

FEBRUARY 2026

**HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON**

in association with

**SOMERSET MOVIOLA**

proudly presents

**THE ROSES**

**(15)**

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, and great kids.

Beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo's career nosedives, Ivy's own ambitions take off, and a tinderbox of competition and resentment ignites.

in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**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](http://www.Hardington.net)



Charity No 1127649

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## AROUND THE VILLAGE

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Mandy and Jim Bugler on the safe arrival of their second granddaughter Raphina, a daughter for their son Adam and his wife Kelly and a sister for Violet. John Lines celebrated a certain birthday just into the New Year. Molly Atkinson was married to Mark Hooper recently. We send them every happiness in their future together.

**WELCOME:** Mina Weight and her husband Guy Facey moved into Brookmead, Moor Lane. We hope they will be very happy in their new home.

**GOOD LUCK:** We wish Tina Steele and her partner Keith every happiness in their new home in East Coker. Hopefully they will still be partaking in village life here.

**GET WELL:** Typical for the winter months some of our fellow villagers have been unwell either at home or in hospital. We send our get well wishes to Pete Whiteman and Jonathan Chadwick who are now both recuperating at home, and to anyone else who has been unwell lately.

**THANKS:** Following a fall causing a broken arm resulting in a brief time in YDH Sally Patten would like to thank her friends who have been helping her for some weeks now. She especially wants to thank Terence who found her, Mel Barnes who has been taking her to appointments and shopping for her and to Tim and Julian Taylor, Jane Woodcock and Simon and Sherri. She is very grateful to you all.

**CONDOLENCES:** Most villagers will be aware Margaret Partridge sadly died early in January. Marg and her husband Rex moved into Fourwinds on Pig Hill when they first married 66 years ago. They raised their sons Adrian and Ian and enjoyed many happy times with their grandchildren and great grandchildren in the village. We send our condolences to Rex, Ian and Adrian and their families at the sad time. We also heard of the death of Val Radford who had lived in the village for over 20 years before moving to live near her family following the death of her husband Peter.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Join a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending 146 countries later in American Samoa, all praying with and for the country of Nigeria. The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria. You are most welcome to join us on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at St Michael and All Angels Church East Coker at 2.30pm. There will be light refreshments following the service. Look out for the notices about this service around the villages. Sue Philip

## **CINNAMON TRUST**

A little while back I wrote a piece about the Cinnamon Trust which has been looking after dogs, cats and other animals for those needing help, maybe because they must go into hospital, a home or sadly die, as well as providing volunteer walkers for dogs whose owners can no longer walk them. This organisation is over 40 years now. I had been under the impression they would take animals in an emergency, but evidently you must register with them **in case** you ever need their help. This is for insurance purposes. They are very helpful, and I can recommend making sure if you have a pet, you make plans for it should you not have anyone to look after it in an emergency. They will foster a pet out until a person can look after it again or foster out permanently should the occasion occur.

Sue Phillips

## **THANK YOU**

Keith and I are leaving to live in East Coker. The lovely couple moving into Brook Mead are Mina and Guy and I know you will all make them welcome. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you; from my arrival in this adorable village, you have all made me feel like I've always been here. You welcomed me and have become like a family. You have gotten me through some tough times with kindness and support. I especially like to thank Sheila and Robin, Lucy and Jim, Tanya and Stewart. I don't think I could've got through without you at times.

Keith would also like to thank you all for openly accepting him to the village and making him feel so at home.

We will still be about the village with one thing or another. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Tina and Keith

Jonathan Chadwick would like to thank all those people, who during his recent stay in hospital, have sent him kind messages all of which are affectionately reciprocated. He would also like to express his appreciation to everybody who has helped Fiona in a variety of ways.

## **VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNING 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Hopefully the weather will have improved for our next get together. For those new to the village each month somebody throws open their home for a coffee morning to which all are invited. This month we are at the home of Nigel and Sue Fowler. This is Swallows Dip on the High Street. The date is Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February from 10.30 to 12.00. We hope to see you over a convivial chat while enjoying coffee and biscuits.

Pauline Grassam

## W.I.

The Hardington and Pendomer branch of the WI met on the 14th in the village hall, as usual at 19.30.

Fantastic president and birthday flowers were provided by Halina and much appreciated by the recipients. Matters commenced and were begun with a one minute silence of remembrance for Margaret Partridge, a long standing WI member who recently passed away, she was remembered with warmth and affection.

Previous minutes agreed and then the ongoing issue of the branch secretary discussed, should the post not be filled, our WI will close in March after 85 years and would be a great loss to the ladies of the village and the village itself for all the fundraising it creates. Should a volunteer be forthcoming, they can discuss the role and the support on offer with any of the committee members.

Updates were given by the various groups, Skittles', craft and chatter and the Village Hall committee, appreciative of a £500 + donation from the Rotary Club. Details were also provided about new Yoga and Pilates groups coming to the hall.

Empty sweet tubs are being collected for recycling - donations to the MacMillan Cancer charity.

This week's presentation was by Martin Budzynsky a devoted Astronomer, whose interest in space was triggered by being sent to bed without supper as a child and spending time looking out of his bedroom window at the darkened sky. The question of the existence of aliens was widely explored and detailed insight into just how difficult space travel is, in terms of light years and finding a planet that would be habitable were explored in detail, the conclusion being, that unless aliens have solved the problem of warping space, so that they can arrive at the same time as departure, much like Star Trek travel, it is highly unlikely - but not impossible, so, live long and prosper all those Trekkies out there!

The meeting closed following hot drinks and delicious nibbles, the next meeting will be February 11th at 19.30, as usual in the village hall, new members are always welcome

Ally Howard

## Margaret Partridge – 4<sup>th</sup> February 1937 to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

It is with great sadness that we have to report the recent passing of Margaret Partridge, a constant presence and stalwart of Hardington village life for more than 66 years of her life. Having been born and brought up in Bradford Abbas, Margaret's association with Hardington came when she met and later married Rex. They married on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1959 and moved straight into "Fourwinds" (after going to Taunton to see "Some Like It Hot" at the cinema !). Throughout her 66 years living in Hardington, she had been a very active part of village life. At various times, she worked at the Royal Oak ("Sonny's") pub, and at the former Margetts' plant nursery in Moor Lane, was a lifelong and active member of the Women's Institute, and frequently helped out at the Church with cleaning and flower arrangements and at the Village Hall with providing and serving refreshments. She also, at various times, played Badminton and Indoor Bowls at the Village Hall and both skittles and darts in the Royal Oak's ladies teams. Inevitably, and especially with her being fundamentally a sociable person, she made a great many friends and acquaintances over the years, many of whom are still living in or associated with the village. Along with Rex, she brought up her 2 sons (Ian and Adrian) and although they have both long since moved out of Hardington, they both retained a strong affiliation with the village. Margaret loved animals and especially her many dogs, the last of which (Dexter) sadly passed away a year or so ago, and she took much pleasure in her walks in and around the village with them over the years. This enabled her to keep in contact with day-to-day village life and to see many of those acquaintances. In recent years, as her mobility worsened and the curse of dementia took its grip, she would spend many hours enjoying observing the comings and goings from the vantage point of the living room window at Fourwinds. She would often comment that people had waved at her in passing but she often did not know who they were! After 66 years of village life, the family took the exceptionally difficult decision in December to accept that she needed 24/7 care, and she was admitted to specialist dementia care at St Cecilia's Care Home in Shepton Mallet, near to where her youngest son Adrian and his family now live. She received fantastic care and compassion from the dedicated staff there in the final few weeks of her life, but sadly became very ill overnight in early January and went into palliative care there. She had always been determined, and that determination was never more evident than in those final few days as she clung on to life before finally passing away with many of her family in attendance on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January. In many ways, an unremarkable life, but remarkable in its appreciation of the simple pleasures of bringing up a family and spending 7 decades as part of such a strong and supportive village community. Margaret gave much to the village, but she received so much more in return. Margaret will, I know, be sadly missed by many in Hardington and surrounding areas.

The Partridge Family

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 3rd December and the winners were: 1st prize Lisa Young, 2nd prize Anne Egerton and 3rd prize Derek Richards. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall on 7th January 26 at 7.20pm and you are welcome to be present when the draw takes place. Our November film 'The Ballad of Wallis Island' was enjoyed by those who attended and made a profit of £229.03, which will be put towards village hall funds.

I am sure that you all enjoyed the recent pantomime 'The Wind in The Willows' as much as I did. The Players worked incredibly hard on the production and contributed the amazing sum of £916 (part donation and part hall rental) towards our hall funds. Thank you to all those involved. Due to a leak, a new water heater was fitted in the kitchen on 5th December. Thanks to James Gaylard, who did a wonderful job fitting the new cladding at the entrance to the hall on 18th December and to Sue Phillips for ensuring that our first aid kit was still fit for purpose.

Denise Riddell has been hard at work making sure that our hall Policies and Procedures are up to date, these can be viewed on our village website: [www.hardington.net](http://www.hardington.net). Other committee members etc. have been busy selling Christmas raffle tickets to raise money for the hall so thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Our energy charges invariably increase over the winter months and amounted to £337.50 for the month of October and £765.57 for the month of November.

Work planned for January includes some electrical work that needs to be done and work on the roof (weather permitting).

The village hall Committee and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Karen Dodge.

## VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Thank you all once again for continuing to support Dy's monthly coffee mornings at the village hall. Dy Catford and her team look forward to seeing you at our next coffee morning which will take place at Hardington village hall on 28th February 2026. Family, friends, neighbours and newcomers to the village, in fact everyone, is very welcome so please come along and join us! 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. If you have any specific dietary requirements, please call Dy in advance and she will do her best to accommodate you. We also hold 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

## **BRAD ATKINSON**

Brad and Vanessa came from South east London but always wanted to move to the country and in 2005, they moved with their young daughter Molly to their home in Hardington Mandeville which passed the test Brad insisted on when they drove to each place – when they stepped out of the car they could hear – nothing. Just peace and quiet. Brad worked at Taunton and then Yeovil Fire Stations and led as the Union Representative for 12 years.

Brad loved the village. He explored every path and hill and was happiest standing on Windmill Hill or the nature reserve, looking at the stunning views and knowing this was his home.

In 2006, Brad and Vanessa got married in Hardington. It was the most relaxed and simple weekend with skittles, bangers and mash in the pub opposite the house the night before and walking to the church and back to the pub on the wedding day. The weather was beautiful and the day was one of Brad & Van's happiest memories.

In 2007, Becky was born and the family was complete. The girls finally wore Brad down and in 2018 Picket, the border collie, came home.

Brad retired from the fire service in January 2020. Perfect timing to avoid the pandemic and to walk the dog, build a deck and a chicken coup. His vinyl records business was perfect, combining his love of music and vinyl. Rock Wallaby records maintained a 100% positive feedback over a decade of trading all over the world. Brad and the Wallaby will now rest in peace together.

Brad first became ill in 2022. He suffered a major aortic dissection and survived the most complex surgery the Bristol Heart Institute had ever carried out. He was to face many more challenges and operations. Genetic testing revealed inherited Marfan's Syndrome. He survived because he was fit and a fighter. However, as the disorder had not been known, the damage had been done.

Brad was extraordinary during this time. Only ever worrying about his family and being incredibly positive in his recoveries. There were many special people who really supported his positivity: Rose who supported his positive healing and recovery and Gerry who walked with him for miles; Daphne who helped Rock Wallaby records be successful. Thanks to our wonderful neighbours, Jayne & Jerry; Susan & Richard – we always knew you were there for us.

We want to extend a huge thank you to the brilliant people in this village. Thank you for telling us that you loved Brad and knew him as a kind and gentle man who would help anyone. Thank you for talking to him on his walks and wishing him well when he wasn't. We will miss an amazing husband and Dad and someone who knew the joy of living in such a beautiful place. Thank you, Hardington.

## **HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

Our February meeting, on Wednesday 25th at 7:30pm in the village hall, will be a practical demonstration of seed sowing, pricking out and potting on. These three key stages of growing your own plants will be demonstrated by our Gold Club speaker, Adam Wallace. It would be wonderful if everyone could grow something special this year, not just for your own garden but also for our May plant sale. Don't forget that we have a club discount of 50% off seeds at Sutton Seeds online, so there is no reason for you to hold back on your dreams of growing your own plants to create a beautiful garden in 2026.

On 22nd April we have Neil Lucas, from the world-renowned specialist grass nursery, Knoll Gardens and ten times Chelsea gold medal winner, coming to talk to the club on "Using perennials in the modern garden". Tickets are now on sale for members at £6. They will also shortly be available for non members at £10. Please contact [hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com) if you would like a ticket.

Sally Thompson

## **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

My interest in footpaths begun in 1974 when we moved to Somerset and I started my work with the Crewkerne based vets. A visit to Hardington to look at the cottage where I lived with my family in the 50's revealed that the path from Moor Lane to Lynch Lane, which we used to get to school, had a house, part of Jim Fox's development of Moor Farm, built across it! It took 10 years to get this sorted, and various other issues cropped up over the years, most notably the attempt to close what is now bridleway Y10/50 from Moor Lane to North Lane.

I have now been Parish Paths Liaison Officer for the Parish Council for many years and I get email messages from SCC when issues are reported using the interactive map on the SCC website. Some of these may be made by villagers, and it would be very useful if you do this to get in touch with me directly as well, as the reason for the issue is not always clear in my official message. Recent issues were the bridge on Y10/46 across the Chinnock Brook, and a gate on the parish boundary near Romsey Farm, about as far away from my home as possible! Your assistance here would be appreciated.

Robin Carpenter, 07472 160506

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

### ST MARY'S HARDINGTON

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion.	11.00am
Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Service.	10.30am

### ST ROCH PENDOMER

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service.	9.45am
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion.	9.15am
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Service.	9.45am

### DIARY OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall Draw and Committee Meeting, Village Hall.	7.20pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome.	7.30pm
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Village at Home Coffee Morning, Swallows Dip,	10-30-12noon

### FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup> LAST DATE FOR MARCH MESSENGER

Please send copy to: [messenger@hardington.net](mailto:messenger@hardington.net)

Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club, Village Hall.	7.30pm
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall,	10.00am - 12 noon

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon	Zen Yoga, Village Hall (starts Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> ).	9.45am
Tues	Tai Chi/Qigong, Village Hall	6.30pm
Wed	Pilates, Village Hall.	11.30am
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Hardington.	7.45pm



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Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Acoustic Night with  
Sam Trusson

From 7-9pm  
Enjoy the musical talents of  
local musician whilst having a  
drink in the bar or a spot of  
dinner

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Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Surprise Supper

Book now, but find out the  
menu... on the night!  
A night not to be missed.

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## What's On At The Royal Oak

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Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Quiz Night

Book Now for our monthly  
quiz night. Raising money for  
charity. Teams of up to 6  
people

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Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Valentines Day

Book with us and treat  
your special someone to a  
delicious dinner for  
Valentines Day

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**Don't Forget:**  
**Thursday Lunch Club**  
**£10 main courses**  
**Served 12-2pm**

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

### **The January Meeting...**

The meeting began with Ria Pandey being co-opted to join the Parish Council.

The Parish Council then discussed a planning application for the “Demolition of existing agricultural building and the erection of a replacement building for the housing of young stock” at Lime Kiln Farm, Broad Hill. There were no objections.

It was agreed to donate £500 to the ‘Octagon redevelopment fund’ being managed by Yeovil Town Council.

As well as the recently installed ‘dog litter bin’ on Moor Lane, there is now another one installed near the “church triangle” (High St/Wimborough Lane/Lynch Lane junctions). Hopefully this will result in less dog poo being left around the village!

As well as installing the new dog litter bin, the Ranger has also been busy repainting the ‘St James Terrace’ sign, mending the Cold Harbour Lane metal seat, replacing the Perspex in the notice board and replacing the significant erosion of gravel in the Community Field car park that appeared following heavy rain in December. If you have any other suggested tasks for him then please get in touch with either me or a Parish Council member.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th February, 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](http://www.hardington.net). You can contact me at [hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com](mailto:hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com), tel: 07815 965113 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk

