

Getting ready for WW1 anniversary

Next year will see the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1. Some four years later, in 1918, with over a million British and Commonwealth soldiers dead and many more maimed for life, local communities took it upon themselves to erect memorials to remember those who didn't make it home. The Langton Green memorial has just been given a facelift and the Speldhurst memorial is shortly to undergo the same treatment. The work was funded by Speldhurst Parish Council and has been undertaken by Tunbridge Wells based Burslems, who have been in existence since 1880 and supplied many thousands of headstones and memorials for the WW1 battlefield cemeteries.

The Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that war memorials are kept in an acceptable state of repair for future generations to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country.



Sports Pavilion gets the go-ahead

Plans for a brand new sports pavilion on the Langton Green recreation ground have been approved by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. There are still issues to be finalised with regard to funding, but the Sports Club is confident that the tired and decrepit old pavilion will soon be a thing of the past! Transfer of lease arrangements are currently being negotiated between the Parish Council, who own the land, and the Sports Club.



Langton Green school expansion - update

Preliminary discussions have taken place between Speldhurst Parish Council and Kent County Council, regarding the potential car parking issues which will emanate from the expansion of Langton Green Primary School. The Parish Council are mindful of the controversial, but necessary expansion of the school and will do all it can to mitigate the disruption caused by the increase of traffic to, and around, the school area.

The school is set to double in size from 210 pupils to 420 pupils from September this year over the next seven years. Kent County Council will be submitting plans for approval in the coming months.

Annual Parish Assembly

This event in April was very well supported once again but, as with all things, we are trying to make it more interesting each year – and to ring in the changes. If you have any ideas on how this can be achieved, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

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How to help with speeding

No, we don't mean slowing down (well, we do actually!) but we need volunteers to help operate the speedwatch camera. A little training is required and a little of your time – not a lot. But you would be performing a vital part of attempting to get motorists to abide by the speed limits at various locations within the parish. Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk, if you can help.



PLEASE NOTE. If you see someone acting dangerously or irresponsibly on the roads, you can report them to 101, giving the registration number, make and model of the vehicle concerned.

No Neighbourhood Plan – now a Parish Plan!

After several meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, which includes members of the public, as well as Parish Councillors, it has been decided that a more appropriate route forward for the Parish, is to carry out a Parish Plan. The Government-led Neighbourhood Plan is an initiative to promote growth in rural, as well as urban communities,

and as no growth involving land use is planned in the parish, it was considered more relevant to produce a village plan. This will encompass many aspects of parish life and will be formalised following the Ward Walks which are being undertaken by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Parish Councillors at the end of June.

New I.S.S in Speldhurst

What is this, I hear you ask? It is an Interactive Speed Sign (ISS) and one has just been installed on the verge of Speldhurst Nurseries on the Langton Road near the junction of Ferbies in Speldhurst. This ISS has been funded by the Parish Council and is a direct result of the number of accidents that have been reported in this area to the Parish Council. Thanks go to Stephen and Christine Lee for allowing this to be erected on their land. Another safety measure being undertaken with KCC, but funded by the Parish Council, is the erection of two safety barriers on Barden Road near the junction of Speldhurst Hill to protect pedestrians from vehicles which mount the pavement at this narrow section of road. It is hoped these will be installed as a priority by KCC.



Poop Scoop!

Recently, there was a 'day of action' organised by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, to encourage and remind dog users of the need to clear up the mess made by their animals. But, of course, as we have seen in the Langton Green recreation ground, for example, it is not a one day problem, but all year round. Could dog owners PLEASE not make life a misery for others using the recreation ground and clear up the mess – and dispose of it in the bins supplied by the Parish Council.

Grants to worthy causes

All Saints' Church in Langton Green – which this year celebrates its 150th anniversary, has received a grant from the Parish Council towards the replacement of its archaic heating system. The work has now been carried out and visitors to the church can look forward to a warmer welcome this coming winter! Grants have also been given towards a new play area in Speldhurst recreation ground, IT equipment in Speldhurst Primary school and fencing at Langton Green Primary School.



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Lynn Jeffreys (Chairman)

Tony Hemming

Joanna Horne

Rosemary Hull

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Rupert Milner

Crispin Owen

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Chris Pendleton

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

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