

**ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR**

# Parish News



**JUNE 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)  
suaj1512@gmail.com  
07779 726930  
Village Pavilion (712009)

### Parish News

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### Abinger Organisations

Abinger Consolidated Charities: Kim Clark (07775 531912)

Church Choir: Lucy Harlow: lucyharlow@me.com

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

Fair Secretary: Liz Irvine: lizandkeithi@btinternet.com

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

Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)

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

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

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

### Coldharbour Organisations

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: Kelly Frost 01306 881136

Shere School Head: Victoria Beattie head@shere.surrey.sch.uk

# EVENTS



## June

- 4th WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
- 4th Shere Cinema, *The Roses*, 7.30
- 5th Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
- 3rd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 6th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 6th QRMW Celebration, 12.45
- 6th Coldharbour Progressive Supper
- 7th Abinger Community Lunch, Ev Hall, 12 pm
- 10th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 13th Abinger Medieval Fair, 2pm
- 15th Shere Cinema, *On a Clear Day*, 7.30
- 17th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 24th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 27th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12

## July

- 1st SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 2nd WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
- 2nd Shere Cinema, *The Choral*, 7.30
- 3rd Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall 10.30-11.30
- 4th American Tapestry concert, St James', 7.30
- 10th Softball on the Green, 5.30
- 12th Abinger Hammer Celebrations

## From the Editors

1926 was quite a year- so 2026 is a real year for celebrations! Queen Elizabeth II would have celebrated her hundredth birthday as would Eric Morecombe. The wonderful David Attenborough has just become 100 and our own Don Bradley will also be 100 this year (more in the next edition). 1926 was also the year Abinger Hammer Village Hall was opened (see page 29) and it happens to be the year when the great 20th century philosopher Winnie the Pooh was born! Hence the occasional appearance of Winnie the Pooh in this month's Parish News.

Liz and Jenny

## Reflections from the Rectory

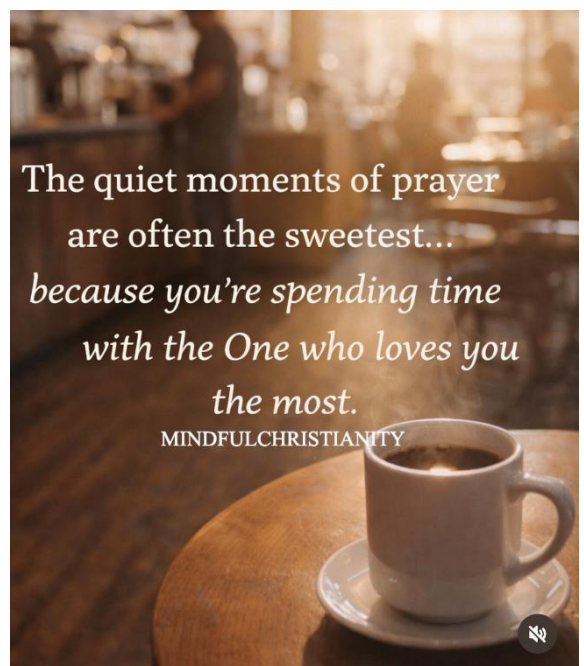
In the church calendar we are entering what is known as 'ordinary time'. This is the period from Pentecost (May) until the beginning of Advent (November) which is between 33 and 34 weeks! That's a whole lot of time to be 'ordinary'!

Far from meaning "mundane" or "routine", the word "ordinary" does not mean routine or plain. It refers to the ordinal numbers used to count the weeks (e.g., the First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Second Sunday, etc.). When you come into church you will notice that the Altar frontal is green, which is the colour assigned to this season which symbolizes life, growth, and the maturation of faith.

What, I hear you ask, is the Spiritual significance of this time?!

Well, rather than preparing for a specific event (like Christmas or Easter), Christians focus on spiritual formation and exploring the fullness of Christ's life and ministry.

And so the season encourages us to find God in the ordinary moments of our daily lives; over that cup of coffee with friends, in walking the dog in the beautiful Surrey Hills or even whilst doing the dishes! As we begin this 'ordinary' time together I pray you find some glimpses of God's extraordinary love for you and that your experience may be far more than ordinary!



With love, Rev'd Kia ☺

## 75 years since the re-consecration of St James



Abinger Church was largely destroyed by a flying bomb on 3rd August 1944. Portions of the North and South walls of the nave, with the three-light 13th century window and the round-headed single light next to it, were left intact. The roofs of the Church and lych-gate were blown off. The walls of the rest of the Church remained standing, but most of the furnishings, font, pews, organ, etc., were badly damaged or destroyed. Much fundraising was done and the church was rebuilt and re-consecrated in a service on 12th May 1951.

We celebrated this with an organ recital on 9th May and a special Evensong on the 10th. Sadly the Sunday was cold and wet so the picnic, BBQ and Coldharbour Swing Band on the green had to be cancelled.

The picture shows organists David Hansell and Philip Drew at the wonderfully restored organ.

See <https://www.stjameschurchabinger.org/consecration1951/>

## St James Choral Evensong on June 14th

On the day after the Fair, Evensong at 6pm will include an outstanding anthem by Benjamin Britten, 2026 being the 50th anniversary of his death. The choir will sing part of his cantata Rejoice in the Lamb, which sets a vivid text by the 18th century poet Christopher Smart. Associate Rector Roy Woodhams will play the exciting organ accompaniment.

The service will also include canticle settings by Richard Shephard and Grayston Ives, traditional hymns and organ music by Britten and Buxtehude.

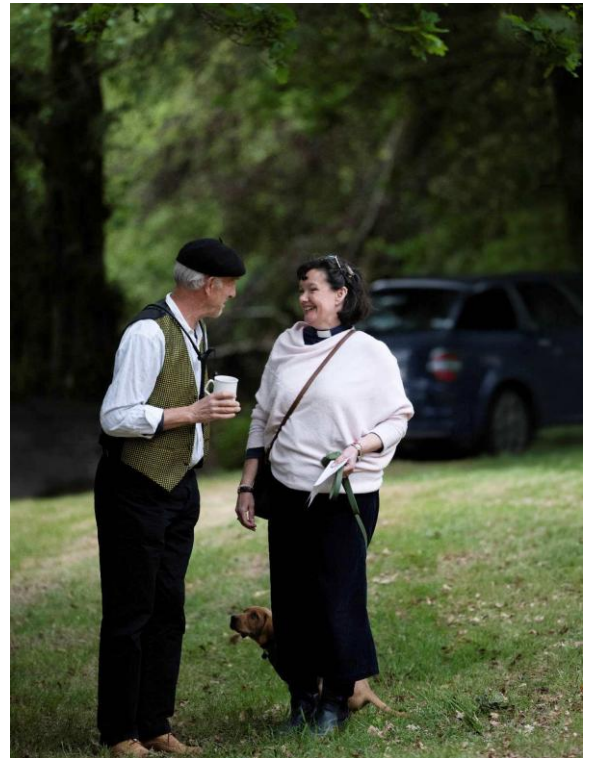
This picture is Britten on the beach near his home in Aldeburgh, Suffolk.



# The Coldharbour Fete

## What a wonderful day!

With the stalls set up, awaiting their first customers, eyes were on the dark skies as the threat of rain hung over Coldharbour's Memorial Ground - the afternoon's forecast not exactly getting people reaching for sun hats and Factor 50. The Rev'd Kia Pakenham officially opened the fete and the Coldharbour Village Band struck up. Any concerns over whether the grey skies would deter visitors were quickly dismissed. Visitors started streaming into the fete, music from The Superstrings Trio, joined by former village resident and superb



saxophonist, Al Stewart rang around the grounds, and the BBQ and the Beer and Pimms stand started doing a roaring trade. For those wanting a more relaxed setting, the helpers in the village church worked flat out

all afternoon, providing kindly donated refreshments and a welcome rest in the beautiful tranquil setting of the church and the churchyard.



Visitors to the church were not only tempted by a delicious array of cakes but also a wonderful display

of paintings created by the Coldharbour Painters, a group of highly talented local artists comprising Sue Hamilton-Skerritt, Helen Roberts, Patsy Simpson, Caroline Sack and Ray White. Four paintings were kindly donated for sale with proceeds going to the Fete funds and we are now all looking forward to seeing next year's display.

The traditional dog show transformed the centre of the grounds into canine mayhem for a while, with owners and dogs of all shapes and sizes vying for a range of awards, some possibly not seen at Crufts! Then the Auction of



Promises featured over thirty generous donations from local businesses and residents, with proceeds being equally split between Christ Church and the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Another traditional feature brought the Fete to an end – the spirited children’s tug-of-war followed by the adults’ vigorous version. There was no doubt that these were both serious competitions!



The end-result was a fantastic record day for both visitors and funds raised despite the sun not putting in an appearance. As always there is a long list of volunteers who made the afternoon possible before, during and after the day. Special mention must be made of the National Trust, the Fete sponsors – Gate-A-Mation, Meaby & Co, The Plough Inn and Capel Parish Council. And to the indefatigable and very persuasive Fete organiser, Kerry Day, Auction of Promises organiser Penny Darbyshire, MC Jo Chaytor and Coldharbour Village Band leader, Debby Chapman. Thank you to everyone who made it yet another classic Coldharbour day!

*Gaye and Peter Tindall*



## Abinger Fair - Saturday 13th June

Not long now until you will be able to join us for the 70th Anniversary celebrations of the revival of the Abinger Medieval Fair. As always there will be lots to enjoy with delicious food and drink on offer and plenty of entertainment.

This year, in the main arena, will be the men of Invicta Medieval Combat battling it out in suits of armour. Reports on their previous appearances suggest that we will be in for an amazing spectacle. Between shows the Invicta men will be happy to chat to you and answer

any questions.

On top of this, there are all the side stalls and activities including jewellery, books, puzzles, preserves, plants, splat the rat and much, much more.

We have some fantastic raffle prizes to give away this year including a £300 Abinger Hatch voucher, a £200 travel voucher, a Land Rover driving experience and a year's free family membership to the Abinger Tennis Club. See the full list on the next page.

On top of all this, there is the opportunity to buy your very own Abinger Fair polo shirt and a special 70th Anniversary commemorative tea towel on fair day at the Pilgrims' Pottage stall.



Polo Shirt

You can pre-order your shirts via <https://forms.gle/ip282q9Ut921A5RR9>, to go to a simple order form, or you can use this QR code. The embroidered polo shirts are £15 each and all profits will go to the fair. You can pay by card, bank transfer or pay cash on collection, all details on the form.

Tea Towel Design



### Need a costume for the day?

Costumes can be collected from Kim Edwards, 32 Evelyn Cottages, from Saturday 30th May until fair day. You can just pop in or call on 07495014420 if you would like to make an appointment. Apparently she has some fantastic new men's costumes this year!



**The stall holders would love your help with donations so please get in touch with them if you have anything you can help with:**

**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. You can contact Rachel as follows

Rachel\_podolier@hotmail.com 01306 731506 or 07934 707779

**White Elephant:** We'd love to have your unwanted treasures! No electrical items please. 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:** Please call Hilly Bradley on 730292 if you have any plants or garden related items.

**Tombola:** Sonia & Maidens will be on their collection rounds starting the last week of May leading up to 14th June. Donations of alcohol in any shape or form will be gratefully received. Alternatively, donations may be left on number 3 Evelyn Cottage's doorstep. Many thanks, Sonia and her Maidens.

**Books:** Victoria Edwards is running the book stall and would like books to be donated to the porch of St James' the week before the fair. No magazines, brochures or damaged books please. Contact Victoria on 730809.

**Raffle:** Please contact Liz Irvine, liz.irvine2206@gmail.com if you have anything that you are able to donate.

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

**Abinger Jammers:** We would love any donations of 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! Please contact Lucy on 07941 032744 or lucyharlow@me.com.

**Pilgrims' Pottage:** We would like donations of · Lotions & potions, soaps, candles, bath salts, lavender bags · Cards, bunting, material squares, dog bandanas · Festival hair bands, kids mediaeval dressing-up, handmade hair accessories · Handmade gifts & cards.

Please contact Hilary Swift hilaryswift@btinternet.com

**The committee would also 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

We look forward to seeing you there at this historic 70th anniversary event!

*Liz Irvine, Fair Secretary*

## OTHER EVENTS IN JUNE AND JULY

### Saturday 6th June at 12.45 QRMW celebration



Celebration of the 12th Anniversary since the Memorial Woodland in Pasturewood Road was officially opened. It also marks D Day.

Parking is at Leith Hill School with a shuttle bus. Music from The Redhill Corp of Drums and Band and a Commemoration Service when families will honour their loved ones by planting a sapling and saying a few words. Prayers will be led by Rev Roy Woodhams, Rev Virginia Smith and Deacon James Snyder. 1940s songs from a local performer. BBQ, bar, stalls with a Grand Raffle, a bottle tombola and cakes and sweets plus much more. Do bring some cash with you as cards do not always work in the woodland. A day of celebration of life and the opportunity to get together on a lovely Summers Day. All proceeds from monies raised will go into the Memorial Fund to assist Veterans in times of need.

### Wednesday 8th July – Shakespeare in Coldharbour

The fabulous Festival Players will be returning to Coldharbour Cricket Ground on **Wednesday 8th July at 7.30 pm**. Having entertained audiences over previous years with many Shakespeare favourites, this year the merry band will be performing '**A Comedy of Errors**'.

One of Shakespeare's earliest and most farcical plays, it's woven around the mistaken identities of two sets of identical twins and the confusion that follows!

The Cricket Ground opens at 6pm for picnics. Tickets, pies and parking can be ordered on the Eventbrite link below.

Thank you! [suesmith63@hotmail.com](mailto:suesmith63@hotmail.com)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/open-air-shakespeare-tickets-1986241375422?aff=oddttdtcreator>



# MUSIC

## Holmbury Choral - An American Tapestry

Saturday 4 July 2026 7:30 pm, St James' Church, Abinger



An American Tapestry explores the breadth of American choral music, from spirituals and modern classics to bold experimental voices. Moving between stillness and energy, intimacy and scale, Holmbury Choral weaves together works by Bernstein, Whitacre, Shaw, Reich, Hagenberg, Simon and Garfunkel and others in a vivid Summer concert, tracing themes of nature, silence, and belonging. This will be the last concert conducted by our wonderful conductor Cole Bendall.

Tickets £20 – to include our usual delicious refreshments after the concert in the summer evening sunshine. Under 19's are free.

For tickets go to <https://holmburychoral.org/> or ask a member of the choir.

## Music in Dorking – June 2026, by Ian Codd

**6th** at 12.00, **lunchtime concert** at St Martin's church, free

**13th** at 4.00, **Ladybirds Choir**, United Reformed Church Hall, £8, 01372 878321

**20th** at 10am-4pm, **Capel Choral Society** workshop at Capel Memorial Hall, £25, 07866 399231

**27th** at 7.30, **Dorking Philharmonia** at St Martin's church

**27th** at 7.30, **VW Singers** at Pippbrook House, £20, 01306 881717

**28th** at 3.00, **Beare Green & Newdigate Choral Society** at Beare Green village hall, £10

**The Ladybirds Choir**, directed by Helena Twentyman, has its summer concert with a theme this year of 'Transport'. Among the many songs included in the programme, you can hear *Chattanooga choo choo*, *Fly me*

to the moon, *Take me home country road*, and *A bicycle made for two*. The concert will be raising funds for SERV, a charity which supports the NHS by transporting blood, samples and medical supplies.

On June 20th **Capel Choral Society** has a full-day singing workshop led by Amy Bebbington. An inspiring and uplifting day will include music by Britten, Finzi and others. Tea and coffee will be provided, but bring your own lunch! Also, **Beare Green & Newdigate Choral Society** is holding its summer concert. A ticket includes tea and cake!

While the Dorking Halls is closed for essential refurbishment, there is a great programme of events at the newly restored Pippbrook House, just across the road. The **Vaughan Williams Singers**, an excellent small local choir directed by Ian Assersohn, will be performing a concert of British choral gems. Alongside music by Hubert Parry, Charles Stanford, John Ireland and others, you will also be able to hear Ralph Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* in a choral arrangement, with violinist Emma Purslow.

The **Dorking Philharmonia's** concert will include Max Bruch's lovely violin concerto no.1, played by soloist Joshua Hugo von Bohlen. The programme also includes Beethoven's first Leonore overture and music by Dvorak. And finally, the **lunchtime concert** at St Martin's church will be a programme of music given by Elizabeth Dobson and Friends.

## OTHER CONCERTS

**Brockham Choral's Summer Concert 'Songs of Love' is on 6th June** at 7.30 in the United Reformed Church Hall, West St, Dorking, RH4 1BS. An evening of joyful music in a relaxed picnic environment. Doors open at 6.30 pm. Bring your own food, drinks and friends. Brahms "Liebeslieder Waltzes", Rutter "Sprig of Thyme" and classic popular songs will get you "In the Mood". Tickets: £16.00 no concessions  
<https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral>.

More information: [www.brockhamchoral.org](http://www.brockhamchoral.org)

**The Surrey Hills Choirs** present their annual summer concert on **Sunday 28 June**, 7pm at St Nicolas Church, Guildford. This year features Vivaldi's Gloria with string quartet, oboe and trumpet, performed by both the Surrey Hills Singers and Chamber Choir to reflect its original female-led and mixed-voice contrasts. The programme also includes Karl Jenkins' *Adiemus* and *Benedictus*, plus folk songs, musical theatre pieces and works by Palestrina, Will Todd, Greg Gilpin and Bob Dylan. With previous concerts selling out, early booking is advised. Tickets available from 8 May at [singsurreyhills.com](http://singsurreyhills.com), £20 adults, £5 under-16s.



**SHERE  
VILLAGE  
CINEMA**

## Films in June and July

A reminder - To sign up to our newsletter and/or to book tickets for future films please go to the website: [www.sherevillagecinema.com](http://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. Start time is 7.30

**Thursday 4th June – *The Roses*** – is a fun and funny update of The War of the Roses from 36 years ago. Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers (he's an architect, she's a part-time culinary artist), they have a loving marriage and two great children. However, beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life in California, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites. An adult comedy that finds big laughs inside some all too familiar modern foibles. Classification 15 (Running time is 2 hours 1 minute).

**Monday 15th June - *On a Clear Day***. This 2005 film stars Peter Mullan as Frank, a lifelong boatyard worker whose unexpected lay-off forces him to deal with unresolved grief over a family tragedy years earlier, and life in a family he's largely ignored by working 12 hours a day, five days a week. After an anxiety attack finds him being treated for depression, the avid swimmer Frank comes up with the plan to swim the English Channel. "On a Clear Day" captured the BAFTA Scotland Award for "Best Film," and is a great view for those who can appreciate simple film-making that is both "feel good" and authentic. Classification PG-13 (Running time is 1 hour 38 minutes). Event Start time is 7pm. This is a fundraising event for Shere Swimming Pool, with a Paying Bar and activities.

**Thursday 2nd July - *The Choral*** - is a 'new' film by Alan Bennett, and directed by Nicholas Hytner. It is about men in a fictional Yorkshire town during the First World War who are variously too old or too young to fight, and the women who have to deal with the menfolk's repressed emotions and their own. The fictional Yorkshire town is upended by the arrival of Dr Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) who is to be the choirmaster, directing the music society's annual production. This is an unsentimental but deeply felt drama, where music itself mysteriously exalts and redeems the community. Classification 12A (Running time is 1 hour 53 minutes).

*Shere Village Cinema Team*

# Services at St James' Church, Abinger



- 7th June      The First Sunday after Trinity**  
10.30am      Parish Communion (Common Worship)  
with provision for children  
Refreshments after the service
- 14th June     The Second Sunday after Trinity**  
6.00pm      Choral Evensong (see page 9)
- 21st June     The Third Sunday after Trinity**  
10.30am     Father's Day - Special Service  
Refreshments after the service
- 28th June     The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.30am     Sideways Church  
New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter  
and conversation

## **SJ's and Repair Café 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.

# Services at Christ Church, Coldharbour



## **7th June The First Sunday after Trinity**

9.00am Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

## **14th June The Second Sunday after Trinity**

10.00am Second Sunday Service (Iona with communion)  
Refreshments after the service

## **21st June The Third Sunday after Trinity**

9.00am Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
6.00pm Congregational Evensong

## **28th June The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00am Parish Communion (Common Worship)  
Refreshments after the service

**Parish Office at Coldharbour** will take place on:

Monday 1st June and Monday 15th June 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!

# Abinger Hammer Village Celebrations in July

There will be bunting and balloons galore in Abinger Hammer on **Sunday 12 July** as we celebrate two very special occasions.

## Kingfisher Farm Shop 55 Year Anniversary – Party by the Pond

At noon we are holding our party round the pond to celebrate Kingfisher Farmshop's 55th Birthday. We'll be serving watercress picnics alongside complementary tea and cake, and the watercress museum will be open for a trip down memory lane. If you have any photographs or memories of Kingfisher Farm Shop that you would like to share with us, please get in touch as we'd love to see them.



## Abinger Hammer Village Hall Centenary Concert



At 3pm Abinger Hammer Village Hall is holding a special Centenary Celebration Concert to mark 100 years of serving the local community as a vibrant venue for gatherings, performances and events. The concert will honour the hall's musical heritage with a piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Mister Issac's Maggot, played using some of the instruments used at the hall's opening a century ago. The programme will feature a variety of performances from talented local musicians and the award-winning Holmbury Choral. Concert tickets are free and can be booked through the Kingfisher website: [www.kingfisherfarmshop.com/abinger-celebration](http://www.kingfisherfarmshop.com/abinger-celebration)

# A Great Big Celebration of Great Big Green Week – June 5-14th 2026

Circular Dorking is planning another week of celebrations and family-friendly fun in and around Dorking. In fact, with help from its enthusiastic collaborators and community partners, the team is determined to make this year's Great Big Green Week the biggest and greenest yet!

Starting early, there is a Picnics and Poems event at the Friends Meeting House and Garden, in Butter Hill, Dorking, on Sunday 31 May. Where better to celebrate nature and what the rest of GBGW has in store?

Hello Dorking is organising an exciting event

launching its new Dorking Art Trail on Friday 5 June, followed by Circular Dorking's flagship "Big Swap, Switch, Share" celebration, bringing the whole community together in St Martin's Walk, Dorking on Saturday 6 June, which coincides with the Dorking Day of Dance.

Dorking Repair Cafe, the Dorking Eco Hub, Dorking Library and Dorking Halls (at Pippbrook House) are all part of the action too. You can find details of all these events and more at [www.circulardorking.org.uk](http://www.circulardorking.org.uk). Just click on the What's On page under Events or scan the QR code.

Visitors to the Circular Dorking stall in St Martin's Walk on 6 June will learn about plans to create a Wildlife Corridor across Dorking which connects to its surrounding landscape. This map-based project highlights where people are giving space for nature in gardens, schools, balconies or even a planter. In line with Circular Dorking's #SmallStepsBigImpact ethos, all contributions to help increase the space for nature will mean that together we can achieve so much.

Get in touch with Circular Dorking via [hello@circulardorking.org.uk](mailto:hello@circulardorking.org.uk) to find out more.



## LOCAL PEOPLE

### Tim and Di Prideaux turn 80



Over the weekend of the 18th and 19th April Tim and Di celebrated their joint big birthdays with two parties at The Cottage - a lunch for family and friends and a tea party for their friends in the Village. Both were wonderful events and befitting celebrations for this incredible couple, including an appearance by the choir who filled the marquee with their brilliant renditions. The Grandchildren served beautifully and the 'Daughters and Daughters in law team' kept a steady stream of delicious goodies pouring out of the kitchen.

Di's parents moved to 'Mark Ash' on Abinger Lane 75 years ago; Ronald and Eleanor MacInnes were stalwarts of the Village (Abinger Common) and when Tim and Di took over the house in the early 80s, this dynamic duo carried on where Di's parents had left off. They have been based at 'The Cottage' since the mid 90's and still participate in so much, they encourage others to help and join in and open up their beautiful home for many village activities and events.

If I started a list of all the contributions this remarkable couple make, the committees they support, the national charities they physically



contribute to and the roles they have performed over the years for us in Abinger - there would not be enough pages in this edition of the Parish Mag. The biggest thing of note about Tim and Di is that they show such great friendship to so many of us. They are kind and supportive and really do sum up what it means to contribute to our community.

HAPPY EIGHTIETH Tim and Di – we think the world of you.

*Katie Brodie*





## John Venus

Last month's article in The Parish News brought back many memories of the rebuilding of the hall, and in particular of John Venus himself.

When the builders suggested that there might be some asbestos in the old building, and expensive specialist contractors would be needed to remove it, John declared that he would don a mask and take a sledge hammer to the building himself. He said that his father had been a builder, and he would know what he was doing. Fortunately, this did not prove necessary.

John regularly organised Saturday evening soirees in the old as well as the new hall. Elaine Sproule and Chris Tringham would play the piano, there would be singing, (Gilbert and Sullivan and Lehar were favourites) amateur dramatics, and John would recite poetry. He was particularly fond of G K Chesterton, and John Masefield. It was rather like the television programme 'The Good Old Days,' with John as the master of ceremonies.

John's farewell service took place in Coldharbour on the 17th October 1993. During the final piece for the choir - a setting of Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord on the castanets, guitars etcetera) - Elaine Sproule, our elderly organist, collapsed onto the pedals and died. She and John had been a great team, so it was truly the end of an era.

After John retired to Hambledon, he became heavily involved in a charity supporting children with special needs in the Czech Republic, introduced to him by Di and Tim Prideaux, whose daughter, Clare, had spent some time volunteering there. Several of us from Coldharbour visited the charity, including the Adams and Margaret Yule. We remember John explaining the Stations of the Cross (which had been discovered after fifty years of Communist neglect in the grounds of the rambling mansion where the children were housed) to ourselves and our bemused Czech hosts. He was a born, natural teacher.

John was an admirer of George Herbert, the hymn-writing parish priest of the 17th Century. For his funeral on the 10th of February 1999 in Coldharbour, John had chosen two of Herbert's hymns: 'Let all the world in every corner sing' and 'Teach me my God and King.' For his interment in Saint James' he had chosen 'The God of love my shepherd is.'

John barely scraped his biblical span of three score years and ten, but has left abiding memories of goodness and love.

*Philip and Gill Harris*

## Susy returns to yoga



A number of us go to various classes at Wotton House and we were so pleased this week to welcome our dear yoga teacher and Coldharbour neighbour Susy Puckett back to teach us after her illness.

Practising gratitude is an important part of yoga philosophy and Susy is very aware of how the experience of illness has reinforced for her the importance of valuing our bodies and all that they do for us.

Susy, we all feel so much gratitude to you and your wonderful yoga teaching and we wish you a complete return to good health - *namaste!*

**“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.”**

— A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

## Happy Birthday Neville!



Neville Trussler has just turned 90, on Thursday 21st May. Neville was born in Dorking, has always lived locally, and moved to Abinger Hammer when he married Rosemary in 1958.

He originally trained as a baker and confectioner and during a two week stay in hospital in February of this year, he decided to come out of retirement (!) and was making plans from his hospital bed to make and ice a wedding



cake for Frazer and Lucy's wedding in June. At the age of 89 years and 50 weeks, he finally finished icing it!

# CHILDREN

Five....Four.....Three.....Two.....One.....**BLAST OFF!!!!!!**



We have just returned from an amazing mission to find out all about space! Launched from the Evelyn Hall and orbiting Abinger we hurtled through the atmosphere at world (or other worlds!) record speed. Each

with our very own space suit and inspired by Artemis we all imagined what life would be like on a real space rocket. We may have even spotted an alien or two!

With the planets whizzing by we wanted to capture the moment so decided to create a gigantic glittery galaxy. Each astronaut worked tirelessly painting a huge piece of cardboard with the deepest of black holed paint, followed by a healthy splash of neon paint and topped off with everything and anything sparkly. Finally we carefully placed our paper plate planets on top and voila – one super swirling galaxy in pride of place for us to keep.



The following week we thought our galaxy was missing something or someone – that's right you guessed it! We were

very much in need of some mythical creatures. Who doesn't love a mermaid, dragon or a unicorn? We carefully crafted once more and our artwork was finally complete (for now anyway!).

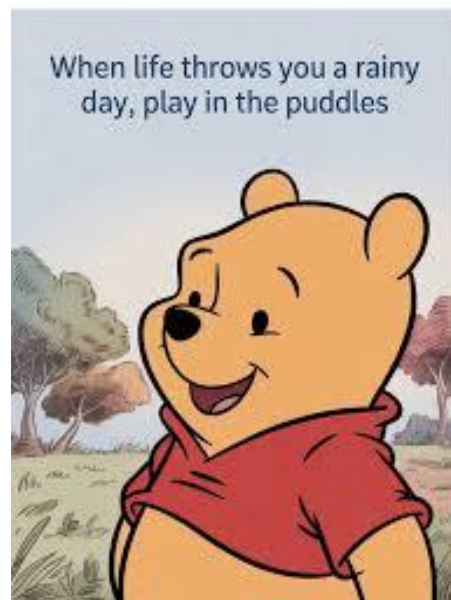


Heading outside we were treated to a walk across the fields to the big woods where we anchored our pirate ship amongst the sea of beautiful bluebells. What a super sight to have just on our doorstep.

Polling day gave us the wonderful opportunity to stay outside for a whole entire day! The Veggie Patch became our home and we were able to do some much needed weeding – almost digging through to Australia! We have already planted strawberries, beans and peas and potatoes in pots and look forward to watching them grow.

If you are going to head to the Abinger Fair do come and see us at the Children's corner where we will be making crowns, decorating biscuits and selling second hand toys. If you have any nearly new toys that you'd like to donate for us to sell please do drop them off at the nursery.

If you would like to join our nursery family please don't hesitate to get in touch – we still have spaces for September. For more information or to book a show around call 07842 978823 or email [abingercommonnursery@gmail.com](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com). We can't wait to meet you!



## Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

I am pleased to introduce myself as the recently appointed headteacher at Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School. I have worked in a range of primary church school settings over the last fifteen years and am thrilled to have joined this special community. Over the last few months, I have relished getting to know the children, staff and families to gain a thorough understanding of how best to serve the community. The highlight of my week is inviting a small group of children to have a hot chocolate with me so I can get to know each individual further; they receive a handwritten, personalised invite capturing something positive I have noticed about each of them.

News: Our new basket swing was installed and the Friends of Surrey Hills kindly purchased playground equipment, a bubble machine and Bluetooth speaker to enhance our unstructured times. We initiated a weekly running club before school which is attended by nearly half of the children. Each individual earns certificates for the cumulative virtual distance covered incorporating local landmarks. Twenty five children were trained as wellbeing ambassadors and they introduced calm boxes to each classroom.

During collective worship, we have been focusing on the life of Daniel and how parables have hidden meanings. We had an assembly hosted by the NSPCC to empower the children to know how to keep themselves safe.

Please do follow us on Facebook or on Instagram to learn more about all the exciting things happening at our school! I look forward to hopefully meeting you soon and I am so grateful for your support of our school. It is such a privilege to join the team.

*With best wishes, Kelly Frost*

## SALV talk on Weight



**Thinking about your weight?** The message, from the panel of Shere doctors who addressed a good turnout for the SALV evening on April 15, was there is **NO QUICK FIX**.

The answer to controlling weight for a healthy life was a combination of good diet, slow eating, small portions, good sleep, mindfulness and exercise for the long term – in short, a complete lifestyle overhaul. Diets and drugs just produced short term results that were quickly reversed.

Dr Douglas Wardrop began by outlining definitions of obesity and the effects of superfluous fat in different parts of the body. He suggested measuring one's waist circumference in relation to one's height was the best indication of being overweight. It should be no more than half one's height. Fat around the organs was the least healthy as it caused inflammation and increased the risk of cardio-vascular disease and cancer. He produced some horrifying statistics: 2/3 of the population are either overweight or obese. Social deprivation means obesity is more prevalent in the north than the affluent south east. Men are more likely to be obese than women, but more women are morbidly obese than men. As well as educational background and poverty, there are ethnic influences as well: 65% of Caucasians are overweight, 75% of Afro Caribbean, and 35% of Chinese. The Japanese regard being fat as showing lack of restraint. The most worrying was the increase in obesity in children and the rapid rise in infant Type 2 Diabetes. Obesity (on its own, not just overweight) affects just over 10% of children entering school and just under 20% of those in early teenage years (13/14). Tackling obesity was more complicated than just reducing food intake and increasing exercise, he said. Genes played a part. Socio-economic factors, sedentary jobs and the effects of poor mental health were all contributory, but it currently costs the NHS £6b a year to treat people and that cost stands to rise to £10b by 2050.

Dr Emma Watts discussed lifestyle choices: healthy nutrition without ultra-processed food, the importance of being hydrated, reducing portion size and as people get older, reducing carbs and increasing proteins. She suggested exercising for 150 minutes per week – just half an hour a day for five days and setting small realistic goals for increasing strength. Mindfulness reduced stress. The focus should be on changing habits, celebrating small steps of progress and setting long term goals. Dr Marcus McEwen looked at the drugs available that have become the popular solution for quick weight loss. Ozempic and Mounjaro were

originally designed to help diabetics but were found to have great potential in inducing rapid weight loss. They made patients feel fuller for longer and reduced their appetite, resulting in the loss of between six and eight stone. He detailed a list of side-effects but said the drugs were effective. However, he said they were not the complete answer. Few people fulfilled the Government conditions for an NHS prescription as the cost would otherwise bankrupt the NHS overnight and most people acquired the drugs privately. And when people stopped taking the drugs – the weight went straight back on.

SALV chairman Adrian O'Loughlin gave a vote of thanks to Tim and Lesley Austin for their generosity providing refreshments.

## June in your garden

Despite some cold weather and hard frosts in May, hopefully June will bring some warm sunshine and not too much rain.

Late May and early June are ideal times to plant out tender vegetables, and indeed a good time to sow both runner and French beans. If you have a compost heap or even heaps, why not use them to plant courgettes, melons or cucumbers on. They will love the warmth and food, just plant them into a pocket of soil to start with.



Do keep roses dead headed and should suckers appear from the base, try and pull them off. Cutting them encourages them to shoot again. Regular deadheading of annuals and perennials will encourage them to put their energy into producing more flowers, rather than seeds.

Whilst no mow May is controversial, it is a good idea to leave an area of grass uncut to provide wild flowers for bees to visit and leaves for caterpillars to feed on. The result, hopefully, being more butterflies.

After the bumper crops of fruit last year, particularly apples, this year crops seem to be greatly reduced, but still, where possible give trees a shake to dislodge some so there is not overcrowding - June drop.

If we do get promised very high temperatures then water if necessary, only in the evenings, and sit back in the daytime enjoying the sunshine. But mind, do not get burnt!



Robin

## WI Report

On 14th May, as a fundraising event, the committee provided a ploughman's lunch for members. There was also a raffle and the money raised will be put towards providing excellent speakers for our afternoon meetings.

Following this we welcomed back Dr Judy Hill who gave a presentation on **Gertrude Jekyll, (1843 to 1932)**, best known as a garden designer and very well regarded in her time. However, her skills were many and she had turned to garden design in later years due to severe myopia and receiving advice to avoid close work such as painting, embroidery and marquetry at which she had excelled. She has been described as a 'one woman Arts and Crafts movement', and her gravestone carries the inscription ARTIST – GARDENER - CRAFTSWOMAN.



She wrote over 1,100 articles on gardening for Country Life magazine and other publications, 13 books, and took over 2,000 photographs which she developed herself in her darkroom at home.

In her mid-forties she met a 20-year-old architect called Edwin Lutyens. A dozen years earlier she had purchased a 15-acre plot of land near Godalming and had already created her garden there. She now needed an architect to design the home she wanted. Munstead Wood was the outcome, a cottage in a woodland garden in the Surrey domestic style using local materials, including oak from some of her own trees. This celebrated house and garden is now owned by the National Trust.

With her range of contacts she introduced Edwin Lutyens to many clients, helping his career on its way. In the following years Gertrude and Edwin together designed over a hundred gardens, including our local one at Goddards at Abinger Common. She drew up planting plans and propagated and sold the plants to fulfil them in her own nursery. There is a list of over 340 gardens that she designed and advised upon over the years. Certainly an industrious, talented and inspirational woman.

Thank you to our tea hostesses, Nancy Loates-Taylor, Denise Williams and Janet Kingsley.

Our next meeting will be on **June 4th** at 2.30pm at Wotton Village Hall. The talk will be by Janet Shell – “The Sunlight Girl”.

Following that on **July 2nd** there will be a talk by Surrey Trading Standards on “Scams/Cold Calling”.

*Claire Hill*

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Sir George Gilbert Scott and St Barnabas Church, Ranmore. Victorian architectural masterpiece explored in public talk

A special illustrated talk on the Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott and his striking church of St Barnabas, Ranmore, Dorking will take place on Saturday 4 July 2026 from 10.30am to 12 noon.



Hosted jointly by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and St Barnabas Church, the event will be led by Professor William Whyte of the University of Oxford, who will explore Scott's life, work and legacy, placing the Ranmore church within the wider story of Victorian church building.

Tickets cost £8 for SCPT members and £12 for non-members, £8 for parishioners plus local clubs and societies in advance, with advance booking essential at [www.ticketsource.com](http://www.ticketsource.com) (search "Ranmore"). Free refreshments and parking are available.

Among Professor Whyte's publications is *Unlocking the Church: the lost secrets of Victorian sacred space*, which is highly recommended.

### Dorking Museum



**South Street Caves tours:** One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets, where a series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. This month's open day is on Saturday 6th June, tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and monthly open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/). Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail [caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) to arrange a date.

# Directory of Local Businesses

<b>Animal Care</b>	
The Mutt Hut – dog grooming.	07760 162661
The House Vet	01483 272999 info@rowlyhousevet.net
<b>Art</b>	
Austin Art	07760 222921 clive@austin.art
<b>Beauty</b>	
Peaslake Beauty Room.	01306 731182 pamperyourself@thepeaslakebeautyroom.co.uk
<b>Builders etc.</b>	
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
<b>Carpenters</b>	
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
<b>Cars</b>	
Service, repairs, MOTs, Car Sales, Part Exchange	Dave Mir 07736 912751 Dave@Mir-Tech.co.uk Neil Howey 07956 391804 neilhowey@gmail.com
<b>Charities</b>	
Abinger Consolidated Charities	kimclark50@gmail.com
<b>Chimneys</b>	
Joe Lund (sweep)	07930 507115 and 01243 583430
<b>Computers</b>	
WMF-IT consultants	01306 731253 sales@wmf-it.co.uk
<b>Decorators</b>	
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418 www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
<b>Electricians</b>	
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996 phase.surrey@gmail.com
<b>Fencing</b>	
RB Fencing	01306 640143 01483 414745 info@rbfencingltd.co.uk
<b>Finance</b>	
Porter & Co	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
Bullimores	01306 880880 partners@bullimores.co.uk
<b>Funeral Services</b>	
Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266

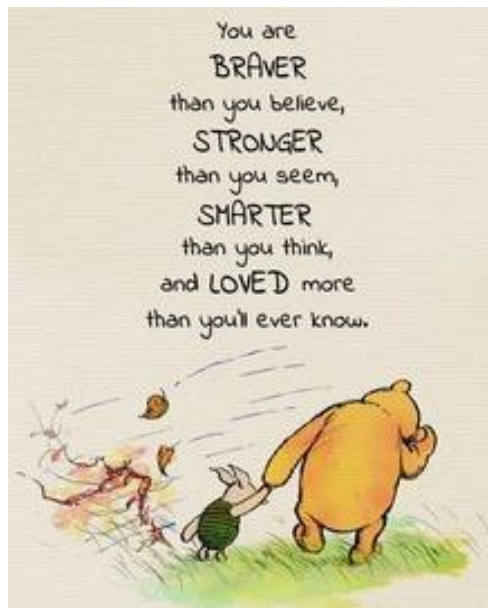
<b>Gardens &amp; Trees</b>	
David Ford Tree Care	01306 611661 07940 197911 info@davefordtreecare.co.uk
Capel Tree Surgeons	01306 711124 07775 727121 www.capeltreesurgeons.co.uk
FCS Trees & Vegetation Management	0800 146 122 support@fcscleaning.co.uk
Osborne Landscapes & construction.	Mark Osborne 07818 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
<b>Heating, Plumbing</b>	
Senergy Heating	01306 302085 www.senergyheating.co.uk
UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
<b>Jobs in Care</b>	
Home Instead Epsom & Mole Valley	01372 741544 Maggie.adenmosun@homeinstead.co.uk
<b>Pest Control</b>	
Emwood	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
<b>Piano Tuning</b>	
Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
<b>Printing</b>	
Barkers, Dorking	01306 888858 rob@barkerprint.co.uk
<b>Removals</b>	
Ede Bros	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk
<b>Shops</b>	
Coldharbour Village Shop	01306 711793
Kingfisher Farm Shop	01306 730703
Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 730701
<b>Sport &amp; Fitness</b>	
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
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	
Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Wellbeing</b>	
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@skyboundarialstudios.co.uk

“If you live to be a hundred,  
I hope I live to be a hundred minus one day,  
so that I never have to live a day without you.”

—Winnie the Pooh

“Rivers know this: There  
is no hurry. We shall get  
there someday.”

—Winnie the Pooh



### **Making a donation**

If you enjoy reading our Parish News, we would be very grateful if you would consider donating towards the cost of producing it.

You can make a BACS payment to either

Ac name: PCC Abinger (Parish News), sort code: 60 07 02, Ac no: 39447332

or

Ac name: Christ Church Coldharbour PCC, sort code: 202397, Ac no: 40192422

or contact Sally at the Parish Office for details 01306 737160. Thank you.

**NEXT ISSUE:**

**July/August 2026**

**Closes 1pm**

**Tuesday June 16th**

**abingerpn@gmail.com**