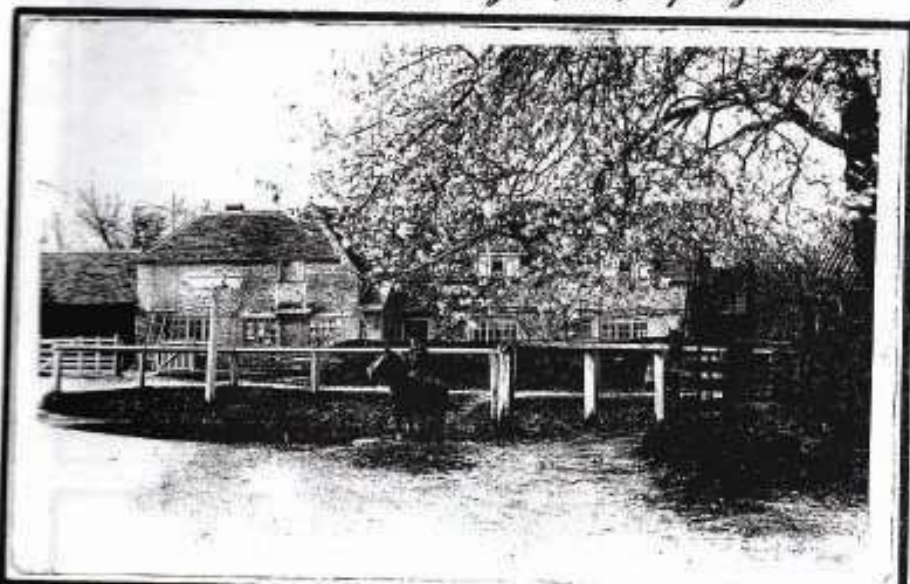


SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS

Issue Eight (late) Spring 1996



< *Then*

and

Now

>

*The Old
Post Office
Speen.
Photos taken
seventy or so
years apart.*



Miss Jean Ridgley (far left) has lived all her life at the Old Post Office. With her in the photo is a brother-in-law, Mr Charles Hendry and a sister, Mrs Olive Coles, who was on a visit from Cornwall. Olive and Jean, as children, would skate on that pond and hang on the horse rail. "Everything around was green in those days", said Olive, glancing ruefully towards the shop site opposite.

FRED DIGESTING CAT FOOD

Compare the vast damage done by humans with the little done by foxes, then tell me who is "vermin".

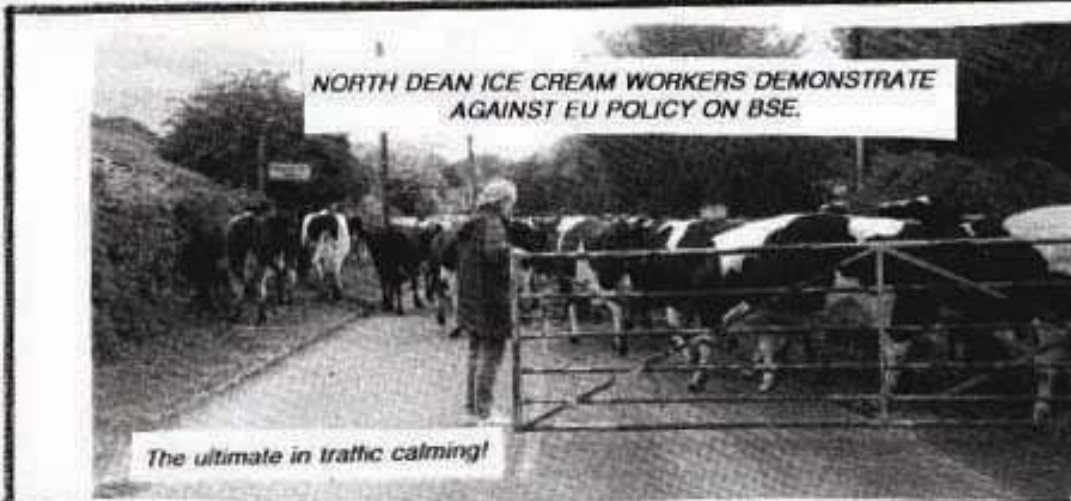
This is Fred, the Speen fox whose regular supper dates are described elsewhere. He is about one year old and he will be fortunate indeed to survive another year without being run over, poisoned, or harried to death by those whose hobby is killing foxes. Fortunately his species as a whole can cope with curs and we humans are increasingly showing more respect for this beautiful and intelligent animal in our midst.



Our heroes tidy the playing field

I AM A LUMBERJACK AND I'M ALL RIGHT.

or rather "I'm not, I've got this bar back", he said, when declining an invitation to join the WI organiser walk. So is this how he got it? Answers on a postcard, please, to the editor.



**NORTH DEAN ICE CREAM WORKERS DEMONSTRATE
AGAINST EU POLICY ON BSE.**

The ultimate in traffic calming!

Like the spring flowers of 1996, we are several weeks behind in bringing this one out, too late even to justify calling it the "Spring Issue". This is a small community and most people seem to be too busy to write for us.

Anyway, we eventually received just enough copy for a prepublication meeting (happily more came later), and it was good to welcome Megan back on the scene and to meet and speak for the first time with Lillian Cash, who is now backing Megan up at the North Dean end. Also new to the team is

Margaret Easom who is to be our proof reader. She is very good at it, so when you spot errors in this issue put them down to me for not having had time to do every correction on this occasion.

We have decided to experiment, from the next time, with three issues per year instead of four. Ideally I would have preferred to have gone in the other direction, in line with some neighbouring village publications.

Do write to us on any subject: hobbies, holidays, memories of the

past, issues of today. If you have any personal announcements these will be welcome, as will small adverts etc.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TARGET DATES FOR THE NEXT THREE ISSUES ARE: 1st OCTOBER '96, MARCH AND JULY '97.

Never mind the weather - we live in a lovely neck of the woods!

PETER DAWSON 488222
Chervil Meadow
Chapel Hill

END OF YEAR TIDY - UP

This issue reminds us that we have reached the end of another year in existence - the second year.

A wonderful achievement and my thanks to all who continue to help make the project financially feasible, through giving donations and/or time and energy to fund-raising events and, of course, most importantly, our advertisers.

A recent 'fun bridge' event raised in excess of £140 which is a wonderful boost to the money pot. Every

penny counts, allowing the 'thing' to go to print each quarter.

The third year will kick off with the summer issue. Prior to this, all current advertisers will be contacted in the hope of renewing their subscription. For the moment, I am taking on the advertising function and should any one out there like to place an advert in the newsletter, please give me a call. Perhaps someone would like to join the team and fill the advertising role - that would be a real bonus!

Lastly, over the summer months we will be doing house to house calls looking for donations to help keep

the project afloat for another year. We promise, this year, to be more organised in this respect and with more 'people on the beat' we intend to call on every house in Speen and North Dean. If we miss anyone out or you anticipate being away, any member of the newsletter team will gladly collect from you at a mutually convenient time.

Bye for now

CAROLINE PARTRIDGE
Treasurer - 488577

===== GOOD NEIGHBOURS =====

Gloria reminds us that the Good Neighbours scheme still operates with a string of services to help local folk. These services include, for example: shopping, hospital visits, baby sitting, emergency repairs, support to the bereaved, lonely and recently discharged hospital patients, welcoming new residents to the village etc etc.

If you may require help, please telephone one of the following telephone receptionists between 8 and 9am or 6 and 7pm. to be given three alternative names and phone numbers of local volunteers:

Margaret Jones	Thatched Cottage	488246
Poppy Ellis	The Old King George	488548
Doris Wilson	3, Woodview Drive	488334

Any payment for services should be arranged between individuals (a contribution of, say, £1 per car journey is suggested). Car owners should check that they are insured to carry passengers. Users of a service do so at their own risk.

From time to time, Gloria holds a get-together at Cherry Dell where anyone is welcome to come along and join in the coffee and chat. Dates and times are posted on the village notice board; the latest of these occasions having been Monday 1st April.

Further information from Gloria Holmes, Cherry Dell, Chapel Hill (488420).

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Saturday - 7am to 12.30pm

FRANK FARR

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Naphill 562569

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NORTH DEAN FUTURE EVENTS

Have Sunday Lunch cooked for you, come to our Annual June Barbecue on SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 12.30 FOR 1 P.M.

Explore the Flora and Fauna of North Dean Woods. There will be a walk in the Woods off Clappins Lane led by John Morris of the Chilterns Woodland Project on WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE Meet by the Village Hall at 6.45 p.m.

Our Traditional Summer Fete with entertainment for all the family will be held on SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST opened by Sir William Young 'of North Dean' whose family originated from the village.

A Clay Shoot is planned for late summer - details yet to be arranged.

For details and tickets for above events contact Pat & John Rogers (562041) or Bridget & Derek Lister (563153 evenings).

SPEEN SCHOOL PTA

A regular event in the Speen calendar falls this year on Saturday 8th of June, when by popular demand the PTA have organised another Caribbean Night.

Entertainment, as usual, will be by courtesy of a traditional steel band. A three course meal will feature a pig roast. A free drink will be provided and a full licensed bar will be laid on.

Please order your tickets immediately for this popular annual event.

Caribbean Night June 8th

GARDEN OPEN DAY IN SPEEN IN AID OF BBONT JULY 14th

Margaret Lewis is organising it and so far there are five gardens involved. But please anyone join in, it was great fun last year. Or do you have any plants for sale. Phone her on 488623 or Editor on 488222.

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OLD PLOW BISTRO & RESTAURANT at SPEEN

For a light lunch or a full 3-course meal served in informal surroundings or, (weather permitting), al fresco, our summer bistro menu offers plenty of choice. Listed below are just some of the dishes available.

Light Meals or Starters

- * Chilled Gazpacho Andaluz £3.95
- * Smoked chicken and fresh paw paw salad £4.95
- * Avocado, mango and cream cheese salad £4.95
- * Old Plow marinated Scotch salmon with honey and seed mustard sauce £6.95
- * Tuscan style prawn, mussels and squid salad with balsamic dressing £5.95/£8.95
- * Fresh asparagus, home-dried tomatoes, shaved parmesan and olive oil dressing £6.95
- * Palma ham and melon with Italian style sweet mustard fruits £6.95

Main Courses

- * Char-grilled fresh tuna salad Nicoise with french beans, tomato, egg, olives and cucumber £6.95/£8.95
- * Cold fresh lobster salad with saffron, lemon and chive mayonnaise M/P
- * Grilled Scottish scallops with sun-dried tomatoes, chives and a lemon butter sauce £10.95
- * Cold Scotch salmon with giant prawn, sweet and sour cucumber salad and lemon mayonnaise £8.95
- * Six Mediterranean prawns with tossed salad and a Marie Rose spicy sauce £9.95
- * Grilled rump of new season's lamb with a redecurrant and Dijon sauce £9.95
- * Provençale fish and shellfish casserole with clams, fish, prawns, squid and mussels £9.95
- * Char-grilled fresh chicken breast with a Goanese curry and coconut sauce, pitta bread and tossed salad £8.95
- * Hot ratatouille tart with tomato fondue and tossed salad £6.95
- * Grilled crispy ducks leg with a plum and Chinese stem ginger confit £8.95

A separate dessert menu is also available

All dishes are subject to availability

The Old Plow is situated (just 10 minutes from High Wycombe) in the heart of the Chiltern Hills nestling in a valley below Speen village and next to the Home of Rest for Horses

For reservations telephone
(01494) 488300

That "speed check" - can it be serious?

What is the point of doing speed checks at places where the traffic is forced to slow down, in most cases?

Those who complained of traffic dangers would reasonably have expected any monitoring to take place where the dangers were actually perceived to be.

If the police rule book effectively disallows speed monitoring within 200 metres of the first speed limit sign, then it is also ignores the fact that many village roads are not much longer than 200 metres.

A lack of flexibility to meet local conditions is bad enough, without a report which attempts to draw meaningful conclusions from a meaningless speed check.

Like many other villages, Speen has its share of narrow roads without much in the way of lighting and pavements. Pedestrians have to squeeze into the side, sometimes with little room and time in which to do so. But who would choose to live in a small country village and then expect to find suburban-style roads? Nevertheless, when resources are allocated to study our particular problems, is it not a waste of those resources to carry out checks knowing them to have little or no point?

Positive move by the Parish Council, but why not go further?

Talking of known danger spots, it was a positive move by the Parish Council to request the resiting of the first speed limit sign beyond the junction of Hampden Road and Coleheath Bottom. Walkers, riders and drivers emerging from Coleheath Bottom risk life and limb in doing so. This largely because they cannot see traffic speeding into the village from the Hampden direction due to the trees in the way. So why not try to get some of those trees cleared, and why not ask for a 'Kill That Speed' sign say 100 metres up Hampden Road beyond the Coleheath junction in the Hampden direction?

And what about the other end of Coleheath Bottom where walkers, cars and riders emerge into traffic accelerating down Chapel Hill? Why not ask for the limit sign to be moved further down the hill? Better still, why not a continuous speed limit right through Speen and North Dean, even if it has to be of 40 mph? It would be safer and less confusing than the present fast and slow responses, over a short distance, evoked by the present layout of signs?

PD

Protect the rules that are in place to protect Speen.

In theory, Speen is now protected by the Local Development Plan, plus regulations affecting Green Belt and AONB, from anything but the occasional single dwelling frontage infill. But it is also essential that councillors and officials uphold this protection mechanism so that Speen can be enjoyed as a small country village by future generations; so that the gradual process of suburbanisation comes to a halt.

The Parish Council were wrong to support building in Flowers Bottom Lane last year. As the Ministry Inspector concluded, when soundly dismissing the proposal, one house in that sensitive area would soon lead to more and therefore to a severe loss for the environment. A year later and the Parish Council is - if not supporting - showing no objections to a backland development on land where there is the strongest environmental presumption against it. If successful such an application would make it all that much harder for subsequent applications against the protection mechanism to be resisted. I can make a good guess as to why the Parish Council think it may be clever not to object to the latest attempt to beat the system and I think they are mistaken nevertheless. But let the Parish Council speak for themselves and explain their reasons to the rest of us, if they will, in the next issue of the newsletter.

Speen has itself partly to blame if it does not get the representation needed to protect the area for future generations. One candidate for two places on the Parish Council indicates a deep apathy. However, it is also unfortunate that our grass roots representation is mainly in the hands of people who live in Lacey Green, a village up the road. No disrespect to Lacey Green, but why can't Speen have its own Parish Council?

Hopefully, the revival of a Speen Residents Association will help to stimulate more interest and awareness when the environment seems threatened by inappropriate development. Let us have your letters on this subject, please.

PD

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dear Editor,

A couple of items for the Speen and North Dean News:

Letter Box

1. A new letter box is now installed at the end of Water Lane. It is much bigger than previously as quite a large amount of mail is posted in Speen. The larger opening allows A4 size envelopes which had to be posted elsewhere before. It took the Parish Council, through the efforts of its two local councillors, over six months of negotiation to get the larger box. One day last week it was full just before emptying, proving the need for the change.

Traffic and speed limits

2. Last week a speed check took place at the top of Chapel Hill monitoring the traffic and its speed following representations from the Parish Council to the Police. Speen is very lucky in having a 30mph speed limit; which has been in place for thirty years. Present day criteria would only allow a forty mph limit. Any action regarding speeding in the village becomes a matter of enforcement through the police traffic department. They took a speed check in Hampden Road some time ago. Traffic though, slows down because of the T junction with Chapel Hill. When the speed limit was imposed there was no development beyond the signs in Hampden Road. Cornerways and Hampden Gate were built subsequently, thereby providing more traffic and two more junctions.

The Parish Council have requested that the speed limit signs in Hampden Road be resited beyond the Coleheath Bottom turning to give traffic from Hampden time to slow down before entering the village.

Don White

SPEED CHECK RESULTS

Passed on from the Traffic Police by Clerk to the Council, Mr George Crombie.

Chapel Hill

"Between 27th March 1996 and 4th April 1996 a total of 7645 vehicles used the road. The average speed was 23.1 mph; the 85th percentile being 27.3 mph. 0.4 percent were over the acceptable speed limit.

Buckinghamshire County Council records show no injury road traffic accidents over the last 5 years.

The results indicate Chapel Hill, Speen to be one of the safer areas within Buckinghamshire. Those are the best figures on my traffic area. I accept that a few members of the public do exceed the speed limit to an unacceptable degree but there is no discernible pattern to those offenders, who are probably local.

Hampden Road

This road is restricted to 30 mph and is signed with repeats. There is no street lighting. The total length of this road from the northern end to Chapel Hill is 280 metres.

Buckinghamshire County Council records show no injury road traffic accidents over the past 5 years.

National policy for speed enforcement is that no check may be carried out within 200 metres of any primary speed limit sign which denotes a change in permissible maximum speed. I have carried out a manual check of this road which suggests the same result as Chapel Hill. The only meaningful speed check could be carried within the last 80 metres on the approach to the junction with Chapel Hill. The speeds I witnessed were less than 20 mph in this area.

The Aylesbury Traffic Department receives hundreds of speed related complaints every year. We have to prioritise them by linking with speed related injury accidents; this is level one. There is a second level, level two. This is where a majority of traffic exceeds the acceptable speed limit and therefore may present a future problem. You will appreciate that Chapel Hill and Hampden Road do not fulfil either category."



Emphasis on young people's activities..

..is the way things are shaping in the minds of the FETE COMMITTEE, with Youth Club leader Robert Lenko playing a key organising role on this side of things. The committee has also been joined by Jenny Cowan of Hampden Road. Quite a lot of sideshows are being planned, but we very much need the help of villagers to run them on the day. So that is the message we have to concentrate on in this issue.

PLEASE, PLEASE lend a hand for a couple of hours at this year's fete on SATURDAY 13th JULY. You can contact me on 488222, Paul Rogerson on 488315, Dave King on 01844-344839, Rob Lenko on 488337 for example, or

any other committee members such as Stan and Lois Bale, Peter Collett or Jenny Cowan, or drop a note into my mailbox at Chervil Meadow. Frankly without help we will not be able to carry out all our plans. We also badly need some fairly strong people with an hour or two to spare.

So please don't delay, get in touch now.

PETER DAWSON
Chervil Meadow
Chapel Hill
488222



STUDENT PASTOR TO JOIN SPEEN CHURCH

Agreement has been reached with Spurgeons Baptist College for the placement of a Student Pastor at Speen. He will be moving into the village during August with his wife and family. The boys will be attending our local schools.

An official welcome is being planned for Saturday 14th September, possibly taking the form of a reception with a service of

recognition. More details will be given as final arrangements are completed.

Our new pastor will be making visits to lead our worship throughout the summer, prior to his appointment in September.

This year's Parish Songs of Praise service will be held on Sunday 16th June at 6pm in Lacey Green Methodist Church. The hymns have been selected by members of the four churches in

the parish of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen. Refreshments will be available after the service.

Several of our fellowship have been taking part in a joint Alpha Christian Training Programme at West Wycombe, which has involved christians and people seeking to know more about the christian faith. The programme has involved people from churches around the High Wycombe area.

DAVID KING

THE FOX'S TALE

Mary and I, out for a walk around Speen last Sunday, paused to interrupt Sid from doing his garden. Suddenly we were joined by this magnificent male fox who made his way determinedly to Sid's back door. Oh that's Fred come for his supper, said Sid, alerting his wife to the new visitor. Soon Mr Fox was tucking into a plateful of food just like he was the family pet. 'He'll be round again later for another lot' said Sid..

This relationship began last summer when it was noticed that cake left out regularly for the birds was being eaten by a little fox cub, joined later by another one. The

pair came each night, sometimes peeping in through the french windows, until in early autumn they disappeared, and by which time they had become full grown.

Winter came and Sid and his wife wondered how the pair were getting along, when one cold night a very large dog fox came to the french windows for food. Fred, as they call him, has been dining with them ever since, no longer on scraps - only the best cat food now.

(I gave my word not to reveal where this takes place, because some years ago another fox which became quite famous in the village for visiting a garden at Springfield, even playing "hide and seek" with the owners' sheltie, disappeared,

having, reportedly, been removed by the RSPCA because a nearby resident had feared for the safety of her cat. It shows a bit of ignorance by the RSPCA, since when cats and foxes meet it's usually a 'stand-off' situation. Incidentally, the foxes living in College Wood used to have a great time ripping open the refuse bags left out for collection in Coleheath Bottom, until some rotten spoilsport invented the wheelie bin. If anyone else is prepared to admit to their relationship with the local foxes or badgers, we would be happy to publish the story without revealing the location - okay? We would also welcome any dormouse, muntjac or squirrel stories. - Ed.) 'Sid' is a false name to protect Fred's best interests.

Dear Sir

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

At this moment the Council are asking for your views on two important matters.

Firstly, the Western Sector Development of High Wycombe Town Centre. The consultation document for you to fill in is available in libraries, from the Wycombe District Council offices, and an exhibition is on show at 16 Queens Square.

Secondly, a consultation document has been distributed to all those purchasing the Bucks Free Press which seeks your views to determine how Wycombe District area is going to look in the year 2011. I hope that as many as possible will take the time to complete the questionnaire which requires viewpoints concerning all the various parts of the district.

Planning News

Enforcement Action has been instigated against the owner of the Hillside Caravan Park for his unauthorised parking of two extra caravans and his application has been refused for ten caravans instead of the permitted eight.

A refusal to build two large houses in a meadow in Studridge Lane and a refusal to squeeze a further dwelling alongside Heath Cottage in Grubbins Lane.

Lastly, Speen Stores - regrettably the final decision regarding this development is a matter of legal dispute and therefore I am unable to give you any further news.

Cautionary note - before cutting or felling trees on your property please check with the original planning permission as many of the more recent developments in Speen have TPOs on the trees and planning permission is required to carry out any work on these.

Yours sincerely

*Jim Gabbitts***DAVID 1 GOLIATH 0**

As well as thanking Mrs Gabbitts for her news, we can now update her and all other readers with the information that the legal dispute to which she refers in her penultimate paragraph is over, for the time being at least.

In a letter to the newsletter dated 17th May, Mr David Evans informs us that he has obtained a judgement in his favour regarding possession of the disputed boundary and hedge. Also, according to Dave, the Bucks Housing Association have received an order from the Court restraining them from interfering etc with "any part of the laurel hedge on my property." And BHA have also been ordered to pay part of his costs and all of their own.

When Dave paid us a visit soon after the case, it was evident that he had been through a bad time fighting it, one individual risking his own finances against the resources of BHA Ltd "partly funded from public funds."

Dave seemed, shall we say, unhappy at the tactics of the BHA, finding they could not provide a safe access "so they claimed ownership of some of my land." They also "claimed I was in breach of a planning permission and exerted pressure on the Wycombe District Council to take action against me so that they could obtain what they needed. The Wycombe District Council confirmed that I was not in breach."

Dave also made some comments, peripheral but seemingly relevant to the case, which he is willing for us to quote: 1. "The BHA Ltd denied at a public meeting that there were any plans to carry out a large scale development. I have copies of such plans." 2. "...I am opposed to the present scheme...gross overdevelopment with a dangerous access. I accept that some form of development will probably occur and I am not against Social Housing." 3. "During this time, the Councillor representing Speen, Mrs J. Gabbitts, has fully supported The BHA Ltd."

There is a lot of speculation as to what may happen next, but we won't go into that..!

Ben Fleet

Signature _____

My class and I went
to urban studies centre. A man
called Mr Dixon told us
about the valleys and rivers.
Then we went for walk.
First we went to Bassets -
bury lane and saw the
mill the breast wheel
took up $\frac{1}{2}$ of the water's
power then we saw the
Then we saw the Springs
and Mr Dixon's sick got
stuck in the spring.

2.5.96

Richard Page

Wycombe Gap

We went to the
Unaf studies, the
and we learned
about RIVERs.
the WHEELS.



After we had looked at this we went pond dipping. The
young country lady took fresh water shrimp and
water beetles with her.



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 252. Sätze
 253. im
 254. Text
 255. ist
 256. von
 257. der
 258. Art
 259. der
 260. Wörter
 261.



Laura Page

2.5.4.

Wycombe Gap

that was and we drove out of the country we went
into the Urban Standing Centre, and Mr. Dymov
(the most that showed up, round) told us about
the water cycle and told us that the valley
as the Collyer hills was called the Wagoner Gap
the Dymov told us about the water cycle and the
valley, where the water was for a while but the water
in the valley was the Wye
the Wye there was a



was in the water and almost his entire state
of mind was a pop-pop-pop as he imagined. In the back
stream they were all of a piece of the and they knew
other children had used them for sleeping sickness

Children

When I was your age, during the second world war, instead of just a wheel there was a real working water mill on the Rye, which ground up grain to make flour for bread. My dad kept racing pigeons and he was allowed to go in on Sunday and sweep spilt grain from the floor of the mill, so he was able to keep his pigeons alive in a time of shortage (because of the war). Soon my dad had to give up most of his pigeons to be used for carrying messages from the war front in France. The messages were attached to the birds' legs and they flew with them back to England. Honest, it's true, Editor.

Olive, if only you'd stayed it would have saved all the postage...

Dear Peter

Thank you so much for sending the Speen and North Dean News, it was much appreciated.

I am very interested in Speen although living away, and it is passed on to many family and friends, eventually ending up in Michigan USA.

The history of the Playing Fields was of great interest, my mother (Elsie Rutland) having been a committee member, also my uncle

Walter Wood. They worked endlessly to get that field, whist drives and dances being the order of the day, and also through the war to get money for the Forces Fund, set up for local boys serving, who were all given money when they returned home.

I wish I knew the "Old Codger", I think he gets the names wrong; our Miss Hopton was (Millie) Millicent and a fine Head Mistress too.

I am enclosing a small donation for covering postage. Keep up the

good work, and thanks again. Regards to Mary and yourself

Olive (Gilbert)

P.S. I now understand that in later years our Head Mistress was called "Minnie". I'm enclosing a photo of my husband George, painting the Village Hall with a band of volunteers.

Sadly the photograph of a very youthful George, Reg Sly (handlebar moustache and pipe) and Mrs Clay, taken about 1950, just won't show up on the printing process we use. Ed.

... and we've also heard from our exile to the near Arctic...

Nan Andrew is alive and well, but feeling so cold and wet due to global warming that she has been to some part of Arabia to warm up (and see her family).

SPEEN PRE-SCHOOL (Playgroup) LEADER VACANCY We are seeking a DPP (or equivalent) qualified leader with commitment and motivation to maintain a happy and stimulating learning environment for 3-5 year olds in this small unfriendly group. Five mornings a week, to start September 1996. Please phone Mrs Seekins, Chairman, Speen Pre-School on 0194 488355.

Our train trip to Beaconsfield last term was a great success. The weather stayed good for us as we enjoyed stories, songs, games and refreshments in the park. Most opportunely, the council provided lorries, pneumatic drills and rollers outside the station, where a team of construction workers built a footpath. And Chiltern Railways provided painters and decorators going up and down ladders and across scaffolding along the platform, sprucing up the waiting room and railings. The children found the day altogether fascinating! If they read this article - "thank you" to both organisations!! (Indeed, one never knows who may read this magazine - I had a telephone call from a lady presently living in America, asking about the playgroup, most impressive, I thought, from a small village publication).

It would be nice to think that the proposed trip to Legoland, in June, will be as successful.

The playgroup's Egg Hunt at Hampden Village Hall, was another fun event held at the end of last term. We were very generously supported by parents and patrons, through time given to run the event, and donations provided as raffle prizes. Again, the children were our main focus and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We took the opportunity, on this occasion, to say "thank you" to our retiring chairman, Kate Slade. All her hard work and commitment to playgroup has been most appreciated. Her place in the committee has now been filled by Cherry Seekins.

The next few months will be most interesting for us as the trial period for nursery vouchers in other counties draws to a

close and implementation of the policy gets underway nationwide. Playgroup will more than easily meet the challenge of the change, having in place, already, a sound and positive ethos for the pre school children in its care.

We always try to make newcomers feel welcome. If you have a child approaching 3 years and would like to visit our group, then please ring either of the telephone numbers below.

Annabelle Patching

01494 562895

Speen Playgroup

*9 til noon, Mon to Fri
during term 01494 488160*

NEW PRIEST AT LACEY GREEN

Recently the Churchwardens were able to announce that a new Priest-in-Charge had been found for St John's Church. He is the Revd. Richard Caink, currently Vicar of Wooburn Green. His Licensing Service will be held at St John's on 11th July at 7.30 pm.

Richard and his wife, Jenny, have two children - a son and a daughter - both adult and independent.

Richard spent 10 years with English Electric. He trained for the priesthood at Lichfield Theological College and was ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral in July 1972. He has since served in Norwich Diocese and was Honorary Chaplain to Norwich Cathedral.

More recently Richard was at Cheddington and from there to Wooburn Green where he is much involved with two schools. His interests embrace his family and include classical music, reading, chess, cycling and art (painting). He also enjoys watching rugby and cricket.

Richard was recommended to us by the Bishop of Buckingham.

Richard and Jenny are very much looking forward to coming to St John's and I am sure that the Parish will be happy to welcome them.

MOLLIE WARD Lacey Green.

Come along all you energetic people!

If you have a couple of hours to spare during term time, could you help with horse riding for a group of six middle-aged riders? No previous experience required - just energy and enthusiasm!

We need your help for our adult, disabled riding group. It's informal, friendly and fun, at Shana Riding School, Naphill.

Please phone Gloria for details
on 01494 488420

Red Kites Over Speen

That magnificent bird of prey the Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) is back with us again after many years of extinction in England and Scotland, (only a handful survived in central Wales).

This is thanks to the success of the reintroduction plans of the RSPB and English Nature (Nature Conservancy). Before the programme could start it had to meet certain agreed international criteria. Firstly, it had to be shown that the Red Kite was, in the past, a common bird in Britain and which was exterminated by the actions of man. Secondly, it was necessary that suitable habitats still existed over large areas of the country. Thirdly, there had to be the expectation that persecution would be relatively rare. In this respect it was felt that the majority of landowners, farmers and even gamekeepers would now realise that the Kite is not a threat to their interests. Fourthly, it needed to be the case that natural recolonisation from Wales was unlikely. This would be so, since there is only a very slow increase in the Kite's range there. Lastly, it was necessary that healthy populations of Red Kites existed in Europe sufficient to allow young birds to be obtained without endangering the donor populations.

The agreed criteria being met, 186 young Kites, four to six weeks old, were brought over from Spain and Sweden and housed in specially constructed aviaries, one in southern England and the other in northern Scotland. The feeding was done with as little human contact as possible. They were fitted coloured and numbered wing tags for identification, plus a small radio transmitter to allow their movements to be monitored.

At 12 weeks of age, the birds were released in small batches. Food was still provided on a platform near the aviaries.

The birds ranged near and far, soon becoming independent; by 1992, four pairs coming back and breeding in the area and rearing nine young. In Scotland, 8 pairs



reared thirteen young. These numbers have increased in each subsequent year.

The next phase of the programme aims to establish further populations by reintroducing birds at new sites in the English midlands.

Additional reintroductions are considered necessary because the Welsh and new populations being so small and vulnerable, a chance event, such as an epidemic or a few poor breeding seasons, plus, of course, the likely shootings and poisonings, which are bound to occur, could threaten their future. It is hoped that the new populations will expand and spread, linking up and occupying all suitable habitats within Britain.

So look out for these Buzzard-sized birds with their distinctive reddish plumage and long forked tails. Several sightings have already been reported over Speen.

ROGER HUSSEY

Thanks to Caroline for a clipping from the Bucks Herald dated 15th May, we know that at least four poisoned Red Kites have been found dead near the M40. It is no secret that one of the best places to see them is circling above the chalk cutting as you descend from Stokenchurch into Oxfordshire and another good place is the Hambleden Valley where the combination of beautiful scenery and those slowly soaring raptors with the five foot wing span will make your day. According to the RSPB spokesman who talked to Bucks Herald, these carrion eating birds had fed on poison-laced rabbit carcasses put down to kill foxes. New subject - someone write in and tell me why it's so essential to murder foxes? Ed.

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SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN YOUTH CLUB.

The youth club has been up and running for over 8 months and we have a regular group of about a dozen young people who meet together every Wednesday night at 8p.m.

Though money is tight we have gradually been improving the facilities in the Baptist Chapel Hall and we have been very fortunate with a grant from the Parish council for a new table tennis table which has just been delivered. We also have many generous parents who have contributed extra money and with this we purchased a pool table. As I write we are hoping that some money may become available from the local authority youth and community budget and with this we hope to buy a second hand table football game.

As you can see we have lots to do and our aim is to make the club as much fun as possible. We have had several trips out at weekends, these have included a wonderful trip to Brighton on what must have been the warmest day of the year. A very noisy visit to the roller disco at Milton Keynes where I experienced the thrill of doing 100 miles an hour on skates and then crashing into the barriers! We are due to visit London this weekend and we have lots of other great ideas in the pipeline.

Anyone who is between 12 and 16 and wants to come along and pay us a visit is very welcome. Remember, every Wednesday in the Baptist Chapel Hall, Speen at 8p.m.

Robert Lenko

MEGAN IS RECRUITING FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Who among you has 1.75 hours to spare?

We urgently require volunteers for the M.O.W. service run by the W.R.V.S. in the Naphill and Lacey Green area.

Unfortunately we have lost the

services of the R.A.F. kitchens at Naphill and now collect the meals at the Kathryn Knapp Home.

Our gallant band of distributors have 'doubled up', that is driver and passenger, to make sure the less able in the community get at least two hot meals per week (TUESDAY & THURSDAY) as quickly as possible.

If you are able to spare the time to

help, please contact **PAT TOWNSEND 562302.**

Please note that I am one of the helpers, called upon ONCE a month for one hour forty five minutes, unless someone is on holiday. So you see, not too much effort is required for this valuable service.

MEGAN CHINN

W.I. NEWS

As we never have a speaker in January, Grace Stickings and Sally Codling organised a 'games' evening. These were serious, thought-provoking games, you understand, not musical chairs or pass the parcel!

February had me rushing round at the last minute trying to get someone - anyone - to talk to us as our

Reflexology lady had cried off. Happily, Roger and Marion Hussey

came to our rescue, entertaining us with a slide show on their recent camping holiday in Botswana.

If members had expected to see Chinese Brush Painting actually being performed by Mrs Marianne Nash at our March meeting, then they were to be disappointed - and some were. We were told how it was done, though, and saw some very nice pictures, but apparently it takes too long and is too complicated to actually perform in front of a lot of people.

If anyone fancies doing CBP,

though, Mrs Nash does give lessons.

On the 13th March, some of us enjoyed seeing Phantom of the Opera on Ice at the Swan. At the end of that month, there was a Group Meeting at Hazlemere, when we were entertained by the Fairway Singers - a group of golfing ladies, hence the name 'Fairway'.

On 6th June Mrs J. Archer will be giving a talk - 'A Piece of Chiltern History'.

BARBARA COLLETT

Alan Wright

We first met Alan in summer 1994. He had come to prepare for the move which he and Elizabeth were about to make from Toronto. This was the culmination of many summer visits to England, searching for the ideal spot for their retirement after their working lives in business. During that brief visit to Speen, Alan was already busy planning what needed to be done in the house and organising the first planting of the garden. In October that year he and Elizabeth moved in and set about creating their new home.

Early in the new year, Alan learned that he had an advanced form of cancer. But though from then on his physical frailty increased, his determination to live life to the full and play an active part in the community was undiminished. Alan would respond politely but briefly to enquiries about his health, then move the conversation to other subjects, clearly more interesting to him - had we met so and so, what was going on in the village, were we going to this or that concert or other local event, how was the garden. He listened, shared jokes, and smiled a characteristic smile that always started with a twinkle in his eye. Given such an outgoing nature, it is no surprise that Alan made so many friends in and beyond Speen in such a short time. Meanwhile the house took shape: pictures were hung, furniture arranged, wisteria and clematis began to wind their way across the flintwork as though they were always intended to be there.

Later in the year, Alan took advantage of a period of remission to make a trip to Prague with Elizabeth, and - ever ready for new experiences - returned with a large and potent bottle of slivovitz brandy, eager to test its effects on the neighbours.

Just before Christmas 1995 Alan and Elizabeth joined us and some friends and neighbours for the evening, just as he had the previous Christmas, before his illness was diagnosed. We were silently grateful that he could be there, and silently aware that such a gathering would not be repeated a year hence. At the end of February, Alan died at home, his house full of friends. Two nights before he died he had a Scotch with the neighbours. The many people in Speen who knew Alan remember him with great affection.

Sue Taylor

Update on Charlie and Rachel and family

Gloria has kindly forwarded a letter from Rachel, written some months ago.

It is a positive letter, showing such a zest for living, reporting on their busy life at Carvey Island and reflecting such family happiness with her two active youngsters, Joshua, who is now at school (and in the Boys Brigade) and the infant Anna. This despite a continuing spell of bad luck healthwise: Joshua still with unsolved food

problems, Anna - and so probably the rest of them - still having problems getting to sleep. As for Rachel, her chronic back problems were complicated when she broke her leg and was still on crutches 7 months later. Both she and Joshua have had spells in hospital and with more to come for Rachel (when she wrote) including a period in traction and a hysterectomy. But she says "I'm looking forward to an end to all illness after this is over, I can't wait to get fit and thin again."

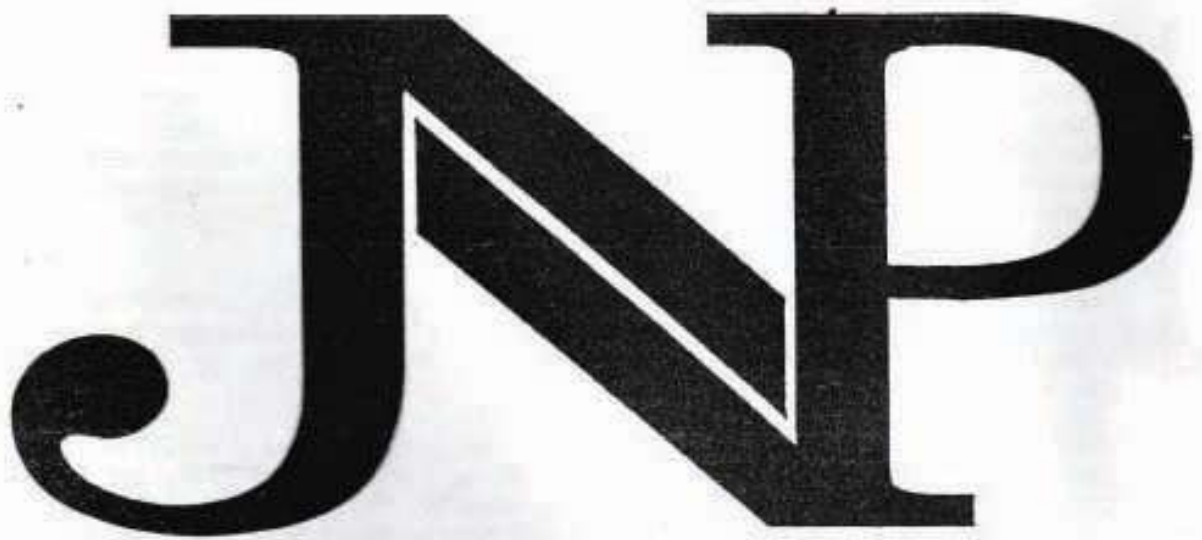
Rachel then goes on to write as if she was perfectly fit: "taking a party

of 25 to Skegness"...take the young people to camp at the end of May"...also looking forward to a family holiday later in the year."

Charlie, she reports, is embarked on numerous projects to do with the church and she finishes with this:

"We're looking forward to a wonderful year here. We're sure it will be, as despite the difficulties we've had, we have also seen God at work and know He has many more blessings in store for us in the future."

JENKINS NEWMAN Partnership



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North Dean's Supper Dance was in fact a Super Dance thanks to a romantic venue, a fantastic band and much more

On 2nd March, a great time was had by over one hundred people who dined and danced the evening away in the 'Singing Barn' at Pigotts in North Dean.

A very professional seven piece band, led by Tony Summers, played for three sessions of dancing and the musicians will have been familiar to the many folks who have watched the Pigotts Band at village fetes.

The music must have brought back good memories to the dancers, who joined in with great enthusiasm and who - surprise surprise - all danced in couples of the 'ladies and gentlemen' variety!

A standing ovation was modestly received by Tony and his players at the end of the evening, some of whom had long journeys home to the wilds of Kent and other foreign parts.

In between the dancing, there was a super candlelit supper prepared by the ladies of the committee.

The first course consisted of lashings of steaming hot lasagne with saled and garlic bread;

vegetarians also being catered for, and this was followed by a choice of dessert between a creamy chocolate sponge and a tasty fruit flan.

A glass of wine was also served and many compliments were paid to the 'chefs'.

The supper was held in a second barn at Pigotts and despite the fact that rain poured down most of the evening, walking from one barn to the other across a soggy carpeted path, to save sinking in the wet grass, did not seem to deter anyone. Thanks to Oliver Ryman for finding all the bits of carpet.

It was heard that a car or two got stuck in the field used as a car park, but at the end of the evening everyone was away home safely.

During the second interval in the dancing, coffee was served to quite a few grateful dancers while the draw for the raffle prizes was made.

The first prize of theatre and supper tickets for four people in Windsor was won, to much acclaim, by Bill Chirri, and the other prizes were a garden statue, an ornamental plate,

bottles of whisky, vodka and wine, and twenty four boxes of assorted screws which were originally won by the donor, David Morgan, causing much hilarity.

David declined to accept the prize which was subsequently won by Dorothy Hazell.

Thanks to non committee members who helped, and also to six young ladies, Zoe Hunter, Sarah Morris, Sarah Cliffe, Briony Robinson and Stephanie Brownridge, who worked very hard being waitresses during the supper, and who did all the washing up, for which the organizing committee were very grateful.

The North Dean Village Hall Committee organised this fund-raising event to help continue the refurbishment of the Village Hall, which is nearing completion now, making a most attractive venue for all functions.

Last but not least, very many thanks are due to Nick and Rachel Wheeler-Robinson of Pigotts, who were our hosts for the evening; we hope all their future events prove to be as successful.

... and yet another mega night at the army hut with attitude

WINE, CHEESE & GAMES EVENING AT NORTH DEAN.

A great deal of effort was put in by committee members to arrange and set up an evening of 'family fun' at the village hall on Saturday 18th May.

However, this was more than compensated for by the attendance and obvious enjoyment of all present. I can only say to those unable to be with us, you missed a LORRA LORRA FUN!

Games and competitions for all

ages were on the agenda. Mind you I did wonder at what age does one cease to be a child, as adults were drawn to some of the childrens games and competitions, no doubt with a view to sweeping the board of all those lovely chocolate prizes (I refuse to listen to mutterings of 'just making up the numbers etc'). It made no difference, the children more than held their own, showing great aptitude.

North Dean will have to look to its laurels as two of the major prizes went to visitors from Speen, David and Betty Eckle - well done!

Speaking of visitors, it is always a pleasure to welcome our friends from outside the village, who give us so much support through the year. For some of you (who I know show a great interest in our magazine) it is like coming home.

The liquid refreshment served by our very able barman and a great variety of cheeses with accompaniments served to complete a very enjoyable evening.

Approximately £100 was made for Village Hall funds.

MEGAN CHINN

SPEEN Neighbourhood Watch



Area Co-ordinator: Jackie Newman
Hedgerows
Studridge Lane
Speen
HP27 0SA

Tel: 01494 488474

I'm happy to report that the Speen Neighbourhood Watch is steadily growing in the village with a number of new co-ordinators volunteering after the public meeting held at the village hall in January.

At that meeting we had a talk from Michael George, the local area co-ordinator for Princes Risborough district about the background to Neighbourhood Watch. We also heard from PC Ian Richards who is responsible for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Thames Valley Area. Simon Nichols very kindly sent me a copy of the notes he made at the meeting which provide an excellent summary and I hope he doesn't mind me reproducing it here.

- * There are only 14 police officers serving 213,000 people in the Aylesbury area.
- * Burglars go for easy access.
- * 90% of entries are from the rear of a house
- * Deterrents include good locks, security lights, alarm boxes, sound from inside the house, double glazing and Neighbourhood Watch signs.
- * The most common time for a break-in is 4 to 7pm.
- * Keep a record of serial numbers of high value items.
- * Mark goods with your postcode with a UV pen
- * Police cannot prosecute unless they can identify goods as stolen. A known thief was arrested with 7 video recorders but had to be released with the goods as none had postcodes marked or serial numbers reported stolen.
- * The police have garaged full of recovered goods whose owners they can't identify.

As a follow up to the meeting, the Crime prevention Caravan has been to the village and we now have signs up on the main roads in to the village. We are also looking forward to the installation of a computerised voice messaging system which will enable police to pass on information to Neighbourhood Watches.

Please remember that Neighbourhood Watch is just about getting to know your neighbours and keeping your eyes open. If you haven't been approached by a co-ordinator, it may be because your street or area hasn't got one yet. If you are interested please ring me for more details.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank Terry Carlton, who unfortunately has recently moved from the village, for all the help he gave in the introduction of Neighbourhood Watch in the village and to wish him and his wife every happiness in their new home.

Jackie

JOSEPH NUTTGENS: Designer & Maker of Stained Glass
The Studio, Piggotts Hill, North Dean, High Wycombe
Bucks. HP14 4NF, England. Tel: 01494 563352

April 24th 1996

A short account of the stained glass studio on Piggotts Hill.

There may still be some who remember when my father first came to North Dean and lived in what was then called Lady Margaret Cottage I think - Longwood now. Before then he lived and worked in Whiteleaf, before then in part of a farmhouse on Cobblers Hill near Little Hamden, and some time before that he lived in Harrow where his parents settled having emigrated from Germany in 1892, when he was 3 years old. Incidentally this timing proved unfortunate for it meant that when the First World War broke out he was officially still a naturalised German and had to spend nearly 2 years in British internment camps.

However, in 1939, having established himself by then as a stained glass artist of some repute and spurred on by the realisation that Longwood was a primitive cottage with rats and without a dampproof course, he built the house and studio at the top of the hill. (Farrel was the architect, Ward the builder and Redrup the carpenter.)

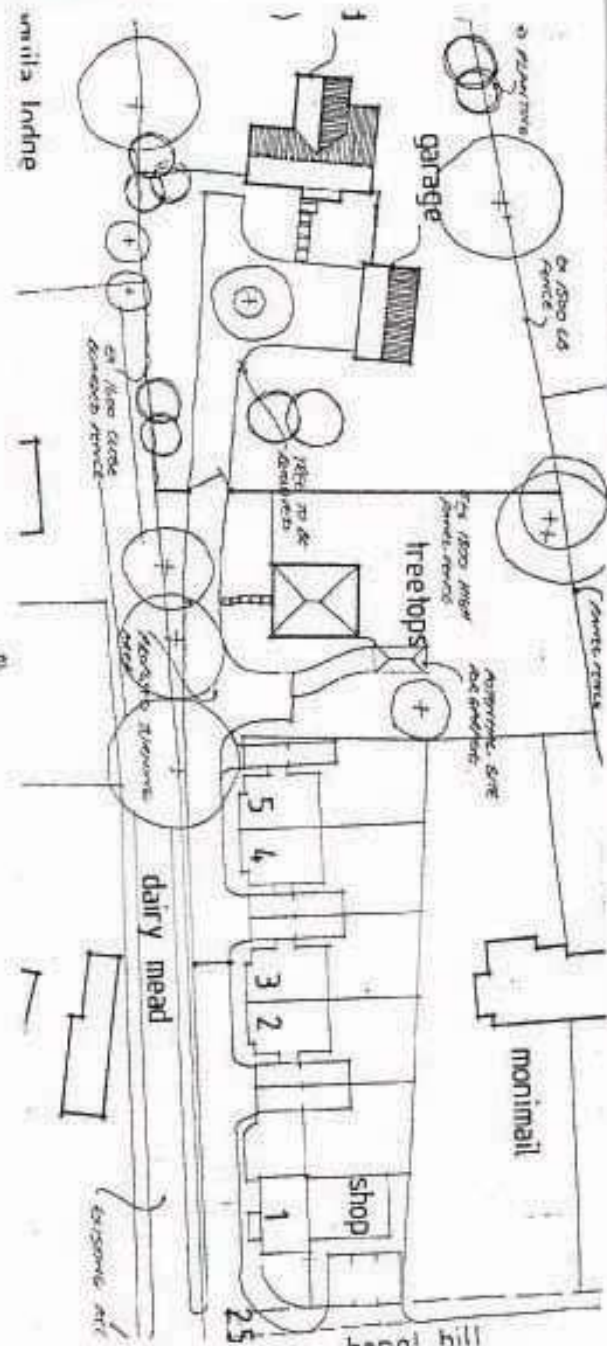
Apart from its comparative dryness and a magnificent view, he had got to know Eric Gill who lived and worked at Piggotts. Though my father was never a part of Gill's community, they were both Roman Catholics, both artist/craftsmen and looked to provide a similar life style for themselves and their children, of which he had twelve. It might seem rather romantic to think of a fifty year old man starting a second family of eight (his first wife, Kathleen died in 1936) with this big new house on top of the hill, living exclusively from stained glass but, though it had its wild and funny moments, my father was no businessman and times were often hard and the house, when that north east wind blew, was cold. But despite his desire to discuss or argue any subject at length at any time of the day, he did work very hard and except for the war, when the house was billeted out to the R.A.F. (to Wing Commander Boyle and another officer called Ingram), he kept us all going entirely on the proceeds of stained glass - almost to the day he died, his last window being a flower window for Linda McCartney which I made to his design and completed just a month before he died in October 1982.

Though I had never intended to follow my father's business, I found my self ready to take over the studio in 1982. My training and experience of art was very different from his. I trained at the Royal college of Art (where one of my fellow students was David Hockney) and worked for Patrick Reyntiens at Beaconsfield, and for John Piper, but it was partly because I could think of stained glass in my own way that I felt ready and able to take to make stained glass my life's work in 1982. Since then I have designed and made all kinds of stained glass both at home and abroad. There have been good times and recessions, idle moments and periods of intense hard work. I am still at it and, if I may say so, "growing". Last year I designed and made a series of windows for Symonton House near Newbury and I have just completed a design for the Millennium window in Durham Cathedral.

My mother, who is 87 this year, still lives in the house. My children, 3 girls are growing up and away and we will probably see some big changes over the next few years, but the stained glass will go on.

Want to see

95/06734	Pedlars Cottage Tree Surgery
95/06862	3 Cherry Tree Close Extensions
95/06874	Halcyon, Chapel Hill Tree Felling
96/05048	Omar Lodge, Highwood Bottom Certificate of lawfulness
96/05288	14 Abbotswood Tree Surgery
96/05327	1 Woodview Drive Tree Surgery
96/05347	Chiltern Heights, Grubbins Lane Single Storey Extension
96/05388	Caravan Site Two Extra Caravans
96/05384	Heath Cottage, Grubbins Lane New House in Garden
96/05388	Old Dairy, Chapel Hill Cut Down Tree
96/05384	Moomins, Moses Flat Lane Conservatory
96/05288	Studridge Lane Building Two New Houses
96/05388	Montrose, Hampden Road Rear Extension and Garage
96/05384	The Barn, Lily Bottom Garage Extension



95/06305	4 Cottage Farm Way Conservatory	Approved
95/06086	Beeches, Hampden Road Garage Conversion	Approved
95/06085	6 Abbotswood Front Boundary Wall	Refused
95/06734	Pedlars Cottage - Tree Surgery	Approved
95/06874	Halcyon, Chapel Hill - Tree Felling	Approved
95/06862	3 Cherry Tree Close - Extensions	Approved
95/07120	Caravan Site - Two Extra Caravans	Refused

Tradesmen In Victorian Speen

More local research by Bob Johnston

When you look at the wooden building behind Spinning Wheel Cottage, you could ask - Why such a large addition to the cottage, and who worked there?

Joyce Coleman used it, during recent decades, as a weaver's workshop. But in Victorian days it was variously a Chair Manufactory, Grocer's Shop and Post Office.

The Property Valuation of 1910 and the 1891 Census confirm the owner as William Plumridge, chairmaker; together with his wife, Eliza, who was a grocer. Their eldest daughter was listed as a lace beader and the eldest son was, like father, a chairmaker. Subsequently the five younger children, then under ten, would learn the trades from their parents and carry on the family businesses.

William, born in the 1850's, started in the wood trades with his father, John, who was a sawyer. They worked together for some decades, William continuing until 1939 (at which time Kelly's Directory lists Chairmaker and Shop).

Where did the Post Office go between 1910 and 1939? - It went just around the corner to George Ridgley. In 1891 George is noted as Baker, Shop and Stabling. You can see even today the Old Post Office with its 'shop window' and upstairs door to take in and dispense hay from the loft.

George Ridgley was born about 1855 and had become a wood turner prior to 1891 during which year, at 26, he became a baker and greengrocer, carrying on as postmaster through the two world wars.

George had an older relative, Fred Ridgley, a chair turner listed as employing six men in 1871. This number grew to thirteen men by 1881 (Can anyone help with the location of Fred's home and business premises?)

Fred seems to have prospered, since by 1910 he was listed as freeholder and landlord of five

houses and four cottages, stretching from School Cottages along to the King William fourth.

A brother of George, William Ridgley (born 1851), was owner of Stone Cottage and he worked as a wood turner.

Then there were the Wards, a large inter-related family working as carpenters. In 1851 three stand out: Solomon (widower) aged 60, Cornelius aged 36 and Jacob aged 39. Cornelius appears on the 1891 census (at age 76) as a master carpenter and joiner.

Jacob had two sons: Edward Ward who continued working in Speen until 1910, when, at 67, he lived in Holly Cottage and had extensive workshops in the field opposite, (now Wayside).

The older son, Daniel, worked until 1891, teaching his son, George, in workshops attached to Rosebank Cottage, Chapel Hill.

George Ward's wife was Sarah Chilton, giving us a link to a farm family in Speen. Her father was Free Chilton. At age 18, in the year 1851, Free was a carter, though by 1861 he had become an inn keeper. The 1861 census lists Free as a farmer with 60 acres, but he does not feature in the 1891 census.

Referring probably to a different Ward family, the Kelly's Directory of 1895 lists a Free Ward as a farmer and beer retailer. This was probably at George Farm which held a Beer House licence from 1868. As we saw from Free Chilton, the beer sales tended to be a sideline to his main trade. Does the King William's history indicate similar links?

The first grant as Licensed Victualler of the William was made in 1827 (albeit William IV did not become king until 1830).

In 1847 the licence was held by William Cartwright, agricultural labourer, and in 1861 by Charlotte Stevens, widow (her late husband having been listed earlier as Thomas Stevens, master tailor). By 1891 the licensee had become a

certain Free Gomme, chairmaker. (Ed. asks - was this a member of the famous chairmaking Gomme family?)

In 1910 Alfred Lovett, wood turner, held the licence.

Charlotte and Thomas Stevens, mentioned above, had a son, Robert, born in 1849. Robert followed his father's trade, continuing as master tailor until 1910, when he is also listed as a substantial landowner. The valuation map shows he owned Cottage Farm, most of Abbotswood and all the fields southward, including that on which the house called Abbots Hill. Confirmation of this came from a property deed which records his sale, in 1905, of the plot on which Chiltern House now stands. Note when you next pass, that Chiltern House is built in typical late Victorian style with two large bay windows, steps up to a porch and entrance door, and low-pitched roof tiled with Welsh slates.

Turning to the Rixon family (or families; there are several locally), it is recorded that Eli of that ilk was born in 1850, became a wood turner, lived in Fir View Cottage and owned land right up to the pond. In 1891 one of his ten children, at that time, Herbert Rixon, born 1876. The Chair Museum at High Wycombe has a photo dated 1939 and captioned: "Bert and Harry Rixon, Boddgers, working at Iron Beech Kiln." This photo is being checked since there was no Harry in the Speen Rixon family. However, Bert Rixon and his brother Frank worked at the Iron Beech Mills company kiln in Lily Bottom Lane. The kiln was used for drying and steaming wood. The recently restored cottage opposite Lily Bank Farm is called Iron Beech. So where does the "iron" come in? (I understand that "iron beech" was once a colloquial name for hornbeam, a wood so hard that it quickly blunts tools and which has a superficial resemblance to beech, Ed.) The Landlord of the Pink and Lily in 1881 and 1891 was Harry Rutland, licensed victualler and iron moulder. Bert Rixon started at the workshops where "Arcturus" now stands next to Speen School.

Speen Cub Pack & Beaver Colony

Forthcoming Wednesday night events at the Cub and Beaver Group are geared around the "overnight Midsummer camp" to be held in Speen on Friday 21 June 1996.

The Cub and Beavers will be meeting at the Scout Hut at 6.30 p.m. Various groups of Cubs and Beavers will map-read their way to a camp site in Speen carrying their tents and overnight equipment.

Those who successfully find the venue (with assistance as required from Group Leaders/parents) will then pitch tents and light camp fires. After supper cooked in the open air and campfire songs the Cubs/Beavers will sleep in their tents or alternatively those unable to stay overnight can be collected by parents.

Breakfast will be cooked on campfires. After clearing the site a morning hike will be organised returning to the Scout Hut around midday. **Prior booking is essential in order that number can be gauged.**

Wednesday	29 May	Half Term - no Cubs/Beavers
	5 June	Trail blazing treasure hunt
	12 June 7.45 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	Fire lighting/cooking practice followed by: Presentation of badges Annual General Meeting - parents of Cubs/Beavers are asked to attend
	19 June	Practice tent pitching/wood collection/campfire songs
FRIDAY/ SATURDAY	21/22 JUNE	OVERNIGHT MIDSUMMER CAMP
Wednesday	26 June	Handicraft work/construction of nesting boxes and bat boxes
	3 July	A closer look at woodland wildlife/finishing and erecting boxes
	10 July	Planning for Speen Fete/Rounders evening
Saturday	13 July	Speen Fete
Wednesday	17 July	Skulls & Bones

End of Term

Any enquiries please contact Clive Rowland 01494 488779/
Peter Symonds 01494 448016

We hope to involve the Beaver Group in activities closely associated or integrated with the Cub Pack in due course. Parents are asked to provide assistance in running events or consider becoming regular helpers or Leaders.

SPEEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

May 1996

As you will have read in our May Update the Residents Association is now up and running. One of its objectives is to promote the views of the village which we hope will be done through contact with each of the committee members. If you have not seen the names then they are listed below.

David Richardson	Flowers Bottom / Highwood Bottom / Turnip End / Hillside
Charly Pearson	Grubbins Lane / Moses Plat Lane / Cherry Tree Close
Gordon Hall	Chapel Hill <i>below Hampden road</i> / Cottage Farm Waye / Dairy Mead
Paul Rogerson	Chapel Hill <i>above Hampden Road</i> / St Peters Close / Water Lane
Jeanette Rosling	Abbotswood / Cole Heath Bottom
Stephen Peake	Hampden Road
Doris Wilson	Wayside / Monkton Way / Wood View Drive / Corner Ways / Hampden Gate
Judy Redrup	Studridge Lane / Archway

Peter Dawson of Speen and North Dean News has also agreed to be co-opted on to the committee.

There is not much to add to the information included in our May Update which was circulated recently throughout the village save to say that we have asked our local ward member Mrs. J. Gabbittas, for her comments on the latest situation on Speen Stores and also the Tree Tops application. When these are known we will let you know as soon as possible.

The Association's prime concern remains the road safety aspects of the proposed Speen Stores development especially as the matter of the hedge is now resolved. It is hoped that those making and those influencing the decisions of Buckingham Housing Association will recognise the importance of ensuring that this development provides the village with a scheme that has the highest standard of access bearing in mind the family nature of the development and the village children that will be attracted to the shop.

One point of interest concerns the statement made at the Buckingham Housing Association Ltd's village meeting where Mrs. J. Fleming volunteered to enter into an agreement with the village that they would permanently forego any interest in the Tree Tops site. As the recent legal action revealed that they had prepared plans for developing the whole of the site, a point contested at the meeting, I feel it has to be in the interest of the village to remind Buckinghamshire Housing Association Ltd of Mrs. Fleming's undertaking. In this respect we shall request the Parish Council, as the senior village organisation, to pursue this undertaking.

Another important detail which is yet to be announced by the Buckinghamshire Housing Association Ltd is their proposal for the running of the Stores. These were promised as soon as the planning permission was established. As this was in effect given by the Planning Committee's decision to approve the application some months ago we can only presume that these plans are well in hand and will be announced to the village shortly.

On a lighter note it has been suggested that we organise various village activities. These could include a Litter Collection and a series of Friday Night Gatherings. As we are not a fund raising organisation these would be put on at cost with any profits returned to the village through the Fete. If there is interest and we do not seriously hinder the efforts of others to raise money, then we will probably make the first event for September.

We have also had a challenge from the Lacey Green members of the Twinning Association to a Boule Contest on Fete day; not wishing to be outdone we have accepted and are now looking for anybody who can play the game to form a team. Any offers?

Paul Rogerson
Chairman S.R.A.

Caroline advises that the ***New RATES FOR ADVERTISING*** in the Speen and North Dean News are as follows:

FULL PAGE A4	... £42 per annum (£14 per issue)
HALF PAGE A5	... £21 per annum (£7 per issue)
QUARTER PAGE A6	... £10.50 per annum (£3.50 per issue)
EIGHTH PAGE A7	... £8 per annum (£2 per issue)

Contact ... Caroline Partridge on 01494 488577. Cheques payable to "Speen News"



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fun bridge

Many thanks to Jean Baines and Gill Kent plus all their friends who supported this event at North Dean Village Hall on Monday 25th March and raised the magnificent sum of £140 towards costs of producing the Speen And North Dean News.

The players were sustained by a delicious fare of mushroom or leek and potato soup, followed by sandwiches and coffee before the business of the afternoon began.

Jean Skilfully guided us through as we moved around the hall to meet other players and many new challenges.

Janet Pinder carried off the prize for the highest score and great fun was had by all. Another event will probably be held in the autumn. Why not come along and join us when you will be sure of a warm welcome.

gloria holmes.

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My favourite walk on the nearby Chiltern escarpment - go and see the wild orchids which grow there.

ONE OF THE BEST WALKS AROUND HERE IS ONLY FIVE MINUTES AWAY BY CAR.

Take the road towards Chequers, but fork left just before you reach the place when you see the sign for Askett. Half a mile on, as you go up this scrub and woodland edged road, you will soon see the place where people park on the right, at the entrance to the Grangeland Nature Reserve. (It is also on the Ridgeway path for most of the way) You then find yourself walking across the escarpment through several linked reserves containing almost unique combinations of chalkland flora. During June, it is especially lovely, with wild roses and acres of field orchids of several kinds. (might be slightly later this year). Growing on the many anthills you find yellow rockroses and purple flowered thyme. And there is a succession of many other species.

As you make your way gradually to the right and ever upward amongst scrub and grassland, you may come across butterflies you've rarely seen before, and if the ground is damp then look down and you may see one or more of the huge Roman snails which live here.

Soon you pass through The Old Rifle Range (don't worry, they no longer shoot there) then steeply up via Pulpit Hill and suddenly the

whole of the Aylesbury Vale is there below. On a clear day you even see the Cotswolds, showing up as just a blue line on the horizon. Looking down the escarpment towards Aylesbury the hillocks assume wonderfully evocative shapes. Right in front is a huge gash in the escarpment called Happy Valley, reputed to be the best naturally sustaining boxwoods in England. (a walk through its mysterious and humid centre is like walking through a subtropical rainforest). But, assuming you decide to skirt round the rim of Happy Valley, you see Cymbeline's Mount to the right with Coomb Hill and its monument just behind. There is something of the Celtic fringe about this scenery - and indeed, our British forebears held out in this wild place for many years in the face of germanic invaders.

As you skirt the head of Happy Valley you find yourself going downhill into a dip, then soon you climb again to a high point on which grows a cluster of pine and birch trees above the box. Here you definitely expect to hear the sound of bagpipes. Continuing on to the right you touch the edge of the Chequers estate where the signs in the trees scream at you to keep out. Across a small field now with Cymbeline's Mount looming to the right like some huge cottage loaf. This is where the footpath actually enters the edge of another boxwood. Thankfully, a conservation body has made

timber-edged steps across the steep "cliff side".

Soon you are out in the open again, right on the steep side of the mount. Again there are many interesting chalkland plants on the steep slopes, including a small patch of bee orchids. A few yards along the "goat path" and Ellesborough church beckons in isolated beauty at the far end of a large cow meadow as you now descend out of the Chiltern Hills and onto the edge of the Aylesbury Vale (a different country).

You can easily vary the walk back to your car by going slightly to the left and over the wooded hilltop, before coming down the steep path by the fallen trees.

This whole walk is marvellous because of the great variety of vistas and plants which unfold as you go along - and yet it can all be done within an hour. In my personal view it is without doubt the best walk hereabouts, certainly the best within the immediate vicinity of Speen and North Dean. Those who know it won't need this advice, but to those who have yet to discover this gem on their doorstep I say, go and discover it within these next few weeks, as the orchids begin to bloom.

Keep using old pellets and other harmful substances for pest control to more environmentally acceptable methods.

1. Small bat and bird boxes.
2. Plant native flowering shrubs.
3. Create a garden pond.
4. Encourage breeding and hibernating insects for green studies in the garden.
5. Encourage flower-rich vegetable waste by composting (avoiding chemical fertiliser).
6. Use native plants and shrubs and also providing wildlife garden compost.
7. Use native plants (especially for pollinators) instead of peat.
8. Make big piles for insects in the garden, (especially for the peacock butterfly).
9. Leave some areas for a range of insects to feed on, including the peacock butterfly.
10. Leave some long grass in your lawn for species such as grasshoppers.
11. Grow native shrubs by fences and walls as shelter and (not) food for birds and insects.
12. Encourage native plants (especially those locally produced) which are suitable for growing in gardens, lawns, parks, village greens, churchyards and road verges.
13. Encourage native plants (especially those locally produced) which are suitable for growing in gardens, lawns, parks, village greens, churchyards and road verges.
14. Provide some of long grass and wild flowers in "beetle banks" down the vegetable garden, (especially etc). These provide a refuge for many beneficial wildlife species.
15. Where you are able, provide old and hollow trees containing dead wood. These provide many habitats for invertebrates, birds and bats.
16. Start a Pease Conservation Plan - Biodiversity Project to promote local action for Biodiversity.
17. Join or start a churchyard conservation project.
18. Use bio-friendly chemicals when treating gardens in kill spaces.
19. Join a local conservation work party. By volunteering to do practical conservation work you can make a real difference.
20. Support Wildlife by joining BBONT, your local Wildlife Trust and other local wildlife groups.

For further information on ways in which you can help, contact BBONT's Community Wildlife Officer on 01494 824944.



SPEEN THEATRE & OUTINGS CLUB - NEWSLETTER APRIL 1996

Our last two trips before the summer break are as follows:-

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th - "THE TAMING OF THE SHREW"

On Saturday 29th June we have tickets to see "The Taming of the Shrew" at Clivedon Open Air Theatre. The coach will leave Speen at 5.00pm to give plenty of time for you to picnic before the play. The cost of the ticket and coach is £21.00.

If you are interested, please contact Sheila, Tel:- 01494 488277 to make your reservation.

SUNDAY, JULY 14th - "HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW"

On Sunday 14th July we have tickets for The Hampton Court Flower Show. The coach will leave Speen at 10.00am and return at approximately 6.00pm. Coach and entrance ticket cost £21.00.

If you are interested, please contact Jo, Tel:- 01494 488529 to make your reservation.

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WHAT'S ON
INDEX TO FUTURE EVENTS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE:

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8th June	P.T.A. Caribbean Night	page 6
12th June	Cubs/Beavers A.G.M. etc.	page 24
16th June	Speen Church Songs of Praise	page10
19th June	Fete Committee at Chervil Meadow 8pm	page 10
21/22June	Cubs/Beavers Midsummer Camp	page 24
29th June	Taming of the Shrew	page 27
3rd July	Speen Residents Association Committee at 2 Abbotswood 7.30	page25
3rd July	Fete programme stapling session at Church Hall 8pm	page10
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14th July	Hampton Court Flower Show	page 27
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organisation contacts :

BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday 10.30am CUBS Wed 6.30 - 8.00pm CRICKET	DAVID KING CLIVE ROWLAND Dick Seekins	01844-344839 488779 488355
FETE	PETER DAWSON	488222
GOOD NEIGHBOURS (Receptionist) (Receptionist) (Receptionist)	GLORIA HOLMES DORIS WILSON Margaret Jones POPPY ELLIS	488420 488334 488246 488548
GUIDES Thursdays HORTICULTURAL	PAULINE HALL TED DREW	488372 488738
N.DEAN VILLAGE HALL	JOHN ROGERS	562041
PARISH COUNCILLORS	DON WHITE JUDE ANDRY	488437 488607
PLAYGROUP Hall termtime 9am - 12pm Other times	ANNABELLE PATCHING	488160 562895
PLAYING FIELD	JEANNE HANFORD	488402
POLICE		01296-396000
SPEEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR	JEAN GABBITAS	01844-346469
SPEEN SCHOOL OFFICE		488321
SPEEN PARENT TEACHERS	AMANDA CLEAVER PAUL & ALICE CORRICK	488288 565380
SPEEN VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	CATHERINE BUTLER	488412
SPEEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	PAUL ROGERSON	488315
SPEEN & N. DEAN NEWS	PETER DAWSON	488222
SPEEN & N. DEAN YOUTH CLUB	ROB & TRICIA LENKO	488337
SPEEN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	JACKIE NEWMAN	488474
TABLE TENNIS	JIM LAWRENCE	01844-344610
TENNIS	ROGER CRAFT	488343
THEATRE CLUB	SHEILA TIDBALL	488377
W.I. (1st Thur each month)	BARBARA COLLETT	488348

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(Mary comes from that tribe)?



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end of their charity walk through the
nature reserves from Cadsden to
Ellesborough Church, going via
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Cymbeline's Mount. Some of the
men are missing, away buying
more drinks!

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