

SEPTEMBER 2026

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

THE CHRISTOPHERS (15)

A mainstay of the London art scene since his starry breakout in the creative explosion of the 1960's, Julian Sklar (Ian McKellen) has drifted into a cluttered, self-imposed seclusion. His two estranged children (James Corden, Jessica Gunning) initiate a deceptive bid to secure an inheritance for themselves. They enlist Lori (Michaela Coel), a young painter and former forger, to pose as a prospective assistant and gain access to complete a fabled series of unfinished canvases Julian has buried deep in his home studio.

**in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 17th September.**

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



Charity No 1107649

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Denise and Peter Riddell were pleased to welcome a new granddaughter Leila Rose, a 2nd daughter for their son Chris and his partner Claudia and little sister for Liliana. Congratulations to them all.

GET WELL: Joyce Ahern and Richard Brooks are at home recovering from recent surgery, we wish them, and any others who are unwell or recovering at home, our good wishes .

Hardington Players: Notice of AGM and Our Next Production

The **AGM** will be held in the village hall on **Monday 21st September @ 7-30pm**. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in joining the group, or would like to find out more, please come along to the AGM and meet us.

Save the Date: 'Alice in Wonderland' by Charlotte B Chorpenning. Performances: 4 & 5 December 2026, including a Saturday matinee.

If you are interested in joining our stage crew for the production, or would like to be involved in some way, please contact Clare - clare@themiddletons.org

Tanya Ogden (tanyaogden15@gmail.com)

Secretary Hardington Players

Hardington Garden Club

Our Hedgehogs Need You! They are facing extinction and will soon be just a childhood memory unless we gardeners step in to help. If you would like to hear all about what we can do and see some beautiful photographs of this national favourite do come along to the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd September at 7:30pm, when we have local wildlife expert Colin Varndell coming to speak to us on "The Hedgehog Predicament". Colin has been photographing the landscape and wildlife for over 30 years and has won Wildlife Photographer of the Year no less than four times. He will be presenting a wonderfully illustrated talk and heartfelt plea for us to do more to create the right habitat for these charming creatures.

Sally Thompson

Hardington Nature Notes by Nicola Maybury

There's little doubt that this year's weather has been unprecedented. We have all felt it in our overheated houses and it's clearly visible in the parched landscape around us. Wessex Water introduced its first hosepipe ban in 50 years on 18th August, which came as little surprise after months of hot, dry weather. Tending my small veg patch, I can't imagine how challenging it must be for all the growers out there who are producing food for a living.

Small changes are everywhere. Berries and nuts have appeared earlier than usual – I picked my first ripe blackberry in the first week of July. Whilst we may have enjoyed seeing greater numbers of butterflies and moths in our gardens this summer, heat is a problem for many insects, not least our bumblebees whose furry coats mean they quickly overheat. Beetles and earthworms bury themselves deep underground, putting them out of reach of hungry mammals like badgers and hedgehogs who rely on them in their diet. As water sources dry up, staying hydrated becomes difficult, particularly for young mammals.

Throughout August, many trees have appeared stressed, limp and turning yellow with a good deal of leaf fall. Native oak, beech, birch and holly trees are all vulnerable in drought and have been in survival mode, shedding their leaves in an attempt to conserve water and energy. This 'false autumn' has occurred three times in England in the last five years; in 2022, Kew Gardens lost 460 trees, most of which were native species.

Warmer weather also means warmer seas. In Brixham, fishers have seen a vast influx of Common octopus and very few Brown crabs, usually a mainstay of their summer catch. These highly intelligent creatures, native to the UK but typically rare, have moved into our warming seas in record numbers, feasting on crab, lobster and shellfish and breeding in U.K. waters for the first time. The effect on local fishing is profound, and many have responded by switching their catch and selling octopus to the European markets, where there is high demand.

Even those of us who welcome the sunshine and head for the beach can recognise that this summer's extreme conditions are cause for concern. But we can all make positive contributions to protect our local environment; no action is too small! Provide water for wildlife in your garden, create shade with native shrubs and trees, grow nectar-rich flowers throughout the year, feed the birds in winter, leave areas of long grass and create log piles for shelter, grow your own vegetables – and, of course, support your local farmers.

VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNING WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Our monthly at home village coffee mornings restart in September. The venue is Windmill Cottage at the top of the High Street where you can be assured of a warm welcome from Sue Phillips. We catch up on village news over a cup of coffee. The date is Wednesday 16th September from 10.30 to 12 noon. We look forward to seeing our regulars plus some newcomers.

Pauline Grassam.

Help Bring Back Hardington's Party in the Park for 2027!

Hardington is incredibly fortunate to benefit from the Mary Wang Foundation, a memorial fund resulting from contributions made by Ernest Kong in memory of his wife Mary. The fund has been used for many years to host a village party on the community field, and whilst we missed it this year, we are planning a comeback for 2027 complete with live music, a tea tent, and barbecue.

To make it happen, I am looking for a few people to join me in the planning and organisation. It will be a low-commitment, relaxed project. Whether you are new to Hardington or have lived here for years and want to connect with your community, this is a great way to get involved.

If you would like to help shape next year's party in the park, please drop me a note at sarah.duncan4@btinternet.com or text me on 07432 500562.

Sarah Duncan

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 26th September 2026. 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.



Friends of
Yeovil Hospital

Volunteer Trustee – Treasurer / Finance Trustee
League of Friends for Yeovil District Hospital

Could you use your financial skills to make a difference to patients, families and staff at Yeovil District Hospital?

Do you have financial experience and want to use your skills to support your local hospital?

We're looking for a **Finance Trustee/Treasurer** to join our friendly, committed team.

The League of Friends raises funds to support **Yeovil District Hospital**, helping provide additional equipment, resources and improvements for the benefit of patients, families and staff.

We're looking for someone who:

- Has experience in finance, accounts or financial management
- Can provide sound advice and financial oversight
- Is willing to contribute to a friendly and supportive Board
- Cares about making a difference in our local community

No previous trustee experience is necessary.

This is a **voluntary role**, involving the financial management of the funds, preparation of the accounts and reports for **six Board meetings a year**, and annually for members. Liaising with accountants, fund managers, charity commission and the NHS Trust.

If you have the skills and would like to make a real difference to your local hospital, **we'd love to hear from you!**

 **Find out more:**

Jackie Henderson (Chair) – 07784777017 or jackiehenderson01@btinternet.com or chair@lofydh.co.uk



Thursday 17th September

Greek Night

Book in now for a night in Greece... or Hardington's equivalent!

We will have a menu full of spectacular Grecian cuisine that will instantly transport you to the Mediterranean.

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

What's On At The Royal Oak

Thursday 3rd September

Quiz Night

Brent's Quiz is BACK!
Join us for the first quiz of the season on 3rd and get ready for a quizzing good time.

Plus, raise money for charity!

Saturday 3rd October

**Charity Darts
Marathon**

Help us raise money for Macmillan cancer support by taking part in a darts marathon here at The Oak.

The marathon will take place over 12 hours but we only need people to sign up for 20 minutes each.

So if you like darts or you think it sounds fun, sign up!

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 5th August 26 and the winners were: 1st prize Pete Jennings, 2nd prize Sue DeBoehlmer and 3rd prize Gerald Boord. Congratulations and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall at 7.20pm on 2nd September.

Our film shows will be starting up again this month and on 17th September we will be showing 'The Christophers' (starring Ian McKellan) at Hardington village hall. As usual there will be two performances, a matinee starting at 2pm and an evening performance at 7.30 pm. The hall will open 30 minutes before the start of each film. We take a break half way through the film when refreshments are available for you to purchase and there is also a bar in the evening. I do hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy the film.

The Committee would like to thank Dy Catford for donating £350.00 from her July coffee morning to the village hall funds.

Our energy costs came to £37.06 for the month of July 26. The five yearly 'Electrical Condition Report' gave no immediate cause for concern, however those matters which require attention will be addressed over the coming months. The 6 monthly check of our fire alarm system was completed by SES on 4th August.

We are now turning our attention to completing the work in the rear corridor of the hall and are looking into quotes to improve the flooring. After that we will be looking to improve the gents toilets. Don't forget that you can take a look at the calendar on the village website if you need to check what activities are taking place at the hall. At the moment use www.hardington.net until the new website is fully up and running.

Karen Dodge

Zen yoga with Sherri

As we move toward the end of the summer harvest in zen yoga, we prepare for the autumn and changes of season ahead - our yoga practice will focus on gathering, reflecting and storing energy-nourishing us in readiness for winter.

New faces welcome- whether you are new to yoga or an experienced yogi, there's a place for you on the mat.

Classes will continue every Monday 10.00 start. Prices from September are £12 a class.

Do email me for further information

sherri2@ [gmail.com](mailto:sherri2@gmail.com)

CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

ST MARY'S HARDINGTON

Sun 13th	Holy Communion	11.00am
Sun 27th	HARVEST PRAISE	11.00AM

Please note change of time

Following the service we will be going down to the Royal Oak (Sonny's) for Sunday Lunch together. We are booked in for 12 noon. You are most welcome to join us. Cost of lunch will be dependent on your choices. Please let Daphne know as soon as possible if you are coming but definitely by Monday 21st September.

ST ROCH PENDOMER

Sun 13th	Family Service	9.45am
Sun 20th	HARVEST PRAISE.	9.15am
BRING AND SHARE HARVEST SUPPER AT WEAVERS COTTAGE.		6.30pm

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Wed	2 nd	Village Hall Draw, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.20pm
Tues	8 th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed	9 th	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome.	7.30pm
Tues	15 th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.30pm
Wed	16 th	Village at Home Coffee Morning, Windmill Cottage,	10.30-12noon
Thurs	17 th	Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall, Doors open	1.30pm and 7pm

SEPTEMBER 20th LAST DATE FOR OCTOBER MESSENGER

Please send copy to messenger@hardingtonparish.gov.uk

Mon	21 st	Players AGM, Village Hall, `all welcome	7.30pm
Tues	22 nd	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed	23 rd	Garden Club, Village Hall.	7.30pm
Sat	26 th	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall,	10.am - 12noon

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

WINTER DONATIONS REQUESTED PLEASE

It is September again and Raft (Refugee Aid from Taunton) seeks your unwanted warm winter clothing, clean and washable, plus suitable winter footwear for men, women, teenagers, children and babies, all sizes; new underwear and toiletries for all; unused medical supplies; disability aids; and nursing bras and maternity clothes. Blankets and sleeping bags are always needed, but other bedding is not requested.

Raft has been seeking donations since the summer of 2015 when Syrians began fleeing Assad's war and it is ten years ago this month that I, as part of Refugee Support Group, South Somerset, made my first delivery of donations to them. Since then editors of local magazines and newsletters have published my articles and thoughtful, kind people have responded to my appeals for goods. More wars and natural disasters mean that such needs persist. With grateful thanks, Geraldine Downey 01460 271358

NEW WEBSITE

Please send every new article to the new web address printed in the Messenger last month:

messenger@hardingtonparish.gov.uk

Please send them as email attachments without gaps between paragraphs if possible.

Editor

UKRAINE

I would like to thank everyone who has kindly supported the appeal for clothing and bedding for Ukraine over the past couple of years. I've been informed that as from 18th September the person I take them to will no longer be able to accept these items. But she has given me a list of items she will be able to take.

A lot of these items can be broken down and the money realised and used for the Ukrainian appeal.

Watches,

Cameras,

Jewellery, (broken, any material, odd earrings, etc)

Mobile phones,

Currency, notes old, foreign,

SAT navs,

Game consoles,

Postage stamps UK and foreign

Wool and any haberdashery, cottons, buttons etc

Sewing machines

Carpentry tools in any condition.

These can be left as before at Windmill Cottage, or contact me at

windphill@hotmail.com

Many thanks Sue Phillips

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...

The August Meeting...

Somerset Highways are intending to resurface the troublesome “slippery” areas of the A30, with work scheduled to begin overnight on Tuesday 1st September at 8.00pm. The works are expected to be completed by the end of the week. The road will remain open to traffic during the daytime.

The Parish Council would like to thank James White for his help in spreading gravel along the North Lane/Moor Lane bridleway.

The new councillor email addresses and the new Parish Council website were also discussed. If you have any village events you would like added to the website, or have any comments or suggestions, please email webmaster@hardington.gov.uk.

The Parish Council would also like to thank Mark Edwards for all his help and hard work over the past few years as the previous webmaster.

Due to the recent dry weather conditions, it was decided that BBQs at the Community Field will not be permitted until further notice. This decision has been made as a precaution to reduce the risk of fire.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th September, 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