



Winter 2015
Issue 64

THE SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*

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Welcome to the Winter edition of The Speen & North Dean News - the first that I have had the pleasure of being involved with, and I must say it really *has* been a pleasure. It runs like a well-oiled machine, with a lovely team of local people giving up their time, working hard behind the scenes to bring you all the news from the villages and their surrounds.

In this issue we have a commemorative front cover and centre-page spread dedicated to the Speen Festival 2015 - a collaboration of local creativity, talent, and enthusiasm nurtured once again by the wonderful Mr & Mrs Laughton, who have announced that this year really will be their last - no really, it will. We are all enormously grateful for all their hard work and dedication over the last three festivals - and so now the hunt is on for their successor(s). Could it be you?

We have introduced a few new features this month; Spotlight on a Local Business - this time shining on Shelley Jennings and her beautiful jewellery, a Winter Warmer recipe from Pippa Sullivan and Mei Price has shared her secrets on how to make some stunning Christmas wreaths.

We also want to introduce some features that will appeal more to children and teenagers - so if you have any suggestions, or would like to submit an article, picture, silly joke, competition idea or Thought for the Day, we want to hear from YOU. All contributions are very gratefully received.

Meanwhile, all of us here on the team send you warmest wishes for the festive season, and don't forget to keep sending in your articles and pictures - we couldn't do it without you!

Jacqui Laing

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Welcome Packs

The Good Neighbours scheme was set up many years ago and is now run by Pat Richardson in Speen and Judith Broadley in North Dean. One service is to provide new residents with a Welcome Pack of village information, so if you know of anyone new to the area please call:

Pat Richardson (Speen)	01494 488627
Judith Broadley (North Dean)	01494 563178 or email cooljude@btopenworld.com

Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is **due by 14th April 2016**. The planned publication date is during May 2016. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (downloaded from the SNDN website www.speenbucks.org.uk) if any of the photos are of children. Please send to editor@speenbucks.org.uk.

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LETTERS

From Rev Heather McIntyre

Dear residents of Speen and North Dean,

Thank you for the warm welcome many of you have already extended to me and I hope to meet many more of you in the weeks and months to come. My induction service on 7th November marked this new beginning, both for myself and Speen Church, in a lovely way and I was blessed by being surrounded by so many friends, both old and new. I feel very privileged that the Church have invited me to be their minister and I look forward to becoming part of the village community in such a beautiful part of the Chilterns.

Heather

The White House, Speen

Dear Editor,

We refer to Catherine Butler's letter in Issue 63 regarding the felling of the avenue of Horse Chestnut trees at The White House of Speen and fully understand her sadness. As the new owners we are anxious to assure Catherine that these trees were only felled following a report from an experienced tree surgeon that indicated that they were either diseased or dead and in generally bad shape due to their age.

We would also like to assure her that as part of our forthcoming Planning Application to rebuild The White House there will be a tree planting programme, including a new avenue of trees alongside the driveway as before.

Yours faithfully,
Richard & Gill Biffa

Seasons Farm Shop

Dear Editor,

I'd like to say how sad my family and I were to hear about the sudden closure of Seasons Farm Shop. We really enjoyed going there to get our produce and my children loved seeking out the chickens that used to run around the front. A local asset so sorely missed.

M Price (Speen)



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WHAT'S ON

in Speen & North Dean

DECEMBER

18th December	Family Film Night	Speen Chapel 6pm	Sandy Mitcheson 488875
24th December	Candlelit Carol Service	Speen Chapel 6pm	Sandy Mitcheson 488875
24th December	Christmas Communion	Speen Chapel 10pm	Heather McIntyre 488067
	King William IV Open	KWIV 6pm - 11.30pm	Dilly Hill 488329
25th December	Fun Family Celebration	Speen Chapel 10.30am	Heather McIntyre 488067
	King William IV Open	KWIV 12-2pm	Dilly Hill 488329

JANUARY

3rd January	Pre-School Xmas Tree Collection	Morning	Alex Allan 489838
	WI 'In the Wake of Shackleton'	Village Hall 7.45pm	Jean Morris 488529
14th January	Knit & Natter	Speen Chapel 7.45pm	knitknatter@treenies.com
29th January	Film & Food Night	Speen Chapel 7.30pm	June Pilkington 488071
28th January	Knit & Natter	Speen Chapel 7.45pm	knitknatter@treenies.com

FEBRUARY

4th February	WI 'The Rothschilds'	Village Hall 7.30pm	Jean Morris 488529
11th February	Knit & Natter	Speen Chapel 7.45pm	knitknatter@treenies.com
25th February	Knit & Natter	Speen Chapel 7.45pm	knitknatter@treenies.com

MARCH

12th March	Speen School Safari Supper	Various Locations	
10th March	Knit & Natter	Speen Chapel 7.45pm	knitknatter@treenies.com
20th March	Speen Easter Egg Hunt	TBC	
31st March	Knit & Natter	Speen Chapel 7.45pm	knitknatter@treenies.com

JUNE

20th June	Speen SchoolFest	Speen School
25th June	Speen School Summer Ball	Speen School

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PLAYING FIELDS

Tony Bobroff, Speen Playing Fields Chair

Our playing fields are the focal points for many village activities, nowhere so well demonstrated as in September by another wonderful Festival and Bike Park Challenge. Funday was just as much Fun in June despite the weather and the Fete in July was a great success. All this, to say nothing of the big bonfire and firework display in November, which I think was our most impressive effort to date. Christian and Pete surpassed themselves and it was a brave turnout by many villagers to help with the building over the wettest two days to the year. Well done Speenies.

A huge amount of work goes into organising these events and I would like to thank all those who dedicate many hours of their free time. We also play host to the school sports day, the inter-school cross country and of course the pre-school forest school in Ridgeley's Field. The annual calendar will be completed on 4th December with the Christmas Tree illuminations accompanied by the school percussion, followed by traditional carols in the Village Hall and Mulled wine.

All the formal events are supplemented by hours of children playing safely and freely in our fields and is what makes our job worthwhile. We are planning to further improve the play area facilities by sub-leasing that area to the Parish Council allowing them to invest substantial sums over a period of years to improve the equipment. The Parish Council has now instructed solicitors to draft a contract to that end.

One small moan, I write this just after last Saturday's Playing Fields 'Autumn Work Party'. We managed to replace the KW4 fence and do some cutting back in Ridgeley's as well as the main field, but the turnout was very disappointing. A grand total of 9 of us turned up, which made extremely hard work of it. A hard core worked all day Saturday and a couple of hours on Sunday morning too. These fields belong to all of us and our children and we appreciate your continuing support to maintain them. Please do make the effort to help next time we put out a call to arms.



SPEENFETE

Amanda Dobbs, Fete Chair

The Speen Fete Committee would like to say thank you to all of those who came to the KWIV on the 9th October for the cheque handout.

This year we distributed an impressive £3,500 to local village organisations, and we do so knowing that every penny donated by us benefits the whole village, and without the support of you villagers this would not have been possible.



However it's not just 'on the day' support we need to make the Fete a success, it's help throughout the year. We need new blood with fresh ideas and essentially someone to take over the advertising, which funds the day, so if you have a few hours a month to spare from January please let me know.

Fete 2016 is just around the corner and we have a wonderful theme - one that will bring the whole village together in the run up to the day, just as the wonderful Speen Festival did, so watch this space for upcoming information.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Tracy & Dilly who provided their hospitality, great nibbles and drinks on the evening - it made all the difference.

amandad.speen@btinternet.com



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SPEENWI

Jean Morris

Our recent meetings have taken us to the magic and problems of the Rainforests, and given us a fascinating insight into the life of a vet who specialises in birds. There is always so much to learn from these knowledgeable speakers.

For Speen Festival the floral arch was reconstructed over the Village Hall gates and withstood the rain and gales extremely well. Members also helped with the production of the Railway Collage, which was placed in the marquee. There was much glue and paint around, but the final product was very impressive.

As part of our Centenary Celebrations, bulbs have been planted around the village, which we hope will be enjoyed by all in the spring.

The recorded history day, a joint venture with the Speen Heritage Group, was a great success. The Hall buzzed with conversations among long standing residents and many who no longer live in Speen but were keen to have their memories captured.

At the Annual meeting in November we were able to look back at a very important and memorable year for the WI. We also looked forward with the formation of a new committee which will still be ably headed by re-elected President Jean Elder.

From small beginnings in Anglesey in 1915, the WI has grown to be the largest women's organisation in the country with 213,000 members. Its original aim was to help educate rural women so that they could better look after their families. This care for family and their communities is still one of the guiding principles with a very wide range of campaigns being fought, during the last 100 years. But it is also a very sociable organisation with lots of fun activities available to members.

2015 was a very significant year for the WI but we are determined to make 2016 equally interesting. The website **www.the-WI.org.uk** is full of information about the WI nationally and we are always delighted to welcome visitors to our meetings to find out what it is all about.



Tel: 488529 • spenwi@gmail.com

SPEENBONFIRE

Tony Bobroff

Aliens landed on the Playing Field on Saturday evening and the villagers were forced to set fire to their landing craft in self defence. The accompanying Son et Lumiere with dry smoke was quite scary, but as always the good folk of Speen stood shoulder to shoulder!



Sylvie Oliveira's first Bonfire Night

Pictures by David Gregory & Hugh Poulton

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SPEEN VILLAGE HALL

Bill Groves, Chairman Speen Village Hall Management Committee

After a brief summer break the Village Hall is back in full swing. As well as our regular hirers the Pre-school and the WI, we are once again hosting the Bridge Club on a Monday afternoon and Table Tennis on a Tuesday evening, as well as Ante Natal classes in the Village Hall on a Saturday morning. Future events include another Film and Food night in late January/ early February.

Regrettably Daphne Westray has stepped down from the Management Committee after many years of excellent service so we are looking for a replacement. The work is not too onerous - three meetings a year - so if there is anyone resident in Speen who would be able to help please contact me.

The Hall is a super venue, particularly for children's parties and family celebrations, so please consider us when you are planning your next event.

Finally a big thank you to the Fete Committee for their recent generous donation to the Village Hall.



SPEEN HELPING HOSPICES

Ann James

The SHH Annual Charity Christmas Market



The Speen Helping Hospices team held their 7th Annual Christmas Market in the King William IV pub/restaurant, which creates a wonderful atmosphere for the market.

The Speen Supporters Group was founded by Suzi Rose in 2001, with the aim of raising funds for local hospice charities by putting on local events. They are now known as The SHH, with several of the original members still on the committee and everyone giving tirelessly of their time and effort for free.

With limited Government funding the Hospice Charities rely heavily on organisations like the SHH to raise the funds necessary to care for people with life limiting conditions and give support to their families.

Owner and Landlord David Hill very generously allows the 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 and festive foods. Also available were the Charity Christmas Cards supplied by Florence Nightingale House, Helen Douglas House, Rennie Grove Hospice Care and The South Bucks Day Hospice - the four hospices supported by the SHH.

The SHH team would like to thank those who came to support the Christmas Market to find unique gifts and enjoy a drink or the special menu, despite the atrocious weather. The event raised £1,756.29 of vital funds, and after a very successful year of fundraising, plus the proceeds from the collection at the Prom at The Speen Festival, the SHH are proud to be able to donate £8,000 this year, shared equally between the four hospices.



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SPEENPRE-SCHOOL

Alex Allan, Chair

I can't quite believe we are already over half way through the first term of the new academic year, we have certainly been busy over the last few months at Pre-School.

We were pleased to welcome quite a few new children in September. Everyone has settled in really well and the children are enjoying their time learning through play at Pre-School.

We have a dedicated role-play area that changes weekly, one day it might be a builders yard or a doctor's surgery and then become an office or hairdressers! Messy play activities are provided frequently and the children love squeezing their hands through sticky gloop to find the hidden letters and numbers. Each day at circle time the children learn about the days of the week and months of the year with some very catchy rhymes! This time also helps to spark interest in the early concepts of letter and number recognition. Mark-making tools and arts and crafts are always on hand for children to get creative and we continue to develop literacy skills with our library book system and story sacks.

The courtyard area offers the children daily outdoor play; we have invested in more equipment to vary the activities on offer daily including construction kits and more water play features and apply our 'bring the inside out' philosophy to encourage everyone to learn in the fresh air daily. It is a small space but we really maximise what we have for the enjoyment of the children. Our popular Forest School continues every Friday morning on Ridgeley's Field where children explore the wonderful natural environment we have to offer on our doorstep.

We were lucky enough to receive a grant from Bucks County Council in the summer which enabled us to purchase some fantastic new equipment for Pre-School tailored to the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum, including our amazing dark den and glow in the dark lighting which encourages much imaginative play.

Just before October half-term we held our Harvest Festival at Speen church where the children performed a charming re-enactment of the tale of 'Enormous Turnip' to an audience of many parents and grandparents as well as children from Speen Infant school. 17 children helped to pull the giant turnip from the ground!

Once again the Pre-School Committee were out in force on Bonfire night serving the hot dogs, burgers and chilli to all who came out to this year's 'out of this world' extravaganza. It was a very successful evening and a fantastic fundraiser for our small Pre-School that relies so heavily on fundraising.

Thank you very much to the Playing Fields Committee and other volunteers for your help on the night.

We also held a coffee and shop morning in mid-October where Pre-School parents were invited to get together for a coffee and chat to get to know each other better whilst browsing various stalls including Stella and Dot Jewellery, Phoenix Cards, Usbourne Books, Bella's Bobbins, Arbonne Beauty, Partylite Candles and Shelley Jennings Jewellery.

We have spaces available in many of our sessions for immediate start at Pre-School. Prospective parents are most welcome to pop in and visit us at anytime. We can be flexible with the days you would like your child to attend.

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, Mei Price, on 01494 488155 or call Pre-School on 01494 488160 during term time or email office@speenpreschool.org.uk

This is my last term as Chair of Pre-School, I would like to say thank you to all for your support, my successor will be announced soon ...

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'GOOD' OFSTED rating

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Ofsted, 2013

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SPEENSCHOOL & PTA

Clare Morris, PTA Chair

Concerts, Pirates & Rambles

Halfway through the first term of the year and almost full to capacity it is great that the Village School continues to thrive with not only new children but also new teachers and staff as well. It has a real energy and bustle about it partly due to a very enthusiastic group of Reception children.

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 organised the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning once again held in the school playground. Well attended by parents, grandparents and friends of the school, the morning raised an impressive £160 due to some brilliant baking skills and the persuasiveness of the Year 2 waiting staff.

The Royal Albert Hall was the destination for the whole school trip. The school was entertained by musical pieces from around the world as part of the Music for Youth programme, followed by a flying visit to the Science Museum to look at the replica of Amy Johnson's plane; the trip was a great success.

National Book Day had a Pirate theme this year with the children and staff looking resplendent in fancy dress – with stripes and eye patches particular favourites.

Children from the school had the opportunity to compete with other Primary schools in both Uni-hoc and Multi-sport tournaments held at Princes Risborough School.

On the afternoon of Friday the 13th November the children dodged the rain and took part in a ramble for Children in



Need day. Heading off through the mud of Water Lane, over several stiles until we made it to the Alpacas where Mr Williams answered questions from the children. I think the Alpacas were rather bemused at the site of 47 children particularly when they all tried to persuade them to eat a selection of vegetables. Thankfully the rain held off and everyone headed back to school for a well-earned cup of hot chocolate. Just over £1000 was raised in sponsorship – an amazing achievement for such a small school.

The Sensory Garden in the school grounds began to be built over October half term and is already looking fantastic. The school has received help from many local suppliers and is the main expenditure project for school funds raised last year. The children (with guidance) will begin to plant the garden in the coming weeks with the garden to be completed in the spring.

Looking ahead to 2016 the ever popular Safari Supper returns on Saturday 12th March. As always the evening begins with a starter at one of the host houses before moving on for the main course, after which everyone treks back to school for puds and dancing until late. Put the date in your diary and look out for details to book your tickets in the New Year.

Over the next few weeks the school will begin the Christmas schedule, of the

Christmas Fair, Christmas Party and of course the Christmas play. Lots to report back next time. In the meantime thank you once again for all the invaluable support and interest that the village gives. From the hard work of the Governors, to the weekly reading volunteers and all who generously support our events it is all appreciated. Thank you again – we wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2016.

www.speen-cofe-bucks.sch.uk

SCOUT HUT

Pauline Hall, Buckinghamshire Commissioner, Firefly Rangers

People driving into the village can not have failed to notice the work we have been doing to replace the outside structure of the Scout Hut. The present Scout and Guide Hut at the end of Coleheath Bottom was erected on a plot of land donated by Mrs Hulton, a former owner of Abbotshill. This happened in 1969 and Mr Sam Lewis led fund raising efforts to enable the current hut to be built, subsequently (in 1986) a further 2.3 acres of land was purchased from the Hampden Estate. I'm sure there are still people in the village who will remember being on the working team. I know the concrete blocks used in the construction were unloaded during the daytime by the women on the team as they were the only ones around to take the delivery.

The management committee have been working to upgrade facilities. Last year we had a drainage system installed, involving a settlement tank to collect silt from the run off from Coleheath Bottom and prevent flooding of the building during heavy rain. This year the gable end facing Flowers Bottom has been reclad with waney edged oak (the original being waney edged elm) and windows replaced. The wall and windows facing Coleheath Bottom have been repainted, the new cladding is being left to weather naturally. The roof has been cleaned and we have

tried to block all entry points for the glis glis which, like many buildings in the village, trouble us! We have also cleared overhanging trees and scrub close to the building. The repair of the hedge is the remaining part of the work to be finished. We are grateful to have received grant funds from: Red Kite Community Foundation; Heart of Bucks, Buckinghamshire Community Foundation; Chiltern Vale District Scout Council; Girlguiding Anglia and The Leslie Sell Charitable Trust.

Originally the Scout group was the 28th High Wycombe Scout Group who became the 1st Speen & Lacey Green Scout Group. The Group remained active under Mr Stuart Stansfield until it folded in 1997. 1st Hughenden Valley Guides started to use the hut for meetings in 1986 and after the slow decline of Scout Group's meeting there, the Guides were the only users of the hut for many years. Five years ago Firefly Rangers opened and this September 1st Hughenden Valley Brownies moved to meet at the hut too. We are pleased that there is now a unit of Hughenden Scouts meeting at the Speen hut too. There is an active Scouting and Guiding community now using the building on a regular basis as well as frequent weekend camps and events too.



Before



After



VILLAGE POND

Christine Holgate, Studridge Lane

There is concern in Speen about the state of the village pond on Studridge Lane, which is becoming almost completely overgrown with bullrushes, flag iris, saplings, and is partially covered by a fallen tree. There used to be four ponds in Speen - now there are only two, the other at the end of Water Lane. These ponds were old even in 1820 when, as a result of the Enclosures Act, three commissioners "rearranged" the rights of local residents. Footpaths, roads and rights of way were established and the four ponds were reserved for public use.

Of the two which were in Studridge Lane, only one now remains. This pond is on common land and its care is the responsibility of the Council according to an Act passed in 1962. Nevertheless, ten years ago a party of young volunteer conservationists did a very good job of restoring it, and in exchange for their help accommodation was provided for them in the village hall. But work on our pond is urgently needed again because unless it is done Speen will lose this valuable and historic feature and wildlife haven.

SPEENCHURCH

Alastair Blundell

Autumn has been a busy and rewarding time in the life of Speen Church. It is our vision to place the Church at the heart of our community and make it relevant to everyone, not just those who choose to worship there. So it was very fitting that during the Festival, the Church hosted several special and very different events, starting with Pete Symond's fascinating introduction to the wildlife of Speen. Pete's talk illustrated that conservation even on a small scale (in this case the restoration of Speen woodland) can have a hugely beneficial effect on biodiversity. During the weekend mid point of the Festival, the Church was transformed into an art gallery for an intriguing show entitled "Now you see it, now you don't" staged by local artists Marion Piper and Cally Shadbolt. The white, light interior of the Church lent itself perfectly to the exhibition that saw over 50 people come and view the artwork and have their imaginations fired. Lastly, David and Ann Worlock treated a captivated audience to readings that transported us to lives and times above and below stairs in six great country houses in the Chilterns. Proceeds from the evening went to support the South Gondor Mother and Child Project which is mentioned later in this article.

In October, the Church welcomed 60 people for breakfast and to host Ruth Dearnley OBE from the charity Stop The Traffik. Ruth gave a sobering account of the scale of human trafficking that exists in the modern world. If anyone thought that slavery was abolished in the mid 19th century, then Ruth was quick to disabuse us of the idea. We learned of the work that her charity is doing to stop trafficking and what practical steps we as individuals can do to help. You can find out more by visiting www.stopthetraffik.org

Outreach work remains a core activity for the Church. A key part of this is support of our sister Moira McLure, a

North Dean resident, who for the past 7 years has been working among the most vulnerable in Ethiopia. Moira has established the South Gondor Mother and Child Project in a remote region of the country, close to the source of the Blue Nile. The charity supports single mothers and their children whose lives have often been blighted by the Aids crisis. We have committed to raise funds of £15,000 per annum to support the work of the charity. We have recently had several fundraising events, including a safari supper and a

culinary master class by Ann Myers in the art of making sushi that was attended by over 40 ladies. A big thank-you to Ann. You can find out more about the work of the charity by visiting www.lifeinfulltrust.org/mother-child-project.

As many of you know, the Church has been in a period of "interregnum" since the beginning of the year, but during that time we have been very fortunate to have Heather McIntyre act as our moderator. In September, we were delighted that Heather accepted the invitation of the church members to become our full time pastor. Heather, who currently lives in Prestwood, will move to the Manse in the New Year and is very keen to get to know the wider community. Heather's service of induction took place on 7th November and the Church was full to the brim. Rev Geoff Colmer led

the service which was followed by an awesome tea party (and fireworks!)

The day following Heather's induction saw villagers gather at the Lych Gate to remember the fallen and to reflect on their ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in a free and fair society. Heather led the service and wreaths were laid by Air Commodore Paul Oborn, on behalf of the Armed Forces, and, by Councillor Graham Peart, on behalf of Wycombe District Council.





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SPEENHERITAGE GROUP

Clive Rainbow

We thought we were coming to the end of this series of essays about Speen's 10 casualties of WW1 – but new sources have come to light. In one regimental history we have found an eye-witness account of the poison gas attack that killed Cpl Harry Dean and, in the history of another regiment, a rather disturbing (but revealingly jingoistic) account of the engagement in which Cpl John Rixon died. Harry was the first Speen man to be killed; John was the last. They will feature in later articles.

Those two discoveries led us to re-visit Ancestry – a commercial genealogy site – which has started to make available a selection of medical records from WW1. Being confidential, they were not stored with the basic records of service, and therefore were not damaged during the London Blitz. We also found the Army's record of the "Effects" of those who died. That will be the subject of a further article which, for completeness, will also answer the questions we have been asked about WW1 War Widows' pensions; Soldiers' Pay and such like. First, we have to correct two mistakes.

When we returned to the Ancestry site, we found that it had been re-arranged, and, by checking with our previous records, we discovered a number of transcription errors - which they say will now be corrected. In one area, John Rixon could not be traced because his name had been indexed as 'Ricson'. Harry Dean disappeared for a time under the name of 'Deans' and (understandably because of the handwriting) as 'Harry Oran'. We could not, at first, find Frank Randall – he was recorded as 'Raudall' – and, far worse, HF Saunders from Speen had been muddled with another HF Saunders, from Oxford. Their personal numbers, obviously, were different but they were both Cpls, both in the Ox & Bucks, both died in 1918, both at Pozieres. Ours was Harry Frank Saunders; the other was Harry Francis Saunders and, regrettably, we published the details of his death in issue 53 of the SNDN.

How did that happen? If you enter 'HF Saunders' into the index of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission you will be given the details of Harry Francis. Our man is recorded as 'Harry Saunders'. When we searched again, using the correct data, we discovered a really poignant

story. Speen's Corporal Harry Saunders (26395) of the 5th Battalion, Ox & Bucks, was killed, age 31, at Pozieres on 23rd March 1918 (not 23rd July 1918 as we thought before) and his body was never found. Another Speen man, Private Frank Randall (202806) age 20, also of the 5th Battalion, Ox & Bucks, was also killed at Pozieres, also on 23rd March 1918. His body was never found either. Their names appear twice on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing; once on Panel 50 and once on Panel 51. That is because they were both members of the 5th Battalion but, to make up a shortfall in numbers, both were temporarily - and, in the event, fatally - attached to another Battalion.

Frank Randall lived just across the road from The Old Plow, as it was then called; Harry Saunders lived just round the corner from the Pink and Lily. By 1918, an Ox & Bucks Battalion was unlikely to have its full complement of about 1,000. Is it too fanciful to imagine that Corporal Saunders would have sought out Private Randall of Speen? A good Regimental Sergeant-Major should have spotted the local connection and allocated the freshly-arrived Private Randall to the 12-man section that was commanded by the battle-experienced Corporal Saunders. Is that why they died together ?

We also made a mistake with 'Harry Dean', also in SNDN issue 53. The Cpl Harry Dean who died on 25th May 1915, was the son of Samuel John Dean and Matilda (sometimes Harriett) née Eldridge. Neither parent came from Speen and in the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses they are living in High Wycombe. Presumably they moved to Speen later. We will devote a subsequent article to Cpl Harry Dean, who died horribly following a gas attack. The other 'Harry Dean' survived the War. One of the 12 children born to Richard and Mary Dean, he joined the Royal Navy and appears as a "Boy under training" in the 1911 census. We traced him through the 1918 Electoral Roll, where he is listed as a Leading Seaman (J 10753) serving in HMS Cormorant. That was a kind of hotel ship at Gibraltar; a "cushy number". He stayed in the Royal Navy; was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medal on 4th November 1926 and was a Petty Officer (equivalent to Sergeant in the other Services) in 1928 when we stopped searching.

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Pozieres military cemetery



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Beyond your expectations

We moved to Speen from Hackney in March 2005 in a substantial dusting of snow. It was a year of a Speen Festival and that first September we must have known it was on but, for some reason, it passed us by.

By 2007 however, we were on the radar. Catherine Haddon had taken the mantle of 'directing' the Festival from Martin and Marjorie Stockley who had begun this little adventure with an open-air pageant The Leaves of Time to celebrate the Millennium in the Playing Fields in 1999. Catherine & John Haddon were (and still are) a bundle of musical energy and, as friends, we were persuaded to help organise the 'acts' for the Cabaret Supper. That year was a bit of a blur; I emerged two weeks after the birth of our twins George and Edward to perform Schindler's List on the violin before dashing back home for another feed whilst Sam and co carried on performing.

Two years on, Catherine and John were lured from Speen to Seattle and Jem Symondson took the limelight as Festival Director. We stuck to helping to organise the Cabaret finale. In addition, unashamedly influenced by the number of children we had attending local schools, SpeenSchoolFest! began in earnest.

This initiative has become an annual summer creative arts project and has run for seven consecutive years involving hundreds of children and multiple local and not-so-local artists. We've gone from themes of the Rugby World Cup in South Africa to an Arabian-inspired Midsummer Night's Dream. We've dressed up as Shakespeare, learned traditional Indian, African and Elizabethan dance, sung about Pirates (in a storm), played Samba, made Batik, encountered science experiments, performed BBC's Ten Pieces, worn togas whilst spouting poetry and re-created the original Olympics. One of the greatest pleasures is to discover parents at schools who are professional dancers, artists, writers, sculptors and musicians who are taking a break from professional life. Their experience of SpeenSchoolFest! has sometimes helped to bridge the gap back into the world of work. And it certainly builds bonds between the children, often in transition stages between schools, and with luck, between teachers and schools too.

Sam's lifetime achievement award will surely be his role of musical director in choosing the Speen show: the significant



challenge to discover the best show to bring together local children and adults ranging widely and wildly in age and experience. We have seen the participating children (and adults) increase in number, age and confidence. Honk (2009) was followed by The Dreaming (2011), Grease (2013) and finally The Railway Children (2015). All ambitious in their own way, but what a sense of achievement for all involved when the audiences are so obviously delighted with the results. We've persuaded a good few adults over the years to be 'trained

up' (ie thrown in at the deep end) and now have several future BAFTA award-winning hopefuls in design, directing and stage-management as neighbours. And our technical crew, largely grown out of years of managing lighting and sound as students at the Royal Grammar School have been unfailingly generous and helpful in their support. Always happy to supply those references chaps!

Over the last few years the Festival has evolved, helpers have come and gone, event organisers stepped up and down. Some seem to want to go on and on. Some will surely return, others not. There's no shortage of enthusiasm to come up with ideas for events, for the heart of this Festival is that it is what anyone wants to make it. It has some kind of nebulous structure, driven on by some superb design and print, but wouldn't it be wonderful if it, say, went underground (performances hidden in people's houses) or global (ask Ian Warr, he's got big plans) or tiny (just for tiny people) or just became a festival of amazing participatory events across the borough, getting people to willingly share enthusiasms in a small and perfectly formed way.

All we really know is the bank balance and a few contacts of helpful people to get some kind of show on the road another year. It just takes one or two people to keep hold of it, keep it fizzing and help create the next chapter.

So if you were inspired by the 2015 Festival and think that you may like to get involved please email **director@speenfestival.org** now before you forget or ring us on 01494 488548. The children might like to, but really can't do it all on their own! They've got GCSEs, homework and music practice to do.

Kate, Sam, Hugh, Jessie, George & Edward Laughton

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NORTH DEAN VILLAGE FETE

Susie Howard

There was a palpable excitement and anticipation, particularly amongst certain local females, about this year's fete. Yes, our tiny little village was to welcome Mr Paul Hollywood in his official capacity as fete opener. A record number of people arrived for the start and also watched Paul hand out trophies and prizes to this year's competition winners, entries for which were exceptionally high this year with everyone out to impress.

Thanks to all our wonderful judges who had an extremely difficult job this year, and in particular our thanks to Judy Shaw who judged the cakes - not an easy task this year for

obvious reasons!! Half an hour of selfies with Mr H then ensued before the full crowd dispersed around the field to view the stalls and take part in all the activities.

All the favourites were there: shooting range, bouncy castle, BBQ, ice cream, treasure hunt, skittles, coconut shy, raffles, cream teas, hoopla, football with Wycombe Wanderers, running races, bar, car displays and young calves from the farm to name a few. Thank you so much to everyone who helped set up the fete and run the stalls - your time and effort is not only greatly appreciated, but essential in ensuring a fantastic day for everyone.

Congratulations to the following competition class winners at this year's fete:

Pot Plant

The Campbell Cup

Winner: Gill Kent

Arrangement of Cut Flowers

The Weller Rose Bowl

Winner: Ginny Prentice

Single Bloom

Silver Rose Vase (Mrs Olink)

Winner: Rachel Palmer

Fruit Cake

The Farmhouse Cup (Mr & Mrs Cash)

Winner: Jan Allen

Six Fairy Cakes

Winner: Sylvie Evans

Fruit Jam or Marmalade

Silver tray (Mrs G Rogers)

Winner: Judy Keen

Chutney

John Lewis Bowl

Winner: Judy Keen

Victoria Sandwich

(Mr & Mrs N Dawson)

Winner: Sarah Boddy

Vegetables

The North Dean Challenge Cup

Winner: Gill Kent

Prize Vegetable of The Year

The Beau Vista Bell (Mr & Mrs J Rogers)

Winner: Gill Kent

Handicrafts and Art 15 yrs & older

The Rogers Bell

Winner: Sarah Booth

Junior Handicrafts 14 yrs & under

Winner: Larissa Clegg

Junior Arts 14 yrs & under

Winner: Larissa Clegg

Photography Colour

The Evans Bowl

Winner: Sarah Booth

Photography B&W

The Morgan Cup

Winner: Freddie Bricknell



Thank you so much to everyone who attended the fete. We hope you enjoyed the day, and will come to support us again next year. Our sincere thanks go out to Paul who travelled up from Kent especially to join us.

Photographs courtesy of The Bucks Free Press and Gill Sandford

ALLIED HEALTHCARE

As a population we are getting older and many of us will be faced with finding nursing or personal care for an elderly relative or planning our own future care if we become incapacitated. Bucks, residents are increasingly making a choice, where possible, of living in their own homes for as long as possible and the local branch of Allied Healthcare is aiming to make this option easier.

The local branch of Allied Healthcare has been operating for over 27 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 fulltime 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.

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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.



BEECHDEAN DOWN ON THE FARM

Gill Kent

After a difficult spring, when the weather was anything but normal, nature rewarded us with a bumper harvest; but as always, on account of our island climate, conditions varied and some farmers were not so lucky. Although cereal yields were good, the maize plants never really recovered from their bad start in the spring, in consequence the maize silage clamps are not full this year.

This autumn has been kind to us. A plentiful supply of rain coupled with an exceptionally warm October has meant that all our cattle have been outside for much longer than usual. The cows are now inside all the time; they benefit by being kept warm and dry and the grass benefits from the lack of over 1600 feet cutting up the turf!! Each cow has a cubicle with a rubber mattress covered with sawdust; they are free to go and feed from large troughs whenever they wish, except when they are milked twice a day.

Our young Jerseys (heifers) stay outside until the weather becomes inclement. Their feet are smaller and of course they are not driven in and out of their field each day for milking, which is when much of the damage is done to the grass. The heifers have their first calf when they are about 28 months old, then they join the milking herd.

Much has been written in The Press recently about cattle injuring or even causing the death of walkers on footpaths. Footpaths were established centuries ago as routes to work or just linking habitations. In those days everyone was familiar with animals and knew how to behave with them. Nowadays footpaths have become rights of way for everyone whether or not they are knowledgeable of country 'do's and don'ts'

The rules are different for sheep and cattle - The former being frightened by people and dogs, the latter being inquisitive about all things in their environment. So when walking amongst sheep always keep your dog on a lead;

when walking amongst cattle, let your dog off the lead. The cattle are more interested in dogs than people and any dog will outrun them. If you haven't got a dog, remember that the cattle are interested in you; turn round and face them, shout at them and wave your arms and they will run away. Should you be the owner of an aggressive dog then it is probably better not to walk it in a field with cattle.



The only bulls you are likely to meet will be the beef breeds (Herefords, Angus, Charolais, Shorthorns etc). They are quite safe unlike those of the milking breeds (Friesian, Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey) which by law are not allowed on any fields with footpaths. The only cattle which can be dangerous are freshly calved animals. About one in one hundred may attack any moving object, an instinct inherited from the days before they were domesticated. This aggressiveness only lasts a few days.

Should the government ever decide to ban cattle from fields with footpaths in the

Chilterns, then the whole nature of the area would change. As I have written before, much of the land is not suitable for cereal growing and without grazing animals the fields would soon revert to woodland.

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WILDLIFE WATCH

Peter Symonds

Autumn 2015

The local Glis glis or Edible Dormice seem to have had a bumper year. I mentioned in my previous report that some residents had reported problems. I have subsequently learned that one household in Grubbins Lane had 56 removed from their house over the summer up until the end of September. At the very far end of the village a number were found living in a detached garage in some old drawers housing decorating

tools. Curled up in a sleepy ball inside a loose polythene bag there were 5 animals snuggled together (see photo). Meanwhile in Abbotswood James Entwistle photographed a Glis glis in his garden in the mid-afternoon taking plums from one of his trees. These predominantly nocturnal animals are much more common and widespread than some people may realise.



Following on from other recent records Leslie Thompson reported a possible Polecat sighting in North Dean as she drove through the village one night in late September. Certainly her description was not of anything we would see regularly. In addition to the foxes that bred to the north and east of Speen I have subsequently learned of another location to the south where cubs were raised. Meanwhile there is still plenty of evidence of Badger activity around the village and the woods. At this time of year our Roe deer can join together in small groups. Several observers have reported seeing a group of three including fawns born earlier this year, whilst Tim Edwards reported a sighting of six together somewhere in our local woods.

Interesting bird records over recent months include a Grey Wagtail that was present in Coleheath Bottom for five days in September and then seen again in November. A pair of Grey herons visiting our garden pond together in August was the first visit by a pair that I have recorded. A Garden Warbler (which is actually a woodland bird) was present in College Plantation with Blackcaps in September. Tawny owls continue to be heard at night although one died in Archway. This bird may have hit a window although sometimes these birds catch mice that have taken bait but do not die instantly. Ravens have been heard flying over the village uttering their

deep croaking 'kraa kraa' call. Chris Caris reported seeing one on the roof of the King William very early one morning. Local Sparrowhawks have been seen and a Kestrel has been noted regularly over Flowers Bottom.

Perhaps the most interesting bird in our wider area was an Osprey that took up residence at Weston Turville reservoir near Wendover for four weeks from early September. This bird attracted large numbers of birdwatchers and photographers from far and wide putting on an excellent display of fishing on countless occasions. Having circled round it would hover before plunging to take a fish close to the surface. In early October it finally continued its migration south to Africa. Some of our winter birds have arrived quite early this year. A flock of 12 Siskins visited our garden in October and more Jays are now apparent in local woods as birds arrive from Scandinavia. Fieldfares and Redwings have been passing over the village whilst Jeni Fairey reported a pair of Bramblings in her garden in Flowers Bottom in mid October which is very early. To date the weather here has remained fairly mild and dragonflies are still present hawking for insects over our own garden pond in mid November.

Please let me know of any interesting records.

Tel: 01494 488016 • symonds@speen10.freeserve.co.uk

LOCAL AWARD WINNERS

Award-winning Design from Foursquare Land

At this year's annual Chilterns Buildings Design Awards, Jem Symondson of Foursquare Land Ltd received the ultimate achievement of Overall Winner (Renovation) for the renovation and extension of Crendon Cottage, Chapel Hill, Speen, owned by Vicky and Eamonn Barrett.

The event is a joint collaboration between the Bucks Chilterns Conservation Board and the Chiltern Society, created to recognise the best in new, restored and renovated buildings in the Chilterns area. Both organisations are dedicated to safeguarding what's best in the Chilterns, one of the most outstanding areas of countryside in England, and to encouraging high standards for new development.

The standard was high this year, but the judges agreed that Crendon Cottage was 'a very good collaboration between the clients, architect and builder, which has produced a careful, well considered renovation that has been done with real understanding of the Chilterns vernacular'.

Jem puts good design at the heart of every project and if possible he will try to feature a 'wow factor', making each home special whilst doing everything he can to make the design and build an exciting pleasure for the client. Over the years he has built up a panel of excellent local builders who can help realise the design and fulfil owners' dreams (in the case of Crendon Cottage, Chris Warren Construction of Great Missenden). Jem says that the recipe is simple - all you need is a good designer, a reasonably priced and first class builder together with receptive communication with the client. This recipe was clearly recognised by the award for the Barrett's home at Crendon Cottage.

Jem@4squareland.co.uk
01494 488877



Playground Facilities Ltd in North Dean

Playground Facilities Ltd, managed by Tony and Julie White, North Dean specialists in playground design and build, have received an accolade for their recent flagship project on behalf of Amersham Town Council.

King George V playground, near Amersham station, was in need of a complete makeover. The design submitted by Playground Facilities Ltd was considered amongst stiff competition and was eventually approved through public consultation and built during the 2015 summer holidays, and the sparkling new facility was officially opened by the Mayor on 5th August.

On 2nd December at an awards ceremony hosted by the Fields In Trust organisation, the new playground at Amersham designed and built by Playground Facilities Ltd was deemed to represent the Best Play Initiative, integrating a huge range of colourful and exciting equipment including many items specifically designed for inclusive play.

Tony White, playground designer and Managing Director of Playground Facilities Ltd was thrilled for his client, Amersham Town Council. He says that the Council's representatives were bursting with enthusiasm which assisted him in finalising the design that subsequently was chosen through the public consultation process as providing best value. Playground Facilities Ltd then supplied and installed the new equipment which has proven to be really popular with users and is always busy!

With over 650 repeat customers, Playground Facilities Ltd operate throughout the south of England assisting Local Authorities, Housing developers, Schools and Leisure Organisations with their playground needs.

www.playgroundfacilities.co.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL BUSINESS

Shelley Jennings Jewellery



From her local studio Shelley Jennings designs and creates unique and contemporary hallmarked silver jewellery.

Inspiration for her current designs comes primarily from the stunning local countryside. Walking in the woods with her dog she witnesses all the changes each season brings, overlaid with the many weather changes we enjoy. Her 'Autumn' collection is a representation of the beauty of golden beech leaves resting on the woodland floor. A harvest of sawn logs piled high in a clearing inspired her 'Air' collection, and these images are gathered and worked through to finally evolve into a finished piece.

Shelley's aim is to create distinctive and versatile pieces of jewellery, easily worn and adaptable, which work well when dressing up or dressing down and comfortable enough to wear all day long.

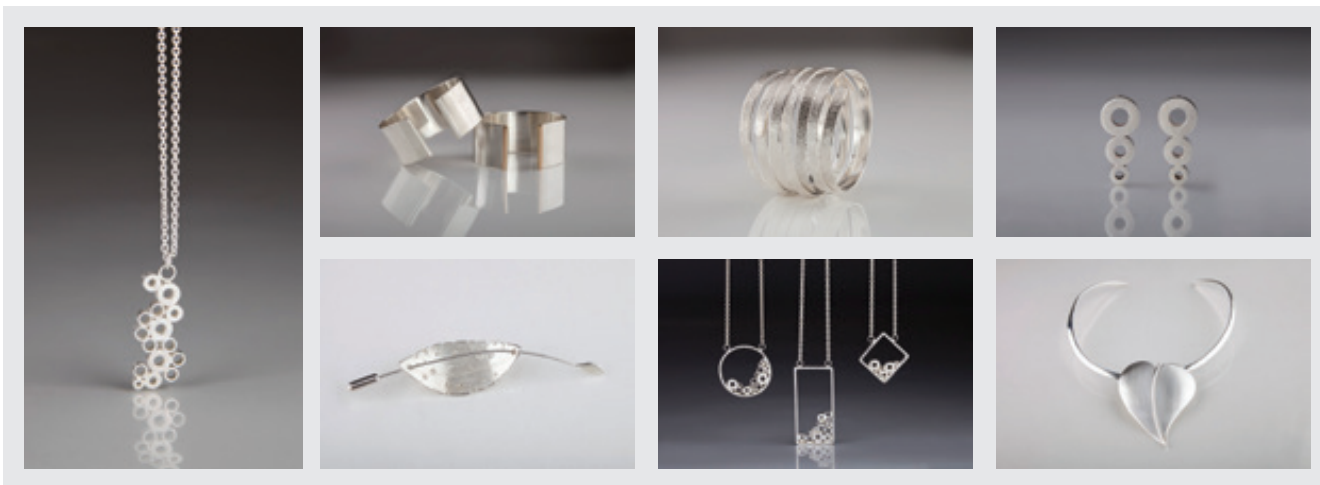
Every piece she creates is painstakingly handcrafted ensuring that each is unique, with a limited edition of each new design.

Shelley is happy to undertake commissions, working in close collaboration with the client to ensure a clear, strong understanding. A recent enjoyable and very well received project for a bride and groom required the development of a highly personal design which had to be, on the one hand, a delicate necklace and pair of earrings for the bride with further adaptation to create a more weighty and masculine set of cufflinks for the groom.



She exhibits locally, and also takes part annually in Bucks Open Studios and exhibits in local retail outlets. Pleasingly, many of her clients come as a result of word of mouth, seeing her jewellery on clients and friends.

Below is a selection of some of Shelley's beautiful creations. Her current collections can be seen on her website.



www.shelleyjennings.co.uk • shelley.jennings@btinternet.com • 01494 488895

PIGGOTS HILL TALES FROM THE HALF ACRE

Sarah Rogers

Pigs on Piggotts Hill again

Babs and Dilling, my two weaner piglets, are now full grown and ready to go off to slaughter. In some ways it is not before time: autumn has turned their once-burgeoning enclosure into mud soup, and it isn't much fun for them wading around knee-high in it, contrary to popular belief (like humans, they are pleasure seekers, loving the cool comfort of mud on a baking hot day, and eking out the basking possibilities of sunshine); they have also eaten their way through countless windfall apples and allotment waste, and there are slim pickings to be winkled out now from around and about. I shall be sorry to see them go, nonetheless...

It's a strange feeling to rear an animal with the single purpose of producing meat, at least on the tiny scale that I and many other smallholders operate. Of course I have become very attached to them, learning where they like to be scratched into ecstatic collapse, earning their trust and piggy affection, checking them over twice a day and attending to their food and water and bedding requirements, and then just enjoying watching them rootle and frolic. They are very endearing creatures: curious, individualistic, personable. I am also not a little bit wary of them, knowing how strong and agile they are, how relentlessly persistent their snouts are as they push through the mud, and how keen is the bite of their teeth.

So it is altogether an odd experience to reach the day on which we make the journey to the abattoir, beginning in the dark of 5am when they are loaded onto the trailer in some confusion at being roused so early, and reassured by the bucket of feed in which to sink their heads with familiar gusto. It is easily the most stressful day in my pig-husbanding calendar: every effort made to ensure their comfort and minimise anxiety, only to reach the abattoir and within minutes of the relief of their safe unloading,

know that they have been humanely despatched and have begun a new journey of preparation from living animal to food on the plate. It always leads to mixed emotions - exhilaration, relief, sadness, the slightly hollow feeling of returning home with an empty trailer, after what feels like a day's work is over by 9am.



I hope this doesn't sound macabre. It isn't at all, and I can honestly say that going through this process a few times now has made me not only understand and appreciate the process much more than I ever did before I embarked on it myself, but also really enjoy and celebrate the quality of what I am cooking and eating. I truly delight in the pork they produce, and every eating occasion is special, and never taken for granted.



What happens next? I will return to the abattoir a couple of days later, collect the carcasses and deliver them to my butcher, who will joint and trim them and package them up for my freezer, from where I can sell the meat to friends and neighbours, and enjoy it at feasts prepared for my own table.

And then there's the curing and processing to enjoy: bacon, sausages, ham for Christmas - even an air-dried jamon leg (complete with trotter) to hang out in the woodshed for a year to cure (it worked, amazingly!). Slow-cooked shoulder, succulent roast belly, barbecued ribs, pork pies, scotch eggs, scratchings ... myriad

delicious pleasures all from a few months' husbandry.

And then to watch the ravaged land slowly recover, with the sowing of clover and field beans, preparing for the spring and for the cycle to begin again. Small pleasures perhaps, but important ones.

How to make your own bacon

It is ridiculously easy - and extremely rewarding - to make your own delicious bacon, far better and more cheaply than you would be able to buy it. You don't need to go to the lengths I have and bring on your own pigs! Buy a whole or half belly (for streaky) or a loin (for back) from your butcher, boned and skinned for baconing (ask for the skin so you can make crackling too!). Then it's simply a case of combining salt, sugar and your choice of herbs and spices to make a dry cure, which you'll douse the meat in over a few days and allow the water to leech out and the salt to preserve and flavour it.

BACON WITH TWO DRY CURES

2kg piece of belly or loin, skinned and boned

Sweet Fennel Cure

20g ground fennel seeds

500g soft light brown sugar

500g sea salt flakes or coarse salt, crushed

or

Bay & Juniper Cure

20 juniper berries, crushed

3 bay leaves, ground to a rough powder

500g soft light brown sugar

500g sea salt flakes or coarse salt, crushed



- Put the bacon into a plastic box with a lid (you can cut it in half at this point for ease of handling)
- Mix the cure ingredients together, and pour about a third of it over every surface of the meat (no need to rub in). Put aside the remaining cure.
- Seal with the lid, place in the fridge and leave for 5 days (10 for loin), draining the excess liquid each day and sprinkling over more cure until it is all used up
- Rinse the bacon and pat dry.
- Now allow the bacon to mature: either wrap in muslin and leave in the fridge, or hang from a hook in a cool room or outside for 5 days (10 for loin)
- Slice pieces off as you want to use it. It will keep for a few weeks, or even longer!

This method doesn't use saltpetre or sodium nitrate, which are used in commercial bacon production as a protection against botulism. They are a bit controversial - particularly in artisan preparations - because they aren't natural additives, and because they are considered unnecessary to the process, provided you take care over hygiene. However, they do allow you to use less salt, which might suit more sensitive modern palates. If you find your bacon too salty, you can soak overnight in water and pat dry, and continue as above.

NORTH DEAN THEATRE IN THE VILLAGES

Julie White

Victor & Albert

Comic twins Professor Victor and Dr Albert performed their magic once again at North Dean Village Hall on Friday 13 November. A fun-packed evening of musical comedy, non-stop side-splitting laughter and extremely funny audience participation was enjoyed by all.

The audience, consisting of residents from North Dean, Speen and outlying villages, were once again treated to an evening of superb entertainment, thanks to the professionalism of this dynamic and extremely talented duo.



Theatre in the Villages is a rural touring scheme bringing professional theatre and entertainment to village halls across Buckinghamshire. Thanks to the Committee of NDVH for arranging yet another great evening of entertainment.

CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM TYPES

There are many different types of central heating systems such as gas, oil, biomass, LPG and electric to name but a few. Getting the correct central heating system for your home will ensure you are not wasting money on high energy bills, and in some cases you could be reducing your carbon footprint and even be receiving cash incentives for using renewable energy products.

Getting the right solution will also depend on a number of factors, which could eliminate some of those options. For example, if your home is not on the national grid then you will not have a supply of gas, which eliminates the option of a conventional gas boiler system. However, there are a good range of options if you are not on the national grid, such as biomass, oil, LPG, ground source heat pumps and air source heat pumps. Below is an overview of some of the different type of systems.

NATURAL GAS: A gas central heating system works by gas heating water within a gas boiler. The hot water is then channelled through radiators and provides hot water through the taps.

OIL: An oil central heating system works in a similar way to that of a natural gas system in that central heating is provided through radiators and hot water through the taps in your home. The difference is that you have an oil fired boiler to heat the water.

BIOMASS HEATING: Biomass provides all your heating and hot water, with a clean, sustainable fuel eliminating the requirement for fossil fuel. Biomass boilers burn wood pellets, from sustainable sources and create an environmentally friendly carbon cycle.

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP: An air source heat pump (ASHP) is an electrical device that extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another. An air source heat pump uses a refrigerant system involving a compressor and a condenser to absorb heat and release it.

ELECTRIC: An electric heater is an electrical device that converts electric current to heat. Appliances include space heating, electric fire places, under floor heating systems and more.

LPG: LPG stands for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (or Liquid Petroleum Gas). It is designed as a safe to use alternative to regular gas central heating, oil-burning or biomass boilers. LPG can be stored in cylinders or tanks on any property large enough to house it.

Once you have decided on the source of energy, the next step is deciding on what products to consider and how to have it installed into your home to get the most out of it.

Heppelthwaite the Red Van Plumbers are here to help every step on the way, from design and installation to maintenance and servicing. Check out the full article including the pros and cons at www.redvanplumbers.co/central-heating-system-types

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WINTER WARMER RECIPE

Pippa Sullivan

All-in-one Tagine

Serves 6-8

This makes a wonderful one pot meal and can be served simply with crusty bread and a green salad – ideal to have made in advance for when friends come, as there is very little last minute preparation to distract you from your guests.

The quantities of spices are guidelines, please feel free to increase or decrease them as your tastes dictate.

Until I was asked to put forward a recipe for the magazine, I hadn't given much thought to the temperature I set my oven to for cooking casseroles. Having spent much of my time cooking on an Aga, the oven is either hot or simmering! You know your oven and what works best for slow cooking.

Ingredients:

1kg diced stewing lamb
1 tbsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tbsp ground coriander
½ - 1 tsp cayenne pepper
2 onions, sliced
2 good sized cloves of garlic
Pinch of chilli flakes
200g green lentils
5 carrots, cut into large slices
3 handfuls of baby new potatoes
1 tbsp dried oregano
750mls chicken stock and/or water
Olive oil or groundnut oil for frying



Method:

- Marinate the lamb in the cumin, cinnamon, coriander and cayenne pepper and leave overnight.
- The following day preheat the oven to 120-140°C, Gas Mark 2.
- In a casserole dish, gently sweat down the onions in a couple of tablespoons of oil on a low heat for about 10/15 minutes or until soft and translucent.
- Add the crushed garlic and chilli and cook for a further 2/3 minutes.
- Meanwhile brown the lamb in a little oil in a separate hot frying pan and add to the cooked onions, garlic and chilli, once they are ready.
- Into the casserole stir in the oregano, carrots, potatoes, lentils and season with salt and pepper.
- Add the stock or water until the ingredients are just about covered, bring to the boil then cover and leave in the oven for 2 hours, or until the meat is tender.

Pippa Sullivan is a Speen resident and cook who trained at Leith's School of Food and Wine.



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CHRISTMASCRAFT

Mei Price



I love making my own Christmas wreaths and floral displays, they make great gifts for friends and family and really add to a home's festive feeling.

I've decided to be a bit more adventurous this year and have broken away from my traditional wreath design of just using pine cones, cinnamon sticks and dried fruit that you so often see in shops. I saw some lovely venetian looking gold sparkly tree decorations in a shop recently and decided that's what I'll put on my wreath, coupled with some lovely peacock feathers I also spotted. Here are the steps I took to create my wreath. If you'd like a go at making your own wreath, follow the basic steps and adorn your wreath with your own lovely decorations and gifts of nature - cinnamon, fruit, pine cones, seed pods, flowers - it will look beautiful on your front door!

You will need:

- Floral foam or plastic backed oasis wreath ring
I'm using a 12" because I love the size
- Secateurs & scissors
- Ribbon to hang the wreath
- Foliage for base and fillers - fir, yew, holly, laurel, bay, myrtle, rosemary, eucalyptus, ivy, heather
- Any decoration you like –seed pods, pine cones (sprayed metallic or left plain), flowers, artificial picks, dried citrus, dried apples, cinnamon sticks
- Green florist wire

1. First soak your oasis ring. I put mine in a large bucket or the sink. Do not force the ring down in the water otherwise you'll get air pockets. Let it soak the water up on its own accord. When it stops bubbling it's ready.
2. Cut your ribbon (about an arm's length), loop this through your wreath ring and knot. This will be the top of your wreath and used to tie your wreath to the door.
3. I like to shape the ring to help the foliage rest and form a dome shape so I shave the perimeter at an angle using a small knife. This is optional.
4. Taking your foliage – I'm using my Christmas tree offcuts, cut off a small branch about 10cm, take off 3cm of leaves and cut the end at an angle using secateurs. This will help with water absorption whilst in the oasis ring. Insert the branches at the angle in a circular fashion around the ring. This forms the base of your wreath before you start inserting decoration and fillers.
5. Next start inserting your key decoration pieces. I'm inserting peacock feathers round the ring. I then insert my flowers and start inserting decorative foliage. I'm using eucalyptus and ivy with seed pods which I cut into small sections similar to the fir.
6. Keep checking the overall look of your wreath as you are working on it. Fill in any exposed oasis with more cut foliage.
7. If you are inserting artificial or loose decorations such as baubles, pine cones, seed heads, cinnamon sticks you may need to wire them first using green florist wire. Wrap round or insert a wire into the decoration to create a pick and insert into the oasis. I'm looping a piece of green wire into the venetian mask to attach the mask to the oasis.
8. Recheck your wreath.
9. Your wreath is now ready to hang. The cold and natural elements will usually maintain your living wreath over the festive period. If you are hanging it inside spritz it with water once or twice a week.



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LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Compiled by the Speen Ward Councillors of Lacey Green Parish Council Roger Craft & Philip Suter

There are a number of issues that the Lacey Green Parish Council has been reviewing and continues to discuss and find solutions, amongst which are the following:

Speeding through Speen

More and more local residents have become very concerned about traffic speeding through Speen, particularly on the lower Chapel Hill area near to the Chapel and along Hampden Road.

On Monday 2nd November at the Parish Council meeting Shelley Jennings spoke on behalf of several local residents stating their concerns. Bucks County Councillor Carl Etholen and Lacey Green Parish Council Chairman Cathryn Davies advised the meeting that studies would have to be undertaken by PC Lee Turnham, the Neighbourhood Road Safety Officer, and the more people in the village who want to support the anti-speeding campaign, the more effective it will become.

The first steps in finding a solution requires the involvement of PC Lee Turnham, and the Parish Council has contacted him and is endeavouring to arrange an early meeting. Random speed checks need to be carried out using the community speed watch laser gun. This will require several volunteers at a time on a rota basis to compile the offenders details and man the use of the laser gun (someone holding the laser gun, someone recording the speed, another person recording the colour and another the make of vehicle). These speed checks need to be carried out at random times and in different places. PC Lee Turnham will arrange the hire of the laser gun and train in its use. Volunteers who would be willing to assist in these speed checks should in the first instance provide their details to Shelley Jennings shelley.jennings@btinternet.com who has kindly agreed to co-ordinate these checks. Once the results are in PC Lee Turnham will discuss proposals of possible solutions to overcome the speeding issues. This will involve the highways department of Bucks County Council, Lacey Green Parish Council and the local residents of Speen.

There could be a number of possible solutions. If a flashing speed warning sign was to be introduced like in Hughenden Valley, it would have to be battery operated and regularly charged up. Further possibilities could be larger speed signage, prominent 30 MPH signage on a coloured road surface at the Hampden Road and Chapel Hill entrances to the village and speed camera warning signs. As there are no street lights in Speen such calming traffic solutions as speed bumps or narrowing of the roads at certain points would not be feasible or permitted. Lacey Green Parish Council will be active in finding the necessary funding for the agreed solutions.

Speen Playground

Following agreement in principle between Speen Playing Field and Lacey Green Parish Council for the Parish Council to lease the area of the Playground on a 30 year lease, the Parish Council has now appointed a solicitor to draw up the lease on the lines of the agreed terms between the parties involved. Once a lease has been agreed and signed, the Lacey Green Parish Council has committed to invest considerable sums of money, updating and investing in new playground equipment and to maintain accordingly. Hopefully, the lease can be finalised and signed so that by the Spring of next year significant improvements can begin on Speen Playground.

Road Surface - Studridge Lane, Speen

Lacey Green Parish Council continues to lobby the Highways Department of Bucks County Council on repairs to our local roads, especially Studridge Lane in Speen.

Currently there are in the order of 100 potholes in Studridge Lane and although Bucks County Council intend patching these in the next few weeks, the Parish Council will continue to urge the Highways Department to carry out a more substantial repair by carrying out full resurfacing works. Unfortunately budgets are tight, but we will continue the lobby for a more long term solution.

Grants

During December the Parish Council will be discussing and finalising the budget for the next financial year - April 2016/ March 2017. We intend as usual to include for grants to local organisations and activities and would therefore seek written requests stating the purpose of the grant together with financial accounts. Previous grants have been given to the Speen Festival, Speen Pre-School, Speen School, Speen Village Hall, Speen Chapel and other local organisations.

These requests for grants should be directed via email to our Parish Clerk, Sue Griffiths at towncouncil@princesrisborough.com by the first week of December.

Roger Craft – rogercraft50@gmail.com - 01494 488343

Philip Suter – philip.suter@yahoo.ie - 01494 488540

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NOTES FROM THE TOWN HALL

Graham Peart, Councillor for Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens

Broadband Speed

Since the elections last May I have had the happy task of finding out how it all works, or occasionally doesn't, at the Town Hall in Wycombe. This is often best achieved by chasing the officers for information on a live issue.



A good example is the matter of less than swift Broadband speeds, usually less than 3Mbps, that are a great frustration to most in Speen and North Dean, and others on the exchange with a number starting 488. This is very different from the government's stated intention that everyone should have the right to access broadband with speeds of 10Mbps by 2020. No problem in Lacey Green where the exchange has already been upgraded, but what about the Hampden Row exchange?

Many people have contacted me to rightfully complain about the situation and offer many suggestions as to what could or should be done to encourage Open Reach to galvanise into action. After much research and visits to the senior officer involved in the Town Hall, a visit to the Leader of the Council to request support (and when I picked up yet another task!), I understand the position to be this. Money for exchange upgrades is provided by Bucks County Council, Wycombe District Council with some investment from Open Reach. The first 'roll out' of upgrades is nearly complete. The District and County Councils have together allocated an additional sum of nearly £1m for the second 'roll out'.

Open Reach have been requested to provide the upgrade costs for exchanges in the district that are being considered for the second 'roll out' and this information is due soon.

Then a decision will be taken by your District Council on which exchanges will be upgraded in the second 'roll out', the criteria being to make the biggest impact for the funds available. The bad news is that funds are insufficient to upgrade all remaining exchanges so a short list has been drawn up. The good news is that the Hampden Row exchange is on that list. If the allocated funds

are adequate, all exchanges on the short list will receive an upgrade, if insufficient one will have to wait for a subsequent roll out that will be at an unspecified date due to the County Council being unable to contribute further funds to this project at the present time.

My representations have been acknowledged and the decision making process is expected to take place sometime in December and be confirmed by the Cabinet in the early spring. We all hope that we will soon be surfing at great speed!

Wycombe District Council Waste Collections

From Monday 30 November 2015, the collection times of residual waste may change. This is because the waste in black bins and purple sacks from the households in Wycombe District Council's area will now be taken to the High Heavens Waste Transfer Station, before being sent to Buckinghamshire County Council's new Energy From Waste plant at Greatmoor, in the north of the county. There, the district's waste will be converted into enough energy to power 36,000 homes. Wycombe's waste trucks will have a shorter distance to travel to tip this waste (as compared to going to the landfill site) which means that collection times could be earlier than in the past.

Tel: 01494 488327 • graham.peart@wycombe.gov.uk

CONSIDERATE PARKING CAMPAIGN

Hughenden Parish Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

The Hughenden Parish Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is a group of local volunteers who work with the local policing team to identify and address some of those issues that affect local residents. Many residents complain of inconsiderate parking, such as:

- Parking on pavements, blocking the footpath so pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs can't get past
- Parking vehicles too close to junctions

- Blocking the road so an ambulance or fire engine couldn't get past in an emergency

When you park please be considerate of others - it makes our area a safer and friendlier place to live. If you would like to report inconsiderate parking please call Thames Valley Police on 101 or email details to PrincesRisboroughNHPT2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

stan.jonestheelectric@btinternet.com

WHO'S WHO

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	01844342800
Lacey Green Parish Council - Councillor for Speen Ward	Roger Craft	01494488343
North Dean Good Neighbours	Judith Broadley	01494 563178
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings Secretary/Fete	Jez Wicks	01494563517
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Robin Hughes	07920 748580
Piggotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler-Robinson	01494 562167
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	01494 488420
Speen Good Neighbours	Pat Richardson	01494 488627
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	01494 488372
Speen & North Dean News - Advertising	Tom Dent	01494 488943
Speen & North Dean News - Chair	Gloria Holmes	01494 488420
Speen & North Dean Toddler Group	Sarah Uhart	07951 485436
Speen Baptist Church	Rev. Heather McIntyre	01494 488067
Speen Fete - Chair	Amanda Dobbs	01494 488887
Speen Helping Hospices - Secretary	Maureen Laing	01494 488397
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	01494 488939
Speen Playing Fields - Chairman	Tony Bobroff	01494488688
Speen Pre-School Chair	Alex Allan	01494 489838
Speen School - Head	Denise Nayna	01494 488321
Speen School PTA - Chair	Clare Morris	01494 488553
Speen Stores	Alison Templeman	01494 488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Philippa Lane	01494 488453
Speen Village Hall - Bookings	Sue Taylor	01494 488500
Speen Village Hall - Chairman	Bill Groves	01494 488180
Speen WI - Secretary	Jean Morris	01494 488529
Wycombe District Council - Member for Lacey Green & Hampdens	Cllr. Graham Peart	01494 488327

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