

JANUARY 2025



From all the Messenger team

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS

Andrew and Anja Davis have welcomed their second grandchild, Thomas Evers, a son for Andrew's daughter Harriet and her husband Peter, and a brother for Maisie.

GET WELL WISHES

Some of our villagers have been unwell recently, we send them good wishes; Sue Beatson and Lesley Whetham.

CONDOLENCES

Tony Taylor, 'village born and bred' sadly died in December after a long illness. Tony grew up at Springfield with his parents, Basil and Phyllis and his siblings, Richard and Daphne. Later in life he married Marcia and lived in Smithfield, in the High Street with their family, Natalie, Mark, Mary and Adam. Due to ill health Tony spent his last few years living in East Coker with Adam and his family. His funeral will take place on Friday 3rd January 12noon at St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville.

Due to the earlier deadline for Jan Messenger an obituary to Mike Bickerton and Tony Taylor will be in the Feb issue.

Village Coffee Morning at Home 15th January.

Our first at home coffee morning for 2025 is at the Old Post Office Cottage at the bottom of the High Street. All are welcome from 10.30 to 12 noon on Wednesday January 5th. We are a friendly group which meets for a friendly chat over a cuppa, so do come even if you have never been before. Your hosts, Pauline and Alan Grassam, will be pleased to see you.

Pauline Grassam

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy Catford and her team would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next coffee morning which will take place at Hardington village hall on 25th January 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. All profits from the coffee morning go towards running and maintaining the village hall, so thank you all for your continued support.

If anyone is able to offer any help or is willing to make a cake for the next coffee morning, please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301.

HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATIVE

Around the village there are issues with potholes, drainage and the road surface generally. I have been asked by the Parish Council to keep an eye on these issues, report them to Somerset Council Highways Department when it is felt to be appropriate and to update the Parish Council regularly.

Consequently I have been gradually drawing up a list of relevant potholes etc and reporting them on the Somerset Council website (Roads, travel and parking, Report a problem). Clearly however it's a big parish with many lanes so it will be difficult for me to keep abreast of all occurrences so please either e-mail me with any new ones you feel need to be noted or, and this is probably the better method if you can, log it on the Somerset Council website entering either your own email address if you would prefer to monitor it yourself or mine (highways@hardington.net), the latter ensuring that I automatically receive notification of the posting and any subsequent updates. You will also be better able than me to describe the issue having seen it. The Council reporting process can accept photographs. Each call logged receives a reference number so its status can be checked on-line.

Ideally any posting should include ///what3words as it is very helpful in pinpointing the location. It is a free app that needs to be downloaded. I am not an expert on that but have found that if I stand in a pothole with my 'phone and use the app, it gives me a unique location! Wonders will never cease! It's also available on an iPad for example and probably a laptop.

All being well a regular updated report of issues logged will be available on the Hardington website under Parish Council. In due course I hope to publish their guidance on what Somerset Council considers to be a pothole!

Many thanks in advance for your help. I will endeavour to ensure that Somerset Council is at least aware of the state of our lanes. Chris Turner highways@hardington.net.

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

We start the year with our Quiz and Soup Supper on Wednesday 22nd at 7:30pm in the village hall. This annual event is great fun, free to our members, with non members welcome with a £3 entry charge. If you can, please let us know that you are coming at hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com. However, please do come even if you haven't made contact.

2025 subscriptions are now due. We are keeping our subscription unchanged at £15. This is excellent value given that our members are able to take advantage of the 25% discount vouchers and discount evening at the Castle Garden Centre. Not only that, our Secretaries have obtained for us a 50% discount on seeds and 20% on other items at Sutton Seeds. Sutton catalogues and order forms will be available at the January meeting, alongside members' 2025 Programme Cards. Please pay your subscription via BACS into the club account.

As I am sure you all know, we have Nick Bailey of Gardener's World fame coming to speak to us on Wednesday 26th February at 7:30pm. His talk is entitled "365 Days of Colour in your Garden". He is an extremely knowledgeable and engaging speaker and we are delighted that he is coming to Hardington. This is a ticketed event and we have very nearly sold out. Please contact us at the club's email address if you would like one of the last few tickets: £8 members; £12 non members. Sally Thompson.

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER WI

On entering the village hall for our December meeting we were greeted with a beautiful table decoration made for the President's Table by Halina. On sitting down, we were served with mulled wine and nibbles to celebrate Christmas. Next came the fun and games evening where different activities had been prepared for us to participate in. Angela showed us how to make Angels from the pages of an old book, Rowena showed us how to make Beaded Stars, and Linda gave us two quiz sheets. There was much chatter and laughter when Angels heads kept rolling off their bodies! Fortunately by the time we had had tea, mince pies, and Stolon cake a "Choir of Angels" were born. The next WI meeting will be on Wednesday 8th January at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Our evening entertainment will be "GET FIT & STAY FIT" with Stephanie Edwards. All Ladies, old or new to the village, are always welcome to our meetings and can have two free taster meetings to see if WI is for you. You can also bring along friends or relatives who are visitors to the village. Jackie Thomas



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK...

Happy New Year to you all

A little reminder of our opening hours:

We'll be open for lunch on Wednesday 1st January

We are closed on Thursday 2nd

Open for drinks from 5pm Friday 3rd

Then closed completely until Wednesday 8th when normality returns

Thursday 9th January.

QUIZ NIGHT

Join us another fantastic quiz night.

Teams of up to 6 people, £2 entry per person.

All the money raised will go to charity.

Thursday 16th January

Pie Night

Let's kick January off with another of our wonderful Pie Nights; it's likely to be cold, wet and windy in January so cheer yourself up with a trip to the pub, a hearty, home cooked pie and a couple of drink. Book Now.

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th January

Burn's Night Supper

We'll have haggis, neaps and tatties a plenty for our annual Burn's night supper. Always a popular night and always a spectacular menu so go ahead and book now; don't leave it too late!

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 12th	Holy Communion	11.00 am`
Sun 26th	Family Service	10.30 am`

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 12th	Family service.	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 19th	Holy Communion	9.15 am + zoom
Sun 26th	Family service	9.45 am + zoom

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Tues 7th.	Village Hall Draw and Committee Meeting, Village Hall	7.00 pm
Wed. 8th	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome	7.30 pm
Tues 14th	Choir Practice, St Martins of Tours Church, West Coker.	7.30 pm
Wed 15th.	Village Coffee Morning, The Old Post Office, High Street,	10.30-12noon

JANUARY 20th LAST DATE FOR FEBRUARY MESSENGER

Please send copy to: messenger@hardington.net

Tues 21st	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30 pm
Wed 22nd	Garden Club, Village Hall, Quiz & Soup Supper.	7.30 pm
Sat 25th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall, All Welcome.	10.00am-12noon
Tues 28th	Choir Practice, St Martins of Tours Church, West Coker.	7.30 pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club winners for the draw which took place on 4th December 24 were: 1st prize Karen Dodge, 2nd prize Linda Lines and 3rd prize Chris Turner. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the Village Hall. The next draw takes place at the village hall on the evening of 7th January at 7.20 pm (just before our monthly Committee meeting starts) and you are welcome to come along and be present when the draw takes place.

We made a net profit of £141.02 from showing the film 'Wilding' all of which went to village hall funds. There is no film show this month.

Many thanks once again to Dy Catford for donating £217 from her November coffee morning to the Village Hall.

The hall was put to good use recently as The Players were busy with their rehearsals for their production of 'A Christmas Carol'. If you managed to make it to see the final result (despite the strong winds), then you were in for a real treat. Well done to the producers, cast and supporting team for all their hard work. We are required to do a Health and Safety check at the hall every two years. The latest was undertaken on 22nd November 24. Many thanks to Nigel Fowler for his input.

The Committee and Dy have been hard at work selling Christmas raffle tickets on behalf the Rotary Club of Yeovil. Thank you to those of you who have purchased tickets as we expect to receive a generous donation from the Rotary Club (based on the number of tickets sold) at the end of this month. Our electricity bill for the month of November amounted to £932.57.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year

Karen Dodge.

THE RETURN OF THE CHARITY RACE NIGHT AT THE ROYAL OAK

Saturday 15th February 2025

First race at 7:30pm

A great night at the races! Fun for everyone!



Raising money for 'Gareth runs the London Marathon' in aid of the NSPCC.

