

ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



JUNE 2025

Who's who in your Parish

Rector: The Rev'd Kia Pakenham (01306 737160) rector@abingerandcoldharbour.org
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Virginia Smith (01306 885349)
Licensed Lay Ministers: Hilary Swift and Amber Wood
Parish Office: parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org
Secretary: Sally McCance (01306 737160) M, T, W, Th 9 -3 pm
Organist and Choirmaster: David Hansell: dhabchbr@gmail.com
St. James' website: www.stjameschurchabinger.org
Webmaster: Phil Rawlings (01306 730382) web@stjameschurchabinger.org
Christ Church website: www.coldharbourchurch.org.uk
Webmaster: Martin Richards (01306 711885) webmaster@coldharbourchurch.org.uk
St Mary's, Holmbury: www.holmburychurch.com
St John's, Wotton: www.wottonchurch.org

	Abinger	Coldharbour
Churchwardens:	Lucy Harlow (contact via Parish Office)	John Anthony Simpson (contact via Parish Office)
PCC Secretary:	Sally McCance (737160)	Sally McCance (737160)
Treasurer:	Tim Prideaux (730730)	Martin Neve (07974 777448)
Gift Aid Secretary:	Tim Prideaux	Helen Potter (712214)
Flowers Secretary:	Kim Edwards (730809)	Patsy Simpson (via parish office)
Hall Bookings:	Evelyn Hall (Kim Edwards) theevelynhall@gmail.com 01306 730809 Ab. Hammer Hall (730703)	John Venus Hall (Su Jones) suaj1512@gmail.com 07779 726930 Village Pavilion (712009)

PARISH NEWS

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ABINGER ORGANISATIONS

Abinger Consolidated Charities: Kim Clark (07775 531912)
Church Choir: Lucy Harlow: lucyharlow@me.com
D&G Choir: Jess Brown (07936542411) danielthreec@aol.com
Fair Secretary: Liz Irvine: lizandkeithi@btinternet.com
Sports Club: Rob Dunn (01306 730320) robert.a.dunn@btinternet.com
Sports Club Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)
Abinger Common & Wotton WI: President: Lesley Childs (01483 205461)
Wotton & Abinger Flower Show: Pat Rudling (01306 885696) rudlingpat@gmail.com
SALV Rep for Abinger: Alyson Webber: alysonjwebber@aol.com
Good Neighbours (lifts): Jo Kelly (01483 205446 or 07900 302794)

COLDHARBOUR ORGANISATIONS

Sports and Social Club/Village Society: www.coldharbour.net
Church Electoral Roll Officer: Helen Potter (01306 712214)
Crickets Club: John Hopper (07957 611664)
Golf Society: Stuart McLachlan (01306 712009)
Village Band: Debby Chapman (01306 711704)

PARISH COUNCILS

Abinger: abingerpc@hotmail.com www.abinger-pc.gov.uk

Coldharbour (Capel): Stuart McLachlan (712009) www.capel-pc.gov.uk

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor: Hazel Watson (880120) h.watson@surreycc.gov.uk
hva.watson@btinternet.com

SHERE SURGERY 01483 202066; Dispensary 01483 209913*

Monday: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-2.00pm)

Tuesday: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-3.00pm)

Wed, Thurs & Fri: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-2.00pm)

*For dispensary ring after 11.00am. Saturday morning - prescription collection only

WESTCOTT SURGERY & DISPENSARY 01306 875577

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 8.30am – 6.15pm (Closed 12.30 – 2.30pm)

Wednesday: 8.30am – 12.30pm

CAPEL SURGERY 01306 711105 / Fax 01036 712751

Monday – Friday: 08:00 to 18:30.

Emergency appointments can be booked the same day at 08:00 and 14:00. Out-of-hours appointments, including weekends and bank holidays, can be booked via Capel or Holmwood. Dispensary: 10:30 to 13:00.

HOLMWOOD SURGERY 01306 889242

Monday to Friday: 8.00am – 1.00pm.

MEDWYN SURGERY 01306 883816 (PHARMACY 01306 740865)

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8.00am – 6.30pm

Tues, Weds: 8.00am – 8.30pm

Pharmacy, Mon – Sat: 8.00am – 11.00pm

Pharmacy, Sun: 10.00am – 8.00pm

NHS DIRECT 111

POLICE

Non-emergency: **101** or Emergency: **999**

ELECTRICITY POWER CUTS 0800 783 8866

BUSES

COLDHARBOUR and ABINGER COMMON BUS SERVICES: www.buses4U.org.uk

CONNECT BUS: 0300 123 7751

www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/community-transport/mole-valley-connect

WASP BUS: 07802 460069 or e-mail: waspbusinfo@gmail.com

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Abinger Common Nursery: Pre-School Leader: Hayley Hatton 07842 978823

abingercommonnursery@gmail.com

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School. Head: Jacky Fyson 01306 881136

Shere School Head: Victoria Beattie head@shere.surrey.sch.uk

EVENTS

JUNE

4th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11am
5th	WI Wotton Village Hall, 2.30pm
5th	Summer Locals Night Abinger Hatch, free BBQ
5th	Shere Cinema, <i>All We Imagine as Light</i> , 7.30pm
6th	Coldharbour coffee morning JV Hall 10.30-11.30am
7th	Ladybirds Choir <i>Songs of the Sea</i> concert 4pm
8th	QRMW Anniversary and Commemoration 12.30pm
9-15th	Shere Arts Week
11th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11am
14th	Abinger Medieval Fair 2pm
18th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9-11am
19th	Albury Produce Show 2.30-5pm
21st	Dorking Library free family activity 10am
22nd	Shere cinema, <i>A Complete Unknown</i> , 7.30pm
23rd	Live Shakespeare evening CH cricket pitch
25th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9-11am
28th	Holmbury Choral Concert, St James' 7.30pm
28th	Coldharbour Village Picnic 2-5pm
28th	Tea and cake for Peace at Shootlands Farm 10am
28th	Benefice Walk Holmbury to Abinger, meet 9.30am

JULY

2nd	Sj's café & repair café, St James', 9-11am
3rd	WI Wotton Village Hall 2.30pm
4th	Coldharbour coffee morning JV Hall 10.30-11.30am

From the Editors

This month our front cover photograph comes from Abinger Nursery. Do read about the children's fun with insects later in the mag.

We say a sad farewell, but also a big thank you, to our printer Mark Mitchell who is retiring. Mark has printed the magazine for us for many years and we wish him every happiness in the future.



As Mark puts his feet up, we welcome a new set of toes and are happy to announce the birth of Luna Christine Alexandra Copelea who arrived at Leith Hill on 1st February 2025 to proud parents Gemma and Miky Copelea and grandparents Andrew and Christine.

Reflections from the Rectory

It may seem strange to some, to see an Anglican Priest quoting words from the Catholic Pope, but we are all part of the same universal church (catholic with a small 'c') and are all disciples of Jesus.



These words from Pope Leo are so special that I wanted to share them with you. They speak into the very heart of the Gospel (the Good News) and they moved me deeply.

" Brothers, sisters... I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left. To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home. I too, was angry with God. I too, saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine. And yes... there were days when I prayed and only felt an echo. But then I discovered something: God doesn't shout. God whispers. And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything.

I don't come to offer you perfect faith. I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs. I'm not asking you to believe in everything. I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment. I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son... and yet she cooked for others. That changed me. So, if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're tired of the lies...come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack. No one here will ask you for a VIP card. Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary. God doesn't need soldiers. He needs brothers and sisters. And you, yes, you.. are one of them."

I echo these words for our churches here, with love, Rev'd Kia 😊

EASTER FUN DAY

An enormous THANK YOU to everyone who joined us to have fun at SJ's on Easter Monday. And another enormous thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and impressive expertise on the day. Beautiful green sparkly bagel sculptures were created, splendid Easter wreaths were on show, eggs were garnished and bedecked, strong-willed treasure hunters dug deep to crack some really-rather-chewy Easter clues and as the barbecue was fired up, our revellers gladly gave in to the temptation of sausage rolls to cap off a successful morning of Easter action.



Thank you so much for a wonderful Easter celebration



THE PET SERVICE in May was a howling success! Our kennel of dogs consisted of Tarka, Teddy, Betty, Tansy, Penny, Suzie, Benji, Bess, Ghillie and Fife, while Bob and Tiny made up our creep of tortoises. Pepper the lamb was astonishingly silent, given the interest she piqued, and so moved by the Spirit was Dolores the chicken that she laid

an egg. Ted, a lovely human being, read beautifully to us about God's creation of all living things, and as we enjoyed coffee and Avril's birthday cake in the



sun afterwards (thank you Avril and cake-baker Virginia) we all felt as happy as larks! Thank you everybody for a joyous service.

Our **BENEFICE WALK** in April was



another joyous morning! The weather was kind and walkers were in high spirits as we set sail from St. James' Church. Walking towards St.

Mary's in Holmbury St. Mary, we came across late-season violets, first-of-the-year wood sorrel, glorious clouds of bluebells and very pretty 'Star of Bethlehem' - or *Ornithogalum umbellatum*, to answer our ponderings at the time. New acquaintances chatted, old friends caught up, Teddy and Betty's humans bonded as they responded to the unavoidable call of nature (the dogs, not the humans) and we eventually found ourselves in the warm and welcoming surroundings

of St. Mary's church room, where hot drinks and biscuits awaited us. Later, as we strolled away in the direction of home, a final discussion considering the wicking potential of water-proof socks, left us feeling that we'd covered it all. Thank you to everyone who came together to make it an interesting, energising and connecting Benefice walk.

Our next walk will be on June 28th starting at St. Mary's Church at 9.30. As always, everyone and their dog is welcome. Just turn up or drop me a line at lucyharlow@me.com if you'd like to know more.



Lucy Harlow



The Abinger Coffee Mornings (SJs) and Repair Café at St James' are every Wednesday, 9 till 11. Come for tea, coffee, croissants and chat... and bring along your material items to be mended.

The next Coldharbour Coffee Morning is on Friday June 6th in the John Venus Hall. From 10.30-11.30. Lots of lovely cakes and chat. Contact debby.chapman@hotmail.com

COLDHARBOUR VE DAY 80 FETE



For most of us who live in Coldharbour and its surrounding areas we need little reminding of how lucky we are. Occasionally an event takes place that just reinforces that sentiment.

The Coldharbour VE Day-themed Village Fete was one of them on the 17th May. The stars were aligned for yet another



wonderful afternoon. A dedicated and hard-working organising committee, a loyal band of volunteers and stallholders (who do so much work before, during and after the event), so many stall donations, wall-to-wall sunshine, delicious food, great music from The Super Strings and Coldharbour's own village band, together with some wonderful vintage outfits and colourful red, white and blue bunting evoking the vibrant spirit of 1945.

Attendance records were broken with many visitors accompanied by their dogs who gave the Fun Dog Show judges some difficult decisions.



At the time of going to print, net proceeds are provisionally estimated to be just under £10,000 which will go towards maintaining the church, the village hall and the churchyard and to pay the regular and rapidly

escalating bills that come with the responsibility of looking after the church and its facilities. Charitable donations include the National Trust who do so much to protect and preserve our local area, and Dorking Friends of Cancer Research UK.



Mary Hustings sent us this article from the VE Day Stall at the Coldharbour fete.

Mary and Alan interviewed Harry Collis who is now 103. Sadly, his wife Mary has passed away.

HARRY COLLIS and memories of VE Day

Harry, a long-time resident of Coldharbour joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve after his 19th birthday in 1941. He served first in HMS Clematis, escorting six Atlantic Convoys. Then, after officer training, he was commissioned in 1942. He then served in Motor Gun Boats protecting East Coast Convoys, and in mid-1943 was en-route to a new posting in West Africa when the convoy was attacked by German aircraft, and two ships, including his, were sunk off Casablanca. Harry eventually arrived at his intended destination, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and spent 14 months in coastal defences there and in Lagos, Nigeria-including an “unofficial” sortie as a rear-gunner in a Sunderland Flying Boat!



Harry Collis in 1943

In 1945 Harry was in command of ML 1480 for its commissioning trials and a clockwise voyage around the UK from Whitstable to the Clyde before it was transported to the Far East. There he met up with two old friends from his West Africa days who were on a similar mission with other gun boats. And it was there that they celebrated VE Day Here is Harry's own description of the momentous day: “VE Day came while we were all in the Clyde and just afterwards, we were sent on leave.” After 15 months in Naval Intelligence with the Pacific Fleet in Southeast Asia, Harry was eventually demobbed in September 1946. **He celebrated his 103rd birthday two weeks ago.**

About five years after VE Day, Harry married Mary (née Wright). Mary goes into a little more detail about VE Day in her memoir. She had been in Stockholm in neutral Sweden since 1939, the daughter of a member of the British Legation. “A red-haired young man ... ran over from his office across the way to break the news... We all rushed out shouting and cheering.... [At home] I found a large Union Jack waving from our ground-floor window, our doors wide open and people coming in to congratulate and celebrate; some known to us, some strangers.... Such excitement, such relief – a truly memorable day.”

Mary Hustings

GET READY FOR THE ABINGER MEDIEVAL FAIR

**Saturday June
14th at 2pm**

It's hard to believe that June is upon us and that the fair is just around the corner.

Come along and join us for this fabulous community event, featuring: Duck herding show in the main arena. Stalls selling everything from delicious cakes to unique gifts. Fun and games for the children with Splat the Rat and the stocks. Drinks from the bar. Afternoon tea and cakes. A vegetarian food option. Music in the church and much, much more.

Remember to buy your raffle tickets: there are amazing prizes this year including a £300 voucher to spend at the Abinger Hatch, a gliding experience and £100 Shootlands Farm produce.



The stall holders would love your help with donations so please get in touch with them if you have anything you can help with:

Cakes: We would be so grateful for contributions of cakes, cupcakes, biscuits and loaves, however small. Deliveries by Friday 13th June to either Rachel at Fir Cottage, RH5 6JL, or Kim at 32 Evelyn Cottages or Rachel can collect. Contact rachel_podolier@hotmail.com 01306 731506 or 07934 707779

White Elephant: We'd love to have your unwanted treasures! No electrical items please. Leave donations in the garage at Oak Hollow RH5 6JL from June 1st. Oak Hollow is the first house in Abinger Common Road, just before the Cake Stall drop off point. Emma Desmier emmadesmier@hotmail.com

Rag Tag & Bobtail: We would like any Jewellery, Handbags, Gloves, Scarfs, Hats, Accessories, Soft Toys or Gift Sets in good condition. Items can be dropped off to Jaquai or left at White Elephant collection (info above). Jacqui Clemson tel. 730279 jc@barkerhart.co.uk

Plants: Call Hilly on 730292 if you have any plants or garden related items.

Tombola: Sonia & Maidens will be on their collection rounds starting the last week of May. Donations of alcohol in any shape or form will be gratefully received. Alternatively, donations may be left on number 3 Evelyn Cottage's doorstep. Many thanks, Sonia and her Maidens.

Books: Victoria Edwards is running the book stall and would like books to be donated to the porch of St James' Church the week before the fair. No magazines, brochures or damaged books please. Contact Victoria on 730809.

Raffle: Please contact Liz Irvine, liz.irvine@gmail.com if you have anything you are able to donate.

Sweets: Any donations of sweets or fudge would be greatly appreciated. Please get in contact with Catherine Russell 07776230346

Preserves: Lucy Harlow would love any donations of jams, chutneys or cordials for the stall. Contact Lucy Harlow on 07941 032744

Pilgrims' Pottage would like donations of: Lotions & potions, soaps, candles, bath salts, lavender bags, cards, bunting, material squares, dog bandanas, festival hair bands, kids mediaeval dressing-up, handmade hair accessories, handmade gifts & cards. Contact hilaryswift@btinternet.com

The committee would be very grateful for any time you can spare to help with the fair set up and take down at the following times:

Friday 13th June, 5pm, meet on the green
Saturday 14th June, 7am, meet on the green, breakfast provided.
Saturday 14th June, 5pm, meet on the green, beer on green for helpers.

We will be placing cones on Abinger Lane to stop cars blocking the road and to allow emergency vehicle access. We would once again ask for your assistance in moving your cars so that we can put the cones out. This year the cones will be set up on the evening of Friday 13th June.

Thank you to all residents for your help and co-operation.

SERVICES

ST JAMES' CHURCH, ABINGER



1st June

10.30am

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children

Refreshments after the service

8th June

6.00pm

Pentecost

Choral Evensong

15th June

10.30am

Trinity Sunday

Father's Day Service

Refreshments after the service

22nd June

10.30am

The First Sunday after Trinity

Sideways Church

New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter and conversation

6.00pm

Julian Meeting

Half an hour of stillness with God

29th June

The Second Sunday after Trinity

From the Registers

22nd April

Ashes

Josephine Broyd

3rd May

Baptism

Luna Copelea

SERVICES

CHRIST CHURCH, COLDHARBOUR



1st June

9.00am

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

8th June

10.00am

Pentecost

Second Sunday Service (Iona - but no communion this month)

Refreshments after the service

15th June

9.00am

Trinity Sunday

Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

6.00pm

Congregational Evensong

22nd June

10.00am

The First Sunday after Trinity

Parish Communion (Common Worship)

6.00pm

Julian meeting at St James' Abinger

Half an hour of stillness with God

29th June

10.30am

The Second Sunday after Trinity

Benefice Service at St Mary's, Holmbury

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 2nd June and Monday 16th June from 10am - 11am in the JV Hall. Do pop in to say hello to Kia and Sally with any questions - or just for a coffee and a chat!

Come for tea, coffee and cake and bring a friend on Saturday June 28th to Shootlands Farm. RH5 6JX. For the children at the Fountain of Peace Orphanage in Uganda.



Hot on the heels of Lucy Pakenham and Rosie McCance, Lucy and Libby Harlow are travelling to the FOP orphanage in July and would be grateful for donations of equipment to take to the children. Below is a list

of items that have been asked for. Contact Lucy on 07942 032744 with any questions. Clothes & pyjamas for boys/girls aged 5-12 new or nearly new* New underwear for boys/girls 5-12 * Feeding bottles 0-6mths * Baby bibs 0-12 months * Baby socks 0-24mths * Teethers * Toys for 4mths-3yrs * Games, Duplo, Lego, toy cars, reading books for older children.

Rosie and Lucy returned from their trip to Fountain of Peace orphanage in Uganda and we look forward to their report in next month's Parish News



Thursday 5th June Summer Locals' Night at the Abinger Hatch.

From 6 - 8.30pm. Enjoy a complimentary BBQ and a welcome drink during a relaxed evening mixing with locals in good company.

RSVP the book now button on our website or email info@theabingerhatch.co.uk



QRMW Sunday June 8th at 12.30 - Commemoration Service

This will be our 11th annual Commemoration Service. The prayers will be taken by local Rev Virginia Smith and Deacon James Snyder. Guests of Honour: Michael Rowney MBE and Blue Cooper BEM. Redhill Corp of Drums and Band. Piper McCulloch. Display of military vehicles. Singers Alexis Cooling-Hunt and Harry Nicol. There will be a bar, BBQ, sweets and pastries, grand raffle, bottle tombola. DO BRING SOME CASH as cards do not work in the woodland

Westcott Village Hub: A Community Story

A warm welcome awaits you at the **Westcott Village Hub**, a vibrant Community Interest Company (CIC) now flourishing in St John's Hall, Westcott. But this thriving centre is more than just a place to shop and meet; it's a story of community spirit, born from a simple act of kindness and blossoming into a vital resource for all.

The journey of the Hub began as **Jon & Mum Groceries**, an initiative spearheaded by Jon and his mother during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. At its heart is a welcoming **café and shop** offering a delightful range of locally sourced produce (where possible), fresh bread, and delicious, value home-cooked meals – perfect for a light lunch or a friendly chat over coffee. It's a place designed to encourage community connection. You can also discover and support local artisans by browsing a selection of **local crafts**.

The Hub is a testament to the power of community action, providing a base for fantastic local initiatives. **The Community Fridge**: a vital service helping to reduce food waste and provide access to food for those in need. **The Westcott Community Garden**. born from the community's desire and the efforts of Green Westcott, this garden now sees up to 30 people cultivating not just fresh produce like tomatoes and artichokes, but also a strong sense of belonging and well-being.

The spirit of connection extends further, with the Hub having inspired open mic **poetry evenings** and popular Friday night **BBQs and curries** at the café, inviting everyone to eat, chat, and forge new friendships. The primary purpose of the Westcott Village Hub is to benefit the community and pursue social objectives. Any profits generated are reinvested to achieve these aims. The Hub is also continually looking to develop new **community groups and initiatives**.

Future plans include expanding volunteering and potential paid 'back to work' opportunities, creating a 'warm space' to combat isolation, establishing a community kitchen for collaborative cooking, developing

PARISH NEWS DONATIONS

If you enjoy receiving the Abinger and Coldharbour News, we would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation towards the cost to produce it.

A BACS payment can be made to either church:

St. James' Abinger

Account name: PCC Abinger (Parish News)

Sort Code: 60 07 02

Account no: 39447332

Christ Church Coldharbour

Account name: Christ Church Coldharbour PCC

Sort Code: 202397

Account no: 40192422

Please contact the Parish Office for information on where to send a cheque.

With many thanks.



The advertisement features a black and white photograph of Toby Stevenson, a smiling man with short hair, wearing a dark jacket with his arms crossed. To his right is the 'pe' logo for Phase Electrical, consisting of stylized lowercase letters. Below the logo, the text 'PHASE ELECTRICAL' is written in a small, sans-serif font. Further down, the text 'YOUR LOCAL' is in a small font, followed by 'ELECTRICIAN' in a large, bold, italicized sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the name 'TOBY STEVENSON' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

T: 07903 773 996

E: phase.surrey@gmail.com

youth work centered around the garden, forming a 'men's circle' for well-being, setting up a tool loan store with a repair café, and ensuring the St John's Hall building is preserved and improved for future generations.

Come and experience the warmth and community spirit of the Westcott Village Hub. **Opening Hours** Wednesday: 12 - 4 Thursday: 10 - 4 Friday: 10-7 Saturday: 10-2.

ABINGER COMMON & WOTTON W.I.

It was a Mayday meeting on one of those hot spring days. Also, the month of VE day which was commemorated by our tea hostesses (Val Belam, Felicity Francis and Dena Burrell) who prepared sandwiches (including Spam) and cakes which would have been possible at that time of rationing. Lesley introduced our speaker, Dr Jay Woogara, who told us the story of his extraordinary life.

Jay came from Mauritius, and showed a map and pictures of the island, which was originally colonised by the French but in 1810 was taken by the British (though the French still managed the land). Although slavery had recently been abolished, the British captured and brought Indians to work as indentured labourers on the sugar cane plantations – the conditions were as harsh as slavery and the French overseers were cruel. Jay's grandfather and father had come as one of these indentured labourers. His father died when Jay was three, leaving the family in greater poverty. Jay lived with his mother, grandmother and siblings in a two-room thatched hut in which their cow had one room. His grandmother looked after them, his mother worked in the cane fields and the children also worked there in the evenings and weekends. So, Jay's childhood was difficult - tattered clothes, no shoes, certainly no mod cons. medical care and education were expensive. Jay's education was partly funded by his grandmother's small pension, but also helped by a rich young friend who shared his books and lessons. He went to the capital for secondary school, staying with his married sister, and when he could not afford to continue there, the principal gave him private tuition. He also studied in the library because he was determined to get out of this deprived life. Eventually, aged 19, he succeeded in his application to come to England and went to Manchester University where he obtained a Ph.D. training first as a nurse and then as a lawyer, becoming a barrister. He bought a house, married an English woman and they had two daughters. He tried to settle his family back in Mauritius because he found the cultural change here shocking and wanted to return to his homeland, but his daughters could not cope there, so they returned to England. He commented that when he originally lived in Mauritius he did not realise how beautiful it was; in fact it is now a tourist destination

with big hotels. His was a remarkable story of determination, persistence, and it must be said - ability. Future meetings, at the Wotton Hall at 2.30 p.m. Thursday, 5th June with a talk on the Emergency Services. Thursday, 3rd July with a talk entitled "Our Wonderful Brain". Visitors and new members always welcome. *Pat O'Brien*

GARDENS

Robin's Gardening Tips for June

Many plants and lawns are now suffering due to the very unusual and exceptionally dry late April and May. Grass will recover but we may not be so lucky with some plants. A good long drink is better for them than a mere sprinkle with a hose!



If you have lilies growing do check regularly for the horrid red lily beetle. At least it can be seen, and the best treatment is a heavy boot!

Thanks to no late frosts, the set on fruit trees this year seems very good. Give the trees, if possible, a good shake to get rid of some of the fruit. Known as the June drop, it is a natural way of thinning out fruit. Where possible, avoiding laden branches it is also the best time to prune stone fruits. If you have peach or nectarine trees the removal of all leaves affected by peach leaf curl can result in new unaffected leaves growing. The old leaves should be burnt or binned but not composted.

It is not too late to sow annuals for an autumn display when earlier flowers fade. An unpleasant problem which we gardeners can face in this area is ticks. As there are many deer and sheep around, ticks are prevalent. Do check carefully after gardening, especially if working where there is longer grass or if you have been weeding. They show up as black spots and need removing as soon as possible and then disinfecting the spot. If not removed they can cause potentially long-term serious health problems.



Open Garden at Feldemore Corner



The open garden was a great success with lots of local visitors on the Saturday and visitors from further afield on the Sunday. The garden looked beautiful with spectacular rhododendrons and the weather was wonderful. On Saturday there were about 120 visitors plus 10 or so children and the money raised for the Holmbury St Mary Church Building Fund was £1140. On the Sunday there were 184 visitors, and the takings were £1620 for the National Garden Scheme and its charities.

Very many thanks to everyone who came and supported us and to the many friends who helped on the day as well as with cakes.



Richard and Sally Frost

THE ARTS

Music in Dorking *by Ian Codd*

June

7th 7pm Brockham Choral at St Paul's Dorking, £15/£10

7th 4pm Ladybirds choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £8,

21st 7.30pm Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church

21st Mickleham choral society at Mickleham village hall

21st Buckland & Betchworth choral at St Michael's church, Betchworth

21st 7.30pm Epsom Choral at St Andrew's, Cheam, £20, 01372 274418

28th 7.30pm Holmbury St Mary choral society's Summer Concert at St James' church, Abinger Common, £15

July

5th Dorking Choral Summer Concert St Paul's Dorking 7.30

12th Walliswoodstock



Brockham Choral Concert June 7th at 7pm

Brockham Choral's concert **What a Wonderful World** is on the 7th of June, 7pm, at St. Paul's Church, Dorking, RH4 2HT. Bring friends, food, and drink. Tables and chairs provided. Relax, enjoy this special concert including a piece commissioned by Ian Assersohn and Tony Earnshaw to commemorate the life of Fred Harrison. Our Musical Director David Swinson with Marion Lea leads and accompanies the choir with a selection from musicals and opera, including solos and duets. ADVANCE tickets only, Adults £15.00, Children, Students £10.00. Tickets: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral>, information: www.brockhamchoral.org

The Ladybirds Choir, directed by Helena Twentyman has a summer concert entitled **Songs of the Sea**. June 7th at 4pm

The Choir warmly invites you to hear a selection of songs inspired by the sea, sailors and ships. In *Songs of the Sea* the choir will present a varied programme

of sea shanties and folk songs as well as numbers from the world of popular and show music. Favourites include *Sit down, you're rocking the boat*, from *Guys and Dolls*, a lovely arrangement of *Blow the wind southerly* and Rod Stewart's 1975 hit *Sailing*. Do join them for refreshments after the performance. The choir is raising funds for Dorking Beatitudes, a charity that sells good quality second-hand goods to support those on a low income or facing financial difficulties. Tickets are priced at £8 and are available on the door or in advance from 01372 878321 (cash or cheques).

On June 21st there are four concerts: The Dorking Philharmonia's concert begins with Cimarosa's overture to his opera *The Secret Marriage*, followed by Mozart's oboe concerto in which the soloist will be Julia Philpott. In the second half the orchestra will play Beethoven's seventh symphony, a magnificent work on a large scale. Epsom choral society are singing Will Todd's jazzy *Mass in Blue*, plus some John Rutter madrigals and a Russell Hepplewhite world premiere! Buckland & Betchworth has songs from the British Isles. Mickleham choral society sings *Captain Noah and his floating zoo*, followed by a second-half party with dance music.



Holmbury St Mary Choral Society
Conductor: Cole Bendall

Coronation Classics

Saturday 28th June

St James' Church,
Abinger Common,
RH5 6HZ
At 7:30pm
(doors open at 7pm)

Tickets : £15
19s and under : free

Available from:
www.holmburychoral.org
Registered Charity No: 113693

Supported by **HRTCT**
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor
Charitable Trust

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society Summer Concert

28th June, 7.30 pm, St James' Church, Abinger Common

Come and enjoy "Coronation Classics" - including Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Parry's *I was glad*.

Directed by Cole Bendall.

A rousing programme to kick off Holmbury Choral's centenary year celebrations.

Tickets £15 from
www.holmburychoral.org.

The audience are invited to join the choir in the evening sunshine for refreshments afterwards.

On 5th July at 6.30pm

The **Dorking Choral Society** are holding their summer concert of *A Fantasy of Folk Songs*. There will be table seating and you are invited to bring your own refreshments. Visit www.dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk for more information and to book tickets. £16



Films in June and July



SHERE
VILLAGE
CINEMA

In June and July we will be showing some 'mainstream' films, as well as an old classic *The Longest Day* (a joint event with Shere museum). Please let us know if you have any comments on our choice of films, or your cinema experience with us, we would love to hear from you via: info@sherevillagecinema.com

A reminder - To sign up to our newsletter and/or to book tickets for future films please go to the website: www.sherevillagecinema.com). For those unable to access the internet, we will usually reserve a minimum of 10 tickets for sale on the door. All tickets, except where indicated, cost £5/adult and £3.50/child.

Thursday 5th June – *All We Imagine as Light* - This is a beautiful, sweeping, emotional film that explores the complexities of female friendship and captures the frantic pace, the vibrant colours and the heady atmosphere of modern Mumbai. It is the first Indian film to win the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, and Sight and Sound crowned it the Best Film of 2024. We are showing it in conjunction with **St James' Shere Arts Week** (see below) during which it will be discussed. Classification 15 (Running time is 1h 58m). Start time is: 7.30

Sunday 22nd June – *A Complete Unknown* – a biographical film about Bob Dylan, set in the influential New York music scene of the early 60s. It follows 19-year-old Minnesota musician Bob Dylan's (Timothée Chalamet) meteoric rise as a folk singer to concert halls and the top of the charts – his songs and mystique becoming a worldwide sensation – culminating in his ground-breaking electric rock and roll performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. Chalamet delivers a magnetic portrayal of Dylan, capturing both the vulnerability and genius of the man. Classification 15 (Running time is 2 hours 21 minutes). Start time is: 7.30

Thursday 3rd July – *Civil War* – is set in a future United States, which is divided between a besieged central government in Washington DC and several successionist factions, the strongest of which is the Western Forces (WF)

who are closing in on the capital. Kirsten Dunst plays Lee, a legendary white female photojournalist in the mould of her namesake Lee Miller. Classification 12A (Running time is 1 hours 49 minutes). Start time is: 7.30

Sunday 13th July – *The Longest Day* – is the 1962 American epic war film based on Cornelius Ryan's 1959 non-fiction book of the same name about the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944. It features an all-star cast including: John Wayne, Richard Burton, Kurt Jurgens, Richard Todd, Robert Mitchum and even a cameo by Sean Connery! Classification 12A (Running time is 3 hours). **Note: Start time is 7pm**

This film will be a fund-raising event for Shere Museum (tickets = £5)

The Arts Week in Shere June 9-15th

Beginning with an organ recital on the Monday and finishing with a sung eucharist on the last Sunday, the arts festival features poetry, music, history and a chance to try bellringing. Throughout the week the Art Exhibition will be open in the church from 10-5, featuring local artists – (look out for new artist to Abinger, Holly Milner), and an event on Thursday at 6.30 when you can meet the artists. The festival café will be open every day inside the church 10.30-12 noon serving tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes. All events are free



Albury Produce Show and Fair! Saturday July 19th 2 - 5pm

If you are interested in having a stall at this year's Show or would like to please contact Jayne Allingham at alburyproduceshow@gmail.com or 07769 309 138. You can check out our 2025 Schedule at www.alburyproduce.org.uk - there are a few new classes to enjoy! We very much welcome advance entries via the website to reduce the workload on the days close the Show itself. Donations of cakes, bottles, books, bric-a-brac, produce and/or preserves are also gratefully received early on the day of the show.

Volunteers: if you can lend us a hand in advance or on the day, even for just an hour or two, it helps us to deliver a wonderful event every year. Please contact Georgina Field: georginafield@icloud.com or 07805 261715.

CHILDREN

Family Activities at Dorking Library: Saturday 21st June, 10am to noon, for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Month, there will be an opportunity for families to come to the library, sort photos of old transport and make a card where the gypsy caravan moves along the road. A free event, with materials provided, aimed at 4–11-year-olds, children must be accompanied.



Abinger Common Nursery

What could be better than watching a beautiful butterfly? Well one landing on your finger for a start! And one that you carefully and patiently looked after from caterpillar to chrysalis before the wonderful transformation into the delicate winged creature before you.

Our bug theme continued as we learnt about the life cycle of a frog – not to be deterred by a lack of real frogspawn we made our own! A simple recipe of chia seeds and



water, chilled in the fridge, gave us the opportunity to have a squidge and a squeeze with our hands. What a scrumptiously slimy texture! We also had a visit from a real frog thanks to Henny!

Now some people like to munch on real insects but not us! We created edible bugs from fruit and vegetables. Imagine our parents surprise when they opened our cooking boxes! To celebrate St George's day, we made the best scotch eggs in Surrey. It was tricky but fun to peel the boiled eggs and to get fully

involved in more squishing with the sausage meat and breadcrumbs.

We love to take time to tell each other about the exciting things we do at home and have the opportunity most days to show and tell. Our very clever and musically talented teachers decided we needed a show and tell song, so

they composed one just like that!! They also brought us a much bigger basket as we have been bringing in some huge objects to talk about!

Do you remember the hottest week ever? It was rather too hot for a walk to the woods, so we stayed at nursery and had a wetter than wet water fight in the garden! The hose pipe came in handy to keep us cool and we were all armed with a squirty bottle and water balls!

We are really pleased to announce that our after-school club has been extended to 5pm Monday to Thursday.

If you have a child looking to start nursery, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com
We can't wait to show you around! *Kate Fairbrass*

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

Here is our fantastic Surrey Hills team. They all did very well in the Rugby Tournament



Helping the Dorking Foodbank

Hedgehogs Year 3 thought about how they could help a local charity. They set themselves the challenge to collect 100 items in March for Dorking Food Bank. They worked very hard to make posters to raise awareness and to collect as many items as they could. Throughout March, they collected over



231 items which is an outstanding achievement for only 20 pupils in the class. We took all the collected items and delivered them to the food bank. It was great to be able to look around, chat to the volunteers and see how much a little help can make a big difference to support families locally. It has been such a pleasure watching their determination and kindness over the past month and We are so incredibly proud of them all.

You can also leave donations for the foodbank at St James', in the green crate

in the porch. In Coldharbour, donations can be left in the church and in the box outside Plough Haven, driveway next to The Plough.



The Teddy Bears Picnic was held by the stream in Abinger Hammer on a lovely May evening.

F@SH organise this fundraising event for the local schools. The evening alternated gusty winds and dazzling sunshine as the Coldharbour band entertained the bears and their owners. The first ever picnic was held on 1st May 1982. (It included Bear Classes: Miss Unibear 1982, Bravest, Disabled, Best-Dressed, Brainiest, Best-loved Bears, Bear without Sin, Oldest Forbear, Winston Churchill Look-alike and Pooh-sticks.)



HEALTH

SALV The Gut in Health and Disease. Tim Austin reports:



On April 16th Dr Ozan Hanci, Consultant Paediatrician and gastroenterology specialist at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, gave a fascinating and erudite talk about our guts and how to look after them.

Beginning with a detailed look at coeliac disease in its various forms, he went on to discuss the role of gluten as a dietary trigger; the importance



of allowing children to talk openly about bowel movements (a 'Choose Your Pool!' poster with which he encourages youngsters to identify what their stool samples look like), the difference between irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease; ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

Medical advances are being made constantly but progress can be slow, and meanwhile all these gut problems are on the rise globally. Diet plays a big part in this.

He ended by emphasising the importance of day-by-day healthy living to protect your gut, including exercise, good sleeping patterns and variety in diets, including avoidance of ultra-processed foods, eating more fruit and veg and more fibre, switching to olive oil in cooking and enjoying reasonable amounts of black coffee, dark chocolate, and wine – though he surprised us by suggesting that wine was best taken early in the day! rather than late at night.

Bearing that in mind, the audience then engaged Dr Hanci in a lively Q&A session before partaking (somewhat cautiously, not to say abstemiously) in a glass of wine while chatting with the speaker and his family, as well as with the doctors from Shere Surgery, to conclude an informative and good-natured evening.

News from Shere Surgery

Many of you will have been very frustrated by the lack of access in recent months. Despite investing in more doctors, the demand for our services has increased to unmanageable levels. We have had to take urgent cases only earlier and earlier in the day and we have reached the point that our current system, “Ask My GP”, is sadly no longer fit for purpose. If all goes to plan, by the time this goes to print, we will have started a new system called “Accu Rx”.

One of the key differences is that arranging appointments in advance will now be possible. When you get in touch with the surgery, one of the doctors will be assessing each request to help work out the best way forward. This may be an appointment with a doctor or nurse practitioner on the same day for urgent cases, or you may receive a booking link so you can book a slot yourself with the person you need to see or speak with. One of the best parts about it is that you will be able to book when it suits you, rather than waiting for a call all day which can be a bit inconvenient.

Online requests will remain the preferred and main route of contacting the surgery but making appointments by phone will also continue to be available for those who cannot use the online system. You will be able to see what is available and choose the slot that works for you. We hope this change will be one that is welcomed and will welcome any suggestions on how to make it even better.

Another advent is a new service called “East to West”. This is aimed at children, young people, and their families. It consists of a team of counsellors and support workers who work locally to help those who are finding life challenging, particularly with respect to mental health and behavioural problems. A key theme of East to West is to offer hope and suggest practical solutions to support the patient and those around them. The success stories on the web site are uplifting and well-worth reading: <https://www.easttowest.org.uk/> Please do get in touch if you would like to know more or think we can help.

Many of you will have noticed a new face in our medical team – Dr Johann Panthakey has joined us for a four-month period, bringing with him a fresh wave of youthful enthusiasm. He was once an optometrist but retrained as a doctor and, after his time with us, plans to train as a specialist in ophthalmology. We feel fortunate to have him with us.

I wish you all a rejuvenating and enjoyable summer from its official onset on 21st June and will close with a reminder from the Bard; “summer’s lease hath all too short a date”, so we must make the most of it! *Dr Douglas Wardrop*

DORKING MUSEUM IN JUNE 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591. We are always looking for volunteers to help.

A Place of Safety: The people of Dorking and the surrounding villages have given generous support to those in need on many occasions. The Museum's summer

exhibition, A Place of Safety, tells the stories of the various groups of refugees who have found refuge in the town.

It starts with the eminent group of émigrés fleeing the French Revolution in

1792 and taking up residence in Juniper Hall on the slopes of Box Hill. In the 20th century, they were followed by those fleeing the Kaiser's army in 1914, Nazi oppression in the late 1930s, and the Blitz in 1940. The work of the Dorking Refugee Committee, in which Ralph Vaughan Williams was a leading voice, is featured. The story continues in the present century with refugees from war and persecution in the Middle East.

Walking in Dorking with Museum guides

Sunday 8th June, 2pm. Leave from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club. Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure, the romantic ruin of the only remaining fortified medieval manor house in Surrey: from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club.

Sunday 22nd June, 2pm. Take a guided walk and take in the magnificent views on the Deepdene Trail, including exclusive access to the grade 2* Hope family mausoleum: from the Dorking Golf Club clubhouse.

Sunday 8th June, 2pm. See Dorking as you have never seen it before with Hidden Historic Dorking, where some features will be hidden round corners or above you, others will be hidden 'in plain sight'.

Saturday 14th June, 6pm. The Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostelrys, pubs and inns both past and present (and of their landlords and customers):



Belgian refugee Albert Vanhove with delivery bike

Sunday 22nd June, 2pm, leaving from the Cubitt statue opposite Dorking Halls. The Blue Plaques and Statues walk tells of some of the famous people who lived or were active in Dorking, revealing a diverse range of interests and activities.

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups on these or other itineraries: see website for details, enquiries and group booking.



South Street Caves tours: Open Day, 28th June, tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, lasting about 45 minutes. The 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets. A series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Guided tours take place on the last Saturday of each month of the season. For details and open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.

Directory of Local Businesses

ANIMAL CARE	
The Mutt Hut dog grooming.	07760 162661
The House Vet	01483 272999 info@rowlyhousevct.net
BEAUTY	
Peaslake Beauty Room. Avril Munford	01306 731182 pamperyourself@thepeaslakebeautyroom.co.uk
BUILDERS etc.	
B A Gunter	01306 628291
Dorking Glass	01306 882971
RB Fencing	01306 640143 01483 414745 info@rbfencingltd.co.uk
LHP Groundwork and Drainage	01306 628412 info@lhpl.co.uk
Lyne & Co Chapel Building and Renovation	01293 871008 info@lyneandco.co.uk
CARPENTERS	
Tony Winch – Carpenter, Joiner Cabinet Maker	01306 742373 07969 016924 www.tonywinch.com
CARS	
Service repairs MOTs	Dave Mir 07736912751 Dave@Mir-Tach.co.uk
Car Sales, Buy, Sell, Part exchange	Len Edwards 07946705261 Lenedwards@me.com
CHARITIES	
Abinger Consolidated Charities	kimclark50@gmail.com
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS	
Bullimores	01306 880880 partners@bullimores.co.uk
CHIMNEYS & CHIMNEY SWEEP	
Joe Lund	07930 507115 and 01243 583430
COMPUTERS	
Surrey Hills PC MAC and PC	01483 608242 07771 665863 david@surreyhillspc.co.uk
WMF-IT consultants	01306 731253 sales@wmf-it.co.uk
DECORATORS	
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418 www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
Leith Hill Decorating	07989 747722 leithhilldecorating@gmail.com
ELECTRICIAN	
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996

	phase.surrey@gmail.com
FINANCIAL ADVISOR	
Porter & Co	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
FUNERALS	
Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266
GARDENS AND TREES	
David Ford Tree Care	01306 611661 07940 197911 info@davefordtreecare.co.uk
Capel Tree Surgeons	01306 711124 07775 727121 www.capeltreesurgeons.co.uk
Bury Hill Landscape Supplies	01306 877540 www.buryhilllandscapesupplies.co.uk
Osborne Landscapes & construction. Mark Osborne	07818 001840 01306 730090
Phil's Mowing	07905 160765 phil@philsmowingdorking.co.uk
Mart's Gardening Maintenance	07480 831178 marts.65.cox@gmail.com
SJH Garden Services	07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk
PEST CONTROL	
EMWOOD	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
PIANO TUNING	
Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
HEALTH, PSYCHOTHERAPY, WELLBEING	
Attune Reflexology, Dorking	07811 526156 @attunereflexdorking
Jodechi (Tiggs) Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching	07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com
Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	Email: internitylife@pm.me Mobile: 07919 102332 Website: http://internity.life
Surrey Hill Rehab (for neurological conditions)	07456 641 356 surreyhillsrehab@gmail.com
PROPERTY	
Rebecca Batchelor Country Homes & Equestrian Properties	Rebecca.Batchelor@KWUK.com 07464 043 045
REMOVALS	
EDE BROS	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk
SHOPS	
Coldharbour Village Shop	01306 711793
Kingfisher Farm Shop	01306 730703

Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 730701
SOLAR PANELS	
UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
SPORT & FITNESS	
Abinger Sports Club: Tennis	Charlieye2020@gmail.com 07774 773 993
Dance a Ramix	01306 731182. 07899 842 727 dancearamix@btinternet.com
Dorking Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk
SWIMMING POOLS	
Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE:
July/August 2025
Closes 1pm
Wednesday June 18th
abingerpn@gmail.com



Happy days at the café at St James'

