



Spring 2022
Issue 83

THE SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*



simply beautiful gardens

Alchemille has been designing and creating beautiful, innovative, inspirational outdoor spaces since 2004.

From urban courtyards to country estate gardens, we can make the simply beautiful garden of your dreams a reality.

FROM CONCEPT
TO CREATION



Image courtesy
of T Pottinger

01494 488072 • 07909 936718 • design@alchemille.co.uk

www.alchemille.co.uk

Get smart in **your** garden

From comprehensive plant care advice, to regular maintenance or a one-off project, our experienced team is ready to smarten up **your** garden.

For more information contact
Andy Merriman on

07827 290770



Working in association with Alchemille Garden Design

Welcome!

to the Spring edition of
The Speen & North Dean News.

Sadly, this will be my last edition of the magazine. Whilst I've loved being part of the team and village life for so many years, I feel the time has come to move on.

Special thanks to Gloria and Tom for their enormous support, dedication and all the hard work that they put in behind the scenes, and also to all our wonderful regular contributors, without whom we wouldn't have a magazine.

I'm very pleased to say that we have welcomed some new members to the committee who are bursting full of fresh ideas and enthusiasm, so I will be excited to see the magazine grow and flourish!

Jill Roberts will be your point of contact for receiving submissions from now on, and Jill Rogerson will also be involved in providing new content. Please do continue to send in your articles and any items of interest to **editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk**.

I look forward to seeing many of you at fabulous Fetes, Fun Days and Festivals for years to come!

Jacqui Laing

FAREWELL TO OUR FANTASTIC EDITOR

by Gloria Holmes

We would all like to say a big THANK YOU to Jacqui for producing our excellent Speen & North Dean News for the last seven years. Our community is so appreciative of her dedication, expertise and community spirit and the time and effort that she has given to bringing our village activities and organisations together for us to share and appreciate. We wish her the best of luck and every success and happiness in the future.



Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is **due by 25th June** with a planned publication date of mid July. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (downloaded from the SNDN website www.speenbucks.org.uk) if any photos are of children. Please send to **editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk**.

With grateful thanks

To all our advertisers for their support of this magazine and to all the volunteers who deliver it to your door.

Contents

What's On	5
Community Bus	7
Beechdean Down on the Farm	7
Speen Helping Hospices	8
Speen School & PTA	11
Speen WI	13
Obituary - Peter Clarke	13
Guides & Rangers	13
Ukraine to UK	14
Darvills Hill Farm	15
Lacey Green Parish Council	15
Speen Playing Fields	17
Farewell to the old Speen Stores Team	19
Speen Heritage Group	21
Moving to Speen during the pandemic	23
Looing back ...	25
Wildlife Watch	27
Speen Environmental Action Group	28
Recipe	29
Speen Church	31
Update from Edie	31
Who's Who	38

Front cover photo by Martin Hart
See article about the Community Bus inside.

Welcome Packs

The Good Neighbours scheme was set up many years ago and is now run by Pat Richardson in Speen. The service is to provide new Speen residents with a Welcome Pack of village information, so if you know of anyone new to the area please call Pat Richardson on 01494 488627.

Village News

If you are not already signed up to The Village Messenger do email Village@SpeenBucks.org to be put on the mailing list, with the word 'include' in the subject line - they will keep you up to date via email on a monthly basis with all the latest village news and important dates.



Handmade in
**Princes
Risborough**
with a **10 year**
guarantee

Inspired by nature

Hypnos, a local award-winning bed manufacturer, has been handcrafting bespoke, made-to-measure mattresses and beds in Buckinghamshire for over 100 years.

Every bed produced is created from the finest, natural and sustainable materials and is 100% recyclable at the end of its life. These quality beds come with a 10 year guarantee and a royal seal of approval from Her Majesty The Queen.

Hypnos' responsible approach is emphasised by being the world's first carbon neutral bed maker; and working with Red Tractor's assured farms and farmers to source 100% traceable British Wool for its Origins Collections.



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
BEDDING AND UPHOLSTERY
MANUFACTURERS
HYPNOS LIMITED ENGLAND

HYPNOS®

THE MOST COMFORTABLE BEDS IN THE WORLD

Visit our Showroom – OPEN all day Monday to Saturday
Longwick Road | Princes Risborough | Buckinghamshire HP27 9RS
T: 01844 348200 | hypnosbeds.com

WHAT'S ON

in Speen & North Dean

APRIL

10th April 28th April	Village Litter Clear N Dean vs Speen Golf Day	Speen Village Hall 2pm Badgemore Park Golf Club	Gloria Holmes 488420 Dick Pooley 269615
--------------------------	--	--	--

MAY

5th May 11th May 25th May	WI Birthday Celebrations SHH Spring Lunch N Dean Village Hall AGM	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm Horse Trust North Dean Village Hall	Jenny Pearce 562333 Grainne Suter 488540 Dick Pooley 269615
---------------------------------	---	---	---

JUNE

5th June 5th June 9th June 11th June 12th June	Queen's Jubilee Celebration Queen's Jubilee Celebration WI - The Kennedys Fun Day SHH Jazz in the Park	Speen Playing Fields North Dean Playing Fields Speen Village Hall 7.45pm Speen Playing Fields Gt Hampden Cricket Ground	Details tbc Dick Pooley 269615 Jenny Pearce 562333 Grainne Suter 488540
--	--	---	--

JULY

4th July 9th July 7th July	WI - Summer Social Event Speen Fete WI - The Caribbean	Speen Village Hall 7.45pm Speen Playing Fields Speen Village Hall 7.45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333 Clare Morris 488553 Jenny Pearce 562333
----------------------------------	--	--	---

AUGUST

13th August	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Fields	Dick Pooley 269615
-------------	-----------------	---------------------------	--------------------

SEPTEMBER

13th August	North Dean Fete	North Dean Playing Fields	Dick Pooley 269615
-------------	-----------------	---------------------------	--------------------

OCTOBER

October date tbc	North Dean Wine Tasting	North Dean Village Hall	Dick Pooley 269615
------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

DECEMBER

December date tbc	N Dean Xmas Carols	North Dean Village Hall	Dick Pooley 269615
-------------------	--------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

List of Advertisers

Alchemille Garden Design, Andy Ellis Tree Surgery, Ashridge Home Care, Aston Hearing, Beechdean Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream, Briants of Risborough Ltd, Buckmoorend Farm Shop and Kitchen, CG Tree & Garden Services, Coles & Blackwell, Foursquare Land, Fraser Morgan School of Dancing, Hypnos Beds, JNP, John Bishop Garden Machinery, Leigh Lewis Optometrist, Lloyd's Wines, Lovell Fuels, Martin Holman's Pest Control and Services, MD Courier Services, MR Collins, Nick Higgins Forestry and Fencing, The Painted Kitchen Company, Paul Newman Ltd, Rowena's Therapies, Speen Pilates, The Harrow Pub, The Smart Garden Company, Tudor Travel, Village Environmental Services.

If you use the services of any of our advertisers please do mention that you saw their ad in The Speen & North Dean News

Speen Pilates

STRETCH • STENGTHEN • CONTROL



BOUTIQUE PILATES

TRANSFORM YOUR FITNESS

Pilates can address structural imbalances, pain and difficulty with movement. It aims to enhance your posture, strength and flexibility, body tone, stamina and general fitness whilst releasing unnecessary tension.

ONE TO ONES ON STUDIO EQUIPMENT

One to one tuition offers accelerated learning and improvement, the Reformer uses spring loaded weights to improve your posture, strength and stamina leading to a toned body.

SMALL GROUP MAT CLASSES

Monday and Tuesday at 9.30am and 6.30pm

Thursday and Friday at 9.30am

I also offer bespoke classes for groups of up to 6 friends!

More details on the website
Booking essential

★ ★ ★

The Studio at Midmede, Chapel Hill, Speen

Amanda 07733 307475

amandapilates@btinternet.com

www.speenpilates.co.uk



COMMUNITYBUS

Peter Johnson

For nearly 12 years, our Risborough Area Community Bus has served Princes Risborough and surrounding villages every day of the week except Sunday. It brings people into town for shopping, the Library, the Community Centre, surgeries, hairdressers and the cafés and restaurants springing up in the bustling Risborough metropolis. Frequent buses to Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Thame run from the bus stop in the High Street.



Over 30 volunteer drivers operate the bus on a rota basis and three of them live in Speen. In the picture on the front cover are drivers Christopher Boyce of Dairymede, Henry Lane of Hampden Road and Peter Johnson of Cornerways. Actually, Peter no longer drives passengers but helps refuel the bus and chairs the management committee that runs the service. Our passengers in the photo are John Holmes and Pat Richardson.

It runs to Speen once a week on a Tuesday just after 9am, getting to Risborough High Street by 9.30am. Then it leaves the High Street again at 11.25am and arrives in Speen around 11.50am. If you want to stay in Risborough longer, or take a trip to the other towns, a ride back to Speen from the High Street is available, by request, at 4.05pm. For those people with concessionary cards the ride is free, otherwise its £2 per journey, but children aged 16 and under also ride for free!

We also offer twice-monthly outings and the bus is available for groups of up to 14 people for leisure activities. See www.racb.co.uk for details or call our coordinator Debbie on 07941 963097, or email her at racb@talktalk.net.

At its peak, we were running at over 1800 passenger journeys each month, with just the one bus. Unsurprisingly however, Covid has hit our service hard; passenger numbers are half what they were pre-Covid. The Speen route has been particularly badly affected, leading our management committee to contemplate abandoning the Speen service. As a charity and community service we would hate to do that so we would encourage all "Speenies" to take full advantage of what we offer.

Come and ride with us – you won't be disappointed!

BEECHDEAN DOWN ON THE FARM

Gill Kent

Like every farmer in Great Britain, we have been waiting to hear the government's agriculture policy. The most recent support payment for the industry introduced in 2014 (£94 per acre in 2021) is being phased out and replaced by "public money for public goods". This includes more public access, encouraging wildlife and "rewilding" of suitable areas.

The last week's war in the Ukraine must surely turn our attention away from public money and public goods to food security. The Ukraine was one of the biggest grain producers in the world and it is now obvious that there will be a shortage of grain across Europe this year. It is too late in the season for farmers to change their cropping plans, so it will be interesting to see if payments are aimed at increased food production.

As we have sold the dairy herd of over 300 cows, we have less need for grass acres, so we have also sold the valley grassland to the Horses Home at Lacey Green. All our fields have public footpaths so everyone will have the same access as in previous years. The thin poor soils of the Chiltern hills means that we are unable to grow more much needed cereals so the grass is being grazed by a herd of beef cattle which will at least provide meat. While the government is fully occupied with the international problems, we do not expect any decisions on farm payments to be made.

Local residents will be aware of the rubbish thrown out of cars between Speen and Hughenden. Apart from littering up the roadside verges, much rubbish reaches the field where it may be consumed by farm stock and cause digestive problems. If you see anyone throwing something out of a car window, please hoot at them!

RENNIE GROVE HOSPICE CARE

I am delighted to confirm that the cheque from Speen Helping Hospices totalling an incredible £4,500 has been safely received, thank you. Your generosity is truly appreciated by everyone at Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

I have seen the photo of your cheque presentation at the Berkhamsted shop with Deborah and Alison and it was great to be able to share your fundraising success and express our sincere thanks on our Rennie Grove Facebook page. Thank you for taking the time to visit.

You must be absolutely delighted with the total amount raised again last year, especially in times of continued Covid restrictions making fundraising more complicated! We believe that everyone with a life-limiting illness should be able to live well for as long as possible and have the choice to die at home with their loved ones, and your very kind donation has enabled us to fund 150 hours of care.

At such a difficult time for all of us, we particularly appreciate the hugely valued support of our local community and donations like yours. Your donation has helped our hospice at home nurses in Buckinghamshire who, in 2020-21, cared for 1,259 patients, made 45,962 telephone calls and 9,127 visits to patients, travelling 172,054 miles to ensure patients and their families received the vital care and support they needed.

We are more grateful than ever for your continued support; thank you for making moments together matter for our patients and their families.

Louise Hewitt, Senior Community Fundraiser

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HOSPICE CHARITY

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity are incredibly grateful to all the members of Speen Helping Hospices for all they do to raise funds for their local hospice services. They work tirelessly raising funds and the money they raise has a huge impact on those who need the care of their local hospice. The latest donation of £4,500 will enable us to fund the services that make the hospice such a special place. Our teams, both in the Hospice and out in the community, really put their hearts and souls into supporting patients and relatives at the most difficult of times. For those families who may be spending their last days together this gift will provide them with care, compassion and dignity.

We rely on donations to support all our hospice services and to guarantee that these are there for our patients and their families all year round. The generosity of Speen Helping Hospices ensures that we are able to make a difference to our patients' final days and how their loved ones will remember this time. We are there to care for the whole family at the most difficult of times and the kindness of both the members of Speen Helping Hospices and the locals who support all their events helps us to do this.

As the daughter of one of our patients so eloquently quotes 'I would recommend Florence Nightingale Hospice services to anyone who needs it. There is so much they can offer to ease the pain...Hospice provides that much-needed air to let you breathe through this journey. They are the comfort blanket you need to ensure you are doing everything right for your loved one'.

Thanks again

Claire Redrup, Public Fundraising Senior Manager

Thank
You

HELEN & DOUGLAS HOUSE

We would like to say a huge thank you to Speen Helping Hospices for their recent donation of £4,500 which means they have raised a massive £34,016.98 since they started supporting us 20 years ago. The money they have raised will go towards providing supportive stays for local terminally ill children.

During their visits to the hospice, we help children and their families create happy memories together with activities like music, cooking and crafts. These stays also mean that parents get a break from being carers and can take time out for themselves to rest.

When a child is diagnosed with a terminal or life-limiting illness everyone in the family is affected. The stress of frequent hospital visits, multiple treatments, and the other harsh realities of dealing with a terminal or life-limiting illness can take a major toll on family life. That inevitably includes brothers and sisters, who find it upsetting to see their sibling's health decline. It can also mean they have less time and attention from their parents as their vulnerable sibling often needs 24/7 care. So we have two siblings groups that provide support to these children.

Thank you Speen Helping Hospices for making it possible for us to offer this vital care for local families.

Andrea Baganz-Pritchard, Helen & Douglas House

SOUTH BUCKS HOSPICE

South Bucks Hospice is very grateful to everyone that has supported us through a Speen Helping Hospices event, raffle, challenge, prize donation or shop purchase. Your amazing support during the pandemic has enabled us to be there for people with life-limiting health conditions and their loved ones at a time when they have needed us more than ever. And your continuing support means that we can be here for people through diagnosis, treatment, recovery or coping with loss.

Many thanks to all the people in Speen for your continuing support.

Dave Haggard, Community and Fundraising Manager



SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

Supporting Helen House for Children, South Bucks Hospice at Home, Florence Nightingale and Rennie Groves Hospice Care

Gráinne Suter

Christmas seems a long way past now, but for Speen Helping Hospices late November and December were the culmination of our fundraising events for 2021.

It was wonderful to be back in the Chapel to hold the Christmas Market, the perfect venue for an important village day. We had some new stallholders this year and both our regulars and the newbies all did very well. Counting the takings at the door, food sales, second-hand jewellery and scarves, the cake stall, the silent auction, our SHH craft stall and the stallholders' table fee, we raised £2,786.64. A very good result.



The Christmas Hamper raffle and the carol singing raised £820 and £880 respectively. The carol singers battled their way around the village over three separate evenings singing their hearts out. Thank you to Peter and Jill Johnson, Jan Findlay, Jill and Paul Rogerson, June and Martyn Evans, Bob Stupples, Roger Craft, Margaret Chitty, Elizabeth McMyn and Alex and her daughter and Rosie and Tim at The Manse.

Huge thanks and praise for the Sassy Santas for turning out on a grey day for another fun run. They raised £1,040, we are so grateful for their commitment and support.

These final events brought our grand total of money raised during 2021 to **£19,326.93**. We allocated £4,500 to each of the charities, and you can see how your money is spent in the letters on the left.

We are so grateful to Ruban and Vicky at the shop as they are very happy to sell raffle tickets and publicise events on our behalf.



We started 2022 with our first event, the Valentine Dinner Raffle for three lucky couples to win a three-course meal with cocktails and fizz delivered to their door. All the recipients were delighted with the meal and presentation and the event raised £840.

Other news

It may seem very unimportant, but we have finally got online banking with Nat West (no mean feat - it was a Herculean task!) and have set up a contract with SumUp to take card payments at events.

Dates for your Diary

- ★ Spring Lunch on the 11th May at the Horses Trust. Jane Marchant from Alchemille will be selling plants.
- ★ Jazz in the Park on Sunday 12th June at Great Hampden Cricket Ground with Martin Hart.
- ★ Open Gardens 12th July. If you would like to open your garden, please contact me grainnesuter@btconnect.com
- ★ Wine Tasting 9th September in the Chapel Hall. Lloyds Wines will run the evening.
- ★ Bridge Challenge and Afternoon Tea 19th October in North Dean Village Hall.
- ★ Christmas Market 19th November in the Chapel Hall.

Don't forget if you would like to support or sponsor a fundraising event, offer a prize for a raffle or would like to help us in some way, please contact me grainnesuter@btconnect.com or 07778803260.

Gráinne Suter
www.shh-shop.org



17M

DRIVERS IN THE UK
STRUGGLE TO SEE
AT NIGHT

ENHANCE YOUR VISUAL COMFORT FOR SAFER DRIVING AT NIGHT

Available in single vision and varifocal

RoadPilot®

VARILUX
RoadPilot®

For more information visit www.essilor.co.uk

LEIGH LEWIS OPTOMETRIST

247 MAIN RD, WALTERS ASH,
HIGH WYCOMBE HP14 4TH
TELEPHONE: 01494 564 600

Paul's Plumbing
07786 175123

PLUMBING

Plumbing & Problem solving

Friendly, Reliable & Local

Bathrooms • Kitchens • Taps • Leaks
Tanks • Radiators • Valves • Pipework

Based in North Dean.

Local to Speen, Naphill,
Walter's Ash, Lacey Green,
Hampden, Hughenden

Paul Newman Ltd. **07786 175123** | 01494 565573

SPEEN SCHOOL & LITTLE APPLES PRESCHOOL

Jacquie Coles, Headteacher



Speen School celebrated World Book Day last week, with all the children thoroughly enjoying choosing a book character to get dressed up as. Their homework was to prepare to present the book they had chosen, talk about the characters in the story and share their favourite pages. Here is a photo of winners and runners up. Some of the characters who joined us at school on the day were: Fantastic Mr Fox, Alice in Wonderland, Boogie Bear, George and his Marvellous Medicine, Winnie the Witch and Horrid Henry!



Meanwhile our Little Apples Pre-School



children have had a 'Communication Week' where they shared their love of books and were able to dress up too. They have also been on a village 'shape hunt', looking out for circles, squares and rectangles in real life!

SPEEN SCHOOL PTA

Fleur Ridley, PTA Co-Secretary

Spring Term News from the PTA

A huge thank you to everyone for your continued support of the PTA. In November we ran a very successful book and donut sale, thanks to the many donations received from villagers as well as school families. It was lovely to see the children enjoy choosing some books after school.

December was jam-packed with lots of fundraising events. Our usual Christmas School Fair could not be held due to Covid restrictions, so instead we decided to run a 'Christmas Fair in a week', with a number of different stalls held daily after school. We raffled some amazing Christmas hampers which included fabulous donations from local businesses. We also held an 'Elfridges' event in school, where the children got an opportunity to choose a gift for an important adult in their life. It was very successful and the children really enjoyed choosing a gift for their loved ones.

December also saw the return of another Christmas Wreath making course. This time we managed to hold the event in person at Speen Chapel Hall. Helen Davies was our teacher for the second year running and it was a lovely, sociable and creative evening.



Santa managed to visit the children in school and bring them all a present and they also had a lovely Christmas party with lots of fun and games.

For World Book Day, the PTA ran another donut fundraiser and every child chose a free book from our second hand book stall.

As well as school fundraising events, the PTA also ran Mufti days in support of 'Children in Need' and 'Comic Relief'. In September we held a MacMillan Coffee morning and at Christmas we encouraged the children to bring in 'One Can Trust' donations.

This term also sees the return of the popular Safari Supper event. It's been two years since the last Safari Supper in the village, and tickets for this year's event have now sold out. School parents and villagers alike are very much looking forward to the return of this fun

and sociable evening which helps to support our lovely school. As well as this, we have been busy planning an Easter egg hunt for all the children at school, an Easter raffle, not to mention a school disco for all the kids. We are also looking ahead to the summer and hopefully some more exciting events.

THE HARROW

Serving great food 7 days a week



**YOUR LOCAL, FAMILY AND DOG FRIENDLY PUB
SERVING DELICIOUS, FRESHLY PREPARED FOOD,
LOCALLY SOURCED REAL ALES
AND A GOOD SELECTION OF WINES**

FOOD SERVED:

MONDAY-SATURDAY : 12NOON-9PM

SUNDAY : 12NOON-5PM

QUIZ NIGHT TUESDAY 8PM

*There's always something going on at The Harrow Pub,
so get yourself down here
and enjoy the beer, the entertainment and the company.*

01494 564105

WARRENDENE ROAD, HUGHENDEN VALLEY, HIGH WYCOMBE HP14 4LX

WWW.HARROWHUGHENDEN.CO.UK

So 2022 did not quite get off to the start we anticipated. Our Birthday Supper in January had to be postponed. Our February speaker contracted Covid-19 and our March speaker also had to cancel. However our resourceful programme planning duo soon had replacement speakers in place.

We heard about the wonderful work of the Mercy Ships, were entranced by the wildlife of Tanzania and are to hold our Birthday celebration in April. We are hoping that the rest of our year will go according to plan. We are looking forward to a yoga session, looking at hats for Henley and other social occasions, finding out about the famous Kennedy clan and learning more about the Caribbean. All this, as well as the fun and friendship which we always share. Details of all our meetings are as usual in the village diary.



Members with the speaker in March

County events are also starting in person again and we shall be entering the inter-WI quiz, joining fellow members at a craft making session and attending the Annual Meeting which is returning once again to the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury rather than a virtual meeting as in the past two years. The keynote speaker is Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE and there will be many of us who still associate her with children's television. There is also a resolution to be put by Fairford Leys WI which aims to shine a light on the problem of diagnosing heart attacks in women as the symptoms are often very different to those experienced by men.

It looks like a busy few months ahead at Speen WI.



Peter Clarke

1964-1921

My son died suddenly on 29th September 2021 of a rare heart complication that could not be detected. Contrary to belief, he did not crash his van, he died suddenly at the wheel and consequently veered off the road.

Peter lived all his life in Speen, as did his father and grandparents. He was the Post Master at Speen Stores for 6 years. He will always be missed by myself and his sister Karen.

GUIDES & RANGERS

Pauline Hall



The Guides and Rangers continued meeting on Zoom throughout the lockdowns and most of the members of the unit were pleased to join in and have something fun to do alongside all of their online lessons. The girls enjoyed lots of cooking and craft sessions online as well as normal programme activities. We started meeting back face to face in September 2021 and continue to do so. There are 15 girls in the Guides (aged 10-14) and 4 in the Rangers (aged 14-18). There are a few spaces in both units if there are girls out there keen to join. This term we have been working on basic first aid and teaching some skills for life. We are looking forward to the lighter evenings so that we can get back to lots of outdoor activities.

We meet at Speen Scout Hut which has undergone various work to update its facilities over the last few years. The gable end facing the road was recovered in wavy edged boarding to match the rest of the building. Inside we have installed a new kitchen floor, shower and new toilets and painted the main room and lobby. It is looking very smart and ready for the weekend bookings we have upcoming. Just before the lock down the Rangers painted the small room and the back of the main hall to make it their own for meetings and we were able to acquire some second hand good condition floor tiles.



Speen and North Dean
tiddlers & toddlers

Join us for play, toys, craft and lots of fun!

Tuesdays (term time)
9.30–11.30am
Chapel Hall
Speen Church

For children 0–4yrs
with their parents and carers
ALL WELCOME!
Cost £3 per family
(includes healthy snack for children and
tea/coffee for grown ups)

Contact:
speennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.com



UKRAINE TO UK

Louise Spearing

We have all seen the terrible ravages of war inflicted on Ukraine and the resulting mass exodus of Ukrainian families to their neighbouring countries. None of us can truly imagine the horror of being forced to leave our homes, loved ones and our country, not knowing what the future holds or if, when, we can return.

When the government announced that they were opening up the refugee scheme, to allow any Ukrainian, with a UK resident sponsor, to come to the UK for up to 3 years, the local response was truly incredible.

Loosley Row and Lacey Green, along with Speen, Princes Risborough, Great Missenden, Monks Risborough and Radnage, are sponsoring 26 family groups at last count, this is 70 individuals of all ages. Our youngest visitor is just two months.

We are determined to work together as a community to support both our generous host families and the Ukrainian families, who will be staying in the chilterns until it is safe for them to return to their homes. If you are interested in hosting a family, or for local fundraising activities, please visit www.ukraine-to-uk.uk

★ **SAVE THE DATE** ★ **SAVE THE DATE** ★



SPEEN
VILLAGE
FETE
SATURDAY 9TH JULY
SPEEN PLAYING FIELD
2pm

FAMILY FUN GAMES • CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER • BBQ • BAR
WI TEA & CAKES • BOOK AND PLANT STALL *and much more ...*

It's not too late to be involved!
Please email: fete@speenbucks.org.uk for more information

DARVILLS HILL FARM

Charlotte Downing

Hairy Hedgerows

In the last year, as we have become more mindful of our farming practices, working with nature to regenerate our small farm, our attention has been drawn to the state of our hedgerows. We are custodians of a very modest 2 km of England's remaining 500,000 km of hedgerows, and for the past thirty years they have been given an annual trim, done with the best of intentions of keeping the countryside looking neat and tidy.

I now understand why along with the pastures and hay meadow, our hedgerows are the most important natural asset on the farm. I have learnt that hedgerows are a woodland edge habitat, having a very distinct architecture, thick and broad at the bottom, with grass, scrub, diverse woody species, and distinct trees. This unique structure not only provides shelter and a barrier for livestock, but is a building block for biodiversity, providing food and shelter for wildlife, as well as being a vast carbon store.

Looking around our farm we are confronted by hedgerows that show very little resemblance to a



From this ...

woodland edge, sporting instead a variety of razor-sharp haircuts from top heavy Mohicans to short squat flat-tops. Hedgerows should look more like nature intended - abundant, hairy, and a little bit wild.

We've embarked on our hedgerow regeneration by reducing the height of a 250m hedge on the hill that runs parallel to Flowers Bottom Lane. By taking the weight out of the top we're hoping to kickstart rejuvenation at the bottom. This has left us with a bonanza of brash, which we're turning into wood chip for mulch and logs for fuel. It's a start and over the next few years we will be planting up gaps and adding trees into the mix. Laying, or coppicing some hedges to rejuvenate them, while allowing others room to breathe by cutting on rotation.

Hairy hedgerows will be making a comeback on our farm, and maybe with the changes being introduced to farm subsidies become a country-wide phenomenon, hopefully bringing with them an opportunity for wildlife to flourish.



To this?...



LACEY GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

Paul Rogerson, Treasurer

Community Project Funding

As a consequence of the Lacey Green Stores closing in December last year the work of the Lacey Green Parish Community Planning Group has come to an end. The Group was formed in 2005 to enable local people to work with local councils to provide and support local community initiatives. Projects such as Youth facilities, Parish Plans, and a Community Shop have all been pursued.

Lacey Green Parish encompasses the villages of Speen, Lacey Green and Loosley Row. As a Parish-wide group, it was felt important that measures were taken to protect any residual funds so that future community improvements for the Parish can still be made. To ensure this happens the Parish Council is to set up a "community fund" of circa £3,500 that can be accessed by local groups that have community-backed projects.

The fund is to be split between the villages which make up the Parish so that all can benefit from the projects accepted by the Parish Council. This will mean that a sum of circa £1000 will be available to fund approved projects in Speen. Full details of how to access this funding will be provided by the Parish Council once the funds are available.



FRASER-MORGAN SCHOOL OF DANCING

***** Naphill Village Hall *****

RAD BALLET for ages 3+



For more information
please contact
01494 816539 or
07974 121081



ROWENA's

(MCThA) (AoR)
NHS Register of Approved Reflexologists
Karuna & Reiki Master

Aromatherapy
Caci non-surgical face lifting treatments
Reflexology
Aqua detox
Indian head massage
Acupressure massage
Energy healing

Treatments carried out in
home based salon in Bryants Bottom

Call Rowena for more information
or a free consultation

Tel: 01494 488430

Mob: 07855 848261

rowena.j.templeman@gmail.com

Coles & Blackwell

Car Service & Repairs

Book online at:
www.colesandblackwell.co.uk

Quality car servicing and repairs much closer than you think!

Where are we ? You will find us 300 metres down the small lane opposite the top of Bradenham Wood Lane in Walters Ash, High Wycombe HP14 4UX

Established in 1959



Servicing

Did you know you can get your car serviced by us without invalidating your manufacturers warranty? Legislation passed a few years ago means that you can now choose any garage of your choice to service your vehicle.

Courtesy cars

We have a fleet of new loan cars at your disposal whilst we service your own car or repair bodywork damage. Best of all - they are FREE OF CHARGE!
All part of the service you come to expect from Coles & Blackwell

air conditioning

mot testing

vehicle servicing and repairs

crash repairs

tyres, clutches & brakes

computerised diagnostics

batteries & exhausts

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday 7.30am to 5.30pm

01494 563102

SPEENPLAYING FIELDS

Tony Bobroff

Roundabout Renovation

The roundabout had been in need of tender loving care for some time, until it got to the point where a couple of the wooden top struts had rotted through and were considered unsafe. We initially looked into replacing, but unsurprisingly the modern equivalents are mostly plastic and of very poor quality by comparison. Traditional iron and steel Roundabouts don't exist anymore. We think ours was built in the 1950s or 60s by Wicksteed of Kettering, who have been manufacturing since 1918. We therefore decided to refurbish this iconic piece, which holds so many fond memories for generations of the children of Speen.

At the Autumn 2020 work party, we started to strip and dismantle it and sent all the steel and iron components away for sandblasting that November. When we started to rebuild, we realised that most of the steel radial ribs had worn so thin that they could no longer support the weight of the structure squarely, so we dismantled for a second time and had 8 new steel ribs made, these are large triangular structures that link the circumference to the centre hub, top and bottom.

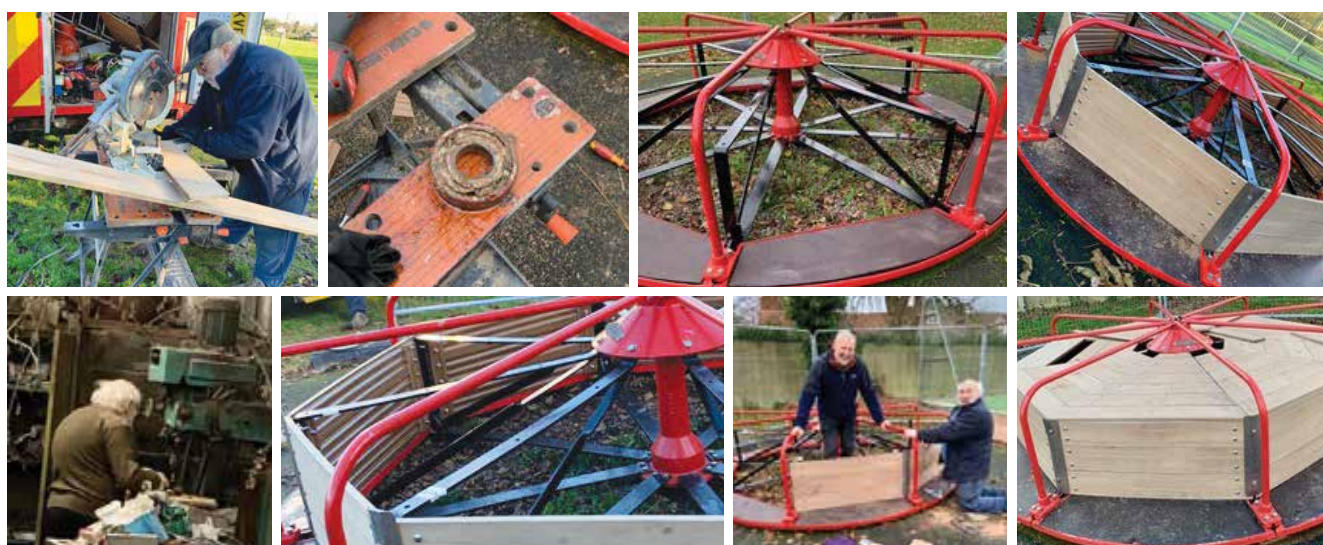
We had intended paying an outside contractor to rebuild the wooden tops and sides, but it proved almost impossible to find anyone willing to take on the job, to say nothing of the cost (which would have doubled the £3,500 plus spent on the project to date). Unfortunately, the structure is not exactly symmetrical and therefore most of the boards front and top have to be tailor cut. Keith Jones, who was chairman of the Playing Fields for many years and had refurbished the roundabout on the previous 2 occasions, very kindly stepped up to volunteer his considerable skill and expertise once again. This time with the help/hindrane of myself as his little helper! So we high fenced off the area in October '21 and started work.

This time we are using a recycled composite decking board, recommended by Duncan Wilson, which is unbelievably strong and which we can power hose to maintain. The downside is that it is also extremely difficult to saw and drill, it comes out in sticky lugs and requires a specialist bandsaw, circular saw, heavy static and industrial electric drills, every time we drill out a lug, we have to clean out the bit. In addition to which it is obviously difficult to screw so the whole structure is bolted together. The 8 sides comprise of 3 boards each bolted onto a frame and the tops 6 boards likewise but bolted onto a triangular frame. No small wonder that no contractor was prepared to take on the project! We have cut 72 individual boards constructed 16 frames tops and sides plus 8 centre fillers, as well as 8 buffalo wood running boards. This is all held together by over 350 hand threaded nuts and bolts!

The work has been further delayed by the cold and rain this winter. Anyway, the end is in sight and we hope to complete the task by the end of this week. We have lifted out and replaced all the bearings and now just have the top wood radials and 8 top red iron hand bars to bolt back on and finally repaint. There is a time capsule in the middle of the roundabout to assist the next happy renovators.

The maintenance of and investment in our Playing Fields and equipment is almost totally financed by the draw and the other fund-raising events of Speen Playing Fields. The ownership of both the main field and Ridgeley's is vested with the Charities Commission and managed by the Trustees for the Village. Unlike other play areas locally it is not owned or funded by the council.

Here are some photos to illustrate some of the above and we hope that the roundabout will continue making memories for many young Speen generations to come.



ASTON HEARING

We Are All
EARS & Hearing

Amersham . Saunderton . Thame

www.astonhearing.co.uk . 01494 733840

UPDATE FOR THAME

We are excited to be moving to a new premises in Thame in early May 2022. Previously Twigs and Twine nextdoor to Waitrose in Greyhound Lane. We will be delighted to welcome you
Watch this space for details.....

A ROUSING TRIBUTE

to Bob Templeman and his Speen Stores Team

Speen Stores Working Group

Sometimes, a job and a person fit so well that they seem inseparable. So it was with Bob and Ali Templeman and Connie and Ian, throughout many years of outstanding service to the village shop and Post Office. Last summer the business changed hands and it was time to say goodbye to Connie and Ian – although Bob and Ali continue to support the new shop owner Ruban, with running the Post Office.

Covid conspired to delay plans to pay tribute to Bob and his team. But Speen relishes a tea party and at long last, on Saturday April 2nd, a happy crowd of well-wishers gathered for a wonderful celebration in the Chapel hall, with lively conversation, much laughter and of course, excellent tea and cakes provided by a band of willing cooks organised by Gloria Holmes and Sandy Mitcheson.

Henry Lane paid tribute to each member of the shop team, thanking Bob for his hard work, friendship, fortitude and good humour. We owe the survival of the shop in no small measure to Bob's grit and determination to keep going during the last two challenging and stressful years. Perhaps, Henry suggested, Bob is the proverbial swan: calm and serene on the surface (as when chatting about the fortunes of Risborough Rangers) while paddling frantically below.

Like Bob, Ali possesses a huge work ethic. She was a constant presence, helping to establish the shop at the centre of village life. She combined a serious and tough approach to getting the job done, with an ability to engage with people and an off-beat sense of humour guaranteed to lighten the mood. Ali's inspirational streak produced unexpected delights for the village, like the chocolate eggs adorning the trees at Easter, delivered unseen by a mysterious nocturnal rabbit.

Connie, Henry reminded us, is simply incomparable – a brilliant time keeper, utterly reliable and on the ball, business-like but ready to chat or commiserate and reassure. Ian brought to the shop his easy, outgoing and relaxed style of working, always offering unflappable 'service with a smile'.

Together, the four were an indomitable force, working tirelessly through all weathers and covid lockdowns. At times a spontaneous comedy quartet, they were also a source of great kindness to customers needing a helping hand or in any kind of distress.

Contributions from villagers enabled us to present Bob with a crystal decanter and whisky glasses engraved with a message of thanks, and a bottle of malt to fill them. Ali and Connie received bouquets of flowers, and Ian a bottle of wine. In view of the earlier postponement of the party, the village had already given cash gifts to Ali, Connie and Ian before Christmas.

We are very grateful to Ruban and Vicky for taking over the shop with such energy and commitment, quickly refurbishing it and making it their own enterprise. Until the Post Office completes its procedures, enabling Ruban to manage this part of the business, Bob, supported by Ali, has generously agreed to continue as sub-postmaster. As Bob said himself at the party, he is not one to give up!



Photos by Ian Warr

HOME REARED MEATS,
LOCAL PRODUCE
& HOME COOKED FOOD

BESPOKE GIFT HAMPERS



Free Home Delivery &
Contactless Collections

Chequers Estate | HP17 0UT
SHOP Tues - Fri 10 - 6 & Sat - Sun 10 - 4
KITCHEN Fri - Sun 10 - 4
www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk

LLOYD'S
WINES

INDEPENDENT WINE SPECIALIST

POP IN OR SHOP ONLINE
lloydswines.com

RETAIL & WHOLESALE



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY & EVENTS

07547 645917

Upper Warren Farm | Hampden Road
Prestwood | Great Missenden | Bucks | HP16 0JL

LOVELL FUELS
OIL DISTRIBUTOR



Still Independent
and Family-Run

YOU are at the heart of our business



01844 202777

www.lovellfuels.com

RELIABLE SERVICE

COMPETITIVE PRICES!

Go online, email us at sales@lovellfuels.com or call us for a quote

Studridge Lane Pond

Studridge Lane pond is a historic village feature being a long established dew pond. Dew pond is something of a misnomer in that these ponds rely on rainwater and not dew as their primary source of water. Dew ponds were dug years ago by villagers in locations away from watercourses to provide water for livestock. Inevitably a lot of dew ponds are found in hill top communities.

Speen had four or five ponds years ago but some have been filled in over the years. There was a landmark pond in the 1800's opposite the current Speen Stores fronting Hampden Road opposite The Old Post Office. The photograph to the right shows the pond in about 1830 with a horse having been to drink. (Photo courtesy of Peter Brownridge).



In addition, there was a pond in Studridge Lane, known as Long Pond, a short distance up from the village hall set behind white metal railings to the front of Field End House. This has been filled in during more recent times but the railings remain. The third pond is the larger pond in Studridge Lane next to the Old Bakehouse whilst (apparently) there is also a fourth pond in Turnip End. These four ponds were available for public use whereas the large pond in Water Lane remained in the private ownership and control of George Farm.

Dew ponds were dug and lined with clay that was puddled to create an impervious layer. The clay was covered with a layer of soot to discourage worms from burrowing and a final layer of chalk rubble or broken stone was added to protect the clay lining from the hoofs of sheep and cattle. The ponds were often dug in cool hollows to try to minimise evaporation in order to retain as much water as possible.

Studridge Lane pond no longer provides water for livestock but it provides a potential habitat for wildlife. Unfortunately, in recent years it has become overgrown and untidy but in conjunction with the village environmental group, SEAG, I have been working to organise a clearance scheme with the Parish Council, who are the owners of the land. After some 15 months of meetings and discussions we now have consent to proceed with a management plan involving clearing 25% of the pond area every year on a continuous cycle.

The first stage of this project was completed on 15th January 2022 with the back left hand corner being cleared of dense vegetation and dead material. It was important to complete this work urgently to beat the worst of the winter weather and the return of frogs wanting to lay their spawn. The roadside edge has also been tidied and it is planned to clear a further quarter towards the end of 2022.



before ...



after ...



"Ashridge is run by super people who are caring, thoughtful about needs, courteous and respectful. The two carers we have worked with are themselves delightful people who have made a huge difference to our father's life. Both are calm, warm, helpful people who do not patronise and have provided our father with excellent care and company."

Better at Home

Live-in home care is a real alternative to residential or nursing home care.

The pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on care homes with residents and their loved ones often having to endure terrible tragedy and hardship whilst separated from each other. Unlike many countries, here in the UK, residential care homes are the go to option for caring for elderly people; there are over 400,000 people living in care homes and in comparison only a small number have opted for live in care in their own home.

During the last year Ashridge Home Care have seen a great shift in people choosing to go down the live-in care route rather than opt to go into a care home, in fact. There is a rising feeling that perhaps the default option of putting an elderly relative in a care home is not the safest option. Live in care provides one to one care, one carer living in the client's home means much less risk of infection and is safer for both carer and client.

Ashridge Home Care, recently announced a major recruitment drive to help take care of its growing number of clients. Since April last year, Ashridge Homecare has seen a 75% increase in its client base and hired an additional 30 carers. With further growth projected for 2021 they are actively looking to hire over 100 more carers this year to join their 90 strong team.

Ashridge Home Care Founder, Managing Director and Speen resident, Trudi Scrivener, who is passionate about making sure all clients can maintain their independence and grow old with dignity. "Live in care has shown time and again that it is beneficial from both a physical and mental wellbeing perspective. It allows people to stay in the comfort of their own home, amongst their own possessions and memories, yet receive comfort, companionship and professional care as they need it."

Recently voted Best Employer in Buckinghamshire, the team at Ashridge are always looking at how they can improve the quality of life for their clients and have introduced some great new innovations, such as appointing a head chef to help mentor other carers to learn how to cook simple, nutritious meals. They even produced their own recipe book with the help of TV chef and nutritionist, Janet Brinkworth from the BBC's Saturday Kitchen! Other creative ideas include developing a 10 minute yoga routine that carers can do with clients to keep them moving and arranging for a footcare practitioner to teach basic footcare to carers via online sessions.

This innovative approach to providing the very best care has meant that the team have been able to achieve positive outcomes for their clients.



Managing Director and Founder:
Trudi Scrivener

For more information about care options:
Please give us a call on 01494 913447
or visit www.ashridgehomecare.co.uk

MOVING TO SPEEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

A chat with Lucy Johnson

Jill Rogerson

The Johnston family moved to Woodbine Cottage in Studridge Lane in January 2021, one of a number of families choosing a village lifestyle in Speen in preference to living in London. This decision followed a national trend whereby "City-dwellers are now rethinking their living situations in light of the pandemic, and re-evaluating the importance of larger homes, green spaces and connections with the local community.¹"

Lucy, Richard and their three sons: Toby (7), Hugo (6) and Miles (3) were living in Streatham, south-east London. They knew that they wanted to move in the future to a larger house, away from polluted roads, and where secondary education was of a good standard. The pandemic arrived and Richard, a chief financial officer working five days a week in London, was now working from home – he realised that in the future he could commute to London for maybe two days a week (when restrictions were lifted) and work from home the remainder of the working week.

The Johnston family drove around the villages of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and then a friend mentioned Speen; on visiting, they immediately felt that this was what they were looking for. Lucy describes the village as being picturesque, with a heart and community feel, surrounded by fields. Having viewed a few houses in the village, they bought and moved into Woodbine Cottage on 19th January 2021, in the middle of Lockdown 2. There were challenges with undertaking the move during the tightest of restrictions, but Lucy says that the enforced isolation gave them time to settle in at their own pace with all the family together in the house.

Initially the boys were home schooled by Lucy via their new schools: Toby is at St. John's School, Lacey Green, Hugo at Speen School and Miles at the Little Apples PreSchool (at Speen School).



The Johnston Family at Coombe Hill



Woodbine Cottage

Despite not being able to mix socially in the first couple of months, they felt very welcomed by the village; Lucy says that everyone chatted to them on their daily walks as a family. Once the children were able to attend school in person (in March 2021), she and Richard soon got to know other parents at the school gates and through Lucy joining the PTA Committee, and shortly afterwards volunteering for the Fete Committee. She also found the Speen 'Sells and Wants' WhatsApp Group really helped her feel part of the community – information is shared, names become familiar and she can keep in touch with what is going on in the village.

Lucy says she does not miss very much at all about living

in London, they are extremely happy here. There were amazing facilities and activities very close by where they used to live, very accessible by foot or public transport; however, the proximity to the countryside, swings, bike park, and Speen Stores with its extended hours, make it worthwhile, using the car if they need to. They also like being nearer both sets of grandparents.

Lucy and Richard were interested to hear that Woodbine Cottage was the home of Artie Bristow, who died in 1920, aged 22, after service in World War 1; and also that Norman Simmonds, a Lance-Corporal in the Royal Engineers, who died of his wounds in a military hospital near Dunkirk on 4th October 1917, was the stepson of the owner of the cottage.

You can read a comprehensive and moving booklet about the 10 young men from Speen whose names are recorded on the WW1 memorial plaque at the Speen Chapel lych-gate. The Heritage Group booklet, *Speen's WW1 Casualties*, is available from rainbows@speen.org.uk, price £2.

1. UK Economic Outlook: PWC – January 2021

CG Tree & Garden Services

Tree surgery & felling

Fencing

Hedge cutting, topping & turfing

Woodchips & firewood for sale



Free estimates • qualified staff • fully insured

Please call

07798 896380

LOOKING BACK ...

Jill Rogerson

Speen School - The School Inspector (1876) and memories of Betty Eckle (2022)

"The infants have been entirely neglected - they know absolutely nothing." Such was the damning report by the School Inspector in the Speen School log in 1876. As a result, the grant from the authorities was reduced by 10% for defective instruction, especially in arithmetic!



Speen School c.1910. Betty Eckle's father, Eli Bert Rixon, is the small boy in front of the railings to the left of the photo

It was not obligatory at this time to send children to school and attendance was sporadic if a pupil (then up to age 14 in the school) was needed elsewhere, for example for haymaking. Teachers were often unqualified and lessons could be given by brighter older girls (the boys were presumably making hay).

The original Speen School, now a private residence, was built in 1860 on the corner of Grubbins Lane and Flowers Bottom Lane. It was funded by a private endowment trust, and opened in 1862 with accommodation upstairs for the schoolmistress and room for 50 pupils, with 67 pupils recorded at one point.

Betty Eckle (nee Rixon), married to David, was born in Speen and has lived in the village all her life. Now aged 83, she attended Speen School from the age of 5 to 11 – not far to walk as the family lived in Capri in Grubbins Lane, although she says she was often late! Her father, Eli Bert Rixon, was born in Fir View Cottage, one of 12 children living with their parents in the original two-up, two-down cottage; and her mother, Muriel (Hughes), grew up in Long Yard – one of the three period cottages in what is now Archway.

Betty recalls her schooldays as being very happy. The ground floor of the school was divided into two with a coke boiler in the middle providing warmth. The younger children were taught by Miss Smith who was known as "Boiler" as she was a bit of a battleaxe; she rode to school every day on her bike from Downley. Miss Hopton was the senior teacher and Betty remembers her living at Westwood, in Hampden Road, and walking to The Old Plow

every day for her lunch (sometimes followed surreptitiously by a small group of pupils) via Parslow's Bank, known in the village today as Cardiac Hill.

She says that school dinners arrived in a van which stopped on the tarmac'd playground at the front of the school. The air-raid shelter was in the back playground

where the children sat with their

gas masks on – white asbestos lines caused by the linings in gas masks can still apparently be detected in some people when they have an x-ray.

Betty says that all pupils had to drink a third of a pint of milk at breaktime, which was often either frozen or curdled. There are many of us of a certain age in the village for whom this memory will have resonance before Margaret Thatcher, then Education Secretary, removed the funding for free school milk for primary schoolchildren in 1971.

Friendships made at Speen School lasted far beyond the end of the pupils' time there and Betty recalls trips to play in the woods with groups

of friends which lasted all day, attending the Chapel and Sunday School (with outings to the seaside at Wittering and Littlehampton), and dances in North Dean.

Betty talked about her father's occupation as a bodger, having workshops in and around Speen from which the furniture companies in High Wycombe were provided with chair legs; and about the many shops and trades which operated in the village making it virtually self-sufficient.

More details about the origins of Speen School and its move to the premises it now occupies, can be found in *The Leaves of Time – A History of Speen*, a publication written by Bob Johnston and Martin Stockley. I am grateful to Martin for his permission to use some of the information from this book in writing this article.



The Rixon girls – Betty (Eckle) and Mary (Turner)

A. ELLIS *Tree Surgery*

Fully Qualified and Insured Tree Surgeons



We undertake all aspects of
hedge trimming and
tree surgery

For a free, no obligation
quote please contact us

T: 01494 817234 M: 07709 491589

E: info@aellistrees.com

www.aellistrees.com

For fencing enquiries call Mike on:

T: 01494 868466

WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

Spring 2021

For the most part of the winter, we have had relatively mild conditions with relatively little snow and frost so far. The early part of 2022 has featured storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin, occurring in quick succession and these have certainly damaged our local woodlands bringing down some trees but also damaging thousands of branches up in the



canopy. These milder and wetter conditions associated with global warming affect our wildlife with evidence of reduced migration from northern Europe and increasing appearances by more exotic species that are becoming resident in the country.

An example of such more exotic species was a Glossy Ibis that was recorded in Chesham in late January (24-26th). This species joins the list of Cattle Egrets, Little Egrets, Great White Egrets and Spoonbills all recorded in some numbers in the county in late 2021. Meanwhile Milton Keynes has had a Black Redstart resident throughout the winter, this again being a bird normally associated more with southern Europe.

Seasonal visits by birds travelling south from Iceland, Scandinavia and northern Europe start in October and continue into November. Both siskin and brambling were recorded by myself in College Plantation in late October whilst former resident Dick Seekins reported a few hawfinches feeding on hornbeams at a regular site on land beyond Hampden House on 3rd November. Two individual records of Woodcock in College Plantation probably relate to birds from northern Europe. As winter progresses more sightings of Siskins and Bramblings occur at feeding stations with Jeremy Symondson and myself able to report both from our gardens in February and early March. Almost certainly the most colourful record of the period must go to the sighting by Ros Darnton of 8 ring necked parakeets on the bird feeders in her garden by the tennis court on 24th November. This is only the

second record of this many parakeets in the village that I am aware of. In my own garden 4 moorhens have remained resident now for some 7 months and the two pairs may be preparing to nest again.

January is often the best month for sightings of foxes as often they move around in the daylight seeking

out new mates. Nevertheless, I was surprised when Matt Davies reported one strolling down our driveway in Abbotswood at about 9.30am on 30th December in bright conditions. Roe deer remain in the area usually emerging from woodland at dusk to graze in the corner of fields around the village. They can still be present at dawn with three females videoed in one village back garden off Grubbins Lane at 7.00am in early March. Other animals that are unwelcome also continue to feature in the village, with rats, edible dormice (*Glis glis*) and grey squirrels, in at least one case, invading village homes by eating their way through plastic, blockwork and even metal requiring visits by pest controllers.

Ponds always act as a magnet for wildlife since they can provide water for drinking and bathing and often a food source. A pair of Buzzards visited a local pond in November coming in to bathe (see photo). The Biffa's pond had three Grey Wagtails present in early September collecting insects over the mud. As March begins we can expect to see frogspawn appearing in village and garden ponds. Spawn was evident in my own woodland on 1st March and there was activity apparent at Studridge Lane pond. Hopefully partial clearance work at Studridge Lane pond may help to allow more frogs to survive this year. The raised water level in February has also seen two pairs of Mallard visiting the pond.

Please let me know of any interesting sightings....
psymonds590@gmail.com – or - 488016

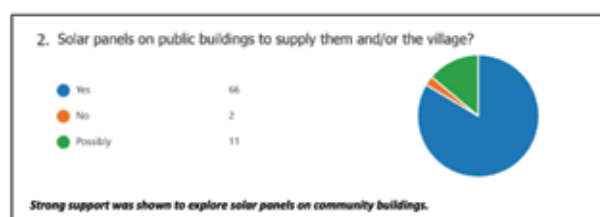
The 2021 Speen Environmental Survey

by Ben Wilde and Jane Farley

Eighty people responded to the SEAG Environmental survey, held over seven weeks between November 2021 and January 2022. The results were valuable, with some highlights below:

- There is a significant interest in public and domestic solar installations, with 83% of respondents supporting a technical study to add solar panels to public buildings and a further 16% potentially interested.
- 61% of respondents were positive about solar panels on individual homes (or groups of homes), with an additional 28% possibly being interested.
- 52% of respondents expressed interest in a potential ground-source heat pump network to provide renewable heating for homes via a central facility. Another 31% showed interest in a technical review but wanted more information.
- 88% of respondents indicated the Studridge Lane Pond to be a valuable village asset and would like it to be regularly maintained. The encouragement of wildlife, and education for children, were the most popular reasons that were indicated.
- 84% of respondents wished to see more local tree planting, with other priority interests including roadside verges (72%), and work to promote biodiversity (59%).

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to answer the survey. We received numerous comments and requests for specific advice and guidance that will help SEAG to prioritise our work over the coming months. Some people offered ideas and support based on their professional background, and shared experience and information from their own improvement projects. These were appreciated and will be followed up.



Many villagers sought specific advice on solar panels and heat pumps, including how these systems work, the potential expense now and in the future, how they might impact neighbours, and ways in which these can integrate with traditional oil-fired central heating systems. Others thought it would help to see what similar villages were doing and see these systems in action. One concern was raised about the environmental issues surrounding the manufacture of solar panels and the potential visual impacts on an AONB area. There were also concerns about the return on investment of solar panels and challenges in getting accurate advice about grants. SEAG will be working on compiling helpful information on these topics on our section of the Speen village website.

Veg Patch Pals

By Monica Dent

Are you interested in growing your own food? Do you want to eat more plants and less meat? Would you like to get help and advice from other village residents and pass on what you have learned?

If so, Speen's Veg Patch Pals is for you. We organise events at which members swap seeds, seedlings and produce, share experience and expertise, and enjoy socialising. Tea and cake are often involved too. We also run a WhatsApp group (which already has 25 members) to exchange ideas, news and advice.

If you would like to join Veg Patch Pals, please contact Monica Dent (phone 07511 733199, email monicaanddent@gmail.com) or Kate Slade (phone 07841 406033).

We look forward to hearing from you.

“Leaky Homes” Survey

Jeni Fairey



Many of us who are already concerned about our energy consumption and CO2 output now have the additional financial concern of the huge rise in energy bills following the lifting of the energy price cap in April. This has focused minds more than ever on ensuring the energy we do use is not wasted.

Kirsty Shanahan of Bucks Community Energy recently piloted a “Leaky Homes Roadshow”. This initial survey was intended to give a basic idea of where energy escapes as heat from our homes. A few of us in the village signed up and learned a little more about our homes. Kirsty came around the village one very dark and chilly January evening and painstakingly photographed the outside of our homes with a thermal camera. (we had to crank up the heating in advance, to ensure the test worked). In my case, we learned that our house is generally reasonably well insulated, but there were some “thermal bridges” where walls met and heat escaped. Others in the village confirmed that their single glazed windows were very much a weak area where a lot of heat was lost.



There are quite a few retrofit remedies to insulate older houses from within. I am going to be trialling a “Spraycork” insulating layer in the next few months. This involves coating the wall from within with a thin layer of cork, then plastering over the top. We are hoping this will help insulate one particularly cold, north-facing external wall. Other remedies can include upgrading to double or triple glazing and adding extra loft insulation.

Kirsty intends to develop this project further next winter, incorporating more detailed reports, assessing walls from within the home and also offering advice and solutions. Do contact her via her website www.buckscommunityenergy.org for further information. We also have a village “Home Energy” Whatsapp Group which is a forum for sharing any learning amongst ourselves. Do contact SEAG at seag@btinternet.com to be added to this.

RECIPE

Mandy How

Sun-dried Tomato Butterbean Pâté

A flavour-packed pâté that’s as good for you as it is delicious!

Butterbeans are nutritional powerhouses - rich in protein but low in fat, and also a good source of fibre, iron and B-vitamins. Using the oil from the sun-dried tomato jar or tub makes this extra tomato-ey, with lemon juice and fresh thyme to finish it with a zing. Easy to make with a blender or food processor and perfect to serve as a dip, with toast or as a filling for sandwiches, wraps, bagels or baked potatoes.

Ingredients

10 slices sun-dried tomatoes (from a jar or tub)
2 tbsp oil (from sun-dried tomato jar/tub)
Juice of 1 lemon
3-4 tbsp water
400 g tin butterbeans
5-6 sprigs fresh thyme
Salt and black pepper

Instructions

1. Tip the sun-dried tomatoes, oil, lemon juice and 3 tbsp water into a blender or food processor and blitz until smooth.
2. Drain and rinse the butterbeans and add to the blender with leaves from the thyme sprigs.
4. Blitz to a smooth paste, then taste and add salt and black pepper as required. If the pâté is a little too stiff, add another tbsp of water and blitz again before serving.



Award winning Design

Extension • Conversion • New Build

SQU4RE



Jeremy Symondson
Foursquare Land Limited
Old Smithy, Great Hampden,
Buckinghamshire HP16 9RF
jem@4squareland.co.uk
tel: 01494 488877
mob: 07789 201616



TUDOR TRAVEL

Taking you there in style

22 – 33 seat Midi coaches for
Group travel, Corporate events,
Days out, Local and long distance.
Fully licenced and insured and COVID compliant.
Private & Business accounts welcome.

MD COURIER SERVICES

Offering a fast professional
and reliable service at an affordable
price, whether it's around the corner
or across the country.

We have you covered.

info@tudortravel.co.uk
01494 488887 / 07771 881245

THE PAINTED KITCHEN COMPANY



PK
PAINTED KITCHENS.ORG

A: 5-7 DUKE STREET, PRINCES RISBOROUGH, BUCKS HP27 0AT
M: 07768 975 323 • T: 01844 346444 • W: PAINTED KITCHENS.ORG



A Prayer for Peace

February 24, 2022, marked the outbreak of military conflict of a kind and on a scale the world has not seen since World War II. As I write this on the 10th of March the world is watching a devastating invasion unfold in real time. Visceral and disturbing images stream out of Ukraine every moment, as Russian forces bombard and assault Ukrainian.

It can be difficult to process events like this. So, I want to remind you of some basic truths to help us navigate these extraordinary times.

War reminds us that man is not sovereign over history. The kings and kingdoms of this world are like the changing of the seasons - they rise and eventually they all fall. War reminds us that despite all the technological, social, development humanity has not come of age. Knowing how to live at peace with all of creation. War reminds us we need to have courage in the face of evil and sympathy for innocent victims.

Many of us have responded in practical ways to these circumstances. So, you may be wondering what more you can do now. I invite you to stand still and pray for an end to conflicts, for the safety of innocent people, and restoration of nations:

O God, author and giver of peace,
in whose image and likeness each of us has been created
with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth
and destined for eternal glory

Listen to the cry that rises
from every corner of this fragile earth,
from our human family torn by violent conflict:
Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God,
that peace which, as your son Jesus Christ told us
and as we have experienced in these days,
is a peace which the world cannot give.

To world leaders grant the wisdom
to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and nation
to that common humanity that makes us all your children
and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge
or even in the cause of justice
grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue
and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror,
especially the frightened children,
be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.
And to those who have already lost their lives
as victims of human cruelty and warfare,
open wide your arms and enfold them all
in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.

Amen



Edie with the ACF (Army Cadet Force) Mayor's cadet

UPDATE FROM EDIE

Jill Rogerson

In the last edition of the SNDN, Edie Vernol and Lotte Cook were featured, having been selected as the Mayor of High Wycombe's Cadet and the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire's Cadet respectively.

Edie says she attended the Mayor's Annual Reception on 21st February at Wycombe Town Hall – this had been deferred from May last year due to the pandemic. The purpose of the event is to thank the previous mayor for all they achieved during their year's service, and guests included the station commander at RAF High Wycombe, the mayors of Marlow and Princes Risborough, as well as everyone involved with charity and community efforts during the year served by the previous mayor.

M. R. COLLINS

GARDEN CONSTRUCTION

Est 1979

Driveway, Paving, Brickwork, Fencing
Groundworks, Excavations, Operated
digger hire.

We specialise in Block paving and all
types of slab laying Indian stone and
concrete offering a start to finish service
inclusive of excavations muck away,
supply and fix.

For estimate Phone: 01844 346360
Mobile: 07774 256732



All Domestic & Trade Customers Welcome

- Fencing, Gates, Sheds & Decking
- Lawn Mowers & Garden Machinery
- DIY & Garden Tools Ironmongery
- Compost, Bark & Lawn Feed
- Color Gas, Coal, Salt, Logs & Kindling
- Servicing, Repairs & Spare Parts



FENCE PANELS

Quality fence panels made in our own workshop

Local Delivery
No Minimum Order



You can now order online at www.briantsltd.co.uk
01844 343663
Thame Road, Longwick, Princes Risborough. HP27 9SG

STIHL **HONDA** **HAYTER**

Nick Higgins
Forestry & Fencing
Contractor
m. 07768 383418
t. 01494 488835

45 Great Hampden Bucks
HP16 9RJ Seasoned logs
available



Beautiful sunrise photo by Jeni Fairey

JOHN BISHOP

Est. 1972

GARDEN MACHINERY

Sales & Service



HONDA
LAWN & GARDEN



Machine Hire

Scarifiers, Cultivators, Strimmers, Mowers
Hedge Trimmers

Blade/Chainsaw Sharpening & shear grinding.

We also stock a wide range of parts for various products.

Free Collection & Delivery



Tel No. **01494 563513**
Mob. **07917 106004**

1 Margaret Cottages, Northdean, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4NH

Martin Holman's Pest Control & Services



Qualified & Fully Insured



NPTA

tomorrow's association
for today's technician



(M) 07510 290321 (T) 01296 622972

ratman01@talktalk.net



@MHPestControl

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DOMESTIC DRAIN SERVICES

Proprietor: Dennis Cook
Est. 1979

BLOCKED DRAINS?

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE 1979

BLOCKED DRAINS CLEARED

REASONABLE RATES

CCTV DRAIN SURVEYS

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR EVENING, WEEKEND OR BANK HOLIDAY CALLOUTS

FULL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

CALL US DAY OR NIGHT

**24/7
CALLOUT
SERVICE**



07850 635 844 01296 624 221 (MESSAGES)



WHO'S WHO

North Dean Village Hall - Chair	Dick Pooley	01494 269615
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings	Jeremy Mudie	07880 785983
North Dean Village Fete	Dick Pooley	01494 269615
One Can Food Bank Trust - Chair	Graham Peart	01494 488327
Pigotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Jeremy Hamilton	07834 224589
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	01494 488420
Speen Good Neighbours	Pat Richardson	01494 488627
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	01494 488372
Speen & North Dean News - Advertising	Tom Dent	01494 488943
Speen & North Dean News - Chair	Gloria Holmes	01494 488420
Speen & North Dean Toddlers	Sandy Mitcheson	07747 635974
Speen Baptist Church - Pastor	Rev. Tim Deller	01494 488753
Speen Environmental Action Group (SEAG)	Jane Farley	07889433630
Speen Festival	Cat Cook	01494 488939
Speen Fete - Chair	Clare Morris/Helen Davies	01494 488553
Speen Helping Hospices - Secretary	Maureen Laing	01494 488397
Speen Heritage Group - Chairman	Peter Symonds	01494 488016
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	01494 488939
Speen Playing Fields	Tony Bobroff/Matt Davies	07768 330273
Speen C of E Infant School - Head	Jacque Coles	01494 488321
Speen School PTA - Co-Secretary	Fleur Dillon	07793 458698
Speen Stores	Ruban Kantharuban	01494 488258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Philippa Lane	01494 488453
Speen Village Hall - Bookings	Sue Taylor	01494 488500
Speen Village Hall - Chairman	Bill Groves	01494 488180
Speen WI - Secretary	Jenny Pearce	01494 562333
St John's Parish Church	Rev'd Tony Bundock	01844 347741

LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors for Speen

Roger Craft
Philip Suter

r.craft@laceygreen-pc.org.uk
p.suter@laceygreen-pc.org.uk

HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors for North Dean

Simon Kearey

Simon.kearey@hughendenpc.org.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillors for Speen

Carl Etholen
Shade Adoh
Robert Carington
Steve Broadbent
David Carroll
Clive Harriss

Carl.Etholen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Shade.Adoh@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Robert.Carington@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Clive.Harriss@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

BEECHDEAN

Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream



Now available from
Hughenden Village Store and Coffee Shop

• 130ml Beechdean Farmhouse 'Spoon in Lid' Tubs •
Vanilla, Double Chocolate, Strawberry, Salted Caramel, Mint Choc Chip,
Honey & Ginger and Lemon Sorbet

Special Offers Available in-store!

- 1 Litre Beechdean Farmhouse Tubs •
- 2 Litre Beechdean Farmhouse Vanilla Tubs •

Hughenden Village Store and Coffee Shop
Coombe Lane, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe HP14 4NX

 @HughendenValleyShop1



  
@BeechdeanGroup



Opening Hours: Monday to Friday : 7.30am – 6pm, Saturday : 8am – 4pm, Sunday : 8am – 3pm

A photograph of a garden path made of light-colored gravel, leading from the foreground into the distance. The path is flanked by a well-manicured green hedge on the left and a large, arched trellis covered in climbing roses with red and white flowers on the right. In the background, a white building with a glass door is visible through the foliage.

Homes of Distinction

If you are looking for a very special property or have one that would benefit from our award winning marketing then we are ready to act on your behalf.

01844 343131
Princes Risborough Office

01494 711677
Hazlemere Office

FINE & COUNTRY
fineandcountry.com™