

# SPEENFETE

Helen Davies & Clare Morris

For the first time in over 50 years Speen Fete had to be cancelled last year, so it was with much celebration that the 2021 fete went ahead on the 3rd July. Despite ghastly forecasts the rain stayed away, and a fantastic afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who attended as extra patience was needed to manage the queues and token system.

Opened by John & Gloria Holmes to a large audience in combination with the unveiling of the new plaque renaming the pavilion as the Holmes Pavilion, celebrating the efforts they have made to Speen over many years. It was a delight to welcome back Martin Hart and the Speen Feetwarmers Jazz Band and Speen School's Country Dancing was a highlight for many. Jem Symondson led a thank-you clap to all those who have proved so valuable to residents during the Covid pandemic.

The arena was later filled with a taster of Speen Fun Day, organised by Matt Davies, as teams from across the village enjoyed hilarious games with much rivalry, cheating and laughter. Traditional sideshows kept everyone entertained and filled with sweets. The chapel served up their usual tasty BBQ, the W.I. delicious tea and cakes and the run on the bar resulted in an additional trip to Rebellion brewery. In the evening the football was shown, and a pizza van tried to feed everyone before bedtime.

Of course, the Fete would not be able to run without the support of the committee, largely made up of

representatives of all the village organisations. In addition, all the volunteers on the day and in the run up and clear down afterwards who make it happen. A special thanks to Amanda Dobbs for her copious form filling and her plentiful supply of sanitiser for ensuring we met the Covid event guidelines that we had to comply with to proceed.

It's also important to thank the many businesses who support us by placing an advertisement in the Fete Programme or who provided donations of Grand Draw prizes. These contribute greatly to funds and the programme provides an ongoing reference of local services.

Our main charity this year was Speen Helping Hospices. Although the final numbers have yet to be reconciled, we are confident that we will be able to present them with a significant sum and in addition provide all involved village organisations with a healthy cheque. At a time when fundraising has been a challenge, we know that these will be a real boost.

There were many highlights to this year's fete but for many the sheer joy of being able to come together again as a community, meet many new faces and reconnect with friends, all whilst watching children having great fun made for a priceless afternoon of memories – at last something to celebrate.

See you next year on the 9th July!

## Congratulations to the following competition winners:

### Colouring competition:

Jack, Niamh & Klay from Speen School

### Photography competition:

Speen in lockdown – Anna Dow  
Celebration – Helena Winson

### Decorate a pebble:

Harry Davies

### Two decorated cupcakes:

Elsie Rogers

### Decorated celebration cake:

Olivia Davies

### Best dressed house\*:

9 Abbotswood

### Sponsors choice\*:

The Williams'

### Grand Draw

**1st Prize:** £250 Oil – Boiler Juice  
Ann Beale

**2nd Prize:** £150 Cash  
Mark Gibson

**3rd Prize:** Assorted tools – Briants  
Debbie Tilt

**4th Prize:** £50 Oil – Boiler Juice  
George Grey

**5th Prize:** Darvill's Farm Voucher  
Corinne Simmonds

**6th Prize:** Cut & Blow Dry - 24 Hair  
Mike Foster

**7th Prize:** Wren Davis 2 weeks' milk delivery  
Michael (Kimble)

**School:** Children's Hamper  
Gloria Holmes

**WI:** Fruit Basket  
Jill White

**Chapel:** Tea for Two  
Miles Awdry

**SHH:** Garden Tools from Hildreths  
Ester Comunello

**SEAG:** Hamper of  
Environmentally Friendly Products  
The Pisani family

**Playing Fields:** Hamper of 'Booze'  
Denny Moody

**Tennis Club:** Junior Tennis Racket  
Pat O'Neill

**Village Hall:** Delivery of Indian Meal for 2  
Lucy Williams

\* The 'Decorate Your House' competition was sponsored by Amanda Dobbs, in memory of her father John Turner who loved seeing the house transformations unfold.



Photos by Peter Symonds and Maureen Laing