

Speldhurst News



July/August 2024

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Welcome

Dear Readers

Welcome to the July/August edition of the magazine! Where has the year gone not to mention a summer! I sincerely hope by the time you read this we are enjoying some warmer weather!

Just a bit of housekeeping to remind everyone to pay their yearly subscription to the magazine. It would be much appreciated to receive a £5 note and not too many coins! We will be collecting subs in April next year to round off the financial year.

Thank you to Matthew Pate for the superb shot for the cover of the magazine do keep sending any pictures through to us, as well as any news items. If you run a local business and would like to let our readers know about your services do contract e.roughley222@btinternet.com or give him a call on 01892 863222 to discuss advertising with us.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in September!

Sara

News Editors: Maria Turner, Sara Turner, Judith Malim

Please remember that copy for the **September 2024 edition** should be sent **before 10th August 2024** 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

July

Mondays	Library 2-4.30pm	
Mondays	Bumps and Babes	p.4
Wed & Fri	Praise & Play	p.4
Mon 1st	Full Council Meeting SPC	p.9

August

Mon 5th	Full Council Meeting SPC	p.9
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September

Sat 7th	Speldhurst Flower Show	p.7
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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 10.30am. Contact Jenny for more information.

Praise and Play, St Mary's Toddler Group, meets weekly (in term time) on a Wednesday and a Friday from 9am.

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 so she can invite you along.

SPELDHURST NEWS **EDITOR REQUIRED**

Would you like to be part of a team of Editors who voluntarily produce this magazine? If you have an interest in the community and would like to get involved please contact either:

Maria 01892 863394/07753 322550
Judith 01892 864268/07966 024860

We would love to speak with you and explain more about the role

Thank you to the village for putting on another wonderful fete!

It is my hope that as you are reading this the lovely summer climate has removed any memory of the horrendous weather we had at the fete this year - It was only 24 hours ago as I write now - and I hesitate to remind you of it – but it was extraordinarily challenging, with high winds threatening many of the tents, and flooding in various parts of the field. Saturday morning's set up was A LOT to deal with, and I really appreciate the help from so many in securing the area, and all your patience with the slow start.

Everything came together in the afternoon for a bright and breezy day (and evening) of fete fun, with the tea ladies' cakes (sold out!) and the wheel of fortune proving to be big hits; I feel so very happy to have the privilege of being part of such a fantastic village event.

There are so many people to thank and recognise in putting the fete together – and too many that I yet have failed to thank in person, but I really can't go without recognising the huge effort of two people in particular: Claire Fox and Neil Mockett. Both turned up and got stuck in through Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Claire even going to the extra mile of fuelling everyone with cake, whilst Neil and must have soaked through at least 5 outfits! Both get my vote as village heroes! Also huge thank you to Lizz from 'The Mucky Hound' doggy daycare who stepped in to compere our ever-popular 'Fido-at-the-Fete' Dog Show.

We introduced a couple of new ideas this year including reusable cups at the bar, and tokens instead of money for lots of the activities - which seemed to go down well with everyone, but I am keen to hear what you thought, and if you have any ideas of your own to share. You can get in touch with us through Facebook and email (speldhurst.f8@gmail.com). We also have plans afoot for a fete logo redesign, so watch this space!

We will publish final figures of the amount raised in Autumn, but for me at this moment, the sheer joy of getting to come together with you all for the day means I'm counting it as another great success!

Mike Harrowing

Chair of the Fete Committee

PS: DATE FOR NEXT YEARS FETE IS 21ST JUNE 2025

Photo credit: Judith Malim of 'Ruby' - 3rd Place in the 'Prettiest Girl' category



God's Story - Where do we fit in?

St Mary's welcomes you to learn more about God's Story during our summer services.

We'll be doing things a bit differently during the summer although, as usual, all will start at 10am and end with coffee/tea and something nice to eat.

This year we will be meeting in various locations each Sunday:

28th July : The allotment orchard (bring a chair)

4th August: A garden off Shadwell Lane (bring a chair)

11th August: St Mary's church

18th August: Speldhurst Primary school hall

25th August: Speldhurst recreation ground near the cricket pavilion (bring a chair)

31st August/1st September: The Big Church Camping Weekend on Speldhurst School field. For more details please email the church office (speldhurst.church@bopenworld.com)



Everyone welcome.

More details will be available nearer the time on Facebook, posters at the entrance to St Mary's, and on our website (speldhurstchurch.org) but if you have any questions in the meantime, please email speldhurst.church@bopenworld.com



The Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show will be held on Saturday 7th September from 2.30pm.

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>



Speldhurst Allotments Available Now!

If you are interested in acquiring an allotment and doing your bit to grown your own food and save our planet, 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



NEWS FROM SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL POLICE OFFICER

The recently appointed neighbourhood Police Officer for our parish is PC Lisa Whitehead. The best way to contact Lisa with any non-urgent issues you would like to speak about is through the My Community Voice messaging service, which helps residents, businesses, and community groups keep in touch with their local policing teams.

Any message you send will go directly to Lisa, and she will follow up. This messaging facility is useful if you have noticed issues such as an increase in anti-social behaviour and want to stay in touch with Lisa about what you have seen. Please be patient if you do not receive an immediate reply, Lisa's shift patterns do not always allow for a same-day response. Sign up for My Community Voice at:

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk>

Please do not use My Community Voice in an emergency - you should always dial 999 if you need an urgent response.

Lisa also advises that if you want to report a non-urgent crime that you think still needs police attendance, you should call 101. Alternatively, you can visit the Kent Police website:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/>

If you don't have access to the internet, and no one to help you with this, you are welcome to contact the parish council for assistance (our contact details are on the next page).

🌿 TIME FOR A TRIM? 🌿

Does the hedge at the front of your house border the pavement? If the answer is yes, this is a gentle reminder to schedule a hedge trim if you haven't already, so your neighbours can safely use the pavement. This is particularly important on narrow paths, where overgrown hedges can force people with pushchairs or mobility aids into the road.

POCKET PARK NEWS



Thanks to funding from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sussex Lund (part of High Weald Organisation) we now have a noticeboard at Pocket Park, which we have updated with lots of information about our biodiversity project, and the wildflowers and wildlife you can spot in the park. There are also tips from our local expert, Alan Ford, about

encouraging biodiversity in your own garden.

One flower not yet featured on our noticeboard is the Yellow Rattle. This has just popped up in the rewilded area and, according to the Wildlife Trust, is good at helping turn grassland back into meadow. It also provides food for rare moth algae. We have tried to make our noticeboard accessible to adults and children alike and would love you all to visit the park during the summer months, read about what we have been up to, and take a photo of anything you find interesting! Photos can be emailed to us at admin@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk.



FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS – EVERYONE WELCOME

7.30 pm, Monday 1st July, Ashurst Village Hall

7.30 pm, Monday 5th August, Committee 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
- For helpful information, visit www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk



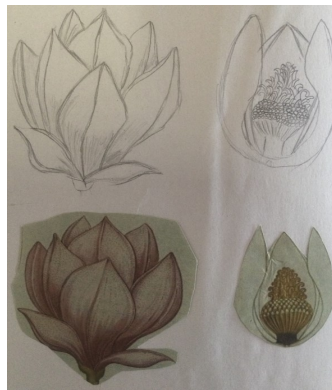
Reception pupils were joined by the cutest of new class members last term – some lovely fluffy chicks. Every year Pippin class hatch eggs in an incubator as part of their exploration of their 'Ready, Steady, Grow' topic. Ten eggs were incubated and after three weeks, the children were able to watch the first chicks hatch over a 48-hour period.



It is living education which I am sure the children will never forget and they enjoyed helping care for the chicks. But this isn't the end of the story. The school is now looking for forever homes for any more chicks that hatch including silky crosses which live up their name with their beautiful silky feathers, and mini chickens which are like normal hens but much smaller. If you don't have much space these may be perfect for you. Please

contact the School if you are interested.

Surrounded by beautiful countryside as we are, the natural world is a never-ending source of hands-on education and this term, inspired creativity and art. Year 3 children in Bramley class focused on flora, spending time making careful observations of a number of pieces of work from Katie Scott's Botanicum postcard collection. Using sketching techniques developed in class, each pupil created their own wall-paper design in the style of this contemporary botanical artist and illustrator.



Meanwhile some other talented pupils were selected to show-case a more physical creativity. Speldhurst parent and dance teacher, Holly McGrogan took some amazing young dancers to compete in a dance festival at the Stag theatre, Seven-oaks. They were the youngest there but some of the best, with big smiles on their faces at all times whilst their good behaviour backstage was a credit to the school and to their parents.

Parents play such a key role in our School community and a big thank you to the fabulous PTA who raise so much money, often for important resources such as new i-pads as well as towards capital projects like the new kitchen building.

A recent event was a Family Fun day which gave a perfect opportunity for school families to get together, picnicking and relaxing in the Schools beautiful grounds with plentiful food & drink on offer. There was a fantastic array of activities to keep the children amused from arts and crafts (photo below is the calm before the creative storm), face painting and fun inflatables. A special mention to Becky Willis and her team who organised, yet again – a fantastically fun and successful fund-raising event.

The School is also fortunate in having so many links to the past in the area and as



part of their topic 'Magnificent Monarchs' Year 2 pupils in Galaxy Gala class visited Penshurst Place. They learnt about the history of the House, focusing on its links with King Henry VIII, King Edward VI and Queen Elizabeth I. The children studied royal Tudor portraits and then went on a walk and mini-hunt in the woods in search of present-day micro-inhabitants. Very different from Henry VIII

who used Penshurst Place as a hunting lodge in pursuit of deer and wild boar! Finally another appeal. Is there anyone interested in helping with the school crossing? This is a very important role, keeping children safe to and from school. (In my day it was the friendly face of the Lollipop person whom I'll always remember on my walk to my primary in Birmingham) Anyway if you think you have a few hours to spare please look at the advert below which was sent to us by David Weller Kent County Council's 'Safer Active Journeys officer'. Advert for a Relief School Crossing Patrol Officer The advert can be found at the following link: <https://recruitmenthub.solutions/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=10763>. All applications must be received online through this link but my contact details are available on the advert should anyone wish to discuss the role further. Hope you have a lovely summer....and the weather is kind to us!

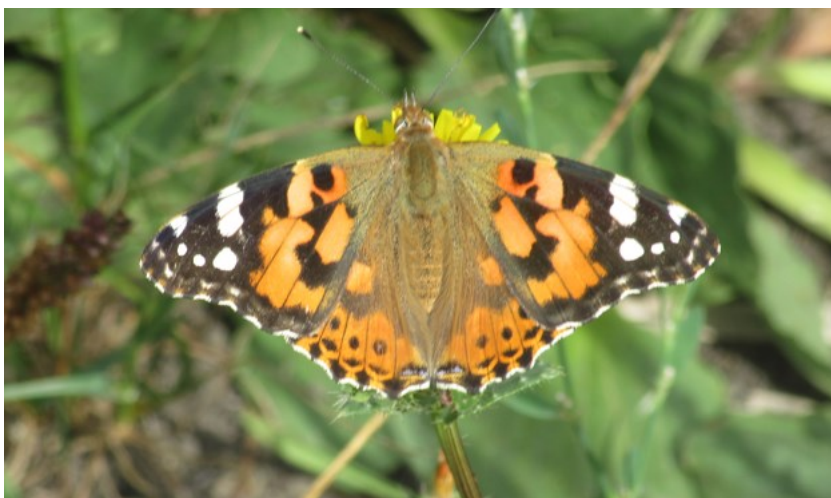
Sara Andrew, Communications Governor.



Nature Watch

At Knepp farm in West Sussex this year they have had 14 pairs of White Storks nesting. This will mean we shall see a lot more of them flying around in the years to come. It can take up to 4 years before they are old enough to breed. There are also a few at Wadhurst Park which is part of the same reintroduction scheme. The Painted lady Butterflies have arrived into our area (see picture below). They migrate to the UK every year as they cannot survive our cold wet winters. The species originates from North Africa and it is said that the urge to migrate North is triggered by overcrowding at the starting point where the caterpillars eat all the food plants so they decide to follow the sun as it moves North over Europe to arrive on our shores. It is the only Butterfly to be recorded in Iceland and when the summer is over their offspring go back across the channel to Europe. It is a species where the eggs, caterpillars, pupa and adults can be found at the same timeslot in the summer. Its food plants over here are Thistles, Burdocks, Mallow and Common Nettle. They give them plenty to eat and build up their strength for the return trip. July is a good month for finding Butterflies. Go to Nature reserves on the North and South Downs for the Fritillaries Blues and Marbled Whites which should be in good numbers on a sunny day.

Alan Ford



Speldhurst Art Show 2025

Showcasing Speldhurst Talent!

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Contact us:

Di Drummond: Drummond.di@icloud.com

Maria Turner: mariamarianni63@gmail.com

We are also planning workshops and a
special section for under 18s

Look out for information about our 2025
show later this year in the Speldhurst
Magazine. Village Shop and Speldhurst
Website.



A Letter from St Mary's July/August 2024



Hi Everyone,

Isn't it cold? (Not to mention wet and very windy) I'm writing this the day before the fete and we've all been watching the weather forecast anxiously. Some of us have been praying and we have seen that wind speed drop by at least 6 and the rain pattern lessen slightly and sunshine increase slightly. Not much, but better and there is still time for prayer (although not by the time you read this).

I'm excited to see what tomorrow brings and I hope that with many other people I will be again thanking God for his goodness. Before I first started helping at St Mary's church 30+ years ago it wouldn't have occurred to me to pray for good weather but we started taking the Sunday Club camping and so it really mattered what the weather was like and so we prayed. We learnt very quickly that asking for straight sunshine was exhausting so we started asking for perfect camping weather – much better! One camp with young people had a night hike planned for the first evening. Most of them had come on their own – no one else from the same school – some Speldhurst, some Ashurst, 2 new to the village. The rain came down in sheets! So we lit a fire in the barn and had an evening of party games and I think it was the most amazing camp for the friendships made and the way they got on together from that point.

Obviously prayer is not just about the weather but it does help us to see that God cares about all aspects of our lives. God loves us unconditionally and loves to hear from us. Of course not every prayer is answered with a yes, sometimes we don't know what is best for us and sometimes we let stuff get in the way. If you'd like to know more about prayer do ask – it's exciting to see the creator of the universe at work in our lives.

May God bless all of you.

Sheila

Sheilaperkins123@gmail.com

July 2024



St. Mary's Church, Speldhurst | St. John's Church, Groombridge | St. Martin's Church, Ashurst

7th July

10 am

Morning Worship with Holy Communion at St Mary's Speldhurst

11am

Matins at St John's, Groombridge

14th July

10 am

Morning Worship at St Mary's, Speldhurst

11am

Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's, Groombridge

21st July

8 am

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Mary's, Speldhurst

10 am

Morning Worship with Holy Communion at St Mary's, Speldhurst

11am

Morning Worship at St Martin's, Ashurst

28th July

10 am

St Mary's Summer Service at the Allotment Orchards, Speldhurst

11am

Holy Communion (CW) at St Martin's, Ashurst

6 pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Speldhurst

Baptisms:

9th June

Tobias Luquez at St Mary's, Speldhurst

Sean Fishpool at St Mary's, Speldhurst

Carol Moulton St Mary's, Speldhurst



Weddings

5th May

Alex Bescoby & Emma Fox at St Mary's, Speldhurst

25th May

Jacques Dominican-Bird & Georgina Fenton at St Mary's, Speldhurst

The Church Office can be contacted on 01892 861187 / 07960296027 or

speldhurst.church@bopenworld.com

Normal office hours: 9 am to 12.30 pm

See our website: www.speldhurstchurch.org

St Mary's Facebook page: facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/



Allotment & Gardening News



Here's a thought...

We have more time-saving devices and technologies than have ever before existed. With ever more to come. Emails are faster than letters. Cars getting faster by the year. Washing machines, microwaves (or air fryers), dishwashers, ready meals, etc.

You get the idea. And yet, for a lot of our modern lives we are rushed off our feet. So many things we would do - if only we had the time.

In contrast, there's something about having an allotment or gardening that is the opposite of our modern lives. And that's what makes growing things so fulfilling. There aren't many time-saving devices (rotavators maybe - but not if you're 'no dig').

You can't hurry plant growth. There are no corners to cut. No technologies that make a cabbage grow faster. Or a strawberry taste sweeter. Or a lettuce crisper... etc.

Our plots and gardens are a different way of spending our time. A break in the mad rush. A place of tranquillity. In the case of the allotments, a place to meet. To socialise. Debate. Have fun in interpersonal exchange. Contrary to the clock. To the hustle and bustle. An antidote to much of our every day, week, month, year.

Nature experiences offer a solution to the feeling of time scarcity caused by contemporary lifestyles from the unique nature of human time perception, which is subjective and moulded by the experiences and environments in which we immerse ourselves.

It's not that we have a shortage of time. It's more that we have and inflict on ourselves an overload of everything else including deadlines, rush hour, traffic jams, appointments, etc.

By contrast, time on the allotment or spent in the garden is a replacement for that everything else with corresponding benefits in outdoor experience, patience, care, reduced stresses (unless you have a slug attack), enhanced health and well-being.

I know where I'll be early in July...on the allotments enjoying the summer social BBQ with my fellow allotmenters or anyone else who would like to join in. Care to join us?

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:

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.

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.

Events going on Locally

Open Gardens Rusthall

Sunday 7th July from 2-5pm

<https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/rusthall-open-gardens/>

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Editor

SPELDHURST VILLAGE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Age UK Lunch	Jan Mann	863931
Allotments	Mark Oddy	862746
Beavers	Jo Smith	518706
Bowls Club	Debbie Moon	861317
Bridge Club	Heather Hughes	863367
Brownies	Louise Scott	862972
Bumps and Babes	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
Cricket Club	Nick Coffin	07867 803121
Junior Cricket section	Francis Booth	07738474144
Cubs	Karol Leeves	531104
Flower Show	Iain Fenn	864908
Football: Speldhurst Rangers	Ollie Creees	07919467576
GP Surgery		863040
Guides	Sybil Oddy	862746
Library	Olive West	863234
Men on Wednesday	John Perkins	863239
Mothers' Union	Christine Baker	540793
Mothers & Toddlers	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
Nursery School		860557
Parish Council: Chair	Paul Curry	07515 938765
Vice Chair	Katrina Lyle	862070
Parish Clerk	Katie Neve	862927
Parish Councillors	Richard Ellery	864077
	Alan Rowe	863404
Police Community Support Officer	Gemma.Gilbert@kent.police.uk	
Primary School	Stephanie Hayward	863044
Rainbows	Alex Brown	
	speldhurstainbows@gmail.com	
Recreation Ground	Ed Wesson	07799 731247
Running Group	Paul Eames	07975 577630
Speldhurst Association of Men	Brian Tasker	862301
Snooker Club	Nick Fenton	864144
Speldhurst Art Exhibition	Maria Turner	863394
Speldhurst News Editors	Maria Turner	863394
	Sara Turner	863226
	Judith Malim	864268
Speldhurst News Advertising	Eric Roughley	863222

St Mary's Church Rector
Administrator

Rachael Foster

861187

Stoolball

Donna Burden

524793
07810 048599

Scouts

Nick Burgess

863362

Shop & Post Office

Jo-Anne Dekker

863158

Village Fete: Chair

Mike Harrowing

0772 5561154

Village Hall

Rachel Bourdin

07766 830303

Village Website

Miranda Hawkins

863601

Walking Group

Brian Tasker

862301

Opening Hours & Local Information

Buses

Timetables for bus 285 Speldhurst to
Tun Wells - Hams Travel 01580 879629
For info: <https://hamstravel.com/services>

George & Dragon PH:

Mon-Thurs & Sun midday to 10-00pm.
Fri & Sat midday to 11-00pm.
01892 338549

GP:

Mon - Fri 8am-6pm Tel: 01892 863040

Dispensary:

Mon - Fri 8.30am-1pm; 2.30-6pm
(dispensary calls 8.30-11.30 only)

Library (village hall):

Monday 2-4.30pm.

Shop:

Mon-Fri 7.30am-5pm; Sat 8-1pm; Sun 8-11

Post Office:

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9-1pm; Sun Closed

To advertise please contact Eric Roughley
Email: e.roughley222@btinternet.com
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Tues 11am-12pm



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Contact  
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07900 347 870  
[alicia@still-yoga.com](mailto:alicia@still-yoga.com)  
Instagram: [alicia\\_stillyoga](https://www.instagram.com/alicia_stillyoga)



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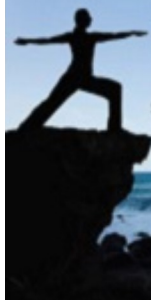
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