

THE SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*



Spring 2018
Issue 71

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Welcome! to the Spring edition of the Speen & North Dean News, and isn't it good to at last be treated to a bit of sunshine after a long, cold, soggy winter!

Still, there's lots to look forward to as summer approaches - with a great new event in North Dean called Rock The Hill which I'm sure will be hugely well supported by both villages, followed by the legendary Speen Fun Day, an open event at Piggots, and the Midnight in Marrakech Speen Ball - and that's just June!

This year's theme for the Speen Fete in July is the Wild West, and we'll be looking to turn the villages into Dodge City. So head 'em up, move 'em out, don your cowboy hats and let's get decorating!

Jacqui Laing



Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is **due by 10th July** with a planned publication date of the end of July. 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.

With grateful thanks

To Wycombe District Council, Hughenden Valley Parish Council, Speen Stores Charity Committee and all our advertisers for their support of this magazine.



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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 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.

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WHAT'S ON

in Speen & North Dean

MAY

17th May	SHH Spring Lunch	Horse Trust (SOLD OUT)	Grainne Suter 488540
23rd May	Speen vs. North Dean Golf	Beaconsfield Golf Club	Charlie Pearson
23rd May	Charity Quiz Night	The Hampden Arms	Louise Lucas 488255
25th May	Community Pub Night	Speen Village Hall 7pm	Amanda Dobbs 488887

JUNE

7th June	WI - Nursery Rhymes Evening	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
9th June	Jazz Concert - Benny Goodman	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Martin Hart 488528
9th June	Around the World in 80 Minutes	Speen Chapel 7.30pm	Sandy Mitcheson
15th June	Rock the Hill in North Dean	Craig Watson	www.northdean.org/take-action/
16th June	Speen Funday	Speen Playing Field 1pm	Matt Davies 488847
16th June	Village Hall Tea Party	Marquee Speen Playing Field 3pm	Bill Groves 488180
17th June	The Great British Get Together	Piggots Open Afternoon	Jeremy Hamilton 565331
20th June	Charity Quiz Night	The Hampden Arms	Louise Lucas 488255
29th June	Community Pub Night	Speen Village Hall 7pm	Amanda Dobbs 488887
30th June	Midnight in Marrakesh Speen Ball	Marquee, Speen Playing Field	Becky Khaira 489886

JULY

7th July	Speen Wild West Fete	Speen Playing Field 2pm	Lesley Thorn Davies 488851
18th July	Charity Quiz Night	The Hampden Arms	Louise Lucas 488255

AUGUST

18th August	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Field	Alison Kent
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NOVEMBER

3rd November	Speen Bonfire Night	Speen Playing Field	Clare Morris 488553
17th November	SHH Christmas Market	Speen Chapel	Grainne Suter 488540

DECEMBER

1st December	Christmas Fayre	Speen Village Hall	Margaret Groves 488180
7th December	Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols	Speen Playing Field/Village Hall	Clare Morris 488553

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SPEEN PRE-SCHOOL

Jess Walsh, Chair

The Pre-School has had a very busy and wonderful Spring term, albeit a little on the cold side! The Children had a fantastic time celebrating different festivals such as Chinese New Year with craft activities based around the dragon and finding out which zodiac animal they are according to the Chinese calendar, there are a lot of Horses and Sheep at Pre-school! The children have also enjoyed a huge range of activities from junk modelling to getting messy with coloured spaghetti and painting outdoors. Due to the weather it was too cold to visit our Forest School site every week, however they still enjoyed the days they did playing in the mud or snow and learning how to hammer nails into planks of wood being a particular highlight to the children!

The parents, past (thank you Cat Cook and Helen Davies) and present produced a fabulous Easter Egg hunt that was held on the playing fields and hosted by Pre-School. The afternoon was enjoyed by lots of children and their families. We were very lucky to have chosen a day of sunshine and all ages enjoyed the treasure hunt around the village.

The Children had a lovely end of term party with lots of singing and dancing. Afterwards they produced some fabulous singing for all the parents and enjoyed a lunch hosted by the Staff.



It was a very sad end of term as we had to say goodbye to Cass Carter who has been an inspiration to the children and much loved member of staff. She will be missed and we wish her luck for the future.

We are looking forward to the Summer Term and welcoming new children from the village who are starting. We are also jointly hosting the Community ball that is raising funds for 'The next generation'. Keep your eye out for the information and come along for a fantastic evening.

Speen Pre-school is open to children aged 2-5 years. We have spaces available during several sessions. To enquire about a place or receive a prospectus please call Pre-School on 01494 488160.

A BIRTHDAY THANK YOU

Ali Templeman



I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone involved with my surprise 30th birthday party back in January! It was wonderful to see so many people there, I had a fabulous evening and I hope everyone else did too! Organising something on that scale is no easy task and I remain incredibly touched by the time and effort that so many people put in to making it happen.

I've been trying to get round to individually thanking everyone for the cards, presents, kind words, cakes, fizz, flowers, hugs and all donations to the holiday fund! I'm sure you'll appreciate there are an enormous number of people to thank so I am getting there but it's taking a bit of time! I remain completely overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and unfaltering support that you guys have shown. You're amazing, we love you all and we feel incredibly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community. Thanks for everything!

JAZZ AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 9th June

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SPEEN C of E INFANT SCHOOL & PTA

Becky Khaira & Mei Price, PTA Co-Chairs

As I write this I am amazed how quickly time has flown and the children will be starting Summer term. As always, many of the activities cannot take place without the valued support and help from volunteers, members of the local community who listen to the children read each week and parents who run, host and attend many of our village events such as the Safari Supper, Quiz Night and give up their time. A big thank you for all that you do.

Forest School started in February, weekly sessions on the school grounds for all school children. The children have been busy building mouse shelters. They have learnt to tie the overhand knot and enjoyed collecting firewood to make fire and whittling their own sticks to toast marshmallows. They even found a muntjac's bed in the hedge.



At parent-led eco club the children have been busy maintaining their tree journals, making fat balls for birds, building nests, learning about pollination through the dissection of daffodils, and ended the term with a dramatic delivery about plastics and pollution.

The children (and teachers) have thoroughly enjoyed the termly theme weeks which address art, design and technology, music and maths through a fun theme. During India week the children learnt Indian dancing and each wrote their story behind the Hindu festival of Holi. The children prepared chapatti dips and had a tea party. Dolls, children and adults were dressed in traditional costumes and the children acted out a Hindu wedding. The teaching of the geography of India was enhanced by the recall of teacher's personal experiences. During Materials week, the children explored properties of materials. They made slime and observed changes of state by making jelly and scones. They also learned about the properties of the materials used to make the houses from The Three Little Pigs. Next term's Habitats theme week will be initiated with a whole school trip to Kew Gardens.

We hosted the multi school Key Stage One Cross Country tournament on the village playing fields. Year 2 children

participated in Energize, performing at the Wycombe Swan Theatre where they sang varied songs and performed a dance drama depicting the sadness of World War One.

Children are fortunate to have an array of opportunities available to them; language (French), sports (tennis, cheerleading, athletics, street dance, karate), music (recorder and violin) and even meditation and mindfulness. Next term Year 1 and 2 children will begin to learn the country dance programme for the village fete.

The PTA are currently busy planning the Midnight In Marrakech Summer Ball on 30th June at the Speen Playing Fields. For the first time ever, we are hosting alongside Speen PreSchool and Speen Playing Fields to raise funds to support Speen's next generation - new playground equipment and additional funds for both schools. It is funding like this which has enabled Speen CE School to fund theme weeks, forest school clothing and educational trips. Don't miss out on this fun evening - ticket price includes a delicious 3 course meal and a live band! If you enjoyed Safari Supper you will love the Ball. Tickets can be bought individually at £55 each or tables of 10/12 available, please email: speencommunityball@gmail.com.



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SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

Ann James

Hello everyone. We would like to thank everyone that participated in some or all of our fundraising events last year. Without you it would not have been possible for Speen Helping Hospices to recently issue cheques totalling £6,000 from the funds raised in 2017. The money was split evenly between the four hospices supported by the group: Iain Rennie, South Bucks, Florence Nightingale and Helen & Douglas House.

The SHH have already received two amazing 'Thank You' letters, which in reading do make all the hard work put in by the whole team very worthwhile. These letters can be read on our Facebook page :
www.facebook.com/speenhelpinghospices/

To date we have raised £68,325 and with a very busy year ahead of us we have great hopes for 2018!

By the time this article is printed we will have held a new event - a Book Quiz - and the Spring Lunch and our second Pop-Up Pub evening will have also taken place. Both the Book Quiz and the Spring Lunch are sell-outs and we will let you know how they all went in the next issue.

Dates have yet to be decided for more new events - a Car Boot Sale and a possible music event - but already in the calendar is the very successful Bridge Afternoon on Wednesday 10th October, and of course a day not to be missed, The Christmas Market on Saturday 17th November.

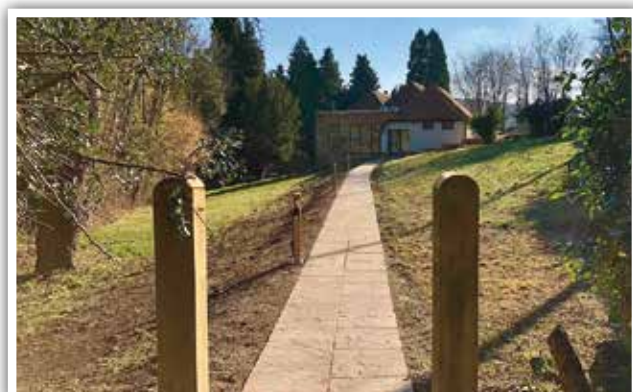
We are delighted to announce that this year's Christmas Market will be brought back into the village and will be held in the very smart new facilities at the Chapel.

Thank you for your support and the 12 of us look forward to seeing all of you at one of our events this year.



As I write this, Spring seems to have finally arrived in Speen after what seems to have been a particularly long winter.

Easter bank holiday weekend was very special for me as I celebrated the marriage of my daughter, as well as the miracle of the first Easter Sunday, and on those occasions and on beautiful spring days like today it isn't difficult to feel joyful.



Here at Speen Church we have had many things to rejoice in and hopefully by now you will have noticed our lovely new path leading to the church, allowing easy access to the chapel hall. We celebrated a wedding here in December (despite several centimetres of snow on the day) and a baptism in February, and we already have a couple more weddings booked in for this summer.

It is encouraging to see the Chapel Hall being used by many in the community. The Chapel Hill Kitchen has been going from strength to strength and I am very grateful to all the volunteers who have been working tirelessly to make it such a huge success. Similarly, the Tiddlers and Toddlers group has been growing and providing a happy and safe environment for children and their parents and carers on a Tuesday morning. The church also recently held an Alpha course which was well received by the participants and our plan is to host the next one in the chapel hall on Tuesday evenings in the autumn. Please do contact me if you are interested in coming.

You are also very welcome to join us at any of our regular activities, which include a Sunday morning service at 10.30am with activities for children and young people, a monthly evening service at 6pm, as well as discussion groups that meet at various times throughout the week.

The chapel is also open between 8am and 9am on Saturdays for quiet prayer. Of course, life isn't always full of joy and both myself and others in the church can be available for a confidential chat if you would find this helpful.

With very best wishes,

Heather McIntyre

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KITCHEN CATCH UP

Kate Vale

What were you doing this time last year? I was dreaming of opening a café in the village.

I tentatively mentioned it to a few people to see their reactions but it was still very much an idea. Eight months into the project and the Chapel Hill Kitchen is beginning to become a real part of the village scene. We host a broad clientele from WI and PTA groups to birthday parties, homeworkers who meet for lunch to weary cyclists. We have an incredible group of volunteers working both behind the scenes and very much in the spotlight. As a not-for-profit café, our profits are able to benefit four great charities; two locally and two internationally. Supporting us means you are supporting Wycombe Homeless Connection, One Can Trust, Agape Alive in India and the Mother and Child Project in South Gonder.

As summer approaches (and we hope it will), we have a great new lunch menu incorporating some delicious healthy salads alongside the regular favourites, like our bacon & brie open sandwich, and the yummy homemade soups. With the beautiful new path that has been built from Chapel Hill into the new Chapel extension, strolling down for breakfast or lunch couldn't be easier.

The Kitchen has just been awarded a level 5 Food Hygiene rating which is a testament to the hard work of all our volunteers. Rest assured, we'll be working hard to keep it. If you'd like to volunteer with us, please do drop by any Thursday, or email us at chapelhillkitchen@outlook.com.

We are happy to take reservations and can cater to most dietary needs, so if you haven't joined us yet here's a small incentive for you. Bring this voucher down and we'll give you a free hot drink with any purchase before 11am.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



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NORTH DEAN ROCK THE HILL

Craig Watson

Anthony Palmer and I are creating a mid-summer, festival type atmosphere in the fields between Speen and North Dean on the evening of 15th June.

Originally from New York City, but now residing in London, Alix Anthony is an energetic blues and rock guitarist with a big voice. He will be accompanied by two other musicians 'to strut their stuff' against the stunning backdrop of the North Dean valley.

Alix, inspired by Jimi Hendrix, BB King and James Brown (whom he once played with), paid Ant and I a visit mid-April to recce the site. Once he got over the smell, Alix was blown away by the beautiful scenery and peace! He aims to break that

peace for this one night exclusive event.

The action will take place in the field you reach if you follow the footpath that runs straight up the hill from the North Dean Village Hall. Alternatively, from Speen, you can head down towards North Dean from the footpath at the end of Water Lane. In the event of bad weather, there is a contingency plan to host the event at the North Dean Village Hall playing fields.

This event is for North Dean and Speen residents, friends and neighbours. The aim of the event is to have an amazing time, but also raise a few bob for the North Dean Memorial Hall.

Tickets need to be purchased in advance at a cost of £20 for adults and £10 for under 18's. This includes live music and paella.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT.

Payment instructions will be available on our new website: www.northdean.org/take-action/ for more details. This event is shaping up to be legendary.

Special thanks to Charlie Kent for letting us use his field for this occasion.

Hope to see you there!

NB Festival dress optional (although compulsory in Jem Symondson's case).

ROCK THE HILL

NORTH DEAN VILLAGE EVENT



**FRIDAY
15th JUNE**

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ALIX ANTHONY & FRIENDS

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SPEEN COMMUNITY BAR

Amanda Dobbs

*Dates for
your diary:*

27th April

25th May

29th June

20th July

28th September

26th October TBC

30th November

21st December

Note - no pub night in August

Where the fun begins ...

Speen Community Bar in the village hall, is the perfect place to meet up with friends and neighbours, meet newcomers to the village or just have a cheap drink within walking distance of your home.

If you would like your organisation to benefit contact Amanda on amandad.speen@btinternet.com for a list of dates. All you have to do is provide staff on the bar throughout the evening, clear up and pack away, and the entire profit from the event goes to your organisation. Amanda will provide all the equipment required, the licence, set up, stock the bar and decorate the hall (different themes are available). To date over £2,000 has been paid to local groups and charities!

★ COMPETITION ★

We need a new
name for the
**SPEEN
COMMUNITY BAR**

★
All entries to
amandad.speen@btinternet.com



Where do you read your copy of The Speen & North Dean News?

Many thanks to Mr & Mrs X of Speen for this wonderful picture. Both avid readers of The Speen & North Dean News, they were so eager to catch up on all the local news hot off the press as soon as it landed on their doorstep that they had a copy each! Perfect bedtime reading.

Where do you read yours?



SPEEDY SPEEN RUNNERS

On Saturday 24th March, four of Speen's super speedy runners, James Dow, Harry Williams, Reuben O'Brien and Anna Dow, represented Buckinghamshire at the National Primary School Cross country championships at Prestwold Hall, Loughborough.

St John's School had an amazing 7 athletes representing the county and 4 of them came from Speen. To qualify, they all came within the top 10 for their age group in Buckinghamshire.

It was a fantastic event and the children rose to the occasion, racing against around 300 other children from 48 different teams across the UK. All four ran brilliantly, and Anna helped secure a silver medal for the Buckinghamshire Year 5 girls team. For those that couldn't make the day it was live streamed across the internet so even grandparents could witness the nail biting finishes!





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NORTH DEAN SUNDAY ROAST

Anthony Palmer

A sell-out Sunday lunch was held again at North Dean Village Hall on Sunday March 4th. 50 people spanning the generations enjoyed roast pork with lots of roast potatoes, vegetables and crackling, followed by Beechdean ice cream.

This is now becoming an annual event and feedback from everyone was that they not only enjoyed the food but also the opportunity to meet and socialise with people from the village.

Roll on the next roast in March next year!!



KORMA IN THE COUNTRY

Alison Holmes



On Friday 26th January, North Dean Village Hall saw yet another 'first' in its history of social events; a Curry Night!

More than 40 people met in the hall and ordered a curry. We dialled through the order and we picked it up from Coco Tamarind. The food was, as usual, amazing and punctual. The company was so good we continued drinking Cobras until midnight and the evening was a great success. We will be doing it again, so watch out for the date.

A big Thank You to Ronny at the Coco Tamarind for helping with logistics and for the discount which we used as a fund raiser!

WINE TASTING

Jeremy Mudie

Given the undoubted success of last year's event, a second wine tasting was arranged and North Dean Village Hall was again the venue for this year's event. Some 35 residents and friends met on Friday evening, 1 December 2017, to sample a range of European wines. Colin Baxter was again the evening's expert host and he presented those gathered with an excellent array of red, white and sparkling wines to taste.

Colin treated guests to a brief and informative background to each wine tasted and at the end of the evening orders were received for 18 cases of wine (trade in the Sancerre was brisk) and all cases were subsequently delivered in time for the Christmas festivities.

For the second year running we are indebted to Colin for not only giving up his time but also for providing the committee with the wine at cost which resulted in the Village Hall making a profit in excess of £500 on the night.

Finally, a big thank you to Linda Bell who co-organised the event and who made sure we were provided with a fine array of cheese and biscuits to see us through the evening's tasting.





SPEENFETE

Lesley Thorn-Davis, Chair, Speen Fete Committee

Yee ha! Speen Fete is in organisational mode again. The Fete Committee have been working hard since Christmas to bring an exciting Fete to the village on Saturday 7th July at 2 pm on the Playing Fields – please note the slight change of date this year.

The theme will be Wild West (if you haven't guessed already...) so, we will be donning our Stetsons and putting on our cowboy/cowgirl outfits for the big day. Come along and ride our Rodeo Bull, drink a beer at the Watering Hole, try your hand at the Shoot Out and search for gold at our panning station!

Our main Charity this year is the Speen Village Hall, who are in desperate need of a new heating system. Whilst profits made from the Fete are distributed amongst many village organisations, each year the Committee choose a main charity to support. So, please do put the date in your diary as this is a large fundraiser for the village as a whole.

Keep your eyes open for more information. There will be competitions for the children, a best dressed house competition, line-dancing, jazz band, Punch & Judy, a Wild West bouncy castle and lots more.

If you wish to become more involved with the Fete we are looking for volunteers to help run the sidestalls. A great way to become involved. Please contact Andrew Price (aaprice@gmail.com).

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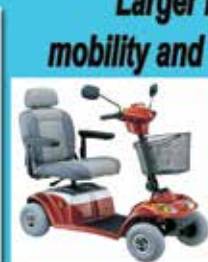
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VILLAGE CLEAN UP

John R. Oliver

In March 2018, Gloria Holmes organised the Speen Litter Collection yet again and I volunteered to undertake the ½ mile stretch of road from the School down the slope to the 'Devil's Elbow' and then as far as the Old Plough. Within this short distance, I amassed 2½ large dustbin-sized bin bags full of rubbish, nearly all from the downhill sides of the road. Anything ejected from vehicles on this stretch remains highly visible on the steep slopes below the road, particularly during autumn and winter.



Some of the Stalwart Litter Collectors who served to the Bitter End

Much of the accumulated weight of my bags was in glass bottles, and most of the volume was in aluminium drink cans. My collection was small compared to the huge pile collected from the local area by many others on the following day.

My heavy load consisted of cans of lager, cider and soft drinks. Assorted beer/wine and spirits glass bottles, perfume, medicine and milk bottles. Three dairies were represented: Cliffords Dairies & Clifford and County Dairies (taken over by Unigate in 1993), Express Dairies (sold to Northern Foods in 1991) and Wren Davis in Great Missenden (started in 1923 with 2 cows named Daisy and Molly and still up and running). Inevitably there was some plastic, aluminium, recyclable food trays containing the ghastly remnants of a partially discarded takeaway meal and chocolate wrappers galore – no wonder obesity rules!

And there were some more interesting items ... four bits of plastic car bumpers, a reflective strip from a cycle brake pedal – perhaps evidence of drivers'/riders' misjudgements on the 'Devil's Elbow'; a broken paint roller; a jemmy – perhaps related to the 'break-in' described below; a broken pair of opera glasses, suggesting that some litter throwers are more refined than we are inclined to believe; similarly an upmarket but broken blue and white Chinese-style teacup.



All this from ½ mile between the School and the Old Plough

The highlight of the morning's work was tugging at some white linen (actually a rotten pillowcase) and finding what was apparently the unwanted discards of a fleeing burglar. The small cache included a wallet containing a driving licence and cash cards but no money, as well as a passport and many small personal and personalised articles. On my return, I duly contacted the

police. Within 30 minutes, I had received a phone call and then a visit from a grateful resident of Loosely Row, who had indeed been burgled in 2017. Since the burglary, he had been able to replace the documents but not the personal items, which he had not expected to see again. One very large, expensive, collectable item was missing. It was clear that the burglar had wished to depersonalise his ill-gotten gains as soon as possible after the robbery, rapidly disposing of any parts of the haul that could enable it to be traced back to its owner.

It can be safely concluded that the most consistent group of discards of rubbish on this particular stretch of road drink cider and lager. They also eat chocolate – perhaps concurrently. I'm told that on other roads, with road users from a different clientele, gin bottles predominated.

Interestingly, this year there was not a single cigarette packet on this ½ mile section; perhaps this reflects the transition to 'vaping'.

Apparently, it has been proposed that adults who toss litter out the windows of vehicles in Chicago should face fines of \$1,500 and the impoundment of their cars or SUVs. Now – that sounds just like the sort of solution needed in a village like Speen!

At least we can conclude that there was no evidence to suggest that the litter throwers were drinkers of Prosecco.





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LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Lacey Green Parish Councillors for Speen – Roger Craft and Philip Suter

Speed Watch - MVAS

You will have noticed recently a black box as you enter Speen via Hampden Road or coming up Chapel Hill, particularly if you are travelling more than 30 MPH.

The Parish Council, together with a grant from the Speen Shop Charities Fund, has bought this Mobile Vehicle Activation Signs (MVAS). It will be used throughout the year in Speen, Lacey Green and Loosley Row.

Shelley Jennings has carried a great deal of work organising Speed Watch and getting together a team of volunteers to try and cut down on people speeding through Speen. Shelley has very kindly taken on the task of being the person who organises the movement of the MVAS when it is in the village and ensuring that the batteries are charged up and we are very grateful to her for all her help.

Councillors Required

We need at least two more Councillors to cover Lacey Green and Loosley Row. Roger Craft and I cover Speen, however if you have friends resident in Lacey Green or Loosley Row who might be interested in helping the local community please can you ask them to contact Frank Post, the Clerk to the Parish Council clerk@laceygreen-pc.org.uk

Bus Shelter & Noticeboard Repair

The Parish Council approved an estimate to carry out repair work to the bus shelter on Hampden Road and the noticeboard on the corner of Water Lane and Chapel Hill last November. Because of the wintry conditions approaching it was agreed that the contractor would carry out the work in the spring. He was contacted in March but he advised us he can no longer carry out the work. The Parish Council is now trying to find an alternative contractor, however if any Speen residents can suggest someone who could undertake the repair work, could you please let me have their details. philip.suter@orange.fr

Noticeboard

If any residents are organising events in the village and want an A4 size notice put up please can you contact myself or Roger Craft and as long as there is space we will be happy to display this for you.



Help improve your health and social care services

Marie-Louise Morley

I've just started working for Healthwatch Bucks, an independent organisation that gives Bucks residents a voice to shape and improve local health and social care services. As I know many of you in Speen and North Dean are proactive members of your communities, keen to learn about services that would benefit everyone, here is a quick overview of what we do and why.

Healthwatch Bucks exists to ensure that local views, concerns and experiences are heard at all levels of health and social care so that they make a positive difference to the way future services are delivered. We do this by listening to what people tell us about their local services. We share this feedback with health and social care providers to help them understand what people think of their services. We also use it to help other residents see what people think.

As part of this work, we produce our own evidence-based reports on services, which include recommendations based on the feedback we receive. We use these reports to influence, inform and, if necessary, challenge decisions of health and social care organisations. Our work has helped improve the non-clinical patient experience of health and social care services from GP practices to care homes. We also have a signposting service where we provide information about access to local health and social care services such as how to find a care home or get a dentist through the NHS.

A core part of my role is to listen to local views, concerns and experiences about health and social care services, so do get in touch. I'd love to hear from you. To find out more, please call 0845 260 6216 or visit our website www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk or sign up for our newsletter.



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SPEENVILLAGE HALL

Bill Groves, Chairman Speen Village Hall Management Committee

The Village Hall is proving a very successful venue for village events. The pop-up pub nights organised by Amanda Dobbs have been immensely popular and dates have now been extended to the end of 2018. Various village organisations have hosted and benefited from these.



We need to raise £5,500 and so far have obtained generous grants of £2,000 from the Speen Shop Charities Fund and £1,500 from Wycombe District Council. Thanks to Roger Craft and Graham Peart for their help in obtaining these grants.

We have also hosted a music night, the WI Birthday Party, The Cycle Club lunch and a Garden Club as well as the regular events, and on Saturday April 21st we organised a very popular Film and Food Night at the Village Hall showing Paddington 2. The proceeds will go towards a new heating system to replace the existing, obsolete and costly system.

The hall is available to villagers at reduced rates for parties or other social occasions. Please call our booking secretary Sue Taylor on 488500 for availability.

The hall has been registered as a charity since 1924 and anybody who would like to help us manage the hall should contact me on 488180.

BEECHDEAN DOWN ON THE FARM

Gill Kent

When will spring arrive? No doubt, by the time you read this article, the crops will be growing well and the sun will be shining! However now it still feels like winter with cold rain pouring down!

We have been farming in the valley for over 50 years and we cannot ever remember a year when all our cattle were still in the barns in April. Fortunately, last summer provided good growing conditions and we still have plenty of silage in our silos; farmers in the west country are not so lucky, they rely on turning their cows out in spring to produce milk from spring grass.

Earlier this year, at the Oxford Farming Conference, Mr Gove, Secretary of State for the Environment signified that the financial support for farmers (without which nearly 50% of farmers would go out of business) will be transferred from payment on an acreage basis to one which rewards care for the environment. This should benefit smaller family farms at the expense of the large estates, which in any case benefit from economies of scale.



However, one must remember that all farmers are in business to produce food and if they can't make a profit then they won't be able to care for the countryside.

Brexit is of course very much on our minds, but is not as worrying for us, as it is for sheep farmers. Whereas we are unlikely to export milk, sheep farmers rely on exports to hold up the price for lamb. We are

concerned about employment as, like the restaurateurs, hoteliers, vegetable growers and the NHS, we rely on immigrants for our labour so we cannot imagine that the Government will cut off workers for these large industries.

Any major changes in demand for vegetable or grain crops can be managed relatively easily, but for the dairy farmer it takes over three years from conception to production for any individual cow. We therefore keep our fingers crossed that there will be no fundamental changes either from Brexit or Mr Gove and we hope that the summer season will be favourable for animals and crops alike!

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SPREENPLAYING FIELDS

Clare Morris, Chair

It has once again been a busy year for Speen Playing Fields/Ridgley's Field and the volunteer Committee of Trustees that manage it. It costs over £6,000 a year to maintain the Playing Fields and Pavilion. Over 25% of our income comes from the Playing Field Draw, managed so well by Cristina Delgado and her team. Thank you to all those who participate. The remaining funds are raised through events such as Bonfire Night, donations and grants.

Not only do the Playing Fields provide ongoing recreational facilities but also a communal space for events that bring the village together. The bi-annual festival is perhaps the epitome of this with both Ridgley's Field and the Playing Field proving invaluable. Hosting not only the centrepiece show but events as diverse as the bike park challenge, a cinema night, dog show and comedy evening. Despite hurricane conditions the festival continued. Special mention goes to all those who were involved in the logistics of the festival, ensuring the safety of attendees and for Greg Cook and his team of marquee uppers and downers. We are very grateful to the Festival team for the very generous donation we received.

The Pre-school is also flourishing with the twice weekly Forest School sessions held on Ridgley's field and the bike/skate park on Ridgeley's Field continues to be popular.

The Fun Day team as always excelled themselves, putting on a SNOT inspired afternoon of games with plenty of healthy competitiveness and raising over £500 in the process. Thanks once again to Matt Davies and his team.

The Village Fete with its Vintage theme was a great success. We were all the more grateful to the Fete Committee for choosing the Playing Fields as their main charity and subsequent presentation of a very large cheque.

Last year's bonfire night was most definitely one to remember with what can only be described as a truly colossal bonfire!!! The castle theme was popular with everyone. Keith Jones and his team put on a fabulous firework display too, with much positive feedback. Turnout was lower than anticipated, however the event still raised over £1,500. Thanks as always to Peter Symonds for his creativity and the rest of the team for their bonfire building skills, not forgetting the food and bar provided by Speen Pre-school.

The closing event, was the lighting of the Christmas tree with the switching on of the new lights kindly donated by the Speen Shop Charity Fund. This year it held a special significance, providing the community with an opportunity to remember Matthew Hitchman whose life was tragically cut short last summer. Donations of over £300 were collected for The Thames & Chiltern Air Ambulance. Thank you to Debbie Tilt and Lesley Thorn-Davies for once again organising and providing delicious mince-pies and mulled wine.

The pop-up pub has continued throughout the year with the Playing Fields running two events, including the popular Christmas pop-up on the 22nd December.

As well as leading all the above events, one of the more critical roles of trustees continues to be the weekly safety inspections of both the Playing Field and Ridgeley's Field. This is combined with emptying the bins on both. These safety checks provide maintenance lists of equipment to repair. These lists are then worked through at the six-monthly work parties, open to all the village to help. Thanks, in particular to Duncan Wilson for co-ordinating the work parties. Please look out for the date for the late Spring work party, partly postponed due to the wet weather.

So, moving on to this year and our plans going forward: Our main project for 2018 is the upgrade of the play equipment on the Playing Field. It has been over a decade since this has been updated. Following consultations in 2017 with local children, three new pieces of equipment have been chosen to replace the damaged slide and add to the existing play equipment. As part of the project several dead and unsafe trees on the playing fields will be removed and the area behind the play area will be reduced in depth and height to allow more light to this corner. The existing bark and sleeper area will be removed and replaced with a new safety surface. We hope to have completed the installation by the school summer holidays and have recently received approval from the council to undertake the tree work. Thanks in particular to John Holmes for pushing this project forward. The cost of this work is just greater than the funds we have, despite all the fund raisers and donations received this year. We are very grateful for a generous grant of £20,000 from Lacey Green Parish Council which will provide a significant contribution. We are hopeful that we will receive further grants and donations throughout the course of this year, so please do support events such as the Community Ball and the Playing Field Draw.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Playing Field Trustees for the generosity of time and skills that they each donate to support the Playing Fields. Special mention must go to Adrian Farley for his sterling work as treasurer and also to Debbie Tilt as secretary. Debbie has been secretary for many years and has now passed the role on to Angela Forkgen. Both Debbie and Lesley Thorn-Davies have stepped down from the committee due to other commitments, but I would like to thank them both for their contribution over many years.

If you would like to contribute to the Playing Fields Upgrade project or would like to support the Playing Fields/Ridgley's Field in anyway, please do get in touch.

Clare.morris@mac.com/488553



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WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

Winter/Spring 2018

My previous article mentioned the winter invasion of Hawfinches from Central Europe where their food supply had failed. A flock of some 30-40 birds initially settled in Great Hampden feeding on Hornbeam seeds in a copse beyond the church. Hundreds of birdwatchers travelled to see them during November. The flock then moved to Little Missenden feeding in Yew trees around the church again attracting lots of interest.

Previous reports have also mentioned Ring Necked Parakeets in the village. Both Ros Darnton and Andy Thomson had visits to their feeding stations before Christmas and a single bird visited our own garden for some four hours on 16th March making an interesting new record.



The heart of the village has done well for winter birds. George Butler reported a dozen Siskins, a male Blackcap and lots of Goldfinches in December, whilst Ashley Cooper had half a dozen Lesser Redpolls at his feeders and Christine Holgate reported a regular Fieldfare in her cottage garden. Jo Wengler found the Fieldfare were partial to blueberries she provided in their garden. Chris Caris reported a successful attack on a Collared Dove by a female Sparrowhawk almost on his front door step. Several villagers reported bullfinches.

In North Dean during January the open fields were filled with some 250 Common Gulls and 150 Jackdaws and Crows searching for food. Various rounds of cold weather drove more birds into local gardens. George Butler reported some 20 Redpolls at his feeders. In our garden the winter visitors arrived late with some 20 Siskin on 12th March with a few Redpolls and just a single Brambling on March 28th. Local Red Kites were seen to swoop to take cake off our bird table that was intended for smaller birds. The very heavy snow that we saw over the winter damaged a lot of trees but also severely damaged a lot of woodland undergrowth that the local deer rely on for cover. Small groups of Roe deer have been apparent in both North Dean and Speen over the past few weeks. Muntjac deer roam both the local woods and also village gardens. One female that was limping had resided in various gardens at the heart of the village for many months last year defying some three attempts by Tiggywinkles to capture it. The frightened animal was injured by a loose dog in Hampden Road last November so I called Tiggywinkles again. The animal was quite fast despite its injury and dodged from one back garden to another defying capture. After three failed attempts the animal ran through in to Cottage Farm Way but I managed to rugby tackle it before it reached the wider spaces of Chapel Hill. She was taken away to have her injuries treated at Haddenham.

The village pond in Studridge Lane was the subject of extensive clearing work last year and the local frogs certainly seem to appreciate our efforts. Nicki Thomas reported a "breeding frenzy" on 11th March. This sunny pond is one of the earliest in the village to witness mating. Frogs subsequently returned to various garden ponds and in early April we also had toads breeding in our garden pond. However we also have three pairs of Mallard currently nesting in and around the garden and these are likely to decimate the tadpoles assuming they survive. Other interesting records include seven Buzzards over College Plantation on 10th April, up to 8 Jays seen together and occasional Ravens flying over

Finally an unusual record from the wider area was a report of a female Otter killed on the A413 near the Misbourne somewhere towards Amersham. This is a small sign of the increasing recovery and spread of Otters generally.

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

SPEEN HERITAGE GROUP

The final part of this essay by Clive Rainbow on Corporal John Rixon, the last of the men from Speen to be killed during WW1

On 15 Jun, whilst John Rixon was on his third training course, the Austrians and Germans launched a massive attack across the Asiago Plateau.

Two British Divisions were deployed on the Asiago Plateau; they were attacked by four Divisions of Germans and Austrians. At 3am a barrage of poison gas and high explosives fell on the artillery positions and the command and communication areas at the rear and continued for about three hours. It then shifted to the front line and slowly rolled forward. Behind it came teams of Stormtroopers armed with flamethrowers. The section of the front held by the Bucks Battalion was thickly covered with pine trees and rocky outcrops. The main attack therefore concentrated on a more open stretch of ground held by the 1st/4th Oxforas and the 1st/5th Gloucesters; the Berkshires, who were their Reserves, raced up to support them.

By 8am, the Austrians had broken through *in considerable force, gaining complete possession of the front line*. The British smothered No Man's Land with an immense barrage – as the Germans had done on the first day of the Somme – so that no supplies or reinforcements could cross. Fierce fighting went on all day. At 6.30pm, the British launched a well-coordinated counter attack. At that point, the Bucks historian says: *the enemy was convinced that he was firmly contained and that his attack had failed*. At 4.30 am the following day, the British attacked in full force. All the lost ground was recovered; hundreds of Austrians and Germans surrendered. How was that possible ?

The Austrians attacked on 15 Jun. Their timing could not have been worse; the British were about to attack on 16 Jun. Extra guns and huge stocks of shells had been brought up; the Reserves had come up from the Plains; every Battalion was at full strength, and ready for battle.

At the end of June 1918, both Battalions were withdrawn to 'rest billets' on the Plains. It was exceedingly hot so all training was done in the early hours of the morning. They were also struck down by a mild form of the influenza that was about to mutate into a much more deadly version and devastate the World over the next two years. By late July, back at Granezza camp, they found that the French and the British were making frequent 'Raids' in Battalion strength - and they had been detailed to carry one out during the night of 26/27 Aug. The Bucks Battalion would go in between Ave and Sec; the Berkshires would attack from their right.

Raids were not intended to seize ground. Ideally, raids would capture prisoners or enemy documents that could reveal whether an attack was imminent – or not, which was equally important – and give an indication of enemy morale. In any event, they provided practice in coordinating troops and artillery action (against the day when a full-scale attack would be wanted) and, according to the prevailing military doctrine, these raids strengthened the troops' aggressive spirit but damaged that of the enemy.

At 9 pm the men filed out into the darkness of No Man's Land and crept towards the Austrian positions; by 10.30 they were within striking distance. At 10.40 eight 18-pounders put down a barrage of high explosives on the enemy front line. During the next 32 minutes, the British edged as close as they could to the Austrian barbed wire and, when the barrage lifted, they charged with bayonets fixed. The shelling, which now included 4.5" and 6" howitzers, began to hit specified targets at the rear and then put a box of fire around the SE corner of Asiago where the two battalions were to join forces. Shortly after midnight, all the objectives had been met. The infantry withdrew under the protective fire of the artillery, bringing back over 300 prisoners and many machine guns. The operation was a huge success. Apart from those from the C-in-C and the Division and Brigade commanders, congratulations poured in from other units in the Division. The Bucks historian said: *The Battalion was full of praise for the excellence of the barrage which had enabled them to score a great success at a comparatively small cost in casualties*.

The comparatively small cost was listed as 6 officers wounded; 4 soldiers killed; 5 "missing" and 75 wounded. One of the missing was later recorded as wounded but in the hands of the Austrian medics. The historian says: *The wire in front of the enemy position was a distinct obstacle, and the leading platoons suffered many casualties whilst getting through. The front line (that is, beyond the barbed wire) was fairly strongly held, and the enemy put up a good fight with rifle fire, grenades, and machine-gun fire, but as soon as the leading platoons got in with the bayonet they mostly surrendered*.

Three platoons from "A" Company had been tasked with taking the front line trenches and the 25 year old, confident, experienced, Corporal John Rixon had led one of them. His body was identified. The bodies of 4 others were so badly damaged that no one could tell who they were. From their shoulder straps, it was only clear that they were soldiers – not officers – and were from the Bucks Battalion; they were buried with John in the British cemetery at Magnaboschi.

SPEEN HERITAGE GROUP

Clive Rainbow

Later, it was established that they must have been Corporal Moon and Privates Hollyoake, Jones and Warburton but, in the days before DNA analysis, it was impossible to tell who was in which grave. The War Graves Commission re-buried them, side-by-side, and erected an explanatory memorial stone.

Eli and Rose paid 13/5d to add a 3-line inscription to their son's gravestone. You told me that the family attended Chapel three times on Sundays; they certainly knew their Old Testament very well. They chose a very unusual, but entirely appropriate, quotation:

'He will swallow up death in Victory ISA XXV VIII'

Isiah Chapter 25 verse 8 continues: *'and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces'.*



SPEEN WI

Jean Morris

The new year began with an introduction to line dancing which proved to be great fun, if taxing on the powers of concentration. The following month, Ruriko Kojima gave a wonderful demonstration of Ikebana including its cultural history.



We now look forward to our next meetings where we will be discussing the issue of mental health awareness, finding out about the secret history of Nursery Rhymes and discovering if we were all once water babies. A visit is planned on the Chinnor Steam Railway as well as a coffee morning and an afternoon Garden Party in the village.

The Buckinghamshire Federation Annual Meeting will be held in Aylesbury with over 600 members attending from all parts of the County. As well as hearing about WI matters we shall also be treated to talks by television gardener

Christine Walkden and Marine Biologist Natalie Welden. This latter to support the WI campaign which aims to raise awareness of the problem of plastic microfibres in our oceans. Since our mandate last summer this topic has certainly hit the news headlines.



As usual our Birthday Party proved to be a very successful evening as we entertained friends from neighbouring WIs to celebrate 58 years of the Evening WI in Speen.

We shall be manning the Tea Tent at the Fete as usual and if there are brave people out there who would be prepared to help on the day we would love to hear from you. Many hands... and all that.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings, so if anything appeals to you come and join us and give WI a try.

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OBITUARIES



David King

David died suddenly on the 16th February 2018, and although he had been ill his death was a shock to us all and the gap he leaves in our family and the wider community is so very clear from the cards, and prayers we have received.

David was born in High Wycombe living and going to school locally, and attending Cryers Hill Chapel with a close group of friends who supported their local communities, it was for David just the natural and right thing to do. And with them he first visited Speen Chapel where he met Jacqueline. They married in 1967 living in Princes Risborough but Speen is home. David worked tirelessly for local organisations, whether it be presenting fancy dress prizes, setting up raffles, driving round the county putting up fete posters, charity collections for Sunny Smiles or the Tearfund or appearing in the Millennium pageant or turning out on cold wet nights to engage in the committees needed to get things done, David would do it.

David and Jacqueline ran the Youth Praise Fellowship at the Chapel and when they needed some funds for trips and activities the young people came up with the idea of a few stalls and events which led to building fire engines and burning hay bales on the playing field in a fairly hard core version of "It's a Knockout" and in time to the reestablishment of the Village Fete.

David then became Fete Chairman, compere and ultimately Fete President, each year thereafter organising, cajoling, running, and planning events.

Inviting celebrities to open the fete from Ms Bucks, to David Tomlinson and aerobatic display teams and of course entertaining the village in his own way. Who can forget the Silver Jubilee Fete in 1975 or the Royal Wedding Fete in 1981, special community events unlike any others.

His contribution to the village, was enthusiastic and unique, when the Village Hall needed funds the obvious plan was to start a Village Quiz, at which the chairman was always right! His picture and music rounds were legendary and often obscure. But whether it was WI carol singing, Horticultural society trips, the Chapel, Scout Hut fundraising or the Fete, his own style, energy and ability to just get things done was evident!

As Speen Chapel secretary, David with a small group of other local Deacons kept the place independent and the fact it is still here is very much a testament to him and them. He preached almost every Sunday morning for over 20 years, providing support to all who needed it in good times and bad. He introduced the candle light carol service and Flower Festival.

David loved local history, the development of religious and political freedoms and how this local area had played a part, with this was intertwined a love of stream railways, which made any drive out a history lesson, and political debate but oddly always ended with a steam train!

David always had time for people and a view to express, firm when needed, level headed, passionate. A man of personal strength, faith, integrity and infinite love, for this place, for his community, but above all his family. And where will the Fete be without the sounds of Tijuana brass floating across the village! Life will not be the same again.

Jacqueline, Nicola & Richard



Tony Molesworth

Tony passed away peacefully in early April. Although not a resident of Speen, he was the longest serving councillor on the present Council, having been co-opted onto the Council in September 1994.

In 2003 working with a few others, he organised support to re-open the Post Office In Lacey Green, start a local Youth Club, organise a Welcome Pack for new residents and set up the Community Village Shop at Lacey Green Village Hall and was a regular member of staff there.

He was also involved with the Twinning Association For Speen, Lacey Green and Speen with Hambye in France, until it was closed in 2003. His involvement with Lacey Green Parish Council will be greatly missed.

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.

All of the Care workers are trained to the highest standard as required by our regulators, CQC and our stringent internal audit team. Many of our workers have training and expertise in specialist areas but if we needed to we would provide training to meet a specific need of a client.

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

Work for Allied Healthcare

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

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All about you

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.



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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	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	Jess Walsh	07801 145223
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

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A photograph of a garden path leading through a large archway covered in climbing roses with red and white flowers. The path is made of light-colored gravel and is bordered by a low, neatly trimmed green hedge on the left. In the background, a white building is visible through the foliage.

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