

JUNE 2023



A Very Successful Party in the Park



HELP! YOUR MESSENGER NEEDS YOU!!!

This is a plea for funds to support our village magazine.

At present we print and deliver free of charge approximately 300 copies of the Messenger each month. Historically the Messenger has relied on donations to fund the printing. However the printing costs have increased dramatically – three times what they were last year. Despite a generous donation from the Parish Council and other donations we simply do not have sufficient funds to continue providing the Messenger for very much longer. We have funds to pay for the printing until the end of the year at the present cost but thereafter the Messenger will have to cease.

We have considered alternative ways of funding eg: advertising or reducing costs by sending copies out online. For various reasons the committee feel the suggestions put forward are not practical.

The ethos behind the Messenger was that this should be a village magazine free to all households. We do not think it is right to change that principle and start charging.

In order to keep the Messenger afloat in its present format we are asking all villagers to consider making a voluntary donation of say £5 per annum (or such other sum that you would like to contribute) as this would cover our printing costs. This could be done by way of a standing order or through the collecting tin kept in the village shop, simply handed into the village shop or given to the treasurer (Richard Beatson, Highlands, High Street). Please consider our plea and help if you can to keep our village magazine going.

Messenger Team

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Paul Vallis and Amanda Dare-Turner celebrated ‘special’ birthdays in May and Trudy Turner celebrated hers in March. Kim and Joanne Manual and Mike and Sonia Nitti all celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 21st May. Karen and Simon Paxton welcomed a new granddaughter, Isabelle Charlotte. Congratulations to you all.

APOLOGIES: I was sorry to have got the wrong name of Jane and John Blomfield’s son-in-law. Julie and Jack welcomed their first child, Jocelyn Rose. Sam is their other son-in-law!

FAREWELL: Wishing Amanda and Charlie Dare-Turner, who will be moving home shortly, every happiness in their new home.

GET WELL: We send get well wishes to the following, who have all been in hospital recently: Nancy Chapman, Isla Friend, Ric Hyett and Pete Whiteman. We hope you will all be well again soon.

Congratulations to James and Brooke Nitti on their recent marriage in California. The couple will be celebrating with family and friends in Hardington in June. Mike and Sonia hope the party music doesn’t disturb anyone too much. They would like to say a huge thank you to the numerous villagers who have helped them to prepare for the event.

EAST/WEST COKER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our appreciation goes out to all of you who supported our recent Cheese and Wine evening featuring the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir. Judging from the feedback we have received; everyone had an enjoyable evening with good food and an outstanding performance from the choir. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise £900 which will be donated to two RBL welfare organisations in the county. We support the Dunkirk Memorial House care home in Bishops Lydiard including its specialist dementia care unit and we donate towards the County Welfare Fund helping serving and ex-serving military families who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Dave Giles.
Chair East/West Coker RBL"

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

We would both like to thank all those people who have made and donated delicious cakes for our Village Hall Coffee Mornings, also we are grateful to those who have helped us run these functions for our village. Finally a thank you to everyone who regularly came along and enjoyed the chat and refreshments over the years. Our aim was to create a social opportunity for everyone to get together, meet new villagers and to raise some funds for our Village Hall, which is a very valuable asset for the village. After running this Coffee Morning since 2017 we feel it is time for us to stand down and hope someone else will volunteer to run a similar regular event enabling us all to socialise with friends and neighbours. To date we have raised almost £4,500 .

Trevor & Vivien Cherry

CRAFT DISPLAY

If you would like to display any craft work in St Mary's during the Street Fayre on July 8th, please contact Sheila Carpenter on 862339. We had an excellent turnout last year, with a continuous stream of visitors and would like to produce an even more inspiring display. Sheila Carpenter

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 3rd May and the following 5 members were elected on to the Committee : Mrs K Dodge (Chairperson), Mr M Doyle (Booking Clerk), Mrs S Jinks (joint Hon. Treasurer), Mrs K Doyle and Mr M Southwell. The following representatives were appointed: Mr P Riddell (Garden Club), Mrs D Creed (Parochial Church Council and secretary), Mrs T. Goodger (W.I.), Mrs D Riddell (Hardington Players) and Mr R. Beatson (Parish Council). Mrs C. Delaney was co-opted on to the Committee following the AGM.

I am very grateful to all of the Committee for all their hard work over the past year and for the support that they have given me. Full minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be posted on the village website : www.hardington.net.

The winners of the "100-club" draw which took place on 3rd May were: 1st prize Tom Turner, 2nd prize Dy Catford and 3rd prize Margaret Casey. A big thank you to those of you who purchased a 100 club ticket, 'good luck' for the next draw which takes place at 7.20pm on Wednesday 7th June at the Village Hall - anyone can come along and be present when the draw takes place. There is no film showing at the Hall this month as we are taking a break for a few months over the summer.

The last coffee morning held on 29th April raised £138 for the hall. A massive thank you to Viv and Trevor Cherry for all their hard work in organising these over the last 12 months (and of course to their many helpers). The coffee mornings have helped to bring our community together for several years now as well as raising much needed funds for the hall.

Thank you to all of you who helped to make my 70th birthday extra special by joining me on 23rd April for a cream tea at the hall and for donating a very generous sum of £346 towards hall funds. I should have liked to invite all of you but as you can appreciate space was limited!

The energy costs at the hall remain high and exceeded £800 in March. However, I expect these to reduce considerably over the next few months.

In the first week of June, the chairs are due to be cleaned and treated with fire retardant. We also expect to improve our fire alarm system in the coming months.

Karen Dodge

Street Fayre - 8 July 2023 - Volunteers

As ever, we will need a team of people to help on the day in a wide variety of roles. If you are able to offer any hour or two, please contact Andrew Middleton on 07941 323753, andrew@themiddletons.org

Cream Teas in Support of the Street Fayre

We will be holding Cream Teas at 2pm on Saturday 10 June at Ridgemoor, Hardington Moor. Tickets £5 from Springfield Stores or at the gate on the day.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

As you may already be aware, on 17th September we are celebrating the 900th Anniversary of the village church in its present form with a visitation from the Bishop of Bath and Wells. In 1123 the then newly founded abbey of Quarr in the Isle of Wight was invested with the Rectorship of St. Mary's by the Lord of the Manor, de Mandeville. Though much has been altered since that time, particularly by the Victorians, the tower and baptismal font remain from the original church of that date.

The Rector and Churchwardens of St. Mary's Church invite you worship with us on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Bath and Wells to Hardington on 17th September 2023. Our service on that day will be a Harvest Praise, celebrating the fact that we are a rural community and that farming touches us all in our village. The service will commence at 11.00am and be followed by a buffet lunch in the Village Hall, where the Bishop will, hopefully, be able to meet and chat with many of us. We really hope that as many villagers as possible will join us on that day to share in the occasion and make it a real village event. We do, however, need an indication of the numbers for catering purposes and would ask that everyone planning to attend the lunch completes the RSVP below and return it to Daphne Creed at Springfield Stores as soon as possible and by 31st July at the latest, or alternatively contact either Daphne, or Richard Middleton on 01935 863812. The cost for the lunch will be £15 to cover costs.

I/we confirm that we will join the lunch on 17th September, following the Harvest Praise service.

Name(s) _____

Any dietary constraints _____

Signed _____

Date _____

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

You may remember reading in last months Messenger that the WI members had made beautiful paper flowers; did you notice that they took pride of place on the tables at the Coronation Party in the Park? I hope you all enjoyed them. Weren't we lucky with the weather? At this month's meeting we had a very interesting talk by Gary Rice on 'Canine Partners'. This is a charity that trains dogs to help disabled people to live an independent life. The puppies are first fostered out to volunteers who spend time socialising the puppies in everyday conditions whether it be travelling on buses, trains or getting used to crowded and heavy traffic. The puppies then go on a training schedule to be matched with a disabled person and trained to their special needs. The dogs can do numerous tasks; just a few examples are fetching slippers, putting clothes in and out of a washing machine, opening cupboard doors and retrieving items, and opening and shutting doors. Gary and his wife, [who is herself disabled, deaf and in a wheelchair], brought with them two dogs, the older Delia is now retired and the younger Truffle a Golden retriever who now assists Gary's wife. Delia still likes to check to see Truffle is doing things right!

After a break for tea and natter we then had the Annual WI meeting. This started with the Secretary's report on events over the year, followed by the Treasurer's report, and finally a report from the President. At this point a new committee was formed for the following year; all of last years committee were happy to stand again as unfortunately no new members put themselves forward. Perhaps members were shy and will come forward at a later date; new faces always bring fresh ideas and perhaps a different viewpoint which keeps the WI so vibrant. Our membership now stands at 42 and new members are always welcome; you are never too young or too old to join. Just come along to one of our meetings and see if it suits you! (It's free entry for a couple of meets) Village Hall, second Wednesday of the month, 7 30pm.

Jackie Thomas

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

We held a very successful Plant Sale on Saturday 13th May hosted at Hardington House by kind permission of Karen and Simon Paxton who have also made a generous donation to our fund raising efforts for MIND in Somerset, this year's charity. Not only were there lots of plants for sale but we were also able to saunter through the beautiful grounds at Hardington House. There were bacon and sausage butties on sale, Prosecco, along with tea and cakes. A very good time was had by all and a big thank you to everyone who grew and donated plants, made cakes and volunteered. We raised £1,033.01 on the day and thanks to some workplace charity match funding the final total stands at £1,521.02. Our next event on June 15th, is a visit to Glenholme Herbs followed by lunch nearby.

Sally Thompson

PARISH COUNCIL

The May Meeting...

Before the meeting commenced the chairman reported on our clerk Nancy's rapid improvement following her recent illness. He also thanked Julie Ferguson, locum clerk, for stepping in at short notice. The Parish Council and parishioners all wished Nancy a full and speedy recovery. Meanwhile her sister Lucy, also a PC clerk, will assist Nancy and chair our meetings.

The meeting commenced with election of officers, Robin Carpenter, chair and footpaths, Jo Szmaj, vice chair, Robert Halls, village hall representative, Paul Humby, highways, (ex officio), Malcolm White, environment officer.

Councillor Mike Hewitson was present, and reported that, as the estimate for necessary works to Chinnock Hollow was £3 million, and funds were not available, the road will remain closed until alternative funding can be secured. The West Coker A 30 closure will go ahead as planned in July. Despite posted diversions, we can expect chaos in our lanes from the end of July, so extra care needed!

The success of the Coronation Lunch and Party in the Park was reported, with 2-300 present. Thanks to all who helped and Ernest Kong for his continued sponsorship. Coronation mugs were given to many of the village children present – please contact Daphne at The Springfield Stores if you have a child of 16 and under who has not yet received a mug.

For the time being please direct queries about Parish Council business to me, until such time as Nancy is well enough to resume her duties. You can contact me by telephone 01935 862339 or email robin.carpenter@hardington.net.

Robin Carpenter

VILLAGE WEBSITE - hardington.net

Tim Watkins has been our village webmaster for a long time, and has done a superb job - many thanks Tim. I am delighted to report that parishioner Mark Edwards has agreed to take over this role, and has ideas to make our website even better. If you need to contact Mark about any web site issues and to ask for inclusions, such as events in the village, email as before to webmaster@hardington.net.

Robin Carpenter.

CRICKET IS BACK AT HALVES LANE!

After a 3 year absence, due to Covid restrictions followed by building of the new Jubilee pavilion, it will be great to see West Coker & Hardington CC return to the recreation ground, with the first home fixture (weather permitting!) on Saturday May 13th vs Curry Rivel CC. In addition to the wonderful new pavilion, this year welcomes an exciting association with Yeovil Panthers CC which will see cricket played again at Halves Lane on Sundays and also the occasional mid-week game. The All Stars (5-8yrs) and Dynamos (8-11yrs) Junior cricket programme re-commences on Friday 12th May at 5-7pm for 8 weeks and we would love to see boys, girls and parents getting involved in our great game. For more information check out: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars> <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/dynamoscricricket>

There will also be significant investment in new practice net facilities at Halves Lane, which will be installed over the summer and shows further commitment to upgrade our cricket facilities for the current teams and to attract new players at a time when village cricket is under pressure. The full fixture list is enclosed and as always if there is anyone interested in getting involved then feel free to contact Andy Reddaway (e-mail: andy.reddaway@gmail.com) or just rock up and enjoy watching a little red ball going to all parts of the recreation ground!

West Coker & Hardington CC senior fixtures at Halves Lane Rec

Saturday 13 th May	Curry Rivel 1XI	League
Sunday 14 th May	Plush CC	Friendly
Saturday 27 th May	Temple Cloud 2XI	League
Saturday 3 rd June	Bridgewater Painters	League
Sunday 11 th June	Thorncombe Flyers	Friendly
Wednesday 14 th June	Yeovil Royal Blasters	T20
Saturday 17 th June	Wincanton 1XI	League
Saturday 1 st July	Weston-Super-Mare 3XI	League
Saturday 8 th July	Uphill Castle 2XI	League
Sunday 9 th July	Phoenix	Friendly
Thursday 20 th July	Stour Provost	T20
Saturday 22 nd July	Glastonbury 2XI	League
Tuesday 8 th August	Beaminster	T20
Saturday 12 th August	Wembdon 3XI	League
Sunday 13 th August	Wriggle Valley	Friendly
Wednesday 16 th August	Yeovil Royal Blasters	T20
Tuesday 22 nd August	TBC	T20
Saturday 26 th August	Leigh-On-Mendip 1XI	League
Saturday 9 th September	President's XI	Friendly
Sunday 17 th September	Dorset Wanderers	Friendly

League = Somerset League Division 5 (1.30 pm unless stated otherwise)

Friendly = WCHCC Panthers (1.30pm is proposed start)

T20 = Twenty-20 evening fixture (6:15pm is proposed start)

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

I'm writing this on World Bee Day, which has prompted me to take a moment to extol the virtues of these fantastic little insects. With the warm weather upon us, there's a distinct buzz in the air as bees and other pollinators busy themselves feeding and rearing their young. The flowering hawthorn in the hedgerows of Hardington is humming with life!

We all know that bee populations are in decline worldwide. Fundamental for the production of many foods around the world, in the UK alone, around 70 crops depend on or benefit from bee pollination. However, intensive monocultures and improper use of pesticides around the world pose serious threats to pollinators, reducing their access to food and nesting sites, exposing them to harmful chemicals and weakening their immune systems. As 75% of the world's fruit and seed-producing crops are pollinator dependent, it would seem that our food security, nutrition and health of our environment owes a lot to these busy little insects.

Sometimes the plight of pollinators feels like an insurmountable problem, but there are things we can do to play our part in their recovery. Eat a wide range of fruit and vegetables, eat seasonally, buy locally. Diversity, as in many areas of life, is key! By varying the types of food we prepare on a weekly basis rather than sticking to the old favourites we buy out of habit, we can create demand for biodiverse foods and reduce our reliance on a small handful of industrialised crops.

In our gardens, we can ensure we have a good selection of bee-friendly plants offering nectar and pollen all year round. In summer, we're spoilt for choice – anyone who already has Ceonothus or Cotoneaster knows that both these shrubs are a magnet for bees. The open faces of herbaceous plants like cosmos and sunflowers attract bees, and borage and echium seed readily in corners of a vegetable plot. Mallows, with their abundant pollen, are another great addition to the garden, not to mention the herb garden, where thyme, marjoram, chives, mint and rosemary are all loved by bees. Whilst all these plants are favoured by pollinators in general, it's worth remembering that not all flowering plants are so accommodating. Foxgloves, for example, are brilliant for bumblebees but their flower length means honeybees won't visit them. Highly-developed flower varieties (those with double petals) are almost inaccessible to bees so it's best to seek out alternatives – you can't go wrong with wallflowers or verbenas. I'll be adding some more to my garden this summer.

Nicola Maybury

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

Services at St. Mary's Church

11th June	Holy Communion	11.00am
25th. June	Family Service	10.30am

Services at St Roch Pendomer

11th June	Family service	9.45am
18th June	Holy Communion	9.15am
25th June	Family service	9.45am

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

Sat 10th.	Afternoon Cream Tea, Ridgemoor, Hardington Moor	2.00 - 4.00pm
Tues 13th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 14th	Village Coffee Morning, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane. W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome	10.30-12noon 7.30pm
Tues 20th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All welcome	7.30pm

JUNE 20th LAST DATE FOR JULY MESSENGER

Please send copy by email to messenger@hardington.net

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

Tues 27th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Moor Lane, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
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WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues	Ashtanga Yoga, Hardington Village Hall	6.00pm
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.45pm
Tues & Thurs.	Beginners Yoga, Hardington Village Hall	10.00-11.0



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

Seafood Supper

Friday 9th June

A stunning 6 course fish menu for just £35.00 per person. If you are a fan of beautiful seafood and you fancy a night out, then don't hesitate to get yourself booked in.

See our Facebook page or our website for the menu.

Pizza night

Thursday 22nd June

Join us for another of our Royal Oak pizza nights! Available to eat in or takeaway, our hand stretched pizzas are topped with the freshest local ingredients, our signature tomato and basil sauce, and our special cheese blend!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page that week for the menu.

Happy Hours

Wednesday - Friday from 5pm-6.30pm

Enjoy the evening sunshine in our outside space as well as 10p off every pint!

01935 862354