

NOVEMBER 2023



AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS : Alastair Timmis, son of Gilly and Nigel of Pendomer, recently married Hannah Wickenden at Brympton D'Evercy, near Yeovil. We send our congratulations to them and every good wish for their future happiness.

GET WELL : The following people have been in hospital or unwell at home recently, we send them good wishes in their recuperation: Brad Atkinson, Phil Mills, and Austen Williams.

GOOD LUCK : Two local young farmers are currently experiencing life on farms in New Zealand, for 6 months or so. Sam Turner is already on his 2nd visit and Jake White is about to embark on his first long visit away from Hardington. We hope they enjoy this experience and return home safely in 2024.

THANKS AGAIN : Having sent a cheque to Pancreatic Cancer UK (PCUK) earlier in the summer, I was surprised to be asked for the box to be returned to the shop by Daphne as produce seemed to be growing! I was delighted to send a cheque recently for £211.70, (£100 was a very kind donation from outside the village). I would like to thank Daphne and everyone who donated goods and produce and of course all you kind people who donated to this cause so dear to my heart.
Sue Phillips

CHRISTMAS CARDS : I spend an inordinate amount of time in the run up to Christmas writing almost 200 cards to friends in the village and further afield. This year I have made the difficult decision to send only to people I do not see regularly. I hope this won't offend anyone. I shall be sending a donation to charity in lieu of the cards. Of course, I shall be seeing a lot of you around the village to wish you the season's greetings.
Sue Phillips

CHRISTMAS BOXES : Would you like to send a little joy and happiness to a child via Samaritan's Purse - Christmas Child? If so, I have pre-printed shoeboxes for you to fill and return to me by 10th November. For more information visit samaritanspurse.org
Daphne Creed, Springfield Stores, Hardington Moor. Tel : 01935 862339

Village at Home Coffee Morning

Fed up with being shut in by the winter storms? Then come along to the next village at home coffee morning. It's 10.30-12.00 on Wednesday 8th November at "Swallows Dip," the home of Sue and Nigel Fowler next to the old chapel on the High Street. You'll be assured of a warm welcome, interesting conversation with all the latest village gossip, not to mention excellent coffee and biscuits. Look forward to seeing you there!

Pauline Grassam

HARDINGTON PLAYERS PRESENT:

Who Killed the Secret Agent? by Chris Martin

Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd December 7-30pm in the Village Hall

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW from Springfield Stores or contact 01935 862538 /07769 678208

Join Hardington Players and help them work out 'Who Killed The Secret Agent?' – in a murder mystery spoof Whodunnit set in the world of secret documents and brimming with Bond-style glamour, gadgets and gaffes. Guaranteed to leave you both shaken and stirred...

The year is 1961 and the scene is British Secret Service HQ. The space race is on, and both the USA and Britain are preparing to send their top agents to the USSR in a bid to infiltrate the cosmonaut programme. Meet the daring and charismatic darling of the British secret service, Marcus Moulty-Lightly; P, the pompous head of the Ministry for International Justice; Miss Jilly Fillyfenny, its loyal operations manager; Ada Swabb, the ever-dependable cleaner; Doctor Nigel Tinker, scientific whizz in charge of weapons and gadgets and feisty American agent, Glitz Honeypot. But which of these are prepared to use the gadgets of 'Her Majesty's Secret Service' against one of its own operatives? Your challenge is to work out 'Whodunnit,' with the aid of many clues and hints along the way. You will be seated cabaret-style and are invited to make up a table of six. Alternatively, just come along and we will seat you. Cheese and biscuits are inclusive in the ticket price and will be served during the interval. The bar will be available. Seating will be limited so be sure to get your tickets early!

Tanya Ogden Hardington Players

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

It's our AGM on Wednesday 22nd November at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. There will be a round up of the year's events, a quick look at the Club's finances and a preview of what will be on the programme for 2024. We would welcome one more committee member, please. If anyone would like to join our fun committee, fuelled by cake at our monthly meetings, contact Andy and Kate Palmer at hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com

After the short formal part of meeting, we will have our AGM supper with lovely food provided for us by The Royal Oak. Members will have already been circulated with the menu options. The cost is £22.95 to be paid to the Club's bank account. Please remember to bring something to drink. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Sally Thompson

THE CHURCH BOOK CORNER

At bargain prices of 50p rising to perhaps £1.50, a very popular stall at this year's Hardington Street Fayre was the second-hand book stall. Due to the tremendous response for stock at the time, we still have a good reserve of predominantly paperbacks which we have now put to use as a pop-up stall within the village church. As the church is open daily from 10am till 4 pm it gives good opportunity to visit and select any book currently available; they are all on display at the rear lefthand corner of the nave. Please feel free to take or swap any book; should you feel inclined a small offering into the church plate would be appreciated.

Jackie Thomas

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy and her team are looking forward to seeing you all at her next coffee morning on Saturday 25th November. The hall will be open at the earlier time of 10am giving you plenty of time to indulge in something savoury and maybe a piece of cake afterwards. A variety of goodies will be on sale e.g. toasted tea cakes, cheese scones, cheese and bacon wraps etc but please feel free to make any suggestions for future months. Raffle tickets will be on sale too giving you two chances to win a breakfast roll, a piece of cake and a drink which can be redeemed at your next visit.

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

VILLAGE HALL

100 CLUB: The winners of the "100-club" draw which took place on 4th October were: 1st prize Anonymous, 2nd prize Tom Turner and 3rd prize Daphne Creed. Thank you to those of you who purchased a 100 club ticket and good luck for the next draw which takes place at 7.20pm on Wednesday 1st November at the Village Hall. You are welcome to come along and be present when the draw takes place.

DEFIBRILLATOR : Apparently, not everyone is aware that we have a defibrillator in the village. This is to make everyone aware that there is one on the wall at the front of the village hall just to the right of the main entrance. In an emergency **always** contact the ambulance service first, who will tell you where it is and give you the code for the door.

FILM SHOWS : Our next film will be shown on 16th November and is entitled 'The Old Oak', full details are given elsewhere in this month's Messenger. The Committee may have to consider dropping the afternoon showing unless there is more interest.

HALL HIRE : Don't forget that you can hire the hall for a birthday, christening, wedding celebration etc. Details of availability, charges and conditions of hire can be found on the village website: (www.hardington.net) Karen Dodge (Chairperson)

HARDINGTON AND PENDOMER W.I.

The WI met on October 11th for our annual Open Meeting to which all villagers are invited to attend and included a glass of wine, some Barber cheese samples, tea and cake.

The evening started with a brief discussion of the usual WI business items. There was a successful Poetry, Prose & Puds evening on the 20th September 2023 proceeds going to ACWW and an Afternoon Tea and Cake on the 4th October 2023 for the SCFWI carpark refurbish.

The main event was a very interesting talk and informative presentation by Debbie Wallis, Product Development Manager from Barber's Cheese; the sixth generation of the family and the oldest surviving cheesemakers in the world since 1833. There are 350 employees and annual sales of £145m. The company farms 3,500+ acres and 2,750 dairy cows over 11 separate farms providing around 12% of the milk required for the cheese; 145 known and trusted farms supply the rest. All sourced from Dorset & Somerset. There are two cheese production facilities – Ditcheat, Somerset and Litton Cheney, Dorset. Annual production of 22,000 tonnes of Cheddar, Red Leicester, Double Gloucester, Wensleydale, 1300 tonnes of butter, 6,000 tonnes of whey protein powder. Over 100 different products are sold to more than 200 customers in over 20 different countries.

We were provided with two different Cheddar cheeses to taste. Barbers West Country Farmhouse Cheddar-12 months, with a rounded balance and rich flavour and firm creamy texture; coastal Cheddar-15 months, rich and rugged; the biggest branded Cheddar in the US and popular worldwide. Four of our five dairy farmers in the village supply Barbers with milk.

The next WI meeting is on the 8th November 2023 with a talk by Mike Rendell "More Gin Anyone". New members always welcome to come alone. Its free entry for the first couple of meetings and runs on the second Wednesday of the month.

Theresia Goodger

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

A first light frost mid-month brought the birds flocking back to the garden feeders. I was happy to see the greenfinches return; I'm fond of these handsome birds with their olive green and yellow plumage. The diminutive coal tit took its opportunity to flit in and snatch a few seeds while the robin energetically displaced three goldfinches! Robins are so territorial and it's always entertaining to watch them take a feisty stance in the garden. A willow warbler has made several appearances this month, perching in the apple tree and darting from shrub to shrub, though I've yet to see it visit the feeders.

As we move deeper into Autumn, the landscape shifts into the golden season. Many of us welcome the transformation, the amber, copper and russet colours signalling a slower pace as shorter days tempt us to the fireside. November has become the perfect month for woodland walks as changing weather patterns push the glorious spectacle of Autumn farther into the year. Nothing smells quite like a damp wood in Autumn – rich, sweet and earthy. The thick carpet of fallen leaves suppresses sound too, so you really feel like you've got away from it all for a moment. There are many to choose from locally: Combe Hill Woods, Langdon Woods and Lambert's Castle all offer far-reaching views as well as the natural beauty of being inside a deciduous woodland as the leaves change colour. Stourhead is another wonderful place to visit at this time of the year, its landscaped gardens filled with magnificent maples in the most gorgeous fiery reds and gold.

There's nothing like a damp Autumn morning to help you appreciate the intricate beauty of spiderwebs. As water droplets settle on fine silken threads, the structure of the web is beautifully illuminated, highlighting the spider's handiwork to perfection. These fragile structures adorn hedgerows, gateposts, house windows and car wing mirrors, many of them made by one of the orb web spiders - look out for the very common garden variety, whose large round body is marked with a white cross.

Some of the most uplifting spectacles in nature's calendar are the starling murmurations that grace our skies from autumn, peaking in late November and early December. Ham Wall is a great place to watch the birds in action. This month, the U.K. also welcomes many winter migrants, who come to benefit from our milder weather. Fieldfares, redwings and many types of ducks and geese are already arriving on our shores, and wetlands, like those on the Somerset Levels, are excellent places to witness the return of these birds.

Nicola Maybury

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The October Meeting...

No objections were made to the planning application for Lime Kiln Farm to replace the original two-storey house with a bungalow, as approved in 2012 for an agricultural worker. The parish council did request the proviso that the agricultural occupancy should be maintained in perpetuity, as the application included the change of use of the area of land on which the proposed dwelling would be built to residential.

We were disappointed that Somerset Highways have so far refused to replace the missing 'NO THROUGH ROAD' sign at the top of Moor Lane due to budget restrictions. This follows a tricky situation when a 40 tonne articulated lorry made a wrong turning. This is not the first occasion this has happened. They are now looking to see if they have any 'spare signs'.

We discussed the issue of a speed limit for the village – see separate report.

Two new grit bins have now been installed at the top of the High Street and Bishops Lane, and these should soon be filled at the same time as the others are topped up.

The Mandeville phone box is now looking a bit smarter, and hopefully we can fix the closer. If not new parts can be obtained. An A2 size of the village map has been put in place. Perhaps some leaflet pockets would be a good idea – please get back to us with your thoughts.

Mark Pollock gave us some more information about the proposed D-Day 80th anniversary on 6th June 2024, which could include a fish and chip supper. More details to follow whilst he investigates beacons etc.

Community Field - the new parts for the zip line have been received, and it should be running again soon. Please be careful about the right hand gatepost into the car park – it will be replaced as soon as we are able.

You can contact me at hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com, tel: 07751 617396 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk

A Speed Limit for Hardington?

A parishioner who had been the victim on several occasions of crashes caused by speeding van drivers along Penn Lane asked the Parish Council to revisit the idea of a limit in the village. We have made enquiries and been told that Somerset County Software 'Speed compliance tool' can (presumably using satellite tracking) work out the average speed of vehicles, which is 21mph through the village, so the opinion is that there would be no benefit in implementing a 20mph limit. I hope we will mostly agree that 30mph is far too fast for most of village centre. Even if limits were agreed in some parts of the village, outlying lanes such as Penn Lane would not be included. Our council would have to pay at least £500 for an initial survey, and if limits were agreed in certain areas the cost to the parish would be £5,000 - £7,500 in total. The decision was taken not to proceed. I find the response from Somerset Highways disappointing, and have little patience with those who find it 'difficult' to keep to sensible speeds, which can make it safer for all. Please get back to myself or our clerk Nancy if you would like to make comments.

Robin Carpenter

CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 12th. Act of Remembrance followed by Holy Communion 10.50 am

Sun. 26th. Family Service. 10.30 am

Date for your Diary - Sunday 17th. December 4pm CAROL SERVICE

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 12th REMEMBRANCE DAY. NO SERVICE

Sun 19th. Holy Communion 9.15am AND ON ZOOM

Sun 26th Family Service 9.45am AND ON ZOOM

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Tues 7th. Flower & Craft Show AGM, Village Hall, All Welcome 7.30pm

Wed 8th. Village Coffee Morning, Swallows Dip, High St, 10.30-12.00pm

W.I. Village Hall, new members & guests welcome 7.30pm

Fri 10th. Quiz, in aid of Street Fayre, Village Hall, all welcome. 7.30pm

Tues 14th. Choir practice, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane 7.30pm

Thurs 16th. Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall, NOTE TIME 2pm & 7.30pm

NOVEMBER 20th LAST DATE FOR DECEMBER MESSENGER

Contributions to messenger@hardington.net

Tues 21st. Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, all welcome 7.30pm

Wed 22nd. Garden Club AGM, Village Hall, Pre-booked meal 7.30pm

Sat 25th. Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall, all welcome. 10.00-12.00am

Thurs 28th Choir practice, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane 7.30pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Friday Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Hardington. 7.45pm

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

The Old Oak **(15)**

The Old Oak, directed by Ken Loach is a great watch and will tug on your emotions all the way through. A film about the faults and kindnesses of people beautifully told. Moving, occasionally humorous, with a happy ending. Come and see this film, you won't be disappointed

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 16th November.**

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





WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

Sonny's Seafood Supper

Saturday 4th November

This will be our last Seafood supper of the year so don't miss out!
Get the date in your diary now.

Pie Night 9th November

Join us for a winter warming pie night on Thursday 9th November. Choose from a menu of fantastic homemade pies with a selection of tasty sides.

Delicious!

Last month's pie night was very popular so get booked in soon to avoid disappointment.

Charity Quiz Night!!

Our next quiz night is actually on Thursday 2nd November, but it is already fully booked (which is fantastic). So, the NEXT one will be our Christmas quiz which will be held on 28th December – this is going to be a fantastic night with a Christmas raffle, Christmas games and plenty of festive questions.

Book up soon to avoid disappointment.

Christmas bookings being taken now!

See our website or Facebook page for our Christmas menu and get yourself and the family booked in.

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk

