# **Speldhurst News**



**June 2022** 

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## **Welcome to June**

#### Dear Readers,

The Queens Jubilee celebrations look to be a spectacle at the beginning of the month - do enjoy the festivities wherever you are and however you are celebrating. Lets hope the sun shines for this and for the Village Fete on Saturday 18th June. Please remember to bring cash and cards along with you for all those crafts, plants and goodies not to mention all the delicious food and drink on offer! Attached to the magazine are raffle tickets and programme for the day.

We are still looking for help at the Speldhurst News so do volunteer your services by getting in touch with either myself on 07950 031424 or Derek on 863135 (see p.4). We would love to hear from you.

With our very best wishes,

Sara Turner For the Speldhurst News Editors: Sara Turner, Maria Turner & Abi Dawson

Please remember that copy for the **July/August edition** should be sent **before 10th June** to: 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

#### June

Mondays Fortnightly	Bumps & Babes	p.4
Monday pm	Library	p.17
Sat 4th	Penshurst Farmers Market	p.8
Mon 6th	Full Council Meeting	p.13
Weds 8th	Praise & Play	p.4
Sat 18th	Speldhurst Village Fete	p.11&15
Weds 22nd	Praise & Play	p.4

### Date for your diary

Sat 10th Sept Flower, Veg & Craft Show p.7

## **News & Announcements**

#### What's on in Speldhurst for the Under 5's in June

**Bumps and Babes** enable new Mums in the village to get to know each other. We meet in each other's homes on Mondays, fortnightly.

Do contact Jenny if you are interested in joining the group.

**Praise and Play**, St Mary's Toddler Group, meets in the church on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June** from 9 - 10.30 am. We have great fun playing with the toys, ringing the church bell and sharing story and song time together, ably assisted by Dani the puppet.

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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 <a href="mailto:jenny50fitz@gmail.com">jenny50fitz@gmail.com</a> so she can invite you along.

#### **Speldhurst News: News**

Our fabulous Editor, Abi, very sadly has decided to step back from editing duties at the magazine so her last Speldhurst News will be the September issue. So we are looking for a replacement - do contact us if you have some spare time and would like to be involved in any way. We would love to hear from you.

Please contact either Sara on 07950 031424 or Derek on 863135

## **Homes for Ukrainian Refugees**



Several families in the village have already registered their willingness to house refugees and the Church Council has decided that it would be highly beneficial for us as a church to register our interest.

- For the refugees they would know they were going to a community with other Ukrainians
- Extended families could be homed in close proximity with one another
- Host families would be supported by the wider church community

If you would like to participate through St Marys, would you let me know if you

- Have already registered with the government website
- Would like to do so now we propose working as a group
- Cannot offer a room but could offer your support of a host family by providing lifts, occasional meals or meeting some of the other needs of our guests
- Can donate financially to a fund held by the church to meet the needs of either hosting families or their guests
- Can help me organise this 2 heads are better than one.

Please email me on <a href="mailto:s.tegelaars@gmail.com">s.tegelaars@gmail.com</a>

With thanks, Stefanie Tegelaars

#### **Speldhurst Walking Footballers**

Men and women of all ages and abilities are welcome to join Speldhurst walking footballers. 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 meet at 7pm at the all-weather pitch on Speldhurst rec on Tuesday evenings.

Please call Brian Shilling if you would like any further information: 07940 013135



#### Bellringing for the Platinum Jubilee

It has been agreed nationally that a focus for collective bellringing should coincide with the Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's reign being held at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 3 June at 11.30am. We shall hope to ring Speldhurst Church bells at that time, but may have to ring at a different time depending on when ringers are available.



#### **BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET**



(first Saturday of every month except January)

SATURDAY 4 June 2022 10.00am – 12.30pm BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Meet your friends at "The Stage" café, enjoy filter coffee, tea and a piece of delicious homemade cake or a warm sausage roll!

Produce for sale at the market include: Bread, free range eggs, pasties and other baked savouries, cakes, scones, preserves, wild bird food, pottery, local cheeses, 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

# The Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September from 2.30pm

Whether you're a gardening enthusiast, keen crafter, dab hand in the kitchen or budding photographer there is something for everyone of all ages. Check out our Facebook page Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show or our website page <a href="http://speldhurst.org/contacts/34">http://speldhurst.org/contacts/34</a>







#### FARMERS' MARKET AT PENSHURST

#### Celebrate the jubilee weekend at Penshurst Farmers' Market with bunting, buns and bakes



Saturday 4th June 2022

9.30 am to 12.00 pm

Penshurst Place Visitor Car Park



Food and drink have always been at the heart of royal occasions and what better way to celebrate our Queen's seventy years on the throne this June than with a menu based around all the finest locally produced food and drink?

Whether it's for a picnic, street or village party or barbecue, at the market you'll find all you need to party. Our stallholders have come up with special treats and surprises to help you do so in style. Local asparagus, grass-fed beef, fish and seafood fresh up from Hastings, celebration cakes, sausage rolls, pink fizz, craft ciders and award winning cheeses are just some of the items to put in your basket.

Plan your visit to make the most of the many events taking place around Penhurst village over the weekend and you will be sure to have a great day out.

Parking is plentiful, free and close by and you can pick up snacks and drinks from the Porcupine Pantry at Penshurst Place.

! Date for your diary - don't miss our July market which takes place on Saturday 2nd July, same time same place!



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram WWW.kfma.org.uk/penshurst

#### **Nature Watch**

There has been a lot of news about the decline in the insect population from the Kent Wildlife Trust and Bug life. Below I have made a few suggestions how we can all help to redress the balance.

#### **Biodiversity**

Ditch pesticides and herbicides. These are the greatest threat to insects. Leave areas of grass long where possible for grasshoppers and wild flowers for bees and other pollinators.

Make homemade compost. Compost heaps are good for slow-worms and also for beetles, woodlice and for adding to the soil to feed it naturally. Worms love it.

Single flowering plants are best for pollinators, so plant insect loving flowers and shrubs which carry berries for birds and mammals.

Leave winter clearing in the garden until February. Many insects and their eggs spend the winter in dead stems. Make insect hotels, bird and bat boxes and boxes for kestrels and owls if the area is large enough, log piles for invertebrates, toads and reptiles perhaps a hedgehog hotel.

Bramble patches have flowers that are good for insects and butterflies. The berries are eaten by birds, mice and voles. They are also good for nesting birds and the leaves are eaten by caterpillars even in winter. If you have a fence and the grass grows right up to it leave the grass and plants long, to create a wildlife corridor for small mammals, slow-worms and insects to move safely along.

Mulch shrubs with compost to retain moisture and blackbirds love to hunt in the leaves and compost for worms and woodlice, beetles etc.

The image is of a Mother Shipton moth. This day flying moth can be found in fields or gardens with a good area of wild flowers.

Alan Ford



#### What's On This Summer

#### **Early Bird Bookings**

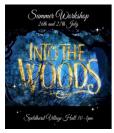
We're offering bookers a special rate of £17 an hour for parties booked to start before 11am on a Saturday or Sunday. This offer is only available for bookings taking place during June, July and August and is subject to availability.

#### Seeking a Handyman / lady

The Hall would love to hear from you if you are looking for a few hours paid work a week. This would suit someone retired who wants to potter and keep busy. Whilst we get contractors in to do the big jobs, we need a handyman / lady to help with day-to-day maintenance.

#### **Summer Workshops**

We are hoping to have a summer to remember at the Hall and already have some wonderful workshops to tempt you! As the nursery is closed for the summer do get in touch if you want to run a holiday club – art, crafts, dance, drama, music, football, multisport are all great activities to run at the Hall.



# The Drama Club Summer Workshops are back! 26th and 27th July 10-3pm

Our theme this year is "Into The Woods" by Stephen Sondheim. This is a beautiful musical that intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales with songs and scenes from Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Baker, Rapunzel, and Cinderella, there is something for everyone.

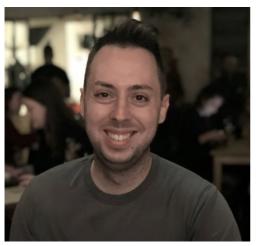
We will be exploring this incredible show through movement, music and scene work, leading towards a sharing of some songs, monologues and duologues for the parents. Children will be allowed to choose whether they focus on scene work or songs for the sharing. So every child will be allowed to play to their strengths. We are so excited to be bringing this magical story to The Drama Club this summer and really hope you can join us. Places are £75 for two days, £7.50 an hour or £60 for sibling places. All places include a drama club goody bag and a chance for the parents to come and see their child's work. Please message or email <a href="mailto:acting@bethanwalker.com">acting@bethanwalker.com</a> to book.

As always, contact Sam Van Niekerk on 07894 903979 or <u>speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com</u> if you need to get in touch.

We are pleased to enclose raffle tickets for the Speldhurst Fete Grand Draw, in this month's magazine. Ticket stubs and payments can be returned to Northleigh Cottage on Barden Road, or brought to the Fete on the day. Additional tickets can be purchased in the Speldhurst Community Shop. Prizes this year include the following: £200 Cash Prize Trinity Theatre, Family Ticket Groombridge Farm Shop, Seasonal Fruit and Veg box Peasant Farmers, "Win your height in Langton Bangers" London Nail Company, Treatment vouchers Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre, Voucher George and Dragon, Speldhurst The Kentish Hare, Langton Green Speldhurst Cricket Club, Free junior cricket coaching (5yrs -13yrs) Godstone Farm, Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) Razzamatazz Tonbridge, Four weeks free The Bread Smith, Voucher The TN Card, Annual Membership Sole Point Reflexology, Treatment voucher Waitrose, Gift bag A BIG thank you to all the local businesses that have donated prizes. The Grand Draw will be announced at 4pm on Saturday 18th June at the Speldhurst Fete. All proceeds go to the Speldhurst Recreation Ground & Village Hall You NEED to be in it to win it!



Our May meeting marked the end of Cllr Dave Pate's tenure as parish council Chair. We thanked Dave for his many contributions, from guiding the council



through ongoing covid restrictions, to mentoring our Clerk Katie during her first year in the role and showing continued commitment to road safety and crime prevention.

Our new Chair Cllr Paul Curry is a Speldhurst resident who joined the parish council in August 2021. He has already done great work in project-managing the installation of new defibrillators in the Parish, and, as an active member of the Highways Working Group, has become a Speedwatch Coordinator in Speld-

hurst. Paul is also a member of the Air Traffic and Planning Committees, and in his new role will be an ex-officio member of all other committees and working groups.

Paul moved to Speldhurst in 2015 and is leading a community initiative to bring gigabit fibre connectivity to Speldhurst village and surrounding areas. He enjoys executing projects which have a wide-scale impact for the community and gets hands-on by repairing the gates and fences in the local park in his spare time.

Paul is a Software Engineer for a major online publisher, with extensive experience in the consumer connectivity and media industries. He enjoys lessusual travel and experiences, having visited Chernobyl twice and climbed a wind turbine! Read more about Paul on our website.

We are also thrilled that Cllr Katrina Lyle will continue as Vice-Chair. Katrina has been an excellent support to the Chair during the past year and her experience will be invaluable to Paul as he begins his new role.

#### SPC Planning Committee – be our eyes on the ground

Did you know you can play an important part in the decision-making process that relates to planning applications in Speldhurst parish? You can do this by commenting on any application that affects you, and there are two ways you can find out if a neighbour is planning work on their property. As you might have noticed, yellow planning notices are always posted at the site of application, and you can also get updates on current planning applications where you live by signing up to receive weekly emails from TWBC at the tunbridge-wells.gov.uk website.

Once aware of a neighbour's application, you can comment - whether to voice concern or show support — at the TWBC planning portal: <a href="https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/applications/search">https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/applications/search</a>

#### What happens next?

Once you've done your bit, the parish council - as a mandatory consultee - picks up the baton. Our Planning Committee meets monthly to consider any planning applications made in the previous four weeks. Before meeting, every committee member is allocated applications which they must look at in detail before de-briefing the rest of the committee. Everyone works hard on behalf of the community to give applications a thorough appraisal before the parish council agrees its final position. This includes factoring in those all-important comments left by you, the resident.

Our comment then goes before Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the responsible Planning Officer considers this when they decide whether to approve an application. While they aren't obliged to act on our recommendation, the more grounds we give for our position, the better. Again, it really helps when you have commented too, as you are likely to raise issues that only you as a neighbour are aware of.

Thank you for being our eyes on the ground! And remember, if you need help entering your comments, please call us on 01892 862927.

#### **Public Meetings**

<u>Full Council Meeting</u> 7.30pm, Monday 6 June, committee room, Speldhurst Village Hall. *Please book your seat in advance.* 

#### HOW TO CONTACT THE COUNCIL OFFICE

Call the Clerk, Katie Neve on 01892 862927/07760 769513 or email clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

For helpful info, visit <a href="www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> to sign up for alerts, or follow 'Speldhurst Parish Council' on Facebook.

# News from Cllr Matthew Sankey

Wow Speldhurst, just wow -1 must be honest; I was blown away by your support on May the  $5^{th}$ . We achieve the highest turnout in the borough, by some margin and the ballot box in the village hall was by far the fullest it's ever been. Thank you for your support, but now the hard work begins.

#### The political landscape has changed

After 23 years of conservative administration, that in my opinion lead to complacency and poor management has come to an end. On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> a "Coalition of Equals" was formed. A cabinet formed based on the abilities and natural talent from our Alliance party, The Labour Party & The Liberal Democrats. In addition, the traditional "portfolios" have been torn up and new more relevant ones created – It's a new dawn here at TWBC, and I'm really excited about what we can achieve.

In addition to the new portfolios are "champion roles". These roles are brand new and again tailored to those elected members so the residents get the very best out of those who have been elected to represent them. It would be daft for me to be the champion of housing or planning, however **Small, Independent & Hospitality Business Champion**, wells that's my day job!

As well as serving you in my ward directly I am going to open up the borough council to entrepreneurs, the council should be making Tunbridge Wells the centre of excellence for independent business, both new and existing. I know first-hand how hard it is to grow a business around here, in fact I did so despite feeling the council was working against me. I shall keep you updated with the changes I am making as we progress.

#### Things to fix

The Cinema Site: Being elected again means I can now hold my "Meanwhile Use" policy by the hand and get it up and running so it can be an effective weapon against the property developers who blight our town with grot spots. The end is coming on this!

Parking: We will be operating at the very least, a free parking trial in Tunbridge Wells town centre. But this must be done in a measured way; parking revenue is still an important income to the council. However, we need to encourage people back into our town centres and compete with Bluewater and Brighton. We need to reduce the amount of circulating traffic, we all do it. We circle round the town looking for the 2hr free spots, instead of just going to the big carparks to save £2. In doing this we also need to ensure that we don't accidentally encourage unnecessary short journeys over public transport or cycling/walking.

**Financial Scrutiny & Transparency:** These are the rather duller aspects of the job, however not having proper scrutiny over our councils' finances is what's got us into the trouble we are in today. The council not being transparent with these issues has made the matter even worse. Our administration will offer the opposition party the chance

to scrutinise everything we do officially and properly, by offering them the chair of the Overview and Scrutiny committee something they refused to allow us, despite it obviously being the best value for the borough and residents.

**Listening:** This is our village, our town & our council. I promised you I would listen to you and ultimately be held accountable to you. I would like you to be able to speak to me about any ideas you have, no matter how daft you might think they are. I am your connection to TWBC, please use me. My email and the emails of your other councillors are below.

Your Borough Councillors

	Contact Details	
Cllr Matthew Sankey (Alliance)	07881 674 310 matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2022
Cllr Lucy Willis (Alliance)	07958 634 185 lucy.willis@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2023
Cllr Harry Allen (Conservative)	07523 005 178 harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2025

Matthew Sankey - June 2022



The Fete Committee are very pleased to be announcing that the 2022 Village Fete is definitely going ahead! With it just around the corner it seems like a good time to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Fete

Committee: "Hello, my family and I have lived in the village for a few years now, with our children at the village school – I myself have connections going back decades having grown up in the local area.

We have a fabulous team of experienced and fresh faces on the team here, and we are so looking forward to throwing a wonderful celebration day for the whole village. Familiar favourite attractions will all be present, with the additional bonus of commemorating the Queen's Jubilee year, and simply enjoying the freedom to get together as a community.

We've got a whole selection of small stalls including local crafts, and young entrepreneurs so please bring cash and cards to make the most of their offerings.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>"

Mike Harrowing Chair of the Fete Committee





Call us on 863158



Our new signs have arrived! Our coffee machine has been very busy with some new trade, dishing out Cappuccinos, Americanos and a delicious Hot Chocolate. Our flag is also bringing in passing trade through the village that were unaware there was even a shop there.

As holidays are approaching don't forget the Post Office offers a whole host of services, not just post, parcels and cash withdrawals. We sell travel insurance and preloaded currency cards for your holiday money.

You can order currency on the Post Office website and pick it up from Speldhurst too.

Jo Maclean from Wine Savvy has been busy refreshing our wine selection. This new Rose is delicious... just in time for those longer evenings in the sunshine. Soft fruits are beginning to drift into the shop as the weather warms up, the strawberries have been amazing so far. We have all of your barbeque necessities ready for you in the shop, don't forget to look in the freezer, there's always a pack of Peasant Farmer hog burgers ready for a Groombridge Bakery bun.

Would you like to volunteer at the shop? Please contact Jo Eames on 07896 932716.





Speldhurst' Community Shop and Post Office Fresh bread from Groombridge and Rusbridge Bakeries, fresh veg from David Catt, meat from Southborough Butchers all available for order

Newspapers and magazines, general provisions, cards and gifts Dry cleaning and laundry Coffees and cakes **Opening hours** 

Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm (Post Office 9am to 5pm) Saturday 8am to 12pm (Post Office 9am to 12pm) Sunday 8am to 11am (no Post Office)

Please call us on 01892 863158 for any orders, or just a question! Jo Eames for volunteering 07896 932716



## Speldhurst Library is open

Come and visit us at the Village Hall on Monday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm









## **Speldhurst CEP School News**



Pupils are on top of the world at Speldhurst Primary, because of a new sporting opportunity — a climbing wall. 'Climbing is now an Olympic sport which builds confidence that transfers to other areas of their lives — and good health." says Andrew Vale-Taylor who co-ordinates PE provision at Speldhurst. He is keen to offer a wide range of sporting opportunities to engage all pupils in physical activi-



ty, even those who are not particularly keen on traditional sport. "We focused our first lessons on climbing techniques and all the children did brilliantly."

Meanwhile back on the playing field, the older girls' and boys' football teams from Years 5 and 6, excelled this season, remaining unbeaten at the time of going to press. Meanwhile the younger girls' team from years 3 and 4 succeeded in reaching the final in the local tournament. We are excited to see how they get on!

As we move into long hazy days of summer and the evocative sound of 'wood on willow', the younger children in Jazz and Galaxy Gala classes had a visit from Francis Booth of Speldhurst Cricket Club who introduced them to the joys of the game with a taster session of 'Rapid cricket'. The hope is that as well as playing in school, they will join the Club's All Star programme over the next few months. Tennis has also taken centre stage and Empire class ended last term with a series of matches after working hard on their individual skills below.



Back in school, reception children in Pippin class have an 'eggciting' term in store following the start of their new topic, 'Let it Grow'! The reception children are keeping a close eye on 10 chicken eggs from a local farm which are expected to hatch in 21 days as they follow through the stages of the chick's development inside the shell with plastic



There was another opportunity to dress up in Galaxy Gala class with their topic 'Under the Sea' where the Year 3 children created sea animal artwork using the trencadis technique of the Spanish artist Gaudi and made an imaginative effort with their costumes.

models. They are also learning about farm life and as you will see from the photo, the children loved getting into character.





Empire class also used their creative skills time travelling back to the Stone age, making models as part of their history topic, whilst older pupils in Bramley Class made a start on their new topic about the Romans by asking 'What did the Romans ever do for us?' The answer it seems, is quite a lot!

Apologies last month for the absence of my usual update but like many at the time I had covid and wasn't well enough to write anything for the deadline. However the evidence is all around us that life is returning to normal. And nowhere is it more evident than in school where finally we were able to invite parents into the classroom for the first time since the pandemic imposed so many restrictions on our lives. It was wonderful to see the parent and children enjoying their time together, sharing work and books, learning and success. And thankfully in Galaxy Gala – an imaginative lesson which involved writing letters to persuade 'the chairs involved in a walkout' to return to the classroom (these inanimate pieces of furniture we sit on had been removed)

This English exercise in persuasion produced some convincing and successful pieces of work – so the chairs were back in class in time for the parents open

pieces of work — so the chairs were back in class in time for the parents open day! Nothing like a practical demo of how 'the pen is mightier than the sword' to focus the mind!

Communications Governor Sara Andrew



## ~ Allotment News ~



A Slimy Issue

Slug pellets were banned on 31 March this year. Many may say 'about time too'!

I must admit to having been unsure that slugs have any positive purpose in life. The following comment by Charles Dowding caught my eye; 'except in extreme weather, slugs do not randomly eat any old (or young plant), because their role is to recycle decaying and weak leaves'. There I was thinking that their role was to wind me up - but apparently not.

The John Innes web site specifies that there are approximately 40 species of slug currently found in the UK, with only a small number of these considered as pest species. It adds, 'it has been estimated that these pest species cause approximately £8 million in damage to agricultural crops each year'.

Apparently, there are four common slugs that cause damage.

**Garden Slug** (Arion hortensis): The common garden slug is the smallest of the slugs that infest home gardens, but it attacks plants both above and below the ground.

**Field Slug** (Deroceras reticulatum): The second-smallest garden slug is an above -ground feeder with a voracious appetite. Field slugs are particularly fond of leafy vegetation, and are often found nestled inside the leaves of lettuces or cabbages.

**Keel Slug** (Tandonia budapestensis): Ever wonder what happened to all your tulip bulbs, or what ate your potatoes while they were still in the ground? The culprit may have been a keel slug.

**Black Slug** (Arion ater): Growing up to 200 mm (8 inches) long, the black slug is the granddaddy of all garden slugs.

But there is also one that is making a real 'pest' of itself. This is the Spanish slug (Arion vulgaris) – well named, because it looks horrendous. Nicknamed killer slugs, they have a voracious appetite.

Slugs are so abundant in gardens we are compelled to accept that some damage has to be tolerated. They cannot be eradicated. So what can be done about these persistent creatures?

Here are some options we could consider:

Charles Dowding helpfully refers to managing slugs in terms of keeping plants healthy and adding debris (compost) to the surface of the unsung soil that slugs

don't like sliding over. Barriers, thought to repel slugs, include rough or sharp textured mulches and substances thought to be distasteful or strong smelling. Others refer to making sure there is little decaying foliage close to the ground as snails and slugs hide away in this debris during the winter. In a somewhat contrary manner to that, others talk about leaving plant debris in neat piles in the borders. These heaps provide shelter for hedgehogs (if only we were to see one), frogs, toads and slow worms which eat slugs.

Birds – namely ducks, chickens, thrushes and blackbirds eat slugs. Though chickens and ducks will also polish off many of your plants – particularly vegetables – so perhaps these are not to be recommended just for slug control. Badgers eat them too (and hedgehogs).

A biological control ('Nemaslug') specific to molluscs, with no adverse effect on other types of animal, is available in the form of a microscopic nematode or eelworm that is watered into the soil. The nematodes (Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodite) enter slugs' bodies and infect them with bacteria that cause a fatal disease.

A night time torchlight search on a mild evening – because they are active at night and especially when the weather is damp – will reveal slugs out and about; doing mischief in the garden that can be hand-picked into a container, squished, salted or placed in the freezer (which will kill them).

Traps can be placed in the garden. Options include scooped out half orange, grapefruit or melon skins (which slugs will slink under) or containers part-filled with beer (better still lager as slugs are lager louts) and sunk into the soil near vulnerable plants. Proprietary traps are also available from garden centres and mail order suppliers

But despite all these measures, there are still so many slugs.

Who is winning!?!?!

I know that slugs are God's creatures and that we should love them - but I'm still struggling with the thought of that. Perhaps I would love them more if they would crawl off to someone else's allotment or garden.

And finally:

If you are interested in acquiring an allotment, please contact Mark Oddy on 01892 862746.

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.

If you would like to submit something for this article, please also email it to kytehouse@stepex.co.uk.

#### **Speldhurst Chapel**

We had a tremendous turnout of around 85 for the recent open meeting about the future of the Chapel. Thank you to everyone who came along and to those who sent apologies.

A show of hands by those present indicated a very high level of support to save the Chapel and site for the village.

A high level concept was discussed consisting of moving Speldhurst Community Shop and Post Office to the site, introducing a café, and also incorporating a community room to enable the numerous village activities and events previously held at the Chapel, and new ones, to continue.

For those not able to attend, a copy of the slides presented that evening can be requested from **speldhurstchapelproject@gmail.com** 

#### What's next?

To take this forward we are looking for people with enthusiasm, and available time to be part of a team progressing the various workstreams required to turn this dream into reality. If you feel you have some specific skills suited for the task ahead, all the better - but please do NOT let that put you off getting involved.

#### What do we need to do?

Engagement - build on the support indicated at the open meeting by maintaining communication with the whole community to confirm and encourage broad support for the project, including volunteering support.

The Building - develop plans and costings to turn the building and site into an attractive shop, cafe and community room. Seek planning permission. As those at the meeting will know, we already have a local architect who has kindly offered to help.

The Finance - identify and apply for funding, from various sources outside and inside the village.

The Business Plan - develop a business plan confirming a sustainable and viable long term future for the project, to support funding applications. Everything else - countless other things which haven't been thought about yet!

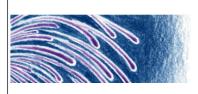
#### Could this be you?

It's a chance to get involved with a project that could create something of which Speldhurst, and the people who make it happen, could be proud. And meet some new people in the process.

We would love to hear from you at <a href="mailto:speldhurstchapelproject@gmail.com">speldhurstchapelproject@gmail.com</a></a>

Drop us a line and together let's make it happen!





# June 2022



5th June

11 am Communion

12th June

10 am Morning Worship with Baptisms10 am Online Worship available via

http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst

19th June

10 am Communion

26th June

10 am All-Age Worship

10 am Online Worship available via

http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst



**Baptisms** 

10th April Ava Emma Sophia Buchanan 24th April Ayla Asher Heather Gupta

The Church Office can be contacted on 861187 or speldhurst.church@btopenworld.com
Normal office hours: 9 am to 12.30 pm

See our website: <a href="www.speldhurstchurch.org">www.speldhurstchurch.org</a>
St Mary's Facebook page:
facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/

#### A Letter from St Mary's

June 2022

Dear fellow villagers,

As our Rector Douglas Wren is on sabbatical, he has asked a few of us to cover for him in his absence during the next three months. We were so pleased to see so many families at the Newcomers party in the village hall in March and I thought that I might take the opportunity to tell you a little about St Mary's.

Our church is Victorian, built in 1871. However there have been churches on the site for over 900 years. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the old church was replaced by a locally quarried sandstone church in the Gothic style. By 1415 the church had fallen into disrepair and was replaced courtesy of Sir Richard Waller. This church lasted 370 years until destroyed by fire. 65 years later a poorly built replacement had all but collapsed and was once again replaced by the church you see today. Visitors come from far and wide to see our Burne-Jones windows. The church enjoys a colourful history but we are more than a historical monument. The church today is about growing the love of Jesus in our community. St Mary's aims to be integral to village life, welcoming to all. Lock-down on-line worship enabled us stay in touch and to develop new ways of worship. This more relaxed style is now reflected in the way that we worship in church.

On Sundays we have traditional services at 8am and intergenerational services at 10am. Our many children are catered for with fun Bible related activities. We have Bumps and Babes every fortnight and Praise and Play Toddlers Group on Wednesdays. About 90 people attend Homegroups. There are groups for walking, badminton, musicians, golfers, bell ringers, runners and many other activities. Occasionally there is a big breakfast in the church between the Sunday services. We are an inclusive church open to all comers. Come and see! For more information: <a href="https://speldhurstchurch.org/">https://speldhurstchurch.org/</a>

#### Tony Joyce (Deputy Church Warden)



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Brownies	Louise Scott	862972			
Bumps and Babes	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200			
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Shop: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm; Sat 8-12; Sun 8-11 Post Office: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9-12; Sun Closed

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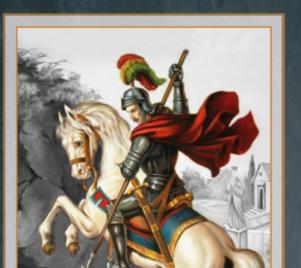
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