

AUGUST 2026



AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: To Linda and John Lines on the safe arrival of their 9th grandchild, Jasper John Beech, born to their youngest daughter Hannah and her husband John, a brother for Betty and George. Ben and Charlotte Turner have welcomed their 2nd child a son Freddie, brother for Millie. Denise and Peter Riddell celebrate their 50th Golden Wedding anniversary this month. Congratulations to you all.

GET WELL: Some of our fellow villagers have been unfortunate to have required hospitalisation, one or two for quite a while, but are now home recuperating. We send our good wishes to Jonathan Chadwick, Margaret Wilkins and John Lines. We trust you will all find being at home improves your recuperation.

W.I.

The Hardington and Pendomer branch of the WI celebrated its annual garden party on Wednesday the 8th of July. Ladies felt as if they had been transported to the south of France, as this year's garden party was hosted by our very own Wendy Whetham in her staggeringly beautiful farmhouse, complete with fantastic views of the local countryside, and of course the proverbial swimming pool, quite a few brave souls clenched and took a swim! We were then treated to a buffet of loveliness provided by WI members and, there may have been a little Pimm's consumed, also!

WI business and group updates were discussed, the upcoming flower and garden produce show at the village hall on 29th of August being one of them, contributions of cake and help always appreciated of course (please contact Jane Maclean or Ally Howard if willing).

This is to be our last meeting until the 9th of September, when there will be a presentation on the history of Clark's Shoes, presented by Tim Crumpling, feet will be firmly on the ground for that interesting evening.

The WI meets every second Wednesday of the month at 17.30pm apart from August, we would welcome new members to this friendly fun organisation that has been running in this village since 1941.

A l l y

Howard

HARDINGTON POPPY APPEAL

Hope everyone has been enjoying the summer weather and you have found some time for knitting poppies!! I would like to collect as many finished poppies as I can by the end of August so we can start to plan the actual installation; during the last week of August. I will leave a basket on my doorstep at 4, Broadstone Villas to receive them. However please don't stop making more poppies! I propose to have an afternoon tea on Thursday 24th September at my house at 2.30 pm. to have **all final donations**. If you are unable to get the poppies to me text me on 07853 420404 and I'll arrange to collect. Thank you.

Jackie Thomas

'Restored phone box proved popular vantage point at street fayre'

The grounds of the recently restored and adapted telephone box in the middle of the High Street proved a popular resting point and lunch spot during the jollity of the the Street Fayre and surrounding stalls. It was observed that at least a dozen couples took advantage of the mown grass site and the foliage shade from the sun. From the four of us that undertook the original restoration we would like to take this opportunity to thank two anonymous villagers who have provided recent support to this site; the Ranger for his support in cutting and clearing the surrounding site grass making it presentable and practical, and to the person who exchanged my temporary 'Information' notice on the door to the most charming art work notice. Thank you both!

Iain Thomas

Hardington Flower, Produce and Craft Show: Saturday 29th August

There's still time to decide which entries you're going to make for this year's show. If you're hesitating — perhaps thinking the heatwaves have thwarted your best efforts in the flower or vegetable sections — do enter anyway. Cast your eyes over the Hints and Tips on the village website and have a go. We also have some public-voted categories this year, including 'Unusually Shaped Vegetable,' so let's see how many fun entries we can gather.

Entry forms must be fully completed and handed in to Springfield Stores by midday on Wednesday 26 August. If you're entering the photography section, please remember to include your photographs with your form. Entry forms are available from Springfield Stores and can also be downloaded from the Hardington website.

On the day of the show, exhibitors should bring their entries to the village hall between 8:45am and 10:30am for set-up. Judging will then take place, and at 2:30pm the show formally opens, with the usual delicious cakes and teas provided by the WI. The award ceremony begins at 4pm, followed by the raffle — with prizes including Sunday Lunch for Two at Lanes Hotel, West Coker; a Family Day Ticket for Haynes Motor Museum; a Hardington Hamper filled with locally produced goodies and many more. After the raffle, we'll round off the afternoon with a fun auction of produce.

Funds raised from the show will support village causes and this year's chosen charity, Yeovil Samaritans, whose current priority is to open two additional listening stations. This vital expansion will help them increase their call-response rate from 68% towards 100%, ensuring that far more people in crisis receive compassionate support at the exact moment they reach out.

Finally, a gentle reminder to last year's trophy winners: please return your trophies to Springfield Stores as soon as possible so they can be polished and prepared for this year's recipients. Thank you.

Tanya Ogden on behalf of the Committee

Hardington Street Fayre 2026 Letter of Thanks.

The 2026 Hardington Street Fayre Committee thanks the residents of High Street, Broadstone Lane and Bishop's Lane for their patience with the road closures, and everyone who helped make this year's event possible by supporting Dy with the BBQ, which raised £949, managing the car park, and assisting with set-up and clear-up. We are especially grateful to Crewkerne Rotary Club for providing extra volunteers; without their support, we could not have filled all the roles needed for a safe and successful fayre. We are also grateful to the groups outside the Committee who took on key roles we could not manage alone. Despite being short of volunteers, the team in the Village Hall serving light lunches had their busiest event yet and raised £936. The Hardington and Pendomer WI village club bottle stall raised £268 and added another much-loved game to the day. Paul Vallis organised Yeovil Car Club's attendance, with residents showcasing their cars and, this year we added, tractors. Rowenna Murray organised the craft exhibition and introduced the successful "teddy bears' picnic" competition, while Kate Jones once again did an excellent job running the dog show.

Our thanks also go to Martin and Matt Hooper for giving up their spare time to bring along and run the "Wandering Oak Bar" in aid of the Street Fayre; to Tom and Trudie Turner for providing the car park; to Malcolm White for supplying a tractor and trailer to help with set-up and clear-up; and to the Curtis family for arranging the cutting of the "Donkey Field" grass.

The Street Fayre depends on donations from our main sponsor, Martin & Co, along with many village businesses and individual supporters. Together with proceeds from the quiz night and cream tea, these funds cover essential costs such as legal certificates and entertainment, including the Bog Dogs, Enigma Morris Dancers, Castle Cary Cygnets, Balloon Madness, the dog show, and Fangs & Feathers. This year's largest single expense was the £670 road closure notice, which, on a positive note, will also cover next year. Thanks to this support, along with stallholder pitch fees, games income and generous raffle donations from local businesses, largely purchased by non-village residents, we are delighted to have raised enough to donate £4,400, to be shared equally between St Mary's Church and the Village Hall, with just over £500 left in the Street Fayre Fund for a future event. With new committee members and enough volunteers, we hope the Street Fayre can return in 2027 on either the first or second weekend of July. Thanks to the work of many committees over the years, the Street Fayre has become a much-loved community event that attracts visitors from beyond the village. It raises vital funds for the Village Hall and St Mary's Church, reducing the amount these important community assets need to raise locally.

Kate and Andy Palmer, Dy Catford, Charlotte Gillingham and Andrew Walters

The 2026 Hardington Street Fayre Committee

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 1st July 26 and the winners were: 1st prize Martin Tizzard, 2nd prize Theresia Goodger and 3rd prize David Parrott. Congratulations and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall at 7.20pm on 5th August.

Just to remind you that there will be no film at the hall in August whilst we take our usual break over the summer months.

The Committee would like to thank Dy Catford for donating £196.00 from her June coffee morning to the village hall funds. Our last film 'One Battle After Another' made a profit of £68.21 which again will go towards running and maintaining the village hall. Our energy costs came to £67.85 for the month of June 26. The five yearly 'Electrical Condition Report' carried out by King Electrical Contracting Ltd gave no immediate cause for concern, however several minor matters were raised which will need to be addressed over the next few months.

The 6 monthly check of our fire alarm system is due to be done by SES on 4th August.

Thanks to Sue Mead, Halina Menhennett and Dominic Downey who have been busy painting and freshening up the passage at the back of the hall. Work at the back of the hall is ongoing.

The village hall was once again put to good use on 4th July for the Village Street Fayre when many volunteers were working flat out to provide food and refreshment for villagers and visitors alike. Putting on an event like this is extremely hard work but thanks to the Street Fayre Committee and the volunteers the day seemed to run like clockwork. Once again this proved to be a very special 'family day' made all the more enjoyably by the lovely weather.

Karen Dodge.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

We look forward to seeing you at Dy's next coffee morning which will take place at Hardington village hall on 22nd August 2026 as the flower show is being held on the last Saturday (29th August). Family, friends, neighbours and newcomers to the village are all very welcome. If anyone has difficulty in negotiating the front entrance to the hall, we do have an accessibility entrance to the rear of the hall which might better suit your needs.

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 do her best to accommodate you. We also hold a raffle. If anyone is able to offer any help or is willing to make a cake for this or any future coffee mornings we would be most grateful, so please contact Dy Catford on 07956448301.

MAHJONG

This takes place each Tuesday evening at 7.15pm at a village house. For more details, please contact Jackie Thomas via bijac@hotmail.co.uk.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Just a reminder that the school holidays are now upon us and there are quite a lot of children living in the village, which is wonderful to see. Please be aware when driving that they might be walking, riding bicycles or ponies in our narrow lanes.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

ST MARY'S HARDINGTON

Sun 9th	Holy Communion	11.00am
Fri 14th	Patronal Songs of Praise/Evensong with Refreshments.	7.00 pm
Sun 23rd	Family Service.	10.30 am

ST ROCH PENDOMER

Sun 9th	Family Service	9.45am
Sun 16th	Patronal Festival & Picnic	11.00am
Sun 23rd	Family Service.	9.45 am
Sun 30th.	BENEFICE OUTDOOR COMMUNION & PICNIC.	10.30 am

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Wed	5th	Village Hall Draw, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.20pm
Tues	18th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30 pm

AUGUST 20th LAST DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MESSENGER

Please send copy to: messenger@hardingtonparish.gov.uk

Sat 22 nd	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall, All Welcome	10am-12noon
Sat 29 th	Flower & Craft Show, Village Hall, Schedules from P.O.	2.30pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon	Zen Yoga, Village Hall.	9.45am
Tues	Tai Chi/Qigong, Village Hall.	6.30pm
Tues	Mahjong, bijac@hotmail.com .	7.15pm
Wed	Pilates, Village Hall.	11.30am
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Hardington	7.45pm

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The July Meeting...

A councillor commented that there are a lot of surface issues driving along Moor Lane at the moment. The Chairman reported that this was recently discussed by email from Cllr Oliver Patrick, who wrote to highways stating that it was in a dreadful state and no longer feels like a serviced highway and should really be considered for resurfacing. The reply from Somerset Highways was that there is still not any money for resurfacing this. They agreed to add it to the future schemes list, but due to the location it will not score very highly compared to other sites on the list. They have advised people to report defects and they will continue to repair them.

A long discussion took place regarding setting up the new emails for councillors and the new website. If you have any village events that you would like to add, or comments on the new website, then please email this to webmaster@hardingtonparish.gov.uk.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Street Fayre committee for putting on a very successful street fayre. It was well attended and a lot of funds were raised. While it was too late to organise a village 'party-in-the-park' for this year, a new organiser has been found for next year. Further details for supporting this will appear soon!

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th August, 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.hardingtonparish.gov.uk You can contact me at clerk@hardingtonparish.gov.uk, tel: 07815 965113 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk.

CALLING ALL WOOD TURNERS

I have a quantity of dry boxwood to dispose of, some pieces over 150mm in diameter . If you would like some please call down to Weavers' Cottage. No charge, but a donation to St Roch, Pendomer would be appreciated. Robin Carpenter 07472160506, robinsheila@icloud.com



Friday 21st August

French Night

Another of our fantastic foodie nights is coming up. We are going all French this time.

Beautiful food, fab French wine and so you just need to bring the company.

Book Now!

Keep your eyes peeled on our social media, website and email mailing list for any other upcoming offers, events and fun things from The Oak

What's On At The Royal Oak

Thursday 6th August

Pizza Night

Join us for another pizza night in the car park - trust me, it's more glamorous than it sounds.
from 6.30pm

Thursday 27th August

Acoustic Night

Come along and enjoy great acoustic music (hopefully all fresco again) and food from the horsebox

Don't Forget:

Thursday Lunch Club

£10 main courses

Served 12-2pm

HARDINGTON PLAYERS

Alice in Wonderland: 4th & 5th December. NEEDED – Stage Manager

This December, The Players will be presenting Alice in Wonderland. We are looking for a Stage Manager to join our wonderful backstage crew. No experience needed; training provided. Expect lots of laughs and a chance to be part of the village's much loved winter show. Tel 07966 132280 or email clare@themiddletons.org more information

Clare Middleton

THE NEW HARDINGTON WEBSITE

The new website www.hardingtonparish.gov.uk is now live and active. Please send messenger copy now to messenger@hardingtonparish.gov.uk.

There will doubtless be improvements as time goes by. Please submit articles by email attachment, if possible in Calibri 11. Editor

