



Speldhurst Parish Council

*Working for the whole community*

# NEWSLETTER

## Road Closures/Car Park upgrade

*Residents be warned!* Disruption to the roads throughout the Parish will occur during the school holiday period, starting on July 24th. South East Water will be closing the Speldhurst Road in Langton Green from Lampington Row towards Speldhurst to just past Winstone Scott Avenue, in order to facilitate the laying of a new water main. This may take up to 41 days and major delays could occur. You are advised to see the details of the road closures and how it will affect the surrounding roads on the Parish Council web site [www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Maps will also be on the Parish Council notice boards and copies will be available from the parish office and in the entrance to all village halls in the parish.



Work will commence sometime in the near future (date to be advised) to tarmac the lower car parking areas in the village hall car park, something which is necessary due to the expansion of Langton Green Primary School. There will inevitably be some disruption to the existing car parking area while the work is being carried out.

## Broadband improvements

As part of the BDUK/KCC/BT broadband improvement programme, BT has installed the first fibre-technology street cabinet in the parish (at the top of Newlands in Langton Green). Look out for further work on other cabinets in the parish as BT continues its Phase-3 rollout, originally timed to take place from July to December this year.



## Tree planting

Following the sad removal recently of the beautiful (but diseased) copper beech tree facing The Green in Langton, the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council tree officer is recommending a hornbeam as a replacement. The planting will be arranged by the Parish Council at the appropriate time. A yew tree will also be planted at The Hare end of The Green when the current spate of water-work repairs in the village have reached a conclusion.

## 'Lollipop' man

Following the sudden passing of Peter Hart recently who, as the school's 'lollipop' man at the Lampington Road crossing, was such a valuable asset to both parents and children, the school now need to recruit someone else to take over the role. If this position interests you, please get in touch with the school secretary for further information on 01892 862648.

## Footpath clearance

With a financial contribution from the Langton Green Village Society; hard work from a number of councillors and occasional help from Kent County Council, the footpaths in the parish are just about managing to be kept clear. Because of the wet winter



and the warm spring, the growth of vegetation this year (as many gardeners will be aware!) has been prolific. The responsibility for keeping footpaths clear lies with the properties which back onto them. Please help us to keep these vital access paths open to the public. If you see a problem and are unable to help through age or disability, please let the Parish Clerk know

## Diary Date

The Parish Council Autumn Open Meeting will take place in Speldhurst Village Hall on **Monday, October 13**. Everyone welcome.

## New leader - Parish Plan



In the last newsletter, we appealed for someone to take on the chair of the Parish Plan Working Group - a committee which will play an important part in the future of our parish. We can announce with great pleasure that James Bowdidge

- a larger-than-life figure and Speldhurst resident, has put himself forward. He will bring vitality and leadership skills to the role of pushing forward this committee of council and non-council members who will help decide the future vision for where we live.

## Community 'First Responder' appointed

Sam Blyth, age 19 and from Langton Green, is the community's 'First Responder'. He is seen, with Team Leader Mark Tompkins receiving a cheque for the equipment from



Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lynn Jeffreys. 'First Responders' are volunteers who are trained to respond to emergency calls in their local area through the 999 system, in conjunction with the UK's regional Ambulance Service NHS Trusts. They are often first on the scene and trained to administer vital, life-saving first aid treatment before the arrival of the ambulance crew.

## 'Trees in Village' competition

In 2012 the residents of Furzeffield Avenue solicited the help of the Parish Council to bring back their avenue to the tree-lined road they used to know and love. Ten trees were planted – field maple, june berry, hawthorn and rowan and to see them today is a real pleasure. Now they have been entered in the 'Trees in the Village' competition organised by The Men Of The Trees – an organisation set up eighty years ago to encourage and care for trees all around the country. The recent project to remove all the redundant old tree guards in Shadwell Woods is also being considered as an entry in the competition.



## New Councillor joins the team



Neil Barrington-Johnson has been co-opted onto Speldhurst Parish Council, taking up the vacancy following the sad passing of Peter Craine earlier this year. Neil and his wife Vanessa are active members of the Langton Green Village Society and moved to the village twelve years ago. Neil will bring a great deal of management experience to the Council after spending many years of working for Shell in the UK and overseas

## Air traffic - update!

Most residents will have heard on the news of Gatwick Airport Ltd's proposal for a second runway. What may not be so widely known is that in addition to this, Gatwick Airport is proposing to increase capacity at the existing runway and to modify the approach and departure routes. This will impact on the parish and there is a 12 week consultation period from May 23rd for residents to pass any comments – negative or positive to Gatwick Airport Ltd. The proposals are on [www.gatwickairport.com/gatwickairspaceconsultation](http://www.gatwickairport.com/gatwickairspaceconsultation) through which feedback can be passed.



Along with other Councils in the Weald, your Parish Council is defending the environment where you live and we will do our utmost to preserve the tranquillity of our parish. If anyone wishes to pass comments to any councillor or the Parish Clerk, then please do so at the earliest opportunity.

FOR REGULAR UPDATES ON ALL OUR ACTIVITIES GO TO OUR WEB SITE  
[www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Speldhurst Parish Council

Lynn Jeffreys (Chairman)

Neil Barrington-Johnson

Joanna Horne

Rosemary Hull

Ed Langridge

Rupert Milner

Crispin Owen

Trevor Parker

Chris Pendleton

Joy Podbury

Julia Soyke

David Turner

Chris Woodward

This newsletter will be available, as will all future issues, on the Parish Council web site.

All enquiries to the Parish Clerk; Chris May on (01892) 862927 or at [clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk)