THE LAST ISSUE OF THIS MILLENNIUM.



The Leaves of Time.

More pictures
& report.

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France?

North Dean Fete

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in The Chillerns and South Buckinghamshire

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Speen Fete 1999 & 2,000

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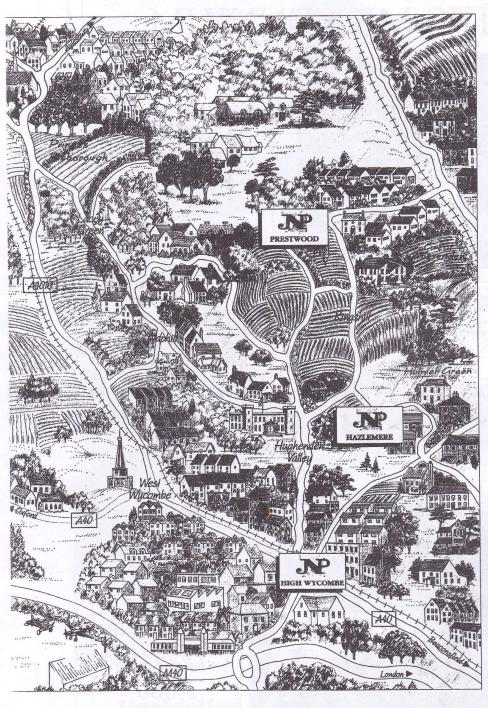
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The Hughenden Surgery

ollowing receipt of planning approval, the land at the bottom of Cryers Hill was purchased in late Spring and site clearance was started at the end of June. This proved to be a major task as some 300 lorry loads of soil had to be to be removed to achieve the required levels.

As all who pass can see, the long dry spells this summer have enabled the work to progress at a tidy pace and now, at last, the building has some substance and the first floor level has been reached. The work is on schedule and provided the weather is kind to us over the next few weeks the roof timbers should be going on during October. If all continues to go well the building should be ready to receive its first patients by end of February 2000.

The significantly increased capacity of the new surgery will greatly improve the working conditions to the benefit of both staff and patients. Current, regular problems of an overcrowded waiting room and almost non existent parking will be resolved. The premises will also allow the range of services to patients to be extended and grow in line with PCG and Health Authority plans. Just a few of the anticipated new and improved services are; in-house minor surgery; proper Midwife and Health Visitor facilities; Physiotherapy; visiting specialists/consultants.

Everyone in the Practice is now looking forward to offering and supporting improved services to our patients. This has been made possible thanks to the persistent and loyal support from so many of our patients.

Barbara Renouf

Practice Manager, Dr Carless & Partners



The new Surgery at the beginning of October

Editor's Letter

would like to thank Reg Taylor for all his help and hard work, doing the desk top publishing for the past year, he was unable to continue, but his help has been invaluable and I hope he may contribute again in the future. Thanks are also due to Suzi Rose for goffering in all sorts of areas and generally getting it

In spite of having four additional pages, I still didn't find space for all the copy, but please don't stop writing it allows more choice of content. We would like your comments about the magazine. Suggestions will always be considered.

May I stress that you are welcome to get copy in as soon as this issue reaches you, but it may not be possible to include your work after the copy date.

How do you feel about..

Traffic calming, narrowing the road? Humps?

Wayside notices from the Council that litter the view? Do they really have to tell us we are in The Chilterns? Should we keep The Playing Field as a playing <u>field</u> or should we put down more concrete? How many people use the cricket nets or tennis court regularly? Could we not sponsor some children to have tennis lesson?

I hope you want a say in your villages life.

The letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the production team

Glenn Hart

Next Issue 20 copy date 7th January.

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Letters to the Editor.....

Dear Editor

Do those who run "useful little shops" really have no right - as your correspondent suggests - to enjoy non-working public holidays?

Surely providing a service should not be interpreted as being always at the beck and call of others? Ann Selby.

Dear Editor

We would like to thank Speen Stores, 'the useful little shop'. We would like to thank David and Sharon for their continued support in creating revenue for Chiltern Meadows since they came to the village. David has even helped us at times to get through what has proved to be a busy season so far for us and Sharon continues to feed us with her excellent food.

It seems to be a sad fact of life that you can not please all the time, as we have found. Even with the best intentions we found we have let people down badly and would like to apologise to Mr Mrs Lynch and Mr Mrs Walker, both who live in Speen.

A big thank you to Speen Stores, yourselves and all our customers within Speen.

Enjoy your outside rooms! Chiltern Meadows.

Dear Glenn

I've always enjoyed reading Jo Bank's letters in the past, and I normally respect her views and the way she expresses them, but her letter about the shop was unnecessarily harsh and served no purpose at all. The shop is not only extremely useful, it's also far nicer and more successful than most of us imagined it could be when it was still just an idea on the drawing board. Jennifer Cowan.

Dear Editor,

I am writing with reference to the article in "Your letters" section of the magazine, entitled "Not so useful". I was saddened when I read it.

People using Speen Stores would agree that it is extremely useful! If I remember correctly, Sharon and David were moving house during the Easter break, therefore it would be understandable for them to close the shop and have one less thing to worry about.

I find Sharon and David extremely helpful, they run a quality, spotlessly clean shop, are happy to order anything you require if not in stock. The opening times are clearly on display, helping people to organise their time of accordingly.

It is important that people who may, in the past, have been opposed to the idea of a village shop should reconsider as they are missing out on so much. Sharon and David have brought a 'Breath of Fresh Air' to Speen. They have thrown themselves into all village events with great energy and enthusiasm and have lovely original ideas for the shop. *Phyllis Harris*,

Dear Editor

We can appreciate the irritation of Jo Banks when she touches on the closure of Speen stores over the Easter break, in her recent letter to you, but were taken aback by the vehemence of her feelings.

Commercial establishments are often not open when the individual would like them to be, and we think the village store does such a good job in general that it rather saddened us to see its work so roundly dismissed.

It provides a ready focus for the community and brings a naturalness to the village that did not seem to be there before. The occasional negative is surely more than balanced by all the positive services provided? It's doing fine by us!

Richard & Rosemary Speight.

Dear Editor

After reading the June Issue of the Speen and North Dean News I thought I would say what a wonderful source of local info it is. So nice to hear what is happening back home. As if anything does

happen in the village. It is lovely to hear about the pageant and our local councillor, even if he is a Tory. So keep up the good work it is a real life line.

L. Tidball. Floris House, Nailsworth. Glos.

P.S. Nice to hear that useful little shop is doing well.

Dear Editor

Re: The Leaves of Time.

Congratulations to everyone

involved in The Leaves of Time production. most enjoyable to watch and it was wonderful to feel the 'buzz' and in the village leading up to and during the performances!

We are looking forward to the next one.....

Phyllis Harris

Dear Customers & friends

We are pleased to let you know that we have moved to North Dean which is a permanent address we would like to thank everyone who have supported us over the past 18 months with our quest for accommodation also a big thank you to Roger & Mary Craft and Mr. Cate who made this move possible.

On a business note we get tremendous support from a large majority of the village but there is still a substantial percentage of people who do not use the shop, purchasing just a magazine or newspaper does not generate revenue. Try to support the shop in other ways you may not use the shop now but in the future you may find you need to do so and we may no longer be there remember you will not only lose your shop but also your Post Office. A prime example happened recently. Jo Banks who has never purchased as single item from the shop felt the need to do **EASTER** on weekend unfortunately for her we moved house that weekend and was closed, had she been a regular customer she would have known the reason we were shut. Please support your local shop.

David & Sharon.

The Beechdean Blitz

On September 11th over 540 people sampled the 1940's atmosphere at the Beechdean Blitz in the North Dean Bunker. The event was a charity evening held to celebrate Beechdean Dairies 10th anniversary and to raise money for Speen School , Speen Pre-school and the RAF Benevolent Fund

The camouflaged Bunker was protected by a Sherman Trank, a Bofors anti-aircraft gun, a Bren gun carrier and a Matador truck with Second World War search lights.



On arrival into the Bunker guests bought drinks at the Officers bar (wonderfully run by Hazlemere Food Hall) and then listened to wartime songs beautifully played on the piano by Jim Parry

Guests arrived in all sorts of guises: orphans, evacuees, Hitler, land girls, British and American military and much more. On production of your ration book, dinner was available from the Officers' Mess: Tipperary Irish stew, new potatoes, mashed carrot and swede, and peas and cauliflower served in the Billy cans. Dessert had to be nothing other than treacle tart or bread and butter pudding with custard of course.

Many thanks to Lucy Soden of the Main Events Cuisine, Prestwood for her culinary delights which were greatly appreciated.

Whilst dinner was being served, Amanda Parker, from the theatre Royal Windsor, and four professional dancers staged a 20 minutes 1940's musical, singing many of the old favourites. This was followed by the most memorable performance by the famous Glenn Miller Orchestra enabling people to dance the night away.

Meanwhile outside, a bouncy Castle, bungee running and a laser clay shoot provided hours of amusement for the young at heart, who no doubt woke up on Sunday morning feeling battered and bruised!

After three quarters of an hours entertainment the Glenn Miller Orchestra had a break, during which time the charity auction was held. Guests were very generous with their bids for some wonderful items which included a double bed from Hypnos, a lawn mower from Hildreth's, and an England rugby shirt signed by the whole team, courtesy of Cathy Roberts, and a one-week self-catering holiday for two in Greece from Argo Holidays with one night at an airport hotel and a week's

free parking courtesy of Saturn Travel, Hazlemere, as well as many other fantastic items.

An envelope was then picked out of the box to establish the winners of the five pound envelope draw we were delighted to be able to award a hundred pounds to Dick and Cherry Seekins.

The evening continued with more magical music from the Glenn Miller Orchestra who played until the early hours of Sunday morning, followed by a disco into the not so early hours of Sunday morning. We eventually "shut up the Bunker" at about 4 a.m..

Many thanks to all the locals who came and helped tidy up on the Sunday, it was truly appreciated.

With the accounts still to be finalised, we are expecting to raise in excess of £3,500 for the above named causes. The event could not have taken place without the considerable support of so many people and companies; we are extremely grateful to all those concerned. And to all those who bought tickets and joined us on the night; we hope you had a most enjoyable memorable 1940's experience.

The Blitz Organisers

Mrs Daphne Nuttgens on her 90th birthday. After being presented with flowers from North Dean Village Hall Committee. {See article in last Issue by Nick}



Wycombe Summer Playschemes 99 North Dean Village Hall

The Children's Services Team from Wycombe District Council once again organised their usual mix of activities for the summer holidays.

One week of the scheme was in North Dean Village Hall. Having a grand daughter who was going to go, the ferrying was made that much more enjoyable by the fact that she, and I may say, all the other children had such a wonderful time.

The activities are open to any children between the ages of 5 & 14 years and at a cost of £4 per day are exceptional value. There is also an additional concession for "Freestyle" members.

The day starts at 10am and the children bring a packed lunch and carry on until 3.30pm, when very hungry and VERY tired they need picking up.

I only went in to see what was going on very briefly and it was the end of a long hot afternoon. But the activities were painting plaster casts, making and then flying their own kites, various ball type games(a mystery to me, ball games) and a quiet corner in the shade for the colourers.

All the young people helping had smiles on their faces even after working the five previous weeks at various venues around Wycombe. The helpers were all students of some sort, working in their holidays. They have to go on a week's course to qualify for the job, and this includes first aid training. Some weeks the scheme could be operating in four different sites and they could work in any of them. There are roughly two helpers for ten children, and most of the time at North



Dean there were fifty children.

I thought that all the children would come from Speen and North Dean, but I only spotted two I knew from Speen School. Having asked the children I discovered they had come from Marlow, Downley, and one from Southampton. The helpers said some children followed them around for the whole six weeks the schemes were running.

I can only say THANK YOU to the organisers of this great fun scheme. Long may people do this sort of thing for children and, I must admit, grandmas to enjoy. I would love to have made my own kite! Glenn Hart

North Dean Fete

his year North Dean Fete day, began with unusually miserable weather. Misty, raining chilly, delaying the preparation of some of the stalls and games.

It was also probably responsible for the low numbers of entries in the competitions, some people preferring to stay indoors. However the quality was excellent but the quantity less so. There was a very interesting display of some of the photos etc. which will make up the book about the village which is being prepared as one of our contributions the millennium.

As opening time approached the sun came out making the field a bit like a sauna but everyone worked hard to get the stalls up and running by 2 o'clock when the Fete was declared open by Mr David Morgan.(below)



Mrs Phyllis Morgan very kindly judged the children's fancy dress after being presented with flowers. John Rogers gave a resume of the village Hall Committee activities for the past year, relating it the funds etc. needed to make the hall the attractive venue it now is.

The Pigott Band - well what would the Fete be without it ?especially as the musicians enjoy the opportunity to make music together each year.

New stalls were welcome, included Speen Baptist Church, old favourites included Madam Aquarius, Bric-a-brac, not to mention the Beer Tent which did a roaring trade, (nice to see Pam Pyle back with here popular treasure hunt).

Thanks to all the helpers and judges and Bourne End & Cookham Rotartrack club who oversaw the activities of the Human Fruit Machine. Also to Andrew & Mary Lawson for their first experience of running the Tombola - hope they want the job next year (!!)

Thanks too to the kind people who provided refreshments, especially lots of drinks.

The final auction, raffles and presentation of cups etc. were well supported at the end of the afternoon, and we hope everyone enjoyed the last fete of the Millennium.

Fete Secretary

Speen Fete update 1999. Speen Millennium Fete

Just a quick note to say thank you to all those villagers, sponsors and advertisers that gave their time to make this year's fete a successful day.

The plus side of this is that the fete made money and is again able to distribute shares to the value of £100 plus to those organisations who agreed to take part. Additional donations were made to particular groups in the village. Again thanks for all the help the fete received. *Paul Rogerson* Treasurer.

"It's up to you......

said the wizard of the Woods, just before he departed into the new Millennium. "It's going to be up to you and those others of your generation who choose to live here whether the village remains a thriving community."

"I'll certainly try and help wherever I can!" Becky replied.

The Village Fete 2,000 Committee would like to ensure that the fete continues to play a prominent part in the life of the village, both as a day to work together for a common purpose.

We are therefore starting early to plan for year 2,000 and a *public meeting has been* arranged to take place in Speen Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 14th October for all those who feel they would like to help. The date of next year's fete, by the way, is 8th July. Representatives of all active village organisations will be specifically invited, but anyone else who would like to help will be welcome. Items to be discussed will include the events to be run, aims of the fete (for example it has been suggested that we might raise money for a worthwhile charity), and who can do what.

Please come if you would like to play an active part in next year in ensuring that this traditional village day continues to flourish.



News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:



By the time you read this you may well have heard that our MP David Lidington, visited and spoke at the church on Sunday 26th September.

What's going on? Has the Baptist church replaced the Church of England in Maude Royden's famous quotation

about being "the Conservative Party at prayer"?

Not at all; as a church we have no political affiliation, but we do have a responsibility to pray in an informed way for this nation and those who govern us. So Mr Lidington was visiting to share about the life, responsibilities and pressures of being an MP - so that we might be more focussed in our prayers for him and all this country's MPs.

This summer was a *first* in the life of the church. No, I'm not thinking about my Ordination! This year we had a stand at both North Dean and Speen Fetes. And in common with Muhammad Ali, U2's Bono and many others we wanted to draw attention to the Jubilee 2000 Campaign - to give folk a chance to think about a bigger picture than just celebration at the Millennium. So we choose the theme *Make the Millennium Count*:

Break the Chain of Debt.

Break the

The campaign is urging governments of the G8 nations to take action to deal with the structural problem of Third World debt:



of debt



In the 1970's interest rates were low and the Western nations loaned the developing nations \$553 billion.

Between 1980 and 1992 these nations paid to their creditors \$1660 billion.







Now at the end of the 1990's, due to higher interest rates and the rolling up of compound interest they still owe over \$2100 billion.



Many of us give generously to appeals for help for the Third World nations - for instance it has been estimated that in 1994 total aid for the developing nations was \$5 billion.

Yet in the same period developing nations paid \$200 billion in dept and interest repayments.



Only inter-governmental action can help resolve this situation.

Many thanks to all who supported the campaign by signing the petition or buying lapel chains at the Fete stands.

For latest information on the campaign you can contact:

Jubilee 2000 Coalition, 1 Rivington Street, London, EC2A 3DT. Tel: 0171 739 1000 Email: mail@jubilee2000uk.org. Web http://www.jubilee2000UK.org

Summary of Weekly Church Activities

Sundays:

10:30 am Worship for all age incl. Creche and Sunday School for

3's-11's and Teens discussion

6:00 pm Music Group.

6:30 pm Meeting for Prayer.

Weds:

10:00-11:30am "Time Out" 10:00-11:30am Daytime Home

Group - Chinysnook, North Dean 8:00-9:30pm Evening Home

Group - Studridge, Studridge Lane

Thurss:

8:00-9:30pm Evening Home Group 172 Parkwood Walters Ash

Fridays:

7:30 pm Young Peoples Meeting

exploring Christianity through and the Bible, 12-16 year olds.

SPEEN SCHOOL P.T.A. NEWS - Peter Symonds

THE BLACK AND WHITE BALL

The big social event of the year, our second Black and White Ball, proved to be a great success.

Improved planning and organisation enabled us to make it a bigger and better event than 1998: with a larger marquee we accommodated well over 200 guests.

The band, "Some Like It Hot", was again very popular despite a change in the line-up and the audience responded immediately they came on stage. The disco afterwards kept the atmosphere alive as did the karaoke in between sessions by the band. The dress theme was again well adopted with a range of outfits from formal dinner jackets through casual clothes to fancy dress, all in black and white.

The event raised a record profit of around £2,400. Many thanks must go to Cherry Seekins and her team of helpers, to all the Committee members and other parents who helped with the event and to all the villagers who again supported the school.

PTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting elected a new committee. No chairman has been elected and the role will be shared by Ashley Cooper, Ian Waterman and Mark Wengler. The secretarial role will be shared between Paula Popham and Tracey Ruler. The treasurer remains Zahid Iqbal.

Committee members include Cathy Roberts, Philippa Lane, David Vale, Jennie Greene, Cherry Seekins, Iam Richards and Mr or Mrs Radford.

Prior to the PTA meeting the Governors held their AGM which discussed school numbers and also the policy adopted by St. Johns on admissions. The numbers at Speen are satisfactory. Parents should register at Speen School at the earliest opportunity. Please contact Mrs Nayna, the head teacher on 488321. For PTA information contact Paula Popham 562571, Ian Waterman 488019, or Tracey Ruler 563048



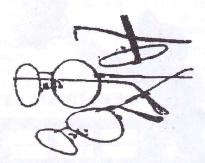
Thank you Beechdean

More recently PTA funds have benefited from the Beechdean Blitz event. The school was one of three good causes to profit from this well supported night. Many thanks to Beechdean Daries, particularly the Kents, the Garfitts and the Howards,

REGISTRATION YEARS 2000 AND 2001

Registration forms for children wishing to start at the school during the years 2000 and 20001 are available Speen school now accepts children in the term immediately after their fourth birthday part-time. The catchment area covers the villages of Speen and Upper North Dean applications from further afield welcomed.

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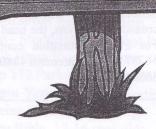
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NEWS AND REPORT FROM SPEEN PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

FUN DAY 1999

he gods certainly seem to smile on Speen Playing Field Association. Once again the weather was perfect for Fun Day even though it had been dire for some time beforehand, and wasn't all that brilliant afterwards.

A lot of work is done in the preceding weeks in order to make the day of success, not least in the publicity department. This year we had a very attractive programme with colour printing on the back and front pages. We have Jenkins Newman Partnership to thank for this. Many people place adverts in the programme and we are always grateful for their sponsorship.

We had a change from the usual barbecue this year as Keith cooked a splendid pig roast, assisted by Glenn and Mark. It was a perfect opportunity to christen our smart new patio. Lunch was followed by tea and coffee served from the Pavilion. Many thanks to the W.I. members and everyone else who donated cakes for us to sell.

The children enjoyed playing on the bouncy castle kindly sponsored by Philip Green, and people of all ages were entertained by belly dancer Lindsey Gasper. This was a new feature (we thought Jeremy deserved a rest from fire juggling!) and it was great fun to watch, although not many people felt brave enough to get up and join in!

The two competitions organised by Marion Tozer: a colouring competition which was won by Alana (under eight years) and Alex Exposito (over eight years), and A Brain Teaser Quiz won by Lee Davies, with Peter Johnson in second place. Sandy Carter from the King William judged the children's competition, and she and Geoff also donated prizes for which we are very grateful

For the energetic amongst us there was five a side football, tennis, and team games. David Slade organised the football, and the winners were Ben Gower's team 8 to 11 years and James Keattch's team, 12+ years.

People were kept informed of all the different events by Ian Waterman who has become a permanent and welcome feature behind the microphone on these occasions.

John Oliver, in charge of the tennis, reports as follows:-

The Speen Fun Day Tennis was a success in that a smaller entry than last year played many hours of tennis in excellent conditions. There were 3 events: a junior/senior competition in which 6 pairs all played each other, won by Christopher and Andrew Wheeler with runners up Robert and Stephen Harris; a men's doubles knock-out competition won by Sebastian Fleet and James Keattch with runners up Jeremy Symondson and Ian Camp; and a mixed doubles knock-out won by Simon Jennings and Shelley Collier, runners up Simon and Amanda Cleaver. Sadly there weren't enough volunteers to arrange a ladies doubles. May be the village ladies could start getting ready for next year?

Chris Walsh devised some challenging team games using equipment kindly lent by Speen School. This year the winners were the "Crabby McGees", with "The Tornadoes" and "The Simcas" in second and third places.

Speen Pre-school ran a tuck shop, and there was a soft-toy Tombola, which was organised by Poppy Seekins and Jessica Symondson. They managed the whole thing themselves and raised £38 which they have donated to the Save the Children fund. Well done, girls!

Unfortunately some money was lost from Pavilion at the end of the day. Can anyone shed any light on this matter? Lessons have been learnt, and we will make sure it doesn't happen again.

The Fun Day has become a very popular village event, an opportunity for villagers to get together and have a good time. If anyone would like to come and help we would be very pleased to hear from you. There is quite a lot of organisation involved to make sure day is really successful but it's all good fun, and we would really welcome some fresh ideas-Phone

Marion 488497 or Keith 0831 588311 or 488038 daytime only

There are still several items of unclaimed lost property including a pair of Racing Green shorts! Detailed lists can be found on the village notice boards, and anything left by the end of the year will go to a charity shop.

THE NEW PATIO

o-one who has been on the field lately can have failed to notice the smart new patio outside the Pavilion. It is this sort of major improvement for which the playing field association raises money, as well as for the day-to-day maintenance of the equipment and field itself.

We are very grateful to Keith Jones who masterminded this project and gave a lot of his time along with his helpers Glenn Goodenough, Dave Paul, and Chris Walsh, often in terrible weather.

Thanks also to Geoff Carter for sustaining them with cups of coffee, and to Wrights building merchants for their support.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Bonfire and Fireworks from 11pm (no bonfire material from the village this time.)

Jennifer Cowan

Playing Fields Fireworks

Sat. 6th November 6pm Tickets from Speen Stores

Speen Lace Day Saturday 23rd October

Morning Visitors welcome £1 including coffee and biscuits



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Speen

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"The Hairworks" would like to announce their change of name to "Speen Hair & Beauty" The reason for this change is the increased popularity of the new Beauty Room, which "The Hairworks" name did not really publicise. The change in name should coincide with a revamp of the salon and another full time assistant about to join.

A message from Paul Rogerson - your local Wycombe District Councillor

know from the high turn-out at the District Elections that you take a great interest in the workings of your local Council and that you have a high expectation of the Council and the care it takes when spending your money. Five months have passed since the election and already significant progress is being made in the way the Council is administered. The most significant of these is the formation of a Performance Review & Audit Committee reporting directly to the Policy and Resources Committee. In this way all council expenditure will come under greater scrutiny with the purpose of identifying and eliminating waste.

With regard to 'local' issues three main concerns affecting Speen were identified during the district campaign:

- The 650 houses identified by the emerging Local Plan for Princes Risborough together with the proposed Park and Ride scheme;
- 2. The traffic speed;
- 3. The parking problems at Speen Stores.

The action being taken in respect of the Local Plan is to undertake a thorough review of the current proposals and the implications for housing, employment and land allocations including Park and Ride. This review does however have to take into account the overall number constraints determined by the previous administration and now placed upon us by the implementation process.

This means that the overall numbers agreed must remain as set. However the make up and distribution may be reviewed.

As a first step to Traffic Calming you should have received details of the existing scheme of 'Pledges' promoted by the Police and County Council. Pledges are made by residents who are willing to sign up to abide by the prescribed limits. This has been successfully carried out in other parts of the County and I hope that take-up will be high. As the County logs each pledge I will be able to report the interest in the next issue.

Parking outside the shop remains the area of most concern judging by the number of comments I receive and the response to the latest In Touch. I will be passing these onto the relevant authorities with the request for action/advice on the best way forward. My view is that the problem has arisen from the lack of consideration at the planning stage. It is my intention to seek advice from the County Council and also to involve the Parish Council together with the Buckinghamshire Housing Association to seek a resolution of this potentially dangerous situation. Any views on this topic would also be appreciated

If you do have a problem concerning the services provided by Wycombe District Council please contact me and I will do what I can to help. (01494 488315)

Paul Rogerson



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NB: We have now moved to offices in the Market Square Princes Risborough.

THE MISTRESS OF THE ROBES

The Leaves of Time was performed by a cast of approximately 75, in 12 scenes depicting 1000 years. With a budget of £1,000 I realised I had some work to do! From January to April I used any spare time to consult various people and reference libraries to research the clothes of each scene and design costumes from the results. This was no easy feat when most historical references illustrate the rich and famous.

The most difficult task, apart from designing a costume for the correct era for humble folk, was avoiding everyone looking identical. It was no good having everyone in rags because the clothes had to survive the week's rigours of being torn on and off. An example was the anglo-saxon boys' brais, or trousers, made from ancient curtain lining. Very authentic until Alec's disintegrated after one night, and Ben's fell apart on

the Thursday.

Gloria (Holmes) assembled seamstresses she knew to a coffee morning at Knapdale where I discussed my ideas and how we should tackle them. They passed anxious glances across the table and it was concluded we needed plenty of time. However, until the script was complete and the cast firm we could do no more than collect fabric and clothing. Two of my friends produced yards and yards of cream lining and end of roll furnishing fabrics. Molly and Don White won the prize for most

collected from charity shops. Notices on local boards were rewarded by regular bags of goodies on the doorstep.

I made progress charts for every scene which listed cast members and each piece of clothing. Many of the women's and girls' dresses could be made as a job lot but they would require an amazing amount of finishing.

By the beginning of June I realised something that had nagged me from the start. *I couldn't sew!* I panicked. Jacqueline King came to the rescue. Between us we produced suitable patterns for adapting and, in one morning, she showed me how to turn piles of net curtain and cream lining into girls' dresses for the country dance scene whilst she took away furnishing fabric to make the ladies' outfits.

Everyone was invited to open house at Knapdale on Tuesdays and Thursdays when, ostensibly, all could spend joyous days chatting, drinking tea and sewing garments. In reality it was nowhere near as genteel.

From the progress charts, garments were cut out and given as job lots. My ladies would hare down the drive with bundles for inspection or finished work and rush off with more bundles. It was up to me to use their time prudently. Of course I was flat out either sewing, designing patterns for bonnets/dresses/pinnys, or scouring sources for hiring or buying at knock down prices. I used Stella Cornford in Princes Risborough for many undergarments plus moral support, Lee at Quartermaster in Berkhamsted to resolve my World War I soldiers, and ABC for leather jerkins and wigs. Fumbles, late of Great Missenden, provided all but one of the forties dance dresses for a song.

I sent out notices to the cast stating what was required. This was most useful as the men were able to produce many items from their own wardrobes. Mothers were also great allies, eager to assist with their young thespian's attire.

My own domestic scene was chaos. Piles of clothes in the

spare room mingled with washing not yet ironed Rails with costumes lingered in hallways. Fabric, literally knee-deep, carpeted the dining room, spreading threads into the hall and up the stairs - no point in hoovering. Hard-working husband would return late in the evening to this mess which often included people showing me garments or trying things on and children rushing backwards and forwards to the field. "I expect you'll be glad when this is over, Alistair!" a caller jested one evening. I thrust a supper tray at him and ushered her into another room.

Less than a week to go to the first full dress rehearsal and we had a press

call. Disaster. The fabric we bought in London for the Wizard's costume was far too sparse. "It's OK," Rob pacified me, barely able to walk, "I'll just play it camp, Duckie!". The garment was rescued the following day with extra fabric. Phew!

On the Friday, a team of willing mums and I started assembling each scene's costumes onto rails. Every hat, dress, apron, jacket, pair of trousers and accessory, had to be labelled with actor's name and scene, and hung on the relevant rail. We used the wheelbarrow to bring out garments from the garage and pile on the patio. Any last minute sewing jobs and labelling were finished off under the shade of the umbrella. People came and went from 10 in the morning until 7 that evening. For me, this was the best day. It was gloriously sunny, I was surrounded by good friends and we worked industriously but in great humour. There was a constant supply of tea and Di Rainbow brought cool drinks to refresh us. As the rails filled up, I could see all my designs and plans come to life. It was going to work!



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The soldiers, all teenagers, came for a dress rehearsal. It took an hour and a half to get them kitted out with World War I trousers and webbing. They walked like sacks of potatoes so I made them parade proudly up and down the lawn to the amusement of onlookers. The boys resolved the problem of dying, and coming to life as 30's workmen, by stuffing flat caps and waistcoats into their webbing pockets. The patties were still a problem but would have to wait.

Sunday dawned, the day of full technical rehearsal. A little hazy after the Speen Ball, we threw garments into three cars and assembled on rails outside the pavilion (thank heavens for the patio). This was a difficult day. Virtually all the cast appeared, as ordered, a scene at a time, to work through problems. Willing ladies armed with machines and sewing needles gradually worked their way through. Even poor Jacqueline, who had worked tirelessly on many of the costumes, was there for me with a stinking cold. It turned into a melee. Problems from one scene mingled with problems from another and people had to stand waiting around. Headdresses from the first two scenes mixed with disputes about bonnets, mob caps etc from the middle scenes. However, despite the problems and the odd difficult person, here they were, our costumes, bringing life to Martin's wonderful script. Yes it really worked!!

All who participated during the evening's run through, actors, technicians and onlookers, were quite staggered at the high standard of the whole production. There were problems but we were 90% there.

Each night my team of dressers, loyal to the end, appeared ready and willing, festooned with needles, safety pins, string, scissors, hairbrushes, hairgrips and fast pairs of hands.

There were tricky moments: I threw a tantrum on the Monday because I could not resolve any problems or find any missing garments but the cast forgave me. Cast members had different tents to change in, sometimes the lower, sometimes the upper. It was strictly forbidden for any of the cast to be seen in costume by the audience so we, the dressers, spent every performance running backwards and forwards with missing articles. Getting hairstyles right for the forties scene was always a headache because of lack of time. The patties for the soldiers were only ready by Wednesday because Leonore spent the day with my machine putting bandages onto velcro.

As the week progressed we got into a routine and the cast ensured they knew where things were every night. Most mothers of young children checked costumes before each performance.

Best of all was the profound sense of fun and excitement: the Norman soldiers applying lipstick to depict blood and guts, the Anglo Saxon children smearing themselves gleefully with a muddy mixture, the choir laughing themselves silly over their daft wimples and liripipes (sorry Bill, I never was able to prevent you from looking like North Dean's favourite gnome! See page 18), the hessian aprons that disappeared every single night, the mob caps too large to stay on properly, the hairpieces and wigs shoved into place like small delinquent animals.

By Saturday we all had mixed feelings about the last night: relief that it had been successful beyond all our hopes and prayers, but sorrow that this sense of camaraderie and togetherness would end.

I am blessed with many friends who rallied when I needed them, all bringing their individual skills to bail me out. Without them, the costumes would have been makeshift and second rate. Now, who wants to help store it all? Suzi Rose

SPEEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW - SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 1999

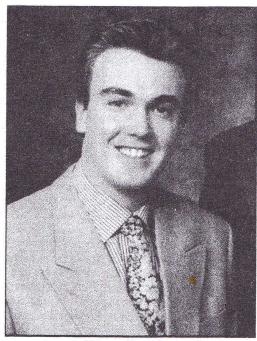
It's the same every year - "How can we find anything for a flower and produce show after such weather as we've had?" Yet every year we do, somehow. In fact over twenty entrants brought 188 entries to the vegetable, fruit, flower and domestic classes and while this is quite a bit more than last year, there is always room for many more. The morning passes in good tempered rivalry and friendly comparisons and a good many dashes to fetch more items in time. By 10.30 am it's "Everyone out of the hall!" and by 11am the judges, Mrs Mary Lee for the produce and Mrs Bowler for the domestic classes, are hard at their deliberations.

Each judge has a member of the Horticultural Society at hand to fill in the results on the entry cards, Roz Darnton with Mrs Bowler and Leonore Shirley with Mrs Lee. A judge's comments are very instructive, as deciding between entries is not simple. If the schedule says onions 3 inches across, not a millimetre more will pass or the dreaded NAS (Not According to Schedule) is noted. A courgette is not the same as a baby marrow, onions should not be over-peeled, carrots should not be scrubbed but potatoes should be washed. The longest runner bean still has to be fit to eat. Four beautiful carrots will be NAS if the class asked for five. Of course, pests afflict everything so given the problem of deciding between damaged items, go for even size amongst the batch. Matching size and ripeness count for more. Specimen flowers are trickier for the judge, as she takes into consideration that one species is more difficult to rear than another yet a really good easy flower could still win.

Over a cup of tea Ted Drew gave out the prizes at his last Speen Show before moving, and was given a cheer to send him on his way. We remembered former competitors who were absent this time especially two stalwarts who had died, George Gilbert and Tom Clarke. Ted thanked the helpers who spent so much time before the day, setting up the hall and making out the entry cards. (If ever a job lent itself to a computer program, this is it. How about it, all you Speen computer wizards?) Soon the village hall was clear and tidy and it was all over till next year. Or will there be a next year? It's all done as a fun thing and standards are not forbidding, so come on all you shy gardeners, fork out 10p an entry and take part.

The prizewinners were Isobel Harrison, Leonore Shirley, Mary Jackson, (2 prizes) Barbara Collett, Marion Hussey (2 prizes) and Winnie Lowes. Well done to all of you.

Leonore Shirley



Rhys Davies

n Monday 9th August the funeral of Rhys Davies was held in the lovely Baptist chapel in Speen. He was aged 27. His parents Bronwen and Wynne Davies have lived in Abbotswood since 1991 following their move from Chesham Bois. Wynne is a vice president at Nycomed Amersham and Bronwen relinquished her post as chief executive of Aylesbury Vale Healthcare NHS Trust following Rhys' accident. In response to requests they have written this short tribute to Rhys who lies at rest in the beautiful and peaceful little graveyard behind the chapel.

Rhys was born in Aberystwyth and spent his early years near Greenwich in South Lordon and attended Colfe's school. It was here, to his father's delight, that he started his rugby career and it was from here that we received the first of our "Dear Prenrats" letter - the title stuck as our family nickname.

In 1983, following Wynne's appointment to Amersham International, Rhys moved to Chesham Bois and was enormously proud to be elected Head Boy at both Chesham Preparatory School and Aylesbury Grammar School, where he completed his secondary education. These were happy times. The deputy head of AGS has written to us that he has "very fond memories of Rhyshe was an excellent Head Boy who led by example. His cheerfulness and sense of humour made him both a popular pupil and an asset to the school."

But "all work and no play" was definitely not Rhys' motto. He was delighted to achieve district champion in both sprint and triple jump but, as a true Welshman, was particularly proud that he represented the County at rugby in the No.10 jersey, gaining caps at 15,16 and 18 years of age and captaining the County side on a regular basis. A fellow parent has written that "he was due every ounce of the great respect that his team members had for him. These were certainly a special group of boys who had so much to offer the world and had such wonderful fun together." However to Wynne's horror, at age 17, Rhys was selected for an England National Trials Week! Unfortunately (or fortunately for Wynne) repeated bilateral shoulder dislocations, requiring two major operations, finally put paid to Rhys' international rugby aspirations - but at least torn loyalties were avoided!

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Following A-levels Rhys studied Biology with Management at Sussex University and was awarded both Bachelor and Masters degrees. It was with considerable pride that he telephoned us when he found that the work from his Masters' thesis was to be published in "Nature". His research lay in patenting aspects of the human genome project and this interest was to lead to his choice of strategic marketing as his future career. To this end he joined the list of 4000 applicants for a place on the BOC graduate management programme and was thrilled to become one of the 30 selected.

hys enjoyed his career at BOC. Following an initial period at the Guildford headquarters, he returned to live in Speen during the week whilst gaining his sales experience locally. He worked hard becoming the top salesman for his region. Not bad for a trainee! In December 1997 he returned to BOC head office to take up his permanent marketing role and over the past year worked closely with two top external management consultancies. It says something of the respect others have for him that these consultants have also felt the need to write both of his professionalism and his wonderful sense of fun.

In January 1998 Rhys married Rhian a fellow biology student following a relationship which survived Rhian's attachment to the University of Bordeaux for a year. The wedding was magical - a day to remember forever - and the "golden couple" spent their honeymoon in Zermatt skiing, a passion of Rhys' since the age of seven. His expertise and style were beautiful to watch and it is a cherished memory that we were able to ski with him earlier this year.

Rhys' last eighteen months were ones of extreme hard work but wonderful happiness for both for him and his wife. A few days before his death he learned with great pride that Rhian had been awarded her doctorate from Sussex University. They were together on the Brighton seafront on the evening of 31st July 1999 after a meal with friends to celebrate Rhian's success, when he was tragically killed in a freak fall.

His wife, friends and family were the mainstay of Rhys' life. He had the ability to touch all those he came into contact with and over 300 friends and colleagues packed the little Speen chapel to pay their last respects. His university flatmate described him as the best friend anyone could ever ask for. His work colleagues remembered his lovely smile and his happy, open and honest approach to life - "whenever there was uncontrollable laughter, Rhys was never far away". His close friend Adrian summed up his life for all of us when he said "we are all the better for having known him". We are the better for having been his parents and we derive great comfort from knowing that he rests in peace in this lovely village in the beautiful Chiltern countryside.

The Rhys Davies Music Therapy Fund

hian decided to set up this fund rather than have floral tributes at the funeral and in response to requests from people wanting to show their respect for Rhys. It seemed an appropriate recognition of Rhys' love of music but also gives something back locally to Bronwen's NHS Trust in the form of treatment to some of her most disadvantaged patients now that she has decided not to return to her role of Chief Executive.

Music reaches people when other forms of communication are ineffective. The ability to respond to music appears not to be impaired by mental health problems, behavioural disturbances or systemic disease. This makes it a valuable potential therapeutic agent. The monies raised by the fund will be used to provide treatment to local people in Aylesbury and hopefully the results may build some evidence to support future programmes.

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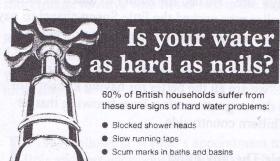




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Speen & North Dean News Issue 19

A REV IN THE MAKING



ix years ago, when I was only nine, my Mother went back to college to learn how to teach at a primary school level. To me at the time it just meant that she had to do a bit of work at home and that she was occasionally not back when I returned from school. Little did I realise that it was the start of a chain of events that would, after three years, bring us to Speen and after three more result in my Father being the butt of many cruel jokes about what the letters R, E, and V, could stand for when put in front of his name.

In case you don't know what I'm talking about I had better explain: My Mum went to college to learn how to teach so that when my Dad gave up his job in the computer industry she could supplement his income in his new job - part-time pastor of Speen Church, and also to help pay his college fees, for as soon as my Mum started teaching my Dad started a course at another college which involved both being a part-time minister and studying for a Diploma of Theology, which would, when completed, allow him to become a full-time minister and of course result (irritatingly for him) in the appearance of three letters at the front of his name, Rev.

His induction as the full-time minister of Speen Church and his ordination (where he officially gets the three new letters) as a minister of the Church were conducted at Speen Church in a special service a couple of months ago. My two brothers are going to describe about their experiences of it.

The Music Group had been facing a crisis for some weeks. Gwen (the pianist) was going to be in Somerset for the big day. All we could do was hope we could hold it together without her. You should have seen our faces, and especially Dad's, when she walked into the church the afternoon of June 28th. She had driven all the way home and was going to drive all the way back again! We were ecstatic. For me the best bit of the afternoon had to be the music - the pieces really seemed to flow. I guess the words must have been significant too but I can't remember them. The chocolate cake was pretty memorable as well!!

As June 28th got closer I realised it was going to be a very special day for Dad and for everyone in the Church. It was like an ending and a beginning rolled into one as Dad finished his college course and started his full-time ministry. The people that joined the celebration seemed to represent the past and future too, with many old friends but also those from the village coming along. It was amazing to see so many friends and family all there at once.

Speen Fete Craft Tent 1999











Leaves of Time Left Rob Lenko Bottom left Alex, Alec and Bianca Bottom right Annabel

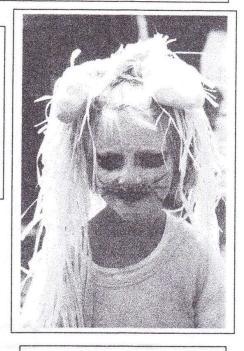




North Dean Fete 1999



North Dean
Fete
Fancy Dress
War veteran Caleb
Wheeler Robinson
Lion. Charlotte
Amhurst
Piggotts Band
in full blast!



Revolting peasants.

1940's dancer Jean Drew Gnome of the woods Bill Chinn Anglo Saxons Alec Rose & Louisa Rose.

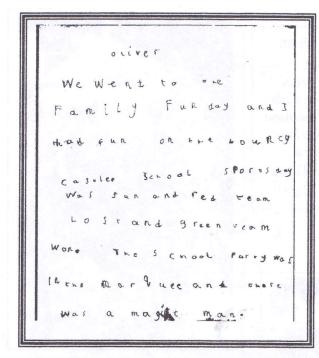
Leaves of Time

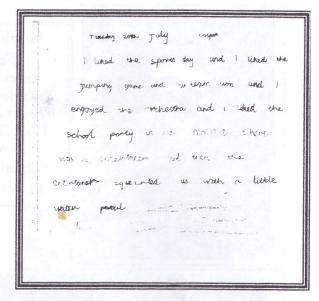




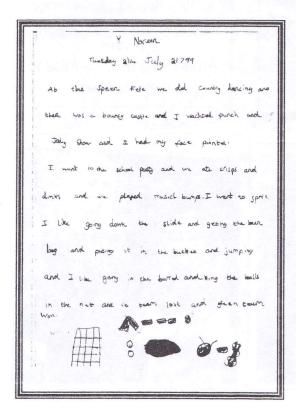


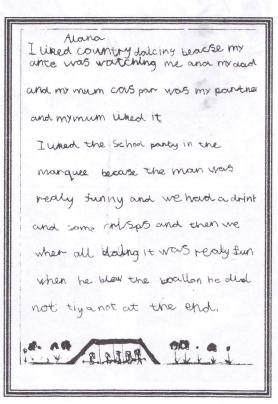
Do we have to write about it Miss?





Speen First School children write about the Summer of fun.

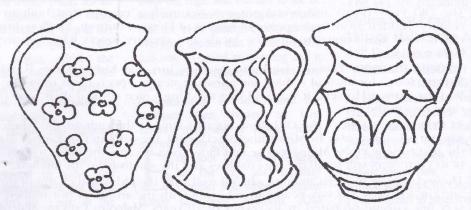




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On display in the showroom are examples of beautifully coloured and fine tableware. Special Commemorative Plates and Bowls can also be made for Wedding Presents, Anniversaries and other occasions that need to be remembered.

The Pottery is open every day, but if you want to see Tessa to discuss an order it would be advisable to ring before coming.

Tessa holds pottery classes in her workshop for groups of 3 people, mornings or evenings. Ring for more details 01494 488 206

Valley Cottage, Highwood Bottom, Speen Bucks. HP27 OPY

SPEEN

ATTHE OF PLOW | d 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.



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, seahass 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.

Book Early For Christmas



Speen W.I.

peen WI has had a busy summer period with varied meetings and other activities. In June Mrs Hoare showed members how to make hanging baskets which will really brighten the patio. This was not just using the usual summer plants but also offered advice on using herbs and winter plants for all round year effects. One lucky member had to enlist the help of her transport friends to demonstration basket, which she won in the raffle, back home. We are reassured to know that it arrived safely and is still providing a stunning summer display.

In July a ramble and treasure hunt around the village was organised. The more observant members managed to solve the cryptic clues provided but the walk was enjoyed by all. Later in the month, the Village Fete saw the usual excellent array of home-made refreshments. Sales from here helped to swell the profits which will be distributed among the village organisations involved.

t the August meeting, one of the highlights was the model produced by a small group of members for the Craft Spectacular at Wycombe Abbey. The Hampden Group of Institutes working on the theme of 'First Home' produced a fully furnished model of a 1950's semi-detached home. Speen has completed the garden shed with tools, harvested vegetables and all the other usual contents.

he WI lunch took place on August 25th when members entertained many of the village residents at this annual event.

ealthy Eating' was the title of the talk provided by Mrs Barbara Owen. This was a real entertainment while still providing the essential information which so many of us find confusing. Delivered with style, common sense and a real feeling of fun it was an

excellent way of looking at this important issue.

owgirls along the lanes of signalled Speen September WI meeting as members and friends gathered for a line dancing session. Jenny Brown led everyone through the routines as we gradually remembered our left from our right and whether to toe or heel tap. Actually putting it to music was an even greater challenge but everyone agreed that it was a really fun way to spend an evening and a few ounces might even have been shed along the way. demonstration by Jenny and her assistant then showed us how smooth and easy it looked when carried out by experts.

Best foot forward will again be the cry on Saturday October 9th when a square dance has been arranged. Also amongst future plans is a

Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan nurses on September 29th as part of the Nation-wide scheme

The following evening, members will be going to the Group meeting at Great Hampden Village Hall.

The craft spectacular at Wycombe Abbey had been very much enjoyed by those who had visited, and members hope to go to Tatton Park in Cheshire next year to visit the National Event. Busy knitters had completed 130 squares for the Winged Fellowship Trust and added to this was £27.50 in sponsor money from those who The Annual sponsored them. Summer Lunch Party had been most successful and letters of thanks received from many of the guests. At the next meeting we shall be

At the next meeting we shall be rendez vousing in Russia with Mr Bishop.

Future Meetings
Thursday 7th October
Rendezvous in Russia by Mr. J.R..F
Bishop. The competition is a
Russian Reminder
Bloom of the Month.

Thursday 4th November
Annual Meeting with Pot Luck
Supper
Thursday 2nd December
My Favourite Jazz Mrs. M. Uglow.
The competition is The Jazziest
parcel wrapping Bloom of the
Month.

Reports by Jean Morris.
The WI are planning a
Millennium Feast in the
Village Hall on the night of
31st December 1999.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Macmillan Nurses On 29th September at Driftway House raised £215 Thank you for your support. Marjourie Stockley on behalf of Speen WI

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music from the British Airways
advert or the spooky Jonathan
Creek theme. The Magic Music
Box features film and TV themes,
popular music, well known classics
and a few unusual and
contemporary pieces.

The players introduce music, explaining what they do and what their instruments are. There is plenty of opportunity for the members of the audience – young or old - to get on stage and join in the fun.

With its light-hearted atmosphere, this is a terrific introduction for anyone unfamiliar with classical music. It also stretches the minds and experience for those members of the audience with some knowledge.

A half term holiday must for all families.

Speen Village Hall 30th October 1999 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5 (£4 concessions) Mrs. Butler 01494 488412 or Speen Stores.

WHAT DID THE PAGEANT DO FOR YOU? They helped me I made It made me feel I get to know loads of ought to go on a people; I had a new friends diet! but I've got really cool part lovely memories Patrick and Emma Cleaver Jo Keattch It built up my confidence for acting and I really really enjoyed I enjoyed being in it and it. I think it was brilliant for the met a lot of new people in whole community and I I made the village. It was great definitely want to do this again! lots of new friends Jane Our Natalie Laura Page Sam and Richard Gower Fantastic, absolutely tremendous! It united the It was a good village working way to meet together. Now new people Loiz Bale they talk when and to have a they pass. laugh I met people I never knew existed in the village and some I had not seen for a long time. The pageant almost changed my life. It was so exciting because it involved the whole village and there were so many good friends in it. I enjoyed every single minute. Mary Hall Rob I've never done Lenko anything like this before, it was great. I'm definitely coming to I really Sheila Tidball I didn't enjoyed France. realise so it and much had would Amy R happened love to in Speen: do it Poppy Pauline Flynn it taught again! me a lot. Rob H. I thought it was absolutely tremendous. I think Marjorie and Martin have done more for the village than anyone else since I've lived here and I think it has been brilliant. I've loved being part of it and It was a good way of wish I could have been involved earlier. socialising

MILLENIUM PROJECTS AND NEWS

"LES FEUILLES DU TEMPS", ANYONE?

The pageant this summer was a wonderful success. All the tickets were sold well in advance and in all about 800 people came to watch the performances. Perhaps even more pleasing was the fact that more than 130 people actually participated in one way or another either on or off the arena, and Marjorie and I would like, through the Speen and North Dean News, to say a very big thank you to all of those people.

Investigations are now underway to establish the feasibility of taking "The Leaves of Time" (suitably modified) to the

village of Hambye in Normandy next summer.

As you will know, Speen, in common with neighbouring Lacey Green, is twinned with Hambye, which is situated in a tranquil and very attractive rural area only a couple of hours' drive from Cherbourg. The famous seaside castle of Mont St.Michel is not far away. Marje and I enjoyed a twinning visit to Hambye last year and found the people most hospitable, but it seems that few Speen folk ever make the trip.

This could be great fun if we can pull it off. The currently planned dates for the visit are 13th-17th July 2000 as school exams should be over and it will be the end of term or very near to it. We shall be looking into the question of accommodation as well as the production requirements. The cast will not generally be expected to deliver their lines in French (although it might help here and there) but the programme notes will explain each scene in French and there is likely to be a stronger emphasis on the visual elements than in the original show.

Anyone interested in being involved please contact us (Marjorie or Martin Stockley) on 488101. There is no reason why this should be limited to those who took part this year subject to feasibility all are welcome. Martin Stockley

SPEEN IN THE MILLENNIUM

The Millennium Celebrations Committee is continuing to work towards producing a History of Speen. This has had to take something of a back seat recently due to other commitments (particularly The Leaves of Time) but work is underway again and it is hoped to have the publication available for sale at next year's village fete.

Another project in which it is hoped everyone in Speen will feature, is to produce, for posterity, a record of the inhabitants of the village at the turn of the Millennium - a sort of Domesday Book of Speen. The aim is to have this available in CD-ROM format as well as in print and anyone interested in helping to put it together should please phone Marjorie Stockley on 488101

MILLENNIUM PROJECT ON A SMALL SCALE.

Hobbies are something I find easier to do rather than write about, and it was with some trepidation that I agreed to write a short piece on my latest project, especially as there are some very experienced photographers in the village!

Last year I brought my camera out of temporary retirement where it had been languishing in a drawer, and took it with me to a family wedding. The resulting pictures reflected the whole enjoyment pretty well and they are a pleasant reminder of a happy occasion bringing everyone together.

However, it gradually dawned on me whilst enjoying the historical walks and articles about Speen and this year's Pageant, that I should be attempting to keep some record of my own surroundings and community at the end of this century. With this objective in mind I started asking one or two local residents if I could take their photographs. Their response was one of surprise, amusement, and generous cooperation.

This has resulted in an album, still modestly full but with a list of potential subjects going on and on. We know that buildings and surroundings change, we only have to look at the old photographs of the area to see this, but it is a pity there are very few faces in this landscape, so I am trying to make a small record of some of the inhabitants of Speen for posterity.

This has not only been great fun to do but it has also given me the opportunity to meet some more residents of the village.

R. Darnton

A BROODY GOOSE - A Chiltern tale by John Radford

he football season had just finished and Hughenden Valley Football Club had held their end-of-season friendly between their Senior side and the Youth side. I was driving down from Speen to the Hughenden Village Playing Fields to see if the goal posts had been dismantled for the summer. If you leave goal posts around the local lads will play soccer all summer long, and then the football club will have no grass in the penalty area to start the next season.



Just as you leave Speen going down Chapel Hill towards North Dean, you pass the Baptist Chapel on your right and the Scout Hut on your left, and there in the middle of the road was a big, plump goose. I slowed down, and she stared back at me, not moving. I slowed further and pulled alongside - she peered in the car - then carried on looking up the road. "Silly Goose" I thought as I pulled onto the grass triangle at the bottom of Spring Coppice Lane, hazard light flashing.

I walked slowly back to her. She looked at me disdainfully, I tried to 'shoo' her somewhere safe. She gently hissed at me - so I stopped 'shooing'. Coming down the hill I saw Peter Dawson - he had heard about a goose on the loose and was coming to investigate. Gently we herded her back up towards the Scout Hut. She wandered, disinterestedly into the grounds and peered into the cars parked there. The Venture Scouts had already met their guest, she had come into the Scout Hut to have a good look round. Leanne and the Ventures debated the options with us.

Peter went up to Spring Coppice Farm farm whilst I drove on down to North Dean - homes with ducks, and sheep I found, but no pet goose. I also checked the goal posts and they had already been taken apart and stored away. So by the time I got back Peter had not only found out where she lived, but, together with Les Brown, had driven her back home to her family.

So what was a goose doing out on a cool May evening? Les told us that they have three ponds on the farm, and every year a family of Mallards hatch a brood. Our goose lives on the farm with her brothers & sisters, and being without family herself this year, she had decided to appoint herself as Great Aunt Goose to the young ducklings. She had looked after them, taking them swimming, leading them to breakfast each morning, and protecting the little bundles of fluff and feathers from predators when their own mum was not around. As they grew up, she had shielded them from the attentions of the older drakes. But there was one part of their lives that she had not been able to share. Every now and then their mum would march her little ducks off to the pond about a mile away over the fields. They would follow mum in an excited line. When this happened, their great white aunt would become distressed. She would hoot and shout, and everyone would know that her little nieces and nephews had 'gone over the hill'.

Then, as the weeks passed and they got bigger, big enough to go off on adventures on their own, eventually, one day she realised that they had all gone and left her. The farm gate was open and so she went down the road where she had never been before. Down the hill to the junction and then right and up the hill. Every now and then a car would come past, very slowly, and she would peer in, to see if 'her' ducklings were inside. But they never were.

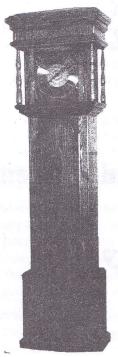
When Peter and Les took her home, she was still sad. Her brothers and sisters got up to greet her, and she rushed in to tell them all about the world outside, but they were only interesetd in the food that had been put out to welcome her home. She was not interested in food.

Strange what you see at the end of the football season. Incidentally, the youth team beat the Seniors, 6-1.



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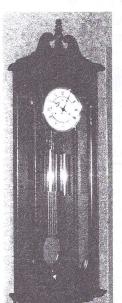
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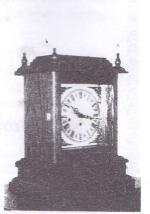
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www.pgmclocks.co.uk

Or telephone:

Speen (01494) 488422





The Turnery, North Dean

n the 1920s, Thomas Rogers & son, Charles, ran a chair leg turnery in North Dean. Mr and Mrs Roger Pyle have kept old account books for the years 1923 to 1929. Mr Pyles's mother is a daughter of Charles Rogers. Thomas and his son invested in a petrol donkey engine to run the belt driven lathes. BP petrol was bought in cans at eight shillings to ten shillings per month. Father and son noted down their wages and hours to

half gross Small rocker forefeet gent 19.0 2 gross 9 dozen & 4 Government Legs £3.6.1 4 dozen commode legs 16.0 8 dozen 24"stool legs £1.14.0 1 gross number four spindles 12.0

and son noted down their wages and nours to linewood.

From 1923 to 1927 sales revenue was between £529 to £650 per annum, 80% for turned stuff, 18% timber sales and 2% firewood. Costs were between £501 and £597

pounds per annum, 60% wages, 25% timber purchases and 15% carting and other costs. Profits over five years range it from a £28 loss to £53 pounds in 1925.

Depression and collapse in 1928 - 29. Rogers and Son only show of four months work January to April 1928 and three months work January to March 1929 with a profit of £9. Wages taken dropped from £6 .14 week to £5.12.0 in the 1929 figures.

be worked on 1st January 1923.

T, Rogers £1.10s. per week. C. Rogers £2 per week.

Begin work at 7.30 and finish at 7pm.

Saturday 7.30 until 12 noon

younger son, Roy, also worked in the family firm. Timber was purchased from Hamnett, Rafferty who were probably agents for landowners. Some timber was sawn and sold to furniture makers including William Plumridge of Speen -1,742 in 1926. Customers for turned items, legs and stretchers were Mr. O. Haines, Wharton and sons, Mr J Evans and Mr W. Vere who is still trading in 1999 as Verco Office Furniture Ltd.

homas Rogers was Treasurer North Dean village hall in 1930 and kept the income expenses on two back pages. Here are a few interesting extracts from it.

Income

February1st Profits on dance £2.10.7.

March 18 Wist(sic) party £1.15.9 July 5th Fete balance £14.2.11

October 31st Subscriptions £24.0.0

Expenses

February 1st Gallon oil £0. 1.0

candles £0. 101/2 stuff for curtains £0. 14.10

April 14th paid Mr Harvey piano tuning £1.1.0 August 15th Installation of electric light £7.7.6. October 30th Biggs & Son repairs £60.0.0

October 31st Two padlocks 2.7.

With thanks to Roger and Pam by Bob Johnson September 1999

A typical sales invoice to Mr W. Vere in June 1928 was:

1 gross Small rocker forefeet ladies £1.5.0

ECLIPSE IN TOTALITY

Having been holiday home owners in Cornwall for the past twenty years, and in spite of a great love of the West Country, we were most indecisive about our plans for the Eclipse.

Locals were advising us to let the house – "you'll easily get £6,000 for a two week let" were the predictions of those in the know. Well, we all know what happened to those grandiose ideas! Our two granddaughters were keen to witness the event, but then they wouldn't be driving the car along the same roads as the predicted three million Eclipse watchers or indeed shopping in the same shops.

A visit to our house in early July confirmed the reports carried in most newspapers, the boom in tourism was not going to happen. so at the eleventh hour we decided to go. However, we had to delay our departure until that other most significant date in our calendar had passed, ie. The North Dean Fete on August 7th. With alarm clocks set for 4a.m. on Sunday August 8th with three teenage girls we left North Dean at 5a.m. and experienced one of the easiest journeys ever to the West Country. The weather was warm and sunny and we enjoyed a very leisurely day, but from Monday onwards it was downhill all the way, and on Tuesday

evening we knew the weather forecasts for the Big Day were going to be correct.

On Wednesday the 11th we set off, complete with CE viewers and a hurriedly made pinhole viewer, to climb Brea Hill, a magnificent lookout overlooking the Camel Estuary and the Atlantic Ocean. We joined quite a queue of would- be watchers on the narrow footpath crossing the dunes and then up the hill. The young ones had no problems with the steep gradient, but us older ones had to take a little more time, hoping there would be room for us all once up there!

Waiting on the slopes near the brow of the hill were some 1,000 people and 300 dogs, and the noise level generated by the excitement and expectation was incredible. Not much chance of witnessing the eerie silence that accompanies a total eclipse.

The cloud cover was total and seemed to be thickening by the minute. It was getting darker, but so slowly, and by 11.05am it was still very light and we were beginning to think someone had made a big mistake on the date.

In the next six minutes darkness came but not the total blackness we had all expected and we certainly did not need torches or lanterns as advised. All the street lights in Padstow on

the other side of the estuary came on and everywhere were the flashlights of cameras.

So this was totality! Suddenly a cry went up and for the briefest of seconds the clouds parted and we saw what looked like a new moon, but it was a silver bright sliver of the sun with the moon completely obscured by the clouds. Just as quickly it was gone and so was our Eclipse '99. The colours in the sky were slightly pink, as at dawn, but no noticeable wind or rippling of the grass.

Our consolation was that we had been there, and if the weather had been perfect and we had stayed away we would have been very annoyed with ourselves.

Watching the news round-up of the event later in the day it would appear we could have gone anywhere in the U.K. and actually seen more than we did in Cornwall.

By midday the rain set in, as it can only in Cornwall, and most of the visitors left for home, leaving behind empty campsites, cancelled rock concerts and many impoverished would-be entrepreneurs.

Lillian Cash

WOODLAND HISTORY STUDY DAY - FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT PIGOTTS, NORTH DEAN

John Morris of the Chiltern Woodland Project is running a repeat of the very successful day last November, at which the rich evidence of the past in our woodland was considered. Dr Nichola Bannister, a well known field archaeologist, will provide further expertise.

For details of the day ring John Morris on 01494 -565749.

John has recently produced an excellent booklet "History in Chiltern Wood" – of interest to any woodland owner, walker or local historian (£5.00 from Chiltern Woodland Project)

Nick Wheeler-Robinson

THE INCREDIBLY USEFUL LITTLE SHOP

peen shop has barely been open for 18 months and in many ways it has transformed the village. Undoubtedly it is a well-designed building finished in brick and flint with attractive display windows which project an "olde world" charm. Nonetheless it is a very functional village store and Post Office catering for many of the needs of our village community. However, the visual impact of the shop at the heart of the village is only one of its benefits to us.

The shop has also had a major social impact on the village providing a focus of the community. Not only does it provide many of our shopping requirements, it also acts as a meeting place where one can bump into fellow villagers and socialise or buy tickets for local events while stocking up with groceries. David and Sharon have helped this process by participating in many village events. In addition they can lay on buffets, dinners and assist with large orders for food or wine for events.

The shop has also brought forth further benefits to the community which are less apparent. The rent paid each quarter is effectively transferred to a charitable fund, "The Speen Shop Charities Fund" and this is available for supporting worthy causes within the village. The fund is managed by the Speen Shop Charities Committee which is made up of representatives from Bucks Housing Association, and various elected village representatives under the chairmanship of Andy Gower.

The Committee operates under very strict terms of reference which dictate that financial assistance can be provided for any useful non-commercial purpose which:-

- is of direct benefit to the community or satisfies an individual or group need.
- is for a project, group or individual within the Parish of Speen

 is for a purpose which represents a clear and demonstrable educational, medical social or community need.

As a general rule the Committee will not provide finances if funding is available from an alternative source. The Committee may, however, contribute to a partly funded scheme.

At present, the Committee have supported a number of applications including a grant of £1,000 to bolster the excellent fund raising activities carried out by the Speen Millennium Committee funding the production of "The Leaves of Time". Additional funding of £825 has been approved in conjunction with other assistance from the Parish Council for repairs to the lychgate and War Memorial at the Baptist chapel. Smaller amounts of £200 to Speen and North Dean News, and £100 to the Women's Institute to provide a pensioners dinner have also been approved Other applicants have been asked to investigate alternative sources for funds. Awards and the Funds accounts are published in the shop.

Applications can be made by anyone, not just the wellestablished groups and organisations; maybe some of the children and teenagers have ideas which could be supported. Forms are available in the shop or alternatively, if your children are daunted by filling in forms, a committee member would be happy to help out. Confidentiality will be honoured when required for individual requests.

In conclusion, the shop has brought about a range of improvements in the village –aesthetically, socially but also financially in supporting worthy causes. All it all the shop is an "incredibly useful" asset which deserves the full support of all of the village.

Peter Simmons and Peter King on behalf of the Speen Shop Charities Committee

NORTH DEAN'S THIRD WORLD MILLENNIUM PROJECT

We are planning to use the money we are collecting to build an AIDS ward in Lowero, Uganda. Lowero is in the bush forty miles north of Kampala. Medical care is provided by a group of Ugandan nuns, led by Sister Ernestine, whom David Kemp (of Flint Cottage) knew when he was working there. In a letter to David, Sister Ernestine reported that they had registered 1029 new AIDS cases in the previous year. David plans to go out himself quite soon and get the work going.

People here have been very generous. We have collected from most of North Dean's 86 homes, and, with the proceeds of a small supper dance at Pigotts, we are close to having £3,500 in the bank – further contributions welcome (cheques to "North Dean 3rd World Project")

Nick Wheeler-Robinson 562167

Council information and planning news

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN:

Omar Lodge Highwood Bottom	Building does not conform
Erect prefabricated bungalow	to designation of mobile
	Home
The state of the s	No objection
Form upper floor over garage	Permission granted by WDC
	No objections
Erect conservatory	
Theta, Grubbins Lane	No objections
Single Storey rear extension	
	No objection provided
Road North Dean	materials used were in
Replacement roof to	keeping with existing
	building.
	No objection providing it
	does not conflict with
	50% Green Belt rule
	Sove Steen Belt fulc
the first of the second of the	the public second as a second second
	Erect prefabricated bungalow 10 Abbotswood Form upper floor over garage Field End House, Studridge Lane Erect conservatory Theta, Grubbins Lane Single Storey rear extension 4 Primrose Cottages Speen

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS

For the past several months a variety officers from Bucks Environmental Services Dept have been engaged in producing a Provisional Local Transport Plan which was lodged with the Dept of Transport and the Regions (DETR) on 31 July 99. The plan supersedes the old transport policies and programme document which was produced annually since the 70's. It includes all the County Council's proposals and strategies relating to transport issues and will be used by the government to identify financial grants for the 2000/01.

The plan, in two volumes totals over 6000 pages and it is intended that a full local consultation will take place over the next year in order that a final five-year plan can be sent to DETR in July 2000. The first local meeting/workshop to involve Parish Councils is due to take place on 19.11.99. for any additional information please contact Mike Knight the Area office. (H/W475315)

TRAFFIC CALMING FUNDING

Bucks C.C. has recently set up a rolling fund of £0.25M to help Parish and Town Councils fund traffic calming schemes. We are the first Authority to introduce such a scheme in the County.

The County Council will initially fund the schemes which would not otherwise meet priority criteria and the parishes will make contributions over an agreed period.

The County Council will continue to implement and pay for high priority schemes where injury accidents can be reduced.

Costs include design, construction and a maintenance charge. All time and input from the Traffic Management Team is free and once implemented there will be no additional costs.

HEDGES/TREES

A plea from the heart. At this time of year the Area Office is inundated with calls requesting action to chase frontagers to cut their hedges/trees which cause obstruction and safety to the highway.

The paperwork involved is significant although action can be taken and costs recovered if a danger exists or no action is ultimately taken.

Obviously it is better for all concerned if individuals recognise their responsibilities and regularly maintain their own boundary features. Area Staff would be grateful if everyone would comply.



MARJORIE STOCKLEY A.G.S.M., Gold Medal L.A.M. Graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama Member of the Society of Speech & Drama Teachers

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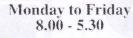
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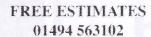
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Andy's Ordination & Induction or "sheepdog requires sheep " Apply. Speen Chapel

It's only been three years since the Gowers moved into the village and Andy became our student pastor, but in this short time they have become an integral part of the village and the church has flourished under Andy's guidance. So it was with a feeling of celebration for Andy, and all his hard work, the family, and not least God's many blessings on this village, that some 200 people joined together for the service of induction and Ordination on the last Saturday in June.

of Spurgeon's college, the Rev. Michael Quike; the Rev Roy Freestone, the Superintendent of the Baptist Union Central Area; Rev. David Hughes from Princes Risborough Baptist Church and Colin Pye who heads the Bucks Baptist Association. And so it was that VIPs, friends, relations and well-wishers all crowded into the hillside Chapel on a very warm afternoon.

fter a time of worship led by Rev. David Hughes there were prayers before Andy's formal ordination and subsequent presentation with a commemorative bible. A real sense of joy filled the chapel as we sang "The Lord's My Shepherd" and the service moved into the induction.

his started with a moving statement from David King as Deacon, on behalf of the church members. Recounting the past year's growth and decline in the church he talked of the real feeling of hope in the members when Andy agreed to join them in Speen and the growth of the church over the past few years.

s the service moved swiftly onwards, the chapel became reminiscent of an Caribbean congregation as those upstairs recycled service sheets into fans to keep the hot summer's air moving! The similarity became even greater as we were treated to a powerful and at times, animated sermon by the Rev. Michael Quicke. He took the passage from John 21 v15-17, where Jesus repeatedly asks Simon Peter to look after His sheep. Explaining the relevance of the passage for us today, he showed us that, just like those rather stupid animals, we need Jesus as our shepherd to guide us in our lives.

ith the closing words of greeting from members of local churches and the local council ringing in our ears, the service closed and tea was served. Sitting on the hillside in the early evening sunshine, I was left in no doubt that, whether disciples of Jesus or not, as "sheep" in Speen we now have a very competent "sheepdog" in Andy, to guide us. Kate Vale

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Weddings in 1999 {or at least the ones we found out about !}



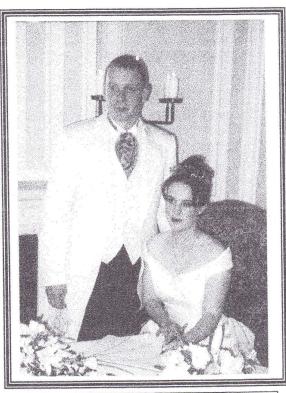
Michael and Rachel Stickings 4th September 1999 Canada



Darran and Salina Oliver .8th May 1999



Amelia (Stockley) and Richard Thomas 20th March 1999



Claire (Taylor) and Neil Barlow 17th April 1999





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Who's Who, In The Area. ?

Speen & North Dean News Editor	Glenn Hart	488528
Speen Residents Association	Gordon Hall	488331
Speen W.I.	Glenn Hart	488528
Speen Horticultural Society		
Speen Playing Fields Association	Marian Tozer	488724
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Village Hall Committee, Speen	Catherine Butler	488412
Village Hall Committee, North Dean	Megan Chinn	563074
Speen pre-school	Kay Morgan	564825
Speen School PTA	Amanda Cleaver	488288
Speen Tennis Court	Cherry Seekins	488355
Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Baptist Church	Andy Gower	488337
Speen/D.D. Good Neighbours	Margaret Jones	488758
Mother & Toddler Club	Caroline Crossley	488577
Neighbourhood Watch	John Radford	488203
Speen First School	Mrs Nayna	488679
Speen Stores	Sharon	488258
Fete Committee Chairman	David King	01844 344830

Speen & North Dean News Welcomes any articles to be published in the magazine

The Following notes are to help people wishing to do this.

- 1. Any type of writing or printing will be accepted
- 2. We would like any article written on a computer to be sent in as a hard copy and on disc. the program we use is WORD, Times New Roman, 12pt.
- 3. Please try to keep your article to 500 words or less, as this will fill one page.
- 4. Please allow less words if you wish to include a photograph or a picture.
- 5. We can scan most art work, photos or pictures up to A4.
- 6. Please remember we print in black & white, most colour pictures will work in B & W
- 7. If you need any work typed this can be arranged.
- 8. Please contact any team member if you need help
- 9. Please write the article!!

Copy date for the next issue: January 7th 2000

WHAT'S ON? - in Speen & North Dean

October 99

2nd Speen Village Hall

7th Speen Village Hall

12th Speen Village Hall

14th Speen Village Hall

15th SpeenVillage Hall

22nd Speen School

23rd North Dean Village Hall

23rd Speen Village Hall

30th Speen Village Hall

November 99

1st Speen School

4th Speen Village Hall

12th Speen Village Hall

12th Piggot's Hill

13th Speen Village Halle Hall

13th North Dean Village Hall

27th Speen Village Hall

December 99

2nd Speen Village Hall

4th Speen Village Hall

7th SpeenVillage Hall

17th Speen School

23rd North Dean Village Hall

January 00

5th Speen School

6th Speen Village Hall

7th S & N D News

15th North Dean Hall

February 00

3rd SpeenVillage Hall

18th Speen School

25th Speen School

25th Speen Village Hall

26th Speen Village Hall

28th Speen School

June 00

25th North Dean Hall

July 00

8th Speen Playing Fields

13th - 17th

August 00

5th North Dean Playing Field

Men's Breakfast - Duncan Dyson

WI

Parish Council Meeting 7.30

Volunteers for Fete 2000 ALL WELCOME

Village Quiz

Last day before Half Term

Village Quiz

Speen Lace Day

Milton Keynes Orchestra 7.30

Commence after Half Term

W.I

Millennium Choir

Woodlands History Study day. John Morrs 565749

Ladies Breakfast - Dave & Preeti How

Line Dancing

Village Hall Xmas Fair 2.30

W.I

Men's Breakfast - Dr John Lockley

Parish Council Meeting 7.30

Last Day of Term

Christmas Gathering. Details John Rogers 562041

Megan Chinn 563074

Spring Term Commence

W.I.

Copy Date

Lunch for those born before 1940

W.I.

Last day before Half Term

Commence after Half Term

Horticulture Talk } Both by Professor Sir

Lady's Breakfast} Ghillean & Lady Prance

Summer Term Commence

North Dean Millenium Day

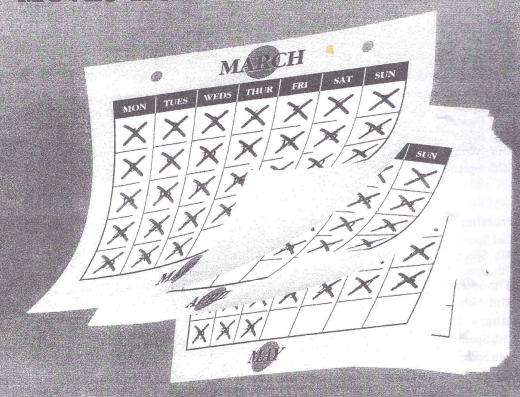
Speen Village Fete

"Leaves of Time". Visit to Hambye (to be conf)

North Dean Fete



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