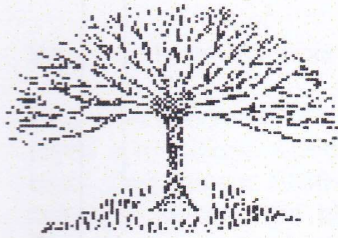


Speen and North Dean NEWS



Issue 36 Summer 2005



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Editor's note

Welcome to the Summer issue

And what a summer it's been. We've enjoyed a revitalised Speen Fun Day, a vibrant Dog House Skiffle evening and a colourful Speen Fete plus Barn Dance. And there's much more to come. North Dean Fete is close to hand and Speen Festival follows in September, plus many other events. I'm sure, like me you must occasionally pause to marvel at the abundance of local talent, enthusiasm and commitment which make all this possible. We are privileged indeed.

I'd like to extend my thanks again to the many contributors to Speen and North Dean News. Please keep the contributions coming, especially the photos. Close-ups are always best. Like all village activities there's a strong team from Speen and North Dean who make this magazine possible. With just a few phone calls the machine swings into action: proof readers, printers, copiers, collators and distributors. Thanks to you all.

Please send items to me for the Autumn issue: 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:**

30th September 2005

Our aim is to distribute approximately 4 weeks later

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Speen Playing Fields

Do you know who owns the village Playing Fields, or how they are managed and funded?

NO?? Then read on---

The 2.5-acre field behind the De-Wanium restaurant was bought in 1935 for £160, raised by public subscription. A further 0.3-acre where the Pavilion is sited was bought in 1971. The 1.8-acre field off Moses Plat (Ridgley's Field) was bequeathed to the village in 2005. The fields are vested with the Charity Commission and managed on behalf of the village by the Playing Fields committee to guidance laid down in the 1935 conveyance and Charity Commission codes of good practice.

The Playing Field has always been a much-used facility. During WWII a considerable number of evacuee children used the field. The current major village events are Funday, Fete, Festival, Bonfire Night and Christmas tree and carols. It is popular with the young of the village for cycling, cricket practice, football and playing on the swings and other play equipment, and 'hanging out'. The committee is pleased to see there is so much use and welcomes suggestions for improvements.

The committee's prime objective is to keep the fields as attractive open spaces for the benefit and use of villagers. This covers the fields and their boundaries, pavilion, children's play equipment, football and basketball goals, seats, litter bins, cricket nets, notice board and garage (which stores the village marquee and the mower). There are leases of small areas to the tennis and pre-school groups. There is a preliminary proposal to make a cycle track on Ridgley's Field for village teenagers.

All this costs money! Maintenance, grass cutting, insurance and utilities cost about £2000 a year. In addition, we spend between £2000 and £10,000 each year on major new or replacement items, such as the mower or play equipment. Our most regular income of nearly £1000 comes from the Monthly Draw. Funday and Bonfire Night may generate up to £1000 but are very dependent on the weather. Project expenditure is mostly by grants from external funds such as the Bucks Playing Fields Association. We are very grateful to the Parish Council and to the village Shop Charity and

Millennium Funds for their financial support.

The Constitution requires the committee to be elected each year at the AGM. Members must be resident in the village. A quorum is 5, with a simple majority voting procedure. The current members are Pat and Roger Anderson, Roger Clarke (Treasurer), Jenny Cowan (Secretary), John Holmes (Chair), Keith Jones, Caroline Cranley, Penny Stokoe, Andy Thompson, Jim Barton and Chris Walsh. A member takes the lead role for each event or activity, often with the help of villagers outside the committee.



Keith Jones keeping the field well mown

The fields belong to the village. We hope that villagers will help take responsibility for them. You can support us by:-

- Not dropping litter, and picking it up if passing by. There are several bins on the field.
- Helping at the spring and autumn work parties. These largely avoid the need to use contractors for maintenance or repairs.
- Buying Monthly Draw tickets, our main income source.
- Lending a hand at or attending the events.
- Keeping dogs off the field, to prevent fouling.
- Joining the committee. Jenny (488546) would be delighted to hear from you.

Please look out for information on Playing Fields activities. This is posted in the Speen and North Dean News, on village noticeboards and in the shop.

John Holmes (Chairman)



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Letters to the Editor

UGH!

What a filthy nation we are ! Having driven and walked past the rubbish in our roadside hedgerows, and grown ever more disgusted at what we saw, we finally undertook a four hour clean up from "The Harrow" to the middle of North Dean Village. We collected 29 full black plastic liners and numerous larger extras like car bumpers and lawn mower frames. There were 51 litre bottles of Vodka (empty!) and plenty of evidence of fast food consumption. The most mysterious find was a lady's handbag which had obviously been stolen and thrown away. Its contents included lipsticks, creams etc and morning after pills which unfortunately were not much use to the refuse collectors ! Wouldn't it be great if a similar clean-up was never necessary again because we had all taken our litter home (although I am sure I am preaching to the converted with those that read this newsletter). Of course Spring will bring the grass growth that hides our litter until the grass recedes when it dies back again next autumn.

J&G



Spring flowers try hard to disguise litter left in our hedgerows

Letters continued on page 9

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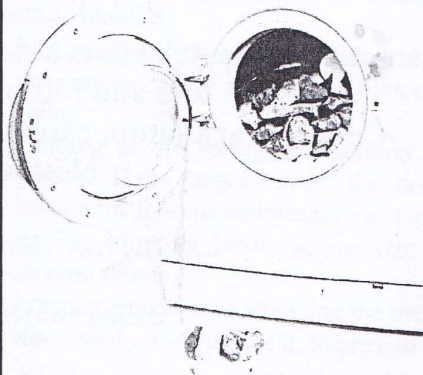
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Real Mountains

John Oliver

Some people climb metaphorical mountains every day. It might be at work – or coping with terminal illness – or succouring members of the family.

These reflections are about the other sort of mountains: the mountains that soar into the clouds, the mountains that give us such extremes of savagery, beauty and purity, the mountains that cover the least inhabited parts of the globe, the mountains that were created by immense tectonic, volcanic and glacial forces, the mountains – in whose presence one's existence is heightened.

In a pre-Speen era, I was lucky enough to spend periods of my early years in a few of these wondrous locations - in Austria, Switzerland, France, Kenya, Tanzania, Turkey, Iran and Norway, as well as in the smaller but very rugged mountains of these islands.

I remember an awkward ascent of the 14,000 foot Matterhorn in Switzerland on very loose but dry rock, which was then followed by an unnerving descent down the transformed snow-covered Hornli Ridge in an electric storm, causing one's hair to stand on end and the crampon points to hiss with electrical discharge.

I remember a tortuous journey to the far end of Turkey, sleeping in dirty train corridors and in luggage racks, followed by a trudge up the volcanic scree of Mount Ararat, looking for the body of a university student who had disappeared the previous year, half-expecting to see Noah's Ark, and then reaching the large summit dome at 17,000 feet to look over it towards the giants of the Caucasus.

I remember a climb up Kuh-I-Demavend, at 18,000 feet the highest mountain in the Elbruz mountain range of Iran, up to its yellow-stained summit from which sulphurous gas oozed, following a night in a sheep pen and then another night in freezing cold temperatures in a tent at 16,500 feet.

I remember the dazzling, blinding, searing, un-

remitting whiteness when the sun reflects off the higher slopes and the disorientating sensation of 'white outs', when spindrift blasts across the snow's surface and makes the mountain appear to drift under one's feet.

I remember a near disaster on the summit of the 13,000 foot Eiger in the Swiss Bernese Oberland in a roped party of three. Having climbed up the steep ice of the Eiger's western flank, I stepped off last from the summit, holding coils of rope in my hand only for the middle man to trip over his crampons, fall and pluck me off into space. As two of us accelerated down the ice at the top of the 5,000 feet slope, the lowest man – whose name I will never forget – probably saved both our lives by hurling the tip of his ice axe into ice and bracing himself. An ascent that had taken us 7 hours to climb, then took us 13 hours to get down safely, as we much more carefully descended in 120 feet rope lengths. We finally reached Kleine Scheidegg in the dark.



Ascending Chardonnet Glacier, Mont Blanc

I remember being in a ski mountaineering group – with Peter Rooney, also of Speen – when we undertook the Haute Route Traverse across the roof of Europe from Chamonix in France to Saas Fee in Switzerland. We toiled up huge slopes with 'skins' on our skis, laden with gear, and skied down every type of snow ranging from crust to piste.

Continued on page 23

The Inquisition of 2005

How could 45 respectable citizens turn into a rabid rabble within minutes?

Easy.

Herd them into the North Dean Convention Centre, feed them wine and subject them to the rapid fire exhortations and shrill rugby ref whistling of a keen rabble rouser. Why are the strongest always so keen to lead? And why do their hypnotic powers often verge on the hypnotic?

There we were, all in one place, our collective mind lost in space as Peter the Great bedded us down and tested our curiosity with soul-searching questions of reality - and sometimes banality.

Could there be a more ultimate thrill than waiting to find out which waterfall is the highest in Europe? (I cannot remember.) Or the tense wait to find out what dromophobia means? (If you have it, you are probably streetwise.)

The questions posed were so taxing that I now suffer from joint decidophobia and testophobia – fears of decision-making and of taking tests, which means I feel decidedly testy.

Huddled around seven tables, we noisily debated each of the 100 riddles posed by our leader.

One group had a pile of reference books on their table but our ever vigilant leader blew the whistle on them. Another group, calling themselves The 3-D's, ended up with an F on their marked answers. Someone at yet another table worked surreptitiously on his mobile phone, texting – probably with a human life-line somewhere sitting live on the Internet, trying to figure out if it had been Enid Blyton or Agatha Christie who had written 700 (sorry, 70) books.

With sufficient cash in front of him John of Ingram, a non-North Deanian itinerant sage of renown, graced our table with his perceptive abilities. Riddle after riddle he mouthed the answers and jotted them down. I thought I noticed a citizen at a neighbouring table doing his best to lip-read the hushed words of wisdom emanating from John of Ingram. And I thought I saw Andrew the Wine Merchant prodding

him on.

A bunch of buccaneers in the corner, who called themselves, quite aptly, The Jolly Rogers (as they were led by a captain with a wooden leg), swigged their wine and cackled with laughter at every riddle. Somewhere else the Kent, Petty and Dibden clans turned white as milk at every difficult riddle – of which there were many. A loud group of foreigners from Speen, mollycoddled by one man, argued each riddle step by stuppel. I heard afterwards that these strange Speenerites had had a world atlas with them, which they still managed to misread apparently.

There was rapturous applause when the hardworking chefs of the North Dean Convention Centre brought out a sumptuous feast halfway through the riddles.

And then it ended all too quickly.

The rabble became respectable, cleaned up the room, folded up their tables, stacked their chairs and drifted out into the darkness of the night. Just like those intangible riddles and answers they became disappearing memories.

Having not contributed much to the solutions of riddles at my table, I realised that, probably like so many others, I had just bumbled along.

Yet it is probably better to have bumbled and lost than not to have bumbled at all.

I suppose quiz evenings are like general elections: The inept shall inherit the earth.

Rhynie Greeff

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 6

Dear Editor

I must write in response to Leonora Cottrell's letter about Hampden Woods. I agree with her that the woodlands hereabouts are wonderful. The composer Sir Arnold Bax wrote a tone poem for orchestra 'November Woods' (1917) which was inspired by the woods around Speen. (He used to visit his brother, the poet Clifford Bax who lived in Speen).

She writes of the bodgers 'smoothing off lengths of seasoned timber'. Not so. The bodgers worked in green 'new cut' timber, generally beech, which dried after being turned – and thus became slightly oval in cross section. (If you have an old chair you can easily feel whether the legs were 'turned green' by the bodgers).

She protests the recent thinning of Monkton Wood for ruining 'our time honoured dog walks and the best part of the woods for sightseeing visitors'. As a woodland owner (Pigotts Wood) I must point out that most woods hereabout were planted to provide a crop of timber for a later generation. The management of woodland is a highly skilled matter and the Hampden Estate has a long history and a first rate reputation. In all woods felling is only possible with Forestry Commission approval and thinning allows the further growth of the remaining trees.

Things change. Timber prices have halved in the last decade in the face of competition from the vast East European forests. Mechanical extraction is the only economic approach and even large woodlands now have difficulty in breaking even.

Woodlands are now being used and appreciated by more ramblers and local walkers than ever before. Most owners welcome

the public and the small grants that public access can bring. Recreation and wild life conservation are increasingly important management objectives in many woods. Those 'time honoured dog walks' have been used by Speen residents for centuries past to go to their work in the woods – then so vital to the local economy.

Yours sincerely,
Nicholas Wheeler Robinson

Dear Editor

Since I wrote my letter about our woods for issue 35 I am so pleased to say that the damage I mentioned then has been put right. A machine has been brought in to fill in the deep ruts. Obviously it is less charming now, but in time—with luck—our dear old walks will be as good as new.

Best wishes from Leonora Cottrell

NORTH DEAN

Saturday 30th July 2005
2pm

SUMMER FETE

The Spring Golf Challenge Match between North Dean and Speen took place at Wycombe Heights Golf Club on 19th May with our best ever turnout. The day started with coffee and light refreshments plus the usual banter as to who was going to do what: all rubbish of course!

After dinner the results of the day's efforts were declared as follows:

Texas Scramble runners up: Alan Costin, Peter Symonds and Tim Cooke

Runner up: North Dean (237 points)

We will advertise the date of the September event as soon as possible and look forward to seeing all you golfers then.

Bill Groves (tel: 488180)

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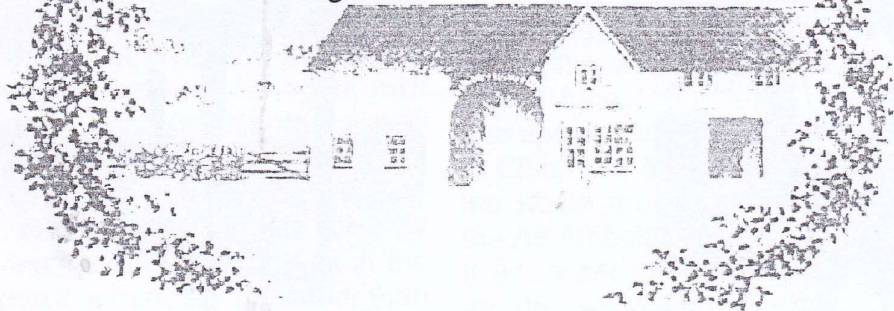
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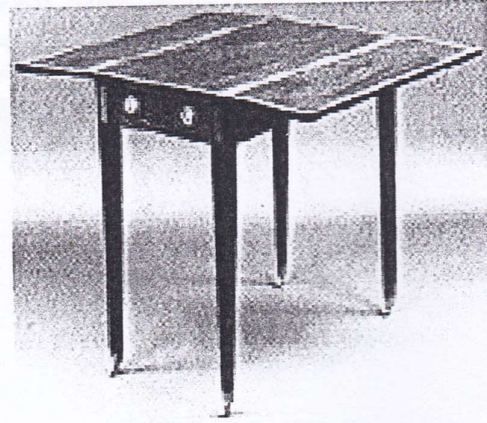
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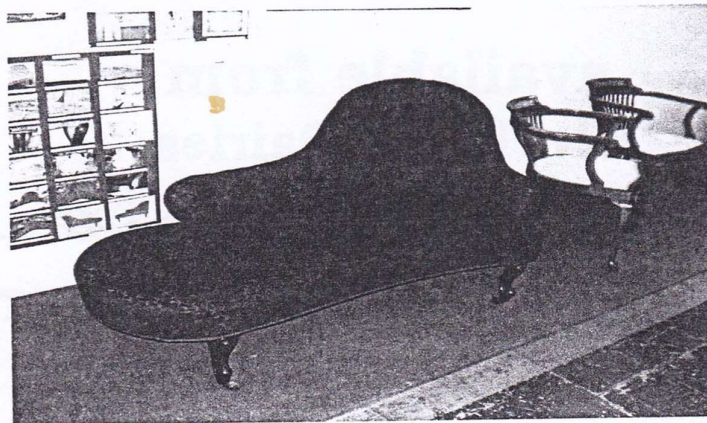
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Speen WI Report

Members and guests from other local WIs enjoyed a delicious meal and some hilarious entertainment to celebrate the 45th Birthday of Speen WI. May saw us in a much more serious mode as we discussed two resolutions which will be debated at the AGM. The first concerned the discrepancy between farmgate milk prices and the price paid by the supermarket consumer. Simple action can be taken by using the doorstep delivery offered by our local dairy and also by checking that when milk is bought in the supermarket it is from the UK rather than a European import. The second one was particularly appropriate just as the new refuse system comes into operation. This urges all of us to play our part in sorting and recycling our rubbish and also to reduce the amount of packaging and plastic bags we use. By simply using shopping bags instead of plastic

carriers we could seriously reduce the billions of polythene bags going into landfill sites. The Co-op uses plastic which bio-degrades in a couple of years so why are the others still using ones which can last for hundreds ?

After all the discussions we unanimously supported both resolutions and our delegate will take that message to the Albert Hall in June.

Our speaker in July will take us on a tour of China and in August we shall be hearing about the wonderful work done by the Air Ambulance Service.

If you want more information about WI, try the website www.bucksfwi.org.uk/speen.

As usual we are preparing to man the tea tent at the fete and anyone with a spare hour that afternoon would be more than welcome as a helper ; just contact our secretary.

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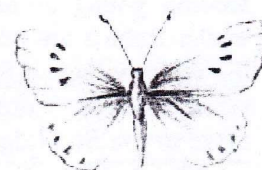
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Wildlife Watch

By Peter Symonds

We finally had some significant snow and harder weather at the end of February. Such conditions always result in wildlife moving into village gardens for food. At this stage we had our first Siskins of the winter together with Redwings and Fieldfares feeding close to the house on the last berries whilst a Blackcap was noted elsewhere in the heart of Speen. On a broader scale sudden weather changes prompt larger scale movements and 2 Cormorants were noted high over the village whilst 2 Parakeets also passed through on 23rd February.

Warmer weather by 13th March saw frogs returning to their breeding ponds and laying their first spawn. Toads followed with spawn strings noted on 20th March. A second round of spawning occurred at the beginning of May.

Birds were busy nest building at this stage and subsequently a number of successes and failures have been recorded. Within our own garden, whilst one pair of Blackbirds is currently feeding its second successful brood, another nest adjacent to the house had the eggs removed. The predator here is unknown. Some houses in the village are troubled by rats but they have not been noted around here. Squirrels are possible culprits as are Glis glis (Edible Dormice) that are widespread round the village. Magpies and Jays tend to take young birds rather than eggs. Elsewhere in the garden 4 pairs of Blue Tits and a pair of Great Tits are busy feeding young as are two pairs of Wrens whilst Robins are on their second brood. In the wider village a female Mallard has been parading 5 or 6 ducklings around gardens close to the Studridge Lane pond. In Monkton Wood sightings of a Tawny Owl hunting by day suggest they are feeding young whilst

a young Tawny has already been seen at Pig-gotts Hill.

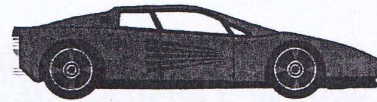
Mystery has surrounded the loss of several pets around Speen over the past couple of months. Whilst a Terrier may have been responsible for the loss of several Guinea pigs the loss of two rabbits from Hampden Road on 23rd April is not so easily explained. One rabbit was found dead whilst the second was removed from the garden altogether. The owner witnessed a large mammal escaping over a high fence in the darkness at 2.00 in the morning. Whilst a fox would normally be a suspect, the indications are that the animal was too large to be a fox or a large domestic cat. Was there a large dog loose or could it have been a "big cat"?

A computer search for records of Big Cat sightings in Bucks suggests that the possibility of a big cat cannot be dismissed although in this case there seem to be no prints or other evidence available. Three members of staff at Ercol in Risborough gave a detailed description of a jet black animal "much bigger than a cat" seen in February 2003 at 8.30 in the morning. In March 2001 golfers at Wycombe Heights reported seeing a large cat. Experts confirmed that tracks found matched those of a young Puma. Two weeks later a half eaten deer was found in Gomm Road. In 1994 two women walking their dogs through Hughenden playing field were confronted by 5 foot long animal with a cat-like face and a long tail. The Hughenden Puma, as it became known, was spotted on numerous occasions in an area stretching from North Dean to the outskirts of High Wycombe.

Obviously I would be pleased to receive information on any further interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds (01494 488016).

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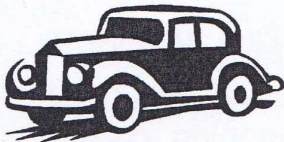
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"If I can put one touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God"

Henry David Thoreau

It's so easy to let daily chores and struggles overwhelm us. No matter our age or situation, there are times in all our lives when we need support, whether a parent with young children, recovering from an illness, or just entering our "golden" years.

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Carewatch (Mid Bucks)
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Good Neighbours Scheme—Speen and North Dean

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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christineoliver99@btinternet.com

Thank you.

Christine.

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Competitors in team colours pass the time between Olympic events



Parents seemed to enjoy seeing their children being launched at high speed onto the slippery slope of the Kiddie Kurling!



Where would we be without these smiling faces to feed and motivate the competitors

...and John Oliver tries to make sense of all the scores to declare a result reflecting effort and fair play



SPEEN FETE



Face paints were as convincing as ever



Speen School's fine display of country dancing



Spot the Hughenden Puma!



.....watching from a safe distance! 19

Agape Alive in India—Two Way Learning

It is difficult to imagine how hard life is for most people in the rapidly expanding outer suburbs of Hyderabad. The average family lives in a small single room house. Work tends to be heavy manual work (for men, women and frequently children). Eating is dependant on working- a hand to mouth existence. On top of this you have no running water, no latrine and no drainage systems. Cooking is done over firewood or small stoves. **Life is difficult! Keeping a family fit and healthy is an immense challenge!**

In February I was privileged to visit Chandra and Sekhar Godi and their ongoing work. I was amazed to witness the way the church is continuing to share love and hope in the community.

The church has a desire to do something



Children in the school all wash their hands with soap and water before meals

positive to help improve the community's health. Health education messages I shared both during this trip and last year were keenly listened to- and led to lively discussions. I was truly surprised how advice given last year had been 'taken on board'. For example children in the school all wash their hands with soap and water before meals. Most of the community now knows how to make Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS)

which can help prevent dehydration- a killer of small babies. Bananas have become a favorite with many children at the start of the school day!- this and additional food at lunch has helped to bring an astonishing 50% reduction in malnourished children. Also the school children now have shoes- although some need encouragement to wear them!

Chandra and Sekhar (our primary contacts in India) are keen to continue promoting good health and are recruiting a health professional to start longer term work in this area. This is exciting news and hopefully will have a significant effect for the community over the coming years.

I had not expected the project to have such a personal influence on me. However my visit there last year has changed my life! Seeing the significance of skill sharing and Christian outreach has challenged me! God is truly at work in this area of Hyderabad.

During these short visits we are able to encourage and support our partners- however we are also learning many things from their ministry! I would like to emphasize how 2 way learning is happening as a result of the ongoing work of Agape Alive In India and also benefiting our community!

Moira Mclure, Health Visitor.
North Dean

Agape Alive In India is a registered charity aimed at funding and providing practical advice and support to the poor and disadvantaged in India. We aim to "live the Gospel, not just preach it" and currently fund a school, bible school, trainee pastors, and a community building called The Lighthouse. We expect to recruit our first full time health worker in India in the next few weeks.

Speen Festival/ 8th to 17th September 2005

8th, 9th and 10th - "The Wind in the Willows"

10th and 11th - Photography Exhibition

11th - Art and Craft in Action

12th - Festival Quiz

13th - There's a Lot of Living To Do (Sist. Frances)

14th - The Music of Duke Ellington

15th - Digital Nature Photography show

16th - "Quote Unquote" BBC Radio 4

17th - Wizards & Witches - children's theatre show

17th - Finale concert and supper

Events in the Speen Marquee and the Village Hall

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SUMMER GARDENING TIPS

By Reginald "The Planter" Llewellyn – Sandison

Your Speen Horticultural Adviser.

Well hallo, all you gardening enthusiasts. At last I have been able to give some time to getting something down that is dear to my heart; Gardening. I now have the time to pursue my two passions, Gardening and the dogs. I was fortunate enough to get a fairly early retirement package from the city brokers that I have been a partner with for some 30 years, and can at last devote my time to what ever I like. Mind you, the early retirement packages aren't what they were. The city has had a bit of a shake up these last ten years, I remember one of our partners getting a golden handshake of £90,000 on top of his £54k annual pension back in '86. But I can't complain, a bit of back-tracking with the shares and away we go. Mind you, you have to be prudent with the liquid asset, so in this article I shall be advising on best practice for purchasing the garden hard ware.

First of all I would recommend the purchase of a chain saw. Better still, some of us could get together and buy one between us. The local garden centre has a special pensioner's day; everything is reduced by 10%. So always bear this in mind. I'll tell you what the chain saw is for in a minute. If you haven't got a lawn mower, get one. I have used my neighbour's electric 'flymo' for the last four years, but it's not really up to it. I would recommend a petrol motor mower, now they really butter the spinach, or better still a diesel mower; I think you can get them. But here we come to a bit of a problem. The diesel mowers are more expensive to buy, yet cheaper to run. I know, I used to get 42 mpg out of my diesel BMW and F.J. (one of our partners) could only get 26mpg out of his petrol model, and that's on a long run down to Sittingbourne. And we must be environmentally friendly. With the diesel you will find you are using less fuel, even though the outlay is higher. I know maintenance costs comes into the equation, but if you've been in the city for the last 35 years, as I have, you get to see all the financial wrinkles straight away without having to do any calculations.

Keeping the garden tidy is most important; in fact it's more important than anything else. You may have noticed the trouble the falling leaves gives us all in autumn, and that's where the chain saw comes in.

Another good tip that will keep the garden tidy is paviers. Some very good synthetic paving materials are now available at most modest prices, and they can hardly be distinguished from the real thing, and to cap it all, they are maintenance-free.

Now you may think that with all this advice and knowledge, that all I do is gardening. But no. There are of course my two Dobermans, who I intend to walk every day. One of my neighbours suggested that I should muzzle them. What ever for? They are as harmless as rabbits. There was of course the one-off incident with a Parcel Force gentleman, but he did try to pat "Lenin", and then made a sudden movement, which is of course is asking for trouble.

Now I somehow mistrust pseudonyms, so why have I taken the pseudonym "the Planter"? (Which of course is wholly appropriate,) I hear you ask. Well, I haven't taken it, it was given to me. I remember walking into my local hostelry near Mill Bank just after a long board meeting. We had been discussing and agreeing the pension rights for the lay staff, and what to do with the surplus. The meeting had started just before lunch and we didn't get out till about eight, so we all walked round to "The Duke", (I decided not to drive) and as we entered the crowded "sporting" bar, thick with Havana smoke, I overheard one of the lads say "here comes the planter".

Back to gardening. Weeds are really the main trouble with our gardens, and have you noticed how the grassed areas seem to encourage weed growth. And that of course is why paving is so beneficial. Not only is it tidy, weeds find it difficult to thrive on it. As you can see, gardening is really an extension of the basic business logic that I have so successfully applied to my many financial dealings in the city these last 40 years, as the little woman so often reminds me.

In the next issue I will be dealing with Bonfire Management, and how to get on with the neighbours. So here's to the next time, and happy gardening to you all.

R.

Llewellyn – Sandison (Mr)

Real Mountains

Continued from page 7

The risk of avalanche was high, and we took very seriously our practice at locating each other with our beacons and digging each other out of the snow. At one crucial stage, having descended the lower eastern slopes of Mont Blanc in 'white out' conditions and having surmounted the cornice on the southern flank of the Grand Colombin, making the route dangerous to reverse and committing us to 4 days in a white wilderness, one of our party lost a ski. Fortuitously, the ski embedded itself in the near vertical side of the mountain. The owner of the ski was lowered unceremoniously 300 feet down the face to retrieve it. It was his ski; he had to get it.

I remember retreating down the vertical face of Nelion at 16,500 feet on Mount Kenya in seven 120 foot free abseils, having failed to reach this particular summit. Our attempt fizzled out high up on the face just below MacKinder's Gendarme. Four days earlier we had successfully scaled the not difficult, but exceedingly large 19,000 foot summit of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest summit. Climbing from sea level to this height after a sleepless night and then suffering from severe headache and violent nausea, brought on by anoxia, made the traverse around the extinct volcano's crater rim far less fulfilling than photographs would suggest.

I remember living in an igloo on the Hallingskarvet plateau in Norway – in Arvid's territory, with so many of us crammed into a small space that exiting for the toilet in the middle of the night was impossible!

I remember sleeping in a large polythene bag in the open on the summit of a mountain in the Ötztal Alps in Austria secured to the rock by pitons, camping in Arctic conditions in winter on the summit of Scotland's Ben Macdui, as well as sitting out on a - thankfully - unusually dry night when overtaken by darkness on the Cuillin Ridge on the island of Skye.

I remember snow in infinite forms: there is the hard packed icy snow that makes climbing rhythmical and easy, there is the soft glutinous snow in which you sink up to your knees and sometimes deeper, and there is that most aggravating, energy-sapping condition - crusted

snow that takes your weight initially and then gives way, just as you get your full weight onto it.

I remember times of being frozen to a frazzle, returning with mild frost bite in toes and nose - and then in northern Italy, climbing up a south-facing concave cauldron of a snowfield and feeling like a piece of burning charcoal from the absorption of megawatts of reflected solar heat.

I remember some less uneventful, but massively rewarding climbs to the summits of the highest mountains in Austria, Norway and Switzerland – Gross Glockner (12,000 feet), Galdhoppigen (8,000 feet) and the Dufourspitze summit (15,000 feet) on the Monte Rosa massif respectively. To date, there have also been the ascents of 45 Munros in the British Isles – smaller mountains to be sure, but never to be underestimated.

There is one strong message. He who made this magical mountain realm reserved it for those who burn up the energy to get there; to live the landscape, one has to subject oneself to it in full - in hostile as well as benign conditions. I am also so lucky to have a wife, with whom I have shared some of these experiences, as well as two of my sons, who have become similarly addicted converts.

I am so grateful for these memories, which have



Our Bivouac—16,500 feet, Kuh-I-Demavend, Iran

deepened the sensation of living, shown me at first hand the beauty of the natural world and at times reduced life to very basic priorities.

John Oliver

'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 four gentlemen of North Dean
Who have maintained the hall and grounds
Efficiently and unseen.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

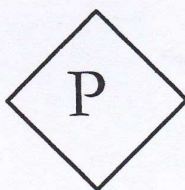
At the AGM on April 4th
The committee will deplete.
Decades of experience and dedication
Will need to be replete.

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

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!

Editor's note: apologies for publishing error in the above item in issue 35

Anon



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Speen Festival/ 8th to 17th September 2005

BBC HEADS BACK TO SPEEN AGAIN

The popular Radio 4 show "Quote Unquote" is to record two shows as part of the Speen Festival in September. Presenter Nigel Rees will preside over a panel of celebrities in the Speen Marquee while the half hour programmes are recorded before a ticketed audience on 16th September. This follows the live broadcast of "Any Questions" at the previous Festival in 2003 and is the result of Geoff Smith's persistence, having opened negotiations with the BBC last November.*

"Quote Unquote" is one entertaining event in another full and varied Festival programme this year. The fun starts with our own original stage production of the Kenneth Grahame classic "The Wind in the Willows". With a cast list of over 30 and backstage help from other villagers this show will be a great curtain raiser on the opening nights of the Festival. Meanwhile, all budding photographers should be aiming to participate in the Photography Exhibition that will be held in the Village Hall; you don't need to be a professional - we've all taken pictures we're proud of sometimes, so why not let others enjoy them? Contact Glenn Hart (488528) for details.

Another fascinating day in store is the Art and Craft Day in the marquee, when up to 20 different craftsmen and women will be seen at work, displaying their skills and available to chat to you.

Most Speen people will be aware of the tremendous fund-raising work carried out by the Speen Supporters Group in aid of local hospices. The SSG has two links to the Festival this year. First, there will be a Festival Quiz, from which a

portion of the proceeds will go to SSG funds. Second, we are privileged to have Sister Frances Dominica, founder of the first ever children's hospice (Helen House in Oxford - which SSG support), renowned author, broadcaster and lecturer, speak at the Festival.

Martin Hart's jazz evenings in the marquee are invariably a sell-out. He and his quintet are playing Duke Ellington this year and it's bound to be as popular as ever. We can look forward to a terrific night - and you'll be able to book a special price pre-jazz supper at the De Wanium beforehand.

For nature-lovers, there is a talk/show of digital wildlife photography, with emphasis on the Chilterns, by Paul Keene, a top-flight nature photographer, and there is a children's theatre show "Wizards & Witches" on the final Saturday morning (17th September) which promises to be as hilarious as "Pirates" by the same team at the last Festival.

The Festival closes in style on the Saturday night with "You Must Remember This", a concert featuring songs from the shows and rock 'n roll greats from Speen Choir and solo artistes, together with a three course supper.

There's something for everyone in the Festival, so check the dates in "What's On" in this issue, keep the diary clear and look out for the booking forms, due out in early July!

* The BBC's decision finally came too late for inclusion in the publicity flyer, but the event will be on the booking form to be delivered to your door in July.

Martin Stockley

Hadrians Wall

In early June a group of Speen villagers and Princes Risborough Rotary Club members travelled to the Northumberland village of Haltwhistle for a week of walking along Hadrians Wall. We were blessed with glorious weather and enjoyed some truly inspiring walks as the wall snakes through Northumberland and into Cumbria. In places the wall, built of local stone and primitive mortar is very well preserved, standing up to 3 meters wide with fortresses at intervals. In other places it has been lost to the farmers who's buildings bear an uncanny resemblance to the stone of the wall.



The wall snakes through Northumberland and into Cumbria



In the evenings we enjoyed entertainment from a local folk singer and from an authority on the history of the wall and the Roman legions who defended it. The highlight of the trip was a Roman banquet where we were able to appreciate first hand that Roman soldiers needed to eat anything that moved (and many things that had long ceased to move). The residents of Haltwhistle couldn't have been more friendly even though they seemed a little puzzled to see us all walking around nonchalantly dressed in togas before dinner!



When in Haltwhistle do as the Romans do

Hadrian clearly had good management skills. It seems that he visited the area just once, decided that it needed a wall from coast to coast, then went back to Rome and left his local managers to build it in this rugged terrain and defend it. Reminds me of my American colleagues!

Stephen Peake





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District and County Council News—July 2005

Whichever way you voted in Speen and Hampden, a 72% turn out shows that interest in democracy remains high. I would thank all those that voted and I look forward to continuing progress in the way services are delivered by both District and County Councils.

Thank you also to those who completed the Community Questionnaire. The forms are now with Wycombe District Council for evaluation so the results will be published in the next issue. The issue of recycling was one of the topics chosen for seeking views and is very much in the news at the moment.

Wycombe District Council has embarked on a major change to the Collection of Waste. All of us are now part of the **Grow** scheme that means alternate weekly collections for refuse and green waste. I have asked officers to look at ways to overcome the collection difficulties that some will inevitably experience. Larger grey bins are available for those with larger families. For those with several young children or who care for someone with a disability, then help will be available from WDC to ensure the scheme caters for the quantities of waste generated. If you have a problem with the new system please contact the Grow help line on **01494 421458** who will be pleased to help.

The **County Council** is responsible for the disposal of collected waste. To cope with the new material generated a composting facility has been built at the High Heavens facility in Booker. This facility receives the raw materials and has a capacity to treat 25,000 tonnes per year. Most of the material comes from the County Recycling Centres such as Bledlow but an increasing amount comes from WDC collections. The initial launch of Grow produced 6,500 tonnes per year and will increase with each new area. The County already contributes some 15,000 tonnes per year coming from the recycling centres. A contract with Terra Eco Systems requires the final disposal of the compost to be made on soil improvement schemes. The initial disposal of some 3000 tonnes has been arranged to treat motorway embankments; it is envisaged that approx 10% will be bagged and sold for local garden use.

The **County Council** also promotes **Home Composting** and with about a third of the content of the average household dustbin being made up of organic material (such as vegetable peelings, chopped garden

prunings, shredded cardboard) this a very effective way of reducing landfill and benefiting the garden. Since 1999, Buckinghamshire residents have bought over 40,000 subsidised compost bins. This year the Buckinghamshire Local Authorities have 3 sizes of compost bins available at just £5, £10 and £20 (usual RRP's are £49.95, £49.95 and £98.65 respectively) and these can be obtained by 'phoning the orderline number: 0854 0770760. For further information contact visit www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk

The Speed Limit Review & Tranquil Project

I am well aware that the delivery of both of these projects is critical in reducing the impact of traffic in villages. As Chairman of the Tranquil Steering Group, I wrote to Rodney Royston, BCC Cabinet Member, asking that he ensure both projects are kept on track to deliver this year. He has given me confirmation that this is his intention and that final consultation for Area 5, which includes Speen and North Dean, will take place in July. You will be able to view the final recommendations when they are advertised in the local press. Should you have any concerns these can be made either through the Parish Council, or directly to BCC, at that time. Following this period of consultation, work on the finalised scheme can then go ahead. The Tranquil Project, set up to find practical solutions to the problems caused by inappropriate and speeding traffic in rural areas, is set to make final recommendations in August. These will include items such as village entry and speed reduction measures, road crossing treatments for footpaths and direction signing.

Community Leaders Funds

I am hopeful that my Leadership funding for both Councils will be renewed in May this year, so early applications for funding would be helpful. If you know of a project that is in need of a kick-start or top-up then please let me know.

If you have any concerns regarding District and 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
District and County Councillor
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Speen Fun Day 2005 -The Alternative Olympiad

A re-vitalised Fun Day opened with the former Olympic squad athlete Tony Redrup bearing the Olympic torch onto Speen Playing Field, to herald the opening of the 2005 Speen Olympiad.

The organisational machinery to run this event had been well oiled at a succession of meetings in the De-Wanium. Again, the aim was to push the boundaries, explore the outer limits, reach the parts.....and above all to improve on the 4 yearly standard template for such an event.

Once the torch had been successfully extinguished without calling the fire service, the games began. Such was the adrenalin rush, that there were no signs of fatigue after the previous night's excellent Dog House Skiffle. The six teams of hyped athletes were tested to the limits.

In the equestrian piggy back, horses and riders stumbled over obstacles. In the football, some of the young girls had obviously been inspired by "Bend It Like Beckham"! The hammer throw appeared in the guise of the ubiquitous welly throw. In the Olympic rings event, teams contorted sequentially through hoops. The javelin event illustrated the excellent aerodynamic qualities of feather dusters. The battering received by the luge riders was far greater than that received on a mere river of polished ice.

The discus event with lightweight paper plates proved to be a challenging exercise in the art of the impossible when the wind proved to be far more effective than human muscle at dispersing the plates: some of the plates reached the roofs of the neighbouring houses.

Water was prominent. It was thrown in plastic bags in an improvement on conventional shot putting. It was transported in leaking containers and then measured with clinical accuracy. It was also imaginary, in the form of a relocated section of the Thames that trav-

ersed the playing field. The rowing event bore little resemblance to its namesake, looking and probably feeling more like a series of disjointed rugby scrums. The organiser's appeal for a spirit of fair play before its start was rather optimistic!

The mini-orienteeing event through former Olympic cities produced an extraordinarily accurate result.

Kiddy Kurling proved that when aided by washing-up liquid and a downhill slope, children make far better projectiles than less pliable curling stones.

With the increasing competitiveness of this annual competition, three teams tied for first place: "Hampden Church Road", "Around the Village" and "Backlands". "The Hill" won the Best Dressed Table competition. Speen First School provided some inspirational artwork.

Jeremy Symondson's motivation and cajoling had worked again, aided magnificently by the tasty snacks provided by the De Wanium!

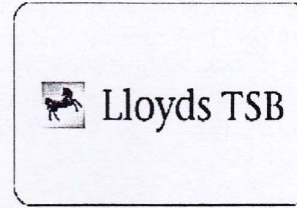
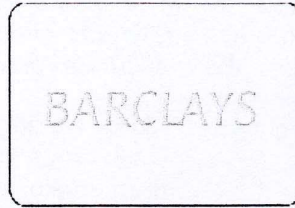
PS. In the furore, organisers gained two magnetic compasses. If you lost one, please contact me.

John Oliver.



Kiddy Kurling—children make far better projectiles than less pliable curling stones!

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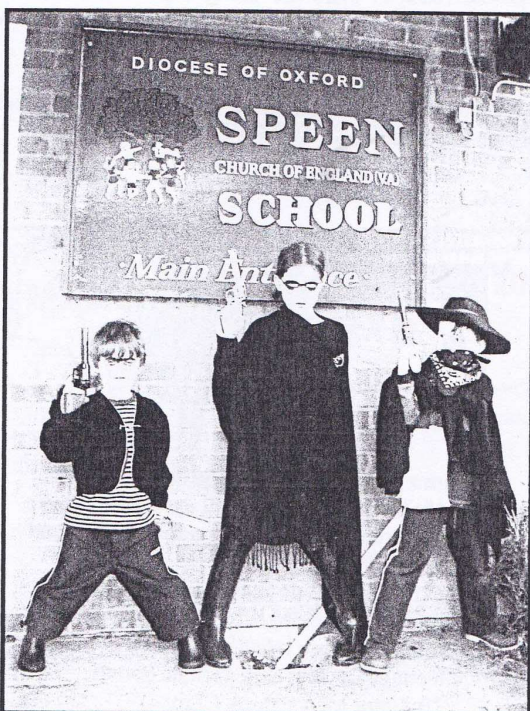
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Highwayman's Treasure Hunt

The trail of the Speen Highwayman was enjoyed by over 40 children who bravely ventured out in the pouring rain to discover the story of the legendary 'Cooper' who was brought to justice by John Darvill in 1750. The children set out from Speen School and followed the route on their treasure maps, down to the spot where legend has it that 'Cooper' was hung for his crimes. Much fun was had and all the children were rewarded with a bag of treasure when they completed the route.

Sandy Entwisle



Children about to set off on the trail of the Speen Highwayman



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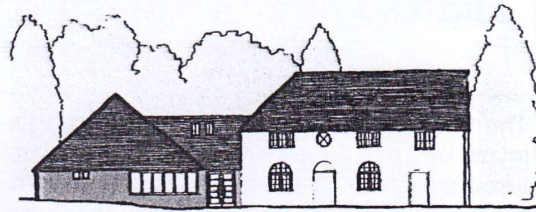
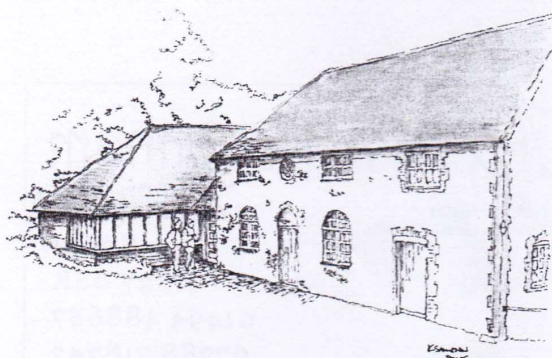
News from Speen Baptist Church

Andy writes:

As you may know, after discussions with our neighbours the church recently made public plans for the development of the church premises. By the time you read this article these plans will be under consideration at the local planning office and by the Baptist Union Heritage Committee; the latter is the body charged with responsibility for considering changes to Baptist listed buildings – and the chapel is a Grade II listed building.

If you have visited the church at Christmas or for one of the Breakfasts, Alpha or the Parenting Courses you would probably be aware of some of the shortcomings of the church hall. The Government's Disability Legislation would certainly frown on the one internal toilet reached only by steps and the narrow width of the church doors. Each Sunday about 70-80 folk gather for worship, drawn from a pool of probably 110-120 folk who attend over the course of a month. Whilst the church itself can comfortably accommodate these numbers it is a different matter for the 30-40 young people when they move into the church hall for time in their own age groups. There is also very little space for the adults to share tea and coffee and chat after the service – an important social activity that continues for nearly an hour!

The church members have spent nearly six years mulling over these problems and have examined various ways of trying to solve them. The intention is to demolish the existing hall and kitchen and replace them on virtually the same footprint with a two storey structure largely sunk into the steep slope of the bank. The new building would be clad in dark stained timber to give an appearance similar to that of the timber barn structures which grace the surrounding area. The eaves of the new building would be lower than the existing eaves to make it clearly subservient to the listed building.

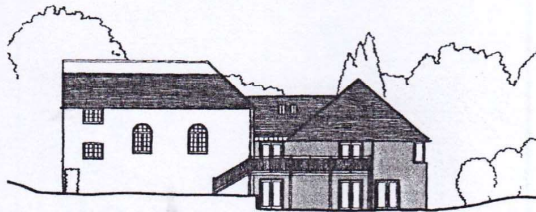


front (car park) elevation

The main entrance/exit to the church premises will be via the entrance foyer of new building, and we also plan to add another exit from the church gallery at first floor level and down the wide circular stairs in the new hall. Another feature of the new building is a balcony on the road side of the building with steps down into the grave yard.

We want to maintain the charm and beauty of the existing chapel so changes there are being kept to a minimum. When the building work finally starts it is anticipated to take 10-12 months, and cost around £500,000.

If you would like to know more about the project please feel free to contact me.



back (road) elevation

Summary of Regular Church Activities

- Sundays:** 10:30am Worship for all ages incl. Creche, Children's Sunday groups 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
- Mon:** Meetings for Prayer at various homes
10:30am Men's Book Club
7:30pm Alpha Course at 8 Abbotswood
8:00pm Evening Home Group at 5 Abbotswood
- Weds:** 10:00-11:45am Daytime Home Group – Talgarth, Speen
10:00-11:30am "Time Out" – the Book Club,
- Sat:** 8:30am Alpha Course at church
- For the teens:** Soul Sista; YAC Word; YAC Football; - dates vary, contact Carolyn for details 488758
- For men:** Men's group events vary, contact Stephen for details 01844 346527

SMILE PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAIT DAY

LARGE OR SMALL

FAMILY OR FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

6th November and 20th November

IN SPEEN VILLAGE HALL

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

You will need to make an appointment
with Lois or Paul on
(01494) 488174

These photographs will be guaranteed ready for Christmas.

Speen Festival
8th to 17th September
2005

**You are invited to take part
in the Speen Festival
Photographic Exhibition
2005**

Prizes will be awarded by a qualified Photographic judge.

Mrs Ann Minter FRPS, DPAGB & Mr. John Minter

Categories

Under 16 years.

My holiday.

My friends.

Animals and pets

Over 16 years

Action, adventure and the outdoors

Flowers and my garden

People.

The smallest size of print is 10cm X 15cm the largest size of print is A4.

You may exhibit three photographs in each category

Please bring your exhibits to Speen Village Hall on Friday 9th Sept. from 3pm.

Preview with wine and nibbles 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Judging will take place at 4:00pm.

Prizes will be presented at 6.30pm

What's on in Speen and North Dean

July		
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
8th-10th	Speen Festival—Wind in the Willows	Speen marquee 7:30pm
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
12th	Speen Festival—Festival Quiz	Speen marquee 7:30 for 8:00pm
13th	Speen Festival—Talk by Sister Francis	Speen marquee 7:00 for 7:30pm
14th	Speen Festival—The Music of Duke Ellington	Speen marquee 7:45 for 8:00pm
15th	Speen Festival—Digital Nature Photography Show	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
16th	Speen Festival—'Quote Unquote' BBC Radio 4	Speen marquee 7:15 for 7:45pm
17th	Speen Festival—'Wizards and Witches' children's theatre show	Speen Marquee 10:30—11:30am
17th	Speen Festival—Finale Concert and Supper	Speen marquee 7:00 for 7:30
October		
6th	Life of a National Trust Shepherd—WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
15th	Ferret Races	North Dean Village Hall
November		
3rd	Annual Meeting—WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
5th	Speen Bonfire Night	Speen Playing Field
20th	North Dean Family Lunch	
December		
1st	Idle Women talk by Runnels Davis—WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
10th	Christmas Tree Lighting, Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies	Speen Playing Field
23rd	Carols in North Dean Village Hall	North Dean Village Hall

Mary Campbell

Mary Campbell died very recently at her new home in Edinburgh, aged 93. Mary had lived in Speen for much of her life and she was well known to villagers as someone who spent much of her time caring for others. A tribute to Mary will be published in the next issue.

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 Playing Fields 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 - 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 Social	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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