

## Speen Supporters' Group

### Autumn 2004 Update

From time to time we put an article in to SNDN to keep you up to date with our activities and to thank you for your continuing support.

Our latest event was the Late Summer Ball hosted by Gracie and Barry Stickings at Willott's Farm at the beginning of September. Wow, were we blessed with brilliant weather for a marquee party! As most of you will know the tickets sold out by early July so we welcomed 120 guests at our champagne reception. We presented cheques of £1,100 to four of the five charities that night prior to tucking into a pig roast. Not only was it dry but beautifully warm, so party-goers could either dance to live jazz, stroll in the grounds or sit under lanterns with friends. Many have voiced how much they enjoyed the evening and we raised approximately £2,500.

As a committee, we were particularly pleased to celebrate the return of Melanie Page to our pre-ball meeting. Many who are local to Speen will know that Melanie had a recurrence of cancer and suffered severe effects from aggressive chemotherapy. For our pink leaflet for the ball, she told us about the Iain Rennie nurses who have been tremendously helpful in a practical way, by providing a link between herself and her GP plus other services such as occupational health and assisting with the Disability Living Allowance. She greatly appreciated aromatherapy treatment for relaxation on a regular basis. Just as importantly they provided her with vital mental support, always being available just to listen when problems seemed insuperable.

Melanie was also shown around Florence Nightingale House, situated at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. She told me that it is a very welcoming place and hard to believe it is over 20 years old as everything appears brand new! The entrance is through a wonderfully plant and flower-packed garden. There is a central, open-air courtyard, similarly packed with flowers and a central water feature. At FNH there are all kinds of activities either for in-patients or those just dropping in for company.

We are delighted to report that she is recovering and has returned to work part time. We are very humbled by her strength, courage, determination and faith, and are very proud to have her on our committee. We are also very proud to be raising funds for charities that are so worthwhile, so well run and serve our communities so well.

Not for the first time we would like to thank you for supporting our events and encouraging us to do more for the local hospice movement. Don't forget that the quiz continues every other Thursday. We are planning a Chinese New Year supper in February and hope to be contributing to the Speen Music and Arts Festival in September 2005.

Suzi Rose

### Coming in the next issue

#### Update from India

As Adam and Caroline enter their second month in India they are happy to report that the money raised through their prize draw last September in Speen has gone towards several worthwhile projects. With the help of volunteers, 3 health clinics and 3 reading rooms have been established in slums and villages in Bangalore. Full report and photos in the next issue