

MAY 2024



Hardington and Pendomer W.I. Celebrating their 83rd Birthday

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Hardington born and bred, Rex Partridge celebrated his 90th birthday in April with his family. Carol Vallis travelled to the Isle of Man for her special celebrations and Jo Szmaj also celebrated a 'special' birthday. Sue Phillips is pleased to announce the safe arrival of her new grandson, Rory Douglas George. Rory is the second son for Chris and his wife Susie and brother for Oliver. Congratulations to them all.

GET WELL: We are pleased to see Sally Thompson has made a good recovery after her operation earlier in the year and Charlotte Marriott is making good progress following her riding accident. Nick Lunt is now recovering well at home after his recent operation. Our good wishes to them and anyone else who has been unwell recently.

WELL DONE: Congratulations to Duncan Bagshaw for running the London Marathon in traditional golfing clothes and carrying a set of golf clubs! Duncan was raising funds for Prostate Cancer.

GOOD LUCK: Sara Primmer, Trudie Turner and Holly are walking for Macmillan Cancer Support at the end of May.

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

We are really looking forward to the return of Mickey Little on Wednesday 22nd May at 7:30pm in the village hall. Mickey Little is one of life's gardening enthusiasts. His breadth of horticultural knowledge is immense, having trained at Cannington Horticulture College, practised as a nurseryman at Kelways, then going on to become head gardener at Castle Drogo and Hestercombe, and lately head propagator at Avon Bulbs. We have asked him to speak about Roses, a topic that has been much requested by our members. It will certainly be an informative and fun evening. Non members are very welcome.

Saturday 11th May is the annual Plant Sale from 1-4pm. This year we will be at the village hall raising money for Skool Beanz, our selected local community enterprise initiative run by the amazing Lara Honnor, inspiring children to garden. Lara will be with us for the afternoon if you want to come and chat to her and hear more about Skool Beanz. On sale will be lots of plants, garden ephemera and books. There will be plenty of refreshments so do please bring friends and family.

Sally Thompson

VILLAGE BREAKFAST 2024

What a lovely social morning and great teamwork!

An amazing £755.59 was raised and the proceeds will go to The Village Hall £350, St Mary's Church £250 and The Messenger £150.

The Breakfast is initiated by The WI but could not happen without the support from villagers and friends. Many thanks to all who supported the event: from helping to organise, giving donations, making up the hampers, helping on Friday and Saturday and coming along to enjoy The Breakfast.

Angela Brooks

VILLAGE HOME COFFEE AFTERNOON MAY 16TH

Our next home coffee afternoon is on Thursday May 16th. It is at Springfield Stores by kind invitation of Daphne. All are welcome for a chat and a catchup over a cuppa. Don't be shy if you haven't joined us before; you will be made very welcome. Pauline Grassam

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy Catford and her team would like to thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to seeing you at our next coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 25th May. Families and friends are very welcome, so do come along and try the delicious goodies on offer. 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 indulge in 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. Profits from the coffee morning go towards supporting the village hall, so do come along, enjoy the food and company and support the hall at the same time. 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.

STREET FAYRE

All is progressing for the Fayre on 6 July. The next event for your diary is: Cream Teas 18th May, at Hardington House, from 2-4pm. Tickets £5 from Springfield stores. As ever, the Fayre needs volunteers – please contact: andrew.walters@hotmail.com if you can assist

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our '100 Club' starts again this month and I should like to thank everyone who has purchased a ticket. The April 100 Club winners were: 1st prize Liz Brown, 2nd prize Sandy Hubbard and 3rd prize Helen Parrott. Congratulations to you all and thank you all for supporting the Village Hall. The next draw takes place at the village hall on the evening of 1st May 24 (this is also the date of our AGM) you are welcome to come along and be present when the draw takes place.

Our last two films have proved to be very popular and our next film 'Wonka' will be shown at the hall on 23rd May. As usual, 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.

I should also like to thank Dy Catford for donating £245 from her March coffee morning to the Village Hall funds, our coffee mornings continue to be very popular and well supported and I hope that you will be able to make it to the next one which is on 25th May at the Village Hall.

We also received a donation of £350 from the W.I. as a result of the Village Breakfast which took place on 16th March. These events take an awful lot of planning and organising and we are very grateful to all those who put their time and effort into making this a very enjoyable social event.

Karen Dodge.

THANKS TO HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Enormous thanks are due to the members of the Hardington Garden Club who have done such an amazing job pruning the crab apple trees in St.Mary's churchyard; the work is extremely labour intensive and taxing and they have done it in all weathers, to ensure that a long overdue proper prune was carried out. New shoots are already visible and thanks to the Garden Club, the village can look forward to a wonderful display of blossom in the future. I know the whole village will want to join with the Churchwardens and the PCC of St Mary's in expressing their gratitude.

St. Mary's Church.

CANDLES FOR UKRAINE

Would you like to help make a difference to the lives of all those people who continue to suffer in Ukraine?The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Programme are coordinating an initiative to send candles, some new, some party used of any size including butt ends, to the thousands of people in Ukraine who are struggling without power; this is especially relevant now, since as I write this, much of their electricity supply has been demolished and people are being left without heat and light while sheltering from bombing. You will all be aware that the infrastructure in Ukraine continues to be under immense pressure and people - many old and very young among them - are trying to survive in low temperatures without heat and light.

The Swindon programme makes trench candles to provide a heat source for cold Ukrainians as well as creating large blocks of wax from odds and ends that are sent to volunteers in Ukraine, who make huge numbers of candles for the local population. So far around 30 tonnes of candles have been sent to Ukraine but it is never enough.

If you would like to make a contribution, you can donate your used candles by leaving them in the box marked CANDLES in the front porch of Rydon Farm,High Street. In anticipation of the generosity of the village. Thank you. Fiona Chadwick

East/West Coker RBL: New date for our Cheese and Wine Evening.

We are happy to confirm a new date for our Cheese and Wine Evening with the Decadettes. They will be appearing at the East Coker Village Hall at 19:30 on Saturday June 1st. All tickets remain valid, if you have previous bought a ticket but no longer have it please contact whoever sold your ticket for a new one, details below.

If you are unable to attend the evening, contact one of the numbers below for a full refund.Marilyn Smith 01935 863944, Jill Holland 01935 862782, Jude Petheram 01935 863531. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me on 07733 22 3806.

Dave Giles Chair East/West Coker RBL

Annual Party in The Park 2024 Sunday 9th June at 1.00pm

Our annual Party in The park will take place in the recreation field on Sunday 9th June starting at 1.00pm. This is open to all residents of Hardington and Pendomer and any friends/family visiting that weekend. The party is kindly sponsored by Ernest Kong on behalf of the Mary Wang Foundation. .

As last year we will set up long tables to create a Street Party atmosphere but villagers are asked to bring their own chairs. There will be a bar selling beer, wine, Pimms and soft drinks, a BBQ with Burgers, sausages and veggie option and of course the renowned Tea tent with homemade cakes. And once again a classic car display.

Music will be provided by Michael Mochan who put on a brilliant performance last year.

We can't run this event without your help and so please DO get in touch if you can volunteer on the day helping set up/take down, on the bar or BBQ. Just an hour or so would be much appreciated.

Anne Lunt (07769 678208 annelunt@btinternet.com)

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday Hardington and Pendomer WI on our 83rd birthday! We were also joined at our April meeting by members from West Chinnock, Haselbury Plucknett, Misterton and East Chinnock to celebrate and it was lovely to see everyone.

Business matters were firstly discussed and up and coming events mentioned, there is always a good choice and variety of things to join in with or get involved.

We then went on to raise a glass together and enjoy some delicious cake which was kindly made by Kate Palmer to mark the occasion. It was a nice opportunity to chat, catch up as well as meet new friends. This was followed by a very enjoyable presentation by Lottie Dale on "Falling with Style". Lottie introduced herself and told us how her incredible love of skydiving was inspired from an early age by her father. Lottie described her journey and some very special moments along the way. Lottie went on to complete 1200 dives over seventeen years to include formation flying. It was a very enjoyable and inspirational talk.

Next month in May is our AGM meeting and will be followed by a games night. Anyone wanting to give the WI a go is welcome to come along for two sessions free of charge.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Halina Menhennet

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 12th -18th MAY 2024

For Christian Aid Week this year, the focus is on Burundi, where for Aline, life was a constant struggle. Forced to marry young and giving birth to her eldest son, Fisto, at just 14, Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband. A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. She was forced to flee, leaving her children behind.

She wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

Her group learned how to establish steady incomes with the support of a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA), meaning people could save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally and eventually, her hard work paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house. Once she secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their abusive father and join her. She still hopes to be reunited with her youngest children in time.

Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Christian Aid helps people of any religion, or none, throughout the world who need our support and care. Donations can be left at Springfield Stores, Cherry Tree House (Richard Middleton), or Windmill Cottage (Sue Phillips). Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The report for the Annual meeting and April Parish council can be viewed on the Hardington website : hardington.net

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

WONKA

(PG)

With dreams of opening a shop in a city renowned for its chocolate, a young and poor Willy Wonka discovers that the industry is run by a cartel of greedy chocolatiers. With a bold vision, determination and help from new friends, Willy transforms his wildest dreams into reality. This film is a musical based on Ronald Dahl's extraordinary character, Willy Wonka.

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 23rd May.**

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



CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Sun 12th	Holy Communion	11.00am
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	9.45 am + zoom
Sun 26th	Family Service	9.45 am + zoom

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Wed 1 st	Village Hall AGM, Village Hall, All welcome.	7.30pm
Wed 8 th	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests welcome.	7.30pm
Sat 11 th	Garden Club, Charity Plant Sale, Village Hall,	1.00-4.00pm
Tues 14 th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Thur 16 th	Village Tea Afternoon, Springfield Stores, All Welcome	2.30pm
Sat 18 th	Street Fayre Cream Tea, Grounds of Hardington House.	2.30pm
Sun 19 th	W.Coker & Hardington Cricket Club Spring Fund Raiser, Halves Lane	11am-3pm

MAY 20th LAST DATE FOR JUNE MESSENGER

PLEASE SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO messenger@hardington.net

Tues 21 st	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm
Wed 22 nd	Garden Club, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm
Thur 23 rd	Hollywood in Hardington, 'Wonka' Village Hall.	2.00pm & 7.30pm
Sat 25 th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall. All Welcome	10am -12 noon
Tues 28 th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Fri	Bell Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville.	7.45pm
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HARDINGTON PLAYERS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the a Midsummer Night's Dream open sessions. We recently held in the hall. It was lovely to see so many people and to welcome new faces and new members too. We enjoyed exploring the text and working collaboratively to bring some of the key scenes to life on stage.

Everyone present, whether is an observer or active participant, contributed positively to the sessions and it was wonderful to see people stepping outside of their comfort zones and trying something a little different. Most of all it was fun working together with a great bunch of people! Extracts from feedback from the sessions included:

'Finally, I get it! It's really helped to bring the scenes to life.'

'It was fun to revisit Midsummer nights dream, having studied it for O-level, more moons ago, than I care to remember! It was good, as a variety of people, including some new to the players came along and tried out the experience.'

'I really enjoyed the experience, thank you!'

'Not sure I have expected to see set Shakespeare being performed to the Village Hall!'

'Great fun.'

'Having never read or seen the Shakespeare play. I found it hard work with good fun, getting my head around the talk. It made more sense and put it into context. When we acted out. The segments in the relaxed and informal way was done. There was no pressure to get it right.'

'Very professionally done.'

'Reading MND again was so enjoyable. The last one (session) reminded me how funny and delicious Shakespeare's comedies can be. Our group is so comfortable in each other's company as it didn't matter if you made mistakes or didn't understand everything.'

'It's a very supportive group...'

'Really interesting to see how you work. Loved how everyone was involved.'

So what next?: We plan to continue exploring a variety of scripts and hope to decide on the script for our next production in early December. We would like to stage another large cast production possibly a pantomime or alternative idea.

To help us decide we would love to know if there are any young people (five years plus)/Members (of any age) who might be interested in joining us for this? We continue to welcome new members who would like to be involved in any capacity – behind-the-scenes, crew or on stage. If there is any interest out there or you would like to know more, please get in touch. Tanya Ogden (Tanya Ogden 15@gmail.com) secretary, Hardington players

HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

After the first sunny day in a good while, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood butterflies have all been spotted on the wing. Solitary bees and bumbles are active in the garden, along with my old friend the Hairy-footed flower bee, visiting the pulmonaria. In the hedgerows, Hart's Tongue ferns are unfurling and Wild Arum stands tall, its impressive green casing wrapped artfully around a tall spike, like a lord in his cloak.

Busy in the garden at the moment are furry little bee-flies, so called because their rotund and fluffy appearance and their fondness for nectar is very like a small bee. It's an energetic flier, hovering at the mouth of primroses and forget-me-nots, but when it does finally come to rest, you'll be able to see that it has two wings, as opposed to the four you'll see on bees – a good way to tell them apart.

What to spot in May...

Bluebells reach their peak in late April/early May, after which this heavenly carpet of violet-blue diminishes and fades for another year. For me, it's an unmissable spring sight, and surely one of our most famous natural spectacles. Perhaps we take it a little for granted here on these isles, but with half the world's bluebells found in the U.K. we are truly a species stronghold. Associated with ancient woodland, it's hard to imagine a more quintessentially British wildlife experience than the sound of spring songsters amid the sight and scent of a bluebell wood in full flower.

Slow-worms are perhaps my favourite native reptile, and now is a good time to see them basking in the spring sunshine, their burnished smooth scales glinting gold as they soak up the warmth. I'm always happy to see them hanging out near my vegetable plot as they do a grand job keeping the slug population at a manageable level. Although relatively slow movers, the temptation to pick one up for a closer inspection is best avoided, not least because mishandling can result in the slow-worm casting off its tail in order to escape! This survival ploy is useful when captured by a domestic cat (as happens all too often) but the tail, when it regrows, is never quite the same.

Swallows are making their miraculous return from southern Africa, crossing the Sahara Desert, the Mediterranean Sea and the English Channel to return to the same place they hatched out. I'm looking forward to seeing these fantastic birds racing and dipping over the fields and lanes of Hardington as the weather warms.

Nicola Maybury



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK

Saturday 4th May **Murder Mystery Night**

Help Emma Collins raise money for fantastic breast cancer charity CoppaFeel and join us for a night of murder mystery in the form of a fun detective style game. Tickets are £25.00 each and includes a ploughman's grazing platter. Bring a table of friends and work out whodunnit!

Thursday 9th May **Quiz Night**

Come and test your general knowledge at Duncan's next charity quiz night! It's a great night out and a chance to raise money for charity too! Call us to book your place – you can enter in teams of up to 6 people.

Saturday 18th May **Sonny's Big Breakfast**

Start your weekend right with a delicious breakfast from The Royal Oak. We will be serving Full English breakfasts as well as lighter options from 9am until 11am. Book your table now!

01935 862354
www.royaloakhardington.co.uk