

Speen Charity News

Once again I am able to say "Well done Speen!". This time I am delighted to report that the response to the hastily posted note about collection of foreign currency yielded a fantastic response. A gang of enthusiastic Speen Supporters Group ladies sorted through the extraordinary range of currencies collected over the years, during a working lunch. Fortunately Roger Sharp from St. Francis Hospice took the lot and returned cheques for £441.00. The information we printed inspired many of you to ring and offer ideas for fundraising. Ian Waterman is running in the London Marathon for the Speen Supporters Group so please be generous when he asks for your signature. New residents Geoff and Clare Hayward Smith have set up a fortnightly quiz on Thursdays at the King William (first of these on 14th February - from 8pm) where you can simply turn up and form teams to answer a variety of questions for £1.00. Apart from raising money, these quiz nights enable villagers to

still being counted but the tin at the Stores collected £84.76 so we really are doing our bit to help raise funds.

There was a terrific response to the Charity Supper and this was sold out ten days prior to the event. Not only was there an excellent supper enjoyed by all but 5 speakers gave us a different viewpoint about work in the hospice movement locally. Roger Sharp from The Hospice of St. Francis told us how the staff organised a restaurant to bring in an anniversary supper on silver platters for a patient and his wife because the patient had always treated his wife to a special dinner on their special day. Margaret Maxwell Cook (South Bucks Day Hospice) said she thought Speen was unique in that it was unheard of for voluntary organisations to spring up out of the blue as we have done. She said how patients were able to come to Edie Pusey House on Amersham Hill to be with others in the same situation and "throw off their wigs". Sue Warr from Florence Nightingale House at



Presentation of cheques to representatives of 5 hospices from the efforts of the Speen Supporters Group

drop in and meet with friends and utilize the pub.

Two other charity collections went on over the Christmas period. Thanks to Speen Stores Sandra and Margaret Handcox, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home benefited once more from the generosity of Speen Village. Many villagers pledged their Christmas card money to the charity instead of writing cards to each other. The box in Speen Stores collected £105. Also you will have noticed the sudden arrival of Father Christmas Beanies for the South Bucks Day Hospice in the Stores, at King William IV and the Old Plow. The latter two boxes are

Stoke Mandeville told us about their home from home areas which are much more than just a bedroom. Robert Breakwell from Iain Rennie Hospice at Home gave us the history of Iain Rennie, a young man who wished to be nursed in his own home and how the organisation rose from a group of volunteer nurses granting his wish. Finally Sharon Glazier, a resident of Lacey Green, gave us such a sunny insight into the happy atmosphere at Helen House where very ill children and their families

(Continued on page 15)



Members of the Speen Supporters Group counting the foreign (pre-Euro) currency collected for charity. From left to right - Christine Oliver, Clare Haywood-Smith, Suzi Rose, Bronwyn Davies and Marjorie Stockley

come for "a holiday". Sharon also stated that, unlike the other charities, Helen House relies solely on fundraising as they receive no government funding. Douglas House is still to be funded but is intended to care for young people from 16 to 40 covering a much needed area of care. It was an excellent evening, some moved to tears, others totally enlightened about hospice work and all of us fired up to carry on supporting these worth while and local causes. A measure of the success of the event is that it raised a further £1015 for the hospices - a truly fantastic result!

The Speen Supporters Group are working hard on the Ladies Fashion Evening at the Town Hall. A note for your dairy Ladies, Wednesday 10th April. A special after-work mini business wear fashion show will commence with canapies and wine at 5pm costing £15.00. The evening fashion show starts at 7.30 and will cost £25.00 per head including two course supper. All fashions supplied by Manhattan in Beaconsfield. It should be a fabulous evening. If there are sufficient numbers from Speen, and we suspect there will be, we can organise a coach. Speen and North Dean folk please contact Christine Oliver, who is co-ordinating local bookings, on 488409.

Don't worry men - we haven't left you out. We've booked Oxford Stadium on Sunday 15th September for a Go-Karting Endurance Extravaganza starting at 2 and ending at 5. We need keen people (not just men!) to form teams of ten people in each team and we hope to run 10

karts - the more the merrier. Again if we have good numbers we will organise coaches. Get in touch with me if you are interested.

Remember this is the time of year when we all come knocking on your door for Save the Children/Children's Society/Christian Aid so make sure you have some change when we come round. Phew! Our halos are really shining here in Speen. Thanks to all of you for your enthusiastic response when times are very hard for many of you.

Suzi Rose 488696

More charity fund-raising

Bring and buy coffee mornings organised by Marjorie Stockley recently raised £95 for the Chilterns Multiple Sclerosis Centre at Halton and £80 for Calibre, the recorded book service for the blind.

A coffee morning organised by Sue Taylor provided a further £100 for the hospices mentioned in Suzi's article above.