

OCTOBER 2023



Hardington Village Flower and Craft Show: Tribute to Mike Bickerton

Members of the committee, together with some of Mike's family, recently met with Mike to present him with a collage canvas of some of his show memories. This gift was to recognise Mike's many years of contributions to the Flower and Craft Show, both as a competitor and organiser, since moving into Hardington in 1965. If anyone would like to visit Mike, please contact Moorlands Residential Home to arrange (01460 74425.)

AROUND THE VILLAGE

WELCOME: Tom and Charlotte Gillingham, and their young son Austen moved into The Laurels over the summer. We welcome them to the village and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

GET WELL: Several villagers have been in hospital or unwell at home, recently. We wish, Keith Blackwell, Brian Bowers and Lesley Whetham every good wish in their recoveries.

WI OPEN MEETING....

The WI will hold their annual open meeting on Wednesday 11/10/23 7.30pm in the Village Hall, to which everyone is invited. Debbie Wallis from Barbers Cheese will give a talk 'CHEESE QUALITY AND GRADING" she will also be bringing cheese samples, for all to enjoy. Barbers, established in 1833 and located at Ditchat are the largest and oldest farmhouse cheddar makers in the world. Tickets are £5 which include a glass of wine (extra will be on sale) and tea/coffee and cake. Tickets will be on sale in early October from Springfield Stores. We look forward to welcoming you.

..AND AFTERNOON TEA

On October 4th the WI is hosting a tea afternoon in the Village Hall 2.30-4pm, to which you are most welcome. Tickets will be on sale from Springfields Store, £4 to include tea/coffee and cake. There will also be a raffle. We hope you can join us.

WI committee

VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNINGS

Our first autumn coffee morning is at the home of Jonathon and Fiona Chadwick, Rydon Farm at the bottom of the High Street. This is from 10.30 to 12 noon. All villagers are welcome for a friendly chat accompanied by the very best coffee and biscuits. Do come and join us, especially if you are new to the village. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, 11th October.

Pauline Grassam 863673

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The winners of the “100-club” draw which took place on 6th September were: 1st prize Rosalie Voizey, 2nd prize Alan Grassam and 3rd prize Sandy Hubbard. 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 4th October at the Village Hall. You are welcome to come along and be present when the draw takes place.

I am sure that you are looking forward to Dy’s next coffee morning which takes place at the hall on 28th October. Feel free to bring along your family and friends and take the opportunity to socialise and catch up with other villagers.

Our next film will be shown on Thursday 19th October and is entitled ‘ The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry’. Once again there will be an afternoon as well as an evening performance. The films will be shown at 2pm and 7.30pm respectively with the doors opening 30 minutes before each film starts. Refreshments will be served half way through each performance and there will also be a licensed bar in the evening. We very much look forward to seeing you and hope that you enjoy the film.

The Committee have recently purchased a plaque which will be put up at the front of the hall to mark the coronation of King Charles 111.

We are lucky enough to receive donations from individuals on occasions to help support the Hall and these are much appreciated, thank you.

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)

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy and her team are looking forward to seeing you all at her next coffee morning on Saturday 28th October. 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.

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

For the October meeting of our Garden Club, on Wednesday 25th at 7:30pm, we have Judith Stewart coming to talk to us about Bach flower remedies. These helpful tinctures of flowers that we have in our gardens or see along the hedgerows have been developed by Dr Edward Bach in the 1920's to help rebalance our emotional state with surprising efficacy. Bach's remedies are not homeopathic, where substances are diluted to undetectable levels, but a different form of energy medicine that is a useful tool to have in one's self help cabinet. Judith will be talking to us about the history of these remedies and their wide variety of uses. As we head into shorter, darker days, a drop of rescue remedy may be just what we need. Teas, coffee and cake will be available too! Sally Thompson

PS We have been having some problems with the Club's email address, so we have changed it. It's now hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com.

PARISH COUNCIL

September meeting

Concern was expressed before the meeting by a resident, who had been the innocent victim of several crashes involving speeding traffic, and asked the council to revisit the possibility of a limit within the parish.

Councillor Mike Hewitson reported on the financial trouble facing many councils including Somerset, and the cuts in spending which would be needed.

The main subject discussed under Highways was the issue of the speed limit. It was agreed that the only realistic limit would be 20mph. Councillor Hewitson explained that surveys would need to be done to assess the possibility of having such a limit. He will assist the clerk in finding out how we can proceed. Meanwhile please report any traffic incidents to the police in the interests of gathering valuable data.

Users of wheelchairs etc will hopefully find using the path between Moor Lane and the Community Field easier to use now that we have laid some fine gravel over the rough patches. Please let us know if you find this now OK, as it may be possible for us to get enough gravel to improve the whole length, as SCC declined to do this.

We have to apologise that the zip wire is not currently usable, as the trolley is not moving freely on the wire. We hope to be able to get this repaired very soon.

Two new salt/grit bins will soon arrive, to be placed at the top of the High Street and Bishop's Lane as requested by residents. We have received the plaque to commemorate the King's coronation, which will be fitted at the village hall.

Newly retired, with a car and some time to spare? SCC is looking for voluntary drivers for hospital appointments etc. If you think you can help contact details are: 07855 285464

Website: www.volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/drive)

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

HARDINGTON AND PENDOMER W.I.

The WI met again after their summer break on Wednesday 13th September. Once the usual business of the meeting was over (reminders of the many and varied events open to Members in the area and beyond including skittles games, craft workshops, fashions shows etc, and of ways to get involved in this year's Resolution – "Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife") , the President Denise Riddell introduced us to our speaker Janet East.

Janet proved a thoroughly entertaining speaker and kept us well amused. She has a small farm in Payhembury, East Devon, where she farms sheep and some cattle, her main focus being a herd of Jacob sheep. Although from a farming family, Janet went into a full-time non farming job and then met and married a chef and they bought a small house near Box Hill in Surrey with a ¼ acre plot. Ideal, she thought, for a little flock of Jacob Sheep! It was not long however that these few became a few more, then a few more until she managed (after several attempts) to persuade her husband to move to Sussex where they had more land and were able to rent other pasture. Janet's tales of attempting sheepdog trialling were very amusing – making watching One Man and His Dog even more impressive viewing! After several years in Sussex, Janet and her husband were eventually able to move to Devon where as well as the flock of sheep they also began a B and B – they have won awards, so maybe check it out! Janet told us of the time she helped deliver her neighbours lambs (in between taking orders for a Full English) and of some of the more eccentric of her visitors (one even came with her pet parrot – apparently an East Enders fan!). Once the meeting was closed, members were able to admire and buy some of her woollen products – blankets, cushions, hats. A great evening all round! Our next meeting is on 11th October 2023 and is our annual Open Meeting where we will have a talk by Debbie Wallis from Barber's Cheese to which all villagers are invited. Cheese samples will be available. Tickets are £5 and include a glass of wine. They are available from Daphne at Springfield Village Stores or on the door. We look forward to welcoming you then!

Rowena Murray

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

I'm always reluctant to say goodbye to September, with its hedgerows laden with fruit and late summer dragonflies skimming overhead. With the promised hot spell at the beginning of the month, we made time to enjoy the glorious walks and views around the village, and even managed a couple of lovely sea swims – the drive home at sunset bathed the landscape in such a warm and beautiful light, reminding us how lucky we are to live in this picturesque part of the world.

The change in the light reminds me that the days are shortening and cooling and it's time to gather up the last of the blackberries while I still can. There are plenty of hazelnuts, sloes, rosehips and elderberries around, and everywhere I look I see masses of deep red hawthorn berries, which I know are a favourite of blackbirds. Berries such as are an important food source during the colder months, when insects are in short supply and the ground is too hard to hunt for worms, so leaving hedges and shrubs to finish fruiting before they are trimmed back can really make a difference to wildlife. This includes honeysuckle, the glossy berries of which are loved by robins and song thrushes (although they'll have to wait a while longer as the warm weather has brought on a final burst of fragrant flowers, which the bees and moths are making the most of!).

As Autumn creeps up on us, I'm anticipating the arrival of fungi popping up; in the leaf litter, on fallen wood, in the meadows and, of course, anywhere near dung! October and November are the ideal months to look for fungi – inkcaps, puffballs and field mushrooms are all familiar, but there are many more besides, often with brilliant names like Elf Cup, Earthstar, Stinkhorn, Jelly Ear, Turkey Tail and Chicken of the Woods.

I think fungi are truly a wonder of nature. These incredible organisms live for hundreds of years underground, produce 'fruit' (in other words, the mushroom we see on the surface), recycle nutrients, and help trap carbon underground. The best time to see grassland fungi is after a bit of Autumn rain. Waxcaps are a good one to look out for as they usually grow in groups or rings and last a few weeks. I'll be keeping an eye out for these over the coming weeks.

Nicola Maybury



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

Charity Quiz Night 5th October!!

Get booked in for Thursday 5th October for our next charity pub quiz. A great night out testing your general knowledge, eating some delicious food, and raising money for charity!

Quiz starts at 7.30pm

Teams of up to 6 people

Pie Night 12th October

Join us for a winter warming pie night on Thursday 12th October. Choose from a menu of fantastic homemade pies with a selection of tasty sides.

Delicious!

Sonny's Big Breakfast 28th October

Saturday 28th October will be our next Big Breakfast.

From 9am – 11am, you can come along and treat yourself to a brilliant full English breakfast (or something smaller if you fancy it) and start your Saturday off the right way!

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.

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk

80th Hardington Village Flower and Craft Show Update

Congratulations to everyone involved in making Hardington's 80th Flower and Craft Show such a success. Organisers, competitors, judges and visitors alike could not fail to appreciate how amazing the Village Hall looked with all the wonderful exhibits. This year we had a total of 437 entries (an increase of 74 from last year) with notably more submissions in the Vegetable and Fruit and the Flower and Plant categories. All the Junior entrants were given bee-friendly seed discs, which we hope they will enjoy planting and watching grow. This year's fundraising raffle had some amazing prizes and made a net profit of £1,425-86. This has been donated to Help for Heroes, Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine and Village causes. Thank you again to everyone involved in making the 80th show such a fantastic day.

Flower and Craft Show Notice of AGM

This will take place on **Tuesday 7 November 7-30pm in the Village Hall.**

All welcome. Tanya Ogden Flower and Craft Show Committee

East & West Coker Poppy Appeal

We will be holding our annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning on October 14th at the West Coker Commemoration Hall between 10:30 and 12 noon. Tickets are £3, will be available on the door including cake /biscuits. There will be a cake and produce stall, the usual raffle, and various items of Legion memorabilia. We do rely on your support, so please come along and enjoy the chance to spend time with friends and family.

All proceeds will go to the 2023 Poppy Appeal, to provide life-long support to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents through hardship, injuries and bereavements. Dave Giles Poppy Appeal Organiser.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Services at St. Mary's Church

Oct 15th	Holy Communion,	11.00 am
Oct 22nd	Family Service	10.30am

Services at St Roch Pendomer

Oct 8th	Family Service	9.45am
Oct 18th	Harvest Festival & Supper.	6.30pm
Oct 22nd	Family Service	9.45am

October 29th United Benefice Communion E Chinnock 10.00am

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Wed 4th	Afternoon Tea, Village Hall, Tickets from Post office	2.30 -4.00pm
Tues 10th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane,	7.30pm
Wed 11th	Village Coffee Morning, Rydon Farm, High St.	10.30-12noon
	W.I. Open Meeting, Village Hall, Tickets at Post Office	7.30pm
Sat 14th	Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning WC Commemoration Hall	10.30-12noon
Tues 17th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, all welcome.	7.30pm
Thurs 19th	Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall.	2pm & 7.30pm
<u>OCTOBER 20th LAST DATE FOR NOVEMBER MESSENGER</u>		
Tues 24th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane,	7.30pm
Wed 25th	Hardington Garden Club, Village Hall,	7.30pm
Sat 28th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall.	10.00 - 12noon

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon	Beginners Yoga, Hardington Village Hall.	6.00pm
Tues	Beginners Yoga, Hardington Village Hall.	11.00am
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville.	7.45pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The 900th Anniversary of St. Mary's Church was celebrated on Sunday 17th September. The Church had been beautifully decorated with fruit, flowers and vegetables. The Churchwardens welcomed Bishop Michael Beasley who preached a sermon on Matthew 6, 25 – 34. He reminded us that every generation has its own troubles and anxieties and we should not think our own times are unique in this way. He spoke of the courageous faith which had led to the building of Hardington Church in Norman times, and challenged the congregation to consider their own commitment, and how to avoid being consumed by worry. The congregation presented gifts for the Lord's Larder Food Bank to the Bishop and 13 boxes/bags have been taken into Yeovil for distribution to those in need in our area. The collection of £517.03 has been donated to the Disaster Emergency Committee. The Benefice Choir, under the leadership of Robin Carpenter sang "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter. Thank you to everyone who made this a very special day. Daphne.Creed

Harvest Praise Service:Following such a happy Harvest Praise we should thank the wonderful band of volunteers who give their time freely to keep our lovely church open and running for the whole village. Richard Middleton and Daphne Creed devote a lot of time and energy fulfilling all the bureaucratic and practical duties of a church warden, in addition to taking family services and being "on duty" at all the services. As we share a vicar with six other parishes our church wardens play a major role in the daily management of Hardington Church. We have volunteers who open and close the church daily so anyone wishing to visit can do so. The tower clock keeps ticking, the flag flying, the flowers arranged and watered. Refreshments are provided following family services, the Benefice choir sings, and notices are printed. There is a band of unsung heroes who without being asked keep the Garden of Remembrance strimmed and tidy. And of course, we must thank the honourable host of Heavenly Dusters who, week in week out, fight dust, spiders and flaking plaster to keep our church clean. At present we are without a vicar so volunteers are even more important. Heartfelt thanks are due to them all. Annie Dyer

Bishop Michael Beasley with the choir before the service

