

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Sun 17th Holy Communion St Mary's Hardington 11.00am

Zoom Family services will restart at 9.45am on January 3rd. If you wish to join us please contact Robin & Sheila Carpenter on 862339.

BENEFICE CAROL SERVICE

A very successful Benefice Carol Service was held in Hardington Community Field. Over fifty people from throughout the Benefice attended. The Benefice choir were delighted to sing carols as were the congregation. A collection for Crisis raised over £250 .

JANUARY 20TH LAST DATE FOR FEBRUARY MESSENGER

Please email contributions to hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations this month are sent to Kim and Joanne Manual who became grandparents for the first time in December. Their son Lewis and his wife Katie had a son, as yet unnamed. Another great grandchild for Gerry and Margaret Manual. A first grandchild too for Penny and David Parrott, Oliver James, a son for James and his wife Hannah. Jane and John Blomfield have become grandparents again, their daughter Jess and husband Dave have recently had a daughter Alice, sister for Ben and Jon. Best wishes to them all.

WELCOME: Once again there has been a flurry of newcomers to the village. We send a very warm welcome to: Helen Howell and Chris Bumby and their young daughter Arabella, who have moved into Hillcroft. Mark and Sarah Parsons and their family, Emily and Ben have recently moved into Robin Hill. Nicky and Paul King were the first to move into Nursery Gardens. We hope that you'll be very happy here in Hardington and it won't be too long before we can start to meet socially again.

GET WELL: The following villagers have been unwell or in hospital this past month. We send good wishes for their speedy recovery to: Margaret Wilson-Chalon, Julia Beckley and Elliott King.

CONDOLENCES: Many villagers who remember the Barnards, who lived in the village for more than 30 years and moved to Sherborne about 4 years ago, will be sad to hear Marina died suddenly in December. Our condolences are sent to Tony and family at this sad time.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK: If we have new people move into the village it usually means some folks have moved out. This month a few long standing villagers have moved to new homes or are about to move, some not very far away whilst others are moving a greater distance. Nicky and Colin Marshall have moved to West Coker, Dave and Caroline Marr have moved further afield and over the border into Sherborne, Val Radford to Twickenham to be near her son and family and at the end of January Edward and Caroline Armitstead of Pendomer move to Westerham in Kent. We wish you all much happiness in your new homes.

THANKS: Many thanks for the wonderful donations received in December for The Messenger. We rely entirely on your generosity and we are very grateful.

Messenger Team.

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

Our December meeting was once again via Zoom. Sue Phillips, our Secretary, sadly announced the sudden death of a former villager & W.I. member Marina Barnard. Our condolences were sent to Tony, her husband. Sue also announced that Val Radford, a member for many years, would be moving to London on December 17th. We will be sorry to lose her but wish her all the best in her new home. Members got into the spirit of Christmas wearing festive attire for our quiz and toasting the season with a glass of something. Linda Lines was the winner on the night and was thanked by Sue for producing another amazing newsletter & ensuring that all members received one. Sue was presented with an orchid 'virtually', as a thank you for all her hard work and efforts during this difficult year - it was delivered later.

Some of our members participated in the County Carol Service via Zoom on 16th December. A socially distanced Christmas lunch was enjoyed at the Royal Oak on 17th December. Thanks to the Royal Oak team for doing a splendid job. It is important in these times to keep in touch and keep communication channels open. We have embraced social media for meetings and talks. Our next meeting on 13th January at 7.45 pm will be via Zoom and Shelagh Mazey, a village author, will be the speaker. We also look forward to April and celebrating our 80th birthday in style.

SPOTLIGHT ON ROBIN SEARLE

Robin was born in 1943 in Lyme Regis . His father was a Navigator in an RAF bomber and was sadly killed in action when he was 9 months old, so it was just him and his mother as he grew up.

Educated at Lyme Regis Grammar School, Robin met his wife Chrissie (from Charmouth) as a teenager, then embarking on a student apprenticeship with Vickers-Armstrong, at Weymouth, and then to Coventry where he worked as a design engineer with Triumph Motorcycles. A move to Swindon, again with Vickers–Armstrong followed, and marriage to Chrissie. They moved to Yeovil in 1979 as Robin took up a job with Normalair Garrett, and then in 1984 they relocated to Hardington.

Robin and Chrissie settled into life in Hardington, establishing themselves in a cosy corner of the Moor. Hardington was well situated for Robin’s work. After he left Normalair Garrett, he took on the role of senior engineer with a company based in Portsmouth. The projects he was looking after however were in plants in Newquay, Redruth, Cornwall, Fuji City in Japan and the USA, a country he has a particular fondness for. Eventually, the travelling became a nuisance and Robin was happy to retire and enjoy his many hobbies and interests.

Throughout his life Robin has had a great interest in motorcycles and he and Chrissie have taken part in many classic bike runs around the southwest. He owns and rides a 1966, 650cc BSA “Lightning” and a 1964 500cc Triumph-Greeves. He designed and built a stainless steel-framed 1500cc Alpha Romeo Trike!

Designing and creating things from scratch is a particular gift of Robin’s. As a member of the Weymouth and Portland Model Boat Club he has designed and made a series of amazing model boats. Most of them are 1/24 scale and built at home; he takes over Chrissie’s art studio for this. He has been known to test the models’ buoyancy using a paddling pool, with batteries and a radio control inside. You certainly don’t want them sinking to the bottom of the sea when launched! Sitting in his conservatory is a WW2 Fairmile Model “D” MTB, complete with guns and sailors etc., also a Vosper Type 1 and Vosper Model 70 Motor Torpedo Boats. They are most impressive I must say! He has also made a model of HMS Illustrious, a 1940 aircraft carrier, and a 10 Rater vintage racing yacht, which together with his other boats he takes to club events such as Lyme Regis lifeboat day. All of the boats are “seaworthy” and radio controlled so can be seen in action. He has even added authentic battle sounds to the Fairmile Model “D”, so that crowds can appreciate the power and drama of these amazing warships.

His latest project is a model of 1778 Frigate, HMS Hinchinbrooke. This square-rigger was Nelson’s second command. He was given the model but it had little detail,

things which Robin is excellent at creating. Robin plans to create a film of this, as he has for some of his other projects, adding detail about the history of the ship, another of his talents! He also writes his club's newsletter. Robin has missed meeting together with his fellow Model Boat enthusiasts during 2020, but is looking forward to getting together again in 2021 at the millpond in Mangerton Mill. The club's first official outing is booked for May 29th at the Sherborne Castle Fair – so to get a good look at his amazing boats in action pop along and see!

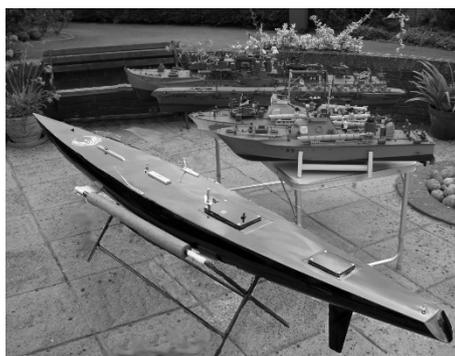
Favourite things about Hardington: “Watching the changing seasons and the farming year. Enjoying the quiet.”

Beer or Wine? “Wine”, Cesare Amorone.

Who would you most like to have dinner with? “Joe Walsh, slide guitarist – the best – he really knows his business. “

Classical or Modern Music? “Neither in preference – I like a wide range of styles from choral music (from my days as a Royal School of Church Music chorister) to good rock ... my vinyl collection is pretty expansive!”

First Post-Covid trip out?” Steak and Ale pie at the Tuckers Arms Inn, Dalwood, accompanied by a glass of their Dalwood White wine.” Rowena Murray



Robin's Fleet

MISSING CAT - FOUND!

Thank you Messenger readers for all the contacts we have had over our absent ginger cat, Tigger. One of the contacts led to finding him camping out on Moor Lane, and after 7 weeks away he is now back at home, none the worse for wear.

Neil & Annie Dyer

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club Committee continued to “meet” throughout 2020. Provisional plans are in place to start holding Garden Club meetings in 2021, when circumstances change sufficiently to allow this to happen. Speakers have been booked but are able to be cancelled. Provisional bookings are in place at East Coker village hall to hold the club meetings. This is for two reasons - the Hardington Village Hall currently remains closed but also the East Coker Hall is a much larger building, which is currently better suited to allow for sufficient social distancing in line with government guidelines.

We had optimistically hoped that January 2021 might be the first club meeting of the year. However, circumstances are not yet right to start meetings again. Therefore, there will be no meeting in January 2021. The Garden Club Committee continues to monitor the Covid-19 situation and will advise club members accordingly. As notified in the AGM minutes sent to Club members, the provisional dates of club meetings at East Coker would be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (not 4th).

In the meantime, why not think about seeds and bulbs to buy and plant when the weather is right. Wishing a happy New Year to you all.

Jacqui Watkins

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

Not much to report as I am reduced to only watching birds in the garden at present. That is always interesting as my birdfeeders attract a wide variety of birds and I have to ration them. My favourites are long-tailed tits and goldfinches, both of which arrive in large family groups. Surprisingly I do not get house sparrows although they are common in the village. I think they dislike the heavy shade in my back garden. My bottles, now threaded on wire, are still keeping the grey squirrels at bay. It's nice to hear two tawny owls calling at night and I also had a visit from a kestrel.

My comment on beavers rings a bell as the BBC has made several references to them. Apparently they are in residence along most of the river Tay in Scotland while in the Lake District a pair of beavers built dams which prevented flooding in one village, while a nearby village spent £100,000 on concrete barriers, which failed completely in the next storm. It is now recognised that the beavers in the right place, not only prevent flooding, but create conditions for all sorts of wildlife to thrive.

Mike Bickerton

THANKYOU

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has offered help and sent cards of encouragement after my stroke. Especially Daphne at the village shop, the Royal Oak pub for their delivered takeaways, and the ladies from the hospital and stay at home group.

Although I have been isolating for months and cannot walk far, I have not been short of food for a single day. I did start to thank each one personally but gave up for a number of reasons. First my writing is awful and difficult to read and some came just from John, Alan, Betty and Ann et cetera and others had no telephone number. So please accept my apologies for my failures.

Mike Bickerton

WALKING THE LANE

With apologies to the many careful and considerate drivers.

Who are these folk who walk the lane?
To slow for them is such a pain;
To lose three seconds is such a bore;
Now I'll have to make the engine roar.

Who are these folk who walk the lane?
How do they imagine I can keep sane?
Don't they know I'm in such a rush?
Who cares if they end up as mush.

Who are these folk who walk the lane?
To slow will make me late again.
I'm a busy person as you will know.
I haven't time for stop and go.

Who are these folk who walk the lane?
What do they think they have to gain?
Green fields, fresh air and cows a'mooing.
Get out of my way- what are you doing

David Cleaton

I began to learn bell-ringing at the church tower. The captain of the band was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable, and still is. He called a quarter-peal of Double Norwich only the week before last for the 93rd birthday of Mrs Curtis, widow of the landlord of the New Inn, now the Mandeville Arms. He has now donated two new bells to the tower, achieving his ambition to make it a ring of eight. The new treble bears the inscription; "To the glory of God and the memory of Edward and Elizabeth Rendell and their family, the gift of their youngest son, Gilbert." And the new second; "to the glory of God in appreciation of the art of ringing," followed by Gilbert Rendell's own treble (a ringing family, his wife Roberta (Ruby) his son Gordon, now rings at Montacute, and his grandchildren, Ivan and Andrew, who are also musicians.)

I discovered that the bells could tell something of the history of the village. The oldest, (now the seventh) was cast in 1591 to celebrate England's victory over the Spanish armada. The fifth and tenor commemorate the restoration of King Charles the second in 1661. The sixth, cast in 1742 we always called the Bible bell but checking on this, I can find no edition of the Bible connected with the date, so I shall need to make further research into this matter. What is now the third is called the Bartlett Bell, given by a churchwarden in 1932 "Bart gave me" is inscribed on its rim. The history revealed that Hardington can be looked upon as a microcosm of England. Roberta (Ruby) Rendell, now in her 80s, still lives in the village. She was for many years mistress of the village school. She is proud of the fact that Ralph Reader of the Gang Show first learnt to read and cipher at Hardington school. His accountant does his sums for him now. Mrs Rendell can take pride in the fact that my son Robin who now lives in Weavers Cottage took the exam, which villagers still call "the scholarship" from Hardington school. (It was later called the 11+ and is now gone) Robin passed it, but he left the village and went to Marlborough Grammar School. From there we moved to Wales and to other pastures.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Happy New Year to you all from the VH Committee. Hope we will be seeing you at events in the hall before too long. In the December 100 club draw 1st prize went to Anne Caruth and 2nd prize to Sandy Hubbard. Congratulations to you both.

ROYAL OAK

Please see website and facebook page for up to date information

Old photographs of the village from Gordon Spearing



Gordon Spearing and Evelyn, Coronation 1953



Tree planting by the Parish Pump and Chapel, Mrs Heath, Rev Paul Greaves, Ernie Sandiford and others.