

Abinger and Coldharbour

Parish News



October 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

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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



October

- 1st SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 2nd WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
- 2nd Shere Cinema, *Small Things Like These*, 7.30
- 3rd Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
- 5th Harvest Festival, St James' 10.30
- 8th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 10th – 12th DGA Exhibition, Denbies
- 11th Organ duets and duos, Christ Church, 4pm
- 11th LHMF Come & Sing, St Martin's
- 11th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 12th Crispian Steele Perkins, Leatherhead, 3pm
- 15th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 18th Swing Band, Christ Church, 3pm
- 19th Shere Cinema, *Black Bag*, 7.30
- 19th Festive Evensong, Christ Church, 6pm
- 21st Surrey Hills School Open Morning
- 22nd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 22nd SALV meeting, 8pm, Shere Village Hall
- 25th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 29th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 30th Dorking is Talking, 6.30
- 31st Hallowe'en Ghost Walk, Dorking, 6pm and 7.30pm

November

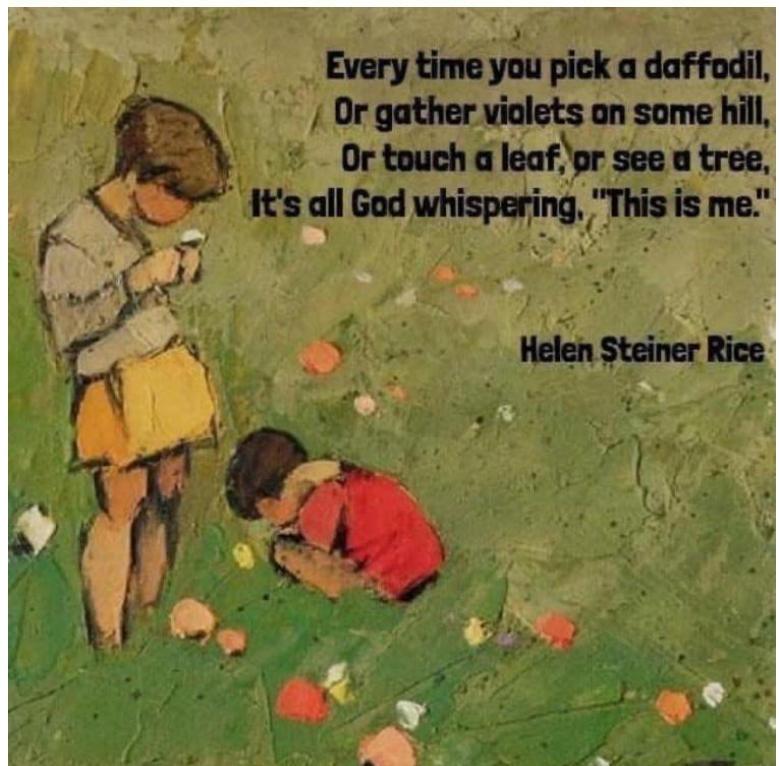
- 5th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 6th Shere Cinema, *1917*, 7.30
- 6th WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
- 7th Coldharbour coffee morning JV Hall 10.30-11.30

This month's cover picture is courtesy of the Dorking Museum – see page 45 for details of their Hallowe'en Ghost Walk.

Reflections from the Rectory

Dear friends,

Autumn is a time of change: a season ending and a season beginning. While I mourn the loss of warm summer evenings and family gathered around the BBQ, I am trying to embrace the warmth of snuggly jumpers, chilly and colourful walks and open fires! We are also looking forward to our joint Harvest Festival service which is held at St James' this year, on October 5th at 10.30am with a focus on thanksgiving and Eco church – what it is and how we can get involved!



It is also a moment of big change in the Pakenham household as our last child (our baby!) flew the nest to Royal Holloway to begin her Uni career. It's a poignant moment. All the tears, struggle, joy and laughter of intense parenting of small, and not so small, children is over. We hope and pray we have equipped them all for life outside the nest but are always here with a safety net of hugs and hot chocolate if needed! So a new season for us in all sorts of ways! But life is full and although we are now 'empty nesters' I'm sure our days will feel far from empty as we continue to find joy and meaning here in our wonderful communities. But if I'm looking a little lost over the coming months do feel free to give me a hug!

The quote above is a reminder to us all (perhaps especially me!) that we are surrounded by the wonder and beauty of God on a daily basis, so we are never really alone!

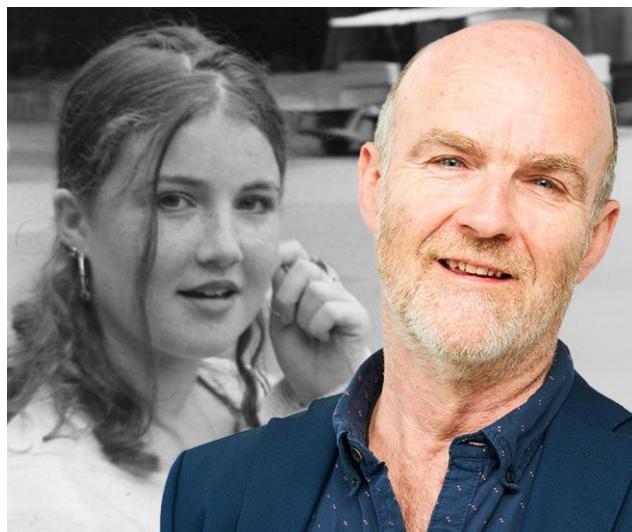
With love,
Rev'd Kia ☺

AMAZING PEOPLE

Robin Daly from Broadmoor

Robin Daly MBE is the founder of the Charity **'Yes to Life'** which offers help, information and support to people with cancer. This year is their 20th anniversary and Robin is taking on a walking challenge in Spain to raise vital funds.

Neighbours come in all sorts of shapes and sizes (more of that another time!) but living down here in Broadmoor I am lucky to have Robin and his wife Nancy as my neighbours next door. They arrived here nearly ten years ago and are now firmly established. Nancy is an international recorder teacher promoting the Suzuki method of teaching and Robin, mostly retired from his IT career devotes most of his time to his charity 'Yes to Life', (along with writing books on local history and playing the guitar!) They have two grown up daughters and two grandchildren and more friends than you can count. But twenty years ago they were a family of five until tragically they lost their youngest daughter Bryony to cancer.



Bryony had been treated for a rare cancer in her calf muscle at the age of just 9 years old. The treatment was successful but 4 years later her cancer returned, this time a bone cancer in her leg induced by the radiotherapy she had received previously. Her leg was amputated and she received further treatment but at the age of 23, a second radiotherapy-induced bone cancer developed and Bryony died some months later.

Robin told me, "Throughout this time we as parents did everything we could to support Bryony, but we found the gaps in care to be enormous and trying to research the options for care was impossibly hard, so even before she died, we as a family were making plans to set up a charity to get good information to people quickly on what they could do to help themselves. 'Yes to Life' is now celebrating 20 years of helping people with cancer learn about and access what is now known as Integrative Medicine. Integrative Medicine is the broadest possible approach to cancer care and seeks to address all the multiple challenges people face in body, mind and spirit, after diagnosis, during treatment and recovery.

Strategies include nutrition, exercise, sleep, stress management, mindfulness and a host of other complementary and lifestyle therapies. Attitudes to Integrative Medicine have changed dramatically over the two decades since the charity was set up and 'Yes to Life' has played a part in changing those attitudes, a fact recognised this year when Robin received an MBE for his services to those with cancer.



This year's 20th anniversary celebrations have included a presentation at the House of Commons, a spectacular gala at Kew Gardens and a fabulous street party in Broadmoor to celebrate the MBE!

Fundraising to support the Charity's services and staff is a never-ending feature of Robin's work. Having previously completed an off-road mountain bike crossing of the UK with another neighbour, Rob Dunn, and before that, a bike trip to Istanbul, he has decided, at the grand age of 74 to take to his feet this time.

Robin says, **"Along with three other members of the Yes to Life team, we plan to tackle the mountainous 230km Winter Way section of the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain during early October. Our goal is to finish the walk still upright and raise £40,000 in the process!"**



At our lovely street party celebration in the summer, I met some cancer survivors who had benefitted from the support of the charity. They were overwhelming in their praise and gratitude to 'Yes to Life' for supporting them in making what they saw as life-changing choices.

Walking alongside Robin on training walks here in the Surrey Hills I've realised how incredibly hard he has worked over the years to get the charity's message across in the face what was, in the early years, complete indifference from the medical community, and how driven he is to get help to as many cancer sufferers as possible by changing attitudes and the approach to treatment.

We all know someone affected by cancer and we would all like to do something, anything to help them.

You can find out more about the charity using the link below and if you know someone with cancer who could benefit from their support, please share this with them.

- If you think that you can help Robin reach his fundraising target please sponsor his walk using the link here:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/holdmywalkingstickchallenge
- More about Yes to Life here: yestolife.org.uk
- Robin's thoughts on receiving an MBE here:
yestolife.org.uk/thoughts-on-receiving-an-mbe
- Bryony's story here: yestolife.org.uk/our-inspiration

Good luck Robin! Thank you! *Robin's neighbour Sue Smith*

PS: If technology is not your thing you can contact Robin directly: robin.daly@yestolife.org.uk. Suitcases of cash would also be accepted at No 5, Broadmoor Cottages!

McCance & Cooke: 'Defeat The Peaks' challenge for Macmillan!



For as long as I can remember, my mum, Sally, has hosted an annual Coffee Morning raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, but in 2019, that cause became even more personal when Mum was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was then that we truly began to understand the depth of the support that Macmillan offers. From the moment of diagnosis and throughout her journey, they were there – not just for her, but for all of us as a family.

However, this year (to give mum a break) myself, my brother Frazer & his fiancée Lucy, signed up to Charity Challenge, deciding to take on 'Defeat The Peaks: Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) At Night Challenge'.

We set off at 12:30am on Sunday 7th September, hiking through the early hours of the morning. The night presented all kinds of challenges, from steep inclines and rocky paths to tired legs and sleepy eyes, but as a team, we reached the summit at exactly 4am!

It was exhilarating and emotional, but more than anything, it reinforced that mental resilience isn't something you're just born with - it's something you must dig deep and find. It put into perspective the unimaginable resilience cancer patients and their families show every single day as they face far steeper challenges.



We're proud to have completed the challenge, and even prouder to be part of a community that always shows up when it matters. Macmillan is a lifeline for those affected by cancer, offering not just medical support, but also emotional and practical help when it's needed most – which is why this felt like a fitting way to give back to a charity that has done so much for our family and

countless others.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us already. If you would like to donate, please contact Sally at the Parish Office or scan the QR code.

Rosie McCance

FOOD BANK

And in the meantime, on a smaller scale but still of huge importance, do remember the foodbank. There are a great number of people in and around Dorking who are helped by food parcels when times are tough.



Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide nearly 200 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk



Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned veg/fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Coffee
- Milk – long life
- Cereals
- Fruit juice (long-life)
- Boxes of cereal bars
- Jam
- Toiletries

Coldharbour Band at Leith Hill Place



On a beautiful but windy Sunday at the beginning of September Debby and the Coldharbour Band gave another of their enthusiastic and exhilarating performances. The Coldharbour Band welcomes new members, and as Debby said, there are now players from quite far afield, not just Coldharbour. We asked flute player Estelle, a relatively new member of the band, what had drawn her to it – she described it as

“WELCOMING ACCEPTING CONFIDENCE BUILDING and...
FUN”!



Homage to Coldharbour's Di Hitchcock



Di as a DJ

Diana Hitchcock, known as Di to many, lived in the Coldharbour Village for over 40 years with her cherished husband Barry and their three children, Zoe, Jago and Suki. Di knew everyone and everyone knew Di; she touched the lives of so many but she was also intensely private and her focus was the wellbeing of her family and Barry. She was loving, gracious, welcoming, incredibly generous and thoughtful,

interested in everyone and their welfare and always ready with a smile, support, appropriate little gifts, a helping hand, even in times of her own adversity.

Diana and Barry were a special couple, married for over 50 years. As the story goes their eyes met across a crowded room and Diana who had grown up watching vintage western movies at the cinema and had felt an attraction to the Indians in said movies, rather than the cowboys, was rather lovestruck when Barry with his slim figure and high cheek bones rolled in, pulled off his cap and unleashed his long brown luscious locks, the rest as they say, is history.

Diana strongly believed in recycling and reworking items to minimise waste, which she carried into all aspects of her life. Diana always flew into a room like a bird of Paradise, she had the most amazing outfits, all bought from charity shops she was proud to announce! She ran many businesses in partnership with Barry - starting out their market days at Camden Lock in the 80's, turning old picture records into clocks, to years later customising antique silver cutlery and crafting them into beautiful bracelets and jewellery, wind-chimes and wall hooks.

She turned her many talents to one of her and Barry's biggest legacies as a couple (apart from her lovely family), the building of the inspirational and magical glamping site, The Green Escape. Creating a space immersed in nature that was both eco-friendly and sustainable, where visitors felt better for having come. The Coldharbour Book Club were treated to Di's legendary hospitality here and apparently she is blamed for certain peoples enduring love of cocktails!

Many villagers will have their own fond memories of her, as neighbours and friends (welcoming tea and cake, considerate presents, chatting over fence about Barry's cockerels, many parties...). Her love of music

extended to dancing, and, being a DJ and Dancer in her younger years, she had a great sense of rhythm and was happy to be the first on the dance floor and get the party going, which she again did with style. She was also very clever, eloquent with a lively sense of humour portrayed in her emails from their stay in Mull, which made you feel you were there with them!

Foxy beautiful lady...we were privileged to have known you, you are sorely missed but you will live on in our hearts and minds.

Sue Skerritt, with the help of Di's children

Di's legacy to the Cricket Pavilion

One day in the early noughties Di was walking on the hill and was near the old Cricket Pavilion, when she saw Terry Knight, then the chairman of the Cricket Club, carrying a very large bucket. She asked him what he was doing. His answer? He was emptying the Elsan. "What is that?" she asked. Terry explained that he was emptying it and burying the contents in the ground nearby.



Di asked Terry why the Cricket Club did not have a proper toilet and Terry explained that to have flush toilets would mean having running water. The nearest mains water supply was half a mile away in the village. Di went home and thought about it! Soon after she started a campaign to raise money for a water system that would permit running water, provided by the plentiful water that falls around the pavilion! It would mean flush toilets could be installed.

She started with the production of a calendar inspired by the 'Calendar Girls', but here they were Calendar Men! The campaign soon widened to a much larger ambition. How about generating electricity as well? The existing pavilion was a former military hut from Kenley's RAF airfield. The Cricket Club and the Sports & Social Club decided they would try and build a new pavilion because of Di's initiative. Colharbourian Leo Kruis designed the new building, and permission was granted. Another local, Sarah Richards, who was then working for DEFRA put the Club in touch with the European Commission's rural fund who were pleased to give a grant but not enough to cover the full cost. The fund raising campaign, with the help of many within and without the village, raised enough

money to complete the project. It was down to Di who started the ball rolling and with a lot of hard work by many others the dream came true and the Elsan bucket was confined to history.

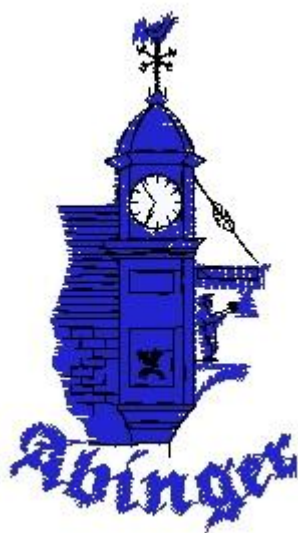
So it was that on May 7th 2007 a new Pavilion was opened and a match was played at that ceremony. It was also surely the first time ever in cricketing history that it could be said “Rain started play”! We needed the rain for the water system after all. And Terry presented Di with the actual Elsan bucket, now redundant, at a later match in June that year.

Originally electricity was provided by a diesel generator, but now there is solar power. The pavilion also has a satellite connection so that, with 24/7 electric power, the pavilion is the only place in the hereabouts that has 24/7 broadband and is unaffected by the power cuts that the rest of us occasionally experience. We all have so much to thank Di for. Her friendship, the joy she brought to everything she did and to the people she knew and loved. But what an achievement she made, giving all of us and those a follow a permanent facility and a wonderful memorial to, and legacy of, her!

Graham Mytton

News from Abinger Hammer

Abinger Sports Club - Sky Sports & Exciting Redevelopment News



Abinger Sports Club, formed in 1977, is approaching its 50th anniversary and is about to embark on a major upgrade. We are planning to update the interior to make it more welcoming and more suitable for hiring for events, private parties etc. We have started the ball rolling by installing Sky Sports on two screens. If we can obtain planning permission, we are hoping to expand our already excellent Cricket, Tennis, Pickleball and Table Tennis facilities to include two Padel Courts.

As a Community Amateur Sports Club, we rely on volunteers to keep the show on the road. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who can offer their expertise, manpower or financial support to help make our dreams become a reality.

Rob Dunn, Chairman, Abinger Sports Club 07710 105674



Services

St James' Church, Abinger



5th October 10.30am	The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Joint Harvest service Refreshments and auction of gifts following the service (For more, see p.7)
12th October 6.00pm	The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Choral Evensong
19th October 10.30am	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity 'Come and See' Sunday Refreshments after the service
26th October 10.30am	The Last Sunday after Trinity Sideways Church New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter and conversation
6.00pm	Julian meeting Half of an hour of stillness with God

From the Registers

Abinger

6 th July	Baptism	Theodore Daly
28 th August	Ashes	Mr & Mrs Randall
30 th August	Ashes	Jane O'Kelly
30 th August	Wedding	Alexander Owens and Rachel Dickens

Services

Christ Church, Coldharbour



- 5th October The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.30am Joint Harvest service at St. James' Abinger
Refreshments and auction of gifts following the service
(For more, see p.7)
- 12th October The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Second Sunday Service (Iona without communion this
Sunday). Refreshments after the service
- 19th October The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**
9.00am Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm Choral Evensong for the Dedication Festival
(See p. 29)
- 26th October The Last Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Parish Communion (Common Worship)
Refreshments after the service
6.00pm Julian meeting at St. James' Abinger
Half of an hour of stillness with God

From the Registers

Coldharbour

16 th August	Baptism	Clementine, Zuzu and Frederick Kruis
23 rd August	Wedding	Simon Gibbons and Francesca Laugier-Davies

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on

Monday 6th October and Monday 20th October 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!

Tillingbourne Stream Project at Abinger Hammer



community benefit.

This little project has it all...people having access to nature, flood mitigation, nature conservation, preventing erosion and

I was invited to quote for some work on the Tillingbourne stream at Abinger Hammer. It's only just over ankle deep and a popular spot for kids and parents to catch water creatures with little nets. Unfortunately, people clambering in and out of the stream was eroding the banks.



To reduce the rate of bank erosion we installed some oak steps with a handrail to make access in and out the stream easier.

We then shored-up the eroded banks with aquatic vegetation from elsewhere in the stream. To hold the vegetation in place we constructed a wattle fence made of sweet-chestnut stakes with hazel rods woven between them. Increasing the aquatic vegetation on previously barren banks will improve the habitat and increase biodiversity.

The local cricket ground was losing land to the erosion, so as well as being healthier for the biodiversity of the river, there's a community benefit.

The stream was getting quite choked in places. The re-location of the aquatic vegetation is improving the flow. During the winter months this will reduce the likelihood of flooding.

Whilst moving the aquatic vegetation we even spotted a brook lamprey. These are incredibly rare and a testament to the quality of the water in this stream.



I love that my work may be an ongoing introduction to nature for so many kids in the years to come. Connecting new generation to the natural world is so important if we hope to conserve/enhance it.

More at <http://www.conservationandaccess.co.uk/tillingbourne-stream-project-at-abinger-hammer/>

Andrew Wright, Countryside Manager

OCTOBER EVENTS

Music

OCTOBER MUSIC IN COLDHARBOUR

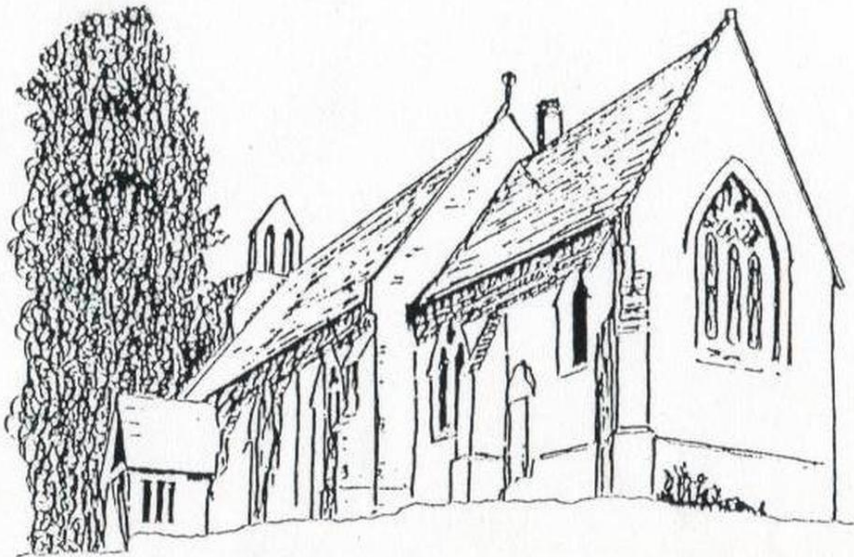
Christ Church Dedication Festival 2025

Organist David Hansell introduces this year's events.

Saturday 11th October – 4pm, Admission free: David Hansell and Philip Drew play organ duets and duos

Saturday 18th October – 3pm, Tickets £10: Swing Band play toe-tappers

Sunday 19th October – 6pm: Festive Evensong with Leith Hill Choirs. Includes choral and organ music by Vaughan Williams.

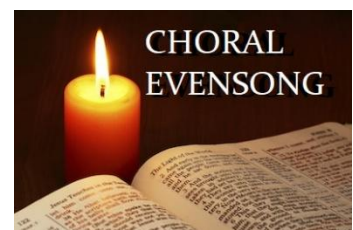


In the Church of England, the Dedication Festival is the annual celebration of a church's consecration and dedication to God, observed on the anniversary of its original dedication, where this is known. The day serves to celebrate the church building as a place of

worship and a spiritual centre for its local community, and for that community to enjoy coming together to give thanks.

But why stop at just a day? In recent years both St James' and Christ Church have enjoyed a weekend, with concerts on the Saturday and celebratory services on the Sunday, and this year Christ Church has three events over two weekends!

The date of the Festival – **19th October** – falls on a Sunday so there will be a festive Evensong (6pm) with Leith Hill Choirs, and featuring choral and organ music by 'local-boy-made-good' Ralph Vaughan Williams, the anniversary of whose birth falls in the previous week.



The previous day (**Saturday 18th** - 3pm) the Swing Band will delight us all with toe-tapping classics. In conjunction with the Arts Alive Festival, come and enjoy an afternoon of popular big band classics.



Tickets at £10 per person to include tea and cake, with wine/prosecco available at an additional cost. Monies raised will go towards the handrail which has recently been fitted along the back steps from the village hall into the graveyard. 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

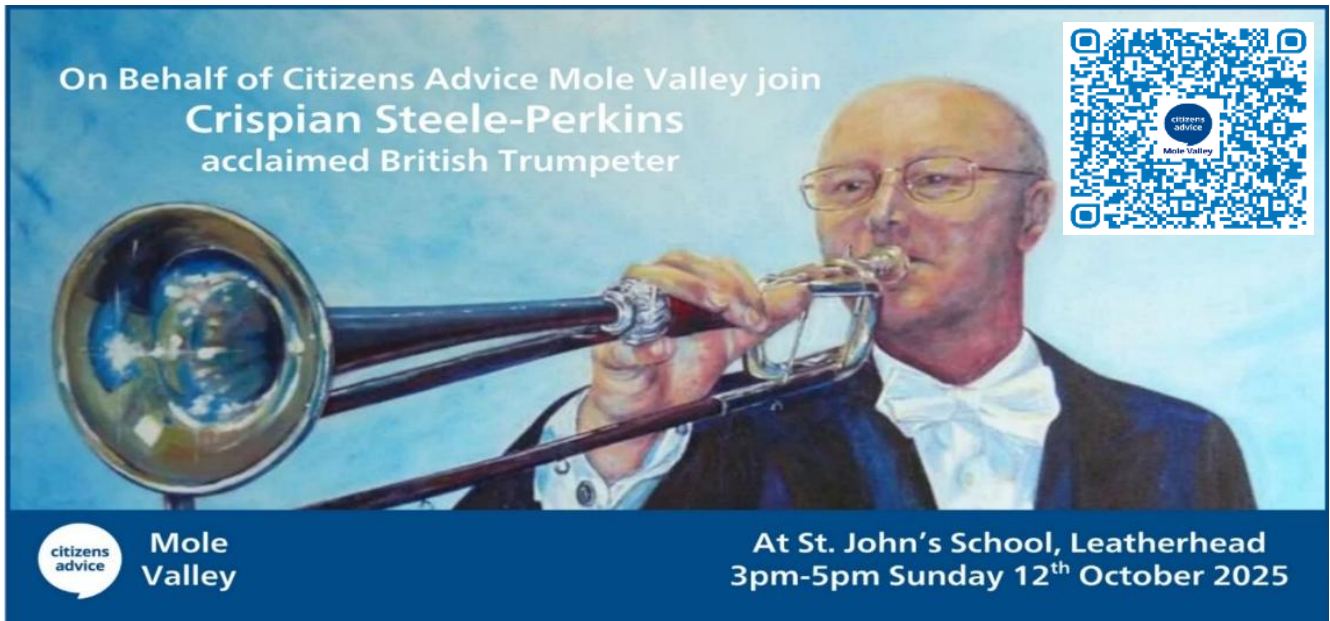
The previous Saturday (**11th October**) our regular organ duet pairing will be back in action. David Hansell and Philip Drew will play works for two organs by C P E Bach, Vivaldi and Orlando Gibbons (d1625) and duets (four hands and four feet on the same instrument!) by Mozart and Ouseley (b1825). The programme also features Jenny Hansell (Soprano). The recital will commence at 4.00pm, with refreshments at 3.30pm. Booking not required. The recital lasts approximately 45 minutes, admission is free, and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the organ fund.

Both the above concerts are part of Mole Valley Arts Alive



- Facebook: [@molevalleyartsalive](https://www.facebook.com/molevalleyartsalive)
- Twitter: [@ArtsAliveMV](https://twitter.com/ArtsAliveMV)
- Instagram: [@Mole_Valley_Arts_Alive](https://www.instagram.com/Mole_Valley_Arts_Alive)

CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS in Leatherhead



Sunday 12th October, 3 -5pm. Join acclaimed British Trumpeter, Crispian Steele-Perkins, for an afternoon of incredible music in support of the work of Citizens Advice Mole Valley. Tickets are limited so we recommend early booking.

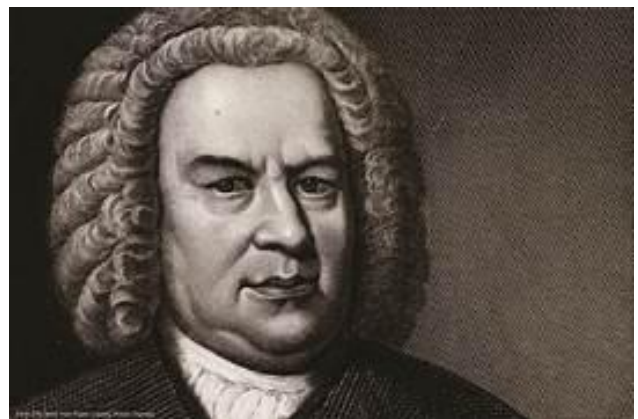
For more details and to get your tickets from Eventbrite, please scan the QR code or visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/citizens-advice-mole-valley-musical-afternoon-tickets-1368561778119?aff=oddttdtcreator>

More details from Tim Prideaux: 01306 730730

COME AND SING THE ST JOHN PASSION

October 11th, 9.30-4.30, St Martin's Church, Dorking

The Leith Hill Music Festival is holding a Come & Sing day, led by the inspiring festival conductor Neil Ferris. Focussing on Bach's great St John Passion, the day will be spent working on the choruses and chorales, and it will conclude with an informal performance of the music. Book in advance through the website and arrive for registration from 9.30 on the day. £25. <https://lhmf.org.uk/>



Why is singing so good for you?

Singing is beneficial because it reduces stress by lowering cortisol levels and activating the vagus nerve. boosts mood through the release of feel-good chemicals like endorphins and dopamine, strengthens the immune system, improves respiratory health, and fosters social connection and confidence. It also has cognitive advantages, aiding memory, concentration, and even benefiting individuals with neurological conditions like dementia.

MUSIC IN DORKING – OCTOBER 2025 by Ian Codd

1st at 6.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

5th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

4th, 5th, 18th - music at St Martin's Church

18th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's Church, £15

22nd at 7.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

25th at 7.30, Chamber Music Box at Dorking Halls, £25, 01306 740619

The new concert season gets well under way this month, with a variety of events. The **Dorking Chamber Orchestra** has a programme beginning and ending with Mozart – his overture to *Così fan tutte* and the *Haffner Symphony* – along with a symphony by the Frenchman Gossec and an overture by the Spaniard Arriaga.

The Dorking Concertgoers presents a concert of chamber music given by the ensemble **Chamber Music Box**, featuring performers on strings, flute and harp. As well as music by Haydn and Mozart, they will play a string trio by the Polish-Russian composer Weinberg, another trio by Arnold Bax, and some elegant French music by Ibert and Roussel.

St Martin's Church has three recitals this month – the Phil Hopkins Jazz Quartet (4th), The Lyons Mouth (5th) and pianist Ian Vetch (18th).

Finally there are three opera screenings at the Dorking Halls – from the Royal Opera House you can see a live screening of Puccini's *Tosca*, followed by an encore screening, and a live screening of Bellini's *La Sonnambula*.

OTHER OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Coldharbour's Quiz Night and Fish and Chips Supper Oct 3rd – 18.30 at The Plough Inn

Gather your team together and come along to village quiz night hosted by Piers Cooke. £13 per person to include fish and chips. Please contact amandahanlin@aol.com with your team name and numbers (8 people max) so we can track how many are coming. If you don't have a team, but wish to join in, we can create one for you. This year's quiz night will be held in the barn at The Plough, Coldharbour (not the village hall) as we look to support 'our local' at a time when pubs are facing rising operational costs and a tough environment.

Elwyn's Meditation



Elwyn continues her meditation classes on Thursday afternoons.

Time: 3 – 4pm Place: St James' Vestry

If you haven't been before check in with Elwyn on 07968 307979.

Donations to refugee charities.

Village Coffee Mornings



Coldharbour Coffee Morning - first Friday of the month. The next is on **October 3rd** at the JV Hall 10.30-11.30.

Contact Debby: debbychapman@hotmail.com

SJs in Abinger

Coffee, tea, cakes and chat at St James' in Abinger every Wednesday. The next one is **October 1st** - 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.

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. For further information please get in touch with Avril Sharman 01306 731396. **The dates for this month are 11th and 25th October.**



A Tour of Goddards

October is the last opportunity this year to book a tour of Goddards, Abinger Common, an Arts and Crafts house designed by Edwin Lutyens with garden planting originally by Gertrude Jekyll. Tours Wednesday afternoons to be booked by calling the Landmark Trust on 01628 825925 or emailing

bookings@landmarktrust.org.uk.

Next year tours will restart after Easter.

Claire Hill, Goddards Secretary, The Lutyens Trust



Exhibition at Denbies

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

The Dorking Group of Artists is delighted to welcome you to their next exhibition at Denbies Wine Estate. 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 a 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.

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



Rooted in the heart of Dorking since the first event in 2018, beginning

“Dorking Is Talking” started life as a family-run community project, including Isabel’s daughter Eden Morris. Supported by her late husband Matt, who hailed from Dorking, Isabel’s aim was to build a warm, creative and empowering space for encouraging connection, confidence and community whilst celebrating the art of the Spoken Word. The impact of Covid and life events forced the project to take a break ... until now!

There are also opportunities to promote other local creative events and for the community to share and recommend poetry publications/anthologies.

Tickets are available online from www.swirlwinebar.uk and at just £22.50 include a further feast for the senses at the interval - Vegetarian Sharing Platters. A chance to sample Swirl's delicious cheeseboard, hummus and falafel delights designed to enhance the sharing experience, whilst exchanging feedback, enjoying great company and making new friends.

Events are planned to run usually on the last Thursday of each month starting on October 30th 2025. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. With reduced seating capacity in this intimate venue, you are advised to go online for tickets and sign up for an Open Mic slot in advance as demand is usually high. But do just come and listen and enjoy!

A Poem by our own Rev'd Virginia Smith



GURUS

I'm sure you'll agree there can be no doubt
There's an awful lot of health gurus about.
And they're desperate to tell us just what to do
If we want to live to a hundred and two.
Exercise and diet they all firmly insist
Are essential for us to have on our list.
But there's so many ways it all gets confusing
While some to my mind are simply amusing.
Walking backwards is now the 'in' thing to do
Though what good it does I haven't a clue.
Just walking forwards is quite good for me
Without the risk of bumping into a tree.
And as for diet gurus, they're two a penny
I can't understand why there's so many
Each touting ideas as to what makes us healthy
The cost of which means we'll never be wealthy.
Frankly all this advice is too much to take
What I need is a rest and a large slice of cake!



Book now for films in October and November

Lots of new people have joined our audience at recent film shows - thank you to all for supporting us. Please let us know if you have any comments on your cinema experience with us, we would love to hear from you via: info@sherevillagecinema.com. To sign up to our newsletter and/or future films please go to the website: www.sherevillagecinema.com. For those unable to access the internet, there will usually be a minimum of 10 tickets for sale on the door. All tickets, except where indicated, cost £5/adult and £3.50/child. Start time for all films: 7.30

Thursday 2nd October – *Small Things Like These* – a film based on a novella of the same title, by Claire Keegan. Cillian Murphy plays Bill, a man who witnesses Ireland's church's abusive workhouses for unwed mothers in an absorbing Dickensian story based on recent history. Set in County Wexford in the early 80s, Bill is a soft-spoken, thoughtful man who has built up a good business through years of hard work as a coal merchant. He is married to Eileen (Enda Walsh). Bill discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent, and uncovers truths of his own, forcing him to confront his past and the complicit silence of a small Irish town controlled by the Catholic Church. This is an absorbing, committed drama, which was screened at the Berlin film festival and gained an award for Emily Watson. Classification 12 (Running time: 1 hr 38 mins.)

Sunday 19th October – *Black Bag* – a glossy spy thriller from the director Stephen Soderbergh. 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). Others in the frame include in-house psychiatrist Dr Zoe Vaughan (Naomie Harris), alcoholic maverick Freddie Smalls (Tom Burke) and junior agent Clarissa Dubose (Marisa Abela). The film makes every second count, from its immersive opening to the mind games around the dinner table. Classification 15 (Running time: 1 hr 33 mins.)



Thursday 6th November – 1917 – a first world war drama of the Western Front, where two lance corporals (George MacKay & Dean-Charles Chapman) are sent on a mad dash across enemy territory to alert troops on the other side of this no-man's land that they are walking into a trap. The film shows their journey and the thrilling finale. Directed by Sam Mendes, the film won three Oscars for: Best Cinematography, Best Sound Mixing, and Best Visual Effects. Classification 15 (Running time is 1 hr 30 mins). (Note: This is a fundraiser for the Royal British Legion)

Sunday 16th November – *Hard Truths* – a fierce, compassionate, and often darkly humorous study of family and the thorny ties that bind us, directed by the 'Legendary' Mike Leigh. Marianne Jean-Baptiste plays Pansy, a woman wracked by fear, tormented by afflictions, and prone to raging tirades against her husband, son, and anyone who looks her way. Meanwhile, her easy-going younger sister Chantal (Michele Austin), is a single mother with a life as different from Pansy's as their clashing temperaments. Classification 12A (Running time 1 hr 37 mins.).

We hope that you will join us for some or all of our films in October and November if you can.

Shere Village Cinema Team

DORKING MUSEUM IN OCTOBER



It is that time of year again, so a welcome opportunity to join us for a historic **Halloween Ghost walk** to meet the ghosts of Dorking residents past whose spirits are said to haunt the town: the boy soldier, the murdered monk, the drunken duke and the murdered policeman. From St Martin's Churchyard, **31st October**, 6pm and 7.30pm.

Sign up at www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591.

Shere Surgery & Dispensary

The Autumn Vaccination campaign: Both Covid and Flu vaccinations will be administered to those in the eligible cohorts, with the majority of clinics taking place on Saturdays where a band of vaccinators will be ready and willing. This plan is primarily to prevent disruption to the nursing service during the weekdays. For those that cannot make it on the weekend, there will be weekday clinics available too.

We have ordered enough vaccines for all those eligible, so urge you to book in here at Shere Surgery rather than elsewhere to avoid vaccine stock going to waste. Whilst a surge of requests have already come through and been booked in, we encourage those that have not yet done so to please call the reception team to book yourself in when you can.

New Faces: We are delighted to welcome several new faces at the Surgery. David has returned who will be primarily on reception but also our resident IT guru, HCA Sarah Knott will be here on Thursdays and Fridays, and new trainees Dr Stephanie Daniels and Dr Sehaan Hannan will be here throughout the week. At the same time we will sadly be saying goodbye to Sister Sarah Jackson, Care Coordinator Holly Skwarska and Karen Phillpott and receptionists Lexie Jones and Felix Shetty. We wish them well with their future endeavours!

Dr Marcus McEwen



SALV AUTUMN OPEN EVENING AND AGM

will be held

in SHERE VILLAGE HALL

at 8pm on Wednesday 22nd October

Mr Simon Thompson, Orthopaedic Consultant

“Do I need a knee operation?”

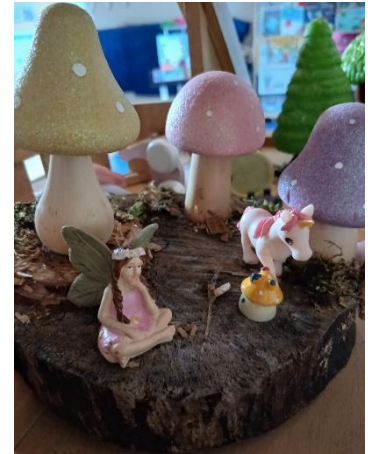
We hope to welcome friends and supporters of SALV, plus other villagers. You are invited to enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink for an informal talk with the doctors and Surgery staff after the meeting

(Registered Charity no 1016023)

CHILDREN



As we write this it is our very first day back at nursery and we are super excited to be back! Big smiles a plenty as we were welcomed back to our home from home. And whilst we weren't here the fairies and unicorns had been very busy keeping the hall spick and span for us. They even had time to spruce up their fairy house with sparkly toadstools in every colour!



Change can be daunting for everybody and anybody, and every day we learn more and more about our feelings. To help us with this journey we have a very special cosy calm down corner and the ever so helpful colour monsters! We know that talking about our feelings really helps and the colour monsters have their own story to show us the way.

We welcome a wonderful new member of staff who has been working with children for over 20 years but at the same time say a fond farewell to 2 special members of staff. Thank you for all that you've done! You know who you are!

The sun also put in an appearance today so in our usual style we were outside in our beautiful garden. Running around and blowing off cobwebs! (quite literally – Martina had a friendly spider crawling all over her!)

We are looking forward to a huge array of fun activities with fab French lessons, first rate forest school, cooking up a storm and the brilliant drama llamas returning to spark our growing imaginations. Pheweeeee! We can't wait to get stuck in!

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!

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

Open Morning 21st October

Head's Talk from 9.30 am. Personal tours available. 01306 881136.

See page 32 for more details

Dorking Museum Family Activity at Dorking Library

Classic Table-top Games!

Learn how to play some table-top games your grandparents used to play with your family. Held at Dorking Library, **Saturday 25th October**, 10am-noon. Free event, materials provided and children must be accompanied.



Robin's gardening tips for September



Well the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is well and truly now with us after the scorching summer. I have noticed that plants which looked very dead are now shooting from the base so all are not lost.

Once fruit is picked it is a good idea to start pruning the apple and pear trees, removing any branches damaged by the sheer weight of fruit this year. Tie a grease band round the trees to trap female winter moths which can lay eggs ending up in maggoty fruit next year. It is also possible to buy a special grease which can be painted on the bark, actually easier than trying to tie a band round a large tree!

Where there are spaces in flower beds hardy annuals can be sown to give early flowers next year. Just scatter seed and rake in. If planting crocus bulbs put some holly leaves around them to prevent mice enjoying a favoured food!

October is a good time to move plants and in fact to plant new trees and shrubs as the soil is still warm. Cut back roses by about a quarter to prevent wind rock. Cuttings of fuchsias and geraniums will root readily if kept in a frost free environment.

Why not invest in a few special seed potatoes and plant in a large pot. Moving it to a frost free area when necessary, to give you new potatoes for a meal at Christmas.

WI Report – September 2025



The committee devised an entertaining and informative afternoon for us, entitled 'A Tasting Menu'. Each table was provided with four numbered plates containing different brands of everyday food items. The first round was digestive biscuits - we were to taste from each plate and decide which we preferred. Sandy then asked for our choices and told us the brands of each one along with information on the varying costs. Was the most expensive the preferred taste? Not necessarily. Perhaps we could save some money and also purchase better flavoured food? The following rounds were selections of crisps, cheddar cheese, baked

beans, and lastly milk chocolate.

After an afternoon of snacking, the sandwiches and cakes provided by our WI tea hostesses Sandra Barfoot, Alison Gravett and myself were welcomed but perhaps not needed, although a cup of tea went down very well.



Sally Frost told us that there were tickets available for a day of listening to potential WI speakers at the Dorking Halls on 18th November. Please speak to Sally if you would like to join her there for a morning or afternoon session.

Talks at the upcoming meetings, all at 2.30pm at Wotton Village Hall, will be:

2nd October – 'Gandhi v. Churchill' – Peter Popham

6th November – 'Mysteries and explaining the inexplicable' – Dr Nicholas Henderson.

Please do get in touch if you wish to join us – we were pleased to welcome three new members this month but there's plenty of space for a few more – do come along, but we don't promise cold baked beans at every meeting.

Claire Hill

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
FCS	0800 146 122 support@fcscleaning.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	01372 741544	
Epsom & Mole Valley	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		
Jodechi Morton:	07825 138508	info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com
Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching		
Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	internitylife@pm.me	07919 102332 http://internity.life
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	01306 730320	Rob Dunn Robert.a.dunn@btinternet.com
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:
 November 2025
 Closes 1pm
 Tuesday October 14th
 abingerpn@gmail.com