

APRIL 2024



HAPPY EASTER

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Dack. Tom and Rebecca nee' Christiansen were married on 2nd February in the Bay of Plenty, North Island, New Zealand. We wish them a long and happy life together with all our love Mum, Dad, Joanna, John, Will and Max

WELCOME: Claire and Patrick Nobbs have moved into Moorland Cottage, with their 3 little dogs.

The new occupants of Long Meadow are Jason and his children, Madelaine and Ben. We wish them happiness in their new homes and hope to see them at some village events soon.

GET WELL: Unfortunately, there have been several villagers who have been having operations or been unwell this past month. We send our good wishes to Ken Curtis, Iain Thomas, Nigel Fowler, Kim Manual and Richard Beatson and anyone else who has been unwell and not mentioned here.

THANKS: Several garden club members recently pruned the crab apple trees which line the Church path, delayed from 2020, when lock down intervened! The trees look much tidier and will no doubt benefit from this much needed pruning.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Forty people attended the World Day of Prayer this year, which was held on 1st March at St Michael's Church East Coker. Having been arranged by the Christian women of Palestine over the past 5 years or so it was very poignant with the troubles that have been on going for some months now. Everyone found the service very moving. Palestinian/Middle Eastern foods prepared by the committee were enjoyed with tea/coffee afterwards. Almost £200 was sent to WDP headquarters which will be used as grants allocated to various projects around the UK and further afield.

Next year the Interdenominational women of the Cook Islands are organising the WDP on Friday 7th.March. If you would like to get involved with this committee, please contact Claire Swarbrick at alexclaire.es@gmail.com

The Benefice WDP Committee

VILLAGE HOME COFFEE MORNING 10TH APRIL

Fiona and Jonathon Chadwick look forward to welcoming you to Rydon Farm for our next village coffee morning. The date is Wednesday 10th April and the time is 10.30 to 12 noon. These convivial occasions are open to all. We look forward to seeing you for a good natter over a cup of coffee.

Pauline Grassam

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The growing season is well and truly upon us. Please remember that we have our fantastic Plant Sale coming up on Saturday 11th May, so do pot on those extra seedlings for the sale as everything goes! We will also need volunteers to help on the stall, so please let us know at the next meeting if you can spare an hour.

For April we have double events. First up is our Discount Evening at the Castle Garden Centre on Wednesday 17th April. The discount is 25%, a really valuable perk of being a member of the club. The evening starts at 6pm with a short talk accompanied by tea and biscuits, and then you can spend to your hearts desire in the deserted garden centre. And there is free delivery!

Then on the following Wednesday, 24th April we have the highly experienced Steve Fry from Castle Gardens coming to talk on "Gardening for Wildlife" at 7:30pm. He will be addressing the imperative to do more for wildlife by explaining how we can incorporate wildlife friendly features into a conventional garden. There will also be a free plug plant for each member available at this meeting.

Sally Thompson.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy Catford and her team would like to thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to seeing you at our April coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 27th April. If you haven't made it to one of our coffee mornings yet, why not come along and give it a try? We would love to see you and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

As usual, the hall will open from 10 am to 12 noon and there will be a variety of cakes and savouries on sale for you to choose from including: bacon or breakfast rolls, bacon and cheese wraps, savoury scones, etc. We also offer a range of teas as well as instant or filter coffees.

There will also be a raffle. Profits from the coffee morning go towards supporting the village hall, so do come along, enjoy the food and company and support the hall at the same time. If you are able to offer any help or are willing to make a cake for the next coffee morning, please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

I should like to remind everyone that our '100 Club' is due to start again in May. There is still time for you to purchase a 100 club ticket from Daphne at Springfield Stores if you have not already done so. Each ticket costs just £12 a year and you then have three chances per month of winning a cash prize over the next year. The cost of a ticket works out at less than 25p a week and you will be helping to support your Village Hall Charity. The March 100 Club winners were: 1st prize Trudy Turner, 2nd prize Maureen Mills and 3rd prize Tina Steel. Congratulations and thank you all for supporting the Village Hall.

Our next film will be shown at the hall on 18th April. Starring Glenda Jackson and Michael Caine 'The Great Escaper' is described as a heart warming, charmer of a film. As usual, there will be two performances of the film, the afternoon performance starts at 2.00pm and the evening performance at 7.30pm. I hope that you will be able to come along, have some cake and a drink and enjoy the film whilst supporting the Village Hall at the same time.

Our energy contract comes up for renewal on 30th April and I should like to thank Robert Halls for his hard work in finding us a competitive new supplier. Needless to say, our energy bills are likely to increase by 40-50% above the current price paid .

I should also like to thank Dy Catford for donating £270 from her February coffee morning to the Village Hall funds, the Village Hall would struggle to survive without this financial support and of course the support of our wonderful community.

Our AGM takes place on Wednesday 1st May. If you would like join the Village Hall Committee and thus have some say on how the hall is run or can be improved, please ask Daphne or myself for more information. Names need to be put forward before 26th April 24.

Karen Dodge.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 1st May at 7.30pm.**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Items for the Agenda and Nominations-for election on to the Committee (forms available from Mrs D Creed) should be submitted to Mrs. D. Creed, Springfield Stores, Hardington Moor by Friday 26th April, 2024 .

West Coker and Hardington Cricket Club – Home fixtures 2024

SUN	28/04	14.00	Women	v	N Petherton	
SAT	04/05	13.30	SC League	v	Lydford	
SUN	05/05	10.00	U10	v	North Perrott	
SUN	12/05	11.00	Women	v	Allerton	
SUN	12/05	14.30	Panthers	v	Newt Cricket	
SAT	18/05	13.30	SC League	v	Crewkerne	
SUN	19/05	10.00	U10	v	Yeovil	
SUN	19/05	14.00	Panthers	v	Thorncombe	
TUE	21/05	18.00	Panthers	v	Royal Blasters	
MON	27/05	18.00	U12	v	Queen Camel	
TUE	28/05	18.00	Panthers	v	WC&H	Inter Club Gala Match!
SAT	01/06	13.30	SC League	v	North Curry	
SUN	02/06	10.00	U10	v	Compton House	
SUN	02/06	12.00	Women	v	Taunton Deane	
SUN	02/06	14.30	Panthers	v	Queen Camel	
MON	03/06	18.00	U12	v	Yeovil	
MON	10/06	18.00	U12	v	Sherborne	
SAT	15/06	13.30	SC League	v	Churchill	
SUN	16/06	10.00	U10	v	W & Middle Chinnock	
MON	17/06	18.00	U12	v	Compton House	
SAT	22/06	13.30	SC League	v	Taunton St Andrews	
SUN	23/06	11.00	Women	v	Shapwick & Polden	
SUN	23/06	14.30	Panthers	v	Dorset Wanderers	
MON	24/06	18.00	U12	v	W & Middle Chinnock	
SUN	30/06	14.00	Panthers	v	Stour Provost (artificial)	
SUN	07/07	14.00	Women	v	Broadway & Horton	
SAT	13/07	13.30	SC League	v	Glastonbury	
SAT	27/07	13.30	SC League	v	Taunton Indian CC	
TUE	30/07	18.00	Panthers	v	Royal Blasters	
SUN	04/08	14.00	Panthers	v	Wriggle Valley	
TUE	06/08	18.00	Panthers	v	WC&H	Inter Club Gala Match!
SAT	10/08	13.30	SC League	v	Purnell	
SUN	11/08	14.00	Panthers	v	Newt Cricket	
SAT	31/08	13.30	SC League	v	Bishops Hull	
SUN	08/09	14.00	Panthers	v	Milborne St Andrew	
SUN	22/09	13.00	Panthers	v	Dorset Wanderers	

Please note start times may vary and fixtures will be on Rec notice board every month

STREET FAYRE

All is progressing for the Fayre on 6 July. We will again be holding the Fun Dog Show and this year also hope to be hosting an Art Competition from local schools. Cream Teas will now be held on 18th May, at Hardington House, with kind permission from Simon and Karen Paxton. As ever, the Fayre needs volunteers – please contact: andrew.walters@hotmail.com if you can assist.

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

Our March meeting is always run by the members themselves whilst the committee have a month off planning and preparing for the meeting. This month after a brief summary of business and up and coming events, members settled down around tables in small groups and were treated to a demonstration of how to create the perfect table floral decoration. The session was brilliantly led by Sylvia, a former teacher of floral decoration, and ably assisted by Helen as Sylvia had damaged her wrist. The session was very informative, and it is hoped that following the instructions more of us will feel confident to enter floral arrangements into this years Flower and Produce Show in August.

There were the usual tea, coffee, cakes and chat whilst members put their learning into practice, each table creating their own table decoration using a range of provided materials. All the arrangements were then displayed - but no first place was announced as they were all judged beautiful! Many thanks to the members who organised the meeting, and to Sylvia for her expert tuition and to everyone who assisted in arranging and running such a fun evening. Membership renewal is due in April, and anyone wanting to give the WI a go is welcome to come along for 2 sessions free of charge. Next month, April, is our birthday meeting and our speaker is Lottie Dale whose talk “Falling with Style” sounds most intriguing! We look forward to seeing you then!

Rowena Murray

CONCERTS IN ST ROCH, PENDOMER 2024

Some dates for your diary:

1. **7.30 pm Friday June 14th**. Gregory Steward, tenor, returns for another recital this year, songs by Verdi, Schubert, Fauré and Ivor Novello.
2. **7.30 pm Saturday July 27th**. Speranza are a group of musicians based in Chard who will give a recital of chamber music for violin, viola, flute and cello.
3. **3.00 pm Sunday September 8th**. The Mēla classical guitar quartet. For programme details see www.concertsinthewest.org where you can also book tickets.

For more details, tickets etc please contact robinsheila@icloud.com 01935 862339

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

THE GREAT ESCAPER

(12A)

This true story has two amazing leads, Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson. The film tells the real story of Royal Navy veteran, Bernard Jordan, who “escaped” from his care home in June 2014 to attend the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. It is film-making at its very best, a big salute to two phenomenal actors & definitely one not to be missed.

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 18th April.**

Afternoon Performance at 2:00pm

Coffee, tea and cake available, doors open 1:30 pm

Evening Performance at 7:30pm

Licensed bar available, doors open 7.00 pm

Tickets: £5.00 in advance from Springfield Stores
(01935 862363) or on the door

Visit our website at: www.Hardington.net



HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

I often make for the Hardington meadows when I'm in need of a nature fix. Sitting on Mike and Brenda's bench in the hazy afternoon sunshine, taking a few moments to soak up the view and enjoy the sounds of the natural world is something to be treasured. On a recent visit, a money spider set about exploring my phone case as I made a few notes, and three buzzards rode high on the thermals, mewing as they wheeled in lazy circles above me. A furious wren kicked up a fuss in the hedge beside me, alarmed by my presence perhaps, while an unconcerned wood pigeon was cooing five half-formed beats, its heart not really in it. I could just catch the coconut-scented gorse in the warming air, making me think of more tropical climes.

Blackthorn is bursting into blossom all over the place just now, as if to celebrate the long-anticipated arrival of Spring. It feels like it's been a particularly long wait this year! At least the primroses and daffodils don't seem to mind the rain - there are some gorgeous displays around the village and this joyous splash of Spring yellow does much to dispel the gloom on a muddy, grey day. Now that we've passed the Spring Equinox, we can leave the winter wet behind us and welcome the lighter evenings with renewed optimism!

Everywhere I go at the moment, bird song abounds. The soft peeping of bullfinches and the wheezy call of a greenfinch as I walk the lanes always makes me smile. It's lovely to have these handsome birds in evidence, especially as they are often the worst hit by disease. Siskins have made a welcome return to the garden, piling on to the feeders with cheerful enthusiasm. The males are the most noticeable, with their little black cap and bright yellow face and breast. Between them and the chattering goldfinches, they're a cheerful sight in the garden every day, although they've made a sizeable dent in our sunflower seeds!

One little garden visitor I was amazed to see out and about so early this year is the hummingbird hawkmoth, spotted on 5th March zipping around the front garden. I can only imagine it had over-wintered in the woodshed and was tempted out in the mild air. These fantastically energetic moths are migrants, most of whom fly into the UK from Southern Europe and North Africa, but occasionally, the adults will hibernate in unheated outbuildings through the winter months.

A final note: until at least the end of April, please don't forget to take extra care on the roads while the Toad Patrol are doing their good work.

Nicola Maybury

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 14th	Holy Communion	11.00am
Sun. 28th	Family Service	10.30 am

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 14th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 21st	Holy Communion	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 28th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

Tues 9th	Choir Practice, venue tbc	7.30pm
Wed 10th	Village Home Coffee Morning, Rydon Farm, W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests welcome.	10.30am-12noon 7.30pm
Tues 16th	Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, all welcome,	7.30pm
Thur 18th	Hollywood in Hardington, 'The Great Escaper' Village Hall	2.00 & 7.30pm

APRIL 20th LAST DATE FOR MAY MESSENGER.

Please send copy to messenger@hardington.net

Tues 23rd	Choir Practice, tbc	7.30pm
Thur 24th	Garden Club, Village Hall, All welcome	7.30pm
Sat 27th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall. All Welcome	10am - 12noon
Wed 1st	May VH AGM, Village Hall, All welcome.	7.30pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.45pm
-----	---	--------

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The March Meeting...

There was one outline planning application on the agenda for a two-storey house at Nappers Cottage, Lyatts Hill. The application was discussed and there were mixed views from councillors. Concerns were raised of potential flooding in this area and some councillors felt the house was too large for the site. There were also concerns about parking 3 cars on the drive. A resolution was proposed to object to the application and the majority of councillors agreed with this.

The Chairman thanked Adam Taylor for kindly fixing several rotted fence-post at the Community Field.

The Chairman has arranged a meeting with Cllr Patrick and a Somerset Council Highways officer, to discuss recent and planned repairs including Wimborough Lane, Lyatts Hill and Pig Hill.

It has been reported that somebody has recently left filled dog-poo-bags at various places around the village. The Parish Council would like to ask the person responsible for this to dispose of these bags correctly in the future!

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th April at the Village Hall, following the Annual Meeting of the Parish. The public 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: 07815 965113 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

Easter Weekend

Friday 29th Good Friday – We have a fantastic fish and chip menu available to eat in or takeaway.

Saturday 30th – Join us for dinner and dine from our amazing specials menu.

Sunday 31st Easter Sunday – Book now for Easter Sunday lunch.

Monday 1st April Bank holiday – We are open from midday until 6pm and serving lunch.

Thursday 4th April

Quiz Night

Book now for Duncan's charity quiz night; there are a few spaces still available. It's a great night out and a chance to test your general knowledge! All while raising money for charity.

Saturday 13th April

Seafood Supper

We have a couple tables still available for our next Seafood supper. Six courses of incredible fish dishes for just £37 per person. A night not to be missed.

Saturday 27th April

Charity race night

Join Trudie and Sara for a night of 'horse racing' – this is set to be a cracker of an evening with plenty of entertainment. No need to book! Race cards will be available to buy from the bar in advance from 20th April.

01935 862354

THE CHURCH CLOCK: We have received many comments about the church clock not working and are amazed that so many people in our modern world still value it, because of its reliable timekeeping (which is thanks entirely to the skills of Simon Smith). The clock needs a new 'going train auto re-winder', which is currently in course of manufacture by our maintenance company, Cumbria Clock Company (CCC), at a cost of £3,786, a sum that we are trying to find through grants and other support – any donations from the village would be much appreciated. The existing re-winder has been in place for – we are told – around 50 years, so it hasn't done too badly when one considers that most machinery has a life span of around 25 years. One interesting thing that has come to light as a result of the need for this work is the origin of the clock itself. CCC advise us that clocks were generally made by specialist clockmakers in major centres. We now know that our clock, whilst probably not unique, is likely to be one of only a few made locally in Yeovil by Hancock, Cox and Co. The company of Hancock, Clock and Watchmaker, existed in the late eighteenth century and was listed in a local directory in 1824. The accounts of St. John's Church in Yeovil show that Hancock's carried out the maintenance of their clock between 1837 and 1853, but the only information about them manufacturing timepieces seems to relate to pocket watches and long case clocks. CCC tell us that our clock was manufactured in about 1885 and this ties in with the fact that the company only existed as Hancock, Cox & Co. between 1872 and 1894. Hopefully the clock will be back in full working order before too long! Following an inspection and report by the Diocesan Bells Adviser, we also need to spend a substantial sum on the bells (expected to be around £10,000) and are currently obtaining quotations. Without this work, we may not be able to ring the bells at some point. Daphne Creed & Richard Middleton, Churchwardens.

