

OCTOBER 2024

MELPLASH SHOW



L-R Harry Brooks, Martin Palfrey and Phillip Brooks (Photography Cathy Derryman)

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Mandy and James Bugler have been delighted to welcome their first grandchild, Violet Evelyn, a daughter for their son Adam and his wife Kelly.

Engagement congratulations are sent to Will Patten, son of James and Jane of Parsonage Farm, Pendomer, and Katie Peel of Crewkerne.

Margaret and Bob Casey of Lyatts, celebrated their 40th Wedding anniversary in early September.

Hattie Griffiths, daughter of David and Sarah has recently graduated as a midwife and starts her first job in Cardiff in October.

Denise Riddell and Sue Phillips celebrated significant birthdays recently, Denise whilst on holiday and Sue with family and friends. Ernest Kong, still very much involved with village affairs including proofreading the Messenger celebrated his 'special' birthday whilst on a cruise.

Barry Knibbs who was one of the founder members of the Hardington Mandeville Cricket Club and has continued in his support of them for almost 50 years has been honoured by Somerset Cricket Club at a recent dinner in Taunton. Congratulations to all the above.

GET WELL: Tony Smith, Liz Raymont, Paul Oliver and Robin Carpenter have all been in hospital recently and we send them good wishes as they recover.

CONDOLENCE: We send our condolences to Tina Steel of Moor Lane on the death of her husband John.

THANKS

I would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent me cards, good wishes, flowers, and presents but most of all your kind donations to Pancreatic Cancer UK to mark my recent birthday. I was informed by PCUK this week that the total received was £1,396.80. They say this is the largest amount raised from a party, certainly in the past 2 years if not ever! Please accept my sincere thanks for your kindness. Sue Phillips

I would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to each and everyone of you for such kindness you have shown me from the moment John and myself moved into this dear village, and especially since John passed away. Your kindness is what has been getting me through this difficult time. Thank you. Tina Steel

Save the Date - FIREWORKS AT SONNY'S (The Royal Oak) Tuesday 5th November. Barbeque from 6 p.m. Fireworks at 7 p.m. Donations requested. Profits to The Village Hall and St. Mary's Fabric Fund.

Keith Blackwell – a reflection of his life by Ali

I have been asked to write my reflections of Keith who sadly died in July. He was known to many of you and was an active participant in village life until the end. He enjoyed nothing better than a drink or meal with friends and was a regular at Sonny's.

What many of you may not have known was that he had a great interest in all aspects of the arts. He was a very talented artist and craftsman and spent many happy hours in his workshop making wooden items ranging from bowls and plates to furniture, decorative objects and boxes. Several friends in the village received one of his beautiful boxes as a Christmas or birthday present.

He also made jewellery from silver, semi precious stones and sea glass. He had a lifetime's experience of craftsmanship and for many years taught craft, design and technology to high school and college students.

His interest in the arts didn't stop there though and he loved to watch dance of all kinds from ballet to contemporary. We spent many happy times at theatres and shows, most recently the Ballet Boyz in Yeovil. In fact he introduced me to ballet which I grew to love.

He enjoyed art galleries and having studied History of Art was always ready to give his critique of art both old and new. He dabbled in painting and drawing himself but was very self critical of his abilities. In fact he was a perfectionist in everything he did and many a project was discarded if he wasn't satisfied with the outcome.

Alongside his academic career he was always a bit of a rebel and somewhat anti-authoritarian which I think made him a better teacher as he had a natural empathy with young people. He rose to the height of his career and was for some time an adviser to the government on higher education, a role which earned him an OBE.

He was a real family man at heart and loved to spend time with his son Laurence and my children too. The grandchildren adored him as he had a very silly sense of humour.

I hope this has shown you another side to my beloved Keith or Three as he was known to old friends and family. He will be sorely missed.

Village Home Coffee Morning

Our October village coffee morning sees us move to the High Street at the home of our welcoming hosts Jonathon and Fiona Chadwick. In case you don't know this is one the oldest houses in the village, Rydon Farm near the bottom of the High Street. You will be most welcome from 10.30 to 12 noon on Wednesday, 9th October. All villagers are welcome; it would be lovely to see some new faces, you would be made most welcome.

Pauline Grassam

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy Catford and her team would like to remind you that our next coffee morning takes place on Saturday 26th October and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day. 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. There will also be a raffle.

All profits from the coffee morning go towards maintaining the village hall, so thank you all for your continued support. Thank you so much to those of you who help us regularly on the day in so many different ways as this helps make our coffee mornings run so smoothly. If anyone else is able to offer any help or is willing to make a cake for the next coffee morning, please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301.

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER WI

After the summer break, our monthly meetings resumed in September. Tanya and Stewart Ogden presented an illustrated talk about the Akamba Aid Fund – a Somerset charity which supports some of the poorest rural communities in Eastern Kenya. With help from the local population, the charity builds wells in drought ridden areas, and improves the provision of education and health for those living there. Tanya and Stewart are passionate about helping these rural communities and visit Eastern Kenya regularly.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our October Open meeting, on Wednesday, 9th October at 7.30 pm in the village hall. We welcome Judy Clarke who is station manager of the National Coastwatch Institution at Lyme Bay, who will tell us more about this important charity. National Coastwatch watchkeepers are volunteers who provide eyes and ears along the coast, keeping watch and monitoring radio channels to provide a listening watch in poor visibility. When people find themselves in trouble, they are there to alert HM Coastguard who direct the appropriate rescue services to the casualty.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Tickets for non-members, both male and female, are available from Springfield Stores - £6.00 to include a glass of wine, a cheese supper and tea/coffee and cake.

Linda Lines

SNOOKER

Following up my message last month, in case you didn't realise it, I do actually have a full-sized table, here in the village. If you'd like a game, please give me a call on [07857 968322](tel:07857968322). (But not before about midday!) Laurence P

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

On Wednesday 23rd October at 7:30pm in the village hall we will be hosting Bex Partridge, the young founder of Botanical Tales. Do look up her website: www.botanicaltales.com or see her Instagram pages. Bex is an amazing floral artist using dried flowers creating spectacular installations. Bex grows her own flowers and has developed drying processes that capture wonderful colours and shades. Her talk will be all about how we can transform fleeting live flowers into something that can last much longer. Non members welcome.

Also that evening, tickets for Nick Bailey of Gardeners' World fame will be on sale. We are delighted to have secured him to speak to us on Wednesday 26th February 2025 in the village hall. His talk is entitled "365 days of colour in your garden". Ticket prices: £8 for members; £12 for non members.

Sally Thompson.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club winners for the draw which took place on 4th September were: 1st prize Jenny Trott, 2nd prize Yvonne Miller and 3rd prize Anne Egerton. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the Village Hall. The next draw takes place at the village hall on the evening of 2nd October at 7.20 pm (just before our monthly Committee meeting starts) and you are welcome to come along and be present when the draw takes place.

The next film to be shown at the hall on 24th October is "Swede Caroline". We have one further film lined up before December and that will be shown on 21st November and is entitled "Wilding". As usual there will be two performances, a matinee and evening performance. Please see the posters advertising the films for more detailed information. Many thanks to those of you who have come forward and kindly offered to help with the film projector.

This month the electrical items at the hall were PAT tested and the 3 hour duration test of the emergency lighting system was completed. Our electricity charges for the month of August amounted to £208.78, most of which related to the standing charge.

Many thanks once again to Dy Catford for donating £270 from the August coffee morning to the Village Hall funds.

Cynthia Delaney who left the village some time ago has had to resign from the hall Committee due to other commitments and I should like to thank her for her hard work over the years. We still have a few vacancies on our Committee and in particular it would be nice to have a representative from the Pendomer area. If you would like to become more involved in the community and would like to see the hall continue to improve please speak to Daphne or myself for more information.

Best wishes from Karen Dodge (Chairperson)

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

After a mixed bag of weather and wildlife over the summer months, September has been a welcome gift. Wasps are once again making a nuisance of themselves as we enjoy the final few opportunities to dine outside. Whilst not everyone's favourite, wasps are a vital part of our local ecosystem, both as pollinators and pest controllers, and there has been a noticeable lack of these formidable little predators this year. We're all familiar with the yellow and black common wasps that make straight for the jam sandwiches, but the British wasp family actually has a huge range of types with incredible adaptations for survival.

The vast majority of wasp species in the U.K. are in fact solitary - perhaps that's why they pass unnoticed? Unlike the social wasps, who live in colonies and therefore sting to protect that colony, solitary wasps make individual nests, seldom sting and are often parasitic. They can be a few millimetres in size, or several centimetres long. Some are diggers, some are drillers, there's even a potter wasp, which you can see if you visit coastal heaths. If you have Mason bees nesting in your garden, you're likely to attract the dazzling Ruby-Tailed wasp, whose larvae feed on the developing bees. The last days of September are a good time to look out for the last of this year's adult wasps, as they forage for food before the cold weather sets in.

Many insects are taking advantage of the late summer warmth. Buddleia bushes are awash with butterflies, unfurling their long tongues to enjoy the sugary nectar. After such a dearth in early summer, it's wonderful to see Red Admirals, Commas, Tortoiseshells and even the odd Painted Lady back in the garden. Crickets and grasshoppers have been a common sight in the long grass at the front of our house of late, leaping ahead of me as I make my way to the greenhouse. An easy way to tell the difference between the two is to look at the antennae: long on a cricket, short on a grasshopper. Along the Moor Lane bridle path, you can barely walk two paces without spotting a beautiful orb web, usually with a plump spider patiently biding its time at the centre. As the seasons shift, these incredible structures take on a jewel-like quality, sparkling with dew or glittering with frost in the morning sunshine. Something to look forward to!

Nicola Maybury

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun. 13th	Holy Communion	11.00am
Sun. 27th	Family Service	10.30 am

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 13th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 20th	Holy Communion	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 27th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Wed 2nd	Village Hall Draw and Committee Meeting, Village Hall,	7.00pm
Mon 7th	Induction of Rev Philip Macauley, W. Coker Church, all welcome	7.00pm
Tues 8th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 9th	Village Coffee Morning, Rydon Farm, High Street, all welcome	10.00-12noon
	W.I. Open Meeting, Village Hall, New members & guests welcome	7.30pm
Tues 15th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All welcome.	7.30pm

OCTOBER 20th LAST DATE FOR NOVEMBER MESSENGER

Please send copy to: messenger@hardington.net

Tues 22nd	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor,	7.30pm
Wed 23rd	Garden Club, Village Hall, New members & guests welcome.	7.30pm
Thur 24th	Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall, All welcome	2.00pm and 7.30pm
Sat 26th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall. All welcome	10.00am-12noon

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues	Tai Chi/Qigong, Village Hall.	6.30pm
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville.	7.45pm

Showtime 2024

It's been while since an update on the showing exploits from within the village but a successful day at Melplash Agricultural Show prompted a request for a return. With shows back in full flow following the covid enforced break a number of villagers have been back out competing for the much-coveted rosettes.

In the cattle lines Toby and Thomas White held their own across all of their classes taking the top spot in the in-calf heifer class and going on to be Champion any other breed and Reserve Supreme Champion dairy exhibit. This was backed up by seconds in the calf under six months, heifer 12-18 months and the best pairs.

Not to be outdone by the White boys in the horse and pony fields Emily White and Dartmoor Pony Moortown Mister Malarky took firsts in Mountain & Moorland 1st Ridden and 1st Small Breed Working Hunter Pony (Jumping). Going on to be Champion and Reserve Champion respectively.

Representing the arable capabilities of the village were the Turner family. Collecting 2nd places in the Barley (feed) and Wheat Straw classes followed by a 3rd place for their Barley Straw entry.

It was the sheep lines where the biggest village presence was felt. Starting earlier in the week with the carcass lambs. Taking a number of prizes in the 'alive' section it was father that pipped son when Tim Marsh topped with the Reserve Champion Heavy Continental. When the results were read on show day it was son Riley Marsh who outshone his father going one better taking 1st Heavy Continental Dead and Champion. Riley's success continued with his Jacobs taking three firsts and three seconds in his classes. The top accolade of Breed Champion was taken by his ewe lamb.

In another father/son battle Oscar Turner continued the theme by beating his father Tom in the Pair of Commercial Ewe class taking a 2nd place with his Dutch Spotted ewes. In the breed classes he continued his success with a 3rd with his Aged Ram. Finally, Phillip Brooks took 1st with his Poll Dorset Ram Lamb followed by a clean sweep of the Suffolk classes with 1st in the Ram Lamb, Ewe lamb and group of three, ably assisted by neighbour and amateur showman Martin Palfrey. The championship honours being taken by the Suffolk Ewe lamb. Harry Brooks

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The September Meeting...

The PC discussed an application for a rear single-storey extension, internal alterations and the erection of a garden outbuilding and a carport at Bridgehay, Bishops Lane. A resolution was passed that there were no objections.

Regarding the report of person(s) residing in a mobile home at Holtens, the Planning Enforcement Officer has reported that he is expecting an application for retrospective planning sometime in the near future.

Having received complaints of the surface issues on Lyatts, the PC agreed that it would write to Somerset Highways to complain. There are a couple of places where the road has 'sagged' and cars are catching the underside on the high-points. According to parishioners, the Highways have apparently refused to do anything about this.

Adam Dance (MP) has written to local Parish Councils asking them for their thoughts on the matter of re-opening Chinnock Hollow. He is considering writing to the Minister of State for Transport for Special Funding (£2.7m) to re-open the road. The Parish Council discussed this and it was thought the majority of Hardington Parishioners were keen to have this re-opened. The Parish Council passed a unanimous resolution to support the re-opening of the road.

The Chairman thanked Robert White for mending the Community Field gazebo seat-slats, which have recently been deliberately broken. He also thanks Tim Marsh for topping the Wild Flower area.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th October, 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

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

SWEDE CAROLINE (15)

In this British Mockumentary, the competitive giant vegetable growing world is rocked by scandal when up-and-coming prospect Caroline has her prized marrow plants stolen.

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 24th October.**

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...

Thursday 3rd October.

QUIZ NIGHT

Join us for Brent's first quiz as the newly appointed quiz master.

Teams of up to 6 people, £2 entry per person.

All the money raised will go to a charity of Brent's choosing.

Thursday 10th October

PIE NIGHT

As the winter months approach, we are bringing back our monthly pie nights. Starting with 10th October! So, get booked in for a menu of delicious pies and puddings.

Saturday 19th October

SEAFOOD SUPPER

This will be our last seafood supper of the year; so, don't hesitate to book as we do not want anyone to miss out!

Tuesday 5th November

BONFIRE NIGHT

Join us from 5pm for a village bonfire display. The bar will be open from 5pm, we have a BBQ from 6pm and the firework display will be at 7pm. Come along and enjoy!

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk