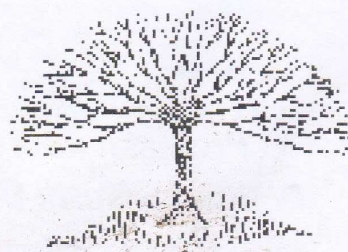




Speen and North Dean News

Spring 2007

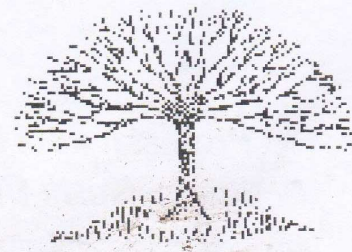


Summer 2007



Speen and North Dean News

Spring 2007



This is the Summer 2007 issue



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WELCOME TO YOUR LOCAL NEWS.

Spring 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
(YOU'LL HAVE TO COUNT THE PAGES! ED FORGOT TO NUMBER THEM! SORRY)

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Final Copy date for the next edition is 19th September 2007—to The Editor Please.

♦ Contributions to the Editor

♦ Alison Holmes: Tel 01494 564339

♦ gandaholmes@btinternet.com or
alison.turner-holmes@resolutionglasgowplc.com

♦ Contributions should be in the form of e-word or jpg files Please.

A note from the Editor

Dear Readers

It is an honor to take on the responsibility of Editor of this much loved and well read publication.

When Gloria Holmes first approached me and asked if I would consider becoming editor, I was concerned about the huge amount of time required to work on and produce such a document. Having now met all the team and seen how much work each member puts in, with the sponsorship and local support for printing, delivering and general running around in order to bring this magazine to everyone I realize it is a real team effort and actually I have the easy part!

The reason I will endeavor

to bring this magazine to you on a regular quarterly occasion is because I understand the enjoyment that is gained from receiving it in each and every household. The children get excited that they may appear in it, the adults like to catch up on news and views and so we each curl up one evening a quarter and read it from cover to cover.

Front Cover

This editions front cover photo' is courtesy of Mr Rynie Greef.

Send me some of your photographs and see if they are selected for future editions. Ed

For that reason I am happy to bring it to you for the next 3 years. But I need your help! If you enjoy reading it please help contribute by sending me anything and everything you know or have or own. It will be sifted, prioritized and of course some of it discarded or saved for later editions but without your contributions the publication will not be interesting! So please take photos of events, send in write ups on events, name names, show faces and above all "have your say"!

So with the fetes looming so soon again and the Ball organizers praying for good weather, and with the kids sports days and Rotary functions, we should get a bumper edition next.

Thanks to Stephen Peake

Stephen must be breathing a huge sigh of relief that his 3 years are up. The thought of not having to meet copy deadlines and chasing for meetings to sign off copies and the phone ringing constantly with queries regarding the magazine or the email in box being full of magazine related topics. Well Stephen we hope you have something to fill up

all your spare time!!

We would in all seriousness like to say a big thank you for a great job over the years; getting out an interesting and factual publication. Four times a year is a challenge and one that you met successfully and enthusiastically. I do hope I can continue this!

And as the new Editor I do

not intend making any drastic changes as I think Stephen did it well. There will be differences but my belief is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"!

I thank you all in advance for your support and tolerance and look forward to hearing from you ALL.

ALISON HOLMES TEL. 01494 564339

Who's Who in Speen and North Dean

Speen and North Dean News - Editor	Alison Holmes	564339
Speen and North Dean News - advertising	Jan Rose	488696
Speen Baptist Church - Minister	Andy Gower	488758
Speen Festival – Chairperson	Catherine Haddon	488872
Speen Funday	Jeremy Symondson	488654
Speen Fete - Chairman	Jim Barton	488547
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	Trish Preston-Whyte	488387
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 Chairman	John Holmes	488420
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		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 – Social and fund raising	Garry Holmes	564339
North Dean Village Hall – Fete Committee	Garry Holmes	564339
North Dean Village Hall - Housekeeping	Pat Rogers	
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

The Speen Festival Cabaret Supper

Can you:

juggle

tap dance

sing

write sketches

impersonate?

**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.**

This is your last chance to volunteer!

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

Farewell to Sandra and Peter

About 50 villagers and children gathered outside 'The Really Useful Little Village Shop' on Tuesday afternoon 17th April to say thank you and farewell to Sandra and Peter who have managed the shop for the last 6 years.

Children from Speen School presented a card made up of drawings and writing from many of the "younger" visitors to the shop, mentioning the things they really liked about it and saying thank you to Sandra and Peter.

Joan Gabbitts, who as local councillor had been part of the initial movement to reinstate the village shop, presented a bouquet of flowers to Sandra.

Andy Gower expressed the village's appreciation for their great contribution to community life and presented them with a 'thank you' card and the money which had been collected.

During the six years Sandra and Peter have run the shop about £18,000 of the rent for the premises has been redistributed to projects within the community. We wish them the best for the future; Sandra in her retirement and Peter in his mobile catering venture.



Judith A Newenham

*Full time Mother
Part time curtain maker*



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SPEEN SCHOOL PTA NEWS

The Safari Supper held in March was a resounding success and raised over £500 for the school. Eight parents from the school volunteered to be hosts and hostesses for the evening and opened up their houses to others offering them a starter to one group of guests and then a main course to a separate group of visitors. The evening was one of mystery and suspense as people wandered around the village wondering where and with who they would be dining. The hosts and hostesses were also kept in the dark about who would be arriving on their doorstep waiting to be entertained! It was an excellent opportunity to socialise and it was wonderful to meet many so people who had no links to the school but just wanted to join in the fun. The evening ended with a disco at the school with lots to discuss about who went where and what food was eaten!

Hopefully by now, you will all have seen posters around the village advertising our biggest event of the year; the 'Speen School Glitter Ball'. A black-tie event, the evening is an also an opportunity to either subtly sparkle or to 'razzle and dazzle' with your best glittery attire! The Ball will be held in a marquee on the school grounds on the 23 June and will feature a live band, 3 course meal and a free glass of bubbly on arrival; tickets are £37.50 each. Please come and join in the fun and support your local school in what is planned to be an entertaining and prestigious evening!

Forthcoming PTA Events

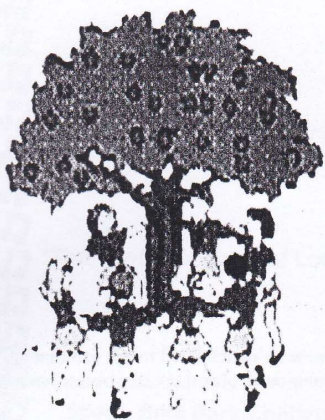
Treasure Hunt - 20 May 07. A great family event which involves using a map to search for clues around the village and then in turn, receive a prize at the end. Refreshments are available at the school and there will be a cake stall to tempt you too!

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



Ball Tickets for A Fiver!

Win a pair of tickets to the Ball - worth £75. For your chance to win, simply buy a raffle ticket from ML for just £5.00. Tickets are limited to just 50 so buy more than one and double your chances! The draw will take place at lunch-time on Friday 1 June, 2007 at Speen School. We still urge you to buy your Ball tickets as soon as possible as this year's event is expected to be a sell-out. If you are the lucky winner, we will of course refund your money. If you would like to buy a raffle ticket, please make a cheque out to Speen School PTA and send with an SAE to Marie-Louise Morley, 3 Meadow Rise, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 0QY.



Speen School is 40!

Calling all parents and pupils,
past, present and future!

Speen school is celebrating it's 40th year on the current site. As part of the celebrations we are inviting all parents and pupils to a reunion. The reunion will take place at the school on Wednesday 11th July after the Sports Day.

There will be refreshments, games for young and old, music, competitions and, of course, a chance to catch up with old friends.

As part of the celebrations, the school is also announcing an essay competition for the past and present pupils in no more than 100 words. Entries should be entitled "Why I Love(d) Speen School". The closing date for entries is Friday 29th June. Entries should be sent directly to Mrs Nayna at the school and the winners

will be announced at the reunion.

Great prizes will of course be up for grabs and will be awarded in several categories. (present pupils, years 3-6, years 7-13, and older!)

We would also welcome old photos, film/video that could be displayed at the reunion or even old school uniforms! If you have any items that we could display, please let the school have them, but please do make sure your ownership is clearly marked.

For more details on the essay competition and all other aspects of the reunion, please visit the Speen School website (www.speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk) and keep an eye on the village notice boards!

Tim Crossely,
Parent Governor.

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Speen Festival

6th to 15th September

2007

We're Ready to Go!

We've already given you a tantalising glimpse into the 2007 Festival programme and now we're delighted to tell you that all the events are finalised. As promised there is a super mix of your old favourites, some with a new twist, plus three completely new items.

What's on at Speen Festival 2007?

Thursday 6th, Friday 7th & Saturday 8th September (evening)

'Three Cheers for Mrs Butler!' A two-act play with songs, featuring performers of all ages

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th September (daytime)

Photographic Competition and Exhibition - featuring work by local photographers, including a competition with prizes for children and adults

Sunday 9th September (daytime)

Arts, Crafts, Health and Beauty in Action - Watch local artists and craftspeople at work and test your own skills, or learn about health and beauty treatments and try them yourself

Monday 10th September (evening)

'Jack Milner's Comedy Workshop' A veteran of the much larger Lichfield Festival, Jack will gently lead you to discover your funny side and find out how to make your friends laugh.

Tuesday 11th September (evening)

'Let us Garlands Bring' - music for a balmy summer's evening, at Speen Baptist Chapel. A candle-lit recital to celebrate Shakespeare, performed by singer Geraldine Rowe and pianist Jeremy Rowe

Wednesday 12th September (evening)

'The Rodgers and Hart Songbook' - Jazz evening with the Martin Hart Quintet and vocalist Lynn Garner

Thursday 13th September (afternoon and evening)

'Wildlife Watch and Barbecue with the Wycombe Rangers' - after-school activities involving bugs and bats!

Friday 14th September (evening)

Festival Quiz - the ever-popular village event returns.

Saturday 15th September (morning)

'The Fantastic Tales of Lord Smelly and Capitano Bravado' - Children's Theatre presented by Teatro Unfortunato

Saturday 15th September (afternoon)

'Speen Bike Park Challenge' Another first time Festival venue will be the Speen Bike Park with an exciting programme of demos, races and competitions for 8 - 18 year olds. This is a real attempt to cater for an age group that we've rather missed in the past.

Saturday 15th September (evening)

'Speen Festival Cabaret Supper' - an evening of light-hearted entertainment and delicious supper in the Speen Marquee Nightclub!

Local talent (music, vocal, dance, etc.) is now being sought for the short, light cabaret items between the supper courses. Contact Kate and Sam Laughton with your offers.

(Kate@oldkinggeorge.plus.com or 01494-488548)

What Happens Next?

Update Posters

will continue throughout the summer in local venues.

Reminder / Flyer - will drop though your door during May.

Programme / Booking Form will be dropped to you in June or can be found in Speen Stores.

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

Volunteers: To volunteer for all those tasks that make the Festival go with a swing:

e-mail cath@allwright.org, or

www.speenfestival.org, or

phone Catherine Haddon (chair) 01494 488872

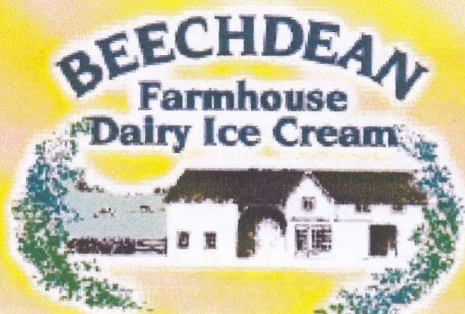


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News from Speen Church

Andy writes:

The land at Pye Corner

By the time you read this we hope to have completed the purchase of the overgrown triangle of land adjacent to the Chapel and bordered by Chapel Hill and Pye Lane. It was a surprise when the land became available. We had been working on plans to upgrade the hall to accommodate the growing number of adults and young people, so it seemed a sensible thing to try to acquire it.

Baptist churches are independent and network together, which means each church is responsible for its own finances, and I have been amazed by the generosity of so many folk who have made contributions to make the land purchase possible. Thank you very much. When we take ownership of the land one of the first things will be to gather together a working party to tidy it up, and then we can start to rethink and discuss with the community the how the land might be used to suit the needs of the growing congregation.

Ladies and Men's Breakfasts

The visiting speakers for the Ladies and Men's Breakfasts continue to draw large audiences (or maybe it is just the full English breakfast itself?).

This February the Ladies Breakfast was a sell-out again when the hall was crammed to hear Carolyn Gower share her story. By the time you read this I expect the next Ladies Breakfast on May 12th will have



also been a full house as the Psalm Drummers return, in the person of Tom Gregory (seen here with Teri Bryant after the Men's Drumming Breakfast). And who would have thought that a poet would have entranced a Men's Breakfast at 8:30 in the morning? But that is exactly what Godfrey Rust achieved as he shared his poetry with the Men on 24th March. He made us laugh and caused us to reflect on ourselves and the world. The Men were so moved by his words that they bought the entire stock of his book *'Welcome to the Real World'* (available on Amazon if you missed it).

International Guest Speaker

At 8:00pm on Tuesday 28th May we will host our highest profile speaker yet, who is only in the UK for a few days and could not make a Saturday! This has to be a ticket only event and the speaker will remain a mystery otherwise we could not handle the numbers wishing to attend. If you would like a ticket contact me (488758) or Sandy (488875).

Web site: <http://speenchurch.org> For a summary of regular church activities.



50-4-50

By Carolyn Gower

What Does fifty miles of Ridgeway Path; 4 days; 38 walkers; widows in Hyderabad, India; over 100 supporters and more than £5700 have in common?

This was how I celebrated my 50th birthday! Thank you everybody who joined me for some or all of the four day walk and thank you especially to everyone who contributed to the amazing total achieved. The idea behind the fund raising is to establish a refuge in Hyderabad, India for widows and women who are victims of domestic abuse.



The first day of the walk, Wednesday 14th February, five of us set off from Whitchurch Hall to walk to Nuffield. The boggy Thames path and steep climb up to Nuffield left Andy, Christine and I in no doubt that the next few days were going to be quite a challenge. A thirteen mile day... we were ready for our beds!!!!

Day two, nine of us gathered at Nuffield on a typical February day, to cover the rolling hills broken by woodland to Chinnor. The Fox and Hounds in Watlington was a welcome lunch break!

Day three was a glorious, bright day, twenty three of us were anticipating a steady stomp through the Chiltern Hills, whether for the whole day or just a part of it. We were not disappointed. The views

were glorious as we wound our way from escarpment to escarpment between Chinnor and Wendover. Over such a variety of countryside the immediate company one walked with changed constantly—I think everyone met and talked to everyone else.

By the fourth day those of us who were walking every day had settled into a new slower pace of life. It was quite a revelation, one small step at a time and so much distance could be covered. Our final day was Wendover to Ivinghoe Beacon. Thirteen of us formed the group, I had no idea Ivinghoe Beacon was so high—it seemed to have it's own freezing micro climate too!

So what now? The funds raised have been set aside by Agape Alive in India for the specific purpose of buying, building or renting appropriate premises for a community of women and children to live in safely. Hopefully a parallel project development micro business opportunities will develop alongside enabling them to become independent. This may be a small beginning but over time will really make a difference. Thank you for your support.

If anyone is interested in contributing to the Widows Refuge Project do contact me on 01494 488758 for details. Carolyn Gower.



8 Slimmer Men of North Dean !!

Around the world in 8 diets..... By Rhynie Greiff

The classic Jules Verne story, performed live at the North Dean Village Hall on 1st April 2007.

Starring: Peter David Niven-Keen, Garry Passepartout Holmes, Eric Idle-Cash,

Desmond Palin-Ryman, Peter Fix-Brownridge, Reform Club Chairman Ivor Beeks,

Detective Tony Dawson and Rhynie Phileas Fogg-Greeff.



This League of Gentlemen decided to help Mthoko Ndiovu, an eight year old South African boy with no known father and a mother who is dying of AIDS. Mthoko grew up in a western, non-tribal environment in Johannesburg and could, as a result of his mother's situation, easily become a street child. The North Dean decision was to enable Mthoko to have full board and lodging plus top class schooling at Prestige College in South Africa until 2008.

And so these eight stars dieted for the first three months of 2007 whilst recruiting sponsors who undertook to pay £1 per one pound of weight each contestant would lose.

Contestants, friends, family and sponsors met for the final weighing out ceremony on 1 April in the Mike Tyson Fitness Corner of the Village Hall.

As a result of to their Oscar winning performances these eight stars of "Around the World in Eight Diets" raised £3000 of which they donated £2400 to the Mthoko Fund and £600 to the North Dean Village Hall for a new dishwasher. Surely with such an addition of luxury the Village Hall could shortly be renamed the North Dean Convention Centre.

Peter David Niven-Keen made a stirring acceptance speech as North Dean Academy Award Winner for Most Money Raised. Other notable performances were from Garry Passepartout Holmes for Most Pounds Lost and Peter Fix-Brownridge for Humongous Body Percentage Lost.

And so, as the credits came down on "Around the World in 8 Diets", North Dean could assist a prospective AIDS orphan to have full board and lodging plus top quality education of the highest standard at a top school on the other side of the world.

For more information please view:

<http://www.northdeancharity.blogspot.com>

<http://www.mthokofund.blogspot.com> and

<http://www.prestigecol.co.za>

The End

A Walt Dietsny Production

And so, as the credits came down on "Around the World in 8 Diets", North Dean could assist a prospective AIDS orphan to have full board and lodging plus top quality education of the highest standard at a top school on the other side of the world.

SPEEN PLAYING FIELDS NEWS

PLAYING FIELD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

A 'Speen-Team' work party of 16 adults and 10 youngsters at the end of April reinstated the chain fence behind the DeWarium, installed a more substantial bollard barrier at the field entrance (the previous one was a magnet for reversing vehicles!), improved the cricket net, and did several other jobs. An outdoor (concrete) table tennis table is on order, to be sited at the top of the field.

RIDGLEY'S FIELD

The field has been made more accessible to children in accordance with Dan Ridgley's legacy conditions.

A kissing gate has been installed in place of the stile near Studridge Lane and the field is now not grazed and is being left as a meadow with the minimum of cutting. We await rain to see what comes up! Your suggestions for the longer term for children's facilities are very welcome.

The 'Speen-Team' work party also reduced the hedge on the sharp corner of Moses Plat Lane to improve driver visibility of young cyclists on the lane. A picnic table was installed and several maintenance items on the cycle track completed.

VANDALISM

It is very sad that we have had problems of broken windows and smashed glass bottles at the Pavilion, and several times the new hedging that we planted at Ridgley's Field has been damaged. Please keep a look-out and report to the Police (08458 505 505 - Sgt Ann Dunbar at P Risboro) who are now visiting more frequently.

SPEEN MARQUEE

The first outing of the Millennium Marquee in 2007 will be for a charity event at Great Hampden, and then back to the Playing Field in time for FunDay. Jern Symondson is the team leader.

MONTHLY DRAW

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

FunDay – June 8th and 9th, Friday evening is the 'New Rope String Band' in the marquee. Team sports the Playing Field on Saturday.

Bonfire Night - is planned for Saturday 3rd November.

Christmas Tree/Carols – is planned for Saturday 15th December.

John Holmes

Speen Women's Institute

At our February meeting Gloria Holmes and Margaret Groves helped Pamela Steinberg show how the Alexander Technique worked. We have at last received an invitation to visit Highgrove after being on the waiting list for three years. Yes, it takes that long! We shall be going at the end of April, so hope the weather keeps fine. Christine Nesbit gave an excellent talk on the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home which I, for one, didn't know that much about.



Our birthday party was in April and went with a swing as usual. Our speaker on this occasion was Mel Rees, author and raconteur, and was very amusing. Some members with husbands also enjoyed another get-together at DeWanium and some more green willow-weaving. Our next three meetings are as follows:- Resolutions on 3rd May; Chenies/Time Team on 7th June with Valerie Edwards and Madagascar on 5th July with Jill Carey.

Barbara Collett

Scouts and Guides

As many readers must know this is a very important year for everyone associated with Scouts.

Scouting is one hundred years old. There are many special events, camps meetings and jamborees planned. It also happens to be sixty years since the International Scout headquarters at Kandersteg, Switzerland was opened.

My husband belonged to a very forward thinking scout group in Cockfosters, Herts. The scout leader arranged to take the group to Kandersteg in 1957. It was extremely unusual that any one could afford to go "abroad" in 1957. This trip was a totally new experience for most of the group.

It was decided by many of the scouts who had gone on this trip that they would revisit this great area to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary this year. There will be 32 ex-scouts and partners going for a 5 day stay, some staying in the same chalet as they used last time. Most remarkable of all the scout leader who took the group fifty years ago is also going. This reunion and anniversary camp is exactly 50 years later and 60 years from the opening of Kandersteg and of course 100 years since scouting began.

The same weekend as the great anniversaries many people in scouting will be camping and I am pleased to say three generations of our family will be enjoying the international scouting experience then as well.

Glenn Hart

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Speen Supporters Club

Our Italian evening held on the 24th of February was a great success. As always we were well supported by local people and raised a total of £1,450.90 for our charities. The village hall was beautifully decorated in an Italian theme by Jeanette Rosling, which gave it an authentic feel to put everyone into the spirit of the evening. We enjoyed listening to Wynne Davies singing and had fun with the quiz. Thanks again to all who came to the evening and also to those people who sent donations. Our next event will be the Ladies Spring Lunch on Friday 27th April at Great Hampden Village Hall at 12 noon. Tickets available from Christine Oliver.

Edie Radford



50plus Handyman

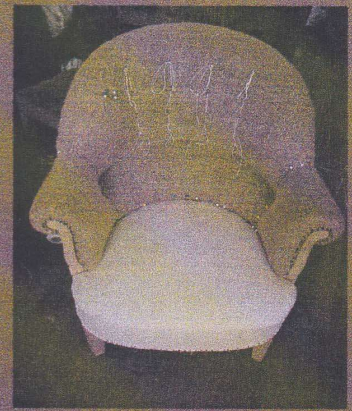
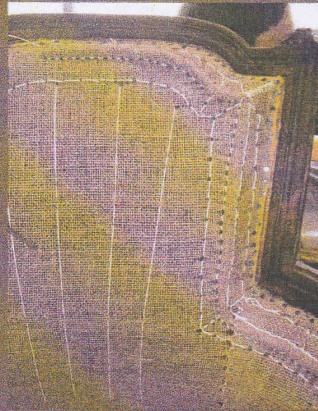
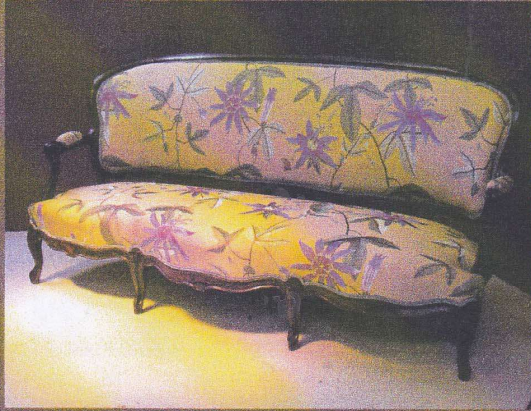
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Down on the farm by Gill Kent

The experts promised us that global warming would produce extremes of weather and their predictions appear to be coming true. After a very wet start to the year, which has thankfully filled the aquifers again, the last four weeks have been exceptionally dry. Farmers enjoy the sun like everyone else but we were hoping for a little moisture to allow the



grass seed to germinate. You may have noticed that most of the grass fields have large brown patches in them where leatherjackets have eaten the roots and killed the plants. These patches were reseeded a month ago but nothing has yet grown. We are anticipating a similar problem when we sow the maize this week. You won't see any maize growing in the valley this year as we putting it in our distant fields, the home fields are already growing good crops of wheat.

The gales of the winter brought down an unusual number of trees, particularly in the hedgerows where branches have broken many of our fences. These have had to be repaired before we could turn the cattle out this spring. The wood must be cut up and burnt (we have to have a licence to do this now!) Talking of licences, we also have to have a licence to use old tyres as ballast on the silage pits. The preservation of grass to make good silage necessitates the removal of as much air as possible, hence we use tyres to anchor the polythene sheets. All our tyres have been on the farm for at least ten years and most of them have been here for thirty but we now need a licence to keep them !

You may have noticed sheep in our fields last winter. We follow a very old practice of having 'keepers'; these are sheep belonging to another farmer which graze our fields for the winter months; their small feet do not damage the wet ground. We have to house the cattle as under similar conditions, their large feet turn grass into mud in no time. The sheep benefit because there is plenty of grass and our fields are sheep worm free; our grass benefits by being trimmed right back, all the old rank grass is eaten and the ground is evenly manured. Fortunately worms are only able to grow in one kind of host so sheep worms do not infect cattle and vice versa.

All our calves are wormed at least once a year, unfortunately the worm killers also kill other invertebrates which inhabit dung pats and soil, so like slug bait in the garden, one uses as little possible.

As the price of wheat has risen at last, many farmers are thinking now of growing more cereals for bio-fuels. This is probably a good option on fertile flat land such as in the Vale of Aylesbury but unless the price doubles we think you will be seeing grazing animals in North Dean for some time to come. The increase in cereal prices will make bread as well as dog, chicken, horse and cattle feed more expensive for all of us. No doubt there will soon be a national debate about how much land should be used for bio-fuels and how much for food !

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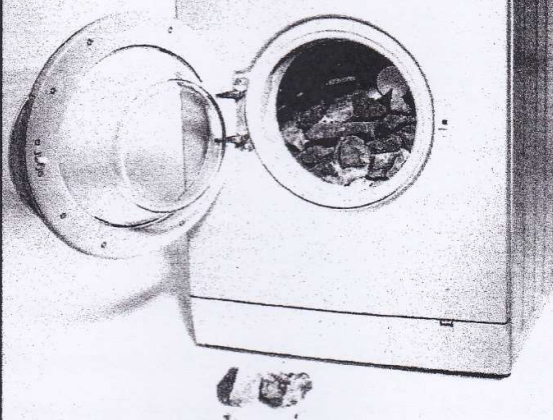
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For further information and an application form please contact Cherry Seekins on 488355

or cherryseekins@btinternet.com.



North Dean Quiz Night—Challenge Trophy!

Friday 16th March

What a great night! 7.30pm and the hall was packed to the rafters! Not your normal quiz but this one had rounds of guessing the name of the pasta shapes and identifying the correct flavours of the crisps on the tables! All this on top of the normal test your grey matter questions and aromas of home cooked Chilli mingling with the aroma of fine wine! Tension mounted as the rounds progressed with noise from the Crocodile Hunters and the Fitness Fanatics replacing correct answers! It was a close run contest but The Little Tiddlers—captained by the very enthusiastic Catherine Matthews and supported heavily by Professor Phil Morley clinched the much coveted title of WINNERS! They played their Jokers and Gremlins in all the right places and got full marks on several rounds!

Some inventive names for the teams saw the “Fitness Fanatics”—but only one of them had a flat stomach, “Steve’s Rats”, who were mainly teachers (!) “The Sad Sarah’s” because sad Sarah sat on her own for the first round awaiting the rest of her team and when they did turn up they were most creative with the answer sheets which turned into hats and aeroplanes! A great night was had by a fully packed room and we raised money for the Village Hall whilst having lots of fun—which was the intention—Thank you very much to all who helped in anyway.—The Village Hall Committee

For those who wanted to know the results.....

Steve’s Rats	71pts	Crocodile Hunters	55.5pts
Little Tiddlers	78pts	No Chancers	56pts
Lightly Salteds	65.5pts	The Hopefuls	51pts
Fitness Fanatics	58pts	Sad Sarah’s	30.5pts



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

It's so easy to let daily chores and struggles overwhelm us. No matter our age or situation, there are times in 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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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
And buy your tickets for Predicta poo !!!

A fun day out for all the family
And a great opportunity to meet new friends and
old.

Helpers always required!

Litter in North Dean

Several North Dean residents have requested that litter is not thrown out of car windows as people drive through the village.

The verges are regularly cleared, by a hard core of residents, of mainly glass bottles. Damage to the environment and also the dogs and horses that walk along the verges are a problem but simply it is unsightly in the village.



On yer Bike!

A sneak preview of an article for next edition....

Sunday morn-
not been as
have witnessed
eral 40 some-
ers (and older)
bikes and hel-



ings in Speen have
quiet lately! You may
the gathering of sev-
thing year old teenag-
armed with mountain
mets.

There are a few men within the readership area who, as we go to print, are camping out amidst rain and gales and cycling the South Downs (all off road) for 3 days. This journey is of course for charity but also a bit of a "boy thing"!

We look forward to an account of the adventure in our next edition!

25 years of Service

John Rogers

It was in 1971 that John Rogers was first elected as one of the Hughenden Ward Councillors representing North Dean on the Hughenden Parish Council. His local knowledge of the area was to prove invaluable to the council and he gave sound advice in many of the areas for which the council was responsible, in particular the maintenance of open spaces and playing fields. I was always grateful for his help and advice. I know that the then parish clerk, Ted Smith, was helped in many ways by using John's local knowledge of the area to advantage.

He has always been a great champion of North Dean and its village hall in particular. He enabled it to achieve a parity of esteem with the larger village halls of Hughenden and Naphill and fought vigorously for equal funding for the hall, the kitchen improvements and more recently, the children's play area. Colleagues, whose percep-

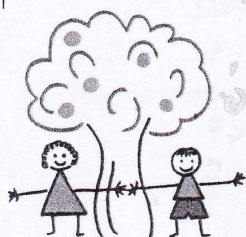
tion of the age profile for North Dean was not one of young children, often challenged the need for this latter facility. John Rogers's persuasion that there was such a need was much to his credit. The popularity of the play area has proved his point.

John has served on the main committees of the parish council, as chairman of both the Services and the Finance and Administration Committees. Both these were in preparation for his becoming Chairman of the Council. In this position John always displayed a firm but fair interpretation of the rules, rarely flustered but always resolute and correct in procedure.

Having now completed twenty-five years of service, he can look back over an interesting period of the council's development, from Clerks working from their homes to the establishment of a dedicated parish office building.

I wish him many more years on the Parish Council; North Dean could not be better served.

Richard Pushman
Member of Hughenden PC 1964-2003



Speen Pre School

The children have had a busy time at the pre-school learning about transport and the senses in the weeks leading up to Easter. They enjoyed visits from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Guide Dogs for the Blind and even got to sit in a real Fire engine and try on hats and jackets when the crew from Princes Risborough Fire Station came to meet them. Some lovely crafts were produced for Easter, which culminated in our annual fundraising Easter egg hunt, and despite the inclement weather drew a good turnout and raised over

£250.

For the summer term the theme is Pineapples and Parakeets - Celebrating the African and Caribbean cultures in the Early Years. This gives the children lots of interesting opportunities to explore different activities and experiences. Look out for their colourful displays and we are organising a musical arts festival on 3rd July to celebrate all that has been learnt.

The children's sports day is scheduled for the morning of 14th June on the playing field and we hope for fine weather as the traditional running races, sack races and egg and spoon races take place for the parents and siblings from Speen School. We even have parents' races, which are very competitive!

In the last issue we asked for any volunteers who are CRB checked and would like to come and read a story or share a relevant skill with the children. If this is something you would like to do please do speak to Inga Pope, the pre-school leader.

Our annual AGM is on Monday 9th July at the Pink and Lily at 8pm, where new committee members will be elected and a review of the year takes place.

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. Catherine Matthews

A Mid Life Crisis or a Moment of Madness for Derek Stephens.....?

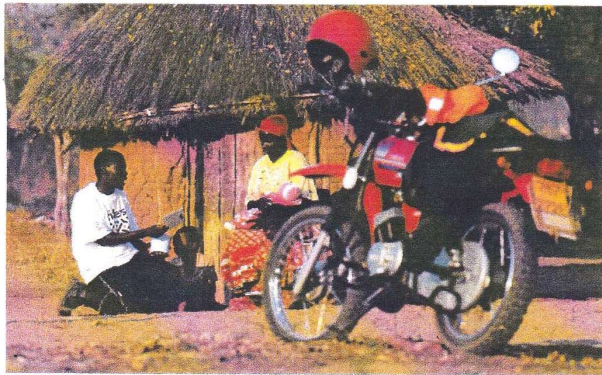
Call it what you like but last June saw me signing up for Enduro Africa 2007. This is a charity event in aid of 'Riders for Health'

Few of you will know of the crucial work that 'Riders' do, so let me explain.

South Africa has many publicised problems. A fundamental problem is that vast areas don't have a transport infrastructure of any kind to deliver quality healthcare out to the most remote settlements on this enormous continent. We can donate all the money we like in aid but if the drugs and aid don't or can't reach the people

before the use by dates then it has all been a waste of time. For vast areas healthcare is still delivered on foot!

We take for granted that we can pick up the phone to visit a doctor or call an ambulance and even then we are sometimes guilty of moaning. Just imagine you or a loved one being in need of basic or critical healthcare but having to wait for a doctor or nurse to walk a day to come to your aid. *Blame their government or whoever you like but I feel these people deserve better.*

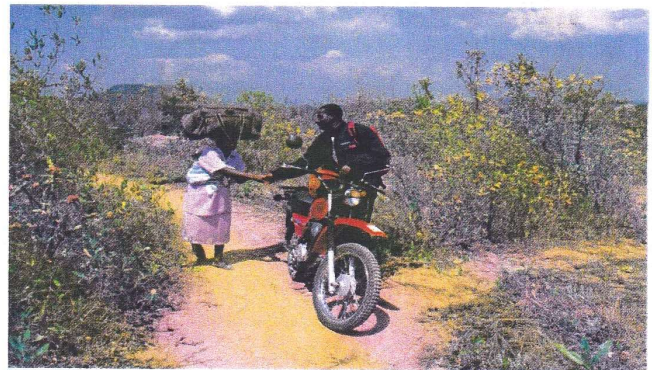


Enduro Africa 2007

So in October this year I'll be heading off on an epic 2,500km 12 day ride. Enduro Africa is one of Riders for Health's fundraising events. To take part, each of the 150 riders must raise at least £4,500. This money pay's for a new bike plus a maintenance package for five years.



. They have built a reliable transport network with preventive maintenance systems in place for two and four wheeled vehicles to deliver reliable healthcare no matter how harsh the conditions. The main-stay of the fleet are simple, robust motor bikes which can ride in pretty much all terrain to reach these remote settlements in a fraction of the time it takes by foot



This is no ride in the park. In order to deliver these bikes, we will be riding in tough, isolated conditions, most of the time off-road on small ancient tracks. Starting in Durban, the route will take in river crossings, tough rocky mountain climbs to 9,000ft, deep sand riding, bogs and plenty more of what ever South Africa can throw at us. 2,500km later we will finally deliver the bikes to charity officials and the health workers who will use our bikes to make an instant difference to these people's lives

I need your help -

Derek Continues

Please sponsor me and help make a real difference! With the help of commercial and private sponsors, I need to raise at least another £3,000. So whether you have your own business and want to do some good through this event, work for an organisation which you think might like to support this event, or individually you would like to sponsor me, then please do it now! To take part I need to donate the money by the beginning of August so I need your pledges now!

Remember our bike will make a real difference on the ground, delivering basic life saving medical care & instant results!

Please donate either by going on to my website www.enduroafrica.motor-web.com where you will find a PayPal online donation function. Or send a cheque made payable to 'D. Stephens Enduro Africa' and post to Oakdene Cottage, Hampden Road, Speen, Bucks HP27 0RU. If you are donating on behalf of a company then full receipts can be provided.

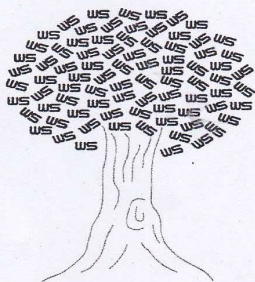
Charity Pig Roast

On Sunday June 3rd we are holding a Charity Pig Roast at the Hampden Arms. This will be a relaxing afternoon with kiddie's attractions and fundraising activities in their great garden, with the Village Marquee as weather backup! Please bring your friends and family. £10 adults £5 for under 14's & free for under 5's. Tickets available in advance from Speen Stores and The Hampden Arms. Alternatively, call on me 07896 905262.

Many thanks and hope to see you soon

Derek Stephens

Rider AF07/082



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Spring is here and so is Hay fever Season!

ALLERGY FACTS

An estimated 18 million people suffer in the UK from allergies.

The top 3 countries in the world for the highest incidence of allergy are Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

In Europe, the UK has the highest incidence of allergies and the lowest number of specialists to deal with them.

It is estimated that by 2015, half of Europe will be suffering from allergies.

Spring, with its abundance of new plant life starting to flourish heralds a colourful and fresh time of the year but for many it is the start of the hay fever season, just one of many allergy-linked symptoms.

Allergy reactions range from itching, swelling, headaches, nausea, respiratory discomfort, digestive problems to extreme cases of anaphylaxis.

Allergy is an immune response by the body to an apparently harmless substance, typically an inhaled allergy such as pollen, house dust mite, cat fur, household substances, environment or food.

As an alternative to prescription drugs,

there are natural remedies which can desensitize the body and help to inhibit histamine levels. There are a handful of good quality supplements which have been shown to effectively calm down the allergic symptoms by lowering the histamine levels in the body and promote a strong immune system. One is Vitamin C is shown to be low in people with treated and untreated asthma. Another is Bee Pollen is popular for hay fever sufferers as it relieves breathing and sinusitis.

National Allergy Week from 21 to 25 May 2007 is aimed at raising public and media awareness about the many different allergies that are now becoming increasingly common, from hay fever (allergic rhinitis), eczema, contact dermatitis, urticaria to food allergy and cat hair.

Jan Rose

janrose@btconnect.com

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The Speen Wind farm—more hot air.....



I suppose every good editor likes a controversial subject to ensure reader reaction. Well, John Oliver's letter to the last edition proposing a wind farm in Speen sure got my attention.

'We're all doomed' from global warming is a natural human reaction to any large scale change, we are all creatures of routine, and it is a uniquely human property that we assume responsibility. The science of green-

house gas climate change is far from proven; it would take more pages than the Speen News has to answer the debate seriously. Suffice to say that if anyone watched the recent Channel 4 TV documentary "The Great Global Warming Swindle", then there has to be a certain amount of fatalism about climate change; CO₂ is a function of global warming, not a cause, and solar activity measured by solar flares drives global temperatures. After all, Scotland was bur-

ied under 3 miles of ice during the ice age; our coastlines are riddled with fossils of tropical water creatures; the Romans built vine terraces against the side of Hadrian's wall (which are still there); and Pevensey Castle was built on a coastal peninsular, but is now 3 miles inland. Climate change is a natural event, and we should enjoy the ride, since there is little we can do about it, nor to affect it.

You may recall reading John Oliver's article on The Speen Wind Farm..... Well John you invited comments from the reader-ship..... Any more from anyone else????

The real issue is that oil is running out, and we have to find an alternative energy source. What remains of the planet's oil reserves should be preserved for production, such as plastics, essential to modern construction and commerce. Renewable energy is a trite answer to a bigger problem, it appeases our conscience that we can do something about climate change, but it is not the answer. Wind farms only pro-

A Note from Biggleswade

duce energy when the right sort of wind is blowing, and inconveniently not when we want it, unless Mr. Oliver proposes that we flood North Dean valley to store hydro-electricity, and turn the Church into a pumping station?

The only practicable answer, given current technology, is the hydrogen economy. Hydrogen is a good mobile

carrier of energy, essential for transport, emits no carcinogenic or nitrous fumes, and can be easily produced from water, given a bountiful supply of electricity, which in the future will have to come from nuclear power. If you really want to contribute to the future, then ask not whether Speen should have a wind farm, but whether it should have a nuclear power plant?

Jim Hazledine (and Reg?)

John Oliver's vision for the future!





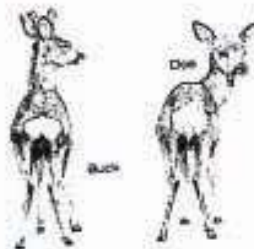
WILDLIFE WATCH

by Peter Symonds



The key feature of the last report was various sightings of Polecats which were made in the vicinity. These have been reinforced by a further suspected sighting by Henry Lane on an early morning trip to the station on 22nd of February. On the Missenden Road beyond Great Hampden he briefly watched a suspected Polecat.

Other previous reports have also mentioned sightings of Roe Deer close to the village. On 25th February I briefly watched a handsome buck Roe Deer in the woods to the north of Speen. However the highlight of the quarter was on the 26th March when, for the first time ever, I was able to watch a pair of Roe Deer from our kitchen window. On this occasion the two does were present and whilst their visit lasted barely a minute I was able to grab a couple of photographs from a bedroom window.



Other less welcome mammals reported recently are single rats which have been seen in Studridge Lane and Abbotswood. Mentioning one of these sightings to a Speen resident he replied, "Oh that's nothing, we had five on our patio whilst we were having a dinner party".

Local ponds have been busy over the past couple of months. Frogs laid large quantities of spawn in our main pond from 8th to the 15th of March. This was quickly followed by Toad spawn from 9th March but both suffered from a renewed cold spell with frosts over 17th and 18th of March. The Toads continued to lay strings of spawn in early April which should now be quite safe from frosts. One major operation undertaken recently in Speen by parents, governors, teachers and children was the relocation of the school pond to make way for an extension to the building. The old pond was completely emptied and a new pond formed a short distance away. An elaborate operation involving sieving all of the pond water and mud enabled us save some 60 newts, 2 frogs and countless dragonfly larvae much to the delight of the children.

Wintering birds have now left the area. With conditions having remained relatively mild interesting sightings were limited. George Butler reports a single Brambling in his garden in late March whilst in our garden two Redpolls were noted during the cold snap in mid-March, along with the Mistle Thrushes and Bullfinches which were finishing the last of the Rowan berries. By early April Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps could be heard in College Plantation whilst further up Spring Coppice Lane Chaffinches and Yellowhammers were singing away. Many birds are now nesting. In our own garden Wrens, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Blackbirds and Hedge Sparrows are sitting on eggs whilst Robins in our neighbours porch have already fledged one brood. Nuthatches are collecting pond mud in our garden to cement around their nest hole in the woods. Overhead countless Red Kites and Buzzards can be seen in both villages with Sparrowhawks also noted regularly both circling and hunting low through the garden.

Please let me know of any interesting records (488016 or email to symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk).

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The yellow team

Speen Fun Day



The Red Team



Friday 8th June and Saturday 9th are dates in the social calendar not to miss that is if you wish to hold your head up in local Society. The 8th will see the arrival in Speen of The New Rope String Band who will play in the marquee on the Playing Field at 7:30 for 8:00. This is entertainment for one and all, great musicianship fiddles, accordion, you get the idea together with mad stuff all of which will leave you quivering with pleasure. There will be a bar selling intoxicating beverages of the highest order together with some tasty food to nourish the inner you.

As if the band were not enough, be prepared for more hedonistic pleasure the next day in the form of Funday, brilliantly and imaginatively themed around James Bond 007 in 2007, clever eh? In time honoured fashion Speen and North Dean will be divided into five teams each one straining for glory and points with the ultimate goal, possession for a year of the Funday Plate. Don't worry if you hate team games and you don't have a competitive bone in your body, it's just for fun, honest. The games have been cunningly devised to appeal to adults, children, tiny tots and the criminally insane.

Early Saturday evening will continue with a tea party or possibly a dinner party, haven't quite settled the format yet, with no time to relax as the lightly competitive spirit continues with each team striving to create a table decorated in the 007 motif. Ah hah I hear you cry, what's in it for us, well I'll tell you what the award of the handcrafted brass bound Best Dressed Table Plaque and a further chance for team glory.



White ! The current champions!!!

As I write tickets for both events will be made available in Speen Stores, however I understand the shop may be closed for a period between tenancies and if this is the case then we'll come up with an artful alternative to be broadcast on notice boards.

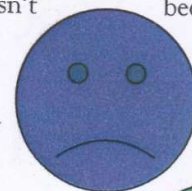
We hope to welcome as many of you as possible to these happy village events, the proceeds of which go toward the annual upkeep of the Playing Field, a fantastic village amenity and the heart of Speen that we tend to take for granted

I know that no matter how many times we ask, cajole and beg you to purchase tickets well in advance, that human nature being what it is you will delay commitment assuming tickets will still be available late in the day against what?; a better offer, climatic disaster - well you are probably not that popular and won't get a better offer and haven't you heard of global warming?

Looking forward to seeing one and all for the best weekend of pure fun you will ever have had, well lets face it if it did turn out to be the best weekend etc., then your life hasn't been up to much, but heh we gotta sell it.

Jem Symondson

Blue Team

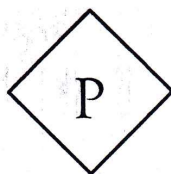


The Green team



What's on in Speen and North Dean?

[illegible]



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PLUS SPEEN FACTOR—YOUR CHANCE FOR STARDOM!

FINAL AT EVENING FUNCTION IN MARQUEE



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This offer applies to special menus in the Bistro and dishes on these menus are non transferable.

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It does not apply to the service charge.

The above offers are applicable from 1st May to 3rd August AND 4th September to 31st October 2007.

The offers are for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Friday and Sunday lunch and are valid for bookings of a minimum of two people and a maximum of six. Tables are subject to availability and each promotion cannot be used in conjunction with another.

Bookings must be made in advance and this invitation presented on arrival

RSVP: 01494 488300 to reserve your table.


Please specify which promotion you are booking for and bring this completed invitation with you. Thank you.

Name:

Address:

THE OLD PLOW BISTRO AND RESTAURANT, FLOWERS BOTTOM LANE, SPEEN, WIP27 0PZ.

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