



Speen and North Dean News

Issue 3

January 1995

OUR LOSS - CANVEY ISLAND'S GAIN

Charlie, Rachel, Joshua and Anna Radburn are about to move house.

On speaking with Charlie, the move to a new Baptist Church in Canvey Island, Essex does not appear to be troubling him. He talks about the move in the same way he talks about life. Everything is discussed in the same even tempered though sincere matter-of-fact way. Mild mannered and easy going maybe, but not "couldn't care less" as he talks about his commitment to his family, to the village, to the church and to his faith.

His Christian conversion dates back to his days at Aylesbury Grammar School. He was so impressed by the quiet faith of a 'little greasy haired spotty character' that he became a Christian and his life was changed from there on. Charlie took his new found faith seriously enough to start lay preaching in local churches. Incidentally, the first time he preached was at Speen Church in 1972. Sixteen years later he returned to Speen Church as a part time Pastor, supplementing this income with his own painting and decorating business. He's been the nearest thing to the village vicar that the community has had, an unofficial role he admits to enjoying: "You tend to get asked to do things that the vicar would normally do...judging the guy on Guy Fawkes night and other village functions."



A sense of community is important to Rachel and Charlie.

Noticing the lack of facilities for young people and hearing teenagers say things like 'I didn't know there were other teenagers in the village', they started a youth club although feeling inadequate to the task. It began with just three young people and steadily grew to forty or so. They were keen to avoid 'Bible bashing' the young people and have obviously built up a good relationship with many of them. A smaller but still impressive sized group of young people who now have a faith of their own meet in the front room of the Manse. Speen and North Dean News evolved from this same sense of community. Its aim was

to draw all the different aspects of the two villages together, which they hope it has achieved. In fact they are sorry to be leaving it but know they've left it in good hands.

1995 is likely to see a "ministering family" shaped hole in many people's lives, locally. What is certain is that as a family they will be missed by the Community. We would like to thank them for their commitment and involvement with us and wish them all the best for the future.


BEX and

BEN



Season's Greetings





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GOOD NEIGHBOURS

GUIDES

Thursdays

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

Tuesday 10.00 - 11.45 am

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PLAYING FIELDS ASSOC

SPEEN SCHOOL

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W.I.

1st Thursday of every month

- David King

- Margaret Gray

- Mike Bounds

- Pauline Hall

- June Rowland

- Gloria Holmes

- Pauline Hall

- Ted Drew

- Christine Dunnington

- Megan Chinn

- Alice Corrick

- Don White

- Jude Awdry

- Leader - Julie Dench

- Viv Goldie-Jones

- Melanie Page

- Jeanne Hanford

- Amanda Cleaver

- Roger Craft

- Sheila Tidball

- Stan Bale

- Barbara Collett

- H.W. 450611

- 0844 347094

- 488572

- 488372

- 488779

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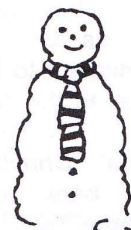
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LIBRARY BUS - Every 2nd Monday 10.20 - 11.00 am - Bus stop top of Hampden Road

POST OFFICE - Every Tuesday 12.30 - 2.30 pm - Speen Village Hall

AT THE W.I., JAM IS OUT GORILLAS ARE IN!

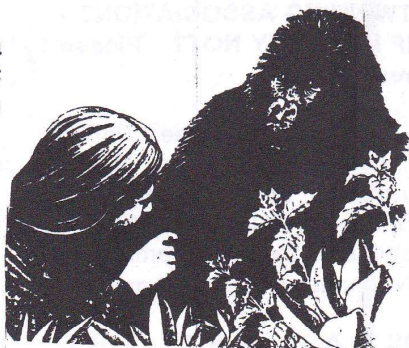
In August, we again, gave a lunch for the Over-60s and were entertained by Mrs. Leggett and friends who sang beautifully some old and new songs.

September brought Dr. Monica German with some fascinating slides of Gorillas, which she had taken on a visit to Rwanda before the fighting. We also attended a group meeting at Prestwood, when the main speaker was Mrs. G. Perrot, talking on the Royal Opera and Ballet Wardrobe. At the end of the month we put on a coffee morning for MacMillan Nurses and although we made £130 we could have made more had more people supported us.

Mrs. Joy Bennett came in October to talk on Community Health care. Our President and Secretary attended the half-yearly Council Meeting in Aylesbury and enjoyed another slide show on Gorillas! This time by Ian

Redmond, who actually is giving a wildlife programme on BBC Television in December. We were happy to see Mrs. Pat Trunkfield, who recently retired as Secretary of the Bucks Federation, presented with a lovely basket of W.I. Market produce, and a book in which all Bucks W.I.s had written a piece about their particular W.I.

In November we had our Annual Meeting. This year Jean Morris stood down as Treasurer (and a jolly good Treasurer she was too) and Jean Baines took over (sighs of relief all round, as nobody wants the Officers' jobs). Thanks very much to both Jeans. The diary date was drawn and the lucky winner was Christopher Rogerson, second prize going to Tom Davies and 3rd prize to Winnie Lowes. After the business we had a super Pot Luck Supper. The Mill at Sonning beckoned on 5th November, and we had an



enjoyable time watching "Corpse".

In December we performed our usual Carol singing around the village.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS: We don't have a speaker in January in case the weather is bad, but we usually have a get-together on the 1st Thursday in January in any case.

February - Marian and Roger Hussey on their trip to Borneo.

March - Hugh Grainger - "I wonder why we say that?"

BARBARA COLLETT

NEW EDITOR'S LETTER

Small villages are tranquil to live in, but sometimes to a fault, seldom these days possessing even one village store where people might tend to bump into one another on a daily basis. I suppose the rot began to set in when indoor taps started replacing the village pump.

So with no store and with no opportunity to chat while queuing for water, a newsletter for Speen and North Dean, albeit a small substitute for live "chat", was a useful idea waiting to happen. So it was sad that the two people who did most to make it happen for the first two issues should so soon have to haul up anchor and set sail for Canvey Island.

Fortunately for this project they had time to train some replacements and keep an eye on us while Issue 3 was being prepared to hit the streets.

The present team comprises:

Irene Tinsley
- (secretarial and advertising)

Caroline Partridge
-(treasurer)
Gloria Holmes
- (fund-raising)
Megan Chinn and Bridget Lister
- (North Dean team members)
and myself, Peter Dawson, editing.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed items for Issue 3 and we look forward to your contributions for Issue 4, and of course, we wish to encourage anyone in the two villages to write in who has something to report or comment upon. My mailbox is next to the gate on Chapel Hill, named Chervil Meadow. If you prefer, you could alternatively phone me on 488222.

The deadline for Issue 4 is 1st March 1995.

We also wish to thank those who gave technical assistance for Issue 3, namely - The Stokenchurch Youth Centre, Staples, Bex Lawrence and Philip Suter.

Finally, a word of thanks to North Dean Village Hall committee for letting us have the free use of the hall for fund-raising.

Oh, yes, before I finish, we would like to get an artist or two onto the team, mostly to make drawings and cartoons to go with items which have been sent in. Please contact any member of the team if you can help.

PETER DAWSON



PLEASE NOTE

The views and opinions expressed in Speen and North Dean News do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor and he reserves the right to edit as necessary.

LACEY GREEN PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF
THE FLOURISHING
TWINNING ASSOCIATION? -
IF NOT, WHY NOT? Please
read on.....**

The Lacey Green Parish Twinning Association (which includes Loosley Row and Speen) was formed in 1981 and is twinned with Hambye, in Normandy, France.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

"To further cultural, touristic and social exchanges between our peoples" - basically to enable people of all ages, including the children to get to know those from a different culture in a friendly, informal and enjoyable way.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any parish resident can join on payment of the modest annual subscription - presently £2.50 individual or £5.00 for a family. Interested non residents are also welcomed as members.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE ORGANISED?

1. With Hambye - Official exchange visit from Lacey Green to Hambye and vice-versa, in alternating years normally on a long May weekend. Also exchange visits for children only (normally March/April for about a week). Travel is by coach or mini-bus and ferry.

Members of the Association provide accommodation to visitors from Hambye on a voluntary basis. This is reciprocated in Hambye.

2. Without Hambye - Various other events such as barn dances, jumble sales, musical evenings, supers

aimed at enjoyable participation and (incidentally) fundraising. These events are also open to non-members.

HOW IS THE ASSOCIATION ORGANISED?

The Association is run by a committee which is elected at the A.G.M. Each committee member acts as the main contact for a group of members. The Twinning Newsletter is circulated on an ad hoc basis.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

You will have an enormous amount of fun; you will widen your circle of friends, both here and in France, and enjoy more involvement in the local life of the villages. Don't worry if you can't speak French - sign language is international!

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Contact: Secretary - Mike Piercy - 0844 34021

Chairman - Pat Williams -
0844 216706

Membership - Elizabeth Souton
- 0844 343714

We are still looking for a Speen Rep to join us ... Come on in

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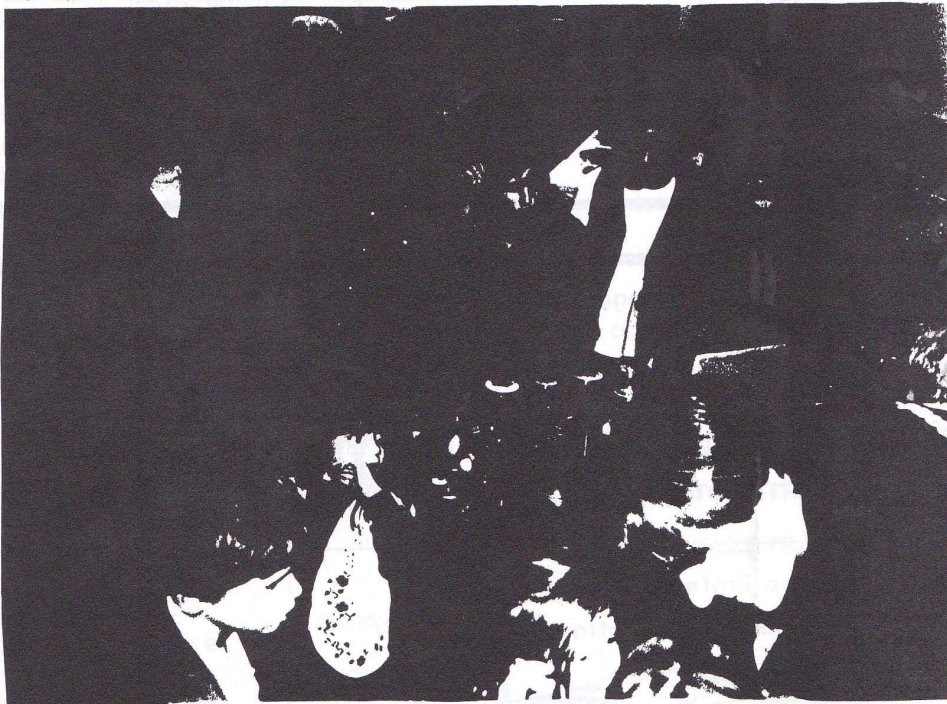


Megan Chinn is Donald Duck!

The Speen and North Dean News held a JUMBLE SALE at North Dean on Saturday 3rd.Dec. It rained, oh how it rained! But we raised £84.09 including donations. (I'm asked to tell you that the large man trying on women's clothes was preparing for a pantomime, Okay?)



This group of happy helpers includes team members Irene, Gloria and Caroline.



Speen

Christmas

Fair

A Great

Success



SPEEN'S FURRY FOREIGNERS

Friends Or Foes?

FOR THE NEXT ISSUE I NEED YOUR STORIES AND OPINIONS ABOUT GLIS GLIS, SQUIRRELS AND MUNTJAC DEER. WRITE OR JUST TELL ME. For example, take squirrels - "They have to be controlled" - so running them over isn't doing just that?

SCOUTS ABANDON SPEEN

NO MORE SCOUTS IN SPEEN - CUBS AND BEAVERS TO CONTINUE

An extraordinary general meeting held to discuss the drop in support for the local scouts, reluctantly came to the decision that they would have to be wound up at the end of 1994. Mr. Paul Rogerson, who chaired the meeting, has expressed the hope that a restart will be made at an appropriate time in the not-too-far-distant future.

On the brighter side, Speen still has a flourishing Guide movement and their leader, Mrs. Pauline Hall, will now also be running the Cubs. At the time of going to press, it was understood that there was no threat to the continuation of the Beavers.

AND NO MORE YOUTH CLUB

Former youth club leader, Charles Radburn, said that for several years the club successfully met the need for a place where young people in the village could meet and form their relationships. It just so happened that for the moment the demand isn't there, so it was an appropriate time to close the facility, particularly at a time when the club leader is leaving the area. No doubt a time will seem right in the future to begin a new club.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE CLOSURES?

The Newsletter will be pleased to publish opinions on the future of youth activities in Speen and North Dean, if you can get them to the editor by 1st March 1995 please.

FIRST CATCH YOUR SPIDERS - THEN BAKE THEM INTO A CAKE!

1ST HUGHENDEN VALLEY GUIDES.

1st Hughenden Valley Guides meet every Thursday evening at the Scout headquarters in Speen.

At the moment there are thirty seven guides in the company. In October we took part in a joint sponsored walk with the Scout Group to raise money for the upkeep of the Scout HQ. Twenty

two Guides took part and we have raised over £200.

This term we have been working on a production which we hope will be performed sometime early next year. It involves individual performances and a group pantomime type play.

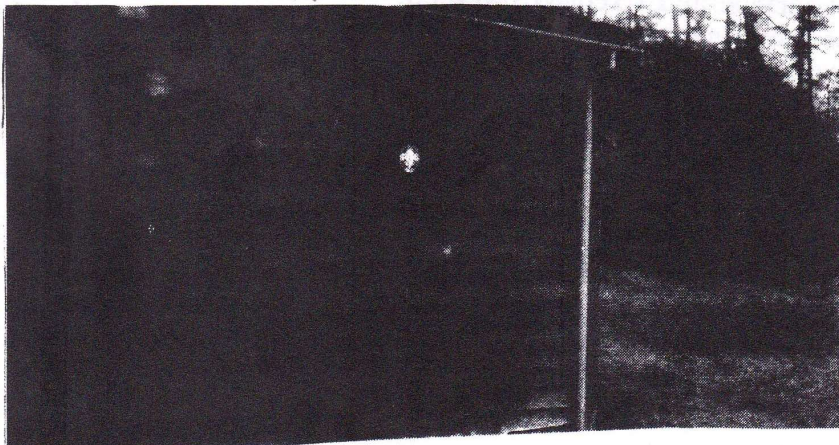
Individual Guides have been working for their confectioner badge, part of the requirement for this is to decorate a cake suitable for a childrens birthday party.

Cakes made to date include a pig, a hedgehog, a train and a spider, all of them are a credit to

the girls who designed and made them.

For our good turns this Christmas we made sweets to be sold at the Hughenden Church bazaar in November, and we are using some of the money raised from our Christmas catalogue to buy presents for less fortunate children than ourselves. Our Christmas carol service was at Speen Chapel, each Guide, Brownie and Rainbow being asked to bring a small present for a child to be distributed through the Priory Centre in High Wycombe.

PAULINE HALL



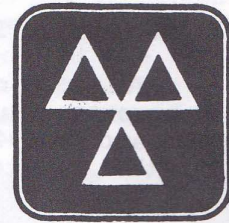
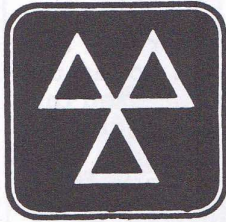
HULTON LODGE
PROBABLY THE ONLY
SCOUT HQ WITH ITS
OWN RESIDENT BADGERS
BUT NO SCOUTS!!



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Megan and Bridget Interview North Dean's Oldest Resident

We were fortunate enough to visit Mrs Elsie Shaw in November 1994 and would like to thank her for giving us a glimpse of her earlier life in North Dean and of her long association with Speen Chapel.

She was born in Wycombe around the turn of the last century and came to live with her grandparents, Edward and Ann Anderson of Spring Coppice Farm, when very young.

She can remember the Valley sides in Upper North Dean (then a part of Spring Coppice Farm) being ploughed for crops although there was only a low yield. Two of the horses used for ploughing were called Prince and Darling, they were large brown horses with huge feet. Two of the Gibbons family were farm workers at Spring Coppice, Oliver (from Speen) and his son, Harold. Oliver Gibbons used to take his meal to work in a red handkerchief and cook his rasher over the fire on dog irons - he was always warned not to get fat on the fire.

Her father worked for Lovells the coachbuilders, building pony traps. He was especially asked for by B. Disraeli at Hughenden Manor where he maintained their brougham carriage.

She was married from Spring Coppice Farm to Aubrey Shaw before 1922. His father, George Shaw, was a builder from Naphill and he built their house in North Dean in 1922 where she still lives. Her husband died in 1968.

She has four sons, Colin - not living locally, Malcolm Aubrey - a dental mechanic and member of

the Orpheus Choir, Roger - who lives in Hughenden, and Martin - a builder.

She has enjoyed a long association with Speen Chapel. She was chief organist for over 70 years, starting before 1922 and admits to being nervous when she first played. She was taught to play the harmonium by Annie Floyd and the pipe organ by Mr. Britnell, organist at Hughenden Church. She can remember playing for hundreds of funerals and also for Chapel Anniversaries, Anniversaries were packed to overflowing with people sitting outside on the bank as well as in the Chapel itself. There were several other organists, Mrs. Grace Lawrence and Mrs. Bertha Plumridge both of Speen, also Mrs. Athalie Lipley, Mrs. Flo Rogers and Mrs Ray Bristow all of North Dean.

Her uncle, Tom Rogers, was treasurer for Speen Chapel and took Sunday School. She remembers attending Chapel twice on Sundays and attending Sunday School. The Chapel used to be full. Members of the congregation used to take along their own instruments to play hymns during the services. Arthur Smith of North Dean was one of the Chapel organisers.

Her husband was a trustee of North Dean Village Hall and also a member of the committee helping to run events at the 'Hut'.

Her brother was in the First World War. During the Second World War she was unable to hear the London bombs from here, but recollects using blackout curtains

all the time. A shelter, which still exists, was built in their garden but was only used once when the siren sounded.

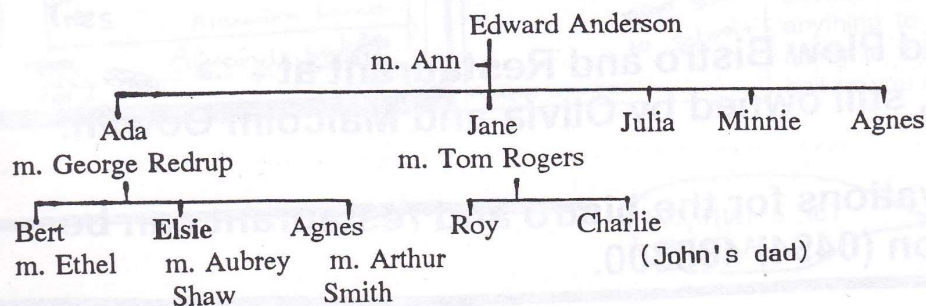
She recalls stones being picked by the local women, in particular Nanny Turvey from Prestwood, for use in road building and for Speen Chapel. Some sandstone was cut up in North Dean.

She remembers Mr. Hopkins a local builder and the building of council houses in North Dean in the 1920s.

She has noticed many changes in North Dean during her lifetime, in particular forms of transport. Her grandfather used to go to Wycombe with his horse and spring cart, usually not seeing anyone else on the way. He used to call at the Red Cross Knight Pub where a nosebag was left on his horse when he went inside. Her mother used to walk to Wycombe to do her shopping. She recalls a local farmer was sometimes brought home by his horse as he lay in the cart. Her brother-in-law, Arthur Smith, had one of the earlier cars in North Dean. Aubrey Shaw had a car later. She used to travel to Wycombe by bus - there was one each hour then - where she used to visit her favourite haunt, the music shop (Percy Prior's) or, like other ladies of the village, shop for neighbours.

Elsie Shaw continues to live in North Dean well supported by her family and friends. A nurse calls daily and she receives Meals on Wheels. She maintains her interest in North Dean.

**BRIDGET LISTER
MEGAN CHINN**



THE OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT AT SPEEN



RECOMMENDED BY :

THE ACKERMAN MARTELL GUIDE 1994

THE GOOD FOOD GUIDE 1994

THE EGON RONAY GUIDE 1994

THE MICHELIN GUIDE 1994

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**The Old Plow Bistro and Restaurant at
Speen, still owned by Olivia and Malcolm Cowan.**

**Reservations for the bistro and restaurant can be
made on (0494) 488300.**

Warn Hambye - Speen's Children are Learning French.

An end of term report from AMANDA CLEAVER

L'ÉCOLE SPEEN

Parlez-vous français? Almost half the children at Speen School can - thanks to Le Club Français, an after school club run by professional French teachers.

The club started 18 months ago and now half the school's 5-8 year olds are learning to speak French.

Le Club Français has been designed so that children learn French in a fun way through songs, games, drama, craft and play. Each child, as a member of the club, receives a membership card, club cassette and song book,

badge, certificates, comics and newsletters.

The school also runs several equally popular after school activities. Mrs. Inde of Wycombe Music Centre organises a thriving music club. Speen's Susan Rodgers teaches keep fit and parent volunteers run a computer club on Saturday mornings.

There is also a sports club on Saturdays, where the children learn the basics of football, rugby, short tennis and cricket - with the help of Mike Bounds of Speen Cricket Club. The sports club has also organised outings to watch professional football and rugby

matches during the year.
NEWS IN BRIEF -

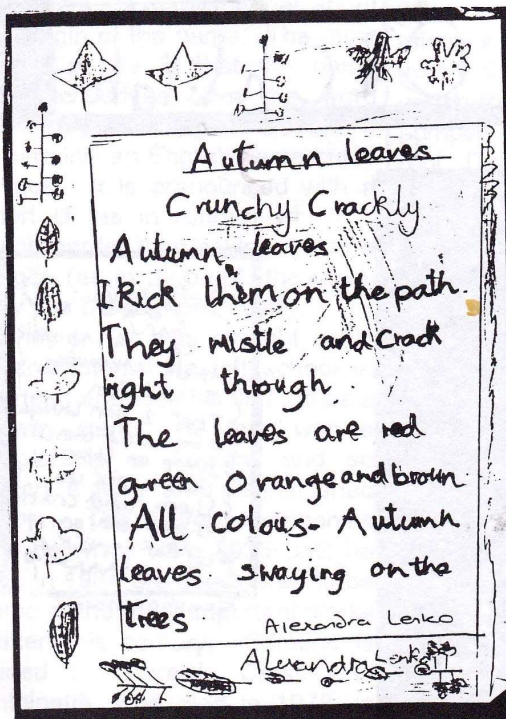
* Speen School's 40 pupils raised more than £300 for the NSPCC this term through a sponsored hide and seek type game.

* Art advisor John Hill visited the school for a day to teach the children art techniques. The children produced a variety of work, mainly using black and white, which is on display in the school.

* As part of national curriculum work, children from years 2 and 3 have made several visits to Speen Playing Field. Their course work has included drawing maps of their route to the playing field and designing and modelling their own playground.

* Speen School joined children at Hughenden First School for a drama production of "The Odyssey". The children also produced their own play, "The Magic Christmas Tree", at the end of term.

.....But We Still Write Our Poems In English



Staying at home is boring with mum and dad snoring
but its best at school
because its very exiting and sometimes very exercising
so I would rather stick to school.
Amber Russell.

AUCTION OF PROMISES

Speen School PTA is organising an Auction of Promises evening on February 11th at the village hall.

A similar event two years ago raised more than £1,000 for school funds and the PTA would like to invite local people to take part and pledge their promises. Proving popular last time were offers of babysitting, hedge cutting and even a 1lb of freshly grown asparagus! Anyone who would like to pledge a promise can contact Alice Corrick on 0494 565380. Even if you can't think of anything to pledge, please come along to the event at the village hall as you may pick up a bargain.

AND THAT'S NOT
QUITE ALL..



NICE ONE FOR TEACHER'S C.V.



I may be in trouble including
this private note on back of
Amber's poem - couldn't resist! Ed.

CHILDREN
I WANT YOU
TO FILL TWO
PAGES EACH
ISSUE OK?
Editor.

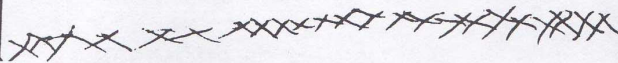
To Mrs. Nayna Mrs. Morris

Mrs. Atkins Mrs. Elkin
and Mrs. Bate

thankyou for doing
all different things
with us you're the
best people that has
ever taught me

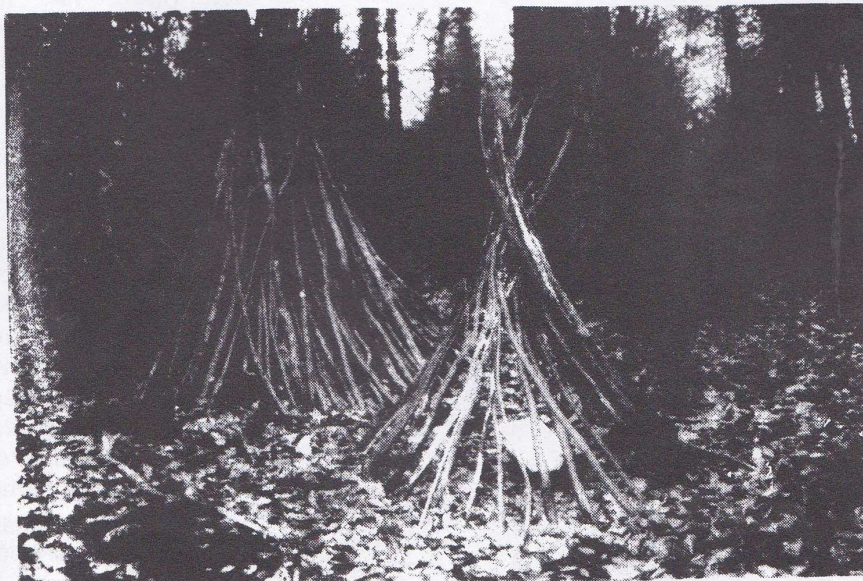
lots of love from

Amber



Shining
twinkle
above me
Missing
Light
Important
glowing
hot
Torchlight

Hannah Faulkner



I love the sound
of the leaves when
I kick them
Then I run through
them and then I
jump on them.
then I pick up
them and crack
them. they go
crack crack

Stephen Harris

When she's not writing poems or learning French, Hannah and her friend
'Chief' Joseph can usually be found at their red indian village
on the edge of Speen's rainforest. Not many people know that.



Six Decades and Three Generations of Rubbras

BEN RUBBRA TELLS OF HOW HIS FAMILY SETTLED IN SPEEN

Antoinette, my mother, was born in Le Havre, but when she was only a few weeks old her family were exiled; (her father was involved in the political intrigues of the Dreyfus Affair) and so moved to Italy and settled in Florence. Her gift as a violinist was soon noticed and she gave her first public concert in Bologna when she was nine years old. She finished her studies in Budapest and then, during a concert tour in England in 1930, she saw an advertisement for a violinist who was willing to learn a new work for violin and piano by the composer Edmund Rubbra. The sonata was given its first performance and soon after, in 1933, Edmund and Antoinette were married. They moved from London to Speen in 1935.

There are many theories about the origin of the name. The most probable one is that the name Rubbra derives from the word Roborough, a village in Devon. It is certainly an English name but is unique. It is pronounced with a short U (as in rubber) which is much harder than saying it with a long u (as in rhubarb), the usual way it is pronounced locally.

My father was brought up in Northampton. He left school at fourteen and took his first job as a railway clerk. He then won a scholarship to London and so began a long and distinguished career. The eleven symphonies that he wrote from 1935 until he died in 1984 are considered to be some of the most important works written this century. Edmund is buried in Gerrards Cross and Antoinette, who died in 1978, is buried in the cemetery in San Domenico, the village in Italy where she was brought up.

My mother and father came to live in this area by chance. They

were invited to stay with the painter Cecil Collins and the Goffins who lived at Turnip End. It was a beautiful May day. They fell in love with the old apple orchards that were thick with blossom and the rich greens in the valley below, Turnip End seemed to beckon them. The nearest place for sale was the windmill at Lacey Green, but they were drawn to the valley and Valley Cottage was there to rent. Soon after they were able to buy the cottage from the actor Bill Monk. He owned all four cottages and he sold them all at the same time. Bryn cottage was bought by the writer Hugh Massingham who then sold it to the actor Anthony Quayle.

Originally the flint and brick (this oldest part dates back to about 1670) was not whitewashed but the large quarry tiles still sit on a base of chalk that acts as a stabiliser and damp proof. The living conditions were very primitive. The water was collected from the roof in a large underground cistern and then hand pumped up to a tank under the roof. During summer droughts the fire brigade came with water and during cold winters when the water pipe from the well froze, the snow was melted in huge saucepans. Dry kindling wood was set alight under a copper tub to heat the water before we got in to have our bath. This room was named "the copper room", and we washed in the company of the smell of mashed chicken food, eggs in ising glass and trays of apples. The outside loo served us well.

Symphonies and concertos were written in a studio built at the top of our hill. To the amazement of everyone this housed a concert grand piano. Among my earliest memories I hear short passages of freshly composed music being played to my mother for her thoughts. I remember waking up in the early morning to the sound

of piano practice. (Edmund formed a string trio that began during the war to play to the troops) and I remember string quartets and soloists trying out new compositions.

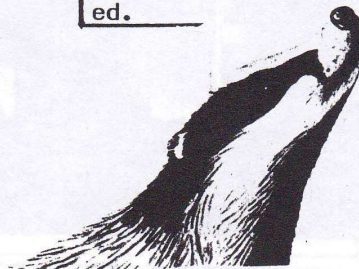
MORE FROM BEN IN THE NEXT ISSUE, Ed.

Ben and Tessa are caring custodians to a magnificent badger colony and summer before last they let us watch them one warm night, my granddaughter and me.

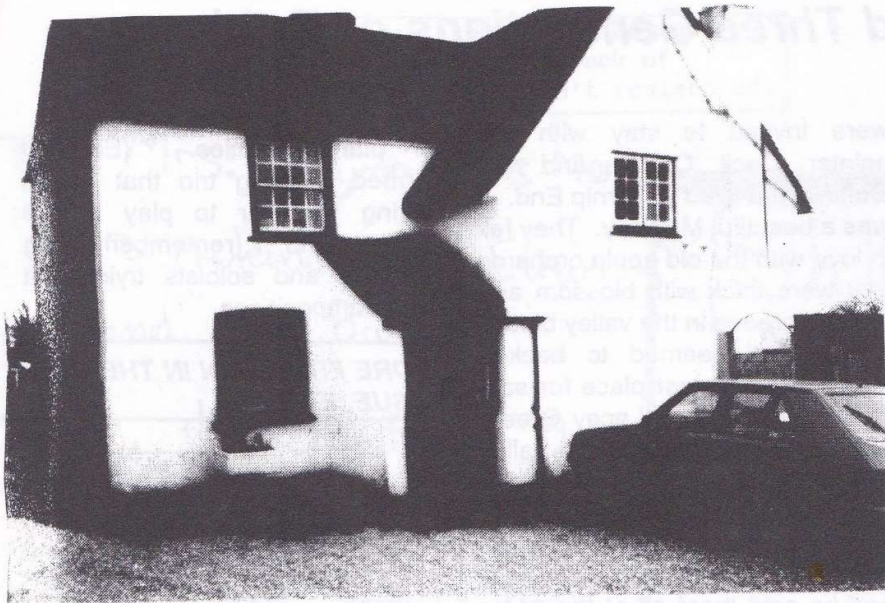
Not long after dark, the squeaking started from below ground. A bit later out came an adult, snuffling around and then another. Finally they were joined by four cubs playfighting all in one big bundle. The moon was up and their black and white shone out so clearly.

Two hours later I made my way out of the 'jungle' carrying a happy sleepy infant.

ed.



SPEEN USED TO HAVE.....



**A PUB CALLED
'THE GEORGE'**

**ANOTHER
CALLED
'THE GRUBB INN'**



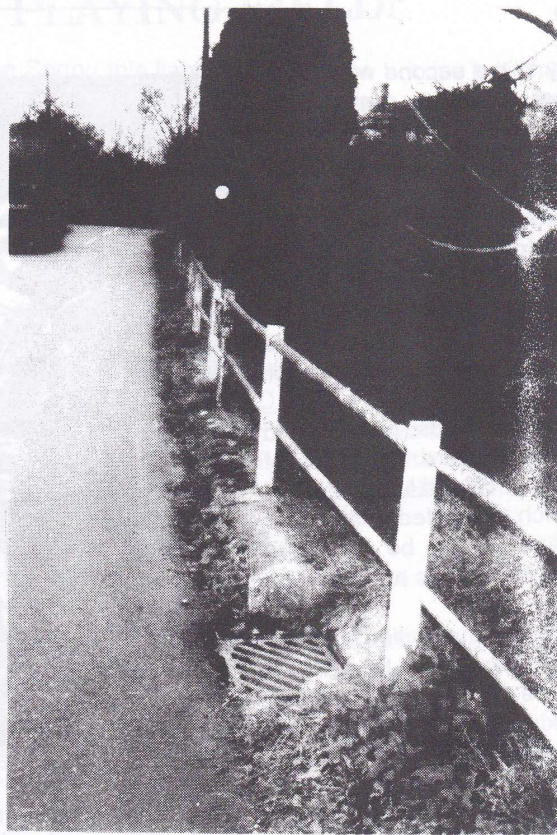
**A Shop
(are those pumps
Grade 1 listed?)**

**AS WITH MOST THINGS,
"USE IT OR LOSE IT."**

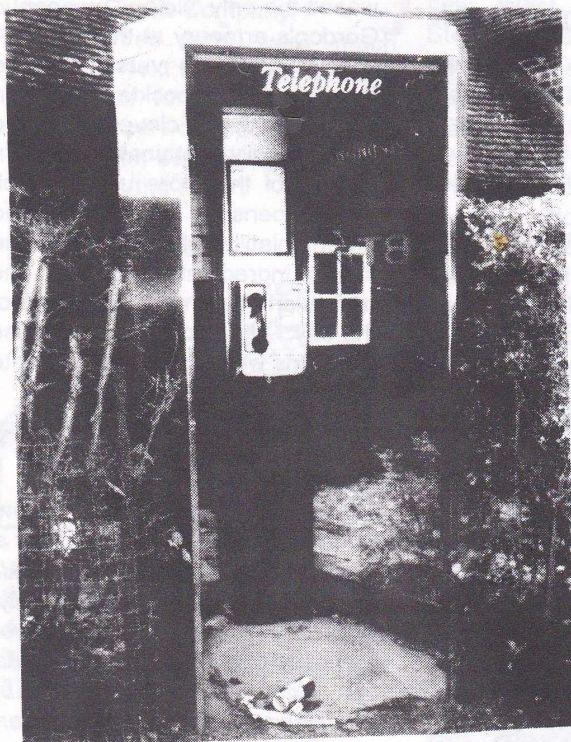
SPEEN USED TO HAVE.....



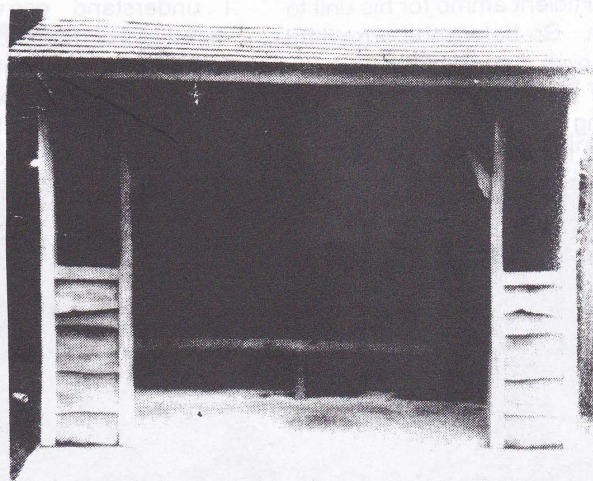
A Bakery



Another Pond



BUT IT ISN'T ALL LOST FACILITIES. WE HAVE A SHINY NEW TELEPHONE BOX AND MORE BUS SHELTERS THAN BUSES. AT LEAST IT'S SOMEWHERE TO MEET THE MATES!





Speen's Battle against the Nazi

Early in the second world war, the most powerful army ever known had reached Calais and seemed poised to invade Britain.

Gordon Ellis and a few other hand-picked members of our regional Home Guard were then preparing to defend Speen, armed only with one or two ancient rifles and whatever shotguns could be requisitioned from the local rabbit shooting fraternity.

Despite the odds, Gordon and his comrades were confident of resisting the massed legions of the Third Reich, provided that some ammunition could be obtained before the Nazi tanks appeared on Chapel Hill.

Priority for ammunition supplies was being given at that time, to the RAF, whose pilots, it must be said, were making quite good use of it shooting the Luftwaffe out of the skies above southern England.

Fortuitously, when one of our own Hurricane aircraft crashed near the top of Coleheath Bottom, (the fighter pilot having parachuted to safety), it did not explode on impact and its ammunition remained intact. Then, as now, Gordon was a man of great initiative and inventiveness. Moreover it was his specially designated task to beg, borrow or steal sufficient ammo for his unit to function. So before the army had time to rush a sentry to the scene, Gordon was already down there, removing every bullet he could find - quite a lot as it turned out!



▲ A Home Guard recruitment poster. In reality, the men were rarely as well equipped as the one in the picture.

SPEEN'S SECRET WEAPON

It was then necessary for Gordon and company to improvise their own 'Super Gun'. This meant first removing all the cordite from the Hurricane's ammunition, then if I understand correctly, stuffing quantities of it into shotgun barrels, followed by plenty of lead, all held in place by a wad of candle-grease. According to Gordon the discharge from this device was far

more lethally concentrated than that from an ordinary cartridge. Well it would be! But Gordon also confided in a more serious tone, that with so little time to test this modification, some casualties might also be expected on our own side due to exploding shotgun barrels. However, Gordon feels that he and his friends would have taken many of the enemy with them, especially due to the enhanced inertia of the discharge facilitated by the use of the candle-grease - "for extra barrel lubrication".

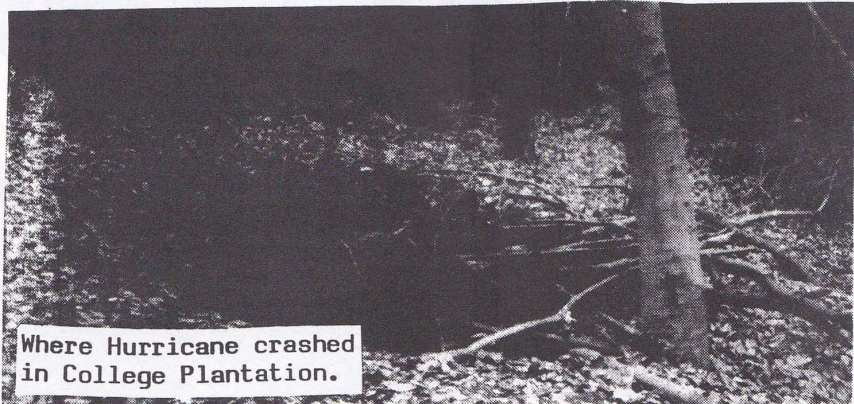
When I tentatively queried whether his new weapon would have been a match for the world's most advanced automatic weapons, which the Germans then possessed, Gordon looked at me a bit sharply.— Scornfully dismissing my insinuation with the terse statement "Of course it would - didn't I tell you - both barrels were loaded." I was sorry I'd asked!

Of course, the 'Super Gun' wasn't the only 'victory' weapon in Gordon's armoury at that time. A special economy version of the famous 'molotov cocktail' had been developed, which cleverly used the more readily obtainable paraffin instead of the more usual petrol. To compensate for the admitted lower volatility of the former, the secret ingredient used was the particularly flammable cine film of the day. All I can say is that those Germans were darned lucky not to have been subjected to it.

PD

Update:

Gordon is, as you all know, alive and well, living with Poppy at the Old George, Chapel Hill. He admits to being "close to seventy" but still manages to run three business enterprises in the area. As for his Hurricane, by coincidence its last remains are being dug up even as I type,



Where Hurricane crashed in College Plantation.

WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR OWN LAWN - HOW ABOUT A WHOLE PLAYING FIELD!

Thank you, you didn't desert us on Bonfire Night. We had an enjoyable, if somewhat muddy evening. We would particularly like to thank the whole team of friends who helped by selling tickets, preparing and cooking the food and setting up the firework display and bonfire. You will be pleased to know that we made a profit of almost £300.

Our efforts over the last three years have mainly been concerned with paying for the new grass cutting equipment, by the time of

our AGM in the Spring this liability will have been fulfilled and it will be time to plan and look ahead for new ideas to develop and maintain the facilities on the Field.

Quite a number of the people on our Committee have been involved for many years and would now like to hand on their responsibilities, so all in all now seems a good time for an injection of new blood. 'Movers' or 'shakers', whatever of wherever your talents lie, I'm sure that you could put them to good use on our

committee - it isn't *all* hard work we do have some fun and it's a good way of getting to meet people. The Playing Field belongs to all the residents of Speen and it is therefore of course in everyone's interest to ensure that it is well maintained. If you would consider joining us or would like to know what's involved - please give us a ring.

DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS:
Pub Nights on 21st January. 18th February 18th March
JEANNE HANFORD - 488402

SEE IT LIVE

SPEEN THEATRE CLUB

Since the previous newsletter, members have enjoyed an outdoor "Macbeth" in the grounds of Osterley House, a meal and a performance of the "The Reluctant Debutante" at the Mill at Sonning.

We have also been to Oxford for the "Barber of Seville", performed by the Glyndebourne Touring Opera Company.

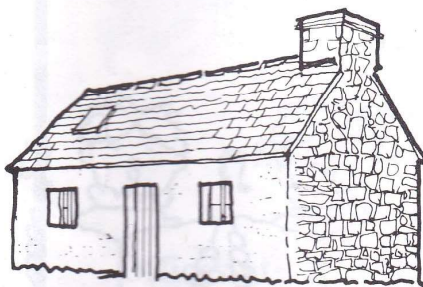
All three trips were much enjoyed. Next we are going to the Albert Hall for the Bach Choir Carol Concert on December 18th and then on January 21st to see "Singing in the Rain".

A few tickets for the January 21st are still available. Contact Jo Keatch on 488629 if you would like to join us.

To join the Theatre Club and take part in our outings, phone me, Shelia Tidball on 488377. We welcome new members at any time.

We have now booked for the new West End play, starring Stephanie Cole, of "Waiting For God" fame, called "A Passionate Woman". This outing will take place on Friday 24th February. Contact me for further details.

SHEILA TIDBALL



JON AND CHERRIE CRITOPH WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ANYTHING OF THE HISTORY OF THEIR HOUSE. CAN YOU HELP THEM?

Having moved into the village about a year ago and got the house sorted out, an attack was then made on the garden. It was then that a date of 1811 was found on one outside wall and various initials.

This started a desire to investigate the property's history and led to a search at the Records Office in Aylesbury. This showed that the property now known as **SQUIRREL COTTAGE** had previously been called 'Glenmore'

and in 1920 the house was owned by a Jane Lovett.

If anyone living in the area has any more information, books, maps or photographs, etc., we would love to hear from you.

JON AND CHERRIE CRITOPH

Actually, thanks for the idea, Jon and Cherrie. If any of our readers in Speen and North Dean, who live in old properties, might like to write about them - anything at all - then please let me hear from you. Ed.

Water In The Pond Once More

DON WHITE REPORTS:



THE VILLAGE POND was cleaned out in September '94. It is now collecting more water and is being visited by wild ducks. (*Lets hope they leave room for the amphibians, Don - Ed.*)

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR in the Village Hall this year made £359 - best ever!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS will take place in Speen Village Hall on the following dates in 1995: January 17th. March 14th. May 16th. July 11th. October 10th. and

December 12th.

They all start at 7.30pm.

Don wishes to point out that the public can attend these meetings and, at the chairman's discretion, a public forum can be held when anyone can bring up matters of concern to the Councillors for discussion.

OUR LOCAL POLICEMAN IS PC BRIAN PRICE from Thame. Brian is often in Speen and usually attends the Parish Council meetings.

FETE BENEFITS SPEEN SOCIETIES

FROM THE SPEEN FETE COMMITTEE -

We are informed that the 1994 fete raised £2500.00 from which £150 will be donated to Multiple Sclerosis charity and £50 to Motor Neurone charity, before £200 is given to each of ten village societies.

The committee thanks everyone for their efforts towards the 1994 fete and requests new ideas and suggestions for 1995. Please phone June Rowlands on 488779.



Dave King, the chairman of the Fete Committee, has also written to point out that

the 1995 event will take place on 8th July. He would like to invite help and support from any quarter. Dave also mentions that the committee, appointed by all the participating societies, are in need of a secretary and a treasurer. If anyone is able to fill either of these vital posts would they please contact Dave on 0844 344839.

The first meeting to discuss the 1995 fete will be held 11th January at 8 pm. in the Speen Baptist Church Hall. Anyone interested to be involved is welcome.

SPEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

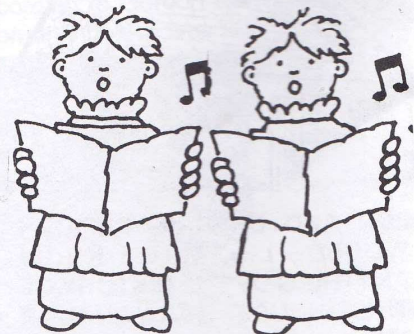
The annual carol service was held at the church Sunday evening, 18th December, with the Christmas Day service at 10.30am.

Charles Radburn will be concluding his spell as Church Missioner at the end of 1994 and the church wish to thank Charles and Rachel for their work over the past six years. Charles is taking up a position in a new church in

the New Year and he is wished every success, together with Rachel and their young family in the new location.

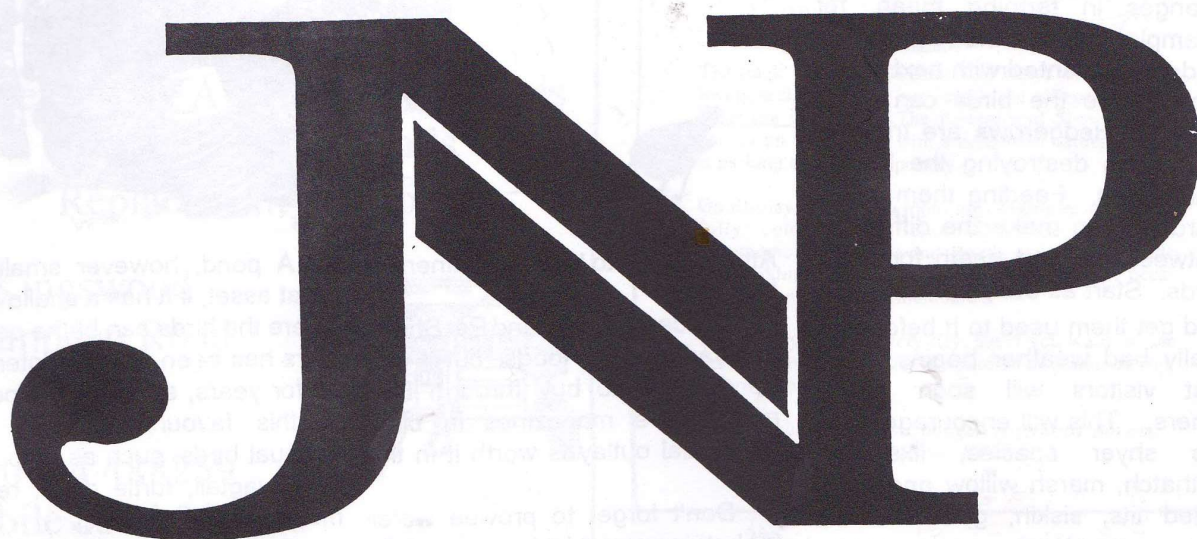
The church officers are in the process of making a new arrangement, hopefully to begin in the near future. Meanwhile normal meetings and services will take place each week.

David W King
Church Secretary



JENKINS NEWMAN

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HELP SPEEN'S BIRDS THIS WINTER

WINTER CAN BE A GREAT TIME FOR OBSERVING THE MANY KINDS OF BIRDS IN AND AROUND SPEEN. BUT IT CAN BE TOUGH OUT THERE, SO LET'S HELP THEM SURVIVE.

Birds need our help! Recent changes in farming mean, for example, that stubble is ploughed under and planted with next year's crop before the birds can glean from it. Hedgerows are trimmed early, this destroying the berries and seeds. Feeding them in our gardens can make the difference between life and death for many birds. Start as early as November and get them used to it before the really bad weather begins. The first visitors will soon attract others. This will encourage even the shyer species, like the nuthatch, marsh willow and long-tailed tits, siskin, goldfinch and even spotted and green woodpeckers to venture close.

Catering for birds can be so rewarding to watch - as they vie for the peanuts etc. Place the bird table in sight of your window.

Fred Burnham has been making a study of local butterflies. We also hear that Fred has begun doing useful work restoring and preserving habitats for them in Speen. According to Fred, 32 species have so far been recorded around this village. Here is his list and some comments:

The Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Comma are species which hibernate.

Five species of the small and moth-like Skippers.

The Small and the Large Whites whose caterpillars eat cabbages (*and nasturtiums, Ed!*)

The Green-veined White and Orange Tip use garlic, mustard and cuckoo flower.

The Green Hairstreak takes nectar, yet the Purple Hairstreak sucks up honeydew from oak and ash trees,



Attach hooks to hang containers of food.

Garden Centres and Pet Shops sell various bird foods, but it can be cheaper to buy through Bird and Nature magazines in bulk. The initial outlay is worth it in the end.

Don't forget to provide water for bathing and drinking, especially in dry or icy weather. A tip for keeping it unfrozen for longer is to put a cold container on top of a bowl of hot water or over a sheltered nightlight.

A pond, however small, is a great asset, if it has a shallow area where the birds can bathe or drink. Ours has been of great interest to us for years, attracting, especially in this favoured village, many unusual birds, such as woodcock, grey wagtail, turtle dove, redpoll, moorhen and crossbill.

Try to find room in your garden for berry bearing shrubs and trees, like cotoneaster, pyracanthus, leycesteria and crab apple etc - good for the birds and nice plants to look at all year.

ROGER HUSSEY

Butterflies Over Speen

FRED BURNHAM REPORTS

Our Blue butterflies have had two bad years. They include the Copper, Common Blue, Holly Blue and one colony of Small Blue, which is Britain's tiniest butterfly. Speculation has it that these Small Blues may have been here since Abbots Wood was cleared a century ago, or possibly since 1984, but they were definitely sighted for the first time in 1994.

The Red Admiral and Painted Lady migrate here. So does the Clouded Yellow, but only in hot summers.

The Dark Green Fritillary lay eggs on dog tooth violet and are fast fliers.



Comma

Against the trend, this species once becoming rare is now common.

Two hundred Marbled White were seen on one site. The Brown Argus has been recorded here for the first time and the list is completed by Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet.

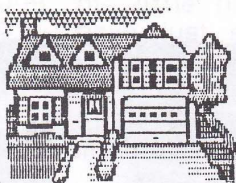
Fred recommends a useful book to take out on a summer walk - **A Complete Pocket Guide to British Butterflies** by M. Brooks.

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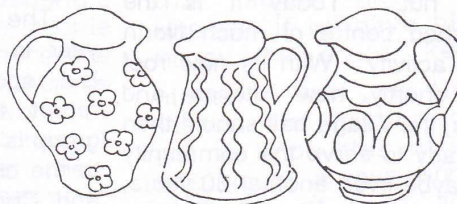


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Evenings 0442 862973

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The track leading to SPEEN POTTERY runs down a lovely secluded valley just outside the village of Speen (near the Old Plow). The Pottery and Showroom is part of an old cottage with a delightful garden. There is parking space at the pottery.

On display in the showroom are examples of beautifully coloured and fine tableware. Special Commemorative Plates and Bowls can also be made for Wedding Presents, Anniversaries, and other occasions that need to be remembered.

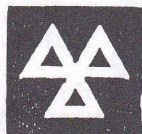
The Pottery is open every day, but if you want to see Tessa to discuss an order it would be advisable to ring before coming.

Tessa Rubbra : Valley Cottage, Highwood Bottom,
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NEWS FROM NORTH DEAN

80 years ago it was just another abandoned Great War army hut. Today it is the cherished centre of much North Dean activity. With its new roof and, shortly, new kitchen and toilets, the village hall should then be ready to serve the community for maybe even another 80 years, who knows.

Certainly "Race Night" on 26th November, fuelled by the clever combination of booze and betting,

must have bought at least a tap or two. With everyone having a great laugh it was a super atmosphere.

The Christmas Fair was this year in aid of cancer research. But, according to John Rogers' report, the mother and toddlers group is where it's really at, much to the credit, says John, of Clare and Chris. This is one activity which brings people of Speen and North Dean together. Looking at the gates and doors kept closed and the way the play area is

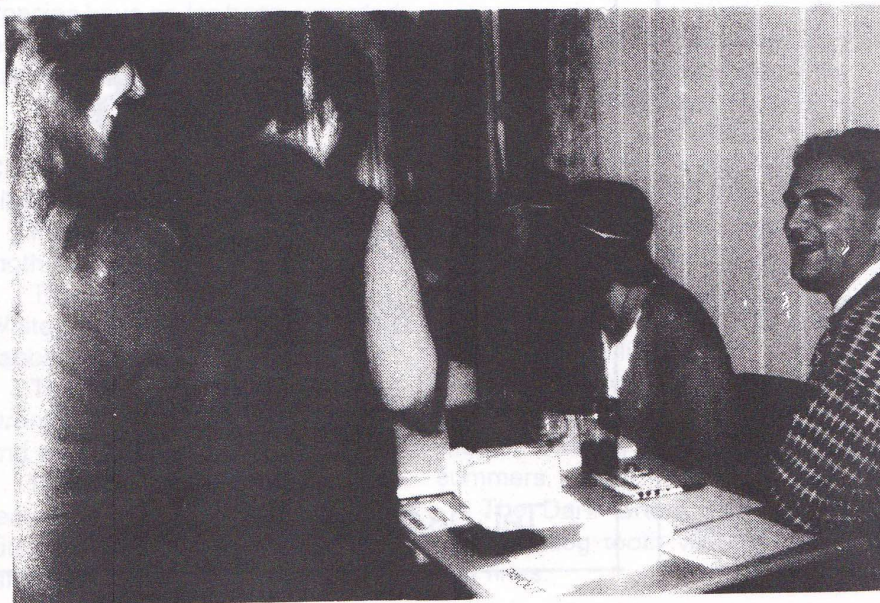
designed, much careful thought has obviously gone into making this a safe venue for the mothers and toddlers in the area.

MEGAN CHINN would like to remind all North Dean villagers of the **VILLAGE EVENING 22ND DECEMBER**, when a great turnout is expected. She also advises that invitations will be sent out soon after Christmas for the **ANNUAL OVER 60'S CITIZENS' LUNCHEON**, which takes place on 14th January.

RACE NIGHT



Hands Up



Go

Collect Your

Winnings



SPEEN PLAYGROUP

This term at playgroup we have been busy getting ready for Christmas. Apart from all of the usual Christmas activities making cards and decorations etc. we went on our termly outing. We visited Gibbons Farm which is also a rare breeds centre. The children really enjoyed chasing the chicken and pigs around. They also helped with the feeding. Two days before we went to the farm a new calf was born and to the delight of everyone we were able to see it although Mum was being very protective which of course is very understandable. We also chose this time and setting for a brief Christmas story. Where else than a stable or barn.. The farmer put bales

of hay around for us to sit on and there I told them about Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.

Around the time of Christmas I often think back over my days of travelling around with my husband's job and some of the people that I have met. There are the endless business associates and the wives of course and the children. I can never remember their names. I do remember clearly one little boy living on the streets of Manila town with no home not even a barn or stable. My husband would always give him the change from his pocket and take a rose from his little hands. We would have just spent a fortune on a three or four course meal. It took a while for us

to learn not to take the rose but to just give him the change as he worked for someone else and if a rose was gone from the pile he would have to give the money to his boss who ever that might have been. Whereas if we gave him the money he could keep it himself. Over the time we visited the restaurant we got to know this little boy who would always work the same bit of road and he would watch out for us and offer to watch our car. This little boy was about eight years old and although I do not know his name I will never forget his face and also how lucky my family and I are.

JULIE DENCH
PLAYGROUP LEADER.

- SPEEN GOOD NEIGHBOURS -

A group of local volunteers has been assembled to develop a string of services to help anyone in the community. Everyone can use the scheme when they need to. Some of the needs may be:

- shopping, hospital visits, baby sitting, emergency repairs.
- support to the bereaved, lonely and recently discharged hospital patients.
- welcoming new residents to the village, etc.,

HOW DOES THE SCHEME WORK? If you need help you can telephone a receptionist who will give you three alternative names and phone numbers of volunteers to ring with your request. Please call for help between 8.00 - 9.00 a.m. or 6.00 - 7.00 p.m.

TELEPHONE RECEPTIONISTS:

Margaret Jones	Thatched Cottage	HW 488246
Poppy Ellis	The Old King George	HW 488548
Doris Wilson	3 Woodview Drive	HW 488 334



*Any payment for services should be arranged between individual contributors. A contribution of £1 per journey is suggested for the transport service.

**Car owners must check that they are insured to carry passengers. Users of a service do so at their own risk.

Please note: Several teenagers successfully completed a Red Cross Babysitters course and now offer a babysitting service through the Good Neighbours scheme.

The organizers would like to thank most sincerely those who have given their time to help. It is reassuring to everyone to know that help is available if ever it is needed. The scheme has been running for 3 years now and many people have appreciated help from around 50 volunteers. It is assumed that these people are still available to be called upon unless they let us know.

Further information from Gloria Holmes Tel: 488420

TEA AND CHAT

Last gathering with festive refreshments was enjoyed by all at Spinning Wheel Cottage on 2nd December, and the next one is planned for the end of January. The tea and chat is open to all our senior residents. Do come and join us.

TO BE HISTORICALLY CORRECT, FOR COLEHEATH BOTTOM -
READ BLACAN HEGCEAN (BLACK HEDGE)

BOOK CHOICE

if you are lucky enough to get book tokens this Christmas to the value of around twenty pounds and you are interested in good books about this region, then I recommend that you blow it all on a wonderful book called, simply, **THE CHILTERNNS**.

Written by Hepple and Doggett and published by Phillimore in 1992, this book, which must be regarded as a standard work, is currently stocked by local book shops and is also available from Bucks libraries. It is comprehensively written and illustrated and it covers all aspects from the physical nature of the Hills to the history of the peoples who lived here from ancient times to the present day. It also covers the natural history. Nothing is skirted over, the book is thoroughly researched.

I am a bit biased about this book. Not only does it include a photograph of the house I grew up in, but also shows the tall pear tree I used to climb into as a boy. Then, remarkably, it also includes a direct statement made in the tenth century by an Anglo Saxon clerk to the lane which passes at the bottom of my garden today. Of course he didn't call it Coleheath Bottom then, but something else, as I will quote. The reference concerns the Anglo-Saxon Boundary Charter for East (now Monks) Risborough. This was used by the authors as an example because it is one of the few such Charters which is so clear in its descriptions that its route can still be traced on the landscape today.

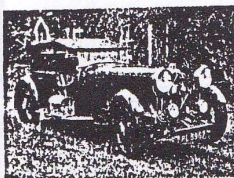
"The survey begins at the furthest point in the Hills: 'first from the gore along in the Black Hedge (blacan hegcean)'. The gore or spear of land is where Risborough parish just reaches into NORTH DEAN. From this point the bounds are beaten sunwise (clockwise), the usual Anglo-Saxon procedure. The boundary runs along the edge of Monkton Wood and the estate line is traceable by wood banks and ditches to Lily Bottom and Parslows Hillock. Here it runs into the remarkable surviving Black Hedge, which runs partly through the Hillock. The boundary then emerges as a clear hedge across open ground from the northern foot of Windsor Hill..."

Included in the Charter is a map. Most incredible of all is an air photo which reveals a landscape which matches prettywell exactly what the Anglo-Saxon official was describing one thousand years ago.

Ed.

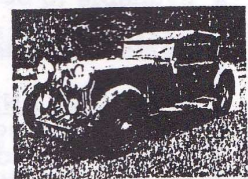
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Those Gifts Explained



GOLD FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH

Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother and bowed to the ground in homage to him, they they opened their treasures and offered him gifts; gold frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2. verse 11).

The gifts that were given to the baby Jesus had a special significance - gold for a king, incense for God, myrrh for mortal man.

Gold is still highly regarded as a gift, frankincense and myrrh decidedly less so - you might find them in some perfumes today.

The beauty of gold is that it never tarnishes, a property rare among metal elements, almost all of which oxidise in air. Gold is now a well-established part of the medical armoury - gold compounds are effective against rheumatoid

arthritis and research continues into their possible use as anti-cancer drugs. When used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, treatment is suspended after 20 weeks if the patient shows no sign of improvement, but if the treatment is successful it has to be stopped after a few years because of side effects. (After about two years on gold therapy the patient's body will contain about half a gram of gold, more if they smoke. This is because the cyanide in cigarette smoke strongly binds to gold).

Frankincense and myrrh are resins that ooze from cuts made into the bark of certain Middle Eastern trees. Frankincense comes from Boswellia trees which grow in Somalia and Saudi Arabia. When frankincense is heated, it gives off a pleasant balsam odour. It has been burnt in places of worship for more than 3,000 years. The name comes from the old

French FRANK ENCENS, meaning "pure incense" Frankincense for many years past has been valued as a remedy for body ailments, but it has no healing power. Myrrh on the other hand, contains a natural antiseptic. The name comes from the Arabic MURR, meaning bitter. It is a red brown gum that comes from the thorny Commiphora trees and is still harvested in Somalia. It has a pleasant aroma and was used by the ancient world in perfumes, cosmetics and medicines. It is still used in some toothpastes, mouthwashes and tonics.

At Christmas we celebrate God's gift to us, the Saviour Jesus Christ and we make our gifts to others as a copy of this. Ultimately, of course, we consider the giving of our whole life to HIM.

TED DREW



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SOME DATES TO RECORD

JANUARY

5th W.I. - Get together

11th Speen Playing Fields Assoc - Fete 95
meeting at Baptist Church Hall

13th Horticultural Society - "A year at Kew"

14th North Dean - Annual Over 60's
Citizen's Luncheon

17th Parish Council - Meeting

21st Playing Fields Assoc. - "Pub Night"

28th Men's Breakfast

"end" Good neighbours - Tea and Chat

FEBRUARY

2nd W.I. - "Mr. and Mrs. Hussey's visit to
Borneo."

11th Speen School - Auction of Promises
at Village Hall

18th Playing Fields Assoc. - "Pub Night"

24th Theatre Club - "A Passionate Woman"

MARCH

2nd W.I. - Talk, H. Grainger. "I wonder why
we say that?"

14th Parish Council - Meeting

18th Playing Fields Assoc. - "Pub Night"

MARCH/APRIL Twinning Assoc.- Children's
exchange visits.

Breakfasts - MEN ONLY -



Phone Ted Drew (488738)
or John Payne (488259)

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