THE HARDINGTON AND PENDOMER MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2026



From the Messenger Team

AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS: Tim Smith of Pen Hill Farm Pendomer was surprised to be informed he had been awarded Water Quality Farmer of the Year. Unbeknown to him he had been proposed by Wessex Water. He and his wife Kathy attended a presentation at Cowdray Park.

Sheila Fitzgerald of Hardington Marsh recently celebrated an extra special birthday with her family. Congratulations to you both.

GOODBYE: After 3 years of living in Wisteria Cottage, Andrew Walters and Simon Farr have decided to return nearer to London for ease of their employments. In that short time have been very much a part of the village, especially for their work with the Street Fayre and Frog Life, they will be missed. We wish them much happiness in their new home,

WELCOME: Into Wisteria Cottage we welcome Julie Brigdon, who is making the move from West Coker. Known to many in the village already we hope she will be very happy in her new home and the community.

GET WELL: We send our good wishes to Ria Pandey , Peter Rosewell and Chris Turner who have all been in hospital recently.

CONDOLENCES: Known to many for running the local Brownies and Rainbows for very many years, East Chinnock Playgroup, which some village children attended, singing in the Benefice Choir and for her participation in the Hardington Players productions, it is with much sadness we report the sudden death of Jane Lefeuvre. Although technically a West Coker resident Jane and her husband Jim have lived on the edge of Hardington for about 50 years and have been very much a part of our community and we send our love and condolences to Jim and their family at this sad time.

Peter Firth who has lived in the village for many years died suddenly. We send our condolences to his daughters and families.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Wed 2nd Village Hall Draw, Village Hall, All Welcome. **7.20pm**

Fri 4th Alice in Wonderland, Village Hall, Tickets from Springfield Stores **7.30pm**

Sat 5th Alice in Wonderland, Village Hall, Tickets as above. . **2.30pm** & **7.30pm**

Tues 8th Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor. **7.30pm**

Wed 9th W.I. Village Hall, New Members and Guests Welcome. **7.30pm**

Wed 16th Home Coffee Morning 4, Broadstone Villas**10.30am-12noon**

DECEMBER 18th LAST DATE FOR JANUARY MESSENGER

Please send copy as an attachment to an email to:

messenger@hardingtonparish.gov.uk

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon.	**Zen Yoga, Village Hall.**	**9.45am**
Tues.	**Tai Chi/Qigong , Village Hall .**	**6.30pm**
Tues.	**Mahjong. 07853420404.**	**7.15 pm**
Wed .	**Pilates, Village Hall.**	**11.30am**
Fri.	**Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Hardington.**	**7.45pm**

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

There is no Village Hall coffee this month because of the Christmas holiday. The next coffee morning will be on January 30th 2027! Dy Catford

STILL NECESSARY BUT TIME TO STOP -RAFT

In my September article I asked for assistance in delivering donations to Raft (refugee aid from Taunton) and eventually two people volunteered. I thank them very much for their support. However, in the meantime, changed circumstance at home had led me to decide to end my connection with Raft. I regret feeling that that needs to happen – for the refugees, for myself and for the many kind people who choose to donate. But, sadly, it is the right time. Raft Taunton' can be found easily online if anyone wishes to take goods to them. The voluntary trustees working there are always welcoming.I have previously expressed my gratitude to all who have supported these endeavours over many years and am now doing so for the last time. It has been a privilege to work with so many thoughtful generous people. With best wishes to all, Geraldine Downey

PS Someone requested that a black bag be returned to her when it was emptied. I have both bags that she used but no name or telephone number to contact her....

THE PARISH CLERK WRITES…

The November Meeting...

Not surprisingly, the proposed relocation of the post box was among the matters discussed. It was recently due to be replaced, as the bottom half had begun to rust. However Royal Mail has decided, for no apparent reason, to move the post box from outside the Post Office to a spot nearly 200 yards away, beside the old phone box — even the postman thought it had been stolen. The box has stood in front of the shop for at least a hundred years, and no complaint about its position has ever been received. The Parish Council agreed to contact Royal Mail and ask for it to be reinstated outside the Post Office.

The entrance to the Community Field car park has now been tarmacked. This follows persistent erosion of the gravel surface, which recurred several times over the past year owing to the absence of drainage in the area.

The Parish Council is looking for an internal auditor with a knowledge of financial control. It is a relatively small task and should take no more than two to three hours. The audit is usually carried out in April or May. If you know of anyone suitable, please get in touch.

There is no meeting in December. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th January, 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

Hardington Garden Club

We have ended the year with 87 members in total and, following our AGM in November, we now have a new committee in place for 2027. It was great to see so many members at the AGM and then to share a delicious supper cooked by Martin from the Royal Oak. It was a lovely way to round off a busy year of events and start the festive season. Thank you to Martin and his team, and everyone who helped to make this a very merry evening.

For 2027 our membership subscription will be unchanged at £15. As the club is a member of the Gold Club, we are able to secure a 25% discount for our members at the Gardens Group of nurseries via shopping vouchers and a Spring discount evening which more than compensates for the cost of the subscription. Members new and old can pay their 2027 subscription now. Payment via BACS, please to the Hardington Garden Club account. For account details please email: hardingtongardenclub@gmail.com.

There is no meeting of the club in December but we will be back on Wednesday 27th January 2027 with our ever-popular Quiz and Soup supper. Wishing all our village gardeners a Happy Christmas! Sally Thompson

HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.

Hardington and Pendomer WI meet in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. In spite of chilly weather there was a good turnout for our November meeting and a warm welcome was received by all. Members with their birthday this month were celebrated; reminders for upcoming events were given and reports received. The most recent Skittles match set the 'A' team against the 'B' which went the way of the more experienced side. Margaret Casey reported on the County Federation Annual meeting which she attended as our Institute delegate. She commented on her pleasure at sharing time with other WI Members from all over the County. Jackie Thomas was thanked for coordinating the fabulous display of hand made poppies for Remembrance in the village.

The advertised speaker was unfortunately not able to join us, and we were grateful for Carol and Bob Northover stepping in at short notice to tell us about their collection of nut crackers. Nuts have been part of the human diet since prehistoric times – and equipment to remove the shells has progressed from a couple of flat stones to wooden, metal, plastic and even carbon fibre devices to do the job. In Victorian times when nuts and fruit would have been a regular dessert course, nutcrackers were very ornate and decorated. In presenting some items from their collection, Carol had examples from most parts of the world, and their oldest pieces are several hundred years old. Also sometimes presented as novelty items, there were some amusing creations shaped as human legs – both female and male, and one in the form of Margaret Thatcher! Carol and Bob collect for SIghtsavers when they present their talk.The evening closed with raffle and refreshments…..another enjoyable gathering.

Visitors are always welcome – if you would like to join us for a 'trial' – please come along! Barbara Martin

WEST COKER SCOUT POSTAL DELIVERY

As in the past the Scouts will be delivering Christmas Mail to: East Coker, West Coker, East Chinnock, Pendomer, Hardington & Odcombe and working with other Scout Groups to Yeovil. Please mark your envelopes with the full postal address, put the money, **40p per card** and the cards in a plastic bag and post at Woodstock, Hardington Moor or 6 Broadstone Villas, High Street, Hardington Mandeville. **Collection date for the box WEDNESDAY 9th DEC**

What's On At The Royal Oak

ROYAL OAK
Sonny's

Sunday 6th December
Wreath Making
Come along for a fun filled evening with the lovely ladies from Abbey farm flowers and create your own Christmas wreath!
From 6pm. Book Now!

Thursday 10th December
Christmas Quiz
Get your team booked in now for our festive quiz and fantastic raffle.
This is the last quiz of the year so don't miss out!

Sunday 13th December
Charity Tractor Run
Pop down for a festive evening as we host our very own tractor run in aid of our community defibrillator. A raffle will be held on the evening, mulled wine and turkey baps on sale throughout the night, come down and support this fantastic event.

Saturday 19th December
Festive Afternoon Tea
Looking for an afternoon to catch up with friends or family before the Christmas rush? Look no further with our festive afternoon tea!
Book now to avoid disappointment

Sunday 20th December
Christmas Bingo
It's that time again!
Book in for our very popular bingo night filled with lots of laughs and festive cheer, hosted by our colourful caller, Matt.

Tuesday 22nd Decmeber
- Kids Christmas party.
- Carols in the car park

Father Christmas is coming to the Oak from 3-5pm. Get your little ones booked in to see him. Party food and gifts for every child.
Come along for Christmas carols, mulled wine and roast turkey baps in the car park from 6pm.
A very festive evening that you won't want to miss!

Friday 25th December
Christmas day
Open from 11.30am last orders at 1pm

Thursday 31st December
New Years Eve Party
Don't miss our fancy dress party to see 2027 in with style!
The theme is the letter 'G'



January 9th 2027

At Hardington Mandeville Village Hall

A fund raising evening of music and song with **Maggot's Diversions**

6 local musicians with a wide range of traditional music at their fingertips.

Expect slip jigs, reels, shanties, airs, polkas, jigs, bourrées, rants and songs. Instruments include, English concertina, fiddles, guitar, accordion, melodeon, hurdy gurdy, shruti box, penny whistle, and the bodhrán!

There will be a Licensed bar & light bites/nibbles.

Proceeds to go to St Mary's Church & Hardington Village Hall Fund.

(Tickets £10 in advance ***OR*** £12 on the door.)

Please support this special evening of entertainment

Doors open 6.30pm; concert starts at 7.30pm

Advance tickets available from Hardington Post Office/ Springfield Stores, Hardington Moor, Yeovil, BA22 9NP

POSTBOX LAMENT by Nina Chapman

It was a month before Christmas in a quiet little village in deepest Somerset. While

everyone was tucked up in bed, somebody stole the red postbox from outside Daphne's post office Daphne was the first to notice. She'd come out to put the milk bottles on the step and nearly dropped them. There, where the postbox had stood for as long as anyone could remember, was a bare patch of pavement. By half past eight, Thomas, Lily and Harriet had arrived with their letters to Father Christmas. Thomas was wearing his wellies. Lily had drawn a picture of a pony, and Harriet had squeezed one last wish into the corner of her envelope."How will Father Christmas know what I want now?" asked Thomas.Daphne looked down at the envelope he was holding. In big, wobbly letters, he'd written FATHER CHRISTMAS, NORTH POLE. He'd stuck a gold star where the stamp should go."Leave your letters with me, loves," she said, holding out her hand. "We'll find a way." Just then, Lily called out from the pavement. "Daphne! There's red paint on the wall!" Thomas and Harriet ran over to look. And sure enough, there was a little streak of postbox red on the corner where the lane turned towards Sonny's, the local pub. We need more help," whispered Tom, taking his hand away from the iron ring. He pulled out his phone and texted Liana and Daniel. Come to Sonny's. We've found the postbox. It's in the cellar with the elves. Come in quietly. Daniel replied almost at once.Did you say elves?Before Tom could answer, the footsteps stopped. A thin voice came from the other side of the trapdoor.

"Did somebody just get a text?"Tom quickly switched his phone to silent. Lily helped Mr Primer behind the bar while Harriet pulled the last stripy sock off Mrs Primer's ankle. The tiny silver bell on the toe gave a jingle.

For a moment, nobody moved.

Then Tom's phone lit up with a message from Liana. We're outside. Why is there an elf at the front door? ……tbc

HOME COFFEE MORNING

You are welcome to join the December at home coffee morning on Wednesday 16th of December 10 30 to 12 noon. Our hosts are Jacquie and Iayn Thomas at 4 Broadstone villas High Street which is easily found at the junction of Broadstone Lane with blue front door.

A pleasure of being host for the third time at this festive period, as well as coffee there will be warm alcoholic and non-alcoholic mulled wine available no doubt supplemented with mince pies. Rumour has it the Santa will be distributing a few gifts…… We really look forward to seeing you.



'Alice in Wonderland' – Hardington Players

Don't be late for this very important date!
Gather your family and friends and secure your tickets before they disappear down the rabbit hole.
Performance times:
Friday 4 December – 7.30pm
Saturday 5 December – 2-30pm
Saturday 5 December - 7.30pm

Tickets are still available from Springfield Stores or contact 07769678208



We do hope that everybody that knitted their recent contribution to over six hundred poppies are proud of their work and that the two displays did justice to their time, energy, and skill. Supporting their work a fantastic team was assembled to set everything up, (and take it down!), for which we are most grateful for their enthusiastic labour. If you were involved in any way, THANKYOU! Iayn & Jackie.


LEST WE FORGET

Christmas Services

HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE & PENDOMER



ST MARY'S, HARDINGTON

Sunday 6th December
Christingle / Nativity
4 p.m.

Sunday 13th December
Holy Communion
11 a.m.

Wednesday 23rd December
Carol Service
6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY
Family Carols
10 a.m.

ST ROCH, PENDOMER

Sunday 13th December
Family Service
9.45 a.m.

Sunday 20th December
Holy Communion
9.15 a.m.

Monday 21st December
Carol Service
6 p.m.

Revd. Phil Macaulay, Churchwardens –
Robin and Sheila Carpenter, Daphne Creed and Richard Middleton
wish you all a very

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

and look forward to welcoming you at any of the above services.