

NORTH DEAN FETE

8TH AUGUST 1998

Once again the skies were blue and the sun shone for North Dean's village fete and as usual the morning began with lots of busy people arranging the stalls, tables, chairs and tents etc., around their allotted places in the field.

At the big show tent, competitors started to arrive by 9 o'clock with all the produce, fruit, vegetables, cakes, wine, preserves, flans being carefully displayed to best advantage along with the flowers and wine, and attractive "gardens on a plate" from 9 under 14 year olds.

In the smaller show tent there was a very high standard of craft entries but rather few in number. However, there was much support for the art section with lovely drawings and paintings from all ages.

This year there was a separate photographic section which had a fantastic 57 entries with some remarkably talented photographers taking part. Beautiful portraits alongside holiday and countryside scenes, gardens, children, animals and many other subjects.

Next year, after consultation with our judge, we might



Jim Kent – Master of ceremonies.

be able to sort out separate sections for some of the subjects. Thank you for all the six judges who carried out their duties with such care.

After the judging was complete and all the prize cards allocated, the fete began in earnest when Mr Jim Kent performed the opening ceremony.

The world-famous Pigott Band was, as usual, on top form with lots of cheerful mu-

sic. When one player reached for a sip of beer during a few bars rest and knocked over a fellow player's music stand, the audience was much amused - better than being at the 'Proms'!!

The Human Fruit machine was a good new game with patient people holding up varieties of fruit and competitors hoping for a "3 of a kind" to win a prize.

Everyone worked long and hard to raise lots of money to finish the refurbishment of the village hall, from the Tea and Cakes ladies in the hall to the Coconut shy person at the other end of the field and all in between including:-

Tombola, skittles, dancing, Fancy Dress, raffles, Madam Aquarius, the Beer Tent, Bouncy Castle, face painting, Bric-a-brac, name the doll, millennium stall, football game, ice-cream, wood turner, lace-making, treasure hunting, hoopla, cake stall, spin for a bottle, darts, races and horse-racing.

All contributed to the success of a lovely day and thanks are due to everyone: committee and helpers for all the pleasure and fun! The final total raised was approximately £1,000.00.

Gwen Palmer

INSIDE

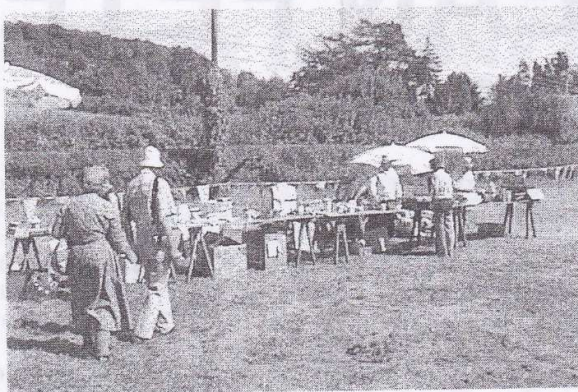
Public Inquiry
Diving into another world
Millennium updates

Dogs eye view
The Totem Pole of Speen
The Old Bus in the Field

Know your woodlands
Bob never walked alone
What's on in Speen & North Dean

A few pictorial memories of North Dean Fete

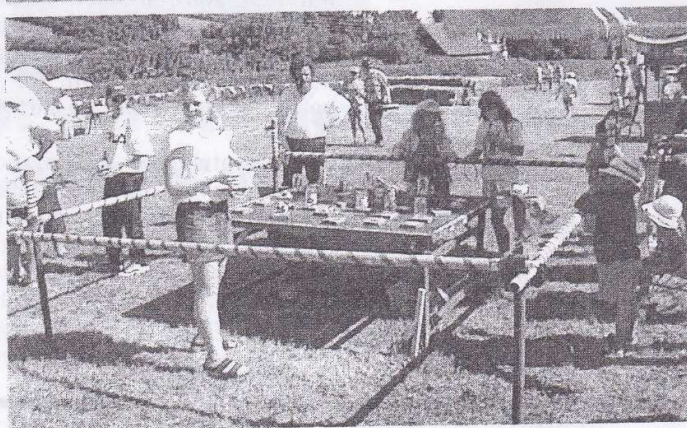
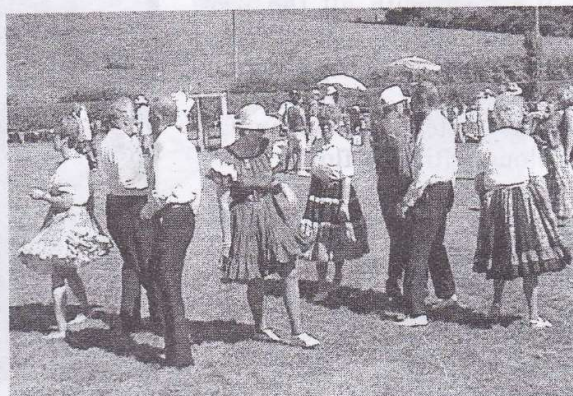
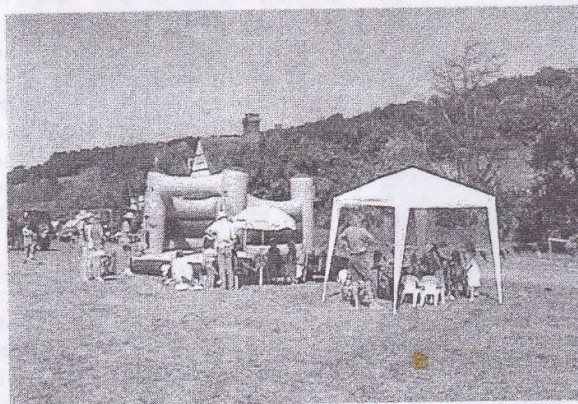
A fine hot day for the fete and a few of the ways some people chose to spend the afternoon, whether helping out or relaxing and "playing" the stalls.



Above: Heading off to the stalls to spend a little money.
Below: Hot work at the "Bouncy Castle."



Above: You may be able to "Beat the Goalie" but you can't beat a pint! Below: Working up that thirst!



Above: All smiles at the every popular Hoop-La stall.
Right: Learning the gentle art of facial make-up.





Above: Jim Kent presents the well earned prizes.

North Dean Exclusive!

The Return Of Eric Gill

Caleb Wheeler-Robinson
in the North Dean Fete
fancy dress competition,
dresses as the famous
Local sculptor and
designer of yesteryear?

(Pictured below)



Above: A fruit machine tempts all comers, even when it's human powered!

Below: And it's a big thank you from us. Mrs Kent accepts flowers from twins Emma and Hannah Taylor.



Beware, artists at work!



Below: Do I really like the Bouncy Castle?



EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the new look Speen and North Dean News. This is the first issue with a new editor and new technology.

The team producing the Speen and North Dean News would like to thank Peter Dawson for more than three years hard work producing and sustaining the Speen and North Dean News as editor.

We are pleased that he feels able to stay on, as part of the team, collecting and reporting on items of local interest. We would also like to thank Caroline Partridge for all her hard work as treasurer for three years. The new treasurer is Martin Hart.

This issue has been produced by using some new desk top publishing software, and we hope that you like the new style. It should make the production easier and the final print quality better, but it has given a few grey hairs to the poor software owner, Reg Taylor. He has been patience personified, and we are very grateful to him.

We also have a new member of the team, Suzi Rose, who is a great help, especially in

(Continued on page 6)

And so it's goodbye from me...!

How time flies - was it really nearly four years ago that the first editor of the Newsletter had to give up after only two issues? With bags already packed for a move to Southend, she gave me ten minutes instructions and the advice that issue three "must come out in three weeks time." At least it gave me the excuse to get a word processor; apart from which the artwork presentation has depended heavily on scissors and spray mount. However, technology does not stand still and here we are, not only is the copier technique updated to take photos, but we now have the use of Reg's scanner etc. So it was with great reluctance that I handed over just at the moment we get the professional makeover. At least I had the satisfaction of overseeing our brief foray into colour!

Words of encouragement have been received with every issue (plus a few brickbats). And just this once let me quote from the very last letter I received as editor (from someone fairly new to the area) "I simply wanted to commend you for the extent, range and quality of the items in the newslet-

ter, not to mention the interest in the photographs, drawings, artwork and design of the whole undertaking. Congratulations to all who are responsible, and thank you." Well, thank you dear reader.

And so one last huge **THANK YOU** from me to all those who have written and in other ways helped to make this publication one of the most interesting "village rags" in this part of the county - so they tell me. It seems a long way off now, but initially it took quite a struggle to be allowed to cover controversial issues or even to gently take the mickey. I was even opposed at one stage for wishing to include photographs and was assured that no one wanted to read long articles - just about everything likely to make the publication readable was opposed, it seemed. My strategy was to just do it! And for a long time that strategy succeeded!

Anyway, now we have a team of people all actively taking some part in putting it together. So keep it coming in and the best may be yet to come.

Peter Dawson



SPEEN STORES Events:

Speen Stores Special Saturdays.

31st October.

Home-made Pumpkin Soup (sampling)
Children's Competition
Halloween Masks.

28th November.

Mulled Wine and Panettone (sampling)
Children's Competition
Christmas Tree Decoration

It is always worth looking in on the shop on Saturdays: Sharon does a lot of sampling sessions on the spur of the moment. We only found out about one when we met three merry gentlemen wandering down the road on a Saturday lunch time!

Your Letters

The Monkton Wood Footpath Issue

Dear Editor

May I be permitted to comment on some of the points raised in the last two editions of Speen and North Dean News regarding the footpath running along the edge of Monkton Wood, and the attempts by local riders, including myself, to have its status upgraded to that of bridleway.

For many years until the early 1990s it had been used by local riders and for the most part there had been little difficulty. Then (to the best of my knowledge) groups of ramblers, not necessarily local, complained to the Rights of Way Office in Aylesbury about its use by riders. Eventually the Rights of Way Office asked the Hampden Estate to "do something" and assorted barriers appeared as a result. Riders then decided that, rather than be pushed onto ever more dangerous roads, they would try to have the path upgraded to bridleway status. To imply, as Peter Dawson did, that this was almost in secret is nonsense. Some local people lodged objections which were considered at the public meeting of the Rights of Way Committee last summer. The committee felt these were far outweighed by the evidence of use produced by the riders and unanimously agreed to recommend upgrading.

In order to claim the track as a bridleway we had to produce evidence of regular use over a twenty year period during which time the landowner (Hampden Estate) had made no attempts to stop its use by horses. We have in the village and nearby a number of people who had ridden the track since the early 1960s together with anecdotal evidence of its use as a bridleway for many years before that. Many people seem unaware that Redhouse Farm (which then incorporated Moses Plat Farm) was owned by the Smith family and the late Monica Amsler (nee Smith) ran a small riding school there nearly forty years ago. Indeed a number of my friends learned to ride there and regularly rode that track through the woods.

The only attempt made by the Hampden Estate to limit any changes in the status of footpaths and bridleways on its land was in 1936 when they notified the County Council that no further routes would be established and no existing ones altered. This type of statutory declaration has to be renewed every six years. No renewal ever took place so the original lapsed. Until the aforementioned barriers no attempt was made to stop horses using the route.

To attempt to suggest, as Peter Dawson did, that riders were deliberately trying to damage the path is quite untrue. In fact, in the very wet weather this spring the track was hardly touched by horses. We do not want the ground badly poached, nor do we wish our horses to lose shoes or damage tendons in deep mud.

Perhaps people should reflect on why riders feel so vulnerable on the roads which they have to use in order to reach the few bridleways available to them. We have to run the gauntlet of some appallingly inconsiderate (and sometimes downright dangerous) driving. We have drivers coming within one or two feet of horses tails, passing far too close, refusing to wait a matter of seconds until it is safe to pass, sounding horns behind horses and yelling abuse. Yes, honestly, you would be surprised what apparently civilised, middle-aged adults scream through car windows in Lacey Green on a quiet Sunday morning !!!!

Fortunately, the really awful drivers are a minority. Most are helpful, courteous and only too happy to wait a moment while the rider or leader gets a fractious, young or anxious horse under control and out of their way. To those drivers we all say a big "Thank you", we do appreciate your kindness and courtesy.

As far as the others are concerned, I hope my fellow riders will do as I do. When subjected to dangerous driving or abuse when riding (or even just leading the horses to their field) I try to take the car number and report the driver to the Police.

Princes Risborough Police are very helpful and do take action as a number of motorists now know.

Can I urge all other road users to be aware that horses are living beings with feelings and very fast reactions, the silliest things can startle even the oldest, most experienced horse, so give them as much room as possible. In an accident the results can be dreadful with dead or seriously injured riders or car occupants as well as dead horses. Please expect to see horses round every bend (or for that matter cyclists, joggers or walkers) and please, if a rider signals you to slow down or stop, do so. Thames Valley Police recommend a maximum speed of no more than 15 mph when passing horses.

Many people live in this area because of the "rural" atmosphere of which horses surely form a part, and thus contribute to maintaining your property values!

Jackie Edwards
Coleheath Bottom.

Dear Editor

Reference the "Monkton Woods Footpath (issue Summer 1998). Speaking as an ex-horse rider who has a daughter who rides, I was delighted to see the possibility of upgrading the path in Monkton Wood to Public Bridleway.

Riding down the Hampden Road is not to be undertaken lightly. The phrase "taking your life in your own hands" has real meaning here! Many people drive their cars down our country roads far too quickly and riders need to get off this road and onto the bridle path for their own safety.

We live in the country and it has always been the case that our paths become wet and muddy in the winter. Horses are not a new phenomenon. Riders and walkers must be tolerant of each other if we are all to enjoy the countryside.

Warwick Cowan.

UPDATE, THE MONKTON WOOD FOOTPATH ISSUE.

*Public enquiry - at North Dean Village Hall on
Tuesday 17th November 1998 at 10 a.m.*

As I supposed in my previous update in the summer issue, there is to be a public local enquiry into the decision by Bucks County Council to allow the application by Mrs. G. Holmes for the footpath (number 9) to be upgraded from a public footpath to a public bridleway on the Definitive Map since they accepted evidence that such a bridleway already exists. The enquiry will be held at North Dean Village Hall, starting at 10 am on Tuesday 17th November 1998.

This notification was made to all interested parties, including the 25 individuals and organisations who had objected to the Bucks Council's decision, in a letter dated 18th August from Tony Simmons of the Rights of Way Section of The Planning Inspectorate, which is an Executive Agency in the Department of Environment.

This was Mr Simmons's second letter to us. The first, dated 13th July, advised that an enquiry would be held at some future date. Meanwhile, it also enclosed a large amount of literature, including even a booklet to educate us on how such enquiries are held. When reading the material I was quite heartened, as an objector, to read that the Department of Environment starts the enquiry from the position that they do not accept that a modification is justified, ie they don't accept the evidence that a bridleway exists. It should be an interesting enquiry.

The July letter from Mr Simmons also offered objectors the chance to modify or withdraw their evidence, if they so wished, within two weeks. This rather annoyed some Speen objectors who were understandably a bit prickly at having been kept in ignorance at what was going on behind the scenes against the inter-

ests of walkers. A small group of them got together one evening and orchestrated a response, saying effectively that they wished their written objections to stand unaltered.

I guess the problem is that these enquiries deal in legalistic point scoring - determining whether the horse riders have gained some right, according to the rules for this sort of thing, to get their bridleway acknowledged. It is obviously going to be a complex and convoluted argument. What walkers also find annoying is that comments by them about the adverse consequences for the majority - who are walkers - are not relevant to the enquiry.

The enquiry, it seems, does not deal in rights and wrongs - the game must be played by some strange set of rules about how rules can be gainfully broken by horse riders, set out in the department's booklet. Nevertheless, the unfair consequences need to be said. Even if they are studiously ignored, the inspectorate will have read them and it will make those who made them feel they've got something off their chests - even though eventually it will be what's on their boots that will be difficult to remove.

Mr Simmons, (in order to save time at the enquiry, he says) requests that if anyone intends to speak at the enquiry they should furnish him with a written statement of the case they plan to present, three weeks before the enquiry. So much for spontaneous debate!! He probably has a point, though - I attended one of these footpath-type inquiries about a year ago and it went on all day, almost in the sort of atmosphere you might expect at a serious fraud trial.

So now you know: if you want to say something, let Tony know what it is before the end of October.

Peter Dawson

...Editor's Letter

(Continued from page 4)

typing and technology areas. New members of the team would be welcome.

We would like to get a variety of reporting styles, of the events and local issues. Many organisations have said they would like to do their own reporting. So if you have something to say or report please get in touch.

We are hoping to produce four Issues of the magazine this year, producing an extra, maybe mini issue in February. All the organisations who have said they wish to produce their own copy etc. please send in reports soon after the events, so that we can keep up with the Christmas excitement ready for February. If you have a problem, please let us know and we will help in any way we can.

The copy date for the next issue will be 7th January 1999.

What has happened to that pavement?

The shop was opened in May. The Autumn term has started, and darker days will soon be upon us adding to the dangerous situation of no continuous pavement from the school to the shop.

So why hasn't it been done? Everyone I speak to seems eager to complete the task but the whole thing seems to be held up in various legal files.

Surely someone, Council, Housing Association, Highways etc. could at last get the job done. I'm told the Parish Council has been trying for 12 years! Perhaps they are all waiting for the Millennium!

*Please send any copy to:
Glenn Hart, Halcyon, Chapel Hill.
Tel: 01494 488528.*

*We hope to hear from you.
Glenn Hart. Editor.*

Please note:-

The views and opinions expressed in the Speen and North Dean News do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or team. They reserve the right to edit as necessary.

THE TOTEM POLE AT THE WHITE HOUSE OF SPEEN

Anyone who has visited Francis Caldwell at the White house of Speen will have been intrigued at the sight of a genuine Native American Totem Pole standing, as if on guard, by Francis's front door. Standing at around twenty feet in height, this magnificent Totem Pole is made of intricately carved Western Red Cedar and it is looking particularly beautiful just now, having been recently repainted by John Cross. I asked Francis if he would tell us something of its history and this is what he wrote – PD)

This totem pole was brought back to Speen from Vancouver Island in 1932 by Major Caldwell and his eldest son Hugh. It was available from the Indian clan, as the immediate family had died out. A totem is a natural object, especially an animal, taken as an emblem of a clan or an individual, much as such objects are used in heraldry or in regimental badges. On this pole individual items represent notable events in the life of the man who is portrayed at the base. This memorial was made after the man's death so the wings of the Thunder Bird (Great Spirit) at the top are folded.

The clan story tellers used the images to refresh their memories in the absence of written records.

On this pole the man is depicted at the base holding a paddle, above is a kingfisher (either the clan symbol or relating to some event on an inland river); next a dolphin or whale – an adventure in the Pacific Ocean; a Thunder Bird clasping a human figure – a death in the family; a face – meaning unknown; finally a Thunder Bird with folded wings.

Totem poles were typical of the west coast of North American Red

Indian ('Red Indian' much more colourful than 'original Americans') and in the case of Canada at any rate, were carved with an adze from unseasoned cedar wood, which lasted only sixty or seventy years in the warm moist coastal en-

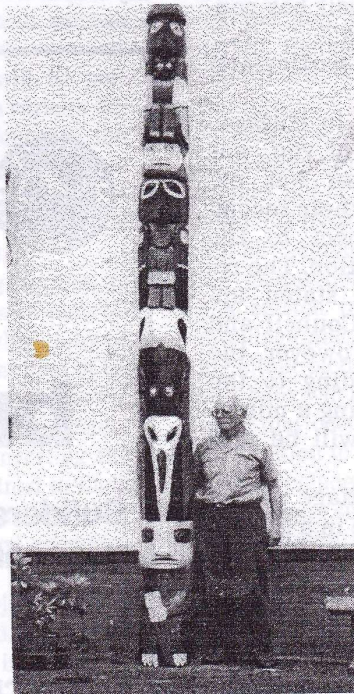
vironment, until the use of paint came in somewhere about 1910. This particular totem pole is around 100 years old and the wood

is still in good condition. To preserve a totem pole is to preserve the memory of the man and his clan, bringing good luck, just as to destroy it brings misfortune.

The colours used in the latest repaint by John Cross are much as the original and reflect those favoured by the Red Indians in the late 19th century.

The Caldwell connection with Canada is much less than with the United States, where numerous cantankerous Scots Irish settled in the Carolinas. In the early 19th century, a British officer, Sir John Caldwell was elected as a chief by the Ojibway Indians (looking a right nana is their ceremonial dress).

It was amongst the Ojibways that the Canadian artist, Paul Kane, first started his life work of recording Indian life (1845). On the basis of his paintings there he obtained support from the Hudson Bay Company for a three year 'sketching trip' starting in May 1846, during which he recorded Indian life on the Prairies, in the Rockies and on the West Coast, remaining on the latter for seven months. Kane's pictures are historically accurate records of Indian life before the great westward drive of influence and settlement by those of European origins from the eastern regions.



The Totem Pole towers above Francis

environment, until the use of paint came in somewhere about 1910. This particular totem pole is around 100 years old and the wood

A message from our Local Councillor

First, thanks and congratulations. Thank you to your retiring editor, who, assisted by his team, produced a magazine which has steadily improved, and congratulations to all of you who contributed such excellent copy: From the last two editions particularly, one was introduced to the most fascinating material which made absorbing reading, and is worthy of saving on the book shelf.

My activities as your councillor have been wide ranging in the recent months. It has given me great pleasure to work on the Management committee of Spring Gardens Arts Centre and in spite of the county's inability to keep it going, Nick Andrews of "Ubiquitous" volunteered to give his time and sponsorship to manage an Arts Centre in the buildings. He has achieved this and a great programme has been printed for the first term. Artists rent the building for performances, exhibitions, and workshops, just as you might rent your village hall - they have to be local people in the District, and so Wycombe District Council has continued with its financial support.

Planning how-ever has been particularly painful.

A. The new medical centre in Hughenden, which also serves many of you, was brought to Panel earlier than was expected, but nevertheless with their recommendation for approval subject to the DETB not called in the application. The report before members clearly stated approval of Hughenden Parish Council and The Residents Association. However, the vote was narrowly lost, acceding to the wishes of a speaker, representing a minority group. An amended plan will be presented soon.

B. It is most likely that a cottage will be built in the centre of the village in a garden on a grassy bank. You need to know that this permission was given many years ago when rules were weaker and before the Conservation Area was established. The permission was renewed regularly so that all I could do in deference to the concerns expressed was bring it to Panel and achieve a site meeting in order that the councillors visiting could check the size and positioning on the site in relation to neighbouring properties.

C. A further planning frustration occurred when permission was refused for a

cottage in Highwood Bottom to raise the roof line in order to gain further accommodation. Although this would not have increased the footprint of the building in was nevertheless deemed to contravene the 50% rule of extension!

During September I shall be representing the Council on the Rural Commission of the Local Government Association. I am also looking forward to discussing the Party Policy Review at the Autumn Conference.

I am so pleased to hear and see how well Speen Stores is doing when I visit each week. Finally, thank you for supporting the Sheaf to Loaf day in Lacey Green- a most successful fund raiser for the new Village Hall for Lacey Green and Loosely Row.

Footnote: Dial-a-ride is now available in the north of the district. Please attend the local area forum on the 10th of November at the Community Centre at Princes Risborough. The first meeting was very well attended, but I would have liked to see more people from my ward.

Jean Gabbittas



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and Decorators**

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NORTH DEAN MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

At the time of going to press, North Dean Village Hall Committee has two projects in hand to celebrate the Year 2000 Millennium, both aiming to produce a record of the village as it stands at the Millennium which will be available to historians of the future. In one, two, three hundred years time people will have access to a pictorial image of Upper and Lower North Dean to add to the already valuable record produced by Nick Wheeler-Robinson when he researched the past history of the village.

Both undertakings were on display at the North Dean Fete and attracted a great deal of interest. The general consensus of opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of both projects and offers of help are forthcoming.

The Village Tapestry - This project is being organised by Dorothy Hazell and so far a plan of the final layout has been drawn up showing the village hall as the central feature with various village dwellings, wildlife and wild flowers surrounding it. The dwellings which will be portrayed have been chosen to show the various different architectural periods to be found in the village at the turn of the century. A group of people have already started to produce pieces of cross-stitch embroidery which will eventually be incorporated into the finished Tapestry.

At the North Dean Fete, the layout plan was on display, together with some samples of embroidery and photographs of buildings which may be included in the final Tapestry. A great deal of interest was shown and most people were amazed at the breadth of the subject being undertaken, especially when the problems of converting the photographs into stitches was explained to them in conjunction with the computerised stitching diagrams on display which have been produced by Sarah Booth.

The Photographic Census - This project is being organised by Pat and John Townsend. The aim is to produce a photographic census in colour of the village at the millennium with pictures of each home and the residents. The original copy will be a community archive held by the Committee and/or the County Record Office. Scanned copies of the sheets for individual houses will be available as a reasonably priced souvenir. Hopefully sales of these sheets will raise funds to defray the Village Hall's cost of the project.

It has been decided to separate the picture of the dwelling from the picture of the residents for each of the families involved (about 85). By doing this the dwelling photograph can be taken when the owners feel the property looks at it's best - e.g. when the daffodils are out or the cherry blossom is most beautiful and some flexibility will be possible if bad weather intervenes. The personal photograph may then be taken, (either indoors or out) at the time most convenient to the residents and when the family group can be as complete as possible.

To maximise these benefits the whole of 1999 will be available for the dwelling photograph and the second half of the year (July - December) for the residents picture. In the meantime, every resident will be contacted and asked to give permission for the photography to take place and information has started to be gathered about the various dwellings and their inhabitants. Changes affecting either picture - e.g. a new house or a death or new baby will have to be tackled on an ad hoc basis if they occur.

In addition to the photographs, it is hoped to be able to include a "potted" history of each dwelling with details such as date of construction and alteration with builders' names, previous owners, previous usage, previous dwellings on the site etc. to make the whole archive as complete as possible. A plan or map will also be produced on which will be recorded the postal address of each dwelling and the name of the family resident at the millennium.

If anyone reading this article would like to be involved with either project please contact:-

Tapestry project:

Dorothy Hazell 01494 563534

Photographic Census:

Pat and John Townsend 01494 562302

SPEEN MILLINIUM CELEBRATIONS

'Celebrating the life of a Buckinghamshire Village'

*Patron: Sir Nigel Mobbs KSt.J., JP.***Dates for the Diary***Sunday 18 October:*

Beating the Bounds - 2.00-4.30 pm.

Guided 3-4 miles walk round the borders of the Ward of Speen (at an easy pace!).

Meet at Village Hall.

"Bring and share" afternoon tea - please bring sandwiches or cakes to leave at the hall for everyone to share upon return.

Cups of tea and soft drinks will be provided.

Tickets £2.00, or £5.00 for families.

Saturday 31 October:

Village Varieties - a Music Hall entertainment - Village Hall.

7.45 for 8.00pm,

Supper. Bar. Show.

Tickets £6.00

Vocal participation vital - dress optional (old-time if you have it!). Tickets £6.00

Friday 20 November:

Natural History and Colours of Village of Speen - 8.00 pm

Second chance to see Peter Symonds' superb slide show plus new material

Tickets £ 1.00. Refreshments on sale.

Tickets for the above available from
SPEEN STORES or 488101**All proceeds to the Speen Millennium Fund****BEATING THE BOUNDS****Guided 3-4 miles walk round the borders
of the ward of Speen****SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER
2.00-4.30pm.****Meet at the Village Hall.****'Bring and share' afternoon tea**

Please bring sandwiches or cakes to leave at the hall for everyone to share upon return. Cups of tea and drinks provided.

**TICKETS - £2.00 OR £5.00 for families
Available from SPEEN STORES or 488101****All proceeds to the Speen Millennium Fund****PARTRIDGE & CO****Chartered Certified Accountants & Registered Auditors****Self Employed or running a business ?****Did you get caught out with your 1997 tax return and Self Assessment ?
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What's Your Opinion?

NEW YEAR'S EVE 1999/NEW YEAR'S DAY 2000

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE IDEAS?

A small group of people are considering arranging the following:

1. A village New Year's Eve party for the Millenium in a tented marquee with music for dancing (all tastes!). Tickets approximately £25.00, includes 3 course meal, bring your own drinks. Proposed to give any profit to support our village school.
2. A family pot-luck lunch prepared for New Year's Day in marquee with music for all ages

ARE YOU INTERESTED? PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOXES AND RETURN TO SPEEN STORES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

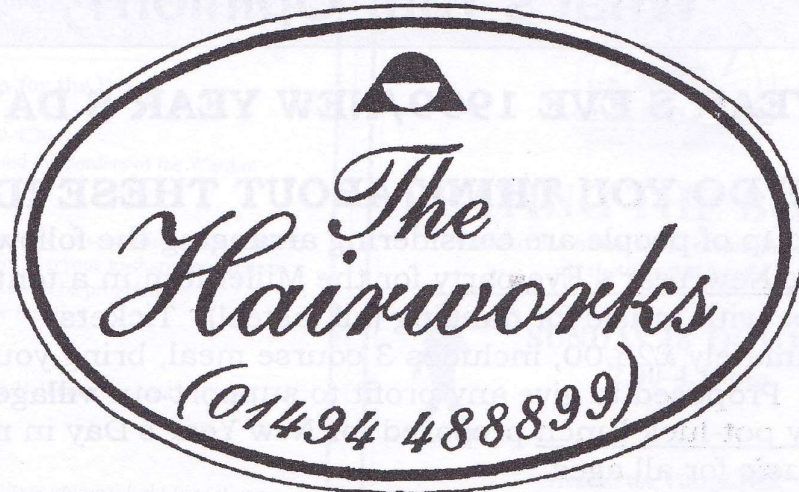
- ☐ New Year's Eve Party - £10.00 deposit a head in 1998
Balance by Summer 1999. Groups of 8/10 can be booked.
- ☐ Assisting with arrangements/preparing food/ clearing up
etc.
- ☐ Family Pot-Luck Lunch New Year's Day

NAME TEL NO

IT'S YOUR MAGAZINE: NOW IT THE TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY

1. What do you think about the current format in this magazine
2. What else would you like to see?
3. This magazine is run by volunteers. Would you like to contribute by:
 - (a) Reporting (b) Distributing
 - (c) Producing a crossword/competition
4. Any other suggestions very welcome

PLEASE RETURN TO SPEEN STORES OR
TELEPHONE GLENN HART ON 488528/SUZI ROSE 488696



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Top to toe pamper morning/afternoons

**GIFT VOUCHERS
available**

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Di's Eye View - a perspective on life in Speen

Write about Speen was the challenge ... hmm. Not that there isn't anything to say about Speen because there is. It is possible to burble on for a few pages about 'sought after location', 'Bunnies in the fields', 'Clean Air', 'Hidden Walks' and make the inevitable comparison with life in the 'smoke' a mere 20 or so miles away.

However, I am not going to do that. How can a real comparison be made between the incomparable? Virtues of the country versus life in the City? I don't think so. With a lifestyle so radically different any attempt at claims that one is better than the other would be futile. The beauty of Speen and the surrounding countryside goes without saying and the wealth of things to do in London, the same. We are constantly bombarded in the women's glossies and the lifestyle pages of the Daily Mail about 'City types heading for country havens' or 'Fifi, Tiggi and Toggi give up Kings Road for Kingshill' etc. Yawn. Heard it all before. So what to write about the pretty village of Speen? The task remained.

PORTRAIT OF LILY

Then I had a visitor for a couple of weeks and the answer was there. I will look at Speen from a lower perspective. Well, below the knees actually. Enter Lily - no, not Paula Yates daughter or a 12-year-old child with a yearning for country air. Lily is actually a little smaller, has four legs and a tail and was on vacation in Speen from Eltham in South East London.

Lily's Eye View:

"Paws a-trembling, I was pushed out of the car onto some sort of hard noisy stuff that hurt my paws - gravel or something. Where's the pavement? The humans were squealing at one another again, "Great to see you!" and doing that sucking thing with their mouths (I don't know why they can't lick hello like everyone else!)

What's this? What's this? "Have a nice holiday"? They aren't *leaving* me here are they? What will I do? Growl .. looks like a lot of sleeping for me"

Lily headed for the cottage front door, tail wagging furiously and then halted sniffing the air.

"Hmm, smells different. No smog"

Once inside the cottage, the small dog hunted out her basket and prepared to curl up. Not a hope. In the whisk of a tail she was encouraged outside into the back garden.

"Whoa! What's this? This can't be the garden, it's a field. I'll get lost. I mean, my pad at home is really cute, but I can explore it in a minute or two. This will take a while. What shall I do? Where shall I start? Woof woof sniff sniff..."

Lily cautiously stalked the back garden like a cat. She smelled the new smells and watched a squirrel in brown-eyed amazement. She left a few territorial marks but kept her tail firmly between her legs. A few days later the same little dog was seen doing something akin to bunny-hops around the garden ("if they can do it, so can I!"), tossing a "chew" in the air before catching it and rolling onto her back, paws in the air.

"Woof. If I run around the garden a few times, I will actually feel like eating that stuff they give me without it affecting my figure! Just call me 'Lithe Lily'!"

Lily's move from City dog to country dog was a cautious one. On long daily walks she was faced with new and terrifying perils: killer squirrels in her wake, enormous bunnies that moved like the wind, large dogs off leads and most terrifying of all, a field full of daisies with a horse in it!

"WOOF! Those Red Setters were a bit 'wellies and tweed' but rather handsome and well bred I'd say. They seemed so .. relaxed. Maybe next time we meet I won't just sit on my tail

like some sort of weakling! Hang on a minute, what in Dogsville is this? Growl. I'm not going in there. She can't make me. It smells sweet - ugh - and what kind of dog is *that*? Help I can't see anything: these long things with white smelly bits on the end are taller than me. I'll drown. I'll suffocate. Help!

Hang on .. this is rather fun. I can make a tunnel. Better still, for a lady like me, I can do UNOWOT without looking furtively around in case I'm being watched. I can hide. I can chase bees and leap-frog over the white things. It's a bit difficult to do such "puppy" things in the park at home, because everyone watches - especially that Poodle from Peckham. Best of all is the UNOWOT, privately. Lady Lily, that's me: so where's my Tramp?"

Lily progressed and her daily encounters with country dogs, fields of daisies, long, long grass, clean, clean air and space gave her an alternative way of life. She stopped cowering at the sight of bigger dogs and her appetite grew.

"Yum, yum, yum, yum. Where's the food? Where's the food? Pant pant, drool, drool. Woof? Yes I know I didn't want any last week but I want two bowls now, I'm *starving*. Can I have another 'chew'? Will you throw it for me? Will you play 'tug the sock' with me? When are we going to my daisy field again? I need a UNOWOT in private and I've arranged to meet Randy the Red Setter by the third daisy on the left. Woof? Didn't I tell you?"

Lily grew more daring and puppy antics filled her day. Her confidence with humans and her own kind grew. Long walks and greetings from friendly locals and dogs ensured that! The clean air opened her lungs and her appetite grew each day. From timid, although cute, little dog to adventurous and friendly in the space of two weeks. Life in the country seemed to give her a new bill of life and the zest she had as a puppy. When the time came to go home, Lily left without regret excitedly greeting her owners with a wag of the tail and a feisty lick.

"Woof, woof. Look at me! Yes I do have a bit of a tan and my nose is extra wet. I've eaten lots but it's not affected my figure at all, lots of walks saw to that. Did I have fun? Oh yes I did. Did I make any new friends? Yes lots, especially a rather handsome Red Setter in a daisy field. New experiences. Woof! Wait until I show you my new secret way for UNOWOT! All I need is a lot of long grass, a hill and that field of daisies. Can we find one in Eltham, please?"

Diana Almond-Gunn

Speen WI

W.I. Seniors Lunch, 27th August.



Part of a happy WI team clearing up after another successful Senior Citizen's Lunch – August 1998

This is an annual lunch provided by the W.I. for any senior citizens wishing to attend. This year's menu was Spanish Pork casserole and lemon merique pie and this was enjoyed by 29 guests and served by W.I. members. After lunch everyone was entertained by the Chiltern W.I. Singers conducted by Harold Toovey the pianist was Dorothy Coxwell. They sang a selection of songs including Greensleeves and the Londonderry Air it was a really excellent choir. The lunch and afternoon had a party atmosphere.

An evening of Colour and Style...

...was arranged by Gloria Holmes on Thursday 23rd July at Speen Village Hall, in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Fund.

Suzi Rose began the evening by describing how colours are divided into the four seasons. Winter and Summer are the cool colours, Autumn and Spring the warm ones - and most people fall into one of these categories. The two models, Melanie and Wendy, had bravely come to the hall without make-up, so that their true skin tones could be seen. Various pieces of material in different shades were placed round their necks.

The audience was then invited to comment on which colours suited them best. It is so much easier to choose colours for other people than for oneself! The models were then beautifully made up by Vanessa Moore using Mary Kay cosmetics.

Then came the style part of the programme. Using Melanie, Suzi showed the effects of wearing different length jackets and skirts



Future Events

1st October

Member's Evening.

5th November

Annual Meeting and Bucks C.V.S.

Is there a future for

Bucks Villages?

3rd December

The Traditions and Folklore of

Christmas – Mrs J. Dineen

Barbara Collett Talks

Anyone wanting to trace the family tree would have been interested in the talk given by Miss E.A. Bennion in July. She had lots of books and gave us plenty of information on how to get started.

As usual we made lots of cake and manned (or womanned) the tea tent on a rather damp fete day. However, what cakes we had over, and there weren't many, we froze and used on the open gardens day later in the month.

August was fun when we learned how to paint water-colour quickies with Miss R.V. Easterbrook. Her special method had us painting a seascape and what started off looking like nothing special, turned out to look quite good. I think we were all quite pleased with the results.

with different heel heights. Suzi also advised against wearing too much jewellery or ornamentation.

We were then invited to help ourselves to samples of make-up, and the evening ended with tea and cakes. It was a very informative and enjoyable occasion.

We all went home determined to be more ruthless with our own wardrobes full of clothes, discarding those that had not been worn for a year or more, or are the wrong colour!

Mary Dawson

BEWARE! It's Addictive.

Who in their right mind spends a beautiful summer morning in the reference library in Aylesbury willingly? I do. Because I might just find my great-grandfather's marriage certificate. I have been looking for it for more than two years. I am trying to trace my family history. I can bore for England on the subject, but I thought I would write a little piece about how really easy it can be and how you get hooked.

I started getting interested in tracing both sides of my family back, as far as I could. When some members of the family started getting very tight-lipped, it intrigued me even more. Of course there are skeletons in the cupboard and some people can be sensitive, so you must take it all as it comes.

Most people start with those living relatives who can remember people and events well, and can write down all the relationships and where the relatives came from. Do not rely on this information, but it is a good starting place. There are forms you can use to make this easier.

You have to decide what form of family research you want to follow.

1. Collecting direct ancestors only. (i.e. not brothers and sisters). You can then aim to go back 5 generations, which will give you all 16 of your great grand parents.

2. Collect as many family members of your own surname as possible. This could develop into a one name study. There may of course be someone who is already doing this {called a **GOON!**}

3. Go for a total ancestry, which means every member of the family you can discover, their parents, siblings etc.

I decided on a direct line and this you can do, for the most part, in Aylesbury Reference Library, because

they have the register called St. Catherine's House which is all the births, marriages and deaths since 1837. When you have found the certificate you want you can then order it from the new Family Record Centre in London.

A birth certificate will tell you: -When they were born. Name. Sex. Mother's full name and maiden name. [Hopefully] Father's name. Occupation of father. Address of informant

A marriage certificate will tell you: [In case you haven't seen one lately !] When they were married. Name and surname of both parties. Age of both. condition (spinster, widow etc.) Profession. Address at time of marriage. Father's names. Father's professions. Where they were married. Church Banns etc. Witnesses.

A death certificate will tell you: Date of death. Name. Sex. Age. Occupation. Address. Cause of death. Name and address of informant.

There are 2 other sources that can be very helpful.

The International Genealogical Index, which is a record of Parish registers mainly before 1837. This is indexed by County and Surname. This is at Aylesbury and can save you a lot of time.

The other useful index is the census 1881 which again is in the Aylesbury library. This is sorted by county and surname. The census is taken every 10 years and released after 100 years. 1891 is available but only in London at the moment.

There are two Family History Societies in Bucks, and they can help you with ,where to find sources in any areas of Britain and abroad, as well as Bucks.

The fun for me is that you have to solve problems, or you have small clues as to where you may find someone, and when you find them it's great, but you have to stifle cheering in the library.

Just one personal story [sorry, it's two]. I knew my great-grandfather was German and was called SWECK. I joined the Anglo-German Family History in order to try to find the connection, I couldn't find his marriage, (he must have Anglicised his name from the German), but what was the original? I looked at the list of members of the Society and there was a SWECK. I wrote without much hope but Paul SWECK called when he received my letter. He was my second cousin I never knew I had. He phoned America to some other members of the family who remembered me as a very small child, amazing!

While looking for my husband's family I traced them to Norfolk, but the village did not exist and the local FHS had never heard of it. I knew of another connection to Mundford, so as we were going near there, I phoned the local vicar and asked if we could go in the church to find any mention of relations. He kindly agreed and gave me the key. But no luck at all. I mentioned the other village, and he knew it: the village was in the M.O.D. battle area .He did show us where a church was that could have been used by the family but we could not go in. While looking in the graveyard, with only a few minutes to spare, we found my husbands great grandparents grave. It was a very emotional moment and many photos were taken. I went on to a local library which gave me lots more interesting information about the area.

If you have managed to read all this article, you may want to start on your Family History. It is a great hobby which you can do when you want to, and leave if you are too busy.

Everyone involved in the societies and the library is happy to help and if we don't use these facilities we might lose them! I shall be pleased to try and help you in your search.

Glenn Hart

THE OLD BUS IN THE FIELD!

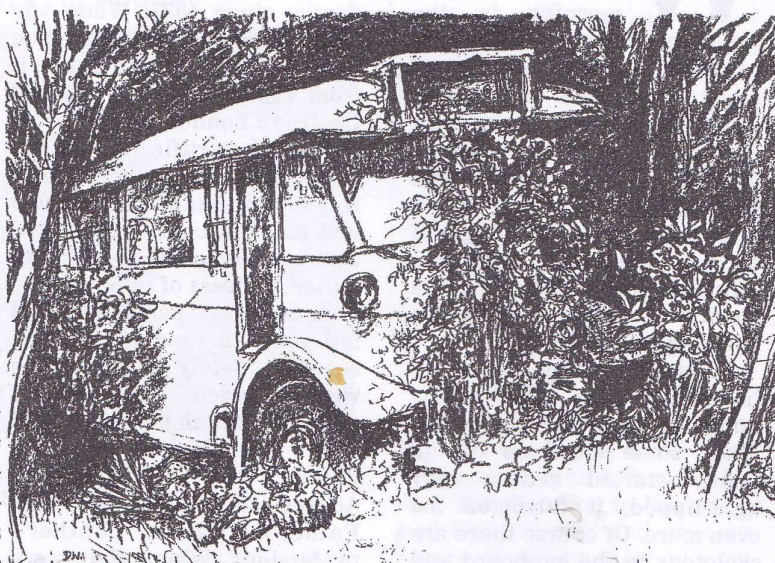
Not many people in the village knew that only 200 yards from the centre of the village a vintage omnibus was parked for forty years.

In about 1948, an obsolete 1929 AEC six-wheeler, single decker bus was driven into the entrance of George Farm and into the top of the field just behind the house. It was on the top boundary of the field belonging to Mr Parslow of Flowers Bottom Farm and it was parked right up under the hedge adjoining Don White's field at the back of George Farm.

The seats were removed and the bus was used as a weekend holiday retreat by Miss Dorothy Wallace who lived in London. She would come down when she was not working and park her car by arrangement with Dr. Dixon in George Farm from where she was able to obtain water. There was no electricity or any other facilities at all. The bus could not be seen very easily as it was almost completely surrounded by undergrowth. The roof was covered in rubberoid to keep out the wet but the remainder of the vehicle was untouched.

Over the years, Miss Wallace tidied up the few yards of land around the bus to make the land into a small garden. Other than the removal of the seats, the vehicle remained intact, complete with petrol engine and all the running gear including the tyres. As only just over 50 were made, it is, in fact, quite a rare vehicle: its provenance could easily be verified as the original London Transport running number was still in the cab.

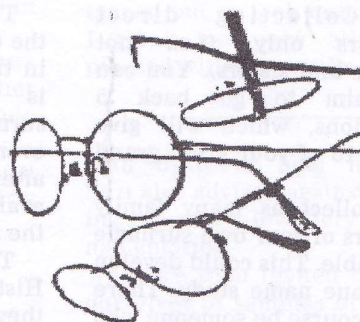
Eventually in 1989, Miss Wallace no longer needed the vehicle and it was sold to a vintage bus enthusiast in Maidstone. It was hauled



out late one Sunday afternoon in November 1989, put onto a low-loader, covered with tarpaulin and parked in the forecourt of the village shop overnight. Subsequent enquiries have revealed that the bus is currently being restored in Midhurst, Sussex. It is to be hoped that one day, in the not too distant future, it will be driven back to the village for all of us to see.

Don White

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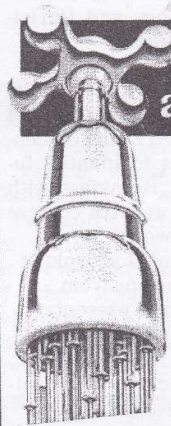
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News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:

We are thrilled to know that we will be staying in the community after my college training finishes next summer. The church members have invited me to stay on as Pastor and we have accepted.

Looking back it has been a very busy Spring. Some highlights being the Men's Breakfast talk by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and two baptisms. We are really excited to see the fellowship grow and develop, with new dimensions of our faith and service being added. This autumn we will add another Sunday School class, to make three on a Sunday morning - covering Pre & First, Middle and Secondary school age groups.

Our first **Alpha Course** in Speen Village Hall went really well with twenty-one people completing as much of the course as business commitments permitted. The food was excellent and Nicky Gumbel's videos were fast moving, amusing and informative. Interestingly the attraction for many was the discussion time, because it provided an opportunity to think and talk about issues of life that we never normally make time for - so much so that several folk can't wait for Alpha to start again on **28th September**.

"Time Out" - the Wednesday morning opportunity for folk in the community (especially mums or dads with young children) to meet friends and make new ones has had a very busy Summer term with numbers gradually swelling as word has got out.

The programme for the autumn term looks very interesting with a wide range of activities, speakers and even a **"Circus Party"** on **October 31st**. Among the visiting speakers will be Speen's very own Atlas mountain trekker - **Gloria Holmes**, and previous Ladies Breakfast guest **Jackie Cray**, who will be doing a mini-series on Positive Family Foundations.

Which brings me to the **"Breakfasts with**

Friends and ..."

The autumn kicks off on **26th September** with **Barry Kissell** (originally from down under - New Zealand to be precise) sharing with the men about his surfing and other adventures; followed by Basingstoke businessman **Andrew Kenward** on **5th December** with his stories of the commercial world.

Eileen Jones, a founder of the Positive Parenting organisation will be sharing breakfast with the Ladies on **17th October** and a fascinating insight into working with families in Britain over the last decade.

It would not be the autumn without a **Harvest Celebration**. This will be at **10:30am Sunday 13th September**. The service will have a special focus on the Indian church I visited during January - Sion Fellowship in Hyderabad. The harvest gifts will be sold and the contributions sent to help their work. After the service the Harvest celebrations will continue with a **barbecue**, including games and music, on Speen Village Playing Field (or in Speen Village Hall if it rains).

Since there won't be another copy of the "News" before Christmas, you might like to make a note of the Christmas events: **Carols by Candlelight 6:00pm Sunday 20th December** and **Christmas Day 10:30am Family Celebration**.

By way of a footnote:

This summer on behalf of the church and at Sir Ghilleen's suggestion, I attended the annual "Christians in Science" at Churchill College, Cambridge. One of my intentions was to identify future potential speakers for the "Breakfast with Friends and ..." as well as catch up with current Christian thinking in the Science world. It was an extremely lively and thought provoking event with over 300 delegates gathering from around the world to hear and discuss presentations by their colleagues. Many of the scientists who gave presentations are at the cutting edge of research and their work has implications for ordinary people and for the formation of government policy. I was greatly reassured to know that many

Summary of Weekly Church Activities

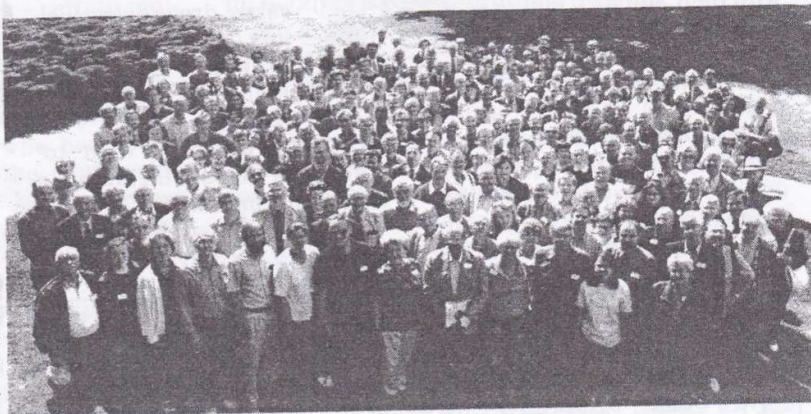
Sundays:	10:30 am Worship for all ages including Sunday School. 6:00 pm Music Group. 6:30 pm Meeting for Prayer.
Mondays:	7:45 pm Alpha Course in Speen Village Hall
Tuesdays:	8:00-9:30 pm Home Group - various locations in the community.
Wednesdays:	10:00-11:30am "Time Out".
Thursdays:	10:00-11:30 am Home Group - Chinyssnook, North Dean.
Fridays:	7:00-9:00 pm 'Meet With God' - exploring Christianity through activities and the Bible, open to all curious 12-16 year olds.

committed Christians, who have a clear understanding of the value system of then Christian faith, were so centrally involved in these projects. For example:-

Dr Francis Collins, Director of the Centre for Human Genome Research, USA, spoke of the rapid progress being made to determine the entire sequence of human DNA and of several model organisms. This is expected to be completed ahead of schedule before 2005. There are major positive implications for ordinary people as the discovery of genes with susceptibility to particular common illnesses can provide opportunity for the use of preventative medicines. However the negative side is that genetic information might be used to discriminate against individuals in insurance and employment, or other settings.

Sir John Houghton, Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, provided a summary of the current environmental crisis including the scientific consensus (by 899 scientists worldwide) on the impact of global

warming and presented a new initiative which will promote environmental sustainability. This new initiative - called The John Ray Initiative after a seventeenth century scientist who pioneered the classification of plants and animals - will promote responsible environmental stewardship in accordance with Christian principles. In the coming months we should be able to draw upon some of the expertise gathered at this conference to help us think through our understanding of issues like these and use our power as Consumers and Voters to make an impact.



Delegates to the "Christians in Science" event.

P.T.A. News

The Summer Term concluded with a number of successful events.

Thanks must go to Chris Dunnington for organising the "Farewell Sports Club party" on Saturday 18th July. The final cycle club and sports club of the school year were followed by an informal barbecue in the school grounds. Christine organised

some more testing games including "Chocolate Challenge" and "Stuck in the Mud", all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by the children. The opportunity was also taken to present a signed and framed photograph of the Sports Club to Anthony Phillips, who had been leading the Sports Club every Saturday for the whole year, come rain and shine.

Thanks to Anthony and the other parents who have made the Saturday club a great success.

School Sports Day will also be remembered for the presentations made to Mrs. Elkin, Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Zywna all of whom have had

a long involvement with the school. Included with their presents were items of pottery made by Tessa Rubbra at the Speen Pottery, and we hope these will provide a lasting memory of their time at Speen.

A warm welcome to Mrs. Lewton from Loosely Row, who is joining the teaching staff. School numbers will this term be significantly lower because of the change in the age of transfer. Our children will however have the benefit of starting their education in beautiful surroundings and with small class sizes: features many other parents would envy.

If your children are approaching school age, please ensure that they register with Mrs. Nayna as soon as possible. Tel: 01494 488321.

Prospectuses are available for interested parents.

Peter Symonds.

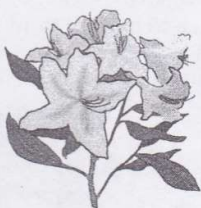


Speen Horticultural Society.

July was a busy period for the society, with the Village Fete, Open Gardens Day, and the Summer Show on successive weekends.

At the Village Fete, 11th July, we had a very good response to our efforts: perhaps the inclement weather drove people into our tent. People were, as always, very generous with their support, and we had an excellent supply of plants, cut flowers and home produce.

The Open Gardens Day on 19th July was a warm, dry day and we had a total of eleven gardens open to the public. Although the numbers of visitors



was down on last year, we still had a good response from visitors from far and wide. I would like to congratulate all those that partook. All the gardens were spick and span and looked lovely. Our thanks, too, to the WI. for their support in the village hall, where they supplied cream teas. I'm sure the thought of home baked cakes drew extra visitors to the village, as indeed did Bob Johnston's Millennium Walk.

All the proceeds went to "Help The Aged", including a donation from the WI.

Finally, we had the Summer Show on 25th July. This was a

new venture to replace the Spring Show, which we had to cancel due to the very bad weather in the two weeks prior to the show. The response was mixed. We had two new faces, but some regulars were absent. It was disappointing that in a village of our size we had only 13 entrants, who showed a total of 79 exhibits. The overall standard was quite high but we could do with more competition in some of the classes. Competition was a bit more stiff in the domestic class, but a particular disappointment was that we had only one entrant in the children's class, and only two entrants in the floral art classes. Really!!!

Ted Drew

Speen Village Open Day July 1998

We have visited Speen on several occasions, but only ventured into our friends garden to admire their hens and cockerel.

It was with keen anticipation we arrived on 19 July to partake in the Village Open Day.

A fascinating talk in the little (lunch) whetted our appetites, and we set forth to find a crack cottage, a house with a separate chimney and other treasures - including the enticing road village store. For a village of some 300 inhabitants we were very impressed by the variety of dwellings and of course the delightful gardens.

Now I know the real explanation for a "bodge" and why I must grow tagetes with my tomatoes - one of the many fascinating tips I gleaned, along with the correct name for "Uncle Reuben's Lily", from peering into 10 fascinating gardens. We returned home with some delicious herbs, chard, lettuce and striped mint - along with some real laid eggs from our friends hens, and why aren't they also included in the Open Day?

Brenda Cottle - Harpenden



Prize blooms at the summer show.



"KNOW YOUR WOODLANDS"

Speen and North Dean are surrounded by wonderful woods, as dogs, dog-walkers, ramblers, runners and Sunday strollers know. They have even inspired the ? and poem "November Woods" (1917) by Arnold Bax, written after a visit to his brother Clifford in Speen. Many of these woods are 'ancient' woodland (i.e. more than 400 years old) – thought there are few, if any, trees of that age). Our ancient woodlands have a rich and varied flora – certain indicators species show that an areas has not been ploughed or mowed for centuries.

There is increasing interest nationally in the 'archaeology' of woodlands, coming in part from the work of Oliver Rackham* who has shown how much can be learned of the countryside and its past from names, old maps, account books, wills, letters, law suits and of course, the visible remains of man's activities which can remain undisturbed in old woodland while in field and hedgerow they are all too often ploughed away. There are considerable regional differences in woodland use and in the number of ancient woodlands that survive. In the Chilterns we are particularly rich, not just in woodland, but in ancient woodland.

John Morris of the Chiltern Woodlands Project has looked very carefully at one of these an-

cient woodlands, Pigotts Wood, above north Dean and identified in it some 30 sawpits, numerous boundary banks (one may be medieval) showing varied historic ownerships and posing some interesting problems of interpretation, a number of ancient paths and cart tracks, flint and chalk quarries and possibly some charcoal heaths. We have some helpful documentary evidence – the earliest from Elizabethan times and of course the wonderful detail of the early ordinance survey.

We are going to put all this together on Friday 13th November on a "Woodland Archaeology Training Day" looking at Pigotts Wood as a fairly typical ancient Chiltern Woodland and building up the best picture we can from documentary evidence and walking in the wood. In this we will be led by Dr. Nicola Bannican, a well-known field archaeologist. Participants should, by the end of the day, not only know about the range of sources available for study and an idea of the general history of Chiltern Woodlands but also how to identify and interpret man-made evidence on the ground. It promises to be fascinating. Numbers are limited to 20 – if you want to know more please ring John Morris on 01494 565749 (or fax 565752)

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Old Plow Bistro and Restaurant at Speen

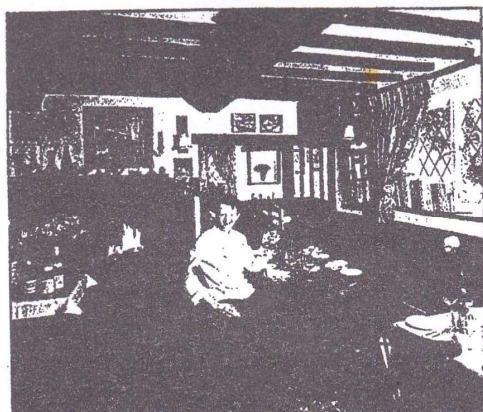


The Old Plow bistro and restaurant was originally a country Inn built in the 17th century. Hidden away in the peaceful hamlet of Flowers Bottom, Ye Plow Inn as it was called then, was known to just the locals and country lovers who ventured off the beaten track.

Amongst the many famous visitors to Ye Plow Inn, was King Charles II, who kept a hunting lodge locally and stabled his horses at nearby Speen Farm (now the Home of Rest for Retired Horses). It was said that the King's men cooked their food on the big open fires in the bar.

In more recent times, The Old Plow became famous throughout the whole country, when it was taken over by Miss Ishbel MacDonald, the daughter of Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour Prime Minister. The Old Plow soon became the place to visit and some of its customers still recall the big coal fires and the smells from the kitchen.

These days, our modern amenities blend well with the old world charm of the building and the log fires and oak beams mingle well with the aroma of hot mulled wine and very fine cuisine prepared by its owner of 10 years, Malcolm Cowan. Malcolm, Olivia and their family came to the Old Plow from London where he had been executive chef of Maxims de Paris, London. Previous jobs included head chef of the Westbury Hotel in the West End and also sous chef of The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly. French trained, his style of cuisine is modern with a strong emphasis on classic sauces.



Malcolm Cowan (Chef patron) in the Restaurant at the Old Plow

Both the a la carte menu in the Bistro and the set price menu in the Restaurant offer a wide and varied selection of dishes but his speciality is preparing delicious fish dishes from the variety of fresh fish and shellfish bought from the fishing boats on Brixham Quay, Devon. Some of the fish and shellfish available at the moment include *scallops, lobster, red mullet, sole, black bream, John Dory, squid, mussels, turbot, seabass and crab*. (All subject to weather conditions and availability).

The reputation of the Old Plow continues to be enhanced as time goes by and Malcolm and Olivia are proud to have contributed to its history. With entries in the Michelin Guide, the Good Food Guide, the Ackerman Guide

and Egon Ronay, they both see a future where many more people will beat a track to its door, be it on foot as well as by car (or even by balloon!).

***The Old Plow Bistro and Restaurant, Flowers Bottom, Speen, Bucks
Reservations can be made for the Bistro and Restaurant on 01494 488300.***

Bob never walked alone! 150 walked with him.



"A WALK INTO VILLAGE HISTORY"

This is a photograph taken on the 19th July '98 of Speen historian Bob Johnston and one of his many parties of people walking

around Speen whilst being told the history of its buildings and something of the families who once lived in them. By this time interest in

Bob's walks and talks had so grown so much that Dave King had to be employed as an "assistant tour guide" to take round half the people. On this most balmy of summer afternoons the Speen Open Gardens was also taking place and the visitors partook of refreshments so excellently prepared by the ladies of Speen W.I. in the Village Hall.

No doubt visitors from afar took Bob's "uniform" to be based on some locally evolved rustic style - and did they form the impression that in this part of the Chiltern Hills we speak with just a hint of a Scots-Canadian accent?

This particular group of walkers looks very attentive, so I'm sure that Bob hardly needed to use his cane at all!

Peter Dawson

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SPEEN CRICKET MATCH

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

In years gone by Speen had an active Cricket Club. With the departure of several of the cornerstones of the SCC, notably the unofficial groundstaff, things had gone to seed in more ways than one.

Something had to be done. Someone had to do it. Enter left the broad-shouldered Simon Cleaver, he of previous fast bowling and Grievous Bodily Harm fame in the annals of Great Missenden Cricket Club. A potent cocktail of sport, alcohol and food was occupying Simon's thoughts, and a plan was hatched after several hours of 'off-site consultation' with henchmen Jeremy Symondson and Tim Crossley (actually the planning meetings were an excuse to get to the pub and watch the world cup without interruption or castigation).

The recipe of cricket, Pimms, beer and a barbecue was drawn up and the ever-suffering better halves (Amanda, Christine and Caroline) were volunteered to assist with the catering planning.

After an embarrassing false start (Simon wanted to watch the British Grand Prix) the date of Saturday 18th July was finally agreed, thanks in no small part to Andy Gower's kind offer to postpone the Church Open Air Music Bash.

But who would play. Who could play? After much cajoling a league of able-bodied men signed up for the big day, many of whom had fond memories of schoolboy cricket but hadn't touched bat or ball in twenty years. Could the magic be rekindled? Would the ball still turn? Was that square cut still in the blood?

Play started at 10:30 am with a 'warm-up' that gave everyone who wanted a chance to bat or bowl. Timothy Rodgers provided the coaching advice and amazingly the weather was looking good.

After an hour and a half, the formal limited overs proceedings began. In another throw back to school days, teams were picked, and the Speenites put the Speenians into bat (just what do you call a resident of Speen?).

The Speenites had the best of it. Tight bowling and first-class fielding restricted the Speenians to a relatively modest total. Even Barry Stickings, one of the original SCC stalwarts, was impressed by his team's performance.

A leisurely lunch was taken, and everyone ate heartily courtesy of the barbecue funded by ticket sales and salads etc provided by the 'supporters'.

The Speenites cruised to an emphatic victory early in the afternoon. Time and the

weather was still on our side, and besides, the Speenians wanted revenge, so a second match was played with a one-hour time limit for each side.

This time it was different. The Speenians found new resolve and runs flowed. The Speenite line and length wilted under the pressure. Catches were dropped that were gleefully pouched in the morning. The scoring rate careered along and Speenians craftily avoided the 'six and out' trap.

The hour was up and the Speenians could smell blood. The Speenite openers took the crease, a reverse order strategy in place. Steady progress was made but the run rate was struggling. The tempo increased but then disaster struck as turning for a second run Mark Richards ruptured his Achilles Tendon, apparently not an uncommon occurrence for the age group predominating in the match.

After an interlude, the game resumed, the Speenites determined to overcome Mark's bad fortune. The minutes flew by, as did the ball.

Come the 60 minute, the last ball was bowled and the game was tied. Honour was satisfied all round, the day had been a great success with the exception of Mark's injury, and equally importantly £74 was raised for Cancer Research by ticket sales and through a lunchtime raffle.

Tim Crossley

Speen Planning Applications

There have been no Speen planning applications since the last issue of the News.

The following applications have been approved:

98/05537	Wayside Cottage, Hampden Road	Lean-to extension to garage.
98/05817	Primrose Cottage, Flowers Bottom	Front porch.
98/05575	Driftway House, Coleheath Bottom	Balcony.

The following application has been refused:

98/05556	Grubbins, Grubbins Lane	Conversion of garage to Granny Annexe.
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North Dean Pig Roast

Dawn broke on Saturday 18th July with overcast skies but at least no rain, the pig arrived at the site just after 7.00am by courtesy of Stephen's Pick Up, and was duly wired to the rotating spindle of the spit. After a struggle the pig which weighed 208lbs was lifted onto the spit over the fire which by this time was going well; and began rotating slowly, which would continue for just over 12 hours.

Full English Breakfast was served to the two Chefs (Roger Pyle and Stephen Rogers). as they began the long vigil attending to the needs of the rotating pig. Marquee's for the bar and the band were erected during the morning} and thanks to a small army of help-

ers, the food was prepared in the afternoon. With one eye on the weather, tables were set out in the field. Probably because of the awful weather during the week, ticket sales had not been as good as was hoped, but as kick off time approached panic began to set in as people began pouring through the gate, emergency tables were located and people rushed back home and returned with chairs, finally seating close to 250.

At last it was time to carve the pig, which was by now cooked to perfection, carved by the two chefs it was served together with the salads prepared earlier, by volunteers from the two charities, Cancer Research Campaign, and Mul-

tiple Sclerosis Society, and also friends and families of Roger and Stephen. A raffle of over thirty prizes, every one donated, raised over £230 Dancing to the live band continued until close on midnight when a very successful evening was drawn to a close. A band of young lads recruited to help clear up very generously donated their fees to the charity, well done lads. The final count resulted in a donation of £586 to each charity, thanks to all who helped make this such a successful evening. After many years of running these events it has been reported to be the last one, but lets say AU REVOIR and not goodbye to these very enjoyable PIG ROASTS. *J & D.P. Rogers*



Smiling faces at the "Summer Friends" meeting held in the village hall.

North Dean Fete.

There are three raffle prizes still uncollected from the fete.

Names: Vina Mezzelo.
Jarrett.
Ann Jones

(could this be the W.I. Person?)

Contact: John Rogers - 562041.

A special vote of thanks was passed at the September Committee Meeting in the North Dean Village Hall. To ALL those who so generously helped to make this years fete such an outstanding success.

**The final total by the way was
£1,300 profit!**

Summer Friends 1998

I hope this scheme continues. Wycombe District Council have used North Dean Village Hall for the last three years for similar ventures for children aged 5 to 14 years. It is a full days programme of arts and crafts (including cookery) and fun activities was run by a group of super teenagers under the guidance of Stephanie Tebbutt the Children's Services Officer for High Wycombe.

This cheery group kept the children occupied all day, and seemed as fresh at 3.30pm in the afternoon as when they started at 10am.

No need to worry about weather conditions these folk were geared for anything.

So mums, keep your eyes open for the next event, and talk to those who were there. If your child wasn't, they don't know what they missed!

Megan Chinn.

Rotary Fellowship Award



John Holmes (right) receiving the award from David Griggs, club president, during a Rotary Club meeting in July.

On 20th July 1998, John Holmes of Speen, was presented with The Paul Harris Fellowship. This prestigious award is given by Rotary Clubs in the British Isles to those few people who have made a major personal contribution to society which is well above and beyond the call of duty. The honour is given in recognition of outstanding achievement, evidenced by the fact that the Princes Risborough club have only given six awards since their inauguration eighteen years ago. John was a founder member of the Rotary Club and was the President of the club during its second year. He and Gloria have been key supporters of the Rotary Club activities over the years and this honour has been well earned.

Pat Voss

ADULT

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SPEEN SCHOOL

Please contact:

Gloria Holmes Tel: 488420

Speen & North Dean volunteers welcome.

Welcome
The return of

BONFIRE NIGHT

Speen Playing Field
on 7th November

More details to follow.
Please watch out for
Playing Field Association notices.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

Notice is hereby given that an inspector will be the Secretary of State for the Environment Transport and the to determine

The Buckinghamshire County Council
(Parish of Great and Hampden)
Definitive Map Modification Order 1998

and will attend at:

Memorial Hall, Speen Road, Upper North Dean,
Hughenden

On

Tuesday 17 November 1998

at 10.00 am

to hold a public local inquiry into the order.

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IF IT'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN SPEEN (BETWEEN 4.30 AND 8PM) IT'S ALSO "FISH AND CHIPS" NIGHT!

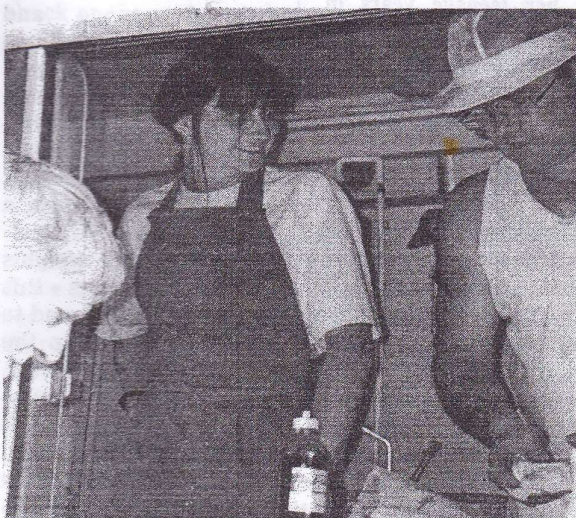
Gordon and Poppy Ellis handed over their fish and chips business to Steve Smith and Tony Salmon (I'll resist the obvious joke) this summer. Headquarters is the shop in Totteridge Road, High Wycombe, opposite the Iron Duke. Whilst Tony mainly runs the shop, Steve is usually the one out and about with the van. He gets round several pitches throughout the week including Lacey Green, another at Loosley Row, also at Saunderton, plus one at Bledlow Ridge and at Bryants Bottom. But it is the Chapel Hill pitch, conveniently situated outside his mother-in law's house at Springwood, which Steve prefers "more than most of the others put together" where the natives are so friendly and where his wife, Karen, helps out when not preoccupied with the needs of her and Steve's three young children (sixth generation of her family brought up in Speen, says Karen).

"Customers only have to ask and I'll stock up with it", said Steve, referring to the variety of items potentially available - whereupon he reeled off a number of examples, which included other delicacies I failed to note down - apart from chicken and sausages...just ask him, okay? And all served together with what seemed like a mountain of delicious golden brown chips.

So promising is the Speen pitch that Steve doesn't need to wait the 26 weeks before deciding whether to apply for a licence, he tells me.

Steve and Tony already plan to update their fishmobile with state-of-the-art wheels. Meanwhile, this "vintage" chip wagon inherited from Gordon and Poppy is doing sterling service and being kept immaculately clean right to the end. It's just that it's so slow for a dash to the coast...! To catch more fish, no doubt.

Peter Dawson



Karen "supervises" Steve as he serves Dave Eckle



Steve serves another well known face!

Honest, this was not staged!

Former owner Poppy Ellis came up for her supper just as I was interviewing Steve!

INCREDIBLE UNDERSEA DIVE INTO ANOTHER WORLD

by LUCY MONRO

The world is a bigger place than it was last week. No, I'm not talking about life on Mars! Rather than putting my head in the sand I have learnt to put it under water-and breathe'. The 'underwater world' as divers call what the rest of us know as the sea is an adventure simply waiting to grasp anyone who takes the plunge and dips their toes into the water. You can learn in your local swimming pool (and provide a great source of amusement for other bathers) or you can take a holiday with a difference and combine a week on a paradise island with a diving course.

Chose the latter and headed for the Indian Ocean - destination Maldives.

"So you want to learn to Scuba dive" The burly frame of the German instructor behind the reception desk at the dive school peers quizzically at me, "Ven did you fly?" What has flying got to do with diving? "This morning I've just arrived." "Zen you can start tomorrow - 9am here in ze classroom."

I head back to the chalet clutching a well-thumbed text book with instructions to read the first section (70 pages!) before the following morning. Learning is very simple - you pay a large amount of money to the dive school (this motivates you to get up early to attend the theory classes). In exchange you get a well-thumbed copy of the PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) text book and your very own diving instructor.

I always thought these were born as Australian Peter Frampton clones sporting names such as Rick or Kit. Mine was a 6ft red headed German called Michael. All single men should seriously consider this as a profession - I was not alone in spending a large part of the following four days holding Michael's hand.

After a night of study and three hours in the classroom learning about density and air pressure, I understand the relationship between flying and diving - less than 12 hours in between the two and you risk The Benz. I have also absorbed sufficient facts and figures to seriously contemplate taking up fishing rather diving!

It is all very simple - if you hold your breath un-

der water you will swell up and burst as you reach the surface - this causes death or severe injury. if you forget to pop your ears as you go down you will be in agony and if you eat curry or baked beans you will get trapped air that will expand as you surface -to avoid blowing up and exploding you will have to descend again until the air is expelled - hopefully you will manage this before your air runs out - if not the problem will solve itself - this is called drowning.

"Let's get wet!" - Michael grins - divers do not swim they 'get wet.' No doubt this gross understatement has evolved from the need to make light of the fact that you are descending into the unknown to swim around with any number of strange creatures that may well eat you. We try to return his enthusiasm and follow dutifully to 'gear up' feeling like the new kids at school who have joined half way through the term.

All equipment is provided - first a wet-suit. Women are parading with the confidence of the expert, in full length bright pink slinky numbers. Pushing all thoughts of exploding to the back of my mind I brighten up. A few moments later I am resplendent in a blue one with short legs and 'DIVE SCHOOL' on the

front. We put flippers on (these can be painted orange and used for Donald Duck impersonations if you fail the final exam and give up diving). Flippers are called FINS - divers we learn do not have flippers - he is a dolphin.

We strap lead weights around our waists - this is to help us sink and to stop us zooming to the surface and exploding. Then on goes the Buoy-

ancy Control Device (BCD) - which we fill with air. This is to stop us sinking by accident and sitting on a stonefish - if we do we will almost certainly get a mention in a trendy Dive magazine but we will not get to see it as we will be busy dying a horrible death.

We strap aluminium tanks onto our backs (do not believe anyone who tells you that aluminium is a lightweight metal). The tanks are hopefully full of air which we will breathe through an assortment of tubes which dangle around us - not surprisingly one of these is

Lucy Monroe spent her teenage years in North Dean and some of you will remember her as Lucy Townsend, an ardent horse rider. Now she is resident in Dubai and is a freelance travel and feature writer. Her articles are widely published throughout the Middle East, Australia and America and she has now been asked to write for a British Publishing House. She has given permission for the following article to be reproduced for the Speen and North Dean News. Lucy is now an experienced diving instructor but this is an account of her very first experience when learning to dive in The Maldives.

...Undersea Dive

called an Octopus.

Finally we pull on a mask that stops the water getting in our eyes - this is good as water in your eyes and nose is extremely unpleasant. You cannot see anything without your mask so there's no point in being down there anyway and if you breathe in through your nose you will drown.

As lumbering tortoises we stumble towards the lagoon. Within a few moments we have taken our first breaths under water. Instructors tell you that you will never forget your first breaths under water - they are right. The first breaths are tentative - every instinct screaming - you are a land mammal not a fish - you will drown! We breath - tentatively at first and then great gulping breaths - wide eyed surrounded by bubbles. I am reminded of children at a pantomime as we take in the reality of seeing and breathing underwater for the first time. This is INCREDIBLE and it's EASY'. The bubbles decrease and our breathing slows - taking us by the hand Michael leads us to the edge of the reef. Nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to see.

About 20 metres off the shore we float above endless blue - a deep azure tropical fish tank - so full we almost have to push our way through the kaleidoscope of colour as fish tap at our masks. We could have hovered all day- but diving is a serious business. Before we can float about having fun we must learn what to do when things go wrong.

Time for the first exercise - taking your mask off underwater (this is the mask that you are relying upon to protect you from the nasty salt water). All very simple you take the mask off - breathe in shock as the water pushes up your nose, swallow, cough and stand up uttering expletives as loudly as you can (to do this effectively whilst choking is not easy). At this point we provide great amusement for landlubbing sunbathers who witness our spluttering from the beach. This early exercise is all good experience - the sensations are what we know as drowning. It is useful to get the hang of it in shallow water - on Day 2 we will do it in 10 metres. By the time we have done this several times there is so much salt in our eyes that we cannot see even with our masks on. This is just as well - there are sharks within 10 metres and if we could see them we would probably shout out - which would mean that we swallow water and experience drowning again.

By the end of Day 1 we have learnt that the thing in our mouths is called a regulator - this is our lifeline. So long as we breathe through our mouths (and do not spit it out whatever happens) we will be breathing air not water and will therefore stay alive.

Day 2 - Michael explains the next exercise - taking your regulator out. We can hold our breath - but then the unfortunate side effect of swelling up and exploding comes into play. So - we breathe out - this is 'OK'. By the time Michael

allows us to put it back in our mouths we are desperate to breath in - regulator is full of water - we experience drowning again. This is still 'OK' - so long as we keep spluttering into the mouthpiece we will eventually get air - presuming the tank still has air in it at least it is always strapped to our backs.

Day 3 - take off the Scuba tank. I had always been told never to trust a man in a pin-stripe suit - nothing was ever said about diving instructors. Day 3 also sees the issue of a chart - this resembles a battleship card- it is easy to lose and almost impossible to read. It is quite useful though if we can read it and don't lose it as it is our protection against DCS - the Benz. If we get it wrong we will spend a long time in the decompression tank and may well be an invalid for the rest of our lives - we will be the lucky ones as we will be alive- if there was no tank we would die.

Day 4 - the final day, we make our first boat-dive. As we are the only beginners on the boat we drop all our equipment in front of the most experienced diver (who IS a Frampton look-alike) and connect our tanks up the wrong way (this is the equivalent of getting into the passenger side of your car clutching your keys instead of the driving seat). The dive site is easily recognizable - blue sea in the middle of nowhere. The boat stops and we all jump off -not the casual back roll of TV documentaries but great splashing plunges into the swell. As we jump we hopefully remember to hold onto the rope from the boat - if we let go we will drift away in the current. Hopefully we have also remembered to inflate our BCDs - if not we will sink immediately - remember the lead weights and the stonefish.

At the end of Day 4 we have seen sharks, stingrays, dolphins, turtles, coral gardens, shipwrecks, aquatic forests, clown fish batfish, groupers, lionfish and more than enough wonderment to make us vow to give up life as we know it and become Jacques Cousteau. We have forgotten that we nearly drowned and that the sharks may have eaten us. We laugh at the prospect of stepping on a stonefish and shrug off the chances of sitting on a stingray.

We will never again be able to sail across the sea without wondering what is beneath us and we have an irrepressible desire to wear shorts and baggy T-shirts saying 'GET WET SOON', with pictures of dolphins on.

Upon my return home I subscribe to a variety of Dive magazines and go in search of the pink wet-suit. More importantly I head for the local dive schools and the travel agent to check out the latest flight costs to other splashy sites.

So do it! This is the most INCREDIBLE trip you will EVER make.

Copywrite - Lucy Monroe.

IS THE HUGENDEN MEDICAL CENTRE IS BACK ON TRACK?

It is traditional for Parish Councils to take a short break during the summer, and Hughenden is no exception, but this year an important Planning Application came up for a Medical Centre in Hughenden Valley. As this has been a sensitive issue in the past, the Parish Council felt it should be dealt with by the full Council rather than by the Planning Committee.

A special Meeting was called on Thursday 30th July, and after a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed to support the application, which was for a larger building on the corner site at the bottom of Cryers Hill, where planning permission already exists for

the original application. The Parish Council did have some concern about the appearance of the building, and the amount of landscaping proposed (see details below), and these points were submitted as comments. Unfortunately the Wycombe District Planning Panel took a much stronger view of these points, and the application was turned down basically for the reasons stated by the Parish Council and for lack of detail with the planting.

I have spoken to Dr. Carless (see comments below) on a personal level and he is very concerned that the building should project the right image. Also, as an enthusiastic

gardener, he wishes to get the landscaping right and in the light of this, he asked if he might consult the Parish Warden for his expertise on this matter, and this has been agreed.

Whilst we agree there is an urgent need for a Medical Centre in Hughenden, we have to keep in mind that the proposed building is within the Green Belt and in an Area of O.N.B, and therefore every care must be taken to insure it fits in with the environment.

I believe every effort is being made to get this right, and on a personal note, I hope to see the amended plans go through when resubmitted.

*John Rogers. - Chairman.
Hughenden Parish Council.*

The Council members comments:

1. The design and materials used must ensure that the building has a softer look and be in keeping with the AONB and Green Belt. For example, the use of local Bucks "Multi" bricks and a more sympathetic roof line and tiles."

2. Detailed landscaping should be presented by the applicants before any decision is given. For example, the use of more effective bunding, as in the 1994 application (93/6446/FF) is recommended.

Dr. Carless added the following comments in a letter dated 1st September:

"We were naturally very disappointed by the rejection of the proposed plans. The residents in Hughenden seem strongly in favour of the plans and I am in no doubt that we will have to go through the rigmarole of obtaining further letters of support to convince certain members of the District Council that there is in fact virtually unanimous support for the building. This is certainly the impression I get from the patients who use the Surgery.

Unfortunately every delay prolongs the appalling car parking situation outside the existing Surgery with the attendant risk to both people who use the surgery and cannot park in the existing car park and the people who use the road. We are resubmitting the plans..... but frankly I am not particularly optimistic"

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FUND RAISING

I have always been a soft touch when it comes to charities and fund-raising, so naturally when I arrived in Speen I volunteered for door to door collecting. This was my fourteenth year of collecting for Christian Aid (organised by John Payne for Speen and North Dean) and my tenth year collecting for Save the Children. I used to collect in Hughenden for Rita Pulley, the co-ordinator for the entire Wycombe area, whom I know very well and as I had always promised that I would co-ordinate my new "patch" when I moved, I gathered a team for this year through neighbours and friends.

We had two weeks to collect for Save the Children, alas the two wettest weeks, and many of you will remember as

we trudged up and down North Dean dripping on everyone's doorsteps. Despite overlapping with another charity collection and barring one single rejection, everyone was very generous and keen to know who I was. I even gathered a small plant from a lady in Chapel Hill (many thanks, it has done beautifully).

Not everyone likes collecting door-to-door but in all the years of knocking on doors I have learned much about my neighbourhood and those who live in it, plus gaining the superb satisfaction of knowing we have raised a little more for those unfortunate souls in our world who need help.

I have listed below the totals raised from all the door-to-door collections made in Speen and North Dean. I am aware that there have been

others but do not know the totals. If there are other organisations who can give us totals for their collections, I am sure everyone would be interested to know.

A big thank you to all who contributed when I interrupted their meals and evening times. If anyone else is interested in supporting next year's collections please ring me and I can tell you what's involved.

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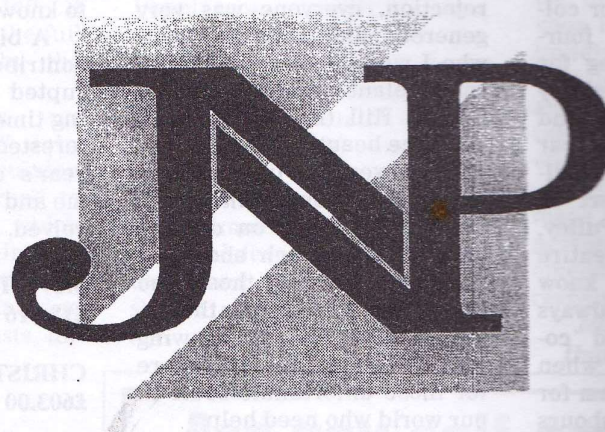
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Who's Who, In The Area

Speen Residents Association	Paul Rogerson	488315
Speen W.I.	Barbara Collett	488348
Speen Horticultural Society	Ted Drew	488738
Speen Playing Field Association	Phyllis Harris	488734
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Village Hall Committee, Speen	Catherine Butler	488412
Village Hall Committee, N.D.	Megan Chinn	563074
Speen Pre-school	Mrs. Scholer	562936
Speen School PTA	Peter Symonds	488016
Speen Tennis Club	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Millenium Project	Martin Stockley	488101
Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Cubs/Beavers/The Youth Group	Rob Lenko	488337
Baptist Church	Andy Gower	488 758
Speen/N.D. Good Neighbours	Margaret Jones	488246
Mother and Toddler Club	Caroline Crossley	488203
Neighbourhood Watch	Jackie Newman	488474

ATTENTION MUMS & TOTS

Toddler Group is up and running again
on
Tuesday mornings!

10:00am - 11:45am, North Dean Village Hall.

All welcome.

STOP PRESS

P.S. A little bird was at a recent Buckingham Palace Garden Party and returned home to excitedly exclaim "guess whose ice-cream they were serving!"

Megan Chinn 563074

STOP PRESS

The Village Hall will be
increased from
£5.50 to £6.00
per session

If you wish to advertise in the

Speen & North Dean News

Contact: Martin Hart – Treasurer
Tel: 01494 488528

WHAT'S ON? - In Speen & North Dean



OCTOBER.

- 1st Speen W.I. in the village hall. Member's Evening...
- 3rd Speen Village Hall Pre-school Race Night.
- 5th Cherry Dell, Coffee Morning, MacMillan Nurses, 10:30 am – Bring & Buy Sale
Every Monday starting 28th September The Chapel will be running another ALPHA Course.
- 7th Speen Baptist Church, Time Out 10am-11.30am "Handling Children's Behaviour."
- 10th Speen Village Hall 7-30pm Parish Council Meeting.
- 14th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out 10am-11.30am "Families under Pressure"
- 16th Speen Village Hall Village Quiz.
- 17th Speen Village Hall 8-30am Ladies Breakfast.
- 17th Speen Village Hall Jazz Evening. In Aid of Rotary.
- 18th Speen Village Hall Millennium Beating the Bounds Walk.
- 20th Speen Village Hall Repeat of the talk by Peter Symonds "Coleheath Bottom" with slides in aid of the Millennium Fund.
- 24th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out 10am -11.30am "Supporting the Family through Tough Times".
- 31st Speen Stores. Home made Pumpkin Soup morning with Halloween Mask Competition for the children.
- 31st Speen Village Hall Millennium Fund " Old Tyme Music Hall."

NOVEMBER

- 4th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out 10am-11.30am. Feedback from "Family Foundations"
- 5th Speen W.I. Annual Meeting with CVS. Talk " Is there a future for Bucks Villages?"
- 7th Speen playing Field Fireworks Party.
- 7th North Dean Village Hall Race Night. 7pm for 7.30 prompt. Bar-beer & wine. Supper. £6.00 .Tickets Megan Chinn 563074.
- 11th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out. 10am-11.30am. Gloria Holmes. "Mountains & Mules in Morocco.
- 17th North Dean Village Hall Public Enquiry re. footpath/bridleway.
- 18th as above.
- 18th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out. 10am-11.30am. Suzi Rose "Style and Image".
- 21st North Dean Village Hall Beetle Drive. 7.30pm prompt. Supper bring-your own drink £4.
Tickets committee members or Megan Chinn 563074.
- 25th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out. 10am-11.30am. Family Advent Calendars.
- 28th Speen Stores. Mulled Wine and Panettone morning. Children's Christmas tree decoration Competition.
- 28th Speen Village Hall Xmas Fayre in aid of Village Hall Funds.

DECEMBER.

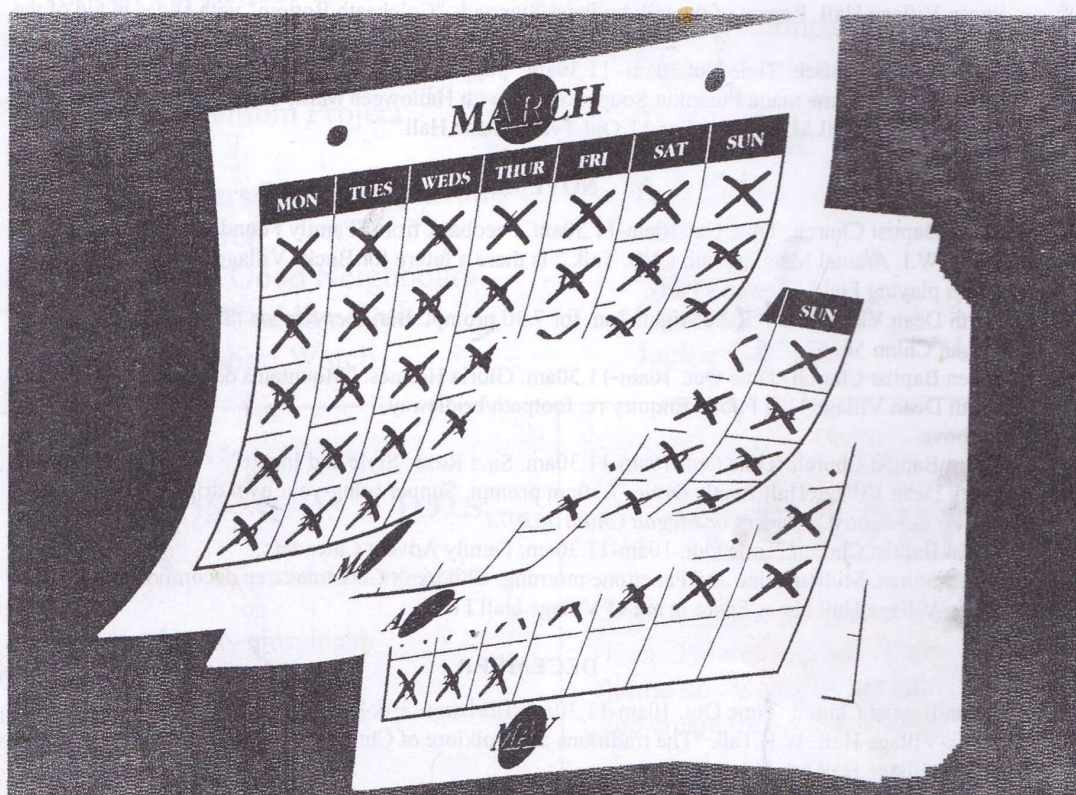
- 2nd Speen Baptist Church. Time Out. 10am-11.30am. Christmas Books.
- 3rd Speen Village Hall. W.I. Talk "The traditions and Folklore of Christmas" by Mrs. J. Dineen
- 5th Speen Village Hall 5th Men's Breakfast.
- 9th Speen Baptist Church. Time Out. 10am-11.30am "Christmas Unwrapped
- 16th Speen Baptist Church .Time Out. 10am-11.30am "What's in a Celebration".
- 17th North Dean Village Hall. Village Xmas Social Evening. 7pm. Drinks & nibbles.
- 20th Speen Baptist Church. 6pm. Carols by Candlelight.
- 25th Speen Baptist Church. 10.30am Family Celebration.

JANUARY.

- 16th Speen Village Hall Ladies Breakfast.
- 23rd. North Dean Village Hall. Annual Citizen's Lunch 12.30pm for 1pm.
This traditional event can only be a success if YOU are there. Enjoy the company of your fellow villagers, plus a fabulous meal cooked by your committee. Open to anyone over 60.
Please contact Pat Rogers Tel:562041 who is compiling the invitation list.
North Dean Fete 1999. August 7th.

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