

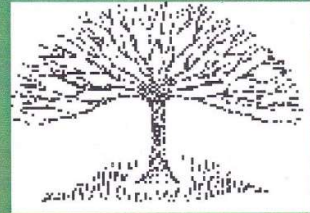
SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN  
NEWS

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Issue 46, Spring  
2009



# Speen and North Dean News

Fete, Fun and Festival Issue



Chiltern Gentian courtesy Chilterns Conservation Board

SNDN 46





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## What's on in Speen and North Dean, 2009?

<u>2009</u>	What	Where	Contact
<u>May</u>			
16, .8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Tracey Elliot-Reep, "Riding by faith; Mexico to Canada"	Speen Chapel	For tickets, Andy and Carolyn, 488758 or James and Sandy, 488875
29, 1 p.m.	Business Group	KW4	Derek Stephens, 07899 905262 [enquiries@hubprinting.co.uk]
<u>June</u>			
6,, Saturday	Fun Day	Playing Fields	Andy Thompson 01494 488524
20, Saturday	Speen School Summer Ball		For info Ann Myers [annislamyers@hotmail.com]
<u>July</u>			
11 , Saturday	Speen Fete	Playing Fields	Nicki Pitt, Tel: 488713, [npittnixi@aol.com]
<u>August</u>			
1, Saturday	Annual Fete	North Dean Village Hall	Julie White, NDVH Secretary 01494 562311
<u>September</u>			
10 – 19 , Thursday to Saturday	Speen festival	Everywhere	Sue Taylor (Festival Secretary) <a href="mailto:sue@dairymed.gotadsl.co.uk">sue@dairymed.gotadsl.co.uk</a>  Tel: 488168
<u>November</u>			
7th	Bonfire Night	Playing Fields	Andy Thompson 01494 488524
<u>December</u>			
12th	Christmas Tree Lights and Carol Singing	Playing Fields	Andy Thompson 01494 488524
12th	Great Missenden Choral Society Christmas Concert	Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Great Missenden	Christopher Boyce [christopher@dairymed.gotadsl.co.uk]





Dear Reader

All through the winter the headlines on newspapers bought in the village shop have trumpeted the newspaper selling revaluations of downturn and recession . As a wonderful spell of spring weather greets the changing of the seasons ( confirming global warming predictions ?) news of a 'flu pandemic sweeps the world . It is not hard to feel , in the villages , in the grip of forces larger than ourselves . What we do about these things is matter for other publications than this . Here we may appropriately note that this issue is a record of continuity , shared endeavour , generosity with time and effort and attention to the needs of others . But so is every issue . And this is just the point . Despite the toughness of the times villagers continue to function effectively as community members , and we record here not just the activities accomplished in recent months but the intensive planning leading up to the Speen and North Dean Fetes , and , after them , to the major autumn event , the Speen Festival . We make no apology for this : these events must be well-attended to satisfy their funding needs and charitable concerns , and all these events require more

voluntary help and assistance . Contact details of organizers and co-coordinators are given throughout

One aspect of the Speen Festival has a particular resonance for us , and , we hope , for you if you are reading this here . We are delighted to have had some responses to our poetry competition , announced in the last issue , and to now find ourselves working with the Speen Festival on the Creative Writing Activities . We shall want to print successful work created and entered both here and on the Speen website area devoted to the Speen and North Dean News . We see this as an opportunity to expand our campaign to publish more and more work created by readers , and to ensure that poetry , prose , memoirs and letters arising from villagers of all ages wanting to say something about anything have a proper outlet here . Please come to the Creative Writing Workshops on 6 May and get started then at Speen Chapel . Or just send us work that we can include here and bring to the attention of the Festival organizers .

We have , as promised , devoted space in this issue to Sport as a topic . We could do with more work on this theme . However , we are very pleased to include John Rogers' memoir , and to give a full account of the Speen Tennis Club AGM . We suspect that this event has never been covered in such detail here before , but we know that it

fully deserves the treatment , for two very good reasons . In the first instance , the members demonstrated their real community awareness by deciding to gift surplus funds to village causes . In the second , the presentations made by other village causes , like the playing fields group , the village hall , the school and the pre-school , demonstrated that there are continuing and ongoing needs in the villages for community funding . No surprise in that , but a good reminder of the need to sustain efforts to support these good causes in the villages , as well as those outside , like Helen and Douglas House and the Chiltern MS Centre , who receive contributions from village activities .

You will also see . from this issue , that efforts to increase the network and information-exchange effect of the village website continue to grow . Updating is difficult , however , so we have decided , for this publication , on extreme measures ! Don't worry , we are not following some of the commercial press and abandoning print . But we do want our part of the website to be less of an archive , more dynamic and more interactive . So we are taking a laptop to the King William IV every other Friday night so that we can use the WiFi there to update things you want updated on the spot . Of course , we may be tempted to have a drink as well , but watch out for us - we really are determined to keep up to date !



Finally, some stories have a compelling logic of their own. We commend to you, as an antidote to recession, 'flu pandemics and global warming, Fred Burnham's story of a lost flower refound. Somehow this "right sizes" a great deal of the other matter we find in the news.

Anne and David Worlock  
[anne@monimail.net](mailto:anne@monimail.net)  
[gsdtrac@aol.com](mailto:gsdtrac@aol.com)  
 Tel: 488033

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**Sun. 8.30am to 12.30pm**

### SNDN DATES

Issue	Copy Date	Theme	Approx Pub.
47	20/7 /09	Home Business	August
48	28/9 /09		October
49	21/12/09		January 2010

## Refreshed and waiting for us to play

Since the last report we have held our AGM and elected our officers for 2009. We welcome Kay Knight as our Secretary, Christian Nagle has taken up post of Treasurer and I remain as Chairman. We are all very much supported by the rest of the committee and thank them and our extended volunteer workforce for all their help and support.

Before I talk about our future plans, we have over the winter installed the nets on the cricket net frame in anticipation of the new cricket season and we have also repaired the wire mesh on the jumps at the bike park.

We have recently completed our Spring Work Party carrying out maintenance and repairs in preparation for summer. We have replenished the "cushionfall" safety surface in the play area and also you should see some newly painted goalposts with new brilliant white nets on the playing field. So, to all the young Rooneys and Ronaldos in the village.... go score some goals!

Our major project for this year is to reorganise the play area to improve the safety and use of the play equipment on the field. This project is for the direct benefit of the children of the village and will provide new play challenges and an improved and safer play environment.

In summary we are planning:

- A new rotating climber for 8

-12 year olds (See picture below).

- New junior swings to replace the old ones.
- New toddler swings to replace the old ones.

Reorganisation of existing play equipment to have focussed areas for specific age groups to allow safer play and better supervision of young children by parents.

The cost for the project will be approximately £14,000. We are funding some of the project from our reserves and at the same time feverishly applying for grants from various sources. We will also be using the proceeds from events this year to pay for the work. To date we have raised or have been pledged approximately half of the total, and we are very grateful to the Tennis Court Members for their contribution. We ask for your support for Fun Day on June 13<sup>th</sup> as the proceeds from this event will go towards the new play equipment. Additionally if anyone has any ideas for fundraising or knows of a fundraising source we may be eligible for please let us know.

This year **De Olde Speen Fun Day** will have a medieval theme to the games and activities. There will be new games and some old favourites, a pig roast, music and dancing so please come and support one of the most lively (and very competitive!) events of the village calendar.

Please remember that no dogs are permitted on the main playing fields at all. This is to protect the health and well being of other users, especially children. Please do not take dogs onto the playing field and remind those who do that dogs are not permitted.

Lastly, the playing fields are yours to enjoy. They are funded by you through your fundraising support and by participating in our volunteer work parties. They provide an open green space in our village and are home to the village Fete, Fun Day, Festival and Bonfire Night. Please use them and support their continued improvement for the benefit of our community.

See you all at Fun Day.

**Andy Thompson**

01494 488524





# Prepping for Rooney and Ronaldo



Easy as One Two Three

Volunteers prepare the new playground area.

Peter Cooper, Christopher Boyce, Chris Walsh, Stephen Peake, Andy Thompson (back row) and Jamie Thompson, Bria Thompson (front row) build for the future.







# Ye Olde Speen

## Fun Day

Sat 13th June

Picnic Lunch 1pm

Medieval Games 2pm

*Crossing the Moat - Jousting - Cannon Ball Run - Bear Baiting*

*Ballista Catapults - World Famous Kiddie Kurling*

Roasting Ye Pig 6pm

Music & Dancing 8pm

*Calling all honourable knights, princes, princesses, damsels, serfs and paupers of the Realm of Speen, come and join in Ye Olde Speen Fun Day. Win honour and riches and be crowned the champions of Speen 2009!*

**All proceeds from this event go to support your own Playing Fields.**

**This year we want to raise enough funds to provide new swings and play equipment (see the Playing Fields column for more information).**



## SPEEN MARQUEE UPDATE

The Speen Marquee was bought second-hand in 2000 to house village summer events that are too large for the Village Hall. The 60 ft x 40 ft marquee can accommodate about 150 people at a sit-down event.

The marquee has since done sterling service supporting village events (Fetes, Festivals, Fundays, etc) and some private ones. But by the end of the 2008 season the marquee was stained, frayed and leaking.

So the management team (James Entwistle, Jem Symondson, Trevor Dunnington, Ashley Cooper, Roger Anderson) decided to replace with a new one of the same size, and to buy new matting and groundsheets. The new marquee will be delivered in May. It will cost £10,000 in total.

The **first erection is planned for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** on the Playing Field. We are hoping for a good turnout of the village 'volunteer' erectors, who have done an excellent job over the years, to learn about the different erection method.

We are then holding a **Social and Grand Opening** for all villagers, including children, on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 6.00 pm**. You are very welcome.

We make a charge to each hirer. The resulting fund is nearly enough to pay for the new marquee. However, we are £800 short. So we are planning a **raffle with excellent prizes** to raise

the shortfall. **Tickets will be sold around the village.** The draw will take place on the Opening night. **Please give this your support.**

*John Holmes*

*HW 488420)*

THE

**NEW**

**SPEEN MARQUEE**

**GRAND  
OPENING**

**FRIDAY 5th JUNE**  
**SPEEN PLAYING FIELD**

*6:00 pm BBQ and Children's' Entertainer*  
*7:30pm Cut the Ribbon & Music from Wynne Davies*

*Tickets from Speen Stores:  
£10 single or £25 family*





## Speen Supporters Group

No account of what is going on in the villages would be complete without a mention of the Speen Supporters Group, whose Spring Lunch takes place on 15 May at the Great Hampden Village Hall. Christine Symondson, who is looking after the ticket office, reports that sales have been brisk, but that the organizers still want to see some younger village members present. As ever, funds are being raised for local hospice activities, and attendees can therefore support a really worthwhile cause with a good lunch, with wine, and then enjoy the plant sale, bring and buy, and stalls selling local produce, jewellery and antiques. Call Christine on 01494 488654, and then arrive on the day at 12 noon to 12.30.

As we noted in the last issue of SNDN, the wonderfully well-organized team at the Speen Supporters Group (winners of last years Chilterns Outstanding Achievement award) were able to gave each of their adopted hospices £1000 last autumn, and clearly they will be seeking to match that this year. Edie Radford, their organizer, asks you to watch, SNDN, look at the website, and register with her ([edie@speenbucks.org](mailto:edie@speenbucks.org)) so as to be sure not to miss any part of the programme. One certainty is that last year's successful Xmas Market will be repeated - this year it will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October at the King William IV.

## Speen and North Dean Good Neighbours Scheme

Whatever the frequency or comprehensiveness of public transport, urgent travel needs do not always accommodate to it. In a community like the villages, not having a car available in an emergency, or not being able to drive, can cause real problems. The Good Neighbours Scheme came into existence to meet the needs of those who had no other way to get to hospital or surgery appointments, or who had other problems arising from needing emergency babysitting, or needing basic repairs at home which could not be resolved in any other way. The scheme is run by Christine Oliver (01494 488409) and Marion and Roger Hussey (01494 488336), and they would be pleased to hear from anyone who may need help that their register of helpers could provide, or who may simply want to add their names to that register so that more help can be dispensed.



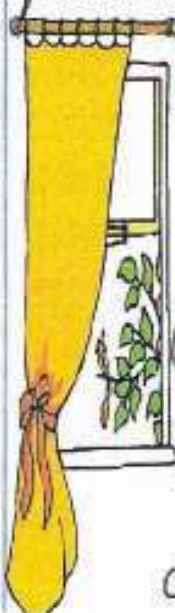
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Speen  
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## Pre-School

To all the followers of Speen Pre-School I must first apologise for my tardy lack of input into the last edition. I have no excuse other than the fact that I forgot!, but with all that has happened over the last 6 months I hope you will forgive my ageing brain. This however means that I must bore you all with my ramblings, so if you are sitting comfortably then I'll begin (deep breath in): September was a new era for the school with new staff and a new purpose to work towards. (More about that later.) The children eased into the new year with gusto, OFSTED was the usual pain in the proverbial but we sailed through their new and ever growing hoops and the school was chosen as a training area for their latest band of Ge-stapo sorry inspectors. Yes I hear you say "Speen is on the map". This would have been good if only they had not had a round of budget cuts and by December the scheme had been cut. In the meantime we had a superb Harvest festival at the chapel which was well attended by the COE, parents and relatives alike. We even managed to fleece, sorry, raise some money in the process. Half term and

Halloween came and went and then our next event was Bonfire Night which was a roaring success! The night before the poor revellers at the KW4 were subjected to marauding children making chocolate marshmallow rockets with gusto and a lot of noise, so sorry to all those that came for a quiet pint or a meal. I would at this point like to make an official apology to Mr Holmes whom through a misunderstanding I now believe we were in direct competition with, over the Glow sticks!! Not quite the Ice cream wars of the late 70's but money was made on both sides for charity, so here's to next year John. Xmas well what can I say cold weather more fund raising and the Nativity Play, again a fantastic turn out from the school, parents and relatives, not quite Andrew Lloyd Webber but the memories will last in our minds forever. A big thank you to Mrs Partridge who did a wonderful craft display after the play and gave us a donation as well. We also did the tree collection this year an ecological service provided by the pre-school to the local community and helped us to raise more funds. Then came the Ice rink a first for the village, which kept the children of the village and the surrounding areas occupied while the adults sought refuge in the bar at the KW4, tough call. Then we had snow and boy did it snow. All in all the children had almost 8 days off school sledging and going to house parties!! Even the wine tasting was affected. A much needed fundraiser had to

be postponed due to bad weather, it was however re-scheduled into 2 dates which actually worked out better. Sometimes fate takes guiding hand. Some of us helped with the safari supper which is run by the COE PTA. It is lots of adults running around the village trying to find where they have to have a meal in two parts at two different addresses and then ending up at the school to make complete fools of themselves. Finally came the Easter service and Easter hunt great fun had by all. It was a very eventful 6 months, for which I say thank you to all of you that have supported the pre-school during our much needed and imaginative fundraising efforts and last but not least thank you to all the members of the tennis club who through their generosity enabled many associations in the community to benefit including us. This will enable us to finally start our feasibility study into suitability of a move to the COE site. Deep breath out.

*Amanda Dobbs*





## 20 YEARS at Speen School

written by the Year 1s and 2s.  
The day was rounded off with a celebration tea party outside in the glorious sunshine with staff, parents and children joining in a resounding rendition of

"Three Cheers for Mrs. Nayana"!

We move into Speen and North Dean villages and never want to leave! Well the same feeling has come over Speen School Head Teacher Mrs. Nayna. She took the job as Head teacher 20 years ago and luckily for the Village she has stayed.

The children and parents of Speen School planned a surprise celebration for Mrs. Nayna on 20<sup>th</sup> April - 20 years to the day since she started at the school. Caroline Cranley and Jackie Edwards got up at dawn to decorate the school gates with banners, bunting and balloons to welcome her. This was followed by a special assembly with the children and Governors where Mrs. Nayna was presented with a poem





# *The Mad Hatters Ball*

**SPEEN SCHOOL  
SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009  
7PM – 1AM**

*Dinner*

*Dancing to Jamie & the First Class  
Black Tie and Hats!*

*Tickets £40*

*Don't be late!!*



For tickets contact Lesley:  
[lesleyphompson@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleyphompson@hotmail.com)  
01494 488524  
or David at the King William IV





## Speen Fete

The country is experiencing difficult times at the moment but it is reassuring to know that some things can be relied upon to happen in time honoured tradition. The Village Fete, which is held annually, will take place on the playing field this year on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements are well in hand to bring you an exciting and enjoyable programme of events. There will be displays, entertainment, side shows and competitions to amuse and excite young and old alike.



Some of the work supported at Chilterns MS Centre

## The Chiltern MS Centre will receive funds from 2009 Fete

The Chilterns MS Centre in Halton has been chosen as the charity for this year's Speen Village Fete on Saturday 11th July. The centre was nominated by Speen Women's Institute and was subsequently chosen as the official charity.

The Chilterns MS Centre provides a full range of treatments and activities to provide symptomatic treatment, care and support to those with Multiple Sclerosis. This includes Physiotherapy, High Density Oxygen Therapy, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Gait Analysis, Podiatry and Occupational Therapy as well as advice regarding Posture, seat-

ing, benefits and walking aids and wheelchairs.

Loiz Bale who represents the Women's Institute on the Fete committee and who's husband Stan receives treatment at the centre once a week said "Myself and Stan have been involved with the Chilterns MS Centre since the very beginning. We were on the original committee that founded the centre in 1985 and we helped with the fundraising for the Hyperbaric Oxygen chamber that started the centre. Stan goes to the centre once a week for treatment in the Oxygen chamber and Physiotherapy. The centre is wonderful, the staff are a lovely group of people, always thoughtful

and caring and there is a very comforting atmosphere throughout the centre"

Mark Dewey, Community

fundraiser for the Chilterns MS Centre said "we are absolutely delighted to be chosen as the official charity for this event, we see around 250 patients each week and as we receive only a minimal percentage of our costs from the PCT's fundraising events such as these are vital to us"

If you or your organisation would like to support the Chilterns MS Centre and raise money for the charity please contact the fundraising team on 01296 624 000 or at [fundraising@chilternsmcentre.org](mailto:fundraising@chilternsmcentre.org)

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# SPEEN FESTIVAL 2009

Hello everyone

With just over four months to go before Speen Festival 2009, we're positively flying along! The Festival Calendar's been set, the Box Office is ready to open in June and the village, well, it's truly a buzzin' with the sound of music, high spirits and much more besides. This is Speen at its very best - gearing up for the challenge of putting on the biggest and best show yet. You can feel the excitement in the air. Heck, you can even hear it too!

Depending on the time of day you wander through the village, you can often catch a few notes from the razzle dazzle rehearsals for HONK! or if you're lucky, floating through the air you can just about hear the beautiful harmony of the Reid sisters' violins as they prepare for our evening of music in the Chapel 'Heavens & Earth and In Between'. Some of you who frequent the King William IV will of course have been treated to the 'cool cat' jazz of Martin Hart's Quintet. Then there's the exuberantly musical Laughton household where singing over the breakfast cereals is just a normal part of everyday life. As Kate is leading our community Speen Big Sing! event, we fully expect to see *everyone* signed up for this one!

Mind you, not all the sounds in the village have been quite so appealing. Something that has been slightly less melodious but nonetheless most intriguing, has been the sound of feverish sawing and hammering that has been heard coming from Ridgley's Field. Rumour has it that Peter Symonds is upping the ante for this year's Speen Bike Park trials with a few demanding physical exercise challenges.

Against this fantastically inspiring backdrop of musical, creative and artistic endeavour, preparations are also well underway for the Festival's grand finale - our deliciously extravagant Cabaret evening. And this is where we need you. Yes, YOU! If you've got talent, then let it shine. We're looking for singers, dancers, musicians, mime artists, rap stars, comedians and everything in between. If you'd like to participate in our Cabaret evening, then email your ideas to Kate Laughton on E: [director@speenfestival.org](mailto:director@speenfestival.org). We're open and up for anything! We look forward to hearing from your ideas!

Jem Symondson

Chair, Speen Festival Committee 2009

## SpeenFest Interactive!

Our aim for the Festival is that it should offer something for everyone. With the addition of SpeenFest Interactive! this year, we have sought to provide an

imaginative variety of *extra* community events that will appeal to those who enjoy hands-on creative involvement.

Creative Writing Work-  
shop, 6.00-7.30 or 8.00  
-9.30pm, Wed 6 May,  
Speen Chapel

A fun (no experience necessary) Creative Writing Workshop in collaboration with the Speen & North Dean News Poetry Competition, culminating in the Creative-Writing Expo in September. Led by Susan Utting, poet and creative-writing teacher. Tickets: £5 from Speen Stores.

(For ages 16 upwards).



## SpeenFest (cont.)

### Photography Workshop, 2.00–5.00pm, Saturday 6 June, Village Hall

Learn how to excel at photo composition and maybe even get inspired to enter our Photography Competition. Led by photographer Martin Hart. Admission free (for ages 16 upwards).

### Speen Stars in the Making, 2.00–5.00pm, Saturday 11 July, Speen Fete

A tapestry for local people to add their own unique touch designed by our resident tapestry experts.

### Festival of Food □ nurturing young taste buds, Sunday 13 September

A programme of activities linked to the Festival of Food for young chefs in the making. Led by David Hill, Chef Patron at the King William IV pub, Speen.

### Speen Big Sing! Friday 18 September

Supporting workshops for the Speen Festival-commissioned vocal work to be performed at the community Big Sing!

### Speen TV!

Multimedia project for our local media-savvy youth led by Ian Warr.

### Speen SchoolFest

Creative workshops linking the local schools.

**PLUS more in the making...** If you have your own ideas for a SpeenFest Interactive event, then please contact Kate Laughton on 01494 488 548 or email [director@speenfestival.org](mailto:director@speenfestival.org).

## Festival Programme 2009

10–19 September

### HONK!

7.30 to 9.30pm, Thurs 10, Fri 11 & Sat 12 September

Speen Festival Marquee

Licensed Bar

Tickets: £8, £4 16 years and under

A fabulously entertaining, musical retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen story 'The Ugly Duckling'. This Olivier Award-winning show features a host of crazy farmyard characters including an ugly duckling who discovers his inner beauty when

he becomes a swan. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd. Book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe. Music by George Stiles. Advance booking essential.

### Creative-writing Expo\*

10–20 September

Speen Chapel

Free entry

An exhibition of local writing: a collaboration with Speen & North Dean News. For chapel opening times, see [www.speenchurch.org](http://www.speenchurch.org)

### Photographic Exhibition / Competition\*

2.00 to 5.00pm, Sat 12 & Sun 13 September

Speen Village Hall

Free entry

Come and be inspired by six highly skilled photographers from Speen who will be exhibiting a themed collection of work, some of which will be available for sale. And why not give free rein to your own photographic talent and take part in our competition for adults and children? See Festival website [www.speenfestival.org](http://www.speenfestival.org) or village notice boards for competition details.

### Festival of Food

11.00 to 4.00pm, Sunday 13 September

Speen Festival Marquee/Playing Field

Tickets: £2 Adults, Children free

Celebrate the fabulous food of the Chilterns at our very first



Festival of Food. Sample a diverse and delicious range of local fayre, indulge in a glass or two of your favourite beer or wine and feast your eyes on an array of tempting culinary demonstrations by local producers and chefs including the Chef Patron of Speen's own King William IV.

### Cosmic Quest: A History of Astronomy

7.30 to 9.00pm, Sunday 13 September

Speen Festival Marquee

Licensed Bar

Tickets: £5 Adults, £3 Children

Internationally-acclaimed astronomy experts, Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest will be discussing the people and personalities who have shaped our vision of the cosmos. From the moment the universe was born, via the Aboriginal astronomers of 40,000 years ago, through Omar Khayyam, Copernicus and Galileo to the present day quest for alien life - prepare for an evening of spectacular imagery and fascinating insights.

### Heavens and Earth and In Between

8.00 to 9.30pm, Monday 14 September

Speen Chapel

Refreshments available

Tickets: £9 (incl a glass of wine and canapés).

An evening of voices and music. Readings from the 17th Century into our own times; music from

local stars, Alexandra and Charlotte Reid (violins) and Sam Laughton (harpsichord). Programme includes homage to Henry Purcell and poems, politics and prose from the Chilterns. All profits of this concert will be donated to the charity: Agape Alive in India.

### Wildlife Fun for Families\*

4.00 to 6.30pm, Tuesday 15 September

Speen Festival Marquee

Refreshments available

Tickets: £1 Children, Adults free.

Where do bats live? Could there be snakes in your garden? What's in an owl pellet? Take your family on safari in Speen and uncover the secrets of your natural world. Hands-on fun for children up to 12 years old. Children's tea at King William IV pub (not in ticket price).

### Wild about Speen

8.00 to 9.45pm, Tuesday 15 September

Speen Village Hall

Refreshments available

Tickets: £3 Adults (incl a glass of wine) £1 Children

A fascinating photographic presentation and exhibition about wildlife in Speen and environs by local wildlife expert Peter Symonds.

### Jazz Concert ☐ The Irving Berlin Story ☐

8.00 to 10.45pm, Wednesday 16

September

Speen Festival Marquee

BYO Drinks

Tickets: £10

An evening of jazz by the Martin Hart Quintet showcasing the music and story of Irving Berlin including Berlin's most famous compositions: 'How deep is the Ocean', 'Cheek to Cheek' & 'Let Yourself Go'. Featured musicians will be Alan Graham on vibes, Mike Wills on reeds, Ken McCarthy on piano and by popular request, the wonderful Lynn Garner on vocals. Doors open 7.30pm.

### Science Matters

8.00 to 9.30pm, Thursday 17 September

Speen Festival Marquee

Licensed Bar

Tickets: £5 Adults, £2 Students

Healthcare, food, energy, the environment - all contentious issues facing society today. What are your views? And where does the scientific community stand? Come and join the debate at Speen's own take on Question Time. Our discussion panel will include prominent scientists and science writers. Doors open at 7.30pm. Email questions by 10 Sept to [director@speenfestival.org](mailto:director@speenfestival.org)

### Speen Big Sing!

6.30 to 7.30pm, Friday 18 September

Speen Festival Marquee

Free participation

The day that Speen turns up the



volume to prove that singing is LOUD, PROUD and FUN! Come and join in a specially commissioned vocal work written by whacky and ingenious composer, Julian Allwood. We need you whatever your vocal skills. To bring a group or for more information, email: [director@speenfestival.org](mailto:director@speenfestival.org)

### Teatro Unfortunato □

#### Snow Dreams

10.30 to 11.30am, Saturday 19 September

*Speen Festival Marquee*

*Refreshments available*

*Tickets: £5.00 Children, Adults free*

This riotous children's theatre company is back with a captivating winter wonderland show. In the land beyond the fridge, our hero Pip discovers a world of polar bears, abominable snowmen and penguins so expect plenty of fun, silly songs and of course, lots of snow! Why not come dressed as a snowman or a polar bear?

### Speen Bike Park Chal-

#### lenge II\*

2.00 to 5.00pm, Saturday 19 September

*Speen Bike Park*

*BBQ available*

*Tickets: £2 Children (incl BBQ), Spectators free*

Test your skills on a variety of exciting courses and challenging

obstacles. With three age groups (8-18 years), you can compete against your friends for the coveted awards and prizes.

### Cabaret Supper – Reaching for the Stars!

6.45pm till late, Saturday 19 September

*Speen Festival Marquee*

Licensed Bar

Dress: Black Tie

Tickets: £25 (incl reception drink and 3-course meal)

Celebrate the finale of Speen Festival 2009 with one of the very finest forms of entertainment: cabaret! We guarantee an intoxicating evening packed with an eclectic mix of crazy and courageous performances not to mention some of the most talented and gifted singers, musicians and actors. And if you've still got energy left to spare, dance away the evening with our Klezma-inspired band Black Shabbat, led by local guitarist David Johnson.

*Free admission after 11.00pm*

### Still hungry for more?

If you fancy a bite to eat during Speen Festival, then call Speen's King William IV on 01494 488329 for a special 2-course set meal from 6.30pm for ticket holders. For further details, see the pub notice board. And if you're still hungry for more rab-

ble rousing, join us after Speen Big Sing! at the King William IV for some Festival Friday Folk!

### Souvenir Festival Programme

Souvenir Festival Programmes will be available in early September. Packed with useful information on all of the events and lots of extra bits besides, our Festival Programme is a must have! Vouchers for the Programme are available to buy on the booking forms at a specially reduced price. Once you receive your voucher, you can redeem at the first event you attend or from Speen Stores.

### Booking Forms

For further information on all events, sign up for our Email Updates [up-date@speenfestival.org](mailto:updates@speenfestival.org) or visit [www.speenfestival.org](http://www.speenfestival.org)

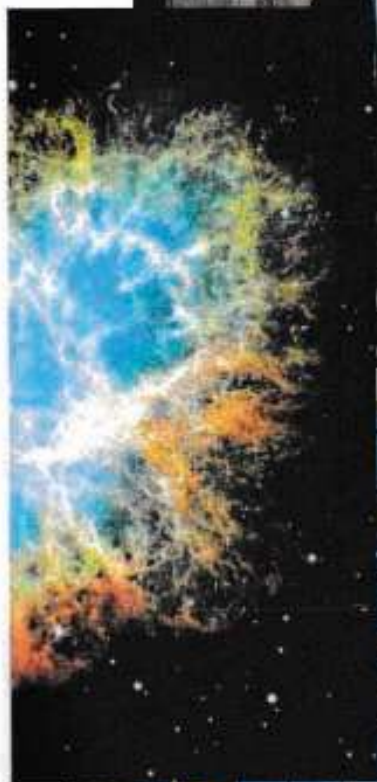


# Festival Stars and Highlights



Reid Sisters at Heaven and Earth (left below); Cabaret (left top); Martin Hart Jazz (right top); Science Matters (right below); Astronomy, (centre)

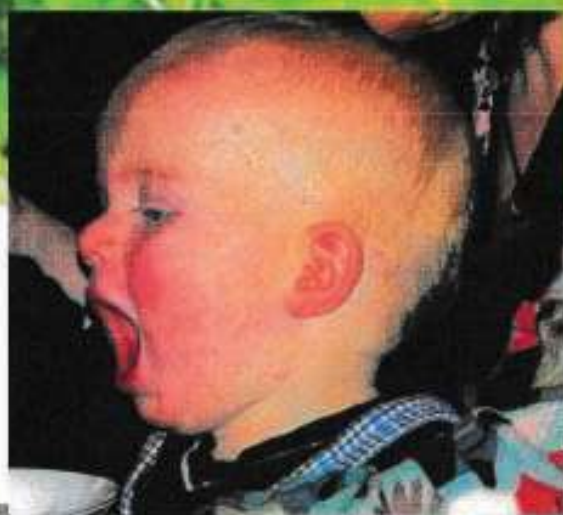








Speen Big  
Sing! (right);  
Teatro Unfor-  
tunato (below  
left)



Wildlife Fun (above);  
Food Festival (below)



Poetic juices start to flow

## The Trouble with Poetry

What I always find difficult,  
Although I really try;  
Is thinking what to write a poem about, I I and why?

Perhaps about the seasons,  
Oh no I can't find a rhyme!  
I need a rhyme with Autumn;  
I'll try another time.

The Teacher says, 'Try animals'  
But I can't decide which:  
Dog, cat, bird, elephant;  
Lion or ostrich?

My friend suggests football,  
But I'm no good at that game;  
The ball always travels wrongly  
And my position is always the same.

I guess I have to face it,  
Poetry isn't my thing;  
I'll try story writing instead,  
What troubles will that bring?

Having SpeenFest Interactive charge us all up with the Creative Writing Workshop, the poem here perhaps best captures the feeling of true writers' block.

Lucy Entwistle 0 age 11½ yrs

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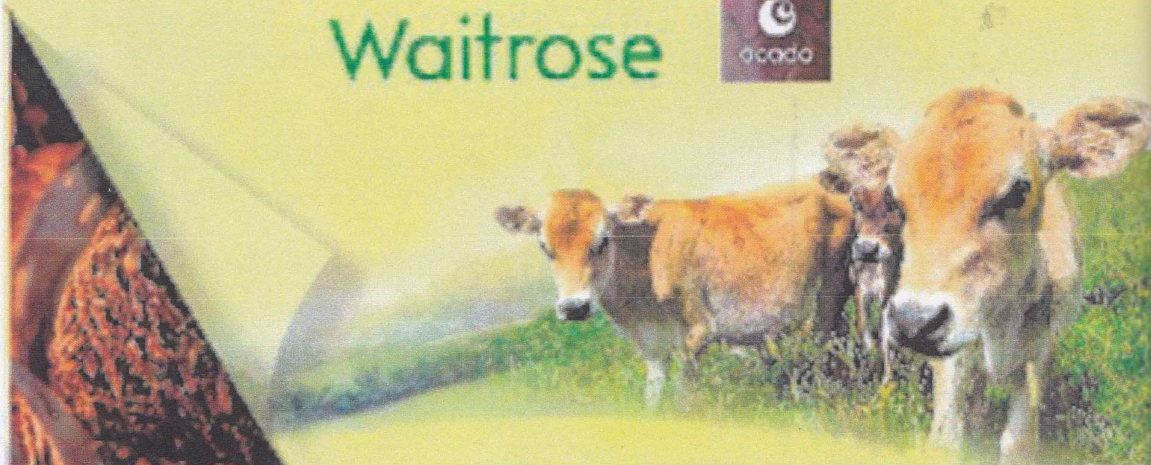
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## WI Report

Our W.I. year didn't start terribly well, as Shelly Jennings and Christine Symondson couldn't come to talk about their cycle trip in Thailand and Cambodia, so we had a couple of quizzes instead. We really go mad sometimes! February was called off altogether, due to **THAT SNOW**. Our speaker cancelled in any case, so we didn't hear about Famous Chiltern houses. Maybe next year. Unfortunately Shelley and Christine couldn't come in March either, due to family problems. Luckily we were able to get David Gantzel from Hazlemere, at short notice, who gave a lovely talk on the Islands of Great Britain. It is surprising how many there actually are. April is, of course, our birthday party and that went off very well, with some lovely food and good entertainment by the Banjovis who, as you might guess, mostly play banjos. We all had a good singalong and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. Future meetings include the Resolutions on 7th May, when we will be discussing Bees and their decline, Dr. Jill Evers will be talking on the Geology of Speen on 4th June, Margaret Deacon's talk on 2nd July is about Peru - Land of the Incas and on the 6th August Mrs. K. Bradford will have Memories of the 20th Century. If anyone is interested in any of our future meetings, please join us. You will be made very welcome.

Barbara Collett, 48834



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## Wildflower News

### Found then lost: the story of *gentianella ciliata*

Editors' Note: Fred describes below the passionate engagement of those who look for rare flowers in our country side (with perhaps a touch of competitiveness). We are proud to note that he himself has found an exceptionally rare bloom near Princes' Risborough, which he will be describing for us in the next issue. We will put pictures and early commentary on the web site at [www.speenbucks.org.uk](http://www.speenbucks.org.uk). Please note that the Gentian on our cover is another uncommon gentian, the Chiltern Gentian, but not the Fringed Gentian of this story!

A Miss M. Williams who lived in Wendover was out botanising one day in 1875 or thereabouts, on Coombe Hill which was part of the Chequers Estate. She found an unusual flower. The books on *flora* available to her at the time did not help her identify it. She sent a specimen to the Natural History Museum where, although the plant was identified, the wrong identification was sent to Miss Williams.

This lady never heard in her lifetime the flower she had found was the fringed gentian, a national and county rarity, still only to be found at the site where she first spied it.

More than a hundred years later, in 1982, a lady out walking her dog found our flower by chance again on Coombe Hill. She told Graham Atkins, who checked the flower and sent it to the Natural History Museum for identification. In a letter, the Museum staff said that they had received a call from a vicar who told them he had found such a flower. They doubted his find and asked for a map reference, which he refused to give them being offended by being disbelieved! The letter confirmed to Graham that the flower was the fringed gentian.

Within days, the plant was found yet again by Peter Philipson, and he was preparing to claim the glory only to discover that it was the very late Miss Williamson who had found it one hundred and seven years earlier.

About 1918 Coombe Hill was given to the National Trust, when Lord and Lady Lee gave Chequers to the nation. The National Trust took care of the Fringed Gentian from 1982 until 1991, when it appeared to disappear under the trampling of flower seekers. It appears that in fact that it had simply gone dormant.

In the 1980's this plant had some bumper years, with 150 flowers' plants in 1987. In the 90's our weather changed, with early

autumn becoming cooler, so it is beginning to look as if the Fringed Gentian is triggered by the sun, like Scarlet Pimpernel, Lesser Celandine and Wood Sorrel to name but a few that open when the sun shines.

Brian Laney visited the F. Gentian site in 2007 and found that it had been scrubbed up with bushes and rank grass. He informed the National Trust and with some friends to help him, cleared the area. A year later one flower was found.

The Fringed Gentian has a long flowering season from August 'til October, but from the fifteen records it seems that the best time to look is from mid September to mid October when the sun is shining. If you do visit the site you should remember that it is SSSI, a site of Special Scientific Interest, that is a site of national importance in terms of its wildlife or geology.

This is just one of the plants on our list for 2009, so Den and I will tell you how we get on.

Ed. Note: In the last issue Fred explained how to make a record of a flower sighting and points out that this also holds true for all natural sightings such as birds, mammals, butterflies and so on. This ties to Peter's interests in wildlife in Speen. We will put the information on the web site.

([www.SpeenBucks.org.uk](http://www.SpeenBucks.org.uk))

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## Down on the Farm

This must surely have been one of the earliest springs that most of us can remember. For farmers it has been particularly welcome, as after the continual rains of last summer and autumn, many of us were very short of straw for bedding our cattle. In fact, nearly all our animals were turned out at the beginning of April, thus saving three week's straw. Sheep farmers have had perfect weather for lambing with plenty of sun and very little rain. Lambs don't mind the cold as long as they are dry.

It's not only the animals which have appreciated the weather. Have you ever seen our valley look more beautiful? Perhaps after 'the compost in the fields disaster', beautiful is not the right word. For those of you who are unaware that plastic waste has inadvertently been spread over our arable fields, let me explain. The green waste collected in the green bins by WDC contractors is composted locally and then spread on the fields in the locality where it provides a good soil conditioner and fertiliser. For some inexplicable reason the separator which removes all the plastic (why should there be any in green bins in the first place?) did not work and so a revolting mess of bits of plastic was

spread everywhere. We are most grateful to everyone in Speen who helped clear up and put pressure on the Council to force the contractors to remove a lot of the offending debris.

We would all love to have a really good summer, but higher temperatures increase the likelihood of the dreaded blue tongue midge reappearing. In general English farmers appear to be more conscientious about vaccinating than their European counterparts. Vaccinating 500 cattle is a long job; collecting them all up takes hours; fortunately, sticking the needle in is relatively quick!! There is yet another strain of the disease spreading up from Africa, let's hope it doesn't reach us this year.

At last there has been a rise in the price of beef and lamb which is of course bad news for consumers but long overdue for meat producers. For several years the market price has been below the cost of production so many farmers have sold up and/or retired, hence creating the present shortage. After a welcome price rise following the 'Milk Debate', dairy farmers are now suffering from most unwelcome legislation, renewed massive downward pressure on their prices and vastly increased costs (in keeping with most other businesses). The net result is that producers are giving up in droves and soon there is bound to be a shortage of milk. With the present exchange rate

of the pound/euro it is no longer easy to bring cheap imports of dairy products into the UK so that in order to maintain supplies, the price of the pinta will have to rise. Sorry, but this is more bad news for the housewife!

Gill Kent April 09

# Sports



© Digital Globe



## Sport in the Villages (Memories by John Rogers)

### **North Dean – Speen; Speen – North Dean**

Even the heading can be controversial.

#### **Cricket and war (tug of)**

When both Villages had cricket teams, matches were played regularly, mainly at Junior level, as the Senior teams were in different divisions of the Wycombe League, and could only play the occasional friendly ??? Football in the Winter, was played regularly, again at Junior level.

In 1944/5, the two Villages, together with Hampden and Bryants Bottom, joined forces and formed a team known as "Hamlet's United". This had a few successful years, playing friendly matches against the surrounding Villages.

#### **Times change as golf replaces darts**

The occasional tug of war match took place at one or other of the Village Fetes. Darts was also played in both Villages, at the Sportsman's Arms in North

Dean, and at The King William in Speen, both in the Local league. Shortly after the North Dean Pub closed, some of us deflected to Speen, and we had a very strong team for several years. The matches were on a Friday evening, and we were well supported by the Ladies (Girlfriends and Wives), so it became a nice social evening to kick start the weekend. By the 90's all this had gone, so sitting one day wondering if I had anything to put in the News Letter, I, tongue in cheek, (on behalf of North Dean) challenged Speen, to a golf match. Dave Evans picked up the gauntlet, and the Village Golf Day was born. The first match was in September 1997. The first two matches were won by Speen, mainly because of the larger numbers to select from, so it was mutually agreed that North Dean could recruit a couple of players from Hughenden Valley to redress the balance, this worked and the results were from then on more even.

Because of the event being popular, a second match day was arranged for May, and we now play twice a year. Dave Evans donated the first shield which was played for every September until it was full, a replacement trophy was donated by Ivor and Janet Beeks. The May competition had no trophy for the first few years, but six years ago Peter Keen donated a Cup, for this event. The next match is on Thursday May 21 at Wycombe heights. We always welcome new players, at all levels, it's a fun day out.

## Tennis club recipe gives village some- thing to chew upon

Ingredients: Take one well managed tennis court over the period of ten years. Add a canny treasurer who sought to ensure that cash was always available for emergencies as well as regular court maintenance. Blend with very satisfied members who thought the facility was well-managed and were happy to subscribe at a constant level. Bake surpluses carefully in a high interest account over the full period, then divide in two, save half of the cake for the continued use of the tennis club, and ask the village causes to bid for a slice of the other half. Tasting notes; very satisfying experience, both democratic and charitable, with a strong after-taste of a job well done.

The Tennis Club AGM must have felt, to the committee, like a reversal of the normal procedure. Instead of asking anxiously whether they had a quorum, the chairman, Trevor Daniels, opened the meeting on 3 March at the King William IV, by asking if all of the 50 voting members present could find a seat - and something to eat and drink. He and his committee (Cherry Seekins, membership secretary, Doug Wilson, Treas-

urer, Caroline Crossley, Andy Thompson, and Chris Walsh) were then able to present their report and accounts – and be unanimously thanked and re-elected, before the meeting moved to the proposal that had galvanized the villages and the membership: the dispersal of a sizable five figure sum to village causes who had made proposals for portions of it to support their urgent activities.

### A lesson in how to run the government!

The villages of Speen and North Dean raise a good deal of charitable cash each year in relation to their size, but it is only on an evening like this that the ongoing need becomes graphically apparent, along with the fact that most of our enterprises keep things ticking over and leave little for capital investment. Nine causes put forward

proposals. Amanda Dobbs spoke on the need for the Pre-School to leave the village hall, under new regulations, and move onto the school site, which needed to be appropriately equipped: Bill Groves demonstrated the problems this created for the Village Hall, which needed to re-equip its kitchen if it were to have a hope of attracting other sources of income. Speen Scout Hut (John Radford and David Lewton), the Cricket Nets (Trevor Daniels), North Dean Village Hall (MUGA – multiple use games area), Speen Playing Fields (Andy Thompson) all received benefit of advocacy, as did the Chapel's need to clear fresh space in its graveyard (Andy Gower), Speen School's play facilities (Amanda Cleaver) and the Speen Festival (Kate Loughton).

Members voted over the next

two weeks, with the MUGA proposal dropping out and funding being made to the Pre-School (23%), the Playing Fields (18%), the Village Hall (15%), the Cricket Nets (14%) and less than 10% of the total to each of the remaining proposals. No single cause got all that they needed, which demonstrates the long uphill climb which village amenities face in necessary fund raising terms. But the Tennis Club, by its good practice and example, raised hopes as well as donated cash this year, and by easing some of the fundraising burdens made that climb seem easier. In the centre of a recession this was certainly one of the most encouraging events to take place in the village this year.



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# Tony Redrup; competitor to the core

Tony Redrup was born in High Wycombe in 1934 and was educated at The Royal Grammar School where he represented the school at cricket and athletics.

When he left school he joined his father at Ercol Furniture the company he worked for throughout his working life. He did his National Service serving with The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry stationed in Minden, Germany where he continued with his athletics, representing his Regiment and B.A.O.R. at cross country events.

He was a member of Wycombe Phoenix Harriers and

under the supervision of his coach James Mansfield-Clarke became County Champion for the one, three and six miles events for several years. In 1959 he was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Great Britain at 6 miles.

He excelled not only on the track but also in road running and cross country. He represented A.A.A. and Great Britain at cross country and 5,000 and 10,000 metres; the time he set in Prague in 1959 of 30.15 for the 10,000 metres was still a Phoenix Harriers record some 45 years later!

In 1960 his training was going well and he was confident of

selection for the Rome Olympics, but unfortunately he was diagnosed with diabetes and his international athletics career came to an end. Medical science at that time was not as good as it is today!

He continued to play tennis, initially at Wycombe then later at Naphill, where he was men's champion several times, and he took up hockey. He joined High Wycombe Hockey Club and within a few weeks had been promoted to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. and within a year had been selected to play for the County and for the South.

He kept his place in the Wycombe 1<sup>st</sup> XI for several years and with his 16 year old son, Andrew, became the first (and probably only) Father and Son duo to be selected to play together in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.



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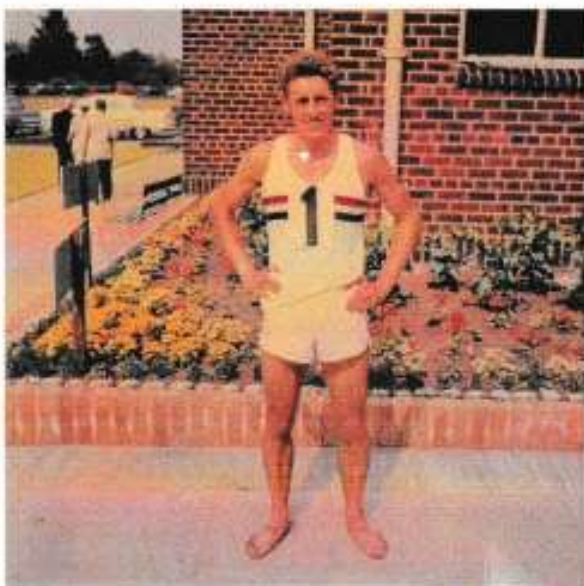
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In January 1985 he suffered a devastating brain haemorrhage but fought back to run in the Wycombe Half Marathon later that year. He took a year out to referee but then returned to playing hockey which he continued well into his sixties.

After taking early retirement he took up golf and joined Princes Risborough Golf Club. Over the past few years, damage done to his feet by hundreds of miles of road running in his youth, and complications of his diabetes, have combined to necessitate



Tony Redrup, in 1959, when he won the 6 miles for Great Britain & Northern Ireland B against The Netherlands at Manchester in 1959.

the amputation of four toes, however, he retains his love of sport and still manages to play golf once or twice a week.

Tony and his wife Judy moved to Speen in 1967 and have three children, Andrew, Michael and Claire, and eight grandchildren.

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**The Rock Revolution Holiday Activity Club Team writes:**



"Looking after 60 children for three days without having to give them chocolate, the words blissful and joyful are not the ones that spring to mind" says Welcomer Kate "But that's exactly how it was! A happy and peaceful atmosphere, even the rain didn't dampen spirits, and the children are really desperate to come back again".

The Easter Children's Holiday Club was a new venture for us. Three days of fun, games, dance, drama, music and craft activities for primary age children was fully booked and so, unfortunately, we had to turn some away.



On stage, puppets Jim Zam (Olly), Bouky (James), with Head Fairy (Hannah) and Louise (herself) kept the children entranced with their stories and attentive to their responsive action phrases like

*landslide* (sit on floor hands on head), *rock solid* (stand to attention), *rock 'n roll* (well, you can guess that one!)

Then there was the larger than life Jacksta, (Jack) the Pebble Point Collecting Joker in charge of the scoreboard for the four teams (Flintstone, Graphite, Luvu, Rubble) with his responsive catchphrases: "Everyone cheer because the Jacksta's here!"

Behind the scenes there was a multi-talented cast of, if not thousands, at least several tens.



Jawn, helping on Crafts which included making mosaics and photo frames, says, "Brilliant! A great inter-generational team effort and excellent team spirit! The children settled down really well and when there was a whisper it might be time for Crafts, I heard them saying 'Oh oh oh Good!'"

Reception Helper Dawn says: "It was wonderful to see how happy the children were, including those that are more naturally anxious. In a few minutes from coming through the door they were waving paper palm branches and joining in the songs, like 'Rock Revolution' written specially for us by Lyn Burnhope".



And what does Band Leader Lyn herself have to say? "We've done some funky rock songs with a great Dance & Singing team teaching actions from the front. All the children got involved and were singing and dancing making up their own dance movements to songs and singing the melodies on the way home. But we also did some quiet and thoughtful numbers to give space for the children to have a rest."

And it wasn't only the children who had an enjoyable time, there was also the Rock Revolution Cafe with Sandy providing endless supplies of cake and coffee vigorously consumed by parents (no names!) and where their toddlers had a great time in their own chill out zone.



We are very grateful to Mrs Nayna and the Governors of Speen School for letting us use the School and to Caretaker Peter for all his help.

**Watch out for:** Compassion Cafe with Rock Revolution 10:00am Sun, June 14th on Speen Playing Field (the morning after Speen Fun Day).

SNDN 46



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## Wildlife Watch – Spring 2009

The winter period saw some of the coldest conditions and heaviest snow that we have seen for many years, including an early fall when the trees still retained their autumn colour.

The hard conditions drive birds and animals into gardens in search of food. We had 4 Jays visiting our garden whilst Margaret Lewis in Woodview Drive had parties of about a dozen Lesser Redpolls visiting her feeders with the more common Siskins from Boxing Day. Redpolls are small finches from Scotland or further north and look like female sparrows with red caps although the males have pinky red chests. There is a significant degree of colour variation in these birds according to age and sex but there ~~are~~ are also different races. Amongst the birds visiting Woodview Drive was a much more grey and white specimen which stood out as being different. Birders from Bucks Bird Club including Lee Evans, who is widely regarded as being Britain's top twitcher, came to Speen, spending hours in Margaret's lounge, to pass judgement on whether this bird was a Mealy Redpoll which would be only the fourth ever recorded in Buckinghamshire.

Reports filtered out and from the beginning of March other birders were descending on Woodview Drive with telescopes and binoculars. The bird is now recorded on the Bucks Birders website as a Mealy Redpoll, and this is likely to have travelled here from Scandinavia. I have subsequently photographed the bird which then seems to have left the village whilst numerous Lesser Redpolls remain in mid April. A lot of these Redpolls have been ringed at some stage so that the experts can monitor their movements. With the Lesser Redpolls there are still a few Siskins about and there have also been single Bramblings both in Hampden Road and also in Abbotswood. These birds will soon fly north.

In North Dean Craig Watson reported large numbers of Lagwings were present at the beginning of February just prior to snow. Two other reports from North Dean include a sighting of a Sparrowhawk being pursued by a Red Kite and later a Sparrowhawk devouring a sparrow in a garden over a period of a couple of hours. In Speen a pair of Red legged Partridge seen in Abbotswood on a couple of occasions were a new addition to my garden list.

As a late Spring eventually emerged Brimstone butterflies were noted from 1<sup>st</sup> March and the first frogspawn appeared in our ponds on 14<sup>th</sup> March. My first summer visitor was a Swallow over the village on 29<sup>th</sup> March. On the same day a Ring Pheasant recorded in a Naphill garden was an unusual local sighting. Meanwhile local Kites have been seen carrying nesting material and the local Great Spotted Woodpeckers are drumming in the woods as the breeding season gets underway.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings or photographic opportunities:  
– Peter Symonds 488416 or symonds@speen10.treeserve.co.uk



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# Who's who in Speen and North Dean

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Speen and North Dean News - advertising	Jan Rose	488696
Speen Baptist Church - Minister	Andy Gower	488758
Speen Festival – Secretary	Sue Taylor	488168
Speen Fete - Chairman	Jim Barton	488547
Speen Fete – Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen Infants School - Head	Denise Nayna	488321
Speen Infants School PTA	Trish Preston-Whyte	488387
Speen Marquee	John Holmes	488420
Mother and Toddler Group	Jo Podmore	488602
Speen PreSchool	Annabel Warr	488340
Speen Playing Fields Chairman	Andy Thompson	488524
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen Supporters Group	Edie Radford	488679
Speen Stores	Tracey Matthews	488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall – Secretary	Pauline Flynn	488510
Speen Village Hall – Bookings	Sue Taylor	488500
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
North Dean Village Hall - Chairman	Andrew Howard	562775
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Julie White	562311
North Dean Village Hall – Bookings Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
Pigotts 748' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler- Robinson	562167
Hughenden Parish Council - Chairman	R F Gould	
Lacey Green Parish Council - Chairman	Cathryn Davies	342800
Lacey Green Parish Council – Councillor for	Roger Craft	488343
Wycombe District Council – Member for Lacey	Paul Rogerson	488315
Buckinghamshire County Council – Member for	Paul Rogerson	488315
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