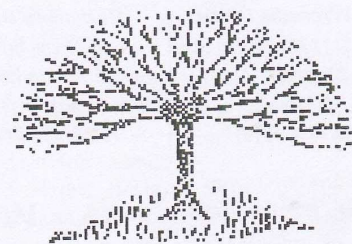




# Speen and North Dean News

Winter 2007 issue number 43





## ***Your local Estate Agents***

### ***High Wycombe Office***

31 Crendon Street,  
High Wycombe, Bucks.  
HP13 6LJ  
Tel: 01494 451010

### ***Hazlemere Office***

1-3 Penn Road,  
Hazlemere, Bucks.  
HP15 7LN  
Tel: 01494 711777

### ***Prestwood Office***

2 Wycombe Road,  
Prestwood, Bucks.  
HP16 0PW  
Tel: 01494 868600

### ***Residential Lettings***

1-3 Penn Road,  
Hazlemere, Bucks.  
HP15 7LN  
Tel: 01494 451050

### ***Stokenchurch Office***

Kingston House,  
Oxford Road, Stokenchurch,  
Bucks. HP14 3TA  
Tel: 01494 484288

***[www.philipgreen.co.uk](http://www.philipgreen.co.uk)***

***Professionals in the sale and rental of quality homes in  
Speen, North Dean and the surrounding Chiltern Villages***

# WELCOME TO YOUR LOCAL NEWS.

Winter 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fathers Day North Dean Style	4
Speen Festival	5
Down On the Farm	10
Letters to the Editor	11
On your Bike	14
Speen Fete	16
North Dean Fete	18
Stay Healthy Page	

### ♦ Contributions to the Editor

♦ Alison Holmes: Tel 01494 564339  
Mobile Number 07799754630

♦ [gandaholmes@btinternet.com](mailto:gandaholmes@btinternet.com) or  
[alison.turner-holmes@resolutionglasgow.com](mailto:alison.turner-holmes@resolutionglasgow.com)

♦ Contributions should be in the form of Word or jpg files Please.

## A note from the Editor

Dear Readers

Welcome to a bumper edition of Speen and North Dean News!

Firstly it's a bumper because it's a bit later than anticipated but also because it covers the "silly season"! With so many events and happenings to cover it's a matter of selecting some of them and sadly omitting some too. So if your event or something you submitted isn't covered I apologise.

The Speen Festival was obviously one of the highlights again this summer and I witnessed the extreme hard work and organization necessary to make it such a success. Whilst I know it was a

team effort I do think the Allwright family deserve a very special mention and so too the whole cast of Three Cheers for Mrs Butler who gave up nearly every Sunday right through the summer to rehearse. That is dedication and as the reports show throughout this edition the effort was well



worth it and we all benefited from a delightful show. Congratulations

too, to the people who took time to organize things for the teenagers and children of the village, The Bike Park Challenge (as illustrated on the front cover) and The X factor really brought together the whole family during the festival and summer. So to Gloria Holmes and Peter Symonds well done!

Doing this job has brought to my attention just how many unsung heroes and talented people live in such a small community. Its fun to reveal them so if you have any ideas for the next issue let me know who they are and what they do!

## Features

I can only cover your events if you let me have a report and preferably some photographs. So keep sending them in!

In this edition there are a few sad notices included but also a lot of happy news.

We have a new Health page which I know a lot of people are interested in and the usual Down on The

Farm from Gill Kent. Keeping us up to date on Farming which sits at the heart of the area.

The Men of the villages seem to be filled with testosterone at the moment and doing some great and daring feats which I have also covered. It seems the good country air motivates them into doing some tough physi-

cal challenges or is it them fighting their mid life crisis!?

So I hope you enjoy this edition. Feedback is always useful and very welcome.

**Copy Deadline for the next edition is March 15th 2008**

**Alison Holmes**





## Fathers Day Breakfast on The Hill 2007 North Dean Style



Sunday 17th June bright and early up the hill with the barbeques lit and the eggs cooking! A great turn out meant many people of varying ages enjoyed a glorious morning eating drinking and catching up with one another. Many Speen residents joined in the fun for the first time and hopefully not the last. Great Fun again!

## Speen Festival 2007

**The 2007 Festival was a huge success - and this year was special**

There can be no better illustration of the vitality of Speen than the hugely successful September Festival which took place over 2 weeks of uninterrupted blue skies and sun. But the Festival, which takes place every two years, was also special this year for another reason. Its original 2001 creators, Martin and Marjorie Stockley, bowed out this time and handed over to village 'newcomer' (well almost 2 years here!) Catherine Haddon. Catherine and her husband, John Allwright had never witnessed a Festival before but she and her highly energetic and enthusiastic team (Secretary Sue Taylor; Publicity Bron Davies; Logistics Jill Rogerson and Treasurer Clive Rainbow) created a fortnight of culture and entertainment we'll remember for years to come. Afterwards Catherine said *"I'll admit I was daunted at the prospect of trying to follow in the footsteps of such talented and respected originators of the Festival but I quickly realised that the whole village was with me and that's what made it all such an exciting challenge and eventually a great success. I was delighted to bring so many people together and see the whole community take part. It was a team effort in the truest sense"*.

This year some new and highly successful events were added with special appeal to teen-plus groups: The Junior Wildlife Watch, The Bike Park Challenge and a Comedy Workshop. Overall there was a huge variety of pace, culture, art and entertainment for all ages. Stunning new talent appeared, especially from youngsters and some relative newcomers in the area. Sam and Kate Laughton's excellent cabaret entertainment with glorious singing from Olivia Wheeler Robinson and Ella James Hart; side splitting humour from Nick Andrews and harmonious singing and mischievous humour from Catherine and John. Also new to the Festival, and crucial to the success of the three day theatre production of 'Three Cheers for Mrs Butler' was it's Director, Annie Hill, who gave countless hours of rehearsal and planning time throughout the summer, to ensure that the Festival opened with the most memorable and entertaining show possible. Judging by the merriment in the tent, she scored 10/10. The brilliant acting of new stars Louise Wilson, who sang a fabulous blues number, and Anthony Cox added a gloss to this great production. Of course the big events were all held together by the regulars, too many to name, who excelled. Wynne Davies expanded his repertoire to include many old favourites and some exquisite duos with John Allwright, master of unex-

pected musical punctuation!

The Festival is made possible by the Playing Fields Committee who provided the Marquee and now the excellent Ridgely's field. This year, thanks to the generosity of Andy Gower, the Baptist Chapel was also added as a perfect setting for the new candle-lit Musical Soiree.

The Festival relies on a committed and hard working support team. The Logistics team (Jill Rogerson, Eric Baines and Stephen Peake) worked tirelessly to transform the marquee each day from one setting to another: theatre one day, jazz club the next, to night-club for the final evening. Bron Davies produced a plethora of new promotional materials and advertised far and wide to ensure that all events were just about fully booked in advance. Jean Baines organised and manned the box office as well as combining with Marjorie Stockley to provide the most sumptuous piping hot dinner at the cabaret supper. And to lubricate the whole fortnight Mike Page organised and managed the bar throughout. Everyone in the support teams worked closely with each event organiser to ensure a smooth running fortnight. John Allwright designed a superb festival web-site ([www.speenfestival.org](http://www.speenfestival.org)), which is newly updated to show photos and information about the entire Festival.

Many others in the village helped by donating their time of equipment. Particular thanks go to the technical crew at the big events: Tom Grant, Patrick Cleaver and Alan Aldous and to Mike Atherton for overseeing the electrics throughout.

We've got a bit of a reputation in the Chilterns (and beyond!) as "the little village that puts on a big event" and this year we really lived up to it once again. Councillor Paul Rogerson said *'This is one of the things which makes Speen such a special place to live in. We have a large group of people who have the enthusiasm to pull together to create an event which people of all backgrounds can enjoy regardless of their age. We also have those few committed people who make it all happen.'* As the dust settles and we all return to our normal lives many tributes have flowed in from people within the village and beyond. One message to the organiser from Nick Andrews in Hughenden Valley particularly sums up the sentiments: *'You deserve all the plaudits you received. The festival is an irreplaceable gift to your community and you and your team have enriched all of our lives.'*

## Obituary - Rene Eyres by John Rogers

Rene was a very private person. As a child she was part of a very close knit family, very cosseted and protected, and was rarely allowed to mix with the other Village children.

After leaving school Rene took a secretariat course in High Wycombe, and then went to work for Goodearls, both in High Wycombe, and later when they moved to Princes Risborough.

One of Rene's passions was her garden, this she inherited from her Father, as a young boy I had a spare time job at Longwood, where her Father looked after the gardens, during tea breaks, which were brought out to us by Rene, I was often instructed on the way to plant veg and the importance of dead heading, Rene took all this to heart, and became very pedantic about her garden, she spent much of her spare time just sitting and enjoying it, even when she became house bound she kept her gardener on his toes. with instructions on the exact position of her bedding plants or where the runner beans should be.

Rene loved North Dean, following in her parents footsteps, (who were both very involved in Village life), she became a member of the Village Hall Committee, and served for many years, she took on the White Elephant stall at the Fete and made it her own, it was always known as Rene's stall. even now, with Megan taking up the reins it is still often know as Rene's stall.

Rene was never married, but she did have her own Cottage in the Village, given to her by her parents, although she never lived in it.

When I was young it was always known as Rene's Cottage.

Rene was not without a twinkle in her eye, I had a friend who didn't live in the village, but often came to village events, Rene would say, is your friend coming this week John, and if the answer was yes her face would light up, my friend always teased her

and when asked what he did for a living told her he was a Spanish Waiter, Rene believed him, and from then on he was know as Rene's Spanish Waiter.

Rene had a large circle of friends, but had one special friend, that was her telephone, she was the eyes and ears of the Village, I never ceased to be amazed how she knew so much of what went on in the Village, perhaps thinking back it was all those calls that many of us had, mostly at dinner time or bedtime.

For almost a century Rene has been a part of North Dean, she was born in Hazel Cottage and then moved across the road to The Cottage where she lived for the rest of her life, with her passing there is a big gap in the Village, we shall all miss her.

God Bless you Rene, May you Rest in Peace.

## *Speen Festival -*

### *Comedy Workshop Event*

A very different and amusing evening was had by everyone attending Jack Milner's Comedy Workshop last week when the audience became the entertainment. Speen and North Dean didn't realise the comic talent they had hidden amongst them! A special mention should go to John Seabrook, Judith Newenham & Toby (from Prestwood) for their acting talents...and Jem Symondson for his views on caravanning and campers' wives. By Caroline Cranley Event organised by Caroline and Lesley Thorn-Davis

## Speen Festival Junior Wildlife watch

Our Junior Wildlife Watch started on the playing field with bug and scavenger hunts. Our hunters (some of them still in pushchairs) roved as far as Ridgeley's Field in search of interesting mini-beasts and ground level evidence of wildlife. Speen's own Fred Burnham and his brother Dennis were on hand to help with identification. Paper bags bulging, the scavengers returned for hot dogs and hamburgers, delicious cakes and icecream, before our wildlife talks started. Peter Symonds showed us some of the specimens he had found in the local countryside, including a red squirrel and a polecat, and Dave Short and Bill Robson told us about barn owls and bats. Mike Collard talked about badgers, with some lovely pictures of baby badgers which he had helped to raise. Finally, as dusk fell and bats began to swoop, we walked slowly around the field holding bat detectors, which allowed us to hear the echo location calls of pipistrelles as they caught their evening meal.

## Speen Festival

### Grand Finale Cabaret Supper.

A review by the Artistic Directors of the last night of the Festival is hardly going to be objective, especially considering the sleep deprivation currently experienced by the Loughtons and their expanded family at the Old King George. However we hope that all agree that the Cabaret Supper achieved the aims set out for the evening: a celebration of a festive week and the provision of a platform for some local talent in a 'nightclub' marquee with delicious food and copious drink. The format of previous Gala Suppers provided an ideal model to replicate, although with the absence of the Speen Choir to provide the backbone of entertainment we decided to throw items together more in the form of a Cabaret. This also gave us the excuse to seek out a variety of ages and acts, resulting in a programme which, we suspect, only tickled the surface of what Speen villagers and neighbours truly have to offer. Hence we roved from *Speen Folk*, to *The Bodgers* barbershop group; from songs from the shows (performed by our youngest and oldest contributors) to original composition; and from Wynne Davies alone with his guitar to the final *Happy Sundays* (sought out from Speen Chapel) who had spent the summer learning wedding standards in order to provide us with a knees-up as a final hurrah. With all this came the design team's wonderful silhouettes of jazz musicians to spice up the marquee, and a red and black cabaret theme complemented by great lighting. And, best of all, Jean Baines' delicious, delicious food. And what a fantastic audience! All in all, it was the best (indeed, only) night out we've had for months; we hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did. Bronwen Davies and her merry band of organisers have surely earned a rest (leaving us out of it of course, waaaahhhh).

### Recital

On Tuesday 11th September Speen Baptist Chapel was the beautiful venue for a Festival candle-lit musical evening. Mezzo soprano, Geraldine Rowe accompanied on piano by her husband, Jeremy sang songs from Shakespeare's plays. They delighted the audience with a variety of pieces ranging from the poignant "Fear No More The Heat O' The Sun" by Finzi to the lovely songs of Amy Beech, "Take, O Take" and "O Mistress Mine". The evening concluded with wine, nibbles and lively conversation. The eighty or so guests all seemed to have a wonderful time!

From Jane Farley, Event Organiser

### Teatro Unfortunato

Saturday morning saw the arrival of Teatro Unfortunato, a wacky yet talented bunch of performers from Beaconsfield. The mad trio put on an extremely funny and entertaining show for the younger children of the village, I'm pretty sure the many parents who stayed to watch enjoyed it as much, if not more than their offspring. Many of the Children (and parents), plucked up courage to join the trio on stage which gave us all the opportunity to laugh/cringe on their behalf. Well done to all the children who came along, it was great to see so many of you in your fancy dress outfits, joining in with the fun and frolicks! By Paula Cox event organiser

### North Dean Village Fete Winners

Would the winner of guess the weight of the beautiful little Calf please call Beechdean Farms to claim their prize.

Many thanks Andrew Howard

## Three Cheers for Mrs Butler



Three Cheers for Mrs. Butler indeed!

A roaring success for the talented thespians of Speen.

While the hard work of rehearsing is going on, we all begin to wonder if it is going to be worth it at the end of the day.

This time it most definitely was.

Annie Friday

Let me immediately declare my interest, I am the husband of the Director, and as such had to be there want to or not!

Having endured the "feedback" from rehearsals, so-and-so not there, so-and-so forgot their words etc. (and believe me the poor spouse gets all the venting of the Director's spleen!) I was not certain what sort of production I was going to witness.

Whoever said "never work with animals or children" should have seen how these children worked, and worked really hard to produce an almost flawless presentation.

The voices were audible, movement was fluent, expressions were generally brilliant, they all worked well together and I didn't spot a weak link.

The transition from a village hall rehearsal area to a stage within a large marquee can not have been easy, and then to be in front of a very live audience and to pause adequately until the laughter subsided was truly brilliant.

I have to add my compliments to Mrs. Butler whose blues number was outstanding.

The best amateur production I have seen and enjoyed in a long time.

Roll on 2009!

# Speen Festival

6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September

## 2007

### Oh What A Jazz Night.....

The Wednesday night Jazz night of the Festival was a sell-out many weeks before. And how often can you say that about a jazz event? But in a Marquee in the village of Speen in Buckinghamshire a packed house listened and stormed for more! Drummer, and Speen resident, **Martin Hart** presented, what I can only describe, as an illustrated lecture, on the lives and music of Rogers and Hart. He had gathered around him some of England's best performers. **Mike Wills**, back from his recent illness was the reed section, **Brad Lang** was on bass, **Ken McCarthy** was at the keyboard, Oxford lecturer on percussion **Alan Graham** was on vibraphone, and the lyrics were sung by **Lynn Garner**, with Martin of course playing the drums, and doing the narration. A well rehearsed, well thought out program, where not only was great jazz music performed, but the excellent research by Martin resulted in our knowledge of the lives of both Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart being greatly increased in a most entertaining way. Well done all. It would be wrong to single out any one of the performers before another, they were a great assembly of talent. But (there are always "buts" aren't there) Martin must be congratulated on putting together a superb show.

Geoff Cronin

### Fred Burnham's Décor

High Class Interior and Exterior Decorating  
Free Advice and Free Estimates  
Sensible Prices and No VAT  
Friendly Local Service  
No Job Too Small  
Call 01494 488303



**SPRINGLINE  
CARS** PRIVATE HIRE

- Airport Transfers
- Personal Service
- Events & Occasions
- Owner Driver
- London Trips
- Local Knowledge

**RISBOROUGH**  
**01844 274 474**

Know the voice, know your driver



# Down on the farm by Gill Kent



How embarrassing ! My final paragraph in last spring's Speen and North Dean News implied that more wheat would be grown in the vale of Aylesbury but that up here in the hills, you would still see our fields full of cattle. Well I'm having to eat my words ! Let me explain.

We have become accustomed to surplus food supplies in Europe, but since May there has been the biggest fall in world stocks that I can ever remember; cereals and milk products are now in short supply world wide. How has this happened so suddenly? Three factors are responsible, the weather, the improved standard of living in India and the Far East and George Bush's determination to be more independent of middle east supplies of oil.

Australia has experienced its worst drought for 100 years and all other grain producing areas of the world have suffered inclement weather conditions (remember the European summer?) so that yields have been down by as much as 33%.. Poor conditions for cereal growth are also poor conditions for milk production; grass needs sun and sensible amounts of rain for optimum growth. India and China are now actively buying grain and milk products and George is buying all the grain he can find to make into Bio-fuels. Hence prices have risen. The average price of wheat last year was £70/ton whereas now it about £170/ ton. (this should not result in more than a 7p rise in the price of your large loaf !) Milk prices have risen from 17.5p/litre last winter to 25p/litre contracted for October so your pinta will also cost more. All this is bad news for you as a consumer but is welcome for farmers who have been struggling for the last 10 years to make any profit. Like many other dairy farmers we could not have continued in business unless the price lifted and now I can say there will definitely be cows here for several more years.

You may have noticed already that some of our fields are being prepared for grain production. The cows eat about 150 tons of wheat a year, so at today's prices we would be fools if we didn't grow of much as we can for home consumption -hence my embarrassment-we are growing grain on the flat land in the hills! We will still have the same numbers of cattle but they will be hidden away on the less productive fields and, dare I say it, we will have to use a little more fertiliser.

A brief mention of the current bovine disease situation. The foot and mouth outbreak appears to be under control, but we are still in a protection zone and can only move animals within our own farm boundaries. It will be interesting to see if anyone tries to sue the government for causing the outbreak in the first place. Blue tongue has arrived as predicted, although not yet west of London. We blame global warming for allowing the offending midges to reach our shores; they pass the disease from one animal to another, so we are praying for a really hard winter to kill them off.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"The Dimmer Zimmers" - Take the X Factor by storm!!

The highlight of the "Apres Fete" X Factor was the surprise denouement from the SSSs ( Speen Senior Sitizens)  
" The Dimmers".

The group, founded by Gloria "Flower Power" Holmes and Dave "holding it all together" Howarth, ably supported by Judy "Hotpants" Redrup (how does she stay in such great shape??) Ozzie "Peace Man" Craft, Don " do your own thing" White, Martin " Rythym Fingers" Hart, and Gwen & Barbara " The Hand Jive Zimmer Queens" had everyone in stitches.

Their relentlessly rehearsed, oscillating orchestration, amazingly agile (Judy!) charismatic choreography & perambulating performance had us aching with laughter.

We can't allow such a unique talent in the village to go to waste!

We DEMAND an encore at The Speen Festival which will surely be followed by a National Tour.

Remember, you saw them here first!

IRENE CLARKE

Dear Editor

gifts  
everyone's  
10 years  
ever that as many people

Martin and I would like to record our thanks to all who contributed to the memorable farewell which were presented to us on the last night of Speen Festival. We were very touched by generosity and good wishes. We have made some marvellous friends since moving to Speen ago and shall be sad if and when we finally move out of the area. We hope how-as possible will come and visit us.

We wish

everyone good health and happiness and hope that  
community life in Speen  
continues to flourish.

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Stockley



# Speen Wind Farm goes on.....

## READERS' LETTERS - THE SPEEN WIND FARM – John R. Oliver

A recent drive through Southern Germany contrasts with the content of the two letters published in your Spring 2007 Issue in response to my short article on a "Speen Wind Farm". On leaving Karlsruhe towards Ulm, on rounding every bend, I was faced with yet another complex of giant wind turbines. This scientifically educated nation at least seems to be aware that there is a global problem that has to be solved.

Your first anonymous response was from a reader, who believes that climate change is happening anyway as a result of solar activity. This reader believes that theories of climate change largely amount to a conspiracy by business to make money. How can we interpret the facts in this way? It would appear that the world's climate scientists believe there may be underlying climatic trends, which may well be leading to higher average temperatures. What the vast majority of these scientists are also saying is that the human race is massively reinforcing any underlying climatic trends – and the evidence can be seen everywhere. The response states "that CO<sub>2</sub> is a function of global warming not a cause". I find this statement impossible to believe. For millions of years, carbon accumulated under the ground in the form of fossil fuels. Within several decades, we humans extract it and transfer billions of tons of it into the atmosphere. Surely, something has to change – and the climate scientists tell us that the net effect is to increase average temperatures?

This reader also urges us to "enjoy the ride". We might from the comfort of the Chiltern hilltops - and those living in Siberia certainly would certainly like a little extra warmth, but millions in the low-lying disappearing areas of Bangladesh and Indonesia certainly would not. Close to home, what about the Fens? Our grandchildren certainly would not. Perhaps, this reader missed the "Times Magazine" article "Tomorrow's World" in March 2007, showing the catastrophic effects of rising sea levels on the topography of British Isles. It is sobering to realise that a rise of 6°C in average temperature, for which there would be such dire consequences, represents only a 2% change relative to absolute zero at -273°C and a current average temperature of 15°C. In what other field could a 2% change threaten to be so cataclysmic?

The second letter from Jim Hazledine argued for a hydrogen economy as the "only practicable answer". This is very commendable, providing the technology to support it is in place. I would not want to my trust in anyone, who has only one solution to solve a complex problem. Wind power is – of course - here now and has been used by mankind for thousands of years and can make a significant contribution. Jim Hazledine rightly pointed out that wind power is only available when there is a wind but then appears not to have understood the point about raising water to store a proportion of this energy. He clearly does not appreciate that the water stored in the Dinorwig Power Station complex in North Wales is in deep vertical shafts, with very little impact on the landscape. You have to know where to look to see the evidence. His point about Speen having a nuclear power plant was just flippant and emotive. I – for one – support Al Gore's initiative and believe the problem of climate change is deadly serious.



## *The Great Milk Debate*



The Eloquent Panel consisted of Wendy Davis, Gill Kent, Jean Morris and Reg Curtis

Gloria Holmes organised an excellent event called the "Great Milk Debate" which took place in Speen Village Hall to a packed audience on Thursday 26th April.

Campaigning members of the Women's Institute have rallied all year nationally to keep dairy farmers in business in the face of strong competition from supermarkets. As part of the national campaign to raise awareness of the difficulties facing dairy farmers local WI's were encouraged to hold local meetings and gain support from the public.

The campaign encourages people to pay a fair price for milk and to lobby the supermarkets to give dairy farmers better prices.

The panel consisted of Wendy Davis from Wren Davis, Gill Kent a dairy farmer, Jean Morris of the WI's education and current affairs committee and Reg Curtis who worked for many years for a large supermarket chain. Each speaker put forward the view from their side of the matter. The evening was very well run and each speaker was most interesting.



It is hoped that the public will continue to support Britain's Dairy Farmers by petitioning supermarkets and buying milk from local suppliers where possible.



## A group of 14 cyclists, including men and women, are posed in a line across a vast, flat, grassy landscape. They are wearing various cycling gear, including helmets, jackets in bright colors like yellow and blue, and dark clothing. Each person is standing next to their bicycle. The background shows a distant horizon under a cloudy sky.

**The Challengers**—Six local youngsters (OK one of us is young!) in prime physical condition, more used to messing about on our bikes in the local woods for a couple of hours on a Sunday morning:

## D Day 1

reach the rugby club at the end of day 1. With the beer kitty and the rest of the guys following we soon sat down for a hearty dinner, some refreshments and off to bed with ears ringing from the windy endeavours!

36 miles, 4555ft "granny ring" up... 4459ft screaming down!!

Most riders are up with the lark and luckily there is some breakfast (full English of course!) left for the late risers of S and ND! We set off and are immediately hit by a violent hail storm. It is soon apparent that day 1 has taken its toll and the first climb is agonising on the legs as the wind and rain blow away the cobwebs of the previous nights drinking!!! We head up toward the famous Devils Dyke but don't hang around for the view and push on to the roller coaster of up and downhill, taking in the views of the south coast and lush plains to the North. We reach the first checkpoint and stock up on Mars Bars and hot tea! After an arduous day we welcomed a 3 mile freewheel down to Midhurst. Tents up and fed in palatial surroundings of the local leisure centre we head off in search of evening entertainment, walking gingerly, legs abow, as the pain of a day in the saddle really kicks in!. Nothing a few beers cant fix and following a few lethargic attempts at conversation we all get our second and third winds and manage to struggle on into the "wee sma 'oors" partying with the locals!!

32 miles, 4267 ft going up .....3954ft going down!!!!

## Day 3

36 miles, 4555ft crawling up.... 4459ft coasting down!!

Up at 6 am.. Well most were! Hilarious start to the day watching the Symondson clan collapse the pop up tent, eventually put out of their misery by Clive with a masterly exhibition of

tent collapsing. We set off having forgotten yesterdays 3 mile freewheel is this mornings slog back to the start! Onwards and upwards across chalk and flint strewn tracks towards the first checkpoint. The heavens opened and the rain came down but it didn't dampen our spirits. (we'd left them in Brighton!) until various things started breaking on the bikes! Brakes failed for Clive and for Chris (SDW ve) so they had to walk downhill. There were some neat cases of hypothermia when we reached the lunch checkpoint but thankfully food and shelter can sort things out an we set off again on the last leg. At last the end is in sight and all too soon we happen upon the Pub where a roaring fire (yes in May) and some fine local ales are waiting to help us on the weary journey home!

### Epilogue (or is that epitaph!!!)

Our ride was in aid of local Sussex charities supported by the Brighton Argus newspaper and while we were all in it for the fun (2) we are pleased to raise in excess of £1000 for charity, so thanks to all who sponsored us.

Last to bed, last up and last to leave in the morning and usually one of the first home in the evening just goes to show that not all the training for an event like this is done on the bike!

Why did we do it? Because it was there! Any takers for next year? Taff Trail in Wales! Coast to Coast Northumberland!

Just let us know!!!

Andy, Craig, Garry, Clive, Jem and Greg

\* Granny ring—the lowest gear on your bike. The one your granny uses if she has a bike!!!!



Coleheath Bottom, Speen, Princes Risborough  
Buckinghamshire HP27 0SZ

T: 01494 488599

F: 01494 488590

E: [info@woodside-secretarial.co.uk](mailto:info@woodside-secretarial.co.uk)

## WOODSIDE SECRETARIAL

**Business and Private Clients Welcome**

**Administrative Outsourcing**

**Fast, Accurate, Professional Service**

**Fully Qualified Secretarial Staff**

Conference and Event Management • Correspondence  
Database Entry and Maintenance • General Administration • Mailshots  
Manuscripts • Programming • Proof-reading • Spanish Translation

# Speen Fete 2007

The sun shone and a large crowd enjoyed the many attractions. We celebrated 60yrs of a traditional village fete, where we raise money to support our village societies and make a contribution to a chosen charity. This year we supported the community transport Dial-a-Ride.

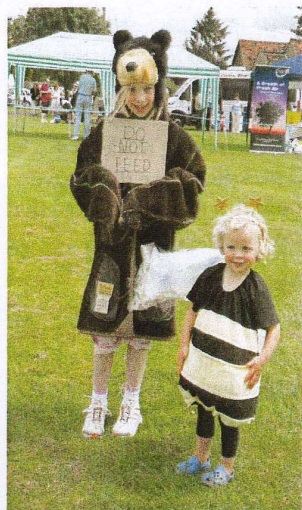
The theme was Bodgers, Bears and Beechwoods and the displays and competitions reflected this theme.

The fete began with a Fancy Dress Parade led by a musician and a Bodger, followed by assorted bears and woodland creatures. Tracey, from Speen Stores had a difficult task deciding the winner from the many imaginative entries.

The Rebels 2000 Dog Team gave an excellent display in the main arena followed by the delightful Speen School country dancing. The Towersey Morris men encouraged members of the audience to have a go and join in their dancing.

There was plenty to enjoy around the playing field with Tombola, Children's Corner and Competitions, Pony Rides and many fun Side Shows. A Horticultural Stall and Bric-a-brac were very popular together with delicious home made refreshments

Jim Barton Chairman

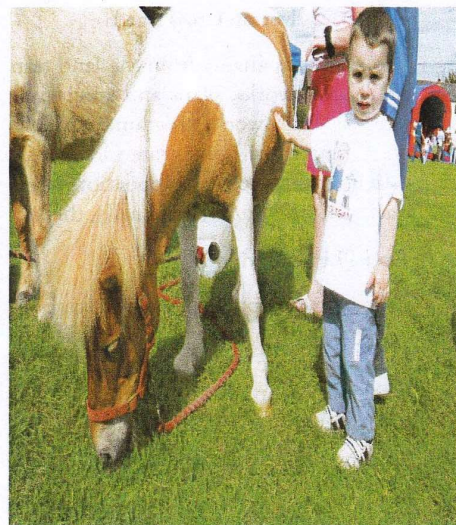


Congratulations to those who helped organise the fete this year. We were fortunate to have what seemed to be the only fine day this summer which contributed to making record profit of £4,000. The committee has agreed that £1000 was given to Charity (Wycombe Dial-a-Ride) and £290 to each village organisation whilst keeping £500 in reserve for next year.

Next Years fete will be 12th July with the key theme being Civil War- The committee would be delighted to welcome new members. Usually the committee meet in the Pavilion on the playing fields, but keep an eye out for any last minute change of venue.

Paul Rogerson

Fete Treasurer



# Speen Stores



## Meet Tracy Matthews.

Tracy is the new face in Speen Stores and rather than write an article about her, we thought it would be nice for Tracy to do her own introduction.

### *Dear People of Speen*

*Let me introduce myself. My name is Tracy Matthews and I am the new proprietor of Speen Stores.*

*I live in Great Kingshill, I am married with one child called Holly. Apart from the shop, I have two ponies, a great dane, a deaf jack Russell, 4 kittens, 4 chickens and 2 ducks. So you can imagine my spare time is pretty full.*

*Well enough about me.*

*As you are probably all aware I have struggled to get the post office services open although the good news is that they eventually opened on 1st October. It must have been the longest job application in history! I applied back in February and have had a continuous battle to get it re-opened. I assure you all of the amount of effort it has taken to and huge financial loss to me for the delay in bringing you this service.*

*You may know that sadly Drew's bakery has closed down and has been replaced by another bakery. However, I know a lot of you are dissatisfied with the new products and I am currently looking into new suppliers with a view to perhaps doing the baking of bread and cakes on the premises. Your comments would be appreciated on this matter.*

*I have quite a few new ideas in the pipeline eg., freshly ground coffee and for Christmas I am hoping to sell chutneys and Jams with personalised labels reading "greetings from Speen Village" Order forms will be available from the end of October.*

*As with any new business things take time and I would like to thank you all for making my family and I so welcome and for bearing with us while we find our feet!*

*Please always feel free to make any suggestions or comments to improve the shop and the services we bring you.*

*Looking forward to serving you all in the future*

*Regards*

*Tracy*

## A traditional day .....



### North Dean Village Fete 2007

*Two years ago the committee were given the task to bring in New Blood. This year the fete showed how many residents of North Dean enjoy getting involved.*

*With a welcoming committee allowing everyone to participate in the prize draw, we gathered everyone in front of the magnificent Speen marquee. At 2pm, Gill Kent officially opened the fete. With the infamous run for Bric-a-brac held up for 30 minutes, the traditional prize giving and childrens fancy dress got the attention it deserved. With everyone at fever pitch, the marquee opened and the carnage began.*



### *The Best North Dean Fete since 1987*

*What made the 2007 North Dean Fete such a success? Was it the change in format? Was it the fact that 2007 was the highest takings ever? Was it the fact that the weather was great? Was it the number of stalls that made the 2007 fete such a memorable day?*

*All of these contributed to a great day but for me what made this such a memorable day was the involvement of so many people new and old.*



*As you walked up from the entrance the traditional nature of our very special fete was all around:*

### *North Dean Fete continued*

*Teas in the village hall ( looking very smart with its new roof); the Hurdy Gurdy sounds mixed with the clunk of the traditional skittles; The giggling and laughter of children on the coconut shy or the beat the goalie competition. The steam train chugging away by the historic Double Decker Bus created images that could have been seen decades ago.*

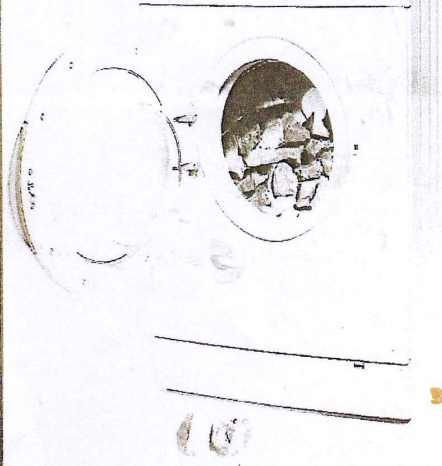
*Where ever you stopped at the fete, groups of people were chatting and laughing. Whether drinking from the bar, eating from the very unique South African BBQ (another winner) or enjoying a locally produced ice cream, the fete provided the social event of the year.*

*With the most successful fete since 1987 drawing to a close, the traditional evening dinner for helpers was being prepared. This year the dinner was opened up to everyone and over 70 people took the chance to continue this village party. With steak, salad and a drop of alcohol the party continued well into the night. A fantastic end to a great day and everyone ambled home having caught up with old friends and hopefully met a few new ones as well.*

*A big thank you to everyone who helped: the committee and everyone else who helped did a great job so see you next year. Why the best fete since 1987? Because my first fete was 1988, so I can only comment that far back.*


*Andrew Howard, Chairman, NDVH*

## Mean machine



Hard water can ruin appliances – avoid damage in your home by installing an Ecowater softener. Available from Sterling Softeners, the Ecowater range of intelligent products provides a continuous supply of soft water with the minimum amount of fuss.

To request a free brochure and to find out how you can begin to enjoy the benefits of softened water in your home, call us on freephone 0800 515 377 or visit [www.sterlingsofteners.co.uk](http://www.sterlingsofteners.co.uk)



Intelligent solutions to hard water problems available from

**Sterling Softeners**

Courtesy View House – North Dean

### *Speen Playing Fields*

#### *Playing Field Improvements and Maintenance*

The playing field was in good order and well used during the summer for Fun Day, The Fete and the Festival, as well as smaller activities. The cricket net is very popular and new stumps have been provided. Committee members are carrying out twice-monthly safety inspections of the play equipment on a rota basis, as recommended by our independent safety inspector. The electric power system in the pavilion was upgraded for the Festival and also safety checked. The notices at the two entrances have been repainted to emphasise the rules of use, particularly regarding having no dogs on the field.

#### *Ridgley's Field*

The field was left ungrazed as a meadow with pathways to encourage visitors. A wide range of attractive wild flowers emerged. An outdoor table tennis table was installed and is being well used—bring your own bats and balls! The bike park has been very popular with village teenagers.

#### *Speen Marquee*

The Marquee has been hired out for events in Speen, North Dean and Hampden—many thanks to the many volunteers who erect and strike. The marquee is now 10 years old and is becoming badly stained with non-removable fungus. Its possible replacement will be considered by the management team at the autumn AGM.

#### *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*

Christmas Tree carols Saturday 15th December

Fun Day 2008—Saturday/Sunday 7th 8th June



## Shooting Star.....

Mr Reg Curris of Abbotswood in Speen is a highly skilled superstar living quietly amongst us. Reg excels at Rifle Shooting and this year he was part of the British National Rifle Association team and had the pleasure of the 2007 Channel islands tour which his team won by a margin of 4 points

Reg was the 2007 Victor in the Buckinghamshire County Rifle Association Long Range Cup and The Full Bore Rifle Champion.

In his spare time Reg is the MD of Alpha retail , running various chains of airport shops and catering outlets, where most of us have probably unwittingly contributed to his bonus!

Congratulations to Reg on his successes.

## Hughenden Builders

*Established 22 years*

### All Building Works Undertaken

- Extensions.
- Alterations.
- Loft Conversions.
- Roofing – all types.
- Drives, Block paving, Tarmac etc.
- Patios, Walls, Garden landscaping.
- Plumbing, Plastering, Carpentry.

### Planning Service.

#### Clear & Concise Plans

Single Story £150.00

Two Storey £300.00

(plus council fees)

Free detailed estimate with drawing.  
Planning fees returned if tender accepted.

171 Main Road  
Naphill

Tel: 01494 562937  
01494 438057

## Badgers

[WWW.bucks-badger.org.uk](http://WWW.bucks-badger.org.uk)

With so many badgers coming to harm either on our roads or due to man made obstacles a number of readers have asked for some contact numbers to call regarding badger incidents.

Local contact for all badger related issues; to include reports of badgers killed, setts, live badgers or if you see an injured badger please call 01494 866908 or 01494677633.

North Dean residents  
can also inform Mr  
Ray Mahoney 01494  
564278



# Reliable, Friendly Service

Emergency Spares and Repairs

Drains, Leaks, Loos, Taps

Boilers, Central Heating & Controls

Registered for Gas, Oil\*, Part P Electric

\*New - in process

Problems investigated, alternative  
solutions proposed and the best fit to  
your requirements carried out

## Based in Upper North Dean

# Paul's Plumbing

07786 175123

Local to Naphill, Walters Ash

Lacey Green, Speen, Hampden

Hughenden, North Dean



199757

Electrics - Bathroom, Heating, Etc.  
Registered for Self Certification

Paul Newman Ltd. 01494 565573



Katie and friends having fun at Arts and Crafts



Speen School Celebrations—dancing led by Imogen!



The Great Balloon release from Speen school celebrations. The winning balloon reached a little boy in France who wrote confirming his find to the owner Gini Holmes.



**Richard Fergusson**

**BUILDER**

*Established 30 years*

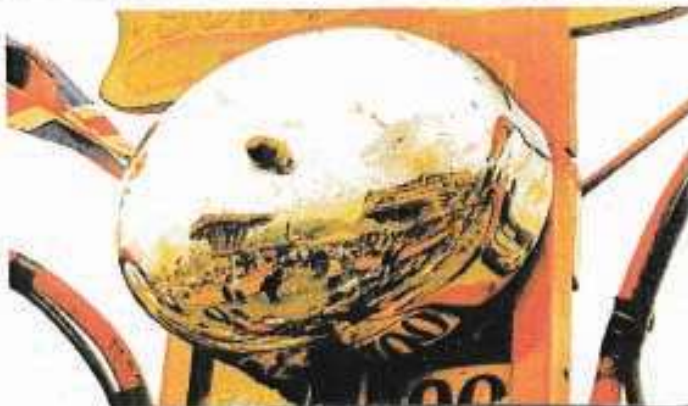
**FOR...** Internal and external alterations

**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**

## David Bailey or Rhynie Greeff?????



The Telegraph readers amongst you, would have seen the picture above in a recent colour supplement regarding a Photographic competition. The competition was entered by over 40,000 individuals but this picture called "A Fair Mirror of Life" was taken not by David Bailey (who was the judge) but our own Clappins Lane resident Mr Rhynie Greeff. So our congratulations go to Rhynie on being the winner of the OUR EVENTS category. The photograph was taken at a steam fair in West Wycombe.

## Hester Amelia Kent

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Hester Amelia Kent passed away peacefully at her home in Naphill, having seen in her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday that morning.

Being the mother of Jim Kent, she was a familiar face over the years at many North Dean events. Known affectionately to all those who knew her as Essie or Granny Kent, she was a lady that touched so many people's lives and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew and loved her. Over 150 people attended a Thanksgiving Service for her life at Hughenden Church.



at the  
Best Western Alexandra Hotel

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**For Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

The terrace restaurant is perfect for having an intimate meal, celebration party or a private gathering. Our experienced and friendly team can tailor make the event to your individual needs

We are now taking bookings for Christmas parties starting in November and continuing through until January. New Years Eve Gala Dinner is the highlight of the restaurant and hotels event calendar.

Conveniently located in the town centre opposite Wycombe hospital



**Present this advert and get a complimentary glass of house wine with your main meal. (Offer valid until 30/12/07 excluding party and event nights)**

the terrace restaurant at the Best Western Alexandra Hotel  
Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 2JX

Telephone Number: 01494 463494 Email: [reservations@alexandra-hotel.co.uk](mailto:reservations@alexandra-hotel.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bw-alexandrahotel.co.uk](http://www.bw-alexandrahotel.co.uk)

# County and District Council

## News September 2007

### Road Maintenance

I have received a lot of complaints about the state of Bryant's Bottom Road approaching the Pink Road. I raised these concerns early this year asking that repairs be carried out. Part of the problem was the absence of an Area Technician responsible for placing orders. This was put right by the appointment of a new technician in June who has set about catching up with the backlog. Since that time there has been a steady improvement with the repairs of potholes but the larger pieces of work have had to wait until the schedules permitted.

Having raised the matter again I have been advised that the 'patching' works will be carried out in this area during September and October and that the first section will be Bryant's Bottom Road. Other areas include Studridge Lane, Moses Plat, Piggott Hill, and Little Hampden Road.

I have also raised the matter about 'washout' being left on the roads making it dangerous for roads users when braking or cycling. This is particularly noticeable in North Dean and on the approaches to the Rignal Road. If you do know of areas in need of urgent repair then please contact Highways on Call either by telephone (0845 230 2882) or through the County Council's web site [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

### A4010 - Culverton Cross Roads

The problems arising from the land transfer have now been resolved giving the County Council entitlement to enter the land. All scheme works, plans and specifications have been sent to Fitzpatrick, the County Council's term contractor who are currently devising works programme which will detail exactly which works will be carried out and when. It is now anticipated that on site works will begin late October 2007 and finish February 2008. The on site works will be carried out in 3 phases commencing with the accommodation works necessary to clear the site of services, in late October 2007, followed by the main contract civil works and then finally, the landscaping works.

### Speed Limit Review

Following the appointment of Alan Baverstock to progress the county wide project work is now well underway with the post implementation review for Area 5 which includes Speen and North Dean. All responses to date have been collated to identify what and where the issues of concern are. In addition further speed measurements have been taken at key locations and 'crash data' is being analysed ( up to most recent available- June 2007) to

compare the number of crashes before/after the new speed limits were put in place.

Site visits and further investigations will take place as soon as possible, so that the Working Group can be provided with all relevant information to assess the officer's recommendations. Current estimates are that the Working Group will meet towards the end of this year. Public consultation on any proposed changes will then take place by the end of 2007/early 2008, with resultant speed limit changes being in place by Spring /early summer 2008.

### Directional Signing (Finger posts)

The consultant's proposal for new and revised directional signing and minor amendments are currently being made to the final schedules. Given the scale of the re signing it is likely that they will be delivering these in smaller packages, once these have been finalised with the supplier the delivery programme will be circulated. Taking this into account it is now anticipated that the directional signing will be completed by spring 2008.

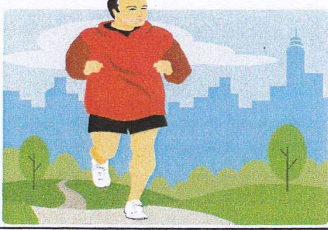
### Temporary Speed indicator devices (TSID)

Following the trials of the TSID, formally known as Vehicle Activated Signs, in conjunction with Reading University, a final report has been presented which was positive in that it indicated that drivers were reducing their speed when the devices were deployed. You may have seen one in Main Road Lacey Green. I have asked that these be redeployed in our area ahead of the County Council preparing a policy and procedure for the wider use within the county. The County Council has agreed that, within the Tranquil area, the option of training Local Area Technicians will be considered so that the devices may be deployed at selected locations. Parishes will be advised when the Local Area Technicians have received the required training so that they can request the devices for their areas.

### Community Leaders Fund

This fund has again been agreed both by District and County Councils which means that funding for small community projects can be made. If you have a project or would like to know more about the schemes please give me a call.

Paul Rogerson  
County and District Councillor  
01494 488315



# Stay Healthy page

## THE FORMULA BENEFITS FOR A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

FROM KATE WALLACE - OWNER OF NATURAL FITNESS LTD

The basic formula for a healthy lifestyle keep it simple!

Ensure that starch foods - bread, rice, pasta, cereals or potatoes—form about a third of your diet. Always try and choose wholegrain varieties

A glass of fresh pressed juice at breakfast, a side salad at lunch or an apple as a snack all count towards your 'five a day' target.

If you are an omnivore eat fish at least twice a week, including salmon, mackerel or fresh tuna, to get heart boosting omega-3 fatty acids.

Reduce your intake of sugar and saturated fat by having fruit instead of biscuits, water instead of fizzy drinks, and more nuts, avocados and pulses like lentils and chick peas.

Eat no more than 6gm of salt a day.

Be more physically active by staying focused - don't just go through the motions.

Drink six to eight glasses of water a day

Always eat breakfast to kick-start your day. Skipping it won't help you lose weight and will make you more likely to have an unhealthy mid-morning snack.

COME AND MEET KATE AND JOIN IN ONE OF HER FANTASTIC CIRCUIT CLASSES 1PM EVERY TUESDAY AT NORTH DEAN VILLAGE HALL. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW FIT OR UNFIT YOU ARE-DON'T BE SHY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL KATE ON 07741 000600. LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE.

## PREPARING FOR WINTER

### Boosting your immune system.

We are all more prone to coughs, colds and flu as the winter approaches. Why is this? Well, there are several reasons.

More time spent indoors during the winter months puts us in closer contact with each other and the warm indoor environment makes a perfect breeding ground for bacteria and viruses. Diet changes dramatically in colder weather; we generally eat far less fresh fruit, salad and vegetables the consequence being a reduction in our intake of antioxidants - Vitamin C for example. Antioxidants are used by the body to fight infection.

There is no miracle cure for these ailments as there are literally hundreds of different viruses causing coughs, colds and flu. These viruses are changing (mutating) all the time making it impossible to find a cure.



The good news is there is plenty we can do to help ourselves. A Healthy Immune System Our immune system is there to protect us, to ward off any nasty bugs that trigger coughs, colds and flu. Our self-defence system needs to be strong enough to keep these viruses at bay.

bacteria from entering our bodies and multiplying as well as helping to re-establish health when we fall ill. There are some simple measures you can take to boost your immune system and help you enjoy a healthy winter.

#### GARLIC

It helps to strengthen the immune system and maintain healthy immune function. Garlic has also been shown to kill several types of bacteria and viruses. One clove daily! or if you prefer supplements are available from health food shops.

#### VITAMIN C

An important antioxidant which helps to build a strong immune system and decrease the duration of colds and flu. Natural sources include citrus fruits, kiwi, broccoli, peppers, and potatoes. Supplements are also widely available.

Squeeze half a lemon in hot water. This is a great way to cleanse your system and increase your daily intake of Vitamin C at the same time. It is particularly beneficial when drunk first thing in the morning.

#### ZINC

Zinc revives the thymus, the key gland of the immune system. Taking zinc is another way to shorten the duration of a cold. Supplements are available but natural sources can be obtained by including a mixture of pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, nuts, beans, whole grains, red meat and eggs in your diet.

#### ECHINACEA

Native American Indians have used the herb Echinacea (the purple coneflower) for hundreds of years for all manner of illnesses. Increasingly the benefits of this plant are becoming clear. Echinacea has proven antiviral, antibiotic, anti-fungal and immune enhancing effects. The action of Echinacea in the body is to increase the effectiveness with which the immune system deals with the bacteria and viruses that enter our bodies, preventing them from triggering an illness.

It will also help to lessen cold and flu symptoms as well as generally boosting the immune system.

To boost the immune system it is best taken for 3 weeks followed by 1 weeks rest, as constant use of this herb can over stimulate the immune system.

#### EAT NUTRITIOUS FOODS

A diet high in fruit and vegetables is essential for optimum immune function.

#### DRINK PLENTY OF FLUIDS

Dehydration can lower resistance to infection.

#### STRESS

Stress causes the adrenal glands to produce cortisol, which suppresses the immune system.

Getting enough sleep is essential for healthy immune function - this is the time when it is repaired and replenished.

*Remember your best defence against illness is to boost your immune system*

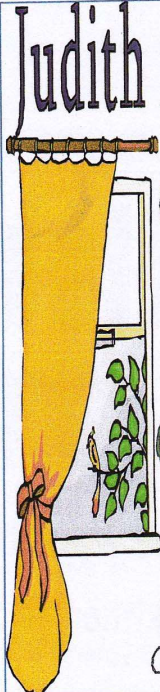
Sarah Seabrook RSHom

Allergy Testing & Homeopath

01494 858082

[sarahseabrook.home@virgin.net](mailto:sarahseabrook.home@virgin.net)

*If you have an underlying health problem and wish to incorporate some of the recommended measures into your lifestyle, please consult your doctor first.*



Judith A Newenham  
Curtains  
Blinds  
Cushions  
9 Abbotswood  
Speen  
01494 488687

**SPEEN SUPPORTERS GROUP FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

**THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER** AT THE DE WANUM WITH CHICKEN & CHIPS SUPPER. TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE IN SPEEN SHOP

**BARN DANCE**

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008** WITH A FISH & CHIP SUPPER( CO-SILY ) IN NORTH DEAN VILLAGE HALL

WATCH OUT FOR **THE SUMMER BALL** SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2008. IT PROMISES TO BE ANOTHER GOOD ONE!!!

# Nicki Thomas Web Design

**Quality bespoke websites for a wide range of businesses**

**Visit [www.nickithomas.co.uk](http://www.nickithomas.co.uk) on the Web to find out more...**

Hedgerows, Studridge Lane  
Speen  
Princes Risborough HP27 0SA

Tel 01494 488665  
Fax 0870 1623908

## A Little Piece of South America in Speen

I'm sure many of you are aware of the new arrivals in a field next to the Old Plow of several Alpacas. It started in June '06 when Jake and Justin arrived, followed a month later by three females, Janet, Jasmine and Juliet. All three females were already pregnant.

Janet was the first to give birth to a little female named Annabel, then 10 days later Jasmine with a male named Alex and finally Juliet with a male named Adagio.

These fascinating creatures originate from South America, are very hardy and can live up to 20 years. They do not have cloven hooves, rather pads and toe nails which mean they cause very little damage to the grazing areas. They are prized for their fiber fleeces which can be used to make much the same things as you would with wool. Alpacas are also very efficient eaters; food for 1 horse could feed 50 alpacas. But be warned a startled or annoyed Alpaca will spit!



The youngsters, known as crias, will be with their mothers for at least six months until they can be weaned. In the mean time the adult females will be mated again so watch for the new arrivals in another 11½ months.

## How green is our pleasant land?

England is not alone in becoming increasingly dependent on imported gas and oil. We are one of 27 oil producing nations who reported declining output in 2006.\*

In an era of vanishing cheap oil, the best gift any individual of this generation is likely to be able to make to his or her children, will not be the extended loan\*\*. It will be the proof of not having used natural resources entirely selfishly. Passing on a home and lifestyle which contributes positively to a low carbon community may be just the proof that tomorrow's children will be looking for.

So, how do we move towards low carbon living? Well, first things first. 85% of the energy we use in our homes is used on space and water heating. The most cost-effective way to reduce this consumption is to better insulate our homes.

For information on insulation grants and discounts, contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on **0800 512 012**.

\* 27 of the 51 oil-producing nations listed in BP's Statistical Review of World Energy reported output declines in 2006 - The Times, 16 July 2007

\*\* A barrel of oil was priced at \$10 as recently as 1999. In July 2007, oil hit \$77 a barrel.



# X

## FACTOR

In the evening after the Fete, the Speen and North Dean News sponsored a Talent Competition. This idea was suggested by one of the village teenagers.

There were several brilliant entries judged by an excellent panel: Kathy, Roger, Ashley and Wynne, who gave helpful and encouraging comments to all the contestants. The show was ably presented by Greg. And supported by Simon and all the rising stars provided us with a very lively and entertaining evening.

The winners were Holly and Rebecca followed by Laura and congratulations went to everyone who took part.



After the interval we were treated to a lovely song by Ella, followed by The Dimmers who gave their rendition of the pop hit My Generation :



Everyone seemed to have a great evening with some money being raised for Speen and North Dean Village Halls



## **New Businesses in Speen & North Dean**

### **ANDREW**

is a fully qualified and experienced tree surgeon. All aspects of domestic tree work undertaken including hedges, planting, pruning and removal. Tidy and polite service. He gives free estimates and advice.

Call 01494 449629  
or 07921 950723

### **Champneys in Speen!**

Clare Radforth trained at Champneys and now specialises in providing face, body treatments, eyelash tinting, waxing, manicures & pedicures at her home based salon. Gift Vouchers are available from "Spoilt Rotten" call

Clare 07789 762351

[spoiltrottenspeen@btinternet.com](mailto:spoiltrottenspeen@btinternet.com)

**Bed & Breakfast now in  
Speen!**

### **HELP!**

Our natural organic healthcare business is exploding!

If you are honest, ethical and believe you are worth £5000 a month (£500-£2000 a month part-time)

**Call NOW**

**01494 488641**

Training and support given

### **Pure Gardening**

Ben Sutherland has a love of the outdoors and set up a friendly gardening service with NPTC qualified gardeners aiming to provide gardens you'll love to be in. Call Ben on 07760 250 205

Jane Farley has started to offer luxury self contained accommodation at Chiltern Gables, Grubbins Lane  
01494 488749

### **Clive Edwards - Graphic Designer**

I have 20 years experience in the design industry, covering a variety of fields 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](mailto:clive_edwards_design@yahoo.co.uk)



**FRASER – MORGAN S  
SCHOOL OF DANCING**

**BALLET (RAD) : AGE 3+**

**MODERN/JAZZ : AGE 5+**

**CLASSES HELD AT  
NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION RING:**

**ELAINE TUCKER**

**01494 816539**

Speen Stores

Fresh Bread Baked Daily

Homemade Cakes

Cakes made to order

Farm Fresh Eggs

**A WARM FRIENDLY  
WELCOME**

Opening hours

Monday to Friday

6.45 am until 6.30pm

Saturday 8am To 3pm

Sunday 8.30am to 12.30pm

## **SPEEN WI**

It seems a long time ago that we held a Great Milk Debate in April in Speen Village Hall, but the question of the price of dairy produce in supermarkets has certainly not gone away. Over 80 people turned out to discuss the state of the British Farming Industry with local farmer Gill Kent explaining the difficulties which dairy farmers currently face. Wendy Davis of Wren Davis explained how using the local milk delivery system can benefit the industry and Reg Curtis explained where the supermarkets were coming into this situation. It was clear that as consumers we need to think carefully about what we are buying - not just for dairy produce but in regard to all our food. The matter is being taken up by WDC who are anxious to see what they can do to help. Throughout England and Wales the WI organised 100 similar debates and it is certainly keeping the matter in the public domain.

On a lighter note we have enjoyed our speakers about the Time Team at Chenies, the archaeological sites of Egypt and Petra and the life and work of Vincent van Gogh. The visit to Highgrove was a great success and there has also been a tour of the house and gardens at Chenies.

We are now looking forward to hearing an old favourite, Colin Oakes, at our October meeting telling us all about Soho and in December we shall be finding out about Stained Glass with Anna Conti. November is traditionally our Annual meeting when we shall review our year, elect our committee for the coming year and look forward to all the excellent things planned for 2008.

# A HISTORY OF SPEEN

The "Leaves of Time" was first Speen's Millennium Celebrations and its inhabitants since records began. It Speen Chapel as well as the birth of the 'bodger' and Speen's brush with a fascinating account of the self-of this remote hilltop village.

Written by Martin Stockley and Bob has been updated by Martin to village such as the school's 40th children's bike park, the numerous and of course the biennial SPEEN photographic exhibitions, plays and

THE LEAVES OF TIME second from Speen Stores, Corbett's book and online at



published in 2000 as part of is a history of the village and records the building of our school, the origins of the Second World War! It is reliance of the inhabitants

Johnston, the 2007 edition include recent events in the birthday, the opening of the S.S.G.'s fundraising events FESTIVAL with its art and musicals.

edition is now available shop, Princes Risborough olivia.cowan@onetel.net

## **Watch out in 2008 for the following Art Exhibitions**

### **Bucks Visual Arts**

13<sup>th</sup> June until 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008

There are 150 venues all over Bucks that you can visit. Kingfisher Pictures, Glenn & Martin Hart.

Halcyon Chapel Hill, Speen

### **Speen Art Exhibition**

Come and view a varied exhibition of local artists in

Speen Village Hall on Fete Day 12<sup>th</sup> July.2008

open 2pm until 5pm during the Fete

**West Wycombe Art Group Annual Exhibition**

August Bank Holiday Weekend

West Wycombe Village Hall

22ndFriday,23rd Saturday, 24th Sunday 25thMonday

## Wildlife Watch

There have been numerous new or interesting records since the last edition.

In April a pair of Mandarin ducks turned up on one of the local woodland ponds and seemed to be trying to establish their own territory. Mandarins are an introduced species from South-east Asia but are now more common in southern England than in their native land. Nevertheless to find a pair of such exotic-looking uncommon birds was a new and interesting record for our patch. The birds moved on after about 10 days without breeding, I believe.



The nesting period saw the usual mixed crop of successes and failures. Two tiny Mallard ducklings were found wandering in Abbotswood with no sign of any parents in the vicinity. One died but the second was taken to Tiggywinkles Animal Hospital. On Speen Funday another brood of Mallard ducklings on the Playing Fields were eventually reunited with their anxious mother. During May the Great Spotted Woodpeckers that visit my garden suddenly took to raiding certain nest boxes. One nest of baby Blue tits were taken one by one by the woodpeckers over a couple of days with the desperate parents unable to fend them off. However other boxes were more successful with several clutches of Tits reared successfully, as was a Goldcrests nest in one of our conifers. Baby Blackcaps were also being fed in Coleheath Bottom. Mistle Thrush eggs were taken from a nest in Spring Coppice Lane after only a couple of days. There were signs that Buzzards may have nested again locally and young Red Kites have been noted over the village. Interesting reports from North Dean referred to a Red Kite swooping down to take a young Moorhen chick from a nest and also feeding at the side of the pond on a fish. It was not clear whether this was a dead fish or an Osprey-style catch of a live fish which I have not heard of before. Interesting mammal records included an injured Long Eared Bat from Abbotswood with a damaged wing. This was taken to Tiggywinkles who will release it back into Abbotswood if successfully rehabilitated. As the name suggests this bat has huge ears, nearly three quarters of the length of the body. On the Festival Wildlife evening bat experts using detectors that can



Noctule  
*Myotis noctule*



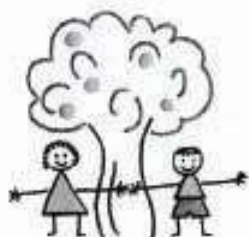
pick up the different high frequency sounds made by different bats recorded Common Pipistrelles and the less common Soprano Pipistrelle together with a Noctule Bat around Speen playing field. Rats seem to have been a problem in various parts of Speen during the summer. One resident took great delight in live trapping a rat and

driving it to Chequers to release it. Edible Dormice (*Glis glis*) are evidently present in various village lofts. Occasional sightings of Roe deer have continued with 4 seen together in April whilst I noted a doe with a fawn in August.

During the summer Paul James saw several Purple Emperor butterflies in Spring Coppice Lane which attracted interest from county recorders whilst Grass Snakes were reported in Great Hampden.

Please let me know of any interesting records. ( [symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk](mailto:symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk) or 01494 488016) Peter Symonds.

# Speen Pre-school



Speen Pre-School is a valuable and vital part of village life - and is urgently seeking a network of supporters from all parts of our community to sustain this status.

A new committee of parents are working hard to make it an ongoing success. But your practical help, experience and support over coming months would also be greatly appreciated. There are a number of ways to become involved:

- As a helper during Pre-School sessions
- As a donor
- As part of our fundraising team
- Through consultancy or experience, particularly financial

As an advocate more generally.

On many fronts, the Pre-school is thriving. This term's themes are centred on Nursery Rhymes and the children are already thoroughly enjoying singing and creating items related to these well-loved songs.

Successes last term included a fantastic Open evening where parents viewed their children's wonderful work and chatted to key workers, a great Sports Day and End of term party. As usual the Pre-School provided the Kiddies Korner at Speen Fete which, judging by the number of repeat visitors to the Lucky Dip, was well received!

However, with Ofsted standards, the Charities and

Children's Acts, Employment and Health & Safety legislation and a mountain of other requirements to contend with, it's worth re-iterating that the Pre-School cannot operate like a playgroup of yesteryear. This year the Pre-School also faces quite a financial challenge and we have tough fund-raising target in the region of £4,000.

We face our three yearly Ofsted inspection any day now. Ofsted inspections reflect the status a pre-school deserves and are an important element of parents' decision making processes when they choose a setting for their child. Over the summer, there has been a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes to prepare for the inspection.

Aside from Ofsted, we are looking to recruit a Deputy Leader (qualified to DPP Level 3 or equivalent). If anyone is able to suggest a candidate for this role, we'd be grateful to hear from you.

I'm indebted to all the volunteer committee members who are now regularly devoting time - in addition to raising a family - to helping run the Pre-School. Their efforts and those of the staff are invaluable as we watch our children grow in confidence and understanding in our beautiful village surroundings.

Nonetheless, we still need more support - yours! If you feel you can help, please contact me on 01494 488340 or [annabel.warr@btinternet.com](mailto:annabel.warr@btinternet.com).

Thank you.

Annabel Warr, Chair, Speen Pre-School Committee

*Speen Pre-School runs from Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.15pm. If you are interested in a place for your child, or require more information, please call our Pre-School Leader, Inga Pope, on 01494 488160 or our Admissions Officer, Caroline Cranley on 01494 488494. Alternatively please visit our website at:*

[www.speenpreschool.org.uk](http://www.speenpreschool.org.uk)

# BEECHDEAN

## Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream

Made from fresh Jersey milk  
and rich double cream



500ml tubs

**Available From**

**National**  
**OCADO ( Home Delivery)**

**Regional**  
**(Beds, Bucks, Oxon, Berks, Surrey, Middx, London)**

**TESCO MORRISON**

**WAITROSE BUDGENS**

**[www.beechdean.co.uk](http://www.beechdean.co.uk)**

**Del doing Africa**..... As we go to print Del is currently out in Africa as per his article in the last edition

### Charity Pig Roast at Hampden Arms a Huge success

Around 300 people flocked to The Hampden Arms for Derek Stephen's charity fundraiser for 'Enduro Africa' in aid of 'Riders for Health' back on a sunny June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Good weather, a stunning pig roast, & buzzing atmosphere and amazing generosity all contributed to this wonderful day.

The Fundraising smashed all our expectations - raising an astonishing £4,800!

Special thanks to Louise & Constantine for handing over their pub for the day and providing fabulous salads etc to go with the roast pork, to Donna for her towering support, Hampden WI for running the cream tea stall, Adam Green & his bar staff and all those that helped on the day. Thank you also to everyone that helped putting up & taking down the Village marquee.

Without sponsors Phil Green, Martin Sims, Eraldo Guarino and the generosity of all my other sponsors raising this amount of money would have been a much harder task

As I write, late entry Andrew Stubbings from Bradenham and myself are less than 2 weeks away from heading off to Durban to complete this epic off-road motorcycle ride and finally donate our motorcycles to health care workers who will use these bikes to save lives in Zimbabwe.

It's been a long time coming, thank you everyone for your support

Catch up soon Derek Stevens



## Speen Bike Park Challenge

Ridgley's field was a hive of activity on the morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September as preparations were made for the inaugural Speen Bike Park Challenge, a new event in the festival calendar. The event sought to involve the youngsters in Speen who would not normally get involved in Festival events.

A large area of the main field had been cleared to make way for novel challenges including a Slow Bike Race, with competitors covering the shortest distance in 90 seconds, and Bike Limbo, involving cycling under a low bar. A course was also cut through the long grass for a Water Challenge involving cycling with a leaking bucket of water. On the main Bike Park youngsters took part in a timed Track Trial taking in the earth jumps and banks and a timed Obstacle Course involving the chain broadwalk, the seesaw, the narrow planks and the bouncy bridge. To compliment the activities a BBQ was laid on together with a registration desk, a first aid post and a pit stop, with mechanics on hand to carry out rapid repairs.

The event attracted nearly 40 competitors and in all there were probably over 100 villagers on the field enjoying the warm weather. The youngsters, who had been subdivided into three age groups from 8 to 18, moved from one arena to another whilst their scores were logged onto a computer spreadsheet. Congratulations to the winners: Oliver Blundell and Alex Symonds (15-18), Dan Blundell and Rory Seekins (10-14) and Johnny Thirkell and Tara Woodward (8-10). Finally all competitors were awarded medals commemorating the 2007 Speen Bike Park Challenge.

One spectator commented that if Dan Ridgley had been looking down from Heaven he would have been delighted to see so many village children enjoying his legacy.

Thanks to all who helped to make the event a great success. Peter Symonds event organiser



## News from Speen Church

<http://speenchurch.org>

### Andy writes:

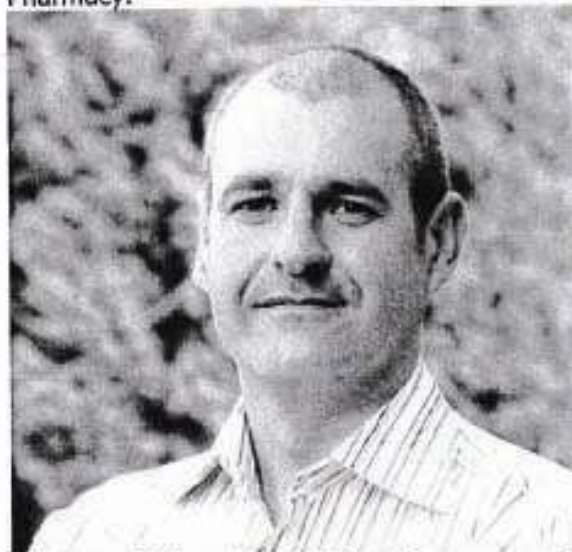
Many thanks to those who trusted that our mystery visitor in May really was someone worth hearing and came in large numbers to find out who it was. **Jackie Pullinger** has been called 'the Protestant Mother Theresa' for her four decades of work among drug addicts in Hong Kong. When she occasionally visits the UK, venues are packed out to hear her and we knew this would happen if the wider world heard of her visit to Speen (part of a brief 3 day stopover in the UK).



(picture by Reg Taylor)

Jackie was travelling with a team which included two reformed heroin addicts. The stories they shared of transformed lives were very moving. She has developed a very effective, controversial and potentially dangerous approach to help addicts get off heroin - based on the power of God. Jackie has a team of people praying with the addict 24 hours a day for the nearly two weeks it takes to go 'cold-turkey'. Interestingly they seem to do very well. Whilst our son Sam was helping on a team in Hong Kong this summer he had 3 guys successfully go through de-tox. And after this there is a multi-stage approach to help the ex-addicts back into work and society; all at little cost to the state.

The autumn season of the community **Ladies and Men's Breakfasts** got off to a fascinating start and a close shave with **Prof Paul Matts** speaking to the men. Paul is a Principal Scientist with Proctor & Gamble, Lecturer at London College of Fashion and Visiting Professor to the London School of Pharmacy.



His story "*It's a tough job but someone's got to do it ... keeping the women of the world beautiful*" provided a fascinating insight into how the body ages and how we recognise aging in others. Part of his talk will be seen on BBC TV later in the year.

And the close shave? ... a chins-on road test of P&G's 5 bladed razors for all those who had come unshaven. Paul has agreed to return next November to share his beauty insights with the ladies, but without the razors!

After the ads went out **Anne MacLaurin** altered the title for her Ladies Breakfast to '*From Knickers to Vicars*'. She described her journey from M&S manager to workplace vicar, and along the way shared some provocative and constructive ideas about how to find a better balance in our lives.

### Community breakfasts coming up:

**Men's Breakfast 1<sup>st</sup> Dec** with record breaker **Jo Gambi**: *Holding on - a story of love and survival*

**Ladies Breakfast 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb** with musician and music promoter **Nick Battle**: *When the stuff hits the fan.*

# OLD PLOW

## Bistro & Restaurant at Speen

NOW  
SERVING  
SEASONAL GAME

Malcolm and Olivia Cowan have run the old Plow for almost nineteen years. Before moving to the Chilterns, Malcolm spent many successful years in London 's West End where his job titles included sous chef of The RITZ, Piccadilly, head chef of THE WESTBURY HOTEL, Bond St, and executive head chef of MAXIMS DE PARIS off Piccadilly.

His success in the kitchen is due to his particular style of cuisine which is a mixture of his classical French training and his own individual approach to food. Described as "modern with a strong emphasis on classis sauces" Malcolm's menus in the now MICHELIN listed Bistro and Restaurant always include fresh fish and shellfish from Brixham, Devon as well as prime Scotch beef, Cornish lamb, corn-fed poultry and much, much more.

Other plaudits for Malcolm's menus come from many quarters including-

### Harden's UK Restaurant 2006 Guide:

*"A tiny hamlet in a Chilterns valley is the bucolic location for Malcolm and Olivia Cowan's converted pub (now a bistro and grander restaurant); it was consistently praised this year for its 'lovely' service and 'superb' cuisine"*

### Time out Easting and Drinking guide in Great Britain & Ireland

*The idyllically located Old Plow combines the great food, wine and buzzing atmosphere of a French bistro with the roaring fires, lived in sofas and low-beamed character of a British country pub. Malcolm Cowan has stayed true to the original intent of each dish to delicious effect..."*

Jay Kay of Jamiraquai when asked where he likes to eat best, said:

*"The Old Plow has the best seafood, fresh from Devon"*

When asked to pick his five favourite restaurants in the world, actor **Jeremy Irons** picked two in the UK. This is what he had to say about one of them:

*"Nestling in a valley this country pub houses some of the best food within an hour of London. Country restaurants often get the balance wrong and if the chef is exceptional, fall into pretentiousness. That never happens at the Plow, which is welcoming and loving"*

## BISTRO PRE FIX MENU

available on request when booking a table (excluding Sat)

**01494 488300**

**2 courses for £10**

**3 courses for £15**

**FLOWERS BOTTOM LANE, SPEEN HP27 0PZ**

**[www.yeoldplow.co.uk](http://www.yeoldplow.co.uk)**

# All roads lead to



[www.jnp.co.uk](http://www.jnp.co.uk)

Helping you buy, sell or rent your home in The Chilterns and South Buckinghamshire



ESTATE AGENTS, VALUERS, SURVEYORS, FINANCIAL ADVISORS,  
LETTING AGENTS

1 Market Square, Princes Risborough  
01844 345666

Prestwood 01494 866000    Hazlemere 01494 716000    High Wycombe 01494 528000

**FINE & COUNTRY**  
Homes from The JNP Partnership

01844 343131