

CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Church services are now resuming in a restricted way with a communion service at 11am in one of the larger churches in the Benefice.

Sun 6 th	Holy Communion	St Martin's W. Coker	11.00am
Sun 13 th	Holy Communion	St Michael's E. Coker	11.00am
Sun 20 th	Holy Communion	St Mary's Hardington	11.00am
Sun 27 th	Harvest Praise & Picnic	Pendomer	11.00am

Zoom Family services will continue at 9.15am until further notice.

The Harvest Praise service will take place (weather permitting) in a field in Pendomer by kind permission of the Whetham family. Please register an interest with Daphne or the Carpenters so that we can ensure social grouping. Bring your own food and drink, and chairs if you have them!

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sat 12 th	Sonny's Big Breakfast	Royal Oak	9.00-11.00am
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SEPTEMBER 20TH LAST DATE FOR OCTOBER MESSENGER

Hope you all enjoy receiving the Messenger in print once again. It is always posted on the website as well, and sent out by email to those who have requested it.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Karen, Jack and Sophie Clotworthy were thrilled by the safe arrival of Karen's daughter Charlotte and partner Craig's first baby. Tyler Richard Hayes was born at the end of July. Tyler is the second great grandson for Jo-Ann and Roy Halliday.

We send congratulations to Jane Creed on her new enterprise, The Creedy Mare, situated behind the shop and post office. Jane offers coffee/teas and light refreshments, weather permitting. See notices for further details.

Congratulations and best wishes to you all

CONDOLENCES: Sadly we report the death of a relatively new member of the village, (Pacco) Francisco Fernandez-Llorente. Pacco and his wife Kay moved to Thatcherswell in the High Street in 2019. Following a short illness Pacco died in August and his funeral took place at St Mary's Hardington. Our condolences are sent to Kay and her family at this sad time.

THANKS: My family and I have been overwhelmed by the messages and cards offering words of kindness and support following Audrey's death at the end of July. After 66 years of marriage adjustment to this situation will be a challenge but with family and friends around me, coping will be so much easier. Jim Adlam

VILLAGE BREAKFAST

As most of you know we had to postpone the annual village breakfast this year due to lockdown. Some people who had already bought their tickets asked that we donated their ticket money to Pancreatic Cancer UK. I was delighted to send £63 to them recently. Thank you very much to all who kindly donated to this cause. Like so many charities they have been badly hit by the covid -19 pandemic and were very appreciative of the donation. Sue Phillips

WI

Having not met together since March we were pleased to take the opportunity to meet on the 20th August for coffee at 'Creedy Mare' for coffee, cake and a socially distanced chat. Fifteen members and a guest enjoyed an hour or so in the sunshine. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can resume our monthly meetings.

WI Committee

OBITUARY

Audrey Adlam was born in County Durham, one of 6 children, she left home at 17 to join the Women's Royal Air Force. Service life suited Audrey and despite service discipline it offered her a sense of freedom and independence. Audrey trained to be a radar operator. It was whilst at Heathrow that she met her future husband, Jim, who was also in the RAF. A friendship soon blossomed into a romance and the happy couple were married in the autumn of 1954.

Jim and Audrey had both left the RAF by that time and a year later their first child, Alison was born. A few years later having moved to Woking the family grew with the arrival of twins, Hilary and John. Like many mothers of that era, Audrey was a full time mother for some years. She was a real 'homemaker', being a brilliant cook, making clothes for her and the family, as well as home furnishings and developing a love of gardening.

After a move to Hampshire, with the children being older, Audrey ran a day centre, staffed by volunteers, for the elderly; her hard work was successful and rewarding.

After Jim's retirement Jim and Audrey decided to move further south and fulfilled Audrey's wish to live in a thatched cottage, they felt lucky to have found a new build here in Hardington. This enabled them to enjoy retirement and new pursuits, in Audrey's case an interest in antiques and watercolour painting.

In her teens Audrey developed a friendship with Alison, a vicar's daughter, from that time the Church became important to her. (Her eldest child bears that friend's name). Both Audrey and Jim attended and were involved with St Mary's Church, Hardington. Retirement also enabled Audrey to devote time to her grandchildren who she doted on.

Sadly, signs of dementia began to affect Audrey and this finally resulted in full time care, which Audrey accepted and seemed content with. She received good care, support and kindness. Jim visited daily until the lockdown in March.

Audrey's thanksgiving service took place at St Mar's Church, following cremation.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

In the July draw of the 100 Club, the winners were Rosemary Richards and Audrey Marsh. In August the winners were Audrey Marsh and Jane Blomfield. Congratulations to you all.

LITTER

Being a daily walker around the village has meant I notice not just the seasonal changes, which I delight in, but sadly the regular disposal of litter in our lanes. It's become very apparent that take away litter is disposed of at roughly the same places on a regular basis. I imagine it takes the said litter louts the 15 minutes or so to travel from MacDonald's, (it's nearly always from that establishment) eating and drinking their fill then, approximately between The Old Roost and Field View, in Barry Lane they throw their litter out of the car. I usually find 2 Stella Artois cans as well as the wrappers from take-aways. The motorists moving along Pen Lane are usually more considerate; of late, they have decided at least to put all their rubbish in one carrier bag before throwing it out from their vehicle, making it much easier to collect! I know I am not the only person who collects litter, which is spoiling our lovely village and I thank everyone who does this unpleasant job. What I would like is for those who have youngsters, be they children or grandchildren, to have a conversation with them about litter and how we all have a responsibility to keep our environment pleasant, not only for ourselves but for the wildlife that inhabit the countryside. We are not a through village so I suspect the perpetrators either live here or are dropping a friend off after a night out. I realise that not all youngsters drop litter and they are probably not responsible for the satsuma skins dropped in Pen Lane or the smoking debris further down the road, or the blue possibly toffee papers littering Wimborough Lane and I haven't even started on the dog poo!! I think I must get a life....

Sue Phillips

SCARECROW COMPETITION 2020

A big thank you to everyone who got involved and made a Scarecrow, some great ideas. I hope that you had as much fun and enjoyment in making them as the rest of the villagers and visitors had when viewing the displays

A thank you to Nick Burton (our postie) and his family for judging the competition, and also to Derek Richards for photographing them all. Now on display courtesy of Daphne at Springfield Stores.

The winner was "Maid of Rubbish" at Corner Cottage, with "Just can't handle bars" at Welkin Cottage and "Ben Shepherd" at Shepherd Springs second and third.

The prize of a voucher for The Royal Oak was presented to Gerry and Alice Manning. Now the rest of you get your thinking caps on for next year, plenty of time to use your imagination for an even bigger number of Scarecrows!

FUTURE OF THE PHONE BOXES

At the August Parish Council Meeting a number of ideas were discussed about the future use of the phone boxes. Before any decisions are made, it is important that the views of the community are heard. It is hoped that both boxes, at the Moor and the Mandeville, are put to use rather than allowed to fall into dangerous neglect and ultimately removed. Before they can be used, both will need maintenance: sand blasting, re-painting and mended doors and Perspex panels to ensure the longevity of their use. Suggested uses are one as a book/DVD swap etc as planned before lockdown in March and the second, with its door removed (Mandeville) as it needs significant repair, to house a mini-museum with information panels about the history of the village along with a map of all the parish footpaths and/or suggested walks. Many local villages have such information panels but not in their phone boxes. It is proposed to seek funding to cover some of the cost for the work.

If you have views on this or other ideas for the use of the phone boxes, the Parish Council would really like to hear from you. Please send you thoughts either to myself: Clare Middleton (clare@themiddletons.org) or via the Village Facebook page.

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

I am quite mystified about the antics of our local garden birds during lockdown and strange weather caused by global warming. In early spring the two most common bird species were chaffinches and goldfinches, often with flocks of 20 or more, but since late February they have almost completely disappeared with only occasional sightings. This is most unusual. Although birds do disperse to nesting sites in the spring one expects a few to remain! I can only assume that food may be better elsewhere due to heat and lack of rain in the summer. Also, at this time of year many small birds are moulting, and keep hidden while growing new feathers. Tits are always present and don't move far. It is fascinating to see how our four common species behave. Great tits – the largest, are always the boss, while the smaller blue and coal tits dash in, snatch the food and fly back into cover. My favourites are the long-tailed tits, always keeping together in family groups, and one of the very few native birds increasing in numbers. Have you heard of the local nickname for long-tailed tits? It is “flying teaspoons”. A lovely and fitting description.

Mike Bickerton

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The August Meeting...

The Parish Council discussed a planning application for a loft conversion to the main house and existing garage, and a new car parking space at Brambledene, Hardington Moor. There were no objections.

The previously discussed application for an extension to an existing agricultural building at The Royal Oak Farm, Moor Lane has now been approved.

On the subject of highways, it was felt that the road surfaces of both North Lane and Moor Lane were in such poor condition in so many places, that they really need a full re-surface along the entire length, instead of just intermittent patching work. The PC is continuing to pursue this, in addition to the resurfacing of the footpath between the shop and Moor Lane.

A new 145-Litre bin has been installed at the Community Field to replace two of the smaller bins. The rotting wooden stepping posts have now been chopped-off down to ground level so that they are no longer an accident risk to users (prior to their replacement at the end of the year). In addition, repairs have been carried out to the baby-swing.

The Parish council have received notification of the temporary closure of Pig Hill. The works are expected to commence on 7th September, 2020 and are expected to last for 5 days to enable Somerset Highways to carry out drainage works.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on the 15th September, 2020 (either by video conference or at the Village Hall depending on current Government guidelines!). 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. You can contact me at hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com, tel: 07545 554145 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH. Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk

AND FINALLY: Items for next month's Messenger can be emailed to the team at: hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com. Please send your contribution as an **attachment** to an email in a Microsoft word (.doc or .docx) document, preferably in Calibri 16, in a **straightforward paragraph**. We are only able to print in black and white so unfortunately we cannot print photos.



What's on at The Royal Oak...

**Saturday 12th September – Sonny's Big Breakfast
9.00 – 11.00am**

Come along for a top notch breakfast to start your day off right!

We advise you to book in advance, and if you are happy to share a table with another household (so we can utilise all our space) that would be fab!

Saturday 19th September – Seafood Supper

We are looking to start our popular theme nights again from September, and we are kicking things off with the favourite... Seafood Supper.

6 courses for just £26.95

See our website for the fantastic menu

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk

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