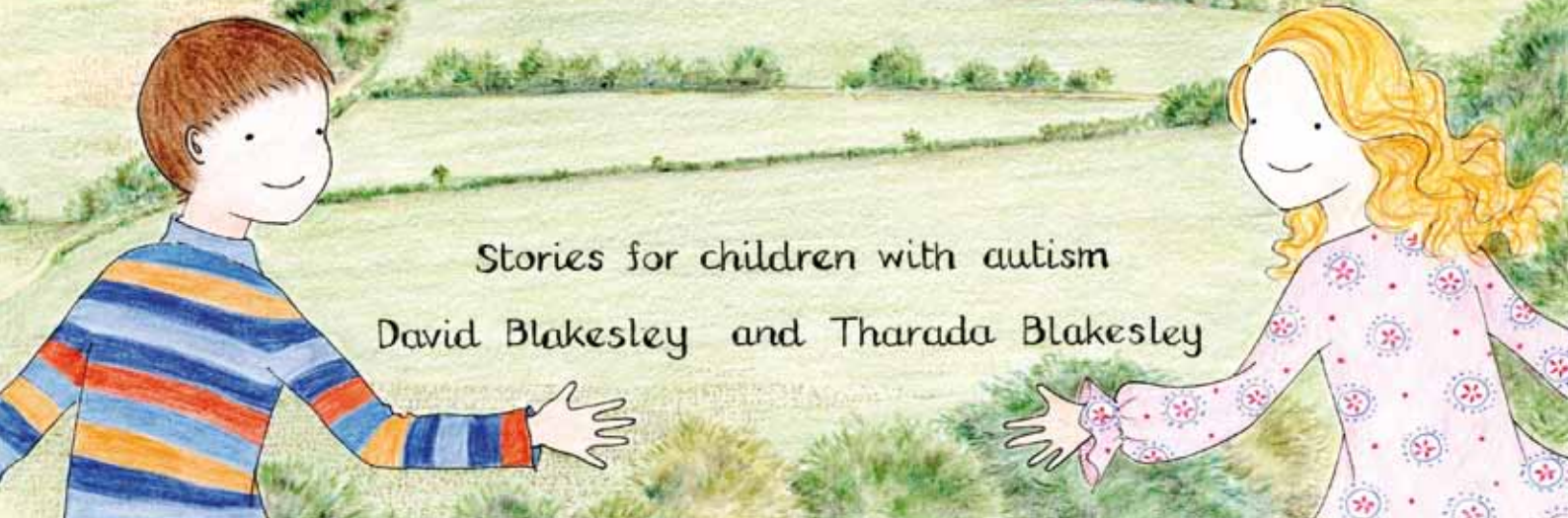


Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Hampshire

Stories for children with autism

David Blakesley and Tharada Blakesley



Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Hampshire

Stories by David Blakesley

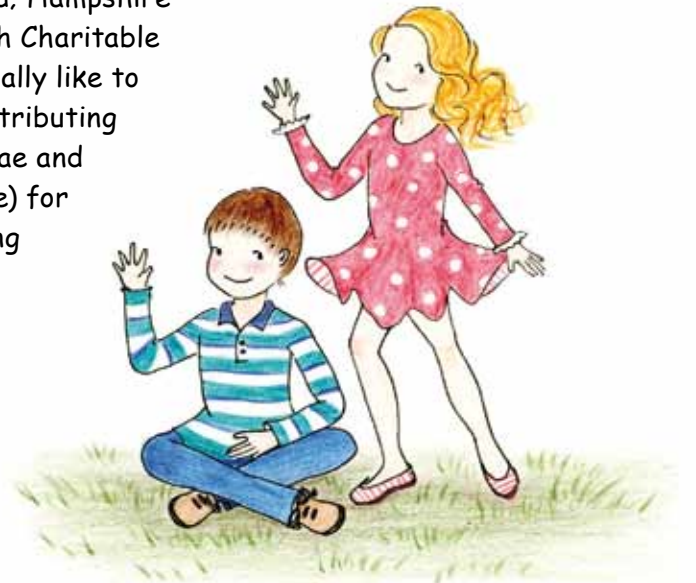
Illustrations by Tharada Blakesley



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 Hampshire'* has been written to complement our guide *'Visiting the Hampshire countryside: a guide for parents/carers and teachers of children with autism'*. The book tells the story of two children, Alex and Rosie, who visit many of the natural places described in our guide. Most of the places featured are in the South Downs National Park, but Alex and Rosie also visit places outside the National Park, including Yateley Country Park, Danebury Hill, Staunton Country Park and Royal Victoria Country Park. We hope that our story book will appeal to younger children with autism and children with speech and language difficulties, and encourage their interest in the South Downs and Hampshire countryside. For more information visit the Autism and Nature website (www.autismandnature.org.uk).

This book has been generously funded by the South Downs National Park Authority Sustainable Communities Fund; Hampshire County Council Small Grants Scheme; Nineveh Charitable Trust; and Woodlands.co.uk. We would especially like to thank Autism Hampshire 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.





Alex and Rosie enjoy visiting the South Downs.



This is a story about their favourite places.

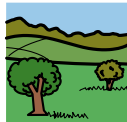
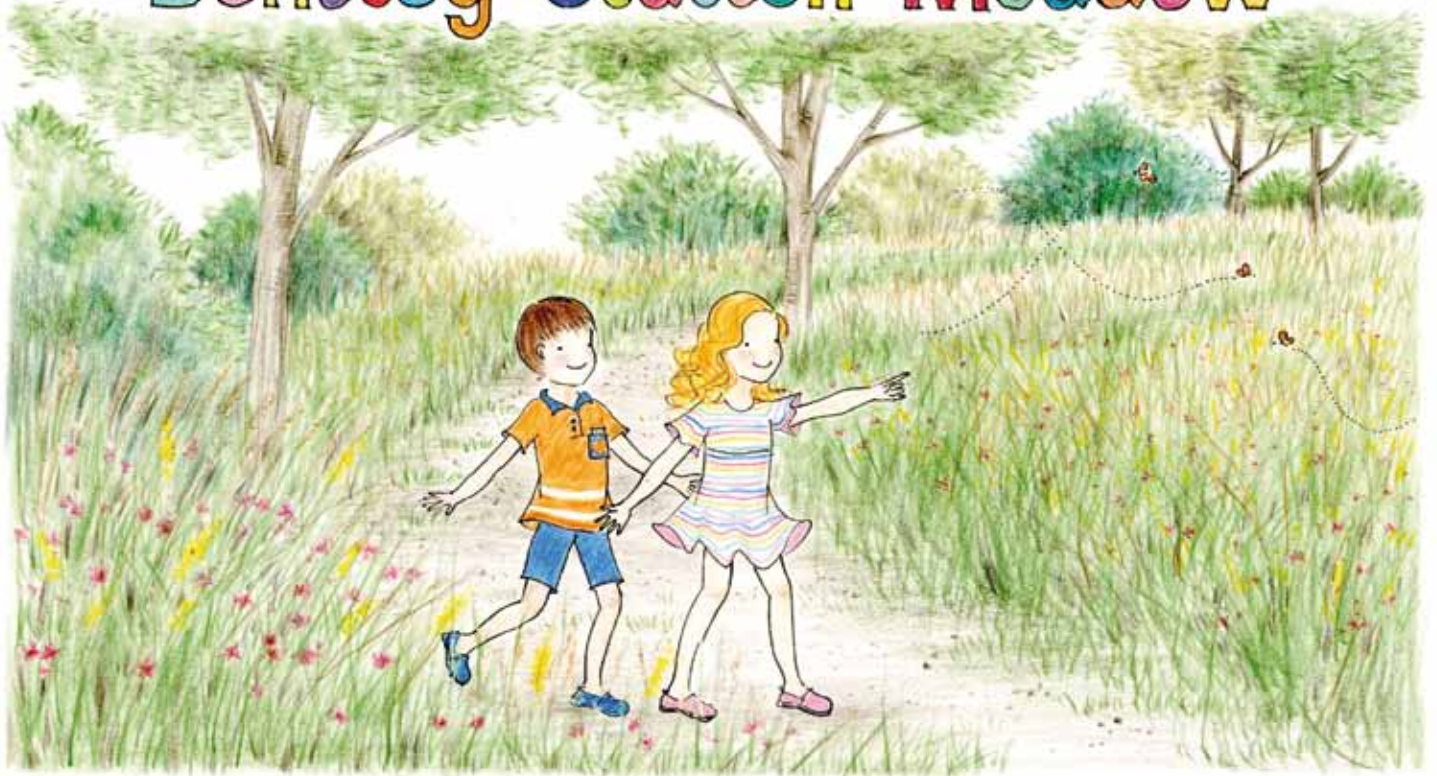


Hello
My name is Alex

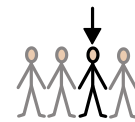
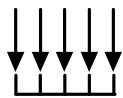
Hello
My name is Rosie



Bentley Station Meadow



The meadow is a special place for butterflies.



There are a lot of wild flowers and few people visit.

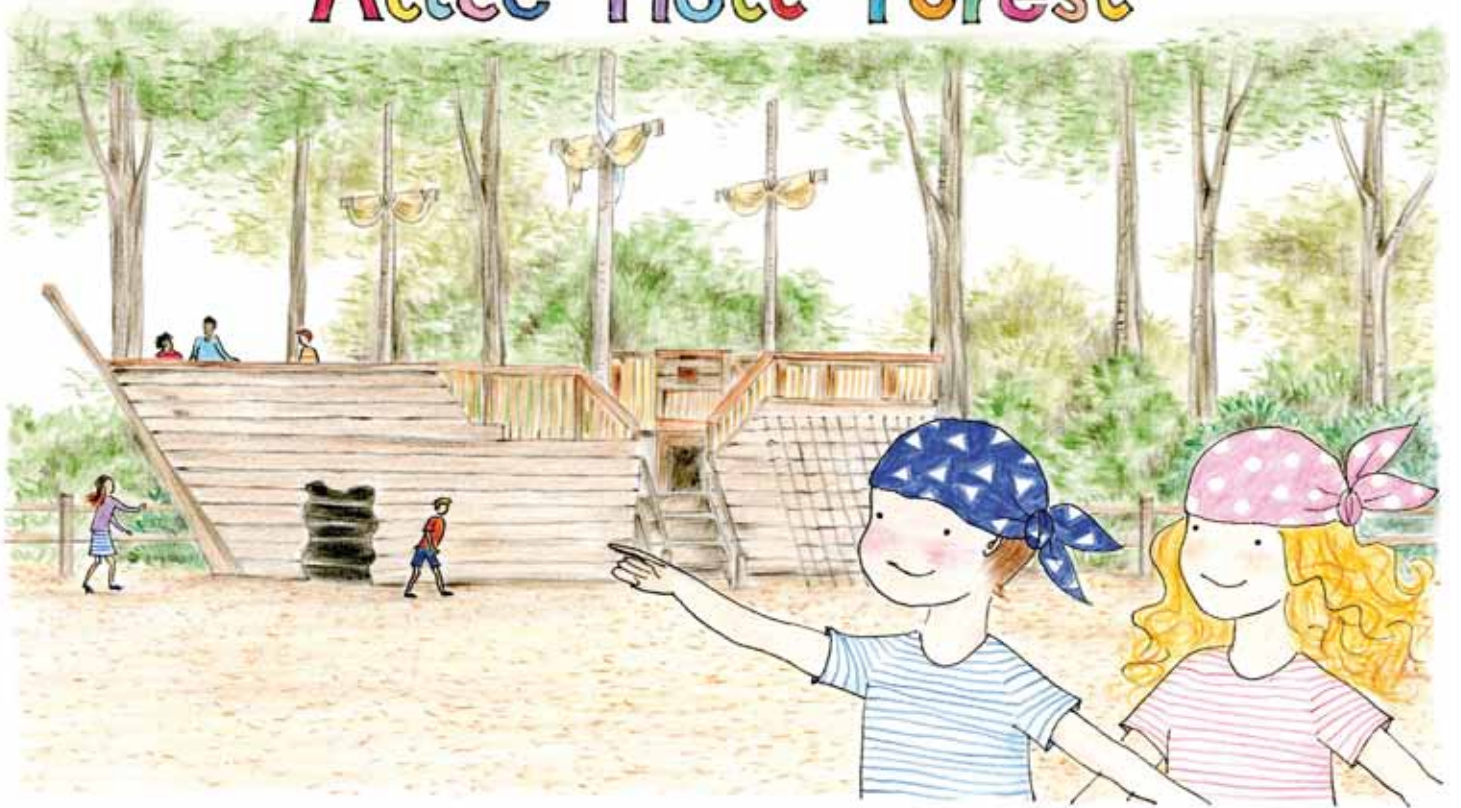


The marbled white butterfly was Rosie's favourite.



Alex photographed a beautiful fritillary butterfly.

Alice Holt Forest



Alex



and Rosie



liked the



boat



in the playground.



They pretended to be pirates!





Alex



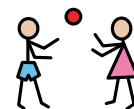
and Rosie



liked the



tunnels



on the play



trail.



They

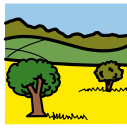
pretended

to be

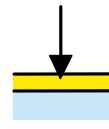


badgers!

Gilbert White's House



=



The buttercup meadow was like a carpet of gold.



Alex

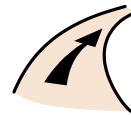
and



Rosie



danced

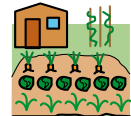


along

the



path.



Later, Alex and Rosie explored the herb garden.



They liked the smell of mint leaves.

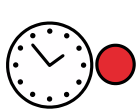
Queen Elizabeth Country Park



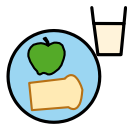
Beech woods are very colourful in autumn.



Alex and Rosie made crowns with autumn leaves.



After



lunch,



Alex

and



Rosie



walked up

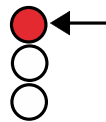


Butser Hill.



The view

from the



top

of the



hill

was



amazing.

Old Winchester Hill

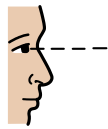


Alex

and



Rosie

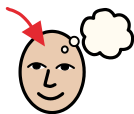


looked

at the



information board.



They

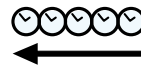
learnt

that this was a



hill fort

a long time ago.





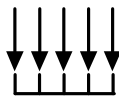
Alex



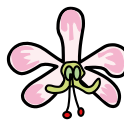
and Rosie



found



a lot



of orchids



on the hill.



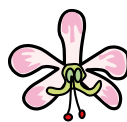
Rosie



drew



pictures

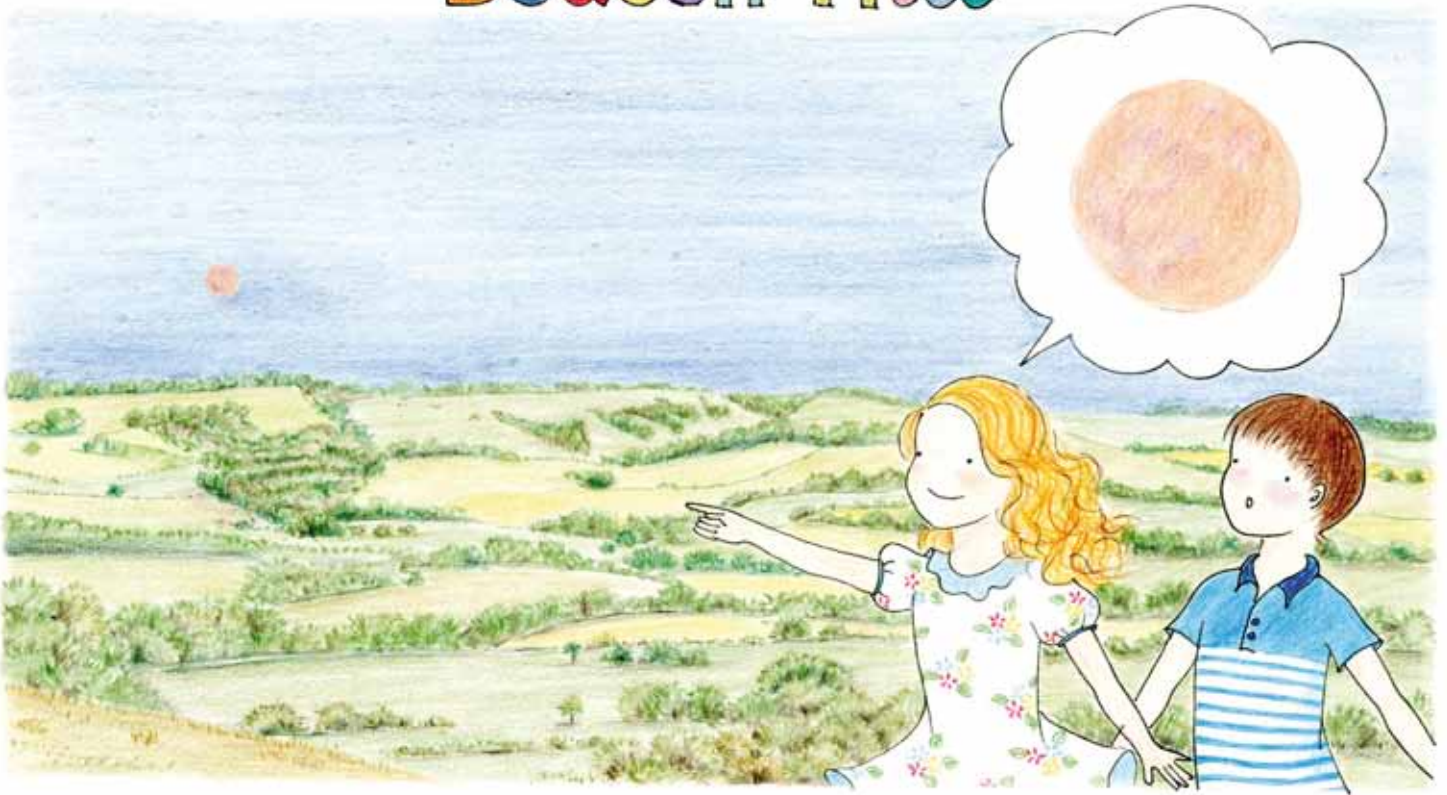


of the orchids

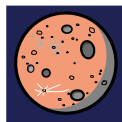


in her notebook.

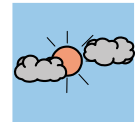
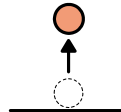
Beacon Hill



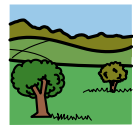
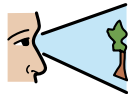
It was early evening on Beacon Hill.



=



The moon looked orange as it rose in the sky.



Alex was excited to see bats flying over the meadow.



The bats were flying very fast!

Hoe Road Memorial Meadow



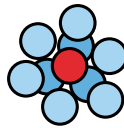
Alex



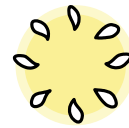
and Rosie



sat



amongst the



beautiful wild



flowers.



Bees were buzzing

and



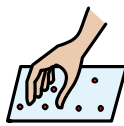
grasshoppers were singing.



Alex



Rosie



picked



dandelion seed clocks.



They

blew



the

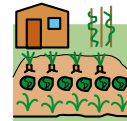
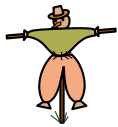
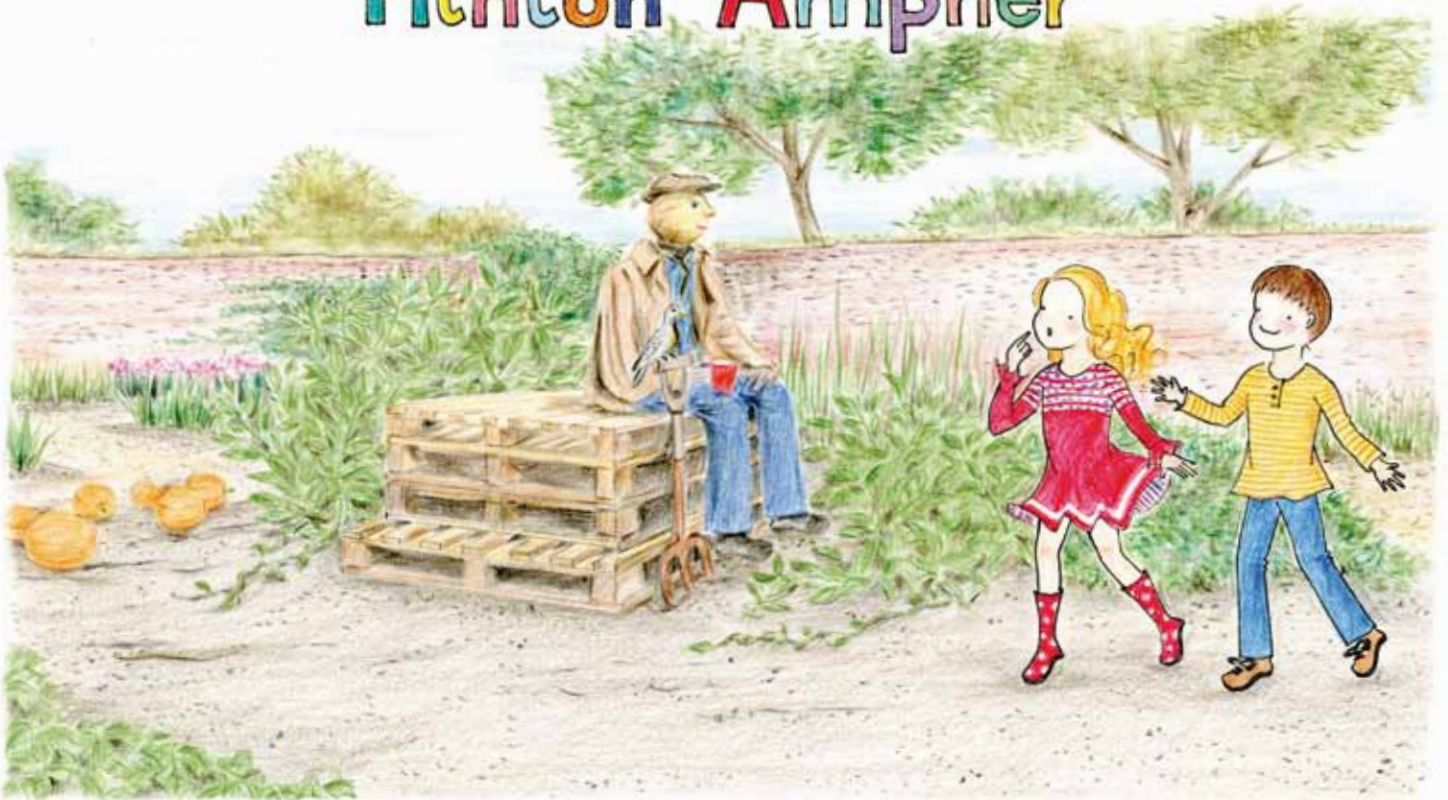
seeds

into the

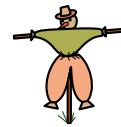
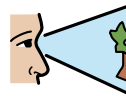


wind.

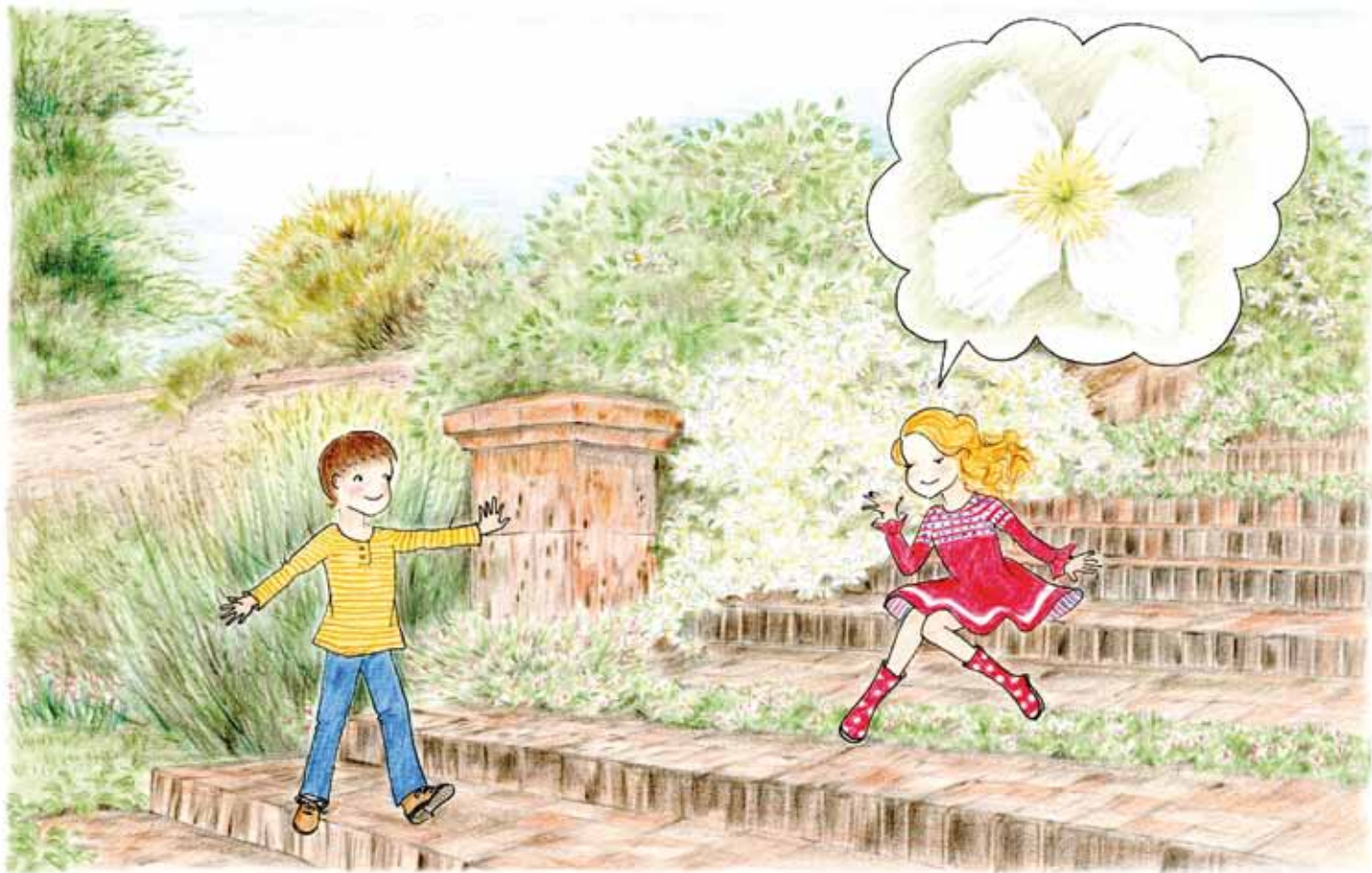
Hinton Ampner



A scarecrow was sitting in the vegetable garden.



Alex and Rosie were surprised to see the scarecrow.



Rosie



likes



flowers



that

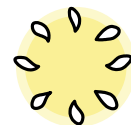
smell nice.



The clematis flowers

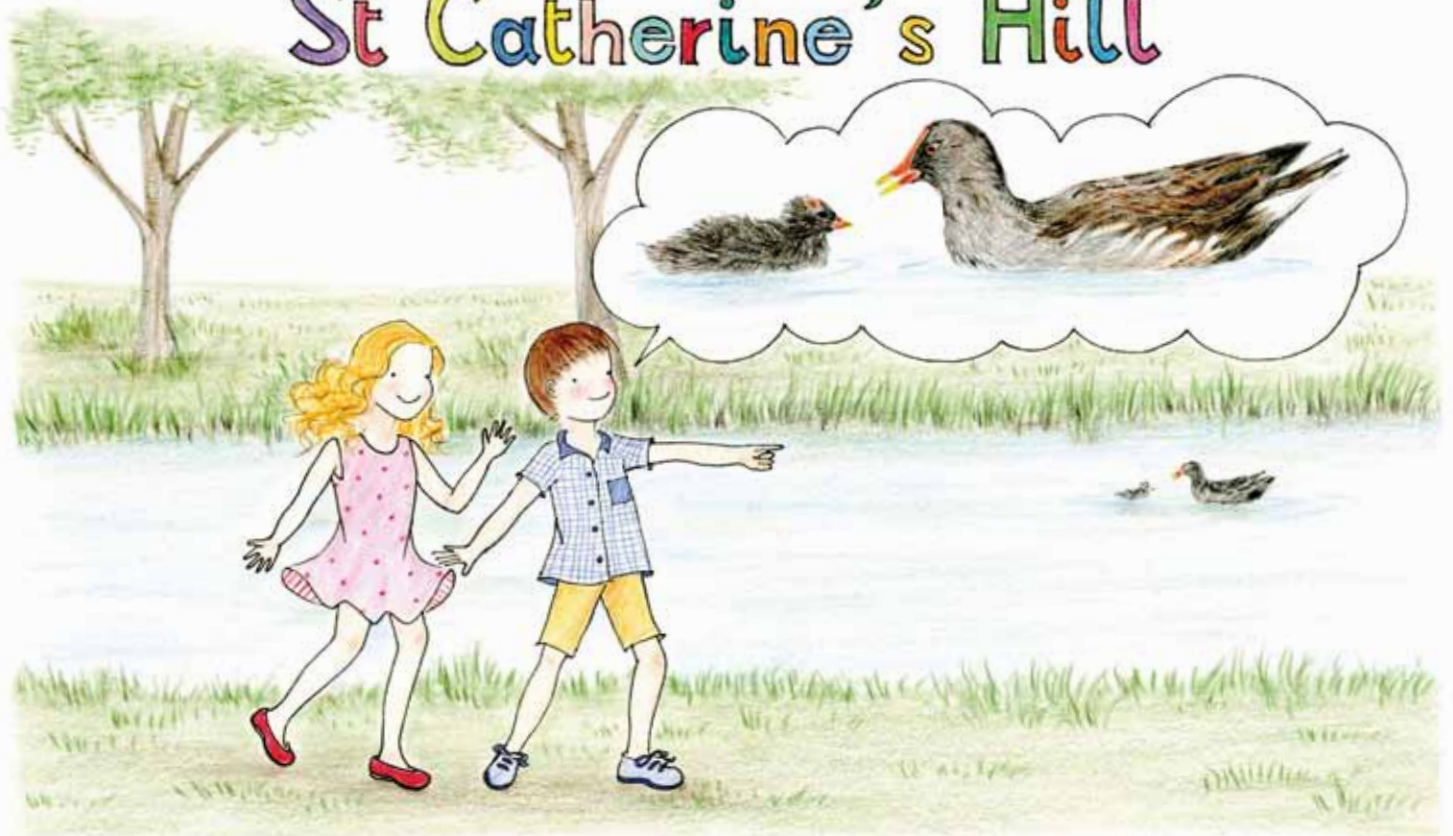


smelt



lovely!

St Catherine's Hill



Alex



and Rosie



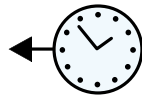
walked along



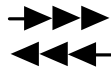
the River Itchen.



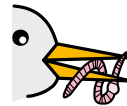
A moorhen



was



busy



feeding



its chick.



Later,



Alex

and



Rosie

walked up



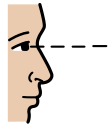
the



hill.



Rosie



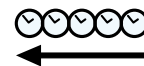
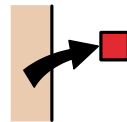
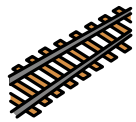
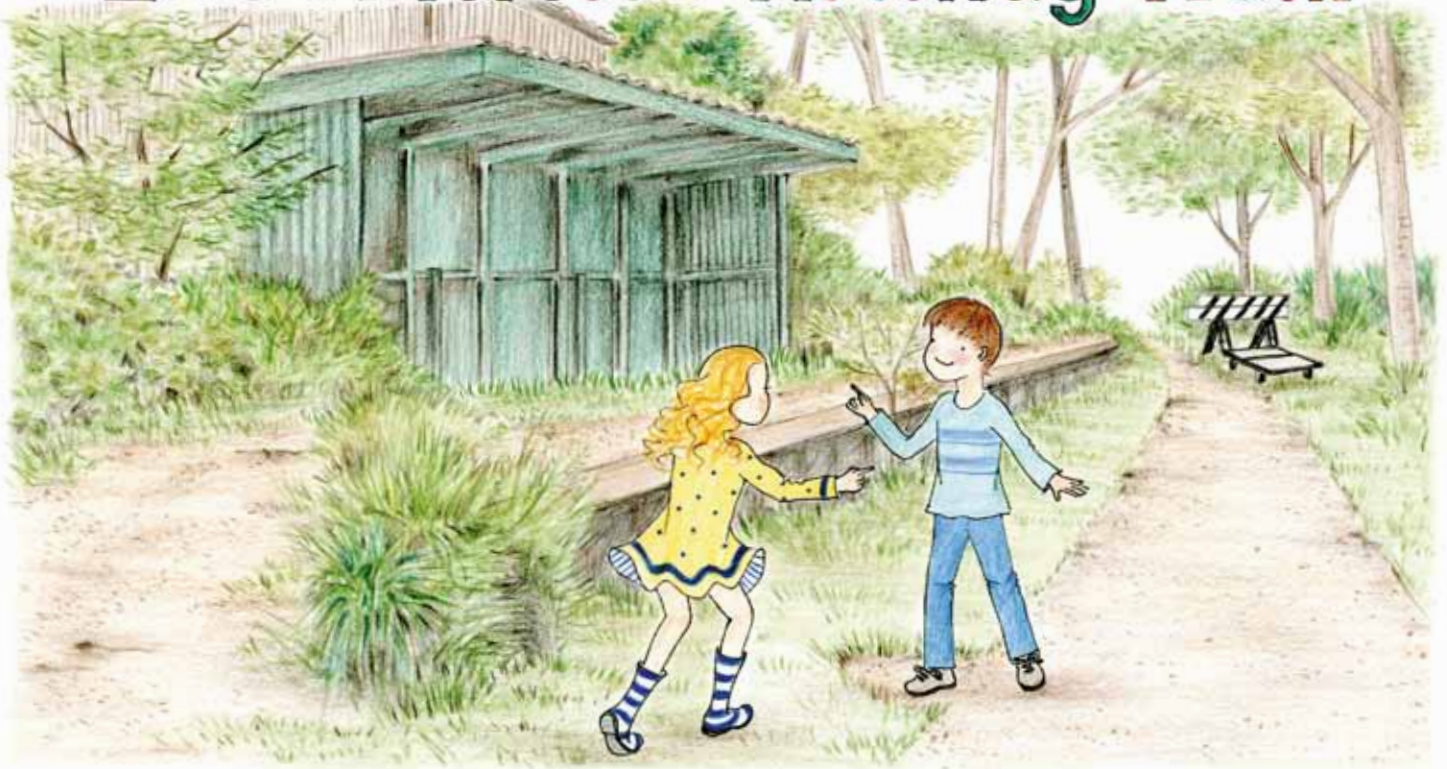
spotted

a

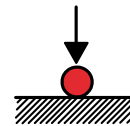


buzzard soaring above them.

Liss Riverside Railway Walk



The railway line was taken away many years ago.



But the platform and buffers are still here.

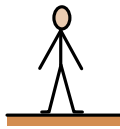


Alex

and



Rosie



stood

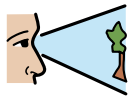
on an



old railway bridge.



Rosie



saw

a



trout

in the



river



below!

Yateley Country Park



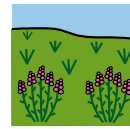
Alex



Rosie



walked through



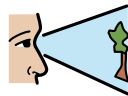
the heather.



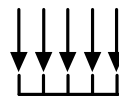
Rosie



was delighted to



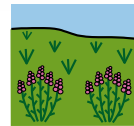
see



so many



pink flowers.

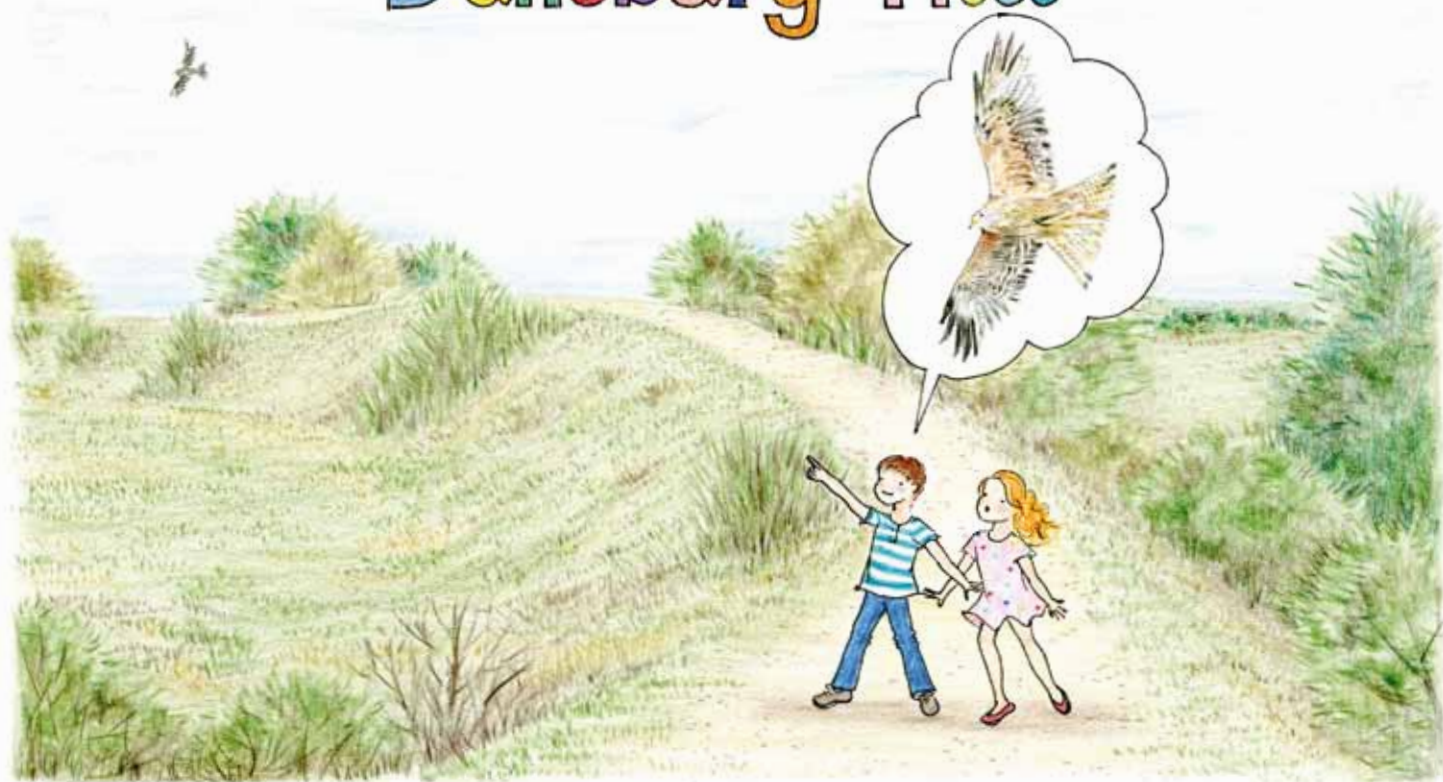


A small bird was perched on top of the heather.

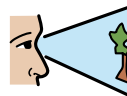
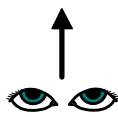


"It's a Dartford warbler!" Exclaimed Rosie.

Danebury Hill



Alex and Rosie walked along the ramparts of the hill fort.



Alex looked up and saw a red kite.



Rosie



found



small



piles

of



chalk

on the ground.



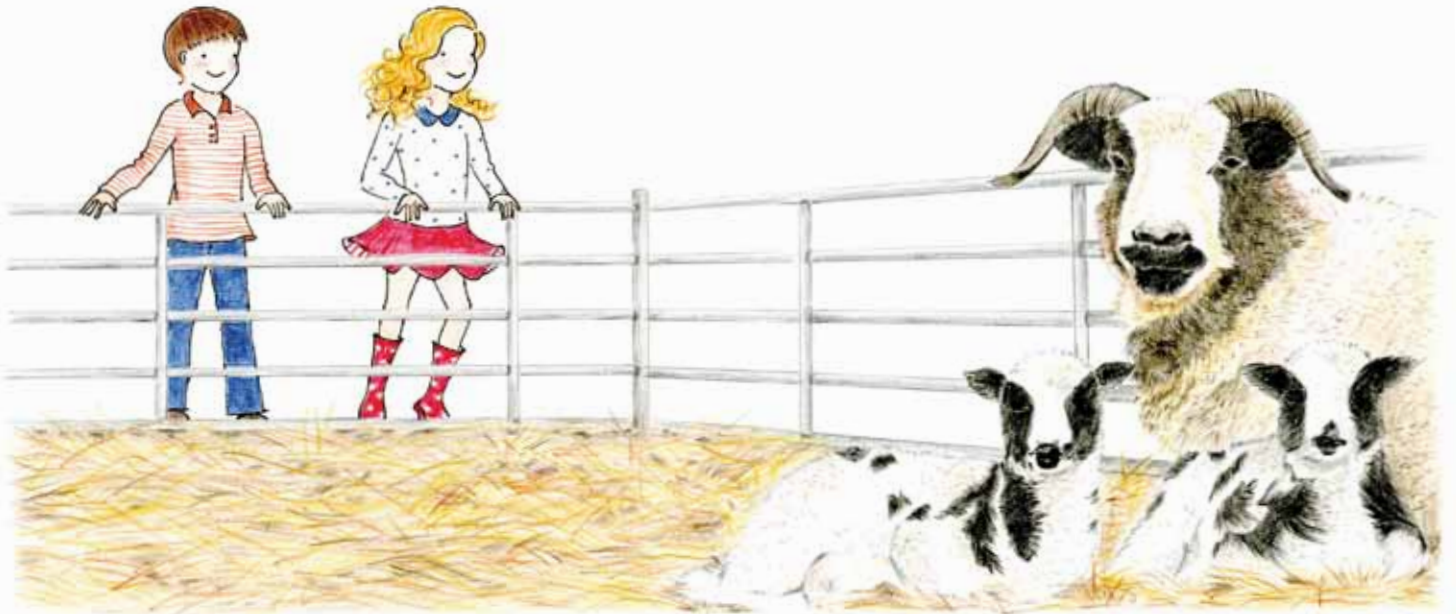
Rabbits

had been



digging their burrows!

Staunton Country Park



Alex

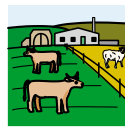


and

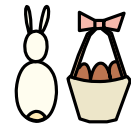
Rosie



visited



the farm



at

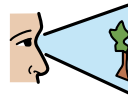
Easter.



They were very

happy

to



see



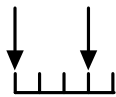
the new born lambs.



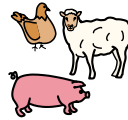
Visitors can



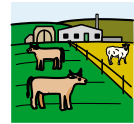
feed



some



of the animals on the



farm.



Alex



and

Rosie

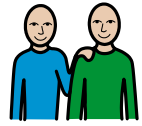


enjoyed

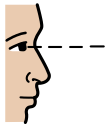


feeding the goat.

Royal Victoria Country Park



Alex and Rosie walked on the beach with their friend.



They watched the ferry sailing to the Isle of Wight.



Later, the children visited the Royal Victoria Railway.



They enjoyed a ride on the diesel train.

For bibliographic purposes, this book should be referred to as
Blakesley, D and Blakesley, T. 2017. *Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Hampshire*
Autism and Nature, Kent.

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First published 2017

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 Amadeus Press

www.autismandnature.org.uk

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

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