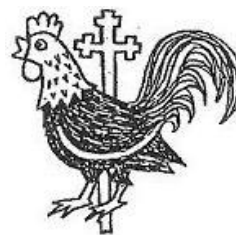


# East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2022

Free Issue No 186

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## East Coker Society News

### HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS

Despite all the sadness in the world, we still have much to be thankful for and hope that Easter will be a time for peace and reflection.

During June, there will be numerous activities in East Coker to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, especially over the extended Bank Holiday from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. You will find more in this issue about some of these plans.

East Coker Society invites you to contribute to a photographic record of those residents living in the Parish during 2022. The Society will create a DVD for display at future village exhibitions/fayres. Images only will appear, without names.

If you would like to participate, you simply need to arrange to have a good quality digital photo of yourself and the residents of your home taken outside the front of your house. Please send the photo to Pauline Dagnall together with names of those in the photo and your address and telephone number (these details will be used only for administrative purposes). Pauline's email address for this purpose is [pmdagnall@gmail.com](mailto:pmdagnall@gmail.com).

Closing date is Sunday 15 May.

Sarah Owen  
Secretary, East Coker Society

### Newsletter copies

Printed copies of this Newsletter will be made available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, the Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and East Coker Hall.

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

East Coker Wine Circle has a new programme of events in the making, and it looks to be interesting and entertaining.

The Summer Event will be in support of the East Coker Jubilee events; it will be held at East Coker Hall and the Hall's field on 17 July. The music will be by 'Fine Whines' to complement the atmosphere of being outside with others, celebrating the Jubilee with wine and food.

If you would like to join us, please contact David Pryor on 862816 or Vince Wolny on 863838.

Sarah Rashley  
[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

## **EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW - 20 August 2022**

Let us hope you all have been busy gardening, crafting, taking wonderful photos, or learning new skills which you can show to the village. The schedule will be out soon so here are a few tips.

Try to get the vegetables all the same size and colour if possible. Carrots must have foliage trimmed back to 3" and tied with string or elastic band. Peas and beans to be displayed with some stalk attached. Onions can be stood on a plate of sand, trim the tops and tie with string or elastic bands. Tomatoes must have their calyces (the green flower bud case), they can be stood on a plate of sand. Beetroot **must** be plated. Gently wash potatoes, carrots, apples and dry. Wipe-clean beetroot, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and courgettes.

Cut flowers - you can use any vases and can put newspaper or oasis in the vase to hold the flowers in place. Remember, the flowers will be viewed from all sides.

Please try and enter and support your local show. Tips for the wine classes are in the schedule, and please read the show rules.

We look forward to seeing all of your hard work, try to encourage children to enter, they receive prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Plus, any photo taken by a young person up to 16 years old will receive the Olive Sharman trophy and £10 for 1st place, £5, 2nd place and £3, 3rd place.

See you on the 20 August 2022 at East Coker Hall.

Good Luck everyone.

Sarah Rashley

## **EAST COKER WI**

We are now completely up and running and welcoming our members back to our monthly meetings. A full programme has been arranged for the coming year. At our annual meeting in April, we always include a good social time after the usual reports.

As well as having a session on Yoga in April, we are planning a Jubilee celebration meal for our May meeting. Commander Holt MBE, who was responsible for the running dinner parties for the Queen, is giving an after-dinner speech. This should be very interesting and entertaining.

An outing to celebrate our WI's Anniversary will follow in June, and in July Margaret Harper will introduce members to the art of cut glass.

Our fun with exercise has restarted on the second Monday of each month from 2.00pm-4.00pm with a refreshment break. Attendance is welcome to anyone over the age of 50 years for £2.50 a session.

The Whist Drives will be recommencing in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall in September.


We are always keen to welcome new members, or those who would like to visit and see what we are all about.

For any information, please contact Secretary Ruby Rollo, tel 01935 475010.

### **Diary dates**


Thursday 31 March	7.30pm	AGM and Social	East Coker Hall
Monday 11 April	2.00pm	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 April	7.30pm	Yoga for the Lower Back	East Coker Hall
Monday 9 May	2.00pm	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 May	7.00pm	Jubilee Celebration Meal	East Coker Hall
Monday 13 June	2.00pm	Fun and Games	East Coker Hal
Monday 12 July	2.00pm	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall

Joyce Pryor


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## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

With Covid cases dropping off and the government easing restrictions, we were beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. Things have since changed with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. One could say, "What is the invasion of Ukraine to do with us". It's not just us, the whole world is involved, especially the countries bordering Ukraine. We can join them by donating money, clothing, medical supplies, toiletries etc. It's very sad seeing them suffer, especially the children, hands on car and train windows, saying goodbye to fathers they may not see again.

Brings back memories of what happened in this country during WW2. Jill, my wife's auntie living in Suffolk, looked after five children from London. Most of them remained auntie's friends for the rest of their lives, no doubt the same will happen to a lot of the present-day evacuees from Ukraine. Let's hope some goodwill comes from this evil.

The Legion continues to support our own service personnel, past, present and their dependants, and with your help we will continue to do so.

Please consider joining the branch by contacting Dave Giles. Branch Membership Sec. Details below.

### Date for diaries

The Branch will be holding its Annual Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday 22 April at 7.30pm at East Coker Hall, entertainment by the Decadettes, a Dorset based vintage singing group.

Tickets are £10pp inc. food and first glass of wine

For tickets, contact Wendy Weston tel 412677, Jill Holland tel 862782, Jude Petheram tel 863531, Marilyn Smith tel 863944.

Thank you all for your continued support.

David Holland, Chairman, tel 862782, email [d.holland632@btinternet.com](mailto:d.holland632@btinternet.com)  
 Marilyn Smith, Secretary, tel 863944, email [Mazza1944@outlook.com](mailto:Mazza1944@outlook.com)  
 Dave Giles, Membership and PAO, tel 07733 223806, email [dgiles39@gmail.com](mailto:dgiles39@gmail.com)

## THE PLAYERS

Covid has severely disrupted our program but we still on track to perform our planned new Pantomime on Friday 26 November and Saturday 27 November.

We welcome new members of all ages for both acting roles and backstage support, full training will be given.

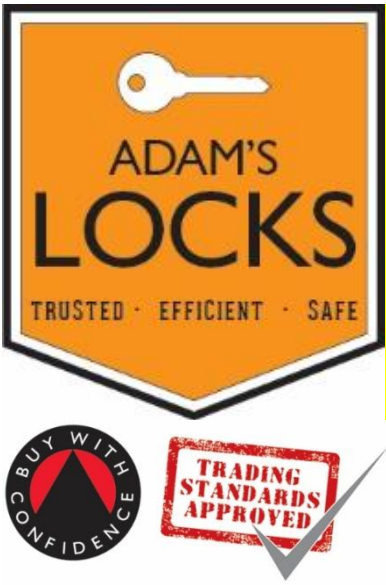
Please contact Anne Hartley on 862060 for further information.

## TIME TO SHARE

### Meetings

Monday 11 April	Tea and Cake at Village Café	2.30pm
Monday 25 April	Seated Exercise at East Coker Hall	2.30pm, with Nic Viney
Monday 9 May	Tea and Cake at Village Café	2.30pm
Monday 23 May	Games and fun at East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Monday 6 June	Tea and Cake at Village Café	2.30pm
Monday 20 June	Birthday Party at East Coker Hall	2.30pm

For more information, contact Sandra 862162 or Anne 862060.



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## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Meetings are held at the Village Café, East Coker, all at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 26 April      Seamus Heaney Evening      led by Heather Murphy  
Seamus Heaney has been described as the most important Irish poet since Yeats. Please join us for an illuminating evening about Heaney, the man, his life, and his works. (re-scheduled from last year).

Tuesday 31 May      A Trio of Poets  
Three members of our group present a personal selection of poetry.

These last few weeks have been a sombre reminder of the fragility of much that we take for granted. Here is a poem by Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate since 2019, that was sent in by Heather Murphy: -

## RESISTANCE

It's war again: a family  
carries its family out of a pranged house  
under a burning thatch.

The next scene smacks  
of archive newsreel: platforms and trains  
(never again, never again),

toddlers passed  
over heads and shoulders, lifetimes stowed  
in luggage racks.

It's war again: unmistakable smoke  
on the near horizon mistaken  
for thick fog. Fingers crossed.

An old blue tractor  
tows an armoured tank  
into no-man's land.

It's the ceasefire hour: godspeed the columns  
of winter coats and fur-lined hoods,

the high-wire walk

over buckled bridges  
managing cases and bags,  
balancing west and east - godspeed.

It's war again: the woman in black  
gives sunflower seeds to the soldier, insists  
his marrow will nourish

the national flower. In dreams  
let bullets be birds, let cluster bombs  
burst into flocks.

False news is news  
with the pity  
edited out. It's war again:

an air-raid siren can't fully mute  
the cathedral bells -  
let's call that hope.

Simon Armitage

## Poetry News

Gill Barr, our poetry judge for last year's competition, is giving a reading at Sladers Yard, West Bay on Friday 18 March, in company with Elaine Beckett, Kim Squirrel and Pam Zinnemann-Hope, all poets who have presented poetry at East Coker in the past. Tickets £10 from Sladers Yard, tel 01308 459511.

Dawn Gorman of 'Words and Ears' in Bradford-on-Avon sent me this update about her radio programme:

The Poetry Place is a monthly, hour-long radio show on West Wilts Radio – you can 'tune in' instantly, wherever you are in the world, online at [www.westwiltsradio.com](http://www.westwiltsradio.com) at 3.00pm on the last Sunday of every month. Last month's show on Sunday 27 March is on catch up.

Best wishes for 2022.to everyone in the East Coker Poetry Group, David.

Website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk>, email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk).

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

It has been a real pleasure to see so many of our members returning this year, and to welcome several new members.

We began the year with a talk by Derek Dexter who gave extremely informative and interesting advice on how to get fuchsias safely through the winter months, grow them on and propagate them to get the best from the plants during the summer months. Julie Haylock followed on in February with some advice on garden structure, and then climbing and wall shrubs in March with Felicity Down. For those interested in growing vines, Sue Applegate of Polden Wines will talk on their management at the meeting in April. Holland and Australia beckon in May and June, and subtropical gardening in August. Trips planned to Yeo Valley Gardens and to Burrow Farm Gardens have proved popular, with waiting lists.

In May, we hope to have a plant swap/sale in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall on Wednesday 18 May from 10.00am to 12 noon. Non-members will be very welcome to come to this event – bring a plant to swap and/or the wherewithal to purchase. Refreshments will be available.

We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether you are interested in gardening or would just like to join a group of friendly, sociable people, this club could be for you. Visits are arranged during the year to places and gardens of interest. The Propagator, a free newsletter containing Club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email, with hard copies available at each meeting for [www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

those not on email. During the growing season, there is a produce stall stocked by members with plants and produce.

Meetings and day trips are all very well supported. We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £15, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker. For further information, and to request a free trial visit, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447.

There is a page on East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club - if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk> and look at the Gardening Club page.

In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please phone me 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 42029.

Thursday 14 April	Vineyard Talk – Sue Applegate of Polden Wines
Thursday 12 May	Holland – its flowers and flower festivals – Gill Hazell
Thursday 9 June	Wildflowers and Wallabies of Western Australia – Hilary Little
Thursday 11 August	UK Subtropical Gardening – Ben Candlin

Whether or not you are a “gardener”, enjoy your gardens.

Helen

## Young People

### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP



The weather is improving, and our outdoor activities are all starting after a few months indoors.

The scouts will be competing for the Fox Trophy over the first weekend in April. This is a hiking event from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. The team has to carry all their food and equipment (including tents), camping each night, and cooking their meals. The scouts practised walking and navigation during a District Day hike in February.



They have also already completed a backwoods weekend, sleeping under a bivouac and cooking rabbit. Despite the strong winds and rain overnight they remained perfectly dry.

The Cubs have been back out at Pendomer, where there is such an opportunity for all types of outdoor activities.

The Beavers are kicking off with a walk round the village now the clocks have changed.



We are extremely proud to have had three scouts, Faye, Charlie and Emily, selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year. They were chosen from 95 applicants to be part of the 27 scouts representing Somerset. This is a great achievement, and they will have an amazing adventure.

The contingent has already begun getting to know each other and will be learning more about the Jamboree and undergoing various training weekends between now and August 2023. In order to attend, each scout needs to raise £4,150 and we have started our fundraising plans.

The Village Quiz was a great success, and many thanks to our small team that made it run so smoothly.

The summer will soon be beckoning, and we will be shaking out all our tentage that has not been out of the store for two years. Here's hoping for a long, dry summer.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader, [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)



## EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ

### 16th Annual East Coker Village Quiz

Saturday 26 March saw the return of the Annual Village Quiz. It was wonderful to see 15 teams back in East Coker Hall ready to search their memories and puzzle their way through 8 rounds of questions and 3 tabletop marathons.



It was clear that lockdown had given many teams the opportunity to do lots of revision, as scores were high across the board (almost – you know who you are!).

Winners in the end by one point were the Spanish Amigos - Muchas felicidades to them.



The Poetry Group were just a point behind, with Early Train a point and a half behind them.

The coveted crème eggs were taken home by Amy's Army this year. I feel sure this is just a ruse though, to give us all a false sense of security, and they'll be back next time raring to go. Once again, we thank everyone who supported the event and who helped behind the scenes. You all make the evening the success that it is.

We have two dates for your diary:

**Saturday 21 November 2022 – World Scout Jamboree Fundraising Quiz**

**Saturday 25 March 2023 – 17th Annual East Coker Village Quiz**

More details to follow closer to the time.

And PS, Baby pic number 21 really is David Walliams – not Vladimir Putin!

The Quiz Gopher [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)

### EAST COKER PLAYGROUP (follow us on Facebook: East Coker Preschool)

The children have been busy learning through play and adult-led activities. We thread the children's interests into daily provision, engaging and motivating their learning and development. During World Book Week, the children dressed up as their favourite book character and turned the home corner into a library.

The children loved making lots of loud noise as they performed a dragon dance around the setting, welcoming in the Chinese New Year. Young families have joined us on Thursday mornings for a Baby and Toddler session, a new venture for the preschool and much fun.

We continue to observe enhanced cleaning regimes and adhere to government guidelines regarding Covid-19, working with our families to keep the setting operating. The playgroup is a charity, and all fundraising is essential in supporting the Playgroup.

Fundraising will enable the Playgroup to maintain and replace the resources that support the children's learning and development. Our next fundraising event raising money on behalf of the Playgroup will be the **Craft Fair, Saturday 19 November 2022, East Coker Hall**. Stalls available, for more information and to book a stall, email [office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com).

Children can join us from the age of 2 years. We accept 2-year-old funding, 15 hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Extended Entitlement 30 hours free childcare, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers.

For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk), the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

We are open during term time at the following session times:

Monday	8.00-9.00am	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00am	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Wednesday	8.00-9.00am	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Thursday	8.00-9.00am	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Friday	8.00-9.00am	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch. Baby and Toddler Session @ East Coker Preschool, Thursday 9.30am-11.00am, £1.50/family. We have a playroom full of resources and outdoor space to facilitate playing and learning. Pop along and join us for play and chat.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page East Coker Preschool. For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact Kay Strode on 07503 751133 or email [ecplaygroup@aol.co](mailto:ecplaygroup@aol.co).

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## The Churches

### ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Our Services are almost returned to normal, and our congregations are beginning to grow. Our best news is that at last we have a Church Warden, Toffer Beattie, assisted by his wife, Winky. Toffer has been a member of the Benefice Choir for some time and Winky has helped us with Church flowers. It has been very difficult coping without wardens for several years and most of the burden has fallen on our PCC Secretary, Christine Vince.

There is much work to be done, most particularly to the Bellringing Chamber where beetle damage has been found. We sincerely hope that repairs can be completed in time for the bells to be rung again in time for the Queen's Jubilee Weekend. We also hope to arrange a special Service to celebrate that event.

The period of Lent has occupied us recently when we remember Jesus being tempted by the Devil at the start of his ministry. The great celebration of Easter will follow Good Friday, when we remember his



Crucifixion. Make sure that you are receiving our weekly Pew Sheet to find details of all the Services at this most special time in the Church's year and be prepared to travel to other Churches in the Benefice.

Recently, a presentation was made to Deborah Wootton, our recently retired Benefice Children and Young Families Worker who has made many contacts with families and continued our Messy Churches. She has also created delightful user-friendly Children's Corners in St Michael's and St Martin's, West Coker.

The Cokerridge team was in competitive mood at the Village Quiz Night, and we distributed numerous pretty posies on Mothering Sunday.

Looking into the future there will be special Services for Ascension Day and Pentecost.

To receive the weekly Pew sheet, please email [christine.vince2@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.vince2@btinternet.com) or pick up a copy in the Church.

## IYENGAR YOGA

At East Coker Village Hall  
With certified teacher Lisa Bartlett



Wednesdays at 10am (For those with some experience of yoga)  
Fridays at 10am (suitable for all, beginners welcome)

Iyengar Yoga, a traditional system of yoga, is named after BKS Iyengar who is noted for bringing yoga to the West in the 1960s. Through his innovation of yoga props, the poses are accessible to all regardless of age, level of fitness or ability and great emphasis is placed on good alignment in the poses.

*Come and join my friendly classes to experience the many benefits of yoga!*

Find me on Facebook:  
"Iyengar Yoga with Lisa Bartlett"  
Or Email: [lisabartlett@mac.com](mailto:lisabartlett@mac.com) Phone: 07837 258495

*Classes also held in West Coker (including Gentle Yoga) and Yetminster*



### THE CHAPEL EAST COKER – 11.00AM SUNDAY AT EAST COKER HALL

We meet at East Coker Hall, at 11am on Sunday mornings. We are always happy to welcome anyone to join us, even if just to see what goes on!

Our services are very relaxed and informal and always followed by tea and coffee. We have a variety of speakers, our own worship band and a large number of children of all ages in the 'Kids Church'.

Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed, we are re-starting our regular monthly 'Café Church' on the first Sunday of each month beginning in May. As before, breakfast is provided, and we have an even more informal time.

Our Tuesday Morning Toddler Group will be commencing after the Easter school break, this is aimed at mums, dads, grandparents and child carers and will incorporate a café area as well as play space and equipment.

On Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm the worship band meet for practice and praise in the main hall, and prayer takes place in the Dampier Room at the same time. Feel free to join us for either, or if you would

like prayer, please contact us on 863735 or via our website [www.eastcokerchapel.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com) where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team.

As we are living in more and more uncertain and troubled times, it is amazing and wonderful that we can know God's peace and comfort through trusting in His son Jesus Christ our Saviour and this is our prayer for you.

If you would like to get in touch or would like prayer, please go to the contact page on our website where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team. [www.eastcokerchapel.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com).

## Village News

### GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Spring is upon us; the lambs are about to be born and the goslings will soon be arriving. The beef cattle are out to grass, and piglets are regularly being born. Our home-grown fresh meat is always available in the shop or to order.

We also stock a very wide range of fresh fruit and veg, bread and cakes, local cider, ales and wine and many other delicious treats and homemade delights.

Although we no longer have the teasshop, we have extended our shopping area and increased our many ranges. We are, however, serving takeaway drinks and cake which can be enjoyed in our outside seating area.

Shop opening hours: **Tuesday to Saturday** 10.00am – 5.00pm [www.thegoosefarm.com](http://www.thegoosefarm.com)  
tel 01935 863735.



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## MOBILE LIBRARY

**East Coker at the Helyar Arms, 11.50am – 12.10pm, Tuesdays every 4 weeks:**

**19 April**

**17 May**

**14 June**

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct, tel 0300 1232224 or visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries).

## STAMPS FOR CLIC SARGENT

Kiet and Steve will accept stamps at the Village Café, so please save all your stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

## ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Our popular local Cream Tea delivery is back. We will be delivering individual Cream Teas (two scones, jam, clotted cream, and strawberries), delivered to your door, during the morning of Thursday 16 June for £6 a box. A lovely way to get together with some neighbours with all the work done for you!!

In due course, you will be able to order on our website [www.action.org.uk](http://www.action.org.uk) or for further information, please contact Jane Donnelly on 01935 478409 or [janedonnelly81@outlook.com](mailto:janedonnelly81@outlook.com).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

Please report suspicious behaviour or a crime so that we know of what is going on in an area, we will attend as appropriate to the situation, but reporting is still the part that you can play. We cannot stop a vehicle with potentially your village neighbour's shed contents inside unless you report it and we have the opportunity of catching the perpetrators and returning those items to the victim.

Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC 3573 Poole and PCSO 7880 Hayne

Email [jackie.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:jackie.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk) [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

If you are a Facebook user, our team has recently set up a local page called Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing which might be of interest and can be followed.

## THURSDAY BADMINTON

Meeting each Thursday at East Coker Hall from 2.15pm till 3.15pm, with the possibility of increasing the time if numbers increase.

We are a group of mixed gender and ability and would welcome new members - with a charge of only £2.50 per session attended and ideal for those who have children at the school and would like a session of exercise.

For any further information, please contact Joyce Pryor, tel 862816.

## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

### Enjoying our countryside

The lambing season is in full swing. Can we please remind all dog owners that under the 1953 (Protection of Livestock Act) you can be prosecuted for letting your dog worry sheep. So, please keep your dogs on the lead in or around fields where sheep are grazing.

Can we also remind people to keep to the designated footpaths? If you are unsure of paths in the area, please visit the East Coker Parish Council website <https://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk/>, where maps can be downloaded.

[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

We are currently working on a project to replace a lot of the old and tired signposts, so if we have any budding carpenters who would like to offer their services, please contact the clerk, Jude on [Clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:Clerk@eastcokerparish.com).

### **Parish Council**

The Parish Council would like to welcome new Councillor Jane Carter-Uren who joined the team in February and look forward to working with her.

Elections are to be held in May. For further details, please visit the Parish website or [elections@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southsomerset.gov.uk).

### **Dog waste bins**

Please could we remind people to clear up their dog waste and use the **provided bins to dispose of it** and also refrain from letting dogs wander into people's gardens. For non-dog owners, this can be extremely frustrating.

### **Village signage**

The licences are finally through for the village signs, and we are looking forward to getting them installed in the next couple of months, so keep your eyes peeled.

### **Speed limits**

Sadly, people are still speeding through our village. If anyone would like to join a team to do speed watch, we are looking for volunteers, please email your details to [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com).

### **Pavilion modernisation**

East Coker Parish Council have now received planning permission for the modernisation. We are now looking to raise funds. Any fundraising ideas can be emailed to [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com) and any suggestions would be gratefully received.

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Plans are well underway for our Celebrations which commence on Thursday 2 June with the opening of the New Jubilee Natter Setting, Long Furlong Lane at 8.30pm. Followed by the Lighting of the East Coker Beacon at 9.00pm

An East Coker Past and Present Exhibition in the Pavilion opens on Friday 3 June and our new Jubilee Walk on the same day.

Judging of the **Best Decorated House Competition** begins on Saturday 4 June with prizes announced at the **Big Platinum Jubilee Lunch** at 12.30pm in the Recreation Ground and Pavilion on Sunday 5 June. Lots of fun and activities for all ages here. Disco, Competitions, games, ice creams, vintage car display, plant sale, raffle and **Military Wives' Singers**.

Bring your own picnic, tables and chairs and plenty of cash, as no card machines available. **Entry free.** Proceeds to Pavilion Fund.

**Bunting.** If you have any spare bunting, you will not need for this great occasion, or if you would like to make some, please could you contact Jude, Clerk as below.

Thank you

If you would like to be involved in one or all of these events and help to make this a very special time, please [contactclerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:contactclerk@eastcokerparish.com) or visit the ECPC website [www.eastcokerparish.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk).

## **BETTER BUS CHARTER FOR SOMERSET**

We need to do something about improving our buses in Somerset. Our county currently has the second lowest level of bus journeys per resident of all the counties in England, and Somerset's bus services have the very lowest level of passenger satisfaction in the country.

Residents of Somerset experience this every day, whether it's with difficulties getting to health services, reduced opportunities for those seeking work and further education or just the limited (if any) evening and Sunday bus services. As a result, we see ever increasing numbers of cars on our roads which causes higher levels of local air pollution and increase our carbon emissions.

Somerset Bus Partnership was formed just a year ago to campaign for better bus services across our county and already we have a Somerset-wide network of 115 town and parish transport representatives who share our passion for better buses.

Somerset residents have every right to expect better, but it will need funding.

We have developed a Somerset Bus Charter and invite not just Councillors but community groups, churches and residents to join with us and endorse it. Get in touch [somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com).

## **THE SOMERSET BUS CHARTER**

### **Better buses for all our communities**

We need a core network of frequent, high-quality services linking our towns and main villages with enhanced weekend and evening services. Also, we want an extension of the demand-responsive 'Slinky' bus services, available to all and with longer operating hours.

### **An integrated transport network**

We need bus routes to link with local railway stations with timetables that offer improved connections between buses and trains.

We also want to see the introduction of integrated ticketing across the county's different bus operators and with trains too.

### **Promotion of existing and new services**

We should be promoting the bus as an important way by which we all can address the climate emergency in Somerset (transport accounts for nearly half of all carbon emissions in Somerset).

To enable more to go by bus, it is essential that current bus timetable information is shown at all main bus stops and bus times information is available in libraries and at other information points.

### **An affordable transport service for all**

We should make bus travel more attractive through cheaper fares especially targeted at young people up to the age of 25. Plus, for everyone, a new, all-operator, countywide value ticket.

### **Cleaner buses**

We want an accelerated transition from diesel buses to zero emission buses.

### **Meaningful funding of bus services**

We need Somerset's bus budget to be brought progressively up to the average for similar rural authorities in the Southwest.

## **QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY**

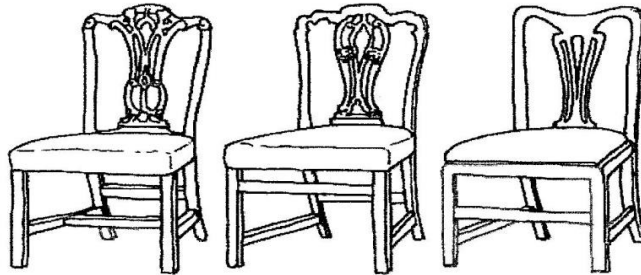
The Quarterly Village Diary appears at the end of this Newsletter.



# **KEN MARSH**

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### **NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2022**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) by **24 June 2022** or **sooner if possible**.

# QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

April 2022 – July 2022

Mon 11 April	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 11 April	Time To Share – Tea & Cake	2.30pm	Village Café
Thurs 14 April	Gardening Club – Vineyard Talk	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 19 April	Library	11.50am - 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Fri 22 April	RBL – Cheese and Wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 25 April	Seated Exercise	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 26 April	Poetry Group – Seamus Heaney	7.30pm	Village Café
Thurs 28 April	WI – Yoga for Lower Back	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 6 May	Elections		
Mon 9 May	Time To Share- Tea & Cakes	2.30pm	Village Café
Mon 9 May	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 12 May	Gardening Club – Holland	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 15 May	Closing date for Jubilee Photos		
Tues 17 May	Library	11.50am - 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Mon 23 May	Time to Share – Fun and Games	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 26 May	WI – Jubilee Celebration Meal	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 31 May	Poetry Group – Trio of Poets	7.30pm	Village Café
Thurs 2 June	Opening of New Jubilee Natter Setting and Lighting of the Beacon	8.30pm & 9.00pm	Long Furlong Lane and Rec
Sat 4 June	Best Decorated House Competition		
Sun 5 June	Big Platinum Jubilee Lunch	12.30pm	Rec & Pavilion
Mon 6 June	Time To Share – Tea & Cakes	2.30pm	Village Café
Thurs 9 June	Gardening Club - Wallflowers & Wallabies	7.30pm	EastCoker Hall
Mon 13 June	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tue 14 June	Library	11.50am - 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Thur 16 June	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Mon 20 June	Time To Share – Birthday Party	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 12 July	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 17 July	Wine Circle – Summer Event	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
			Field
Thursdays	Badminton - all welcome!	2.15pm - 3.15pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Fri 24 June</b>	<b>Copy for July Newsletter</b>		