

SPEENHELPING HOSPICES

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

Gráinne Suter

Since the last edition of SNDN we have organised one of the big Saturday night entertainments at Speen Festival 21. It was a very lively, fun evening and got great reviews. With a percentage of the ticket sales and bar profits, we raised £1,575 after expenses. We were superbly supported by Andrew Price and the bar staff that evening, support that was much appreciated by the committee.



A wine tasting evening in September with Lloyds Wines marked a new fundraising initiative for SHH. Simon, Sally and Tim did us proud. Guests were welcomed with a glass of Prosecco, Simon followed this with 8 wine tastings along with a cheese and charcuterie platter. We raised almost £600. I think this event will become an established point in our fund raising calendar.

This year's Bridge with Afternoon Tea event in North Dean Village Hall in October raised £416 and drew new supporters along with our regulars, whom we were delighted to catch up with again after a gap of two years. The tea was delicious, a suggestion to offer Prosecco will be given serious consideration by the committee!



By the time you read this we will have held the Christmas Market and we will report back on this in the next edition of SNDN. If you missed the market, don't worry as many of the stall holders can be contacted through our online shop www.shh-shop.org.

Thank you Sassy Santa's for offering to do another fun run for SHH this year. Saturday morning, 18th December is the date, don't forget to come out and cheer them on. As you can see from last year's photo they are a lively bunch!



Ruban, at Speen Stores, has kindly agreed to sell tickets for the Christmas Hamper raffle in the shop. A luxury hamper filled with Christmas goodies. Don't miss out, as you can see below the 2020 Christmas hamper was filled with a quite an array of goodies. Tickets can also be bought via grainnesuter@btconnect.com.



SHH was honoured to be the recipient of charitable donations at the funeral of Michael Brown who died in June. Michael was a huge supporter of SHH and never failed to donate to all of our events. He was a charming gentleman with a wicked sense of humour, who is much missed. We would like to thank Valetta, Michael's widow for her kindness.

Carol singing dates are now arranged: 13th December - along Chapel Hill and offshoots and the school end of Grubbins Lane, 16th December - Hampden Road and off shoots, and 20th December - Studridge Lane, Moses Platt, Cherry Tree Close and the north end of Grubbins Lane from Red House Farm. Listen out for the bells and give the carollers your support. Collectors will be alongside with buckets.

Don't forget if you would like to support or sponsor a fundraising event, offer a prize for a raffle or would like to help us in some way, please contact me grainnesuter@btconnect.com or 07778 803260.

All these dates are on our website www.shh-shop.org

SPEEN FESTIVAL 2021

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Cat Cook

My very great thanks goes out to the team that worked with me to make this happen, in much shorter timescales, filled with uncertainty, plus the many volunteers who supported them.

- Our Festival landlord – Andrew Price
- My wise sage and admin aficionado – Tom Dent
- The ticket inspectors – Sue Taylor and Christopher Boyce
- The chairmen and table shifters – Steve Binder and Eamonn Barrett
- The money man – Nick Knight
- The advertising exec – Philip Suter
- Online box office creator and controller – Lotte Cook
- Website designer – James Palmer
- Sound and Lighting – Jessica Cook



I fully intend to lead another festival in 2023 but it will be my last at the helm. I started my involvement in 2013 supporting Sam and Kate Laughton by doing Festival marketing and publicity and then stepped into their shoes for Festival 2017. I very much hope we can get more new faces involved in some of the core roles next time.

Our Festival is a celebration of local arts, creativity and our environment. What appears on the Festival programme is whatever the community generates and this year we had a marvellous collection of old and new events. Huge thanks to those who stepped forward with their skills and passions to deliver a brilliant programme of entertainment, learning, music, experiences, insight and laughter. Even in this year of limited capacities, our brilliant events and notably, the bar, we still managed to generate a healthy profit of £8,000.

We have routinely kept some funds to secure future festivals, but given our consistent successes, we are going to reduce that pot. This year we are donating £12,000 to Speen organisations, local charities and those charities nominated by our event organisers. I'm sure you all agree, that is a truly amazing achievement for our small village.

The beneficiaries are:

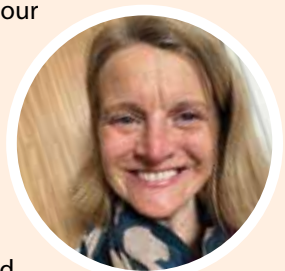
Speen School PTA
Speen Playing Fields
Speen Helping Hospices
Speen Chapel
Agape
Life in Full Trust (LIFT)
One Can Trust
Wycombe Refugee Partnership
Wycombe Homeless Connection

Woodland Trust
The Calm Zone
Oxford Animal Sanctuary
Humane Society International (dogs)
Florence Nightingale House
Berks and Bucks Wildlife Trust
The Princes Centre
RSPB
Lindengate



By any measure Festival 2021 was 'a success', but I do always wonder about the people who didn't come to any events at all; what could we have done differently to reach more people? Personally, what I enjoy most is connecting people, ideas and opportunities. I love that newcomers to the village were finally able to see what Speen is capable of and get to connect with so many more people. I love that post-GCSE teens delivered our website, online box office and the sound and light provision. I love that Emma Large, who first directed our Festival play post-GCSEs in 2017 and then post A-Levels in 2019, returned after her 2nd year of drama at Uni to lead our theatrical endeavours. COVID (and the weather) got the better of us having a 'big show' this year, but she still delivered workshops for us and the children of Oakridge School in High Wycombe as part of our educational outreach efforts.

As a result of Festival 2021, we now have a Speen Writers' Forum, there are likely to be tap dancing lessons in the village hall, people have been going to the Repair Barn to get items fixed instead of being thrown away. The Festival evolves us all and I'm proud to be part of it.



Cat Cook

SPEENFESTIVAL2021



Speen Bus Services

Ward Jones of North Dean has kindly provided further information about the bus services which used to serve the village during the mid-1900's.

Evidently both Speen and North Dean villagers used to rely on the old number 34 service from High Wycombe, which ran from Frogmoor in the town centre making 6 stops ending at the terminus outside the former King George pub at the top of Chapel Hill, Speen. The penultimate stop was North Dean, where the bus stopped outside the Sportsman's pub, which was close to the village hall.

The route run by the Thames Valley Traction Co. was acquired from the Penn Bus Co in the 1930's and operated until about 1970 when it was taken over by Alder Valley. Post war bus timetables for the route 34 service show 18 buses a day running from Speen from about 6.35am every weekday morning with the last bus arriving back in the village at 10.42pm. The Sunday service comprised some 10 buses a day.

During the war the service was provided by a Leyland Tiger bus (Reg no. ABL 761) and then in the 1960s by a Bristol LL6B (Reg no. FMO 949). This bus spent its working life travelling up and down the valley averaging an annual mileage of around 55000 miles. It was withdrawn and replaced in about 1967 but continued in service elsewhere until 1977. During its working life its total mileage is estimated at some 800,000 miles. It has recently been recovered by Ward Jones and is apparently under cover somewhere in Maidenhead awaiting restoration.



Leyland Tiger bus opposite the Old George with Turnip End in the background.



The Bristol LL6B bus No. 34 service in North Dean.

SPEENFETE

Helen Davies & Clare Morris, Co-Chairs, Fete Committee

Distribution of funds

Thanks to everyone who supported Speen Fete back in July. We had a great day, raising over £5,000, which we have been able to distribute across our two chosen charities and all the village organisations that were involved.

• Speen Helping Hospices received **£1,100**



• One Can Trust received **£515**

"We really do appreciate this gift as the demands on the Foodbank continue at a very high level. Last month we delivered 724 parcels feeding a weekly average of 346 people. *Peter Green, Treasurer*"

The following organisations each received **£315**

- Speen School P.T.A
 - Speen Church
 - Speen Village Hall
 - Speen Save Our Pub Group
 - Speen W.I.
 - Speen Tennis Club
 - Speen Playing Fields
 - Speen Guides
 - Speen Environmental Action Group
 - Speen & North Dean News
- (The SNDN kindly donated their share to One Can Trust)*
- Speen Heritage Group received a donation of **£100** to support their work.

Preparations for next year's fete on **9th July 2022** will begin in the new year. If you would like to be involved, either stand-alone or through a village group please do let us know.

Many thanks, Helen Davies & Clare Morris,
Co-Chair, Fete Committee
fete@speenbucks.org.uk