

ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



October 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 (01306 737160)

Treasurer:

Tim Prideaux (01306 730730)

Gift Aid Secretary:

Tim Prideaux

Flowers Secretary:

Kim Edwards (01306 730809)

Hall Bookings:

Evelyn Hall (Kim Edwards)
theevelynhall@gmail.com

Ab. Hammer Hall (01306 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

Village Pavilion (712009)

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Borrowdale safeguarding@abingerandcoldharbour.org or via

Parish Office 01306 737160. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser 01483 790379

safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

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) ppglhp@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

EVENTS



October

1st	WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
1st	Shere Cinema, <i>Hamnet</i> , 7.30
2nd	Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
3rd	Build a Scarecrow, St James' 11 am
4th	Whose Green & Pleasant Land, LHP, 12 & 2.30
4th	Maiastra Concert, St James', 7.30
6th	Life at Amber Open Morning, Ockley 11 - 1
7th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
7th	Surrey Hills School Tour, 9.00
8th	Vaughan Williams event, LHP, 6pm
9th -11th	DGA exhibition, Denbies, 10 - 5
10th	Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
14th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
16th	Karaoke Night, Abinger Hatch, 7-11
18th	Shere Cinema, <i>The Christophers</i> , 7.30
21st	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
23rd	CSSC Quiz Night, The Plough, 6.30
24th	Surrey Serenaders, Evelyn Hall, 10-12
24th	D&G Concert, St James', 7.30
28th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

November

4th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
5th	Shere Cinema, <i>A Matter of Life and Death</i> , 7.30
6th	Coldharbour coffee morning JV Hall 10.30-11.30
7th	Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12

From the Editors

The cover picture is the intrepid group of workers on the Benefice Walk. See pages 15 and 16.

Don't miss the **Children's Section** in this month's magazine. Lucy Lee, the Headteacher of Merrywood, the new school in the middle of Abinger Common tells us about the school.

Kia has exciting news about employing a youth worker for our villages and expanding activities for our young people.

And do come and build a scarecrow – lots of stuff provided, or bring your own!



From our Church Treasurers

A heartfelt thank you to our Community, Volunteers and Sponsors

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our recent request for donations to the Parish News.

The main cost of producing the Parish News is the printing. Every single person involved in putting it together—including our brilliant editors and our dedicated delivery team—does it completely for free. The Parish News is distributed free of charge to every single household in Abinger and Coldharbour by a wonderful group of kind volunteers, and it is even posted out to people who have moved away but wish to keep in touch with the area they love. We owe a thank you to all of them.

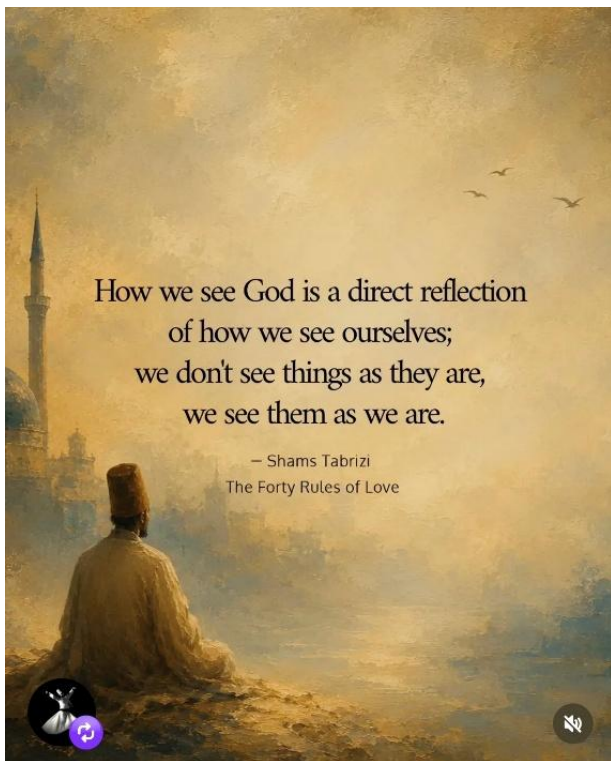
The majority of the printing costs are covered by advertising revenue. Sally McCance, our Parish Secretary, does a marvellous job of keeping in touch with our advertisers and encouraging them to promote their businesses with us. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our local businesses. If you want to advertise or know someone who does, please contact Sally.

However, there is still a financial shortfall, which is why your individual donations help enormously. But this ecosystem only works if our advertisers continue to support us—and they will only do that if they know their adverts are working.

If you have work that needs doing around the house or garden, please look to the Parish News first. Get a quote from our advertisers, and most importantly, please tell them that you saw their advert in the Parish News. Your choice to buy local keeps our community connected!

Tim Prideaux & Martin Neve, Parish Treasurers

Reflections from the Rectory



I've always loved this quote but struggled to completely understand it! I never claim to have all the answers, but this is where I have got to.

This quote has encouraged me to look inward and consider how my own experiences, beliefs, and emotions shape my understanding of God. When we see ourselves as unworthy, broken, or fearful, we may imagine God in the same way—as distant, judgmental, or unforgiving. However, when we recognise our own value and capacity for growth, we may see God as loving, compassionate, and accepting. The quote reminds us that

our perception is often influenced by what we carry within ourselves. Understanding God, therefore, can also become a journey of understanding ourselves. By becoming more honest and compassionate towards ourselves, we may develop a deeper, more loving relationship with God.

As we enter Autumn proper and find ourselves caught up with the busyness of life, may we pause and wonder; if there is a power greater than us, what do I think he/she/they are like? Am I loved and accepted for who I am? If so, what does that mean?

Your churches (me and the people in them!) are here for all your questions, whether you are simply curious or are struggling with the bigger questions of life. We don't have all the answers, but we can help you look.



With love
Rev'd Kia ☺

Special Services to remember loved ones

Loved Ones Remembered

at St James' Abinger

on Sunday 25th October at 10.30am

All Souls Service

at Christ Church, Coldharbour

on Sunday 1st November at 10.00am

Both services will be quiet and contemplative, to remember with love and affection, those who have died and whose memories we still honour and treasure.

Names will be read out and candles may be lit to remind us of the light with which they enriched and still enrich our lives.

All are most welcome to attend and after each service, refreshments will be offered providing a time in which to share memories and bring consolation and comfort to one another.

At St James' Abinger, Kia will light a candle and give a blessing for all those names that we have previously had listed for past services. The list will be placed near the altar but these names will not be read out.

Those attending will be invited on arrival to write down the name of loved ones whose names will be read out during the service and they will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

At Christ Church Coldharbour, Kia will read the list of names and those present will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

If you have recently lost a loved one and cannot attend a service but would like their name read out, please let Sally at the Parish Office know.

Looking Back to September



Coldharbour's September Coffee Morning

Friday 4th September didn't start in the best way weather wise but by the time the guests arrived at the John Venus Hall the sun came out.

A very well attended morning with yet again some of our lovely newcomers and their dog (a very well behaved Bobby). Lots of noisy

chatter, talk of Quiz night, lack of fruit on the trees and the cake today's not bad!

Please come and join us the first Friday of each month. The next one will be Friday 2nd October. Not long until the Christmas Coffee Morning with exciting raffle - everyone's a winner.

Hils Jupe

The Surrey Serenaders in St James'



The Surrey Serenaders were at St James' on the morning of September 12th, serenading the Benefice Walkers as they arrived for their lunch (see next page).

They next meet on 10th October.



Surrey
Wildlife Trust

THANK YOU **FOR ALL OF** **YOUR SUPPORT**

**TOGETHER WE RAISED A
WHOPPING £760**



The sun shone down as the brave walkers gathered at Christ Church, and Coldharbour Band members waved us off with a jaunty 'Rather you than me!'. At St. Mary's we were greeted by

Debbie and Sandra with delicious (delicious!) cake and drinks, trying hard not to become tangled in the 42K Surrey Hills Multi Terrain Event which was being held at the same time in the same place.....perhaps next year.....Hugo Pakenham and Hebe Clark were perfect team

mascots,

representing high energy, anarchic orienteering and a compulsion to eat blackberries along the way. Jenny H delivered lunch to the masses at St. James' in Abinger Common where our fan club also found us (eventually).





At St. John's, Wotton, we pounced on an unimpressed young man who nevertheless took a lovely group photo, and from there we pushed on to complete the last leg of our **Benefice Loop*** finishing back at Christ Church in Coldharbour

where

Band members were long gone, but the sun still shone.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to make our walk so successful. We will be sharing proceeds equally between the two charities.



***What is this Benefice thing?**

Back in 2014, our four village churches were joined together in a group named the Leith Hill Benefice.

The Benefice Loop is a walking network created to celebrate our neighbours and the beautiful environment which we all love so much. It connects each church and a Saturday walk is organised every time we have a Sunday Benefice Service (where congregations from all villages join together in one of our churches) about five times in the year.

Please contact lucyharlow@me.com if you'd like updates or to join the walking group - everyone is welcome.

**Next walk: 9.30, Saturday 28th November
from St. James' Church Abinger Common**

Abinger Community Lunch – September 13th



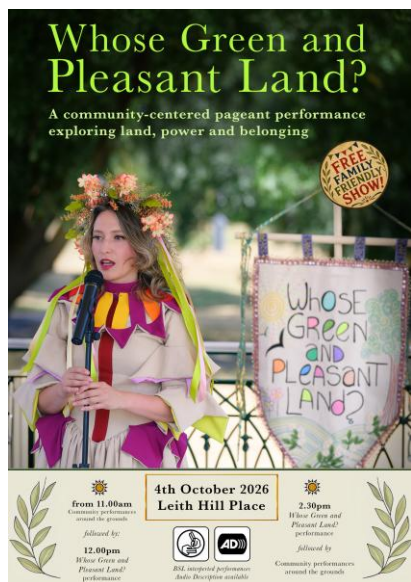
What a busy weekend! Particularly for Lucy Harlow, who together with Katie Brodie organised the third Community Lunch in the

Evelyn Hall - this time a delicious lasagne made with Farmer Lee's home reared beef. Thank you so much to Lucy, Katie and their band of helpers. **The next one is Sunday 6th December.** Do come along.



Local Events in October and beyond

Two special events at Leith Hill Place



The 4th October will see a buzz of activity at **Leith Hill Place** as a day of entertainment surrounds the pageant performance of *Whose Green and Pleasant Land?* Conceived as a response to the 1938 pageant written by local residents Vaughan Williams and E M Forster, this 2026 version features Coldharbour Village Band, Mickleham Choral, Box Hill Bedlam and more as well as many local individuals taking part in the drama which has a new script by local writer (and CVB member) Tony Earnshaw. The play looks at developments on the land and with the land since 1938 and is entertaining, thought provoking and

fast moving. There will be two performances – at **12 noon** and at **2.30pm** – sandwiched between performances in the grounds by the bands, singers and others. Entry is ticketed but free. This is a truly community event – more information on <https://damncheek.co.uk/productions/whose-green-and-pleasant-land/> or just scan the QR code



Influences of Vaughan Williams

Leith Hill Place, Thurs 8th Oct, 6-9pm

Who influenced Ralph Vaughan Williams — and who did he go on to influence? Join us for a musical conversation, with an evening at Leith Hill Place exploring Vaughan Williams inspirations, contemporaries and successors. Bernardi Music Group's Stradivarius Piano Trio, led by renowned violinist Andrew Bernardi, will guide us through the evening. The programme includes music from Ravel, Ina Boyle & Vaughan Williams including artwork by Michael Joseph. Join us as we celebrate Vaughan Williams's birthday, with a glass of bubbles and a slice of cake included. Booking essential: 03442491895



National
Trust

Leith Hill Place and access to The Tower are open at weekends only until the end of September. After that both will be closed for the winter; the servery will remain open from 10 to 3 every day.

A number of new rangers have been appointed - the latest list can be seen on the NT page on www.coldharbour.net

Life at Amber Open Morning



The Amber Foundation is a charity that St James' supports – helping young people who have had a difficult start in life get back on their feet and move their lives forward. Farm Place is local to us, in Ockley.

You are warmly invited to Farm Place's annual Arts Alive open morning, on **Tuesday 6th October 11am-1pm.**

The young people will be serving artisan coffee in partnership with Pocket Angel where they receive barista training, as well as cakes baked by the young people and staff. There will be freshly cut dahlias for sale from Clare at Froggetts Farm Flowers, where the young people attend twice a month throughout the year to gain valuable work experience.

Please contact louise.cheung@amberweb.org if you would like to come

October Exhibition 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, DGA 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.

Karaoke Night

Abinger Hatch, Friday 16th October

7-11pm

Raising money for the Abinger Common Nursery.

Tickets from
info@abingercommon@gmail.com



Coldharbour Quiz Night - Friday October 23rd

The CSSC annual quiz night and fish'n chip supper will be on Friday 23rd, commencing at 6:30 in The Plough. Supper will be promptly served at 7:30. Numbers will be limited to 70, teams will be limited to 8, and we will put you in a team if you need one. The cost will be £17.50 per person, including supper and prizes. Please put this in your diaries and transfer clearly marked payments to:

Coldharbour Sports and Social Club
Sort Code: 30-91-91 Account: 38551760

Christmas Craft Fair in November

Amanda Hanlin writes: Get ready for the **Coldharbour Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday November 21st** from 11.00 - 14.30 at Christ Church Coldharbour.

Skip the High Street and discover unique gifts handcrafted by local artists and craftsmen.

From handmade decorations, perfumes and Coldharbour sheepskins, you're



guaranteed to find that perfect one of a kind Christmas present. Entrance is free and you'll be welcomed with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on arrival. What's not to love!

These are the stallholders:

- Luca Reekie – handmade perfumes crafted in small batches and blended by hand
- Simon Maskell – handcrafted and handprinted leaf sculptures
- Ncki Gill – handmade handbags
- Shelley Bock – ceramic Christmas decorations and cards, tea lights, bowls and flower garden stakes
- Gabby Rapson – decorative wood art, driftwood mobiles and wire animals
- Victoria Edwards – Christmas wreaths and macramé
- Jo Chaytor – Coldharbour sheepskins and felted/vegetarian sheepskins
- Bella Pakenham- short stories, poetry and literary gifting
- Terry O'Brien – ceramic pots, indoor/outdoor mobiles and light pods
- Sue Hamilton-Skerritt – unique mixed media paintings
- Caroline Sack – printed cards from original hand painted drawings
- Neil McCance – handmade wooden gifts
- Margaret de la Hunty – original and eclectic art
- Lucy Brill – locally produced honey, beeswax products and hand turned wooden bowls
- Patsy Simpson – hand-painted artwork
- Henry Maxwell – homemade jams and chutneys
- Paul Orme Smith – handmade ceramics
- The Cake Stall – homemade Christmas puddings, cakes and Christmas treats



SALV AUTUMN EVENING TALK AND AGM

SHERE VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 11th November at 8pm

HOPE FOR THE BEST, PLAN FOR THE REST!

An evening of discussion around planning for your future to include Lasting Powers of Attorney, Wills, Respect Forms, Living Wills and Advanced Directives with GPs and legal guidance.

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

(Registered Charity no 1016023)

SALV Village Reps

SALV (Shere and Local Villages) is the charity that supports the surgery. There is a board of trustees who meet regularly with the Doctors and other surgery staff.

Each village has a SALV rep who helps to provide a channel of communication between the trustees and the Doctors.

SALV organises 2 meetings a year when the Doctors or outside speakers talk on specialised subjects, these meetings are free of charge and all are welcome.

The reps help market these meetings.

There are then additional evenings on subjects such as the menopause and men's health. We have also started to organise first aid courses (these incur a small fee).

Di Harvey has been the rep for Holmbury St Mary for many years. She has recently stepped down and has been replaced by Alison Colville. We thank Di for her help with SALV over the years.

Your Reps are

Abinger: Alyson Webber alysonjwebber@aol.com

Holmbury St Mary: Alison Colvile 07469141499

Services at St James' Church, Abinger



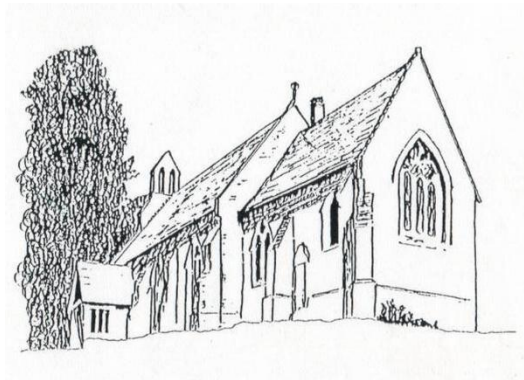
4th October 10.30am	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children Refreshments after the service
11th October 6.00pm	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Choral Evensong
18th October 10.30am	The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity 'Come and See' Sunday Refreshments after the service
25th October 10.30am	The Last Sunday after Trinity Loved Ones Remembered Remembering with thanksgiving, those who have died Refreshments after the service (See also page 11 for more details)
6.00pm	Julian meeting Half of an hour of stillness with God
1st November 10.30am	All Saints Day Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children Refreshments after the service

SJ's and Repair Café Abinger

Every Wednesday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am.

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



4th October 9.00am	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
11th October 10.00am	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Second Sunday Service (Iona with communion) Refreshments after the service
18th October 9.00am 6.00pm	The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Choral Evensong for the Dedication Festival
25th October 10.00am 6.00pm	The Last Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion (Common Worship) Refreshments after the service Julian meeting <u>at St. James' Abinger</u> Half of an hour of stillness with God
1st November 10.00am	All Saints Day All Souls service Remembering with thanksgiving, those who have died Refreshments after the service (See also page 11 for more details)

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 5th October and Monday 19th October from 10am - 11am in the JV Hall. Do pop in to say hello to Kia and Sally with any questions - or just for a coffee and a chat!

Christ Church leaf sweep: A date for your diary in advance of the official notice in the November edition - Saturday 5th December at 9.30 am.

The Abinger Soirée – call for entertainers

Gosh, Summer is hardly over and we are already thinking of December! Please put the date of **Friday 18th December** in your diaries – 6pm, Evelyn Hall. If you don't know what the 'Soirée' is, it's not as posh as it sounds, but an informal evening where children and adults have a chance to perform their party piece – which may be a song or an instrumental performance, dance, magic, poetry ... whatever you have up your sleeve. You don't have to perform of course – you can just come along and enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie. But if you think you or your children might have a talent – get polishing! Contact Jayne Chaffe for more details: 07795 098263.



MUSIC – LOCAL CONCERTS IN OCTOBER

There are some fantastic concerts coming up in our churches.

Maiastra - Piano Quartets with Akiko Ono

**Sunday 4th October, 7.30pm,
St James' Church, Abinger**

Free tickets / donations welcome. Wine and soft drinks will be served before the performance and during the interval - all proceeds to the Aidan Woodcock Charitable Trust.

Programme: Frank Bridge - Phantasy for Piano Quartet, H.94; Josef Suk - Piano Quartet in A minor, Op. 1; Schumann - Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 47.



For more details or to reserve tickets in advance:
<https://maiastra.org/maiastra-concerts/maiastra-october-2026---piano-quartets-with-akiko-ono>

D & G Choir

Saturday 24th October, 7.30 pm at St James'

D&G Choir 20th Anniversary Concert



Musical Director: Jody Robinson

Saturday 24th October 2026 · 7.30pm
St James Church, Abinger

£12 Adults · £8 Children (U18)



Refreshments available for purchase

Tickets: tickets@dandgchoir.net

**Proceeds in aid of Live Life Give Life (Organ Donor Charity) and
Kidney Care UK (Kidney Patient Support Charity)**



Christ Church Dedication Festival 2026

Christ Church was dedicated on 19th October 1848 and it has become our custom to celebrate this on the nearest weekend. This year the programme will be:

Saturday 17th October

Tea/coffee and cake/biscuits from 3.30 pm. Concert 4.00 pm: Jenny Hansell & Miranda Johnson sopranos with David Hansell harpsichord & organ. Stunning vocal duets by Handel, Purcell, Charpentier & Monteverdi, & the rarely heard (but very pretty) Organ Sonata in C minor by Giovanni Battista Pescetti.

Sunday 18th October

Choral Evensong 6.00 pm led by Hilary Swift with Leith Hill Choirs. The service will include choral music by Amy Beach and 'local boy' Ralph Vaughan Williams; organ music by Herbert Howells written as a tribute to RVW, his mentor and close friend; and fine traditional hymns.

Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

24th at 4.00, Musical Mingle, free, 07304 027835

Following the success of their first concert back in April, Westcott musicians will be holding a second 'Musical Mingle'. This is an opportunity to enjoy classical music in a relaxed format, especially suitable for those who might experience barriers to attending a traditional concert. Entry is free, with donations invited, and there will be light refreshments with an opportunity to meet the players. The music will include Mozart's lovely clarinet quintet.

Leith Hill Music Festival Come & Sing

Oct 17th, 9.30 - 5.00



The Leith Hill Music Festival is holding a Come & Sing day at St Martin's Church, led by the inspiring festival conductor Neil Ferris, together with three distinguished composers: Cecilia McDowall, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and Joanna Gill. Singers will learn three new pieces written especially by these composers, along with a new piece by Will Todd. The day will culminate with an informal performance of the music at 4pm (open to audience, price £10). Tickets can be booked through the LHMF website: <https://lhmf.org.uk/future-events/come-sing>

Music in Dorking in October



3rd at 12.00, lunchtime concert at St Martin's Church
10th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's Church

24th at 12.00, lunchtime piano recital at St Martin's Church

24th at 7.30, soprano and guitar at St Martin's Church, £25, 01306 740619

The new season for the Dorking Concertgoers begins with a concert of song, held in St Martin's while the Dorking Halls undergoes essential refurbishment.

This concert, **at 7.30 on Oct 24th**, is given by Bibi Heal with guitarist Amanda Cook. They are well known for their imaginative and expressive programmes, and this concert, entitled Nature v Nurture, will explore the beauties of Mother Nature alongside the follies of human nature.



This month's **lunchtime recital on Oct 3rd** at St Martin's is a concert entitled Family Harmony. Given by Rebecca, Nicholas, Eloise, Beth and Eve Yates, it is a recital for voice, trumpet and bassoon, with music by Purcell, Bach and Handel. The concert is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the William Cole Church Music Trust.

On **Oct 24th** there is a lunchtime concert given by the renowned pianist Roman Rudnytsky. He is an international American concert pianist of Ukrainian background, whose programme will no doubt be a treat to hear.

On Oct 10th, the Dorking Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Morley, has a programme of music from the classical era, with Mozart's piano concerto no.24 in C minor, Beethoven's Egmont overture, Schubert's Tragic symphony, and an overture by Fanny Mendelssohn.

Ian Codd

CINEMA



Shere Village Cinema (SVC)

Book now for films in October and November

Watching a film at the SVC gives an opportunity to sit amongst friends and strangers in a convivial atmosphere, have a glass of wine (donated by members of the audience), with an interval where you can top up your drinks, buy ice creams and chat about the film. If you haven't been before – do try it out!

For tickets please go to the website: www.sherevillagecinema.com. For those unable to access the internet, there may be some tickets for sale on the door. All tickets, except where indicated, cost £6/adult and £4/child.

Thursday 1st October – Hamnet - is a visually stunning and deeply moving historical drama based on Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling novel. In 1580s Warwickshire, a penniless Latin tutor named William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) falls in love with Agnes Hathaway (Jessie Buckley), a free-spirited herbal healer. Featuring an Oscar-winning performance by Jessie Buckley and a haunting score by Max Richter, Hamnet is an unforgettable exploration of love, loss, and the healing power of art. Classification 12A (Running time is 2 hours 5 minutes). Start time: 7.30pm

Sunday 18th October – The Christophers - is a witty, fast-paced dark comedy-drama exploring art, greed, and family betrayal. The story follows Julian Sklar (Ian McKellen), a legendary 1960s London pop-art icon who has aged into a broke, irascible recluse surviving on celebrity Cameo videos. WARNING – CONTAINS SOME VERY STRONG LANGUAGE Classification 15 (Running time is 1 hour 40 minutes). Start time: 7.30pm

November Films

Thursday 5th November – A Matter of Life and Death – Made by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, and released in November 1946. There is a particularly good reason for the SVC showing it, as Shere itself appears in the film. One scene features a camera obscura looking out over Middle Street, giving us a wonderfully clear glimpse of the village as it was in the 1940s.

Sunday 15h November – Dead of Winter - Hit by a blizzard, a grief-stricken loner (Emma Thompson) gets lost among backroads near a Minnesotan lake and stops for help at a remote cabin in the woods.

CHILDREN

A message from Kia - Supporting Children and Young Families in Our Villages

You may have seen a short survey going around recently — thank you to everyone who has already taken part. I wanted to share why we're doing it.



Our churches are meant to feel like a family, with all ages and stages represented. At the moment, that's not quite the picture we see week by week. Yet whenever we hold our Christingle service, the church is full of children, parents, noise and joy. It's a glimpse of what could be.

Families are busy, and we don't want to add pressure or guilt. We simply want to offer support, friendship, and space to explore faith in ways that feel natural and helpful.

Although losing the Abinger School was hard, it has opened a new door. Part of the proceeds from the site — held in a tightly restricted trust — can only be used for religious education for children and young people in the Parish of Abinger “by means of a Sunday School or otherwise”. After careful legal advice, we're embracing that “or otherwise”.

We're now exploring the possibility of employing a Children's and Families Worker to help us connect meaningfully with young people in Abinger and, creatively, across all our villages.

Your thoughts really matter. If you have ideas, questions, or anything you didn't get to say in the survey, I'd love to hear from you.

We hope this will be a joyful step that blesses our families, our young people, and our whole community.

With love, Revd Kia ☺



PS If you have children or teenagers and would like to do the survey (it's quick and easy), please scan the barcode or get in touch with the Parish Office.

Every little helps!

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

It has been wonderful to begin a new academic year and, as I write, is it the first whole week of term!

We are delighted to welcome new families into Reception and across the school and we are also thrilled to welcome four new members of staff too. Over the summer holidays, our entrance was reconfigured and I wish to thank the whole staff team who have taken great care in creating a welcoming and stimulating environment for the children to thrive.



The new academic year brings lots of exciting developments at Surrey Hills School - from the introduction of a revised approach to the teaching of handwriting, weekly forest school for all infant children,

whole class instrumental tuition for our juniors and the introduction of a wider range of extra-curricular activities - including design engineering and gymnastics. We are looking forward to sharing the exciting learning and enriching opportunities the children access in the coming months. Please follow us on Instagram or Facebook for regular updates. Across the autumn term, we will be hosting tours for prospective parents and we would be delighted to show you our school or at an alternative time to suit you, if these are inconvenient.

PROSPECTIVE PARENT TOURS

WE ARE A ONE-FORM ENTRY, NURTURING PRIMARY SCHOOL SET IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTCOTT AND WE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOU OUR SCHOOL.





REGISTER HERE

TOURS AVAILABLE AT 9AM ON:

- THURS 24TH SEPTEMBER
- WED 7TH OCTOBER
- TUES 3RD NOVEMBER
- THURS 19TH NOVEMBER

IF THESE DATES ARE INCONVENIENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE (01306 881 136) TO BOOK AN INDIVIDUAL TOUR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR SCHOOL AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU IN DUE COURSE.

Kelly Frost, Headteacher

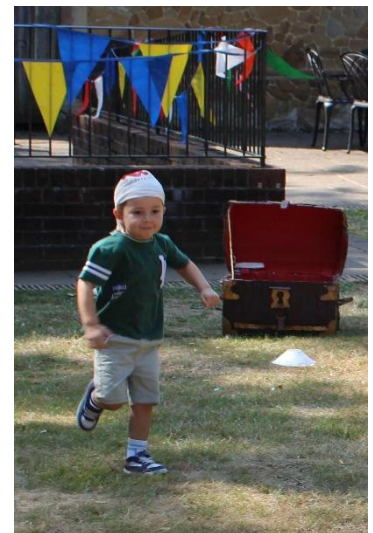


October brings us all things leafy, beautiful colours of brown, orange and yellow and big fat shiny conkers! Just opposite us on the green and in the churchyard are the trees full of treasure and we wait patiently until

they fall plonk to the ground!!! Pockets stuffed to full to the hilt and leaves crunched and kicked about we certainly make the most of the nature around us on our forest school walks. Get out your wellies and try it!

The vegetables we eat are suitably orangey too and there's not an October where we don't rustle up some scrumptious soup. We love chop chopping up the autumn veg and giving it a good old mix together. The best part? Eating it of course! With a big wedge of homemade bread guaranteed to full up the hungriest of tummies (and we have a lot of hungry tummies!).

Pumpkin season is upon us and we are old hands at carving and decorating - so much so that we have taken things a step further! We melt crayons and drip them all over the bumps to make wonderful works of art. Another trick is to get a stash of buttons out and pin them all over. It is very satisfying!



The photos are of our amazing sports day swashbuckling pirates as we had gone to print before they were available but thought you'd still like to see them! Enjoy!

If you would like to join our nursery family please don't hesitate to get in touch - we currently have spaces available for an immediate start. We have cooking and forest school on a Wednesday and French lessons on a Thursday. For more information or to book a show around call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com. We can't wait to meet you!

Merrywood Education - Abinger Campus

Merrywood Education is delighted to have opened the Abinger Campus and become part of the Abinger Common community. Since welcoming our first pupils in June, we have been proud to bring the former Abinger School site back into educational use, continuing its long-standing tradition as a place of learning. Our school provides specialist education for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), many of whom benefit from a nurturing, highly personalised approach that helps them build confidence, develop positive relationships and achieve success both in and beyond the classroom.

We understand that the increased activity around the site has naturally generated interest among residents. We would like to reassure our neighbours that we are committed to being a respectful, considerate and positive presence within village life. We feel privileged to be based in such a beautiful and historic setting and recognise the importance of being a good neighbour. At Merrywood Education, our aim is not only to provide outstanding support for our pupils and their families, but also to foster positive connections within the local community. We look forward to getting to know our fellow residents and playing our part in ensuring that this much-loved school site continues to be a place where young people can learn, grow and thrive.

Lucy Lee, Executive Headteacher

Abinger Build a Scarecrow Competition



Abinger Common & Wotton W.I.

We gathered, as usual, in the Wotton Hall on a sunny afternoon for our September meeting. Each of us was given a name sticker for the benefit of several new members who were warmly welcomed by President, Lesley Childs. Sally Frost asked for someone to accompany her to speakers' auditions in November and a member promptly stepped up. On this occasion, speakers had cancelled at the last minute, and Major Paul Whittle (ret'd) stepped into the breach at short notice with an illustrated talk entitled "The Andes and the Incas – Peru Explored". Also, like a number of W.I. speakers, he donated his fee to charity.

Peru, he reminded us, is a long strip of a country north to south with the Pacific to the west and the Andes range of mountains to the east comprising 37 peaks over 18,000 feet. It covers 500,000 sq. miles and is rich in minerals, so mining is a major industry, also fishing, manufacturing and agriculture, though there is little rain. There are offshore islands with millions of birds providing guano, which is harvested and used as fertiliser. Potatoes originally came from Peru. Nowadays tourism is also a major industry, and in tourist centres the locals turn out in colourful national costume for the visitors. There are glaciers and lakes which, with global warming, pose a future danger, as in Nepal. It also has frequent earth tremors, causing damage to buildings. We were shown pictures of ancient structures made with huge stones wedged together by weight and shape, no cement. 60 per cent of the landscape is Amazonian rain forest, the largest rainforest in the world. It is threatened with illegal miners and there are standoffs with the police, who are fighting a losing battle. These miners cut down trees to get at the gold and oil, destroying rainforest.



Major Whittle told us about his journeying in Peru by road, boat, rail and air and showed photos of its major cities and sites, several of which are UNESCO world heritage sites, in particular Machu Picchu, which was hidden for years and finally found by an American explorer. Peru is a developing country with both rich areas and shanty towns. It had a number of original tribes and the rich Inca Empire, with its horrifying element of human sacrifice. The Spanish invasion of 1535 swept that away. It also brought horses, and diseases fatal to the indigenous

population and led to the country becoming Spanish speaking and Roman Catholic. Peru finally gained its independence in 1824.

This was a fascinating talk, followed by the customary good W.I. tea provided by Marilyn Sena, Anne Steele and helpers.

Next meeting: Thursday, 1st October at 2.30 p.m. when Debbie Skeil will be leading a session making wreaths for autumn or Christmas. Visitors and new members welcome.

Pat O'Brien

October in your Garden

At long last we have had some rain, but nowhere near enough! In our area, rhododendrons seem to be one of the hardest hit by this year's weather. I would suggest not cutting them back now, but leave till the spring, there is a chance, given lots of rain that they may survive, and shoot from the base then.

October is the time to plant daffodils, at least 3 times their depth, while tulips can happily wait till November. If planting bulbs in pots for Christmas gifts, leave them in a cold area as long as possible so that they establish a strong root system, and do not bolt. Do take care when handling bulbs, especially hyacinths as they can cause skin problems.

Why not scatter hardy annual seeds now, rather than in the spring, they will then be off to an early start next year. Nigella, cornflowers, poppies, larkspur and marigolds are amongst the best. If you have a bare patch on a lawn, why not sow it with a wild flower or meadow mixture. It will be greatly appreciated by butterflies next year.

If you are sowing hardier varieties of broad beans and peas, to over winter, I suggest covering them with biodegradable fleece, just to stop birds, especially pigeons from helping themselves. Also cover newly planted over-wintering onion sets, birds do like to pull them up.

One thing this year has taught us is to save as much water as we can. Do remember rain water tends to be slightly acid, whilst in this area at least, tap water, being considered hard, is alkaline. Using a hose, that is tap water, is not very kind to acid loving plants like rhododendrons and camellias.

As evenings draw in and new seed and plant catalogues arrive enjoy browsing, but we now maybe need to consider more carefully the conditions that the chosen plants actually require!

Robin



Congratulations to Patrick Newberry!



This year's King's Birthday Honours List included Patrick Newberry, who was for many years Churchwarden in Coldharbour, and also our village historian, leaving us with many well-researched stories about this part of Surrey. He and Jane, also a very active villager and brilliant organiser of events and activities for children, moved to the West Country about a decade ago. Being retired now, he threw himself into things that interested him locally.

His MBE was awarded for his involvement in many West Country institutions, especially in education and history.

Graham Mytton



**SURREY BERNEDOODLE
NEXT LITTER DUE IN OCTOBER 2026**

Email
surreybernedoodle@gmail.com to
be added to our waiting list

Christ Church churchyard



Alan Burns

You may have noticed that there has been no one cutting the grass and generally tidying up the churchyard for the past month or so and reasonably have assumed that it was due to the dry hot weather, but sadly it is because Alan Burns who has looked after it for the past few years has died following a heart attack.

Alan was 65 and loved being in the open air, a perennial shorts wearer (except on the few occasions when he wore his kilt) - the rest of us at leaf sweep in December thought he was nuts!

He will be sorely missed, a lovely man who loved working in our churchyard; he agreed that it's a special place. There'll be a new face in the churchyard later in the year so please stop to say hello like you did to Alan who told me how much he enjoyed it.

Kerry Day

Neil Maltby

Neil Maltby who was for many years Mole Valley District councillor for this area, and who became leader of the Council, died just days before we went to press. We will have a tribute to him and the story of his life in the next edition. Perhaps his best known achievement will surely last forever - the splendid Dorking cockerel on the A24/A25 roundabout.

Mark Northfield

Earlier this year, Mark Northfield, who lived in Coldharbour for some years, died. At one time he was a jockey, at the time when the residents of Crocker's Farm had racing horses. He also often worked for local land owner Gordon Heath. After leaving the village about 30 years ago, Mark would often return to see his friends, among whom was John "Smiler" Steele.

Graham Mytton

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 - Building and Renovation	01293 871008 info@lyneandco.co.uk
Carpenters	
Acorn – bespoke furniture	07779 246 738 bespokebyacorn.co.uk
Tony Winch – Carpenter, Joiner, Cabinet Maker	01306 742373 07969 016924 www.tonywinch.com
Matt Flynn – Carpentry, Handyman	07805 456027 matt@thecarpentryhandyman.co.uk
Ohwo Lund Carpentry	07462 810126 owohlundcarpentry@gmail.com
Neil Martin: General, Conservation & Historic Carpentry	07411 337600 housemartinoak@gmail.com
Cars	
Service, repairs, MOTs, Car Sales, Part Exchange	Dave Mir 07736 912751 Dave@Mir-Tech.co.uk Neil Howey 07956 391804 neilhowey@gmail.com
Charities	
Abinger Consolidated Charities	kimclark50@gmail.com
Chimneys	
Bliss Chimney Sweeps	07739 638431 blisschimneys@gmail.com
Computers	
WMF-IT consultants	01306 731253 sales@wmf-it.co.uk
Decorators	
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418 www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
Electricians	
Noyes	07947 093830 mjn@uwclub.net
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996 phase.surrey@gmail.com
Fencing	
RB Fencing	01306 640143 01483 414745 info@rbfencingltd.co.uk
Finance	
Porter & Co	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
Bullimores	01306 880880 partners@bullimores.co.uk
Funeral Services	
Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266

Gardens & Trees	
David Ford Tree Care	01306 611661 07940 197911 info@davefordtreecare.co.uk
Capel Tree Surgeons	01306 711124 07775 727121 www.capeltreesurgeons.co.uk
FCS Trees & Vegetation Management	0800 146 122 support@fcscleaning.co.uk
Mart's Garden Maintenance	07480 831178 marts.65.cox@gmail.com
Osborne Landscapes & construction.	Mark Osborne 07818 001840 01306 730090
Phil's Mowing	07905 160765 phil@philsmowingdorking.co.uk
SJH Garden Services	07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk
Steve Heath Gardening	07761 5123791
Heating, Plumbing	
Senergy Heating	01306 302085 www.senergyheating.co.uk
UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
Jobs in Care	
Home Instead Epsom & Mole Valley	01372 741544 Maggie.adenmosun@homeinstead.co.uk
Pest Control	
Emwood	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
Piano Tuning	
Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
Printing	
Barkers, Dorking	01306 888858 rob@barkerprint.co.uk
Removals	
Ede Bros	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk
Shops	
Coldharbour Village Shop	01306 711793
Kingfisher Farm Shop	01306 730703
Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 730701
Sport & Fitness	
Abinger Sports Club	07774 773993 charlieye2020@gmail.com
Dance a Ramix	01306 731182. 07899 842 727 dancearamix@btinternet.com
Dorking Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk
Swimming Pools	
Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk
Wellbeing	
Nicola MacDonald Adult Courses, workshops, events	Nicola.mcdonald.ppc@gmail.com
Lesley C - Reflexology Health coach	mrs.zocher@gmail.com 07414 862 361 07811 384402
Jodechi Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching	07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com
Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	internitylife@pm.me 07919 102332 http://internity.life
Skybound Pole & Arial Studio	info@skyboundarialstudios.co.uk
Miscellaneous	
Abinger Common Nursery School	07842 978823 abingercommonnursery@gmail.com
Abinger Hammer Village Hall	01306 730703
Evelyn Hall	01306 730809 theevelynhall@gmail.com

Buy this children's book and support Home-Start

A local book with a big heart

The Adventures of Petie

A new children's book from local creators

There are some stories that stay with a family for generations – told around the kitchen table, at bedtime, or on long car journeys. *The Adventures of Petie* is one such story. A much-loved tale, passed down through three generations, it has finally been brought to life in a beautifully illustrated children's book.

Petie is the central character in a new children's illustrated book written by local author **Sarah Hammond** and brought to life through the illustrations of local artist **Peter McNiven**.

The book follows Petie as he sets about building his very own den in the woodland. What begins as a simple idea soon develops into an adventure filled with fun, friendship, discoveries and a little bit of mischief along the way. Petie approaches everything with positivity and curiosity, and along the way discovers that some of the best adventures are those shared with others.

Petie's adventures are only just beginning...



**HOME
START**
Guildford

The book costs **£9.99** and all proceeds go to **Home-Start Guildford**. It can be purchased locally at **Shere Pottage** or online via **Paper Moon, Guildford**.

All enquiries to robk@hsguildford.org.uk

Petie is a little boy who loves fun, friendship, mischief, animals and adventure. His biggest quality is his kindness.

He has wonderful adventures and is always positive and this the first book telling the stories around building of his den in the woodland.

Petie was written by Sarah Hammond from Albury and illustrated by Peter McNiven from Dunsfold. They are generously donating all proceeds to Home-Start Guildford. The book will be available at Shere Pottage and in store and online @ Paper Moon in Guildford.

Contact Rob Kelly at robk@hsguildford.org.uk to find out more

Home-Start is a family support charity who provides free, confidential, and non-judgmental assistance to parents with young children who are going through challenging times

NEXT ISSUE:
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abingerpn@gmail.com