

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

### Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

2nd April 2 p.m. Prayers at the Foot of the Cross

There will not be a service on Easter Day at St. Mary's, Hardington.

The following services are available within the Benefice: -

#### **4th April Easter Sunday: -**

9.45 a.m. Family service via Zoom – contact Sheila Carpenter – 862339 for log on details .

11 a.m. Sutton Bingham – BCP Holy Communion

11 a.m. East Coker – Easter Liturgy

11 a.m. West Coker – Holy Communion

4 p.m. East Chinnock – Holy Communion

#### **Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> – 11 am Holy Communion St Mary's Hardington**

**St. Mary's** will be open for private prayer each day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. commencing Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**St Roch Pendomer** is open for private prayer following Covid guidelines.

**Zoom Family Service every Sunday at 9.45 All welcome.**

### APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> LAST DATE FOR APRIL MESSENGER

Please email contributions to [hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com](mailto:hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com)

## AROUND THE VILLAGE

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Many congratulations to Daphne Creed who has been postmistress of Hardington Post Office for 30 years. Thank you, Daphne for your continuing service. How lucky we are to have a shop and post office, such an important part of village life and sadly missing from many villages now.

Catherine Hyde-Phillips celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in March - Congratulations

**THANKS:** Many thanks for the wonderful donations received this month for The Messenger. We entirely rely on your generosity and we are grateful. Messenger Team

**WELCOME:** Newcomers to the village are the Parkman family, who moved into Partway House just before Christmas. This month we also welcome Paul and Sally Thompson who have moved into Pendomer House; Neil and Carolyn Robinson and their daughter and son in law Rebecca and Steve Friend with their children Isla and Edward who have moved into Woodlands. Next door at Brambledene are Austen Williams and Ally Howard. More homes in Nursery Gardens are now occupied and we welcome, Andrew, Dawn and Phoebe Lawrence in No 7, Clive Wakely and Ruth Vellacott at No 9, Mary Lovell and Nico Raimondi at No 1 . We send a very warm welcome to them all and hope they will be happy here in Hardington. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can start to meet socially again.

**GOODBYE:** Andy and Julie Jones recently moved from Woodlands to Yeovil, having lived in Hardington for some years. We send them good wishes in their new home.

**CONDOLENCES:** We are sad to hear that Dale Egerton died last month after a long illness. Our condolences are sent to Anne and their families.

## **GARDEN CLUB**

Hopefully with this recent spell of warmer and drier weather, you have been able to venture outside and possibly even do some gardening. Spring bulbs are in flower, plants and hedges are shooting and bees are flying. I adore this time of year, there is so much promise ahead.

The Garden Club Committee will soon be reviewing the potential to restart club meetings (following relevant government guidelines). Details will be sent to members and included in the Messenger. Watch this space!

Please save the date for the 2021 Plant Sale, either 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> May (weather dependent). Details are still to be finalised and will be publicised when available.

In the meantime, if you do have spare seeds, please consider sowing a few extra for the plant sale. Donations of plants and garden paraphernalia are always greatly appreciated. Happy gardening.

Jacqui Watkins

## HARDINGTON WILDLIFE by Nicola Maybury

Spring has certainly sprung in Hardington, and what a tonic it is! This has been a long old winter and it feels like we're only just coming out of hibernation. March has seen banks of snowdrops replaced with primroses and daffodils, while clumps of low-growing violets can now be found at the foot of hedges. For a touch of the tropical, take a moment to inhale the glorious coconut scent of gorse in bloom on the nature reserve, one of my absolute favourites.

At the beginning of the month I was surprised to spy a Painted Lady butterfly basking in the sunshine on our front grass. As they are not known to hibernate here over winter, I can only assume it was first off the mark to leave its home in Africa and migrate to Europe, unencumbered by the travel restrictions that we face. It lifted my spirits no end to watch it open out its beautiful orange and black wings and warm itself.

On that same sunny afternoon, whilst walking along Penn Lane, a skylark made itself known through its wonderful song-flight, hovering high in the sky above us and singing its rapid, twittering song before diving down again. I've recorded one in this same spot for three years running and every year I keep my fingers crossed that it has been able to nest successfully. Skylarks nest on the ground and are one of our red list birds, meaning their population is in severe decline. We're very lucky to have one in the village, so listen out for its unmistakable song as you walk along the lane.

Another unmistakable sound of Spring is the hum of the lawnmower. While it's tempting to swing into the usual routine of weekly mowing from now until October, our lawns can be a valuable resource for wildlife if we can invest in the notion of more growing and less mowing. Daisies, white clover and selfheal are the most abundant lawnflowers, and the oft-maligned dandelion is a top nectar producer, perfect for bees, hoverflies, flower beetles and butterflies. Recent surveys by the conservation charity Plantlife show that reducing mowing to once a month leads to a significant increase in nectar production, enough for TEN TIMES the number of bees and other pollinators compared to short grass lawns. Plantlife runs an initiative called 'No Mow May' to encourage everyone to let wildflowers grow in their lawns for a month - just follow the links on their website for tips on how to go about it. Last year, when we combined areas of long and short grass in our garden and cut pathways to define them, we were rewarded with the emergence of a great many wildflowers, including a pyramidal orchid!

Some habits are hard to break, but as we've all managed to let our hair grow these last 12 months, why not let the grass get a little longer before the next trim too?

## HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

Our March meeting was again held remotely & sixteen members/guests joined via Zoom. Sophie Flux, our guest speaker, talked about how she had set up the Risby Wildlife group in her village in Suffolk to bring the local community together to encourage greater biodiversity and to protect wildlife, plants & trees. Sophie was very enthusiastic about the venture and gave a very inspiring talk. Angela Brooks had delivered wild flower seeds to members before the meeting, as requested by Sophie in lieu of her fee. We are all therefore looking forward to promoting biodiversity in our villages.

### **\*80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration\***

Our next meeting via Zoom is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and we will be entertained by Ellie Baer. Ellie currently works in the voice over arena, voicing children's animation and writing songs for children. She will talk about her career as a producer, actor, singer and songwriter and will perform for us. It would be lovely to toast our 80th birthday so we would encourage attendees to have a glass of something to hand. Any lady who would like to attend this meeting is very welcome - you do not need to be a W.I. member. Please contact Linda Lines on [jandllines@btinternet.com](mailto:jandllines@btinternet.com) for details of how to log on to the Zoom meeting. We sincerely hope that we will be able to celebrate our birthday in the summer with an actual gathering. Watch this space.

Margaret Casey

## HARDINGTON FLOWER & CRAFT SHOW

In anticipation that we will be able to hold a Flower and Craft Show this year, we thought we would just remind you of the date, which is the 28<sup>th</sup> August. The schedule for this year is available on the [Hardington.net](http://Hardington.net) website. The usual categories are there: vegetables and fruit; flowers and plants; photography; handicrafts; a range of junior classes; floral art; cookery; preserves and wine. As the weather now improves and we are able to get outside more we can start to think about the categories above and what we could enter into the Show. Maybe over lockdown you have been particularly creative and could enter something into the Handicraft category? Or, you may have honed your baking skills and are eager to demonstrate your delicious Victoria Sponge or Soda Bread?

If you have any questions about the Flower & Craft Show, please direct them to Stewart Ogden [sogden20@gmail.com](mailto:sogden20@gmail.com) and he and the Flower and Craft Show Committee will do their best to answer them.

## REWILDING

Today, as we look forward to a more peaceful summer time all must be aware of the impact of global warming, which is entirely due to our impact on the natural world and increasing emissions of CO2. We all have to act now, and a good place to start is in the garden. Many of us already have wildlife friendly gardens, but here are a few things you could consider. A pond is number one, as it will attract so many different species. It does not have to be big. In fact frogs often use a temporary one. This avoids newts, which eat up tadpoles.

Do not use man-made chemicals. Fertilisers, pesticides and fungicides kill all the goodies as well as the baddies. Leave your lawn to grow wild flowers and cut in August to make hay. I did this last year and recorded over 60 species. That's the way to spread seed, and works well with my snowdrops and early crocuses. Leave a corner to go completely wild – nature does not like a tidy garden. A pile of old logs and timber is useful. It is said that more creatures live in deadwood than greenwood. Ivy often causes problems, but if you have an old wall or tree it can cover it will be a real winner. It provides flowers and nectar in October, when all others have gone, and ripe berries in March. At all times of the year it will provide cover, shelter and nesting sites for birds. Don't forget your compost heap and nest boxes for tits and robins. Also do not use peat-based composts. If you do not have a garden, you can join, or volunteer for the many environmental groups, all of which rely on your donations to survive. And plant a wild flower in a pot on your windowsill.

Mike Bickerton

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The village hall recently received its 5-year electrical inspection and, although no urgent items were identified, there was quite a list of potentially harmful issues which need addressing as soon as possible. The Parish Council is in the process of applying for an SSDC grant to help towards the cost of this work. The hall will not reopen until this work is completed.

There are currently 3 positions vacant on the VH committee: Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Treasurer. Anyone interested in any of these roles should contact Daphne at Springfield stores. Newcomers to the village would be particularly welcome to apply.

## BOOK PUBLICATION DATE OF 'ALL THAT GLITTERS' 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

<https://www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop/historical/all-that-glitters/>

I am pleased to announce the publication of my latest historical novel, 'All That Glitters', which follows on from the fourth in the series, 'The Golden Fleece' in the 'Heart of Stone Saga'. Daphne has some stock in Hardington Post Office, if anyone is interested in learning more about my various characters and their exploits.

Shelagh Mazey

### DAPHNE

At the end of March, I will have been Postmistress in Hardington for 30 years. I really cannot believe where the years have gone! I took over the shop and post office from Mum in 1991 and she took over from Granny in 1936. In the 1960's she was given the opportunity to take on the post office when Mrs Poole retired from the then post office in the High Street. I remember this was a big decision for her to take at that time but she decided to "give it a go". It was a wise decision, as the shop would not have survived without the post office and vice versa. I have been lucky enough to have kept the post office (with support of the village) during the times when many were closed and, by the grace of God, was not affected by the failure of the post office Horizon system when so many Postmasters/Postmistresses were accused of fraud, lost their reputation, livelihood and even went to prison.

So, in the 30 years there have been many stories to tell, the ups and downs of everyday life. Always joy when a new baby is born and sadness when someone dies. A listening ear to people's worries over health, work, relationships, and families.

In 2009, I was awarded the Somerset County Council's Chairman's award for "services to the people of Somerset". In 2011, I had the honour of receiving the MBE from the Queen at Windsor Castle.

Looking back over the 30 years, how fortunate I have been in my position and to have my family close by. The thought of meeting my many friends and customers gets me up each day and hopefully for a few more years to come. The past year has been most challenging and I would like to thank everyone who has helped with deliveries and keeping our community safe. I look forward to the time when things get back to normal and we can meet up and celebrate the last 30 years.

Here is one of Mum's poems, which sums everything up: -

The house where I was born  
Is at the bottom of Pig Hill  
And now that I am very old  
It is the house where I live still.

It is also the Village Shop  
and the Post Office as well.  
If only the walls could talk  
There would be many a tale to tell.

Here you can buy most anything  
Piled up upon the shelf.  
You take a basket from the pile  
And then you help yourself.

The Post Office is always busy  
To mention just a few  
Stamps, Pensions, Bonds and queries  
There is always something new.

It is a caring community  
And people like to know  
How is Mrs Jones today?  
And when's the Flower Show?

It is a place where friends meet  
And children love to come  
It is the house where I was born  
And to me its Home.

Daphne Creed

## **THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...**

### **The March Meeting...**

The Chairman reported that the planning application for an extension to the front of the existing garage at Treetops, Rectory Lane has been approved. However, SSDC stipulated a condition stating that building work should not be started until the recent right of way application for this area has been addressed. The SSDC planning department have since removed this condition, as it would seem unreasonable given that the development needs to be started within 3 years of planning approval and it may take longer than this for the right of way application to be considered. The Highways representative reported that the SCC Development Engineering team were in discussions with the Nursery Gardens developers regarding the Moor Lane road surface issues.

Recent heavy rain has resulted in water gushing out of several holes in the middle of the road on the junction of Moor Lane and Pig Hill. This has caused significant road damage and has been reported to SCC Highways for investigation.

It was agreed the Annual Assembly of the Parish should be cancelled this year, as few village groups had taken place over the past year due to Covid restrictions and it was felt they would have little to report. The Parish Council has been contacted by Wessex Internet, a rural internet provider, who have been awarded a contract by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) to deliver ultrafast fibre broadband to selected properties and businesses in parts of rural South Somerset. If anyone is interested in finding out further details regarding this or would be interested in attending a presentation then please contact the Parish Council.

Having received reports of further incidents relating to dogs off leads at the community field, in addition to continuing complaints of dog mess not being cleared up, Councillors were asked to give their views on banning dogs from the field. Councillors recognise that it is only a minority of irresponsible dog owners that do not respect the rules, but this is causing a potential safety threat. Councillors then voted 6 to 1 in favour of the ban.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on the 20th April, 2021 by video conference. Public attendance is welcome and they 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](http://www.hardington.net). You can contact me at [hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com](mailto:hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com), tel: 07545 554145 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk



## TO COKER HILL

Most days, most weathers I walk this hill, seeing:  
Velvet fields of pastures green, brown corduroy ones to till and glean;  
Dry stone walls both old and new, lovingly restored by those who knew;  
Walking up I take a rest to gaze at Blackdown's Hills far west;  
Rainclouds can appear behind these hills, so tis wise to shelter and just stand still;  
Snowdrops, Primroses and Forget-me-nots peep from hedgerows' shady spots;  
I strive to visit them while they last, so short a time and then they're past.  
I clear clogged drains with my Witch Hazel stick  
And could tell you of ditches so hidden and thick;  
Beware you drivers hoping to pass where ivy and horsetail cover the grass!  
Birds of all kinds make walking a pleasure,  
Their songs in the hedgerows are something to treasure;  
Looking on high maybe Buzzards a'mewing,  
Riding the thermals, their prey clearly viewing;  
Robins in Winter sing oh so sad of warmer times  
And more food to be had;  
In Winter I'm nosy – new views to be had  
By peeping through branches at hidden posh pads!  
A quiet backwater was my little hill,  
But no more, as white vans rush about still;  
Lockdown has meant no parcels from shops –  
Just order from Amazon on your doorstep make drops!  
Walkers, joggers and cyclists abound,  
But it's nice to find others eschewing the town.  
Beech, Horse Chestnut, Spruce and Field Maple;  
I wish I knew more, so many to label.  
But one Oak stands mighty facing the West,  
Its wonderful symmetry fair takes my breath;  
He's opposite my cul-de-sac, St. Mary's View,  
Waiting so patiently for seasons anew;  
As you can see I do love The Hill;  
It's taught me so much about being still – still in mind -  
Still in heart with so much more yet to impart.  
So, if you have time to take in the view, mosey along,  
YOU'LL LOVE COKER HILL. Judy May

## **4FAMILY MENTORS: an opportunity to make a real difference**

Since 2011 **Yeovil4Family**, hosted by Yeovil Community Church, has worked successfully in partnership with South Somerset District Council and other key agencies in supporting struggling families providing support in the family home. Our role has been to deliver a family support programme by providing Link Workers and **Volunteer Mentors** who are the families' voice amongst the agencies so that they can regain control over their own lives and feel empowered and equipped to move forward.

During the summer of 2020, we secured significant funding and are, therefore, looking to expand our reach from Yeovil to across South Somerset. Working with a Link Worker, **Mentors play a crucial role.**

### **WHY BE A MENTOR?**

- Be part of a fantastic family mentoring programme which carefully matches mentors with a family living within South Somerset.
- By providing one-to-one non-judgmental listening support in the home, helping the family gain the support it needs to make changes and find solutions to their challenges, mentors have the opportunity to bring new hope into the lives of a family.
- 4Family's Mentors have seen 100s of families regain control over their own lives and feel empowered and equipped to move forward.
- The training that you receive and the skills that you learn will help build your CV and will benefit you generally in your every-day life.
- Volunteering has been shown to have immense benefits for the health and wellbeing of the volunteer.
- This could be your opportunity to make a real difference to your local community - knowing you have contributed to helping a client family gain hope for a better life and a better future.

### **TIME COMMITMENT**

Being a volunteer Mentor takes approximately 2 hours each week; 1 hour with the family or individual you have been matched with and up to an hour with your Link Worker. You must be able to commit to being part of the programme for a minimum of 6 months.

### **WHAT WE OFFER**

We know that it can appear daunting to take on a role such as this and, therefore, we support each Mentor by offering:

- an initial 12 hours training over six sessions spread over six weeks **or** 3 x longer day sessions depending on people's availability
- weekly support from their Link Worker
- back up support from the Programme Leader
- additional ad hoc training
- an opportunity to meet up regularly with other 4Family Mentors

**WHAT NEXT?** To explore whether being a 4Family Mentor may be for you:

- find out more about Yeovil4Family, please go to <https://yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/>
- Please contact Deanne Mahony for further information.
  - email [deanne.mahony@yeovil4family.org.uk](mailto:deanne.mahony@yeovil4family.org.uk)
  - call the office on 01935 530050
  - post any queries to Yeovil4Family, The GateWay, Addlewell Lane, Yeovil, BA20 1QN



## **WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK**

# **WE ARE REOPENING ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL!**

In line with the government roadmap for easing of lockdown restrictions, the outside areas of the pub will reopen from **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**.

We will be open for both food and drinks but we will be operating outside only until Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at the earliest.

Our opening days will be Wednesday – Sunday and opening hours will be weather dependent.

Further details on our reopening will be posted on our website, our Facebook page and in our email newsletter.

Thanks again to all who have supported us over the past year. We look forward to serving you very soon!

**01935 862354**

**[www.royaloakhardington.co.uk](http://www.royaloakhardington.co.uk)**

