



Autumn 2019
Issue 76

THE SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*





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Welcome!

to the Autumn edition of
The Speen & North Dean News.

I'm sure we'd all like to thank Cat Cook and her wonderful Festival Team for giving up their valuable time to create yet another fabulous fortnight of creativity, flair and fun for us all. A true village collaboration of talent. A souvenir selection of photos can be found in the centre pages.

With the Festive Season looming, don't miss the opportunity to get a head start on some shopping at the lovely Speen Helping Hospices' Christmas Market at the Chapel on Saturday 16th November, and help raise much needed funds for local hospices.

There are more interesting features from the newly formed Speen Environmental Action Group on page 22. Do contact them if you are interested in getting involved in any of their local projects.

The Speen & North Dean News is mainly funded through the loyal support of our advertisers, for which we are very grateful. If you ever use any of their services, please do remember to tell them you saw their advert here!

Warmest wishes for the festive season, and do keep sending in your articles and pictures - we couldn't do it without you!

Jacqui Laing

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Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is **due by 10th March** with a planned publication date of early April. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (downloaded from the SNDN website www.speenbucks.org.uk) if any photos are of children. Please send to **editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk**.

With grateful thanks

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



Welcome Packs

The Good Neighbours scheme was set up many years ago and is now run by Pat Richardson in Speen. The service is to provide new Speen residents with a Welcome Pack of village information, so if you know of anyone new to the area please call Pat Richardson on 01494 488627.

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

NOVEMBER

10th November	Service of Remembrance	Speen Chapel	James Entwisle 488875
16th November	SHH Christmas Market	Speen Chapel 11am-4pm	Grainne Suter 488540
24th November	Saunders String Quartet	Pigotts 5.48pm	Jeremy Hamilton 07834 224589
26th November	Speen School Open Morning	Speen School 9.30am	School Office 488321
29th November	Words, Music & Comedy	Speen Village Hall	Adrian Farley 488749

DECEMBER

5th December	WI Goodies for Christmas	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
6th December	Speen Xmas Tree/Carols	Speen Playing Field	Clare Morris 488553
7th December	Speen Christmas Fayre	Speen Village Hall	Margaret Groves 488180
14th December	SHH Carol Singing	Outside Speen Stores 9am	Christopher Boyce 488168
21st December	SHH Carol Singing	Outside Speen Stores 9am	Christopher Boyce 488168
21st December	Christmas Carols, Britten	Pigotts 5.48pm	Jeremy Hamilton 07834 224589

JANUARY

9th January	60th Anniversary Meeting	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
26th January	Atkinson Trio	Pigotts 5.48pm	Jeremy Hamilton 07834 224589

FEBRUARY

6th February	Looking Forward & Love the Environment Craftwork	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
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MARCH

5th March	A Taste of Yorkshire - Food and Traditions, Peter Hague	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
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SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

Grainne Suter

Retro Night

What a night this was! Speen certainly partied at the Seventies Retro Party Night that opened Speen Festival 2019. We had bingo caller extraordinaire Sam Laughton to start the evening off and the "Babycham, Black Tower and Blue Nun" prizes brought back old, if not fond, memories! Our resident DJ Paul Rogerson excelled himself, the music was fantastic and the dance floor was wild all evening, and I mean wild.

However, all was surpassed by the stunning seventies attire as the pictures below will attest. There were minis and maxis, hippies, flares and flower power. Everyone strutted their stuff and all the dance moves of the seventies came alive on stage. Videos available at a price! A very big thank you to Max Brownridge and his team for creating a spectacular lighting display, the smoke machine adding to the atmosphere. We raised lots of money and thank you all for that.



Bridge Afternoon

If it's October it's the Bridge Tea at the Keen barn in North Dean. Once again a Ritz Hotel-style afternoon tea with cucumber sandwiches, dainty scones, meringues and eclairs was prepared and served by the SHH committee. The card players left very satisfied, good bridge and quality food. Should you wish to get involved next year please let Sally Codling know on 01494 488506.

Christmas Market

Now we are really looking forward to the Christmas Market on Saturday 16th November from 11.00 to 4.00pm at the Chapel. This will be an ideal opportunity to get your Christmas shopping sorted, from doggy presents to exclusive chocolates, wines, jewellery, wood craft and so much more. But most importantly the children can come to Santa's Grotto. The Grotto is going to be even better than last year, and that was pretty cool! Your children will love it. We will have the famous Judy Keen sausage rolls on sale again, along with bacon rolls, bucks fizz and mulled wine. So come along bring your family and friends, shop till you drop and help us raise lots of money at what is our biggest fundraising initiative of the year.

Carol Singing

Our final fundraiser this year will reinstate an old tradition of carol singing in the village. Two sessions outside the shop on the 14th and 21st December from 9.15am onwards, organised in a very professional manner by Christopher Boyce. Also a more informal approach - door to door early evening carol singing during the last ten days before Christmas. Please do contact me on 488540 if you would like to get involved. Please, please have some cash ready when you hear us singing, even if it's only to get rid of us!

The hospices we support include Helen House for Children, Rennie Groves, South Bucks Hospice at Home and Florence Nightingale. All the hospices need our financial support more than ever, to date this year we have raised over £6,000. We hope, with your help, to raise over £8,000 before the end of the year.



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SPEEN C of E INFANT SCHOOL & PTA

Cat Cook, PTA Chair



With a new school term underway, it is fabulous to have a new cohort of pre-schoolers (or Little Apples) join the school, as well as the school starters in Reception class.

With Speen Festival in full swing at the start of term, the children enjoyed

part 2 of Speen School Fest at St John's School, Lacey Green. Along with Year 2 and 3 of St John's - their 'old' friends who had just moved up - they were able to enjoy a day of singing in the new Music Pavilion, which the Festival had helped to fund back in 2017. The Speen cohort then reprised their songs at the final Festival event, the Celebration On The Field, enthusiastically supported by Executive Head, Mrs Jacqui Coles.

The children have also enjoyed a theme week on the 'Seaside' and made their Christmas cards, whilst the PTA



are holding their first social event of the year on Saturday 9th November - anyone for Bingo? We are also very lucky to have the continued support of our volunteer readers who come to listen to the children read every week - just one of the many ways the

children connect with our community. It's our Christmas Fair on 30th November with lots of activity and craft stalls for children to enjoy. Plus rehearsals for our Christmas play will soon start in earnest, you are welcome to come and watch on Thursday 12th December!

We hope this year to replace the old pirate ship in the playground and expand the Little Apples Pre-school play area, so that will be our fundraising focus for this year.

'til next time, Cat

SPEEN FETE CHEQUE PRESENTATION

Lesley Thorn-Davis, Chair of Speen Fete Committee

Thank you to Speen Festival for allowing us to carry out our cheque presentation at the Festival Wrap Party. It was a great evening, supported by many.

This year, as you probably know, the main charity to benefit from Fete profits was Speen Playing Fields who are using the money towards refurbishment of the pavilion toilets. I am pleased to report that the sum of £1,260.00 was handed over on the night.



In addition, we were able to give the sum of £260 each to Speen WI, Speen Chapel, Speen Tennis Club, Speen Church of England School, Speen Guides and The Speen & North Dean News magazine. A further sum of £100 was awarded to Speen Heritage Group.

Many organisations benefitted from your generosity. Thank you for your continued support of Speen Village Fete.



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SPEEN CHURCH

Alastair Blundell

Our search for a new Pastor continues but in the meantime life at the Church continues to thrive and we have been blessed to receive a host of visiting ministers to explore the Bible and unpack its wonderful truths. We were fortunate to play a central role in



There were some wonderful hand-made crafts and preserves on sale and the Church would like to thank the many villagers who took the time to make such individual gifts.

As mentioned, in a time of Interregnum

the Speen Festival, hosting three events and leading a closing service on the Playing Field to give thanks for the Festival. At the service we were joined by Jacquie Coles and some of the children from Speen School who taught us how to sing in tune and make the point that 'church' can happen anywhere – it is not the preserve of old buildings! We reflected on some of the key themes of the Festival, including caring for God's environment, looking after the marginalised in the local tradition explored by David and Ann Worlock at their fascinating talk, and the issues raised by the stars who answered 'Questions worth asking' in such an inspiring and often stoic way.



we can welcome people who give a fresh perspective and no one did this more powerfully than Rachel Dawson from the Christian charity 'Transforming Lives for Good' (TLG.) TLG works with children who have been excluded from school often against the backdrop of a broken home and financial hardship. TLG also provides hot lunches to children during the school holidays, ensuring that the vital benefit of free school meals can continue uninterrupted. The deeply moving case studies presented by Rachel did indeed show how the lives of young people can be transformed irrevocably for the better. You can find out more by visiting www.tlg.org.uk.

Villagers and friends met at the Church in October to discuss and sample the merits of beer and sausages thanks to the good offices of The Chiltern Brewery. The Brewery is about to enter its 40th year of brewing great beer and throughout that time the business has been guided by a deeply Christian mission of 'Giving God the Glory.'

The Toddler group continues to grow and over 20 parents and children now meet every Tuesday morning at church. Links with Speen School and Preschool are strong, with the children visiting the church and exhibiting some of their wonderful work to illustrate their love for Jesus and God's Creation. If you visit the School, please have a look at the new banners which speak to the faith that underpins the awesome teaching that the children receive.

Looking forward, we have Remembrance Sunday on 10th November when we will gather at the Lych Gate to remember those who laid down their lives for us in military conflict. Before we know it we shall be looking forward to the biggest birthday in world history and I can promise you some wonderful goings-on at Speen church for the Christmas period. Stay tuned at www.speenchurch.org.uk.

We work hard to bring meaning to our vision to make the church a place 'where community meets' and no one works harder than Kate Vale and her fabulous team of volunteers at Chapel Hill Kitchen which opens every Thursday. I am pleased to announce that the total amount of profits made from the café since it opened are fast approaching a staggering £20,000 and that is thanks to the loyal custom of so many villagers. The profits continue to be divided between four charities, namely Agape Alive in India www.agapealiveinindia.org.uk, Wycombe Homeless Connection www.wyhoc.org.uk One Can Trust www.onecantrust.org.uk and LIFT in Ethiopia www.lifeinfulltrust.org.

LIFT supports the efforts of Moira McLure, a North Dean alumnus and member of Speen Church who works to educate widows and orphans in a remote corner of Northern Ethiopia known as South Gondor. A big fundraising effort to buy a new 4x4 for Moira was a huge success and the new vehicle should be delivered by the time this goes to press. This will be of vital importance to Moira's plans to open a second school in a nearby village which can only be reached by unmetalled mountain roads. The proceeds from the Autumn market at Church on 17th October raised over £800 for LIFT.

COMEDY AT SPEEN VILLAGE HALL

Adrian Farley

Last year Ian McMillan, 'The Bard of Barnsley', poet, comedian, playwright and broadcaster, announced his intention to perform in every village hall in the land, in recognition of the role they play within our communities, up and down the country.

We are pleased to announce we have booked him to appear at Speen Village Hall on 29th November. His show, called 'Between You and Me' and performed with musician and Olympic composer Luke Carver Goss, is described as a hilarious night of words, music and breathtaking comedy for which he has received rave reviews wherever he has taken it.

Tickets are available for £15 each and can be obtained from *Adrian Farley 488749* or email at adrianfarley311@btinternet.com.

The show starts at 7.30pm and there will be a bar.
All profits on the evening go to the upkeep of the village hall.



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SPEENVILLAGE HALL

Bill Groves, Chairman Speen Village Hall Management Committee

The Village Hall is now bright and fresh after redecoration and is an ideal place for events and parties.

It has been a busy Autumn with hosting Speen Festival events, the start of yoga classes, very successful Line Dancing classes for beginners, the popular Pop up Pub nights and the Film & Food Night, where we screened The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Future events include a night of Fun and Music on Friday 29th November when we will be entertained by Ian McMillan and Luke Carver Goss. Tickets are available from Adrian Farley on 488749.

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday 7th December doors open at 2.00pm with the usual stalls for Gifts, Cakes, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, Christmas Decorations, Books and Games, Tombola and a Raffle, Father Christmas will also be attending. This is the major fundraising event for the Village Hall so please put the date in your diary. If you have any unwanted good quality gifts etc please contact Margaret Groves on 488180.

As previously mentioned we are trying to start a Table Tennis Club on a Friday morning so if any one has an unwanted table please let me know.



SPEENPLAYING FIELDS

Clare Morris, Playing Field Committee Chair

As we turn to Autumn we reflect on a very busy summer for both Speen Playing Fields and Ridgeley's Field, not just as spaces for children to play, cycle, run and 'hang out' but as venues for the Shindig, Fun Day, Fete and of course many of the fantastic Festival events. We would like to thank the Fete Committee in particular for their contribution which is being used to renovate the Pavilion toilets.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm in which S.E.A.G. have taken their idea of turning an area of Ridgeley's Field into a wildflower meadow and we look forward to this developing over time as not only an area for children to explore but also as a sanctuary for both wildlife and villagers.

Following a number of complaints, I would like to remind everyone that only Assistance Dogs are allowed on the main Playing Field and that dogs are not allowed off the lead in Ridgeley's Field. If your dog fouls please bag it up and take it home with you. Dog faeces and children do not mix and can cause serious illness. Unfortunately, we are having to put up further signs as reminders.

The recent Autumn work party undertook a large amount of work on a rare dry October afternoon. Despite a disappointing turn out we managed to cut hedges, strim banks, repair play equipment and give some Laurels a much-needed trim. Look out for the date for the Spring Work Party in March which will be followed by a BBQ.

All villagers are encouraged to attend in order to help maintain your village fields.

The Playing Field Draw has begun for another year and we are very grateful to everyone who contributes. Routine Playing Field expenditure is just over £4,000 per year and covers grass cutting, insurance, utility bills and maintenance costs. We continue to 'just about manage' to balance the books with the support of the many fundraisers organised by the Playing Fields Committee.

Our main fundraiser is the annual bonfire and firework display taking place this year on the 2nd November. We are grateful for all the volunteers who make it happen and to all the spectators who come along, buy tickets and support us further through buying food and drink at the event.

The lighting of the Village Christmas Tree takes place on the evening of the 6th December. Join us for mince pies, mulled wine and carol singing. We have yet to confirm the charity we would like to support so if anyone has any suggestions please let us know.

The Playing Field Committee meet four times a year and we are always keen to have new members. We will also need a new Chair soon. Our AGM is in February. If you have any queries please contact the Committee through our new email address: playingfields@speenbucks.org.uk.

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The WI has been campaigning for many years on Environmental issues. It was as a result of a WI campaign during the 1950s that the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign was finally launched. Since then we have campaigned on the crisis for honey bees, how to reduce, re-use and re-cycle materials, what to do about food waste and in recent years plastic microfibers from washing our clothes. WI is also a founding member of the Climate Coalition. We were therefore very pleased to take part in the Environment event at Speen Festival organised by Jeni Fairey promoting these issues. By displaying and selling sustainable products which can replace plastic, we hope to have inspired people to try that little bit harder.

In September, our speaker Marcelle Siddall came to talk about an African Women's Project in rural South Africa. The conditions under which these women live and raise their families are extremely difficult and the charity aims to ease their lives by encouraging them to make goods which can be sold and the money used to improve their villages. Many members went home with beadwork and embroidery made by these women. Members have also decided that they will raise money to pay for a water tank to be installed in the village to provide a clean water supply and save the long daily trek.

We recently hosted a meeting for members from six different WIs in the area, when our speaker Ginny Davis



gave a wonderfully amusing account of her transition from Barrister to writer and performer of one woman shows. This also gave us an insight into the organisation that goes into appearing in your own show at the Edinburgh Fringe, which she took on as a challenge at the start of her new career.

In October, members are visiting the 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' base in Saunderton to learn about the training of these important helpers. November will be our Annual Meeting with a pot luck supper and the election of a new committee and President. June Pilkington has fulfilled this role for the past three years and is preparing to take a well earned rest while still being an active member.

In January 2020, Speen WI celebrates its sixtieth anniversary and we have many plans for the year. Already we have an exciting programme booked and as the year is also the Centenary of the Buckinghamshire Federation of WIs, there are many County Events in which to involve ourselves. We are already mapping out our routes to walk 100 miles for 100 years during the course of 2020 so we should all be superfit by the end of the year – or maybe we will simply have walked off all those cakes!

SPEEN VS NORTH DEAN GOLF

Dick Pooley

Studley Wood Golf Club, 23rd October 2019

This bi-annual competition is becoming increasingly popular again, after a small hiatus due to changing personnel and time commitments.

There were 15 players from North Dean and 21 from Speen, including a brave lady, for the first time I believe. Studley Wood GC, for those not conversant with it, is set in lovely Oxfordshire countryside, about eight miles from Oxford. It is a championship course and has recently held various international events.

As usual, there were one or two last minute hiccups, but we were under way by 10.30 am and the sun even came out to make it an even more enjoyable round!

The early groups had to contest not only with sun in their eyes, but a heavy dew, which of course made the ball run a little slower. The greens were in great condition, and pretty true, although the deer hooves on some meant we were subject to the local rule, which not everyone read!

So to the result; with the help of Jo Allan's trusty laptop spread sheet (no calculators needed!) the average village

stableford points method, gave:

North Dean 27.6 points & Speen 23.7 points.

This is the first time North Dean has won in at least two outings, so congratulations to the worthy winners, and commiserations to Speen, who will no doubt wish to avenge this result in the Spring next year.

Individually, North Dean scored well too taking four of the five prizes:-

Nearest the Pin on the par three 11th - Al Bowyer (ND)
Longest Drive on the par five 18th - Duncan Dow (Speen)
Overall Winner with 41 points - Tom Pooley (ND)
Overall second with 37 points - Chris Wise (ND)
Overall third with 35 points - James Kent. (ND)

My grateful thanks to all players, but especially to Studley Wood GC who showed us tremendous hospitality and superb timings for the food etc.

We look forward to the Spring competition with much anticipation.

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KING WILLIAM IV UPDATE

Andy Thompson

Since the last update we have some good news in that we have secured grant funding from the Plunkett Foundation More Than A Pub programme www.plunkett.co.uk/more-than-a-pub. Established in 1919, the Plunkett Foundation helps communities, predominantly in rural areas, to set up and run community businesses: enterprises that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people in their community. They help people to tackle a range of issues such as isolation, loneliness and poverty, and the businesses come in many forms including shops, cafés, pubs and other land-based initiatives. This grant allows recipients to spend up to £2,500 on costs related to initiating a community business project.

In the last update we spoke about obtaining a valuation for the KW4 from Christie & Co. We expect this to be completed early November and we will be able to use the Plunkett grant to pay for this advice. As we talked about in our last update, once we have this valuation, we will be in a good position to make an offer that reflects



the current condition and local market for licenced properties, supported by our fundraising.

We have also engaged directly with Wycombe District Council and have had a very positive response. The Council have stated their intention

to use all the powers they have to support community groups to takeover community assets, such as closed pubs and get them open and trading again. We will continue to work with the Council to see how they can help us make progress.

Despite all this activity, it is disappointing to report that we don't anticipate achieving the goal of getting the KW4 open again very soon, but we do remain optimistic that this will be achieved at some point, we just need to be patient.

That's all for this update and again a big thanks to everyone for their continued support.

KW4 Rescue Group
www.savethekingwilliam.org

GUIDES IN SWITZERLAND

Belle Rycroft, Olivia Davies, Sarah Morris, Helena Winson

Hughenden Valley Guide unit were offered an amazing opportunity to go to Switzerland, to stay at the International Scout Centre. The 4 of us were lucky enough to be able to go and we went with guides from other units in our area. The week-long trip started on 3rd August with a very early start at Heathrow Airport. We flew to Geneva, then caught 2 trains and a bus that got us to Kandersteg. When we got to the centre we were met by the organisers and very quickly we were introduced to Scouts and Guides from all over the world.

Over the course of the week we took part in many activities designed to improve our team building skills, push us out of our comfort zones and really challenge our fear of heights! These activities included: low ropes, Jacobs ladder, crate stacking, abseiling and climbing. We had a lot of fun helping and guiding each other during the activities, but they were all very difficult as we couldn't stop laughing, even when it was pouring with rain.



Not only were we involved in activities around the camp, we also ventured out to the surrounding area and got to see a bit more of Switzerland. At the local waterpark we had great fun swooshing down the slides and chilling in the

lazy river all with the mountains in view. The best fun was at Lake Oeschinen where we rode The Rodelban Mountain Coaster. This was so much fun, you sit in a cart and ride the 750-meter-long

track going quite fast. There was also a chance to do some shopping, although most of us spent our money on buying things for our families.

We made our way back home on 10th August via planes, trains and buses again. We made lots of great memories and made new friends while away. We hope that we will be lucky enough to get another great opportunity like this. We would also like to thank 1st Hughenden Guides for giving us the opportunity to go and to our guide leaders, Perdita, Abi and Kissy.

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SPEENFESTIVAL2019
31st August - 15th September

ANOTHER FABULOUS FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT

Cat Cook

The sunny days of September may seem like a distant memory but the events of the Festival will hopefully remain with you for many months, if not years. Speen Festival 2019 was another fabulous success due to the commitment of an army of volunteers who shared their time to deliver a full two weeks of events and the willingness of the community to turn out to a packed programme of events.

I love being part of something that brings so many people together and forms so many new bonds, new skills, new interests and sparks new ideas. A huge thank you to all of you who supported or delivered the Festival in any way; due to that support we are again able to distribute over £10,000 to charity.

We will donate to those Speen organisations who helped make the Festival happen, mostly through free use of their facilities and services, but also to wider charities nominated by the event organisers or participants. Following through with our ethos of 'supporting arts and creativity in the Chilterns' we also are making donations to three organisations who reach a much wider audience, bringing music and the arts to children across the High Wycombe area, namely the Chiltern Music Academy and Oakridge School in High Wycombe. A huge thank you to you all for making that possible.

If you have any thoughts for 2021, do get in touch via admin@speenfestival.org and who knows what we can make happen.

Festival 2019 over and out.

Cat x



Following the success of Speen Festival 2019, over £10,000 will be distributed amongst the following charities:

Speen CofE School
Speen Marquee
Speen Playing Fields
Speen & North Dean News
Speen Helping Hospices
Speen Chapel
Speen Village Hall
Speen Fete
Agape
Woodland Trust

Medical detection dogs
Sepsis Charity
The Princes Centre
The Calm Zone
Chiltern Music Academy
Oakridge School
Amersham Museum
Hearing Link
Hearing Dogs
St John's Church, Lacey Green Organ Fund





Thanks for the Volunteers

A prayer created by James Entwisle for the Festival's final event - Celebration on the Field.

Dear God

We thank you for the many gifted and generous people you have put in this area to give their time, energy and skill to enable Speen Festival to happen.

Thank you for:

Singers, Thinkers,
Actors, Teachers,
Stage-hands, Bar staff,
Sound and light team,
marquee erectors, chair shifters,
car park attendants and table lifters,
bike park stars (with no lasting scars!)
and all the other hidden workers

Who've made the festival

A wonderful focus

Of this blessed community.

Thank you Lord for the joy of working together.

In Jesus' name we pray

Amen

SEAG is your local environmental action group which was set up a few months ago. Many people have already signed up to share our information and participate in projects. Our aim is to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss on a local but also national and international level.

I hope you enjoy reading about the various projects already underway on these pages and we look forward to inviting everyone to a community meeting in the New Year where we can continue to share ideas and develop action plans to further progress our work.

Find us on Facebook: *Speen Environmental Action Group* and Twitter: *@SpeenEnvAction*.

We are putting together an online directory of shops, outlets and businesses which sell ecological products. Please keep an eye on our social media for details. Contact Jane Farley at jane.farley2@btinternet.com to be added to our contact list.

RIDGLEY'S FIELD MEADOW

SEAG Restore & Protect Project Jo Podmore and Jeni Fairey, SEAG

Insects, including valuable pollinators, are in decline due to four main factors: habitat loss; pollution; pathogens and non-native species and climate change. One way we as individuals can help protect insects and plants is the restoration of habitat. This is not easy as our population increases and human demand on our planet becomes ever greater. The UK has lost 97% of its meadow habitat since 1940.

Speen Playing Fields Committee have very kindly allowed S.E.A.G to develop a wildflower meadow at Ridgley's Field which, as some of you will know, was left by the late Dan Ridgley to be used in perpetuity as a children's play area. Jo Podmore's design for the pathways and mown areas will eventually provide a wonderful opportunity for all to walk amongst the grasses and flowers and get right up-close to nature.

By increasing plant species we hope to gradually see an increase in insect population measurable by 'citizen science'-type projects. We are also planning seasonal educational and fun activities for children.

Work was completed on October 13th on ground preparation. We are being supported by the Charity 'Plantlife' in the form of expertise and seed donation. Our initial phase involves reducing the dominant grass on 200m square crescent shaped sections and sowing Yellow Rattle. This plant is parasitic on coarse grasses and creates space for a variety of wildflowers which will be introduced next year.

This is an ongoing project and one of many planned to develop any available space in the village as meadow habitat such as verges on roadsides and outside our houses.

If you are interested in developing wildflower areas please do contact S.E.A.G or Plantlife for more detailed information.



TREE PLANTING

Charlotte Downing, SEAG

You may have read in the press about The Woodland Trust's "Big Climate Fightback". On November 30th all over the UK people will be working to hopefully reach the target of one million trees planted. "This will be an antidote to helplessness, so that people - especially young people - can take positive action (to combat Climate Change)." *Broadleaf magazine, Autumn 2019.*

The Downings' tree project is still in the pipeline and we are hoping the Woodland Trust can deliver on time to their farm to ensure the trees are ready for planting on November 30th, however this date T.B.C. Planting location is a field above Flowers Bottom Lane. Thank you so much to all those who have so far pledged help. Details will be communicated as soon as delivery is confirmed.

If you would like to join the planting party please contact Charlotte Downing, email charlottecaverhill@yahoo.co.uk.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

VILLAGE CARBON FOOTPRINT SURVEY

John Oliver & Monica Dent, SEAG

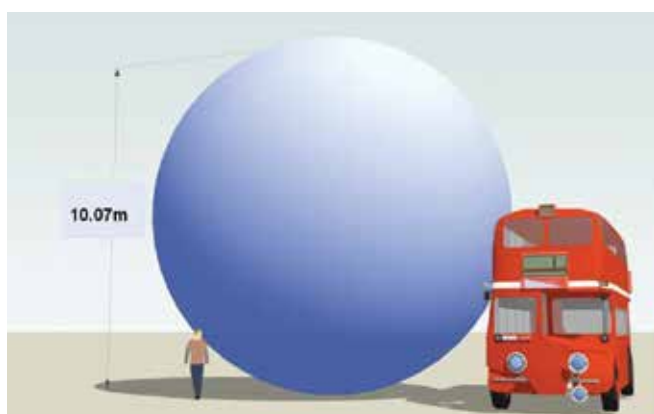
Climate change is happening fast. There is a climate emergency. There is too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and it is increasing relentlessly. Where is it coming from? Are we all part of the problem? What can we do to understand the problem before we identify how to respond as individuals and what we might do together as a community?

The newly formed Speen Environmental Action Group is following the lead of other community environmental groups in trying to find out the answers.

As a first step towards understanding how we impact on the environment, members of the group have estimated their own carbon footprints using an online carbon footprint calculator (called 'REAP Petite'). Like others, this tool estimates your carbon footprint (per person or per household) based on answers to questions about lifestyle and consumption including home energy use, transportation, travel and food. Your carbon footprint is expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) (which, for a given mixture and amount of greenhouse gas, is the quantity of CO₂ that would have the same 'global warming potential' when measured over a specified timescale, usually 100 years).

Across the eleven participating households, carbon footprint values ranged from 11.11 to 21.26 tonnes CO₂e per person (an almost twofold difference between the highest and lowest values). The average carbon footprint was 16.06 tonnes CO₂e per person, which is similar to the UK average of 16.24 tonnes CO₂e per person (using the same carbon footprint calculator). The carbon footprint per household ranged from 17.49 tonnes CO₂e (for a household with one occupant) to 64.75 tonnes CO₂e (for a house with four occupants). Even for those of us with a committed interest in this subject, the results were eye-opening.

Difficult to visualise? The following images show the volume of 1 tonne (equivalent to 1000 kilograms) of CO₂ at the same density as the air we breathe.



Readers will no doubt be aware that the UK has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The targets have been set but, as yet, there is no end-to-end plan to achieve this. Climate change protestors have been challenging these target dates and making a case that the Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions much earlier than this: net zero by 2025. Others have argued for dates between 2025 and 2050. Many are calling for a much stronger government lead - on all fronts.

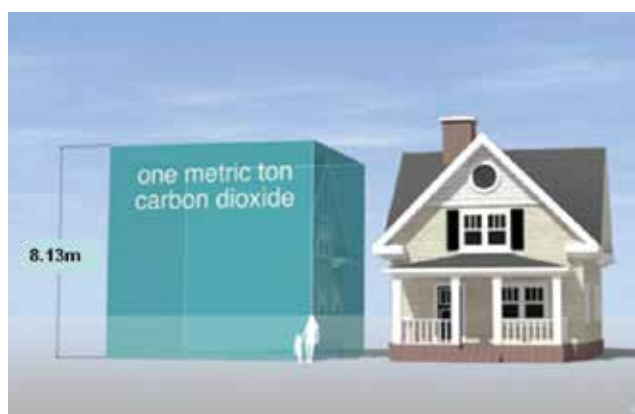
Achieving carbon reductions from say 16 tonnes per person to net zero, or more desirably zero given that creating CO₂e is an intrinsic 'by-product' to every aspect of our modern existence, is a daunting prospect. There is clearly a long way to go to reach net zero whatever the timescale.

Where do we go from here? We are all on a learning curve. Would you like to assess your carbon footprint so you can join us in thinking about what we might do as individuals and as a community to reduce our carbon footprint?

Which carbon footprint calculator should you use? There are many to choose from. Their results vary depending on their purposes, design and inherent arithmetic. All have their pros and cons.

We have been reviewing different calculators and will shortly be suggesting one for you to use. If you are interested in assessing your carbon footprint or having help in doing so, please contact us for more information.

Jane Farley
jane.farley2@btinternet.com 01494 488749
Monica Dent
monicaanddent@gmail.com 01494 488943



A great alternative to residential care – offered by an award winning local company



Ashridge Home Care can help with everything needed for a person to remain safe and happy in their own home surrounded by their memories and treasured belongings. Owner Trudi Scrivener says: "The little things are the important things. Whether it's strictly adhering to our clients' routines or it's making plans to support our carers when they're not working, it's the small things that make a difference."

No two people are the same which means every care plan needs to be tailored. That means if lunch needs to be at 11am and dinner needs to be at 4pm – you can rest assured that's what we'll do."

A qualified highly trained carer will be matched to the clients' specific needs and is then on hand to provide support and companionship. Ashridge Home Carers are handpicked, trained in house and supported 24/7 so they in turn can deliver outstanding care to clients.

If you or someone you know of, maybe an elderly neighbour or loved family member, are starting to struggle with everyday tasks, going into a residential care home can seem like the only option. But it doesn't have to be. Live in home care or simply a daily visit from a carer means everyone can stay in their beloved surroundings with family, pets and friends close by, for as long as possible no matter what health condition you have.

Local resident and owner of Ashridge Home Care is passionate about raising awareness of live in home care as an alternative to residential care. She says that going into a residential care home is not the only answer. Carers from Ashridge Home Care can support people to stay in the comfort of their own home for as long as they wish.

Ashridge Home Care is a local family run company based in Buckinghamshire who genuinely care about getting things right. It offers a variety of services to suit each individual's needs no matter what their health condition or frailty. Live in home care is especially suitable for people living with Dementia as they don't have to struggle with the upheaval of moving out of familiar surroundings.

Ashridge Home Care offers:

- Live In Home Care – increasingly popular alternative to moving into a residential care home
- Specialist Live In Care – providing support for individuals coping with Dementia, Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis amongst others.
- Emergency & Respite Care – supporting couples and families to stay together but offering a break for the main carer to recharge. Or emergency care for someone following a fall or hospital discharge.
- Hourly Care – companionship carers can visit for two to three hours a day or week, and simply help with shopping, preparing meals, maybe walk the dog or help arrange appointments.

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WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

Autumn 2019



My previous report mentioned the Moorhens that had reared five young in our back garden and that the parents appeared to be preparing for a second brood. They constructed a new nest for this further brood and this was remarkable in itself. The small island in our pond has an obvious depression at its centre that is used every year by the Mallard to nest in. I have protected this site with a large hoop of heavy duty wire mesh in order to discourage crows from pecking the eggs when the female is away from the nest. The second Moorhen nest was built on top of the mesh hoop whilst the female Mallard was incubating her own second brood of eggs in the tunnel below. We therefore ended up with a double decker nest with the Moorhen incubating her eggs directly above the Mallard. The second brood of four more Moorhens were all successfully reared and have now left the garden.

I believe that the Beeks also had 2 or 3 young Moorhens in their garden in North Dean so they have done well locally. Elsewhere in the village numerous Pied Wagtails and Swallows were noted at the Horses Home in July whilst Simon Jennings reported Tawny Owls calling down Coleheath Bottom in September. Alastair Blundell reports regular sightings of the

Ravens over Ridgley's Field whilst Tony Bobroff photographed a Sparrowhawk at close quarters on a pigeon next to his car in Studridge Lane and then later also found an Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar in his back garden.

Rarer birds in the area included a Wryneck in Naphill in August but one of the fairly local highlights was a Great White Egret that stayed on 'The Wides' on the Wendover Canal for 10 days in late July attracting birdwatchers from all over the county.

There have been a good number of pure black rabbits around the village for some years. Les Brown reports that the majority of the rabbit population in the Spring Coppice Lane area this year is pure black. A less common sighting was a weasel photographed by Mandy Gowling in her back garden in North Dean in August. Kerri Syner reported a further potential "big cat" sighting near the hairpin bend in Speen. Without photographs or evidence of paw prints it is difficult to know what this animal might have been.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings
Peter Symonds 01494 488016 or psymonds590@gmail.com

NORTH DEAN PASTA & PROSECCO

Melinda Pooley

On Friday 11th October North Dean Village Hall hosted a Pasta & Prosecco Evening which included a Quiz run by our own quiz master extraordinaire Jez Wicks. 48 people attended who were welcomed with a glass or two of Prosecco or a pint of beer, followed by a meal of pasta bolognese, garlic bread and salad, all finished off with a delicious apple and blackberry crumble with ice cream. The evening was enjoyed by all, and I would like to thank everyone who participated, and of course those who helped make it such a success.





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SPEEN FIREWORKS

Peter Symonds

For the first time that we can recall the Playing Field committee had the difficult decision to take on 2nd November as to whether to try to proceed with the bonfire as originally planned or postpone it for 24 hours. This is our most important fundraising event of the year. Whilst the fierce winds were expected to drop, the forecast was for unrelenting rainfall through until 8.00pm, so the decision was taken to postpone the event. We are very sorry that some families may have missed the event as a result, but hindsight suggests that the right decision was taken.

A slightly reduced audience on Sunday 3rd saw the village seeking to compete with Elon Musk's company, SpaceX, in trying to launch its own rocket into space with our own exploration company, Speenex. Unfortunately a fire at the launch site eventually destroyed the rocket, launch gantries and the control building that had been assembled by a large team of villagers.

The bar and BBQ were busy and the audience seemed to enjoy the event on a fairly mild and dry night. Thanks to all contributors, helpers and supporters.



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Speed Watch Update

A second Movable Vehicle Activated Sign (Or MVAS) has recently been ordered by the Parish Council and this should be delivered before the end of the year. This means that as from January 2020 there will be two units for Speen, Lacey Green and Loosley Row on the rota that is organised by Councillor Tim MacGillivray. When the MVAS unit is in Speen it is moved around the locations on Chapel Hill and Hampden Road by Shelley Jennings who has been instrumental in this project for several years now. Data is now collected from the MVAS units. The results of the Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen Speed Radar Report 28 July 2019 can be found at www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk.



Redecoration of the Bus Shelter in Hampden Road

The bus shelter's timber is being re-stained in the near future. Although new roofing and timber repairs were carried out last year, it does require a further coat of staining on regular intervals because of water damage by its proximity to the road. It would be appreciated if you could be kind enough not to pin or attach any posters or signs to the bus shelter to reduce any further deterioration of this wooden structure.

Full Complement of Councillors

We now have seven Parish Councillors - five representing the Lacey Green & Loosley Row Wards - Cathryn Davies (LGPC Chair), Miv Hughes, Liz Patient, Jean Roberts and Tim MacGillivray and two representing the Speen Ward - Roger Craft (LGPC Deputy Chair) and Philip Suter. Frank Post joined the Parish Council as LGPC Clerk in March 2018 and any correspondence or issues you wish to raise with the Parish Council should be addressed in the first instance to the Clerk by email: clerk@laceygreen-pc.org.

BEECHDEAN DOWN ON THE FARM

Gill Kent

In the last edition of Speen and North Dean News I wrote about the necessity of having grazing animals (cattle and sheep) to maintain the landscape of the Chilterns. Maintaining the balance of the wild animal population is however equally important and much of the task of doing this falls on the farming community.



Pigeons attack growing crops, often to the point where they have to be re-sown. Crows attack new-born lambs, hence the outcry last spring when Natural England revoked gun licences right in the middle of the lambing season. Fortunately, this was put right very quickly. Even the Kites, of which Chiltern dwellers are very proud, have multiplied so quickly that, sooner or later some control will be necessary, if only to protect nestlings of songbirds. (Kites are thought to feed solely on carrion, but in our experience, they also take nestlings).

Forgetting about TB, badgers cause several problems for farmers. Their favourite sett building spot is where woodland joins a grass field. In building the sett, the badgers invariably break the fence. Less frequently they decide to make a sett in the middle of a field of cereals which



can result in damage to machinery and even turning tractors over. The increase in badger numbers has resulted in hedgehogs almost disappearing in our landscape; the badger

turns the hedgehog onto its back and scoops out its gut. It also destroys bumble nests in its efforts to obtain the larvae and food stores.

Of the four species of deer resident in the UK, only the roe deer and the red deer are indigenous. The fallow deer are grazers and large herds will devour grass crops grown for domestic animals. The muntjac are browsers and together with grey squirrels are rapidly killing all the young beech saplings. Local foresters anticipate that there will be no good beech woods in 100 years' time.

Excesses of animal species only occur where their natural predators are absent. Most farmers are knowledgeable wildlife enthusiasts, but when excesses do occur, farmers and foresters must be allowed to control their numbers. The number of badger setts in the upper Hughenden Valley have increased from two in the 1960s to at least ten today.

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The Lych Gate at Speen Chapel

In 1919, John Thomas Simmonds, the newly-appointed pastor of the Speen Chapel, proposed that the village should put up a Lych Gate as a memorial to the ten young men of Speen who had given their lives for their Country. Amongst them was his only son, Norman Cyril Simmonds.

We think Mr Simmonds had officiated at Loosley Row during the War (one source says Lacey Green) but he had created strong connections with Speen. His first wife had died and in 1903 he married Alice Wood, who lived in Woodbine Cottage. In May of that year, Norman Cyril, who had just turned 11, started at our village school. He was a 25 year old Lance Corporal when he was killed in 1917. At his memorial service, held in the Speen Chapel, Mr A W Pay, the then pastor, paid tribute to Norman's leadership of many youth activities in the village, especially the Sunday School.

Using a spreadsheet, the Heritage Group has analysed the Speen War Memorial Balance Sheet that Mr Simmonds, as Treasurer, drew up in 1920. This was his clean copy; we found two previous attempts, in his distinctive handwriting, that show that he sometimes got into a muddle – donations that he attributed to the memorial fund were found to be intended for something else. Nonetheless, a story emerges of a remarkable fund-raising achievement by the tiny population of Speen, barely nine months after the end of The Great War.

The memorial fund was opened in August 1919. Previously, the village had raised money for "Peace Celebrations" and two guineas (£2 and 2 shillings) remained. That was put into the fund. In a matter of weeks, William Rixon, the elder brother of Corporal John Rixon, who had been killed in Italy in the last weeks of the war, aided by his friend R Wood, raised an astonishing £51.18.6d. from the villagers. That, and £22.18s, provided



The word Lych - spelt variously - is found in most North European languages. It means Corpse.

A Lych Gate is a roofed building, often with open sides, that stands at the entrance to a churchyard. A body is rested there before burial - nowadays in a coffin or, in earlier times, wrapped in a shroud - awaiting the arrival of the clergyman. It often contains a bench where mourners could keep vigil or pall bearers could wait.

by four individual donors, were entered in the cash book on 13th September. The fund was off to a flying start. Seven days later, nine personal donations were received totalling £82.11s. In two weeks, the Lych Gate appeal had raised £159.9.6d. That included one donation of £75; one of three guineas; one of £2; two of £1 and, tellingly, single gifts of 2 shillings, 2/6d and 3/6d. We can imagine that those three donations were real sacrifices. Between 22nd September and 19th November seven more people gave a total of £17.18.6d. That included 1 precious shilling.

1919 ended with £167.8s in the fund. The Speen firm of Ward and Turner produced a design for a fine lych gate with a memorial plaque that listed, in alphabetical order, the names and regiments of our 10 casualties. (The Leaves of Time says they constituted 20%-30% of

the young men of our village.) In November 1920 – possibly around Armistice Day, the date is illegible – they were paid £122.16.6d for the Lych Gate. One guinea was also paid for 12 Yew trees (15/= for the trees; 6/= for planting them) most probably to Mr Rixon of Fir Tree Cottage, who grew them. At the same time, £100 was donated to the High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital Fund. That memorial still stands at the hospital entrance.

Unfortunately, those payments totalled £223.17.6d, which was £46.9.6d more than the appeal had

raised. Fortunately, a donation of £20 was received in April 1920 and in October the Girl Guides produced £4.4.6d. On the same day 'A Friend' put in £7.18s. Was that all Mr Simmonds had available, or had he got his sums wrong, again? (£14.7s was still needed). Nothing happened for two years, then 6 people donated a total of exactly £14.7s. Two ladies gave £1 each; three people each gave a guinea and one generous donor provided the final £9.4s. On 27th November 1922 Mr Simmonds' Balance Sheet balanced.

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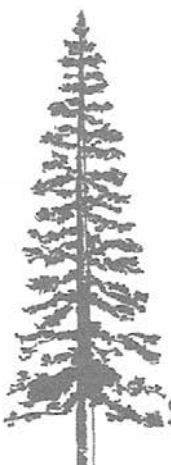


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Lacey Green Parish Council - Councillor for Speen Ward	Roger Craft	01494 488343
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North Dean Village Fete	Jez Wicks	01494 563517
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