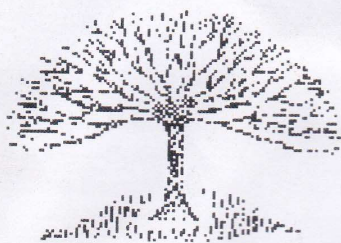
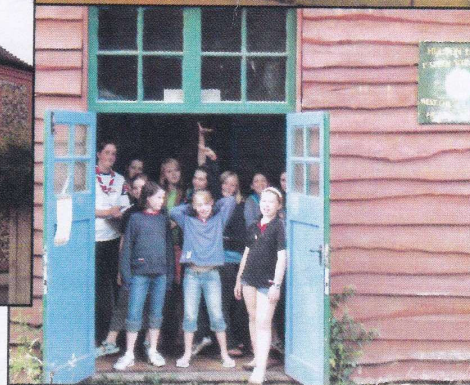


Speen and North Dean NEWS



Issue 41 Spring 2007

**Play your part
in shaping
the future of
Speen**



... have your say in the Village Design Statement

... check www.freewebs.com/speenvillage

.....see page 5



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Tel: 01494 711777

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Tel: 01494 868600

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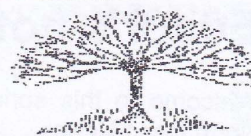
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What's on in Speen and North Dean?



March		
1st	The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home with Christine Nesbit—Speen WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
10th	Safari Supper—Speen School PTA	Details from Trish 488387
16th	Quiz Night NDVH	Garry Holmes 564339
24th	Men's Breakfast with Godfrey Rust	Speen Baptist Church 8:30am
April		
5th	Birthday Party with Mel Rees—Speen WI	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm
26th	The Great Milk Debate—organised by NFU & WI	Speen Village Hall 8:00pm
28th	School Dinners Disco—Speen Pre-School	Great Hampden Village Hall—details TBA
May		
3rd	AGM North Dean Village Hall and BBQ	Garry Holmes 564339
12th	Ladies Breakfast—community drumming with Tom Gregory	Speen Baptist Church 8:30am
20th	Family Treasure Hunt around the village Speen School	Alison Holmes or Angie Thirkell
24th	Speen and North Dean Spring Golf Competition	Details TBA
June		
8th	The New Rope String Band perform, setting the mood for Village Fun Day	Speen Playing Field Marquee—details TBA
9th	Speen Fun Day	Speen Playing Field—details TBA
17th	North Dean Father's Day event	Garry Holmes
23rd	Speen School Glitter Ball—Speen School PTA	Speen School—details TBA
July		
14th	Speen Fete	Speen Playing Field—details TBA
28th	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Field
August		
September		
6th-15th	Speen Festival	Venues, dates and times of the various events to be announced
20th	Speen and North Dean Summer Golf Competition	Details TBA
October		
TBA	Horse racing night North Dean	Garry Holmes 564339
November		
3rd	Bonfire Night	Speen Playing Field
TBA	Sunday Family Lunch North Dean	Garry Holmes 564 339
December		
15th	Carols round the Christmas Tree	Speen Playing Field

Editor's note

Welcome to this spring edition of Speen and North Dean News.

Once again I've received more copy than I can squeeze into the pages, so my apologies to those contributors whose articles haven't appeared in this issue or who have suffered some pruning of their masterpieces! It's very motivating to see such a healthy flow. Please do keep it up!

This is my last issue as Editor and I'm delighted to hand over to Alison Holmes who will, I'm sure bring new vigour and enthusiasm to the job. We all wish her the best of luck.

As outgoing Editor I'd like to thank all the team who have played a crucial role in producing the magazine and getting it to your doorsteps over the last three years. The list is long but I'd like to mention particularly JNP who print the magazine at cost and Jude Awdry who magically arranges the collating, stapling etc without charging us a penny. Together with healthy donations from the Parish Councils and important advertising revenue managed by Jan Rose they allow us to deliver to you free-of-charge. Jenny Cowan tirelessly proof reads every word and distribution is organised seamlessly by Catherine Butler. The magazine Committee works hard to ensure we keep the show on the road. Most importantly thanks to you, the readers and contributors who make it all worthwhile.

Stephen Peake

Contributions to the Editor:

Alison Holmes:
tel 01494 564339
gandaholmes@btinternet.com

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

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Final copy date for the next issue:

11th April 2007

Our aim is to distribute within 4 weeks

Parish Community Plan

We are proceeding with the writing of the Parish Plan, which will then be published in draft for further community input and comment, probably involving a public meeting. If anyone feels that they have literary talent and would like to help, we would welcome their input. Now is a golden opportunity for you to make your contribution. We would particularly like to have representatives from other village organizations and from the younger members of the community. How about it? Just call me on 01844 344975. From the original questionnaire and from other soundings and public meetings we now have a good idea of the community likes and dislikes, and have identified the many issues to be tackled in the short and long term. The outcome of the original questionnaire was published in this magazine (Issue 37, August 2005). If you missed it or would like to be reminded please contact me. Speen Village Design Statement (featured on the cover of this issue and on page 5) is included as one of the defined aims of the Parish Plan.

Present members of the Steering Group are: Angela Agate, Lindsey Allardyce (secretary), Linda Fisher, Dave Howarth, Tony Molesworth (chairman), Roger Newenham, Paul Rogerson (Treasurer), Barry Titchen.

Council elections

Council elections are to take place in May. One of the stated objectives in our Parish Plan grant application was that we intended to have a Quality Parish Council. We need at least as many candidates for election as there are places on the Council.

Tony Molesworth

Speen and North Dean News

Editor: Alison Holmes

tel: 01494 564339

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
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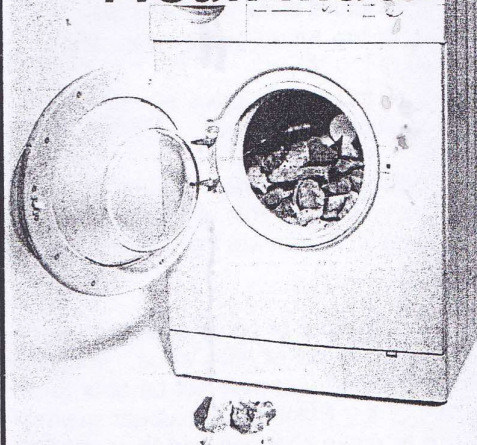
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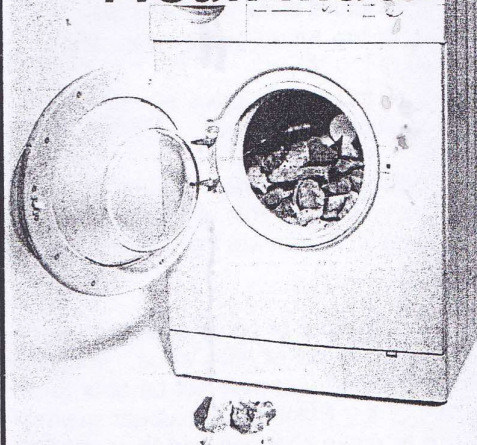
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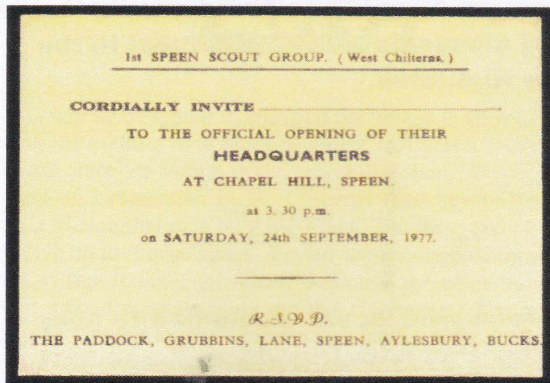


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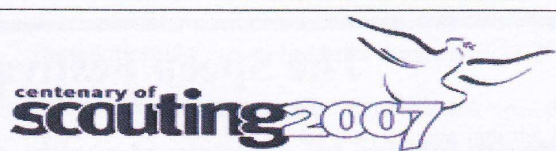
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Scouts are getting older

This year the Scout movement is 100 years old. In Speen we have a really wonderful resource. This hut was built on land donated to the Scout Association by Beatrix Hulton of Chervil Meadow on 28th April 1969. The plot of land had previously changed hands in



1946 for the sum of One Hundred and Twelve Pounds and Ten Shillings. It took another eight years for the village to complete the construction of the Headquarters of the 1st Speen Scout Group which was opened with ceremony on 24th September 1977 and celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. Just seven years later plans were submitted for an extension at the rear for more storage space and a new committee room. Other forestry land adjacent to the sight also came under control of the Scouts. Many years ago when we moved to Speen, my son went down to the Speen Scout Hut as a Cub Scout, but now there are no Scouts headquartered there as there are no local leaders to lead, although the building is used regularly by the Guides. It is also an outdoor centre for the District. Two local trustees formally look after the estate with the generous assistance of the Guides leader - Pauline Hall and her family. The buildings and land are well maintained as a local resource, both for the Scout and Guide movements as well as other similar groups. It is available for hire by local residents and has been used by schools for an adventure day. The village of Speen is blessed with some wonderful facilities - notably the Village Hall in the centre of the village (bookings to Sue Taylor on 488500). Sometimes however, the Village Hall may be unavailable or totally unsuitable for the use intended. In these circumstances the Scout Hut might be the answer. The Trustees, together with the District Commissioners, have recently reviewed the kitchen facilities, and decided that they are no longer of an acceptable standard. The planned refurbishment will cost more than the Speen Scouts' coffers contain - so district wide fund raising is to be commenced. I hope it doesn't take as



long as the original building took, to achieve this goal. This is not the only improvement needed, as many residents of Coleheath Bottom know to their cost. Chairman Derek Lewton has met with the council concerning the state of the Coleheath Bottom Bridle Path adjacent to the Scout Hut, and they have agreed to restore the level and improve drainage. Photographic evidence following the summer rains convinced them that continued damage was being done to the surface, but this is not a public highway - so the restoration standard required is far lower than it might be otherwise.

In a society where iPods and video games rule, and whilst adults bemoan the lack of imagination in the youth, our teenagers and younger also say that there is 'nothing to do' round here. The bike track is a great village amenity - and so is the Scout Hut and the land around it. If you want to 'make a difference' in 2007, and can take on the challenge of becoming a leader in the next century of a very proud Scouting movement, then call John Radford on 488679 as a first step - have a look at <http://www.scouts.org.uk/> to see what's really going on today.



The Speen Scout Hut and adjacent grounds are available for hire for suitable events, if the Village Hall is unavailable or unsuitable then contact John Radford to express an interest - or send an e-mail to ScoutHut@SpeenBucks.org for the current charges and to make enquiries.

John Radford



A Winter Wonderland—North Dean in the February snow

The Speen Festival Cabaret Supper

We are looking for a variety of quality, short, entertaining events to dazzle the crowds at the Cabaret Supper on Sat 15 Sept.

The evening will be in the style of a light-hearted cabaret featuring quality local talent to celebrate the end of the Festival alongside a delicious meal in the classy Speen Marquee Nightclub.

stand-up
magic
drama or mime
dance

singing
instrumental
impersonations
dance band
(with a very short set)

If you are that talent or think you know someone who is, we would like to hear from you now. This could inspire you to get together with friends, or make new ones to form that first class act.

Contact Kate and Sam Laughton on Kate@oldkinggeorge.plus.com

The Speen Festival Photographic Exhibition 2007

Prizes will be awarded by a qualified Photographic judge.

Categories

<u>Under 16 years.</u>	<u>Over 16 years</u>
Holidays	Landscapes
Friends. & Family	Action & Sport
Animals and pets	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 7th Sept. from 2pm.
Or Saturday 8th Sept from 10am until 12noon
Judging will take place at 2pm on Saturday
Preview between 3pm and 5pm Saturday 8th with wine and nibbles.
Prizes presented at 3pm

Speen Festival

6th to 15th September

2007

You will be delighted to hear that the village is all ready to go with an exciting new programme for this year's festival, the fourth since we started in the new millennium. We're getting a bit of a reputation in the Chilterns (and beyond!) as "the little village that puts on a big event" and this year we intend to live up to it once again. Posters are now appearing all over the village looking for talent, skills and the many volunteers that make the whole thing run like clockwork. The mix will be one familiar to you, - theatre, arts, crafts, nature and music, - but this year we are aiming to put on extra events to appeal to the "teen plus" age group.

In this issue we can give you a little preview of what to expect. Firstly, you will be delighted that the village favourite "the musical theatre event" will run again. It is called "Three Cheers for Mrs Butler!" and will run on 6th, 7th and 8th of September. The director is Annie Hill and this poignant, funny play will feature something we all know so well - our time at school. By now our players should be fully recruited but we continue to seek help with creating and setting up staging and scenery, costumes, lighting and sound. Let us know (see below for contacts) if these are of interest to you, and please volunteer even if you've never done so before.

The theme for the 2007 finale supper is "Cabaret" and the event's artistic directors, Kate and Sam Laughton, would love to hear from all who'd like to feature in this spectacular event on Saturday 15th. We are looking for "review" performers in the intervals between the customary three courses of supper. We've accepted the challenge of turning the marquee into a top-class nightclub but the task is daunting and we would love ideas and help. A new idea this year is to feature a short evening of music in the lovely setting of the Baptist Chapel on Tuesday 11th. A little time out in the middle of the bustling week sounds most attractive.

Both Glenn and Martin Hart are once again providing their excellent events: Glenn's photographic exhibition and competition is on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th so reserve your best shots during the year and you will find details for submission on the web site and in this edition. Happy snapping! Martin and his quintet, with singer Lynn Garner, will thrill many of us by featuring in 2007 the fabulous collaboration of Rodgers and Hart. Bring your own wine on Wednesday 12th and listen to Martin's fascinating tales of the "Greats" which always complement his superb music.

Children (3 - 10 years) are not forgotten with the return of the ever popular "Teatro Unfortunato" on the morning of the last day (15th). With their "Fantastic Tales of Lord Smelly and

Captain Bravado", adults had better stand clear!

Arts and Crafts on Sunday 9th will have a new twist; the traditional is still there but we are also moving into the fields of health, beauty and sports massage. So come and get relaxed and beautiful for the rest of the week - and that includes you men! Wildlife Watch is also getting a new slant with an exciting collaboration with Wycombe Rangers. Look out for scavenger hunts, bug hunts, bat box building and bat detecting. There's even a barbecue - so no need to cook supper on Thursday evening (13th).

For many of us who have missed the fortnightly quiz of Geoff and Clare Hayward Smith, they have agreed to return with a guest Festival Quiz - so get swotting now. Also get those teenagers working on their creative skills - we are hoping to run cycling and other activities.

Bron Davies (Publicity)



So now we've whetted your appetites how will it all happen and when can you get tickets?

DIARY DATES are Thursday 6th September to Saturday 15th September.

REMINDER / FLYER with summary programme will drop through your door in spring.

DETAILED PROGRAMME / BOOKING FORM will drop through your door in June.

TICKETS will be available from early July (details on the booking form).

FOR INFORMATION

- see regular updates on the village notice boards.
- visit www.speenfestival.org
- sign up for regular e-mail updates via the web site

TO VOLUNTEER

- e-mail cath@allwright.org
- e-mail SpeenFestival@allwright.org
- phone Catherine Haddon 01494 488872

Speen is top of the class with OFSTED inspectors!

Speen School was visited by an OFSTED inspector at the end of last year and he graded every area of the school either good or outstanding.

This grading was upheld by a further inspection on behalf of the diocese, as Speen is a church school, and by an assessor on behalf of Bucks County Council who gave the school an overall outstanding rating.

In his report, the OFSTED inspector said that the school provided an excellent education for pupils, that achievement was outstanding and that the rich curriculum was one of the main reasons why pupils did so well academically and personally.

Chairman of the governors Amanda Cleaver said: "Although Speen is a small school we believe the pupils should be given just as many, and in some

cases more, opportunities to explore and learn. This, coupled with the low pupil/staff ratio, currently about one member of staff to eight pupils, enables the children to reach their full potential"

The leadership and management of the school were also praised by the inspector. This is the second time in five years that the school has received a glowing report and the inspector attributed its continuing success to outstanding leadership.

Amanda Cleaver said: "This report is also a great tribute to the staff who work tirelessly to maintain these high standards."

As part of an ongoing plan to ensure the continued success of the school, work will start in April on a new staff room.

To enhance the environment, the school has recently taken part in a tree planting scheme in conjunction with the Woodland Trust.

Speen WI Report

Since our last report we have a new President, Daphne Westray. She was not too keen to take the job, but she had her arm twisted, and everyone thinks she is lovely.

For our October meeting we welcomed Mark Davis who gave an interesting talk and slide show on the perfume industry in Grasse. Our Annual Meeting was in November and afterwards we enjoyed a bought-in cold buffet.

We very much enjoyed Linda Elliott doing her flower-arranging in December. While explaining what goes on during a year at West Wycombe House and Gardens, she made up three lovely arrangements which were later won by three lucky raffle winners. We hope that she might do a work-shop later in the year. We also hope to have another green willow weaving session on the 15th February.

Our January meeting was an open one, when husbands and friends enjoyed our speaker, Mr. Graham Laurie MVO, who gave an excellent talk

and slide-show on his career with the Royal Flight. He had flown all over the world with the Royals for 20 years and had plenty of tales to tell.

We look forward to having another meal at De-Wanium next month. Our next few meetings are The Alexander Technique with Pamela Steinberg in February, The Ian Rennie Hospice at Home with Christine Nesbit in March and our Birthday Party with Mel Rees is in April.

Barbara Collett

Geoff Smalley

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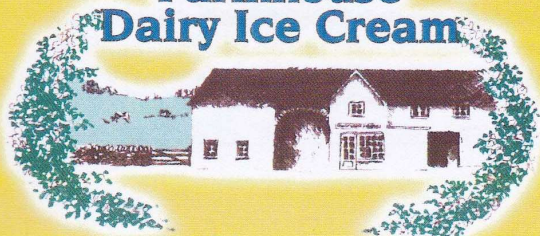
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Ben Sutherland

Clive Edwards - Graphic Designer

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including, Technical, Pharmaceutical and Food Service to every day service
backgrounds, skilfully creating new identities, brochures, packaging, illustrations and
exhibitions. I am now looking to develop my freelance client base and will also
include personalised greetings, wedding and party invitations, business cards etc. in
my services. If you feel I could be of any use to you please contact me on 01494
562191 or 07790271435 or email me at clive_edwards_design@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council News January/February 2007

Bollards, Corner of Coleheath Bottom & Chapel Hill, Speen

Since the last issue of this magazine, you will see that we have been successful in persuading Buckinghamshire County Council to remove the unsightly plastic bollards on the corner of Coleheath Bottom and Chapel Hill (near the Scout hut), and to replace them with a wooden post, which is more sympathetic to the rural landscape.



The wooden post is more sympathetic to the landscape

Speed Limit Review

A working group meeting has been held by Buckinghamshire County Council to review feedback and to review the new speed limits that have now been implemented in Speen, North Dean and surrounding areas. The County Council's view seems to be that they are successful and sees no reason to amend those implemented in our local area. However, the Parish Council has expressed the view that the 30mph limit, presently half way up the hill as you enter the village on Hampden Road, be moved to past the bottom of the hill to near the bend before you arrive at the intersection of Coleheath Bottom. If you are of a like mind, it would help the Parish's case if as many as possible write to Pat Francis at pfrancis@buckscc.gov.uk with their views. If this happens, then there will be evidence for a change and this will help when it comes to making any alterations.

On a more serious note, as forewarned previously, a Speed Indication Device (SID) has been used to record the speed of vehicles in our villages. The Police have been concerned to record the number of people speeding over 30 mph with a large proportion over 35

mph. The Police are now going to be stepping up their operation to enforce the speed limits. The Parish Council is concerned that so many people seem to be flaunting the law and would ask local people to respect their villages and safeguard local inhabitants by keeping to these new speed limits.

Parish Council Elections May 2007

May 2007 sees elections for many parish and town councils across the country. In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to encourage participation in the democratic process at all levels of government.

Election information will shortly be available from local councils to help achieve greater participation in local politics, both by encouraging individuals to stand for election and everyone to vote in local council elections. The information will cover the functions of parish and town councils, their responsibilities and powers, the role of parish and town councillors, and it answers frequently asked questions on candidacy.

If you would like to stand as a councillor for Lacey Green Parish Council then you can seek advice from the Clerk to the Council, George Crombie on 01494 488420. There are 2 councillor positions for Speen and 5 for Lacey Green. Some of the existing councillors will be not be standing again at the election and in fact after 30 years George Crombie is retiring as Clerk to the Council. If anyone would wish to take up this salaried post, please contact George Crombie for more information.

Roger Craft
Parish Councillor
01494 488343

North Dean Village Fete Saturday 28th July 2007

Prepare your soil and plant your seeds,
And try to fulfil the judges needs,

Practice your baking, and photography too
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What could possibly go wrong?

Letters to the Editor

Do You Own or Manage Land in the Chilterns?

The Chilterns Conservation Board has recently produced a free information pack for landowners and managers in the Chilterns. The pack consists of a number of leaflets written by the Conservation Board and its partners on a number of subjects including Land Management for Horse Owners, Hedge Management, Hedge Planting, Archaeology, Rights of Way, Chiltern Commons, Chalk Grassland, Ponds, Planning and Woodland.

These advice notes are Chilterns focused, and are aimed at those new to land ownership and those who have not had access to information in the past. The advice is simple and jargon free. The packs and the advice notes are available from the Chilterns Conservation Board Office, details below.

For more details contact Tracy Adams Farming and Land Use Officer at the Chilterns, 01844 355523 or email tadams@chilternsaonb.org

We can all help to save the environment

When you go for a walk, why not tuck a plastic bag in your pocket and collect unsightly litter from hedgerows on your return? Every little helps!

Gloria Holmes

Special Trees

This January the Special Trees and Woods Project, which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, celebrated its first anniversary. For the past year, with help from the public and a team of volunteers, stories relating to special trees in the Chilterns have been recorded.

Many of the 90 trees already recorded have amazing stories; some have been pruned to form a local landmark, planted as a celebration or even carved by American airmen in WWII.

There are special trees of all shapes and sizes, on village greens, commons, in local parks, churchyards and in the wider Chilterns country-

side. Many are displayed on the interactive map on the project website - www.chilternsaonb.org/special

Why not log on and see if there is a special tree to visit near you?

Liz Manley
Special Trees and Woods Project
www.chilternsaonb.org/special
tel: 01844 355 525
mob: 07979 497 688

Are you worried about DRUGS?

Is someone's addiction causing you concern? Do you worry about your children succumbing to temptation?

Hughenden Parish Council is hosting a Drug Awareness Meeting on Tuesday 6th March 2007 at 8pm to be held at Great Kingshill Combined School, Cryers Hill Road, Cryers Hill.

Many experts will be available for help and advice so please come along and put your minds at rest.

If you require any further information please telephone the Parish Clerk on 01494-715296.

"Save the Children"

On behalf of the Old Plow and the local rep for "Save the Children" a very big THANK YOU to so many of you for helping us to raise over £850 for the charity. This money was raised at our two charity functions last November from the sale of gifts, Christmas cards and wrapping paper, donations from people who were unable to attend and the proceeds from the sale of pots of Malcolm's chutney! The two events, one lunch and one dinner were over-subscribed and my sincere apologies to those who were unable to book a table.

Olivia Cowan

Where will you be at 8.00am on 1st August 2007?

On 1 August 2007, millions of Scouts and former Scouts, from all across the globe, will celebrate the dawn of a new century of Scouting. I will be joining this celebration along with 40,000 Scouts and Guides from over 150 countries around the world at the 21st World Scout Jamboree. This will be the special day to celebrate the past, present, and most importantly, the future of Scouting. The Scouting Sunrise ceremony will take place on Brownsea Island, the site of the first Scout Camp and will be beamed to members of the movement around the world.

It is 18 months since I went through the selection process to lead a group of 9 Guides from Buckinghamshire to the 21st World Scout Jamboree. Since then we have been working together with 27 Scouts from Bucks to form a Unit. On 26th July we will join over 4,000 Scouts and Guides from the UK at the Jamboree site at Hylands Park in Essex. The

next day we will welcome the participants from around the world for 12 days of activities. This event will have more participants than the 2012 Olympic Games and rely almost entirely on volunteer support.

The 21st World Scout Jamboree will provide the participants with a wide range of activities which will challenge, inspire and thrill them and, most of all, encourage global awareness and understanding. It will promote the skills and personal development of the young people who are lucky enough to attend.

For me, this will be an experience of a lifetime as well as a great personal challenge to live and work closely with young people from around the world in such a vibrant and intense environment as the Jamboree promises to be. I am thrilled that my daughter Mary will also be on the site as one of only 9 Guides from the UK working in the UK Pavilion promoting Scouting and Guiding in the UK to visitors from across the world.

Pauline Hall
Girlguiding Bucks 21st World Scout Jamboree Unit.

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.



Richard Ferguson

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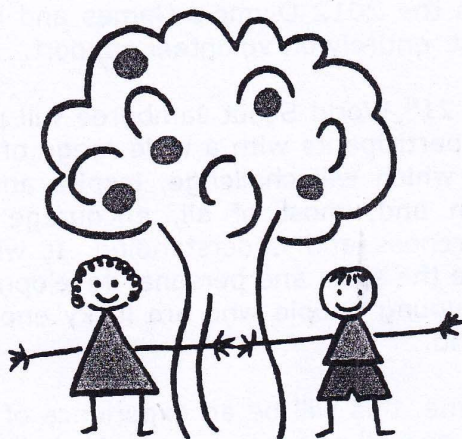
ALSO... Kitchen units fitted, bathroom suites, showers, etc.
Wall and floor tiling, decorating.
Electrical work, patios, porches

AND... All general building work

Telephone 01494 562954 or 07958 984363

Speen Pre-School

Speen Village Hall, Studridge Lane, Speen



We had a very busy but exciting time leading up to Christmas with all sorts of extra music and drama for the children, preparing them for the Christmas Nativity which was held in the Chapel. They all rose to the occasion and there were a few moist eyes amongst the Mummies & Daddies. Many thanks to the parents past and present who put in so much extra work.

The staff and parents at pre-school would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Tree Collection service which is not only an eco-friendly way of disposing of your tree, but also raises valuable funds for the Pre-School.

We would like to congratulate our Deputy Leader who has been promoted from the role of Assistant and we also welcome two new members of staff as Pre-School assistants. If there are any villagers who have been CRB checked and who would like to spend an hour or so sharing a story or any other relevant skill with the children we would love to hear from you. Please contact Inga Pope our Pre-School leader.

This term we have some interesting visits from Guide Dogs for the Blind and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. These visits coincide with the children learning about senses. Cookies Cookery School will be introducing the children to the delights of the kitchen. The children always enjoy visitors coming into the facility. We are all now looking for-

ward to the Springtime when we can enjoy being outside with the children as much as possible.

Our Pre-School runs from Monday-Friday 9.30am-12.15pm, with an extended session on Wednesday for 4 year olds. 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. Please do view our website at www.speenpreschool.org.uk

!!!!!!! A date for your diary:-!!!!!!!

April 28th, we will be holding a **School Dinners Disco**, at Great Hampden Village Hall. This promises to be a great night with prizes for the best dressed and best dancers. An 80's disco has been booked and dinner ladies employed. Come and enjoy a sumptuous meal/genuine school dinner! More details to follow.

Paula Cox

Speen 60th Anniversary Fete Saturday 14 July 2007

THANKS FOR NEW IDEAS

This year's theme: "Bodgers, Bears and Beechwoods"

Displays – Country crafts, music and dancing, dog display, fun family pets.

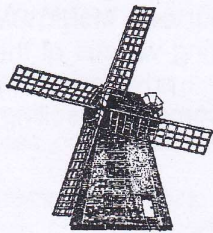
Sales – Bric - a - brac, garden plants and produce.

Competitions – Many, including for the first time "The X Factor" is coming to Speen! – your chance for stardom – call Nicki now for a booking form or collect from the shop. Please note that the Grand Final will be held at the evening event.

Lots of help needed so please tel Nicki on 488713

News and Views from Lacey Green and Loosley Row

(Extracted with kind permission from Hallmark Magazine)



Lacey Green Windmill

The windmill will be open at our usual times in 2007. These are from 2.30 to 5.30 on Sundays. On Bank Holiday Mondays from the 6th of May until the 30th of September, it will be open from 2.30 to 5.30. On Sunday 13th May we will hope to have the sails turning for National Mills Weekend. As usual, we will be entirely dependent on having a dry day with some wind. The event in 2006 was a very memorable one, as Christopher Wallis had died just four days before. For more information follow the links on our website below to Special Events, and then 2006 National Mills Weekend. The number of visitors we get on our open days often depends on the weather. We usually have around 1000 visitors over 25 open afternoons.

This year it will be time to paint the body of the mill again. We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would consider helping us: a good head for heights would be an advantage. I would also be pleased to hear from anyone who could consider joining our team of wardens who open the windmill to the public. It is not necessary to be an expert on windmills, many have gained significant knowledge with experience.

Please feel free to contact me about any of the matters I have mentioned, and for further details of the windmill and our opening arrangements, see our web site which I am pleased to say has been well received since I established it in the Spring of 2006.

Michael Hardy, Honorary Secretary
Lacey Green Windmill
Restoration Committee
Telephone: 01844 275871

E-mail: laceygreenmill@btinternet.com
Web site: www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

Unconsidered Trifles

Now that the lingering death of Budgens in Risborough is over, it is, perhaps fitting to ponder on a certain irony. Budgens first opened in 1970 on the Place Farm Estate in Monks Risborough. At the time, Tesco was in what is now a hairdresser's in Bell Street. Over time Budgens migrated into the town and Tesco closed. Budgens became the only supermarket with the concomitant effect on the shops in the High Street, but Tesco lived to fight another day and has now had the last laugh.

Budgens rise and Tesco temporary fall was at the height of the Green Shield stamp era, when no shopkeeper was safe without them, except that is, Robin Ball at his popular sweets and tobacco shop. Robin steadfastly resisted all pressures and blan-

dishments until two senior salesmen were sent to rope him in. They met with the stout assertion from Robin that his standing with his customers was so good that he had no need to bribe them with stamps. Furthermore, to demonstrate his point he was prepared to tell the next customers to enter the shop to f*** off. To his relief, it was a man and not one of the many elderly ladies who shopped with him. The man was Freddie Latchford, insurance broker at large whose branch offices were the local pubs. Everyone knew and liked Freddie. Robin now addressed him. "Freddie", he said, "f*** off". Freddie looked startled. "Oh, alright" he said and left the shop. The Green Shield men did likewise, never to return.

Brian Panter

Dinner Theatre

by LG Productions with
The Command Performers

November 23rd and 24th

Lacey Green Village Hall

Fred Burnham's Décor

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Speen Village Hall

Our last two fundraisers of the year proved to be a great success.

Our annual Christmas Fair was held at the end of November on a really miserable wet day. Father Christmas managed his usual drive around the village when the weather cleared, and we had quite a good attendance in the afternoon when he met the children in his grotto. The W.I. had been busy making decorative Christmas presents etc., and the tombola and cake stall were kept very

busy as usual. This brought in a healthy £495.26. Then, as November ended and December began, we had a visit from The Ubiquitous Theatre Company who gave us a wonderful musical version of Charles Dickens's "The Christmas Carol" with the script and songs written by our own Martin Stockley. The company were touring various of the local Village Halls and we were privileged to have them in ours for two nights completely selling out and adding a further £554.75 to our funds.

Catherine Butler.

Down on the Farm

You will have noticed probably that there are no longer any black and white cattle in our fields. Our sale took place in September as arranged at Home Farm, when over three hundred cattle were sold individually in about five hours, presenting quite a feat of organisation for Charles and the auctioneers. As always on these occasions, some of the animals made good prices and others went far too cheaply in our opinion! (rather like a sale of household effects) Unlike inanimate objects however, we were selling our friends—the results of over thirty five years of selected breeding; but as always in farming, one must look forward and try to forget the unpleasant parts.

Three weeks later we moved the Jersey herd from Old House Farm down to Home Farm (having made a few improvements and modifications). This exercise took place at mid-day when traffic was at a minimum and was greatly enjoyed by all of the cows and by the farm staff with valuable assistance from a large contingent from the Ice Cream team! The herd is now well settled into its new surroundings where it has more space and a covered feeding area which is very beneficial in wet weather. Domestic animals do not mind the cold but they hate wet weather such as we have been having this January.

We are not the only family to be selling dairy cows, by the end of the winter two more herds will have disappeared from the area - one from Stokenchurch, the other from Holmer Green. The low price of milk is responsible for this exodus, most farmers are receiving from 17-19p/litre of milk which is 2p/litre below their costs of production, so obviously this state of affairs cannot continue. Pressure on the supermarkets appears to have no effect and what is particularly irritating is that they

sell bottled water for twice as much as milk.

The situation is rapidly becoming serious for two main reasons: 1) whilst there is little likelihood of there being a shortage of milk used for liquid consumption, soon there will be shortage of milk for cheese and butter which will then have to be imported. 2) more importantly, a lack of grazing animals will result in pasture reverting to scrub and losing all the downland flowers that everyone is trying hard to preserve. Grazing is the only effective way of preserving pasture. Go and look at Andrew Stubbings' Farm at Bradenham. He has permissive footpaths round his fields where he is attempting to nurture a downland flora by cutting each year; but where the pussy willow is rapidly taking over in the fields which have been managed in this way for the longest time.

Winter is the least pleasant time of the year for the farm worker. Much of the work has to be done in the dark and this year one has always ended up soaking wet. It is little comfort to hear that we no longer have a hose pipe ban!

Gill Kent

THE GREAT MILK DEBATE

Organised by the NFU and the WI

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS

**Speen Village Hall
Thursday 26th April, 8.00 pm.**

Speakers will debate the dairy industry's situation

This is an opportunity to learn about the consequences
and express your ideas for future action
Coffee and cake provided

'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.

That's why we try to help people put a 'rosy touch of sunset' into their lives. Carewatch is a home help, care service with one simple, but very big difference. We care.

At Carewatch we provide all sorts of services to a wide range of individuals in the community; assisting with any personal needs (such as washing, bathing, toileting), domestic care needs (shopping, cooking, cleaning), help with childcare, relief care for regular carers. Or just simply companionship.

If you're looking for some help, Carewatch is what you're looking for. We really do care.

Call Caroline on 01296 625385 for a private, personal discussion of your needs.

Carewatch (Mid Bucks)
Tel: 01296 625385
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Speen School PTA News

The PTA has enjoyed a fun packed first term organising events for both the school and the community. The Race Night, held in October, was a huge success and it was great to see so many people from outside the school attend the evening; the event raised over £500.

The Christmas Fayre was also an excellent occasion! The School Hall was buzzing with action as the children enjoyed being creative, making lots of festive creations, and participating in the many activities that were on offer. Adults too enjoyed the lunch and mulled wine, whilst trying to decide which of the wonderful cakes and Christmas produce they would like to buy! The Fayre raised an amazing £800 for the school and I would like to thank everyone who participated in

the event, either by helping out or attending, and making it such a success!

Forthcoming PTA Events

Safari Supper - Sat 10 Mar

Enjoy a starter at one host in the village before moving on for your main course at another host. When you have been fed and watered, it's back to the school for a disco.

Treasure Hunt – One for the family. Will be in May, final date TBD.

You are all welcome to join in our activities. For further details, please look out on the notice boards or contact Trish Preston-Whyte, 01494 488387.



Members of the PTA enjoyed a most enjoyable sausage making evening, courtesy of JH Clarks and Sons, the butchers of Princes Risborough. After a demonstration on sausage construction, we were all allowed to have a go and even got to sample the final produce!

SPEEN SCHOOL GLITTER BALL

June 23rd

Jim, John Retired – Not Out

At the January meeting of the North Dean Memorial Hall Trustees held on the 27th January at the Old House two long serving members retired.

Jim Kent, was Secretary for 30 years and John Rogers a trustee for 40 years. The Village would like to "Thank" them publicly for their contributions and dedication to the management of the village Hall that we all love and use so much. And with no church or pub the Hall remains the main focus and social hub of the village for both old and young members of our community.

John recalled his first meeting as a Trustee was also

at the Old House, then owned by Mr Olink, who was Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee structure was very different in those days, and the Charity Commission requirements of today were unheard of, proving both gentlemen were reliable, adaptable and very capable of taking the village into the 21st Century.

The present Trustees are Nick Wheeler-Robinson, Eric Cash, Megan Chinn, Doug Wilson, and new members Susie Howard and Peter Keen.

There will be meal to celebrate their joint 70 years but we look forward to both John and Jim continuing to be active members in the village.

Eric Cash

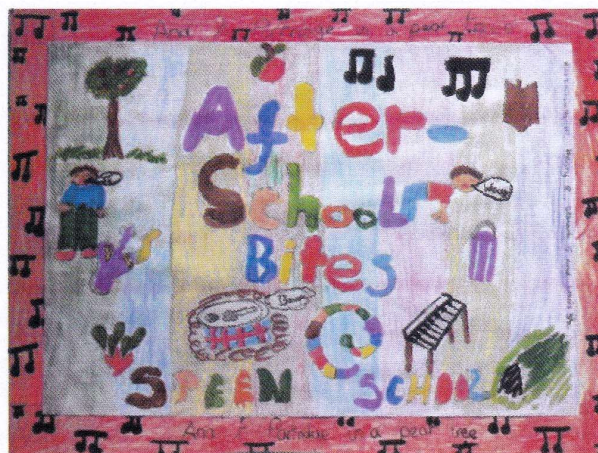
After-school bites Autumn 2006

28 children and 11 parents from Speen School took part in after-school bites and:

learnt a quick lindy-hop
planted trees
beat out a Brazilian Samba
pretended to be an animal
formed a band
created some Goldsworthy-inspired leaf pictures
made willow lanterns



Drumming the Brazilian Samba



After-school Bites competition winner
Stuart Partridge and Assistants

discovered minims, crotchets, quavers and semi-quavers
played musical instruments
ate healthy snacks
wrote a chant
sought and drew animal habitats in Speen School grounds
sang a new carol
performed in a concert
processed to the village Christmas tree

After-school Bites is a club devised by parents for children at Speen School. It aims to provide chunks of creative activity in the school grounds.

Kate Laughton

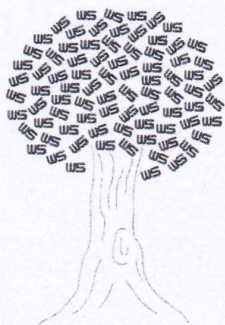
Christmas Tree and Carols on Speen Playing Field

Lighting the Christmas tree and carol singing was made a little more special this year by an innovation of Carrie Cranley. There was a torch lit procession of musicians and carol singers which walked from the School to the Field, gathering villagers 'pied piper' style as it went. The lighting of the Christmas tree followed and mulled wine and WI mince pies then encouraged villagers to support Chiltern Air Ambulance.

John Holmes



The torch lit procession gathered villagers Pied Piper style



Coleheath Bottom, Speen, Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire HP27 0SZ

T: 01494 488599

F: 01494 488590

E: info@woodside-secretarial.co.uk

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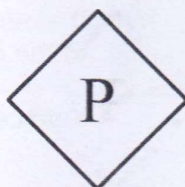
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**7d High Street, Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire, HP27 0AE.**

District and County Council News—January 2007

Kiln Lane Restoration

The issue of the surfacing treatment to part of Kiln Lane has been the subject of much debate recently. Concerns over the placing of a concrete strip along a substantial part of the lane leading up to Lacey Green and its removal has been the subject of many meetings and discussions between the developer, the Parish Council and BCC Rights of Way. It had been thought that agreements about the nature of the reinstatement had been reached, but these have subsequently failed to be implemented by the developer. After further discussion and agreement with the Parish Council, the Rights of Way Officers have taken the position that the developer should complete the construction of the replacement dwelling and, prior to occupation, reinstate the lane to the agreed standard that includes the removal of the contentious concrete strip. Failure to comply would result in legal action being taken. In the interim period it is for the developer to keep the lane in a condition that is fit for walkers and equestrians.

Coleheath Bottom

In response to residents' concerns over the degrading and flooding of the lane, the County Council has agreed to carry out repairs to the lane by the Scout Hut. I am told that an order has been placed so the work should be carried out shortly. This is addition to the work carried out at the entrance to the lane last year to lessen the effects of surface water flooding from Chapel Hill. Having raised the matter with BCC, the white plastic posts have been replaced with a more suitable timber post.

Property Spy

Wycombe District Council are now posting 'Buyer Beware' notices on these sites where land has been bought by a speculator and sold off through the internet in small parcels with the encouragement that they may, one day, be granted planning permission. Many sites have been treated in this way and include Church Lane Lacey Green and land to the rear of Bryant's Bottom. If you notice any interference with these notices please let Charles Power know at WDC Planning Enforcement (01494 461000), and he will provide new replacement notices.

Speed Limit Review /Tranquil

Work has continued to seek comments from those affected by the review. In Speen the issue of where the extended 30mph limit on Hampden Road should start has been raised. This matter was debated at the initial review where I asked, for safety reasons, for the signage to be put on the

Hampden side on Coleheath Bottom. I was told at that time that this was not possible because the signs, if placed close to Coleheath Bottom, may be obstructed in the hedgerows and to place them at a distance away from the village entry would lose effectiveness. It would be helpful to have your views on this and in particular any information about the dangerous incidents so that these can be used in evidence to support a change. If you have any comments on the new speed limits then please send them to Pat Francis at the County Council (01296 395000). You can also contact Pat by using the email address pfrancis@bucksscc.gov.uk with a copy to me. If you do not have email then please give me a call and I would be pleased to pass them on for you. The Tranquil Project has been taken over by County Council for implementation of the Village Entry Treatments (White Gates and Oak Features) and work on the new traditional finger post direction signing is progressing. Progress has been difficult during the handover but a new manager has been appointed which should now mean progress on the ground.

Council Reorganisation

You may have seen recently that the County Council and District Council have, in response to a Government White paper requirement, decided to go for the Pathfinder Option of Enhanced Working. This means that more emphasis will be placed on Community engagement with both councils working together with the parishes. Local issues will be dealt with locally at Cluster meetings, giving a chance for everybody to get involved. The most recent of these was held recently in Longwick, where the public were able to put their views on pressing local issues such as the removal of bus services and the Speed Limit Review.

Culverton /Woodway Junction

The scheme for the road improvements at this junction is progressing with negotiations for land purchase. These negotiations are proceeding well in anticipation of start on site in Spring / Summer 2007.

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, Email progerson@bucksscc.gov.uk, Tel: 01494 488315

A Winter's Tale



Winter wonderland in North Dean. Photo John Rogers.



Ben Sutherland and Sally Clark cut up the fallen poplar tree into logs for sale (See opposite).



The postman braves floods in North Dean to empty the post-box. Photo Peter Keen.



19 Village Heroes planted hedging....(but the weather was so wet we couldn't take a photograph, so here's a token sample on the following week!). (See opposite)

Speen Playing Fields News

Bonfire Night 2006

The weather for bonfire night was ideal and some local events were not taking place. This resulted in a record crowd of about 600 people watching our bonfire and firework display. The helpers, led by Pat Anderson, did wonders to keep up with the demand for hot dogs and drinks. The 'best guy' winners were Benedict Lane, Honor Wengler, Laura Blundell and Zoe Ashton – their guy was stuffed with their exam papers!

Ridgley's Field

19 village heroes planted the hedging and a tree, installed a litter bin, and added some anti-skid wire netting on the jumps on the cycle track over two very wet days in January. The Bike Park is now virtually complete, says Peter Symonds, and in line with the planning consent.

The SPF committee has discussed suggestions for the future use of the open part of this Field. It has concluded that it should be made more accessible to children in accordance with Dan Ridgley's legacy conditions. In the short-term a kissing gate will be installed in place of the stile near Studridge Lane and the field left as a meadow with the minimum of cutting. A picnic table will be provided. Your suggestions for the longer term for children's facilities are very welcome.

Playing Field Improvements and Maintenance

Following our invitation, several suggestions were put forward for additional features on the Field. The SPF

committee is supporting the proposal to provide an outdoor (concrete) table tennis table, probably at the top of the field. Many thanks to those who made suggestions.

The February storms brought down the 100 ft poplar tree near the children's play area. Fortunately, no damage was done. The tree was sawn up and the brushwood burned. A team of volunteers made logs from the remaining timber and these were sold around the village, so recovering the cost of the sawing up.

Speen Marquee

We have four hirings for the Millennium Marquee for village events in 2007 and two local private hirings. Grateful thanks in advance to the many village volunteer marquee erectors who will be making it all happen.

Monthly Draw

The £100 prize drawn at the Christmas Tree and Carols event was won by Brian Janes. The Draw is a major source of SPF income. If you would like to join please contact Penny Stokoe (488676) and your local collector will be in touch.

Future Events for your Diary

AGM – Tuesday 13th March. 8.00 pm in the Pavilion. All villagers are welcome.

For other dates see 'What's On' page 3

John Holmes.

The Speen Wind Farm

Bite the bullet? Bow to the inevitable? Plan for a world in which we must control carbon emissions in order to survive? This seems to be the stark inescapable reality. Apparently a mere 2°C rise in world average temperatures promises irreversible geophysical changes and massive human suffering; more than 5°C spells cataclysm. Admittedly, the UK is only about 2% of the global problem. However, unless the UK commits itself to radical action, how can we expect the USA, China & India to take proportionately far greater measures? ☹

Wind power represents one of the really green, clean technologies. The UK has one of the most suitable climates in the world to exploit this energy source and, here in the Chilterns, we surely reside in one of the best locations in southern England. One would perhaps have to travel hundreds of miles to find a more suitable area. On the highest land to the north of Speen, the DTi wind database gives an average wind speed of 5.7 metres/sec at 25 metres above ground level or 12.75 mph. Quite fast! As we learnt at school, the prevailing wind in the UK is from the south west.

Would these tall structures worry us? Perhaps, a little, until we realised that all of us will have to suffer some inconvenience if mankind is to survive even a few more generations. We are actually talking about the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren. To some, wind turbines could represent an eyesore; to others of us they have an aesthetic appeal, rather like Concorde, London's

Tower Bridge, the London Gherkin or the Clifton Suspension Bridge. The forest of antique windmills near Rotterdam in Holland is a world famous tourist attraction. Would the steady humming noise of the turbines be a nuisance? Surely not! As one who has lived on Royal Air Force bases with jet aircraft flying at all hours, after a while, one doesn't even notice such low-frequency noise.

So, this is perhaps what will become imperative within our lifetimes. So, how about an array of 6 750Kw wind turbines on the highest ground in Speen? The only energy source used in my house is electricity. Based on this household consumption, I estimate that three wind turbines of this size would probably meet the total electricity needs of the village of Speen. Another three would allow the sale of surplus electricity to the UK national grid – when inevitably this becomes possible. Perhaps this wind system could be coupled to a small pumped hydro-electricity system, as implemented par excellence at Dinorwig Power Station in Snowdonia, storing potential energy in the form of water to generate electricity when there is little wind. Water would be pumped uphill using a proportion of the electricity from the wind turbines when winds are strong, enabling hydro-electric power to be produced when winds are weak or non-existent.

The modified Google Earth satellite image - looking down on Speen from the South - depicts what we could expect, although the structures are not to scale and their locations are arbitrary.

What does the readership think?

John Oliver

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9 fat men of North Dean

In a small village in South Africa a woman returns to die. Her death is imminent from AIDS. She will leave behind a little boy called Mthoko (pronounced Toko) Mthoko has never met his father and will be left to fend for himself. He is 7 years old. The contrast of Mthoko's life to that of the children in this village is extreme and many miles away.

However, 9 brave men who admit that their life of indulgence has led to their trousers becoming too tight or their shirt buttons straining, have decided to DIET to help dear little Mthoko. Raising money will allow him to benefit from basics such as food and education.

The 9 have been officially weighed in with some VERY challenging losses required! We didn't think the scales could go round that far! Or maybe some

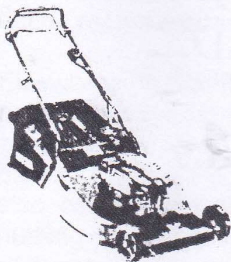
went to the council refuse site for the lorry weigh in! The point is they are doing something about it and will be shinning up the valley hills and looking dapper in their shorts as they strut around the village fete in the summer!

They need your sponsorship please. You can contact them individually or go onto the website that has been set up for Mthoko: MTHOKO.Co.ZA.

The Nine are: Garry Holmes, Peter Keen, Rhynie Grief, Ivor Beeks, Nick Ball, Eric Cash, Tony Dawson, Peter Brownridge and Desmond Ryman.

Thank you in advance for your support and good luck to them all

Alison Holmes



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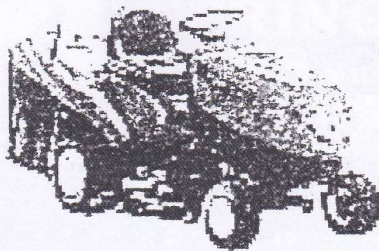
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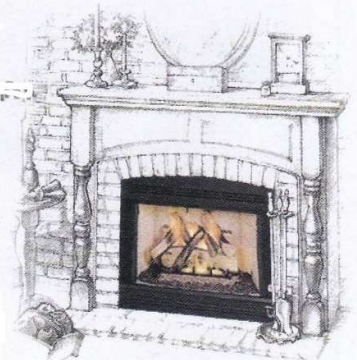
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Wildlife Watch

By Peter Symonds

The key feature of the past few months has been the extremely mild weather conditions. To date we have only had one brief burst of winter weather. Temperatures have been much higher than normal causing some confusion amongst local wildlife. An over-wintering butterfly was noted in flight in the garden in January whilst birds are already singing as if Spring is already here. Numerous species are already looking at potential nest sites. In our own garden Blue Tits, Starlings and even our Great Spotted Woodpecker have been visiting nesting boxes looking for sites for the coming season.

Winter birds arrived in numbers, but so far few Redwings or Fieldfares have needed to venture into local gardens. Dick Seekins noted Bramblings in local woods before Christmas but to date they have not been seen in the middle of the village. Large flocks of Gulls and Corvids have been noted on the large high pastures around the village with Herring Gulls, Black-headed Gulls, Crows and Jackdaws all present. Within our own garden a Grey Wagtail (as distinct from the usual Pied Wagtail) was an interesting recent record.

Elsewhere, in addition to our regular Red Kites, people have reported good numbers of Buzzards. Three were noted circling high over our garden in early February. Various people have also commented about our local Tawny Owls hunting in the heart of the village and being seen regularly by our early risers.

The most interesting animal sightings mentioned to me relate to various Mustelids. This is the family that includes Weasels, Stoats, Mink, Polecats and Badgers. Identification of these

various species is not always easy. Whilst Badgers are very distinctive, identification of other species is made more difficult by escapes of non-native species such as Ferrets and Polecat-Ferret crosses, and the fact that many sightings are at dawn or dusk. A pure white animal recorded between the woods in Hampden Road last year was almost certainly an escaped Ferret. Native Stoats retain a black tip to the tail even during the height of winter. Polecat Ferrets have certainly been kept as pets in Speen in recent years, but sightings of true Polecats have increased in recent times. Polecats are larger than Ferrets and Stoats, and have a characteristic pale mask around their eyes in contrast to Mink, which have dark brown fur with a white patch to the chin and belly. Jeremy Symondson reported a probable record over towards Prestwood recently which was followed by a report of a possible pair seen in North Dean by the postman at the end of January. This was a daylight sighting whereas Polecats are predominantly nocturnal by nature. but these species certainly seem to be on the increase.

Please let me have any interesting records by phone (488016) or email (symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk) since, without my dog, I am not walking and spotting as much as I have in the past.

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News from Speen Church

Caroline and Liz write:

This November we and another friend took the incredible and scary step of jumping in the baptistry. It was autumn but Andy had warmed the water to a comfortable 'lobster' temperature.



Over the preceding year we had both been on a journey of discovery which led us to getting very wet in front of our families and friends. We were immensely touched at the efforts made and distances travelled by them to share our day - Ann Myers had even travelled from Moscow to be with us.

This time last year we were a long way from where we are now and through a gradual gentle process found our prejudices and preconceptions unfounded. It was something which we grew into as our understanding of the Christian faith increased. All our questions, no matter how basic or hostile, were welcome and some of the best discussions were in small groups over a mug of coffee.

In the final analysis we found that living the Christian life was not about guilt, fear or embarrassment but about friendship, community and support.

Having become convinced and reached the decision to follow Jesus, baptism became a very obvious step. It was simply a public expression of our faith; a very natural part of the journey - not scary at all (despite what we said in the first sentence!). And we didn't, and still don't, have to wear sandals - even Dr Scholl's! From here on it's a continual journey with J.C. and also with each other as a community.

Andy writes:

Christmas was a very busy time with over 500 different people from Speen and its environs attending the variety of Christmas events at the chapel. Perhaps this is an indication of what some of my ministerial colleagues tell me about - namely a warming up of the spiritual climate (not just the global one!) as they find more and more people are unafraid to talk about the fundamental issues of life and ask what ultimate meaning it might have.

By the time you read this Carolyn will have shared her story at the Ladies Breakfast on 3rd February but still to come are:

Mens Breakfast 24th March - Godfrey Rust Ladies Breakfast 12th May community drumming with **Tom Gregory** (part of the team which led Men's event in September).



Summary of Regular Church Activities

Sundays:

10:30am Worship for all ages including, Creche, Children's Sunday groups for 3's-12's and Teens discussion group.

12:00Noon Fair Trade Stall in church hall (2nd Sun)

Mondays:

Meetings for Prayer at various homes

8:00pm Evening Home Group at 5 Abbotswood, Speen

Wednesdays:

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

10:00-11:30am "Time Out" - Book Club, coffee and crafts

7:45pm Alpha Course at Old House, North Dean

8:00pm Evening Home Group at The Russets, Moses Platt, Speen.

Also for men: Men's group events vary, contact Stephen for details 01844 346527

Andy Gower

THE OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT AT SPEEN

SPRING PROMOTIONS UPDATE AT THE OLD PLOW!

- Bistro Prix Fixe 2 course and 3 course Menus for £10.00 and £15.00 -

These menus continue to be available in the Bistro throughout the week and on Sunday lunch and can be requested when making a booking.

- THE TIMES/SUNDAY TIMES "Dine with Wine" Promotion - Finishing at the end of March, tokens for this promotion can still be obtained from their website.

- THE TIMES/SUNDAY TIMES "Gastro Pub/Restaurant " Promotion 2007 - This is a new promotion starting in January. Tokens and vouchers can be found in the newspapers and are redeemable up to mid April.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

The normal a la carte menu in the Bistro and set menu in the Restaurant continue to offer a wide selection of fresh fish and shellfish from Brixham as well as seasonal game such as partridge and venison. In addition I am pleased to announce that our

NEW BARCELONA TAPAS MENU

will be introduced in the Bistro early in the Spring. This extensive menu of fish, meat and savoury dishes from Spain will be available during the week and on Sunday lunch so watch out for more details on our website and notice board.

For more information please call or visit or website @ www.yeoldplow.co.uk For reservations, please telephone 01494 488300.
Head chef and restaurateur Malcolm and Olivia Cowan.

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What has that got to do with the Old Plow I hear you ask - well nothing, except that I came across a website recently offering alternatives to plastic bags (an estimated 17 1/2 billion plastic bags are given away by supermarkets every year) that are cotton and small enough to fit in a pocket or in a handbag. If anyone is interested in helping fight the cause to reduce these numbers, I have a few bags in stock. By buying in bulk (normal price £4.70) I can keep the price down to a non-profit making £2.90 each. Can Speen become a "plastic bag free zone?". Tel. Olivia on 01494 488300

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