

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion St Mary's 11.00am

St. Mary's will be open for private prayer each day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

Zoom Family Service every Sunday at 9.45. All welcome. Please contact Robin and Sheila Carpenter 862339 for details of how to join us.

**MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> LAST DATE FOR APRIL MESSENGER**

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

**DIARY DATES** : Plant Sale around the village on Sat May 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> weather permitting.

### AROUND THE VILLAGE

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Tim and Cathy Smith on the birth of Joshua Richard, brother for Isabel and grandson for Sarah Smith and Sheila and Mickey Fitzgerald.

Dave and Penny Parrott on the birth of a granddaughter, Phoebe, a first child for their daughter Holly and her husband Tom.

**GOOD LUCK:** Barry and Sally Knibbs moved from Tall Elms which has been their home for some years, to East Coker. We wish them happiness in their new home.

**GET WELL:** Good wishes are sent to Jules Jennings recovering at home following a hip replacement and Julia Beckley in hospital following a fall.

**WELCOME:** This month we welcome to the village, Brian and Susan Belt, into Willow Cottage, Lyatts, (formerly Walnut Tree Farm); Martin and Debra Palfrey into Lyatts Dairy; Paula Quigley who has just moved into Tall Elms; Ms Thompson who has moved into Little Orchard; Ashley and Yasmin who have moved into St James' Terrace.

**GOODBYE & THANKS:** We would like to thank Brian and Linda Grinter for the years they have delivered the Messengers to their neighbours and beyond. They hope to move in May. Thanks to Dave Bakewell who has agreed to take on this delivery.

**CONDOLENCES:** It is with great sadness we announce the death of Mike Phillips, a member of the Messenger team and a well-known village member. We send our condolences to Sue, Alistair, Chris, Susie and Oliver at this sad time.

### **THANKS**

Sue Phillips and family would like to thank the many people who kindly sent them cards and letters and flowers of condolences following the death of Mike in April. Also, we have so appreciated all the kind offers of help Sue has received. Mike's funeral took place at St Mary's Hardington followed by a burial at St Roch, Pendomer. Thanks to all those who attended the funeral, lined the route, stood in the churchyard and /or watched online. Your presence helped the family very much at a difficult time.

### **REWILDING AND GLOBAL WARMING**

These two words are increasingly featured in newspapers and television programmes. They are hard to define and have many roles. I think that how we relate to the natural world and at the same time reduce our CO2 emissions is a good start. The world is in a terrible mess, due to over population and rising levels of CO2 and many scientists forecast the extinction of the human race if we fail to act quickly. Already disastrous weather is causing storms, floods, drought, famine, rising sea levels and many other problems. This leaves me with a feeling of dread but a tinge of optimism if we all pull together.

Here in the UK we have one of the most varied and interesting landscapes with islands, the sea, mountains, fields and hedges – a new view around every corner, and probably more environmental groups than most. Unfortunately these are nearly always run by volunteers, are small, and short of money. Meanwhile we have a government proudly boasting about building more houses; roads and railways; all of which only increase our CO2 emissions.

My hint of optimism is that the government will wake up and put their money in to saving our biodiversity and together with the people we could save the planet. We could win, but time is running out.

Mike Bickerton

# OBITUARY

## MIKE PHILLIPS 1946-2021

With the passing of Mike Phillips the village has lost one of its good guys. Mike was a quiet unassuming man with a dry sense of humour, especially after a finger of his favourite single malt. On leaving school at the age of sixteen Mike joined the RAF where he served with distinction. Possibly each was attracted by the uniform of the other, Sue in her nurse's uniform (quite a racy item in those days!), Mike in his RAF blue. I believe that their courting was carried out largely on Mike's Norton Dominator motorcycle, leading to their marriage in 1974.

Having left the RAF they moved to Hardington in 1974. Mike soon got involved in village affairs, serving on the Parish Council 1983-87. He played cricket for the newly formed village club but his true love was hockey, which he played to a high standard. Indeed he played well into his 60's. He was persuaded to retire by Sue only after suffering a broken arm when struck by a hard hit ball. Mike was a very fit man who enjoyed cycling. Only five years ago he told me of a ride to Langport where he met up with his club chums. They set out to pedal some 50 miles around the Levels, after which Mike cycled home. 100 miles-not bad for someone in his late 60's!

Mike enjoyed singing and will be greatly missed by the Benefice choir, Sherborne Festival Chorus and Lewiston Choir.

Mike was a good friend, both on a personal level and to wider organisations. The quizzes that he organised for the cricket club will be long remembered, always pitched at just the right level. He supported the West Somerset Railway. However his love of the railways did not save him from a very embarrassing incident while holidaying in Paris. Sue and Mike decided to visit friends living in the suburbs. Mike confidently bought tickets and got onto the train for a journey of 10 minutes. Unfortunately first stop was Bordeaux!

Mike was a hardworking supporter of Rotary. In 2015 he received the great honour of being elected President of the Yeovil branch, a role that he carried out with great success.

A dedicated family man, Mike was thrilled at the birth of grandson Oliver in 2020. He will be greatly missed by Sue, Chris and Susie and Alistair. We extend our condolences to them.

Alan Grassam

## THE ROYAL OAK – “SONNY’S”

The following entry is in my family Bible: -

“Rose and Ethel Partridge laid the foundation stone of the Royal Oak April 20th, 1901” – 120 years ago! It was built by Joseph Partridge and records show that his son James Saint was the first owner of the Royal Oak. The eight houses at St. James Terrace were built on land part of the Royal Oak and they were so named after him. My grandparents Walter and Susan White (formally Partridge) had 11 children. William Joseph Allen White was the eighth child born. What excitement there must have been when, at last, a boy was born. There were 3 more girls born and my mother Phyllis Mary was the youngest. And so, he was known as “Sonny”.

Sonny took over the pub at the time of his marriage in September, 1930 aged 26 and it was not until a few days before his death that he relinquished the licence.

He would work on the farm all day and serve in the bar at night and up early next morning to milk the cows.

The following is an extract of Graham Quinton’s tribute to him at his funeral: -

Apart from his business and sporting interests, Sonny always had the village much at heart as a parish councillor and its representative on the rural council. Many villagers past and present benefitted from his wisdom and vast experience. Here was a man Sonny by name and sunny by nature. His personality and dry sense of humour shone out wherever he went and in whatever company he mixed. A great character in the truest sense of the word. Under his management, the Royal Oak became something of an institution, a place with a unique character. And it was his presence and approach, which played a major part in creating such a wonderful atmosphere. My earliest recollection of Sonny goes back about 40 years, when strangely enough, he was conspicuous by his absence. It was either haymaking or harvesting time and he was missing from behind the bar. In his absence he left a note “ Help yourself and put the money in the till.” I doubt whether anyone took advantage of such a tempting opportunity by failing to pay up. Since his retirement Sonny has remained a regular at The Oak and was always the first to be ready for a game of cards – a version of nap, which must have baffled many onlookers. No matter where customers came from, everyone seemed to know Sonny. Most of them were anxious to buy him a drink and it was not often that he disappointed them. Another tradition at The Oak in years gone by was a very unusual Christmas draw. The winners were those who were closest to guessing the number of seeds in a vegetable marrow, which was dissected on Christmas Eve.

I understand during the Second World War many children were evacuated to Hardington from London. Two teachers came with them who stayed at the Royal

Oak. One went on to marry one of the farm workers. The Royal Oak was a popular drinking pub with the American servicemen who were living at Houndstone Camp. Over the years landlords have come and gone and I wish Martin and Ellie the very best for the future. May things soon get back to normal after a very challenging year and we can meet again in this very popular country pub. Daphne Creed

## Jane's Walking Challenges Part 4

7<sup>th</sup> April

Over the past 2 months I have walked the equivalent of the Dorset section of the South West Coastal Path, exploring the route as I went, via Abbotsbury, Ferrybridge, the Isle of Portland, Weymouth, Lulworth Cove and Swanage, to the finish point today at South Haven Point. The 630 mile walk has been an interesting and varied journey from start to finish, giving me an insight into lots of places I would like to visit in reality, when circumstances allow. It has also given me further insight into the lifeboat stations that serve the communities along the path, the challenges of life for RNLI volunteers and their families, and the courage with which the volunteers carry out their roles with support from their families and the wider public.

I would again like to say a huge thankyou to everybody who has supported my 2 climbing / walking challenges. Your support has kept me walking through 3 lockdowns and long periods of shielding, through spring, summer, autumn, winter, and into spring again, and helped raise the fantastic sums of £1,200 for NHS Charities Together, and Over £900 so far for the RNLI.

For anyone who would still like to support my South West Coastal Path challenge, or to read all my updates, which chart my journey over the last 10 months, my justgiving link is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/janes-sw-coastal-walk>

It will remain open until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

Thank you again for helping me with my fundraising. I am now going to recharge my batteries, and think about what to do next! Jane LeFeuvre

## HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 – our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday party!  
14 participants joined the session, and the Institute business was speedily dealt with. Minutes of the March meeting were approved, and members were reminded that annual subs are now due. Thanks were offered to Linda Lines for her interesting and informative newsletter, which contains details of news and activities from the wider WI world. Although we still do not meet in person, the energy of the organization is still evident!

Our speaker, Ellie Baer, then entertained us. She is an American lady, a musician and performer who has lived in the UK for about the last ten years. She spoke of her early years in New Jersey, in a family already closely entwined in the music business. Her home, Fort Lee, New Jersey was the first location of the film industry during the era of the silent movies, until better weather and more space enticed the workforce to the West Coast of America, to Hollywood. Through her family links to many well known music stars and film producers, she had a career in entertainment. Her part as 'Chrissie' in a West Coast production of 'Hair' probably the most significant. She played piano bar, and many years of cruise ship entertainment, with a spell working in Japan. She used her talent for 'voices' to provide the voice over to Daisy Duck and wrote many songs for Disney, including the Little Mermaid. In the UK she has (pre Covid) put together 'gigs' of local performers to play small venues. Her impressions of the various monsters she does voices for were hilarious!

The evening ended with a toast of 'Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday' for the Institute – and here's hoping for many more years of fellowship.

Barbara Martin

## **GARDEN CLUB**

Last month, we published that the Plant Sale is going ahead in May but please note the change of date. We will be holding the plant sale on Saturday 15th May (or 22nd if the weather is inclement). As last year, we will be having plants for sale at various outside locations around the village, to allow for social distancing and for people to peruse and shop while on their daily exercise. Posters and social media will advertise plants and locations closer to the time. Garden Club members will also be emailed the details. Plants will be 'sold' on a donations basis as last year with 75% of monies raised to go to the top two of five charities to be voted for by club members.

We are currently planning for reopening of the garden club social activities. If you would like to join the Garden Club as a new member this year at a reduced rate of £10, please contact Andy and Kate on the email '[gardenclub@hardington.net](mailto:gardenclub@hardington.net)'.

As well as advance notification of the plants for sale, members are entitled to discounts at Groves Nurseries, discount shopping events at Brimsmore Garden Centre (substantial discount on items - the first one is in May), club social events, outings and a programme of speakers. Our summer outing is a visit to The Bishops Palace Gardens in Wells.

We are always delighted to have new members join the Club and members cover all levels of gardening knowledge and ability, from complete novices to the Monty Don's and Margery Fish's amongst us. Hopefully we will see you all soon.

Jacqui Watkins

## **MISSING CAT, AGAIN!**

Regular Messenger readers will know that our large, friendly ginger cat, Tigger, occasionally goes missing, on a 'Walkabout' round the village. He has been gone for a few weeks this time, and has been sighted near the Post Office and along the footpath to Moor Lane. He obviously finds somewhere warm and dry to sleep, and doesn't go without food! If you catch sight of him, please give us a ring and we'll come down to try and persuade him back home. Thanks. Neil & Annie Dyer 863706

## HARDINGTON WILDLIFE by Nicola Maybury

It's hard to know where to start this month, there's so much going on around us in the fields and lanes of Hardington. Chiffchaffs are here in abundance and I hear their distinctive two-note call from every hedgerow it seems, as well as the noisy laugh of green woodpeckers. Spotted woodpeckers are drumming again. Everywhere is noticeably greener and the recent fair weather has brought a burst of sunshine-yellow dandelions and more delicate lemon-yellow cowslips – the nature reserve is full of them! Early orchids are also flowering, especially along the edges of the top meadow. How lucky are we to have this wonderful natural space on our doorsteps? I'm sure you will have noticed there is much more wildlife on the wing. Birds of course are busy nesting and feeding young, constantly flitting back and forth to meet the needs of their hungry brood (a situation familiar to many of us, feathered or otherwise!). It's been a joy to see two of our tiniest birds bustling in the hedges as we pass; the familiar wren, a jaunty little thing with a remarkably loud voice, and the smallest of all British birds, the goldcrest, which, despite a preference for pine trees has been spotted several times along the bridlepath to the Community Field. Take a look next time you're there!

Butterflies are also much more in evidence and I've seen plenty of Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma, all of which overwinter here as adults and are often found basking in the sun on paths. Brimstones are often the first to be seen, flying fast along roadsides, and it's thought that it is their yellow colour that gave rise to the name 'butterfly'. But the true herald of Spring for me is always the dainty Orange-tip because, unlike the others, it spends all winter as a chrysalis and emerges as a butterfly in April.

Our gardens can be a hive of activity in the warm Spring sunshine. Ashy mining bees have been busy on my front grass since early April, some 25 or more, burrowing into the ground to lay their eggs. Look out for the tiny mounds of soft earth and you'll spot the entrance alongside. I'm happy to see the return of the hairy-footed flower bee too; easily mistaken for a bumblebee, the female is almost entirely black with, you guessed it, hairy orange legs... Known to favour primroses and deadnettle, this one was visiting my trusty garden stalwart the purple wallflower. Now that the weather has warmed up, mason bees are checking out the bee homes we made last Spring, and hopefully leafcutter bees will follow in the summer. It's fascinating to watch these industrious little creatures build their nests and worth remembering that none of these solitary bees sting - and, like all bees, are valuable pollinators. If you're interested in making a home for bees, or the best place to site one, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust website is a brilliant resource.

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

### **The April Meeting...**

There were no new planning applications received this month. The Chairman reported that the appeal against the refusal for two new dwellings on land off Partway Lane had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Chairman gave a summary of Somerset Waste Partnership's new 'Recycle More' expanded-recycling initiative, due to start in South Somerset at the end of June 2021. The roll-out includes the introduction of a new bright-blue bag, and residents will be able to recycle many more items including plastic pots and trays, food and drink cartons and batteries. Further details can be found on the Hardington website. The Chairman reported that the Nursery Gardens developers have now completed their work on the site. It is hoped that the Moor Lane road surface issues still present will be addressed in the near future.

The new playground equipment, which includes a new rope 'caterpillar' swinger and the replacement of the rotting balance beam trail, is due to take place in the last week of April. The log-pile nest will also be removed as it is also showing signs of rot. At the time of writing, legislation to allow Parish Council's to hold their meetings remotely is not being extended beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Parish Council are therefore hoping that the Village Hall will be reopened to allow for face-to-face meetings (with necessary COVID restrictions in place), in time for their next scheduled meeting at 7.30pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Public attendance is welcome (although numbers will be restricted) 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

### **VILLAGE HALL RE-OPENING**

Subject to the completion of Covid risk assessment and guidelines, the hall will be re-opening in a limited way in time for the Parish Council meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks for the continuing donations received for The Messenger. We entirely rely on your generosity and we are very grateful.

Messenger Team



# Wessex Internet

## **Hardington set to get connected to ultrafast broadband**

Good news for everyone in Hardington – we are eligible for FREE full fibre broadband for homes and businesses. Thanks to a government backed initiative any home or businesses experiencing poor connectivity will be connected by specialist rural provider Wessex Internet SOON! The company has been contracted to deliver full fibre broadband to your premises - bringing you world-class ultrafast speeds and efficient connectivity on par with towns and cities. This is vitally important now more than ever as we are working, schooling, running businesses and spending more leisure time at home. You are invited to join an informal half hour meeting with Wessex Internet on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7 pm. You'll be able to ask any questions, see what's involved and meet the team behind this exciting programme. Please try to attend and to spread the word – this is an important opportunity for us. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more, please visit <https://www.wessexinternet.com/connecting-devon-and-somerset>

If you wish to attend please contact [christine.o'grady@wessexinternet.com](mailto:christine.o'grady@wessexinternet.com)



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

In line with the government roadmap for easing of lockdown restrictions, the outside areas of the pub 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)**

