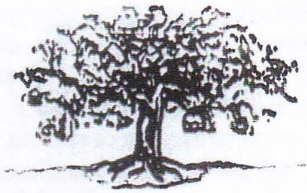


# *Speen and North Dean* **NEWS**

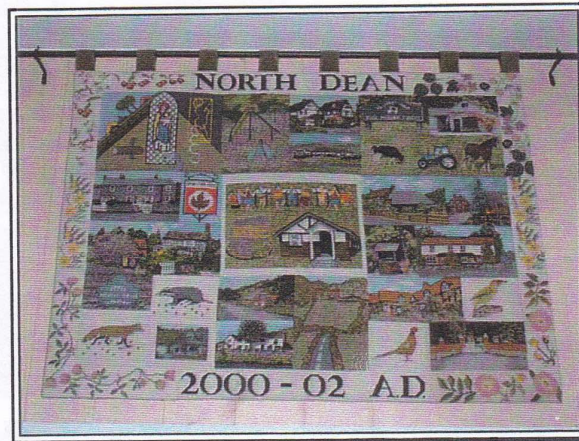


*Issue 29 Spring 2003*

## **IN THIS EDITION.....**



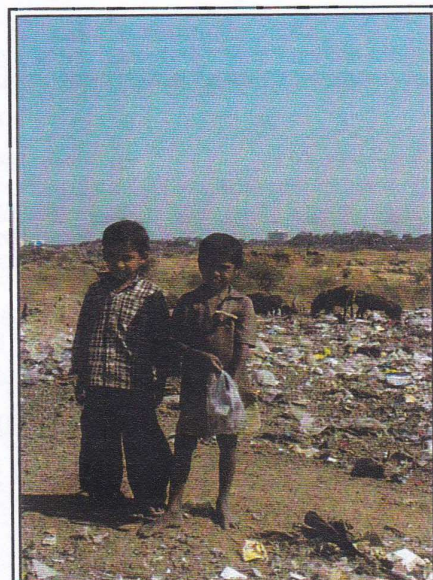
*Speen Supporters Group  
raises **£10,000***



*Pride of place in North Dean*



*Speen twinned with Slovakia*



*Help for the Third World*



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## Editor's note

Once again there has been an abundance of copy for this edition of the Speen & North Dean News. Please keep it coming - the more variety the better! Photos are very welcome too; we can't guarantee to reproduce them with the quality of the original, but they always add interest. One plea, though. If at all possible, we would prefer articles to be kept to no more than 1 page; of course it can't always be done, but if we have too many long articles the chances are they won't be read because most people just don't have time.

All you organisers of events - let us have details (however brief) of what you are planning so that we can give you advance publicity. And if you have just been to an interesting event - why not send us a report? Articles 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*

### Final copy date for the next issue

## June 1st 2003

and our aim is to distribute  
approximately 4 weeks later



### Is your water as hard as nails?

60% of British households suffer from these sure signs of hard water problems:

- Blocked shower heads
- Slow-running taps
- Scum marks in baths and basins
- Excessive use of household cleaners
- Harsh, hard towels and clothes
- Increased water heating bills
- Scaled-up kettles and appliances



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### Cover photographs (clockwise)

Suzi Rose, founder of the Speen Supporters Group, at the Christmas pub quiz	See pages 10-11
North Dean Village Hall activities	See pages 31-33
Speen Baptist Church helps fight poverty in India	See pages 10-11
John & Alena - a heart-warming story	See pages 26-27

## County and District Council News - January 2003

By the end of January you should have received the promised **Paper Recycling Boxes** from Wycombe District Council and hopefully a first collection should have been made. These boxes will help to increase the recycling of paper and so reduce the amount going to landfill. If anybody is having difficulties with the boxes please let me know so that help may be given. Something that reduces the problem of weight is putting the box out and taking the paper to it.

Some good news for Speen is that the application for a £200 grant from my Community Leaders Fund to provide new tables for the marquee has been accepted. A cheque has been issued and passed to John Holmes. The allocation of grants from this fund has now been substantially completed for 2002/2003 but applications for 2003/2004 may be made at any time.

With regard to **Transportation** issues that have concerned residents I have continued to press County Council officers for action. Taking these in no particular order the progress / action promised is as follows:

- **New Speed Limits** – Progress on the countywide speed limit review is being made. Work on the three new areas, which include Lacey Green Parish, is planned to start in April and be completed by July. This review will then be subject to public consultation and, if no difficulties are raised, start to be implemented before the end of the year.
- **Road Markings** – I have asked that the various 'stop' lines at the junctions of Studridge Lane, Moses Plat Lane and Chapel Hill/ Hampden Road be repainted as they have either been removed or worn away. The County Engineers have agreed and said that this work will be completed in the next couple of months; weather permitting.
- **Drainage** – I have asked that consideration be given to raising the drop kerbs at the Hampden Road end of Coleheath Bottom to restrict flooding from the highway into Coleheath Bottom. In addition I have asked that the frequency of gully cleaning be confirmed. This should be every six months.
- **Horse Riding** – I have asked that consideration be given to partial resurfacing of Chapel Hill so that the danger from horses losing their footing on the polished surface be removed. Again the County Engineers have agreed to look at the problem and I await the outcome.
- **The 'Quiet lanes' Project** – This project is now off the ground with the appointment of a consultant to undertake the 1<sup>st</sup> stage appraisal. The brief is to establish best practice using data gained from other areas and to identify any gaps that may exist. Public events will be held as part of the required consultation one of which may be in the Lacey Green Millennium Hall. Obviously this will be of significant benefit to Lacey Green Parish and will give everyone a first class opportunity to put forward his or her views.

- **Woodway / Culverton Roundabout** – the final decision on the design of this scheme following the recent public consultation is due to be taken shortly.

On a wider front two major issues in the news affecting the Parish are the **Local Plan Inspector's Report** and **Central Railway's** freight line proposals. Both of these have come with some good and bad news.

The Inspector's Report for Local Plan, issued at the end of last year, brought good news in that he accepted the new District Council's revised housing land allocation for Princes Risborough. The new allocation removed the Oak Tree Farm site from the Plan in order to reduce Green Field Development around Princes Risborough. The bad news is that subsequent Government Planning Advice, in the form of PPG3, has had the effect of increasing permitted housing densities to a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare. This Government Policy has allowed the Inspector to find that increased numbers of dwellings are permissible on the reduced land allocation all be it on an extended time scale for implementation that stretches beyond the life of the Local Plan. However the issue of the Inspector's report does not conclude the matter. Together with other local Councillors, I am pressing Wycombe District Council so that any decision be deferred to allow time for a Princes Risborough Capacity Study to be undertaken. In this way accurate figures for Brown Field sites within the town will be identified. As Brown Field development is required to be carried out in favour of Green Field the need to look outside of the town for additional land would be reduced. If you support this way forward then I would be pleased to hear from you so that representations can continue to be made to Wycombe District Council.

You may have read in a recent issue of the Sunday Times that the French are pressing the Government to go ahead with the rail freight project by Central Railway (CR). Again it's good news and bad news. It is good news that the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) appears to oppose the CR's proposals but bad news that the Government, aided by the French, is still trying to keep the project alive. A date for a final Government decision still has to be set. Their response to the recent Local Authorities' Central Railway Consortium's submission, which enclosed an independent report prepared by MDS Transmodal concluding that CR's proposal was financially and operationally unsound, was to note the contents of the report, advise that they had received SRA's detailed review of the scheme and announce that they were considering it carefully and would announce a decision in due course.

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 VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

On November 30th 2002 the Village Hall once again held its Annual Christmas Fair. The hall was looking very seasonal with all the decorations and the Christmas Tree, and Father Christmas was seated in his grotto to welcome the children.

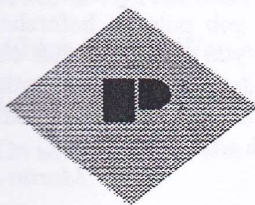
The cake stall was as usual the first to sell out, with lots more gifts to be found amongst the lovely wooden and craft items, and the Tombola doing a good trade. This was all washed down with mulled wine and mince pies.

The committee would like to thank everyone who attended, helping to raise £420 towards the upkeep of the Hall. This facility is for the use of all the people in the village and we greatly rely on everyone helping to keep it maintained by supporting functions such as the Christmas Fair.

*Catherine Butler*



*Father Christmas pretending to be Roger Craft*



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

## Quizmasters



Clare and Geoff Hayward-Smith have been enthusiastic pub quiz participants for some time, but didn't realise when they arrived in Speen only 16 months ago that they would be responsible for devising and running a regular quiz night in the village.

Much of their time since last summer has been occupied in working on their house in Chapel Hill, "Spennymoor", where they have been carrying out much of the ongoing extension work themselves. When I dropped in for a chat one evening Clare tried to explain to me some of the problems she'd encountered wiring up the lighting circuit that afternoon; I nodded with what I hope looked like comprehension, but was in reality lost once she'd got past my electrical vocabulary of switch and plug.

Clare is a local girl, coming originally from Holmer Green, but she spread her wings wide as a communications engineer in the world of information technology. Geoff has previously been an IT project manager for the BBC World Service; these days he sees himself in a more entrepreneurial role in business development, with a finger in several pies.

Altogether, there is a lot of grey matter in the Hayward-Smith household and one way it has been put to excellent use is in the quizzes they agreed to organise in the King William IV every alternate Thursday night. The basic aim is to raise funds for Speen Supporters Group, and each participant is

asked to donate £1 towards the charity. It's not a lot, but it all adds up, and in the 12 months since the quiz started Clare and Geoff have raised well over £470 for the hospices concerned.

At the same time, many villagers (and some from elsewhere) have had a great deal of fun taking part in these none too serious evenings. They start at 8.00pm, although most people enjoy the special pre-quiz supper the pub puts on beforehand, and anyone can turn up; you won't feel left out – you will be joined into a team if not already attached to one – and everyone is more concerned with having a good time than with winning.

*Martin Stockley*

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**SPEEN & NORTH DEAN NEWS - SPRING QUIZ**

- 1 Which Australian outlaw did Mick Jagger portray in a 1970 film
- 2 Name the tennis star that died of an AIDS related illness in February 1993
- 3 In the Bugs Bunny cartoons, what is the name of Bugs's red-bearded hombre arch-enemy?
- 4 What is the star-sign of someone born on Christmas Day?
- 5 What is the collective noun for a group of Toads?
- 6 What were Bertram Mills and Billy Smart famous for?
- 7 By what name was illusionist Eric Weiss better known?
- 8 What name is given to the fine parchment originally made from calf's skin?
- 9 Where in Europe can the Tivoli Gardens be visited?
- 10 Which "Carry-On" actress was married to John Le Mesurier?
- 11 Who is the current editor of Private Eye?
- 12 Which English city was known to the Romans as Eboracum ?
- 13 Which is the World's most Southerly Capital City ?
- 14 Name the only female Womble?
- 15 In which South American country is Dutch the official language?
- 16 What name is given to a Russian carriage pulled by three horses abreast?
- 17 What is the common, alternative name for the Chinese Gooseberry?
- 18 Which British War hero was portrayed by Richard Todd in the film The Dambusters?
- 19 In which City were the film and book "The Commitments" set
- 20 On which city is the original USA version of the Monopoly board game based ?

Quiz set by Geoff Hayward-Smith. Answers on page 22

**PLANNING NEWS**

*Note: Nic Heald has drawn to my attention the fact that Parish Councils are not a planning authority and cannot grant or refuse permission. Some recent Parish Council verdicts on planning applications have been wrongly reported in this newsletter as eg "rejected" when they should have been described as "recommended for rejection". In some cases, such applications may subsequently have been approved by the District Council, notwithstanding the Parish Council's recommendation, as was the case with Nic's application for a double garage at "Glaysers" in North Dean. I apologise for this misunderstanding.*

*Hughenden Parish Council:*

*Reduction of height & circumference of yew tree at Longwood, Speen Road, North Dean - recommended for approval*

## THE OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT AT SPEEN

### SPECIAL PRIX FIXE MENU

Home-made venison, pork and partridge rilette with mixed pickles  
Or  
Devon mussels with chorizo salad Andalusian style, with sherry vinegar dressing  
Or  
Avocado guacamole and char-grilled vegetable salad with Balsamic dressing

\*\*\*\*\*

Grilled fillet of salmon with tamarind and coconut Malayan sauce,  
Steamed rice and a fish and prawn sambal  
Or  
Grilled Chiltern Hills lamb kidneys with bacon and sauce Lyonnaise  
Or  
Confit of duck with braised red cabbage and mustard sauce  
Or  
Hot goat's cheese, Stilton and leek tart with lemon butter sauce

### 2 courses for £9.95

Due to overwhelming demand our prix fixe menu is now available  
**IN THE BISTRO EVERY WEEK**  
**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY LUNCH AND DINNER**  
**AND SUNDAY LUNCH TOO !**  
and can be requested when making a booking.

It will not be available on Sunday 30th March.

**Dishes on the menu are non-transferable and will be changed on a regular basis**

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

Chef patron and restaurateur Malcolm and Olivia Cowan

## BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS ... AND MORE?

The Naphill and Hughenden Scout Group currently offers an opportunity for many Speen children to get involved with scouting and has thriving Beaver, Cub and Scout sections. We're also keen to start an Explorer section for those aged over 14 and to run this across various local villages.

What's more the Group is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year. To celebrate we're organising a diverse programme focusing on the local history of the area over the past 60 years and would love to hear from anyone who can speak at a meeting or offer materials for an exhibition to be held in the summer.

All this activity, combined with changes taking place in Scouting nationally, mean we're also on the look out for new leaders and helpers to build on the solid foundations we've built and to widen the opportunities for young people locally. Volunteers can get as involved as much or as little as they like and don't need to have previous experience – we can offer training and support.

Even if you're only tentatively interested why not get in touch and see what's involved? Call either **Trevor May (Group Scout Leader) on 565101** or **Nick Corble (Chairman) 481874**

### SPACE FOR HIRE

Following recent work to bring the Speen Scout Hut up to a higher standard, with grant assistance from the Speen Stores Charity fund, it is now available for hire to people in the area. The main hall is 23ft x 37ft (7 x 11.3 mtrs) with a ceiling clearance of between 10ft and almost 13ft (4 mtrs) at the centre. This makes it ideal for some indoor sports, table tennis, etc. There is some limited storage space.

Remember, it was built for rough use, so it is also ideal for kids' parties and similar. It has a sprung wooden floor. There is a large flat area outside, suitable for camping and limited parking that backs on to about 1.2 acres of private woodland attached to the property. It provides a good base camp for hikes and outdoor events.

Ceiling heaters supply quick heat and there are tables and 38 chairs available for meetings. There are separate toilet facilities for males and females.

The kitchen is a fairly small 8ft x 9ft (2.4 x 2.7 mtrs) with a serving hatch, a standard

domestic 4 ring electric cooker, grill & oven and a standard domestic refrigerator.

The hut is situated at the edge of the village on Chapel Hill, opposite the Chapel, with easy access for the larger vehicle.

Do not expect luxury, this is a strictly functional building with appropriate grounds surrounding it.

Charges to village organisations are £15.00 per evening, £25.00 per day and £40.00 for a weekend. Private bookings are charged at £20.00, £30.00 and £50.00 respectively.

Bookings from groups not associated with the village may be accepted upon application and subject to special conditions.

To make a booking, please write to **Pauline Hall, Bryn Cottage, High Wood Bottom Speen, Bucks. HP27 0PY**  
E mail: [highwood.frog@virgin.net](mailto:highwood.frog@virgin.net)

Alternatively, a booking form may be downloaded from the [SpeenBucks.org](http://SpeenBucks.org) website - look under Village Organisations. - Scout Hut Bookings.

*John Radford*

## *EAST MEETS WEST IN SPEEN*

Who would have thought that going to the open gardens of Speen (1998) would change my life so much? Well that is where it almost all started, so let me go back to the beginning which was a year earlier in 1997. I remember the weekend well it was the weekend of Princess Diana's funeral and along with most of the country I watched the event on the television with almost disbelief and certainly much emotion as she made the final journey to her resting place. The following day I was up early and heading for Heathrow airport, terminal 2. It was this weekend that my two week stint as a complementary practitioner was to begin in Bosnia. I was travelling out via Slovenia to Sarajevo, shortly after the war had finished. We were to live in a house on the outskirts of Sarajevo and work in various health centres, refugee centres and in some of the local communities offering massage, healing and other skills to the population that had been left devastated after years of war. I had travelled out with an organisation called The Healing Hands Network which had been started by two ladies who had seen the devastation on the news and had wanted to help in whatever way they could. They started this charity, made many trips out there themselves, raised what they could in the UK and it grew from there. Nothing could have prepared me for the scenes that were to greet my eyes as we flew into the airport. We were met with shelled houses and a runway with a distinct dip in it. Over the two weeks I was out there I was to learn so much about a nation of people which I knew little. I also had many experiences that were to prove life changing. Whilst Bosnia was at war the cameras were rolling in there reporting the news and sending pictures of war, destruction and devastation, but once it was no longer headline news the world's eyes were drawn elsewhere. Bosnia was to remain a ruined nation with a lot of work needing doing.

One of the greatest experiences I had was the generosity of the people who although they had almost nothing, were prepared to share what little they did have with us. They knew we were not allowed to take money for the work we did so they would buy us chocolate bars and leave them for us. In itself this seemed a small gesture but when you learnt that this would cost a significant part of a weeks salary you could only be humbled. We were to meet with so many wonderful people whilst we were out there who would take us to see much of their wonderful countryside, much of which we could not enter because of the risk of landmines which had been planted everywhere. Needless to say the two weeks went very fast and we were soon headed for England, enjoying a night in Ljubljana on the way back before arriving at Heathrow on Sunday night and then back to work on Monday.

I believe this was one of those life changing moments as upon returning to work I could not settle comfortably into the routine of an American Cor-

porate company and with people who were always complaining they did not have enough. I had a strong desire to take them to Bosnia and show them people who had little or no food, had water just twice a day and no money coming in to mend their war torn houses or flats. I was so struck by the needs of these proud people I wanted to continue raising money to be able to fund the work out there, so offered to give a number of talks and slide shows in the area including one in Speen village hall. I personally walked round to every house in Speen and North Dean and delivered an invitation and was happy to see a number of faces in the hall on the evening of my talk.

The following year (1998) I decided to go to the open gardens of Speen afternoon on the 19th July and invited a couple of friends to join me as we walked around the village looking at some wonderfully presented gardens and looking forward to the tea in the village hall. I got chatting to many people as we met in the gardens and in one spoke with Phyllis Harries, we met a little later in another garden and again we spoke and as I was about to leave she said "Aren't you the bloke who went to Bosnia?" and I answered "Yes". Little was I to know that this sentence was to change my life. Why? Because she had an Au pair working for her called Alena, who came from a town in the east of Slovakia and who was fascinated to hear about my trip and asked a few questions. I said "I make a mean cup of tea, you would be most welcome to come round and talk some more", at this point I should point out there was no romance on my mind at all. Alena never showed up and a couple of weeks later we met again in Tesco where we exchanged a few words as I was in a hurry to get of to a meeting I had arranged. I later learnt Alena was a little disappointed to see a bunch of flowers in my trolley and guessed I must have a partner (which I didn't, I often buy myself flowers). This meeting precipitated a short note saying it was nice to meet and chat and perhaps we could meet again and have a further chat.

I called her up and we arranged to meet that week, we were to meet again a few more times over the next few weeks and I realised how good I felt in her company so invited her to come for a week in Cornwall that I had planned and booked before meeting her. After much deliberation Alena agreed and we set off for Penzance and Mousehole where I had a cottage booked. Over the week we went to many places and on our last day I had booked a surprise trip on the helicopter to the Scilly Isles. We set off on the first flight and had the whole day there, the weather was fantastic and when we arrived at the airport to get the flight back home we were told there was a delay of a couple of hours due to technical problems with one of the helicopters. We seemed to be the only ones who were happy about this and went to spend some more



time in the sun watching it go lower on the horizon. The pilot on our return flight home, by way of an apology, flew us all low over all the islands out there and then with the stewardess provided a commentary of what we were seeing out of the windows including John le Carre's house. As we approached the heliport in Penzance we flew close to St Michael's Mount so we had the sun setting out of the left window and St Michael's Mount illuminated a golden colour out of the right window and from nowhere came my proposal of marriage. I had not planned it at all it just came out (and above the loud engine noises!)

Well, that was over 4 years ago now, much of which was spent in different countries as Alena had 3 more years of her 5 year degree to finish in the University of Economics in Bratislava. We would meet as often as we could mainly in the UK and often for only a few days with another 8 weeks or so apart before meeting again. However we had e-mail and the phone to keep in touch and of course ordinary mail too. I think we contributed to the profits of BT and The Royal Mail a lot over those years! Come to think of it Royal Mail did declare a loss the year Alena came to live here!

In 2001 Alena sat her final exams and passed her two degrees (Economics and Teaching) with flying colours and I was so proud to attend her graduation and see her receive her certificates and do a speech on behalf of the students to an audience of several thousand people.

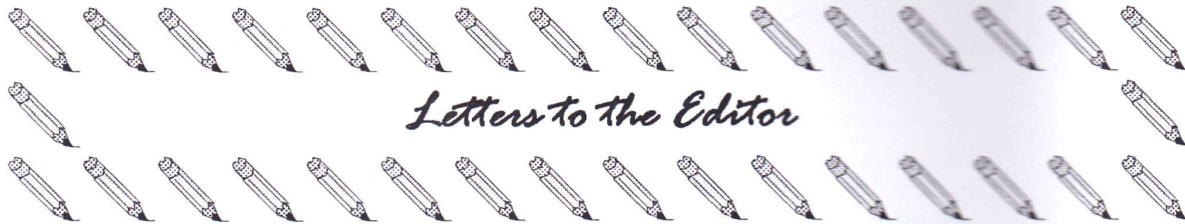
On September 21st 2002 we decided to return to Penzance to marry in the registry office down there and then have a small reception in a beautiful hotel in Newlyn, just along the coast. We spent the rest of the week on honeymoon in Mousehole with Alena's mum, Magdalena and her best friend Monika. This was the first time for both of them in the UK and Magdalena's first time outside Eastern Europe, in a plane and seeing the sea (to name but a few firsts!)

We are now back home and settled in our lovely cottage in Flowers Bottom and Alena begins her hunt for work. We have experienced a lot over the four years we have been together and spent many hours in either the British Embassy in Bratislava or Immigration in Croydon.

The moral of the story..... I had never felt so strongly about doing something as I did about going to Bosnia and actually doing something to help, so I let my heart rule my head and off I went. I gave so much of myself to the local people who in their own way gave so much in return. It was a life changing opportunity and I guess you could say life gave me the finest gift I could have ever asked for, a special lady I can call my wife.

Oh - and in case you are wondering about the job, after 11 years with the corporation I resigned in 2001 and now work from the beautiful home we live in and am able to carry out the therapy work I so enjoy.

*John Critoph*



## Letters to the Editor

I'm in complete agreement with what Bob Wheeler says about speeding traffic. It is truly surprising how many of our own residents, let alone those coming to North Dean and Speen for other reasons, drive excessively fast. One of the problems with modern cars, particularly those with large powerful engines, and sometimes automatic gearboxes, is that the driver can be lulled into a false sense of safety, and is often unaware of just how fast he or she is going. In France, villages like Speen and North Dean are protected by a variety of traffic calming measures. What a pity that our councillors seem unable to do the same.

Jennifer Cowan.

**Jenny wins a cheque for £20 for this letter. The Speen & North Dean News offers £20 each issue for the best letter received, in the opinion of the News committee.**

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## ***Goodwill Children's Homes***

### ***Caring for destitute children in South India.***

We will be running a "Goodwill Jazz Party" on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, after the fete. We want your help to raise funds for the above charity. We became interested in helping children in South India during of a visit to Kerala a few years ago. On that visit we were greatly impressed by the attitude of the local children. They were so proud of their school that they offered to show it to us. We were walking on the local beach when we were found by three boys. They led us inland via several mud paths through a village until we came to a group of buildings. Some were brick and some were small thatched huts. All was peace and quiet until a bell rang and children and adults came pouring out of all the doors. It was obviously playtime. All were smiling (during our stay in Kerala we never heard a child cry). The teachers were very welcoming and wanted to show us around their wonderful school. There were no desks or tables for the children to work on. They had to work using slates or with a few scraps of paper, resting the paper on their hands in order to write on it! All the children sat tightly packed on benches. There were no pictures on the walls, and no books around the classroom. It was made plain to us that the school was believed to be a very good one, built and run by the local authority. The school was one of the best in the area according to the children and teachers. The pupils were of several religions: Hindu, Christian and Moslem. Having worked in Multi-Cultural Education in High Wycombe, we decided to look for a charity that supported children in South India

#### ***Goodwill Children's Homes***

This charity's primary aim to provide a secure home for children who come from a background of severe destitution where proper care and development is not possible. These children will come from the neighbourhood of one of seven homes in Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh. In these homes the children receive shelter, good food, and clothing. They also are given health and pastoral care.

The children are educated either in local state schools or in the homes themselves. All students follow the Government curriculum until they reach the age of sixteen, so as to prepare them for an independent working life. Some boys and girls are encouraged to join trade training courses. Those that show promise are offered further or higher education. All costs for these are met by the charity.

Goodwill provides long term support that changes lives. Whilst some charities give emergency aid, often in town/city situations, Goodwill mostly cares for children from rural communities.

The aim is to discourage families from moving to cities in times of severe hardship since this can lead to worse living conditions and, for some children, exploitation and abuse.

Desperate need is the criteria for providing care, irrespective of caste or creed. Staff at all Goodwill homes are Indian Nationals; in this way employment is provided for local people. An Indian Society oversees the projects.

A typical child is Andra who is an orphan, the second of four children. The children were living with their grandparents who are old and unable to work. The house they lived in was a tiny one-roomed hut with no integral amenities. Unable to properly feed the children properly or pay for them to go to school, the grandparents asked Goodwill for help. Andra was given a place in one of the homes. She was very thin and weak but is much healthier and happier now. The children go home to their families at holiday times so that contact is maintained.

Please help to support this work in the Third World with children who are only just surviving. With your help you can make a real and permanent difference to an extended family.

Tickets for the "Goodwill Jazz Party" will be available from  
Glenn & Martin Hart  
Halcyon, Chapel Hill, Speen 01494 488528

#### ***Goodwill Jazz Party***

#### ***In the Speen Millennium Marquee***

After the Fete. Bring your own Drink & food. 7.30pm until 11pm  
Tickets £8 for adults £4 for children. Family ticket 2 adults & 2 children £20

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## **SPEEN TO HAVE ITS OWN PARISH COUNCIL?**

In Issue 21, page 13 of the News I gave an account of the proposal for Speen to have its own Parish Council. Following that report an official application was made to the Boundaries Commission through the Wycombe District Council in August 2000. Since then progress has been somewhat slow.

Boundary reviews are made from time to time because of population changes and for other reasons and are dealt with in order - First, County Council boundaries; then District Council, and lastly Parish Council. In this area the reviews for County and Parish boundaries were only completed at the end of 2002.

At a meeting of the District Council on 9 December 2002 the recommendation of the Regulatory and Appeals Committee to postpone work on the Parish Review until after the 2003 Elections was approved. Work was still required to resolve certain anomalies in District Ward Boundaries before changes in Parish boundaries can be considered. I have been informed that it will take about a year for changes, if approved, to be implemented.

Should the Wycombe District Council support our application, and it is hoped it will, it is then sent to the Electoral Commission and finally to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for final approval.

*Don White*

### **A MESSAGE FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

This region runs a Handy Van Scheme, part of which service includes the fitting of home security aids such as door and window locks for those who are elderly, disabled or otherwise vulnerable. Provided certain criteria are met, this service may be free. For further information call 01255 473999, or visit [www.helptheaged.org.uk](http://www.helptheaged.org.uk)

## **SPEEN STORES**

### **Opening Hours:**

**Monday to Friday : 6:45am to 7:00pm**

**Saturday : 8:00am to 5:00pm**

**Sunday : 9:00am to 1:00pm**

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## **SPEEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Our committee met recently to map out parts of this year's programme. First we considered THE FETE.

Our tent at last year's show proved quite popular and we decided to do it in a similar way this year. but hopefully with a little more space and with a few innovations.

Principally we want villagers to CREATE ANY horticultural type DISPLAY (not for competition) even going a bit crazy with it if you wish! Bring it along to our tent by noon please, on the morning of the fete. It would be nice if you could also include a small written indication of whose display it is. So we are looking for FLOWERAL ARRANGEMENTS, POT PLANTS, VEGETABLE DISPLAYS, that sort of thing. (Let us know if items will be available to sell later)

**ALSO, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT:**

Always a very popular feature with fete visitors - please bring along your surplus CUT FLOWERS, PLANTS AND PRODUCE (CAKES AND JAM ETC) FOR SALE. We know that every year some of you go out of your way to grow and make stuff specially for this event and we deeply appreciate it. Usually this is done by generous villagers on an entirely anonymous basis expecting no credit for it. Although our helpers always thank the bearers of such gifts at the time, it would also be nice, should you think of it, for villagers to see who has grown or made what, through the addition of your name - to the plant label, say. "Look mum, I've just bought this plant - it's a Joe Bloggs." Try looking that up in the plant book!

Last year we were absolutely amazed by Speen's junior "Ground Force" and their artistic

PLATE GARDENS. There were over twenty of them and this year we hope to have even

more. We hope to involve the school and the pre school in this. But hey, whether you are nine

or ninety and wish to have a go then

join in and include a small name card mentioning -our

age (or "over twenty one" if you prefer).

This year we are going to have a special bit of creative fun for the children in the various shapes of MINI MONSTERS made up from fruit and veg joined together with sticks and anything else we can think of. No one need bring anything, all will be provided and the whole thing will be safely supervised by a tame adult.

Finally we have in mind a little VISIT we hope to make to A RATHER EXCLUSIVE GARDEN at Medmenham if we can get it arranged. The garden was featured in an issue of the Saturday Daily Telegraph last October. Anyone who may be interested contact me on 488222, please. And am; new ideas would also be welcome.

Peter Dawson (Secretary)

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## Speen WI News Report

Scale models of twelve Royal Coaches fascinated those who attended the December meeting. All had been handmade by Mr Smith from Bourne End with an amazing eye for detail and authentic colours and materials. The story of the research and measurement required, and the way in which they were constructed, left us amazed at the creative talent of their builder.

Old Buckinghamshire cookery with Mrs Dineen provided a host of stories about local produce and recipes, some of which were prepared during the evening and tasted with delight by those present.

We would like to say thank you to all who contributed to the collection for the Cancer Unit which we held at the Christmas Tree lighting. With the profit from the refreshments also donated to this cause by the SPFA, we sent a total of £139.63.

Last Autumn we held a Bridge Drive in the Village Hall. It was so successful that we are planning another one for April this year. Watch for the notices or ring our Secretary to request details.

We have restarted our daytime Rambles - calling at a suitable local Hostelry - and we also have two visits planned in March; one local one to the Ercol Furniture Factory in Princes Risborough and the second to London to take a guided tour of the

City area.

April is traditionally our Birthday Month and this year we are celebrating our 43<sup>rd</sup> Year with a Supper. Speaker Kay Bradford will take us from the Fab 40s to the Swinging 60s. In July we hope many of you will join us for a Beauty Demonstration with Adele Howlett. All our meetings are listed on the Events Page of this magazine and on the Village Notice Boards just before the event. Why not come along and see for yourself what we have to offer?

Plans are already being made for the manning of the Refreshment tent at the Fete again this year and if there is anyone out there willing to lend a hand with the tea-pouring we will be delighted to hear from you.

Jean Morris

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## Speen Choir in Monks Risborough

The historic Parish Church of St Dunstan's in Monks Risborough was the venue for a concert arranged by Speen Choir in December, at the invitation of the Church. Entitled "Sweet Singing in the Choir", the afternoon's entertainment included a variety of music - both secular and sacred - by the Choir and a number of solo performers. Speen's Natalie Awdry sang as winningly as ever Bach's "My heart ever faithful", and Alexandra and Charlotte Reid from Redland End gave the audience of well over 100 people the benefit of their customary excellence on the violin. Megan Chinn's rendition of "Come to the Fair" reminded of summer and was a genuine tonic on a murky winter's day. Other solo singers included Margaret Lewis and Wynne Davies, and Gwen Palmer accompanied



with her usual skill throughout the afternoon. The event raised £460 for Church funds.

*Martin Stockley*

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## Personalise your e-mail address through Speen

So, we haven't got broadband yet, but keep up the good work. Registered interest for Broadband on the Hampden Row exchange has almost doubled to 40 since the last Speen & North Dean News thanks to you taking the trouble to register. Naphill has since been successful, and has now reached its 'trigger target' for getting broadband, so you can see that registering your interest really works!

Visits to the [www.SpeenBucks.org](http://www.SpeenBucks.org) website have also shot up, and to stimulate interest further (and to help pay some of the running costs) you can now get a local e-mail address. If you are fed up with e-mail addresses like [peter.32.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.32.jones@btinternet.com), or [simonf@philips.freemove.co.uk](mailto:simonf@philips.freemove.co.uk), or [be907@aol.com](mailto:be907@aol.com) and would like something more 'distinctive' and personal, then now is the time. You can now have a local e-mail address like this "Firstname.Lastname@Speenbucks.org" (for example "[John.Radford@SpeenBucks.org](mailto:John.Radford@SpeenBucks.org)") for an annual fee of £2.50 or less\*.

You don't lose your old e-mail address, and like a hotmail (or web based) address, it is independent of your current internet service provider (ISP) - which means you can change your ISP as often as you like and still keep your new "SpeenBucks.org" e-mail address. What's more, if you do not change your ISP, all mail sent to your old address still turns up as usual in your In-Box.

It works like this . . . . .

You already need an existing e-mail address. (eg "[old.e-mail@freemove.net](mailto:old.e-mail@freemove.net)").

Ask for an [@SpeenBucks.org](mailto:@SpeenBucks.org) address. (Through the Speen website)

Once this is confirmed and you have paid, you can start using it.

All e-mail sent to the "[New.You@SpeenBucks.org](mailto:New.You@SpeenBucks.org)" address arrives in your usual In Box without delay.

You will receive instructions on how to send e-mail from your existing account but using your new [@SpeenBuck.org](mailto:@SpeenBuck.org) address.

Having a 'local' address is ideal for everyone in the village.

Still at school?

If you are shortly going to university, then you can carry your new address with you, and have all e-mail (that is sent by your friends to your "[@SpeenBucks.org](mailto:@SpeenBucks.org)" address) redirected to your university account. [Ask your friends how useful this would have been!]

Local Businesses

Promote who you are and where you are by us-

ing a local address.

Village Organisations

You can have your very own e-mail address (eg [Village.Hall.Committee@SpeenBucks.org](mailto:Village.Hall.Committee@SpeenBucks.org)) that stays the same whoever the secretary is! [You could even have one for each officer of the organisation!]

Busy at work

Perhaps you don't have an e-mail address at home, only through your place of work. No-one need know, simply get a local address and have all your personal e-mail forwarded to you at work.

For the family

Everyone in the family can have their own personal e-mail address, even if your ISP doesn't allow you to have multiple e-mail addresses. Family discounts available.

\* A minimum of 25 applications from the whole village is needed. The more applications received, the less it will cost per address to renew next year. Each address still has to be unique, so if someone else in the village shares your name, then first come - first served!

John Radford

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## SPEEN PLAYING FIELD NEWS

Last November's Bonfire Night celebration was enjoyed by all those who attended, but unfortunately numbers were well down on previous years because of the wet weather, so we made virtually no profit this time.

The weather was better for the 'Xmas Tree Lights Ceremony'. £81.11 was raised through the sale of mulled wine and mince pies. We added this to the money the WI collected for the local Cancer Unit. This meant that they were able to send a total of £139.63 to the charity. We are grateful to both the WI for making the mince pies, and

also to Speen Choir for leading the singing.

The next main event will be Fun Day on June 8th 2003. There will probably be a Working Party in the Spring - details to be announced.

The Committee is currently working on plans to re-surface the base of the roundabout, and also to improve and extend the surface of the Play Area.

Finally, the AGM will be held in the pavilion at 8pm on 18th March 2003. Everyone is welcome to attend. PLEASE think about joining the committee as we are keen to have some new blood!

*Jenny Cowan*



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## NEWS FROM SPEEN SCHOOL AND THE PTA

Speen School had some very exciting news recently. Following an Ofsted inspection last year, Speen has been listed as an 'outstanding school' in the chief inspector's report. Fewer than 300 schools in the country, out of the 3,000 inspected last year, are deemed to be this successful, and it is a huge encouragement to have the hard work and dedication of the staff and governors recognised in this way. The staff also appreciate the support of parents and villagers who come in and help in school.

As parents, we feel that the small, friendly and caring environment at Speen gives our children a wonderful start to their school careers, but it is worth remembering that not so long ago small village schools like ours had to fight to survive. Parents and pupils, past and present, and all the school's many supporters in the local area should be proud of this achievement.

The PTA really does appreciate the support it gets at our social events. As you know, these are important fundraisers for the school, helping to supply books, play equipment, computers and so on, which we think are vitally important to the children's education, but which government funds will not cover.

Two events are coming up soon. First, a **Speen Safari Supper on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**, is being organised by Cherry Seekins. The idea is that you turn up for drinks and a starter with some friends – and possibly some people you don't know – at one house in Speen, then progress to another house, to enjoy your main course and pudding with another group of people. Finally we all meet for a disco at the school. Some of Speen's finest cooks have already volunteered to host the evening and food, wine and disco are included in

the very reasonable ticket price of £15. Cherry is confident that she will be able to co-ordinate people's movements around the village to everyone's satisfaction, and it should be a lot of fun. **Contact Cherry on 488355 for tickets** and more information.

The second event for your diaries is the **Speen Midsummer Ball on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June**. The ball is always a great evening out and one of the longest running social events in Speen. Sarah Seabrook is running it again, after organising a very stylish and successful evening last year. Please **contact Sarah on 488877 for tickets**. The committee have made a special request that you try to buy your tickets as early as possible this year. Catering arrangements run more smoothly if we have a good idea of the number of guests well ahead of the evening.

As always, thanks for all your support.

Louise Wilson

### Answers to quiz on page 7

- 1 Ned Kelly
- 2 Arthur Ashe
- 3 Yosemite Sam
- 4 Capricorn
- 5 A knot
- 6 Their Circuses
- 7 Houdini
- 8 Vellum
- 9 Copenhagen
- 10 Hattie Jacques
- 11 Ian Hislop
- 12 York
- 13 Wellington
- 14 Madame Cholet
- 15 Suriname
- 16 Troika
- 17 Kiwi Fruit
- 18 Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC
- 19 Dublin
- 20 Atlantic City

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# Speen Festival

4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September

## 2003

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

The 2003 Speen Festival will take place on 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September. Most events will be held in the village's Millennium Marquee on the Playing Field.

In addition to performers, we need people to help with the logistics support- erecting the marquee and side tents, parking, heating, lighting, sound, etc.

Forward planning is key to trouble-free events.

If you would be willing to help please come to a preliminary gathering in the 'King William IV' on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 pm, or contact me on 01494 488420.

John Holmes

### SPEEN FESTIVAL

## THE PIED PIPER OF SPEEN

BY ROB LENKO

READ THROUGH /AUDITIONS

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

7.30PM

SPEEN VILLAGE HALL

ANYONE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN FRONT OR BEHIND THE STAGE ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG

REHEARSALS BEGIN ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY  
PRODUCTION WEEK IS 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST TO 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION - PLEASE RING MARJORIE STOCKLEY

## **Speen Fete**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003**

**“Green Theme in Speen”** – This is the conservation theme being adopted at this year’s Speen Fete. Preparations are already well underway and we are hoping to have many new attractions this year. If you have an idea and would like to organise something within this theme please approach a committee member.

Profits from the daytime events will be divided between participating village organisations (70%) and the Wycombe Hospital Cancer Unit Appeal (30%). Martin and Glenn Hart are also organising an evening jazz event and profits from this will be donated to Goodwill Schools in South India.

Mark **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July** on your calendars now as there will be something for everyone – new events already booked include dog displays, a fire appliance and crew, and a visit from the Conservation Board. The committee is working on many other ideas so watch out for some surprises! Many Fete favourites will also be in attendance again so don’t miss Tricky Micky, The Chinnor Silver Band or the children’s country dancing.

Sandy King  
Secretary – Speen Fete Committee

### **FANCY DRESS COMPETITION FOR SPEEN FETE**

**THIS YEAR THE THEME IS**

**“GREEN”**

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**CONSERVATION - PLANTS – ANIMALS**

**PLEASE START TO THINK ABOUT YOUR ENTRIES NOW**

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## **NOTICE**

### **Dr Mitchell and Partners – Hughenden Valley Surgery and the Chequers Surgery, Prestwood.**

In order to try and achieve Government targets on availability of appointments to see a GP the practice has introduced a new appointment booking system. This has been developed in line with a wider national programme to try and offer patients more appointments that can be booked on the same day or within 48 hours of requesting one.

To ensure that enough appointments can be made available it has been necessary to restrict the number of doctor appointments that can be booked in advance and to book routine appointments no more than a week ahead. This approach will help prevent the current level of wasted appointments from patients who book a long way ahead and then fail to attend.

This new approach cannot guarantee that routine appointments will always be available with the doctor of patient choice on the day of their choice but the Receptionists will do their best to help. The Receptionists will ensure that anyone who needs to see a doctor urgently will be able to do so. However, it may not be the doctor of the patient's choice.

As patients already know both surgeries are

always very busy – particularly the telephones early in the day. If patients need a routine appointment, want to know their test results or if the Practice has received a letter they should telephone after 11.00am if at all possible. Remember the surgery is closed between 12.30am and 1.30pm for all but emergencies.

Please be patient and polite to the Receptionists – they will do their best to help but if the surgery is very busy they cannot perform miracles. The practice will be regularly monitoring and reviewing the situation and where appropriate revising the system to try and match the patient demand for appointments to those available.

There have already been changes made to try and address the teething problems experienced so far. To help the practice offer a good service please remember that a GP's time is precious and should not be wasted with problems that could be dealt with by a Practice Nurse, another healthcare professional such as a Health Visitor or with over the counter medication. If patients are in doubt about the need to see a doctor the NHS Direct service on 0845 4647 is available for advice.

## **HOMEOPATHY BY APPOINTMENT**

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## Speen Singles Group

More than 30% people now live alone and it is said that this figure will rise to 40% by 2010. No doubt, numerous social changes have lead to this situation. Many single people are happy living alone, whilst others are coming to terms with separation, divorce or bereavement. Not easy to readjust to life after such traumatic events.

One of the wonderful benefits of living in a village is the close-knit community. But the opportunities for single people to make friends and socialise are limited.

I notice the frenzied activity in Speen as school children are deposited at school or onto the school bus. A great deal of chattering goes on both by both children and parents – what a wonderful opportunity to socialise with friends old and new. I wonder how many friendships are rooted in children's activities.

The pub is also another opportunity to meet people. However walking into a pub and having a drink alone can be a daunting experience for the single person. Who enjoys sitting in a restaurant alone? Going to the cinema is a little easier – at least it is dark there – no one to stare!

Hence the formation of Speen Singles Group- a chance to make new friends and join in events such as country walks, pub meets, theatre and the like. There is no membership fee- we just share modest costs. There are no age restrictions.

So take that first step and contact: **Dave Howarth at Cottage Farm Tel 488578** for more information and details of planned events. You will be very welcome.

## Mark Wengler Project Management



## Mark Wengler Project Management

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## Agape School, Hyderabad - January 2003

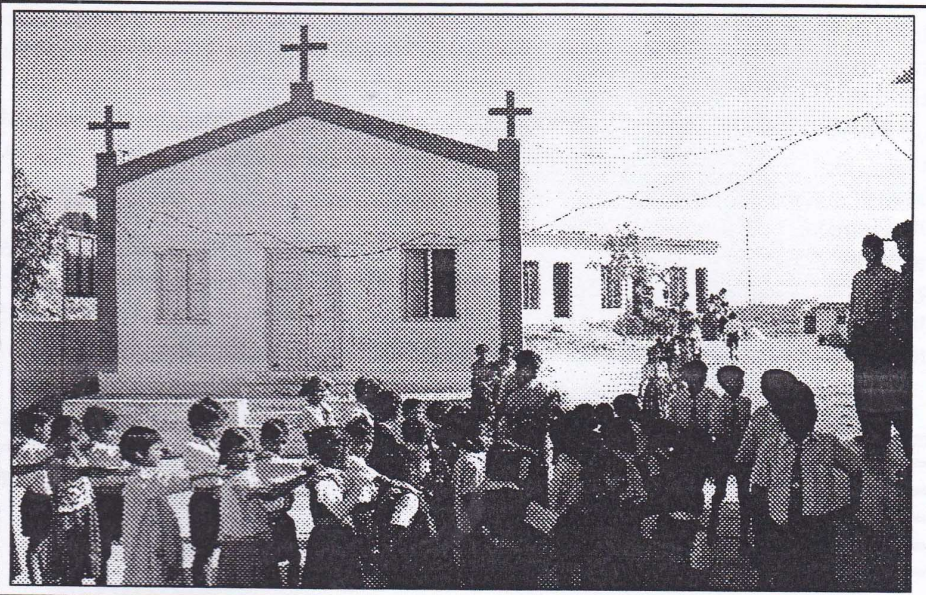
It is astonishing to see how much can be accomplished in eleven months. We were overwhelmed to see hope and joy in the eyes of children and parents where previously there had been none. It is a great privilege to spend time with such good and Godly people as Chandra and Sekhar, the couple who have provided so much of the energy to turn Agape School from a distant hope into a thriving reality.

In February last year I travelled to Hyderabad with Andy Gower. Whilst there, as well as teaching at a Bible College and attending services and home groups every day, we spent some time with Chandra and Sekhar planning the construction, running and finances of the school. Within four months the school was built and taking in the first children.

This January Andy and I returned along with Rob Webb and Richard Gower. We all knew that the school was up and running and we went out with various mental images of what that would mean. The reality far surpassed all our hopes. We were at the school within a few hours of landing and spent several hours being shown around. Our greeting was immensely moving, and the lump that formed in my throat then took a long time to shift. A paper banner was unfurled welcoming us, a special assembly was called and over a hundred children showed us their new found skills in recital and singing.

The school has 117 registered pupils of whom 11 are orphans. It works within a national curriculum. Although the school is Christian it welcomes children of all back-

grounds. It is roughly one third Christian, one third Hindu and one third Muslim. The abiding principle of the school is to give a free, Christian education to children who would otherwise receive nothing by way of schooling. Entry criteria are simple – the family must be unable to afford to send the child to a fee paying school (there is no meaningful state provision). I reviewed the accounts and entry records of the school. The highest daily income of any of the



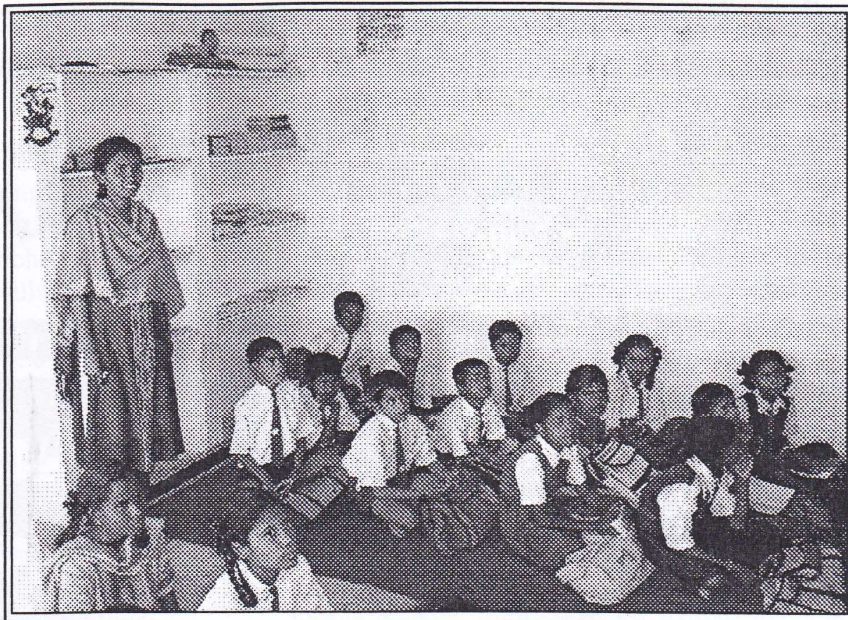
families represented in the school is a little less than I pay each morning for a cup of tea and newspaper at Great Missenden station (and Michael's tea is cheap too!)

The impact upon the lives of the children was clearly evident in their faces. But that is only part of the effect that the school is having in the neighbourhood. The community is touched by the free gift that the school is providing, parents are touched by the improved behaviour of their children, children like the rag pickers in the photo on the front cover can see somewhere that they can go to lift them up from the toughest of existences. Words fail me but the impact of the place truly is wonderful.

Meals are currently being funded by Daily Bread, a Christian organisation based in Cam-

bridge, and Speen Baptist Church is funding all the other running costs of the school (about £3,000 a year) using contributions from many different sources. The children asked us to thank everyone who has supported the school with money, thoughts and prayers. They pray for Speen in school assembly every day.

What next? Well, God is clearly working through the church and school at Agape. There is a possibility that a larger site can be acquired to expand the school or to build another one – expansion on the current site is possible but scope is fairly limited. A larger school costs money to build and more to



run than the current organisation. We are considering what the next step from Speen should be. If any readers have thoughts, views or questions I would be delighted to hear from

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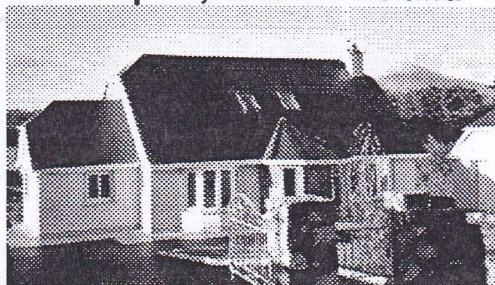


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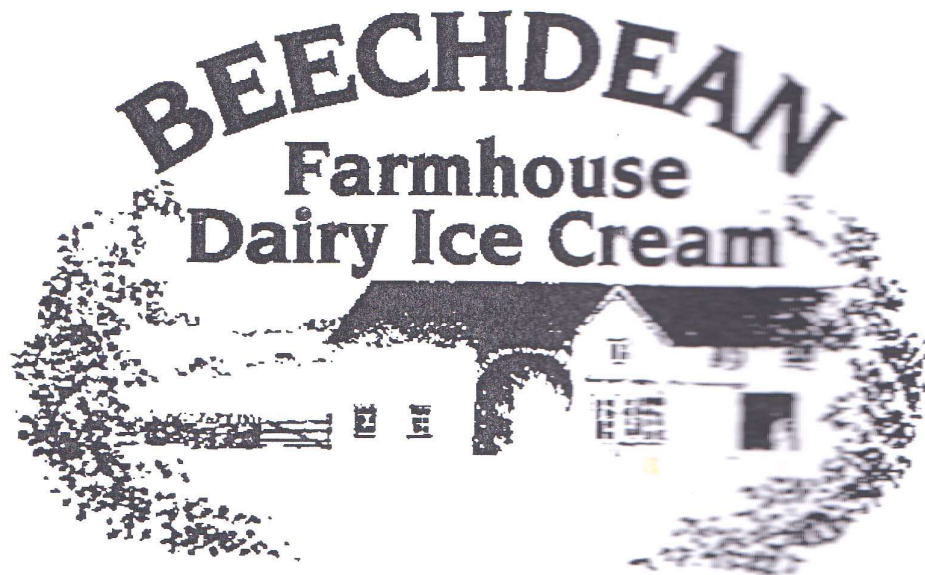
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## *AN APPETITE FOR FUND RAISING IN NORTH DEAN*

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, North Dean held its first fundraising event of the year: a luncheon. It was the first of what we hope will be many regular luncheons, designed to raise money for both the village hall and a different local charity each time. The first luncheon was attended by about 50 people, including a good number of people from North Dean, plus many others from neighbouring communities. This time, we chose to support the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, and we were very pleased to welcome Steve Grudgings from the Hospice to speak for a few minutes after the meal, and answer questions about just what the charity does and how we can help them.

The meal itself consisted of a most delicious stilton & celery soup, served with a side salad and bread, a glass of wine, plus fruit and a

cup of coffee. A fabulous feast for just 5 pounds! The meal was entirely catered by local villager Judy Keen. Many thanks, Judy!

The Bring & Buy Table proved to be popular, with many great bargains and the promise of more at the next event. There was also a small raffle, and this earned about 50 pounds. Altogether, we were able to donate over 150 pounds to Iain Rennie, and reserve the same amount for the village hall coffers.

The next luncheon will be on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by a third and fancier luncheon, to be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. To find out more about these, or to buy tickets, please contact Judy Keen on 01494 562 151. We look forward to seeing you there. Bon Appetit!



*North Dean Charity Luncheon*

## A traditional North Dean Christmas

Keeping with tradition, North Dean villagers once again gathered together at the village hall during the lead up to the 2002 holiday season to eat, drink, and be merry. The annual Christmas event was held on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and all those who attended were treated to free mince pies and mulled wine. There was a fairly good turn-out of villagers, but since everyone present had such a good time, no one kept track of actual numbers. We made a special effort this year to provide craft activities for the children, and these proved to be popular. Many children made paper angels and decorated them, while many others competed to make the longest paper chain. Caleb Wheeler-Robinson led the winning team, with a chain over  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the Village Hall, followed closely by a team of slightly younger children. Their 'prize' is the glory of having their photos included in this illustrious periodical.

The evening was brought to a close with a lovely selection of carols played on the keyboard by Rachel Wheeler-Robinson, a few of which were solo performances by talented young voices.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to seeing you at one of the future events put together by the new Social Committee.

*A. Campbell*



## A NEW YEAR - AND A NEW START FOR NORTH DEAN

It is the beginning of a New Year, so what better time could there be to celebrate new beginnings? Perhaps November? That is when North Dean chose to celebrate a new beginning.

In the last issue of Speen & North Dean News, Bob Wheeler, the chairman of the Village Hall Committee, explained how and why the Committee decided to form several new sub-committees. As a result of this decision we have managed to get several more people involved in village projects and events. To celebrate this, we invited the village to meet the new 'committees' at a free wine and cheese event on 22 Nov 02. Despite a deluge of rain that evening, approximately 3 dozen villagers (including committee members) braved the weather for free wine and cheese, along with a good dose of neighbourly cheer. The chairper-

son of each separate group spoke briefly about their purpose, and plans for the coming year, as well as seeking support from as many people as possible, in however small or large a manner. Everyone completed a questionnaire detailing their interests for both attending and assisting with village events. The biggest change to come as a result of this information was the decision to sell tickets in advance for the majority of village events. The evening finished with a raffle. There had been a large number of prizes donated, and the many enticing items resulted in earnings that more than covered the full cost of the event.

A very promising beginning for a new season of social and fundraising activities!

*A. Campbell*

## THANK YOU NORTH DEANERS

Welcome to 2003 and a new refreshed village. I am referring of course to the appeal for help and ideas sent out in the last issue of the S & ND News and letters to all households. First, however, I would like to thank the people of North Dean for accepting my wife Janet and me into its heart and for the privilege and trust in the positions of secretary and chairman of the committee.

Major changes to ways of working are always difficult to undergo and I do not in any way want to detract from the many, many years of diligence and hard work put in by previous committees who have served this beautiful hamlet for all the years of its existence. Although the reconstruction of the way we work has been agreed in principle by our Trustees and the Hall Committee, it has yet to be ratified at our AGM on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003 when we shall be looking for a favourable response to the changes in our constitution. (A note here to say that everyone from North Dean is welcome to attend the AGM).

The response to our pleas for help has been far more than we expected and on behalf of the present committee I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who has offered help in any way and especially those who have already put in a lot of effort since our letters went out last year. Beware those of you that offered and have not yet been approached, you haven't got away with it. We may be calling on you soon.

The inside of the hall was redecorated in record time by a small but plucky band of hard-working committee members and helpers ready for the 'Pre Christmas Soiree' and our Millenium Tapestry now hangs proudly in its special place. A very special vote of thanks to the everyone who carried out the painstaking task of delicate embroidery and who dedicated so much time to completing this magnificent tribute to North Dean's history.

There is still a long way to go if the Village Hall and the playing field are to survive current legislation requirements, let alone urgent repairs to preserve the fabric of the building and its surroundings. Offers of help to carry out urgent repairs and decorations to the kitchen and the outside of the building will be gratefully accepted and should be tendered to Eric Cash on 01494 564965 or John Rogers on 01494 562041. This need not be a chore it can also be fun and a chance to meet some of your fellow villagers in a common cause. Offers to help the Family Committee with the playground or organise some events for our younger villagers would also be very welcome. Contact Louise on 01494 563750

Our Social & Fundraising Committee has produced a Programme for 2003 which is in this issue and names and numbers for the various new sub committees can be found in the 'Who's Who' section of this edition. The year began with an amazingly successful Charity Luncheon on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Fifty people attended and enjoyed the luncheon, the Bring & Buy Stall together with the raffle and pleasant company. The generous proceeds were divided between Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and North Dean Village Hall to help with the major renovation and redecoration and this event will definitely be repeated. For details contact Andrea Campbell on 01494 563382.

We hope that folks from the surrounding areas as well as North Dean will be interested in taking part in some, or all, of the events and you are welcome to call either the appropriate team leader, or myself (01494 56 40 90) for more information.

I'd like to wish all our friends and supporters a very Happy and Healthy 2003.

*Bob Wheeler*

## News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:

### 'Breakfast with friends and ...'

The autumn series of the 'Breakfasts' got off to a head start (poor pun!) with the visit of **Richard Jenkinson from the Chiltern Brewery** at Terrick. Not only did he provide samples of various ales but the men also consumed two types of beer sausages, ale mustards and marmalades as well as extremely good beer bread fresh from the bakers. Richard regaled us with an eloquent description of the brewery's products, and was also very upfront in describing his own journey to belief in Jesus Christ – something he considered to be essential.

The Ladies autumn speaker was **Dr Caroline Berry, a retired Clinical Geneticist**, and member of 'Christians in Science'. Her description of the breakthroughs in genetics and the possibilities and limitations of these advances was very thought provoking. She pointed out how the way we handle these discoveries depends on assumptions about the core values on which our society is based – and these assumptions are often unarticulated and not necessarily shared by others.

'**Watchman**' – aka **David Williams, MOBO** (music of black origin) **award nominee and organiser of RAP Academy** was the pre-Christmas Mens Breakfast speaker. (Picture opposite). He recounted stories of growing up in Brixton, trouble with the police and his eventual conversion through a power encounter with Jesus Christ. Since that life changing moment his work among the community at street level has seen many lives changed for the better.

'**Watchman - the return**'. We were so impressed with David's story that we invited him back for an open forum DIY breakfast discussion on 12<sup>th</sup> January. This happened to coincide with national media publicity about gun culture and rap music. As a musician David had been on London radio that very week talking about this culture - so we had a very interesting discussion!

'**Watchman – the story continues**' at the end of the second breakfast David invited the men to come to Brixton and see the type of work he and his Christian friends are engaged in. We are thinking of the April-May time frame and over a dozen men have signed up so far; if you would like to be involved please contact me.

**Clare Ashton** was the New Year Ladies Breakfast speaker with a fascinating story about **Daily Bread - a Whole Food Co-Operative**. Run on Christian principles Daily Bread supplies whole food and Fairly Traded products in the Cambridge and Mid-

lands area thus providing employment for many folk with disabilities. Out of their surplus earnings Daily Bread has been providing a daily meal for the poor school children at Agape School in Hyderabad (see James Entwisle's article). An extraordinary story about what is possible with vision, compassion and hard work. It prompts the question of what could be done in this area with an organisation operating on similar ethical principles.

### Christmas ...

With such a busy autumn, Christmas almost caught us by surprise. We just managed to get the Christmas cards out on time - I hope you liked them.

The **Carols by Candlelight** service on Christmas Eve, led by classical instruments remains as popular as ever and this year we introduced a special event for children – **Kids Karols** – on the Sunday evening before Christmas. It was a very joyful and noisy celebration with lots of activity and seemed more like an aerobics class at times. And then another well attended **Alpha Course** started in January! (the next is after Easter if you missed it)

### Happening during the Spring:

**22<sup>nd</sup> March: Men's Breakfast - 'A Doctor's Story'** Cambridge GP Dr Tony Males

**17<sup>th</sup> May: Ladies Breakfast – 'A Story of Healing'** with Liz Wicks (brought up locally)

### Easter Events:

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April - 11:00am** Passover meal followed by a ramble.

**Easter Sunday - 10:30am** Easter Celebration

**After Easter – a new Alpha Course starts**

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month).  
**6:00pm** Worship Group.
- Mon:** **9:00am & 10:00am** Meetings for Prayer at homes in the community  
**8:00 pm** Evening Home Group at a home in the community
- Weds:** **10:00-11:30am** Daytime Home Group - Chinysnook, North Dean  
**10:00-11:30am** "Time Out" for Mums at the church  
**7:45pm** Alpha Course - 8 Abbotswood  
**8:00 pm** Evening Home Group at a home in the community
- Thurs:** **7:00 pm** YAC+ at the church

## Community Plan Update

### February 2003

To date, 59 issues have been identified, including a few new issues obtained from a recent survey, using a simple questionnaire, of members of both the 81<sup>st</sup> Club and the Loosley Row and Lacey Green WI. Space limitation has precluded inclusion of a summary table, but anyone who would like to see the results is asked to get in touch, and we can let you have a copy.

The procedure by which the issues will be dealt with is under review. However, for two issues (Post Office in Lacey Green, admissions to St. John's school), where the key parties are known, a formal letter has been sent (or will be sent) to each, stressing the concern of the community and requesting appropriate action. This is an initial move designed mainly to inform the key parties (although there is always the possibility that it may produce the desired outcome!). This may be followed by an investigation of all aspects of the issue, intended to identify the steps required to resolve the issue to the community's satisfaction. One such step might be a public meeting at which representatives of all the key parties are present.

It is possible that the methods used so far to identify issues have been insufficiently rigorous. An essential feature of the plan is that it must involve the whole community, and

not simply reflect the views of a tiny or vociferous minority. Consideration is therefore being given to the use of a questionnaire, distributed to every household in the parish. Our dilemma is how to find out what people want/expect/would like, without actually asking them!

One important action still to be taken is the raising of adequate funds to enable the steering group to carry out its work. There is funding available from the Countryside Agency, and we expect to make a formal application in the two or three few weeks. At the moment, the Parish Council is providing limited funds for hall hire and minor running expenses.

On 17 March, after the annual parish meeting we are expecting to hold another public meeting in Speen (similar to the one held in Lacey Green last March) at which participants will again be invited to identify issues important to them. This will also provide an opportunity to report on progress and allow for general discussion. Although Speen was well represented at last year's meeting, it is important that it gets another bite at the cherry.

One thing that has become clearer is that we need more volunteers to join action groups (to look at specific issues), and to broaden representation on the overall steering group. We already have a number of people who are particularly interested in the schools admission problem, but we would also like people for other issues. If you can contribute in anyway at all, please let us know. The success of the community plan depends entirely on what YOU the community put into it.

For more information, contact **Tony Molesworth (01844 344975)** or **Paul Rogerson (01494 488315)**



"Watchman" at the Mens' Breakfast (previous page)

## **Make a resolution to enjoy life more... Here's how...**

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*Michael & Zena welcome you to....*

*King William IV*

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**30<sup>th</sup> March      Mothering Sunday**

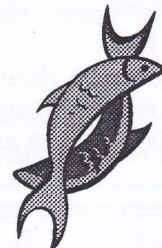
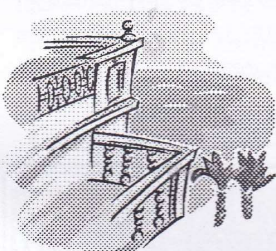
Every Mother needs one day off a year, so why not guarantee your Mum's day off and book your table



**1<sup>st</sup> April**

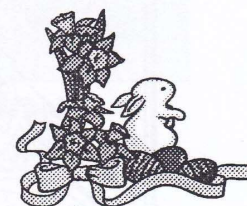
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## Speen Supporters' Group passes the £10,000 mark!

Great Hampden WI kindly agreed to donate to us the proceeds of their annual ladies' lunch in November. This amounted to an amazing £800.00.

The beginning of December witnessed a riotous Christmas Quiz at Great Hampden with a superb turnout that raised a further £473.00, and meanwhile the regular fortnightly pub quiz in the King William IV (the photo of Santa Suzi on the front cover was taken at the Christmastide pub quiz) has raised over £470 in the past year.

A further £500 was made at the New Years Party in Speen, yet another popular event enjoyed by all.

In the short time since our formation we are thrilled to report we have already raised an amazing £10,000 to share among the five hos-

pices we support. The SSG committee thank you for all your enthusiastic support for all the charity events and fund raising we undertake. All the hospices we help send regular letters of appreciation for the village's efforts. You all have an opportunity to contribute to this by joining us at our riotous quiz held on alternate Thursday nights in the King William or by joining us at a future event.

You will have received a leaflet and booking form for "Pot Luck", the theatre/supper evenings in Naphill in March (tickets are going fast). Also, we have planned a ramble followed by a smoked salmon bagel/bacon butty brunch with bucks fizz on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> - call Christine on 01494 488654 or Shelley on 01494 488895 for further details.

*Christine Symondson*



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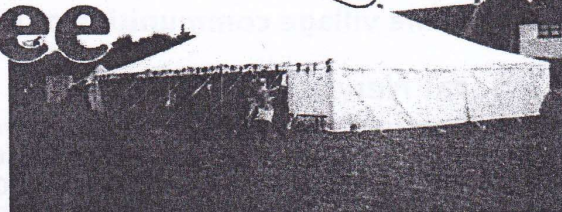
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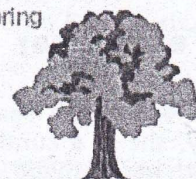
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## News from St John's Parish Church

(Team Rector - The Reverend Dr Paul Fisk)

Serving the village communities of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen

### General News

Notwithstanding the ongoing, but soon to be over, interregnum, the past couple of months have seen all the traditional events for Advent and Christmas taking place at St John's. The most exciting news however, has been the appointment of a new Team Vicar to be based at Lacey Green. The Reverend Denise Critchell, and her husband Norman, will be joining us in March 2003 - more about that later in this article. But first, a brief resume of recent major events at St John's:

- On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November a Jumble Sale in the School Hall raised £150 for the general church fund. Regrettably, this was not as well supported as previous sales but we are very grateful to all who helped in both buying and selling. On Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, Lacey Green Singers presented 'Music to Lighten a Winters Evening. The Choir and local soloists entertained a large audience who appreciated the beautiful singing and presentation. The evening was concluded with wine and light refreshments. The Church was full for the Parish Eucharist and Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November. Following the 2-minute silence and playing of the last post and evening hymn, the Celebrant, the Rev'd Moira Spencer, read out the names of men from the Parish whose lives were lost in the two World Wars. Group Captain Barry Titchen laid a wreath. Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November was Stewardship Sunday at St John's, the culmination of Phase 1 of the St John's Stewardship Campaign. See report below.
- On Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December the Festival of Carols and Readings for Advent was well supported with around 65 people attending the service. On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, we received good support for the Parish Christmas Craft Fayre. In addition to lots of Christmas items for sale, games and refreshments, we were very lucky to receive a personal visit from Father Christmas!! The grand sum of £1400 was raised towards church funds. Additional items, left over from the Fayre, were sold off at a Coffee Morning held at Collins farm on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2002. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, the church resounded to the sound of young and enthusiastic voices when Speen School (9.15 am) and St John's School (2.30 pm) held their End of Term Services at St John's. The Annual Festival of Lesson and Carols for Christmas took place on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December with the Choir of St John's performing a large repertoire of carols - old and new. On Christmas Eve, some 224 children and adults attended the Crib Service of Christmas carols, the blessing of the Crib, stories and prayers. A retiring collection was taken for church funds. Well over 200 people attended the **Midnight and Christmas Day** services at St John's - a small increase over previous years. As in the past, the collection from the Eucharist Service will go to a local charity.
- On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2003, a large number of parishioners from all the Risborough Team Parishes and the clergy joined together for an **Epiphany Evensong and Party** hosted this year by St John's. On one of the coldest nights of winter to date, the glass of hot mulled wine on arrival was most welcome. Following the service, refreshments were served before the congregation were entertained by music, song, readings and poetry.

### New Team Vicar

The new Risborough Team Vicar, based at Lacey Green, is to be the Reverend Denise Critchell. Currently, she is a curate in Flackwell Heath, but she will be moving to the vicarage in Lacey Green with her husband, Norman, later in the month. There were three strong candidates to interview for the post at Lacey Green and each was interviewed for 50 minutes with all members of the panel asking the same range of questions about discrete areas of parish life. The selection panel (two from the Risborough Team and 4 from the Lacey Green PCC) and Team clergy felt that Denise was the right person for this important appointment. Her formal Induction and Licensing

by Michael, Bishop of Buckingham, will take place at a special service on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March in St John's Parish Church. A Welcoming Reception for Denise and her husband will follow the service. Rather appropriately, Mothering Sunday will be the first Sunday service for Denise at St John's.

## St John's Stewardship Campaign

The 2001 Stewardship Campaign at St John's Church produced encouraging results with some 43% of response forms being returned. On Stewardship Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> November 2002) some 63 offerings were presented and blessed during the services on that day. In addition to the many new offers of help in time and skills, 11 new financial pledges were received. This is a most generous response and we are so grateful to those who give so willingly. The Stewardship Committee are so very grateful to all of you who took the trouble to return your Stewardship Forms and made an offering to God and his Church in one way or another. If you would like to help or are new to the Parish and wish to participate, Stewardship Pamphlets and Response Forms are available at the back of the church. As for this year, the 2003/04 Stewardship Campaign will commence on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October with Stewardship Sunday being 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2003. We look forward to your participation and receiving further offers of help and support.

## Restoration Fund

Phase 1 of the restoration programme for St John's Church - immediate repairs to the church roof, together with some minor cosmetic work to make good internal cracks to the brickwork - have now been completed. A local contractor - P J Tapping & Sons (Construction) Ltd undertook the work to a very good standard. The supervising architects were The Price Partnership. Fortunately, it appears that the remainder of the roof is sound and requires only routine maintenance work. The next major item of work is to replace the central heating boiler and repair the small cellar in which it is located. The Restoration Committee is now doing initial surveys as to the scale of repair necessary and the cost of a new boiler. In addition to regular financial support received from members of the local community, we have received a cheque for £1000 from the Bucks Historic Churches Trust Fund. In the longer term we are looking at how to best provide toilet facilities, a small kitchen and a new vestry/church office. This will require a major fund raising effort, which we hope everyone will support. On the financial side after the payment of all outstanding bills we have a working balance of around £11,000 most of which will go towards the boiler replacement

## Regular Services

The times and format of weekly services at St John's has changed very slightly and are listed below for reference:

### Sundays

8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)	Each Sunday
10.00am	All Age Family Eucharist	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month
10.00am	Parish Eucharist	Other Sundays of the month
11.30am	Family Worship	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
6.00pm	Choral Evensong	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month & Festivals

### Tuesdays

9.30am	Communion Service in the Lady Chapel at St John's
2.00pm	Pram Service - each Tuesday afternoon during term time

Wednesdays Group Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

Feast and special day services - see Parish Magazine.

Barry Titchen  
Dep Church Warden

## What's on in Speen & North Dean

<b>March</b>		
14th	Charity Luncheon (Judy Keen 562151)	North Dean Village Hall
16th	Walk to Kimble, and lunch (Dave Howarth 488578)	Speen Singles Grou
17th	Public meeting on the Community Plan (Paul Rogerson 488315)	Speen Village Hall
24th	Induction of new vicar	St John's Lacey Green
28th & 29th	"Pot Luck" - play, plus Bucks song & verse (Speen Supporters Group)	Naphill Village Hall
29th	Quiz night & Supper (Jan Dawson 562864)	North Dean Village Hall
<b>April</b>		
1st	WI Group Meeting	Holmer Green Village Centre
3rd	From the Fab 40s to the Swinging 60s Birthday Party (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
5th	Safari Supper (PTA - Cherry Seekins 488355)	
7th	North Dean Village Hall AGM	North Dean Village Hall
9th	"Pied Piper" reading/auditions (Marje Stockley 488101)	Speen Village Hall
13th	AGM of St John's Parochial Church Council (11.30 am)	St John's Church Lacey Green
15th	Festival volunteers meeting (John Holmes 488420)	King William IV
30th	N. Dean visit to Waddesdon Manor (Mary Lawson 562136)	
<b>May</b>		
1st	WI - Resolutions discussion	Speen Chapel Hall
15th	Speen & North Dean Golf Day (Bill Groves 488180 or John Rogers 562041)	Hazlemere Golf Club
17th	Charity Luncheon (Judy Keen 562157)	North Dean Village Hall
<b>June</b>		
1st	Spring Ramble (Rosemary Petty 562474)	North Dean
5th	Cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats (Speen WI)	Speen Village Hall
8th	Fun Day (Speen Playing Field Association) Car Boot Sale (Peter Keen 562151)	Speen Playing Field North Dean
21st	Midsummer Ball (PTA - Sarah Seabrook 488877)	Speen School
21st	Breakfast on the Hill (Bob Wheeler 564090)	North Dean
<b>July</b>		
3rd	WI - Brush up on Beauty	Speen Village Hall
5th	Car rally (Jan Dawson 562864)	North Dean
12th	Speen Village Fete	Speen Playing Field
13th	Pig Roast & horseracing (Eric Cash 564969)	North Dean
<b>August</b>		
2nd	Supper in the marquee	North Dean
7th	WI - Crystal healing experience	Speen Village Hall
<b>September</b>		
4th	WI - The story of pub signs	Speen Village Hall
5th-13th	Speen Festival 2003	Speen Playing Field & V.Hall
<b>October</b>		
2nd	WI - Japanese culture	Speen Village Hall
17th	Wine tasting	North Dean
<b>November</b>		
6th	WI - Annual Meeting	Speen Village Hall
15th	Fondue night	North Dean
<b>December</b>		
4th	WI - Making paper flowers	Speen Village Hall
19th	Carols and mulled wine	North Dean

## 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 Singles Group	Dave Howarth	488578
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
North Dean Village Hall - secretary	Jan Wheeler	564090
North Dean Village Hall - bookings secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
North Dean Village Hall - buildings/development	Eric Cash	562969
North Dean Village Hall - fete committee	Dorothy Hazell	563534
North Dean Village Hall - family committee	Louise Wilson	563750
North Dean Village Hall - fund-raising & social	vacant	
North Dean Village Hall - housekeeping	Pat Rogers	562041
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
Local Police contact number: 715352		

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