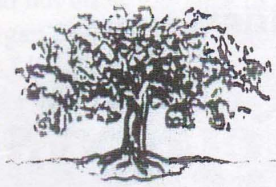


Speen and North Dean NEWS

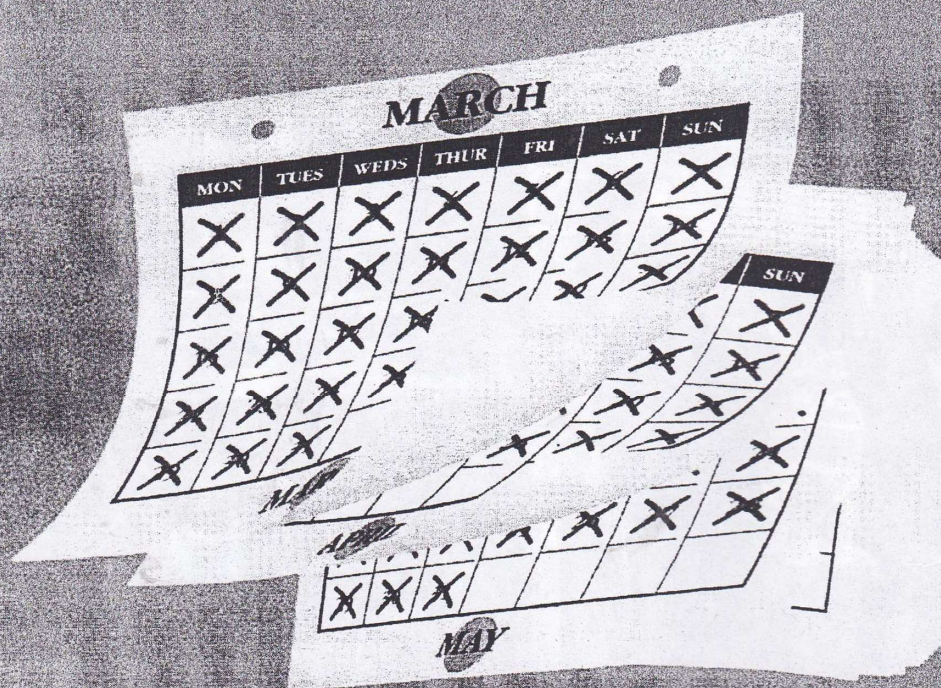


Issue 25 Autumn 2001





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Editor's note

Taking over the editor's chair has involved a very steep learning curve. My commitments with Speen Festival did not allow any time to devote to this esteemed organ until 10 days before the copy date. Since then I have had to learn how to use Microsoft Publisher and the wonders of e-mail (ie – I wonder why we bother). Neither has been spectacularly successful but will, hopefully, improve. Meanwhile I apologise to readers if this edition fails in any way to match the superb standards set by my predecessor, Glenn Hart. Glenn, incidentally, has been enormously helpful in shepherding me through this first effort.

Contributors please note that my e-mail address is majos@btinternet.com, telephone 01494 488101, address Driftway House, Coleheath Bottom, Speen HP27 0SZ.

Martin Stockley

Copy date for the next issue is
January 25th 2002

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Cover photographs clockwise from top left:

- * Speen Festival: "Alice" - Avril White, Laura Page and Roger Craft as the Queen of Hearts, Alice and the King of Hearts
- * Speen Festival: "Alice" - Jeremy Symondson, Lara Rodgers and Rob Lenko as the March Hare, the Dormouse and the Mad Hatter
- * Catherine and George Butler, who opened their garden to Festival visitors.
- * North Dean Fete – the colourful clowns are Bob and Jan Wheeler
- * Speen Fete – plenty of fancy dress here, too!

Many thanks to JNP for generously printing the cover pages in colour.

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Speen Festival

7th to 15th September

2001

Speen held its first ever Festival in September - and that was a week, that was! The venues were the Speen marquee and the Village Hall, the dates September 7th to 15th, and if there were ever any doubts as to whether Speen could put on its very own Festival, they were dispelled by the attendances and the active support from the community.

Over 700 tickets were sold for the various events (mostly within the village) and when the numbers attending the non-ticketed events were taken into account, there were reckoned to be over 1200 "visits" to the Festival in total.

Equally gratifying was the fact that such a large cross-section of the community took part or lent a hand in some way or other. At least 130 people actively contributed to the Festival's success, whether by performing, organising, putting up and taking down the marquee, publicity, box office, finance, designing and printing, making props, catering, stewarding, car-parking, flower arranging,

fetching and carrying, making costumes, auctioning antiques, exhibiting their art or photography, or otherwise helping with the myriad of tasks that such an enterprise requires. The overall logistical task was organised and managed by John Holmes. To all of these people I should like, on behalf of the Committee, to say a sincere "thank you."

"Alice" - director Marjorie Stockley

The Festival opened with a dramatised adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, written and scored especially for the occasion. This was very much a team event in which the children of the village played a big part. Laura Page was a delightful Alice, and the costumes, make up and inventive props helped to create a genuine Wonderland for the entertainment of all. Every ticket was sold and over 400 people watched the show, including an invited special needs audience on the final dress rehearsal. A signer for the deaf helped to increase the enjoyment of a group with

hearing difficulties on the Saturday matinée. The enthusiasm for "Alice" was tremendous, building on the foundations laid by "The Leaves of Time" pageant two years ago, but drawing in welcome newcomers to both performance and staging. Such was the euphoria that one member of the cast has already started writing a script (and it's not me this time) for the next Festival!



The cast of "Alice"

Art and Photography Exhibition - organised by Glenn Hart

This was a showcase for the many talented folk in Speen whose skills with the brush, the camera or in crafts are too rarely displayed to the public. A wide variety of styles and subject matter from nearly 20 exhibitors was to be enjoyed and admired in the Village Hall, and over the 2 days of the exhibition it received an estimated 250 visits.

Open Gardens

Catherine and George Butler, and Charlie and Sheila Pearson kindly opened their gardens on the first Sunday of the Festival so that visitors could pass from the Art Exhibition to the Roadshow, and then on to admire a village garden.

Speen Antiques Roadshow - organisers David and Pauline Flynn

A fascinating all-day event in the marquee, with antiques and other articles for sale, and demonstrations of relevant skills such as furniture restoration. In addition, members of the public brought along about 200 items for valuation by experts in their field, and an auction in the afternoon, conducted with professionalism and great humour by Dave Evans, disposed of some 50 lots. Refreshments



Dave Evans spots another hand go up at the auction

were on hand for those who liked to linger and David and Pauline wish to express their thanks to their friends from Speen and Naphill who helped throughout the day with the catering - Marion, Hazel and Daisy, particularly, take a bow. An estimated 200 to 300 people visited the event.

"The George Gershwin Story" - organised and presented by Martin Hart



The Martin Hart Quintet in the Speen Marquee (bass player off picture - sorry!)

Another event that could probably have sold itself twice over, and the lucky 130 ticket holders had a real treat in store. Martin brought together a talented jazz quintet (with himself on drums) that really brought the marquee alive, and provided added enjoyment between numbers with his knowledgeable commentary on the composer's life and works. Many of Gershwin's melodies remain familiar standards today, and a glance round the marquee at the beaming faces and tapping toes was all that was needed to confirm everyone was having a great time.

The Natural History of Speen - presented by Peter Symonds

The Village Hall was packed with people eager to watch and listen to this slide presentation on the wildlife of our village. They weren't disappointed, and I for one would be more than happy to sit through it all over again! We in the audience could only wonder at Peter's skill, patience and knowledge as he took us through 12 months of Speen's flora and fauna as captured by the lens of his camera. We came away with a renewed appreciation of what a beautiful place we live in.

(Continued on next page)

African Hand Drumming Workshops - organised by Cherry Seekins

This must surely be a first for Speen! The three workshops, each for a different age group, were run by Jed and Justine Hoile from Wycombe. I was delighted to see a tent full of 8-12 year olds, each clutching a djembe (a type of drum). Later on, while helping set up the marquee for the next event, I could hear the 18 plus age group next door (next flap?) already beginning to sound pretty authentic. Is this the new rock 'n roll?



The first African hand drumming workshop gets underway

They helped participants explore the various sounds that can be produced using different areas of the drum and different parts of the hand, and gave an introduction to the complex rhythms that skilled performers can generate. I ducked my head in at the beginning of the morning and was

Gala Concert and Supper - organised and presented by Martin Stockley

The Festival finale in the marquee was another sell-out, and the 120 strong audience was treated to a tremendous variety of music (all from local performers) together with a delicious 3 course supper. The hand drummers from the morning's workshops gave a demonstration of their skill and when one considers that the programme included work from Eric Clapton and Lionel Bart to Cesar Franck and J S Bach you can see what I mean by variety. All the performers were well received and the audience particularly appreciated the number of young performers who proved beyond doubt that the future of live music is in good hands - at any rate around Speen.

Martin Stockley

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NORTH DEAN FETE

the day that the rains came down

North Dean Saturday 4th August

The sky grew darker and darker and then the rain came.....the band grabbed their music and instruments and fled; umbrella carriers gained new friends and hurried to the marquee; those sedately enjoying tea and cake (£1) in the hall were joined by a noisy dripping crowd; boys darting about just getting soaked; the books and clothes and all on the jumble stall grew forlornly wetter and wetter—and so North Dean Fete 2001 was ended by almost an inch of rain.

A lot goes into a good fete--- “the committee” meets each month with an ever longer agenda item. In North Dean we make good use of tradition: “He’s been our judge for years”-----“they always run that stall”-----“ You did so well last year”-----“ I think I can get my cousins to come again”-----“ That won’t work, we tried it years ago”-----“ I don’t mind doing it again”---“The Chairman always----“. But for us this year our tradition has ended.- John Rogers retired from the committee chairmanship, a matter considered in verse on the programme (and reprinted on page 25).

Then the collection of bric-a-brac and tombola, reminders through the front doors, recruiting “volunteers” and preparing the field and the hedges, and borrowing tables and chairs and equipment, printing enough programmes and checking on gear loaned out (who has got our hoopla rings?), finding the banner and the bunting. In the evening before, loyal workers laying out the field, pricing the bric-a-brac, (“Whoever produced that?” “ What can that be for?”), folding tombola and raffle tickets, preparing a few new attractions etc, etc.

The morning dawns clear enough, but the forecast is uncertain. From early, up to a score of helpers at work in all parts of the field; straw bales, coconuts and the bar arrive; side-show are laid out and carloads of jumble. The Beechdean ‘Bus’ and it’s mini satellites take their place. The fine Speen marquee is (partially) filled by show entries – well over two hundred this year, carefully recorded, numbered and displayed. Then the judges get to work: in a few classes the lone

“First” has no second or third – in others a first, second, third and a clutch of “Highly Commended” certificates give something for later visitors to disagree with. In our show no entry fees are paid, nor prizes given (except for the junior classes) but there is a range of ageing silver trophies (most presented by long departed residents) for polishing and cherishing.

At 2 pm the opening ceremony. Many who arrive on time are there for the bric-a-brac (not open yet) and cluster there vulture-like, letting the opening speeches go. Slowly the clouds and the crowds grow—the sun shines, the band plays and the company wanders to and fro, talking with friends and making new ones with a beer or ice and parting with 50p—or more for a go here or there. Some lads work out winning ways on the tombola, a cricket ‘blue’ tests the back netting in the coconut shy and the band plays on despite younger and younger volunteer conductors. After two hours prices of the bric-a-brac are falling as we get down to the draw of the big raffle. But-----the sky grew darker and darker and then the rain came-----.

We drew the raffle later (helicopter lesson for one pensioner----large soft toy with Dalmatian spots for another), later still had a village party in the marquee and on Monday evening the committee met to review the day, celebrate a satisfactory profit, and a lot of work and fun (and we drank a glass or two). Thank you if you came, thank you again if you helped—and if you missed it, come in 2002! (3rd August?!).

By Nick Wheeler-Robinson

NEWS FROM NORTH DEAN CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Saturday September 22nd

For the second year in succession a working party from the Village Hall Committee (plus friends!) worked hard to improve the play area by clearing weeds etc.

If enough volunteers turn up we do not need to spend more than 1 or 2 hours there. We hope to give more advance warning next year to encourage more helpers. This is also a great way to meet our fellow North Deaners.

News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:

September was to be a whirlwind month of activities in our communities but the devastating events in America on 11th September brought us up short. As our hearts go out to the victims and the families of those involved we are faced, not only with our own mortality and frailty, but also with a very real sense of *'there, but for the grace of God, go I'*.

Yet, as we reflect on some of the stories and funerals, we occasionally see a light of grace shining through in the midst of such brutally shattered lives; even in the horror of it all some people have found the strength of God's grace.

Your community church was open for prayer and reflection on the Thursday and Friday, and a special service was held incorporating the European three minutes silence on Friday morning. With Strike Command so near, we continue to be mindful of those whose service enables us to live in prosperity and peace.

Friday 14th Sept Dr Caroline Berry

'The Human Genome Project and our future'

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to hear Dr Berry, who, until her recent retirement, headed a team of Clinical Geneticists at Guys Hospital. She kept the audience engrossed for the whole talk, starting with a very understandable explanation of our genetic makeup. (Though I may have got it a bit wrong when I said we share 50% of the genetic make up of a banana!). From her wide experience she was able to show the many benefits that genetic research has already brought - and which we often take for granted. Yet behind the scenes of patient care, the increased options already available can thrust patients and their families into very real and painful dilemmas.

Looking at the future fruits of the Human Genome Project, Dr Berry explained how the application of detailed genetic knowledge of individuals and populations might be handled. Alongside great advantages we could see the potential for harm for both individuals and families: It was clear that the fruits of genetic research can be a mixed blessing. There will be another opportunity to hear Dr Berry speak at one of the Ladies' Breakfasts during the 2002-2003 season.

Saturday 15th Sept Men's 'Breakfast with Friends and ... Professor Sam Berry'

Whereas his wife is a human geneticist, Prof Berry is an ecological geneticist - which must make

for fascinating breakfast table conversation. Until his recent retirement he was Professor of Genetics at University College London and in the audience was one of his past students. No names - but I will disclose Abbotswood as the habitat!

Prof Berry's fascinating talk was based on the view that God speaks to us, as it were, through two books - the book of his Works (ie the world around us), and the book of his Words (ie the Biblical record), and that study of both is necessary as they illuminate each other. Consequently he experienced his work informing his faith, and his faith informing his work. No problem for him seeing evolution as part of the picture - but a picture in which human beings are given a responsibility to care for creation rather than to destroy it.

Sunday 23rd Sept Senior Citizens' Top Ten Songs of Praise and Harvest Tea

Nearly 40 of our more experienced neighbours enjoyed a hearty tea after an hour of singing their favourite hymns. This year we had a three way tie for first place between *O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder*; *Come ye thankful people come*; and *We plough the fields and scatter*.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Harvest 'Home and Away' gifts scheme. **Away** - we raised over £120 for the Toybox charity to help street children in Guatemala; **Home** - the harvest produce was received with open arms by Saunderton Hostel.

Happening soon:

3rd Nov - Ladies' Breakfast: Jaqueline Davies.

1st Dec - Men's Breakfast: Dr Rodney Holder.

Summary of Weekly Church Activities

- Sundays:** 10:30am Worship for all ages incl. Creche, Sunday School for 3's-12's, and Teens discussion group.
12:00 Fair Trade Stall in church hall (2nd Sunday in month).
6:00pm Worship Group.
- Tues:** 9:00am Meeting for Prayer - at a home in the community.
- Weds:** 10:00-11:30am "Time Out"
10:00-11:30am Daytime Home Group - Chinyssnook, North Dean
8:00-9:30pm Evening Home Group - at a home in the community
- Thurs:** 9:00am Meeting for Prayer - at a home

NORTH DEAN MAN'S BIKE RIDE HELPS RAISE £900

On Friday 5th October, three friends and I cycled 87 off-road miles from Bath to Henley, raising over £900 for The Anaphylaxis Campaign. We cycled the towpath of the Kennet and Avon canal until we reached Reading, where we picked up the river Thames to Henley. It took us 12 hours in total, including rest breaks and a very welcome lunch; the only thing on our plates we didn't eat was the cutlery and napkins. The trip computer on my bicycle registered that 8 hours of the total time was actually spent spinning the wheels, equating to an average travelling speed of around 10.5 miles an hour.

Luckily for us the weather was as good as it gets this time of year and the muddy patches of towpath weren't too churned up. The Kennet and Avon canal meanders through some beautiful countryside, particularly in Wiltshire, and the 29 lock climb up to Devizes is an impressive feat of pre-mechanised engineering. Despite some inevitable aches and pains at the end of the journey we all felt a tremendous sense of achievement. It was a day none of us will ever forget.

We'd already decided to cycle this route when it occurred to me that I could use my endeavours to raise some money for charity. As my five-year

old daughter Harriet has a severe nut allergy, the Anaphylaxis Campaign was an obvious choice. I was delighted when my friends took away sponsor forms to help me raise money for this cause, but I certainly didn't expect just four of us would raise as much money as we did.

Thousands of people in the UK have potentially fatal food allergies; this condition is known as anaphylaxis. The Anaphylaxis Campaign was set up to help them, advancing research into the cause and promoting awareness to the food industry of the condition.

Although there have been quite a few local and national news stories of fatalities through food allergies, eating out is a constant worry to a parent of a child with this condition. There are still a lot of people serving and selling food in this country who really aren't aware of this condition and it's potential dangers.

If you want to help, or for more information, the Anaphylaxis Campaign telephone number is 01252 542029, or you can visit their website www.anaphylaxis.org.uk

Craig Watson



Picture shows the intrepid cyclists, with Craig second from right

SPEEN FETE 2001

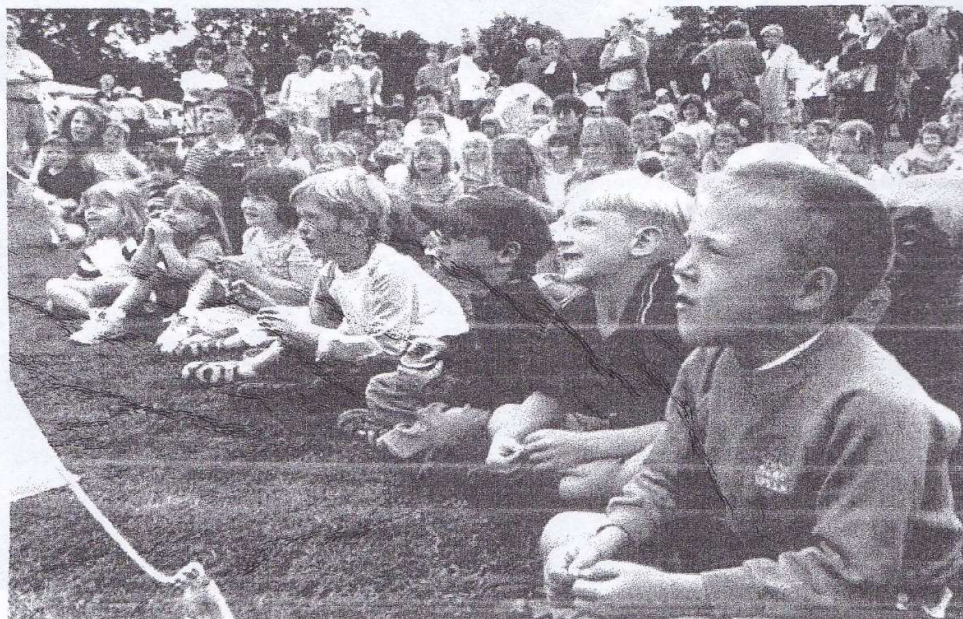
As reported elsewhere in this publication, Speen Fete raised over £800 for the Ian Rennie Hospice this year, and was still able to distribute further funds to village organisations. As usual there was a marvellous variety of entertainments throughout the afternoon in the arena, around the Playing Field and inside the marquee. The weather was kind and the attendance excellent. In the evening there was country dancing in the marquee, to mop up surplus energy, and a lot of people must have slept pretty well that night.



A display of dancing was just one of a non-stop succession of events



Spaced out? Me? Naaah!



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Specifications:

The Marquee is 60 feet long by 40 feet wide, with an eaves height of 8 feet. The Marquee can be reduced in size to 40 feet by 40 feet.

Contact Information:

For further information, pricing and availability contact John Holmes:

Telephone: 01494 488420 Email: jholmes@nildram.co.uk

CHARITY NEWS

Speen Fete – the 2001 Odyssey

On 1st October, Speen Village Fete Committee was proud to present Iain Rennie Hospice at Home representative, Steve Grudgings, with a cheque for £800.00 which was 40% of the proceeds of this year's Speen Fete. This was prior to a meeting held in the King William IV where all village organisations received their share of the profits. Steve voiced much appreciation and thanked not only the committee for their hard work but all of Speen for supporting the Iain Ren-



nie organisation. As a resident of Tylers Green, Steve understood the work involved with days like a village fete and told the Committee that Iain Rennie have a policy of helping local communities with their fund-raising days, even if IRHH does not benefit, as part of their awareness campaign. He happened to mention that he was good at putting up and pulling down marquees so John Holmes took immediate note and I suspect we shall see Steve in Speen again! The picture shows Steve, centre with Dave King, Chairman and Paul Rogerson, Treasurer, both voted unanimously to hold on to their key roles on the Committee for another year.

There are now plans afoot for next year's Fete which will have a "Kings and Queens" theme to fit in with the Golden Jubilee celebrations to be arranged in June. Once again we have a lively committee with a representative from every organisation in Speen.

Door to Door Collections

The only door to door collection since the last edition was that of the British and International Sailors' Society for which Bill Chinn collected £66.00 in the North Dean area. Well done Bill.

Speen Supporters Group

The SSG have held their first fund-raising event – yippee! It was a rather a low key affair as many people happened to be away or working. However, it served a purpose because not only did we raise £100 with a raffle and bring and buy, but

many senior citizens were gathered together for a natter over coffee and biscuits at Sue Taylor's. The whole point with this local group is that we have fun raising money, and bring people together. I am now forming the official committee and we are voting for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer within the next few weeks. Our next event will be a lunch with a speaker telling us about the various local hospice charities and will be held at the King William (date to be arranged – watch for posters). We are making progress with the plans for a grand Ladies' Day and Fashion Show in April. For further details on any of the above or for news about charity collections/fund-raising events please ring me, Suzi Rose, on 488696.

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Next time you are having a clear-out and don't know what to do with old blankets, shoes, coats, cloths and house-hold goods, for children & adults.

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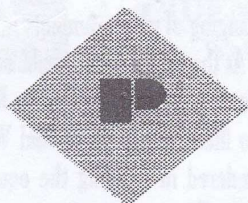
Olivia Cowan



A Day of Teddies, BBQ and Games in North Dean

On Sunday 8th July, a Children's BBQ was held at the North Dean Village Hall. This consisted of a BBQ for everyone followed by a Teddy Bear Hunt for the under 6's. However, for the older children and adults, an afternoon of games followed. This included rounders and a game of football. The game of rounders was the mothers with their sons against the fathers with their daughters. Of course the mothers/sons won but that may be disputed! This was followed by a game of football for those with enough energy left over. This ended when Steve Thomas "tripped over the ball" and his ankle swelled to the size of a tennis ball. It was a good day had by all. Thanks to Allyson MacVean for organising it, Peter Keene for supplying the BBQ and coal, Bob and Jan Wheeler for being great chefs, John for rescuing the BBQ with his whizzy machine and Louise Wilson for organising the Teddy Bear Hunt.

By Chris Solf



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REDEDICATION OF SPEEN GRAVE

One of the many interesting features of Speen Baptist Chapel is the two Victorian "leaping boards" in the graveyard. In these memorials, a wooden board bearing the epitaph and details of the deceased is fixed between two short posts, rather resembling a low hurdle. They were presumably cheaper than the expense of engaging the services of a stonemason.

These memorials are to be found to the right just after entering through the lychgate. Unfortunately, wood is less durable than stone and one of the boards, a few feet from the path, has sadly now all but disappeared. However, the second board, which is situated under the trees a little further from the path, remains more complete.

In an attempt to ensure the survival of this remaining leaping board, Bob Johnson and Dennis Claydon have cleaned it up, restored part of the original inscription and applied a good coating of preservative. Take a look next time you visit the Chapel.

So whose is the grave over which the board was placed? Francis Free was a chair maker, wood turner and dealer who lived in the area in the mid-19th Century. Born in Hughenden in 1817, he married three times, living at Naphill and at Stony Green. He died at Prestwood in 1878. Although not a resident of Speen, Francis Free was clearly a worshipper at the Chapel here, where he was finally laid to rest.

Keen to see the restoration marked in a fitting manner, Bob established through his researches that some of Francis Free's descendants were still living in this area. So when Andy Gower agreed to conduct a rededication of the grave, this was able to take place in the presence of several family members. Among these was Paul Evans, who had considerable knowledge of the family history and was able to give a brief resumé of Francis Free's life.

The picture above shows (left to right) Andy Gower, Dennis Claydon, Paul Evans and Bob Johnston beside the restored leaping board.

Martin Stockley



THE ARRIVAL OF THE WIRELESS AND THE TELEPHONE IN SPEEN

Bob Johnston turned up the following articles from the Bucks Free Press, May 1923

SPEEN

Gift of wireless

Owing to the generosity of Mrs Clifford Bax, Speen is now provided with a most efficient wireless receiving installation. A committee has been entrusted with the custody of the apparatus and the arranging of entertainments in the Village Hall and elsewhere. At the first concert, held on Saturday, the audience expressed great appreciation to Mrs Bax for her generosity, and to Messrs Simmonds and Ward for the services they had rendered in erecting the equipment. The Chairman, Major Caldwell, stated that it was proposed to form a Wireless Concert Club and also to loan the apparatus to residents who desired to listen-in at their own homes. During the evening the broadcasting concerts at London and Birmingham were greatly enjoyed.

Public Meeting

At a public meeting held in the Village Hall on Saturday, the 27th ult., a deputation, consisting of Major Caldwell and the Rev. Chas. Carter, was appointed to meet the Parish Council with regard to the provision of a public telephone call office in Speen.

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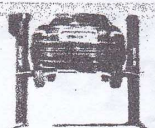
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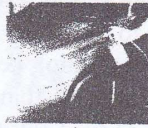
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SPEEN PRE-SCHOOL

If you pass the village hall in Speen on any weekday morning in term time, you may hear gleeful shouts, laughter, and singing emanating from inside the hall. You may even see diminutive van Goghs painting at little easels set up in the yard, or excavation work taking place in the sand trays!

What's going on? For those of you who have not had young children growing up in and around Speen, Speen Pre-School may not be a familiar part of village life, but those who have had a part in the Pre-School's development from its humble beginnings as the local playgroup to an established pre-school with an excellent reputation, will recognise that it is a local institution to be proud of. We are fortunate to have the support of the Speen Village Hall Committee, the Shop Committee and the Playing Fields Association. The latter has allowed us the use of part of the playing field so that the children can play outside in the summer.

We are also lucky to have such wonderfully enthusiastic and committed staff under the leadership of Janis Hearn. They are doing a fantastic job of making learning fun and equipping the children with the confidence and skills they need before they start school. At the same time they are managing to keep abreast of the rising tide of regulations and standards which are being introduced by the Department of Education - even 3 year olds now have learning goals!

As the Pre-School is parent-led and self-funded, it relies heavily on parental and local support. The committee is keen to maintain the current fee levels to ensure that everybody in the local area has access to the group. The downside of this is that the Pre-School needs to find over £2000 per annum to keep things afloat. We are planning a number of fund-raising events that can be enjoyed by everybody in the community and we hope that many of you can participate.

Before Christmas we will be offering tickets for a Christmas Hamper raffle and we are currently investigating the feasibility of supplying Christmas trees in the local area. As in previous

years, we will be placing orders for Christmas goodies through a fund-raising catalogue. If you haven't already bought all your Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gifts when you read this you may like to help us by using the catalogue (contact Cristina Delgado on 488080 for a copy).

In addition, we are planning to host a "Burns Night" on a Saturday around 26th January 2002. If you would like to join us to have loads of fun (and whiskey!) contact Sarah Halliday on 01844 343251 and/or check the notice boards for the formal announcement.

We plan to keep you posted with the progress made by our children and also with more fund-raising events. So watch this space to join us in all the fun!

Cristina Delgado and Sandy Mitcheson on behalf of the Speen Pre-School Committee



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Wycombe District Council News September 2001

This quarter the main news coming from the Council concerns the set backs to the Western Sector Project in High Wycombe. This has come as a major blow to the Council and its aspirations to provide a further quality shopping centre together with new bus and library facilities. It is my view that the Council faced an uphill battle from the outset when the decision to force Tesco from the site was taken back in 1998. This meant that inevitable delays would occur whilst compulsory purchase action was undertaken which in turn lead to the withdrawal of the funding partner Great Portland Estates. However all is not lost and the Council is taking urgent steps to ensure that the project revitalised. I hope that these will be brought about quickly enabling work to restart as soon as possible.

One area of policy I am keen to promote concerns the 'Vital Villages' initiative. This coupled with what is already in place to promote Village Design Statements means that the rural policy is much higher on the agenda than before. The Vital Villages initiative is aimed at helping local schools and businesses (shops, pubs etc) that provide services to village communities, with financial help. Funding for projects is made through Bucks Community Action acting on behalf of the Countryside Agency. WDC has taken action to provide assistance when making submissions so if you would like to know more then please contact Laura Olson at WDC (01494-421226).

On the local front I was pleased to persuade Mike Knight, who heads Bucks C.C. Area Office at Wycombe, to visit Speen and take action in clearing the drains and replacing the white lining on Chapel Hill and relining the Hampden Road. Action should also be in place to reset the signs vandalised on the night of the School Summer Ball. I was also pleased to be able to assist in keeping the bus service from Speen from being cut this summer and would like to thank Don White for bringing the matter to my attention in time to act.

You may recall that in the summer edition of the S&ND News I asked if monthly surgeries would be helpful. Those I have spoken with have suggested that personal contact that exists at present is sufficient to advise of concerns and so I

have not pursued the idea of surgeries any further. If you do have any concerns regarding local issues or have noticed areas where action is needed then please let me know

Paul Rogerson – Member for Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens

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French chicken, Bang Bang Thai style peanut and cashew dressing
 Gravadlax of Scottish salmon with oriental dressing
 Provencale fish and shellfish soup
 Goat's cheese with char-grilled Italian style vegetable salad, Balsamic, olive oil dressing
 Carpaccio of courgettes, sweet anchovies, olives, Parmesan and rocket salad
 Parma ham with fresh figs, Balsamic dressing
 1/2 dozen Mediterranean prawns with Marie Rose sauce
 Hot salt and pepper squid and prawn salad
 Warm salad of fresh Devon scallops with oriental dressing
 Smoked salmon and fresh crab
 Los Angeles Caesar salad with smoked duck breast
 Smoked salmon with capers, mango and lemon mayonnaise

DINNER

Char-grilled breast of French corn-fed chicken with grilled aubergine and a Goanese
 curry sauce and prawns
 Roasted rump of prime English new season's lamb with home-made apricot, mango
 and mint chutney
 Grilled Gressingham duck breast with braised sweet and sour red cabbage
 Char-grilled escalope of veal with grilled artichoke bottoms and tomato Neapolitan
 Pan-fried calves liver and sweet-cured bacon with shallot confit
 Char-grilled Aberdeen Angus rib eye steak with cracked peppercorn sauce and Stilton
 butter
 Seared Devon scallops, sweet cured bacon, Provencale lemon butter sauce
 Hot goat's cheese, leek and Stilton tart with lemon butter sauce
 Fricassee of fish and shellfish with saffron, butter onions, cream and steamed rice
 Mixed grilled fish and shellfish with linguine pasta, green herb sauce, rocket leaves and
 Parmesan
 Fresh fillet of wild seabass with lemon butter and wild mushroom sauce

PLUS seasonal game dishes such as wild duck, partridge and Scottish venison.

The Old Plow, Flowers Bottom, Speen is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Friday inclusive, dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. For reservations and details about party bookings and Christmas functions, telephone 01494 488300.

Speen WI Report

It wasn't the year for Speen WI to send a delegate to the Intermediate General Meeting in Cardiff, but this did not stop some very lively and informative discussions taking place at the May meeting about the resolutions to be brought before members in June. This covered the training and registration of care workers and the demise of the School Nursing Service in some areas as well as issues concerning the environment.

Renee Stone of Great Kingshill WI, our link Institute this year, visited to report on the outcomes and also to share with us the wonderful two days she had spent there. Prunella Scales from CPRE was the guest speaker with all the male speakers this year being at great pains to say how wonderful the WI is and that their mothers had been dedicated members - how life changes in a year.

Members have taken the opportunity to participate in many events organised at County level as well as in Speen. A visit to the London Eye and Tate Modern was enjoyed by many members, as was the Evening at Beatties in Aylesbury. A Bridge Drive raised some very useful funds and planning is in hand for Flower Arranging classes in the Autumn and a Burns Night Supper with Scottish Dancing in January 2002.

Speakers have delighted us with demonstrations of Decoupage and also Glass Painting techniques, and in August we were taken through the West of America via San Francisco after the Earthquake had struck.

Speen WI put on a display of all that the WI does, and stands for, in the Craft Marquee at the Village Fete and this brought great interest from Village people and also from visitors. Two members of another WI - which shall remain nameless - commented on what a go-ahead group we are and how much happens in Speen WI. That is exactly how the Members themselves feel, and we just wonder why others are not tempted to join us.

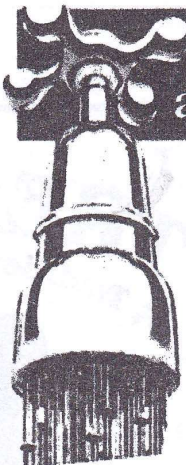
At the September meeting we hoped to find out the truth about genetically modified crops, courtesy of Dr Brenda Harold. As a Genetic Bi-

ologist she was certainly in a position to explain the complexities in an interesting and very understandable way. There is clearly a great deal of benefit from the techniques available and those being further developed. As usual, the unanswerable question is: will they be used for good or purely for commercial gain?

Later in September the Group Meeting brings together the six Institutes belonging to The Hampden Group with Jim Keating from Kew Gardens as the Speaker.

With Chinese Wok cookery next month and the postponed Tai-Chi talk in November Speen WI continue with their very varied programme. Watch out for the notices and come along and join us - you will be made very welcome.

Jean Morris



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SPEEN PLAYING FIELD

VILLAGE CRICKET

There has been considerable enthusiasm for the social cricket started this year by the Playing Field Association. Five games were played, the format being that teams are made up from those who turn up on the day. Everyone who comes plays. The number of players at each game fluctuated between 30 and 14!

The square had not been tended for several years and it was a challenge to make a wicket that was reasonably true and safe. Chris Walsh made sterling efforts to achieve this with the help of the old cricket mower which was retrieved from store.

The SPFA has now agreed to set up a cricket section to organise games next year. The intention is to continue with the informal, social games each month but there could be an occasional additional match with another village or pub if there is sufficient interest. It is also intended to resurrect the nets so that coaching can be provided for young people. Contact Chris Walsh (HW 488358) if you are interested.

PLAYING FIELD ENTRANCE

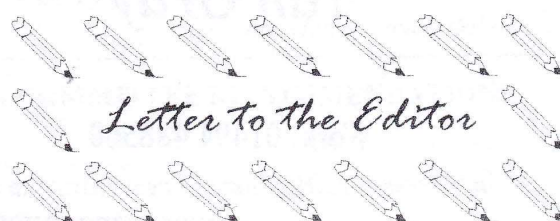
The entrance to the Playing Field was upgraded at the end of July with natural coloured crushed stone. It has already proved its usefulness in successfully coping with the traffic for the Speen Festival during a wet period. The intention is to apply seed to obtain a grassed surface. Funding was provided by the SPFA, with generous support from the village Millennium Fund and the Speen Tennis Club.

WORKING PARTY

Another working party is planned to maintain the field, pavilion and children's play equipment. This will be on Saturday 20th October at 9.30 am. The main task will be to install the benches and litter bins, generously provided by the Parish Council, and cut back hedges and grass. Please just turn up, bringing garden tools. Refreshments will be provided. (Contact John Holmes, HW 488420).

FUTURE EVENTS

- **Bonfire Night** – will be on Saturday 3rd November starting at 6.00 pm. Fireworks, hot-dogs, soup, best guy competition, etc. Tickets on sale soon at Speen Stores.
- **Fun Day, 2002** – will be on Sunday 9th June. There will be a greater range of games and sports to suit all ages and interests.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Although I heartily support fund raising efforts of many of the people of Speen, marathon runs, coffee mornings and the rest – most charities badly need our support – it would be really nice to be asked to support, just for once, a third world charity.

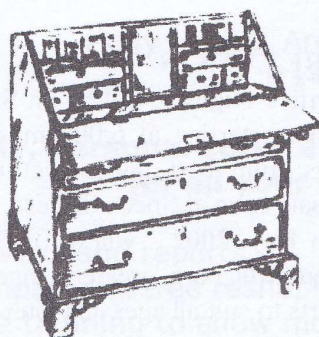
Glenn Hart

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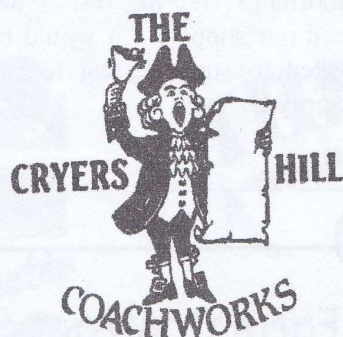
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A verse of thanks

to John Rogers

How many years has John R been
The Chairman of the Hall, North Dean?
He doesn't know and nor do we,
A score at least and more maybe.
From lad to man and on to pension
The Hall has had his full attention.
Year by year, improve, repair,
Re-roofed, re-floored (John's special care)
Re-windowed, "loosed", re-plumbed and wired,
The kitchen gleamed - John never tired.
Committee members came and went,
And funds came slow, though quickly spent.

With John's ideas in June last year
One day was very special here.
The road was closed, North Dean was ours
With food and fun and flags and flowers.
Photo survey, stone unveiled,
And all the work that that entailed
Hillside breakfast, grand parade,
New ward, embroidery (delayed) -
Great schemes were overseen by John.
Now doors - and parking - and so on!
If, after serving years four score
Our little Hall could speak, I'm sure
Its thanks (like ours) are rightly won
By kindly John, for all he's done!

By Nick Wheeler-Robinson

HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

the following applications should be approved -

Formation of new entrance for disabled access at North Dean Memorial Hall, Speen Road, North Dean.

Insertion of dormer window within existing roof on rear (north west) elevation at Spring Coppice Farm, Spring Coppice Lane, Speen.



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SPEEN SATURDAY SWAP SHOP

The third Saturday in the month
Saturday 17th November, Saturday 15th December, Saturday 19th January 2002.

From 10 am until 12 noon

At Speen Village Hall.

Bring along anything that you don't want any more.

You can swap it, barter it, or sell it.

All that it will cost is 50p entrance for adults, whether buying or selling.

Children will be free entrance.

So dig out those books, videos games etc. you don't want any more and come to the Saturday swap and go home with something you **do** want.

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THE BEES

After collecting my grandchildren from school I decide to take them and their dog for a walk. We go down a local footpath into a field. The feeling was great and as we turn for home I notice a strange sausage hanging from a tree, which is alive and moving in a spooky manner. The children are rather frightened, and I don't blame them. I realize that it must be a swarm of bees. We watch as an increasing number of bees join the mass.

After feeding the children and dog, I think I ought to contact someone! I get a local bee keeper who doesn't want them. Eventually I find the local contact, and a beekeeper phones from Bledlow. Yes, he wants the bees and he is coming to collect them as soon as possible. I explain he will need the farmer's permission (I am doubtful he will get it because of foot and mouth) to get onto the land to collect the swarm. Can I show him where the swarm was when he has already got permission from the farmer? He arrives at my house and I take him to the field, with the thought that the bees could have gone by now, and evening was coming on.

After some searching we find an even larger sausage hanging from a branch about 10 feet up. He needs a ladder and a full beekeeper outfit from his van. After collecting all he needs, and Martin and I getting our cameras, we return to the swarm, but stay well away from the swirling bees.

The plan, we are told is to gently bend the branch down over a piece of sacking and then put a basket over the swarm and bingo, one swarm finds a new home.

The beekeeper climbs up the ladder in full bee-keeping outfit and Martin and I start to take photos, from a safe distance!

Suddenly instead of the branch bending slowly, it breaks and crashes to the ground near the sacking. The bees fly furiously into the air, and some returned to the tree to a nearby branch.

He carefully collects as many bees as possible under his bee basket. This takes a lot of time and patience, as the remaining bees have to be encouraged to join the queen in the upturned basket rather than return to the few left on the

tree.

We all wait for about an hour and a half as the basket slowly fills with bees. If you touch the outside of the basket it is really very warm. When it starts to get dark, we have to stop waiting for the rest of the bees and leave them to their fate.

As we walk back to the van I ask the beekeeper if it was worth his while to collect this relatively small swarm. Oh yes! Didn't I realize it was worth about £150?

Glenn Hart



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DEATHS OF NORTH DEAN RESIDENTS – SUMMER 2001

Arthur Lipscombe – who had recently celebrated 60 years of marriage to Judy (see last issue)

John Townsend – after a short illness. Many will have met John when he and his team of photographers were around the village last year collecting material for our Millennium Photographic Archive, currently situated in the Village Hall. We are indebted to John and his wife Pat for coming forward with the idea for this project and mustering a grand team of helpers to bring about its fruition.

By Megan Chinn

MOBILE LIBRARY

Just a reminder – Aylesbury Rural Mobile Library visits Speen on alternate Thursdays, parking in Hampden Road from 2.35 – 2.50 pm.

In North Dean, it's at the Village Hall from 3.00 – 3.10 pm on the same day.

Dates for the remainder of 2001 are 22nd November, 6th and 20th December.

Worth supporting if you are generally at home at that time.

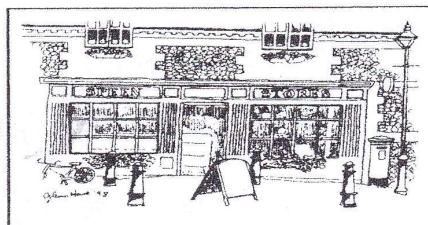
RETIRED BUT NOT RETIRING?

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There are also monthly meetings, in a friendly, informal atmosphere, to which visitors are welcome.

For further information ring Don Rankin on **01844 346715**.

Speen Stores



Sandra & Peter would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A selection of Christmas items is available. Special requirements will be catered for if possible.

Bread, cakes and croissants are baked on the premises 7 days a week.

We are also able to provide a buffet range for that Special occasion. Please ask for detail.

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Mon - Fri	6.45am - 7.00pm
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Tues & Thurs	9.00am - 5.30 pm
Sat	9.00am - 2.00pm

We look forward to seeing you.

October

North Dean Village Hall

1st	W I	Speen Village Hall
3rd	Ladies Breakfast	Speen Village Hall
3rd	Bonfire Night 6pm. (Tickets - Speen Stores)	Speen Playing Fields
8th	W I	Speen Village Hall
9th	Wine Tasting 8pm (Nick W-R 562167)	North Dean Village Hall
10th	Quiz - Riding for the Disabled (Gloria Holmes for details)	Speen Village Hall
17th	"Speen Saturday Swap Shop" 10am - Noon See ad (Glenn Hart for details)	Speen Village Hall
17th	North Dean Children's Parties. Contact 562215	North Dean Village Hall
24th	Race Night (With Bar)	North Dean Village Hall
24th	Horticultural Society meeting "Winter Interest"	Speen Village Hall
27th	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Speen Village Hall

1st	Men's Breakfast	Speen Village Hall
6th	W I	Speen Village Hall
7th	"Christmas Murder Mystery" (Martin Stockley 488101) The Ubiquitous Theatre Co	Speen Village Hall
8th	Christmas Village Fair (in aid of the Village Hall)	Speen Village Hall
15th	"Speen Saturday Swap Shop" 10am - Noon (see ad)	Speen Village Hall
21th	Christmas Gathering	North Dean Village Hall

3rd	W I	Speen Village Hall
12th	Senior Citizen's Lunch	North Dean Village Hall
19th	"Speen Saturday Swap Shop" 10am - Noon (See Ad)	Speen Village Hall
24th	W I - Burns Supper	Speen Village Hall

7th	W I	Speen Village Hall
9th	Ladies Breakfast	Speen Village Hall

Who's Who in the area?

Speen & North Dean News Editor	Martin Stockley	488101
Speen Residents Association	Gordon Hall	488331
Speen W.I.	Mary Dawson	488222
Speen Horticultural Society	Peter Dawson	488222
Speen Playing Field Association	Marion Tozer	488497
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Village Hall Committee, Speen	Catherine Butler	488412
North Dean Hall Committee Chairman	Nick Wheeler-Robinson	562167
North Dean Village Hall Booking Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
Speen Pre-School	Janis Hearn	488440
Speen School PTA	Amanda Cleaver	488288
Speen Tennis Court	Cherry Seekins	488355
Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Baptist Church	Andy Gower	488758
Speen/N.D. Good Neighbours	Suzi Rose	488696
Mother & Toddler Club	Tracy Salmon	488697
Neighbourhood Watch	John Radford	488679
Speen Church of England School	Mrs Nayna	488321
Speen Stores	Sandra	488258
Fete Committee Chairman, Speen	David King	01844 344839
Speen Millennium Marquee	John Holmes	488420

Hughenden Parish Council :	John Rogers	562041 (Chairman)
Lacey Green Parish Councillors :	Don White	488437 (Chairman)
	Peter Symonds	488016
Wycombe District & Bucks C.C. :	Paul Rogerson	488315
Buckinghamshire County Councillor	Tim Jones	01296 622975
The ward Councillors for Hughenden Valley & North Dean Are:		
Mrs Ann Hildesley	01494 563374	Mrs Lynn Sullivan 01494 563620
Chris Morley	01494 562714	John Rogers (Chairman) 01494 562041

The Council Office is open to the public on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30.

During holiday times the contact numbers will appear on the office notice-board.

Contact Numbers for the Police in the area:

Sergeant Russ Murden 01494 717799

PC Paul Sorensen 01494 715352

Inspector Martin Bolton 01628 816910 (responsible for Hazlemere but based in Marlow)

Local Control room 01494 465888 Local Help/Crime Desk 01494 736735

Fax Numbers: Hazlemere 01494 686299. Marlow 01628 816921

Help/Crime Desk 01494 736737

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