

THE HARDINGTON AND PENDOMER MESSENGER

JANUARY 2024



From the Messenger Team

AROUND THE VILLAGE

WEDDING

Congratulations to John Smeeth & Nicole Ball who were married at St Mary's Hardington Mandeville on a splendidly bright, sunny and dry day in December. We send them our good wishes for their future together. John used to work for Malcom White at Royal Oak Farm.

GET WELL

The following villagers, Robin Searle and Brian Belt have been in hospital recently, so we send them our good wishes in their recovery.

VILLAGE HALL

The winners of the "100-club" draw which took place on 14th December were: 1st prize Matthew Patient, 2nd prize Richard Brooks and 3rd prize Penny Parrott. Many thanks to those of you who purchased a 100 club ticket and good luck for the next draw which will take place at 7.20pm on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at the Village Hall (just before the start of our Committee Meeting).

We will be taking a break from showing films at the hall in the months of January and February but plan to start again in March. Thank you for supporting us throughout 2023, our last film 'Barbie' made a net profit of £169.31 for the Village Hall.

You may have noticed some improvement in the outdoor lighting at the hall. The main lights have now been fitted with sensors so that they will come on automatically when activated which will hopefully improve the safety around the hall.

The main expenses relating to the running costs of the hall in November were the electricity charges of £696 and Insurance costs of approx £125 per month. Thank you for the support that you have given to us in 2023 and also for the donations received in December.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year, Karen Dodge

VILLAGE HOME COFFEE MORNING

We look forward to welcoming old and new faces to the first home coffee morning of 2024 on Wednesday, 17th January, 10.30 to 12am. This is at The Old Post Office Cottage, High Street, the home of Pauline and Alan Grassam.

Our thanks to all who hosted during 2023, your warm welcomes were much appreciated.
Pauline Grassam

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Thank you so much for supporting Dy's November coffee morning which raised £260 for the village hall. We look forward to seeing you at our January coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 27th January 2024. As usual, the hall will open from 10 am to 12 noon and there will be a variety of cakes and savouries on sale for you to choose from including bacon or breakfast rolls, bacon and cheese wraps, savoury scones etc. We also offer a range of teas as well as instant or filter coffees. There will also be a raffle.

Dy would like to offer her sincere thanks to all those who provided donations for the Christmas day lunch at the hall. If you are able to offer any help or are willing to make a cake for the next coffee morning, please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301

VILLAGE SURVEY

In early November the church circulated a short survey to help it prepare a profile of the village and the concerns and values of the village community, as part of the process of finding a new Rector for the parish and the Benefice of seven churches. We promised to provide a summary of the responses received to that survey.

The three questions asked were: What do you think are the challenges we face as a village community? What are the things that you particularly value about our village community? What do you think is the role of the village church in a rural community? And thank you very much to all who replied to us.

The church is seen as being "at the heart of the village", even by non-churchgoers, and as a key part of bringing the community together. Of course, it is also seen as being important as a place of worship, especially for baptisms, weddings and funerals, but overall, it seems that people view the church's role as a much wider community asset in supporting and caring for anyone who needs that support.

All of the active village clubs and groups are seen as important and valued parts of creating the excellent community spirit within the village, but maintaining that is seen as a real challenge. Getting newcomers and younger residents involved in these activities (and hopefully taking over the running of them eventually) is seen as a key element of future community continuity. The pub and the shop/post office are also seen as hugely valuable assets to the village.

We hope that this summary provides a helpful snapshot of the views of everyone who took part in the survey and, once again a big thank you to everyone who did.

Daphne Creed and Richard Middleton

Churchwardens

Poppy Appeal 2023

Together we raised £5,912.

Yet again another great effort from our supporters around the villages. I'd like to thank the Royal Oak, and Springfield Stores and Post Office for their help in making this a successful Poppy Appeal. It's worth noting that our door-to-door collectors around the villages raised almost £2k of the total above. Sometimes a thankless task but we appreciate the hard work and dedication they put in each year. Your generosity will help the Legion to fund support to our armed services personnel, serving and ex-serving members and their families.

I hope you will continue to support us next time.

A Date for Your Diary

The East/West Coker Branch RBL presents a Special Cheese and Wine Evening featuring the Decadettes on 12th April at the East Coker Village Hall. More details in the New Year.

David Giles

HARDINGTON PLAYERS

Thank you to everyone who came along to support or recent Murder Mystery performances. We received some wonderful feedback and we're thrilled our audiences enjoyed their evenings with us.

This is just another reminder that we will be running three open play readings using 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' on Monday 22nd January, Monday 29th January and Monday 5th February at 7-30pm in the Village Hall. These are open to everyone (Hardington Players members and non-members,) so please join us for the opportunity to explore and enjoy extracts from one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies. 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 Tanya Ogden Secretary Hardington Players

JUMBLE SALE

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.

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24th January in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. We are having a Soup Supper and Quiz with delicious home made soups and breads. It will be a fun evening as we battle to find the answers to our horticultural themed quiz.

The annual membership subscription of £15 is now due. Please pay by BACS, giving your name as the reference. Excitingly the 2024 programme card will be available at the meeting, so do remember to pick one up. Happy New Year!

Sally Thompson

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

The lanes of Hardington sparkled with Christmas lights as members made their way to the Village Hall for their festive meeting and it wasn't raining! President Denise welcomed us, presented birthday flowers and conducted a brief business meeting. As our Group Skittles team have performed very well this year, it was suggested a second team might be an idea if there was sufficient interest. Linda Lines was thanked for her usual very comprehensive and interesting report. County News had a photo of several intrepid swimmers enjoying the sea at Lyme Regis in September – a very chilly dip! The Group Carol Service at Misterton was attended and 21 members enjoyed a very tasty and convivial Christmas lunch at the Royal Oak, setting the tone for the season. The meeting changed to festive fun; the Committee provided mulled wine, nibbles and mince pies and were thanked. Members who were 'knitters' created tiny Christmas puddings to cover a chocolate and other members produced orange and clove pomanders – all good fun. Our January meeting will be held on 10 January 2024 at 7.30 pm and includes a talk from Bill Petheram - 'My life as a Country Vet'. New members and visitors are always welcome to our meetings and events.

Liz Brown

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

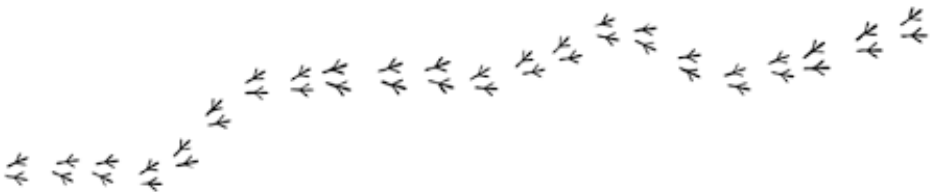
During the winter months, even on a grey day when motivation is low, it does me good to get out of the house and into the cold air. My body may protest for the first ten minutes but then something usually catches my attention – a scuttle in the long grass verge, a flash of red berries garlanding the hedge, the explosive call of a tiny songbird from the top of a tree. With all the bustle in our heads at this time of year, I find nature observation a welcome distraction. I can honestly say I have never gone for a walk and regretted it!

Although it's tempting to stay tucked up that little bit longer at this time of year, I try to get out just after sunrise when I can (quite a respectable hour at this time of year). Birds are especially active early in the morning, feeding to replenish the energy they lost keeping warm overnight. Late afternoon is a great time to go for a wildlife walk, with birds heading to roost and the occasional fiery sunset as an added bonus.

A few things to spot in winter

- Winter is the best time to spot footprints in mud and snow, great for practising your wildlife tracking skills.
- Listen out for nocturnal wildlife. January is peak fox shrieking season, where vixens call for a mate in readiness for the arrival of fox cubs in spring. Tawny owls also call more in winter than at other times of the year.
- Look out for starling murmurations, where hundreds of birds swoop through the sky together before settling down to roost for the night.
- Redwings and fieldfares visit the UK in winter, you might spot them tucking into juicy red berries on rowan and hawthorn trees.
- Ducks, geese and wading birds all visit the UK in winter. Look out for large flocks of migratory birds, especially on the Somerset Levels.
- Snowdrops flower in late winter – one of the first signs that spring is on its way.

Nicola Maybury



CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 14th	Holy Communion	11.00 am
Sun. 28th	Family Service	10.30 am

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 14th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 21st	Holy Communion	9.15am + zoom
Sun 28th	Family service	9.45 am + zoom

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Tues 9 th	Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville.	7.30pm
Wed 10 th	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests welcome	7.30pm.
Sat 13 th .	Jumble Sale, Village Hall. In aid of St Mary's.	2.00pm
Tues 16 th .	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, all welcome.	7.30pm
Mon 22 nd	Players Open Reading, Village Hall, all welcome	7.30pm
Tues 23 rd	Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville	7.30pm

JANUARY 20th LAST DATE FOR FEBRUARY MESSENGER

Sat 27 th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall. All Welcome	10.00-12noon
Mon 29 th	Players Open Reading, Village Hall, all welcome.	7.30pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

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



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

Martin, Ellie, Sara and all the team at The Royal Oak would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

We thank you all for your fantastic support every week and are very grateful that we are situated in such a lovely village with residents who love delicious food and appreciate a good (much needed at times) drink!

We hope we will see all of you throughout 2024 for much more of the same great food, booze and company!

January:

Burn's Night Supper

Join us on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th January for our always incredibly popular Burn's Night supper!

6 delectable courses of beautiful Scottish inspired fare (including Haggis, neaps and tatties; the staple Burn's night course)

But get yourself booked in as soon as possible as this one will fill up fast!

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk