

OCTOBER 2026



The Hardington Flower, Produce & Craft Show once again proved to be a highlight of the village calendar, with this year's event on **29th August** drawing an impressive array of entries and a wonderful crowd of supporters. Despite the challenges of a long, hot summer, the Village Hall was transformed into a vibrant celebration of colour, creativity, and community spirit. Visitors were greeted by tables brimming with striking floral arrangements, beautifully grown fruit and vegetables, and an outstanding selection of cakes, preserves, and handicrafts. The standard across all categories was exceptionally high, and it was clear that entrants had put great care and effort into their contributions. Concerns earlier in the season that the heat might reduce the number of entries proved unfounded. In fact, this year saw **more exhibitors than we have had for many years**, with particularly strong participation in the handicrafts section. The variety and quality of work on display—needlework, woodwork, art, and more—demonstrated the remarkable talent within our community.

Following the prize-giving, the traditional raffle and produce auction brought the afternoon to a lively close. As always, the raffle plays an important role in enabling the Show to support charitable causes. Each year we select one external charity and one village initiative to receive a donation. For 2026, we are proud to support the **Yeovil Samaritans**, who are fundraising to establish additional listening stations to increase their capacity to help people in crisis across the local area.

The Show is a joy to organise, but it relies on the dedication of a committed team. Stewart, Clare, David, Sally, Jo, Tanya, Amelia, Kate and Andy have thoroughly enjoyed planning this year's event and would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who entered, attended, or supported the Show in any way. Your enthusiasm and participation are what keep this cherished village tradition thriving. If you have any suggestions for new categories or photography subjects for next year's show, please contact Clare Middleton Flower Show Secretary via email: clare@themiddletons.org

We look forward to welcoming you again next year for another celebration of Hardington's creativity, community and countryside heritage. Stuart Ogden



AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Caroline Sweetland and Richard Beauchamp were recently married at St Michael and All Angels, East Coker. We send our heartfelt good wishes for their future.

GET WELL: Unfortunately, we have had a quite a few villagers requiring the services of the NHS recently, Andy Palmer, Joyce Ahern, David Beckley, Jonathan Chadwick, Elliot King and Heather Ivory. Our good wishes are sent to you all at this difficult time.

CONDOLENCES: Sadly, we have had two of our villagers pass away in the past month, Chris Hayward of Struck Mead Farm and Martin Miller of Mulberry Cottage.

Chris and his late wife Rosemary bought Struck Mead to run the smallholding about 45 years ago with their 3 children, Caroline, Mark and Jonathan. Chris' funeral took place at St Mary's Hardington.

Martin and his wife Yvonne moved into Hardington 20 plus years ago. Martin was an artist and sculptor and had his work exhibited at various places; Lanes being one, for a few years, as well as for Somerset Arts week. Our condolences to both families and friends at this sad time.

THANKS: I would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind thoughts following my heart surgery last month, they were all greatly appreciated. Andrew Palmer

UKRAINE

I recently had a message to say the items recently kindly donated were very much appreciated and were currently on their way to Ukraine. Thanks again, Sue Phillips

VILLAGE AT HOME COFFEE MORNING OCTOBER

You are welcome to join us at our next at home coffee morning on October 14th, 10.30 to 12 noon. Our hosts are Sheila and Robin Carpenter at Weavers Cottage in Moor Lane. We enjoy a good natter and catch up of village news over a cup of coffee. All villagers are welcome, especially those new to the village. We look forward to seeing you.
Pauline Grassam

HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

For our October meeting, which will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 28th October in the village hall, we have the Estate Manager, Owen Davis and the Head Gardener, Sophy Robertson of Athelhampton House and Gardens. Athelhampton House, near Puddletown is a remarkable property dating back to Tudor times. Over the centuries, through its many owners, the house has been extended and improved alongside its magnificent gardens. Owen will be giving us a potted history of Athelhampton and then Sophy will bring us up to date with all that is happening in the 5 acres of gardens over which she presides. It will be a fascinating illustrated talk which I am sure will whet your appetite to make a visit, so do come along. New members always welcome - you can join on the night for £15 for a year. Visitors £3.

A reminder to our members that we have our AGM followed by a festive supper in the village hall on Wednesday 25th November. Martin of the Royal Oak is preparing a delicious supper for us at £25 per head. Do let Anne Lunt know if you wish to attend at gardenclubevents@btinternet.com.
Sally Thompson

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 31 October 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 . 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 07956 448301.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The 100 Club draw took place on 2nd September 26 and the winners were: 1st prize Anita Lloyd, 2nd prize Sue DeBoehmer and 3rd prize David Parrott. Congratulations to you all and thank you for supporting the village hall. The next draw will take place at the hall at 7.20pm on 7th October.

Our next film will be held at the hall on 15th October, when we will be showing 'The Devil Wears Prada 2' starring Meryl Streep. As the numbers attending in the afternoon have reduced significantly we will only be having an evening performance, so the doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. We take a break half way through the film when refreshments and a bar will be available. I do hope that you will be able to come along, enjoy the film and support the hall.

The Committee would like to thank Dy Catford for donating £196.00 from her August coffee morning, Sally Thompson and her team of helpers from the Garden Club for donating £100 from the May plant sale and last but not least Kate Palmer and the Street Fayre Committee for donating the fantastic amount of £2100 from the proceeds. Our energy costs came to £39.10 for the month of August 26, but these will now increase as the weather gets colder and we have to heat the hall.

We are now turning our attention to completing the work to the rear of the hall and expect the new flooring to be down by 4th October. This will be done by P.D.Ford at a cost of £1316.33 net of VAT. PAT testing will be undertaken on 9th October. Apart from general upkeep, future work includes making improvements to the gent's toilets and to the entrance foyer. I should like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and also Ria Pandey and Denise Riddell who have been working hard on the village hall section within the Parish Council's new gov.uk website (www.hardingtonparish.gov.uk) to ensure that it is both independent and legally compliant. Karen Dodge

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

The WI recently enjoyed a fascinating talk from Tim Crumplin on the history of Clarks shoes. Tim took us on a journey through the story of this much-loved Somerset company, from its humble beginnings in Street to becoming a household name recognised around the world.

We learned that the Clarks brothers began by making sheepskin and leather rugs in Street in the early 19th century. Their business then developed into shoemaking, using the rug offcuts and scraps to create their first footwear. The very first Clarks shoe was The Brown Petersburg, a slipper made from scrap materials that proved to be an instant success and marked the beginning of the company's journey into mainstream shoemaking.

From these modest beginnings, the company continued to evolve and expand, eventually becoming a household name. Clarks became particularly well known for its children's school shoes during the mid-20th century, a familiar part of growing up for generations of children.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative evening, and we would like to thank Tim for sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm and fascinating insights into the history of this iconic Somerset company.

Charlotte Gillingham

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...
The September Meeting...

A planning application for two extensions, a new porch and alterations at Bishops Farm, Bishops Lane was discussed, and the Parish Council raised no objections.

The continued use of BBQ at the Community Field was discussed. The bin provided for hot coals is currently very corroded and is being used as a general waste bin. It is also not currently being emptied. Both BBQs require new metal racks. Unfortunately, the BBQ is also being used for disposable BBQs, which are then being placed in the nearby bin, despite a notice asking that disposable BBQs are not used. With the possibility of further hot summers in the future, the potential fire risk was also considered. For the time being, it was agreed that the ban on BBQs at the Community Field should remain in place.

The condition of the bike track was also discussed. Unfortunately, the weeds have now overtaken the track and it is barely visible. It is estimated that bringing the bike track back into a suitable condition for use could cost approximately £3,500.

If you feel that the bike track is an important part of the Community Field and would like to see it retained, please get in touch with me or a Parish Councillor and let us know your views.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th October, 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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

ST MARY'S HARDINGTON

Sun 11th	Holy Communion	11.00am
Sun 25th	Family Service	10.30am

Dates for your diary: -

Sunday 6th December - Christingle/Nativity - 4 p.m. followed by Soft drinks/tea and cake.

Wednesday 23rd December - Carol Service - 6 p.m. followed by refreshments

Christmas Day - Family Carols - 10 a.m.

ST ROCH PENDOMER

Sun 11th	Family Service	9.45am
Sun 20th	Holy Communion	9.15am
Sun 25th.	Family Service	9.45am

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Sat. 3rd	MacMillan Charity Day, Royal Oak	10.am start
Wed 7th	Village Hall Draw, Village Hall, All Welcome.	7.20pm
Tues 13th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 14th	W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome.	7.30pm
	At Home Coffee Morning, Weavers Cottage,	10.30am-12noon
Thurs 15th	Hollywood in Hardington, Village Hall,	Doors open 7pm
Tues 20th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall,	7.30pm

OCTOBER 20th LAST DATE FOR NOVEMBER MESSENGER

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

Tues 27th	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor.	7.30pm
Wed 28th	Garden Club, Village Hall.	7.30pm
Sat 31st	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall,	10am-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

Mad Hatter's Afternoon Tea Party at The Royal Oak: Sunday 1st November 3.30pm

Step into Wonderland for a wonderfully whimsical afternoon tea at **The Royal Oak** on **Sunday 1st November**. Enjoy a delicious spread of sandwiches, cake and scones with jam and clotted cream — with adult and children's menus available (£18 per adult / £10 per child.)

The afternoon is themed around the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and you are warmly encouraged to dress up and join in the fun. Expect a joyful, playful atmosphere as characters from **Alice in Wonderland** — the upcoming **Hardington Players** production — pop in to say hello. You'll also have the chance to purchase tickets for the show (Fri 4 & Sat 5 Dec) if you'd like to continue your journey down the rabbit hole. To reserve your place, please book directly with **The Royal Oak** and let them know of any dietary requirements.

Tanya Ogden



Saturday 3rd October

Macmillan Charity Day

Join us for a whole day of raising
money for charity

From 10am - Coffee Morning.

With cake obviously!

From 11am until 11pm - A 12
hour darts marathon.

Teams of 4 or individuals.

£10 per person

Prizes to win and a raffle

Extreme amateurs welcome.

Get in touch to sign up.

Don't Forget:

Thursday Lunch Club

£12 main courses

Served 12-2pm

What's On At The Royal Oak

Thursday 1st October

Quiz Night

Join us for another
fantastic quiz night and
enjoy an evening out with
friends.

Teams of up to 6 people

Thursday 15th October

German Night

Another incredible foodie
evening; this month, we
have an OktoberFest
theme.

Book Now!

Saturday 17th October

Big Breakfast

From 9am until 11am

Get booked in.

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON
in association with
SOMERSET MOVIOLA
proudly presents

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2
(12A)

Nearly 20 years after *The Devil Wears Prada*, Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci return to Runway.

When journalist Andy Sachs (Hathaway) finds herself facing redundancy, an unexpected reunion with her old boss, the formidable editor Miranda Priestly (Streep) tips her life in a new direction. Miranda, nearing retirement, locks into a face-off with her rival and former assistant Emily Charlton (Blunt). When fashion turns ugly, who comes out on top?

in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 15th October.

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



