

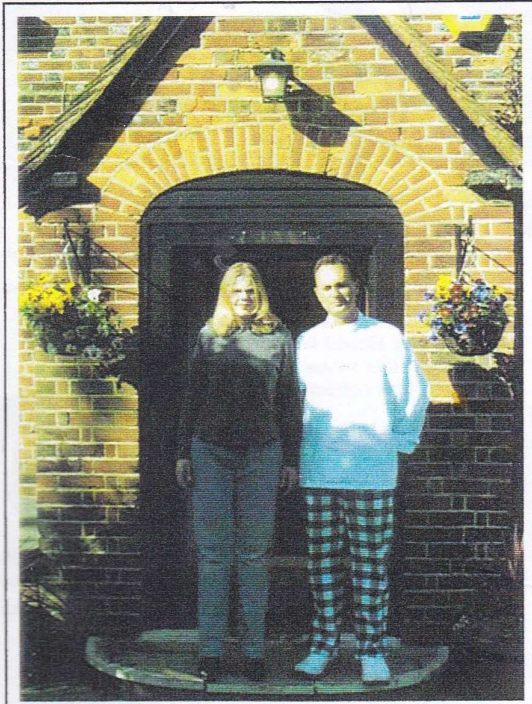
Speen and North Dean **NEWS**



Issue 28 Autumn 2002

In this issue

**PURPLE EMPEROR
IN SPEEN**



**ALL CHANGE AT
THE KING WILLIAM**



**A RIGHT ROYAL
FETE**





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Editor's note

There are two prizes to be won in this edition. On page 17 we invite the under 18s to design a page for our next edition - with a purpose in mind that should appeal to most youngsters: to try to promote the advent of Broadband internet access for our area. Elsewhere (p35), we wonder if there's anyone out there with something to say to other readers, and offer a prize for the best letter. In both cases, the winner will receive £20.

Whether or not you are interested in the above, we would still like to hear from you with new and views of what's happening in Speen & North Dean.

Articles should be kept to one page if possible (I know it isn't always) and are fine by e-mail, floppy disc or hard copy.

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

February 14th 2003

and our aim is to distribute approximately 4 weeks later



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Purple Emperor butterfly - Coleheath Bottom
See pages 10-11

Mike & Zena Reed at the King William IV
See page 13

Roger Craft and Avril White at Speen Jubilee Fete
See pages 26-27

County and District Council News October 2002

The **Hampden Road** footpath has become a reality. Thanks to Kristie and Cherry for getting a petition together earlier this year and obtaining a good number of signatures at the shop. Using this I was able to persuade the County Council to go ahead with the work. I hope that it does make a difference and that you would agree that safety at the junction has improved.

Those of you who read the Bucks Free Press will have seen that the County Council has provided Councillors with direct access to funding through a '**Community Leaders Fund**'. In my case this amounts to £2,300 per year for distribution to local groups for community projects within my county division. St. John's School and Speen School both have expressed an interest in this funding for a Library project. I am pleased to say that I have been able to accommodate each school with an award of £200. I have also given help to other First Schools with grants for various projects. There is still approx £500 of funding left to be taken up this financial year and so I would welcome any approach for consideration.

Work on the **Community Plan** has continued with progress being made on several key issues including school admissions and speed limits. **Transportation** issues have been identified as very important. In order to keep these to the forefront I have continued to press County Council Officers for action and so was pleased that they agreed to a meeting with me and members of the Parish Council in July.

The meeting was productive and covered areas such as: Extending and reviewing the present speed limits within the Parish; Possible speed limit reductions and enforcement measures; Repairs to footpaths; Possible road crossings; Parking provision for St. John's School; and Public Transport. It now looks hopeful that some new measures will be introduced as part of the countywide speed limit review process. Working together with the Parish Council we have been pressing for action locally and as a result the Parish should be close to the front of the queue with some benefits being seen by the end of the financial year.

To help the process along the Parish Council have agreed to produce a Parish Transportation Statement that will include suggestions for speed limit changes. I will be working with the Parish to help produce the statement and to ensure those at County are aware of the proposals. I hope to be able to discuss this and other issues affecting Speen with you at a further Community Planning Evening to be held before the end of the year.

The change of **Bus Operator** appears to have gone smoothly. If there are problems with Carousel please let me know. **Grass Cutting** responsibility on the corner of Chapel Hill / Hampden Road has passed to Wycombe District and so far all seems well and should provide Jeremy and Philip with a well earned rest. In response to concerns regarding obstructed vision splay at critical corners such as the junction of Hampden Road with Bryants Bottom Road, I have continued to ask for safety cuts at these locations and have been pleased to see that further work has been done.

On a wider front progress on the '**Quiet Lanes**' project for the north of Wycombe District is being made and £400,000 of financial support by the District Council has been provided to pump prime the work. The long overdue **Woodway / Culverton** roundabout scheme has also been given the go ahead.

Those of you following the **Central Railways** issue will be aware that responsibility for the decision has passed to Alistair Darling as the Secretary of State for the newly formed Dept. of Transport. As pointed out by David Lidington at the Princes Risborough meeting opportunity still exists to write to him at Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DV to remind him of, and reinforce opposition to, the Hybrid Bill proposal.

If you do have any concerns regarding local issues or have noticed areas where action is needed then please let me know and I will do what I can to help.

Paul Rogerson
Wycombe District and County Councillor

Speen WI News Report

Since the last edition of Speen & North Dean News, Speen WI has enjoyed a wide variety of excellent speakers.

Ex-policeman John Woolley gave a fascinating insight into the detection and arrest of the Great Train Robbers in 1963. At that time he was the 'local Bobby in Brill' and became drawn into the affair when a local farmer noticed unusual movement around the now famous Leatherslade Farm. This was brilliant - an entertainment as well as an informative talk.

Another highlight was the visit of Ray Lindsey-Jones, accompanied by three owls. Two very well behaved Barn Owls allowed us to discover first-hand much about their physiology

and also their behaviour patterns. But the star of the show was the tiny Tawny Owl who, looking like a little bundle of fur, spent the whole evening motionless against his tree stump save for the characteristic head twisting and eye blinking. Members and visitors alike were entranced by them all.

When palaeontologist Jill Eyers arrived, she brought with her the best fossil collection that most of us had ever seen outside a museum. To be able to handle them and hear where and how they were found and the likely age and history of each of them was absolutely fascinating.

In June we held a very successful garden party on a rare sunny afternoon. Many visitors as well as members enjoyed the event and helped to raise some money for our funds. Once again our members worked very hard to provide all the home baked goods for the refreshment tent at the Fete and as usual made a good contribution to the total profit.

We have started a series of monthly rambles which take place during the day. This includes a lunch stop at a suitable local hostelry and is providing good exercise and excellent company for two or three hours in the beautiful surroundings that we have here. Watch the notice boards for details.

In November the Annual Meeting gives us a chance to review the year, plan for the future and install the Committee and Officers for the coming year. Thanks must go to all who have worked so hard during the last year to make Speen WI so successful.

The New Year begins in December with an illustrated talk on the Royal collection of Stage Coaches from Mr Smith who comes to us highly recommended. With a very good programme already in place for 2003 we hope that we will maintain our current high standards and provide interest every month for all our members and any others in the Village who wish to join us.

Jean Morris



Ray Lindsey-Jones, Jean Drew and June Black with feathered friends

SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN GOOD NEIGHBOURS

A group of local volunteers has been formed to develop a variety of services to help anyone in the community who has an urgent need. Everyone can use the scheme. Some of these needs may be:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Hospital visits | Emergency repairs |
| Shopping | Baby sitting |
| Support to the bereaved, the lonely | Welcoming new residents to the village |
| or recently discharged hospital patients, etc | |

How Does the Scheme Work?

Ring one of the two Telephone Receptionists, whose names and phone numbers are:

Poppy Ellis (HW) 488 548

Christine Oliver (HW) 488 409

You will be given the names and phone numbers of the three volunteers. Ring one of them. If no answer is obtained, ring the others. Please call for help between 8.00 – 9.00am or 6.00 – 7.00pm.

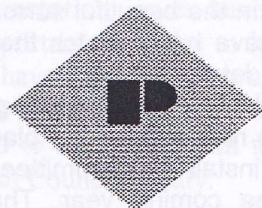
Please Note:

- Any payment for services should be arranged between individuals (a contribution of 20p per mile is recommended for the transport service).
- Car owners must check that they are insured to carry passengers.
- Users of the service do so at their own risk.

If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact:

Gloria Holmes, Cherry Dell, Chapel Hill Tel: (HW) 488420 or

Catherine Butler, Rose Cottage, Hampden Road Tel: (HW) 488412



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SPEEN PLAYING FIELD

VILLAGE SOCIAL CRICKET

The cricket section ran four informal, social games during the summer which were well supported. The nets have been replaced and coaching was provided for an encouraging number of young people on Friday evenings.

WORKING PARTIES

Another working party took place on 19th October. Some 18 villagers again did a marvellous job cutting back hedges and grass, clearing behind the garage and the children's areas. A pre-Bonfire Night burn disposed of the large amount of cuttings.

BONFIRE NIGHT

Will be on Saturday 2nd November at 5.45pm on the Playing Field. Tickets from Speen Stores.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Following last year's success a Christmas tree will again be erected adjacent to the playing field. Lighting up will be at 6.00pm on Saturday 7th December, accompanied by the members of Speen Choir, the Chapel band and WI charity collection. Mulled wine and mince pies will be on sale to add to the festivities.

FUN DAY, 2003

Is planned for Sunday 8th June. An organising group is being assembled.

PLAYING FIELD DRAW

The monthly draw provides essential income for the maintenance of the Field and Pavilion. The number of prizes will be increased in 2003 to attract more Draw ticket sales. Peter Collett and team will be calling.

John Holmes

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The 70th Annual North Dean Fete

The 70th annual North Dean Village Hall Fete began rather quietly, but the hours following the official opening were full of activity and excitement. On the morning of August 3rd, the fete organizers and volunteers were still frantically trying to finish preparations that were unable to be done during the previous two evenings due to inclement weather. Even that morning the weather was questionable enough to worry many, and the opening crowds did not look promising. But fortunately the sun emerged early in the afternoon, followed by many more villagers, neighbouring locals, and friends.

Peter Brownridge opened this year's fete, followed by a welcoming speech by Dorothy Hazell, Deputy Chair of the Village Hall Committee. A lovely bouquet was presented to Mrs. Brownridge by 2 ½ year old Svetlana Campbell. Then followed the children's fancy dress contest, with a royal theme. All present were most impressed to be in the company of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, as well as a handful of other beautiful princesses. The day's attractions included a bouncy castle and children's races, teas in the Village Hall, and such regular fa-

vourites as the Bric-a-Brac stall, Tombola, Madam Aquarius, Piggots Band, and the Bottle Game. Once again, we were fortunate to have displays by local wood-turner and lace-makers.

MC Dave King kept things moving throughout the day, drawing everyone's attention first to the Marquee, where competitors had entered the best of their arts, crafts, and produce for all to admire. This year we had two new trophies, the Morgan Cup for photography and the John Lewis Bowl for adult art. Both were won by competitors from Speen. At 4pm the crowds were still strong, and many lingered as late as five, hoping to catch last-minute bric-a-brac bargains, and some returning home with prize-winning produce from the auction.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this year's fete a success by donations in all ways, especially the all-important gift of time. The net earnings from this year's fete totalled £1250, a good start to cover our regular operating and maintenance costs for the year. Thank you to all who attended. If you have any suggestions on how to improve our fete for next year, please contact Chairman Bob Wheeler. We are always happy to welcome fresh ideas.

Speen and North Dean Golf Day

Weston Turville Golf Club - 19th September 2002

The annual competition for the Challenge Shield between teams from Speen and North Dean took place on a fine, sunny day at Weston Turville Golf Club. 25 golfers took part in a morning Texas Scramble and an afternoon 18 hole Stableford Competition. The results were as follows:

- * Challenge Shield winners - Speen
- * Texas Scramble team winners - Tim Crossley, Rolf Gumdal, Tim Rodgers, Andy Ruler. Runners-up - Phil Green, James Kent, Martin Sims, Reg Taylor.
- * Individual Stableford winner - Graham Peart. 2nd - Tim Crossley. 3rd - Martin Shaw.
- * Longest drive - Tim Crossley.
- * Nearest the pin - Graham Peart and Geoff Pinder.

Thanks to John Rogers and Bill Groves for the excellent organisation and to Peter Brownridge for his hard work as starter and scorer. The next match is provisionally arranged for Thursday, May 22nd 2003 at Hazlemere Golf Club.

Bill Groves

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Mrs Rosemary Stone MSSch MBChA

News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:

Bi-Centenary Anniversary

Two hundred years is a long time in the life of a village institution and that is what we have just been celebrating at the church.

The building was constructed as a meeting house for local non-conformist Christians; they had no external agency or denomination to aid them, and the fellowship has maintained that tradition, being self-governing and self-supporting for 200 years with only the work and sacrifices of local people enabling it to continue down the generations.

Of course, from the perspective of faith, there stands behind our local forebears a greater power than any national organisation could provide - namely God Himself. So our celebrations on Sunday 8th September were about both the faithful sacrifices of the local community of faith down the centuries and about God's own faithfulness to them and to us.

'Why was the Bishop of Buckingham invited to preach on this special occasion?' some have asked. Well, things have changed a lot since the church was built. At that time non-conformist Christians were subject to discrimination by the state and the state church; now there is a mutual recognition that Christians have more in common than divides them - so what better way to make that clear than by inviting the local Anglican Bishop to preach? After all, reconciliation is at the heart of the Christian 'good news'.

Retired and Senior Citizens Tea & 'Top Ten Songs of Praise' Sunday 29th Sept

The youthfulness and enthusiasm of the 30-40 folk who attend is tremendous. When I was young my grandparents were not like this: being a Senior cannot be equated with sitting in an armchair all day! The songs voted into the 'top ten' reflect this. Although it was a Harvest Tea, *'We plough the fields and scatter'* did not even get a single vote! This time the favourite hymn was *'How deep the Father's love for us'* which was written in 1995.

Megan Chinn, accompanied by Gwen Palmer, sang a beautiful and uplifting solo for us based on the words of the Christian family prayer. Many thanks to the all-age team who helped prepare the tea and set up the hall so beautifully for us; and particularly to two young ladies, Siobhan and Alana, for your beautiful handwritten notices of welcome.



Speen School Harvest Festival Monday 30th September

On a beautiful sunny Monday morning the children packed the downstairs of the church and filled the building with their happy voices whilst the parents had grandstand seats in the gallery. The harvest baskets brought by the children for Saunderton Hostel overflowed filling the floor space in front of the pulpit.

The children knew their songs - singing them with gusto - and parents were encouraged to join in; and then to listen whilst the children told of harvest time themes and read their prayers. Then we all passed around the earth (4 plastic inflatable earths!), asking and promising each other to take care of the planet.

And then, before everyone enjoyed a walk, or short car journey, in the warm sunshine back to school, parents were set some homework - to prepare to answer their children's question *'how can we take care of planet earth?'*

Speen Pre-School Playgroup Harvest Festival Monday 30th September

For some parents this was their second visit of the morning as the younger children came to celebrate Harvest. Gwen Palmer led us ably on the piano as we sang *'Wide and long and high and deep'* and *'Jesus love is very wonderful'*. Adults and children alike joining in the actions (coming to church helps keep one physically, as well as spiritually, fit!). Then story time; an interactive story as we thought about the wonderful gift of planet earth to us all.

Happening during the autumn:

7th December - Men's Breakfast:

Rap Academy Director & MOBO Award Nominee 'Watchman' with a Brixton story

Summary of Weekly Church Activities

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sundays: | 10:30 am 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
(2 nd Sunday in month).
6:00 pm Worship Group. |
| Mon: | 9:00 am Meetings for Prayer
8:00 pm Gamma Course |
| Weds: | 10:00-11:30am Daytime Home Group
- Chinysnook, North Dean
10:15-11:30am "Time Out"
8:00 pm Gamma course |
| Thurs: | 7:00 pm YAC
(Youth Alpha Course for 15-18s) |

WILDLIFE WATCH

by PETER SYMONDS

The Summer months have produced a number of very interesting sightings.

At the exotic end of the scale was the report of another Wallaby in the Monkton/Hampden area. This sighting, reported to Speen Stores, follows two similar reports mentioned to me over the past few years of Wallabies seen in the vicinity. The origin of these escapees is unclear.

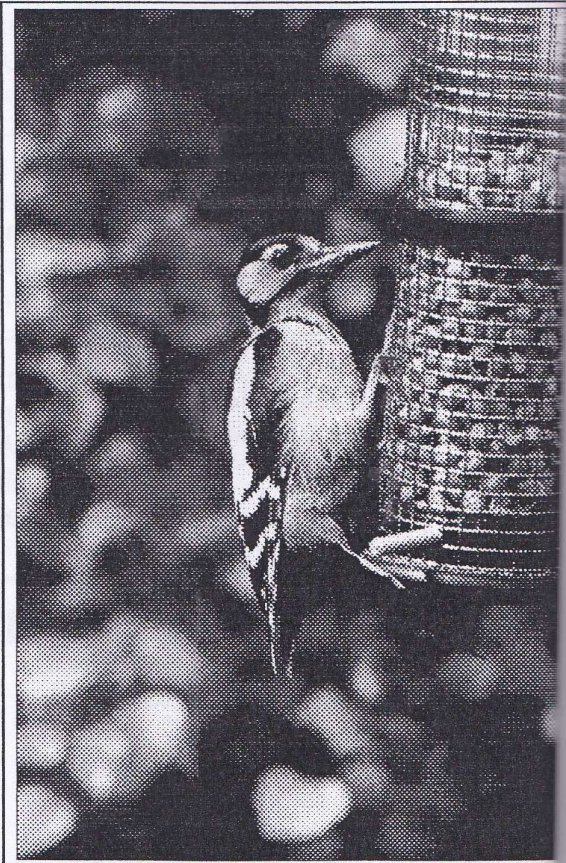
Following on from the sighting of a Roe Deer mentioned in December, Roger Anderson provided a graphic account of a pair of Roe Deer seen on an early morning journey to work (in May, I believe). Apparently the pair leapt a gate to the south of North Dean and stood momentarily in the roadway, in front of his approaching car, before disappearing over a hedge towards Bryants Bottom at the last moment. Subsequently, I had a report that a bus driver saw a pair of Roe Deer in Great Hampden some days later.

An evening barbecue in Speen provided an opportunity to watch several Glis glis (edible Dormice) emerge from their loft space and run through the trees lining the garden to feed in the woods beyond. This was just after the owners had said that they had not seen any of these visitors for a long time. Other neighbours have reported their cats bringing home "baby Grey Squirrels". Invariably these are Glis glis.

Various Foxes and Badgers remain active around the village visiting various gardens where, in some cases, they can be watched from close range. One of our new Badger cubs was unfortunately killed in Hampden Road, just beyond the village, a couple of months ago. Our local joggers often report Badger corpses buried in the roadside undergrowth where they seem to have struggled after an accident.

Our local birds have finished their breeding cycle. I still had Blackbirds feeding nestlings in the garden in early August. Many of the local birds successfully produced

young. Visitors to our own garden have included several young Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Green Woodpeckers, Greenfinches, numerous Tits. At least two pairs of Pied Wagtails raised young in Speen, including one pair who were frequent visitors to the King William IV. Sparrowhawks have been seen fairly regularly, but it is not known whether they have bred, and the Kestrels, which reared young last year between the villages, occupied the same territory but do not seem to have produced any young.



Great spotted woodpecker

The Summer months saw excellent displays of wildflowers and butterflies in the

meadows, both in Speen and also North Dean. On certain of the south facing slopes in Speen there were stunning displays of Pyramidal Orchids, Common Spotted Orchids and Bee Orchids have also been noted in the village this year. A variety of different butterflies can be seen in the meadows. Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns are numerous, whilst Common Blues and Small Coppers have also been about. Martin Stockley reported two sightings of Clouded Yellows locally during August.

In the garden Commas, Peacocks and Red Admirals have been noted regularly. For the first time in about five years, I have seen a Purple Hairstreak in the garden, but star billing of the Summer must go to my first record in the Village of a Purple Emperor. I first glanced what I believed to be one, from a bedroom window, passing through our front garden before flying off. At the time it seemed highly improbable that one of our largest and rarest butterflies, that is normally found in the canopy of large oak woods, would be flying around a Chiltern village and I assumed that my identification from a very brief distant view was inaccurate. However, on Sunday 25th July a female Purple Emperor visited our back garden for three to four minutes and was photographed drinking at my garden pond.

With the Summer now over our visiting migrant birds have gone or are departing. A Grey Wagtail at a woodland pond high above North Dean was an unusual sighting. Winter visitors are already arriving. Roger Hussey noted Crossbills in Woodview Drive at the end

of September and I have subsequently watched a small flock of 12-15 birds around Abbotswood on several mornings during early October. Siskins are also present in the woods.

Many thanks for the records mentioned to me. Not all records can be publicised where such publicity might cause disturbance or threaten the survival of rarer species. Nevertheless, I would be pleased to learn of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds

Tel: 01494 488016

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Sunday : 9:00am to 1:00pm

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ALL CHANGE AT THE WILLIAM!

This year is the 175th anniversary of the granting of the original liquor licence for the King William IV, at that time John Free's farm. There have been many changes of ownership since then but, so far as is known, it has remained in continuous operation as licensed premises ever since 1827.

New owners

Now there are a new landlord and landlady. Mike and Zena Reed first arrived at the pub about a year ago when Mike was taken on as chef by the previous owners. However, in September this year they achieved their ambition and took over as owners in their own right. Mike and Zena are hoping to settle down in Speen and get involved in village activities as much as they can. Mike brings 17 years' experience of the catering trade to the King William, including 12 years as a head chef. His previous post was in an establishment beside the Royal Park at Windsor. Zena still has a full time job during the day, but works in the pub in the evenings and at weekends, where she is now a familiar face behind the bar or waiting in the restaurant.

Changes already made

Since taking over a few weeks ago, Mike and Zena have already taken the following steps:

- * the entire interior cleaned up and given a fresh coat of paint
- * drinks prices lowered significantly - where else locally you can get a pint of Brakspears for £1.90?
- * lunchtime menu has been extended
- * full children's menu available, and children welcome at all times
- * Tuesday to Thursday bar food and 3 course meal menu in the restaurant (the William is not open on Sunday evening or on Monday)
- * Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday lunchtime - gourmet à la carte menu



- * daily "specials" on the menu
- * guest beers introduced and changed regularly

Future plans

Plans for the future include refurbishment of the kitchen so as to allow the bar area to be increased, landscaping and re-stocking the gardens and resurfacing the car park.

A local amenity

If you've not yet been in, or stayed away for a while, why not drop in for a drink with friends or try the excellent food? There is a quiz night every alternate Thursday to which all are welcome, so you could come along for a fun evening and have a drink and a bite to eat before the quiz starts at 8.00pm.

The King William IV has had a few ups and downs in recent years, but when the threat of closure hung over it a couple of years ago, there was strong opposition in the village to the potential loss of another village amenity. Now that we seem to have the prospect of some stability, in the hands of people who genuinely want to provide a service to the community, it is up to us make use of, and enjoy, this amenity - or face the prospect of losing it for ever.

Martin Stockley

THE OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT AT SPEEN

SPECIAL PRIX FIXE MENU

Rabbit, pork and duck rilette with mixed pickles
Or

A warm salad of mussels Tuscan style with Balsamic dressing
Or

A salad of tomato, artichoke, broad beans, Parmesan and lemon
and olive oil dressing

Hot goat's cheese, Stilton and leek tart
with tomato salsa

Or

Pan fried Devon fish fillet with a cassoulet of haricot blanc

Or

Pan fried Escalope of chicken with sweetcorn fritters and redcurrant sauce

Or

Devilled grilled Chiltern Hills lamb kidneys with bacon and mustard sauce

2 courses for £9.95

AVAILABLE IN THE BISTRO
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY LUNCH AND DINNER.

This special menu is available from September onwards and can be requested when making a booking. It will not be available from the 12th December to the 6th of January 2003 (inclusive).

Dishes on the menu are non-transferable and will be changed monthly.

DECEMBER OPENING TIMES

In addition to our usual opening times, we will also be open -

MONDAY 16th December for lunch and dinner

SATURDAY 21st December for lunch

MONDAY 23rd December for lunch and dinner

For further details, reservations and enquiries please telephone 01494 488300.
The Old Plow Bistro and Restaurant, Flowers Bottom, Speen.

An 1880 update on an event at our Temperance Hall (Speen Village Hall)

19 November 1880 Bucks Free Press

"A large and attentive audience met at the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening. The Rev. R Green of Wycombe presided. The proceedings were opened with singing and prayers. The Band then played the overture from Handel's Samson. After a few words of encouragement from the chairman, the Sunday School performed a service of song entitled 'Christy's Old Organ' with vigour, point and pathos. They were very materially assisted by several friends from Risborough and other places. After the service of song came the overture to Lotoska, and the meeting closed with prayer and votes of thanks to all who had helped. The instrumentalists were: Violins - Messrs Plumridge and Free, violincello - Mr C Ward, and harmonium - Miss F Eggleton"

The Temperance Hall worshippers had split from the Baptist Chapel in 1874. George Biggs of Cherry Tree Cottage sold a strip of his garden for £12 and the trustees borrowed £120 from the High Wycombe Building Society for the building costs. The Hall was primarily a place of worship. Some present-day villagers can recall the pulpit and pews still in place.

15th July 1881 Bucks Free Press

"Temperance Hall - this place has been used for some years as a place of worship, but great difficulty has been experienced in getting pulpit supplies (ie preachers).

On Wednesday last a meeting of unusual character was held, the occasion being in fact the winding up of the services. After a public tea, a meeting was held, over which Mr T Free presided. The most cordial feeling seemed to prevail between the representatives of the Hall and of the Baptist Church, both of whom were on the platform. Messrs Bignall, T Ward Baldwin and W Plumridge gave addresses. The Congregation (of the Hall) is for the future to worship at the Baptist Chapel., arrangements having been made for the union"

From 1883 Pastor Charles Saville assisted the reconciliation with the temperance members. He recommended the use of 'Unfermented Wine' for communion. Over the next decade it appears that he paid back a debt to T Free and also paid off the mortgage. As a consequence the Temperance Hall was able to be conveyed to the Baptist Chapel in December 1893 for ten shillings. Finally, on 23rd October 1924 the Villagers (you) purchased the Hall for £125.00.

Bob Johnston

PLANNING NEWS

Hughenden Parish Council

Erection of detached double garage at Glaysers, Pigotts Hill, North Dean - refused

Lacey Green Parish Council

Conservatory at Studdridge, Studridge Lane, Speen - no objection

Side and front wooden decking at 5 & 7 Hillside, Speen (retrospective) - no objection

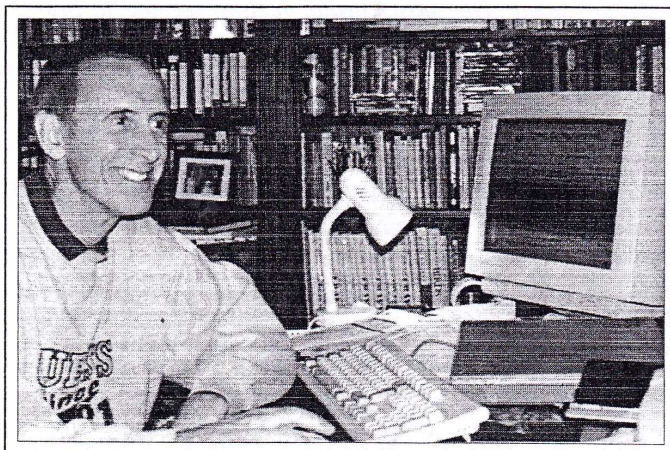
Rear extension at Chapel Cottage, Chapel Hill, Speen - refused

Side extensions, porch addition and additional dormer in garage at Chiltern Gables, Grubbins Lane, Speen - no objection to extensions, suggested alternative to dormer

www.SpeenBucks.org

Did you know that Speen has its own website? If you are one of the ever-increasing number who access the internet these days, you can visit the address above to get the up to date news and info about your village.

The website is the brainchild of John Radford of Abbotswood, who has had a lifetime enthusiasm for computers - although he is himself a chartered accountant by profession.



John Radford at work on the Speen website

On the site is a Village Noticeboard where you can get the latest on what's happening around Speen. So all you organisers of events should be feeding information about your plans through to John (there's no charge!). Unlike a poster on a conventional noticeboard, which can only be read by the people who happen to walk past that spot, the website can reach a wide audience both within and beyond the village. Furthermore, it can be used to carry the very latest news which, it has to be said, our own esteemed organ cannot always do given that we have a gap of several months between each issue.

Also on the site:

Local Services of various kinds that are available within the village are listed and described (if you are a local service provider, let John know to get added to the list)

Who's who - find out who to contact about village activities and organisations

Property page - give John details of properties you

are seeking to sell or rent, or view if you're looking for accommodation

Photographs of local interest to enjoy. If you've taken one that you're particularly pleased with, e-mail it to John for inclusion on the site

Chat line for those who want to exchange views on local matters

Links to other sites of interest including neighbouring villages

Keeping the whole of this up to date is quite a task for one person (particularly as John has a full time job) and he would be delighted to hear from any of you web enthusiasts who would be prepared to help - perhaps by taking responsibility for maintaining one page of the site, which would not be very time-consuming. A chance to pursue your computer interest *and* provide a service to the community without stepping outside your front door.

It's all there for your use - so get surfing!

Contact John on
john@SpeenBucks.org

BROADBAND IN SPEEN

If you are a regular user of the internet, for business or pleasure, e-mail or surfing, you may wish you could have the convenience of quick access but without the expense of a separate ISDN line. Broadband gives you fast access and then enables you to stay connected without paying for the time spent on-line and without interfering with your use of your telephone. All this may be had for less than £30 a month (plus an installation fee). The snag is that the facility doesn't yet reach Speen, and in order to convince BT to make it available, we have to show sufficient interest to make it worthwhile. You can do this by registering your interest with BT (this entails no obligation on your part) and you can find a link to the registration form on the Speen website - **www.SpeenBucks.org**. The more people register, the more likely we are to get broadband available in Speen.

SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN NEWS
COMPETITION
FOR ANYONE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

What we want you to do

- * Design a page for the Speen and North Dean News to persuade villagers to register an interest in Broadband
- * You will need to explain why Broadband would be useful - you can research this by linking through the Speen village website (see page opposite)
- * You will have to tell people, very clearly, how to register
- * Your page should attract attention and interest. Remember we are limited to black and white print, though
- * Return your finished A4 page to the editor (see page 3 for e-mail or postal address)

before 14th February 2003

- Either
- 1 as a hard copy.
 - 2 on a floppy disc, or
 - 3 on a CD

The best page, in the opinion of the Speen & North Dean News Committee, will win its designer a prize of £20, and will be printed in the next issue in the Spring.

BT will consider a request for broadband seriously if they get sufficient requests from the area using a particular exchange. For Speen, that is Hampden Row, for North Dean, Naphill. At the time of writing there were only 26 requests registered for Hampden Row! There were 248 for the much larger exchange of Naphill.

Home Farm House - The Upper Hall Revisited

We are grateful to Nicholas Wheeler-Robinson who identified the Upper Hall and Lower Hall of North Dean. Overhall was an early name for Home Farm House. Netherhall was the name for North Dean House. Earliest documentary evidence is dated 1260 (Chronicle of North Dean).

Frank and Rita Butler were the farm manager and wife living in Home Farm House in the 1950s. Rita Butler's niece, Rita Longlands of Dundrum, Northern Ireland, had researched her family history and discovered where her aunt had lived. Continuing her search on the internet she found the Speen & North Dean website and contacted me, whereupon I arranged a visit. Eric and Lillian Cash, the present occupants of Home Farm House, welcomed Rita and her relatives one Saturday this September.

We first viewed the wing of the house where Frank Butler had a farm office for more than twenty years. Rita Butler had to suffer the sui-

cide of her 63 year old husband in 1953. He had been visiting the doctor, and was afraid of ending his lifelong occupation as a farmer (Bucks Free Press July 10th 1953).

Home Farm House continued to have tenant farm managers, and ordinary tenants, until 1982. The owners/landlords were probably more interested in their livestock than in the condition of the old house, and the internal walls were almost beyond repair when the house was put up for auction in 1982.

The Cash family purchased it and a long period of renovation began. First, the insertion of a damp course and complete re-wiring, removing the old lead covered wires. Beams were cleaned of paint, walls were re-plastered and papered and the former parlour was re-floored. The hall floor was left as found, red square tiles on pounded earth. Lillian Cash said some of the tiles were "dished" as if grinding grain had worn them down.

(Continued on next page)

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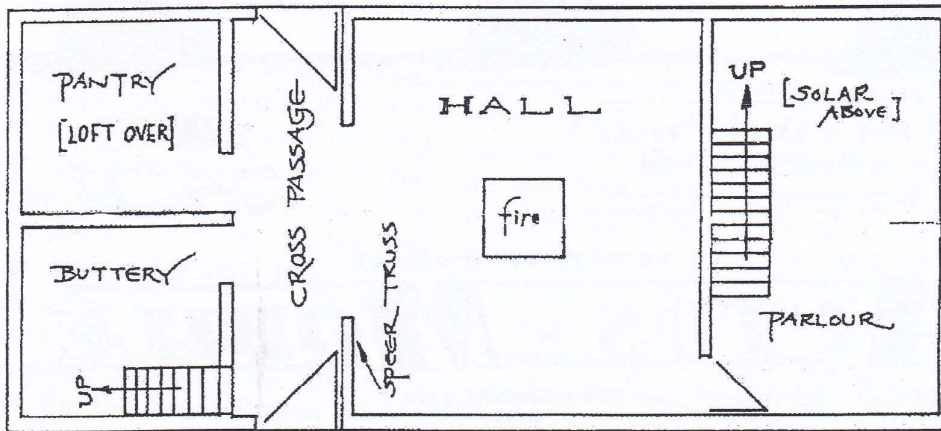


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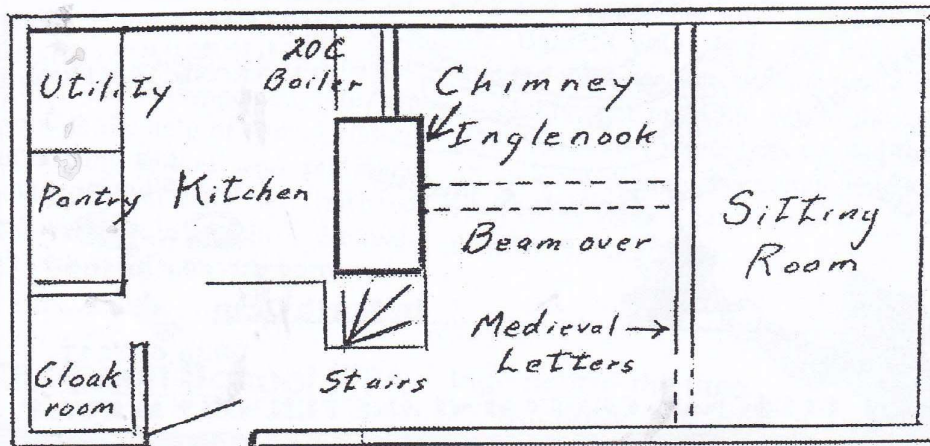


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Sketch A - plan of typical Hall House



Sketch B - Home Farm House, modern plan



The house was surveyed, identified as a medieval "Hall House" and listed as a Grade II building. Some medieval lettering is visible on an internal beam opposite the brick inglenook fireplace.

A Hall House (see sketch A) is a technical term in vernacular architecture. It was a single storeyed house, with a timber frame, wattle and daub for walls, and a thatched roof. An open hearth was in the centre of the floor (Amersham Museum has found its original central hearth) and there was no chimney, as the smoke rose and filtered out through the thatch.

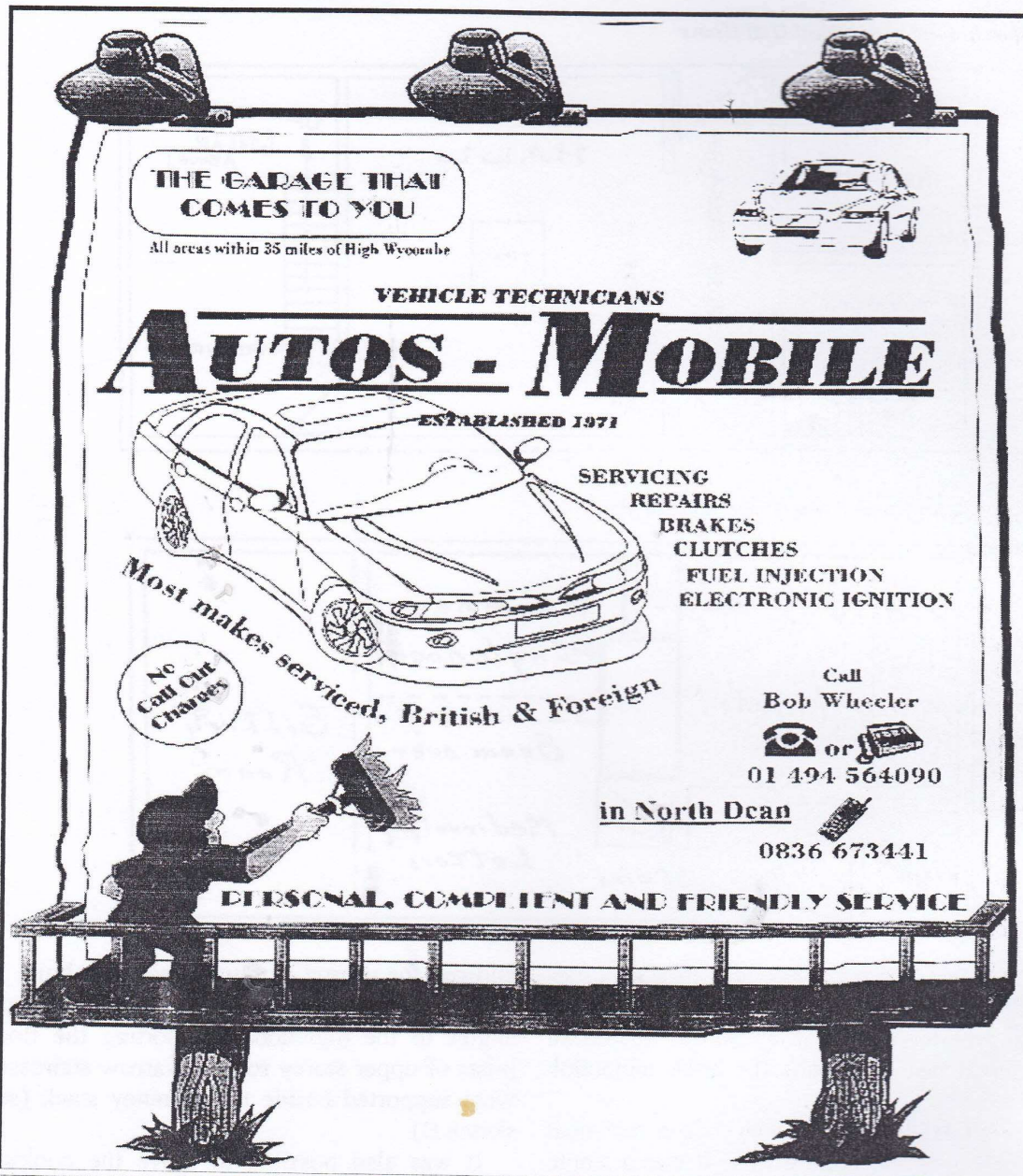
From about 1600 the use of bricks and mortar spread to country houses. The central cooking and heating fire was enclosed in a brick inglenook, and a brick chimney rose through the thatched or tiled roof. This might be called an early form of "central heating!" The design also

allowed for second storey rooms to be built. A strong beam was placed across the Hall at right angles to the inglenook, supporting the floor joists of upper storey rooms. Narrow staircases were supported beside the chimney stack (see sketch B).

It was also possible to move the cooking area to another fireplace on the same chimney, and so the kitchen was invented. The pantry (connected to the French *pain*, bread) was retained as a storeroom for dry food, flour and bread. There was also a buttery (from butts, beer barrels) although that name is no longer used.

Sincere thanks to Rita Longlands, and Eric and Lillian Cash for reminding us of our local heritage.

Bob Johnston



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Blown off Course

One Tuesday at the end of July while gardening (my usual occupation) I realised I had company. A very friendly pigeon was strutting round my feet, even letting me stroke it and pick it up. I then realised it was no ordinary pigeon as he had two bands on his leg, one pink and one saying GB2002 H.56174. It stayed with us all the afternoon, not flying at all and I began to think I should find out who to contact. A phone call to the vet gave me a phone number for the Royal Pigeon Racing Association who have all the numbers and owners on computer. Unfortunately, the office had by this time closed and I only got the answer phone saying I could leave details of a stray bird if I had it contained, which I hadn't. By now the bird had disappeared, but we tracked it down with the help of some children who had been fussing it and who said they thought it couldn't fly properly. My husband picked it up and we put it in our shed. We realised this wasn't very satisfactory so borrowed a

cat cage from a neighbour and it spent the night in this feeding. off our best quality bird food!! In the morning I had a call from the Pigeon Racing Association to say the bird belonged to a Mr. Bale from Leicester. On phoning, his daughter said he was at work so I didn't hear back from him until late on Wednesday. He said he would arrange for HER to be collected. He has about 15 young birds - they don't have names, only numbers. She had been let out in Wakefield, on the previous Saturday to return to Leicester, but the weather had been very bad and he felt she had been blown off course and come down too far. He arranged for Amtrak to collect her and they arrived here on Thursday afternoon, made up a little cardboard box and popped her in. She arrived back with Mr. Bale 24 hours later. He thanked me for looking after her and said she was a little light in weight, but none the worse for her adventure. She wasn't injured, as we had thought, so all ended well and. it certainly added some variety to my week's gardening.

Catherine Butler

News from Speen School PTA

The PTA is planning another busy year of social and fund raising events, starting with the Christmas Fair which was such a success last year. This year the fair will be held on Saturday 7th December and will be an excellent source of Christmas goodies and stocking fillers. Do come and browse the stalls and bring along your friends - it's all in a very good cause.

Look out too for the Speen Christmas Cook Book, full of tempting seasonal recipes and available soon to raise money for the school.

In the early spring we shall be holding our Auction of Promises, which is always a very enjoyable evening out and gives you the chance to bid for anything from a summer evening's balloon flight to a year's supply of freshly baked muffins! Posters will go up around the vil-

lage nearer the time.

Recently, we had a very welcome boost to school funds when Paul Rogerson, County Councillor for Speen, handed over a cheque to the school for £200 from the Community Leader's Fund at Bucks County Council. This fund of money is available every year for community projects, especially those for which local people are working to raise money. Mrs Nayna plans to spend the money on new books for the children.

Thank you all for your continuing support, and we look forward to seeing you at a school event soon.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th December, 2-4pm: Christmas Fair at the school

Saturday 21st June 2003: Midsummer Ball, in the marquee at the school

Louise Wilson

SPEEN, HAVE YOU BEEN?

PARK, WHILE YOUR CHILDREN
PLAY IN THE BARK.

EVERYONE HAS TO STOP, AND
ENJOY OUR LOVELY SHOP.

EVERYDAY, OUR TODDLERS
GO TO OUR NURSERY, AND
EVENTUALLY TO SCHOOL.

NEVER, FORGET TO STOP IN
AT OUR SPEEN!

Written by: Alexandra Piroli & Chloe Hanson

A really useful local charity

When Paul and I moved into Speen twenty-four years ago, our first visitor was Ann Cross – our new next-door neighbour who had three days before taken over Speen Stores with John. Many changes have taken place since then, the greatest being when the new shop was opened in 1998. The shop/post office is part of a new development designed and built by Bucks Housing Association which includes five houses for families with local connections (Laurel Close) - and an agreement that a proportion of the rent from the shop premises was to be re-invested in the local community.

Speen Shop Charities Committee administers this funding and meets four times a year to discuss applications. Over £10,000 has been distributed since the beginning of 1999, some of the events and equipment funded supported:

- Mini goal-posts for the children's football group;
- Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations;
- Lighting for the Millennium Marquee;
- War memorial (plaque and lych gate);
- Senior citizens' lunch.

The Committee is keen to hear of any project that meets the terms of reference – an application form is available at Speen Stores. There is a modest surplus available for distribution at the moment – the next meeting will be held on 5 December so applications should be made as soon as possible. These should be handed in to Speen Stores or directly to Peter King (see below).

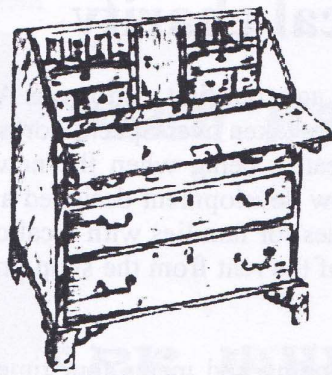
Terms of reference:

- ☐ The Speen Shop Charity will provide financial assistance for any useful non-commercial purpose, which either satisfies an individual need, or is of benefit to the community;
- ☐ The scope of the Charity is restricted to the Parish of Speen;
- ☐ There must be a clear and demonstrable educational, medical, social or community need;
- ☐ As a general rule, funding should not be available from an alternative source;
- ☐ The provision of a grant should directly benefit a local individual or group, or the village in general.

Speen Shop Charities Committee:

Andy Gower, (Chairman), The Manse, Hampden Road – 01494 488758
 Judi Booth, "The Hawthorns", 5 Monkton Waye – 01494 488273
 Tim Crossley, The Old House, Chapel Hill – 01494 488269
 Peter King, 11 Abbotswood – 01494 488189
 Jill Rogerson, Canastel, Water Lane – 01494 488315
 Peter Symonds, 10 Abbotswood – 01494 488016
 Don White, Two Styles, Water Lane – 01484 488437

Jill Rogerson



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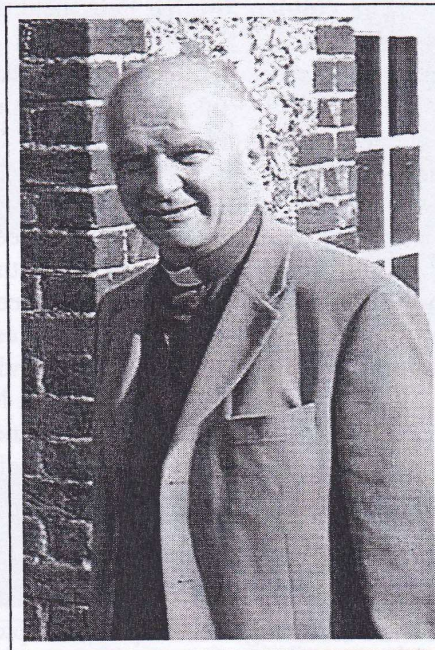
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200th Anniversary of the building of Speen Baptist Chapel

This year we mark the 200th anniversary of the origins of the Chapel, for it was in 1802 that Joseph Gibbons, a farmer on neighbouring land in North Dean, donated the present site for the purpose of erecting a meeting house for the Baptist faithful of the area. The Chapel was built by the villagers themselves, who gathered the flints for building materials from the fields around the village and brought them back to the construction site. The Church itself was finally formed in 1813 under the Rev. Thomas Jordan with a membership of just 5, plus the Pastor. The original building was smaller than the present day Chapel, but as a result of the rapid expansion of membership the vestry was added to the east side in 1817 and, in 1834, the north wall was moved forward to virtually double the internal area. An interesting feature of the construction of the building, which is now listed, is that the original corners were entirely of flint, as opposed to the brick corners seen on most early Chiltern buildings.

Fascinating exhibition

The Church celebrated this anniversary year with a fascinating exhibition of mementoes in the Chapel Hall and a special day of worship and festivity. The exhibition was open for 3 weeks and in it were displayed an array of written and photographic records detailing the lives and times of the Church and its worshippers over the years. Of particular interest were the original handwritten records of the early Church meetings, and a register of births from the time before 1837 when non-conformists were required to keep records of births within their community. The strong musical traditions of the Chapel were well represented by the bass drum from the village band that centred on the Chapel from 1883 to 1932, and the cello that sometimes accompanied the band's performances, when it was played by Elsie Plumridge, the bandmaster's daughter. Some of the musical works of villager Cornelius Ward, a major figure in the Church in the mid and late 19th Century, were also on display. Ward was a first-class performer on organ and cello, and was quite famous in his day as a composer and arranger of sacred music.



Special Service and Celebrations

The Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Reverend Mike Hill (pictured above arriving at the Chapel) was the guest at a service on September 8th, when he preached the sermon. The service was well attended and included songs specially selected for the children present, as well as prayers for the community. Afterwards, everyone moved up to the Playing Field for a celebration barbecue, a game of rounders and more music - including the playing of Elsie Plumridge's old cello by her great-great-niece, Paula Salmon. The day concluded with more song and prayer.

Andy Gower's thoughts

Reflecting on the history of the Church he now leads, Pastor Andy Gower observed how, from earliest times, worshippers had sought to help the needy and had been able to reach out beyond the village in this respect. He cited as examples Pastor David Day, who in 1837 left Speen for missionary work in the West Indies, the formation of a Baptist Church in Looseley Row in the 1860s and a Mission Hall at Redland End in 1912, current support for the refuge in Saunderton and help for a school building project in Hyderabad, India.

Martin Stockley

SPEEN GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE 2002

The Golden Jubilee Fete, held on the beautiful sunny Saturday of 13th July, proved to be a successful and happy day for all with a wonderful afternoon of musical entertainment, country dancing from Speen School, sideshows and vintage vehicle parade, all culminating in the Grand Draw. Later we had a fun evening of Jubilee Jazz from the Vo-De-O-Do orchestra with supper and dancing in the village marquee.

The village, through its committee, had decided to donate 40% of the Fete and Evening Event proceeds to the Chiltern Multiple Sclerosis Centre at Halton - and this decision worked really well to benefit the charity and village organizations. These photographs show people enjoying themselves at the Jubilee Jazz Event and also (next page) Dr. Donald Bedford of the M.S. Centre receiving the cheque on September 20th from Fete Committee members in the Village Hall.

Loiz Bale

Speen Fete - Children's Corner

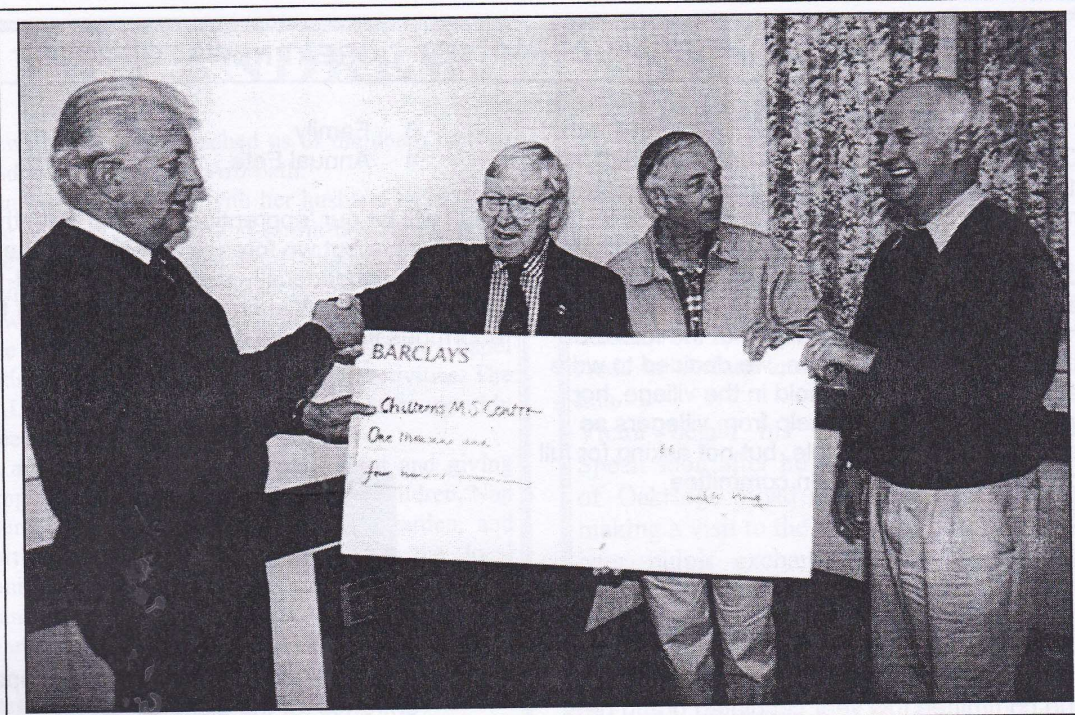
The Children's Corner, festooned with balloons and bunting, thronged with young children eager to try their luck in the bran tub, exercise their skills hooking the duck, or find the buried treasure on Treasure Island. Face painting was very popular with Yvonne Hanson and her team transforming hot sticky faces into beautiful butterflies, dalmatians and tigers!

The rocking horse was correctly named by a young man visiting from South America. Being more used to real horses on his estancia at home, he was somewhat startled to discover that this prize was made from wood! In the event the rocking horse will not need to learn Spanish since temporary stabling has been found for him in Highwood Bottom before he moves to a permanent home somewhere in the UK.

(Continued on page 27)



Dancing to the Vo-De-O-Do orchestra after Speen Fete 2002



David King, Dr Bedford, Stan Bale and Paul Rogerson at the handing over of the cheque from the Fete proceeds

(Continued from page 26)

Guessing the weight of Suzie Rose's deliciously gooey chocolate fudge cake was keenly contested by the adults – we understand that the winners demolished the prize in record time, finishing the last crumbs for breakfast the next day.

Thank you to Speen Pre-School staff and parents who were responsible for organising the entire Children's Corner this year, and to the Speen teens who helped run the tuck shop.

Sandy Mitcheson

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who supported this year's Fete, and the evening event in the Millennium Marquee. We had several new features, the weather was kind, and there is general agreement that it was a great success and enjoyed by all. We particularly appreciated the help of the many people like you who planned, set up and manned the Fete.

We raised about £3700. As agreed, 40% (about £1500) will be donated soon to the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre at Halton, and the rest distributed to village organisations.

David King (Chairman, Fete Committee)

SPEEN FETE 2003

A meeting will be held on Thursday November 28th at 8pm in the Village Hall.

The agenda will be to plan for and form a steering committee to arrange next year's fete. Speen Fete is well known throughout the area as a traditional village fete. The current series of events have been running now for over forty years, raising many thousands of pounds for village organisations and local charities. Held each summer on the second Saturday in July with Speen Playing Field providing the perfect setting for the occasion. Saturday July 12th is the date for 2003. Nominations are invited for a charity to receive our support next year. In addition, any organisation can bid to use the Millennium Marquee for an evening event to raise funds for their chosen charity.

Please come along to the meeting with your suggestions and ideas. It will be an open meeting with an invitation to come along and get involved. We look forward to seeing you.

David King

NORTH DEAN VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE - GREAT NEWS FOR 2003!

For more than 3 decades the North Dean Committee has been run by an average of 10 – 15 dedicated villagers, many well past retirement age.

The future for North Dean Village Hall was uppermost in my mind when I took on the role as a very inexperienced chairman this year and having opened up the subject of the future of the hall and its committee, we decided to write a letter to every household in the village, hoping to find intermittent help from villagers as and when they were able, but not asking for full commitment on the main committee.



At the same time, the committee brainstormed new ideas over a very enjoyable "bring your own" supper, one Friday evening early in September. Our newest member on the committee this year circulated brand new ways of running the committee which would, hopefully, involve less commitment per member who would be involved in a project (or more if they wished), each of which would have its own Chairperson and sub-committee which would report quarterly to the main Village Hall Committee for approval.



The Round Robin system of each committee member delivering to a few homes in the village meant that every household received our letter within the next week. Within two weeks we had received results that were extremely heartening including offers of help, useful suggestions and donations.

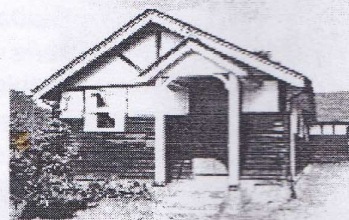
At our last meeting in October, all the replies and the future sub-committees were discussed and agreed, subject to agreement by those members who could not be present. North Dean Village Hall now has one Main committee (elected at the last Annual General Meeting) and four sub-committees, namely:



- 1 Premises
- 2 Fund-raising and social

- 3 Family
- 4 Annual Fete

2003 will be our 'apprenticeship year' with the new system but we foresee an efficient, energetic and economically successful, and ENJOYABLE year. We hope to raise some of the enormous funding we need to be able to:



1. Refurbish the village hall with a proper entrance for the disabled
2. Fit a cloakroom for the disabled
3. Re-surface and extend the car park for the many bookings we take throughout the week.

If you feel able to help us in our new venture, please contact me on 01494 564090 or complete the copy of our letter above and pop it into 2 Sportsmans Cottages, (3 doors down from the Village Hall).

If you would like to book a hall surrounded by the most beautiful views of hills and valleys, please contact Megan Chinn on 01494 563974.

**Bob Wheeler and
North Dean Village Hall Committee**

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NAN ANDREW

News has recently reached us of the death of Nan Andrew in hospital in Arbroath.

Nan moved to Speen with her husband in 1978, to live with her daughter and son-in-law Pam and Ian Drever, who had moved into Hampden Gate.

Nan soon became a familiar figure in village life. Few events took place without her being involved. She became a very active worshipper at the Chapel taking a full and active part in all its activities. The W.I. also received her keen support at its monthly meetings and events.

In addition to caring for her husband and giving support to Pam and Ian and her grandchildren, Nan found much pleasure in tending the garden, and particularly enjoyed walking around the local countryside.

Nan was a lovely lady and greatly loved by all who shared her company. We missed her at the time of her move back to Scotland. We now mourn her passing. We extend our sympathy to Pam, Ian and the family in Arbroath.

David King

REV. VICTOR FUGLER - SPEEN BAPTIST CHAPEL 1965-1995

Victor Fugler died on the evening of October 30th. He had experienced very poor health over recent months and had spent periods in Oxford and High Wycombe hospitals.

Victor began his long association with Speen soon after he was appointed minister of Oakridge Road Baptist Church. While making a visit to the village as part of a minister pulpit exchange, discussions began with a view to him providing pastoral oversight of the small fellowship at Speen. This arrangement continued for almost thirty years. Many families in Speen and the neighbouring villages will have benefited from, and been supported by, Victor's ministry. He conducted weddings, funerals and dedications throughout his long ministry, regularly held services at Wycombe Hospital, and was chaplain to several elderly persons' homes around High Wycombe.

Victor grew up in the Plymouth area and was apprenticed at H.M. Dockyard. He preached regularly around the village churches prior to entering training at Bristol Baptist College. His early ministry was in the West Country before moving to Buckinghamshire, with a period of his service being spent as chaplain to the Royal Air Force.

Victor contributed greatly to Baptist Church life in Buckinghamshire and had a keen interest in village church matters and overseas missions. He served as President of the Bucks Association during his ministry with us. Speen always held a special place in his heart, and he continued his interest in its welfare after his retirement.

We extend our love and sympathy to Molly and their sons, daughter-in-law and grandchildren at this very sad time.

David King

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01494 562954

Another Village Voice

With reference to the article "Your Village – Your Voice" in Issue 27 of The Speen & North Dean News by Cllrs Rogerson and Molesworth regarding "Speed Limits & Quiet Lanes", I am sure most residents of NORTH DEAN have similar concerns and would like their village to be included in the campaign.

Since moving to NORTH DEAN in 1999, I have watched with incredulity the increasing speed attained by some drivers at all times of the day and night. The speed limit in North Dean's narrow, winding lanes with no footpaths and treacherous blind bends is, amazingly, 40 mph! NORTH DEAN should be a quiet hamlet leading to Speen but is used as a "rat run" for commuters morning and evening and a short-cut round High Wycombe for endless traffic during the day. Many lorries do not realize how narrow the road becomes after the village hall and either turn round (not without £1000s worth of damage to some properties) or creep up the lane, probably praying not to meet oncoming traffic. Speed raises the noise level of vehicles, ie higher revs, tyre noise, skids, etc. and it is not unusual to be woken at 2 am by a lonely vehicle finding it necessary to speed through the village at way above 40 mph.

The younger population of NORTH DEAN has increased over the last few years. Living near North Dean Village Hall, park and field – booked and used regularly by these little ones, their parents and the many more mature members of the village who either walk, drive, cycle or park in and around it – I cannot believe the foolhardiness of regular Speen-bound drivers (their number plates eventually become imprinted on one's mind) who race past the village hall. Many try to overtake cars slowing to enter the hall car park or allotments and use the width of the road to do so. Last minute braking at the next bend often ensues, when they come face-to-face with anything from pedestrians, cars, horses or a huge lorry, resulting in them either skidding to a halt, having to back up causing danger to those behind or worse! On such occasions I have experienced loud exchanges of abusive language together with threats of violence which can be clearly heard in the area around the village hall.

"The speed limit is the absolute maximum and does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of conditions. You should always reduce your speed when:

- *the road layout or condition presents haz-*

ards, such as bends

- *sharing the road with pedestrians and cyclists, particularly children and motorcyclists, etc." (Highway Code, 104. 1999)*

"Drive at a speed that will allow you to stop well within the distance you can see to be clear." (Highway Code, 105. 1999)

i.e. A car travelling at 40 mph takes 36 metres - 9 car lengths or the length of more than 3 double deckers to stop; 30 mph takes 23 metres - 6 car lengths or the length of more than 2 double deckers to stop (Highway Code, 105 1999).

This subject has been raised many times by Hughenden Parish Council and it was raised again at the last Annual General Meeting of North Dean Village Hall Committee. However, NORTH DEAN is not considered a priority for a reduced speed limit.

My appeal goes out to YOU, the residents of both villages, that if WE don't drive safely, how can we expect others to do so? Let's not suffer the death of one of our own in order to get the message across.

Bob Wheeler,
Chairman, North Dean Village Hall Committee

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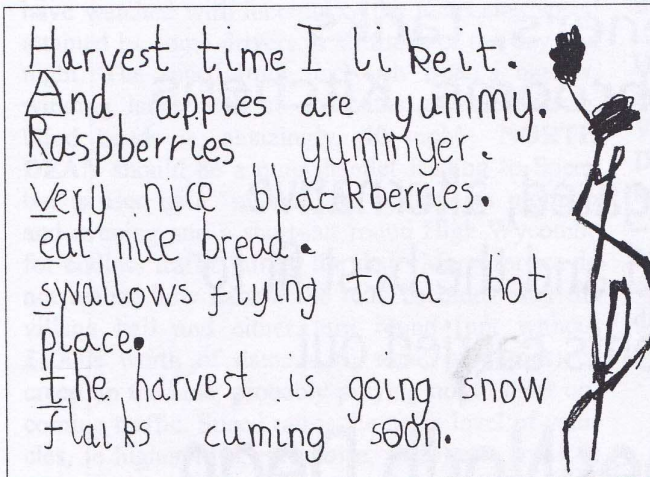
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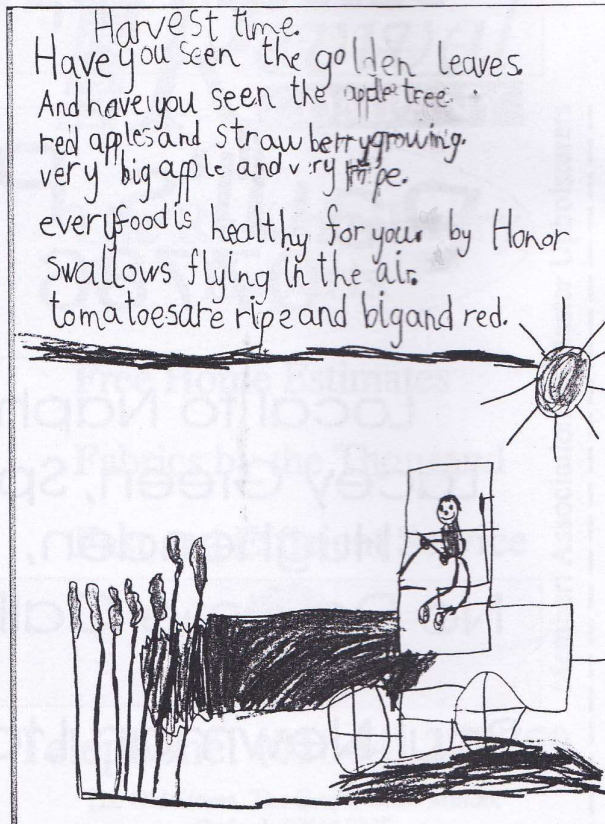
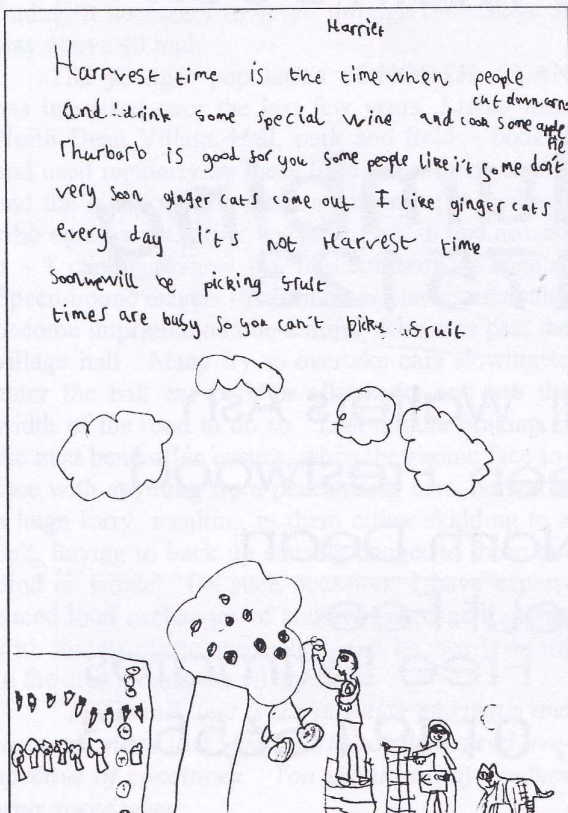
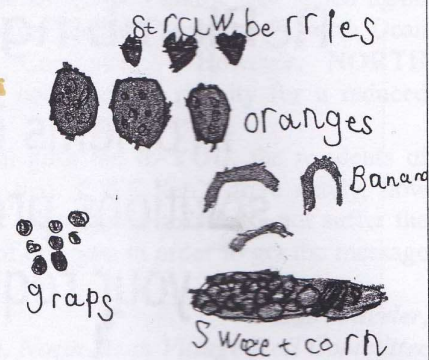
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Harvest time - the children of Speen School celebrated with these compositions. Take the first letter of each line to spell "HARVEST"



Harvest food is good for you.
a train is taking some food.
Rhubarb is good for you.
vegetables are good for you.
eating is good for you.
See the good food.
to much food some can give some away.



SPEEN SUPPORTERS GROUP SUPPORTING LOCAL HOSPICES

Regular Thursday night Quiz

Every alternate Thursday there is a Quiz in the King William IV. It's great fun and everyone is welcome to just come along and join in. You can simply link up with others to form a team after you arrive - or bring along your friends as a ready-made team (we usually reckon a team is 4-6 people, but it's all pretty casual!). There is a nominal £1 per head entry fee which goes into SSG funds. Most people enjoy the special pre-quiz supper that Mike and Zena lay on in the pub before the Quiz starts at 8.00pm. Give it a try.

SSG Christmas Quiz - Great Hampden Village Hall 6th December 7.30 for 8.00pm

This is a separate fund-raising event, entry £6 by ticket from Christine Symondson (488654) includes glass of mulled wine and mince pie. Otherwise BYO bottle, glasses and nibbles.

New Year Party - Speen Village Hall 3rd January 8.00pm

Celebrate the New Year with friends - bar, fork buffet, music, dancing. Tickets £10 from Gloria Holmes (488420) and Christine Oliver (488409)

"Pot Luck" - a rediscovered piece of Bucks history. Naphill Village Hall March 28th & 29th

This is an extraordinary story. We discovered that back in 1910, a young actress named Gertrude Robins, quite famous at the time and living in Naphill, wrote a short comic play in local dialect called "Pot Luck". It was performed in Naphill by "The Buckinghamshire Players".

What's remarkable about that? Well, for a start, the patrons included G K Chesterton (who subsequently wrote about his visit to see the play in Naphill), Jerome K Jerome (3 Men in a Boat etc), John Masefield (later Poet Laureate), the Earl of Buckinghamshire, the Mayor and Mayoress of High Wycombe, Lord Desborough, Lady Dashwood, Arthur Lazenby Liberty (founder of Liberty's Store), members of the Disraeli and Rothschild families and several other celebrities.

Furthermore, the national press turned up, resulting in articles and photographs in the Daily Mirror, the Star, the Daily Mail, the Daily Chronicle,



the Standard, the Daily Express, the Observer, Vanity Fair, Queen etc etc.

"The Buckinghamshire Players", by the way, were the local wheelwright, a couple of chairmakers (including the wheelwright's wife) and a road maker.

Quite how Gertrude Robins, who was in her early twenties at the time, had such clout among the great and good at the time we have yet to discover. However, Marjorie Stockley has decided to revive this little farce and stage it in its original location in Naphill. The play is quite short, so the evening will also include some Bucks songs and verse, and tickets at £12 will include supper. Proceeds for SSG and thence local hospices. Further information and ticket reservations from Marje on 488101.

Martin Stockley

BEECHDEAN

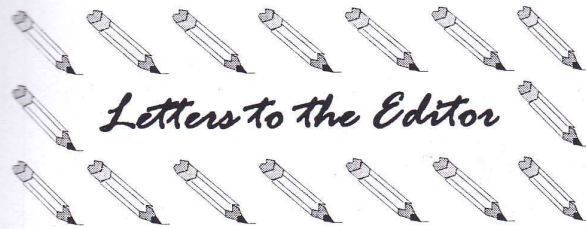
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Letters to the Editor

Er.....that's it folks!

If anyone does feel like writing, though, we are offering £20 for the best letter, in the opinion of the Speen & North Dean News committee. Copy deadline for next issue 14th February 2003.

Saunderton Hostel

provides accommodation for people who are temporarily homeless. It caters for a wide range of people, from teenagers, young parents with babies and children, middle-aged, and the elderly.

If you have anything which you no longer need, and it's in good condition, the residents of the hostel would be very grateful for it. Furniture, bedding, household linen, clothes, electrical goods [large and small], household goods, toiletries, and also gifts of food are always welcome.

These items are also very helpful to residents when they move into their new accommodation. If you have anything to donate, or would like to know more, please ring **Kate Slade**, who will be pleased to collect your gifts: **488262**.

Speen Village Hall Annual Quiz

The hall was packed as usual for this event, when the Village Hall team once again came out on top. David King was the quizmaster, and Jacqueline King and helpers provided an excellent supper for all the participants.

Ros's flowers raise funds for charity

Well over £100 was raised for charity when flowers from Ros Darnton's garden were made available through Speen Stores, for a donation to the Iain Rennie Hospice.

Bring & buy sale helps charities

Marjorie Stockley ran a "bring and buy" coffee morning at home, as a result of which she raised £200 for charity. £100 was donated to the Chiltern Multiple Sclerosis Centre, and a further £100 went to Calibre, which supplies free recorded books for the blind in the Aylesbury area. Marjorie is a reader for Calibre.

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Community Plan

The village community plan which covers the whole parish of Lacey Green, including Speen, aims to identify important issues affecting the community, and how it is proposed to deal with them. There was a full report on this meeting and some initial actions in a previous Speen and North Dean News.

A small steering group has now been formed, comprising: Tony Molesworth and Peter Symonds (Parish Council), Paul Rogerson (WDC), Lawrence Rostron (LG Residents Association), Francis Gomme (Bucks Community Action), June Churchill (WDC), Linda Gaffin and Barry Titchen.

If any other individual or organisation feels that they would like to participate at any level, please let us know. It is vital that the whole community is involved and not merely individuals or pressure groups. Where appropriate, sub-groups will also be formed to deal with particular issues.

Lacey Green Village Day on 13 July provided another opportunity for people to express their views. We were pleased to have a steady stream of visitors, including a handful of younger members of the community. Some new issues were raised, supplementing those obtained previously. These included a youth club for older children perhaps with a coffee shop, a doctor's surgery once or twice a week, cycle paths and various other facilities for children. Although we had hoped to do the same at the Speen fete on the same day, this idea was subsequently abandoned.

One idea which no-one has yet mentioned (but which has just become very obvious to me), is to have one

magazine covering the whole parish. However, it probably won't happen. This article is essentially one written originally for the Hallmark, to which a few appropriate amendments have been made, but it would have been tidier to have done it just once.

Immediate future actions will include a further opportunity for parish residents to suggest other issues. This may take place at a future meeting, probably in Speen, and/or by means of a questionnaire. Not every resident or organisation was represented at the first meeting in March, and it is essential to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute. In the meantime, if there is an issue that concerns you or your organisation, **please tell us!** We don't want anyone coming along in three years' time saying that we hadn't asked them for their views.

Once any particular issue has been identified, further work will include an analysis of each issue which specifies the problem(s), identifies who is involved, notes the constraints which have hitherto prevented action, defines the desired solution, and determines what action is needed and by whom. Action may be taken by the steering group, or a sub-group, or it might be passed on to some other appropriate body such as the Parish, District or County Council.

A particular issue was the absence of guaranteed places at St. John's School in Lacey Green, for children leaving the Speen school. This has been resolved temporarily, but a long term solution still needs to be found.

Some issues (possibly the school issue) may show up a need for legislation, in which case matters may be rather protracted.

We do not promise miracles, but we will do our best!

Contact: Tony Molesworth (01844 344975)



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What's on in Speen & North Dean

December

1st	Sweet Singing in the Choir (Speen Choir & others - concert)	Monks Risborough Parish Church
5th	The Royal collection of stage coaches (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
6th	Grand Christmas Quiz (Speen Supporters Group)	Great Hampden Village Hall
7th	Men's Breakfast - A Brixton story (Speen Baptist Chapel)	Speen Village Hall
7th	Christmas Fair (PTA)	Speen School
7th	Christmas Tree lighting-up and carols	Speen Playing Field

2003

January

3rd	New Year Party (Speen Supporters Group)	Speen Village Hall
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February

6th	Old Bucks cookery (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
14th	Speen & North Dean News, copy date Spring edition.	

March

6th	Rope, roses & rabbit stew (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
28th & 29th	"Pot Luck" - play, plus Bucks song & verse (Speen Supporters Group)	Naphill Village Hall

April

3rd	From the Fab 40s to the Swinging 60s Birthday Party (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
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May

22nd	(provisional) Speen & North Dean Golf Day	Hazlemere Golf Club
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June

5th	Cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
8th	Fun Day (Speen Playing Field Association)	Speen Playing Field
21st	Midsummer Ball (PTA)	Speen School

July

12th	Speen Village Fete	Speen Playing Field
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September

5th-13th	Speen Festival 2003	Speen Playing Field & Village Hall
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Who's who in Speen & North Dean

Speen & North Dean News editor	Martin Stockley	488101
Speen Baptist Church - minister	Andy Gower	488758
Speen Festival - chairman	Martin Stockley	488101
Speen Fête - Chairman	David King	01844 344839
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen Horticultural Association - secretary	Peter Dawson	488222
Speen Infants' School - head	Mrs Nayna	488321
Speen Infants' School PTA	Louise Wilson	563750
Speen Marquee - hirings	John Holmes	488420
Mother & Toddler Group	Sandy Mitcheson	488875
Speen Neighbourhood Watch	John Radford	488679
Speen Playing Field Association - secretary	Jenny Cowan	488546
Speen Pre-School	Janis Hearn	488440
Speen Residents' Association	Gordon Hall	488331
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen Supporters' Group	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen Stores	Sandra Clarke	488258
Speen Tennis Court - secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall - bookings and secretary	Catherine Butler	488412
North Dean Village Hall - bookings secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
North Dean Village Hall - chairman	Bob Wheeler	564090
Speen WI - secretary	Mary Dawson	488222

Hughenden Parish Council	R F Gould (Chairman)	
Lacey Green Parish Council	Don White (Chairman)	488437
	Peter Symonds	488016
Wycombe District Council	Paul Rogerson	488315
Buckinghamshire County Council	Paul Rogerson	488315

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