



Speldhurst News

October 2024

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Welcome & Contents

Dear Readers - we hope this finds you well. Our stunning front cover was generously given to us by Garrington South East. The weather in October can be very pleasant so my hopeful choice of front cover reflects my optimism. Plenty of news inside and don't forget if you want to voice your news or views, we welcome your emails at the address below.

Very best wishes

Maria

News Editors: Maria Turner, & Judith Malim

Please send emails before 10th October 2024 for the November Issue to: speldhurst.news@gmail.com. Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred.

Inside this month....

Diary at a Glance	2
What's On	3-8, 12 & 14
Borough Council Update	9
Speldhurst Chapel Project	10-11
Allotment News	13
Nature Watch	15
Speldhurst School News	16
Church Diary	18
Letter from St Mary's	19
Speldhurst Parish Council	20-21
Clubs & Organisations	22-23
Advertising	24-32

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

Diary at a Glance

October

Mondays	Library 2-4.30pm	
Mondays	Bumps and Babes	p.3
Wed & Fri	Praise & Play	p.3
Sat 5th	Blackham Village Market	p.5
	Tonbridge Music Club	p.12
Thurs 10th	Poppies Workshop	p.7
Sat 19th	Lifeboat Coffee Morning	p.3

November

Sat 9th	Bonfire Night	p.8
Sat 16th	Race Night	p.4
	Winter Market	p.4
Tues 26th	Sweet Trees Workshop	p.7

December

Sat 21st	Community Carol Service	p.5
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What's On

What's on in Speldhurst for the Under 5's in October

Bumps and Babies, the coffee morning for Mums with under 2's, meets this month on Mondays 7th & 21st October from 10.30am. We meet in each other's homes, so contact Jenny for more details if you are interested in joining this group or know of anyone who might be.

For a chance to socialise with other Under 5's families in the village, Praise and Play, St Mary's Toddler Group, meets in church every Wednesday from 9.30 – 11am and Friday from 9 - 10.30am. The children enjoy the toys, the ride-ons, the craft, the singing and the story and the opportunity to ring the church bell. Everyone is welcome – Mums, Dads, Grandparents, et al.

We won't be meeting in half term (30th Oct & 1st of Nov respectively).

Contact Jenny on 07891318123 or at jenny50fitz@gmail.com for more information

LIFEBOAT COFFEE MORNING

Please put SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER in your diary!

This is the date of our annual coffee morning to raise funds for our lifesaving work at sea, on rivers and inland waterways and on beaches. We will have Lifeboat Christmas cards, calendars and diaries for sale, together with our usual souvenirs and gifts. We will also be selling cakes, books, toys and a very fine selection of Bric a Brac. There will be a tombola and lots of colouring and activity sheets, badges and other freebies for our younger visitors. Please come and see us from 10 am until noon and enjoy free tea, coffee and biscuits.



Jan Pierce



Winter Market

**NOVEMBER 16TH 2024 2-5PM
SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

**FREE ENTRY
RASCALS PIZZA
KIDS TRAIL
HOT CIDER
CAKES
STALLS
GIFTS
RAFFLE PRIZES
AND SO MUCH MORE!**



**Super
events at
our
local
village
hall!**



RACE NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

**COME AND HAVE FUN AT OUR RACE NIGHT
AT THE SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL
AND HELP RAISE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO
SUPPORT THE CHAPEL PROJECT**

**Tickets just £10 including your
first drink and nibbles**

16 TH November 7:30 PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, SPEAK TO
MARTHA (07866 207068)
OR JULIE (07917 606542)**



ST MARY'S CHURCH

2024 COMMUNITY CHOIR CAROL SERVICE

Date: 21ST DECEMBER

Rehearsals: Every Friday starting 8th November at
7.30pm
in St Mary's

If you have a passion for singing, join us. No experience required and no auditions.

Contact: Heather Hughes: hhughes8dw@icloud.com



Blackham Village Market
SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER
10.00AM TO 12.15PM

*Coffee/Tea & homemade cakes
served from 10am*

*Lots of lovely produce for sale: homemade
pasties, cakes, scones, free range eggs, bread, bird
food, honey, handmade craft items and lots more*

SEE YOU THERE!

Yes, it's SHOEBOX season again!

Could you pack a shoebox (or two) this year?



Leaflets are available from St Mary's or the Community Shop/Post Office, where completed boxes can also be dropped off from the 11th – 16th November.

Also, we are again looking for volunteers to help process the thousands of boxes donated at our South East Processing Centre. Everyone is welcome, whether for just 2 hours one day, or all day every day!

For more information please contact Julie Pinnell on jkp3306@gmail.com, or call [01892 863300](tel:01892863300) or [07917 606542](tel:07917606542)



CALENDAR OF CRAFTS

All workshops held
here in Speldhurst



NORTHERN
LIGHTS

SEPT
17

OCT
10

RESIN
POPPIES



SWEET
TREES

NOV
26

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
JULIE ON 07917 606542 OR
EMAIL - GIFTSBYJULIEP@GMAIL.COM

Blackham Country Players
Are delighted to present
THE GRAND CHAM'S DIAMOND
(Then and Now)



Thursday 21st November
&
Friday 22nd November – 8.00pm

Tickets £10 to include interval
nibbles

Tickets please contact Rich on
07579 210122

Saturday 23rd November – 7.00pm
Special Gala Performance

In Collaboration with Blackham Village Hall
will include a 2-course supper to celebrate
the Hall's Centenary

Tickets £15


Tickets contact Rich on 07579 210122
or Ruth on 07890 303791

WELCOME

We're very pleased
to welcome Joyce
to the village on
Penshurst Road.

Anyone new to the
village? We'd love
to hear from you!





SPELDHURST

CEP SCHOOL PTA

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

4:30-6PM

**TICKETS ON SALE
11TH OCTOBER**

Buy yours at the school,
Speldhurst Community Shop
or scan the QR code



Borough Council update by Cllr Jayne Sharratt

In the summer I was lucky enough to sit down for a coffee with the editors of Speldhurst News in the George and Dragon. I say summer, but I walked there through a torrential downpour and spent much of my time dripping onto the stone floors and hoping that my coat might dry a little before I ventured out again. In many ways this feels like the story of the season – brief hopeful bursts of sunshine punctuated by an abundance of rain. It was fantastic to chat to Maria and Judith about the dedicated work they put into the magazine and the village, and they very kindly asked if I would write something to introduce myself to the community.



Thanks to the owner of this beautiful doggy—Jayne.

You probably know that Speldhurst is now part of a bigger Borough Council ward, along with Langton Green, Ashurst, part of Groombridge, and Rusthall. Three Councillors have been elected to represent this area and I am one of them, alongside Cllr Matthew Sankey, and Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan. Alex and I are very appreciative of the fact that you have been excellently represented by Matthew for a number of years, and that he knows Speldhurst like the back of his hand. We work collaboratively with Matthew and together we will always put service to the community first.

A little bit about me – I live in Rusthall with my two children who go to school locally. I'm the Editor of Rusthall Life and Langton Life magazines, and I'm passionate about supporting families in the community – I campaigned against the closure of the Children's Centre in Rusthall and helped set up a parent and toddler group. Since May, it has been a real delight to meet some of you at Praise and Play in the church, the Village Fete, Parish Council meetings, and out and about. I've still much to learn about the village, but what has been most abundantly clear from the beginning is that you have a strong community, and you look after each other – the Community Shop and Post Office project is just one example of you getting together to do this.

For more information about what services the Borough Council provides, have a look at the council website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk – I would especially recommend signing up to the weekly newsletter. If there is anything your councillors can do to help you, please get in touch with any of us. You can contact Matthew at matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk, Alex at alex.britcher-allan@tunbridgewells.gov.uk and my email address is Jayne.sharratt@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Speldhurst Chapel Project – Update



Hello dear reader, I'd like to introduce myself as I will be keeping you updated in the Speldhurst News over the coming months on the progress of the Community Shop and Post Office and its move to a permanent home at the Speldhurst Chapel site. With the support of Speldhurst Parish Council and the village, the move will be the beginning of a new chapter in the shop's history.

So where are we with the Chapel project?

Funding – thanks to some additional generous support in recent weeks we are now at £388,975, just a whisker short of our £400,000 target. We are still accepting subscriptions to the Community Share Offer – please contact us at speldhurstchapelproject@gmail.com if you would like to help in this way.

Purchase of the Chapel by Speldhurst Parish Council (SPC) – drafts of the lease between SPC and the shop Community Benefit Society are being reviewed with the aim to finalise as soon as possible. Once agreed, the purchase of the Chapel by SPC should be able to proceed.

Building works - We have received indicative quotes from 3 building firms and are aiming to finalise the selection of a builder in the next month or so.

Planning Permission – an application has been submitted, although we have been advised that it requires the submission of a Biodiversity Net Gain report before it shows as live on the TWBC planning portal. We are working on obtaining and submitting that report as soon as possible.

All being well, the purchase of the Chapel will complete in the next couple of months and work start on the Chapel in the first quarter of 2025.

A very big thank you to all of you who've already supported the fundraising and to the Parish Council who remain supportive to purchase of the Chapel using a Public Works Loan Board loan. It's wonderful to be able to keep such an important amenity which is much more than just a shop and Post Office. It is a social hub. Like many others, I never step inside without catching up with someone I know.

My relationship with the shop goes back to the Great storm of 1987 when as a young couple newly arrived in Speldhurst, my husband John and I had no power or communication for nearly 10 days after the hurricane. The Carters who ran the shop and Post Office at the time were very kind, giving us a small stove.

It meant that we could boil a kettle for a drink or hot water bottle and heat up a basic meal, a comfort in a house in darkness.

Later when my mother-in-law Helen moved from Stockport to the housing association flats in Ferbies, she visited the shop almost every day as it was difficult for her to get to a supermarket. Even then there was a limited bus service. In more recent years when my husband developed early onset dementia, he maintained some of his independence by walking up Barden Road daily to collect his newspaper and buy a chocolate bar or other goodie. Always he was treated with understanding, kindness and friendship.

After school my two girls would spend their pocket money on the brightly coloured loose sweets whilst on many occasions shop provisions saved me when I was short of milk, sugar or baking ingredients or I had nothing for supper. There are others who don't have transport to get to a supermarket, who rely on the shop. It's range of provisions is impressive and competitively priced – not to mention the best bread I have ever tasted and if you fancy a treat, wonderful cakes courtesy of Speldhurst's very own bakers, Baketastic. The downside for my purse is that I often go in for one or two items and come out with a bag full.

Since the lovely Anu retired five years ago and the community took over, the shop has been staffed by our wonderful volunteers and paid managers. The shop and Post Office couldn't operate without them. There's no doubt it is the beating heart of our community. So please dear reader continue with your support – and if you have any stories, any old photos or anything else you want to share let me know by emailing us at speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com. Stories and updates will be also shared on Instagram and Facebook.

Sara Andrew



TONBRIDGE MUSIC CLUB

FIRST CONCERT OF THE NEW SEASON

The Fitzroy Quartet, Saturday 5 October, 7.30pm
Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge.



As Autumn approaches, so does the start of Tonbridge Music Club's 2024/25 Season. As always, there is a wide variety of top quality music to choose from in our programme which starts in October this year and ends the following June.

Tonbridge Music Club (TMC) was founded as a charity in 1962 with the aim of bringing the highest quality music making to Tonbridge, thereby enriching the town's musical life.

Our musical events range from evening performances and coffee concerts by some of the most recognised musicians on the scene today, to school-based workshops and family concerts. By doing so, we hope to broaden the appeal of live music-making for all ages and stimulate the rewards that live music-making can bring. Our first concert of the Season demonstrates our commitment to these principles. The Fitzroy Quartet, one of the brightest and best young quartets on the current musical scene, bring insight, depth and energy to their music-making. The programme includes familiar favourites and more contemporary works, the highlight being the wonderful Debussy Quartet. Described as "engaging and responsive to the emotional worlds of each piece in turn", the Fitzroy Quartet was formed in 2015 whilst all four members were studying at the Royal Academy of Music, receiving tuition from the Endellion Quartet's Garfield Jackson. In the years since their formation, they have won many prizes and awards. Most recently, they are Tunnel Trust Award Winners for the 2019/20 season as well as being chosen for the Cremona Quartet's Le Dimore del Quartetto scheme. Other prizes include, 1st Prize in the Cavatina Intercollegiate Competition, 1st Prize in the Wolfe Wolfensohn Competition, as well as the Sir John Barbirolli Memorial Prize and the St Peters Eaton Square award.

Much more about TMC can be found on its website, www.tmc.org.uk, as well as information on how to book tickets or join as a member. Or, you may prefer to call 01732 364204. Everyone is welcome to attend TMC concerts, both members and non-members. For non-members, tickets for the Fitzroy Quartet concert cost £20 for an adult and £5 for students and under-18s. Please note that under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.



Allotment &

Water Content in Fruit and Vegetables

I was watching a Charles Dowding video, He was planting cucumbers, as well talking about how to grow them. However, he said something really interesting – don't over water cucumbers because they don't like it. Hang on, how can that be? Cucumbers must be almost totally water, so how come they don't like it. You'd think they would want plenty. But then I wondered, which fruit or vegetables have the highest water content. Well, what is interesting is that it's not fruit (per se). The fresh foods with the highest water content are: Lettuce, up to 96%; Celery, up to 95%; Cucumber, up to 95%; Bok choy, up to 95%; Radishes, up to 95%; Zucchini, up to 95%; Watercress, up to 95%; Tomatoes, up to 95%. Cucumbers are beaten by lettuce – which is no surprise and also, perhaps, the reason why lettuce tastes of virtually nothing is there is virtually only water in it. But all the same, up to 95% water is a lot. And it's just as well that plants are so much water because when and how to water, and how much – especially in such wet conditions that we seem to have had this year, can be a challenging matter. And Charles Dowding has something to say on that matter too. Here is what he offers:

Plants are amazing for the way in which they tolerate a wide range of conditions. Their growth depends on light levels, temperature, and moisture availability. The last of these three is the easiest to manage. He continues to comment that if there is not enough water, plants can go into survival mode. However, for vegetables, this can also mean smaller harvests. He says that how much to water is our call, and he comments that it can be a fun skill to learn, to observe plants and aim to give the amount of water appropriate for each vegetable, the weather, and the harvests we want. That seems like sound advice. However, what I have never found easy is to figure out what my vegetables are telling me. How would I know if they have enough, too much or too little water? Or even is the harvest quality is down to water, soil fertility, soil condition, light, direction of planting, warmth, etc. So many variables. No wonder we often get it wrong and are absolutely delighted when the crop is good – a matter celebrated during the harvest festival. 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.

The Molyneux Almshouses at Rusthall



Recruiting New Trustees

The Molyneux Almshouses is a small charity, established in 1922, which provides social housing accommodation for people of limited financial means who have long term connections with Tunbridge Wells. Our vision, as a charity, is “to provide convenient, comfortable and secure accommodation to those in need, within a friendly and supportive setting and the local community”.

Eight Trustees currently make up the Trustee Board and they are supported by a part-time Administrator who looks after the day to day administration of the Charity. A number of our current Trustees will be retiring within the next 6 to 18 months and we are looking for new Trustees to join our Board.

Our new Trustees should ideally be people from the local area who are involved with the community, prepared to take responsibility for specific aspects of the Charity’s work, can commit to regular meetings and activities, and will bring experience to complement the existing Trustee Board. Good people skills, the ability to communicate, and empathy, understanding and patience are essential. **Most importantly, they should be someone who is enthusiastic and has the time and energy to be actively involved.**

The work of the Charity covers many spheres and we need a Trustee Board made up of people who, together, have experience, skills and backgrounds in:

Financial Management and Accounting, Law
Housing Maintenance and Management
Project Management, Welfare System
Marketing and Communication
Resident Welfare, Charity Work

If you think that you have what it takes to become a Trustee and want to find out more, please contact Gill Prater, Chair of the Trustees, at gill.prater@molyneux-almshouses.co.uk and ask for our Trustee Information Pack which will give you more information.

Closing date: 14th October 2024

NATURE WATCH

Great news for lovers of Spiders. The Fen raft spider has had a very good year. It was on the verge of extinction in 2010 and restricted to 3 sites in Britain.

Now after this wet summer the numbers counted this year at 12 sites in Norfolk alone were 3,750 breeding females. These spiders are the size of a man's hand and semi-aquatic, live in ditches and small areas of water, [relax none found in houses]. They can run across the surface of the water to capture their prey.



The spider's diet includes damselflies, dragonfly larvae and pond skaters and some will even take small fish and tadpoles. They have been subjected to a lot of conservation efforts and also a lot of watery areas that have been created for birds and plants has all helped in their recovery.

Atlantic Puffins have also shown an increase this year. The bird also goes by the names sea parrot or clown of the sea. On the Farne islands in Northumberland which were hit by Bird flu a few years ago in which five hundred + died, there has not been a count since Covid in 2019. So the rangers were very glad to find on the count this year a 15% rise in numbers counted in 2019. They declared the population stable with no sign of Bird Flu. It is now hoped that the same will be found all around the colonies in coastal waters of the British isles.

We still have a few Dragon and damselflies on the wing in October such as Migrant Hawker, Common and Ruddy Darters and Willow Emerald. There are also Butterflies such as Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral and if we are lucky a Migrant Clouded Yellow.

Alan Ford



Speldhurst CEP Primary School News



As I am writing this after days of rain, I am wondering where the summer has gone. Too quickly many of you will be saying. When you read this, Speldhurst pupils will have been back in the classroom for a few weeks and will have settled into their daily routines of learning – and hopefully having fun too!

This term we welcomed 30 new reception children to Pippin Class who are beginning their school journey. They enjoyed a Teddy Bear's picnic on September 4th where the children met their buddies from the new Year 6 class. Then the next day they arrived for their very first school day. There were tears – but they were mostly those of the parents as they waved their 'precious little ones' off into the classroom. I remember it as an emotional time 25 years ago when my first daughter started 'big' school, wondering what to do with myself until pick up time. In 2024, our thoughtful PTA organised a 'Tea and Tissues' get together at the George and Dragon after drop off to make the new parents feel welcome and part of the School community.

At the other end of the school, we said goodbye before the Summer holidays to our 32 'very grown up' year 6 children. The Leaver's service at St Mary's Church in July was another emotional occasion but also one celebrating the achievements of the pupils during their time at Speldhurst. Each of the leavers received a Bible from the Church as a farewell gift. We hope they are all now settled in their secondary school destinations including Judd, Skinner's Boys Grammar, Bennett Memorial, Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar, St Gregory's School, Leigh Academy, Tonbridge Girls Grammar, Skinners Kent Academy. They will be missed but not forgotten and like leavers before have donated their own legacy to the school. This time it was benches for the Forest School sessions. Below are photos of the benches, carved with their names. I've written about the importance of Forest School before but here's a recap.

The outdoor sessions which take place throughout the year, whatever the weather include working together to build shelters, discovering and appreciating nature, developing skills like whittling wood and even lighting a fire as our ancestors did. Forest School has been shown from independent research to promote well-being, offering opportunities for child-led exploration and discovery, developing practical skills and problem-solving abilities, resilience and confidence. All qualities we hope our year 6 leavers will take on to the next stage of their educational journey and the rest of their lives. Good luck to you all.

Sara Andrew Communications Governor.





Fete Logo Design Competition!

The Speldhurst Fete Committee is pleased to open a new competition to design a logo for our Summer Fete.

All residents of the village (of all ages and talents) are welcome to submit an entry. The winning logo shall be used in our future publicity and advertising across the village and online.

Submissions can be made digitally to Speldhurst.f8@gmail.com or physically to 17 St Mary's Lane. The designer's name and contact details must be submitted alongside entries.

The logo may include the words "Speldhurst Village Fete" or may be wordless.



1st Prize:
Your logo adopted by the Fete, Free entry for you family,
25 Grand Draw tickets, and Unlimited Bouncing!*



2nd Prize:
20 Grand Draw tickets and Unlimited bouncing*



3rd Prize:
10 Grand Draw tickets OR Unlimited bouncing*

Deadline:

Monday 4th November

The smallprint:

Digital submissions should be set at 300 dpi.

The Committee will not be able to return submissions once entered.

The Committee may make adjustments to the winning design, or replicate for sizing purposes.

For copyright purposes, the winning design shall become the intellectual property of Speldhurst Fete Committee in perpetuity.

*All prizes are capped to a "family" of 5 (any 2 adults, and any 3 children) and limited to Speldhurst Village Fete, 21st June 2025. 'Bouncing' is each child's choice of all-day access to the bouncy castle or assault course.

October 2024



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

6th October

10 am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Speldhurst
11am Matins at St John's, Groombridge

13th October

10 am Morning Worship at St Mary's, Speldhurst
11am Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's, Groombridge

20th October

8 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Mary's, Speldhurst
10 am Holy Communion (CW) & Baptism at St Mary's, Speldhurst
6pm Evensong at St Martin's, Ashurst

27th October

10 am All-Age Worship at St Mary's, Speldhurst
11am Holy Communion (CW) at St Martin's, Ashurst
6 pm Evensong at St Mary's, Speldhurst

Baptisms:

8th September Skye Nova Asher Harrap at St Mary's, Speldhurst



The Church Office can be contacted on 01892 861187 /
07960296027

or admin@speldhurstchurch.org

See our website: www.speldhurstchurch.org

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



A Letter from St Mary's



With Autumn well under way those of you who are gardeners (which sadly isn't me) have been busy harvesting the results of your labours in your allotments and gardens. And the farmers in the fields around us have been working all the hours God gave them harvesting the barley, wheat, and maize as well as the apples, pears and plums from their orchards. It is indeed a busy time of the year on the land. And traditionally it is the time of the year when we pause and say thank you to God for all he provides for us. And not just what is grown locally. We can enjoy many different foods, these days, coming from all over the world like coffee, tea, and chocolate to name but a few so it's good to say thank you for these too.

Harvest festivals have taken many different forms over the years. Sometimes a harvest lunch is held when everyone gets together to share a meal and give thanks; recently the children of Speldhurst School have joined together with the congregation of St Mary's Church and jointly collected produce to give to Nourish, the Tunbridge Wells Food bank as well flowers to the older members of our community.

I wonder if you are among the dwindling number who still 'say grace' before a meal? I love the fact that it is called 'grace'. The prosaic reason is that it comes from the Latin word for giving thanks (in Italian, grazie). But it is also a reminder that our food – indeed all that we have, our life and breath – are a gift from God, one that we do not deserve. A short prayer before grasping the knife and fork can be a meaningless habit; it can also be a moment, daily, when we remember our interdependence on a loving God who is worthy of our thanks. A church harvest festival performs the same function in the life of a Christian community. Together we celebrate all that God has given us to sustain life, as we pray 'Give us today our daily bread', Matthew 6:11.

Jenny Fitzsimmons

NEWS FROM SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



LEN STRIKES AGAIN

Our Groundsman, Len, has once again been out and about in the parish tidying up, cleaning signs, bins and bollards, repairing fences, and cutting back vegetation to make sure the new school year starts with everyone able to walk to school and enjoy the local facilities safely.



He has also been busy sprucing up the pavilion at Langton Green Recreation Ground ready for the football season, and the re-opening of Langton Green Community Hub and Pavilion Café after the summer break. We know the community hub are looking forward to welcoming friends old and new to their list of events for the whole community to enjoy. Contact them at communityhub@langtonpavilion.com to find out how to be involved.

And whilst visiting Langton Green Recreation Ground, don't forget that you can now charge your electric car – we have 2 EV charging bays ready and waiting for you. Why not pop into the café at the Pavilion whilst your car is on charge and enjoy a coffee and cake or lunch with friends, or have a walk around the recreation ground?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A DOG POO FAIRY!

It's an old saying but unfortunately still very true. We've had an increase in reports of dog mess in public places. Please keep an eye on your four-legged friends and clear up after them wherever you go. Thank you.

3G ARTIFICIAL PITCH APPLICATION LANGTON GREEN

At the time of writing, we have been advised that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) Planning Committee will meet to decide the outcome of this application on 11th September. The parish council and the Trustees of Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA) will respect the Planning Authority's decision on this application and have agreed to collaborate to manage the Pavilion and recreation ground in a way that maximizes benefit for everyone. Although it will be too late to attend the meeting in person by the time you read this, you can watch a recording here: <https://tunbridgewells.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY – COULD IT BE YOU?

And finally, are you interested in getting involved in your local community? Do you want to have your say on how we tackle local environmental issues, the increase in air traffic, problems with our local roads, speeding in the parish and planning applications to name but a few things the parish council gets involved in and you could too? We currently have a vacancy for a parish councillor whose role would be to volunteer a few hours a week to help action local change in areas they are particularly interested in.

If you would like a chat to discuss what the role would involve with absolutely no commitment, please get in contact in the first place with our Clerk, Katie Neve (contact details at the end of the article).

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS – EVERYONE WELCOME

Full Council: 7.30 pm, Monday 7th October, Ashurst Village Hall

TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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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
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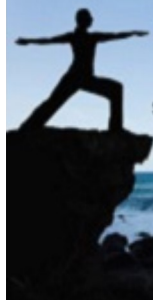
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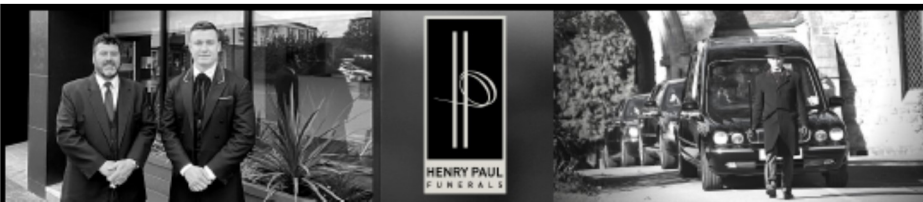
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