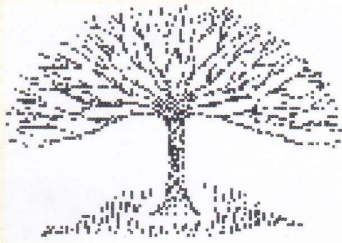


Speen and North Dean NEWS



Issue 40 Winter 2006



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What's on in Speen and North Dean?



October		
5th	The story of perfumery and Grasse, Mark Davis—Speen WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
18th	Speen Village Fete meeting—contact Paul Rogerson	Speen Village Hall
22nd	An hour of jazz	'The Singing Barn', Pigotts 7:48pm*
26th	U3A Woodcarving—contact John Crick 521557 for details of this and future sessions	North Dean Village Hall 10:00am
November		
2nd	Annual Meeting—Speen WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
4th	Bonfire night at Speen	Speen Playing Field—time TBA
11th	Ladies breakfast with Dr Andy Houghton. Tickets from Sandy Entwisle 488875	Speen Baptist Church 8:30am
12th	Alexandra and Charlotte Reid (violins)—young stars from Hampden	'The Singing Barn', Pigotts 7:48pm*
18th	Race Night—Speen School PTA	Speen School—First race 8:00pm
19th	North Dean Sunday Lunch	Contact Gary Holmes 564339 for details
25th	Christmas Fair	Speen Village Hall 2pm
30th	A Christmas Carol—The Ubiquitous Theatre Company	Speen Village Hall 7:30pm
December		
1st	A Christmas Carol-The Ubiquitous Theatre Company	Speen Village Hall 7:30pm
7th	Flower arranging, Linda Elliott—Speen WI	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm
9th	Christmas tree lighting and carols	Speen Playing Field—time TBA
10th	'The Audience Entertains' - an evening of short performances and entertainment	'The Singing Barn', Pigotts 7:48pm*
20th	North Dean Village Carol Evening	6:30pm—Contact Gary Holmes 564339 for details
January		
28th	'Quartet for the End of Time' Messaien	'The Singing Barn', Pigotts 7:48pm*

* On each 'Musical Evening' at Pigotts an hour of music will be followed by wine. Call Nick Wheeler-Robinson on 01494 562167 if you wish to come along—there are no tickets.

Editor's note

Welcome to this winter edition.

We were fortunate to have some gloriously sunny days for our summer events this year and the villages really made the most of it. You'll see some memorable occasions reflected in photos as you scan through. The Bike Park was opened in style and was very well used throughout the summer holidays. It's most interesting as well to read in 'Wildlife Watch' about the benefits the warm dry weather provided to birds and wild animals, as well as its effects, both good and bad, on life at Beech-dean farm.

You'll also see some outstanding fund-raising activities reported in this issue. Well done to all those organised them and to those who contributed.

This is my penultimate issue as editor and I'm delighted to be able to tell you that I'll be handing over to Alison Holmes, who lives in North Dean for the following issue. Alison brings youth, enthusiasm and energy, not to mention considerable computer skills to the job, so you can expect some significant improvements! I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her great success. Please continue to be as prolific as ever with your articles.

Stephen Peake

Contributions to the Editor:

Stephen Peake, *Beeches, Hampden Road, Speen:*
stephenpeake@btinternet.com.
tel 01494 488293; mobile 07785 280055

Contributions should be in the form of electronic Word or jpg files wherever possible. Pictures are especially welcome.

Advertising:

Jan Rose tel 01494 488696

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Final copy date for the next issue:

26th January 2007

Our aim is to distribute within 4 weeks

Seed Time and Harvest at St. John the Evangelist Lacey Green

Hi all,

It's that time of year again – and don't we just give thanks for all the good things that surround us, sent from heaven above!

HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND this year fell on **Saturday 31st September** and then **SUNDAY 1st October** at 10.00a.m. We will be having a harvest supper this year – so keep a watch on the **NOTICE-BOARD** for details of the Supper. We would love to have as many as possible join us for this traditional event. Also, come and see the Church traditionally decorated for Harvest, looking beautiful and giving God His glory. Also, in these difficult times we focus our prayers on all who work the land in increasingly difficult circumstances. They are a blessing to us.

At St. John's we have been experiencing welcome growth in numbers of families and others coming to worship. On Sunday 17th September we were thrilled when two more adult members were baptized. It was good to hear from one of them why he had decided to make this public commitment. Sometimes the true value of what we are here for can get lost in our hypo active lives. We have been thinking about and praying for Andy Gower in his sabbatical leave and look forward to his return

Coming up are special services for Remembrance on 12th November, Christingle on the 3rd December and many other good events to follow. We hope to have an Advent Sunday Roast together! Keep looking at the noticeboard both at Speen School and in Lacey Green Village.

We saw 12 confirmed from this Church, with an

additional five others from other Team Churches, by Bishop Alan on June 19th. The Church looked wonderful, the service was fabulous and filled with the presence of our loving God. The Bishop commented on how God was specially present with us here. (If you want to know what that feels like then pay us a visit!). The church team members here at Lacey Green decorated the church and it looked stunning. We are so lucky to have our own church servicing our villages of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen. We need to preserve it for the future generations by using it regularly. So, I leave you with our regular services:

10.00a.m. 1st Sunday All-Age HC

10.00a.m. 2nd Sunday Sung Holy Communion (with Sunday School)

10.00a.m. 3rd Sunday Sung Holy Communion (with Sunday School)

Followed by 11.30 Family worship for toddlers and family

10.00a.m. 4th & 5th Sundays with Sunday school.

Sunday school is for children over five. Come and see!!

Youth Group meets at Collins Farm on the first Friday of each month.

Hope that you are all well and happy, give me a ring if you wish to see me- on 01844-347741. With my love,

Denise Critchell xx – Vicar of St. John the Evangelist

What's on in Lacey Green and Loosley Row

Some selected dates taken from the Hallmark Village Diary

Oct 3	Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm
Oct 11	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Oct 29	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Nov 7	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Nov 8	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Nov 11	Windmill Artists Bistro & Arts Exhibition	10.30am – 4pm
Nov 11	Lacey Green Singers Concert	TBA
Nov 13	Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall *	7.30pm
Nov 24	& 25 LG Productions & The Command Performers "Allo Allo"	7.30 for 8pm
Dec 10	Lacey Green Singers Christmas Concert	TBA
Dec 12	Parish Council meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm

- Members of the public are always welcome to attend these meetings
- # Starting place informed on previous walk - usually within 1/2 hour's motoring of village

Speen Village Design Statement – update

A growing number of villagers are now actively involved in the production of this document. Everyone must have an opportunity to contribute - this is the key to the success of the project.

You may have already seen groups walking around the village, taking photos, and discussing such issues as:

- Traffic speeds and calming measures
- Housing development
- Lighting
- Footpaths
- Open spaces
- Parking
- Community facilities

This work will continue throughout the Autumn months. We are also introducing a Speen school project. Discussions will also take place with teenagers, disabled residents and local businesses. In this way, we should be able to get a complete picture of villagers' views.

A questionnaire will be distributed to every household and an analysis of views conducted.

We are currently designing a new web-site www.freewebs.com/speenvillage. Here you will be able to watch the progress of the project and air your views.

Help is needed to distribute and collect questionnaires, editing the document, producing sketches and maps, as well as general graphic design. If you would like to assist, please contact me Tel 488570 or Email d.howarth2@tiscali.co.uk

Dave Howarth, Project Coordinator

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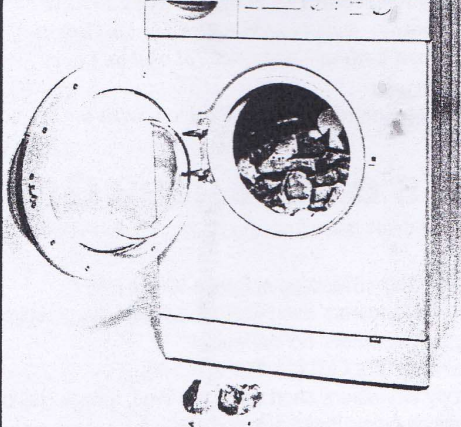
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Already a year has gone by since the last Speen Village Festival, and plans are well underway for another exciting festival in 2007. Next year, as in previous years, we hope to bring you the best in theatre, arts, crafts, music and more, featuring familiar faces and new talent too. As before, we'll be highlighting creative talent from Speen and the surrounding area. And we need your help!

Speen Festival/ 6th to 15th September 2007

The festival will run from September 6-15th, 2007 so please block out the dates in your diary now and prepare to get involved!

Look forward to another great jazz night, a brilliant children's theatre show, workshops and exhibitions, talks and demonstrations.

With your help, we plan to put on a fantastic community production to rival Alice, Pied Piper and Wind in the Willows.

Rounding the whole festival off, there'll be a gala supper, with plenty of memorable surprises along the way.



Martin and Marjorie Stockley have decided to step out of the limelight, so the festival is under new management. However, they will still be guiding and advising the new team, to ensure that as always, the festival has something for everyone and meets the high standards all have come to expect and enjoy.

We hope to get the whole village involved - what are you going to do?
Call or e-mail the team telling us how **you** would like to be part of **your** festival:
your ideas and expertise are important. We'll be needing talent on stage as well as lots of help behind the scenes, so whatever your skills, we'd love to hear from you.

Catherine Haddon, Chair, Speen Festival 2007 Committee

If you would like to be involved, on or off stage, please e-mail
SpeenFestival@allwright.org or phone (01494) 488872

North Dean Fete 2006

The 2006 North Dean Village summer fete was a huge success. Not just in terms of fund raising but also that of enjoyment for all those who attended and even organised it. This years organisers were in the enviable position of building on a strong foundation of success laid in previous years and the "new blood" on the committee worked extremely well with the "old hands" who shared their wealth of experience.

Looking down from the top of the hill and watching all the hard work in preparation for the fete early on the Saturday morning one realised just how necessary the committee meetings and pre planning sessions were in order to make this event so successful.

The morning opening of the produce tent for entries into the numerous competitions was quite over whelming and one of the best to date. There were still a few gaps in the displays that could be filled next year – so come on everyone get planning now and join in the fun! All the competitions are open to everyone not exclusively to North Dean residents.

How lucky we were with the weather too. So hot was the day that the wonderful and colourful Piggotts Band needed extra gazebos in order to have shade for their instruments! A great and varied selection of music added so much enjoyment and atmosphere to the day.

The traditional Tombola, Hoopla and Skittles were, as ever, extremely popular whilst the beautiful steam train enticed as many adult passengers as children. A huge "Thank You" to Mr David Simmons who is, quite rightly, very proud of his immaculate engine and gives a lot of his time in order for us to enjoy it.

The talk of the fete was perhaps the new competition launched this year. It was viewed enthusiastically by nearly everyone but we would like to apologise to the minority who expressed disdain.

"PREDICTAPOO"

As its name suggests encouraged participants to predict where Milly and May (the shire horses owned by Jim Kent) would deposit their first "poo" after being released into a field divided into grids. The large ladies did us all proud by waiting not too long and having a trot around before hand. Great fun was had by all so expect to have a punt next year!

Another new stall was the "Shooting Gallery" run entirely by Kevin and Sarah Booth. I don't think there was a time during the afternoon that there wasn't a queue! So thanks to all for this and again if you come next year have a go at shooting the sitting duck or fly-

ing objects whilst under the watchful and experienced eye of the Booths!

The food was excellent too with authentic South African cuisine. Thanks to Rhynie Greeff and Sharon Constancon for the shopping, cooking and clearing up. I think we may have to cater for greater numbers next year now that we know everyone likes the real South African sausage! And then, of course, what would the village fete be without Mrs Judy Keen and her fantastic army of cake and tea ladies? Having been on duty in the kitchen last year I can certainly say that it is extremely hard work ALL afternoon and you don't get to see much of the fete – so well done Judy and all your team.

So BIG THANK YOUs too to everyone; those who organised, those who helped and those of you, of course, who attended. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year for some more fun.

Results of the competitions:

The Campbell Cup for Pot plants	G Sandford
The Weller Rose Bowl for Cut Flowers	V Prentice
The Olink Rose Vase for single Bloom	Diane Cliff
The Ryman Tankard for homemade wine	Christine Meacham
The Farmhouse cup for fruit cake	Janet Cook
Mr and Mrs Dawson prize for Sponge Cake	P Hoath
North Dean challenge cup for best Vegetables	Mr Jim Kent
Rodgers Bell award for Adult Handicraft ~Robinson	Nick Wheeler-
John Lewis Bowl for Adult Art	G Sandford
Junior Handicraft	Jason Richardson
Photography Black & White	Rhynie Greeff
Photography Colour	Craig Watson

Congratulations to all these winners but a particular well done to Mrs Vicky Barrett who won the Best Vegetable in the show award sponsored by Mr and Mrs J Rodgers.

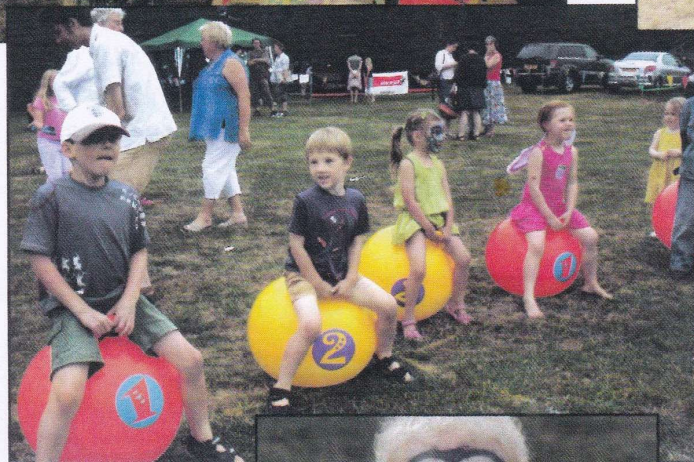
Geoff Smalley

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North Dean Fete in pictures



Memories of Speen

Jo Rainbow lived in Speen from 1982 until 1993. She nearly became a GP at Cross Keys Surgery in Princes Risborough, but ended up specialising in Paediatrics. Her training took her to Australia and then she met the man brave enough to become her husband. Jo now lives in Orange, NSW – 250Km west of Sydney – and is concentrating on practical Paediatrics, raising Sophie and Jack.

Speen was stultifying for a teenager in the 1980s. I appreciated that it was a pretty place to live, but there was nothing to do – other than walking the dog and trying to convince the landlord of the King William that you were old enough to buy a lemonade. I could not wait to escape to university. Coming home during vacations was pleasant – the opportunity to do your washing for free was never to be foregone and I quite like my parents. However, after a few days, the feeling of ennui would come flooding back.

I duly escaped and now, living in Australia, it is arguable whether I could have escaped much further. But I have returned for a holiday with my Australian husband and two young children, and I now see Speen quite differently.

On returning from Australia there is always the surprise at how green and lush the countryside is. You may think you are in drought, but it is nothing compared to rural NSW - now entering its seventh consecutive year! There is also the recognition of once-familiar sounds such as birdsong and Radio 4, which make an ex-pat quite wistful. Then there are the changes to the village, which may have been gradual but make Speen markedly different to me.

The most obvious one is the new appearance of Hampden Road. More houses have appeared with in-filling, and the pub was closed. I did not realise the loss of my custom would have such a profound effect! The gardens seem better maintained. Maybe the village is home to more ardent gardeners. Or maybe I have lived in drought for so long, that I forget the splendour of the English country garden.

The playing fields are much improved. The new arrangement is a sensible use of the space, and provides greater variety of play equipment. My kids just love the playground for littlies, as well as the larger slide and swings. I am glad that the safety Police did not prevail and that rocking toys and the roundabout still exist. I am also pleased about the development of a bike track – at last, something for bored teenagers!

Finally, and most happily, the village seems to have acquired a greater community spirit. Back then, there was only the fête, the WI Christmas carols and the village raffle. Now there are more communal events such as the village play, Speen Arts Week, the alternative World Cup, which involve all age groups and can be housed in the magnificent village marquee. This publication reflects this inclusive attitude, and belies the sulky teenager moan of "Nothing ever happens in Speen".

Despite all these improvements, this former sulky teenager would not return permanently to Speen. We could not afford to maintain the standard of living we enjoy in Orange. Besides, our local vineyards, restaurants and golf courses are more plentiful. In addition, rural Australia is a great place to bring up children – unpolluted, spacious and fabulous weather; coupled with an excellent education system.

Yet my children have British passports so they can enjoy the best of both worlds. I hope they return many times to Speen to appreciate the charm of rural England. If they ask nicely, they might even get their washing done....

Jo Rainbow

Royal Ascot comes to Speen!



Saturday 18th November

Race Night

By Speen School PTA

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Get your Hats out ladies

Get ready to place your Bets!

More information to follow

Alison Holmes 564339

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Wildlife Watch

By Peter Symonds

Since the last edition we have had the birds' breeding season followed by a very warm summer which has seen butterflies and reptiles faring well locally.

One interesting breeding season record related to a pair of Red Legged Partridge in North Dean. These birds are occasionally seen around the villages being generally associated with open countryside. However in North Dean a pair had chosen not only to nest in a private garden but also to actually built their nest adjacent to the house within about three feet of the front door. All was progressing well with a new egg added every morning until the clutch reached 12 and the contents were removed before proper incubation could get under way. The culprit was not identified.

This happened before the end of May. Whether it was purely a coincidence or whether the same birds then tried again in Bryants Bottom I am not sure, but on an early morning drive through Bryants Bottom at the end of June I saw movements on the road ahead. About 12 tiny Red Legged Partridge chicks, which could only have just hatched, were being led by their mother out of a front garden and marched towards the open fields. Unfortunately as the chicks innocently walked up the middle of the road two at the back were snatched away by Magpies, but hopefully some should have survived.

The hot weather of July saw a good number of butterflies. In particular, the rare Purple Emperor butterfly has been recorded in Speen again. I had a brief sighting of one in our garden and Jeremy Symondson recorded one at the Bike Park on July 9th. Meanwhile Martin Stockley recorded 12 species in his garden in late July including Marbled Whites, Small Coppers and also a quite scarce Silver Washed Fritillary. Prior to this he had also reported Purple Hairstreaks within his garden, another uncommon specimen. Humming Bird Hawk moths and Painted Lady butterflies which both migrate from the continent

have again been recorded.

Reptiles are uncommon around our villages but in the warm conditions sightings have been recorded. Louise Wilson reported a Slow Worm basking outside the chapel at the end of May. A new record received is of sightings of Grass Snakes with five sightings from Spring Coppice Lane. These records followed the find of a discarded snake skin towards Prestwood. The skin which was probably shed by a female was over three feet long. These snakes are harmless and fully protected by the law.

With the summer now over one would expect our birds to have finished their breeding cycles, and indeed most have. However, in August a pair of Wood Pigeons started to construct a typical flimsy nest in one of our trees. The first egg hatched on 4th September and the parents are still rearing their young at the time of writing.

Please let me know of any interesting records. Peter Symonds 01494 448381.

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Speen Playing Fields News

RIDGLEY'S FIELD

The cycle track is being well used by village youngsters. The official 'Opening' took place in June when the editor of the Bucks Free Press cut the ribbon. Peter Symonds and team are finishing off the last of the jumps. A work party will plant the screening hedge in the autumn. Ideas for providing villager access to the small copse/nature reserve are developing.

FUNDAY

FunDay was a great success. Jeremy Symondson and team provided an action packed afternoon of 'The Other World Cup' team games, including the infamous Kiddy Kurling, and the SPF provided non-stop refreshments. The Los Squideros band on the Saturday evening was a sell-out. About £1300 profit was shared between the hospices group (SSG) and SPF.

FIELD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

All the play equipment chains and swing seats have been replaced. Donated shelving has been installed in the pavilion store making it

much easier to find SPF equipment.

Several good suggestions have been put forward for additional features on the Field. These will be reviewed at the next SPF committee meeting. Many thanks to those who made suggestions.

SPEEN MARQUEE

The Millennium Marquee has been put away for the winter after four village hirings and two private hirings during the summer. After insurance and repair costs, about £1400 has been added to the fund for its eventual replacement. The marquee was three years old when bought in 2000. It will probably need replacing or major refurbishment in about three years time. Grateful thanks to the many village volunteer marquee erectors who make it all happen.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Bonfire Night is planned for Saturday 4th November and the Christmas Tree/Carols on Saturday 9th December.

John Holmes

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WI Report

The Resolutions this year were about Renewable Energy and Sport for a Healthy Population, both of which were carried after lengthy discussion. Some members had an enjoyable afternoon during May visiting Halton House on a lovely warm day. A nice Flight Lieutenant gave an interesting talk on the house which had belonged to the Rothschilds, but which is now used mainly for entertaining. We then had a good look over the house and garden. At the Council meeting in Aylesbury, one of the speakers who was down as being of Polish origin, gave a talk about Life Behind the Iron Curtain. In fact she was a bit of a comedienne with a strong Black Country accent and had her audience in fits of laughter the whole time. We heard about her life and family in England and nothing much about life behind the Iron Curtain.

We had been asked by our National Federation to knit tiny bears which were going to be sold for £1 each to help build a school in Burundi. These were put on show at the fete and made a nice display.

Sheila Ward had members doing Watercol-

our Quickies in June, which proved very enjoyable but a bit of a challenge. On the 29th some members, with various husbands and friends, spent a lovely evening looking over Mary Berry's garden in Penn and finishing off with delicious sandwiches and wine. Mrs. Gummer told of her job as a Physiotherapist in July and had us doing some gentle exercises. Colin Oakes, who is an excellent speaker had us enthralled with his talk on Charles Dickens and his troubled childhood. His father had been a bit of an embezzler, who bought lots of unnecessary things instead of food for his large family.

Have you ever looked at a picture and thought 'Yes, I like it' or 'no, I don't care for that'. Our September speaker, Brian Edwards, encouraged us to look at a picture to see if it had any hidden meaning and explained that some pictures are not all they seem to be. It was a fascinating talk.

Our future meetings include "The Story of Grasse" in October with Mark Davis, the Annual Meeting in November and flower arranging with Linda Elliott.

Barbara Collett

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Letters to the Editor

Speen Village Hall

We are once again desperately appealing for one or two village members to come forward and join our committee. There are so few of us that it is proving very hard to make arrangements for any sort of fundraising which is essential for the upkeep of **YOUR** hall. We only meet three or four times a year and very little would be asked of you so please offer us some help by contacting either:-

Mr. Bill Groves 488180

Mr. Don White 488437

Our main fundraising events this year will be our Christmas Fair on November 25th and The Christmas Carol being performed by the Ubiquitous Theatre Company on November 30th and December 1st so please come and support us.

Please note our new Booking Secretary:-
Mrs Sue Taylor 01494 488500

Catherine Butler

Speen Ball

The Speen Supporters' Group would like to express its sincere thanks to all who have supported us over the past 5 years. We are delighted to announce that we have raised sufficient funds to bring our total donations to the five local charities to £23,500.

The recent ball was a huge success, enjoyed by many and this alone raised exactly £3000. The Committee is discussing future events as I type! We will keep you all informed of the next event. Once again, very many thanks for all your support.

Suzi Cooper

Riding for the disabled

We're looking for energetic people to join a friendly group of helpers. We hold our

weekly riding sessions on Fridays between 1:30 and 3:30pm at Shana riding stables in Walters Ash during term time. No previous experience with horses is required and all sorts of helpers are needed to assist us in giving the pleasure of horse riding to disabled children and adults.

For further information please call Gloria Holmes on 01494 488420

Welcome to Speen

A "Welcome Pack" of information is now available to new residents in the Lacey Green Parish which includes Speen.

The pack includes current essential information about the village groups and local services. Hopefully, new residents will soon feel at home and be joining in with the many activities that are available.

The packs have been produced by the Lacey Green Parish Community Planning Group and funding for the folders has been made available from Councillor Paul Roger-son's local support scheme.

The packs will be distributed by Speen and North Dean Good Neighbours Group (contact Christine Oliver tel 488409).

Plea from all the animals in and around Speen – domestic, farm and wild

To: All Humans in Speen

"WE KNOW THE VILLAGE FIREWORK DISPLAY HAS TO HAPPEN, BUT PLEASE DO NOT PROLONG OUR MISERY BY EXPLODING FIREWORKS DAYS AND EVEN WEEKS BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT".

(Christine Oliver)

Down on the Farm

Many of our friends tell us that their jobs are boring! Boredom is unknown in farming: one never knows what each day will bring, let alone each week or month. This summer has been no exception. We have had to cope with too much rain (bringing the animals back into the barns in May to avoid killing all the waterlogged grass), drought conditions in July (feeding full winter rations when animals should be living on grass), and then in August, back to the old wet regime. All of this interspersed with the usual variety of problems which seem to crop up regularly: difficult calvings, animals being chased through a fence by dogs (one heifer was actually killed), and leaking water pipes (we try to mend them rather more quickly than the water boards). The most trying problem is the plethora of inspectors who visit us regularly and demand to see all the animals, the whole farm and every bit of paperwork. They need to be accompanied by Charles as the farmer: the last visit from the cattle registration inspector took 5 days!

We made some excellent hay in June but after that the grass ceased to grow. In July the cereals harvest was good. One field yielded the biggest amount of grain we have achieved in 40 years. We are now ready to harvest the maize. The plants are not nearly as tall as usual but the cobs are well filled. We cut the whole plant with a forage harvester and ensile it. This involves packing the chopped maize into clamps, squashing it with a tractor and covering the clamp with black polythene to exclude the air. The product will keep for years and can be used for winter feed and in times of summer drought. Fine weather is necessary for this operation, if only to keep the mud off the road. At the end of September we are selling all the Holstein/ Friesian black and white cattle. The sale is being held on the farm and hopefully buyers will come from far and wide. The last big sale on the farm was held on October 18th 1926 when Mr Graham Holt-Thomas, the celebrated aircraft engineer, dispersed his herd which

had won numerous prizes at shows all over the country.

Now, more about the ice cream. Andrew and Susie Howard's aim is to produce a luxury brand of traditional English ice cream which is second to none. Within thirteen years Beechdean Dairies has grown from a capacity of 5000 litres per annum to 2.5 million litres of ice cream a year. All the production is still on the farm where the pedigree Jersey herd produce the rich milk needed to make the ice cream.

We estimate that every year some twelve million people enjoy the taste of Beechdean Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream at venues such as Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, stately homes such as Blenheim Palace or Chatsworth farm shop, leading theatres including the Albert Hall, airline and shipping companies, quality restaurants and selected specialist outlets.

Although the Ice Cream and the Farm are separate businesses, for obvious reasons they work in close cooperation. When potential new customers come to the Dairies they are taken on a Farm Tour. Nowadays, the direct link between primary producer and retailer is regarded as most important, 'provenance' being the Buzz Word.

Gill Kent Beechdean Farms



Richard Ferguson

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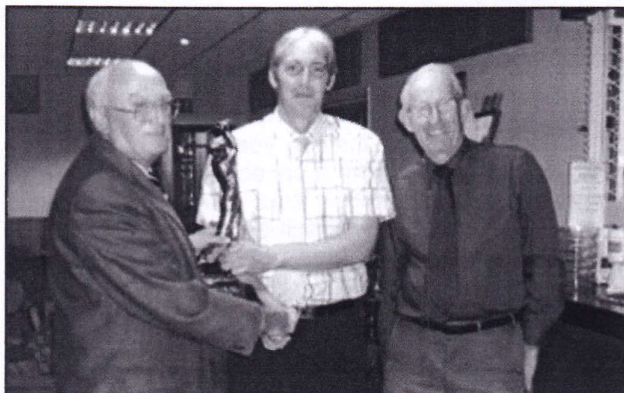
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North Dean - Speen 10th Anniversary Golf Day



Bill Groves receives the Ivor Beeks trophy while John Rogers looks on

Due to limited space this is a brief report, a full report with all the results will be in the next issue.

Thankfully the weather was fine if a little windy, eighteen players entered the Texas Scramble which was won by the Shaw family team, re-enforced by Dave Moore and myself.

The afternoon Stableford attracted thirty two players, and commenced with a "Captains Drive In" for Charity, which raised £104. There were a number of additional competitions within the main Stableford, including a Yellow Ball Team Competition, which proved popular. The individual Championship was won by myself with David Black the runner up. The putting champion was Roger Shaw, and the Village Challenge Trophy was won by Speen.

Our thanks to North Dean Village Hall for their generous donation, to Weston Turville Golf Club for their sponsorship of the draw, to Bill Groves for the new Champions Trophy and to Ivor and Janet Beeks for the new Village Trophy.

After a lot of effort to raise the money to make it a day to remember, I believe we achieved our aim.

John Rogers

Speen Bike Park—Update

Following this summer's official opening of the Speen Bike Park, which was well reported in the Bucks Free Press, the Bike Park Team has continued to add further facilities. In addition to the banked track and earth jumps, the youngsters now have a variety of further challenging features to test their biking skills including a seesaw, narrow balancing planks, a raised boardwalk incorporating two chain bridges and finally a suspension bridge.

Other improvements include the provision of benches and permanent signage. Speen Playing Fields has invested in a petrol driven strimmer to enable the grass and vegetation to be kept in good order, and the site is gradually "greening-up" following the initial construction work and the dry summer. Some seeding has been carried out but on the more open parts of the site this will need to be repeated. Work parties over the autumn period will plant the boundary hedge adjacent to the horse paddock, in accordance with the planning consent, and will add mesh to some of the timber features to make them safer for use in damp conditions. Some of the timber features will also need to have more preservative applied. Finally, we will be trying to remove some of the barbed wire from around the small copse area. A rustic looking waste bin is being ordered with the support of the Parish Council and this will be installed as soon as possible.

A huge amount of effort has been put in over the summer by a fairly small team to finish the bike park. The

raised boardwalk in particular and the suspension bridge took many man-hours to complete but we now have a facility which seems to be the envy of other villages, who are now developing plans for their own tracks. Ongoing support will be needed to maintain and possibly improve this facility, particularly from parents of the bikers. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the project so far.

The Bike Park has been well used over the summer holidays by youngsters from within the village and some from further afield. Numerous families from the village have also brought younger children to test out the facilities. **Please encourage your children to wear cycling helmets. It could be that our insurers would be able to avoid paying out on a claim if an incident occurred involving youngsters without helmets.** Youngsters and novices should practise on the basic track and the low balancing planks before trying out the other features. The seesaw should be tackled slowly until youngsters are used to it. Also please make your children aware that they are not allowed to alter the track themselves. We have had youngsters using spades to alter certain jumps, but any requests for changes or improvements need to be put to the team in charge either through myself or Alistair Blundell. One change we may consider is making the access easier with a V-gate, but this would be immediately closed if there was any misuse of the track by motorised bikes which are strictly prohibited under the conditions of the planning consent.

Peter Symonds

Lacey Green Parish Council September 2006 News

Speed Limit Review

The new speed limits have now been implemented in Speen, North Dean and surrounding areas. These new limits are to be monitored by the Buckinghamshire County Council to see how effective they are. In 2007 a working group will be meeting to discuss the outcome of the monitoring and to decide whether any further changes are necessary to the speed limits in the area.

If you would like to share your views on the new limits, please feel free to contact me and/or Paul Rogerson, as we will be contacted formally prior to the working group meeting to provide feedback on local views. In respect of Speen, Lacey Green Parish Council will be seeking to get the 30mph limit, which is presently half way up the hill as you enter the village on Hampden Road, moved to the bottom of the hill to align with Coleheath Bottom.

Please be warned that the Thames Valley Police will be carrying out speed checks on individual road lengths now that local drivers have now had plenty of time to get used to the new limits.

Kiln Lane

As you are aware, works have been carried out recently to Kiln Lane in the vicinity of the redevelopment

of Kingswood House, which has resulted in widening of the lane and a new surface being laid. Several meetings and correspondence has taken place between Buckinghamshire County Council (Rights of Way and Access Department), supported by Lacey Green Parish Council and the new owners of Kingswood House, to try to resolve the situation. To date, the works have not been carried out to the satisfaction of Buckinghamshire County Council, but suffice to say that Lacey Green Parish Council are supporting Buckinghamshire County Council in striving to reach a solution which is agreeable to all parties.

Bollards, Corner of Coleheath Bottom & Chapel Hill, Speen

Unexpectedly, two plastic bollards have been erected by Buckinghamshire County Council on the repaired/raised bank on the corner of Coleheath Bottom and Chapel Hill (near the Scout hut).

Lacey Green Parish Council views these bollards as unsuitable in a rural situation and Paul Rogerson has supported us in raising these concerns with Buckinghamshire County Council in order to get the bollards removed and replaced, if it is deemed necessary, with something more sympathetic to a rural landscape.

Roger Craft
Lacey Green Parish Councillor
01494 488343

Fathers day celebrations – North Dean style!

Forget waking up slowly revelling in a cosy bed and being brought a tray bedecked with newspapers and breakfast! North Dean residents have a more idealistic annual event to celebrate Father's Day.

A cooked breakfast under the blue cloudless skies of the village upon the summit of one of the numerous hills offering fantastic views of our much loved village, and sharing all this with neighbours and friends; What more could you want?

The morning of 18th June saw a collection of gazebos placed on the hill in the field apparently named the graveyard (not so romantic but very scenic!) and the arbeque was lit by 8am! The weather blessed the event yet again and by 8.30am the aroma of fried eggs (thanks to Edwina Turner – visiting!) and bacon soon drifted up the valley as the large crowd gathered and consisting of residents and their guests.

Thanks to Mr Desmond Ryman the Bucks fizz flowed and contributed to the enjoyment of the morning. We missed a few of the regulars this year but enjoyed seeing so many new faces. Next year I'm sure we will all meet up again to enjoy this very special event.

For those of you who **do** enjoy revelling in your cosy bed and not facing your neighbours before lunchtime – why don't you try it?? It's only one day a year and it's great fun!!!

Thanks go especially to Garry Holmes for organising the event, but also to Andrew Howard and the ever helpful Jez for aiding and abetting!

Alison Holmes



'Predict a Poo' came too late for Andrew!

Speen Pre-School

Speen Village Hall, Studridge Lane, Speen

Latest News

All the children, including two new ones, have settled well into the new Autumn Term at Speen Pre-School. We would like to congratulate our Leader who took on her new role this term after being Deputy for 2 years. We also have a new member of staff who is settling well into our team.

This term we are covering the topics of Shapes, Colours and Elmer, The Little Red Hen, Harvest, The Three Little Pigs and Autumn. We will hold a Harvest Festival service with some singing and stories at Speen Church.

So far, the children have been doing some interesting artwork with potato printing, bubble and roller painting. They have been doing various activities in the setting, some of which have involved playing games with the parachute, hiding in a jungle tent, and while the weather has still been warm, enjoying use of the outside play area. The children have been lucky to have had some music and singing tuition from some talented 'Mummy helpers'.

At the end of the last term, the children had lots of fun at an 'end of term' party with an entertainer. The parents were able to

visit the Hall to look at the children's excellent artwork at the Pre-School Art Exhibition.

Our Pre-School runs from Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.15pm. In the Spring term we are hoping to reinstate our extended Wednesday sessions for 4yr olds, which finish at 1pm.

If you are interested in a place for your child, or require more information, please call

the Pre-School Leader Inga Pope on 01494 488160, between the above times, or the Admissions Co-ordinator Charlotte Burton on 01494 562302. We are currently updating our website with some recent news and information, but in the meantime please have a look www.speenpreschool.org.uk.

Sandy Mitcheson will be organising our popular annual **Christmas Tree Recycling Service**, which helps to raise funds for Pre-School. Please contact her for more details on 01494 488875.

Job Vacancies - We are currently recruiting for a Deputy and an Assistant. For all details and applications please call Katherine Matthews on 01494 489843.

Music Camps at Pigotts

Since 1966, twice each year, in late July and late August ten-day Music Camps have been held on top of Pigotts Hill in North Dean. At each camp some 135 enthusiasts gather making up a symphony orchestra and choir to work on the serious rehearsal of major works, modern and classical, well known and unknown, while living together simply. No-one is paid, costs and chores are shared. These Music Camps were started by my father in 1927 with 35 of his university friends and have continued in unbroken sequence over 79 years, involving many thousands of musicians. There are now many grandchildren and even great grandchildren of early campers at Pigotts!

The second camp this year was the 150th Music Camp and on Bank Holiday Monday some 300 "Campers" of all ages celebrated this, making music and meeting old friends at Pigotts. The afternoon ended with two works from the 1927 programme - Schubert's 'Unfinished Symphony' and the Mozart 'Requiem'. Toasts were drunk to 'Camps Past' and 'Future Camps' - the latter proposed by a cellist who came to Music Camp first in 1933. Over it all three flags flew spelling out '150'. The weather was kind and it was felt that the day was pretty 'sesquicentennial'! (cf sesquicentennial!).

Nick Wheeler-Robinson

'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 our lives when we need support, whether a parent with young children, recovering from illness, or just entering our 'golden' years.

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Speen Fete News

This year's Fete proved to be a popular event for all involved. The monies raised will be put to good use with of the Village Organisations benefiting from £200 each and the chosen Charity 'Thames Air Ambulance' £800.

The day is not just about raising money, it is about the Village getting together to enjoy the social opportunities that it provides. Planning for next year's Fete has already started and the feedback reaching the Committee is that engagement with the village could and should be improved.

Over the past 20 years the Fete has been organised by a Committee that is drawn from representatives of the Village organisations. The make up of the Committee has not changed much over this time and attendance at the various meetings has become patchy. Engagement with the village through the organisations is therefore proving to be difficult as membership for these is not as strong as it was.

This year we are therefore looking for ways to improve engagement and to involve more people with the planning and importantly the running of the fete. We are looking for ideas that will enhance and rejuvenate the day, so if you can help then we would be pleased to hear from you. Several decisions have to be made as early as possible and these are:

1. The theme for the Fete
2. The major attractions that will be provided
3. The charity to be supported
4. The evening event

Your ideas for these are very welcome and can be made in several ways:

- We are going to provide a suggestion box in Speen Stores (thanks to Peter and Sandra)
- A web site will be available fete@Speenbucks.org to let you know what has been arranged and how you can help.

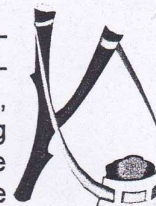
- The schedule of meeting dates will be made available so anyone wishing to join in can come along.

We hope that with your help next year's Fete will be a great success and provide the kind of day that you all want to see. So if you are able to help please let us know. Contact Nicki on 488713 or email Npittnixi@aol.com and she will let you have any details.

Thank you
Paul Rogerson Treasurer

The Other World Cup (Or Speen Funday 2006)

With its programme of bumping, hopping, running, catapulting, crawling, rolling, chasing, jousting, besieging and curling in its innovative colosseum-styled area, the 2006 Speen Fun Day was judged to be one of the best in the annals of Speen.



The production team had scoured the world's databases to find a variety of international and historical challenging games, ranging from a race between Chinese silk worms to storming Welsh castles. Peter Symonds researched many of these very successful games, proving that rustic chivalry is not dead yet.

The Cottage Farm team, proudly wearing its white strip – also denoting its standards of honesty and fair play - achieved a memorable incontrovertible overwhelming win.

John Oliver

Found after the Fete

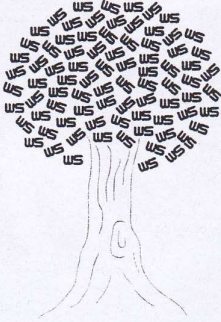
Speen Village Hall Committee seems to have acquired a tea-urn which doesn't belong to them. Could someone please claim it?

Speen Fete 2006



Speen Funday 2006





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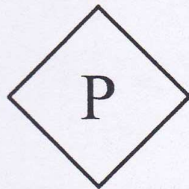
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District and County Council News September 2006

Culverton /Woodway Junction

Recent changes to Government funding for the County Council have resulted in budget difficulties for capital works especially in transport and schools programmes. The removal of Supported Borrowing, where the Government reimbursed the Council for the cost of borrowing, has meant that the road works programme has had to be re-thought, and some schemes have been lost. You may have seen that the proposed improvements in the Woodway / Culverton junction on the A4010 were under threat because of this. It is therefore good news that the scheme is still to go ahead. It is the Council's intention to contact all those who attended the consultation exhibitions in a few weeks time. More detailed information should be available then.

Due to the work being on hold for a number of months the project has lost time. It is intended to re-start land acquisition via negotiation as well as to complete the detailed design and contract information pertaining to the scheme. There are also reports which need to be signed and other formalities to go through, but the scheme is back up and running and will be implemented in 2006/07, subject to land acquisition.

Speed Limit Review /Tranquil

Since the implementation of the SLR the County Council has advised that there will be a further review to look at the success (or not) of the new limits. Some problems have been experienced where the new limits meet the proposed Quiet Lanes. Here the introduction of de-regulation signs has raised concerns that, instead of reducing speed in the proposed Quiet Lanes, the opposite effect is being achieved. This problem has been caused by the delay by Government to issue the required regulations necessary to implement the Quiet Lane Programme. It was not until September that these regulations were released and it has now been found that before any work can be undertaken a further comprehensive consul-

tation exercise will have to be undertaken, since the one carried out within the Speed Limit Review will not conform to the new regulations. If you do have any comments on the Speed Limits you wish to be considered in the review then make then please email them to Pat Francis using pfrancis@bucksscc.gov.uk with a copy to me. If you do not have email then I would be pleased to pass them on for you.

However it is not all bad news as the Village Entry Treatments are being progressed through the Tranquil project where Parishes have requested them. In addition to the White Gates, an Oak Feature is being offered to the parishes that combines the village nameplate with the speed limit and Chilterns AONB logo. As yet there are no plans to introduce these in Speen but I have asked the Parish Council to consider a request should the prototype be acceptable.

Waste Collections.

The Grow Scheme has been in place for over 18 months now and has included two summers. If you have any comments on the way the scheme is performing then I would like to hear from you. In particular, any comments on the effectiveness of the new plastic collection and its impact on reducing the amount of Grey Waste on the two weekly cycle. If you are having difficulties coping with the two weekly cycle, and are recycling all you can, then you may qualify for a larger bin.

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
01494 488315

Mick Druce – The village postman

I was born on 19th August 1945 in Loudwater and I went to school there until at 11+ years I moved to Wooburn. I left school in 1960, aged 15, and worked in the furniture trade until 1987, when I joined the Post Office. I've done a number of different duties –



Mick Druce—'in the country people always speak'

walking, collections, driving across counties and deliveries.

I work from 5:00am 'till 1pm every day. There are some nasty letter boxes and one nearly took the end off my finger—I had to have 5 stitches. Some are too small, some too low and some houses have none at all. I've never been bitten by dogs but there are four on this round which are in the warning book. Some of the females are reluctant to come to the door in the morning as they may not be dressed—won't say which ones as I don't want to spoil a good thing! Mind you a couple of the men could do with covering up a bit!

I have been on this round for four years now and I hope to stay on it till I retire in 2010. You get to know your customers very well. You have to watch out for dogs on rural deliveries as they are outside more than on town walks, plus you run into the odd cow! But the good thing about rural rounds is that you're out in the country and people always speak. The worst part is getting up at 4am. The best part is finishing at 1pm—all afternoon off!

Intrepid Cyclists raise £32,000 for epilepsy

In June three intrepid cyclists, Amanda and Emma Cleaver from Speen and Craig Watson from North Dean, set out on a cycle marathon from London to Dublin to raise money for the National Society for Epilepsy – a total of more than 90 miles every day for four days in searing temperatures across challenging terrain.



Amanda and Emma Cleaver and Craig Watson at the first watering hole!

headquarters to meet our travelling companions – ten cyclists from all over the UK, tailed by two support vehicles.

Twenty miles later we stopped at our first watering hole en route to Dublin- the Pink and Lily! There we were met by family and friends who spurred us on our way to our first overnight stop in Cheltenham.

Day two: dawned hot and humid and we were all aware of the pressure we were under to cross the Breacon Beacons and reach Swansea in time to catch the overnight ferry. Stops were frequent but brief as we pedalled up and down the Welsh valleys to meet our deadline.

Day three: we sailed into Cork at the crack of dawn to be greeted by a beautiful blue sky and a dire need for water! We had consumed four days' worth of supplies in half the time due to the heat!

The Irish signposting, or lack of it, caused something of a conundrum in Cork and after three hours of going round in circles the group had to admit defeat and climb on to the support vehicles to get back on schedule for the rest of the day. This was the lowest point of our adventure – but our spirits were lifted by the arrival of the Speen support crew, Mary Craft and Nikki Allen!

(continued opposite)

Day one: we arrived at NSF's Chalfont St Peter

Intrepid Cyclists

(continued)

After 12 hours in the saddle we arrived at New Ross near Waterford to be greeted by one of the steepest hills imaginable which led up to a magnificent hotel overlooking the harbour.

Day four: spirits were high as we set off on day four – with Dublin and the end of the challenge in sight. Our final day also coincided with the first of England's world cup matches – and once again the pressure was on to complete as many miles as possible and find a suitable venue (ie a bar with a TV!) before kick off.

A scenic meandering coast road proved to be our oasis and with around 60 miles under our belts we felt quite justified in settling down to watch England's 1-0 victory over Paraguay.

Spurred on by that victory we were more than ready to face our final challenge – an ascent over the Wicklow Mountains before triumphantly cycling into Dublin's bustling centre in the gathering twilight 14 hours after our early morning start.

The Seahorse Cycle was an unforgettable experience. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored the three of us. Our target was to raise £20,000 but thanks to your generosity we finally raised £32,000 for NSE's genetic research appeal.

If there are any keen cyclists who feel like joining next year's NSE sponsored cycle (destination currently under wraps but rumoured to be London to Germany!) log on to www.epilepsynse.org.uk or contact Simon Ekless on 01494 601404.

'A Christmas Carol' for Speen

It will be a night for people of all ages to enjoy when a musical stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" is performed in Speen Village Hall on 30th November and 1st December.

The play is presented by the locally based Ubiquitous Touring Theatre Company with a 16 strong cast which includes four members of the Wilson family from North Dean - Louise, James, Emma and Alice - and, from Speen, John Allwright. Speen's Marjorie Stockley directs, Sandy Mitcheson is in charge of costumes and the script and songs are written by Martin Stockley. "Ubiquitous" toured the show locally 6 years ago with great success, but it did not visit Speen, so here is a chance to become re-acquainted with all the familiar characters from this timeless story including the miserly Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit - and, of course, several ghosts!

Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 and it appears to be partially based on his own personal experiences. He was born into a poor family in Portsmouth in 1812, the second of seven children, and when his father was thrown into a debtors' prison the destitute family was forced to move into prison with the father. Dickens had to work hard from an early age to scrape a living, working 12 hours a day as a boy

in a shoe polish factory. At 15 he became a solicitor's clerk (cf Bob Cratchit, clerk to Scrooge and Marley's accountancy practice) before turning to journalism and subsequently writing fiction for a living. Cratchit's house is thought to have been based on Dickens' own boyhood home. His brother was known as "Tiny Fred" and the character of Cratchit's beloved son Tiny Tim probably has some basis in Dickens' real life handicapped nephew. A Christmas Carol was a huge publishing success and by 1853 Dickens was on tour delivering readings of the story to enthralled audiences. By the mid-1860s he was reading it in America, where in Boston there were queues half a mile long to buy tickets the night before the opening reading, and in New York some 5000 people turned up to get tickets. Sadly, the stress of touring and reading eventually took its toll and Dickens died, exhausted, in 1870, a few months after his final public reading of A Christmas Carol.

Not everyone is quite so familiar with the story. In 2000, this show was performed in a High Wycombe pub known for its "cabaret" acts. Some of the clientele who arrive that night were disappointed to find that Christmas Carol was not, in fact, the name of the stripper for December.

Make a note of the Speen performance dates. Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies will be available and tickets will be on sale from early November.

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Chiltern's Clock Club uses North Dean Village Hall

The Chilterns Clock Club is newly formed from the Adult Education Evening Class in Horology that was run by the education authority in Princes Risborough until May this year. The class had run for 16 years but the school decided it could no longer open on Thursday evenings so an alternative was to form a Clock Club using different premises.

Nick Wheeler Robinson immediately offered facilities at Pigotts Music Camp, for which we are eternally grateful. That enabled us to focus on the possibility of a Club based there. The winter parking in the adjacent field was a problem as we only meet from September to April, when the field cannot be relied upon to be usable. The prospect of carrying tool kits and clock bits a long distance in the dark, cold and wet on some nights caused us to consider other venues.

Eventually we were able to arrange bookings for 26 Thursday Evenings during the Autumn/Winter at North Dean Village hall, and now we are here and we are a Club.

The Club is for anyone interested in hands-on cleaning, repairing or restoring of any sort of clock. The members share knowledge and skills under the supervision of our Technical Officer who provides specialist help, tools and consumables where needed.

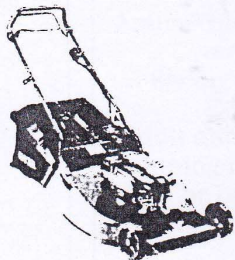
Why are clocks so fascinating? They are attractive and perform a useful function and just maybe they are also worth something as an antique, especially if well restored and in a working condition. The variety seems endless and there are types to suit all tastes.

Do not let the thought of lots of small pieces put you off. It is watches that have the really small parts and a simple clock does not have many parts at all (only 4 wheels in the power train).

Whether you just have a stopped or faulty clock that you would enjoy repairing, or are fascinated by all or specific types or ages of clocks, then you will find help and kindred spirits at the Club.

Our meetings are from 7pm to 9.30pm on Thursday evenings, divided into two terms: 21st September to 14th December 2006, and 4th January to 29 March 2007. Cost per person per term is only £36.00.

For more information contact Bob Kemp on 01494 563751 or Bernie Morris on 01494 564802.



JOHN BISHOP **GARDEN MACHINERY**

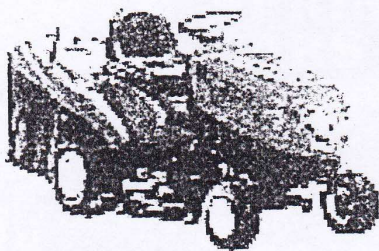
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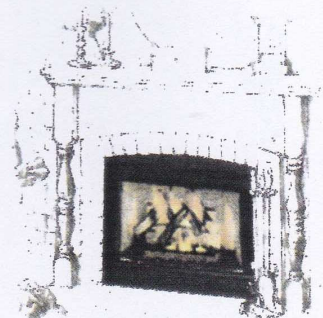
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Speen and North Dean NEWS

Spring 2007 copy date:

26th January 2007

Contributions to the Editor:

Stephen Peake, *Beeches, Hampden Road, Speen*: stephenpeake@btinternet.com. tel. 01494 488293; mobile 07785 280055. Contributions should be in the form of electronic Word or jpg files wherever possible. Pictures are especially welcome.

Advertising:

Jan Rose tel. 01494 488696;

Committee members:

Lillian Cash	564969
Megan Chinn	563074
Glenn Hart	488528
Martin Hart	488528
Gloria Holmes	488420
Jan Rose	488696
Nick Wheeler Robinson	562167

We aim to distribute within 4 weeks of the copy date

SPEEN TENNIS COURT

Our delightful tennis court is located on Speen Playing Fields and is a facility open to residents of Speen and North Dean.

Annual membership is available at the very reasonable rates of:
Family £35 Adult £20 Junior £10

Adult and junior coaching courses are running through the summer and we shall be holding informal open tournaments too.

For further information and an application form please contact Cherry Seekins on 488355
or cherryseekins@btinternet.com.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A SPEEN BUSINESS NETWORK?

If so, please call Jan Rose on 01494 488696 for further info.

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Summer news from Speen Church

Pastor Andy Gower has been on sabbatical (returning on 30th September) and has been busy travelling to various churches in the UK and overseas to get new ideas and to be refreshed for the next seven years of service.

The 'Summer Sunday' meeting and barbeque on July 9th at Speen Playing field heralded the start of the summer season: the sun finally emerged after a wet start! During the summer months, we have "Café Church": an informal time together, with plenty of coffee and cake! After all, Jesus said that when two or three meet together in his name he will be there. We have certainly felt graced by His presence on a number of occasions this summer.

Around 40 people from Speen took a week of their holiday at New Wine, a Christian family holiday and conference at Shepton Mallet in Somerset with 20,000 people attending over two weeks. There was a huge amount for children and adults to do, see and learn and certainly I, and I am sure many others, came back feeling refreshed and inspired by that time.

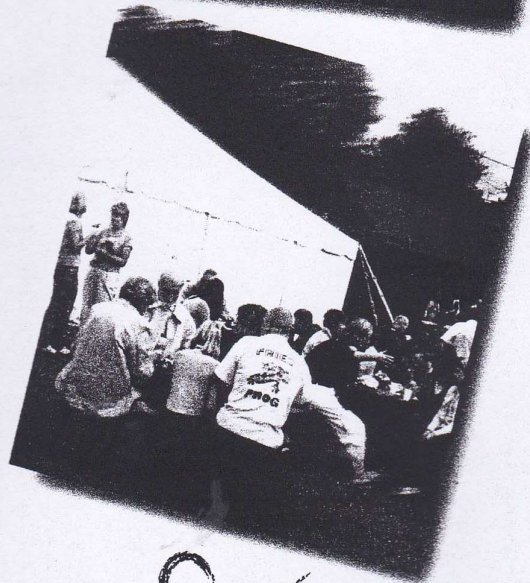
The church hall building project is progressing steadily. We have planning permission and are now exploring the finer details of the designs and plan to begin raising funds this Autumn. **Watch this space!**

JAMES ENTWISLE

Looking Ahead

The Time Out Autumn programme for women is now available. Check with Sandy Mitcheson for details.

Our next Alpha course will be one starting in January. Let Louise Wilson know if you are interested in attending.



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- Monday:** Home Group: 8pm at 5 Abbotswood
- Wednesday:** Home Groups:
10am at Chinnysnook, North Dean
8pm at The Russets, Moses Platt
- Wednesday:** Time Out: 10am-11.30am
at the Chapel

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**Open Studio Sale prior to Christmas
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*All visitors very welcome to join us for
drinks and a nibble.*

Friday 24th Nov. 11am until 8pm

Saturday 25th Nov. 11am until 5pm

Sunday 26th Nov. 11am until 5pm

Look out for other local artists taking part.

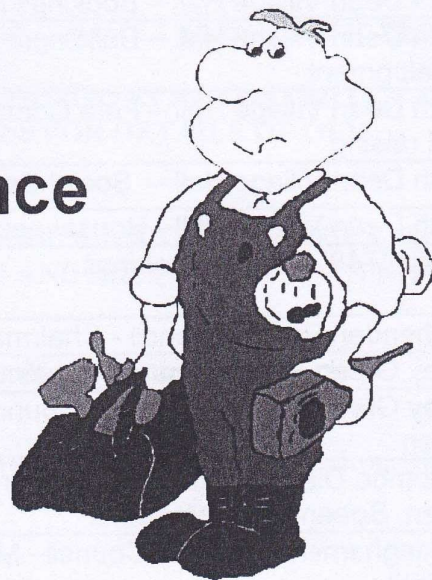
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Who's Who in Speen and North Dean

Speen and North Dean News - Editor	Stephen Peake	488293
Speen and North Dean News - advertising	Jan Rose	488696
Speen Baptist Church - Minister	Andy Gower	488758
Speen Festival – Chairperson	Catherine Haddon	488872
Speen Fete - Chairman	David King	PR 344839
Speen Fete—Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
Speen & North Dean Good Neighbours	Christine Oliver	488409
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen Infants School - Head	Mrs Nayna	488321
Speen Infants School PTA	Lesley Thompson	488524
Speen Marquee	John Holmes	488420
Mother and Toddler Group	Jo Podmore	488602
Speen PreSchool	Inga Pope	488160
Speen PreSchool—admissions	Charlotte Burton	562302
Speen Neighbourhood Watch	John Radford	488679
Speen Playing Fields Secretary	Rosie Pearson	488951
Speen Residents Association	Gordon Hall	488331
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen Village Design Statement—coordinator	Dave Howarth	488570
Speen Supporters Group - administration	Edie Radford	488679
Speen Stores	Sandra Clarke	488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall – Secretary	Catherine Butler	488412
Speen Village Hall – Bookings	Sue Taylor	488500
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
North Dean Village Hall - Chairman	Andrew Howard	562775
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Jane Vowles	565440
North Dean Village Hall – Bookings Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
North Dean Village Hall – Buildings/ Development	Andrew Lawson	562136
North Dean Village Hall – Fete Committee and fund raising	Norman Bennett	562897
North Dean Village Hall – Social Committee	Peter Keen	562151
North Dean Village Hall - Housekeeping	Vacant	
Pigotts '748' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler- Robinson	562167
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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THE OLD PLOW has been owned and run by Malcolm and Olivia Cowan for the past 19 years. Malcolm was the executive chef of Maxims de Paris in London, head chef of the Westbury Hotel Bond Street and sous chef at the Ritz Hotel Piccadilly before moving to the village of Speen.

Malcolm's style of cuisine is a mixture of his classical French training and his own individual approach to food. His style is modern with a strong emphasis on classic sauces and his menus always include **fresh fish and shellfish from Brixham in Devon** as well as prime beef, Cornish lamb, corn-fed poultry and much, much more.

Customers can choose to eat in the restaurant with more formal dining or informally in the Bistro. At this time of the year log fires are lit and the air is filled with the aroma of mulled wine and robust seasonal cooking.

The Old Plow is an ideal location for small weddings, private parties and corporate functions. Every occasion is a special occasion at the Old Plow and this is acknowledged by yet another 2 entries in this year's **Michelin Guide, Hardens Directory** and repeat invitations from **THE TIMES/SUNDAY TIMES** Newspapers for their annual promotions.

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**THE LATEST TIMES/SUNDAY TIMES PROMOTIONS HAVE STARTED AND
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