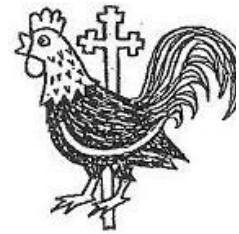


# East Coker Society Newsletter



APRIL 2012

Free Issue No 146

|                                   |        |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--|
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| Treasurer: Keith Helliar          | 863700 |  |

## East Coker Society News

### PLEASE RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

In every issue, we ask residents to receive their Newsletter by email, to save paper and printing costs and distribution time. The hard copy issues cost East Coker Society **an average of £650 each year**. Only 200 households receive their Newsletter by email at present. This is not as many as we would wish (there are 750 households in the Parish), and our target is at least 500 homes. Please note:

- Email addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to anyone else.
- You can choose to print the whole document or just the pages which interest you.
- Newsletter back issues are also available at [www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)
- Homes without access to a computer will continue to receive their hard copy Newsletter.

**PLEASE sign up now! Contact our Newsletter Editor by email at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) indicating your full name and postal address (so that your details can be removed from our delivery list). Thank you.**

Sarah Owen

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The East Coker Society is holding its AGM on Tuesday 1 May at 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. All parishioners are members of the Society and are welcome to attend.

### QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE – EAST COKER FAMILY PHOTOS

As part of the Diamond Jubilee festivities and commemorations, we invite all residents to contribute a family photo, taken outside their home for an exhibition at the Village Fete on 4 June 2012, so that we can mount a memorable record of those living in the Parish during 2012. You can take your own photo or ask one of a number of photographers in the village who have volunteered to help. These include Pauline Dagnall, Derek Marpole, David Pryor, John Snelling, Annette Beardsley, Tony Ford, Charles Hatton and Tony Mitchell. We would like digital photos so that we can display them via a laptop.

Pauline Dagnall is coordinating requests and contributions and can be contacted on 864206 or via [pomod@btinternet.com](mailto:pomod@btinternet.com) if you would like to participate or have any queries.

Sarah Owen

### A REMINDER!

Hopefully now that we are in British Summer Time, and the days are lengthening, the weather will realise this and give us blue skies and warm days.

Sitting or working in the garden needs to be a pleasant experience, and we must remember our neighbours, too. If possible, try not to cut your lawns on a sunny weekend afternoon, or have a BBQ too close to their boundary.

If having a bonfire, try to light it later in the day, there might be washing drying – and keep radios turned down, as not everyone likes cricket or Radio 3!

## VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2012 – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2012 Diary is now at the Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

### THE OLYMPIC TORCH

The Olympic Torch arrives in Yeovil on Tuesday 22 May at the early time of 7.39am at Park Road, and leaves Ilchester Road at 8.11am.

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### TIME TO SHARE

We have had a great start to the year, with attendance of more than 40 at most events! We have been singing, listening, looking at photos and eating wonderful homemade cakes which seem to arrive, as if by magic, on a Monday afternoon! We had heart-shaped ones for Valentine's Day and Egg-shaped ones for Easter. THANK YOU so much to all the wonderful East Coker cake-makers. I can hardly contain my excitement when I see the big boxes arrive at the door! I am allowed one cake, apparently - perhaps, when I am a bit older, I will be allowed two!!

So, here are some dates for your diary. Anybody is welcome to come along, and certainly very welcome if you can do something for 20 minutes to entertain us. Every other Monday afternoon at the East Coker Hall 2.30pm – 4.00pm.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 16 APRIL | FAMILY LIFE (a talk)   |
| 30 APRIL | MENCAP (a talk)  |
| 14 MAY   | THE QUALITIES OF ALOE VERA (a talk)                              |
| 28 MAY   | A POLICEMAN'S LIFE   |
| 11 JUNE  | A SURPRISE OUTING (destination to be decided)                    |
| 25 JUNE  | THE SWAN THEATRE (a talk by Beryl Snadden with some actions too) |
| 9 JULY   | LOIS CRISP'S ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY (an event NOT to be missed)     |

For more information contact me, Sandra Snelling 862162

### EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST – NOTICE OF AGM TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 21 MAY 2012

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 21 May 2012 in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, commencing at 7.30pm.

Any organisation wishing to have a representative on the Committee must apply in writing to the Secretary, Mrs H Styles, 21 Mill Close, East Coker BA22 9LF. Applications should be submitted at least one week before the meeting.

All residents of East Coker Parish aged 18 years and over are eligible to attend the meeting.

### EAST COKER 400 CLUB

#### Spring Draw

£100 Miss C. Robertson; £50 Mrs Alison Charles; £40 Mrs. J. Swain; £30 Mr B. Rawlins; £20 Mr and Mrs T. Ashley; £15 Mr. R. Tower; £10 Mr Robert Allwood; £10 Mrs A. Davidge.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, which aims to give at least £1000 each year to village and other local charities or good causes, the Annual Subscription is £20 (payable quarterly by Bankers Order), please contact either Gloria Mead 862364, Mary Ashley 862263, Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472

### EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW & WINE FESTIVAL

#### The photography classes for next year are

Christmas; Friendship; This England; Boats; New Born; Two different subjects inside and outside (x4).

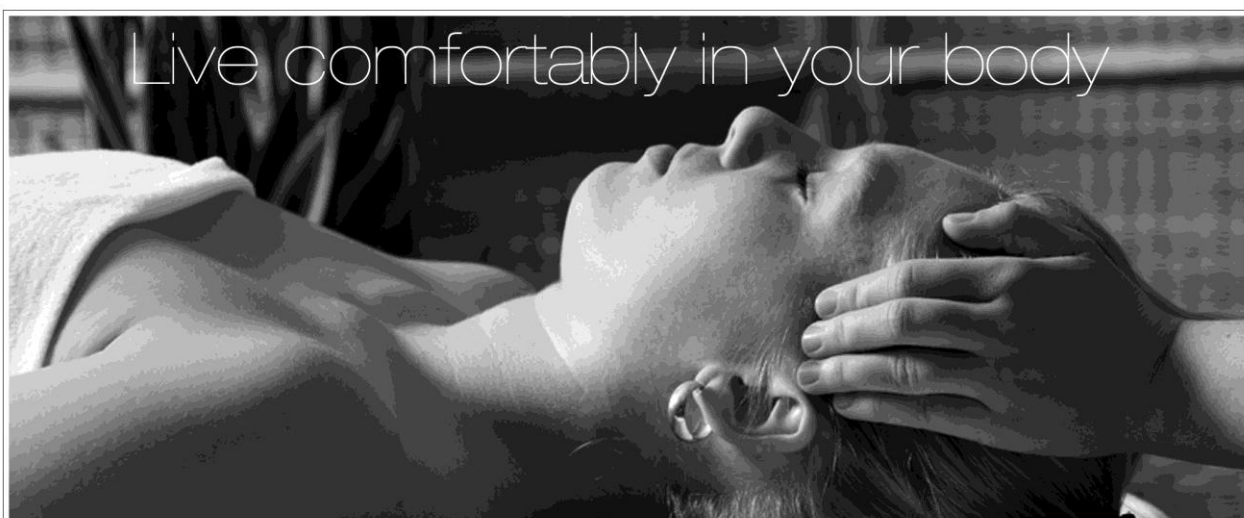
## THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS MONDAY 4 JUNE 2012.

Just to repeat the announcement from the last Newsletter that there will not be a Village Fete on the first Saturday in July but there will be a Village Fete on Monday 4 June 2012 as part of the celebrations to mark our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Fete will run from 12 noon until 4.00pm. More details of the day below.

### EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two groups meeting once a month. The evening group (currently 8 members) meets in individual members' homes for about two hours (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (currently 5 members) usually meets for about one hour in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. As the Library now charges reading groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p to each member.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of what we do, please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk)



Are you suffering from joint and muscle stiffness, high blood pressure, headaches or postural and mobility issues, or are you feeling stressed and finding it difficult to cope with your life? Massage can help! As well as smoothing out the aches and pains and tensions it can also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness.

Why not take the opportunity to find out how that might feel?

I am a qualified massage practitioner and I live and work in East Coker. You will be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times within a homely and peaceful environment.

To have a chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733121819.

### EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

#### April to July

- 12 April – Pelargoniums – Brian Carlson
- 19 April – Marwood Hill Gardens and Hartland Abbey Gardens, day trip
- 24 – 27 April -- Club holiday to National Trust gardens around Oxford
- 10 May – Irises and Peonies – Sue Applegate, Kelways
- 14 June – Hidden Gardens of London -- Bob Ayers
- 20 June – Corton Denham House gardens, evening trip
- 12 July – Somerset Land and Food

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane. Why not join us? Or come as a non-member (entry £3) to any topic that's of interest to you. You will be most welcome.

For further information about the Club, ring Stan Shayler, Hon. Treasurer on 420291.

## **EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The Women's Institute have attracted new members this year with a varied and interesting programme. Having had two 'hands-on' meetings, in April we are going to find out what the judges are really looking for when judging cooking competitions and members will submit apple pies and scones to be judged and sampled. In May we are having a talk on Kiln-fused Jewellery by Margaret Harper. On 6 June there will be an archaeological visit to Bradford Abbas followed by our Birthday Outing on 28 June to Stapehill Abbey and Gardens.

We are continuing with the monthly whist drives until May. We also play friendly skittles, have extra visits to places of interest and walks in the summer. Anyone wishing further information please contact the Secretary, Ruby Rollo on 475010

### **Diary dates**

|                   |  |        |
|-------------------|--|--------|
| Thursday 19 April | Whist drive at East Coker Hall                 | 7.30pm |
| Thursday 26 April | Judging cookery at East Coker Hall             | 7.30pm |
| Thursday 31 May   | Kiln-fused glass jewellery at East Coker Hall  | 7.30pm |
| Wednesday 6 June  | Archaeological visit to Bradford Abbas         |        |
| Thursday 28 June  | Birthday Outing to Stapehill Abbey and Gardens |        |

## **EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE**

Membership of the East Coker Wine Circle continues to grow as people interested in fine wines get wind of the Circle's superb programme this year. For the small annual membership fee of £10 members are privileged to sample superb wines at most meetings presented by a variety of wine merchants around the South West. Such has been the success of the programme this year that the Circle is planning to spend more on its tastings and speakers in order to be able to offer members even better value for money.

In addition to the usual social events, the Annual Theme Party and the summer BBQ event, it is hoped the new programme beginning in August will include wine-related and sightseeing day and weekend trips.

Tickets are now on sale for the Circle's highly successful Theme Party, which this year will be held on Saturday 21 April at East Coker Hall. The ticket price of £8 for this fun evening will include a two-course meal and free punch. Non-Wine Circle members are welcome and should obtain their tickets from the Treasurer on 863555. The theme is Red & White (a tribute to St George). A competition will, on this occasion, raise money for Blind Veterans UK (formerly St Dunstan's) which helps blind ex-Servicemen and women lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Members continue to do well in wine festivals, the latest achievements being at the Somerset Amateur Wine Makers' Association where a total of eight trophies were won.

A winemaking course is also being considered.

Membership inquiries to 862816.

### **Diary Dates**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Saturday 21 April | Theme Party (Red & White, tribute to St George)                      |
| Wednesday 2 May   | Detours Down the Dordogne with a wine tasting and an American supper |
| Wednesday 6 June  | AGM with wine-tasting and wine and cooking competitions              |
| Saturday 15 July  | Summer BBQ Event in the Vicarage Gardens                             |

## **EAST COKER POETRY GROUP**

### **Monday 23 April – The Brympton Festival      *Landscape – The Wild and the Tamed***

The Brympton Festival is a new venture for Brympton House. An extensive week of literary events has been planned by the organisers. East Coker Poetry Group members Catherine Simmonds, David Cloke and Iona Lambe will be performing poetry, linked with prose from Ian White, at Brympton House on Monday 23 April at 7.30pm. This is a ticket only event, but at £2, this is good value at a special venue.

Tickets can be obtained from the Yeovil Tourist Office or at our meeting on 27 March 2012. Brympton House is about two miles west of Yeovil off the Odcombe Road. More details of the festival at [www.brymptonfestival.co.uk](http://www.brymptonfestival.co.uk)

## **Tuesday 29 May – Open Evening**

These Open Evenings are always popular. There is no theme, bring a poem or two to read or just come and listen.

Meetings are held at the Helyar Arms, East Coker, except the April meeting at Brympton, all at 7.30pm.

For more information about the East Coker Poetry Group, contact David Cloke, Group Co-ordinator 862623, or Ian White 864206 email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk) Website: [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

## **EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2012**

The Seventh Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Village Hall on 10 March. Twenty-one teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from Her Majesty's Prisons to the Countries of Europe.

In the interval an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year's quiz was won by The Early Train team with the Poetry Group as runners-up, closely followed by the East Coker Preservation Trust team.

A good selection of prizes was generously donated for the raffle, which was well supported and contributed strongly to the overall proceeds for the event which came to a total of £910. This will be given to the charity nominated by last year's winners – East Coker Scouts Group.

Many thanks to all who helped with the smooth running of the event, and to all who gave prizes for the raffle.

Next year's quiz will be on Saturday 9 March 2013.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

## **EAST COKER PLAYERS**

In February we did some much needed stage backdrop maintenance, with the ropes and pulleys. We would like to thank everyone involved.

Now Spring has sprung the Players are busy rehearsing for the Diamond Jubilee weekend production. 'A Diamond Necklace for the Queen' – A village review.

A combined Players and Village group production. Written and produced by Anne Hartley.

The show will be performed on Friday 1 June and Saturday 2 June at 7.30pm, in the East Coker Hall. Adults £5.00 Children £4.00 and tickets will be available in May from Vicky in the Village Store. So put the dates in your diary for a fun night out.

It is not too late – if you are interested in joining us for this production, please telephone for further details and rehearsal dates.

We are also organising our next social event and the script has been chosen for our next pantomime in early December.

New members are always welcome. Minimum age 8 years. Yearly subscription: Adults £5 Children £2.

For further details or information contact Anne Hartley on 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

## **EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

The Branch will be holding its Annual Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday 27 April - 7.30pm in East Coker Hall. Entrance is £5, including food and first glass of wine.

During the evening, presentations will be made and County Officers will update us on the way ahead, Welfare and the Poppy Appeal.

Wing Cdr Patricia Hymas (Princess Mary's Royal Airforce Nursing Service) will give a presentation on Headley Court Military Hospital, where she is Matron. Some of you will remember Wing Cdr Hymas, then Sqdn Ldr, when she gave us a very entertaining talk on repatriation of injured personnel from Afghanistan.

Please come along and support the Branch and the RBL as a whole. Our service personnel and dependants, past and present must not be forgotten. The recent tragedy in Afghanistan highlights this continuing need.

Thank you all for your continued support.

David Holland, Chairman 862782

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### **THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME**

When I canvassed opinion at the end of 2010, the majority of people decided that a top-up in January/February and a fill-up in July/August was the best way to schedule orders. This January's order was extremely well subscribed. It ran to 23,500 litres in 32 drops, so participants were topping-up on a grand scale. As agreed, there will not be an order in April and the next order will be a fill-up in July or perhaps August.

As I've said before, the scheme is a great benefit to those who order less than 1000ltrs. In January, larger orders saved almost 2p per ltr over quoted prices for 1000+ltrs and smaller orders (the majority) almost 4p over the price for less than 1000ltrs. So we all helped each other. Could this be the Big Society in action! Before you ask, we just do the donkey-work; collecting the requirements, ringing round the suppliers and placing the order and you pay the supplier directly. If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order, the better the price.

To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email ([pauleddwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauleddwards@waitrose.com)) or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order. Paul Edwards

### **EAST COKER PRESERVATION TRUST**

On the 1 March, a packed meeting at the East Coker Hall organised jointly by the Parish Council, ECPT and the East Coker Society heard about the latest changes in SSDC's Draft Core Strategy and how the Council were about to embark on a series of Area Committee meetings leading up to the decisions which will be made by the District Executive on 26 March and the Full Council at their meeting on 23 April. These decisions will finalise the version of the Core Strategy which will be published in May for six weeks public consultation.

East Coker people have attended all four of the Area Committee meetings, and we have been able to observe how all the councillors are reacting to and debating the draft proposals which have been put in front of them. It is evident that there is a significant level of discomfort with both the total housing numbers they are being asked to consider and the strategy to build 2500 houses in a single urban extension to Yeovil. At the Area South meeting there were many excellent verbal representations made by members of the public and these will need to be repeated for the wider group of **all** the councillors at the Full Council meeting.

We all need to continue to make our views known and it is particularly important that there is a strong attendance at the Full Council meeting to demonstrate the depth of concern over SSDC's intentions. This meeting will take place at the Gateway Centre at 10.00am on 23 April. More information about this meeting will be circulated before that date. Please note the new start time for this meeting – it is not as previously shown on SSDC website.

In the six week public consultation period it will be essential that as many people as possible make written, or online, representations about the published version of the Core Strategy. These will be sent direct to the Planning Inspector and so it is crucial that he/she sees the evidence and the strength of feeling which exist against the Council's plans. This may seem a bit repetitive but none of the 3,000 representations which have been made so far will be carried forward after the final plan is published.

In parallel with all this activity, we have been continuing discussions with legal advisers in preparation for a legal challenge which is likely to be needed if SSDC continue to pursue their strategy which is based on deeply flawed evidence. As you will be aware, these challenges in the High Court can be very costly so it is essential that we prepare for major fund raising in the coming months.

Many thanks to all of you who have pledged financial support for the legal challenge. We will keep you informed of progress on this front. We will still need to raise significant funds so if you have any suggestions or opportunities for fund raising and donations to support the Trust's work, please address them to the treasurer, Richard Vanderpump.

#### **SSDC CORE STRATEGY TIMETABLE**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| March 26          | Final recommendations to District Executive meeting                      |
| April 23          | Final recommendations to Full Council meeting - Gateway Centre, 10.00am  |
| May/June          | Public consultation on published plan – 6 weeks                          |
| September/October | Examination by HM Planning Inspector                                     |
| Early 2013        | HM Planning Inspector's report sent to SSDC                              |
| Feb/March 2013    | Consideration of Planning Inspector's report and adoption by Council ??? |

#### **ECPT Contacts:**

Joe Coles 863146   Martyn Sowerbutts 863313   Richard Vanderpump 864565   Amelia Bennett 423894  
Peter Woodford 863633   John Fysh 863963   Sandra Snelling 862162

## **Copperfields Services**

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**Pete Clarke**

**01935 432215**

**07756 839225**

Extensions

Conversions

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## EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The year has started well with the January coffee morning generating £340 for Help for Heroes. In February the event was also very successful and a total of well over £500 was collected for Hope and Homes for Children.

Following the March event for Cystic Fibrosis, the next coffee mornings will be for:

- Special Care Baby Unit, Yeovil Hospital in April
- Sutton Bingham Church fund in May
- Yeovil Opportunity Group (Special Needs Pre-School) in June

Please come along to the Helyar Arms and give your support to these deserving local causes.

Many thanks to Matt and all the staff at the Helyar for the continued support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHARITY EVENT IN EAST COKER

The regular attendance from the village to the Coffee Morning held at The Helyar Arms on Friday 24 February was boosted by a contingent of members and supporters of the Yeovil Rotary Club, the co-organisers. With a large turnout, well over £500 was raised for the charity **Hope and Homes for Children**. This charity, started by former British UN Forces Commander, Mark Cook, in Sarajevo now finds family homes for orphaned children in ten countries. On their behalf, our thanks to all who attended and to those who contributed to organising the event.

Peter Burrows

## Young People

### EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Ann, Marilyn Penny and the students welcome regular and new customers to The Tearooms (near the School). We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year for Coffee and Cakes, Light lunches and Tea and cakes, serving good home-cooked food. Cream Teas are also available with prior notice.

We also have a 'Book swap' in the Tearooms, you may borrow a book, or just sit and read it with a cup of coffee and one of the delicious cakes!

We are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

For more information, visit our website [www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk](http://www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk) Telephone 863351

### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all restarted with active programmes planned for this year. The Scouts have already spent a weekend on Exmoor and the Beavers have been to Ninesprings for a scavenger hunt.

Our largest event will be in June when we will be attending Scoutfest 2012. This will be held at Wincanton and we will be camping with up to 1,500 scouts. Twenty-four of our Cubs and Scouts will be spending three nights camping and spending the days partaking in many different activities. The Beavers will join for the day on the Saturday. Thank you in advance to the parents who are signed up to spend the weekend with us.

Scouts Spring Jumble Sale – Saturday 21 April at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. Note: this is a date changed since the previous Newsletter. **REMEMBER WE WILL COLLECT.** Contact Max Bugler 862186 Many thanks.

**Waste Paper Collections:** The collection point is opposite the School on the last Saturday of each month from 8.30am to 10.30am. If possible please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

Saturday 28 April

Saturday 26 May

Saturday 30 June



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## **EAST COKER PLAYGROUP – [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)**

The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragements between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½, and Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after the third birthday. We are open during term time every weekday morning, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and offer optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list please contact Kay Strobe on 07798 812540.

The Playgroup annual fundraising **Summer Fair** will be held on Saturday 26 May from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at The Pavilion, Longfurlong Lane, East Coker. Please come along and support the playgroup. There will be stalls, refreshments, bouncy castle, face painting, raffle, country dancing, cakes and more. See you there!

East Coker Playgroup will be running, subject to demand, Summer Holiday Session at The Pavilion, East Coker on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, 9.00am to 12 noon. Please contact Kay Strobe on the telephone number above for further information.

Advance notice – the Playgroup annual fundraising Craft Fair will be held in November 2012. Stalls are available now, please contact Kay Strobe on 07798812540 for information.

## **EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Sport Relief – On Friday 23 March, the pupils completed nine laps of the field, which is a mile in total, either running, a mixture of running and walking or whatever they chose to do. This raised £223.

Cake Sale – Organised by Year 6 pupils, this raised the fantastic amount of £343 which was split equally between Cots for Tots Appeal and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Bikeability – Two groups of children have recently been trained in riding safely on the roads – the trainers commented that the children were lovely to work with and how well they responded to this training. Thanks must also go to parent volunteers.

Music – A Spring Concert was held on Wednesday 21 March, and the school are performing in the South Somerset Music Spectacular on Tuesday 27 March at Westlands

Wildlife Area – This is at the bottom of the field, and has a pond as well as different plantings and habitat for birds. A small group of Lufton College students and staff has been helping rejuvenate the area so that pupils can make full use of it next term.

- Term ends Thursday 29 March – Summer Term begins Monday 16 April
- Half Term Friday 1 June – 11 June

Richard Powell Head Teacher

## The Churches

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

How lovely it is to be here for our first spring and to see the village and church looking so resplendent in the vibrant yellows of the daffodils! The burst of colour sets the scene so well for our forthcoming Easter celebrations.

The next three months take us through major festivals, all with a common theme of celebrating new life: Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, sometimes called the Church's birthday, when so many joined the Church after the disciples spoke to the crowds in their own language. As we look forward to celebrating these events again, so we also look forward to celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We shall have a special service to mark the occasion on Sunday 3 June, when the church will be at its best, full of colour and eye-catching artistic displays, for a Flower Festival that weekend.

On Rogation Sunday, 13 May, we shall be thinking of the needs of the farming community and praying for the right weather for their crops to grow. With a degree of self-interest in mind, too, we shall also be praying for good weather for our church picnic in the Vicarage garden that day! We hope it will prove a lovely occasion for people to gather and enjoy each other's company, as well as the pleasure of a lunch al-fresco. Friends old and new are welcome to join us.

With every good wish for a very happy Easter, the Rev'd Charles Hatton.

#### Services

|                           |         |                  |         |                |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|----------------|
| Palm Sunday 1 April       | 10.30am | Family Service   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Good Friday 6 April       | 12 noon | Service          |         |                |
| Easter Day 8 April        | 8.00am  | Holy Communion   | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| Sunday 15 April           | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Sunday 22 April           | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Sunday 29 April           | 10.30am | Mattins          | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Sunday 6 May <sup>1</sup> | 10.30am | Family Eucharist | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Rogation Sunday 13 May    | 8.00am  | Holy Communion   | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist |

**NB** Bring your own picnic after the service on 13 May at the Vicarage Garden. All welcome!

|                       |         |                  |         |                |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------|---------|----------------|
| Sunday 20 May         | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Whit Sunday 27 May    | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Trinity Sunday 3 June | 10.30am | Family Eucharist | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Sunday 10 June        | 8.00am  | Holy Communion   | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| Sunday 17 June        | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |
| Sunday 24 June        | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist   | 6.00pm  | Evensong       |

#### Saturday 19 May – Plant Sale

Don't forget to prepare your plants for the sale at Hope House (Bubspool) 10.00am – 12 noon.

#### Flower Festival

There will be a Flower Festival at St Michael's on Jubilee weekend 2-5 June, so please come and enjoy it!

We shall be asking volunteers to 'man' the Church during this time so, if you can spare an hour, do fill in the rota which will be in the church from May.

## ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

### Closworth Services

|                        |         |  |
|------------------------|---------|--|
| Good Friday 6 April    | 10.00am | All Age Service – Coffee and cold cross buns |
| Easter Day 8 April     | 6.30pm  | Evensong                                     |
| Sunday 15 April        | 10.00am | Family Service                               |
| Sunday 22 April        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion                               |
| Sunday 13 May          | 6.30pm  | Evensong                                     |
| Rogation Sunday 20 May | 10.00am | Family Service                               |
| Whit Sunday 27 May     | 9.00am  | Holy Communion                               |
| Sunday 10 June         | 6.30am  | Evensong                                     |
| Sunday 17 June         | 10.00am | Family Service                               |
| Sunday 24 June         | 9.00am  | Holy Communion                               |

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

### Services

|                       |         |                |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------|
| Sunday 15 April       | 11.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 6 May          | 9.00am  | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 20 May         | 11.30am | Holy Communion |
| Trinity Sunday 3 June | 9.00am  | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 17 June        | 11.30am | Holy Communion |

Churchwardens: Carol Blackmore 862192      Heather Snook 474138

## EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

When we have confirmation of bookings we will place some posters around the village so that you have some idea of what is likely to be taking place at the Fete. At the moment, we are still waiting to hear from a number of people we have contacted.

**Weekly Meetings** Sundays 11.00am. 2nd Sunday of the month is a Family Service. Other services as announced. All are welcome to all of our services.

**Coffee Stop** The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. There are usually some 10-14 present. Everyone is welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

We also run a Home Group for anyone interested in discussing the Christian faith, and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those between 18 and 30.

**Little Wheelers** is a mother and toddler group meeting in the East Coker Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk). Please do feel free to contact him if you have any queries about the Christian faith or if you would like someone to pray with you or simply to talk to. Alternatively, you may wish to look at our website on [www.eastcokerchapel.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerchapel.co.uk)

"Unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21).

## BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS 2012 – A series on the life and ministry of Elijah

Wednesday 18 April – Ian Lewis, St Bartholomew's, Bath - The God who answers by fire 1 Kings 18:30 - 46  
Wednesday 16 May – Doug Johnson – Covenant, consolation and commission – 1 Kings 19:1-18  
Wednesday 20 June – speaker to be confirmed

These meetings will take place in the East Coker Hall at 7.00pm. Do join us and bring your friends with you. Refreshments are served after each meeting.

For further details, please contact Edward Armitstead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519

## Village News

### PLANT SALE – FOR ST. MARGARET'S HOSPICE

To be held at **Weavers Lodge, East Coker on Saturday 19 May 2012 between 10.00am and 2.00pm.**

Parking is very limited, so please park on the road near the school. I have a willing husband with wheelbarrow who can assist you.

There will be a plentiful supply of flower plants, and this year we hope to have a variety of vegetable plants as well.

A raffle will also be held on the day.

If you have too many seedlings you have grown I will willingly do the pricking out for you. Any contributions welcome.

Hope to see you.

Christine and Glenn Seymour 863961

### T S ELIOT EVENT

To be held in the gardens of Naish Priory on the afternoon of 15 July in cooperation with the TSE Summer School, East Coker Poetry Society, East Coker Society and the EC Preservation Trust. Details to follow in the July Newsletter

### A WALK FROM EAST COKER FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE IT'S CHILDSPLAY – SUNDAY 6 May 2012

The Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) is a charity dedicated to making the most of short and precious lives by providing hospice care for children with terminal illnesses. This 'It's Childsplay' event is a Yeovil area sponsored walk in support of Somerset's Children's Hospice at Wraxall. The very special care that Charlton Farm provides is vital; it also comes at a significant cost. With very little government funding they rely almost entirely on the generosity of supporters to enable the services to continue.



Local ROTARY clubs have been regular contributors to this organisation. Again, in 2012 a big effort is being made to raise a substantial amount through an 'IT'S CHILDSPLAY' walkabout on Sunday 6 May.

**Last year, walkers starting from East Coker played a very significant part in helping to raise over £7,000 locally through 'IT'S CHILDSPLAY'. Let's make 2012 even better!**

Everyone can help this very worthwhile event as a participant or sponsor. Participants in the Yeovil area can walk as far or as short a distance as they like and start from wherever it is most convenient. All we ask is that you finish at Yeovil Country Park (Nine Springs, by Goldenstones swimming pool) between 12 noon and 4.00pm and that each participant raises a minimum of £10.00 and brings this to the Finish. There are very attractive walks right on the doorstep in the park; ideal for families, dog walkers, groups, etc.

Entrants get a free 'IT'S CHILDSPLAY' T-shirt, a Completion Certificate and the satisfaction that they have made a difference. Refreshments will be available at the finishing line. Unavailable on that day? Then please help by sponsoring the event.

For sponsorship and registration forms please contact any Yeovil Rotary Club member or specifically:  
John Hollis 863002 Peter Burrows 862218

If you would like to walk (about 3 miles) with a friendly group of local folk, then register now with either of the above to meet at East Coker Hall at 10.30 am on 6 May for orange juice, bacon roll and coffee to get you started on a suggested route.

Please come and join us.

## **GREAT BALLOON RACE! – SUNDAY 15 JULY**

The race is in aid of the **Children of Fiji**. There will be a 'Mass Balloon Release' on Sunday 15 July at 3.00pm at Cattistock Playing Field.

There is a PRIZE of a Hot Air Balloon Ride for 2 people for the owner of the balloon which travels furthest.

Balloons can be purchased at £1 each from Jacqueline Clough 850256

## **SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY**

The mobile library visiting times have changed and will be on a Tuesday every four weeks at the Helyar Arms, 2.30pm – 2.45pm. This is now the only stopping point in East Coker.

17 April            15 May            12 June            10 July

## **ADVANCE NOTICE - SCARECROW COMPETITION 2012**

Following the excellent entries to the Scarecrow competition last year we are hoping for an even bigger and better event to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on 4 June. More information will follow with details of rules and entry categories but just for now start thinking of a 'Royal' theme!!

## **LOCAL ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOX SCHEME – delivered free to East Coker**

In an attempt to support our local Somerset organic farmers, there is now a drop-off point in East Coker village for you to buy a vegetable box or fruit box.

FLAXDRAYTON ORGANIC are delivering free of charge to Compton Cottage (up past the church, top of the hill). They deliver every Wednesday morning. You can order weekly or fortnightly, or ad-hoc, the week before and pay on the day at any time.

The price of a standard vegetable or fruit box is £6.50 or a large vegetable or fruit box is £9.00, and 5 kg sack of potatoes £3.00.

If you would like to try a box, please contact Sarah Palmer 862369 for more details or email sarahpalmer66@hotmail.com

## **FLORAL CORNER**

Elaine is your local florist at East Coker village store specialising in all aspects of floristry single stems, bunches and bouquets.

All events catered for including weddings and funerals.

Fresh flowers delivered twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays, special orders taken with a few days notice. Wide selection of gifts, including some locally made crafts.

- Seasonal locally grown plants
- Seeds and some gardening sundries
- Sundries for the home flower arranger

Opening times are Monday to Friday 9.30am-1.00pm, although I can be contacted out of these hours by leaving a message with Paul and Vicky or ringing me: Home 863651 mobile 07962125246

I look forward to seeing customers old and new at floral corner.

**Floral corner at East Coker Village Store, Burton Road, East Coker BA22 9LB**



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[www.southwestbicycleworks.co.uk](http://www.southwestbicycleworks.co.uk)

The Old Twine Works, 42 East Street, West Coker, Somerset, BA22 9BN

## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

In January, several members of the public attended the meeting and supported the idea of producing a **Neighbourhood Plan** (NP). This is part of the government's Localism Act encouraging the 'Big Society' notion of local people being involved in planning the future of their local areas. Members of the Parish Council have attended training on the production of the NP and as a result of advice given, the Parish Precept will include funding to support this activity. The writing of the NP will be facilitated by the Parish Council, but will need to involve the participation of as many community members as possible. As our plans proceed, we will make contact with you, but if you would like to register an interest in being involved, please contact Pauline Gubbins, Parish Clerk [clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk); 862062.

We are very pleased with the **new path** joining the car park to the Pavilion and we have received encouraging comments from those who have used it. The wider path allows people to walk side-by-side as well as making the use of pushchairs and wheelchairs more possible. We managed to obtain funding for this venture from the **Awards for All grant of the Big Lottery**, which meant that our precious Precept funding was conserved. We are also improving the signs to remind dog owners of the need to 'scoop the poop' in order that we can all enjoy this wonderful area to the maximum. If you or your club or society has ideas for enhancing our Parish further, please let Pauline Gubbins know and we will do our best to seek external funding.

Plans are moving ahead for our **Queen's Jubilee celebrations** on the weekend of 2 – 4 June, and we are pleased to hear that the Queen will be visiting the South West on 1 – 2 May visiting Sherborne, Salisbury, Crewkerne, Yeovil and Exeter. Many clubs within the Parish are meeting regularly to plan the Fete and evening activities for Monday 4 June. We are considering how to commemorate the Jubilee and a variety of options is being considered including tree planting and the production of superior quality signage to direct people to landmarks within the village.

**Councillor Binny Bennett** visited East Coker Primary School to discuss the District Council's planned Urban Extension and there was much interest and lively debate from the children. We hope to involve the children appropriately in Parish Council matters now that **Councillor Kath Wilson** has become a local authority governor at the school.

Kath attended the Somerset Together (Local Strategic Partnership) conference on health and well-being. The proposed changes of the Health and Social Care Bill were explained as they affect South Somerset. A Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for Somerset was set up in October 2011 and will be fully constituted by March 2013, when the legislation is in place. Data suggest that by 2027, most of the South Somerset area will have more than 24% of its population aged over 65 years. In 2010, male life expectancy in South Somerset was 80 years and female life expectancy 84 years (both are higher than the national average).

On 1 March, the Parish Council, in collaboration with the East Coker Preservation Trust hosted the second village **Open Meeting** to update parishioners on the SSDC draft Core Strategy. This was attended by almost 400 people and was followed by a very strong attendance at the SSDC Area South meeting on 7 March. Our joint efforts will continue in order that we secure the best possible outcome for the community.

We are informed that Somerset County Council has completed the **traffic survey**, but details are not yet shared with us.

**Councillor Bridget Sugg** organised a **Litter Pick** on Saturday 10 March and after her splendid bacon rolls, a trusty group set off to clean up the roads and lanes around the Parish. Many thanks to all those who gave up their Saturday morning to make our parish look even lovelier. Anything we can do to encourage people not to drop litter is most important. From an early age we learn either to hurl refuse anywhere or dispose of it responsibly. However if we all pick up litter when we see it, the beauty of our Parish will be maintained.

In spite of the withdrawal of funding from the County Council, it has been decided to continue to work with other parishes in the employment of the **Lengthsman** who undertakes numerous jobs to keep the Parish maintained.

The Parish Council team enjoyed participating in the **Village Quiz** on 10 March, even though they found many of the questions very challenging!! Well done to all those involved in the organisation.

Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council

### **STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C. (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)**

Thank you to the residents of East Coker for their used stamps. Please keep taking them into the Stores. They are then reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research. Vicki will accept them and Lesley Lindsay will take them to the shop.

### **WHEN CRICKET WAS CRICKET**

Many moons ago, the captain of my college's cricket eleven was a big and burly Yorkshireman called Robin Feather, who later skippered the Yorkshire second eleven, and whose habit it was when things in the field were going against us to shout at us, in Yorkshire-speak, "Pray for rain, lads". Oddly enough, this device sometimes worked, and fancy grew that Robin had found a way of spooking the opposition team into making a mess of their game. The skipper, however, was adamant that his prayer didn't work.

Well, of course it didn't work. The Almighty has bigger things to worry about. But after last year when the average rainfall was no more than 30ins (76.2cm), there is every sign that 2012 is going to be as dilatory, or perhaps even more so. In January, we had 2¼ins (5.7cm) at North Coker Hall; in February no more than ¾in (1.9cm), and with four apparently sunny days to go until the end of March, we have recorded only 1¼ins (3.2cm), for a first-quarter total of 4¼ins (10.8cm): multiply that by four and you have a prospective annual rainfall of noticeably below 20ins (50.8cm). There is nothing I can do beyond encouraging the residents of East Coker to murmur, every day if they will, "Pray for rain, lads (and lasses) until we get some"! And may endless rain-storms drown the malevolent intent of the urban 'extensionists' and the developers!!

Clive Bingley

### **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS – Bank Holiday Day Changes for 2012/13**

#### **Easter 2012, May Bank Holidays and Diamond Jubilee**

##### **Usual Collection Day**

Good Friday 6 April  
Easter Monday 9 April – 13 April  
May Day 7 May – 11 May  
Monday 4 June  
Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
Tuesday 5 June – 8 June

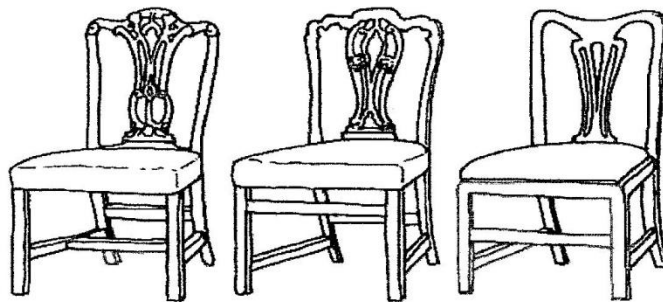
##### **Revised Collection Day**

Saturday 7 April  
All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 14 April  
All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 12 May  
Monday 4 June no change Monday collections as usual  
All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 9 June

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in July 2012. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) or to The Stores, East Coker by **Thursday 21 June 2012**. Thank you.

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## QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY: APRIL 2012 - JULY 2012

|                      |  |                 |                |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Thurs 12 Apr         | Gardening Club – Pelargoniums              | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Mon 16 Apr           | Time to Share – Family Life                | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm         |
| Tues 17 Apr          | Library                                    |                 |                |
| Thurs 19 Apr         | W I – Whist Drive                          | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Thurs 19 Apr         | Gardening Club – Day Trip                  |                 |                |
| Sat 21 Apr           | Scouts – Jumble Sale                       | East Coker Hall | 2.00pm         |
| Sat 21 Apr           | Wine Circle – Theme Party                  | East Coker Hall | 8.00pm         |
| Mon 23 Apr           | Poetry Group – Brympton Festival           |                 |                |
| 24 – 27 Apr          | Gardening Club Holiday                     |                 |                |
| Thurs 26 Apr         | W I – Cookery                              | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Fri 27 Apr           | RBL – Cheese & Wine                        | East Coker Hall | 7.00pm         |
| Sat 28 Apr           | Scouts' Newspaper Collection               | Near the School | 8.30am-10.30am |
| Mon 30 Apr           | Time to Share – Mencap                     | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm         |
| Tues 1 May           | East Coker Society – AGM                   | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Wed 2 May            | Wine Circle – Wine Tasting                 | East Coker Hall | 8.00pm         |
| Sun 6 May            | Walk – It's Childsplay                     |                 |                |
| Mon 14 May           | Time to Share – Aloe Vera                  | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm         |
| Thurs 10 May         | Gardening Club-Hidden Gardens of London    | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Tues 15 May          | Library                                    |                 |                |
| Sat 19 May           | Plant Sale in aid of St Margaret's Hospice | Weavers Cottage | 10.00am-2.00pm |
| Sat 19 May           | Plant Sale – St Michael's Church           | Hope House      | 10.00am-12pm   |
| Mon 21 May           | ECH Charitable Trust – AGM                 | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Thurs 25 May         | Gardening Club – Corton Denham House       |                 |                |
| Sat 26 May           | Scouts' Newspaper Collection               | Near the School | 8.30am-10.30am |
| Sat 26 May           | The Playgroup – Summer Fair                | The Pavilion    | 1.00pm-4.00pm  |
| Mon 28 May           | Time to Share – A Policeman's Life         | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm         |
| Tues 29 May          | Poetry Group – Open Evening                | Helyar Arms     | 7.30pm         |
| Thurs 31 May         | W I – Glass Jewellery                      | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Wed 6 June           | Wine Circle – AGM                          | East Coker Hall | 8.00pm         |
| Tues 12 June         | Library                                    |                 |                |
| Wed 6 June           | W I – Visit Bradford Abbas                 |                 |                |
| <b>Thurs 21 June</b> | <b>Copy for July Newsletter</b>            |                 |                |
| Thurs 28 June        | W I – Birthday Outing                      |                 |                |
| Sat 30 June          | Scouts' Newspaper Collection               | Near the School | 8.30am-10.30am |
| Mon 9 July           | TTS – Lois Crisp's Garden Party            |                 | 2.30pm         |
| Tues 10 July         | Library                                    |                 |                |
| Thurs 12 July        | Gardening Club – Somerset Land & Food      | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm         |
| Sat 15 July          | Summer BBQ Event – Vicarage Gardens        |                 |                |

# Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

## Programme of events

At the time of publication, the programme for the village celebrations is as follows:

**Friday 1 June - Saturday 2 June** – A Diamond Necklace for the Queen – a village review, East Coker Hall, 7.30pm.

- Tickets – Adults £5; Children £4; available from Vicky at the Village Store from May.

**Saturday 2 - Tuesday 5 June** – Festival of Flowers at St Michael's Church.

**Sunday 3 June** – 10.30am Service, St Michael's Church.

**Monday 5 June:**

- 12 noon - 4.00pm. Village Fete at East Coker Hall. Contact Kevin Chapman [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone on 422594 or mobile 07812726853.
- East Coker Society Family Photos and Memorabilia in the Dampier Room during this time.
- 5.00pm - 6.00pm. Children's Jubilee tea organised by East Coker Pre-School at the Pavilion.
- 6.15pm. Gates open at Recreation Ground, Long Furlong Lane.
- 7.00pm. Picnic in the Park. Start of musical spectacular at the Rec featuring Cordell Holloway's Disco and popular local band 'Storm'. Bring your own chairs and refreshments or make use of the food and drink available for purchase (organised by Royal Oak, Hardington).
- 8.00pm. Lighting of celebration Beacon on Lodge Hill – visible from the Rec.
- Firework finale.

Tickets for the Picnic in the Park are priced at £7 for an adult and £20 for a family (2A and 2u/16), and will be available after Easter from the Village Store, Stan Shayler 420291, Bridget Sugg 863435 and Pauline Gubbins 862062.

This event is sponsored by East Coker Parish Council. We are most grateful for the support given by Major Paul Bunce of Somerset Army Cadet Force.

**Warning: local pet owners should be aware of the potential noise of the firework display.**