

SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS



Issue Nine October 1996



North Dean Fete
The stuff that memories
are made of. Someone
will always recall that
they won at least one
race in their life.



We hope that the
Gower family will grow
to remember Andy's
baptist ministry in Speen
with great affection.



Speen under threat?
Going going...
The final moments of
a famous village
landmark...
watch this space...!

A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR THE S'PEEN FETE



Wait for
the music!

The kitten
and
the clown



Flowers for
mum?

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*The Pigeon Barn at Pigotts - a drawing by
Michael John Kinsman
See Nick Wheeler Robinson's article overleaf...*



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Nick Wheeler Robinson tells us about THE SINGING BARN at Pigotts.

The "Singing Barn" is more than two hundred years old and for most of that time it has been used as an agricultural barn. Two opposing sets of double doors allowed for farm carts to enter - the farmer Mr Martin was also a carter - and would allow adequate draught for winnowing when opened on windy winter days.

Its farming days ended when Eric Gill, the stone carver and topographer, bought Pigotts in 1928. For the next 35 years the barn was used as a studio, never by Gill himself, who used a similar barn across the yard, but by his apprentices, colleagues and by Denis Tegetmeier, his son-in-law. A large north window was put in, and another, looking east, across the yard. A heavy beam was installed, as large stones had to be lifted (the chain hoist still hangs in the barn) and Gill stretched a string with a bell across the yard to summon the apprentices when they were needed - a different number of pulls for each individual (the pulley still remains). The main work in the barn was the carving of gravestones - we still have one here unclaimed for "AGNES HUSSEY FREKE".

Life was spartan - the featherboarded walls and unlined roof gave little protection in cold weather. In their moors apprentices recall urgent forays into the wood for fallen branches for the small stove. Denis Tegetmeier walled off part of the barn and installed a desk six feet from the floor, fitted under the window overlooking the yard. He was a skilled though not prolific illustrator and engraver.

Relationships at Pigotts were not always easy - apparently a beautifully lettered sign over his tool rack read "KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY BLOODY TOOLS." A second section of the barn was also partitioned off and given an internal ceiling against the chill of winter, and a plain brick chimney was built.

My father bought Pigotts from Gill's daughter in 1963, and these partitions all came down, as the barn was to be used for making music. When the Music Camp came to Pigotts it was generally the chorus that rehearsed there and so it was known as the "Chorus Barn". They sang in the middle of the barn, while in the corners scaffolding, tents, and much else besides accumulated. The choir complained about the draughts and damp for 25 years, but to little effect - there were other, more urgent tasks.

Then in 1990 for many weeks Mr R Hussey worked on the roof - it was lined and insulation fitted between the rafters and, later in the year, better lighting was installed to help the chorus see the notes!

During the winter of 1992-3 Rob Brazyna, a Canadian friend, worked on the walls of the barn, replacing featherboarding on top of roofing felt, with a layer of insulation between that and the internal plasterboard. The transformation of the barn was completed by painting, new concrete flooring, replacing two windows' installing an old but effective wood burner and a length of the (cheapest) carpet. Only the double doors now remind us of the previous generous ventilation, and Rob will be working on them this winter.

The barn was renamed when my son Charles, then three years old, could not think of the word "chorus" - so it became "The Singing Barn". The chorus no longer complains and music making - in a much improved acoustic - is now possible in the depths of winter. The uses of the barn have multiplied - four weddings of families and friends have been held in it and various other celebrations for family and neighbours, as well as a couple of informal dances, some courses and meetings for ecological and other organizations - and a continuing series of musical evenings, generally on Sundays (at 7.45) when about an hour of music to a largely local invited audience is followed by wine. (N.B. it is not difficult to get an invitation.....!)

The barn's present condition and uses might surprise those who put it up before the Napoleonic War - but we owe them a thought for their sound construction and its good proportions

NWR

Money Matters (....to the Newsletter!)

As the newsletter begins its third year in existence, we are very encouraged to have had such a favourable response from our existing advertisers and we are pleased to welcome those new businesses who are going to support us this year. We wish all of our advertisers every success and hope that they benefit from their much appreciated support of this newsletter.

It would now appear that at last we have secured a more cost effective printing arrangement... something that will hopefully continue for the year ahead ! These reduced production costs coupled with the shift in publication dates would seem to be covered by our projected revenues for the next twelve months.

With this in mind, we have decided to defer requesting donations from householders for the time being. It would be lovely if we never had to ask for money again, but this can only be achieved by us all continuing to support the newsletter in other ways (ie, by attending any fund raising events, advertising and importantly, writing articles that enhance the newsletter which in turn increases the appeal factor of your village newsletter !) Well, I think it does anyhow !

Caroline

Caroline Partridge
Treasurer - 488577

And one doubts if anything matters (....to the Partridge family!)
as much as the birth of their daughter Elizabeth on 16th August 1996.
And congratulations from us all to Caroline and Richard.

A word from the editor's desk....

including a word of apology since, due to production problems last time, some residents did not get their newsletter. Basically we could not afford the recent rise in costs but were rescued by a cost-effective offer from Princes Risborough Upper School. But to keep within means I just had them physically produce the pages which Mary and I then stapled together at home. Unfortunately it wasn't physically possible to have detected that one A3 (ie four pages) had been underproduced! You should find that pictures are not as good this time, incidentally, because they too will be produced this time on the school copier which is not quite as good with them as Staples laser copier.

Someone has just mentioned that the fete profits have not been distributed. The treasurer said that he is waiting for someone to call a meeting regarding the disposal of this money at which the rather delicate query will surely be raised as to whether all organisations should receive the same amount or should we consider financial need and what about the relative efforts put into the fete by various organisations - tricky! I suppose the fete secretary should call a meeting in that case, and I will be doing so shortly.

One last thing - RUBBISH! The residents' association is to hold a village clean-up on 10th November starting at 10.30 am. So please turn up at the pavilion, whatever the weather. People will be organised in teams of twos and threes. Let's make it a bit of fun and maybe end up at a local watering hole? The residents association will provide plastic bags and disposal. Will some of you bring your car to transport teams to outer regions from whence they will home back in on the playing field?

PD

AT LEAST ONE SURVIVED THE LATEST POGROM

Yesterday, as the sun was setting, I was taking a walk up the path through College Wood when a half grown fox crossed in front of me. There was nothing unusual about that you may say, foxes are common around here. Well, if you had witnessed the "cubbing" exercise which the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt carried out recently you might wonder whether any of our local foxes could have survived it at all.

It was around seven and a bright September 1996 morning as the Vale of Aylesbury "cavalry" and their dogs galloped and trumpeted their way through the outskirts of Speen, their hounds baying in unison as they criss-crossed the woodland, leaving little room for any escape it seemed. Until that moment I'd had no idea how good they were at their murderous pursuit, how efficient and how many of our local foxes may have died that day. Some of the residents of Coleheath Bottom just had time to mount a protest with banners, and children were there in the lane when suddenly two shots rang out near the edge of the wood. The events are not to be compared, but the expressions on the faces of some of the riders as they regrouped after this particular incident reminded me somewhat of those ghastly grins of the perpetrators after the fall of Srebrenice. They had chased a small and desperate animal into a hole, and they were not satisfied until they had killed the poor creature. Then they were so obviously pleased with themselves these "ladies and gentlemen" from Aylesbury and beyond...

"Leave our wildlife alone" said a voice. "You wouldn't say that if you had a field full of chickens" came the reply. "How many fields of chickens did you see today?" said someone else.

I hear it claimed that hunting has no overall effect whatsoever on the population of foxes in the country, which is estimated at slightly less than half a million. So all that dressing up disturbing of wildlife and individual cruelty is for nothing except to give sadistic pleasure to those whose hobby it is?

Anyway, that is why I took such pleasure in seeing the little fox cross my path last night, the knowledge that it escaped and I may see it again some time.

On 26th July 1996 I saw my first living dormouse.

We all know what they look like from pictures, but how many of us have seen a real live hazel dormouse, ie the golden brown chap, not his larger grey cousin the glis glis?

The only other one I saw was at the bottom of a hedge when I was a young lad and it appeared to be dead (though it may have been in deep hibernation and fallen from a nest). This time I was collecting wild raspberries in College Wood and so it seems was Mr or Mrs Dormouse when we came face to face amongst the raspberry canes. We just stayed there and studied each other for about four minutes before the dormouse turned and vanished slowly into the undergrowth.

Peter

North Dean welcomes its German "Twins"

130 people attended a very successful barbecue at North Dean to celebrate a visit from Wycombe's twin town of Kelkheim. The flags of both nations fluttered side by side to welcome our visitors and their hosts.

Thanks are due to Roger and Pam Pyle and to Pat and Stephen Rogers for the super food. The beer tent was doing a roaring trade, which certainly helped when Jim Dolphino passed song sheets around and led the singing from the electronic organ - quite a choir.

At the end of the evening the beaming smiles and cheery "Guten Nacht" from our visitors said it all.

MEGAN CHINN

SPEEN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

96/05764	Land at rear of Treetops, Chapel Hill Erection of detached house
96/05742	Woodbine Cottage, Studridge Lane Fruit tree pruning
96/06013	Glenwood, Hampden Road Rear extension
96/06635	Farthings, Studridge Lane Fell 2 Ash trees
96/06647	The Retreat Flowers Bottom Rear extension
96/06634	Farthings, Studridge Lane Single storey extension
96/06366	8 Abbotswood Two storey rear extension
96/06456	Speen Stores Demolition and erection of shop & houses (Variation of permission 95/06421)
96/06462	Flowers Bottom Farm Erect close boarded fence
96/06306	George Farm, Flowers Bottom Lane Garage

No doubt Don is correct and that's the way things will stay. However, the present set-up seems very largely a waste of time and money. Every other parish council meeting is held in Speen, whereupon the councillors drive in from Lacey Green to sit with one or at most two Speen councillors for a couple of hours of largely inconsequential and powerless discussion, principally about very minor matters affecting Lacey Green. There seems, on the face of it, to be very little dialogue between councillors and the people they represent and yet monthly expenses for the parish council run into several hundreds of pounds - with, arguably, little to show for it. This newsletter is a very amateur and infrequently produced publication, but it is the only village publication, so why don't the councillors use it to sound out opinion and give out meaningful information. Isn't it the truth that nobody gives a damn? *Ed.*

DECISIONS OF WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

96/06421	Speen Stores Demolition of shop & build new shop & houses at rear	Approved
96/05742	Woodbine Cottage, Studridge Lane Fruit tree pruning	Approved
96/05174	Omar Lodge, Highwood Bottom Certificate of lawfulness for siting of caravan	Approved
96/05764	Land at rear of treetops, Chapel Hill Erection of detached house	Approved
96/05388	Land in Studridge Lane Erection of two detached houses	Refused
96/05108	Land adjoining Heath Cottage Erection of detached house	Refused

Re: Your comment in Issue 8 about Speen having it's own Parish Council. There's nothing I'd like more but unfortunately it is not possible' because Speen does not have a Church. (Church of England). Parish Council boundaries almost always follow diocesan boundaries and there has to be a church within that boundary for the parish to have it's own Council - Chapel's don't count. *D.W.*



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SPEEN Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Speen continues although there are still a number of roads without a co-ordinator. The existence of a scheme alone will not prevent burglaries (I understand there has been some activity recently) but a healthy interest in unusual activity will help to reduce the risk. A good example has been provided by the vigilance of our newsletter editor, Peter.

He heard his dogs barking just after 11 one evening in September. He went to investigate and heard the sound of windows being broken at the scout hut. When he went down there he saw four or five young men, one of them holding something that was in flames, seemingly with the intention of setting light to the hut. When they noticed him they ran full speed up Coleheath Bottom. Peter hung around and they didn't return. Peter has obviously reported the incident to the police. Congratulations and thanks, Peter, for preventing a serious incident.

Brian Price has also written a letter which will soon go to Scheme members via the co-ordinators reminding us to be extra careful about security now that the Christmas season is (far too rapidly) approaching.

Jackie Newman

Thanks Jackie, but had I known they were large, mob-handed and apparently bent on arson would I have stumbled round the corner on that dark night with such naive confidence? - Maybe not!

A few days later our record of being the only couple we knew who didn't have a theft story to tell was eliminated when our car took a walk. We had always claimed that the dogs were a useful deterrent, but on this occasion the youngest of them was fast asleep in the well behind the front seats when the car was taken. The thief must have had quite a fright when Maddy sat up on the back seat and began to lick the back of his neck - as she tends to do! Five hours later, after a phone call from Wycombe police, we retrieved Maddy from the grounds of Medmenham church where she had been tied to railings together with a note saying "Dog from HW". Unfortunately she was no longer in possession of the car. We are thinking of trading it in - the dog, that is - for a rottweiler or something similar. Meanwhile, if anyone sees a green Nissan reg M866 WBW, let me know.

Peter.

STOP PRESS

Things are going from bad to worse at this end of Speen: two nights ago one house was attacked twice; the garage being successfully penetrated, I believe, but not the house. Some days ago thieves got into one house in mid morning, forced an entry and took away the television and video plus some antique (unusable) guns and two unused air pistols still in a presentation case. They packed these and other items into the owners car (he was away on holiday) and drove off. Some days later the car was located in Wycombe (slightly broken). The owner complained - "They ate all my sweets, the blighters!" A few days later it was reported in the local press that two men were holding people up in the locality with - you've guessed it - two air pistols! In another incident opposite, a young man drove up in broad daylight, helped himself to a number of gardening tools and from the open garage and then drove off up Chapel Hill - all as people watched, I believe.

**Nicky and David Whitehead,
Appletree Cottage, Arch Way.**

Introducing Rebecca Whitehead

Rebecca is our second daughter. She was born with Down's Syndrome which gives her a certain degree of learning difficulty. More significantly Rebecca suffered some brain injury at birth. Only time will tell what the full implications of the injury will be - however, our aim is to ensure that Rebecca has every opportunity to best develop her potential, whatever that potential may be.

Rebecca is now 16 months old and is very placid and contented. She is developing very, very slowly. She is still developmentally at around two to three months old.

In June of this year, we took Rebecca to the British Institute for Brain Injured Children ("BIBIC"), where her development was assessed, and an intensive stimulation programme devised to help towards achieving her potential. BIBIC is an independent registered charity, based near Bridgewater in Somerset, and employing techniques developed from the work of an eminent American Neurosurgeon in the 1930's.

BIBIC believes that, if a child is given a daily programme of intensive sensory stimulation, coupled with opportunities to exercise that new information, then brain growth and development is often created and improvements in the child's functions normally follow.

Rebecca's daily programme is carried out three times a day (9.15am, 1.15pm and 7.00pm). Each programme is a mixture of short one and two minute exercises to provide visual, respiratory, auditory and tactile stimulation, together with physical exercises to teach her the basic techniques of coordinated movement (such as rolling and creeping). Each programme takes two to three people to complete and lasts for approximately 30-40 minutes.

To get such a programme up and running effectively seemed initially a daunting task for one family who have only lived in Speen for 18 months. However with the support of Wendy White-Rebecca's carer, and that of the Women's Institute, the Good Neighbours and a number of friends within the village the daunting task has been achieved within three months. Rebecca now has 20 helpers, who visit her on a regular weekly basis to run through her programme.

We should like to express our thanks and gratitude to all of you, for your interest and care, your time and commitment, and your moral support in helping establish a remarkably efficient weekly schedule for what had initially seemed such a daunting prospect - thank you.

Although most of the weekly programmes are now filled there is always space for extra helpers, particularly those who can do one specific weekly programme or perhaps live locally and can cover at short notice. If you would like to help please do give us a call on 01494 488095 - we should be happy to hear from you.

Finally, progress to date. Rebecca is definitely benefitting from the increased stimulation that the programme gives her. The noise, chatter, attention and affection of the helpers is enjoyed, not only by Rebecca but also by Catherine, her sister, who often entertains, and is entertained by Rebecca's visitors! You will see Rebecca around Speen; at the playing fields, picking up her sister from playgroup or being pushed in her buggy to the postbox. Do feel free to come and say hello.

**AN EXTRACT FROM RECENT PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES KINDLY
FORWARDED BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL, MR CROMBIE.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Buckinghamshire Southern Edition Public Transport Map received from the Buckinghamshire County Council

Black Horse Lacey Green Notification received that an application for the transfer of the licence is to be heard at the transfer hearing on the 8th August before the Licensing Justices at Aylesbury Magistrates Court.

Community Care Plan 1996/97. Copy of the County Council's Social Services Community Care Plan 1996/97 received and noted.

Consultation on Highways and Transportation Issues. Report from the Buckinghamshire County Council Planning and Transportation Committee on increased consultation with Local Councils and the public received and noted. Hampden Road, Speen. The Planning and Transportation Department of the Buckinghamshire County Council have replied to our request to have the speed limit in Hampden Road, Speen extended towards Coleheath Bottom. Whilst accepting the justification for extending the limit they cannot due to current demands on their resources give this matter high priority.

Parish Maps Day Notification from the Bucks C.V.S. that they are holding this event at Hedgerley Village Hall on 7th September.

National Tree Week 20th November to 2nd December. Noted that free trees are again available from the County Council. Application to be sent by 2nd September.

Draft Policy of Practice in Relation to Gypsies and other Travellers. Notification from the County Council that this will be considered by the Gypsy Panel at its meeting in September.

Buckinghamshire Woodland Forum. This is being held on 21st September at Green Park Aston Clinton at 10.30 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Approval was given to the suggestion by our Tree Warden to insert an advert in the village magazine.

Travel Wise Awareness Campaign - This campaign being carried out by the County Council to raise public awareness of the problems caused by the over reliance on the private motor car.

REPORTS None

PLANNING REGISTER

The following planning applications were considered by the Council and comments made :-

96/05879 - Woodside Coleheath Bottom. Speen - Construction of single storey front extension - No comment - Application later withdrawn.

96/05881 - R. A.F. High Wycombe - Siting of one Phantom aircraft outside the perimeter fence at entrance to site 1 and one Harrier aircraft within Site 1 - No objections in principle to this application but request that no illumination is allowed.

96/05971 - 4 Hets Orchard Lacey Green - Pitched roof over existing flat roofed porch at front of house, - No objections

96/06013 - Glenwood Cottage, Hampden Road, Speen - Two storey extension and alteration of external material to first floor bedroom - No objections.

96/06041 - Macosquin, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green - Conservatory to rear - No objections

96/06077 - Gate Cottage Woodway Variation to ridge alignment on 2 dwellings approved under 95/06661 - Council were not happy about this variation.

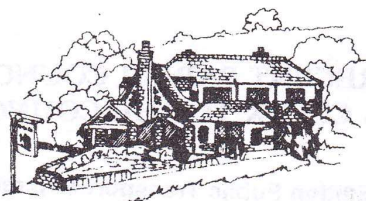
DECISIONS BY THE WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

95/06421 - Speen Stores, Speen - Demolition of existing shop and flat, erection of four 3 bed houses and one 2-bed house and new village shop - Permitted

96/05760 - Apple Tree Little Lane Loosley Row - part single and two storey side extension - Permitted

96/05777 - Bunch Meadow Loosley Row - Conservatory to rear and dormer window in south elevation - Permitted

96/05071 - 4 Hets Orchard, Lacey Green - Pitched roof over existing flat roofed porch at front of house - Permitted



Restaurant Menu

STARTERS

- Provençale fish soup with garlic rouille*
- Game and duck terrine with sweet mustard fruits*
- Grilled goats cheese, frizzy salad, home-dried tomatoes and olives*
- Carpaccio of fillet of Scotch beef, olive oil, rocket salad and fresh Parmesan*
- Smoked duck salad with fresh mango*
- Galia melon with seasonal fruits and cassis*
- Scotch oak smoked salmon, fresh asparagus, sauce gribiche*
- Giant Mediterranean prawns with seasonal leaves and Marie Rose sauce (supplement of £4.00)*
- ½ cold lobster with lemon and chive mayonnaise (supplement £4.00)*

MAIN COURSES

- Roasted partridge with red cabbage, chestnuts and bacon*
- Seered sea scallops with chives, sun-dried tomatoes, lemon butter sauce*
- Grilled Scotch salmon with artichoke, basil and a lemon butter sauce*
- Seafood fricassée Marseillaise to include fish, squid, mussels, clams, prawns, tomato and garlic*
- Char-grilled fillet steak with wild mushrooms and a horseradish cream sauce*
- Grilled calves' liver and bacon with apple and gooseberry chutney*
- Roasted rack of prime English lamb with a redcurrant and seed mustard sauce*
- Roasted breast of duck with chestnuts and prunes*
- Roasted breast of chicken with venison sausage, baby onions and lardons of smoked pork*
- Grilled calves' kidneys with bacon, black pudding and sausage*
- Char-grilled loin of venison with a sour cream, red wine and green peppercorn sauce*
- Roasted split lobster with a lemon butter and garlic sauce (£5.00 supplement)*
- Linguine pasta with wild mushrooms, basil, capers and olives*

DESSERTS

- Redberry compote with Kirsch and vanilla ice cream*
- Chocolate rum truffle cake with a toffee and whisky sauce*
- Iced Drambuie parfait with candied fruits*
- Old fashioned English lemon tart with a raspberry coulis*
- Farmhouse cheese with crudites and walnuts*

Coffee, teas or infusions with sweetmeats £1.95

2-course set-price lunch menu £15.95 & £19.95 for dinner

3-course set-price lunch menu £18.95 & £25.00 for dinner

All prices are inclusive of VAT but not service.

Customers are requested not to smoke whilst other diners are eating.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sample winter menu only

Speen Horticultural Society

Gardeners are a paradox; at one and the same time born complainers and pessimists and yet supreme optimists. Summer 1996 gave them plenty to complain of - not least the lack of rain - but results at our Annual Show reflected a triumph over adversity scenario. Speen gardeners certainly did not let the weather beat them.

The number of entries was much higher than in recent years and judging did not finish until after 2pm. This increase was a great encouragement, even more so in that there were a number of new entrants. A further bonus was that the judge felt the standard was also higher this year.

The number of entries on the domestic side was average, but here again the standard was very high. So it was a successful and encouraging show and one we can build on.

Autumn is upon us and a time for preparing the ground for next year, as well as sowing lettuce in frames, planting out spring cabbages and fruit trees. Don't forget, too, to repair lawns, plant bulbs, generally tidy up and give protection to those tender plants. And, most enjoyable of all, look at seed catalogues - my favourite form of gardening.

We are to have some indoor meetings this coming winter/spring. Tentative dates are 2nd December, 3rd February and 7th April. Speakers will be announced nearer to the dates and we hope you will support us.

TED DREW

Footnote:

The Horticultural Society circulates the monthly magazine of the Royal Horticultural Society The Garden, around members who do not get their own copy. The list may now be out of date, so if you are a member and wish to be added to the circulation then let me know.

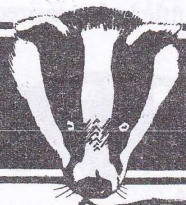
Ed. 488222

Speen Gardens Open Day 1996

Having held an Open Day as recently as 1995, the Horticultural Society deemed it was too early for another one; that public reaction might be "been there done that" so to speak. But Speen resident **Margaret Lewis** proved to the contrary when she organised an Open Day, for the day after Speen fete, in aid of BBONT. Just as many visitors came as in 1995 and BBONT, of which Margaret is a keen member, became richer by several hundred pounds.

There are not many "grand" gardens in Speen, admittedly, but, as one visitor remarked, people also like to visit gardens which relate more closely to their own and which may inspire new ideas to incorporate at home. This happened to me a couple of years ago after I had become quite taken with a gravel garden we had just visited. It wasn't long before heaps of shingle were being delivered to which rocks, pebbles and "wild" plants have been added since. "Mummy come and look at how granddad has ruined his garden" - was the unkind comment from one member of my family when she first saw my "Brighton Beach". You can't win them all, but beds and borders of the traditional kind can be so boring..!

Ed.



BBONT

Thank you so much for opening your garden to the public yesterday to help raise funds for BBONT. It was a marvellous effort - and show - on every one's part. The financial result of £363 was most pleasing and I hope you feel it was all worthwhile. I'm sure the publicity for the Trust and local wildlife issues was beneficial, too.

Caroline has been studying the subject of Speen as a COMMUTER SETTLEMENT

As part of my GCSE Geography course at Wycombe High School I am required to submit an individual study which may concern any geographical issue and which accounts for 20 % of my final grade. Field work and data collection must be completed during the Summer holidays and time for writing up the findings of the work is given after the holidays.

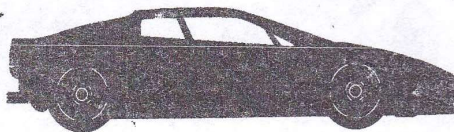
I have chosen to investigate the factors which may have encouraged Speen's growth as a commuter settlement and I aim to find out how cottage industries / home businesses may have declined as a result.

Whilst collecting the data I think I will need in order to fulfil the syllabus's requirements, I walked around Speen at least five times! I spent a morning looking around the village in order to draw a land use map, a day was spent delivering questionnaires and another day was spent collecting them. In addition to all that, I counted cars entering and exiting the village at three different locations between the times of 8:00 - 8:30 and 17:30 - 18:00 on four days. For this I needed the help of two other people.

Although I have not as yet completed my investigations, from just a brief perusal of the questionnaires received, I was very surprised to find that there is a considerable number of retired couples living in the village. I was also interested to learn that 67% of those surveyed would like to see a small shop and post office in the village (although some mentioned it would be uneconomic as in the past such an establishment did not survive). Another interesting find was that 7% of those surveyed suggested Speen should have a "Village Pub" as opposed to two restaurants. I think if all the residents of Speen were asked if they would be in favour of a "Village Pub", this number would almost certainly increase. It was also confirmed as I already suspected that less than a fifth of those surveyed used the bus service that runs through the village. Some did not even know about the service! Out of those who do use the service, the most popular or convenient times of use were proven to be at approximately 7:45 and 13:40.

I have not done much research into the cottage industries which existed in the area. I think I will find this the hardest part of my enquiry as I have only lived in the village for four years and have a limited knowledge of Speen's past. If there is anyone who would be willing to tell me about the cottage industries and small shops in Speen and how they came to be closed down I would love to talk to you.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who filled in the questionnaire and left it out on their doorstep for me to collect, or posted it through my door. In addition I would like to thank my family for being forced into the boring position of counting cars, especially when the weather left a little to be desired!



Caroline Walker, 488586
Hedgerow, Chapel Hill



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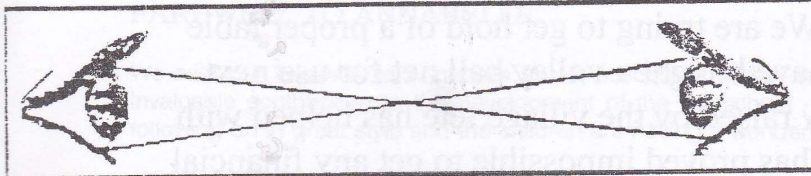
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SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN YOUTH GROUP

The youth club has started again and we hope to see some new members as well as our old hands. At the end of last term we spent our Wednesday meetings on the village green playing tennis and football and enjoying some great summer evenings.

As usual we will get together on Wednesday evenings at "The Speen Baptist Chapel Hall" starting at 8pm and finishing a little earlier at 9.45pm. Our first trip will be to Chessington at the end of September and we would like to repeat our visit to the ice rink at Slough as well as lots of other great ideas.

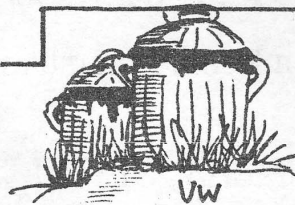
We are gradually collecting more sports equipment and are enjoying the use of the new table tennis table kindly donated by the parish council. We are trying to get hold of a proper table football table and have bought a volley ball net for use next summer. The money raised by the village fete has helped with our purchases as it has proved impossible to get any financial assistance from the Wycombe youth and community budget.

Last term we ran a very successful Baby Sitting course and we had some great support from the local police, fire brigade and nursing professions. This term we will be organising a course of self defence classes and details of this will be available soon.

Remember WEDNESDAY 8PM TILL 9.45PM.-COME ALONG! SPEEN BAPTIST CHAPEL HALL.

Any ideas or anyone able to help out please ring Robert or Tricia Lenko on 488337.

Dear Customer



A new contractor takes over on Monday 30th September. The rounds are being reorganised and you may have a new crew, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your appreciation over the last few years and wish you happy bin collections in the future.

Desperate footnote 2nd October:
The new dustmen failed to arrive,
Come back Lofty all is forgiven!!

Lofty.

SO WHAT WAS SO
WRONG THEY HAD
TO SACK LOFTY?

I think it's terrible and
maybe we should protest.
In our house putting out
the wheelie bin is my job,
but sometimes I forget.

One day 'er indoors
thought she could just
catch the dust lorry if
she wheeled it up the
hill where it was still
in sight. "Hullo love",
said the amused dust-
man. "Have you wheeled
it all the way up from
North Dean?"

SPEEN PRE-SCHOOL

As I am sure you have noticed, we have started the term with a new name, and for those who are wondering why - this is to comply with voucher regulations.

The children have been busy creating an Autumn picture, which is being exhibited at the library in Princes Risborough.

We have also been enjoying the warm mornings recently and venturing out to the park and surrounding paths.

The pre-school is also now offering 4 year olds an extended morning session on a Monday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm. This session includes a packed lunch and a pre-school activity especially for 4 year olds.

We are holding a café morning at pre-school on Thursday 17th October and everyone is welcome to join us for coffee and delicious homemade cakes and to see the children in their element! We would love to see some new faces - young and old!

If you would like to know more about Speen Pre-School, please contact Helen Englefield, Pre-School Leader, during pre-school hours on 4881600 or otherwise on 01296-336043.

FAREWELL TO ANNABELLE

We said our farewells to Annabelle at our successful end-of-term sports day. Annabelle made an invaluable contribution to the development of the pre-school - a hard act to follow, but Helen is following on in great style and the children are having a wonderful time.

Friday is our baking day and you will be aware of this from the lovely smell of warm cookies as you walk past along Studridge Lane.

Helen Englefield and Cherry Seekins

BITS AND PIECES.....

Another FUN BRIDGE event is planned for Monday 4th November at 12.30pm. The tickets are £5 with homemade soup and sandwiches included. Phone either 488637 or 488420 for further details. Oh yes - it's in aid of the newsletter.

NORMAN and SHEILA BALL are wished a happy retirement in Norfolk.

MR and MRS RULER and young JO are welcomed as new residents of North Dean as are MR and MRS KEMP. We hope you are settling in and finding new friends and we look forward to meeting you at future social events.

Someone is suggesting that Speen and North Dean residents might like to meet one another over lunch, varying the local pub and day of the week - perhaps each month? The newsletter will put you in touch if anyone likes to take the initiative.

Small Ad.


Volvo Estate Roof Rack desperately needed by Pauline and David Flynn on 488510

North Dean wishes to congratulate its young residents who have obtained their A level grades and are taking up places at university this autumn.

Joanna Knox wishes to encourage wine-making in the area (no need to encourage the drinking, already plenty of that). Please contact her if you are interested.

MEN'S BREAKFASTS are being actively organised again in Speen. Contact John Payne for details; I believe there is one about to take place.

DRIVERS BACKING OUT BLINDLY INTO C IF THIS LATEST APPLICATION IS ALLO

An eve of publication phone call from resident
Rogerson, went as follows: 

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For the sake of local people, let's hope that the membe
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Ed.

THERE IS TO BE A COFFEE MORNING IN AI
ON MONDAY 14th OCTOBER BETWEEN 10am A
CHERRY DELL, CHAPEL HILL. THERE WILL
STALL.

Greek Evening at Speen

On Friday 27th September, Speen Church ho
Trust and its President, Andy Paine, and t
They presented an insight into missio
with slides and quizzes. During the ev
from churches in Speen, Lacey Green,
and elsewhere tasted various Greek fo
was taken up for the Trust.
Many thanks to everyone who supported thi

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Mobile Library every other Monday:

10.05 - 10.15 a.m. at Village Hall, North Dean

10.25 - 10.40 a.m. at Hampden Road, Speen

14th & 28th October; 11th & 25th November; 9th & 23rd December

Post Office each Tuesday:

12.30 - 13.45 p.m. at Village Hall, Speen

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Speen First School will be holding an open afternoon at the school on

Thursday 21st November

1.30 - 2.45

for all parents of prospective pupils.

Bring your children to meet our children!

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

**DRIVERS BACKING OUT BLINDLY INTO ONCOMING TRAFFIC
IF THIS LATEST APPLICATION IS ALLOWED, SAYS PAUL.**

An eve of publication phone call from residents association chairman, Paul Rogerson, went as follows:

"Subject to our seeing the plans for ourselves, we have been told by Mr Coleby of Wycombe District Council that the details of the Bucks Housing Association application are to be revised yet again in an attempt to gain unqualified approval.

The advice given indicates that the vision splay to the east (into oncoming traffic up the hill) will be drastically reduced to exclude any land not owned by the housing association.

For the sake of local people, let's hope that the members of the Planning Committee will all put road safety ahead of politics".

Ed.

THERE IS TO BE A COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF MACMILLANS NURSES ON MONDAY 14th OCTOBER BETWEEN 10am AND NOON AT GLORIA'S PLACE, CHERRY DELL, CHAPEL HILL. THERE WILL ALSO BE A BRING AND BUY STALL.

Greek Evening at Speen

On Friday 27th September, Speen Church hosted a visit of the Damascus Trust and its President, Andy Paine, and two other young helpers.

They presented an insight into mission work in Greece and Albania with slides and quizzes. During the evening the fifty or so people from churches in Speen, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough, Naphill and elsewhere tasted various Greek foods. A collection of £81 was taken up for the Trust.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this very enjoyable evening.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

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Post Office each Tuesday:

12.30 - 13.45 p.m. at Village Hall, Speen

what's on

(sorry - you'll have to forgive random order!)

What and When:

Who:

Youth Club most Wednesdays

Help for Rebecca

Speen Quiz 18th Oct.

W.I. Annual Meeting 7th Nov.

W.I. "Fun with sugar paste" 5th Dec.

National Tree Week (Free trees!) 20th Nov - 2nd Dec.

Speen Res.Ass.Comm. Meeting 2nd December

Speen Res.Ass. Village Clean-up 10th Nov. 10.30am
at the pavilion

Fun Bridge 4th November

Cubs:

16th Oct. Tie-dyeing T-shirts (natural dyes)

23rd Oct. Closed

30th Oct. "Making a Guy"

6th Nov. Joint party with Beavers

13th Nov. First Aid Training

20th Nov. First Aid Badge

27th Nov. Fox Watch (If there are any left after latest visit
from Vale of Aylesbury execution squad, Ed)

4th and 1th Dec. Christmas Crafts

18th Dec. Joint Christmas party with the Beavers

Speen Hort. Soc. meetings 2nd Dec and 3rd Feb (probably)

PTA Barn Dance 23rd Nov

N. Dean Race Night 26th October

N. Dean Dance 30th November

Christmas Social 23rd December

Speen Church Carols Service 22nd Dec. 6pm, Christmas Day 10.30am.

488337 Mr and Mrs Lenko

488095 Mrs Whitehead

488313 Mrs Lowes

488348 Mrs Collett

488437 Parish Council - Don White

488315 Paul Rogerson

488420 or 488637

488016 Peter Symonds

488738 Mr Drew

488016 Mr Symonds

563074 Mrs Chinn

Last minute item from PTA

EVENTS

The new PTA committee have started planning events for the next 12 months. Dates of functions are still subject to confirmation but the intention is to have one major function each term, including a Barn Dance Supper at a local hall in November (probably 23rd).

In the Spring we intend to organise an AUCTION OF PROMISES, so please give some thought to what PLEDGES you might contribute to this enjoyable evening. Finally, in the Summer Term a further CARIBBEAN NIGHT is planned and we currently aim for Saturday 21st June 1997. Please keep these dates free so that you can help support our excellent village school.

Certainly, over the years, the PTA (and the community through its support for fund-raising) has been able to make vital contributions for the purchase of additional books, toys, computers, sporting equipment and miscellaneous items for the benefit of the children.

Further details and confirmation of dates etc will be reported as soon as feasible,

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

peter symonds.

middle R

News from Alice Corrick on behalf of the PTA

SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone in the village who supported our Caribbean evening last term, we had the best turnout ever and raised nearly £1,000 for the school, most of which has already been spent on books for the library, computer trolleys and playhouses for the playground. The children are very lucky to live and go to school in such a supportive environment.

Thank you, too, to all those who didn't attend but still suffered the noise of the band well into the night and then the crashes of scaffolding in the early hours. We are very sorry for the disruption but as all the lighting equipment was supplied for free it had to be returned immediately and despite our best attempts it did make quite a lot of noise. Sorry!

The school is also very aware of the chaos caused by dropping off and picking up children at the at the beginning and end of the school day. Not only is the main thoroughfare blocked with cars but the spill of waiting parents and young siblings at the gate has all the potential for an accident with children running onto the road.

Dave Evans, one of our newly appointed Governors, has undertaken a Health and Safety check and had drawn up plans to put in a pedestrian gate and walkway with bench seating INSIDE the gate that has been approved and awarded a grant by the local education authority. The work will be undertaken in the very near future and will help all aspects of road safety and security, at least for the end of the school day. Car sharing is already being implemented by those who can and anyone very nearby is walking. Meanwhile, any suggestions regarding better parking arrangements would be gratefully received.

The North Dean Barbecue

The week before the BBQ was to take place, the tickets were selling very slowly, so we kept our fingers crossed. By Saturday our prayers had been answered but we were then getting rather concerned, as we had sold 100 tickets and more were still being sought.

Sunday 16th June dawned and it was a lovely day: clear blue skies and getting hotter as the day progressed. The morning was spent preparing the BBQ; by 12.30 with everything ready the people started to arrive. The food consisted of gammon steaks, lamb chops and sausages, complemented with a variety of salads, new potatoes and french bread. The tables were set out on the playing field; some people had brought their sun umbrellas to shade themselves from the hot sun. After the BBQ food, there was icecream supplied by Beachdean Dairies. It was such a beautiful day in these lovely surroundings of North Dean and enjoyed by all who attended.

The Committee would like to extend their grateful thanks to all volunteers who helped to make it a successful day, especially for our Hall funds.

PAM PYLE - Honorary Treasurer

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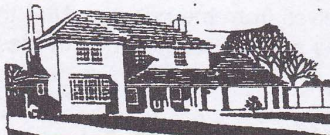
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SPEEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

September 1996

It is now a year since the Association was reconstituted. The year has been interesting and I hope worthwhile by keeping the residents up to date on the several issues which directly affect the development of the village.

Of these the Speen Stores/Tree Tops proposals have been the most significant, but those for Flowers Bottom and Studridge Lane also raised fundamental Green Belt issues.

In the year there has been some success in limiting development within the Green Belt:
Flowers Bottom (detached dwelling) where the appeal was refused.
Studridge Lane (2 detached dwellings adjacent to Willotts Farm) was refused.
Hillside (2 additional caravans) was refused, albeit now subject to an appeal.

All of these if permitted would have caused - through precedent - a serious threat to the Green Belt.

Speen Stores: Through continued pressure, the vital road safety aspects of this development have so far been preserved. The vision splays, so necessary at this dangerous junction, have been accepted by Wycombe District Council and conditions restraining the start of work until they are provided are now in place. Had the original plans been given unconditional approval then the present hazardous junction would by now have become an even greater danger.

The reaction of the Buckinghamshire Housing Association, in an effort to gain an unconditional approval, has been twofold:

1. They are appealing against the Wycombe District Council decision to impose conditions, including those of road safety importance.
2. They have made a further application to develop the site which, if successful, will circumvent the need for an appeal.

Villagers should question why the BHA do not appear to be willing to provide Speen with a scheme that conforms to the Highway requirements and has road safety as the first priority. Nothing would seem to prevent the BHA from doing this, but there is a reluctance to talk.

The validity of the further application was challenged by the Residents' Association and this has now resulted in a withdrawal of the revised plans and the substitution of yet another submission of drawings. Effectively the new proposal is to reverse the original plan so that, as one looks at it from the road, they now wish to put the houses on the left and the drive on the right. The drive would then be directly adjacent to and run the whole length of Monimail and Hamilton Cottage, and the parking area for the shop would be opposite the Hampden Road Tee junction. The new plan also shows a reduced vision splay to the west, across both Monimail and Hamilton Cottage, and with no footpath. In the easterly direction, and directly into the nearside traffic approaching uphill round the bend, there is no provision for any vision splay past the hedge and Midmede.

Reference to the access as "an adoptable standard road" which was earlier featured has now been removed from the latest set of plans. If approved with that wording it would have allowed, possibly, a further nine dwellings to be served. *(As plans by the BHA for 16 dwellings have been "discovered" for both the Stores and Tree Tops sites, we have asked the Parish Council to clarify the position of the legal agreement promised by the BHA (Mrs Fleming) which would restrain the development of both sites by the BHA.)*

The latest proposals would, on balance, appear no more acceptable than the original ones. Would anyone seriously sanction reversing onto a highway at a Tee junction with no vision to oncoming traffic? Well this is what is being proposed.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the committee for their efforts during the past year and I look forward to working with them next year. The AGM will be organised for January 1997 when all members of the village will be invited to attend.

Paul Rogerson

SPENCER AND LACEY GREEN BEAVERS AND CUBS

Major changes have taken place at our Beaver and Cub Group and further exciting developments are in the pipeline.

In particular we have been pleased to welcome a new experienced Group Scout Leader, Helen Warden who, in conjunction with her husband, Mike, will be helping to run our groups. Beavers is now being run by Helen and Catherine, although support from parents is still needed. Cubs is likewise being run by Helen with assistance from Catherine and Mike, various parents and former scouts.

After Christmas, Mike is hoping to re-establish the Scout Group in the village, so any boys of 11 and over may wish to contact him to express interest.

Meanwhile, the large committee of parents, leaders and supporters from the village have been meeting to ensure that all of the background work is properly organised; including the maintenance of the hut and grounds, collecting subscriptions, fundraising and programme planning etc. Many people devote substantial time and energy to this work behind the scenes, but the continued organisation by Derek Lewton and financial administration by Julian Chitty is much appreciated. Following the great contribution by Clive Rowland and Catherine Foster in maintaining the group over recent times with limited support, the future is now looking very bright.

Following the terrific success of the overnight midsummer camp in June, another special event is planned for the current programme. It is planned that the group will have a visit to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, which will include a tour of the ground and possibly meeting some of the players prior to a Saturday league fixture. The group also intend to take part in the Remembrance Parade in November and in due course take part in Regional events in conjunction with other groups.

Peter Symonds

BEAVERS

Beavers is open to boys and girls aged 6 to 8 and the group meets on Wednesday evening from 5pm to 6.15pm at the Scout Hut on Chapel Hill.

A varied programme of activities has been organised which is intended to help develop skills, knowledge and teamwork as well as being fun. New members are welcome.

CUBS

Cubs, likewise, is open to both boys and girls and the age range is 8 to 11. The cubs meet on a Wednesday night at the Scout Hut on Chapel Hill from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Activities are geared to the different ages and crafts, games, cooking, camping as well as learning about the environment and the wider community. As their skills develop, the cubs can qualify for badges for reaching levels of achievement in various activities. Again, new members are welcome. Forthcoming events:

October 2nd - Looking after yourself. 9th - Italy (themed evening). 16th - Tie dyeing T-Shirts (Natural dyes). 23rd - Closed for Half Term. 30th - Making a Guy. November 6th - Joint part with Beavers (Fireworks). 13th - First Aid Training. 20th - First Aid (Badge). 27th - Fox Watch. December 4th and 11th - Christmas Crafts. 18th - Joint Party with Beavers.

Coming soon...!

SCOUTS

If you are interested in helping or learning more, contact:

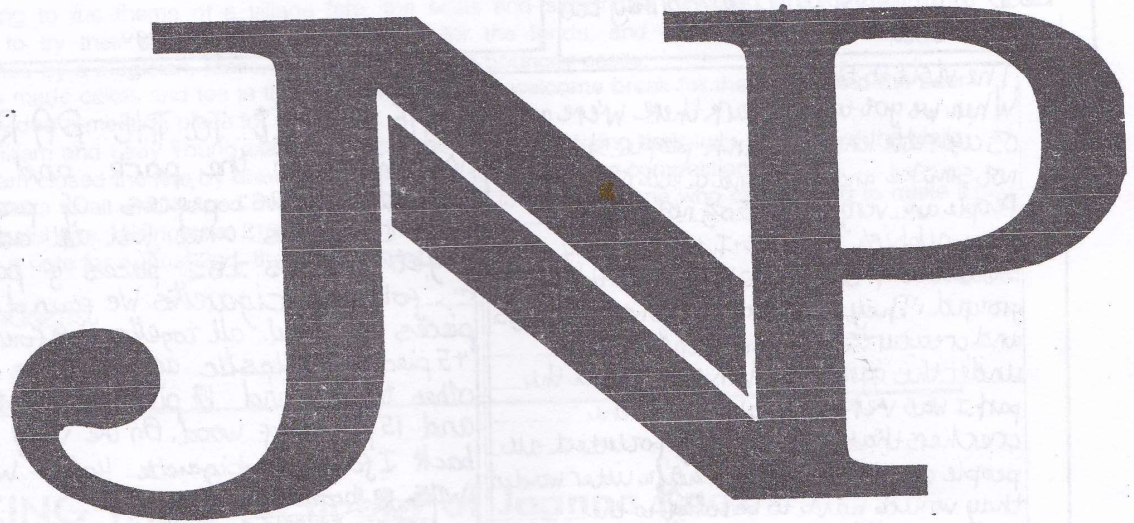
Helen Warden 01494 483760, Peter Symonds 01494 488016, Derek Lewton 01844 344413, Mike Warden (Scouts) 01494 4833760.

MARQUEE HIRE

One of the key fund-raising operations undertaken by the committee is to loan out various marquees which are ideal for parties etc. The marquees available include:
Marquee 10m x 5m (32ft x 16ft) suitable for weddings, parties, beer tent, etc. Marquee 3m x 3m (9ft x 9ft) suitable for small garden party. "Mess" tent 9m x 4m (30ft x 13ft) and trestles suitable for garden dinner party. These are delivered and erected. Donations to Scouts.

Contact Derek Lewton on 01844 344413 for more details.
Bookings taken now for next year.

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Kirsty, Patrick, Ben and Josh were disgusted at the litter in the park. Nikki also concentrated on which was the best apparatus. Laura is looking forward to the new school with her best friend Hannah.

Kirsty Sutherland

When we went to the park we found lots of rubbish and when we got back we made a chart of how much rubbish we had. We had a lot of fun going and coming back we also made a chart about what was best in the park and the monkey bars was the best.

Going to Saint Johns.

Thinking ~~going to~~ ~~school~~ Moving school is rather frustrating At first But When you get used to it the idea of moving school it's not so bad. I'm now looking forward to going to Saint Johns. The thing I'm Not Looking forward to is (And Neather is my best friend Hannah Falkner) Is our first lesson ANCE (NOT Greek) What I am Looking forward to is a Wednesday every 5 weeks because it would be our turn to do a play. I am looking forward to it because When I grow up I want to be an Actress. My mum keeps complaining About all the money she spends on getting a New Uniform. I didn't have very many big friends at ~~my~~ school friends at speen school. But because Saint Johns is a much bigger school there are more people so at Saint Johns I think I will have a lot more friends. And to the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ children at speen school I wish you all good luck.

by Laura Page

The visit to the park

When we got to the park there were a lot of cigarette ends I think people should not smoke and we found a lid of a pen. People are very careless of not putting there rubbish in bins. I think they should stop throwing rubbish on the ground. They don't care about the bugs and creatures that live under the ground. When I was at the park I was very sad about the creachers that were being polluted all people are very bad if we had a litter warden they would have to be taken to the government. We collected lots of things.

Patrick cleaner

BEN. F

THE VISIT TO THE PARK

We went to the park and we picked up 262 pieces of paper and cigarettes and foil all added together was 262 pieces of paper and foil and cigarettes. We found 27 pieces of metal all together. We found 45 pieces of plastic and 10 pieces of other things and 13 pieces of cloth and 15 pieces of wood. On the way back I found a cigarette lighter which was broken.



Lighter



Water pistol

Nikki

Our visit to the park

On the way to the park we had a piece of paper and a clipboard. We had to write the way to the park. When we got there we picked up rubbish with gloves on. We put it into a carrier bag. Then we had got someone found an old inhaler. We found 262 bits of paper. We walked over to the apparatus and we drew one of the apparatus. When we got back we counted the rubbish and made a bar chart. Then we made a tally chart of what was best in the park. The monkey bars were very popular. The swings and climbing frame were least popular. As well we were given a piece of card and we wrote our name on it. Then we stuck it on piece of card the name of our best thing.

Josh

The Visit to the Park.

Our visit to the park was fun because we went for a walk to the park and it was fun picking up rubbish. There was lots of cigarette and lot of cans. We found 167 pieces of paper and 40 pieces of plastic. We found 15 pieces of cloth. 27 pieces of metal. Ben found a broken water pistol. I found a can and some cigarette ends. Michael found a water bottle. Kirsty found a crisp bag. We had to where gloves to pick up the rubble.



John Rogers reports on North Dean's Village Fete

The fete was held this year on August 3rd in glorious weather, and it was opened by Sir William Young of North Dean, our own baronet, discovered by Nick Wheeler-Robinson while researching local history.

During his opening address, Sir William made reference to the fact that the last time the fete was opened by one of his family was in the late 1890s.

A framed photograph of a view of the village was signed by the Committee and presented to him as a memento of his visit. After judging the children's fancy dress, Lady Young was presented with a basket of flowers.

Piggotts Band entertained a good crowd to an excellent and varied programme of music during the afternoon, much enjoyed by everyone.

The vegetable and flower show provided a large number of entries of a high standard. The other competitions, including the art, were also well supported.

Keeping to the theme of a village fete, the stalls and sideshows provided everyone with the chance to try their skills whilst raising money for the funds, and the children were kept well entertained by a magician, races, face painting and a bouncy castle.

Home made cakes and tea in the village hall made a welcome break for the weary, and the beer tent provided a meeting place for the thirsty.

Sir William and Lady Young stayed to enjoy the afternoon, trying their luck on most of the stalls. Sir William closed the fete by drawing the raffle and presenting the competition cups.

My thanks to all who helped before and on the day and to everyone who came along to make it a successful one, raising over £1000 for the Hall funds.

Make a note for August 2nd, the date for next year.

JOHN ROGERS

MAKING WINE - A hobby of Joanna Knox

It was my first summer in the country. Being a lover of nature, the flora and fauna that I was surrounded by aroused my interest greatly. There were trees and shrubs with their flowers, fruit and berries that I hadn't encountered before. I wanted to know more about them. Luckily for me, my husband, who had worked in the forestry business, enlightened me on the subject of trees. That's when it happened - a friend who visited us on one occasion quite casually mentioned the fact that she made "cherry brandy" herself. I was quite intrigued. Now cherry brandy is one of the few liquors that I really like. I don't go for the strong stuff. She also made wine.

This sparked off my interest in wine making. She gave me a few tips, but I wanted more than a few tips and "First Steps In Winemaking" was a lucky find. It contained all I wanted to know about this fascinating subject. A weekend course in wine-making, dealing with the practicalities, gave my confidence a further boost to go ahead and experiment.

At first the equipment required rather baffled me - but I have learnt from experience that one does not always need what is dictated in books. I make do with various kitchen tools. For example, I use the end of a rolling pin to crush fruit - no need for a fruit crusher. Also I have never used a hydrometer as my taste buds tell me when a wine has finished fermenting and needs bottling. You see, I wanted to make wine in a small way and was not sure whether my efforts would prove a success or not. The most important items are bottles, of course, demijohns with air-locks and a syphon. A plastic bucket for the first fermentation is also necessary.

There is a wide variety of fruit, flowers, vegetables and even leaves available for wine-making. C.J. Berry's books "First Steps in Wine-making" lists over a hundred recipes.

So if you want to take up this interesting hobby, just go for it. First efforts may not always be successful, but you are sure to win in the end
Joanna Knox

SPeen BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsline

In nearly 200 years our church has seen many changes, though for most of that time it has been dependent upon boy preachers. On the weekend 14th/15th September a new chapter began when Andy Gower, who, together with his family, was formerly a member of Gold Hill Baptist Church at Chalfont St Giles, became our new Student Pastor.

To celebrate the occasion a flower festival was held all weekend at Speen Church. Organised by Jacqueline King, the theme of the displays, presented by ladies of North Dean and Speen, was the community.

On the Saturday Andy, his wife Carolyn and sons Richard, Sam and Ben, were all able to meet the 150 or so visitors and residents at a buffet tea arranged by Jean Drew. After that everyone was welcomed by church secretary and deacon David King. A service was held with prayers being said by Rev. Richard Caink, the Priest in Charge at St John The Evangelist, Lacey Green. President of the Buckinghamshire Baptist Association, Michael Birmingham, gave the Scripture Reading and solos were sung by Megan and Bill Chinn. Music was provided by Gwen Palmer with Pamela and Peter Salmon.

During his ministry at Speen Andy will be undertaking a church based ministry training course at Spurgeon's College, London and the Rev Chris Voke, tutor at the college gave a brief outline of what was involved. He ended with a prayer for Andy and Carolyn's work in Speen.

David King, John Payne and Ted Drew then gave a welcome and recognition of Andy as our student pastor and greetings were given from the christian family in the area by Rev. Caink, Michael Birmingham and Don White; Don welcoming on behalf of the parish council.

Terry Cox Chairman of the Gold Hill Mission Council then commended Andy and Carolyn on behalf of the fellowship at Chalfont.

Next morning, Sunday 15th September, Andy conducted the morning worship. We are sure that you will soon get to know him and his family. You can contact them at The Manse in Hampden Road, Speen (01494 488758).

The "church on the hill" offers a warm welcome, in the name of Jesus, to all readers of Speen and North Dean News at our Sunday morning services which begin at 10.30. **dave king**

WI NEWS FROM BARBARA COLLETT

(written the day after her return from North America -therefore, well done mate!)

In July Mr Hugh Granger gave an interesting and amusing talk on "Why we say that". Lots of things we say nowadays come from way, way back in history. Some of us had a day at Dorney Court and found the house very old and interesting. Then we spent all our money in the plant centre; some of us anyway.

Dr Maisey gave an hilarious but serious talk on spare part surgery in August - passing round hip joints and heart pacemakers, etc plus some things which are unmentionable! (*Just as it gets interesting you go all shy on us Barbara, Ed.*)

At the end of the month we gave our usual lunch for the over 60s (*Apparently you don't get an invite if you look too young, no matter what it says on your birth certificate. That means I should get mine next year okay. Sorry to interrupt again, Ed*) and some WI ladies from Risborough gave an excellent display of comic songs, dancing and a monologue or two.

In September Miss E. Cureton entertained us with some lovely slides on the restoration of Waddesdon Manor.

Future events:

3rd October Miss M. Cattell on Tuscany - a visit to Florence. 7th November is the Annual Meeting with a potluck supper afterwards. On 5th December it's Mrs J. Thornycraft with "Have fun with sugar paste!"

PS: Has anyone lost some photographs found in Hampden Road back in June? The photos are mostly of some young people in their late teens. Enquiries to me **Barbara Collett 488348**.

Philip

Green

& Partners

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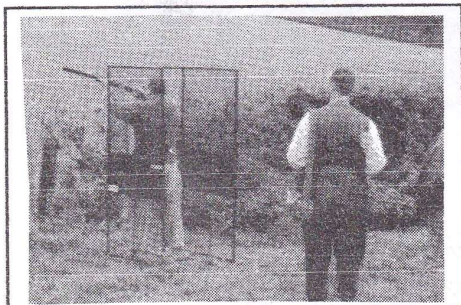
(01494) 868600

NORTH DEAN CLAY SHOOT

Sunday 22 September, 50 Bird Sporting & Two Man Flurry

On a typical Autumnal day with the sun vainly trying to peep through dull, low cloud and the near threat of rain but only really managing a fine drizzle once, the Village Hall Committee celebrated its third successful Clay Shoot. This event was once again organised by Sporting Clays inc who are based in North Dean.

Preparations for a Clay Shoot like this, which involves the public as well as Clay Target shooting enthusiasts begins weeks in advance. Liaison with local farmers and Thames Valley Firearms Officers takes place, organisation of local Sponsorship and the networking of all 'Sporting Clays' many volunteers, who all happily turn up is necessary in order for an event such as this to take place.



The competition is looking good!

The Village Hall Committee provided welcome refreshments in the form of Hot Dog rolls and Tea/Coffee for all those who managed to survive the trudge across the three fields and was much appreciated by everybody.

A special mention for Cryers Hill Coachworks and Merritts of Amersham who very kindly provided directional road signs and display boards and thanks also goes to Jim & Charles Kent and John West for providing the fields and the scenery!



Kevin Booth, Sporting Clays inc going through the paces with a keen participant on the novice "Have a Go" stand.

50 BIRD SPORTING & TWO MAN FLURRY

On the agenda for the day was a 50 Bird Sporting with Cash or Trophy prizes, a Two Man Flurry and the very popular "Have a go" stand where newcomers and novices to the sport can have a go in a safe and relaxed environment.

Winners on the day were:-

50 Bird Sporting 2 Classes

Trophy ~

1st Mr E Robinson, Aylesbury.
2nd Mr P Easeman, South Heath.
3rd Mr R Lacey, Prestwood.

Cash Payout ~

1st Mr M Walker,
2nd Mr S Smith,
3rd Joint Winners
Mr J Nuttall and Mr L Wright.

2 Man Flurry ~ Mr M Walker and Mr K Booth.



*Top Cash Prize Winner -
Mr M Walker with Kevin Booth.*



*Winners Mr P Easeman and
Mr R Lacey - Trophy Class.*

Margaret Eason meets our New Friends At The Manse

Speen's new student pastor, **Andy Gower**, his wife Carolyn and three sons Richard, 12, (starting at the Royal Grammar) Sam, 10, (at Lacey Green) and Ben, 7, (a pupil at Speen) have taken up residence at the Manse in Hampden Road. All three boys love sport, especially football and skiing, and the family enjoy taking their elderly caravan up to Carolyn's parents in Scotland, where they can sail. The two elder boys attend Wycombe Music Centre, where Richard plays viola and Sam the flute.

The decision to make a complete career break means all the family adapting their lives in several different ways, although the house move was only from Tylers Green.

Andy is Buckinghamshire born; his parents still living at Weedon. Carolyn was born in South Africa, where her English father worked for Unilever before bringing them all to Yorkshire where Carolyn went to school. Andy and Carolyn met at Durham University, where he studied Economics and Sociology and she Psychology. They kept in touch while Andy pursued management training at Turner and Newell, and Carolyn worked with the Church Missionary Society at a children's home in Iran - just as the Ayatollahs were elbowing out the Shah, whereupon Carolyn returned home and worked with children with learning and behaviour difficulties.

Andy moved on to a computer company at a golden time: just before the advent of the personal computer; whilst Carolyn entered an executive training scheme with National Opinion Polls. Their paths crossed again in Leighton Buzzard and they got married in 1981. Andy spent a thoroughly enjoyable - albeit exhausting - 15 years in the computer industry mainly travelling around Europe. They were both meantime involved in Church work.

Friday 30th August 1996 was a memorable date: Andy's last working day in computer sales: the start of a new life, learning to become a pastor.

He attends Spurgeons College in Norwood, SE London, for two days each week, with a third day devoted to study and three further days (including Sunday, of course) to his work for Speen Church, which leaves just one day per week "free".

Meantime, Carolyn has just achieved a post-graduate teaching diploma and has taught full-time for two years; now hoping to find supply or job-share teaching locally.

We are delighted to have our own Pastor at Speen again and to welcome the Gower family as our new friends and neighbours for at least the next three years, if not longer.

SPEEN VILLAGE QUIZ 1996

Winnie Lowes of 2 Woodlands View, Studridge Lane, reminds us that the annual quiz is about to happen again. Let me say to those who haven't experienced this event - it's always an absolute hoot; the decibel level gradually increasing as the combined effects of alcohol and competitiveness take hold. Inevitably Dave's ancient sound system malfunctions at some stage, we all join in various arguments about the correct answers and who may be "cheating" and the winners trophy has vanished. Here is a tip if you seriously want to win - get onto Don White's team! The bangers and mash alone make it worth the entry charge. A riot but all in the best friendly spirit - at least they haven't needed to call the folks polizei yet!

Anyway here is the official information:

The quiz is to be held at the Speen Village Hall at 8pm on Friday 18th October and the entry charge is £2 to include the bangers, mash and beans. Bring your own beer and wine.

They need teams of six to represent village organisations. (It shouldn't be a problem but historically it has been - that "supporters" in addition to the allotted six are looked upon with the suspicion that they may contribute to the answers of the team they support - tut tut - never!?) Anyway, speak to Winnie who will require your payment of £20 by Friday 11th October. Winnie won't be chasing up late responses, incidentally. Lastly, on that team size thing - there is now a rule that only six people will be permitted to sit at any one table.

SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

Just to remind everyone that the voluntary scheme for neighbours to help one another is still in operation. Gloria Holmes coordinates it and the three "telephone receptionists" are featured on the telephone numbers page.

The need may be, for example, shopping, hospital visits, baby sitting (note some young people have successfully completed a Red Cross baby sitting course and offer a service via the Good Neighbours scheme), emergency repairs, support for the bereaved and for lonely and recently discharged hospital patients or simply welcoming new residents to the village.

Any payment for services should be arranged between individuals. Any car owners must check that they are insured to carry passengers. Users of a service do so at their own risk.

Now that the scheme has been running three years, Gloria Holmes, who coordinates it, would like to run an update on the list of volunteers. So below is printed the questionnaire she has provided for that purpose. **Would you please fill it in and return it directly to her as soon as possible.**

The organizers would like to thank most sincerely those who have offered and given their time to help. It is reassuring to everyone to know that help is available close to hand if it is ever needed .

For further details contact **Gloria Holmes 488420**

SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN GOOD NEIGHBOURS Questionnaire

Name _____ Tel No _____

Address _____

TIMES NORMALLY AVAILABLE (Please tick as appropriate)

Daytime _____ Evening _____ Weekend _____ Any time _____

I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAY(S):

Shopping _____ Babysitting _____

Visiting _____ Emergency repairs _____

Driving e.g. to hospital _____ Other help _____

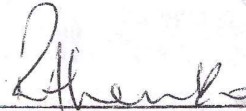
PLEASE RETURN TO Gloria Holmes, Cherry Dell, Chapel Hill.

SPEEN FETE- THE POST MORTEM

Despite a slow start Speen Fete went ahead, the weather was kind and even though we had more competition than ever from other local events (particularly the Princes Risborough festival) we had a good turn out and raised just under £2000 which was very similar to the previous years. A lot of people from many organisations in the village worked very hard and will benefit financially from the day, and we hope that with more help and a bit more planning we can make next year's fete even better.

Some people have talked about not having a fete, or even holding one every other year, but there are many of us who feel that if we were to miss a year the fete would die altogether as has happened in many other small villages.


All of us on the organising committee are trying to streamline the running of the fete to reduce meetings in cold village halls in the depth of winter that are often poorly attended. We want to concentrate our efforts on the day with as many helpers as we can muster and **WE NEED MORE HELP**. The local village organisations such as Play Group, Guides and the Youth Club as well as many others, depend on the money raised at the fete to boost their funds, so please if you can help run a stall, even for a short time let me know. We would be happy to have any suggestions or brilliant ideas to make the fete really enjoyable. Please do give me a ring anytime-
Robert Lenko-488337.



AND IF THINGS GO ON AS THEY HAVE BEEN WE WILL SOON BE PUBLISHING A POST MORTEM ON THE VILLAGE SCOUT HUT.

Several local residents have asked the newsletter to highlight the two recent attacks on the scout hut. The scout hut is a very valuable resource for local children, and it is very vulnerable to the kind of cowardly attacks which have occurred. Just now there seems to be a slightly nasty bunch of blokes prowling about at weekends. This is a small community and it should not require the expertise of a Sherlock Holmes to find out who these guys are, so one hopes and expects that the local police have taken some initiative, especially in view of the serious nature of the attacks.

Meanwhile it would seem wise to put grills on the windows and to organise some sort of surveillance, especially at the most predictable times - at least until this particular gang are stopped or become bored with what they are doing.


Editor Speen and North Dean News.

organisation contacts :

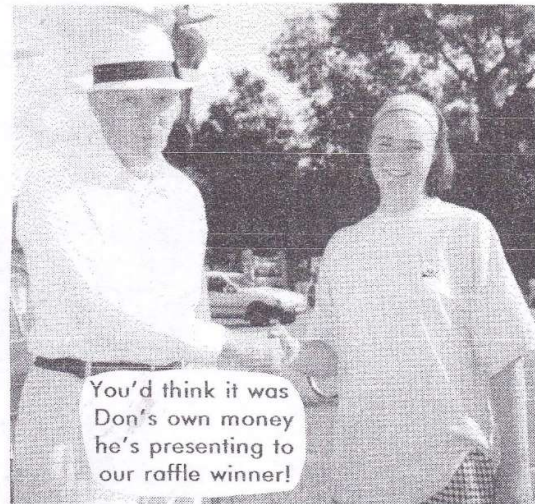
BAPTIST CHURCH	DAVID KING	01844-344839
Sunday 10.30am		
CUBS	Peter Symonds	488016
Wed 6.30 - 8.00pm		
CRICKET	Dick Seekins	488355
FETE	PETER DAWSON	488222
GOOD NEIGHBOURS	GLORIA HOLMES	488420
(Receptionist)	DORIS WILSON	488334
(Receptionist)	Margaret Jones	488246
(Receptionist)	POPPY ELLIS	488548
GUIDES	PAULINE HALL	488372
Thursdays		
HORTICULTURAL	TED DREW	488738
N.DEAN VILLAGE HALL	JOHN ROGERS	562041
PARISH COUNCILLORS	DON WHITE	488437
	JUDE AWDRY	488607
PLAYGROUP		488160
Hall termtime 9am - 12pm		
Other times	Cherry Seekins	488355
PLAYING FIELD	JEANNE HANFORD	488402
POLICE		01296-396000
SPEEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR	JEAN GABBITAS	01844-346469
SPEEN SCHOOL OFFICE		488321
SPEEN PARENT TEACHERS	AMANDA CLEAVER	488288
	PAUL & ALICE CORRICK	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.	BARBARA COLLETT	488348
(1st Thur each month)		
N. DEAN HALL BOOKINGS	MEGAN CHINN	563074



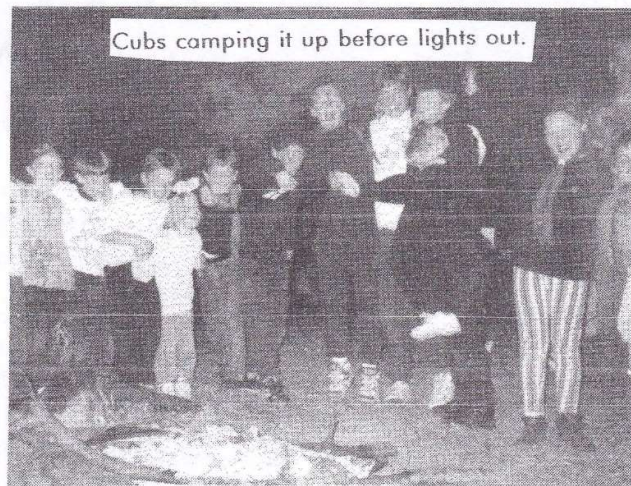
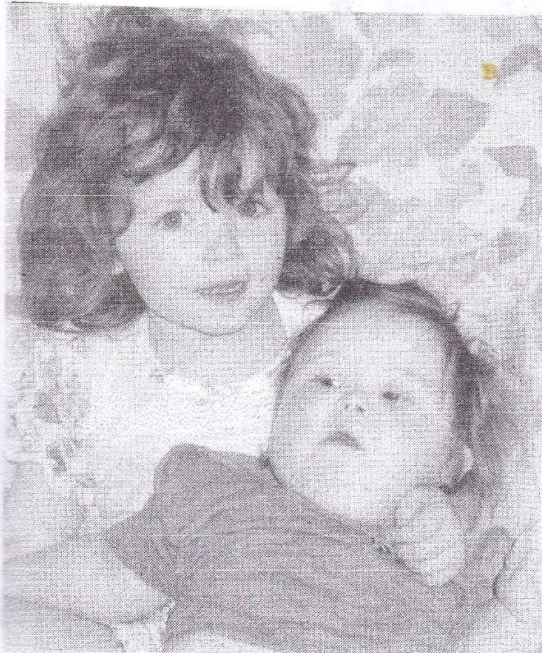
Speen fete contd...
Uncle Brian was
the discovery of
the year. Let's hope
he's free for next
time.



Olivia about to
plow into the deck!



You'd think it was
Don's own money
he's presenting to
our raffle winner!



Cubs camping it up before lights out.

Rebecca and her sister.

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Contact Jeff Leeks on 01494 441442.

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