

THE HARDINGTON AND PENDOMER MESSENGER

AUGUST 2025



HARDINGTON VILLAGE STREET FAYRE 2025

The Hardington Street Fayre committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's event, whether by attending, volunteering on the day, or providing sponsorship support, especially Martin & Co for the advertising signs. We would also like to thank the villagers who live on Broadstone Lane and High Street for allowing the Street Fayre to "take over" for a day and the residents outside of the road closure in Rectory Lane and Bishops Lane who kindly allowed stallholders to park on their driveways which greatly helped with the event organisation.

We were delighted to present artwork by Dan Wakeman (imadethis76), whose installations situated outside the church served as an excellent complement to the craft exhibition curated by Sheila Carpenter and the children's art competition held indoors. Congratulations to all the participants—their contributions resulted in a wonderful display. Entertainment featured Balloon Madness with stilt-walking, bubble performances, and impressive giveaway balloon models, as well as performances from "The Bog Dogs", Enigma Morris Dancers, Castle Cary Cygnets, and classic car display organised by Paul Vallis from Yeovil Car Club. The event hosted forty stallholders in addition to game stalls, a barbecue, and a bar operated by committee members and volunteers. The WI's bottle stall proved highly successful once again, while Village Hall and Church volunteers achieved record sales of light lunches, cakes, and refreshments, enabling a contribution of £944 to the Street Fayre fund. We wish to thank Kate Jones for taking on the organisation of the dog show, which helped raise £77 and ensured its continuation this year.

Including proceeds from the cream tea event held earlier in the year, we are pleased to announce that £4,000 will be donated to support our village amenities—specifically, The Village Hall and St. Mary's Church, we hope to be in discussion with both to enable us to determine where the monies are best spent. The Street Fayre will retain just under £500 to help with planning for 2026. The Street Fayre committee will be organising other fund-raising events later in the year, so please do watch this space.

This year's event was coordinated by an organising committee of just five members, making volunteer support vital to its success. To enhance our adaptability within the team, we took the decision to purchase walkie-talkies to help with efficient communication on the day. Consequently, volunteers—especially those assigned to the car park—or on first aid duty can now maintain direct contact with committee members whenever assistance is needed. We hope this will help allay any concerns prospective volunteers may have regarding support during future events.

Finally, we would like to thank Malcolm White, Tom Turner, Kenny Curtis and

their families for all their help in putting on the Street Fayre, without their continued support in providing transport for equipment, car parking facilities and mowing the “Donkey Field” we would be unable to raise the money we have for the village.

Kate & Andy Palmer, Dy Catford, Andrew Walters and Charlotte Gillingham.

Your 2025 Street Fayre committee members.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Rob Wells and Charlotte Kerr of Nursery Gardens on their recent engagement; Dan Chapman of Pendomer on celebrating his 18th birthday in June; Sylvia and Tim Dunsdon of the birth of a new grandson, Caesar, first child for their son, Kenton and his wife Fiona; Jane and John Blomfield who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this month and Peter Riddell who enjoyed his extra special birthday whilst on holiday.

GET WELL: There are several people from our community unwell or receiving treatment currently, we send our good wishes to them all and especially to Jim Bugler on his recent operation.

CONDOLENCES: Sadly, we report the sudden death of lifelong villager Amy Knight. We send our sincere condolences to her family, Dave, Colin and Lizzie and grandchildren and brother Mike.

Also, many villagers will remember Gerry Tomkins, who once owned the Mandeville Arms and ran the Hardington Brewery. Sadly, Gerry died following a long illness. Our condolences to his wife Sue and their son, daughter and family.

Ray Moulden who lived in Bishops Lane until recently has died. Condolences are sent to Rachel and family at this sad time.

OBITUARY

Amy Myra Knight was the 2nd child born to farmers Bill and Wyn Turner and apart from a couple of years when she lived in Eastbourne, lived her entire life in Hardington Mandeville on Manor Farm. Amy attended Hardington School and was a regular at Hardington Church most Sundays until very recently. Amy joined the WI as soon as she reached the correct age, and it was rare for her not to attend a meeting. For a while she was a committee member and a keen player in the skittles team. After marrying Tony in the late 1970's they moved to Eastbourne where David was joined by a brother, Colin, and after moving back to the village Lizzie was born. Sadly, Tony was killed in a road accident many years ago and since then Amy continued living with her sons here in the village, being very much a part of the village. Amy had an incredible memory for dates and if in any doubt about a date Amy was the one to go to, she loved being able to solve that question! As well as being part of the community Amy enjoyed attending as many village events as possible, the annual WI visit to Lyme was a definite on her calendar and she was missed at this year's visit just days after her death.

BELL RINGING

My father learned to ring in 1918, being the seventh generation of his family ringing at Hardington. My mother was PCC secretary from 1922 and also a ringer of generations of ringers at West Coker.

I became involved at the age of three, filling the oil lamps on the Saturday morning. Joining the choir and learning to ring at the age of nine, I have completed 80 years as a ringer, an activity I can highly recommend to anyone to exercise both mind and body. Over the years I've made a multitude of friends and have many hours of enjoyment. Since Brian Dodd left the village, we have no resident ringers and have to rely on ringing friends to keep our bells ringing. We have just spent a sizeable sum of money in servicing them and it might be the time to see if anyone would like to learn to ring them. Your church wardens Daphne Creed and Richard Middleton would be pleased to hear from you. Regards, Gordon Rendell, Tower captain.

VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNINGS

A very big thank you to all the villagers who have hosted a very successful at home village coffee morning. It has also been very rewarding to welcome several newcomers to our lovely village. It has been decided that there will be no coffee morning in August due to holidays. The good news is that our September meeting will be hosted by Daphne at Springfield stores on an afternoon date to be decided. Watch this space! we look forward to seeing faces old and new then.

Pauline Grassam

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Thank you all once again for continuing to support our monthly village hall coffee morning in so many different ways. Dy Catford and her team look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next coffee morning which will take place at Hardington village hall on 30th August 2025. Family and friends are very welcome so please bring them along.

As usual, the hall will open from 10 am to 12 noon and there will be a variety of delicious cakes and savouries on sale for you to try 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.

Just to remind you that the coffee mornings take place on the last Saturday of each month. If anyone is able to offer any help or is willing to make a cake for this or any future coffee mornings, please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun. 10th	Holy Communion	11.00am
Fri.15th.	St Mary's Patronal Festival Communion with drinks & nibbles	6.30 pm
Sun. 24th	Family Service	10.30 am

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 10th	Family Service	9.45 am
Sun 17th.	St Roch Patronal Festival Holy Communion with picnic	11.00 am
Sun 24th	Family Service	9.45 am

Sun August 31st United Benefice Communion at Sutton Bingham 11.00am followed by picnic.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Wed 6th	Village Hall Draw and Committee Meeting, Village Hall	7.20 pm
Sun 10th	Party in the Park, Community Playing Fields, All Welcome	1.00 pm
Tues 19th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30 pm

AUGUST 20th LAST DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MESSENGER

Please send copy as an email attachment to: messenger@hardington.net

Sat 23rd	Village Flower & Craft Show, Village Hall, All Welcome	2.30 pm
Sat 30th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall, All Welcome	10 - 12noon

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues	Tai Chi/Qigong,	Village Hall.	6.30 pm
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice,	St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.45 pm

FEEDBACK ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OF HEALTHCARE IN SOMERSET

I am a public governor for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, and part of my role is to share feedback on experiences of healthcare services in Somerset from NHS staff and members of the public.

If you have had a positive or negative experience on any of the inpatient, outpatient, community or primary care (GP) services in Somerset that you would like to be brought to the attention of the Trust board, please let me know by emailing sarah.duncan@btinternet.com.

I can relay feedback on general rather than confidential issues or specific complaints. A separate complaints service is available on the Trust website. Sarah Duncan

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

It's the Flower Show on Saturday 23rd August. This year we have lots of fun classes for you to enter, including Noah's Ark - four pairs of different vegetables; the Spirit of Hardington in the photography category and four Jammy Dodgers in the cookery section. There is truly a category for everyone. Entry forms can be obtained from Springfield Stores. They need to be back with Daphne by no later than midday on Wednesday 20th August, which includes photographs if you are entering that category. There are lots of excellent hints and tips on the village website (go to News/May 16th) and it's free to enter, so do have a go!

On the day, exhibitors need to get their harvest and wares into the village hall between 8:45am and 10:30am. Judging then commences and at 2:30pm the Show formally opens, with delicious cakes and teas being provided by the WI. The award ceremony takes place at 4pm, after which the raffle will be drawn (great prizes!), followed by a very loud and jolly auction of produce to raise a little more money for our village causes and ARK, Acts of Random Kindness, this year's charity. Really looking forward to seeing you all there!

And a date for your diary. Our September meeting, on the 24th, is a wine and canapé evening in the village hall, while we listen to Dave Moon talking about the gardens of the rich and famous. Please let us know, for catering purposes, if you can make that meeting by emailing Kate at hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com. Sally Thompson.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 2nd July and the winners were: 1st prize Sue Phillips, 2nd prize Bruce Lucas and 3rd prize Sally Thompson. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall on 6th August at 7.20pm and you are welcome to be present when the draw takes place.

Thanks once again to Dy Catford and her team for their hard work in organising and running the monthly coffee mornings. £163.00 was donated to the Village Hall from the June coffee morning. Our June electricity bill amounted to £41.86.

New entrances have now been installed at the front and rear of the hall. Work on the alterations/improvements are however ongoing and we are currently awaiting quotes to remove the ramp at the back of the hall and to tarmac the area. It is hoped that the changes being made to the rear of the hall will improve the car parking as we will have a dedicated turning area. Work is also needed on the garage to the rear of the hall (including the need for a new door for which we will be seeking quotes). Of course, general maintenance work is always required and we need a new sensor light in the car park, and to complete the outside painting.

It has been established that the village bier was acquired by the Rev H Cliefe towards the end of the 1800's and that it was gifted to the Parish Council about 20 years ago at which time it was decided to house it in the garage. As no alternative 'home' has been found since it has been restored, the bier will be returned to the garage once the improvements referred to above are completed and space has been made for it. The bier is a wonderful piece of village history and the story of how we came to have one makes interesting reading. A folder containing the story is currently held on the stage in the hall.

Karen Dodge.

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE by Nicola Maybury

Fledgling birds are everywhere I look! We're now in the second wave, with a new brood of long tails, blue tits and great tits amassing on the garden feeder, while speckled robins and blackbirds learn to feed themselves on the ground. Juvenile woodpeckers are also making their way in the world, feasting on the first of the flying ants brought about by the hot weather.

Earlier in the summer, you may have noticed a good number of ladybird larvae among the hedgerows; the Moor Lane bridlepath was full of them! I'm hoping this will prove to be a good year for these colourful little beetles, given the abundance of aphids. They've been doing a grand job keeping the pests down in our veg patch. A healthy garden will support several species of ladybird, and those that aren't ridding us of aphids will be consuming mildew, so they're a great little insect to have around.

Six-Spot Burnet moths have been frequenting the nature reserve, favouring knapweed as a nectar source and laying their eggs on bird's foot trefoil. These day-flying moths are easy to spot, with six distinctive red spots on their glossy black forewings. Not to be confused with the Cinnabar moth, which also has dark wings and red markings, whose black and yellow striped caterpillars feed on ragwort – I've seen several in our front garden. Both these moths absorb toxins from their food plants, and their bright colour is a warning to predators that they are poisonous to eat.

Day flying moths to look out for in August include the handsome Jersey Tiger, often seen resting in the sunshine on ivy, the piebald Magpie, breeding on hazel and hawthorn and flitting around nettles, and the White Plume, distinctively spindly, often seen around bindweed, its main food plant.

It seems that a few of us have recently been treated to sightings of the UK's largest and most common snake, the grass snake. Ponds are a favourite hang-out, as they are excellent swimmers, and top of the menu are amphibians and fish. A good-sized frog will keep one going for at least two weeks. Grass snakes are not venomous and are harmless to humans, so there's no need for concern if you find one nesting in your compost heap or under a shed. At this time of the year, they will be incubating eggs, which hatch in late summer, so keep an eye out for baby grass snakes at the end of the month!

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The July Meeting...

Two planning applications were discussed. The first was for two new 3-bedroom dwellings on Penn Lane (in the field behind Windmill cottage). As chair and vice-chair both declared a personal interest they left the room; Councillor Mark Pollock chaired the discussion. Councillors were aware that this area along Penn Lane is well known for toads and frogs crossing as it is a migratory site to nearby ponds. There were concerns that this development could disturb them. They were also concerns that could be a loss of privacy for 'Penn House' and 'Highpoint'. The application shows the two dwellings were positioned quite high (1.5m above Penn Lane on North side) and would overlook 'Highpoint'. A resolution was passed to object to this application.

The second application was for internal and external alterations for Chapel Cottage, High Street. A resolution was passed to support this application

The Chairman reported that the uneven highway on Lyatts has finally been repaired! Highways are doing further road repairs along Primrose Hill, Hardington Moor, Pig Hill, Wimborough Lane and Lynch lane over the next few weeks.

The quickest way to get a pothole assessed by Somerset Highways (...and hopefully repaired!) is by reporting it yourself online! This is quite easy to do. Go to the website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/> and follow the instructions.

The Parish Council is looking to use CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds to install further tarmac along an area of footpath between Moor Lane and the village shop, as excessive rain last winter has made it is unsafe for wheelchairs and pram users.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th August, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. 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

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

The weather for our garden party in July could not have been better. Warm sunshine with a gentle breeze set the scene in Angela and Rob Mead's beautiful garden in East Coker, and there was plenty of shade available too. Members enjoyed a glass of chilled prosecco and canapes and birthday posies were presented to two of our members. There was an optional summer quiz for those who like to give their brains a workout, and lots of laughter and friendly chatter. The evening ended with refreshments and cake – well this was a WI meeting - as we all admired the amazing view from the garden.

In July, our WI ran the bottle stall at the Village Fayre raising £304 for the village funds. Our thanks to everyone who donated bottles and to the WI ladies who ran the stall on the day.

Later in the month, members and friends and family attended a day out in Lyme Regis where we hired a base for the day. Again, the weather was kind to us, and some hardy members enjoyed a dip in the sea. Of course there were refreshments with scones, jam and cream to enjoy in the sunshine too.

On Saturday, 23rd August, members will be running the refreshment stall at the flower show so do pop along an enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and homemade cake.

Sadly, in July we lost one of our members. Amy Knight was our longest serving member. She used to attend meetings with her mother, Wyn Turner, in the late 1960s, and apart from a short time when she moved to Eastbourne, she has rarely missed a meeting. During that time, Amy has served on the WI committee and played in the WI skittles teams. She especially enjoyed attending our out meetings and Christmas lunches. We send our sincere condolences to her family at this sad time.

We take a break for August, but we have a full and varied programme for the rest of the year. In September, we welcome Liz Pike from Yeovil Community Arts Association. 'Horses Within the Army Horse Guards Artillery' is the title of the talk for our October meeting, given by former guardsman Ollie Greenslade. In November, Steve Oxford from Oxford's Bakery is our guest speaker and we finish the year with our Christmas social in December.

If you would like to join us, ladies who are new to the village or to the WI, are welcome to attend for 2 free sessions. Visiting ladies are welcome at a meeting for a fee of £5. Please contact Sue Phillips 01935 862866 if you wish to attend. Linda Lines



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK...

Thursday 14th August.

French Night

Join us for a fantastic night of traditional French cuisine. Beautiful, authentic dishes that will be sure to have you feeling like you're sat in that quaint French Bistro on a Thursday evening.

Saturday 23rd August.

Big Breakfast

Book now for our Big Breakfast.

The Full English is not to be missed, but there are plenty of other options to choose from, even options for the kids!

And you can fill yourself up before the Hardington Flower Show that day!

Hope to see you there.

Every Wednesday

Grill Night

We have our famous Grill Night every Wednesday evening from 6pm-9pm.

With a whole host of options including Stuart's stunning steaks, grilled chicken, grilled fish, Sonny's burgers and usually some local pork or lamb too!

Book yourself a table this summer.

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk



STREET FAYRE JULY 2025