

ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



December 2025

January 2026

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 amber@abingerandcoldharbour.org
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
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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



EVENTS



December

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3rd | Meadvale Singers Concert, St James', 7.30 |
| 4th | SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11 |
| 4th | WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30 |
| 4th | Holmbury Choral Centenary Concert, St Mary's, 8pm |
| 5th | Christ Church Leaf Sweep, 9.30 |
| 5th | <i>Stick Man</i> – film and Christmas disco, Ev. Hall, 4-6 |
| 6th | Children's Fun Day, QRMW, 12.30 |
| 6th | Hui's Christmas Wreath Making, St James', 2-4 |
| 6th | Peaslake carols by Candlelight, 7pm |
| 7th | Shere Cinema, <i>The Penguin Lessons</i> , 7.30 |
| 10th | SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11 |
| 11th | Come & Sing Christmas Carols, AHVH, 8pm |
| 11th/12th | CH Christmas Wreath Making, Chasemore, 2-4 |
| 12th | CH Christmas coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30 |
| 12th | CH Christmas Celebration, The Plough, 7pm |
| 13th | Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12 |
| 14th | CH Carol Singing, The Plough, 6pm |
| 17th | SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11 |
| 18th | St James' Carol Service, 7pm |
| 19th | The Abinger Soiree Evelyn Hall, 6pm |
| 21st | Christ Church Carol Service, 6pm |
| 24th | Carols on the Green, Abinger, 4pm |
| 27th | Benefice Walk, from St James' 9.30am |

January

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 7th | SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11 |
| 8th | WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30 |
| 8th | Shere Cinema, <i>The Ballad of Wallis Island</i> , 7.30 |
| 10th, 24th | Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12 |
| 18th | Shere Cinema, <i>F1® The Movie</i> , 7.30 |
| 30th | All Age Quiz Night, St James', 6-8 |



Reflections from the Rectory



I believe in 'wintering'. Plants and animals don't fight the winter; they don't pretend it's not happening and attempt to carry on living the same lives that they lived in the summer. They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through. They hunker down, hibernate and store fat to see them through – I know the feeling! As we gear up for Christmas and all the festivities let us

be gentle with ourselves. It is also a time of reflection and recuperation as we turn the corner into January. A time for putting the house in order and doing those deeply unfashionable things: slowing down, letting your spare time expand, getting enough sleep and resting.

So, however you are spending your December and January, I wish you all peace, joy, a full tummy and deep rest and hope to see you at one of our many services over the Christmas period!

With love,

Rev'd Kia ☺

From the editors

Rosemary Wakeford sent us the lovely picture on the front cover. She thinks it was probably the winter of 2009/2010 when Surrey experienced a lengthy period of cold and snow. The snowman was made by the children of Abinger Common School: *"I remember the children getting quite excited about it and snow was being rolled into ever bigger and bigger football sizes and then more! It kept them happy for a long time! I miss those times but still meet parents now and am always pleased to hear how their children (that were!) are getting on in life."*

We had a surprise compliment for the Parish News from a lady called Rosey who edits the Newchurch Noticeboard, a parish magazine on the Isle of Wight. *"My advertising man, Steve, has just given me a copy of your March 2025 issue - it's brilliant - and quite inspirational. I thought you'd like feedback on your magazine - I know we're always pleased to hear from our readers."* It gave us quite a glow! Happy Christmas all!

Liz and Jenny

Church Notices

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on: Monday 1st December, Monday 15th December, Monday 5th January and Monday 19th January, 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!

From the Registers

Abinger

29th October	Funeral	Jean Evers
7th November	Funeral	Patricia Harris

Coldharbour

23rd October	Funeral	Linda Dawe
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Can you help?

Leaf Sweep at Christ Church, Coldharbour - Friday 5th December ...

Any time you can spare will be much appreciated. We start at **9.30am**. Please bring your own gloves and tools if you have them. There will be tea, coffee and mince pies to keep your strength up



... and Leaf Sweep at St James', Abinger - Saturday 10th January

This starts a bit later – **11 am**. To reward you for your hard work, as well as the usual refreshments to sustain you, there will be a free drink in the pub to follow!

All welcome – bring along rakes, gloves, strimmers, wheelbarrows etc.

LOOKING BACK TO THE AUTUMN...

Leith Hill Big Band Concert in October



In mid-October Leith Hill Big Band presented an afternoon of classics from the swing era to a packed audience in Christ Church. Funds from the event went towards the new handrail installed next to the steps on the path between the church and the John Venus Hall, raising over one thousand pounds.

To me the big band era is still alive. Hearing big band music is my way of feeling joyful. Count Basie, Duke Ellington, John Dankworth and Woody Herman were childhood heroes. I love the sound and fury of a big band at full blast. So, this event could not be missed. And I was not disappointed. The band is full-sized and that is a very hard thing to achieve. Five saxes, three trumpets, three trombones and a rhythm section with not only a piano and drums but several guitars and basses also. They played many favourites - Basie's *April in Paris*, Miller's *American Patrol* and *Moonlight Serenade*, Kenton's *Peanut Vendor*, Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing* and several other chart hits. They are still a new outfit but are already amazingly good. Big bands work well when they sound together and play as if they are like a single force. And force is a good word for them. They make a very big sound but are also capable of a wide and surprising range of volume, tempo and rhythmicity. And they play as one most of the time. Congratulations to them all for an astounding achievement. Surely the number of big bands in English villages could be counted on the hands of one finger. The band was brought together and led by alto sax player Debby Chapman.

Graham Mytton

Coldharbour Christmas Craft Fair

On a sunny Saturday morning in November the church doors opened for the Coldharbour Christmas Craft Fair. 18 stalls selling handmade crafts from local artists and craftsman. Jo's Coldharbour sheepskins were a warming sight in the porch on arrival and the bustle of people inside, as they admired and purchased items, was great to see. There was a mix of last year's stall holders with new ranges as well as new faces with new offerings. It was fantastic to see so many people from the village coming along to support the event but also great to welcome people from much wider areas who had made the journey especially. A joyous occasion which set the scene nicely for the festive season ahead.

Amanda Hanlin

Remembrance Sunday

Coldharbour: The Autumn sun shone on our 2025 Christchurch Service. We had a good turnout with many familiar faces and some new ones too. Rev'd Kia led us through the service with her usual skill and style; it was a happy service, even though it was tinged with sadness. Analogies between the deluge of falling Autumn leaves and the many who perished in the field of conflict were unavoidable. It's so good we continue to remember them.



The Village Band played beautifully before the service and then accompanied us through the hymns. Our guest trumpeter, Ollie Cobbold from the Leith Hill Big Band played the 'Last Post' perfectly. A big thank you to Debby and her band.

The new(ish) handrail up the steps to the war memorial were much appreciated, as were the delicious refreshments in the John Venus Hall afterwards.

Pierre Tindall

Abinger: At St James' Hilary and Amber led a reflective service, accompanied by beautiful music from the choir, carefully selected by David Hansell to emphasise the message "We all would live in peace". As we gathered at the War Memorial in the churchyard, wreaths were laid by Amelia Gray on behalf of Surrey Hills School and Ross Moorland, a veteran and Wotton Estate Gamekeeper. We were honoured to have Eddie Clarke play the bugle so beautifully for us.

And later in the afternoon the following happened (see next page!) – thank goodness we'd made the effort to clean the War Memorial!

Chelsea & Fulham HOG Remembrance Ride – Bikers visit to Abinger

Remembrance Sunday dawned misty cold and calm as the Chelsea & Fulham HOG rumbled into Rykas Café, Box Hill. At 11:00 am, the usual hum of motorcycles in the background gave way to a distant sound of the last post and two minutes of powerful silence. Not a single engine growled. (Miracles do happen.)

With respects paid, and the usual briefing done, it was time to roll — a scenic blast through the Surrey countryside, autumn leaves flying and exhausts echoing off the hedgerows. Eventually we made it to



St James' Church, Abinger Common, where Rev'd Kia Pakenham and the friendly locals welcomed us (well tolerated the rumble of 30ish Harleys... Saints the lot of them) with open arms. A

wreath was laid at the war memorial, and I read the part of the poem "for the fallen" followed by a quiet moment of reflection before the essential group photo with Rev'd Kia in front of the church.

Huge thanks to Rev'd Kia Pakenham and the Abinger Common locals for their hospitality.

Fred Woolcott, Chelsea & Fulham Road Captain

CHRISTMAS IS JUST ROUND THE CORNER

Make your Own Christmas Wreath

There are workshops running in both villages early in December.

On Saturday December 6th at St James' Church Abinger, 1pm-4pm

Join Hui MacDonagh in the Lady Chapel to make a Christmas Wreath. There are only 12 places so book early. To book a place for Hui's workshop please contact Sally: parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org. Tel 01306 737160.

Donations welcome - all proceeds to St James' Church.

On Thursday December 11th & Friday 12th at Chasemores in Coldharbour, (opposite the village hall) from 2pm – 4pm

Join Amanda Hanlin for a festive workshop with full and simple guidance on how to create your own unique wreath. Up to 6 people per session so book early to secure your space.

To book a place and for more details contact Amanda on 07770 324083.

Cost: £35 per person to include a 10" wreath ring and natural foliage.

Christmas Stamps

It is time again to send Christmas cards. It is now rather expensive. 87 pence for 2nd class and almost twice as much for 1st class at £1.70, but again, Graham Mytton is at hand to assist. He buys large quantities of stamps that come from the collections of deceased collectors. They are available at a discount because there are few new collectors starting the hobby and so there is a glut. He is not selling anything that is now not valid for postage. But all special issues, usually called commemoratives (you almost never see them on sale or on mail because Royal Mail tries not to make them available!) will be always valid for postage. Many people like using them because it makes their mail look very attractive.

This year he provides a price list:

Actual 1st class stamps @ £1.70 each at any Post Office, you can have them for £1.25 each. Imagine that. And of course, no matter what happens to the price, they will always be valid for 1st class mail in the UK. At the current rate of postal inflation which is well above the RPI it is a good investment.



He does not have any 2nd class @ 85p. The few he gets all go to the Shop @ the Plough. But he makes up the value by combining 2, 3, 4 or 5 stamps to make 87p. 2nd class combinations are priced as follows:

2nd class with 2 stamps (£0.87 at any Post Office). Only 74p each

2nd class with 3 stamps. Only 72p each

2nd class with 4 stamps. Only 70p each

And Graham can supply stamps also for mail to the rest of the world. Provided that your card weighs no more than 100g the Royal Mail cost per card is £3.20. 2 stamp combinations are very difficult to make but for between 3 and 6 stamp combinations, he can give discounts that depend on the number of stamps to be used. Prices from £2.40 to £2.72 each.

He can also help with parcels of any size or weight and to anywhere at all.

Graham makes a profit, and this is halved between our two parishes as in the past. And he adds 25% UK tax. Buy early because he may run out with no time to get more. Call or text 07854324571 or email gmytton@gn.apc.org.

A Christmas Puzzle

Christine Padgham has sent us this puzzle - for people who remember the old money! Can you write the answers in pounds shillings and pence, add the amounts up to get the total? *Find the answers on page 45.*

1. A stone
2. A bicycle
3. A man's name (think Robert...)
4. A singer (not a bass)
5. A kind of pig, or perhaps a fowl
6. A leather worker
7. Part of a monkey's leg
8. The Sun and Moon and Pluto
9. 50% of a piece of underwear
10. Hit repeatedly
11. An unwell sea creature
12. A Royal Head Dress

December Events

SJ's and Repair Café, Abinger

Every Wednesday morning from 9-11am apart from 24th and 31st December. Join us at St. James' for tea, coffee, croissants and chat - and bring along your material items to be repaired.

Coldharbour Christmas Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning is out of the usual pattern as it's timed to be nearer Christmas. It's on **Friday Dec 12th** at the usual time of 10.30. There will be special cakes and a charity raffle.

Coldharbour's Christmas Celebration - Friday December 12th

The perfect occasion to gather with friends and neighbours. Enjoy a two course meal for £30 per person and a wonderful evening of festive fun and community spirit. Friday December 12th at The Plough, Coldharbour. 19.00hrs start. To see if there are any tickets left, contact amandahanlin@aol.com

Coldharbour Village Carol Singing - Sunday December 14th

Come along and join the village band on Sunday December 14th for a traditional evening of carol singing and festive cheer. A magical way to get into the Christmas spirit. 18.00hrs - 19.00hrs at The Plough, Coldharbour.

The Abinger Christmas Soiree – Friday December 19th

Jayne is organising the traditional Christmas Soiree, 6pm at the Evelyn Hall.

If you haven't been before it is a fantastic evening for all ages. Children and adults entertain, with poetry, singing, telling jokes, playing instruments or performing magic. Last year we even had some brilliant young ballet dancers. This is alongside carols, mulled wine and nibbles.



£5 per adult to charity, children free.

Please contact Jayne - jaynefarrance@hotmail.co.uk or 07795 098263 if you are thinking of taking part. She'd love to hear from you!



More opportunities to sing carols

Do come along to one of the church Carol Services – Thursday December 18th, 7pm at St James'; Sunday 21st December, pm, at Christ Church.

Dorking Museum

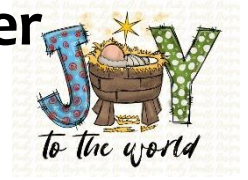
Museum Family Activities at Dorking Library: The Museum is pleased to continue its collaboration with Dorking Library in a series of monthly events linked to library themes.

Merry Christmas Crafts: Come and make a Christmas card or join in other craft activities: Saturday 13th December, 10am-noon.

Changing Dorking: Dorking Museum gives you a warm welcome to some of its activities. Visit Dorking Library to find out how Dorking has changed by looking at old maps and photos: Saturday 24th January, 10am-noon. All are free events with materials provided. Children must be accompanied.

Dorking Museum, The Old Foundry, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Visit dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/. 01306 876591.

Services at St James' Church, Abinger



7th Dec The Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children. Refreshments after the service

14th Dec The Third Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Choral Evensong

18th Dec Thursday

7.00pm Lessons and Carols.
Mulled wine will be served after the service



21st Dec The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30am Crib Service. An interactive Nativity! Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character. Refreshments after the Service

24th Dec Christmas Eve

11.00pm Holy Communion

25th Dec Christmas Day

11.30am Christmas Celebration with Communion

28th Dec The First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Benefice Service. Refreshments after the Service

4th Jan The Second Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children.
Refreshments after the service

11th Jan The Baptism of Christ

6.00pm Choral Evensong

18th Jan The Second Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am 'Come and See' Sunday. Refreshments after the Service

25th Jan The Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Sideways Church. New angles on faith, with breakfast, laughter and conversation

6.00pm Julian meeting at Christ Church Coldharbour

Half of an hour of stillness with God

Services at Christ Church, Coldharbour

7th Dec 9.00am	The Second Sunday of Advent Parish Communion (BCP)
14th Dec 10.00am	The Third Sunday of Advent Second Sunday service (Iona with communion)
21st Dec 9.00am 6.00pm	The Fourth Sunday of Advent Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Lessons and Carols. Readings, poems, carols and choir Mulled wine will be served after the Service
24th Dec 4.00pm	Christmas Eve Christingle
25th Dec 10.00am	Christmas Day Christmas Celebration with Communion
28th Dec 10.30am	The First Sunday of Christmas Benefice service <u>at St. James' Abinger</u> Refreshments after the Service
4th Jan 9.00am	The Second Sunday of Christmas Parish Communion (BCP)
11th Jan 10.00am	The Baptism of Christ Second Sunday service (Iona with Communion)
18th Jan 9.00am 6.00pm	The Second Sunday of Epiphany Parish Communion (BCP) Congregational Evensong
25th Jan 10.00am 6.00pm	The Third Sunday of Epiphany Parish Communion (Common Worship). Refreshments after the Service Julian meeting Half of an hour of stillness with God



FESTIVE CONCERTS



ABINGER COMMON:

'It's a Sleigh Ride!'

**Wednesday December 3rd,
7.30pm, at St James' Church**

The Meadvale Singers will be presenting a programme of light and uplifting Christmas music.

THIS YEAR'S CHARITY: Book Vouchers for local schools under the auspices of Circular Dorking. Raising literacy and environmental awareness among schoolchildren.



HOLMBURY: Holmbury Choral Centenary Celebration Concert

Thursday December 4th

St Mary's Church, Holmbury, 8pm

Holmbury Choral are celebrating 100 years of singing in the Surrey Hills with Poulenc's *Gloria*, Tippett's Spirituals from *A Child of Our Time* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Cole Bendall will be conducting, Suzy Ruffles will be accompanying, and there will also be percussion and glorious soloists.

For more information
and tickets (£16, 19 and under free)
www.holmburychoral.org.



ABINGER HAMMER: Come & Sing Christmas Carols with Holmbury Choral - Thursday December 11th - Abinger Hammer Village Hall, 8pm



A chance to sing your favourite carols and perhaps some new ones as well and enjoy festive refreshments with the choir. With Cole and Suzy. Just come along – all welcome.

PEASLAKE: Concert by Candlelight - Saturday 6th December

See the Oxford Commas - finalists on Sky 1's "Sing: Ultimate A Capella" - perform live at St Mark's Church, Peaslake, GU5 9RR.

TICKETS:

<https://www.peaslakefreeschool.com/events/concert-by-candlelight-6>. £27.50 for adults and £20 for under-16s. The ticket price includes canapes and a glass of fizz for adults, while the under-16 tickets include a snack and a soft drink. This is a family friendly event suitable for older children; doors open at 7pm and the concert itself will take place between 7:30pm - 9pm. Please join us for this lovely candlelit event which raises funds to support the running of Peaslake Infant School.



Post-Christmas Events

NEXT BENEFICE WALK Saturday, 27th December, at 9.30,



starting at ST JAMES' CHURCH, Abinger Common - St James' Way loops to St John's Church in Wotton and back again.

There will be refreshments when we return to St James' at around 12.00. All are welcome, including dogs!

Look out for 2026 walk dates in our next Parish Magazine.

Please contact Lucy at lucyharlow@me.com with any questions or to be put on the Loop Group email list.

You are warmly invited to join us on
Friday 30th January, 6-8pm
at
St James' Church
for our **ALL AGE QUIZ NIGHT!**

Everyone is welcome - friends, parents, grandparents, favourite siblings - no age limits!

Enjoy an evening of fun and pizza

Tables of up to 8 and amazing prizes

Let Sally know how many seats you'd like at

PARISHOFFICE@ABINGERANDCOLDHARBOUR.ORG

MUSIC IN DORKING by Ian Codd

December 1st, 8.00, Step into Christmas at Dorking Halls, £33, 01306 881717

6th, 3.30, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £8, 01372 878321

6th, 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £15

7th, 3.00, Grimethorpe Colliery Band at Dorking Halls, £20-30

9th, 7.30, A West End Christmas at Dorking Halls, £25.50

10th, 7.15, Nutcracker ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50

11th, 7.30, Andre Rieu concert screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50

13th at 1.30, Andre Rieu concert screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50

14th at 2.00, Nutcracker ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50

17th at 6.30(?), Dorking Choral Society at St Joseph's Church

January in the Dorking Halls: 10th - Ukulele orchestra; 14th - opera screening at Dorking Halls; 17th - cello & piano recital.

The **Dorking Choral Society**, conducted by Daniel Mahoney, has a concert of Christmas carols, including some favourites for the audience to join in.

Brockham Choral's Christmas concert includes music by Handel, John Rutter, Cecilia McDowall and Leroy Anderson, along with some carols. The choir will be joined by the Martineau Brass Quintet and by guest soloist Alex Wright from Trinity Boys Choir, who recently appeared at Glyndebourne. Tickets: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral>. Adults £15, Children and Students under 18 FREE. More information: www.brockhamchoral.org

The Ladybirds Choir, directed by Helena Twentyman, is raising funds for the Dorking Beatitudes, a local charity. There will be a mixture of carols and Christmas songs, including *All I want for Christmas* and *White Christmas*, with some numbers to celebrate the birthdays this year of composers John Rutter and Bob Chilcott.

The Dorking Halls has a number of Christmas shows and screenings, including Step into Christmas, a spectacular Christmas concert to start the festive season, A West End Christmas presented by the Show Choir and guest soloists, two screenings of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet The Nutcracker from the Royal Opera House, and two screenings of Andre Rieu's Christmas concert, with his brilliant Johann Strauss orchestra playing waltzes and carols.



Sunday December 7th - *The Penguin Lessons* - is a comedy-drama film directed by Peter Cattaneo and starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. It is inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976,

coinciding with the military coup that brought down Isabel Peron and began the plight of the "disappeared". Expecting an easy ride, Tom discovers a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down. Classification 12A (1 hr 51 mins). 7.30pm



Thursday 8th January – *The Ballad of Wallis Island* - is about a widower Charles (Tim Key), who has won the lottery and chosen to use the proceeds to buy a crumbling house on an island somewhere off the coast of Britain. He invites his favourite folk musician Herb (Tom Basden), to come and play to him. Unbeknownst to Herb, Charles has also invited Herb's former bandmate and lover Nell (Carey Milligan), who is now happily married and living in America. Herb has never got over Nell, so the stage is set for an awkward reunion. Classification 12A (1 hr 40 mins). 7.30pm

Sunday 18th January – *F 1 The Movie* – is the story of Sonny Hayes (Brad Pitt), a legendary driver who lost his way after a near-fatal crash 30 years ago but got himself back together after a stint in the wilderness as a professional gambler and New York City taxi driver. Sonny is coaxed out of retirement by his old driving buddy Ruben (Javier Bardem) to revive his failing Formula 1 team, and mentor his young protegee Joshua Pearce (Damson Idris). The film offers thrilling racing sequences and impressive cinematography. "A spectacular macho melodrama"! Classification 13 (Running time is 2 hours 35 minutes). 7.30pm

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

As usual, if you have any comments on our choice of films, or your cinema experience with us, we would love to hear from you via: info@sherevillagecinema.com.

CHILDREN



**SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We are very impressed at how well our new children have settled into school life at Surrey Hills both in Reception and in Year 3.

Thank you for your support this term both in school, through volunteering, attending year group information sessions and attending our Celebration assemblies as well as at home by supporting with reading and homework.

We have been working very hard to put together a series of additional exciting learning experiences which add to the amazing learning that takes place in class every day. Forest School sessions have taken place, we have worn yellow to support Mental Health Day, Hedgehogs and Otters visited Nower Wood to launch their involvement in the Wilder Schools project with Surrey Wildlife Trust and Hedgehogs also had a visit from a variety of Owls to launch their English unit. Many more events and experiences are planned for the term ahead.

Year 6 have put themselves forward for a number of key pupil leadership roles in school including prefects, faith ambassadors, librarians and School Ambassadors.

Thank you to you all for ensuring that your child is in school on time, every day. Even though there seems to have been a huge number of coughs and colds doing the rounds our overall attendance is currently at 96.8% which is slightly above the national figure.

Kathryn Saunderson, Acting Headteacher





Wow, how on earth is it December already? The Autumn term has flown by with an enormous amount of fun to be grateful for. The leaves are rustling outside and carpeting our nursery garden with gorgeous golden tones.

Who needs toys when you have nature providing you with all the fun? We certainly love whipping up 'spaghetti and meatballs' (think conkers and twigs) in our mud kitchen – washed down with a vat of cold muddy tea and coffee!! Delicious!



Both Diwali and Halloween fell into this half term – two very different things entirely! But with much for us to learn! We got gloriously colourful as we crafted busily away making beautiful Diya lamps out of paper plates and as many sparkles as we possibly could! Next on our list of all things creative were Rangoli patterns using stunning stencils and lashings of paint. They turned out rather well!

Spooky season started with Dave the Skeleton who taught us the correct names for the many different bones in our bodies – he even went so far as to explain some of the internal organs too. Thanks Dave! Creepiness continued as we took a trip to the imaginary forest to search for Barry the Bat – who unfortunately didn't put in an appearance, but we were instead greeted along the way by fuzzy hedgehogs, sly foxes and bulky badgers. Then with a flick of the wrist and some special spells we were all turned into witches and flew around on our broomsticks!



We are really looking forward to all the festivities that come at this wonderful time of the year and can't wait to share our stories with you come January. We are of course all on the nice list and hope you are too!!! Have a Very Happy Christmas!!

If you have a child looking to start nursery, please don't hesitate to get in touch as there are still spaces for January. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com. We can't wait to meet you!



Christmas at the Woodland – Saturday 6th December

Fun for all the Family at the QMRW, Pasturewood Road, Holmbury



Children's Treasure Hunt at 12.30, followed by a visit to see Santa in his grotto and receive a present.

Bottle tombola, Christmas Raffle, Children's Lucky Dip, Sweet Stall, Craft Stall, hot drinks and hot dogs.

Please register the children (£8 each) with Debbie: debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk or 07778873806

All proceeds to Veterans in Need

We say goodbye

Linda Dawe



Linda Dawe, a long time Coldharbour resident of one of the former foresters' houses in Crockers Lane, died in October. She was born in 1944 in Wallasey, Merseyside, to Leonard and Dorothy Jones, both of Welsh heritage. When Linda was born, her father was serving with the Eighth Army in North Africa. The family lived in Liverpool, which was subject at times to very heavy bombing raids that devastated large areas of the city. It was a traumatic time. Linda had a sister, Penny, born fourteen years later. Linda cared for her baby sister a lot. Mother and

father had some difficulties following their stressful wartime experiences.

Linda and Tony Dawe, a well-known and respected journalist who was at the Times for a large part of his career, moved to Coldharbour more than 50 years ago. Their children, Katina and Lynton grew up here. Tony was very involved with the Cricket Club and it was Linda who regularly helped with the teas. Tony died in 2017.

Linda loved theatre, dance, poetry, literature and country life. She was an active villager and every year she managed a toy stall at the annual Coldharbour Fête. At her funeral, members of her family spoke movingly of Linda's her dedicated care, kindness, gentleness and selflessness.



Farewell to local lady, Prunella Scales



Prunella Scales in her most famous role as Sybil in Fawlty Towers

Some years ago I happened to bump into the actor Timothy West, husband of Prunella Scales, near the telephone box just opposite Goddards in Abinger. I said a surprised hello and only remembered it a couple of years later when I saw an episode of Tim and Pru's Great Canal

Journeys in which they visited Sutton Abinger in 'Darkest Surrey'. It emerged that this is where Pru had been born. Brian Morgan, my co-editor at the time, and I had the idea of inviting her to Abinger to do an interview for the Parish News, and Pru and Tim came to see us. This was exactly 10 years ago in November 2015. We realised then what Timothy West had been doing here – visiting Prunella's childhood home. They had been staying in Goddards together with their children and grandchildren.

We were sad to learn of Timothy West's death last year, and sadly Prunella died this year, on 27th October. Pru was so devoted to Tim that it seems fitting that she should have followed him so soon after.

Brilliant actress Prunella Scales was born in 1932 in The Forge (now The Old Forge) opposite the Volunteer pub in Sutton Abinger, and lived there until 1937 when her parents, the Illingworths, bought a house in Westcott. Then at the outbreak of World War II, her mother took the children away from danger to more remote parts of the country. When the war ended they returned to live at Kempslade, Friday Street, where Pru lived from 1946 until 1950 when she went to The Old Vic Drama School and began her acting career.



The house where Pru was born

Prunella took the name Scales, and also her acting talent, from her mother, Bim, whose maiden name was Scales. Bim had been a professional actress and later acted in amateur productions. While living in Westcott Bim took part in E.M. Forster's *England's Pleasant Land* in 1938 with music by Vaughan Williams. When the family came back to Friday Street after the war Bim continued to act with the Westcott Players. There she became friendly with Jean Ridgers, who many people in Abinger remember well.



Pru's visit here ten years ago was a delight. Her memories of her childhood home were vivid. We had a drink in the pub in Sutton Abinger just opposite the house where she was born. We had lunch at the Wotton Hatch where she had walked to every morning from Kempslade to catch the bus. She remembered leaving her muddy boots in the pub after her walk across the fields.

We visited the churchyard at Wotton Church where she found her parents' grave.



We visited Friday Street which was very familiar to her, and she saw Kempslade from a distance. We went to see Christine and Jack Padgham in their cottage in Friday Street, because Jack, who is sadly no longer with us, had known the family well in those days.

Pru and Tim paid a final visit to Abinger in 2016 when Pru came to read the lesson in St James', a chance for her to perform, which she still adored doing. This was followed by lunch in the pub and a visit to her old friends Robert and Cherry Clarke at Abinger Manor Cottage.



Lovely memories of a lovely lady!

And now over to Cherry, who knew Pru and her family well.

Liz Hamilton

Cherry's memories of Pru

"When I came to Abinger in 1963 the Illingworths were living at Chandlers Farm. Robert used to drive up to his law practice in Gray's Inn and if Pru had an acting job in London he would take Pru with him. A strong friendship had developed between the families, so when Robert and I got engaged they gave an engagement party for us at Chandlers Farm."

"Tim was interested in the history of the area and wrote about how the Normans came to erect the Motte and Bailey, which you can see on the left if you walk down the footpath from the church. He made an audio recording of this, which we played to the people who came to the Abinger Fair and was very popular. I still have this somewhere!"

"Although Pru and Tim were very busy and successful in their careers, in the summer they used to come down to Goddards, the famous Lutyens House in Abinger, with a crowd of acting friends. Robert and I would join them. Pru found these times exacting and tiring as you can imagine, because the job of organising the catering, lunches etc. always fell to her. When she was let down on a couple of occasions, I would get a frantic call to find her a cook."



Pru with Wendy Cope in the grounds of Abinger Manor in 1992



Pru and Cherry in 1992

"Pru was a lovely, generous friend and in 1992 she came to Abinger to talk to volunteers and children at a fundraising lunch for the 'Volunteer Reading Help' charity which I ran. Prunella and the poet Wendy Cope were the guests of honour. Children from Abinger Common School attended and enjoyed being read to by Prunella and Wendy."

I have strong and enduring memories of Pru and also her family. We all derived great pleasure from watching the Great Canal Journeys, while holding our breath in case she fell in! Farewell, dear Pru, on your final journey.

Cherry

WI Report – November 2025

The November meeting started off with the AGM and Felicity, as secretary, presented the Chairman Lesley's review of the past year. We were pleased to confirm the continuance of most of the current committee, and Lesley will remain President going into 2026. Thanks were given to the committee members and to all WI members for their participation and their delicious teas. A special mention with thanks was noted to Margaret Yule, stepping down from the committee but happily remaining a member. We received with sadness the news that Rosemary Collins had passed away. She had always been a regular supporter of our WI group and will be missed.



Then on to a very slick presentation by Dr Nicholas Henderson, who kept us enthralled by his talk on Great Mysteries and Conspiracy Theories. We first considered the Bermuda Triangle, or Devil's Triangle, an area of sea between Florida, Puerto Rico and Bermuda, so called due to the legend that numerous ships and aircraft have disappeared in the area

under mysterious circumstances. Some say that there were maybe only a normal number of disastrous incidents in a sea area of that size known for hurricane weather conditions, but theories circulate - could the disappearances have occurred due to electronic fog, or to St Elmo's Fire, or maybe magnetic polarity, or methane gas emissions bubbling up and disturbing the sea and atmosphere? No conclusion was reached.

The second part of the talk further considered explaining the inexplicable – do ghosts and fairies really exist? Again, our conclusion was that nobody really knows the answer, but if you would like to look into this further then book a tour of Shepton Mallet old prison which is thought to be one of the most haunted locations one can visit.

Thank you to our tea hostesses Pat O'Brien, Anne Prentice and Marilyn Marsh.

Our **next meeting on 4th December** will be a Christmas Entertainment and Tea Party hosted by the Committee, 2.30pm at Wotton Village Hall. Following that on **8th January 2026** Jessica Thurllell will talk about Dining with History. Please do get in touch if you wish to join us, we always warmly welcome new members.

Claire Hill

December in your Garden

Though Christmas is fast approaching, work in a garden is really never ending! If, after the bumper fruit harvest of this year, branches were broken, now is the time to remove them! And generally, prune apple and pear trees. Roses can also be pruned back now to prevent damage caused by possible 'wind' rock. It's also a good idea to rake up all rose leaves, especially if there has been evidence of black spot. This was once treated by the generous application of soot.

Leaves should be cleared from lawns and mixed in with compost. Though don't worry too much about flower beds, the leaves will help protect more vulnerable plants. If you are splitting established perennials why not pot up a few bits for the fete plant stalls next year. However, do leave hydrangeas alone till the spring, the flower heads providing protection for emerging shoots.

In the vegetable garden, why not dig a trench where you plan to grow runner beans next year, gradually filling it with compostable kitchen waste, covering it with soil as you gradually fill it. This will help give the beans a good start. Once you have demolished the contents of a Quality

Street Christmas gift, compost their wrappers as well. They are now made of cellulose from wood pulp and will quickly rot down.

If and when we get some hard frosts, remember to keep off the grass, to prevent damage.

Our feathered friends may need help. Disinfect feeders, and please keep them supplied with suitable food and if need be, water.

Finally, cold days and dark evenings mean one thing, a relaxing time with a seed catalogue ready for next year.



Happy gardening and an enjoyable Christmas.



Robin

Shere Surgery & Dispensary

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Shere Surgery. We're getting into the spirit, and now with the autumn covid & flu vaccine campaign complete (and over 2200 vaccinations delivered) we are getting back to our usual provision of weekday and Saturday clinics. We apologise that there has been a longer wait than usual for some of our specialist Saturday clinics, such as minor surgery & coil fittings; these had to be put on hold for the vaccination campaign.

We are delighted to introduce our new Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Sophie Parker. Sophie is a very experienced nurse and advanced practitioner and will be working alongside our team of doctors, seeing patients with urgent medical problems. Sophie will also be involved in managing patients with chronic disease and has a passion for respiratory medicine (e.g. asthma & COPD).

December is a time when doctors-in-training rotate jobs. We say a very fond farewell to Dr Seehan Hannan who has been a fantastic asset to the surgery. He has moved on to continue his training to become a cardiologist. We welcome Dr Smar who is training to be a surgeon and will be with us for 4 months to experience general practice. “We also welcome back our GP trainee Dr Hannah Katmeh. She has just undertaken a rotation at Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and is looking forward to getting stuck back into general practice at Shere.

We would like to say a big thank you to SALV for funding membership to Red Whale Knowledge for our doctors. The field of medicine is always changing and evolving, and it can be a challenge (and very time consuming) to stay up to date with every new development. Having access to this online education platform readily enables us to read the most up to date evidence and guidelines that support our practice. The feedback from all our doctors is that this membership has been very valuable. Thank you SALV!

Christmas and New Year is always a busy time at the surgery, and particularly in dispensary. Please ensure you request your prescriptions in good time, as this will really help our dispensary team to manage demand. Our opening hours of the holiday period are as follows:

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve): open*

25th – 28th December: closed

29th – 31st December: open*

Thursday 1st January: closed

Friday 2nd January: open*

Saturday 3rd January: open 9.00am - 11.30am (for dispensary)

*Usual opening hours (8.30am-6.30pm)

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year.

Helen Barnes, on behalf of the whole team at Shere Surgery

SALV AGM

The many people who came to the AGM and Autumn Open Evening of the Shere and Local Villages Health Trust were treated to exciting news on the development of the Graham Tyrrell Wing, the proposed extension to Shere Surgery. Adrian O'Loughlin, SALV Chairman, reported that planning consent had just been given for the new wing, which is to be at the eastern end of the present Surgery building, parallel with Gomshall Lane. It will have four new consulting rooms together with a small waiting area and a toilet and will help hugely with easing the space pressures for the doctors and ancillary staff who are now struggling to cope with a patient list approaching 9,000 (the original building was designed to handle a list of some 6,000). Adrian announced the formal launch of a campaign to raise £300,000 for the two-cabin extension, to cover the building and fitting-out costs as well as sympathetic landscaping. If all goes according to plan, it is hoped to start construction next spring.

Our impressive speaker was local orthopaedic consultant, Simon Thompson, who gave an excellent talk entitled *Do I Need a Knee Operation?* This was followed by a demonstration of how to keep our knees in peak condition by local physiotherapist and Pilates expert Helen Esplen.

Tim Austin

Update on Local Government Reorganisation



The government has concluded its review of Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey, deciding to proceed with a two-unitary council model. As of April 2027, the county will be governed by two new authorities, East Surrey and West Surrey.

A transition to the new unitary councils will begin with elections for "shadow" authorities in May 2026. These elected representatives will oversee the setup of the new councils. The change will culminate on April 1st, 2027, when the new councils officially replace the 12 current councils, which will be dissolved on March 31, 2027.

There will be no immediate changes to how residents access services. Council offices and community spaces will remain open, and services will continue as usual.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/>

Answers to Christine's Puzzle on page 19		£	S	d
1. Stone		14	0	0
2. Penny-farthing				1 ¼
3. Bob			1	0
4. Tenor		10	0	0
5. Guinea		1	1	0
6. Tanner				6
7. Ape-knee				½
8. Three Far-things				¾
9. Half a knicker			10	0
10. Pound		1	0	0
11. Sick Squid		6	0	0
12. Crown			5	0

ANSWER IS

£32 17s 8 ½ d

Until 1971, British money was divided up into pounds, shillings and pence. One pound was divided into 20 shillings. One shilling was divided into 12 pennies.



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