

ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



SEPTEMBER 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

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

The Leith Hill Practice (Old Forge, Capel & Northbrook, South Holmwood)

01306 711105 / Fax 01036 712751 Mon – Fri: 08:00 to 18:30. Dispensary: 10:30 to 13:00.

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.

Leith Hill Practice Patients Participation Group (PPG) ppplhp@gmail.com

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



SEPTEMBER

- 2nd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 3rd Meditation with Elwyn at St James' 3 – 4
- 3rd WI meeting, Wotton village hall 2.30
- 3rd Shere cinema *H is for Hawk*, 7.30
- 3rd Guildford Jazz festival begins - ends 2nd October
- 4th Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30 - 11.30
- 6th Music recital Leith Hill Place 2 - 4
- 9th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 10th Holmbury Choral starts back, AHVH, 8.00
- 12th Surrey Serenaders sing at St James' 10 - 12.30
- 12th Benefice Walk for Ride and Stride
- 12th Harp recital Leith Hill Place 7 - 8.30
- 13th Community Lunch Abinger 12 - 2.30 Evelyn Hall
- 16th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 20th Shere cinema *The Da Vinci Code* 7.30
- 23rd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 26th Surrey Serenaders sing at Evelyn Hall 10 – 12.30
- 27th Family Harvest Festival Christ Church, CH 10am
- 30th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

OCTOBER

- 1st WI meeting, making an Autumn Wreath
- 2nd Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30 - 11.30
- 3rd Make a scarecrow at St James' 11 – 1.30
- 3rd Coldharbour Quiz and Supper evening
- 10th Surrey Serenaders at St James' 10 - 12.30

Reflections from the Rectory

This month we have a guest contributor - my friend and colleague, Rev'd Virginia Smith. Virginia is a wonderful support to not only me, but to many across our churches!

Please note that this year Harvest Festival is on the 27th of September.

Love, Rev'd Kia ☺

Just Sitting in a Church

I am writing this in August as, here in the South- East of England at least, we continue to enjoy cloudless blue skies, albeit at times moaning as temperatures rise to uncomfortable heights once again. But by the time this is read it will be September and the start surely of what Keats described in his *Ode to Autumn* as the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' A start too, I am certain of the long, protracted commercial run up to Christmas! Just how soon will the first mince pies and other seasonal food be on sale in our supermarkets, often at an exorbitant price, along with various renditions of Jingle Bells?



And does the fact that we can now buy practically any sort of food, once only seasonally available, be it strawberries in December or leeks in August, dull our sense of a real rhythm to life? Harvesting this year began in early July, when it used to be in late August at the earliest. We may worry about the effects of global warming and find that, as I have suggested, our ideas of the seasons have gone awry. No longer can we echo the words of Flanders and Swann: *'Farmers fear unkindly May, frost by night and cold by day. August, cold and dank and wet brings more rain than any yet. Dark November brings the fog, should not do it to a dog.'* Late frosts, wet Augusts and enveloping fogs right now seem lost in the past.

And, in losing sight of that ancient rhythm of natural life do we also lose a sense of rhythm in our own lives? Does the appearance of that first mince pie make us more frantic, more driven, as to what we think we need to accomplish? How many times have we all felt time running away with us and there is just too much to do, too much expected of us? We are too busy, too overworked to simply take time to stop and create a

little haven of peace, of contentment, of joy even in our daily lives. I wonder if you have ever wandered into a church and just sat there and absorbed the peace and the very real sense of timelessness that I always find in any church?

Just sitting in a church, when you feel overwhelmed by the pace of life, by personal troubles, worries and demands, and by those troubles of the world at large, can be life liberating, life restoring and life affirming. Most of our churches in the Benefice, and indeed further afield, are open during the day and provide that haven we all need at times whether we do or do not believe in God, whether we do or do not know the words of prayer. And just maybe, like the unknown writer of the following, hear within that haven, the silence, answer.

Rev'd Virginia Smith

I Wandered into a Church

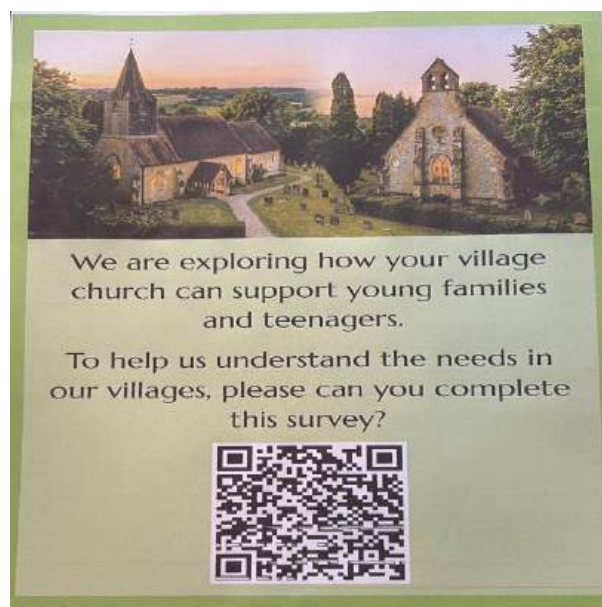
I wandered into a church one rain-washed day,
My coat still breathing the scent of the storm,
And the air inside was warm with candlelight,
Soft as a hand laid gently on the heart.
The pews held the hush of a thousand prayers,
Each grain of wood steeped in whispered hope;
Stained glass spilled rivers of crimson and gold
That pooled at my feet like a quiet blessing.
Somewhere, a hymn rose—
Not loud, but certain—
As if the walls themselves remembered
The language of faith.
I knelt, not knowing the words,
Only the ache that had carried me here;
And in that stillness,
I felt the silence answer.

Can you spare 3 minutes to help us?

We are looking at ways we can help and support young families and teenagers in our villages and we would be so grateful if you could complete this survey by either scanning the QR code or by contacting the Parish Office.

Thank you so much!

Rev'd Kia 😊



Meditation on Thursday afternoons at St James' with Elwyn

If you would like to meditate with others or learn to meditate then come to the meditation group who meet at St James'. We are a friendly group of women (but open to everyone) who meet for an hour on Thursday afternoons 3-4pm in the vestry of St. James' church Abinger.

I take us through different meditations drawing on Buddhist and Indian teachings that are all designed to find inner peace and some freedom from our busy minds and busy lives. The feedback from the group is that they find it very relaxing, and they keep coming back for more!

Do come along if you are interested. Classes occur weekly, with occasional weeks off when I'm on a course. The term will end on Dec 3rd.

There is no charge, but most people contribute £5 per class that I give to charity, either to support refugees or Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Elwyn Perry

From the Editors

Summer holidays may be over but there's a lot going on in September. Look out for the Heritage Open Day activities between 11th and 20th September. All events are free and prebooking isn't usually needed but check the web site before setting out: www.heritageopendays.org.uk and Dorking are holding a Good Living Festival – see the last page.

We thank Steve Belcher for our lovely front-page photograph.

But before we plan for Autumn here's a roundup of some of the wonderful events of the hot summer months.

Firstly, a summer wedding.

Frazer McCance, who many of you know, (son of Neil and Sally) moved to Shropshire from Abinger 2 years ago. Frazer and Lucy were married at St Margaret's village church in Ratlinghope in Shropshire on 20th June.

They thank everyone who sent them good wishes for their happy day. Congratulations McCance family from all of us



A Comedy of Errors at Coldharbour!



Sue Smith reports that it was a great evening with a good crowd, a fabulous performance by the Festival Players and (almost) no midges!

Next year they are performing *Romeo and Juliet* which, given their increasingly comic take, will be interesting!

A balmy evening meeting for the Book Club

It has become a tradition to meet in Jayne's garden in the Summer, and this was no exception, with the heatwave giving us a soft balmy evening.

We were discussing "*The Covenant of Water*" by Abraham Verghese, a fat novel rich in characters and atmosphere set in Kerala in



South India between 1900 & 1977. So, we sat round a table canopied with saris and ate poppadoms, spicy sauces and samosas with our drinks. We loved the book and admired the writing and the descriptions - it was an excellent discussion and a most enjoyable occasion. Thank you to Jayne. Pat O'Brien

Fun and games on Abinger Common



On 10th July, families had a happy afternoon playing Softball, with cold drinks and hotdogs from the BBQ was organised by Kia, Lucy, Guy and Katie. Followed by live music at the Abinger Hatch organised by Brad.

12th July Celebrations in Abinger Hammer



The Kingfisher Farm Shop held a big birthday party...

It was a warm and sunny day for the Kingfisher's 55th Anniversary. Music, balloons and homemade produce for the picnics round the pond made for a wonderful day out. And in the bunching shed a fascinating display charting the history of gathering the watercress since 1850.

..... and later in the day

The newly redecorated Village Hall at Abinger Hammer hosted a near-capacity audience in celebration of the hall's Centenary

The concert programme on 12th July was inspired by the running order at the Hall's opening event in 1926. The opening piece at that event was an arrangement by Ralph Vaughan Williams of an old English dance tune '**Mr Isaac's Maggott**'. The manuscript parts for this piece were on display in this hall for the 2026 concert and the piece was performed by Richard Barron and Hugo Cox (Violins), Valerie Seager (Cello), Sue Loosely (Clarinet), William Corke (Piano) and last but not least Emma Corke playing the triangle part written for Fanny Farrer (Dame Frances Farrer) a local figure still well remembered by Abinger residents of a certain age.

Next up were three very atmospheric piece for electric recorder and guitar and performed by Robin and Nancy Daly from Broadmoor. 'Do not stand', 'Here, There & Everywhere', and 'Wave', the last of the three giving us a taste Brazilian Bossa Nova Jazz.



None of which preceding prepared the hall for A.J. who entertained with a selection of his poetry ending with the tour-de-force ‘Ranmore’ in which he bemoans his own lack of fitness: ‘Ranmore... Ranmore... how I wish I ran more / Walk more, drink less, not be such a hot mess.’ (a brief taster, follow on Instagram @hatandbanjopoet for more).

The brilliantly named ‘Anarchy in the Uke’ were up next, a Ukulele duo (Nick Percival and Dave Nash) who performed with huge energy and virtuosity and were rewarded with calls for an encore.

Finally, as in 1926, the concert was closed by the local Choral Society (Abinger in 1926, Holmbury in 2026) performing several pieces. First was Mozart’s sublime *Laudate Dominum* with Emma Corke as solo Soprano. A hard piece to follow but ‘Sure on this shining night’ by Morten Lauridsen proved well up to that challenge. There were two more pieces



to enjoy – ‘Music of life’ (Boykin) and ‘Sound of Silence’ (arr. Roger Emerson) before the concert closed with a chance for everyone to join in the singing of Parry’s rousing setting of Blake’s ‘Jerusalem’.

After the performances the chance to cool off with a glass (or two) of local bubbly was much enjoyed thanks to the generosity of Kingfisher Farm Shop. All who were present agreed that the concert’s variety was truly an example of what makes village life worthwhile and that the hall’s second century was off to a flying start.

William Corke



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

Abinger Community Lunch - Sunday 13th September

This is a lovely social occasion for people of ages from Abinger and around. A chance to meet new neighbours and catch up with old friends. Katie Brodie, Lucy Harlow and their team produce the most amazing lunch for just £5, using lots of local produce. If you haven't been before do come along.





Saturday 12th September
from a church near YOU!

Supporting this great charity, join us for some or all of an ambitious
WHOLE BENEFICE LOOP
connecting our four villages with walking, refreshments and music at
each church as we pass through.

Everyone is welcome - please look out for the itinerary and let Lucy
know if you'd like to join some or all of the walk at
lucyharlow@me.com

The Ride and Stride charity is organised entirely by volunteers, and the event raises money to support the conservation of Surrey's churches of all denominations. The Trust is also appealing for new volunteers to help run the charity and its public events. For details: www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org



Join us for a cuppa at the village coffee mornings

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.



In Coldharbour

The village meet monthly on the first Friday of the month at the John Venus Hall from 10.30-11.30 for tea, coffee and cakes. The next coffee mornings are on Friday 4th September and 2nd October.

Call to all Table Tennis Players



Abinger Sports Club in Abinger Hammer is recruiting new players. The team play in the Guildford league in division 1 and 4. Home nights are on a Monday. Away nights can be any weeknight. Practice nights are on a Thursday

from 19.00. If you are interested in joining the team the contact details are as follows.

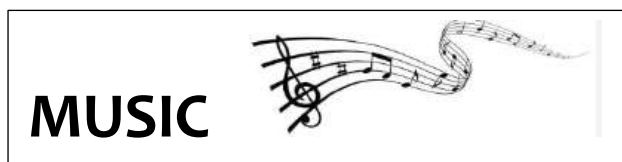
E mail: mike.may54@btinternet.com. Phone: 07770226068.

Or pop in on a Thursday evening to meet some of the players.



For more about Abinger Sports Club please see page 34.

We always welcome new members!



Holmbury Choral Society

If you would like to sing with the choir then come along to a rehearsal and see what you think. We start back on Thursday 10th September at 8pm and rehearse in Abinger Hammer Village Hall. The choir meet regularly on Thursday evenings.

Contact Liz Hamilton 07825 411654

MUSIC IN DORKING – by Ian Codd

Whilst September remains quiet, the new concert season resumes in October and there is plenty of excellent music to look forward to in the coming months.

The Dorking Concertgoers have their usual enterprising series of concerts planned, including three concerts by the Sacconi string quartet and a visit from the Orchestra of the Swan.

Dorking Choral Society will be singing two major works from the baroque - Bach's Magnificat and Vivaldi's Gloria - in November.

Next year's Leith Hill Festival will include, alongside music by Holst and Vaughan Williams, a mass inspired by Argentinian tango music, and Rossini's Solemn Mass, performed with two pianos and accordion.

October

3rd - Soprano and lute at St Martin's church

10th - Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church

17th - LHMF Come & Sing at St Martin's church

24th - Musical Mingle at Holy Trinity church, Westcott

24th - JKL Duo at St Martin's church

Brockham Choral

Brockham Choral's 1st rehearsal for their Xmas Concert starts on the 1st September at 7.30 - 9.30 at St. John's C of E Primary School, Dorking, RH4 2LR. The programme will include music from Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio', Vaughan Williams' 'Fantasia on Xmas Carols' and other themed Christmas music. If you would like to join this friendly music making society, all voices welcomed, no audition required. email Brockhamchoral@gmail.com www.brockhamchoral.org

D&G 20th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT –

**7.30pm on 24th October
2026 at St James' Church
Abinger**

The D&G Choir are celebrating their 20th Anniversary of singing together.



The music has been chosen by the Choir and are much loved pieces that they have sung over the years both from the early formative years, when this local Choir was just a group of women learning to sing, and from recent concerts put on at St James' or on tour in Yorkshire or learned in Spain while on a singing retreat.

Led by new Musical Director, Jody Robinson, it promises to be a fun evening bringing back many happy memories of the Choir and the Concerts put on over the years.

Proceeds from the Concert are being donated to two charities who have supported a member of the Choir. *Live Life Give Life* is an organisation that encourages people to make loved ones aware of their wishes relating to organ donation and *Kidney Care UK* the country's leading Kidney Patient support Charity.

The D&G Choir would love to fill the Church both to enjoy the evening celebrating 20 years of this brilliant choir but also to support these very worthwhile charities.

Tickets are £12 each for adults £8 for children and can be obtained via the Choir's ticketing website: tickets@dandgchoir.net

Surrey Serenaders

Surrey Serenaders meet to sing on the second and fourth Saturday in the month. At 10-12.30. The next dates are 12th September in St James' and 26th September in the Evelyn Hall. Then 10th October in St James' and 24th October in the Evelyn Hall. A concert is planned for the 28th of November (to be confirmed).

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

Abinger, Holmbury St Mary, Shere, Peaslake, Gomshall, Albury and Farley Green

The Good Neighbours Scheme has been an indispensable asset to our communities for over 40 years and is a lifeline for many residents. We have over 60 volunteers covering Abinger, Holmbury St Mary, Shere, Albury, Farley Green, Gomshall, and Peaslake, all ready and waiting to collect and deliver prescriptions and to take patients to and from Shere Surgery for appointments. We can sometimes help with lifts to RSCH, Cranleigh Hospital and other local medical services.

Whilst we have enough volunteers, we need to spread the word about what we offer as many people, especially the elderly, are unaware of our service. So, please spread the word to friends and neighbours who may benefit from the Good Neighbours Scheme and pass on the contact



numbers below - this is certainly not only available to the elderly, we are here to help anyone who is unable to get to and from the surgery or who is unable collect their prescriptions. Thank you.

Jo Kelly 07900 302 794,

Helen Esplen 01483 209 522 or 07771 537 150

Free Signposting and Information Phone Service

Central Surrey Voluntary Action are delighted to announce the launch of a new service, designed to help elderly residents across Mole Valley navigate local support and services. The service offers connections to a wide range of essential resources, including:

Home Maintenance Professional Advice

Health & Social Care



Residents can reach the Signposting and Information service Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, by calling 01306 640369.

Services at St James' Church, Abinger

6th September 10.30am	The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children Refreshments after the service
13th September 6.00pm	The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Choral Evensong
20th September 10.30am	The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity 'Come and See' Sunday Refreshments after the service
27th September 10.00am	The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Joint Harvest service <u>at Christ Church Coldharbour</u> Refreshments and auction of gifts after the service
6.00pm	Julian meeting <u>at Christ Church Coldharbour</u> Half of an hour of stillness with God



Services at Christ Church, Coldharbour

6th September The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

13th The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September

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

20th The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September

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

27th The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

September

10.00am Joint Harvest service
Refreshments and auction of gifts after the service
(see next page)
6.00pm Julian meeting
Half of an hour of stillness with God

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 7th September and Monday 21st September from 10am - 11am in the JV Hall

Do pop in to say hello to Kia and Sally with any questions - or just for a coffee and a chat!



Organ Music at Services – The Organist’s View!

Let me begin with my bottom line, top line and, indeed, the flowery border – the ‘OPENING ORGAN MUSIC’ & ‘CONCLUDING ORGAN MUSIC’, as they are described on service sheets, are part of the worship.

I play organ music at the beginning of services, sometimes during services (e.g. at Communion when there is no anthem and for the *Organ Reflection* which follows the Collects at Christ Church’s Congregational Evensong), and to complete services. Just like all the other music, this music is part of my personal worship/prayer and not personal indulgence. I hope it also has that function for some others who join in by listening, as they do to other parts of the service.

I put quite a lot of thought into choosing what to play bearing in mind its context. Overall style/mood and key will be factors (it’s quite handy if the pre-singing music is in or at least close to the key of the Introit). And there are times when I might just amuse myself (see Aug 9th and the occasion when Evensong ended with *La Marseillaise* on a July 14th), though, I hope, with no hint of disrespect. As well as issues of general ‘atmosphere’, music at the beginning also means that the congregation comes into a building that is ‘alive’, in much the same way that theatres often play music as the audience is entering.

In the various church music forums on Facebook, how congregations react to such organ music is a regular discussion point, often revolving around ‘I can’t be bothered to prepare voluntaries any more – ‘no-one’ really cares, ‘they’ just talk through it’ and/or ‘is it appropriate to applaud at the end?’

This is what I think and, I hope, what I do when elsewhere. Before the service the congregation should enter quietly though they can still greet each other, but then prepare themselves for worship, perhaps using a prayer in the service book that may not occur in the service itself. And at the end of a service elsewhere I always listen to the organ, and I’ll join in the applause if that is the local custom – almost universal in cathedrals these days. There’s nothing new about this. In the 4th and 5th centuries preachers were applauded!

In ‘modern times’ the first high-profile ecclesiastical applause I can recall was the greeting for Abbot Basil Hume when he was consecrated Archbishop of Westminster, and then there was the prolonged applause for Earl Spencer’s tribute to his sister Diana at her funeral in Westminster Abbey, though the striking thing about this was that it started in the crowd outside the church and was then taken up by those inside.

Applause can mean many things – thank you; well done; and ‘I enjoyed that’, among many other nuances and combinations of those nuances. I am quite happy to applaud or be applauded – or not.

What I do think inappropriate and/or disrespectful are loud conversations (i.e. ones I can hear) while I am playing. Apart from anything else this spoils the pleasure of those who really like to listen – and there are some. And it unfairly distracts me. After all, I don’t randomly play the organ during the sermon. I actually turn it off and listen closely.

Finally, here are two quotes from two fairly recent books on Evensong, one more serious in tone than the other, but both written out of a sense of great love for the service and sacred music in general. Obviously the comments could apply to the end of any service.

‘The final part of Evensong will be the organ voluntary . . . This conclusion is an invitation to be attentive to the artistry of the composer as well as the skill of the organist . . . it is a moment to savour. It is not audio wallpaper over which we thoughtlessly chatter, but a final parting gift to cherish until we next come to worship, as our lives continue and, little by little, reflect what we have received.’

‘[The organ voluntary] is not a piece of lounge jazz to provide a decadent back-drop to conversations that need to be conducted at a louder

volume than usual because of that same music . . . When you next attend Evensong stay to listen to the voluntary. A talented, nerdy person sitting at the organ, wearing dancing shoes and who loves the organ with all their heart and soul will thank you for it.'

I am that nerdy person. And I wear dancing shoes. And . . .

David Hansell

MORE ARTS ACTIVITIES

GUILDFORD SOUL AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

The festival begins on Thursday 3rd September with The Steve Waterman Octet Celebrating Miles at the Guildford Pavilion, 7-11pm. Tickets £22. London Band perform at 5pm at Guildford Castle. There's a great line up throughout the festival – too many to mention here so for more details go to www.guildfordjazz.org.uk

Book now for films in September



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. 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**.

In September we will be showing:

Thursday 3rd September – *H is for Hawk* – is based on Helen Macdonald's bestselling nature memoir. The film follows Helen's life as a Cambridge academic (Claire Foy), who teaches the history and philosophy of science. Her father Alisdair (Brendan Gleeson), is an award-winning photographer, whom she adores and hero-worships. When he dies suddenly, she is utterly distraught and loses herself in the memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together. She turns to the ancient art of falconry, and through training a wild goshawk, named Mabel, she navigates her profound loss. However, as she teaches Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. What begins as an act of endurance transforms

into an intimate journey of resilience and healing. “A beautiful story of falconry training and the process of grief for those we dearly love”. Classification 12 (Running time is 1 hour 54 minutes). Start time is: 7.30.

Sunday 20th September – *The Da Vinci Code* – is a 2006 mystery thriller film directed by Ron Howard, based on Dan Brown's 2003 novel of the same name and starring Tom Hanks. A murder in the Louvre and clues in Da Vinci paintings lead to the discovery of a religious mystery.

This is a fundraising event for Shere Museum and will include a pay bar and raffle. Tickets cost £6/adult and £4/child and can be booked via the SVC website: (www.sherevillagecinema.com).

Shere village cinema team



The Ocean Film Festival World Tour at G Live on 6th October

The Ocean Film Festival features a new collection of short films celebrating extraordinary ocean adventure, breathtaking marine life and people who dedicate their lives to protecting the sea. This year's film line-up includes the world's longest raft expedition and more! 12A certificate. Starts at 7.30. See www.oceanfilmfestival.co.uk for more information.

Dorking Group of Artists hold their October Exhibition 2026 at Denbies Wine Estate

Open to the public: Friday 9th October, Saturday 10th October 10:00 – 17:00, Sunday 11th October 10:00 – 16:00

As one of Surrey's largest art groups, they are showcasing around 200 vibrant, new pieces created by local members and professionals, displayed in Denbies' Gallery and adjoining Suite. Admission and parking are completely free. Come for the art and stay for the day to enjoy Denbies' brilliant café, restaurant, shop, and vineyard tours. Why not consider joining? For more information about our activities, exhibitions and how to join see www.dga.org.uk, or get in touch at contact@dga.org.uk.



Don Bradley is 100 on 27th September

I was honoured to have tea and a chat with Don and his daughter, Sarah, at his house in Westcott. Today Don lives just up the road from the house he and his wife Audrey first lived in with their three children.

Born on the 27th of September 1926, Don's family lived in Beckenham, Kent. Happy childhood memories of family holidays, taken in North



Cornwall meant that once Don and Audrey had children of their own, they continued this tradition - which is continued by his grandchildren today.

Don went to Abbey Prep School and when war broke out, in September 1939, the whole school was evacuated to Woolacombe in Devon where the school took over several hotels. Don's mother went with them to help. However, they only stayed two terms as in 1940 Don's father decided to move the family to Epsom Downs for safety. Here Don attended Epsom College as a day boy and made good friends. These teenage years living in Epsom and attending the school are large in Don's memory: playing tennis with his best friend Keith Carpenter when a fighter aircraft, attempting to shoot a doodlebug down, dropped its shell cartridges all over the tennis court; observation duties at the top of the college tower during doodle bug raids and pressing the button for the siren to get the boys to take cover; helping with the Home Guard and racing on his bike to call the men out when the phones were down, are just a few of those memories. The family house on Epsom Downs was Battle HQ for the Home Guard, who were frequently trained by the Welsh Guards stationed in the Grandstand on the racecourse. From here they could see the dog fights in London and watched for aircraft

going over as they would dump their bombs on the Downs. Don kept a detailed record of raids during this time, which you can read more about if you read the article in the PN of November 2019.

In 1943, and just 17, Don put his place to read economics at Oxford on hold



and joined up. He volunteered for aircrew in the Fleet Air Arm, and in 1944 was called up for training as a pilot. He flew in open cockpit planes with no ear defenders and the noise of that and the weapons firing, damaged his hearing permanently. In May 1945 the armistice meant his flight training was ended and, much to his disappointment, he therefore never received his wings. Instead, he

was sent to work on communications in the jungles of Ceylon for 18 months - but he was thrilled to find his best friend Keith Carpenter there too! Don was demobbed on 20th April 1947. In later years it has been Don's great honour to lay the wreath at St James' on Armistice Day.

Oxford no longer seemed relevant after his war experiences and Don started work at Anthony Gibbs Insurance brokers, and although changing companies several times, he remained in insurance for his whole career.

In 1954 Don met his future wife Audrey at a party. After only 2 months they knew they were right for each other and got secretly engaged, not announcing it till May the next year. They married on 5th May 1956 and Don's best man was his dear school friend Keith Carpenter. They honeymooned on the Isles of Scilly and in later years this also become an important holiday venue for the family.



Sarah, Jane and Simon were born while they lived in Westcott. In 1969 the family moved to Pasture Wood House in Abinger beginning 65 years of happy married life in Abinger.

One striking memory Don has is of the fires in the summer of 1976. The fire officer called him to come home quickly from work as the fire had reached their garden fence. Flames were travelling underground and the wooden houses along Glebe Lane seemed likely to catch light. He remembers going down to the Abinger Hatch to get volunteers to help beat the flames. The fires raged round the woods in Friday Street, Leith Hill and the Pasture Wood.

The family later moved to Cherry Tree Cottage where, in 1987, the house was completely cut off by the hurricane. All the trees along the road and up the track came down and there was no electricity, phones or water. The family remember sitting in the road picnicking off all the wonderful food that had defrosted in their neighbours' freezers! Cherry Tree Cottage was the last house to be freed.

Don retired in 1985, and the Headmaster of Belmont School asked him to join the board of governors. This was a voluntary post, and Don was honoured to be asked. He later became Chairman and was responsible for the school becoming Co-Ed, a move which proved to be very successful.

In the February of 1991 a fire took hold at Belmont, destroying much of the house. This was a terrible time, but Don is proud of the hard work he and the other volunteers did to enable the rebuild. In all, the work took about 4 years to complete. On Don's 70th birthday the headmaster called him at home to ask him to pop in and to his surprise the whole staff had assembled to wish him a happy birthday! (Belmont is now Leith Hill School).

Looking back on his life in the village Don has such happy memories. He has been involved with many village events. He has been a stalwart supporter of the Abinger Fair, helping to run the Tombola for many years and in 1988 he started up the Old Codgers' lunches with Bernard Sheldon. (you can read the article in the PN of Decembers 2013).

Don remains friends with many local people, and it is the people of Abinger, their enthusiasm for village life and their kindness which touches him most. He loves the beautiful countryside and stresses how much we must look after it.

As to how he has lived till 100? - he said it was thanks to all the care and help he has received, and he was very thankful for his family and the National Health Service. But sitting with him in his living room, it seemed to me that his interest and zest for life, and his warmth and humour, must have a lot to do with it.

Happy Birthday Don, from everyone in Abinger.

Jenny P

Sofie Sherazee is a downhill mountain bike racer



My name is Sofie, I live in Abinger, I am 15 years old, and I compete at a national level. I am part of the MB Airborne Division team, a highly driven and competitive downhill mountain bike team run by top professional rider Brendan Fairclough. Being on this team is a huge opportunity for me, as it's designed to help develop riders and prepare us for the next step up to World Cup level.

The team provides not only expert guidance and experience from one of the best riders in the sport, but also the structure and support needed to progress through national racing and beyond.

Last year, I was one of the slowest girls in my category, still learning the basics of racing, building confidence, and gaining experience on tough tracks. However, through consistent training, determination, and pushing myself at every race, I've made huge improvements. Every race I compete in is another step forward, helping me develop my speed, technical skills, and race mentality. I'm constantly pushing myself to improve and compete at a higher level.



This season has been especially exciting as I've received two new bikes through the team, which has boosted both my performance and confidence on the track. (Sophie has just come 6th in the National Downhill Championships)

Everything about MB Airborne Division is focused on progression—it's not just about racing now but about building riders up to compete at the highest level.

Being part of this team is a major step in my journey, helping me move closer to competing in World Cups and achieving my goals in downhill mountain biking.

Leith Hill Place

The house is open until the end of September at the weekends 11-4pm. Free entry till 27th September. Freshly baked cakes, tea, coffee and cool drinks from our volunteer kitchen.

Enclosure runs until the end of September.

This creative programme explores how the rural landscape has been shaped, fought over and accessed across the centuries. Showcasing work by students from the University for the Creative Arts-painting, sculpture, printmaking and installation. On Saturday 5th The Silent Book Club opens the doors to the Library from 10 till 11. (Come along and read a book).

Music Recitals

6th September - Childe Rolande – 2-4pm – free

12th September - Harpist Catrin Finch performs pieces from Notes to Self from her first solo album in a decade/, 7- 8.30pm. £38.00. 2:06 PM
Booking essential 03442491895

See page 51 for events at Leith Hill Place in October



DORKING MUSEUM IN SEPTEMBER –

You may have noticed some construction work relating to the development behind the Museum. We expect to stay open throughout these works, but we will notify everyone through our website and social media should this change.



“Dorking: Cycling capital of England”: Dorking Museum’s summer exhibition traces the contribution that Dorking has made, and continues to make, to the development of cycling nationally. Dorking has been at the forefront of both leisure and competitive cycling from its earliest days.

The original Dorking Cycling Club was formed in the 1880s, and by the 1890s, Dorking had several cycling clubs, which provided both companionship for touring and competitive possibilities. Clubs did not always encourage female members, and so many women founded their own. Cycling also

influenced how women dressed, with some experimenting with the knickerbocker and skirt combination known as ‘rational’ dress, allowing them to cycle without heavy skirts.

The exhibition traces the story from the earlier history of cycling in Dorking to the 2012 Olympics, the Tour of Britain and the worldwide reputation of the Zig Zag. Our ‘penny-farthing’ bicycle is now joined by an original ‘boneshaker’, the first type of true bicycle with pedals. The exhibition also features a wealth of information, photos and memorabilia.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY WALKS from Dorking Museum

Enjoy one of our free guided walks during Heritage Open Days:

Historic Pub Walk: **Saturday 12th, 6pm.**

Betchworth Castle: **Sunday 13th, 2pm.**

Everyday Histories: What do everyday names tell you about the history of the town? (**Sunday 13th, 2pm**) and Working Lives in Dorking in the 18th and 19th centuries (**Saturday 19th, 2pm**).

These walks will be available to book through the Heritage Open Days booking system. See <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> for more information.

Walking in Dorking: Enjoy one (or more) of our popular guided walks, featuring:

Hidden Dorking: Features of Dorking that you may have missed before. **Sunday 6th September, 11am.**

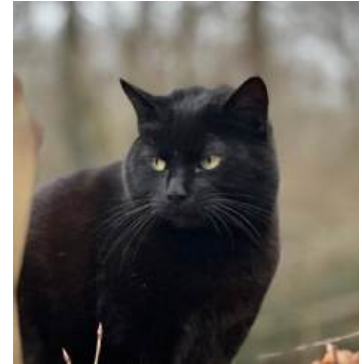
Up and Down the Greensand: Follow the greensand through Dorking, from West and South Streets to Rose Hill, the Glory Wood with its tumulus and Goodwyns, to Dorking Golf Club and Terrace to explore the features resulting from the particular geology of the area. **Saturday 26th September, 2pm.**

The Deepdene Trail: Beautiful gardens, enchanting woodland, and stunning views, with exclusive access to the restored 19th century Hope family mausoleum. Cream teas available at the Dorking Golf Club Clubhouse before or after our guided walks.

Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for details and booking of scheduled walks (please book in advance) or for private group bookings.

MISSING CAT APPEAL – HAVE YOU SEEN PAN?

Lindsay Wilson, who has lived in Highland Cottage, Coldharbour for 19 years, moved to Cambridge 10 weeks ago and her beloved cat Pan went missing. They have been searching for him ever since. Pan is microchipped and neutered and though timid can be tempted by food.



There is a WhatsApp group where you can leave sightings or leads.0776950830 - and a reward is being offered. Lindsay says *“Your support means the world to me during this difficult time. I am heartbroken as I moved from the village at the end of June and had to leave Pan behind. I raised him from birth, and he is incredibly special to me.”*

ABINGER COMMON and WOTTON W.I.

Over the summer, in early July, we heard an interesting talk by Patrick Keane, who advises on behalf of Surrey Trading Standards on guarding against being taken in by the criminals who engage in Scams and Cold Calling to defraud people of their money.

He emphasised that this is organised crime with highly trained scammers targeting the most vulnerable and often lonely victims. Less than 5% of scam victims report the matter to law enforcement, often due to embarrassment, but it is important to do this to facilitate prosecution of the criminals. Patrick informed us that if we are concerned, we can telephone Trading Standards via Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133, or if being threatened or intimidated then call the police on 999.

Later in July a delicious lunch party was enjoyed, with food prepared by the committee, and on 12 August Sally Frost hosted a fund-raising coffee morning. The sum of £213.45 was collected and will be donated to support Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Looking ahead to October, on the 1st, Debbie Skeil will be guiding us through how to make a wreath for Autumn or Christmas.

Meetings are held at Wotton Village Hall at 2.30 on the first Thursday of the month

Please get in touch, or just come and join us, if our group sounds of interest to you. A talk followed by a wonderful tea and conversation is the format of the afternoons

Claire Hill

Robin's Garden tips for September

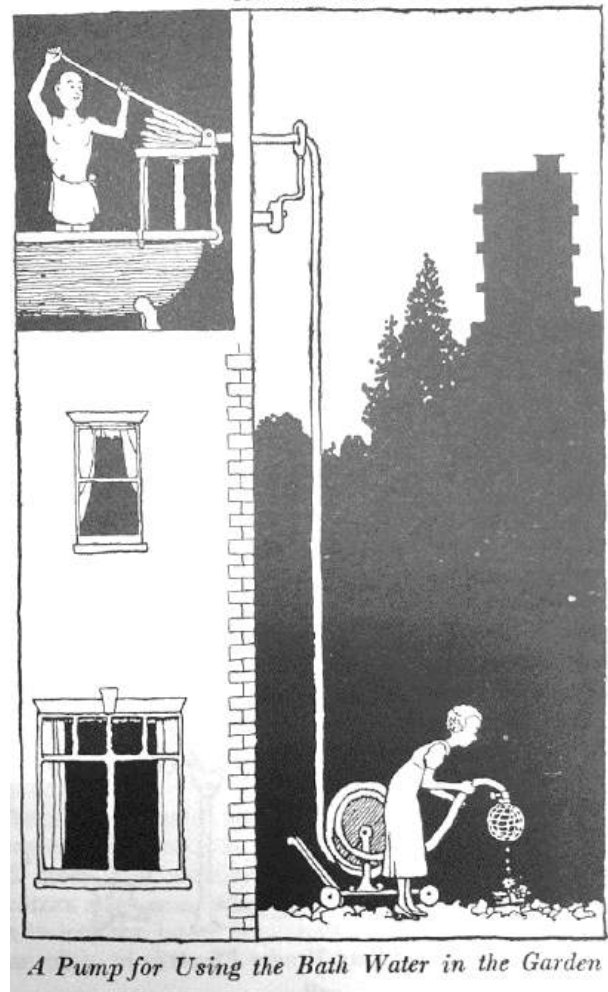
As I write this no decent rains are forecast! After a long and very hot summer grass is brown, and many plants look very dead. But don't despair. Grass will recover, I suggest cutting any long hay-like areas and raking up so that rain can more easily reach the roots, it will then green up. At least it has not needed cutting for weeks!

It is advisable to leave shrubs till the Spring, waiting to see if in fact they have survived and start shooting from the roots. Cutting back now may result in a few weak shoots which succumb to heat or later, frosts.

What this summer has proved is the need for water butts to collect rainwater. On visiting a friend's garden recently, I saw that she has recycled old freezers into water containers. They are strategically placed in her vegetable garden, painted green, and readily fill with rainwater in the winter. Handy for when needed.

More cheerfully, bulb catalogues are arriving, there seem to be more varieties than ever this year, making choices even more difficult. If planting in the ground, do remember to mark them.

Overwintering onion sets are now available, plant with just the tips showing and I suggest covering the area with netting or fleece to stop birds pulling them out. This year they will also need watering in.



What this year has in fact proved, at least as far as I am concerned, is the need for all of us with gardens, to grow more of our own vegetables and fruit. To consider ways of saving rainwater and to consider which plants can withstand higher temperatures.



Illustration from *How to make your garden grow* by Gerard Hoffnung



QRMW – Volunteers from UNUM help out

In July we had a group of volunteers who spent the day with us and quite honestly worked their socks off. They were young employees from UNUM an insurance company based in Westcott, a delightful group of young people. They took on the tasks asked of them with great enthusiasm, raking the leaves and twigs from the pathways, cleaning the benches, rubbing down the timber gate at the entrance to the car park ready for me to apply linseed oil and painting the circular seat by the monument with wood preserver. What they achieved in a day was so much appreciated. It's groups like this we are keen to encourage to come to the woodland to not just work but to find out more about the Charity and the work we do for our Veterans in times of need. Please do contact Debbie our Charity Secretary for more information if you are a group looking for a day's voluntary work to help our Charity.



As we come into September our Woodland will take on a completely different look when the leaves on the trees start to turn gold and a variety of fungi appear on the woodland floor. Every Season has its own beauty and never fails to move me when I walk through the gates.



Family Activities at Dorking Library: Future town - Design your perfect Dorking for the year 2076. What makes a town? Use cardboard cutout templates of buildings with differing frontages to design a future Dorking Street. Led by The Arts Society Dorking as part of Heritage Open Days. **Saturday 19th September, 10am-2pm.**

Celebrate Roald Dahl: What story do you like? Make a craft or colour in a picture from his books. **Saturday 26th September, 10am-noon.** Dorking Library, St. Martin's Walk. Free, materials provided, and children must be accompanied.

Abinger Nursery

By the time you read this we will be back raring to play! With new faces and a few siblings and our school leavers heading safely off to school we're ready for lots of exciting adventures. But before we get into those we have a tonne of stuff to tell you about the end of last year. Get yourself settled with a cup of tea



and let us begin.....



Our Summer term is always the busiest with lots of lovely fairs to attend, a vegetable patch in full bloom, Father's Day, leavers trip and sports day to name but a few events. We'll start off with the leading men in our lives...

our Daddies!!!! The plan was to have a Father's Day Forest school cooked breakfast however the weather had other ideas. Not ones to be deterred we let Henny do her thing in the kitchen and 'voila!' the yummiest of inside cooked breakfasts was served. We absolutely loved being able to show our dads exactly where we play – we think they wanted to stay longer!

Next up was the one and only Abinger Medieval fair in the heart of our village. We love that we are a part of the procession and feel very important parading into the ring – practicing our most royal of waves and then having front row seats for the marvellous maypole dancing. Our clapping along is exemplary!



Heading to the penultimate nursery week our super brilliant school leavers were treated to a trip on a minibus to Little Street – where they had the whole village to themselves. How many children can you fit into one fire engine? And motorbikes?!

How many grown-ups can get arrested at once? How many supermarket sweeps can be swept? Safe to say everyone had a great time and heads were nodding on the way back.

It is a nursery tradition to finish the year with Sports Day, and Graduation and this year was no different. A team of pirates assembled on the shores of the Evelyn Hall ready to battle it out on the stormy seas. Luckily, they remained calm, and treasure and medals were heartily won. We're still not quite sure who won the parents three-legged race but there were some interesting techniques! Then came the very proud moment for our graduates who each got a charismatic keepsake picture and certificate and then sung a superb song to us all! Well done and we shall miss you!

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

October Events at Leith Hill Place - booking essential

Sunday 4th October 12-1.10 Whose Green and Pleasant Land?

A free celebration of place and people with music, drama and movement and the spoken word. Free. Call info@damncheek.co.uk to book.

8th October 6-9pm. *Influences of Vaughan Williams*

Who influenced V.W. and who did he go on to influence? Join us for a musical conversation, with an evening exploring his inspirations, contemporaries and successors. £58.00 Call 03442491895 to book.

For more information on events

Contact 01306 711685 leithhillplace@nationaltrust.org.uk

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	07411 337600 housemartinoak@gmail.com
General, Conservation & Historic Carpentry	
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	
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 Bullimores	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk 01306 880880 partners@bullimores.co.uk
Funeral Services Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266
Gardens & Trees David Ford Tree Care Capel Tree Surgeons FCS Trees & Vegetation Management Osborne Landscapes & construction. Phil's Mowing SJH Garden Services Steve Heath Gardening	01306 611661 07940 197911 info@davefordtreecare.co.uk 01306 711124 07775 727121 www.capeltreesurgeons.co.uk 0800 146 122 support@fcscleaning.co.uk Mark Osborne 07818 001840 01306 730090 07905 160765 phil@philsmowingdorking.co.uk 07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk 07761 5123791
Heating, Plumbing Senergy Heating UK Solar Power Panels	01306 302085 www.senergyheating.co.uk 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 Kingfisher Farm Shop Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 711793 01306 730703 01306 730701

Sport & Fitness	
Abinger Sports Club	07774 773993 charlieye2020@gmail.com
Dance a Ramix	01306 731182. 07899 842 727 dancearamix@btinternet.com
Dorking Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk
Swimming Pools	
Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk
Wellbeing	
Nicola MacDonald Adult Courses, workshops, events	Nicola.mcdonald.ppc@gmail.com
Lesley C - Reflexology	mrs.zocher@gmail.com 07414 862 361
Health coach	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

Coldharbour Village Band playing at the new Dorking Bandstand in August



NEXT ISSUE:
October 2026
Closes 1pm
Tuesday September 15th
abingerpn@gmail.com