

Abinger and Coldharbour Parish News



July/August 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) Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 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

Churchwardens: Lucy Harlow
(contact via Parish Office)

PCC Secretary: Sally McCance (737160)

Treasurer: Tim Prideaux (730730)

Gift Aid Secretary: Tim Prideaux

Flowers Secretary: Kim Edwards (730809)

Hall Bookings: Evelyn Hall (Kim Edwards)
theevelynhall@gmail.com
01306 730809
Ab. Hammer Hall (730703)

Coldharbour

John Anthony Simpson
(contact via Parish Office)

Sally McCance (737160)

Martin Neve (07974 777448)

Helen Potter (712214)

Patsy Simpson (via parish office)

John Venus Hall (Su Jones)
suaj1512@gmail.com
07779 726930
Village Pavilion (712009)

Parish News

Editors: Liz Hamilton (730382) Jenny Parker (731851), abingerpn@gmail.com

Distribution: Kim Edwards (730809)

Advertising: Sally McCance (737160), PNadvertising@aol.co.uk

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

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)

Cricket Club: John Hopper (07957 611664)

Golf Society: Stuart McLachlan (01306 712009)

Village Band: Debby Chapman (01306 711704)

Parish Councils

Abinger: clerk@abinger-pc.gov.uk 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, Tue, Thu & Fri: 8.30am - 6.15pm (Closed 12.30 - 2.30pm)

Wed: 8.30am - 12.30pm

Capel Surgery 01306 711105 / Fax 01036 712751

Mon – Fri: 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

Mon to Fri: 8.00am - 1.00pm.

Medwyn Surgery 01306 883816 (Pharmacy 01306 740865)

Mon, Thu, Fri: 8.00am – 6.30pm Tue, Wed: 8.00am – 8.30pm

Pharmacy, Mon – Sat: 8.00am – 11.00pm, 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



LEITH HILL PLANT LTD OCKLEY SURREY RH5 5LX
www.lhpl.co.uk

Groundwork and Drainage Engineers

Sewage Treatment Plants, Septic
Tanks and Soakaways

Foundations, Concreting,
Surface and Foul Drainage

Phone 01306 628412 or email
info@lhpl.co.uk



RIDBA
Rural & Industrial Design & Building Association

Established 1992
Fully Insured

B A GUNTHER BUILDER

**QUALITY EXTENSIONS & ALTERATIONS
LIME MASONRY & LOCAL STONEMWORK**

guntherbuilders@hotmail.com
07881 952459



Dave Ford Tree Care

Contact us for a free quotation

T: 01306 888 441

E: info@davefordtreecare.co.uk

W: www.davefordtreecare.co.uk



**Tree surgery with a heart | Felling | Pruning | Planting |
Stump Grinding | Hedgerow Management | Emergency Work**

EVENTS



July

- 2nd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 3rd WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
- 3rd Shere Cinema, *Civil War*, 7.30
- 4th Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
- 9th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 12th Walliswoodstock, from 6pm
- 13th Shere Cinema, *The Longest Day*, 7pm
- 16th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 18th WI summer lunch, Wotton Village Hall, 12.30
- 19th Albury Produce Show and Fair, Albury Heath, 2 - 5
- 21st Meet MP Chris Coghlan, St John's Chapel, Westcott, 6-9
- 23rd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 26th Surrey Serenaders Come and Sing, St James', 10 -12

August

- 6th Coldharbour coffee morning JV Hall 10.30-11.30
- 7th Shere Cinema, *Wicked*, 6.30
- 25th Wotton Fete, 2pm

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 of producing it.

A BACS payment can be made to either St James' Abinger: Account name: PCC Abinger (Parish News), Sort Code: 60-07-02, Account no: 39447332 or Christ Church Coldharbour: Account name: Christ Church Coldharbour PCC; Sort Code: 20-23-97; Account no: 40192422

Please contact the Parish Office on where to send a cheque. With many thanks.

From the Editors

The Abinger Fair

So many photos were taken! Here are some of Sonia's Bottle Tombola Maidens. Flick forward a couple of pages to see many more pictures!



The cover picture

News of Christine Padgham's beautiful scarecrow family in Friday Street has spread far and wide. If you look carefully you will see that the scarecrow on the right is human! In fact it was a German visitor who was so taken by the quirky British rural idyll that he had to leap over the fence and join them!

So what has happened to Belmont?

A new school is opening in September! Leith Hill School is an independent school for children and young people with autism and social, emotional and mental health needs from the age of 7. See <https://www.leithhillschool.com/>. Look out for an interview with the Head next month.

A slightly new look

You will notice that the magazine looks slightly different this month. That is because the magazine is now being printed by Barkers print in Dorking. We are very grateful to them for their help in the changeover. As always we depend on you, our readers, for sending us interesting articles each month. **Please note that we are bringing forward the day for submissions to the Tuesday (i.e. one day earlier).**

Reflections from the Rectory

Dear friends,



Roy Woodhams

I begin this double edition with some exciting news!

Rev'd Canon Roy Woodhams will be Holmbury and Wotton's next associate Rector! Roy is currently Rector of St. Nicolas in Cranleigh (and Area Dean) and he and his wife Kate are very pleased to be joining us in the Leith Hill Benefice! Having worked with Roy I am super excited with this appointment and know that he will bring his considerable experience and warmth to this role.

Do pray for them both as they say goodbye to friends and colleagues and prepare for their move in November.

As we ease our way into the summer months with exams, school and fetes behind us and hopefully long hazy summer days before us, may we enjoy a different rhythm of life and embrace the rest and slower pace of life!

Happy Holidays!

Rev'd Kia ☺



SJ's and Repair Café Abinger

Every Wednesday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am

Join us at St. James' for tea, coffee, croissants and chat - and bring along your material items to be repaired.

The Old Fair of Abinger

Here are just some of the wonderful people who dressed up for the Fair. Didn't they look magnificent!





Another year, another fair,

... and wasn't it a great one – a record breaking one in fact with takings reaching their highest ever figure! The heavy rain forecast on Friday night risked creating issues with the set up, but in the end the rain held off long enough to complete preparations successfully. By the time the fair started on the Saturday, we were bathed in bright sunshine, putting everyone in great spirits and ready to enjoy all the festivities. As always, the green looked amazing with the stalls beautifully decorated, many with lovely greenery and bright flowers. The Surrey Hills School maypole dancers entertained us all with a great show and the May Queen's entry on the horse and cart was a treat to see. The duck herding proved to be great fun as the dogs amazed us with their skills and the ducks amused us with their antics. There was music to be enjoyed in the church, Punch and Judy to entertain the kids and the physical challenge of Tossing the Sheaf for anyone who had eaten their spinach for lunch! The vegetarian



pancakes stall, new for this year, was a great success, many thanks to Corina and her family helpers who made it possible. Big thanks must also go to the raffle team this year, and without a main coordinator it really was a team effort. Thank you to Laura Steele for bringing in lots of great prize donations and to Rachel Ward, Debbie Stafford and Caroline for taking on the running of the stall on the day. Kelly



and Lucy formed a new team this year on the ice cream stall which had a fantastic year, thank you both very much for stepping up and doing such a great job. Finally, a thank you to everyone and anyone who is involved in any way, however big or small. Whether that be helping with set up and take down, running stalls, donating items, counting money, making breakfasts, staffing car parks, setting up WiFi, music in the church, vestry teas or just coming and supporting on the day. It is the breadth of this support that makes it such a great community event and allows so much money to be raised to support local charities and amenities. **If your charity or organisation would like to benefit from the proceeds, please put your request in writing to Liz Irvine, Fair Secretary, abingerfairsec@gmail.com.**

Looking forward to seeing you all next year!

Coldharbour Fete Update



The June edition included a wonderful account of the Coldharbour fete by Gaye Tindall, with photos taken by her husband Peter, which said we'd raised just under £10,000. In fact, we were £42 short. There have been many offers to round it up which is 'so' Coldharbour, but everyone had been generous enough already. We have,

however, been selling a few more plants and were only £12 short before we found we'd

overestimated an expense and now the final total stands at £10,148, an amazing figure we can all be proud of, but most importantly, a day that showed the community at its best.



One phrase in Gaye's article that resonated

was 'a loyal band of volunteers and stallholders who do so much work before, during and after the event'. Many have been doing it for years, simply enjoying, along with the visitors, the result of all that hard work, and loyal is an understatement - most have happily embraced the unwritten rule that the only way out of future involvement is to leave the village!

The vintage attire was another example of the village going 'all in' as these fab outfits illustrate.

Kerry Day



Coldharbour Events for the Autumn

Hot on the heels of our amazing village fete we have the following 2025 village events for your diary:

September 13th - Thames Bridges Challenge - 10.30hrs at Putney Bridge, London

We have 11 Coldharbour villagers signed up to walk 25km across 16 London Bridges on September 13th (there is a 10km shorter option available). The walk zig zags all the way to Tower Bridge providing the option to stop (or drop out) at any time. With fascinating insights into the history of the bridges, a mid way food stop plus celebration at the finish line, this walk is also a fun day out. If this interests you then please contact amandahanlin@aol.com to join the Coldharbour Trekkers group for the event. The cost is £89 per person with no further fundraising.

October 3rd - Coldharbour Village Quiz Night - 18.30hrs at the Village Hall

Gather your team together and come along to village quiz night hosted by Piers Cooke. £13.00 per person to include fish & chips. Please contact amandahanlin@aol.com if you plan to come so we can track numbers for pre fish orders.

November 15th - Coldharbour Christmas Craft Fair - 11.00hrs - 14.30hrs at Coldharbour Church

The Christmas Craft Fair is returning this year. Our most popular stalls from last year will be joining us again, along with a number of new artists selling unique handcrafted Christmas gifts. 18 wonderful stalls to browse and buy from, showcasing work from our local craftsman and artists.

December 11th & 12th - Christmas Wreath Making at Chasemores, Coldharbour (opposite village hall) 14.00hrs - 16.00hrs

There's nothing quite like a real Christmas wreath on your door at Christmas so why not try your hand at this traditional Christmas craft and make your own wreath this year. Join Amanda for a festive workshop with full and simple guidance on how to create your own unique wreath. £35 per person to include a 10 inch wreath ring, natural foliage, mince pie and mulled wine. Up to 6 people per session so book now to secure your space. Contact amandahanlin@aol.com or 07770 324083.

Abinger Common & Wotton WI

Once again our talk highlighted a charity working to assist our health and wellbeing. Gerry Bennett told us about SERV Surrey & London, a service providing out-of-hours support to 20 hospitals. They transport blood products, urgent samples and medical supplies, along with donated breast milk, to hospitals and milk banks across Surrey & London. They also carry out a daily delivery of blood to Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex (a charity that we had a talk about at a WI meeting some months ago). During normal working hours the blood stored at blood banks is ordered in advance by hospitals and then delivered by the Blood Transfusion Service, but it would be uneconomic to keep staff on duty for unexpected needs that may crop up overnight. SERV is staffed fully by volunteers, comprising drivers, controllers, and fund raisers. The drivers may use one of the ex-police motorbikes available, or their own cars or motorbikes. Gerry, after retirement as school headteacher, first worked through all the home jobs on his list, then looked around for an occupation where he was not required to be in charge and organise other people. This volunteer role has given him great satisfaction over the past 10 years, doing as instructed, meeting lovely people, having fun, and fulfilling a worthwhile purpose.



Thank you to our WI tea hostesses Denise Williams, Debbie Stafford and Wendy Ponsford.

Upcoming meetings:

3rd July – Rosalind Dodd – “Our Wonderful Brain”. 2.30pm at Wotton Village Hall,

18th July – Summer Lunch at Wotton 12.30, hosted by the Committee – members may bring a guest and are requested to book tickets early to ensure a place. £13 per ticket. Offers of desserts for 8 are welcomed.

In August there will be a coffee morning, venue and date to be confirmed.

Please do get in touch if you wish to join us – just one afternoon each month for an interesting talk and a delicious tea within a friendly and supportive group – new members are always most welcome.

Claire Hill

CHILDREN



Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

What a wonderful Summer Term we have had, brimming with outdoor learning; the children had so many opportunities to delve into the natural world around them, not to mention Year 3 and 4 who are loving their swimming and tri golf lessons. We have had some amazing trips this term - from Painshill Park for our Reception, Year 1 and 2 to a Forest School walk for Year 3 to our local nature reserve.



We were absolutely thrilled with over £5000 raised from the Teddy Bears Picnic - a wealth of community spirit shining through in partnership with Peaslake School. A huge thank you goes to all our volunteers from F@SH and beyond who made this sun and joy-filled evening possible. Whether it is reading, running lunchtime clubs or supporting with visits, life at Surrey Hills would not be the same

without you. A special thank you goes to Becky, Ekpen and Amy who go over and above to raise vital funds and support our super Surrey Hills.

The weather was amazing for the Teddy Bears' Picnic. Parents from our school and Peaslake Infant School came together to organise this wonderful family event and we were so grateful to the teachers, local governing committee, family friends and past pupils from Surrey Hills who came along to help with setting up, manning the car park, and running the various stalls, including the iconic duck race on the stream. Our school choir, led by Paige Potterton, gave a wonderful performance for the crowds. Special thanks to some of our year 4 girls who ran their own "Little Bites Bakery" and raised £179. Total raised from the event stands at over £10,000 with more monies to come in so each school will receive over £5000 to support the education of our children.



SERVICES AT ST JAMES' CHURCH, ABINGER

6th July	The Third Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children. Refreshments after the service
13th July	The Fourth Sunday after Trinity
6.00pm	Choral Evensong
20th July	The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Parish Communion - Feast of St James Patronal Festival Refreshments after the service
27th July	The Sixth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Sideways Church. New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter and conversation
6.00pm	Julian meeting <u>at Christ Church Coldharbour</u> Half of an hour of stillness with God
3rd August	The Seventh Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service <u>at Christ Church Coldharbour</u>
10th August	The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service <u>at St Mary's Holmbury</u>
17th August	The Ninth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service
24th August	The Tenth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service <u>at St John's Wotton</u>
6.00pm	Julian meeting. Half of an hour of stillness with God
31st August	The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service <u>at Christ Church Coldharbour</u>

From the Registers

Abinger

6 th June	Ashes	John Willcocks
8 th June	Baptism	Atticus Obank
	Baptism	Jesse Fairbrass
	Baptism	Ottavia Ratner

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, COLDHARBOUR

6th July	The Third Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
13th July	The Fourth Sunday after Trinity
10.00am	Second Sunday Service (Iona with communion) Refreshments after the service
20th July	The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm	Congregational Evensong
27th July	The Sixth Sunday after Trinity
10.00am	Parish Communion (Common Worship) Refreshments after the service
6.00pm	Julian meeting. Half an hour of stillness with God
3rd August	The Seventh Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service
10th August	The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice service <u>at St Mary's Holmbury</u>
17th August	The Ninth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service <u>at St James' Abinger</u>
24th August	The Tenth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service <u>at St John's Wotton</u>
6.00pm	Julian meeting <u>at St. James' Abinger</u> Half of an hour of stillness with God
31st August	The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Service

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 7th July, Monday 21st July, Monday 4th August and Monday 18th August, from 10am - 11am in the JV Hall.

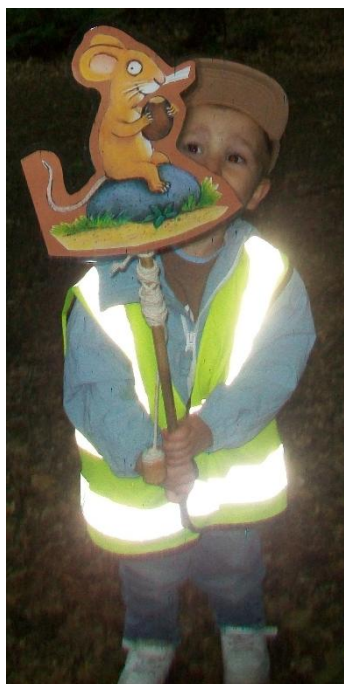
Do pop in to say hello to Kia and Sally with any questions - or just for a coffee and a chat!

Our nursery took a stroll to the top of Leith Hill,
We found a fox who was having a chill,
Where are you going to, little pitter patters?
Come chat with me and we'll talk about matters.

It's terribly kind of you fox but no-
We're hiking to find a Gruffalo.
A Gruffalo? What on earth is one of those?
OK let us explain to you - here goes:

He has wobbly knees and drool that flows and a green little spot on the top
of his nose!

Where will you find him?
Hopefully right at the top and his favourite food is sautéed fox!
Sauteed fox? Oh golly no!!
Goodbye nursery children off I go!



And the hunt did not stop there! We carefully sauntered through the woods stopping here and there for a climb on a fallen tree or to peek inside a dusky den. As we ascended we ticked off owl, snake and finally the Gruffalo who did happen to be at the summit!

Spurred on by some exceptional homemade cake, delightful snacks and a healthy dose of rolling down the hill we trekked all the way back to the carpark.



What an amazing feat with our feet! Thank you hugely to all the parents that were able to come and to those who raised a tremendous amount of sponsorship. We are truly grateful for all your help.

Just in case you weren't aware we have wraparound options from 7.45am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and until 12.45 Friday. If you have a child looking to start nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

ABINGER ADVENTURERS

Pat's Aussie Adventure



At 82 years young, Patricia Camp of Abinger Common embarked on an extraordinary solo journey that would take her across continents and deep into the heart of Australia's wildest frontiers. Her adventure was so remarkable, it could be titled: **"I'm from Abinger. Get me out of here!"**

Patricia's odyssey began at Gatwick Airport, where she boarded a flight bound for Tasmania, with layovers in Singapore and Melbourne. In Hobart, she reunited with an old school friend, spending a week exploring the island's rugged coastlines and enjoying early morning dog walks along serene beaches.

Next, Patricia flew to Adelaide to board The Ghan, one of the world's most iconic train journeys. This 2,979-kilometre expedition traverses Australia's vast interior from south to north, offering passengers a unique blend of comfort and adventure.

Aboard The Ghan, Patricia experienced the changing landscapes—from the pastoral hues of South Australia's plains to the rusty Red Centre and the tropical greens of the Top End. She enjoyed sumptuous dining, an elegant private cabin, and attentive service, all while forging connections with fellow travellers, namely Raymond and Jacob.

From Darwin, Patricia flew to Cairns. Despite a minor dental mishap—a broken tooth—she quickly sought out a local dentist, ensuring she was ready for the next leg of her adventure.

The pinnacle of Patricia's journey was a 12-day off-road expedition to Cape York Peninsula, Australia's northernmost point. This remote wilderness is renowned for its rugged beauty, rich Indigenous culture, and historical significance.

Travelling via 4WD, the small group ventured through challenging terrains, including river crossings and dense rainforests. They visited Cooktown, a town steeped in history as the site of Captain James Cook's first interaction with Indigenous Australians

However, heavy floods rendered some roads impassable. Undeterred, the group took a helicopter to bypass the flooded areas, showcasing Patricia's unwavering spirit of adventure. Once back on solid ground, they continued their journey, eventually reaching the tip of Cape York, where the land meets the sea—a moment of triumph and reflection.

Patricia's remarkable adventure is a testament to the idea that age is no barrier to exploration. From the tranquil



beaches of Tasmania to the remote wilderness of Cape York, she embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and grace. Her story serves as an inspiration to all, proving that with determination and a zest for life, the world remains full of wonders waiting to be discovered.

Written by her proud family - Tracey, Neil, Megan & Ben Dyson

Lucy Pakenham and Rosie McCance's Uganda Adventure

Volunteering at the Fountain of Peace

Many of you have kept up to date with our adventures to Uganda and have been incredibly kind on our arrival home (when we were pretty sick). However now we are out of those woods, I wanted to share a few of our experiences.

We were out there from the 17th - 25th of April which meant we were there for all of the Easter fun! On Good Friday on our long drive from Entebbe (where we flew into) to Kyenjojo (where the project is) we saw many church



processions carrying large crosses along the roads, whilst singing and praying. Uganda is a predominantly Christian country so Easter time was colourful, as you can imagine.

As soon as we arrived we were greeted by William, a lead member of the Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation, who was our guide throughout our trip. On Friday we arrived at the project, which felt like a paradise as soon as you drove in. We were there in the rainy season, so it was incredibly lush, and the view from the project was amazing. As well as this, the children ran down to the car to greet us, and instantly curious chatter and laughter was heard all around us. We were greeted by many of the nannies and all 89 children. We were just surrounded by joy.

At the beginning of the week Rosie and I went round each house with gifts we had brought, meeting and bonding with all the older children. Each house sang us a song, introduced themselves, and gave us a tour of their house. Within the project we were to help in the baby section - feeding, praying, and playing most mornings. We also took part in morning devotionals led by the chaplain, as well as being taken on community walks and going on a tour around the school. The afternoons

were carved out as time to play with the older children. They have a very organised structure where they help with chores and school work in the mornings before being able to play in the afternoon. We played games such as capture the flag, egg and spoon race and sack races. They introduced us to many other chants and games too.



Whilst we were there we also had the opportunity to go on a Safari and to visit the hot springs, (self-funded). On the game drive and boat tour we saw elephants, hippos, buffalo, crocodiles, lizards, leopards and many others. It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience. We also drove into the mountains to visit the hot springs which have an amazing

story linked to the tribe who live in the mountains. There is a female and male hot spring because they believe that a man went missing in one and a woman went missing in the other... feel free to have a google. We also got to boil eggs in the water which was also pretty cool.

Our accommodation was eventful. Unlike other volunteer groups, we stayed in a motel where many of the nannies and teachers for the project live, as it is just down the road from the project. Living with the nannies meant we had some enlightening conversations and made good friends with a girl called Arabella (the nursery teacher) who might even come over to visit us! For a few days we had no running water and definitely no hot water, so the owner would bring us jerry cans full of boiling water which we would pour into the sink and use to wash with. The lights worked sometimes and the bugs were fun. What I will say is that Rosie and I decided to share a room and that saved us because these things became incredibly funny and are now memories we will share forever. Such as washing each other's hair and fighting bugs with crocs in the early hours of the morning.

On our last day at the project we had a leaving service which moved us quite a lot because the charity was such a beautiful place to be. As Rosie said, it is very hard to be sad in such a wonderful place.

Overall, it was such an amazing experience and we are already jealous of the next group going out in the summer. Rosie and I are pretty bonded for life and will be naming our own children after the babies we fell in love with out there.

For more about the charity: <https://www.fountainofpeace.net/>

OUR COMMUNITY

Things! Who needs them!

Circular Dorking's Library of Things

Ask yourself, do I really need to buy it? There are many estimates for the average amount of time a hand drill is used in its entire lifetime, ranging from 6 minutes to 20 minutes. Regardless of the exact number, the point is made and it applies to many other things as well: carpet cleaners, wall paper strippers, party gazebos – things we use maybe once or twice a year.

Wouldn't it be great if we could simply borrow these items from a Library of Things just for the time we need them? No storage issues, no unnecessary carbon emissions, less depletion of the Earth's resources, less financial cost to you, help and advice in using them from the lenders. We now have a Library of Things in Dorking!

We have a variety of tools, appliances, garden equipment, games and other items that can be borrowed from our library **FREE OF CHARGE**. The majority of our items have been donated by supporters. If you would like to make a donation of a good condition item or financially please get in touch. The aim is to gradually grow the library of things to 100's of items, aided by the community, and it to become a key resource for the local community. Dorking Library of Things is primarily funded through donations, grants and supporters like you.

For more information on this and other initiatives of Circular Dorking see <https://circulardorking.org.uk/projects/the-library-of-things/>



Ask Besom if they can use something you don't need

Besom in Dorking help local people who are in need of various household items – e.g. white goods, electrical appliances, furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils etc. Go to <https://www.besomindorking.com/giving-things-and-money>.

Good quality children's things your children have grown out of? Stripey Stork might like them...



Stripey Stork is a baby bank that collects and redistributes baby and children's items to families in Surrey and Croydon who are experiencing hardship, ensuring they have the essentials they need. Stripey Stork is based in Reigate, and this year they have already helped over 57,000 families!

They need items such as beds, pushchairs, clothes, shoes ... – they must be as good as new.

To find out more go to <https://stripeystork.org.uk/donate-items/>

WHAT'S ON OVER THE SUMMER?



SHERE
VILLAGE
CINEMA

Films in July and August

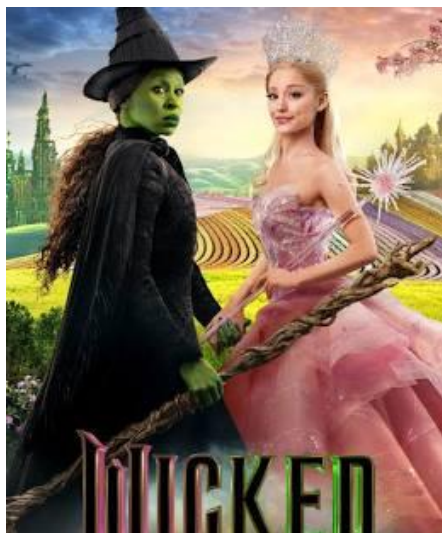
A reminder - To sign up to our newsletter and/or to book tickets for future films please go to the website: www.sherevillagecinema.com. For those unable to access the internet, we will usually reserve a minimum of 10 tickets for sale on the door. All tickets, except where indicated, cost £5/adult and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

Thursday 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. *Civil War* is just as much a road movie as a war movie: their journey, unwinding as a progression of encounters captures the near-complete breakdown of social order. A frequently brilliant film looking at hopefully, just a fictionalized version of America destroying itself from within. 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. The film takes care to show how the event was perceived by Allied and Axis soldiers and commanders, as well as the Free French resistance. It features an all-star cast including: John Wayne, Richard Burton, Kurt Jurgens, Richard Todd, Robert Michum and even a cameo by Sean Connery! The superb

black and white photography adds yet another layer of realism. It is still a classic after 43 years! Classification 12A (Running time is 3 hours). Note: Start time is 7pm.

Thursday 7th August - Wicked - is based on the blockbuster stage musical Wicked and is the untold story of the witches of Oz. Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) is a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who has yet to discover her true power, and Glinda (Ariana Grande) is a popular young woman, gilded by privilege and ambition, who has yet to discover her true heart. The two meet as students, at Shiz University in the fantastical Land of Oz, and forge an unlikely but profound friendship. This film promises a froth of pink and green escapism but delivers considerably more in the way of depth and darkness and 'Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande make the magic happen'! Classification PG, (Running time is 2 hours 40 minutes).



Note: Start time is 6.30pm as this is a long film, aimed at children and adults. As usual there will be an interval for ice creams, to top up on drinks and to stretch the legs etc.

Music

MUSIC IN DORKING – JULY 2025 by Ian Codd

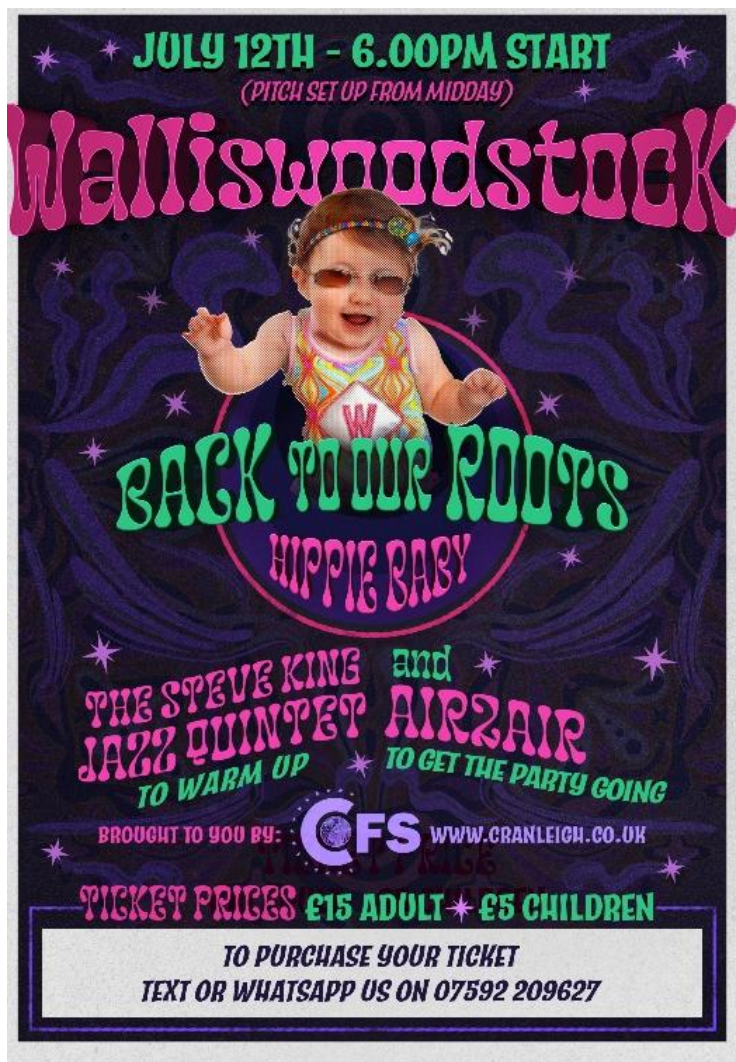
July 12th at 4.00, Leatherhead Choral Society in Tithe Barn, Bookham, £18

As everyone enjoys a summer break from rehearsing and concert-giving, it just remains to mention the summer concert by the Leatherhead Choral Society. Held in the Tithe Barn, Manorhouse Lane, Bookham, this will be an afternoon of Shakespeare-themed music and readings, with refreshments, in the amazing atmosphere of a mediaeval tithe barn. Tickets are available on the internet.

To whet your appetite for next season: the Dorking Concertgoers have their usual enterprising series of concerts planned, including three visits from the Carducci string quartet and an appearance in December from the Grimethorpe Colliery Band; Dorking Choral Society will be singing Haydn's 'Nelson' mass in November; and next year's Leith Hill Festival will include Haydn's glorious Creation, music by Vaughan Williams, and a concert of baroque music. Full details to follow!

**SATURDAY
JULY 12TH**

WALLISWOODSTOCK



**The Surrey Serenaders invite you to ...
'Come and Sing with us'**

Saturday, 26th July, 10 - 12 at St James'

A whole morning of fun-filled singing with a very experienced and friendly choir – the Surrey Serenaders.

Learn something new, have a sing, or just come and listen. Everyone is welcome.



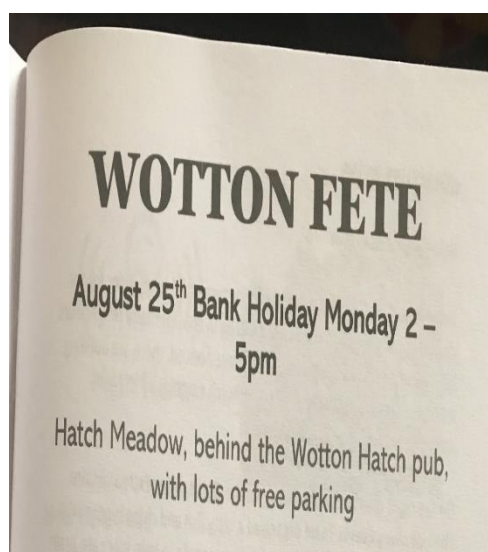
Enjoy a mix of lovely music, styles and harmony.

Improve and guide your singing voice.

Refreshments provided. Donations welcome.

Surrey Serenaders rehearse every second and fourth Saturday in St James' with conductor Liz Wilcox. Contact Avril Sharman for more details: 01306 732396

Wotton Fete – August Bank Holiday Monday



Coldharbour Fete was a great success. Abinger Fair was a perfect day financially and weatherwise. Please help Wotton Church Fete be equally successful by helping us. Any good quality donations for stalls similar to the ones at Coldharbour Fete and Abinger Fair would be gratefully received. I am happy for items to be left at Yew Tree Cottage in Friday Street (the house with the scarecrows) or you can contact Rosemary Wakeford - 01306 730856 or Stella Ayling – 01306 885637 for alternative collection points.

Christine Padgham, 01306 730568.

GARDENS

Robin's gardening tips for the Summer



Most years we would be hoping for more sun, this year most gardeners are hoping for more rain! Even washing up water thrown over plants can help to keep plants alive and thriving. Thanks to the rain over the winter though, roses this year seem better than ever. Don't forget to deadhead!



If growing sweet peas they benefit from daily picking, enjoy them in the house as well as the garden. There is still plenty of time to sow more vegetables especially things like carrots, peas and even courgettes, though these will need watering to get established.

As some perennial plants die right back in winter, why not take photos of favourite areas now to serve as reminder if you want to plant spring bulbs.

As earlier flowers die off why not save the seeds ready to sow next year. Don't forget to label the envelopes. Ripening soft fruits need picking daily or the birds may get there first. I have noticed that pigeons seem to delight in just pecking off the fruit before it is ripened and dropping it on the ground. If possible cover bushes with netting or horticultural fleece.

But if the sunny weather continues, just sit and enjoy your garden, at least if plants are affected by drought then so are the weeds!

Albury Produce Show & Fair Sat July 19th

£4 entry per person, £2 for under 16s and under 5s are free. Please come and support us - our annual surplus supports great local charities.

Interested in entering the Show? The variety and quality of our entries are what makes our Show Tent such a delight – gardening, baking, crafting, flower-arranging, photography, home-brewing, children's crafts... See www.alburyproduce.org.uk. The cost is £5 per household to enter as many exhibits as you like (pay your entry fee on the day). Our Show Tent opens from 2-4.30pm to view the talent and bounty on show. All online entries before the show are very welcome – even if you're not sure if your entries will be ready on the day, it's better to apply in advance than not. There are a few new classes and many old favourites.



Please contact Georgina Field: georginafield@icloud.com or 07805 261715 if you'd like to volunteer to lend a hand in advance. Donations in kind of bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, bottles, books, produce and/or preserves are also gratefully received: please deliver early on the day to the show tent.

If you are interested in having a stall at this year's show, you can book online at alburyproduce.org.uk/stall (the charge for a pitch is £15 for charity stalls and £25 for small businesses). Any queries, please contact Jayne Allingham at alburyproduceshow@gmail.com or 07769 309 138.

Pat Rudling reports that, sadly, the Wotton and Abinger Flower Show has run its course. Thank you Pat for all your hard work over the years.



District Councillor Update for July 2025

It's been a busy few months at Mole Valley District Council, and we wanted to share some key updates — including changes on the horizon that could reshape the way local government works across Surrey.

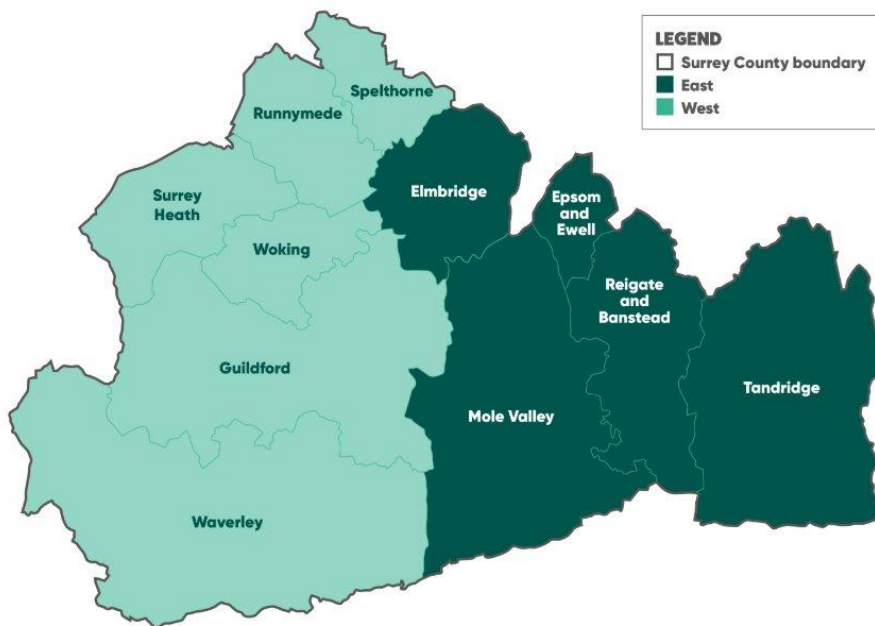
First, some good news: Mole Valley's Local Plan has been shortlisted for the Royal Town Planning Institute's Awards for Planning Excellence. It's a welcome recognition of the work being done locally — and two standout policies have drawn particular national praise:

- A requirement for all new developments to deliver a net gain in biodiversity, helping protect and enhance our countryside and wildlife.
- A commitment that at least 40% of new homes be affordable — supporting young people, local families, and key workers who want to stay rooted in our communities.

The biggest change ahead, however, is the Government's plan for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). At present, Surrey operates under a two-tier system: the County Council manages highways, education, and social care, while Mole Valley District Council looks after planning, housing, waste collection, and leisure.

Under LGR, these services would be merged into one or more unitary authorities — single councils delivering all local functions. The Government's aim is to reduce duplication, increase efficiency, and allow for stronger local decision-making.

As part of this, the May County Council elections were cancelled, and all local authorities in Surrey have been asked to submit their proposals for how the new structure should work.



Mole Valley has backed the two-unitary model, where Surrey would be split into East and West. Under this plan, Mole Valley would join Reigate & Banstead, Epsom & Ewell, Elmbridge, and Tandridge to form an East Surrey Authority.

We believe this model balances efficiency with accountability. It is small enough to remain responsive to local concerns, while still delivering the benefits of scale. Crucially, it meets the criteria laid out by the Government — and provides for at least two councillors per division, protecting local representation.

Of course, reorganisation brings challenges. While long-term savings are expected, the transition will be complex, and many details remain unclear — particularly regarding funding, assets, and local services.

That's why we've joined colleagues in calling for safeguards:

- Three councillors per division

- Flexibility to create new town or parish councils in currently unparished areas

- Protection of valued community assets — like libraries and leisure centres

- Continued focus on climate targets

- A fair funding settlement — including writing off high-risk council debts (such as Woking and Spelthorne) which would otherwise be shared by residents in the new authorities

Both in Abinger and Coldharbour there are already Parish Councils — and that makes a difference.

With the eventual abolition of Mole Valley District Council, Parish Councils will play a crucial role in representing communities and preserving local identity. Whether it's safeguarding public spaces, ensuring accountability, or protecting the areas' historic character, Parish Councils may find themselves stepping into a more prominent role in the coming years.

That's why now is the time to start preparing — cataloguing our assets, considering how best to maintain local oversight, and ensuring our voices are heard as the new authorities are designed.

While other areas may soon be exploring the formation of parish councils for the first time, Abinger and Capel already have a platform in place — and with it, an opportunity to shape the next chapter of local government from the ground up.

That said, several questions remain:

- How will parish councils be supported after LGR?

- What will happen to community-run services previously managed by the District Council?

- How will public views be collected and acted upon in forming the new authorities?
- And how can we make sure rural communities like Abinger and Coldharbour remain visible in a larger, more centralised system?

LGR Timeline at a Glance:

- Dec 2024 – Government publishes Devolution White Paper
- Feb 2025 – County Council elections cancelled
- May 2025 – Proposals for new unitaries submitted
- Summer–Autumn 2025 – Government reviews proposals
- Early 2026 – Shadow Authorities formed
- May 2026 – Elections to new councils
- April 2027 – New authorities take full control

Mole Valley District Council will continue to serve residents up to 2027 — and we're determined to make sure our own history, heritage, and priorities are protected throughout this transition.

Finally, a date for your diary:



Please join us for an open Town Hall meeting with our new MP, Chris Coghlan, on Monday 21st July, 6–9 PM at St John's Chapel, Westcott. Though held in Westcott, all are warmly invited — it's a chance to meet Chris, ask questions, and hear about what's coming next for our area.

Worry not if this date does not work for you, as Chris is planning to hold these meetings across the District with Box Hill planned in September, and Capel and Abinger also on his list.

With best wishes,

Abhi, Chris, and Leah (District Councillors for Mickleham, Westcott & Okewood ward)

Dineke, Kirstie and Jo (District Councillors for Capel, Leigh, Newdigate & Charlwood ward)

Directory of Local Businesses

Animal care	
The Mutt Hut dog grooming.	07760 162661
The House Vet	01483 272999 info@rowlyhousevet.net
Beauty	
Peaslake Beauty Room.	01306 731182
Avril Munford	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 Capel 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-Tech.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	
Joe Lund (sweep)	07930 507115 and 01243 583430
Computers	
Surrey Hills PC MAC and PC WMF-IT consultants	01483 608242 07771 665863 david@surreyhillspc.co.uk 01306 731253 sales@wmf-it.co.uk
Decorators	
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418 www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
Leith Hill Decorating	07989 747722 leithhilldecorating@gmail.com
Electricians	
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996 phase.surrey@gmail.com
Financial Advisors	
Porter & Co	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
Funeral Services	
Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266
Gardens & 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 SJH Garden Services	07480 831178 marts.65.cox@gmail.com 07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk
Pest Control Emwood	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
Piano Tuning Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
Printing Barkers, Dorking	01306 888858 rob@barkerprint.co.uk
Health, Psychotherapy, Wellbeing Attune Reflexology, Dorking Jodechi Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing Surrey Hill Rehab (for neurological conditions)	07811 526156 @attunereflexdorking 07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com internitylife@pm.me 07919 102332 http://internity.life 07456 641 356 surreyhillsherehab@gmail.com
Property Country Homes & Equestrian Properties	Rebecca.Batchelor@KWUK.com 07464 043 045
Removals Ede Bros	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk
Shops Coldharbour Village Shop Kingfisher Farm Shop Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 711793 01306 730703 01306 730701
Solar Panels UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
Sport & Fitness Abinger Sports Club: Tennis Dance a Ramix Dorking Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Charlieye2020@gmail.com 07774 773 993 01306 731182. 07899 842 727 dancearamix@btinternet.com 01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk
Swimming Pools Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE:
 Sept 2025
 Closes 1pm
 Tuesday August 19th
 abingerpn@gmail.com