

THE SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*



Spring 2020
Issue 77



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Welcome!

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

Who could possibly have predicted that in the few short weeks that I've been putting this issue together, how much the world would have changed beyond recognition. But it is no surprise to me how this wonderful community has leapt into action to support one another.

I'm sure by now you all know that in order to ensure no-one is left isolated and vulnerable, a Buddy list has been generated with over 40 volunteer helpers allocated to cover every property in Speen & North Dean, and Jem Symondson and Ian Warr have set up a WhatsApp chat group called 'Speen & N Dean COVID-19' that shares useful information and support. John Radford is also keeping us up to date via The Village Messenger and the website.

If you haven't received a leaflet through your door and don't know who your Buddy is please email jem@symondson.co.uk. Residents of North Dean can find their buddy list at www.northdean.org/covid-19 and if you would like to join the WhatsApp group please email c19@speenbucks.org.uk.

There is no 'What's On' page in this issue, as all future events are tbc, but the good news is that Speen Fete has provisionally retained its date of Saturday 11th July. Let's keep everything crossed that things will be much-improved by then, we are all allowed out, and can use the Fete as the opportunity to all get together and celebrate being part of a very special community.

Until then, please don't go out unless you have to - enjoy the garden, use this time to do all those jobs you've been meaning to do, take the time to really take stock and appreciate how very lucky we are to live in this beautiful part of the world and be kind to one another. If you're juggling working from home and homeschooling children, you have my every sympathy, and if you are one of those brave souls providing essential services for us, out there on the front line, thank you.

Stay safe. Jacqui Laing

Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is **due by 20th June** with a planned publication date of mid-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 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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COMMITTEE: Gloria Holmes (Chair), Megan Chinn, Nick Wheeler-Robinson, Alison Kent

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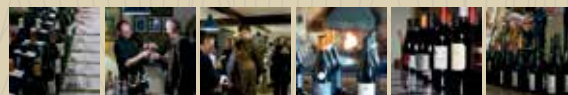
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SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

Grainne Suter

Amidst the gloomy weather, coronavirus and crashing markets Speen ladies turned out in early March for a Pamper Night – an evening of fizz, canapes, health & beauty.

This, our first fundraising event in 2020, was lots of fun and we were very pleased with the amount raised of £960. This type of event was a first for us and we were unsure how well it would work! But with Amanda Dobbs steering the ship it was a great success and definitely an evening to repeat. The Village Hall was beautifully decorated and the storage area unrecognisable when transformed into a massage room. Many thanks to all who came out to support us on a very windy evening, your enthusiasm was very encouraging and the hall was buzzing all evening. All the therapists and stall holders were local and we really appreciated their support.



Rennie Grove Hospice Care, South Bucks Hospice at Home, Helen House for Children and Florence Nightingale Hospice will benefit from the evening. All the hospice charities need to raise a massive amount of money each year to continue to provide essential palliative and end of life care to patients and support to their families. With your support we can help them make this happen. We try to keep the cost of each event down to a minimum to ensure that the hospices receive as much as possible of the money raised.

If you would like to be involved or have fundraising ideas, or would like to sponsor an event or donate a raffle prize please do contact me on 01494 488540. We have lots more events planned for the coming year and we would love to see some new faces.

Dates for Your Diary

Postponed

Our annual Spring Lunch at the Horse Trust

Postponed

Quiz Night

tbc

Comedy Night with Elliot Wengler

13th September

Car Boot Sale

14th November

Christmas Market at the Chapel

December

Door to door Carol Singing

SHORT STORYCOMPETITION

Grainne Suter

Amidst the gardening and the decorating and the spring cleaning why not turn your mind to something creative during the period of lockdown and enter our short story competition. The current lockdown places a challenge on us all and the competition is an opportunity to switch off from current restrictions. The topic of your story is your choice, the only rule is that your story may not mention the Coronavirus, or any apocalyptic situation.

WHO CAN ENTER?

This is a competition for everyone who lives in Speen and North Dean with one entry per person allowed.

There are four age groups:

Beatrix Potter Group is from 5 to 7 years

Harry Potter Group is from 8 to 11 years

Anne Frank Group is from 12 to 16 years

Charles Dickens Group is 17 years and over.

HOW LONG HAVE I GOT TO WRITE MY STORY?

You may start now. The deadline is 6pm on the 24th April.

HOW LONG SHOULD MY STORY BE?

Each group will have a different maximum length:

Beatrix Potter Group - no more than 300 words

Harry Potter Group - no more than 500 words

Anne Frank Group - no more than 1000 words

Charles Dickens Group - no more than 2000 words

JUDGES

There are three judges for each age range.

Full details of the competition have been circulated via the Village Messenger. If you missed that, follow this link:

www.jmlproperty.co.uk/Speen_Story_Writing_Challenge.htm

or contact me, Grainne Suter on 01494 488540

or email grainnesuter@btconnect.com.



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SPEEN C of E INFANT SCHOOL & PTA

Cat Cook, PTA Chair



Speen School and the Little Apples have had a busy few months with exciting theme weeks, Forest School adventures and sports activities.

The theme weeks enable the pupils to engage with cross curricular activities across one theme giving lots of opportunities for fun. In January 'India' theme week provided lots of smiles with exciting food, dance and dressing up. The next theme week of 'Materials' will have lots of science opportunities and experimenting.

All the pupils enjoy the adventures provided by Forest School, which due to the weather so far this year, have included lots of mud play, plus the chance for hot chocolate by a fire! The Forest School provision continues to attract new families to Speen pre-school and our beautiful setting. Raising funds for outdoor storage equipment for the Forest School has been the focus for PTA fundraising this term. The ever popular Safari Supper saw nearly 70 guests being hosted as various homes for starters and then moving on for mains before finishing at the School for dessert.

Mrs Coles has generated many activities in tandem with St John's School including Pancake Day races and a Science day. These events are such valuable familiarisation for the Speen pupils who will soon go on to St John's helping make the school a friendly, known location. The children have also been to Princes Risborough School for Basketball Skills Tournament.

Congratulations to Mrs Coles and the staff team for a very successful Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).




January 2020 India week



Mosque visit: Trying on clothes from different cultures



Forest school



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SPEENCHURCH

Timothy Deller

Introducing Speen Baptist Church's new pastoral couple

Pastor Timothy Richard Deller was inducted as the new minister at Speen Baptist Church on Saturday the 29th of February 2020. Along with his wife Rosi they continue on their life's journey as the pastoral couple for Speen Baptist Church and surrounding region.

They come to Speen after thirty years of pastoral work in Brazil, coming some 6000 miles from the town of Maracaju on the Paraguayan border to Speen in the Chilterns. Both Church and couple believe God's hand is on the appointment.

"Only I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" *Jeremiah 29:11*.

Tim said that embarking and embracing God's plan brings a mixture of excitement at what lies ahead alongside sadness at leaving family and friends behind.



"We will miss being part of church family in Brazil, which for more than thirty years has been our loving church family, but are also delighted, honoured and challenged to be taking up the pastoral position at Speen Baptist Church." Adding, "We have been made to feel so welcome by all we meet and to those beyond the church circle we would like to be welcomed as friends or at least potential friends as we settle in this new place of residence and mission."

"Thank you to everyone who made our arrival to Speen and to Speen Church such a wonderful occasion. As we settle down to living among you we would like to encourage you to pop in any day to The Church or Chapel Hill Kitchen on a Thursday. If

you have anything specific - an urgent prayer request or need help in any way, please let us know and we will try to be of assistance."

Tim and Rosi

VEG PATCHPALS

Monica Dent & Kate Slade

A SEAG initiative to share/exchange skills, expertise, seeds, plants, equipment and land to enable the local community to grow more fruit and vegetables.

Would you like to:

- join a supportive network of people interested in growing (and eating!) more fruit and vegetables?
- grow more fruit and/or vegetables at home?
- be part of a community allotment project in Speen?
- try out more plant-based recipes?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, we would love you to join us. Please let us know your contact details and whether you have any relevant skills/experience that you are happy to share.

In the meantime, ideas you might want to try at home:

1. If you have any surplus seeds/seedlings/plants or other GYO stuff (eg plant pots/containers/compost) that you'd like to share, exchange or sell, please leave these in a box with a note outside your front gate for others to collect if interested.
2. If you don't have any suitable containers for growing seeds/plants but would like to have a go, try using plastic containers from your recycling bin (pricking drainage holes in the bottom if necessary).

Monica Dent (monicaanddent@gmail.com or 01494 488943)

Kate Slade (kateslade61@icloud.com or 01494 488262)

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SPEENCHALK, CHERRIES & CHAIRS

Lesley Hoskins, Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes

At the invitation of the Speen Heritage Group, members of the Chalk, Cherries & Chairs team came to Speen Village Hall on a Monday evening in early March to talk about their project to a big group of residents, who had enthusiastically turned out in spite of the rain and the impending Covid.



Landscapes are uncovering and sharing the everyday lives of the men, women and children who worked in the domestic, village and woodland industries of the Chilterns in the past: chair making, lace making, straw plaiting for the hat industry and decorative

beading. Speen was a centre for several of these activities and members of the audience had some fascinating stories to tell about Speen in the past. There are already a couple of Speen stories on the Woodlanders' blog page.

Chalk Cherries and Chairs is the umbrella for eighteen projects in the Central Chilterns that encourage local people to take part in documenting the heritage and conserving the wildlife and the landscape of this beautiful and fascinating region – which has Speen right in its middle. Team members talked about schemes which encourage birdlife and habitats and about Routes to the Past, which researches, records, and keeps alive the historic network of narrow, steep-sided lanes which have long criss-crossed the Chiltern Hills. The Mystery of Grim's Ditch investigates the purpose and nature of the major linear earthworks of that name which run in sections through the area. Volunteers in Woodlanders' Lives and

If you'd like to find out more about these projects, the Chalk Cherries and Chairs website gives information about the projects and forthcoming happenings. There are regular volunteers' events and all sorts of ways of getting involved. Perhaps someone would be up for the interesting and valuable task of listing and organising Speen's archive material?

Do get into touch, we'd love to have you on board.
www.chilternsaonb.org/projects/CCC



A sunken lane in Ninn Wood, Pitstone Hill



*Occupants of Hillock Cottages, Lily Bottom Lane, c. 1900.
Photograph courtesy of Stuart King.*



Flooded fields in February

Photograph by Christine Dunnington

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Speen WI celebrates its Diamond Anniversary 1960 - 2020

This year is a very special one for Speen WI as we celebrated 60 years since our formation on January 5th 1960, when 46 ladies met in the Village Hall and it was decided to form an evening WI



in Speen. This would replace the original afternoon WI which had closed in 1948 after 20 years. Of those present, 40 were nominated for committee with 30 willing to stand. How times have changed with many organisations struggling to get people to join in.

The following week the first meeting of the new WI was held and a committee of 10 was elected with Mrs Greenmon as President. It was agreed that there would be speakers 'of an educational nature' each month and tea and biscuits would be served. A short time later the minutes show that 'ladies were requested not to knit or smoke until after the speaker had finished'. One can only imagine the clatter of needles and the atmosphere in the hall during the latter part of the meeting.

Looking through the records it is apparent that WI members took an active part in village life, helping at the fete - as we still do - delivering meals on wheels, having a rota for cleaning the village hall and keeping the bus shelters clean and tidy. It was the WI nationally that brought about the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. The Annual Spring Clean in Speen was started by WI member, Gloria Holmes, and we shall be supporting this effort again this year on April 5th.

Since then Speen WI has met every month, adhering to the aims of the WI to provide interesting and informative meetings with speakers on a variety of subjects and providing opportunities to learn new skills while enjoying the friendship and fun that comes from belonging to our organisation.

This year the County Federation is also celebrating. It is their centenary and each WI was asked to make a pennant showing its year of formation. Jacqueline King made one for Speen WI showing a Lace Maker and beech trees as a tribute to the surroundings and the cottage industry which was so much a part of life for the ladies of Speen 100 years ago. As a result of this it was decided that we would like to make our own bunting to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary. All our members produced fabric pennants, many of which were designed to illustrate the many

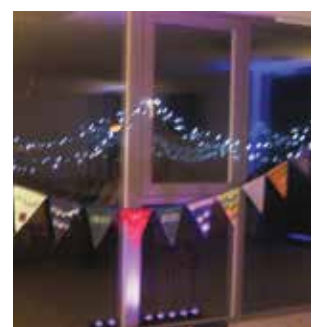
aspects of WI Life. This was completed in time for our celebrations this year.

We held our January meeting in the Chapel Hall where we enjoyed a delicious meal, a glass

or two of bubbly and each others' company. The records of the inaugural and first meeting were read out and caused much laughter as did other snippets from old records. In 1960 there were no first names recorded. Everything was so formal then and we are all really pleased that life is so much more relaxing these days and that the WI is an outward looking, inclusive organisation open to all women anywhere in England and Wales.

As usual we have an exciting programme arranged for the year. At our February meeting there was discussion about visits and events to be held throughout the year which will be put in place to add extra interest. Members were then invited to 'Show their Love for the Environment' around Speen by creating Green Hearts with messages about what they love and what they try to do. Clearing litter, reducing plastic use, washing clothes less often to reduce the microfibers as well as reducing water consumption and not leaving appliances on stand-by were just a few of the actions being taken. These were placed on a board on the Village Hall noticeboard for all to see - but unfortunately someone decided to remove them within a couple of days. If anyone knows where they went to we would really like to know as we intend to use them as a basis for our actions on climate change.

Coming up will be tales of nursing in the sixties, an exploration of some of the less well known country houses of Buckinghamshire as well as flower arranging and a look at honeybees. All these are always listed on the What's On page of the SNDN and on the Village Diary. So choose your favourite and come and visit us in this very special year.



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WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

Winter 2019/20

Following a mild but very wet winter period we seem to be seeing signs of Spring with local frogs having completed their spawning. The mild winter produced few interesting records. Many species we would normally expect to see in our gardens have not really been about. Siskins and Redpolls have not been apparent on our feeders. Redwings and Fieldfares did visit the garden but in mid- March we still have quite a few berries left on our trees.

In previous winters we have had invasions of Hawfinches from Europe. This year the most recorded locally was eleven in late November at Great Hampden. I have had sightings of up to 6 Jays together and this is likely to have included migrant birds from Scandinavia. Other birds which tend to be predominantly migrant visitors include Woodcock and I recorded two locally in January. As usual this sighting was of the flushed birds disappearing into the distance. Their amazing camouflage makes them well-nigh invisible on the woodland floor.

Slightly further afield there were news reports that a White tailed Sea Eagle from a release programme on the Isle of Wight had appeared in Oxfordshire on a large private estate where it had been mixing with the resident Red Kites for several months. The precise location was not revealed but I suspect it was quite close to the M40. A bit closer to home

between Saunderton and Lacey Green the small vulnerable population of Corn Buntings have been getting help over the winter with extra grain supplied by the Chilterns Conservation Board which is trying to support our less common farmland birds. Yellowhammers will also be benefitting from this support. Another bird that gets support in the area is the Barn Owl with various nest boxes being provided for them in suitable territories by the Bucks Owl and Raptor Group. Interestingly a Barn Owl was noted on the outskirts of Speen just a week ago.

A few Roe Deer are still about but I think a large number must have been culled because numbers seem well down on what I had been recording. Jeremy Symondson reported five together in Monkton Wood in February but other than that I have only seen ones and twos.

Now Spring is here at last birds are staking their claims to nesting territories. A male Moorhen has returned to our pond where two broods were successfully raised last year. At night he has been calling to attract a mate and today one has arrived and nest sites are being investigated. Meanwhile two pairs of Mallard are laying eggs in nests around our ponds.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings

Peter Symonds 01494 488016 or psymonds590@gmail.com



PONDLIFE

Jamie Harland, Gardener, in association with SEAG

I'm sure in this current situation, everyone with a garden is grateful for their own isolated patch of outdoors to enjoy the new spring warmth; the flower beds showing some colour; birdsong becoming more apparent and glimpses of the first butterflies.

For those who take delight in such things, nothing could be a greater addition to the garden than a pond. The benefits of having even the smallest of ponds with a couple of aquatic plants will reward you with not just an interesting feature but a noticeable rise and focus for all the wildlife activity in your garden: birds appear to drink and bath; dragonflies will patrol around it like miniature jet fighters and you can have your own patch of waterlilies to gaze out upon. The benefits for wildlife are even greater if there are multiple ponds in a neighbourhood. Species of all kinds will have more places to drink, feed, reproduce and thrive. So if you're looking for a project to start while isolated and can get your hands on some pond lining online, now is the perfect time to start before the ground hardens and plants will have a good chance to establish.



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SPEENFESTIVAL2019

From small beginnings - a pageant marking the Millennium - Speen Festival has grown into two extraordinary weeks of music, theatre, art and adventure.

Important goals include nurturing young people's creative interests, and spreading the 'festival magic' within and beyond our village. In a successful year, Festival funds support projects like 'SpeenSchoolFest', engaging pupils and teachers from local schools in art and music.

Following the 2019 Festival, £2,850 was donated to Oakridge Primary School in High Wycombe, to help fund new learning activities, embracing drama, music, art and design. Highlights will include a visit to the Globe Theatre, workshops led by a visiting artist, steel drum workshops and resources to enhance displays of pupils' art and design. This large school, only a couple of miles down the road, faces many challenges including those brought by serving pupils from 25 countries and a diversity of cultures. They were thrilled by the artistic opportunities our donation would enable.



Speen Festival Co-ordinator Cat Cook presents the Festival donation to Oakridge School Headteacher Stuart Cook and pupils.

In addition, the Festival donated a total of over £10,000 to Speen village organisations - Speen School, the Playing Fields, Speen Helping Hospices, the Chapel, the Village Hall, the Fête, the Marquee and The Speen and North Dean News (*thank you - Ed.*) plus The Chiltern Music Academy, Agape, Woodland Trust, Medical Detection Dogs, Sepsis UK, Princes Centre, The Calm Zone, St John's Church Organ Fund and Amersham Museum.

BEECHDEAN DOWN ON THE FARM

Gill Kent

Last year farmers had to contend with a spring drought, and a very wet autumn which prevented arable farmers sowing autumn crops; if that wasn't enough we then were confronted with the rise of veganism. This year we were looking forward to a 'normal' year! Our hopes have been dashed already by floods and the Coronavirus.

For once Chiltern farmers are fortunate; our thin chalky soils allow the continuous rainfall to run through into the aquifer and we should be able to sow our crops and graze the grass when it eventually stops raining.

Of course Brexit has not gone away. Welsh sheep farmers are very worried because for years much of their sheep meat has been ex-ported to France. The rest of us are expecting less government support.

Unfortunately the areas which produce much of the grain and vegetables we enjoy are grown in the flat fertile soils which have featured heavily in the recent flooding. The soil structure will take weeks to recover and bring back to a fertile condition. Should the Coronavirus become pandemic then the population will certainly want to know

the provenance of their food but it looks unlikely that the yields from British farms will be up to normal.

The attack on the beef trade, led mainly by the vegans, meant a collapse in the market for store cattle. As a result we were unable to find a market for our beef young stock last autumn and, as we didn't have enough barn space, the animals have had to be 'out-wintered' which is not ideal when it is wet. Cattle and sheep grow thick winter coats which keep them warm even at low temperatures but are not waterproof. When it rains they feel cold.

A good summer (and by that I mean plenty of sun but enough rain to make the crops grow) would benefit the whole country. This is essential for many small farmers to survive. The recent Budget has done almost nothing to support the industry, with only £3 million being allocated for environmental schemes. We must however remember that the present restrictions due to Covid-19 are putting an enormous strain on all small businesses, so let us hope that a good summer will both benefit farmers and help to kill the virus.

A BIT OF PUZZLING TO HELP PASS THE TIME ...

(Solutions on p. 27)

EASY SODUKO

	9		8		2	7	5	
					3	1	6	4
3								9
	1	4						
2						3		
5	3		1					
				1			2	
9	8			4				
	2			5				7

MEDIUM SODUKO

	9			1			2	
5	6			2				
			3					
		3	9					
			4			5	6	7
2							1	3
		8	6					1
							3	2
						4	5	

DIFFICULT SODUKO

				5		8	1	
	4							
	8							
				7				
1			3				7	
9	2		4		8	3		
						1		
2		8				9		4
	7		6	9				

EASY CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
12		13						14	15			16
18						19		20			21	
22										23		
24								25				

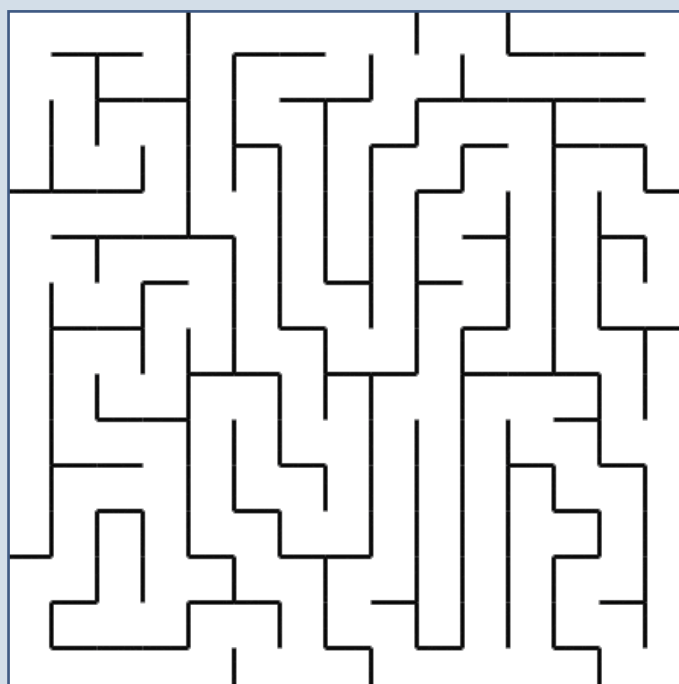
ACROSS

- Female singing voice (7)
- Embellish (5)
- Requirements (5)
- Seemliness (7)
- Aerial (7)
- Faint-hearted (5)
- Figure of speech (6)
- Health centre (6)
- Toy bear (5)
- Eastern (anag) (7)
- Make bigger (7)
- Hospital worker (5)
- Mountain lakes (5)
- Rather old (7)

DOWN

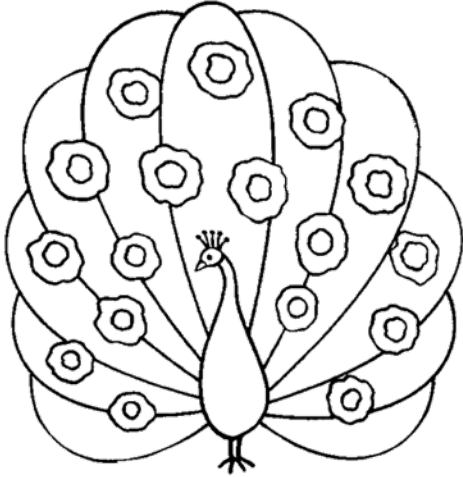
- Open-toed shoes (7)
- Fold in fabric (5)
- Armoury (7)
- Severe trial (6)
- Racecourse near Windsor (5)
- Rower (7)
- Wanderer (5)
- Interfering person (7)
- Erudite (7)
- Implements for eating (7)
- Cold symptom (6)
- Larceny (5)
- Tales (5)
- Mistake (5)

MAZE



* For Children *

How about colouring in these Hello Notes, cutting them out and popping them through the letterboxes of friends or neighbours to let them know you're thinking of them!



Hello!

To: _____

From: _____



Hello!

To: _____

From: _____



Hello!

To: _____

From: _____

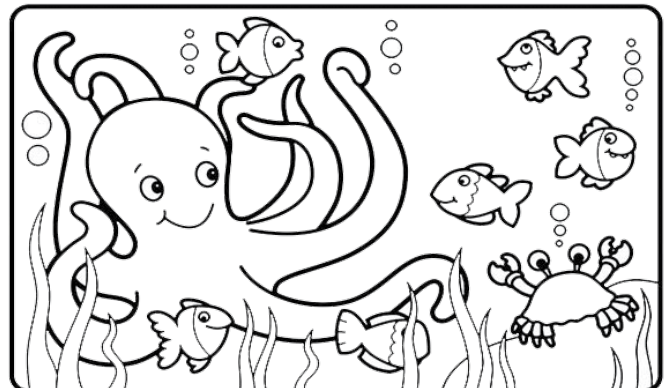
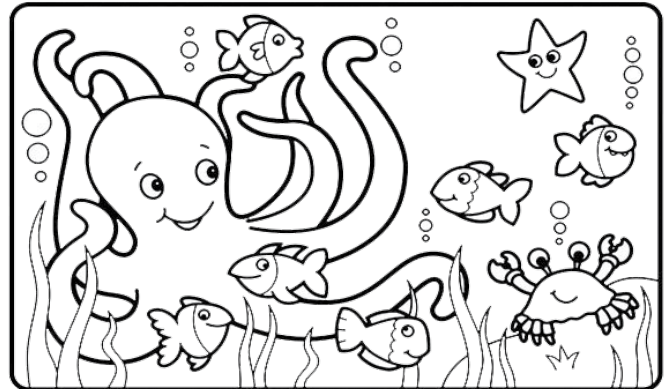


See Hive Word Search



Can you find these words?

honey flower hive sun
nectar bee yellow



FIND 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PICTURES



‘Our Beautiful Planet’ Writing Competition

Our recent writing competition was warmly embraced by both local schools, Speen and St John's, as well as other members of the local community. St John's School held a 'whole school write' which produced some amazing creative writing. It was very difficult for us to choose one piece to receive a prize from each category as everyone had worked so hard, but the chosen pieces are below. Congratulations to these three children! SEAG would like to extend their thanks to both schools for embracing this project as we feel that Climate Change affects us all and we can only make progress when we work as a whole community.

WINNER OF THE 8-11 AGE GROUP

Ned Bobbin- Age 10

Once upon a time...

Once upon a time there was a planet.

All the trees were gone
And the sky was grey.
Knee-deep in water,
A heatwave in May.

The humans were dying.
No longer trying.

This planet could be our world.

The soil turned to sand,
And then to mud
And it all ended
With a giant flood.

The animals were dying.
No longer trying.

This planet could be our world.

We can save this planet!
It isn't too late.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE
We will stop this fate.

The humans are surviving.
They are still trying.

This planet could be our world.

Scoot or cycle,
Walk or run.
Saving this planet
Could be fun!

The animals are surviving,
They are still trying.

THIS planet could be our world.

WINNER OF 4-7 AGE GROUP

Rosie Milmine - Age 4

Letter to an Alien from another Planet

Dear Alien,

Come and see the forest. In the forest there are beautiful birds. It is sad people are chopping the trees down.

The birds are flying down- they have no home.

WINNER OF THE 12-18 AGE GROUP

Rose Uhart – Age 12

Our Beautiful Planet

The things I love about Earth are the trees that are so pretty and help us to breathe. The different animals that live here, all unique and beautiful in their own way. But earth is not going to stay like this forever and it is our job to keep it this way. Please can everyone help my generation to still see this beauty. If everyone does something, just a little thing, such as flicking a switch to turn the light off when they leave a room, it would make a huge difference.

We are all very lucky to live around here, we have peace, nature and a lovely landscape. We don't live in an over-populated urban area. We still have time to save our planet but it is important to act now and protect this place where we live, have fun, make friends and feel joy.

When I read about climate change I feel sad, not inspired. We need to feel inspired when we read about how we can stop this from happening and inspired when we hear what Greta Thunburg is saying. Summers are getting hotter and seas are getting higher. Don't make future generations hate us, I'd like them to be proud of us for trying.

Jane Farley

SEAG held its first public meeting at the beginning of February in the Village Hall. Despite the Rugby being on, there was a good turnout of nearly 40 people. This signalled to us that there is significant support for local group action to tackle the Climate Crisis.

After a brief introduction about SEAG, the Climate Crisis and biodiversity loss there was a quick overview of the WWF footprint calculator and how it has helped us shape our actions at home.

Then everyone divided into discussion groups covering the four main topics: Food; Protect and Restore; Travel and Home and Stuff (energy use and other things we buy/use at home). From the ideas generated by the discussion groups, everyone then had the opportunity to vote for the actions they would most like to see taken forward by SEAG in the near future.

Project themes with strong support included:

- 🌿 Information sharing/advice on all subjects.
- 🌿 Growing more food locally via 'Grow Your Own' and/or a community allotment
- 🌿 Promoting biodiversity in our gardens, ponds and communal spaces
- 🌿 Improving access to more sustainable forms of travel
- 🌿 Activities to re-purpose/re-use 'stuff'

On the basis of these results, we have decided to run a series of themed information events – the first will be a Renewable Home Energy Event. This will be a free public meeting - location, time and date tbc (postponed due to current events). There will be speakers on converting both domestic and public buildings to more energy efficient and lower carbon options including air source heat pumps and sourcing the best eco-electricity supplier.

We would like to engage everyone in Speen in ways to reduce our carbon emissions and improve our local biodiversity - do please keep an eye on our social media for current and future SEAG events and activities.

Home Energy Event:

Contact Jo Podmore jo.j.podmore@gmail.com

or Mei Price meilian.wan@gmail.com

Facebook: [SpeenEnvironmentalActionGroup](#)

Twitter: [@SpeenEnvAction](#) **Instagram:** [@seag.speen](#)



Visit to Speen School



Members of SEAG spent a morning at Speen School discussing Carbon Footprints and making two houses - one eco-house and one which had a large carbon footprint (which even had a heli-pad!). The children had a lot of fun crafting with recycled materials and afterwards presented their work to their Headteacher, Mrs Coles, using their learning from the morning to explain what they had made.





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SPEEN BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Speen resident Trudi Scrivener who celebrated winning the Silver award in the Business Woman of the Year category at the annual SME (small medium enterprise) Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire Business Awards last month, at a ceremony attended by over 300 guests at Whittlebury Hall.

Trudi set up her Amersham based business, Ashford Home Care, just three years ago, and now employs more than 50 carers as well as a head office support team. Ashridge Home Care provides specialist care services for a range of illnesses including Dementia, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, spinal injuries as well as emergency care following an accident or fall for example. Carers are matched specifically to each clients' needs and provide continuity of care enabling clients to stay at home knowing they are well looked after.



Trudi said: "When I set up Ashridge Home Care it was very much about providing a high quality service that I could be proud of. Alongside this it's always been my mission to make sure that our staff are appreciated and know that being a carer is a profession that is highly valued. The simple philosophy of taking care of our staff, just as we do our clients, has been a winning formula for running a successful business.

Although my name is on this Award, it's not really about me, it's about everyone in the team. The real winners who should be recognised are the carers who go above and beyond to make sure their clients have a good day."

Judges of the category said: "To take home a silver in this prestigious category is a real testimony to the excellent work that Trudi and her team at Ashridge Home Care achieve. Congratulations."

SUPPORT AIDA

In May this year Trudi's daughter Aida is running the Hackney Half Marathon to raise much-needed funds for the Alzheimer's Society and all the wonderful work they do. If you would like to support her, here are the details of her fundraising page.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hackneyhalfmarathon-aidafinn



A PLEA FROM NORTH DEAN



We have a problem in North Dean with the main drains. They've been blocked 4 times this year and the culprit appears to be 'wipes'. Please, please, please can everyone make a concerted effort not to put wipes of any sort - even the flushable ones - down the loo - the old drains just can't cope with them!

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SPEEN GARDEN GROUP

Catherine Butler. Photos by Marion Grimsdale.

Once again we have had another interesting and successful year, starting off in March with a talk in the Village Hall given by Kathy Brown who told us all about her garden set in 4.5 acres in Stevington, Nr. Bedford.

We then had two car sharing trips, one in April to The Orchard House at Coleshill and one to Homelands in Ellesborough. Both these gardens gave us plenty of ideas while we sat in the sunshine and enjoyed the usual delicious tea and cake!



The Manor House in Stevington



Homelands in Ellesborough

Our main event was in June when we went by coach to see the lovely gardens which Kathy Brown had told us about in her talk in March. She gave us a tour explaining the different plants and things of interest and then served us some of her delicious cakes which she makes using various flowers and herbs from her garden. Once again the weather was kind to us.

We ended our year in July with a private evening visit to The Plant Specialist in Great Missenden where, after an introductory talk Sean Walter, a director of the nursery, took us on a tour explaining how they operated. We were then let loose to buy any plants we fancied, which of course we did.



SOLUTIONS

EASY SODUKO

4	9	1	8	6	2	7	5	3
8	7	2	5	9	3	1	6	4
3	5	6	4	7	1	2	8	9
7	1	4	6	3	5	8	9	2
2	6	9	7	8	4	3	1	5
5	3	8	1	2	9	4	7	6
6	4	5	3	1	7	9	2	8
9	8	7	2	4	6	5	3	1
1	2	3	9	5	8	6	4	7

MEDIUM SODUKO

3	9	4	7	1	5	8	2	6
5	6	1	8	2	4	3	7	9
7	8	2	3	6	9	1	4	5
6	5	3	9	7	1	2	8	4
8	1	9	4	3	2	5	6	7
2	4	7	5	8	6	9	1	3
4	2	8	6	5	3	7	9	1
9	7	5	1	4	8	6	3	2
1	3	6	2	9	7	4	5	8

DIFFICULT SODUKO

3	9	2	7	5	4	8	1	6
5	4	1	9	8	6	7	2	3
7	8	6	1	2	3	4	9	5
8	3	5	2	7	1	6	4	9
1	6	4	3	9	5	2	7	8
9	2	7	4	6	8	3	5	1
6	5	9	8	4	2	1	3	7
2	1	8	5	3	7	9	6	4
4	7	3	6	1	9	5	8	2

EASY CROSSWORD

1	S	O	P	R	A	N	O	5	A	D	O	R	N
A		L		R		R		S		A		O	
8	N	E	E	D	S	9	D	E	C	O	R	U	M
D		A		E		E		O		S		A	
10	A	N	T	E	N	N	A	11	T	I	M	I	D
L		A		A		L							
12	S	I	M	I	L	E	14	C	L	I	N	I	C
							17	S		E			
18	T	E	D	D	Y	20	N	E	A	R	E	S	T
H		D		A		E		R		R		L	
22	E	N	L	A	R	G	E	23	N	U	R	S	E
F		E		N		Z		E		O		R	
24	T	A	R	N	S	26	E	L	D	E	R	L	Y




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Chair's Annual Report 2020

2019 was yet another busy year for both Speen Playing Fields and Ridgley's Field, not just as spaces for children to play, cycle and 'hang out' but as venues for many events. The fields provide continuity, a place for the community to come together in our evolving village.

Raising funds, inspecting and maintaining equipment and the pavilion, updating paperwork and processes, and emptying bins are amongst the many essential tasks that the trustees do. Managing these fields is time-consuming and as the financial report highlights, balancing costs and income is precarious, allowing little scope for future investment or upgrades in our facilities.

There is a seasonal pattern to what we do and 2019 was no exception. Starting with the Spring work party which provides a good opportunity to get everyone together early in the year.

Fun Day followed in June led by Matt and his team of captains, inventors and referees. Congratulations to the winning White team. Although primarily a village ice-breaker, funds were raised through donations, bar, and BBQ. Thanks once again to all involved.

The joint fund-raiser with the school had limited success, raising only £432 in total. I'm very pleased that for 2020 the Community Ball is returning to the Playing Fields with both the school and SPF committee jointly pulling off what I'm sure will be a fantastic event and fundraiser.

The Pirate-themed Fete took centre stage in July. We were chosen as the main charity, receiving £1,260 for the upgrade of the pavilion loos. An excellent start has been made, with the final plumbing and flooring to be completed before this summer.

In September the very successful Festival made good use of both fields and the sunshine. The Autumn work party followed with blustery weather and very enthusiastic Laurel cutting.

Environmental concerns continued to dominate headlines throughout the year. SEAG volunteers, with the support of the charity 'Plantlife', planted an area of Ridgley's field with the parasitic yellow rattle plant. It is a long-term project with the end goal to have a maze of wildflowers and pathways to be explored and enjoyed by wildlife and villagers. Going forward, environmental issues will become a greater part of the Playing Fields considerations, be it looking at how we can best manage the fields to increase biodiversity, whilst still maintaining the charities core purpose or through ensuring we have policies in place minimising our environmental impact.

Moving on to Bonfire night. As usual it was a challenge. It wasn't the paperwork this year, but a deluge of rain which resulted in a very sensible decision being taken to postpone the event to the Sunday evening. We managed to maintain a team of volunteers and fortunately covered costs, making a small profit. It highlighted the vulnerability of our key fundraiser to the weather. Space exploration is obviously not for Speen with the Speenex Rocket and launch pad being engulfed in flames before take-off. Thanks to Peter Symonds for the work involved in designing yet another unique bonfire, to the builders, to Keith Jones for the firework display, to safety marshalls, to Andrew Price for organising the bar and all the other volunteers who manned the gates and BBQ.

The closing event of the calendar year was the lighting of the Christmas tree. Although it began at the Christmas tree, a noisy procession then made its way down to the Chapel Hall where mince pies and mulled wine were served. Carols were led by the Laughton's and around £60 was raised for Wycombe Homeless Connection.

In January SPF coordinated the Christmas Tree Recycling service raising over £400.

Cristina Delgado and her team continue to smoothly manage the very important Playing Field Draw. Ticket sales remain steady and as always, we are grateful to Cristina, Jim Barton and all the individual collectors for their roles.

So, moving on to 2020 and goals for SPF year ahead:

1. Maintain a positive bank balance
2. Complete the toilet upgrade
3. Continue to maintain existing play equipment to ensure both that safety standards are met but also longevity
4. Continue to play a key role across village organisations
5. Continue to upgrade processes and paperwork providing a safe legal framework for what we do
6. Ensure we are aware of the environmental impact of the work we do and look at ways to improve
7. Encourage new people to join the committee (ideally with communication/publicity/technology skills) and look for a new Chair for 2021 onwards.

I would like to thank all the trustees for the generosity of time and skills that they donate to support the Playing Fields. Thanks also for everyone in the community who supports the Playing Fields through attending Charity Events, joining Work Parties or through taking part in the Playing Field Draw.



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OBITUARY

by Susie Howard

John Edwin Rogers

John was born in Havendale, North Dean on 29th October 1931. He was the son of Charles and Gladys, and the younger brother of sister Joyce. Charles, who subsequently lived in The Turnery for many years, gave long service to the village as a stalwart of the North Dean Village Hall Committee, and his commitment to community service had a profound influence on John for the rest of his life.

John attended Speen primary school, and later attended Wycombe Technical High School (now known as John Hampden Grammar School) where he flourished both in the classroom and the sporting realm, as a very effective cross country runner and table tennis player.

Post school, his technical abilities secured him work as a Telephone Engineer at the GPO (laterly BT), where he spent the whole of his long career. Alongside his busy working life was an equally important personal life. John and Pat's paths crossed after Pat's family moved south to North Dean from County Durham in 1947. Pat served the family of Sir Samuel Turner in their home, North Dean House. Through local chapel and village hall events John and Pat met and romance blossomed, and they married on 25th October 1954. They had obtained permission to build a new home in North Dean, Beau Vista, where they spent the rest of their married life together, and to their delight their son Stephen was born on 21st June 1959.

John became a staunch and vigorous member of North Dean Village Hall Committee and indeed chaired it for many years. He was also a Trustee of the Village Hall for many years. He played cricket for the village for decades, and he, Pat, and Stephen were always critically involved organising the fete, social events and games nights, amongst other things. His service to the community further developed when John was co-opted onto Hughenden Parish Council in 1979 and was re-elected continually until 2011, a total of 32 years. In 1979 Hazelmere was still a ward of Hughenden Parish and at that time around 20 Councillors met monthly at Hughenden Village, John representing North Dean Village as part of Hughenden Valley Ward.

He was Hughenden Parish Council Vice Chairman between 1994-98, Chairman 1998-2002 and again in 2007-2009. During that period the Council Offices progressed from the Clerk using his own house as an office to the use of a portacabin in the car park on the Common in Gt. Kingshill to the opening of the present office and meeting room on that site in 1998.



John also chaired the finance committee and served on a variety of sub committees. Service to others was a part of John's nature and he was an inspiration to many. He was renowned for his willingness to take on extra duties, and gave freely of his time. He had a great knowledge of the Parish, which enabled him to deal with issues objectively and contribute constructively. He was a good listener, and always found the time to talk to residents.

John worked co-operatively at all levels, and as a result the Council achieved much

during his time with them, such as the continuation of a tree planting programme, the construction of a new play area on land donated by the Council in Templewood, Walters Ash, and obtaining a site for the new Doctors Surgery in Hughenden Valley.

John retired from BT in 1991 and this enabled him to pursue not only his community work but also his love of gardening, holidays with Pat, and golf. John and Pat celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2014, complete with telegram from the Queen. Both John and Pat were presented with a beautiful stained glass roundel at the 2005 fete, which had been specially commissioned in recognition of their outstanding service to North Dean when they retired from the committee. He later retired from the Trustees on 27th January 2007.

John's life changed in 2014 when he suffered a major stroke, and although he made a good recovery he never returned to his former health and mobility. Sadly he had another, more profound, stroke in 2019, and was readmitted to the stroke unit. His initial small steps of recovery could not be sustained though and he passed away on 19th August 2019.

Everyone who knew John will remember him and revere him for his genuine humanity, for his modesty and for his lifelong interest in every facet of life in his beloved North Dean. He had a quiet sense of humour and his integrity was respected throughout the local communities. North Dean residents in particular will be eternally grateful to him for the many years of service he bestowed on the village. He will be remembered with great fondness, and will be sorely missed.

John is survived by his wife of 64 years Pat, and his son Stephen.

His funeral took place on 30th August 2019.

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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 Village Hall - Chair	Alison Kent	ath@bfarms.co.uk
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings	Jeremy Mudie	07880 785983
North Dean Village Fete	Jez Wicks	01494 563517
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	Natasha Kann	07737 638618
Speen Baptist Church - Church Administrator	Sandy Mitcheson	01494 488875
Speen Fete - Chair	Clare Morris/Helen Davies	01494 488553
Speen Helping Hospices - Secretary	Maureen Laing	01494 488397
Speen Heritage Group - Chairman	Peter Symonds	01494 488016
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	01494 488939
Speen Playing Fields - Chair <i>playingfields@speenbucks.org.uk</i>	Clare Morris	01494 488553
Speen C of E Infant School - Head	Jacque Coles	01494 488321
Speen School PTA - Chair	Cat Cook	01494 488939
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	Jenny Pearce	01494 562333
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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Opening Hours: Monday to Friday : 7.30am – 6pm, Saturday : 8am – 4pm, Sunday : 8am – 3pm

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

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