

DECEMBER 2023



The Messenger team wish you a merry Christmas

AROUND THE VILLAGE

WELCOME BACK: Annie, Andy, Winnie and Mabel Duffield have moved back into their home, Moor Cross Cottage, following extensive refurbishment. We hope they are settling in well.

GET WELL: We send good wishes to Tom Gillingham, who recently had an accident, requiring hospitalisation. He's now recuperating at home.

GOOD LUCK: Sue Rouston, from Moor Lane moved into an apartment in Taunton during October. We hope she will be very happy in her new home.

THANKS: Thank you to everyone for your continued contributions to Messenger Funds, without them the Messenger could not be produced and delivered by our faithful delivery team.

The Editorial Team

DEATHS: Sadly, this month we report the deaths of three former residents of Hardington. Margaret Hawkins, (latterly Lambourne), born and bred in Hardington, moved from The Laurels, Barry Lane, following the death her husband Dennis. Having lived in Weymouth for more than 30 years, she died aged 102. Her funeral took place in Weymouth.

Jack Hodge died aged 96 following a fall. He and his late wife Eileen lived in Penn House Farm for many years before moving to Thornford. Latterly Jack has lived with his younger daughter Mandy Turner in Drimpton. Jack is the grandfather to Tom, Ben Turner and Lucy Dear. His funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville. Our condolences to Alison, Mandy and families.

Bernie Jarvis, husband of Dilys had lived in Hardington Moor before moving to the South Coast. Condolences are sent to his family.

SCOUT POST

West Coker Scout are running the Post again this year and boxes are out until the 14th Dec, cost per card is 30p. Delivery to Yeovil, East and West Coker, East Chinnock, Hardington Mandeville, Hardington Marsh, Hardington Moor, Pendomer and Yeovil, please ensure address is clear with postcodes if possible.

Village boxes can be found at Sian Jinks @ Broadstone Villas and Penny Parrott @Woodcock Hardington Moor

VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNING 13TH DECEMBER

Our Christmas coffee morning is at the home of Iain and Jackie Thomas. This is at the bottom of the High Street and can be easily recognised by its striking blue door. The date is Wednesday 13th December and the time is 10.30 to 12 noon. You will be assured of a very warm festive welcome.

Pauline Grassam

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Thank you for supporting Dy's October coffee morning which raised £205 for the village hall. We hope that you can make it to our Christmas coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 23rd December. The hall will open from 10 am to 12 noon and we hope to have it looking really festive. As usual there will be a variety of cakes and savouries on sale for you to choose from, some of which will have a Christmas theme.

There will also be a raffle.

If you are able to offer any help on the day or are willing to make a cake, please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301

Hardington village, flower and craft show.

Filling the gap.

In the autumn of 1998, my wife, Phyllis and I were playing short mat bowls in the village hall, with Mike and Brenda Bickerton, Pete and Joan Whiteman, and Rex and Margaret Partridge.

During the tea break, Mike mentioned that unfortunately the WI couldn't form a committee to run the show as usual, and would I be interested in taking on the organisation. I had been the treasurer of the Pendomer church council for some years and was reluctant to consider the additional responsibility. However, Mike said he would join the committee, then I agreed.

We found that the name of the show included "Yeovil, beekeepers association". Enquiries established this to be defunct, and it was removed.

Daphne in the shop offered to act as secretary until a replacement was found. She was invaluable with the contact details of judges at previous shows and it was two years before Jane Hill from Northlane took over. Kate Curtis from Hill End became treasurer and other villagers joined (Earlier some were from WI) so on 13/9/99, we were underway!

Soon after, I was contacted by the chairman of the Halstock show who had been unable to form a committee and would we like 25 tables? I collected them in three trips with my estate car. Pete Whiteman and Rex Partridge made minor repairs to some of the table legs to make them secure. We had enough tables for use in the Village Hall and around the stage. Most tables were kept in a barn by Bill Curtis. A jumble and books sale boosted the funds.

Our first show was opened by Rhoda Curtis on 19/8/2000.

Some memories from the shows: – Sian Jinks organised games for the children at the side of the village hall, Jim Adlam, was an excellent auctioneer of the native products.

Richard Leach

CALLING ALL HEAVENLY DUSTERS!!!

Help!

A couple of our stalwart Dusters have left the village so we are looking for volunteers to help us keep Hardington church clean and tidy. There is absolutely no need to be a churchgoer - we all enjoy having this beautiful building central to our village life. The job involves about an hour 5 or 6 times a year. Most Dusters work in pairs but others choose to wield the hoover singlehanded

Training given!

Tools supplied!

47 weeks annual holiday!

Please contact Annie Dyer. 01935 863706. familydyer1@btinternet.com

Hardington Players: Dates for your Diaries

Following the success of our recent rehearsed reading of 'Funny Money' in June, and with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio in mind, the Players will be running three open readings using 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' Join us for the opportunity to explore and enjoy extracts from one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies.

The sessions will take place on Monday 22nd January, Monday 29th January and Monday 5th February at 7-30pm in the Village Hall and are open to everyone (Hardington Players members and non-members.) Please come along and join us. There is no requirement to take part in the readings; if you would like to just come along and listen in, you will be very welcome. The bar will be open. Further information from Clare clare@themiddletons.org or Tanya tanyaogden15@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE -

Jumble Sale Saturday 13th January, 2024 in the Village Hall at 2 p.m. Enquiries/offers of help to Daphne at Springfield Stores, [01935 862363](tel:01935862363)/01935 863547 Bring any jumble etc to Village Hall on Friday 12th January from 6 - 7 p.m. or Saturday morning from 10 a.m. Profit to St. Mary's Church Fabric Fund.

STREET FAYRE 2024

The Committee was very pleased with all the support we received at this Year's Fayre, both from all those who helped and all attendees. You will see that we have already arranged a quiz in support of Fayre fundraising and hope to have other small events in 2024. However, we have unfortunately lost 2 Members from the Committee and others who remain on the Committee feel unable to continue to hold time-consuming roles. We are therefore looking for 2 or 3 new Committee Members who would like to assist in organising the event in 2024. Should no volunteers come forward before Christmas, then we feel that we will have to call a pause this year and not hold a 2024 Fayre. If you wish to help or require any further information, please contact me.

Andrew Middleton. andrew@themiddletons.org 863992

VILLAGE HALL

The winners of the "100-club" draw which took place on 1st November were: 1st prize Andy Palmer, 2nd prize Fiona Chadwick and 3rd prize Martin Tizzard. Many thanks to those of you who purchased a 100 club ticket and good luck for the next draw which will take place at 7.15pm on Thursday 14th December at the Village Hall(just before the start of our evening performance of the film 'Barbie'). Further information about our December film is given elsewhere in this months' Messenger.

Thank you to all those who have supported our previous film shows and also to those who help behind the scenes to make these a success. Our October film made a profit of £260.69 - the money made goes towards the costs of running and improving our village hall.

As the days start to get colder our energy costs at the hall have inevitably started to rise. The electricity costs for the hall in October came to £288 and our Insurance costs are now in excess of £125 per month. Against this the amount received from hall hire came to £126 in October, so you can see that we depend on income from other sources to keep the hall afloat. The electricity costs are expected to rise much further over the next few months.

With this in mind, I should like to thank all those who helped to organise the Firework Night at the Royal Oak. Not only was it a great evening but the Village Hall benefitted from a donation of £200. A donation was also received from Dy Catford from her October coffee morning and £40 was also received from The Garden Club. The Village Hall Committee is very grateful for your continued support. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,

Karen Dodge

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club does not meet in December, therefore our next meeting will be next year! We look forward to seeing you at 7:30pm in the Village Hall on 24th January 2024. Please put it in your diary as it will be a fun evening. We are going to have a Soup Supper and Quiz with delicious homemade soups and breads. Offers of bread from our bread makers would be much appreciated so please let Kate and Andy Palmer know at hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, as seed catalogues are beginning to drop into our letterboxes, why not have a think about growing something special for our plant sale in May 2024?

Happy Christmas to all our members!

Sally Thompson

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HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

As always a friendly welcome and a buzz of conversation as the Hardington and Pendomer ladies gathered for the November meeting. The normal business items – approval of record of last meeting, financial position, reminders for local and County events, presentation of birthday posies to members, along with reminders for Village Hall events were addressed with the usual efficiency – as we prepared ourselves for the evening’s speaker.

Mike Rendell entertained us with his presentation ‘A Brief History of Gin’. Sadly he did not bring samples, but took us on a journey through history to show how gin has been distilled and used since 4000BC. Originally for medicine and perfume in the Arab world, over time it became the alcoholic drink of choice during Regency England, when William of Orange increased duty on imported brandy, and encouraged widescale production of gin. As with all good things, it then needed legislation to restrict its sale, as the lower levels of society chose drinking gin in preference to work.

It was explained how the soldiers in Holland would be given gin before going into battle – from where we get the expression ‘Dutch courage’. Also, regulated premises called ‘Gin palaces’ were allowed for the consumption of gin. These were lavish places with decorated tiled walls, painted mirrors and windows, lit by gas lights, similar to what we think of as traditional ‘city pubs’.

In modern times many flavours and colours of gin are available, but the traditional flavouring is juniper – or genever – in medicine used for pain relief.

Tea, coffee and biscuits followed – and more conversation!

Barbara Martin

JACK HODGE

Many villagers will remember Jack Hodge, who lived in the village for many years, and sadly passed away at the age of 96. Born in Morecambe, Jack was a proud Lancastrian who never lost his northern accent, or his northern sense of humour.

In the early 1980s Jack became chairman of the Village Hall committee, a role he held for many years. During that time, he and his wife Eileen set about raising funds for improving the hall with a stage, new bar area and much needed new toilets and heating. Lots of events took place: cheese and wine evenings, 50/50 sales, and the very popular turkey suppers. However, the biggest fund raisers were the carnival week and the annual pantomime. Although Eileen was the main organiser for both events, it was Jack who took care of the details. He did venture on stage a few times, but generally preferred to busy himself with being backstage: putting out the chairs, moving scenery and running the front of house. Jack would be there for all the carnival events: putting out chairs for the bingo, the silent auction, and the carnival review; and managing the organisation of the fun run, the gardens open day, the cricket and rounders matches and of course the fete at the start of the week and the parade on the last day. There was also a rather quirky donkey derby during the week. The donkeys were hired from a seaside owner I believe, and villagers could sponsor a donkey in the races. Village children rode the donkeys which raced along a short course being chased by the owner, before stopping abruptly at the finishing line. There was also furious betting on the outcomes of each race which swelled the funds. Jack drew up the race programme and each donkey, 8 per race in 8 races, was given a name and its lineage by Jack. My donkey was called 'Nick of Time' by lodger out of window!

Jack was well known for always being courteous and smartly dressed. He was also a generous host, a very entertaining raconteur and a lively and witty companion. It is not surprising that he was known affectionately as Gentleman Jack. We send our sincere condolences to all the family at this sad time.

Linda Lines

PARISH COUNCIL

The November Meeting

The recent LCN (Local Community Network) meeting was discussed, and the importance emphasised of having representation at these meetings, especially in view of the threat of reduced County Council services in the future. The next meeting will be in January.

Councillor Mike Hewitson explained the financial crisis affecting Somerset and many other counties. There is a very real threat of SCC services being reduced, and all parish councils have received a report of asset and service devolution. We were advised that we need to read this report and decide what services the PC might be able to take over, for which we would need to ask for an increased precept, which needs to be decided at the January meeting.

One planning application for a small extension and new garage at Pine Barton on Broadstone Lane was discussed. Although one councillor was concerned about the height of the garage adjacent to the road, a resolution was passed not to object to the application.

The chairman was pleased to receive a promise from Highways that the missing No Through Road at the end of Moor Lane would be replaced. Discussion took place about the need for a further sign at the Royal Oak Farm entrance to stop articulated vehicles from going further than this point.

Malcolm White has kindly offered to replace the broken gatepost in the Community Field entrance, and will collect it from the agreed supplier. He and Robert Halls will also fix the outstanding issues regarding the telephone box opposite the Mandeville Arms. Pete Higgins will refit the zipline trolley once the ground is less wet.

Mark Pollock explained the arrangements for the 80th anniversary of D-day on June 6th 2024. Malcolm White will make the beacon, and Sonny's pub will provide a fish and chip supper.

As usual there will be no planned meeting in December. The next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The public can speak for a limited amount of time at the start. The agenda for the forthcoming meeting and minutes of past meetings can be found a few days beforehand on the village website www.hardington.net. You can contact me at hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com, tel: 07545 554145 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 10th	Holy Communion	11.00 am
Sun. 17th	Carol Service	4.00 pm
	No Service on 24th December	
Mon 25th	Christmas Day Family Carols	10.30 am

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 10th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 17th	Holy Communion	10.00 am + zoom
Mon 25th	Family Carols	10.00 am + zoom

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Fri 1 st	Murder Mystery, Village Hall, Tickets from Springfield Stores	7.30 pm
Sat 2 nd	Murder Mystery, Village Hall, Tickets from Springfield Stores.	7.30 pm
Tues 12 th	Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville.	7.30 pm
Wed 13 th	Village Coffee Morning.	10.30am-12noon
	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome.	7.30 pm
Thur 14 th	Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall, All Welcome	2pm & 7.30 pm
Tues 19 th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30 pm

DECEMBER 20th LAST DATE FOR JANUARY MESSENGER

Sat 23 rd	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall, All Welcome.	10.30am-12noon
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WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon	Yoga,	Village Hall.	6.00 pm
Fri.	Bell Ringing Practice,	St Mary's Hardington Mandeville.	7.45 pm



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

December:

Thursday 7th – Charity Quiz

It's December's monthly quiz night. Be sure not to miss it!

Sunday 17th – Kid's Christmas Party

From 4-6pm

Come along and meet Father Christmas and get a lovely gift.

£7 per child – Book Now!

Saturday 23rd - Christmas Charity Bingo

A cracking night of BINGO for all the family.

Eyes down at 7.30pm – Books on sale from 6.30pm

Book Now!

Christmas day

Join us for a festive drink from midday until 1.30pm

We'd love to see you all.

Thursday 28th – Christmas Quiz

Duncan's family friendly Christmas quiz with a big Sonny's raffle and Christmas themed fun! Book Now!

01935 862354

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

BARBIE

(12A)

This movie is a blockbuster! It is both witty and funny. Margot Robbie's heartfelt performance will tug at your heartstrings. Both the acting and songs are amazing, and the movie highlights some of the world's serious problems. A must watch.

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 14th December.**

Afternoon Performance at 2:00pm
Coffee, tea and cake available, doors open 1:30 pm

Evening Performance at 7:30pm
Licensed bar available, doors open 7.00 pm

Tickets: £5.00 in advance from Springfield Stores
(01935 862363) or on the door

Visit our website at: www.Hardington.net

