ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



November 2026

Making Scarecrows at St James'





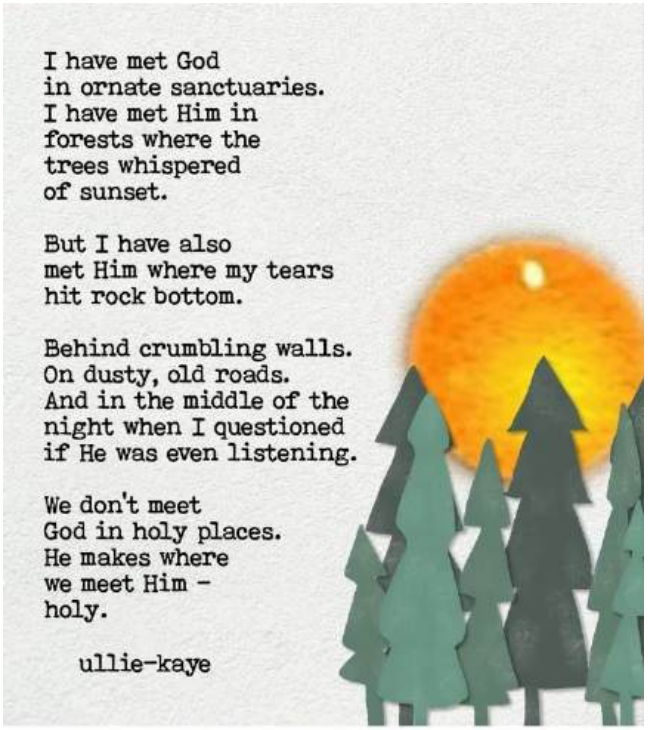
NOVEMBER

4th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
5th	Shere cinema, *A Matter of Life and Death,* 7.30
5th	WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2pm (note: earlier start)
6th	Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
7th	Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
7th	Holmbury St Mary Fireworks, 5.30-7.30
10th	Talk on The Hurtwood, Peaslake Village Hall,7pm
11th	SALV, Shere Village Hall, 8pm
11th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
11th	Remembrance Service at QRMW, 10.40
13th	Film Night – *'E.T'* at St James' 6.30-8.30
13th	*Voices and Verse*, Peaslake Village Hall, 7pm
14th	WESTfest, Westcott Church
14th	Dorking Library. Make a moving character,10-12
15th	Shere cinema, *Dead of Winter,* 7.30
17th	Zoom talk on archaeology at Albury Park
18th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
20th	Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
21st	Christmas Craft Fair, Christ Church, Coldharbour, 11 - 2.30
25th	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
25th	The Meadvale Singers, St James' 7.30

DECEMBER

2nd	SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
3rd	HstM Choral Society Concert, H. Village Hall, 7.30
4th	Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
5th	Christmas Crafts at St James' 11-1.30
5th	Christ Church leaf sweep 9.30
6th	Abinger Community Lunch, Evelyn Hall, 12.30

Reflections from the Rectory



This moving poem by ullie-kaye beautifully captures a truth that lies at the very heart of our faith: our God is not confined by stone walls, nor is He restricted to our Sunday mornings.

As your Rector, I look out at our beautiful sanctuary, a holy place steeped in generations of prayer. Yet, as this poem reminds us, holiness is not a property belonging exclusively to church buildings. God does not merely wait for us in the pews; He actively walks with us into the wild, unpredictable terrain of our daily lives.

Many of you have shared moments of encountering the Divine while walking among the quiet, whispering trees of the Surrey Hills. But just as surely, God is present in our darkest moments—when our tears hit rock bottom, when life feels like a dusty, difficult road, or in the middle of the night when we feel entirely alone.

We do not have to be perfect to find Him, nor do we need to be in a specific place. Wherever we open our hearts to Him—in joy, in nature, or in deep sorrow—He meets us right there. It is His presence that transforms our ordinary, broken spaces into something beautiful. He makes the place where we meet Him holy.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, this truth takes on a particularly profound meaning. We often think of holiness in relation to the grand, sombre war memorials where we gather to lay our wreaths. Yet, the true weight of remembrance is found in the far more hidden, crumbling spaces of human history—in the mud of the trenches, the quiet despair of the battlefield, and the middle of the night when grieving families questioned if anyone was listening. God was present in those shattering moments of deepest sorrow, just as He is present now in our quiet acts of memory. He does not demand that a place be peaceful before He enters it; rather, He meets us in our deepest pain and, through His enduring grace, transforms our broken history into holy ground.

Rev'd Kia ☺

From the Editors

Autumn may mark the dying of the year but life in the villages was busy last month with celebrations of traditional country village life. Harvest Festival was held at Christ Church and the children gathered at St James' to build scarecrows. The WI made rag wreaths for Autumn and at Leith Hill Place the Pageant, based on that written by EM Forster, was revived for a modern audience. Thanks go to everyone who sent in photos and wrote pieces for us about these events. A special thank you to Steve Belcher for the stunning front cover.

We hope you like our new photo album pages inside the front and back covers. Information pages are now at the back of the magazine.

November brings the start of Advent, and you will find concerts and craft shows this month. There are also some interesting talks and exhibitions.

PS If you would like to take part in some of the Christmas celebrations, please go to pages 28 and 45.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Harvest Festival for Abinger and Coldharbour was early this year - the last Sunday in September.

We all met at Christ Church and after a celebratory service with some rousing hymns - *We Plough the Fields and Scatter,* of course - we settled down with a coffee and some delicious cakes for the annual auction.

There was a variety of home-made and home-grown produce, ranging from local honey, local gin, and home- made cakes and a range of delicious jams and chutneys, including Lucy's famous Abinger fire jam.

Two unusual items were the parish's largest beetroot and the parish's largest courgette! Bidding was competitive and auctioneer Anthony skilfully got some excellent prices for all these things, and a fantastic £422 was raised for the Amber Foundation (a local charity which helps disadvantaged young people get back on their feet).

If you missed it and feel moved to make a donation to the Amber Foundation, here are their bank details: 18-00-02 / 00466476. In addition to this we were able to send a large box of non-perishable items to the Dorking Food Bank.

Liz Hamilton

Whose Green and Pleasant Land? – a pageant-play for our times.

"Our play is about the countryside, how it was made, how it changed as the centuries passed, how today it is in peril and may be lost forever," EM Forster 'England's Pleasant Land' 1938.



On a glorious autumn afternoon, a capacity audience gathered in the grounds of Leith Hill Place, for two performances of 'Whose Green and Pleasant Land?' A reworking of EM Forster's pageant 'England's Pleasant Land', written in 1938, with music by Ralph Vaughn Williams.

The original was brought to life by the people of Dorking and performed in Milton Court, a manor house just outside the town. This version, written by Tony Earnshaw (*see later) with poetry by Rosie May Jones, brought us up to date from the Domesday parcelling of the land to the squires and lords, through to the enclosures of common land in 18th century,



the 1830 Labourers' Revolt and the death duties and developers of 1930s to present day destruction and despoiling of our beautiful countryside.

The Box Hill Bedlam Morris (steam-punk style morris dancers), the LHP singers, the Enclosure House Band and the Coldharbour Village Band



added atmosphere and musical interludes to a story about the looming threat from development and the fight to protect our green spaces.

Afterwards, we were treated to more wonderful music from Jonathan Webb (tenor) and Reuben Suckling (piano), the Flotsam Orchestra and the **Coldharbour Village Band.**



Coldharbour Village Band's talent shone through, providing musicians, actors and the author of the script.

The band played a set at the start of the day, performed during the play and brought the day to a close with a final set on the terrace of Leith Hill Place. Two members of the band, Clive Bordoli and Gaye Charlton had roles as a drunken Lord and the Town Councillor, and the band's tenor sax player, acclaimed local author and playwright Tony Earnshaw wrote the script. Another Coldharbour resident, Pierre Tindall, adopted an American accent and played a real estate developer determined to make money at the expense of the natural environment. (For photos of the band go to our back page photo album.)

'What a time to be alive. Where all species are treasured and given space to thrive.' These were the final lines in the pageant play that rang out as visitors left the marquee. Altogether, it was a fantastic endeavour bringing together local people once again, prompting us to act to save our beautiful countryside.

As we basked in the sunshine and gazed across the matchless view, we reminded ourselves once again, how blessed we are to live in this wondrously green and pleasant land.

Thank you so much to Damn Cheek Productions, Rosie May Jones, Tony Earnshaw and all the cast, crew and musicians for not only entertaining us but also inspiring us to take action.

Hilary Swift and Gaye Charlton, Trish Wriggleworth

WHATS ON IN NOVEMBER?



QRMW Remembrance Day

Our next event at the woodland will be our annual Remembrance Service on 11th November. We are, as always, pleased to welcome the children from Surrey Hills School and St John C of E School, Dorking. They always attend our Remembrance Service and take part by singing and reading poems plus laying poppy wreaths, made by the children, at the Monument. So do please come along and remember those brave servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we may be free today. We meet at the Monument at 10.40 followed by a Remembrance Service, The Last Post, two minutes silence and Reveille. All are welcome.



The Holmbury Bonfire Boys will be lighting up their bonfire at 6pm and the BBQ will be open from 5.30. The children's fancy dress competition starts at 6.15 and the firework display starts at 7pm and finishes at 7.30pm. Under 10s go free, otherwise it's £7.50 per person in advance from the Kingfisher Farm Shop or £10 on the night.

The Friends of the Hurtwood invite you to a talk on Nov 10th, 7pm

Join ecologist Ben West on the evening of 10th November in Peaslake Village Hall for an exploration of the natural history of the Hurtwood as he goes in search of Hairy Curtain Crusts, Slippery Jacks, Stinkhorns, Woodcocks and mixed tit parties! Learn about the mammals, birds, flora and funghi which have made the Hurtwood their home. Ben will help you understand winter life in the Hurtwood and point you towards the most interesting things to see when out walking and riding.

Please register via this QR code or go.forth.co.uk/autumn2026talk

Members £5, non-members £10

Dorking Local History Group present a talk on the 'Recent Archaeology in Albury Park', by Anne Sassin. 17th November



This is a talk you can listen to at home via zoom. Surrey Archaeological Society has been undertaking large scale survey and community test pitting in Albury Park since 2023, investigating traces of the deserted medieval village, which has resulted in exciting discoveries, including a possible Roman building or settlement. Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking, RH4 3HB.

For further details of this talk and other activities - or to join DLHG - go to https://dlhg.org.uk

Family Film Night November 13th at 6.30pm at



St. James' Church

Come along to see 'E.T'

hot-dogs, popcorn and drinks.

Everyone is welcome

Contact Sally at parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org to book your pew.

Relive the adventure and magic in one of the most beloved motion pictures of all-time, E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, from Academy Award®-winning director Steven Spielberg. Captivating audiences of all ages, this timeless story follows the unforgettable journey of a lost alien and the 10-year-old boy he befriends.

The Peaslake Players present 'Voices & Verse'

Peaslake Memorial Hall, Friday 13th Nov. Doors open 7pm Tickets £12

This is an informal evening of poetry, words and live music - all enjoyed with food, drink and the very best company! You don't need to be a poetry boffin to appreciate the eclectic mix of live readings; some quietly moving, some very funny. All delightfully peppered with Irish folk and other live music. Just sit back and be entertained at shared tables, with plenty of time to eat, drink and chat. www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk.

Coldharbour Christmas Craft Fair, November 21st

Come along to Christ Church for the **Coldharbour Christmas Craft Fair doors open at 11 and close at 2pm**



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
- Nicki 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
- Henny Maxwell– homemade jams and chutneys
- Paul Orme Smith – handmade ceramics
- The Cake Stall – homemade Christmas puddings, cakes and Christmas treats

MUSIC



The Meadvale Singers start Advent with a concert at St James'

***O Come and Be Merry* with the Meadvale Singers Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm at St James' Church Abinger**

Get ready for the season of Advent with some light and uplifting music. We will be raising money this year for ARTHOUSE Unlimited, a local charity that showcases the artistic talent and skills of adults who live with diverse learning and physical disabilities. Entrance is free with donations to the charity.

Surrey Serenaders

The Serenaders will be singing in St James' on 7th and 20th November, and 12th of December. These rehearsal sessions are open to visitors if you would like pop in. Tea, coffee and cakes are available around 11.15 a.m.



Holmbury St Mary Choral Society Concert



***The Waiting Sky*.**
3rd December, 7.30 pm
Holmbury Village Hall,
RH5 6PG

Holmbury Choral Society present their first concert with new Director of Music, Adam Hilton.

Featuring a seasonal repertoire by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells, Sarah Quartel, Peter Warlock, Palestrina and more. Alongside cherished festive poems, the perfect way to begin the Advent season.

Tickets: www.holmburychoralsociety.org

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society: registered charity No 1113693

Music in Dorking – by *Ian Codd*

Nov 7th at 12.00, lunchtime concert at St Martin's church, free
Nov 14th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church
Nov 21st at 7.00, Dorking Choral Society at St Martin's church, £20
Nov 21st at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at St George's church, Ashtead, £18, 01372 275907

There are three substantial concerts this month which offer music focused, respectively, on the romantic, baroque and classical periods.

The Dorking Philharmonia orchestra presents, for its first concert of the season, a programme of music from the romantic era, beginning with Weber's overture to his opera *Oberon*. Then comes Chopin's first piano concerto with soloist Louis-Victor Bak. Finally, the concert closes with Schumann's third symphony, the *Rhenish*, inspired by the fine sights and beautiful landscape of the Rhineland.

Dorking Choral Society will be singing two major works from the baroque period – Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Bach's *Magnificat*. The *Gloria* is Vivaldi's best-known choral work, with exuberant choruses and lyrical arias. Bach's *Magnificat* was written soon after he was placed in charge of all the church music in Leipzig and it was intended to impress, with brilliant writing for chorus and soloists plus a large orchestra enhanced by splendid baroque trumpets. Tickets available on the door.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashtead, has a programme from the classical era. They begin with Mozart's overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* and follow this with a Mozart piano concerto – the lyrical no.23 in A major with soloist Amiri Harewood. After the interval comes Beethoven's second symphony.

This month's lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will be given by the renowned pianist Roman Rudnytsky. Admission is free, with a retiring collection.

December

And finally, just a mention that Helena Twentyman and the **Ladybirds choir will have their Christmas concert** early in December, on Saturday 5th at three in the afternoon at the United Reformed Church Hall. More details in due course, but I'm sure there will be tea and mince pies as usual.

Shere Village Cinema (SVC)

The two anniversary films below were filmed in Shere: ***A Matter of Life and Death*** and ***The Holiday***. 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**.

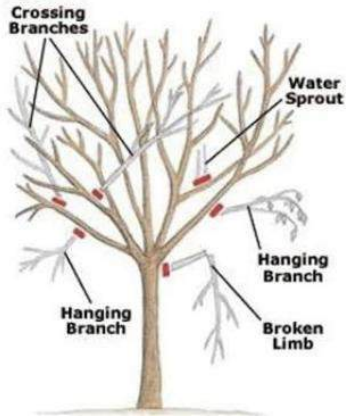
Thursday 5th November –– made by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, and released in November 1946. Peter Carter, a young RAF pilot played by David Niven, is returning from a wartime bombing mission in a badly damaged aircraft. With no parachute and little hope of survival, he makes radio contact with an American operator, June, played by Kim Hunter. Expecting to die, he jumps from the aircraft – but somehow survives. 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. Look carefully and you can recognise buildings that are still familiar today, including the former fire station – now our public toilets – and the building which is now The Dabbling Duck. All profits and donations from this event will go to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance charity. We are especially delighted that our 80th anniversary screening will be introduced by the distinguished film historian and critic Ian Christie, one of the leading authorities on Powell and Pressburger. He will help us put the film, its making and its remarkable afterlife into context – and perhaps help us look at those familiar Shere locations with slightly different eyes. Classification U (Running time is 1 hour 44 minutes). **Start time is: 7pm**

Sunday 15th 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. Classification 15 (WARNING - contains strong language, threat, violence and injury detail) Running time is 1 hour 38 minutes). **Start time is: 7.30pm**

Sunday 6th December – *The Holiday* - Our Winter event will include a pay bar and 'fabulous' raffle. Tickets cost £10/adult and £6/child, to include a glass of mulled wine, or non-alcoholic mulled drink and a mince pie. Other drinks will be available to buy. **Start time is: 7pm (Doors open at 6.30)**. Classification 12A (Running time is 2 hours 16 minutes). All the profits and donations from this **20th Anniversary** event (on the big SVC screen) will go to the Shere Christmas lights fund.

Robin's Gardening Tips for November

I hate to say this, but we still have not enough rain! Trying to plant bulbs has been a real effort! The top inch of soil has been easy! But under that, the ground is still either rock hard or very dry! So, it's into pots for the lot of them! Though if you can get a spade into the ground there is still time to plant tulips.



Do remember if you have fruit trees that only apples and pears should be pruned now! Not stone fruits, they should only be pruned in summer months. I also recommend once a tree has been pruned, that you invest in some fruit tree grease. To help prevent codling moth, the larva of which are the maggots in the fruit. Grease bands are awkward to put around a tree, but I have found painting a wide band of grease on, about 2 feet from the ground works better. Painting on gets into the cracks of bark. This helps stop the female moths from crawling up and laying eggs in the flowers and developing fruit.

Whilst it is a good idea to partially prune roses now to prevent 'wind rock', do leave perennials (even though they may look untidy,) till spring. The old growth, in many cases, provides seeds for birds and protection for new growth if we get the forecast hard winter. Though there have been conflicting weather reports. Just look out of a window each morning!

The very dry summer has also had an effect on our wildlife. There are fewer insects for the birds, so please do remember them, not just with suitable bird seed but as importantly - fresh water.

If you have holly with berries on and want some for decorations at Christmas, cover it now, if possible, with netting. Not only the birds go for it but squirrels.



Finally. Not all growth was stunted by the heatwave! This enormous pumpkin, grown from a plant bought at the Coldharbour fete, was too heavy to be lifted onto the scales!



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)

DECEMBER

The 5th of December will be busy! Start the day in Coldharbour at 9.30am Sweeping Leaves. Then down to St James' for craft making at 11am! And over to Brockham for a Christmas concert at 6.30!

The Christ Church Leaf Sweep meet at 9.30am on the 5th. Come and help to clear the churchyard of fallen leaves. Please bring any tools you may have like rakes, leaf grabbers and blowers. Coffee, tea and mince pies will be provided to keep out the cold!



Saturday 5th December at St James' 11am to 1.30pm

Please join us at SJ's for our

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS MORNING

Open to all ages, come and unleash your creativity…

Lanterns, baubles, decorations and much more!

Refreshments provided - everyone is welcome

Please let Sally know if you would like to come along at parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org

Services at St James' Church, Abinger

1st November	**All Saints' Day**
10.30am	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children
	Refreshments after the service
8th November	**Remembrance Sunday**
10.30am	Service of Remembrance
	Refreshments after the service
15th November	**The Second Sunday before Advent**
10.30am	'Come and See' Sunday
	Refreshments after the service
22nd November	**Christ the King - The Sunday next before Advent**
10.30am	Sideways Church
	New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter and conversation
6.00pm	Advent Meditation
	Reflective poetry and music to help us enter the season of Advent
29th November	**Advent Sunday**
	Joint Advent Sunday service
	Refreshments after the service

From the Registers:

Abinger

21st September Funeral Peter Snelling

Coldharbour

3rd October Baptism Margot Lewis

Services at Christ Church, Coldharbour

1st November	**All Saints' Day**
10.00am	All Souls service
	Refreshments after the service
8th November	**Remembrance Sunday**
10.50am	Service of Remembrance at the Memorial Ground
	Refreshments will be served in the JV Hall after the service
15th November	**The Second Sunday before Advent**
9.00am	Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm	Congregational Evensong
22nd November	**Christ the King - The Sunday next before Advent**
10.00am	Parish Communion for the Patronal Festival
	Refreshments after the service
6.00pm	Advent Meditation **at St. James' Abinger**
	Reflective poetry and music to help us enter the season of Advent
29th November	**Advent Sunday**
	Joint Advent Sunday service **at St. James' Abinger**

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 2nd November and Monday 16th November 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!

All Souls Service

Christ Church, Coldharbour on Sunday 1st November at 10.00am

Rev 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.

Brockham Choral Christmas Celebration: Saturday 5th December at 6.30pm. St. Martin's Church, Dorking RH4 1UT.

A concert of festive music to include James Whitbourn, "Missa Carolae" and Bach's "Jauchzet, Frohlocket" from Christmas Oratorio.

Also joined by St Martin's C of E Primary School Choir, Soloist Alex Wright -Trinity Boys Choir and Martineau Brass Ensemble.

Christmas carols with wine and mince pies. Musical Director David Swinson. Tickets £18; under 18's free. Purchase tickets at https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral More Information: **www.brockhamchoral.org**

The Next Community Lunch

is on 6th December

BOOK YOUR PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY LUNCH BY NOVEMBER 30TH AT THE LATEST



Call **01306 737160 or email parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbourparishoffice.**

Calling all entertainers!
Join The Abinger Soirée on 18th 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.



THE NATIVITY, LIVE IN ABINGER



Dear Villagers,

Some of you may know that over the years a live Nativity has been enacted in the outdoors in Coldharbour. Performed by villagers, a rescue donkey and some varyingly cooperative sheep, it's always been a joy! This Christmas it will be held in Abinger and we are looking for cast, choir and technical crew.

The obvious characters need no introduction but we are keen that everyone who would like to be part of 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' should be involved and so there will be opportunities and costumes for adults and children as extra crowd, angels, pages etc.

This traditional performance will be held on **Saturday 19th December** at 5pm outside the Abinger Hatch pub.

Please email your interest to
suesmith63@hotmail.com or hilaryswift@btinternet.com

And please save the date and come along with family and friends to share this special performance and join in with a carol or two!

First Aid Course. BOOK NOW. Limited Places Monday 25th January 4.30-7pm at Shere Hall £25

SALV First Aid course

ADULT CHILDREN and BABIES

Covering CPR, use of DEFIB, care of unconscious casualty, recovery position, febrile convulsions, choking, anaphylaxis, severe burns and medical shock. Excellent tutor, examples of real-life situations, engages all participants. Explains the importance and easy use of the Defib machine. Everyone benefits from attending.

Please contact helenesplen@hotmail.co.uk to book a place

We say goodbye

Michael Maughan



8th February 1932 – 14th September 2026

"My Word is my Bond"

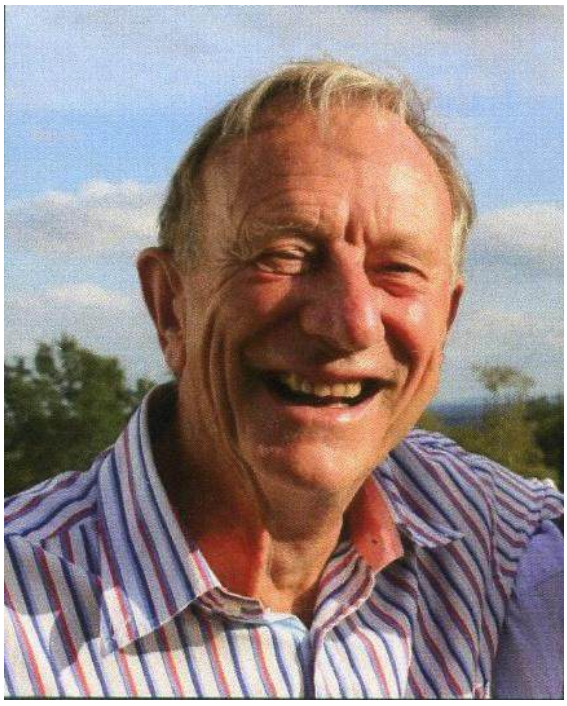
Michael first came to Holmbury in the 1990s when he moved into Sutton Place Cottage with his wife Diana. Sadly, she died just six years later, and Michael then moved to Woodhouse Lane. It was while living there that he got together with Ann, and they married in 2007. Seventeen years ago, they moved to Abinger Common, which is where Ann still lives. Michael was in a care home for the last 2 ½ years of his life and died at the age of 94 shortly before their nineteenth wedding anniversary. They celebrated their 10th anniversary in style, suspecting it might be their last big one.

Michael was born in Hampstead and lived through the war. He did his national service in the Navy, and things naval continued to play a large part of his life. His entire working life was then with Lloyds. He was always a marine underwriter and held various elected positions within the Marine Insurance market – he was Chairman of the Joint Hull Committee, Treasurer of the Lloyd's Underwriters Association and sat on the board of Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

In Holmbury Michael is remembered for being Chairman of PHAB (a charity that helped handicapped people) in Felbury House and also for his work with the British Legion – he was Chairman of the Holmbury British Legion for several years.

Michael is survived by his wife Ann, his three children, David, Heather & Jonathan, his stepchildren Marcus & Alexandra, Richard and William. He leaves 8 grandchildren and 5 great-granddaughters. All of these and many more friends and relatives attended a packed Holmbury Church on October 7th to celebrate his life.

Neil Maltby 1946 – 2026



Neil died this September, just a few weeks before his 80th birthday. Neil and his wife Jane have lived for more than 40 years in Cockshot Farm, Coldharbour.

An estate agent and surveyor Neil owned and managed Arnold & Son in Dorking, with Rob Potter as a partner and then latterly with Stuart Furness, before selling to the Halifax in the 80's.

Neil was well known for many things. The list is long - Here are some: The Dorking Cockerel statue on the main roundabout, was Neil's idea and totally arranged and achieved by Neil, and as we go to press the cockerel has a wreath around its neck! Neil was involved with the Dorking sculptures of Cubitt and Vaughan Williams, with the Surrey Hills Society and its continuing Trust Fund, and with the boosting of recycling in this area. He represented the villages on the Council for many years, leading the Conservative group and becoming the council's chairman - the equivalent of a mayor. He was also a Trustee of Nower House, served on the board of the Surrey Hills AONB, and was honorary surveyor for Surrey Wildlife Trust. He was involved with Dorking twinning with the German town Gűglingen, the reopening of the South Street toilets, and the establishment of cycle paths around Leith Hill. He organised several memorable events, such as the day he took a coach party from Coldharbour to see the new recycling centre and then go on to ride on the newly opened London Eye. And intriguingly Neil was a member of the Worshipful Company of Skinners.

The other thing that we all knew Neil for was that smile, and his inevitable can-do attitude to everything. A few minutes with Neil and you could believe that almost anything worthwhile was achievable. He inspired many and was an exemplar to us all for selfless public service.

During his retirement years he continued with two of his hobbies. He and Jane continued to breed racehorses - Leith Hill Lad and Leith Hill Legasi (Ruby) have both retired but Ruby's offspring is called Leith Hill Legend and will hopefully be racing this season! And he renewed an old hobby of stamp collecting, building up an interesting collection of British

stamps of the entire pre-decimal period. He and I were able to enjoy that together.

Neil was dyslexic, so was very creative and full of ideas. He liked to say 'Yes'. At a time when most letters never get an answer, Neil would read them all and answer and act on them when needed.

Neil suffered from asthma and as a child was sent to Switzerland where he did most of his secondary schooling. It was thought the Swiss mountain air would help to keep him healthy. Neil adapted well and learned to speak both Swiss and high German as well as French and some Italian.

He also learned to ski, something he was able to enjoy with all his family, and he last skied aged 76 with his daughter and son in law, Deborah and Peter.

Neil died in September just a few weeks before his 80th birthday. Neil is survived by Jane and his two daughters, Deborah and Kate and grand-daughters Katie and Sophie.

Graham Mytton

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VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

Coldharbour. Organised by Debby Chapman, the village meet at the John Venus Hall on the first Friday of the month. From 10.30-11.30. Join them on 6th November and 11th December for yummy cakes, coffee and a natter. Debby can be contacted on 01306 711704 or debby.chapman@hotmail.com



Abinger. SJ's Café and Repair Shop meet every Wednesday in St James'.



Organised by Sally McCance Come along for a croissant and a cup of tea or coffee, and bring your sewing repairs too!

ABINGER COMMON & WOTTON W.I.

Making rag wreaths



We arrived at the Wotton Hall for our October meeting to find a different lay-out from usual: instead of neat tableclothed tables for 4, there was what looked like one big table down the centre of the hall. This was because we were about to have what I call a 'crafty' afternoon making a variety of rag wreaths.

Our president welcomed everybody, including 2 new members. Then welcomed Debbie Skeil who was leading the activity.

At one end of the hall there was a big pile of fabrics, and we were offered one or two different sizes of wire rings for the framework, a pile of multi coloured and patterned materials – old clothes and curtains – and pieces of cardboard as measures for cutting strips of material in different lengths. These were to be knotted round the wire ring or rings. It was suggested that people could create either a Christmas wreath with reds and greens, an autumn wreath with the colours of autumn leaves, or a wintry one of white, blue and silver (snow and ice).

There were optional extras such as fir cones, and one member decorated her autumn wreath with prickly sweet chestnuts and conkers. Another asked Debbie for some small wire rings to make hanging decorations.

There was considerable concentration on the task, and some lovely combinations of colours. Afterwards there was the usual tasty tea (balanced amidst the debris) provided by Avril Sharman, Annie Chesterton and myself, during which Lesley announced that for the months of November to March our meetings would **start at 2 o'clock instead of 2.30** so that we could drive home in daylight.

Incidentally, I looked up the origin of rag wreaths. They were a decorative offshoot of rag rugs, a Victorian practice by poorer families.

Next meeting: Thursday 5th November at 2 p.m. at the Wotton Hall when Rosalind Dodd will give a talk "Our Wonderful Brain".

Visitors and new members (our membership has now reached 47) always welcome.

Pat O'Brien

CHILDREN



embracing the nature around us
ABINGER COMMON
NURSERY SCHOOL

Gosh we've been lucky to hang on to some sunny days (apologies if when reading this it's not so spring like!). There is nothing like being out in the open – it's where we're most happy. Our huge nursery garden gives our little legs the exercise we need, and we just love to use anything natural in our play. Our diggers don't stop with the number of leaves to be chugged around, and our mud kitchen rivals the Abinger Hatch with the culinary skills on display. There is always a pot of muddy tea on the go.

Back inside we whipped together a batch of delicious cheesy pigs and their hay bales. We carefully grated the chunk of cheese and sprinkled it (not sparingly we might add) onto a puffy pastry base, folded it over with a good squish and it was rolling pins at the ready. The smell of them cooking was enough to make your mouth water!

Cooking is one way of getting us to explore new textures and another are the wonderful activities that are set up for us each day. We have a table or tough tray (as it's known in the business) with something suitably gooey or slimy or pebbly or sparkly (we could go on) on it for us to really swish and swirl around. It's quite often made from something you would have in your kitchen cupboard and this time it was corn flour with a sprinkling of dinosaurs. Boy did they stomp around and create a commotion!

One of our weekly highlights is learning French – it's so much fun we don't even realise we are learning! We can allllllll say *Bonjour* and *Au revoir* and are presently perfecting our accents. Singing in a different language is where we come into our own, and we happily belt out Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!

Something that makes our nursery very special is the community that we are supported by. There are always kind people in the village who have had children at the nursery or simply enjoy hearing what we are up to.

Recently we were gifted a hand-crafted bench made especially for us and as you can see from the pictures it will be loved by us for years to come. A very big thank you!!!!!!



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 Or come have a chat at **Westfest on the 14th of November** at Westcott Church. We can't wait to meet you!

Kate Fairbrass



WESTfest. Come and join us for the usual mix of festive gifts, crafts, tombola, food and drink.

For more information Westfestsurrey@gmail.com

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

The last few weeks have been very busy at our school! Our focus on collective worship has been on the concept of blessings. The children have been encouraged to reflect on what they are grateful for in their own lives.



We celebrated 'Jeans for Genes' day to raise awareness of genetic conditions in support of a new joiner to our school. We celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow to remind everyone they are not alone and the importance of looking after our wellbeing, and we are looking forward to our Harvest Festival service at Holy Trinity Church.

Owl class enjoyed making a tomato pasta sauce in design & technology and learning about invertebrates using modelling clay. **Otter class** have been learning the toot in music lessons and developing their programming skills in their computing lessons. **Hedgehog class** have designed and made castles in a cross-curricular project linking design & technology with history and learnt how to play tag rugby in PE. **Butterflies** have been coding using Bee-Bots and have enjoyed weekly forest school sessions. **Reception** have enjoyed discos on the field at lunchtime and beginning to learn phonics!

We have new enrichment clubs on offer this term including board games, design engineers, forest school and gymnastics!

In January, we are launching an internal wraparound care provision - The Westcott Nest!

We welcomed prospective parents on tours too! We would love to welcome you to our school, if you are looking for a place for your child. Please contact our school office. *Kelly Frost Headteacher*

DORKING MUSEUM



During the 1970s, the band 10cc released four albums and eight singles, with two reaching number one in the UK charts. These were all recorded at Strawberry Studios in Stockport, but the studio's success made it difficult for the band to book recording time. The solution? The old Pavilion Cinema on Dorking's South Street, which 10cc purchased and converted it into a state-of-the-art recording studio. This exhibition explores the story of Strawberry Studios South and the talented artists that recorded there, including Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, as well as 10cc themselves.

To coincide with the exhibition, the Museum is hosting a talk on **19th November** at 7pm (drinks from 6.30pm), exploring Strawberry Studio's fascinating development and history.
Dr. Peter Wadsworth, who is leading this illustrated talk, has a PhD from the University of Manchester, and was responsible for Stockport Museum's record-breaking *Strawberry Studios: I am in Love* exhibition in 2017/18.

For information and ticketing, please see the Dorking Museum website.

***Family Activities at Dorking Library: Nursery Rhyme Week* Saturday 14th November, 10am-12pm**

Use cardboard levers to make a nursery rhyme character move. Dorking Library, St. Martin's Walk. Free, materials provided, and children must be accompanied.

Posting for Christmas? Graham can help!



It is that time again for sending Christmas mail. I always offer Royal Mail stamps at a discount and am doing this again.

The postage rates are as follows:
Sent to a UK address 1st class £1.80
Sent to a UK address 2nd class £0.91
Sent abroad £3.60 for normal cards.



I buy large numbers of legitimate and valid postage stamps that are available because of the slowly dying hobby of stamp collecting. Profits are divided between the two churches.

The discount applied depends on how many stamps I use for you to make up the required postage. The more you use, the more discount you get applied to your order. For example, I have NVI (No Value Indicated) first class stamps for £1.62 each. These retain their value for ever no matter what the rate goes up to. For second class rates I have no NVI ones but make up the rate by using from 2 to 6 stamps. For 2-stamp combinations you pay 77p. For 3-stamp combinations you pay 75p and so on.

Let me have your orders by email gmytton@gn.apc.org or text me at 07854324571



"To whom it may concern" This sign, warning drivers of loose chippings on the road, has been at the left-hand side of Coldharbour Lane about halfway between the start of the climb and the top for a very long time. Why was this sign put up? Nobody knows. Why is it still there? Also, a mystery. Highways are responsible for such matters. They have the best excuse for not attending to such matters. They are understaffed, overworked, underpaid, disregarded and nobody loves them. But one thing they (or maybe it is now only one person) he/she could do, is to remove all such signs. Well, here is a message for that department, probably now managed by AI rather than any sentient being: "The sign shown above has annoyed many people. We think we do not deserve to be annoyed any longer. We will remove this sign and put it in the recycling. Unless you want it!" *Yours sincerely, Incredibly-cross of Coldharbour.*

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	**Coldharbour**
Churchwardens:	Lucy Harlow (contact via Parish Office)	John Anthony Simpson (contact via Parish Office)
PCC Secretary:	Sally McCance (01306 737160)	Sally McCance (737160)
Treasurer:	Tim Prideaux (01306 730730)	Martin Neve (07974 777448)
Gift Aid Secretary:	Tim Prideaux	Helen Potter (712214)
Flowers Secretary:	Kim Edwards (01306 730809)	Patsy Simpson (via parish office
Hall Bookings:	Evelyn Hall (Kim Edwards) theevelynhall@gmail.com Ab. Hammer Hall (01306 730703)	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

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Abinger Organisations
Abinger Consolidated Charities: Kim Clark (07775 531912)
Church Choir: Lucy Harlow: lucyharlow@me.com
D&G Choir: Jess Brown (07936542411) danielthreec@aol.com
Fair Secretary: Liz Irvine: lizandkeithi@btinternet.com
Sports Club: Rob Dunn (01306 730320) robert.a.dunn@btinternet.com
Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)
Abinger Common & Wotton WI: President: Lesley Childs (01483 205461)
SALV Rep for Abinger: Alyson Webber: alysonjwebber@aol.com
Good Neighbours (lifts): Jo Kelly (01483 205446 or 07900 302794)

Coldharbour Organisations
Surrey Hills Aikido Club 07931 714812
Sports and Social Club/Village Society: www.coldharbour.net
Church Electoral Roll Officer: Helen Potter (01306 712214)
Cricket Club: John Hopper (07957 611664)

Golf Society: Stuart McLachlan (01306 712009)
Village Band: Debby Chapman (01306 711704)

Parish Councils
Abinger: clerk@abinger-pc.gov.uk www.abinger-pc.gov.uk
Coldharbour (Capel): Stuart McLachlan (712009) www.capel-pc.gov.uk

Surrey County Council
Councillor: Hazel Watson (880120) h.watson@surreycc.gov.uk/ hva.watson@btinternet.com

Shere Surgery 01483 202066; Dispensary 01483 209913*
Monday: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-2.00pm)
Tuesday: 8.30am - 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-3.00pm)
Wed, Thurs & Fri: 8.30am - 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-2.00pm)
*For dispensary ring after 11.00am. Saturday morning - prescription collection only

Westcott Surgery & Dispensary 01306 875577
Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri: 8.30am - 6.15pm (Closed 12.30 - 2.30pm), Wed: 8.30am - 12.30pm

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. Online appointments: submit a request via the practice website or NHS App. For help with using App technology, ask at reception or email the 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.surrrey.sch.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 - 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, 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	01372 741544
Epsom & Mole Valley	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 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 & 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

The Coldharbour Band at the Pageant





NEXT ISSUE:
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Closes 1pm
Tuesday November 17th
abingerpn@gmail.com