

MARCH 2026

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

## **HARDINGTON STREET FAYRE**

### **YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU**



Yes ... we really do mean you!

### **WHY BOTHER?**

Because the Street Fayre only works when the village comes together. A little help from many people = a brilliant day for everyone.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We have many tasks for all levels of ability and availability. If you can spare a little time we'd love to hear from you!

#### **Get in touch:**

[hardingtonsfvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:hardingtonsfvolunteers@gmail.com)

Andrew Walters - 07872 317284

## AROUND THE VILLAGE

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Frances and Peter Southcombe on the birth of their first great grandchild, a daughter Thoruun for their granddaughter Kate and her husband Luke. Tanya and Stewart Ogden have become grandparents for the first time. Thea Iris Charalambous was born recently to their daughter Jess and her husband Nik. Congratulations to you all.

What started off as a 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration for Caroline Sweetland, turned into a joint birthday/engagement. Congratulations to Caroline and Richard.

**GOOD LUCK:** We send our good wishes to Annie and Neil Dyer who have moved from Bishops Farm after many years. They will be missed and we wish them well in their new home.

**WELCOME:** To the new occupants of Bishops Farm, Christine and George Perkins. Hopefully we shall be seeing you at some of the varied events in the village and hope you will be happy here.

**CONDOLENCES:** Sadly, we report the death of Chris White, born and bred in the village but sadly, due to illness has been in a home since his mother's death a few years ago. Chris was buried in the churchyard following a service in February. We send our condolences to his family and friends. Also, long term villager Joan Whiteman has recently died. Joan moved with her husband Pete and daughters in 1970, initially living in Bolshay and Bridgehay and more recently in the Moor. A member of the WI for over 50 years and supporter of many village activities, Joan will be missed by all. We send our condolences to her family and friends. Many will remember Hag (Hugh Harris) who along with his ex-partner Paula ran the Royal Oak (Sonny's) for many years. Hag being a keen biker first introduced 'Bike Night' to Sonny's. Condolences are sent to his family and many friends.

**THANKS:** Stephen Menhennett aided by his wife Halina has been the coordinator for Froglife for the past few years. They arranged the purchasing of the new boards and kindly donated the poles for them. Stephen has decided to give this job up and I would like to thank him for what he has done. Simon Farr has kindly offered to take over as coordinator.

Sue Phillips

## APOLOGIES

We expect you noticed the 'gremlins' had had some fun with last month's Village Hall report, as it seemed similar to January's. In fact, it was January's! We hope you all saw the amended version online or in the shop. Apologies to the VH committee that this error was missed.

Editorial Team

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm St Michael and All Angels, East Coker**

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 in March at St. Michaels. There will be light refreshments following the service. Look out for the notices about this service around the villages. **ALL WELCOME, SO DO JOIN US.** World Day of Prayer Committee

## **VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNING 18/03/26**

Hopefully we will have some sun for our next "at home" coffee morning. This is at Sunridge the home of Laurence Payton, which is located half way up the High Street. The date is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30 to 12 noon. We would love some newcomers, but all are assured of a very warm welcome. There is a rumour that hot cross buns will be on offer so why not come along and find out. Pauline Grassam

The driveway at Sunridge is long and steep, with no wall or handrail for support. If you wish to come by car, there is plenty of room to park up by the house. To avoid the steps up to the front door (again, with no handrail), please come through the gate in between the house and the garage, make your way onto the patio, and then come to the door just after, and facing, the conservatory. Jammy Hot Cross Buns may be making a reappearance! Laurence Payton

## **JOAN WHITEMAN**

Pete ,Elaine, and Dy Would like to thank everyone for the kind words and messages of sympathy they have received after the sad passing of Joan/ Mum.

The family moved to Hardington 55 years ago and instantly enjoyed village life. Joan made many friends easily and soon became a big part of the village enjoying all it had to offer. W.I. was a big part of her life as were the many other events and activities she took part in, she was known to many for her scone and cake making skills .

Joan's funeral will be held at St Mary's Hardington on Monday 9th March at 12 .o'clock. Afterwards please come, if you can, to the Village Hall, and celebrate with the family, Joan's wonderful 93 years . Pete, Elaine and Dy

## **HARDINGTON & PENDOMER WI**

Our February meeting started as usual with business matters and birthday flowers were presented. Our skittles 'A' team received the trophy for first place in the Crewkerne group competition, with our 'B' team coming third. Sue Phillips explained how members could knit neck warmers for Ukrainian soldiers and the Craft and Chatter Group gave an update on knitting poppies for the Standing with Giants project in Normandy.

Our President, Denise Riddell, appealed again for a volunteer or volunteers to take on the role of Secretary. It would be very sad if our W.I. had to close at the end of March since we would be due to celebrate our eighty-fifth birthday in April. Our committee has pledged its full support to any volunteer.

Our speaker was Mr Matthew Hall who specialises in joint replacement surgery, particularly in the hip and knee areas. He is also the Trauma lead at Yeovil District Hospital. He's committed to a patient-centred approach, ensuring each patient receives personalised care. It was very refreshing to hear how he takes patients on a journey, with the end goal being to restore their quality of life, free from pain and discomfort. Several members had experience of joint replacements – one by Dr Hall – and one commented that she now sometimes forgets that her joints are not her own! Some of us might need the services of the Orthopaedic Clinic at Yeovil one day and we feel we will be in safe hands.

Refreshments, including delicious cakes, were then served.

Our next meeting, on 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, will be our AGM. Alex and Rowena Murray, two of our members, will be giving a talk entitled "Two weeks on a Kenyan building site". Ladies who are new to the village or to the WI are welcome to join us for 2 free meetings, visiting ladies are welcome to join us for a meeting for a fee of £5.

Margaret Casey

## **JUMBLE SALE**

**SATURDAY MARCH 21ST 2PM - 4PM**

**Hardington Mandeville Village Hall.**

FREE ENTRY : Bric-A-Brac, New Goods, Books, Toys and Refreshments. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church Fabric Fund. Enquiries - Daphne @ [01935 862363](tel:01935862363) Donations received Friday 20th March 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Village Hall or Saturday morning (21st) from 10 a.m.

## **East/West Coker Branch RBL.**

### **Annual Cheese and Wine Evening at East Coker Village Hall**

A date for your diary, planning is already underway for our next **Cheese and Wine Evening on 17th April**, and it promises to be another wonderful community occasion. We are delighted to confirm that **Somer Singers** will be joining us, bringing an evening of excellent music to accompany the good food and wine.

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting a £1,000 cheque to the Legion's Somerset County Welfare Fund, which provides vital support to members of the Armed Services community in need. Events like our Cheese and Wine Evenings play a major role in raising these funds. Your support truly makes a difference. By joining us, spreading the word, or simply encouraging others to attend, you help ensure we can continue this important work.

**Venue: East Coker Village Hall. Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April. Start: 7:30 pm. Tickets: £14 (includes food and a glass of wine), available from: Jill Holland (tel 862782), Jude Petheram (tel 863531), Marilyn Smith (tel 863944) Dave Giles Chair East/West Coker Branch.**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **Hardington Village Flower, Produce and Craft Show: 29 August 26**

This year's Flower and Craft Show will take place on Saturday 29 August, and as always, it's a wonderful chance to share the fruits of your creativity—whether that's home-grown vegetables and flowers, home-made preserves and bakes, or any other imaginative makes you've been working on. Alongside the much-loved regular classes, we're introducing a few new ones this year. In the Handicraft section you'll find a brand-new class, "Made of Wood", and in the Junior categories we're inviting entries for Lego models (not from a kit.)

This year's Photography subjects are:

- Portrait
- Flash of Red
- Patterns in Nature
- Any Subject: a black and white photograph

Further details about the Show and the full list of classes will be shared soon.

Tanya Ogden Flower and Craft Show Committee

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

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

A planning application for Hillcroft House (Broad Hill) for the 'Demolition of the existing stable block and hay store, and the erection of a replacement stable block' was discussed. The existing stable block is in a poor condition. The proposed replacement will be on a similar footprint and height with a timber finish and not rendered. A resolution was passed to support the application.

On the 'Highways' section, it will probably be of no surprise to anyone that 'potholes' was the main subject discussed! If you come across one them please to go ahead and report it here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

The contractor has now completed the tarmacing of the footpath between Moor Lane and the Village shop. Wheelchair users can now use the lane safely without fear of accident! This was funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money received for the new houses built at Tall Elms.

The clerk reported that an email from 'Yeovil Without Parish Council' has been received, asking neighbouring PCs to cosign a joint letter to the Secretary of State regarding the New Medium Helicopter program and the future of Leonardo Helicopters UK in Yeovil. They have asked them to decouple the NMH contract from the Defense Investment Plan and to award the contract to Leonardo without further delay. It was agreed that Hardington PC would cosign the joint letter.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th March, 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

### **VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING**

Thank you all once again for supporting Dy's monthly coffee mornings. We look forward to seeing you at our next coffee morning which takes place at Hardington village hall on 28th March 2026. Family, friends, neighbours and newcomers to the village are all 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 try to accommodate you. We also hold a raffle. Just to remind you that the coffee mornings usually 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.

## Hardington Wildlife by Nicola Maybury

It appears I've unconsciously bypassed winter and am shifting, with a great effort of will, into a spring-like frame of mind! It's a kind of self-preservation tactic, I think, as I try to overcome the subduing effects of these very wet, very dreary days. Squelching around the waterlogged garden and sloshing through endless puddles on the lanes, it's hard to imagine the warming cheer of a spring day, but the signs are there. Life is pushing its way upwards, visible in buds and shoots, and thankfully not subject, as I am, to the January blues.

While it's tempting to lament that this winter season has been utterly devoid of sunshine, my nature notebook jottings tell a slightly different story. The cold and dry spell we enjoyed during the Christmas festivities lasted well into the new year and gave us some spectacular sunrises. During several early morning walks in January, I had the company of a dozen or so lapwing, an all too rare treat these days. Growing up in Suffolk, we would see large flocks of these beautiful birds in the fields all around us, rising up on their distinctive rounded wings and settling back down to feed on earthworms and leatherjackets. I imagine it was the same here in Somerset. Sadly, the lapwing population has halved since my childhood, so it was a thrill even to see a handful of them – monochrome from a distance but, through binoculars, deep green and shimmering with purple iridescence.

As we start to round the corner of a monumentally wet winter, there are plenty of small sightings to lift the spirits. Primroses, daffodils and snowdrops are on show around the village, demonstrating an enviable resilience to wind and rain. Hazel catkins dangle in the hedgerows, these little lamb's tails filling up with pollen that releases in a cloud of yellow at the slightest touch. In the fleeting sunshine, buttery celandine and purple crocuses open their petals wide to early bumblebees, offering a hit of sweet nectar in return for a swipe of pollen. A natty little marmalade hoverfly spreads its wings and warms itself on the front grass as I perch on the soggy garden bench with my morning coffee and attempt to do the same. At the edge of the little wood behind our house, I record 15 different types of birdsong, from blackcap to redwing to goldcrest – an early morning wake-up call which fills me with optimism for the week ahead.

As the season turns and springtime officially gets underway, daylight increases by a whopping two hours between the start and the end of March. Something to celebrate there, I'm sure you'll agree.

### CONCERT IN PENDOMER CHURCH

On Sunday March 29th at 3pm the Kilima Piano Trio (Piano, violin and cello) will present a recital of trios by Dvorak, Rachmaninov Shostakovitch and Turina. Tickets £15, children free. Refreshments afterwards. Please come and enjoy some beautiful music in this lovely church.

Robin Carpenter [robinsheila@icloud.com](mailto:robinsheila@icloud.com), 07472 160506

## HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

We have local gardening hero Katherine Crouch from Norton sub Hamdon coming to talk to us about “Growing the food you cannot buy”, on Wednesday 25th March at 7:30pm in the village hall. Katherine is one of life’s gardening enthusiasts who has taken her passion on to TV to win Garden Designer of the Year, and then the Decade. She also won the prestigious gold medal for her Chelsea Flower Show “Kings Seeds 125th Anniversary” exhibit.

In a world of easy supermarket shopping why bother to grow your own food? “Much better taste” would probably be the first answer but a close second must come the fact that the supermarket shelves do not stock the more tricky crops with a lower yield and shorter shelf life. There are some vegetables that you just can’t easily buy. With Katherine’s advice we can all be turned into adventurous vegetable growers amazing our family and friends with unique garden produce and surprising the judges at this year’s Flower Show on 29th August. So we look forward to seeing everyone on 25th March. Visitors very welcome.

Meanwhile, tickets are on sale now for Neil Lucas of Knoll Gardens, world renowned expert on grasses, who is coming to speak to us on 22nd April. £6 Members; £10 Visitors. If you would like a ticket let us know at [hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com). You can pay by BACS or purchase tickets at this month’s meeting. All welcome. Sally Thomson

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

**Downton Abbey**  
**The Grand Finale**  
**(PG)**

The cinematic return of the global phenomenon follows the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s. As the beloved cast of characters navigates how to lead Downton Abbey into the future, they must embrace change and welcome a new chapter.


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



## **Hardington Players – Programme for 2026 WORKSHOPS**

### **Practical Acting & Stagecraft Skills - Led by Tanya**

Two practical sessions exploring acting and stagecraft techniques.

Monday 16 March 7-30pm

Thursday 26 March – 7.30pm

#### **> Play Readings**

### **A Man For All Seasons – Robert Bolt - Led by Paul**

Monday 13 April – 7.30pm

Wednesday 15 April – 7.30pm

Monday 20 April – 7.30pm

### **Handbagged – Moira Buffini - Led by Jane**

Thursday 14 May – 7.30pm

Monday 18 May – 7.30pm

Thursday 28 May – 7.30pm

#### **> Possible Additional Readings**

### **Laying the Ghost – Simon Williams - Led by Janet**

Dates in June to be confirmed.

### **Informal Reading: Hamlet - Led by Clare and Tanya**

Dates to be confirmed.

#### **> Rehearsed Readings**

Rehearsed readings will follow the initial play readings if participants wish to bring selected scenes to the stage. Dates to be confirmed.

#### **> Winter Production 2026 – Alice in Wonderland - Directed by Clare.**

Performance dates: 4 & 5 December 2026, including a Saturday matinee.

Readings, casting, and script distribution to take place over the summer.

Rehearsals will begin in September.

Activities will take place in Hardington Village Hall and are open to current members and to anyone else interested in coming along. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

Tanya (Secretary Hardington Players)

[tanyaogden15@gmail.com](mailto:tanyaogden15@gmail.com) 07779309914

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 4th February 26 and the winners were: 1st prize Sandie Hubbard, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Jill Kusta and 3rd prize Malcolm White. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall on 4th March 26 at 7.20pm. I should like to remind you that this years' 100 club starts 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 in this months' Messenger. The cost of a ticket still works out at less than 25p a week! We look forward to seeing you at our film show this month which takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> March when we will be showing 'Downton Abbey The Grand Finale'. As usual there will be two performances, a matinee starting at 2pm and an evening performance at 7.30pm. The hall will open 30 minutes before the start of each film. Please see our posters for more information. We have a break half way through the film to enable you to purchase cakes/ refreshments and we also have a bar in the evening. The Committee would like to thank Dy Catford for donating £265 from her January coffee morning to our village hall funds. Our energy costs came to £1260.73 for the month of January 26.

The invoice for the cost and installation of the new water heater in the kitchen has been received and amounted to £374.94. The oven in the kitchen was cleaned on 5<sup>th</sup> February 26 and SES completed their 6 monthly check of the fire alarm system on 6 February 26.

Roll on spring!!

Karen Dodge.

Application form to be returned to Daphne at Springfield stores. £11 per annum.

### 100 Club Application Form

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

### 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> | NO SERVICE      |        |

Sun 29<sup>th</sup>. United Benefice Communion Service W. Coker. 10.00am

### DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

|                       |   |              |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>   | Village Hall Draw & 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       |
| Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Village Home Coffee Morning, Sunridge, High Street, | 10.30-12noon |

### MARCH 20th LAST DATE FOR APRIL MESSENGER

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

|                       |   |                |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Sat.21 <sup>st</sup>  | Jumble Sale, Village Hall, In Aid of St Mary's Church | 2.00 - 4.00pm  |
| 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-12noon |

### 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.                                | 10.00pm |
| Fri  | Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Hardington.          | 7.45pm  |



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Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Mother's Day Afternoon**  
**Tea**

From 3-5pm  
Bring your lovely Mum out for  
a delicious afternoon tea to  
celebrate her and her  
wonderfulness.

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Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Pie Night**

Join us for another of our  
fantastic pie nights and  
enjoy tasty, homemade  
pies and puddings.

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**What's On At**  
**The Royal Oak**

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Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Quiz Night**

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

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Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Mother's Day**

Book Now for one of our  
three sittings and treat  
your brilliant Mum to a  
roast she doesn't have to  
cook

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

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