

East Coker Society Newsletter



JANUARY 2012

Free Issue No 145

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East Coker Society News

Happy New Year!

A THANK YOU TO THE NEWSLETTER DELIVERERS

Whenever I receive the bulk delivery of East Coker Newsletters on a quarterly basis and start work on sorting out the numbers to deliver to local distributors, it is always good to know that behind every anonymous door, where mostly I unceremoniously dump the Newsletters, there is always someone who is willing to take up their own valuable time to ensure that local people receive their much awaited Newsletter on time.

It is not often that I'm invited to make comments in the Newsletter, and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those deliverers very much indeed for their much appreciated (and unpaid!) efforts. Please keep up the good work!

Have a happy and prosperous 2012.

Martin Wells

DIAMOND JUBILEE FAMILY SNAPSHOT

As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, we would like to make a memorable record of the residents of East Coker in 2012. Please take a picture of your family outside your property, for display in a village exhibition in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall on 4 June 2012.

Sarah Owen

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL – MORE PLEASE

The option to receive the Newsletter by e-mail is becoming increasingly popular, but we still have a long way to go. We would like more villagers to take up the email option in 2012, with a view to saving printing costs and delivery time. All we need is your e-mail address (with home address, so that we can remove your name from the delivery list). Individuals' e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to anyone else.

Many e-mail recipients do not print the whole document, but only the pages that interest them, particularly the all-important quarterly diary of events (see the end of the Newsletter). The Newsletter can also be viewed online at www.eastcoker.com

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail, please e-mail Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com.

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.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME begins Sunday 25 March (clocks go forward 1 hour).

THANK YOU – WINTER FAYRE

Olivia, Gabriella and Georjia would like to thank everyone who donated cakes for their cake stall at the Winter Fayre. £116.50 was raised for the Newsletter.

Village Clubs and Organisations

TIME TO SHARE

In October, Rachel Waites gave us a most interesting talk on the Yeovil Country Park. The annual Craft Fair and Competition was judged by Gill Holt, who then gave us a talk on her eclectic collection of domestic chairs. The Christmas Bazaar raised over £150, so many thanks to all who helped and attended. Nigel and Alison Charles delighted us with their documentary 'A Hungary Revisited', a slide-show of flowers and butterflies of that country. At our Carol Service in December, we were pleased to meet the new Vicar of St Michael's, Charles Hatton, and to sing carols along with the church choir, and it was a pleasure to hear Jean Bicknell sing a solo first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy 2012.



Well, the beginning of another exciting year. 2011 ended with a bang and the Christmas Lunch Party was attended by 60 members and their guests, including our new Vicar, Charles and his wife Alison. It was a great occasion and enjoyed by all who managed to get along on a sunny, warm, December afternoon. Deliveries were made to all of those who were unable to come!

Future Dates

16 January – Take Note	30 January – Beetle Drive
13 February – Nova Scotia	27 February – Sing-along-a-Alison
12 March – Club Albums	26 March – Easter Fayre
16 April – Family Life	30 April – A talk on Mencap
14 May – Properties of Aloe Vera	28 May – A Policeman's Life
4 June – Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – more information in this Newsletter	
11 June – Outing	25 June – Talk on the Swan Theatre (Beryl Snadden)
9 July – Garden Party at Lois Crisp's house.	

Our interesting and fun afternoons are held at the East Coker Hall from 2.30pm – 4.00pm every other Monday.

Everybody is welcome.

More information from Sandra Snelling 862162

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two Groups meeting once a month. The evening group (currently 8 members) meets in individual members' homes (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (currently 5 members) usually meets in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month.

For January we have decided to meet on the second Tuesday/Wednesday. We have recently been reading 'The Blood of Flowers' by Anita Amirrezvani and we are now reading 'The L-Shaped Room' by Lynne Reid Banks. 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

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

Autumn Draw

£100 Mrs C Blackmore; £50m Mrs P Marpole; £40 Mr & Mrs A Rees; £30 Mrs M Greenhill; £20 Mr R Parris; £15 Mr J Bryan; £10 Sarah Owen; £10 Mrs K Mclver.

Christmas Draw

£100 Mr and Mrs T Ashley; £100 Mr Russell Chatwin; £50 Mrs Carol Blackmore; £50 Mrs Doreen Bates; £40 Mr D. Jenkins; £30 Mr John Bryan; £20 Mr Roy Mainprize; £15 Mr Ken Mclver; £10 Ms Sue Hedges; £10 Mr P Moore.

The 400 Club has been very pleased to send cheques for £250 to both the Childrens' Hospice South West and The Atlas Project, which is an East Coker based charitable organisation helping and supporting young people.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20 payable by bankers order, please (or cash if anyone prefers). Please contact Gloria Mead (862364), Arthur Rees (862828), Mary Ashley (862263) or Mike Weston (862472).



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 VILLAGE QUIZ 2012

Once again the time is fast approaching for thoughts to be turned to the challenge of the annual Village Quiz.

This year it will be held on Saturday 10 March in the East Coker Hall, 7.00pm – 7.30pm.

Last year, the Scouts' team put on a formidable performance to win the prestigious Cockerel Trophy!

The number of teams is limited by the capacity of the hall so please make an early bid for your entry. As usual the evening will include a fish and chip supper, and the proceeds of the event will be donated to the charity chosen by the winning team.

Anyone interested in entering a team should contact Cherry Sowerbutts on 863313.

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

January to April 2012

12 January Old and New Roses in the Garden – Dinah Lindon-Critchley
9 February Violets – Clive Groves, Groves Nurseries
8 March Grow Your Own Vegetables – Brimsmore Garden Centre
12 April Pelargoniums – Brian Carlson
24 – 27 April - Club holiday, centred on Oxford, to visit National Trust gardens.

We meet 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) for a 'taster' to see whether it's your kind of thing, you'll be most welcome. For details about the club and its programme of events ring Stan Shayler, Hon. Treasurer 420291.

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Tuesday 31 January – 'Waterways' – an evening of reflection on the theme of water
Tuesday 28 February – Poetry in Print

All meetings will be at the Helyar Arms, and will start at 7.30 pm. Contact Group Co-ordinator David Cloke 862623 or Ian White 864206

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Happy New Year

The Players would like to thank everyone who came and supported our Pantomime – Jack & The Beanstalk. We hope you all enjoyed it.

We had a great time entertaining you all and we are looking forward to our next production in late spring or early summer 2012.

After the Pantomime, we held a Christmas social with singing of Christmas songs and carols, accompanied by John Langdon and Brian Cowling.

We start our year with the AGM on Monday 9 January 2012 in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome. We will be discussing our programme of events which we hope will include something for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

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

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EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meeting at the East Coker Hall on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, we are just starting our new programme which has many varied speakers and demonstrations. At our first meeting on 26 January, we are having a talk by local man, Adrian Moore, on the need for water wells in Kenya. This will be followed in February by a demonstration and hands-on try of quilling on cards. Short mat bowls is the subject in March, by George Dudden with audience participation. In April, we shall be given the chance to find out what the judges are looking for when they judge the cookery competitions.

We also hold progressive whist drives on the third Thursday of the month which are open to anyone and always have some top prizes. The whist drives are at the East Coker Hall starting at 7.30pm.

In February, we are holding our annual Jumble Sale on Saturday, 11 February at the East Coker Hall at 2.00pm. We welcome any good jumble which can be taken to the Hall after 12 noon.

For further information about the Institute, please contact secretary Ruby Rollo 475010

Diary dates

Thursday 19 January	Whist drive at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 26 January	Water Wells in Kenya at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Saturday, 11 February	Jumble Sale at East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thursday 16 February	Whist drive at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 23 February	Quilling at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 15 March	Whist drive at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 29 March	Short mat bowls at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 19 April	Whist drive at East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 26 April	Judging cookery at East Coker Hall	7.30pm

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).

Sarah Rashley

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

On the behalf of The Committee and all Branch Members, I would like to thank all who have given their time, space and generosity in making the 90th year of the RBL and the 80th year of the East Coker Branch, a year to remember.

We started with the Poppy Tea Party in June, followed by the Village Fete in July and the Branch Coffee Morning in October. Closing the year with our Poppy Appeal, which I am pleased to say has broken all records, our total to date is £7,395.52. House to House collections from the five villages in our area amounted to £3,059.27. The remainder of total is made up from Static Boxes, Events, Wreaths, Church Collections and Donations. Our area is rather diverse, with two Schools (both have been awarded Appreciation Certificates this year for their contributions to the appeal) shops, garages, pubs, hotels, two Nursing Homes and Yeovil Junction Station & Buffet.

Would you be willing to be a collector, or help in any way? Please contact any of those listed below.

A few Legion welfare facts: The RBL was formed in 1921; and it has 9.5 million eligible for assistance. Somerset granted over £50,000 (approx 1,300 cases) in 2011.

Where the money goes:

- The Legion has committed £50m over the next 10 years to pay for the creation and operation of the Battle Back Centre being built in the West Midlands and to fund operating costs of four Personnel Recovery Centres in the UK, plus a facility in Germany.
- The Legion spends £1.4m a week delivering welfare support to serving and ex-Service people old and young and their families.
- The Legion's campaigns have resulted in more than £40m extra being paid to those injured in Service. Nearly a quarter of those helped by The Legion are under 44 years of age and half are below retirement age.
- Over 11,000 Legion beneficiaries in temporary crisis have received £6.1m worth of groceries, clothing, furniture plus aid for property repairs.
- Over 400 Service leavers received loans, grants and mentoring to start their own business.
- Over 1,400 Armed Forces families, many who have been through recent separation due to Service, have been able to take holidays funded by the Legion.

Most will be aware of the charity Help for Heroes, which helps those returning from Afghanistan and recent conflicts, some with life threatening injuries. They have raised funds very rapidly for capital projects. Other service charities then take over the general running/operation of the facilities. For example, in 2011 the RBL helped 16,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Sadly this is set to continue for many years to come, as our younger veterans grow older. How sad it is to see the coffins, return but in the same incident there are probably others injured, some requiring long term treatment. It is the Royal British Legion, along with other service charities, who will continue to provide this long term support, with the help of our dedicated volunteers and supporters.

Contacts for Poppy Appeal Collectors: Myself: Marilyn Smith 863944: Wendy Weston 862472

Forthcoming Events: Branch Cheese & Wine Evening - Friday 27 April, East Coker Hall.

Thank you all so very much. Chairman: David Holland 862782

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THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

Several people have asked whether I will be co-ordinating a bulk order in January/February. I will do one in January, unless the weather plays up and pushes prices absurdly high.

I started the scheme three years ago with no idea how many might participate. I think it's been worth-while and there are now about 80 names on my list. The best thing to my mind is that small users can purchase their oil at the same price per litre as larger ones. This avoids the price bands and makes an even better saving for them. For the record, the first order in January 2009 was 3,500 litres in 4 drops. Last July's ran to two batches with a total of 46,200 litres in 46 drops.

Two factors have changed in the three years. First the price has doubled and become very volatile. I have the responsibility of holding orders until my deadline, by which time the price may have risen and negated any saving. Secondly, the suppliers' margins have tightened, reducing the scope for negotiating any discount.

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. I aim to do two or three orders per year. I have been advised that July / August is the time for the best price.

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) or 01935 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. Let me know your requirements by 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18 January. Please do not ring and ask what the price will be. I will not know it until I have collated the requirements and rung the suppliers.

Do It Now – The More We Buy, The More We Save!

Paul Edwards

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

When it became apparent that, after many successful years, Mary Ashley would no longer be organising the Village Lunch every December, several people decided to have a go at continuing it. Oh my! Little did we realise what an amazing job Mary and her helpers had been doing for the last 30 years. Well, they say ignorance is bliss, but a group of us decided we would have a go. With only four weeks to prepare, the help and advice from Mary and her team was invaluable. It was a very steep learning curve for most of us, but with help and enthusiasm from many people it seemed to be a success and we had encouraging feedback.

We hope to do the same this year! We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, and we hope it will be as successful next time.

£1,300 was raised, and £650 has gone to the East Coker Preservation Trust and £650 to St Margaret's Hospice.

Penny Marpole

'CHILDREN IN NEED' COFFEE MORNING

We would like to thank everyone who supported the coffee morning at the Helyar Arms on 25 November. Your generosity raised £432 towards this worthwhile charity.

Every penny goes towards supporting UK children in the main. All administrative costs are met from investments and that is the reason we choose to support this particular charity. In three years, you have donated a total of £1,139 to Children in Need, for which we thank you very much.

We would like to take this opportunity, also, to acknowledge all the hard work Penny, Derek, Cherry and Martyn put into these events every month and, of course, the Helyar Arms for allowing these charity events to take place.

Don and Barbs Nicol

EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

East Coker Short Mat Bowls Club now has a junior section. We held our very first Junior Championship in the East Coker Hall on Tuesday 20 December, and 10 members took part. Each child played four games and the top two played a finals match. All of them played very well and received a medallion for taking part.

The winner and the runner up also received a trophy. The competition winner was Charlie Backhouse and the runner up was his brother Jonah Backhouse.

EAST COKER PRESERVATION TRUST

Much of the ECPT's current activity is related to the assembly of briefing information for the appointed QC who will take our case forward in the event that a legal challenge to the Council's strategy is needed.

Despite much probing there is still no clear visibility of SSDC's real rationale for choosing to zone 500 acres of Grade 1 agricultural land in East Coker as their preferred choice of location for the development of a 3700 house extension of urban Yeovil.

The Chief Executive of SSDC recently informed us that the first committee meeting which will consider the 'final' Core Strategy will be Area North on 22 February followed by Area South, which covers East Coker, on 7 March. These meetings will be open to the public and we encourage everybody to attend the Area South meeting particularly. However, we have subsequently failed to get confirmation that these dates are definite, so watch out for further announcements. A revised provisional timetable is shown below.

In conjunction with East Coker Parish Council and East Coker Society we are considering arranging a Village Meeting to bring everybody up to date on the latest information when the Council's final strategy is published. Ideally, this will be between 22 February and 7 March. **Provisionally**, the East Coker Hall has been booked for 1 March but watch out for notices confirming this.

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 (PROVISIONAL)

22 February	Final recommendations to Area North Committee
7 March	Final recommendations to Area South Committee
Early April	Final recommendations to District Executive
18 April (??)	Final recommendations to Full Council
May/June	Public consultation on published plan – 6 weeks
October/ December	Examination by HM Planning Inspector
Early 2013	HM Planning Inspector's report
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

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

We have now reached the end of another year of monthly coffee mornings which continue to provide the opportunity for a regular village get-together with the benefit of raising money for a charity at each event (something that is hugely appreciated in these financially difficult times). The amount collected in 2011 for the charities is £4,192. This compares with a somewhat disappointing total of £2,746 in 2010. What a wonderful increase! The generosity of all those who attended the events has been amazing and has been much appreciated by all the charities who have participated.

We are looking forward to a full programme of events for 2012. There are currently a few vacancies in the calendar so if you know of a charity who would like to run an event, please ask them to contact Penny or Cherry. Once again, we would like to express our thanks to Matt and the staff at the Helyar, who generously support the programme of events and provide the venue.

It is well recognised how generous East Coker people are, and we hope that you will all continue to support the coffee mornings during the coming year. We would of course welcome any comments or suggestions you may have to help us sustain the popularity of these monthly Friday mornings.

The next event, which Penny and Cherry are hosting, is for Help for Heroes and we hope to have a really great turnout for this wonderful charity. We will look forward to seeing you all on 27 January at 10.00am.

24 February – Yeovil Rotary Club

30 March – Cystic Fibrosis

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 and Penny Marpole 863055

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Last term saw our Beaver section gain a new leader. Rachel (Owl) ran a busy programme each week covering a number of badges and included a visit to Pets at Home to cover the Pet Carer badge. At Christmas, they visited The Elms Care Home to sing carols and a few scout songs. A joint party with the Cubs finished the term with a magician and plenty of games, cakes and chocolate.

The Cubs had a busy term and an additional end of term session at the Bowlplex. Mike will be standing down as Cub Leader before Easter. Fortunately, we have a parent who has offered to take on the Pack from September. Therefore, between January and July we will run the evenings between Mike, Kevin and myself - we have planned the programme to Easter already.

The Scouts held one meeting per month last year in Max's field in Yetminster. This allows us to light fires, cook and play wide games. Over three nights in the Hut, the Scouts did their Chef's Badge - producing some excellent meals. An evening with Somo suits finished the term.

Beavers 5 3/4 - 8 yrs old, Wednesday 5.45pm – 7.00pm. Cubs 8 - 10 1/2 yrs old, Tuesday 6.30pm – 7.45pm, Scouts 10 1/2 - 14 yrs old, Friday 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

For further information, contact David Webber 474648

Scout Jumble Sales at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. Saturday 21 April and Saturday 20 October. Remember we will collect – contact Max Bugler 862186.

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 January

Saturday 25 February

Saturday 31 March

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 are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

For more information, visit our website www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk Telephone 863351

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children in Need

The collection for non-uniform day raised £141.90 and the cake sale showed a profit of £289.05. Many thanks for all the donated cakes and the support of the sale, a fantastic total and well done to the children who organised the event.

Poppy Appeal

The sale of poppies, wrist bands and other British Legion merchandise meant that the school was able to pass on £121.61 towards the appeal, virtually double last year's total. The Legion was so impressed, they presented a special certificate to the school.

Christmas Events

The Prickly Hay was a fantastic show that gave all the children the opportunity to shine, and how well they took it! Thank you for your support for the shows and we have welcomed all the positive comments received. The children did you proud. A huge thank-you goes to the teachers, support staff and volunteers

Sports News - Autumn 2011

During the term, the school has run clubs in the following sports: football, netball, cross-country, tag rugby and Gymnastics. All children from Yr 1 to Yr 6 have had the opportunity to take part in a football club.

Key stage 2 children have participated in fixtures and festivals with other schools in football, netball, tag rugby, orienteering, badminton, cross-country and indoor athletics.

The main aim of the clubs and fixtures, as always, has been to provide a range of activities for as many children as possible to participate in. It has once again been very encouraging observing the number of children trying these activities out.

The fixtures are competitive and pure results are always variable. Importantly, all children representing the school have shown excellent sportsmanship, enthusiasm and enjoyment during matches, with their achievements doing them credit. Some teams have been very successful in area competitions. The Indoor Athletics team won the Yeovil Area competition. The Girls' Cross Country Teams have regularly won area races, the Yr 5 & 6 Boys' team has finished third a couple of times and the younger boys' team has regularly had 14 runners. Five children have all finished in the top four positions at least once. These races have upwards of 15 teams and over a 100 runners. A number of other children have had top-20 finishes.

Thank you to Mrs Gamble, Mrs Groves, Mrs Divall and Miss Mountain for providing the netball opportunities and thank you to many parents for your support with the fixtures.

Next term – We look forward to welcoming visitors from Yeovil College, Orchard Gymnastics, East Coker Short Mat Bowls Club and Gavin Stepp (FA coach).

Term 3: 4 January 2012 – 10 February 2012 Term 4: 20 February 2012 – 20 March 2012

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

Autumn Term has been a busy, exciting time at playgroup. The children have played their way through the term, investigating, exploring and learning as they go. Wellington boots have been in regular use, making the most of the wonderful outdoor area available. One morning we were outside looking at the sun and the shadows it made. However, the numerous clouds in the sky had other ideas. Just as the shadow patterns were being looked at, the sun would disappear behind a cloud and the shadows faded. The children thought it was a great game and got very good at watching the sky to estimate when the shadows would reappear with the sun.

In early November, the Playgroup held its annual fundraising Craft Fair. The event raised approximately £1,000 for funds to support the Playgroup and the children who attend. The Playgroup committee extends a big thank you to everyone who supported the event.

The end of the Autumn Term was very exciting for the Playgroup which is not unusual with Nativity shows and Christmas preparations. However, this year Father Christmas made a rather unusual stop on his way to the North Pole. He arrived by helicopter (and with prior approval) landed at the Pavilion in East Coker to surprise the Playgroup children and deliver a few early Christmas presents.

East Coker Playgroup wishes a Happy New Year to everyone. The Playgroup returns after the Christmas break refreshed and ready for the Spring Term.

East Coker Playgroup welcome children from the age of 2½ years, and EYE is available in the funding period after the third birthday. We are open during term time every weekday morning, Tuesday, Wednesday and (new this term) Thursday afternoons and offer optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

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.

Find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

Pre-school Easter Fair, Sunday 25 March 2012

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Writing at the end of December, it is heartening to report how well this year's Christmas Services have been attended. With a sequence of Carol Services including Time to Share, the School and our own Church Service, over 600 people have taken part, with an additional 200+ at our two Christmas Services.

We have also had good attendances at our Services at Clossworth and Sutton Bingham. Our thanks, too, to a group of young members of the church who went carol singing in the village and, in just two hours, raised over £40 for the Children's Society.

Once the New Year gets under way we shall give thought to our Lent programme – as part of which, on Saturday 24 March, we shall be inviting members of the church to spend the day thinking about their vision for the future. This will be a very important opportunity to consider the church's aims and purpose with a view to identifying future priorities.

With all good wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year, The Rev'd Charles Hatton

Services

Sunday 15 January	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 22 January	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 29 January	10.30am	Matins	6.00pm	Evensong

The Bishop of Bath and Wells will be taking a service at West Coker on 29 January. Anybody wishing to attend that service will be most welcome. If any more information is required, please contact Penny Marpole 863055

Sunday 5 February	10.30am	Family Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 12 February	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 19 February	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 26 February	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 4 March	10.30am	Family Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 11 March	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Mothering Sunday 18 March	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 25 March	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Palm Sunday 1 April	10.30am	Family Service	6.00pm	Evensong
Easter Day 8 April	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist

Advance notice – Flower Festival

This will be held in St Michael's Church to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee over the weekend of 2-5 June 2012.

Parish Vision Day – 24 March 2012

This is open to all people of the Parish. The Rev David Keen, who is the Deanery Missioner, has agreed to facilitate the day, which will take place in the East Coker Hall on Saturday 24 March from 10.30am – 3.00pm. Lunch will be provided.

Anyone who is interested in taking part in this day will be split into small groups, to find out how they see the church progressing in the future with a view to formulating an agreed overall vision.

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

Closworth Services

Sunday 15 January	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 22 January	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 February	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 19 February	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 26 February	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 March	6.30pm	Evensong
Mothering Sunday 18 March	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 25 March	9.00am	Holy Communion
Easter Day 8 April	6.30pm	Evensong

Sunday 19 February is the Sunday before Lent and although the service will be short and fairly informal. I will be looking at why Jesus went into the desert for 40 days. In March, the highlight will be the Mothering Sunday Service when the children will be given flowers for their mothers.

In April, the first important service will be the one on Good Friday. A short service for all ages lasting about 30 minutes followed by Cold Cross Buns

Wanted: more Closworth bellringers

Last year we had five possible bell ringers. Sadly two have moved away and one is sick. Is there anybody out there who would like to learn bell ringing? I went along to some of the lessons. It could be great fun! Please contact me on 862834 about the services or bell ringing or Lesley Lindsay for bells.

Monica

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Services

During January and February there will no 9.00am services but will resume in March.

Sunday 15 January	11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 February	11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 4 March	9.00am	Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday 18 March	11.30am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday 1 April	9.00am	Holy Communion

Churchwardens: Carol Blackmore 862192 Heather Snook 474138

The Winter Fayre was a great success and £400 was raised for the church. Thanks must go to all who helped set up the hall and cleared up afterwards, the stall-holders and, of course, all the helpers in the kitchen for serving the teas and mince-pies.

Carol Blackmore

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Holiday Celebrations Monday 4 June

As many of you will already be aware, we at East Coker Christian Fellowship have been asked to organise a Village Fete for **Monday 4 June 2012** as part of the celebrations to mark our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This means that there will **not** be a fete held on the first Saturday of July which is the 'normal' date. It will, however, be the normal time scale of 12 noon until 4.00pm.

The Committee arranging the fete will be getting together later this month to discuss various ideas, and we hope to let you know when we have some firm indication as to the likely content.

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 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 01935 422594 or email 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

'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 January – Edward Armitstead – The prophet in hiding – 1 Kings 16:29-17:7

Wednesday 15 February – Brian Ruff – Among the dead...life! – 1 Kings 17:8:24

Wednesday 21 March – Ed Moll, St George's, Wembdon – The silence is broken – 1 Kings 18:1-29

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

A SINGING GROUP

Is there anyone in the area who would be interested in joining a singing group for light music, which could perhaps lead into a choir if successful. To sing for enjoyment and to raise money for charity?

A meeting will be held on Monday 30 January at 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. Anyone who would like to take part but is unable to attend that evening, please phone 477897 for further information.

Don White

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.

24 January

21 February

20 March

17 April

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

Thank you to the residents of East Coker for their used stamps from Christmas and New Year. 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.

W.E.A. EAST COKER BRANCH – Britishness: Its Origins and Future – Tutor Richard Henderson

Six meetings beginning on Tuesday 14 February 2012 – The Dampier, East Coker Hall, 2.30pm – 4.00pm. £29.

Enquiries and enrolments to Sarah Smith 862466

EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

Happy New Year to all and hoping everyone had an enjoyable Christmas. A massive thank you to all our customers who have supported the store over this period. We believe people have demonstrated, since the last Newsletter, they do want a village store. This Christmas, we received the most orders from our Christmas display than in all previous years we have been with you, so in the current climate, this is quite positive. However, please bear in mind that the store is for all year, not just for Christmas, as they say.

Also on a positive note, we have recently become a 'Payzone' agent. This terminal enables us to deal with bill payments such as council tax, Eon and N-Power electric bills and key charging, Yarlinton rent, as well as mobile phone top up swipe card and vouchers, and UKash vouchers. Perhaps the most popular service that we can offer is tickets for the new Health Lottery, the new five ball draw on a Saturday night where the proceeds go to health related charities. Match 3 balls and win £50, 4 balls is £500 and match all 5 balls to win £100,000. For more information, please ask.

We are also looking to offer a delivery service which will be available Monday to Friday for those people who struggle to get into the store or who struggle to carry their shopping bags home after visiting the store. This service will be free on grocery spends over £15. If you are interested please ask. For those people who would shop from home, a stock list is available to give an idea of what we sell, again please ask for a copy.

Whilst growing steadily, with the associated costs involved, Floral Corner was struggling to provide us the required returns within the time frame that we had to make a success of it. However, with reduced costs, Elaine has decided to take on the project for herself. We would like to wish her every success in continuing the venture, and would ask that you continue to grow your support for what we feel is such a great asset for the village and surrounding villages. Floral Corner will still be based within the village store.

Thank you once again for your support, and please let us know if you feel there is anything else that we could sensibly and viably provide or do for you.

Paul, Vicky and the Village Store team

A follow-up from Floral Corner

Hello to you all. Well, where has that year gone? It is almost a year ago that Floral Corner began. Paul, Vicky, Leigh and myself have had an interesting year getting it up and running and I am still thoroughly enjoying producing my bouquets and arrangements.

Since our last chat I have produced many new designs, some of which you will have just removed as Christmas wreaths and arrangements.

As you will have just read, Paul and Vicky are handing the reins of Floral Corner over to me, and I am very excited (and a little nervous) at the opportunity I have been given to build on what we have already achieved and to keep Floral Corner in our village store. I have been very touched at all the wonderful comments and encouragement I have received. I will continue to offer the same services, including a small selection of single stems. I will also be able to order most flowers including exotics, if given a few days notice.

Although winter is now well and truly upon us, spring is just around the corner and I will be stocking a wide range of locally grown bedding plants. As many of you already know, they are of very good quality so instead of a trip to the garden centre why not pop in and see me. I even stock a nice selection of flower and vegetable seeds.

Floral Corner will be open Monday to Friday 9.30am until 1.00pm, although I can be contacted out of these hours by leaving a message in the shop or ringing me on 07962125246. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I look forward to welcoming you at Floral Corner.

Elaine

LINDA'S STORY – Local East Coker Resident Success Story and how the local Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Classes have changed her life.

"I always seemed to have problems with my weight, really since childhood. I tried different diets and even reached my goal weight with a 'different organisation' 20 years ago but it all went back on again, plus another stone and a half. The turning point for me was when my daughter was born. I wanted to be able to

run around and play with her as she got older. At that time I would get out of breath even walking up the slightest incline. I realised something had to be done.

It was with some trepidation that I went along to Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness at the East Coker Hall on 5 November 2009. Rachel was really friendly and supportive, immediately putting me at my ease. The diet is easy to follow and the portion pots really helpful. As a result, I have gone from someone with hardly any energy to someone who goes to three classes a week and really loves them. I also enjoy my daily walks around the village. So far, I have lost just over three stone and gone down three dress sizes. I have so much more energy now and also think a lot more about what I am eating. The classes have really helped me, and changed my life. I'm now a much happier person. I still have quite a bit of weight to lose, but I am confident that with the help and support of family, friends, Rachel and other class members I will achieve my goal".

If you are interested in joining a local class please contact Rachel Cozens 864453. Unfortunately the East Coker class is FULL but there are many other local classes including West Coker. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rachel x

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

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors have attended a number of meetings relating to the Core Strategy with South Somerset District Council and have collaborated with East Coker Preservation Trust and the East Coker Society to hold a successful Open Meeting in the East Coker Hall on 26 October on the same subject. Representatives of the three groups were also involved in BBC radio programmes 'You and Yours' and 'Countryfile'.

The Parish Council is very grateful to **Kathryn Sturtridge** who has re-developed the site by the tree in the triangle and to **Cllr Bridget Mead** and those who helped her to plant bulbs in the village on 5 November. In addition to the routine upkeep of the village, hedge laying has been undertaken around the perimeter of the Pavilion field, and **Cllr David Mead** has kindly removed all the cuttings. At the cemetery, a new wooden box to contain water bottles has kindly been provided by **Keith Moger**.

The Parish Council has successfully applied for a **grant** from 'Awards for All' (Big Lottery) to create a substantial path from the car park to the Pavilion. This means that having been awarded approximately £5,000 we will have a much needed improvement for us all when using the Pavilion. We would not have been able to fund this from the money collected from the Precept, so we are pleased to be able to improve our village in this way. In future, we intend to continue to try to obtain external funding to achieve local improvements.

Somerset County Council has agreed to undertake **traffic surveys** in the Parish and the results of those surveys will inform the next steps in actions to assist **road safety and traffic calming** within the Parish.

We have recently heard that we have successfully bid for support for the writing of a **Neighbourhood Plan**. This is a national funding stream and we will receive professional support from Locality.

In response to a number of requests, **Cllr Matt Horsley** has created an enhanced **website** for the Parish Council (www.eastcokerparish.com) to include its roles and responsibilities. The previous website was set up to present consultation between East Coker Parish Council and South Somerset District Council on the Core Strategy. All information from the original site has been brought over to this site, and East Coker Parish Council would like to thank **Mr Keith Taylor** of www.technologyresolved.com for the time and effort he has put in over the last year running the original site. We hope that the new site will rapidly build up and disseminate information about the work of the Parish Council. If there is anything you would wish to see on the site, please contact us at enquiries@eastcokerparish.com

The Parish Council has been asked to circulate the information listed below:

There is a new **non-emergency police telephone** number, which is **101**. **Careline** is an emergency response system for people who need reassurance that help is at hand at the push of a button 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more details, phone South Somerset Careline on 01935 479 815.

Somerset Waste Partnership will use the following procedure for **waste collection in severe weather**: "In severe weather, recycling and refuse crews will try to keep collecting if it is safe. If your collection is missed, please be patient; we will try to return once conditions improve, working late and on Saturdays to catch up. Please put out recycling and refuse by 7.00am for the next three working days; if we have not been back by then, please take it back in and put out by 7.00am on your next usual collection day. If your collection is delayed, extra amounts of regular waste will be accepted: please put rubbish in black sacks, recycling in carrier bags and food in covered buckets or in black sacks with other rubbish. In very bad conditions, we may have to suspend collecting garden and bulky waste to give priority to the main services. If our clinical waste service is interrupted, we will get back as soon as possible.

In the event of severe weather, guidance and updates will be posted on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/somersetwaste and Twitter feed @somersetwaste, and sent to local radio and district council customer services."

All Councillors wish Parishioners a very happy and healthy 2012 and hope that we might see you at our meetings at the Pavilion at 7.00pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

On 23 November 2011, the Parish Council held a meeting concerning the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** in June 2012 for interested village groups. This was well attended, and the provisional decisions were:

- There will be a festival of flowers in the church during the weekend.
- Church services will take place on Sunday 3 June.
- It was suggested that a plaque be put in the church to commemorate the Jubilee.
- It is hoped that cricket will take place on the field at the Pavilion on the afternoon of Sunday 3 June.
- Kevin Chapman has kindly agreed to change the date of the East Coker Fete, which will now be held in and around the East Coker Hall on Monday 4 June from 12 noon – 4.00pm.
- During the Fete, there will be a display of village memorabilia in the Dampier Room.
- From 4.00pm – late, on 4 June, there will be a music event on the Pavilion field starting with a children's disco. We are delighted that we have been able to secure the services of our splendid local group, 'Storm' who are guaranteed to make the party go with a swing. People will be encouraged to bring their own food and drink to enjoy a 'picnic in the park'.
- To co-ordinate with the Queen's lighting of a beacon after the Buckingham Palace music concert on Monday 4 June, it is intended that a beacon at Westfield Farm will be lit during the 'picnic in the park'.
- If Parishioners have ideas on how we might mark the Jubilee in the village, then they should let Stan or Bridget know. Ideas from the group included a commemorative sign or refurbishment of the existing Silver Jubilee signs.

A second meeting of this group was held at the Pavilion on 4 January. For more general information please contact Stan Shayler 429019 or Bridget Sugg 863435.

If you would like to be part of the Village Fête this year please contact Kevin Chapman, Fellowship Pastor, East Coker Christian Fellowship at ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk or telephone on 422594 or mobile 07812726853.

Cllr Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR

Somerset Chamber Choir will take its audience on a journey through some delectable and inspiring choral works from Russia and the Baltic Countries, interspersed with piano pieces played by dazzling pianist Anita D'Attellis, at its concert on Sunday 19 February in King's College Chapel, Taunton at 3.00pm.

Including movements from such works as Rachmaninov's Vespers and a cappella works by many other composers, plus well-known and loved piano works by Chopin and more. This will be a concert to warm the soul of any music-lover in Somerset this winter.

Tickets from £11, £15, and £18 from Taunton TIC on 01823 336344 or book online at www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk Registered Charity No.1003687.

MODEST RAINFALL IN 2011

A curious phenomenon, rain – much besought out of habit when needed, much cursed when interfering with cricket matches or other human activities normally dependent upon its non-arrival, or, at least, **not just then!**

More than 40 years ago, in London at a summer weekend, I was playing cricket for a Law Society eleven, trying to pretend that the light rain falling would eventually go away. A distinguished divorce court judge in the fielding side allowed an easy catch to slip through his cold and damp hands, and disclosed his irritation by a loud and common expletive. Instantly, his captain spoke from mid-off: "don't talk shop on the cricket field, judge", he said.

Four hundred years earlier, Samuel Pepys derided the shortcomings of the recently restored monarch Charles II, when he wrote in his diary for July 1662, "Methought it lessened my esteem for a king, that he should not be able to command the rain". A bit harsh, don't you think?

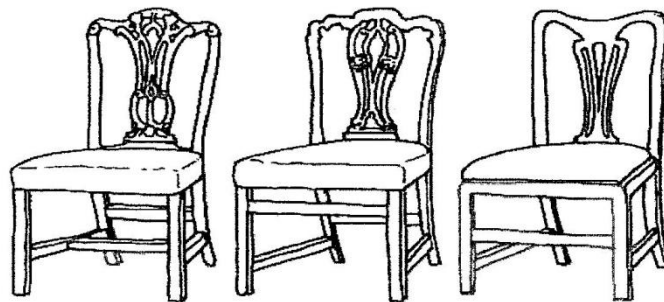
We, in our turn this year, have waited patiently and without much success for improvement in the year's rainfall, partly revived in the fourth quarter which produced a touch above ten inches (25.4cm), just over four of them in the month of December (the only one in the year to exceed a fall of 4 inches (10.16cm).

The total fall in 2011, with one week to go, was just over 30 inches (76.20cm), better only than the two years since 1996 (2003 and 2010) that reached 28 inches (71.12cm). The 2011 result was still 20% below the annual average of the last 15 years, and our mighty plane tree is still shedding bark and gulping rainwater as it falls upon it, while lesser growths compete vainly for a fair share. A return to the annual average rainfall in 2012 would indeed be welcome!

Clive Bingley

KEN MARSH

u p h o l s t e r y



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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in April 2012. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Stores, East Coker by **Thursday 22 March 2012**. Thank you.

QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY: JANUARY 2012 - APRIL 2012

Thurs 12 Jan	Gardening Club – Roses	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 16 Jan	Time to Share – Take Note	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 19 Jan	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 24 Jan	Library		2.30pm – 2.45pm
Thurs 26 Jan	W I – Water Wells – Kenya	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 27 Jan	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	Helyar Arms	10.00am - 12 noon
Sat 28 Jan	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am – 10.30am
Mon 30 Jan	Time to Share – Beetle Drive	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 31 Jan	Poetry Group	Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 9 Feb	Gardening Club – Violets	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 11 Feb	W I – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Mon 13 Feb	Time to Share – Nova Scotia	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 16 Feb	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 21 Feb	Library		2.30pm – 2.45pm
Thurs 23 Feb	W I – Quilling	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 24 Feb	Coffee Morning – Yeovil Rotary Club	Helyar Arms	10.00am - 12noon
Sat 25 Feb	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am – 10.30am
Mon 27 Feb	Time to Share – Sing-a-long-a-Alison	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 28 Feb	Poetry Group – Poetry in Print	Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 01 Mar	ECPT Meeting	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 08 Mar	Gardening Club – Grow your own veg	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 10 Mar	Village Quiz	East Coker Hall	7.00pm – 7.30pm
Mon 12 Mar	Time to Share – Club Albums	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 15 Mar	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 20 Mar	Library		2.30pm – 2.45pm
Thurs 22 Mar	Last date for copy for April's Newsletter		
Sat 24 Mar	St Michael's – Parish Vision Day	East Coker Hall	10.30am – 3.00pm
Sun 25 Mar	Pre-school – Easter Fair		
Mon 26 Mar	Time to Share – Easter Fayre	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 29 Mar	W I – Short Mat Bowls	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 10 Mar	Coffee Morning – Cystic Fibrosis	Helyar Arms	10.00am - 12 noon
Sat 31 Mar	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am – 10.30am
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		2.30pm – 2.45pm
Thurs 19 Apr	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 21 Apr	Scouts – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thurs 26 Apr	W I – Cookery	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 27 Apr	RBL – Cheese & Wine	East Coker Hall	7.00pm – 7.30pm
Mon 30 Apr	Time to Share – Mencap	East Coker Hall	2.30pm