

Speen and North Dean NEWS



Issue 35 Spring 2005

**Barn Dance
Speen Marquee
9th July**

**Speen
Fete
9th July**

**North Dean
Fete
30 July**

**Summer
Fun in
Speen and
North Dean**

**PTA BALL
25th June**

**Speen Festival
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2005**

**FUN DAY
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Editor's note

Welcome to the Spring issue

It's great to see so many summer events for us all to look forward to, and so many people working hard to prepare for them. Looks like being a bumper summer!

It's also very gratifying to receive so many contributions from you the readers, for this issue of the Speen and North Dean News. I've received even more than for the last issue, especially from North Dean. Do keep them coming and remember that photos are particularly welcome, especially close-ups. I apologize to those of you whose articles haven't made it into this issue. I'll do my best to fit them into the next one. Apologies also to contributors whose articles I've abbreviated slightly. It was that or a delay till the next issue in June!

If there's a theme for this issue it's probably the many overseas aid programs which people in the villages have contributed to and worked on. I feel sure that these and many other similar projects help at many levels. It's easy to see the benefit being received by the people in India and it's also good for the givers in our schools and villages to be able to hear at first hand about the people, their problems and the how we've helped.

I'd like to say a special thanks to Glenn and Martin Hart, who are a tower of strength in enabling this publication to appear. Their combination of artistic and IT skills make the difference between a pile of boring pages of text and something with pictures, colour and hopefully interest for most people..

Please send items for the next issue to me: Stephen Peake, Beeches, Hampden Road, Speen HP27 0RU, or by email to stephen.peake@btconnect.com. My phone number is 01494 488293; mobile 07785 280055.

Final copy date for the next issue:

May 15th 2005

Our aim is to distribute approximately 4 weeks later

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Supporting the Tsunami Relief Appeal

Speen School and Bledlow Ridge School make a direct contribution to Sri Lanka

John and Gloria Holmes and Julian and Margaret Chitty visited Sri Lanka in February 2005 on a pre-booked holiday using a local Sri Lankan Tour company called Quickshaws. The opportune timing of their visit and the eagerness of Quickshaws to have visitors to their beautiful country in the wake of such a disaster gave them the chance to take supplies out with them.

The children of Speen School and Bledlow Ridge School contributed children's clothing, toys, books, pencils and paper etc. not to mention some little handmade well-wishing cards. 120 kilos of excess baggage, by courtesy of SriLankan Airways, arrived safely into the hands of Quickshaws. The staff then painstakingly divided the contents into little bags according to age and sex, so that Gloria and Margaret were able to hand out personally over a hundred bags to specific children who were presented to them.

These children came from two affiliated schools specially selected by Quickshaws 'man on the ground', and were situated in the Tsunami affected area just west of the town of Galle. One was a primary school with about 45 children. This school was undamaged but many of the children had lost their homes and some had lost a parent or a sibling. The other was a middle school also unaffected by the Tsunami but had taken in many children whose school had disappeared. Many of these children had lost a parent or a sibling. We also distributed the infant clothing and toys to a pre school set up in a Buddhist Temple compound where many displaced families were housed in tents.

This damaged coastal area, comprising about 2% of the

country, is getting back on its feet with so much evidence of good will and optimism. As a Sri Lankan journalist wrote to a friend: *'Our country is blessed with a soil, with a climate, with a people, with a spirit, all conducive to healing. Give us a little while, a month or two, to mourn our dead, rebuild our homes, and replant our trees. Then come visit us, not bearing charity, but to enjoy our hospitality. The sea is as calm as a millpond again. The sun is shining from a cloudless sky. This is a beautiful country. We rely on tourism. Come see us, fill our hotels, eat our food, visit our natural and ancient wonders, truly help us and see us smile again. It may be a century or two before the next tsunami strikes these shores, but even if it does come before that, we now know what happens when the sea retreats too far.'*

Margaret Chitty

P.S. If you want to help further, knowing your money will go directly via the managing director of Quickshaws, do contact me, Margaret Chitty.



Colour photos of the Tsunami contribution on pages 18 and 19

All Curried Out for Agape

In anticipation of the opening of Speen's very own Indian eating establishment, friends and neighbours gathered at the Village Hall on a wet night in January to enjoy a candlelit curry supper in aid of Agape Alive In India.

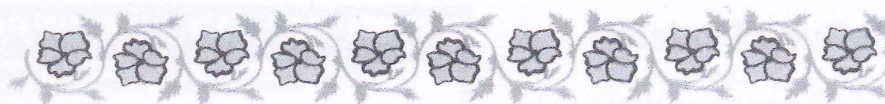
Fortified by plenty of popadums, bhajis, and of

course curry, guests were challenged by a quiz which focused on India – attempts by the desperate to find the answers using their mobile phone internet connection were foiled by Speen's notorious signal black hole.

It was a very enjoyable and successful evening raising nearly £700 for Agape Alive In India. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Sandy Mitcheson

Article on the latest trip to Agape Page 20



OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT AT SPEEN

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Naphill Cubs Update

As many of you may know, Naphill Cubs experienced the loss of both of its uniformed leaders last year, and despite the Group's best efforts we have been unable to recruit a fresh leader to the pack. Our experiences at Hughenden tell us that if you close a pack down it's very difficult to start it up again. Although we were eventually successful at restarting Hughenden, it took four years.

As a result, we are currently running Naphill on a fortnightly basis with leaders from other sections holding the fort on a rotational basis. The practicalities of this arrangement are due to be reviewed at Easter – it seems unfair to trade on the goodwill of existing leaders who already have their hands full with their own sections!

Ironically, we find ourselves in this situation at a time when we have the best support mechanism in place that any of us can remember, both in terms of accredited adult helpers, finances and the Executive Committee. Anyone thinking of becoming a cub leader, or indeed any ex-leaders who might be able to help us over the immediate situation, would find the transition very smooth.

So, here it is. If you are looking for a way to get involved with the local community on a regular basis and to help us continue the tradition of scouting locally, with all the many benefits this provides to our young people (at least it's one night off the computer!), why not give us a call for a preliminary chat over a pint?

Contact Trevor Nicholls (Group Scout Leader) on 565322 or Nick Corble (Chairman) on 481874.

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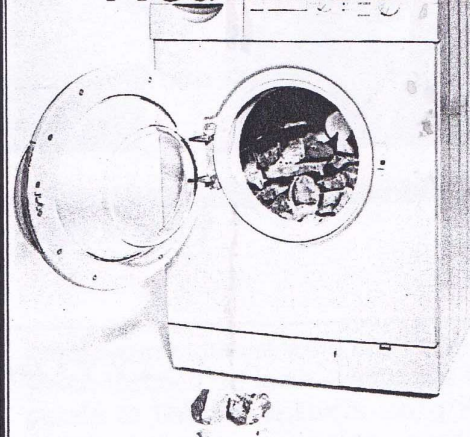
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Historical Plaques for Speen

Established residents will recall that the Speen Millennium Committee was extremely busy before and after the 2000 Millennium in undertaking numerous projects and putting on commemorative events.

Major undertakings included the writing and publishing of the History of Speen, entitled 'The Leaves of Time', by Martin Stockley and Bob Johnson. Martin was also heavily involved with his wife Marjorie in organising 'The Leaves of Time' Pageant about Speen village life. I was involved in designing, commissioning and painting the Speen Village Sign opposite the shop, which commemorates part of our heritage, and in painting the original Speen Village Map of which we produced 125 limited edition prints.

Some 90 of the prints have been sold and profits from these, together with profits from other activities, were in the Millennium account and earmarked for use on heritage projects in the village and other good causes, many of which have already been completed.

One of the projects approved by the Millennium Committee was the funding of Historical Plaques to be placed on or outside about a dozen of the most interesting buildings/features in the village. Bob Johnson had been heavily involved in helping to nominate sites, draft appropriate wording and in some cases he consulted the owners about the proposal (although I am not certain about the extent of these discussions)

Quotations have been obtained for manufacturing the Plaques and the cost is within our budget, though some further contribution may be needed to assist with fixing the plaques in suitable locations. Parish, Local Authority or County funding may well be available to assist a heritage project such as this.

Possible/Proposed Locations suggested by Bob Johnson included

1. Speen Baptist Chapel
2. Speen Village Hall
3. The De Wanium
4. The Old Plow

5. The Old King George Beer House
6. Spinning Wheel Cottage
7. Chapel Cottage
8. The Old School House
9. The Roses
10. The Manse
11. The Old Post Office

In addition to buildings, other landmarks with some historical significant could be featured including Coleheath Bottom and Monkton Wood

Additions or alterations to this list can be considered. The proposed plaques would be oval and 310mm x 255mm (ie about 12 inches high) and would include brief wording highlighting the key historical facts about the subject.

We would at this stage be pleased to hear from any members of the community who would like to have an input or indeed if anyone is opposed to any aspect of the proposal. Any property owners affected would certainly be fully consulted before an order is placed.

Please relay any views to me, Peter Symonds, 10 Abbotswood, Speen (telephone 488016, or email Symonds@speen10.freeseve.co.uk) or contact Martin Stockley, Driftway House, Coleheath Bottom, Speen (telephone 488101) or email majos@btinternet.com.

Peter Symonds

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Speen WI Report

In October we were very pleased to welcome Nick Wheeler-Robinson to a specially arranged supper evening. The event was a sell out to hear about the life and work of Eric Gill, sculptor and artist. He lived at Pigotts in the house which Nick now occupies and certainly lived a colourful and unorthodox life. Although most of us had heard of him and knew of the local connection since his grave is in Speen Chapel grounds, I am sure we all learned a great deal that we had never imagined.

Instead of a speaker in December, all our members enjoyed a meal at The Old Plow bistro. We had a great evening and would like to say thanks to Malcolm and Olivia for looking after us so well.

The new year started in January with ideas for giving a quick facelift to the duller areas of our homes and in February a look at how our gardens can be considered to be works of art if looked at closely whatever the time of year.

In April we shall be celebrating 45 years of an evening WI in Speen followed in May by discussions about the Resolutions for this year's AGM to be held at the Royal Albert Hall.

We shall be starting our monthly rambles again in March and hope to clock up quite a few miles. This should help us all to stay fit, to enjoy the countryside and also to take part in the National Federations '90 mile challenge'. Fortunately this is a cumulative total to aim for, and is designed as one part of the celebrations of 90 years of WI in this country.

In June and July we shall be finding out about the Amersham Martyrs and also about China. Life is always varied in our WI.

As ever we are planning a number of outings and visits during the year and these will be advertised on the boards and in this magazine as usual, or contact our secretary.

Jean Morris

Winnie Lowes—a tribute

Winnie, who died the week before Christmas and a few days short of her 85th birthday, was a lady who loved Speen.

She devoted so much of her life to helping to support the various organisations of the village, being a member of the Horticultural Society, The WI, and most of all the Village Hall. She became the caretaker in 1949 and joined the committee in 1950. She always worked hard to support everything they did. In latter years she assisted her

daughter with their annual Lace Days and with catering for the Village Quiz (where she was known for her generous sprinkling of parsley over the mashed potatoes!!). She took part in the Village Hall scene in 'The Leaves of Time' when we celebrated the Millennium. Many people will remember her sitting in the craft tent at our Village Fete, doing the lace which she so loved.

We have a lot to thank Winnie for, and she will be missed for all the help and devotion which she gave to the village.

Speen Millennium Marquee

The Speen Marquee was bought in 2000 to provide a facility that could accommodate larger events than possible in the Village Hall. An attractive 60ft x 40 ft, three-year-old, marquee with the latest fire retardant fabric, was purchased at a total cost of £6000 following fund raising by Stuart Newman. A management group and a team of trained (well, enthusiastic!) volunteer erectors were established.

The Marquee is mainly used for local village events (Fetes, Funday, Festival, etc). It is also available for hire by villagers of Speen, Hampden and North Dean. The hire income covers repairs and insurance costs, with any surplus being put into a reserve (£4000 at present) for the Marquee's eventual replacement, expected in about 5 years.

Each hiring requires a team of 8-10 erectors drawn from a pool of about 40 volunteers who were persuaded in a weak moment to give me their email address. After 5 years experience the erections now usually go very smoothly. They also provide much amusement (both for team members and spectators!) and a good opportunity to meet other villagers.

This season James Entwisle, Trevor Dunnington, Jeremy Symondson and Ashley Cooper will lead the erection teams. New

volunteers are very welcome. We have four bookings for village functions and, ideally, would like a couple more private bookings. Anyone interested?

For information on the availability and cost of hiring the Marquee contact John Holmes (01494 488420 or jholmes@nildram.co.uk).

John Holmes

NORTH DEAN

Saturday 30th July 2005
2pm

SUMMER FETE

Don't miss the date!
Speen Village Fête
Saturday 9 July 2005 at 2pm
Put it in your diary!

*Bom ba ba bom ba bom ba
bom bom bom, Dang da da
dang dang dippity day.....*

In case anyone should think the editor's gone bonkers - relax! This was just a line from the 60's hit doo-wop version of *Blue Moon* by the Marcells, and it rang through Speen Village Hall when Speen Choir included it in their latest concert. What's more, the audience loved it and an encore was called for on both nights. The programme was entitled "Starry, Starry Night" and anything with a nocturnal theme qualified for inclusion. The title song, made famous by Don McClean in the early 70's, was performed as a solo by Wynne Davies, accompanying himself on guitar, with further vocal solos from Natalie Awdry

(temporarily back home from university) and members of the choir. Speen Choir itself, with Gwen Palmer's accomplished accompaniment, performed a selection of other pieces that ranged from the traditional (All Through the Night), through classical (Britten's The Evening Primrose) and popular standard (The Way You Look Tonight), to a complete novelty - an African processional song. There were instrumental pieces too, to vary the evening, including a piano solo from Greg Symondson. The capacity audiences enjoyed a hearty supper and drinks were also available. The net proceeds from the two performances were donated to the Rhys Davies Music Therapy Fund, which provides therapy for brain damaged young people in Bucks, and over £600 was raised for this worthwhile cause.

Martin Stockley

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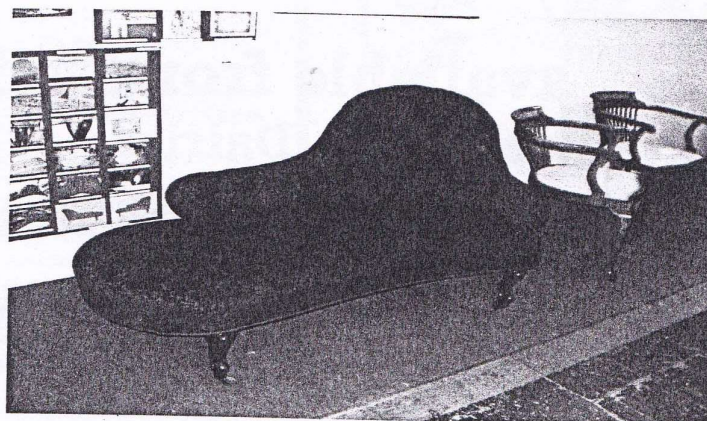
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Martin's Midsomer Murder

Settling down to watch Midsomer Murders one recent Sunday evening I was somewhat put off with the "who done it" bit in the early sequences when they showed a very doubtful looking jazz quintet playing traditional jazz to a mature audience, jiggling (almost in time) to the beat of the music.



Martin Hart in Midsomer Murders

On closer inspection the group featured an even more doubtful looking drummer on the "skins!" Ho! I thought, we know who has done the dastardly deed straight away; it has to be the drummer! Case solved, programme finished (as far as I was concerned) and never has the game been given away so quickly. Detective Chief Inspector Barnaby is obviously going to take a lot longer than us to solve the murder tonight. Having solved murder the before crime has taken place, lets see what's on another channel!

Wait a minute! That drummer. He looks very familiar, the way he sits, the way he gazes at the audience while he strokes the skins and beats the symbols?

The penny suddenly dropped. Starring, (if I may presume on the use of the word) with John Nettles, who for this performance was reduced to wearing a boater and running the tombola stall at the local fete; was our very own Martin Hart, playing a cameo role in Midsomer Murders - and for a change - playing a drummer in the jazz quintet!

Martin had been contacted by the television company to help out in the opening sequences of one of the series Midsomer Murders episodes and spent an interesting day at Chenies Manor House with the rest of the band and the regular stars of the show.

Apart from any other reward he was granted very good exposure in the opening part of the show (pictured) with a goodly number of shots of him and the band performing.

Congratulations to Martin on his performance and for providing us with a pleasant Sunday evening surprise. He is to compère and play in the village hall at the **Rotary Club's annual jazz evening, on the 12th March.**

Reg Taylor.

Wildlife Watch

The winter period has been rather disappointing to date mainly due mild conditions. Many of the interesting winter records tend to arise when harsh conditions drive wildlife into gardens seeking food or simply to hunt in daylight hours.

Nevertheless a number of sightings have been mentioned to me from around and about Speen. A Harris Hawk, which is a Buzzard –like American bird of prey was reported from Great Hampden. I suspect that this bird was a falconry escape which had been recorded previously near Amersham. Another unusual bird of prey noted by a BBOWT work-party a mile north of Speen was a Black Kite, which is the less glamorous continental version of our local Red Kites. They also recorded a pair of Ravens on another occasion. This is an unusual sighting of a bird normally associated with more rugged terrain. However with a pair now breeding further along the Chilterns they may become more regular visitors to our area. Buzzards were noted over the Christmas period and a pair have recently been noted in courtship display within our area. Meanwhile our local Sparrowhawks continue to hunt in the gardens around our villages. In North Dean one spent two hours devouring a Wood Pigeon in a back garden. (I would welcome a phone call and opportunity to take some photographs if anybody

gets a similar kill in their garden!).

Huge flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares arrived from Scandinavia in early December but mild conditions have enabled them to feed in the surrounding countryside rather than descending on local gardens and orchards in large numbers. A large flock of Corn Buntings was reported from Bradenham representing another uncommon bird in our area. Further a field good numbers of Waxwings, which are relatively rare and attractive Scandinavian birds, are present in High Wycombe and Lane End feeding on berry bearing trees. Within our own garden a large crop of Rowan berries remains and Waxwings would be most welcome if they could get past the pair of Mistle Thrushes that are at present defending the crop against all intruders.

Whilst our bird tables have been busy no Siskins have yet arrived and no Redpolls or Crossbills have been seen around the village. Long –tailed Tits are regular visitors to cake on our tables. They arrive in large numbers and flit nervously about but I watched as one was snatched and carried away by a marauding Jay in an instant.

Thanks for the reports received and please let me know of further interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds 01494 488016

Speen – North Dean Golf Day

The Spring Match this year is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, 19th May** and subject to confirmation will be played at Wycome Heights Golf Club.

The Texas Scramble this time will require somewhat different skills as it will be played on the Par 3 Course, but should provide some fun. No advantage to our members with huge drivers, sorry!!!

As usual Bill and I will be at the sharp end.

Please make a note in your diary, we will be in touch nearer the time with more details.

We will be pleased to see all our old friends there and hope to see some new faces as well.

Contact Nos:

John Rogers 01494 562041

Bill Groves 01494 488180

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"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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Speen Playing Field News

DAN RIDGLEY'S FIELD

The transfer is complete and the SPFA now owns this land on behalf of the Village. The next step is for the land to be transferred to The Official Trustee of Charity Lands (as is the Playing Field), managed by the Playing Field committee. A proposal to use a small area for a children's mountain bike circuit is progressing. It is intended to upgrade the pretty wooded area to a nature reserve and The Chiltern Society has been asked to advise us. The remainder of the field will be let for summer grazing until another use is agreed, anyone interested should contact the Secretary (488546) for details.

REPLACEMENT MOWER

The new mower did a much better job last season which, hopefully, will encourage more use of the Field for rounders, cricket etc. There is a £2500 loan to be repaid over three years.

FUN DAY, 2005

Is planned for Sunday 12th June. A group led by Jem Symondson is again organising a programme of challenging team games. There will be a skiffle band in the Marquee on the Saturday evening preceded by a children's disco.

AGM

Keith Jones stood down as chairman after eight years and John Holmes took over. Jenny Cowan continues as secretary and Roger Clarke takes over as treasurer

CAR BOOT SALE

To help fund the mower, a car boot sale on the Play

ing Field in early summer is being planned on 18th June. Villagers who have surplus items of some value in their garages/lofts may wish to take a pitch!

John Holmes

SPEEN TENNIS COURT

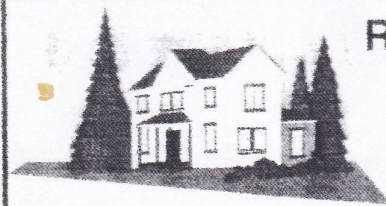
Play tennis in 2005 on Speen's newly refurbished court, now as good as any playing surface in the area

Family membership for residents of Speen and North Dean is only £35 per year

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The children showing delight with their gifts

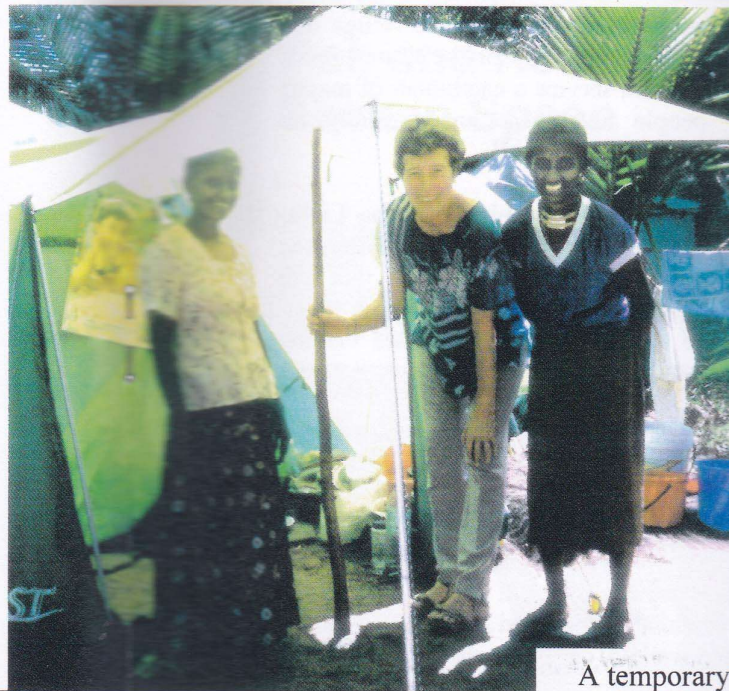
Speen's Tsunami Response

Gloria handing out a bag to one of the chosen girls in the secondary school-- a teacher stands behind.



Quickshaws staff sorting the gifts





A temporary
sis

esponse

shows staff sorting
the gifts



Margaret passing o
10 yr old boy in
school





A temporary home for two sisters



Margaret passing over a bag to a 10 yr old boy in the junior school

Mother and son returning home from school with his bag of gifts

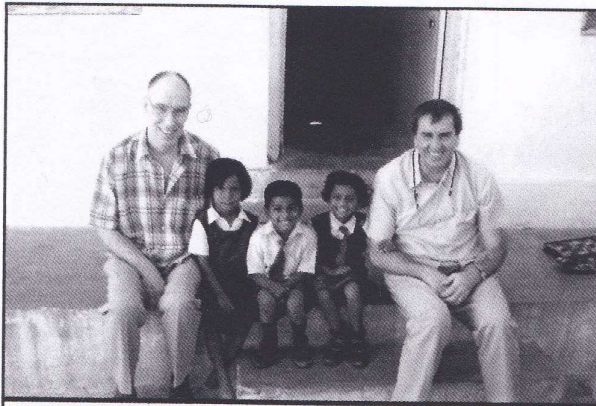


Evidence of relief aid. Red Cross water tank and tents.



Agape is Alive in India

This was my fourth trip to India, the fourth time I have flown Emirates via Dubai, and the fourth time I have been served Beechdean ice-cream at 35,000 feet over the Middle East. Thereafter home comforts were left firmly behind as our team of six landed in Hyderabad to 35 degrees centigrade and the unbelievable bustle, chaos, beauty and poverty of India.



Rob Webb and Derek Newbold with new friends

The team this year included a retired head-teacher, a mechanical engineer, a Baptist minister (all from Friar Lane and Braunstone Baptist Church in Leicester), a nurse, a printer and an accountant (all from Speen Baptist Church).

Our programme was packed, with a typical day starting before 7am when "Mrs Mop" arrived to clean our rooms. Her earliest arrival time was 5.45am (she started early because she wanted to finish early to go and visit family!) We then taught in Agape School, two bible schools and various women's meetings for healthcare promotion, and led evening home groups and church services. Somehow we squeezed in planning time for the next year of Agape Alive In India (AAII). And of course we managed the odd curry – well 26 each to be precise, plus one pizza. Bedtime was typically midnight or later and very welcome it was by then.

We also travelled 100 miles north-west to Manoor, a large village, where the local church has been offered a 1.5 acre site to build a chapel and other facilities. The site is big enough to accommodate a

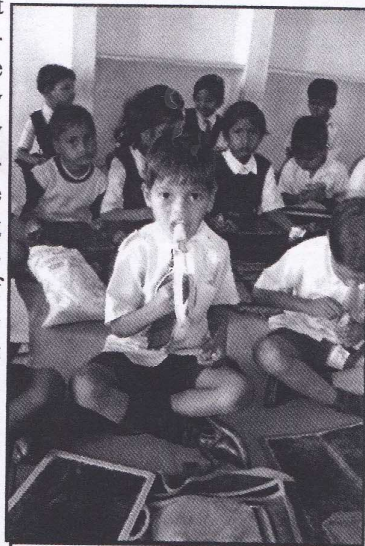
school, orphanage, clinic and widows refuge and seems to offer great potential for the future, funds permitting. It would service a catchment of maybe 50-100,000 people and there are currently no church facilities in the area at all.

We were present for the opening of "The Lighthouse", a new church meeting place in Hyderabad built on land that was acquired last year that will provide much needed space to hold church meetings, the bible school, and accommodate visiting guests.

Agape School is thriving with 206 children on the register and plans to expand further to 300 next year, again funds permitting. AAII are keen to establish a stream of committed giving to fund school attendance. By way of context £10 per month gift aided gives £12.80 which will cover the monthly costs for **five** children to attend school, have lunch, buy their uniform etc. We can segregate funds so that your money is guaranteed to be used only for the school if you wish. Please call me for details, or better still just set up a standing order to "Agape Alive In India" c/o HSBC Bank, account number 12117789, sort code 40-24-17. Let me know and I'll let you have a gift aid form so that Mr Brown does his bit too.

Every time I visit India I am overwhelmed by the need, but equally overwhelmed by the powerful response that the church is making by living the Gospel in all sorts of ways.

Agape School is the most visible of these and the one that brings a tear to my eye every time. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to making this happen from



Banana for breakfast

me and from all the children and their teachers. Please help us to ensure it can continue into the future for more and more children.

James Entwisle (01494 488875)

Pub and Restaurant is back in Speen

Once again we have a restaurant and pub in Speen! The De Wanium (formerly The William IV) opened its doors on 22nd February and seems to have been doing brisk trade ever



Islam and his team offer a warm welcome

since. There's a wide variety of very tasty traditional Indian dishes on offer, served by a very friendly and energetic team of waiters. What's more there's a bar, and all the old (and not so old) familiar faces are to be seen in the evenings downing pints and telling the usual stories of old times that none of us youngsters can

remember! Islam, the new owner and landlord, warmly welcomed the Fun Day organising committee to hold their recent meeting in the De Wanium. We were able to spice up proceedings with papadoms, pickles and chutneys. Recommended to all other committees!

Islam plans to re-site the bar back into the smaller room, making more room for tables in the restaurant: much needed from early signs. We wish them well in bringing Indian cuisine and a friendly meeting point to Speen. Please give them your fullest support – they're working hard to deserve it. Ed.



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Letters to the Editor

DAILY TELEGRAPH HEADLINE, -- Janu-
ary 26th 2005,

"25% of youths are revealed as criminals"

Of course they do not live near here, maybe in High Wycombe, or Slough, but not in rural Bucks. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty spawn mindful, caring youths and parents justly proud of their luck to live here, and proud of their offsprings.

Local police confirm there is no reported crime of any consequence. Hazlemere, Cosy Corner, Hughenden, Great Kingshill Village Halls do have a few problems, but nothing compared to High Wycombe.

Speen and North Dean are very desirable places to live, but maybe we should not be too complacent.

New Year's Morning was disturbed by the noise of wheelie bins being upturned; 2005 saw an unfortunate increase in bad behaviour when the police were informed of at least nine acts of vandalism. A type of kick-boxing removed wing mirrors from cars parked on grass verges, in drives, down drives throughout North Dean.

We could be wrong to think that these acts are one offs, unlikely to be repeated. We should be aware that crime and criminals are progressive, no one wants an offspring with a criminal record. Should the police manage to identify anyone who was involved, they will have a criminal record. It is up to anyone who has an idea of those involved to have 'a quiet word'. This was done effectively in years past by the local Bobby. Maybe now Mums & Dads, aunts and uncles, you and I should be less complacent and hopefully stop this vandalism before it becomes a more serious crime.

Eric Cash, North Dean

Dear Editor

I'd like to say a sincere 'thank-you' to the young mothers of North Dean who organised the impromptu Christmas Gathering on the evening of December 22nd. Perhaps it is too special an event in the calendar to omit. All attending brought drinks and snacks for the refreshments, and the large tin of Roses chocolates was very well received by the youngsters!

Some carols were sung, as is the tradition ably accompanied on the keyboard by one of our younger residents.

Our Hall is there for the use of all our residents and more of these informal gatherings will be encouraged.

Lillian Cash

Dear Editor

It is becoming more and more difficult to waltz through North Dean because of the fear of speeding traffic. Young children and the old and infirm are particularly at risk. It only takes a few more minutes to drive through within the speed limit so please 'THINK' - a few minutes of your time could save a life or many hours of possible pain to someone you may hit.

We are soon hoping to have a visit from SID. What is SID? He is a Speeding Indicator Device who will register your speed and give you a smile ☺ if you are within the limit or a frown ☹ if you are not. This is only an advisory device but your number may be recorded if your speed is excessive, so please let us have a smiley week, not only to make SID happy but to keep North Dean Safe.

John Rogers

Dear Editor

The University of the Third Age (U3A)

The U3A is an organisation that is ideal for retired or semi-retired people who would like to make new friends, explore new interests or maintain existing skills. We have a monthly general meeting in the Lacey Green and Loosely Row Village Hall (with a speaker) and also meet in small friendly subject-related study groups.

Our groups include Art, Caravanning, Computing, Croquet, Discovering Art, Discussions, Embroidery, French Conversation, Gardening, German Conversation, History, Local History, London Walks, Mah-jong, Music Appreciation, Ornithology, Outings/Excursions, Patchwork and Quilting, Play Reading, Poetry, Puddings, Quizzes, Reading for Pleasure, Science and Technology, Scrabble, Ten Pin Bowling, Walking and Woodcarving. Groups for other interests are added whenever there is a demand.

The annual membership subscription of only £14 gives immediate access to all of these activities. Some groups require a small extra donation in order to cover running costs, but these are minimal.

For more details please contact Peggy Oaten-Wareham (HW562554) or Ted Chapman (563034).

Dear Editor

Everyone living in Speen must agree that our woods enhance the charms of this place. Years ago the tranquility of that area was enlivened at certain times of year by the solitary industry of the bodgers, smoothing off lengths of seasoned timber for the furniture trade in High Wycombe -an attraction for occasional children wandering there. I recall a friendly woodsman who kept a close check on the health and growth of "his" trees, trimming and lopping and felling them when necessary and keeping the

fences in good repair. That seemed such a civilized and appropriate arrangement, in harmony with the peacefulness there.

A similarly sympathetic attitude possibly inspired the more recently planted areas of young trees, protected by plastic "sleeves" from the predations of deer and rabbits.

But then, some weeks ago, yellow warning notices began to appear and we heard the ominous sounds of heavy machinery from the direction of Monkton Wood. Isolated trees had been hewn down, sawn into convenient lengths and hauled away with more heavy machinery. This must have filled the minds of all the woodland creatures and it has ruined our time-honored dog walks and the best parts of the woods for sight-seeing visitors.

How long, we wonder, will it take our lovely woods to recover from this vicious onslaught?

Leonora Cottrell

SPEEN FUN DAY

SUNDAY 12 JUNE ON THE PLAYING FIELD

NEW TEAM GAMES

BAR-B-Q

BAR

FAMILY TEA PARTY

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reflection your looking for.....
stay away"*

'Thank You'

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To a lady of North Dean
Who for years has quietly ensured
The garden's pretty and the hall is clean.

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To other families in North Dean
Who I hope will fill the gap that's left
When these 'old-stagers' leave the scene

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To four gentlemen of North Dean
Who have maintained the hall and grounds
Efficiently and unseen.

The time is not too far away
The problem must be faced
No Christmas carols, fetes or 'do's'
Unless they are replaced.

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To some stalwarts of North Dean
Who organise each year's events
Working hard behind the scene.

The hall will fall to rack and ruin
A sorry sight for all
If no-one offers to take the reins
To stop the downfall of our hall.

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To four ladies of North Dean
Who organise the Village Fete
The necessary funds to glean

At the AGM on April 4th
The committee will deplete.
Decades of experience and dedication
Will need to be replete.

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To three mothers of North Dean
Who ran the Christmas Carols eve
For toddlers, adults and 'teens.

Four meetings a year is required
And membership of one sub-committee
The meetings are fun and there's often wine
So to miss them would be a great pity

I'd like to say a 'Thank you'
To a committee with great zest
Comprising mostly OAPs
Who're owed a well-earned rest.

Think of the fun and ideas you could share
The satisfaction of saving our hall
As well as bringing life and light
To young and old residents, one and all!

Anon



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Speen Festival

8th to 17th September

2005

Plans are in hand for this year's Speen Festival and while there are some events still to be finalised, readers may wish to note the dates below. **Meanwhile, anyone who would like to help with the logistical side of the Festival (field management, tentage, electrics, licensing/insurance, seating etc etc) please contact Geoff Smith on 488701.**

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th September - **"The Wind in the Willows"**

a new adaptation of the well-known children's classic, with original music. As in previous Festivals, the show will be entirely staged, produced and enacted in the Speen Marquee by local people.

NOTE: Auditions will be on Tuesday April 12th at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall. If any problems with that date, please contact Marjorie Stockley on 488101.

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September - **Photography exhibition** in the Village Hall

Sunday 11th September - **Art and Craft in Action**

A fascinating and not to be missed opportunity to watch a wide variety of craftsmen and women displaying their skills in the marquee

Tuesday 13th September - A talk by **Sister Frances**, the founder of the first children's hospice

Wednesday 14th September - **Jazz in the Marquee**

This year Martin Hart and friends will be exploring the music of the great Duke Ellington.

Also during the week (dates to be finalised) we hope to have a **Festival Quiz** night, a slide presentation on the **Wildlife of the Chilterns** by a local wildlife photographer and, following the success of Radio 4 "Any Questions" in the 2003 Festival, we are attempting to book another **BBC radio broadcast**.

Saturday 17th September - **Finale Supper and Concert**

The Festival closes with entertainment from Speen Choir and others, together with a delicious supper.

Martin Stockley

Classified advertisements section

For a trial period in future editions we will include a classified ads section. Anyone in Speen and North Dean is invited to advertise items for sale. There will be no charge for up to three articles per family. The description must be limited to 10 words maximum, including a telephone number and an email address. Small businesses may also advertise on the same terms. Our first ads appear below:

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County and District Council News - February 2005

Community Planning

I hope you all received a copy of the questionnaire asking for your views about various Parish issues. If you did not then please contact me and I will ask for a copy to be delivered. It is important that as many as possible return the form as this will add weight to any argument for action to be taken.

Recycling and Green Waste

One important topic within the questionnaire is on the subject of green and other recyclable waste. You may have read recently that the cost of landfill has increased dramatically. It is against this background that the District and County Councils have put in place trial measures designed to increase composting and so taking away

from landfill. These 'trials' are scheduled to be extended into Speen and North Dean later this year. This would mean that refuse and green waste would be collected on an alternate fortnightly cycle. Question six seeks your views on this proposal. I know from the results of previous surveys that many in the Parish compost at home or use the Bledlow Recycling Centre to dispose of excessive Green Waste. Both of these disposal methods do directly go towards the reduction of landfill but unfortunately cannot be measured against the targets set for collection by the Government. So whether you agree or not it is important that your views are heard so that those taking the decisions may take them into account.

The Speed Limit Review & Tranquil Project

Work with the Speed Limit Review continues but as yet no firm date has been advised for the implementation stage. With the consultation phase now complete I have continued to press for a date and remain hopeful that work on the ground will commence in May.



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The Tranquil Project, set up to find practical solutions to the problems caused by inappropriate and speeding traffic in rural areas, continues to make progress with a Steering and Working groups now in place to oversee implementation. A progress leaflet is to be produced shortly which will be sent to each householder detailing the feedback from the consultation held last year. Based on the outcomes of this initial consultation various works are envisaged for each village in the area. These are to be the subject of further public consultation later in the year when firm proposals that fit with rural needs are available.

Community Leaders Fund

I am hopeful that my Leadership funds will be renewed in May this year. If you do know of a project that is in need of a kick-start or top-up then please let me know.

If you do have any concerns regarding District or County Council issues, would like more information, or have noticed areas where action is needed then please let me know and I will do what I can to help.

Paul Rogerson
County and District Councillor

SSG Celebrate Chinese New Year

A flavour of the Orient came to Speen on February 12th when the Speen Supporters Group held a Chinese New Year Celebration in the Village Hall.

The room was beautifully decorated in red and gold with paper lanterns, Chinese panels and banners, beautiful parasols and an oriental theme throughout.

We were served a superb 3 course Chinese

meal, which had been freshly prepared in the kitchen, including traditional chicken and pork dishes.

The tables were decorated with Chinese Crackers and Chopsticks, which had been kindly donated by Top Wok.

A Chinese quiz took place and a fortune teller (looking remarkably like a Chinese relative of John Radford!) wandered from table to table to entertain us. A gift was also awarded for the best costume.

All had a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the ladies who organised this successful event. Nikki

Project Update from India

Adam and Caroline are happy to report that the money raised through their prize draw last September in Speen has gone towards several worthwhile projects.

With the help of a team of international volunteers, working in collaboration with young Indian volunteers, 3 health clinics and 3 reading rooms have been established in slums and villages in the Bangalore area.

First Aid Clinics

Schools in these poorer areas have been equipped with first aid boxes and community leaders have been instructed in dealing with minor ailments and injuries. This is particularly important for personal hygiene in rural areas, where the nearest hospital may be quite some distance away.

Reading Rooms

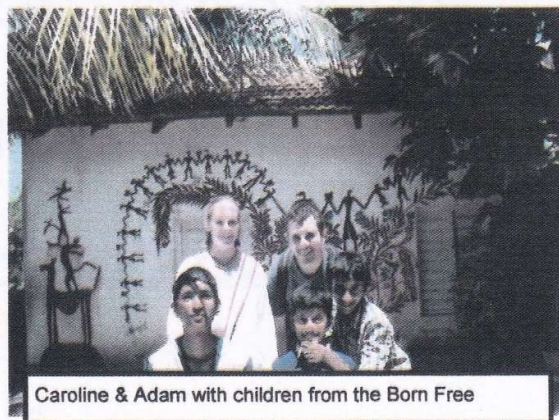
Previous projects have sought to set up libraries in slums and poorer village communities, but these have failed due to the teachers' desire to protect the new books by locking them away out of children's reach. The new reading rooms will not be used as libraries, but as welcoming and inviting places where anyone can go to read. An atmosphere has been created to encourage casual reading and children will be taught by volunteers how to read not only

books in English but also in Hindi and the local language Kannada.

Street Children

One of the major successes of these three projects has been the integration of the international volunteers with local Indians. Many of the Indian volunteers are themselves rehabilitated street and working children who are now being trained in vocational subjects like electronics, embroidery and tailoring and screen printing.

Caroline and Adam would like to thank those who donated money as part of their prize draw. Anyone interested in seeing project photos or receiving project updates can email Adam on a_t_f_watkins@hotmail.com.



Caroline & Adam with children from the Born Free

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Hughenden Parish Council Notes

About twenty or so months ago, many of you filled in a questionnaire about the area you live in and the facilities available. This enabled the Parish Council to produce its Parish Plan, with help from many parishioners, residents associations and, of course, the Councillors themselves. The results from the questionnaire were given at open meetings in all wards of the Parish and many people came along to see the presentations. It was notable how, although the villages are distinct from each other, they all seemed to suffer from the same problems: burglaries, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, to name but three.

During the autumn of 2004 the Plan was published and then came a programme of issuing this to District and County Councillors and Officers, as well as local Residents Associations, Village Halls, etc. We also sent copies to the surrounding Parishes. The feedback from this has been very favourable, not least the amazement that a return of close to 40% was achieved on the original questionnaire, so full marks to all of you who responded.

The main issue now is, what does the Parish Council do with all this information? Well, as part of the Plan, the Parish Council drew up an Action Plan which it has started to address. Some of the items have been on the 'agenda' for a long time, but the members don't give up easily.

The majority of issues seem to centre round Highways and the Council are continuing to lobby Bucks County Council about several things; a crossing on Valley Road, Hughenden Valley; a cycleway from Great Kingshill to Prestwood; a continuation of the footpath on Four Ashes Road up to the Garden of Rest and 'gates' to be provided by joint funding with the Parish at the entrances to each of the villages within the Parish. The Parish will also lobby BCC and the bus companies to improve bus services, especially at nights and weekends and investigate the provision of communal transport to cinemas and other popular venues. Another issue the members are concerned with is the Walk to School projects, and they continue to support these, as school journeys continue to cause problems for all residents. The last item on Highways, which is important to residents, is the speed which vehicles go through their villages and the County

Council has carried out a Speed Limit Review which the Parish Council contributed to, and this should be implemented in part of the Parish by the summer.

Another matter which is dear to everybody's heart is the environment in which we live. This Parish is set in one of the best areas of the county and all the members of the Parish Council are keen to protect and respect that 'specialness'. The Planning Committee is always vigilant in considering planning applications, offering local knowledge and views to Wycombe District Council, taking into account the environmental guidelines contained in the Parish Plan. The next major project for the Council is the production of Village Design Statements for each of the wards of the Parish. This will show Wycombe District, and others, just what is special about each of the areas and what should be protected and enhanced in each ward. This will involve having open public meetings and we will be encouraging all of you to come along and tell us your views. After all, you live here, so who better to ask about what is important? When completed, the Statement should be used by the District Council as a Supplementary Planning Document and help to shape the decisions they make about future planning applications in the Parish.

There are many other issues to be taken into account by the Parish Council including crime reduction and facilities for the young people in the Parish, but I will write about that in a future issue of the newsletter.

I hope you have enjoyed reading what the Parish Council is spending its time doing and trust that you agree they are doing a sterling job.

Now that you have read about all the things that the Parish Council do, perhaps you would like to join us. We are looking for a Clerical Assistant, to help the Parish Clerk with the day to day running of the Council. The position is for 12 hours a week, over three days, all year round. The pay scale is circa £15,400 pro-rata and there are 20 days holiday, again pro-rata. IT skills are essential and experience with websites an advantage. If you would like more information, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Lynne Turner on HW 715296, or by e-mail on hughendenpc@btconnect.com.

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Christmas Carols

continue in
North Dean Village Hall

Earlier in the year the village hall committee took the decision not to organise the very popular and traditional event of Christmas carols for the residents of North Dean in the hall (2004). Many residents in the village did not realise this. Most probably assumed it was an annual event and therefore something that was always done and organised by someone else, other than themselves.

So one week before Christmas, when walking past the village hall on their way to school, all it took was one little girl's comment to her mother, enquiring when they were going to be singing their Christmas carols in the village hall at Christmastime. This prompted North Dean village mum, Sarah Watson, into action.

Sarah contacted Megan Chinn who confirmed that no booking had been made for the hall or for the 'carols'. Megan offered up the use of the hall for Wednesday 22nd December and so Sarah Watson, supported by Beverley Thomas and Sarah Booth, began the task of organising the 'Christmas Carols'.

With short notice and very little time as many residents as possible were contacted or asked to pass the message on, issuing invitations and asking for voluntary contributions of 'drinks and nibbles'. The hall was decorated with fairy lights and spare decorations

and the three mums brought in extra supplies of mulled wine, drinks and nibbles for both adults and children. Setting the scene, taped Christmas carols were played throughout the evening and a Christmas hymn song sheet was produced by Craig Watson. Leading everyone into the singing, the Watson family gave a wonderful performance supported expertly by Sophie Watson on keyboard. Megan Chinn was, as usual, brilliant in her role of best singing voice to encourage everyone to join in with the carols.

From everyone's comments during the evening and afterwards, this impromptu evening was enjoyed by all those who attended (young and the not so young) and no one wants to see it disappear off the village calendar as a main event.

Lastly, we would all like to send our love and very best wishes to Megan and we look forward to hearing her sing at the next one!

Sarah Booth (Sarah Watson, Beverley Thomas)

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News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:

As I write this many families in the community will be taking advantage of the school half-term to take a winter (or warmer) break. That means a little bit of relief for the Sunday School teachers as instead of



the 30-40 young people normally at church on a Sunday they will be looking after perhaps half that number. It is a great thrill and privilege to have so many young people attend - even if it puts pressure on the space in the church hall - and we have been thinking creatively how to help them find God through worship.

Alongside the weekly Sunday School and Teens Discussion group one idea introduced as a regular event this autumn has been *Junior Worship*. What happens is that whilst the adults are worshipping in the chapel the young people have their own time for worship in the hall, using music, songs, activities and prayers appropriate for them. It's not quite like the picture but it is pretty lively!



Junior Worship takes place twice a month and the dates until the summer are February 27th; March 6th (Note: Easter Sunday is March 27th is a family celebration); April 10th & 17th; May 15th & 22nd; June 19th & 26th; and July 17th.

The last eight weeks have been a very mixed time in the life of the community as we have shared the joys of Christmas together but also grieved the passing of several friends and relatives. We celebrated Christmas with **Kids Karols** for the young and young of heart on the Sunday night before Christmas; then the more traditional telling of the Christmas story at **Carols by Candlelight** on Christmas Eve, followed by the **Christmas Day family celebration**. Then on Boxing Sunday it was time for an informal interactive *Café church* service. This included many forms of expression as we meditated on the Christmas story, including drawing, moulding clay, and discussion over coffee and herbal teas. The Breakfasts seem to go from strength to strength. The Ladies welcomed Prof Sir Ghilleen

Prance in November and were in hysterics with Graham Hepburn in February. For the Men in December there was *Monkey Magic's* Pete McCahon. Pete was a larger than life guest. He shared his sardonic wit and 'dangerous' magic with us. Laughter is a great tonic and we needed it when a wrong choice of polystyrene cup would have impaled both his and Tim Edward's right hands on a 4 inch nail. Must check what the Chapel insurance policy says



I had hoped to invite Pete back for a Ladies Breakfast but sadly he died from a massive heart attack on 15th December. Which in a way brings us back to reflecting on the meaning of Christmas ... for those who might wish to do this we will be running an Alpha course after Easter - contact Graham Peart on 488327.

Coming up soon:

Breakfasts (8:30am in Speen Baptist Church Hall):

Sat 19th March: Men's Breakfast - 'A Brahmin's Story' with Kumar Rajagopalan.

Sat 14th May: Ladies Breakfast - 'Through the sound barrier' with Emily Owen.

Easter Events:

Good Friday morning 10:00am Family focus

Good Friday evening 6:00pm The Meaning of the Cross

Easter Sunday 10:30am Family Celebration

Sunday 3rd April 4:00pm Senior Citizens Top Ten Songs of Praise and Easter Tea

Summary of Regular Church Activities

Sundays: 10:30am Worship for all ages incl. Creche, Sunday School for 3's-12's and Teens discussion group.

12:00 Fair Trade Stall in church hall (2nd Sunday in month).

6:00pm Music rehearsal

7:30pm Prayer Meeting

Mon: Meetings for Prayer at various homes

8:00pm Evening Home Group at 5

Abbots-

wood

Weds: **10:00-11:45am** Daytime Home Group - Chinysnook, North Dean

10:00-11:30am "Time Out" - the Book

Club,

For the teens: Soul Sista; YAC Word; YAC Football- dates vary, contact Carolyn for details 488758

SMILE PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAIT DAY

LARGE OR SMALL

FAMILY OR FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

20th MARCH 2005

IN SPEEN VILLAGE HALL

THERE WILL BE PROOF PACKS, SO YOU
CAN SELECT BEFORE YOU ORDER.

You will need to make an appointment
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Future dates 6th Nov and 20th Nov

These photographs will be guaranteed ready for Christmas.

Speen Festival
8th to 17th September
2005

Speen Festival Photographic Exhibition.
Saturday 9th & Sunday 11th September
from 2pm until 5pm. Speen Village Hall

Everyone has a camera of some sort, and takes photographs. Please bring them along and let others enjoy your results. We need your support with this exhibition. There will be prizes for photographs judged the best in the following categories. Portrait, landscape, & modern. There will prizes for photographs from under 16 year olds in the village. I am setting aside a special section for their work. Entry is free.

I am eager to hear from local photographers who would like to join us for this exhibition.

Glenn Hart, Halcyon, Chapel Hill

01494 488528

What's on in Speen and North Dean

April		
4th	Village Hall AGM, coffee, biscuits and wine	North Dean Village Hall 7:45pm
7th	45 th Birthday Party – WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
10th	Family Roast Lunch with Entertainment	N Dean Village Hall 12:30 (tel 563824)
12th	Auditions for Speen Festival	Speen Village Hall 7:15pm
17th	7.48' Jazz	Pigotts North Dean (tel 562167)
May		
5th	Resolutions Discussion Evening - WI	Chapel Hall 7:45
7th	North Dean Quiz Night	N Dean Village Hall (tel 562151)
14th	Ladies Breakfast—'Through the sound barrier'	Speen Baptist Church 8:30 am
22nd	Speen School PTA Family Treasure Hunt	Afternoon
June		
2nd	The Amersham Martyrs - WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
11th	Dog House Skiffle	Speen Playing Field Marquee: Children's Disco 7:00 pm Skiffle 8:30 pm
12th	Fun Day	Speen Playing Field
19th	North Dean Father's Day Breakfast on the Hill	Surprise Location 8:30-10:00 am
25th	Speen School PTA Summer Ball	Speen School 7:00 pm
July		
7th	Highlights of China—WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
9th	Speen Village Fete	Village Playing Field 2:00 pm
9th	Speen Supporters Group Family Barn Dance	Speen Marquee: 7:30—10:30
30th	North Dean Village Fete	North Dean Village 2:00pm
August		
4th	Air Ambulance Services in Bucks—WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
September		
1st	Housewife in the Dark—WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
9th-10th	Speen Festival—Wind in the Willows	Speen marquee
10th-11th	Speen Festival—Photography exhibition	Speen Village Hall
10th	North Dean Mystery Car Rally	North Dean 5:00pm (tel 562151)
11th	Speen Festival—Art and craft in action	Speen marquee
13th	Speen Festival—Talk by Sister Francis	
14th	Speen Festival—Jazz in the Marquee	Speen marquee
17th	Speen Festival—Finale Supper and Concert	Speen marquee
October		
6th	Life of a National Trust Shepherd—WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm

Who's Who in Speen and North Dean

Speen and North Dean News - editor	Stephen Peake	488293
Speen and North Dean News - advertising	Glenn Hart	488528
Speen Baptist Church - Minister	Andy Gower	488758
Speen Festival – Chairman	Martin Stockley	488101
Speen Fete - Chairman	David King	PR 344839
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen Infants School - Head	Mrs Nayna	488321
Speen Infants School PTA	Lesley Thompson	488524
Speen Marquee - hirings	John Holmes	488420
Mother and Toddler Group	Liz Andrews	488000
Speen Neighbourhood Watch	John Radford	488679
Speen Playingfield Association	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 - Chairperson	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen Stores	Sandra Clarke	488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall – Bookings and Secretary	Catherine Butler	488412
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
North Dean Village Hall - Chairman	Nick Dawson	562864
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Lilian Cash	564969
North Dean Village Hall – Bookings Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
North Dean Village Hall – Buildings/ Development	Eric Cash	564969
North Dean Village Hall – Fete Committee	Jan Wheeler	564090
North Dean Village Hall – Fund Raising and So- cial	Peter Keen	562151
North Dean Village Hall - Housekeeping	Pat Rogers	562041
Hughenden Parish Council - Chairman	R F Gould	
Lacey Green Parish Council - Chairman	Don White	488437
Lacey Green Parish Council – Councillor for Speen	Roger Craft	488343
Wycombe District Council – Member for Lacey Green, Speen and Hampdens	Paul Rogerson	488315
Buckinghamshire County Council– Member for Icknield	Paul Rogerson	488315
Police Contact number	08458 505505	

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