

**MARCH 2024**



**SPRING IS IN THE AIR!**

## **AROUND THE VILLAGE**

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

Alan Grassam had family visiting from Cornwall and France to help with the celebrations of his 'special' birthday in February.

Rose and Bernard White were delighted to welcome their first grandchild, Arthur Hignett White, a son for their daughter Maia and her partner Chris.

Ali Trickett and Keith Blackmore welcomed a new granddaughter Mia Alison, a first child for Chloe and her partner Martin. Congratulations to everyone.

### **GET WELL WISHES:**

Several of our community have been unwell, either in hospital or receiving treatment as out-patients. We send our love and good wishes to them all in their recoveries, including Pete Skellern recovering from an accident.

### **WELCOME BACK:**

Emma Fitzgerald has moved back to the village, to 2 Railway Cottages Hardington Marsh, next door to her parents. We wish you every happiness in her new home.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year's service to be held at St Michael and All Angels, East Coker on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March has been arranged by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine. Over 146 different countries take part on this day, starting as the sun rises in Samoa and continues to make its way around the earth until the sun sets over American Samoa. This service has been planned over at least the past 5 years, so before the latest unrest in the Gaza. Let us join together praying that the differences and difficulties encountered by all religions in the area may bring to an end human suffering and help achieve security and peace for all people. **All** are welcome to join us for this service and for refreshments afterwards.

WDP committee.

### **FROG AND TOAD PATROL**

This year the annual migration to their breeding ponds started much earlier than usual, in late January. With the mild wet weather, we have been kept busy so far.

Jo Szmaj has saved over 45 amphibians to date, she has been very diligent often going out twice nightly! There have been some evenings when they have been almost queuing up to get into Penn House grounds! Inevitably there have been some casualties which is always sad to see. For the first time a dead newt was found.

Please be aware that over the next month or so there may be these amphibians making their way to and from their spawning ponds, mostly in Penn Lane but also the High Street down as far as the Church. They are easily spotted so do try to avoid them and better still move them to a safe place preferably in the direction in which they were facing. Signs are now in place. Very importantly please be aware of people out on toad patrol. They should be easily seen with Hi Viz jackets, head torches and carrying buckets. Should you wish to join a team please contact, Steve Menhennett 863642 or Sue Phillips 862866.

The Toad Patrol

## VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNING 13TH MARCH

For our next village at home coffee morning we move from the bottom of the High Street to the top at Windmill Cottage, home of Sue Phillips. You will receive a warm welcome and an excellent cup of coffee or tea. Plus of course, the chance to chat with friends old and new, and catch up with the latest village news.

All are welcome, don't be shy if you have never been to one of these convivial village get togethers before. So make a note in your diaries now: 10.30-12 noon, Wednesday 13th March.

Pauline Grassam

### Annual Village Breakfast

Don't forget to order your tickets for the annual Village Breakfast on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March in the village hall from 8.30am – 12 noon. Timed tickets are available from Springfield Stores – adults: £8, children aged 4-10 years: £6, and children aged 0-3 years: £4. Booking is essential, as no tickets are sold on the door. Breakfast consists of orange juice, toast and marmalade, a choice of cereal and of course a freshly cooked, full English breakfast. **Please order vegetarian/vegan or mention any dietary requirements when booking your ticket.** We use local suppliers where possible. This year, the proceeds will be split between three village charities: the Village Hall, St Mary's Church and the Village Messenger. Should you have a raffle prize you wish to donate, or an item to contribute to one of our hamper prizes, there is a box at Daphne's. Although the breakfast is primarily organised by the WI, offers of help from non- members are gratefully received. Please contact Angela Brooks on 01935 862900.

### East/West Coker RBL Special Cheese and Wine Evening.

The Decadettes entertained us in 2022 and now they are back to delight us once again at our next cheese and wine evening. They will be back on stage at the East Coker Village Hall on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are £12.50, including food and a glass of wine. You can buy tickets from Marilyn Smith (863944), Jill Holland (862782) or Jude Petheram (863531). Join us for an evening of good food, wine and top entertainment.

David Giles

### Street Fayre 2024

Our next event is the Quiz Night on March 22. 7 for 7.30 in the Village Hall. Tickets only £5 from Springfield Stores. Bring a team of up to 6; or turn up and join a table. Cream Teas will now be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Andrew Middleton

## Hardington & Pendomer WI

During the winter months, we try to use speakers local to us, and for our February meeting, we couldn't have found anyone much closer. Local resident and WI member Ally Howard gave us a light hearted talk about her career in mental health. Ally knew from a young age that she wanted to be a mental health nurse and has worked in this field for over 40 years. She told us how she began training as a nurse in Poole at a time when matrons ruled the wards. After qualifying, Ally worked as a mental health nurse, first of all in psychiatric hospitals, before they were closed to allow for care in the community, then rose through the ranks to become a senior practitioner in both hospitals and the prison service. Ally stills works part-time in this field today where she continues to champion the rights of both patients and professionals. It was a funny and inspirational talk about a world unfamiliar to many of us.

Our WI has 2 skittles team who play regularly in a league for all the WIs in the Crewkerne group of WIs. We are delighted to say that our A team were champions of the league at the end of last season and Angela Brooks received a trophy for having the highest average score for a player in the group.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. It is organised by our members, and not the committee. Ladies, who are new to the village or to the WI, are welcome to join us for 2 free sessions. Visiting ladies are welcome to join us at a meeting for a fee of £5. Please contact either Margaret Casey on 01935 321615 or Sue Phillips 01935 862866 if you wish to attend.

### Hardington Players: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2 open reading sessions we recently held in the hall, exploring AMND. It was lovely to see so many people and to welcome new faces. The plan going forward is to hold another group of sessions where we take selected scenes from the play, explore them in a little more detail and bring them to life by acting them out.

The proposed dates are:

Monday 25 March

Monday 8 April

Monday 15 April

All will take place in the Village Hall at 7-30pm. The sessions remain open to Hardington Players' members and non-members alike, so please come along and share the information with anyone you feel might be interested. If you'd like to know more, please contact Clare ([clare@themiddletons.org](mailto:clare@themiddletons.org)) or Tanya ([tanyaogden15@gmail.com](mailto:tanyaogden15@gmail.com))

Tanya Ogden.

Secretary Hardington Players

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

I should like to remind everyone that our '100 Club' is due to start again in May. If you would like to apply to join the club, and to stand a chance of winning one of three prizes each month, you will find an application form together with more information at the back of this month's Messenger. I do hope that you will consider joining for another year as the 100 Club raises much needed funds to help run and maintain the Village Hall - the cost of a ticket still works out at less than 25p a week! The February 100 Club winners were: 1st prize Ellie Hooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Chris Turner and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Sally Knibbs. Congratulations !

Our film shows start again on 21st March when we will be showing the highly acclaimed film 'One Life' at the Village Hall. 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.

The six monthly check of our fire alarm system was completed by SES on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The cooker was professionally cleaned on 5<sup>th</sup> February and we have accepted a quote for work to start addressing the damp problem at the hall. Our energy contract comes up for renewal on 30<sup>th</sup> April and we are currently looking at energy providers to find the best competitor. However, our energy bill may well increase by 40-50% above the current price paid each month.

I should like to thank Dy Catford for donating £215 from her coffee morning which was held on 27 Jan to our Village Hall funds. Thank you also to everyone who helps support Dy in making her coffee mornings a success.

On 30<sup>th</sup> January, the Rotary Club of Yeovil presented a cheque to the Village Hall in the sum of £415 following the sale of their Community Christmas Draw raffle tickets. I should like to thank the Rotary Club for their hard work in supporting charities.

Karen Dodge

## VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Thank you so much for continuing to support Dy's coffee mornings which raises much needed funds for the village hall as well as offering you the chance to meet up with neighbours and friends. We look forward to seeing you at the March coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. 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 offer a range of teas as well as instant or filter coffees. There will also be a raffle.

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.

**HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON**  
in association with  
**SOMERSET MOVIOLA**  
proudly presents

**ONE LIFE**  
**(12A)**

The story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.


in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on  
Thursday 21st March.

**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)

  
**Moviola**  
charity no 107058

## **No Half Measures down at Halves Lane Rec**

### **West Coker & Hardington CC Winter Update**

Cricket followers' attention may be focused in India at the moment, but with the help of Somerset Cricket Foundation, your local Cricket Club have been busy pulling in ideas and putting plans in place to make Halves Lane a thriving club and community focal point for years to come.

Our first home league game on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> may seem a long way off but there are many other exciting developments going on in 2024 :-

-Winter nets are running now until end April at Westfield Academy from 5pm - 10pm with supervised sessions for juniors (boys & girls), women and adults.

-A women's soft ball team has been newly established and they are proud and excited to be the first women's team at the club.

-We have U10 and U12 fixtures for our mixed youth section following a successful re-launch of All Stars and Dynamos programmes last year. U10 Sunday am, U12 Monday evening.

-The All stars and Dynamos Friday night coaching and family evenings will run again this year from early May to mid July. Details can be found on our socials (Facebook or Instagram) and through searching All Stars and/or Dynamos Programmes. Be sure to select West Coker & Hardington as your club of choice.

-After promotion, the adult Saturday team are playing this year in Somerset Division 4.

-The Panthers team have both Sunday and midweek evening fixtures lined up.

-Additional midweek social evening fixtures are also being arranged.

-New outdoor nets are being installed at the ground, when the ground dries up!

-Keep a look out for our fun social evenings, where everyone is welcome.

-2025 also promises to be a great milestone year as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Finally, we welcome all of our communities to share in our enjoyment of cricket and welcome anyone into our 'family' whether to play, volunteer, sponsor or become a social member and enjoy the sound of leather on willow, good company and definitely no half measures! We will be giving more updates on home fixtures in the next issue, and in the meantime if this article has piqued your interest then please feel free to contact us :-Kris Pearse 07816 454175 – cricket matters and sponsorship .

Martin Heath 07582 969131- volunteers, social membership.Or email [westcokerhardingtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:westcokerhardingtoncc@gmail.com)

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

### **The February Meeting...**

There were two planning applications discussed on the agenda this month. The first was for a replacement two-storey house at Orchard Cottage, Moor Lane. The new cottage will be further from the road. A resolution was passed to support the application. The second application was for the removal of two existing single-storey extensions, to be replaced by a two-storey extension (along with internal alterations) at Moor Farm, Moor Lane. The Parish Council also agreed to support this application.

There was also a 'Notification of Planning application only' from the Somerset Council, proposing a small rear extension at Olde Track, Hill End (this is notification only as the proposed extension falls within the thresholds that allow for larger home extensions).

A temporary road closure has been received for Lyatts Hill. The works are expected to commence on 11th March 2024 and last for 5 days to enable Wessex Water to install a new connection.

New footpath gates have been installed on footpath Y10/4 (Malcom's wood) to replace the existing damaged stiles.

An email has been received from Somerset Council stating that they are increasing the cost of the "Parish Ranger Scheme" from £23.79 per hour to £45.67 per hour (93% increase) due to increasing costs for the service. Several lower quoted rates have already been received for similar services and it was agreed the Clerk should follow these up.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 in the Village Hall on the 19th March and 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



# CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

## Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mothering Sunday. Family Service.	10.30am
Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Holy Communion	10.00 am
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> .	(Good Friday) -Prayers at the Foot of the Cross -	2.00pm
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	9.30am

## Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	9.15 am + zoom
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	No service	
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Day Communion	9.30am + zoom

## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	World Day of Prayer, St. Michael's, East Coker, All Welcome	2.30pm
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville.	7.30pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Village Coffee Morning, Windmill Cottage, High Street, W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome.	10.30-12noon 7.30pm
Sat. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Village Breakfast, Village Hall, Tickets available from P.O.	8.30am-12noon
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm

## MARCH 20th LAST DATE FOR APRIL MESSENGER

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

Thur 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hollywood in Hardington, 'One Life' Village Hall,	2.30pm & 7.30pm
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Street Fayre Quiz, Village Hall.	7.30pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	Players reading session, VillageHall.	7.30pm
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> .	Choir Practise St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville.	7.30pm
Thur 28 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall. All Welcome	10am- 12noon

## WEEKLY EVENTS



## **WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK**

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Mother's Day**

We still have tables available on our early (midday) and late (3.30pm) sittings for Mother's Day.

Enjoy our delicious Sunday roast and maybe a homemade pudding to celebrate those special women in your lives.

### **Thursday 21st March**

#### **Pie Night**

Join us for another of our fantastic Pie Nights. A menu full of really tasty homemade pies and traditional suet pudding.

Book now!

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

#### **Easter Charity Bingo**

Book a table now for Sara and Trudie's Easter Bingo night – raising money for their very long walk, in aid of Macmillan Cancer support.

Eyes down 7.30pm

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

#### **Easter Sunday lunch**

We'll be serving our brilliant Sunday roasts on Easter Sunday. Book now to avoid disappointment.

**01935 862354**

**[www.royaloakhardington.co.uk](http://www.royaloakhardington.co.uk)**

## **Hardington Village Hall 100 Club**

**Hardington Village Hall Committee** wish you all a **very Happy Easter** and invite you to join their "100" Club. The cost is £12 per year per entry, you may have more than one. The Village Hall Committee raise valuable funds every year that are used to maintain and improve the hall.

The draw will take place each month at the Village Hall Committee Meeting. Fifty percent of the income will be shared between three lucky winners. The full rules of the 100 Club are displayed in the Notice Board at the village hall.

If you are over sixteen years of age and would like to participate, please fill in the application form below and return it to Daphne Creed at Springfield Stores, who will issue you with a ticket.

Please be assured that your personal details will only be used to communicate with prize winners.

Charity Commission Number 304551

### **100 Club Application Form**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Tel : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Number of entries \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment : \_\_\_\_\_