

Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Kent



Stories for children with autism
David Blakesley and Tharada Blakesley

Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Kent

Stories by David Blakesley

Illustrations by Tharada Blakesley




Introduction

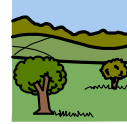
Autism and Nature is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enriching the lives of children on the autism spectrum, by helping to engage them with the countryside and nature. 'Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Kent' has been written to complement our guide 'Visiting the Kent countryside: a guide for parents of children with autism'. The book tells the story of two children, Alex and Rosie, who visit natural places described in our guide. We hope that it will appeal to younger children with autism and children with speech and language difficulties, and encourage their interest in the countryside and nature. For more information visit the Autism and Nature website (www.autismandnature.org.uk).

This book has been generously sponsored by The Henry Smith Charity, Woodlands.co.uk and Martin Ferber and Mary Haldin (Prestonbury, Hardacre Rocks). We are also grateful for the support of the Sensory Trust. We would especially like to thank Jo Blamires (Kent Autistic Trust) and Holly Hemsley (Includes Us 2) for their help in distributing this book. We would also like to thank Cate Rae and Guillaume Duclaud-Williams (Widgit Software) for their valuable advice and help with symbolising the text. Finally, we would like to thank Barbara Creed for the layout of the book.

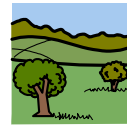





Hello
My name is Rosie



Alex and Rosie enjoy visiting the countryside.

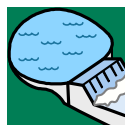


This is a story about their favourite places.



Hello
My name is Alex

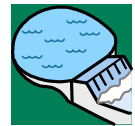
Bough Beech Nature Reserve



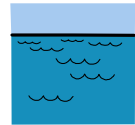
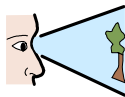
It was raining at Bough Beech Nature Reserve.



Everyone sheltered in the barn, listening to the rain.



When the sun came out everyone walked to the reservoir.



Alex and Rosie saw a lot of ducks on the water.

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve



Alex



and Rosie



like to explore



the Sensory



Garden.



Rosie



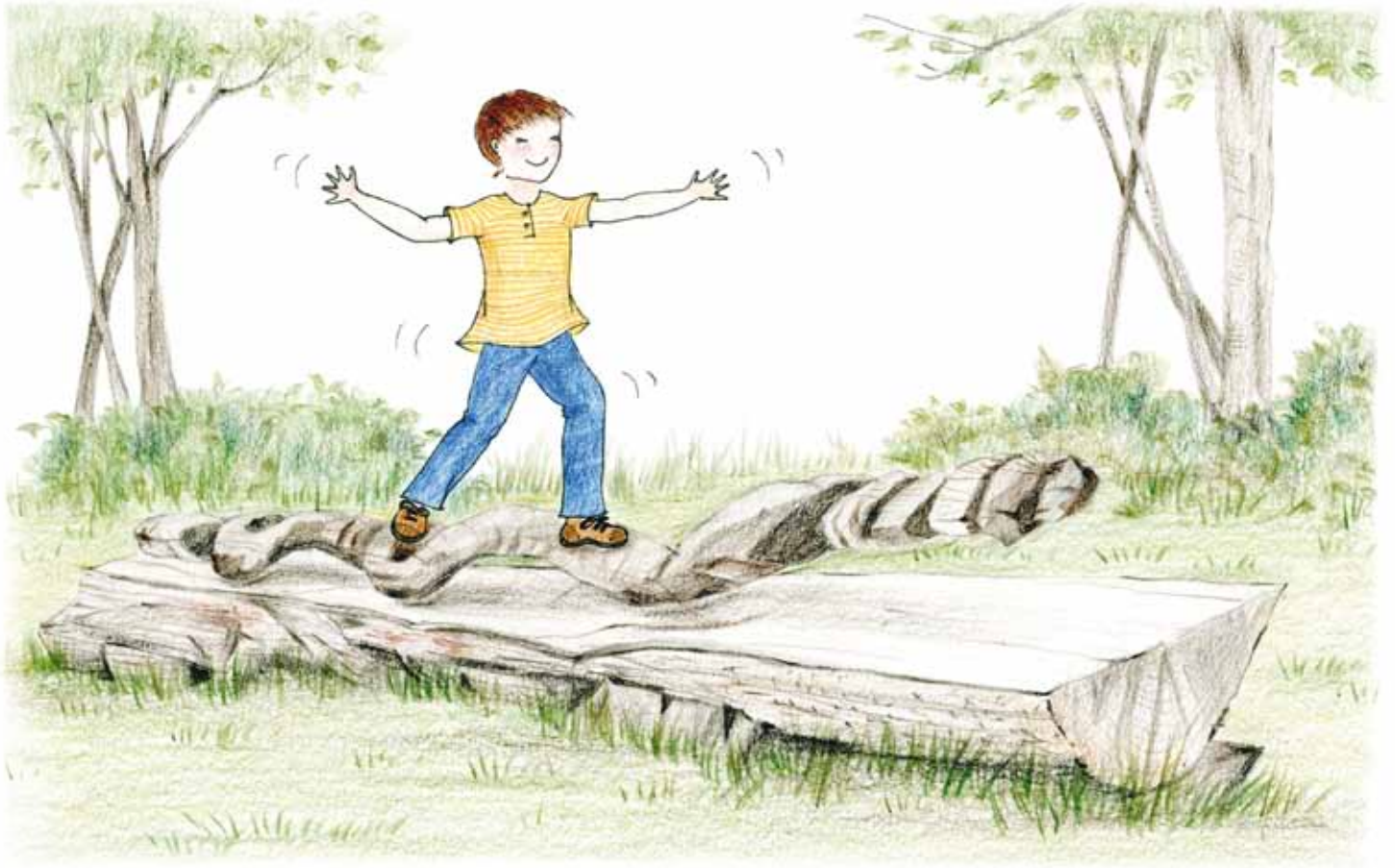
likes



to smell the scent



of the wild flowers.



Alex



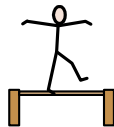
likes



the wooden sculptures.



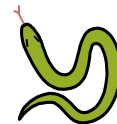
He enjoys



balancing

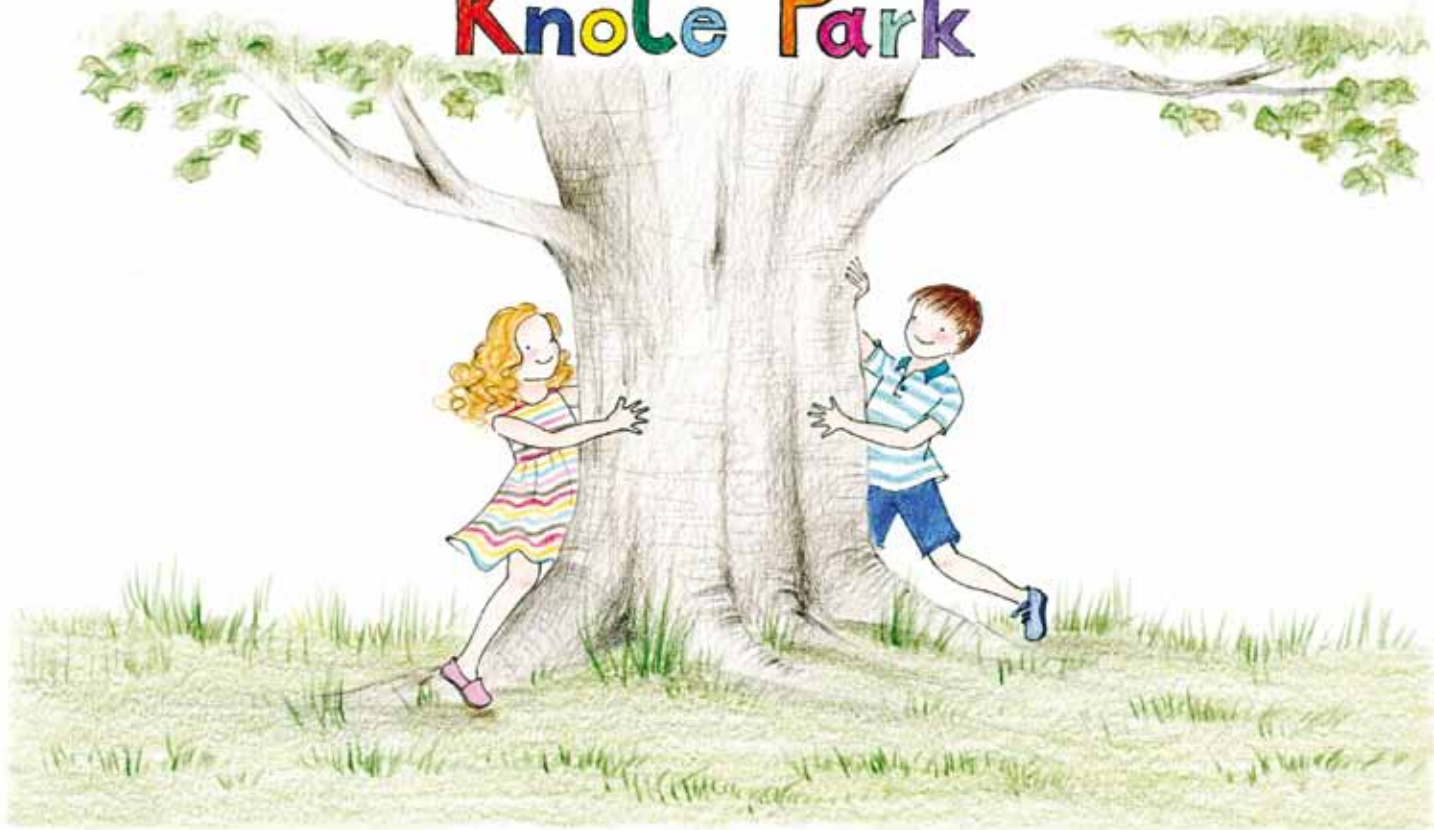


on the wooden

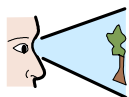


snake.

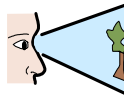
Knole Park



Alex and Rosie went for a long walk in Knole Park.



They saw some old trees and gave each tree a big hug.

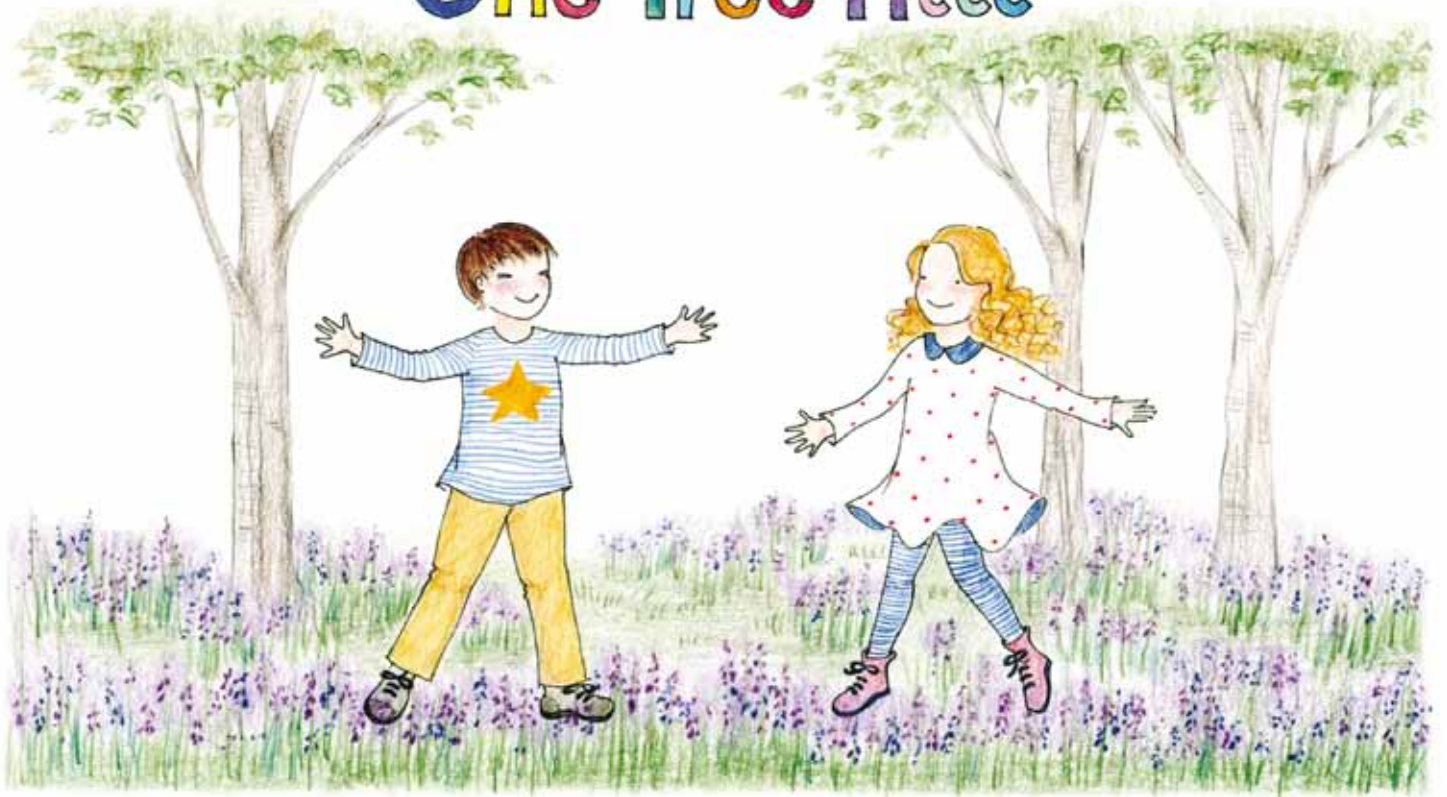


In a woodland glade they saw fallow deer eating the grass.



Alex and Rosie were very quiet, but very excited!

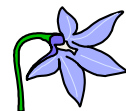
One Tree Hill



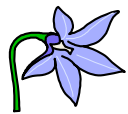
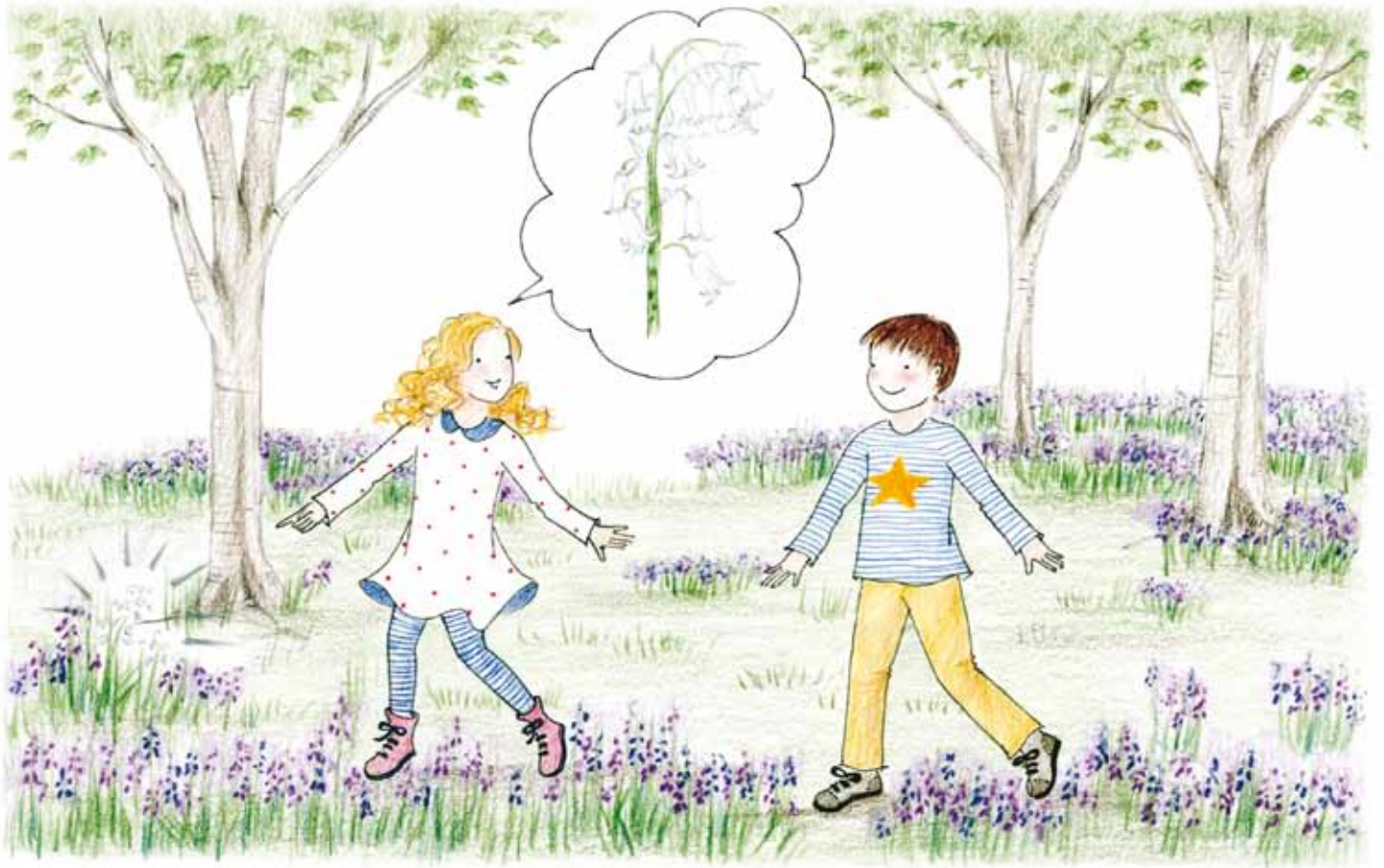
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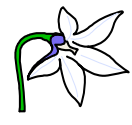
One Tree Hill is a funny name because there are lots of trees!



Alex likes to visit in spring when bluebells are flowering.



Some of the bluebells at One Tree Hill are white!



Alex and Rosie play a game to find the most white bluebells!

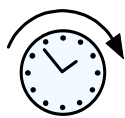
Ashenbank Wood



Alex and Rosie ran through Ashenbank Wood.



They jumped over logs and walked along fallen trees.



Later



Dad



asked



them to find



leaves



and flowers.



They found



many different colours.

Manor Country Park



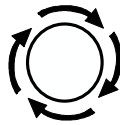
Alex



and Rosie



walked



around



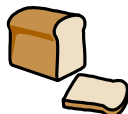
the lake



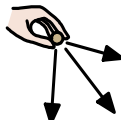
in Manor Park.



They brought



bread



to feed



the ducks



and swans.



Later



Alex



and Rosie



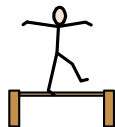
went



to the adventure playground.



They enjoyed

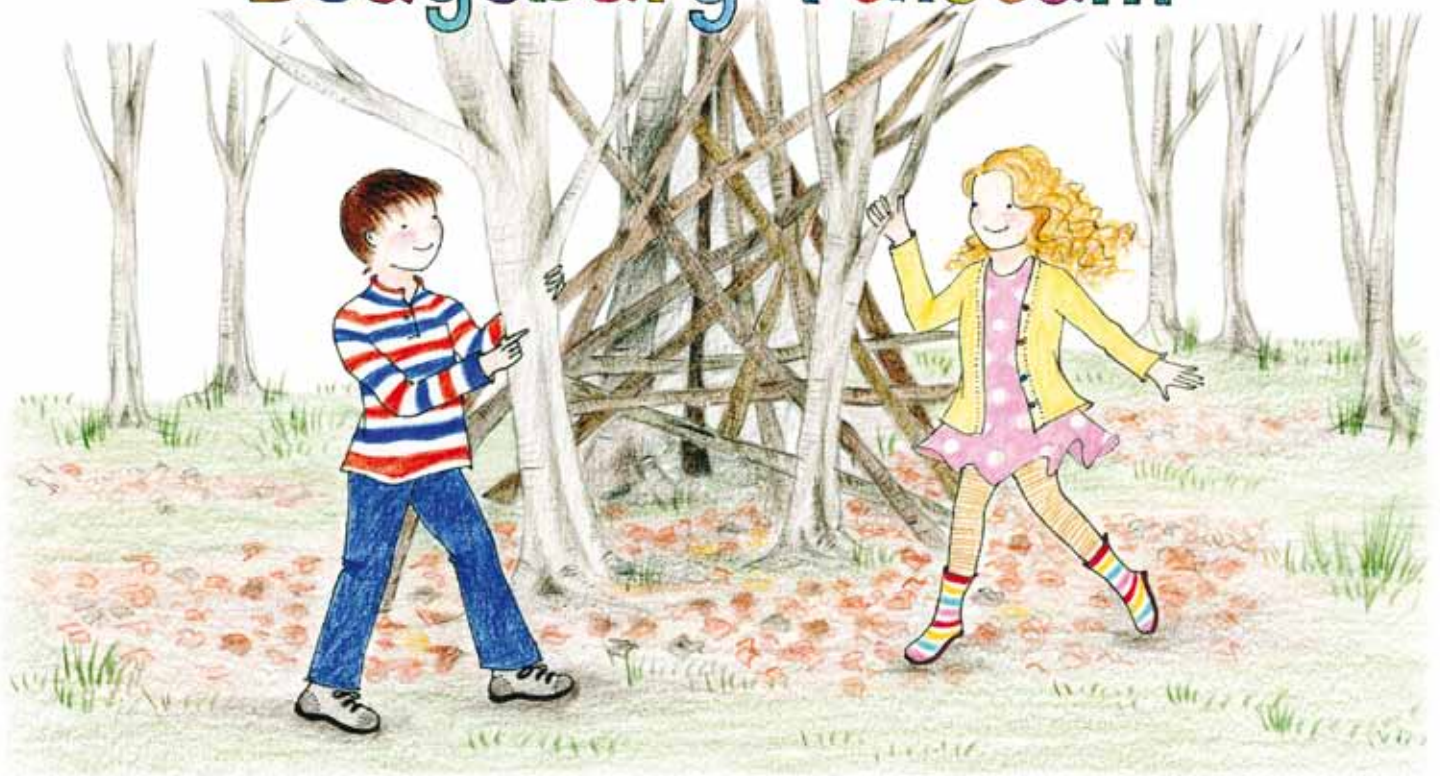


balancing



on the wooden beams.

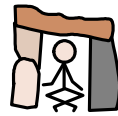
Bedgebury Pinetum



Alex



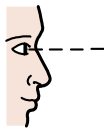
and Rosie



found a den



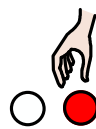
in the wood.



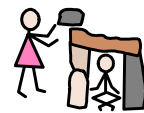
They looked



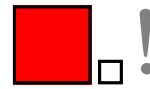
inside,



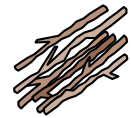
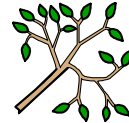
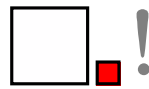
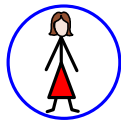
but decided



to build their own den.

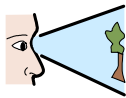


Alex needed help from Dad to carry larger branches.



Rosie and Mum collected smaller branches and sticks.

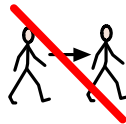
Blue Bell Hill



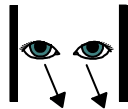
The view from Blue Bell Hill was spectacular.



Alex was so excited that he ran down the slope.



Rosie did not follow Alex.

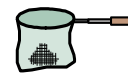
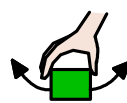
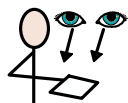


She was too busy looking at all the wild flowers.

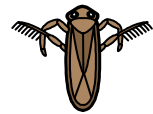
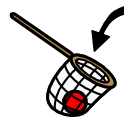
Tyland Barn



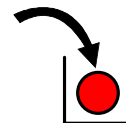
Alex and Rosie went to Tyland Barn to try pond dipping.



The warden showed them how to use a fishing net safely.

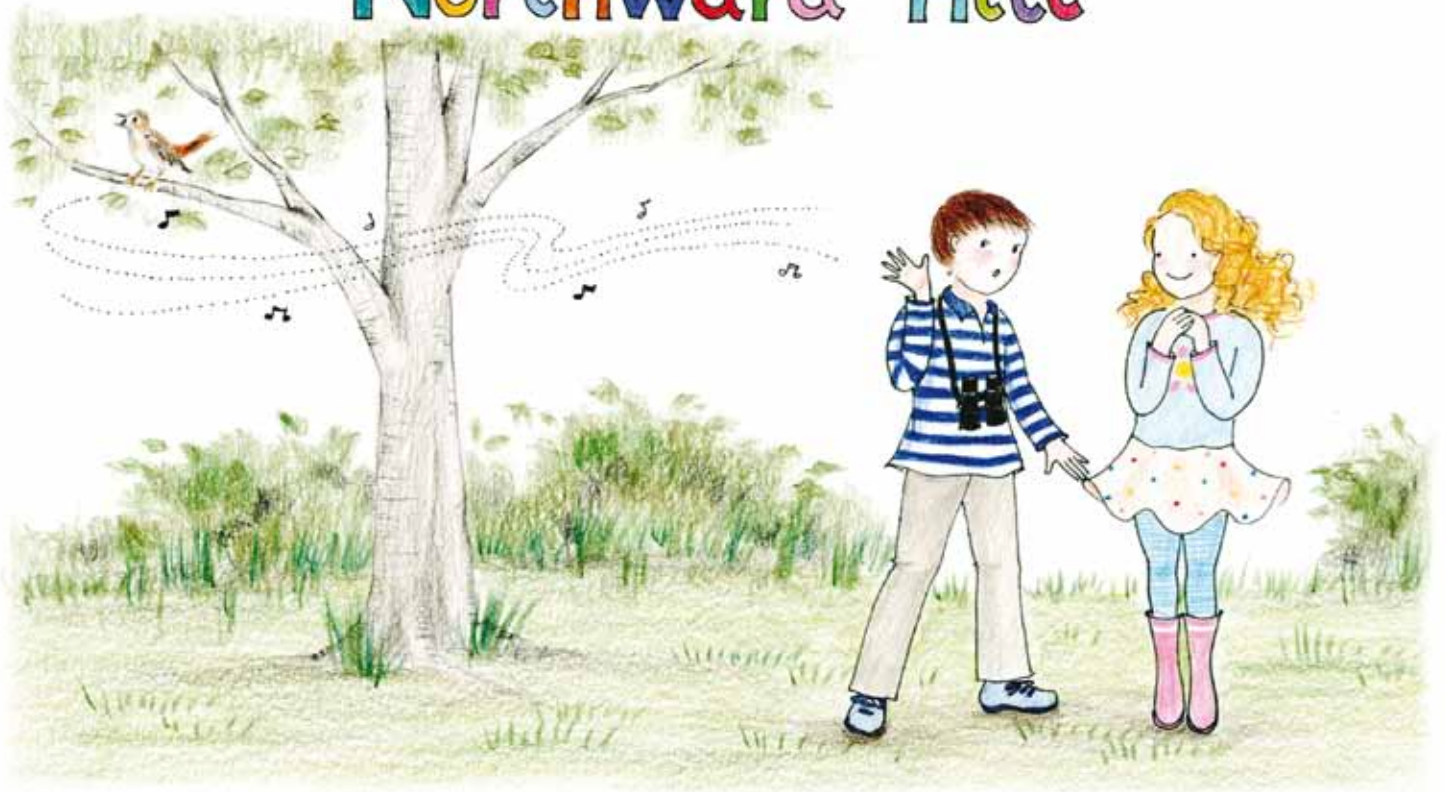


Rosie caught a stickleback, Alex caught a water boatman.

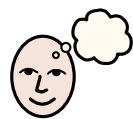


Later they carefully put the animals back into the pond.

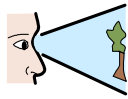
Northward Hill



It was springtime, nightingales were singing at Northward Hill.



Alex and Rosie thought their song was beautiful.



Later they saw young herons sitting on their tree-top nests.



The herons were very noisy!

Queendown Warren



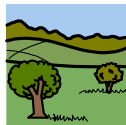
Alex likes to visit Queendown Warren in May.



He knows that the woodland floor will look blue!

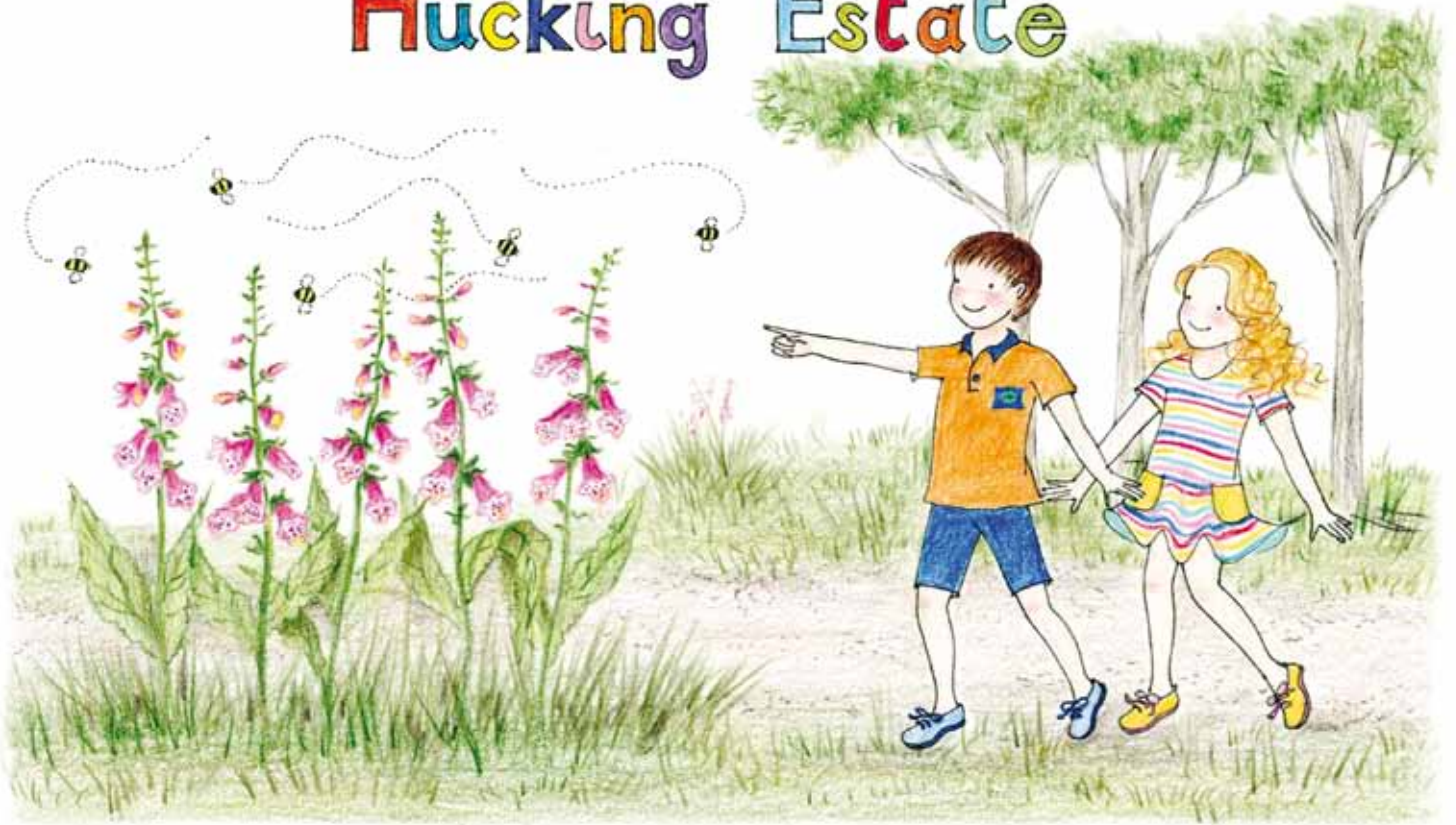


Rosie likes to visit in the summer.



At this time the meadow is full of wild flowers and butterflies.

Hucking Estate



Bumblebees



like



the foxgloves growing



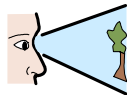
in the woods.



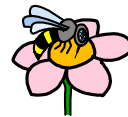
Alex



enjoyed



watching



them collecting pollen.

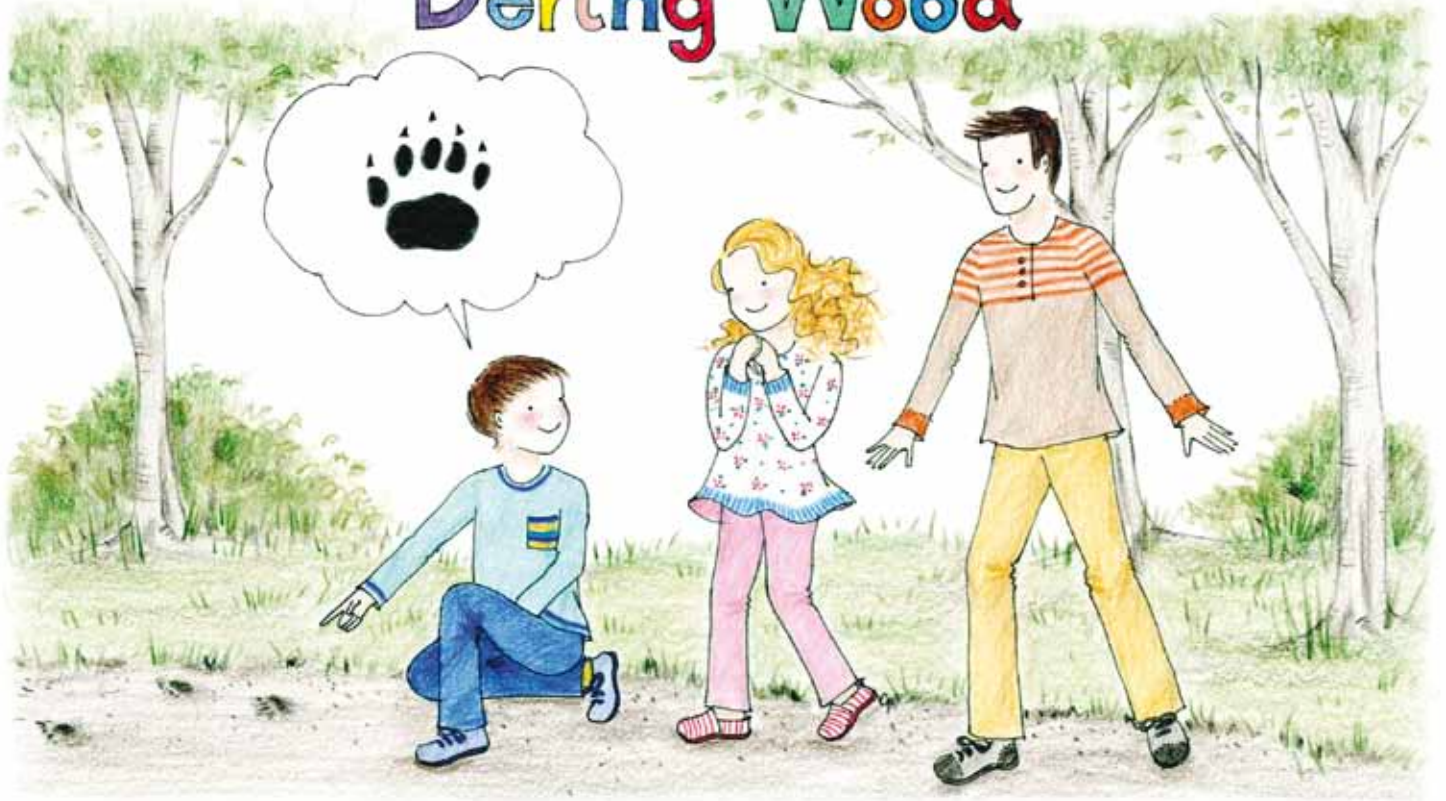


Rosie found a dandelion seed head.

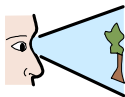


When she blew, all of the seeds floated away.

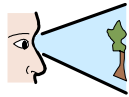
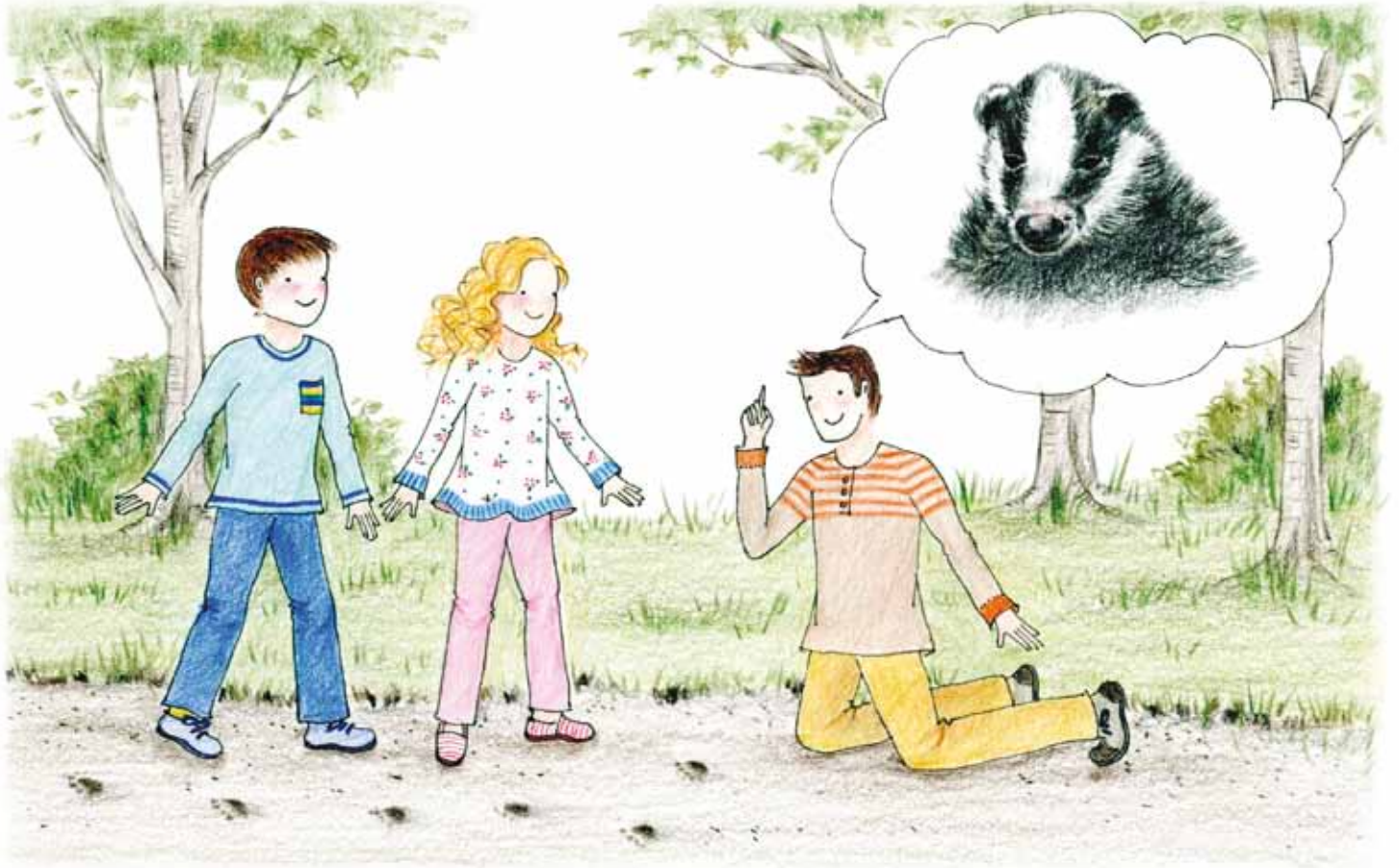
Dering Wood



Alex and Rosie were excited!



They saw footprints on the path in Dering Wood.



Dad looked at the footprints.



The footprints were made by a badger!

Wye Downs NNR



Is this the best view in Kent?



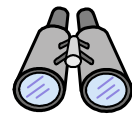
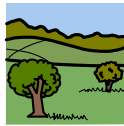
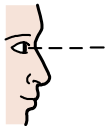
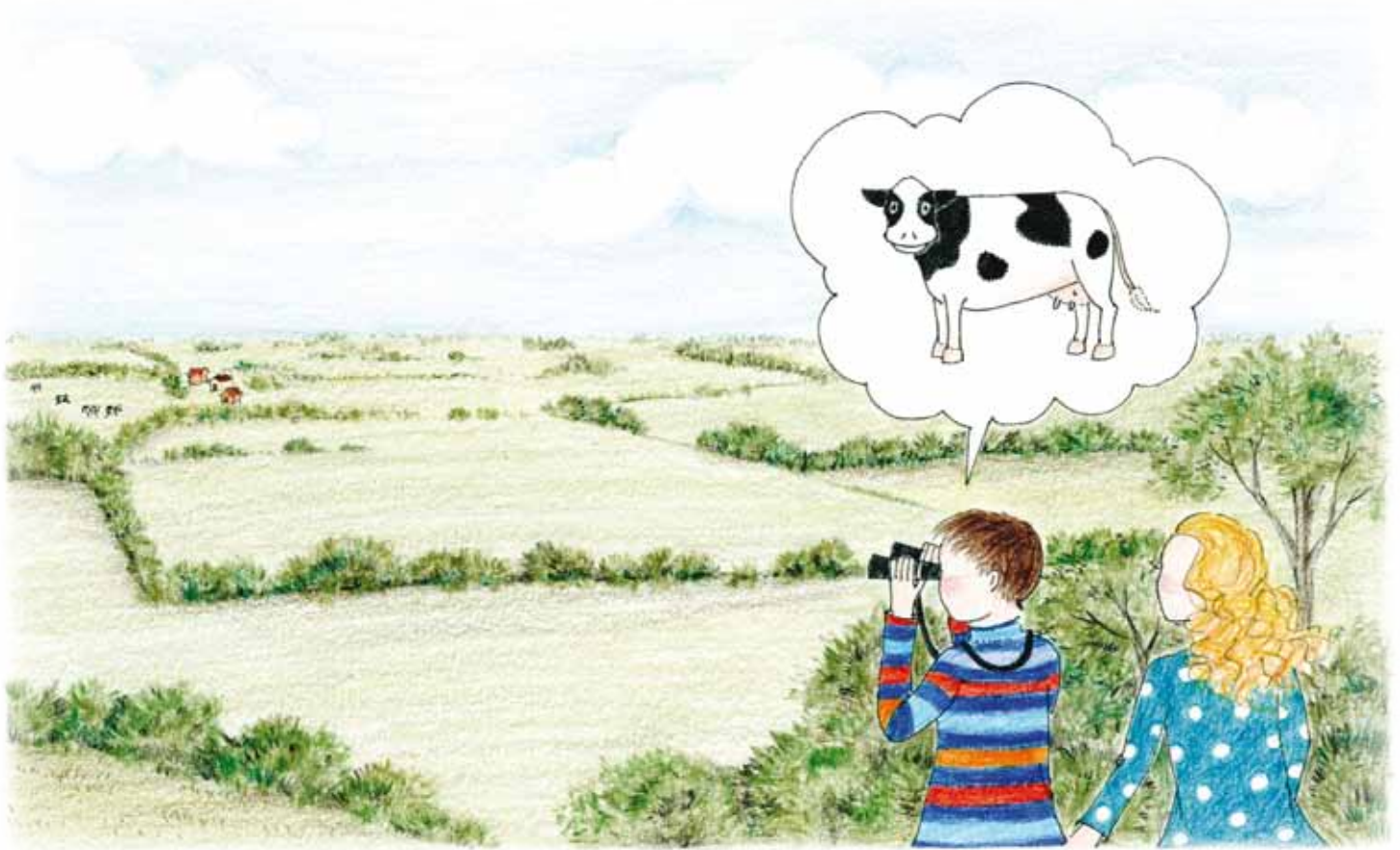
Alex



and Rosie



think so!



Alex looked at the countryside through his binoculars.



The farm animals looked very small!

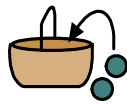
Dungeness NNR



Alex



and Rosie



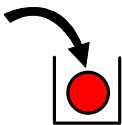
collected



pebbles



on the beach.



They put



the best



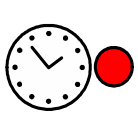
pebbles



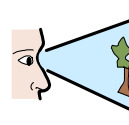
into a bucket



to take home.

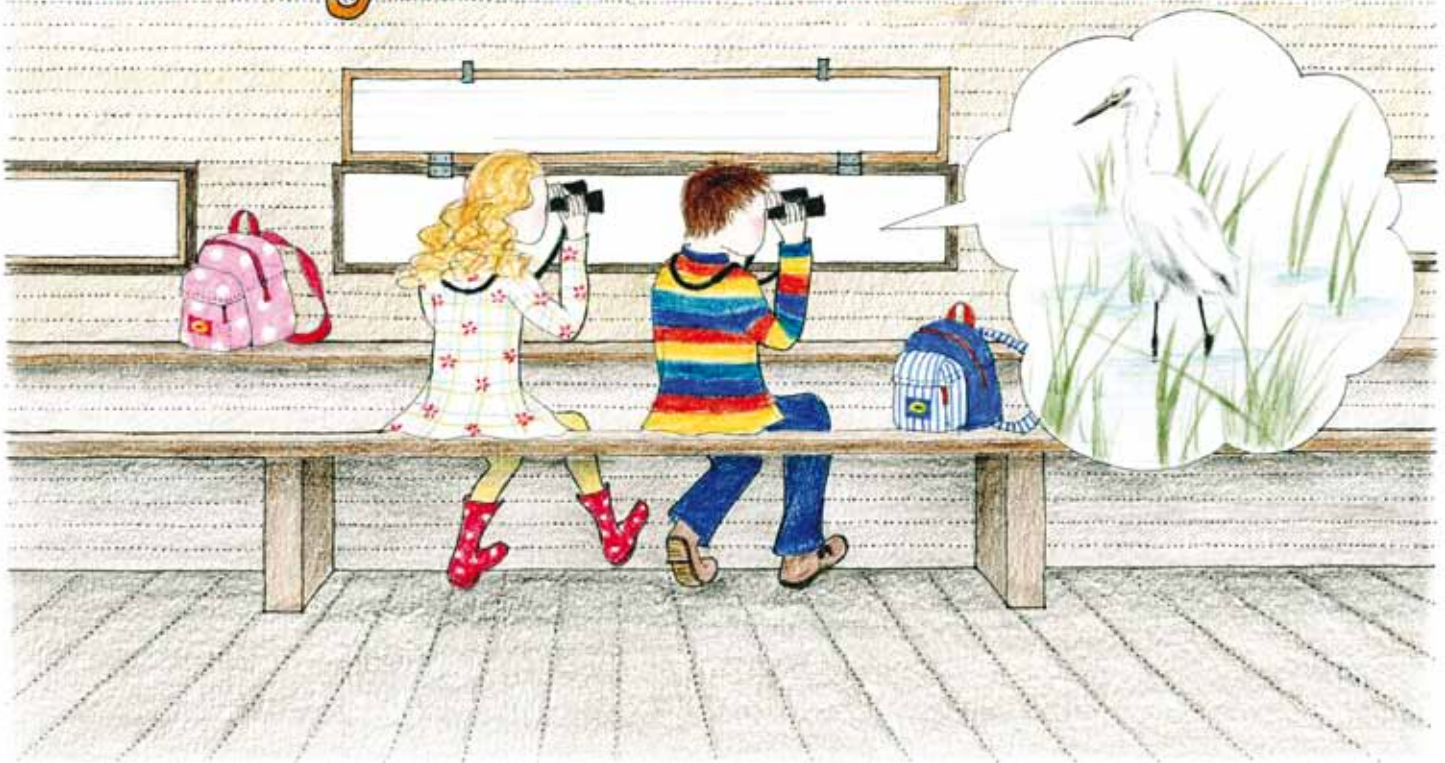


After lunch, they walked to the railway station.



Alex was very pleased to see a steam train.

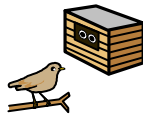
Dungeness RSPB Reserve



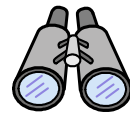
Alex



and Rosie



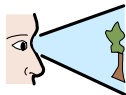
sat in a hide



where you can watch birds.



Alex



saw



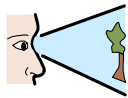
a little egret



that was pure



white.

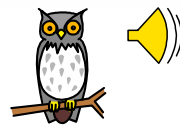
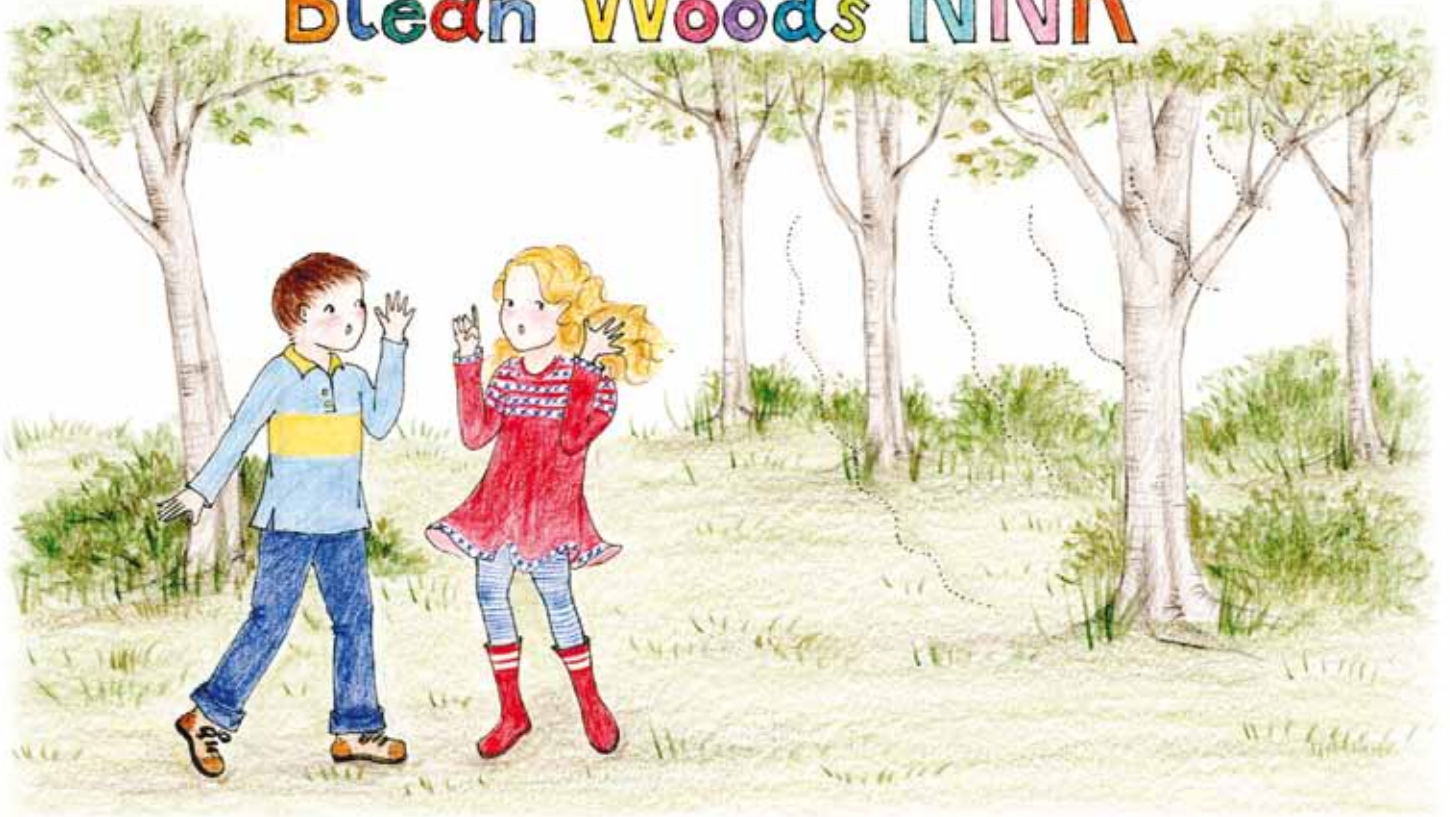


They also saw a lot of ducks, seagulls and cormorants.



But the best bird was the little egret.

Blean Woods NNR



There was a strange hooting sound in Blean Wood.



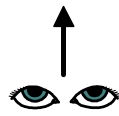
It was coming from a nearby tree.



Alex



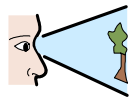
and Rosie



looked up.



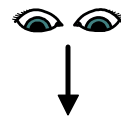
They were amazed



to see



an owl



looking down

at them.

Brockhill Country Park



Alex



and Rosie



visited



the park



on a winter's day.



Snowdrops



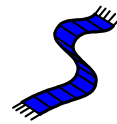
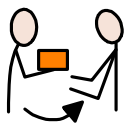
were poking through



the snow.

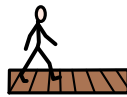


Alex and Rosie built a snowman.

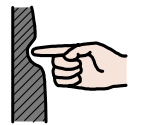


Alex gave the snowman his hat and scarf.

Stodmarsh



Alex and Rosie walked on the boardwalk through the reedbed.



They stopped to feel the bulrushes, which were very soft.



Frogs were croaking in the reeds.



Alex and Rosie smiled at the strange sound they made.

Goodnestone Park Gardens



Alex



and Rosie



visited



the gardens



in the summer.



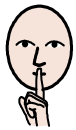
They found



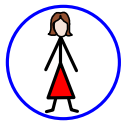
flowers



of many different colours.

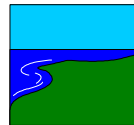


In a quiet part of the garden they found a wooden bench.



Mum read a story about a squirrel who lived in a garden.

Samphire Hoe



It was very windy at Samphire Hoe.



Alex



was happy



to feel



the wind



on his face.



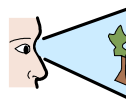
Alex



and Rosie



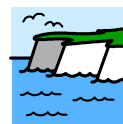
had a great



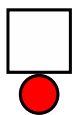
view



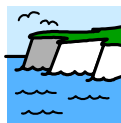
of the chalk



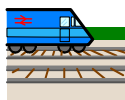
cliffs.



Beneath



the cliffs



was a railway,

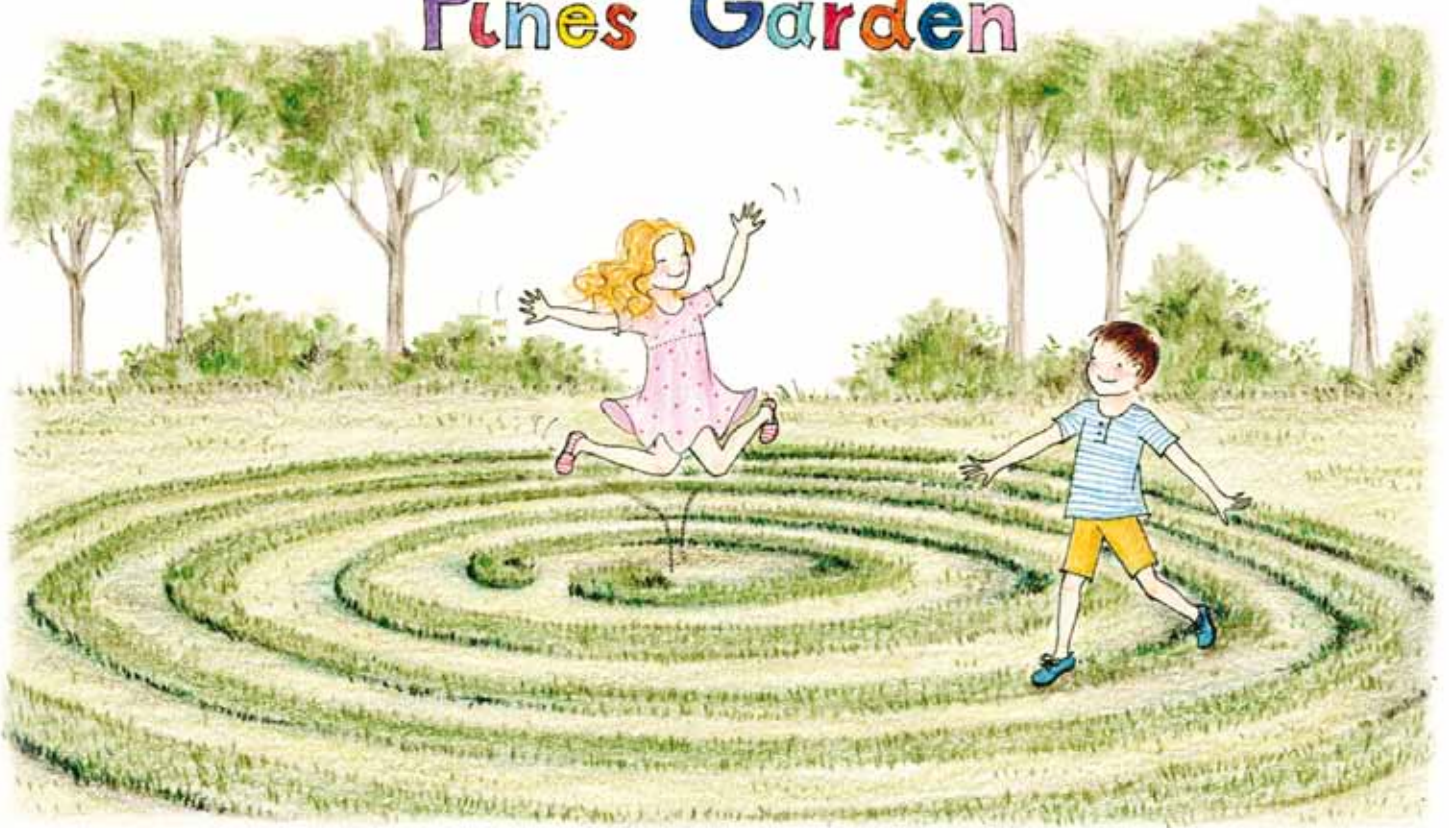


which made Alex



happy.

Pines Garden



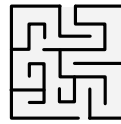
Alex



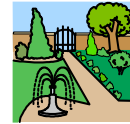
and Rosie



enjoyed



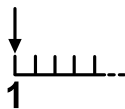
the maze



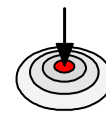
at Pines Garden.



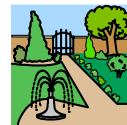
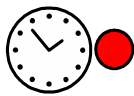
Rosie



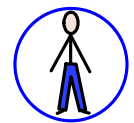
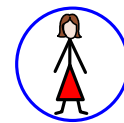
was first



to reach the centre.



After walking around the garden...



Alex and Rosie enjoyed a picnic with Mum and Dad.

For bibliographic purposes, this book should be referred to as
Blakesley, D and Blakesley, T. 2015. *Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Kent*
Autism and Nature, Kent.

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First published 2015

British-Library-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Layout by Barbara Creed
Published by Autism and Nature
Printed by Berforts Information Press

www.autismandnature.org.uk

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Alex and Rosie had a lot of fun visiting their favourite places in the Kent countryside. Find out where they went and what they saw.

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