

# Speldhurst News



## July/August 2023

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# Welcome

Dear Readers,

As I write this it is the morning of the village Fete, the weather is looking good and I hope everyone has a great day there. So much work goes into arranging this and preparation so a massive thank you to all involved. All proceeds go towards maintaining the Recreation Ground and Village Hall. Do send us through any photos we would love to include them in the September issue.

Do note the meeting to update everyone concerning the Chapel project is on **Thursday 29th June** in the Village Hall at 7.45pm - your support would be much appreciated. This is such an exciting project which would enhance the village tremendously.

Good luck to all taking exams, starting new jobs or new ventures. Have a great summer and see you in September!

Very best wishes

Sara

**On behalf of Speldhurst News Editors:  
Maria Turner, Sara Turner, Judith Malim**

Please remember that copy for the **September 2023 edition** should be sent **before 10th August 2023** to: [speldhurst.news@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurst.news@gmail.com). Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred. Thank you.

SPELDHURST NEWS endeavours to include articles in addition to village, church and chapel news. These are taken in good faith and without prejudice, therefore the committee will not be held responsible for the accuracy of the content, nor will it be held responsible for any work or treatment received from the advertisers. Readers should satisfy themselves of advertisers' abilities before accepting a job quotation or undertaking a course of treatment. All articles & inclusions should be sent as a word document attachment. The editors reserve the right to amend submissions where they feel it is appropriate.



# Diary at a Glance

## July

Mondays	Library	
Tuesdays	Bowls Club Practice	p.25
	Walking Football	p.4
Mon 3rd July	Full Council Meeting	p.15
Wed 5th July	Praise & Play	p. 4
Wed 19th July	Praise & Play	p. 4

## August

Mon 7th Aug	Full Council Meeting	p.15
Sat 26th - 27th Aug	Messy Camp	p.25

## Future Dates

Sat 9th Sept	Speldhurst Flower Show
Sat/Sun 28th & 29th Oct	Speldhurst Art Show

# News & Announcements

## What's on in Speldhurst for the Under 5's in July/August

Bumps and Babes, which enables new Mums in the village to get to know each other, meets twice a month on a Monday from 10.30. Contact Jenny for more information.

Praise and Play, St Mary's Toddler Group, meets fortnightly (in term time) from 9am.

We will be meeting on Wednesday 5th & 19th July.

There will be no Praise and Play in August but we'll be back in September.

Meanwhile if you are new to the village and have pre-school children, or know someone in that position, do get in touch with Jenny on 01892 541200 or 07891318123 or at [jenny50fitz@gmail.com](mailto:jenny50fitz@gmail.com).

## Walking Football Kicks Off for 2023

Walking Football group is about to restart on the rec:

Speldhurst Walking footballers would welcome men and women of all ages and abilities to join our group. It's all about getting some gentle exercise and having fun. So, whether you have ever played football, or not, do come and join us .

We will be meeting at 7pm at the all weather pitch on Speldhurst rec on Tuesday evenings (weather permitting)

Please do contact Brian on 07940 013135 if you are interested in joining us or if you would like any further information.



## **OPEN MEETING – update on the Chapel Project**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 7.45 pm at the Village Hall**

**The Chapel Project working group and the management committee of Speldhurst's Community Shop and Post Office will be giving an update on the status of the Chapel project.**

**Everyone is welcome – please join us, take the opportunity to hear what's going on, ask questions and give us your feedback.**

- Hear about progress towards raising the finance needed for the project.
- Learn about how your existing community shop is doing.
- Understand why **we need more volunteers** to sustain the existing community shop and make the Chapel project a reality.

The building and site represent a one-off opportunity to create a community hub, incorporating a permanent site for the Community Shop and Post Office (which at present is on a short lease until August 2024) and a community space to allow continuation of the varied community and faith activities hosted at the Chapel, whilst also providing a café area.

The building and site are at the heart of Speldhurst village and have the potential, as a community asset, to enhance and complement the amenities we already enjoy in Speldhurst.

**Please join us – your support is essential for the project to succeed.**



John Perkins, St Mary's Church.  
[revjohnp@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnp@outlook.com)

Edward Pinnell, Speldhurst's Community Shop  
and Post Office.  
[speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com)





**Can you shop with us or spare some time to help ensure the success (and continuation) of this invaluable village hub?**

**We have many opportunities available so if you've got a few hours you can spare, we'd love to hear from you.**

**To volunteer, just pop in or email us  
[speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com)**

**Or could you use the shop a little more, and help to secure our shop for us all – now and in the future?**

**Come in and you'll find:**

**Fresh bread, milk, cheese, fruit, vegetables and meat  
(all locally sourced wherever possible)**

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**And don't forget we also have our own Post Office counter  
available for you 6 days a week.**



®

**ANY QUESTIONS? Pop in or  
call us on 01892 863158**



# The Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 2.30pm  
Speldhurst Village Hall

Whether you are a gardening enthusiast, keen crafter, dab hand in the kitchen or budding photographer there is something for everyone of all ages at the Flower, Vegetable and Craft Show.

Time to get planting!

Check out our Facebook page Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show or our website page <http://speldhurst.org/contacts/34>



Alan Ford

## **Speldhurst – Tonbridge School Transport**

Following the termination of the 288 bus service from Speldhurst to Tonbridge, KCC have decided to make no effort to arrange an alternative. So, children at Judd, Weald of Kent, Hillview, Hayesbrook, TGS and the other Tonbridge schools have been left to make their own arrangements.

There are so many reasons for having a school bus; personal independence, lower traffic rates, reduced pollution and allowing parents increased opportunities to work! Etc.etc.

So, a few of us are very keen to explore whether there is a community-based solution to this problem – such as a minibus service. We would love to hear from you if you have children affected or have some expertise/ideas to contribute.

This problem is going to grow as parents juggle getting their children who attend schools in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells to school on time. And we believe that the lack of available transport should not restrict the choice of schools available.

Last year a school bus pass cost £450; a group of us pooling our funds may be able to find an alternative.

Please get in touch:

Judith Malim 07966024860 [judith.malim@gmail.com](mailto:judith.malim@gmail.com)

Alex Pendaries 07779 322841 [alexclack@mac.com](mailto:alexclack@mac.com)





# BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET

(first Saturday of every month except January)



**SATURDAY 1 July 2023**  
**10am – 12.30pm**  
**BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL**



Meet your friends at “The Stage” café, enjoy filter coffee, tea and a piece of delicious homemade cake

Produce for sale at the market include: Bread, free range eggs, pasties and other baked savouries, cakes, scones, preserves, honey, wild bird food plus other exciting goodies.

*Blackham Village Hall is a registered charity whose sole purpose is to promote and maintain the hall for the enjoyment of and benefit of the community*

## Speldhurst Bowls Club



It's that time of year when all lawn bowls clubs are gearing up for the new season. As you can see, at Speldhurst, we have a charming club house and a very friendly club. If you would like to give bowls a try this year, why not pop along for a free trial session. We have a practice/social evening every Tuesday 5.30pm to 7pm during the season (weather permitting). No previous experience necessary and no need to pre-book or bring any equipment, just turn up with a pair of flat soled shoes.

The 2023 season runs from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

If you want to know more please call **Debbie 01892 861317** or email **deb.moon@hotmail.co.uk**



*We're back in the car park at Penshurst Place this July with the best local seasonal food and drink*



**Saturday,  
1st July  
2023**

**9.30 am  
to  
12.00 pm**

**Penshurst  
Place Visitor  
Car Park**



Summertime and the living is certainly easy at Penshurst this month. Eating in July is all about keeping things simple as the harvest of gloriously fresh local produce reaches a peak. Getting outside in the countryside is the best idea this month, weather permitting, and you'll want to spend as little time as possible in the kitchen.

So what to put in your basket? If you are planning a barbecue, pick up burgers, steaks, sausages and chops from either of our meat producers and local game dealer, Kieron's Game or choose wonderful fresh fish fresh from the Sussex coast.

The folks from New Park Farm will be with us with Kent strawberries and raspberries. There's also plenty of choice for easy picnics or beach trips with Scotch eggs, sausage rolls, pasties, pates and dips, brownies and buns.

Snacks, teas and coffee are available at the Porcupine Pantry. Parking is plentiful, free and close by. Dogs and families welcome. If you miss us this month, we'll be back on Saturday August 5th, same time, same place. (The Knife Ninja will be back at the market in August too)

*Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram*

*[WWW.kfma.org.uk/penshurst](http://WWW.kfma.org.uk/penshurst)*



## **MEN ON WEDNESDAY [MOW]**

Men on Wednesday [MOW] does what it says on the tin. We are an informal group of blokes who get together each Wednesday in Speldhurst Chapel for wide ranging discussions. We draw our membership mainly from Speldhurst, Langton Green but anyone from the surrounding area is welcome.

Men of all ages and backgrounds come but because we meet in normal working hours, we tend to attract those who are retired. Content of meetings vary from an open forum where we all chip in, to the occasional guest speaker and sometimes we even get cerebral and reflect on the latest Reith lectures.

Anyone interested in giving us a try can contact [revjohnp@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnp@outlook.com)



## **The Village Hall Needs You!**

### **HANDYMAN / CARETAKER REQUIRED**

Our wonderful Caretaker is retiring later this year and we are looking for someone to join us at our thriving village hall.

The position involves minor maintenance work. Heavier/major work will be carried out by contractors and you will not be asked to carry out heavy lifting/complicated electrical work etc.

This position would suit someone who is retired and likes DIY. It is a paid position and hours can be agreed.

If you are interested in helping your local community in this way, please contact Sam for a chat.

Sam Van Niekerk on 07894 903979 or [speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com)

## NATURE WATCH

This has been the best year for buttercups I can remember. In the picture it looks like a field of oilseed rape in flower. Although they are not as golden yellow, the ones in the picture are Meadow buttercups. They grow up to a metre/ 39" tall and they like lowland meadows. The ones that grow in our lawns are Creeping buttercups. They send out runners and new plants grow and root along the line. I think they, with daisies, brighten up a dull green lawn.

Up on the Downs and other areas of dry grassland there are Bulbous buttercups which look very similar to the above. There is one found in undisturbed areas of woodland called the Goldilocks buttercup. These flowers are often imperfect with petals missing and odd sizes but still like all other buttercups are very good for insects. The buttercup family is a large one and other members bear no resemblance at all. There are 2 trees in flower also in the back of the picture. They are Hawthorn. One has fresh white flowers and as they age they take on a pink to reddish hue as the second one shows. The flowers are a good food source for the pollinators and berries are loved by winter thrushes. Leaves are the main food for many species of moth caterpillars. It is a good hedging plant which makes it a very versatile plant for the garden and for wild-life.



Alan Ford



### **POCKET PARK ROOPERS**

We're now midway through our 2nd re-wilding season at Pocket Park. It's wonderful to see so many new plant species emerging, do take a look for yourself.

Thank you to Alan Ford – pictured with fellow Environment Working

Group member Ed Langridge – who is leading the project.

Having seen evidence of multiple moth species in the park, we now plan to set a moth trap later this month to find out more. We also have a noticeboard on order so residents can read regular updates on what to look out for.

For more information on encouraging biodiversity in your own garden, email [admin@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call 01892862927.



**Red Clover**



**Common Spotted  
Orchid in bud**

## NEWS FROM SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



We were pleased to see so many residents of all ages at our Annual Parish Meeting in May.

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP spoke on a number of issues affecting the local community – from pot holes to water supply. He concluded with a request that residents contact him with their concerns so he could raise these in parliament.

There were also presentations from Parish Council committee members, and input from Borough Councillor Matthew Sankey.

If you were unable to make the meeting this year, do think about coming next year. Engaging with your local Councillors really will help you to have a say on what happens in your neighbourhood.

*Pictured is outgoing Councillor Julia Soyke receiving the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) award from Councillor Simon Norton in recognition of her many contributions to the parish.*

### SPELDHURST CHAPEL PROJECT

We are organising a public consultation so that residents can give their feedback on a proposal to apply for a public works loan to fund the purchase of Speldhurst Chapel to enable Speldhurst Community Shop to move into it.



There is a process set out by KALC which this consultation must adhere to. You can expect to hear from us soon with more information and a questionnaire to complete. Do take the time to fill out your questionnaire; this is an important decision for the whole community to make.

#### **FIND OUT ABOUT LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN**

With summer holidays approaching there may be an increase in road works and closures in the parish. We try to share most road closures on our website, but if you want to plan ahead, The best way to get updates and is through <https://one.network>. Create an account with one.network to find out about all current and planned roadworks in your area.

#### **SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

With so much happening in the parish that requires our involvement, the Councillors who have been coordinating Speedwatch in Speldhurst are struggling to fit sessions in. We are now at the point of submitting the locations that we have agreed need traffic calming measures to Kent County Council Highways. To support our application we must keep collecting Speedwatch data. If you have time to volunteer for Speedwatch sessions please contact the Clerk to find out more (contact details below).

#### **LOOK OUT FOR...**

More photos of our re-wilding of Pocket Park elsewhere in this magazine.



#### **PUBLIC MEETINGS – EVERYONE WELCOME**

Full Council Meeting 7.30pm, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Ashurst Village Hall

Full Council Meeting 7.30pm, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August, Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall

#### **TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Call the Clerk, Katie Neve on 01892 862927/07760 769513 or email [clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk)

For helpful information about us, visit [www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk) or follow us on Facebook as 'Speldhurst Parish Council'

## **News from Cllr Matthew Sankey**

### **Where are we at?**

Since I last wrote to you, I was also elected at the Leader of our group, The Tunbridge Wells Alliance and I have taken the rather unusual step of declining a position in cabinet. Instead, I have put forward Alliance Cllrs Ellen Neville & Nancy Warne. I am of the strong belief that if we are to make change, we must first look at ourselves. Why continue to repeat the past that has failed us year after year, its time for change and I am hell bent on delivering it. My mantra has always been to employ people better than you and admit it!

### **The Borough Partnership**

Our partnership with the LibDems & Labour will continue, as the only party to gain seats The Alliance made it very clear that we would only continue if all three parties would do so together.

### **What are we working on?**

#### **PR2: AKA The Bus Gate**

This is the rather bizarre bus lane that you're not allowed to drive through in the town centre. I totally get that we need to reduce traffic in the town centre, but I am not sure that TWBC/KCC have delivered a system here that's at all sensible. It's not clear and although I'm assured the legal side is water-tight, it's just not simple enough and many of us are being fined. If you do get a fine, and it is your first – APPEAL – I've been assured that first time offenders will be let off!

In the meantime, I am pushing hard for us to find a new solution, this will sadly take time.

### **Homes for Ukrainians**

TWBC have been able to unlock some of our Section 106 money to purchase some homes for our Ukrainian guests. This has come via a Grant from central government and whilst I know it doesn't solve the waiting lists for social housing, once the Ukrainian guests have left these houses become available to us. The terms of the grant are specific on this. It's an issue as many Ukrainians are now finding themselves homeless.

I also urge anyone with even a small amount of free time to join our speed watch team. Pop Paul Curry an email ([paul.curry@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:paul.curry@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)) on that, he will be delighted to help you.

## 2024

In May 2024 the electoral boundaries will change. The ward of Speldhurst & Bidborough will become Speldhurst & Rusthall. It will include Langton Green, Ashurst, Old Groombridge & Rusthall. I shall be sad to be unable to represent Bidborough. The residents there have only just wrestled control of their Parish Council back and have some fantastic plans. Seeing what they had to go through really does make you realise how wonderful Speldhurst Parish Council is.

This change of Ward means that all Three councillors will be up for election. This will result in a ballot paper that will likely include up to 15 names or more.

### Your Borough Councillors

	Contact Details	Re-Election Date
Cllr Matthew Sankey (Alliance)	07881 674 310 <a href="mailto:matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk">matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</a>	May 2024
Cllr Paul Curry (Alliance)	07515 938 765 <a href="mailto:Paul.curry@tunbridgewells.gov.uk">Paul.curry@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</a>	May 2024
Cllr Harry Allen (Conservative)	07523 005 178 <a href="mailto:harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk">harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</a>	May 2024



# Speldhurst CEP School News



As I write this the sun is streaming through my office window – and we're all looking forward to our summer holidays when term ends this month. For many of us that includes enjoying the seaside – whether it's a day trip to the South Coast or a couple of weeks on far off shores.

Thanks to this term's project 'On the Beach', the school's youngest pupils in Pippin class are well-prepared for such a holiday with more than just a bucket and spade. As well as using various materials at the creation station to paint, draw and build their own imaginary beaches, they have been learning about who and what live on Britain's



seashore as well as venturing further afield through stories of sea voyages and oceans around the world.



Closer to home Pippin children also took time to introduce some of the older pupils to the latest additions in their reception class – the cutest of chicks which had been

hatched out in the school incubator. It is something the school does every year as a 'living' introduction to biology and an absolute delight for all the children who watch the chicks hatch and grow.





Summer or winter Speldhurst School encourages children to enjoy nature and the outside whatever the weather, including a wide range of sporting activities with success this season on both the cricket ground and the playing field. Our own 'lionesses', the girls football team from Years 5 and 6 finished second in the local league – the highest placement ever, whilst cricket enthusiasts, also from Years 5 and 6 represented Speldhurst brilliantly at the Nevill Cricket ground tournament.

Meanwhile back at school, Bramley class had their first PE lessons on the new climbing wall. Climbing is one example of Speldhurst's commitment to broadening the PE curriculum – but one which children only start in year 3 and so there was lots of excitement and enthusiasm. In Year 4, Empire class pupils are also getting lessons on the wall and are beginning to traverse like experts.



From the climbing wall to the classroom, both learning spaces have their own challenges and goals. For Empire class, there were enthusiastic but considered debates as part of the English curriculum, whilst Year 6 pupils in Russet class were asked to look at a difficult decision which had to be made in a book they are studying '*Stay where you are and then leave*' by John Boyne, well-known for his award winning '*The boy in the striped pyjamas*'.

Russet class used a learning technique called 'conscience alley' to help the book's protagonist Alfie decide what to do. He wants to rescue his father, who is suffering from shell shock after WW1, and is unhappy in hospital. But what is the right thing to do? Using conscience alley, one pupil Emily playing the part of Alfie, goes along the line asking her classmates for their opinions - what they would do and why..



Happy holidays everyone.

Sara Andrew - Communications Governor



Picture of the allotments at Speldhurst courtesy of Judith Malim - Editor



## Speldhurst Village Website

Our website includes a calendar of village events, a photo gallery, some village history, a selection of local walks and cycle routes, past editions of Speldhurst News and more.

Why not take a look at: [speldhurst.org](http://speldhurst.org)?



**MOVEMENT TO MUSIC  
&  
CHAIR BASED EXERCISE**



**COME & JOIN MY FUN AND FRIENDLY CLASSES!**

**Benefits of  
the classes:**

- Improved mobility and co-ordination
- Improved strength and flexibility
- Increased confidence and independence
- Exercises are adapted for seated and standing
- Fun and friendship

**LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

**NEW CLASS!**

**Starting 16th May 2023**

**Movement to Music**

(seated or standing)

**Tuesdays at 2.00pm**

**Classes also held at Crowborough and Cross in Hand**

 **07900 423676**

 [dianna@seated-exercise.co.uk](mailto:dianna@seated-exercise.co.uk)

 [facebook.com/SeatedExercise](https://facebook.com/SeatedExercise)

Some pictures from the Speldhurst Fete - 17th June 2023



Above photo credit to Judith Malim and below to Sara Turner





# **THE SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

**DISCOUNTED RATES**  
**FOR RESIDENTS**

## **TAKING BOOKINGS**

Parties  
Christenings  
Family Gatherings

**FOR ENQUIRIES VISIT**

[Speldhurstvillagehall.co.uk](http://Speldhurstvillagehall.co.uk)



## A Letter from St Mary's



July/August 2023

Dear Friends,

My theme for today's service in St Mary's was "All you need is Love and Faith". We all need to be loved, don't we? As babies we are all reliant on our mothers and fathers for love and protection. As we grow we might recognise that others around us also show love towards us and we can love them too. Most people find a soulmate with whom they want to spend the rest of their lives. This love is strong and hopefully long lasting. God's love is all encompassing; His love is much stronger than human love and not dependent on us doing anything to warrant being loved.

For the last 20 years...give or take a few...Douglas Wren has been our Rector. He has led and guided those of us in the Ministry team along the paths God has set out for us. We have all recognised that God is our ultimate leader and our help in times of trouble. Without a Rector now, are we all lost and wandering in a wilderness? Of course not because we have a God who loves us and will guide us through the storms of an interregnum. We will continue to serve our Parish and to keep things running to the best of our abilities.

With God's love and guidance we will all grow, ministers and congregations alike. We need a Rector to keep us all working together amicably but God is our ultimate Leader. He loves us and will never leave us.

God bless you all. I hope you have a lovely summer.

In His name

Karol Leeves.

A colorful illustration of a campsite. In the center is a large yellow and orange tent with a red base. In front of the tent is a campfire with pink and orange flames. The background features several green pine trees, a large yellow sun, and a blue sky with white clouds. The ground is green with some grey rocks.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**

# **MESSY CAMP**

**26TH-27TH AUGUST**

**@SPELDHURST SCHOOL FIELD**

**GAMES, SCRIPTURE, FELLOWSHIP AND  
CRAFT**

**JOIN US FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE  
WEEKEND**



## ~ Allotment & Gardening News ~



### The Great Rhubarb Controversy of 1947

Botanically, rhubarb is a vegetable (it's related to sorrel and dock) but its thick, fleshy stalks are treated as a fruit, despite their tart flavour. In more detail, rhubarb is the fleshy, edible stalks (petioles) of species and hybrids (culinary rhubarb) of *Rheum* in the family Polygonaceae, which are cooked and used for food. The plant is a herbaceous perennial that grows from short, thick rhizomes.

Hope that clarifies it. But there is more...

It seems that rhubarb has been the subject of a court case. While science considers it a vegetable, in the USA rhubarb is officially recognized as a fruit after a 1947 court case due to its popular use in pies and sauces. How come a court case about rhubarb? Where there is a dispute, lawyers and courts will find a way of getting involved. And this is what happened to rhubarb in the USA.

At issue in the Great Rhubarb Controversy of 1947 was the tariff classification of fresh rhubarb from Canada. Under the then applicable tariff, rhubarb was either subject to a 35% duty as fruits or a 50% duty as vegetables in their natural state. According to the decision, the rhubarb in question was pulled from the ground, with the tops cut off and roots left in the ground. It was typically eaten as pie, stewed as a dessert, and with cream for breakfast. Testimony before the court indicated that it was never eaten as a side dish with poultry.

The Court looked to various dictionary definitions of "fruit" and "vegetable" to ascertain the difference. In one example, "vegetable" was defined as any part of an herbaceous plant used for culinary purposes including the stems. Rhubarb, however, was specifically described in an encyclopaedia as a "leaf-stalk" used for sauces and pies. One definition of fruit stated that it is "the fleshy and juicy" product of some plant, usually tree or shrub (and nearly always containing the seed), which, when ripe, is edible without cooking, and adapted for use as a dessert rather than as a salad. "Fleshy and juicy" does not describe rhubarb.



One definition also noted that the term “fruit” is “occasionally applied to certain other vegetable structures of pronounced flavour eaten as a sauce or dessert, as the stalks of rhubarb.”

The introduction of this definition may have been the ‘Perry Mason’ moment of the trial. Luckily for the successful defendant, the Supreme Court had addressed a similar issue in the 1893 case *Nix v. Heddon*.

Botanically, tomatoes are seed-bearing fruit. Despite that scientific fact, the Supreme Court held that tomatoes are, for tariff purposes, vegetables because they are more likely to be eaten with dinner than as dessert. Applying similar logic, the Customs Court noted that rhubarb is generally used in pie or as a sauce. When served as a sauce, it is similar to cranberry or apple sauce rather than as a true vegetable sauce. Thus, the chief use of rhubarb is as a fruit and it was classified accordingly. So there you have it. Undoubtedly this was both-  
ering you and so it’s great to sort it out.

PS Rhubarb originates from Siberia and is known to be a very hardy, frost-resistant plant. It is best grown in full sun and can stay in position for up to ten years. The soil immediately surrounding the plant can’t be dug.

If you are interested in these topics / types of discussions, there is a Facebook page where we go into a lot of this type of stuff. It is called Speldhurst Allotmenters & Gardeners and the web address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/305824050847755>.

Hope to see you there.

And finally:

1. If you are interested in acquiring an allotment and doing your bit grow your own food and save our planet, please contact Mark Oddy on 01892 862746.
2. If there is any topic you would like to address relating to matters gardening or horticultural, please send an email to [kytehouse@stepex.co.uk](mailto:kytehouse@stepex.co.uk).
3. If you would like to submit something for this article, please also email it to [kytehouse@stepex.co.uk](mailto:kytehouse@stepex.co.uk).

Rob Kyte

# July & August 2023



## **2nd July**

- 10 am Communion  
10 am Online Worship available via  
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>  
6 pm Evensong

## **9th July**

- 10 am Morning Worship

## **16th July**

- 10 am Communion  
10 am Online Worship available via  
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

*During the summer holidays we will sometimes be using different venues for our services. Our theme this year will be "A Time of Change".*

## **23rd July**

- 10 am Summer Worship in the churchyard beginning with breakfast in the church

## **Saturday 29th July**

- 1 pm Wedding

## **30th July**

- 10 am Summer Worship on the rec starting with bacon sandwiches  
10 am Online Worship available via  
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

**6th August**

10 am All-Age Communion in church

**13th August**

10 am Summer worship in the allotment orchard

10 am Online Worship available via  
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

**20th August**

10 am Café Communion in the church

**Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th August**

St Mary's does Messy Camp @ Speldhurst School Field

**27th August**

10 am Summer Worship on the school field

10 am Online Worship available via  
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

**3rd September**

10 am All-Age Communion in church

**Wedding**

20th May Sebastian Marsh and Hannah Moon

**Funeral**

24th April Deborah Jane Roberts

**Funeral & Burial in Churchyard**

9th June Terence Ivan Clarke

The Church Office can be contacted on 861187 or [speldhurst.church@btinternet.com](mailto:speldhurst.church@btinternet.com)  
Normal office hours: 9am to 12.30pm

See our website: [www.speldhurstchurch.org](http://www.speldhurstchurch.org)  
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Library	Olive West	863234
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Mothers & Toddlers	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
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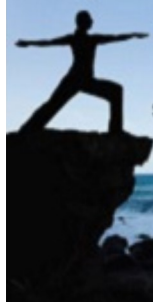
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