VE75 DAY SPECIAL





## CHIMES HIGHLIGHTS:

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#### Hello!

East Chinnock

always rises to the occasion and our VE 75 decorations in the village were a lovely sight to behold. Bunting and Union Jack flags were draped everywhere - around windows, doors and gardens - and people came out on their front gardens and driveways to celebrate together, but apart! The fact that friends had to celebrate while employing social distancing rules lent a certain poignancy to the occasion, as, on this important day, as before, we were all focused on managing a national (albeit very different) danger.

With fewer events to fill the issue, a plea went out on the Round Robin, and lots of you replied. Thank you for sending your photos, jokes and stories for this issue.

Another great positive is knowing that there have been no cases of Covid-19 in the village (at the time of writing) which is so heartening, and I commend you all for your careful adherence to the rules of social distancing.

I hope you enjoy this special edition and have a lovely summer!

Wishing you all the best stay safe, Julie





This photograph shows a quarter of a union flag. It was waved on VE Day in London at Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace by my mother-in-law, Denise Haslam. Afterwards, on completion of the celebrations, it was divided between the four people who carried it on the day.

Denise lived in the Old Post Office. Sadly she is no longer with us having passed away, aged 93, last year. We found the flag when we cleared the house. She often spoke of her joy at the VE Day celebrations and mentioned her part of the flag, but couldn't remember the other 3 people. She was in the Royal

Air Force as a Radio Mechanic in the war. We proudly displayed it (carefully) during our celebrations on the 75th Anniversary! Ted Tiernev



VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

PAGE 2

#### WEST COUNTRY CARS PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE NHS

Our local village business, West Country Cars, honoured our front line workers last week by spelling out NHS with cars.

They used the vehicles they had in stock, which have been sitting dormant since the company was forced to close amid the lockdown, to spell out the letters 'NHS' and a red cross to mark the work being done by health workers across the country.

A drone photo shows the message from above. John Sugg owne of West Country Cars said he and his daughter moved all the cars themselves with no idea what it was going to look like from above.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY for ing her

He said: "We had all these cars lined and just kind of left there, we had to do something with them so we got this idea. We went down there and moved them all around, we had no idea what it was going to turn out like but it's turned out better than we thought it would. It was nice to be able to do something a bit different - I'm sure people who come past on the road think it looks like a bit of a mess now but when you see it from above you see what we were trying to do."

John also said he was inspired to do something to honour the NHS after a good friend was admitted to intensive care with the Covid-19 virus. The friend recovered from the virus and was released from hospital, leaving John in awe of the NHS's work and wanting to thank them. "They're doing a marvellous job - I know we've sadly lost plenty of lives in this but they've saved many, many more." "It's not just hospital staff either - it's all the way down to your local doctor and health visitors."

He added: "I think this situation has shown us they need to be well-respected, and the NHS needs to be remembered when this is over as well - the budgets need to be protected by the government."

He said: "The NHS is always appreciated but with these times, it's really come to the fore."



## THE QUIET LIFE...

With all the peace and quiet, villagers have been capturing some great photos. Here is a selection showing the village in lockdown from Roger Jewell, lovely flowers and a peacock butterfly from Marion Andrews, and squirrels, frogs and damsel flies from Julie Jewell. Thanks all!





## WHAT'S NOT ON, AND WHAT'S NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

#### EAST CHINNOCK GARDENING & COUNTRYSIDE CLUB



The last few weeks have been a time of discovery for

us all - what with needing to be resolute with social distancing and for some finding fortitude with a recommended 12 week lockdown.

Yet, how fortunate we are to be living here where there is space, surrounded with fresh country air, spring blooming around about us, walks to enjoy and seeing residents of the village who are usually working but now having the time to enjoy this village environment

The Club committee has not met but I have spoken with Geoff our Chairman and we are definite that there will be no club meetings nor will there be a Christmas dinner for this year. We expect to be able to extend this year's membership fee to cover next year 2021. We do not know when or in what format the club will function in the future but we will make every effort to reinstate the East Chinnock Gardening & Countryside Club.

Thank you for the support from the Parish Council Red/Green card distribution, and the volunteer supporters who are helping those in most need

Please keep well. We will be in touch again as soon as there is any way forward.

Bunty Andrews - Secretary.



## East Chinnock Art Group **Online ART PROJECT**

For those who would like to take part -

Martin Harris and Angela Barry have given us an Art Project. Angela is also going to put the pictures on our Facebook group page.

> It will be interesting to see the results and different ways we interpret the pictures.

If you know anyone who would like to take part, I or Angela will email the picture to them. It will also be on our Facebook page

## Shirley Allnutt 01935507037

I USED TO SPIN THAT **TOILET PAPER ROLL** LIKE I WAS ON THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

**NOW I TURN IT LIKE** I'M CRACKING A SAFE

MANY THANKS TO MAURICE



**JONES FOR THESE!** 

EVERY FEW DAYS IT WOULD BE SMART TO PUT YOUR JEANS ON TO MAKE SURE THEY STILL FIT

PAJAMAS AND SWEATS WILL HAVE YOU BELIEVE ALL IS WELL

and reinstall it? I believe it has a virus.  $\odot$ , $\odot$ 

Can we uninstall 2020

If the schools are closed for too long, the parents are gonna find a vaccine before the scientists...

## **REMINDER:**

9pm is the time to remove your day pajamas and put your night pajamas on

## NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

St Mary's church building remains closed for the moment, but we are still here. We are keeping in touch, like so many, with phone calls, emails and social media, and with some Zoom meetings.

Our Rector, Rev Colin Simpson, is live-streaming a service at 11am each Sunday morning, which can be accessed from the Benefice Facebook page <u>www.facebook.com</u>, The Coker Ridge Benefice, and also on You tube Coker Ridge. There is a link to both of these on our Benefice website www.cokerridge.org.uk

The Benefice website also has some great information about our virtual Messy Church with the theme of 'The Amazing Picnic', telling the story of Jesus's feeding of the 5000. There are suggestions for prayers, and fun activities for all the family, including rather unusual sandwiches to make! For more information contact Deborah on childrensworkleader.cokerridge@gmail.com

There is also a beautiful blessing on the website, sung by a virtual choir of more than a hundred different churches of many different denominations.

Colin will also be live streaming a service at 7pm on Thursday 21st May for Ascension Day, and we hope to have a joyful celebration of Pentecost, the Coming of the Holy Spirit, through a live streamed service at 11am from the Rectory on 31st May. Our weekly news sheet is also on the website, for those who would like to keep in touch, especially with any changes.

For those not able to access the internet, the Church of England has set up a special phone line called Daily Hope with daily recordings of hymns, reflections and prayers. The free number to call is 0800 804 8044.

Our weekly meditative reading of the gospel reading for the following Sunday takes place as we self-isolate in our homes from 12 noon-1pm every Monday. Please contact our Associate Priest Rev Caroline O'Neill at associatepriestcokerridge@gmail.com if interested.

Any queries about the church, contact the Church Wardens: Gillian Tettmar Tel: 862003 or David Bakewell Tel: 8627512 **Gillian Tettmar** 



ACCESS LIBRARY SERVICES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The number of people joining Somerset's library service has rocketed during the coronavirus lockdown – despite library buildings being closed to the public.

Hundreds of Somerset families are getting involved in a brand new library offer run entirely through social media! Library staff are continuing to provide a fun-filled events and activities programme using digital platforms whilst library buildings are tempo-

rarily closed. Video story times are attracting thousands of viewers and there are

activities to suit all ages, including quizzes, Lego challenges, book recommendations and even gardening tips!

To get involved, visit 'Somerset Libraries UK' on Facebook or find them on Twitter or Instagram and be part of the fun as library staff read live story-times and a host of other activities ... all in their P.Is of course!

You don't need to be a library member to take part in any of the events and activities but it has been made even easier to join online for free - just visit www.somersetreads.co.uk where you can also get details on how to download free books, audiobooks and even magazines. Support and information are also available by contacting 0300 123 2224 or email librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk

How long is this social distancing supposed to last? My husband keeps trying to get into the house.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GOING OUT TO ALL THE MARRIED MEN WHO'VE SPENT MONTHS TELLING THE WIFE

I'LL DO THAT WHEN I GOT TIME

### EDUCATION GUIDANCE - GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS REGARDING SCHOOLS



From the week beginning 1 June, and conditional on the national COVID 19 situation, the Government is proposing that mainstream provision is extended to include early years settings, all primary school pupils in reception, Year One and Year Six as part of a staged return to school. The proposals also include the provision of face-to-face contact for pupils in Year 10 and 12.

Children of key workers and vulnerable pupils will continue to be given priority.

Please note early years settings are being asked to open to all children but must carry out a risk assessment to ascertain how many children they can safely accommodate at any one time. Settings may therefore reduce the numbers of children they can safely care for and where this is the case priority will be given to 3 and 4 year-olds in the first instance.

Similarly, it may be that, because of specific circumstances, not all schools will be able to offer full time provision to the year groups set out in the government guidance. Head teachers will be contacting parents and carers to advise what provision they will be able to make.

Each educational setting is different, and we all need to support the professionalism and judgement of education leaders who will be making difficult decisions over the next few weeks and months. based on the context of their setting and community.

The government is also proposing the return of all primary school pupils, if possible, for up to a month before the beginning of the summer holidays. Further details to come.



#### SUPPORT FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED

The Self-Employed Income Support Scheme is now open for applications. Grants will be calculated as 80% of average monthly profit over a period of up to three years, with a maximum payment of £7,500 which is intended to cover March, April and May.

Money will be paid into the accounts of eligible people six days after applying. Eligible people have been given a date from when they can claim between 13 and 18 May.

More details and how to apply at <u>https://www.somerset.gov.uk/</u> coronavirus/coronavirus-support-for-self-employed/

## DOG POO PROBLEM - STOP BAGGING IT AND LEAVING IT ON THE ROAD

The issue of dog mess in and around the local area has increased over the past few months. Despite previous pleas for owners to do the right thing and pick it up, it would appear that some owners think that they are above the law.

It is not acceptable nor is it legal to allow your dog to defecate in a public place without picking it up! It is a hazard to livestock, it is a health hazard to children and not very pleasant if you happen to walk it into your house. In addition, with the increase in walking locally due to lockdown, there has been an increase in people bagging the poo and leaving it in bushes and hanging on bushes. Please do not do this!

## The law is very clear: You must pick up after your dog. Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to $\underline{$ £1000}.

The dog warden has been informed of the problem and has placed some signs in prominent places. They will also be making random visits to the village in an attempt to catch the individuals concerned.

Anyone who sees this offence taking place should report it to the dog warden and if possible obtain photographic evidence of the dog doing its business.

A word of caution regarding taking photographs: try not to photo-graph the owner as under GDPR rules you need permission from the individual to do this. A photograph of the dog should be sufficient to identify the owner, as we all know which dogs belong to whom in the village. It's not a pleasant thing to do but if you own a dog you have a moral and legal responsibility Please be responsible dog owners, and do the right thing! Paul Taylor

#### DON'T BE LAZY... BAG IT AND BIN IT!



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

#### Dear all,

In the last issue of the Chimes we were facing the start of the current lockdown in order to prevent the spread of Covid19 and at that time I asked who would like help and would be willing to help.

As it turned out a good number of you wanted to help and I would like to thank all those that volunteered, we have been able to help a number of people in the village with shopping and prescriptions and will continue to do so until we return to some semblance of normality.

Some of the more observant of you will notice that some households are displaying green card in their windows, this is a method of quickly checking that the occupants are okay, if the card turns red then they need help with something. To date there have only been two instances of red cards and these were sorted out very quickly.

It was nice to see that the existing organisations and social circles in the village very quickly organised themselves to be able to keep in contact and look out for each other.

The village has so far managed to remain infection free, in order to maintain that I would encourage you all to continue what you're doing, follow the governments advice, don't go out unless absolutely necessary, maintain social distancing if you have to go out and wash your hands when you return home. If we continue to observe these rule we will get to the end of this infection-free and that will be a great achievement for East Chinnock.

You will notice that the play area has remained locked and will remain so until we are told that play areas may be used again. There is a subtle difference between a play area and a park and what we have is definitely a play area, a park is somewhere you can walk for exercise whilst still maintaining social distancing.

Some may argue that we should open the field side only to allow family groups to play football or even just to sit on the grass, to do so would be to send mixed messages, we would still have to keep the play equipment taped off and the youngsters wouldn't understand why they cannot use it.

The parish council have a duty of care to the entire community and to jeopardise what we have achieved so far for the sake of a few more weeks would be foolish, so I ask that you remain patient and the play area will be open as soon as we are allowed to do so.

Keep safe, keep to the guidelines and keep your distance. Paul Taylor





Eleven recycling sites will reopen on Monday 11 May for essential visits only To ensure social distancing, protect public and staff and limit numbers, there will be a range of temporary restrictions; queues and delays are likely.

Government guidance states visits should only take place if waste cannot be stored safely at home without risking harm or illhealth, or harm to public health and amenity.

If not an essential journey, please wait until sites are back to normal. Delays are likely. Recycling sites open from 11 May: Bridgwater, Chard, Dulverton, Frome, Highbridge, Street, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Williton and Yeovil. (Other sites due to reopen from Tuesday 26 May.)

All will be open six days a week: 9am-6pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9am-4pm Saturdays and Sundays; all closed Thursdays.

Access is "one in, one out", a number plate system will be used:

Odd numbers only Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays Even numbers only Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

There are restrictions on what you can leave at the site, so please visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk to see the full list.



## VILLAGE HAPPENINGS & MORE ...

### SNIFFER. DOGS IN EAST CHINNOCK!

East Chinnock W.I. enjoyed in March what proved to be the last meeting for the time being.

Louise had stepped in at short notice, as our intended speaker had to cancel, to tell us about police sniffer-dogs, and she brought along Fred to demonstrate what these invaluable companions can do. Louise's daughter accompanied her to assist.

Fred entertained and informed us by locating various little packages Louise had concealed around the Hall before he was brought in. He managed very well, considering that he must be unaccustomed to working while being observed by dozens of people in a Village Hall.

The work is not without danger, as drug-dealers etc. do not take kindly to their premises being searched, and we passed around the body-armour Louise had brought with her.

This is extraordinarily heavy just to hold, and none of us would have liked to wear it - as was demonstrated by our resident "guinea-pig" member Gill who gamely tried it on.

On a serious note, the protection is somewhat a "one size fits all" and it is not as safe for female serving officers as it could be, being designed primarily for the men.

Louise accepted on behalf of a police-dog charity a donation from us, and we all wish her well for when she retires this year.

**Roisin Gruner** 



## UPDATE

Our lovely village preschool has been silent for the past seven weeks, closed in line with the government requirement in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are planning for reopening on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 but this is subject to the 5 key tests set by the government, justifying the change at the time and that the rate of infection is decreasing.

In the meantime, wishing everyone all the best and keep safe.

# A POLITE REQUEST

The owners of the airfield have requested that walkers keep to the main long pathway through the field, which is the right of way, and not walk the perimeter of the field as this is private land. Walkers are not entitled to walk around the edge.

There is a pathway across the field which leads to Barrow's Dairy - this is also a right of way and can be used. Many thanks.



Do you know someone who would appreciate

## Friendly phone calls?

For anyone over 60 in Somerset or North Somerset who is feeling a bit lonely, a bit isolated or would just like to hear a friendly voice and have a chat, our new service is for you!

Sign up to the Age UK Somerset Friendly phone calls service and you will receive a phone call from one of our friendly team.

Call 01823 345610 and leave your name and number to register,

or email info@ageuksomerset.org.uk

#### HOME DELIVERIES TO EAST CHINNOCK THANKS TO JULIE JEWELL FOR THIS INFORMATION.

The availability of these services & range of products is changing all the time, please check first!

Barrett Bros. - 01460 72900 - Meat, Cheese & Pies

North Perrott Farm Shop - 01460 77090 - Food & essential supplies Spring Holton Farm (East Chinnock) - Eggs available for collection, delivery possible - 07807 907280.

Bridge Farm Cider (East Chinnock) - bridgefarm1055@gmail.com - 07850 407097 - Facebook

R.D.Johns - 01626 368800

Trading Post Farm Shop - 01460 241666

<u>Greensleeves Nursery</u> - 01935 864166 - See Facebook for list of available items

Goose Slade Farm - 01935 863735

J & R Food Service Ltd. - 01392 445510

Dart Fresh Product - 01392 873036

<u>Roberts Food</u> - 01305 - 267275

Passmore Newspapers - 07368 411662 - Papers & Domestic Supplies

Newslogs Heating Oil Co-Op - 01823 698470 - Heating Oil

Fruit and veg 2U

Smiths Direct - Meat, also seasonal vegetables

Darts Farm - Nationwide

KCAL Kitchen - Nationwide

Jurassic Coast Farm Shop

Yeovil Essential food box delivery service - 07376 012194 - Facebook

Dingle Nurseries & Garden - Plant Delivery - 01938 555145 - info@dinglenurseryandgarden.co.uk - Facebook

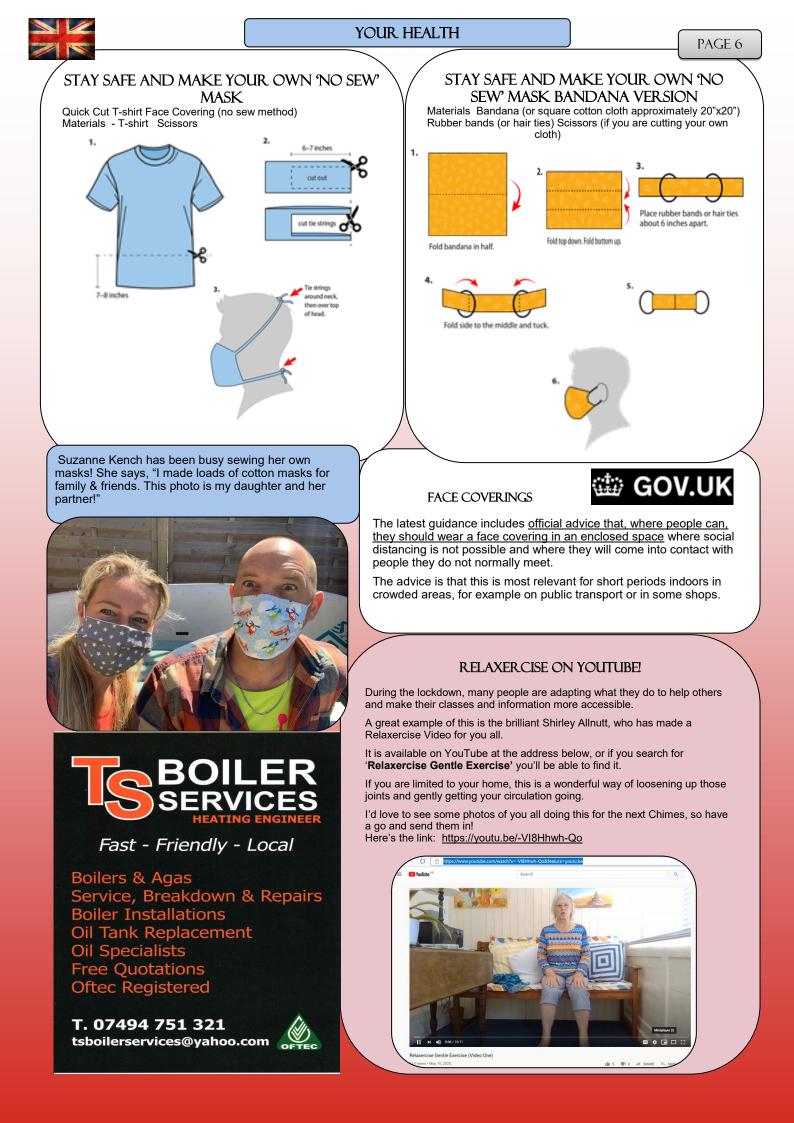
<u>On-line shopping for the Self-Isolating</u> - A Money Saving Experts article on how to access groceries & online shopping.

Arthur David - An extensive range Julie Jewell



# BABY AND TODDLER GROUP





## FIDGET THE CAT... A REMARKABLE STORY OF LOST AND FOUND BY A. WHELAN

In 2005 my dad received a terminal diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and was given 6 months to live. At the time he had a smallholding in North Devon where he lived with my stepmother Jane. As well as a small market garden, they kept ponies, chickens, ducks, and a family of farm cats.

The most recent addition were two kittens, 'Fidget' and 'Gromit'. Gromit was a pure farm cat through and through and lived to hunt. Fidget liked cuddles. Having received his diagnosis, my father decided to sell up and downsize. The ponies went to local breeders, the machinery was auctioned and the farm sold. The only animals that could not be easily rehomed were Fidget and Gromit.

At the time I was renting a flat in Somerton in a large country house where they held weddings. Although my contract made no allowance for pets, I asked my landlords whether it would be possible in the circumstances for the kittens to come and live with me. Taking pity, the landlord agreed on the proviso that they were 'good' cats.

Things went well for about 6 months. It was now 2006 and the cats would come and go through my kitchen window. Fidget would spend most of his days in the flat and Gromit would roam, and so we settled.

That was until one evening when there was a knock on the door. I opened it to find my landlord holding a birdcage with Gromit inside. She informed me that the white doves which they kept and released at the end of the weddings had been steadily declining in numbers recently. This had been a mystery until that evening when she had caught Gromit in the act. She informed me that 'they would have to go'.

So, just before he died, my dad used his contacts to find a farm just outside Bristol for them to go to. I packed them up and took them over the next day, feeling guilty that one of the last things he did for me was to rehome the cats he had asked me to take on. With the benefit of hindsight, I wished that I had moved to a new house instead.

Roll forward to April 2020. I am scrolling through my social media feeds when I see a post for 'Bristol pets lost and found'. It reads "According to his microchip, this dear old boy is called 'Fidget', is at least 15 years old and has previously lived in Somerton. He is in a very poor state". The picture shows a very dishevelled, emaciated cat but undoubtedly it is 'my' Fidget. Various people have commented to say that they had seen him wandering the area and that he'd been a stray for at least 2 years. I contacted them to say that he'd been my cat 14 years prior to that and that he'd been rehomed to a farm outside Bristol but that unfortunately I couldn't recall exactly who with or where now.

The vets where he was being looked after said that they'd found the vets he was registered with but that he hadn't been seen there for 10 years and that they were unable to trace or contact any other keepers. Given that they had looked after him for a couple of weeks, nobody had come forward for him and that his microchip was still in my name, they asked if I would rehome him.

The answer was obvious and instant. I collected him soon after. On the way home I phoned my stepmum, Jane, to tell her the news. It was her birthday week and through her tears she said it was the best birthday wish she could ever have hoped for.

So, 14 years later, Fidget is 'home'. I had never appreciated what the term 'skin and bones' really meant until I collected him. He is slowly putting on condition but at the same time clearly not in great health. I know we may not have him with us for a long time, but hopefully we can give him the retirement he deserves for the time he has left. **Andrew** 



#### ANNIVERSARY KINDNESS

The anniversary Easter photo was taken to show the children about the kindness of neighbours. We had booked to go for lunch at the Eastbury Hotel in Sherborne as we got married there 6 years ago and we were sad when it was cancelled, but Sue and Brian Lock, our neighbours, left this tray and flowers on the doorstep - so amazingly kind!

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN BY SUZANNE KENCH

Ferret as a kitten in 2006

#### A RISKY BUSINESS?

The painting photo I took to send the children to show what we were doing during lockdown, and seeing Peter painting the wooden doorframe was amusing because you could hardly see the reinforced glass panel behind him! He had been painting all doors and windows and this was the last and most difficult one as we don't have a long ladder to paint from the outside!



 DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE

 Please send your submissions to the editor, Julie Kneafsey, by 11th July for inclusion in the August/September issue. Thank you.

 Email: <a href="mailto:chinnockchimes@gmail.com">chinnockchimes@gmail.com</a>

 Post to:
 4, Springfields, East Chinnock, BA22 9EW
 Tel: 01935 864266

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS	Entertainment Com- mittee Chair: Dave Tuck 01935 864560	Playgroup and Toddler session Kay Strode 07870584270.	Village Hall Booking & Keys: Lia Wicks on 01935 864327	Parish Council Clerk Maureen Randell ecparishcouncilclerk@yahoo.co.uk 01935 507563 Mon-Fri 10am-6pm
County Councillor: Mark Keating MAKeating@somerset.gov.uk	District Councillor Anthony Vaughan Tel: 07506 285 049 E: anthony.vaughan @southsomer- set.gov.uk	Tree Warden Pamela Lewis 01935 864408	Parish Council Chairman Paul Taylor 01935 862006 paul.taylor62@hotmail.com	Post Office Mon 1 – 3 pm. Tues 9am – 12noon
Pre-School (toddlers) Guides, Brownies, Rainbows Jane LeFeuvre on 01935 862774	Beavers (6-8 yrs.) Heather Pitts 01935 433840	Cubs (8 – 10½ yrs.) Scouts (10½-14yrs) James Divall 863105	Scouts Active Support (adults) Pete Divall 422328	Explorers (14 – 18 yrs.) Mike Beckerleg 01935 862719
Somerset CC 0300 123 2224	South Somerset DC 01935 462462	Westlake Surgery: 862212 Dispensary: 865104	Crewkerne Health Centre Appointments: 01460 72435	Yeovil Hospital 01935 475122



Images by Clip Art







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