

THE SPEEN & NORTH DEAN *News*



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Welcome!

to our Summer Edition.

Our wet spring turned into a wet summer which unfortunately meant some events had to be cancelled such as the Jazz Afternoon organised by SHH. Fortunately, the weather improved for Speen Village Fete and there are lots of photographs for you to enjoy. Let's hope that by the time this edition reaches you, the weather will have improved and we can all enjoy what's left of the summer before the schools return in September.

This year sees the 100th anniversary of Speen Village Hall and those of us who are familiar with this dear community asset, will also be aware that it is sadly feeling its age. Adrian Farley, Acting Chair of Speen Village Hall has written a piece in this edition about the hall and would like to hear your views. This is your opportunity for you to share your thoughts about the hall's future with Adrian and the committee.

As always, I am extremely grateful to those of you who have taken time out of your busy schedules to organise events and showcase your interests for the benefit of our two communities. By sending in articles and photographs to be published, we can share with everyone all the fun and interesting things that are happening.

If you are part of a village project or village group who is not a regular contributor to the magazine, we would also like to hear from you.

We would like to invite Speen or North Dean students who are starting in Year 12 in September, or going on to further education or apprenticeships, to apply for an opportunity to gain experience in community journalism over the next year. Ideal for gaining relevant experience prior to career/degree in journalism or related subjects; or for volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award: Volunteering Section. For details about what is involved/time commitment required etc. please email Jill Rogerson on jill_rogerson@btinternet.com.

Finally, I would like to thank Christopher Boyce who organises our wonderful volunteer magazine delivery team - Sally Codling, Tom Dent, Pauline Flynn, Jenny Greene, Maureen Laing, Henry Lane, Pat Richardson, Jill Roberts/Corinne Symonds, Chris Rogerson, Paul Rogerson, Christine Ryman.

Best Wishes
Jill Roberts

Contents

Welcome	3
What's On	5
Happy Birthday Peter Keen	5
King William IV	7
Speen School & Little Apples Preschool	9
Speen School PTA	9
In Remembrance	11
North Dean News	13
Speen Fete	15, 16, 17
Speen WI	19
Speen Helping Hospices	21
Dementia Cafe	23
Speen Church	24
Darvills Hill Farm	25
Recipe	25
Speen Village Hall	27
Wildlife Watch	29
Speen Wildlife Hotel	29, 31
SEAG	31, 32, 33
Who's Who	34

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 18th November with a planned publication date of early December. 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.

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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.

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WHAT'S ON

in Speen & North Dean

REGULAR EVENTS

Sundays	Regular Service of Worship	Speen Chapel 10.30am	Speen Church 488 753 pastor@speenchurch.uk
Tuesdays Term Time Only	Speen & North Dean Tiddlers & Toddlers	Speen Chapel Hall 9.30-11.30am	speen-northdeantoddlers@gmail.com
3rd Thursday	Dementia Cafe	Speen Chapel Hall 10.00 - 12.00	trudi@ashridgehomecare.co.uk
1st & 3rd Sundays	BCP Holy Communion	St John's Parish Church, Lacey Green 8.00am	
Tuesdays	Said Communion (Common Worship)	St John's Parish Church, Lacey Green 9.30am	
Sundays (1st Sunday All Ages)	Parish Communion with Hymns	St John's Parish Church, Lacey Green 10.00am	

AUGUST

Thursday 1st	Speen WI – Summer Social	Speen Village Hall – 7:30pm	Jenny Pearce 562 333
Saturday 3rd	St John's Church Summer Garden Party Music, Tea & Cakes	Lane Farm, Church Lane, Lacey Green 2:30 to 5:00	Tickets Adults £10, Children £5

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 5th	Speen WI -Bucks Recycling Speaker – Emma Breen	Speen Village Hall – 7:30pm	Jenny Pearce 562 333
Saturday 14th	Comedy Night	Lacey Green Village Hall	tickets from SHH Box Office Grainne Suter 07778803260

OCTOBER

Thursday 3rd	Speen WI – One Can Trust Speaker – Graham Peart	Speen Village Hall – 7:30pm	Jenny Pearce 562 333
Wednesday 9th	Bridge Afternoon	North Dean Village Hall	Grainne Suter 077788003260

NOVEMBER

Thursday 7th	Speen WI -China Painting Speaker – Vicki Scoble	Speen Village Hall – 7:30pm	Jenny Pearce 562 333
Saturday 16th	SHH – Annual Christmas Market	Speen Chapel 11am to 4pm	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

by Christine Ryman



Huge Congratulations to our delightful local long-standing North Dean resident, Peter Keen, from Upper North Dean Farm, who turned 80 this April, on the 28th to be precise!

Peter, all of us wish you a terrific new year ahead, and many more of course, filled with the best of health, good spirits, fun times, also serious moments (& senior ones too - now & again....) and loads of free medicine - laughter!

Also a great opportunity to thank you ever so much for all the work and NDVH committees you have been involved in since you have lived here. Know that your commitment and dedication to making our village super-special is greatly appreciated by us all, and has always been carried out with a wonderful sense of humour too.

May you enjoy every single day forward with your ever-precious Judy and your lovely family.

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KINGWILLIAM IV

by the Save the King William IV Group

Local residents will be aware that a planning application had been submitted in November 2023 seeking a Change of Use of the public house to create a four bedroomed dwelling house. (Application 23/07884/FUL).

Numerous residents objected to this proposal and after some delays a decision was finally issued by the case planning officer on 12th July 2024 to **REFUSE PERMISSION**. The decision was accompanied by a detailed 35 page report by the planning officer explaining how the proposal conflicts with countless policies in the Local Plan, the Chiltern Design Guide and also the National Planning Policy Framework. In particular the report states –“*the proposed development would fail to accord with policies CP9, CP11, DM5, DM29, DM30, DM31, DM35, DM42, DM43, and DM45 of the development plan, and the Chilterns AONB Design Guide SPD.*”

The report also highlights the submissions made by the Save the King William IV Group, Speen Playing Fields committee, CAMRA, our three County Councillors, Lacey Green Parish Council and some 100 local residents.

Both the Decision Notice and the Planning Officers detailed report can be viewed on the Councils planning website for the subject application.

To see the reasons for refusal as set out in the decision notice use the following link;

https://publicaccess.wycombe.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/files/AB053583C30087DB178765F393E8C2B0/pdf/23_07884_FUL--4397559.pdf

To view the Planning Officers Report;

https://publicaccess.wycombe.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/files/A3D158CF87FA08AB38839328640ED80C/23_07884_FUL-OFFICER_REPORT__NOTES-4397560.docx

The comments in the Heritage Report sum up the position well;

The overwhelming support for the retention of the PH cannot be dismissed. This is evidence of the potential loss of community value with the proposed change of use. Public houses are typically classified as “community facilities”. Local Planning Authorities often aim to retain this type of use due to its community value.

The King William IV Pub has been a significant landmark building within the central core of the village for generations. Its location and use and a community hub within Speen contribute positively to the character and vitality of the CA. (Conservation Area)

As the only remaining public house within the village, its retention as a PH, which forms a key element of its significance is essential. Furthermore, its use adds to local distinctiveness as a key focal point within the CA.

The Save the King William IV Group has now been working for nearly 9 years to prevent the loss of the last public house in the village. Whilst the decision does not return the property to pub use it does prevent the loss of an important village asset.



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SPEEN SCHOOL & LITTLE APPLES PRESCHOOL

Lisa Davies



The children have had a wonderful end to a busy year. They have achieved so much and should be proud of themselves.



One of our biggest achievements was the Eco-Flag award, we got a distinction! Our Eco-Council worked so hard in leading the whole school in making sure we could do everything possible to help our planet.

All children in the school have been visiting different places to help support their learning. Bramley Class went to Didcot Railway museum to support their history unit on George Stephenson. They got to learn lots about the building of the first railway and even got to go on a steam train!



Pippins Class went to visit the Oxford Botanical Gardens to support their unit on growing plants. They had the opportunity to look at lots of rare species!

Little Apples went on an open top bus adventure! They caught the bus in Speen and drove into Princes Risborough. They ordered and paid for their own drinks in the café then played games in the local park.



We are also proudly supporting the Olympics! We have been taking part in lots of sporting events and have competed in a cross country and football event against other schools. We also took part in an Olympic workshop and had the opportunity to take part in lots of Olympic and Paralympic events such as archery and blind football. Our proudest sporting moment was the finale to our sports day, the colour run! This year we managed to raise £280 for our chosen charity, Agape. Many thanks to everyone who supported us.



SPEEN SCHOOL PTA

Charlotte Harrison, PTA Treasurer

Summer Term News from Speen School PTA

It has been a very busy end to the School Year for Speen School and Little Apples. March saw the return of the ever-popular Safari Supper which is a fantastic event for the Village and School alike and generated over £1,100 profit for the PTA. A huge thank you to everyone who participated.

Throughout the Summer Term, the PTA have been running Tuck Shops after School with parents from respective Year Groups contributing snacks and treats. Along with Frozen Fridays, which the children always love, this has been a great way to bring in the end of term and we are very grateful for all parents/grandparents who have helped with this.

A big thank you as well to everyone who helped run our three stalls (Sweet Tombola, Bottle Tombola and

"Hook a Duck") last weekend at the Fete. It was lovely to see so many from the School and the Village having fun! A very big well done as well to the Year 1 and Year 2 children who did a wonderful job in performing their Country Dancing.

We will be back full of energy in September starting with our annual Quiz Night so please keep your eyes out for that. Our focus for the next School Year will be the resurfacing of the playground areas, including the story-telling corner, which is a significant spend but will further improve the quality of the playground offering.

In the meantime, wishing everyone a very happy Summer and thank you on behalf of everyone involved in the PTA for your continued support.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Daphne Westray

by Diane Westray

Daphne Westray, who sadly passed away on 14th July was a much-loved member of the Speen "family" for the 25 or so years that she lived here. She and her husband, Fred, loved the village from the moment they first saw it when they came to look to buy "Strawmoor" and never once regretted their decision! They were overcome by the warm welcome they received from everyone they met and swiftly became involved in many aspects of village life. Daphne was hugely supportive of the WI and served on the committee and later as president for a number of years, much enjoying the involvement with village activities such as the fetes and the festivals. She was a founder member of the Speen gardening group and loved arranging four or five outings each year, to various different gardens, both near and far, although I suspect her favourite was to Highgrove, which she considered a highlight! She also much enjoyed being



one of several ladies meeting at each other's houses on many a Friday evening while their spouses would be enjoying a drink or two in the King William at the "Grumpy Old Men's Club", sadly now disbanded. She never ceased to be delighted by the support and friendliness of villagers to all those who needed help, a friendly ear, or just a cup of tea and a slice of cake. As her family, we are so grateful too for the care and love shown to her by friends and neighbours since

Fred died in 2010 and particularly as she became more frail in recent years before having to, very reluctantly, move into residential care last year. She was devastated to have to leave her beloved garden, but did manage to take one or two plants with her to brighten up her patio! And although many things in the village may change over the years, she was convinced that the warmth and generosity of the people living there would not!

June Black • 28th June 1938 - 18th March 2024

by Alison Exton

June was born to Roy and Nancy Leeds. The family home was in Chelmsford and where June grew up.

She left home at 18 to pursue a career in nursing and qualified as a State Registered Nurse (SRN) at Middlesex Hospital, London. She absolutely loved being a nurse. During this time, a chap was admitted to her care suffering from TB. His name was David Black and a romance began. They fell deeply in love and married on 10th September 1960 at Chelmsford Cathedral.

David's work took them to Cardiff, which became home. They were blessed with three children, Christopher, Alison and Helen. Motherhood came naturally to June. She was wise, astute, loving and caring with the right amount of "discipline". David's job took the family from Cardiff to Winchester, then Reigate before finally, in 1976, to Speen. They loved Speen and this is where they settled and made many friends and created many happy memories.

Once the children grew up June returned to work as the school nurse at Pipers Corner School and then Wycombe Abbey School. Her caring manner and professional approach meant that she was very much loved by the staff and children in her care.

June and David loved travelling the world, experiencing many cultures, sights and cuisines, and making many friends. One of June's favourite memories was their weekend trip to New York on Concord.

June thrived on her family life and was known as Nanna to seven grandchildren. And more recently great-nanna



to great-grandson Brody.

June was a member of Princes Risborough Golf Club. She loved reading and belonged to the local Book Club. She also belonged to the Fine Arts Society, and U3A where she enjoyed bridge, bird-watching and trips to places of interest, museums and theatres. She was an active member of Speen WI, baking cakes for the WI tea tent and helping at the village fete and all other village events.

She was a keen gardener and loved her beautiful garden, something she inherited from her father, and her and David grew vegetables too.

Life was progressing well, despite June having had a heart condition that she'd lived with since 2008. She never complained, she just powered on, and she and David enjoyed a full retirement. She died unexpectedly, but peacefully and is now at rest.

She will be sadly missed by family and friends. There can be no doubt that she was a very special lady and had such a lovely manner and was strong, thoughtful and adaptable. She had a great sense of humour and could make people smile and laugh. Her life was a happy and enjoyable one. The family always came first and were important to her; she was a wonderful wife, mother, nanna, great nanna and friend. June and David were married for over 63 years and they loved each other deeply. David and all the family will, of course, miss June forever, but they take comfort in the many, many wonderful memories that June helped to create.



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NDVH Welcomes New Committee Members for 2024

by Christine Ryman

Another year, and another new team features in North Dean Village Hall Committee beginning June 2024. As we say good-bye to our previous Chairman Richard Pooley, to Melinda Pooley, Judith and Bob Broadley and Kerry White, we would like to thank you all very much for the hard work and events that were successfully organized under your leadership and for keeping the village hall and playground etc well maintained. Some of you have been in this committee for many many years, so time to sit back and relax now!

You pulled us through the long and dreary covid months, remember them!! and were most helpful for offering yourselves to help those of us in the village who needed any kind of assistance.

It is not always easy to create events and it requires a great deal of planning, meetings and communications

etc, but this was done with a positive attitude, and it has always been such fun working with you all too.

And so now we welcome a new Chairman to the team – Andrew Howard, already known by many in the village, his 2 young sons Nick and Rob and Gill Sandford. Thank you for joining the NDVH committee, we look forward to working together to unite our village folk with some jolly good events in the future, and hopefully also inspire a younger generation to appreciate village life. It is, in my view, quite a privilege to live in such a village, where we can gather at a variety of events, at times raising money for charity and getting to know one another.

With heartfelt thanks from Kim and Nev Hemson, Steve Rogers, Jeremy Mudie, Craig Watson, Anthony Palmer and myself.

North Dean resident Phil Waterton has his book published

by Jan Peters

25 years after paddling the length of the River Thames with little canoeing experience, Phil Waterton of North Dean has written a book and managed to have it published about the 'wonderful' 12-day excursion with a lifelong friend from his youth. The book 'Paddling Our Own Canoe' charts their 136-mile canoe journey in a two-man Canadian canoe from close to the source of The Thames near Cricklade, where it is a mere knee-deep stream, down to Teddington, where now, the majestic Thames becomes tidal. It was decided on a whim to take on the challenge, to celebrate their 50th birthdays and what's more to stop at every riverside pub they passed to partake in a bevy or two. They decided to make it a fundraising challenge to raise money for UNICEF and were sponsored for every stop they made.

A quarter of a century on, and Phil has finally realised his dream – to publish a book about those adventurous 12 days coasting – and sometimes battling – the UK's most famous river with the man he still calls his best friend.

It took Phil over two decades to whip 'Paddling Our Own Canoe' into shape and was a project that gained urgency when his eyesight began to fail during the COVID19 pandemic. "I was very enthusiastic when I began writing, but it had started to become a bit of a joke that I would never finish it. Then, when I thought I might not be able to read it myself, I put a lot of work in and found a publisher who would accept it". The book tells of the many humorous incidents that happened along the way, describes the flora and fauna of The Thames and divulges the historical facts of the towns and villages along the



Phil Waterton with his best friend Kevin McHale

banks of the river. The book includes his pencil sketches and photographs. Phil describes the book as a cross between 'Three Men in a Boat' and 'Mortimer and Whitehouse go Fishing'.

Phil says, "I never wanted to write a book before that trip, but it's been fantastic reliving it through the notes I made during the adventure and my research". It taught me that life is like paddling down a river not knowing what's awaiting you around the next bend but having to deal with it - and then paddle on".

Phil's book 'Paddling Our Own Canoe' is published by Shieldcrest Publishing and is available from the publisher, Amazon or Waterstones. His website can be found on Shieldcrest Publishing, Phil Waterton. <https://www.shieldcrest.co.uk/about/featured-authors/phil-waterton/>

"Stop Press"

North Dean have beaten Speen in the Village Golf match at Hennerton GC playing for the Spring Trophy, the Keen Cup.

Usual averaged Stableford score meant North Dean won by just 2.2 points.

1st - Al Bowyer (ND) with 42 points

2nd - Peter Symonds (Sp) with 41 points

3rd - John Mulry (Sp) with 41 points on count back.

4th - James Kent (ND) with 39 points.

So, some very good close scoring.

Nearest the Pin on the 5th was won by James Kent.(ND)

Longest Drive on the 18th was won by Keith Fisher (Sp).

This was a lovely course and the first time we had visited it.

Dick Pooley.

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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.

SPEENFETE

by Helen Davies and Clare Morris - Co-Chair, Speen Fete Committee

Speen Playing Fields were bustling with activity on the 13 July, on fortunately one of the few rain-free Saturdays of the summer. With a Paris Olympic theme, the fete began with an opening procession led by local children carrying aloft flags representing countries from across the world. This was followed by special guest, Chris Rattenbury, who officially opened the Fete. Chris is a retired international powerlifter and ambassador of our chosen charity of the year, Wheelpower, the national charity for wheelchair sports. Chris brought along the paralympic torches from both London 2012 and the Tokyo games and presented medals to the winners of the children's competitions.

Looming large on the day was Speen's very own Eiffel Tower designed and constructed by Peter Symonds who was also showcasing the amazing and intricate bug house he has created for Ridgeley's Field. Fleur Ridley designed and painted a humorous head-in-hole board too, complete with baguette, frog and Mona Lisa. The French theme continued with the 'Crepe of Good Hope', a stall selling delicious fresh Crepes, generously sponsored by Binders Yard. The W.I tea-tent was styled as a French café, with a range of bakes whilst the Church's BBQ successfully sold out.

New sporting challenges were amongst the traditional side-shows the village is known for. So, alongside the golf game, skittles and coconut shy we had shoot the hoop, sumo wrestling and a very competitive rowing challenge.



Helping Hospices ran a beautiful stall with hand-tied bouquets and handmade produce as well as the usual selection of plants.

Kiddie corner was bustling with the ever-popular selection of tombola's, face painting and hook a duck, whilst entertainment was provided by Cheeky Dog.

Music for the day was supplied by Martin Hart's jazz band and of course the main arena event of the afternoon was Speen schoolchildren's country dancing display. More talented children, from All Access Music & Drama, performed poems, songs and dance in the arena too.

Initial indications are that we have made a profit of over £5000, with an increase both in sales and attendees. A key part of its financial success is the income generated from advertising in the program. Please support these local small businesses, and mention the fete, particularly if you are using them because of the advert you have seen.

GRAND DRAW

The Grand Draw had numerous prizes generously donated by local businesses and our village organisations. A list of prize winners is below:

- £250 cash – Katie Binder
- £75 M & S voucher – Ranjan, Speen Stores
- Meal for 2, Hampden Arms – Mark Wilkinson
- Family Golden Ticket, Roald Dahl Museum – Amanda Dobbs
- Meat Voucher, Darvills Hill Farm – Reg Horne
- Family Membership, Speen Tennis Club – Mark Wengler
- Barrow of Booze – Ros, Studridge Lane
- Basket of Fruit – J. Broadbent, Bryants Bottom
- £25 M & S voucher – Georgina Rogerson
- Nature-themed Gift Box – Alison, Hampden Road
- Toy Hamper – J. King
- Plant – Jo
- Lantern – Antonia Winson
- Chocolates – Catherine McPherson
- Leaves of Time book – Sara Hamilton

Finally, we can't end this article without saying a huge thanks to all those involved in helping to make the fete happen. Not just the committee members and village organisations, but the many individuals who sell advertising, deliver leaflets, collect tables, run stalls, count tokens and the other jobs beside. Next year's fete will be the last that Helen and I will Chair. We would love to welcome some new committee members who are keen to take this village tradition forward, so if you would like to be involved, please get in touch.

fete@speenbucks.org.uk



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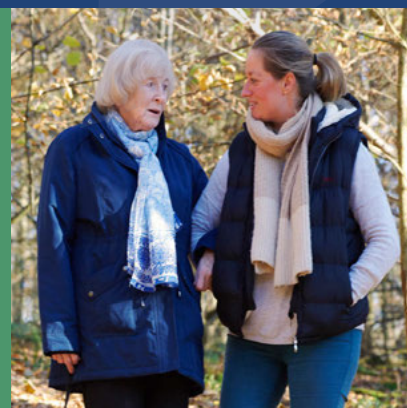
Staying at home is certainly the most preferable and safest option for most people and often all it needs is a professional carer to make that possible. Ashridge can match you with a qualified carer to ensure all your support needs are met and you live your best life in the familiar surroundings you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

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“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.”

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During the spring and early summer members have once again enjoyed a wide range of topics from our speakers. In April we had a fascinating presentation about Wallis Simpson. This proved very topical following the recent release of cabinet papers of the time which had put the story back in the news. The speaker shared some shocking facts of which many members were unaware. The ongoing fascination with Wallace Simpson attracted several visitors to the meeting. May saw the welcome return of Stephen Barker, a local historian who entertained us with some surprising statistics on the English Civil Wars and introduced us to some brave female heroines of the time, two of whom were local.

During April and May members also attended the BFWI Meeting in Aylesbury, a coffee morning at Studley Green Garden Centre and, despite the inclement weather, the Tulip Festival at Chenies Manor which included an interesting tour of the house.



Chenies Manor Tulip Festival

At the June meeting members learned about Naphill Common and the Dew Ponds and enjoyed open garden visits to both Tythrop Park at Kingsey and Lord Carrington's garden at Bledlow. The latter gardens were much admired in particular the avenues of cat-mint, the incredible climbing roses and the weird and wonderful sculptures. Members were also surprised and delighted to meet the current Lord Carrington watering his plants in the new Mediterranean Garden!



Bledlow Manor Open Garden

In July Keith Muras returned to share

more recollections of his interesting life, this time his experiences of the KGB during a posting to Moscow. We were also delighted to welcome two new members to the group. Members once again manned the tea tent at the Parisian themed Speen fete ahead of the Paris Olympics. The group are grateful to all the villagers who contribute home made cakes so we were able to offer a wide selection.



Speen Fete

Members are looking forward to a busy few months ahead. An archery evening and a visit to Chenies Manor Plant Fair are planned for July, in August the summer garden party is being hosted at The White House in Speen and visits are planned to Springfield Farm open garden and Chenies Manor Dhalia Festival. Further outings are also in the diary for the autumn.

Visitors are always welcome, we meet at 7.30 in Speen Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month. Do come along, enjoy a glass of wine, listen to an interesting talk then enjoy some social time getting to know our members, there is no obligation to join until you have given us a try. Activities are not limited to Speen WI we also participate in both local group and national activities. For details of future meetings and plans please refer to the Village Diary or the WI page on the village website. If you would like further information please contact spenwi@gmail.com.

Forthcoming Meetings

5th September

Emily Breen, Bucks Recycling

3rd October

Speen's own Graham Peart, One Can Trust

7th November

Vicki Scoble, China Painting



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Iszi Lawrence



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"ferociously intelligent with a sharp turn of phrase" (The Skinny)

'see her before she hits the big time.'
(Three Weeks)

Chris Norton Walker



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Adele Cliff



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Elliot Wengler



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Ali Warwood



After four sell out shows at *Speen Festival*, we invite you to a comedy night fundraising for *Speen Helping Hospices*.

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Saturday 14th September | Doors: 7pm, Showtime: 8pm.



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DEMENTIA CAFE

by Abbi Langan, Community Partnership Manager

Join us for Dementia Coffee Mornings

Nestled in the heart of our village, Speen Church Chapel Hall transforms every third Thursday morning into a haven of companionship and chatter. Community volunteers gather at this FREE event hosted by Ashridge Home Care to welcome locals, those caring for a family member with dementia, people who have dementia and carers paid and unpaid.

This monthly event is more than just a coffee break; it's a lifeline for many families affected by dementia. The church hall becomes a cozy café where laughter, understanding, and solidarity flow as freely as the cake and coffee. All of which are provided by generous community volunteers.

The atmosphere is informal and provides respite from the often isolating nature of dementia. Here, stories are shared, advice is exchanged, and the challenges of dementia are met with collective empathy. Last month everyone was busy making the most of the sunshine and planted violas. Many of the ladies who enjoy gardening had a wonderful time getting their fingers dirty and



It is always a pleasure to work with Ashridge Home Care. The team are so responsive to the needs of clients. They will always see what extra they can do to make life better for their clients. I especially find this with their Dementia clients which can be very challenging for their loved ones and Ashridge carers. The carers are well trained and supported by the management team. For me it is a joy to work with such caring compassionate group of people.

Sally – Dementia Specialist who helps at the Café

chatted about gardening. Others joined in with the games of Dominos, jigsaws, colouring, whilst having a good old chinwag with a cup of tea and a delicious piece of homemade cake. All the activities are designed to stimulate and engage. From sing-alongs featuring nostalgic tunes to memory games that gently exercise cognitive abilities.

It's proof that with a little kindness, a lot of coffee, and the solidarity of neighbours, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by dementia.



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**Next one
5th August 2024**

SPEENCHURCH

Speen Church is a lively, friendly, multi-generational congregation which offers a range of ecclesial events, that celebrates life together and seeks to serve our local community and beyond.



A multi-generational group who enjoy time together"



Dementia café serving the community.



Infant Dedication celebrating life together.



Speen Fete BBQ serving the village.

So, if you have a heart for the community, curiosity about Jesus or just fancy some company, we would love to welcome you. If you are interested in joining any of our activities or learning more about Jesus and Christianity, send us an Email (pastor@speenchurch.uk) or join us for our Sunday Service.



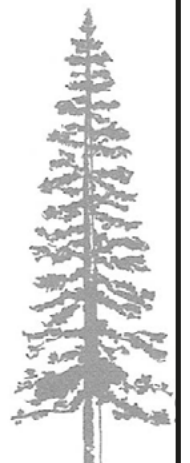
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DARVILLS HILL FARM

Charlotte Downing

'Field of Dreams' and fledglings @darvills_hill_farm

I went to Groundswell recently, a regenerative agriculture festival in Hitchin. Yes, these things do exist, with DJ Andy Cato of Groove Armada / Wild Farmed Wheat fame headlining at the Earthworm Arms on Wednesday night. What's not to love? It is a rapidly growing event from a handful of farmers chewing the fat around a campfire nine years ago, to a two-day extravaganza attended by over 6000 people with an interest in food production and the environment, with the regeneration of soil at the heart of it all.

One of the great questions posed while I was listening to the impeccable Annie Landless of Soil Mentor talk about indicators for good soil health, specifically high numbers of earthworms was 'How do they get there in the first place?'. I suggested to my nearest neighbour, that maybe it was like the Kevin Costner film Field of Dreams and the immortal line 'If you build it, he will come'. Unsurprisingly, they looked at me blankly and edged away. I think Kevin was onto something though, if you create the right conditions and have some patience, after a while things do just seem to show up.

Four years on from when we first started to mindfully graze our sheep, plant trees and regenerate hedges it feels like we are starting to have our own small groundswell. We are finding more earthworms when we're doing our soil sampling, the taller, wilder plant life in the meadows and hedges has created space for more small mammals such as voles to inhabit, which



have in turn created the opportunity for some apex predators to move in. We were ridiculously excited when an inspection of our barn owl boxes by Bucks Owl and Raptor Group (BORG) this summer found three Barn owlets getting ready to fledge.

For better or worse, human beings, like earthworms and owls, are a keystone species, that is we have a disproportionate effect on the natural environment relative to our abundance. One of the great things we've discovered though is that you don't have to use lots of inputs or energy to have a positive effect, you do need to pay attention though and have fun dancing to some of Groove Armada's classics in the process.

Ps We have arranged with the fabulous team at Oxmoor Farm, Great Hampden to put on a community screening of the film 'Six inches of soil' on Friday 13th September 2024. Tickets are free. Small plates of locally sourced food by chef Paddy Maynard of Oxmoor Farm, and drinks will be available to buy (and eat!) from 4pm.

The film (which runs for 96 mins) will start at 7pm, followed by a half hour question-and-answer session with a panel of fantastic Chiltern farmers and producers who themselves are working hard to provide an alternative to the UK's industrial food system.

Tickets on sale via the Oxmoor Farm's website www.oxmoorfarm.co.uk/the-barn/

See you there!

RECIPE

Recipe from Mei-Lian Wan

Tabbouleh

Ingredients

- 200g giant couscous, cooked as per pack instructions in vegetable stock then cooled

Note: swap out couscous for quinoa to suit those on gluten free diet

- 50g shelled pistachios, chopped
- 50g almonds, chopped
- 50g dried dates, chopped
- 1 small bunch mint, parsley and coriander, chopped
- 100g pomegranate seeds
- 1 lemon, juice and zest
- 100ml olive oil



This is a lovely side to serve at BBQs and especially middle eastern dishes. This is based on a James Martin recipe and I swap out couscous for ready cooked quinoa in packets for a gluten free side dish.

Instructions

To make the tabbouleh, mix all ingredients. Stir until well combined and season to taste. Scatter the pomegranate seeds over the top for jewelled effect.

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SPEEN VILLAGE HALL

Adrian Farley - Acting Chair, Speen Village Hall

100th Birthday Party



Who doesn't love a party? This year we are proud to be celebrating our 100th year and we would like you to help things go with a bang. Come to our **100th Birthday Party** pub night on **Friday 18th October** to help us celebrate, and to start to think about the next 100 years. All will be welcome!

If you have any memories or memorabilia and photographs of events and activities which have taken place in the hall please let us have them so we can display them at the event.

On a sadder tone, the poor old hall is feeling its age. Whilst it has been used as a Village Hall for 100 years it was actually built 150 years ago in 1874 and those years take its toll. Unfortunately, what we have now is damp, difficult to heat, expensive to maintain and often not even big enough for large

village events. Our regular users are questioning how well the space meets their needs. The fact is, if we don't get organisations and families using the hall for events and parties, we won't be able to afford its upkeep, which since the pandemic has become harder and harder.

We are trying to think about what is the best route forward. What is the best way for Speen to provide community space? Does the Village Hall have a future, and if so what is that? If you have any views on this we would love to hear them, so we can start to plan for that future. Let us have any email responses to me at adrianleighfarley@gmail.com or simply speak to one of the VH team.

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WILDLIFEWATCH

Peter Symonds

The breeding season is now drawing to a close with the usual mix of successes and failures. Our Mallard produced 12 young from a nest in the back garden and after two weeks both parents left the young birds to fend for themselves which is most unusual. 11 eventually left the garden. In the meantime, the female returned to incubate a second brood but the chicks disappeared out of the garden and were not seen again. Our resident moorhens have raised two of the four chicks originally hatched. Red kites have raised two young nearby whilst Monica Dent photographed a fluffy young Tawny owl in early May in Monkton Wood confirming successful breeding.

Further afield Hughenden Park has had some breeding successes with Grey Wagtails, Coots and Kestrels raising young. In High Wycombe town centre, the Peregrine Falcons which have been nesting on the side of All Saints Church tower since 2021 hatched three young in late May. These impressive birds can regularly be seen on the far side of the tower (away from Church St.) where a nesting platform has been provided for them.

Buckinghamshire hit the birdwatching headlines in early May when an Alpine Accentor was recorded for the first time ever in the county at Pitstone Quarry, on beyond Tring. A moss expert



visiting the site reported the bird which was then seen by many birders and twitchers from far and wide. This is a bird I have only seen once in snow, high in the French Alps on one of our ski trips. It is not a bird one would expect to record in Pitstone.

More local records include a ring-necked parakeet over the village in March, a Hobby noted in Walters Ash in April, a Firecrest at Whiteleaf in May and a Barn Owl on the periphery of Speen in June. Goldcrests were seen in gardens along Hampden Road and a pair of Grey Wagtails visited our ponds in June. Ravens were recorded near Hampden House.

Weather for our butterflies have been poor with low numbers reported this year. Jeni Fairey found three slow worms together in a compost heap whilst working in a garden in Prestwood (see her photo alongside) and several villagers have reported toads in their gardens. Roe deer remain present in the area with reports of a male making early morning visits to gardens in Hampden Gate. One young roe deer sadly

had to be dispatched after sustaining two broken legs in an accident in North Dean.

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

SPEEN WILDLIFE HOTEL

Peter Symonds

In my capacity as a SPF Trustee, I was asked by the playing fields committee to build a "bug house" for the village. Rather than merely a bug house I designed a "hotel" for a range of wildlife to provide a significant Biodiversity Net Gain for the fields. The design seeks to provide a multitude of safe environments for a variety of wildlife within an attractive structure. It caters not only for ladybirds, bees, woodlice and spiders but also for butterflies, birds and bats. The "hotel" should

provide a wintering home for hibernating insects and a spring and summer home for nesting birds. An educational guide is provided to help identify some of the more common insects which might be present.

The lower level of the structure provides a damp environment with rotting logs, moss and a variety of ferns and grasses which should attract beetles, slugs, woodlice and centipedes. The middle level comprises a large bug house with numerous

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compartments providing a variety of habitats in the form of pine cones, mosses, bark, teasel heads and hollow canes. There are also tubes and wooden blocks drilled with differing sized holes. These should attract ladybirds, bees and other flying insects. There are also a range of vertical slits both in the front and the rear elevations which are designed for hibernating butterflies and moths. These compartments have twigs mounted within them as butterflies tend to hibernate in a hanging position. The upper level of the structure comprises three separate nesting



boxes for birds designed to suit a variety of species. The central front bird box is designed primarily for Great tits with a 32mm hole. To the right-hand side is a box with an elongated entrance hole which might attract a wren or robin whilst on the left is a box with a 28mm hole designed for blue tits.

in particular, are vitally important. The internet has lots of different examples of differing shapes and sizes and ideas of what might be included to create a useful environment. (Just type "bug house ideas" into Google.)

The large roof overhang is designed to prevent woodpeckers or magpies attacking smaller nesting birds. Between the bird boxes are two bat boxes accessed from the rear. Within these two separate compartments there are grooves in the timber to enable a bat to climb to a hanging point.

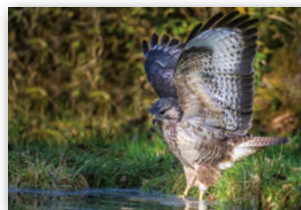
About 50% of the timber used to build the whole structure has been recovered from a local builder's waste skip. Have a try at building a bug house for your own garden. Insect numbers are far lower than they were a few decades ago so it is important to help them and our pollinators

SEAG SPEEN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

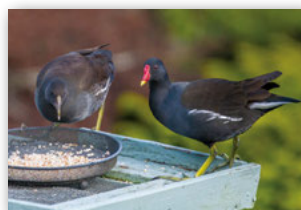
SEAG Bird Tours

by Guy Andrews

With favourable weather we have been able to run two bird tours this year starting in the centre of the village by Speen Stores, through woodland and grassland and back again. It was an opportunity for those in the village to pick up identification skills, learn more about our local natural heritage and meet others with similar interests from the area. We were fortunate on both times to have some great encounters with birds such as Coal tits,



Treecreepers, as well as a Red kite on a nest and, thanks to Pete Symonds, a young family of Mallards. Not limited to bird activity, we were also very lucky to have a fox join us on our trip, as well as a couple of Roe deer.



Bird watching is more than just an opportunity to observe birds, it is a celebration of our local environment and wildlife and a chance to foster a deeper connection with nature on Speen's doorstep.

Speen Litter Pick - April 2024

Thank you to all those who joined us for the annual litter picking back in Spring. The weather held off, and we even had some spring sunshine, as the 30 volunteers ranging in age from 11 to 80 collected 28 bags of rubbish. Most of this was the usual discarded fast-food wrappings and drinks cans, but there were also many car parts around the approach roads to our village - be careful on the roads! This year we coordinated our litter collection with Hughenden Valley Climate Group so that on



the same day a wider area of our neighbourhood was given a thorough spring clean.

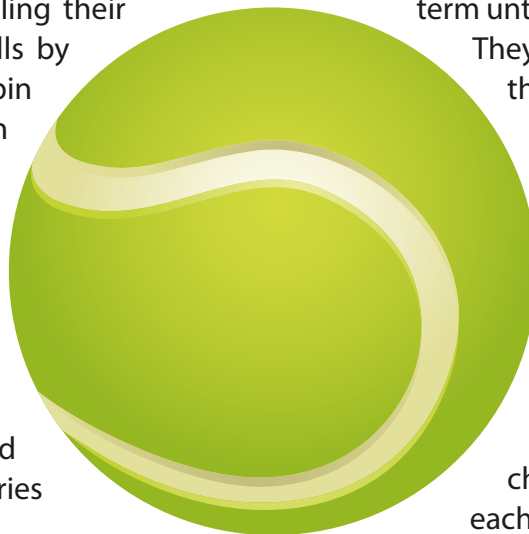
Meanwhile, across the County 66 other similar events took place, collecting a whopping 1,723 bags / 8,615 tonnes of rubbish! Thank

you again to Lacey Green Parish Council for loan of high viz and Buckinghamshire Council for providing litter picking equipment and collection - and most importantly to everyone who came along.

Recycling of Tennis Balls

Speen Tennis players are recycling their used and unwanted tennis balls by placing them in the special bin provided on the court. With donations from other local clubs, once we have collected 275 balls they are put in to a big sack and sent to Recycaball who collect hundreds of used tennis balls every week. They are then hand processed, graded, repackaged and redistributed in to other industries and applications.

They have a policy that they don't send any balls they receive to landfill, and so if they cannot find a way to reuse, repurpose or otherwise extend the life of a tennis ball, then they store them long



term until such time comes that they can. They donate some balls directly to their local animal shelters, kennels and dog groups.

The sub-standard balls from here are given to dog owners in the village and some are taken to Stokenchurch Dog Rescue.

Regular donations are made by Recycaball to a variety of charities but they also pay 15p each for the balls that they deem suitable and on average we are paid about £35 a sack. The money raised here is donated to BBOWT (Berks, Beds and Oxon Wildlife Trust).

Thank you to all Recycaball bin users.

TerraCycle

TerraCycle is a scheme to keep rubbish out of landfills or from incineration. Here in Speen we have a bin which is placed outside on the right of the shop. The rubbish that is wanted for recycling

is very specific and keeping the items together in groups helps at the next sorting stage. Crisp packets are the most collected rubbish here but other items include bread bags, biscuit and snack wrappers,

flexible coffee packaging, toothbrushes, biro, beauty and makeup packaging and much more.

This rubbish is taken to collectors in High Wycombe and along with rubbish from other local TerraCycle bins it is then sorted, packed and sent away to be created into new products. In return they raise money for local charities including Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, One Can Trust and Wycombe Youth Action. 3.2 metric tons have been sent away since

2019 and about £600- £900 a year has been raised.

Thank you to all who use the bin.

For more information about this scheme please see the list on Facebook 'Recycling and Terracycle around High Wycombe' or please take a copy of the list of items which is under the bin lid.

If you have questions about the scheme and what it accepts etc please contact Mandy 07786961569.

CO² Output

Bottom of the class Speen gets an F and North Dean an F+

Our communities are remarkable. As well as living in outstanding countryside and enjoying unusual community cohesion, we also emit much more carbon dioxide than most people. There is an obvious irony in benefiting from such a wonderful environment while doing more than our fair share of damage to it.

The Place-Based Carbon Calculator estimates the amount of carbon dioxide produced by each community in the country – you can read how it works at www.carbon.place Residents of the area that includes Speen each give rise to an average of 15.3 tonnes of CO₂ each year, conferring on us a grade of F (the worst is F-) and putting us in the highest-emitting 5% of communities in England. This means that 19 of every 20 communities in the country emit less per head than we do. Speen's level of consumption is unchanged from the previous estimate.

North Dean's figure is also unchanged at 13.3 tonnes per person, a scarcely better F+ and still in the country's top 10% for emissions. This figure is also no better than before. The England average is about 8 tonnes per person and the national target for 2032 is 2.8 tonnes per person. We are miles from where we should be and much worse than average.

Why are we producing so much carbon dioxide? Compared with the average for England, people who live in Speen and North Dean fly a lot more (accounting for a fifth of our output), consume a lot more electricity, own more and bigger cars, drive them more and consume more goods and services. Many of us also live in large detached houses which need more energy to heat.

Some of this is because our community is rural and predominantly affluent. But not all: our carbon dioxide output is higher than other similar communities with those characteristics.

So change is overdue. We have started: there are more electric cars, solar panels and heat pumps here than a few years ago. In time, this will be reflected in the estimates.

What's your carbon footprint? A great place to find out is the WWF carbon footprint calculator, which you can find at footprint.wwf.org.uk

Keen to reduce your carbon impact? The Energy Saving Trust (energysavingtrust.org.uk/top-tips-to-reduce-your-carbon-emissions) recommends these steps:

- *Turn down your central heating thermostat*
- *Insulate your home and install a heat pump*
- *Fly less, if at all*
- *Buy an electric car*
- *Reduce, reuse, recycle*
- *Eat more plants and fewer animals.*

WHO'S WHO

North Dean Village Hall - Chair	Andrew Hoard	07850 789 212
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings	Jeremy Mudie	07880 785 983
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
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HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors for North Dean	Simon Kearey	Simon.kearey@hughendenpc.org.uk
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillors for Speen	Carl Etholen Shade Adoh Robert Carington	Carl.Etholen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Shade.Adoh@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Robert.Carington@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Councillors for North Dean	Steve Broadbent David Carroll Clive Harriss	Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Clive.Harriss@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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