

MAY 2025



Come and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day
at The Royal Oak “Sonny’s” on **8th May 2025**.

There will be a moment’s silence at 21.30 (9:30PM) where a Beacon will be lit
on the Ridge overlooking the valley of Hardington Moor.

Martin has kindly promised to put on Fish and Chips (take-away style) for the
event as this was something not rationed during the war. Tickets will be
available at “Sonny’s” & Daphne in the post-office from April to help calculate
numbers for the evening. If you wish to find out more of what is happening on
this day in the UK and around the world, please visit the link below.

www.veday.org.uk

The event is being organised by your local parish council but for anything
specific please contact Mark Pollock (0778 0903123) about the event.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Helen and Allen Parrott celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary recently and Judy and Russell May their Diamond anniversary (60 years) with a family celebration. Congratulations to Wendy Simmonds who celebrates a 'special' birthday this coming month.

GET WELL: Alan Grassam and Dy Catford have both been in hospital recently. We send them our good wishes in their recoveries.

WELCOME: We welcome the new owners of The Cottage in Hardington Marsh. Sorry we don't know your names - but hope it won't be long before we get to meet you both.

CONDOLENCES: Pete Disney, who lived in the High Street, Hardington Mandeville, for many years with his late wife Freda and sons Andrew and Stephen, before moving to Yeovil, sadly died recently. His funeral and burial took place at St Mary's Hardington on 23rd April. Our condolences to his family, Andrew and Stephen and Andrew's partner Sarah at this sad time. Condolences are sent to Michaela Teather and family on the recent death of her mother, Shirley Angel, who until recently lived in Shepherds Spring with Michaela and Keith.

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

I will be holding a coffee morning/Bring and Buy on Tuesday 13th May 10.30-12 midday, at Windmill Cottage, High Street, Hardington Mandeville. All profits from this year's Christian Aid week appeal will be used in countries around the world helping those in need or to support them in developing sustainable livelihoods, irrespective of their religion. Please put the date in your diary now, and I look forward to seeing you.

Sue Phillips

Village Home Coffee Morning 13th May

Our next at home coffee morning takes on a slightly different aspect as it is Christian Aid week. Information about this admirable charity will be available and you may make a donation. Our venue is at the top of the High Street, Windmill Cottage, the home of Sue Phillips. Regulars will know that this guarantees high quality coffee and refreshments. We hope to see old faces and new for this convivial village social event. Put the date on your calendar now: Tuesday 13th May, 10.30 to 12. Pauline Grassam

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION VE DAY CHEESE AND WINE EVENING WITH HMS HERON VOLUNTEER BAND

Join East/West Coker RBL to celebrate VE Day at East Coker Village Hall on Friday 9th May at 7.30 pm. Tickets £14 which also includes a glass of wine. Tickets from Jill Holland 862782, Jude Petheram 863531 or Marilyn Smith 863944.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 17th May 2-4pm. Cream Tea in support of the 2025 Hardington Street Fayre
Location: Village Hall. Tickets on the door or on sale at Springfield Stores.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our '100 club' starts again this month and I should like to thank everyone who has purchased a ticket for the coming year. The April 100 Club winners were: 1st prize Matthew Patience, 2nd prize Robert White and 3rd prize Sue De Boehmler. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall on 7th May at 7.20pm and you are welcome to be present when the draw takes place. This is also the date of our AGM.

Don't miss our next film 'Conclave', which is being shown at the village hall on 22nd May. This is a 'fast moving thriller' with a surprising twist at the end. There will be two performances of the film, the afternoon performance starts at 2.00pm and the evening performance at 7.30pm. The hall will open 30 minutes before each film starts. Do come along, have some cake and a drink and enjoy the film. If you would like to come to the film but need a lift to the hall, please let Daphne or me know. We will be showing one more film on 19th June entitled 'A Complete Unknown' (about Bob Dylan and his music) before we take a summer break so make a note in your diary!

Many thanks to Dy Catford for donating £330.00 from her March coffee morning to our village hall funds. Our March film 'Thelma' made a profit of £178.13 for the hall. Thanks also to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the Village Breakfast and for the generous donation of £272 made to our hall funds.

In March 25 our electricity bill amounted to £734.50, so hopefully the charges are beginning to come down.

We have started to get quotes together for the alterations to be made to the hall with the money received from Lottery funding and we hope that work will start in the summer.

I should like to thank the team of volunteers from Leonardo's who worked hard at painting the hall for us on 28th April and to Tom Gillingham and David Suckling for doing the preparation work.

Finally, don't forget that you can check details of forthcoming events by looking at the hall calendar which is on the village website www.hardington.net the hall is also available for hire via the website.

Karen Dodge.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Dy Catford and her team look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next coffee morning, which will take place at Hardington village hall on 31st May 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. 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 07956 448301.

SAVE THE DATE: Hardington Flower, Produce and Craft Show

Saturday 23rd August 2025

Just a reminder to start thinking about your entries for our August show. Printed copies of the schedule and entry form will be available in Springfield Stores, and to download from the village website this month. Look out for some of the changes in our entry categories. For example, our Photography subjects this year are:

The Spirit of Hardington

Portrait

Cars: old or new

Trees

Any Subject: a black and white photograph.

Further details about the show and the raffle to follow. Tanya Ogden, Flower and Craft Show Committee .

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington

Thurs 8th. Holy Communion & Reflection for VE Day 80th anniversary 9.30am

Sun. 11th Holy Communion 11.00am

Sun. 25th Family Service 10.30 am

The Annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's takes place on Wednesday 14th May in church at 6pm. All welcome.

Church Services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 11th Family Service 9.45 am

Sun 18th Holy Communion 9.15 am

Sun 25th Family Service 9.45 am Sunday

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Wed 7th Village Hall Draw and Committee Meeting, Village Hall. 7.20 pm

Thurs 8th VE Day Celebration & Beacon Lighting, Sonny's from

Fri 9th RBL VE Day Cheese & Wine Eve & HMS Heron Band, E Coker Hall 7.30pm

Sat. 10th Garden Club Plant Sale, Village Hall. 1.00-4.00pm

Tues 13th Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Windmill Cottage, High St. 10.30-12.00
Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor 7.30pm

Wed 14th W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome. 7.30pm

Sat 17th. Cream teas for the Street Fayre, Village Hall, 2.00-4.00pm

Tues 20th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome. 7.30pm

MAY 20th LAST DATE FOR JUNE MESSENGER

Please send copy to: messenger@hardington.net

Tues 27th Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor. 7.30pm

Wed 28th Garden Club, Clare Greenslade, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Sat. 31st Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall, All Welcome. 10-12noon

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues Tai Chi/Qigong, Village Hall. 6.30 pm

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

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

May is a busy month for the club. Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 10th May, at the Village Hall from 1-4pm. There will be a wide selection of plants for you to buy, from annuals, perennials, herbaceous shrubs to vegetables and many varieties of tomatoes. For those with plants to donate we are setting up from 10am. We have also secured the knife sharpening services of Top Edge. Put a label on any items that you would like sharpened with your name and telephone number for a speedy service on the day. There will also be refreshments with home made cakes on offer. This year we are raising funds for the club's speaker programme and our village amenities. So it should be a very jolly and worthwhile afternoon for everyone.

On Wednesday 28th May we are delighted to welcome the former head gardener of Hestercombe, Claire Greenslade, to Hardington. Claire will be known to many of you from her appearances on Gardeners' World where she has enthused about the remarkable gardens of Hestercombe House, situated just north of Taunton. These 50 acres of gardens showcase 300 year's of garden design, incorporating Georgian landscapes, Victorian shrubberies and the remarkable Edwardian formal gardens created by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. Claire's 17 year stint at Hestercombe makes her the expert on a wide variety of gardening styles and on how to maintain them. She is an excellent speaker and we are really looking forward to having her with us. The meeting is free to members. Non members are very welcome to join us for a £3 entry charge.

And finally, as we are off to visit Burrow Farm Gardens on 4th June. Please may we have payment of £10.50, our discounted group charge, by May 4th. We have decided against getting a bus to get there, as most people prefer to car share. Please email hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com if you would like a lift.

Sally Thompson

VILLAGE BREAKFAST UPDATE

We had another successful "Village Breakfast" and although it was not so busy, everyone seemed to enjoy their meal and the company of fellow villagers. The sale of the breakfasts, alongside the amazing raffle takings, raised £472. This has been shared between the Village Hall, St Mary's Church and the Messenger.

Once again we would like to thank everyone who helped make this event possible.

Dy Catford and Sue Mead

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

April marked the 84th year of Hardington & Pendomer WI and to celebrate the occasion a beautifully decorated cake made by Kate Palmer was enjoyed along with a glass of Prosecco. Four members received bouquets arranged by Jane Maclean; it is a tradition in our WI that members who have a birthday in that month receive bouquets which I think is a lovely thought making one feel part of a close-knit family. We also had two special guests at this month's meeting one of whom was the Somerset WI County Chair, Shirley Routley. The entertainment for the evening was Belly Dancing!! Wafaa Powell gave an interesting insight of what a Belly Dance is all about; it is a myth that it is a sensual dance for men's entertainment. It is a dance performed without a partner and was introduced by women for women as a form of exercise to help strengthen the muscles around the pelvic area ready for childbirth. Wafaa then took us through several movements which we were encouraged to follow and at least some 30 members took up the challenge.

To round off the evening Wafaa demonstrated a solo dance to very exotic music. Wafaa teaches Belly Dancing so perhaps we can encourage her to have a Hardington class!!

Jackie Thomas

Party in The Park 10 August 2025 Save The Date and Call for Volunteers

Please save the date for the annual Summer village get together in the Recreation field. There will be some changes this year but will of course include the ever popular Tea Tent, BBQ and Bar. We will be starting later than before at 4pm.

More details to follow but we are looking for volunteers to help with the following: Activities for the under 16's - ideally we would like a small group to take this on - we do have some funds so all ideas welcome.

Five a side football has already been suggested – can anyone take this on?

Help with setting up and clearing away especially loading and unloading the trailer with tables and other equipment from the Village Hall.

Please do get in touch if you can help or have ideas for the event.

We look forward to hearing from you.

annelunt@btinternet.com 07769 678 208

Hardington Players: What's On



Following our last production we have been keeping ourselves busy with play readings and rehearsed readings and planning ideas for future productions. Over the next few months, we will be running a series of fun stagecraft skills and open reading/workshop sessions. These sessions are open to

everyone (Hardington Players members and non-members.)

Monday 12th and Thursday 22nd May: Practical Stagecraft Skills-

focusing on how we engage with audiences through dialogue, movement and gestures. These will be fun interactive sessions where we look at some ways we can develop our performance skills.

Thursday 5th, Thursday 12th, Monday 16th and/or Monday 23rd/ Thursday 26th June: Shakespeare Workshop Sessions - using the text, 'Much Ado About Nothing.' In these sessions we will read the play and then actively explore and enjoy extracts of this popular comedy in more detail.

All the workshop sessions will take place in the Village Hall starting at 7-30pm. There is no requirement to take an active part in the sessions; if you prefer to come along just to watch and listen in, you will be very welcome. If you would like to know more, please get in touch. Tanya (tanyaogden15@gmail.com 07779309914) Secretary Hardington Players

Thank you from the Lords larder food bank.

Your donations are much appreciated by all the people we are able to help, by providing emergency food parcels for those in crisis.

By placing tins and packets of food in the Lords ladder shopping trolley in Springfield stores Hardington Mandeville last year you donated an amazing 1180 items of food. Last year the Lords Larder was able to help 5678 adults and 3684 children in need in Towns and villages in South Somerset and Northwest Dorset an area including Yeovil, Martock, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Somerton, Templecombe and Wincanton. With your donations, we can continue to meet the demand for food parcels through 2025 thank you.

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The April Meeting...

The evening began with the Annual Assembly of the Parish. The Parish Council Chairman's report gave details of the past year's significant events. This was followed by brief resumes from local village groups. Thank you to all who contributed to the meeting.

Following refreshments, the Parish Council sat down to hold their monthly meeting. The Chairman reported that Gina Seaton (former District Councillor) had sadly passed away. Chris Turner circulated his list of potholes and surface issues for the last month. Somerset Highway's contractors have been busy filling potholes and doing road improvements recently, but there is still a lot to be done (in particular Lyatts Hill and Hardington Marsh Road). Chris has updated his recent report on road issues on Hardington lanes to include maps, and it was agreed this should now be forwarded to Somerset Highways and Somerset Councillor (and also put on the Hardington website). The parish Council will now have to pay £6.50 to Somerset Council to have their bins emptied once-a-week (£338 per year). Following discussion, it was decided to remove the second litter bin that is sited in the top half of the Community Field, as this doesn't get used much. The possibility of providing a further dog bin somewhere around the 'Moor Lane to the Shop' footpath was discussed, as there are currently not many dog bins around the village. I'm sure you will all be pleased to know the Village hall now has wifi! (details for joining are placed around the hall!).

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in finding out more about this, then please contact myself or another member of the Parish Council for further details.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th May, 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. You can contact me at hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com, tel: 07815 965113 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK...

Saturday 3rd May.

Big Breakfast

Book Now for a fantastic Royal Oak breakfast. With plenty of options including the famous Full English.

All served between 9am and 11am.

Thursday 8th May.

V.E. Day Celebrations

Get your tickets and order your Fish and Chips to enjoy at The Oak whilst watching the V.E. Day Beacon being lit.

Wednesday 14th May.

Cookery Demo

Come along and join us for a cookery demonstration by Martin complete with canapes, welcome drinks, a three-course lunch and coffee. Get in touch for more information or to book

Thursday 15th May

Acoustic Night

Join us and the fantastic local musician Sophie Joanne for another night of wonderful acoustic music, drinks and dinner.

7.30-9.30pm

Saturday 7th June

Seafood Supper

Book in for our wonderful Seafood tasting menu on 7th June. 6 exceptional courses of incredible fish dishes. Always a popular evening.

01935 862354

www.royaloakhardington.co.uk

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

CONCLAVE

(12A)

A gripping drama with an excellent cast, this film is based upon a novel by Robert Harris about a papal election after the death of the Pope. Deep secrets are uncovered, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church. Starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Sergio Castellitto, and Isabella Rossellini.

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 22nd 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





PLANT SALE

1pm - 4pm

Saturday 10th May

Join us

for a wide variety of plants including annuals, perennials, herbaceous shrubs, vegetables, tomatoes and much more....

at

Hardington Village Hall

BA22 9PQ



Purchases are by donation
with cash preferred.

A proportion of all profits raised will go towards Hardington Village amenities.

Refreshments available including
Homemade cakes.



Joining us this year is

TOP EDGE

MOBILE SHARPENING SERVICES.

Bring along your

GARDENING TOOLS, KITCHEN KNIVES & SCISSORS.

UP TO 3 ITEMS - £10

UP TO 5 ITEMS - £15

UP TO 8 ITEMS - £20

UP TO 12 ITEMS - £25



PLEASE BRING ITEMS CLEARLY LABELLED WITH NAME & TELEPHONE NUMBER