

MAY 2026

CREAM TEA

SUNDAY 10TH MAY
2.30pm - 4.30pm



Ridgemoor, Hardington Moor, BA22 9NP
(if wet Hardington Village Hall)

All proceeds to the Street Fayre fund
in aid of the Village Hall and St Mary's Church

Tickets: £5.00

Available in advance from Springfield stores.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: To Paula Quigley on the birth of her first grandchild, Maeve Annabel born to Paula's son James and his wife Emily. And to, Peter Southcombe who celebrates a 'significant' birthday during May. Congratulations to all the above.

GET WELL: Some of our fellow villagers have been in hospital during the past month, we send them our good wishes for their recoveries.

CONDOLENCES: Sadly, we report the unexpected death of Sally Chapman of Hill End House. Sally and her late husband had lived there for many years. Our condolences to her family, Jamie, Jeremy, Naomi and Nina.

THANK YOU: I returned from a weekend away and found a frog doorstep waiting for me. I'm assuming due to the frog patrol someone saw the little fellow and thought of me! As yet no one has owned up to donating this, but it is charming and thank you very much.
Sue Phillips

THE MESSENGER

The Messenger continues to provide a very valuable service in the village. The committee are very grateful to the volunteers who deliver the Messenger to every household in the village every month come rain or shine - without their help it would simply not be possible to maintain our aim of ensuring that every home has a copy of the Messenger delivered every month free of charge.

We are very grateful for the donations that we receive from the village organisations and individuals throughout the year. We are particularly grateful to the Parish Council for their generous donation every year which is absolutely vital to ensure that we are able to continue providing this service to the village.

We hope this will continue for the forthcoming year.

At the present we have sufficient funds to continue for at least another year (barring any unforeseen expenses such as a dramatic increase in our printing costs).
Richard Beatson - Editorial Team

ART EXHIBITION

We are looking forward to the Art and Craft Exhibition in the Church at the Street Fayre on July 4th. If anyone would like to exhibit their work, please contact Rowena Murray on 07787136546 or rowena.murray@hotmail.com and we can discuss display.

It is always lovely celebrating the local talent!

Rowena Murray

VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MEETING 20TH MAY

Eagle eyed readers will have spotted a change to the heading from “Morning” to “Meeting.” This is because it takes place from 2.30 to 4pm, the afternoon of Wednesday, 20th May. This is Beech Cottage, the home of Sue and Chris Turner in Rectory Lane. They offer a very warm welcome to all villagers whether they are newcomers or long established. Tea and biscuits will be served while we catch up on the latest village news. We look forward to seeing you there. Pauline Grassam

UKRAINE APPEAL

With the war between Russia and Ukraine now in its 5th year items are desperately needed for Ukrainian inhabitants. If you can donate anything, please bring to Windmill Cottage or ask me to collect and I’ll deliver to the relevant person.

My friend is always collecting for the Ukraine. Not only bras, although they are always in short supply apparently, but also as before shoes, clothes, sheets, duvet covers, (but NOT duvets), towels etc. for men, women and children.

Many thanks, Sue Phillips on behalf of Sue May, Misterton WI

Hardington Garden Club

Three events this month for Garden Club fans.

On 12th May, Castle Gardens Centre will be opening after hours for our Garden Club members and offering a whopping 25% discount on purchases plus free delivery. There will be a short welcome talk at 6pm in the Butterfly House near the cafe and then members can head off on their shopping spree. If you are not yet a Garden Club member you can still become one for £15 to get the discount. Contact hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com.

Saturday May 16th, it’s all hands on deck for the Plant Sale, 2-4pm at the Village Hall. This year we are again raising funds for our village projects. I know everyone has been busy growing seeds so we will have a very good selection of plants. Do come along and support us. And of course there will be tea and cake! All welcome.

And on Wednesday 27th May we have the highly knowledgeable Rob Edwards, founder of the Malvern Salvia Collection, coming to talk to us, including demonstrating how to prune and take cuttings. Salvias were the standout performer in my garden last summer and I will definitely be adding more. He will be bringing trug-loads of his amazing Salvias for us to buy. Don’t miss it!

Sally Thompson

W.I.

The Hardington and Pendomer branch of the WI met on the 9th of April at our village hall. This was a very special event as we celebrated the 85th birthday of this branch. Unfortunately, none of the original members were present, but remembered none the less, and were celebrated for building the foundations of such a successful and well supported WI.

The evening started with ladies' birthdays for this month being mentioned. We were very fortunate to receive the support from the Somerset Federation Chair, Shirley Routley, a fellow trustee Brenna, and members from other local WI's who attended for the evening; some cards were read from those unable to attend but wanting to add their best wishes.

Ladies were treated to a glass of VINO Collapso – or soft drink alternative and a wonderful meal prepared by the Hardington Top Chef Martin from the Royal Oak and his two able assistants Sara and Georgie, who did a wonderful job of serving all of us, no mean feat considering this made up about 40 ladies. Once digested - Pudding – this was in the form of a Orange and Olive oil cake based on one of Rick Steins recipes from his recent series based on his culinary experiences in Australia. (Ed's comment- it was delicious and ably made by Ally). WI business was then discussed, minutes agreed, visitors thanked and then the ladies had an opportunity to socialise and enjoy a game of Tension.

This was an especially poignant meeting, as, of late, there had been doubts about the continuation of this branch; however, all that was set aside and we all had a fabulous evening.

The whole point of the WI is to empower us women to develop new skills, build relationships and confidence and to use our voices to achieve real change on issues that matter to us, via the use of campaigning and advocacy on both local and national and as an international organisation, international issues. It promotes community and friendship, lifelong learning and encourages local action, supporting local communities on local issues, if you would like to be part of this close bond of likeminded ladies, from very diverse back grounds, consider joining us; we meet every second Wednesday of the month in The Village Hall at 7.30pm. New members and guests always welcome.

Ally Howard

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 1st April 26 and the winners were: 1st prize Linda Lines, 2nd prize Amanda Davey and 3rd prize Halina Menhennett. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall at 7.20pm on 6th May, this is the start of next 100 club season.

Our film show this month will take place on **Wednesday** 20th May when we will be showing 'Song song blue'. There will be two performances, the afternoon performance will start at 2pm and the evening performance at 7.30pm. The hall will open 30 minutes before each film starts. We will have a break half way through the film to enable you to purchase cakes/refreshments and there will also be a bar in the evening. Our March film 'Downton Abbey The Grand Finale' made a profit of £272.52 for our village hall funds.

The Committee would like to thank Dy Catford for donating £265 from her March coffee morning to the village hall and for her continued support. The Committee would like to offer special thanks too for the support given by you all in the year to 31/3/26, whether it be by offering voluntary help, attending the films/coffee mornings, hiring the hall or helping financially. All of this has helped us to continue with improving your hall and with its running costs.

Our energy costs came to £681.62 for the month of March 26. The annual check of our fire extinguishers was undertaken by Fireshield on 10 March 26. The light in the gent's toilet was replaced on 7th April. We hope to get our solar panel inverter replaced as soon as possible. The 5 yearly check of our electrics is due this month and is booked in for the 21st/22nd May.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE HALL

A reminder that our AGM will take place in the village hall on **Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm. All welcome.**

Karen Dodge.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Do join us for Dy's next coffee morning which takes place at Hardington village hall on 30th May 2026. Family, friends, neighbours and newcomers to the village are all very welcome. As usual, the hall will open from 10 am to 12 noon and there will be a variety of delicious cakes and savouries on sale for you to try 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. If you have any specific dietary requirements, please call Dy in advance and she will do her best to accommodate you. We also hold a raffle.

Our village hall coffee mornings usually take place on the last Saturday of each month. If anyone is able to offer any help or is willing to make a cake for this or any future coffee mornings we would be most grateful so please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301.

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The April Meeting...

The evening began with the Annual Assembly of the Parish. The Parish Council Chairman's report gave details of the past year's significant events. This was followed by brief resumes from local village groups. Thank you to all who contributed to the meeting.

Following refreshments, the Parish Council sat down to hold their monthly meeting. It was agreed to report the blocked drain on Primrose hill to Somerset Highways as this is constantly leaking water. Unfortunately, heavy rain this year has created a new 'channel' across the community field car park, where there is no nearby drain for the water to flow to. The Parish Council discussed the possible options including tarmac an area of the car-park and also the laying of driveway grids to help keep the gravel in place. It was agreed to obtain quotes for these options. The Chairman thanked the Ranger, Jon Backhouse for refurbishing the village well, including making a new oak lid (which had recently started to rot), and also repainting the pump. There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in finding out more about this, then please contact myself or another member of the Parish Council for further details. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th May, 7.30pm at 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: 07815 965113 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

ST MARY'S HARDINGTON

Sun 10th	Holy Communion 11.00am followed by APCM.	11.45am
Sun 24th	Family Service.	10.30am
Wed 27th.	Morning Prayer.	9.30 am

ST ROCH PENDOMER

Sat 9th	Benefice Retreat Day. All welcome	9.30am - 4.00pm
Sun 10th	Family Service	9.45am
Sun 17th	Holy Communion.	9.15am
Sun 24th.	Family Service.	9.45am

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Wed 6th	Village Hall Draw and AGM, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.20pm
Tues 12th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 13th	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome.	7.30pm
Tues 19th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm
Wed 20th	Village at Home Coffee Afternoon, Beech Cottage,	2.30 - 4.00pm
Wed 20th	Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall	Doors open 2pm and 7pm

MAY 20th LAST DATE FOR JUNE MESSENGER

Please send copy to: messenger@hardington.net as an email attachment

Tues 26th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 27th	Garden Club, Village Hall.	7.30pm
Sat 30th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall,	10.00-12noon

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon	Zen Yoga	Village Hall.	9.45am.
Tues	Tai Chi/Qigong,	Village Hall.	6.30pm
Wed	Pilates.	Village Hall.	11.30am
Fri.	Bell Ringing Practice.	St Mary's.	7.45 pm

Hardington Wildlife by Nicola Maybury

Spring is in full flow, bringing birdsong, the scent of blossom and a smile to our faces! It seems we all respond well to a bit of sunshine. There are now swathes of cowslips and dandelions across the nature reserve, dotted with patches of dark pink orchids, a truly lovely sight. Pussy willow catkins are fading now, their impossibly fluffy seed heads being scattered far and wide by the wind. The tree in the middle meadow has been a gorgeous sight, brimming with insects covered in pollen. Several moth caterpillars feast on the leaves and it's also the main food plant for the purple emperor butterfly, so a valuable tree for wildlife.

As blackthorn flowers fade, hawthorn is ready to take its place, filling the hedgerows with a mass of white flowers that are a magnet for pollinators. Solitary bees are busy nesting in the sunlit muddy verges and in the short grass. I've seen hundreds of tiny mounds of soil along the footpath on the hill behind the house, the entry holes just visible, where mining bees have made their nests. There are almost 250 species of solitary bee in the U.K., and they often go unnoticed. Mason bees are once again visiting our bamboo nest boxes in the garden, busily laying eggs and collecting pollen before sealing up the chamber with mud. Mason bees are especially good at pollinating fruit trees and are often encouraged into orchards for that reason.

As the daylight hours lengthen, our amphibian friends are well and truly active. Common frogs and toads, having filled the ponds with spawn, are now on the hunt for slugs and snails. If you're in any doubt how to tell them apart, a basic rule is that smooth frogs jump and warty toads walk! Newts are entering their breeding season, with males developing a striking crest to attract females. I'm keeping an eye out for them in our garden pond. Wild garlic and bluebells are early this year, already carpeting the woodland floor. Skylarks are singing their unmistakable twittering song from on high, while chiffchaffs shout their own name from every hedgerow: polar opposites but equal heralds of the spring season.

Things to look out for in May.

- Spring butterflies on the wing, including orange-tip, speckled wood and holly blue.
- The Dawn Chorus, when birdsong reaches peak volume and complexity.
- Damselfly nymphs emerging from the water and transforming into aerial masters.
- Cuckoos calling – wouldn't it be lovely if we heard them in the village again?

Hardington Flower, Produce and Craft Show

Saturday 29 August - Time to Start Planning!

A little reminder to start thinking about your entries for this year's Show. Printed copies of the schedule and entry form will be available later this month in Springfield Stores and you'll also be able to download them from the village website.

We've refreshed some of our categories this year, so keep an eye out for some of the new additions which include:

Floral Art

- An arrangement in a teacup and saucer
- An arrangement in a basket
- In the rose garden
- Forget the flowers – an arrangement using foliage, grasses & seed heads
- A modern arrangement on the theme of harmony

Photography Categories

- The Spirit of Hardington
- Portrait
- Flash of Red
- Patterns in Nature
- Any Subject – a black and white photograph

Public Voted Categories

- Unusual shaped vegetable
- Most fragrant rose in a vase

Further details about the show and this year's raffle will follow soon. Proceeds will support the Yeovil branch of the Samaritans and village causes.

Tanya Ogden

Flower and Craft Show Committee



Bank Holidays in May

We will be open both Bank
Holiday Mondays in May.

4th
25th

The bar will be open from
midday and we will be
serving lunch from 12-2.30pm

Friday 29th May

Surprise Supper

Sit down at 7.30pm
Another incredible dinner of
complete surprise dishes.

What's On At The Royal Oak

Thursday 7th May

Acoustic Night

With 'The Flying Bray Brothers
featuring Sweatin' Stephens'
7-9pm

Thursday 14th May

MEGA Music Quiz

Come along for a fab night
of music trivia and see
what you can win!
7.30pm

Don't Forget:
Thursday Lunch Club
£10 main courses
Served 12-2pm

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

SONG SONG BLUE (12A)

Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams.

in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Wednesday 20th May.

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





PLANT SALE

2pm - 4pm

Saturday 16th May

Join us

for a wide variety of plants including annuals, perennials, herbaceous shrubs, vegetables, tomatoes and much more....

at

Hardington Village Hall

BA22 9PQ

Purchases are by donation
with cash preferred.



A proportion of all profits raised will go towards Hardington Village amenities.

Refreshments available including
Homemade cakes.



Welcoming back

TOP EDGE

MOBILE SHARPENING SERVICES.

Bring along your
GARDENING TOOLS, KITCHEN KNIVES & SCISSORS.

UP TO 3 ITEMS - £10

UP TO 5 ITEMS - £15

UP TO 8 ITEMS - £20

UP TO 12 ITEMS - £25



PLEASE BRING ITEMS CLEARLY LABELLED WITH NAME & TELEPHONE NUMBER