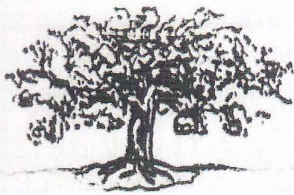


# *Speen and North Dean* **NEWS**



*Issue 31 Winter 2003*



***Inside: Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It's a  
fund-raiser from Speen!***





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## Editor's note

This edition follows only 2 months after the special all-colour issue that depicted the 2 village fetes and Speen Festival 2003, and yet there is still enough copy to warrant another full-length magazine. As ever we are grateful to James Jenkins at JNP for the resources that enable us to produce a print run of over 400 copies with, nowadays, a fairly predictable publication date (within a week or so, anyway!). A lot of voluntary effort goes into the magazine, too, and in this respect we are dependant on people's availability (including mine), which is why we can never be more precise about the final distribution dates.

There are two superb fund-raising efforts to report this time. Reg Taylor, under the auspices of Princes Risborough Rotary Club, raised £15,500 for charity, of which £7,500 was paid to the National Children Homes, through his sponsored bungee jump off the Victoria Falls Bridge in Africa (page 22). Nick and Rachel Wheeler-Robinson organised a production of the musical "Cabaret" at Pigotts from which £9,900 was raised for Brompton Hospital, to provide facilities for youngsters with cystic fibrosis (page 26).

In addition, there are the usual round-ups from various village organisations as well as some interesting reports from individual contributors.

Speen and North Dean remain socially very active communities, as the events of the summer confirmed in spades. I still hold to the view that everyone would benefit from better advance notice of what is going on, so that diaries can be marked and clashes of dates between different events can be minimised. The Speen & North Dean News is an ideal medium for letting others know well in advance what you or your organisation are planning to put on, even if it's only a mention in the "What's On" page, so do please let us know what's coming up.

Articles are fine by e-mail, floppy disc or hard copy, and photos are very welcome too - it would be nice to have more. We would prefer to limit articles to 1 page, although we appreciate that sometimes this isn't possible. My e-mail address is: [majos@btinternet.com](mailto:majos@btinternet.com), telephone 01494 488101, address Driftway House, Coleheath Bottom, Speen HP27 0SZ.

Martin Stockley

Final copy date for the next issue

**March 1st 2004**

and our aim is to distribute  
approximately 4 weeks later

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*Cover photograph - Reg Taylor leaps out over  
the Victoria Falls - see page 22*



## Speen and North Dean Golf Day

The Annual North Dean Golf Challenge Match took place on 18th September at Princes Risborough Golf Club.

The weather was fine, and the day began with the usual banter over coffee and a bacon roll. This was followed by a nine hole Texas Scramble for those of us fit enough - or daft enough - to play two rounds of golf on the same day. A Ploughman's Lunch was served at mid-day and the main event, 18 hole Stableford, was played in the afternoon. The day was rounded off with a three course meal and the presentations.

The morning Texas Scramble was won yet again by the Shaw brothers, a change next time I think. James Hunt, Nick Heald and Dave Moore were runners up.

Nick Heald collected the prize for being nearest the pin and Tony Bradshaw for the longest drive. A new prize for a magic two (Birdie on a par three) was collected by Martin Litchfield.

The Individual Champion this year was Reg Taylor from Speen. The runner up was Russell Hanson from North Dean, third was Tony Redrup and joint fourth, Tony Bacon and Alan Costin.

The Shield - won by North Dean for the first time by the narrowest of margins (1 point), having previously only managed to share it with a draw.

Bill and I would like to thank everyone who took part for coming along and making the day the success it was, and also to thank the staff at PR Golf Club for the excellent food and the use of their facilities

Our next day out will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Weston Turville. We have been promised a new trophy for the Spring event, so we look forward to seeing you all then. Any new players are very welcome; please get in touch with Bill or me.

*John Rogers & Bill Groves*

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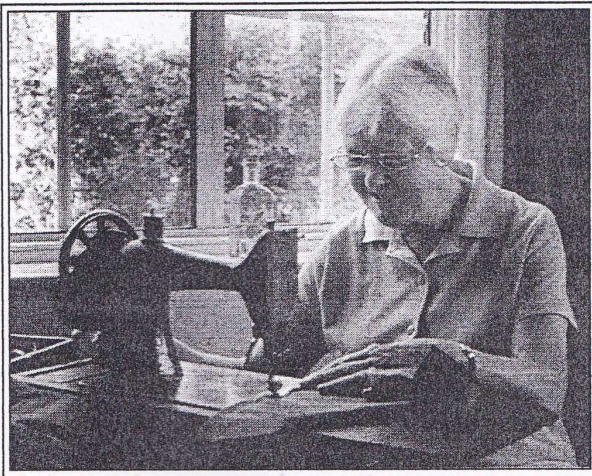
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## A Stitch in Time



When I opened a drawer this morning, looking for a muslin bag to hold lavender flowers which have reached perfection in the garden outside, I found some scraps of material which I had carefully hoarded for years. Poppy red, delphinium blue, swimming-pool turquoise, palest pink, soft grey, cream and white - they were reminders of years of sewing with my faithful Singer machine, which was a present on my twenty-first birthday and which I still prefer to those slick electronic models favoured today.

I rarely do much sewing nowadays but how much satisfaction it has given me over the years!

I was a full-time housewife and Mum - and loved that, for so many reasons - so I had time to make clothes for children as well as myself. I also made curtains and cushion covers and did some modest upholstery. And I was not alone in my enthusiasm. My mother-in-law kept a treasure trove of remnants, cotton reels and oddments of ribbon, lace and bias binding and she could often supply necessary items without making a special journey to the shops. She was a dab-hand at alterations and even "ran up" a whole series of little knickers out of my father-in-law's cast off vests when I was "training" my toddlers.

My grandmother was apprenticed to a dressmaker when women wore whalebone

stays under bodices which fastened closely and primly with a continuous row of tiny buttons and she considered that the short flapper styles of the twenties - as worn by my mother - were shapeless and quite shocking. What she would have made of some women's wear today can be imagined.

In my day we had sewing lessons in school. Not only did we do French seams and run-and-fell seams by hand, we learned about darning and patching and mending hedge tears. We also cut bias strips of flowered material and bound the edges of the domestic science overalls needed for cookery lessons.

Those sewing skills are outdated and many would say "Thank goodness!" but I do wonder sometimes if the lack of emphasis on developing manual dexterity in youngsters today, in favour of push button work and entertainment, will eventually lead to an increasing sense of frustration and a grave loss of the pleasure brought about by using their hands creatively.

Leonora Cottrell

---

### Speen Lace Day

took place in the Village Hall in October, organised by Jacqueline King. As usual, the hall was packed with busy lace-makers enjoying their day, such as the lady below.





## District and County Council News October 2003

### Green Waste Collection

At present there is a debate within Wycombe District Council on Green Waste Collection. Driven by Government directives to increase recycling targets for councils, a proposal to introduce Green Waste collections is being considered. The plan is provide separate bins for Green Waste (kitchen and garden waste) to be collected fortnightly and to be processed for Compost. The District Council's bid to fund collection failed to get Government support and therefore any collection will have to be paid for out of Council Tax (circa £350,000 per year). People I have asked so far have suggested support for the recycling of plastics and glass but not green waste, the preference here being for home composting. I would appreciate any views you may have so that your priorities on Council expenditure can be made known.

### Parish Boundaries

The WDC Regulatory & Appeals Committee, at their meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2003, considered the Parish proposals to create a new parish of Speen. It was their view that there was insufficient evidence before the Committee to reach a conclusion and that no further action was to be taken on this matter. They also resolved to advise the Parish Council of the procedures necessary should the Parish wish to conduct a parish poll in order to establish public opinion.

### The Tranquil Project

This is proceeding approximately to programme and following the series of public exhibitions at various Village Halls, has now moved on to the second phase. I was pleased to see so much public support for the project and the positive suggestions that have come forward from the consultation process. All of the information that has been collected has been assessed and is being collated with a view to bringing forward an Opportunities and Proposals Report. Officers are due to meet in November to finalise the proposals. The final document should be available for consultation with stakeholders and residents early in the New Year.

### The Speed Limit Review

This has progressed with the completion of the

collating of all existing data for our area by Babtie, the Council's Consultants. There appears to be some problems arising that could mean that our project area is put back. I have taken this up with Officers and suggested that any further delay is unacceptable. At present I am awaiting a firm response and have been assured that if action can be taken to avoid delay then this will be done.

### A4010 Culverton Junction

The proposals were deferred from the County Council's Planning Committee September meeting and as yet no new date has been given to consider the application. I understand that this was done to give more time to address concerns over environmental and other issues.

### Local Road Works

Coleheath Bottom / Hampden Road - An order for haunching and edge strengthening at this junction has been issued to the contractor to enable the work to be carried out within the next 3 months.

Pink Road and Green Hailey to Hampden - It has been agreed that the white lining on these roads is to be redone.

### Community Leaders Fund

As I mentioned in July the County Council has renewed the funding for Councillors to support Local Community Projects. My allocation was completely taken up last year and I have again been given the sum of £2,300 to support those community projects requiring 'top up' funding to reach their targets. So far this year I have been able to support the Lacey Green & Speen 81<sup>st</sup> Club with an outing, the Speen Village Hall with the cost of redecoration after the fire and Radnage with some play equipment. If you are aware of a project that is need of funding then please contact me.

If you do have any concerns regarding District or County Council 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  
District & County Councillor



***"If I can put one touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God"***

**Henry David Thoreau**

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## North Dean Fete - August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003

As the day dawned and was bathed in the golden glow of sunlight, we knew that yet again, North Dean had been blessed with the finest of weather for its 71<sup>st</sup> annual celebration.

The grounds were soon a buzzing hive of activity with people going hither and thither setting up stalls and gazebos, receiving entries for the competitions, setting up sound systems and stoking up the boiler on the traction engine. There was laughter in the air and the odd cry of pain as someone hit their thumb with a mallet for the second time in succession. A time came when we began to wonder if it would all be ready for the opening, but apart from one 'minor' hiccup at the start—when Beechdean's freezers kept blowing the circuit breakers - the purveyors of our wonderful local ice-cream and The Fete were soon back in business with a separate supply from the nearest house.

In true 'Thespian Tradition' it all came together in the end and after the delay the fete was opened by our own inimitable Dr Nick Wheeler – Robinson. Nick echoed some thoughts of North Dean being an outstandingly beautiful place to live and that the hall and its grounds were the hub of this lovely hamlet. A place for everyone to enjoy.

I think that, financially, this has been the most successful of recent years and will enable us to complete some of our urgent repairs to the fabric of the hall. In terms of organisation I have to thank our Fete Committee for their unstinting work that began as soon as the 2002 fete finished. The planning and re-design, so that it can be passed onto others at a later stage, took many hours of deliberation, phone calls and personal contacts to make sure everything slotted into place. That brings me to the point where I must thank everyone who helped with the running of stalls for their unflagging help. Without their supreme efforts on the days running up to, and during, the fete, none of the careful planning would have come to fruition. The day was enhanced once again by the music of The Pigotts Band, who played in the baking hot sun to help keep us entertained during our participation in the day's events. Somehow I can't imagine the day without them.

The real stars of the day, of course, are the people who come to this annual event. Without you devoted people there would be no day at all. Thank you each and every one for attending our fete and making the hard work all worth while – the

only exception being the 'tea leaves' who nicked some gear from the Bric-a-Brac stall with a spectacular 'dying woman' distraction.

The Village Hall still requires much expensive modernisation to comply with new legislation. Without these changes we will soon be unable to operate. Bearing in mind we still have a long way to go, not only on the upkeep of the building as it is, but to fund these necessary improvements, I need to thank people who have already freely given their time to complete some urgent tasks. All come highly recommended.

Paul's Plumbing ; for installing our new water boiler

David Piroli ; for the electrical work needed for the aforesaid boiler.

Don Allen Tree Surgeons; for clearing the area behind the children's playground.

I cannot finish without mentioning the after-fete gathering which we held in the field. As our small indulgence after the rigours of the day, we set tables and gazebos under the setting evening sun and relaxed to enjoy the evening. There was food and wine aplenty along with great conversation, and some high jinks from the more, shall we say, gregarious members of the party ( we have the pictures to prove it.) A uproarious time was had by all and I do believe that if it hadn't got so dark and quite cold we may have still have been there today.

Bob Wheeler  
Chairman, NDVH Committee

### **Rosemary A. Stone**

(MSSCh MBChA)

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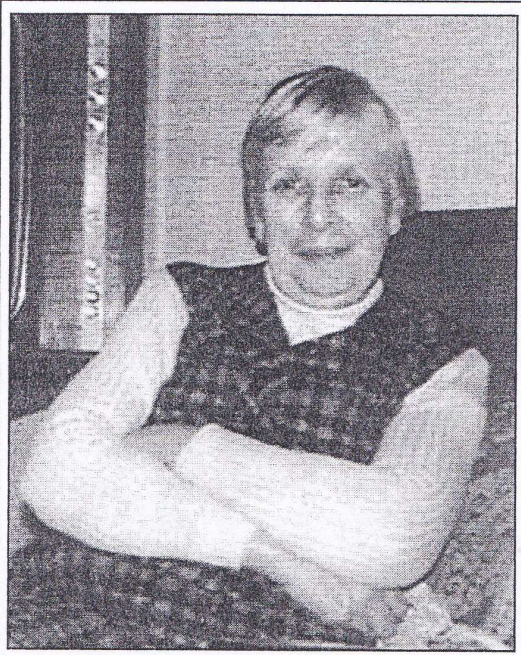
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***Eveline Butcher (1916 - 2003) died earlier this year. The following biographical notes were read at her funeral in July***

Throughout a long life her feet were firmly on the ground, calling a spade a spade. Working in her garden, she knew how to dig - and woe betide anyone that didn't!



Eveline was one from generations of farming folk then living in the Beaconsfield area. She was born at "Mumfords" and was taken, when old enough, across the fields to school at Gold Hill by her elder sisters, where she also attended regularly the well known Methodist church there. Her maternal grandfather farmed at 'Heath Row', familiar to all of us now as the busy London Airport, from where he supplied hay for the hundreds of horses working in the City of London.

Her family moved to Prestwood in the early 1930s as part of the staff of Wren Davis dairy farmers of Collings Hanger. She and her father, who was head cowman, delivered milk to their countless customers in all the surrounding villages, where she became a friend to all who knew her.

The Second World War saw her in the A.T.S. as a driver, where she was proud to say

that the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, was one of her officers. The end of the war saw her back again, doing her milk round, meeting old friends and making new ones with her daily deliveries.

The affinity between Eveline and the Davis family has remained since she was first engaged as part of their staff by Wren Davis himself over seventy years ago.

Only last September she attended a happy gathering at Great Hampden church for Rex's thanksgiving service where she was acknowledged with respect and affection by the whole of the Davis family.

*These notes were written by Eveline's friend Doris, whom she had known since a teenager*

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## Earlier this year, Speen's Natalie Awdrey made a visit to Mexico with World Team Challenge.....

On a sunny morning in July, I set off on one of the most exciting and daunting experiences of my life. It took almost a day to finally arrive at my destination – Mexico City.

After the first few days of collecting supplies and traipsing around the most dangerous parts of the capital we set off for the mountains of Oaxaca. We stayed in Ixtal Juarez in some log cabins in a pine forest. During the time in the forest I travelled for the first time in a wide range of open top trucks – feeling more like cattle than people!

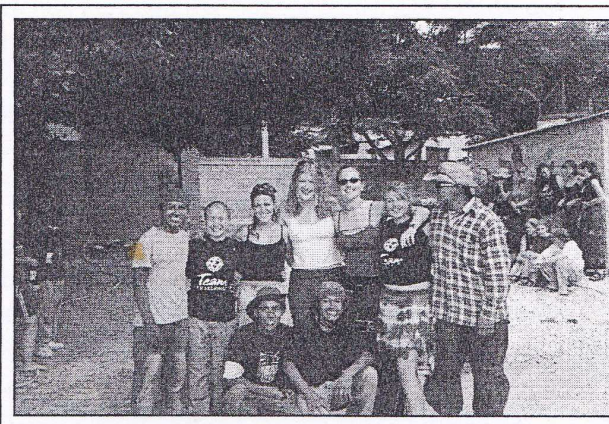
On only Day Seven of our month-long trip two girls were taken ill and rushed to hospital. Despite the commotion, the next day eight of us got up at 5am to trek 500m to the peak of the mountains at 3000m. It was an exhausting trek but definitely worth it. In all my life I have never seen a sight so magnificent; we all felt proud of ourselves and slowly made our way back down to the campsite.



*Los Pozuelos mountain*

After this sadly brief spell in the mountains we travelled in a minibus down to the city of Oaxaca where we were to stay at an orphanage. During our time there I felt we did some amazing work and made some amazing friends. Firstly we cleared the rubbish tip there in order to level the ground to concrete and gravel it to make a playground. After four days of exhausting work it was completed and the team took to painting various murals around the playground area and within the buildings. During this time we took it in turns to visit the magnificent city centre. The architecture astounded me and I bought some amazing handcrafted items to take home. Towards the end of the week the orphanage leader took us to a shop where the famous black

Oaxacan pottery is created; we met the potter and he told us the story of how the pottery was made, originating from a small mountain village called Coyotepec.



*Oaxaca Orphanage*

We also visited two Mexican ruin sites which was the highlight of the trip for me. Firstly we went to some Zapotec ruins at Mitla.



*Visiting the ruins at Mitla*



I was speechless; I couldn't believe I was there. However, I was in for a surprise because the next day we visited Monte Alban which hosts even more spectacular sites. It is a huge ruin site of almost a square mile; I spent hours walking around the steps looking at the beauty of the ruins set against the mountain scene behind it. Within the museum were some treasures which had been rescued from the buildings, including the full skeleton of a woman and the skulls of sacrificed children. It was extraordinary.

After staying in the orphanage we went back to Mexico City and visited the Pyramid of the Sun. There I saw the most intricately carved ruins I had seen; they were covered in serpents coming from the centres of flowers – a symbol of fertility. That afternoon while in the Museo Nacional de Antropología I saw Lucy. (For those of you not archaeologically minded Lucy is the oldest human skeleton ever found!) It was a miracle to me to see her standing there in front of my eyes; I had no idea that she was in Mexico and I was not, of course, expecting to see her. It was the most spectacular moment of my life.

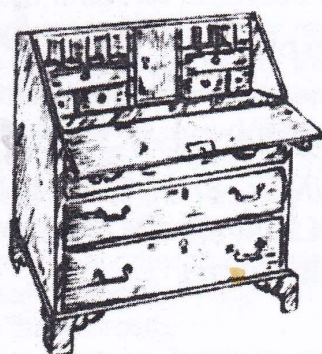
For the remainder of the trip we stayed in the Northern part of the country moving from Mazatlan

to Los Mochis and ending in Chihuahua. To arrive there we travelled on the world-renowned Copper Canyon railroad. It was surrounded by breathtaking sights of beautiful mountains, rivers, canyons etc. During the train ride I met two Mexican men who taught me all about the Copper Canyon region and it gave me a great opportunity to test my Spanish!

In Chihuahua we had a guide called Alejandra who took us on several mountain treks and took us to the pottery village of Juan Quesada who now tours the world selling his pottery in exhibitions. One of the treks which some of us went on took us through our first bit of Mexican desert. We clambered to the top of a rocky hill and soon realised there was an extreme thunderstorm heading straight for us! We practically ran down and began sprinting across the desert, only to stop to eat prickly pear on the way! Unfortunately the snack stop put us in worst trouble as a sandstorm began brewing to our other side!

I returned to England exhausted and awestruck from all the incredible experiences and things I had seen. After a long flight back I was glad to curl up in my bed and rest for a long while, forever remembering everything that had happened to me.

Natalie Awdrey



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*And all of us at the Old Plow Bistro and Restaurant*

### DECEMBER NEWS

We are pleased to say that our prix fixe menu continues to be available except for a short period (i.e. from 15<sup>th</sup> of December until 2<sup>nd</sup> January). During that period a special party menu is available in the Bistro for

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## Speen WI News Report

We were delighted with the money raised at this year's Fete and the excellent donation made to our nominated charity, the Sunrise Cancer Unit at Wycombe Hospital.

This has helped us to continue to support this valuable, local facility for the care of cancer patients.

Our monthly speakers have continued to inform and to entertain us as we have found out about Crystal Healing and the history of Pub signs as well as having an excellent cosmetics demonstration.

Each month we have had a daytime ramble which has provided exercise, company and usually a good pub lunch. We plan to continue these through the coming months and anyone interested in joining us for these outings will be most welcome. Dates can be obtained from our secretary, or watch the notice boards.

The ramble which we organised for WI members from around the County resulted in 80 people wishing to join us for this and the supper afterwards - and all happening in the week in which the Village Hall kitchen had its accident. Thanks to the use of the Chapel Hall for the evening a very successful event was still able to go ahead. We are planning another such event for May next year which we hope will be a walk through the bluebells.

In August, accompanied by husbands and friends, we visited Bletchley Park. This was a fascinating look at the history of the Enigma project and our expert guide for the day brought the whole thing to life for us. We could almost hear those wartime workers and machines beaver away, such was the atmosphere evoked. An excellent day out and one which many of us intend to repeat to take a further leisurely look at it all.

Many people have been to see the

Calendar Girls Film and it was good to see the impact which this film has had. We are often asked what the WI is all about and this film certainly showed the fun, friendship and support that is the clear benefit of belonging to this influential organisation. It also illustrated the hard work and determination which goes into campaigns in which our members become involved.

Our December meeting this year will be handicraft based, with a guide to making paper flowers to use in Christmas decorations or parcel wrapping. We are also looking forward to the Christmas Tree lighting on December 6<sup>th</sup> when we shall again be helping by providing mince pies for the evening.

The programme for next year is now complete and offers a very wide range of topics which should be of interest to all our members and anyone who wishes to visit us. The complete programme appears in the What's On section of Speen and North Dean News.

*Jean Morris*

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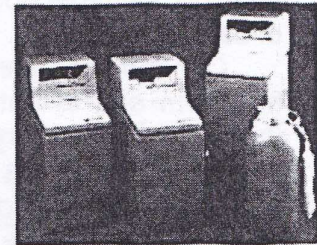


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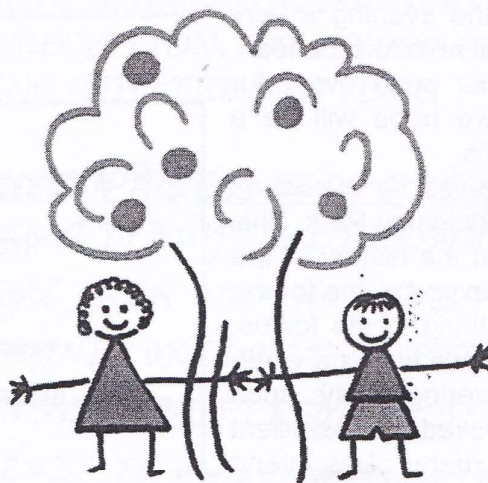
# Speen Pre-School

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*"The setting offers an  
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*"The quality of  
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All quotes from  
OFSTED report 1999



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### News from Speen Baptist Church

#### **Andy writes:**

The deadline for this edition of ND&S comes just too early to celebrate the visit of Sekhar and Chandra Godi who, with help from the community, have founded the Agape School for poor children in a suburb of Hyderabad. And the publication date falls too late to advertise the programme for their three week stay here.



But, hopefully, by the time you read this, many of you will have met them, enjoyed a Curry Supper at Speen Village Hall with them, and been touched by how this community's response to the needs of the Indian sub-continent has made such a difference.

Just the simple matter of providing a free daily meal for each child, in partnership with 'Daily Bread Co-Op', has made it possible for the children to attend school instead of having to work for their daily meal.



Closer to home, the new **Alpha Course** is going very well. After the initial exploratory supper at Speen Village Hall the Blundells' house is now bursting at the seams as over 20 folk crowd in each Wednesday evening for supper and then to watch Nicky Gumbel on the Alpha video before lengthy and wide ranging discussion.

At '**Breakfast with friends and ...**' in September the men welcomed City Worker Ian Smith who explained his climb up the stock-broking ladder to Managing Director of an Investment Bank, and his journey to faith in Christ. And by the time you read this the ladies will have welcomed Tracy Elliot-Reep who, in addition to having ridden the whole length of New Zealand's two main islands, has this summer ridden the length of Britain in aid of Riding for the Disabled.

**Harvest time** saw **Speen Pre-School** in the church for their own harvest celebrations, and the ever popular '**Top Ten**' **Songs of Praise & Tea for Senior & Retired Citizens**.

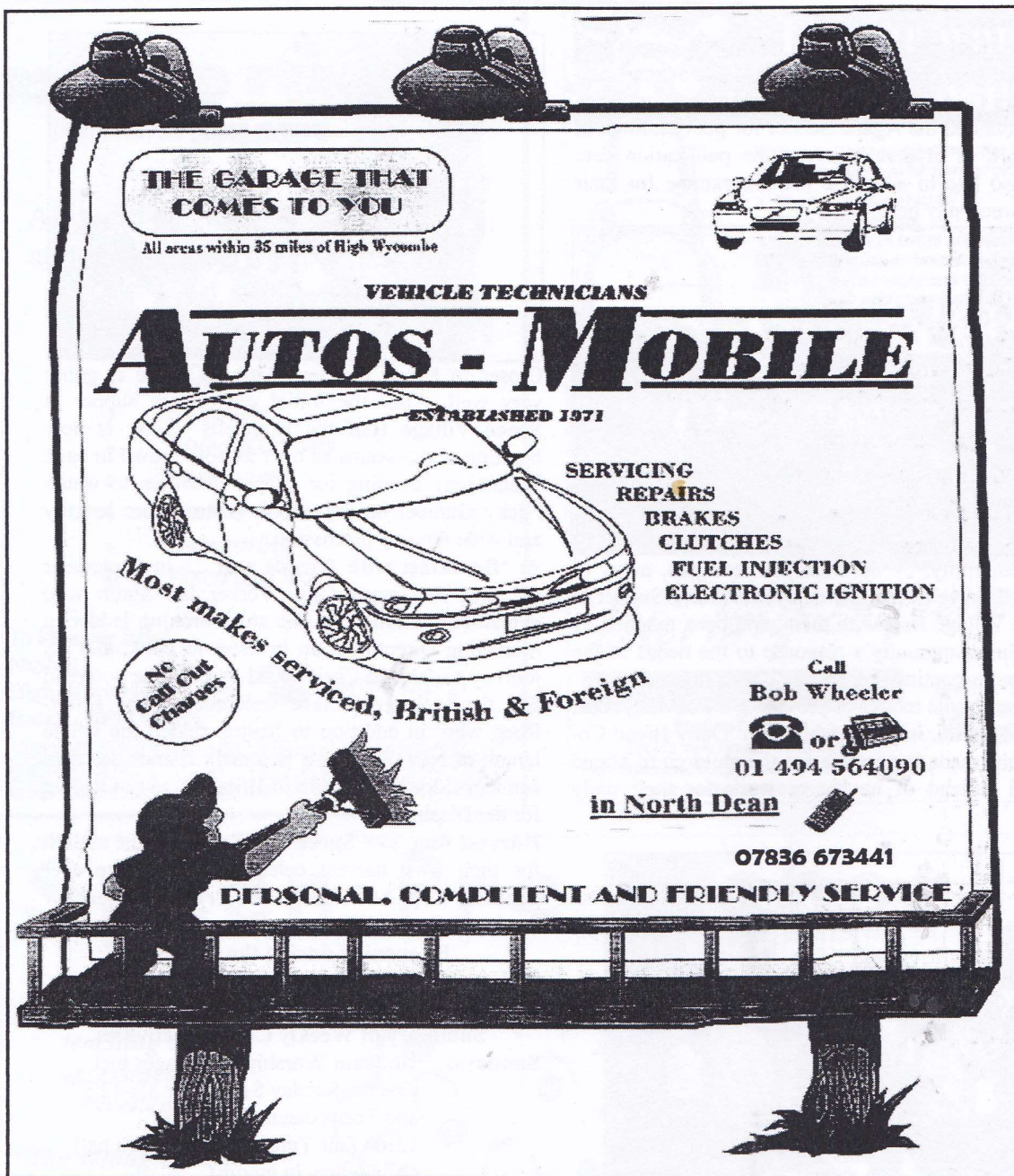
#### **Happening during the Autumn:**

5<sup>th</sup> Dec: Men's Breakfast - 'An Entertainers Story' with Graham Hepburn.

#### **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 Music rehearsal
- Mon:** Meetings for Prayer at homes  
8:00 pm Evening Home Group at 5 Abbotswood
- Weds:** 10:00-11:30am Daytime Home Group - Chinysnook, North Dean  
10:00-11:30am "Time Out" - the Book Club, at the church  
7:45pm Alpha Course at The Russets, Moses Platt, Speen





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## SPEEN PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Our major fund-raising event so far this year was the Fun-Day held on June 8th. Despite a few showers of rain we had a marvellous day, and we cleared £910.14p profit. Many thanks to all those who helped make it a success.

A few weeks beforehand, at the end of April, the roundabout surface was renewed, and the roundabout itself overhauled. I'm sure everyone who uses it appreciates the improvements.

The Bonfire Night in November was a great success, thanks to a vast improvement on last year's weather!

There have been some successful working parties during the year. These are always well attended and we really appreciate the help of people who aren't necessarily on the committee, but are prepared to give their time and energy. This also applies to

events like Fun-Day.

We've been thinking about an addition to the field which could be enjoyed by older children/teenagers, i.e. an Aerial Runway which could incur considerable costs of around £8000 - £10,000.

Do let me [jennifercowan@mac.com] or the treasurer, Roger Anderson, [rgandr@onetel.net.uk] know if you have any thoughts about this, or about anything else at all to do with the playing field.

Finally, and I hope you're not reading this too late for it, there will be the Christmas Tree Lights ceremony on the playing field on Saturday December 6th at 6.00pm, with Speen Choir and the Speen W.I. There will be carol singing, and mulled wine/hot chocolate and mince pies will be sold in aid of a local charity.

*Jenny Cowan*

### Speen Playing Fields Association

## DOG ALERT!!!!!!

IS ***YOUR*** DOG ENDANGERING THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN??

We are still having problems with dogs on the field, despite polite requests to keep them away!!!! **PLEASE** help to keep the field clean for everyone.



## *Speen Festival 2003 - a retrospective view*

This year's Festival built upon the success of the inaugural 2001 event, assisted no doubt by a spell of pleasant late summer weather. The individual events have already been recorded in the special colour edition of this newsletter that came out a month or two ago. Suffice to say here that the Festival was well attended throughout, with audiences of about 1000 for the various ticketed events plus an estimated further 300-400 visits to the non-ticketed events. Also important was the fact that so many people took an active part in one way or another - at a rough estimate over 120, spanning all ages from the under fives upwards - making it a genuine community event.

Financial support was gratefully received from Lacey Green Parish Council, Speen Shop Charities Committee and Wycombe District Council. In addition, there was sponsorship in money or materials from the JNP Partnership (James Jenkins), Philip Green & Partners, and Woodside Secretarial (Jude Awdry). Needless to say, all of the 120 or so people who helped to make the Festival happen gave their time - in some cases a great deal of it! - free.

However, Speen Festival was never conceived to be a profit making project and the costs of putting it on are not inconsiderable (total expenditure over £7,500). There is also a

risk element, since financial commitments have to be entered into with no guarantee of income. This year, through a combination of excellent ticket sales, good planning and the benefit of experience gained in 2001, the Festival made a modest surplus of around £800. It is proposed to hold this money on account to be carried over to 2005. In the course of staging this year's event, the Festival also purchased two gazebos which have been donated to the village for general use in community events.

It would be heartening to see Speen Festival continue into the future as a regular biennial event, as was originally envisaged, and to judge from reactions to the first two Festivals, there is a great deal of enthusiasm for it to continue in this way. For that to happen though, there will need to be a translation of enthusiasm into commitment and we shall have to see more people coming forward who are willing not just to lend a hand, very welcome though that is, but to take on organisational responsibilities for the logistical side of things and/or running events. So, if anyone out there is prepared to put down a marker to be more than casually involved in Speen Festival 2005 - I shall be delighted to hear from you!

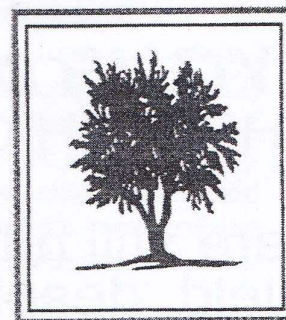
*Martin Stockley - Festival Chairman*

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Village Hall, Studridge Lane, Speen  
01494 488160

The summer is over in a flash and, as Christmas looms large on the horizon, the children's excitement will, I am sure, reach fever pitch.

We began the autumn term with more beautiful summer weather and a large cardboard construction which quickly became obvious as our very own yellow submarine. The theme, underwater; the children, covered in yellow paint! Beautiful images of blue skies, sandy beaches, hand coloured shells and painted stones wended their way home. What a wonderful way to relive our idyllic summers.

The children and staff intend to make full use of the outside play area this term, whatever the weather. Keep an eye out on Studridge Lane for the brightly coloured pair of snakes that can often be seen skipping, rather than slithering, to their climbing frames, slides and all-terrain kiddy cars on the playing fields.

Our pre-school is a non-profit making charity. Our fund raising activities not only stop us running at a loss, but also allow us to maintain a highly successful provision. Therefore, if you have any fund raising ideas or can offer unusual raffle prizes (or help!) please contact us on 01844 344947.

We are on the lookout for pre-school aged children from January and especially, Easter. If your child fits into this category, or you know anybody else who might be interested, please, please, please come and see us. I know once you have seen how contented, cared for and stimulated the children are, you will not be able to resist.

Yvonne and her team are working hard to ensure the children have all they need to grow into independent, confident and happy indi-

viduals. The whole provision is alive with the contented hum (occasionally, roar!) of activity. Soon the gentle crooning of Christmas carols will be evident from the Village Hall, where tinsel and glitter will abound. So, from all of us at Speen Pre-School, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

*Louisa Spearing - Chairman, Speen Pre-school*

## TREATS II

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## HE SOARS LIKE AN EAGLE...

.....or drops like a stone! The photograph on the cover of this edition of the Speen & North Dean News is one of those pictures capturing a definitive moment in time, for the observer to interpret their own way! In the event, the photograph captures the moment of fulfilment, when Reg Taylor lived up to the promise made twelve months ago and takes to the air - it seems with the greatest of ease. Legs straight, toes pointed, arms stretched, head up and reach for the sky! Echoes of time, his diving instructor's advice of nearly half a century earlier, spring to mind as he takes the noon time Bungee Jump off the Victoria Falls Bridge over the Zambezi River, between Zambia and Zimbabwe, on 27th August, 2003.

How to follow that? Easy. Go back into town (Livingstone), find a good restaurant and celebrate the Bungee Jump, 60th birthday and wedding anniversary, all of which, with no coincidence, happened on the same day!

By the time you read this at your table, the video taken at the jump venue will already have been shown at a number of meetings in Speen and the Princes Risborough areas.

At a meeting on the 27th October, at the Rotary Club, a cheque for £7,750 was presented to the NCH. The cheque represented half of a total of £15,500, a marvellous response to this special fund raising year, held by The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough.

The fund raising task, dubbed "Project Bungee 2003" started in August 2002, and ran for one year until August 2003.

At this time, Reg Taylor of Speen planned to celebrate his 60th birthday, on the 27th August, by throwing himself off the historic Victoria Falls Bridge. The bridge is a popular place for this activity, as a local company have been offering these types of "sporting" pastimes for a number of years now.

Reg and his wife Sue departed for Zambia on the 20th August, on an overnight flight which

saw them into Zambia's capital, Lusaka, midday the following day. Sue has a sister with a farm some thirty minutes drive from Lusaka and this provided a stopover for a few days, prior to travelling onto the former capital Livingstone, six hours drive from the farm and on the border with Zimbabwe.

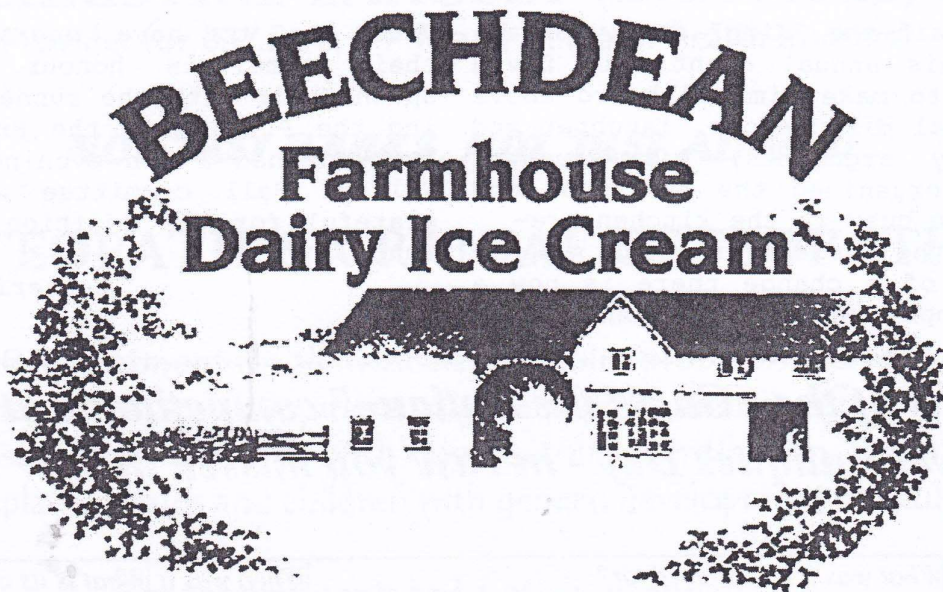


The Zambian side of the family had decided a long time earlier that this was to be an outing in which everyone was going to participate and, in a large overland vehicle packed with provisions for

a three day trip, set off on the 26th, to be on site in time for the midday jump on the 27th.

What of the experience? "Fabulous" was Reg's comment who is certainly not the oldest person to make the 360ft jump. Apparently that honour goes to a 78 year old. But there can't be too many who have taken that plunge at his stage in life. Would he do it again? "Yes, anytime - for another £15,500!"





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## SPEEN VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL QUIZ

Once again the "King" family organized this annual event with David trying to make himself heard above the usual discussions, laughter and friendly arguments, his daughter having organized the questions and his wife busy in the kitchen preparing the sausage and mash supper. By way of a change there is now a new trophy which the winner each

year has to have engraved with their name. This honour fell to Speen Choir with the runners up being the P.T.A. and the Pre-School. Everyone had a fun evening and the Village Hall committee were very grateful for the addition to their funds.

Catherine Butler

### *Results of the "Guess the Antique" competitions at the Festival Antiques Day - in case you missed them!*

#### Adults

Item number	What was it called/used for?	When was it made?	What is its current value at auction?
1	Travelling Marcel Wavers/Curlers	c1925	£50
2	Flower Holder - for button hole	c1910	£5
3	Tea Caddy - for storing precious tea	c1820	£70
4	Pocket Hand Warmer	c1860	£20
5	Part of a Label Maker from a Loom	c1840	£25
6	Glove Powderer	c1900	£30
7	Footman's Hat Decoration - for funerals	c1880	£20
8	Vesta Case - for storing and striking matches	c1890	£35
9	Map Measurer	c1920	£30
10	Travelling Inkwell	c1880	£30

#### Children

1	Bus/train conductor's ticket clipper	c1940
2	Koala Bear soft toys	c1960
3	Noddy toy	c1950
4	Metronome - for timing music	c1920
5	Letter scales - to weigh letters to find what stamp was needed	c1910
6	Diablo - a game	repro of 1920s
7	Slate with chalk - schoolchildren used to write on it	c1890
8	Money bank	repro of 1930s
9	Noddy egg cup	c1950
10	Tin pipe - for blowing bubbles	c1940



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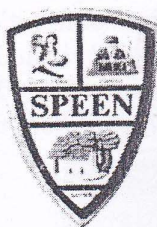
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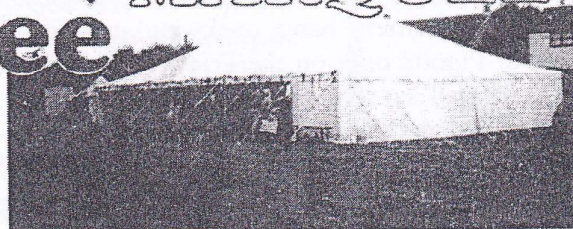
Clinics currently in Stokenchurch and Princes Risborough



# **Marquee Hire**



**SPEEN MILLENNIUM  
MARQUEE**



**Wedding Parties Fetes Discos Open Air Dances Barbeques**

The village of Speen has bought a large marquee, primarily for use by village organisations, which is available for general hire. Any income raised will be used to support village events and charities.

The Speen Millennium Marquee is an attractive, modern, traditional marquee made of the latest fire retardant fabric. The fabric is white and therefore light and airy inside. A lining is usually not necessary. The walls are removable to suit all weather conditions. Internal background lighting is available. Tables, chairs and other fittings appropriate to an event are not supplied with the Marquee.

### **Specifications:**

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

### **Contact Information:**

For further information, pricing and availability contact John Holmes:

**Telephone: 01494 488420 Email: [jholmes@nildram.co.uk](mailto:jholmes@nildram.co.uk)**



## PIGOTTS RAISES £9,500 FOR CHARITY

For one evening in September, Berlin came to North Dean and the clock went back seventy years for a performance in the Kit-Kat Klub of the musical "Cabaret".



There had been much planning and preparation but the performers, band, cooks and crew gathered at Pigotts only on the Friday evening and then worked amazingly to rehearse and prepare for the - long sold out - performance. The audience (with special passports, not tickets) arrived in appropriate dress - dinner jackets, evening gowns of the period, some ostrich feather head-dresses - with some splendid moustaches and a duelling scar or two. Orders for drinks were given to the Kit-Kat girls - and boys- in their short black dresses and fishnet stockings.

Act one swept us along - wonderful catchy tunes, witty words, the two pairs of lovers, the gay decadent scene, jokes and dances, but all with an undercurrent of uncertainty and menace from the fascist threat.

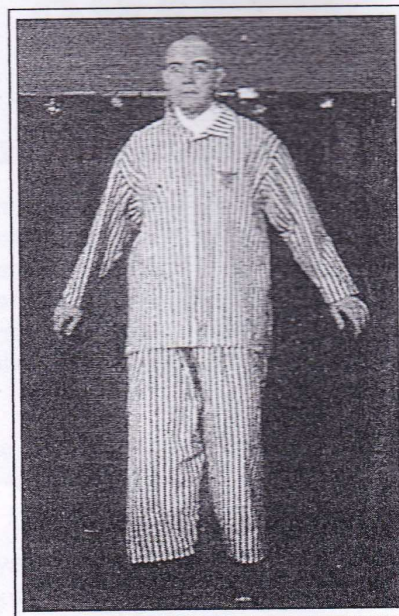
Between acts the charitable purpose of the evening was explained - to buy for the Brompton Hospital (Brompt-on-line) laptops, web cam etc. to allow teenagers with cystic fibrosis, in the hospital for extended treatments, often in isola-

tion, to keep up with friends - and schoolwork. While an excellent meal was enjoyed, Kit-Kat girls sold raffle tickets (top prize - a fur coat) and the bar was kept busy.

The second act, lit by no more than a spotlight and candles, proceeded to its dark conclusion. When the MC in concentration camp clothes finally turned and walked out below the sign "Arbeit macht frei" the audience sat in appalled tense silence until.....the band struck up merrily again.

Our MC Ernesto Tomasini, a professional cabaret performer, was wonderful as were Jo Carleton (Sally Bowles), Martin Nelson (the director), the musical director and the whole cast, committed, involved and generous with time and effort. The mastermind for the whole occasion was Caroline - Frau Doktor Bentall whose imagination, eye for detail, extraordinary energy and legendary powers of persuasion succeeded triumphantly. We were all very moved by the personal and financial support and generosity of so many friends, and friends of friends, present and absent. When all cheques were added up with raffle and auction contributions and the government's "Gift Aid" included, Brompt-on-line benefited by just over £9,500.

*Nick Wheeler-Robinson*





## HAMPDEN ROW BROADBAND CAMPAIGN

A campaign to make fast Internet access available to subscribers in the area covered by the Hampden Row telephone exchange has been under-way since July. When the campaign started there were 77 pre-registrations of interest with BT. There are now 155. Readers who have not yet registered their interest are invited to do so at [http://www.bt.com/btbroadband/register/ns\\_register\\_intro.jsp](http://www.bt.com/btbroadband/register/ns_register_intro.jsp)

The campaign is being actively supported by our Member of Parliament, David Lidington.

If you would like to receive regular updates about progress of the campaign and the identification of alternative technologies to BT's ADSL, then please send an e-mail to the Campaign Co-ordinator at [hampdenrowbroadband@uk-walker.com](mailto:hampdenrowbroadband@uk-walker.com)

Michael Walker

**STOP PRESS:** It now looks as though BT has lowered its threshold requirement to 150 registrations, so Speen may at last be getting Broadband.

# 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 2003 Fete Accounts

This year produced a good result for the Village Organisations and Charities. Profit raised from the Field Events, pre-sales of Grand Draw tickets and Advertising raised approx £2200. This enabled us to give £800 to our Charity, the Sunrise Cancer Unit, and to distribute £140 to each of the Village Organisations.

Well done and thank you to all those who took part and made it such a memorable day.

*Paul Rogerson - Treasurer*

## FESTIVAL FOOTNOTE

Overheard in Speen Stores during the run of "The Pied Piper of Speen"

Lady to small child: "Have you seen the play?"

Small child: "I'm in it - I'm a rat. I'm going to see the second half this afternoon."

Lady: "If you're in it, why haven't you seen the second half before?"

Small child: "Because we're all drowned by then!"

## SPEEN AND NORTH DEAN TODDLER GROUP

### PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

We are a small, friendly group of mums and toddlers who meet on Tuesdays at North Dean Village Hall.

Sadly the toddlers' favourite toy - a play kitchen - is broken beyond repair. Does anyone have one that their children have outgrown and which we could have?

If you can help or would like more information about us, please ring Sandy Mitcheson tel. 488875.

Many thanks




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## ***Wildlife Watch by Peter Symonds***

The summer months again produced some interesting wildlife records for our area.

Coleheath Bottom produced two interesting finds, both, unfortunately, of dead specimens. In early July the remains of a Slow Worm were found. Whilst Slow Worms have been recorded by others in North Dean in the past, I had never recorded one in Speen. In mid July I found a Purple Emperor butterfly dead on the track. This male had evidently been feeding on horse manure when it was killed by a vehicle. Regular readers will recall that I recorded two sightings of female specimens in 2002 of this nationally rare butterfly. Added to other reports of sightings from Spring Coppice Lane the evidence suggests that we may have a small population of this impressive butterfly in the village.

Numerous observers noted the presence of Hummingbirds Hawk Moths, a migratory species from the continent, feeding on Honeysuckle and Buddleias around the village for much of the summer. The hot conditions also saw a good number of Painted Lady butterflies mixed in with Marbled Whites, Skippers and Blues above Flowers Bottom. Other local butterfly sightings mentioned to me include a Dark Green Fritillary and a White Letter Hairstreak.

There have also been a number of interesting bird records for the area. I have had second-hand reports of a Rose-ringed Parakeet visiting gardens in Cherrytree Close, Speen in early September. These large green Parakeets are extremely noisy and raucous and are unlikely to be mistaken for other species. Significant numbers of these birds thrive in London parks like Kew and have more recently spread along the Thames and can regularly be seen in Marlow and Maidenhead. However this is the first

record that I am aware of for Speen.

Another interesting sighting first reported by Dick Seekins was a male Wheatear in the fields above North Dean in late September. This bird which was presumably migrating south remained present for several days.

During the summer a profusion of Orchids could be seen on the slopes above Flowers Bottom with Common Spotted, Pyramidal and Bee Orchids recorded. Another member of the Orchid family, White Helliborine was recorded by Jeremy Symondson elsewhere in the village.

Pied Wagtails nested in the village again preferring accommodation at the back of the King William this year. Two Spotted Flycatchers were reared in Water Lane. House Sparrows, which are in severe decline nationally, bred well apparently in Hampden Road close to the heart of the village, although they are not recorded at all from Abbotswood. Whilst numbers of House Martins and Swallows seemed down Francis Caldwell reported ten House Martin nests in use around The White House with some having double and even triple broods.

Sparrowhawks bred well to the North of Speen and Kestrels seemed to prefer Bryants Bottom Valley this year. Kites and Buzzards were present through out the year although I have no definite of breeding success. Three Buzzards were noted together high over Spring Coppice Lane in September.

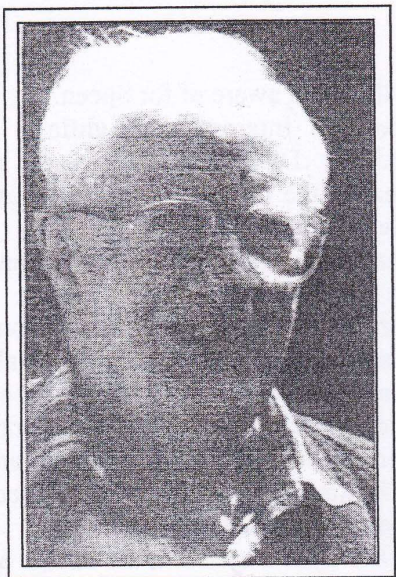
Other records outside our area included a Black Kite (the continental version of our Red Kite) at Kings Hill, a Roe Deer in Lacey Green and unconfirmed sightings of a Polecat and Goshawk.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

*Peter Symonds (01494) 488016*



## VICTOR ELFORD



Victor Elford, a former resident of Speen and Hughenden and a popular artist and furniture designer, has died recently in Devon, aged 92. Following school at Priory Road and the Royal Grammar School, he attended High Wycombe Art College. He was employed by Waring & Gillow for a number of years, during

which time he worked on the interior of the Queen Mary, but fine art was his real love and he won a number of awards in this field. Two years ago one of his paintings fetched £30,000 at Sotheby's. During the Second World War, Mr Elford was an RAF airman, but happened to be on board a ship when it was torpedoed. Although rescued, he was then stranded for a while in West Africa, where he kept up his talent for drawing by the use of charred wood from the camp-fire. Victor Elford lived at Plovers Grove in Water Lane, Speen, from 1958 to 1966.

The sketch below, drawn from roughly where the children's play area is now, was of Speen Playing Field in the 1950s and appears in the book "The Leaves of Time - A History of Speen." We know that Mr Elford had acquired a copy of the book and spotted his sketch, because he rang me out of the blue to introduce himself as the artist. I thought at first he was going to harangue me about copyright, but in fact he was just delighted to have had his association with Speen recognised again. Thanks to Don White for sending me the obituary from the Bucks Free Press.

*Martin Stockley*





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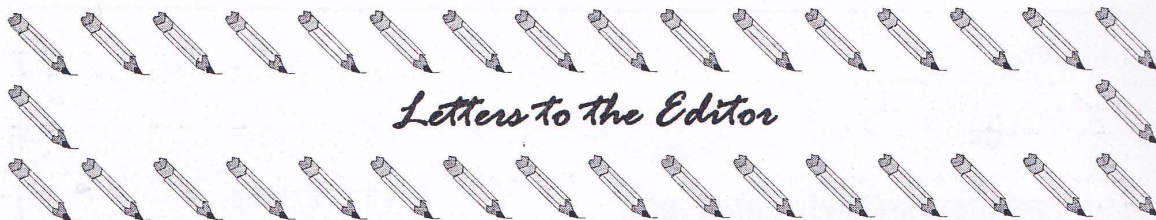
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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Earlier this year, I placed a petition in Speen Stores on behalf of COFFAW. This petition should lead to legislation for the Control and Restriction of Fireworks, which cause unnecessary suffering and terror to the elderly, the sick, young children and animals - domestic, farm and wild.

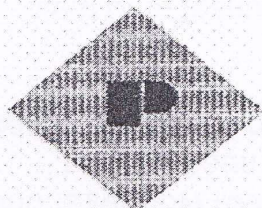
Horses have been put down as a result of injuries caused by their fear of fireworks. Their instinct is to bolt, hitting fences and other obstacles. If confined to stables, they have been known to kick down the doors in their desperation to escape.

I would like to thank the large number of village residents of all ages who signed this petition, which has been in veterinary surgeries all over the country.

By the time this edition has been published, we will no doubt have been subjected to yet more displays of violent explosions, which many of us dread. We remember a prolonged barrage last year from Flowers Bottom and another in Speen last August, which vibrated windows and set off a house alarm in Chapel Hill. Are any of us so important, that we celebrate family occasions in such a way, that causes distress to so many others?

Could I suggest that the colossal amount of money spent on fireworks could be better donated to charities which benefit victims of terror and disease or to animal charities? Alternatively, the fireworks chosen could be those that cause pleasure without noise pollution at its worst.

Christine Oliver.



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## What's on in Speen & North Dean

<b>December</b>		
4th	Making paper flowers - WI	Speen Village Hall
5th	Men's Breakfast (Speen Chapel). An Entertainer's Story	Speen Village Hall
6th	Christmas Tree lighting & carols	Speen Playing Field 6.00pm
16th	Lacey Green Parish Council meeting	Speen Village Hall 7.30pm
18th	Christmas Quiz - Speen Supporters Group	King William IV
19th	Carols and mulled wine	North Dean
<b>January</b>		
8th	Social Evening - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>February</b>		
5th	Graphology - Character Through Handwriting: Mrs R Riley - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>March</b>		
4th	The Love, Lives & Laughs of a Blue Badge Tourist Guide: Mrs Barbara Taylor - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
6th	Speen Supporters Group	
<b>April</b>		
1st	Birthday Party - The Magic Circle & Magic: Mr David Bell - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>May</b>		
6th	National AGM Resolutions discussion - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
20th	Speen & North Dean Golf Day	Weston Turville GC
<b>June</b>		
3rd	Caribbean Cookery: Mrs Sandra Webb - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
12th	Speen School PTA Ball	Speen School
<b>July</b>		
1st	The Impact of Weather: Mr Jim Dale - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
10th	Speen Village Fete	Speen Playing Field
<b>August</b>		
5th	Gilbert & Sullivan: Mrs A Woodward - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>September</b>		
2nd	Introduction to Yoga: Mrs Hilary Roy - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>October</b>		
7th	Voluntary work with the RSPCA: Mrs Burnett - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>November</b>		
4th	WI Annual meeting	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
<b>December</b>		
2nd	A Christmas Celebration - WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm



## Who's who in Speen & North Dean

Speen & North Dean News - editor	Martin Stockley	488101
Speen & North Dean News - advertising	Glenn Hart	488528
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 - 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	Barbara Collett	488348

Hughenden Parish Council  
Lacey Green Parish Council

R F Gould (Chairman)  
Don White (Chairman)  
Roger Craft

488437

488343

Wycombe District Council  
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