

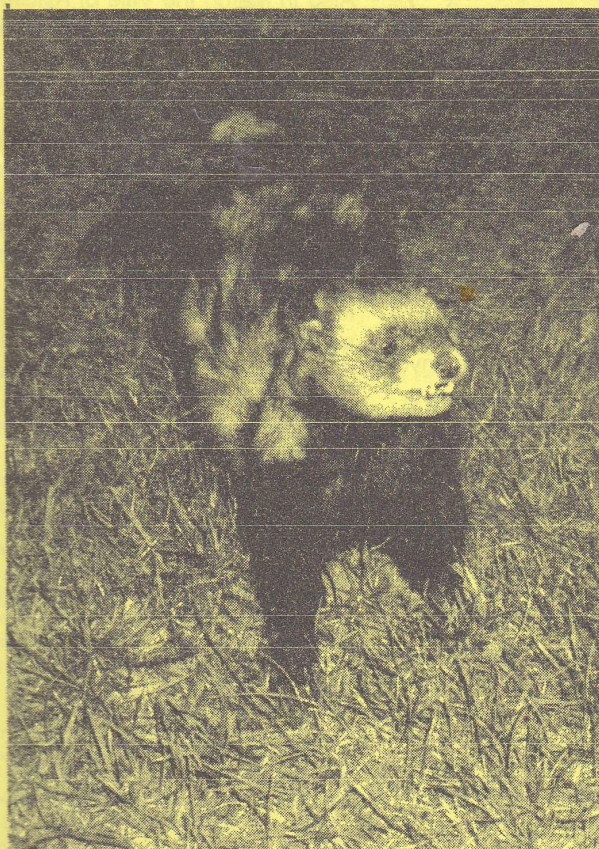
Speen Fete this Saturday 12th July opening 2pm

SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS

Issue Eleven Summer 1997

Czeching Out

Wannabe
Guide Puppies
Head East

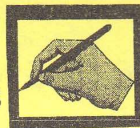


And Checking In



Polecats From
Wales Also
Moving East

read both stories inside...



MUST HAVE NEW WRITERS

Frankly, it is essential that the newsletter gets fresh writing input.

We need at least two people (ideally one from each village) to help write and report. One person cannot be everywhere or continue to write freshly on the same events, and our experience shows that the various organisations cannot all be relied upon to submit their own reports.

We've had some great stuff submitted for these first eleven issues. There is no shortage of writing talent in Speen and North Dean, it only takes a bit of enthusiasm. You don't have to commit for more than one or two issues. If you get to like it, carry on, but if not then we would be grateful for whatever you did produce, whether straight reports on village events or comments of your own. Give me a ring to discuss it.

SPEEN NEW TOWN A FACT OF LIFE

"Speen New Town", up the hill, looks very impressive. Whether you think it should be there at all is another matter. Do you like the christmas cake style of shop window? I see the developers are advertising for more land - no more Speen land, I hope!

PARISH POND GETS SPRING CLEAN

If you recall, last March some of us assembled to Spring-clean the village "puddle" in Studridge Lane, under the supervision of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It was a good laugh involving adults and children getting thoroughly caked in mud as we cleared back about a third of the vegetation encroaching on the wet part, plus some man-made rubbish! We had to be careful not to disturb the emerging frog tadpoles and some spawn had to be gently pushed into safer waters. Apart from frogs hanging about to recover from breeding season, a few newts were observed making their way in to begin their breeding. We caught one and Roger identified its species for the benefit of the children present.

Within a couple of hours or so we had raked and dug out large heaps of detritus - rotting plant material and mud. The conservation ladies ordered that this should not go immediately into the awaiting skip, but be left at the side for a few days to allow any pond life in it to crawl out and hopefully make its way back to the water.

A few days later I went back to the pond for the purpose of filling the skip only to discover that one or two people had done that for me - not with pond rubbish but with rubbish from their own homes. So I first had to remove the household rubbish, mainly glass, plastic and angle iron etc, put in the pond sludge, and then perch the household rubbish back on top. To cap it all, out came some angry local resident to tell me off for making a mess!!

Many thanks to the conservation officers, for their advice, good humour, loan of equipment - not least the tea urn! At the end of the morning off they went to start again, this time on Lacey Green pond.

The conservation officers had brought along a kind of grappling tool called a chrome and this enabled us to make short work of dragging material from the pond bottom. Don White has agreed that the parish should own one and I must get round to finding out where they can be obtained. Does anyone know?

There was a range of ideas about how the pond should look in the future. The conservation officers were keen that it should remain essentially as a natural seasonal mini-wetland, even if that meant it looking "scruffy" at certain times of the year. Some of us felt the need for compromise, introducing a few plants that would give some structure in the winter, such as evergreen sedges and a shrub or two with attractive bare stems in winter.

The previous two years had been unusually dry, causing the pond to

dry out early. But 1997 has so far been much better for the pond's appearance with "April" showers and mud. The conservation ladies keeping up the water level throughout May and June. The grasses, reeds and irises etc have really flourished. Had we not done that clearing out in March, however, I think the pond would have been too overgrown by now. In March we had created a little beach at the shallow end. The water then gradually deepens as it disappears under the canopy of that large leaning hawthorn.

Apart from the little ditch to encourage run-off from the road, the owners of the new house next door had kindly allowed the run-off from their roof to be channelled into the pond, and this year the summer showers have proved the value of it. I've certainly noticed a lot of new activity in the pond this year which I hadn't seen before.

FOX HUNTS HOUNDS

Also in March the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt revisited Speen - possibly - hooray - for the last time ever. As usual, several people were watching in Coleheath Bottom, some keeping guard by the badger setts. Firstly came a couple of hunt servants and baying hounds, then the "ladies and gentlemen" dressed to kill and finally, behind all that, came - would you believe - the fox!! So was the fox following knowing it was the safest place to be or was he just in that position by coincidence, having become a bit disorientated by his erstwhile pursuers? - answers on a postcard please...

Bit of a sad time for me - typing up the newsletter with half an eye on old Tilly the grandmother Wheaten Terrier who was coming to the end of the road after twelve and a half years - yet so dignified, staggering to get to her usual toilet area, still wagging her tail at every soft-spoken word. Yesterday she took a long drink and went to lie down in her usual place in the back porch where she laid down sphinx-like staring out at the rain. She was joined there by her friend and daughter Rosie. I left them there with the door open when I popped into Wycombe for an hour. When I came back they were both still there asleep - at least that's what I thought until Rosie whimpered and I saw that Tilly was very still. I've just buried her in the garden and we are going to miss her terribly.

Peter Dawson - 458222

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT
SPEEN VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 13TH MAY 1997
AT 7-30P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor D.E. White (Chairman)
Councillor R. Gosling
Councillor Mrs. J Awdry
Councillor D. Claydon
Councillor T.V. Molesworth
Councillor Dr. T. Shreeve

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 1997/98 Proposed by Councillor Shreeve seconded by Councillor Gosling. Councillor D.E. White was elected Chairman for 1997/98.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 1997/98 Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Awdry seconded by Councillor Dr. Shreeve - Councillor R. Gosling was elected Vice-Chairman for 1997/98.

REPRESENTATION ON VARIOUS OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council will be represented on the following outside bodies

Wycombe District Association of Local Councils - Councillor D. Claydon and Councillor Dr. Shreeve.
Wycombe Highways and Road Safety Consultative Committee - Councillor T.V. Molesworth
Princes Risborough Charity - Councillor Mrs. J. Awdry and Mr. Brian Panter
Lacey Green & Loosley Row Village Hall - Councillor Mrs. C. Davies
School Governors - St. John's Combined School - Mrs L. Gaffin
Speen First School - Mr. D. Evans
Princes Risborough Adult Education Committee - Councillor D.E. White
Tree Wardens - Councillor D.E. White Mr. B. Panter,

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL 1997

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th April 1997 in the Methodist School Room, Lacey Green were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

(a) **MAIN ROAD LACEY GREEN.** Nothing further to report.

Noted that the tree branches obscuring the new sign had not yet been cut back. The Clerk to contact the Divisional Surveyor again on this..

(b) **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP** . The BTCV were still having problems by the lack of volunteers for their working parties but will continue with the programme of clearing and repair as soon as possible.

(c) **LACEY GREEN AND LOOSLEY ROW VILLAGE HALL.**

The Council confirmed the provision of £5,000 per annum over two years towards the costs of constructing a new village hall. by passing the following resolution :-

"Resolved that in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972(as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirement of that section, the Lacey Green Parish Council approves payment of the sum of £10,000 payable by two payments of £5,000 over two years in respect of a contribution towards the building of a new village hall for the villages of Lacey Green and Loosley Row. This building is subject to a grant from the Millenium Fund."

(d) **MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS** - No decisions were taken on this item

(e) **ENVIRONMENT POLICIES** Councillor Dr. Shreeve presented his thoughts on how the Council could influence a more positive interest

The following piece was written, on Caroline's encouragement, by a young lady from France who has recently been resident in Speen for the purpose of learning our language -

TO EXPLORE ... LIMOGES

I'd like to talk about my native city which is Limoges. Limoges is located in the region of Limousin: more than a name of city, a brand, the one of the porcelain which, since the eighteenth century, brings the world renown to the city.

Its tourist heritage very extensive through two thousand-years-old of historic centres (two medieval cities inlaid into an urban heritage which is various and magnetic of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries) reflects at once the artistic wealth butb the economic potential of the Limousin's capital too.

Limoges, born on the edge of the Vienne with the Gallo-Roman's name "Augustoritum", takes its force in this other wealth which is

preserved nature.

The nature is really important. The fishing places in river are abundant in rural beauty spots. The hikes reserve for tourists, the discovery of the nature and the rustic traditions, peace and quiet of the countryside.

In Limoges, festivals give rythm to all the year, from the biennal festival of dance in January to the Jazz Festival in November, passing through important exhibitions in summer around the porcelain. Without, of course, the big autumn meeting of French-speaking nations. But the wealth of Limoges asserts in each town. From the circus festival to the exhibitions, each town is full of the festivities, the activity and the cultural meetings.

Leisure activites and sports (basketball with the local team "LIMOGES CSP" many times crowned champion of national and European leagues) are meeting too with scope demonstrations where everybody take part and have fun.

Interesting tours to do:

* Haviland Porcelain Museum

Private collections relating the fabulous story of an American family who is arrived in Limoges in 1842.

* The Adrien Dubouche National Museum

Founded in 1845 and run by Adrien Dubouche in 1865. All kinds of things are shown there (pottery, faience, stoneware, porcelain and glass).

* St Martial Crypt

Two archeological rooms, St Martial and Ste Valerie tombs, vestiges prior to the Abbey.

* Church of St Pierre Du Queroix (thirteenth and fourteenth centuries)

Ogives vaults and remarkable stained glass windows

* Limousin's Aquarium

2,000 fishes of Limousins, and of the Indian Ocean, the Pacific and the Caribbean 250 species and 25 aquariums.

*Chrystelle
Cheyre*

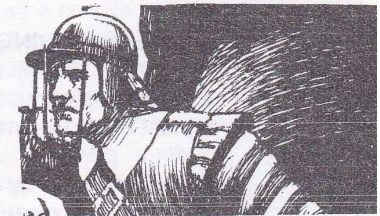


SPEEN FETE 12th July THIS YEAR IT'S WAR

Don't get worried if you notice some odd-looking strangers around the village this year - they are only here to conduct warfare. They are coming from far and wide, some may be setting up camp around the village and don't be alarmed when you see them cleaning their muskets and canon - that's what their late leader, Oliver Cromwell, would have insisted for his model army - a well-turned out disciplined force. And when they get firing their weapons - don't be alarmed, they are just blanks - I think.

There will also be a display from a dog training club, the Chinnor Silver band will be playing and there will be all the usual sideshow attractions. Let's hope that the weather will be as good as previous two years.

I nearly forgot - the Fete Committee cannot do all the work themselves on the day, so they will need the help of some of you to run stalls etc. Please come up on the evening before the fete or fairly early on the morning of fete day. Meanwhile you



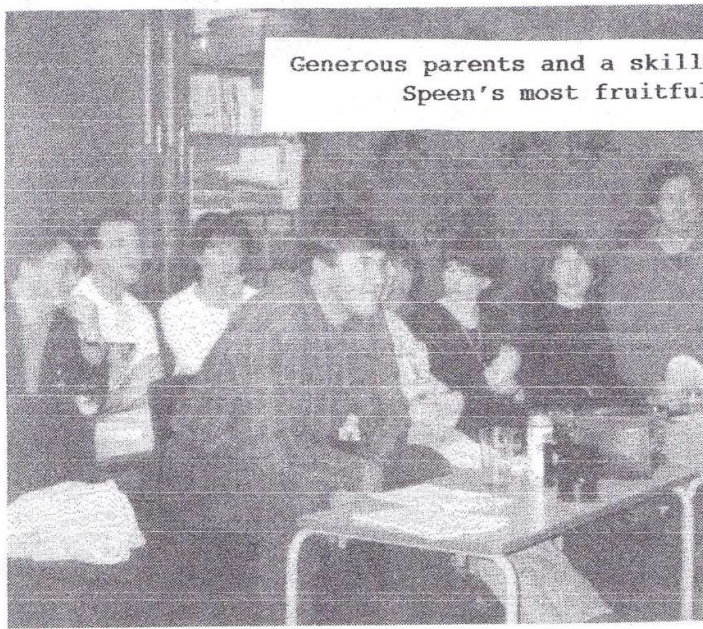
can phone, say, Paul Rogers, David King, Robert Lenko or myself and any of us will give you some better idea what help is still needed.

Peter 488222

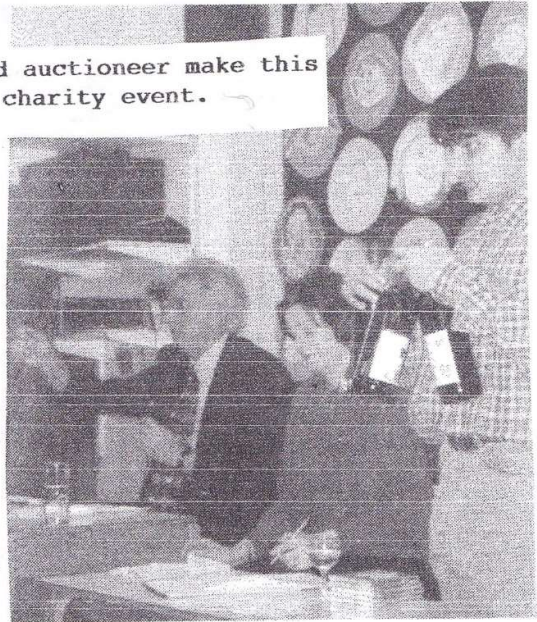




Good food and happy company - the W.I. birthday party



Generous parents and a skilled auctioneer make this Speen's most fruitful charity event.



Pre-school Easter egg hunters on Hampden Common.



Lovely weather for riding in Wales

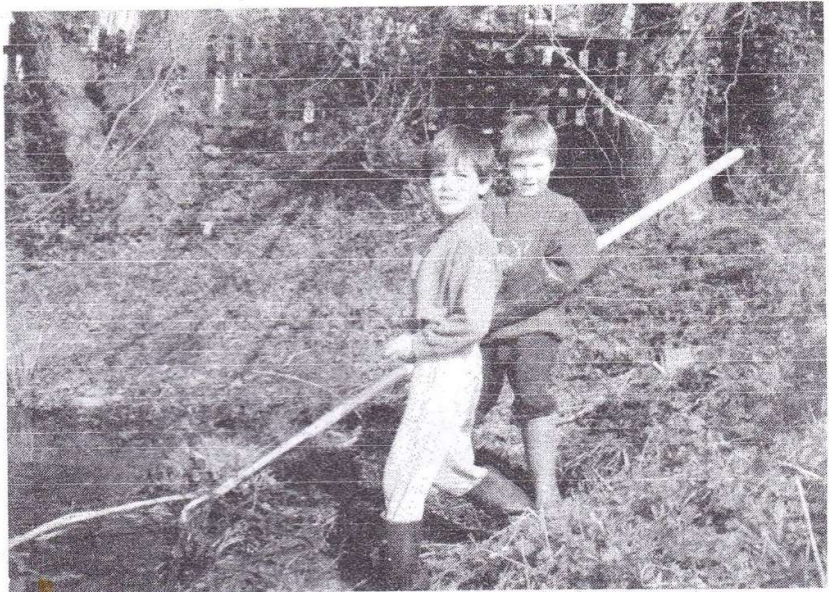




Men of Speen...

tidy the
village pond

(there were ladies
also - but they were
having a cup of tea!)



A special thanks to the
kind villager who, overnight, fill
our skip with his house-hold
rubbish before we had time
to use it for pond debris!

The curious case of the vanishing vision splay

"How will we feel if someone gets killed outside that shop" said a councillor as the Planning Committee discussed the shop site application. This application drove coach and horses through all the environmental guidelines, but this gave them little concern. No, what seemed to concern them most was the safety angle - literally, since customers and deliverers from any new shop would be pulling out directly into the path of traffic newly emerged from a blind bend down Chapel Hill. Some observers thought at the time that this councillors' concentration on safety was merely a smokescreen to avoid owning up to environmental abuse they were going to permit. This suspicion may, arguably, have gained some credence from the subsequent scenario.

The majority on the committee eventually expressed satisfaction, after visiting the site, that, with slight misgivings, the vision splays of 60 x 3.5 metres would ensure adequate safety.

Then what happened? - The developers found that they could not obtain the size of vision splay they had submitted on their application. The predictability of this had been pointed out and ignored. (The developers even tried to gain ownership of a boundary owned by a neighbouring property without success) Eventually the developers placed the proposed drive on the opposite side of the projected houses, ie a few metres further up Chapel Hill. On the application for this they also proposed a dramatic reduction of vision splay from the original plan. The second application reduced the uphill splay by two thirds, (to 20 x 2 metres) and - incredibly to some observers - specified no splay whatsoever in the potentially dangerous downhill direction. The new plan was passed.

I do not take the view that local councillors and officials would deliberately endanger the community for the purpose of political expedience, that would be a monstrous implication. I prefer to believe that there must be a reasonable explanation; maybe

putting the drive further up does legitimately provide safe vision. However, since there is still some local concern being expressed, I am asking the responsible people at Wycombe Council to give us an explanation for future publication in the Speen and North Dean News.

Ironically, although the developers respecified only one splay, and this much reduced, they still got their calculations wrong - evidence the little gathering outside Hamilton Cottage the other day, when the Enforcement Officer, Maria White, was confirming for herself that the hedge still impeded even the new reduced splay in the uphill direction. She confirmed to me on the phone, later, that she intended to serve a compliance notice. She also volunteered the information that she was ordering compliance concerning some upper storey windows. It seems that these should have been non-opening and obscure. You've guessed it - they were installed opening and see through - crafty these builders. How do such windows square with health and safety in bedrooms, however?

Concerning a little log cabin in the west...

Maria also told me that she has been in discussions regarding a new structure which has appeared in Highwood Bottom on the site known as Omar Lodge, where an old caravan had survived long enough to accumulate brownie points to allow permanent rights for a mobile home. "That structure is not mobile" she said. Well the new owners would suggest otherwise, of course, and are prepared to prove it, they say, if necessary by dividing the "log cabin" into two longitudinal sections each within the permitted dimensions of 60' x 10'. Admittedly the structure was assembled from kit parts on site rather than having been assembled elsewhere and delivered in two parts, but the owners would hope that this might be given tolerance.

Here I have to admit a bias - after all I live in something similar. I realise that in the first instance local

officials must show devotion to the fine print of the rule book, but I hope that common sense will eventually prevail. Given that something is definitely going on in that site, and whatever it is it will stay there more or less permanently, what would people walking down that pretty lane, Highwood Bottom, prefer to see - a stretched out metal and plastic covered caravan which will always look like something just parked - or would they perhaps prefer a small well made timber home which will assume the gentle patina of time?

However I have to balance this opinion by acknowledging the fears about where things can lead. There have been examples in and around Speen of simple wooden structures blossoming into fullblown brick houses standing out like, arguably, blots on the rural landscape and giving possible precedent for more eating up of countryside with no gain to the community overall and an environmental loss to future generations.

On the other hand...

Look at the loss of village cottages, in Speen and elsewhere, due to well-off individuals being allowed to enlarge them out of all proportion (I suppose you cannot blame the individuals providing for their own family needs, as they see them, but it's often an investment consideration). The effect for the village is to drive its children away when they need to set up home themselves. All that is left of the former integrated village are those incongruous "cottage" nameplates. (no disrespect if you have one).

At least the new social housing units cannot grow in size, but what a price is being paid - environmental protection ignored just to house the handful who are privileged to live in them and a development to the rear allowed as trade-off but taking up more space and bricks than the social housing development itself. And have you seen that large board in front of the shop "More land wanted" Wake up Speen - you won't know what you've lost until it's gone!

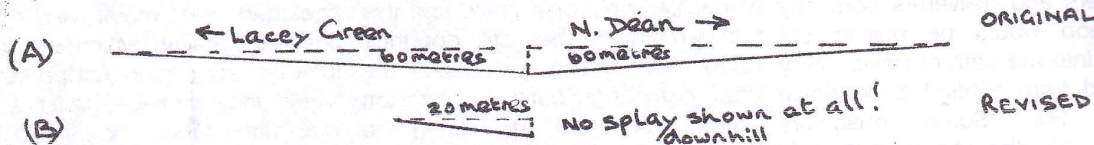
concluded overleaf...

They are not exactly similar cases, but that won't stop me making a comparison between the Chapel Hill projects and the ill-fated Hughenden medical centre application. The latter would, it's

true, have eaten up a bit of Geen Belt, but if you can make environmental exceptions then better it be done to benefit thousands of local people - as it would have - than a dozen or so - *Peter*

meanwhile...

TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN YOU PULL AWAY FROM THE SHOULDER



CARAVAN SITES ACT 1968 (ss.12-14)

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS

Twin-unit caravans

13.—(1) A structure designed or adapted for human habitation which— 2-1098

- (a) is composed of not more than two sections separately constructed and designed to be assembled on a site by means of bolts, clamps or other devices; and
- (b) is, when assembled, physically capable of being moved by road from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer),

shall not be treated as not being (or as not having been) a caravan within the meaning of Part I of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 by reason only that it cannot lawfully be so moved on a highway when assembled.

(2) For the purposes of Part I of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, the expression "caravan" shall not include a structure designed or adapted for human habitation which falls within paragraphs (a) and (b) of the foregoing subsection if its dimensions when assembled exceed any of the following limits, namely—

- (a) length (exclusive of any drawbar): 60 feet (18.288 metres);
- (b) width: 20 feet (6.096 metres);
- (c) overall height of living accommodation (measured internally from the floor at the lowest level to the ceiling at the highest level): 10 feet (3.048 metres).

(3) The Minister may by order made by statutory instrument after consultation with such persons or bodies as appear to him to be concerned substitute for any figure mentioned in subsection (2) of this section such other figure as may be specified in the order.

(4) Any statutory instrument made by virtue of subsection (3) of this section shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

URGENTLY NEEDED - URGENTLY NEEDED - URGENTLY NEEDED

PRIZES FOR THE SPEEN FETE TOMBOLA. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SPARE, BE IT JUST A CAN OF BEANS, SAY, OR A BOTTLE OF WINE ETC OR JAM OR WHATEVER, THEN PLEASE BRING IT ALONG WHEN YOU COME TO THE FETE AND JUST HAND IT TO SOMEONE ON DUTY AT THE ENTRANCE. THAT IS UNLESS ONE OF OUR COLLECTORS GETS TO YOUR DOOR FIRST.

AND WE CAN DO WITH ANY PHYSICAL HELP TO MAN A STALL E

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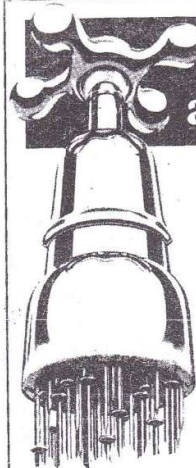


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8



Is your water as hard as nails?

60% of British households suffer from
these sure signs of hard water problems:

- Blocked shower heads
- Slow running taps
- Scum marks in baths and basins
- Excessive use of household cleaners
- Harsh, hard towels and clothes
- Increased water heating bills
- Scaled-up kettles and appliances

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Speen Residents' Association

June 1997 Update

Speen Stores

During the past few months the Association has continued to ask the Planning Department of Wycombe District Council for their assurance that the work to the Stores Site be compliant with the terms of the planning consent. This is because we remain to be convinced that certain aspects of the developments do comply and that aspects of road safety are properly considered.

The main area of concern is the long standing dispute over the vision splays. After repeated requests, Wycombe District Council, together with Bucks County Council officials visited the site several times to establish the facts. Finally, on the

last visit, it has at long last been admitted by both Wycombe DC and Bucks CC that the greatly reduced standard of splay required by the permission cannot be obtained without further hedge removal.

This means that, as we have always suspected, it appears that the developers of both sites are in breach of their planning consents and will have to act to put things right. As I understand the position, discussions with the owner (of the impeding hedge) are being undertaken. Hopefully this will result in the provision of a footpath to connect the Stores with the existing path. In any event the limited standard set should not be "politically" reduced for the sake of expedience.

Omar Lodge

A further development has taken place which affects the Omar Lodge site in Highwood Bottom. As you will recall, this site gained a legal

status through having had an old caravan sited upon it for a considerable number of years. After this status was achieved, the old caravan was removed and work to provide a new dwelling commenced. This development is not viewed by WDC as being compliant with the previous "mobile" home as it appears to be of a permanent nature. WDC has therefore served a notice to comply.

This site is important, not for its size or natural beauty, but for the precedent it may set for other similar sites within the Green Belt, of which there are several in the area. If you have a view on this, then please write to WDC Planning Department, Victoria Road, High Wycombe. I am sure your views will be welcomed.

Paul Rogerson
Chairman SRA.

Exams and 'old age' affect membership

The Youth Club has been going through a quiet phase mainly due to the fact that a lot of the older members have had GCSE examinations this summer, so their time is spent revising. Also our original members are getting too old for the club and moving on to other things (don't ask what!).

We hope to play some football and volleyball on the green over the next few weeks and then, after the summer holidays, the club will start again - we hope with some younger faces.

Anyone aged 12 to sixteen is welcome - Wednesdays evenings at the Baptist Church Hall 8 to 9.30pm.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please ring **Robert or Tricia Lenko on 488337**.

TAPESTRY OF NORTH DEAN Millenium project being planned

A project for the Millenium shortly to get underway in North Dean is a village tapestry. A group of us are planning to stitch a wall hanging for the village hall, depicting North Dean.

The tapestry will be made up of individually stitched needlework squares, pieced together to make up the finished tapestry.

We invite anyone from North Dean interested in helping with the project - male or female, all levels of skill welcome, to come along when we have our first meeting, date yet to be decided.

For more information, I can be contacted on 563534 or any North Dean Village Hall Committee member.

Dorothy Haxell

NORTHDEAN COMING EVENTS:
SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND - THE FETE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH - RACE NIGHT

Small ad:
Mother's Help required
two and a half days per week
Apply Rachel Wheeler Robinson
on 01494 562167

THE POLECAT IS BACK

(This relative of badger, stoat and otter was once common in these hills, hence, for example, the Polecat pub at Prestwood. From the brink of extinction in its last refuge around Snowdon it has made a remarkable recovery. Last year, Polecats with a Welsh accent were reported pausing for breath on the western border of Buckinghamshire and what better prospect for successful recolonisation than this mysteriously wooded and convoluted land, the Chiltern Hills. Yet when two of my dogs disturbed a Polecat beside a path through College Wood in March this year I could hardly believe it. The coat pattern and colouring was roughly similar to that of a siamese cat, but the short legs and undulating movement were all "weasel" not cat and a brief glimpse of the mask and

short tail confirmed the species before, in a second, it was gone beneath an upturned tree root. Then, a few weeks later came a phone call from **Peter Symonds**. Peter is usually a pretty calm sort of bloke in my experience, but his voice was distinctly excited as he described his find. Moments later I was along to his house taking photographs after we had propped up the unfortunate Polecat into a lifelike pose. He was a magnificent specimen still in full winter coat and with no obvious sign of being part ferret. However, it may be that Peter's Polecat and the one I saw in College Wood may have been part of a relict population of ferret/polecats which had become feral in this area from escapees or deliberate releases. But last year's news of recolonisers from Wales having reached us suggests that these animals were part of that of that population. Incidentally, Ferrets

are actually semi-domesticated Polecats, usually albino, which are thought to have originated from a European race called the Steppe Polecat. In the past some Ferret breeders had experimented with outcrossing their Ferrets to wild Polecats for a tougher and prettier "Ferret". However these 'hybrids' are usually patchy looking and lighter in coat than the pure British race. Peter's specimen, now being preserved, looks "pure" - but we may never know for sure. But pure or not matters less than the fact that Polecats seem to have returned to the Chilterns after an absence of more than a hundred years. Hope thy don't eat all our Glis-Glis! Ed.) NOW READ PETER'S ACCOUNT OF HIS "LUCKY FIND"...



**RETURN OF
THE POLECAT**

By Peter Symonds

Driving through Saunderton on Saturday 5th April, listening to the radio reports of a bomb alert at the Grand National, I noted an animal accident victim in the gutter at the roadside.

My immediate reaction was that the animal looked much like a Polecat, but because of the volume of traffic, I was unable to stop or even slow down.

However, my curiosity was aroused and I turned round, parked at the Jansen offices and went to investigate. The animal was dead but in good condition and looked for all the world like a Polecat.

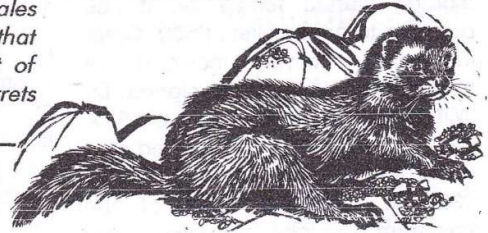
The Polecat is not, of course, a cat, but a member of the weasel family. It is a native British mammal that was persecuted in the 1800's, and early this century it was confined to a small area of mid-Wales. polecats were protected in 1981 and it has

gradually recolonised Wales and more recently spread eastwards. For example, in the early 1990's Polecats had returned to returned parts of Warwickshire and Staffordshire. The distribution of polecats is complicated by the fact that they have been inter-bred with ferrets, producing pale-coloured polecat/ferrets.

Was mine a Polecat or a Polecat/Ferret?

The polecat I found did not appear to be a polecat/ferret, but to be sure I needed to take it home to check various textbooks. These confirmed my identification, and other locals knowledgeable about natural history agreed and also confirmed that they had heard of polecats in this area. It seemed at this stage that the find could represent a significant record for the County. In the circumstances I decided to preserve the specimen in our second deep-freezer, having taken various photographs.

I subsequently contacted Aylesbury Museum who were most helpful and interested, having no proven records of pure Polecats.



I was given the name of Dr George of Radnage who acts as a local wild-life co-ordinator for the Vincent Wildlife Trust who are researching the movements of polecats, and Dr T. Birks who is the National Co-ordinator. I sent both of them photographs of my find and, again, both proved to be helpful.

"Looks Polecat" says expert

It transpires that Dr George had several Polecat records for Buckinghamshire from 1995 and 1996, but none as far east as Saunderton. Equally Dr Birks confirmed that my find was "on the basis of its pelage,...within the range of natural colour variation found in British Polecats." However, he also mentioned that there have been covert release of pure polecats in the Chilterns, so the origins of my find will never be known.

My polecat is currently being mounted by a taxidermist and may be on display at the village fête. Clearly, these animals may be about in the area in increasing numbers in due course.

PTA AUCTION OF PROMISES RAISES A RECORD £4000

Many thanks to all members of the village community who supported the Auction of Promises held at Speen School in March. In particular, thanks go to all the people who offered various pledges, which ranged from pony riding lessons to Swedish massages, and equally to all the people who made bids, even where they were not successful.

Top item on the night was a fortnight's holiday in Cyprus, where bidding started tentatively at £50 but rose to an excellent £500. Other interesting items included a Harlequins' rugby shirt signed by Will Carling, which fetched £115. A £20 Garden Voucher achieved £28, whilst a £25 Petrol Voucher went for £30! At the other end of the spectrum, various bargains were picked up.

Eventually, with about 150 lots having been sold, the evening raised a record-breaking £4000. This goes a long way towards meeting our target for the year. We hope all the pledges will be taken up over the next few months if they have not been enjoyed already. *If you still need to make contact with someone who made a pledge which you purchased - or vice versa - please let me know (01494 488016).*

Future needs

The school is faced with various changes over the next eighteen months which could affect funding, and the PTA needs to maintain a healthy bank balance to cater for any problems. Funds have already been expended improving the playground facilities and purchasing additional books.

Parents are still helping to run various successful clubs outside school hours, including "off-road" cycling and sports at the weekend, and French during the week. There is also the prospect of a chess club starting soon.

If any other villagers have talents that they would like to pass on to the children, through a club activity, please let me know.

Finally, by the time that read this item, I hope that the Caribbean Night will have passed off successfully.

Peter Symonds

The WI near you continues its highly varied programme of activities, reports

Barbara Collett

In February we had a jolly Australian lady who talked about "Whatever happened to Amelia Earhart?". This proved very interesting and brought to our notice events we never knew about. In March Mis Glynis Groves told us her story called "From Pop to Opera". As a nine-year-old Glynis won her first singing contest and never looked back, working her way up to singing at the Royal Opera House. She finished the evening off by singing unaccompanied just to prove she she could and what a lovely voice she had too.

Our birthday party in April proved very enjoyable - with egg mayonaise, salmon and salad with a variety of sweets for afters. As our entertainment for the evening had to be cancelled, we finished with a short quiz.

May was Resolutions evening which we had in the Baptist Church Hall as there was something concerning an election going on in the Village Hall.

The following week a group of us did a "Macmillan walk" in the rain - but it was enjoyable for all that.

In June we shall be hearing about "Life in the Library" with Mr R. Mussett, July brings Kathleen Turner on her experience as Mother of the Bride (I remember it well!) and in August we look forward to seeing Miss Jean Archer again, this time with a talk on "Hidden Bucks".

Written from the heart on the very day Caroline was relocating to Madrid

Dear Editor,

This is a spur of the moment letter being written in a neighbour's kitchen, and I shall never know has been published. As I write, possessions are being loaded on a lorry for removal to Madrid.

We moved to Speen on 1st 1996 from Belgium. I admit I was slightly cautious about moving to such a small village with so few amenities, but my fears have been unfounded. True, I have had to use my car extensively but this disadvantage has been more than offset by the community spirit in the village. In the short time that we have been here we have been able to enjoy the men's breakfast, mother and toddler group, summer fete, the playing fields school open day, the November bonfire, the carol service, use of the village hall and the Horticultural Society summer fair. These tangible events or occasions however. More importantly, we have been welcomed by everyone we have met in the village and made to feel at home as soon as we arrived. **There is a tremendous community spirit in Speen** we have not encountered in any other of the (numerous) places we have lived.

Our house is to be let to a French family for a period of 2 or 3 years and we hope that they will enjoy Speen and its residents as much as we have done, and for longer than us! After only ten months in the house **we have put down some long roots and we look forward to reconnecting with them in 3 years' time.** Our children will be old enough to attend Speen school and we shall be less constrained by them - perhaps even enough to be able to contribute more to village life ourselves.

*Caroline Street
and family*



12

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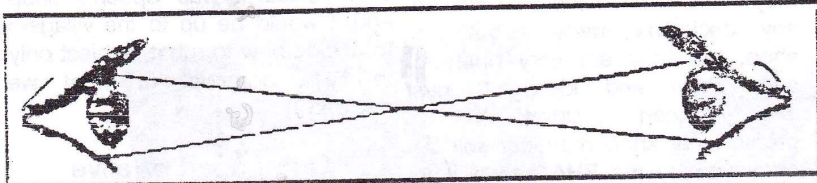
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THE NEW SHOP

Caroline Crossley reports on the BHA April meeting

It was with great interest that I went along to the meeting held on Tuesday, April 22nd, at Speen School. The purpose of the meeting was for Bucks Housing Association to explain the status of the new Village Shop and provide a forum for the local community to discuss what we want the shop to sell and how we want it to operate.

Being a relatively new resident of Speen, I had heard a lot of comments about the proposed shop including whether or not it would succeed.

Younger villagers not much in evidence

The school hall was full, but I was surprised at the lack of younger people present.

In the chair was Mrs Jane Fleming, Director of Bucks Housing, the organisation which is providing the funding for building the shop and the houses behind it. Mrs Fleming reported that the BHA have been awarded £40,000 from the National Lottery for investment in the shop, and stated that as a community shop project has not been tackled by the BHA before, it represents a challenge for them as well as for the village community.

The houses being built behind the shop will be rented by local people in need of housing and will never be sold. There are already a dozen prospective tenants listed.

With the £40,000 lottery money there will be few fixed overheads for the shop; no rent to pay and business rates will be paid by the BHA. This should provide an opportunity for a reasonably profitable business if the turnover is sufficient, and a proportion of these profits will go to the village in some form or other. It was not clear from the meeting what this proportion will be. Some of the profits will also be re-invested in the shop.

There was a lengthy discussion about villagers working in the shop. Jane Fleming had done her research and discovered numerous societies in Speen that may hope to benefit from any profits. She suggested that the societies may like to take turns working in the shop. As an example, if, say, Speen Pre-school needed some new equipment, parents could work in the shop to raise some money to pay for the equipment. This was merely a suggestion and no actual agreements were reached at this stage.

BHA to retain last word but local input welcome

Given that BHA take all the financial, legal and commercial responsibility, they want to have the final say on any decisions made about the shop, but they are very open to suggestions and ideas. It has already been decided that a professional shop manager will be employed by the BHA and will be paid part salary and part profit share, so it will be in the manager's interests to run a thriving shop.

Opening hours were also discussed. It appeared from the meeting that this will be an emotive subject. There was a great deal of discussion about whether the shop will be open seven days a week. It is hoped that a Post Office will be sited within the shop, which will be open four full days and two half days (Wednesday and Saturday) a week. Obviously, this would enhance the shop's finances.

What the shop stocks and sells will be dependent on village requirements. For example, it is hoped that the shop will be able to obtain a licence to sell alcohol; other obvious possibilities being videos, vegetables, fruit, newspapers and bread.

A place to pump iron and beer!?

Above the shop there is a room for which no specific use is presently envisaged. Therefore, ideas on this

from villagers are very much needed, for example: "pub", tea room, meeting room? How about an exercise room?

The meeting then discussed the setting up of a Planning Committee to make decisions relating to finance, opening hours and the general setting up of the shop. (The draft business plan which formed part of the planning application might seem to be a first point of reference?) Several people volunteered for this committee, names were taken, but no definite plans were agreed at this stage. Jane Fleming said that she would contact the volunteers in due course.

Throughout the meeting, Jane emphasised it was Speen's shop and it would be up to the villagers to decide how to run it, subject only to BHA approval of what we decided.

Ours, dead or alive

Whether the shop thrives would seem to depend on how much the village buys from it - not enough if we just have a newspaper and a loaf of bread. If it does not succeed as a shop the building will still be there. *(may I add to Caroline's report at this point - that, as a condition of receiving lottery money, even if the shop fails almost immediately, the building cannot be used for housing until eighty years have passed. There's a thought to concentrate the mind! Ed.)*

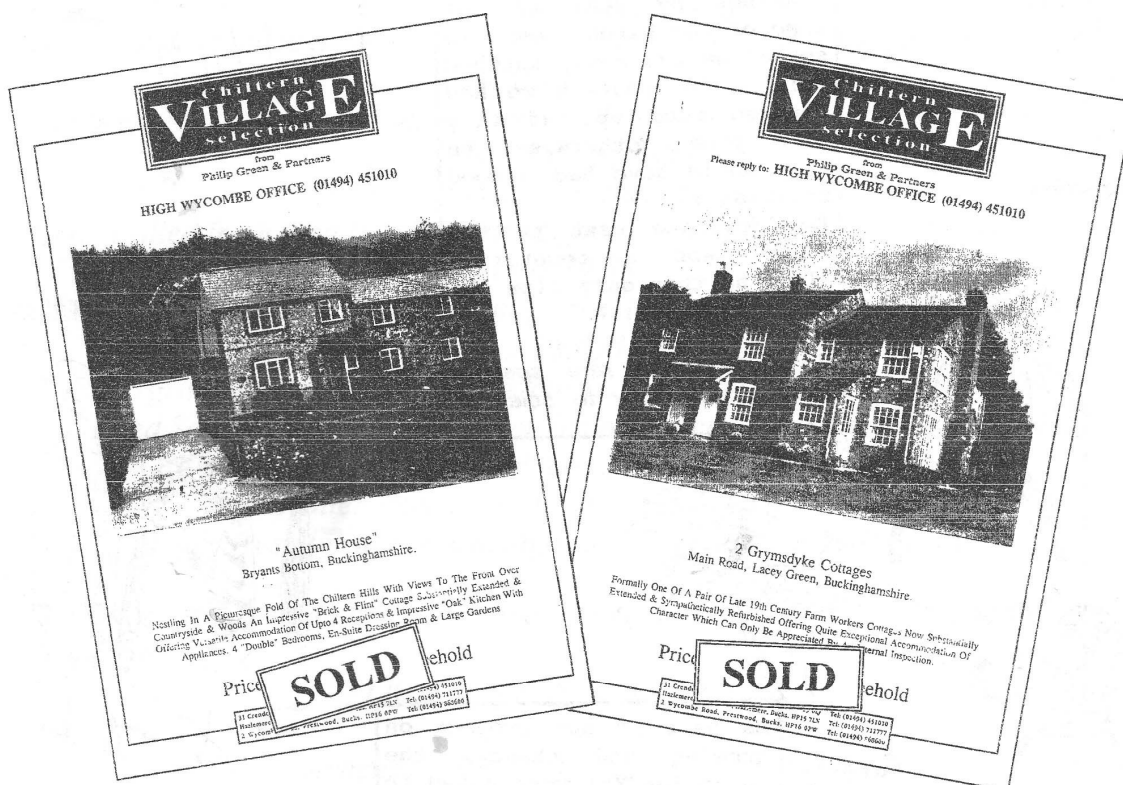
So there the meeting ended, with basic intentions outlined but with many details to be worked out between the planning committee and the BHA before the shop opens in October. Meanwhile I'm sure we will be kept informed and any ideas from the village will be considered.

Philip

Green

& Partners

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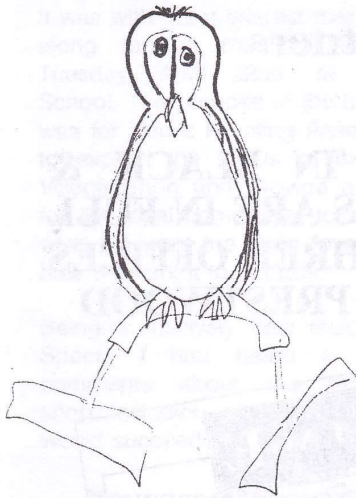
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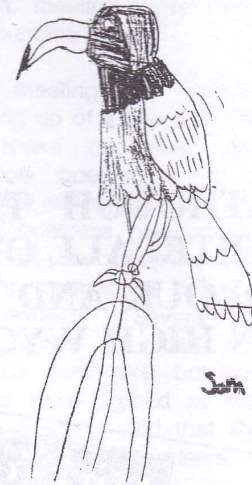


Katherine

RAPTORS, MEMORIES AND NEW-AGE VIKINGS

A strange mixture from Speen School this time.

Josh

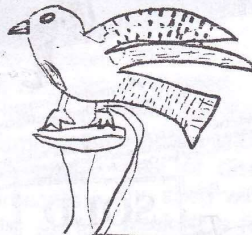
ALANNA
FALCON

Sam

In May we had a falconry display at school. These are drawings by year 2/3 of some of the birds shown. In school we had newly hatched chicks! Fortunately we had covered them up and they were quiet, otherwise the owls would have had a good breakfast!

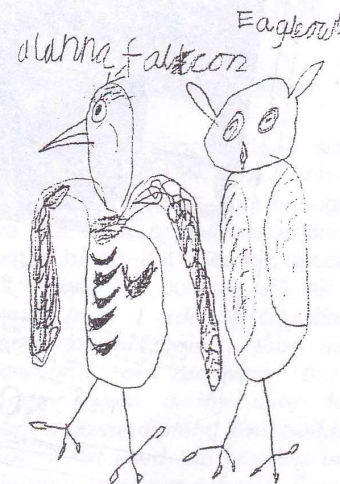
The dovecote next to the school was a temptation also, so they only flew the birds indoors!

(Evidently some rare species, some maybe new to science? Ed.)



Gregory

Paul



As part of our project on growing and change, the Reception/Yr1 were asked to write about an important event from their past.

22.5.97

Chelsea

I remember when
I from my tracks.



22.5.97

Hannah G-J

I remember when
wen my cat got sick.



22.5.97

Oliver

I remember when

I went swimming in
America when I swam all on
my own and my
dad's. But not be believe.

★ Excellent writing.
Monster head band.



THE OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT AT SPEEN

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SUMMER SPECIALS MENU

Old Plow marinated Scotch salmon (gravadlax) with a seed mustard and honey sauce £7.95

Home cured Buccleuch beef (bresola) with olive oil, fresh Parmesan, lemon juice and black olives £4.95

Chilled gazpacho Andaluz soup £3.95

Char-grilled fresh tuna Nicoise with egg, haricot beans, tomato, anchovies and olives £9.95

Cold poached Scotch salmon, giant prawn, lemon mayonnaise, new potatoes and tossed salad £9.95

Char-grilled tuna steak with black olives, herbs and red wine sauce £9.95

Grilled Scottish scallops with bacon, lemon butter and rocket salad £11.95

Grilled Toulouse sausages with linguine pasta Napolitan £8.95

½ doz. Mediterranean prawns with Marie Rose sauce £9.95

½ cold fresh lobster with mango salad and new potatoes £12.95

The dishes above are in addition to the selection available on the blackboard. These include:-

LIGHT MEALS /STARTERS

Avocado, brie and tomato salad £6.95

Duck and pork terrine with mango and spiced pears £4.95

Melon and giant prawns with Marie Rose £6.95

MAIN COURSES

Grilled breast chicken with a light Goanese curry sauce, tossed salad and hot pitta bread £8.95

New season's rack of English lamb with apricot and mango chutney £11.95

Grilled calf's liver with bacon and onion preserve £9.95

Crispy duck's leg with gooseberry, apple and beetroot chutney £9.95

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OUR VILLAGE (SPEEN)

By Albert F. Ward

(The following recollections were sent to Bob Johnston by Roger Ward, the son of Albert. Albert wrote them around 1970. Albert is mainly looking back to the period of his early childhood around 1900)

As one gets older, memory plays a more important part in one's thoughts. They may have dimmed round the edges, but are often sharper than last week's happening.

Seventy years ago, in the Chiltern Hills, life was slow and primitive - no electricity, no gas, no piped water or sewage system. Oil lamps and candles provided light and water was collected from the roof-tops and stored in circular tanks about eight or ten feet deep dug down in the chalk and clay. The top was dammed with brick, constructed in a way peculiar to the district. In the valleys, deep wells were dug into the permanent springs. These times seemed to breed men and women of independent thought and ideas - real characters in fact!

Our village was on a flat top, whereas most were in valleys or stretched along the spines of the ridges. This seemed to make village life more self-contained. The Parish was formed of several hamlets and villages. We had a Church School with a Governess in charge, but social life revolved round the Baptist Chapel.

Over 200 years ago, people used to worship in various houses in turn. When a Chapel was built, in 1802, everyone helped, craftsmen and labourers gave their time - most of the walls are built of knapped flints. The women went into the fields and collected chalk stones in their aprons so that the building could go on. The Church still stands on the hillside, a monument to their energy and devotion

I and my wife (who was organist for years) left the village many years ago, but, in memory, it is still home. All our forbears sleep their on the quiet hillside. The village was well known for its musical abilities - Uncle William Plumbbridge, Superintendent of the Sunday School,

had a large family, most of them musical. He loved his old fiddle and everyone else who had any talent was roped in to form a Brass Band.

It was a great event for the young ones on anniversary and special occasions when the Band, in their blue and gold uniforms, paraded round the village, Band playing and all the children following behind. Everyone in their best - and Tea afterwards - the Slab Cake, Home Made Jam and real Butter - I can taste it now!

One character from the other village was George Lacey, called "Saturday" for some reason - "Sad" for short. When batting he was a stone-wailer, he disdained pads and gloves and score more off his body than off his bat. In the field he was a long-stop, and when things got hectic he'd roll his trousers above his knee and stop the ball with his shins. He was hard and solid as a block of teak. He worked for the High Wycombe Timber Company as an Axeman, rode on an old boneshaker bicycle to work, had no brakes or mudguards, and stopped by putting his big foot on top of the front wheel. He was a man of parts, and could reap a corn field, scythe a meadow, layer a hedge or thatch a rick. I saw him once up a ladder on a pouring wet day, thatching a cottage. The water was running out of his boots. When I asked him if he was mad, his reply was "Ah, I don't have to pay a boy to wet me straw."

A direct foil to Sad was Jessie Wotton, a cripple with a short leg and a crutch. He was more active than most men, however, with a quick brain. He knew Sad would always take a dare, so he thought up all kinds of embarrassments for him. Jess was very superstitious - once I asked him if he believed in ghosts, and his reply in broad Bucks was "Cor boy, tother noight I wuz acomin the 'angings, black as yer 'at it were, suddenly I see'd a GH-OST, cor I were afeart and

trembled from toe to fut." One of his classics was when he was turnip hoeing on a scarecrow hillside farm - "he wunt get a livin there, it wunt grow a thistle to perfection." Another time I asked him, where's your bottle of cold tea today, and he said "I had a haxident, I dropped the taypot an it broke off the spout." He followed the threshing tackle round the farms and caused much merriment by his queer twists.

Another man we looked for during the summer months was the "Muffin Man". He came from Aylesbury to Princes Risborough by train, and with his head board and muffin and his bell in his hand he walked over the hills - Darkfield, Loosle Row, Lacey Green, Flowers Bottom, Lacey Green, through our village to Great Hampden, Checker Court to Wendover, and from there back to Aylesbury by train. He must have started with half a hundredweight on his head and walked a distance of sixteen miles. No one thought unusual, everyone walked, there was no other way.

A great day was the annual crick match between our village and the next. There was always a lot "feeling" between us. I don't know how far back it went, but I have heard my grandfather say that his father's time, if a lad from our village courted a girl in the other I was lucky to get away in one piece.

Things were better when I was young, cricket was played to the old rules, but every advantage was driven home to the hilt. Young and old attended - the old to fight the battles over again - the young to boast of the future.

One person who became the oldest inhabitant was George Ridgle Baker, Postmaster and General Village Shopkeeper. As his daughters grew up they saw to the Post Office and Shop. Their lard cakes were all hot, flaky and cheap. The girls grew up and married

and George took another young wife and had three more girls. One of them still runs the Post Office. George was at one time the oldest Postmaster in the British Isles. When he was 100 years he said he was promoted from Postmaster to Messenger Boy. He still delivered the odd telegram and letter around the village.

A man always in the picture was Tommy Wilkins the Sweep. He was a common sight with his pony and cart, sacks of soot and his brushes and sticks out the back. He was very strong in the head, and sweeping being thirsty work, Tom liked his pint. After two pints Tom began to sing (my wife remembered the words) "Do thy best for one another, life is like a pleasant dream, life is merry like a brother, pulling hard against the stream." Then he always went to sleep, then to be tucked away in a corner or loaded into his cart. His old pony always knew the way home and delivered him safely.

Once Tom went down to Parkfield to sweep chimneys for Mr Ralph Chilton, a prosperous hay and straw dealer, with a liking for practical jokes. Late in the day when Tom had been paid, Ralph said "Like a drop of short, Tom?" to which Tom replied "Aye, I should Master Chilton." Ralph dashed a liberal dose of Scotch into a glass, put a jug of Gin down and said "help yourself to water, Tom. Tom filled up and drank it down and said "Ah, Master, that were a good drop of stuff, that were, I could do with another." By the time the second one was down, Tom began singing - he went out like a light and nothing would wake him. Chilton and the Coachman put him in his cart and sent the old horse on his way. They were a bit worried about him, but when the coachman called next morning, Tom was on his rounds. He used to say, "That was a good drop of stuff at Master Chilton's, I should have taken more water with it."

In the early days, Chapel music was provided by harmonium and stringed instruments. Later, the organ was a gift from a business man from a nearby village. He was a timber merchant who had it for a

erected, because, he said, his grandmother helped pick the stones that built the Chapel walls.

One fine old character was Ebenezer Anderson, Boot Maker by trade. He made mine and my brothers' boots when we were young - great heavy tips with solid toe caps, ideal for kicking stones and tins about. Ebenezer was a man who lived by the "Book" and never missed a Sunday service or a weekly prayer meeting. He was a powerful pray-er and always finished with "and day and night we shall feast in his sight, and eternity never shall end, Amen."

He lived on the opposite hill from us, and one night, going home from a prayer meeting, God met him and took him home. They found him by the side of the track he had trod so many times to and from his beloved Chapel. He died as would have wished. He was a good man and a great loss to the village.

Another person we looked for was Charlie Stiles, blind fiddler and basket maker. He lived on Downley Common and walked all over our part of the Chilterns with his dog, his fiddle and his baskets of willow. He used all the short cuts and tracks over the hills and valleys, said the roads were too dangerous for him.

On the way to the Chapel, in a fold of the hills, known for some reason as "Pie Corner" - lived one large family. She was a large, placid woman with twelve children, all boys. She didn't have time for much cooking, they lived out of a frying pan!

The Registrar of Births and Deaths was also the Rate Collector, he came from Princes Risborough in his pony trap. When he finally came to Mrs Ridgely he remarked "I don't know where you find all the names from!" She replied "Bless the man, I haven't started on the Apostles yet" - I knew them all, and she hadn't.

Next door lived Hezekiah and Marion Ridgley; they had a talking magpie in in a whicker cage - a great attraction when we were small. They had two granddaughters whose names went like a song - one was Selina Marina Kathleen

Eleanor, and the other was Mary Sereptha Thursa - what a burden to carry through life!

The Band had quite a reputation locally, throughout the Summer months they had engagements at various fetes and garden parties etc. Perhaps some of our young bandsmen thought more of their uniforms than their skill, but the uniform was abig attraction, especially to the girls.. I remember once the Band was playing at Great Missenden - it was a hot day and by afternoon, with free beer about, the Band wouldn't have won many prizes in competition. Old Tom Gomme played the clarionet - he was a sober chap who spent his working life in the beechwoods as a Turner - but this day, Tom was a back-slider! Sam Plumbridge, the Bandmaster, said, well fellows, we'll play this piece, then have a rest, and don't forget the soft passage when we come to it.

Half way through there was an ear-splitting note from Tom, and the Band stopped dead. Sam, looking very wrath, said "what's the matter Tom, can't you read?" Tom - "Sorry Sam, I made a mistake!!" "We'll start again from the soft passage, one two..." and away they went, and the same thing happened again - Sam - "Bring your copy over, Tom, something's wrong!" What had happened was a fly was squashed on the music sheet and Tom had "blowed a fly."



NORTH DEAN FUN EVENING

Looking for new ways to raise funds, it was suggested we might try a BEETLE DRIVE.

Searching deep into our memories for the rules, we opened the doors on March 22nd, to what turned out to be the most hilarious evening experienced at North Dean for a very long time.

Everyone joined in the spirit of the evening, young and old alike, with shouts of joy and frustration, and dice flying everywhere.

A ploughman's supper was served in the interval, washed down by wine brought along by the players.

The second half proved to be even more frantic, and this was followed by a nail-biting wait while the cards

were added up to find a very worthy winner.

LOOK OUT FOR A REPEAT OF
THIS FUN EVENING

John Rogers

(village hall committee chairman)

LIFE-ENRICHING PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES!

Now that I have got your attention do you consider that you have a small amount of free time every now and then? Perhaps there's just something more you would like to do?

You may be a college or school student and would like to pursue a career in business or journalism. You may be retired or semi-retired

or you may just have moved into the village and eager to get involved and get to know more about your immediate locality and neighbours. You may just be bounding over with enthusiasm and eager to fill a small time-slot!?

Whatever your predicament, perhaps you would like to get involved in your local newsletter - the SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS. There are vacancies waiting for you and people who would be delighted to welcome you aboard.

How about giving us a call. It really is true that you always get more out of life when you put a little in.

Caroline Partridge, treasurer
(488577)

Call Caroline if you may be interested in the advertising/financial side of things, or me, Peter Dawson, the editor, on 488222, if you might like to have a go at writing, reporting, photographing or layout - all of which we do in a primitive and cheap sort of way as you can see!

GOODBYE GUIDE DOGS

Two go

From Speen to Prague

Two seven-week-old puppies bid a fond farewell to their mother and seven siblings in May when they left Speen to train as Guide Dogs in the Czech Republic.

These two follow in the paw prints of another puppy, Brookie, who went to the Republic three years ago and is now qualified as a Guide Dog in that country.

I was asked to help the new Guide Dog School to overcome a desperate shortage of suitable dogs for training.

John has been running a fund-raising campaign to help the Prague Centre through his membership of the Princes Risborough Rotary Club. He and I flew to Prague with the puppies and we hope they are now happily settled in with their new puppy walkers.

We received a very warm welcome and were hosted for two days by the President of Prague Rotary Club, who took us to see the progress of the new centre's building programme. It is hoped

that the new breeding and training centre will be completed before the end of the year.

We hope that most of the litter of nine will become guide dogs. One of them is now being trained in Speen and is already a regular visitor to the Pre-School and the Baptist Church. She is progressing well and is a bright and friendly character and full of mischief!

Gloria Holmes

22 5 97

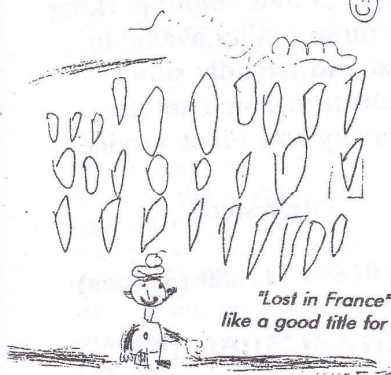
Max

I remember

When
when
France

I got lost in France

I can remember
when it was my birthday
and I was for and my skin
Helen was my and Helen had the
candles down.



"Lost in France" - sounds
like a good title for a song, Max.

Jennifer

22 5 97

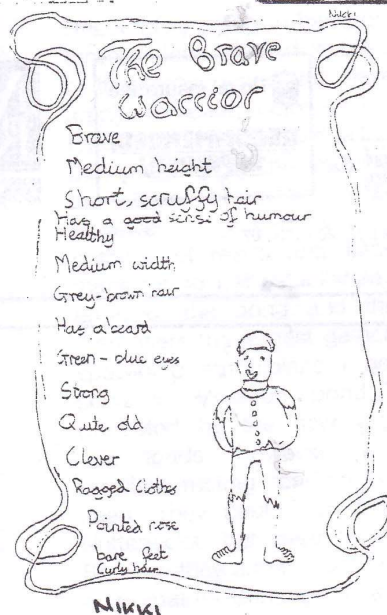
Tom

I remember when
Andrew mumpsht
me in the p.c.

I remember
when me and Andrew
played on the Robin

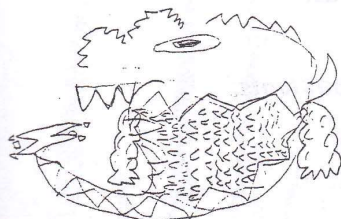
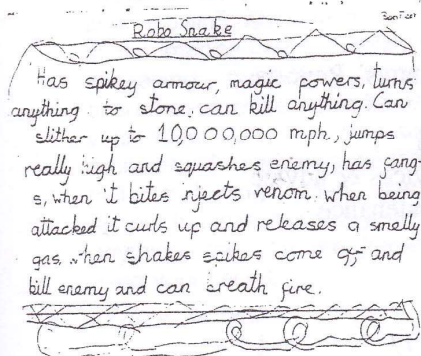


Year 2/3 have been studying The Vikings. These are
a few characters they have invented to put in their sagas.
(Imagine meeting Robo Snake or Deaf Worm in one of
our narrow lanes - even if you were a very Brave Warrior!)

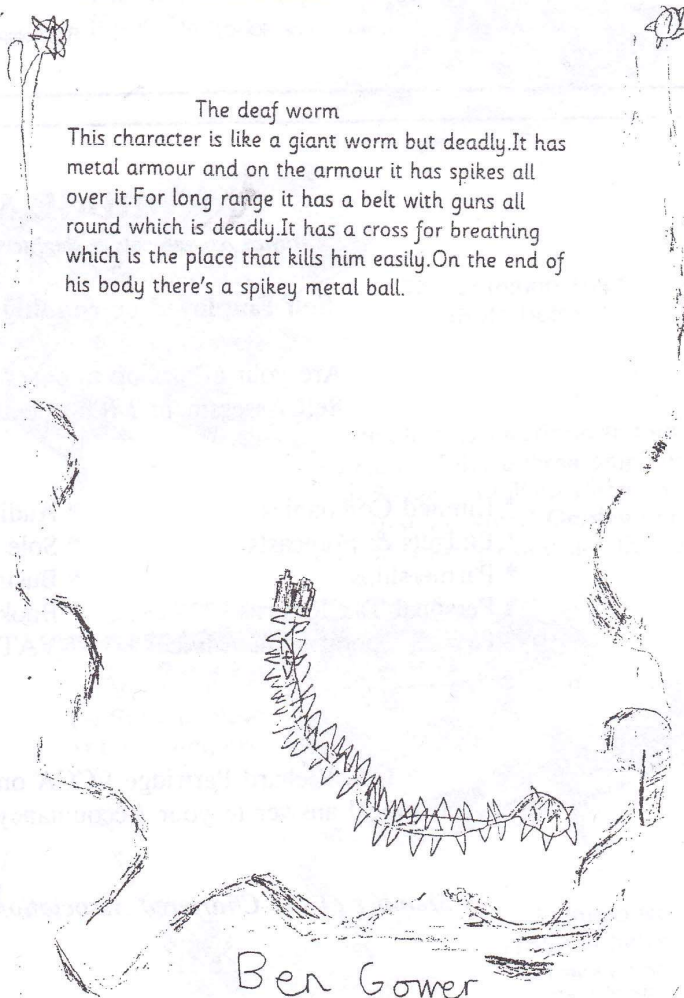


The deaf worm

This character is like a giant worm but deadly. It has metal armour and on the armour it has spikes all over it. For long range it has a belt with guns all round which is deadly. It has a cross for breathing which is the place that kills him easily. On the end of his body there's a spikey metal ball.



Ben Gower



Ben Gower



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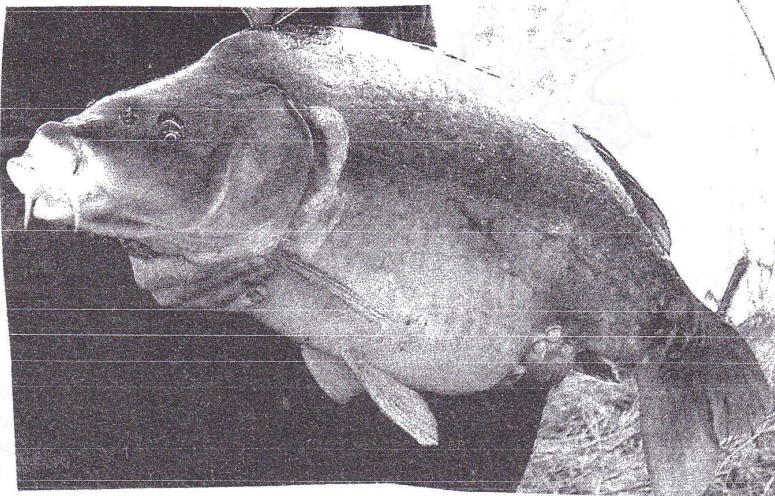
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THE MONKTON WOOD MONSTER

— Versus the smaller fry —

Monkton Wood pond is one of our largest and never dries out. It's hidden away amongst a thicket of trees and some of you may not have stumbled across it yet. The first thing you will notice is its strange colour - shades of tomato soup come to mind!

Why is it that hue? Well "if you go down to the woods today you're sure of a big surprise" ... apparently lurking there in the deep, always stirring up the mud, are some large Mirror Carp, put in there, perhaps unwisely, by some individual several years ago.



Monster carp like this 40 pounder are found in quite small British ponds.

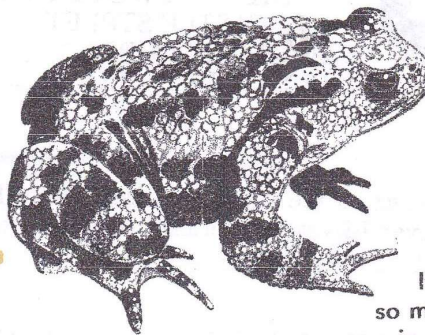
Desperately trying to hang on there, more or less isolated in the middle of that dense woodland, have been small dwindling colonies of frogs, toads and newts, virtually wiped out, possibly by the "monster" and the lack of pond vegetation. However, in recent years, small patches of reeds and flags have managed to get established at one edge of the pond and this year there were the largest gatherings of spawning amphibians I had ever seen in Monkton pond, largely protected by the new vegetation. The toads, however, were the smallest mating toads I had ever seen. They could not have been Natterjacks, but were of that size. So were they undernourished or not quite mature Common Toads then? - and a few of them were yellow and showing up almost "dayglow" in the muddy water. Hopefully the increasing marginal plants will ensure even more amphibians next year. Meanwhile, just how big the monster(s)? There was evidence of children having fished there this spring. If it was you and you caught anything, then let me know - I'll keep your secret.

Peter 488222

The Common Frog
(*Rana Temporaria*)

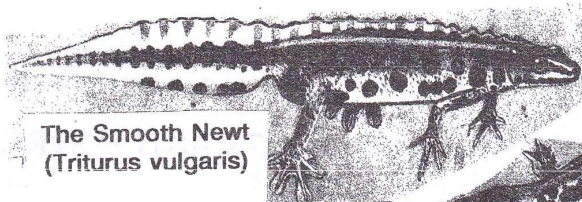


The Common Toad
(*Bufo Bufo*)

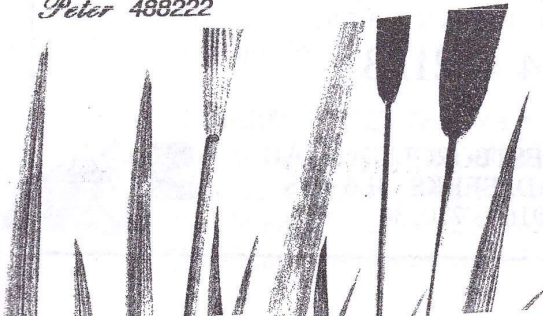
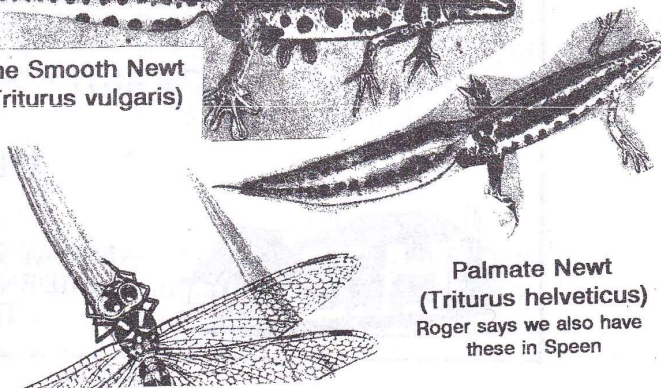


It's just as surprising to find so many of these three amphibians in Speen - a hilltop village with no running water! Garden ponds and disused clay pits play their part.

The Smooth Newt
(*Triturus vulgaris*)



Palmate Newt
(*Triturus helveticus*)
Roger says we also have these in Speen



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- * Hedge cutting and shaping

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News from Speen Baptist Church

Happening Now:



Alpha Course

What is the point of life?
 What happens when we die?
 Is forgiveness possible?
 Who is Jesus?
 What relevance does he have for our lives today?

These are some of the questions of life this practical introduction to the Christian faith explores.

Alpha - a video based discussion course running now on Tuesday mornings (10:00am at church) and evenings (8:00pm in various homes in the community). and to be repeated later in the year.

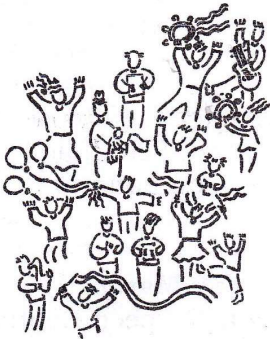
Alpha - everything you wanted to know about the Christian faith but weren't sure how to ask!



'Time Out'

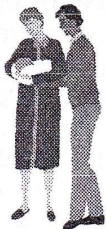
A weekly informal 'get together' in a baby and toddler friendly environment for chat and mutual support.
 Currently working through a short Bible Study (as the children permit!!).
 Contact Carolyn (488758) for venue details.

AHEAD! LOOKING



Joint Songs of Praise - Sunday 22nd June 6:00pm at Loosely Row.

All the churches in the parish - St. John's, Lacey Green Methodist, Loosely Row Baptist Church and Speen Baptist Church - join together for our annual Songs of Praise.
 This year, at Loosely Row Baptist Church



Parenting Course

Rearing children is possibly the most demanding and important investment parents make, yet there is little training for it - no GCSE's, no A levels. To provide insight and support for parents, the Church Pastoral Aid Society have produced a video based, small group discussion course. Starting in September it will run for eight weeks. Look out for details nearer the time.



'Breakfast with friends and ...'

A new series of 'after-breakfast' speakers and the opportunity to meet new acquaintances and old friends, 8:30am at the Village Hall - next Men's Breakfast on Saturday 20th September and next Ladies Breakfast on Saturday 18th October.



Local Pulpit Exchange

No we're not getting rid of it! Rather Father Richard Caink from St. John's will be visiting to preach on Sunday 27th July and Rev Nick Young from the Methodist Church on Sunday 21st September.



Harvest Festival - September 28th

Looking Back:

Christian Aid Week 11th-17th May

Gift Envelopes raised over £500. Many thanks to all who contributed and to those who helped with the distribution and collection of the envelopes.

Ladies Breakfast with friends and ... Dilys Threshie, Saturday 17th May.

How do you survive with a young family when your country is on the verge of armed chaos? Dilys shared how Jesus delivered her and the two children from an armed attack, and supported them as Lesotho was torn apart by violence. Her account of courage and faith in extreme circumstances, and coming to terms with the post-traumatic stress, left no one dry-eyed.

Men's Breakfast with friends and ... John Pressdee, Saturday 26th April.

"Sorry"... a small word but immeasurably powerful in bringing about reconciliation and forgiveness. We listened, amazed, as John related his experiences of walking and praying from London to Berlin to Paris and from Berlin to Moscow; and now, retracing the path of the Crusades, from Cologne to Istanbul, on the way to Jerusalem. Here was a glimpse of how much God wants us to be reconciled to each other and how grass root activities can help defuse the bitter legacies of the past.

Easter Celebrations:



Easter Sunday Celebration - 30th March.

We were celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and also the baptism of Peter Salmon. In obedience to Jesus' command, Peter had decided to take the plunge (literally!) and his family were on hand to witness the event - though not too close to get wet.



Shared Good Friday Services and Walk of Witness - 28th March.

The three churches - St John's, Lacey Green Methodist and Speen Baptist - celebrated Good Friday together with a walk between the churches and three short meditative services. Starting in Speen, then following the route along Highwood Bottom to Lacey Green, the countryside was looking very attractive in the early Spring sunshine - equally attractive were the hot cross buns provided at the Methodist Church! Carrying a cross from the Methodist Church to St. John's provided a clear visual reminder of the events of the first Good Friday.

Ladies Breakfast with friends and ... Fiona Castle, Saturday 1st March.

Fiona topic was 'coping with cancer and bereavement', as the one-time resident of Speen and widow of popular entertainer Roy Castle, spoke candidly about Roy's life and death. How does one cope with such devastating circumstances? Fiona's answer, delivered to a full Village Hall, was to urge us to look to Jesus for His perspective and help.

CUBS AND BEAVERS forced into suspension

It is very disappointing to have to report the suspension of the Beaver and Cub Group in the village.

Both groups have struggled over recent years with the consistent problem being the shortage of uniformed leaders. It is particularly frustrating in that various people, including myself, were prepared to continue to run the group, albeit on a limited basis, but nobody came forward to fill the role of uniformed leader.

Many youngsters in the village had come to enjoy the routine of cubs and beavers and many highlights will stick in their memories for a long time; notably the Midnight Camp held in Speen, which was great fun for youngsters and adults alike. More recent highlights included a visit to Wycombe Wanderers to watch a match and meet the players.

Unfortunately the consensus, particularly from the Scouting authorities, was that we could not continue indefinitely without a uniformed leader or without some prospect of one coming forward. Numerous requests for volunteers, approaches to the local community, local businesses and throughout the scouting hierarchy fell on stony ground, so the group has now been suspended.

However, suspension does not mean total closure, so if anyone feels able to step into the breach and, with assistance, take on the role of uniformed leader for either beavers or cubs, please come forward and let us know.

Future of scout hut worrying.

For the time being, the hut will be maintained and the committee will continue to raise funds by hiring out marquees to provide for maintenance and insurance etc. However, in the longer term, the risk is that the hut may deteriorate. Many of the boys and girls have not yet moved to new groups and there remains time to salvage the situation. If you are able to help,

please contact me,

Peter Symonds 488016,
alternatively John Radford or
Derek Lewton.

(Although it is still being used on a regular once a week basis by the Hughenden Valley Guides and they appear to be a lively organisation, the Scout Hut has a slightly forlorn look these days; many windows boarded up following attacks by youths, and rubbish lying about. Coincidentally, the land on which the hut stands once belonged to a lady who lived in my own property. I note from the deeds that the late Miss Hulton gave some of her land over to the scouts in perpetuity for the erection of a headquarters. It would be a sad betrayal of her wishes if after only twenty years there were to be any thought of attempting to convert this land to a building site.

Look after those badgers They may look after us

The scout land now includes a section of the adjacent woodland where live a tribe of badgers. The badgers are likely to have been the true owners for hundreds, probably thousands of years. They have been successful enough in recent years to establish a new set of holes about 100 metres up the hill in an old clay pit. Both branches of the colony are in healthy occupation and haven't seemed to mind sharing their property with the Guides, Beavers and Cubs.

The badgers don't know it but some of their human neighbours keep watch whenever the Aylesbury Hunt put in an unwelcome appearance! Ironically the presence of badgers could help to save this edge of Speen from being built upon, should the scouting organisation give up altogether. In theory the planning restrictions alone should prevent such an outrage, but look what recently happened just up the hill despite such restrictions being in place! Ed. PD)

Pre-school get an outdoor area on the playing field.

Summer is especially welcome to Speen Pre-school now that it can make the most of the glorious

weather at the Under Five's play area situated next to the pavilion on the playing field. We are delighted with it; many thanks to the Playing Field Association for providing this facility and for their support and offer to contribute play equipment in the future. Thanks also to Mr Newman of Jenkins Newman Estate Agents for kindly contributing £250 towards the cost of a shed which will store outside play equipment. The children will benefit enormously from this play area and we intend to make full use of it whenever the weather allows. We would appeal for any donations of outside play toys suitable for the under fives such as ride-on and push-along toys, prams, pushchairs, tunnels, rockers etc, all will be gratefully received.

We are currently in the process of registering with Social Services to introduce two and a half year olds to our morning sessions, commencing in September. Spaces will be limited, so please put your child's name on the waiting list now.

We will be holding our annual Sports Day on Tuesday 15th July, to which you are invited to watch and cheer. Ploughman's Lunches will be served.

For further information on Speen Pre-school please contact
Mrs Dawn Schollar 488160
(mornings)

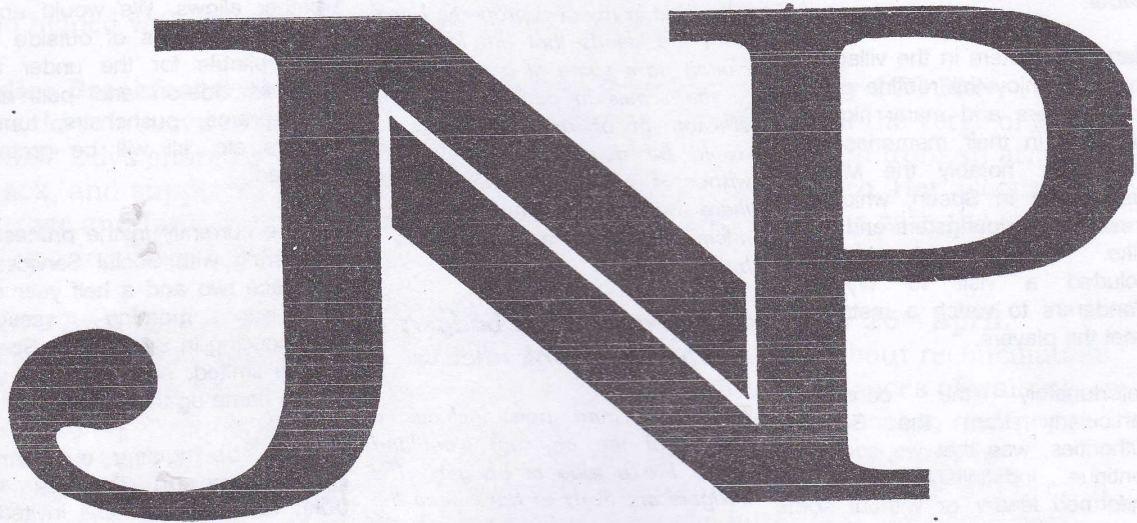
We advertise this service every time, so I won't elaborate, but just remind that if you or any villager you know of is having problems, for example, getting to the shops or the doctor's etc, or could do with some kind of assistance from other local residents, then suggest that they get in touch with

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

through the telephone volunteers listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Don't struggle on if you have severe problems, make contact.

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HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Hughenden Parish Council celebrated its centenary in 1994. When first formed its main function was to provide allotment gardens for the working poor; not too many of them about now, but it remains a mandatory for parish councils to provide allotments. Hughenden Parish has nine allotment sites, one of which is at North Dean with all plots currently in use.

Hughenden Parish has four wards, represented by thirteen councillors: Hughenden Valley, Great Kingshill, Widmer End and Naphill. North Dean is part of the Hughenden Valley Ward and has three councillors, currently Jenny McGee, Lin Smith and myself.

Apart from its allotments, Hughenden Parish owns three recreation grounds: Widmer End, currently used by Widmer End Boys Football Club, Hughenden Valley, used by Hughenden Valley Boys Football Club and Great Kingshill Common, used for football and cricket. The Parish also owns three conservation areas: Vincent Way at Naphill, Cockshoot Wood at Widmer End and another at Hughenden Valley, any of which can be enjoyed by everyone.

Additionally he carries out safety checks on all playground equipment owned by the parish and also that owned by the various village halls. This is, of course, a very important part of his job.

The council meets on the second Tuesday of each month except August and the public are welcome at any of these meetings (*Unless the media reports are exaggerated, Hughenden has a colourful history of verbal punch-ups at its meetings. I have recently been getting the minutes which try hard to conceal the full flavour. Not necessarily to do with these "punch-ups", but the minutes reveal that John is one of the most active debaters in the council chamber! Ed.*)

There are three sub committees which meet at regular interval and are also open to the public.

The Planning Committee meets every three weeks and it is responsible for vetting all planning applications received for the parish. This committee operates in an advisory capacity to the District Council who are the planning authority.

The other two committees, Finance and Administration, and Services, deal with all other aspects of work carried out by the council.

One further meeting is held annually - the Parish Meeting - at which members of the public may speak, ask questions or make comments. This year it was held at North Dean and will be reported upon separately.

I hope that this brief report will help remind everyone that we have a Parish Council and, should anyone have reason to need help, please contact me at any time, or write to our clerk at the Parish Office at Great Kingshill Common.

A further amenity, which is not so well known, is the Garden of Rest at Four Ashes Road. This is a very pleasant place to an hour at peace with the world, and, if you so wish, to be laid to rest when the time comes.

A full time clerk is employed, who deals with all the administrative work, and who is responsible for keeping the council on the straight and narrow.

You may have seen our Warden out and about in the area. He is also full time, and looks after all the areas owned by the parish.

Councillor *John Rogers*

FORTY YEARS ON FOR SPEEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I suppose by the time you read this article we will be in early summer and there is still much to do. In the vegetable garden you can still sow french and runner beans, beetroot, carrot, lettuce, pea, swede and turnip. You can plant out broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, celery, leeks and marrow. Earth up your potatoes and prune red currants. In the flower garden you should be enjoying the fruits of your labour. Perennial flowers are in full bloom and annuals are coming along fast and making themselves obvious. Don't forget to dead head - and start taking cuttings.

I am reliably informed that the Horticultural Society is forty years

old this year. So the committee felt it should make an extra effort this year in our various summer activities.

OPEN GARDENS 27th JULY

We are having just one Open Gardens Day this year, on 27th July. We did not feel that we could manage two days but we hope to show a different set of in 1998, so please don't feel disappointed if you are not approached this year - your time will come. All profits will go to The Childrens Society.

**Help fill our stand
on Fete Day 12th July**

Fete day is 12th July and we would welcome any cut flowers, plants, cakes, jam and pickles etc. And we would especially welcome any physical help, both in the morning for the setting up and and in the afternoon with the sales. The Horticultural Society is always busiest during the first hour or so.

Flower Show 13th Sept.

The Flower Show is on 13th September and we would like to have a really good one this year, so get cracking, produce those perfect vegetables, cosset those flowers and get cooking. Find out just how good you are.

Ted Drew



A word from the Lacey Green Parish Council Chairman...

Our application to extend the Speed Limit along Hampden Road is being considered but we have been advised it is a low priority category.

We are awaiting action on the Parish Paths Partnership; our list of work needed to footpaths, stiles, gates etc, having been submitted, will eventually be undertaken by the Conservation Volunteers.

Our village pond in Studridge Lane received attention earlier this year due to the cooperation of many residents who came along to clean it out and remove rubbish. A marvellous community effort to preserve our only remaining community owned pond.

In the past year we have considered 23 Planning Applications for Speen. The council

has made a Grant to the Youth Club for a new Table Tennis table and maintenance Grants to the Playing Fields and Village Hall.

We hope you have all noticed our replacement Notice Board at the end of Water Lane. The original one had rotted away and a new board was made in the village by Mr Tomlin. We could not re-use the carved top of the old board as it was too defective, but we retained it in case it could be re-incorporated in any way. If you recall, it commemorated the 1953 Coronation.

We are watching with some concern the erection of a timber-framed and clad bungalow on the Omar Lodge site in Highwood Bottom. Permission exists for a Mobile Home but the

present construction does not give the impression of a capability of being moved in one piece when completed (the criteria for a Mobile Home). The Planning Authority has been alerted and at the time of writing we await their comments

Don White

(Update: The editor has been informed by the local Enforcement Officer, Maria White - no relation to Don, as far as one knows - that a Notice has been served requiring the site to be cleared. There are 28 days in which to appeal and a three months period for clearance starts on day 29 unless an appeal is made. If there is an appeal which is unsuccessful then three months clearance period starts on the day of the appeal. Ed.)

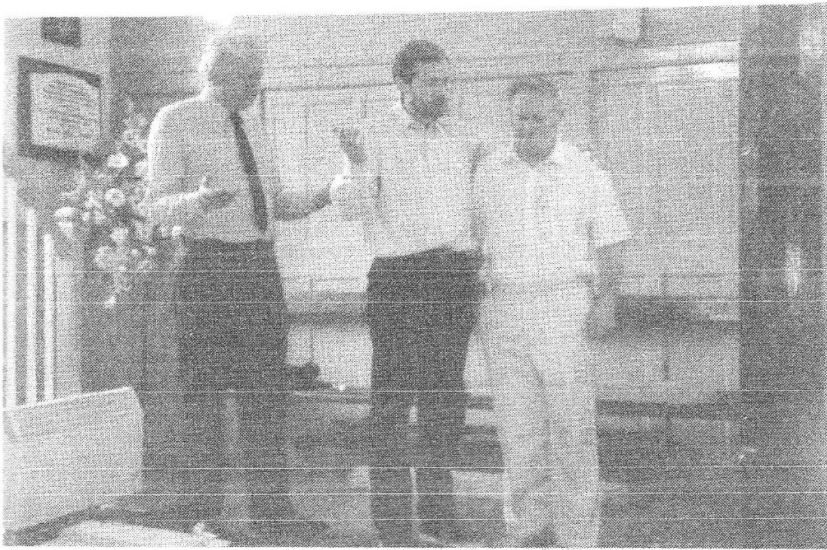
PS: Maria also advised of Compliance being forced on shop site developers concerning vision splays and upper floor windows.

SPEEN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

96/07118	The Boundary, Studridge Lane - Convert Garage into Living Room and erect Car Port
97/07094	1 Woodland View, Studridge Lane - Demolish 2 Storey extension and erect Single Storey and Two Storey extension with Porch and Dormer Window
97/05017	Maple Cottage, Grubbins Lane - Convert Garage into Living Room, erect Garage, side extension & Conservatory
97/05224	Magpies, Grubbins Lane - Demolish Conservatory and erect single storey extension
97/05326	Pye Corner - Demolish Garage and erect double Garage with Studio Room over
97/08803	George Farm - Demolish Garage and erect Double Garage

DECISIONS:-

96/07118	The Boundary, Studridge Lane - Convert garage	Permitted
96/06939	Ploughshares, Flowers Bottom - erect double Garage	Refused
96/07094	1 Woodland View, Studridge Lane, Extensions	Permitted
97/05224	Magpies, Grubbins Lane, extensions	Permitted
97/05232	Kingsley, Hampden Road - rear extension	Permitted
96/06913	Treetops, Chapel Hill - 2 New houses	Permitted
97/05265	Old Bakehouse, Studridge Lane - conservatory	Permitted



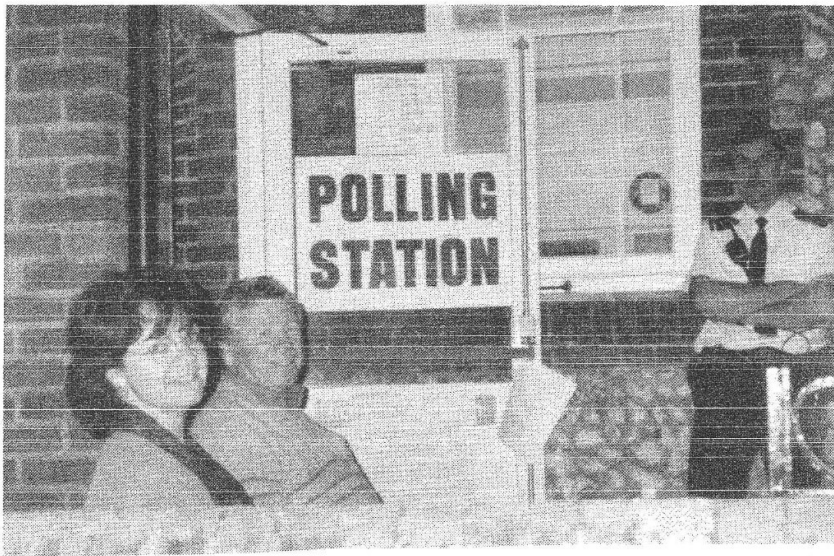
A rare and special
occasion at Speen
Baptist Church...



...when Peter was
baptised and
received into
membership of
the church.



The shifting
electoral scene
in Speen...



...proving that a
day can be a long
time in politics.

Men of Speen
at their breakfast
as John Presdee
describes walking across
Europe in the footsteps
of the Crusaders...

His mission - to apologise
for their brutality. (John
nearly paid with his own
life when he suffered a
massive heart attack,
whereafter he took up his
bed and walked to complete
the journey.)



THE NEW SPEEN STORES *"Wish us luck" says Jan*

The following update, after the April public meeting, was recently handed to me by BHA director Jan Fleming, who ran the meeting and was the main speaker.

"Questionnaires were circulated asking villagers what they wanted the shop to stock and seeking volunteers. As a result of that meeting a steering committee of local people was formed to oversee the setting up of the shop and the recruitment of a manager and the mechanism for distributing any surplus. The meeting of that steering committee is taking place on 17th June.

BHA Ltd will retain control of the shop as it is our money and reputation that is at stake.

The Post Office has indicated that they are agreeable to a post office opening in the shop and this will provide additional income. If the shop is to work it requires a high level of commitment and long opening hours and therefore the manager should have a cash incentive in the form of some sort of profit share.

All profits from the shop will be covenanted to local charities, with 50% going towards developing low cost housing and community facilities. The precise mechanism of distribution is yet to be agreed.

In addition to the shop it is

proposed that the upper floor will be used to sell and display local crafts and there will be a tea shop at weekends run by local village voluntary groups.

We hope to actively involve the children of the village and a competition is being launched to design the shop sign, and there will be a permanent exhibition in the shop of the work of the local school and if possible the pre-school.

The fabric of the building will be completed in early September and the fitting out and stocking will take a further two months, so opening is scheduled for late October.

Wish us luck and give us your support, it is your shop and will benefit your community!"

A slight update on that:

The first steering committee meeting was held last night. My informant tells me that matters discussed included the kinds of goods to stock. It was thought useful to carry "speciality items" as an attraction, not just everyday things like "baked beans."

Until demand was known, opening hours would need to be a bit flexible; their might be a low demand period around the middle part of the day, for example.

Meanwhile, advice is being sought from a successful village

shopkeeper on best methods, since this is altogether new to the BHA, who will remain firmly in charge of the project as previously stated. Agencies were discussed: the Post Office will require an approved manager and 6-day opening (locum will be supplied during periods of leave etc), lottery should be available, maybe dry-cleaning and shoe repair. Videos were discussed but not thought to be a good idea, says my informant.

Thought was given to the tea room - "use it or lose it" because it might be tempting for use as a store room. It was pointed out that a lot of walkers passed through Speen most weekends and some were seen "leaving a local inn looking bemused and still thirsty". The shop would have an off-license and conceivably drinks could be bought there and served on a patio out the back along with other refreshments organised from upstairs.

Worries were expressed with the recent precedent of Hickmans having to close. On the optimistic side it was re-emphasised that the new Speen Stores would start with overheads guaranteed. "it will be run for several years win or lose" Everything in the end will depend on village input as customers and volunteers. Meanwhile do get in touch with Bucks Housing on 01494 437911 if you have any ideas or wish to be involved with the shop etc.

Ed.

NORTH DEAN TREASURE HUNT

Village Hall Committee member Jez Wicks organised a Car Treasure Hunt for North Dean residents on Saturday 17th May.

At 7.30 on a pleasant sunny spring evening we all set off in different directions, armed with twenty clues and a plastic bag for "items to be collected". The distance travelled was about twenty miles, depending

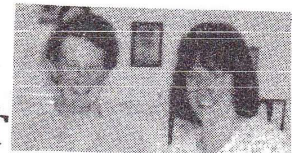
on how many detours one had to make!

Telephone boxes, house names, chimney pots, post boxes, weather vanes and bus timetables all came under our close scrutiny. And with our plastic bags full of collectables, we returned to the Village Hall for a Cheese and Wine Supper and

presentation to the winners.

The photograph shows Suzie Howard, on behalf of her team, receiving the prize from Jez.

Lillian Cash



Some useful numbers...

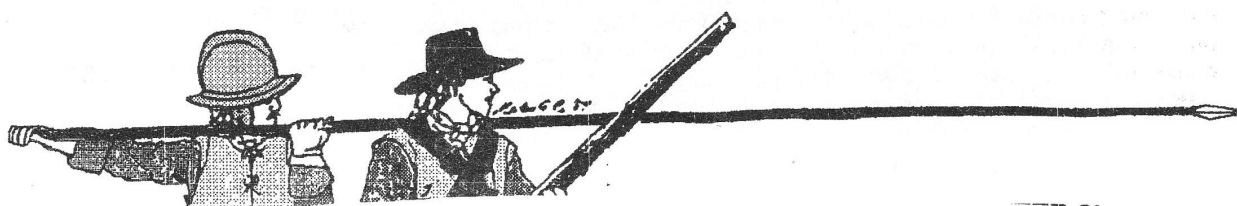
BAPTIST CHURCH	DAVID KING	01844344839
CUBS AND BEAVERS ORGANISATION SUSPENDED		
CRICKET	S. KING	488542
FETE	PETER DAWSON	488222
GOOD NEIGHBOURS TELEPHONISTS	DORIS WILSON	488334
	MARGARET JONES	488246
	POPPY ELLIS	488548
	PAULINE HALL	488372
HUGHENDEN GUIDES	TED DREW	488738
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	MEGAN CHINN	563074
NORTH DEAN VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	CATHERINE BUTLER	488412
SPEEN VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS		
PARISH COUNCILLORS:		
NORTH DEAN	JOHN ROGERS	562041
SPEEN	DON WHITE	488437
	JUDE AWDRY	488607
SPEEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	PAUL ROGERSON	488315
LACEY GREEN DISTRICT COUNCILLR	JEAN GABBITAS	01844346469
POLICE		01296396000
SPEEN SCHOOL OFFICE		488321
SPEEN SCHOOL PTA	PETER SYMONDS	488016
SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS	PETER DAWSON (Editor)	488222
SPEEN PRE-SCHOOL	DAWN SCHOLLAR	488160
MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP	CHRISTINE DUNNINGTON	488203
SPEEN W.I.	BARBARA COLLETT	488348
SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN YOUTH CLUB	ROB AND TRICIA LENKO	488337
PLAYING FIELD	JEANNE HANFORD	488402
SPEEN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	JACKIE NEWMAN	488474
THEATRE AND OUTINGS CLUB	SHEILA TIDBALL	488377
TABLE TENNIS	JIM LAWRENCE	01844344610
TENNIS	ROGER CRAFT	488343

SPEEN VILLAGE FETE

on the Speen Playing Field

SATURDAY 12th JULY 1997

To be Opened at 2pm



ADVENTURE IN THE WELSH HILLS

A dozen go riding at Llanfynydd

After establishing a second group of Riding for the Disabled, at *Shana Riding Stables*, on Fridays 18 months ago, the Group Organiser, *Gloria Holmes*, was rash enough to suggest some of the adult riders might like a short riding holiday at the purpose-built centre near Wrexham, in North Wales. This became reality on Thursday 29th May, when the party 12 riders and helpers plus a guide dog and guide dog puppy, set forth up the motorway system by small bus in convoy with a car and trailer carrying, two wheelchairs and mountains of food.

Tired after the long journey - but a welcome destination

It was a long journey, on a hot day, and despite a short lunch break and other necessary stops, everyone arrived with some degree of tiredness, by about 3pm. However, this rapidly vanished when the centre's organiser showed us the rooms we would be staying in for the five days. The centre was only built about 5 or 6 years ago, and was especially designed to accommodate all types of disabilities, and so had wide doors, showers with seats, large washrooms, hand rails, and electric plugs at waist level. These adaptations make life so much easier. Each room was named after a well-known horse personality, such as Red Rum, or was called, say, the Spotted Appaloosa, and each was individually decorated in co-ordinating styles, had their own wash basins, and all had a picture relating to the room's name hanging on the wall. The building also had a small kitchen and common room, washing machine and drying area for boots and coats, whilst the main, large kitchen and common room was situated 100 yards away, next to the indoor school.

Getting to meet the horses

Having sorted out who was in which room, the next task was to meet the horses and ponies the riders would be using for the next few days. Liz Potter had been sent details of each rider's abilities, size etc, and with what we realised was a special gift, had chosen from the 26 horses there, ones which exactly suited each person. A short ride to acquaint horses and riders followed, then the evening meal, lots of chat and finally bed.

Beautiful countryside, warm weather and companionship

Each morning and afternoon, alternating groups either rode in the (indoor or outdoor) schools, or went out around the beautiful countryside. Those who went out were escorted by one of the girls from the Centre, who were all as helpful as possible, and were on lead ropes, linked to the three helpers who were also mounted riders. The weather was warm and sunny each day, and, as the hills were climbed, breathtaking views appeared around each corner. This was the real special treat for each rider, who spent almost all of the time whilst "on board", in an indoor school. At least they were on a proper "Hack", along the leafy tracks and narrow country lanes, for over an hour each time, avoiding tractors and other hazards. As the horses are only used by RDA riders, they acquire a more positive attitude, whilst at the same time being forward going.

After rubbing down the horses at the end of each day, turning them out to graze, and tack cleaning, a short rest, wash and brush up was followed by delicious meals, all planned and prepared by *Jean*

Baines. Her advance efforts saved so much time and were greatly appreciated, but as the days wore on, large breakfasts, lunches AND dinners started to settle around the waistlines for some people! By the end of the trip, ponies were looking forward to a few days rest, whilst some riders were hatching plans to either ride "their" new horse home, or pack it in the trailer, instead of the bags!

Everyone got on so well, new friendships were made, and fun was had by one and all. All riders and helpers assisted where they could, either with the horses, kitchen duties, or both! Needless to say, this may have been the first visit, but plans are already afoot for a repeat performance next year, so it will not have been the last trip to a tiny village in north Wales known as Llanfynydd.

Gloria would chastise me if I did not use these last few lines to say we are always grateful for people to help us, on Fridays or Tuesdays, in term time, for a couple of hours.

Please telephone Gloria on 01494 488420 for further information. Maybe you will be on next year's holiday!? As one of the mounted helpers, I can only say it was great fun and thoroughly enjoyable.

Eleanor Evans

Caroline advises that the RATES FOR ADVERTISING in the Newsletter are:

FULL PAGE £42 yly (£14 per issue)
HALF PAGE £21 yly (£7 per issue)
QTR. PAGE £10.50 yly (£3.50 per issue)
EIGHTH PAGE £6 yly (£2.00 per issue)

Contact Caroline Partridge on 01494 488577

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