

Abinger and Coldharbour

Parish News



September 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)
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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

Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)

Abinger Common & Wotton WI: President: Lesley Childs (01483 205461)

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



SEPTEMBER

1st	Talk 'St Martha's Church' 7.15 Crossways Church
3rd	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
4th	Holmbury St Mary Choral Society term begins
4th	WI Wotton Village Hall 2.30 <i>A Tasting Menu</i>
4th	Shere Cinema <i>A Real Pain</i> 7.30
5th	CH Village coffee morning JV Hall 10.30-11.30
6th	Family Quiz St James' 7.30
6th	Leith Hill Place, talk: <i>Repairing Leith Hill Place</i> 4-5
7th	CH Village Band at Leith Hill Place 2-4pm
7th	Pippfest 11-6 and tours of Pippbrook House 10-4
10th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
12th-21st	Heritage Open Days
13th	Surrey Serenaders St James' 10-12
13th	Thames Bridges challenge 10.30 Putney Bridge
13th	Leith Hill Place VE Gala 7-9pm
13th	Ride and Stride
17th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
20th	Organ Celebration Holy Trinity Westcott 7-8
21st	Shere Cinema, <i>Mad About the Boy</i> , 7.30
24th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
25th	Meditation, St James' Vestry, 3-4
27th	<i>Come and Sing</i> at Crossways Church 10-4.30. £18
27th	Surrey Serenaders St James' 10-12

OCTOBER

1st	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
3rd	CH Quiz Night Fish and Chips supper 6.30 JV Hall
3rd	CH Coffee morning JV Hall
7th	Ocean Film Festival
11th	Organ Recital Christ Church, 3.30pm

Reflections from the Rectory

Dear friends,

As I write this I am about to travel down to a Franciscan Friary at Hilfield in Dorset, for a retreat for a couple of days with the Community of Hopeweavers.



My intention is to go on retreat once a year, to spend time with God, to clear my mind and reconnect with my purpose: to live in constant awareness of His presence. As part of my discipleship journey, I felt called to become part of a religious community, so during the pandemic I explored this through the Community of Hopeweavers, of which I am now a Co- Guardian (responsible for holding the charism of the Community).

This is a community of people from very different backgrounds and localities who are seeking to live intentionally, using stillness, silence and creativity, to connect with God and be resourced to weave hope into everyday life and lives. To help us do this we live to a **Rule (or Rhythm) of life** and share prayers in our **Daily Office** (prayers at certain times throughout the day). In the inclusive tradition of Jesus, we welcome all to 'Come and see'!

This Community helps me to sustain, grow and flourish as I seek to live out my calling to serve you here in these glorious villages! And as September begins with all the business that a new term brings, I pray that you too have found refreshment and rest over the summer months.

If you'd like to find out more about the Community of Hopeweavers do follow this link or have a chat with me

The Community of Hopeweavers - Weaving Hope into everyday

With love,

Rev'd Kia ☺

WITH GREAT SADNESS

Andrew Coppe 1951 - 2025

Andrew passed away in June and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

He was born in Newcastle in 1951 and moved to Banstead when he was eight. He attended Nork Park Secondary Modern School with his two sisters, leaving in 1968 to enter the advertising world in London. He worked his way up to become print and production manager on major consumer advertising campaigns before leaving to start his own design and print company - which he ran successfully for over thirty years.



Andrew's love of country pursuits would see him out shooting most weekends in the season, fishing, rearing his pheasants and exotic birds and showing his prize bull at county shows. An all-round sportsman, he loved nothing better than a round of golf, a game of tennis or playing cricket for Abinger Cricket Club. And he had a passion for horses too, even learning to play polo.

Andrew immersed himself in the Coldharbour community, be it singing in the choir with wife Chrissie or helping to run the fete and various charity events. He had a quick wit and an infectious sense of humour and became a proud grandfather in February when daughter Gemma gave birth to baby Luna.

Sadly, declining health over the last few years saw him step back from many activities and he passed away peacefully in June.

Di Hitchcock



Di's family and friends met with her on Sunday 6th July at The Green Escape, to celebrate her life and say goodbye. Her family wrote: "We count ourselves very lucky to have had such an opportunity and will hold this special day in our memories. Mum and Dad loved being a part of Coldharbour life, being part of the community for over 4 decades." Di asked that any donations should go to The Chestnut Tree Hospice who looked after her.

Di died on the Friday morning in her own house. Zoe, Jago and Suki played Foxy Lady for her as she left home for the last time. Di was the Coldharbour correspondent for many years and contributed much to this Parish News. She returned to write for us in 2022, till ill health forced her to retire.

We will be posting a full article about Di in next month's Parish News.



Last Summer

As You Like It at the Cricket Pitch in June



Many local residents and visitors enjoyed the open-air performance of "As You Like It" by the Festival Players at the Coldharbour cricket pitch on Monday 23rd June. The weather was kind to us again (if somewhat chilly when the sun went down - note to self; "bring more layers in 2026").

The 5 male actors played all 12 parts (male and female) which was very *authentic* Shakespeare – we even had a bearded lady at one stage... The great joke at the premiere in 1599 (at Richmond Palace in front of Queen Elizabeth according to some scholars) was that some of the actors played men dressed as women whilst others played women dressed as men which was very typical Shakespeare.

The joke also worked 426 years later, and we had the advantage over Queen Elizabeth, of being able to drive up to the pitch with our chairs, picnics and midge spray and pick up the chicken or steak pies ("Harry's pies") that we had booked online with our tickets. Thanks, as always, to Sue Smith for organising this lovely annual event. P.S. Where do "Harry's pies" come from? They are superb!

Simon Lea (English Literature "O" Level - Grade 4 - 1972)

The Annual commemoration service at the Quick Response Memorial Garden

The event was attended by approximately 150 Veterans, families, and friends. The loved ones of Four Veterans were honoured during the Commemoration Service. Reverend Virginia Smith and Deacon James Snyder joined in our prayers and celebration of life.



Jan Huson said goodbye to the Village Shop at the Plough

When Sue Smith stopped working as manager, Jan Huson took over the village shop.

She improved many things and was especially good at knowing what sold and what didn't.

Her reign came to an end a few weeks ago in July, and regular users miss her and her expertise, friendship and knowledge of what we bought and what we tended not to buy.



She also realised that the shop depended hugely on the cyclists and walkers who regularly stopped at the shop for a coffee and pie or a cake or pastry. Continuing to have a functioning shop at the centre of the village was Jan's major achievement and all of us will remember that and say a big Thankyou to her.

We hope very much that we won't lose touch with her and her partner Paul who continue to live at Friday Street.

Jan's role has been taken on by Vicky Mir and A J Teidy who are well-known residents in Coldharbour. They are well assisted by Charlotte who mostly works at the Plough, and the twins, Vaughan and Daniel Smith. The transition was mainly managed by the still rather youthful Vaughan, who was well trained by Jan. What a brilliant job Jan, Vaughan, Sue and others have done to keep our shop going now for 9 years.

Graham Mytton

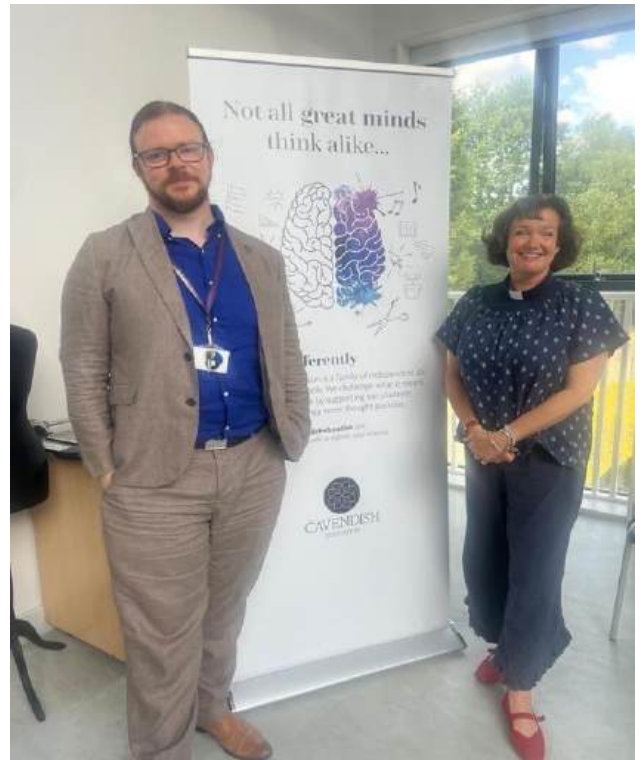
Coldharbour welcomes Brett and Jenny Riley

Brett and Jenny left Ashted with their two French bulldogs Bobby and Cyril to move to 4 Crocker's Wood Cottage in Coldharbour this summer. They have a tech company that operates in 170 countries so are looking forward to Coldharbour being a haven away from stress.

They write: "We have met many of the locals who have made us feel so welcome already but look forward to meeting the rest as time goes on."

Leith Hill School, the independent specialist school for children with autism, officially opened its doors with an Open Day on 16th July. The school is part of the Cavendish Group.

Rev'd Kia was one of the guests who met the staff and headteacher, James McInerney. Guests listened to a presentation, entitled *Not all great minds think alike*. The school hopes that the pupils will be involved with the local community. The desire to support the local community and the inspirational injection of new life into the old much-loved site was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. The school opens in September.



Holly Milner

Abinger School has been acquired by the Merrywood Education group.



On July 21st the old Abinger School was bought by the Merrywood Education group, who plan to open a specialist school in December.

Abinger Common and Wotton WI July meeting

Many of us know Pat O'Brien who lives in Abinger, and it is a delight to find that she gave a talk to the WI about her working life at the BBC for their July meeting. The photo shows her working on a film about St Augustine in N Africa. It was an unplanned and impromptu talk as Pat was actually the designated minute taker! So here is Pat's write up of the July meeting.



We met in the Wotton Hall on a hot afternoon. Our President welcomed us, reminded members of the upcoming Summer Lunch, and told us that our speaker had cancelled the night before! My offer to talk about my years working at the BBC was accepted, so I am afraid it's me talking about my own talk!

I explained that I had to leave school in the middle of my A-levels. However, my father said I could do a secretarial training. At the end of this training, recruitment people came to the college looking for new staff. They were mostly businesspeople, but one such person was a script editor from the BBC - so that is how I started working there, aged 17, as a junior secretary.

I started in BBC radio as a maid of all work, mornings in *Religion* in the Langham Hotel, afternoons in *Talks* in Broadcasting House, and then I became a radio producer's secretary.

When one of the producers in *Religion*, Vernon Sproxton (they were all ordained ministers), moved to television in Shepherd's Bush, I applied to be his Production Secretary. I worked with him for the next sixteen years. He thought religious broadcasting should be far more than broadcast services. We made a series of films about church and community life in different areas: C. of E. in Surrey, Roman Catholic Churches in industrial Lancashire, Congregational Chapels in the sheep farming valley of Swaledale, the hot-gospelling sects of Belfast and the

Wee Frees on the Isle of Lewis. I often did taped interviews for use as what we called 'wild track', over film sequences. It was fascinating. The other series I particularly enjoyed making were 40-minute documentaries for BBC-2 on *The Life and Thoughts of... great religious thinkers*. We filmed in France for programmes on Simone Weil, Teilhard de Chardin and Blaise Pascal; in Denmark for Soren Kierkegaard and Italy and N. Africa for St Augustine of Hippo. My job involved basic secretarial work, plus typing scripts, listing and timing shots and continuity when filming, cueing the narrator when dubbing, and calling camera shots for studio gallery work. I also often chose the music. It was my university. My fellow members seemed to enjoy the talk and I answered questions before having our tasty tea prepared by Sandy Hodge, Debbie Skeil and Annie Chesterton. (And a lovely bunch of flowers was delivered to me the next day.)

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 4th at Wotton Village Hall 2.30 p.m. A talk entitled *A Tasting Menu*. New members welcome.

Pat O'Brien

PS Pat retired from the BBC in 1974 and went on to train as a social worker and family therapist. She and Terry met in 1976 and married in 1980, moving from their flat in Wimbledon to Abinger in 1996.

What's on this Autumn

Thames Bridges Challenge – September 13th – 10.30am 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.

Amanda Hanlin

Abinger's Family Quiz Night returns

September 6th at St James'.



- ★ Everyone is welcome - friends, parents, grandparents, favourite siblings - no age limits!
- ★ Enjoy an evening of fun and pizza
- ★ Tables of up to 8 ★ Amazing prizes
- ★ Let Sally know how many seats you like



Doors Open at 6 for the quiz at 6.30. It's free admission but book your tickets with Sally

parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org.

Coldharbour's Quiz Night and Fish and Chips Supper: Oct 3rd – 18.30 at the JV 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.

Elwyn's Meditation

Elwyn's wonderful meditation classes continue in the Autumn, starting again on Thursday 25th September.

Time: 3 – 4pm

Place: St James' Vestry

If you haven't been before you can just come along, or get in touch with Elwyn on 07968 307979

Coffee Mornings continue through the Autumn

Village coffee mornings in Coldharbour are held on the first Friday of the month. The next is on September 5th at the JV Hall 10.30-11.30. Contact: Debby@debbychapman@hotmail.com

Meetings for coffee, tea, cakes and chat at St James' in Abinger. Get together every Wednesday in term time. The next one is September 3rd- see the events page for other dates.

Remember you can bring your items that need a stitch or two, to the Repair Café, at the same time.



A Talk on the History of St Martha's Church

The Dorking History Group are presenting this talk by Simon Harrold at Crossways Community Baptist Church in Dorking on 1st September. Perched on top of the hill, 600 ft above sea-level, St Martha's is a landmark, but do you know why it was built there? The talk costs £2 on the door for non-members. Be there 7.15 for 7.30pm.

Look out for the Heritage Open Days

12th-21st September <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

This free event is England's largest festival of history and culture. Visit the website to see the wide and varied list of things to do. Here are some events to whet your appetites:

Mullins Coffee shop in Dorking is opening every day offering tours for you to discover this late Tudor house, former home of one of the pilgrim fathers.

Buckingham Farm, Beare Green Rd, RH5 4PY is a Medieval Hall house dating from 1415. Open for a **guided tour on 18th Sept** – prebooking is required.

Dorking Museum offer a family workshop Sat 13th 11-2pm for children and adults to examine the quirks of local bricks with a free town trail. Look at bricks from local brickworks. Can you identify them by their frogs? Can you recreate local building brick patterns in LEGO? Pick up a Detective Town Trail (45 minute walk) find different building materials used and see how many different brick patterns you can spot.

PIPPFEST Dorking's Big Community Event

Sunday 7th September 11 – 6pm



The Grade II listed Gilbert Scott building has now been reopened for community use.

This is a free celebration. Local artisans will be selling their products and community groups will be telling their stories in the

Healing Fields. Pippfest launches in style with Bloco do Sol marching into the Pippbrook campus at 11am followed by music and art activities throughout the day. The Dorking Museum team will be offering free tours around the building. Please book your slot on arrival.

Check out all the events on: <https://circulardorking.org.uk/pippfest-2025/>

Step, Cycle, Sip — Save Surrey's Churches!



The Surrey Churches Preservation Trust (SCPT) invites everyone to join the annual **Ride & Stride on Saturday 13 September 2025**. This much-loved event is open to all, whether you're a keen cyclist, a casual walker, or simply someone who enjoys a good coffee morning with friends.

The aim is simple: raise money to protect Surrey's historic churches. Half of what you raise goes straight to your chosen church and the rest helps fund repair and conservation grants across the county. Since it began, Ride & Stride has raised over £500,000, directly supporting church buildings at the heart of our communities.

This year, SCPT has more grant funding available than ever before—up to £3,000 per church—but to benefit, each church's supporters must take part. Even the smallest event can unlock vital funding.

So step out, cycle on, or put the kettle on—every effort counts.

<https://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org/ride-stride/>



Services

St James' Church, Abinger

September

7th Sept	The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children Refreshments after the service
14th Sept	The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
6.00pm	Choral Evensong
21st Sept	The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	'Come and See' Sunday Refreshments after the service
28th Sept	The Fifteenth 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

From the Registers

Abinger

22 nd June	Baptism	Beauden Barton
29 th June	Ashes	Julia Carey
12 th July	Wedding	Harry and Olivia Goss
13 th July	Baptism	Emilia and Olivia Robins
19 th July	Wedding	Timothy and Marianne Thorp
20 th July	Baptism	Bowie Hackett-Harding
9 th August	Baptism	Bonnie, Roman, Travis and Lilly
Marvin		

Services

Christ Church, Coldharbour

September



7th Sept	The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
14th Sept	The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.00am	Second Sunday Service (Iona with communion) Refreshments after the service
21st Sept	The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm	Congregational Evensong
28th Sept	The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.00am	Parish Communion (Common Worship) Refreshments after the service
6.00pm	Julian meeting Half of an hour of stillness with God

From the Registers

8th August Ashes John Tillett

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 1st September and Monday 15th September 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!

On the 18th July, Libby and Lucy Harlow set off to Kyenjojo, Uganda to visit the Fountain of Peace, taking gifts and donations to the families.



They sent back regular posts to the St James website, documenting their adventures and will be sharing the highlights of their two week trip in September.

The trip included a very special visit to our village sponsored child Ronald and his family who live nearby.

Here are some of their words

'Breath-taking, eye-popping, knee-knocking Uganda.....

... hairiest break-down... twenty-four suitcases lashed to the rescue-bus roof... Marabou storks the size of a man... pot-holes big enough to lie down in... poorest villages... swarms of boda boda taxi motorcyclists... reddest soil... greenest hills... noisiest markets... most chaotic roads... biggest loud-speakers-on-a-pick-up... endless heaps of rubbish... a pint of beer for 83p.....

.....and all before we'd set eyes on the

Fountain of Peace project'



Please keep an eye out for details of Lucy and Libby's talk and come along to hear about how your support has contributed to the life-changing work that both Compassion

and Fountain of Peace are carrying out in this beautiful, vulnerable Ugandan community.





Leith Hill Place

Recently renovated, Leith Place has been owned by the National Trust since 1945 when the Vaughan Williams family donated it. The house is open weekends and bank holidays.

Teatime Talk - *Repairing Leith Hill Place*. Saturday Sept 6th 4-5pm

Renovations have revealed the mansion's medieval past. Come and find what they found and what they didn't find but should have! Booking is advised.



VE Day 80 Gala Sat Sept 13th 7 – 9pm

A Summer night of music and conversation

Royal biographer Hugo Vickers joins acclaimed flautist Lisa Friend and composer-broadcaster Jack Pepper in conversation and concert. Telling the story of Leith Hill Place, and Ralph Vaughan Williams in the Second World War, and charting the role music played in the conflict and liberation.

Vickers shares personal stories of his encounters with the Vaughan Williams circle. These are interspersed with flute and piano illustrations of RVW and WW2.

Enjoy a glass of bubbly in the intimate and friendly setting of the legendary composer's living room, sharing in fine music and stories as the sun sets.

Coldharbour Village Band at Leith Hill Place, Sunday 7th Sept.



The band will be returning to one of its favourite performance venues for an afternoon of varied music. From composers ranging from Vaughan Williams himself to modern film music and popular classics.

We will play from 2-4 pm with a 30-minute break at around 2.45. The views are stunning, and the delicious home-made refreshments make for a lovely relaxing Sunday afternoon.

Debby Chapman

Local choirs are welcoming new singers – here are a few to choose from:

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society

Come and join us in our centenary year (holmburychoral.org)

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society is a group of friendly singers with a shared ethos: a good humoured quest for musical excellence.

The choir was founded in 1925 drawing its members from the Surrey Hills and further afield and continues to flourish today under the excellent musical direction of Cole Bendall, ably assisted by accompanist Suzy Ruffles.

The choir joined the Leith Hill Musical Festival (lhmf.org.uk) in 1925 and the Festival remains a highlight of Holmbury's choral calendar, alongside the annual summer and Christmas concerts. It is a non-auditioned choir.

Our Autumn Term begins on Thursday 4th September when rehearsals



start for our Centenary Concert to be held in St Mary's Church, Holmbury on Thursday 4th December. This will feature Poulenc's Gloria and music by Handel, Tippett and Bernstein.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8.00pm until 9.45 pm in Abinger Hammer Village Hall. To give us a try, contact the choir

secretary, Liz Hamilton: elizabethjuliethamilton@gmail.com

Brockham Choral are welcoming new singers too

The choir meet for 2 hours every Tuesday at 7.30 at St. John's C of E Primary School, Dorking, RH4 2LR. No auditions required.

Their first rehearsal is on the 9th of September, when they will prepare for a Christmas concert on December 6th which will include 'Christus Natus Est' by Cecilia McDowall and other pieces for Choir, organ and audience.

The Martineau Brass Quintet will also be contributing to the concert as well as carols from the Children of St John's School. Our outstanding accompanist Marion Lea will be there helping us with the notes. More information at www.brockhamchoral.org Anne Mitchell

Dorking Choral Society

The Society invite you to Come and Sing on 27th September at Crossways Community Church 10-4.30pm

www.dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk

Tickets are £18, music hire and refreshments included. Please bring your own lunch.



Sing with the Surrey Hills Choir by Christine Parrott

**“Choir is such a big part of my life,
it keeps my mind busy and my heart happy” (Mia)**

I have been singing for virtually all my life. It is one of the most important and fulfilling things that I do, and I love it! I've sung in large choirs attached to the UK's most prestigious orchestras; small, intimate cabaret groups with a few voices and instrumentalists, church choirs, teenage wannabe poppy groups and just about everything in between, but the absolute highlight has been my time singing with the Surrey Hills Chamber Choir. I can honestly say that as well as being a choir with high musical standards (I was proud to win the national Adult Choir of the year with them), it is one of the friendliest musical groups I've been in.

SHCC started out 20 years ago and we've just had a very successful anniversary concert celebrating this landmark with so many alumni singers joining us that we doubled in number. A tribute to the strong friendships forged and maintained.

I was attracted to the choir because it was something different from what I had done before. We cover a very wide repertoire – from early polyphonic music to the short but complex choral works by 21st century composers such as Whitaker, Todd and Chilcott. As well as singing in the classical style we also sing gospel and spirituals, popular songs and madrigals, folk and traditional, and everything we sing is geared towards a memorable experience for our audiences.



We perform from memory and often unconducted. This requires a certain amount of dedication and extra effort, but it is all worth it as our audiences love the stories we paint and the connections we make with them. Every voice is valued and as a result the totality of the choir is greater than its individuals.

We perform two concerts a year in Guildford and our much-loved Christmas concert is frequently a sell-out, but the highlights are usually the away performances. This is often in competition where we meet other similar choirs from around the world. We've taken part in the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, the Amateur Choral Competition in Manchester and have travelled to many places, including Cardiff, Vienna and Barcelona for festivals and competition. We have been able to win classes in most of the competitions we've entered and that gives us a real buzz!

Although our singers have different backgrounds and experiences and cover a wide age range, we love singing together and enjoy the opportunity to socialise that our travels bring. So, not just a choir, but a group of friends, sharing, supportive and showcasing our love of singing. . Sight-reading is not essential, resources are available, but experience and ability to hold a harmony part is required.

We rehearse in Guildford on Wednesdays, 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Guildford. Rehearsals recommence Wednesday 3rd September

Our sister choir, **the Surrey Hills Singers, is a female choir.** This relaxed, unauditioned choir meet on a Monday morning at Ewhurst Baptist Church. Enquiries are welcome at all times, but they will be holding open rehearsals on **Monday 22nd and 29th September 10.30am-12 noon, a great time to drop by for a sing.**

If you would like to come along to either of our choirs to try us out please email Debbie Walton debbie@surreyhills-choirs.co.uk to let us know you are coming so we have resources ready for you. See our website, www.singsurreyhills.com for details and sample performances. We look forward to welcoming you to a Surrey Hills rehearsal this Autumn.

The Surrey Serenaders meet at St James', Abinger

The group meet from 10-12 on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. You are invited to join in singing some lovely and varied songs. No need to sight read. All music is provided and will be led by our Musical Director, Liz Wilcox. Refreshments are provided. Donations welcome.

For further information please get in touch with Avril Sharman 01306 731396 . **The dates for this month are 13th and 27th September.**

Music in Dorking

6th September at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church

11th October Leith Hill Music Festival Come and Sing Day

The main concert season resumes in October, but St Martin's Church is restarting its Saturday lunchtime recitals this month. The first concert will be given by the duo of Sylvia Akagi (singer and flautist) and Peter Golden (singer and guitarist).

There is lots to look forward to in the coming months. The Dorking Concertgoers have a series of concerts planned, beginning with a visit from Chamber Music Box in October. There will also be three visits from the Carducci string quartet and in December the Grimethorpe Colliery Band visit.

Ian Codd



PLAY THE ORGAN YEAR 2025

If you have ever wanted to try this, you may never get a better chance! David Hansell - our organist and choirmaster is offering explanations, demonstrations and a chance to play, and at Christ Church you can also visit the inside of the instrument! Contact him on dhabchbr@gmail.com or in

person after a service. David will be giving an organ recital as part of the Arts Alive Festival at Christ Church on **Saturday 11th October** at 4pm (see below.)

Holy Trinity Church in Westcott are holding an Organ Celebration evening on **Saturday 20th Sept** from 7-8pm.



The Parish News

If you are reading this you will know that the Parish News is free and goes out to everyone in the villages, as well as being available online. If you would like to send us information about events you will be holding between now and Christmas, here is a list showing the dates you need to get your articles in to us by.

For the October edition please get your articles to us by mid-day on	Tuesday 16 th September
For November	Tuesday 14 th October
For December/January	Tuesday 18 th November

And maybe you would consider making a donation towards the printing costs of producing the magazine? 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.



SHERE VILLAGE CINEMA

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

Thursday 4th September 7.30 *A Real Pain*.

Two polar-opposite cousins, introverted, responsible, neurotic David and extroverted, seemingly carefree Benji, fly to Poland as part of a Jewish history tour to visit significant cultural and historic sites, including a WW2 concentration camp. Their beloved, recently deceased grandmother survived the Holocaust and they want to see where she lived. During the tour their contrasting personalities start to cause friction between the two and past issues are rekindled. Comedy/ Drama
PG 1hr 30

Sunday 21st September 7.30 *Mad About the Boy*

BRIDGET JONES MAD ABOUT THE BOY



It has been four years since Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) was tragically killed during a humanitarian mission overseas. Since then, Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) has been spending time at home trying to raise her two children alone, working through their grief. But, as the anniversary of Mark's death draws near, Bridget is forced to look at her life and wonder if she is doing the right thing for her and her kids. The new teacher Mr Wallaker (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and local ranger Roxster (Leo Woodall) help change her perspectives!

Comedy/Drama 15, 2hrs 10 mins

Thursday 2nd October – TBA

We are hoping to show *The Ballad of Wallis Island*. Further information will be available on the SVC website and on local posters nearer the time.

Sunday 19th October 7.30 *Black Bag* – a glossy spy thriller from the director Stephen Soderburgh. British intelligence agent George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender) is tasked with unmasking a traitor suspected of stealing and selling a piece of potentially devastating technology. One of the main suspects is his wife, high-ranking fellow agent Kathryn (Cate Blanchett).

Dorking Group of Artists Exhibition at Denbies in October



**Friday 10th, Saturday 11th, 10:00 – 17:00,
Sunday 12th, 10:00 – 16:00**

The Dorking Group of Artists, one of the largest art groups in Surrey, is delighted to welcome you to their next exhibition at Denbies Wine

Estate in October in the Gallery and Suite.

Exhibiting members, many professionals among them, will be displaying around 200 pieces of exciting new and original art, all for sale at affordable prices. The paintings should appeal to every taste, featuring different subjects and styles and covering a wide variety of media. There will be large selection of unframed paintings for sale too.

Come and buy your early Christmas presents - original art makes a unique and thoughtful gift. Entrance to the exhibition is free. Come and make a day of it! There is plenty of free parking.

Why not consider joining us? For more information about our activities, exhibitions and how to join see www.dga.org.uk, follow us on Instagram [dorkinggroupartists](https://www.instagram.com/dorkinggroupartists), or get in touch at contact@dga.org.uk.

Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists Email: contact@dga.org.

Arts Alive Festival September to October

**Organ recital at Christ Church
Coldharbour by David Hansell and Philip
Drew**

Saturday 11th October 4 pm

In conjunction with the Arts Alive Festival, the recital by Philip Drew & David Hansell (organ duet) with Jenny Hansell (Soprano) will commence at 4.00pm, with refreshments at 3.30pm. The programme includes music by Gibbons, Vaughan Williams and Vivaldi. Booking is not required. The recital lasts approximately 45 minutes, admission is free, and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the organ fund.



Tickets are now on sale for the Leith Hill Big Band at Christ Church, in conjunction with the Arts Alive Festival. The Leith Hill Big Band is presenting an afternoon of popular big band classics on October 18th 2025 at Christ Church, Coldharbour, from 3-4pm. Tickets will cost £10 per person to include tea and cake with wine/prosecco available at an additional cost. Monies raised will go towards the fitting of a much needed handrail along the back steps leading from the village hall to the church. Don't miss out on this spectacular event with its upbeat tempos and catchy melodies. It's a fantastic way to experience the energy and excitement of these iconic tunes whilst evoking a sense of a bygone era



Reserve tickets now by emailing amandahanlin@aol.com Payment by bank transfer.

The Ocean Film Festival



The World Tour of these films starts in September. They offer a new collection of thrilling ocean-themed films, with gripping ocean adventures and mesmerising marine-life from around the world.

www.oceanfilmfestival.co.uk
for more information.

You can see the films at GLive on 7th October and Dorking Halls on 13th November.

CHILDREN



Jon Mears writes from the Westcott Village Hub

Reclaiming Childhood: Fostering Real-World Connections in The Surrey Hills.

In an increasingly digital world, a growing movement is championing the return to a smartphone-free childhood, and the discussions around it are becoming ever more pertinent.

In Westcott, we have a wonderful opportunity to actively contribute to creating an environment where children can thrive without constant digital distraction. The Westcott Village Hub and local public spaces are fantastic areas that are actively seeking enthusiastic villagers to help create interesting and engaging activities for children, encouraging real-world interaction and exploration within nature and our community.

Imagine children building dens, exploring nature, participating in creative arts and crafts, or simply running around and playing in a safe, stimulating environment. These are the kinds of experiences that foster resilience, creativity, social skills, and a deeper connection to their community and the natural world – experiences that are often side-lined in a smartphone-centric childhood.

We are looking for volunteers to help us bring these visions to life. Whether you have a specific skill, a brilliant idea for a project, or simply some time to spare to help supervise or assist, your contribution would be invaluable. If you are passionate about giving children the gift of a truly smartphone-free childhood, or simply want to contribute to enriching activities in our village, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at **westcottvillagehub@gmail.com** to discuss how you can get involved, lead a project, or share any other thoughts and ideas.

Let's work together to cultivate a vibrant, engaging, and genuinely connected childhood for the children.

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School



Mrs Saunderson, Mr Moody and the team look forward to welcoming you all back to school for the Autumn Term on **Thursday 4th September**.

Here's a look back at some of the activities at the end of the Summer Term.

Sports Day - the first to be held on the school site - was a huge success. Ms Brown from St Johns' helped organise the event with the support of Miss Roberts. Early Years and Key Stage One had a fabulous morning of competition. Box were the winners of the morning but there were strong performances from everyone.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your love, care and passion. Your valued contributions have ensured that the children



have flourished in both their academic achievements and the many other wonderful opportunities presented to them here at Surrey Hills.

We said goodbye to the Year 6s. Here they are at a fabulous residential at Thames Young

Mariners. They achieved so much this year- from fantastic SATs results to amazing end of year performances, sports competitions and a hundred other responsibilities. They have made lifelong friendships that we are sure will endure beyond their time here. We also said goodbye to Miss Bene and Mrs Hopkins, who was a fantastic Senco for two years and we now welcome our new Senco, Liz Chambers, and share our delight that Mrs Phillips will be staying with us as Forest School Lead. As I reflect on my last two years at Surrey Hills, it has been a genuine privilege to get to know every single one of your children and to be welcomed into this extraordinary community full of life and enthusiasm. I feel incredibly proud of our recent achievements: a strong Siams report, achieving the Surrey Healthy Schools award and gaining Gold in the School Sports Award. We owe a huge thank you to all who supported us through this and the recent Ofsted visit.

The Nursery

Superheroes at the ready!!! It was the last day of term and the city of Abinger needed our help! We donned hand painted capes and marvellous masks to swoop through tunnels and rescue everyone that needed saving. We zoom zoom zoomed through skyscrapers in our fastest of fast cars and bounced sky high on spacehoppers to save the day. Our parents cheered as the red, blue, green and yellow teams gave it their all to become sports day champions! Once we had finished we thought we'd let them have a go too – cue a fabulous giant sized superhero sack race! What great sports you were!

Then onto graduation for our leavers who we will miss hugely but of whom we are super proud. What a great bunch who are all ready to take the next step to big school. As a send-off we spent the afternoon at Little Street where already impressive imaginations came alive. Sales

in the supermarket were through the roof and we gorged on pretend pizza, pasta and several creative flavours of ice cream. The roads were jam-packed with very busy drivers on their way to the beauticians, vets and off to see the stage show. A true highlight of the trip was of course the minibus to and fro and a good old sing song all the way there and back! (and maybe a little snooze from some).

We are looking forward to welcoming new faces who have come to play and can't wait to show them around! Here's to another year of adventures and lots of new friends!

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 meet you!



GARDENS



Robin's gardening tips for September

With the very long hot dry spell which we have had, many plants are showing signs of stress. Don't despair, leave plants in the ground - many will shoot away from the base once we have some decent rains.



But gardening jobs never end! The long very whippy shoots on wisterias need cutting back to 4-5 leaves. This will help keep them under control and encourage flowering next year.

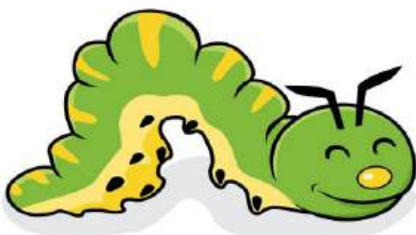
Plum trees and other stone fruits need pruning as soon as fruit is picked and certainly by the end of this month. Pruning any later may mean the tree developing a disease called silver leaf which used to be notifiable. This weakens the tree and causes its ultimate demise!



Despite the dryness, slugs seem to be abundant. Where plants are in pots, a copper band round the rim is a good deterrent. With plants in the ground, an old-fashioned, but useful method is to place the half skins of oranges or grapefruit upside down near favoured plants. Slugs love these and collect underneath, a good dressing of salt then helps them on their way!

Seed and bulb catalogues are winging their way now. Whilst there are many to choose from, why not order and try a useful bulb-more expensive than gold - and that is saffron. The stamens of which, when removed and dried, supply the spice.

The soil in this area is good for growing rhododendrons and camellias, and *Camellia sinensis* - Assam tea can be grown here



Finally, this year has been great for butterflies, but I do wish they disliked cabbages! The only real safe way to treat them is to remove all caterpillars by hand and use a fine net to cover the cabbages to stop butterflies laying eggs on them in the first place.

Shere Surgery & Dispensary

Summer's passing often elicits a sense of slight melancholy, albeit one that is mercifully fleeting. However, those affected may draw some comfort from one not commonly noted for her sanguinity: Virginia Woolf - *"All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made."*

As the leaves turn from green to gold, we say goodbye to two of our excellent trainees: Dr Johann Panthakey, who is embarking on his dream of becoming an ophthalmologist, and Dr Meera Patel who has now completed her training in general practice. We will miss them both very much. Fortunately, Dr Patel will be coming back to cover for Dr Sophie Roberts's maternity leave. Dr Amy Baker is also expecting a new arrival, and our luck continues as Dr Ellie Galloway will be covering for her. You may have already met our latest trainees: Dr Stephanie Daniels and Dr Sehaan Hannan. Both are very welcome and bring with them enthusiasm and updated knowledge from their hospital placements.

Autumn also brings with it another round of vaccinations. Once again, we have to order these well in advance to enable our staff to administer them on time – we are very keen to avoid wastage and unused vials so please do come and get vaccinated at Shere, and ensure you keep your appointment so we can help protect as many patients as possible.

Please see below for dates and eligibility for 2025:

Flu jab. Pregnant women and all eligible children will start from 1st September. School aged patients (administered at their schools), vaccinations should be completed by 12th Dec with further catch-up opportunities. All other adult patients: 1st Oct and until 31st March 2026.

Covid jab. This will run from 1st October 2025 to 31st January 2026
Adults aged 75 years and over. Residents in care homes for older adults and Individuals who are immunosuppressed aged 6 months and over.

Please note – this is a change from Autumn 2024 which had included adults aged 65-74 years and all those aged 6 months and over in a clinical risk group. (This is correct at the time of going to press but for up-to-date details, in case of any changes, please refer to our web site.)

That is all we have for you for now, but we will continue to update you each month in the parish magazine and via our web site.

Dr D. Wardrop

Job Vacancy: Part-Time Parish Clerk

Capel Parish Council, Beare Green, Capel, Coldharbour

Capel Parish Council is seeking to appoint a motivated and organised individual to the role of **Parish Clerk** on a part-time basis. Initially, the successful candidate will work alongside the current Clerk to ensure a smooth transition. The role will require the successful applicant to undertake training for the **CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration)** qualification, with a view to assuming the position full-time in due course. We see this as a fantastic career opportunity to work with an efficient and motivated local council.

Hours: 30 hours per week (some evening work required to attend Parish Council meetings). The number of hours could be extended if the future workload increases

Location: Capel, Surrey (with some flexibility for home working)

Key Responsibilities:

Administration: Preparation of meeting agendas, public notices, minute-taking, and day-to-day management of Council business.

Financial Management: Acting as the Council's **Responsible Financial Officer**, managing budgets, accounts, expenditure and reporting to the Finance Committee chairman and the Auditor

Communication and Liaison: Maintaining positive relationships with suppliers, community groups, other local councils, Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC), and District and County Council representatives.

Governance and Compliance: Ensuring the Council meets all statutory obligations and operates within legal and regulatory frameworks.

Contract Management: Negotiation with and management of any suppliers who are employed by the parish council.

Essential Qualities:

Good organisational and communication skills; A high level of integrity and discretion; Willingness to undertake training (including CiLCA); Proficiency in standard office software (e.g. Word, Excel, email)

To apply or request more information, please contact Mrs Janet Russell (Clerk) or Chris (Chairman) 01306 712447 or by email to clerk@capel-pc.gov.uk

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
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
Jobs in Care	
Home Instead Epsom & Mole Valley	01372 741544 Maggie.adenmosun@homeinstead.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	07811 526156 @attunereflexdorking
Jodechi Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching, Garden Therapy	07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com
Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	internitylife@pm.me 07919 102332 http://internity.life
Property	
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:
 October 2025
 Closes 1pm
 Tuesday September 16th
 abingerpn@gmail.com