



Speldhurst News

October 2025

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Welcome and Contents



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our October edition. Thank you to all our contributors this month - we have our favourite regulars and some brand new activities for you to read about. From us, we've reinstated our monthly recipe page - if you have a favourite, please do share. We've also included some great images from the Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable and Craft Show - what amazing specimens on show! Keep growing and crafting everyone.

Tickets are now available for our Bonfire and Firework Night - these do sell out so get yours soon!

Wishing you a wonderful October, Maria

News Editors: Maria Turner, Andrea Burgess & Judith Malim

Please send emails before 10th October 2025 for the November issue to: speldhurst.news@gmail.com. Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred.

Inside this month....

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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, pdf or Publisher file. The editors reserve the right to amend submissions where they feel it is appropriate.

What's On this Month

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

Bumps and Babes, the coffee morning for Mums with under 2's, meets this month on Mondays 7th & 20th 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 especially the opportunity to ring the church bell. Everyone is welcome – Mums, Dads, Grandparents, et al.

We won't be meeting in half term (22nd & 24th October respectively).

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

Blackham Country Players
Are delighted to present

VISITING HOUR

By Richard Harris



20/21/22 Nov 2025 – 7.30pm - Doors open 7pm
Blackham Village Hall

Tickets £10
Thu 20th tickets only £8 (No food)
21st & 22nd interval nibbles
Licensed Bar & Raffle

For Tickets Call Tony
07779 253995

www.blackhamcountryplayers.co.uk

CRAFTS WORKSHOP

OCT
21

RESIN POPPIES

Come and learn how to make your own resin
poppies - perfect for Remembrance Day



How much does it cost?

£25 - which includes 2.5 hours
of tuition, wine and nibbles, and
whatever you choose to make.

7.30 -10pm

Kent cottage

Barden Road

SPELDHURST

TN3 0LE

How do I book?

Contact Julie on 07917 606542 or
email- giftsbyjuliep@gmail.com



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

October 2025

5th October

10am Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Speldhurst

11am Matins at St John's, Groombridge

12th October

10am Morning Worship with Baptism at St Mary's Church, Speldhurst

11am Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's, Groombridge

19th October

8am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Mary's, Speldhurst

10am Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Speldhurst

6pm Evensong at St Martin's, Ashurst

26th October

10am All Age Worship at St Mary's, Speldhurst

11am Holy Communion (CW) at St Martin's, Ashurst

The Church Office can be contacted on 07960296027
or admin@speldhurstchurch.org
www.speldhurstchurch.org
facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/



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

Registers for September 2025

Weddings

20th September

Simon Lumb & Katherine Archer

27th September

Lewis Baker & Emma Reames



BOOKS

Did you know that we have a library in Speldhurst? - part of the KCC Library Service. In fact, we are the last remaining library in West Kent that is run by volunteers.



We are situated in the committee room in the village hall and are open every Monday afternoon from 2pm to 4.30pm. We have in the region of 500 books of which approximately one third are exchanged for new titles a couple of times a year. We stock fiction, non fiction in both normal and large print, together with books for school age children and a box of books for the under 5s. Specific titles can also be ordered for lenders from the main library.

Please come along and check us out. There has been a library in the village for the last 50 years plus and it would be such a valuable service to continue into the future.

As they say...use it, or lose it!

Letter from St Mary's



THE DOG WHO THOUGHT HIS NAME WAS NO.

Have you heard the sad story of the dog who thought his name is No? He heard the word shouted at him so many times that the poor thing began to answer to it as his name.

Names in the Bible are significant. In some cases people are given new names at a key moment in their lives. Simon becomes Peter, and Saul becomes Paul. Our names are tied up with who we are and who we become. What we hear directed at ourselves begins to shape our identity and how we view the world and ourselves. *The Dog Who Thought His Name Was No* can relate to all of us. There may be “no’s” that we have heard and come to believe about ourselves. Have you been bullied and so believe that you are stupid or annoying? Have you lived your life seeking approval of others because you never quite believe you are worthy of it? Have you experienced failure and lost your sense of potential for the future? Have you lived so long with comparison and criticism that you have no sense of who you are?

The bible is the story of God’s relationship with humanity and has been described as His love letter to all people. Biblical truths, when spoken lovingly in our direction, will shape our identity and change the way we view ourselves within God’s world. They tell us that God has a place for you in His story and wants to give you a new identity – your true identity – lovingly made in the image of God.

The Bible reaches its climax in Jesus, who knows each of us by our real name. He knows how many hairs are on our head [or not!] and how many days will make up our life. He hasn’t called us to be weird, fanatical or religious, He has called us into a relationship, into friendship with him, and is waiting for our response.

The Dog Who Thought His Name Was No, saw his identity in the negative. Through the Bible we discover that God always has and always will see us in the positive. The “no’s” that have undermined our confidence can be replaced with the incredible truth that God loves each one of us unconditionally right where we are, right now.

Listen out for God’s resounding “yes” to you. “Yes” - you are loved, “yes” he has made you and “yes” he wants you to be free to be fully the person he designed you to be.

John Perkins

A stylized illustration of a child with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a red and black patterned hoodie, sitting on the shoulders of an adult wearing a blue jacket. They are both looking up at a night sky filled with vibrant fireworks in shades of red, orange, yellow, and blue. The background is dark with bokeh light effects from the fireworks.

SPELDHURST
CEP SCHOOL PTA
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
4:30-6PM

TICKETS ON SALE
10TH OCTOBER

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



‘Sanctuary of Sound’

Group Sound Baths at Speldhurst Village Hall

Henny Broderick, a qualified sound therapist and health and wellbeing coach, will be holding regular ‘Sanctuary of Sound’ group sound baths at Speldhurst Village Hall as of October.

What is Sound Therapy?

Sound therapy is an ancient holistic healing practice that uses the vibration and frequency of sound to improve physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. It is based on the idea that everything in the body (and universe) has a natural frequency, and when these frequencies are out of balance – due to stress, illness or emotional strain – sound can help restore harmony by bringing you into a state of deep relaxation and inner balance.

Long before modern science, cultures intuitively recognised that vibration, rhythm and resonance could alter states of consciousness, support healing and strengthen spiritual connection. Modern research is now catching up and confirming many of these effects.

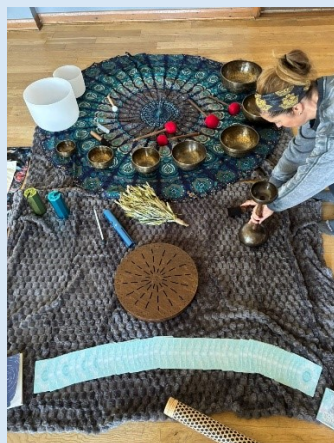
Instruments such as Tibetan bowls, crystal singing bowls and a variety of chimes and other instruments create soothing sound waves that work at a cellular level, helping your body and mind to shift out of stress and into a state of harmony. During a group sound bath, you simply lie back, close your eyes and allow the sounds to wash over you. The experience can be deeply restorative, calming the nervous system, quietening the mind and allowing emotional release.

Benefits often reported:

- Deep relaxation and stress relief
- Better sleep
- Reduced anxiety and depression
- Improved focus and clarity
- Enhanced mindfulness

Henny’s first group sound bath at Speldhurst Village Hall will be on Sunday 12th October at 7:30pm – 8.45pm. Please visit

www.hennybroderickhealth.co.uk/events to book your place.



Carols by Candlelight

With

Speldhurst Community Choir

Saturday 20th December



Rehearsals: Every Friday starting 14th November
at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

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

Contact: hhughes8dw@icloud.com



All Welcome!

St Mary's Church, Speldhurst



As the days get shorter and the weather grows wetter and windier, I hope that you will be cheered by this colourful reminder of the glorious days of summer. Speldhurst School prides itself on its art and extramural activities as well as impressive academic results – you only have to look at the recent SATS results and then also wonder at the pupil's beautiful floral entries (see below) in last month's Vegetable and Craft show to appreciate this.

At Speldhurst the aim is to inspire students to develop their talents and potential in a variety of ways. There are a wide array of after-school clubs from sewing, netball, chess, football, Spanish and many more including JCK martial arts club ([Martial Arts Karate & Kickboxing Classes | JCK Martial Arts](#)) which meets every Friday. Three of the pupils in the club have achieved great success and last term obtained their black belts, having shown determination and perseverance to complete the ultimate test of a gruelling two-hour physical challenge.

Meanwhile the School's newest and youngest pupils in Reception have settled in well since they started their educational journey this term in Pippin Class. To make them feel at home, there was a special welcome at the beginning of term with a Teddy Bear's picnic for them and a treasured cuddly 'plus-one', and despite the changeable weather everyone had a wonderful time. Speldhurst School has a real sense of community and is also offering a welcome to the prospective parents of NEXT year's Reception children with the opportunity to visit and get a feel of the School. Full details can be found on the School website which gives the dates of a number of these Open days. If you have a child starting in Reception in September 2026, please sign up. It would be lovely to see you.

SARA ANDREW, GOVERNOR



Garden & Allotment News

Turning Leaves into 'Garden Gold'

As autumn sweeps in deeper and the trees around us put on their fiery display, most of us are busy raking up leaves. It's tempting to bag them for the green bin or cart them off to the tip – but on the allotment or in the garden, those piles of leaves are far from waste. With a little patience, they can be transformed into one of the most valuable resources a gardener can have: leaf mould.

Unlike traditional compost, which relies on bacteria to break down kitchen scraps and garden clippings, leaf mould is the result of fungi slowly decomposing fallen leaves. The end product is packed with goodness. Leaf mould is a superb soil improver, making heavy clay easier to work and sandy ground better at holding water. It's crumbly, earthy and dark – often described as "black gold".

Making it couldn't be simpler. Gather autumn leaves, avoiding the ever-green types which are too slow to rot. Either pile them into a wire mesh cage or stuff them into black bin bags with a few air holes punched through. If the leaves are dry, sprinkle them with a little water before sealing them up. Then tuck them away and let nature take its course.

Patience is key. After a year, you'll have a rough mulch that can be spread around shrubs and perennials. Leave it for two years, and you'll be rewarded with a fine-textured material perfect for mixing into seed compost or improving vegetable beds and garden borders. If you want to speed the process, shred the leaves with a mower before storing them, or mix in a handful of grass clippings. Even so, leaf mould is largely about giving time back to the soil – a quiet, natural cycle that rewards those willing to wait.

So this October, as you sweep your paths or clear your lawn, think twice before sending the leaves away. Bag them, stack them, forget about them – and in a year or two, your soil will thank you with richer structure and healthier crops. If you are interested in these topics / types of discussions, there is a Facebook page where we go into 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.

Rob Kyte

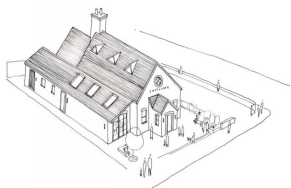


Autumn has arrived, with the return to school, holiday snaps to ponder and jumpers to pull out from drawers for the chillier evenings. Whilst our summer has been fantastic for our builders at the Chapel, the poor old garden is sitting in earth that is like concrete. Little can be done at present but the recent rainfall will hopefully moisten the ground soon enough for planting.

Whilst thoughts are always on the new shop and what it is going to be like, the basement of our current home has been a flurry of activity. It reminds me of centuries ago when I took a cookery exam with an outside adjudicator. My cookery teacher said we all needed to be like swans. Calm and serene on top but paddling like hell underneath. Our shop has been running smoothly on shop level but downstairs shelves have been stripped, lines stopped, lines taken on, phone calls, choices of fridges, freezers, orders being made, lists and plans to make your head spin.

To update you all on the management of the shop, much has been going on to ensure the new premises are well cared for. We are pleased to report that Dima, who moved to pastures new, has taken a role very much aligned with his previous employment in Ukraine. We wish him and his family every success and continued happiness in the UK. We have now assigned the care of our Shop to three members of staff. Chris, Martha and Carolyn, who are known to most shop users. They have all agreed to share the role and are all equally able to help with any questions you may encounter concerning the shop. For the most part at least one of these ladies is present in the shop at all times. They are the swans I mentioned who are working behind the scenes, along with our build committee, to successfully transition to the new building.

Good luck to all concerned over the next few weeks when this tired old building takes on a brand new lease of life. We cannot wait!



Follow us @ speldhurstchapel

Speldhurst Chapel update

It's been a busy summer at the chapel build, with the main building work complete. Gavin and the team are now focusing on the internal fit out installing the new floor, kitchen and toilet facilities. Decorating inside and out has started too. I'm sure you've all noticed the rejuvenated barge boards on the front of the building that have been lovingly restored to their former glory.

Second fix electrics and plumbing will be underway by the time you read this. The Post Office are finalising their timescales to install the infrastructure for our new post office counter.

Once the internal spaces are completed we will be attending to the external spaces. Gavin has already constructed a small wall adjacent to our Northfields neighbours that will contain a planted border on our boundary. He will be rebuilding the very steep steps at the rear of the building for access to the stock room, the new ones will be much easier to navigate.

Tony Trifilleti has been liaising with Gavin and building control on a new rain-water drainage system to cope with our existing building and the new extension. This has now been signed off and Gavin is ready to put the plan in place.

The shop staff are also starting to plan moving the business over to the chapel.

Martha has been busy clearing out the stock with some excellent discounts to make sure we start fresh in the new shop with an excellent line of products. We are hoping to introduce some new lines, so watch this space!

We are currently aiming for a November opening date, but please keep an eye on our Instagram page for updates.

Any questions please contact Lynsay.bischoff@gmail.com



Newly renovated barge boards



Latex underlay being poured and the new glazing on the internal door



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15th November 12.30pm to 4pm

FREE ENTRANCE



For more information contact
Julie on 07917 606542

COURGETTE AND LIME CAKE

Prep 20 min. Cook 30 min.

Makes 1 (21cm) cake

For the Cake

3 medium eggs

125ml vegetable oil

150g caster sugar

225g self-raising flour

½ teaspoon bicarbonate soda

½ teaspoon baking powder

250g courgette, finely grated

For the Icing

400g cream cheese

175g icing sugar

2 tablespoons lime juice

40g pistachio nuts (finely chopped). These are not a necessity and can be omitted, as only decorative.

1 tablespoon lime zest

Method

Preheat oven to 180c/160c fan, Gas 4. Grease and line two 21cm sandwich tins

Beat together the eggs, oil and sugar in a large bowl until creamy.

Sift in the flour, bicarbonate soda and baking powder and mix well.

Stir in the grated courgettes until well combined.

Divide the mixture into the cake tins.

Bake in the middle of the oven for 25 to 30 minutes. Use a skewer to check the cake is done. If it comes out clean it is done. I like to also listen to see if it still makes a crackly noise when lightly pressed. If it does, it may need a few more minutes.

Remove the cakes from the oven and carefully turn out onto a wire rack. Carefully peel off the paper lining and leave to cool.

For the icing, beat the cream cheese in a bowl until smooth. Sift in the icing sugar and stir in the lime juice.

Use a bread knife to level one of the cakes if necessary.

Use 2/3 of the icing to sandwich the 2 cakes together, with the levelled one at the bottom and use the remaining icing to cover the top of the cake. Sprinkle with the pistachio nuts (if using) and zest.



Scan the QR code
To visit our website



VOLUNTEER FOR SPEEDWATCH With road safety issues in Speldhurst a concern we all share, we're keen to get Speedwatch back up and running.

It's been a while since regular Speedwatch sessions were carried out. But when they were held frequently, particularly on Barden Road, speeding data told us average speeds were decreasing. Speedwatch works in other ways you might not have considered. Drivers caught speeding more than once in a Speedwatch area are contacted by the police. Plus, the police are likely to join your sessions if they happen regularly, which has an impact!

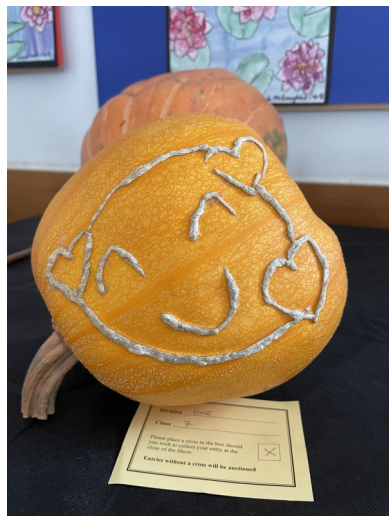
The volunteers who used to coordinate Speedwatch sessions can't continue this commitment, so we're looking for 1 or 2 people to replace them. A Speedwatch coordinator's role involves organising volunteers for weekly or monthly sessions, taking responsibility for Speedwatch equipment, and submitting speeding data - full training is given. So, whether you're a volunteer who previously worked alongside our coordinators or new to Speedwatch, we'd love to hear if you can step up and re-establish this important initiative. Email Katie Neve, Clerk, to find out more (contact details opposite).



Speedwatch is a community initiative with Kent Police. The parish council supports efforts by providing speed monitoring equipment & councillors volunteer too. We also use the speeding data you collect to persuade Kent County Council of traffic calming requirements. But ultimately, this is YOUR opportunity to make a difference to road safety in your village.

SPELDHURST FLOWER,

Another fantastic show enjoyed by all ages. Thank you so much to the organisers and visitors who support this favourite, yearly event.





If you didn't manage to make or grow anything this year - don't worry - there's always next time!





Blackham Village Market

SATURDAY

4TH OCTOBER



10.00AM TO 12.15PM



Coffee/Tea & homemade
cakes served from 10am

Locally made produce for
sale:

homemade pasties, cakes,
scones, free range eggs,
honey, bread, bird food,
jams and chutneys, craft
items and lots lots more



SPELDHURST VILLAGE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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Allotments	Mark Oddy	862746
Beavers	Jo Smith	518706
Bowls Club	Debbie Moon	861317
Bridge Club	Heather Hughes	863367
Brownies	Louise Scott	
	firstspeldhurstbrownies@gmail.com	
Bumps and Babes	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
Cricket Club	Ed Wesson	07799 731247
Junior Cricket section	Francis Booth	07738474144
Cubs	Karol Leeves	531104
Flower Show	Iain Fenn	864908
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GP Surgery		863040
Guides	Sybil Oddy	862746
Library	Pat Carter	861646
Men on Wednesday	John Perkins	863239
Mothers' Union	Christine Baker	540793
Mothers & Toddlers	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
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Vice Chair	Alan Rowe	863404
Parish Clerk	Katie Neve	862927
Parish Councillors	Paul Curry	07515 938765
	Richard Ellery	864077
Police Community Support Officer	Laura Horn	
Primary School	Stephanie Hayward	863044
Rainbows	Julia Constable	
	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
	Judith Malim	864268
	Andrea Burgess	863362

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George & Dragon PH:	Mon - Fri 12pm - 11pm Sat 12pm - 12pm Sun 12pm - 8pm 01892 280494
Dragonfly Farm Shop & Café:	Mon closed Tues- Shop 8.30am - 5 pm; Café closed Wed-Sat 8.30am - 5 pm Sun 10 am - 4 pm
GP:	Mon - Fri 8am-6pm Tel: 01892 863040
Dispensary:	Mon - Fri 8.30am - 1pm; 2.30am - 6pm (dispensary calls 8.30am - 11.30 only)
Library (village hall):	Monday 2.00 - 4.30pm.
Speldhurst Shop:	Mon-Fri 7.30am - 5.00pm Sat 8.00am - 1.00pm Sun 9.00am - 11.00am
Post Office:	Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm; Sun Closed

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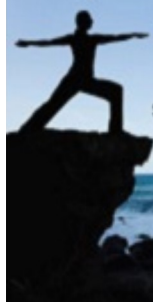
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


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