

JANUARY 2022



ITS PANTOMIME TIME !

Do you recognise any of the people in this photo of 30 years ago?

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington.

Sunday 9 th	Holy Communion	11 a.m.
Sunday 23 rd	Family Service	10.30 a.m.

Flower Rota

If you would like to join the St Mary's flower rota and decorate the church (possibly 3 times a year) please contact Daphne at Springfield Stores (862363) Funds available to cover expenses.

Church services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sunday 9 th	Family Service	9.45am OR ON ZOOM
Sunday 16 th	Holy Communion	9.15am OR ON ZOOM
Sunday 23 rd	Family Service	9.45am OR ON ZOOM

If you would like to join us on zoom and don't have the invite please contact Robin & Sheila Carpenter on 862339 and we can organise it.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 11th	Choir Practice, St Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.30pm
Wed 12th	W.I. Meeting, Village Hall, New members Welcome	7.30pm
Tues 18th	Parish Council, Village Hall,	7.30pm
Tues 25th	Choir Practice, St Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.30pm
Wed 26th	Garden Club, Soup supper, Village Hall	7.30pm
Fri 28th	The Witches, Village Hall, tickets at PO	7.30pm
Sat 29th	The Witches, Village Hall, tickets at PO	7.30pm

JANUARY 20TH LAST DATE FOR FEBRUARY MESSENGER

Please email contributions to hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com

WEEKLY EVENTS

Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.45pm
Tues	Ashtanga Yoga Village Hall, for full details please contact Rachel Parker rachelparker.ashtanga@gmail.com	

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS : Carole and Trevor Hughes, of The Crows Nest, had their first granddaughter in December, Olive a first child for their son and daughter-in-law. Congratulations to them all.

GET WELL: The following villagers have recently been in hospital: Karen Clotworthy, Helen Parrott, Shirley Angel, Jonathan Chadwick, Francis Jones, and Jules Jennings. We send them our good wishes.

CONDOLENCES: Two former village residents have recently died. Fenella Birch lived at Pendomer House for 30 years, originally in the Cottage with her husband Jack and latterly with her daughter and son-in-law Caroline and Edward Armitstead. A burial took place at East Coker followed by a service of thanksgiving at St John's Yeovil. Another ex-villager Dave Sloggett, a local builder was instrumental with other villagers in the formation of the HMCC – Hardington Mandeville Cricket Club back in the mid -1970s. Dave and his wife Marilyn have lived in Spain for some years, where he died. A thanksgiving service for Dave's life is to be held in Yeovil in January. Our sincere condolences are sent to their families.

COFFEE MORNING

The final total sent to Pancreatic Cancer UK was £1,429, truly amazing and I would like to thank all those who sent me donations following the coffee morning.

Sue Phillips

ART CLUB

In the days before Covid and its attendant restrictions (remember those days?) there was a small group of crafters who met in the village hall to paint, knit, sew etc. It has been suggested that this group might be restarted - given that there are a good number of new residents. So, if you have an interest in:

Card making, quilling, soap carving, salt dough decorations, crochet, wire work, glass painting, life model drawing/painting (with clothes), bead work, embroidery, jewellery making or anything that can be done in a couple of hour chunks get in touch. Age and gender no restrictions. We might discover hidden talents.

Email me : Valerie.marden@outlook.com

MICRO- PROVIDERS

Did you know there is a network of micro-providers who offer support and care across the county? Most are small independent care and support enterprises that work alongside homecare providers. They offer a range of flexible services enabling people to keep well and independent.

This is part of an increasingly diverse care market, which focuses on giving people more choice, particularly in rural areas. They offer a range of services including:

- Support with personal care
- Domestic help around the home
- Social support.

A list of micro-providers in our area can be found at www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk or get in touch with a local Village Agent via the Community Council for Somerset at somersetagents.org/find-an-agent or phone 01823 331222 or visit www.facebook.com/somersetmicroproviders

If you are interested in working in care and would like to help make a difference in the community, visit www.proudtocaresomerset.org.uk/jobs

As seen in the recent edition of YourSOMERSET.

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members gathered, on a cold and damp evening in the Village Hall, for the first Christmas themed meeting since November 2019. We were welcomed by Angie, our President, and offered delicious mulled wine and “nibbles” by the Committee. A brief business meeting took place and this was followed by a “beetle” drive with a difference which was a SNOWMAN DRIVE ! This required super quick dice throwing, using a sanitised one, and woe betide anyone who wildly shot theirs onto the floor ! Our artistic snowman assembly skills were hugely tested and some results were quite bizarre ! Great fun ! We then exercised our brains with a Christmas quiz and enjoyed warm mince pies, knowing that an evening of warm friendship had taken place with both new and old members. Barbara Martin thanked the Committee for organising such a very enjoyable meeting.

We now look forward to the New Year programme which includes a talk on “The Gift of Sight” (January), “Canine Partners” (February) and the March meeting, which the members organise, and plenty more.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 12th January at 7.30pm and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Liz Brown.

HINCHINBROOKE MODEL

I am hoping to gauge interest for a filmshow / talk regarding my model HMS Hinchinbrooke, 1778, 6th rate frigate. My long suffering neighbours can testify to some of my previous DVD's of my model collection. I am wondering how many people from the village might like to share with my latest production. I propose the Village Hall as the venue, the film runtime is approximately 40 minutes and covers the ship's history and then the model rebuild and refit voyage. Not long enough hopefully for it to become boring, and time enough for a chat. I think there is something for everyone and will not be too technical.

I had hoped for a link up with the current Viscount Hinchinbroke but despite various communications we have not yet managed to arrange a mutually convenient meeting. I am still hopeful for this to take place. If you are interested, please contact me at robin.searle@sky.com Robin Searle

NEW HARDINGTON BOOK CLUB

Would you like to chat about a book in an informal way, one evening every month? We have started a new group for people who like to share their love of books with others, over a cuppa on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.15 p.m. Its a relaxed, fun group who all read the same book, mutually chosen by the group. We will discuss the characters and plot, share our ideas and go on book related outings etc. Nothing too highbrow. If it sounds like its for you, please call Kaz Doyle on 07813860314

STREET FAYRE 2022

We are hoping to run a Street Fayre again in 2022. Current thinking is that we hold it on the High Street as before. So as not to clash with 'Party in the Park' or any Jubilee event, our proposed date at the moment is 10 September 2022.

We will be holding a meeting to discuss plans and gauge support, in the Village Hall on Thursday 17 February at 7.30. Everyone is welcome to attend and offer their thoughts.

In the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions, please do get in touch.

Andrew Middleton andrew@themiddletons.org 07941 323753

BRING BACK THE BEAVER!

Replying to your request in the November messenger about tackling the very serious climate emergency, I hear that many villages in the UK are forming their own environmental groups to tackle all sorts of problems like planting trees, wild flowers and hedges, cleaning up watercourses and digging ponds et cetera. I'm sure this would be very popular in Hardington as there is plenty to do. Although I could no longer do physical work I would be happy to join in and give advice. Here in the UK we have perhaps one of the most diverse landscapes in the world and lots of nature reserves, but these are often isolated and run by volunteers, with no help from the government, who are more interested in building nuclear power stations, railways and building houses on Greenfield sites, giving rise to many thousands of tons of CO2.

I wonder if readers have heard about the CRT (countryside restoration trust) (tel:01223 269999). They run about 20 farms (2 in Dorset) all diversifying in many different ways, running courses for children and adults, keeping their CO2 emissions as low as possible and still making a profit.

It is now abundantly clear that we all need to enjoy living with nature instead of destroying it. The Beaver is a good example. Recognised as a wonderful help to the environment in the right place. There are now at least 20 colonies of Beavers in the UK. They have been fenced in as the government says they are not a native animal. That is nonsense and already two colonies have escaped and are thriving. One is in the River Tay in Scotland and the other in the River Otter just a few miles away. Both these groups are now protected due to massive public pressure.

I don't expect we will see them in the Chinnock Brook just yet, but wish them well as it is good news for the future. Let's all shout – bring back the Beaver!

Mike Bickerton

JUMBLE SALE

We are having a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 5th February 2022 from 2pm. Here is your chance to use January to clear out your garages/ cupboards/lofts of items accumulated over the years or to get rid of some of those unwanted or surplus Christmas gifts. Items of reasonable quality jumble, bric-a-brac, toys, books, clothes, garden tools etc may be left at the hall on the evening before or on the Saturday morning. Entry is 50p (children free) and refreshments will be available. Proceeds will be split between the Village Hall (charity no: 304551) and St Mary's Church. Please let Karen Dodge or Sue Phillips know if you are willing to help out.

Karen Dodge.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Here we are at the end of December and I can reveal that it's not just Santa Claus who has had elves busy at work. With the help of several volunteers and Committee members we have been able to tackle quite a few minor jobs at the hall recently these include: replacing the discoloured perspex in the notice board, painting a few areas within the kitchen such as the serving hatch, filling in the holes in the ceiling of the store cupboard, repainting the Village Hall sign, removing leaves from around the hall, removing and cleaning the strip light cover in the kitchen etc.

I should like to thank all those who have offered help as well as to those who helped with fund raising on Moviola nights, on the coffee mornings and by selling raffle tickets. The money we have been raising will go towards replacing the (outside) kitchen door and addressing the damp problem on the north wall. If there is anyone willing to help paint the store cupboard (where the chairs are kept) I should love to hear from you. It would be nice to get this 'spruced up' as it is sometimes used as a bar area.

More elves were very busy on 10/11th December decorating a Christmas tree, putting up bunting, banners and Christmas lights making mulled cider, mince pies etc, all for the benefit of those who attend our Village Coffee Morning. Thank you to all those who helped make this a wonderfully festive event. There is no coffee morning in January; just as well as many of you will be dieting after over indulging in December! For various reasons, the Committee has decided to cancel our Moviola night in January, so the next film showing is planned for 24th February (The Courier). We hope to see you then.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year, Karen Dodge.

HURRY--DON'T MISS OUT!!

Don't miss out on your chance to win at least one cash prize every month from January 2022 through to December 2022. For as little as £12 a year (that's equivalent to just 25p a week) you can help maintain and improve your Village Hall by joining Hardington Village Hall 100 Club. All you need to do see Daphne at Springfield Stores and complete an application form. You will then be given a receipt and number. You can even have more than one entry if you wish. The first draw takes place at the Village Hall on **5th January** at 7.20pm, 026+30

just before our monthly Committee Meeting takes place, so if you would like to be present when the draw takes place, please be at the hall on time. The rules are on display on the notice board at the hall. Good Luck and Happy New Year !!

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE Nicola Maybury

Winter is a great time to spot wildlife, and there's nothing that cheers me up on a dull, grey December day like the sight and sound of starlings swooping and chattering overhead. As the light begins to fade, look up and you might see a mini murmuration of these dynamic little birds sweeping across the sky before dropping down to roost for the night. I've seen quite a few on my recent walks, and whilst not as spectacular as the vast gatherings that twist and turn above the Somerset reed beds, they are another welcome marker of the change of season.

Flocks of redwing and fieldfares have also been on the move around the village, feasting on berries and fallen apples. Woodpeckers are back on the garden feeder while coal tits and goldcrests dart about in the Scots Pine, enjoying the pinecones. Another speedy mover is the cheerful wren, scurrying mouse-like from plant pot to plant pot, too quick for me and my camera! The treecreeper has also returned to the silver birch. These lovely birds have a distinctive curved beak, perfectly designed to winkle out insects hiding in the bark.

Our gardens can provide vital shelter in the cold months – insects overwinter in seeds heads, wall crevices, grassy tussocks and in undisturbed soil. Wooden sheds are a favourite place for butterflies like Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells, and ladybirds cluster in hollow plant stems. Newts will spend the winter in a dormant state at the bottom of ponds while toads look for a dark, damp spot under leaf litter. Slow worms 'hibernate' under old tree stumps or underground. Mice and voles create burrows and tunnels through long grass, though they stay active throughout the year (which is good news for our birds of prey who rely on them for food). Compost heaps, rockeries, log piles, leaf litter and the soil itself are all good spots for overwintering wildlife so do be careful to disturb them as little as possible during this period. Hedgehogs in particular are becoming increasingly reliant on gardens for survival. Rural populations have halved due to habitat loss and degradation, making wildlife-friendly gardens all the more important as a refuge.

Don't forget that the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch is coming up at the end of January! We've been doing it for some time now and it's interesting to compare results year on year. Last year, the spell of very cold weather really brought the birds flocking to the garden feeders and we recorded siskins and a blackcap amongst the more usual suspects. It really is a lovely way to spend an hour – and you can do it all from the comfort of your own home. If you're interested in taking part, the RSPB website has everything you need to register.

Happy Christmas one and all, here's to a healthy and hopeful New Year for people and planet.

Spotlight On Angus Maclean

If you were expecting Angus Maclean to be a hairy, kilt-wearing Glaswegian accented Celt, I'm afraid you would be very surprised! Yes – he's tall, has a generous head of hair, but his accent is English through and through and his birthplace is Epsom in Surrey!

Aged 5 the family moved to Cheshire. He attended Cheadle Hulme School - once known as The Manchester Warehouseman and Clerks Orphan School – with a musical scholarship (don't ask him to play for you – apparently it is an un-developed gift!!) and left to attend North Staffordshire Polytechnic studying electronic engineering sponsored by Hawker Siddeley. After exploring a range of fields, he settled on the role of Avionics Development Engineer working on the flight development of Nimrod aircraft navigation system.

After a while in this role, he decided his skills were better suited to the commercial world and he took a job working for the British office of a Swiss instrumentation company as a sales manager. This led to lots of enjoyable trips to Switzerland, which he was able to combine with skiing and developing his French fluency.

There is a mysterious French connection in Angus's family, which he is keen to explore. Although his ancestors are pure Brits, at the start of 1939 his grandfather and grandmother, together with their 2 children were based in Paris working for a UK business. As the Germans began to march their way inexorably Paris-wards, they fled the city, leaving their house keys with a neighbour and their car keys at the port of Le Havre with a docker. They did not return, but in his grandfathers' effects there is a Legion d'Honneur award and an OBE, and his grandparents lived well in their retirement with a generous pension provided by the French government. What did he do to deserve this? Finding out is one of Angus' future projects.

Whilst working for the Swiss business he met Jane and although he was offered a job in Switzerland, he decided that married life would be better in the UK. In 1989, with a tiny Katie in tow and Jenny on the way, Jane and Angus moved to Somerset where he started work with Normalair Garrett involved in sales of crew breathing systems, predominantly dealing with military sales. Angus enjoyed the role that involved negotiating clients' requirements and finding solutions to the challenging individual needs. Problem solving is one of his great skills! After renting for a while, they found the house in Hardington Moor. It ticked lots of boxes – detached, large garage and (most important) a friendly welcoming pub within walking distance! Immediately upon arrival they felt welcomed and supported. The village had a large play group and lots of other children the age of his two little girls, which later became three when Claire was born.

Like many, Angus's retirement plans have been somewhat thwarted due to Covid. However, he has been busy maintaining the classic vehicles of a friend. This is in addition to his own Classic vehicles – the 1973 Triumph Stag he has had since before he was married and the 1968 Jaguar E-Type – which he maintains and improves. So he has a good selection of vehicles to take out on those, sadly few and far between, sunny days! And plenty of problem solving to do when they need a bit of tweaking.

When things ease up and we can all go travelling again, Angus plans to take Jane to many of those places he visited with work – in the USA, Australia, South Africa, Korea and Japan, as well as paying a long-desired visit to New Zealand. He hopes to do more sailing (he holds the RYA

offshore skipper ticket – so perhaps some sailing in New Zealand is on the cards?) and enjoying his growing family now that he is a proud grandfather.

Favourite thing about Hardington?

“Choosing one thing about Hardington that is my favourite is impossible. The quiet, tranquil environment of this beautiful rural setting has been welcomed each and every day since 1990. But it is the friendliness of the people that has made Hardington special. We consider ourselves very lucky to have wonderful friends and neighbours. And if the centre of activity is The Royal Oak, then so be it!”

GARDEN CLUB

At the time of writing, the Garden Club are still planning to go ahead with our January 2022 meeting, on Wednesday 26th January at 7.30pm in Hardington Village Hall. We are planning a Soup Supper and quiz. This is obviously subject to any Covid guidelines in place at the time. We hope to see you there.

Jacqui Watkins



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

**BURNS NIGHT SUPPER
FRIDAY 21ST & SATURDAY 22ND JANUARY 2022**



**Join us for another of our fabulous tasting menu evenings to celebrate
Burns Night!**

Book your table soon to avoid disappointment!

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk