

THE & SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*



Autumn 2023

Issue 88

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 our Autumn Edition.

Despite the lack of sunshine this summer, the weather did not manage to dampen our enthusiasm to have fun. The highlight of the summer must be Speen Festival 2023 which was once again organised by Cat Cook who, supported by an army of helpers from both villages, put together a fabulous variety of events for us all to enjoy.

Once again, Speen & North Dean continued their friendly rivalry competing against each other playing golf. I won't give away who won this time but you can read about it inside. The friendship between both villages is to be applauded.

As the days get shorter and the nights longer, I am sure many of you are already planning future events which we will enjoy showcasing in future editions. For those who would like to become more involved with community events check out the contacts page at the back of the magazine.

Our magazine is mainly funded by the continued support of our advertisers, for which we are very grateful. If you use any of their services, please do remember to mention that you saw their advert here.

Best Wishes

Jill Roberts

Front cover by joewalton.art who was at the Festival: Being Human at The Great Picnic – an immersive art installation.

SPEEN & NORTH DEAN NEWS COMMITTEE

JILL ROGERSON (CHAIRMAN), TOM DENT (ADVERTISING/TREASURER), JILL ROBERTS (EDITOR), CHRISTINE RYMAN (NORTH DEAN)

Next Edition

Copy for the next edition is due by 8th March with a planned publication date of early April. 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.

List of Advertisers

AlchemilleGardenDesign, AndyEllisTreeSurgery, AshridgeHomeCare, AstonHearing, BeechdeanFarmhouseDairyIceCream, Briants of Risborough Ltd, Buckmoorend Farm Shop and Kitchen, ByTheStream, Deluxe Roofing, CGTree & Garden Services, Fine & Country, Fraser Morgan School of Dancing, Hampden Arms, Hypnos Beds, Lloyd's Wines, Lovell Fuels, Manor Garage, MR Collins, Nick Higgins Forestry and Fencing, North Dean Village Hall, Plugs Electrical, Paul Newman Ltd, Rowena's Therapies, Speen Pilates, The Gate Pub, The Harrow Pub, Tudor Travel, Timpsons Butchers, Village Environmental Services.

Contents

Welcome	3
What's On	5
Speen Fete Update	5
Speen School & Little Apples Preschool	7
Speen School PTA	7
North Dean News	9 & 11
Recipe	11
Ruth's Story	13
Speen Heritage Group	13 & 15
Speen Helping Hospices	15
Speen Festival	17 - 19
Speen W!	21
In Remembrance	22 & 23
SEAG	23 & 25
Speen Church	27
Darvills Hill Farm	29
Studridge Lane Pond	29 & 31
Operation Golden Orb	31
Wildlife Watch	33
Who's Who	34

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.

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



An award winning local company providing outstanding care in your own home.

Staying at home is certainly the most preferable and safest option for most people and often all it needs is a professional carer to make that possible. Ashridge can match you with a qualified carer to ensure all your support needs are met and you live your best life in the familiar surroundings you love.

We are one of the few companies to offer both full time live-in carers or part time visiting carers to offer just the right amount of help so you can stay safe and independent.



“Ashridge has given my Mum excellent care at all different stages of her illness from being bedridden to post-op; rehabilitating her so she was able to regain independence and confidence again in her own home. Continuity, professionalism, compassion and empathy gave her a reason to get up in the morning. Mum is 91 years old. Thank you Ashridge.”

Providing Outstanding Home Care

Call for a friendly chat on
01494 917344 or visit
ashridgehomecare.co.uk



WHAT'S ON

in Speen & North Dean

REGULAR EVENTS

Sundays	Regular Service of Worship	Speen Chapel 10.30am	Speen Church 488753 pastor@speenchurch.uk
1st & 3rd Sundays	BCP Holy Communion	St John's Church, Lacey Green 8.00am	
Tuesdays Term Time Only	Speen & North Dean Tiddlers & Toddlers	Speen Chapel Hall 9.30-11.30am	speen-northdeantoddlers@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

Saturday 18th	SHH Christmas Market	Speen Chapel 11-4pm	Visit SHH website for further details
Saturday 25th	Speen School Christmas Fair	2-4.30pm	Charlie Harrison 07772 562979

DECEMBER

Thursday 7th	Speen WI Christmas Meeting	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
Wednesday 20th	Christmas Carol Singing	North Dean Village Hall	Details will be sent on WhatsApp groups

JANUARY

Thursday 4th	Speen WI Anniversary Dinner	Speen Village Hall 7:30pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
--------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st	Speen WI AGM + Who is Winning the Space Race Richard Stevenson	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
--------------	--	---------------------------	---------------------

MARCH

Thursday 7th	Speen WI Magistrates in the Community	Speen Village Hall 7:45pm	Jenny Pearce 562333
--------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------

SPEEN FETE UPDATE

Claire Morris

£2,700 distributed to Village Organisations

The Speen Fete team are delighted to announce that we donated £2,700 across the eleven village organisations that took part in making this year's fete such a success.

Our Charity of the Year, Speen School & Little Apples received £700 to support continued improvements to the outside play area, whilst the remaining ten groups each received £200 to support their excellent work in our community.

These charities are:

Speen Church	Speen Environmental Action Group
Speen Guides	Speen Helping Hospices
Speen Heritage Group	Speen & North Dean News
Speen Playing Fields	Speen Tennis Club
Speen Village Hall	Speen Women's Institute

Overall, the fete made a profit of £3,402. The Committee agreed to buy new gazebos to replace damaged ones and to increase our reserves in case we ever must cancel (as Hughenden did a week later). Therefore, the amount we distributed across the village is slightly lower than in previous years.

On behalf of all these organisations and the Fete Committee I would like to say once again a huge thank you for your support. If you would like to be involved, please email fete@speenbucks.org.uk

**The Fete will return on
13th July 2024
so please save the date**

Speen Pilates

STRETCH • STRENGTHEN • CONTROL



Private Pilates Studio

One to one 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 (6 max)

Monday 09.00, 10.15 and 18.45

Tuesday 9.30 and 18.45

Friday 9.00 and 10.15

Mat based Pilates using small equipment aims to enhance your posture, strength, flexibility, body tone and stamina whilst releasing unnecessary tension.



Amanda 07733 307 475

amandapilates@btinternet.com

www.speenpilates.co.uk



SPEEN SCHOOL & LITTLE APPLES PRESCHOOL

Lisa Davies



It has been a wonderful start to the academic year at Speen School. The children have settled into their new year groups and have taken their new roles and responsibilities very seriously.

Our School Council have been thinking about our school value of 'caring' and the charities that are very close to our hearts. The Horse Trust is a wonderful local charity, and the children are very keen to raise money to support the residents. The school council arranged a toy sale with the proceeds going towards the care of the horses.



The School Council will also be donating toys to the Wycombe Food Hub who also do an amazing job in our local community.

The Food Hub have kindly come into the school to talk to the children



about their important work and the children supported them with a drive to collect food during our Harvest Festival.

Our Eco Council have been talking to the children about the importance of recycling and keeping the school grounds clean. They are setting a fabulous example!



Little Apples have been having fun learning about different types of vehicles. During the week they were learning about farm vehicles they were able to explore a tractor, now we have a whole preschool full of budding farmers!



SPEEN SCHOOL PTA

Charlotte Harrison, PTA Treasurer

Autumn Term News from Speen School PTA

It was a very busy end to the summer for Speen School and Little Apples. We had the Mad Hatters Ball in June which was an incredible and a fantastic fundraiser for the School and Preschool.

We held our first social event of the year at the end of October with our annual "Quiz Night" which was great fun and a wonderful opportunity for new parents to the school to meet other Mums and Dads. Christmas Fair is returning 2pm to 4.30pm on Saturday 25 November at School. Further details will follow but please come along and support. We will have the usual offerings of Christmas drinks and snacks, various stalls, crafts and Christmas activities as well as a musical performance from the children. Our very popular Wreath Making Course run by Helen Davies is also scheduled

for 7th December. This is always such fun event with lots of creativity. Finally, the end of term will see Father Christmas visit the children at School together with a Christmas Party featuring lots of fun and games!

Looking ahead to Spring, Safari Supper will be returning in March 2024. Details on this will be circulated in the new year. Please do support if you can as it's a fantastic event for the whole village to get involved with.

This year the PTA will be focusing its efforts on purchasing three extra Chromebooks to assist learning, increasing the School's reading materials and further improving the outdoor space at School, our first priority being to replace the wooden picnic benches.

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

NORTH DEAN NEWS

TREE PLANTING IN NORTH DEAN 2023

Dick Pooley

North Dean committee decided to commemorate the following with three new trees planted in the Village Hall field.

One each to remind us of the Queen's Jubilee, the Queen's Passing and the King's Coronation.

They are a Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), and Broad-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*).

In due course a plaque will be put alongside each one.



GOLF MEETING

Dick Pooley

Speen v North Dean Spring Golf Meeting



Charlie Kent, Jeremy Mudie, Greg Cook, Dick Pooley, Al Tilt, Craig Watson, Mike Winson, James Kent, Vincent Patroe

It was the turn of Speen to organise this one and thirty-one players (18 from Speen and 13 from North Dean) duly met up at Winter Hill GC, ready to battle it out for the Ivor & Janet Beeks Figure Trophy.

As always the competition was played in great spirit with plenty of banter, on a day that was mostly warm, but overcast.

The results were as follows:-



1st
Craig Watson, ND.
40 points (on count back)



2nd
Paul Gerrard, ND.
40 points



3rd
Charlie Kent, ND.
38 points



Nearest the Pin
Keith Fisher SP.



Longest Drive
Martin Hearn ND.

And North Dean won the trophy back with a 4.4 average points margin.

Keep This Number Handy
You May Need It To Contact...

**YOUR LOCAL
ELECTRICIAN**

Call Tony on 07944 162958
Email Tony@plugs.me.uk

- Qualified Electrician
- Reliable Service
- Free Quotes
- Honest Assessment
- Quick Response
- Reasonably Priced
- Tidy Work
- Insured
- Warranty Backed
- Certificates Issued

plugs 



We specialise in:

- Roof tiling
- Lead work
- Single ply roofing, Sarnafil
- Green (sedum) roofing
- Flat roofs
- Re-tiling and slating

Office: **01494 716184**

John Mulry's Mobile: **07860 845343**

Email: john@deluxeroofing.co.uk

Binders Industrial Estate, Cryers Hill
High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6LJ

www.deluxeroofing.co.uk

Buckinghamshire's trusted roofing contractor

HOLIDAY HOME – CORNWALL



www.bythestream.co.uk

Instagram: [bythestreambc](https://www.instagram.com/bythestreambc)

For more details or to book please email
bythestreambc@gmail.com

or call Gillian on 07944 070986

Beautiful Creekside Grade II listed cottage. The property is full of charm and character.

With 1 twin (or superking) room, 2 king size rooms and one single with a pull out trundle. The property can comfortably sleep a large family or two families of 4. There are 2 bathrooms and two sitting rooms together with a utility and lovely farmhouse style kitchen. The house has wrap-around garden space with a bbq at the rear and seating area together with lovely seating at the front to enjoy a morning coffee and watch the world go by.

You will be only 100m walk to the estuary where you can paddleboard or kayak.

With several sandy beaches just a short drive away you are perfectly situated to explore the north and south coasts. The nearest city is Truro which is approximately 10 minutes drive away and Falmouth is close too, offering some gorgeous sandy beaches and many fine restaurants. The King Harry Ferry which is 5 minutes away by car will take you across to the Roseland Peninsula where you can explore beautiful St Mawes and perhaps dine at the award winning restaurant The Idle Rocks. The unspoilt fishing village of Gorran Haven is great for families and to enjoy fish & chips on the beach.

NORTH DEAN NEWS

TIME TO CELEBRATE ROSEMARY PETTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Christine Ryman

Did you know that North Dean's oldest resident is Rosemary Petty from Timber Dean in Clappins Lane? I bet you didn't!

For until this year, her age has been kept under lock & key and nobody in the village has ever known her age! She would never let on!!

Well on 25th September 2023, I was invited to a very special party, held at Hartwell House no less, and discovered only then that it was in celebration of Rosemary's 90th birthday! And what a grand affair to say the least. She was joined by family members, local friends and even 3 special old-time girlfriends with whom she shared a flat in London in her youthful 20's.

Their stories of life in London 'in them good ol' days', their jobs, adventures, what they all got up to and who they eventually ended up with, were quite a treat for us all to hear! And to think, all without a



mobile phone in sight!!

She also had an adventurous work career spanning 13 years, taking her to Toronto (by ship!) Bermuda, San Fransico, working mainly as a PA and receptionist at hotels, and then eventually back to England. She even spent 3 months in Paris learning French and indulging in French cuisine - or so we are led to believe anyway!

At a sailing club on the east coast is where she met her husband Don in 1963, and the rest is history! Children James, Tanya and Justin soon followed, and they all came to live in North Dean at Timber Dean in 1975. Sadly, her husband is since many years no longer with us. She has been involved in NDVH committee for a number of years previously.

Rosemary, we all wish you many more years of love, health & prosperity and continued adventures – although at a slower pace!!

Welcome Libby Luckett & Martin Hearn and family to Wood End (formally Chinnysnook) North Dean. They were previously in Speen.

RECIPE

Mandy How

Beantastic Burgers

Makes 4 Burgers

Ingredients

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 can black beans | ½ tbs chilli powder to taste |
| 1 onion finely chopped | 1 tbs tomato ketchup |
| Garlic to taste | 2 tbs soy sauce |
| 1 large carrot shredded | 75g oatmeal (ground/fine oats) |
| 1 tbs cumin | salt |
| 2 tsp lemon juice | fresh coriander (a good handful) |
| 1 tbs sunflower oil or preferred | |

The Seasoning Mix

1. Heat the oil and brown the onions for about 2 mins.
2. Add the crushed garlic (or paste equivalent to 2 cloves) and brown for another minute.
3. Add the carrots, cumin and chilli powder. Cook for another 2/3 mins or until carrots are soft.
4. Turn off heat and set aside for now.



The Burgers

1. Drain and rinse the beans. Mash roughly with a fork or use food processor.
2. Add the seasoning mix, tomato ketchup, soy sauce, oatmeal and lemon juice to taste.
3. Knead the final mix by hand to make 4 burgers.
4. Add the rest of the oil to a pan and fry for 4/5 mins each side until golden brown.
5. Done!

Adapted from Proveg International



THE HAMPDEN ARMS Bar & Restaurant

Real Ales
Extensive Wine List

Good Food
A la carte, blackboard specials,
snacks and Sunday roasts

Beautiful Rural Setting
Large secure beer garden, car park
and on circular pub walk route

Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire HP16 9RQ

t: 01494 488255

e: louise.lucas@outlook.com

www.thehampdenarms.co.uk

Pub open 7 days a week
Food served every day for lunch and dinner
(except Tuesdays)



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

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)



RUTH'S STORY

Ruth Spurr

Hi, I am Ruth Spurr and I split my time between my parents in Speen and my flat in Amersham. You may have seen me pushing my way round Studridge Lane in my wheelchair with my Assistance dog Willow (Bichon Frise x Tibetan Terrier).

We recently travelled to Liverpool to attend the prestigious black-tie event of the National Diversity Awards. There were over 90,000 nominations this year and thanks to many people, (including Speen residents!) I made it to the shortlist in the category of "Positive Role Model Award for Disability".

The Awards are designed to showcase the efforts of those who have demonstrated an outstanding devotion to enhancing equality, diversity and inclusion within today's society.

I have a number of complex illnesses which are a daily battle. Things are not easy for me or my family and I've spent my life in and out of hospital. But instead of letting this pull me down I use this to try to raise awareness through my social media and online platform and support others going through similar. I make daily videos about my life,



from Willow, to medical, to grabbing all opportunities I can to coping with these illnesses and all that comes with that, the positive and the negative. One of my favourite sayings and one I use every day in my daily gratitude video is "Every day may not be good but there IS something good in every day!"

Sharing and posting what I do I get a lot of messages from people across the world, saying how much I'm helping them, they feel less alone because of me and they've had the strength to go out, wear that outfit with their feeding tube or line hanging out/on show, and gaining confidence and strength through my posts and it was humbling to receive so many nominations.

It was a wonderful evening, hosted by Claire Balding in Liverpool Cathedral. Even though I didn't win, it was an honour to make it to the shortlist and we met so many inspiring people. It felt incredible to be sat next to people from all different walks of life and hear their stories.

So - stop and say hi to Willow and me as I am pushing around Speen!

SPEENHERITAGE GROUP

by Peter Symonds

KING WILLIAM IV – What's in a Name A Historical Perspective

The King William IV is one of the oldest buildings in the village dating from around 1668, albeit partly rebuilt in the early to mid-century. At that time, it was a farmhouse owned and occupied by John Free, in conjunction with the land to the rear, which is believed to have been an orchard.

It was first licensed, according to village history in *The Leaves of Time*, in 1827. The naming of the pub therefore is something of a mystery because King William IV did not come to the throne until 1830, at the age of 64, when he succeeded his elder brother, George IV. This begs the question of where does the name come from?

The name of the pub is one of the most commonly



adopted pub names in the UK and this was as a result of the 1830 Beerhouse Act. In an attempt to reduce consumption of gin the government liberalized the sale of beer by permitting anyone to brew and sell beer in return for a license costing two guineas (£2.10). The intention was to increase the competition between brewers and reduce prices to make beer more attractive than harder spirits. This legislation led to the opening of thousands of new public houses and breweries throughout the country. Some owners recognized this favorable legislation by adopting the name of the monarch, King William IV, for their beerhouses. Apparently, his name remains "the most popular monarch among pub names". Other beerhouses



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

North Dean Village Hall Hire



Our Village Hall can be hired out by clubs,
for private functions and family parties

Large, light and great value

Hire comes with large, secure, grass playing
field and children's play area

EMAIL: NDVHBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM
OR TEL: JERRY 07880 785983 / 01494 564025



adopted the name of the Duke of Wellington, who was the prime minister of the government at this time that this legislation was passed.

King William IV was also known as the "sailor king" because of his association with the navy. He joined as a midshipman in 1778 at the age of 13, serving under Horatio Nelson in 1780, and his active naval career continued until 1790. He later became Admiral of the Fleet. Many pub signs portray the monarch with a galleon in the background.

Other than "sailor king", his other nickname was less complimentary being "Silly Billy", yet during his reign some useful legislation was enacted. He was apparently responsible for the abolition of slavery and the passage of The Reform Act which removed inequities in the distribution of parliamentary seats. His reign also saw the passage of the Factories Act prohibiting children under 9 from factory work and The Poor Law Act creating workhouses to help the poor.

Speen Heritage Group – protecting and promoting the history and heritage of the village of Speen.

SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

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

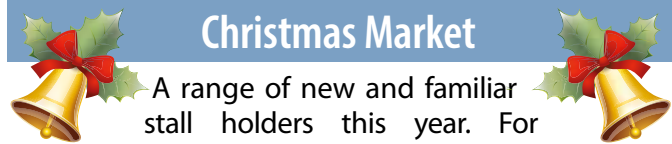
Grainne Suter • grainnesuter@googlemail.com • 07778803260

Are you getting ready for Christmas? If so, we can make life very easy for you!

Luxury Perfume and Cosmetic Sale

SHH has been given exclusive access to a significant amount of high-end perfume by the brands owners to help raise money for the local hospices that we support. We have Estee Lauder cosmetics, Jo Malone and Tom Ford perfumes and many other products at vastly reduced prices. Go to our website www.shh-shop.org and follow the link through to perfume sales. Christmas present shopping all sorted then!

Christmas Market



A range of new and familiar stall holders this year. For example, a silversmith with a beautiful range of silver jewellery, a new candle designer, upcycled homewares designed in contemporary colours, new designs in Christmas decorations, luxury chocolates, beautiful cushions, wood carvings, skincare, macramé gifts and of course, the ever-popular homemade cake stall and much more.

So come along and stay for a bite and a glass of fizz or coffee and a homemade sausage roll.

SHH Pub Night



Having sorted the Christmas presents, kick off the Christmas celebrations with friends and neighbours in the Village Hall.

Two more fundraising events under our belt

Since the Jazz in the Park in July we have run two events a Wine Tasting and a Charity Bridge Afternoon Tea and raised funds just shy of £1,000. Many thanks to all who attended.

Fundraising Challenge - Help raise money for Speen Helping Hospices in 2024. Speen Helping

Hospices are looking for people to raise money for SHH by taking part in a local fun run/half marathon/cycle race or other event.

If you are planning or considering taking part in a sporting event, would you help others by fundraising for Speen Helping Hospices as you run/cycle/swim?

We, at Speen Helping Hospices will support you on your fundraising journey, we would promote your participation locally and via social media and our website to attract sponsorship.

If you are up for this challenge, now is the time to plan it, visit our website at <http://www.shh-shop.org/FundraisingChallenges.htm> for information.

FUTURE EVENTS IN 2023

Christmas Market

8th November at the Chapel Hall in Speen. We have lots of new stallholders and a wide range of gifts for Christmas. Come and see us. We are open from 11.00 to 4.00pm

SHH Pub Night

8th December in the Village Hall Kick off the Christmas celebrations with friends and neighbours.

Carol Singing

Why not join us for Carol Singing this year, you will be most welcome, whatever age you are. Dates will be posted on Sales and Wants.

If you would like to get involved with SHH contact me grainnesuter@googlemail.com or 07778803260.

For further information about all our events check out our website www.shh-shop.org

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LOCAL PUB



COME AND JOIN US AT *the* Gate
PUB & DINING

DELICIOUS NEW MENU • KIDS PLAYGROUND • FUNCTION ROOM HIRE • DOG FRIENDLY
• LIVE EVENTS • CURRY CLUB

SPEEN FESTIVAL

Speen Festival 2023 was a glorious couple of weeks in the fabulous sun of September.

We really did 'celebrate arts and creativity' in style. We were treated to Martin Hart's jazz and Sam Laughton's orchestral prom, the Waltons pulled out the stops with Mary's baroque ensemble, Ellie's viola virtuoso and Joe transformed the Village Hall. We learned how to make focaccia, sourdough, Ukrainian headdresses and lampshades. We learned some Speen local history and of the endeavours of local farmers to improve our biodiversity, of the realm of the tiger and of the local designers doing great works. We contemplated a future with Artificial Intelligence and got centered in yoga, meditation and tai chi. We journeyed the Yellow Brick Road in search of Oz, three times; and we laughed, a lot!

Thank you to all the amazing event organisers who put together such fabulous events and to the people of Speen, North Dean and beyond who attended the events and drank at our festival bar. We are going to be able to donate approximately £8000 to Speen organisations and other charities nominated by the event organisers, which is a fabulous result. Plus we have already supported some scientific environmental and dance based activities for Speen and St John's Schools as part of SpeenSchoolFest.



In September the original organisers of the first Speen Festival wrote the following email:

Dear Speen Festival organisers

Marjorie and I have just looked at the online detail for the 2023 Festival from down here in Devon, where we now live. Having run the first 3 Speen Festivals (following the 1999 'Leaves of Time' Pageant) we just wanted say that we were genuinely thrilled to see the full and imaginative programme of events arranged for this year and extend our congratulations to all concerned. It all looks terrific, so well done and let's hope the event runs for many years into the future.

Sincere good wishes.

Martin and Marjorie Stockley

Isn't that marvellous? Let's do them proud in 2025 too. To discuss options please get in touch with Cat via contact details at rear of SNDN.



2025 Planning



The Speen Festival comes together through lots of different lines of effort and is best served when lots of people are putting their imagination and skills together. For some of these areas, the work is done early on in the year, for other areas it is just during the Festival itself. The next Festival will be in September 2025 so we are a long way off yet, but

with Cat retiring from the main coordinator role it is the opportunity for the Festival to reinvent itself and benefit from the many new hands. There is a new WhatsApp group created for those who wish to be part of making the Festival happen in 2025, it will lay dormant until next year, but if you would like to on added please get in touch with Cat.





HOME REARED MEATS,
LOCAL PRODUCE
& HOME COOKED FOOD

BESPOKE GIFT HAMPERS

Create your bespoke
Xmas gift hamper!

Buckmoorend
farm shop butchery kitchen



Browse our Xmas
display in store now!

Order your turkey
& home reared
Christmas Meats
while stocks last!

Chequers Estate | HP17 0UT
Tuesday - Sunday 10am-4pm
www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk

LLOYD'S
WINES

QUALITY WINE WHOLESALER
SUPPLYING LOCAL BUSINESSES
AND PRIVATE CUSTOMERS

EVENTS & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Upper Warren Farm, Hampden Road, Prestwood,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire
HP16 0JL

LLOYDSWINES.COM [@LLOYDSWINES](https://www.instagram.com/LLOYDSWINES) SALES@LLOYDSWINES.COM 01547 645917

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



We continue to provide an interesting and varied series of meetings and events for our members. In the Summer we paid a visit to a magnificent garden in Wendover which gave us all something to admire and ideas to take back to our own gardens. The tea which followed was equally delightful.

Our own Summer Garden Party this year was held in the Orchard at member Margaret Chitty's home and the shade of the trees was most welcome on one of the hottest days of the year.



Our regular monthly meetings have been well attended and our speakers very interesting. A detailed account of Shackleton's failed trip to the Antarctic was quite moving and highlighted the difficulties early explorers faced. The following month we heard about the work of the RNLI which now protects people on our seas.

Last month we held an evening with a difference. This was a film night – complete with wine and popcorn – which we all enjoyed. Based on a real life story, Dream

Horse was a wonderful tale of a community coming together with a common goal.

At that meeting we also celebrated a very important Birthday for member Jean Elder with a presentation of flowers and a Birthday cake.



We are continuing with our raffles to provide funds to support Chilterns4Ukraine.

Our future plans include a Quiz as part of our Christmas meeting and our 64th Anniversary Dinner in January. Our Annual Meeting is in February and in March we will be hearing about the work of Magistrates. Details are, as usual, in SNDN or the Village Diary. We also have a page on the village website where you can keep up to date with all our activities. The programme for the rest of next year is already partly booked.

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our meetings to find out more about the organisation. There is no obligation to join until you have explored all that is on offer.

As always our full programme is in SNDN and on the Village Diary.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE



Gill Kent

13th December 1937 to 8th September 2023

by Charles and Susie

After an idyllic childhood in Somerset Mum studied Horticulture at Reading University, where then met Dad. She was a competent member of the University rowing team, and also sang in the choir.

After University, Dad went to Cookshall Farm, West Wycombe, whilst Mum stayed at Reading for an extra year, employed as a demonstrator in the Horticulture department. She then went back to Somerset and took a teaching job at a girl's school in Weston-Super-Mare for one term and absolutely loved the experience.

After marrying at Churchill Church, Somerset in February 1962 they then pondered the options as to how they would make a living. Chickens, sheep, even a garden centre was considered, but dairying was the chosen route.

In 1971, Mum and Dad formed a partnership (Beechdean Farms) with Donald Campbell who then lived at North Dean House and had a dairy herd of 100 cows at Home Farm, which they ran in conjunction with their 50 at Old House Farm. During their partnership, cow numbers rose to 270 cows across the two farms.

Donald ultimately sold both farms to The Church Commissioners with Mum and Dad as sitting tenants. After a number of years, the very difficult decision to purchase the farm was driven by Mum. When this was first considered, interest rates sat at 7%. By the time the purchase happened interest rates were at a staggering 15%, but Mum and Dad's strength and determination drove it through. It turned out to be one of their best decisions ever!

Donald's contacts in time lead to farming opportunities in Newbury and Devon and latterly Cornwall.

In addition to Mum and Dad being the ultimate farming partnership, Mum was also a biology teacher and careers advisor at Pipers Corner School. She loved teaching and watching her students flourish over many years.

Mum loved singing and classical music. She was a very proud member of the Wooburn Singers, and was their treasurer and chairman for a number of years. The choir was founded in 1967 by the late Richard Hickox, and has earned a reputation as one of the UK's leading amateur mixed voice choirs. The pinnacle of

Mum's singing career was when she and the Wooburn Singers sang at St Mark's Basilica Venice, followed by a concert afterwards.

She had an incredible zest for life, but particularly farming, the countryside and her garden. She had a passion for educating the public about the importance and relevance of farming. Indeed she regularly wrote articles in the North Dean and Speen News and the Chiltern Society magazine chronicling farming matters over the years. She was part of a team that set up The Rural Forum, a group that enabled liaison between farmers and councils. It was such a success that it was replicated by councils and farmers around the country.

Mum and Dad organised numerous trips around the British Isles and Europe with fellow farmers and friends, visiting all sorts of different places from dairy farms, food factories, country estates and historical cities to name but a few. These were wonderful opportunities not only for companionship with friends but times to share knowledge and experience with like-minded people.

Mum's main passion was her garden. It was a sanctuary where she found peace, tranquillity and joy. Her garden was a testament to her patience, her unwavering love for life, and her belief in reward through effort. Her garden was a place of gathering, where friends and family would come together to share laughter, stories, and the fruits of her labour. It was a place where memories were made.

In February 2022 Mum and Dad celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, and both took great pleasure in receiving their congratulatory telegram from The Queen.

North Dean was home to Mum for the majority of her life; she felt honoured to have lived here and to have had the companionship of so many local friends. She was a woman of strength and resilience who faced life's challenges with unwavering determination and spirit. Numerous health obstacles came her way, particularly Rheumatoid Arthritis, but she never complained or lost her faith or ability to find joy in the simplest of things. Her acts of kindness and compassion touched the lives of countless people, and her legacy of generosity will continue to inspire us all.

Mum's funeral took place on Monday 9th October. We will be eternally grateful for all her family, friends and well wishers who filled Hughenden Church and then joined us to celebrate her life at North Dean Village Hall on the most beautiful day possible.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Clive Rainbow

5th March 1937 – 30th August 2023

by The Rainbow family

Di and Clive Rainbow arrived in Speen in 1982, and it was the first and only place that they knew to be permanent. Until then, life in the RAF meant moving wherever Clive was stationed, and

invariably moving on two years later. His last posting was to Whitehall, in the Ministry of Defence as Chief Accountant of the RAF, just as the Defence budget got intensively restructured after the Falklands War. After 30 years of service, Clive made the difficult decision to leave the RAF, and worked as the Bursar in Wycombe Abbey until his retirement.

The family loved living in Speen, for its location and the village's generosity. From the first night, when June and David Black arrived at the door with a welcoming gift; to walking the badly behaved dog, Katy through the woods, and occasionally through a garden or two and once even into some freshly-poured concrete; and later through the isolation of lockdown, the kindness of the community of Speen was evident.

The Talented Stockleys persuaded Clive and Di to take part in "The Leaves of Time", part of the Speen

Millennium celebration and then "Alice in Wonderland". Clive was the caterpillar, sewn into a sleeping bag and after one very hot summer night, was heard murmuring "I think I am going to pupate".

After retirement, Clive focussed on his love of wild flowers and history. His favourite pastime was taking meticulous photos of orchids on a Mediterranean slope, as the remainder of the family looked longingly at the beach. Clive loved to study history, whether leading fellow devotees to battlegrounds such as Waterloo, Crecy or the Somme; or else being an active member of the Speen Heritage Society. He traced the history of the young men of Speen, conscripted to serve in World War I – many of whose families still live in the village.

Although his mobility dwindled, his mind did not – busy in his Book Group, emailing excerpts from newspapers and distributing very funny memes and opinions not at all suitable for this august publication. Until the end, Clive retained his mastery of witty stories and thought-provoking observations. As Hilaire Belloc said:

*"From quiet homes and first beginning,
Out to the undiscovered ends,
There's nothing worth the wear of winning,
but the laughter and the love of friends".*



Naomi Rogers

Why boosting biodiversity matters

As part of the recent Speen Festival, SEAG hosted a discussion about the importance of promoting a healthy ecology in the face of concerns about biodiversity loss. Biodiversity is the great variety of animals, plants and even micro-organisms like bacteria that make up our natural world, working together in ecosystems to support life. Biodiversity is of vital importance to food production, air quality, generating medicines and creating environments that can provide shelter and protection from weather systems; but the extinction rate is now thought to be about 1,000



times higher than before humans dominated the planet – which may even be faster than the losses after a giant meteorite wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. The most recent *State of Nature* report (the most comprehensive health check on UK's wildlife) found that nearly one in six of 10,000 mammals, plants, insects, birds and amphibians assessed were threatened with extinction. In fact, it could be argued that biodiversity loss is more catastrophic to our planet than climate change. Conservation organisations report that the loss of

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** **QUICK & STRATTON** **HAYTER**

Manor Garage

 MOT Testing

 Diagnostics

 Servicing

 Air Conditioning

 Repairs

 Tyres - Exhausts - Batteries

 **Electric & Hybrid Vehicles**

 **01494 564222**

 **dnaautos243@outlook.com**

nature is outpacing efforts to tackle it, and call for a shift to much more wildlife-friendly farming. As modern agricultural practices are often cited as key reasons for species decline, SEAG invited a number of local farmers, growers and gardeners to share their own experiences and thoughts on land use and boosting biodiversity.



Charlotte Downing, Darvill's Hill Farm, took us through her family's journey reinvigorating an unloved piece of land through restoration of hedges, tree planting, introducing rare breeds and the establishment of hives and specialist commercial growing. Actively regenerating the land through people-led initiatives has led to a much richer ecology, with wildlife thriving alongside rather than pushed to the fringes. Taking on another regeneration project is **Eloise Lloyd**, from **Upper Warren Farm**. The family land has largely been rented out for farming, or used simply for grazing, but Eloise shared plans to rewild large areas, creating wildflower meadows and establishing orchards using old plans of the site and selecting old hardy varieties. Even in the short time since they have started to leave areas wild, Eloise has been thrilled to see large numbers of grasses, insects and flowers flourishing.

Nick Marriner, landowner engagement manager from **Chilterns AONB**, talked about the local farm cluster of 14 landowners they actively support to encourage biodiversity and conservation in our special chalk grassland habitat. This cross-farm strategy includes species surveys, installation of bird boxes for key species, supplementary feed for wild birds in winter months, field margins and hedgerow planting. Meanwhile *Chalk, Cherries & Chairs* is an ongoing initiative to connect to the wildlife and cultural heritage of the Chilterns, and hosts educational walks and talks, and citizen surveys for wildlife identification. Next we welcomed **Emma Plunket, horticulturalist, RHS Lecturer and landscape designer** who has established **Chiltern Forage Farm** on the slopes below Speen. Just before lockdown, Emma took over an unloved, overgrazed pasture and has largely left the land untouched in order to see what grows now the sheep have gone. Emma's philosophy is learning through observation, and she encouraged us all to allow nature to show us the way. New discoveries are emerging all the time, both flora and fauna, and the once overgrazed land is now a rich, biodiverse wildlife habitat hosting clouds of butterflies during the summer months.

Simon Bolton joined us from **Badgers Garden**, a successful seasonal salad and cut flower business based in Lacey Green (with an additional plot at Darvill's Hill).

Simon is an ardent proponent of Charles Dowding's No Dig approach to horticulture, allowing the soil to establish a natural health ecology by leaving organic matter on the soil surface, rather than working it into the soil. Dowding proposes that if the soil is left unmolested, the community of biodiverse microbes, insects, invertebrates and

important fine fungi can thrive leading to healthier soil and as a result bigger, better harvests. The proof is in the eating, and Simon now sells his produce at top London restaurants. Finally, **ethical garden Toby Brown** encouraged us all to share our gardens with wildlife. Residential gardens make up the third largest land use group in England (4.9%) and so even the smallest patch left to grow wild can make a big difference for nature and biodiversity. Practical suggestions include No Mow May (June, July...), introducing pollinator-friendly plants, log pile habitats and leaving areas wild. Toby is also an advocate for rewilding on a much larger scale, and provided plenty of food for thought by proposing a different way for using our environment which might

Photos of Barn Owl and butterfly were taken by Jamie Harland (insta@mostlygreenpics), thank you.

BUTCHERS
- TIMPSONS -

We are a small catering butcher
who visit the market daily
to ensure we supply high quality, fresh produce
and try to source locally where possible.

We also offer a range of fresh meat,
eggs, cheese, bread and cakes.

Our shop is open
Tuesday – Saturday from 9am until 4pm
Unit 6, Ministry Wharf, Saunderton HP14 3XA

We also offer FREE local delivery!

www.timpsonssmallholding.co.uk

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.....

SPEENCHURCH

Pastor Tim Deller

If you belong to a church, you are probably familiar with the Christian Calendar. Each year, the Christian Calendar invites us to discover the rhythm of the different seasons.

Epiphany comes at the beginning of the year and is a time of unveiling and illumination, of discovery.

Lent invites us into a time of release and openness to the future.

Easter takes us into a place of renewal, rebirth, and joyful hope filled celebration.

Pentecost thrusts us outwards as, we are called to a place of engagement with the world, and an awakening love for others.

Harvest allows us to celebrate the care of God in our lives.



Advent invites us into a time of waiting and trusting as we put ourselves in the shoes of the ancient Israelites and wait for the coming Messiah, and as we also wait for Jesus to come again at the end of time.

Christmastide invites us into a time of joyful celebration and communion with God and humanity.

The reason I mention these calendar events is because if we remain attentive to what God is doing - God speaking to us. And as we listen to Him, we'll come to experience God's love for us in that season and discover the ways He is uniquely calling us to walk to His rhythm in each season.

Blessings, Tim



Trees at Speen Chapel

James Entwistle

Enter the pedestrian gate on Pye Lane and you'll see a wide variety of trees, in an equally wide variety of conditions.

The notable "Speen Chapel Apple" on your left is elderly but still going strong! Saplings have been grafted by local firm Bernwode Fruit Trees and a new one has been planted at the other end of the Churchyard as well as elsewhere in the village.

By contrast, the row of ash trees along Chapel Hill are tall, spindly and sick. Varying degrees of ash die-back mean that they are a hazard as well as an eyesore. Sadly, we are going to have to remove the whole row of ash trees imminently. There is a lot of other wild growth in the hedgerow which will be supplemented with some additional native planting over the next few months. Hopefully, with more light getting in, it will quickly reform a picturesque entrance to the village.

Elsewhere in the Churchyard, the yew trees date back to 1921 when the Lychgate was built as the village war memorial. They had not been pruned since.... until a couple of years back! Most have now been heavily pruned and are starting to regenerate nicely. The remainder will be done in due course.

Beyond the Lychgate the tall conifers are a throwback to the turn of the last century when such trees were popular. The underbrush on them was pruned back a few years ago, and whilst they are a bit ragged they are fairly healthy.

At the bottom left of the Churchyard are some new



fruit tree saplings. These are part of the new planting done in recent years to anticipate replacement of some of trees that are past their use-by date. We hope these will become a community orchard where local youngsters can go and scrump apples and plums in the years ahead. One of the trees is the grafted

Speen Chapel Apple. All are labelled if you are interested.

In the top corner you'll see several cherry trees amongst the hazel, laurel etc. Some older ones are now either dead or dying (cherries are not a long lived tree) and will need to come down soon too. Look closely and you'll see that there are two strong new ones planted to anticipate replacement.

Finally, of note is the large conifer towards the entrance into the Chapel carpark. Probably another throwback to the early 20th century it has the advantage of being an elegant tree!

Thank you for your patience as and when tree surgery commences, and as saplings grow! Do take a moment to wander through and enjoy the beautiful, peaceful surroundings at Speen Chapel.

Maintaining, the trees, grass, hedges etc takes time and money. Speen Church has no outside source of financial support being entirely locally funded. In order to continue to enhance the beautiful surroundings of the Churchyard we are setting up a separate fund that we hope those who have loved ones buried or interred here, and others who enjoy this lovely space may wish to contribute to. Do please watch out for a separate article on this in the coming months.

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

DARVILLS HILL FARM

Charlotte Downing

Chocolate Cake and earthworms @darvills_hill_farm

I recently met Gabe Brown, the larger-than-life North Dakotan pin up boy of regenerative agriculture, for a discussion about soil health, its importance in storing water, nutrient cycling, and ultimately plant, animal and human health. There was a lot to learn not least that a spade is the most valuable tool on a farm and like Bernard Cribbins we should be out 'digging holes in the ground' (this reference will bypass anyone born after 1970, but it's available for viewing on You Tube!), as an easy, low-tech approach to establishing the health of our soils.



and mycorrhizal fungi is also hard to see but earthworms are a visible measure of soil health, with around 10-15 of these ecosystem engineers in a spade-full of healthy soil. Unfortunately, soil analysis (hole digging) of our grassland fields produced only a few earthworms suggesting that there is work to be done to restore the soil back to better health.

Historically, no pesticides or artificial fertilizers have been applied to the pasture or hay meadows on our farm nor have they been ploughed, but a few

No clear figure exists for the state of the UK soils, but a recent review suggests only 30-40% of soils are in a healthy state. Arable soils are more vulnerable to degradation, but surprisingly 60% of English grasslands are also in poor condition (UK Government 2018). Beneath the grass there should be a whole living ecosystem balancing chemical, physical and biological properties. We can't see the chemistry, but physically healthy soil should resemble the colour and consistency of chocolate cake and smell sort of earthy! The biology of billions of micro-organisms

decades of over grazing may have contributed to compaction of the heavy clay soil and the subsequent degradation of the soil's health. We are hopeful our system of grazing livestock, which mimics the natural grazing pattern of wild herbivores (creating small areas of pasture, frequently moving the animals and allowing long rest periods between grazing) will help improve the soil's structure over the next few years. I'll be back digging holes again this autumn and hoping to find a few more earthworms feasting on soil that is starting to resemble something a bit more like chocolate cake.

STUDRIDGE LANE POND

Jane Farley

On Sep 6th, 2023, together with Katie Horgan, the Rough Around the Edges Project Officer for Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust nine volunteers from community and SEAG worked together to clear vegetation from the edges of the Studridge Lane Pond and pull out some iris plants creating a more open water. Thank you to Katie and all those who came out to help.



Katie and a representative of the Chiltern Rangers have returned to check the situation and have recommended some further action to ensure that the pond can be maintained effectively by the community with an annual 25% vegetation removal. We need to finish clearing the deep section just leaving a small section

of iris and bullrushes in the centre of the pond. It is interesting to see how quickly the iris has regrown around the bank where we were digging last time

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

indicating the importance of getting the roots out.

A further work party has been organised for Thursday 11th Jan 2024 10.00 – 1.00pm. It would be helpful to have some additional “heavy lifting” help for that day. Please let either me or Peter Symonds know if you can help even for an hour or so.

We are very grateful to BBOWT and in particular Katie Horgan who has offered us so much support, commissioning a full ecological report by Future

Nature, practical assistance, equipment, buckets, some pairs of shears and four free workshops on Emergency First aid and Tree Recognition which have been attended by members of the community. However, the Rough Around the Edges Project and funding comes to an end in March 2024 and while Katie may well still be able to offer advice we need to have gathered around us a well-trained and organised team so we can continue this work more independently each year going forward.

OPERATION GOLDEN ORB

Sam Mudie, Royal Marine

This was the military code given to the coronation of King Charles III.

In March this year I learned that I was one of approximately 200 Royal Marines selected to take part in the procession escorting the King back from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace on Saturday 6 May 2023.

Basic training began on 16 April at HMS Collingwood, Fareham where, alongside the Royal Navy contingent, we spent 10 days on drill practice.

In the week before the Coronation, the 4,000-strong combined marching troops met for the first time at RAF Odiham in Hampshire for the final drill where the processional route had been laid out on the runway with military precision. Our segment of the route was to meet the Royal Carriage at the bottom of Whitehall and escort it up Whitehall to Trafalgar Square and then left through Admiralty Arch and down The Mall to Buckingham Palace. This involved a greater than 90 degree turn at the top of Whitehall and splitting the 12 abreast troops into 3 ranks of 4 personnel in order to navigate the 3 separate arches that make up Admiralty Arch. When making the turn, the inside troops in each rank were virtually marking time whilst the outside guys were marching at maximum stride in order to remain in formation.

The route was 1.42 miles long and after 2 rehearsals we were ready for a full dress rehearsal on the route itself. This we did after midnight on Wednesday 3 May. This involved all 4,000 troops, horses and military bands marching through London in the early hours. We finally finished the exercise at 3.30am.

On the day of the Coronation we were up at 3am at Collingwood and in ceremonial dress, ready to



collect our rifles from the armoury at 4am. We then boarded the 4.45am Special Services train to London. Waterloo was a hive of activity at 6am as troops from all across the South arrived. We quickly got into formation and marched over Westminster Bridge

to the MOD Main Building on Whitehall where we were to remain for the next few hours.

The King arrived at Westminster Abbey at 9.53am and by 10.20am we were lined up on Whitehall in the rain waiting in formation and standing at ease for the next 90 minutes or so. Finally the newly crowned King's carriage came through Parliament Square and the orders were given to start the escort. It was quite an achievement to get 4,000 troops in step at exactly the same time. We navigated the obstacles in Whitehall (The Cenotaph and Women in WW2 Memorial) by splitting into two columns, made the turn through Admiralty Arch and finally arrived in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

At approximately 12.45pm King Charles III came out of the Palace for the Royal Salute. It was a really special moment.

No time for celebrations. Following the Royal Salute we marched straight back to Waterloo and got our train back to Fareham. It is fair to say we were allowed to celebrate what had been an amazing day when we got back to camp.

It had been an unforgettable day. Some 10,000 troops across all the Services had taken part. Some 6,000 troops had been “street liners” standing at ease (not as easy as it may sound) for 6 hours non-stop. I was one of the lucky ones, assigned a marching role and getting the chance to salute our new King.



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

WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

Interesting wildlife sightings over the past few months include a slow-worm recorded by James Entwistle in his garden in Abbotswood. These reptiles look almost snake-like but are in fact legless lizards. They bask in sunny spots but otherwise remain well hidden. I have seen them previously on Coleheath Bottom but they might well be found near compost heaps in any local gardens. He also recorded an impressive Elephant hawk moth caterpillar, which is one of our largest (measured at 9cm). Meanwhile Antony Palmer reported a large toad in his garden a long way from any local ponds.

My last report referred to the presence of a fox den within the village itself and I am now also aware of an active badger sett in the heart of the village. The presence of a minor roost of pipistrelle and long eared bats at a property on Studridge Lane was confirmed in the ecological report attached to a planning application. Local rabbits currently seem to be adversely affected by myxomatosis, a viral disease which affects their eyes, skin and lungs, and results in some 95% of the local population being wiped out. Reports indicated a number of affected animals in Flowers Bottom. Infected animals are lethargic and have swollen eyes and it is often best to despatch an animal and bury the carcass rather than leave it to suffer a slow death. Roe deer remain present in locations close to the village with June Pilkington pleased to record four together at the beginning of September whilst a limping muntjac is still roams village gardens.

During the summer red kites nested successfully in woodland beyond our back garden. One of the young birds that had fledged became soaked during heavy rainfall and ended up on our back lawn with its wings spread in the sun to try to dry itself out. This presence caused a major panic amongst the families of mallard and moorhens that were been raised in the garden. After landing awkwardly in the garden hedgerow I believe that the young kite managed to fly off. Green woodpeckers also nested successfully with two



young seen with an adult in Abbotswood whilst grey wagtails raised 3 young down in Hughenden Park. Jeni Fairey recorded Ravens from Flowers Bottom with records also from Loosley Row and up to 10 recorded at Lodge Hill, near Saunderton.

The potential of Studridge Lane pond was highlighted in an ecological report

earlier this year. Wildflowers noted in the fringes included meadowsweet, bittercress, marsh marigold, water mint and sedge. In the deeper part bullrushes, yellow iris and floating sweet grass dominate with willowherb, soft rush and purple loosestrife in the shallower part. Ivy, bush vetch, spear thistle, hedge woundwort, lords and ladies, forget me not and creeping bent were noted on the banks. It is hoped that further restoration work can bring out the best of the pond.

As we pass the middle of October the trees are changing colour and the first of our winter birds are arriving in the area. Already large flocks of Redwings and Fieldfare have been noted over the village. Birdwatchers focus on migration points around the county, like Steps Hill and Ivinghoe Beacon, to witness the influx of hundreds of birds, which will often include rarities like Ring Ouzels and Golden Plovers.

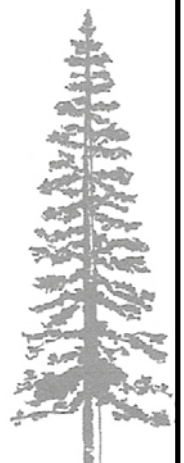
Please report interesting sightings -
Peter Symonds 01494 488016
psymonds590@gmail.com

Nick Higgins
Forestry & Fencing
Contractor

m. 07768 383418
t. 01494 488835

45 Great Hampden
Bucks
HP16 9RJ

Seasoned logs
available



WHO'S WHO

North Dean Village Hall - Chair	Dick Pooley	01494 269 615
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings	Jeremy Mudie	07880 785 983
North Dean Village Fete	Dick Pooley	01494 269 615
One Can Food Bank Trust - Trustee	Graham Peart	01494 488 327
Pigotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Jeremy Hamilton	07834 224 589
Speen Good Neighbours	Pat Richardson	01494 488 627
Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	01494 488 372
Speen & North Dean News - Chairman	Jill Rogerson	01494 488 315
Speen & North Dean News - Advertising	Tom Dent	01494 488 943
Speen & North Dean Toddlers	Sandy Mitcheson	07747 635 974
Speen Baptist Church - Pastor	Rev. Tim Deller	01494 488 753
Speen Environmental Action Group (SEAG)	Jane Farley	07889 433 630
Speen Festival	Cat Cook	07917 775 115
Speen Fete - Chair	Clare Morris/Helen Davies	01494 488 553
Speen Helping Hospices - Secretary	Maureen Laing	01494 488 397
Speen Heritage Group - Chairman	Peter Symonds	01494 488 016
Speen Marquee	Greg Cook	07917 775 116
Speen Playing Fields	Tony Bobroff/Matt Davies	07768 330 273
Speen C of E Infant School - Head	Lisa Davies	01494 488 321
Speen School PTA - Co-Secretary	Charlie Harrison	07772 562 979
Speen Stores	Ruban Kantharuban	01494 488 258
Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Philippa Lane	01494 488 453
Speen Village Hall - Bookings	Sue Taylor	01494 488 500
Speen Village Hall - Acting Chairman	Adrian Farley	01494 488 749
Speen WI - Secretary	Jenny Pearce	01494 562 333
St John's Parish Church	Revd Tony Bundock	01844 347 741

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





Prestigious properties require a tailored approach to marketing.

Experience our excellent custom service and let our
in-depth local knowledge and expertise work for you.

Contact our team on 01844 343131

fineandcountry.com/uk/southbuckinghamshire

southbuckinghamshire@fineandcountry.com

FINE & **COUNTRY**