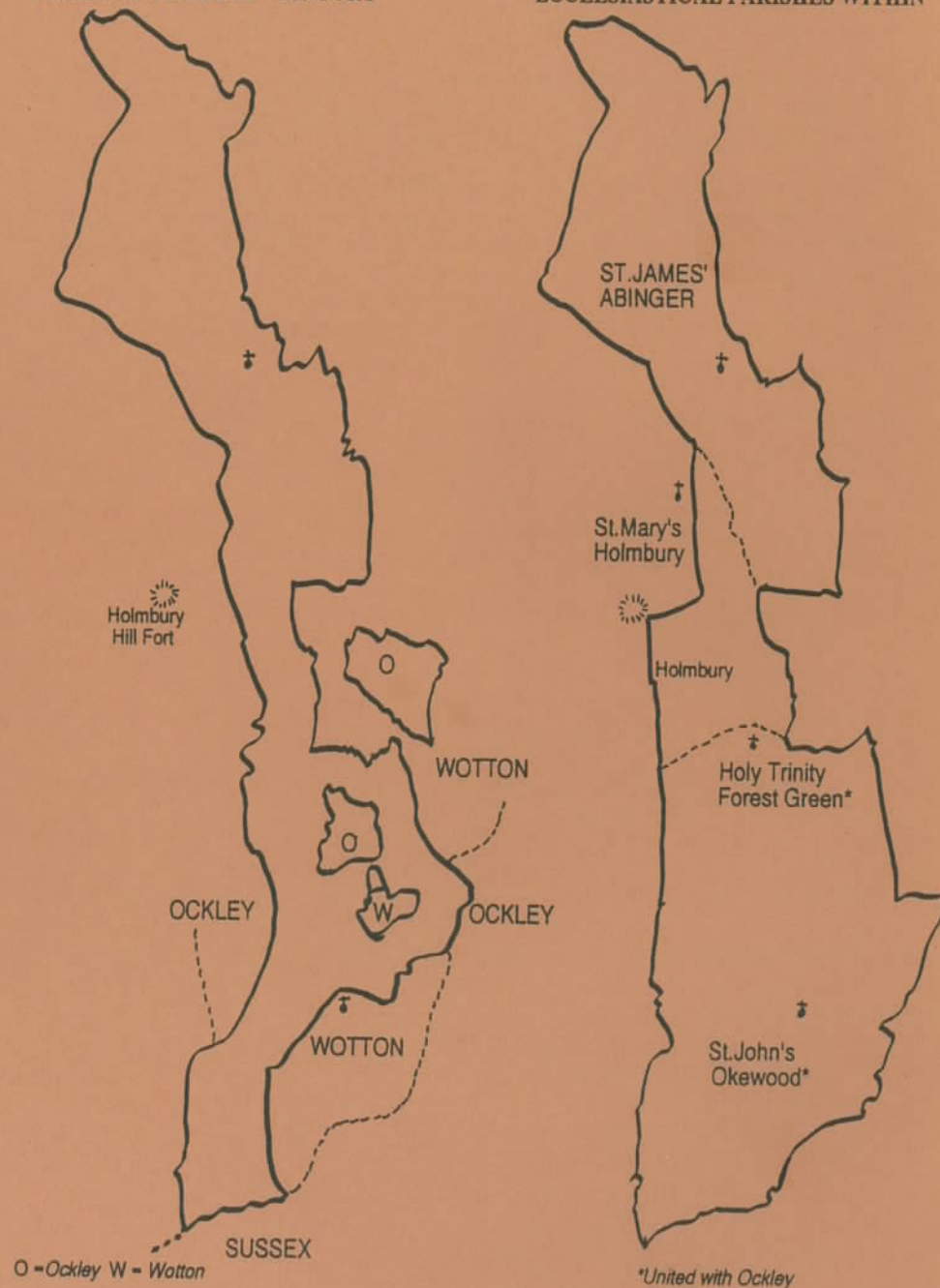


ABINGER

ECCLESIASTICAL (AND CIVIL)
PARISH UP TO THE 19th CENTURY

CIVIL PARISH TODAY SHOWING
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISHES WITHIN



Abinger

Some key dates
in its history



From the Stone Age
to
The new millennium

"Abinger. Some key dates in its history "

could not have been compiled without the aid of many past and present sources of local information.

The principal references used in compiling this list of dates were :-

"Abinger Hammer- a short history " : Shirley Corke

"The villages of Abinger Common & Wotton" : Terence O'Kelly

"Surrey Villages" : Pitt and Shaw

"Abinger Parish Church": J.A.Gibbs

Abinger Church Records (of more recent years)

"The Tillingbourne Valley Story" :Peter Brandon

"Industrial History of the Mole Valley" : Peter Tarplee

"Victoria History of the County of Surrey"

I am indebted to the authors of these books for their work which made the discovery of key dates an easier task.

Especial thanks are due to Shirley Corke for her kindness in checking the accuracy of the entries, making corrections and providing helpful suggestions for many additional key dates.

This list of key dates from the Middle Stone Age to 1999 with the brief commentary on each was compiled at the close of the 20th. century and the early part of the new millennium.

The booklet was first published as a supplement to the December 2000/January 2001 issue of *Abinger & Coldharbour Parish News* . It is hoped that it will be a useful reference to past events and to the people who have contributed to the life of this ancient ecclesiastical parish of Abinger (an area quite similar to the modern civil parish)

Eric Burleton
August 2000

Some dates in the life of Abinger.

People living in this area throughout the vast tracts of pre-historic time have left their traces, especially in the northern part of the parish. Most fields yield worked flints. Notable are :-

- Mesolithic** Area of apparent occupation at Paddington Tolt
- Meso-/ Neo-lithic** Pit shelter or habitation in field near Abinger Manor .
- Bronze Age** A four and half inch pottery food vessel* dug up (1960) in the fields of Fulvenden Farm (mostly in Shere parish)
(*food vessels in this period are unusual in Surrey)
- Iron Age** Holmbury Hill Fort . circa 55BC.
(Anstiebury fort [Coldharbour] possibly about same period)
- AD100 -400** Roman villa (remains of mosaic pavement, ten rooms, vessels and a few coins) believed built c100AD
(occupation till after 400AD) Excavated 1877/8 & 1995/7
- Anglo Saxon** Arrivals gave their names to the places where they settled- Abinger and Paddington.
- 7th Century** Surrey is likely to have been converted to Christianity by the West Saxons, perhaps by Birinus whom the Pope sent to work among the pagan inhabitants of the West Saxon area.
- 672** Surrey's connections with Winchester were confirmed in the charter founding Chertsey Abbey in 672. (The arch-deaconry of Surrey within the Winchester diocese existed in 1128)
- Before 1066** The manors of Abinger and Paddington held by a "huscarle" of King Edward (The Confessor). Probably both had mills by this time.
- 1086** Domesday Book: both manors among the Surrey lands held by William Fitz Ansculf. There was here a church, two mills, around 20 farms, other tenants, grazing and pasture. This William may have been the builder of the first stone church at Abinger.

- Before 1100** Fitz Ansculf's tenant Robert of Abinger is very likely to have been the builder of the little Bayeux tapestry type castle (Excavated in 1949)
- 13th Century** A fulling mill at Abinger for finishing cloth production, a century later this became a grain mill and later still in the 16th. Century a gunpowder and copper mill.
- 13th Century** Abinger church dedicated to St.James, thought to be after the popular saint of pilgrims and not St.James the Great, brother of St.John. During the century the original Norman chancel was rebuilt.
- 1220-1240 circa** North Chapel of Abinger church believed built in this period. 1220 : Oakwood chapel established .
- 1273** David de Jarpenville held Manor of Abinger. He died in 1293. The Manor fell to his brother Thomas. In 1305 he was Patron of the Abinger.half of the living.
- 1286** 28th April: Appointment of Richard Fulvenne, first recorded Rector of Abinger.The Patron was Sir Adam Gordon (or de Gurdun.)
- 1291** Valuation of living for taxation by Pope Nicholas
- 1314 -1348** Members of the de Jarpenville family were Rectors of Abinger and Roger, grandson of David, was a Patron.
- 1349** Most tenants of Paddingdene reported dead (of the Black Death) and the manor house fallen down.
- 1364** The two moieties of the parish, Paddington and Abinger, were united.
- 15th Century** A belfry was added to Abinger church some time in this century
- 1410-1629** The Nevill family, lords of Abergavenny, held the Pembroke half of Paddington Manor. Did they build Paddington Farm ?

- 1525** Carved Oak vestment chest in St. James' church made and dated.
- 1526 circa** Perriots, large house in Abinger Hammer was rebuilt (centuries later it was again rebuilt as the Abinger Arms)
- 1550 & 1552** Edward and Thomas Elrington bought the manor of Abinger and the land near "Padynden Mill"
- 6th October 1552** Edward VI's commissioners for survey of church goods visited Abinger church and committed the care of all the church's possessions including "*a wodden cros plated with silver gilted with roses and branches weighing 16 ounces*" to Robert Haryson, Thomas Songhurst, William Att Lee and Raffe Datton.
- 1553** New Surrey commissioners given instructions to leave in small parish churches only "convenient and comely things mete for the administration of the Holy Communion" : 1 silver chalice, 1 surplice and ornaments for the communion table. Everything else, including the bells, was removed for the Crown, except church linen which was to be given to the poor.
- 1556** The Elringtons bought Padynden Manor. In 1557 they built an iron mill on the site of a corn mill, where they installed a "trip hammer" to forge iron. This hammer, weighing up to 8cwt, struck the anvil about 30 times a minute. The hammer pond was where the watercress beds are now. The iron mill remained in use until circa 1787. In 1560 the Elrington's licence for wood to be used for the making of charcoal was limited to 15 years only.
- 1559** Church registers of Abinger Church exist from this date. The first entry is a Baptism: Lawrence Dayre, son of Matthew Dayre, 23rd April 1559.
- 1560-1578** The lords of the manors of Abinger and Wotton sold the timber on the common to ironmasters and for shipbuilding
- 1574** Elrington signed bond undertaking no more making of ordnance without a licence.

- Before 1575** The responsibility for fencing the churchyard at Abinger had been allocated to individual properties in the parish
- 1576** All casting of guns or gunshot forbidden in Surrey. Cannon and cannon balls likely to have been made at the forge from 1560.
- 1586** Hackhurst Farm Cottage built. Leasers Barn thought in existence by this date
- 1580's -1610** Tenants brought a series of unsuccessful law suits against the lords for loss of their customary rights on the commons through enclosures and felling.
- 1595-1629** George Evelyn (d.1603) and son Richard of Wotton (d.1691) acquired the Manor of Abinger and the manors of Paddington Pembroke and Paddington Bray
- 17th century** Abinger Hatch built.
- 1610** John Aston of Cocks Farm hanged for horse-stealing.
- 1622 circa** Crossways Farm built.
- 1645** Rev. Anthony Smith, Rector of Abinger since 1638, was deprived of his living. He is said to have spoken or preached against Parliament and prayed that God would prosper The King. He probably used the prayer book which was illegal at that time. (36 Surrey parishes had ministers sequestered from their livings, "rather more than a quarter of the beneficed clergy of the county")
- 1653** Under the Civil Marriage Act, Thomas Webb was appointed "Parish Register" and entered in the parish book most of the 14 civil marriages in Abinger.
- 1654** 29th November. A lease granted to Thomas Hussey (of Old Sutton Place) and son Peter for 1000 years for a space 7ft x 5½ ft. for putting two pews "on the South side adjoining the pulpit, the reading place and the Clerk's seat" at a yearly rent of one peppercorn and a charge of £5 in consideration of the lease.

- 1655-57** Seven civil marriages performed by (or in the presence of) Peter Hussey as a Justice of the Peace.
- 1674** Two bells cast for Abinger Church. A tenor in D (4 cwt.) and a treble in E (3½ cwt.) inscribed "William Eldridge made me 1674" and "HS & DD Churchwardens" ie Henry Spooner and Daniel Dibble who were signatories of the pew lease in 1654.
- 1679** At least one section of the churchyard had been walled. The initials of the builder, probably Richard Worsfold of Pinkhurst, were set in the wall and are still visible today 19 yds north of the lychgate.
- 1690** Rev. Robert Offley was appointed Rector of St.James', Abinger. He was a distant relative of the Evelyn family through marriage and is referred to in the famous "Diary". He remained in the living for 52 years.
N.B. With few exceptions patronage of the Living of Abinger from 1638 to the last few years of 20th century has been by members of the Evelyn family.
- 1699** George Evelyn died and John Evelyn his brother, then aged 79, inherited Wotton estate.
- 1700 circa** Sutton Place Farm house built.
- 1706** John Evelyn, Commissioner of the Privy Seal, diarist, died 27th February. His tomb in Wotton Church bears the inscription " ...that all is vanity which is not honest, and that there is no solid wisdom but in real piety"
- 1711** Daniells renamed Paddington House.
- 1711** John Dibble, iron master of Abinger forge and timber merchant, who lived at Daniells, bankrupted.
- 1714** The Countess of Donegal, who later gave to St.James church a four-part set of silver (hall-marked 1736) by John Swift, (* now in Guildford Cathedral Treasury) bought Paddington House

- 1718** Reference to a "...fair kept on St.James' Day for cattle etc. now much decayed" at Abinger in John Aubrey's *Natural History & Antiquities of Surrey*.1719
- 1720-30** Paddington Mill built (or rebuilt) by miller John Bide.
- 1759** William Bray, historian, recorded in his diary "July 23 1759. To The Hatch to dinner ... left at 7 paid for dinner and wine. 4s 6d"
- 1783** New Abinger Hall built by Matthew Pitts.
- Circa 1787** The iron mill at Paddington manor ceased working.
- 1793** Date of the oldest discovered picture of St.James' church - a water-colour by Henry Pitrie.
- 1796** George Macartney became Baron Macartney of Parkhurst, (Abinger) the first peer to bear Abinger in his title and our first ambassador to China. He died in 1806, leaving no issue and the title became extinct.
- 1801** First population census. Abinger 632, 40 years later the population had increased to 920.
- 1810** The Scarlett family came to Abinger Hall.
- 1820-30** Considered the last decade in which the Stocks and Whipping Post, situated on the green outside St.James' church, were used.
- 1831** In autumn of that year Abinger Hall was threatened with "an attack by the mob" during the Reform Riots.
- 1834** James Scarlett, QC, (Attorney General 1827) ennobled; he took the title Baron Abinger, Surrey. He is buried in the family vault under the yew tree in Abinger churchyard
- 1836** Wm.King started a wheelwrights business in Abinger, later to expand into the building firm W & G King, with a forge and a brickyard from the 1890's

- 1837** Hon. James Yorke Scarlett, younger son of Lord Abinger, elected Member of Parliament for Guildford.
- 1846** Sale of Abinger Workhouse and Poor House at Abinger Bottom and Redhill Cottage near Mays Green.
- 1849** The rail connection to the area at Gomshall provided trains to London via Redhill and shortly after its arrival the watercress growing industry was started by William Smith and the Coe brothers.
- 1851** School "held in temporary building on The Rectory premises" fitted up for the purpose. 39 children from 15 families. (Stoke Deanery visitation report)
- 1853?** Ecclesiastical parish of Abinger reduced in size by creation of Okewood parish from outliers of Abinger, Ockley and Wotton.
- 1854** General The Hon. Sir James Yorke Scarlett led the Heavy Brigade in Crimean War at Balaclava.
- 1855** Post Office at Abinger Hatch: (Philip Muggeridge postmaster)
- 1856-7** Major restoration and enlargement of St. James' church. The West gallery, which in earlier days held a small orchestra used for church services, was removed. A Jacobean three-decker pulpit was replaced by a Renaissance carved-panelled one. A North doorway was introduced. The 13thC chancel was rebuilt and the floor, which sloped up to the altar, levelled.
- 1857** 29th June. Church re-opened by Bishop of Winchester. Barrel organ installed (2 barrels each with 10 tunes).
- 1863** Abinger Common School built on a quarter acre of Glebe; a Church School which became a National School in 1873/4.
- 1867** Paddington Mill rebuilt for W.J. Evelyn, with work by Thomas Spencer of Guildford, millwright.

- 1870 circa** The first Parish magazine started, it covered Abinger, Wotton and Oakwood with local sections for each parish
- 1870** Train service from Dorking to Epsom started.
- 1872** The last Abinger Hall designed by Alfred Waterhouse, built by Thomas Farrer (later Lord). The inn called Abinger Arms opened in part of Perriots.
- 1872** Abinger Manor was rebuilt. The porch of the original building was retained.
- 1873** Infant Schoolroom (Ages 3-9) built by Mr. Farrer at Abinger Hammer. National School at Okewood built.
- 1873** On July 19th, Samuel Wilberforce*, Bishop of Winchester fell from his horse to his death in Abinger Roughts. A stone cross was erected on the spot inscribed with his initials and a bishop's crosier. (*third son of William Wilberforce, anti-slavery reformer).
- 1873** Paddington Farm lime kiln on the downs above New Barn repaired. Evelyn estate supplied 500 bricks to Mark King.
- 1874-5** Wotton, Abinger & Okewood Magazine started.
- 1877** Edwin Waterhouse, founder of Price Waterhouse the major accountancy firm, bought an estate in Abinger and built Feldemore. He lived here for 40 years and was an Abinger Parish Councillor. He died in 1917. (The house is now the home of Belmont School)
- 1877** School Management Committee for both voluntary schools supported by ratepayers until 1909.
- 1877** Paddington Farm lost part of its sheepwalk when 222 acres were sold to Lord Lovelace of Horsley Towers by the Evelyn estate.
- 1877** West Hackhurst built for Miss Laura Forster by her brother, E.M. Forster's father.

- 1878** Part of Abinger's Ecclesiastical Parish was taken to form Holmbury St.Mary
- 1879** Rationalisation of bounds of Abinger and neighbouring parishes brought Okewood into Abinger civil parish.
- 1879-1880** A further restoration and enlargement of St.James' church. This included a new bell (1880), cast by Mears & Stainbank (later Whitechapel Bell Founders). The West window was created and a new vestry and a porch added. The lychgate was built. The church re-opened 5th August 1880.
- 1886** The Volunteer at Sutton Abinger was acquired by the Guildford Brewery Lascelles Tickner. It opened as a beershop after 1871
- 1887** Abinger Hammer Mission Church Room was opened. The building costs were met by Lady Farrer and Miss L. Forster
- 1888** Richard Redgrave RA (1804-88) English subject painter, died 14th December. He was appointed Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures in 1857. Redgrave painted many scenes in the Abinger area. Several of his paintings show St.James' church in backgrounds. A plaque in Abinger church to his memory says "*...who spent 34 summers in the village*".
- 1888** Abinger Mill stopped working (grinding animal feed). The last miller, Arthur Crane, died 1901 in the Union Workhouse, Dorking.
- 1889** The Abinger Monthly Record started July.(1 penny)
- 1890** The Abinger Institute (later Evelyn Hall) was built by W.J.Evelyn.
- 1890** Just over 48 acres of Glebeland sold at Auction, in area adjoining Abinger Lane. This sale allowed the development which forms most of the present village of Abinger Common along Abinger Lane.

- 1890** The old stocks at Abinger Common were given a protective roof and a fence surrounding them.
- 1890** Records show that Abinger Fair had been an annual event held on July 25 throughout the decade.
- 1891** The first clock at Abinger Hammer was added to a house built on a site which had been a blacksmith's smithy since the 17thC.
- 1891** Mark Ash, Abinger Common built by E.H.Ledward.
- 1891** Edward Wilkins Waite RA (1854-1924) and his family lived at Kings House in Abinger Hammer until 1906. He painted many local landscapes including one now in the Library at Dorking.
- By 1892** The first (western) row of The Dene built for Kings' brickyard workers.
- 1893** Thomas Henry Farrer, a leading member of the Civil Service, was created Lord Farrer of Abinger. In his time he built a new Abinger Hall, 17 new cottages, a school, the wheelwright's and smith's shops and the Post Office.
- 1893** "Pasturewood" built for Sir Frederick Mirrielees KCMG. Later it became a school. After the 1939-45 war it was adapted to make Beatrice Webb House. More recently it was taken over by Hurtwood House School.
- 1893** St.James' Well at Abinger Common was declared open on 11th August. Built by W. J. Evelyn for local parishioners.
- 1894** Abinger Arms rebuilt.
- 1894** Creation of Parish Councils (and civil parishes)
- 1895** Abinger Parish Council held 1st meeting on 4th January. Parish was divided into two Wards. Nine councillors appointed.
- 1895** The second row of houses at The Dene was built.

- 1898** A further 17 acres of Glebeland was sold. (The Glebe land sold between 1890 and 1898 realised £11,700, or over £173 per acre.
- 1899** "Goddards" built for Sir Frederick Mirrieles as a country rest home for "ladies of small means". House designed by Edwin Lutyens and garden by Gertrude Jekyll.
- 1899** Lord Farrer of Abinger died (Permanent Secretary Board of Trade)
- 1901** Census shows Abinger's population as 1,435
- 1908** Pageant held on Abinger Roughts. Cast of 150 including knights on horseback. Morris dancers and actors.
- 1909** The blacksmith clock at Abinger Hammer was erected in memory of Lord Farrer of Abinger. The structure used local oak and wrought ironwork made in the local forge.
- 1910** Wm G. King, builders, gave up the Whitedown brickyard.
- 1911** Abinger Hammer School enlarged for 108 children. Abinger Common School enlarged for 120 children. Both became Public Elementary Schools under S.C.C.
- 1915** Paddington Mill stopped working.
- 1919-20** The war memorial designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens RA was erected. It was a gift of Mrs. Margaret Lewin, widow of Col. Lewin of Parkhurst in memory of the men of the ecclesiastical parish of Abinger who fell in the 1914-18 World War.
- 1920** As a Memorial to men from throughout Abinger who died in the War three open spaces were dedicated to public use under the management of the Parish Council. Mr. JHC Evelyn sold the freehold field next the churchyard long attached to the "Green House" or Abinger Hatch, also his freehold rights over the manorial wastes of Forest Green and the Hammer Marsh.

- 1920** Abinger (later called "Abinger Hammer") Womens' Institute was formed.
- 1920** A bus service started operation between Dorking and Guildford
- 1920** A new vestry added to St. James'. Given by Mrs. Waterhouse in memory of her late husband Edwin.
- 1924** E.M. Forster (1879-1970) novelist and critic came to live at West Hackhurst. In 1936 he wrote a series of essays "*Abinger Harvest*". Nowadays he is best known for his novels "*Howard's End*" (1910) and "*Passage to India*" (1924). and "*A Room with a View*", partly sited in Coldharbour.
- 1924** The old 1887 organ in St. James' church was restored.
- 1926** Abinger Hammer village hall built by public subscription. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote "*Mr. Fortune's Maggot*" for string quartet for its inauguration.
- 1925** Greenwich Royal Observatory (Magnetic Department) moved to Abinger.
- 1927** Creation of the diocese of Guildford.
- 1928** Frederick Lugard, Soldier and Colonial administrator; Governor of Hong Kong 1907-1912 and founder of its university; Governor-General of Nigeria (1914-1919); lived at Little Parkhurst for many years; ennobled 1928 with the title of Lord Lugard of Abinger. His wife, Flora DBE was the first woman correspondent of *The Times*. His brother Edward lived at Furzen Wood.
- 1930** In February, Roland Vaughan Williams of High Ashes handed over Severells Copse at Friday Street to the National Trust. Put up for auction by Sir Frederic Richmond, many visitors and local people had helped raise the £8,500 which saved it from becoming "a choice building estate". The campaign was epoch-making for the national movement to protect countryside.

- 1931** 22 acres of Glebeland sold by The Rector, The Rev. Sir Henry Derry Bart. for £3800.
- 1932** Bus service between Holmbury St.Mary, Abinger Common and Dorking started.
- 1934** Abinger Pageant held in the grounds of The Old Rectory. Ralph Vaughan Williams and E.M.Forster wrote the music and words. Most of the villagers took part and played to large crowds. Proceeds of the Pageant went towards cost of repairs and improvements to the church.
- 1934-38** Another restoration at St.James' Church. Electric light installed, the old oil lamps were finally removed.
- 1935** The last of the old Abinger Fairs. (Revived in 1956)
- 1939** 3rd September: World War 2 began. The Time Department of the Royal Observatory moved to Abinger. Until 1957 the BBC time pips originated from the Abinger Observatory. The Head Office of National Federation of Women's Institutes moved to Abinger Hall until 1945.
- 1939** *Abinger Chronicle*, a small local literary magazine, was started by Mrs Sylvia Sprigge of Abinger Common at Christmas. Articles by distinguished names of the period, including Max Beerbohm, then living at Abinger. The publication ran until 1944.
- 1941** Army built camp on Abinger Common, some large houses and Evelyn Hall requisitioned by the military.
- 1942** Fire at Army Camp on Abinger Common set-off explosions of ammunition in the camp. Local residents temporarily evacuated. Damage to nearby houses.
- 1942** A new Womens' Institute was formed (Abinger Common & Wotton WI), Abinger WI changing its name to Abinger Hammer WI.

- 1944** A short while before 8am Holy Communion at St.James' on Sunday 3rd August, a German flying bomb exploded very near the church. Only the walls and the 13th C chapel remained more or less intact. The 1st World War Memorial suffered severe damage.
- 1944-1951** Church services held at various locations (Evelyn Hall. NAAFI canteen on Army camp and at Goddards, a private house). Grants for re-building obtained from numerous sources, a Building Fund was opened. Great oak beams, given by Hon.Mrs.Vaughan Williams from her own estate at High Ashes, Abinger for the rebuilding of the church.
- 1945** Baron Lugard of Abinger GCMG, CB, DSO, PC died 11th April. Plaque in St.James' Church reads "*All I did was to try and lay my bricks straight*"
- 1949** Excavations of mound at Abinger Manor started: it was identified as a small Norman castle in 1952.
- 1950** Mesolithic Pit Dwelling excavated "the oldest humanly-made dwelling in the UK" according to Professor Leakey who led the team working in a field near Abinger Manor.
- 1950** Abinger Roughts became National Trust land.
- 1951** Completion of re-building of St.James' church, based on the 1879 structure with an additional ten feet added for placing the organ.. Re-consecration took place in May.
- 1956** Abinger Fair revived and renamed " Abinger Mediaeval Fair". Initially for raising funds for St.James' church.
- 1959** The benefices of Abinger and Coldharbour were united. The incumbent : Rector of Abinger with Coldharbour
- 1959** The Waterhouse Abinger Hall demolished.
- 1960** Abinger Cricket moved to the Hammer green
- 1962** Wm G.King, the builders closed. (Now site of Martin Grant Homes)

- 1964** June: St.James' Church, Abinger struck by lightning , extensive damage to the tower ,roof and east window.
- 1967** The glass for the restored East window of St.James' church given in memory of John Coe. The new design by Laurence Lee ARCA, depicts the cross as a living tree.
- 1974** The two oldest bells at St.James' were repaired, re-tuned and re-hung and rang again in their tercentenary year. The cost of repairs were met through the particular generosity among others of Mr.R.Clark (Abinger Manor)
- 1977** Abinger Hammer Mission Room was closed after 90 years.The wooden font was moved to St.James.
- 1977** Dame Frances Farrer died; formerly General Secretary of The National Federation of Womens' Institutes.
- 1982** First "Teddy Bears' Picnic" at Abinger Hammer Green inaugurates Abinger Hammer Village School Trust, after closure of County School.
- 1983** 1st issue of a new style of " Parish News " (devised by Gordon Kent) in October. 32 pages with advertising
- 1990** A custom-built Nicholson pipe organ was installed and dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford in January 1991.
- 1994 Spring** Complete re-decoration of interior of St.James' church.
- 1996** Vestry extension at St.James' church completed.
- 1999 February** The Rev. John Venus, Rector of Abinger and Coldharbour from 1983-93, died.
- June** Three new bells were added to the existing three to mark the millennium .The bells were cast by Whitechapel Bell Founders, the same firm who in 1880 cast one of the existing bells.The money was raised by a special appeal.
- December** Michael Bowler, Verger of St.James' church, died after nearly 59 years of continuous service in the post; the longest recorded service to the church since its foundation. A new oak cross and candlesticks commemorates his life.