold juvenile Heron that was mentioned in my last report is still visiting gardens right in the heart of the village with the most recent report being from Anne Foster next to the shop.

Some interesting local records have been made by Bucks Bird Club members around Great Hampden. Four Ravens were recorded in late August and these have also been noted in

Prestwood. The same recorder also noted 4 Firecrests and 2 Siskins in Great Hampden on the same visit. (Firecrests are similar to the tiny Goldcrests that are seen regularly but are less common and have a pronounced white stripe above the eye.) Another observer had a flock of 90 Linnets in September.

Local wood mice and other mammals will soon be seeking out local lofts for the winter. Local Glis glis (Edible Dormice) spend much of the year in our lofts in the village but many residents never see these animals. A visit to the barns at Piggotts in North Dean provides a good opportunity to see these mammals. During an evening Heritage Group tour several appeared overhead on the rafters quite unconcerned about the audience below and came down beams to within a few feet of people. Meanwhile in our own kitchen at home Corinne found one eating at our fruit bowl at about 9.00pm, one night in October. Other residents of local lofts, which cause no damage, include various bats. Pipistrelles are probably the most commonly found species but we also have Long Eared Bats. Alastair Blundell found a dead specimen outside his house in Moses Platt in late September. I mentioned in my previous report about losses of local Roe deer in road accidents and it takes a time for the population to recover from these incidents so numbers remain very small at present.

My main garden pond has gradually recovered from the impact of having Mallard with 7-11 chicks present during the breeding season. However the young ducks became very adept at catching newts and other pondlife. The Grass Snake who was present for the early part of the year was not seen after the summer and may have moved away to seek more food. Jane Oury called to say that she had a large snake outside her front door in the late summer. It sounded as if it was a Grass Snake that had been resting after catching a large frog, which then disappeared down a drain at the front of her cottage, near the chapel, when it was disturbed.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings in both Speen and North Dean.

Peter Symonds

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Photo Quiz (on page 5)

The cedar tree is beside the stile as you enter the woods at Great Hampden, next to the old village school which has been for sale for some time. It was planted by Doris Redrup (recently moved to the new care home in Stoke Mandeville) who was given the honour of doing the planting while at the Great Hampden village school in 1930.

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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	01494 488343
North Dean Village Hall – Bookings Secretary	Jez Wicks	01494 563517
North Dean Village Hall - Fete	Jez Wicks	01494 563517
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Robin Hughes	07920 748580
Piggotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler-Robinson	01494 562167
Police Contact	Non emergency Emergency	101 999
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	01494 488420
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Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	01494 488372
Speen & North Dean News - advertising	Tom Dent	01494 488943
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Speen Fete - Secretary	Nicki Pitt	01494 488713
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