

ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



MAY 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)

rev.virginia.j.smith@gmail.com

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)

sua1512@gmail.com

07779 726930

Village Pavilion (712009)

Parish News

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

Distribution: Kim Edwards (730809)

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

Abinger Organisations

Abinger Consolidated Charities: Kim Clark (07775 531912)

Church Choir: Lucy Harlow: lucyharlow@me.com

D&G Choir: Jess Brown (07936542411) danielthreec@aol.com

Fair Secretary: Liz Irvine: lizandkeithi@btinternet.com

Sports Club: Rob Dunn (01306 730320) robert.a.dunn@btinternet.com

Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)

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

SALV Rep for Abinger: Alyson Webber: alysonjwebber@aol.com

Good Neighbours (lifts): Jo Kelly (01483 205446 or 07900 302794)

Coldharbour Organisations

Surrey Hills Aikido Club 07931 714812

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



MAY

1st	Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
2nd	Spring Plant Sale, 10.30-12.30, Vale End, Albury
1st-4th	DGA exhibition Betchworth, opens at 10
2nd	Surrey Serenaders 10-12 at St James'
5th – 16th	Surrey Hills Music Festival
6th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
7th	LOCAL ELECTIONS
7th – 9th	Peaslake Players, 7.30
8th	Shere cinema, <i>Lee</i> , 7.30
9th	Surrey Day. See Kingfishers'.
9th	Organ recital St James', 3.30
10th	APCM at JV Hall, Coldharbour, 3.00
10th	75th Anniversary Dedication Day St James': 12.30 Village Day on the Green, 6pm Evensong.
13th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
14th	WI meeting, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
15th	Teddy Bears Picnic, Abinger Hammer, 4 - 8
16th	Coldharbour Fete, Memorial Ground, 2 - 5
16th	Surrey Serenaders 10-12 at St James'
17th	Shere cinema, <i>Song Sung Blue</i> , 7.30
20th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
23rd	Talk <i>Henry Woodyer</i> , St Andrews Church 10.30-noon
24th	APCM at St James' Abinger, 12 noon
27th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
30th	Benefice walk 9.30 from Christ Church Coldharbour

From the Editors

Firstly, an apology for missing off the services at Christ Church for April 26th in the last edition. And more apologies to some of you who received the special editions where the pages were in the wrong order!

Thank you again to Steve Belcher for the glorious picture of Spring blossom on our front cover.

Don't forget that Local elections are on May 7th.

Reflections from the Rectory

There is a lot going on in our world isn't there?

Sometimes it's hard to sustain our hope and sense of 'okayness'. I was struck, as so many were, with the recent space mission and particularly with the sense of unity that they expressed when looking back to earth.

As they looked down on their home planet from that great distance, the astronauts got the unique opportunity to experience what has been dubbed the "overview effect". Space philosopher Frank White coined the phrase in 1987, and astronauts for decades have described a similar feeling – the realisation that everyone back on Earth shares more in common than we realise. Borders and divisions aren't visible from space.

As Victor Glover said, "As we get close to the nearest point to the moon and farthest point from Earth, as we continue to unlock the mysteries of the cosmos, I would like to remind you of one of the most important mysteries there on Earth, and that's love."

"Christ said, in response to what was the greatest command, that it was to love God with all you are," said Glover. "And he also, being a great teacher, said the second is equal to it. And that is to love your neighbour as yourself."



With love, Rev'd Kia 😊

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

All are invited and welcome to attend the following APCM meetings:

Christ Church Coldharbour

Sunday 10th May at 3.00pm in the JV Hall, Coldharbour

St James' Abinger

Sunday 24th May at 12 noon in St. James' Church, Abinger

Rev'd Kia Pakenham will be chairing the meetings which will include the election of churchwardens, election of PCC members, review of the 2025 accounts and review and discussion of plans for the future.

Next Benefice Walk....

Sat 30th May

Starting from Christ Church Coldharbour at 9.30am prompt!

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



Village Coffee Mornings

SJ's café and repair café at St James' Abinger

Every Wednesday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am (ish!).

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

Coffee mornings in Coldharbour are on the first Friday of the month in the JV Hall. The next coffee morning will be on **Friday 1st May**.





THE COLDHARBOUR VILLAGE FETE



Saturday 16th May 2026
2pm-5pm

Coldharbour Memorial
Ground, RH5 6HF

Live music • Punch & Judy • Tug of war
Magic show • Raffle • Tombola • Auction of
promises • Face painting • Local produce & gifts
Plant sale • Fun games • Fun dog show • Bar
Tea & cakes • BBQ

Cash preferred please

Preparations for the Coldharbour Fete

Preparations are in full swing, and the stalls' list is finalised. The popular Auction of Promises is back this year. As usual, the Village Band will kick off the afternoon, with the Superstrings Trio playing around the other attractions of the Fun Dog Show, Punch and Judy, and the Magic Show. In addition to the children's staples, there's plenty to keep the adults entertained too with all the usual favourites: Gifts, Books, Plants and Produce, Bottle Tombola, Hay Bale Toss, Coconut Shy, Teas and cake, Fun Dog Show, Beer & Pimms, BBQ, ending in the highly competitive tug of war!

The Raffle promises to be a highlight again with the top prize of a £250 John Lewis/Waitrose voucher and other wonderful prizes including £150 cash, wireless earbuds, luxury bedding bundle and a £100 Teresa Weller Hair Art voucher.

As always, we need your help please. Are you free to lend a hand on a rota? The more set up and clear helpers we have, the quicker it is all done and the more enjoyment had. It is also a great way to get to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances, and we need the strength of the younger generation please! Setting up starts with putting up the marquee on Thursday 14th at 6 p.m., Friday 15th at the John Venus Hall at 10 a.m. for about an hour, and again at 2pm at the Memorial Ground. And help taking down on Saturday at the end of the Fete is just as important please. Also, during the afternoon please consider offering stallholders an extra pair of hands when queues are long.

Donations are also needed. Gifts for the gift stall, cakes for the teas and produce stall, bottles for the bottle tombola, books for the book stall, prizes for children, old crockery for those who love to smash it, and produce and plants for the produce stall please. Please keep carrier bags, cardboard boxes and ice cream containers to pass on to the plant/produce stall. We will let you know where to deliver it all nearer the time.

The fete has been generously supported by sponsors again – thank you to Gate-a-Mation, Meaby & Co, Capel Parish Council and The Plough; if you know of a local business that would like to sponsor, please let us know!

A quick reminder, **many stalls will be cash only** and as most of us don't have cash at home, it's a quick dash to the ATM please! We look forward to seeing you on 16th.

On behalf of the Fete Committee. Contact kemday@btinternet.com

Coldharbour Comforts - Pam's Recipes

Bake a cake for the fete using Pam's recipes. Her book will be on sale at the fete, but for inspiration beforehand there are copies in the church. A £2 donation to the church is suggested.

If you'd like a copy and can't get one from the church, please email Pam on Milehousecottages@gmail.com.



75TH ANNIVERSARY SAVE THE DATE to **CELEBRATE!**

It's been 75 years since St. James' Church was re-built and re-blessed following WWII bomb damage.

Saturday 9th May – 4.00 pm

in the Church

Refreshments from 3.30

Organ Duets played by David Hansell & Philip Drew
on our magnificent Nicholson organ

Music by Mozart, David Hansell and Gustav Merkel

Sunday May 10th

Join us on the Green from 12.30.

Bring your own picnic and bits and bobs.

There will be music from the fabulous Leith Hill Big Band and a BBQ.

Choral Evensong

in the Church – 6pm

Music by Stanford, Vaughan Williams & J S Bach

May in your Garden

March winds and April showers bring forth May's flowers. Well, that's as maybe, but the flowers not only need sun but water, especially if in baskets or pots.

Unfortunately, I have found that no matter what compost is used, the removal of peat means watering is needed far more frequently! However, a friend has reminded me that it is possible to remedy this by adding water gel crystals to the compost, which will hold moisture much longer. These are usually sold in packs in local nurseries near the hanging baskets. Usually, a teaspoonful to 5 litres of compost, and watered before using makes a lot of difference.

If you have not already done so, there is still time to divide snowdrops in the green. Large clumps of primroses also benefit from division, and watering in, well after splitting.



Greenhouses need airing on, hopefully, hot sunny days and watering the floor helps maintain humidity.

We can still get a late frost, so hold off planting out beans till the middle of the month. If you have had bulbs in pots, why not find a suitable spot, dig a large hole and just remove them all from the pot and drop them in. At least they won't dry out and be forgotten. In many instances flowering again next year.

My usual plea at this time of year. With fetes coming up, plant stalls will welcome all offerings, especially of more unusual plants. Not only may you find a bargain there as well, but plants tend to be sold for a fraction of the price you would pay at a nursery!

So, keep gardening!



Bring-and-buy Spring Plant Sale at Vale End, Albury - May 2nd

Albury Produce Association's annual bring-and-buy **Spring Plant Sale** is on **Saturday May 2** from 10.30-12.30 at Vale End, Chilworth Road, Albury GU5 9BE. Come and enjoy a delightful garden with friends while stocking up on a few good plants and treats – and please consider donating your extra seedlings and potted plants. Spring hamper raffle, cake stall and delicious cream teas available as always, with easy parking. **All donations of plants or baked treats gratefully received, including on the day** – any advance delivery queries to alburyproducesecretary@gmail.com - thank you.

Surrey Day 9TH May www.visitsurrey.com/surrey-day

The Kingfisher Farm Shop is taking part in these celebrations.

The Kingfisher Farm Shop in Abinger will also be celebrating their 55-year anniversary, and the Watercress Museum will be open, full of Farm Shop memorabilia and memories. Tours of the watercress beds will run from 11am and take about half an hour. (Please book via the Surrey Day page on the web site.) All the £5 ticket price will be donated to RABI - a national charity providing support to the farming community. Some of the best local producers will be there and from 10-2 there will be tastings and delicious treats to take home.

The Man Who Built Surrey's Churches: the architect Henry Woodyer Revealed, Saturday 23 May 10.30am–12 noon

A lecture at St Andrew's Church, Grafham, Guildford, by architectural historian Robin Stannar. Held at Woodyer's own church ahead of its much-needed restoration, the lecture will reveal the story behind its creation and the hidden splendour of its interior decoration. Tickets: £12 advance (£15 on the door), £8 SCPT members, £5 under 25s, or three for £30 in advance.

Book via www.ticketsource.co.uk (search "Woodyer"). All proceeds support the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust.



MUSIC

Surrey Serenaders will meet to sing at St James' in Abinger on **2nd May and 16th May and 6th and 27th June 10 - 12.**



MUSIC IN DORKING – MAY 2026 by Ian Codd

2nd at 12.00, organ recital at St Martin's church, free

16th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church

23rd at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, £16, 01372 275907

There are two orchestral concerts to enjoy in May. The Dorking Chamber Orchestra has a concert built around a pastoral theme. Under their conductor Marc Dooley they will play Beethoven's *Pastoral symphony* and Aaron Copland's *Down a country lane*, along with Charles Ives' third symphony. Their leader Guy Button will be the soloist in Beethoven's *Romance in F* for violin and orchestra.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashted, has a concert beginning with Schubert's lively *Overture in D, in the Italian style* and closing with Mendelssohn's equally lively *Italian symphony*. Also on the programme are Glazunov's concerto for saxophone and Tartini's concertino for clarinet, with soloist Nicola Baigent.

This month's lunchtime concert at St Martin's will be an organ recital given by Andrew Harrap. As well as being busy as a church organist, Andrew is also the rehearsal pianist for Godalming Operatic Society. The concert is free with a retiring collection.

5th - 16th May - Surrey Hills Music Festival

With chamber and vocal music, fascinating talks, a song recital and jazz quintet we are looking forward to bringing a huge variety of amazing music to the Surrey Hills between 5th and 16th May.

To view all details go to <https://tickets.shimf.co.uk/> - or contact Tracy Lees hello@shimf.co.uk if you're interested in getting involved.

**The Dorking Group of Artists Spring
Exhibition 2026 at Betchworth village hall
Friday May 1st – Sunday May 3rd 10:00 –
17:00, Monday May 4th 10:00 – 16:00**



The Dorking Group of Artists, probably the largest art group in Surrey and known for their artistic merit, return to Betchworth Village Hall for their ever-popular Spring Exhibition. Explore the range of affordable, professional quality, original art covering a wide range of subjects and styles. Entry is free. Why not make a day of it as there are plants, lunch, and cake to enjoy at Knights Garden Centre opposite? www.dorkingartists.com Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists

The Peaslake Players present 'Things I Know to be True'

From Thursday May 7th – Saturday May 9th, at Peaslake Memorial Hall.
Starts at 7.30pm.

Written by Andrew Bovell, this fascinating and deeply moving story explores, through the lives of the Price family, the powerful messages about love, identity and resilience.

Not to be missed - audiences will be talking about it all the way home!
Directed by Ted Horton and brought to life by a talented cast and crew from the Peaslake Players.

Box Office: www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk



Book now for films in May

SHERE VILLAGE CINEMA Ice Creams – the village hall now has a new freezer; we are serving ice-creams again. If you have bought ice cream tokens for any of our previous films, and haven't been able to use them yet, please bring them with you when you next visit.

A reminder - To sign up to our newsletter and/or to book tickets for future films please go to the website: www.sherevillagecinema.com. For those unable to access the internet, there may be some tickets for sale on the door.

All tickets, except where indicated, **cost £6/adult and £4/child. Please note this is the new price as from April.**

NB There will be no film on Sunday 21st June/Father's Day

Services at St James' Church, Abinger

- 3rd May** **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship) with
provision for children
Refreshments after the service
- 10th May** **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
6.00pm Special Dedication Festival Evensong
75th Anniversary Celebration Service of the re-
dedication of the church
- 17th May** **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
10.30am Pet Service (outside – weather permitting)
Refreshments after the service
- 24th May** **Pentecost**
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
- 31st May** **Trinity Sunday**
10.30am **Benefice Service at Christ Church Coldharbour**
Refreshments after the service



Easter Family Fun Day

On Bank Holiday Easter Monday we had all the fun at our Family Funday! The sun was shining, the BBQ was going, and we had over 30 children running around the churchyard on an Easter treasure hunt, making edible Easter gardens, cards and Easter baskets.

Put next year in your diary and join the fun.

Services at Christ Church, Coldharbour

3rd May 9.00am	The Fifth Sunday of Easter Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10th May 10.00am	The Sixth Sunday of Easter Second Sunday Service (Iona with communion) Refreshments after the service
17th May 9.00am 6.00pm	The Seventh Sunday of Easter Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Congregational Evensong
24th May 10.00am 6.00pm	Pentecost Parish Communion (Common Worship) Refreshments after the service Julian meeting Half of an hour of stillness with God
31st May 10.30am	Trinity Sunday Benefice Service Refreshments after the service

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 11th May 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!

Friday 8th May – Lee (Note different day, as hall closed for polling on Thursday 7th) - This is a partial biopic of the life of Lee Miller (Kate Winslet) the American model-turned-war photographer, who accompanied US forces through northwestern France and into Germany in 1944-45.

The film frames its story as an interview of Miller by a young man (Josh O'Connor) in 1977. Sequential flashbacks to Miller's life begin in 1938 and then follow. "Lee" depicts some of her dramatic experiences, which resulted in memorable photographs from battles, the capture of Berlin, and the death camps, often together with a Life magazine photographer, David Scherman (Andy Samberg).

Kate Winslet's performance was rated as "standout". A fascinating story of a great photographer.

Classification 15 (Running time is 1 hour 57 minutes). **Start time is: 7.30**

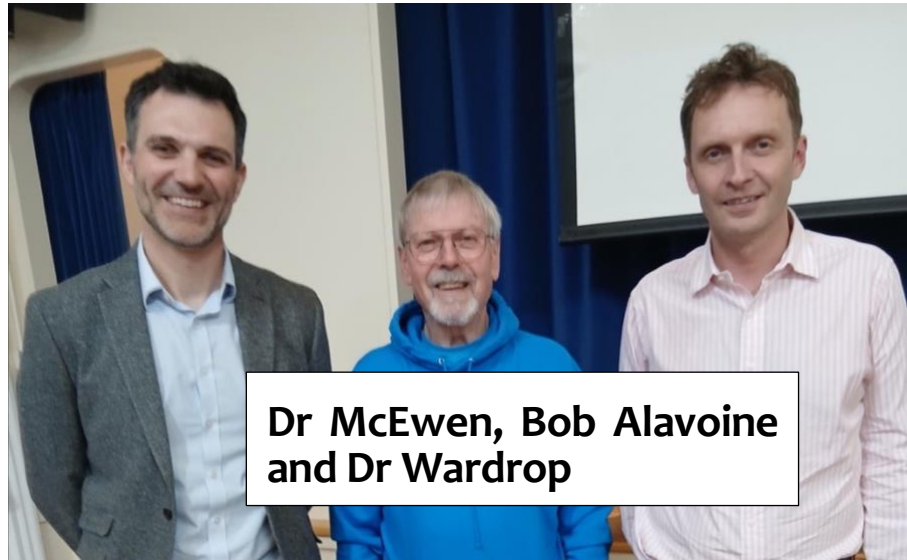


Sunday 17th May – Song Sung Blue – tells the “true-ish” story of Mike and Claire Sardina, a couple from Milwaukee who established a Neil Diamond tribute act. The couple meet at a state fair 'legends' night, where Mike (Hugh Jackman) has come as an Elvis impersonator and Claire (Kate Hudson) has come as Patsy Cline. However, there is already an Elvis tribute act, so Claire suggests that Mike perform as Neil Diamond, while she provides backing vocals. Together they form a real-life band called Lightning and Thunder and become a cult hit in their home state. However, things were not easy for them, and this film broods on how tough it is when the lightning of ill fortune strikes more than once. Jackman absolutely crushes it as a Neil Diamond impersonator, sounding and looking just like him. Hudson is also excellent, doing her own singing as Claire. This is an optimistic never-say-die story, and at its heart, it's a love story “beautifully told”. Classification 12A (Running time is 2 hours 13 minutes). **Start time is: 7.30**



SALV hears helpful messages about men's health

The latest of SALV's 'speciality' evening meetings drew an audience of around 80 to Shere (Village) Hall on March 25 to hear Shere Surgery's Dr Douglas Wardrop and Dr Marcus McEwen speak about Men's Health and common



Dr McEwen, Bob Alavoine and Dr Wardrop

problems affecting many of us chaps, especially as we grow older. A bonus was the inclusion of a third speaker, Bob Alavoine, whose focus was on men's mental health and the charity he represents, Mentell.

It was a full-on, informative and reassuring session, frequently lifted by the quality of the speakers and their warm, witty and no-holds-barred delivery. Dr Wardrop was not shy in showing us graphic illustrations of the prostate as he ranged across the whole topic of urology, including some fruity anecdotes about the Hollywood legend Errol Flynn as well as more serious analysis of erectile dysfunction, benign prostate hyperplasia, Viagra, the much-discussed PSA test and of course prostate cancer. As an overview of men's waterworks concerns, this could hardly have been bettered – and as always with our doctors at Shere Surgery, Dr Wardrop delivered a readily accessible and positive message.

He was followed in style by his colleague Dr McEwen, who covered the more generalised themes of lifestyle, fitness, diet and exercise/sport – or, as he described it, 'doing the less exciting part of the talk'. Sleep patterns, blood pressure and alcohol consumption were reviewed and – given the universal acknowledgement nowadays that smoking can frequently be a killer – there was still one 'magic treatment', Dr McEwen asserted. That could be summed up in one word – exercise. The key here is to find something that you enjoy doing because even small amounts of exercise at any age will bring huge benefits.

In retirement it is equally important to keep active, both physically and mentally. We need to use our skills acquired over a lifetime, to keep up or explore new hobbies, to have a busy social life wherever possible,

perhaps get involved in volunteering, charity and community work and to participate vigorously in family life, especially with grandchildren and young people generally.

This emphasis on keeping the brain active and healthy was strongly reinforced by our third speaker, Bob Alavoine, who at 75 finds himself in a new role as a lead facilitator for Mentell, a charity with its roots in the North West, the area of England with the highest rates of suicide among men. In 2023 Bob, who lives in Cranleigh, was devastated by the loss of his wife in hospital and he seriously contemplated suicide when he found himself alone at home without her. But he was put in touch with Mentell and is now one of its leading ambassadors in the South of England. The group encourages men in similar situations to meet and simply to talk together about their problems and feelings; sessions are never judgmental, as ordinary men listen to other ordinary men talking about divorce, bereavement, work or financial difficulties. “We just listen and, my God, we realise we’re not alone with our problems,” he says.

If any reader of this article would like to get in touch for help, just visit the website, www.mentell.org.uk - and you’ll be well on the way to finding invaluable support.

Another great SALV evening and our thanks to all concerned for making it so. *Tim Austin*

D DAY and COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT QRMW SAT 6TH JUNE

We have three local clergy joining in the service marking the 12th anniversary of the opening of the Quick Response Memorial Woodland when the families of five Veterans will be honouring their loved ones and we would be delighted if local residents will join us too.

It is, of course, also the Anniversary of D Day and this will be celebrated with a fantastic set of songs. We have many people to thank for their help in making this day special - including the Headmaster from Leith Hill School who has offered to ferry people, who have parked their cars in the school grounds, to and from the woodland.

Please come and bring some cash and enjoy the BBQ, the grand raffle, bottle tombola and other stalls. We have a licensed bar for the day and much more. Please arrive by 12.30 for our chairman’s welcome and prepare for an enjoyable and welcoming afternoon of remembrance. All monies raised go to assist our Veterans in need.

70th ABINGER MEDIEVAL FAIR, 13th JUNE

Saturday 13th June will be here before you know it! We would love it if you could join us this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the revival of The Abinger Medieval Fair. There will be all the usual stalls, giving you the opportunity to sip a drink, purchase some jewellery, eat a delicious cake, stock up on jams or buy a plant for your garden. Then there are all the stalls offering you the chance to show off your prowess by splatting a rat, enduring the stocks and tossing the sheaf! There is always lots to do for the children as well, including Punch and Judy shows and children's races. The raffle is always a big attraction, offering some amazing prizes.

This year we have a £300 voucher to be spent at The Abinger Hatch, a Land Rover driving experience, bed and breakfast at Wotton House, £260 for a full service at Meadvale Garage, a year's family membership for one of our great local amenities, Abinger Tennis Club, and much, much more. We haven't even mentioned the entertainment in the main



arena yet, which this year will feature Invicta Medieval Combat, one of the UK's leading medieval armoured combat teams. We are delighted that they are taking time out from their busy schedule to take part in this year's 70th Abinger Medieval Fair.



There is the opportunity to buy your very own Abinger Fair polo shirt, which is available to buy in various sizes, for the bargain price of £15. The embroidery is all done

by The Grange Centre in Bookham who support adults with disabilities, helping them to live independent and fulfilling lives. You can pay by card, bank transfer or pay cash on collection and the details are given on the form. We have a limited supply, but we can order more if we have enough time before the fair for the embroidery to be completed. Use this QR code or you can follow this link to the form <https://forms.gle/ip282q9Ut921A5RR9>



The committee would be very grateful for any time you can spare to help with the fair set up and take down at the following times: Friday 12th June: 5pm meet on the green. Saturday 13th June: 7am meet on the green, breakfast provided. Saturday 13th June: 5pm meet on the green, beer on green for helpers

The stall holders would love your help with donations.

Cakes: We would be so grateful for contributions of cakes, cupcakes, biscuits and loaves, however small. Deliveries by **Friday 12th June** to either Rachel at Fir Cottage, RH5 6JL, or Kim at 32 Evelyn Cottages or Rachel can collect. Contact Rachel on: rachel_podolier@hotmail.com, Tel 01306 731506 or 07934 707779.

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

Rag Tag & Bobtail: We would like any Jewellery, Handbags, Gloves, Scarfs, Hats, Accessories, Soft Toys or Gift Sets. All items can be used but must be in GOOD CONDITION please. Items can be dropped off to Jacqui or left at White Elephant collection (info above). Jacqui Clemson Tel. 730279, jc@barkerhart.co.uk.

Plants: If you have plants or garden related items, call Hilly Bradley on 730292.

Tombola: Sonia & Maidens will be on their collection rounds from the last week of May to 14th June. Donations of alcohol gratefully received. Or leave donations on 3 Evelyn Cottage's doorstep. Many thanks, Sonia and her Maidens.

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

Raffle: Please contact Liz Irvine, liz.irvine2206@gmail.com if you have anything you can donate.

Sweets: We'd love any donations of homemade sweets, e.g. fudge or coconut ice. Please get in contact with Catherine Russell, 07776230346.

Abinger Jammers: We would love jams, chutneys or cordials for the stall. Please also let me know if you have any fresh or frozen home-grown fruit or vegetables that you would be happy to donate to the kitchen pot! Contact Lucy on 07941 032744 or lucyharlow@me.com.

Pilgrims' Pottage would like donations of: Lotions & potions, soaps, candles, bath salts, lavender bags; Cards, bunting, material squares, dog bandanas; Festival hair bands, kids medieval dressing-up, handmade hair accessories; Handmade gifts & cards. Please contact Hilary Swift: hilaryswift@btinternet.com.



Family Activities at Dorking Library: Local Community History Month: Can you put the objects from the museum in age order? Can you guess what the mystery items were used for? Sat 16th May 10am-noon.

Abinger Nursery



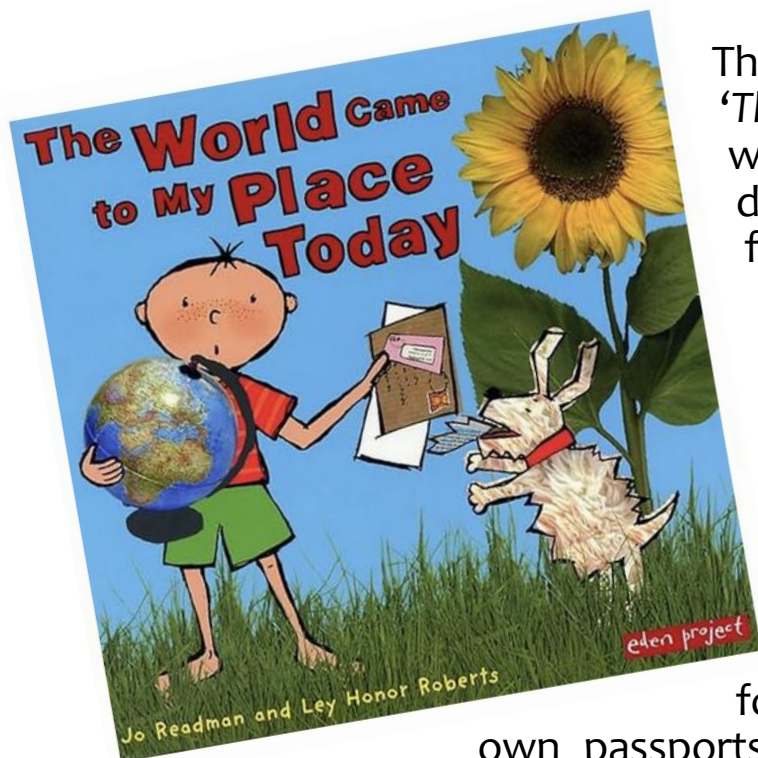
We'd like to start by saying a big thank you to all of you who supported our wonderful bake off by baking, buying or just being there! It was once again a lovely day, and we raised an incredible £352 for the nursery! Now pass us another Easter Egg.....

One Wednesday afternoon a very fluffy visitor trotted in very confidently behind his farmer friend and we were all extremely excited to be able to say hello! We

were delighted to be nudged and nuzzled by Nobby the lamb! There were smiles all round as we had a little play together and gave him some milk from a bottle. What a treat!

Where we are in Abinger means there are lots of places for us to explore when we go for a forest school wander. When the weather has been kind, we like to take a mosey through the gates at the back of the church along the winding path, past the motte and bailey mound (that's right,

an old castle) and then into the freedom of the field. And in that field is the BIG STONE! This is no ordinary stone. This is big enough for us to climb on and then safely launch ourselves off. We could do this allllllllllll day! (Just for clarity – we don't!).



There is a rather lovely book called 'The world came to my place today' which we read and learnt where different types of foods come from and how they get to us.

In the summer term we will be heading back to our veggie patch at the Hatch where our carbon footprint is miniscule and the digging opportunities endless!

We did however also travel further afield (just as our food does) as we created our

own passports with very strict drawings to identify us (!) and then hopped aboard our self-built plane in the nursery garden. Piloted by many.

If you would like to join our nursery family, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we still have spaces for an immediate start or September.

We are holding two open days in May – 12th & 14th from 1pm to 2pm so you can see just what nursery life is like.

We will also be at the Teddy Bears Picnic if you'd like to have a chat! For more information call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com

We can't wait to meet you and show you around!





SURREY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school community came together for our annual Easter bonnet parade. The children were immensely proud of their bonnets and walked around the playground to claps and cheers. As always, a big thank you to the parents for helping their children make such beautiful and imaginative creations!

Last term

Bees were very lucky to have a special four-legged visitor. Mrs Osbourne kindly brought in a newborn lamb who was being bottle-fed.



Fun Fact: - The practice of naming lambs with different letters each year is a common tradition in sheep farming. This system helps to keep track of the lambs' birth years and can be a fun way to celebrate the new lambing season. This year the letter is 'N'.

Butterflies Year 1 & 2 have really enjoyed making puppets, investigating different ways of joining felt-using glue, safety pins or staples. It was great fun. Year 2 even wrote a story with their puppet lost in a toy museum!

Hedgehogs visited Ancient Buster Farm to bring their history learning to life and enjoyed experiencing what a Bronze Age house would be like – dark and

smoky! Hedgehogs even got to experience what a Roman toilet would look like – they were not so keen on having these at school!

As part of our school project with Surrey Wildlife, years 3, 4 and 5 have been busy bringing our action plans to life, planting over 50 trees to create a hedgerow around the outside of the field. Alongside planting, they created two wild meadow patches on the field. All the plants have been watered, and we are excited to see them flourishing. Hedgehogs and Otters proudly delivered an assembly to the rest of the school about our school plans and how everyone can help to look after our new plants.

Year 6, Owls, have been extremely busy. As well as getting ready for the KS2 SATs, they had a workshop with St. John's Ambulance. This session instructed them in basic first aid and gave them the opportunity to practice the skills and techniques.

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. We all came to school in our pyjamas and brought in our favourite bedtime stories to share. The book swap was a great success; all the children were keen to start reading their new books as soon as possible! Going to a different class



to share a story with the younger children was also popular and all classes are keen to set this up on a regular rota which will be timetabled going forward.

DORKING MUSEUM IN MAY

A New exhibition:
'Dorking: Cycling Capital
of England': Opens on
Thursday 14th May.



WI Report

At our April meeting we had a speaker from Shere, Mike Keeble, who told us about his experience of hosting a family from Ukraine. The family consisted of a pregnant mother (which was a surprise!) and her son. A nearby couple took in a similar size family, none of whom spoke any English. (No fathers came as they were needed back in Ukraine.) The local Council made thorough checks of host families, and an attempt was made to roughly match backgrounds. Hosts had to commit to a six month stay.

Travelling here was complicated for them as there were no flights from war-torn Ukraine and help was needed to complete the visa applications, but they finally arrived. Each family only brought one 10 kilo bag; apparently, they were only expecting to stay for a week!

The first task was to equip them with clothing. Mike asked the local community to donate suitable clothing and from this the families found what they needed. Then doctor, dentist, school and the school bus had to be organised. Mike and his wife do not have children, so he described needing to step up to be Dad. When Shere had its Open Gardens week, Mike suggested that the Ukrainians provided traditional food and invited donations. (We were surprised to hear that there were 200 Ukrainians in Shere.) It was very successful: £1400 was raised with which medical supplies were bought and driven to Ukraine via a link with the Scouts. At Christmas there was a party for them with generously donated food, presents for the children and blue and yellow cupcakes. Mike was Father Christmas.

The rest of the talk was devoted to Mike's amazing initiatives leading to a whole range of things which were collected and sent to Ukraine under the heading of Ukraine Mission: mini-buses that could take stretchers, portable refrigerators for blood, (lifesavers for front line troops) other medical supplies, hospital beds, blood transfusion pumps, Ulez vehicles, the list was huge. St. Peter's Hospital donated redundant equipment, the Duke of Kent school donated two minibuses, and auctions raised £8,500. Mike even organised the importing and sale of Ukrainian beers to raise money. His initiatives, commitment and success were impressive, and the talk was warmly received, followed by an excellent tea provided by Anne Henderson, Sue Hancock and Sheila Sturge.

Next meeting May 14th: *Gertrude Jekyll*, with a fundraising Ploughman's Lunch at one o'clock followed by usual meeting at Wotton Hall.
Pat O'Brien

The John Venus Hall

Following Piers Cooke's 'Memories of Coldharbour' article in the March issue, Martin Richards has sent us photographs and more information about the history of the John Venus Hall.



The old Victorian Church Room, built in 1893, was a wooden structure with a corrugated iron exterior. In the early 1980s a group on a youth training scheme came to undertake some improvements, but found it badly affected by dry rot and it was condemned.

It was replaced with the present building which, in 1993 was renamed the John Venus Hall to commemorate the much-loved vicar, Rev John Venus, who died that year. The Hall was designed by the late John Malyan MBE and was built by Bruno Gunther - who remembers that wood worm infestation rather than fire was the reason the old timber and corrugated steel structure was condemned. Mr Gunther still advertises in the PN and cleans the Christ Church gutters.

We thank Mary Hustings for the following information.

From a letter by the Rev Rooker, we learn that the hall was originally built as 'The Village Institute' for the village by Frederick Pennington of Broome Hall on his land, near Japonica Cottage in 1885. In 1897, it was given to the church and moved to its current site.

The booklet *A Surrey Village Coldharbour* was written by Bill Smith in 1985 and the proceeds from its sale were given for 'A New Church Room'. From the dedication in the book, we learn that in 1885 the 'Iron Room known as The Institute was erected at 'Rowemount'. It was gifted to the Vicar in 1897 for use as a church room and moved to its present site ('once used for stabling horses') in 1898, having been reopened and improved by local labour and local subscriptions.

We would love to hear any other memories of past life in the villages.

Directory of Local Businesses

Animal Care		
The Mutt Hut – dog grooming.	07760 162661	
The House Vet	01483 272999	info@rowlyhousevet.net
Art		
Austin Art	07760 222921	clive@austin.art
Beauty		
Peaslake Beauty Room.	01306 731182	pamperyourself@thepeaslakebeautyroom.co.uk
Builders etc.		
B A Gunther	01306 628291	
Dorking Glass	01306 882971	
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
Matt Flynn – Carpentry, Handyman	07805 456027	matt@thecarpentryhandyman.co.uk
Ohwo Lund Carpentry	07462 810126	owohlundcarpentry@gmail.com
Neil Martin General, Conservation & Historic Carpentry	07411 337600	housemartinoak@gmail.com
Cars		
Service, repairs, MOTs, Car Sales, Part Exchange	Dave Mir 07736 912751	Dave@Mir-Tech.co.uk Neil Howey 07956 391804 neilhowey@gmail.com
Charities		
Abinger Consolidated Charities		kimclark50@gmail.com
Chimneys		
Joe Lund (sweep)	07930 507115	and 01243 583430
Computers		
WMF-IT consultants	01306 731253	sales@wmf-it.co.uk
Decorators		
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418	www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
Electricians		
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996	phase.surrey@gmail.com
Fencing		
RB Fencing	01306 640143	01483 414745 info@rbfencingltd.co.uk
Finance		
Porter & Co	01306 644695	admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
Bullimores	01306 880880	partners@bullimores.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 Trees & Vegetation Management	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
SJH Garden Services	07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk
Steve Heath Gardening	07761 5123791
Heating, Plumbing	
Senergy Heating	01306 302085 www.senergyheating.co.uk
UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
Jobs in Care	
Home Instead Epsom & Mole Valley	01372 741544 Maggie.adenmosun@homeinstead.co.uk
Pest Control	
Emwood	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
Piano Tuning	
Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
Printing	
Barkers, Dorking	01306 888858 rob@barkerprint.co.uk
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
Sport & Fitness	
Abinger Sports Club	07774 773993 charlieye2020@gmail.com
The Albury Gym	01483 347059 info@thealburygym.co.uk
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
Wellbeing	
Nicola MacDonald Adult Courses, workshops, events	Nicola.mcdonald.ppc@gmail.com
Lesley C - Reflexology Health coach	mrs.zocher@gmail.com 07414 862 361 07811 384402
Jodechi Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching	07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com
Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	internitylife@pm.me 07919 102332 http://internity.life
Skybound Pole & Aerial Studio	info@skyboundaerialstudios.co.uk



You are warmly invited to a
COMMUNITY LUNCH
Sunday 7th June at the Evelyn Hall
From 12 noon to 2.30pm
£5 per person – under 18s free
Everyone welcome
SEASONAL MENU -DONATIONS BAR
Limited to 50 places
Please book your seat and give dietary requirements by
emailing parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org
or call 01306 737160



NEXT ISSUE:
June 2026
Closes 1pm
Tuesday MAY 19th
abingerpn@gmail.com