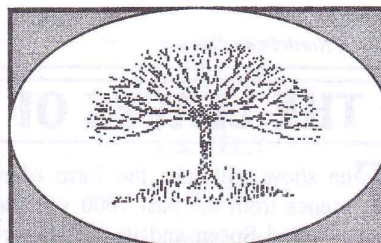


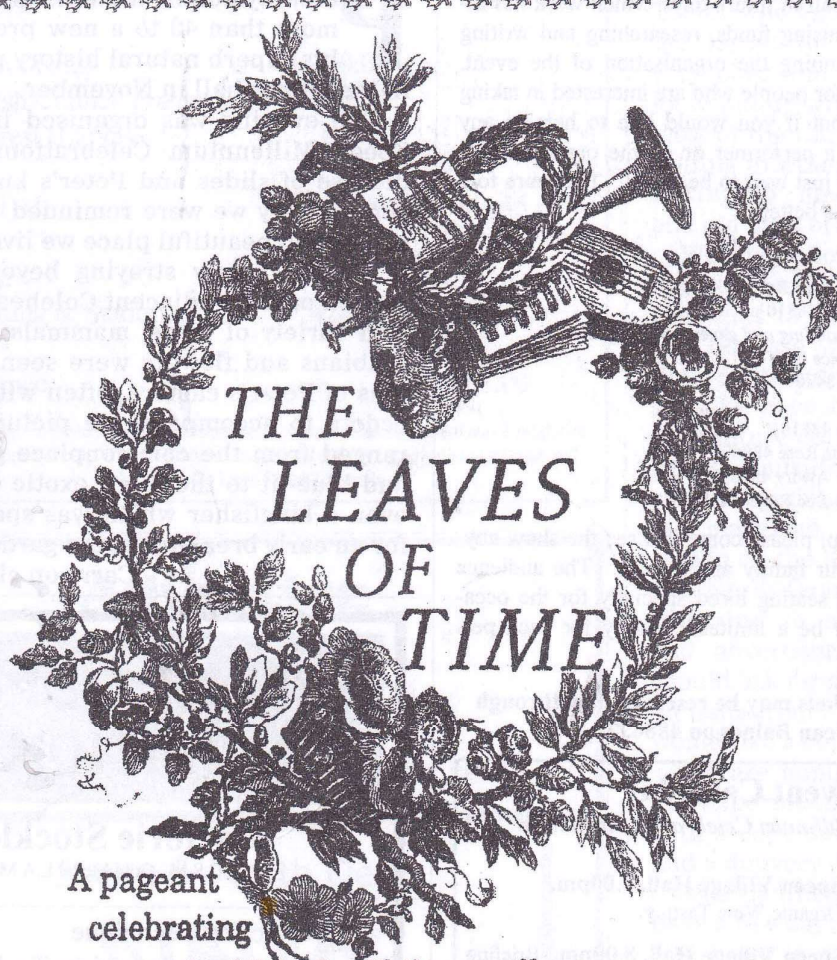
Speen & North Dean

NEWS



February 1999

Winter Issue No: 16



A pageant
celebrating
the life of a Chiltern village
over the past 1000 years

THE LEAVES OF TIME

On July 8th, 9th and 10th this year Speen will present the village's own commemoration of the turn of the Millennium. A pageant entitled "The Leaves of Time" – to reflect the village's close historical association with the woods around it – will be performed in the evening on the village playing fields.

INSIDE

Public Inquiry
Land of the Long White Cloud
Millennium updates

The Flint's Story
An Exhibition in Venice
Beating the Bounds

The India Enfield Challenge
The Scandinavian Cottage
What's on in Speen & North Dean

THE LEAVES OF TIME

The show will take the form of real or imagined scenes from the past 1000 years as they may well have affected Speen and its people, presented so as to entertain as well as inform and with appropriate music.

The idea is to involve as many villagers as possible, of all ages, so that this becomes a truly communal event that we shall all recall in future days. Much work has already been done raising funds, researching and writing the script, and planning the organisation of the event. Briefing meetings for people who are interested in taking part have begun, but if you would like to help in any way – whether as a performer or on the organisational side – please don't just wait to be asked! The more folk that are involved the better.

Other contacts are:

Performers and stage hands –
Marjorie Stockley 488101
Setting up, dismantling and general organisation of the performance area –
John Holmes 488420
Musicians –
Martin Stockley 488101
Costumes – Suzie Rose 488696
Publicity – Jude Awdry 488599
Choreography – Sue Rogers 488877

If you can't help, please come and see the show anyway, and bring your family and friends. The audience will sit on banked seating hired specially for the occasion, so there will be a limited capacity for each performance.

However, tickets may be reserved now through Jean Baines on 488637.

Event Calendar

For Speen Millenium Celebration functions

February 26th	Speen Village Hall, 8.00pm. Organic Wine Tasting.
March 2nd	Speen Village Hall, 8.00pm. Briefing meeting on "The Leaves of Time" (see front page) for people outside Speen who may be interested in helping.
March 19th	Speen Village Hall, 8.00pm. A Pictorial History Evening – bring your old photos of local people and places.
April 13th	Speen Village Hall; 8.00pm. Read through script of "The Leaves of Time" (see front page) for potential performers.
April 16th	Speen Village Hall, 8.00pm. An evening of Bucks Songs and Verse – both Classical and Country.
April 23rd	Speen Village Hall, 8.00pm. St George's Day Quiz.

(Thanks to John Davies for designing "Speen Millenium" and "Leaves of Time" logos)

The Natural History of Speen



Peter Symonds treated an audience of more than 40 to a new presentation of his superb natural history photography, in the village hall in November.

The evening was organised in aid of the Speen Millennium Celebrations. Through the use of slides and Peter's knowledgeable commentary we were reminded what a fascinating and beautiful place we live in.

Despite rarely straying beyond his back garden or from adjacent Coleheath Bottom, a rich variety of birds, mammals, insects, amphibians and flowers were seen through the lens of Peter's camera, often with a little anecdote to accompany the picture. Subjects ranged from the commonplace grey squirrel and blue-tit to the more exotic Glis glis and even a kingfisher which was spotted looking for an early breakfast at the garden pond.

Carry on clicking Peter!

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Coleheath Bottom
Speen

Bucks HP27 0SZ.
Tel: 01 494 488101

Email: mastock@globlnet.co.uk

SPEEN & NORTH DEAN NEWS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year end 31st August 1998

B/F August 1997		536.75
Income:		
Advertising	290.00	
Parish Council grants	140.00	
Interest (Lloyds)	14.45	
TOTAL	444.45	444.45
Outgoings:		
Printing & Stationary	428.20	(428.20)
Balance		553.00

The Speen & North Dean News is published as a non-profit making journal and is produced solely by voluntary help. The publication is supported entirely by advertising revenue and grants from the Local Parish Councils.

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Editor's Letter

Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive in the production of the magazine, especially Reg Taylor who again has done all the layout for us. He works very hard and at times has a lot to put up with! I have to say most of the time it is great fun putting together the magazine, talking to new contributors, and old ones of course.

We seem to be victims of our success as I have had to apologise to several contributors because we could not fit their contributions into this issue. We have held them over for a future edition. Also many people outside our delivery area are asking for copies of the magazine, as we deliver free to all the houses in Speen and North Dean, and send the magazine to all contributors and advertisers, we feel we should ask for a donation of £1 an issue from anyone else who would like a copy.

We are hoping to bring out an experimental mini issue with a copy date of 1st March and a delivery date of 1st April (is this significant?) It will only have a few pages of news as we feel there is a lot happening. Of course if there is no news there will be no issue.

The next full issue will have the copy date of 1st June and the delivery date of 1st July. Please continue to get contributions in as early as possible.

I would be delighted to hear YOUR views and ideas, good or bad, about the magazine. You are welcome to call me or leave a note.

Glenn Hart.
Halcyon,
Chapel Hill.
Tel: 01494 488528

SPEEN STORES

COMPETITIONS

Sharon and David had one of their first competitions in the shop in October. It was for the best Halloween Mask made by a child. They hung them from the ceiling of the shop and very spooky it was too.

There were so many entries and they were all so good that Sharon and David decided to give two prizes, one for older children and one for younger.

The prize winners were chosen by Gloria Holmes and they were:

Older winner:

Alex Symonds -
with a papier-mâché mask.
(Pictured.)

Younger winner:

Michael Smith -
with a very clever ghost
mask.



Judge, Gloria Holmes with "Older Child" class winner, Alex Symonds.

Speen Shop Charities Committee

A Speen resident is being sought to represent Speen village on the above committee. Nomination slips are currently available from Speen Stores and an election meeting will be held in Speen Village Hall on Monday 8th February 1999 at 8pm. to elect the representative. All Speen residents are invited to this meeting.



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!

SPEEN STORES Events:

Speen Stores Special Saturdays:

Wine Tasting - on a date to announced.

Children's Easter Card Competition

The cards will be hung in the shop and judged on April 2nd
Entries delivered from 13th March.

Winter opening times:

Mon. to Thurs. 7:30am until 6pm.

Fri. 7:30am until 7:30pm.

Sat. 8:30am until 2pm.

Post Office.

Mon. until Sat. 9am until 1pm.

Are you interested in a home delivery service from Speen Stores please get in touch with David for more information?

Your Letters

Thanks

There are probably a few people in Speen who would not have seen my notice of thanks concerning David in a recent issue of the Bucks Free Press.

I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to say a personal thank you for the very many cards, letters and flowers sent to me following David's death.

It was comforting to see so many of you at the crematorium and afterwards in the village hall. David would have been heartened to know the kindness and support shown to me over the last few weeks.

He was a great Guy and after 45 years of marriage I shall miss him a lot.

Once again, I can only say THANK YOU to my family who carried me through this sad time, and to all my friends in Speen.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Jones.
Thatched Cottage,
Hampden Road,
SPEEN.

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to whoever is responsible for what I think must be a new technique for reproducing the photographs in the Newsletter.

It is good to be able to recognise faces and places without having to refer to the accompanying text. It is also good not to have the comments of Ed. after each letter and article.

If Ed. wants to put forward his views let him write his own articles or letters.

Jo Banks.

PLEASE PLEASE!

Dear Readers

Next time you are having a clear-out and don't know what to do with old blankets, shoes, coats, clothes, etc., for children and adults.

Please give me a ring and we will have them re-cycled for reputable charities who will distribute them at home and abroad.

Please telephone me to arrange collection, on the number shown below.

Olivia Cowan
Tel: 488766

Speen School Re-Union

After our very successful re-union in 1994 we are planning to have another one.

We are holding it in the Spring this time on 13th March in the Village hall- one reason for this date being that Daphne (nee Lawrence) will be on a visit from her home in Australia and would love to renew old acquaintances.

We shall have a buffet meal as before and will make our own bar with our own contributions. Anyone who has attended Speen School will be very welcome. Please phone either Catherine Butler 01494 488412 or Jim Lawrence 01844 344610, as we must know numbers in advance.

We shall look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Catherine Butler.

Dear Editor,

May I congratulate you on "Your" first magazine. What an improvement all round! How refreshing to be able to read an article from beginning to end uninterrupted by comments which, presumably, were intended to be editorial witticisms! Far from enhancing the article, they just served to make the reader increasingly annoyed and frustrated.

Luckily you don't impose your thoughts on somebody else's literary efforts. I look forward to many more issues of reasoned, balanced reporting.

Name & address supplied.

Ed's Comment:

We have taken careful note of these comments for the future!

Footpath Public Inquiry

A Public Inquiry was held at North Dean Village Hall on Tuesday 17th November 1998, to determine the Order made by the Bucks County Council to change the designation of Footpath No. 9 in the Parish of Great and Little Hampden, into a Bridleway.

The inspector appointed was Mr. John Bingham. There were 31 people present at the inquiry. Seven supported the application and twenty-four objected. Bucks County Council and the Chiltern Society were represented. The proceedings were as follows.

- a) Supporters present their evidence, calling witnesses if required.
- b) The objectors can cross-examine these witnesses.
- c) The objectors then present their case
- d) Supporters can cross-examine these witnesses.

Those wishing to speak or be a witness for either party must register their interest with the inspector and they are then called after each witness for questions. At the end of the inquiry, any members of the public present can then raise any matters they wish.

The inspector then visits the site.

The inquiry opened with a statement on behalf of Bucks County Council supporting the change of status, which extended to 17 pages.

Much written evidence had already been submitted and 27 letters had been received from objectors. The proposers of the bridleway, together with their witnesses submitted evidence to the Council by questionnaire and interview.

The Chiltern Society pointed out that Bucks County Council were opposed to the proposal when originally submitted in 1995. When asked why the Council then made an order against, apparently, their own recommendations. They explained that the committee responsible overruled their

recommendations in response to pressure from alleged users of the footpath for horse riding.

Then the supporters of the application were cross examined by the Chiltern Society and Mr. Creak, who is the main objector.

The main points raised during this cross-examination were.

1. Some horse riders had used the path in the past because other people had told them it was "all right".

2. Although public footpath signs were present during the whole time in question, none of the supporters actually admitted seeing any of them. Mr Creak found this statement astounding and he produced photographs to support his statement.

The Council representative pointed out that it was their duty to review all rights of way under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to see if any change in the light of current usage and changed circumstances.

Mr. Creak pointed out that there was a perfectly good alternative access for horse riders. The supporters said they have to use public roads to access this route.

Based on statements by supporters the County prepared a graph showing claimed usage of the footpath extending back many years. This inquiry would only take evidence admitting use prior to 1992. Out of 29 supporters, 22 of them have ridden for less than 20 years before 1992. It was pointed out that the statistics on this graph were not convincing. For example that in 1991 the horse riders made 1692 journeys on this path, that is 5 times a day.

It was confirmed by the objectors that the footpath signs had always been in place. They had monitored the paths and dates were recorded.

Mr. Creak produced maps going back well over 100 years confirming that it was used as a footpath but it was never used by horses. He pointed out that if this path was converted to a bridleway then 3.5 metres was needed to be cleared width along the whole of the length to constitute an approved bridleway. This could only be achieved by removing some very well established trees these should not be removed in order to allow for a bridleway.

Witnesses were then called for the objectors.

The appalling state of the surface due to the use by horse riders was pointed out. The number of riders giving evidence was disputed.

Mr. D. White as Chairman of Lacey Green Parish Council raised matters discussed at Council meetings but not previously brought up at the Inquiry, as follows.

Bucks County Council has to maintain the surfaces of bridleways but not footpaths. Should the path be converted the Parish Council would call on the Council to fulfil their obligations. This would be a drain on public money. Also that those using the footpath as a bridleway were committing an offence.

It was also pointed out that Hampden estate had tried to deter the riders by placing staggered logs. They were asked by the County Council to remove them as they were a danger to the riders.

It should be noted that the County Council has spent quite a lot of money on this inquiry (thousands rather than hundreds) and the public may feel that there are better areas to spend this money on.

The Bucks County Council then made their summing up in support of the application the Inspector closed the Inquiry at 3.30 pm.

This is an edited report from Mr. Don White. The complete report by him can be read by anyone applying to the magazine editor.

PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE UPGRADING OF FOOTPATH NO 9 TO A BRIDLEWAY

The inquiry took place at North Dean Village Hall on 17th November 1998.

Among those present were Mr John Bingham, independent inspector, Mr John McCormack, Solicitor Bucks C.C., Mrs Margaret Freeman, Definitive Map Officer Bucks C.C., Mr. Bassey, representing Chiltern Society, and Mr Peters.

On 20th June 1995 Mrs. G. Holmes applied to the Council to have the footpath upgraded to a bridleway. This application was supported by thirty-three riders, many of them also walkers who had ridden the path for the relevant period of twenty years, 1972-92 and before.

In 1992 the landowner, Hampden Estate, had had some problems with horse riders using the path and had erected obstacles. These were later removed and the Estate made no objection to its use by riders or walkers.

The order to upgrade the footpath to bridleway was made on 2nd March 1998.

Objections to the order were received from twenty-five people, three of whom subsequently withdrew. Their main reasons for objecting were that the path had never been a bridleway and had been a footpath on every map for over fifty years, and that horses cut up the surface and made it muddy.

There were heated arguments as to where the footpath signs were and if they were always visible during the period. Seven riders gave evidence that they had ridden the path in good faith and had never been stopped or challenged. There were many letters to support this claim.

The solicitor^s said that a footpath is not legal forever and if enough evidence exists for change, the law must take action.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m. and those who wished went off to walk the path. We await the inspector's verdict.

Isabel Harrison.

PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE UPGRADING OF FOOTPATH No 9

The findings of the
Planning Inspectorate.

This is a résumé of a twelve page report produced following an Inquiry into the footpath and proposed bridleway. Copies of the findings and conclusion of the inquiry were sent to all objectors and other interested parties.

The report was presented under various headings as follows

Submission of the parties. Background to the order. User evidence. Actions of the Landowner. The objections. Other matters- The accuracy of the map. The width of the path. Conclusions.

The case for the objectors. Evidence of use. Footpath Signs. Barriers and other signs. Accuracy of the order.

Conclusions

4.6.1 The level of use during 1970's and early 1980's has not been shown to be sufficient.

4.6.2. Clear evidence of the existence, at both ends of the route, of "Public Footpath" signs.

4.6.3. The route should remain classified as a Public Footpath and the Order should not be confirmed.

Summary.

5.4.1 I do not consider that the condition of use "as of right" required by Section 31(1) of the Highways Act 1980 has been met by use of the route in the face of the "Public Footpath" signs.

5.4.2. The actions of the landowner are not material.

5.4.3. "I do not therefore, consider "a right of way as a bridleway subsists over the route in the order."

5.4.4. "I have regard to all other matters raised at the Inquiry, but there is nothing in them which outweighs the considerations leading to my decision."

"I have decided not to confirm the Order."

W.J. Bingham,, OBE, MRIN. Inspector.

A message from our Local Councillor

Dear Residents

The Footpath.

"You must be there! Come and listen" said the Chairman of the Parish Council "Are you sure Don? Footpaths are a Parish and County matter no-one has involved me in this problem."

However I took his advice and there on 17th November in a packed Village Hall I spent just one morning of the inquiry which has exercised the minds of so many of you. The whole event went on much longer and several people had come equipped with a packed lunch!

Ancient maps were brought forth and sincere testimonials given by villagers from both sides of the dispute, most of whom were known to me, and I was intrigued to find representatives of the Chiltern Society were involved. (When my husband and I first moved to Lacey Green we would go out clearing footpaths for the Chiltern Society.)

The Hedge

In the autumn I represented the Chairman of WDC at a meeting of the BUCKS FORUM and took the opportunity to raise "The Problem" with the Chairman of Highways. Revealingly his initial response was "Well of course at one time the County Council would have just come along and cut any hedge allowed to overhang inconveniencing pedestrians...." The conversation I received after this conversation confirmed and repeated that previously given - a legal delay! I'm sure you now know that the documents have been signed and hopefully the task will have been accomplished by the time you read this. I have cut my own hedge at least eight times while this controversy has gone on and often felt tempted to come out in the dead of night and deal with the matter!

No doubt like myself you have been sad to witness the planting of additional laurel and the neglect of a hedge which has been allowed to grow

over a low boundary wall right across a grass verge.

When I attended a Parish Council Meeting in December to make my report I was concerned to learn that someone had not received their copy of WDC 'Community News'.

Wycombe District Council has kept its promise to keep you informed and has invited you on several occasions to be involved in local consultations. The Wycombe District Plan is now at the "Deposit Stage" and there has been much interest. The pedestrianisation of Wycombe has been achieved and work on the redevelopment of the Western Sector is most exciting and our transportation plans have received government approval and a two thirds increase in Government funding. The document welcomed, "The clear presentation of the linkages between objectives, strategies and schemes and this is reflected in the substantial increase in funding allocation for this years bid."

Jean Gabbitas



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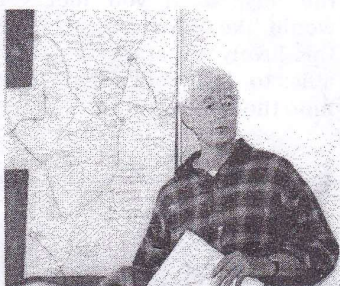
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Beating the Bounds of Speen.

October 18th was a glorious early Autumn day, which probably accounted for the high turn out - nearly 50 people - for the beating of the bounds of the ward of Speen, organised by the village Millennium Celebrations Committee.

A short explanation of the historical background to this ancient tradition and how it would apply to Speen that afternoon, was given by Martin Stockley in the Village Hall before leading a four and a half mile walk around the borders. The walkers were



A Pre-walk briefing from Martin!

given hazel wands with which to beat the bounds, but were warned that their use for other traditional purposes - such as the beating of the children of the parish at certain sites to ensure



A pause for a while to go over a few local facts with walkers.

that they remembered the boundaries - was not to be encouraged.

The party made brief halts at various spots where points of local interest were explained (researched by Bob Johnston) and the more leisurely paced were given an opportunity to catch up with the leaders. The bounds are always beaten in the direction which the sun crosses the sky, i.e. clockwise and so we went from Speen over to Walter's Ash then round to Speen Farm, past Turnip End and down to Highwood Bottom, before returning for a "shared" tea in the hall.

It was marvellous to see so many folk enjoying the afternoon but we hadn't realised

quite how long it can take 4 dozen folk to cross a stile - a bit like a traffic jam that occurs on a motorway when the car in front of a queue slows down. Therefore, the final stage had to be foreshortened to ensure that home base was reached well before the evening drew in. Beating the bounds should really be carried out in May on Ascension Day or Holy Thursday and it was suggested after this event that we should do it again allowing a longer time to do the full walk (5-6 miles) and perhaps with a half-way stop for lunch. This seems like a good idea. If not next year then certainly in the year 2000. So keep those boots ready for another day.

Martin Stockley

But Most Of All.....Yourselves!

The Music Hall came to Speen in October with the Village Varieties, an old-time music hall entertainment, directed by Marjorie Stockley. The show was a fund-raiser for the Speen Millennium Celebrations.

A full house packed the Village Hall and members of the audience, many of whom



Jean Baines dresses the part for the evening.

were resplendent in old-time costume, sang their way through a programme of well-loved songs, interspersed with comic turns from members of the Play Actors, a group of local actor/entertainers which Marjorie runs. (Any budding Speen or North Dean talent would be welcome to join she

says - please ring 488101). The audience was able to keep its

tonsils lubricated by visits to the bar, smoothly run by Brenda and John Davies, and Jean Baines put on an excellent supper of shepherd's pie and mushy peas with trifle to follow.

The evening was chaired by Mr. Paul May with volleys of veritable verbal virtuosity and Martin Stockley provided the piano accompaniment. A Good Old Time was had by one and all.

Martin Stockley

Lacemakers' Meeting in the Speen Village Hall.

I was surprised and pleased to be invited to visit a lacemakers' day in the village hall. Surprised because I didn't realise that there were sufficient lacemakers to require the village hall for a meeting, and I have never heard of them doing this before.

The day was to raise funds for the village hall and started at 10am until about 4pm. There were about 40 lacemakers in all from surrounding villages as well as Speen itself.

Lunch is provided and a stall for the purchase of materials is running all day. The lacemakers have great difficulties obtaining materials other than what they can buy at the these Lace Days as shops in the area do not have

what they require.

The lacemakers' meetings have been running about once a year in Speen Village Hall



Lacemakers at work in the Village Hall.

for at least 10 years and the lacemakers meet in each others' houses every 2 to 3 weeks. They make the lace for special family occasions, weddings, christenings etc. Some do donate small pieces

of lace for charity events.

The next lacemakers' day is at Skirmett in about a month.

I was interested to find out how people get involved with lacemaking, and how they can find out about it if they are interested. There are adult education classes locally, and the lacemakers' have a big lace exhibition every year at the NEC Birmingham, to which the Risborough Lacemakers' and the Hazlemere Bodgers (two local lacemaking groups) usually go.

Everyone was very busy lacemaking and enjoying the day, so if you feel you would like to learn more about this lovely old craft I might be able to tell you where they hide themselves.

Glenn Hart

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IT'SPEEN - GOOD'



**A review of the Benny Goodman Jazz Concert.
Speen Village Hall . Saturday 17th October 1998**

At the speakeasy, created in the candle lit setting at Speen Village Hall, on Saturday 17th October to a packed house, the Martin Hart Jass (old spelling) Quartet, featuring Mike Wills on clarinet had their toe tapping audience enthralled throughout the evening with Benny Goodman Classics.



Martin Hart enjoys a light moment during the evening's concert.

The sometimes controversial life of Benny Goodman was brought to life through the stories and anecdotes, sensitively and fondly narrated by Martin Hart interspersing the musical numbers.

Martin explained the drives and obsessions that shaped and brought BG from very humble beginnings in Chicago and New York City to the foremost band in America from which many of the later famous jazz bands were subsequently spawned.

Starting with the life of little Benny, eighth in the family of twelve, sent with two other brothers to "five cent (music) lessons" run by the local synagogue, he had been given a clarinet on the basis of the smallest instrument to the smallest person.

From that chance encounter grew and established the famous band, and jazz standards

known the world over.

In addition to providing the background and development of the music, Martin also explained for the less jazz literate, the structure of the pieces played, and what determined the Benny Goodman "swing jazz" style in composition and



Mike Wills hard at work on Clarinet

playing.

The quartet's melody line confidently and tunefully set by Mike Wills' clarinet was most ably and scintillatingly carried forward by Mike Webber on the vibraphone, whilst the rhythm and the bass line was perceptively provided by Trevor Evans on bass, and the whole brought into sharp focus by Martin Hart on drums.

Some thirty numbers played during the evening encompassing the wide range of Benny Goodman's repertoire of swing, blues and ballads including memorable renditions of "Memories of You", "Moonglow" and indeed and untitled interpretation christened by Trevor Evans, the Bass player as "Speen-Good"

It certainly was a "Speen-Good" evening, the band being recalled by an appreciative and enthusiastic audience to play "The world is waiting for the Sunrise" as an encore.

Stan Bale organised the jazz evening to raise money for Princes Risborough Rotary Club charities. The evening raised a splendid £287 for the fund.

Freddie O'Hare



Stan Bale introduces an evening of Jazz.



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Aotearoa – Land of the Long White Cloud.

Aotearoa is the native Maori's name for New Zealand. There is no doubt that, from the sea, or coming in by air, there is almost always a long, white cloud over the country.



A chance meeting with Si (Simon) and Jan Merry-Martin in Speen Church in the Autumn of '96 during the Flower Festival, led to an article being published in the Speen and North Dean News. Despite her busy schedule Jan did not forget her promise to send a contribution to our magazine. Those of you with Issue 12 to hand (Autumn '97) can reread her delightful article on Simon's memories of North Dean and Speen, until his emigration to Australia in 1962 and finally to New Zealand in 1964.

A copy of the magazine was sent to the Merry-Martins with the request, please could we have a follow up on your life and experiences? We would like to thank you Jan for taking time to share these with us. *Megan Chinn & Doris Redrup.*

It is a lush, fertile country, quite close to the size of England and Scotland, and a similar shape, except there is a strait in between the North and South Islands known as Cook Strait, or in local parlance 'The Dirty Ditch'. As always, there is much rivalry between north and south.

The islands are very much of volcanic formation, still having several active volcanoes in the North Island. The centre of the North Island is also a geothermal area, with hot springs and bubbling mud pools, and surprising steam vents in the surrounding countryside. This area is known as the Bay of Plenty, with the central town being Rotorua.

The Maori cook in the hot pools there, and there have been occasions when we have lost a tourist to the pools. It was said that the Maori were once cannibals, so there are many black jokes made about people disappearing around the area. The local joke is that their favourite food was "puha" (cabbage tree leaf) and "pakeha" (white settler).

The South Island is much cooler, with a long range of rugged mountains down the West Coast, much in the style of the Rocky Mountains in Canada and the States. The Southern Alps, as they are known, are snow covered for most of the year.

The Maori, although not originating in New Zealand, were well settled in the country when the white settlers arrived. They make up approximately 10% of the population and have a strong cultural position and recognition within the community. They have a colourful dance and spiritual tradition, are strong, beautiful singers, and their language is much used by non-Maori, known as Pakeha. They also have a unique way of cooking food in the ground, known as a "hangi". The cultures are reasonably well integrated, and in the main, enjoy sharing each other's way of life.

Si too had changed. He first arrived as a development engineer, then qualified as an industrial chemist in Australia, but due to ill health from the stressful executive lifestyle, worked through the medical industry to eventually become a Natural Health Practitioner, using the skills he learnt on the way to improve his own health and wellbeing to the point of overcoming his health problems, enjoying a full and rich lifestyle using natural foods and herbs to keep himself and his family well.

When he first emigrated to Australia from the UK in 1962, he arrived with his first wife, Jean, and two young children, Susan and Stephen. He lived in several different states of Australia, enjoying the many different ways of life and learning much on the way. The friendliest people he met were those living in the outback, who often didn't see another soul for months on end. When Si arrived at their homestead, he felt like a famous personality. People came from miles around to visit, yarns were told and news exchanged - and he was lucky to get away again. The hospitality was wonderful. They were hard places to live in, huge properties with no-one for miles around. Everyone had to be very self sufficient. No going down to the local store for supplies, they had to be hauled from miles away or home grown. It was a very tough life. On one occasion, Si travelled into the bush of outback Queensland for a barbecue, returning the following day. The total journey there and back was nearly 1,000 miles. In Australia, that was not considered out of the ordinary.

Simon first arrived in New Zealand on a business trip in 1964. The trip and lecture tour went so well that he was asked to stay and set up business. In those days, the country had an incredible way of life. Basic foods were subsidised and were incredibly cheap. Like Australia, the country wanted to encourage settlers and much land was given to those who were prepared to pioneer into the rich farming areas. It was truly the good life, and the country deserved the title it was given by its inhabitants - 'Godzone'.

Country life in New Zealand was, and still is, also very tough. Many live on isolated properties under the mountain ranges, although there is not the hot, parched distance that is experienced in Australia. The land is cooler, greener, and normally has quite a high rainfall.

Si spent the next thirty years living between Australia and New Zealand, and in that time saw many changes take place in both countries.

New Zealand has now taken whole heartedly to the free market economy, and the consequent reduction in services in such a small population (3.5 million) has taken its toll, with high unemployment and a huge poverty pool, with an ever expanding gap between rich and poor. The overall wealth of the country is still obvious, but the fruits are enjoyed by fewer these days.

There are four main cities in New Zealand. Auckland, the largest population (approx. 1.5 million) is at the top of

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

the North Island and is based around a huge volcanic harbour (no longer active). It is a subtropical city, with a harbourside lifestyle, lots of yachting and swimming - long sandy beaches - fast and crowded. Wellington, the capital, is wet and windy, again based around a harbour, but not such a relaxed lifestyle. A good cultural city, more indoor pleasures. Christchurch, on the east coast of the South Island, is a plains city, very flat, with the huge, often snow capped Southern Alps visible on the west side of the Canterbury Plains and the Port Hills to the east of the city. It is known as the Garden City, with the pretty Avon river (much like it's English name-sake) flowing through the centre and large areas of parkland. Always lots of blue sky and white clouds, with great sunsets and sunrises reflecting off the mountains, especially in winter.

Then we have Dunedin, in the south, with a large Scottish heritage, cold and often wet, but very pretty and with lots of rugged scenery, pipes, haggis and tartans. The city is centred around the oldest University and Medical School in the country, the University of Otago.

Simon has lived in each city at various times, and enjoyed them all for their own, very unique character.

The 'Kiwi', as the New Zealander likes to be known, is an unusual being. Once very kind and caring, always willing to welcome a stranger to their home and take care of them, they have changed quite a bit with the free market economy, lost their down-home charm and become a bit brusque and uncaring, which is sad to see. The old 'Kiwi' was a real charmer, with a dry sense of

humour, who would go out of their way to help you find your way, or make you feel welcome. The first business contact Si made in New Zealand was on a handshake and a promise, which was all that was ever needed here.

Those days have long gone, and even a carefully written contract doesn't mean much in the way of security.

On a personal level, Si's youngest son, Sean, was born whilst they lived in Tasmania, in 1964. Fifteen years later, Si's first marriage broke down, and he left Perth, where they were then living, to move back to Tasmania. It was there that we met a year later. We had some tough times in that first few years. We were both suffering from the strains that broken marriages bring. I had a son, James, of four years old when we met. Si became his step-father and did a great job of helping me to bring him up. We had a very happy partnership of 18 years, when Si died suddenly in April of this year. As you can imagine, he is very much missed by us all.

I would like to say thank you to all the people from Speen and North Dean who have written and sent cards. Your beautiful words and thoughts have helped me to get through the dark times that the death of a husband, partner, lover, best friend and good mate. If I haven't written back, I will within the next few months. I'm still adjusting to being alone. I know some of you know too well how that feels.

Thank you all for being there when we were in Speen and North Dean. I have so many happy memories of that time with you, and I know Si was really happy to have met up with you all again. It fulfilled one of his major dreams, he was always talking about the great times he had whilst living in that area.

Jan Merry-Martin

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Did you go to Bucks Art Week?

It took me a few days to realise that most people didn't know what a super FREE outing or visit they could have. Bucks Art week, Visual Images Group or Open Studios happens every year. In fact it usually lasts two weeks and you can visit studios and look at the work going on, chat to the artists and, if you really like their work, buy something.

It isn't often you can get this sort of access, and if your artistic inspiration is getting a little jaded, it is just the way to become interested in art again?

Maybe the impression given by the scheme is that you need to be "into" art yourself, but it may be a really pleasant afternoon finding some lovely bits of Bucks in order to find the studio you want.

This year's map in the leaflet was not so good. To find a photographer in Frieth it told us to go through Henley (of course it was regatta week) in order to get there from High Wycombe! After driving for nearly an hour we finally found it near Lane End.

The studio by that time was due to be closed, but there was "open" on the door and the super photographer said of course we could come in; it was a miracle anyone had found her. My husband spent ages talking cameras lenses etc. After appreciating the pictures while I just enjoyed everything about the place including her small son dressed as a dragon. She was well travelled and happy to talk about her experiences.

Telephone numbers were exchanged (hang on a minute) and she certainly inspired me to try to produce some more original compositions in my paintings.

The first exhibition we went to was at St. Dunston's Church in Monks Risborough which in fact was a collection of artists. Rosina Flowers, who paints mainly water-colours, was perhaps the most well known locally.

There was also a wood carver

who was working in the church yard, but with finished pieces inside the church and mosaic artist who had made a bath for Michael Caine and some beautiful pieces in the Grisdale Forest in Cumbria.

There was a designer of eccentric furniture, and a very good print maker. This was an easy exhibition to start with, because if you didn't like something you had others to look at in the same building. The church was also a wonder to look round.

It is always worth while looking at a craft that you may know nothing about like book making and binding at Haddenham. Not only did this lady bind books, but she made the paper, did the art work, picture and writing. She had produced special individual books for births or events of some significance. These were a real treat to anyone receiving them and simply to touch. She had also made books like a labyrinth with pages like a maze, to unravel, with quotations or poetry.

We went to another exhibition in Whiteleaf of painting, pots and quilts. Again some of the ideas, techniques and colours used gave food for thought.

I was also anxious to visit Wycombe Cane and Rush works. Having worked opposite this building for some time, I had always wanted a chance to get in

it. The workshop itself had been established in 1880 and the present craftsman had been there since 1979. Having looked at his work I will be extremely critical of any seats that have been rushed or caned in future. He also chatted about the building being Grade 2 listed and other buildings that had been in the area. Downstairs there were two very different crafts on show with artists to talk to.

One was an artist in silk painting which were actual paintings in frames. Here I'm afraid we got into a discussions about local art training good and bad. I must say the pictures were glorious. The other artist was a furniture artist, and here we saw really unusual furniture decorated with paintings and decoupage with some great ideas of what you could do given enough courage and skill to old and boring furniture.

Another group exhibition was at the King's Head Centre in Aylesbury. I must admit to never having heard of this place or having been there. The art and craft work was again very different.

The list of artists who open their studios is lengthy and there is no way you can manage to see them all. Some must be left for inspiration for another year.

This year's Art Week takes place between 10th to 25th July.

Glenn Hart

The Village Quiz

This year the Speen Village Hall Quiz was held on 16th October. As usual, nine teams were competing for the Annual trophy. It was nice to see a team from the Speen Good Neighbours again after an absence of a few years. The quiz was again organised by David King and family who provided us with our usual sausages and mash, at half time which was delicious and beautifully served.

In the absence of the

Chairman on holiday, the Village Hall treasurer, Don White opened the quiz and introduced the teams. A thoroughly enjoyable evening passed very quickly and for the second year running the trophy was won by the Speen Parent Teacher Association. All the teams competing scored very good marks and there were only about ten marks between the top five competitors. The Village Hall no doubt will be holding another quiz next year.

The event is very well supported and most years have to restrict the numbers attending due mainly to the facilities available. The quiz was held in aid of the Village Hall funds and raised a total of £154.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make this again such an enjoyable function.

John Holmes.



The winners collect the Trophy.

Left: Peter Symonds receives the Trophy from Don White.

Right: The winning team.



Speen Bonfire Night

Judging by the excellent turnout, villagers were obviously delighted by the return of the Speen fireworks after a years absence.

At the time of writing the figures have not been finalised, but our profit was in the region of £600. This will go towards maintaining and enhancing facilities on the playing field.

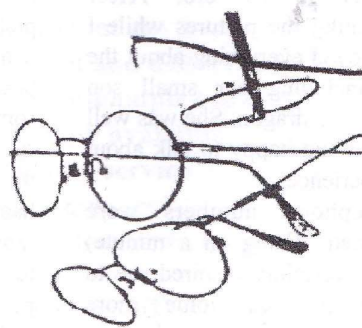
A new departure was the sale of lager and mulled wine. We are extremely grateful to Sharon and David from Speen Stores who organised this and gave the P.F.A all the profits. We'd also like to thank Geoff and Sandy Carter who let us use their "back garden" for setting up the drinks table. We hope this can become a regular feature of the bonfire night, along with the raffle, so please be sure to bring plenty of cash with you next year.

Thanks are also due to Ian "Mr. Microphone" Waterman, to the Red Cross, and to David Evans,, who had the awesome task of judging "The Guy"! Maybe the youngsters didn't realise there was a Guy competition - but please, can we have a few more entries next year??

You can start looking forward to the Fun Day to be held on 13th June 1999, the next Firework Night on 6th November 1999, and The Speen Bonfire on 31st December 1999. They will all to be held on the Playing Field.

Jenny Cowan

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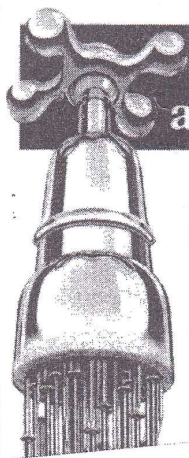
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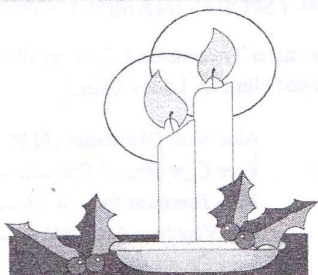


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NEWS FROM SPEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Andy writes:



CHRISTMAS 1998 AT THE CHAPEL

Sunday 20th December at 5.30 and the Chapel was filling up for the annual Carol Service.

The members of the orchestra gathered around Gwen at the organ in the minstrel's gallery. This year's Christmas tree was cut from Doug and Doris Redrup's garden in North Dean. It stood majestically decked in its finery at the front, rising virtually to the roof of the chapel. As usual, a large number of villagers were packed into the building for an hour's worth of celebration.

Sung worship was punctuated by the nativity retold by the very people involved all those years ago, including Mary herself, one of the shepherds (obviously quite fazed by the whole affair), one of the travellers guided by a mysteriously bright star and many others.

Following the service, folk were able to enjoy a huge variety of mince pies and coffee with friends from the village and beyond.

On Christmas morning itself, the chapel was, again, well attended. The children

from the Sunday school performed a variation on the nativity. This was presented by the 7-11 year olds narrating the story whilst the 3-6 year olds acted out the scenes. Senior students assisted with the stage direction. It was extremely well done. During the service we sang some less well known songs, most of them of recent composition and all with beautiful words. A lovely start to the day.

**Great to see you all
at the Carol Service.**

My New Year's challenge:

Why not check out our regular activities? Take your pick from the following:



"Breakfast with Friends and ..."

Ladies Breakfast

Saturday, 23rd January

Barbara and David Sparks - A Fair Trade Story.

Mens Breakfast

Saturday 20th March

Dr John Wright O.B.E. - A Scientist's Story.

God speed...!

We all wish Andy a successful and enjoyable visit to India. He has gone to Hyderabad which is in the very dry centre, of the South of India. It certainly has an appealing description on this cold wet, stormy winter.

....and safe journey.

Both at Speen Village Hall starting at 8:30am.

Summary of Weekly Church Activities

Sundays:	10:30 am	Worship for all ages including Creche and Sunday School for 3's-11's and Teens discussion group.
	6:00 pm	Music Group.
	6:30 pm	Meeting for Prayer.
Mondays:	8:00 pm	'Now to Live the Life' Course in Speen Village Hall.
Wednesdays:	10:00-11:30am	"Time Out"
Fridays:	7:00 pm	"Meet With God" - exploring Christianity through activities and the Bible. Open to all curious 12-16 year old

P.T.A. News



On Friday 9th October there could be seen a lot of strange characters wandering towards the school. They were the children (and teachers) dressed as book characters such as Captain Hook, Batman, Beauty and Matilda. It was Book Week, with a sale of books included in the week's activities. Everyone was anxious to take part in the dressing up, and heightening the awareness of everyone to the wonderful books available to children today.



I have to admit a biased view, but one of the best car stickers I have ever seen is "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

Glenn Hart.



Some of the cast of Pinocchio! This year's school play.

The children and staff at Speen School put on an excellent version of Pinocchio before Christmas which captivated parents, grandparents and elder brothers and sisters. There were some notable individual performances but all the children participated enthusiastically. All this was despite the fact that there are no 8 year olds at the school these days and the lead roles were held by 7 year olds and the youngest in the cast were only four.

The School play was followed by a Christmas Party for the children with Father Christmas arriving in a pony and trap. The 4 year olds from the reception class were then the stars of the show at the Nativity Service at Lacey Green.

The loss of the 8 year olds has severely hit the school budget and the Parent Teachers Association is anxious to, at least, make good the anticipated shortfall in the school budget of £5,000. A number of events have been arranged for 1999, and with support from parents and the

wider village community we will achieve our target.

It is also very beneficial to the school budget if parents with any children under four, whom they intend to send them to Speen School, can register them at the school at the earliest opportunity. Funding is provided in anticipation, whereas funding for children who apply at the last minute takes time to work through the system.

We would be particularly grateful for support with our Auction of Promises from villagers and local businesses (as well as school parents) to fill a catalogue with around 100 pledges. If you can offer one or two pledges, or items to be auctioned, please complete the slip below and return it to me before 20th February. The possibilities are endless. For example you may be able to offer to prepare a meal; or the chance to participate in a sport or hobby that you are experienced at (pony-riding/flying/ski-ing) or something connected with your business or career.

Thank you in anticipation.

Please return by February 20th.

My pledge is to offer for auction:

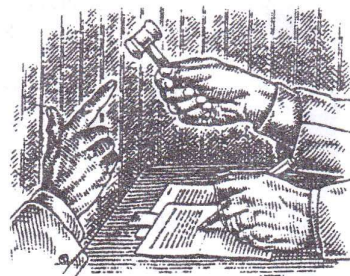
- 1).....
- 2).....
- 3).....

Reserve price (if necessary).....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:.....



Please return to school or send to Peter Symonds, 10 Abbotswood, Speen, HP27 0SR. Tel: 01 494 488016



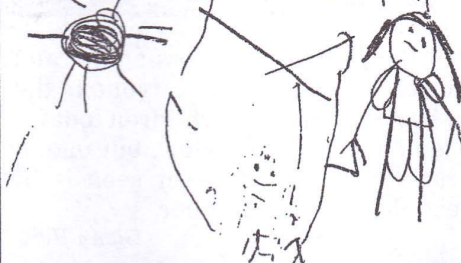
The Children write to say how much they enjoyed.....

18.12.98 Ross

I enjoyed the party and the games
and I enjoyed Father Christmas.
My best game was heads and
tails and we made hats
for the party.
We did Pinocchio ^{our} for school
play and we went to
church and we went
to see St John's play.

18.12.98

Katherine Rose Greening
I did enjoy the party in the
school and Father Christmas
did come I liked the party
hats and I did like the
present from Father
Christmas it was a puppet.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 13th February 1999 - 3.00 pm Children's Play - 'THE TINDERBOX'

A performance of 'The Tinderbox' will be provided by a touring theatre company for 4 to 11 year olds for about one hour. All village children and their parents and friends are welcome. (Anticipated prices: Children 13.50 Adults £5.00). Tickets will be available shortly from Jenny Quinn 01844 274569 or Jennie Greene 01494 488352.

Saturday 13th March 1999 - 8.00 pm AUCTION OF PROMISES


A fun night at Speen School when you will have the opportunity to bid for a vast range of 'pledges' - from a fortnights use of a holiday home to a load of manure. It is likely that a light meal and a bar will be provided. Tickets will be advertised closer to the date.

Saturday 3d July 1999 - 7.30pm Black & White Ball II - 'SOME LIKE IT EVEN HOTTER'

A repeat of last year's hugely successful Summer Ball, with the same band (Some Like It Hot) already booked. The event will again be in a marquee in the school grounds and will include a meal.

Previously we have been very fortunate in having elaborate lighting rigs provided free of charge. Unless we can find a new generous source our overheads will increase and ticket prices are likely to be higher than last year. However any guests paying in-AIU before the end of April will be able to buy Early-bird tickets again for £20 each.

Please return the slip below with an appropriate cheque, payable to Speen School P.T.A. as soon as possible.




Please reserve (No.) tickets for the "Some Like It Even Hotter"
Summer Ball at £20 each, (to include dinner.)

Cheque enclosed in full settlement for.....(No.) Earlybird Tickets.
Please return no later than 30th April 1999.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:



....the play, the party, the games, Father Christmas (and his presents!)

18.12.98 Sophie Watson

I liked the party because we played pass the parcel and heads and tails. Benney won a game. I saw father - christmas and he gave me a present. Also I liked doing the nativity play and pinocchio. I also liked it at the nativity play because the vicker father richards come. We lit up some candles. There were four to eight up I got to blow them out with samantha waterman.

Elliot 18.12.98
On Tuesday I did a play, and Pinocchio in the afternoon and the evening and I was Giovanni the worlds strongest man and everybody clapped.



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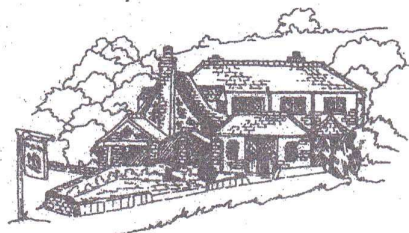
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- Scotch salmon gravadlax with oriental dressing £7.95
- Carpachio of courgettes, sweet anchovies, olives, Parmesan and rocket salad £6.95
- Fresh foie gras with onion preserve £8.95

MAINS

- Smoked salmon and fresh Devon crab £10.95
- Roasted breast free range chicken with a wild boar, sherry and leek sausage, Beaujolais sauce £11.95
- Char-grilled loin veal with wild mushrooms, cream, red wine sauce £12.95
- Grilled breast of Lumsdale duck with spiced red cabbage, red wine sauce £12.95
- Roasted best end prime lamb, apricot, mint and mango chutney £13.95
- Grilled fresh Devon scallops and bacon with a chive and lemon butter, tomato sauce £13.95
- Fresh fillet of seabass, char-grilled, with wild mushrooms and butter sauce. £13.95

DESSERTS

- Grand Marnier and chocolate iced parfait with a vanilla sauce £4.95
- French apple tart served warm with ice cream £4.95
- Whiskey and caramel delice with a coffee sauce £4.95
- Cassis blackcurrant miroir with a raspberry and vanilla sauce £4.95
- Farmhouses cheeses with grapes, walnuts and celery wheat wafers £4.95
- Bread and butter pudding with vanilla ice cream £4.95

The above selection is also available on the set price restaurant menu.
All dishes are subject to availability. Prices are correct at the time of going to print.

The Old Plow is opened for lunch Tuesday to Sunday inclusive. Last orders are taken at 1.45. We are also open for dinner Tuesday to Saturday inclusive and last orders are taken at 8.45. For reservations, telephone 01494 488300.

Chef Patron and Restaurateur, Malcolm and Olivia Cowan



Speen WI

The October meeting was a "members' meeting". That really means a lot of talking goes on and then comes the eating. We had a pot luck supper; it's amazing how we always get a good variety of sweets and savouries. We all agreed we had a good time, talking and eating.

Beatties Evening

A good crowd of W.I. ladies and their friends descended on Beatties of Aylesbury, one evening in October. We were ushered up the goods entrance lifts and then shown to the restaurant, where a meal was waiting - prawn salad with baked potatoes and chocolate gateaux. Some ladies were seen to be scoffing ice cream - supposedly they were off gateau that night!

We all had a raffle ticket and Corinne won first prize, which was a teddy. Which young son would be the happy recipient, we wondered? I was lucky enough, (or was I?) to win the last prize out of the hat, which turned out to be phials of various perfumes (you could have fooled me) - some smelled awful - they went in the bin! Unless, of course, I can flog them to someone else!

After that we had a very enjoyable fashion show, which was really the whole point of the evening. We were shown some very nice clothes, at some rather pricey prices. We were then let loose to spend all our money - or not!

Around 9-15pm we were ushered back out down in the lifts and home. A very enjoyable evening, all told.

Barbara Collette

In December the meeting of the W.I. tries to start the Christmas Celebrations with a little good food and wine supplied by the committee. The business is kept as short as possible to allow plenty of time for the speaker followed by refreshments.

The speaker for December spoke about Christmas traditions old and some much newer that expected. Father Christmas wears red and white because it was and is the colours of Coca Cola and they used Father Christmas in their advertising and wanted him in their colours. Up to that time he had all sorts of colours, green and purple for example. Mrs Dineen had some wonderful examples of old cards for Christmas with all sorts of things included in the pictures because they had a meaning to the recipient at the time. We all had a very enjoyable evening. Mrs. W. White won the competition for a decorated cracker.

Glenn Hart.

Future Events

Thurs March 4th:
Bullets in the Beech Trees.
Mr J Cunningham.
Competition: A piece of World War II Memorabilia.
Bloom of the Month.

Thursday April 1st:
Birthday Party.
I'm not superstitious but....
Dr A Hogarth JP.
Competition: A Lucky Charm.
Bloom of the Month.

Thursday May 6th:
Resolutions Meeting.

Thursday June 3rd:
Hanging Baskets, demonstration - Mrs V Hoare.
Competition: A Single Summer Bloom.



Charities

Money raised for various charities in Speen and North Dean

Coffee Morning

A Coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Nurses. A "country wide coffee morning" in Speen made £180 on Monday 5th October at Cherry Dell

The WI

WI Carol singing raised £113 which was presented to Wycombe General Hospital.

The Rotary Club

The Benny Goodman Jazz Evening raised a grand total of £287 which will be used for the support of various charities.

Speen Fete

In spite of very poor weather the Speen Fete was able to distribute £100 to each organisation in the village, for which contribution we are very grateful. The fete committee was also able to give a generous contribution of £50 towards the cost of the Seniors' Lunch.

Quiz Evening

The Village Hall Quiz which helps to support repairs and maintenance to the Village Hall raised £154 this year. Thank you to all the people who took part and supported this event.

Speen Bonfire Night

At the time of writing the figures have not been finalised, but our profit was in the region of £600. This will go towards maintaining and enhancing facilities on the playing field.

OPEN NIGHT AT THE HAIR(REPAIR)WORKS

On a warm, clear evening in September, Hairworks opened the studio to allow customers to sample their services for free. Hairworks' owner, Claire Maddock, ensured we were refreshed with hors d'oeuvres prepared by Sharon and wine served by Saturday helper, Vicky Simmonds.

Lucille demonstrated the decorative nail art which uses a mixture of varnishing, minute painting and tiny transfers to a stunning effect.

Angela and her assistant came all the way from Sheffield to demonstrated L.V.P.'s range of make-up with some very stunning results. Christine managed to get some hair styling in amongst all of this and was pleased to book further appointments.

Kate Coward was only able to attend for a short while to demonstrate her range of aromatherapy products because she had to dash off to another demonstration. I was invited to demonstrate colour analysis and managed to get in everyone's way using volunteers, including Glenn, to show everyone what colour analysis is all about.

There was a good turn out and everyone showed enthusiasm for the studio and products as well as enjoying meeting each other. Why don't we do it all again some time? *Suzi Rose*



Top: Gloria Holmes submits to Angela, demonstrator.

Bottom: Refreshments with Claire Maddock (second left) after all the concentration.

HUGHENDEN SURGERY UPDATE

Linda Elliot, Deputy Practice Manager, tells me that work is due to start of the new surgery at the bottom of Cryers Hill in Spring, with a possible completion date of late Autumn. The Practice still awaits the final "rubber stamp" of approval but this is a formality. Currently, the details of the design are being finalised and should anyone have any queries, or wish to view the plans, they are invited to speak to staff at the surgery on 01494 563275.

The following text is reproduced from a notice which recently appeared in the Hughenden Surgery.

We, the Doctors and staff are delighted to announce the latest plans for the new surgery have been approved by the Wycombe District Council Planning Committee. The success of this application is due to the overwhelming support given by the patients and local residents. All your efforts are appreciated.

Approval of this long overdue development will enable us to get on with establishing the range of primary care facilities and services that are sorely needed by the local communities. The new building will also allow us to cater for future changes in primary health care services.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us to achieve the approval.

Dr Carless & Partners

Planning Applications

Hughenden Parish Council

DAL/98/06852/FUL

Construction of single storey rear extension at Caed Mille Failte, Speen Road, North Dean.

No objections were made.

MAS/98/06991/FUL.

Construction of new detached garage at road level. Conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation at Bowley Rise, Speen Road, North Dean.

No objection provided this does not conflict Green Belt Policy.

MC/98/07498/FUL.

Construction of two storey side and rear extension at Shalimar, Speen Road, North Dean.

No objection provided within Green Belt policy i.e. 50% rule.

The India Enfield Challenge

Renny Oliver, son of John and Christine, will be setting off in January on a grueling motorcycle ride across southern India to raise money for the charity Global Cancer Concern.

The Challenge involves a 5,500 km, nine day ride. The team will ride Enfield 350 bullet bikes which are now made in Delhi to the original English designs of the 'fifties.

Starting on the Kerala coast, the route will encompass jungle, mountain ranges and temple towns via tracks and unmade roads. The ride will be filmed by Channel 5 and shown on British television.

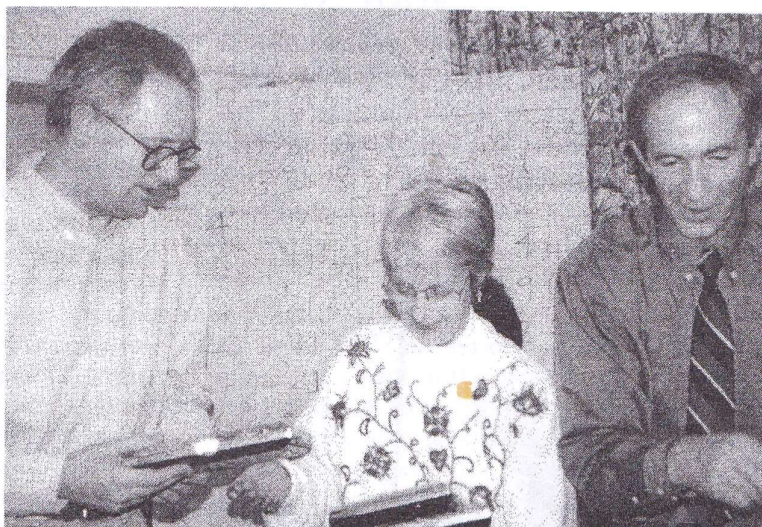
Renny hopes to raise £2500 through local sponsorships and events. The whole Challenge should raise around 500,000.

A Quiz Night was held in the Speen village hall in November to support Renny's efforts. 65 villagers and friends had another type of challenge, grappling with questions prepared by Eleanor Evans with John Holmes as the quiz-master. Steve Smith provided the half-time sh-and-chips supper. The "Quality-not-Quantity" team (there were only four of them) won the prize. £230 was raised towards the real Challenge.

Jean Baines did her bit to help the Challenge with a Fun Bridge lunch at her house. Twenty enthusiasts of varying abilities had a soup and sandwich lunch, followed by progressive bridge, moving from table-to-table. The enjoyable event raised a further £60.

if anyone would like to help Renny with funds or sponsorship you can contact him on:

Telephone no: 01 494 488409.



The Prizes are handed out by John and Christine to the winners!



The winners showing the much treasured prize!



And those that didn't quite win!!

Hughenden Parish Council

One hundred and four years after it was created, Hughenden Parish Council has at last commenced the building of a new Parish Office at The Common, Great Kingshill.

The work has begun and is expected to be finished by March next year, when the Council will take up "residence." The Clerk to

been run from the Clerks home and the Parish Council felt it was time to be dragged into the new millennium with a new home.

Discussions as to the future of the Parish Council office arrangements began on 4th January 1996 and after great and lengthy consultation, the new office was decided upon. There had been a portacabin in use for over ten years, but was no longer viable, bearing in mind the amount of expensive equipment that was coming into use at the time. Therefore a decision was taken to replace the portacabin with purpose built brick building to house the Clerk and the Council Committees, as well as giving a base for the Warden, John Moorby.

Permission for the building was given by the Wycombe District Council Planning Committee earlier this year and permission was granted from the department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, as there was a departure from the Local Plan, the land being labelled 'Green Space'.



John Rogers – Chairman, Hughenden Parish Council
"Turning the first sod"

the Council will then be based at the office and the Council's Committee meetings will also be accommodated. It is intended that the full Council meetings will continue to be held at the small hall at the rear of Hughenden Village Hall.

For over one hundred years the Council has

ADULT

Help with reading required at
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Gloria Holmes Tel: 488420

Speen & North Dean volunteers welcome.

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where children flourish"*
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Highly trained staff and
excellent educational programme*

*For further information
Tel 01494 488160*

THE SCANDINAVIAN COTTAGE IN A CORNER OF SPEEN

In 1937 my parents had a pond constructed beside the junction of the Monkton wood path with Hampden Road. It was a made pond, the bottom being concrete as was the retaining wall around a central island to which a wooden bridge gave access from the shore. There was already a copse of fir trees in that corner and now shrubs and trees were planted around the pond and on the island.

The mainland plantings were predominantly firs, birch, one or two maples, water willows and along the hedge line, yellow macrocarpa. On the island were ornamental cherry, cotoneaster (tree), a variety of shrubs and one water willow - this last proved, almost thirty years later to be a disaster, its roots breaking the retaining wall around the island but in the meantime, had grown into a splendid tree.

At the '37/38 Ideal Home Exhibition my parents saw a Scandinavian wooden house constructed from prefabricated sections, the exterior ones being cedar wood. They sought to buy one to be put up beside the pond, but were told only the show house was in the U.K. and no plans were in hand to import more, due to the feeling that war was perhaps imminent. However, my father persuaded the exhibitors to sell him the show house to be put up at Speen at the end of the exhibition. So we can say that Cedar Cottage has had a fair proportion of 1¼ million people walk through it!

Harry Ward the builder saw to the foundations and when the sections were delivered the house was up in two days. The original wooden shingle roof was replaced. The house was thatched by Mr. Albert Lawrence - the cost of the work and covering with wire (against rodents and birds) was just under £45.00.

The summers of 1938 and 1939 were fine ones and a small home-made boat and later a canoe, used by my brother to canoe down the Thames were "on the water". The winters were cold with hard frost and much snow so the pond came in handy for skating. Incidentally, I remember tobogganing not only in the field as well as down Par-slows Bank, but also down the road - one wouldn't

Late summer 1940, a British plane was downed in College Plantation and exploded. I was told Harold Janes, living in the cottage, was out hosing the thatch so it did not go on fire. About that time a pillbox was built in the copse beside the road, its firing aperture facing up the road to Monkton - as it was brick with no cover for retreat once under enemy fire it seemed far more dangerous and ineffective than firing from among the trees and ground cover.

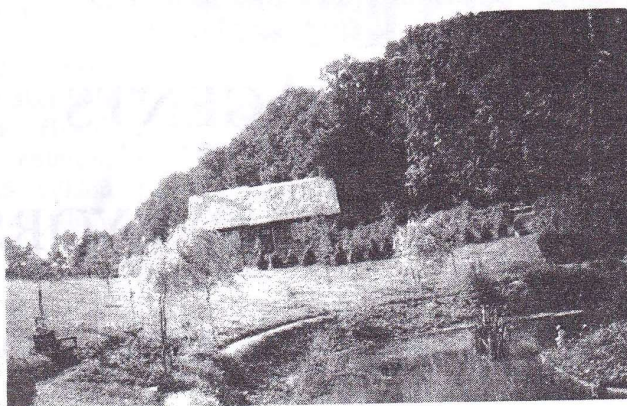
Cedar Cottage was let to R.A.F. personnel based at Bomber Command during the later war but in the severe winter of 1947-48, my uncle and aunt Frank and Mabel Robertson moved in, having sold their farm in Fife. They were pleased to find many other Scots in Speen, especially the Graham Campbells at Monimail, who also came from Fife.

Uncle Frank has a varied life: he sailed to Burma as a cabin boy and then went out to be a cowboy in Arizona/New Mexico

in the 1890's. After returning to Scotland to get a book-keeping qualification, he went out to Argentina to run a 10,000 acre estancia with a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle for about 15 years before returning to farm in Scotland till he retired at 86. (On 24th November 1998, the death of the oldest man in Britain was recorded; he died at 109, having farmed till 104. Another Fifer - the bracing climate there kill or cure?) I can only remember one bit of the Chisholm Trail cowboy ballad that I heard from Uncle Frank:

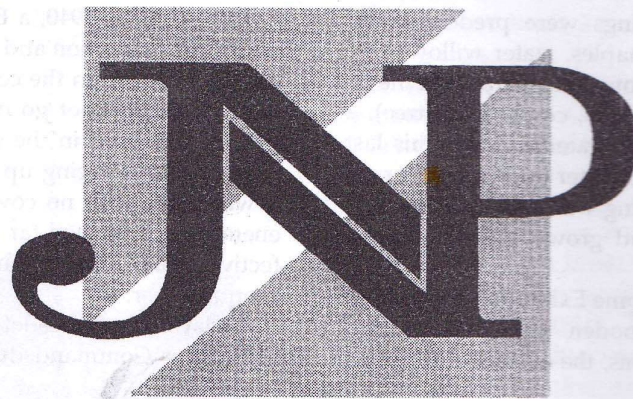
*Sheriff Smith was a bad man,
Billy the Kid was a badder
Sheriff Smith shot Billy the Kid
And we ain't any sadder.*

Francis Caldwell



The Pond and Cedar Cottage on Hampden Road.

The
JENKINS NEWMAN
Partnership



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EFFICIENT, PROFESSIONAL & INDEPENDENT

My neighbour, Rosemary Speight showed me a piece of flint of unusual shape. It was from the garden of 13 Abbotswood, which slopes steeply down to Coleheath Bottom.

Here is the Flint's Story.

To Rosemary and Richard
From a nodule of flint.

Did you wonder how I came to your garden? Note I have a bulb-like shape, hollow in the centre and a white coating. My natural colour is black - my grains so-so microscopically small they absorb all light, no "surfaces" to reflect light like gem crystals.

In a spell of global warming the majority of the earth's surface was a deep sea, 200 metres above today's sea level. This sea lasted a very long time from 125 BP to 65 BP (millions of years before present time.)

I was first recognised as a silica shell of a simple algae with a longish name - "coccolith". I only measured 1/1000th of a millimetre! My relative silica shelled beings were sponges and sea urchins.

When the algae and sponges and urchins died, their skeletons sunk to the sea floor, disintegrating into calcium carbonate. So, over 65 million years it made a lot of soup which under pressure, turned into CHALK.

At the ocean floor, with no oxygen, some silica gelled to silica gel like a runny jelly. I flowed into the empty burrow of a bivalve (clam) which became my home. With the pressure of hardening chalk above me I slowly hardened to black silica in the shape of the clam burrow.

Not much happened to me for the next 63 million years (65 BP to 2 BP). But climate changes and continental drift changed the land on top of the chalk. There were tropical deserts making sand (some of this hardened to my present neighbour DENNER HILLSTONE or SARSENS.)

The (2 BP) erosion by rain and water streams took all the loose sandy deserts into the ocean. Just before this time Italy had detached itself from North Africa and

bumped into Europe. This pushed up the ALPS (still rising today) and sent "ripples" out as far as the Chilterns and Cotswolds. My home in the chalk became the top of a hill called Speen.

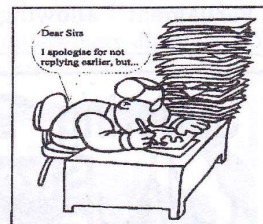
Rain continued - now falling on chalk hilltops - dissolving the white lime (calcium) leaving yellow clay. The glaciers came back and forth just touching the Chilterns. (0.6 BP to 0.2 BP) for 400,000 years. I was slowly being exposed to sun and rain then glacial melt waters washed the loose clay down Coleheath Bottom.

I was changing colour! The air and rain seeping through the clay gave my black core a yellow white

(Continued on page 30)

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FLINT STORY

(Continued from page 29)

coat. The air also got into the hollow centre and changed its colour too.

A further change in climate helped trees to grow on the clay hilltops and I became buried again - this time in leaf litter and humus soil.

The Anglo - Saxon people 600 to 1000 AD made a track through the valley and called it the Black Hedge (Coleheath?) This was an important boundary between Princes Risborough and Monks Risborough. The Abbots of Notley owned the woodlands until the King acquired them by dissolving the religious abbeys.

I was happily content in my new home of clay and soil until the Georgian Age. George IV in 1820 signed an Act of Parliament allowing John

Grubb - Lord of Princes Risborough Manor - to enclose the woodland. Later Victorian owners of my home cleared the wood turning it into farmland - Cottage Farm of about 6 acres.

Exposed again - I was ploughed and churned up, broken in half - by the metal tools of the farmer. My white coat thickened.

Eventually the farming and ploughing stopped - possibly in the 1890's depression and my field became a pasture for cows and horses. Probably a cow pushed me under the soil again.

In 1977 the Abbotswood houses were built - my field becoming a garden and I lay piecefully until 1998, when Rosemary, , brought me into the kitchen as an ornament!

Bob Johnson.



The Wildlife And Scenery of Florida

A talk and slide show

by

Peter Symonds

of Speen

7.45 pm,

Tuesday 16th, February. 1999

at

Great Missenden Memorial Hall
(off the link road in Great Missenden)

The talk and slide show features many of the elegant birds, exciting animals and the unusual scenery of Florida from the Atlantic Coast down the Florida Keys, The Everglades and the Gulf Coast.

*Non members are welcome to attend.
A small admission charge is usual.*

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An Exhibition of Prints in Venice in September

The twenty prints exhibited for this exhibition are interpretations of drawings made during a six month period in Italy in 1996. Tessa and I began our journey in the North of Italy, near Belluno, as Spring was emerging, and we finished in the Autumn in the far West of Sicily.

While staying in Venice I had the good fortune to



'A View of Anticoli Corrado' Anticoli Corrado is a village in the region of Lazio, about thirty miles east of Rome. The ancient buildings tumble down the steep side of the wooded mountain. We lived here for two months, often helping the landlord who was a shepherd. Every day buckets of sheep milk were carried up from the valley below, and in the evening it was turned into 'pecorino' cheese.

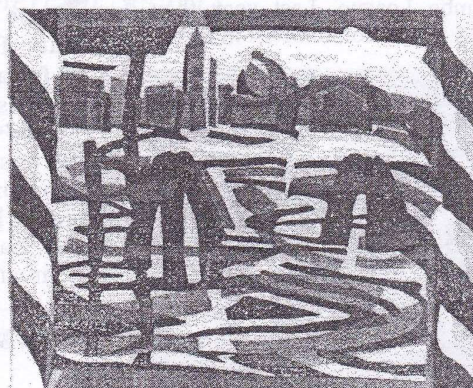
be introduced to a print workshop and gallery called 'Venezia Viva'. I worked for a few days in the studio of Nicola Sene and her enthusiasm and friendliness inspired me to begin a series of prints as soon as I returned to England.

The gallery specialises in showing prints and beautifully produced books, sometimes written in the Venetian dialect, and is situated in a corner of Campo Sant' Angelo, one of the more open 'squares' of a city laced with narrow streets called 'calle'. These zig-zag below crumbling palaces and then vault over narrow canals.

A few months before leaving for Italy I had begun to experiment with relief printing, using linoleum. I adopted the technique called 'Reduction Printing'. A simple block of linoleum is cut and then re-cut as each new layer of colour is applied. Gradually a complex image is built up but there is nothing left of the original block.

When I began the series of prints for Venice I had to guarantee the conformity of an edition. The challenge therefore was to develop a technique that would enable me to make a limited edition and at the same time give me the freedom to recreate the fluid lines of my landscape drawings. Having decided to use three colour blocks for each print and limiting the edition of each print to eight, I began to search for a style that would avoid the characteristic rigid line of the lino cutting tool; I wanted to achieve a flowing line that seemed to float through layers of colour and light.

I set to work to discover which tools could give this flexibility and texture. I experimented with thickness of printing inks and with methods of registration. I punched holes in the linoleum with nails and cut as freely as possible. And then I bought a small electric drill with many attachments which I used to scratch and cut the surface of the linoleum. This was a breakthrough. I was thrilled with the variety of textures that would create unexpected qualities of light and space. I discovered a language to express my love for the watery reflections in Venice, the clusters of hill villages in Lazio, and the inspirational architecture in Rome, in particular the Pantheon. Through the medium of lino cutting I had found a complimentary dimension to my work as a landscape painter.



'A view across the Grand Canal represents the movement of the water and the characteristic group of poles that are sunk into the lagoon. These poles act as important markers for the often tangled traffic of boats. On the left and right of the print you can see a spiral pattern. This is a typical embellishment that the Venetian love to add to the mooring poles along the Grand Canal.

If anyone is interested, I would be delighted to show this series of prints in my studio. Why not also visit Speen Pottery, where you will always get a warm welcome - don't let the muddy lane put you off.
Benedict Rubbra.

Editor's Note:

Scanning for reproduction purposes has caused an unavoidable moiré effect on these pictures.

Beetle Drive at North Dean Village Hall

Another "full house" for the North Dean Beetle Drive on November 21st.

Very early in the evening the pace was set by a novice player, fifteen year old Charlie, who finished her beetle in record time, much to the amazement of all the old hands. The bad news was once Charlie had got the hang of it there was no stopping her.

Fortified by a supper of cottage pie, the old 'uns' rallied for the second half, but

in spite of intense concentration, frantic shaking of the dice and an electric atmosphere of competitiveness not experienced in the Village Hall for many years, all was lost.

Charlie was declared the undisputed champion of the evening having won fifteen games out of a possible twenty-four.

Our next Beetle Drive will be Saturday February 27th 1999 at 7.30pm in North Dean Village Hall.

Millennium Fund Raiser

Organic Cheese & Wine Tasting

There will be an organic cheese and wine tasting in the Village Hall on Friday 26th February 99 at 8pm. Tickets will be £6.00 each. We will start with a selection of 6 wines to try, 3 white and 3 red ranging from "good value" through to "extra special".

There will be guidance from Tony Mason from the Wycombe based Organic Wine Company, wine tasting notes and details about the wines you try. The cheeses will be accompanied by organic bread and there will be red or white wine available to enjoy with this tasting.

This is an informative and fun evening. *For tickets please phone Suzi Rose on 488696.*

PROMOTION WINNERS!

Speen Table Tennis Team

This is one of six teams which represent Speen in the Wycombe League. Last year they won promotion to division three.



There are six divisions and fifteen teams in each one. They hold their matches and practises in Speen Village Hall usually twice a week. We hope to have a fuller report in the next issue. *Back row: Gordon Locke, manager and Gordon Whitehead. Front row: Richard Peake and Edward Surgate.*

Further details on New Year's Eve Party.

Steve Newman and Suzi Rose have now booked Great Hampden's village hall for a community party.

Precise details are to be released later but roughly we hope to sell about 120 tickets at approximately £10-15 per head.

We have yet to tie down the music supply but we're

working on it! We shall hold a fancy dress competition (characters from this millennium please), intend to do a table against table quiz and will also arrange team games for later in the evening. To avoid licences etc we would ask everyone to bring their own drink and each table can arrange for their own food although we shall use the hall's kitchen crockery and facilities. Again, fine details to be worked out.

Interested? Please phone Suzi Rose on 488696

SPEEN FETE

Saturday, 10th July 1999
Speen Playing Field

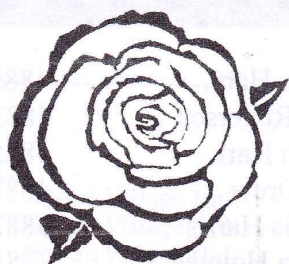
All the usual fun and attractions, plus, in this special year combined with the last day of the Pageant to celebrate the old Millennium.

THE LEAVES OF TIME

The organisers are looking for help with the set-up and running of the event and if anyone would like to help please contact:

Mr David King. Tel: 01844 344839

The Speen Fete donates money to many village organisations including this magazine. We are grateful for this support.



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Who's Who, In The Area

Speen & North Dean News Editor
 Speen Residents Association
 Speen W.I.
 Speen Horticultural Society
 Speen Playing Field Association
 Riding for the Disabled
 Village Hall Committee, Speen
 Village Hall Committee, N.D.
 Speen Pre-school
 Speen School PTA
 Speen Tennis Club
 Speen Millenium Project
 Guides
 Cubs/Beavers/The Youth Group
 Baptist Church
 Speen/N.D. Good Neighbours
 Mother and Toddler Club
 Neighbourhood Watch

Glenn Hart 488528
 Paul Rogerson 488315
 Glenn Hart 488528
 Ted Drew 488738
 Phyllis Harris 488734
 Gloria Holmes 488420
 Catherine Butler 488412
 Megan Chinn 563074
 Mrs. Scholer 562936
 Peter Symonds 488016
 Cherry Seekins 488355
 Martin Stockley 488101
 Pauline Hall 488372
 Rob Lenko 488337
 Andy Gower 488758
 Margaret Jones 488246
 Caroline Crossley 488203
 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

In 1795 the "Speenhamland" system of outdoor relief was adopted. This made up wages to equal the cost of subsistence.

What did it have to do with Speen?
 Does anyone know (or care) what it all meant?

STOP PRESS

What is the true reason that Grubbins Lane is called Grubbins Lane?

Is it:-

- 1 Because the only pub that sold "grub" to the bodgers and other workers was in the lane and became known as the Grub Inn.
- 2 Because the food for the children at the school was cooked elsewhere and the only way they could get it into the school was along the lane.
- 3 Because the land to one side of the lane was owned by a Mr. Grub and it was named after him.

Answers to Glenn Hart.

WHAT'S ON? - In Speen & North Dean



February.

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|
| 5th | Speen Village Hall. | A Bodger's Eye View.(Speen Millennium Celebrations |
| 6th | Speen Village Hall. | Pre-School Evening Party. |
| 8th | Speen Village Hall | Election Meeting for Speen Shop Charities Committee. 8pm. |
| 13th. | Speen School. " | The Tinderbox" a children's play. 3pm. tickets from Jenny |
| | | Quin 01844 274569 or Jennie Green 488352. |
| 26th | Speen Village Hall | Organic Wine Tasting 8pm. |
| | | (<i>Speen Millennium Celebrations</i>) |
| 27th | Nth Dean Village Hall. | Beetle Drive. Contact Bridget Lister 563153. |

March.

- | | | |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 2nd | Speen Village Hall. | Briefing Meeting 8pm. (see front page) for people outside |
| | | Speen who may be interested in helping. |
| | | (<i>Speen Millennium Celebrations</i>) |
| 9th | Speen Village Hall. | Parish Council Meeting. |
| 13th | Speen Village Hall. | Speen School Re-union. All ex scholars welcome. |
| 3th | Speen School. | Auction of promises. 8pm. |
| 19th | Speen Village Hall. | A Pictorial History Evening. 8pm. Bring your old |
| | | photographs of local people and places. |
| | | (<i>Speen Millennium Celebrations</i>) |
| 20th | Speen Village Hall. | Men's Breakfast. A Scientist's Story. |

April

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------|---|
| 13th | Speen Village Hall. | Read through of the script of "The Leaves of Time." |
| | | 8pm. (see front page) for potential performers. |
| | | (<i>Speen Millennium Celebrations</i>) |
| 16th. | Speen Village Hall. | An evening of Bucks Songs and Verse 8pm. |
| | | both classical and country. |
| | | (<i>Speen Millennium Celebrations</i>) |
| 23rd. | Speen Village Hall. | St. George's Day Quiz. 8pm. |
| | | ■(<i>Speen Millennium Celebrations</i>) |

May.

- | | | |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 11th | Speen Village Hall. | Parish Council Meeting. |
| 16th | Speen Village Hall. | Ladies' Breakfast. |

June.

- | | | |
|------|----------------------|------------------|
| 13th | Speen Playing Fields | Fun Day. |
| 19th | Speen Village Hall. | Men's Breakfast. |

July.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 3rd. | Speen School Grounds. | Black & White Ball II. Some like it even Hotter. 7.30pm. |
| 8th, 9th, 10th. | | Pageant, "The Leaves of Time." |
| 10th | Speen Playing Field. | Speen Fete, and "The Leaves of Time." |

August

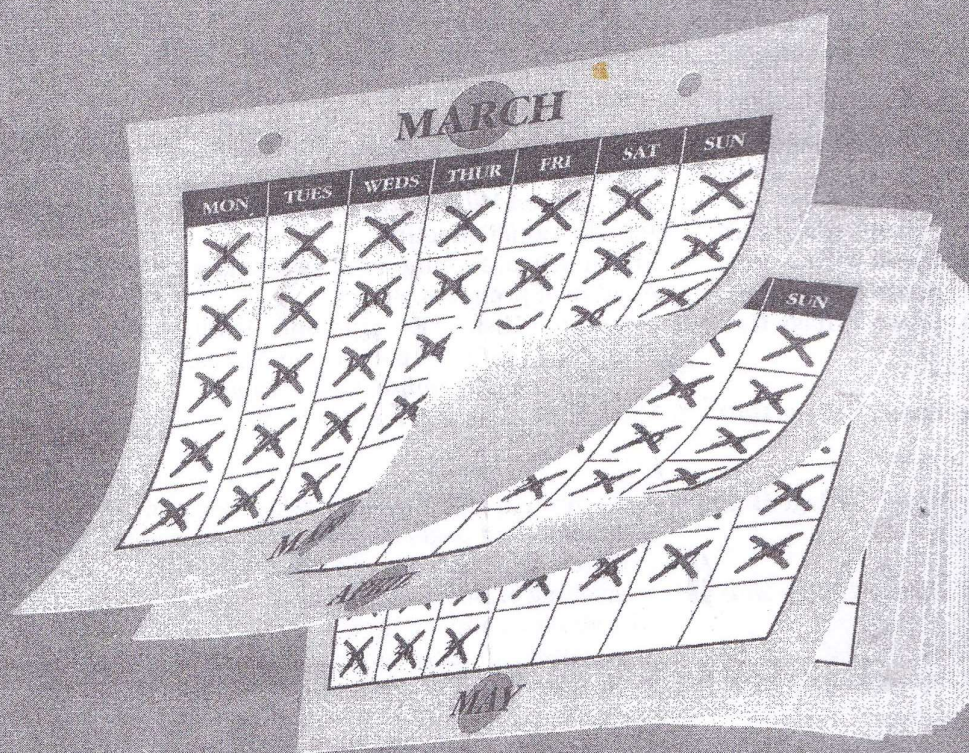
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| 7th | North Dean Village Fete. | |
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