















FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY...

simply beautiful gardens

Alchemille has been designing and creating beautiful, innovative, inspirational outdoor spaces since 2004. From urban courtyards to country estates, we can create and care for the simply beautiful garden of your dreams.

DESIGN • PLANTING • AFTER-CARE



01494 488072 • 07909 936718 • info@alchemille.co.uk www.alchemille.co.uk *elcome!* to the autumn edition of the Speen & North Dean News. As usual, we have quite a few events to cover in this issue, so I haven't been able to dedicate as much space as I'd wish to the Festival, but I'm sure we'd all like to send huge thanks and appreciation to the Festival Team for giving up their valuable time to create the most wonderful fortnight of creativity, flair and fun for us all, and in particular to the amazing Cat Cook for leading the charge.

And another huge shout out should go to the wonderful ladies of Speen Helping Hospices, whose tireless fundraising efforts have raised an incredible £67,300 for our local hospices since they were founded, and are hoping to make it £70,000 by the end of the year, so do head over to their Christmas Market on 9th December at Lacey Green Village Hall and offer them your support.

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

Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is **due by 10th April** with a planned publication date of early May. 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**.



Welcome to the village to new guide dog puppy in training Ruby, pictured here with her mum Joy and Gloria Holmes.

Contents

What's On	5
Speen Pre-school	7
Speen School PTA	9
Beechdean Down on the Farm	11
Speen Village Hall	11
North Dean Village Hall	13
Speen Chapel	15
Speen Helping Hospices	17
Speen WI	17
Speen vs North Dean Cricket & Golf	19
Speen Festival	20
North Dean Village Fete	23
Speen Machine	23
Letters	25
Des Parslow Obituary	25
Toddlers & Tiddlers	27
North Dean Wine Tasting	27
A Royal Honour for a Local Business	29
CCTV in Speen	29
Notes from the Town Hall	31
Yoga in North Dean	31
Wildlife Watch	33
Speen Heritage Group	34
Who's Who	38

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 or Judith Broadley (North Dean) 01494 563178 cooljude@btopenworld.com

Village News

If you are not already signed up to The Village Messenger and The Village Diary, do email *Village@SpeenBucks.org* or *jh@jwhh.co.uk* to be put on the mailing lists, with the word *'include'* in the subject line - they will keep you up to date via email on a monthly basis with all the latest village news and dates for your diary.

EDITOR: Jacqui Laing • ADVERTISING: Tom Dent COMMITTEE: Gloria Holmes (Chair), Megan Chinn, Nick Wheeler-Robinson, Julie White DESIGN & PRODUCTION: Jacqui Laing • PRINTED BY: PK Inprint Ltd (01494 452266)



WHY NOT TRY OUR DELICIOUS SAUSAGES, BACON, CHOPS, LEG OF PORK, GAMMON & SHOULDER OF PORK FROM OUR OWN HOME-GROWN PIGS

Adrian and Charlotte Downing

Flowers Bottom Lane Speen • Bucks • HP27 0PZ t: 01494 488078 e: thepantry@darvillshillfarm.co.uk

Darvills Hil Farm

14th November 24th November 25th November Speen School Open Morning

Village Hall Christmas Market

Speen School Christmas Fair

Men's Philosophical Society

Speen Christmas Tree Carols

Speen Helping Hospices Christmas Market

Community 5k Run

Pop Up Pub Night

Carols and Pub Night

Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Communion

Christmas Celebration

DECEMBER

1st December 2nd December 3rd December 7th December 7th December 8th December 9th December

10th December 15th December 20th December 24 December 24 December 25 December

JANUARY

4th January 14th January 26th January 26th January

MARCH

1st March 3rd March 4th March 25th March WI 'No Job For A Woman' Speen School Safari Supper Sunday Lunch Family 5k/10k Run or Walk

North Dean Village Hall 7.30pm Speen Village Hall 2pm Speen School 11.30am Speen Village Hall 7.45pm Supper, Pink & Lily 7.30pm Speen Playing Field 6pm

Lacey Green Village Hall 11am Speen Playing Fields 9am Speen Village Hall 7pm North Dean Village Hall 6.30pm Speen Chapel 6pm Speen Chapel 10pm Speen Chapel 10.30am

Jeremy Mudie 07880 785983 Margaret Groves 488180 Becky Khaira 489886 Jenny Pearce 562333 Graham Peart 488327

Clare Morris 488553

Christine Symondson 488654 Mei Price 488155 Amanda Dobbs 488887 Craig Watson 07747 638141 **Heather McIntyre** Heather McIntyre Heather McIntyre

Speen Village Hall 7.45pm Speen Playing Fields 9am Speen Village Hall 7pm North Dean Village Hall 7.30pm Jenny Pearce 562333 Mei Price 488155 Amanda Dobbs 488887 Alison Kent 07887 963450

Speen Village Hall 7.45pm Speen School North Dean Village Hall 12.30pm North Dean Village Hall

Jenny Pearce 562333 Antonia Winson 489848 Anthony Palmer 07800540187 Alison Kent 07887 963450

List of Advertisers

A Cut Above, Alchemille, Allied Healthcare, Ashridge Home Care, Aston Hearing, Beechdean Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream, Buckmoorend Farm, CG Tree & Garden Services, Chiltern Opticians, Coles & Blackwell, Darvills Hill Farm, D. Murray Roofing, Foursquare Land, Fraser Morgan School of Dancing, Georgi Hansen, Heppelthwaites, Hypnos Beds, Independent Living Consultants, JNP, John Bishop, John Easterling, Judith A Newenham, KJ Windows and Doors, Lloyd's Wines, MR Collins, MWH Interiors Limited, Nelson Electrical, Nick Higgins, Nicki Thomas Web Design, Paul Newman Ltd, Pilates Physiotherapy, PKInPrint, Rowena Templeman, SB Decorations, Speen Stores, Springline Cars, Tudor Travel, Village Environmental Services.

NOVEMBER

Pop Up Pub Night Quiz

Wine Tasting

WI Festive Theme

Speen School 9.30am - 11.30am Speen Village Hall 7pm North Dean Village Hall 7.30pm

WHAT'SON

in Speen & North Dean

School Office 488321 Amanda Dobbs 488887 Jez Wickes 07802 476712





At Hypnos, comfort comes guaranteed. But whilst each Royally Approved bed is individually handmade by master craftsmen, using the very finest natural and sustainable materials, it is you who carefully designs the look of your bed and creates a majestic centrepiece for your bedroom. So, to be sure that you enjoy a beautiful night's sleep and awake feeling revitalised and refreshed, visit our Showroom and design a Hypnos bed that's just right for you.



HYPNOS

THE MOST COMFORTABLE BEDS IN THE WORLD

Visit our Showroom: Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm | Friday and Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm

T: 01844 348200 | www.hypnosbeds.com

Hypnos Limited | Longwick Road | Princes Risborough | Bucks HP27 9RS

Alternatively, visit your local Hypnos Retailer:

Aylesbury Lucas Furniture 01296 486255 | Gerrards Cross Crystal Carpets & Furnishings 01753 889230 High Wycombe Beadle Chrome Ltd 01494 523249 | Thame Greens Furnishings 01844 212560

Hypnos is proud to be Carbon Neutral, complying with PAS 2060.

SPEENPRE-SCHOOL

Helen Davies, Chair

As the new term started we were delighted to welcome our new children, having said goodbye to those who moved on to big school at the end of last term. Everyone has settled in really well and are making new friends quickly. The Preschool is very lucky to have children from as far away as High Wycombe and Monks Risborough (to name a few). It is a credit to the staff that our small village Pre-school and Forest school has attracted families from outside our local catchment area.

The staff plan the children's activities on a weekly basis, with flexibility to meet each individual's needs. The wonderful topics covered this term have been animals and their environments, harvest and the changes in autumn, how things work and not forgetting Christmas. Regarding how things work, the parents were asked to donate old and

unwanted electronic equipment - landline phones, mobile phones, computers, cassette players etc. The children had a wonderful time taking all these apart and seeing inside. There are some budding engineers in our Pre-school.

Taking inspiration from the wonderful Chapel Kitchen, the children opened a Pre-school Pop up Café for one morning only on October 4th. Invitations went out to the children's families and carers. It was a wonderful way for the children to sell their own cakes and for the adults to come and see what they get up to in the setting. The children are very proud of their Pre-school and it was wonderful to see them showing it off.

The Pre-school have always had a close relationship with Speen School and this continues to go from strength to strength. This term the Pre-school children were invited to join the Reception Class for a morning of storytelling and play. They all had a great time and benefit hugely from visiting the school and seeing where the next step in their education will take them.

Once again the Pre-school Committee were out in force on Bonfire Night. We served hot dogs and burgers to all the hungry spectators and kept the thirsty ones quenched at the bar. It was a very successful evening and a fantastic fundraiser. Thank you to the Playing Fields Committee and other volunteers for your help on the night.

The children will soon be preparing for their Christmas Nativity taking place on December 15th at Speen Church. It is always a wonderful service with the children of reception class at Speen School joining us. We are looking forward



to being part of the Village Hall's annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December and also taking part in the Speen School Christmas Fair on Sunday 3rd December.

Looking to the New Year, we will be running our Christmas tree collection on Sunday 7th January 2018. Leaflets will be posted through your doors nearer the time, but they will also be available at Speen Stores. For a small cost we will

> collect your Christmas trees for recycling so you don't have to spend weeks cleaning the needles from your car!

> This will be my last Christmas (and my last entry in The Speen & North Dean News) as Chair of the Pre-school, and it has been an honour to lead such a dedicated committee for the last 2 years. The village of Speen is very lucky to have such an amazing Pre-school,

with a committed staff team who provide a friendly and welcoming environment for the children to develop.

Speen Pre-school is open to children aged from 2 to 5 years. We have spaces available during several sessions. To enquire about a place or receive a prospectus please call Pre-school on 01494 488160 during term time or email office@speenpreschool.org.uk





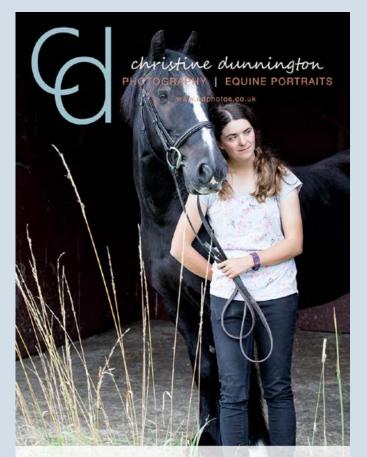


(MCThA) (AoR) NHS Register of Approved Reflexologists Karuna & Reiki Master

Aromatherapy Caci non-surgical face lifting treatments Reflexology Aqua detox Indian head massage Acupressure massage Energy healing

Treatments carried out in home based salon in Bryants Bottom

Call Rowena for more information or a free consultation Tel: 01494 488430 Mob: 07855 848261 rowena.j.templeman@gmail.com



UNIQUE ~ BEAUTIFUL ~ GUARANTEED TO IMPRESS ~ CERTAIN TO DELIGHT ANY HORSE LOVING OWNER





Speen based photographer

Family and pet portraits

Gift vouchers available for Christmas, birthday's or any special occasion

h. 01494 488203 m. 07713 286358 e. info@cdphotos.co.uk w. www.cdphotos.co.uk

SPEEN C of E INFANT SCHOOL & PTA

Becky Khaira & Mei Price, PTA Co-Chairs

Halfway through the first term of the academic year already and an amazing and varied array of activities has occurred for a village school. We are fortunate to enjoy the continual support from active Governors and PTA assisted by village members who are generous with both their time and skills.

Firstly a BIG and heartfelt thank you to the Speen Fete Committee for their very generous donation to the PTA. This was gratefully received and has already helped towards the purchase of waterproof over-trousers and jackets for the children, which will allow them to enjoy outdoor play in wet weather conditions and prove invaluable for future Forest School sessions. Our exciting journey towards establishing our Forest School has begun. Mrs Hayman has completed the first stage of her training and will be working towards becoming an accredited Forest School leader in 2018. The whole school will benefit from this initiative and thanks to the very kind generosity of John and Gloria Holmes we are looking at using a site in Gloria's wood, situated in a dedicated woodland area a short walk away from the school as early as the spring term ... watch this space ... !

The children attended a Harvest Festival at St John's Church where families donated gifts of food and household provisions to Saunderton Lodge. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise ± 210 at a coffee afternoon hosted by the PTA in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. We also supported Children In Need and children attended school in stripes or spots or both in return for a donation.

In October the PTA hosted a well attended Fish and Chip Quiz evening which raised valuable funds for the school whilst villagers and parents put their grey matter to the test.

The new intake of Reception children have settled in very well and parents were welcomed to attend a 'Stay and Play' session to see how well their child has adapted to their new school.

The School was transformed for 'Speen on Sea' theme week and everyone enjoyed a week of diverse learning opportunities based on the seaside, now and in the past. The history of the British seaside holiday and the geographical features of



the coast led to opportunities for art, technology, English and maths. Enthusiastic staff even set up a mock beach with real sand for the children to play in. We look forward to our next themed week 'Healthy Body' in November. The School was fortunate again this year to acquire free tickets for the whole school to attend the Music for Youth prom at the Royal Albert Hall. Children were treated to orchestras, choirs and a steel band. This was followed by a visit to the Natural History Museum for excited children to see the 'Whale' exhibit tying in with the 'Speen on Sea' theme.

Year 1 and 2 children had the opportunity to compete with other local Primary schools in a multi-sport tournament held at Princes Risborough Upper School.

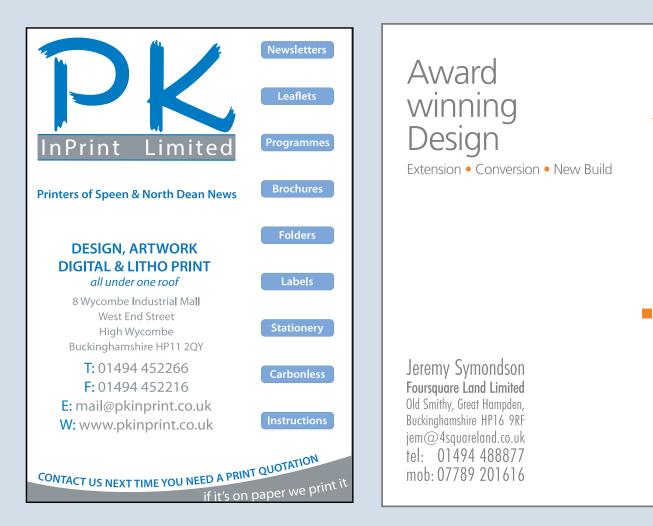
As well as varied in-school activities, we also offer a diverse array of after school activities. Year 1 and 2 children are able to attend sport clubs such as basketball, multi sports (hockey, archery, football, cricket, tennis and tag games) and gymnastics. Children are even offered meditation and relaxation sessions. From November a parent led 'Eco Club' will be available. This is a nature based club with the aim of developing children's love and care for nature and the environment in a fun, hands-on way.

Parents of children for 2018 Reception intake are very welcome to attend our Open Morning on 14th November 9.30 to 11.30 to see the school in action. Please share this news with friends and family to whom this applies. From January 2018, working parents are entitled to 15 hours of free Nursery education and 30 hours free for 4 year olds.

The Christmas Fair will be held on 3rd December 11.30 - 2pm where pre-booked lunches of Christmas themed sandwiches will be served, fabulous raffle prizes will be up for grabs, and children will be treated to a selection of craft stalls such as gingerbread decorating, snow globe and cracker making and even festive pot-pourri. We look forward to sharing this special festive event with as many of you as possible.

If you are hosting a large party over the festive and new year period and lack crockery please consider hiring some of the PTA. Sets are available to loan at a very reasonable price and will benefit the school. Please contact Becky Khaira (489886) or Mei Price (488155).

A date for your diary is the renowned Safari Supper event where diners are treated to dinner with a starter at one of the host houses before moving onto another home for the main course after which everyone heads back to the school for dessert and dancing until late into the night. The next Safari Supper will be held on 3rd March 2018. The Safari Supper is very popular and there are always a high number of interested diners. Hosts are urgently required so if you enjoy cooking and hosting please contact Antonia Winson on 489848 or *antonia.winson@gmail.com*. Diner ticket information will be available after the new year.





SPEEN STORES Your useful little shop

Freshly baked bread daily Sub-Post Office Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Free Range Eggs Homemade Cakes Handmade Greetings Cards

Please visit the village website www.speenbucks.org.uk for opening hours and more information



 $\mathbf{2}\mathbf{04}\mathbf{R}$

A Cut Above is situated in the heart of Speen village with easy parking. A unisex salon with a warm family friendly atmosphere.

Chris Stiles and Cathy Wardle are experienced professionals providing cuts, colour, styling and hair care advice at an affordable prices.

For appointments: Salon 01494 488 899 Chris 07789 115 942 | Cathy 07753 858 611 A Cut Above, Over Speen Stores, Chapel Hill, Speen, HP27 0SL We hope to see you soon!

BEECHDEANDOWN ON THE FARM

Gill Kent

There can have been few years more unpredictable than 2017! After a very mild wet winter, when few air or soil borne pests and diseases can have been killed, summer arrived with a bang at the beginning of April. Good growing conditions followed so gardeners, stock and arable farmers all benefitted. With the help of 5 inches of rain in July, the majority of our maize plants grew to 10 feet high (an all-time record), the cows milked well and the calves put on weight. The down side in the garden was that caterpillars ate most of the greens and the lawns needed mowing twice as often. The rain in early July was most welcome, but by the end of the month when arable farmers should have been harvesting, the ground and the grain were too wet; by the time they had dried, the grain quality was poor.



The farmer unlike most business managers has little control of his outputs. The weather is in charge, and this year it has enabled us to produce a record output of milk. The world market has also been kind in so far as world demand for butter (which is of course made from milk) has increased the price we are paid for a litre of milk by 10p, making milk production profitable once again. We are told that this is due to medical research which now tells us that butter is better for us than margarine and also that McDonalds only use butter in all their products worldwide. The Great Bake Off as butter users must also make a contribution.

Next year we will be looking at another unpredictable -Brexit. Luckily farmers are very used to coping with unusual situations !



SPEENVILLAGE HALL

Bill Groves, Chairman Speen Village Hall Management Committee

After 44 years Don White is handing over the keys to the Village Hall Treasury. Don has been involved with the Village Hall since 1956 including being Chairman, Secretary and finally Treasurer. During this time he has seen many changes - the replacement of the coal stove with electric heaters and the building of a kitchen, toilets, storeroom and porch. During this time Don also served as Speen Parish Councillor from May 1979 until May 2007, being Chairman for some 23 years. We owe Don a deep debt of gratitude for all his hard work which also included saving the Hall from imminent closure in the mid 1970s.

We are very fortunate in finding an excellent volunteer replacement in Jeanne Hanford who has taken over as Treasurer and who also becomes a Trustee of the Village Hall Charity. During half term we carried out work at the Hall including the installation of new meters to accept the new ± 1 and ± 2 coins, putting in a new microwave oven and painting the exterior.

Future events are a Film & Food Night on Friday 10th November when we will be screening Brassed Off with an excellent home cooked supper. Tickets are £12.50 and bring your own drinks. Contact June Pilkington on 488071. This will be followed on Saturday 2nd December by our popular Christmas Fayre so if anyone has suitable unwanted gifts etc. to donate please contact Margaret Groves on 488180.

The Village Hall is available for hire at reduced rates to villagers and village organisations. If you wish to make a booking please call Sue Taylor on 488500



Tree surgery & felling Fencing Hedge cutting, topping & turfing Woodchips & firewood for sale

Free estimates • qualified staff • fully insured

Tel: **01494 562045** Mob: **07798 896380**

D MURRAY ROOFING



Tiling and slating Flat roofing Lead and chimney work

Tel: 01494 565874 Mob: 07828 532714

MANUFACTURERS OF FINE BESPOKE KITCHENS RESTORATION & REPAINTING OF EXISTING KITCHENS



FITTED AND FREE-STANDING FURNITURE

PAINTED KITCHENS NAPHILL

07768 975 323 johneasterling4@gmail.com

NORTH DEAN VILLAGE HALL

Alison Kent

For a village with no pub, no church, no school and only a lowly village hall, we have compensated extremely well! The village hall transforms itself from a tranquil yoga hub to a 'raving(?)' Pub often within a few hours. It's always a pleasure to share our events with everyone - all are welcome, not just North Deaners.

Forthcoming Events

We think, as a committee, we have come up with some novel ideas and are ever hopeful of luring in new village people. Quiz night and Wine Tasting are imminent; the wine tasting offers a wide range of prices and will be able to deliver your orders before Christmas, Colin hosts a very interesting evening where the wine ignoramuses, like me, feel free to ask questions and learn, whilst the 'knowledgeable' can indulge in the wonderful tastes and aromas (and try and win the little quiz).

On the 4th March (seems a long way off) we will host our family Sunday roast – a hugely popular event- what more could you want than walking to and from a roast dinner cooked for you whilst you sit and drink with friends and neighbours?

Also in March we are introducing a new event – a 5K or 10K run (or walk) – around places you are not normally allowed to enter!!! We will try and keep off the roads as much as possible but it will be child friendly, and all back to the hall for tea!

In May we are doing a pub crawl – on bikes and a fancydress theme!!! So, look out for more information.

That brings us into the summer months where we intend to try and retain our Winners' title of the Cricket Cup against Speen and Cocktails on the Hill – again look out for more information on where and when and please feel free to join in.

New Noticeboard

After lots of form filling, we are very excited to say we have a grant towards a new notice board.

Committee Secretary Needed

North Dean Village Hall is run by a voluntary committee; we all have full time jobs and like other local organisations and committees, we do our best as busy people. The committee desperately needs a secretary – volunteers would be most welcome. We have meetings every other month (in the pub) and we need someone to take the minutes and distribute them. If you want to get involved with promotion and marketing, including website material, we would be eternally grateful.

Defibrillator

More form filling (Craig is our chief form-filler) and we are now the proud owners of a defibrillator which is sited on the outside of the village hall.

Having been chairman for over a year now, it is still a pleasure to invest in our village. The committee that work with me are a joy to work with and bring ideas and a lot of hard work (especially to the fete). I would like to thank them for their time and resource and look forward to working with them in the coming year: Craig Watson, Anthony Palmer, Steve Rogers, Jeremy Mudie, Jez Wicks and Linda Bell. Thank you.

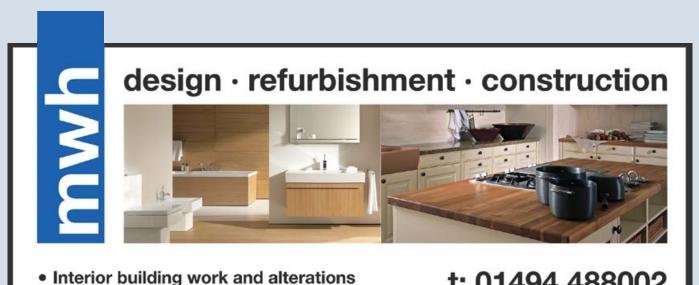
North Dean Village Hall Playground Area

The children's equipment was installed quite some time ago now, after fund raising and commitment by previous village committees. It's been used by many of us at some time or another, whether it was for our kids who have since grown up or grandchildren visiting.

The nanny state of the twenty first century is now policing and carry out regular inspections and are soon to condemn some of the equipment. The committee is faced with making decisions on whether we replace the equipment or find a better use for the area. The legislation will soon require that we supply equipment and access for disabled children. In addition, the council are requesting an email each week to say a representative has signed off the equipment as safe. We do not currently have a volunteer willing to take on this responsibility.

As a small hamlet, we do not have either the monetary or financial resource to meet these requirements. There is a big children's play area being built in Hughenden and there are playgrounds in Hughenden and Speen.

Your comments and feedback are very welcome, if it can help your committee make a decision.



- Bathroom design and installation
- Kitchen design and installation
- Full property renovations
- All work covered by comprehensive insurance and full guarantee

t: 01494 488002 m: 07866 738829

mwh interiors

info@mwhinteriors.co.uk www.mwhinteriors.co.uk Hayton Cottage, Flowers Bottom Lane, Speen, Princes Risborough, HP27 OPZ



WELCOME TO CHAPEL + HALL AT SPEEN CHURCH

It's Thursday and it's breakfast time in Speen. Outside there is a damp autumn mist, but the new chapel hall is already warm and welcoming. There's a hubbub of activity coming from the Chapel Hill Kitchen and already many from the village are sampling the delights on offer and meeting up with friends and family. The lunchtime menu on the table looks inviting, mouth-watering cakes are on display and I can't think of a better place to spend my time as minister of Speen Church! As with any job or role in life, being a minster comes with both advantages and disadvantages, (working most weekends and Christmases counting amongst the disadvantages), but as I sit in such lovely surroundings, with great people, I count myself as very blessed.

I have to add too that I am very proud of the church community in Speen. Project Restoration, funded in a large measure by the members of the church, has beautifully restored the chapel hall and is increasingly becoming an integral part of Speen village. Not only is the Chapel Hill Kitchen providing a place for the community to meet on a Thursday, but also Tiddlers and Toddlers is welcoming parents, grandparents, carers and their children on a Tuesday morning and is proving very popular. We were delighted to host some of the events for Speen Festival and at the beginning of October we held a successful ladies lunch, where a 3 course lunch and a stimulating talk were enjoyed. We are hoping to reinstate our popular men's and ladies' breakfasts in the not too distant future.

Looking forward, Christmas will soon be here. This year come and enjoy carols on Christmas Eve at 6 pm followed by mulled wine and minced pies in the chapel hall. At 10 pm on 24th December there will be a more reflective service with communion and then on Christmas Day we will be celebrating Jesus' birth at 10.30 am.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all the residents of Speen and North Dean a blessed and peaceful Christmas! *Heather McIntyre*



LETTER

Dear Editor

CHAPEL HILL KITCHEN

I visited the new Chapel Hill Kitchen on their opening day, for a coffee and was very impressed with the light airy spacious room. A great place to catch up with friends and chat over coffee or lunch and for those of us with a lot to say maybe both!

Congratulations to all concerned and a big, but gentle, pat on the back to whoever thought of the idea. It is a wonderful asset to the village. Thank you to the friendly, attentive kitchen staff. I will be back.

Margaret Hancox

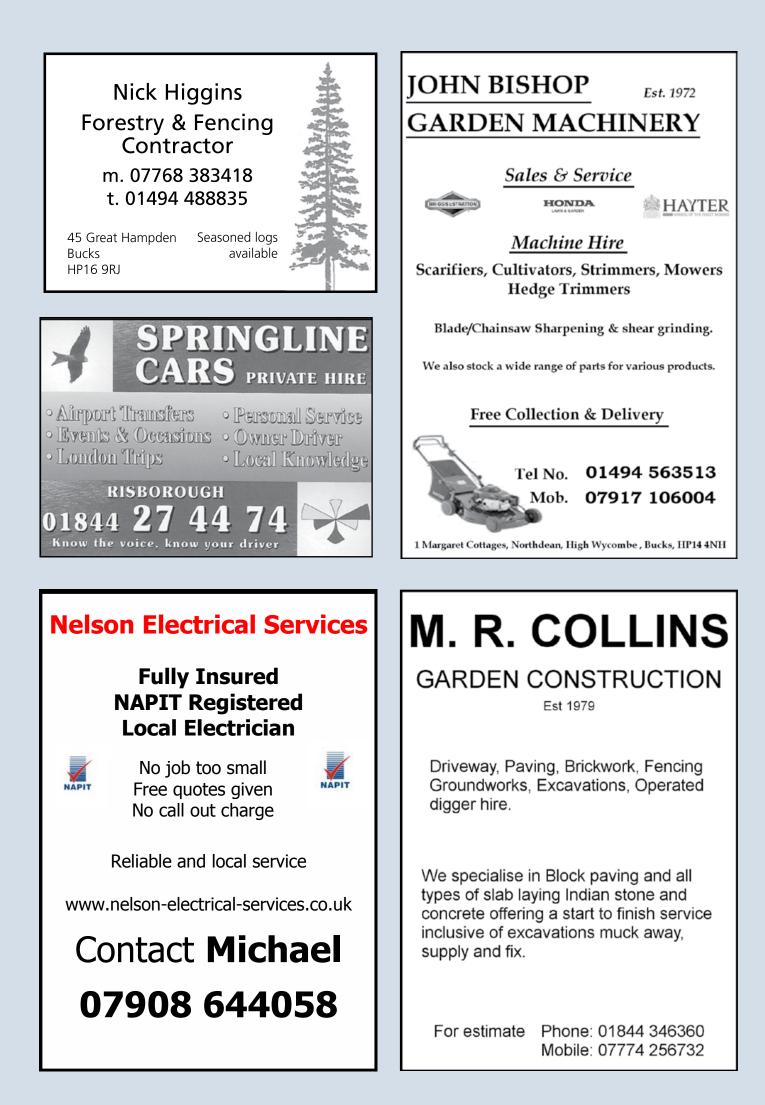
WANTED SPEEN & NORTH DEAN RUNNERS For a community run to help you get fit All ages welcome, any ability.

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER & SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY SPEEN PLAYING FIELDS 9.00AM

Are you a keen runner or someone who would like to run? 5k circuit or less depending on ability.

Come and join us from 8.45am to register Contact Mei Price 488155 for further information

www.speenbucks.org.uk



SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

Ann James

The SHH would like to invite you to join them for their 9th Annual Charity Christmas Market. Take the opportunity to choose unique gifts from the work of exciting local artists and designers, and of course Charity Christmas Cards provided by the 4 local hospices they support. In addition there will be a Silent Auction and Father Christmas will also be joining us.

This is the final event of the year and after the great success of last year at its new venue it will be held again at The Lacey Green Village Hall on Saturday December 9th.

Speen Helping Hospices was founded in 2001 with the aim of raising funds for local hospices. With limited Government Funding the Hospice Charities rely heavily on groups like The SHH to raise funds necessary to care for people with life limiting conditions. To date we have raised an amazing £67,300, and we have high hopes, with your support, of hitting our target of £70,000 by the end of the year.

2017 so far has been a very successful year for the SHH starting with The Spring Lunch back in May in the beautiful Tythe Barn at the Horses Trust, then the Pop-Up Pub Lunch afternoon as part of The Speen Festival in September, followed by The Bridge Afternoon in October at the lovely home of Judy Keen.

The SHH could not do any of this without the continued support from all of you, so please come along to the Christmas Market for what is always a wonderful day. Browse for gifts, enjoy a drink and a bite to eat whilst helping to raise vitally needed Hospice Funds.





Jean Morris

Our recent Annual Meeting, accompanied by a pot luck supper and wine, was very successful with the appointment of a new secretary and treasurer. Members were delighted that June Pilkington agreed to stand for another year as President.

The review of the year showed what an eventful and interesting year we had just completed, but there is also much to look forward to.

In December, there will be a Christmas activities meeting as well as a pre-Christmas meal and a seasonal floristry workshop. Many members will be making and baking for the Village Hall Christmas Fair as well as helping on the day.

The new year will bring a new programme of speakers and events. An Ikebana demonstration, insights into being an immigration officer or a store detective being just some of the topics on offer.

Look for the posters advertising our meetings and if something catches your eye do come along. We welcome all the ladies of the village.

> Tel: 488529 speenwi@gmail.com

ASTON HEARING

01494 733840

01844 396057



Look out for our Hear Today Events Monthly Drop-in Coffee Mornings 1st Tuesday & 1st Friday of every month in Thame and Amersham

Qualified advice - Personal experiences Talks - Refreshments Support for all hearing concerns

> see www.astonhearing.co.uk for details or call 01494 733840 to register your interest and we will keep you informed.

> > All welcome Free of charge





Services available in Amersham & Thame

Hearing Consultations

Latest Hearing Technology

Ear Wax Removal using Micro-suction

Children's Hearing Screening

Ear Protection & Advice

www.astonhearing.co.uk



SPEENvsNORTH DEANCRICKET

Jeremy Mudie, North Dean Captain

On Monday 1 May North Dean entertained Speen in the beautiful surroundings of Bledlow Village Cricket Club to a game of cricket. The format was 30 overs per side with successive pairs of batsmen each receiving 5 overs regardless. Runs scored were added to the base of 200 runs but every wicket cost the team 10 runs.

Speen captain Nic O'Brien won the toss and elected to field. North Dean got off to a solid start through the opening pairing of Toby Eyett Burton and Ollie Nichols in the face of some hostile and accurate opening bowling. Next pair, Clive and Alfie Edwards consolidated the innings and once the opening bowlers were through, things moved ahead at a pace with the arrival of the middle order and some exceptional hitting by Dan Walker, Sam Mudie and Charlie Kent, ably supported by Johnny Nichols, Charlie Edwards and Tom Kent saw the score move towards 280 despite the loss of several wickets. Last pair, captain Jeremy Mudie and Dom Nichols safely took the score past 300 without further loss, which was an added bonus.

After a fabulous tea courtesy of Bledlow Village CC, North Dean took the field to defend what was considered a competitive total of 315 runs. Despite some fine opening bowling, Speen got off to a good start but were pegged back in the middle order due to some excellent bowling, notably amongst the youngsters, who were not at all fazed by the occasion. Special mention to Toby Eyett Burton for an excellent spell of spin bowling and whose mixture of leg-breaks and googlies kept the batsmen (and the wicketkeeper) guessing. Ollie Nichols also deserves mention for an excellent spell. It was a pleasure to captain a team where everyone was eager to play his part. The North Dean ream fielded superbly and held some stunning catches in the deep. Sam Mudie held a couple of beauties but the catch of the day, at a critical stage in the match, was Dom Nichols boundary catch which halted the Speen charge. Special mention here to Alfie Edwards who was hit on the head trying to catch a skier and who wanted to continue in the field before being led off.

With the game in its latter stages the match was still in the balance with the Speen big guns apparently picking off the runs at will, enter Charlie Kent, who took a hat trick in the 28th over to seal the match in North Dean's favour. Many thanks to the umpires for the excellent umpiring and to Jez Wickes for scoring the whole match. Thank you also to Karen Mudie, Craig Watson and Anthony Palmer who between them sourced and cooked the post-match barbeque. Thanks also to all who came to support both teams. It was a fun day and one hopefully to be repeated next season.



SPEENvsNORTH DEANGOLF

Peter Keen

On 12th September 22 locals from Speen and North Dean held their annual golf competition at Princes Risborough Golf Club.

Last year Speen won the trophy, so they were in defence. North Dean were longing to win it back - and they did!

Two other winners on the day were: Longest Drive - Sam Mudie from North Dean Nearest the Pin - Martin Evans from Speen

I'm sure Speen will try and win it back next year on 23rd May at Beaconsfield Golf Club. North Dean will try not to let them win!



SPEENFESTIVAL2017 A FABULOUS FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT

Cat Cook

Because of the success of Festival 2015, sufficient funds were built up to enable us to be generous with the proceeds of Festival 2017. We are very pleased to announce that due to your support we have been able to donate to the following organisations who have either supported the Speen Festival or were associated with a particular event:

Speen Playing Fields Thank you for the field, the lights, the pavilion, the electricity, the gazebos, the mowing, the car parking and supporting a pop-up pub night.....



Thank you to all those who made Speen Festival 2017 happen: the event organisers, event volunteers and the audiences. Particular thanks from Cat goes to those who took on central roles to deliver the Festival:

Tom Dent - Admin and front of house Nick Knight - Treasurer Steve Binder - Chairs & Tables Christopher Boyce and Sue Taylor - Box Office Jacqui Laing - Advertising and Programmes Artwork Nicki Thomas - Festival Website and online Box Office set up Philip Suter - Sponsorship and Advertising Max Brownridge - Tech and Lighting Andrew Price - Festival Bar John Holmes - Car Parking Philippa Lane - Ice Cream sales Amanda Dobbs - Pop-Up Pubs Grainne Suter - Turning Speen into Sherwood and raising funds for SHH



(Deare





COMMUNITY BAR RUN FOR THE COMMUNITY BY THE COMMUNITY

The Robin Hood Bar Festival Pop-Up Pubs were a very enjoyable way for Festival networking and business to get done and we are pleased to announce that Amanda will continue to run monthly pop-ups in the Village Hall. These will happen with the support of and on behalf of various organisations.

Each evening will be hosted by a village organisation, who will then benefit from the proceeds. Amanda will stock the bar, arrange the licence, help advertise the event, set up and take down and serve on the evening. All the organisation needs to do is provide members of their group to help serve, wash up and clear up on the night and of course encourage their group, friends, relatives and villagers to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

23rd November	Speen Fete Charities	
15th December	Christmas Cocktails and bar	
	all Speen Fete Charities	
26th January	Speen Chapel Charity	
23rd February	Local Hospice	
23rd March	Local Charity	
27th April	Local Hospice	
25th May	Local charity	

Please do continue your support and enjoy having a place to socialise with your friends and neighbours.



Reliable, friendly service Based in Upper North Dean

& ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Taps • leaks • drains • loos central heating & controls bathrooms • kitchens water softeners • water tanks, Emergency spares and repairs

Local to Naphill, Walters Ash, Lacey Green, Speen, Hampden, Hughenden & North Dean

Paul Newman Ltd 01494 565573

Registered for electrics and self certification



NORTH DEAN VILLAGE FETE

Alison Kent



How do you follow Paul Hollywood and fast cars??? We couldn't! so we resorted to some good old fashioned low key entertainment, which went down very well according to the MANY emails of thanks received following the Fete.

The theme was around DOGS! We were entertained by the amazing Hearing Dogs whose HQ is right on our doorstep. The dogs and the workers at that institution are so committed and do wonderful jobs; changing the lives of so many people. The display they put on was both entertaining and educational. A Big Thank you to them. We hope many of you will support them as a worthy charity.

After watching such well-behaved and intelligent dogs, we thought it would be fun to test a few village pets! We had 4 or 5 classes including an agility test and most beautiful eyes and the entertainment was brilliant! Of course, the winner of the dog who looked most like its owner was Clive Edwards and Rolo – hard to tell them apart – 2 stunningly good looking dark haired males!!! Thank you all for your entries and a lot of fun.



We had the usual Produce and craft tent with a great number of entries - although there were a few key producers missing this year. Susie Howard and Karen Mudie thank you for your time in the tent and to all the voluntary judges.

The running races and football pitch provided the normal entertainment, the new welly wanging and increased number of 'things to do' all added to a very inclusive day. Sadly our bar and BBQ were not so well supported this year, so our overall fund raising wasn't the success we hoped for. At the end of the day, the fete is for enjoyment.

Thanks as always to Judy Keen for the Tea Rooms – gorgeous homemade cakes and copious amounts of tea – and her team of ladies who help every year - Jill Kent, Jane Vowles and many more.

A particular Thank You to Steve Rogers who shines every year and Jez Wickes who really make the fete happen. Well done guys.

Next Year's Theme: Everything Country

SPEENMACHINE

Tony Bobroff

A Peleton of 14 MAMILS (Middle Aged Men In Lycra) went on their 4th overseas trip / training camp! to Northern Sardinia at the end of September this year. Previous destinations having been Mallorca, Denia and Lucca.

Based in Olbia there were plenty of hills for us to enjoy as well as the local food and drink. "It's not the miles or climbs that are tough, it's the previous night's training!" We have already booked a return trip to Mallorca for 2018.





We believe that every patient should receive only the very best comprehensive eye test using the latest Optomap Retinal Scanning Technology.

We are specialists in:

Contact Lenses including Multifocal contact lenses Beautiful frames, chosen from the London, Paris, Milan and New York Fashion ranges Children's eye tests with a wide selection of Childrens' frames to choose from We are open until 7pm every Wednesday and 3pm on Saturday

We pride ourselves in creating a relaxed caring atmosphere for our patients, so please visit our website or call us for more information

www.chilternopticians.com 01494 868 496

Please present this advert to receive our introductory discount offer of 15% off a complete pair of glasses



K. J. WINDOWS & DOORS

UPVC Windows and Doors Conservatories Fascia and Soffits Bi-Folding Doors Misted and Broken Units Repairs

All work guaranteed

Call Keith on 07539 367200 kjwindows@icloud.com

LETTERS

OBITUARY

Dear Editor

LACEY GREEN/LOOSLEY ROW/SPEEN HAMBYE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

If you are someone who has moved into the area since 2003 you might want to know why one of the Speen village signs says "Twinned with Hambye, France"?



There used to be very active twinning association with Hambye that is located in Normandy fairly close to the sea. Families from Lacey Green Parish would go to Hambye for a weekend event or younger members of the community for several days. The French would then visit our villages in the same way, particularly in the summer months. Hambye Close in Lacey Green was named after its twin across the Channel and of course there are still other signs of the twinning time in Lacey Green Village Hall. In 2003 the final meeting of the committee took place and apparently the bank account closed and any money left in it was split between Lacey Green and Speen village halls.

Approximately a year ago the village sign near the Baptist Chapel in Speen was modified by one of the local community who removed the words "Twinned with Hambye, France". Bucks County Council insisted on replacing the damaged sign, so suggestions were made via Lacey Green Parish Council that the 'twinning' wording be replaced with something along the lines of 'please drive carefully through our village'. However Bucks County Council said that the replacement would have to be on "a like for like" basis and in mid-September a very smart new sign was erected.

A suggestion has been made by a Speen resident that we try and get the twinning association up and running again. There must be so many new people who have moved into the three villages of the Parish in the last fourteen years and maybe some of them might consider contacting the office of the Mayor in Hambye *http:// hambye.fr/* to see if the twinning could be started once again for a new generation of residents from both sides of the channel.

From a personal point of view I know my two sons thoroughly enjoyed going on a twinning trip and staying with a family or two at Hambye.

Philip Suter

The passing of Des Parslow marks the end of a farming era for Speen. The Parslows had farmed from Flowers Bottom Farm for more than a century, providing the village with milk from their dairy herd. Even well into his 80s, Des was a familiar sight in his old Zetor tractor at haymaking time. Like all farmers he kept



a keen eye on the weather and was often more accurate than the Met office!

Des had a passion for horse racing - he produced a number of successful horses, one of which attracted the attention of Princess Anne who dropped into Flowers Bottom Farm during a visit to the Home of Rest for Horses!

Des was also proud of his shooting prowess - and often recounted the story of how he taught Jason Abbott, the local gunsmith, to shoot.

The Parslows were great characters and the fields of Flowers Bottom will hold their memories for many years to come.

Organising a big party? Need some extra crockery? Speen School PTA can help! We have 120 place settings of crockery and cutlery available to hire.

• Salt & Pepper Pots (plain white chip resistant china) Starter Knives & Forks • Table Knives & Forks Dessert Spoons • Serving Spoons

£1.25 per box of 10

Due to storage requirements items cannot be mixed

For more information please contact Becky Khaira (489886) or Mei Price (488155)

Heppelthwaite The Red Van Plumbers



Plumbing and Heating

Boiler Installations and Services Oil | Biomass | Gas

01628 533 550 www.RedVanPlumbers.co.uk

TODDLERS&TIDDLERS

Janis Hearn & Rachael McComish, Playgroup Leaders

Following a busy summer of ferrying toys to-and-fro, we're delighted to be in our new home at Chapel Hall at Speen Church. It's a beautiful space and we're so happy that the timing worked out to join forces with Speen Church and keep our little playgroup going.

Already our numbers have trebled (!) and we seem to be welcoming new faces every week. It's a lovely, relaxed morning (albeit with the odd altercation over wanting to ride on the same buggy / eat the same biscuit) and we welcome our new members for joining us and continuing the happy vibe about the place. The children have enjoyed a great new range of toys (though the train set and trampoline remain firm favourites) and messy play activities with dried pasta, autumnal leaves, porridge oats and cornflakes.

Mostly we're thrilled that Rev. Heather and her wonderful team of volunteers - Janis, Sandy, Jenny and Alison - are so giving with their time and energy to come each week and help set up, make tea, natter and play with the little ones. Thank you ladies - we're all very grateful! So, if you and your little ones are at a loose end on Tuesday mornings, do feel free to come along. It's a wonderful and very relaxed setting where the children have access to play together with a wide range of toys and undertake crafts and messy play, building their confidence, independence and communication skills. We're volunteer-led so all we ask is that you muck in with the tidying/tea making/ snack bringing every now and then, and pop £2 in the tin towards costs. We meet Tuesday mornings (9.30-11.30am) during term time, and hope to see you there.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch at *speennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.com*



NORTH DEANWINE TASTING

Jeremy Mudie

On Friday 25 November 2016, the residents of North Dean and some guests convened in the Village Hall to enjoy an evening tasting fine wines from around the world. The event was hosted by local wine expert Colin Baxter who provided an excellent range of tasting wines.

Colin gave those assembled an initial 15 minute briefing on what to look out for in terms of appearance, flavours, aromas and characteristics and the tasting began. Our taste buds were challenged, as was our knowledge of grape domains, by way of a quiz. An audience of some 30 thirsty residents were treated to a variety of red, white, rose and sparkling wines in 10 separate tastings.

It was noticeable that the spittoons provided at each table remained conspicuously dry for the duration, whilst the cheese and biscuits provided at the halfway stage gave many the sustenance required to see the evening through to its conclusion!

I think those present enjoyed the informative yet informal approach Colin took to introducing each wine and the amusing footnotes that accompanied each tasting. A huge thank you goes to him for not only giving up his time to talk to us but also for providing any wine subsequently ordered at cost. This proved extremely beneficial to the Village Hall as some 20 cases of wine were ordered on the night.

At the end of the evening, nobody could remember who had won the quiz but, as there was no prize, this did not matter. I suspect the winners were sat at the back of the hall where Johnny Nichols seemed to know as much about wine as the expert!







A different kind of care company – providing around the clock care in your own home.

Our live-in care company will help you stay independent whilst being looked after by our brilliant carers in your own home.

We provide care for people in many different situations. For those with a specific health condition or sometimes for people who simply don't feel safe alone anymore and want somebody with them for peace of mind and companionship. We can help whatever your circumstances and have often cared for people who have been surprised that a care home is not the only answer.

We are a local family run business with over 30 years' experience in care. Our ethos is based simply on providing the type of service that we would want for our own loved ones.

Call Trudi to find out more about how live-in care could help you.

Call us today | 01494 917 344 Email | info@ashridgehomecare.co.uk Find us online | www.ashridgehomecare.co.uk



References from completed work are available from Speen and surrounding areas

A ROYAL HONOUR FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

Peter Keen

North Dean resident Peter Keen's company, Hypnos Beds, is the proud recipient of a prestigious award from the Queen.

Last month he was presented with the Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade, which is granted to those who demonstrate the highest levels of excellence within their field.

The company, which was founded in 1904, makes beds for hotels, homes and palaces across the world. The award was presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher at the company's Princes Risborough site. Speaking about the accolade he said "The award is in recognition of their hard work and substantial growth in international business and overseas sales and export activity and it's great to see family-run businesses in Buckinghamshire being recognised in this way.

Peter Keen said "To have been officially presented with this award was a true honour and a remarkable occasion for all the staff at our head office. It is certainly a day which will go down in the business's history and be remembered for years to come. This accolade is widely regarded as one of the most significant honours a business can receive and we're extremely proud of this achievement and all the hard work that's been put in over the last few years. We've come a long way".





CCTVIN SPEEN

Paul Rogerson, Princes Risborough Rural Neighbourhood Action Group

Following the several thefts for homes in Speen earlier this year a 'walk-in' meeting was held in the Village Hall in July with our local neighbourhood police to give feedback on their enquires and to discuss ways of improving village and home security. One suggestion resulting from the meeting, aimed at improving village security, was to investigate the pros and cons of public CCTV.

Since that time other thefts from the village have taken place, suggesting that Speen may be being viewed as a soft target for thieves. Improved security in other places may also be displacing crime to those areas where detection is less likely as, without CCTV evidence, the police may not deploy resources.

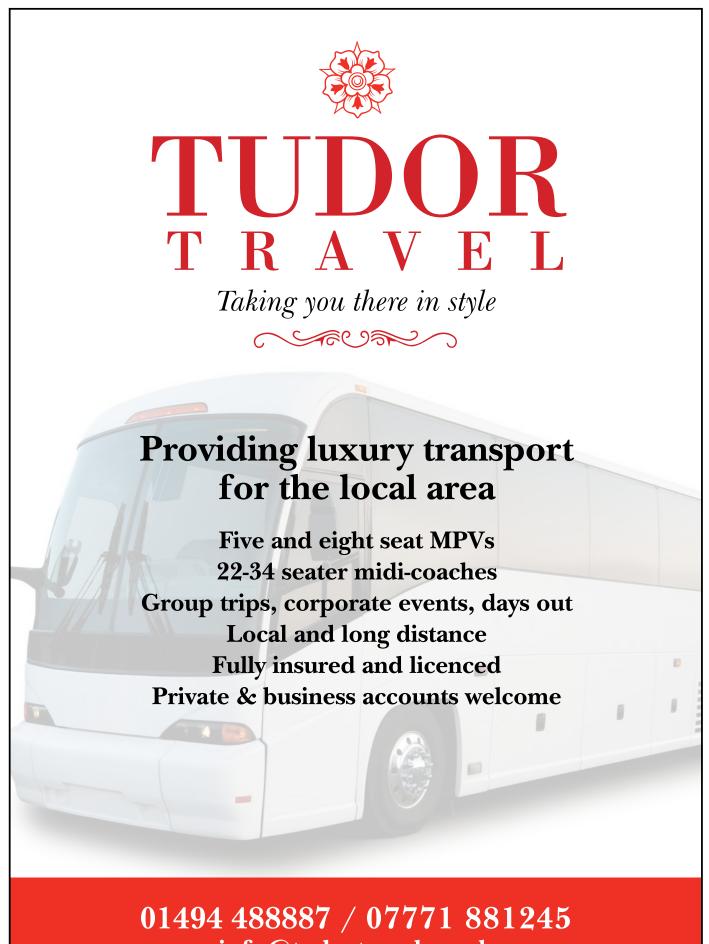
As a follow-up Chinda Virdee, Wycombe District Council's CCTV manager, was invited to the village to give his views of what could be done to improve both detection and village/ home security.

The conversation ranged around:

- CCTV at the entrances to village Home CCTV
- Improved home security by private CCTV and improved locking and lighting
- Greater involvement with a reinvigorated Neighbourhood Watch around the village, this independent of CCTV.

The discussion around Village CCTV also included the need to restrict viewing of CCTV data to the Police. In this way its use is limited to collecting evidence that may be used in detection and prosecution. At the moment we are waiting for more information related to the feasibility of each suggestion and the costs related to installation and maintenance.

When more information is available for the various suggestions these can be put to the village for consideration. However, as the PRRNAG does not have bespoke funding, any scheme will need support, both financial and individual, before anything can happen.



info@tudortravel.co.uk www.tudortravel.co.uk

NOTESFROM THE TOWN HALL

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

Much water has passed through the metaphorical mill since my last notes so here are a few updates.

All the activity regarding the proposed Modernising Local Government reorganisation is on hold. The document produced jointly by the four District Councils in Bucks proposing two Unitary Authorities and the alternative proposal

by Bucks County Council for a single Unitary Authority were independently presented to the Communities and Local Government Secretary, Sajid Javid in January. The promised decision by the end of January then by the end of March did not materialise. Then the surprise election intervened to further delay matters and as we have no decision and do not expect one soon as the Government is busy on other matters, your Council happily carries on with its work as before.

There appears to be a similar outcome to the proposal to move the Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens Ward into the Chesham and Amersham Parliamentary Constituency. That is also on hold. So regarding the proposed reorganisations, we are as before.

However there is a lot of other activity within WDC. The Local Plan for housing development is on track to be delivered to the Government for assessment this year. All four Local Authorities have co-operated to produce a plan that works for Buckinghamshire and an agreement is in place for some of the required housing numbers for WDC to be built in the Aylesbury Vale District. There are no sites specified for development within Speen and North Dean however there is an allowance termed as 'windfall' describing housing to be built on small sites that is anticipated will be built in the villages.

In April there was a mid-term shuffle of cabinet positions and I have now moved on to assume the role of Cabinet Member for Community Services. It is an honour for me to accept this more challenging role working with a



team of 25 people to develop and deliver the strategy for a very diverse portfolio including responsibility for the four leisure centres, open spaces, parks and woodlands, community safety, community wellbeing, tourism, the cemetery, the crematorium, skills and employment support and the new WDC Lotto that was launched a few weeks ago. I recently attended the opening of

the Risborough Springs refurbished wet changing areas, the opening of the brilliant children's play area in Hughenden Park and the moving unveiling of the memorial at All Saints Church to Second Lieutenant Fred Youens, born in Wycombe and one of only two First World War soldiers from Bucks to be awarded the highest military honour of the Victoria Cross.

Under the wellbeing role the WDC team of employees and members are receiving training to enable the Council to qualify as being Dementia Friendly. This is important as there are over 5,000 residents in Bucks with some form of dementia. There will be follow-on work to encourage shops and other retail businesses to make simple investment in time to make it easier for those with dementia to visit their premises. Taxi drivers who are trained will wear the 'Forget Me Not' badge to indicate being dementia friendly too. The Handy Cross Leisure Centre is also working to become dementia friendly.

And finally, for the first time in many years, all three of the local major open spaces, Higginson Park, The Rye and Hughenden Park have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. We are fortunate in having these great open spaces and I am looking for ideas for major events that could be held in our parks, similar in scale to the innovative Pub in the Park food event held in Marlow last May.

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

YOGAIN NORTH DEAN

Three Fridays out of four, Anne Marie Rumball holds an hour and a half of Vinyasa Flow (I hope that terminology is right!) in the village hall. It's a wonderful session and leaves you feeling like a bendy toy. Peter Keen graced us with his presence on one occasion but has now left us to it! Good attempt Peter, and also a good way of pointing out it is not just for ladies. Men very welcome. North Dean residents get a discount so please contact Alison Kent if you require more information.



Call us, or visit our showroom : 01844 27 30 50 10 Woodway, PRINCES RISBOROUGH HP27 ONN

www.IndependentLivingConsultants.co.uk



Creating bespoke websites for a wide range of businesses

Visit www.nickithomas.co.uk to find out more...

Hedgerows, Studridge Lane Speen, Princes Risborough HP27 OSA Tel 01494 488665 Email nickithomas@storecomput.co.uk

PILATES PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Diana Cliffe MCSP HCPC

- Pilates for the relief of Back Pain
- Individual sessions and local small classes
- Rehabilitation after Joint Replacement

 Tel:
 01494 562899 (North Dean)

 Mob:
 07767 096609

 Email:
 physiodiana@gmail.com



WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

Autumn 2017

Autumn is now upon us and the local beech woods are resplendent with a rich range of colours. Under the woodland trees at this time of year fungi flourish bringing new colours to the environment. On the slope behind Speen school there is (for the first time I believe) a large display of Fly Agaric, the iconic red toadstool with white spots. The fungi are found in close association with birch and in acidic soils. Here they are growing under the large Silver Birch.

Flocks of winter migrants are now starting to arrive. An unusual feature this year is a large invasion of Hawfinches from Central Europe. Several hundred have now been recorded at migration watch points in Buckinghamshire so keep a look out for them. In the winter they can turn up at bird tables so please let me know immediately if you see any. Meanwhile many local birds are busy caching food. My own table is busy with blue tits, marsh tits and nuthatches all collecting food to be stored for the winter. This activity has drawn attacks from local Sparrowhawks whose agility is stunning, performing tight high speed turns in pursuit of far smaller prey. Elsewhere in the village large numbers Goldfinches are attracted to George Butler's feeding station in Hampden Road whilst Andy Thomson in Cherry Tree Close was lucky to have three Ring-necked Parakeets visit his feeders on 30th October. (See Andy's photo). These birds remain uncommon visitors to Speen but they are continuing to spread from London and the Thames corridor where they are readily seen. Other interesting birds include a Grey Wagtail around the village for much of October and further sightings of Ravens. Our final brood of 6 young Mallards which hatched on 17th July all left in early September making it about 19 birds successfully fledged out of 47 ducklings hatched in or around the garden this year, which is quite a high percentage.

Elsewhere in the village Jacqui Barre has posted some footage from a remote camera, of natural behaviour of both birds and mammals around her garden and the adjacent land. If you type 'Jabarroo' into a You Tube search you will see some interesting footage of a local Tawny owl with its youngster. There are unusual shots of the Tawny bathing in a stream and also nocturnal footage of badgers, foxes and glisglis. One of our local Tawny Owls was killed on the road near Great Hampden recently. At night they are initially blinded by headlights so if you see one on the road do not assume it will respond to a horn. The wild black rabbits in Woodview Drive continue to survive albeit I understand one of the three youngsters was hit by a car in Hampden Road. A brown rabbit has appeared in our own back garden for the first time. Glisglis are also still present around the village in huge numbers albeit I appreciate they are rarely seen. If you catch any remember it is illegal to release them back into the wild. Roe deer have bred around the village again this year so more sightings are likely as the vegetation dies back.

Frogs and toads have been seen regularly in the garden but my only sighting of a local Grass Snake this year was on 10th August on a pile of logs at the side of our garden pond. These elevated logs get the full sun during the day and they provide an ideal safe spot for the snakes to warm themselves up.

Please let me have any interesting local wildlife records. *Tel:* 01494 488016 • *psymonds590@gmail.com* (*new email*)



Picture by Andy Thomson

SPEEN HERITAGE GROUP Part Two of our essay on Corporal John Rixon, one of the last men of Speen to be killed in WW1

After two years at war, L/Cpl Rixon was granted 10 days Leave. We can imagine the excitement when he arrived at Fir View. Let's hope he had time to sew his Good Conduct badge on his cuff. Back in Speen, the first of its sons to return from the Front, he would have been greeted, congratulated - and questioned and questioned - wherever he went. Everyone wanted to know what the War was really like; few men could bring themselves to describe it. He would also have learned that his school mate, Harry Burrows, had been called-up and, days later, had contracted meningitis and died. John was back with the Battalion by mid-December. The historian says nothing about Christmas Day 1916.

There were big changes in 1917. On 31 Jan 17, John was promoted Corporal, paid. Most men were first made acting-Corporal, unpaid. The 12 men under his command would have noted that he was an exception. On 14 Mar 17 he was detached to the 98th Divisional School for training on the responsibilities of his new rank. On 17 Apr 17, possibly at the end of the course, he was re-numbered - no longer No. 3122; he was now No. 266052. He would have regretted that. His 4-digit number marked him out as an early volunteer; many thousands of conscripted men had 6-digit numbers. When the course ended and he re-joined the Battalion, he found they were in pursuit of the retreating Germans.

The German High Command had learned the lessons of the desperate carnage of 1914 and 1915 and was severely shaken by the - unsustainable - attrition of their well-trained men at Verdun and the Somme in 1916. (German soldiers were exceptionally well-trained. Since 1871, at age 20 every man left home and did 2 years' service with his regional Regiment. This was followed by two weeks of further training every year until he was 45 years old). By 1916, the Fatherland was feeling the constraints of the Royal Navy's blockade; the civilian population, in the cities, was short of food and was growing restless. In great secrecy, the engineers of the Imperial German Army – using 12,000 conscripted German civilians and 50,000, mainly Russian, prisoners of war - built a huge defensive system of trenches, gun emplacements and deep bunkers, in reinforced concrete; the Hindenburg Line. On 19 Mar 1917, whilst John Rixon was on his training course, the Germans shortened their line; they retired from the Somme and carried out a fighting withdrawal to their superbly-designed fortresses. The British and the French advanced cautiously into a wasteland of poisoned wells, wrecked villages, smashed roads and bridges, and everywhere deadly booby traps, land mines, continuous ambushes and ferocious counter-attacks.

The Germans made the Allies pay dearly for every yard of ground - the Battalion's losses mounted. (It had become British practice to keep some men out of an attack, so that a core of experience would always survive. A Battalion notionally comprised 1,000 men. By now only 800 officers and men would be committed to a battle. The Third Battle of Ypres was imminent. There, losses were so predictable and so high that the usual practice was to commit only 676 officers and men.) On the night of 16/17 April, the Battalion Commander Lt Col L L C Reynolds, who had already won the DSO, personally led a night attack on Le Petit Priel Farm and the associated orchard and copse. It seems that he held back some of 'A' company, but he was so short of men that he distributed the rest between the other three companies to make up their numbers.

The attack, using just three companies, started just before midnight, in driving rain. 'D' company met barbed wire and were cut down by heavy fire from machine guns and rifles. All their officers became casualties. 'B' company seized the farm and 'C' company reinforced them. A German counter-attack was driven off and the orchard was cleared of Germans by 4am. The official history records the congratulatory message sent by General Rawlinson, the Army commander but, most unusually, it does not say how many men were lost.

Ten days later, on 26 Apr 1917, Cpl John Rixon was listed as Wounded in Action. The fingers of his right hand were badly damaged and he was sent back to a huge hospital at Rouen. He rejoined his comrades on 24 May 1917. The Battalion carried out another successful night attack on 7/8 Jun 1917 and then, after seven months of continuous fighting in desperate conditions, it was withdrawn from the Front on 3 Jul 1917 for a fortnight of 'strenuous training' in preparation for the Third Battle of Ypres, which is commonly called Passendale.

There is nothing creditable to say about the decision to attack at Passchendaele; about the confusion over the objective; about the selection of the wrong commanderand about the refusal to stop when continuous heavy rain had created a quagmire that defied description. The Battle floundered on from July until November 1917. John's Battalion were lucky to be put in on 16 Aug 1917 and taken out on 16 Sep 1917. In their only attack (St Julien) they lost 9 officers: 2 killed, 7 wounded, and 282 soldiers: 54 killed, 193 wounded, and 35 "missing". The best gloss that the historian could put on this appalling sacrifice was: *Though the result of this engagement was not equal to expectation,*

SPEEN HERITAGE GROUP

the Battalion put up an excellent fight and met with a larger measure of success than fell to the lot of most units.



Passchendale - before and after

John Rixon was again injured. He is recorded as rejoining the Battalion on 9 Sep 1917; the form explaining why he left the Front never reached the Regimental HQ in England. The Battalion Commander, Lt Col L L C Reynolds was awarded a bar to his DSO; 3 officers won the MC; 2 Sgts and 1 Cpl won the DCM; 3 Sgts, 3 Cpls and 2 Ptes won the MM. L/Cpl F G Seward won a bar to his MM and 1 junior officer and 1 Sgt were Mentioned in Despatches – as was Lt Col Reynolds.

Those awards were well deserved - and all that recognition was good for morale - but the stuffing had been knocked out of the Bucks Battalion. They were withdrawn to the rear for 10 days, whilst their losses were made good, and were then employed as part of the Reserve until 14 Oct when they were judged fit to return to the Front; they relieved the Canadians at Vimy. The Battalion then enjoyed what was described as 'a comparatively quiet month' preparing the trenches for the Winter. John Rixon, however, was sent (31 Oct 17) to the 5th Corps Training School for yet another two-week course; by now it was obvious that he was seen as part of the leadership group. He returned to the Battalion on 16 Nov to find it in a state of high excitement. To their delight and amazement, the troops had been told that they were leaving the mud of Flanders - and were off to Italy.

Two special trains carried the Battalion away. At every Italian stop, cheering crowds plied the troops with oranges; figs; chocolate and cigarettes. On 14 Dec 17 the Battalion settled at Santa Croce Bigolino, a charming medieval town beside the River Brenta. Next day, they were joined by the 1st/4th Royal Berkshires; the two regiments, both Territorials, had fought side-by-side at Plug Street, Hébuterne, Pozières and Passchendaele but neither mentions the other in the Regimental history. The Berkshire record says: *Christmas was celebrated with great festivity… It was the happiest Christmas which had been spent overseas*.

A Post Script. We've seen that John Rixon was identified early on as a very good soldier. I've just realised something significant. As you know, the 1/1st Bucks Battalion was a Territorial unit. When John joined up, his Company Commander was a newly-promoted, 36-year old, Captain. Born in High Wycombe and educated at the RGS, in civilian life he was an Oxford-trained Doctor; the junior partner in his father's thriving GP practice in Castle Street.

John would have been promoted to Lance Corporal (and, later, Corporal) on the authority of the Battalion Commander (a Lt Col) who would have relied on the recommendation of John's Company Commander (a Captain) after consultation with the Company Sergeant-Major. By June 1916, Private John Rixon would have been recognised immediately by Lt Col L L C Reynolds, DSO, the new Battalion Commander. In 1914, as Captain Reynolds, he had been John's Company Commander and had supervised his Basic Training. Unless they happened to be patients of his father's Practice, Lt Col Reynolds was unlikely to know any of the conscripts who were now joining his Battalion. But he would know, and would know very well, every one of the volunteers that he had trained at the Depot in 1914; who had moved to France with him in 1915; who had fought under his command for three months in the Trenches at Plug Street - followed by that desperate year in the waist-high mud of the trenches at Hébuterne - and had survived.

It is said that Napoleon, whenever he was asked to promote an Officer he had never met, would ask: Is he lucky? So far, John had been very lucky. Tragically, eight months later, in the beautiful foothills of the Dolomites, even John's luck ran out.

The third installment of this 4-part article will appear in the next issue.

Editor's Choice -

Advertising Feature

ALLIED HEALTHCARE

A s 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 domicilary 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 careers 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.

Care & support in the comfort of your own home

Do you or a relative require care or support to live your life the way you choose? If so, Allied Healthcare can help. We have been offering an excellent dependable service in the Buckinghamshire area for over 27 years.

SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT & PRIVATE CLIENTS WELCOME

Full assessments carried out before care commences. All our staff have extensive training and have enhanced CRB checks. We also offer call monitoring.

The range of services we offer

- Visits (1/4, 1/2, 3/4, HOUR) Waking nights/sitting
- Live in/24HR care
- Assisted bathing
- Holiday cover
- · Light household duties & shopping



For more information or assistance please call 01494 488040 / 01494 488141 Email: highwycombe@alliedhealthcare.com

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.

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DOMESTIC DRAIN SERVICES

Proprietor: Dennis Cook Est. 1979

BIOCONCENSE FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE 1979 BLOCKED DRAINS CLEARED REASONABLE RATES CTV DRAIN SURVEYS CATOR CHARGE FOR EVENING, WEEKEND OR BANK HOLIDAY CALLOUTS FULL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE CALL US DAY CALL US DAY CALL US DAY CALL US DAY CALLOUT SERVICE CALLOUT

07850 635 844 01296 624 221 (MESSAGES)

Coles & Blackwell

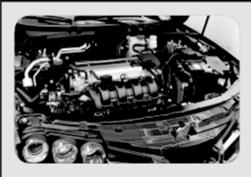
Car Service & Repairs Book online at: www.colesandblackwell.co.uk

Quality car servicing and repairs much closer than you think!

Where are we ? You will find us 300 metres down the small lane opposite the top of Bradenham Wood Lane in Walters Ash, High Wycombe HP14 4UX



TRADING STANDARDS APPROVED



Servicing

Did you know you can get your car serviced by us without invalidating your manufacturers warranty? Legislation passed a few years ago means that you can now choose any garage of your choice to service your vehicle.

Courtesy cars

We have a fleet of new loan cars at your disposal whilst we service your own car or repair bodywork damage. Best of all - they are FREE OF CHARGE! All part of the service you come to expect from Coles & Blackwell

G III	oonaluoning
	mot testing

vehicle servicing and repairs

crash repairs

tyres, clutches & brakes

computerised diagnostics batteries & exhausts

Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:30pm Saturday 8:30 am - 12:30pm

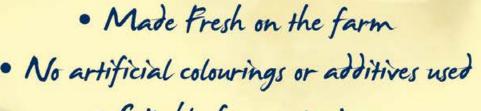
01494 563102

WHO'SWHO

Bucks County Council - Member for Lacey Green	Carl Etholen	01494 564771
Hughenden Parish Council - Chairman	Roger Beavil	01494 715296
Lacey Green Parish Council - Chairman	Cathryn Davies	01844 342800
Lacey Green Parish Council - Councillor for Speen Ward	Roger Craft	01494 488343
North Dean Good Neighbours	Judith Broadley	01494 563178
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings Secretary/Fete	Jez Wicks	01494 563517
North Dean Village Hall - Chair	Alison Kent	ath@bfarms.co.uk
Pigotts 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	Laura Chapman	
Speen Baptist Church	Rev. Heather McIntyre	07517 663792
Speen Fete - Chair	Lesley Thorn-Davis	01494 488851
Speen Helping Hospices - Secretary	Maureen Laing	01494 488397
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	01494 488939
Speen Playing Fields - Chair	Clare Morris	01494 488688
Speen Pre-School Chair	Helen Davies	01494 488847
Speen School - Head	Denise Nayna	01494 488321
Speen School PTA - Co-Chair	Becky Khaira	01494 489886
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
St John's Parish Church	Revd Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Wycombe District Council - Member for Lacey Green& Hampdens	Cllr. Graham Peart	01494 488327



Ice Cream for Every Occasion!



- · Switable for vegetarians
 - Gluten free

Beechdean Dairies, Old House Farm, North Dean, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4NL 01494 563980 | www.beechdean.co.uk



EECHDEAN Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream



💓 @BeechdeanGroup 🦙 🛉 Beechdean Group

Homes of Distinction

1-20

If you are looking for a very special property or have one that would benefit from our award winning marketing then we are ready to act on your behalf.

01844 343131 Princes Risborough Office

01494 711677 Hazlemere Office

